

EFFECTS OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KENYA: A CASE OF MT. ELGON SUB COUNTY IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

¹Noreen, Chebet, ²Dr. William, Sakataka.

¹Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (Msc .Development Studies)

²Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (Lecturer , Ph.D).

Abstract: The purpose of the study was to assess the effect of social economic development on women empowerment in Kenya. A case of Mt. Elgon sub county, in Bungoma County. The specific variables of this study were: economic strategies empowerment, gender equality empowerment, political empowerment and social challenges empowerment. This study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive research design with a structured questionnaire that covered both qualitative and quantitative data. The target population of study was 200 respondents. Census survey was employed randomly, since the population was manageable. Data was collected from the respondents using open and closed ended questionnaires. Pilot test of 10% was done to test reliability and validity of the research instrument before the actual collection of really data. Data was analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 24 and the same is presented in a form of tables, pie charts and graphs. This study concludes that there was need to do this study since the phenomenon has fully been addressed and what remains is the implementation of this research finding. The researcher recommends a further study to be done in other similar counties in Kenya so as to validate their findings with these findings and compare whether the outcome can have similar results. The main determinant of the effect of social economic development on women empowerment was found to be gender equality. The government had initially provided free information, free by laws and loans to benefit women groups in Kenya, like preference groups where women are inclusive to get 30% of all the tenders from both national and county government in Kenya since 2010 promulgation of the new constitution. A test of overall significance of all the four variables jointly; economic strategies, gender equality, political and social challenges using ANOVA, at 0.05 level of significance found the model to be significant to the study. The weighty nature of the study requires that future studies be conducted using other women from other counties, which would lead proper generalization of the study findings. Relying on only one county women group such as was the case in the present study may not give a clear picture of social economic development in Kenya. The study recommends other counties areas for further studies so as to address the remaining issues so as to enhance the findings of this study and arrive at an acceptable consensus.

Keywords: Economic strategies empowerment, Gender equality empowerment, political empowerment, social challenges empowerment and women empowerment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Women empowerment is an essential ingredient in socio-economic and political development and sustainable development. The three pillars of sustainable development which are societal protection, economic well-being and socio-political progress cannot be achieved without solving the present prevailing problem of gender inequality. Thus, partnership and equality between men and women are the basis of strong families and viable societies in a rapidly changing world. Women empowerment is an essential ingredient in socio-economic and political development and sustainable development (Cartledge, 1995). The three pillars of sustainable development which are societal protection, economic well-being and socio-political progress cannot be achieved without solving the present prevailing problem of gender inequality. Thus, partnership and equality between men and women are the basis of strong families and viable societies in a rapidly changing world (Borwankar, Diallo, & Sommerfelt, 2008). Women empowerment and economic development are closely related: in one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development. Development policies and programs tend not to view women as integral to the economic development process. This is reflected in the higher investments in women's reproductive rather than their productive roles, mainly in population programs. Yet women throughout the developing world engage in economically productive work and earn incomes. They work primarily in agriculture and in the informal sector and increasingly, in formal wage employment. Their earnings, however, are generally low (Browne & Barrett, 1991).

The word Women Empowerment essentially means that the women have the power to regulate the activities in day to day in the external environment as in the social, political and economic terms. Women's empowerment is the new phrase in the economic development. There are many researchers and scholars have proved that increase in women empowerment has a drastic change in the economic development. Empowering women and promoting gender equality are enshrined as global development activities within the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the 2000's. Women agency and freedom are among the crucial means for enhancing to their development (Borwankar et al., 2008). Women empowerment is increasingly becoming a global subject with the World Bank human development report has documented empowerment as one of the key constituent elements of poverty reduction and as a primary development support goal. This necessitates that all development actors advocating for women wellbeing need to be interterm with this consideration. The elevation of women empowerment as a development target is based on the twofold argument that social integrity is an important aspect of human social security. The Policy Research Report of the World Bank has also identified gender parity both as a 7.7. as a means to promote economic growth and development objective, reduce poverty and promote better governance (Browne & Barrett, 1991)..

Global Perspectives of Women Empowerment

The Indian women have spread of their age old shackles of serfdom and male domination. She has come to her own and started scaling the ladder of social advance with proud and dignity. Women in India are now uplifted and granted equal status with the men in all of life activities including the political, social, domestic and educational. But still there is a need to motivate and encourage women to participate in the activities because women secure around of in the total population. For this, Women empowerment must need some interventions for making women to be involved in the economic development of the country (De Janvry, Sadoulet, & Murgai, 2002). The development interventions which must focus on the real gender needs, including women's income and material assets which will lead to the increased women empowerment and decreased poverty. From this intervention the women empowerment will start and led to the extent. With the implementation of some new interventions the rate of increase in the women empowerment will raise to mark. Duflo's explanation was that there was a positive correlation between women's rights and the per capita GDP in terms of a cost benefit calculus. From this point of view it was clear that by increase in the women empowerment the economic development may a raise (Borwankar, Diallo & Sommerfelt, 2008). The lot of women in the third world is a hard one. They are the poorest of the poor. Doubly oppressed by both national and international injustices, and by family systems that give husbands, father and brothers the whip hand. Even where economic development genuinely benefits poor men, it does not always benefit their womenfolk and indeed, has often harmed them. Men enjoy greater privileges, women bear greater burdens (De Janvry, et al., 2002). The unfair sexual distribution of power, resources and responsibilities is legitimized by ancient traditions, socialized into women's own attitudes, often enshrined in law, and can

be enforced, wherever necessary by male violence. Women accounted for at least 480 million (60%) of the third world's 795 million illiterates in 1980, the proportion of illiterate adult females outweighed the male by 73% to 48% in Africa, 47% to 30% in Asia, and 23% to 18% in Latin America. Besides, the female illiterate's position rose more than 5 million annually, in the seventies against only 2 million yearly for men, an indicator of perhaps unconsciously sustained gap. There are a number of arguments as to why a focus on women's economic empowerment is important (De Janvry, et al., 2002). First of all, gender inequalities in the division of labour between paid and unpaid work, women's primary responsibility for unpaid care work within the home, and the associated inequalities in access to valued resources and opportunities are at the core of women's subordinate status in society. They leave women dependent on male provision for themselves and their children, or else forced to compete in markets for their labour, goods and services on highly disadvantaged terms (Borwankar et al., 2008). Their disadvantaged status in the market place in turn reinforces women's lack of strategic agency, both in relation to their own lives as well as in the wider society. The economic empowerment of women is thus a matter of human rights and social justice. The economic empowerment of women matters for poverty reduction. While early generalizations in the gender and development literature that female-headed households are always necessarily the 'poorest of the poor' has been challenged by subsequent studies, these studies have also served to establish that households that rely solely or primarily on female earnings (i.e. female maintained households) tend to be over-represented at the lower end of the income distribution. This is not surprising. If women have lower levels of education and skills, if they face discrimination in markets for the sale of their goods, services and wage labour as well as in their access to assets, technology and financial services, their efforts to earn a living for themselves and their dependents are likely to be rewarded more unfavourably than those of men with equivalent characteristics¹. Conversely, lower income households with male or joint headship are very generally able to rely on women's earnings to keep their households above the poverty line or to prevent from declining into poverty in times of crisis. Investing in women's economic resources helps poor households to weather crisis and increases their chances of moving out of poverty (De Janvry, et al., 2002).

