

**INFLUENCE OF WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN GROUP ACTIVITIES ON
THE EMPOWERMENT OF COMMUNITIES: A CASE OF KAJIADO
NORTH SUB COUNTY**

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DECLARATION

This Research project report is my own original work and to the best of my knowledge, has not been presented for award in any other university.

Signed..... Date.....

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This research project report has been presented for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my loving husband Wilkins Odhiambo Onyango and children: Mercy, Michelle and Luigi. Your boundless love and sacrifices has brought me this far. I am genuinely indebted and grateful to you all.

I would also dedicate this study to my Parents, Sospeter Akeno and Mary Adhiambo Akeno. The virtues you taught me have helped me particularly in my academic pursuit and my life in general.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xi
ABSTRACT.....	xiv
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem.....	5
1.3 Purpose of Study.....	6
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.5 Research Questions	6
1.6 Significance of the Study	7
1.7 Limitation of the Study	8
1.8 Delimitation of the Study.....	9
1.9 Assumptions of the Study	10
1.10 Definition of Significant Terms used in the Study.	10
1.11 Organization of the Study	12
CHAPTER TWO	13
LITERATURE REVIEW	13

2.1 Introduction.....	13
2.2 Empowerment of Communities	13
2.2.1 Empowerment of Communities Constructs.....	17
2.3 Women Groups Participation in Income Generating Activities and Empowerment of Community -	18
2.4 Political Participation Activities and Empowerment of Communities	20
2.5 Environmental Conservation Activities and Empowerment of Community	21
2.6 Education and Training Activities and Empowerment of Communities	23
2.7 Theoretical Framework.....	24
2.8 Conceptual Framework.....	28
2.9 Knowledge Gap	29
CHAPTER THREE	30
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	30
3.1 Introduction.....	30
3.2 Research Design.....	30
3.3 Target Population.....	31
3.4 Sampling Size and Sampling Procedure	32
3.4.1 Sample Size	32
3.4.2 Sampling Procedure.....	32
3.5 Data Collection Instruments	35
3.6 Pilot testing of the Research instruments.....	35
3.7 Validity of Research Instruments.....	36
3.8 Reliability of Research instruments	37

3.9 Data Collection Procedure	38
3.10 Data Analysis Techniques.....	40
3.11 Ethical Considerations	40
3.12 Operationalization of Variables	41
CHAPTER FOUR.....	42
DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION	42
4.1 Introduction.....	42
4.2 Response Rate.....	42
4.3 Demographic Information.....	43
4.4 Income Generating Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	45
4.5 Participation in Political Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	47
4.6 Environmental Conservation and the Empowerment of the Communities	49
4.7 Training and Empowerment of Communities.....	52
4.8 Inferential Statistic	57
4.8.1 Coefficient of Correlation.....	57
4.8.2 Analysis of variance	59
4.8.3 Coefficient of Determination.....	59
4.8.4 Multiple Regression.....	60
CHAPTER FIVE	63
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	63
5.1 Introduction.....	63
5.2 Conclusion	63
5.3 Recommendations.....	64

5.4. Suggestions for Further Study	65
REFERENCES	66
APPENDICES	75
APPENDIX I: COVER LETTER.....	75
APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN GROUPS’ MEMBERS.....	76
APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS/MINISTRY STAFF, CDF AND UWEZO FUND OFFICIALS.....	82
APPENDIX IV: TABLE OF RANDOM NUMBERS	84
APPENDIX V: RESEARCH PERMIT	85
APPENDIX VI: AUTHORIZATION LETTER.....	85
APPENDIX VII: SPSS SCREEN SHOT	87

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Map of Kajiado North Sub County	4
Figure 2.1: The Conceptual Framework	28

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Knowledge Gap	29
Table 3.1: Population Category and Sample Size.....	32
Table 3.2: Operationalization of variables Table.....	41
Table 4.1: Instrument Return Rate.....	42
Table 4.2: Demographic Information	43
Table 4.3: Women Groups Income Generating Activities.....	45
Table 4.4: Influence of Income Generating Activities on the Community.....	46
Table 4.5: Relationship between Income Generating Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	47
Table 4.6: Groups Participation in Political Activities	57
Table 4.7: Influence of Women Participation in Political Activities on Empowerment of Community	48
Table 4.8: Relationship between Political Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	49
Table 4.9: Participation in Environmental Conservation Activities and the Empowerment of Communities.....	50
Table 4.10: Influence of Environmental Conservation Activities on the Community	51
Table 4.11: Relationship between Environmental Conservation Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	52
Table 4.12: Women Groups Training Activities.....	52
Table 4.13: Participation in Training Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	53

Table 4.14: Relationship between Training Activities and the Empowerment of Communities	54
Table 4.15: Indicators Attributed to the Influences of Women Groups Activities.....	55
Table 4.16: Obstacles to Realizing Group Objectives	56
Table 4.17: Coefficient of Correlation.....	58
Table 4.18: Analysis of variance	59
Table 4.19: Model Summary	60
Table 4.20: Regression Model for women group activities and empowerment of communities.....	61

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASAL	- Arid and Semi-Arid lands
CBOs	- Community Based Organizations
CDF	- Constituency Development Fund
CIDP	- County Integrated Development Plan
COs	- Community Organizations
CS	- Civil Society
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	- Female Genital Mutilation
GOK	- Government of Kenya
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency virus
IA	- Integrated Approach
IFAD	- International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGAs	- Income Generating Activities
ILO	- International Labour Organization
IUCN	- International Union for Conservation of Nature
KeBS	- Kenya Bureau of Statistics
MGRs	- Merry Go Rounds
NACOSTI	- National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NGOs	- Non Governmental Organizations
NRC	- Nokia Research Centre
PWDs	- Persons with Disability

SACCOs	- Savings and Credit Cooperative Society
SD	- Sustainable Development
SHG	- Self Help Group
SPSS	- Statistical Package for Social Sciences.
UN	- United Nations
UNESCO	- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UON	- University of Nairobi
WB	- World Bank
WEF	- Women Enterprise Fund

ABSTRACT

The various activities that women groups engage in influence the empowerment of communities. Women participation refers to the act of women getting involved in the various entrepreneurial processes or activities through their groups that would either bring economic, social and political changes to their lives, their families and ultimately their communities. This study aimed at examining the Influence of women participation in group activities in Kajiado North Sub County, Kajiado County in Kenya. The study objectives were; To establish the influence of women participation in income generating activities on the empowerment of communities; to assess the influence of women participation in political activities on the empowerment of communities; to assess the influence of women groups participation in environmental conservation activities on the empowerment of communities and to establish the influence of women participation in trainings on the empowerment of communities. The study was influenced by the fact that women engage in various activities through groups but their efforts have not really impacted in their communities making their activities to seem insignificant. The target population consisted of women drawn from 378 groups registered in Kajiado North Sub County; 5 Uwezo fund coordinators; 6 ministry staff/government officials and 5 National Government Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) officials. The study employed a mixed approach of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The sampling techniques used included; stratified sampling, simple random sampling and purposive sampling to derive a sample size of 194 from the women groups, 5 Uwezo Fund coordinators, 6 ministry/government officials and 5 CDF/WEF officials. Therefore the total sample size for the study was 210. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program to generate descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and distribution and regression analyses. Data was collected by the use of questionnaire and interview guides and organized into themes according to study objectives. Findings indicated that; community empowerment is influenced by women group participation in income generating activities as indicated by 73.9% of the respondents, political activities as indicated by 60.8%, environmental conservation activities as indicated by 58.7% as well as training activities as indicated by 48.5% of the respondents. Given that women play a major role in the family and community development, this study recommends that the government should upscale women involvement in entrepreneurial activities as this has a direct effect on community empowerment as well as the general development of the country.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

This study sought to establish the influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of community: A case of Kajiado North Sub County. Women groups are a key component of any community worldwide and in many instances it has helped women to ease the poverty situation around them. Women have always come together and join hands in undertaking activities according to their felt needs. In Kenya, such groups resulting from women joining hands have been commonly referred to as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Chamas, Merry Go Rounds (MGRs) or women groups. Chama is a Swahili name for such association. Chamas have been the saving grace for many of the nation's families (Nzioka, 2010). For this research, the term women group(s) has been used in reference of all the above.

The core activities of women groups revolved around table banking and merry go rounds. Income generating activities through savings and credit from various sources have also grown. Existence of women groups in a certain society provides an opportunity for encouraging the community to take part in rural development initiatives. It also provides an avenue where women make contribution and lend their members without asking for security with aim of empowering each member both socially and economically where it has provided some of the members to venture in business as well as developing business oriented skills among the women (Gurumoorthy, 2000).

The socio-economic challenges that women have been facing in their communities result in situations that have forced them to form women self-help groups (Chitere, 1988).

Puhazhendhi and Satyasai (2001) identified some of the key characteristics of successful establishment of the operation of such organizations to be voluntary membership, manageable number of the members and existence of common goals among members. Women groups engage in their activities in a transparent way and commonly employ participatory decision making process. They would regularly meet so as to foster sisterhood among the members. Rappaport (1993) argued that members of a group have an opportunity to support each member socially, economically, emotionally, as well as providing a chance of learning from each other which help to create a mutual understanding among the members.

Studies indicate that women self-help groups thrive, yet still their success in community development initiatives has been in reality a piped dream. Through their group activities, they become enlightened psychologically and this help them stem out subordination. The country wide spread of women groups since the beginning of the 1990s, taking advantage of the new political dispensation that heralded multi-party system, the devolved government structures that recently came into existence and the government support through funding avenues such as Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Uwezo Fund have made women groups a household name. Rampant growth and establishment of women group have resulted to improvement on women empowerment initiatives in most countries (Tiyas, 2007).

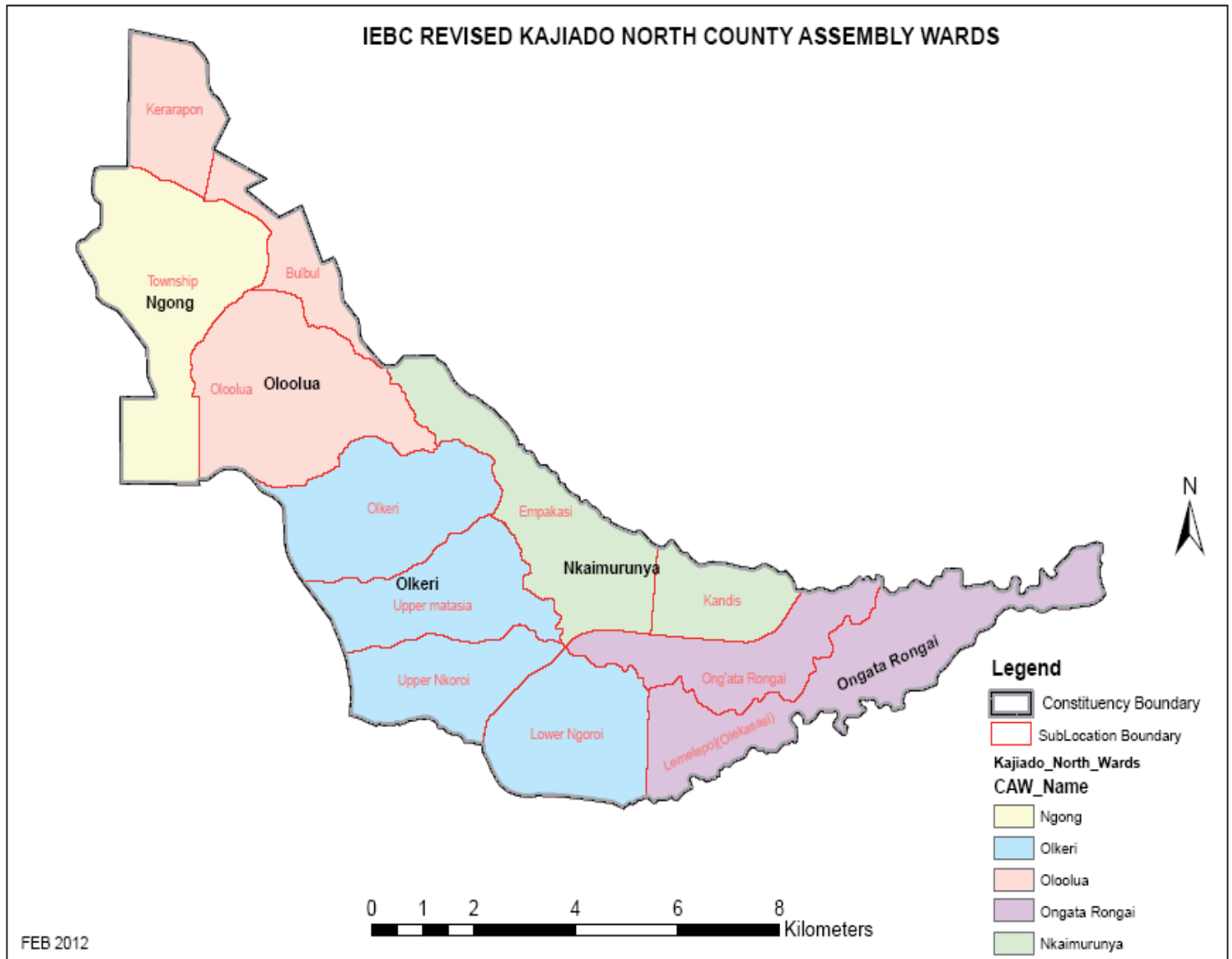
Mwaura (1999) revealed interesting results that community treat women as less submissive and as a tool for advocating for social advancement even though their economic contributions go unrecognized and their work under-valued. They are mostly involved in activities that are labour intensive such as farm work and building and it is for

