



**AWARENESS OF TABLE BANKING ACTIVITIES AND SOCIO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN
MALAVA SUB- COUNTY, KAKAMEGA; KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Table banking is a concept that has gained popularity in the recent past in Kenya. The aim of this kind of banking is to enhance the socio-economic status of citizens particularly those from poor areas of the country. Awareness being a function of table banking impacts on poverty positively or negatively; hence, it has been an issue in both developed and less developed areas partly due to the high interest rate that is imposed on the loans by financial institutions. Economic disempowerment not only affects development of the affected areas but directly depletes the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans who are disadvantaged relative to accessibility of financial services from the mainstream institutions. Therefore, this study sought to establish the influence of awareness of table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study adopted a cross-sectional design method. The target population consisted respondents from five wards in the Sub County of Malava, Kakamega County; Kenya. The questionnaire was used as an instrument for primary data collection. The study descriptive and inferential statistics was analyzed by use of SPSS software version 25. Further; a regression equation model was developed to test the relationships between the variables. The results of the findings indicated Awareness of Table Banking had an influence on Socio Economic Empowerment on Women of the Sub County of Malava, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study recommended for County Governments to embrace the use of Awareness on Table Banking since it has an effect on Socio Economic Empowerment on Women of the Counties. The study recommended for further studies on the same considering same variables but different methodologies

Key words: Awareness, Table Banking, Socio Economic Empowerment

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INTRODUCTION

The sustainability of table banking groups is very vital for economic growth of any country because it is an excellent channel through which credit facilities can be granted to small business especially those in rural areas (Akinrinola & Mafimisebi, 2019). The level of awareness of this group has enabled them to offer affordable loans, but they also make it for the members to guarantee one another. The level of Education by the group members creates awareness is disseminated by agents to members of groups to enable the latter get skills on the mobilization of savings and funds to boost their lending fund. Although the unbanked rural women entrepreneurs participate in savings support groups, their business growth is hampered by negative cultures, gender discrimination, and poverty (Aghion, Armendáriz, & Morduch, 2017). A group management characteristic is the act of guiding or influencing people to accomplish set goals or objectives (Ivancevich & Donnelly, 2016). Groups, irrespective of structure or foundation, are established to accomplish crucial objectives difficult to attain individually.

Globally, there has been a massive growth in the alternative credit arrangements globally especially in the informal savings sector. More than 70 percent of the people in the emerging markets do not have a bank account and have come up with their own ways to save money despite the aggressive marketing in the formal banking sector (Global Report, 2019). Most of the people have formed informal saving groups. The people consider informal saving groups more accessible than the formal banks and financial institutions as they are keener in the provision of financial services to low incomers with the aim of empowering themselves economically (European Commission, 2018). Socio-economic empowerment is the ability of the historically disadvantaged to engage in economic activities that benefit both the Individual and the broader society (Frey & Jegan, 2019).

In Africa, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) provide

valuable services to the poor, they are most successful in economically dynamic urban areas, where borrowing requirements are high and the costs of reaching clients is low. In contrast, most of the people in Africa live in rural areas and do not readily access finances or credit facilities. There is still a very large gap between the needs for financial services and the ability of MFIs to provide these services, especially to rural women. In addition, there is a gap between the products that MFIs offer and those that are needed by the women (World Economic Forum, 2019).

In Kenya, according to the Kenya Vision 2030 that was launched in 2008, Action Aid International Kenya introduced table banking in Eastern Kenya through a project that aimed at supporting alternative livelihoods for people that are mostly affected by climate changes, banditry and other calamities (Kenya, Ministry of Planning and National Development, 2016).

Poverty and illiteracy still remain the greatest challenge to Kenyan women especially the rural folk. Poverty level among Kenyan women currently stands at 25 percent (Limobk, 2018). Tubey (2017) recommended that women entrepreneurs need to be supported because they bring fresh motivation to the business sector. In order to assist the unbanked women in Kenya, Table banking was initially developed by the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC) under the former Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030, targeting Sustainable Development Goals in eradicating abject poverty especially in the rural areas in Kenya.

