Epistemological Challenges of Security–Driven Diplomacy in Executing Counterintelligence Operations along Nadapal Belt, Kenya–South Sudan Border

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*Abstract:-*The nomenclature surrounding the study of security-driven diplomacy in executing counterintelligence operations 'clandestine' operations, is loaded with varied understanding, thus, the very nature of covert counterintelligence exhibit an inherent epistemological challenge. Epistemology of security-driven diplomacy is an area that has not been explored sufficiently and reliably and consequently, how it influences the execution of counterintelligence operations along Nadapal belt. The objective of this study was to analyze the epistemological challenges of counterintelligence operations emanating from security-driven diplomacy along the belt. The study established that there were epistemological challenges of security driven diplomacy in executing counterintelligence operations. These challenges include: understanding epistemic communities, integration of epistemic communities, inadequate personnel, and lack of political good will and coordination of epistemic communities. In an attempt to address these challenges, this study delved into the measures to address these challenges, such as, re-conceptualizing epistemic communities, conducting selection and training, transnational policy coordination and community dialogue. The reality is that, these challenges can only be addressed if the measures mooted are put into account. The study recommends stringent measures tailored in understanding better, the epistemiccommunities. Additionally, the study recommends the establishment of sub-epistemic communities along the belt.

Key Words: Security-Driven Diplomacy (SDD), Epistemology, Counterintelligence operations (CIOs)

I .INTRODUCTION

Little literature focus on epistemic communities, a network of professionals with recognized expertise and competence. However, the demand for information has increased tenfold in recent history, thus necessitating the need for networks or communities of specialists capable of processing, providing and disseminating information hence community actors become an integral tool in executing counterintelligence operations. Transnational epistemic communities can influence state interests for decision making by illuminating salient dimensions in executing CIOs. This study sought to unearth the epistemic guide posts such as expansionism, professionalism and defense to knowledge,

thus striking at the core of international setting for CIOs. Besides, another problematic area in the major debates in International Relations has focused on the formation of policies and role of an array of actors in eliciting and determining policies that emanate from obstructionist governments, group criminality and armed conflict (Combs, 2017).

Consequently, fragmentary articles have been put to the fore in attempting to explain the role of epistemic communities with epistemological challenges associated with SDD on CIOs escaping much literature. Despite significant scholarly interests on natural science and environmental policies, little attention has been given in counterintelligence operations. What has been largely and conspicuously missing, however, is epistemological research that defines epistemological challenges on counterintelligence. In this regard, purveyors of SDD have given CIOs a wide berth.

Security driven diplomacy is awash with contested narrative of sound actions in executing counterintelligence operations. In this view, the field of International security is still dominated by state-centric approaches whereas the role of epistemic communities on non-state actors has been hardly thought of. This study sought to examine the epistemological challenges that have been faced by epistemic communities such as the NGOs, FBOs, and other epistemic groups at Nadapal Belt. The study also examined whether there is an epistemic community along the belt. For instance, Argentina and Brazil are countries that have adopted the use of epistemic communities in addressing the nuclear issues which are ideally a threat to national security (Redick, 1990).

Importantly to note, is the fact that, the SDD used in executing CIOs has engendered decision making. Thus, epistemic communities becoming an intervening mechanism at Nadapal belt, was a subject for interrogation of this study. According to Antoniades (2003), Zito (2001), epistemic communities have been defined in a variety of ways, most often to refer to communities of (scientific) experts. This concept was introduced by Haas (1989) to study the role and impact of ideas in IR and international policy coordination (Haas,

1992).Therefore, described as 'network of professionals with recognized expertise and competence in a particular domain and an authoritative claim to policy and relevant knowledge within that domain or issue area,' epistemic communities can often be influenced by state-driven agenda, in this case, security-driven diplomacy. This is contributed by miscues exhibited by security officers. This study, therefore, sought to unravel the need for epistemic communities as a new and pragmatic dimensions in understanding CIOs at the border. The epistemic communities can provide relevant information that can influence decision making in CIOs, in this light, SDD plays a significant role.

There is a dearth of concrete discourses, as well as ideas on epistemic communities in security and defense (Haas, 2001).Applying this idea, it is preponderant to underscore how empowering epistemic communities is key. Haas (2001), further opines that specialized politicians, policy experts and policy reforms are key in developing as well as accelerating epistemic understanding. The Nadapal belt is bereft with sporadic violence and incessant cattle raids. This is largely attributed to endless movement of Toposa who in search of pasture, explore other illicit trades that jeopardize security operations which further exacerbate counterintelligence operations.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study was underpinned by power theory.Power theory holds the view that both costs to A and B are relevant to assessing influence and effect (Baldwin, 1989).If A ,that is,epistemic communities, can get B ,that is,masterminds of espionage, terror networks and conflicts, to do something that is costly for B, it would be contented that it is indicative of more power than if A can only get B to do things that are cheaper for B, this, though contended is a rare case. The means employed to influence one party or control another is a different dimension. In international relations categories include symbolic means, establishing a caliphate, economic means, augmenting or reducing the goods or services available to other countries, military means and diplomatic means.

