

**EFFECTS OF MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAMS ON WOMEN ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT: A CASE OF KAJIADO NORTH SUB-COUNTY (2005-2018)**

**BY  
KIUNGA CANDY MAKENA**

**SUPERVISOR:  
DR SOLOMON OWUOCHE**

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IN  
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF  
MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**2019**

## DECLARATION

This project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

---

Kiunga Candy Makena

C50/81510/2015

---

Date

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

---

Dr. Solomon Owuoché

---

Date

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my parents Thomson Kiunga and Dorcas Jebet Kiunga.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to thank the Almighty God for His Grace throughout my study, as well as His providence without which I couldn't have reached this far. I am grateful for the support of my supervisor Dr. Solomon Owuoche, whose inspirations, insights and patience have been invaluable. Special thanks to the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. I am indebted to the people of Ongata Rongai, Kajiado North Sub-County.

My siblings, Edna, Purity, Benjamin, Ruth, Mercy, Moses and Chelsea, your prayers and inspiration motivated me to wind up this degree.

I also wish to extend gratitude to my colleagues in the department. Their criticism played a key role in shaping the foundation of this study. However, I do take full responsibility of the imperfections in this work.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .....	ii
DEDICATION .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES .....	viii
ACRONYMS .....	x
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Research Problem .....	3
1.3 Research Questions .....	4
1.3.1 Specific questions .....	4
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.4.1 Specific objectives .....	5
1.5 Justification of the Study .....	5
1.5.1 Academic Justification.....	5
1.5.2 Policy Makers .....	6
1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study .....	6
1.7. Operational definition of key concepts .....	6
1.7.1 Micro-credit programs .....	6
CHAPTER TWO .....	8
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	8
2.1 Introduction.....	8
2.1.1 The Emergence of Microfinance in Kenya.....	8
2.1.2 The Relationship between Microcredit Programs and Women Economic Empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County .....	9
2.1.3 Microcredit Programs on the Performance of Women Micro-businesses .....	12
2.2 Theoretical framework.....	14
2.2.1 Discovery Theory.....	14

2.2.2 Feminist Theory .....	15
2.3 Knowledge Gap .....	17
2.4 Research Hypothesis.....	19
CHAPTER THREE .....	20
METHODOLOGY .....	20
3.1 Introduction.....	20
3.2 Research Approach.....	20
3.3 Research Design.....	20
3.4 The Study Area .....	21
3.5 Target/Study population.....	21
3.6 Sampling Technique .....	22
3.7 Data Collection Methods and Instruments.....	23
3.8 Data Analysis and Processing.....	23
3.9 Ethical Considerations .....	24
CHAPTER FOUR.....	25
FINDINGS, DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION.....	25
4.1 Introduction.....	25
4.2 Presentation of Findings .....	25
4.2.1 Demographic Information.....	26
4.3 Analysis on small-scale women vendors .....	28
4.4 Discussion on impact of Microcredit programs on women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub- County .....	29
4.4.1 Changes in Micro-credit programs .....	29
4.4.2 Impact of Kenya women Finance Trust on women economic empowerment.....	32
4.5 Micro-finance intervention .....	34
4.5.1 Feminization of Poverty.....	38
4.6 How microcredit programs have impacted women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County .....	39
4.6.1 Microcredit Programs and Income.....	39
4.6.2 Empowering Women through Sustainable Investments .....	40

4.7 Discussion of Results .....	41
4.7.1 Link to Theory .....	41
4.8 Summary of the Chapter .....	42
CHAPTER FIVE .....	43
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	43
5.1 Introduction.....	43
5.2 Summary of Findings.....	43
5.2.1 How microcredit programs have impacted on the performance of women microbusinesses .....	43
5.2.2 Relationship between Microcredit and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County .....	44
5.2.3 Challenges and opportunities encountered by small-scale women vendors from Microcredit Programs .....	44
5.3 Conclusion .....	45
5.4 Recommendations.....	45
5.4.1 Recommendation to the Microfinance Institution .....	45
5.4.2 Recommendation to the National Government.....	46
REFERENCES .....	47
APPENDICES .....	i
Appendix I: Questionnaire.....	i
APPENDIX II.....	vi
Interview Guide: Key Informant Interview .....	vi
Appendix III: NACOSTI Research Permit.....	vii

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1 Gender of the respondents .....	26
Table 4.2 Membership in Microfinance institution .....	28



## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 4.1 Duration in Business.....	27
Fig 4.2 Access to information in relation to micro-credit programs.....	29
Fig 4.3 Coping with changes in micro-credit programs .....	30
Fig 4.4 Ability to pay loans.....	31
Fig 4.5 KWFT Membership.....	32
Fig 4.6 KWFT number of loans .....	33
Fig 4.7 Investments in research on women economic empowerment .....	34
Fig 4.8 Microfinance institutions offers training on women economic empowerment .....	35
Fig 4.9 Microfinance Institution offers training on savings to small-scale vendors.....	36
Fig 4.10 Microfinance institutions offers cheap loan rates to the small-scale women vendors .....	37

## ACRONYMS

<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AWE</b>	African Women Entrepreneurs
<b>CoK</b>	Constitution of Kenya
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>GDI</b>	Gender Development Index
<b>GEM</b>	Gender Empowerment Measure
<b>GoK</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>KWFT</b>	Kenya Women Finance Trust
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organizations
<b>MF</b>	Microfinance Institution
<b>MFIs</b>	Monetary Financial Institutions
<b>SAPs</b>	Structural Adjustments Programs
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDG</b>	United National Development Goals
<b>WEEC</b>	Women Economic Empowerment Consort

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The empowerment of women is crucial as well as essential in economic development. In third world economies, women with little earnings remain victims of suppression as well as abuse in the society. On the other hand, their equals in advanced economies are targets of financial lending discrimination and hence it has been argued that lending to women may help enable them be economically stable Bennet and Goldberg (1993). Over the ages, women economic empowerment has been a crucial factor because women are seen to be the instruments for change and development in the society. Hence, the heightened interest in gender dimension of these microcredit institutions drives from the fact that empowering women may be of benefit to the society.

Globally and regionally, the conferences, seminars and workshops, main discussion has been about the relationship of women and microcredit institutions. Various scholars argue that microcredit programs have had significant impact on women economic development in a nation at large and they have therefore insisted on the growth of these microbusinesses. Hence, we can clearly argue that all societies need to put much emphasis in women economic empowerment and be able to enable these women afford basic needs. Women should also be involved in matters pertaining the family and in the community at large. In Africa, Meyer (1992) argues that development processes have always locked out women in society; therefore, this has had a major setback for the society because they are unable to utilize fully its human resource capabilities and potentials.

In (1974), the United Nations General Assembly came to an agreement that women need to be integrated into the society and their necessities should be at the forefront in regards to development agenda, as this will help in promoting their economic empowerment. In Third World Countries, the state in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations have over the year's implemented micro-credit programs, which are aimed at empowering women economically. In Kenya, the government has put in place various institutions and collaborated with various private sector players, in efforts of empowering women economically. In addition, the African Development Bank (AfDB) over the ages has played a crucial role in ensuring that needs of African women are

attended to in their microbusinesses. Empowering women economically is of great importance and milestone for development in areas such as poverty reduction and economic development.

African Development Bank in efforts of women economic empowerment began a program, which involved publishing a book and movie production on the subject: “Enhancing Development in Africa – African Women in Business”. The main aim of the initiative was on women microbusinesses in the market place. In addition, International Labour Organization in conjunction with African Development Bank during their workshop held in Addis Ababa on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 about African Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) joined hands and decided to come up with programs that will help in empowering women economically through boosting their microbusinesses. This will mainly focus on countries like Kenya, where the bank has established extensive roots. African Development Bank in conjunction with International Labour Organization over the period has had great impact on very small and medium enterprises owned by women, as they have provided financial support in steering their growth. In Kenya, ILO carried out a research and came up with a report that would enable them know what ways to push Kenya’s women economic growth and how to empower them in their current environment (Gakure, 2003).

In (2010), The Constitution of Kenya (CoK) recognized that women are among the marginalized groups and over the years, they lacked equal shield and advantage of the law. Hence, women have suffered political marginalization as well as deprived of rights to participate effectively in the public matters of the Republic of Kenya and that both appointive and elective body across the whole scale of public sector, women constitute less than one third of the elected or appointed persons. The Constitution of Kenya (CoK), 2010, addressed the gender imbalance this led to the passing of the two-thirds gender rule law in Kenya (CoK, 2010), and women therefore were incorporated in the development process in the country and it was a stepping-stone for change in women economic status.

The Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT) is the leading microfinance in Kenya and a major important institution in the delivery of micro-credit to women. The loan lending process is grounded on a mutual agreement system. KWFT provides different types of loans to women in order to empower them. Firstly, Biashara loans aim is to boost women who run microbusiness and

this enables them to have accessibility to affordable financial services. The advantage for Biashara loans is that they are able to create employment for their own consumption hence reducing rural-urban migration. Secondly, Mwangaza loans on the other hand enable macro businesses persons to access affordable financial services.

The Women Economic Empowerment Consort (WEEC) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) aiming the ordinary small-scale women vendors mainly in Kajiado district in Rift Valley Province. It empowers disadvantaged women but also those who are driven to develop their means of support through investments, credit exercise and material dissemination. WEEC rallies clusters of women entrepreneurs running microbusinesses, offers monetary facilities, encourages private enterprise as well as leadership abilities among its affiliates, distributes data significant to elevating womanhood social and economic status as well as builds capacity of womanhood clusters to efficiently achieve circulation of funds (Stevenson & St-Onge, 2005).

## **1.2 Statement of the Research Problem**

Women's participation in development processes have always been limited by traditional beliefs and this has always been a hindrance for them to access resources for which has always been a challenge on economic empowerment especially in Third-World countries. The assumption has always been that women should be economically stable in order for them to have an impact in economic development. Hence, in order for this to happen, credit needs to be easily available for them, this will enable them to finance their microbusinesses. Therefore, in regards to this, various governments in collaborations with other stakeholders have implemented a number of policies and their main objective is to help women have easy access of funds that would enable them expand their businesses.

This study therefore intends to establish whether there is a relationship between microcredit programs, and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County. The study will also establish whether this relationship between micro-credit programs and women economic empowerment is negative or positive in nature, that is, does it enhance or negate women economic empowerment especially in informal settlement like Kware slums in Ongata Rongai.

For this reason, the Kware population being the biggest slum in Ongata Rongai, which constitute the highest population of women in Kajiado North Sub-County, do not have the capacity to access the micro-credit institutions because they cannot make significant income from their micro-businesses. On the other hand, they do not have measures in place that will enable them acquire more profit from their small-scale businesses. One of this reason being the challenges that these women encounter before acquiring loans to expand their businesses. This study sought to analyze further on what informs women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County. More specifically, the study seeks to analyze and assess how and why micro-credit institutions prefer certain group of women as opposed to the small-scale vendors operating in Soko Mjinga market in Ongata Rongai.

This called forth for explanations on how micro-credit programs have influenced women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County. It's against this background that the study investigates the impact of micro-credit programs and women economic empowerment; The case of Kajiado North Sub-County.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The overall research question for the study was to investigate the relationship between Micro-credit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-county.

#### **1.3.1 Specific questions**

- i. What was the relationship between Microcredit and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County?
- ii. How have microcredit programs influenced the performance of women microbusinesses?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to investigate the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-county.

### **1.4.1 Specific objectives**

- i. To examine the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-county.
- ii. To investigate how microcredit programs influenced the performance of women micro-businesses in Kajiado North Sub-County.

## **1.5 Justification of the Study**

### **1.5.1 Academic Justification**

Previous studies have indeed addressed the impact of microcredit programs on women economic empowerment. Focus was directed to state-led women economic empowerment organizations whereby there has been mismanagement of funds, which has had negative impact on improving women's economic status in Kajiado North Sub-County. As such, there was little reliable data on women economic empowerment in this area and in developing countries. In, the developed countries such data was only available for recent years (Kinnear, 2011). This has in turn contributed to lack of awareness on the influence of women economic empowerment initiatives. There was an agreement that these women who are to benefit from these various organizations continue facing economic challenges and living in poverty even with the high income accrued by them from various funding institutions across the globe.

The recent researches depicts the status of women empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County but offers vague explanation for the situation. There has not been significant focus on why the state and private organization has failed to release potential organizations in such areas with high and capable hardworking women in areas such as the Matanyioko women group (Studies, 2003).

