

**INVESTMENT GROUPS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF  
WOMEN IN AINABKOI SUB-COUNTY, KENYA**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**OCTOBER 2016**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this research project is my original work; it has not been presented to any other institution of higher learning for academic purposes.

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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

The study is dedicated to my family for their constant encouragement and understanding throughout my course.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First of all, I thank the almighty God for guiding me throughout the entire course. I am also greatly indebted to Dr. Joshua Wanjare my supervisor, for his guidance and constant encouragement during my study.

I am also indebted to the women groups in Ainabkoi Sub-County for their support and quick response during the fieldwork phase of this study.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES.....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.1.1 Investment Groups.....	3
1.1.2 Women’s Economic Empowerment.....	4
1.1.3 Investment Groups and Economic Empowerment.....	5
1.1.4 Ainabkoi Sub-County.....	6
1.2 Research Problem.....	7
1.3 Research Objective.....	8
1.4 Value of the Study.....	9
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	10
2.2 Theoretical Framework.....	10
2.2.1 Collective Action Theory.....	10
2.2.2 Social Network Theory.....	12
2.3. Investment Groups and Women Empowerment.....	13
2.4 Empirical Literature Review.....	15
2.4.1 Access to Credit.....	15

2.4.2 Membership Power .....	15
2.4.3 Control of Economic Resources .....	17
2.5 Risk, Advantages and Disadvantages of Investment Groups .....	20
2.6 Conceptual Framework.....	20
2.7 Summary of Literature .....	21
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	22
3.2 Research Design.....	22
3.3 Target Population.....	22
3.5 Sample size and Sampling Technique.....	23
3.6 Data Collection .....	23
3.6.1 Analytical Model .....	24
3.7 Data Analysis .....	24
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ....</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1. Introduction.....	26
4.2. Response Rate .....	26
4.3. Demographic Information.....	27
4.3.1. Educational Background.....	27
4.4. Credit Accessibility.....	28
4.4.1. Credit Accessibility Challenge .....	29
4.4.2. Level of agreement on influence of Credit Accessibility on Women Economic Empowerment .....	30
4.5. Membership Power .....	31
4.5.1. Membership Power and Economic Empowerment.....	31

4.5.2. Level of Agreement on Influence of Membership Power on Economic Empowerment of Women .....	32
4.6. Control of Economic Resources .....	34
4.6.1. Control of economic resources affects the Economic Empowerment .....	34
4.6.2. Level of Agreement on Influence of Control of Economic Resource on Economic Empowerment of Women.....	35
4.7. Economic Empowerment of Women.....	37
4.7.1. Influence of Investment Groups on Economic Empowerment.....	37
4.7.2. Level of Agreement with the Effects of Savings Services Women Socioeconomic Empowerment .....	37
4.8. Inferential Statistics .....	38
4.8.1 Regression Analysis.....	38
4.9. Discussion of Findings.....	41
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>43</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	43
5.2 Summary of the Study .....	43
5.2.1. Credit Accessibility.....	43
5.2.2. Membership Power .....	43
5.2.3. Control of Economic Resources .....	43
5.2.4. Economic Empowerment of Women.....	44
5.3. Conclusion .....	44
5.4. Limitation of the Study .....	44
5.5. Recommendations.....	45
5.6. Suggestions for further research .....	45
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>46</b>

<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>51</b>
Appendix I: Questionnaire .....	51
Appendix II: Originality Report.....	57



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1. Conceptual Framework .....	21
Figure 4.2. Educational Background .....	28
Figure 4.3. Credit Accessibility Challenge .....	29
Figure 4.4. Membership Power and Economic Empowerment .....	32
Figure 4.5. Control of economic resources affects the Economic Empowerment.....	35
Figure 4.6. Influence of Investment Groups on Economic Empowerment .....	37

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1. Response Rate.....	27
Table 4.2. Level of agreement on influence of Credit Accessibility on Economic Empowerment of Women.....	30
Table 4.3. Level of Agreement on Influence of Membership Power on Women Economic Empowerment.....	33
Table 4.4. Level of Agreement on Influence of Control of Economic Resource on Economic Empowerment of Women.....	36
Table 4.5. Level of Agreement with the Effects of Savings Services Women Socioeconomic Empowerment .....	38
Table 4.6. Model Summary .....	39
Table 4.7. ANOVA of the Regression .....	39
Table 4.8. Coefficient of Determination.....	40

## **ABSTRACT**

Women empowerment has become a subject of concern across the globe for the last few decades and the World Bank recommends that women empowerment should be a key area of social development programs. Women make up around fifty percent of the total human resources in our economy. Several studies show that self-help group programmes have succeeded in changing the lives of women by economically empowering them which is the main goal of women Self Help Groups. Thus the development of the women Self Help Groups is important if this objective is to be achieved. The aim of the study was to assess the significance of investment groups on economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. The study utilized descriptive cross sectional survey design. This study adopted the stratified sampling technique. The target population was the 87 women groups in Ainabkoi Sub-County with an average of 15 women making a target population of 1305. From the possible 1305 target population, stratified random sampling was employed to select two women from each group making a sample size of 174 respondents. Primary information was collected using a questionnaire administered to participants and secondary data was obtained from records in the Ministry of culture and social services in Uasin Gishu County. Data was entered into computer then cleaned and analyzed using SPSS (Software package for social science) version 20 software package. Descriptive statistics such as age, residence and level of education was initially analyzed. To determine the correlation between the investment groups and the economic empowerment of women a regression model was used. The study found that respondents faced challenges in accessing credit to start up the business. The study also established that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. The study found that membership power affects the economic empowerment of women in the group. The study also established that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy. In addition the study found that that credit accessibility contributed the most to the economic empowerment of women. At 5% level of significance and 95% level of confidence, credit accessibility, Membership Power, and control of economic resources were all significant, practices to increased economic empowerment of women. The study concluded that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. The study recommended that awareness on activities of stakeholders should be increased with an aim of improving economic status of women through advertisements, promotions, community forums, bill boards and posters. More women need to undertake and use the activities/ programmes provided by stakeholders.

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Investment Groups have been in existence in Kenya for quite a long time. Today they have evolved and more people are involved in these groups. Men and women; at work, church, school and neighborhoods are all involved (Dimbie, 2013). Investment groups have diversified and are now investing in real estate, buying shares at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), export and import business, among others. Investment groups hold huge investment portfolios and it is approximated that there are about 300,000 groups in Kenya today (Kenya Association of Investment Groups, 2014). An investment group is defined as any group of individuals or legal persons whose objective is the pooling together of capital or other resources with the aim of using the collated resources for investment purposes (Kenya Association of Investment Groups, 2013).

Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate confer with, impact, control, and hold the institutions that affect their lives accountable for their actions. Narayan-Parker, (2002) defines empowerment as widening the liberty of choice and action. Kabeer, (1999) views empowerment as the ability to make decision for those who had been denied. UN further, defines women empowerment as the means by which women take charge of their lives through expansion of their choices in economic, political and socio-cultural aspects (United nations, 2009). An empowered woman is able to develop self-esteem, confidence, realize their potential and enhance their collective bargaining power. When a woman has both the ability to succeed and advance economically and the power to make and act on economic decisions, then, she is economically empowered. (Golla, Malhotra, Nanda, Mehra, & Icrw, 2011).

To succeed women need the skills and resources to compete in markets besides equal and just access to economic institutions. Women should have the ability to make decisions and control resources and profits in order to have the power to benefit from economic activities (Golla, et al 2011). Women in the current century have more power and enjoy more freedom than ever before. Despite that, men still enjoy more privileges in nearly all aspects of life compared to them. In the political, social, and business arena women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital and decision-making power. While men are credited with performing three quarters of all economic activities in developing countries, reality women actually perform 53 percent of the work (United nations, 2009).

