ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN NAIROBI, KENYA

BY

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY- AFRICA

SPRING 2021
DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college, institution or university other than the United States International University-Africa in Nairobi for academic credit.

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Okemwa Naomi Michira (655009)

This thesis has been presented for examination with my approval as the appointed supervisor.

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Associate Professor of International Relations

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Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS)
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<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Corona Virus Infectious Disease 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRaD</td>
<td>Counter Radicalization and Disengagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVE</td>
<td>Countering Violent Extremism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCTF</td>
<td>Global Counterterrorism Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>Institute for Economics and Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIL</td>
<td>Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNN</td>
<td>Cable News Network</td>
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<td>RAN</td>
<td>Radicalization Awareness Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Package for Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>ToC</td>
<td>Theory of Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VE</td>
<td>Violent Extremism</td>
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ABSTRACT

This study assesses the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya. The objectives of the study are to analyze kind of roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya, assess how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism, and examine ways in which women as parents should be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.

This research study adopted a descriptive survey design with both qualitative and quantitative methods. This research design was suitable for this study since it enables the research to describe a phenomenon precisely and scientifically. Non-probability sampling (snowballing approach) was used to collect data from respondents. To collect pertinent information from respondents, the research study utilized an open-ended interview guide as well as self-administered questionnaires. This research study assumed thematic analysis in addition to descriptive statistics in data evaluation, analysis and explanation. To display the outcome, tables and figures were utilized.
CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The term terrorism was transformed to violent extremism (VE) as it was deemed to be more realistic and accurate term that entails not only terrorism actions but also the whole range of violent activities that radical groups hold accountable for, consisting of hate crimes, politically, and religious motivated riots (Neumann, 2017). According to Khalil and Zeuthen (2016) violent extremism is the use of and support for violence in pursuit of ideological, religious or political goals. Meanwhile, the study conducted by Search for Common Ground (2017) defined violent extremism as the choice individuals or groups of people make to use violence or support the use of violence to solve complaints in line with a standpoint which promotes exclusionary group identities.

According to Parker and Sitter (2016), violent extremism circumstances take place around the globe not so much in gestures, but since terrorist players are motivated in different ways in four goal-oriented strains: nationalism, socialism, exclusionism or religious radicalism. These fundamental motivators are not sequentially chronological, this is, one strain goes and a new one comes. In its place, they may work in parallel, and may infrequently overlie, to motivate various terrorist groups according to their requirements.

Radicalization, an important precursor to violent extremism, is also on the rise globally. Radicalization impacts different age categories, even though youth are more implicated than others, (Davis, 2017) different faiths, the educated as well as the non-educated, the employed and the unemployed, and men as well as women, though more men are involved than women (El-Said, 2015). The recent radicalization of American and European citizens has contributed to an
increased global coverage of the debate on the Countering violent extremism (CVE) (Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue, 2016).

Women play a number of different roles in both the countering of violent extremism and perpetration of terrorism. Women can also play critical roles in developing responses to violence, terrorism, challenging and delegitimizing extremist narratives. Furthermore, women can be powerful agents of change and can even play a crucial role both in detecting early signs of radicalization and intervening before individuals become violent (Giscard, 2017). The traditional roles ascribed to women in many societies, such as wife, mother and nurturer, empower them in some instances to challenge extremist narratives and shape the home, education, and social environments to make extremism and violence a less desirable option (Hedayah, 2015). Moreover, the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 notes that women are disproportionately affected by violence during conflict and have in many places played important roles in efforts to counter and mitigate conflict and violence and rebuild the resilience of affected communities (LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security, 2017).

However, women can also play important roles in promoting ideologies and groups that fuel terrorist violence. From research, personal testimonies, and community feedback, it is clear that women can also sympathize with and help mobilize support for violent extremist groups, and even willingly join terrorist organizations and carry out attacks. For example, women have joined violent movements in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Colombia, and Peru, as well as violent extremist groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Moreover, the current wave of recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters has demonstrated the multiplying force of social media which has also been used to both prompt women to support and join these groups, but also to mobilize against them (Pearson & Winterbotham, 2017).
Research conducted by Sharoni and Welland (2016) revealed that women in terrorism and counterterrorism are categorized as a participant, enabler or preventer. Women in the role of countering have been studied less than women as actors or enablers. The study by Hedayah (2015) revealed that because women are uniquely positioned as purveyors of affirmative change, they could be extremely effective in detecting early warning signs of mobilization as well as affecting factors that contribute to radicalization. Understanding the roles women play in the countering of terrorism is crucial for national security of the countries worldwide.

In a review on women in counterterrorism, despite being ignored in the past, gender is increasingly considered in the study of extremism. Carter (2016) found that gender tends to be excluded from the literature on terrorism and political violence. However, the gender perspective of violent extremism has recently received academic attention, as a result of increased awareness of the role women have in presenting, promoting, and participating in violent extremism (Giscard, 2017).

As attention in academia focuses more on this new counter role, there will be a need to allocate resources to further understand how gender can affect catalysts and drivers of radicalization. The successes and failure of strategies and programs for countering violent extremism offers a learning platform for authorities that are eager to implement good strategies and programs for countering violent extremism and radicalization (El-Said, 2015). The United States’ efforts to educate mothers to identify early warning signs of radicalization, Morocco’s program for female imams, Bangladesh’s education and micro-credit programs, the United Kingdom’s education and training programs, and Saudi Arabia’s counseling program are but a few women empowerment strategies (Pearson & Winterbotham, 2017).
In policy and programming, women have been leveraged to counter and respond to radicalization and extremism according to lessons learned from women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. These lessons translate in the real world to a reduction in conflict, leading to more lasting peace and stability. This is only possible when women are increasingly empowered (economically, politically and socially) within their families and communities to make positive and sustainable impacts. Research and policies reveals that female empowerment and gender equality indicators continue to be valuable gauges in peacebuilding and conflict deterrence (Pew Research, 2015). Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to assess the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya.

1.2 Background of the Study

In recent years, the world has witnessed a new wave of violent extremism that has taken the lives of many innocent people of different faiths, races and nationalities. Since the beginning of the 21st century there has been more than a nine-fold increase in the number of deaths from violent extremism and terrorism, from 3,329 in 2000 to 32,685 in 2014 (Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), 2015). The year 2015 saw a decline but with 29,376 deaths it was still the second deadliest year on record. However, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries saw an increase in terrorist related deaths from 77 in 2014 to 577 in 2015 (Davis, 2017).

The year 2015 was also the deadliest year for the Taliban in Afghanistan, both for terrorist deaths and battle-field deaths (Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue, 2016). The study by Institute for Economics and Peace (2018) found that five countries namely Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria accounted for 72 percent of the lives lost in 2017. But as violent extremism is spreading: the number of countries experiencing more than 500 deaths
has increased from 5 to 11 during 2014, a 120 percent increase from 2013 (LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security, 2017). According to Institute for Economics and Peace (2018), the six new states with more than 500 deaths are Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, Cameroon and Central African Republic. Globally, the list of attacks from violent extremists is increasing. While numerous events captured international attention, most of the daily victims of violent extremism in countries in the Middle East, Africa, Central Europe and Asia stay unnoticed.

All these actions were inspired by ideologies varying from religious fundamentalism to separatism xenophobia and radical nationalism (Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), 2018). In essence, extremist ideologies glorify the supremacy of a particular group, whether based on religion, race, citizenship, class or conviction, and thus oppose the idea of a more open and inclusive society (Chowdhury, Zeiger & Bhulai, 2016).

Osama bin Laden, closely advised by Egyptian Islamic Jihad leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, in 1988 founded Al-Qaeda (meaning "The Base"), an Islamic jihadist movement to replace Western-controlled or dominated Muslim countries with Islamic fundamentalist regimes. In pursuit of that goal, bin Laden issued a 1996 manifesto that vowed violent jihad against U.S. military forces based in Saudi Arabia. On August 7, 1998, individuals associated with Al-Qaeda and Egyptian Islamic Jihad carried out simultaneous bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa which resulted in 224 deaths. On October 12, 2000, Al-Qaeda carried out the USS Cole bombing, a suicide bombing of the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Cole harbored in the Yemeni port of Aden. The bombing killed seventeen U.S. sailors (Jimmy, 2010).

On September 11, 2001, nineteen men affiliated with Al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial passenger jets all bound for California, crashing two of them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the third into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and the fourth
(originally intended to target Washington, D.C., either the White House or the U.S. Capitol) into an open field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after a revolt by the plane's passengers. As a result of the attacks, 2,996 people (including the 19 hijackers) perished and more than 6,000 others were injured (CBC News, 2004).

On December 27, 2007 two times elected Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated during a gathering she was having with her supporters. A suicide bomber detonated a bomb along with other extremists against her shooting off guns killing the former prime minister and 14 other people. She was immediately rushed to the hospital and was pronounced dead. She was believed to be the target because she was warning Pakistan along with the world of the uprising Jihadist groups and extremist groups gaining power. The responsibility of her death falls on the president of the time Pervez Musharraf who also was the ex-military chief. She had several conversations with Musharraf about upping her security due to the increase of death threats she was receiving, and he denied her request. Although Al-Qaeda took responsibility for her death it is seen in the eye of the people as former President's Pervez Musharraf's fault for not taking her concerns seriously. However, during his trial he denies that no conversation happened between him and Benazir Bhutto about the security of her life (CNN, 2015).

The Greater Horn of Africa is one of the most conflict-affected parts of the world. All countries in East Africa have been victimized by terrorist acts, whether perpetrated by and against a country’s nationals for a domestic cause or focused on extra-national or extra-regional targets, for example, embassies of Western countries. More than half of the countries in the wider geopolitical neighborhood have experienced full-scale civil war within the past 30 years, and those that have not still contend with intermittent episodes of inter-communal and one-sided violence, insurgent groups, and state-perpetrated violence. Observers in the international
community have increasingly raised concerns about the region’s vulnerability to terrorism and violent extremism, particularly from Al-Shabaab, which has experienced setbacks in Somalia but demonstrated its ability to conduct attacks in neighboring countries. The region’s abundance of structural conditions conducive to violence, coupled with the recent global proliferation of violent extremist groups, contributes to concerns about ongoing threats to the stability of the region (Global Center on Cooperative Security, 2015).

The long-standing conflict in south and central Somalia since the fall of the Barre regime in 1991 has loomed large in the geopolitical affairs of the Greater Horn of Africa and beyond. A grassroots peace and reconciliation process in the north fostered an increasingly stable and independent polity in Somaliland, but the absence of such processes in the south has hindered the establishment of locally legitimate and sufficiently inclusive national institutions (Scahill, 2011).

Although ideology-tinged militancy was not absent from the groups that toppled the Barre regime, ideological militancy was hardly a central factor in the first decade of the Somali civil war. Far more potent than ideological affinity with violent extremist causes, the primary drivers of inter-communal violence in Somalia have revolved around the politics of marginalization and exclusion on the basis of clan and family ties and the consequences of international interventions. Politics, control over state institutions, and access to public goods continue to be contested on the basis of clan lines, and inter-clan competition and mistrust have hardened over the course of more than two decades of conflict (Mwakimako, 2012). Corrupt and limited in capacity, the nascent Federal Government of Somalia has yet to demonstrate its ability to effectively govern and provide security and basic services to the Somali people under its jurisdiction. To sustainably undermine the drivers of violent extremism, Somalis themselves must achieve an inclusive political settlement and establish the basis for a long and difficult
process of social reconciliation, economic development, and participatory governance (Botha & Abdile, 2012).

Kenya stands as a major regional commercial hub and its capital, Nairobi, is home to a burgeoning community of civil society organizations, UN agencies, and transnational enterprises. Nevertheless, Kessels, Durner and Schwartz (2016) found that beneath a veneer of cosmopolitanism, underlying political, social and economic problems have left the country vulnerable to violence and violent extremism, including terrorism. In the lead-up to and since Kenya’s October 2012 deployment into Somalia, attacks by Al-Shabaab and its sympathizers in Kenya have become increasingly frequent and deadly. For much of its post-independence history, interethnic rivalries, periodically erupting in violence around the election season, have characterized Kenyan politics.