This study was useful in examining the place of women in the society and specifically indigenous communities in the process of implementing various programs based on women economic empowerment. (CoK, 2010) Classifies women as being part of the marginalized group in the society. Kajiado North Sub-County like many other areas inhabited by the Maasai is still one of the areas where women have not been recognized as important and they have no voice of their own. There has never been a clear boundary that defines the women role in the society. The regulatory framework about women economic empowerment was clearly a grey area that required

detailed investigation. Secondly, this area had received minimal attention from researchers. The analytical generalizations arrived at in this study was useful in the development of strategies and programs for socio-economic development of the region.

### **1.5.2 Policy Makers**

The study was useful for the County Government of Kajiado in a number of ways. One, the findings will inform policy-making processes geared towards women economic empowerment and also lay ground for a benefit sharing model to regulate the relations between the County Government of Kajiado, the players in the empowerment sector and the women population in Kajiado North Sub-County. Thirdly, this study has examined the influence of micro-credit programs on women financial enablement, which tends to arrive at exactly what hinders women economic empowerment. To this end, policy makers will use the findings presented herein to design alternative models of communal resource extraction to achieve sustainable development.

## **1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

Main principal focus of this study was microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County. The research sought after the influence, which microcredit programs had on financial enabling of women, the ownership of microenterprises, regulation and credit acquisition of women funds, and the relationship between the actors in this industry. Therefore, availability and reliability of data in the domain of the social sciences was a perennial problem that a researcher carrying out an empirical study was concerned. In lieu of this fact, this study strived to minimize the impact of this problem throughout the data collection stage by adopting a multifaceted approach to data collection, which involved employing more than two data collection methods in order to effectively triangulate the data collected as well as fill in gaps left by the other methods. Another challenge was that posed by the study itself.

## **1.7. Operational definition of key concepts**

### **1.7.1 Micro-credit programs**

Gup (2003) states that micro-credit is a program designed to give loans to needy people mainly women in this case and its main aim is to allow them to generate income and be self-employed. This is important for women because it will meet their families' necessity. Microcredit therefore is simply granting loans to entrepreneurs who are dispossessed to qualify for conventional big



loans from banks. This study, “micro-credit programs” refer to those quick and soft loans whose access excludes people who have access to assets that they can trade in exchange of loans. The argument is that these institutions give credit to poor people (namely women) who are disadvantaged for they cannot easily access loans from the main stream banks and credit institutions like Kenya Women Micro-Finance Trust (KWFT), Choice Microfinance Bank, Unaitas Sacco Society Limited and African Women in Business program through Africa Development Bank.

### **1.7.2 Women Economic Empowerment**

Stromquist (2002) defines women economic empowerment as the ability of women being able to get involved in activities that generates income that will lead to financial independence and women sustainability in the community. According to Divya (2010) women, economic empowerment is whereby women have resources like material, human, intellectual knowhow, information and financial resources under their control. In addition, this means that they are able to have access to resources like money and be able to make critical decision at the family level and in society at large and this is also a stepping stone in gaining power (Retta Guy, 2012).

In this study, women economic empowerment will therefore denote increase in income, sustainability and education level of Kware women in Ongata Rongai.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter is divided in such a way that existing literature is reviewed at three major levels; the global level, regional level and the local level. The literature review is done in strict relevance to the problem, the research questions and the set objectives. The literature review is under three categories of; the emergence of microfinance in Kenya, the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado north sub-county, microcredit programs on the performance of women micro-businesses ecological followed by the theoretical framework.

##### **2.1.1 The Emergence of Microfinance in Kenya**

In Kenya, microfinance institutions are relatively new with most of them having started about 20 years ago. The Government of Kenya over the years has indirectly supported the microfinance sector through implementation of Structural Adjustments Program, which has given rise to the liberalization of the economy. The Government of Kenya identified areas that needed exterior support comprising small-scale and micro enterprises in order to encounter initial negative social impacts of liberalization. One of the major challenges encountered by the entrepreneurial development was lack of access to credit.

The GoK policy was not ambiguous as it is argued that the GoK wanted to endorse the small-scale enterprise area as a way of hastening economic growth and generating employment activities. Therefore, the small-scale as well as enterprise sector is seen as an engine of financial development, as opposed to social security net for micro-entrepreneurs to make a living.

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) In Kenya, Kenya Rural Enterprise Program (K-REP) is considered as the forerunner of the NGO microfinance sector. Through its experimental and financing activities, K-REP has managed to influence the outreach modalities and outreach of relatively some other NGO-MFAs and formed the assistance given by Dutch CFAs to microfinance programs.

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) In 1984, through USAID support, K-REP was designed as a transitional NGO to provide credit and technical assistance to other NGOs in Kenya. Due to the problems of assessing the cost for non-financial services that led to issues facing the monetary sustainability of the institution, in 1920, K-REP recognized a potential danger in combining the provision of financial services that is loans and deposits with non-financial services that is training and technical assistance. Hence, the organization adopted understated method that is credits deprived of training or technical assistance. This was to offer commercial facilities to existing entrepreneurs, and not the people that could not be trained to become an entrepreneur.

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) This approach resulted to embracing of business-oriented method as opposed to the incorporated method, in which monetary provision was only a minor and often ill-defined part of a wide range of programs and services. K-REP was driven by the motivation of self-sustainability to reduce the number of NGOs it supported in Kenya from twelve to five and KWFT was one of the beneficiaries. The five NGOs were all promoted to the simple approach.

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) Due to the pioneering and supportive roles of K-REP, as well as donors much appreciating NGOs, imitating the Grameen Bank Approach, Kenya witnessed the emergence of quite a number of NGO microfinance agencies in the 1990s. Using the adapted version of the Grameen Bank group-lending model and it can therefore be said that Kenya grew as the Bangladesh of Africa.

### **2.1.2 The Relationship between Microcredit Programs and Women Economic Empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County**

(Jan Luiten van Zanden, 2017) States that Professor Yunus during his research on the lives of poor entrepreneurs in Bangladesh led to the invention of Micro-credit; this was during the famine of 1974. He began lending credit to small groups of women an equivalent of thirty to forty-two-basket weavers to help them purchase bamboo. Upon the advice of banks and government, he carried on giving out micro-loans and in 1983 formed the Grameen Bank. The program proved that small loans could not only quickly improve lives of poor people, but they were paid with interest and on time. By 1997, there were 1.8 million poor borrowers in 22,000 out of 68,000 villages in Bangladesh with 830 million credits worth every month. Microcredit is now acknowledged as a possible instrument for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of the rural poor,

particularly women in developing countries. There are many cases where it has proved to be a profitable business also for the microcredit institutions and the world over.

(Kabeer, 2001) argues that some assessments paint an optimistic image of the influence of microcredit programs on women's lives. (Mayoux, 2000) states that, access to savings and loans can initiate as well as strengthen a series of interwoven and equally reinforcing good spiral of empowerment. To begin with, women can use savings and credit in their microbusinesses and in return increase their income levels, resources and control over these incomes and resources. Active women loans had higher consumption standards and a role in household decision-making through joint subscriptions with the husband or on their own compared to passive loans (Rahman, 1986).

Together in turn had considerably developed consumption standards and were more likely to participate in family decision-making as compared to women from male loans household. In addition, families who had not received credit. Correspondingly, Self-help individuals through microcredit have a significant part in reducing the exposure of underprivileged by producing resources, income and consumption levelling, providing backup support, and enabling and making women self-confident by giving them control over assets and increased self-esteem and knowledge (Zaman 2001).

(David Hulme, 2009) Argues the poorest women who are unemployed and also lack assets like pieces of land makes them become entrepreneurs running small microbusinesses to be empowered and have sustainability in their livelihoods. Due to unemployment and assets, the poorest population of women are unable to get loans that steer their growth. Most commercial banks and nonbanks need security from these women in order for them to be given credits. These women therefore opted to form Small Help Groups, which has been a means for them to be able to come as a group and buy assets with the help given by microfinance institutions. Advantages of SHG is that these women are given loans that acts as a security (Hummel, 2011).

This was an excellent move because both parties that is the Small Help Groups and the lending institutions benefited. The poor are able to be financially independent and have self-support. For the commercial institutions, they enjoy the aspect of redistribution principles (Mosely and Hulme,

1998). Women have always been discriminated at both their family level and commercial and nonbank institutions and this led Micro-credit schemes targeting this particular group of the population. Through these microcredit schemes, women are provided with loans that help them integrate with the society (Amin, Becker and Bayes, 1998; Kabeer, 2000).

Etling (2014) argues that microcredit programs has ensured that women have access to credit facilities, which have therefore enabled them, be economically empowered, and this has contributed to financial freedom in their families and society. Microcredit programs therefore boosts these women's self-image, dominance and make them aware on the benefits offered by the microcredit institutions.

Microcredit programs help women expand their microbusinesses and through these businesses, they become economically empowered and be in control over their activities. It has been argued that having control and being economically empowered stems from being involved with positive income generating activities. However, research indicates that this assumption may not always hold true and that self-satisfaction can lead MFIs to overlook both prospects to empower women more greatly and failures in empowerment (Dorothy H. Ettlign, 2014).

Hulme (2009) states that the main goal of micro-credit programs is ensuring that women are economically empowered. The aim of introducing microcredit programs is to uplift women's living conditions, and ensuring that they have access to necessities for their household. In addition, they are able to expand their businesses and create employments through the help they get from these microfinance institutions (David Hulme, 2009). These programs main advantage is that they introduce these women to the banking system. Hence, through the profits they make, they become integrated into the formal financial systems, which strengthen their economic growth. Moreover, the credits enable these women in making critical and informed decisions in regards to credits approval and improving on the quality of their products and services produced (Kola, 2017).

Grootaert (2002) argues that women through microcredit programs are empowered and strengthened economically, this increases their income, and they are able to contribute to their household. In addition, these programs increase their livelihood and efficiency and helps these

women create their character sovereign of the household, it also gives the women skills and self-confidence in the society (Christiaan Grootaert, 2002).

In addition, Mayoux (2001) states that microfinance institutions have brought out greater access to income. This is due to easy accessibility to microcredit and trainings on income management. This has increased assets that bought due to easy access of funds and the increased welfare on food security, housing and health as indicated by many research. Women having difficulty in accessing credit and lacking training has been a major challenge for them to venture into business (Islam, 2016). On the other hand, lack of purchasing powers, management skills physical infrastructure and seed capital has also been a major hindrance for them to be empowered economically especially in informal settlements like Kware slums (Millicent Lownes-Jackson, *The Economic Empowerment of Women: A Global Perspective*).

Women economic empowerment is triggered by their economic participation in income generating activities. Effects of economic participation acts like a catalyst in rising household income, which leads to more equal human development in both gender. This reduces the gender disparities between the male and the female species and their participation is crucial in increase of national output (P.J, 2009). The need for empowering women economically was an important component for development; however, there is no clear argument that indebtedness is effective tool for development. On the other hand, indebtedness has disadvantages in that it is a hindrance to these women simply because it creates liability, like regular repayments and interest that have resulted to higher demands (Sweetman, 2004). The contribution by women to their households and also have access to credit are seen to be essential but they are also insufficient for their economic empowerment. Hence, the above factors reinforce each other mutually (Bateman, 2011).

### **2.1.3 Microcredit Programs on the Performance of Women Micro-businesses**

Literature on the credibility of microcredit programs is of the view that being poor and female with few initial endowments places the prospective participants in a particularly marginalized group, whereby one has very limited access to productive resources in the formal market. The state formation and consolidation process emerges because of the good outcome and balance achieved from strive of concerned parties in the society. However, during this period, there is a lot of

changes occurring both internally and externally. In this regard, the concerned parties in charge of the change and balance transition and other new parties emerge as well as societal invasion including institutional wise. These results in the erosion of the preceding equilibrium of the institutions, which effectively no longer respond to the prevailing institutional and geographical realities (Haase, 2013).

However, despite the progress achieved over the ages in improving the capabilities of these women, the challenges faced in areas like decision making, political and economic participation remains limited. Across the globe for instance, women experiencing inequalities in land ownership, property management and running their microbusinesses remains to be a challenge (Christabell, 2009).

The ideal of economic development, as conceptualized by Todaro and Smith, has in it three major aims. One can talk of development when there is increase in basic-life satisfying possessions such as foodstuff, housing, and wellbeing. Secondly, it aims at improving living standards by inducing higher incomes, expanding employment opportunities, providing better education and bringing to closer attention issues of human values. Thirdly, development objectifies an expansion in the series of socio-economic choices existing to both entities that is the individuals and the states (Todaro, M and Smith,S, 2012). Like Sen who sees development as freedom (Sen, 1999), Todaro and Smith also see it as emancipation from servitude, dependence, ignorance and misery.

