



**EFFECT OF GROUP SAVING SERVICES ON SOCIO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN DAGORETTI
CONSTITUENCY IN NAIROBI**

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effects of group saving services on Socio Economic empowerment of Women in Dagoretti Constituency in Nairobi. The study adopted the descriptive survey design where data was collected by use of interviews and questionnaires to get primary data. Secondary data was used to validate the primary data. The study involved a sample size of 180 members. The study involved a sample of 327 members drawn using simple random sampling from a population of 327 women members of Rosca in Dagoretti constituency. A total of 327 questionnaires were administered with a return of 180 completed questionnaires making the rate of 72.2%. The study relied on Pearson's correlation, linear regression and content analysis to draw inferences from the responses using SPSS-24. The findings revealed a very strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between group saving services and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The study recommended that the groups should well pursue viable and economical external sources of funding to boost their capital base. There was need for both county and national governments to sensitize women across the country to embrace these associations, since they had the potential to reduce the levels of poverty and enhance general living standards. The researcher recommended that Rosca group members should consider increasing the amounts of their contributions and savings and uphold high levels of financial discipline.

Key Words: Group Saving, Social Economic Empowerment

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INTRODUCTION

Women carry a weighty portion of poverty globally as a result of barriers by the society structures (Murgon & Lumwamu, 2014). Women narrowing it to the Africa constitute the majority of the population, however they are behind as compared to men in many aspects. According to 2009 Kenyan population and housing census, women constituted 50.3 percent of Kenyan population, majority of whom had no access to conventional banking which was either by choice or fate due to deep rooted socio-economic and cultural factors that have worked to their disadvantage (Kimta, 2015).

In Africa, there is a long standing tradition of community members forming groups to help each other in times of needs, and of such is the Rotating Savings and Credit Association (Fanta, 2013). ROSCAs are community-based financial initiatives in which members of a group regularly contribute an equal amount of savings toward a common fund pull. ROSCA's have several unique features that contribute to their stability over time. Importantly, the organizer of Rosca is someone with Social and a solid reputation that participants trust, secondly, mobilizations of funds is directly from participant's savings hence use of funds is under group scrutiny. Finally, the groups utilize self-selection of members so that a strong degree of promise, trust and consent exists among members (Crepon et al, 2011).

Kenya is amongst the countries that recognized the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda identifying the importance of long-term equitable and sustainable development through the implementing of social and public policies to try to decrease the gap between those with the most and those with the least. These include creation of policies geared towards financial inclusion targeting women, youth and disadvantaged groups these groups have access to funds allocated through various ministries and government agencies. Women have remained and continue to be the majority of participants in this

government initiative, however a bigger percentage of women still empower themselves towards financial freedom through functioning Rotating Savings and Credit Organizations (Roscas) within their communities Misati (2007).

The economic function involves the provision of loans, because ROSCAs are formed by a closely knit community who are aware of each life and ability to contribute. The subjective literature also suggests that ROSCAs enjoy small incidences of default as result of effective group pressure (Chami & Fischer, 2008).

The minimal transaction costs and accessibility are handed to ROSCA members, and may result in lower cost loans or higher yielding savings plans hence motivates an individual to joining Roscas.

ROSCAs act as a risk running tool; they can offer an insurance mechanism against income shocks, provided that these shocks are really in need. They are an extension of traditional savings groups which, are constituted of individuals who regularly deposit funds with an individual or a subset of the group. Although there are significant financial reasons to join a ROSCA, the main defining characteristic of a performing association lays in the reduction of the risk of opportunistic behavior that result from the peer pressure for performance by all members.

According to Crepon et al, (2011), the most likely ROSCA subscribers in developing countries can be found among white-collar workers in large cities. ROSCA 's appears fairly as an inflexible system of credit delivery, that relies almost entirely on the use of social pressures to ensure the preservation of the personal resources of group members within the association.

Informal finance groups face many challenges due to the fact that their activities and operations are very informal. These challenges include: delayed payments, poor management and governance of the groups, mismanagement of funds and theft.

According to Siwan et al. (2003) in Kenya, it shows that ROSCA's are face with two issues; irregularity in contributing and the element of negotiability that these systems allow which enables powerful individuals to manipulate the groups to their personal advantage. Also, a few powerful community members take advantage of the weak systems; by quickly setting up a group, collecting funds from other members, taking big loans for themselves and defaulting to pay. According to Gugerty (2007), most of the groups reported members leaving the group, followed by those who reported members not paying contributions. These experiences were the most common across all types of groups. The implication of this is that there would be strong effects on cash flow within the group and the reliability with which members receive their cycle.

