

**FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN
OWNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KENYA: A CASE OF ISIOLO
COUNTY**

BY

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**A Research Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Award of Masters of Arts Degree in Project Planning
and Management of the University of Nairobi**

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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work that has not been presented to any other University or Institution of Higher Learning for Examination.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project report to my dear family, my parents Mr. and Mrs. Abdullahi, my husband and my beautiful daughter, Bushra...without forgetting Dr. Peterlinnerman and the entire staffs of Lewa Educational Trust for their support throughout my academic period. God bless you all.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
DFRD	District Focus Strategy on Rural Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GoK	Government of Kenya
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LATF	Local Authority Transfer Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NCCBO	National Council of Community Based Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PUCPS	Peri-Urban Camel Production System
SL	Sustainable Livelihood
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
YDDF	Youth development fund

ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate the factors influencing performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. The study examined the extent to which poverty, cultural values and literacy level influences the performance of women development groups. This study was based on the assumption that women development projects if well managed contribute positively to the livelihoods of the poor people. The study was guided by community development theory. The study employed a descriptive survey research design because the information given was of personal nature. The reason for using descriptive survey research design was because it helped to give, why, where, what and when of the research questions. The study population was derived from four Women groups. The Women groups had a total 210 members including the managers. The study employed cluster sampling technique where 70 members were selected from the Women groups who were interviewed. Questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. A pilot study was conducted where six questionnaires were issued to six respondents. Data analysis was qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative consisting of coding observation reports in the field. Data collected through the questionnaire was edited, coded and processed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Findings showed that a high percentage of the residents in Isiolo County had low income level which limits the ability of better performance in their projects. It was clear that the area was characterized by practices of rigid cultural practices which hindered the women from participating in positive development activities. Illiteracy level was also high in the area, which played a major role in affecting negatively the performance of women development projects. The study concluded that the area consisted of active youthful population who were nonessential, and if such groups could be tapped, empowered and enlightened on development projects, it will help in not only improving the performance of such groups but also increasing income level and reduction in poverty level in Isiolo County. The study therefore recommends that community empowerment programs and more cultural integration was necessary in achieving better project performance in Isiolo County. The research further suggested other research on sustainable development projects to be carried out in other counties in Kenya to find out the outcome on this subject matter.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

World over, women bear almost all responsibility for meeting the basic needs of the family, yet are systematically denied the resources, information and freedom of action they need to fulfill this responsibility. The vast majority of the world's poor are women. For those who cannot read or write, two-thirds are female. For the millions of school age children not in school, the majority are girls. And today, HIV/AIDS is rapidly becoming a woman's disease (Jackson, 2005).

Globally, women's participation in the economic contribution remained steady in the two decades from 1990 to 2010, hovering around 52 per cent. In contrast, global economic participation rates for men declined steadily over the same period, from 81 to 77 per cent. In some parts of the world, women and girls are often more burdened by the poverty of their household and their environment than men and boys. At the household level, data show that certain types of female-headed households are more likely to be poor than male-headed households of the same type (Ntale and Litondo, 2013).

In Latin America and the Caribbean and the more developed regions households of lone mothers with children have higher poverty rates than those of lone fathers with children. In the same regions, poverty rates are higher for women than for men when living in one-person households. At the individual level, women's lack of access to and control over resources limits their economic autonomy and increases their vulnerability to economic or environmental shocks. Compared to men, lower proportions of women have cash income in the less developed regions. Existing statutory and customary laws still restrict women's access to land and other types of property in most countries in Africa and about half the countries in Asia (Hopkins, 2008).

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to present the world with its most formidable development challenge. During the last two decades the number of the poor in Africa has doubled from 150 million to 300 million, more than 40 percent of the region's population. About one third of the region's population lives in countries affected by or emerging from conflict.

Moreover, HIV/AIDS continues to threaten African lives and livelihoods. Africa is the only region that remains behind on most of the MDGs (Brandsen and Pestoff, 2006).

On current trends it will fall far short of meeting the 2015 targets. But Africa appears to be at a turning point. African countries have increasingly taken ownership of and accountability for their development programs. Africa's women leaders – through the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) – have recognized their leading role in addressing the challenges of conflict, governance and regional integration (Mkutu, 2011).

In the scrutiny of many scholars, women development projects are viewed as an efficient and effective tool for poverty reduction with the hope of eventually doing away with poverty out of the face of the earth (Gulati-Partee, 2001). Mostly, these services are drawn towards the poor communities in the rural areas so as to uplift their standards of living (Ntale and Litondo, 2013). Mutullah and Lewa (2001) argue Community Development Organizations (CBOs) have one prime aim of empowering and transforming the people especially the poor and the marginalized that seem to be locked out and cannot access basic services.

CBOs work through people centred modes of development such as availability of projects, community participation in development, ensuring community health education, and infrastructure improves over time (Clark, 1999). Different views from various scholars are put across so as to find out the contradictions in contribution of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to rural livelihood. The study is significant since no study of this nature has been done in Isiolo County before.

Policy and academic literature has suggested that projects run by community-based organizations, such as schools, places of worship and social clubs, can mobilise participants to take on more sustainable practices (Jackson, 2005; Mkutu, 2011; Hopkins, 2008). Practitioners, policy makers and academics in the Africa have claimed that such projects can moderate some of the harmful environmental and social effects of the current

consumer-oriented culture, and encourage participants to embrace more sustainable lifestyles (Jackson, 2005; UK Government, 2005; Hopkins, 2008).

This emergence of the community sector as a possible partner in solving sustainability problems relates to a series of literatures linking community and practice. The recent social policy literature has tended to emphasize the role of the voluntary and community sectors in co-governance: a process of collaboration with government in setting and achieving social objectives (Osborne and McLaughlin, 2004; Brandsen and Pestoff, 2006).

Cooke-Davies (2000) observes that for projects to perform well there is need for a close cooperation between the CBOs and the community. They ought to work towards the same goal and share the same interests. He also adds that mean performance against budget (4% cost escalation) is generally better than mean performance against schedule (16% late); and when the adequacy of specific project management practices, and the maturity of specific project management processes are compared with performance against each of these two criteria, then different practices are found to correlate significantly.

Kenyan women are making a large contribution although frequently unseen contribution to the country's economy, particularly in the agricultural and informal business sectors. But women face more severe legal, regulatory, and administrative barriers to starting and running their projects than do their male counterparts. Gender and Economic Growth in Kenya examines the barriers that are preventing women from contributing fully to the Kenyan community livelihood and makes recommendations for addressing these barriers (Faye, 2007). Addressing these constraints will not only help women make a full economic contribution, but will also improve their livelihoods and those of their families and will help create a more enabling environment for all Kenyan women development projects, regardless of their founders.

Women rarely have access to the resources that would make their work more productive and ease their heavy workload. Ultimately, it is not just women who are held back, but

also their families, their communities and local economies. Women Development Projects do best when women's roles and needs are factored into project design from the start (Nawaz, 2010). Therefore, this study delves further into details to investigate the factors affecting women development projects in their efforts to improve the rural livelihoods in Kenya with special focus to Women development Groups in Isiolo County.

1.1.1 Isiolo Women development Projects

All these Women development groups are all community based organization which were started in the year 2005 by women residents of Isiolo County. These groups constitute of registered active members. The main offices of the groups are located in Isiolo town. Its main objective is trading camel milk as a way of improving their livelihood. Camels are an important livelihood asset in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya which cover over 83% of the land mass and support about 30% (12 million) of the country's population. Camels are a source of food, cash income, transport means and have significant cultural functions to pastoral communities dominating in the ASALs (Guliye et al. 2007; MoLD 2007; Mehari et al. 2007a, b; Mahmoud 2010).

These pastoral communities keep one humped camel (*Camelus Dromedarius*), estimated at 2.97 million heads (KNBS 2010), and mainly concentrated in the ASALs. It is estimated that the Kenyan camel population is capable of producing between 340 and 350 million litres of milk (Faye 2007; Akweya et al. 2010a) and 10,000 tonnes of meat a year (Faye 2007). The health-promoting properties of camel milk are a strong boost for sales and, in certain regions such as the Middle East, are the drivers for intensification of camel dairying (Faye, 2007).

In Isiolo County, camels are traditionally kept under pastoral (nomadic) production systems, characterised by low production inputs and herd/household mobility. This is a subsistence-based system utilising large mobile herds grazing on vast rangeland pasture resources. There is however a recent emergence of Peri-Urban Camel Production System (PUCPS) using milking herds grazed within proximity to urban market outlets for milk,

meat and stock, where consumers and traders are members of pastoral communities (Matofari et al. (2007); Noor et al. (2012).

Isiolo women group had a camel production system that exemplifies this emerging PUCPS, with the potential of adding value to camel milk and stock, which would improve livelihoods of the pastoral communities (LPP, LIFE Network, IUCN-WISP and FAO 2010) in the ASALs. Isiolo County had about 39,084 camels (KNBS 2010). The prevailing market-oriented camel production presents opportunities for poorer households to enhance their food and income securities (SRA, 2004) in an area where annual income averages of US\$217 to 301 fall below the national average of US\$360 (ADF, 2003). In these areas, viable alternative economic activities are lacking, resulting in a high dependency on famine relief support from government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women make up 70 percent of the world's poor. Particularly in developing countries they face systematic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, control of assets and participation. Poverty places women at greater risk of violence and human rights abuses, marginalising and preventing their full participation in society (Jackson, 2005). Besides the challenges, women, especially those in the low-income strata, traditionally have contributed to productive activities such as agriculture (mostly small-scale), agro-processing crafts and home industries, trade and commerce, but there has been a tendency to underestimate their economic roles towards improved livelihoods and to undercount their participation due to inadequate data, prevailing definitions of economic activity and current sampling and interviewing procedures employed in obtaining national statistics.

More attention has been focused, especially in national plans and programs, on their reproductive and child-nurturing roles leaving out their capability, abilities and potential to turn around the rural livelihood and societal capacity to better lives. Women have been faced with more challenges even at the midst of pushing harder to improve the livelihood

of their families and the society. In the view of coping with the changing economic situations, climate change and the changing society, women have come up with development ideas to enhance the rural livelihood. Nevertheless, women development projects meant to improve livelihood have in many hit a dead end due to factors either unknown to them or beyond their measure of control. An example of a Women development project started by Laikipia Jolly Women group on fish rearing diminished within its first year of operation without any promise of its revamp.