Agriculture is at the center of the 2030 Agenda. It connects issues of poverty, sustainability, food security and gender equality. Poverty is disproportionately concentrated in rural areas. According to estimates, by 2010 78 percent of the extreme poor, living on less than \$1.25 a day, were in rural areas (World Bank, 2015). In approximately half of the least developed countries for which data are available, the poverty to headcount ratio in rural areas is 2 to 3 times that in urban areas (UNCTAD, 2015a). This pattern of rural deprivation is reflected in a wide range of socioeconomic welfare indicators. Agriculture is also at the core of pressing sustainability issues. Challenges ahead include climate change, loss of biological diversity and soil fertility, water scarcity in the face of demographic pressure and resource scarcity. Rural women play an essential role in ensuring household food security and nutrition, through cultivation of home gardens, as wage workers and through food preparation. If employed in waged labour, rural women dedicate a substantial portion of their income to purchasing food for their families, and more in comparison with men (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Femida & Meenaz, 2004). They also contribute to food security through the preservation of biodiversity and plant genetic resources. Separating food production or food security issues by gender, however, may be misleading. Food production and food security depend on the interplay of many resources, including land, capital and labour, managed by men and women (England, 2000).

Regional Perspective of Women Empowerment

The Evolution of 'Women in Development' to 'Gender and Development' In the 1970s, research on African farmers noted that, far from being gender-neutral, development was gender blind and could harm women. Out of this realization emerged the Women in Development (WID) approach, which constructed the problem of development as being women's exclusion from a benign process. Women's subordination was seen as having its roots in their exclusion from the market sphere and their limited access to, and control, over resources. The key was then to place women 'in' development by legislatively trying to limit discrimination and by promoting their in the 1980s, the Gender and Development (GAD) approach arose out of the critique of WID (De Janvry, et al., 2002). GAD recognized that gender roles and relations are key to improving women's lives, with the term 'gender' suggesting that a focus on both women and men is needed. More recently, the need to understand how gender intersects with other characteristics such as age, ethnicity and sexuality has been noted (Femida & Meenaz, 2004). The GAD approach recognizes that it is not sufficient to add women and girls into existing processes of development but there is also a need to problematize why they are excluded, advocating that the focus should be on addressing the imbalances of power at the basis of that exclusion. GAD also questions the notion of

'development' and its benign nature, implying a need to shift from a narrow understanding of development as economic growth, to a more social or human centered development (Femida & Meenaz, 2004).

GAD projects are more holistic and seek to address women's strategic gender interests by seeking the elimination of institutionalized forms of discrimination for instance around land rights or ensuring the right of women and girls to Impacts at the level of political and social empowerment may occur even if they are not made explicit within the results framework of the project, though deliberate support may be needed to generate positive change. For example, impact evaluations of the Afghanistan National Solidarity Project have documented impacts on women's political and social empowerment (this and other impacts are discussed in chapter 4). As women's needs, preferences, and constraints generally differ from men's (as discussed in the next chapter), CDD interventions that explicitly recognize the critical gender gaps and adopt approaches to address them may be less likely to leave women behind live free from violence, involvement in education and employment (Barca, Brook, Holland, Otulana & Pozarny, 2015). Women have always been an important part of society giving a support, in all manners but with the passage of time the role of women has become more and more stronger and impactful in the society and for the betterment of economy the society is looking for the involvement of women in much more active participation. But to make all these things possible it is the need of hour to give brighter and bigger chances to women to show their talent and we have few examples like Femida and Meenaz (2004) and many more story does not even end here there are researches which prove that Women have proved their mettle as more successful against their male counterparts. So in the upcoming text it will make understand the role of women in financial economic empowerment. Not much talked about or compared with but Japanese economy is third largest economy in the world and the below poverty line population is only 16% which in India is almost 30% it is majorly because of their economic changes and power given to women to make equal participation in the workforce. The Japanese economy majorly invests in women force participation and they have named them as 'women economics' so it shows how the participation of women as labor force is highly impactful for the economy audit is not that when economy will get empowered then only women can get empowered but if more chances and investments are done specially for the women like Japan then we can see fruitful changes in the economy (Femida & Meenaz, 2004).

Local Perspective of Women Empowerment

Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) was conceived by the Government of Kenya in 2006 and officially launched in 2007. Women Enterprise Fund is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency in the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Development established in August 2007 to provide accessible and affordable credit to support women start and/or expand business for wealth and employment creation. Women Enterprise Fund was officially established through the promulgation of Women Enterprise Fund Regulations under section 26 & 35 of the Government Financial Management Act, 2005. Legal Notice no. 147 dated 3rd August 2007 (Femida & Meenaz, 2004). The principal objective of the fund is economic empowerment of women. The Fund was established to provide alternative financial services to women who are excluded from the formal and informal financial sectors. The Fund provides accessible & affordable credit to support women start and/or expand business for wealth and employment creation. In addition to the Fund being a flagship project in the Vision 2030, it is also a demonstration of the Kenya Government's commitment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on gender equality and women empowerment (Golla, Malhotra, Nanda & Mehra, 2011).

This is the best example to prove that women play an important role in the economic development. Major areas of economic development through women empowerment: Economical-With the women being empowered and given the required and desired freedom she can by doing work can earn money for the family and herself this will make a grid of things to happen like-She will become financially independent, the family income will increase and whole in all the per capita income will rise ultimately the GDP will rise, Social-Women are generally considered to be kind hearted and caring with these qualities they will take care of each and everything for the society as a whole and this will empower the society to become safe and sound for all the persons residing and hence empowering the economy to become a safe, educated and well developed economy, Family Welfare-Generally women is considered to stay at home and take care of family members which makes her to be more close knitted with those members and if women is empowered she will be able to much more concentrate on the education of her children giving a hope to economy that it will have more educated workforce.4)International Relations-As women are considered to possess soft skills in much better way than men which makes the women fertility to be more generous in taking tough decisions which in the present situation is more important for India at this point of time (Golla et al., 2011).

Statement of the Problem

Women empowerment has been a problem so as to avert poverty reduction for quite some time in Kenya (Femida & Meenaz, 2004). Also according to Mwangi (2009), while early generalizations in the gender and development literature that female-headed households are always necessarily the 'poorest of the poor' has been challenged by subsequent studies, these studies have also served to establish that households that rely solely or primarily on female earnings such as female maintained households tend to be over-represented at the lower end of the income distribution. Women participation potential in development has not been tapped and remain underscored in the Bungoma County. According to UNFPA (2012), the level of poverty among women in Mt Elgon was so high which could be attributed to the different forms of deprivations against women living in this locality. Most of the available studies touching in this area of study were from developed countries. The researcher sought to address the real phenomena under this study. There were issues touching on women empowerment in Kenya. According to Kabeer (2001) the government policies on empowerment are now in place. Therefore this study was done in the Kenyan context to highlight the fundamental and the nationally of what has happening and how to bridge this research gap.

According to Tsikata (2003) and World Bank (2002) the concept of women empowerment conclusively refers to the process of change during which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life decisions and choices acquired such ability to transform their lives significantly (Kabeer, 2001). The women population of Mt Elgon Sub County has been targeted with empowerment project but it is yet to yield much in relation to the quality of their life. In spite of this, most of the literatures available are from developed countries indicating how women empowerment has affected the growth of GDP. Therefore this study was done in the Kenyan context so as to bridge the existing gap with the newly created knowledge out of this research study.

Objectives of the Study

General objective

The general objective of this was to establish the effect of social economic development on women empowerment in Kenya.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study were:

- I. To evaluate the effect of economic strategies on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya
- II. To assess the effect of Gender equality on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya.
- III. To determine the effect of political strategies on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya.
- IV. To examine the effect of social challenges on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya.

Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions-;

- I. What is the effect of economic strategies on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya?
- II. What can be done to improve gender equality on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County, Bungoma County, Kenya?
- III. What is the extent to which political improvement has achieved in relation to livelihoods on women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County Bungoma County, Kenya?
- IV. What are the social challenges encountered by women empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County Bungoma County, Kenya?

Significance of the Study

Empowerment is a common phrase in women development sequencers as well as human development organizations. The main argument of this study was that despite the global and national euphoria of women empowerment happening in the neighbouring counties and within other parts of Bungoma County, the rural women of Mt. Elgon sub county have been left behind, or locked out from access and control of the existing empowerment opportunities which has continued to promote women rights violations.

Mt. Elgon Women

There lacks basic pointers of women empowerment at Mt. Elgon of an adequate life of enhanced education, better health, clean drinking water, improved hygiene and housing was significantly noticed. Low literacy levels and lack of basic amenities for a facilitative process of empowerment are also evident. The study explored on the rigidities of empowerment to the women population of Mt Elgon Sub County in relation to what development partners have been doing in past decades to the social economic milestones of the indigenous rural women.

Scholars

The researchers additionally explored on the impediments and obstacles of women participation in Mt Elgon Sub County with a dual analysis frame work on: duty bearers and right holder or women. Consequently the involvement of women in the decision making process of their empowerment and the sustainable mechanisms put in place for continuation of the change processes of women welfare will be considered to support the in-depth findings. The researcher used this as reference in future, as they have role of the involvement of the male counterparts, families, religion and communities were examined through critical assumptions that would be drawn in relation to their facilitation in the empowerment journey of these women. The findings of the research are expected to inform meaningful strategies on women empowerment living in rural context by exploring the different interventions done overtime and their implications to the household and community development in relation to quality of social economic life.

Community

The community resources used over time to facilitate women empowerment by different actors was expected to increase community involvement which translated to a better living standard and livelihoods. It would be crucial to interrogate on the budget allocation of women empowerment programs for Mt Elgon Sub County in relation to the improvement of national human development indexes of the women residing in this locality such as Health, income and education progress and wellbeing. The outcomes of this study will not only be useful to inform on the feasible women empowerment approaches but also as a review of the different empowerment strategies in Kenya used to support women in the process of women emancipation in development.

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study covered the whole of Mt Elgon Sub County in Bugoma county, specifically in Kapsokwony ward and its environments. There were three focused group discussions for different cluster of women living in the locality such as woman with disability, Female headed household and women self-help group members. This study measured women empowerment according to the Gender empowerment domain index namely:-; decisions about agricultural activities, access to and decision making abilities over productive resources, access and control over used of income, leadership in the community, and gender awareness to women empowerment.

Limitation for this Study

This study was specifically limited to the target population of this study, the conceptual framework, the scope of this study, the sampling frame of this study.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW**Introduction:**

This chapter covers literature review, theoretical review, conceptual framework, theories critic of existing literature, summary and research gaps.

Social Learning Theory.

Social learning theory, accent that people learn by observing other people (representations) whom they trust are credible and knowledgeable. Social learning theory also discriminates that a behavior that is compensated tends to be recurrent (Tsikata, 2003). The model's behavior or skill that is satisfied is adopted by observer. According to social learning theory, education new skills or behaviors comes from; directly undergoing the concerns of using that behavior skill, or the process of observing others and seeing the consequences of their behavior. According to social learning theory, learning is also predisposed by a person's self-efficacy which an important factor to deliberate in the person analysis phase of need assessment. Why? Self-efficacy is one determinant of willingness to learn. A trainee with high self-efficacy will put forth efforts to learn in a training program and is most likely to persists in learning even if an environment is not advantageous for learning in a noisy training room. According to Kabeer (2001) explained social learning theory of Bandura which emphasizes the significance of observing and modeling the actions, attitudes, and emotional reactions of others, it means that people learn from observing other people. According to Deutsch (1998) theory indicated that basically the idea of learning by observing produced by behaviorists but the later researcher Albert Bandura looked to interface and cognitive processes, and noted that observation let people to see the consequences of other's behaviours, occasioning that people can gain some idea of what might flow from temporary in one way or the other. In social learning theory, interval cognitive processes are said to have some effect on behavior as examined that person's expectations about the outcome of a particular behaviour reflects these effects. To attend, remember and rehears would be key aspects of observational learning and showed the most common examples of social learning situations are television commercials (Eyben, 2007). Like, using a particular hair shampoo will make as popular and win the admiration of attractive people, customers may model the behaviours shown in the commercial and buy the product. Students often learn a great deal simply observing other people. Learning theories provided some key principles of learning so that implication of these principles in training may provide opportunities of trainees' motivation and facilitating their learning. Staff training provided a solid body of knowledge about how individual learn the different processes of learning involved and significant factors that affects individual learning. This theory is linked to the variable of staff competency (Joeke, 1995).

The Cultural Theory

The cultural theory is relevant on understanding how culture of pastoral communities can influence savings and internal lending community in Kenya hence providing the theoretical background for this study. Cultural theories examine people within a culture and try to understand or predict how or why they react a certain way towards credit, loan repayment. There are three main models of cultural studies research: production -based studies; text-based cultural studies; and studies of lived cultures. It may be more transformative to rethink each moment in light of the others; importing objects and methods usually developed in relation to one moment into the next. According to Pillai (1995), claim that their cultural theory is universal. They argue that distinctive sets of values, beliefs and habits (in nations, neighborhoods, tribes and races) are reducible to only a few cultural biases and preferences". Cultural theory is one of many approaches that have been used to cope with the subjectivity inherent in analyzing long term global change (Joeke, 1995).

The original aim of Cultural Theory was to create a typology of social forms that aligned with, Classificatory schemes developed by the upper-class social theorists like Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber and so on, and the new evidence collected in ethnographic studies (Malhotra, Sidney & Carol, 2002). Rather than trying to be complete, we want to provide the insight about the evolvement of Cultural Theory. Large part of this report is derived from a comparison made by Pillai (1995) in which they try to show that despite the unconventional language of "grid" and "group", their typology refers to many of the same types of social relations.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework shows the independent variable and how it is operationally relate to the dependent variables. Orodho (2005) says that a conceptual framework is a model of presentation whereby the researcher represents the relationship between the variables in the study. The study presented the dependent variable (Women Empowerment) and the independent variables. This section presents the Conceptual Framework which shows the link between the study concepts and the three areas identified for investigation in the study. Figure2. 1 shows the relationship between variables identified in the problem statement and objectives.