The weakness of this theory is in the fact that no dimension of power is specified for scholarly communication, nor single right answer to the question. Whether means, scope or costs is the elixir of the terrorist organizations, espionages and spies or any entity that exercises power still remains a discourse under scrutiny .Thus, the multidimensional nature of power makes it hard to sum up various dimension in order to arrive at some estimate of an actor's power.

If as argued by Luhmann (1975) that 'power' does not instrumentalise an already will, it constitutes that will, and can oblige it, bind it, make it absorb risks and uncertainties, can tempt it and make it fail.' Thus spies, belligerent groups and terror propagators justify their course through a communication process that is daring and annihilative at the end.

Innuce, the power theory explains exertion of influence of one party, group or individual over another.In this light,an epistemic community demonstrating its clout over masterminds of espionage acts, spies and clandestine terror operations. The analytical-philosophical question is asked: why do we need 'power' (Morris, 1987)? This assertion has been capitalized by Kenya in the quest to establish a geo-political dominance for propagating its political agenda at the expense of South Sudan in counterintelligence operations.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study employed descriptive survey as well as cross-cultural design. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), descriptive research determines and reports the way things are. Busaha and Harter (1980) observe that the overall purpose of the descriptive survey is to obtain comprehensive information from every member of population of interest. Its primary advantage is the opportunity it affords thorough, detailed examination and analysis of the research problem so that findings can be applied directly to the subject under study. It allows precise judgment of the facts and the causes of the phenomena. Descriptive research design was used for describing how security-driven diplomacy influences counterintelligence operations in respect to the study. On the other hand, cross-cultural design was employed to compare the patterns of Toposa and Turkana cultures in security-driven diplomacy and how they affect counterintelligence operations. The design was appropriate for the study because it enabled the researcher to cover an extensive area of Nadapal belt.This study was conducted in Nadapal Belt Turkana County. Nadapal is a community in the north of Turkana County, Kenya near the border with the Eastern Equatoria state of South Sudan. The Nadapal belt is an area stretching 25 kilometers (16 mi) southward from the border with South Sudan to Lokichogio in Kenya. Narus town lies within latitude 4°30'21.95"N Longitude 34°10'11.58"E Nadapal latitude 4°24'24.41"N Longitude 34°17'1.79"E and Lokichogio latitude 34°17'1.79"E Longitude 34°21'31.65"E

Nadapal belt and the selected areas have a population of more than greater than 10000, therefore, the desired sample population was determined using Fisher's formula for sample size determination (cited in Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999:43). The formula is stated thus:

$$n=\frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where n=desired sample size (the target population is greater than 10,000).

z=the standard normal deviate at the confidence level of 95% is 1.96.

p=the proportion of the target population estimated to have characteristics being measured is set at 50%

q=1-p (probability of non-success)

d=level of statistical significance set at 0.05

$$n=\frac{(1.96)^2*0.5*(1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2}$$

n=384

Based on the sample of 384, the following categories of respondents were selected: Household heads; government officials, Non-States Actors and FGD participants. Random and purposive sampling was used to determine the distribution of 384 respondents.

IV. STUDY FINDINGS

A. Epistemological Challenges of SDD in Executing Counterintelligence Operations

A plethora of academic literature and discourses are available to explicate social, political and economic challenges of security and diplomacy. However, few literature have explained epistemological challenges of security-driven diplomacy and addressing cross-border issues. This study therefore sought to understand the epistemological challenges of SDD that affects the execution of counterintelligence along Nadapalbelt. The study in particular, asked the respondents to avouch whether there are challenges that exist along the belt. The results' analysis are as demonstrated in figure 6.2
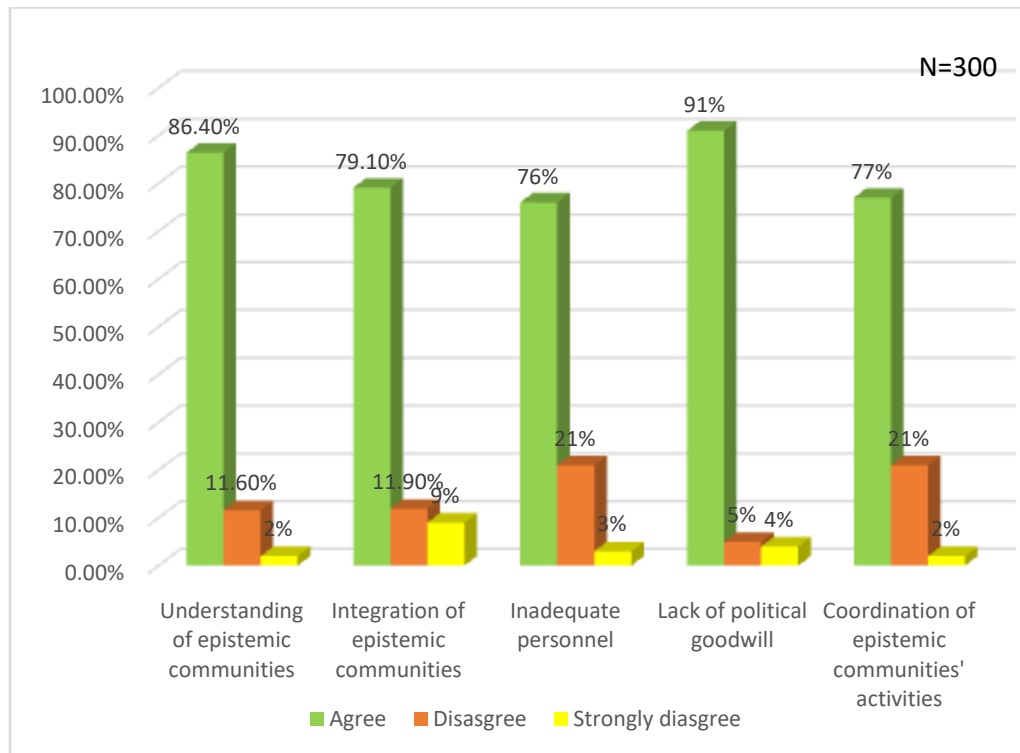