this reason that the community's well-being depends largely on women. Despite all the women efforts, reports reveals that women still encounter various challenges and their effort have not been rewarded into positive access to resources or being recognized in making crucial decision (Murugangi and Dombosi, 2007).

This study was conducted in Kajiado North Sub County, Kenya. Kajiado North Sub County is among the five Sub Counties that form the greater Kajiado County which is situated between longitudes 36° 46' 59.99" East and Latitude -1° 50' 59.99" South. (County Integrated Development plan, 2013 – 2017). The Sub County covers an area of 6,344.9 square kilometres and is made up of three main towns namely; Ngong, Ongata Rongai and Kiserian with Ngong being the largest town. Due to its proximity to Nairobi city, the area is largely metropolitan resulting to a rapid increase in its population since 1990s that has caused the growth of other centres such as Matasia, Rimpa, Nkoroi, Kware, Embulbul and Olepolos. (Kajiado County Integrated Development Profile (CIDP, 2013).

Though initially occupied by the Maasai community, people from other Kenyan communities and even foreigners have since moved in leading to excessive sub division of land into small plots. The region is classified as Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) where livestock keeping/pastoralism is the main economic activity. Rain fed agriculture is not sustainable due to erratic rains (CIDP, 2013).

Figure 1.1: Map of Kajiado North Sub County



In conclusion, it is important to note that women’s contribution to empowerment of community has come about as a result of their determination to come up together, perform work and express their views. However, the growing recognition of women’s contributions through their activities has not resulted to positive access to resources or encouraged them to participate in crucial decision making pertaining to their society.

Additionally, the challenges that women encounter have not been streamlined into an approach that can offer an opportunity to develop leadership skills among the women (Manu, 2008). This means that the influences of women groups' activities may not be easily noticeable as they will always have less access to the resources and services they need to increase in their productivity and incomes. They will be shunned in the political arena and are disadvantaged in education too. They are left with the burden of household duties that would often not allow them to contribute to other development matters (IFAD, 2011). It is against this background that the researcher sought to examine the influence of women participation through their group activities in Kajiado North Sub County.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Continued marginalization of women in most societies has contributed to women lagging behind in almost all sectors and their activities being of little significant. Women access to job opportunities, agricultural land, education, health services and democratic freedoms are curtailed. For instances only 10% of women in Thailand, Nepal and India owns a piece of land (FAO, 2011). Yet over the years governments and development agencies have tried to address these inequalities through women SHGs.

SHGs could help in development of social capital and mobilization of women (IFAD, 2003). All these were geared towards achieving economic empowerment among women. It is interesting to note that most women have not fully overcome the financial, societal and structural barriers even with the support of government and other development agencies. It is in this relation that this study aimed at establishing the influence of women participation in group activities upon empowerment process of communities of Kajiado North Sub County, in Kajiado County, Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of Study

The study aimed at understanding community empowerment through women group activities in Kajiado North Sub County. The purpose was to bring out the fact that women through involvement in group activities were also able to support community empowerment initiatives that leads to improved standards of living and wellbeing of members in community. Therefore women involvement in group activities opens avenues for the achievement of better life first at the household level, followed by community and eventually national levels. Therefore information gathered from the study would help strengthen women group initiatives by the government and even non-governmental actors.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study was guided with the following objectives:-

1. To establish the influence of women participation in income generating activities on the empowerment of communities.
2. To assess the influence of women participation in political activities on the empowerment of communities.
3. To assess the influence of women participation in environmental conservation activities on the empowerment of communities.
4. To establish the influence of women participation in trainings on the empowerment of communities.

1.5 Research Questions

The study research questions were as follows:-

1. What are the various income generation activities by women groups in Kajiado North Sub County that influence community empowerment?
2. What are the influences of political participation activities by women via their groups on community empowerment?
3. How does environmental conservation activities by women groups influence community empowerment?
4. What are the influences of training activities that women participate in through the groups on community empowerment in Kajiado North Sub County?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study may be useful to researchers, planners and policy makers as it may help them in formulating strategies and programmes to eliminate unemployment especially among the marginalized population. Secondly, the issues that have stifled the growth and performance of women groups in Kenya may be addressed through the study findings.

Also, the study findings may help suggest appropriate policy measures and viable recommendation to guide women participation in group activities, for example by helping them redefine their activities in order to be visionary, while diffusing the age long myth that has particularly stationed them in the home front while subordinating their participation in policy making, political representation, environmental, health and education campaigns, key managerial jobs, salaried employment and bigger business prospects that would result to their economic, social and political empowerment. If this is attained, the study success may be replicated in other parts of the country as well.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

Empowerment of communities has an array of potential outcomes simply because the concept as applied in the study was made up of three constructs namely: economic, social and political empowerment. Some respondents gave financial information which they could not back with tangible existing financial records. Such information was sourced from individual reporting and was vulnerable to subjective bias and unclear facts. However, the researcher managed to counter check the same before being used in the study. Therefore despite the difficulties encountered, in administering the questionnaires, the honesty of the respondents helped the researcher in understanding women participation in group activities and their involvement in empowerment of community.

Not all units of the sample population were available, and this was further constrained by the limited time and logistics available. For example; some women groups could not be reached through the mobile contacts availed, new officials in the CDF and Uwezo offices did not have full information required for the study. To overcome these, the researcher sought the contacts of former staff at CDF and Uwezo officers who had left to seek political office and to take up an administrative position in the government respectively. They agreed to be interviewed and even availed themselves at the Uwezo office. For the women groups whose contacts had changed the researcher tracked them through the Uwezo coordinators in their respective wards and able to meet and interview them during their monthly meetings. However, three groups were totally not reached as they had previously wound up due to infighting, non-payment of loans and theft of funds and the researcher was informed by the coordinators that their matters were still under investigation. The researcher was able to overcome the difficulties the study presented as it progressed unto completion. The study results provided credible facts on the influence

of women participation in group activities and empowerment of communities in Kajiado North Sub County.

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

The study targeted Kajiado North Sub County in Kajiado County, Kenya. The Sub County consists of five wards namely; Ngong, Olkeri, Oloolua, Nkaimurunya and Ongata Rongai. The study investigated the influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of communities: A case of Kajiado North Sub County, Kajiado County. The study sought to get the opinion of women group members on how their participation in group activities has influenced empowerment of their communities.

The women groups were those duly registered under the Ministry of Labour, Security and Social Services in Ngong and had shown level of activity in the last three year period. Also, the groups must be largely constituted by women members and must have, . Therefore, the newly registered groups who had not engaged in activities were locked out.

Another delimitation of the study centered on the three constructs (economic, social and political) that constituted empowerment of community. The conceptualization of the study excluded the other categories of empowerment by different sociologists such as psychological empowerment, individual empowerment, group empowerment and organizational empowerment. Lastly, other activities that women participate in through group activities such as table banking were not included in the study even though they formed core activities for some groups.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The assumption of the study is that women bring about empowerment in their communities through the various group activities they engage in. Even though women form part of the marginalized population their contribution via group activities is immense and, has been emphasized in many studies in Kenya today. A second assumption is that the women groups are active and must have been active over a period of time not less than three years. This was easily confirmed from the respondents at the time of interview. Also, the researcher assumed that the participants would respond to the questionnaire in an honest and truthful manner.

1.10 Definition of Significant Terms used in the Study.

Empowerment of Communities: Refers to meaningful change resulting from the activities that women participate in through women groups. In the context of this study, empowerment of communities has been conceptualized to have three constructs which are; economic empowerment, social empowerment and political empowerment resulting from the influence of women participation in the various group activities.

Women participation in group activities refers to the act of women getting involved in the various processes or activities through their groups that would either bring economic, social and political change to their lives, their families and ultimately their communities.

Women participation in Income Generating Activities refers to the involvement of women through their groups in activities that enable them to earn income. Based on the aim of this study, the researcher has identified three categories as follows:-

Farming to include all forms of agri-business, pastoralist animal keeping by the Maasai community and subsistence crop farming; Small scale industries that feature the

following: - Detergent and soap making, bakery, food processing, basket weaving, beadwork and embroidery and tailoring and; Retail businesses which include vending small wares, cereals, vegetables and fruits in the market, hairdressing, retail shops and kiosks and other forms of small businesses.

Women Participation in Environmental Conservation Activities refers to the active involvement of women through their groups in environmental conservation practices and education as well as the use of environment friendly products and cheap alternatives. Through these activities the women get to understand that the environment is part and parcel of their lives and is a source of resources which can be depleted if not conserved well. Indicators used included:- participation in tree planting and construction of dams, participation in environmental awareness creation and involvement in use of environment friendly appliances in the homes and in farming such as energy saving appliances, organic farming and alternative fuel sources among others.

Women participation in Political Activities refers to the ability of women through their groups to take part in political decision making process; to focus on access to resources, rights, and entitlements within communities and support one of their own in vying for political position. In this study, this was measured using the indicators of; number of women holding political positions, women representation in political forums as well as women groups' involvement in political decision making.

Women participation in Trainings: refers to the processes through which group members benefit from additional knowledge resulting to their increased capacity and acquiring new skills in areas such as farming and health. The three indicators used to

measure women participation in trainings are entrepreneurial trainings, health education trainings and higher education trainings.

1.11 Organization of the Study

The study was categorized into five chapters:- Introduction, Literature review, Research methodology, Data analysis, presentation and interpretation, and lastly the chapter on the Summary of findings, conclusions and recommendation. The first chapter included the background information that led to the research problem, the objectives for the study and formulation of the research questions. The chapter also presented the limitations and delimitations of the study as well.

In chapter two the views of different writers on the topic of the research study were depicted. The researcher also presented the conceptual framework for the study and the knowledge gap that had been identified by the study.

Chapter three presented the research design and the methodological procedures involved in the collection and analysis of the study data.

Chapter four gave the study results with a brief discussion on correlation between the study variables. Finally, chapter five presented the major findings of the study, conclusions and the recommendations in line with the study findings.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of literature on women groups' activities and their influence in the empowerment of community whereby the review is guided by the theoretical and conceptual frameworks. The chapter examined the literature on women groups/SHGs, popularly referred to as chamas or merry go rounds in Kenya. It dwelled specifically on development of women self-help groups, their characteristics, the various activities they engaged in, and lastly, their role in the sectoral transformation of society which is considered as empowerment of their communities.