Statement of problem

The Kenyan government has undertaken several measures through devolved funding to redress emerging social and economic problems faced by the citizens. It is in this regard that Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) were among others introduced. The WEF was conceived in 2006 with the aim of uplifting the economic status of women Gugerty (2008). The United Nations sustainable development goals and the vision 2030 highlight the importance of women empowerment (Okirigiti & Raffey, 2015).

Women economic empowerment is one of the most important steps in enabling other women empowerment aspects like social empowerment and political empowerment (Lambisia, 2016). In addition, women economic independence is crucial in enhancing the achievement of women rights and in empowering women to make independent decisions in relation to financial matters. ROSCA is one of the strategies that have been adopted to enhance women empowerment and hence livelihood (Kariuki & Ngugi, 2014).

In Philippines, Ashraf, Karlan and Yin (2015) conducted a study on the effect of commitment savings product on female empowerment and found that women who were involved in ROSCA had better chances of saving. Having been conducted in Philippines, the findings of this study cannot be generalized to Kenya. It would be of value therefore to find out if saving culture influences women's Empowerment in Dagoretti County.

With the increased growth of the ROSCA industry and the attention the sector has been recognized as an effective mode of transforming the society. The claims that ROSCA's successfully alleviates poverty and empowers and make economic decisions at household level women must be scrutinized more carefully (Omar, 2008 & Olomi, 2009). With the increased number of Roscas, its benefits are expected to expressively empower women. Hence, this study revisited the evidence of ROSCA services evaluations focusing on the effect of group saving services on social economic empowerment of women in Dagoretti Constituency.

Study Objective

The objective of the research was to determine the effect of group saving services on socio economic empowerment of women.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social Capital Theory

Woolcock and Deepa, (2000) understanding on social capital as the norms that enable people to act in a collective manner. Ansari, Gerasim and Mahdavinia (2011) define social capital, as a community routine of social trust and norms of reciprocity in social networks that facilitate collective actions. Social capital is connected to the shared values and understandings in society that enable groups to trust each other and work together. Mwangi and Ouma (2012), states that social capital is a very important resource, especially in the rural and pre-urban areas. It describes those intangible substances that count

most in the daily lives of people including goodwill, fellowship, sympathy, and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit. Narayan and Woolcock (2000) points out that initial system development is important for a strong group as this will help the members to deal with socio-economic problems for instance credit facilitation without collateral.

Strong mutuality amid the followers of the group demonstrates to be another characteristic of Social Capital. This is due to a strong system of mutual obligations. Harris (2007) explains the connection between bonding social capital and corruption perception across countries. She found that closed groups in specific mutuality are highly valued, corrupt exchange might be considered acceptable between peers. Sabatini (2009) constructed a structural index of bonding social capital. He used a basic component analysis that he combines elements such as family composition, spatial distance between family members, the relevance of other relatives and the quality of relationships among family members into a unique indicator (Maria 2010).

Social capital enables people to attach greater value in their family, friends and associates that facilitate collective action this goes in hand with social

networks which help in creating mutual insurance mechanisms. Kulb & Kiiti (2013) notes communities embedded with a diverse levels of social networks are in a stronger and better position to withstand poverty crisis as opposed to those without such networks. Observation herein indicates that social capital is seen as dynamic among ROSCAs. Mbamaonyekwu (2013) observed that the poor may have a close-knit and intensive relationship hence the aspect of social capital.

In regard to this study, the researcher found this theory very useful because it explained the importance of relationships that are formed in a social network. This laid a theoretic establishment for the hypothesis that women come together into groups because relationships formed in these groups are important in solving their problems, thus empowerment. It is through these groups that women enjoy the freedom to choose how they want to attain their empowerment. Basing on individual level contacts are obtained from these groups interactions are important in pursuing economic resources. At a group level the collective bargaining obtained enables women to form beneficial relationships with other organizations such as banks, NGO's and governments.