Fernando (2004) argues that in developing countries for instance, opportunities for blue color kind of jobs are very limited and hence the huge gap of unemployment, vast majority of this population being stay at home women with no other work responsibilities aside from household chores who are unable to compete with the opposite gender. Therefore, quick accessibility of credit has enabled women to be able to start small businesses and they have been able to expand their businesses that have enabled them to improve their incomes, status and contributing to positive economic development (Fernando, 2004).

Microcredit programs over the years has rapidly spread in developing world and the trend of the same clearly seen in the African continent as much as the results of these interventions have been

mixed. For instance, Monetary Financial Institutions (MFIs) in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana has left a lot of loop holes of whether microfinance has been able to address the actual problems of African micro entrepreneurs and in this case the focus being on women or has it merely offered the illusion of quick fix (Trask, 2013).

Scholars also noted that microcredit programs were of great advantage to their target population if seen from the point where it reduces their chances of being left or abandoned by their husbands. For example, as noted by scholars, women who benefitted from microcredit programs felt that they were empowered economically which in return improved their livelihoods. Microcredit programs that steer women economic also as noted by the beneficiaries stated that their ability and integration to family matters increased and they also acquired power over their income. Through this empowerment, women's family welfare was greatly improved. Women economic empowerment programs clearly gives a vivid analysis on the importance of feminism and brings benefits to families and the community. The danger imposed by microcredit programs has led to domestic violence in various households, due to the bargaining power that women have acquired (OECD, 2013).

## **2.2 Theoretical framework**

### **2.2.1 Discovery Theory**

Shane (2003) argues that the discovery theory is one of the general theory of entrepreneurship. The discovery theory starts with the idea that individuals have preferences and choose according to those preferences. The main assumptions of this theory are that; first, opportunities have an objective component and they exist despite recognition of any individual. For instance, women who operate these microbusinesses can therefore acquire different characteristics and tap opportunities from the markets that they operate in hence they are able to understand the market or industry structure, which will enable them to anticipate the kinds of opportunities that exist in that industry (Shane, 2003).

Consolidating industries through exploitation of their economies of scale pauses as a main opportunity for fragmented industries as argued by Alvarez (2005). She further argues that since the characteristics of opportunities informs the value of the opportunities they create, the



understanding of these entrepreneurs' opportunities is paramount. Secondly, that these individuals must be unique in the field of entrepreneurship and these differences must manifest themselves, thus they must always be alert to existing opportunities. For women to be economically empowered, they have to be alert because it is the main attitude of alertness to availability in as much as other businesspersons in the marketplace overlook it (Alvarez, 2005).

Krizner argues that the tenet recognizes the aggressiveness by the business people in the marketplace, which is positively influenced by other persons who are keen to the changes that presents itself and leads to formation of new ideas, which they can tap. Women must therefore notice market imperfection, which must inspire new activity. Thirdly, that whereas the entrepreneurs are unique, they must have the ability to bear risk since this is one of the most necessary part of entrepreneurial process. Women must be able to acquire information at a lower cost compared to any actor, as this becomes a source of profit. (Alvarez, 2005). This theory is of great importance to understanding the role of microcredit programs and women economic empowerment, because the theory illustrates how tapping opportunities as it presents itself is of importance, how taking risks and being alert in the society helps in being economically empowered. In addition, the theory is of importance because it will mainly explore opportunities, unique characteristics and the risks that women in Kajiado North Sub-County encounter from the micro-credit programs/microfinance institutions in efforts of empowerment.

### **2.2.2 Feminist Theory**

The feminist theory origin was during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the main theorists behind it were Olympe de Gouges (1792) and Marry Wollstonecraft (1791). They were the first theorists who scientifically elaborated the plea for equal privileges as a theoretical framework. Kumarman Jayawardera (1986) also pointed out on various debates in regards to women rights and education, which surfaced in China in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and the movements for women social emancipation in India in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Lisa Jane Disch, 2016). In 1960s and 1970s, Feminism grew out of the feminist movement, which was devoted to attaining political, social and economic equality for women.

(John Baylis, 2011) There are different types of feminist theory namely; liberal, Marxist, socialist, post-colonial and post structural. The liberal feminists believe women subordination can be overcome by removing legal obstacles. On the other hand, Marxist and socialist feminists are rooted on the justifications of females' downgrading in the Labour market that offers better rewards and esteem for paid labor in the public sphere than for unpaid work in the household. Postcolonial and post structural feminists argue that we cannot make an over-generalization in regards to women. They argue that relegation is experienced in a different way simply because they are positioned in and amidst the social order subject to their class and race, as well as on their gender. They use masculinity and femininity as an important category of analysis.

The theory espouses the extent of inequality and oppressiveness and it states inequality has been the norm across the globe between the male and female gender. Globally and regionally, societies have always been assumed patriarchal in nature in that male dominance has always been the norm in social institutions, which has mainly affected the economy, political system, family and religion. Betty Friedan however criticized the idea of feminist theory and she stated that femininity was a path to personal fulfillment for women. She identified a draining feminine mystique, which had been sold to women by media, advertisers, therapists and sociologists, and it involved sexual inactiveness, recognition of male domination, key accountability for domestic labor and child nurturing and last but important delivery of motherly affection for both children and adult males (Donovan, 2012).

Adichie (2017) also argues that every woman should not solely define herself by motherhood, but should be a full person; it is not a path to personal fulfillment but rather knowing that no one is superior to the other. She argues that difference should be normal, in that, it should be human and practical knowing the differences in a clear manner; this is the stepping-stone to growth and a path to survival in this world (Adichie, 2017). Ngozi (2014) states that we should all be feminists in that we should all support the equality and let women rule. She argues that women have been perceived as dependents of men and that whatever a woman does, all the credit goes to the man in the picture.

Feminist theory enables the researcher use gender sensitive lenses in answering problems as to why women often play minor roles in the society. It also showed that equality could be achieved

by eliminating lawful hindrances that deny women equal opportunities as men. Feminist theory argues that the society must air more intensely at unequal gendered structures in order to understand women subordination. The relevance of this theory to the study lies in the fact that it helps in illustrating how gender equality has changed mishaps over the years and explain the benefits of gender equality has contributed to women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County.

### **2.3 Knowledge Gap**

Microcredit has been labelled as radical and a new prototype for development. The issue of microcredit programs leading to women economic empowerment has been a major question over the past years. Women are not gaining productive leeway's because it has been noted that there is a preference on loan consumption by the small-scale women vendors. (David Hulme, 2009). In addition, micro-credit programs still have a challenge in getting small-scale women vendors who have control over their lives and sense of independence in the society, thereby bypassing those most in need. The impact of micro-credit programs in the society is still explored, and tenets behind it are still coming up with different outcomes that are needed to improve the effectiveness of micro-credit on poverty alleviation and as result women, get empowered economically (Islam, 2016). There is varied suggestions with respect to the influence on women's position and their well-being. However, in regards to the efforts put in place by MIFs, the results on women economic empowerment has been found to be positive.

(Uddin, 2015) Moreover, other scholars have cited unintended negative results of microcredit. Firstly, domestic violence especially on women, secondly, negative influence from peers linked to loan repayment, and last but not least emotional stress of females due to family-related conflicts. The extent of women's empowerment is also unclear, (Sanja Bahun-Radunović, 2008) states that few scholars found that these initiatives have led to some form of authority over women, through the growth of new ladders of power. Over the past years, their partners used 60% of the loans borrowed. This hinders these women to become financially independent and despite the experiences from commercial bodies, they are not obtaining different position or command in the family. The disagreeing outcomes of micro-credit on women's position and well-being may be

ascribed in part to methodological variations. Some studies base their findings purely on numerical proof, while others rely on qualitative methods.

(Lomborg, 2018) United Nations Development Goals (UNDG) plugs out a measurable review may conclude an average lessening of violence, while ethnographic work may discover augmented violence inside certain families. Variance effects of credit schemes may also be linked to the type of problems being addressed, those studies which have found constructive effects frequently concentrated on results, whereas studies finding undesirable outcomes focused on processes. In addition, the underlying issues being addressed, such as autonomy and empowerment, are not always measured appropriately.

(Debra Bergoffen, 2010) Endorses a wide-ranging method, which comprises the contribution of female members in the assessment process, combined with theoretical transparency and validity of the fundamentals of research. A number of evidence of the influences of micro-credit in South East Asia has arisen from Bangladesh, where the micro-credit movement was coined. In particular, studies have focused on the larger and well-known schemes such as the Grameen Bank. However, there has been a variety of initiatives across the globe. The influence of microfinance on returns has been perceived to be variable. It seems that for the common debtors, returns increase are small and some cases negative. Women tend to be involved in microbusinesses that have low profit and insecure. Therefore, their ability to be economically empowered becomes a constraint. Hence, the assumption of credit access leading to women enablement is not regularly true. Most women have access to credit but the challenge has always been the issue of having control of the funds afterwards.

Various mishaps have arisen that these women encounter and includes poor access to information, inadequate resources, poor social networks that leads to challenges in having control and access to their resources. As previously stated, access to microfinance, largely, has a positive economic influence. The influence turns out to be more for those closer to the poverty line. These increases with the period of involvement and concentration of credits as members commence to invest in assets rather than consumption. Across the globe, microfinance delivery has upgraded the monetary situation of families, improving the asset base and broadening in to higher return livelihoods among members.

(Susan Johnson, 1997) According to the framework of women economic empowerment, a number of issues have hindered poverty reduction capacity. They include, firstly, the amounts unprofitable and less important loans. Secondly, market saturation leads to low products demand due to easy access to credit. This is because underprivileged womanhood typically participates in similar trades. Thirdly, intensification in the total number of school dropouts especially the girl child. The need to give support to their mothers. Women have a stake in the general financial attainment of the household. Nevertheless, in communities where policies affect women public movement the influences of microfinance on women are on the edge or even nonexistent. In addition, if women are able to have access and control above the credits borrowed and an opinion in decision-making, there will be either a negative or a positive influence from the microfinance institutions.

#### **2.4 Research Hypothesis**

Ho1: Reduced interest rates from microfinance institution leads to women economic empowerment.

Ho2: Increased market research leads to high growth of women economic empowerment.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section discusses how the study was conducted. It begins with a description of the research approach and the sampling design. Target population, which constitutes the sampling frame, the sample size, follows it and the sampling techniques adopted, are discussed. The section then delves into the type of data collected, the techniques and instruments of information gathering and data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Approach**

The researcher applied a mixed research approach. This approach allowed use of both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The design was appropriate because it provided the basis for evaluation of assumptions related to the discovery theory applied to strengthen or expand existing knowledge about micro-credit and women economic empowerment. It expands the existing knowledge by focusing specifically on women economic empowerment in an area that has not attracted much attention from researchers.

#### **3.3 Research Design**

The study adopted a longitudinal research design, which is an observational research method. This type of research is used to gather information for the same subjects repeatedly over a period. It enabled us collect data of the population that is the indigenous women from Kware running microbusinesses in “Soko Mjinga” for inferential purposes at specific point in time. Longitudinal research design was appropriate since the study was trying to collect data from small-scale women vendors with a goal of determining the status of these population concerning one or more variables. Longitudinal research design was best-suited method since the study wanted to establish the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County.

### **3.4 The Study Area**

Kajiado North Sub-County is located Kajiado County bordering Nairobi County. The entire area of the constituency is located in Olkejuado County Council. This research will focus on Ongata Rongai area to limit the scope and to enable a thorough investigation. The town, situated 17 km (10.6 miles) lies West on Ngong hills that is 1,731 meters (5,682 feet) above the sea level and South of Nairobi. Known locally as Rongai (Ronga), with approximately a population of 66,042 and its fast-growing community.

The study adopted this area because of its uniqueness in terms of having several Microfinance Institution as well as big number of marginalized group of women. Kware is one big slum which is a home for many mothers and children who are trying to sustain themselves. Most of these women run small scale businesses in Soko Mjinga where the environment is not conducive for trading. In addition, there is poor sanitation, and this makes it hard for these women to be able to sustain themselves and their households.

The study emphasized on women because Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), the county performs poorly due to cultural practices and beliefs which negatively impact on women development. The county GDI was estimated at 0.415 compared to the national level estimated at 0.492 in 2009.

### **3.5 Target/Study population**

The target population used the indigenous small-scale vendors of Ongata Rongai area. The study targeted small-scale women vendors of majority age (18 years) and above who have lived in this area for the past ten years or more. The reason the study targeted this age group was simply because they are familiar with the microcredit programs in Ongata Rongai. In addition, the main purpose was to achieve unbiased data to avoid getting inhabitants who may not have lived in the area for the past 10 years. The target respondents were the small-market vendors and key-informants in Micro-finance institutions. This was the major prerequisite of participants from whom data was collected.