Fig.6.2 Epistemological challenges of SDD in executing counterintelligence operations

Source: Field Data, 2018

- *Understanding epistemic communities*

Understanding of concepts, suppositions and postulations in epistemology is key. The study sought to underscore whether the respondents had a knowledge of epistemic communities along the belt. According to results in figure 6.2,259 (86.40%) of the respondents acknowledged that understanding of epistemic communities was a challenge. Additionally, 35 (11.60%) of the respondents were of contrary opinion and stated that this was not a challenge and 6 (2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed whether such a challenge exist.

The growing technical uncertainties and complexities of security and diplomacy have made counterintelligence operations not only increasingly necessary but also increasingly difficult. Elusive insights have been provided thus exacerbating the understanding of epistemic communities along the belt.Haas (1992) opines that uncertainty, interpretation and institutionalization of epistemic communities pose a serious challenge as far as demand for information is concerned. He further avers that the forms of uncertainty give rise to demands for particular sorts of information. In effect, the epistemic communities are the one possible provider of this sort of information and advice. The

researcher observed that, this was needed to handle counterintelligence operations along the belt.

In light of the foregoing,one FGD participant avouched:

> *Kuna mashirikaanuwaivilevilemakundimbalimbali yakutoamsaadaNadapal.Lakiniwengiwawaa kajiwaNadapalwanasikiatukwambali,walea mbaowakoLokichogionaNarusangalauwana apatafursakuelewakaziyamakundihaya.Oper eshenizakijasusinimuhimuhasakwetutunaofa nyakazimpaakani.Hiiinasaidiakuelewambin uzakiusalamaambazozinawekwanaserikaliha likadhalikamashirikayakutoamsaada.Hivisa saniwengiwanasemakunachangamotonyingi katikakuelewakazizamashirikahaya* (There are a number of organizations and different groups that provide aid at Nadapal. But the residents of Nadapal are not privy to these organizations. Only those at Lokichogio and Narus understand the role of these organizations. Counterintelligence operations are important especially for us who work along the border. This helps us to understand security strategies that have been put in place by the government as well as the humanitarian organizations. Now there are many who say that there are epistemological challenges as to ascertain the role of the epistemic groups (FGD participant,Lokichogio,18/9/18).

Lack of understanding of epistemic communities has been demonstrated in the foregoing verbatim quotation. This has precluded the locals from fully participating on matters pertaining to security. Consequently, the communities become weak actors at the local and transnational levels as decision makers. Due to dearth of 'knowledge elite' along the belt, majority contend that understanding epistemic community in their context has been elusive and difficult to attain, eventually many do not participate in CIOs. Asked who they think consist of epistemic community, the respondents averred that the local NGOs such as Oxfam and LOCADO were the 'Knowledge elite' who proliferate ideas along the belt.

However, the lack of understanding as to whether the capacity building initiative and awareness programs conducted by these NGOs contributed to knowledge, was still a mirage.In addition to the foregoing issue, it is important to underscore the complexity and uncertainty that sprouts from understanding epistemic communities.

Haas has avouched that :

> The concept of uncertainty is [very] important…for two reasons. First, in the face of uncertainty, and more so in the wake of a shock or crisis, many of the conditions facilitating a focus on power are absent. It is difficult for leaders to identify their potential political allies and to be sure of what strategies are most likely to help them retain power. And, second, poorly understood conditions may create enough turbulence that established operating procedures may break down, making institutions unworkable. Neither power nor institutional cues to behavior will be available, and new patterns of action may ensue. Under conditions of uncertainty, then, decision makers have a variety of incentives and reasons for consulting epistemic communities (Haas,
>
> 1992a: 14-15).