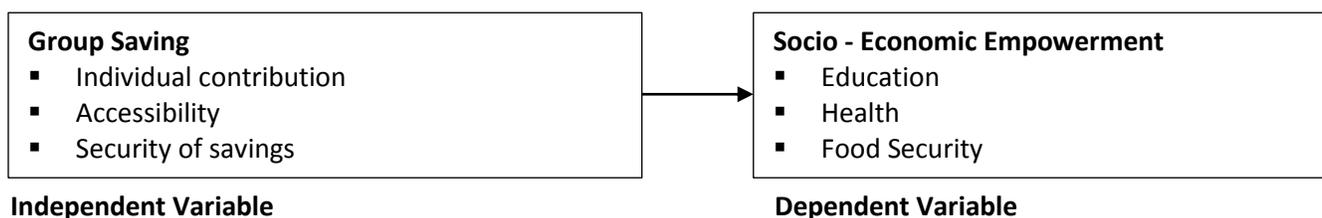


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Empirical Literature

Vetrivel & Mohanasundari, (2011) note that saving as a service is among the strategies roscas give to their members. Members save a particular amount either weekly or monthly without having an upper limit to the amount each member can save. savings is crucial to members at accessibility is up hand further, they

can use the amount to purchase own or group assets as well as used for emergencies (Padala, 2011). Panda (2009) ascertained that saving culture has enabled women to own intangible assets like lands from their own savings.

Moon (2011) and Jothi (2010) ascertain that banks are able to even loan women groups that their loan status and repayment plan is thoroughly checked hence it has even made women to become financially disciplined. The concept of rosca has enabled women access loans from groups with little interest rates and no collateral securities. Ondoro and Omena (2012) points that savings availability is essential in increasing the amount of income under their control so as to build their assets. Maru and Chemjor (2013) in their study found that businesswomen had a notion that micro savings was inappropriate. Hence savings, results revealed that it's actually a voluntary plan to save in the institutions with affordable rates.

Ishengoma and Kappel (2011) agree that accessing safe and flexible savings services play a critical role in poor people's strategies for minimizing risks, mitigating income fluctuations, facing unexpected expenditures and emergencies. This is important for the poor living in rural areas that lack investment opportunities and safe ways of keeping their savings.

Anderson and Baland (2009) opined that ROSCA participation is seen as a means for women to protect their savings against theft, loss or consumption for eventualities. Ogwumike (2004) notes that majority of members the rosca members are the female who join roscas as a secure savings strategy. An advantage of saving together is that everybody except the last person will have saved up the lump sum quicker compared to a situation where they would save alone. In this regard, Anderson et al (2004) explain this by the using early pot motivation.

On the concept of self-commitment, Gugerty (2007), Ambec and Treich (2007) agree that women prefer to be ROSCAs so as to cope with self-control issues. Further notes that individuals were not able to save alone due to the needs and wants for money. Thus, poor people prefer mechanisms that forced them to save in group. Also they reported that many ROSCA participants argue that one could not save alone and

as such ROSCAs are a perceived self-discipline problem.

Nelson (2013) states that ROSCA's simplicity was counterbalanced by risk and lack of flexibility. Inflexible saving and providing credit to individuals was seen as a risky state in the Rosscas concept. Besides, those who were last in line of receiving a pot were at risk of not receiving their pay out if members defaulted before the cycle ends. In these regards the lack of returns on savings was also supposed to discourage savers. But the greatest reproach was that the fund did not grow in value as no interest was paid for the accumulated period of circulation (Nelson, 2013).

Further, Dupas and Jonathan (2013) observed that the absence of capital accumulation was approved, for the poor who needed to stock savings for future use long run, widowhood or old during age.

Tennant (2007); Dahou et al. (2009) and Ngenadakuriyo (2014) argued that the low savings phenomenon is believed to be multidimensional with a complex causality structure. The literature on savings mobilization identified a variety of factors likely to influence savings mobilization which are the institutional type, governance and organizational structure, appropriateness of savings products and technologies.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a descriptive research design. The study employed a quantitative approach. This approach is a structured way of gathering and analysing quantifiable information. The target population was 327 members of 21 women groups that were purposively selected. To select a sample size of 180, a mathematical formula suggested by Yamane (1997) was applied. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire captured data relative to respondents' background. The researcher used questionnaire as the main data collecting tool

and used structured and unstructured questions. The collected data was analyzed by both descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24.