2.2 Empowerment of Communities

Women groups are very popular in many parts of the developing world and evidence exists on women groups' support of community empowerment initiatives that lead to improved standards of living and wellbeing of members in community. In Kenya, the achievement realized so far in women sphere has been attained through establishment of SHGs (Mukasa, 2007).

A study conducted by Nokia Research Center (NRC), showed that most SHG members are female who are married and over 25 years of age. They are usually fairly well known to each other, some are of same ethnicity and ideally are trustworthy, industrious and faithful, committed to a common cause, have good family life, and interaction with the rest of the community. Groups are formed by individuals or agencies and sizes range from 12 to 30 members. There are social codes governing the operations of groups – on participation, confidentiality, use of financial benefits, penalties and sanctions.

Group activities are characterized by regular meetings, monetary or in kind contributions, savings and loan activities, joint farming activities, income generating activities, prayer and other religious activities as well as various social support activities (NRC, 2009). According to Fernandez (1994) some of the key elements that enhance success of women groups are manageable number of members, common goal and unity among the members, and lastly, voluntary participation of the members on group events.

In Kenya, government's interest in women groups grew in the 1970s to 1980s leading to the mushrooming of women groups countrywide (Oino, Auya & Luvega, 2014). The authors further argued that during this period the focus of most women groups focused more on empowering women on income generating activities, as compared to early days when they would only concentrate on home affairs. It is evident that they have even moved beyond supporting group members themselves but also targeting the larger community (Oino et al., 2014).

According to Shivakumar (1995) women groups contribute significantly in development. At the same time, certain research pointed that less than 30% of women participate in different economics practices in Sub-Saharan Africa (Parsons, 2011), in relations to 80 % being men's engagement in such activities (Karl, 1995).

Activities of women self-help groups have been on the increase due to the gender – responsive national policy and planning as a result of the feminist activism in the 1990s which resulted to remarkable improvement in civic, gender and human rights awareness (Nzomo, 2014). The most common activity of women groups are income generation initiatives. They readily invest the money saved or loaned into micro enterprises. Just like social capital, strengthening of the community is realized in different categories such as

in individual or personal levels, interpersonal, society, organization or collectively (Hur, 2006).

Empowerment of community process starts when people discover their inadequacy to meet their needs because of the poor situation they live in. They hence strive to come out of the suffering and isolation therefore connecting with others to constitute a group. According to Sadan (1997), it is in the group that a consciousness awakens the capacity and ability that exist in a given people with similar problem. For example, women group activities are as a result of women coming together to realize their potential and strength and in the process change lives through increasing controls of factors affecting them. This potential is already present in any individual but it is soon discovered with the realization that “there are other people who have encounter the same problem as I encounter and therefore we are many” (Sadan, 1997).

The process of forming groups leads the people to a realization that they are not alone in their struggle. This discovery strengthens them and becomes the willpower that makes them work together to achieve their goals. Globally, women have proved to be able to mobilize themselves, unlike their male counterparts. Experts believe women are active in community due to their traditional roles which involve catering for family and home affairs. Abbot (2007) asserts that women have long been the key mainstay among communities. They are heavily participative and involved in most of the community initiatives in various forms. For example, women are emerging as leaders in their community development matters and are also acquiring the skills that have positively brought changes to their communities through education and training.

According to Oino et al (2014), women groups have contributed positively in the shaping and implementation of initiatives aimed at community progress. Still, the influences of women groups' activities may not be easily noticeable as they will always have less access to the resources and services they need to increase their productivity and incomes and the burden of household duties would often not allow them to contribute to other development matters (IFAD, 2011). Women also have considered themselves as inferior and that they are not part of the solution to the challenges they face in their social setup. Therefore, they cannot offer any amicable solution and would rarely turn to community social action.

We can therefore agree that the empowerment of the communities resulting from the influence of women group activities is not necessarily a new phenomenon; rather it replicates the same pattern of how women groups' activities have always changed the livelihoods of the group members. Sarkar (2004) argued that any investment done by women as a result of teaming up together results to the improvement of the society which is manifested by the improvement of the family affairs and genders recognition. Therefore, women groups enhance social and economic status of the members as well as society as a whole.

Therefore, in looking at the motivation enhancing women engagement in such activities to influence empowerment of their communities, the study sought to identify opportunities whereby incorporating women group activities into issues affecting a community has achieved a better community where people have gained control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives.

2.2.1 Empowerment of Communities Constructs

Empowerment can be economic, social or political, but still these empowerment forms are interrelated. For example; economic empowerment creates economic power which easily converts to increased social status or decision making power, which can also be a form of political empowerment. Recent studies show that since 1970s, the orientation of the chamas has been changing. Over the years, the concept of income generation has become incorporated in the activities of these women (Mwatha, 1996). Traditionally, other than their reproductive role, women are food producers and care givers in community but also today they have to invent a variety of ways to provide the ever needed cash for their families' upkeep (Ndunda, 2001). Therefore, income generation activities uplift female economic and social status resulting to both economic and social empowerment.

Economic improvement is a vital approach in countering gender inequality. It allows women to think beyond immediate daily survival resulting in surplus production, and to exercise superior control on both the resources at their disposal and life choices available.

Social empowerment is empowerment as a result of training and education. Education is a greater achievement in empowering women since it gives them an opportunity to face the problems they face in life. Emphasis on education especially for the girl child has turned around the women today. For example, in rural areas, a lack of education on the part of women deprives them of their optimum productivity levels, because they will remain ignorant of ways and means of producing more on the farm (Kelly, 2007).

Social empowerment helps to bring about societal transformation in community whereby Some cultural activities pertaining to marriage age and marriage rights may have acted to

hinder women from taking part in formal education, but now the women have control over whom to marry, when to consent to marriage, the family size to bring up as well as negotiations and discussions around sex. The women are also able embrace family planning practices to enable them achieve a family size they would easily provide for. The active support of women is crucial to the realization of development objectives. There can be no societal transformation without their involvement, support and leadership (Adams and Kruppenbach, 1987).

Political empowerment in community results from effective political participation by all. Political participation derives from the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate, the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs; and the opportunity to register as a candidate, to campaign, to be elected and to hold office at all levels of government (UN, 2005). Consequently, the participation of women in implementing regulations and rules cannot be assumed (Nzomo, 2007), even though they entails a vulnerable society in political and legislative structures. One way of enhancing women political participation is by ensuring political parties' laws include provisions for the achievement of gender balance in the political arena. Political parties are among the most important institutions affecting women's political participation (UN, 2005). Other institutions include NGOs, community groups and civil society institutions and even labour unions.

2.3 Women Groups Participation in Income Generating Activities and Empowerment of Community -

The main thrust of women group activities is the establishment of sustainable income generating activities (IGAs) through better access to productive resources such as land and credit. Studies have shown that the greater the amount of income under women's

control, the greater the amount devoted to their children's education, health and nutrition. This is true as women's income mostly goes towards increasing the wellbeing of the family. Ideally, women group activities are goal oriented and thus would bring about change in livelihoods, equalize opportunities between social classes, reduce disparities in the distribution of income, increase education among women and thus prepare them for modern labour force (Kriefer, 1985).

For a long time, culture has been applied to convince society that women deserve junior position in the society which exclude women from inheriting or owning assets, income generation and involvement in financial decision making but leaves them with the bulk of house chores and other tasks which requires intensive labour in the home. Women take part in most activities in the society which may not be regarded to significantly contribute positively in the society (Moser and Caroline, 2007). Women have established income generating activities using the financial resources availed through their groups as well as skills and training gotten through learning sessions they engage in. Micro – credit schemes targeting women has allowed women to guarantee one another through their groups in order to access financial resources via credible financial institutions at affordable interest rates.

The various IGAs that women groups engage in Kajiado North Sub County include real estate, beadwork and cloth making, food processing, outside catering services, vending of small wares, selling cereals, vegetables and fruits in the market, retail shops and other various forms of small businesses; Farming activities which include subsistence farming and agribusiness such as small stock keeping such as poultry, rabbits, quail, fish farming

as well as pig rearing, dairy farming, horticulture farming through green houses and traditional animal keeping by the Maasai community.

Women group activities often will take the dimension of savings and loan initiative for property acquisition or as source of capital for start-ups and expansion of established businesses. Entrepreneurship development in Kenya has grown as a result of wage employment being no longer a guarantee. According to Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KeBS), unemployment rate in Kenya reached an all-time high of 40% in 2011. Participation in income generation activities results in economic empowerment yet still it is the women who are still acting in subordinate activities (Kelly, 2007).

2.4 Political Participation Activities and Empowerment of Communities

There exists a real gender gap in political participation. Reports indicate that women constitute a majority among activists in many communities yet are a minority among the leadership in the same communities, thus the paradoxical manner of their participation (Reinharz, 1984). It is recognized that political involvement and empowerment provides a chance to the establishment of good policies that guide national, institution and families (Krueger and Neuman, 2006).

The government of Kenya adopted the affirmative action in 1998 so as to increase female representation in public life. Also, there is increased representation of women in the national assembly and women are heading various sectors of the government even though they are still under-represented in crucial decision making bodies. According to Makuto (2007), culture and economics are important components that shape relationship and women position. Therefore, women's organizations make it easier for the women to have a collective voice and to highlight some of the injustices meted against women and forge

corrective measures. For example; Women who contested in the 1992 general elections in Kenya came together to form an organization to help them strategize better for women participation in leadership and decision making processes (Nzomo, 2014). Secondly, women groups may as well be a grooming space for political leadership where activism develops before they wedge influence and gain political popularity. The prevailing socio-cultural attitudes continue to hinder women from being acknowledged as leaders in their own right even where civic education is conducted. Political empowerment may vary according to the nature of the social and political systems that exists in a country (Zafarullah & Huque, 2012). There are many obstacles to women's political participation. These include, gender stereotypes, psychological and traditional barriers, inequalities in education, training and resources, gender-based violence among others. Therefore, if women groups can effectively organize themselves, to demand for a more inclusive political framework, they can play a major role in facilitating and sustaining increased political participation among women (UN, 2005).

2.5 Environmental Conservation Activities and Empowerment of Community

The scale of environmental destruction is alarming with the poorest population, who are mostly women, being the hardest hit (IUCN, 2009). This is so because for example, in Kenya, many local communities are dependent on natural resources for their daily livelihoods. As a result, policy makers now put a lot of emphasis on sustainable use of the environment. Most environmental conservation projects are donor funded through international organizations and NGOs who mostly work with women groups by training them in the use of modern conservation techniques. Women have been perceived to be good in protecting their surrounding environment.

Women particularly those living in the rural areas contribute positively in resource management. Environment management has been recognized to significantly encourage development which can be attributed to women if they participate in these crucial activities in community more closely (Tiondi, 2000). In addition, their tasks in agriculture and animal husbandry as well as in the household make them the daily managers of the living environment (Njabani, 2015).

Miller (2007) asserts that women especially those who are living in the rural areas of underdeveloped countries, have substantial knowledge and experience of managing and conserving natural resources.

Environmental management is important for achieving sustainable development. Women worldwide have also contributed greatly to achieving and promoting Sustainable Development (SD) and encouraging progress which have really helped in eliminating poverty by spelling out actions which would transform the lives of millions of poor people and make the planet a better and safer place for everybody through economic and environmental protection. (Chaney, 2009). Women have proven to be highly effective change agents in the environment. For example, in Kenya, the Green Belt Movement launched in 1977 as an environmental campaign mobilized women to plant indigenous trees (Maathai, 1997).

Environmental conservation activities by women groups include; tree planting, soil conservation and construction of dams, participation in environmental awareness creation; and women groups employing environment friendly methods in farming and home environment in order to safeguard the quality environment for future generation. However lack of proper training, lack of capital to enhance activities and lack of rain are

constraints to their active involvement in environmental conservation activities (Tiondi, 2000).