This study will be anchored on two theories which include the Collective Action Theory and Social Network Theory. Collective Action Theory seeks to understand how individuals are able to cooperate to overcome socioeconomic dilemmas facing them. Attempts to explain why people act collectively dates back to the 1960s with the theory of relative deprivation, (Davies, 1962). The theory holds that people compare their situation with the situation of members of relevant referent groups and conclude that change is necessary. Social network theory focuses on how the social structure affects individual and/or group relationships in solving their day-to-day problems. A social network is composed of individuals or organizations that have ties between them. Through such ties, individuals or groups determine ways on how to solve their problems. This perspective of a social network provides a way of analyzing social entities and explaining patterns that have been observed in these social entities (Wasserman & Faust, 1994). Through their economic participation and empowerment women are able to strengthen their rights and have control over their lives and exert influence in society (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2010). It is about creating justice and equity in society. There is a

developing trend where people, women included, from various backgrounds are or have been using the concept of investment groups to generate wealth or capital for their start-ups. More people are also using the same concept to finance their businesses. Other than saving, the groups provide better opportunities for the members to network and to share business ideas and discuss investment risks.

A good example is “Focus Investment Self-Help group”, formed by a number of youth (25 to be precise) who were not eligible for a bank loan. They decided to use women’s “merry-go-round” (MGR) concept to enable them to save up for security needed by the banks. In the long run the group came up with sh. 1.5 million to buy land which they later used as collateral to secure a large bank loan for their investment project, (Kenya Association of Investment Groups, 2013). Ainabkoi sub-county is one among the six constituencies that make up Uasin Gishu County (Uasin Gishu Intergrated Development Plan 2013-2018). Uasin Gishu has 877 registered self-help groups, 349 being for women while 301 are youth groups.

### **1.1.1 Investment Groups**

Investment groups are community-based organizations formed and managed by individuals to address their development issues by pooling resources, ideas and sharing information pertinent in the society. They are forums created by women to address socio-economic and political issues affecting their well-being. Through such groups, members gain the opportunity for economic empowerment, skill training, awareness creation, social interaction and moral support. Investment groups are a form of self-help groups which are voluntary associations of poor people, “who join efforts, ideas and resources for the purpose of addressing issues affecting them through self-help and mutual help (Wale & Deshmukh, 2011).

The author further states that Investment groups promote small-scale savings among its members, which are often kept in a bank under the name of the group. In Kenya, more women (51.1%) tend to save compared to male counterparts (48.9%). In terms of saving according to level of education, the Institute of Economic Affairs (2008) report showed that 44.6 % of those with primary and secondary education were able to save. However, the savings levels varied across age groups with highest savers being found in the 25-34 age bracket (31%) and the 18-24 age bracket constituting the lowest savers (14.6%) (Gichuki, Mutuku, & Kinuthia, 2015).

### **1.1.2 Women's Economic Empowerment**

A woman is economically empowered when we make markets work for them at the policy level and when she is able to compete in markets at the agency level, (United nations, 2005). To achieve broader development goals and to realize women's rights; economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education and welfare, economic empowerment of women is essential. When a woman is economically empowered she has both the ability to succeed and advance economically and the power to make and act on economic decisions, (Golla et al., 2011). For women to achieve full economic empowerment there must be an integrated understanding of where women and men are situated in the workforce and in the economy, and what the consequences of gender differences (Wale & Deshmukh, 2011).

By targeting initiatives that expand women's economic opportunity; strengthen their legal status and rights, and ensure their voice, inclusion and participation in economic decision-making then their economic empowerment of can be achieved (United nations, 2009). Through empowerment, the economic, political, social, educational, gender and spiritual aspects of an entity can be improved hence contributing to diverse spheres of development. An empowered

community can be defined in terms of gender, location and access to development opportunities (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2010). Therefore to achieve transformative change which signals empowerment, opportunities and resources have to be reviewed and redistributed to both men and women so as to meet their varied interests, preferences and needs (Kapitsa, 2008).

### **1.1.3 Investment Groups and Economic Empowerment**

Investment groups have been in existence for one hundred years and more. The first one on record dating back to over 200 years ago in Western America. Generally, Investment groups are formed by a group of people who share similar social interests and a desire to learn more about investing. They come together and mobilize funds that are used to invest in projects that yield a profit to be distributed among the members. A prerequisite for sustainable development and pro-poor growth is the economic empowerment of women. Sound public policies, a holistic approach and long-term commitment lead to the achievement of women's economic empowerment needs. Also to be integrated at the design stage of policy and programming are gender-specific perspectives.

While infrastructure programmes should be designed to benefit the poor, both men and women; women should have more equitable access to assets and services; and employment opportunities must also be improved while increasing recognition of women's vast unpaid work (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2012). Women's empowerment has been found to be instrumental in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Inasmuch as there are some positive trends in gender equality, there are still several areas of concern. For instance, in developing countries as stated by UNDP, girls account for the majority of children not attending



school and almost two-thirds of women in the developing world work in the informal sector or as unpaid workers in the home (United nations, 2005).

In the developing countries, the increasing role of women in the economy is undisputed. Though not generally reflected in official labour statistics, women already contributed to the economy and to the family, (World Bank, 2001). For a long time, women worldwide were seen as housewives whose main duties were to perform activities that had a link to the home and its occupants (Narayan-Parker, 2002). In reality though, women especially in Africa are no longer stay-at-home-wives and the idea of male breadwinners is no longer conceivable since their men are either too poor or have left the household. The pressure on women to earn intensifies as countries get poorer, however most women cannot obtain work in the formal sector. So they end up taking any kind of work in the informal sector, mostly in micro-enterprises or petty trade,(International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), 2009).

#### **1.1.4 Ainabkoi Sub-County**

Uasin Gishu County has six sub-counties; Ainabkoi, Turbo, Moiben, Soi, Kesses and Kapseret (County Government of Uasin Gishu, 2013). The county has a population of 894,179 as per the 2009 census while 118,089 were in Ainabkoi sub-county (Kenya National Bureau of statistics, 2010b). Ainabkoi is made up of 3 wards namely Ainabkoi/Olare, Kapsoya and Kaptagat,(County Government of Uasin Gishu, 2013). In the year 2009, there were 877 registered Self Help Groups in the county where 349 were women Self Help Groups while 301 were youth groups (County Government of Uasin Gishu, 2013). Therefore there is clear indication that women form most of the Self Help Groups in Ainabkoi Sub County. Self Help Groups have particularly played an important role in women empowerment where women have been able to access credit

facilities to start income generating activities, fight for gender equality and equity and take up leadership position, which makes them involved in decision making.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

Welfare clubs or “Merry Go Rounds” have been a well-known form of Investment group. As times are changing many Investment Groups have either transitioned from welfare clubs to investment groups or are clearly beginning with a goal of pooling their resources together to seriously invest and grow their portfolios (Kenya Association of Investment Groups, 2014).

According to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Uasin Gishu County has poverty levels standing at 44.6%, out of which 80% are women (Kenya National Bureau of statistics, 2010). These Women have no access or usage of development services. The county is an agriculturally rich county with farming being the major economic activity. Investments groups have been implemented through self-help groups for women and the youth, such as the Joyful Women (JOYWO) in forty four out of forty seven counties with twelve thousand nine hundred (12,900) groups of approximately 20 members each. The total membership is Two Hundred and Fifty Eight thousand with the target being to cover forty seven counties by 2016. The groups are circulating over Kenya Shillings One Billion Four Hundred and Fifty Million within the membership. The Groups are registered under the Community based organizations under the Ministry of Gender and Sports.

Several studies have been done on empowerment of women. Dimbie, (2013) investigated Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women Groups through the Poverty Reduction Programme of the Lawra Nandom District Assembly. Findings of the study indicate that though the poverty reduction programme is bedeviled with some challenges like difficulty in recovering the loans on

schedule, it has largely achieved the purpose of reducing poverty among women in the District Assembly. Kesanta et al (2015) investigated what impact empowered women, through community savings groups, had on the wellbeing of their families. The study showed that by participating in community based micro-lending associations women have positive impacts on their children's education, health, and livelihoods, (Kesanta & Andre, 2015).

Locally, Kabugua, (2014) investigated factors influencing women economic empowerment in Kirima Sub Location. The study established on a large extent demographic factors influencing women economic empowerment, financial facilities influences on women economic empowerment and activities of stakeholder's influences on women empowerment. Owigo, (2015), conducted a study on the factors influencing the Implementation of Table Banking among Women in Kenya. The study found out that socio-economic, cultural and political factors as well as capacity building influence implementation of table banking among the women in the sub-county.