According to Haas (1992) the local residents are part of decision making, no matter how low or high their grade or ranking maybe. Thus recognizing that their understanding of complex issues is limited and often leads to crises, something that should spur them to get help from more established epistemic communities. If as argued by Luhmann (1975) that 'power' does not instrumentalise an already will, it constitutes that will, and can oblige it, bind it, make it absorb risks and uncertainties, can tempt it and make it fail.' Then, the epistemic communities along the belt need to exercise power to integrate well and compliment the government's work in counterintelligence operation along the belt.

The foregoing assertion vilifies political allies' inaction and their inability to exercise power. Lack of exercising power has as been postulated by Haas leads to uncertainties due to poor decision making.

- *Integration of epistemic communities*

From figure 6.2, it is evident that 237 (79.1%) of the respondents agreed to the question and stated that integration of epistemic communities was a problem.Conversely,36 (11.9%) did not agree to the question and 27 (9%) of the respondents strongly disagreed whether this was an epistemological challenge along the belt.

The study found out that there are various epistemic communities along the belt. For instance, peace and security epistemic communities, humanitarian aid epistemic communities as well as refugee management epistemic communities. However, integration of these communities to adequately address the concerns of the locals is still elusive. For example, nuclear epistemic communities have integrated various aspects of relations with ozone depletion epistemic communities (Bloodgood,2008).The joint efforts through integrated approach has enabled the two communities (nuclear epistemic communities and ozone depletion epistemic communities) to aid the political development and push for stringent measures for tightened disarmament provisions

within international regimes and enactment of laws towards minimizing ozone depletion.

The researcher further picks a dialogue with Matkin and Frederickson (2009) who argue that a group of city administrators participating frequently on online platform to discuss common problems and develop joint strategies constitute epistemic community.

This line of argument apprise the study that it is possible to have border administrators who are integrated to jointly carry out operations along the border whether combatant or non-combatant in nature. Though epistemic communities are typically integrated network of groups, the idea how integration is realized escapes Haas' postulation and consequently exacerbating the understanding, how epistemic communities can be integrated along the belt.

An interview with a key informant indicate that integration is a glaring challenge along the belt. The interviewee opines that:

> We operate alongside different organizations yet we sometimes don't fulfill our objectives. There is apparent collusion and replication of duties due to ill-preparation and integration mechanisms that are improper. This has taken the locals longer periods of time to underscore our mandate along the belt (An interview with Key informant, Lokichogio,17/9/2019)

The foregoing assertion explains why integration of epistemic communities is a challenge along the belt. Consequently, security-driven diplomacy has mooched as far as its role on counterintelligence operations is concerned. The issue of integration is typical of cross-border challenges requiring collective action and counterintelligence operations is no exception. Yu (2008) avers that epistemic community members are a group of compelling expertise whose academic background and professional experience makes them credible before their audience.

Therefore, the researcher observed that, when various organizations that work along the belt are well integrated then the locals view them as upholders of values and peoples with others' interest at heart.

They initiate meaningful and interactive dialogue on matters pertaining to security, peace, conflict management. They help in joint counterintelligence operations. They will be the sub-epistemic communities who by virtue of integrating with community of experts, will become an important asset along the belt. Thus there would be seen an emergence of Security, Peace and Conflict Epistemic Community (SPCEC) that drives counterintelligence operations along Nadapal belt.

- *Inadequate personnel*

Dearth of persons who can interpret, explain and analyze roles of epistemic communities can occur in any given setting. The results in figure 6.3 indicate that, 228 (76%) of the respondents averred that there was want of personnel who can shape the interpretation of epistemic communities along the belt.Additionally,63(21%) of the respondents asserted that inadequacy of personnel was not a challenge and 9 (3%) strongly disagreed whether lack of personnel was an issue and consequently a challenge.

The findings are corroborated by Dunlop (2008) who argue that ,despite the presence of empirical discourses, using the idea of an epistemic community in light of different approaches ,fragmentary studies have not emphasize the import of expertise needed in intelligence and counterintelligence activities. Therefore, a want of personnel for policy innovation, diffusion, selection and persistence, affects CIOs. Where security policies interplay with diplomatic opportunities, there should be cutting edge procedures and to facilitate these procedures there is need for adequate personnel since CIOs involves a lot of information gathering.

This is incumbent upon:

> [1] a shared set of normative and principled beliefs, which provide a value-based rationale for the social action of community members; [2] shared causal beliefs, which are derived from their analysis of practices leading or contributing to a central set of problems in their domain and which then serve as the basis for elucidating the multiple linkages between possible policy actions and desired outcomes; [3] shared notions of validity – that is, inter-subjective, internally defined criteria for weighing and validating knowledge in the domain of their expertise; and [4] a common policy enterprise – that is, a set of common practices associated with a set of problems to which their professional competence is directed, presumably out of the conviction that human welfare will be enhanced as a consequence (Haas, 1992a: 3).