FINDINGS

The dependent variable of the study was socioeconomic empowerment of women. This section presented descriptive statistics of the variable based on Likert scale of 1-5 (1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, and 5=Strongly Agree). Table 1 presented summary statistics.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on Socio-economic Empowerment (N=130)

Statement	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev.
Being in Rosca, members have been able to raise fees to educate their children better	1.00	5.00	3.9806	.91486
I have been able to afford books for my children every term	1.00	5.00	3.8746	.93994
I have been able to reduce fees arrears for my children	1.00	5.00	3.8140	1.01371
Being in Rosca ensures improved nutrition for family,	1.00	5.00	3.6667	1.13422
Being in Rosca ensures my family take three meals a day	1.00	5.00	3.4884	1.11184
I have been able to have a balanced diet for my children	1.00	5.00	3.6850	1.08891
Being in Rosca has improved my ability to afford my household's medical bills	1.00	5.00	4.1000	.79582
Being in Rosca enables members to access quality HealthCare	2.00	5.00	4.0462	.70284
Being in Rosca enables me afford bills for the health services I have received	1.00	5.00	4.0233	.92251

Key: Mean Strongly Disagree=1-1.9, Disagree=2-2.9, Neutral=3, Agree=3.1-4, Strongly Agree=4.1-5

Based on the mean responses in Table 1, women agreed that being in Rosca, members have been able to raise fees to educate their children better with a mean of 3.98, and also, they agreed that they were able to afford books for their children because of Rosca with a mean of 3.87 and standard deviation of 0.9399. In addition, they agreed to the statements that; they were able to reduce fee areas for their children (3.81, they had good nutrition in their households (3.66), and their families took balanced diet (3.68). Further, still on well-being, most women

agreed that Rosca improved their ability to afford medical bills for the households (4.1). In General, descriptive statistics were in agreement that Rosca empowers women economically.

Factor Analysis

The study employed factor analysis based principal component matrix to reduce the number of factors/items in the Likert scale. This made it easier for further analysis. Table 2 presented total variance explained output of the factor analysis process.

Table 2: Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.437	27.073	27.073	2.437	27.073	27.073	2.050	22.779	22.779
2	1.635	18.164	45.236	1.635	18.164	45.236	1.888	20.983	43.762
3	1.416	15.733	60.969	1.416	15.733	60.969	1.549	17.207	60.969
4	.845	9.394	70.363						
5	.710	7.886	78.249						
6	.662	7.351	85.600						
7	.493	5.476	91.076						
8	.432	4.795	95.871						
9	.372	4.129	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

According to Table 2, the factor analysis had extracted three components where the first component accounted for 27.073% of the variations, while factor 2 accounted for 18.164% of variation. Finally, factors 3 accounted for 15.733%. This implied

that, these 3 components, explained total variance of 60.969%

The next output of this process was the rotated component factor which minimizes the number of variables. The results were presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Rotated Component Matrix^a

	Component		
	1	2	3
Being in Rosca, members have been able to raise fees to educate their children better	-.099	-.024	.685
I have been able to afford books for my children every term	.052	.004	.747
. I have been able to reduce fees arrears for my children	.299	.164	.643
Being in Rosca ensures improved nutrition for family,	.773	-.044	.096
Being in Rosca ensures my family take three meals a day	.812	.139	.137
I have been able to have a balanced diet for my children	.823	.088	-.085
Being in Rosca has improved my ability to afford my household's medical bills	.101	.806	.019
Being in Rosca enables members to access quality HealthCare	.048	.695	.236
Being in Rosca enables me afford bills for the health services I have received	.019	.837	-.130

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Source: Author (2019)

Statistics showed that the first 3 variables were highly loaded on the third factor (component), while the last three variables were loaded on the 2 components. Finally, the 4th, 5th and 6th factors were loaded on the

first (1) component. The first component related to food, while the second spoke of health. The last component talked of education.

Table 4: Descriptive of the Socioeconomic Empowerment

Variables	N	Number of Items	Mean	Std Deviation	Cronbach's Alpha
Education	130	3	4.10	.0060	0.754
Food	130	3	2.902	.4576	0.760
Health	130	3	4.302	.023	0.702

Mean: strongly disagree=1-1.9, Disagree=2-2.9, Neutral=3, Agree=3.1-4, Strongly Agree=4.1-5

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

Descriptive statistics for extracted components indicate that education had a mean of 4.10, nutrition status had a mean of 2.902, and lastly, health had a mean of 4.302. These findings showed that many women strongly agreed that they had been empowered educationally through rosca as well as health. With regard Cronbach's Alpha, statistics indicated that all variables met the threshold of 0.7, and therefore, findings could be generalised.

Independent Variables

Group Savings and Socioeconomic Empowerment of women

The objective of this study was to analyze the effect of group saving services on the socio-economic empowerment of women. Various questions were asked in relation to this. This section presented summarised statistics.