There is therefore no known study on role of investment groups in economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. This study attempts to bridge the knowledge gap by answering the research question; what is the role of investment groups in economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Uasin Gishu?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

To assess the impact of investment groups on economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County.

## **1.4 Value of the Study**

The findings of the study will be vital to the field of gender empowerment and more especially on empowerment of women economically in the society. This study will add significant input on understanding of how investment groups influence women economic empowerment in the society by providing in depth analysis on the issue and validating known information.

The study findings will be important to the policy makers since elaborating on the issues that trigger economic empowerment of women in the society, the study shall highlight appropriate areas that may require policy formulation to strengthen economic empowerment of women. For instance a policy that allows women to access loans without much bureaucracy.

This study will go a long way in contributing to the various institutions dealing with empowerment of women in the society; and how they can change their approaches to focus on the factors that women want addressed to get economically empowered.

This study is of great merit to researchers, since it can provide a room for further research; provide researchers with rich information in developing their research in the field of women empowerment. To the community and more especially to the women, the findings may be of help in encouraging women to get economically empowered by embracing the factors stimulating their economic empowerment in the family and community at large.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter encompasses the context and background for the research problem. Previous studies from other researchers and their findings on this study will be stipulated. The specific areas covered in this chapter are; the theoretical framework, determinants of economic empowerment, empirical review, conceptual framework and summary of literature review.

### **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

This section contains theories and models about women empowerment. They show the relationship between investment groups and economic empowerment of the women. They include: collective action theory and social network theory.

#### **2.2.1 Collective Action Theory**

Olson, (1965) first published the theory of collective action, where they argued that individuals who come together have same sets of interest and that they will act accordingly to achieve them. The theory therefore seeks to understand how individuals are able to cooperate to overcome socioeconomic dilemmas facing them. Attempts to explain why people act collectively dates back to the 1960s with the theory of relative deprivation (Davies, 1962).The theory holds that people compare their situation with the situation of members of relevant referent groups and conclude that change is necessary. Conflict theorists, structural- functionalists, economists and feminists are some of the leading voices in collective action theory. Functionalists examine collective action in terms of the value they add to present institutions' efforts to address problems facing humanity (Smelser, 1962). He argues that organizations emerge as a result of structural

strain precipitated by failure of existing institutions to address emergent problems. While using economies of scale principle (Arrow, 1974) maintains that members in a collectivity incur less cost through collective than individual action, thus effectively dealing with economic uncertainties.

Writing a decade later, House and Kahn agreed with Arrow when he said "people not only empower themselves within the context of ... groups, but also extend their new power into the community by influencing other organizations to initiate development" (House, Umberson, & Landis, 1988). Therefore, the aim of group formation is to raise the necessary numbers to not only assist members but also compel societal change. McCarthy & Zald, (1977) believe that collectivities are not an end to themselves but rather a means of mobilizing resources. This suggests that collectivities' concern is not who is responsible for their vulnerability but rather how to reverse it.

While others have tried to understand the birth of all kinds of self-help organizations (Scott, 1998) has focused on women organizations. He notes that unlike men, women lack the necessary physical and financial capital, but have substantial human capital- intelligence, creativity and energy- and social capital that motivate them to form collectivities". This may partly account for the endurance of their organizations. Gamson & Wolfsfeld, (1993), have identified resources such as money, office machines, talented leadership, supporters, networks and access to the media as being critical for organization's performance. To them, organizations with capacity and ability to attract funds, offer good governance and conscious leadership with sufficient and popular support from members and the public are likely to succeed, with the converse of this

resulting in failure. This study chose to use this theory because women groups bring together women for one sole reason; and that is through collectivity and common pooled resources, women are able to efficiently solve their problems and achieve empowerment. One practical example is the use of ROSCAs and table banking by women to pool in their funds or application of the same to get money from lending institutions in groups. The theory is not also oblivious of joy riders who join women groups not to add any value to the group but to only benefit from the efforts of others, thus the formation of rules to govern the groups (Gazendam, Jorna, & Cijssouw, 2003).

### **2.2.2 Social Network Theory**

Social network theory focuses on how the social structure affects individual and/or group relationships in solving their day-to-day problems. A social network is composed of individuals or organizations that have ties between them. Through such ties, individuals or groups determine ways on how to solve their problems. This perspective of a social network provides a way of analyzing social entities and explaining patterns that have been observed in these social entities (Wasserman & Faust, 1994). To understand social entities a technique known as social network analysis is used. This technique is used to identify patterns, understand influential entities and understand the dynamics of the network (Scott, 1998).

The construct of a social network provides a theoretical framework that is useful in studying relationships among individuals, groups and organizations. The ties that connect social units are the common contacts that belong to individual units. To be able to understand how social interaction goes on the social network theory argues it is the relationships between units that need investigation instead of the units themselves (Scott, 1998). In regards to this study, the

researcher finds this theory very useful because it explains the importance of relationships that are formed in a social network.

This lays a theoretical foundation for the hypothesis that women come together into groups because relationships formed in these groups are important in solving their problems, thus empowerment. It is through these groups that women enjoy the freedom to choose how they want to attain their empowerment. At an individual level contacts that are obtained from these groups interactions are important in pursuing economic resources. At a group level the collective bargaining obtained enables women to form beneficial relationships with other organizations such as banks, NGO's and governments. This explains why women can easily form groups since their individual interests and links coupled together in a group makes women more prosperous.

### **2.3. Investment Groups and Women Empowerment**

Kenya has also had a long and vibrant history of self-help groups since the independence era and even in the periods of colonialism under the British. The first documented case of such groups during the late 1930s and 1940s was that of the Agikuyu, as the local population tried to gain semi-autonomy in social-economic matters of importance such as education and access to finance. During this period the Agikuyu pooled resources and established independence school within their localities as an alternative mechanism for the attainment of education in their area. These schools would ensure that the Agikuyu would obtain education which was extremely vital for survival in the colonial dispensation then and now in addition to maintaining their independence and shared values (Ogot, B. A. et al, 1996.) Such laid the foundation for the establishment of grassroots organizations and movements and espoused the principles of self-reliance proving that with togetherness it can actually be done.



Similar independence driven initiatives were seen amongst the Luo, who founded initiatives like the Luo Thrift Association and the Kavirondo Taxpayers Association during the 1940s with similar aspirations of pooling resources together so as to attain and maintain a given level of desired independence (Sabar, Galia, 2002). SHGs was emphasized by Kenyatta, Kenya's first president who especially encouraged the local community to take part in SHGs as a means of fighting ignorance through education, poverty through entrepreneurial schemes, and disease by setting up local centers of healthcare provision. This was summarized in Kenyatta's Harambee philosophy. Harambee literally means 'let's pull together'. The Harambee movement was critical in reducing the heavy burden placed on government to provide necessary facilities and infrastructure across the country. The level of self-help groups in Kenya grew exponentially and by the mid-1980s it is estimated that there were about 15,000 – 20,000 self-help groups in the country.

The figures have continued to rise and the country has more than 800, 000 registered women groups. These groups play a major role in linking women tap on opportunities, accorded to them by the said governmental and nongovernmental actors. This therefore, makes women groups an important entity in empowering women in Kenya. A good example is the Kenda Posho Mill project which has been in operation since 1988 and has successfully helped women improve their economic status. In nyeri also, a women's dairy project has been reported to have advanced the economic status of their members (Republic of Kenya, 1997). The groups are said to enable women pool their resources together, influence their lives and those of their families (Were, 1985). In Kericho, there are more than 5000 registered women groups with many others awaiting

registration (Kericho District Development Plan 1994 - 1996; District Social Services Office-Bureti 2009). These groups have benefited mostly from government funds as well as financial institutions within the region.

## **2.4 Empirical Literature Review**

### **2.4.1 Access to Credit**

Credit access is still a challenge to majority of people in developing countries (United nations, 2009). Although women constitute 50.3% of the total Kenyan population (Kenya National Bureau of statistics, 2010b) majority of them have been excluded from the formal financial services both in Rural and urban areas. Women lack access to credit because conventional financial institutions have not been there for them. In Kenya Women hold only about 1% of registered land title deeds and without them they are often unable to access credit (Njega, Kimondo, & Kiura, 2015). Similarly women receive less than 10% of the loans granted to smallholders and only 1% of the total amount of credit directed to agriculture in Kenya (Njega et al., 2015). Lacking accumulated wealth, trustworthy financial services which they can afford, and education, women together with their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. This situation is very prevalent all over Kenya. Micro finance institutions empower women as individuals within their households as well as a group within their communities by providing them with financial and business literacy and improving their legal awareness and status, (United nations, 2009).