The specific blend of beliefs espoused by Haas explicate what adequate personnel implies- multiple linkage between possible policy action and desired outcome. It also implies that expertise of community members is key as well as professional competence. In dealing with this gap, citizen participation epistemic community is key. Salvador and Ramio (2011) while investigating the role of citizen participation in Barcelona's regional affairs, opine that citizen participation was key in promoting local public affairs. They averred that a community of professionals, university centers, administrators, consultancies, independent foundations and technicians were employed in the affairs of the Government of Catalonia. The researcher therefore, moots that, citizen

participation is key in SDD and has consequent implication on CIOs.

Thus citizen participation should be entrenched as prime component in addressing inadequate personnel. In other words, citizen participation would cover the workforce and expertise deficit exhibited along the Nadapal belt.

There is a suggestion of epistemic community along the belt. Thus an epistemic 'renaissance' would be critical in interpreting the role of epistemic community along the belt. From the results of this particular variable, some of the respondents indicated that the fact that there was inadequate personnel, that was not an issue. This implied that they were satisfied with the status quo. Epistemic communities are transnational communities. They can also be policy networks communities (Haas,2007).They can also be social movements (Tilly,2004).Still, they can be advocacy coalitions (Sikkinck*et al,*1998).However, the inadequacy of personnel is due to apparent dearth of literature to explain how epistemic communities emerge, overlap and coalesce within the common issue of transnational governance, in this case governance beyond the purview of Kenya.

• *Lack of political goodwill*

Politics plays pivotal role in shaping issues, whether social, economic, technological or environmental. The study, therefore, sought to ask the respondents whether this was a challenge and if they agreed to this inquiry or not. The results in figure 6.4 categorically reveal that, 273 (91%) of the respondents indicated that there was lack of political goodwill whereas 15 (5%) of the respondents did not agree to the question as to whether lack of political goodwill was a challenge. Emphatically, 12 (4%) of the respondents stated that they strongly disagreed with the question.

The epistemic professionalism is undermined by the slow political will to allow reforms. The service faces different challenges; these are, poor working conditions, poor recruitment strategies and terms of references, nepotism, corruption, and limited police service due to citizen-police ratio, poor housing and salary of the police (Ransley, 2009). The challenges are the driver of insecurity. The challenges work to the advantage of the spies to operate in Kenya (Atta-Asamoah, 2015a).East Africa has been lauded as one of the most politically dynamic regions in the world. From the birth of Eritrea 1991 and South Sudan in 2011,the two post-colonial states, the region has not muscled up the geopolitical terrain .However, coinciding with pervasive epistemic communities around the globe, lack of political good will has been overshadowed by internal legitimacy deficits that undermine border management and cross border transnational power appetite .Resoundingly, De Waal (2015) opine that systems that are unpredictable and chaotic from one moment to another are underlying cause for the want of political good will. He avers that politics has unprecedentedly become an enterprise of loyal versus the disloyal, adherents versus dissidents. In this light, it is possible to suggest that, the

epistemic communities can only engage effectively in counterintelligence operations in less volatile and workable environment. Dearth of this requirement only erodes the synergy needed between the government institutions and epistemic communities in executing counterintelligence operations along Nadapal belt.

• *Coordination of epistemic communities' activities*

Coordination of security programs, diplomatic activities and even counterintelligence operations is key to any successful security endeavor. The study sought to underscore from the respondents whether coordination of epistemic communities was a challenge along the belt. The results in figure 6.2 show that 231 (77%) of the respondents indicated that the way coordination of epistemic communities' activities have been, has posed serious implication on counterintelligence operations along the belt.

Conversely,63 (21%) of the respondents disagreed to the question and 6 (2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed to the question too. Those who agreed to the question reasoned that there is asymmetrical, uncoordinated movements of the key humanitarian organizations along the belt. They further adduced that, this scenario hampered the progress of offering aid and promoting at grassroot levels the peace and security campaigns. Those of contrary opinion were either direct and close beneficiaries of organizational inroads along the belt or were simply unmoved by the ongoing activities and therefore saw no reason to concur.

The foregoing was supported by FGD participants who adduced that:

> We have seen conflict of interest arising due to lack of proper coordination by various organizations at Nadapal, Lokichogio and Narus. This has affected the way aid should reach people and even promote security and peace campaigns. Organizations such as Oxfam, LOKADO, World Vision sometimes misunderstand one another and this is not good. There is need for proper organization of events through well-coordinated structures.(FGD Participant, Lokichogio,13/9/2018)

The prevenient postulation attests to the fact that coordination has been a challenge. It affect how the locals get assistance .It also paint awry portrait of a failing community of expert, skills and technical knowledge.