Table banking's objective is to bring financial services to the poor, particularly the poorest women to help them fight poverty, stay profitable and financially sound (ROK, 2019). Table banking follows the same concept as merry-go-round but, for the former money contributed by members is given to members as loans which they pay back in the following meeting with an interest (Njuguna, 2017).

The origin of table banking can be traced from

early civilization when money was exchanged at tables known as “Trapezes” which was first identified in Greece when ancient banking practices were conducted (Lin, 2016). During the ancient practice of table banking, money collectors received and documented amounts deposited by individuals and was then borrowed and lent to members of the solidarity group. As a participatory action process, table banking mediates between entrepreneurial intent for implementation and achievement of critical economic empowerment outcomes. Thus, the participatory action process is enhanced through shared information and acquisition of knowledge with which people work to gain mastery of skills to promote equity and improve the quality of life (Khandker, 2017).

By accessing savings services and small loans through Table banking, women acquire income that enable them to meet their basic household consumption needs rather than accruing significant debt which they could be unable to repay. When they borrow through Table banking, loan sizes are generally small and manageable depending on individual’s savings. Table banking is becoming popular with women groups in rural areas. It attempts to overcome the difficulties women face in accessing finances by having women groups pool their savings in order to have a source of lending funds (Murthi, 2019).

The money is given according to members’ needs and whether the borrower is credit worthy. The group members usually meet once in a month (Harper, 2018). The economic empowerment according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD 2017, pg. 8,) is the capability of both men and women to make contributions, get benefits and participate in growth processes that respect their value of contributions, respect their dignity and enable a fair distribution of benefits of growth. Economic resources are increased by economic empowerment especially opportunities in jobs, property, asset, skills and market information.

In comparison to banks and micro-finance

institutions, loans are easily processed and accessed therefore making the table banking a source of capital for entrepreneurs (Ford Foundation and Sawarung, 2017).The money contributed is used by the women for their livelihood projects. In comparison to banks and micro-finance institutions, table banking has become a source of capital for most of the entrepreneurs as their interest rates are friendly and is easily accessible (Start-up Academy, 2018).

The concept of table financing/banking is explained as community-based practice or activity characterized by accretion of savings that can be borrowed by group members (Casio, 2018). It is a form of a pecuniary support program that is adopted and practiced universally by persons from low-income backgrounds with the primary objective of generating funds internally by accumulating savings. The savings are accumulated to a level of creating a pool of financial resources from which the same members who are contributing can borrow money for their own development (Njuguna, 2017). According to Casio (2018), this program is entirely grounded on the trust established among members of the group guaranteeing one another. In most cases, borrowers are allowed to secure their loans even with household goods like electronics as well as utensils among others. The sum of funds borrowed, however, differs from one person to the other depending on other factors to be considered such as individual contributions and the need for borrowing (Njuguna, 2015; Wagoki, 2018).

Kumar (2019) explains table banking as a mutual but rather joint venture motivated by the drive to address the challenge of limited or lack of access to financial support by the low-income community bracket. In other terms, it can mean a “participatory action” approach tailored to enhancing the desired empowerment outcomes. It arbitrates between the intention of the entrepreneur for accomplishment as well as the attainment of vital financial empowerment outcomes (Peterson, 2016). The process of

“participatory action” is, therefore, enhanced as a result of shared information as well as knowledge acquisition, which enable individuals to work hard in order to gain skills that are necessary not only in promoting equity but also improving the quality of life (Kumar, 2019).

Among the notable benefits of table-banking to entrepreneurs especially women is that it empowers them to start new businesses, thus boosting the incomes of their households (Action Aid Kenya, 2017). Besides, the program enables women from low-income backgrounds to acquire fixed assets like a house or even land (The Guardian, 2018).