### **2.4.2 Membership Power**

Investment group is a group-activity conducted by members to a group who converge to raise capital from individual contributions; normally varying in amounts depending on the group's

abilities, needs, interests and preferences (Mamun & Adaikalam, 2011). Investment group units comprise social bankers whose population is growing very fast hence is an important concern in research especially pertaining to economic empowerment for marginalized minority groups, majority being women (Olaf *et al*, 2011). It comprises of more than 2 billion people world-wide consisting of saving-groups and networks mainly the “unbanked poor” who prefer exploiting this form of social-banking and money lending due to its flexibility. These groups are popular due to a great need among the poor for help with managing household cash flow, especially in remote villages or urban slums where there is no solid financial institution in existence (Weber & Ahmad, 2014). More contemporary trends indicate that table-banking is practiced globally among Village Saving and Lending groups (VSL).

The guiding principle in Investment group is to strengthen self-help organization, their leaders and their members in order to inspire self-empowerment in terms of institutional, cultural, spiritual, social, political and financial strengthening, (Boone & Witteloostuijn). As a form of alternative financing, Investment group is characterized by: starting with one’s own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy (VSL Associates, 2006).

Borrowing members are advanced loans depending in order of their position in a rotating schedule or, upon request by a member relative to share equivalent to proportion of the aggregated capital contributed by the member (Amason, 2006). Microloans are only extended to groups of 10-15 people allowing individuals to support, encourage and provide assistance to each other if things go wrong. The membership ceiling however, depending on the model may range between 10-30 people. Members are required to abide by the group stipulated loan repayment

terms and schedules. Loans are repaid at small interest which is put back into the group savings. This activity is conducted in a reiterative pattern and is controlled through members' efforts, checks, controls and behavior (Bandura, 2015).

### **2.4.3 Control of Economic Resources**

Resources include land, water, forests etc. A major factor which is a stumbling block to women empowerment is land tenure system. Land is normally inherited by men and not women in many cultures. Most land in rural areas is registered under men. Despite the fact that women are the ones that deal in production of the land, it is generally a male dominated issue. Women hold only about 1% of registered land title deeds in Kenya (Gichuki et al., 2015). Women are primary users and haulers of water and the issue of access is usually of more concern to them than men. The location of the water sources determines the time spent fetching it. Once a water supply system is set up in a village, a lot of time from water collection is saved. The saved time is especially important to women and to the community. More often than not, women use this time they have saved in the expansion or initiation of more economically productive activities that are income-generating. With installation of piped water systems, the monthly output of small home-produced goods by women in Panama actually doubled (AID Impact Evaluation Report, Number 32).

Bashyal, (2008) assessed the financial access and women empowerment through gender equity improvement based on survey of clients of Nirdhan Utthan Bank limited. The study found that micro credit a bank has improved families well-being by increasing household's food sufficiency level, assets accumulation and children's education. The effectiveness of program in improving socio economic condition is more visible in the improvement in housing condition and possession of consumer durables. It has been credited with empowering women by increasing

their self-confidence and decision-making power, enhancing family status, family cooperation, and greater say in household spending.

Dimbie, (2013) investigated Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women Groups through the Poverty Reduction Programme of the Lawra Nandom District Assembly. The design for the study was descriptive survey design. The study used questionnaire to obtain data from all beneficiary women groups and interviews from officials. In all, 134 respondents and two interviewees were selected through purposive, proportional and simple random sampling techniques. The data were analyzed with both descriptive and inferential statistics such as chi square analysis. Findings of the study indicate that though the poverty reduction programme is bedeviled with some challenges like difficulty in recovering the loans on schedule, it has largely achieved the purpose of reducing poverty among women in the District Assembly. Beneficiaries invested their loans in farming, petty trading, brewery of “pito” and rice and shea butter processing.

Kesanta & Andre, (2015) explored on the impact of community savings groups in empowering women and the general effect this had on the wellbeing of their families. The research which was carried out in Mgubwe, Tanzania, consists of 83 respondents from four villages, representing 12 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were used to collect qualitative and quantitative data using survey questionnaires and interview methodologies. The findings showed that there was positive influence on the education, health, and livelihoods of their children by women who take part in community based micro-lending associations. The findings also revealed members of community savings and loans groups do not collectively participate in commune information that could motivate development practitioners in

promoting and improving the community based savings group model as one of the key interventions to eradicate poverty.

Kabugua, (2014) investigated factors influencing women economic empowerment in Kirima Sub Location. In this regard the study was guided by four objectives: To establish influences of gender roles on women economic empowerment, to determine influences of demographic factors on women economic empowerment, to assess influences of financial facilities towards women economic empowerment and to establish how activities of stakeholders influences women economic empowerment. The study adapted descriptor-explanatory design. The study targeted all women in 1122 households in Kirima sub location. A sample size of 286 households was used and the sampling procedure applied was probability sampling in this case systematic random method. . The study established on a large extent demographic factors influencing women economic emancipation, financial facilities influences on women economic emancipation and activities of stakeholder's influences on women emancipation.

Moindi, 2012 investigated how education, self-help groups, political representation and cultural practices influenced the economic empowerment of women in Mvita Sub-County in Mombasa County. The study adopted survey research design and utilized questionnaires an interview schedule to gather information from the participants. The findings revealed that women had low-income levels due to lack of access and control of resources in the society .Low levels of education further hampered their low economic status; so women were not able to improve their standards of living due to lack of even the basic skills. Apart from enabling women to pool their resources and save, Self-help groups also provided easy access and collateral for loans.

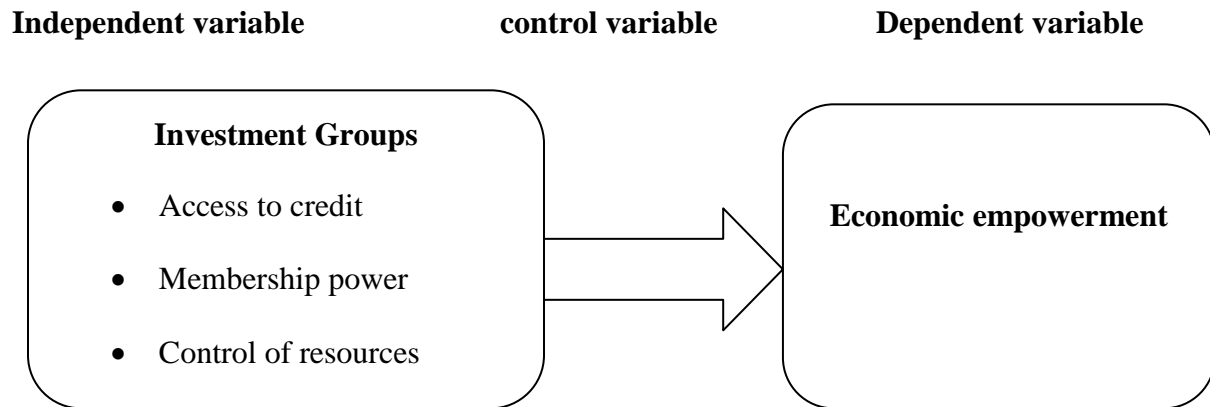
## **2.5 Risk, Advantages and Disadvantages of Investment Groups**

Investment groups invest as a group and so risk of personal loss for any one individual is lowered .If profits are not made as projected the loss is not much. As a Limited Liability Company an Investment Group ensures minimal legal risks to you and your family. Any risk whether personal or group is shared depending on the share ownership. It propels one to acquire a culture of saving. For many people saving on an individual level is a challenge compared to being in a group. Being a member in an investment group however ensures compulsory saving in the form of regular contributions. Individually, it is hard to commit and be consistent especially when unforeseen circumstances come up. Similarly in a group one benefits from shared ideas and experiences. As opposed to a classroom situation, an Investment club is a more effective way to learn about investing since a member is exposed to real investment situations. Investment Groups offer its members the opportunity to interact, research, analyze and spot the most viable opportunities. Informed and rational decision can also be formed thus providing a learning environment (Kenya Association of Investment Groups, 2014).

## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

Conceptual Framework is used to make conceptual distinctions and organize ideas. It gives a depiction on how the variables are related to one another. The independent (explanatory) and the dependent (response) variable are defined here. An independent variable influences and determines the effect of another variable. The independent variable in this study is investment groups. Dependent variable is that factor which is observed and measured to determine the effect of the independent variable. The dependent variable is economic empowerment.

**Figure 2.1. Conceptual Framework**



**Source: Researcher 2016**

## **2.7 Summary of Literature**

Theoretical and conceptual reviews affirm that investment groups can have a significant impact on household income levels, community development, national welfare and economic growth. Research on investment groups is scanty and poorly documented beside benefits to poorest rural household members who are constrained by lack of access to financial markets, which provide both savings and credit opportunities. Importantly, besides the basic commitment by the Kenyan government to initiate Women Entrepreneurship Funding policy, no specific set of regulation or policy framework has been documented on investment group's projects across the country to regulate or standardize operationalization of investment groups practice. Reviews reflect need to ascertain levels of literacy, management, development activities and outreach to poorer community members as a means to establish sustainability levels for the savings-led schemes.



## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

In this chapter the researcher presented the methodology that was used to carry out the study. The chapter consists of the research design, target population, sample and sampling technique, data collection, and data analysis.

### **3.2 Research Design**

A research design is a plan, structure and strategy of investigation used to obtain answers to research questions and control variance (Ogula, 2005). In the study descriptive cross sectional survey was used. A survey involves the collection of data from members of a population so as to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables (Mugenda, 2003). In a survey, data is collected by the use of questionnaires or interviewing the sampled individuals with the purpose of studying their attitudes, opinion and habits (Orodho, 2005). This study employed quantitative approach, where questionnaire was administered to selected women in the investment groups to collect data.

### **3.3 Target Population**

The study was conducted in Ainabkoi Sub-County of Uasin Gishu County. According to the 2009 census, the County had a population of 894,179 with 118,089 of the population being from Ainabkoi Sub-county (Kenya National Bureau of statistics, 2010b). In the county there are 877 registered Self Help Groups in the county where 349 were women Self Help Groups while 301 were youth groups, (County Government of Uasin Gishu, 2013).

Ainabkoi sub-county is made up of 3 wards namely Ainabkoi/Olare, Kapsoya and Kaptagat. The Sub County has 87 registered women groups each consisting of an average of 15 women. Ngechu, (2004) defines population as a well-defined set of people, services, elements, and events, groups of things or household being investigated

### **3.5 Sample size and Sampling Technique**

Sampling is the process of selecting the people who will participate in a study. This sample should be representative of the whole population. Sampling is hence the procedure, process or technique of choosing a sub-group from a population to participate in the study (Ogula, 2005). A sample of 10-30% is adequate representation for data collection in stratified sampling where population within each stratum is known (Mugenda, 2003).

This study adopted the stratified sampling technique. From the possible 1305 target population, stratified random sampling was employed to select two women from each group making a sample size of 174 respondents.

### **3.6 Data Collection**

Permission was obtained from relevant authorities in the Ministry of culture and social services and county authorities. Informed consent was obtained from study participants after explaining the purpose of the study. Primary information was collected using a questionnaire administered to participants and secondary data was obtained from records in the Ministry of culture and social services in Uasin Gishu County.

Age was measured in years as reported by respondents, while Access to credit was measured using a composite score derived from a series of questions in a likert scale. Economic empowerment was assessed based on ownership of resources, agency, decision-making and

economic achievements of respondents. Questions aimed at assessing above parameters were assigned marks. A score was allocated to each category based on aggregate marks from questions in that category. Overall economic empowerment was measured using a sum score. The secondary data was obtained from the various records in the investment groups.

### **3.6.1 Analytical Model**

The following multi regression model will be used to find the correlation between the investment groups and the economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub-county, Kenya.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y = Economic Empowerment of Women

X<sub>1</sub> = Access to credit

X<sub>2</sub> = Membership Power

X<sub>3</sub> = Control of resources

β<sub>0</sub> and β<sub>4</sub> are co-efficient of the variables,

ε = error term

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data was analyzed using SPSS (Software package for social science) version 20. Descriptive statistics such as age, residence and level of education was initially analyzed. The total score and frequency for role of access to credit in determining the role of investment groups in economic empowerment of women was explored. The raw relationship between access to credit and economic empowerment among the participants and controls was analyzed by plotting their scores on a graph (scatter plots). To determine the correlation between the investment groups and

the economic empowerment of women a regression model was used. Economic empowerment was used to predict access to credit and the including other variables as residence, occupation, being member of women group and age, the variable accounting for the most variance were determined.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1. Introduction**

This chapter presents analysis and findings of the study as set out in the research methodology. The results were presented on investment groups and economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Kenya. The study sought answers to the following research objective: to assess the impact of investment groups on economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. Figures, tables, graphs and charts were used as appropriate with explanations being given in prose thereafter to present the findings.

### **4.2. Response Rate**

The study targeted a sample of 174 respondents in collecting data with regard to the investment groups and economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Kenya. From the study, out of the 174 respondents only 150 respondents filled and returned the questionnaire contributing to a response rate of 86.2% (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1. Response Rate**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Responded	150	86.2%
Non-responded	24	13.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Author (2016)**

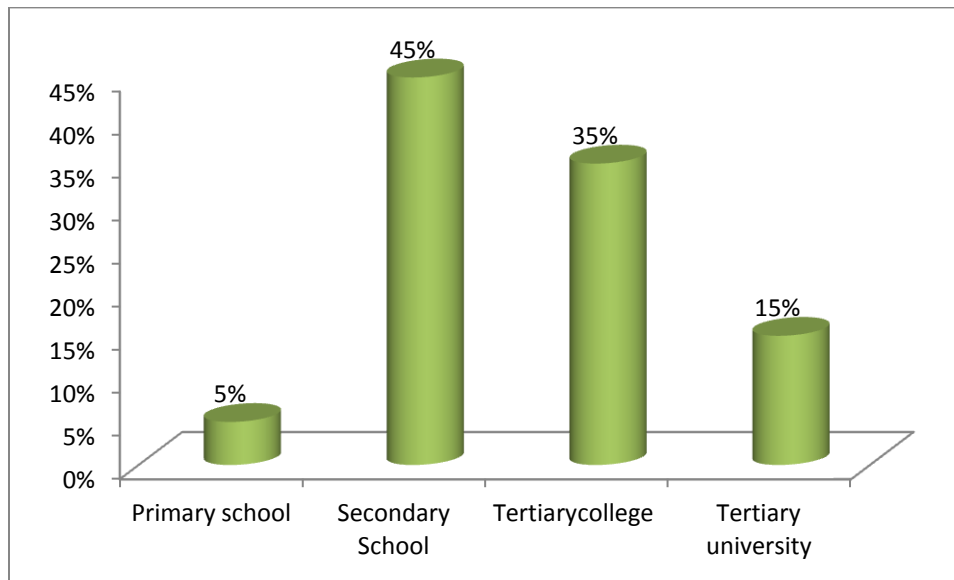
### **4.3. Demographic Information**

The aim of the study was to ascertain the background information of the respondents involved in the study. This information points at the respondents' suitability in answering the questions on how the investment groups impacts on economic empowerment of women.

#### **4.3.1. Educational Background**

The respondents were requested to indicate their educational background. This was important as it enabled the researcher to know whether the respondents had adequate knowledge to answer questions regarding investment groups and how they uplift women economically. The figure below shows the findings.

**Figure 4.2. Educational Background**



**Source: Author (2016)**

Most of the respondents (45%) indicated that they had secondary level of education, 35% indicated they had tertiary college education, 15% indicated they had tertiary university education, while 5% indicated they had primary school education. This depicts that most of the respondents in the investment groups had secondary level of education. This was important since it indicated that most of them had knowledge on how the investment groups work in uplifting of women economic capacity.