The respondents included small-scale vendors from the informal settlement of Kware slums whose population is more than 300 persons but the study will target only (44). The research chose a big sample because they reproduce the salient characteristics of the accessible population to an acceptable degree. On the other hand, the study included key informants from MFs that included 2 professionals from Choice microfinance, 2 professionals from Unaitas Sacco Society Limited and 2 professionals from Kenya Women Finance Trust. The purpose of having 2 key informants per institution was because the study was interested in a particular information that was institution based, hence the information given by one key informant the results would be the same for it maybe policy based.

### **3.6 Sampling Technique**

The study-utilized non-probability sampling that is purposive sampling technique. Out of the 50 potential respondents who formed the study sample, 40 were selected on purposive sampling basis. This technique allowed the researcher to use cases that had the required information with respect to the objectives of the study. In addition, they formed critical sources of data without which this study would have been incomplete. Non-probability sampling was used to identify the key informants from the microfinance institutions. They included professionals from Choice microfinance, professionals from Unaitas Sacco Society Limited and professionals from Kenya Women Finance Trust. This helped in identifying the key individuals who were interviewed from the informal settlement like Kware slums in Ongata Rongai. The technique used to identify the key informants from the MFs institution was snowball-sampling technique in order for them to participate in interview. Snowball sampling refers to the method where initial subjects with the desired characteristics are identified using purposeful sampling technique. The inhabitants live in the informal settlement of Kware within and around the Soko Mjinga market. Women vendors were selected from the informal settlement of Kware and Soko Mjinga in Ongata Rongai.

In addition, the study used Key informant interviews on the microfinance institutions because it helped to collect information from the professionals who had first-hand knowledge about the women economic empowerment in the informal settlement like Kware slums in Ongata Rongai and its relationship with the microcredit programs. A sample size of 50 participants computed the study sample. The study population was largely homogenous and therefore, similar characteristics



were dominant and this made the sample typical of the larger population. In selecting this sample, other factors were considered in addition to the variability of population attributes. The time and financial resources dictated a relatively smaller sample. The geographical spread of the informal settlement of Kware in Ongata Rongai area and the dense population density of persons were also critical in determining the sample size.

### **3.7 Data Collection Methods and Instruments**

The study used structured questionnaires to conduct the research. These were necessary to capture data that was relevant to the objectives and the research questions appropriate to this study. Most questions were closed ended, there were a number of open-ended questions to capture opinions and views of the respondents. In addition, the questionnaire was structured using the five point Likert scale as it played a critical role in the statistical analysis of data from the women small-scale vendors.

Face-to-face interviews with key informants was also conducted and its importance was to ensure that all the respondents got the same context of questioning and received similar interview stimulus. These interviews were semi-structured and used an interview schedule. Using semi-structured interview allowed the researcher to ask further questions as follow up to significant replies. Other primary sources of data that were used include observation and open questions because this was essential in collecting detailed data and to incorporate firsthand information from the target population. The questionnaires were structured using the five point Likert scale, because this played a critical role in the statistical analysis of data from the small-scale vendors. Key informant interviews like focus group was another source of information, this was crucial as it allowed the researcher speak with individuals with firsthand knowledge from the microfinance institutions and how they are of impact to women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County.

### **3.8 Data Analysis and Processing**

After data collection, the researcher embarked on data processing. Preliminary activities included data editing to correct possible recording errors. The data was then categorized in line with the

independent and dependent variables, the research objectives and the research questions. These categories of data were then transformed into countable symbols and further data manipulation. This study applied descriptive and statistical data techniques of analysis. This was to analyse data related to demographic data of the respondents as well as the level of impact of microcredit programs on women economic empowerment. Data collected from semi-structured and structured questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive analysis.

Descriptive analysis was conducted on primary data to give the percentages. The data was then presented in figurative form from which inferences and interpretation made as regards to the relationship of the microcredit programs and women economic empowerment. The data collected from in-depth interviews was analyzed using content analysis. This approach was specifically chosen, as it aided the researcher in analyzing the qualitative data. Quantitative data was summarized with percentages. Descriptive narratives were used to summarize qualitative findings. Field notes and recorded audio were used to check authenticity of data collected. Further verification of information was validated with other sources to ascertain validity of the research findings.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

In collecting data from respondents for use in this research, the researcher adhered to the principle of informed consent from all respondents throughout the study. Confidentiality of the identities and records of respondents was also maintained whenever it was important for them to remain anonymous to avoid victimization, harassment and targeting.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **FINDINGS, DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter puts into perspective the breakdown of the data collected from small-scale women vendors running microbusinesses in Soko Mjinga, Kware in question through the questionnaires method. A summarized form of the results was done and their representation done using frequency figures, tables and percentages. The objective of the study was to establish whether there was a relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub- County.

A longitudinal research design was employed and data gathering done using a semi-structured questionnaire as an instrument of data collection. Purposive and snowball sampling technique was used to get the sample size needed. The study was conducted on the key professionals of micro-finance institutions from Choice microfinance, Unaitas Sacco Society Limited and Kenya Women Finance Trust Kenya in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado North Sub- county. The researcher targeted a sample size of 50 respondents based on their functional categories from which 35 filled in and returned the questionnaires making a response rate of 70%. This response rate is acceptable and conforms to Mugenda and Mugenda (Olive M. Mugenda, 1999) stipulation that a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 70% is good.

#### **4.2 Presentation of Findings**

The research specialized on women species in Ongata Rongai *Soko Mjinga* market because the aim of the study was to see whether there was a relationship between micro-credit institutions and women economic empowerment. However, the male species featured in the research were from the micro-credit institutions in Ongata Rongai- Kajiado North Sub County.

#### 4.2.1 Demographic Information

**Table 4.1 Gender of the respondents**

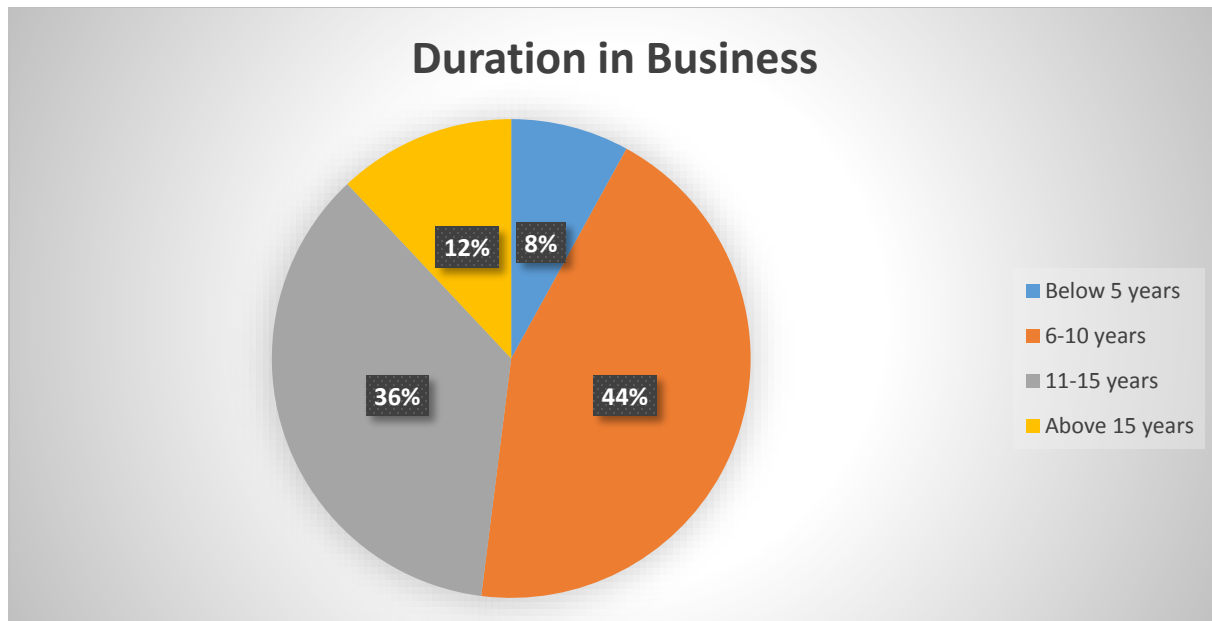
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	5	14
Female	30	86
Total	35	100

**Source: Field data (2018)**

In this study, the focus was on small-scale women vendors of Kajiado North Sub- County, and its main area of focus was Kware, Soko Mjinga market because the study focus was feminist in nature. Secondly, the small-scale women vendors are more in Soko Mjinga than men. It is in this skewed nature that also manifested itself in the selected sample but this did not in any way affect the representation of the study.

The study found it necessary to interview men, because the researcher was interested in a balanced study that captured the objective opinions found in women operational environment, therefore men balanced the study.

**Fig. 4.1 Duration in Business**



**Source: Field Data (2018)**

In figure 4.1 indicated most of the respondents in research have 6-10 years in experience in microbusiness. From these findings, it can be comprehended that most of the respondents to the research were conversant with the challenges and opportunities faced by small-scale vendors in Kajiado North Sub-County thus making the findings of the study to be reliable. One of the small-scale vendor clarified the issue during the interview. Some of the few challenges include, poor training, high interest rates, lack of adequate information regarding the MFs, illiteracy and finally yet importantly most of the women are single mothers hence the need of support by MFs.

“I have been in business for ten years, I have used the profit made to educate my two children, provide all our basic needs. It is not easy as a single woman to raise a family on your own. I have no otherwise but to persevere (Field Survey, 2018).”

### 4.3 Analysis on small-scale women vendors

**Table 4.2 Membership in Microfinance institution**

<b>Name of MFI</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Response in %</b>
Choice Microfinance	<b>12</b>	<b>48</b>
Kenya Women Finance Trust	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
Unaitas Sacco Society Limited	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>
Total	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Data (2018)**

From the above table, we can clearly state that most women prefer Choice microfinance as their preferred MF, accounting for the highest membership with 48%, followed by Unaitas Sacco Society Limited with 32% and Kenya Women Finance Trust with the least at 20%. Majority of the women stated that Choice Microfinance is driven by client focus. The only disadvantage from Choice Microfinance is that one needs to save at least for three months in order to get loans. They felt that it did not meet their immediate wants when it comes to credit facilities.

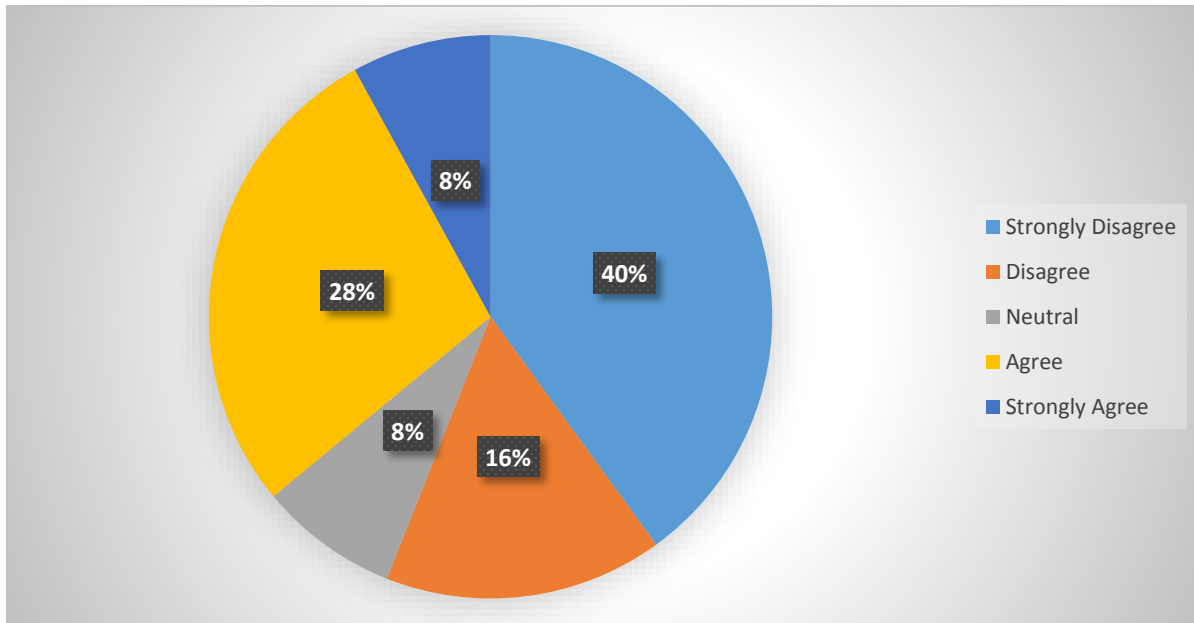
Unaitas Sacco Society Limited comes second with a frequency of eight and a percentage of 32. The small-scale vendors prefer saving with Unaitas as opposed to Choice Microfinance and KWFT. KWFT on the other hand had the least frequency due to the frustrations faced by small-scale vendors. The challenges listed includes, poor relations from the loan agents, destructions caused if one fails to pay their loans on time, high interest rates, and the fact that one must give a security worth 25,000 Kenyan Shillings accompanied by loan repayment processes and duration given.