The legacy of ethnic and regional discrimination continues to be reflected in disparities in access to education, jobs, health care, clean water, electricity, and serviceable roads and treatment by local police and justice officials. Corruption and institutional degradation, intense structural inequality, and a growing youth population with limited economic opportunity, combined with the effects of insecurity, are among the ingredients in Kenya that create conditions conducive to violent extremism (Kessels, Durner and Schwartz, 2016).

An increasing number of civil society actors focus on addressing the factors conducive to violent extremism as well as CVE-specific interventions. Meanwhile, Kenya’s counterterrorism efforts have been subject to widespread criticism for their disproportionality and alleged human rights abuses. Implementation of the country’s new constitution holds the promise of much needed reform, but Kenya has a long road ahead in addressing the political, economic, and social
disparities and inter-communal conflicts that drive violence and violent extremism (Krause & Otenyo, 2012).

Moreover, the growth of violent extremism - and the devastating impact of groups espousing violent ideologies, is not only setting in motion a dramatic reversal of development gains already made but threatening to stunt prospects of development for decades to come. As a result of the activities of Al-Shabaab for example, there has been an estimated 25 percent drop in tourism in Kenya (Kenya Tourist Board, 2015), a segment that offers a critical means of employments and income for the state. The impact on the lives and livelihoods of those who have lost family members, friends and colleagues in the multiple tragedies in market places, universities, malls, places of worship and schools is immeasurable. As a result of increasing levels of violence and insecurity, many children and students across the African continent are no longer able to attend school or university, undermining their quality of life both now and in the future (Schultz, 2017). Indeed, the phenomenon is disproportionately impacting the youth. Marginalized from political processes, lacking in viable employment options and suffering from an increasing sense of desperation, the youth are easy targets for radicalized recruiters who lure or coerce boys and girls and young men and women with a diverse mix of financial incentives, a glimmer of hope, religious narratives, and often, with violence.

Kenya has been a frequent target of terrorist attacks. The largest, most high-profile attack occurred in 1998 when Al-Qaeda operatives bombed the United States Embassy in Nairobi, killing more than 220 people. In recent years, the Somali-based Al-Shabab has perpetrated two large scale attacks in Kenya, the September 2013 siege of Nairobi’s Westgate shopping mall that left 67 people dead, the April 2015 attack on Garissa University in northeastern Kenya in which militants killed 148 people and the recent attack on Dusit D2 Complex in 2019 January that left
more than 20 people dead. The Somali terror group has increased attacks in Kenya in order to deter the country from sending its military to help stabilize the neighboring Somalia. For this reason, this study aims to assess the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Kenya using the case study of Nairobi County.

1.3 Problem Statement

The danger of violent radicalism is more geographically spread and very localized than ever, yet the security focused and other reactions of national authorities as well as multilateral establishments have not been and will not be adequate to counter and stop its spread. A very strategic and inclusive approach that gives power to local actors and emphasizes more consideration on interventions led by community to tackle essential drivers of the occurrence is necessary (Neumann, 2017). This consists of, among other things, the deployment and development of a very vibrant plus whole set of programs as well as policies and engagement of a very varied group of players, mainly at the local stage, for instance mental wellbeing, public healthiness, or community service providers; teachers; businesses; and youth leaders, as well as religious leaders who are women. Additionally, this faction entails corrections and law enforcement officers, players who have other duties to play, although not similar ones, in the “tough” reaction to terror campaign. This method needs a very sustainable worldwide system of the stakeholders who might have effect at the local arena as well as a say at the international point. It needs supporting, even though un-designating, a broad assortment of attempts, together with development, peace building, public health, and, good governance that might add to countering violent extremism (CVE) by assisting tackle a number of complaints which stimulate the increase of violent radicalism. In addition, it needs supporting present information of which
Countering Violent Extremism plus associated involvements have worked and not worked to enhance the efficiency of attempts to deal with the menace (Rosand, 2016).

While many states have long prioritized so-called ‘hard’ or military approaches to the fight against radicalization and violent extremism, recently calls for more ‘soft’ or non-coercive approaches, which focus on dialogue, cooperation and reconciliation, have been increasingly made (El-Said, 2015). In fact, military approaches alone are now often considered to be counterproductive, as they can create more violence and make the state lose credibility and sympathy amongst local populations and international observers. Moreover, extremists are believed to fight until the very end if they know that they will be killed upon surrendering (El-Said & Harrigan, 2014). Modern soft Counter Radicalization and Disengagement (CRaD) approaches to right-wing, left-wing and separatist violence were notably implemented in Europe in the 1970s and 1980s (Sharoni & Welland, 2016). Meanwhile, soft approaches targeting Islamist violence first emerged in Muslim-majority countries such as Egypt, Algeria, Indonesia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Libya from the mid-1990s onwards, with many of these focusing on work with prison inmates (El-Said, 2015). Some of the most extensive CRaD initiatives now exist in the UK, the Netherlands, Norway, and Denmark. While some of these initiatives are often praised as successful, CRaD processes are hard to measure and in most cases the data necessary to assess the effectiveness of CRaD programmes is not available.

As it was mentioned earlier that women play a variety of roles in the counter of violent extremism and perpetration of terrorism, therefore, it is very important to understand these varied roles of women as they are very critical in developing more nuanced and targeted efforts to counter violent extremism and avert terrorism. Hence, this study establishes that there is a need
to investigate the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Kenya by using the case study of Nairobi.

1.4 Research Questions

Women have a great responsibility to do in our contemporary society to counter violent extremism (CVE). This study answers the following research questions.

i) What kind of roles do women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya?

ii) How can women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism?

iii) In which ways should women as parents be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households?

1.5 Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to assess the contribution of women in countering violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya, especially in Nairobi County.

The following are the specific objectives of this research:

i) To analyze the various roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya.

ii) To examine how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya.
iii) To assess how women as parents can be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research is of importance to the policy makers and implementers in the government of Kenya and other governments in understanding the causes of violent extremism and the kind of roles women can play in countering violent extremism. This assists them in formulating effective and efficient strategies that can be used in countering violence extremism in Kenya. Furthermore, violent extremism and terrorism are terms that are not easily understood by the general public. The causes of such violence are also not easily understood. Hence, this research assists in not only understanding violent extremism but also its causes and the roles women play to counter it. This study is expected to fill the gap and increase the knowledge of the contribution of women in countering violent extremism especially in Nairobi, Kenya. It aids in understanding the various concepts of violent extremism and what has been done to reduce it in Kenya.

1.7 The Organization of the Thesis

This dissertation is broken up into five chapters. The first chapter offers the general introduction by providing an introduction to the subject area under study, a background of the study, problem statement, research questions, objectives, significant of the study and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two contains the literature reviews, theoretical and the conceptual framework. Chapter three provides the research methodology whereby it discusses the research design, target population, sampling design, sampling frame, sampling techniques, sample size, data collection methods, research procedures, data analysis methods and ethical
consideration. Chapter four provides the data analysis and discusses findings of the study whilst the fifth chapter offers the conclusion and recommendation of research study.
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This study reviews literature on contribution of women in countering violent extremism. This study is arranged in a way that it first of all present empirical literature review on various functions women carry out in violent extremism and countering violent radicalism in Nairobi, Kenya, followed by how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya, and lastly assess how women as parents can be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households. This chapter furthermore discusses the theoretical framework and conceptual framework.

2.2 The Roles of Women in Violent Extremism (VE) and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

In recent times, as cited by Gibendi (2015), numerous well publicized reports have linked the participation of Kenyan women in violent radical organizations. The detailed unpleasant occurrences have clearly demonstrated how women have been travelling to unite with al-Shabaab group (Ndungú & Salifu, 2017), recruiting for al-Shabaab (Mukinda, 2015), forming terror cells, organizing terrorist assaults in Mombasa (Eagle Online, 2016), and channeling information and finances for terrorist organizations (Ocharo, 2016). For example in April 2015, three young women of which one Tanzanian plus two Kenyans were taken into custody while purportedly on the way to Somalia to unite with al-Shabaab terrorist group. Details vary as to their motivations: a few stated that the young women had intentions of becoming jihadists and suicide bombers, while others argued that they were enticed by recruiters to be concubines known as Jihadi Brides (Capital Campus, 2015).

The report by Gibendi (2015) revealed that in July 2015 a woman was taken into custody in Mombasa and charged with attempting to recruit five youths for al-Shabaab. In August 2015, Rukia Faraj Kufungwa was identified by the government of Kenya as an al-Shabaab female recruiter. The government stated that the suspect was in charge of grenade attacks and assassinations in Mombasa. The
government promised a reward of two million Kenya shillings to anyone who would give write information that would lead to the arrest of Rukia. Two Kenyan women were arrested in May 2016 on suspicion that they were forming a terror cell of students in Kansanga. The suspects were enrolled as medical students at Kampala International University in Uganda (Eagle Online, 2016). In recent times, the widow to assassinated Muslim cleric Sheikh Aboud Rogo, Hania Said Sagar has been associated to a network of terror activities in Kenya and outside Kenya. The suspect is charged for passing information and finances, plus scheming to commit acts of terror within Kenya (Ocharo, 2016).

There has been limited proof of women perpetrating violent acts in the context of violent extremism in Kenya. However, the findings of a study conducted by Sageman (2005) confirmed that women are far more actively involved in violent extremism in non-aggressive or not direct roles; they offer an ‘indistinguishable infrastructure’ for al-Shabaab by enabling, supporting and facilitating violent extremism. A variety of cases of roles of women in recruiting for al-Shabaab were noted in a study carried out by Ndungú and Salifu (2017). From the focus group discussions (FGDs), it was revealed that women used their positions in the society as mothers, wives and sisters to recruit for violent extremist organizations. A case in point was in Majengo whereby it was reported that a female recruiter was well known for persuading youths, especially young men to join al-Shabaab with the assurance of jobs.

Ali (2018) conducted a study on understanding the role of gender relations in radicalizing and recruiting young Muslim women in higher learning institutions in Kenya. From her study, it was concluded that young Muslim women in higher learning institutions are being recruited to the radical groups like Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Shabaab. Even though the author cited that there is inadequate empirical evidence to illustrate the number of women who have joined or returned from various violent extremist groups, she pointed out that majority of women are being radicalized in a very progressive manner. The author also claim that most of the research on youth radicalization focus on men as there is limited research about women radicalization in Kenya universities in depth. Furthermore, Ali (2018) affirmed that young educated Muslim women in universities within Nairobi and its environs are being radicalized and recruited by use of religion and marriage. The universities are
seen as social and important places for meeting men and future husbands hence women found themselves in this trap.

Women are seen as playing different critical supporting roles in violent extremist groups for the men fighting for these groups. The supporting roles including: offering shelter whereby members of the terrorist groups hide from authorities (Ndungú & Salifu (2017); feeding members of the terrorist groups, for instance taking food to family members who have been taken into custody on terror-related charges (Gibendi, 2015); enhancing financial transactions to support violent extremist Groups; offering medical care services in refugee camps like Dadaab refugee camp to extremist fighters who have been wounded in Somalia; cleaning and cooking in al-Shabaab training camps and radicalizing their own children (Mukinda, 2015).

Countering radicalization and recruitment in Kenya requires a spectrum of multi-faceted initiatives including apprehending extremist leaders and radical entrepreneurs, increasing development investments in marginalized areas of the coast and the north eastern regions, rehabilitation of former radicalized combatants, and promoting values of inclusivity to mitigate the spread of extremist ideology. This entails interventions addressing the three deterrence levels of the public health model (primary, secondary and tertiary). Primary deterrence is a broad approach aimed at the whole society. Interventions at this level aim at mitigating the root causes of extremist behavior by addressing social grievances that drive populations to violent extremism. Secondary deterrence aims at individuals and groups identified as at risk of violent extremism. Interventions at this level target the deterrence of radicalization progression and reducing attempt for future radicalization. Meanwhile, Tertiary deterrence focuses on radicalized individuals or groups actively planning and recruiting for violent extremist cause (Badurdeen & Goldsmith, 2018).