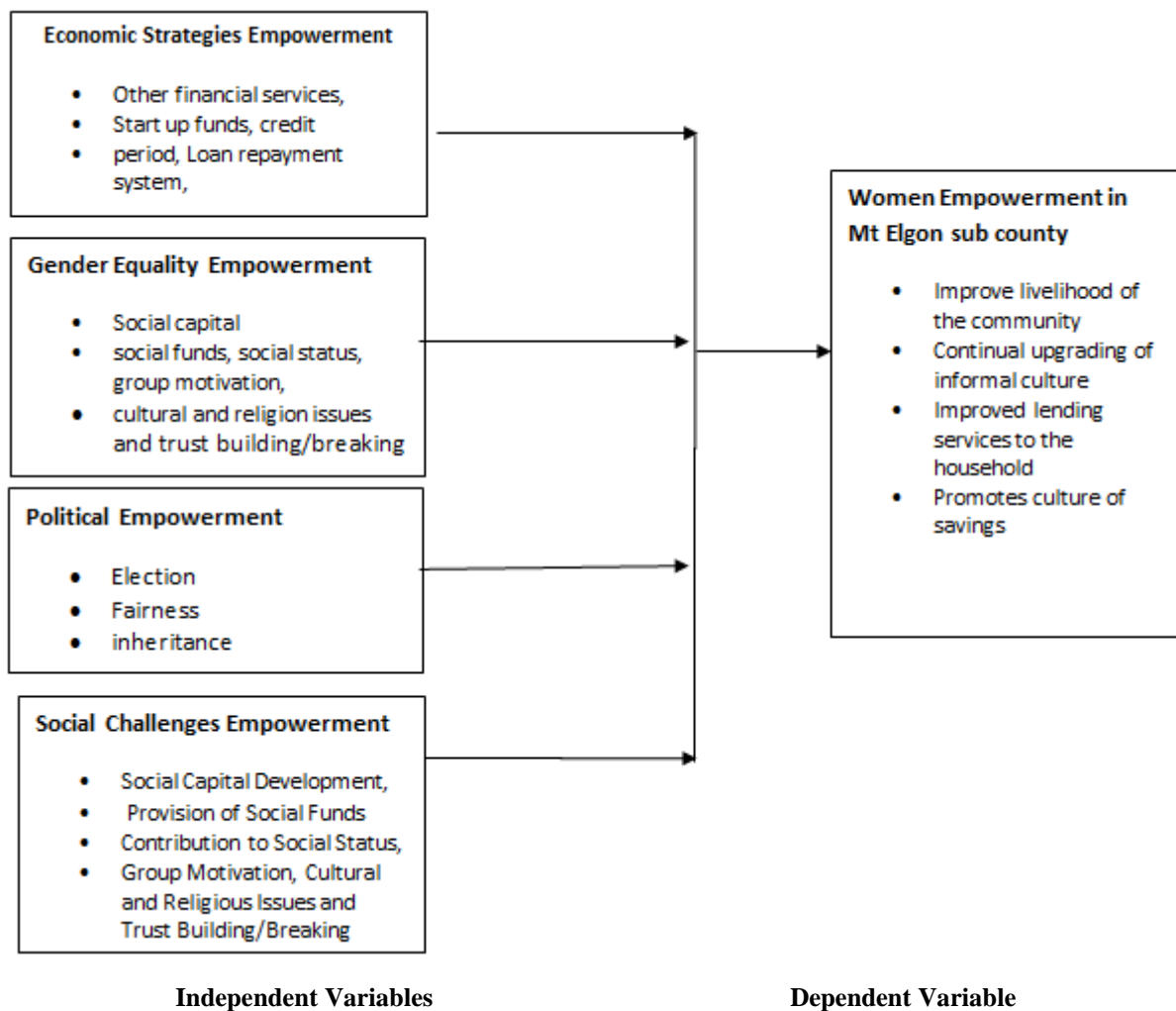


Figure 1

Economic Strategies Empowerment

There are many ways to define women's empowerment but for the purposes of this paper, I will define it in terms of the processes of change through which women expand their ability to make strategic choices about their lives and to participate on equal terms with men in bringing about desired changes in the society in which they live (Marten, Kea, Melanie & Nuria, 2010). It is widely recognized that empowerment is a multidimensional process, encompassing changes in the political, social and economic spheres of life and that these different dimensions of empowerment are closely inter-related so that significant changes in one dimension is likely to generate changes in others. Women's economic empowerment relates to the enhancement of women's capacity for strategic choice and agency in the sphere of the economy and to the possibilities this opens up for change in other spheres of their lives. It thus offers policy makers one of a number possible entry points into broader processes of empowerment (Mwangi, 2009). Economic empowerment can be perceived as the process by which people through their own individual and joint efforts augmentation production for direct consumption and have surplus to sell for cash. A wide range of poverty alleviation programs have been attentive on women and girls as they are economically more deprived than men and as their upbringing and mainstreaming are critical for the economic development of any country that is keen not to leave a section of its citizenry behind. Economic empowerment is enhancing women awareness about their role and tasks as actors of their own empowerment in the procedure for attaining financial independence and account for their significant contributions to the production value chains (Marten et al., 2010).

The economic empowerment of women is also critical for human development. There is now a well-established body of evidence to suggest that women's economic empowerment, their access to and control over valued resources, has strong

positive implications for the well-being of the family, including their own and their children's wellbeing. It increases the chances that they will seek family planning and reproductive health services, ensure the survival, health, nutrition and education of their children and, in certain contexts, reduce gender inequalities in household resource allocation. The economic empowerment of women thus contributes to the development of human capital and human capabilities, including their own. The economic empowerment of women matters for poverty reduction (Mwangi, 2009).

Gender Equality Empowerment

During the recent financial crisis, measures to protect 'the poor' through employment programs have not considered the gendered dimensions of crisis, yet women may have been more severely affected than men and in more diverse ways (Eyben, 2007). Economic and financial crises cannot be seen in isolation from food, fuel, water, environment, human rights, and care crises. Women face particular risks during disaster, which climate change may increase, and during conflict. In particular, the risk of physical and sexual violence increases. Agencies not only fail to protect women and girls, but their reproductive and particularly their productive needs are often overlooked in crisis response and peace building (Martenet et al., 2010). Millennium Development Goal 3, on gender equality, was criticized for focusing mostly on education and agency and for not paying enough attention to the structural causes of gender inequality, such as violence against women, gender-based discrimination and lack of or limited access to economic resources (Malhotra, Sidney & Carol, 2002). Sustainable Development Goal 5 corrects some of those shortcomings by including targets on violence against women, on legislation promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, on unpaid care work and on access to economic resources, land ownership, inheritance and natural resources. The new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is highly ambitious, since the aim is to "leave no one behind". By establishing a close link between economic growth, environmental sustainability and social justice, the 2030 Agenda provides the opportunity to address gender issues in a multidisciplinary, multifaceted manner, linking economic, social and environmental aspects (Thakur, 2009).

According to Martenet al. (2010) notes, contrary to the Millennium Development Goals that were criticized for providing "short-term fixes" to development problems, the Sustainable Development Goals aim at addressing the power structures and social relations that are the source of poverty and inequality within and between countries. Millennium Development Goal 1 dealt with extreme poverty and hunger (Eyben, 2007). While access to productive resources is a precondition for fighting poverty and hunger, none of the targets and indicators of the Goal referred to it. In a shift, Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 include targets on ensuring that men and women have equal access to economic resources, basic services, property and inheritance, technology, financial services and markets as a means of fighting poverty and improving food security. Moreover, Sustainable Development Goal 1 calls for setting up gender-sensitive development strategies as a means to accelerate investments in poverty eradication actions (Marten et al., 2010).

Political Empowerment

Cultural and political factors limit women's rights and engagement in the workplace. Religion still has a key role to play in determining gender norms in many cultures and fundamentalist views across the spectrum of religions threaten or deny women's rights, including rights related to sex and sexualities, and to mobility and employment (Caraway, 2007). Economic fundamentalism, policies and practices that privilege profits over people, also deny women their rights as workers and to work. While political culture is important for bringing change, women continue to have a limited voice at the local and national levels, and women are not able to fully participate in formal systems of power (Thakur, 2009). In the majority of cultures unequal gender and generational relations exist within households with the male 'head' having a high level of control (Malhotra et al., 2002). A woman going out to work is often read by others as meaning the man is unable to provide for his family, making men reluctant and thus limiting women's engagement in paid work through violence or the threat of violence. When women do engage in paid work, it can improve their voice in the home and ability to influence household decision-making. It can also lead to conflict in the home, especially if women earn more than men, or women's employment coincides with men's under or unemployment. In the last decades, a 'crisis in masculinity' has been recognized, relating to the changes in men's roles and positions through processes of globalization, suggesting a need to focus attention on men if these changes are to bring transformative progress towards greater equality, rather than further harm women (Martenet al., 2010).