The importance of knowing the small-scale vendor's membership to the various microfinance institution was crucial because it brought out the different processes offered by MIFs, the advantages and disadvantages of these MFs, and enabled the researcher to distinguish and clarify on the challenges and have a good analysis.

#### 4.4 Discussion on impact of Microcredit programs on women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub- County

##### 4.4.1 Changes in Micro-credit programs

Fig 4.2 Access to information in relation to micro-credit programs

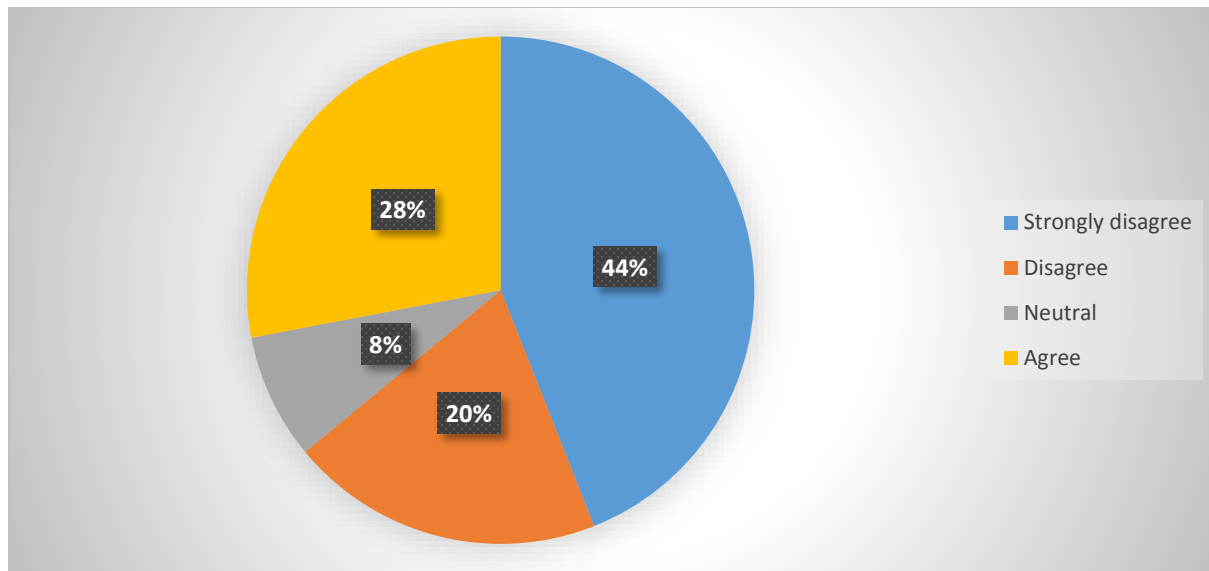


Source: Field Data (2018)

In figure 4.2, most of the small-scale vendors with a frequency of 40% strongly disagreed while 28% of the women agreed with the statement that they could easily access information related to changes on information related with microcredit programs. Most of the women who agreed to these statements belonged in a Chama because they have specific day of the week to visit the institution for updates in regard to their Chama (Author, 2018).

“We can hardly access information from the microfinance institution. The only people who benefit are those in groups who have different dates of appointments by the microfinance to know on the progress of their savings and loan repayments, and what changes have occurred in the course of time. As an individual, the treatment is different and hence we shun away (Field Survey, 2018).”

**Fig 4.3 Coping with changes in micro-credit programs**



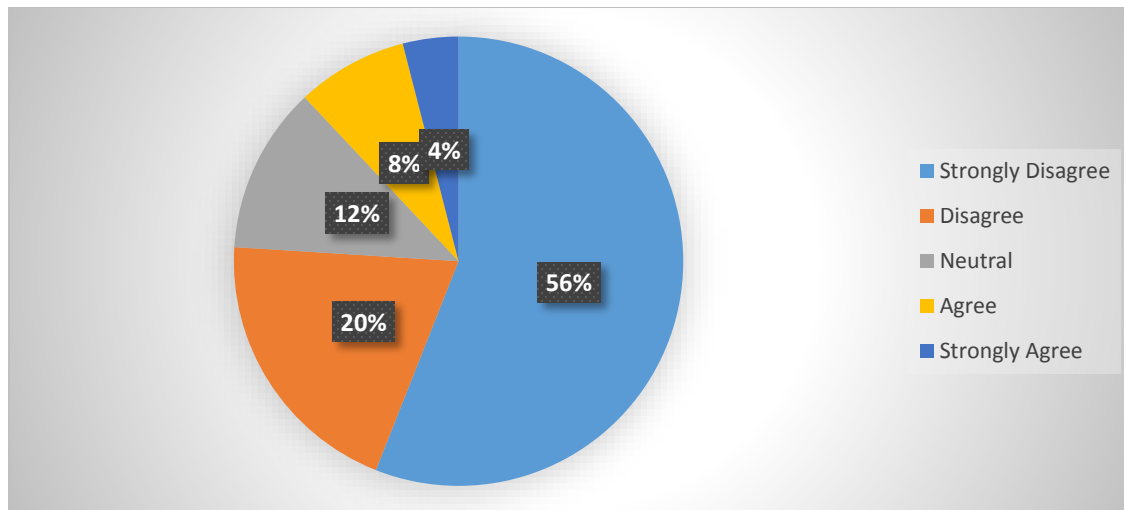
**Source: Field Data (2018)**

In figure 4.3, small-scale women vendors in Soko Mjinga with 44% and 28% strongly disagreed and agreed respectively on the notion that they could easily cope with the changes in the institutions of Microfinance. One of the small-scale vendor expounded on the statement as below: “Am unable to cope up with the changes because I dropped out of school when I was in Standard six. My only aim of opening a savings account is for me to be able to acquire loans to expand my business and run my family (Field Survey, 2018).”

Majority of the women relying on the micro-credit programs only used the programs to help them acquire loans to buy produce and goods, and to help them have sustainability in their small economies. Their drive is not on what changes occur in the micro-finance institutions.



**Fig 4.4 Ability to pay loans**



**Source: Field Data (2018)**

In this case, most of the respondents with 56% strongly disagreed that they were able to pay loans. They stated that the interest rates for Kenya Women Finance Trust were unbearable and the duration given to pay back the loans was unrealistic. In addition, the security paid in order to secure the loan is on the higher side putting in mind that they are small-scale women vendors and each coin matters. One of the small-scale vendor clarified the issue during an interview.

“KWFT *‘ni moto ya kuotea mbali’*, they have extremely high interest loan rates and if you are unable to pay, they will take every belonging and leave you with nothing. It is a challenge to be able to handle a situation whereby you are unable to pay the loans back on time (Field Survey, 2018).”

However, a few argued that Choice microfinance and Unaitas Sacco Society Limited had reasonable loan rates. The only challenge as argued by one of the customer care officers from Unaitas Sacco Society Limited was the aftermath of taking loans.

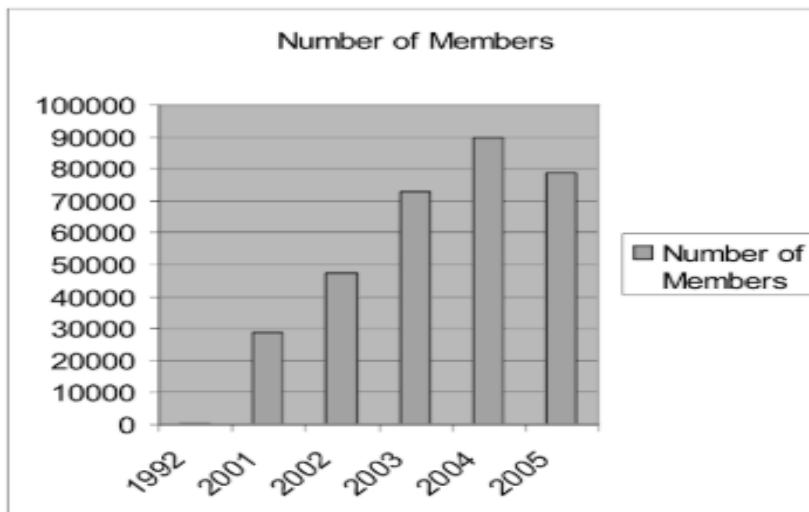
“Most of these women main agenda is to get finances for their microbusinesses. Once this achieved their goal, they ran without paying back their dues. This makes it hard to help them get empowered because they misuse the resources instead of putting them in to use (Field Survey, 2018).”

It can therefore be inferred that except by providing loans to the small-scale vendors, there was no any evidence of women economic empowerment linked to the microcredit programs within Kajiado North Sub-County.

#### 4.4.2 Impact of Kenya women Finance Trust on women economic empowerment

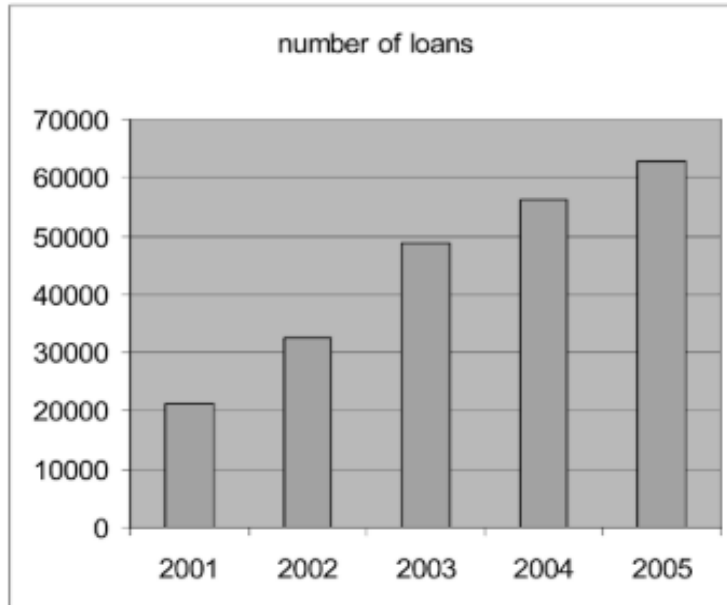
(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) In 1996, it was argued that KWFT was at its peak of generating internally sufficient income to cover all its program administration costs. The same year, it earned immense integrity with international donor organizations for DFID to give the trust 2.3 million US Dollars for it to implement its five-year organizational growth plan. The move sought to expand the active client base, standing at 6,800 in 1998 to 27,000 in 2002. In addition, the outstanding loan portfolio grew from 700,000 US dollars to 2,700,000 US Dollars. The move also sought to devolve the management and functioning undertakings to the district level in order to improve effectiveness in service delivery and increase out-reach to local communities. In 1996-2006, KWFT was fully established and was the leading MF, dedicated in serving women who did not have contact to acquire loans from commercial banks and extra formal financial institutions because of restricted access to security.