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is a ground-breaking document that paved the way for international recognition of the essential role women have in resolving conflict and sustaining peace and security (Couture, 2014). Global programs in peace and security with women as
key players have yielded positive and sometimes prolific outcomes. The lessons learned are being similarly implemented on a variety of platforms around the world for CVE and are yielding promising results. This awareness of the importance of women’s education, economic empowerment, religious tolerance and political representation are essential elements in the provision of alternatives and direction for women as members of their communities and families (Holmer, 2013).

A global view on violent extremism (VE) and radicalization that lead to terrorism, VERLT (2015) note this as multinational problems which are unrestricted to every nationality, religion, ethnicity, gender or ideology. The evolving and unpredictable nature of these challenges makes them not easy to counter violent extremism. The United Nations notes that VE continues to undermine peace and security, human rights and sustainable development throughout the world (UNDP, 2016). In the past twenty years, the acts of violent extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab have threatened lives and livelihoods in various countries (ICG, 2016). For a long time, countries worldwide depended on security-led counterterrorism interventions to address VE. Such interventions often included traditional military measures, law enforcement means, and sharing of intelligence (ICG, 2016). However, these conventional approaches are repressive and often lead to serious violation of human rights and freedom, and subsequently pushing those affected towards VE. Additionally, these interventions have been reported to be short-term and reactive, whose main objective is to curb some of the outward manifestations of VE (UNDP, 2016).

Regionally, radicalization attempts have been engineered by the ongoing insurgency of the Somalia-based militant group, Al-Shabaab and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), (David & Jacob, 2015). Accordingly, this has necessitated integrated regional responses to counter violent extremism (CVE). These Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) have been very dynamic in their mobilization, recruitment and operations, to also include gender as a consideration (Sjoberg, 2013). In East Africa, unlike in Nigeria, where Boko haram has recruited many young women (ICG, 2016), Al-shabaab are targeting vulnerable young men with the allure of employment and good life (Bombshell & Bakker, 2006).
Kenya’s CVE initiatives emerged in response to the homegrown violent extremism supported by Al-Shabaab, although it was rooted in the historical landscapes of violent extremism across the Middle East, North Africa, the western Sahel, and the Horn of Africa (Davis, 2010; Ridley, 2014). Terrorism in Kenya has resulted in not only the loss of lives, personal suffering, and pain, but also in growing instability of the economy especially the tourism sector and a heightened sense of insecurity. Some of the largest and most significant terrorist attacks of the last several decades are the Garissa University attack, the Westgate attack, Dusit2, the 1998 bomb attack on US embassy and the Mandera attack on civil servants. Drivers to VE in Kenya include the high unemployment rate of the youth (World Bank, 2016) and unresolved historical injustices (Mwaruvie, 2011).

While some women may orchestrate and perpetrate violence, it is important to understand that women’s roles are not only confined to the binary of victim or perpetrator. Women and girls can be simultaneously victims of sexual or gender-based violence, as well as fans, recruiters, fundraisers and perpetrators of violent extremism. Importantly, as emphasized by the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and CVE policy frameworks, women are also key actors in countering and countering violent extremism in their families, communities and nations. Women religious and faith leaders have a role to play in CVE by espousing moderate interpretations of religious teachings in communities, empowering parents to relay these messages in households, and empowering women to provide role models to counter women’s radicalization to violence in particular (Zeiger & Aly, 2015).

The literature largely identifies women’s potential for CVE in relation to the family – spotting signs of radicalization and delegitimizing extremist narratives – as well in their communities (Majoran, 2015; Calfas, 2016). However, they could also assist security actors to make CVE program design more effective and can themselves serve in the security forces to make implementation more effective (Fink, Barakat & Shetret, 2016; Bhulai, Peters & Nemr, 2016). They could play important roles in shaping CVE programmes by donor agencies and NGOs, as well as in implementation of these.
‘Violent extremism is most effectively countered through increased education, better critical thinking and enhanced opportunities’ for women. Research suggests that empowering women has positive outcomes on all CVE indicators (Couture, 2014). An increasing body of literature shows strong correlation between gender inequality and the status of women and violent conflict (Fink, Zeiger, & Bhulai, 2016) (Oudraat in Fink et al, 2016: 28). Hence, promotion of gender equality was included in the recommendations in the UN’s Countering Violent Extremism Plan of Action (UN, 2015).

Women can play important roles in countering violent extremism. An important publication by Hedayah and the Global Center on Cooperative Security (Fink et al, 2016) brings together contributors from around the world from diverse fields of practice to consider their application to CVE efforts and women’s roles in this effort. The study argues that women are often the first to stand up to terrorism ‘since they are among the first targets of fundamentalism’ and hence, compared to men, ‘may be more willing activists in stopping it’ (Fink et al, 2016). The literature stresses their role within the family circle as especially conducive to this: ‘their traditional roles allow them to shape familial and social norms and promote increased tolerance and nonviolent political and civic engagement’ (Fink et al, 2013: 4). Children listen to their mothers because they view them as figures of respect and authority (Majoran, 2015). In addition, women can be critical ‘in detecting early signs of radicalization, intervening before individuals become violent, and delegitimizing violent extremist narratives’ (Fink et al, 2016: 6). The influence of women extends beyond their families to their communities where ‘women can play an important role as mediators as well as authors of counter-narratives challenging violent extremism and terrorism’ (OSCE, 2013). Moreover, ‘their voices may be especially compelling when they speak out as victims or survivors of terrorist attacks’ (Fink et al, 2013: 4). However, a number of writers question the widespread idea ‘that in many cultures women may not be very visible in the public sphere but wield significant power and influence in the private sphere and hence can counter violent extremism early on’ (Oudraat, 2016). Furthermore, Ni Aolain (2015) notes that ‘the often marginal status of women in the contexts where they are expected to become the “minders and informers” of their sons and daughters for the state’ and criticizes ‘this rather naive view of women’s capacity, in highly fraught communities and
societies, where as a practical matter their status is limited, and their equality not guaranteed’. However, Oudraat (2016) identifies empowerment of women as key to them becoming effective agents in CVE. The literature does point to correlation between empowerment of women and reduction in violent extremism (Couture, 2014), and conversely, between gender inequality and violent conflict (Fink et al, 2016).

Additional roles women can play in CVE are supporting security actors and those engaged in CVE through provision of vital information and intelligence that might not otherwise be accessible to security actors (Calfas, 2016). They can also inform CVE strategies and programmes to make these more effective. ‘Women are frequently victims of both terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism measures, and as such they can point out when preventive practices are counterproductive and cause backlash in their communities. This type of information can be decisive to avoid creating or sustaining conditions conducive to terrorism’ (OSCE, 2013).

Women can join security agencies and work on law enforcement and CVE themselves. Female law enforcement officers, for example, are often better at building trust with the community and at community-oriented policing – vital elements of CVE (Fink et al, 2016). ‘Policewomen are vital to enhancing counterterrorism and CVE efforts because they are more likely to reduce the occurrence of human rights abuses, access marginalized communities, limit the use of excessive force, and more efficiently deescalate tension’ (Bhulai et al, 2016). Okenyodo (2016) draws on the Nigerian context and women’s participation in law enforcement and military agencies to argue that ‘women are effective at CVE efforts in circumstances where men may not be able to intervene due to gender differences and cultural expectations’. Finally, women can play a wider role in policy-making, both in public service and as political leaders.

2.3 Adopting Moderate Interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) Teachings in Communities’ to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE)

Civil society does and should play an integral role in countering violent extremism. Governments are ill-equipped to tackle the threat of violent extremism alone and civil society can
complement or supplement government activities. Countering violent extremism programming requires a comprehensive, collaborative response. The Global Centre explained that “The key lesson is that CVE measures at the community level rise or fall on the basis of the vitality of prevailing state–civil society relationships onto which CVE measures are imposed” in their 2015 paper “Does CVE work?” (Peter, 2015). Community actors have greater insights into needs at the local level and are best-placed to identify beneficiaries most in need, thereby ensuring programs are tailored towards beneficiaries.

Kenya is one of East Africa’s most vulnerable countries when it comes to violent extremism and radicalization. Both state and non-state actors have taken many measures to prevent these phenomena, particularly among the youth in Kenya’s north-east and coastal regions (Van Zyl & Mahdi, 2019). Overall though, interventions to deal with terrorism have remained largely unchanged for a decade. Several CSOs are working to reduce radicalization and the effects of violent extremism. They include national organizations operating in all or some of the 47 counties. They also include registered community-based organizations working in education, social justice and environment among other areas related to the NSCVE pillars (Ndung’u, Salifu & Sigsworth, 2019).

Kenya has a strong tradition of civil society mobilization. In 2014 there were approximately 7,500 non-government organizations and approximately 300,000 community-based organizations in 2013. The strength of this sector has contributed significantly to the successful implementation of CVE programming. Civil society played an integral role in the implementation of countering violent extremism programming under both the Kenya Transition Initiative and Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) Horn of Africa. At the time of the mid-term evaluation, the Kenya Transition Initiative’s Eastleigh program had established a network of community-based youth organizations to target a variety of stakeholders and other actors at varying levels of the community. By engaging local community organizations, the program was able to target beneficiaries most in need (Sharamo & Mohamed, 2020). Similarly, the STRIVE Horn of Africa program engaged researchers with local profiles which enabled them to access the right people within the communities to articulate local issues and collect the necessary data.
The current programming trend in Kenya appears to be proceeding along a community-driven path. Donors are getting local organizations to approach them directly with their concepts and requests for funding. This transition, from a position in which donors traditionally approached local civil society organizations, could suggest a slow maturation of the countering violent extremism space in Kenya. This has advantages for beneficiaries. It will likely result in programs driven by local issues and needs, in contrast to adapting programs to suit the community. It also speaks to the strength of the civil society community. The ability of these programs to engage with civil society has significantly contributed to the success of the programs in reaching the local community (Maria Burnett, 2015).

Nevertheless, the relationship between government and civil society in Kenya has experienced challenges. During the year 2014, civil society groups in Kenya were subject to worsening state interference, a deteriorating legal environment and a decrease in public perception (USAID, 2014). This was evidenced in the government’s actions towards two civil society organizations in 2015. In April 2015, Kenyan authorities placed Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) and Haki Africa, two strong organizations working to counter violent extremism, on an official list of alleged supporters of terrorism (Maria Burnett, 2015). This occurred after the groups raised concerns about Kenyan security agencies involvement in extrajudicial killings of Muslim clerics and alleged terrorism suspects in the wake of the attacks on Garissa University. While Kenya’s High Court deemed the action unconstitutional and a violation of their rights, the government indicated it would appeal the ruling.

This example highlights the challenges to civil society organizations in Kenya that seek to engage and reach those individuals who seem most vulnerable to violent extremist rhetoric and recruitment. It also highlights a potential irony within counter violent extremism planning: the most important potential beneficiaries - individuals directly engaged with extremist groups and thereby of concern to the government - are blocked from receiving assistance and support from civil society groups. In a security-centric approach, government rhetoric frames the only appropriate response to membership of a violent extremist group as a punitive one. Civil society groups that engage directly with at-risk youth may present an alternative: assisting individuals to dissociate themselves from these
groups and move away from supporting violent extremism. There may be instances in which government closure of civil society groups does stem from concern over affiliation with individuals involved in violent extremism activities. However, the recent examples of MUHURI and Haki Africa indicate these actions can also be politically motivated. Increasing intervention by the government has seen some leaders dictate terms on which civil society groups could work in their regions (USAID, 2014). This possible shrinking space for civil society activity in Kenya would have a negative impact on counter violent extremism programming, and restrict the capacity for programs to reach beneficiaries.