Table 5: Descriptive statistics on Savings and socioeconomic empowerment on women (N=130)

Statement	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev.
The size of monthly deposit is affordable to members.	1.00	5.00	4.0231	.99973
Affordable monthly deposits enable members make regular deposits	1.00	5.00	4.0775	.89802
Affordability in deposits has motivated members to save more amounts	2.00	5.00	3.9615	.83901
Ease in withdrawal enables members increase their household asset	1.00	5.00	3.7829	.85660
Ease in access helps members withdraw when in need	1.00	5.00	3.9535	.76914
Ease in withdrawal has motivated members to save more	1.00	5.00	4.0233	.76511
Secure group savings enables members to borrow better	1.00	5.00	3.9380	.89050
Secure group savings enables members to save more	1.00	5.00	4.0000	.83853
3. Secure group savings enables members have access to savings	2.00	5.00	4.0469	.76188

Key: Mean Strongly Disagree=1-1.9, Disagree=2-2.9, Neutral=3, Agree=3.1-4, Strongly Agree=4.1-5

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

Findings indicated that women agreed to all the statements concerning group savings and socioeconomic empowerment as shown by the mean

responses. This implied that group savings determines socioeconomic empowerment to a greater extent.

Table 6: Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.945	32.717	32.717	2.945	32.717	32.717	2.239	24.880	24.880
2	1.301	14.458	47.175	1.301	14.458	47.175	1.615	17.940	42.820
3	1.219	13.545	60.721	1.219	13.545	60.721	1.611	17.900	60.721
4	.938	10.418	71.138						
5	.798	8.862	80.001						
6	.584	6.494	86.494						
7	.527	5.853	92.348						
8	.396	4.395	96.742						
9	.293	3.258	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

According to Table 6, the factor analysis had extracted three components where the first component accounted for 32.717% of the variations, while factor 2 accounted for 14.458% of variation. Finally, factors 3 accounted for 13.545%. This implied

that, these 3 components, explained total variance of 60.721%

The next output of this process was the rotated component factor which minimizes the number of variables. The results were presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Rotated Component Matrix^a

	Component		
	1	2	3
The size of monthly deposit is affordable to members.	.217	.893	-.150
Affordable monthly deposits enables members make regular deposits	-.018	.741	.148
Affordability in deposits has motivated members to save more amounts	.015	.766	.376
Ease in withdrawal enables members increase their household asset	.180	.157	.978
Ease in access helps members withdraw when in need	.419	.037	.708
Ease in withdrawal has motivated members to save more	.764	-.323	.279
Secure group savings enables members to borrow better	.799	-.159	.201
Secure group savings enables members to save more	.859	.368	.197
Secure group savings enables members have access to savings	.678	.170	-.230

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Source: Author (2019)

Statistics showed that the first 3 variables were highly loaded on the third factor (component), while the last three variables were loaded on the 2 components. Finally, the 4th, 5th and 6th factors were loaded on the

first (1) component. The first component spoke of individual contribution, while the second spoke of accessibility. The last component talked of security of savings.

Table 8: Descriptive on Group Savings

Variables	N	Number of Items	Mean	Std Deviation	Cronbach's Alpha
Individual contribution	130	3	3.270	0.830	0.723
Accessibility to group savings	130	2	2.902	0.956	0.780
security of savings	130	4	3.890	1.098	0.679

Mean: strongly disagree=1-1.9, Disagree=2-2.9, Neutral=3, Agree=3.1-4, Strongly Agree=4.1-5

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

Descriptive statistics for extracted components indicated that individual contribution had a mean of 3.270, accessibility has a mean of 2.902, and lastly, security of savings has a mean of 3.890 which meant that in general terms, majority of women.

At least agreed that group savings leads to socioeconomic empowerment.

Inferential statistics

To determine the nature and strength of the relationship between group savings and socioeconomic empowerment of women, the study conducted Pearson moment correlation coefficient whose results were presented in Table 9. First, factor analysis method was used to extract factors from both the dependent and independent variable. These were factors which were believed to have the highest significance from among the several statements.