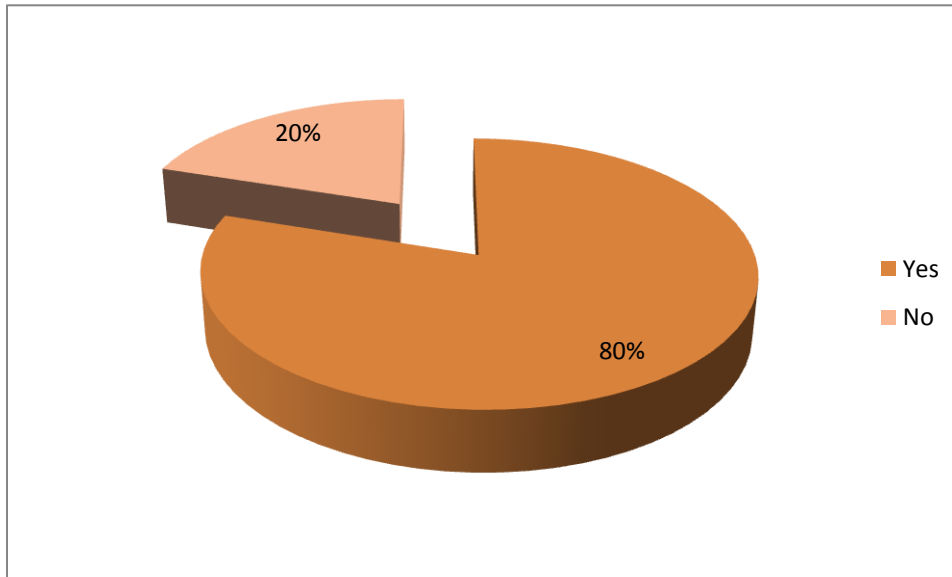
#### **4.4. Credit Accessibility**

This section presents findings on credit accessibility. This is important to the researcher as it will enable her to gather knowledge on how credit accessibility help in supporting the women investment groups. The findings are presented in subsequent headings

#### 4.4.1. Credit Accessibility Challenge

The respondents were requested to indicate whether they faced any Credit accessibility challenge to start up their business. The findings were shown in the figure below

**Figure 4.3. Credit Accessibility Challenge**



**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings in the figure above majority (80%) of the respondents indicated that they faced challenges in accessing credit to start up the business while 20% were of the contrary opinion. This depicts that respondents faced challenges in accessing credit to start up the business. This therefore was the biggest challenge for women in Ainabkoi subcounty to start up the business as most of them do not have a good financial background.



#### 4.4.2. Level of agreement on influence of Credit Accessibility on Women Economic Empowerment

The aim of the study was to establish the level of agreement on credit accessibility and its influence on economic empowerment of women. The responses were placed on a five Likert scale ranging from 1 (no extent) to 5 (very great extent). The findings were as shown below.

**Table 4.2. Level of agreement on influence of Credit Accessibility on Economic Empowerment of Women**

<b>Credit Accessibility on Women Economic Empowerment</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev</b>
Many people in developing countries still have a challenge in accessing credit	2.99	0.1987
Women have been credit starved	2.56	0.2223
Debt due to lack of accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty	3.66	0.1876
Micro finance programs increase their legal awareness and their legal status by providing women with financial and business literacy and so empower them as individuals within their household and also as a group within their communities	3.58	0.1657
Credit accessibility positively influences economic empowerment of women	3.42	0.1234

**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings above the respondents were in agreement that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt (mean=3.66), and that micro finance programs providing women with financial and business literacy increase their legal awareness and their legal status and therefore empowered them as individuals within their household as well as a group within their communities (mean=3.58). The respondents agreed moderately that

credit accessibility positively influences economic empowerment of women (mean=3.42), access to credit is still a problem for many people in developing countries (mean=2.99), and that women have been credit starved (mean=2.56). This depicts that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. Also this has made most women to lag behind development wise and thus affecting the country's economy.

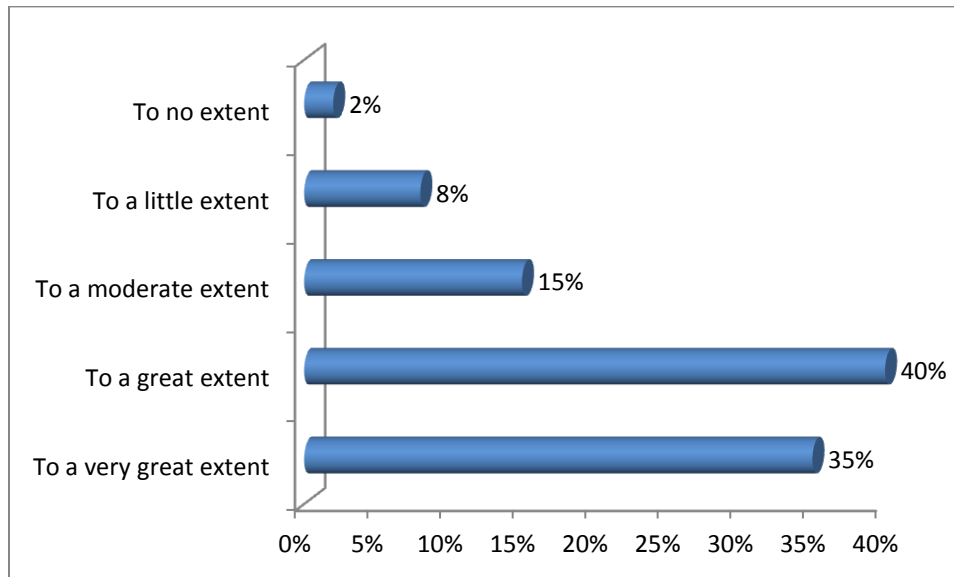
#### **4.5. Membership Power**

This section presents findings on achievement and women economic empowerment. This is important in that it gives a clear picture on what the women have achieved through participation in the women groups. The findings are present in subsequent headings.

##### **4.5.1. Membership Power and Economic Empowerment**

The respondents were requested to indicate the extent to which Membership Power affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. The findings were shown in the figure below

**Figure 4.4. Membership Power and Economic Empowerment**



**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings above most (40%) of the respondents indicated that membership power affect the economic empowerment of women in the group, 35% indicated to a very great extent, 15% indicated moderate extent, 8% indicated to a little extent, while 2% indicated to no extent. This depicts that membership power affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. This infers if a member withdraws on the group the group will fill the effect in that the contribution given by the meber will reduce the capital base of the investment group thus making it fail in its objective.

#### **4.5.2. Level of Agreement on Influence of Membership Power on Economic Empowerment of Women**

The respondents were requested to indicate the level of agreement on the influence of membership power on economic empowerment of women in the investment groups. The findings were as shown below

**Table 4.3. Level of Agreement on Influence of Membership Power on Women Economic Empowerment**

<b>Membership Power on Women Economic Empowerment</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev</b>
The guiding principle in Investment group is to strengthen self-help organization	3.59	0.1236
Starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy are characteristics of Investment groups	3.79	0.1654
Borrowing members are advanced loans depending in order of their position in a rotating schedule or, upon request by a member relative to share equivalent to proportion of the aggregated capital contributed by the member	3.68	0.2013
Membership power enhances economic empowerment of women	3.50	0.3241

**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings above the respondents were in agreement that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy (mean=3.79), borrowing members are advanced loans depending in order of their position in a rotating schedule or, upon request by a member relative to share equivalent to proportion of the aggregated capital contributed by the member (mean=3.68), the guiding principle in Investment group is to strengthen self-help organization

(mean=3.59), and that membership power enhances economic empowerment of women (mean=3.50). This depicts that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy. If the members fail to accumulate more resources to aid the investment group then the performance may be constant or may lower at some point leading decrease in profits and failing to achieve the objective.