Generally, CSO interventions include community sensitization such as youth mentorship and local radio stations broadcasting anti-violent extremism programmes; improving livelihoods; and offering psychosocial support to affected individuals. CSOs also work at improving community cohesion and relationships between the community and government. Specifically, CSOs shared their innovative experiences in addressing violent extremism (Sharamo & Mohamed, 2020). Most of them offered community civic education on how to deal with conflict, violence and trauma. They focused on building support groups for young women who are returnees, or women who have been affected by violent extremism to empower them to deal with the psychosocial effects. Most of them have worked directly with the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) on the following: construction of a haven, shelter and resource centre in Nairobi with the view of receiving female survivors of violent extremism and trauma from all the 47 counties; advocating for amnesty for women and girls who are victims of violent extremism; and screening of returnees (Namwaya, 2015).

The companies in private sector in the county are also involved in CVE efforts under their corporate social responsibility. Violent extremism negatively affects the country’s economy, particularly the private sector. For example enterprises, especially those in the food industry need police escorts for their goods moving from Nairobi County to the counties of Lamu and Mandera. This is because their transport vehicles are attacked and stolen by al-Shabaab (Badurdeen & Goldsmith, 2018). The private sector becomes even more vulnerable when its businesses and enterprises are close to communities that are targets for attack or recruitment by extremists. Companies are reluctant to invest in certain counties
such as Mandera and Garissa that are targets. Companies often complain of reduced numbers of customers when a terror attack occurs. This forces them to invest in additional security measures, and higher insurance premiums then increase business costs.

The private sector engages other actors in countering violent extremism through their corporate social responsibility initiatives. For example, a company like Bamburi Cement Limited in Mombasa County supports local organizations to sensitize and build the capacity of communities as well as its staff in addressing violent extremism. It is evident from such activities that the private sector participates in the primary and secondary levels of countering violent extremism. This includes offering public awareness and improving livelihoods for youth at risk of joining terrorist groups (Sharamo & Mohamed, 2020). There are many community initiatives that contribute to countering violent extremism. These include District Peace Committees, Nyumba Kumi Initiative (Know Your Neighbour), respected individuals in the community and local unregistered groups such as youth and women’s groups. Localized efforts in CVE are fuelled by the dividing effects violent extremism has on and between families, and in society generally (Ndung’u, Salifu & Sigsworth, 2019).

For example Nyumba Kumi in Nairobi County organizes neighborhood monitoring and sharing of information on new entrants with the area chief, as well as immediate reporting of suspicious items that are ferried in or out of the surroundings. One Nyumba Kumi ambassador in Majengo, Nairobi said the initiative provides timely early warning information to the police about pending security threats, for instance suspicious teachings taking place in a religious forum (Van Zyl & Mahdi, 2019). Interviews carried out by Sharamo and Mohamed (2020) on individuals and unregistered groups indicated that they implemented their activities in CVE through registered organizations. The CSOs interviewed pointed out that including such individuals and unregistered groups enabled them to reach the ‘hidden’ population and also helped them to embrace more bottom-up approaches in implementing CVE programmes.
Dramatically, violent extremist activities have gone up in recent years. Such groups more and more target women and women’s rights all over the world. By means of sexual and gender-based violence, the groups terrorize communities and demolish the social network. Governance insufficiency as well as structural gender disparities are the major causes of violent extremism and make worse its susceptibility. Various UN Security Council declarations have acknowledged that violent extremism has gendered aspects. These lead to changing outcomes for girls and women, boys and men (Speckhard, 2020).

Women are often viewed only as casualties of violent extremism. But in actual fact, women take part in numerous roles; they are on the forefront of response and countering violent extremism. They lead community based organizations (CBOs) and boost community pliability. Endorsing women as instruments of peace acknowledges their inputs to peace building and countering hostility and supports respect for the human rights of all and sundry in areas troubled by (VE) violent extremism (Couture, 2014).

According to the study conducted by Speckhard (2020), UN Women’s work reveals that supporting empowerment of women, financially and in post-conflict recuperation development and planning, brings positive outcomes for women as well as communities. Up till now women’s involvement in decision-making as well as security-related procedures remains absent or limited. UN Women endeavours to guarantee that methods to counter violent extremism are more all-encompassing, and better mirror the needs of women, leadership and agency.

Women have many roles in countering violent extremism. For instance, women are all the time more chasing careers in politics, law and security - policing, exploring and fighting terrorism by means of hard as well as soft security measures (Caudill, 2017). Women are as well lively in more casual roles in their local communities, families, educational institutions, and religious communities where they are time and again already integrally engaged. Regardless of this, women are at this time not well utilized in countering violent extremism from their personal and professional point of view. This underutilization
symbolizes a serious loss for Countering Violent Extremism attempts, as women may and have to be helpful in deterring enrolment to as well as involvement in violent extremism (Kessels, et al., 2016).

Regardless of effective counter-terrorism abilities, countless militaries are short of experience when it comes to countering and getting rid of the factors of radicalization. Incidentally, CVE players may desire to put into consideration working with military institutions on more integrative (for instance, military or preventative locally informed proposals created with civil society organizations) CVE programmes (Powers, 2017). In the military, women have imperative tasks to do in such joint Countering Violent Extremism undertakings, therefore their specific participation ought to be prioritized by Countering Violent Extremism players.

Community policing within Nairobi County is vital for enhancing awareness in the community of the problem of violent extremism, giving power to societies to counter its materialization and spread, as well as assisting the community achieve the requirements of those who are susceptible to enrolment to resend them to a more creative pathway. Inclusion of police officers who are women has been revealed to very much enhance effectiveness in community policing extremism countering efforts (Speckhard & Shajkovci, 2019). Nowadays, female police officers, in Nairobi County, are being incorporated in community policing projects.

The Kenya Association of Women in Policing (KAWP), a partisanship organization with more than 73000 female police members, is a predominantly flourishing instance of reinforcing roles of women in the police service. Police associations led by female officers who are agents of the population they are assigned to guard are well situated to help with countering violent extremism attempts. Similar voices might also offer guidance to police officers that are male and countering violent extremism players on most excellent practices, together with how to take on and hold on to women in countering violent extremism attempts. As illustrated, women time and again have their hand on the heart beat of their family members also are conscious of activities in their societies and they may be most secure sharing what they are worried about with other female police officers (Speckhard, 2020).
As numerous judges and prosecutors in the county may find it hard to react to children and women returnees from violent radical groups, raising the number of female prosecutors and judges might contribute towards an effective as well as comprehending response to female returnees (Speckhard, Shajkovci, & Esengul, 2017). Furthermore, training on gender dynamics and radicalization might profit both female and male prosecutors and judges in the county. Prosecutors and judges concerned with female returnees are required to further reinforce their consideration of the dynamics that motivated women to join violent radical groups and the responsibilities they might potentially have participated. In instances when male force was there, for example, there might be good reason to be more compassionate on the women, while still taking into consideration and offering them services and support for reintegration and de-radicalization (Speckhard & Shajkovci, 2019). Government officials should as well be aware that some women freely offered support in kind and services to militia group and decided to endorse violence and ought not to be freed back into their communities and societies unmonitored or devoid of any type of intervention to rehabilitate and assure their undisturbed reintegration into the community (Bhulai, Peters & Nemr, 2016).

Teachers play a critical task in determining the attitudes of the students towards interreligious and inter-cultural tolerance. At the moment, teachers in Nairobi County are unevenly female, thus linking female teachers in the attempt to counter violent extremist communication is extremely possible and ought to be encouraged. In a more lasting, countering violent extremism approach, teachers help their students in better understanding and appreciating differences in others (for example, religions, ethnicities, cultures, and many more) and reject violent extremism and radicalism by shaping attitudes of students towards tolerance and diversity. As the most important UN agency authorized on education, UNESCO’s Countering Violent Extremism by means of Education (CVE-E) program endeavours to provide youthful persons with the cognitive (problem solving, critical thinking, and many more) and socio emotional abilities (compassion, empathy, creativity, sense of unity and accountability, and so on) that will promote international citizens, defy violent extremism and counter the spread of VE (Caudill, 2017). As part of that plan, UNESCO initiated its Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme in
2015, the objectives and topics of which can be seen on its website. This resource might be of importance to professionals in education in the County and region looking to integrate the above proficiencies into their curriculum in an attempt to counter violent extremism through cultivating students with more liberal attitudes and developed critical thinking abilities.

The director and author of the International Centre for the Study of Violent Extremism (ICSVE) identified early on that Al Qaeda and afterwards ISIS were not utilizing uncomplicated cognitive arguments to induce probable recruits but were instead utilizing extremely poignant videos and graphic imagery to call to mind emotions and influence probable recruits to follow a line of reason leading to supporting violent extremism and terrorism (ICSVE, 2017). To counter the latter, ICSVE researchers started creating small video clips of insider stories from real ISIS members recorded on video in which the insiders condemn ISIS as very much corrupt, excessively fierce and unreligious in their actions. Again, extremely emotionally reminiscent, these videos give confidence to young people to lay open and talk about issues portrayed and illustrated in the video clip. Some CBOs in Kenya are utilizing such short video clips to make the youths to comprehend how a group may psychologically influence them as well as to delegitimize groups such as Al-shabab and their radical philosophy, thus assisting the youths to decline such groups and their fake assertions. The 160 ICSVE Breaking the ISIS Brand Counter Narrative Project video clips together with study guides (in English) are obtainable on the YouTube channel of ICSVE in the twenty-seven languages in which ISIS recruits and might be liberally used by whichever teacher in their classrooms to promote active discussions intended to countering radicalization and backing of violent extremism (Speckhard & Shajkovci, 2019).

Where suitable, instructors may openly deal with present violent extremist narratives in their classrooms in an attempt to give confidence to students to utilize critical thinking abilities to discourage violent extremist claims right away before they are taken on by existing groups through psychological ways. As talked about, ICSVE, for example, offers ISIS counter-narrative videos which go with study guides which tell the story, emphasize the core messages, and present counter messages to the ISIS assertions (ICSVE, 2017). Other teaching supports are used to assist students tackle terrorist beliefs and
deeds and talk about them in a secure atmosphere in which they are guided to decline violent extremism. Nevertheless, teachers make sure that any open CVE attempt in the classroom follow local as well as national policies and has been accepted by the school system and the parents to the students before execution (Speckhard, 2017).

2.4 Women as Empowered Parents and Role Models in Countering Violent Extremism

In our communities, women play imperative roles. They are taken in leadership functions, as protesters devoted to progressing critical causes in the society, and as members of our families; sisters, mothers, daughters, aunts and grandmothers. These functions, particularly in conservative societies where women frequently play a more well-known task in the home, might permit women exceptional opportunities to recognize radicalization in their community and family members and place them in an perfect position to oppose radicalization in their community (Speckhard, 2020).

Women and girls play a very vital role in countering violent extremism. They are very important resources that need to be empowered and included in any policy program that seeks to address the challenges of violent extremism. Women and girls should be empowered by being included in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all policies, laws, procedures, programs and practices related to countering violent extremism (GCTF, 2017). Incorporating women and girls in the practices and programs of CVE enhances the design, implementation, and evaluation of countering violent extremism efforts. It brings additional resources by promoting the unique and significant roles of women and girls in countering violent extremism. It also ensures that countering violent extremism efforts counteract female radicalization and the various ways women and girls are involved in violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations (Haynie & Oudraat, 2017). Comprehensive approaches to countering violent extremism also consider how violent extremism and counterterrorism impact women and girls differently and give a more full picture of security concerns, including within those communities where radicalization is taking place and where more engagement may be sought.
Family and community relationships are critical determinants in the process of radicalization, and both women and men are part of that dynamic process (GCTF, 2015b).