Table 9: Pearson Moment Correlation coefficient

		Access to food	Access to education	Access to healthcare	Individual contribution	Access to savings	Security of savings
Access to food	Pearson Correlation	1	.144	.148	.046**	.695**	.636**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.102	.092	.030	.008	.005
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130
Access to education	Pearson Correlation	.144	1	.124	.345**	.224*	.178*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.102		.161	.000	.011	.043
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130
Access to healthcare	Pearson Correlation	.148	.124	1	.743**	.601*	.080
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.092	.161		.005	.084	.009
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130
Individual contribution	Pearson Correlation	.046**	.345**	.143	1	.415**	.277**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.030	.000	.105		.000	.001
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130
Access to	Pearson Correlation	.695**	.224*	.001	.415**	1	.291**

savings	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	.011	.994	.000		.001
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130
Security of savings	Pearson Correlation	.636**	.178*	.080	.277**	.291**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.043	.009	.001	.001	
	N	130	130	130	130	130	130

**Significant at P<.05

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

The results of the correlation analysis indicated that group savings and socioeconomic empowerment of women in Dagoretti constituency were positively correlated. Individual contributions, access to savings, and security of savings, had a positive and significant correlation with food accessibility, access to education and access to health care ($r=0.636$, Sig. $0.005 < 0.05$, $r=0.695$, Sig. $0.008 < 0.05$, and 0.046 , Sig. $0.030 < 0.05$ respectively). Similar results were posted with respect to access to education as well as access to health care. This meant that group savings had an impact on the socioeconomic empowerment.

Regression

To determine the effect of group savings on socioeconomic empowerment of women, a regression analysis was used. Table 10 presented the results of three models. The findings indicated that individual contributions influences access to education, access to food security and access to health positively. This was shown by positive coefficients (0.286, 0.007 and .156 respectively).

However, these results were only significant with regard to education where the p-value was $0.003 < 0.05$. This implied that a unit change in individual contributions, led to 28.6% increase in education performance. Thus, group savings had an effect on empowering women. Savings enabled parents to invest in education which is an indicator of empowerment.

Similar results had been reported in previous studies. For instance, Panda (2009) reported that group savings enabled women to own intangible assets like lands from their own savings which they use to empower themselves both socially and economically. In addition, Moon (2011) and Jothi (2010) states that group savings enables women groups to secure loans from financial institutions and thus, helping women to be financially disciplined and sound. Furthermore, Ondoro and Omena (2012) argues that savings availability is imperative in enhancing the income amount of women in order to build their asset base for socioeconomic empowerment.

Table 10: Regression Coefficients

Independent	Model 1					Model 2					Model 3				
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	2.133	.485		4.402	.000	3.362	.703		4.784	.000	3.544	.494		7.170	.000
Individual contribution	.272	.089	.286	3.068	.003	.010	.129	.007	.075	.940	.144	.090	.156	1.587	.115
Accessibility to group savings	.090	.101	.084	.895	.372	.164	.146	.112	1.125	.263	-.085	.103	.082	-.826	.410

Security of savings	.087	.103	.075	.841	.402	-.112	.149	-.071	-.749	.455	.067	.105	.060	.642	.522
Dependent	Access to Education				Access to Food				Access to Health						
R – squared	0.130				0.05				0.085						
Adj. R squared	0.109				0.013				0.077						
Std. Error	0.633				0.435				0.625						
F – ratio (3, 125)	6.215				10.119				1.135						
Prob. > F	0.001				0.000				0.045						

Source: SPSS output, (2019)

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of the study was to analyse the effect of group saving services on socio-economic empowerment of women. Both correlation and regression results indicated that group saving services have a positive and significant effect on socioeconomic empowerment of women in Dagoreti.

The findings implied that savings by group members builds their financial capacity which is then used to empower them both socially and economically. Someone with more savings can invest and therefore, make more money to better him or herself educationally, foodwise as well as their health. These results were supported by other studies such as Panda (2009), Moon (2011) and Jothi (2010), and Ondoro and Omena (2012) among others who reported that group savings enabled women to own intangible assets like lands from their own savings which they use to empower themselves both socially and economically.

The study concluded that group monthly saving, accessibility to savings and security for savings would help increase improve women’s saving culture. This

would in turn help them to accumulate a reasonable amount of money to engage in a meaningful economic activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommended that there is need for both county and national governments to sensitize women across the country to embrace associations, since they have the potential to reduce the levels of poverty and enhance general living standards. The researcher also recommended that Rosca group members should consider increasing the amounts of their contributions and savings and uphold high levels of financial discipline.

Suggestion for further Studies

A further study to analyse the operations of Roscas particular their strategies would aid in enhancing their operations. Secondly, a comparative study involving various regions and covering a wider scope will help to shed more light on the influence of these associations. Thirdly, a study should be conducted to examine the impact of these associations on Kenya’s economic growth.

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