Wasike*et al* (2016), contend that humanitarian organizations aim to save lives, restore hope in communities devastated by violent conflict or poverty. True to their postulation, the Nadapal belt has been a conduit of violent retaliation between the Toposa and the Turkana who conflict over resources. They attribute the role of track II diplomacy as key in coordination of humanitarian services.

Albeit the humanitarian organizations as epistemic communities escape their supposition and tenor of argument, it is preponderant to note that when humanitarian organizations coordinate well they serve as the SDD backbone in pursuing counterintelligence operations along the belt.

Wasike*et al* (2016) further adduce that, track II diplomacy not only compliments government officials but also non-state actors such as NGOs, business parties and the media. Thus Track II diplomacy seeks to change the attitude and relationship of adversary groups and transforms intractable conflicts through security apparatuses put in place. Consequently, there is development of deep understandings of the organizations and their rationale in discharging their duties. This enables these organizations to develop and maintain wide network of contacts that facilitate interactions and similarly enhance coordination activities along the Nadapal belt. Coordination is part of normative component of any epistemic community-their end goal is always for the betterment of the society.

In other discourses propounded by Chumba (2016), while addressing the challenges of adopting Security-Based Diplomacy in counterterrorism between Kenya and Somalia, he reasons that insufficient training, limited resources and operational challenges emanating from poor coordination within security agencies aggravated the management of terrorism. Similarly, same challenges arising from poor coordination have exacerbated counterintelligence operations along Kenya and South Sudan border. It is axiomatic that the Turkana and Toposa communities are adversarial, indeed formidable enemies and ironically allies on equal footing. Thus, they better understand the local dynamics better than the foreign foes and emerging epistemic communities'.

Consequently, they maximize asymmetric advantage over unwilling cooperation from state agencies as well as the humanitarian organizations along the belt.

B. Security Driven Diplomacy Measures and their Effectiveness

The study sought to find out the measures put in place to address epistemological challenges were effective or not. The results are as indicated in figure 6.3.
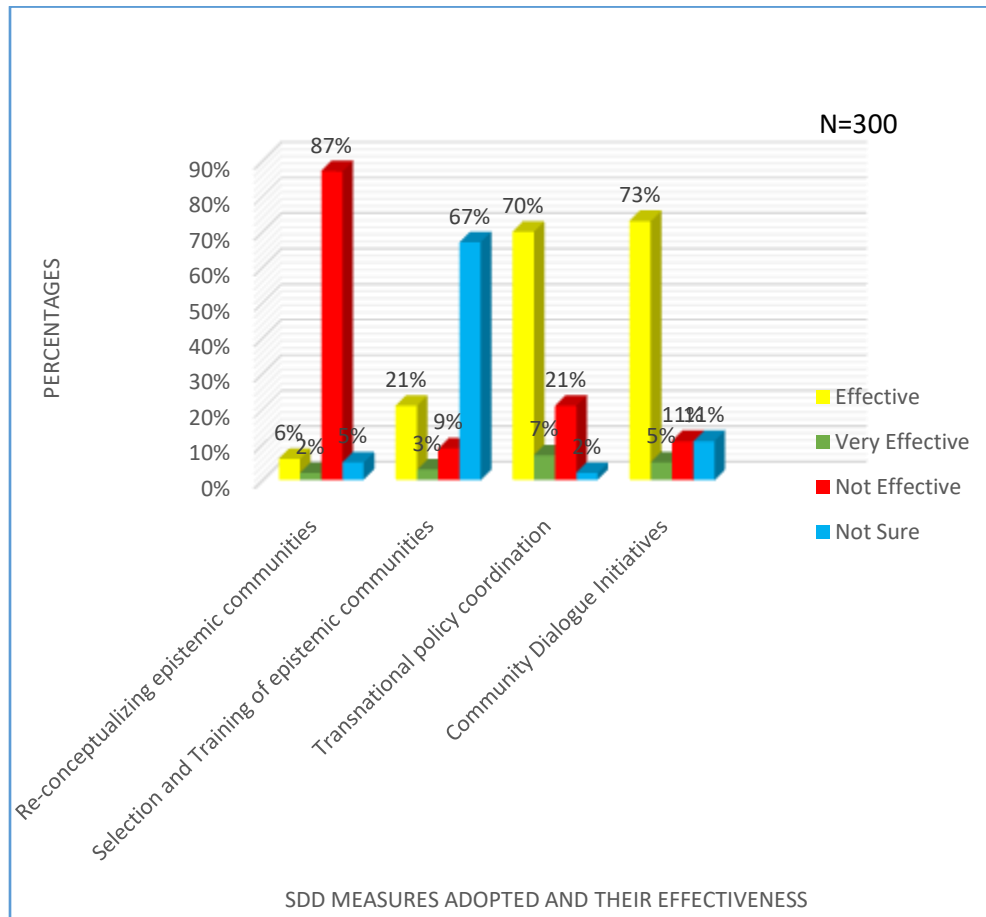