Both parents can be more than ever exceptionally positioned in their families to watch the pulse of members of family and are frequently the first to notice signs of extremism or sense when a family member is in trouble. More significantly, parents are the initial teachers of their children and time and again educate their children on subjects that religious or schools institutions unable or are fail to cover. As a result of societal gender bias, the responsibility of monitoring behaviour of the children and teaching them regularly becomes a woman responsibility. In their position as mothers, women are vital in the attempt to recognize signs of radicalization and to teach youths against messages of radicalism, although fathers might also play an evenly imperative part in the process. Parents ought to work jointly to sense and counter radicalization as far as children are concerned (Speckhard, 2017).

The United States understands that successful conflict deterrence efforts must rest on key investments in women’s economic empowerment, education, and health. A growing body of evidence shows that empowering women and reducing gaps in health, education, labor markets, and other areas is associated with lower poverty, higher economic growth, greater agricultural productivity, better nutrition and education of children, and other outcomes vital to the success of communities (UNESCO, 2014). Research by Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (2013) suggests that when women are empowered, and when movement to gender equality is highlighted, there will be positive impacts in CVE outcomes. In addition, there is a positive spiritual effect. These measures are arguably the most relevant to the challenge of countering violent extremism. Investing in women to be better positioned to identify, intervene, and counter factors that can and do increase chances of individuals engaging in violence based on ideological motivations cannot be undervalued. According to the OSCE (2013), gender equality and women empowerment should not be valued only to the extent that it helps national security and counter-terrorism. Gender equality should be promoted in its own right and women should be empowered to participate fully in the society.
Parents may perhaps feel anxious or unprepared to talk to their sons and daughters about violent radicalism. Just like having complicated talks about abuse or sexuality, kicking off the discussion equipped with background information can make easy the experience for parents. In the example of violent radicalism, it is obliging to come to the discussion with essential facts of the groups active on the Internet, their methods of recruitment, and the most convincing elements in their philosophies (Davis, 2010). Parents with knowledge and materials will probably have an easier time talking about the topic and as a result guarding their children. Parents time and again express dismay and shock when they find out about the involvement of their children in violent extremism. A lot of them fail to identify that violent extremists can imprison the attention of their children in their own homes often unnoticed to them through the Internet. The majority of parenting reviews show that overburdened and busy parents use very small time actually discussing to their children on a daily basis, while a recruiter of a militia group might be keen to spend hours preparing a young recruit (Fink, Barakat, & Shetret, 2013). Incapable of recognizing this threat, parents over and over again fail to see the need to teach their teens to comprehend tactics terrorist recruitment use and expose terrorist philosophies. Children might benefit from being shown that even as extremist groups might sometimes precisely indicate societal grievances, they do not have at all helpful solutions for societal challenges. Training and equipping parents, especially mothers, to teach their teens in this way is very useful for CVE attempts (Kessels, Durner & Schwartz, 2016).

In addition, the responsibilities women play as sisters, wives, cousins, grandmothers, and aunts may be strategic positions from which to spot signs of radicalization causing violence and to develop the best way to intercede with one of the members of the family. It is all too ordinary that members of a family confess to law enforcement once their loved one has joined an extremist group or has been incarcerated that they saw signs of radicalization but didn’t know what to do, who to get in touch with for help, or how to act in response until it was too late. Countering Violent Extremism initiatives and strategies ought to fully to take into consideration how to leverage, incorporate and support women in all their functions in their family (Ni Aolain, 2015).
Ultimately, working more largely towards empowerment of women is vital for successful Countering Violent Extremism initiatives. If mothers and wives are supposed to quietly submit to their husbands, sisters are supposed to quietly submit to their father and brothers, these women might not be in an autonomous and powerful position to intercede when a member of a family is in trouble of radicalization towards violence, albeit they may sense the signs (Speckhard, 2020). As a result, the persistence of gender equality and empowerment of women to a great extent contributes to more effect full Countering Violent Extremism programmes through empowering women to be effective actors of Countering Violent Extremism in their societies, communities and eventually their homes (Speckhard & Shajkovci, 2019).

2.5 Theoretical Framework

Though there are no theoretical foundations of CVE other than policy and program-based frameworks (Challgren, Kenyon, Kervick, Scudder, Walters, & Whitehead, 2016); however, there are theories such as Social Cohesion Theory which is applied in this study.

2.5.1 Social Cohesion Theory

According to Emile Durkheim (1893), social cohesion is the interdependence between members of the society, loyalties and solidarity. Parson (1961) understood social cohesion as shared values and norms to enable members to identify and support common goals and objectives, share common moral principles and codes of behavior that guide relations with one another. According to Lockwood (1999) social cohesion refers to primary social relationships (family, relatives, and neighborhood) and secondary association. Social cohesion is a continuous process of elaborating an assembly of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunities.

There are three domains of social cohesion: economic (equality/inequality), political and socio-cultural that informs individuals’ attitudes and behavior (Klein, 2011). Social cohesion is a state of affairs concerning both the vertical and horizontal interactions among members of a society as
characterized by a set of attitudes and norms that include trust, a sense of belonging, willingness to participate in societal activities and their behavioral patterns. According to this view cohesion can be gauged vertically between state-society relations or horizontally among communities. Violent Extremism (VE) erodes social cohesion while CVE is meant to reduce or eliminate violent extremism and thereby increase social cohesion and national stability. The above analysis when applied to CVE offers a holistic and multi-dimensional prism thereby enabling a more comprehensive analysis and corresponding design of socio-cultural, economic and political factors based CVE measures in the target countries.

2.5.2 Theory of Change

According to the theory of change, if scientific evidence on the drivers of extremist violence in Kenya is generated and made available to stakeholders for policy action, and if women are facilitated and given access and resources to participate effectively in the deterrence, conflict management and recovery efforts of countering violent extremism and if women are provided with safe spaces to share and exchange critical information, then vulnerable communities would be more resilient to risks of conflict, thus leading to improved cohesion amongst communities.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework demonstrates the association involving the independent variables (contribution of women) and the dependent variable (countering violent extremism (CVE) in Nairobi Kenya). The conceptual framework is illustrated in Figure 2.1.
2.7 Chapter Summary

The study in chapter two discussed the literature review about the contribution of women as far as Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) is concerned. This chapter specifically discussed roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism, how women can adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism, plus ways women as parents should empowered as well as serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The study in this chapter discusses research design, sample population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, instruments, data analysis as well as ethical consideration. Research methodology is the explicit techniques and procedures utilized in identifying, selecting, processing, and analyzing information about a subject.

3.2 Research Design

The main research method for this study is a descriptive survey design. The study used both descriptive and thematic research analysis to obtain quantitative and qualitative information from the documents and database review. For the descriptive design, the study extracted statistical information and analyze it using SPSS version 21 to get the quantitative output while for qualitative analysis, the study used thematic analysis whereby comparisons of different documents was done to show the similarities and differences of findings in the documents and draw a conclusion on that. The information from the documents and databases helped to understand the contribution of women on CVE, teachings of community-based organization on CVE and how women as empowered parents and role models in their households can counter violent extremism. Together, all the sources of information used provided general demographic, economic and education information for the communities on the contribution of women on CVE. This study was conducted from October 2020 to April 2021.

3.3 Target Population

The target population for this study comprises of members of the public living in Nairobi County. A population, according to Banerjee and Chaudhury (2014) is an entire group of things or people about which some information is needed to be established. For that reason, Kothari and Garg
(2014) stated that a population comprises of all the organizations and individuals that form a study space.

### 3.4 Sampling Design

According to Cooper and Schindler (2014), sampling design shows how cases are chosen for examination and therefore draws how the sample is made. A sampling design is made up of sampling frame, sampling technique and sample size.

#### 3.4.1 Sampling Frame

A sampling frame, as discussed by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2016) is a detailed list of all the elements in the population. Sampling frame for this research is drawn from a list of all members of the public living in Nairobi County. As one of the commitments is not to disclose names of individuals or organizations, such a list is not be annexed to the study.

#### 3.4.2 Sampling Techniques

A sampling technique, according to Saunders et al. (2016) is the name or other identification of the definite procedure by which the unit of the sample have been chosen. There are two categories of sampling techniques. The first is the probability technique and the second is the non-probability sampling technique.

This study used a non-probability sampling technique (snowball) to select sample units from the members of the public experiencing violent extremism in Nairobi County. In sociology and statistics research, snowball sampling (or chain sampling, chain-referral sampling, referral sampling) is a non-probability sampling technique where existing study subjects recruit future subjects from among their acquaintances. Thus, the sample group is said to grow like a rolling snowball (Pandey, I. & Pandey, W., 2015). The study also used convenience sampling for the sample from the public. Three groups of twelve individuals were obtained using the convenience sampling technique to make the 36 respondents
for the focus group. Twelve members of the public in every group who were conveniently available were identified and selected for this study. Before the selection, the researcher talked to them and explained why they are being selected, their rights as participants and the consent form was given to them to read, understand and sign before engaging themselves in the research. These sampling techniques were selected as they help ensure that all the study units are well represented.

3.4.3 Sample Size

The sample size, according to Creswell (2014) is a critical feature of every empirical study as inferences about a population are made from a sample. A sample is an assortment of participants selected in a way that they stand for the total population as fairly as possible; a representative sample comprises a sample in which each and every member of the population has the same and commonly exclusive possibility of being selected (Banerjee & Chaudhary, 2014).

For the purpose of this study, where the population comprises of members of the public from Nairobi County and the nature of the study, the sample size was built according to the number of referrals that would be obtained and the time the study took. Because of the sensitivity of matters to deal with in this study, the researcher used snowballing approach. Using this technique, the researcher hopes to build a sample size of one hundred respondents by being introduced to the next respondent by the previous respondent.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations will be adhered to at all times. Ethics, according to Saunders et al. (2016) are the norms guiding moral choices about relationship with others. This research is guided by rules which are widely accepted among researchers. The study is following the highest ethical considerations, in line with NACOSTI (National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation) guidelines spelled out in its website including seeking formal permission of the respondents, notification of protection and respect for the rights and that they were free to participate without any intimidation or inducement (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). A consent form was offered to the participants (institutions
dealing with women and CVE in Nairobi County) before commencement of the study to ask for their
permission to take part in the study. The participants were briefed on the importance and purpose of the
study and assured of confidentiality. Participants were also given the liberty to withdraw from the study
at any point for various reasons including safeguarding their privacy.

3.6 Data Collection Method

Data collection involves gathering raw information for the purpose of processing it into a
meaningful form through the scientific process of data analysis (Saunders, et al., 2016). The study
adopted the use of structured questionnaires and interview guide with open ended questions to collect
data from the respondents. The questionnaire was administered to the referrals while the interview guide
was administered to the focus group. The researcher employed and train two research assistants who
helped in data collection. The research assistants began by looking for a respondent who has
experienced or undergone through violent extremism to help in filling the questionnaire then asked for
an introduction to the other respondent who has the similar case. The questionnaire was the preferred
data collection tool because of its ability to attain responses from a large number of respondents, its ease
of use, and it is precise, effective and efficient (Layla, 2014). Interview guide was also preferred
because it structures the conversation and yet gives freedom of getting in-depth information from the
interviewees (Bryman, 2016).

3.7 Research Procedure

The research procedure entails the depiction of all the steps to be followed in a study for the
purpose of clarity (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). These steps are described clearly and, in enough detail,
so that another researcher can understand and repeat the research. The steps for the research procedure
included obtaining permission, pilot testing, reliability test of the instrument, validity test of the
instrument, administration of the instrument, data collection, data preparation for analysis, data analysis,
data presentation and finally discussions, conclusions and recommendations.
3.7.1 Pilot Study

A pilot study was carried out and the findings were used to inform the feasibility and identify any amendments or modifications that were necessary before conducting the main study. The researcher used one trained research assistants to gather data from the respondents. The research assistant helped in following through with the respondents to ensure they completed and returned the questionnaires. They also assisted and clarify any concerns where there was need to do so. Communication with the respondents was through different techniques such as through phone calls, email reminders and physical visits. The pilot study helped determine the reliability of the questionnaire and validity of the questions by pre-testing them before administering them in the study.