2.6 Education and Training Activities and Empowerment of Communities

Education and training initiatives targeting women play an important role in community development and this have been realized in developed and less developed countries, UNESCO and World Bank (WB) (Kelly, 2007). Women have benefitted in trainings and learning sessions they engage in through their groups. Such trainings have helped women to rediscover themselves and resulted to them drifting from their traditional gender roles that make them unequal to men. As a result, their self-confidence has greatly increased and this has also made them understand their situations and be more confident to represent themselves.

The societal belief, limited financial resources and low literacy levels aggravates the poverty situation among women. Education and training are essential components of pulling households out of poverty. For example, learning about improved production technologies and methods, new products and markets, business and life skills such as; health management, decision making, self-confidence and conflict management, can make a big difference (ILO, 2008). Skills development is particularly important for the women who constitute majority of persons in the informal sector, performing low-paid, unskilled works (FAO-IFAD-ILO, 2009).

Education and training activities give chance to segment of educated women to greatly impact in their community, to be healthier, earn more and make independent decision on family affairs (ILO, 2009). But educational policies and educational plans have greatly served to limit the ability of women to fully utilize their intellectual energies in the

management of their communities. At least 75% of the world population 796 million are women who are illiterate (UNESCO, 2010), with majority living in remote areas. For example, at least 48% of Cambodian women in rural areas and 14% of men cannot read or write (UNESCO, 2005).

Studies done in Asia indicate those rural residence with better education qualification are able to seek for good paying job as they would feel they do not fit well in agricultural practices or informal jobs (ILO, 2008). Over the years, women have risen to counter the stereotyped educational systems and are able to compete with their male counterparts. The education levels of women have greatly changed with a higher number of women pursuing higher education. In circumstances where female attain equal academic qualification as their male counterpart farm productivity tends to be at par (Quisumbing, 1996). It is important for development agencies and governments to incorporate training aspects in their activities. This would give women more confidence and belief in themselves to be able to take part on events concerning their society (Tiondi, 2000).

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The theory of empowerment as advanced by Paulo Freire and Feminist theory were applied to provide grounding for women group involvement in empowerment of communities through participation in their various activities.

The origin of empowerment as a theory can be traced to the Brazilian philosopher and educator, Paulo Freire (Hur, 2006). Freire points out that the process of empowerment of communities starts with empowerment of individuals. In his piece “The Pedagogy of the Oppressed (1970)”, Freire gave the conceptual base for the debates on empowerment. That empowerment as a construct is multi-faceted. In this regard, empowerment is

therefore viewed to be operative at various levels: personal/ individual, interpersonal, organizational, community and collective (Hur, 2006). He observed that these levels are closely linked.

In *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1970), Freire differentiates between the positions in an unjust society: the oppressor and the oppressed. According to him, education should allow the oppressed to regain their sense of humanity, while in turn overcoming their condition. Nevertheless, he acknowledges that for this to occur, the oppressed individuals must play a role in their liberation. Freire's theory is based on the belief that liberation is possible.

Since 1970s, the term empowerment has continually been used in the case of marginalized groups such as African Americans, women, gays and even people living with disabilities.

According to Freire, in every society, a small number of people exert domination over the masses resulting in "dominated consciousness". He therefore advocates for an active teaching method that would help the individual become aware of his own situation, so that he acquire instruments that would allow him to make choices and become politically conscious (Freire, 1974). Therefore the role of an educator is not only to transmit knowledge to his students but, also to seek the means that would transform the world around him. This he referred to as "developing critical consciousness", which according to him is what makes it possible for the oppressed to move from understanding to acting (Freire, 1974).

Theories of empowerment were formulated based on the assumptions that access to financial services empowers women by putting capital in their hands so that they are able to be producers contributing to households and communities well-being. Therefore the

theories hold that women with economic power often gain control over their lives. Empowerment theories are not only concern with the empowerment process but also, with its results of giving the disadvantaged power and greater access to resources (Hur, 2006). In this regard, the theory of empowerment as applied in the context of this study outlines the contribution of women through participation in group activities to the benefit of community. Abbot (2007) asserts that women have long been the mainstay among communities. They are involved in most of the initiatives in their communities where they participate actively.

Women group activities are as a result of women coming together to realize their potential and in the process change lives by increasing controls of factors affecting them. According to Sadan (1997), it is in the group that consciousness is awakened and abilities and potentials that exist among the people sharing a common problem are aroused.

Arguments against the empowerment theory are: First, that the theoretical concept of empowerment does not have a clear definition (Bodja, 2006). Bhodja attributes this 'vagueness' in empowerment theory to the non-academic origin of the concept. The concept of empowering communities is mostly common among development practitioners.

The other argument against empowerment theory is that empowerment often results to relative rather than absolute changes in states of being (Brook and Holland, 2009). For example, an observable move towards empowerment by one person or group cannot be assumed to apply to other groups or individuals in a community.

The other theories that supported this study are feminist theories developed through a chain of waves emerging in the late 19th century. Its primary concern at that time was white middle class women and their right to vote (Kemp and Brandwein, 2010). For this

study, Marxist Feminism was applied. Contemporary Marxist Feminists adapts principles of Marxism in explaining women position in society. They argue that the subordination of women is further enforced by the capitalist system where women are economically dependent on the men. Marxist Feminist is the perspective of feminism which adapts the principles of Marxism in explaining how family oppresses women thus affecting quality of their lives as well as the community at large. According to Marxist feminism theorists, class and gender inequalities are the two powerful systems of oppression. They thus emphasize how capitalism uses the family to oppress women and show the harmful consequences of the family to women's lives. Therefore their primary concern is with the division of labour that keeps women in the domestic sphere and men in the work place. According to Marxist feminists, women liberation can only be achieved through radical restructuring of the current capitalist economy, in which they contend, that much of women labour goes uncompensated (Ferguson and Hennessy, 2010).

For the Marxist feminists, the family is also a site of social class reproduction. The feminist perspective was developed on the assumptions that women and men experience life differently hence the gendered approach was necessary in explaining their relationship (Ferguson and Hennessy, 2010).

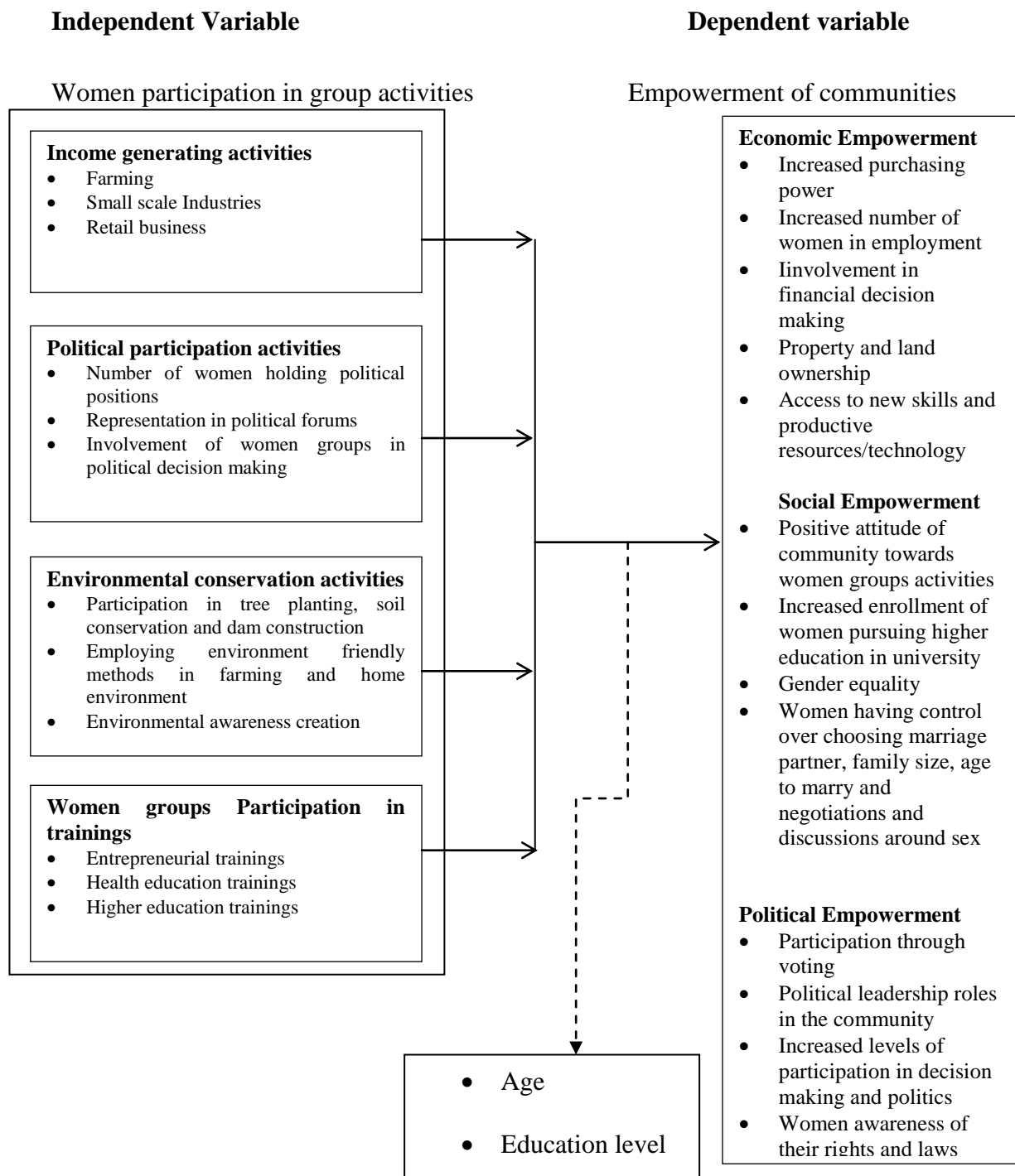
Criticism of Marxist feminists' perspectives of the family comes from sociologists. They argue that Marxist feminists place much emphasis on nuclear family while ignoring family diversity. Secondly, they criticize the approach as assuming a degree of passivity among women, yet some women may have just chose their social role to be that of a wife and mother.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework is a graphical/narrative of relationships of the study variables- network where the independent variables network with moderating intervening ones, while the outcome, also called dependent variable, is the output (Orodho, 2005).

The conceptual framework for this study is illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: The Conceptual Framework of women group activities and the empowerment of the communities



2.9 Knowledge Gap

The researcher investigated other studies that were closely related to this study and it emerged that the scope was wide therefore there was need for more studies that would either narrow the study variables or encompass two or more variables so that more plausible findings could be obtained.

Table 2.1: Knowledge gap

Author &Year	Study Title	Variable Investigated	Findings	Knowledge Gap
Njabani, A.W, 2015	The role of women self-help groups in socio-economic development of Chuka/Igamba Ng'ombe constituency Tharaka-Nithi County	Socio-economic development (Empowerment of community)	The level of women SHGs participation in socio-Economic development was high (78%) and therefore there existed a significant relationship between levels of participation of SHGs and levels of socio-economic development	No quantification of the effectiveness or non-effectiveness of the woman SHGs participation in activities resulting in socio-economic development
Korir, W., 2013	Effect of women involvement in social initiatives and socio economic development in rural Kenya: A case of Koibatek District, Baringo County	Empowerment of community (socio-economic development)	Women groups are meant to empower women in the community but it fails since the investments are managed by husbands and sons.	The researcher based the findings on matters of women investment purely on perceptions of respondents as no evidence is provided.
Phillipo, F. 2008	Contributions of women income generating activities to household income in Kigoma, Tanzania	Income generating activities	Access to credit and training are the major constraints for development of IGAs by women.	The research is based only on IGAs contributions to households but other groups activities are not taken into consideration.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section specifically explains the research design that was used by this study; target population from which the desirable sample size was obtained and the sampling procedure(s) used to obtain the sample size for the study. The data collection instruments used in the study are discussed as well as how the pilot testing of the instruments was undertaken to establish the validity and reliability of these instruments. The data collection procedure is explained and data collection technique discussed. The chapter also outlines the ethical considerations in the context of the study and lastly presents the operationalization of variables as shown in table 3.2.