Another Women development project for rearing *Kienyeji* Chicken, started by Wakwitu Women Development Group in Kitui County, ended with each women pulling on their own and consuming project Chickens hence eventual flopping of the project among other women development projects. This leaves a number of questions on what could be the causes of such short end to the women development project without achieving their goals. Many studies have focused on women poverty but not on how women can improve livelihood. In Isiolo County specifically, a lot of funds and trainings have been undertaken to various development groups, however there is no significant impact noticed on the beneficiaries. Therefore to fill this gap, this study sought to investigate the factors influencing performance of women development projects in Kenya and particularly in Isiolo County.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The overall purpose of this study was to investigate the factors influencing performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

1.3.1 Objectives of the study

This research was based on the following specific research objectives

- i. To examine the extent to which poverty influences performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.
- ii. To establish the extent to which cultural values influences performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

- iii. To assess the extent to which literacy level influences performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

1.4 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. To what extent does poverty influences performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.
- ii. To what extent does cultural values influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County.
- iii. To what extent does literacy level influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study gave the knowledge of which women development groups can use to understand the impact they have created in addressing the issues of poverty in Isiolo County. It will benefit them in realizing their strengths and weaknesses and hence be able to come up with the best strategies that will place them in a better position especially in the transformation of the rural livelihood. The study gave a hand for the beneficiaries to understand their relationship with women development groups and still on how to improve this relationship. The study also helped the government to rate the extents to which CBOs are able to address the problem of unemployment and hence reduce the rate of poverty in the country. This way the government may enhance its effort in supporting the CBOs. The study will also help the government, especially the development planners, in the policy formulation. Academically the study is going to be of significance help especially because it is going to build on or add value to already existing body of knowledge especially related to issues of poverty and CBOs. The study will as well form some basis of another research work.

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

This research study was conducted in Isiolo County and its focus was on women development groups. This is because these women groups are community-based

organization whose majority of the clients are within the jurisdiction. Given that there are so many CBOs in Isiolo County, this research basically focus on women development groups which are confined in Isiolo town; the findings of this study was tested and can be used or applied elsewhere in the Country especially where there are CBOs in the rural areas.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

The study was faced with a number of limitations; since most of the women are from rural setting and have got little education hence low literacy levels, the researcher depended on research assistant and interpreters to get the correct and accurate information and communicate effectively with the women.

There was limited time to collect data since the university gave a timeline of which all students were to complete their data collection, analysis and presentation of finding. To manage the timelines, the researcher had to take a leave from the work place and concentrate on the data collection and analysis.

1.8 Assumptions of the study

This study was based on the assumption that women development projects if well managed contribute positively to the livelihoods of the poor people.

1.9 Definition of Significance Terminologies

Project - Planned set of interrelated tasks to be executed over a fixed period and within certain cost and other limitations.

Development- A multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social systems. It is a combination of social, economic and political process secured the way of obtaining better life.

Community Based Organizations - nonprofit groups that work at a local level to improve life for residents. The focus is to build equality across society in all streams -

health care, environment, quality of education, access to technology, access to spaces and information for the disabled, to name but a few.

Non-Governmental Organization - is an organization that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit business. Usually set up by ordinary citizens, NGOs may be funded by governments, foundations, businesses, or private persons.

Livelihoods - is a term that we use in everyday life, and we probably all have differing ideas about its meaning. Livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living'. The term 'livelihoods' has become increasingly important in development theory and practice, as it is seen to encompass a wide range of concerns, and to allow inclusion of the broad range of people's activities and assets in considering how they support themselves, rather than focusing more narrowly on economic, income-generating or formal activities.

Sustainable Livelihood Approach—is a method that is used in evaluating the impacts of projects on livelihood. Sustainable Livelihood Approach framework was developed by Ian Scoones, (1998) and it looks at vulnerabilities of people in relation to the assets they have and strategies to be used as well as their sustainability in addressing those vulnerabilities

Poverty - is general scarcity or shortage, or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. It is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements. Poverty seems to be chronic or temporary, and most of the time it is closely related to inequality.

1.10 Organization of the Study

This study is organized in five chapters; chapter one provides the introduction to the study, background information, and problem statement, purpose of the study, objectives and the research questions. This chapter further provides the significance of the study, delimitations of the study, limitations, assumptions, and definitions of significant terms as well as the summary organization of the study.

Chapter two is literature review; that is an overview of the general literature of the study, literature review under the themes of women development factors and the livelihood in Kenya. Chapter two provides the theories that relate to the study, empirical review, research gaps, and conceptual framework identifying the independent and dependent variables.

Chapter three describes the methodology which the study adopted, the research design, target population, research procedure and sample size data collection instrument, pilot test and data analysis.

Chapter four is comprised of data analysis, presentation and interpretation of findings, the study interpreted both quantitative and qualitative data.

Finally chapter five is composed of the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. This chapter further provided suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter covers literature on women development projects in their efforts to improve on the rural livelihoods in Kenya. The chapter covers theoretical review, Review of Empirical Literature on factors such as poverty, cultural values and literacy level and how such affect the rural livelihoods in Kenya. The study further covered conceptual framework, critique of the existing literature and research gaps.

2.2 Women Development Projects

When women are economically and socially empowered, they become a potent force for change. In rural areas of the developing world, women play a key role in running households and make major contributions to agricultural production. But the inequalities that exist between women and men make it difficult for women to fulfil their potential.

Rural women have many roles, and they have responsibilities and knowledge that differ from those of men. As farmers, they plant, weed and harvest food crops and tend livestock. As caretakers, they look after children and relatives, prepare meals and manage the home. Many women earn extra income by working as wage labourers, producing and selling vegetables, or engaging in small-scale trading and enterprises. Added to these multiple tasks, they spend long hours fetching water and collecting firewood. In developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, women typically work 12 more hours per week than men. In poor and marginal areas and areas affected by climate change, where men have been forced to migrate in search of work, women often have the sole responsibility for farming and raising the children.

IFAD-supported projects demonstrate that investing in women can generate significant improvements in productivity and food security. Entire communities benefit socially and economically when women have access to land, water, education, training, financial services and strong organizations. World Bank studies show that, in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, food production could increase by 10 to 20 per cent if women faced

fewer constraints. The empowerment of women and equal opportunities for both sexes are fundamental in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The Women in Development Project aims to bring about a change in society's perception of the role of women. Project objectives are fourfold : 1) improve women's productivity and income earning potential; 2) improve women's welfare and status; 3) strengthen government institutions to enable them to better deal with women's issues; and 4) contribute to bringing about a change in society's perception of their role. IFAD (2010) describes community based organizations (CBO's) as nonprofit groups that work at a local level to improve life for residents. The focus is to build equality across society in all streams - health care, environment, quality of education, access to technology, access to spaces and information for the disabled, to name but a few (Camay & Gordon, 1997). The inference is that the communities represented by the CBO's are typically at a disadvantage. CBO's are typically, and almost necessarily, staffed by local members - community members who experience firsthand the needs within their neighborhoods. Besides being connected geographically, the only link between staff members and their interests is often the desire and willingness to help. Occupational skill sets and experience are greatly diverse (Chitere, 1994).

According to McCormick *et al.* (2001) the tight rope upon which stability balances in this type of organization is being stretched tight, as the role of the CBO is extended to new lengths. Governments are increasingly delegating responsibility to CBO's and relying on them to gather local concerns, develop, plan, and help deliver solutions. CBO's are storehouses, gatekeepers of local information obviously valuable for their own purposes, but this data is also useful to other organizations and government agencies. The role of CBO's is becoming knowledge management - to compile, sort, store and retrieve local data. Technology is increasingly becoming more important to this function, to manage daily business operations, but also to develop innovative solutions, given restrictive budgets, limited personnel available, and new demands for services and information (Mutullah and Lewa, 2001). Technology is being used to bring in the voice of the community members, through public participation and input. Applications include mapping of community landmarks and services by locals, providing environmental

baseline and change measurements, and identifying concerns common throughout the community.

Wanjohi (2010) explained that CBOs across the rural areas are usually established to meet the needs of the community and as well also in line with the National government's objectives i.e. to reduce poverty, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), developed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2000. According to Okumu (2012), the MDGs defined and set specific targets and timetables for reducing poverty by 50% by 2015. Therefore, every sector's contribution to economic development in Africa (and this includes CBOs) is crucial. The importance of and challenges facing CBOs in this endeavor is thus necessary for further scholarly investigation.

Mkutu (2011) views CBOs as a spontaneous reaction by a group of residents to a particular adverse situation or opportunity in the community or environment. The urge to exploit the need in the community is what leads to the success. Pathfinder International (2007) report states that successful CBOs provide Home Based Care utilizing community Implement package of orphans services including psychosocial support, school fees and clothing, food, linkages vocational or life skills training older youth, and food security caregivers, perform advocacy activities community Facilitate support groups parents, guardians, and teachers. The concept of developing collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) is based on the community psychology perspective of forming reciprocal, non exploitative partnerships with community members. This will lead to the success of CBOs (Okumu, 2012). According to the Ministry of Health report (2010), CBOs have bridged the gap in providing Home Based Care for HIV/Aids patients which has reduced death rates by 7%. United States Agency International Development(USAid) CBO impact assessment report (2011), states that households participating in the CBO program were significantly more likely to participate regularly in savings groups and borrow money than households in the other study groups.

CBOs are public or private, nonprofit organizations engaged in addressing the social and economic needs of individuals and groups in a defined geographic area, usually no larger

than a county. The college access and success efforts of CBOs vary, depending on their mission and vision (Morley *et al*, 2002). For example, direct service organizations provide college information, advice, and application assistance to individual students and families; organize college awareness workshops, financial aid nights, and college fairs; and support students in high school through their college years. Youth development organizations often offer extended learning opportunities such as traditional after-school activities with an academic focus, apprenticeships and internships, summer enrichment and travel, and activities on college campuses. Integrated student services organizations work with schools to identify and assist individual students needing support with academic issues and non-academic problems that interfere with their school achievement by leveraging resources from appropriate agencies, including health care, social services, and counseling (Jeffrey, *et al*, 2003). Finally, community mobilization coalitions consist of public and private entities focused on systemic change to achieve an overarching community-wide goal such as doubling the number of high school graduates or improving college completion within a specified time period.

According to Langley *et al* (1996) CBOs assist government in making impoverished and working-class residents and citizens aware of important benefits that can improve their living conditions and thereby integrate these groups with mainstream institutions and processes. Nonprofits programmatically connect the availability of social welfare with outreach and accessibility. Although social services are officially available and targeted for groups, service inaccessibility can still be a problem due to lack of information or know-how about applying for services. Lipman (2002) argues that CBOs have greater organizational flexibility than state agencies and thus can tackle new challenges more quickly in some cases. Nonprofits operating in neighborhoods contribute to the building and maintenance of physical infrastructure. They invest considerable resources in the expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure. Gulati-Partee (2001) states that the sector helps to identify problems and challenges facing neighborhoods; it collects and distributes information about government opportunities; it involves local businesses in developing revitalization strategies; it provides the training for development of

entrepreneurial skills; it helps to train a local workforce; and, it serves as a nexus for necessary financing of various types of neighborhood redevelopment projects.