3.8 Data Analysis Methods

Data analysis involves inspecting and refining data with the aim of discovering information that helps the research make useful conclusions and recommendations from the results (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). This study gathered quantitative data by means of a questionnaire and qualitative data using interview guide as the data collection instruments. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. Quantitative data was prepared, coded and entered into data analysis tool, SPSS version 21, to carry out data analysis. To help in coding, the options in the questionnaire were assigned numbers to help in measuring the responses as given by the respondents to ease the analysis processes. The responses were analyzed by looking at the significance of the responses in the questionnaire. Descriptive statistics was used to calculate the measures of central tendency including the frequency, percentile distributions, mean, and standard deviation. Some inferential statistics was attained by running tests using statistical analytical software and the results were used to infer the relationships existing between the key variables.
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study and data analyses based on the objectives of the study. The analysis also incorporates a comparative discussion on the different views presented by the respondents. Prior to the presentation of the findings, analysis and discussion of the general (demographic) characteristics of the respondents have been highlighted.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The study in this section discusses age of the respondents, gender of the respondents, and levels of education the respondents. Demographic data is statistical data collected about the characteristics of the population.

4.2.1 Age of the Respondents

This study entails a detailed account of the demographic profile of the respondents. There were 10 respondents. It is assumed that the attributes of the respondents influence their behavior and answers on the study questions. The profile of the respondents is looked upon in terms of gender, education, religion and age. The data collected is summarized in the presentation below. Respondents from various age groups were involved in the study as indicated below;
Participants were categorized into various age groups shown below.

1. Between 18 years to 25 years. This is represented by bar 1 in the graph above. This represents 10% denoting only 1 individual participating in the study.
2. Between 26 years to 40 years. This is represented by bar 2 in the graph and represents 50% of the total individuals participating in the study.
3. Between 41 years to 55 years. This is represented by bar 3 in the graph and represents 40% of the total individuals participating in the study.

The apparent diversity of the maturity of the respondents reflects several implications in the study's findings.

### 4.2.2 Gender of the Respondents

Although, the study initially targeted female respondents, responses from male participants were incorporated as a way to compare if there is any relationship between the sex/gender of the respondents and their views on the subject of the study. One male respondent was thus included in the study as illustrated in Figure 4.2.
4.2.3 Education Levels of the Respondents

From the study, only 1(10%) of the respondents had attained post graduate level of Education; apparently, this was the male respondent. Majority, (50%) of the respondents had acquired tertiary level of education while the remaining proportions (40%) were equally shared by university and secondary school graduates. This is as illustrated below.

---

**Figure 4.2: Respondents by Gender**

**Figure 4.3: Respondents by Education Levels**
4.3 Analyzing the contributions of women in countering violent extremism

This study has analyzed the Violent Extremism and how women are contributing in countering the menace. This is done through examining degree to which women are vital to countering violent extremism by shaping attitudes toward non-violence acts.

4.3.1 Countering Violent Extremism by Shaping Attitudes toward Non-Violence Acts

The study sought to examine how women counter violent extremism by shaping attitudes towards non-violence acts. From the analysis, majority of the respondents (80%) strongly agreed while the remaining agreed that women are vital in countering violent extremism by shaping attitudes toward non-violence acts. The findings of the study support the findings of Badurdeen and Goldsmith (2018) who asserted that promoting values of inclusivity to mitigate the spread of extremist ideology. This helps with mitigating the root causes of extremist behavior by addressing social grievances that drive populations to violent extremism. This is illustrated in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Countering Violent Extremism by Shaping Attitudes toward Non-Violence Acts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women are vital in countering violent extremism by shaping attitudes toward non-violence acts.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.2 The role of social networks in reinforcing non-violent norms and resilience to Violent Extremism

The study aimed at assessing the function of societal networks in reinforcing nonviolent norms as well as resilience to violent extremism. As depicted in Table 4.2, the study revealed that there was a unanimous agreement among the respondents that positive social networks are important in reinforcing
non-violent norms and resilience to violent extremism. Bearing in mind the very social nature of women especially those in the community (grassroot/village) level, the kinds of persons and groupings they associate with has a direct effect on their behavior and practices. As noted by Speckhard (2020), women can form positive groups and associations whose roles among other would be to counter violent extremism amongst their community members. On the other hand, Fink et al. (2013) found that women traditional roles allow them to shape familial and social norms and promote increased tolerance and nonviolent political and civic engagement hence help in countering violent extremism.

Table 4.2: The role of social networks in reinforcing non-violent norms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive social networks are important in reinforcing non-violent norms and resilience to violent extremism.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.3 The role of mothers in identifying, predicting, and responding to potential vulnerabilities to Violent Extremism

When asked whether mothers are situated at the heart of the family, and are often best placed to identify, predict, and respond to potential vulnerabilities to Violent Extremism an overwhelming majority of the respondents (80%) strongly agreed. The remaining respondents were shared equally at 10% each between agreeing and disagreeing on the contribution of the mothers on the said role. The findings of the study conform to the findings of Majoran (2015) who confirmed that children listen to their mothers because they view them as figures of respect and authority hence they can play an important role as mediators as well as authors of counter-narratives challenging violent extremism and terrorism. The result of the study is shown in Table 4.3.
Mothers are situated at the heart of the family, and are often best-placed to identify, predict and respond to potential vulnerabilities of Violent Extremism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.4 The influence of family commitment in disengaging from Violent Extremism (VE)

Seeking to understanding whether or not commitment to family could be an important motive in disengaging from violent extremism, this study established that half of the participants strongly agreed that this commitment could help dissuade potential violent extremism perpetrators. Ten per cent (10%) of the respondents however did not agree to this while the remaining 40% were in agreement. The study also showed that 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that family commitment can be an important motive in disengaging from violent radicalism. The study findings is mirrored in the findings of Oudraat (2016) whereby he found that women can be critical in early signs detection of radicalization, intervening before individuals become violent, and delegitimizing violent extremist narratives. Moreover, Fink et al. (2013) add that women voices may be especially compelling when they speak out as victims or survivors of terrorist attacks. Table 4.4 demonstrates the findings.
Table 4.4: family commitment in disengaging from Violent Extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Commitment can be an important motive in disengaging from violent extremism.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4.3.5 Capacity of women to counter Violent Extremism (VE)**

On the capacity of women to counter violent extremism, this research sought to investigate how sufficient knowledgeable and equipped women are and whether they may need any trainings on the same. All the participants responded affirmatively to the fact that women have insufficient knowledge and tools on the subject and would thus require more capacity building. An overwhelming majority of (70%) strongly agreed while (30%) agreed to the statement that women often lack sufficient knowledge or tools/skills to counter violent extremism and radicalization, hence need more training. The findings are echoed in the study of Ni Aolain (2015) who revealed that women are often the first to stand up to terrorism since they are among the first targets of fundamentalism and hence, compared to men, may be more willing activists in countering violent extremism. This contradicts the findings of Calfas (2016) who found that in many cultures women may not be very visible in the public sphere but wield significant power and influence in the private sphere and hence can counter violent extremism early on. Table 4.5 reveals the result.
Table 4.5: Capacity of women to counter Violent Extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women often lack sufficient knowledge or tools/skills to counter VE and radicalization, hence 0% 0% 0% 30% 70% need more training.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.6 Linking Key CVE players as a suitable way of countering violent extremism

This research hypothesized that the linkage that would exist between parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors, religious leaders, police, and young people would be a suitable way of countering violent extremism. Like the case for women capacity above, this was proven true by the majority (70%) who strongly agreed while the rest (30%) disagreed that linking parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors, religious leaders, police, and young people are the suitable ways of countering violent radicalism. The study results are echoed in Zeiger and Aly (2015) that stated that religious women and faith leaders have a role to play in countering violent extremism by espousing moderate interpretations of religious teachings in communities, empowering parents to relay these messages in households, and empowering women to provide role models to counter women’s radicalization to violence in particular. Majoran (2015) in his study largely identifies women’s potential for countering violent extremism in relation to the family, spotting signs of radicalization and delegitimizing extremist narratives, as well in their communities. This finding is illustrated in Table 4.6.
Table 4.6: suitable ways of countering violent extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linking parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors, religious leaders, police, and young people are the suitable ways of countering violent extremism.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.7 Women working with local authorities to counter violent extremism and recruitment

The study in Table 4.7 examine whether women are encouraged to work with local authorities to counter violent radicalization and recruitment. From the result of the study, half of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed that women are encouraged to work with local authorities to counter violent radicalization and recruitment, 20% of the respondents agreed to the statement while 20% of the respondents were neutral about the statement. According to the study, no one disagreed to the statement. The study by Calfas (2016) found that women can play roles of countering violent extremism by supporting security actors and those engaged in countering violent extremism through provision of vital information and intelligence that might not otherwise be accessible to security actors. Couture (2014) disagreed with the findings of the study and asserts the violent extremism is most effectively countered through increased education, better critical thinking and enhanced opportunities for women. Fink, et al. (2016) in their study suggested that empowering women has positive outcomes on all countering violent extremism indicators.
Table 4.7: Women working with local authorities to counter violent extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women are encouraged to work with local authorities to counter violent radicalization and recruitment.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.8 Descriptive Statistics of Women’s Contributions in Countering Violent Extremism

The very first objective of the study was to assess the kind of roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya. The respondents were requested to indicate their agreement to a variety of statements on a Likert-scale of 1-5. 1 denoted that they strongly disagreed with the statement, 2 denoted that they disagreed with the statements, 3 denoted that they were neutral, 4 denoted their agreement with the statements and 5 denoted that they strongly agreed with the statements. Table 4.8 shows the means and standard deviations for the responses to the questions which assessed the kind of roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya.

The results in Table 4.8 designated that, on average, women are vital to countering violent extremism by shaping attitudes toward non-violence acts \((M = 4.80, S.D = 0.422)\), they also agreed that Positive social networks are important in reinforcing non-violent norms and resilience to violent extremism \((M = 4.90, S.D = 0.392)\). Mothers are situated at the heart of the family, and are often best-placed to identify, predict, and respond to potential vulnerabilities to Violent Extremism \((M = 4.70, S.D = 0.675)\).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women are vital to countering violent extremism by shaping</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>.422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attitudes toward non-violence acts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive social networks are important in reinforcing</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>0.392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-violent norms and resilience to violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers are situated at the heart of the family, and are often</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>best-placed to identify, predict, and respond to potential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vulnerabilities to Violent Extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to family can be an important motive in disengaging</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>.699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women are often insufficiently armed with the knowledge or</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tools to counter VE and radicalization, hence need more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trainings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linking parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors,</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>religious leaders, police, and young people are the suitable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ways of countering violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women are encouraged to work with authorities on countering</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>.823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violent radicalization and recruitment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commitment to family can be an important motive in disengaging from violent extremism ($M = 4.40, S.D = 0.699$), hence linking parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors, religious leaders, police, and young people are the suitable ways of countering violent extremism ($M = 4.70, S.D = 0.483$). Finally, the results indicated that, women are often insufficiently armed with the knowledge or tools to counter
VE and radicalization, hence need more trainings ($M = 4.70, S.D = 0.483$), hence they are encouraged to work with authorities on countering violent radicalization and recruitment ($M = 4.30, S.D = 0.823$).

4.3.9 Correlational Analysis of women’s contributions and countering violent extremism

Correlation examines the relationship between two variables and gives a measure of the strength and direction that they oscillate with one another. The measure, known as the coefficient is usually denoted by ‘$r$’ and is a value between -1 and +1.