Social Challenges Empowerment

Women continue to suffer limited mobility and, in some cultures, women are not able to leave the home if not accompanied by a man, effectively negating any type of paid employment (Marten et al.,2010). Even when women are allowed to leave, they may face verbal, sexual and physical abuse from unknown males for being in the street and face gossip and stigma within their own communities. The growing levels and extremes of violence against women have been captured in the notion of femicide – the killing of women by men just for being women, including ‘honour killings.’ In Mexico for example, the term femicide has been used to describe female factory workers being killed for going against gender norms and engaging in paid work outside the home (Thakur, 2009). One in three women across the globe will experience violence at some stage in her lifetime. Violence against women and girls, or the threat of violence, be it physical, sexual or emotional, both in the private and public spheres, at the hands of known and unknown men, remains a key limiting factor to women’s mobility and engagement in processes of development. Women who work at home have limited opportunities (Malhotra et al.,2002). While women are very engaged in agriculture, this is generally subsistence rather than cash crops. It is estimated that women own only 1% of property and lack of rights to inherit or own land, which severely limits women’s engagement in larger scale cash crop production. Even when women can inherit land, the need for male protection or labour may mean they will give the land to male relatives. Lack of land ownership may also stop them participating in schemes to improve agricultural output, while lack of wider assets disallows them from accessing loans. Given their lower asset base, women farmers may be most affected by climate change, and while having knowledge of how to adapt, they may be least able to adopt appropriate adaptation strategies (Malhotra et al.,2010).

Women Empowerment in Mt Elgon Sub County

Finally, women’s empowerment-related activities will require sufficient funding. Calculations about the cost of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals all point to the need to mobilize domestic and international resources (Barrientos, 2001). For poor countries, the cost of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals may be enormous. According to UNCTAD estimates, developing countries face an annual investment gap of US\$2.5 trillion in key sustainable development sectors (UNCTAD, 2014e). As with the Millennium Development Goals, domestic private and public resources are expected to remain the most relevant sources of financing. As recognized by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, gender-aware public budgets are essential for establishing a strong link between public spending and gender equality. Strengthening domestic resources in developing countries would require a number of actions, including rethinking international tax rules, reinforcing the capacity of developing countries to tax, prosecute evaders and negotiate fair agreements with multinational corporations, and furthering and broadening the discourse on global governance in tax. International financing will play an important role when domestic finance is limited or missing (Barca, Brook, Holland, Otulana & Pozarny, 2015).

The new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is highly ambitious, since the aim is to “leave no one behind”. By establishing a close link between economic growth, environmental sustainability and social justice, the 2030 Agenda provides the opportunity to address gender issues in a multidisciplinary, multifaceted manner, linking economic, social and environmental aspects. As Barrientos (2001) notes, contrary to the Millennium Development Goals that were criticized for providing “short-term fixes” to development problems, the Sustainable Development Goals aim at addressing the power structures and social relations that are the source of poverty and inequality within and between countries. Millennium Development Goal 1 dealt with extreme poverty and hunger. While access to productive resources is a precondition for fighting poverty and hunger, none of the targets and indicators of the Goal referred to it. In a shift, Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 include targets on ensuring that men and women have equal access to economic resources, basic services, property and inheritance, technology, financial services and markets as a means of fighting poverty and improving food security (Barca et al.,2015).

Empirical Review

Economic Strategies Empowerment

While early generalizations in the gender and development literature that female-headed households are always necessarily the ‘poorest of the poor’ has been challenged by subsequent studies, these studies have also served to establish that households that rely solely or primarily on female earnings (i.e. female-maintained households) tend to be over-

represented at the lower end of the income distribution (Marten et al.,2010). This is not surprising. If women have lower levels of education and skills, if they face discrimination in markets for the sale of their goods, services and wage labour as well as in their access to assets, technology and financial services, their efforts to earn a living for themselves and their dependents are likely to be rewarded more unfavourably than those of men with equivalent characteristics¹. Conversely, lower income households with male or joint headship are very generally able to rely on women's earnings to keep their households above the poverty line or to prevent from declining into poverty in times of crisis. Investing in women's economic resources helps poor household to weather crisis and increases their chances of moving out of poverty (Malhotra et al.,2002).Economic empowerment is a process as well as a stage which is to be reached by designing strategies focusing on building credit worthiness and financial independence among women by removing all the gender-specific barriers which prevent women from attainment access to their rightful share in every spheres of life. Rural women have less access to the resources to generate stable incomes (Marten et al.,2010). House hold income is a poor measure of women welfare because the distribution of income within the household may be quite unequal. Various studies of intra house hold resource allocation indicates that in many regions of the world, there exist a strong bias against women in areas such as nutrition, medical care, education and inheritance (Malhotra et al., 2002).

Gender Equality Empowerment

While universal primary education provides a solid foundation for all investments in human capital, it is unlikely on its own to address structural inequalities between women and men. More needs to be done. First of all, as the Task Force on MDG3 Marten et al., (2010) argues, the greatest payoffs for women's empowerment is associated with post-primary investments in girls' education. Payoffs in terms of family welfare, child survival and women's own voice, health and bodily integrity have been well documented and shown to apply most strongly to secondary and higher levels of education (Banga & Bansal,2009). They also suggest that while gender differentials returns to schooling vary considerably in different countries, they tend to be larger at primary levels of education than at post-secondary levels. In other words, the extension of post primary education to girls from poorer families is necessary to translate their educational attainments into labour market and welfare gains (Malhotra et al.,2002).

Secondly, it is widely acknowledged that improving access to education is unlikely to do a great deal to transform wider gender inequalities if the quality of education is not addressed. Improvements in safety and infrastructure are necessary to make schools hospitable for girls to ensure that they complete their schooling (Eyben, 2007). The content of education and interactions with teachers need to be designed to promote critical analytical skills on the part of both girls and boys rather serving as a vehicle for reproducing pre-existing social inequalities, including the traditional gender division of labour. More girls need to be encouraged to go into non-traditional vocational and technical programs, such as engineering and computer technology.

Thirdly, while investments in primary and secondary education among girls address critical gender inequalities in the human capital and capabilities of tomorrow's workers, parents and citizens, they do little to address deficits in human capital and capabilities in the current generation of working women (Marten et al.,2010). Poorer women who missed out on the expansion of educational opportunities find themselves trapped in dead end jobs by lack of their education and skills. There are a variety of ways, including non-formal education, technical and vocational training, agricultural extension services, workplace training, lifelong learning, training for new technology, that could give these women a 'second chance' in their search for better jobs. The under-representation of women in training opportunities for adult workers helps to reinforce occupational segregation in the economy (Malhotra et al.,2002).

Political Empowerment

There has been considerable debate, particularly in the African context, as to whether women's interests are better served through customary laws which offer a variety of informal use and access rights to women, although these are generally mediated by their lineage and marital relations, or through statutory laws recognizing women's formal rights, either on an individual or joint basis. Each option has its problems (Marten et al.,2010). However, feminist lawyers in Africa have been far more equivocal about the capacity of customary institutions, despite their demonstrated flexibility, fluidity and responsiveness to local understandings of claims and obligations, to deliver on gender justice, particular in an era when land is become an increasingly scarce and commoditized (Malhotra et al.,2002).