CBOs are distinct from other NGOs in that they are membership organizations striving to further the interests of their own members, while NGOs have a broader scope of activities that may assist CBOs and pursue interests that do not directly benefit their members (World Bank, 2011). There are two types of CBOs operating in Kenya. The first are the independent primary associations that are formed and managed by the local members using their own resources for the benefit of their members. Membership in these organizations is voluntary and may be open or closed. Usually, activities revolve around mutual support or what Kopiyo and Mukui (2001) refer to as the 'moral economy of the peasant'. They may get external support but they seldom change their core activity even after getting involved in activities of an external agency. However, Berry *et al.* (2003) argued that external involvement may blur their vision, but they do not lose sight of primary objectives. CBOs are not for profit organizations on a local and national level, facilitating community efforts for community development. Cooke-Davies (2000) observes that for projects to perform well there is need for a close cooperation between the CBOs and the community. They ought to work towards the same goal and share the same interests. Successful development projects improve time to market, enhances one's competitive position, and increases product sales or product margins.

National Council of Community Based Organizations (NCCBO) (2006) survey showed that there were a total of 26,027 registered CBOs in Kenya implementing the Millennium Development Goals and key implementation organs of the national vision (GoK's Vision 2030 and industrialization objective) employing some 0.8 million people and contributed over 1.4 % of all new jobs created in the country. An effective means of learning from experience on projects that combines explicit knowledge with tacit knowledge in a way that encourages people to learn and to embed that learning into continuous improvement of project management processes and practices (Kerzner, 2000). CBOs have increasingly become the key target group for implementing development projects at the grass root level which meets people's needs. Consequently, providing access to services is not only considered a pre-condition for poverty alleviation, but also considered as a strategy for

empowering communities (Karanja, 1996). It is expected that by the year 2030, Kenya will be transformed into a newly industrialized nation. If the country has to make this leap, then the CBOs and other non-governmental organizations are expected to play a vital role in this transformation.

2.2.1 Poverty

More than three quarters of the population lives in rural areas, and rural households rely on agriculture for most of their income. The rural economy, in turn, depends mainly on smallholder farming, which produces the majority of Kenya's agricultural output. About 70 per cent of the poor are in the central and western regions, living in areas that have medium to high potential for agriculture. Poverty and food insecurity are acute in the country's arid and semi-arid lands, which have been severely affected by recurrent droughts. Kenya also has one of the world's highest rates of population growth. The population has tripled in the past 35 years, increasing pressure on the country's resources and leaving young people particularly vulnerable to poverty. Rural women are vulnerable as well, because they do not have equal access to social and economic assets; subsistence farming is the primary source of livelihood for most of these women. Yet women and young people have great potential for contributing to economic development and social progress if they are able to fulfill their potential.

Rural poverty in Kenya is also strongly linked to environmental concerns especially poor water management, soil erosion, declining soil fertility and land degradation. Climate change, which is one of the major challenges facing the Kenyan economy, could undermine the resource base and contribute to declining agricultural yields. Droughts and floods have increased in frequency and intensity over the past decade. Severe droughts occurred in 2010 and 2011, with 4 million people requiring food assistance. Unemployment and poverty are multifaceted, complex problems that must be addressed through a combination of public policy and community-based approaches. This paper sets out a framework for community-based poverty reduction. The framework evolved from earlier work on building community capacity undertaken by the Caledon Institute of Social Policy on behalf of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation.

This ‘bottom-up’ approach to poverty reduction can work only within the context of sound economic and social policies. Community-based initiatives are an important supplement and complement to a solid social infrastructure which makes adequate provision for income security and for investments in education, health and other areas such as early childhood development. In fact, community-based approaches to poverty reduction have been found to be most effective when the local economy is strong and when social programs such as high-quality, affordable child care are available.

Poverty is the result not only of a changing labour market. It also is linked to household structure and demographics. Gender is a critical demographic factor in the poverty story. Women typically have higher poverty rates than men and families led by women are more likely to be poor than those headed by men. The persisting inequality between the sexes in basic unpaid social and economic roles as homemakers and caregivers to children and aging parents – is a major factor in women’s lower incomes and higher risk of poverty (Battle 2006). Even with recent improvements, women still earn only 64 percent of men’s average wages. In addition to gender, marital status is a key factor. Single parent families mostly led by women face a high risk of poverty. In 1996, 60.8 percent of families headed by single-parent women were poor compared with 11.8 percent of two-parent families.

Community-Based Poverty Reduction programs are not the only way that governments reduce poverty. Fiscal and monetary policy affects the level of unemployment, which in turn is a key determinant of poverty. Some critics argue that tight fiscal policy and high interest rates have contributed to Canada’s high unemployment rate and thus exacerbated the poverty problem. Governments can modify fiscal and monetary policies to be more supportive of job creation. Governments also can support the infrastructure of community approaches to poverty reduction. Quebec, for example, has actively promoted the development of the social economy

But transfers and other government initiatives usually are considered ‘top-down’ approaches to poverty reduction. Benefits are paid or delivered from a central source – typically the federal or provincial/territorial governments. Social programs play a crucial

role in supplementing low earnings and providing free or subsidized services and supports. But they are not sufficient in themselves to eliminate poverty and fully offset its negative impact. In some cases, these ‘top-down’ approaches merely take the edge off poverty by modestly raising a poor household’s low income. There is also a need for ‘bottom-up’ or community based approaches both to supplement and complement the public policy infrastructure in reducing poverty.

The philosophy that underlies community-based approaches to poverty reduction views poverty alleviation as more than an end in itself. Poverty alleviation is a subset of broader economic development. Community approaches to poverty reduction are not service-based interventions that regard individuals as ‘clients’ who need assistance. Instead, these approaches have a direct or ultimate economic purpose. They focus upon the active pursuit of market-based strategies, often geographic and sector-specific, that exploit market niches for beneficiaries (Lewis 2008). Community approaches address social problems that governments and the voluntary sector usually address but typically incorporate methods employed by the private sector.

Community approaches seek to empower local organizations and individuals through an atmosphere of dignity and participation, and an orientation to achieving durable results (O’Regan and Conway, 2013). A major goal of community approaches is to engage disadvantaged populations and neighborhoods, especially to participate in the governance of local organizations and in human resource development. Community initiatives build on the ideas and strengths of individuals, and recognize their ability to apply unique talents, creativity and hard work to improve their lives (Nares 2008). Participants in any program or activity related to poverty reduction must have a say in organizing the program and must play an active role in determining their future (Reid, 2000).

Since independence, the government of Kenya has drawn policy documents aimed at reducing societal inequalities in all various forms. Some of them are the Session paper number 10 of 1965, national development plans, district focus strategy on rural development (DFRD), Session paper number 1 of 1986, economic recovery strategy for employment and wealth creation of 2003-2007 then the vision 2030 (Mbuno *et al*, 2009).

Some of the efforts have been through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) established by an act of parliament in 2003. It stipulates that 2.5% of the annual ordinary government revenue is devoted to the constituencies for development especially eradication of poverty at constituency level. However, this intention has not been realized as wished as Njeru (2007) cites because the money has on the centrally gone into the pockets of the rich and powerful members of the parliament and those known to them!

The Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) is also an important tool of the Kenyan local government reform programme to address issues of poverty at grass-root level and the improvement of service delivery and financial management. Youth Development Fund (YDF) is another government effort conceived in June 2006 and gazette in December 2006. Its aim is to arrest un-employment among the youth (18-35 years of age) by providing business development services, facilitating linkages to supply chains and creating local and international market opportunities. However these efforts to fight poverty, challenges of devolved funds continue to be noticed such as lack of awareness, low community participation, implementation difficulties, corruption cases, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor coordination and overlap due to large number of decentralized funds and lack of better legal and institutional frameworks.

2.2.2 Cultural Values

Local culture provides a sense of identity for communities and residents. This identity facilitates common understandings, traditions, and values that are all central to identifying plans of action to improve well-being. Culture contributes to building a sense of local identity and solidarity. It influences the confidence that communities have for coming together to address specific needs and problems. This local commitment among residents, regardless of economic or political conditions, can serve as a valuable tool in shaping the effectiveness of development options and local actions. Such commitment, based on culture and common identity, can be seen as a potentially important tool in sustaining local government, development, and social improvement efforts. Providing a local linkage and cultural basis for development is important. People are likely to take

part in and remain committed to development efforts to which they have a direct connection.

Development efforts that consider or focus on cultural aspects of communities provide a mechanism for linking local residents to the development process. Through such efforts, local residents can encourage development that preserves or promotes their culture. This is particularly important in development efforts that seek to elicit local participation, philanthropy, volunteerism, and community action. In understanding the place of culture in the development process, consider the social basis of culture, its relationship to interaction, and the types of development and local actions it can contribute to.

Developmental trajectories of communities are usually explained by reference to economic history and trends, human capital deficits, and/or the local labor market structure. Local culture is rarely seen as playing a significant role in development outcomes. Nor does empirical research routinely consider the role of local culture in fostering a more complete understanding of community development. Instead, culture is often viewed as an outgrowth of a particular region and is dependent upon social and other experiences, rather than an independent force. Such perspectives miss an important aspect of the community development process.

The culture of a community significantly shapes debate and action that lead to development. Local culture also presents unique options for locally based economic, social, and other developments. Local understandings and interpretations of a community's history reflect past events that feed into and are partially driven by the demands, sentiments, and interests of those in the present. This makes it crucial for community development practitioners to consider the cultural importance of efforts to improve local well-being. By paying attention to and incorporating unique cultural values, traditions, value systems, and related factors, more efficient and effective development efforts can be achieved.

The concept of culture has many definitions and interpretations. In social settings, it is often used broadly to represent entire ways of life. Included in such ways of life are rules,

values, and expected behaviors. At its most basic level, culture can be seen as the shared products of a society. These products have a common meaning that accumulates over time and also reflects shared attachments among community members. Culture can be seen as consisting of ideas, beliefs, rules, and material dimensions. Ideas include things such as the values, knowledge, and experiences held by a culture. Values are shared ideas and beliefs about what is morally right or wrong, or what is culturally desirable. Such values are abstract concepts which are often based on religion or culture in that they reflect ideals and visions of what society should be. Such values often shape expected behavior and rules.

These rules are accepted ways of doing things and represent guidelines for how people should conduct them and how they should act towards others. Values and rules are often taken for granted and assumed to reflect a common understanding. Both, however, have direct origins and developed in response to conflicts or needs. At the core of such values and norms is a process of interaction that led to their emergence and acceptance. This process shapes the actions of individuals and social systems within their communities. Culture provides a sense of belonging and an arena in which residents can make a difference. At the same time, culture contributes to exclusionary practices and has been seen as an impediment to overall community development efforts. Regardless, it is clear that culture plays a critical role in local community action.

Regional or local culture can serve as a basis for development. Such efforts can serve to promote the local identity, regional languages, and minority cultures. Efforts can focus on preservation or promotion of a culture, but they can also use culture to mobilize the local population. Examples of cultural preservation or efforts focusing solely on a culture are often seen in relation to tourism and conservation efforts. Included are renovation of villages (architectural rehabilitation), highlighting the architectural heritage of an area (restoring historic sites to serve as a focal point for tourists), cultural venues (local heritage centers and traditional cultural events), traditional craft and artistic skills (development of industry and employment based on producing crafts that symbolize local culture), and cultural-based entertainment and cultural dissemination (organization of cultural activities, festivals, and permanent exhibitions).