**Fig 4.5 KWFT Membership**



Source: KWFT (2005) annual report and accounts, p.31 and KWFT web site

**Fig 4.6 KWFT number of loans**



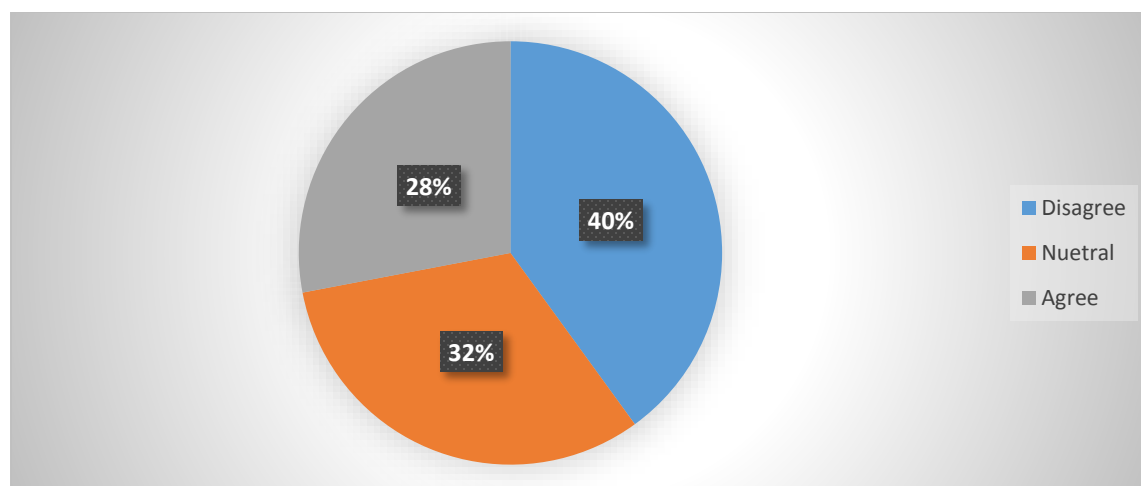
Source: KWFT (2005) annual report and accounts, p.31 and KWFT web site

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) Kenya Finance Women Trust far ahead polished its operations by streamlining and instituting its own useful lines. It came up with three different departments namely; credit, finance and administration. Its own manager headed each department. The advantage of these move enabled the trust cut unnecessary top-management costs and this led to increased general effectiveness. Regional managers were delegated the regional responsibilities which in turn delegated to smaller unit offices. The trust designed differentiated microcredit programs and its main purpose was asset development and financing working capital. Due to high market demand, new products were introduced namely; loans, school fees loans and last but importantly medical bills loan. KWFT also negotiated with commercial banks and came up with new credit lines and loan guarantee for their own clients who over the years had grown beyond the opening credit restrictions enacted by KWFT. This enabled the clients to advance huge loan amounts. In 2006, most of the clients were able to access their loans due to the loan increment from 1 million Kenya shillings to 3 million.

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) Kenya Finance Women Trust in addition introduced corresponding nonfinancial services such as money transfer, business training and counselling aimed at creating a desirable business culture among the clients and enhanced program activities. KWFT also introduced a mentor-learner program where successful women entrepreneurs who were in charge of training emerging small entrepreneurs through observation and apprenticeships. It also provided business trainings and support services that helped the women entrepreneurs be able to succeed and contribute to high loan repayment rates that the trust enjoys.

#### 4.5 Micro-finance intervention

**Fig 4.7 Investments in research on women economic empowerment**



**Source: Field Data (2018)**

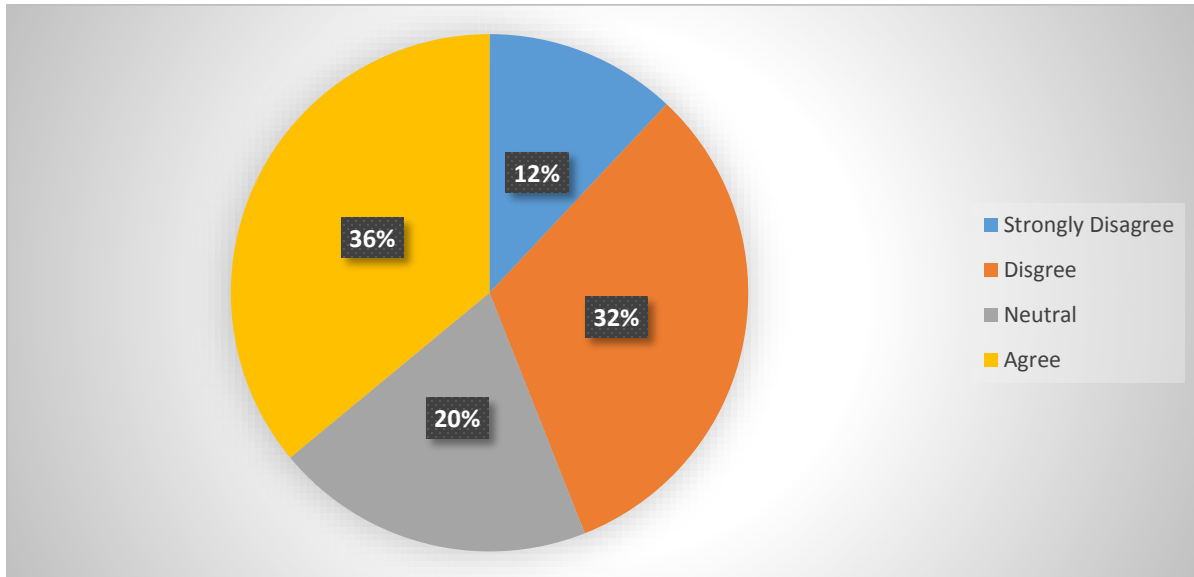
In figure 4.7, most of the respondents with 40% s disagreed that there were investments directed specifically to women economic empowerment. One respondent confirmed the hypothesis.

“If there were investments in research on women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County, then the problem of high interest rates, the issue of having to save for three months before being given loans, would have been solved (Field Survey, 2018).”

They stated that the interest rates for Kenya Women Finance Trust were unbearable and the duration given to pay the loans was unrealistic. In addition, the security paid in order to secure the loan is on the higher side putting in mind that they are small-scale vendors and each coin matters.

It can therefore be concluded that there was no vivid information on whether investments on research leading to women economic empowerment was conducted because there are no changes seen from the microfinance institutions.

**Fig 4.8 Microfinance institutions offers training on women economic empowerment**



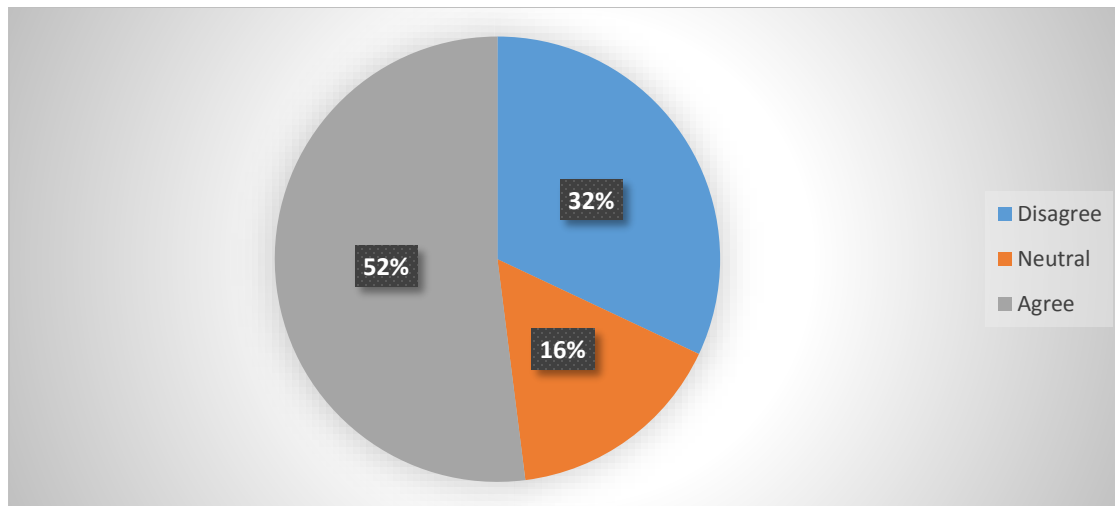
**Source: Field Data (2018)**

Figure 4.8 shows that a significant number of small-scale women vendors with 36% agree and 32% disagree with the notion that the microfinance institutions offer trainings on women economic empowerment to small upcoming market vendors. The majority of the women who agree with the idea belong to Chama's and they have meetings with their various microfinance institutions on a weekly basis while those who disagree are individuals who are not familiar with the benefits accrued from these microfinance institutions.

“Am in a Chama and we have a savings account with KWFT. When we need information and we are not sure we are on the same page with the institution, we all tag along, go to our branch, and are trained. We are always informed on the current account statements and what needs to be done. If we have pending loans, you are guided on the way forward (Field Survey, 2018).”

It can therefore be concluded that microfinance institutions cannot go out and look for women who needs to learn about how to empowerment, rather it is an individual's initiative to get empowered.

**Fig 4.9 Microfinance Institution offers training on savings to small-scale vendors**



**Source: Field Data (2018)**

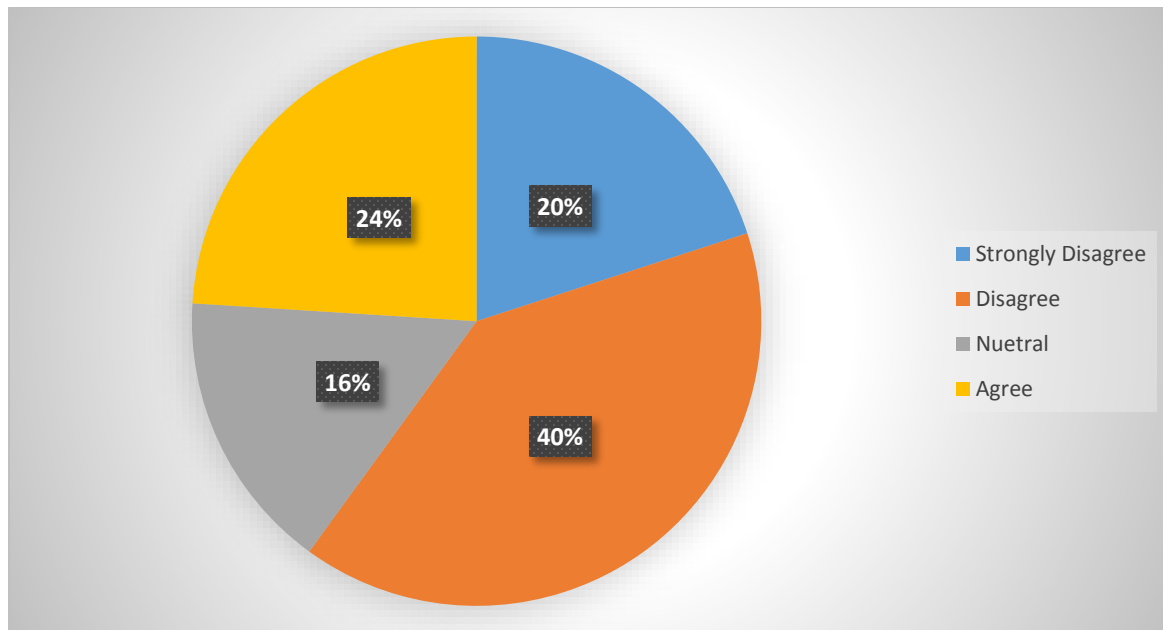
Based on figure 4.9 above, it is evident that most of the small-scale women vendors with a percentage of 52% agree with the statement that microfinance institution offers training on savings to small-scale vendors. One of the beneficiaries confirmed the notion by saying:

“We normally come a particular day of the week; we are taken through our account statement. We are taken through loan repayment processes, consequences of defaulting to pay the loans, and advantages and disadvantages of saving as a group. We enjoy saving with KWFT, and so far so good (Field Survey, 2018).”

The benefits they get from the MIFs enables them to be empowered economically. In addition, they are able to sustain themselves and their families. A small-scale woman vendor confirms the statement.

“In Choice Microfinance, for me to qualify for a loan, I need to save a minimum amount of money for three months. It is a great initiative, but the disadvantage is that in case of an emergency, you cannot access the loan (Field Survey, 2018).”

**Fig 4.10 Microfinance institutions offers cheap loan rates to the small-scale women vendors**



**Source: Field Data (2018)**

In figure 4.10, 40% of the small-scale women vendors disagree with the information that microfinance institutions offer cheap loan rates. Women, who operate with KWFT, stated that the institution offers very high rates of loans that make them impossible to pay the loans back; it is hard for them to afford loans. In addition, 24% of women agreed with the statement that microfinance institution offers cheap loan rates. Various small scale-vendors aired their concerns. “KWFT is a no go zone. The interest rates are hard to meet through the small proceeds one gets from the microbusiness. It is great for Chamas unlike for an individual. One of my mother’s friend, lost all her small kiosk goods because she was unable to repay back her loans, it was frustrating (Field Survey 2018).”

“I once took a loan from KWFT and the challenge was I could not access my savings till I cleared the loan (Field Survey, 2018).”

It can be confirmed that one can easily get loans and the disclosure of information is wanting. Hence, these small-scale vendors as much as they strive to be economically empowered, the microcredit programs do not give room for growth (Author, 2018).

#### **4.5.1 Feminization of Poverty**

(James A.F. Stoner, 2007) Globally, Kenya has been ranked as one of the population poorest country and heavily indebted. In 1970s and 1980s, political landscape changes through Structural Adjustments Programs (SAPs) instituted by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and limited natural resources have all contributed to the growth of poverty in Kenya. Mid 1980s, IMF and World Bank instituted tough SAPs in hopes of increasing the economic growth and debt repayments. On the contrary, SAPs served as a fuel to extreme price rises and made the poor even poorer. The policies such as cost sharing for education and health care brought government institutions to their knees. The less fortunate were hit harder by the services being offered by the institutions.