Table 4.9: Correlational Analysis of Women’s Contributions in Countering Violent Extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution of Women</th>
<th>Countering Violent Extremism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countering Violent Extremism</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.034</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

A positive value indicates that the two variables increase in parallel, a negative value indicates that they move in opposite directions and a zero value indicates that no relationship exists between the variables. Correlation analysis was conducted to study the strength and direction of the relationship between women’s contributions and countering violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya. Table 4.9 indicate that the
contributions of women had a positive and significant relationship with countering violent extremism, \( r(92) = 0.670, p < .05. \)

### 4.4 Women adopting moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ teachings for CVE in Kenya

The study under this section discusses the analyzed results on how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ teaching for CVE in Kenya.

#### 4.4.1 The role of Community Based Organizations in countering violent extremism in communities

The researched established that CBO leaders play a great role in countering violent extremism in communities. This was evident from the 60% of the respondents who strongly agreed on the statement. An additional 30% agreed with the same while the rest (10%) disagreed. The finding of the study is mirrored in the findings of Peter (2015) who found that community actors have greater insights into needs at the local level and are best-placed to identify beneficiaries most in-need, thereby ensuring programs are tailored towards beneficiaries. This is demonstrated in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10: The role of Community Based Organizations in countering violent extremism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBO leaders play an enormous role in countering violent extremism in communities.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4.2 The contribution of Women and CBOs in sensitizing families on societal factors that lead to violent extremism

Majority of the respondents (70%) strongly agreed that women should work with CBOs to sensitize their families about bad societal factors that lead to violent extremism. An additional 20% agreed to this statement while 10% of the respondents disagreed. The study supports the findings of Namwaya (2015) who revealed that most of the community-based organizations offer community civic education on how to deal with conflict, violence and trauma. The community based organizations focus on building support groups for young women who are returnees, or women who have been affected by violent extremism to empower them to deal with the psychosocial effects. Table 4.11 shows the findings.

Table 4.11: CBOs in sensitizing families on societal factors that lead to violent extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women working with CBOs sensitize their families about bad societal factors that lead to violent extremism.

4.4.3 Community Based Organizations fill the gap between parents and children

This study felt that community-based organizations filled the gap between parents and children hence minimizes chances of radicalization in a society; 40% of the participants strongly agreed while the remaining 60% of the respondents were equally spread (that is at 20%) between agreeing, neutral and disagreeing that CBOs fill in the gap between parents and children hence minimizes chances of radicalization in a society. The study by Peter (2015) found that civil society does and should play an
integral role in countering violent extremism. The author found that governments are ill-equipped to tackle the threat of violent extremism alone and civil society can complement or supplement government activities.

Table 4.12: Community Based Organizations fill the gap between parents and children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBOs fill in the gap</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and children hence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minimizes chances of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>radicalization in a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.4 Inclusion of CBOs actors in CVE Policy Implementation

The process of CVE policy implementation should include CBO actors as echoed by majority of the respondents who strongly agreed. However, among the respondents there was one who did not feel that these actors should be included, thus disagreed. Okenyodo (2016) revealed that women’s participation in law enforcement and military agencies to argue that women are effective at CVE efforts in circumstances where men may not be able to intervene due to gender differences and cultural expectations. On the other hand, Bhulai et al, (2016) found that women can play a wider role in policy-making, both in public service and as political leaders.
## Table 4.13: Inclusion of CBOs actors in CVE Policy Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>90%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBOs actors should be included in the process of implementing policy for countering violent extremism.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.4.5 Mobilization and enlistling of CBOs leaders to counter violent extremism in the communities

When asked on the need to mobilize and enlist CBOs leaders to counter violent extremism in the communities, 80% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is need to do so. Ten per cent (10%) of the respondents disagreed while the remaining respondent was neutral. The study by Sharamo and Mohamed (2020) found that Kenya has a strong tradition of civil society mobilization. The strength of this sector has contributed significantly to the successful implementation of countering violent extremism. Community based organizations play an integral role in the implementation of countering violent extremism programming.

## Table 4.14: Mobilization and enlisting of CBOs leaders to counter violent extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is important to mobilize and enlist CBOs leaders to encounter violent extremism in the communities.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4.6 The role of CBOs in enhancing the skills of the parents to counter Radicalization

Findings from the study noted that CBOs play role in enhancing skills of parents on how to deal with their kids on matters to do with radicalization, this was seen as the case with 60% of the respondents strongly agreeing. One respondent was neutral to this discussion while the other one disagreed. The remaining 20% of the respondents felt that CBOs do not have a role/do not play the role of enhancing parents’ skills on how to deal with their kids on radicalization.

Table 4.15: Role of CBOs in enhancing the skills of the parents to counter Radicalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBOs enhance skills of parents on how deal with their kids on matters to do with radicalization.</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.7 Descriptive Statistics of Women Interpretations of Community-Based Organizations' Teachings

The second objective of the study was to examine how women can adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism. The respondents were requested to indicate their agreement to various statements on a scale of 1-5. 1 denoted that they strongly disagreed with the statement, 2 denoted that they disagreed with the statements, 3 denoted that they were neutral, 4 denoted their agreement with the statements and finally 5 denoted that they strongly agreed with the statements. Table 4.16 depicts the means and standard deviations for the responses to the questions which examined how women can adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBO leaders play a great role in countering violent extremism in</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>.707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women working with CBOs sensitize their families about bad societal factors that lead to violent extremism</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>.441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs fill the gap between parents and children hence minimizes chances of radicalization in a society</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>1.229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs actors should be included in the process of implementing policy for countering violent extremism</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is important to mobilize and enlist CBOs leaders to encounter violent extremism in the communities</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs enhance skills of parents on how deal with their kids on matters to do with radicalization</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>1.287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings in Table 4.16 indicated that on average, CBO leaders play a great role in countering violent extremism in communities ($M = 4.50, SD = 0.707$). Women working with CBOs sensitize their families about bad societal factors that lead to violent extremism ($M = 4.78, SD = 0.411$). The findings revealed that It is important to mobilize and enlist CBOs leaders to encounter violent extremism in the communities ($M = 4.70, SD = 0.675$) but were neutral on the statement that CBOs fill the gap between parents and children hence minimizes chances of radicalization in a society ($M = 3.80, SD = 1.2297$). CBOs actors should be included in the process of implementing policy for countering violent extremism ($M = 4.70, SD = 0.949$) as they enhance skills of parents on how deal with their kids on matters to do with radicalization ($M = 4.10, SD = 1.287$).
4.4.8 Correlational Analysis of Women Interpretations and Community-Based Organizations’ Teachings

Correlation analysis was conducted to examine the strength and direction of the relationship between women interpretations of community-based organizations and countering violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya. Table 4.17 show the results of the correlation between the women interpretations of community-based organizations and countering violent extremism.

**Table 4.17: Correlational Analysis of Women Interpretations and CBOs’ Teachings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Based Organizations</th>
<th>Countering Violent Extremism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countering Violent Extremism</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>.955**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Further, the results in Table 4.17 show the Pearson’s correlation coefficients and these findings reveal that women interpretations of community-based organizations significantly correlate with countering violent extremism $r(92) = 0.955$, $p < .05$. 
4.5 Women as Empowered Parents and Role Models in Countering Violent Extremism

The study in this section discusses the analyzed results on significant of women as empowered parents and role models in Countering Violent Extremism.

4.5.1 Effects of incorporating women in CVE efforts

To establish the effects of incorporating women in the practices and programs of CVE, this study wanted to affirm whether or not the incorporation would enhance the implementation of CVE efforts; of the 92 respondents, 80% felt that incorporating women in the practices enhances the implementation of CVE efforts. The 10% agreed while the other 10% remained neutral. This is demonstrated in Table 4.18. The study conducted by GCTF (2017) women and girls play a very vital role in countering violent extremism. They are very important resources that need to be empowered and included in any policy program that seeks to address the challenges of violent extremism. Haynie and Oudraat (2017) believe that incorporating women and girls in the practices and programs of CVE enhances the design, implementation, and evaluation of countering violent extremism efforts. It brings additional resources by promoting the unique and significant roles of women and girls in countering violent extremism. Speckhard (2017) found that including women also ensures that countering violent extremism efforts counteract female radicalization and the various ways women and girls are involved in violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Table 4.18: Effects of incorporating women in CVE efforts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incorporating women in practices as well as programs of CVE enhances implementation of countering violent extremism efforts,</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.5.2 The role of CVE efforts in countering women recruitment

When asked whether CVE efforts should focus on stopping women and girls from being recruited and supporting violent extremism, 70% of the respondents strongly agreed, while 20% agreed, with the remaining respondent abstained. The study agreed to the findings of GCTF (2015b) which revealed that comprehensive approaches to countering violent extremism also consider how violent extremism and counterterrorism impact women and girls differently and give a more full picture of security concerns, including within those communities where radicalization is taking place and where more engagement may be sought.

Table 4.19: The role of CVE efforts in countering women recruitment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CVE efforts should focus on stopping</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women and girls from being recruited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and supporting violent extremism.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.3 The effect of Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors

On the effect of engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors, 60% of the respondents strongly agreed that it creates inclusive institutions that build trust with the public while 30% agreed to the same. The remaining 10% of the participants remained neutral on the effect of such engagement. The findings of the study agreed to the study by OSCE (2013) suggest that when women are empowered, and when movement to gender equality is highlighted; there will be positive impacts in CVE outcomes. Table 4.20 shows the findings.
Table 4.20: Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors

<p>| Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors creates inclusive institutions that build trust with the public. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.4 The protection of human rights of women and girls in countering violent extremism

An overwhelming majority of respondents felt that protection of human rights of women and girls would enhance the efforts towards Countering Violent Extremism. This was represented by 80% of the respondents who strongly agreed to the assumption while 20% agreed that to enhance CVE, it is imperative to protect the human rights of women and girls. Fink, et al. (2013) showed that gender equality should be promoted in its own right and women should be empowered to participate fully in the society.

Table 4.21: The protection of human rights of women and girls in countering violent extremism

<p>| To enhance CVE, it is imperative to protect the human rights of women and girls. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.5.5 The effect of Recognizing Women and Girls roles in countering Violent Extremism

Debating on the need to recognizing and promote the different roles of Women and girls in Countering Violent Extremism, here there was a unanimous agreement among the respondents that the act is critical in Countering Violent Extremism. This was strongly agreed by 80% of the respondents while 20% agreed. The study by GCTF (2017) revealed that women and girls should be empowered by being included in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all policies, laws, procedures, programs and practices related to countering violent extremism.

Table 4.22: The effect of Recognizing Women and Girls roles in countering Violent Extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recognizing and promoting the different roles of women and girls</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is critical in Countering Violent Extremism.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.6 The need to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women and girls’ involvement in violent extremism.

The research established that it is important to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women and girls’ involvement in violent extremism. This was strongly agreed to by 80% of the respondents while 20% disagreed. The finding of the study is mirrored in the findings of Kessels, et al. (2016) who revealed that investing in women to be better positioned to identify, intervene, and counter factors that can and do increase chances of individuals engaging in violence based on ideological motivations is very critical in countering violent extremism.
Table 4.23: address the factors that lead to women involvement in violent extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To enhance CVE, it is important to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women and girls’ involvement in violent extremism.

4.5.7 Descriptive Statistics of Empowering Women in Countering Violent Extremism

The third objective of the study was to examine ways women as parents should be empowered and serves as role models to counter violent extremism in their households. The respondents were asked to indicate their agreement to various statements on a scale of 1-5. 1 denoted that they strongly disagreed with the statement, 2 denoted that they disagreed with the statements, 3 denoted that they were neutral, 4 denoted their agreement with the statements and finally 5 denoted that they strongly agreed with the statements. Table 4.24 shows the means and standard deviations for the responses to the questions which examined ways women as parents should be empowered and serves as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.