Equally important is the environmental aspects of culture in which traditional uses of natural resources or events symbolize local cultural ties to environmental processes (solstice festivals, harvest festivals, and agriculture progress days). These efforts serve as a basis for development, but they also serve to maintain cultural traditions and ways of life. Furthermore, such forms of development highlight the importance of rural cultures and identify their role in shaping wider society. Finally, through such development, community and cultural identities are reinforced and collective identities strengthened. Such interaction can lead to an improved state of community and social well-being. The inclusion of culture into community and economic development models can take many shapes and forms. Culture can serve as the central focus. Included would be tourism and other efforts that focus largely on the promotion, preservation, or enhancement of local or regional cultures.

2.2.3 Literacy Level

Literacy is a right. It is implicit in the right to education. It is recognized as a right, explicitly for both children and adults, in certain international conventions. It is included in key international declarations. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to education, as do other binding international conventions. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both adopted in 1966, which, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were proclaimed by the United Nations as constituting the International Bill of Human Rights. Other important instruments include the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The 1975 Persepolis Declaration, the CRC and CEDAW further recognize literacy, rather than just education, as a right. The 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education (CDE) specifically tackles the issue of those who have not attended or completed primary education. The Persepolis Declaration states: ‘Literacy is not an end in itself. It is a fundamental human right’ (UNESCO, 1975a).

Both the CRC and CEDAW refer to the promotion of literacy and the eradication of illiteracy. For example, Article 10(e) of CEDAW, which entered into force in 1981, recognizes the right of adults to literacy, calling on parties to ensure that men and women have ‘the same opportunities for access to programs of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programs. The CRC characterizes literacy as a basic skill to which children are entitled and stresses the need to rid the world of illiteracy (UNHCHR, 1989). A strategic objective of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is to ‘eradicate illiteracy among women’. The CDE directs states to ‘encourage and intensify by appropriate methods the education of persons who have not received any primary education or who have not completed the entire primary education course and the continuation of their education on the basis of individual capacity’ (UNESCO, 1960).

The CDE further mandates increasing opportunities for literacy via continuing education. There is considerable pressure for a renewed emphasis on literacy as a right. The Hamburg Declaration states under Resolution 11: ‘Literacy, broadly conceived as the basic knowledge and skills needed by all in a rapidly changing world, is a fundamental human right’ (UNESCO, 1997). The UNESCO round-table report *Literacy as Freedom* recommends that literacy be understood within a rights-based approach and among principles of inclusion for human development (UNESCO, 2003)

The rationale for recognizing literacy as a right is the set of benefits it confers on individuals, families, communities and nations. Indeed, it is widely reckoned that, in modern societies, ‘literacy skills are fundamental to informed decision-making, personal empowerment, active and passive participation in local and global social community’ (Stromquist, 2005). There is a strong link between development and education. Indeed, education, formal and non-formal, is the bedrock of a ‘transformative approach’ to community development (Kane, 2006;Fraser, 2005). Education can enhance the potential for people at the grassroots level to experience social change (Kane, 2006). It engaged the acquisition of educational experiences which go beyond academic or professional qualifications, and it helps the individual to find his or her purpose in the community (Hunt, 2009). Just like in other developing countries, a large proportion of the Nigerian

population resides in the rural areas, where most people are largely illiterate and depend on farming for their livelihoods.

Even in the southwestern region, where people are relatively more educated, the villagers are not in any way better-off than their counterparts in other educationally disadvantaged areas of the country. Yet, this rural population constitutes the bulk (over 75%) of the people in agricultural employment, who are responsible for the production of food and raw materials (Omolewa et al, 2008). These farmers also produce cash crops to earn foreign currency. Low levels of literacy, however, impede farmers' ability to develop skills that would make their businesses competitive. The non-literate adult farmers and nomads as well as other community members, therefore, need special education to enable them to realize their full potential (Oduaran, 2009). In the United States, for instance, publicly-funded adult education programs are targeted at helping adults increase their reading skills so that their educational, vocational, and personal goals are more attainable (Bell, Ziegler, and McCallum, 2004).

The human benefits from literature are related to factors such as the improved self-esteem, empowerment, creativity and critical reflection that participation in adult literacy programs and the practice of literacy may produce. Human benefits are intrinsically valuable and may also be instrumental in realizing other benefits of literacy: improved health, increased political participation and so on.

2.2.4 Livelihood Outcomes

'*Livelihoods*' is a term that we use in everyday life, and we probably all have differing ideas about its meaning. According to Chambers and Conway (1992) livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living'. The term 'livelihoods' has become increasingly important in development theory and practice, as it is seen to encompass a wide range of concerns, and to allow inclusion of the broad range of people's activities and assets in considering how they support themselves, rather than focusing more narrowly on economic, income-generating or formal activities. Ntale (2013) explains that livelihood is a set of activities, involving securing human basic needs, and the capacity to acquire them either

individually or as a group by using resources available to the people. In this study livelihood outcome indicates the results got from being a member of women group and they include things like ability to build a permanent house, access to electricity, ability to pay school fees and medical bills, improved farming methods, access to piped water, affordability of a vehicle, ability to start small businesses among other livelihood outcomes. According to Litondo (2013) the concept sustainable rural livelihood is of importance in the understanding of rural development, wealth creation and management of the environment as well as social transformation. Ntale (2013) classified that livelihood is not only a matter of finding or making shelter, transacting money or exchange in the market or even having food on the table but also it is a matter of ownership and circulation of information, management of relationships, and the affirmation of personal significance and group identity as well as how all these variables interrelate with each other to improve the living standard.

According to Nawaz (2010) livelihood is a set of capabilities, assets and activities that supply the means for people to meet their basic needs, and to support their well being. The building of livelihoods seeks to fulfil both material and non-material needs. Chambers (2001) equates livelihood security to secure rights freedoms and reliable access to resources. This also includes tangible and intangible assets to off-set risks as well as easing shocks and meeting contingencies. Such shocks would include physical impairment, catastrophe or change in weather patterns. Livelihoods are not simply a localized reality, but connected to the dynamic legal, economic, political and cultural environment (Castro, 2002). According to Mosley (2001) livelihood is geared towards the holistic components of the human person. A livelihood is made up of the capabilities, assets (both tangible and intangible) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the environment. Sanderson (2002) acknowledges that livelihood describes how people acquire 'assets', and how they utilize them, the challenges they go through in the process of getting them, as well as determining who controls the resources.

Sustainable Livelihood Approach is a method that has been used by many people in evaluating the impacts of projects on livelihood. This chapter sought to present CBOs initiatives in their efforts to uplift or transform rural livelihoods. Sustainable Livelihood Approach framework developed by Ian Scoones, (1998) which looks at vulnerabilities of people in relation to the assets they have and strategies to be used and their sustainability in addressing those vulnerabilities inspired the researcher and thus will be used in the conceptual framework where the study will focus on Isiolo Women groups as one of the strategies used to address the vulnerabilities of rural people in Isiolo County. The researcher will then look at how various Women groups has impacted on the rural livelihood such as enabling the members to build permanent houses, access to medical bills, access to education as well as the effects it has on livelihood as far as transformation is concerned. Transformation thus is a gradual process that takes place over a period of time and it requires strategic, focused planning using teaching methods that will encourage and foster critical reflection (Kabeer 2005).

In this study livelihood outcome indicates the results got from the services rendered by the various women groups and they include such things as ability to build a permanent house, access to electricity, ability to pay school fees and medical bills, improved farming methods, access to piped water, affordability of a vehicle, access to a business enterprise among other outcomes. The term Sustainable rural livelihood is an increasingly of concern to rural development, poverty reduction and management of the environment as well as social transformation. A livelihood according to Carney (1998) is a set of capabilities, assets and activities that supply the means for people to meet their basic needs, and to support their well being. The building of livelihoods reflects and seeks to fulfil both material and experiential needs. Chambers (1997) stated that livelihood security basically refers to secure rights and reliable access to resources, income as well as basic services. It also includes tangible and intangible assets to off-set risk as well as eases shocks and meets contingencies. Such shocks would include physical impairment, catastrophe or change in weather patterns. In his contribution, Wallman (1984), points out that livelihood is not a matter of finding or making shelter, transacting money or exchange in the market or even having food on the table but he presents it as a matter of

ownership and circulation of information, management of relationships, and the affirmation of personal significance and group identity as well as how all these interrelate with each other.

Livelihoods are not simply a localized phenomenon, but connected by an environmental, economic, political and cultural process to wider national, regional and global arenas (Castro, 2002). According to Deepa and Robert (2000), livelihood is geared towards the holistic components of the human person. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (both natural and social) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. The key element of a livelihoods approach is that people are the starting point and Sanderson (2000) in his contribution says that livelihood describes how people acquire 'assets', and how they spend them, the challenges they go through in the process of getting them, as well as determining who controls the resources on which assets are based.

This study focused on how Isiolo women development groupshave impacted on the rural livelihood and it embraced a sustainable livelihood approach that only focused on the livelihood outcomes of the women groupson its members. It depicted on the main factors that affect poor rural households which are trapped in a vicious spiral of insecurity, illiteracy insufficient land, often of poor quality, lack of information, poor marketing, unable to buy fertilizer, purchase sufficient food; they are malnourished and so more likely to fall sick. The Oxfam poverty report, (1996) stated that in most cases, children whose livelihoods are not adhered to are most likely to work primarily as unpaid family labourers debarring them from education which in most cases is not afforded by the poor, creating an inter-generational gap. These factors as noted are vicious because one issue leads to the next. For example inadequate nutrition and ill health reduce the productivity of the poor because lower productivity means less income and less food.

According to Fisher & Sriram (2002)the goals of livelihoods promotion encompasses acquiring of assets or wealth, increase in food security, risk reduction, minimizing strains

in getting income, reduces rural to urban migration, organizes producers to have greater control over their livelihoods and encourages economy to grow since there is circulation of money from within. So, livelihood goes well beyond enhancing incomes. From this perspective then, CBO can only be one input, however necessary for promoting livelihoods. In this study, the researcher will use rural livelihood to refer to various Women groups outcomes which are physical assets (permanent house, piped water, access to electricity), and human capital (ability to pay school fees, ability to pay hospital bills).

2.3 Empirical Review

Longenecker, *et al.*, (2006) studied on the full potential of the CBOs which is not yet tapped due to the existence of a number of constraints such as lack of planning, improper financing and poor management. Mwaura and Karanja (2014) cited poor governance as one of the most serious constraints facing CBO projects and hindering their profitability. This study investigates the factors that affect the performance of CBO projects in Kenya. CBOs have projects that are supposed to generate income to fund their operations and also meet the needs of their beneficiaries. Most do not meet this requirement due to challenges in their financial management practices, governance, project management practices and community participation.