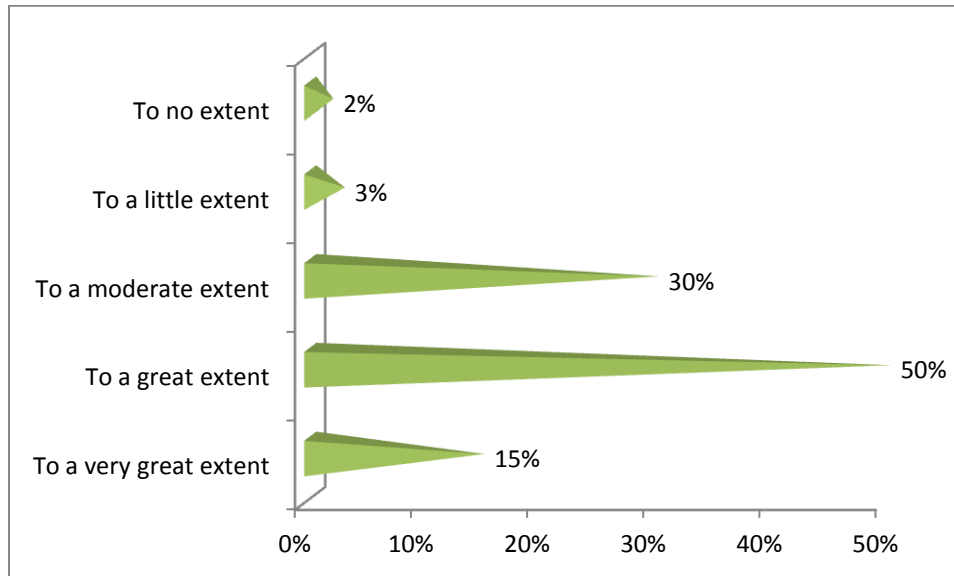
#### **4.6. Control of Economic Resources**

This section presents findings on control of economic resources and women economic empowerment. This is important in that it provides information on how well the resources can be managed in the investment group to achieve its goals. The findings are presented in subsequent headings.

##### **4.6.1. Control of economic resources affects the Economic Empowerment**

The respondents were requested to indicate the extent to which control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. The findings are shown in the figure below

**Figure 4.5. Control of economic resources affects the Economic Empowerment**



**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings the majority (50%) of the respondents indicated that to a great extent control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group, 30% indicated to a moderate extent, 15% indicated to a very great extent, 3% indicated to a little extent, while 2% indicated to no extent. This depicts that to a great extent control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. If the resources are not controlled in a useful manner the group may end up failing short of resources thus unable to sustain itself.

#### **4.6.2. Level of Agreement on Influence of Control of Economic Resource on Economic Empowerment of Women**

The respondents were requested to indicate the level of agreement on the influence of control of economic resource on economic empowerment of women. The findings are shown in the table below

**Table 4.4. Level of Agreement on Influence of Control of Economic Resource on Economic Empowerment of Women**

<b>Control of Economic Resource on Economic Empowerment of Women</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev</b>
One of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system	3.49	0.2003
In many cultures land is passed on to men and not women	2.66	0.1678
In Kenya, women ownership of property is governed by statutory law, customary laws and religious laws	3.20	0.2561
Control of economic resource enhances economic empowerment of women	2.80	0.1356

**Source: Author (2016)**

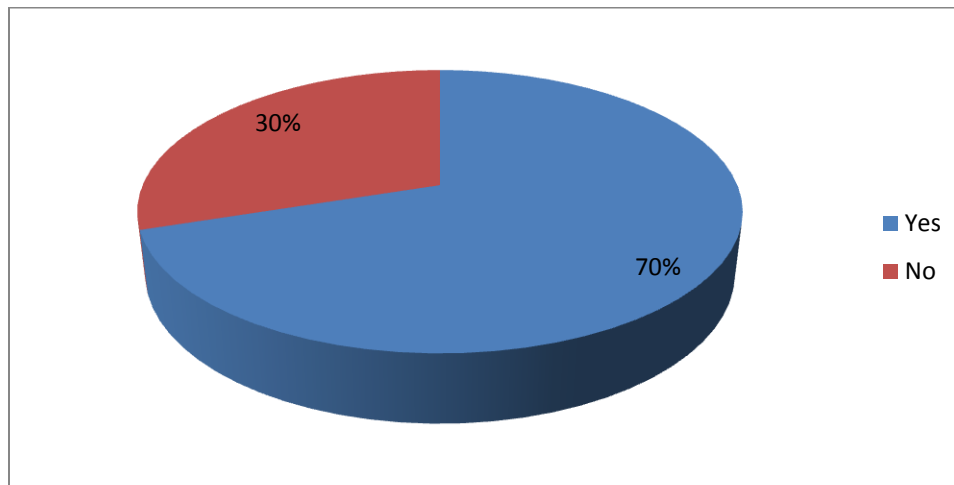
From the findings above the respondents moderately agreed that one of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system (mean=3.49), in Kenya, women ownership of property is governed by statutory law, customary laws and religious laws (mean=3.20), control of economic resource enhances economic empowerment of women (mean=2.80), and that in many cultures land is passed on to men and not women (mean=2.66). This depicts that one of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system. Most of the land has been owned by men who are always the custodian of the land.

## 4.7. Economic Empowerment of Women

### 4.7.1. Influence of Investment Groups on Economic Empowerment

The respondents were requested to indicate whether investment groups improved economic empowerment of women. The findings are shown in the figure below

**Figure 4.6. Influence of Investment Groups on Economic Empowerment**



**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings majority (70%) of the respondents indicated that investment groups improved economic empowerment of women, while 30% were of the contrary opinion. This depicts that investment groups improved economic empowerment of women.

### 4.7.2. Level of Agreement with the Effects of Savings Services Women Socioeconomic Empowerment

The respondents were requested to indicate the level of agreement on the effects of savings services offered by investment groups on women socioeconomic empowerment. The findings were as shown in the table below



**Table 4.5. Level of Agreement with the Effects of Savings Services Women Socioeconomic Empowerment**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev</b>
Generating revenues/profits	3.60	0.1239
Improving of quality of life of members	3.52	0.2168
Being able to continue operations in business	3.89	0.1897
Expanding business	3.76	0.3002

**Source: Author (2016)**

From the findings above the respondents agreed that the savings services enable women to being able to continue operation of business (mean=3.89), Expanding business (mean=3.76), generating revenues/profits (mean=3.60), and improving of quality of life of employees (mean=2.66). This depicts that the savings services enable women to being able to continue operation of business.

## **4.8. Inferential Statistics**

The study further applied multiple regressions to determine how investment groups influence economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County.

### **4.8.1 Regression Analysis**

The researcher conducted a multiple regression analysis so as to test relationship among variables (independent) on the economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. The researcher applied the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) to code, enter and compute the measurements of the multiple regressions for the study. Coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (economic

empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County) that is explained by all the three independent variables (credit accessibility, achievement, and control of economic resources).

### Model Summary

**Table 4.6. Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.797	0.845	0.043

**Source: Author (2016)**

The three independent variables that were studied, explain only 84.5% of the economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County as represented by the R<sup>2</sup>. This therefore means that other factors not studied in this research contribute 15.5% of the economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. Therefore, further research should be conducted to investigate the impact of investment groups on economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County.

### ANOVA Results

**Table 4.7. ANOVA of the Regression**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	66.14	3	22.048	9.475	.0031
	Residual	397.92	171	2.327		

	<b>Total</b>	<b>464.06</b>	<b>174</b>			
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**Source: Author (2016)**

The significance value is 0.031 which is less than 0.05 thus the model is statistically significance in predicting how the investment groups factors (credit accessibility, Membership Power, and control of economic resources) affect economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County. The F critical at 5% level of significance was 2.327. Since F calculated is greater than the F critical (value = 9.475), this shows that the overall model was significant.

**Table 4.8. Coefficient of Determination**

<b>Model</b>		<b>Unstandardized Coefficients</b>		<b>Standardized Coefficients</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
		<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>Beta</b>		
1	(Constant)	1.127	0.2235		5.132	0.000
	Credit Accessibility	0.652	0.1032	0.1032	7.287	.000
	Membership Power	0.587	0.3425	0.1425	3.418	.000
	Control of Economic Resources	0.445	0.2178	0.1178	4.626	.000

**Source: Author (2016)**

Multiple regression analysis was conducted as to determine how investment groups influence economic empowerment of women in Ainabkoi Sub County and the three variables. As per the SPSS generated table below, regression equation

$(Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon)$  becomes:

$$(Y = 1.127 + 0.652X_1 + 0.587X_2 + 0.445X_3 + \varepsilon)$$

According to the regression equation established, taking all factors into account (credit accessibility, Membership Power, and control of economic resources) constant at zero, the economic empowerment of women will be 1.127. The data findings analyzed also showed that taking all other independent variables at zero, a unit increase in credit accessibility will lead to a 0.652 increase in the economic empowerment of women; a unit increase in Membership Power will lead to a 0.587 increase in the economic empowerment of women, a unit increase in control of economic resources will lead to a 0.445 increase in the economic empowerment of women.