Despite the failure of states to engage seriously with the challenge of gender equity, Malhotra et al. (2002) suggest that the achievement of women's equal rights to land and property will be best achieved through the struggle to democratize the state. From that perspective, proposals by a number of civil society organization to strengthen women's voice and influence in emerging local institutions for the management of land allocation, such as the Resistance Councils set up in Uganda, with provision for one third female Equalizing property rights: land and housing membership. Marten *et al.*(2010) of the land reform process in Tanzania shows that engagement by civil society actors representing different interest groups in society, including those traditionally denied voice in the policy process, can generate important gains, even with complex tenure systems. Government efforts to reform existing constitutional, marital, property and family law to bring them in line with internationally agreed commitments to gender equity should therefore be seen as both culmination of one round of struggles by gender equality activists but the commencement of another round to translate formal law into real outcomes. Legal measures can be seen as a first step in a broader process of education, legal support and capacity building to make women both aware of their rights and both able and willing to claim them (Marten et al.,2010).

Social Challenges Empowerment

Social empowerment is about creating structures that can give people building the blocks of survival, dignity and sustainable livelihoods for enjoyment of rights. It improves on the human security of the population without compromising on their constitutional rights as well as advancing the realization of sustainable development. Social empowerment provides inclusion of all and an environment where rights and freedoms are enjoyed interchangeably without any form of compromise. Social empowerment does not eliminate women and other segments of the population (Marten et al., 2010). Social empowerment is fairly vast as well as equally crucial in attaining the wellbeing of the population in the social security dynamics. It's a key requisite in economic development of women; Social development means a more improved and favorable social status for women in society because the primary responsibility of any human society is to ensure human poise to all members. It is often argued that when women are facilitated to access to money it is not sustainable means for achieving women's empowerment unless it is linked to other kinds of transformational tasks like training on awareness of the impact of financial literacy, concept of self-esteem and on the meaning and benefits of self-emancipation (Malhotra et al.,2002).

The process of social empowerment activates the need for cohesion and pulling together for a common good. This has led to the realization of the social groups investments by many of the women in rural and urban settings (Marten et al.,2010). The empowerment of women at peer to peer levels has increased their confidence level to seek social justice and demand for their rights in the bigger government administration (UNRISD, 2005). However, women's increased participation at the decision making level can only be said to lead to their increased development and empowerment if such participation enables them to achieve greater control over factors of production, access to resources and the distribution of benefits. Group or collective process always provide a support for empowerment as it exposes its members to local networks and this social interaction results in awareness about local realities (Malhotra et al.,2002).

Women Empowerment in Mt. Elgon Sub County

Trade policies should be closely aligned with rural development policies. First, agricultural trade policies should always include a gender-impact assessment, to grasp the differentiated impacts on rural men and women. Second, if trade reforms are likely to adversely impact specific vulnerable constituencies or magnify an existing gap between the affluent and the poor, they should envisage corrective measures (Barrientos, 2001). For example, schemes can be set up for the recruitment of evicted subsistence-oriented farmers in newly established agro-processing factories. Likewise, contract farming schemes should be leveraged to empower small-scale female farmers. Off-takers such as buyers and local processing factories may act as catalysts for the empowerment of rural women by structuring their procurement in a way that favours women farmers and by providing extension support, quality inputs and finance. Public authorities should proactively structure business incentives and disincentives for this to occur (Barca et al.,2015).

Finally, a number of trade-facilitation frameworks can help channel funds towards women empowerment initiatives, particularly on the supply side of the trade equation. Aid for Trade funds, for example, can be used to overcome obstacles that constrain rural women's ability to engage in international trade profitably (Barca et al., 2015). Trade can create opportunities for women's empowerment and well-being in agriculture, but it can also magnify existing gender-based

inequalities. Proactive measures are needed to ensure that rural women harness the benefits and opportunities of trade integration. Key interventions on the supply side have been detailed in several UNCTAD studies: They include targeted, gender-sensitive subsidies for productive inputs; investment in time-saving and labour-saving technologies that respond to women's needs; market information systems and extension services attuned to women farmers and rural-based agribusiness; the strengthening of women cooperatives/associations; and microcredit schemes closely linked to training and mentoring (Barrientos, 2001).

Critique of Existing Literature

There exists varied literature in this area of study but barely any focuses on Mt. Elgon area. The existence of the interplay of disempowerment in the rural poor is yet to be widely researched to bring up the magic bullet that solutions would be drawn from. The fact that women empowerment as an interest study area commonly discussed in the world presently, a number of scholars have carried research on in relation to this topic. However, a number of these scholars have been lacking in one major aspect or another (Eyben, 2007). Even within the individual countries, variability exist disparities among women and women groups. Women continue to suffer limited mobility and, in some cultures, women are not able to leave the home if not accompanied by a man, effectively negating any type of paid employment. Even when women are allowed to leave, they may face verbal, sexual and physical abuse from unknown males for being in the street and face gossip and stigma within their own communities. The growing levels and extremes of violence against women have been captured in the notion of femicide – the killing of women by men just for being women, including ‘honour killings.

Summary of Literature

Families are often unwilling to invest in the education of girls if this investment is not perceived as bringing them direct economic gains -- girls are valued only as wives and mothers, and/or marriage transfers any potential future gains from this investment to another family. As 1 in 7 girls marries before the age of 18 in the developing world (UNFPA, 2007), early and forced marriage remains a key issue and an important factor limiting young women's engagement in both education and economic activities. Justice institutions, from the police to the courts, continue to deny women's right to justice. Women and girls remain unable to access justice, given that in many countries there are still laws that discriminate against women in relation to the family, property, citizenship and employment. Justice systems also do not meet the needs of specific groups of women, such as indigenous women who are discriminated against and face violence in the public and private spheres based on both gender and race.

Research Gap

There have been various and varied interventions aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women in society. Though these different studies give insights into the interventions put forth by numerous stakeholders to help women groups, they fail to indicate the extent to which these interventions are succeeding or failing and see whether they need to be discontinued or modified. According to Mwangi (2009), he highlighted major problems in working with the groups, but does not show variability in rural verses urban or pre-urban. This therefore creates the need for a more thorough study to examine women groups in specific contexts and how the complex socio-economic forces affect their activities. Earlier studies fail to consider the unique nature of the economies in informal rural settlements and how these affect women groups.

According to Mwangi (2009) cultural factors limit women's rights and engagement in the workplace. Religion still has a key role to play in determining gender norms in many cultures and fundamentalist views across the spectrum of religions threaten or deny women's rights, including rights related to sex and sexualities, and to mobility and employment. Gender segregation is a main cause of the gender wage gap, Economic fundamentalism, policies and practices that privilege profits over people, also deny women their rights as workers and to work. While political culture is important for bringing change, women continue to have a limited voice at the local and national levels, and women are not able to fully participate in formal systems of power. Therefore this study intends to bridge the existing gap by creating new knowledge.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter covers the research methodology, research design, target population, sampling frame, sample and sampling techniques, research instrument, data collection procedure, pilot test and data processing and presentation.

Research Design

This study used cross-sectional descriptive research design. The description research design explained the really phenomenon at one point in time. According to Kothari (2011), this study sought to describe the comparison of all the variables. Both quantitative and qualitative research design will be applied in this study, as they support each other. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), cross sectional descriptive research design is good as it gives standard deviation and means during the processing of results.

Target Population

Target Population was the entire group of elements which have similar characteristics or share at least one thing in common (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). It is the larger group from which the sample was taken from. The target population was 200 respondents from Mt.Elgon women group in Bungoma County, Kenya. This was our unit of observation. The women were multiethnic with commonality of having a physical presence in Mt. Elgon Sub County as residents or stayed there over five years so as to be familiar with the really phenomena under this study. The women in self-help groups, women with low literacy levels and women in informal sector were targeted under this research study. With the study being limited to Mt. Elgon sub county wards only, comprising women.