Lopes (2002), stated that Community-Based Organizations contribution to the economic development have been problematic because these organizations have challenges in their organizational structures, management of their financial resources and staff motivation. Khattak and Khan (2008) on the other hand argued that while CBOs in India are engaged in many economic activities that serve to increase the level of disposable income in local areas, it is however noted that 73% of the federal government grants that CBOs handle are mismanaged due to poor governance of the organizations.

LeRoux (2007) reviewed projects implemented by CBOs in U.S.A localities and found they were performing poorly due to low participation by community members. Kleemeier (2000) examined water projects managed by CBOs in South Africa and found 63% of

them are performing poorly due to financial mismanagement. In a case based evaluation of community based project in Jamaica and Nicaragua conducted by World Bank (2011) operations and evaluation department found poor governance lead to failure of 38% of the projects.

Clark (1999) indicates CBOs are so entwined in communities that it is easy to miss the impact they have on daily life. Consider the organizations with which people come into regular contact – churches, day-care centers, arts programs, human services, youth centers, and the many groups that work to improve the quality of life in communities but can remain quite un-noticed. Thus, nonprofits are an essential feature of civic and economic life today. They are the “connecting points” between people from different backgrounds and ages, people and opportunities, and people and other sectors.

Community-based nonprofits are the basic glue for these connections and therefore are important in providing services, triggering and sustaining civic spirit and volunteerism, and supporting local economies. These kinds of linkages make this sub-sector a sort of buffer, or safety-net, for the effects of inequality and poverty in the state for thousands of children and families, and other groups (Young, 2000).

2.4 Theoretical Framework of the Study

The study was guided by the Community Development Theory.

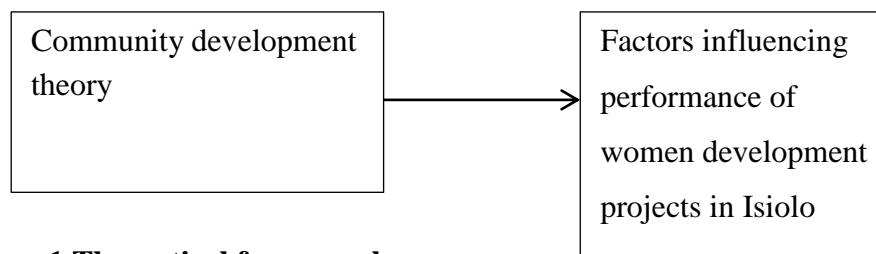


Figure 1 Theoretical framework

2.4.1 Community Development Theory

Community Development Theory was developed by Robert K. Merton in 1960s. The theory focuses on the centrality of oppressed people in the process of overcoming externally imposed social problems. Social work, at its foundation, shares much in common with the tenets of Community Development. Mendes (2008) offers definitions

of both which succinctly point to the similarities as well as the unique distinction. “Social work is defined as professional intervention to address situations of personal distress and crisis by shaping and changing the social environment in which people live. Community development is defined as the employment of community structures to address social needs and empower groups of people” (Mendes, 2008).

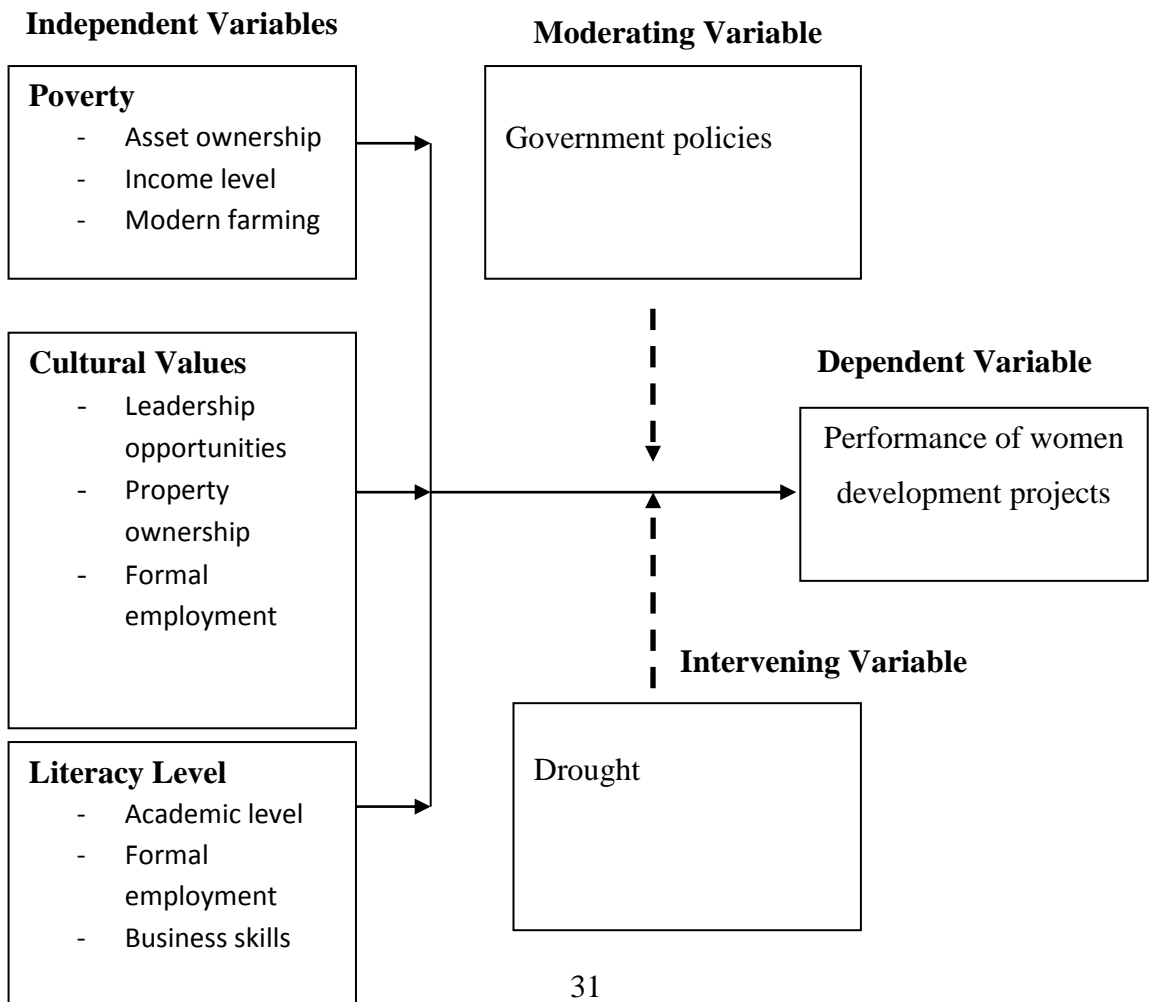
The unique focus on the employment of community structures in the process of change stems from community development theory’s roots in sociology, as opposed to the psychology-based theories of micro level social work practice. When these structures and the community’s people are appropriately engaged and empowered, the role of the social worker in a community development framework lands heavily on the facilitator side of the expert-facilitator continuum.

The field of social work has been polarized by a divide between a focus on the individual versus a focus on the community since the very beginnings of the profession. In the late 1800’s, two competing modes of what came to be called ‘social work’ began vying for recognition: the Charity Organizations Society (COS) and the settlement house movement. These two models of care to the poor exemplify the micro-macro divide, especially as it relates to the role of the social worker in the change process. COS focused attention almost exclusively on individuals and sought to provide charity and services to the poor; the COS model viewed the role of the worker as the ‘expert’ in the process of aid and change. By contrast, the settlement house movement focused on the environment and communities in which the poor lived by moving into the immigrant and oppressed areas and developing an understanding of the issues leading to an individual’s poverty; settlement house workers then sought to work in collaboration with the poor to achieve community change, viewing the role of the worker as a facilitator in the process of change.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Literature tells us that CBOs can significantly reduce poverty in the rural livelihoods (Zaman, 2004). Informed by the Sustainable Approach Theory which focuses much on the vulnerability of the members in relation to the processes undertaken to aid their plea, the researcher focused on women development groups as one of the strategies used to address rural poverty in realization of livelihood outcomes and added the demographic factors as part of the factors to be considered in realization of the outcomes such as age, number of children in a household, as well as the level of education. The researcher used the sustainable livelihood approach because it allows investigation into ways which a project or institution directly or indirectly affects peoples livelihood and thus focused on impact of Women group on human capital, Physical assets and add on the transformational aspect as an impact to the livelihood.

Figure 2 Conceptual Framework



2.6 Knowledge Gaps

Women development projects do best when women's roles and needs are factored into project design from the start. Women make up 70 percent of the world's poor. They face systematic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, control of assets and participation particularly in developing countries. Women are held back by lack of education, unequal property rights and limited control over resources. Labour intensive and time-consuming activities further hinder women's ability to improve their income-earning potential. In order for poor communities to prosper and grow, women's needs and rights must be addressed.

Nevertheless, little has been done to determine what and how women themselves can improve livelihood in the communities without focusing more on their poverty, deprivations and lacking. The study therefore seeks to avoid the overly research and documented information about poverty women and finds to understand what women can do to improve livelihood. The study focuses on poverty eradication through women development projects, increase of literacy level and overcoming cultural values to enhance and enforce a better community through improved livelihood.

2.7 Summary of Literature Review

The literature review has revealed that various scholars have different views pertaining how CBOs have either been an impediment in people's development or has assisted the growth of people by reducing poverty levels. Scholars like Longenecker, et al., (2006) argues that full potential of the CBOs has not been tapped, Coleman (1999) pointed out that there is no effect as far as CBOs is concerned in relation to acquiring of assets or even fighting poverty. Mwaura and Karanja (2014) cite poor governance as a major constraint facing CBOs.

Other writers such as LeRoux (2007) stated that CBOs perform poorly due to low participation by community members. Kenya on the other hand has overwhelmingly CBOs that do serve the communities at various levels. At local level, the government has devolved funds for the communities for poverty reduction, but lack of information and

knowledge together with mismanagement of such funds creates no impact in poverty reduction. Due to these factors, the researcher will focus on Women development groups and investigate the impact it has on members' livelihood. The chapter also discussed on the theoretical framework and conceptual framework of the study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

3.1 Introduction

This section discussed details of the research issues addressed in the objectives of the study. Specifically the research established the extent to which poverty, cultural values and literacy level influence the performance of women development projects in Kenya. The details of research methodology include; research design, study area, data collection, data collection techniques, data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

The study employed a descriptive survey research design because the information given was of personal nature for example, views, opinions, attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of the Women group members in relation to the impacts of the group's livelihood outcomes. The study used a survey to collect data by asking respondents questions in a questionnaire (Kraemer 1991). Cross sectional survey was applied since data was collected once. According to Orotho (2005), descriptive survey designs are very useful in preliminary and explanatory studies to allow researchers gather facts and interpret them for clarification. Such studies deal with feelings, perceptions, behavior and role as well as group status. The reason for using descriptive survey research design was because it helped in giving why, where, what and when of the research questions.

