ABSTRACT
Devolution is an important aspect of socio-political process that transfers authority and responsibility in planning, management and decision making from a central government to Local Government. However, it continues to invite controversy and debate in public services management as opponents of devolution consider it the road to wrack and ruin, whereas its advocate see it as a panacea for reforming the public services in developing countries. A study therefore to investigate the conflicts that arise at the local level when distributing devolved resources and examine the challenges or strength is necessary. The main purpose of this study was to identify the main causes of conflict at the County levels when distributing and managing devolved resources in Kenya, Migori County was chosen because it is a cosmopolitan County with several ethnic groups. The Study investigated the causes of conflict among leaders and their perceptions from the local populace in Migori County and their effect in terms of ethnic relations, the socio-political power distribution in Migori County and how resource distribution affects ethnic relations among residents of Migori County. The target population was 50 leaders in Migori County, which included 1 governor, 1 deputy governor, 8 Member of Parliament and 40 member of county assembly. A census was used as sampling technique. Questionnaires and interview schedules were used to collect data. Data collected was analysed by the use of Statistical Package for the social sciences (SPSS) computer package, summarized and presented in the form of simple frequency tables, and pie charts.