3.2 Research Design

Nachmias & Nachmias define research design as the blueprint that enables the investigator to come up with solutions to the fundamental problems pertaining to empirical research such as who to study, what to observe or data to be collected, and guides them in various stages of research (Nachmias and Nachmias1992).

The aim of research design is to clearly define, explain the research topic and comprehensively indicate the objective of the research. It also explains the approach used in a research; for example, to indicate the approach and results; and to observe to ensure time and resource are utilized wisely (Mugenda, 1999). This study adopted descriptive research design and proceeded with the following activities; Problem identification,

formulation of research objectives and problem, Literature review, development of data collection tools, reliability and validity of the instruments, sampling procedure and data collection.

According to Koul (1990), descriptive research is the most popular and most widely used method to conduct research in education and social sciences. In descriptive study the objectives are specified with sufficient precision so as to confirm that the data collected is relevant. Then using the sample derived, the researcher would collect information that can be used to make statements about the whole population. The descriptive research design enabled the researcher to collect a lot of information within a short period of time, from the participants in all the 5 administrative wards in Kajiado North Sub County. Therefore, it is possible for the researcher to use the findings of the study to make inferences and generalize to other similar groups.

3.3 Target Population

The population for the study comprised members of women groups registered in Kajiado North Sub County, staff under the Ministry of Labour, Security and Social Services in Ngong and staff in the Youth and Gender office under the Ministry of Devolution. The women groups used were those that had shown activity in the last three year period, for example beneficiaries of Uwezo fund and WEF funds and, those who applied for the funds but were yet to receive. From the hand written records available in the Social office under the Ministry of Labour, Security and Social Services in Ngong, there were about 378 active women groups in Kajiado North Sub County. For the purpose of the study,

each group was represented by a member preferably one of the three officials. The study population was heterogeneous comprising of 378 women group members, 5 Uwezo fund coordinators each representing the five wards in Kajiado North Sub County; 6 ministry staff/government officials and 5 CDF and WEF officials.

3.4 Sampling Size and Sampling Procedure

3.4.1 Sample Size

Based on Yamane's (2007) formula of sample size determination:

$$n = N / (1 + N (e)^2)$$

The study adopted a sample size of 210 with sub-samples (194 women, 5 Uwezo coordinators, 6 ministry officials and 5 CDF/WEF officials).

Table 3.1: Population Category and Sample Size

Population Category	Total Population	Sample Size
CDF and WEF Officials	5	5
Uwezo Fund Coordinators	5	5
Ministry staff/Government Officials	6	6
Women groups	378	194
Total	394	210

3.4.2 Sampling Procedure

The study population was made up of 4 different sub-populations and this necessitated both probability and non-probability sampling to be applied. These included stratified, purposive and simple random sampling procedures. Therefore sample size of 210 was

arrived at after the researcher employed successive sampling techniques on the sub-populations available for the study. In the case of the women groups Yamane's (2007) formula determined the sample size to be 194 women as shown below.

$$n = N / (1 + N (e)^2)$$

Where **n**- is the required sample size

N- is the population size

E - is the error margin

Where **N** = 378

E = 0.05

Hence **n** = $378 / (1 + 378(.05)^2) = 194$ women members

The formula assumed a 95% confidence level; **p** = 0.5 (being the estimated variability or distribution of attributes in the population) and the margin of error **e** of +5% or -5%.

Therefore 194 women group members as one of the sub-sample of study were to be gotten from the 378 women groups as stipulated by Yamane's (2007) formula. The formula is ideal for a population size that is smaller than 500.

The researcher initially used stratified sampling to divide the entire population (378 women groups) according to the administrative ward (strata) they fall in. Kajiado North Sub County is made up of 5 administrative wards namely: - Ngong; Olkeri; Nkaimurunya; Oloolua and Ongata Rongai wards. The researcher then applied simple random sampling technique to draw a probability sample from each stratum (ward) to

constitute the 194 women groups, who were represented each by one of their leader/officials (Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary) The simple random sample was drawn from each stratum, where each stratum would have the same sampling fraction proportionate to the population size of the stratum. The criterion used to include women groups in the study is that they must be registered with Ministry of Labour, Security and Social Services in Ngong; must have been in existence for over 3 years and lastly, to be a group largely constituted by women members.

In each of the 194 women groups, a leader was selected as a respondent, while the ordinary members excluded as the researcher believed that the leaders were the ones who could have history and knowledge of the group activities. In several instances, the members participated in the questionnaire because the research assistants mostly administered to the selected leader during the official chama meeting time. This in essence was a form of purposive sampling and therefore non-probability. It meant that it could be subject to bias and error.

The 194 women leaders were the sample representative derived from the 378 women groups to roughly constituted 51% of the women group population. In addition, 5 Uwezo fund coordinators, 6 ministry staff/government officials and 5 CDF and WEF officials were also included in the sample size to represent other population categories. Therefore, a sample size of 210 with sub-samples (194 women, 5 Uwezo coordinators, 6 ministry officials and 5 CDF/WEF officials) were used in the study.

The key informants identified for the study were all included in the sample through purposive sampling techniques and census.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

Questionnaires were administered on group leaders while key informant interviews with the Uwezo fund coordinators, ministry staff, CDF officials and WEF officials were done using an interview schedule. The study mainly employed a questionnaire which contained both closed-ended and open-ended questions. Gay (1992) maintains that questionnaires give respondents freedom to express their views or opinions and also make their suggestions.

Secondary data was mainly sourced by reviewing the records from the offices of the Ministry of Labour, Security and Social services, in Ngong Uwezo fund office – under the Youth and Gender Services office (Ministry of Devolution). Data was collected between September and October 2016.

3.6 Pilot testing of the Research instruments

A pilot study is a mini-version of a full-scale study or a trial done in preparation of the complete study (Polit, et al. & Baker, 2002). It can also be pre-testing of research instruments, including questionnaires or interview schedules to eliminate problems which could affect the study outcome. A pilot study was conducted in late September 2016 in Ooloolua ward, Kajiado North Sub County. Six members were drawn from four women groups who were not part of the sample. Through employing the test-retest approach, the researcher managed to have the right instrument to collect the information that was used

to successfully complete the study. This also ensured that the research instruments would generate similar data when employed by an independent researcher on other subjects from a different area in Kenya.

3.7 Validity of Research Instruments

Validity refers to the extent to which an instrument can measure what it ought to measure. Paton (2000) referred to validity as degree to which the result of the research comply with the facts and expected result in a study. The issue of validity needs to be looked into in any given study in order to ensure that the results of the selected sample can be generalized to describe the population under study. Several procedures are used to estimate reliability; (i) face validity is concerned reasonability of a measure or procedures proposed by the researcher (Fink, 1995).(ii) construct validity reviews variables operationalization concurrence to the theoretical concept or framework and the suggested measuring procedure; (iv) content validity is based on degree to which proposed measurement reflects the specific intended sphere of the subject matter, often done through experts in the topic and context under study (Carmines & Zeller, 1991).

To establish the instrument validity, the researcher used the research objectives and research questions to guide in choosing the appropriate content when developing the research instruments. This was done through guidance and repeated discussion with the supervisor. Also after the piloting process adjustments on the instruments were done using the results of the pilot study so as to ensure the reliability of the data collected in meeting the study objectives. The researcher also keenly examined each completed

questionnaire and ensured that the research variables were measured in accordance to the study objectives.

3.8 Reliability of Research instruments

Reliability refers to the consistency of the result produced in case the study is repeated (Mugenda and Mugenda 2003). To enhance reliability of the instruments, the researcher conducted a pilot study involving members of six women groups excluded from the sample frame. This was essential so as to confirm that the data gathered was consistent and relevant to the study. Therefore, the test- retest technique employed by the researcher served to improve reliability of the instrument. This involved administering twice the same questionnaire to the same respondents in the pilot sample after two weeks. A Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient formula was then used to interpret the findings.

$$r = \frac{\Sigma xy - \frac{\Sigma x \Sigma y}{N}}{\sqrt{(\Sigma x^2) - \frac{(\Sigma x)^2}{N} (\Sigma y^2) - \frac{(\Sigma y)^2}{N}}}$$

Where r = Pearson correlation co-efficient

X = result from the first test

Y= results from the second test

N = number of observations

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) a coefficient of 0.80 or more simply shows that there is high reliability of data. The instrument realized a Pearson product correlation coefficient (r) of 0.75 which was deemed reliable.

3.9 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher proceeded with a letter issued by the University of Nairobi to apply for a research permit from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Upon issuance, the permit was then presented to the Education office in Ngong, Kajiado North Sub County. The researcher also presented an introduction letter attached to each questionnaire that explained to the participants the purpose of the research as well as the ethical considerations.

According to Best and Khan (1987) the person administering the instrument has an opportunity to establish rapport and explain the purpose of the research. The researcher employed the services of two research subordinates to distribute the questionnaires to the participants. Communication with the various groups was done through the Uwezo coordinators and the Chair persons of the respective groups.

A total of 200 questionnaires were printed and given to two research assistants hired for purposes of data collection. The researcher gave instruction on how the questionnaires were to be administered throughout the five administrative wards of Kajiado North Sub County. After a month, the research assistants brought back 162 questionnaires. Of these 144 were well completed and appropriate for data examination purposes indicating a

response rate of 71%. The rest 18 were either incomplete or spoilt and, 38 were returned not completed.

Key informant interviews guided by an interview schedule and documents review were the other means the researcher employed to collect data used in the study.

Through the questionnaires, considerable amounts of quantitative data were collected at comparatively low cost in less time and reasonable effort. Also, it was easier to compare response from different respondents.

The key informant interviews yielded expert information from the interviewees who are knowledgeable in the issue at hand. Personal interview helps the researcher to collect more detailed information (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003).

Some of the problems encountered during the study included respondents being hesitant to answer some of the questions listed in the questionnaire or the interview schedule. There was the fear of divulging so much of information they believed should only be privy to the group members and officials they deal with in their day to day activities. On the part of key informants, the researcher realized that they were hesitant to give information where they were not having the facts at hand. For the study to realize its objectives, the researcher allowed the key informants to verify the facts and was able to get the required information at a later date. On the part of the women group respondents, the researcher was able to overcome the problem of fear by explaining to them that the information was to be kept confidential and was to be used for academic purpose only.

3.10 Data Analysis Techniques

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used in data processing and analysis. The process was guided by the proposed study objectives and research questions. Data analysis entails categorizing, ordering, manipulating and summarizing raw data to obtain answers to the research questions (Kothari, 2004). After field work, the researcher carefully went through the filled questionnaires to check for completeness of the process. Quantitative data was then sorted, coded, entered and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program to generate descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and distribution. Qualitative data were collected through key informant interviews then changed into complete narratives and organized according to themes identified from the research questions so as to be analysed using content analysis. All observed data information were analysed and interpreted in line with the proposed study objectives. The methods used in the study can be supported by the publications such as Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) and Nachmias and Nachmias (1996).

3.11 Ethical Considerations

All due diligence were taken into account so as to safeguard on the ethical standards especially this being an academic endeavor. Privacy and confidentiality of the information from the respondents was observed. The researcher kept confidential all information collected and has only used it for the intended study. Literal contributions of various knowledge sources have been fully and dully acknowledged. The principle of voluntary consent to ensure that every respondent willingly participate in the process was also upheld during the entire process and the findings of the study will be made available

to the participants. Lastly, on the part of the researcher an approval letter to conduct the study in the designated area was sought. Also, the researcher respected the participants during the entire process while observing self-respect too.

3.12 Operationalization of Variables

The researcher defined the variables as were used in the study and indicated how they were to be measured as shown in the table below.