Principally, the cross-sectional method was used in this study to collect data from respondents at one point in time. The same questions to the sample at different points in time were used. Chris and Diane Marie (2004) stated that one of the most common and well-known study designs is the cross-sectional study design. In this type of research study, either the entire population or a subset thereof is selected, and from these individuals, data are collected to help answer research questions of interest. At the same time, the researcher included respondent's observation in order to examine the qualitative dimension. Observation is a way of gathering data by watching behaviour, events, or noting physical characteristics in their natural setting. Covert observation was done (no

one knew they were being observed and the observer was concealed). The benefit of covert observation is that people are more likely to behave naturally.

3.3 Target Population

Mugenda & Mugenda (2008) define population as an entire group of individuals, events or object with common observable characteristics. Besi & Kahn (2001) refers to population as any given group of individuals who have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to all researchers. There are four major women groups in Isiolo county namely Annolei, Nomadic, Pastoral, and Jitegemee women groups each having 50 active members including the managers. The group members were included in this study as respondents for their input on how their women groups' activities help in impacting their livelihoods. They formed the target population of this study.

3.4 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

A sample according to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) is a smaller group obtained from the accessible population. It is through the sampling procedure that a sample derived or extracted from the population for further study and analysis. The study employed cluster sampling technique. The reason for choosing cluster sampling is that the technique is fast, inexpensive, and easy. In addition, the subjects are also readily available. According to Castillo (2009), cluster sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where subjects are selected because of their accessibility and proximity and not biased to the research. The researcher shall calculate the sample from the 30 percent of the total population of three groups each with 50 members while the last one had 60 members hence a total of 210 members. According to Fischer in Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), the total sample size was calculated as follows:

$$30/100 \text{ of } 210 = 70$$

A total sample size of 70 was considered adequate.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection

The instrument tool to be used in this study was questionnaire. Questionnaire was used so as to reach many research participants. Closed and open-ended questions were designed

in order to collect information from the 70 women group members. Questionnaires were then distributed to the members of the group. The use of questionnaire guarantees anonymity to the subjects and hence encourages them to give honest responses (Orotho, 2005). According to Mwangi (1999), questionnaires increase reliability of the instrument. The researcher used the research assistants to assist in administering the questionnaires as well as assisting those who do not know how to read and write. The research assistants were also assisted in the interpretation of the language to the local natives.

3.6 Reliability

According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2008) reliability is the degree to which results obtained from analysis of the data actually represent the phenomena under study. A pilot study was conducted where six questionnaires were issued to six respondents. This was then checked to ascertain if the questionnaire was reliable to capture the required information. Reliability sought to answer the question, “If the measure used during data collection was repeated later on the same population, would the same results be achieved (Hesse-Biber, et.al 2010)? To ensure reliability in this study, common questions were asked. All the data collection instruments had standardized questions for all the respondents. Interpretation of the questions to different respondents according to their levels of understanding was done with caution, in order to avoid bias from the researcher (Gray, 2009).

3.7 Validity

Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) defines Validity as the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, which are based on research results. In validity, this study ensured that the data collection tool was used to measure what they are supposed to estimate (Hesse-Biber, 2010). To guarantee this, the data collection tools were piloted to ensure that the tools are well understood by the respondents, and that they address the research objectives and questions (Gray, 2009). Since construct validity entails establishing whether the study meets its objectives, the study conducted factor analysis to select a subset of variables from a larger set based on original variables with highest correlations

with the principal component factors. Factor analysis method assisted in investigating whether a number of variables of interest, are linearly related to a smaller number of unobservable factors (Golafshani, 2003). The fact that the factors are not observable disqualifies regression and other methods previously examined.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

Data analysis was qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative consisting of coding observation reports in the field. Concerning quantitative some numerical data from respondents, such as gender, age, duration in their development groups, capability to pay (school fees, affordability of good medical services, ownership of a camels, as well as improvement of farming methods was analyzed in relations to their arguments. Data collected through the questionnaire was edited, coded and processed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics was used to establish the extent to which various women development group had enabled people of Isiolo to improve their livelihoods. After the analysis, the findings were presented in different forms of tables and figures which were taken from SPSS programme. This was done to provide accuracy and creativity in data presentation. Interpretation of data was also done after data presentation, including comparing the findings with literature review used in the study and incorporating the researcher's experience and intuition learnt.

3.9 Operational Definition of Variables

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) say that operationalization is defining concepts making them measureable by looking at their behavioural dimensions, indicators and properties denoted by their same concepts to make it measureable and observer able. These measures were used to construct meaningful data collection instrument.

Operational definition of variables defined chosen variables in terms of measurable indicators. The data collection, analysis techniques and instruments are mentioned on each variable. Operational definition of variables is a demonstration to help process the variables, in terms of the specific assessment of validation test used to determine the presence of results quality.

Table 3.1: Measurement of Variables

The variables used in this were measured as indicated in the table below:

Objectives	Variables	Indicators	Measurement scale	Instrument of analysis	Type of analysis
To examine the extent to which poverty influences the performance of women development projects in Isiolo county	Independent Variables Poverty Dependent variable Performance of women development projects	Asset ownership Income level Modern farming	Ratio Nominal	Questionnaires	Tables Percentages
To establish the extent to which cultural values influences the performance of women development projects in Isiolo county.	Independent Variables Cultural values Dependent variable Performance of women development project	Leadership opportunities Property ownership Formal employment	Ratio Nominal	Questionnaires	Tables percentages
To assess the extent to which literacy level influences the performance of women	Independent Variable	Academic level	Ratio Nominal	Questionnaires	

development projects in Isiolo county.	Literacy level Dependent variable Performance of women development project	Formal employment Business skills			
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3.10 Ethical Issues

The researcher has protected the privacy of the data once it was collected. Further the researcher recognizes the fact that respondents have the right to informed consent. There was an ethical problem especially when the respondents are very poor or have mental disorders and therefore lack the capacity to fully understand the nature and consequences of research (Warwick, 1980). The researcher desisted from engaging in misrepresentation about the nature of the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents data analysis, presentations, interpretations and discussions of the research findings, the following sub sections reports on response rate, background information and answering the questionnaire accomplished through the survey of 70 members of the four selected women groups within Isiolo County. The research questions were derived from the research objectives which were mainly based on the poverty, cultural values and literacy levels. Data was collected from the sample and the outcome presented in a table format.

4.2 Questionnaire Return Rate

The study sampled 70 active members from the selected four women development groups in Isiolo County with their managers included. All the sampled 70 members were able to participate in the process, representing 100 percent as shown in the Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Response rate

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Returned	70	100
Not returned	0	0
Total	70	100

This was a high rate of response that was achieved through cooperation of the respondent and the research assistants who were hired and trained for the process and therefore according to Kothari (2008) data is analyzable. The research assistants were all briefed on the research questionnaire content thoroughly.

4.3 Demographic characteristic of the respondents

In this section the researcher sought to know information on gender, age residency and academic qualifications of the respondents.

4.3.1 Gender of the respondents

To answer the question on gender the researcher asked the members of the groups to state their gender and response were summarized in the following table.

Table 4.2 Gender of the respondents

Gender	Percentage (%)
Male	72
Female	28

Table 4.2 show that the female members of the groups were 95 and 5 percent respectively. The findings revealed that most of the group members were female however a few number of male was seen .This is a reflection of the target population had more women than men.

4.3.2 Age category of the respondents

The study sought to know the age category of the respondents. To answer this, the researcher asked the respondents to specify their age and the response shown in the table 4.3 below. Table 4.3 shows that 57.2 per cent were in the age category of between 26 and 55 followed by 28.6 percent 55 years of age and the least age category with 14.2 percent who were in the age category of below 25 years. This shows that majority of the members were at their youthful and productive age, hence could join various women groups for development.

Table 4.3 Age category of the respondents

Age category(years)	Frequency	Percentage
Below 25	10	14.2
26-55	40	57.2
Above 55	20	28.6
Total	70	100

4.3.3 Residency of the respondents

The study sought to know the number of years respondents have lived in the area. To answer the question, the respondents were asked to state the period they have lived in the area.

Table 4.4 Residency of the respondents

No. of years lived	Frequency	Percentage
All my life	42	60
More than 20 years	20	28.6
Less than 10 years	8	11.4
Total	70	100

Table 4.4 shows the highest percentage of the group members (60 per cent) have live the area all of their lives ,hence have a wealth of relevant information and knowledge on the various factors that affect previous and current women development projects.

4.3.4 Academic qualifications of the respondent

The study sought to know the academic qualification of the respondents in the women groups. To answer the question the researcher asked the respondents to specify their academic qualification. The data was collected and analyzed in the Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Academic qualification of the respondents

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Primary level /below	64	91.4
Secondary level	6	8.6
Tertiary/college level	0	0
University level	0	0
Total	70	100

Table 4.5 shows that the highest percentages of the group members are either illiterate or have just attained basic primary education. Just a few have gone to secondary level of which they are the male members of the group. None of the group member has gone to either a college or university level. This shows that education is one of the factors which affect the performance of women development projects in the case.

4.4 Influence of poverty on performance of women group.

The presentation, interpretation and discussion of the findings in this section relates to level of monthly income of the respondents, poverty and how it reflects on the performance of various women development projects in Isiolo county.

Respondents were asked to state their monthly income. The Table 4.6 shows that the respondent's monthly income level was low with 80 per cent, medium 20 per cent and high with 0 per cent.

Table 4.6 Monthly incomes of the respondents

Monthly income	Frequency	Percentage
High	0	0
Medium	14	20
Low	66	80
Total	70	100

This also could be observed with the type of housing of the respondents, the number of camels the respondent owned, the means of preservation and transportation the respondent used to preserve and transport their milk to the centre among other things. This is challenging for a better performance of the women groups due to low income levels and a very high poverty level in the area.

4.4.1 Respondents views on poverty and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo

Statements were presented to the respondents to give their views on influence of poverty on the performance of various women development projects in Isiolo County. The scores ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) as illustrated in table 4.7. The table shows that 48.2 per cent of the respondents agreed that they were unable to pay their monthly contribution due to their low income /earning. 72.9 per cent agreed that their productivity level is very poor due to them lacking or having less number of camels for milk production. 51.4 per cent of the respondents agreed that their low income level has hindered them to purchase modern or appropriate feeds for their animals which at the end affect their milk production level. 27.9 per cent of the respondents agreed that their low income level has hindered them from accessing veterinary services for their animals which in the end leads to death of the animal or low milk production level. 48.9 per cent of the respondents agreed that they could not afford to pay or buy tickets to attend workshops or seminars where they could get more knowledge of modern farming techniques hence affecting their productivity.