Fig.6.3 SDD measures and their effectiveness

Source: Field Data,2018

- *Re-conceptualizing Epistemic Communities*

The study sought to find out whether re-conceptualizing epistemic communities as a measure was effective or not. The results as noted in figure 6.3 reveal that, out of 300 household respondents,18 (6%) argued that this measure was effective,6 (2%) of the respondents averred that it was very effective and 261 (87%) of the respondents stated that this measure was not effective.Disturbingly,15 (5%) of the respondents did not know whether it was effective or not. Among the majority who observed that this measure was ineffective, the primary concern was due to the fact that the existing epistemic communities had not done much as far us entrenching the understanding of the role of epistemic communities along the belt is concerned.

This, in their own view, has made them have a vague and obscure perception about various organizations delivering services along the belt. Conversely, those who affirmatively responded as agreeing that the measure was effective, attributed their experience to direct involvement with the epistemic activities. Those who did not know, had either not come into contact with epistemic communities or were simply prejudiced.

Recent development on the continental level have indicated the emergence of an elaborate security framework that have been employed to address many security issues bedeviling nation-states along territorial boundaries and therefore there is need to re-conceptualize the meaning and application of epistemic communities in security driven diplomacy .The security framework has witnessed a ballooning recourse to geopolitical contestations to deal with issues of transnational counterintelligence under the auspice of the insurgencies that have prompted a new trend in international relations discourses. Indeed, a paradigm shift in the 21st.Century (Okoth, 2016:116-132).

According to Okoth (2016), transnational perspectives abound. He presents a theoretical challenge to the conventional state-centric of international politics because non-state actors such as the Multi-National Companies (MNCs) and insurgent groups often engage beyond the borders. Salehyan (2010) adduces that transnational insurgencies are rebels without borders. Therefore re-conceptualizing epistemic communities nuanced with the understanding that these groups are critical in counterintelligence operations is key a matter. If transnational insurgencies can be epistemic community and therefore 'professionals', a prima facie argument would dismiss this thinking as mere wish.

However, if arguably presented that they are professional and expert in their own respect, the questions would be: Who is a professional? To what extent is one a professional or rather what is the criterion for professionalism? Do acts of transnational insurgencies qualify to better a society? These are barrage of questions that beg for litany of answers. The researcher, therefore, submits that re-conceptualizing the

concept of epistemic community would help address these concerns.

- *Re-conceptualizing epistemic communities as social construct*

Albeit it is hard to contend the profound value underpinning the credence of social construct of epistemic communities, compelling ideologies and extreme challenges have proved a stumbling block. Mc Candles (2018) avers that countries marooned by conflict and instability have grappled with realities and particularities of security contexts. Re-conceptualizing epistemic communities to address security realities along Kenya-South Sudan border, would help address the virulent conflicts between the Toposa and Turkana. Therefore, revitalizing the concept of epistemic community along the belt is critical in gathering information needed for CIOs.Within this context, the credence annexed to epistemic community as a social construct has emerged as a key priority policy in boosting thinking and practice on how to employ security –driven diplomacy in CIOs. Thus, the notion of epistemic communities transcends the normal understanding and application of its meaning and therefore, its applicability in the context of Nadapal Belt.

Addressing intractable failures of past regimes in understanding CIOs is the key .However, as noted by Mc Candles (2018), the new and old security practices evolve and shapes the thinking in epistemicism.Customarily, the non-state actors have held legitimacy with sizable populations for understanding issues along the border. In view of the foregoing, it is therefore necessary to re-conceptualize the concept of epistemic communities to accommodate those obstructed and consequently establish sub-epistemic communities that plays para-epistemic roles along the belt.

- *Selection and Training of epistemic Communities*

The study also sought to underscore how effective a measure, selection and training of epistemic communities was. From the results in figure 6.3, 63 (21%) of the stated that this particular measure was effective. Additionally, 9 (3%) of the respondents reasoned that the measure was very effective. On the contrary, 27 (9%) of the respondents said that the measure was not effective. Moreover, the majority, 201 (67%) indicated that they did not know. This latter finding revealed a fault line between the ignoramus and the elite ,that majority did not know about selection and training of epistemic communities, implied that they did not have an understanding of CIOs and how SDD influence CIOs.

The foregoing was supported by a key informant who adduced that:

> Various trainings have been carried out especially in reference to the levels of education. We have held open for a from time to time. We have invited the residents and foreigners to the meetings. Sometimes we go to various households .We reach

some in the fields. Though selection criterion has been awash with a number of challenges we try to incorporate all persons concern. A bigger issue is that majority are more often than not disinterested in these trainings. Some say that there are aliens who have taken over and want to siphon their resources. Additionally, some have not appreciated the humanitarian work done in this area (Nadapal Belt).There is need of sensitization programs that are need-based as well as community –oriented (An interview with key informant, Lokichogio 10/10/18).