This infers that credit accessibility contributed the most to the economic empowerment of women. At 5% level of significance and 95% level of confidence, credit accessibility, Membership Power, and control of economic resources were all significant, practices to increased economic empowerment of women.

#### **4.9. Discussion of Findings**

The study found that respondents faced challenges in accessing credit to start up the business. The study also established that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. This agrees with a study by Kiura, (2015) who argued that women hold only about 1% of registered land title deeds in Kenya, without title deeds, women are often unable to access credit. Lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services makes it hard for the women to advance in their financial generating economic activities.

The study found that membership power affects the economic empowerment of women in the group. The study also established that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy. This agrees with a study by Olaf et al, (2011) who argued that the guiding principle in Investment group is to strengthen self-help organization, their leaders and their members in order to inspire self-empowerment in terms of institutional, cultural, spiritual, social, political and financial strengthening

The study found that to a great extent control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. The study also established that one of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system. This agrees with a study by Gichuki et al., (2015) who stated that in many cultures land is passed on to men and not women. Most rural land is registered to men. Even though women are the ones that deal in production of the land, its fate is entirely a male issue. Women hold only about 1% of registered land title deeds in Kenya.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations. Section 5.2 provides the summary of the study, section 5.3, the conclusion, and section 5.4, limitations of the study while section 5.5 presents recommendations for further research.

### **5.2 Summary of the Study**

#### **5.2.1. Credit Accessibility**

The study found that respondents faced challenges in accessing credit to start up the business. The study also established that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt.

#### **5.2.2. Membership Power**

The study found that membership power affects the economic empowerment of women in the group. The study also established that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy.

#### **5.2.3. Control of Economic Resources**

The study found that to a great extent control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. The study also established that one of the greatest factors

working against women empowerment is land tenure system. In addition the study found that that credit accessibility contributed the most to the economic empowerment of women.

#### **5.2.4. Economic Empowerment of Women**

The study established that that investment groups improved economic empowerment of women. The study also found that the savings services enable women to being able to continue operation of business. At 5% level of significance and 95% level of confidence, credit accessibility, Membership Power, and control of economic resources were all significant, practices to increased economic empowerment of women.

### **5.3. Conclusion**

The study concluded that lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and debt. The study also concluded that investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy. The study concluded that to a great extent control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group. Finally the study concluded that one of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system.

### **5.4. Limitation of the Study**

The study has been conducted by considering the investment groups in Ainabkoi Sub County. The study findings accuracy was limited to the extent to which the respondents were honest in responding to questions .Given the sensitivity nature of data collection, there may have been likelihood of giving answers for questions that avoid crucial and confidential information.

## **5.5. Recommendations**

The study made the following recommendations:

1. Investment groups should ensure that they conduct training to their members before they borrow loans to ensure they are able to run successful businesses
2. Before members borrow loans from other institutions they need to fully establish how they will repay the loans.
3. Financial institutions should work with the county government in implementation of devolution so that women from the grass roots benefit from financial facilities. There are devolved funds in county government which if not followed to provide a system of transparency might be misused thus financial institutions should come with programmes that can ensure the funds are availed to women for economic activities.
4. Awareness on activities of stakeholders should be increased with an aim of improving economic status of women through advertisements, promotions, community forums, bill boards and posters. More women need to undertake and use the activities/ programmes provided by stakeholders.

## **5.6. Suggestions for further research**

The study recommends the following areas for further research;

1. Replication of the study in other areas of Kenya where the women self-help groups have been formed.
2. The impact of women self-help groups on the economic empowerment of women and their households



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Questionnaire

This set of questions is intended to get the benefits impacts on table banking on the empowerment of women in Ainabkoi, Uasin Gishu County. With your honest answers, the interested stakeholders will have the right information to plan the way forward. You are hereby guaranteed that the information you give will be treated with uttermost confidentiality.

#### Type of respondent

1. In a investment group
2. Not in an investment group

#### Section A: profile of the respondents

1. What is the name of your group (optional?)
2. What is your Age? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did you join the group? (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What Educational background do you have?
  - Primary school
  - Secondary School
  - Tertiarycollege
  - Tertiary university

#### SECTION B: Credit Accessibility

5. Have you ever faced any Credit accessibility challenge to start up your business?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

6. Indicate your level of agreement with following statements, which relate to the influence of credit accessibility on economic empowerment of women in the group. Use a likert scale of 1-5 where 5= strongly agree 4= Agree 3= Neutral 2= disagree and 1= strongly disagree. Please tick (☐) all as appropriate

	1	2	3	4	5
Access to credit is still a problem for many people in developing countries					
Women have been credit starved					
Lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services, women, their families and their communities face persistent poverty and deb					
Micro finance programs providing women with financial and business literacy increase their legal awareness and their legal status and therefore empowered them as individuals within their household as well as a group within their communities					

credit accessibility positively influences economic empowerment of women					
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**Section C: Membership Power**

7. To what extent does Membership Power affect the economic empowerment of women in the group?

To a very great extent [ ]

To a great extent [ ]

To a moderate extent [ ]

To a little extent [ ]

To no extent [ ]

Explain your answer

.....

.....

8. Indicate your level of agreement with following statements, which relate to the influence of membership power on economic empowerment of women in the group. Use a likert scale of 1-5 where 5= strongly agree 4= Agree 3= Neutral 2= disagree and 1= strongly disagree

	1	2	3	4	5
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The guiding principle in Investment group is to strengthen self-help organization					
Investment group is characterized by: starting with one's own effort, mobilizing physical resources and savings and creating economic activities and enterprises capable of generating some income as a source of self-led (internal) financing and autonomy					
Borrowing members are advanced loans depending in order of their position in a rotating schedule or, upon request by a member relative to share equivalent to proportion of the aggregated capital contributed by the member					
Membership power enhances economic empowerment of women					

**Section C. Control of economic resources**

9. To what extent does Control of economic resources affect the economic empowerment of women in the group?

To a very great extent [ ]

To a great extent [ ]

To a moderate extent [ ]

To a little extent [ ]

To no extent [ ]

Explain your answer

.....

.....

10. Indicate your level of agreement with following statements, which relate to the influence of control of economic resource on economic empowerment of women in the group. Use a likert scale of 1-5 where 5= strongly agree 4= Agree 3= Neutral 2= disagree and 1= strongly disagree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
One of the greatest factors working against women empowerment is land tenure system					
In many cultures land is passed on to men and not women					
In Kenya, women ownership of property is governed by statutory law, customary laws and religious laws.					
control of economic resource enhances economic empowerment of women					

**Section D: Economic empowerment**

11. Has investment groups improved economic empowerment of women

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

12. Do you agree with the following statements seeking to establish the effects of savings services offered by investment groups on women socioeconomic empowerment? (SA: Strongly Agree; A: Agree; MA: Moderately Agree; D: Disagree and SD: Strongly Disagree)

Statement	SA	A	MA	D	SD
Generating revenues/profits					
Improving of quality of life of members					
Being able to continue operations in business					
Expanding business					

## Appendix II: Originality Report

investment groups and economic empowerment of women			
ORIGINALITY REPORT			
% <b>14</b>	% <b>12</b>	% <b>3</b>	% <b>9</b>
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES			
<b>1</b>	Submitted to University of Nairobi Student Paper		% <b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	www.ecdpm.org Internet Source		% <b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	Submitted to Saint Paul University Student Paper		% <b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	www.lucsus.lu.se Internet Source		% <b>1</b>
<b>5</b>	Submitted to Sikkim Manipal University, Ghana Student Paper		% <b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	www.wazua.co.ke Internet Source		% <b>1</b>
<b>7</b>	Jane Kolodinsky. "Measuring Economic and Social Impacts of Membership in a Community Development Financial Institution", Journal of Family and Economic Issues, 04/2006 Publication		% <b>1</b>
<b>8</b>	knowledge.e.southern.edu Internet Source		% <b>1</b>