Table 4.7 Respondents ratings on poverty and its influence on women development project

Statements	Average score	Percentage				
		5	4	3	2	1
1. Because of my low income level I am unable to pay my monthly contribution	4.95	27.1	21.1	14.3	28.6	8.6
2. We own less number of camels hence our productivity is sufficient enough to bring more profit	4.01	22.9	50	8.6	12.9	5.7
3. We don't get enough money to purchase modern cooling systems	5.0	59	20	3	15.7	1.4
4. I have less income and cannot afford fast and efficient means of transporting my milk to the market on time.	4.0	10	41.4	2.8	24.3	21.4
5. As a result of our low income level, we cannot be able to purchase appropriate feeds to our animal which affects our milk production	3.0	22.9	5	8.6	12.9	5.7
6. I have little income and cannot be able to veterinary services to my animals as required	2.0	41.3	8.6	10	4.3	26
7. Due to our low income level we couldn't be able to attend training or even obtain certificates	2.0	36	25	11	18	10

4.4.2 Respondents' rating on poverty and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo?

The relationship between poverty and the performance of various women development projects were important in the study. The researcher sought to know the level of poverty and its influence on the performance of various women development groups. The

researcher asked the respondents to rate poverty and its influence .The results was collected and analyzed in Table 4.8

Table 4.8 Respondents’ rating on poverty and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo?

Rates	Frequency	Percentage
Very High	50	71.3
High	18	25.7
Fair	2	03.0
Low	0	0
Very Low		
Total	70	100

Table 4.8 shows that the highest percentage of the respondents (97%) agreed that poverty level highly influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County, while (3%) agreed that poverty level affects the performance of their groups to the least level. According to Chambers (1995), people are poor because they are poor. This means poverty may hinder an individual to break out of the poverty cycle.

4.4.3 Experts opinion on other poverty eradication project that should be carried out by women to ensure development and improved livelihood in Isiolo County

In Africa particularly, poverty level is so rampant among the female gender in the society. This is a result of rigid cultural practices which hinder women to access education, property ownership hence less or no income for them which in the end leads to poverty. Any development should start with and within people...hence for such projects to be successful the beneficiaries should be involved, empowered (educated on its benefits and financially) for it to achieve its intended goal and attain sustainability.

4.5 Cultural values and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

Culture is the way of life of a particular people, was evident in the particular area. The researcher sought to know whether those cultural practices affected the performance of the women groups in the area. To answer the question the respondents were asked were asked several questions. The presentation, interpretation and discussion of the findings in this section relates to level of cultural practices and how it reflects on the performance of various women development projects in Isiolo county.

4.5.1 Respondents view on whether cultural practices influence the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

The researcher sought to know if cultural practices had influence on the performance of women development groups in the county. The results was collected and analyzed in the Table 4.9. According to Table 4.9, the respondents highly (81.4) per cent agreed that cultural practices affects the performance of women development projects in the county. 18.6 percent didn't agreed that cultural practices influences the performance of women development projects in the area.

Table 4.9 Respondents view on whether cultural practices influence the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	57	81.4
No	13	18.6
Total	70	100

4.5.2 Respondents rating on cultural practices and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

The researcher sought to know if cultural practices rating and influence on the performance of women development groups in the county. The results was collected and analyzed in the Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Respondents rating on cultural practices and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

Statements	Frequency	Percentage				
		5	4	3	2	1
1.As a woman I am not allowed to be a leader	4	50	33.3	0	0	16.7
2.As a woman I am not allowed to interact with the opposite sex at all times	3.3	16.7	33.3	16.7	33.3	0
3.In this society women are not allowed to engage themselves in any kind of formal employment opportunities	3	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	33.3
4. In this society women spend more time in doing household chores than men hence little time is left for our project	3.7	16.7	66.7	0	0	16.7
5.I am not allowed to earn some money ,all what I earn has to go through my husband	3.5	16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	0

According to Table 4.10 above a very high rate of respondent (75.6 per cent) agreed that, cultural practices in the area influenced the performance of women development project. While 25.3 percent of the respondents agreed that cultural practices influenced the performance of women development groups in Isiolo County.

4.5.3: Respondents view on inclusiveness of culture practices influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

The researcher sought to know the respondents view on the inclusiveness of cultural practices and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo

County. To get their views the researcher asked the respondents on how important it is to include culture and its influence on the performance of various women development projects. The results was analyzed and presented in the Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Respondents view on inclusiveness of culture practices influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

Statements	Frequency	Percentage
Very Important	5	7.1
Important	5	7.1
Fairly important	16	22.9
Less important	24	34.3
Not important	20	28.6
Total	70	100

According to Table 4.11 most of the respondents 62.9 percent were for the view that the inclusiveness of culture was not very important on the influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.14.2 percent were for the view that it's important to include cultural practices on performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

4.5.4 Respondents view on whether cultural practices affect women from carry out some projects aimed at development of the people or communities around Isiolo County

The researcher sought to know the respondents views on the effects of cultural practices on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. To get the respondents views the researcher asked them some questions to get the views on whether culture really had any impact on the performance of their women groups. The results were collected analyzed and presented in the Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Respondents view on whether cultural practices and its effect on the performance of women development groups

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	65	92.9
No	5	7.1
Total	70	100

According to Table 4.12, the highest percentage of the respondents agreed that various cultural practices highly affect the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. 92.9 per cent agreed while only 7.1 per cent of the respondents disagreed that culture affects the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

4.6 Literacy level and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

The presentations, interpretations and discussions in this section relate to literacy level of the respondents and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. Data was analyzed and summarized as follows.

4.6.1 Literacy level and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County

The study sought to assess the relationship between education level and its impact on the performance of women development groups in Isiolo County. The researcher used inferential statistics and findings were summarized in Table 4.13

Table 4.13 Literacy level and performance of women development groups

	Value	Asymp. std. Error	Approx. T	Approx. sig.
Ordinal by Gamma	1.000	.000	23.823	.000
Ordinal by spearman correlation	.926	.012	20.282	.000
Interval by Pearson's R	.936	.006	21.927	.000
No of valid cases	70			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis

c. Based on normal approximation

Table 4.13 shows spearman's correlation set at null 5%, $p=0.926$, $r=0.012$.

There is a relationship between literacy level and the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

Table 4.13 shows there is a relationship between literacy level and the performance of women development projects. Successes of women development project in Isiolo County largely depend on the literacy of its members. There is a strong link between development and education. Indeed, education, formal and non-formal, is the bedrock of a 'transformative approach' to community development (Kane, 2006; Fraser, 2005). Education can enhance the potential for people at the grassroots level to experience social change (Kane, 2006). It engenders the acquisition of educational experiences which go beyond academic or professional qualifications, and it helps the individual to find his other purpose in the community.

4.6.2 Respondents views on statement about literacy levels and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

The researcher sought to know the respondents views on literacy level and how it affects the performance of their development projects, therefore the researcher posed the following statement regarding literacy level. The findings were analyzed and summarized in the table below.

Table 4.14 Respondents views on statements regarding literacy level and its impact on the performance of women development projects

Statements	Average score	Percentage (%)				
		5	4	3	2	1
1. Because of my educational level I find it difficult to read and write	5	61.2	22.9	2.9	7.1	4.3
2. I have no academic to manage business calculation Because of my low educational level	5	37	24.3	8.6	26	2.9
3. I cannot be able to know the existing market prices for my product	4.5	11.4	35.7	12.9	17.1	2.9
4. Because of the low or lack of education most women don't see the importance of joining women development groups	4.1	22.9	20	2.9	24.3	10
5. Because of low literacy level members don't understand the importance of the rules and regulations	2.1	5.7	12.9	18.6	12.9	48.6

According to Table 4.14, 98.4% of the respondents agreed at an average score of 5 that because of their educational level they could not be able to read or write important information, 98.8% of the respondents agreed at an average of 5, that they get difficulties in managing business statistics due to their illiteracy level, 80% of the respondents agreed at an average score of 4.5 that they cannot be able to know the existing market prices for their product, 80% of the respondents agreed at an average score of 3.1 that because of the low or lack of education most women don't see the importance of joining women development groups and lastly the 98.7% of the respondents agreed at an average score of 2.1 that because of low literacy level members don't understand the importance of the rules and regulations of their groups.

4.6.3 Respondents ratings on the significance of literacy among Women group especially in its performance level in Isiolo County

The researcher sought to know the respondents views on the significance of literacy level on the performance of their respective groups. To answer the question the respondents were asked to rate the significance of literacy level on the performance of their groups. The data was collected and summarized in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15 Respondents ratings on the significance of literacy among Women group especially in its performance level in Isiolo County

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Very Significant	65	92.6
Fairly significant	5	7.4
Less significant	0	0
Not significant	0	0
Total	70	100

According to Table 4.15, 92.6 percentage of the respondents agreed that literacy is very significant among women groups especially in its performance, 7.4 percent of them agreed that its significant while none of the of their groups.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSION AND
RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter includes a summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendation in accordance to the research questions generated at the beginning of the study. The chapter has also offered suggestions for further research.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This research was guided by the following research objectives. i) to examine the extent to which poverty influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County. ii) to establish the extent to which cultural values influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County. iii) to assess the extent to which literacy level influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County. From the data analyzed it's evident that the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County is highly affected by the high poverty levels, the high illiteracy level and rigid and backward cultural practices. Majority of the respondents who had lived in the area all their lives reported low literacy level, with up to 91.4% of the respondents having basic or no education qualification according to table 4.6. Most of the respondents are in their youthful productive age (57.2) having age between 26-55 years old (Table 4.5).

5.3 Discussions

Poverty was a major hindrance factor to development in the area. According to the statistics in the research, 80% of the respondents had low income level as illustrated in table 4.8, which in the end challenged the performance of the various development projects. Majority of the members had very low income level which affected their productivity in various ways. They could not acquire modern cooling equipments, better feeds, veterinary services for their animals, better and efficient transportation of the milk and even couldn't have enough money to pay their monthly contributions. All these

factors generally affected the performance of the women development projects in Isiolo County as illustrated in Table 4.9.

92.9% of the respondents agreed that cultural practices affected the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County according to Table 4.11. Majority of the respondent lagged behind due to various anti-developmental cultural practices which were evident in the area. Most of the women had lesser time for any development or formal employment because they were tied down to the triple roles and work burden at home, Due to such cultural practices they are not allowed to take up any leadership roles or even interact with the opposite sex. They are not allowed to own any property, all these factor combined affected the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County as illustrated on Table 4.13.

From the data analysed, literacy level generally affected the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. According to table 4.6, 91.4 % of the women had either basic or no education at all.98.4% of the respondents agreed that they could not be able to write or read, they could not work on basic business calculation, they could not be able to know existing market prices, read and joining women development groups as further illustrated on Table 4.14.