Table 3.2: Operationalization of variables Table

Objective	Independent Variable	Indicators	Measurement	Measurement scale	Research Approach	Tools of Analysis	Analysis Technique
Study Objective 1	Income Generating Activities (IGAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming activities • Small scale Industries • Retail business 	Yes	Nominal Ordinal	Quantitative	SPSS	Frequency distribution Descriptive statistics Correlation Content analysis
Study Objective 2	Political participation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in political office • Representation in political forums • Decision making 	Yes	Nominal Ordinal	Quantitative	SPSS	Frequency distribution Descriptive statistics Correlation Content analysis
Study objective 3	Environmental conservation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment conservation activities • Use of environment friendly methods in farming and home • Environment awareness creation 	Yes	Nominal Ordinal	Quantitative	SPSS	Frequency distribution Descriptive statistics Correlation Content analysis
Study objective 4	Participation in training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurial training • Health education training • Higher education training 	Yes	Nominal Ordinal	Quantitative	SPSS	Frequency distribution Descriptive statistics Correlation Content analysis

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the analysis, presentation and interpretation of the data and discussions based on the objectives. The study sought to investigate the influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of communities in Kajiado North Sub County, Kajiado in Kenya.

4.2 Response Rate

The respondents involved were the women groups' members, Uwezo Fund coordinators, Uwezo fund secretary, WEF officials, ministry staff and CDF officials. They returned the questionnaires as tabulated in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Instrument Return Rate

Respondents	Sampled size	No. interviewed	Return rate (%)
Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Officials	5	3	60
Uwezo Fund Coordinators	5	5	100
Ministry staff/Government Officials	6	4	66.7
Women groups members	194	138	71

Table 4.1 shows that the average interview return rate was well above 70% which according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) is an acceptable proportion and can be termed adequate for analysis.

4.3 Demographic Information

The demographic data of women and the groups was based on gender, age, period of membership to the group, group constitution, group period of existence and registration of groups. The findings are summarized in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Demographic Information

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	between 20-25	12	8.7
	between 26-30	8	5.8
	between 31-35	64	46.4
	between 36-40	29	21.0
	between 41-45	10	7.2
	between 46-50	6	4.3
	above 51	9	6.5
Highest education level	Secondary	24	17.4
	College	36	26.1
	University	78	56.5
Period of group membership	1-3 years	62	45.0
	3-5 years	42	30.4
	Over 5 years	34	24.6
Group constitution	Work colleagues	13	9.5
	Church members	7	5.1
	Friends	112	81.2
	Family	6	4.2
Group period of existence	1-3 years	60	43.2
	4-5 years	42	30.4
	6-10 years	24	17.4
	Over 10 years	12	9.0
Registration of women groups	Yes	83	60.1
	No	55	39.9

N=138

Findings in table 4.1 showed that the age of women was concentrated between 31-35 years at 46.4%. This can be explained to mean that the women within this age group were robust and trying to seek ways of earning an extra income to support their young families and hence understood the importance of group activities. Results on the level of education, 56.5% of the women had university levels of education, 36% had attained college education and 24% had attained secondary education. Therefore the study gathered that the women were well educated to understand the impacts of the group activities in the community.

Findings on group membership showed that 45% of the women have been group members for between 1-3 years, 29.7% for 3-5 years and 24.4% for over 5 years. This implied that most women groups would disintegrate after achieving their stipulated goals. On the results regarding group constitution it was observed that majority of the women groups (81.2%) were constituted with friends.

Findings on groups period of existence show that 43.2% of the women groups have been in existence for between 1-3 years, 30.4% for between 4-5 years, 17.4% for between 6-10 years and 9% for over 10 years. This implies that the groups have adequate time to establish whether their activities had impact on the community. Further findings on group registration show that 60.1% of the respondents said that their group was registered. This implies that most of women's' groups in Kajiado North are recognized by the government.

4.4 Income Generating Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

The first objective of the study was to establish the influence of women groups' participation in income generating activities on the empowerment of communities. Respondents were asked to indicate the income generating activities that they were actively involved in. Responses are summarized and presented in table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Women Groups Income Generating Activities

Income generating activities	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	6	4.3
Small scale industries	7	5.1
Retail business	70	50.7
Tailoring and bead work	10	7.3
No income generating activities	45	32.6
Total	138	100

Findings in table 4.3 show that 50.7% of the women were involved in retail business/operating small kiosks, 32.6% were not involved in any income generating activity though they participated in table banking and welfare activities in their respective groups, 7.3% were involved in tailoring and beadwork, 5.1% were involved in small scale industries and 4.3% were involved in farming activities such as rabbit keeping, mushroom farming and fish farming. These findings showed that the women groups largely empowered women to startup businesses which generate income or revamp their businesses.

The study also sought to find out the impacts of the income generating activities on the community. Responses are summarized and presented in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Influence of Income Generating Activities on the Community

Influence of the income generating activities	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
Improved living standards of the Community	102	73.9	36	26.1
The families are able to educate their children	54	39.1	84	60.9
Creation of jobs in the community	72	52.2	66	47.8
The community buy chicken and detergents at fair prices	58	42.0	80	58.0
Families have been able to acquire more properties	30	21.7	108	78.3
The green houses have helped increase farm produce	44	31.8	94	68.1
Easy accessibility to the estate/security improved	14	10.1	124	89.9
The women group chairs and tents help in occasions like funerals and weddings	10	7.2	128	92.8
N=138				

Findings in table 4.4 showed that 73.9% of the respondents had said that income generating activities had improved the living standards of community and the small retail businesses and industries had helped to create jobs for community members as indicated by 52.1%. This implies that women groups participation in income generating activities have an influence on the empowerment of communities in Kajiado North sub county. This finding concurs with Kelly (2007) report that women group activities would bring about change in livelihoods, equalize opportunities between social classes, reduce

disparities in the distribution of income, increase education among women and thus prepare them for modern labour force.

Table 4.5: Relationship between Income Generating Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)			.398		
	Increased purchasing power among women	1.399	.149		9.407	.000
		.497	.104		4.790	.000

a. Dependent Variable: think your activities as women group also bring benefits to the community you live in?

The results in table 4.5 indicated that income generating activities had significant ($p < 0.05$) influence on community empowerment.

4.5 Participation in Political Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

The second objective of the study was to establish the influence of women groups' participation in political activities on the empowerment of communities. Respondents were asked to indicate the political activities that they are actively involved in. Responses are summarized and presented in table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Groups Participation in Political Activities

Political activities	Frequency	Percentage
Representation in political forum	11	8.0
More women are involved in political decision making	23	16.7

Some members are vying for political positions	6	4.3
No political activities	98	71.0
Total	138	100

Findings as presented in table 4.6 showed that 16.7% of the respondents indicated that some group members were involved in political decision making like voting, 8% of the women represented group members in political forums, 4.3% of the women are vying for political positions in the forthcoming general elections and majority of the women groups 71% are not involved in political activities. This implies that some women groups participate in political activities though the majorities do not get involved in political activities. Respondents were also asked the impacts of participation in political activities on the community. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Influence of Women Participation in Political Activities on Empowerment of Community

Influence of political activities	Frequency	Percentage
More people are willing to vote	84	60.8
The community is more enlightened on the importance of voting	68	49.2
More women in the community are willing to vie for political posts	10	7.2

N=138

Findings in table 4.7 showed that 60.8% of the respondents said that the women group political activities have enabled more people to have the will to vote. Findings from the interview guide show that; women are the majority voters and the politicians many times

work with women groups to bring developments to the community through projects like purchase of water tanks to ensure clean water supply. This implied that involvement of women groups in political activities have had an influence on the empowerment of the community. This finding is in agreement with UN, (2005) report that if women groups can effectively organize themselves, to demand for a more inclusive political framework, they can play a major role in facilitating and sustaining increased political participation among women.

Table 4.8: Relationship between Political Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Model		Coefficients ^a				
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.008	.324		6.204	.000
	political participation	-.004	.082	-.004	-.050	.960

a. Dependent Variable: think your activities as women group also bring benefits to the community you live in?

The results in table 4.8 indicate that political activities had no significant effect ($p > 0.05$) on empowerment of the community.

4.6 Environmental Conservation and the Empowerment of the Communities

The third objective of the study was to establish the influence of women groups' participation in environmental conservation on the empowerment of communities.

Respondents were asked to indicate the environmental conservation activities that they are actively involved in. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Participation in Environmental Conservation Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Environmental conservation activities	Frequency	Percentage
Tree planting, soil conservation and construction of water resources e.g dams	11	8.0
Environmental awareness creation	31	22.5
Use of environment friendly methods in farming and home environment	26	18.8
No environmental conservation activities	70	50.7
Total	138	100

Findings in table 4.9 showed that 22.5% of the respondents indicated that they are involved in environmental awareness creation, 18.8% were involved in use of environment friendly methods in farming and home environment, 8% were involved in tree planting, soil conservation and construction of dam and 50.7% of the women groups were not involved in environmental conservation activities. The findings proved that the women groups were actively involved in environmental conservation activities.

The researcher also sought to find out the impacts of participation in environmental conservation activities on the community. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Influence of Environmental Conservation Activities on the Community

Influence of environmental conservation activities	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
Reduces diseases in the community	81	58.7	57	14.3
Saves energy due to use of biogas, jikokoa	7	5.0	131	95.0
Clean environment	56	40.6	82	59.4

N=138

Findings in table 4.10 show that 58.7% of the respondents were of the opinion that the women group environmental conservation activities have resulted to reduction of diseases in the community, 40.6% said the activities have resulted to a clean community environment and, 5% said that environmental conservation measures such as use of biogas and jikokoa helps in conservation of natural energy sources. Findings from the interview guide showed that; women advocated for a cleaner environment free of garbage and in some instances they go out to collect garbage themselves. Women also expressed their concern on lack of rain, for example they believed that the wind mills on Ngong hills have contributed to reduced rainfall and so these need to be removed. It can be deduced that involvement of women groups in environmental conservation have influenced the empowerment of the community. This finding concurs with Miller (2007) that women especially those who are living in the rural areas of underdeveloped countries, have substantial knowledge and experience of managing and conserving natural resources.

Table 4.11: Relationship between Environmental Conservation Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Model		Coefficients ^a			t	Sig.
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.012	.093		21.534	.000
	environmental conservation	-.006	.028	-.020	-.229	.820

a. Dependent Variable: think your activities as women group also bring benefits to the community you live in?

The results in table 4.11 indicate that environmental conservation activities had no significant effect ($p > 0.05$) on empowerment of the community.

4.7 Training and the Empowerment of Communities

The fourth objective of the study was to establish the influence of women groups' participation in training on the empowerment of communities. Respondents were asked to indicate the training activities that they were actively involved in. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Women Groups Training Activities

Training activities	Frequency	Percentage
Entrepreneurial	62	44.9
Health education	20	14.5
Higher education	7	5.1
No participation in training activities	49	35.5
Total	138	100

Findings in table 4.12 showed that 44.9% of the respondents indicated that they were involved in entrepreneurial trainings, 14.5% were involved in health education, 5.1% were involved in higher education and 35.5% of the respondents were not involved in any training activities. The government officials also indicated that some women group members had registered for adult learning activities. This implied that the women groups are actively involved in training activities.

The study also sought to find out the impacts of participation on training activities on the community. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Participation in Training Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Influence of training activities	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
Helps to acquire knowledge on agri-business	15	10.9	123	89.1
Knowledge in investment	67	48.6	71	51.4
Embraced solar energy and other alternatives	34	24.6	104	75.4
Good financial management skills	72	52.2	66	47.8
N=138				

Findings in table 4.13 showed that 52.1% of the respondents believed that the women group training activities had enabled them to learn good financial management skills, 48.5% indicated that they had gained knowledge in investment, 24.6% revealed that they had embraced solar energy and lastly, 10.8% of the respondents said that the training activities had helped them gain knowledge on agri-business.

Findings from the interview guide showed that; there have been adult learning activities in Ngong where most learners are women, financial institutions like bank give the group members tips on how to effectively save and run their businesses hence equipping the community with financial management skills and also after being trained through their groups on health matters, the women educated their communities on issues of cholera, nutrition and so on. This implies that involvement of women groups in trainings have influenced on the empowerment of the community. This finding is in agreement with Browne (2001) that education and training initiatives targeting women can contribute to playing a much more meaningful role in development as realized by international organizations such as United nations (UN), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Bank (WB).