Sampling and Sampling Techniques

Sampling frame is an objective list of population from which the researcher can make a selection (Kothari, 2011). Census survey was employed randomly, since the population was manageable. This study used purposive random sampling techniques. Since the respondents had the same characteristics, experience, age, knowledge and sex. This study focused on three major groups of women living in Mt. Elgon Sub County such as ; woman with disability, women without men protection and women self -help groups membership. The study adopted a census method for data collection because the target population is only one hundred respondents. This indicated that the sample size was equivalent to the target population. The table below shows the sampling techniques;

Table 3.1: Sampling Techniques

S / No	Ward	Location	No. of Respondents
1.	Kapsokwony	Elgon	20
		Namorio	20
		Kamuneru	20
2.	Kaptama	Chemoge	20
		Kaboywo	20
3.	Cheptais	Chepkube	20
		Chesikaki	20
4.	Kopsiro	Chebyuk	20
		Kapkateny	20
		Emia	20
Total			200

Research Instrument

The research instruments of this study were open and closed ended questionnaires. A questionnaire was a research instrument used for gathering research data with an objective of translating the research objectives into specific questions and answers for each question to provide the data for analysis (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). For favourable collection of data, a Likert-scale questionnaire was used. According to Kothari (2011), a questionnaire was an instrument for data collection because it was free from bias of the interviewer/data collector and the results can be made more dependable and reliable. This study used the questionnaire and the Key Informant Interviews in collecting data from Mt. Elgon Sub County.

Data Collection Procedure

The researcher sought permission to conduct research from postgraduate school of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and the County government of Bungoma before embarking on the actual collection of this study. Consent from the County commissioner, Sub County leadership down to the locational Chiefs in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts in the course of the exercise. This phase was carried out free from political involvement and

interference. The research assistant who were conversant with the area of study assisted the researcher in dropping the questionnaire to the respondents and pick them after two weeks and where there was need an extension was provided so as to give the respondents an humble time to fill the questionnaires (Mugenda & Mugenda,2003).

Pilot Test

Pilot testing was the process of subjecting the research instruments to a trial to determine its suitability in a given study area (Mugenda & Mugenda,2003). The researcher carried out a pilot study on the usefulness of the data collection instruments before the distributing the instrument to the respondents for data collection. Pilot testing of 10% (20) was subjected to the respondents of Mt.Elgon Women group so as to test reliability and validity of the research instrument before the actual collection of data of this study.

Validity of Research Instruments

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), defines validity as the degree to which an instrument measures what it purports to measure. They further indicated that validity illustrates the degree to which analysis results obtained from the data collected should represent the phenomena under study. The validity of the research instruments was to ensure validity, as the researcher' must ensure clarity of questionnaires so as to measure what he intends to measure. The researcher was responsible to scrutinize the instrument, including checking on the language used in the research instrument for questionnaire formulation and any suggestions that refine the questionnaires before the final copy is prepared.

Reliability of Research Instruments

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), avers that reliability refers to the consistency of data arising from the use of a particular research instrument. Reliability was the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results after repeated trials over a period of time (Kothari, 2011). He further described reliability as the degree to which a test consistently measures what it was measuring. Reliability of the data collection instruments for this study was measured using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient. This was a coefficient used to measure the internal consistency of the scales that was used in the variables measurement. A reliability co-efficient of 0.70 was the acceptable level for the acceptance of the data collection instrument.

Data Processing and Presentation

The in-depth interviews, FGDs and key informant interviews were recorded. The voice records transcribed verbatim into text. This facilitated the coding into transcripts and extraction of key themes through content and thematic analysis. Direct quotes were used in the final report to support the key themes of the study. According to Kothari (2011) described data analysis as examining what has been collected in a census survey, experiment or a case study and making deductions and inferences. Data was processed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 24. The processed data is now presented in a form of tables, pie charts and graphs. A multiple regression equation for predicting the impact of social economic development on women empowerment in Kenya was expressed as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon$$

Where:

Y = women empowerment

β_0 = Constant

X1 = Economic strategies

X2 = Gender Equality

X3 = Social challenges empowerment

X4 = Political empowerment

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ and β_4 = Regression Coefficients of four variables

ϵ = Is the Error

Inferential statistics such as non-parametric test which include variance analysis was used to test the significance of the overall model at 95% level of significance. According to Kothari (2011) variance analysis is used because it makes use of the F – test in terms of squares residual. An Analysis of Variance was used to measure statistically the significance in predicting how dependent variables influence implementation of policy and procedures in public entities. The test of significance was correlation coefficient, the R square as a measure of significance. The coefficient is a standard measure of an assumed linear relationship between variables. A coefficient of value between (+ve) 0.5 and (-ve) 0.5 or higher indicates a strong relationship and by extension a significant variable in influencing the trend of the dependent variable.

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

This chapter is a discussion on the response rate, Bio-data and the effects of social economics development on women empowerment in Kenya; A case of Bungoma County in Mt. Elgon Sub County; economic strategies, gender equality, political and social challenges.

Response Rate

After circulation of the instruments to the respondents the filled and returned questionnaires were 82 % (148) according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% is adequate, 60% is good and 70% and above is very good. Based on this, the response rate for the study was very good. This response rate was achieved because the researcher personally administered the questionnaires and later made follow-ups on respondents to whom the questionnaires were served. Table 4.1 below shows the response rate:

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Questionnaire	No. Respondents	Percent
Filled and Returned	148	82
Unfilled	32	18
Total	180	100

Reliability Test

This study undertook a pilot test of the research instruments in a view to determine reliability of the data collection instruments, also known as the questionnaires. The Cronbach's alpha was used to measure internal consistency of the operation under this study. According to (Saunders et al., 2012) the Alpha value threshold results at 0.7 and above is good. Alpha values greater than 0.9 ($\alpha \geq 0.9$ is Excellent) can be considered excellent ≥ 0.7 but < 0.9 , considered good, $\alpha \geq 0.6$ but $\alpha < 0.7$ considered acceptable ≥ 0.5 but < 0.6 considered poor, while alpha values less than 0.5 ($\alpha < 0.5$) are considered unacceptable (Kothari, 2011). The study benchmarked its reliability test against these alpha values for all the variables under this study.

Gender Distribution

Out of the targeted respondents used in this study, 62% (92) were male and 38% (56) were female. There was however no notable effect of the gender on the findings of the study. The gender distribution is shown in table 4.2 below:

Table 4.2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	56	38
Male	92	62
Total	148	100

Levels of Education

Out of the respondents sampled 50.8% (75) had KCSE as their highest level of education of, 20 % (30) had a level of KCPE, only 2% (3) had Masters Degrees, finally 27.2% (40) had Bachelor's Degrees but none had a Doctorate degree. However, the study did not find any discernible connection between the level of education and the effect of social economic development on women empowerment in Kenya in the study area. The responses on the levels of education are shown in figure 4.1 below:

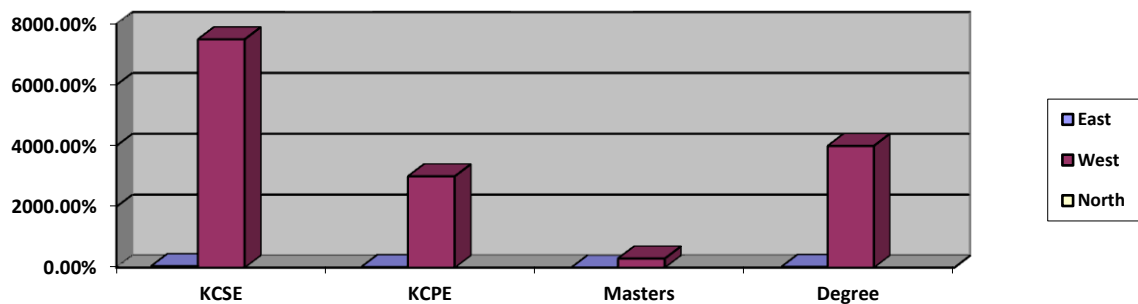


Figure 4.1

Economic Strategies and Women Empowerment

The respondents were requested to give their source of income in Mt.Elgon sub county in Bungoma County, Kenya a the analysis of findings are discussed in Figure 4.2 below: A combined group of women from farmers and business of 66% (98) was the source of their income, 23% (34) of the respondents either agreed that their source of income was from casual labour, while 8% (12) their source of income was from family support and the remaining 3% (4) of the respondents indicated that their income was from salaries. This was in line with the findings of Mwangi (2009).

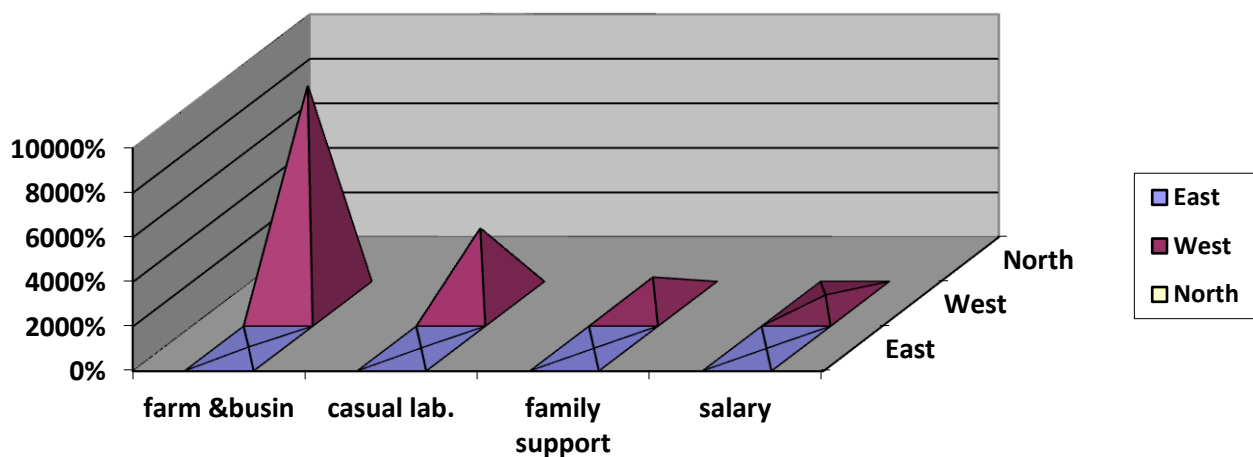


Figure 4.2: Source of Their Income

Their Monthly Income

The respondents were requested to give indicate their monthly income in Mt.Elgon sub county in Bungoma County, Kenya a the analysis of findings are discussed in table 4.3 below: A combined majority 56% (82) of women from Mt.Elgon sub county indicated their income to be less than 3000/= , followed by another group of women of 37% (55) of the respondents indicated their income to range from 3000 to 6000/= ,while 5% (7) of the others respondents indicated their monthly income to be between 6000 to 10,000 and finally about 2% (3) of the respondents indicated that their income was between 11000to 16,000 respectively. This was in line with the findings of Thakur (2009).

Table 4.3: Monthly Incomes

Amount (Ksh)	Respondents	Percent
Less 3,000	82	56
Between 3,000-6,000	55	37
Between 6,000-10,000	7	5
Between 11,000-15,000	3	2
Total	148	100

Economic Strategies on poor women empowerment

The respondents were requested to give indicate why there is poor empowerment in Mt.Elgon sub county in Bungoma County, Kenya a the analysis of findings are discussed in table 4.4 below: A combined majority 77% (114) of women from Mt.Elgon sub county attributed their poor women empowerment as not the cause, while the other group 23% (34) of the respondents indicated that it was the cause of poor empowerment. Economic strategies results showed a Mean of 3.3867, Standard Deviation of 0.50009 and Standard Error Mean of 0.05775, while poor women Empowerment results showed a Mean of 3.6783, Standard Mean Deviation of 0.55837 and Standard Error Mean of 0.11643 respectively. This was in line with the findings of Mwangi (2009).

Table 4.4: Poor Women Empowerment

Question	Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Economic Strategies to women empowerment	No	114	77	3.3867	.50009	.05775
	Yes	34	23	3.6783	.55837	.11643
Total		148	100			

Economic women empowerment

The respondents were requested to give indicate whether there are economic empowerment in Mt.Elgon sub county in Bungoma County, Kenya a the analysis of findings are discussed in table 4.5 below: A combined majority 57% (84) of women from Mt.Elgon sub county attributed their women empowerment as the cause, while the other group 43% (64) of the respondents indicated that it was not the cause of women empowerment. Economic strategies results showed a Mean of 3.4867, Standard Deviation of 0.40009 and Standard Error Mean of 0.05335, while women Empowerment results showed a Mean of 3.5783, Standard Mean Deviation of 0.56837 and Standard Error Mean of 0.11646 respectively. This was in line with the findings of Thakur (2009).

Table 4.5: Economic Women Empowerment

Question	Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Economic to women empowerment	Yes	84	57	3.4867	.40009	.05335
	No	64	43	3.5783	.56837	.11646
Total		148	100			

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further studies.

Summary of Findings

Economic Strategies and Women Empowerment

On the whole, the respondents were generally in agreement that the economic strategies for social economic development were good to them with a combined 96% (142) of the respondents. However there was notable disagreement that there was any empowerment plans in place with a combined 73% (108) of the respondents in disagreement and 13% (19) of the respondents remaining neutral. This was reinforced by the responses to the open-ended question where 77% (114) of the respondents indicated 'no' to the question on whether the government was committed to ensure the social economic development. This implied that to a majority of respondents, there was lack of continued government intervention to ensure that women empowerment in Mt.Elgon Sub County.

Conclusion

The main determinant of the effect of social economic development on women empowerment was found to be gender equality. The government had initially provided free information, free by laws and loans to benefit women groups in Kenya, like preference groups where women are inclusive to get 30% of all the tenders from both national and county government in Kenya since 2010 promulgation of the new constitution. A test of overall significance of all the four variables jointly; economic strategies, gender equality, political and social challenges using ANOVA, at 0.05 level of significance found the model to be significant to the study.

Recommendations

The study provides recommendations on strategic alliances based on the findings of the study.

Economic Strategies and Women Empowerment

The role played Economic Strategies and women empowerment is important such that social economic development can be embraced by all women in Bungoma County in Kenya. They should adopt more participatory social economic development which can encourage all women to strategic economic positions in the county if not to National level. Women ought to be strategist in their daily dealings and should foster proper social development of applying modern integration techniques among their groups in our societal growth.

Areas for further Research

The weighty nature of the study requires that future studies be conducted using other women from other counties, which would lead proper generalization of the study findings. Relying on only one county women group such as was the case in the present study may not give a clear picture of social economic development in Kenya. The study recommends other counties areas for further studies so as to address the remaining issues so as to enhance the findings of this study and arrive at an acceptable consensus.

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