5.4 Conclusions of the study

The study sought to explore the factors that influenced the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. The availability of some funds set aside by the County government and other external donors for development activities is not yielding positive results among the women development projects. Majority of the members are in their youthful productive age; however their productivity and positive development is being hindered by a number of factors ranging from, high poverty level, rigid cultural practices and high illiteracy levels. According to experts, any development activity should start with and within an individual. If only members could be empowered through education, breaking away from rigid cultural practices and reduces the poverty level,

sustainable development will be achieved with better performance of women development projects in Isiolo County.

5.5 Recommendations of the study

Based on these findings of the study, the following recommendations were given.

Capacity building programs on women development projects was requisite for development. The research established that the majority of community members did not participate in development projects due to lack of information on the importance and benefits of joining such groups.

Cultural integrations process among the community should be implemented. According to the findings from the research, cultural rigidities played a greater role in holding back development among women in the area. The community should be enlightened on both positive and negative cultural practices, they should be able to identify the negative cultural practices and do away with them.

5.6 Suggestions for further Research

The study suggests that the research can be done on the investigation on impact of development projects on poverty levels in Isiolo County and The assessment of the factors affecting women's access to education in Isiolo County.

5.7 Contribution to the body of knowledge.

This study has generated vital ideas which have contributed new knowledge for sustainable development in the area. Table 5.1 shows the contributions made by this study to the body of knowledge.

Table 5.1: Contribution to the body of knowledge

Objectives	Contribution to the body of knowledge.
To examine the extent to which poverty influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County.	The host community has a lot of potential, youthful population, which can be empowered and packaged to ensure poverty alleviation and improve performance of development projects.
To establish the extent to which cultural values influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County.	Most of the respondent did not understand what negative/anti-developmental cultural practices were and how it affects the performance of their project hence continuity of the poverty cycle. Allot of awareness and sensitization program would do well.
To assess the extent to which literacy level influences performance of Women development projects in Isiolo County.	Regulations and requirement for investing in education will help in increasing the literacy level and in the end poverty reduction and better management and performance of their development project.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

This questionnaire is designed to gather general and specific information for a study on the Factors influencing the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County. Your information will be used for academic purposes only and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please tick your answer within the box where necessary and explain through writing in given spaces where applicable.

SECTION A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Gender: Male
Female

2. How old are you?: Below 25 Years
26-55 years
above 55 years

3. How long have you lived in the area? _____ Years

4. What is your highest level of Education you have attained?
Primary Level Tertiary / College Level
Secondary Level University Level

SECTION B: POVERTY

5. What is your monthly income?

High () Medium () Low ()

6. How would you agree with the following statement about poverty and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo? Please tick appropriate box. Where Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Don't know = 3, Disagree = 2, and Strongly Disagree = 1

	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	Because of my low income level I am unable to pay my monthly contribution					
2	We own less number of camels hence our productivity is sufficient enough to bring more profit					
3	We don't get enough money to purchase modern cooling systems					
4	I have less income and cannot afford fast and efficient means of transporting my milk to the market on time.					
5	As a result of our low income level, we cannot be able to purchase appropriate feeds to our animal which affects our milk production					
6	I have little income and cannot be able to veterinary services to my animals as required					
7	Due to our low income level we couldn't be able to attend training or even obtain certificates					

7. How would you rate poverty and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo?

Very High ()

High ()

Fair ()

Low ()

Very Low ()

8. In your own opinion, what is the other poverty eradication project that should be carried out by women to ensure development and improved livelihood in Isiolo County.
-

SECTION C: CULTURAL VALUES

9. Do cultural practices influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo?

Yes () No ()

10. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about culture values and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo? Please tick appropriate box. Where Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Don't know = 3, Disagree = 4, Strongly Disagree = 1

	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	As a woman I am not allowed to be a leader					
2	As a woman I am not allowed to interact with the opposite sex at all times					
3	In this society women are not allowed to engage themselves in any kind of formal employment opportunities					
4	In this society women spend more time in doing household chores than men hence little time is left for our project					
5	I am not allowed to earn some money ,all what I earn has to go through my husband					

12. How important is the inclusiveness of culture practices influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo?

Very Important

Important

Fairly important

Less important

Not important

13. Does culture affect women from carry out some projects aimed at development of the people or communities around isiolo?

Yes

No

SECTION D: LITERACY LEVEL

11. Is there any relationship between literacy levels and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County?

Yes No

12. How would you agree with the following statement about literacy levels and its influence on the performance of women development projects in Isiolo County?
Please tick appropriate box. Where Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Don't know = 3, Disagree = 4, Strongly Disagree = 1

	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	Because of my educational level I find it difficult to read and write					
2	I have no academic to manage business calculation					
3	Because of my low educational level I cannot be able to know the existing market prices for my product					
4	Because of the low or lack of education most women don't see the importance of joining women development groups					
5	Because of low literacy level members don't understand the importance of the rules and regulations					

13. How would you rate the significance of literacy among Women group especially in its performance level in Isiolo County?

Very Significant ()

Fairly significant ()

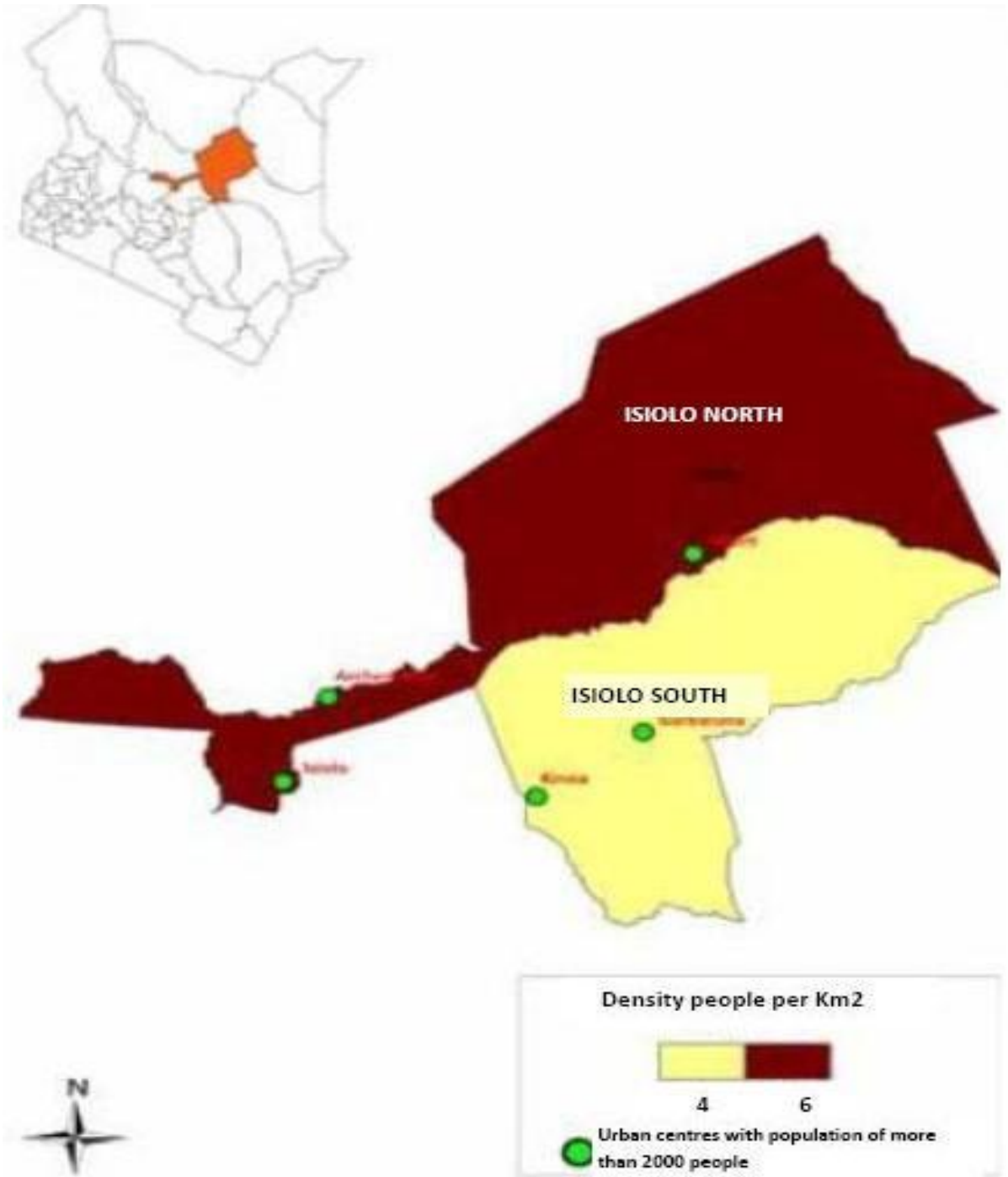
Less significant ()

Not significant ()

.....

THANK YOU.

APPENDIX II: MAP OF ISIOLO COUNTY



APPENDIX III: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,
2241349, 3310571, 2219420
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when replying please quote

9th Floor, Utalii House
Uhuru Highway
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref: No. **NACOSTI/P/16/63724/12492**

Date:
13th July, 2016

Nuria Abdullahi Abdirahman
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197-00100
NAIROBI.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on “*Factors Influencing the performance of Women development projects in Kenya*,” I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Isiolo County** for the period ending **13th July, 2017**.

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner and the County Director of Education, Isiolo County** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.

DR. STEPHEN K. KIBIRU, PhD.
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Isiolo County.

The County Director of Education
Isiolo County.

APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PERMIT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT: Permit No. : NACOSTI/P/16/63724/12492

MISS. NURIA ABDULLAHI ABDIRAHMAN Date Of Issue : 13th July,2016

of UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, 0-100 Fee Received :Ksh 1000

Isiolo,has been permitted to conduct

research in Isiolo County

on the topic: FACTORS INFLUENCING

THE PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KENYA

for the period ending:

13th July,2017

Applicant's Signature

Director General

National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation

CONDITIONS

1. You must report to the County Commissioner and

the County Education Officer of the area before

embarking on your research. Failure to do that

may lead to the cancellation of your permit.

2. Government Officers will not be interviewed

without prior appointment.

3. No questionnaire will be used unless it has been

approved.

4. Excavation, filming and collection of biological

specimens are subject to further permission from

the relevant Government Ministries.

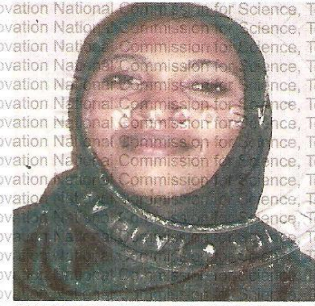
5. You are required to submit at least two(2) hard

copies and one(1) soft copy of your final report.

6. The Government of Kenya reserves the right to

modify the conditions of this permit including

its cancellation without notice



(Handwritten Signature)

Director General

National Commission for Science,

Technology & Innovation

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NACOSTI

National Commission for Science,

Technology and Innovation

RESEARCH CLEARANCE

PERMIT

10125

Serial No. A

CONDITIONS: see back page