Table 4.14: Relationship between Training Activities and the Empowerment of Communities

Coefficients ^a						
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	1.801	.052	34.919	.000	
	training activities	.088	.020	.361	4.321	.000

a. Dependent Variable: think your activities as women group also bring benefits to the community you live in?

The results in table 4.14 indicated that training activities had significant ($p < 0.05$) influence on community empowerment.

The researcher also sought to find out the indicators attributed to the influences of women groups' activities. Responses are summarized and presented in table 4.16.

Table 4.15: Indicators Attributed to the Influences of Women Groups Activities

Indicators	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
<u>Economic Empowerment</u>				
Increased purchasing power among women	116	84.1	22	15.9
Increased number of women in employment or earning income	87	63.0	51	37.0
Women involvement in financial decision making, Property, and land ownership among women.	115	83.3	23	16.7
Access to new skills and productive resources/technology	93	67.4	45	32.6
	79	57.2	59	42.8
<u>Political Empowerment</u>				
Participation through voting	79	57.2	59	42.8
Women gaining political leadership roles in the community	43	31.2	95	68.8
Increased levels of participation in decision making and politics by women.	53	38.4	85	61.6
Women awareness of rights and laws affecting them directly.	96	69.6	42	30.4
<u>Social Empowerment</u>				
Positive attitude of community towards activities women groups engage in	85	61.6	53	38.4
Attitude change promoting gender equality /improved relations between men and women e.g sharing of domestic chores reduced delinquent behaviours, marital conflicts and other forms of violence.	89	64.5	49	35.5
Increased enrollment of women pursuing higher education in universities	83	60.1	55	39.9
Women having control over choosing marriage partner, family size, age to marry and negotiations and discussions around sex.	71	51.4	67	48.6
N=138				

Findings in table 4.15 showed that the women group activities had increased purchasing power among women as indicated by 84.1%, created women awareness of rights and

laws affecting them directly as indicated by 69.6% and improved relations between men and women as indicated by 64.5% of the respondents. Findings from the interview guide showed that; the Kajiado North communities are embracing women political leaders, husbands have allowed their wives to go out to market their bead works through trade fairs and exhibition and women sent their representative to political decision making forums. Women were also aware of rights such as property rights while, men were quickly embracing the fact that women can also chip in financially. Finally, women are now being encouraged by their husbands and community leaders to form groups so as to benefit from the numerous funds available. All these implied that women group activities had an impact on economic, political and social empowerment of their communities.

The researcher also sought to find out the obstacles to realizing group objectives. Responses were summarized and presented in table 4.16.

Table 4.16: Obstacles to Realizing Group Objectives

Obstacles	Frequency	Percentage
Financial constraints	77	55.8
Failure to pay loan on time	56	40.5
Inconsistency in group members	21	15.2

N=138

Findings in table 4.16 showed that 55.8% of the respondents had indicated that financial constraints posed a great challenge to realizing group objectives. Findings from the interview guide showed that; women are not very focused to venture into bigger projects which may help them to be economically stable. Lack of education among members in

the group would deter proper use of funds. Also, most group members lacked trust for one another resulting to disagreements and disintegration of groups. In other instances women lacked moral support at home especially when for example the husband would rather take the loaned money and use it for his own personal benefit. Lastly, women lacked a domestic market for their products such as bead work. In most cases their products are mainly valued in the tourism industry. The study concluded that lack of finances were the major challenges to achieving group objectives.

4.8 Inferential Statistic

To establish the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable the study conducted inferential analysis which involved coefficient of correlation, coefficient of determination and multiple regression analysis.

4.8.1 Coefficient of Correlation

In trying to show the relationship between the study variables and their findings the study used the Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation (r). According to the findings as indicated in table 4.13, it was clear that there was a positive correlation between income generating activities and empowerment of communities as depicted by a correlation value of 0.521. The study also depicted that there is a positive correlation between political participation activities and empowerment of communities with a correlation value of 0.618. The study also noted that there was positive correlation was between environmental conservation activities and empowerment of communities with a correlation value of 0.587 and a positive correlation between women groups Participation in trainings and empowerment of communities with a correlation value of 0.553. This

showed that there was a positive correlation between income generating activities, political participation activities, environmental conservation activities and women groups' participation in trainings.

Table 4.17: Coefficient of Correlation

Variables		Empowerment of Communities	Income generating activities	Political participation activities	Environmental conservation activities	Women groups Participation in trainings
Empowerment of Communities	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
Income generating activities	Pearson Correlation	.5210	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.0032				
Political participation activities	Pearson Correlation	.6180	.3421	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.0021	.0014			
Environmental conservation activities	Pearson Correlation	.5870	.1240	.0621	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.0043	.0120	.0043		
Women groups Participation in trainings	Pearson Correlation	.5530	.3420	.0000	.1660	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.0172	.0031	1.000	.0031	

4.8.2 Analysis of variance

An analysis was performed on the relationship between the women participation in group activities and empowerment of communities. From the table above, the model was significant (p-value = 0.000) at 0.05 level in explaining the linear relationship between women participation in group activities and empowerment of communities. Additionally, the F-statistic is significantly greater than 1 thus indicating the appropriateness of the model in testing the relationship between independent and dependent variable. This means that the model is appropriate for use in running a factor analysis.

Table 4.18: Analysis of variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	45.153	4	11.288	7.407	.000 ^b
	Residual	138.680	67	1.524		
	Total	183.833	71			

4.8.3 Coefficient of Determination

The coefficient of determination was carried out to measure how well the statistical model was likely to predict future outcomes. The coefficient of determination, (r^2) is the square of the sample correlation coefficient between outcomes and predicted values. As such it explained the contribution of the four independent variables (income generating activities, political participation activities and environmental conservation activities) to the dependent variable. Of the four independent variables that were studied, they contributed 55.1% of community development as represented by the adjusted (r^2) as

shown on table 4.14. This meant that other factors that this study did not focus on contributed to 44.9% of empowerment of communities.

Table 4.19: Model Summary

Model	r	r²	Adjusted r²	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.742	0.551	0.641	0.0438

4.8.4 Multiple Regression

The researcher further conducted a multiple regression analysis so as to identify influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of communities. The main purpose of multiple regressions is to learn more about the relationship between several independent or predictor variables and a dependent or criterion variable. The researcher used SPSS to enter, and code response from the respondent to assist in computing the extent to which a unit changes in a given independent variable to affect dependent variable.

Table 4.20: Regression Model for women group activities and empowerment of communities.

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized		Sig.
	β	Std. Error	Beta	t	
Constant/Y Intercept	1.279	1.316		1.451	0.357
Income generating activities	0.531	0.310	0.172	4.242	0.0276
Political participation activities	0.613	0.322	0.067	3.452	0.0202
Environmental conservation activities	0.510	0.156	0.210	3.382	0.0285
Women groups Participation in trainings	0.531	0.245	0.148	3.358	0.0249

As per the SPSS generated table 4.20 above, the equation

$$(Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon) \text{ becomes:}$$

$$Y = 1.279 + 0.510 X_1 + 0.613 X_2 + 0.525 X_3 + 0.531 X_4$$

The regression equation above has established that taking all factors into account (income generating activities, political participation activities and environmental conservation activities) constant at zero, access rate of traditional birth attendants will be 1.279. The findings revealed that assuming other variables are at zero, a unit change (increase) in income generating activities will lead to a 0.510 increase in community empowerment; a

unit increase in political participation activities will lead to a 0.613 decrease in community empowerment; a unit increase in environmental conservation activities will lead to a 0.525 increase in community empowerment and a unit increase in women groups Participation in trainings will lead to a 0.531 increase in community empowerment as shown in table 4.20. This inferred that political participation activities influenced community empowerment to a great extent followed by women groups' participation in trainings then income generating activities. Environmental conservation activities influenced community development and empowerment to a little extent.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter gives conclusions which attempt to give answers to specific questions that were investigated. It also presents recommendations for possible actions and suggestions for future research.

5.2 Conclusion

Several conclusions may be drawn from the findings presented. The main concern of the study was to demonstrate women group involvement in process of empowerment of community.

Women are an integral part of every economy. All round development and harmonious growth of a nation would be possible only when women are considered as co-partners in progress with men. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labour into the main stream of economic development. Therefore government and development agencies can consider funding women SHG members in order to stimulate economic, social and political empowerment of community through women.

The funding of women SHGs would help eliminate poverty in community as in normal circumstance; the poor ones are financially and socially constrained to join the SHGs by their wealthier or well-connected counterpart. Therefore such financial services would help to reduce such barriers and enable them to belong.

Therefore, in order for women contribution through their organized groups to be much felt, productive resources and finances should be made available to all women, young women should be mentored in business and money management and; markets to be developed for the women to sell items resulting from their activities.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher makes the following recommendations aimed at helping Kajiado North Sub County women groups to help improve community livelihood hence bringing about empowerment of community.

- i. There should be efforts in enhancing strategies of empowering women through regular supervision of the group's activities by the concerned ministry.
- ii. To empower more women in the sub-county, there should be sensitization of women in the sub-county on the significance of participating in women group activities in order for them to benefit as members from financing opportunities in place and new ones to be introduced.
- iii. The government should intervene in the granting of UWEZO Fund and other loans at a relatively lower interest rate to women's groups so as to increase the uptake of the funds. Also the fact that such funds like Uwezo fund are revolving should be well explained to the women groups so that they realize the benefit of paying their loans on time. Also, special grants should be available to all women through their groups as long as they have shown tendency of proper utilization of

funds availed to them. This can be monitored through the performance of groups that have benefitted from Uwezo fund and WEF.

5.4. Suggestions for Further Study

The conceptualization of empowerment of communities as dependent variable for the study could have presented difficulties in measuring because empowerment as a construct can either be a process or outcome. Given the scope and limitations of this study, the researcher recommends the following as areas for further studies:

- i. A rigorous research to correct bias and difficulties of measuring empowerment of community.
- ii. Studies need to be done to examine that which mediate or moderate the impacts of SHGs on women empowerment so as to further understand empowerment of community.
- iii. A study on the influences of the devolved government structures and sustainable training programmes upon women groups and empowerment of communities.
- iv. A study on the influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of communities in other counties in Kenya for comparison purposes.
- v. A replica of the study should be carried out incorporating other variables that possibly influence women participation in group activities. Such variables to include table banking and welfare activities.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: COVER LETTER

Rose Akeno

P.O. Box 30197, 00100

NAIROBI.

DATE:

Dear Participant,

My name is Rose Akeno. I am currently pursuing my Master degree in Project Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi.

For my final project, I am conducting a study on **‘The Influence of Women Groups Activities on the Empowerment of Communities: A case of Kajiado North Sub County’**.

Because you are a valued respondent, I am inviting you to participate in this research study by completing the attached questionnaire. In order to ensure that all information remain confidential; please do not include your name. Participation is voluntary. Therefore, if you choose to participate in this study, please answer all questions as honestly as possible and return the completed questionnaire promptly. I intend to use the information to complete my academic study and for purposes of highlighting women group contribution to community empowerment

Thank you for taking the time to assist me in my educational endeavours. If you require additional information or have questions / not satisfied with the manner in which this study is being conducted, please contact me through 0721592461.

Yours Sincerely,

STUDENT: Rose Akeno

Mobile: 0721592461 E-mail:rosakeno@yahoo.com

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN GROUPS' MEMBERS

The questionnaire below is used to collect data for purely academic purposes to determine the influence of women groups' activities on the empowerment of communities in Kajiado North Sub County, Kenya. Please answer all the questions provided as honestly as possible to the best of your knowledge.

Personal Information

Name (optional)

Age.....