The results in Table 4.24 indicate that, on average, the respondents agreed that Incorporating women in the practices and programs of CVE enhances the implementation of countering violent extremism efforts ($M = 4.70$, $S.D = 0.675$); CVE efforts should focus on stopping women and girls from being recruited and supporting violent extremism ($M = 4.78$, $S.D = 0.441$); Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors creates inclusive institutions that build trust with the public ($M = 4.50$, $S.D = 0.707$); To enhance CVE, it is imperative to protect the human rights of women and girls ($M = 4.70$, $S.D = 0.675$). The study also found that to enhance CVEs, it is important to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women and girls’ involvement in violent extremism ($M = 4.80$, $S.D = 0.422$).
Table 4.23: Descriptive Statistics of Empowering Women in Countering Violent Extremism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating women in the practices and programs of CVE</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enhances the implementation of countering violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>efforts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVE efforts should focus on stopping women and girls</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>.441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from being recruited and supporting violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>.707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creates inclusive institutions that build trust with the public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance CVE, it is imperative to protect the human rights</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>.675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of women and girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizing and promoting the different roles of women and girls</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>.422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is critical in Countering Violent Extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance CVEs, it is important to identify and effectively</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>.422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>address the factors that lead to women and girls’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>involvement in violent extremism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.5.8 Correlational Analysis of Empowering Women and Countering Violent Extremism

Correlation examines the relationship between two variables and gives a measure of the strength and direction that they oscillate with one another. The measure, known as the coefficient is usually denoted by ‘r’ and is a value between -1 and +1. A positive value indicates that the two variables increase in parallel, a negative value indicates that they move in opposite directions and a zero value indicates that no relationship exists between the variables. Correlation analysis was conducted to examine the strength and direction of the relationship between women empowerment and countering violent extremism in Nairobi Kenya.
Table 4.24: Correlational Analysis of Empowering Women in Countering Violent Extremism

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Countering Violent Extremism</th>
<th>Empowering Women</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation</th>
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<th>.710*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
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<td>.022</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
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Table 4.25 shows the result of the Pearson’s correlation coefficient which reveals a strong positive and significant correlation between women empowerment and countering violent extremism $r(92) = .710$, $p < 0.05$.

**4.6 Chapter Summary**

Chapter four presented the results of data analysis and findings of the study on data gathered from the respondents. The respondents’ demographic information was presented and for the rest of all the research questions that guided the study. The descriptive data analysis and thematic analysis outcomes were the techniques used to analyze the data. The outputs were presented in tables and figures.
CHAPTER FIVE: GENERAL CONCLUSION

5.1 Discussion

As presented in the analysis, majority of respondents were in agreement that women have an immense contribution in Countering Violent Extremism. The discussion below provides some of the key areas of the findings to justify this argument.

The study established that women are vital to countering violent extremism by shaping attitudes toward non-violence acts. Moreover, positive social networks are important in reinforcing non-violent norms and resilience to violent extremism. Commitment to family can be an important motive in disengaging from violent extremism and thus mothers are situated at the heart of the family, and are often best placed to identify, predict, and respond to potential vulnerabilities to Violent Extremism.

These findings conform to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 that recognized women as key players in resolving conflict and sustaining peace and security (Couture, 2014). Similar sentiments have been aired by a sounding majority of authorities including (Holmer (2013) who observed that the awareness of women’s role in many facets, VE included are essential elements in the provision of alternatives and direction for women as members of their communities and families.

With regards to women capacity in countering Violent Extremism, it was established that women are often insufficiently armed with the knowledge or tools necessary to counter VE and radicalization, hence they need more trainings. Subsequently, Countering Violent Extremism requires amalgamated efforts and thus the need to link parents, teachers, social workers/counsellors, religious leaders, police, and young people in the same. Equally women are encouraged to work with authorities on countering violent radicalization and recruitment.
This argument is in conformity with Couture (2014) who notes that Violent extremism is most effectively countered through increased education, better critical thinking and enhanced opportunities for women. He further adds that research suggests that empowering women has positive outcomes on all CVE indicators. Other authorities have backed the argument, notable is (Couture, 2014) who submits that there is correlation between empowerment of women and reduction in violent extremism.

On the question of women working with local authorities on countering violent radicalization and recruitment; only half of the respondents strongly agreed to the argument. This points out to an equal majority who seemed unready to work with authorities. Reasons pointing out to this could be related to trust issues; apparently the community feel that authorities are not sincere with issues such as amnesty for reformed violent extremists, protection of VE witnesses being suspect areas worth addressing.

On the role of CBOs in countering violent extremism in communities, the study made some rather contrary findings to the assumption; an overwhelming majority of respondents did not seem to acknowledge the role/work CBOs do in Countering violent extremism. It was further informative to note how most of them rated the CBOs in terms of how women work with them, the CBOs role in filling the gap between parents and children and even their inclusion in VE policy implementation. Perhaps based on the respondent’s experience on the conduct of CBOs on the subject matter, Kamukunji, the study area is one that has hit the headlines on matters of VE and subsequently witnessed huge CSO activities in response. However, the findings point to a feeling of dissatisfaction by the community on the work of CBOs. This could be a weighty matter worth a follow up research on.

5.2 Conclusion

Generally, the role of women in CVE is un-debatable. What remained outstanding was the need to build the capacity of women in enhancing that role. Although the CSO community (CBOs included) are hailed to be taking a critical role in countering violent extremism, evidence from this research
presents a disgruntled community on their role. Furthermore, in view of the findings emanating from this research and authority views from the referenced literature the researcher hereby recommends the following:

5.3 Recommendations

1. **Women Empowerment:** evidence from the research noted that despite the huge/potential role women can play in countering violent extremism, they lack the capacity and tools to forge ahead. This research therefore calls on the CVE practitioners both the state and non-state to join hands in ensuring women are empowered enough to play this critical role.

2. **Women self-belief:** although majority of the respondents were women, their score on the role of women in addressing violent extremism was rather low. This may point out to a number of issues including low self-efficacy and/or a male-dominated environment that provides them little or no space to share the contribution.

3. **Protection of girls’ and women rights:** evidence from the research pointed out to victimization as an impediment to women’s participation in countering violent extremism. The study thus finds obliged to urge policy and law enforcement agencies to advocate for and enforce the implementation of girls’ and women rights to the latter.

4. **Authorities-Community Rapport:** findings from the study submit some point of disharmony amid the authorities (government, police) as well as the society. This is evident from the responses who did agree to the argument that women should work with authorities to addressing violent extremism.
5.4 Future Research Area

The work of CBOs in countering violent extremism did not seem to acquire the expected appraisal from the community. This presents a case of a community that has little confidence in the work the CBOs do. The research thus recommends the role of CBOs in CVE as an area of future research would be paramount to understanding gaps therein.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES

Appendix I: Participant Consent Form

You are kindly requested to participate in a research study to assess the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya.

The purpose of this study is to analyze kind of roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya, assess how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism, and examine ways in which women as parents should be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.

If you agree to participate in this study, I will provide you with a questionnaire to complete. All respondents will be well-informed about the relevant benefits and risks of participating in the study before the researcher obtains consent.

Your responses will be kept confidential. Only the researcher will have access to the records, which will be kept private. Should the study be made public, any information you provide will not be included in a way that will make it possible to identify you.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. You may skip any questions that you are not comfortable answering. If you decide to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time.

You have the right to ask any questions regarding this study or your participation in it at any point before, during or after the study.

I have read the above information and have received answers to questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

Your signature ___________________________ Date _________________________

Signature of researcher __________________ Date __________________________
Appendix II: Debrief Form

Thank you for participating in this study. The purpose of the study is to assess the contribution of women in countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya.

Your participation will assist the researcher to understand the kind of roles women play in violent extremism and countering violent extremism in Nairobi, Kenya, assess how women adopt moderate interpretations of Community-Based Organizations’ (CBOs) teachings in communities to counter violent extremism, and examine ways in which women as parents should be empowered and serve as role models to counter violent extremism in their households.

If you experience any discomfort as a result of questions provided in this study, please feel free to contact the researcher using below details.

Mobile Number: +254788279797

Email: okemwa.naomi@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Naomi Okemwa
Appendix III: NACOSTI Research License

This is to Certify that Ms. Naomi Michira Okemwa of United States International University Africa, has been licensed to conduct research in Nairobi on the topic: ASSESSING THE ROLE WOMEN PLAY IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN NAIROBI, KENYA for the period ending: 15/June/2021.

License No: NACOSTI/P/21/6138

Applicant Identification Number: 663434

Ref No: 663434

Date of Issue: 06/March/2021

Verification QR Code

NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.
Appendix IV: Introduction Letter

Naomi Michira Okemwa,

RE: RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION ON ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN NAIROBI, KENYA

I am a Master’s student at the United States International University – Africa, undertaking a Masters in International Relations (IR). In order to fulfill the requirements of the degree, I am currently undertaking a research study entitled “CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN NAIROBI, KENYA”.

This study targets the members of the public living in Nairobi County. I kindly request you to spare a little time from your busy schedule and complete the attached questionnaire. This should take about 15 to 20 minutes of your time. Your participation will help me generate sufficient data for successful completion of my program and the findings of the study will also, I believe, make a contribution to the government of Kenya and policy makers on matters security and enhance on ways of countering violent extremism.

Any information herewith provided shall strictly be for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you for your assistance on the stated matter.

Yours Sincerely,

NAOMI OKEMWA.
Appendix V: Questionnaire for the Public

1. SECTION ONE: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1.1 What is your age bracket? Please tick (√) one.

- 18 – 25 years
- 26 – 40 years
- 41 – 55 years
- Over 55 years

1.2 What is your gender? Please tick (√) one.

- Male
- Female

1.3 The highest level of education completed?

- Secondary level
- Tertiary level (colleges, polytechnics)
- University
- Post Graduate

1.4 Kindly state your religion? ______________________________
2. SECTION TWO: ROLES WOMEN PLAY IN VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Section two assesses the contributions of women on countering violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements by ticking (√) appropriate Column. Use a scale of 1-5 where:

1= Strongly Disagree (SD), 2 = Disagree (D), 3 = Neutral (N), 4 = Agree (A) and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA).

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religious leaders, police, and young people are the suitable ways of countering violent extremism

7. Women are encouraged to work with authorities on countering violent radicalization and recruitment

3. SECTION THREE: WOMEN ADOPTING MODERATE INTERPRETATIONS OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS’ TEACHINGS AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)

This section examines how women adopt moderate interpretations of CBOs’ teachings in communities to counter violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements by ticking (√) appropriate Column.

Use a scale of 1-5 where: 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD), 2 = Disagree (D), 3 = Neutral (N), 4 = Agree (A) and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA).

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<td>CBO leaders play a great role in countering violent extremism in communities</td>
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<td>Women working with CBOs sensitize their families about bad societal factors that lead to violent extremism</td>
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<td>CBOs fill the gap between parents and children hence minimizes chances of radicalization in a society</td>
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<td>CBOs actors should be included in the process of</td>
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implementing policy for countering violent extremism

5. It is important to mobilize and enlist CBOs leaders to encounter violent extremism in the communities

6. CBOs enhance skills of parents on how deal with their kids on matters to do with radicalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. SECTION FOUR: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section four establishes how empowered women enhance countering of violent extremism in Kenya. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements by ticking (√) appropriate Column.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use a scale of 1-5 where: 1= Strongly Disagree (SD), 2 = Disagree (D), 3 = Neutral (N), 4 = Agree (A) and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporating women in the practices and programs of CVE enhances the implementation of countering violent extremism efforts</td>
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<td>CVE efforts should focus on stopping women and girls from being recruited and supporting violent extremism</td>
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<td>Engaging and empowering women and girls across multiple sectors creates inclusive institutions that build trust with the public</td>
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<tr>
<td>To enhance CVE, it is imperative to protect the human rights of women and girls</td>
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5. Recognizing and promoting the different roles of women and girls is critical in Countering Violent Extremism

6. To enhance CVEs, it is important to identify and effectively address the factors that lead to women and girls’ involvement in violent extremism