The immediate supposition indicates that selection and training mechanisms is still a challenge. The locals have not appreciated training as an empowerment tool to ameliorate their suffering and most importantly to be engaged in counterintelligence operations. Consequently, being able to build security capacities to help against any aggression. Trainings are important in any humanitarian jurisdiction. Training opens up closed minds and ushers in new thinking and elongates societal scope as far as societal concerns stretch.While the existence of epistemic communities are increasingly recognized in international relations, very little is yet known about selection and training on CIOs.

Studies investigating the role of epistemic communities and social movements have not adequately addressed mechanisms for selection and training of expertise specialists needed to address security concerns along the belt.More specifically, selection and training of epistemic communities are preponderant in overcoming limitations exhibited by transnational communities (Turkana and Toposa).

In dealing with cross-border issues, epistemic communities refer to network of knowledge-based experts that expound, cause and effect relationship of complexities and uncertainties that various problems pose. Accordingly, a transnational epistemic community is a cross-border network of "professional with recognized expertise and competence in a particular domain and an authoritative claim to policy-relevant knowledge within that domain or issue area" (Haas, 1992:3).

- *Transnational Policy Coordination by epistemic Communities*

The study also sought to understand whether transnational policy coordination was effective as a measure or not. From the results in figure 6.3, majority 210 (70%) of the total household respondents stated that this particular measure was effective and 21 (7%) of the respondents said that it was very effective. Again, 63 (21%) of the respondents said that it was not effective while 6 (2%) of those interviewed did not know whether such a measure had been put in place. The findings therefore reveal that the majority are aware of this measure and that it is an effective measure to address epistemological

problems as well as shape the understanding of CIOs along Nadapal belt.

Epistemic communities frame issues for politicians and decision makers in international organization and supranational institutions. They help in gathering and disseminating information. Haas (2007) opines that non-state actors as recipients of community's agenda are key. Thus, epistemic communities have been considered as potentially transnational *abinitio*. Predominantly, epistemic communities work through persuading political actors by facts and arguments.

As a measure therefore, transnational policy coordination for effective CIOs is only policy where actors of SDD vouch for recognition of epistemic communities as well as adopting their recommendations.

- *Community Dialogue Initiative*

The study also sought to underscore the preponderance as well as the effectiveness of community dialogue as a panacea to the epistemology of Nadapal communities. As indicated in figure 6.3, majority of the respondents, 219 (73%) stated that community dialogue was effective a measure .Additionally, 15 (5%) of the respondents said that, community dialogue was very effective, whereas 33 (11%) concurrently said that this measure was not effective and were not sure about the measure. Asked why community dialogue was effective, the respondents adduced that their sense of belonging was closely knit to the community and therefore it was easier identifying with one another on common affairs other than that which affects them externally.

In support of the foregoing one of the household respondents stated that:

> *Tunahusikakatikamajadilianonawadaowaus alamanamashirikambalimbaliyakutoamasaa dakwetukamajamii.Akinababa,mamanavijan awanahusikapia. Japokunawengineambaohawajahusika au kuhusishwa,sisitunasongambele.* We meet for dialogue with security stakeholders and humanitarian organizations as a community .Fathers, mothers and youths are involved. Though there are some who are not involved or have not been involve, as for us we are moving forward (Household respondent,Nadapal,10/10/2018).

Based on the findings, the researcher contends that, the communities were still somehow isolated and secluded from affairs that touch on cross-border relations or rather ignore such relations on mere associative linkages. Those of the contrary opinion cast trepidation owing to past experiences that ended up disadvantaging them. From the foregoing, the isolation is true, because "Everything is complicated if no one explains it to you." Fredrik Backman, quoted in (Moseti, 2019).

V. CONCLUSION

The study established that, the demand for information, has increased tenfold in recent history, thus necessitating the need for networks or communities of specialists capable of processing, providing and disseminating information hence community actors become an integral tool in executing counterintelligence operations. Transnational epistemic communities can influence state interests for decision making by illuminating salient dimensions in executing CIOs.

The study also established that,underscoring key epistemological challenges of SDD is vital: understanding of epistemic communities, integration of epistemic communities, inadequate personnel, and understanding of epistemic communities, lack of political goodwill and coordination of epistemic communities' activities.This study has demonstrated that shaping the understanding of epistemological challenges in executing CIOs as well as underpinning the critical role of epistemic communities in counterintelligence operations, is key.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

The study recommends that, stringent measures tailored in understanding better epistemic communities, be adopted .Additionally, the study recommends the establishment of sub-epistemic communities along the belt. There is need for organizing workshops that provide facility for para-expertise for those not directly involved in security-driven diplomacy. This is pivotal in building capacities and bridging the counterintelligence gap, where there are ten para-professionals, there will be a hundred para-professionals with capability to address the epistemological challenges along the Nadapalbelt.

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