(Karuti Kanyinga, 1994) In Kenya, women are less fortunate with an estimate of 65% and 52% of the most active population in the country. As argued by Ngunjiri, a number of issues partake to the contribution of feminization of poverty. First, commercial banking institutions demand security before providing women entrepreneurs with loans. Among the most valued possession in Kenya, women are the less fortunate because they do not own lands due to the old-fashioned principles that do not allow women to take over. Secondly, cost sharing in education and male-controlled beliefs placed less value on girl's education. Due to this, girls had less access to both primary and secondary education. Most parents chose to pay for the boy child's education. Education is a major key to economic empowerment; hence, girls economic and employment capacities became heavily hindered. In 2003, free primary education was made a basic need, however, the less fortunate were unable to advance to secondary and technical college because they would have to meet the education expenses. Despite of free education parents still chose their sons rather than their daughters for continued education.

(Otieno, 1998) Third, the issue of women not allowed inheriting land and owning property meant that they did not have a security for loans. The authorized system does not have guidelines in regards to women protection who seek to acquire properties left behind by their deceased partners but instead opt for tribal customs. Due to this, the bereaved always lose their primary income earner as well as their properties. A quote below from one of the Choice Microfinance after separating with the husband.



“I dropped out of school when I was in class 8. Met my husband, we had two children together. I became a market vendor in Soko Mjinga market in Kware. I used some of my profit to build a house back in his motherland, after a few years, he had an affair and we separated. They chased me away, took everything I had. I was voiceless and no one could assist us. Life has been tough but we are living a day at a time.” (Field Survey, 2018).

(Beth J. Seelig, 2002) Fourthly, lack of drought protection, lack of strategy organization on rural credit schemes and absence of clear land title deeds that are needed as security have been a challenge to money-making banks and nonbanks establishments from investing in rural Kenya and more so the less fortunate women in our societies which KWFT as an MF committed to helping and service the poor.

#### **4.6 How microcredit programs have impacted women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County**

##### **4.6.1 Microcredit Programs and Income**

Globally, Microfinance Institutions have been linked to poverty alleviation. The key objective of the study was on the levels of income for the small-scale women vendors and poverty alleviation was one of the objectives for microfinance service provision. (Khayesi, 2017) Yaron argues that microfinance for the rural population has two main goals, mainly expanding income and reducing poverty to creating rapid growth in rural economies. Other scholars on the contrary consider finance as the most promising tool for expanding income and poverty alleviation. Due to these reason, they define poverty quite narrowly as increasing income; which also remains unclear in their work if increasing income will consequently reduce poverty. Yaron argues that microfinance should not only target income poverty but should also address the livelihood of these small-scale women vendors.

(Das, 2018) Zeller and Sharma illustration on what finance can do for the poor household level is very clear. They believe that loans and investments facilities help the vulnerable women to not only increase income but enables them to manage the resources and acquire adequate necessities for their families. Zeller and Sharma argued that credit facilities make it possible them to exploit

financial and other resources and take advantages of them. In addition, they stated that importance of savings and having well managed investments and credit facilities presented incentives for families to build up funds for investments and for future consumption. Furthermore, microfinance institutions enabled these small-scale women vendors to invest in their microbusinesses and in return increased their income. Therefore, Zeller and Sharma, the provision of financial services is an actual instrument for improving the quality of the life of these vulnerable women. Zeller and Sharma gave evidence on how well managed and innovative rural financial institutions have helped poor families to make permanent positive changes in the quality of their lives. This is done through human capital investments, holding assets to enhance women empowerment, high off-farm income from their microbusinesses and household food consumption and improved nutritional status of children in countries like Kenya.

Zander on the other hand points out those financial relations create assets in rural households. Zander argues that while increasing returns is an important indication of reduced poverty in the short-term assets-building of low-income clients represents the most the most sustainable way out of poverty. Zander states that housing and household furniture increase the social status of the poor. Zeller and Meyer argue concerning both poverty and vulnerability that specifically microcredit programs help the poor to acquire assets, start businesses, finance emergency needs and insure themselves against illness and disasters. The importance of finance is considered to change the life and reality of the poor.

#### **4.6.2 Empowering Women through Sustainable Investments**

In 1976, Muhammad Unus founded the Grameen Bank and its main purpose was lending programs that offers its largely female clients with small credits for business savings. The microcredit was focused in the direction of women because they have an enhanced top score for savings and payment than men do. Through the microcredit programs, women are able to invest the loans rather than spending on themselves. In addition, the credit that women acquire, they are likely to repay as compared to the male gender.

Loan repayments as stated by different scholars fluctuates between 96 per cent and 100 per cent. Credits focused towards women were seen as an approach of empowerment, which enable women

to have access to assets, financial collateral, and higher status in their households. Through the sustainable investments acquired by women through the microcredit programs, it has been indicated that 5 per cent of the borrowers rise out of poverty and in addition have increase in their educational level and nutritional standards within their households. Microcredit programs in Kenya has been widely exposed as a positive model for growth and the enablement of women. Largely this has been proved correct despite some few critics who argue that gender-based money loaning can reinforce gendered social chain of command. They suggest that women get access to microcredit while still men have continued to dominate the actual credit market. Moreover, the financial crisis started in 2008 is likely to affect microcredit sector, with the risk of reversing much of the progress made in achieving the women economic empowerment in areas like Kajiado North Sub-County.

## **4.7 Discussion of Results**

### **4.7.1 Link to Theory**

The research reveals critical literature, (Shane, 2003) stated that individuals have preferences and choose according to those preferences. According to Shane, an individual must be able to have the ability to take risks, be unique in the field of entrepreneurship, and grab opportunities as they present themselves. This correlates well with the study that microcredit institutions have positioned their business reach in terms of geographical coverage along major development corridors like Ongata Rongai town in Kajiado North- Sub County especially focusing on Soko Mjinga. They conducted business in areas because of the supporting infrastructure and ability of maximizing on their capabilities.

According to Johnson and Scholes, (1988), an organization exists in a contextual framework of a complex web of political, socio-economic, technological, environmental and legal aspects. Hence, the women economic empowerment changes maybe more pronounced in some organization than it is so in others. This means the effects are on a case-to-case basis. How these institutions affect women small-scale vendors could be attributed to the good patterns understanding, as well as changes of empowerment variables that could be expected. Usually the variables may open into a window of opportunities or threats or a combination of both.

#### **4.8 Summary of the Chapter**

This chapter presents analysis of the data on the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment: the case of Kajiado North Sub-County. The findings have found that there is significant correlation between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment. The finding concludes that microcredit programs and women economic empowerment has been to the negative. It states that lack of women economic empowerment is largely because of improperly regulated microfinance institutions. The findings also found that the environment of some microfinance institutions is not conducive for these women to grow financially due high loan rates, lack of trainings, inaccessibility and uncontrolled information.

It further established that great number of the respondent have no knowledge of the existing policies and frameworks that can still help the notion of women economic empowerment. Therefore, with proper formulation of microfinance institutions and its management the women small scale vendors shall be knowledgeable, can apply the knowledge, communicate effectively to each, can work independently, its administrator is guided by; policies, values, ethical behavior and connect across boundaries when it comes to women economic empowerment.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

In this chapter, a summary of the major findings is presented. Conclusions and Recommendations for women economic empowerment in Kajiado North-Sub County have also been discussed. The chapter concludes with a suggestion for further research.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

This study was founded on the observation that poverty and general underdevelopment persist in Soko Mjinga area and its surroundings yet lack of economic empowerment continues. It differed from other studies in that previous investigations were geared towards microcredit programs and involved scarce but highly valuable resources such as loans, which only concentrated on different class of women. The background also highlighted that economic development has been taking place at the expense of women wellbeing and their sustainability and this has resulted into uneconomic empowerment among women in Kajiado North Sub-County. This therefore raised the question; what is the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County?

##### **5.2.1 How microcredit programs have impacted on the performance of women microbusinesses**

To begin with, microcredit programs has been appropriate and it has facilitated in a positive way empowerment of women small-scale vendors in Soko Mjinga and Kware area located in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado North Sub-county. This is because, women who run microbusinesses are microfinance clients and they find loan eligibility requirement easy to meet. In addition, the loan application process is easy for them since majority have only basic knowledge due to high illiteracy levels. Loans enable women to invest in and expand their business and these enable them to engage with other fellow entrepreneurs in making major decisions. In addition, they are able to make decisions in their households due to empowerment.

The findings obtained raised a number of factors that hinder potential women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County in relation to microcredit programs in this area. One, there was failure of cheap and affordable loan rates to these women that should emanate from Kenya Women Finance Trust. The findings indicate that microfinance institutions have not resulted into any new research on women economic empowerment investment that can create alternative sources of income and hence empowerment within the locality. Secondly, failure of training on women small-scale vendors was also evident from findings showing that the women economic empowerment has not raised the demand for microfinance institutions to get into core problem the women are facing, also how to educate them on various ways to grow financially.

### **5.2.2 Relationship between Microcredit and women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County**

In regards to whether there is a relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment, findings indicate that there is a purposefully designed dominance of the microfinance institutions in control of women small-scale vendors in Kajiado North Sub-County. Participation of the people has not been factored in the decision-making processes of the microfinance institutions yet they act as the women small-scale vendors' executor. Accordingly, there is an existing patron-client relationship; this has created a group dominated by microfinance institutions. There lacks a clear regulatory framework that can help empower these women economically as well as direct their savings from the profits obtained. In the absence of such a framework, lack of women economic empowerment is inevitable.

### **5.2.3 Challenges and opportunities encountered by small-scale women vendors from Microcredit Programs**

In relation to the challenges encountered by women small-scale vendors in achieving women economic empowerment, various challenges resulted from the findings. One, the failure of training women small-scale vendors on various ways of economically empowering themselves. Second, the high interest rates on loan repayments makes the women small-scale vendors unable to save the little profit they make. Thirdly, there is inadequate training from microfinance institutions on various savings schemes. Fourthly, women small-scale vendors are not conversant with various changes in micro-finance institutions.

Lastly, the women small-scale vendors do not have accessibility to information on various features offered by microfinance institutions on women economic structures. KWFT biggest challenge for instance is convincing the customers to think bigger and get loans of more than ten thousand Kenyan shillings. Another challenge they encounter is attracting across-the-board resources for on borrowing that is not protected by client savings.

Nevertheless, there are opportunities through which women economic empowerment can be achieved in Kajiado North Sub-County. The great potential provided by the hardworking women in the area and the inadequacy of micro-finance institutions to meet the needs of these women. Given that, there is an assurance of market, credits and savings from these small-scale women vendors can be invested into the microfinance institutions projects to create new sources of income and lessen the growing dependence on income from microfinance institutions.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The study concludes that at hand is a significant correlation between microcredit programs as well as women economic empowerment in Kajiado North Sub-County. It states that lack of women economic empowerment is largely a result of improperly regulated microfinance institutions running the microcredit programs. The Study found that the environment of a few microfinance institutions like KWFT for instance is not conducive for these women to grow financially due to high loan rates. In this study even though being risk averse, alert and tapping opportunities as they present themselves was found not to be a predicator of women economic empowerment, it was found to be highly and significantly correlated with microcredit programs and women economic empowerment.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the analysis and conclusions from the finding, the following recommendations of the study were proposed:

#### **5.4.1 Recommendation to the Microfinance Institution**

Firstly, knowledgeable individuals should manage the Microfinance Institutions. Individuals who can be able to use its income in a way that it can empower women economically and grow the

institutions financially. It is therefore important that professionals manage the micro-finance institutions, running the micro-credit programs. Secondly, the research findings show that micro-finance institutions should innovate products geared towards the improvement of the life and enterprises of women small- scale vendors.

Thirdly, the findings of the research show that these microfinance institutions running the microcredit programs should have a policy which its main goal is to regulate the interest rates charged as the women entrepreneurs felt the interest rates were too high and hence some were reluctant to take loans.

#### **5.4.2 Recommendation to the National Government**

Firstly, the national government should come up with a Kenya Women's Bank. The study shows that respondents conveyed the necessity for a females' bank to cater for women MSEs, a bank where they arise as entities to acquire a loan, supported by their own security or a cross-guarantee.

Secondly, the national government should implement a loan guarantee program led by government's banks program that cuts across all microfinance institutions. This will solve the security issue related to loan borrowing and obstacles to growth, such as the need for a broader variety of loan products and right of entry to training, counselling and practical support, done by a cohesive sponsoring method comprising homegrown commercial institutions, women entrepreneurs, the AfDB, the ILO and other advanced organizations and donors.