Occupation

- Education level (tick one)
- 1. Primary
 - 2. Secondary
 - 3. College
 - 4. University

Development and formation of women groups

Group Name _____

Ward _____ Date of formation _____

Group constitution: 1. Work colleagues 2. Church members 5.

Others

- 3. Friends
- 4. Family/Relatives

Total number of members _____

Are you a registered group? Yes No

Membership to other groups Yes No

If yes, specify

Please specify your position in the group Member Official

If an official, indicate your title

For how long has the group been in existence?

1. For how long have you been a member?
- a.) 0-12 Months []
 - b.) 1-3 years []
 - c.) 3 -5 Years []
 - d.) Over 5 years []
2. What is the driving force that compelled you to join/form/belong to the women group or what situation prompted the formation of your group?

Women groups Activities

3. Which of the following income generating activities is your group actively involved in or has your group participated in during the last two years. Explain with examples
- a) Farming activities e.g. Green house farming
 - b) Small scale industries
 - c) Retail business
 - d) No income generating activities
 - e) Do not know
4. Which of the following political participation activities is your group actively involved in or has your group participated in during the last two years. Explain with examples?
- a) Member in political position
 - b) Representation in political forum
 - c) Involvement in political decision making
 - d) No political participation
 - e) Do not know

5. Which of the following environmental conservation activities is your group actively involved in or has your group participated in during the last two years. Explain with examples?

- a) Tree planting, soil conservation and construction of dam
- b) Environmental awareness creation
- c) Use of environment friendly methods in farming and home environment
- d) No environmental conservation activities
- e) Do not know

6. Which of the following training activities is your group actively involved in or has your group participated in during the last two years. Explain with examples?

- a) Entrepreneurial trainings
- b) Health Education trainings
- c) Higher education trainings
- d) No participation in training activities
- e) Do not know

7. List any other activities not listed above that your group has participated in in the last two years. (Include activities your group currently engages in).

8. What are the impacts in community of such activities your group is/was involved in?

9. In brief state your group objectives.

10. What are the obstacles to realizing your chama/group objectives?

11. What do you think needs to be done differently for the group/ chama objectives to be realized? (Opportunities).

Relationship between women groups Activities and empowerment of communities

12. Do you think your activities as women group also bring benefits to the community you live in?

No []

Rarely []

Yes []

Do not know []

13. If YES, then explain how your community has benefitted from activities conducted by your chama/ women group.

14. Please indicate the achievements in your community which can be attributed to the women group activities in the last five years

a) **Income generating**

activities _____

b) **Political participation activities**

c) **Environmental conservation activities**

d) **Participation in trainings**

15. The following are indicators attributed to the influences of women groups activities.

Please tick what you have observed in your community.

Empowerment of communities Indicator	Please tick
---	--------------------

Economic Empowerment	
Increased purchasing power among women	
Increased number of women in employment or earning income	
Women involvement in financial decision making,	
Property, and land ownership among women.	
Access to new skills and productive resources/technology	
Political Empowerment	
Participation through voting	
Women gaining political leadership roles in the community	
Increased levels of participation in decision making and politics by women.	
Women awareness of rights and laws affecting them directly.	
Social Empowerment	
Positive attitude of community towards activities women groups engage in	
Attitude change promoting gender equality /improved relations between men and women e.g sharing of domestic chores, reduced delinquent behaviours, marital conflicts and other forms of violence.	
Increased enrollment of women pursuing higher education in universities	
Women having control over choosing marriage partner, family size, age to marry and negotiations and discussions around sex.	

16. Any other comment?

APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS/MINISTRY STAFF, CDF AND UWEZO FUND OFFICIALS

The interview guide below is used to collect data for purely academic purposes to determine the influence of women groups’ activities on the empowerment of communities in Kajiado North Sub County, Kenya.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Interviewee: _____

Designation: _____

Years of service: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

1. What is the current statistics of registered women groups in your ward/sub county?

How has this changed over the last five years?

YEAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
No. of registered Women Groups						

2. Would you say that the activities of women groups have an influence on the empowerment of community? Probe

3. What activities do women groups participate in in your area of jurisdiction?

4. In your opinion what is the current status of empowerment levels in your community.
(Discuss in relation to the community empowerment constructs (economic, social and political empowerment).

What factors can be attributed to these trends/ prevailing situation?
5. What are some of the notable contribution of women through their participation in group activities to the communities around Kajiado North Sub County ? Discuss in relation to Income generating activities, Political participation activities, environmental conservation activities and training activities.
6. What major challenges and constraints do you face particularly while working with women groups? (b) How has this influenced the impact of women groups in Kajiado North Sub County?
7. What opportunities are there for women groups to effectively engage in their activities and realize their objectives as well as contributing to the empowerment of community?

APPENDIX IV: TABLE OF RANDOM NUMBERS

TABLE 1 - RANDOM DIGITS

11164	36318	75061	37674	26320	75100	10431	20418	19228	91792
21215	91791	76831	58678	87054	31687	93205	43685	19732	08468
10438	44482	66558	37649	08882	90870	12462	41810	01806	02977
36792	26236	33266	66583	60881	97395	20461	36742	02852	50564
73944	04773	12032	51414	82384	38370	00249	80709	72605	67497
49563	12872	14063	93104	78483	72717	68714	18048	25005	04151
64208	48237	41701	73117	33242	42314	83049	21933	92813	04763
51486	72875	38605	29341	80749	80151	33835	52602	79147	08868
99756	26360	64516	17971	48478	09610	04638	17141	09227	10606
71325	55217	13015	72907	00431	45117	33827	92873	02953	85474
65285	97198	12138	53010	94601	15838	16805	61004	43516	17020
17264	57327	38224	29301	31381	38109	34976	65692	98566	29550
95639	99754	31199	92558	68368	04985	51092	37780	40261	14479
61555	76404	86210	11808	12841	45147	97438	60022	12645	62000
78137	98768	04689	87130	79225	08153	84967	64539	79493	74917
62490	99215	84987	28759	19177	14733	24550	28067	68894	38490
24216	63444	21283	07044	92729	37284	13211	37485	10415	36457
16975	95428	33226	55903	31605	43817	22250	03918	46999	98501
59138	39542	71168	57609	91510	77904	74244	50940	31553	62562
29478	59652	50414	31966	87912	87154	12944	49862	96566	48825
96155	95009	27429	72918	08457	78134	48407	26061	58754	05326
29621	66583	62966	12468	20245	14015	04014	35713	03980	03024
12639	75291	71020	17265	41598	64074	64629	63293	53307	48766
14544	37134	54714	02401	63228	26831	19386	15457	17999	18306
83403	88827	09834	11333	68431	31706	26652	04711	34593	22561
67642	05204	30697	44806	96989	68403	85621	45556	35434	09532
64041	99011	14610	40273	09482	62864	01573	82274	81446	32477
17048	94523	97444	59904	16936	39384	97551	09620	63932	03091
93039	89416	52795	10631	09728	68202	20963	02477	55494	39563
82244	34392	96607	17220	51984	10753	76272	50985	97593	34320
96990	55244	70693	25255	40029	23289	48819	07159	60172	81697
09119	74803	97303	88701	51380	73143	98251	78635	27556	20712
57666	41204	47589	78364	38266	94393	70713	53388	79865	92069
46492	61594	26729	58272	81754	14648	77210	12923	53712	87771
08433	19172	08320	20839	13715	10597	17234	39355	74816	03363
10011	75004	86054	41190	10061	19660	03500	68412	57812	57929
92420	65431	16530	05547	10683	88102	30176	84750	10115	69220
35542	55865	07304	47010	43233	57022	52161	82976	47981	46588
86595	26247	18552	29491	33712	32285	64844	69395	41387	87195
72115	34985	58036	99137	47482	06204	24138	24272	16196	04393
07428	58863	96023	88936	51343	70958	96768	74317	27176	29600
35379	27922	28906	55013	26937	48174	04197	36074	65315	12537
10982	22807	10920	26299	23593	64629	57801	10437	43965	15344
90127	33341	77806	12446	15444	49244	47277	11346	15884	28131
63002	12990	23510	68774	48983	20481	59815	67248	17076	78910
40779	86382	48454	65269	91239	45989	45389	54847	77919	41105
43216	12608	18167	84631	94058	82458	15139	76856	86019	47928
96167	64375	74108	93643	09204	98855	59051	56492	11933	64958
70975	62693	35684	72607	23026	37004	32989	24843	01128	74658
85812	61875	23570	75754	29090	40264	80399	47254	40135	69916

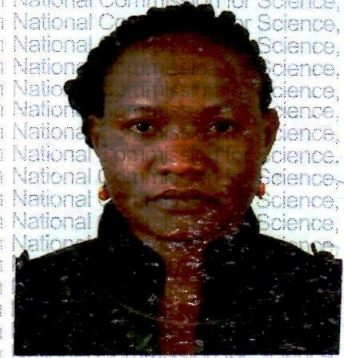
APPENDIX V: RESEARCH PERMIT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

MS. ROSE ACHIENG AKENO
of UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, 0-502
nairobi, has been permitted to conduct
research in Kajiado County

Permit No : NACOSTI/P/16/68767/140
Date Of Issue : 11th October,2016
Fee Received :ksh 1000

on the topic: THE INFLUENCE OF
WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN GROUP
ACTIVITIES ON THE EMPOWERMENT OF
COMMUNITIES: A CASE OF KAJIADO
NORTH SUB COUNTY
for the period ending:
11th October,2017



[Signature]
Applicant's
Signature

[Signature]
Director General
National Commission for Science
Technology & Innovation

CONDITIONS

- 1. You must report to the County Commissioner and the County Education Officer of the area before embarking on your research. Failure to do that may lead to the cancellation of your permit.**
- 2. Government Officer will not be interviewed without prior appointment.**
- 3. No questionnaire will be used unless it has been approved.**
- 4. Excavation, filming and collection of biological specimens are subject to further permission from the relevant Government Ministries.**
- 5. You are required to submit at least two(2) hard copies and one (1) soft copy of your final report.**
- 6. The Government of Kenya reserves the right to modify the conditions of this permit including its cancellation without notice**



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



National Commission for Science,
Technology and Innovation
RESEACH CLEARANCE
PERMIT

Serial No.A 11239

CONDITIONS: see back page

APPENDIX VI: AUTHORIZATION LETTER



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES
NAIROBI EXTRA-MURAL CENTRE

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Telephone: 318262 Ext. 120

Main Campus
Gandhi Wing, Ground Floor
P.O. Box 30197
N A I R O B I

30th September 2016

REF: UON/CEES/NEMC/24/280


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

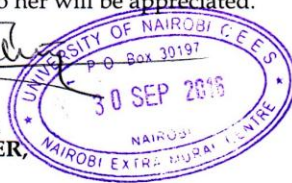
RE: ROSE ACHIENG' AKENO - REG NO L50/61945/2013

This is to confirm that the above named is a student at the University of Nairobi, College of Education and External Studies, School of Continuing and Distance Education, Department of Extra- Mural Studies pursuing Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management.

She is proceeding for research entitled "influence of women participation in group activities on the empowerment of communities." A case of Kajiado North Sub County.

Any assistance given to her will be appreciated.


DR. JOHN MBUGUA
RESIDENT LECTURER,
NAIROBI EMC



APPENDIX VII: SPSS SCREEN SHOT

The screenshot displays the IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor interface. A 'Linear Regression' dialog box is open, showing the following configuration:

- Dependent:** increased purchas...
- Block 1 of 1 Independent(s):** increased purchasing po..., political participation [q3], environmental conservati...
- Method:** Enter
- Selection Variable:** (empty)
- Case Labels:** (empty)
- WLS Weight:** (empty)

The background shows a data editor window with a table of data. The table has columns for 'q5' and 'q1' and rows numbered 19 to 30. The 'q1' column contains values 1 or 2, and the 'q5' column contains values 1 or 2.

	q1	q5
19	1	1
20	1	1
21	1	1
22	1	1
23	1	1
24	1	1
25	1	1
26	2	2
27	2	2
28	2	2
29	2	2
30	2	2