## REFERENCES

- Adichie, C. N. (2017). *DEAR IJEWELE, Or A Feminist Manifesto In Fifteen Suggestions*. London: Harper Collins.
- Alvarez, S. A. (2005). *Theories Of Entrepreneurship: Alternative Assumption And The Study of Entrepreneurial Action*. Netherlands: Now Publishers Inc.
- Bateman, M. (2011). *Confronting Microfinance: Undermining Sustainable Development*. Virginia: Kumarian Press.
- Beth J. Seelig, R. A. (2002). *Constructing and Deconstructing Woman's Power*. London: Karnac Books.
- Buzan, B., Wilde, J. d., & Wæver, O. (1998). *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.
- Christabell, P. J. (2009). *Women Empowerment Through Capacity Building: The Role of Microfinance*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
- Christiaan Grootaert, T. V. (2002). *Understanding and Measuring Social Capital: A Multidisciplinary Tool for Practitioners, Volume I*. World Bank Publications.
- CoK. (2010). *Constitution of Kenya*. Nairobi: Government Printer.
- Das, R. C. (2018). *Microfinance and Its Impact on Entrepreneurial Development, Sustainability, and Inclusive Growth*. Hershey, PA: IGI Globa.
- David Hulme, T. A. (2009). *Microfinance: A Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Debra Bergoffen, P. R. (2010). *Confronting Global Gender Justice: Women's Lives, Human Rights*. London: Routledge.
- Divya, J. K. (2010). Status Of Women's Empowerment In Rural Delhi. *IndianJournals.com*, 99-108.
- Donovan, J. (2012). *Feminist Theory, Fourth Edition: The Intellectual Traditions*. London: A&C Black.
- Dorothy H. Ettling, K. B. (2014). *Reach Out Africa*. Archway Publishing.
- Fernando, J. L. (2004). *Microfinance: Perils and Prospects*. London: Routledge.
- Gup, B. E. (2003). *The Future of Banking*. Westport, Connecticut, United States: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Haase, D. (2013). *The Credibility of Microcredit: Studies of Impact and Performance*. Leiden: BRILL.

- Hummel, A. (2011). *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. A.L. Hummel, 1890.
- IEBC. (2016). *Voters register per County*.
- Islam, T. (2016). *Microcredit And Poverty Alleviation*. London: Routledge.
- James A.F. Stoner, C. W. (2007). *Innovative Approaches to Reducing Global Poverty*. North Carolina: IAP.
- Jan Luiten van Zanden, A. R. (2017). *Agency, Gender and Economic Development in the World Economy 1850–2000: Testing the Sen Hypothesis*. Milton: Taylor & Francis.
- John Baylis, S. S. (2011). *The Globalization of The World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Karuti Kanyinga, S. I. (1994). *Structural adjustment programmes (SAPS) in Kenya: implications on lives of women*. Nairobi: National Council of Churches of Kenya.
- Khayesi, M. (2017). *Rural Development Planning in Africa*. New York: Springer.
- Kinnear, K. K. (2011). *Women in Developing Countries: A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 68). California: ABC-CLIO.
- Kola, F. (2017). *Measuring the Impact of Microcredit Programs in Albania*. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Kosgey, N. (2016, February 15). Youth in Ongata Rongai protest over alleged cholera outbreak. *Kenya News Agency*.
- LCDP. (2013). *First County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017*. County Government of Laikipia.
- Levi, M. (1997). A Model, a Method, and a Map: Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis. In M. I. Lichbach, & A. S. Zuckerman, *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* (pp. 19-41). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lisa Jane Disch, M. E. (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*. England: Oxford University Press.
- Lomborg, B. (2018). *Prioritizing Development: A Cost Benefit Analysis of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Meenai, Z. (2003). *Empowering Rural Women: An Approach to Empowering Women Through Credit-based Self-help Groups*. New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2003.

- Millicent Lownes-Jackson, R. G. (2012). *The Economic Empowerment of Women: A Global Perspective*. California: Informing Science Press.
- Millicent Lownes-Jackson, R. G. (2016). *The Economic Empowerment Of Women: A Global Perspective*. Los Angeles: Informing Science.
- Millicent Lownes-Jackson, R. G. (n.d.). *The Economic Empowerment of Women: A Global Perspective*. Los Angeles: Informing Science.
- Ngozi, A. C. (2014). *We Should All Be Feminists*. London: Harper Collins.
- OECD. (2013). *Conflict and Fragility Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*. OECD Publishing.
- Olive M. Mugenda, A. G. (1999). *Research Methods: Quantitative & Qualitative Approaches*. Nairobi: Acts Press.
- Otieno, W. W. (1998). *Mau Mau's Daughter: A Life history*. Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- P.J, C. (2009). *Women Empowerment Through Capacity Building: The Role of Microfinance*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
- Retta Guy, M. L. (2012). *The Economic Empowerment Of Women: A Global Perspective*. Los Angeles: Informing Science Press.
- Sahay, S. (1998). *Women and Empowerment: Approaches and Strategies*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.
- Sanja Bahun-Radunović, V. G. (2008). *Violence and Gender in the Globalized World: The Intimate and the Extimate*. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Shane, S. A. (2003). *A General Theory of Entrepreneurship: The Individual-opportunity Nexus*. Northampton, Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003.
- Siringi, S. (2013, July 29). Kajiado Richest and Turkana Poorest In New County Ranking. *The Daily Nation*.
- Stevenson, L., & St-Onge, A. (2005). *Support For Growth-Oriented Women Entrepreneurs In Kenya*. Switzerland: International Labour Organization.
- Stromquist, N. (2002). *Rethinking Empowerment : Gender And Development In A Global/Local World* . London: Routledge.
- Studies, M. I. (2003). *African Cultures and Religion, Volume 1, Issue 3*. Nairobi: Maryknoll Institute of African Studies.

- Susan Johnson, B. R. (1997). *Microfinance and Poverty Reduction*. Oxford: Oxfam.
- Sweetman, C. (2004). *Gender, Development, And Diversity*. United Kingdom: Oxfam.
- Todaro, M and Smith,S. (2012). *Economic Development*. Boston: Addison-Wesley.
- Trask, B. S. (2013). *Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities*. London: Routledge.
- Uddin, M. J. (2015). *The Micro-politics of Microcredit: Gender and Neoliberal Development in Bangladesh*. London: Routledge.

## **APPENDICES**

Thank you for accepting to take part in the study. My name is Kiunga Candy Makena, a student at University of Nairobi, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, pursuing Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration. As part of my studies, I am required to conduct a research related to my area of study. As such, the questionnaire is structured to help in the investigation of the relationship between microcredit programs and women economic empowerment; Case of Kajiado North Sub-County. Notably, by filling this questionnaire, you will help me answer the key questions of the study. Besides, kindly be informed that the information shared is highly confidential. This means that the researcher will not share information you share with any other parties except for academic purposes.

### **Appendix I: Questionnaire**

#### **SECTION A**

##### **General Information**

i) Indicate your gender

a) Male  b) Female

ii) What is your age?

a) 18 to 25

b) 26 to 35

c) 36 to 45

d) 46 to 55

e) Over 55

iii) What is your type of business?

iv) How long have you been in the business?

a) Less than 1 year

b) 1-3years

c) 3-5 years

d) 5-10 years

e) Over 10 years'

## **SECTION B**

### **Small-scale market vendors (Soko Mjinga)**

1. Are you a resident of Ongata Rongai? If yes, how long have you been a resident of Ongata Rongai? Record number of years.....

2. What was the major objective of you being a market vendor?

3. Are you a member of a micro-finance? Record your answer.....

4. If yes, tick the names of the microfinance;

Choice microfinance

Unaitas Sacco Society Limited

Kenya Women Finance Trust

5. How long have you been a member of the microfinance listed above?

Less than a year – 2

3-5 years

5-10 years

1. Over 10 years

6. What services does the microfinance institutions provide to small market vendors in Soko Mjinga (Ongata Rongai)?
7. How easily accessible are credit facilities in empowering/financing small and micro-businesses?
8. How positive or negative are microcredit programs in relation to women economic empowerment?

**SECTION C:**

**Relationship between Microcredit programs and women economic empowerment**

This part of the questionnaire uses the five points Likert's scale. This means that you have five alternatives while answering each of the questions. They are indicated as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 alternatively. You are thus requested to tick the option that represents your views.

**a) Changes in micro-credit programs**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can easily access information related to changes in micro-credit programs	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to cope with the changes in micro-credit programs	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to afford to pay loans notwithstanding changes in the micro-finance institutions	1	2	3	4	5

**b) Micro-finance intervention**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
--	----------------------	----------	---------	-------	-------------------



The microfinance has invested on research on women economic empowerment.	1	2	3	4	5
Microfinance institutions offers training on women economic empowerment to small upcoming market vendors	1	2	3	4	5
Microfinance institution offers training on savings to small-scale vendors	1	2	3	4	5
Microfinance institutions offers cheap loan rates to the small-scale market vendors	1	2	3	4	5

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Interview Guide: Key Informant Interview**

1. What is your gender?

Male

Female

2. What is your job designation?

3. How long is your experience working with the microfinance institution?

4. What do you think are the challenges of women economic empowerment in Ongata Rongai/ Kajiado North Sub-County?

5. What specific benefits do the women from Soko Mjinga stand to gain from micro-finance institutions?

6. Who is responsible for ensuring that small-scale vendors from Soko Mjinga are economically empowered?

7. In what ways do you think the micro-credit programs can contribute to women economic empowerment in Ongata Rongai/ Kajiado North Sub-County?

8. Who ensures that women are educated on the benefits of micro-credit programs on women economic empowerment?

### Appendix III: NACOSTI Research Permit

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:**  
**MS. CANDY MAKENA KIUNGA**  
**of UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI,**  
**15429-20100 Nakuru, has been**  
**permitted to conduct research in**  
**Kajiado County**  
**on the topic: MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAMS**  
**AND WOMEN ECONOMIC**  
**EMPOWERMENT; CASE OF KAJIADO**  
**NORTH SUB-COUNTY**  
**for the period ending:**  
**6th November, 2019**

**Permit No : NACOSTI/P/18/35819/26560**  
**Date Of Issue : 6th November, 2018**  
**Fee Received : Ksh 1000**



  
**Applicant's Signature**


  
**Director General**  
**National Commission for Science**  
**Technology & Innovation**

**THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013**  
**The Grant of Research Licenses is guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014.**


**CONDITIONS**

- 1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period.**
- 2. The License and any rights thereunder are non-transferable.**
- 3. The Licensee shall inform the County Governor before commencement of the research.**
- 4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies.**
- 5. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials.**
- 6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project.**
- 7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report within one year of completion of the research.**
- 8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice.**

**National Commission for Science, Technology and innovation**  
**P.O. Box 30623 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya**  
**TEL: 020 400 7000, 0713 788787, 0735 404245**  
**Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke, registry@nacosti.go.ke**  
**Website: www.nacosti.go.ke**



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**NACOSTI**  
**National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation**

**RESEARCH LICENSE**  
**Serial No.A 21750**  
**CONDITIONS: see back page**

## Document Viewer

## Turnitin Originality Report

Processed on: 24-Jun-2019 16:11 EAT

ID: 1146665411

Word Count: 15359

Submitted: 1

EFFECTS OF MICRO-CREDIT  
PROGRAMS ON WOMEN ECO... By  
Candy Makena

Similarity Index	Similarity by Source	
15%	Internet Sources:	9%
	Publications:	1%
	Student Papers:	13%

include quoted include bibliography excluding matches < 3 words download refresh  
print mode:

1% match (Internet from 06-Sep-2008) <a href="http://www.gdrc.org">http://www.gdrc.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1% match (student papers from 25-Apr-2019) Submitted to De Montfort University on 2019-04-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1% match (student papers from 09-Oct-2017) Submitted to Kenyatta University on 2017-10-09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (student papers from 10-Jul-2017) Submitted to Mesa State College on 2017-07-10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (student papers from 21-Mar-2013) Submitted to University of Central England in Birmingham on 2013-03-21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (Internet from 06-Jun-2017) <a href="http://documents.mx">http://documents.mx</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (Internet from 03-Jun-2019) <a href="http://www.ijbmer.com">http://www.ijbmer.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (student papers from 29-May-2013) Submitted to Saint Paul University on 2013-05-29	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (Internet from 17-Jan-2015) <a href="http://pezzottaitejournals.net">http://pezzottaitejournals.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (student papers from 18-May-2019) Submitted to Ghana Technology University College on 2019-05-18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (student papers from 23-Oct-2017) Submitted to Mesa State College on 2017-10-23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1% match (Internet from 20-Aug-2018)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Helga Leventhal  
26/06/2019