Entrepreneurship targets reduction of inequality in income distribution at household level and opportunity creation for employment for the poor (Lagarde, 2013; Al-Mamun et al., 2017). In Kenya, the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) was initiated to foster wealth distribution across various social groups through MSMEs projects (Shah, 2013; WEF, 2009). Due to its lean success, inclination towards community-led self-financing emerged. Table-banking project was piloted in 1999 Bondo and Gatanga counties and improved on in 2004 to provide knowledge on its pros and cons. Basing on success-stories from the pilot projects, the Kenyan Government in 2005, resolved to officially launched table banking to reinforce its commitment to the women’s economic empowerment agenda. Many actors and agents acknowledge relevance of table banking (Rand et al, 2016) though a certain sector as Hugh (2017) notes need for more knowledge on table-banking. According Karlan and Thisbaert (2017) in a recent IPA evaluation report on savings-led funding approach, the immediate effects and the impact of the process is not yet established.

Uptake of table banking since 2010 has been on the rise in some areas of Kakamega County however it has been very low in other parts like Malava Sub-county (CIDA, 2018). Therefore, this study seeks to bridge the gap by examining the influence of table banking on economic

empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County.

Statement of the problem

Households from less developed economies often lack access to banking accounts or services and face high costs for transacting basic financial services through check cashers and other alternative financial service providers. These households find it more difficult to save and plan financially for the future. Policy and institutional arrangements in Kenya have been strengthened to promote women’s participation in developments spearheaded by the ministry of devolution. The National Human Development Report of 2009 (UNDP, 2010) revealed that Western Kenya region remains one of the poorest in Kenya, where women still suffer cultural prejudices, domestic violence and economic alienation, which have serious implications on their health and economic status (UNDP, 2017).

A significant awareness and resources is required for women to acquire independence in decision making which is critical for socio-economic sustainability. Their low rates of land and asset ownership and residual lack of collateral, limits women’s eligibility to acquire capital to finance enterprises to motivate livelihood improvement. According to 2019 Kenya population and housing census, women constitute 51% of the Malava Sub County population (KNBS, 2019). Majority of the women have no awareness to how they can mainstream banking either by choice, fate or due to deep rooted cultural and socio-economic factors that for a long time have worked to the women’s disadvantage (CBS & World Bank, 2018). The situation has been worsened partly due to the high interest rates that are imposed on loans by financial institutions making it very difficult to access the funds (GoK, 2019). The situation was further worsened in 2016 by the capping of interest rates resulting to high risk borrowers such as micro-entrepreneurs being denied credit (CBK, 2017). According to a report by KNBS (2017) the rate of women borrowing reduced from 43% in 2013 to 17% in 2017 which has been catalyzed by

commercial banks closing the unsecured loans. The awareness of uptake of table banking has been slow as this has been hampered by; lack of regular meeting, trainings, knowledge and understanding of how to sustain their borrowing (CIDA, 2018). There has been limited socio-economic empowerment for women especially the non-working category which has greatly affected women socio-economic development in Malava Sub-County. The county has witnessed low capital equipment ownership, reduced business premise ownership, malnutrition, low education enrolment, high dropout rate mostly of children of single women and the poor water sanitation resulting in increased waterborne disease prevalence (KNBS, 2017). Whereas on one hand table banking is perceived as contributing to the economic wellbeing of women, on the other hand, it is marred with challenges that undermine its effectiveness; hence, this gives rise to a researchable gap that necessitates this study to be undertaken.

Objectives of the Study

To establish the influence of awareness of table banking on socio economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study was guided research hypothesis;

- H_{01} The awareness of table banking has no significant influence on socio economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, Kakamega County; Kenya

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social Exclusion Theory

The proponents of social exclusion theory were Garry Runciman and Peter Townsend. It is useful to begin with the recognition that the idea of social exclusion has conceptual connections with well-established notions in the literature on poverty and deprivation, and has antecedents that are far older than the specific history of the terminology might suggest. Indeed, I would argue that we can appreciate more fully the contribution made by the new literature on social exclusion by placing it in the

broader context of the old, very aged, idea of poverty as capability deprivation. That connection with a very general approach will help to appreciate the particular emphases and focal concerns that the specific idea of social exclusion helps to illuminate.

First, I have good reason to value not being excluded from social relations, and in this sense, social exclusion may be directly a part of capability poverty. Indeed, Adam Smith's focus on the deprivation involved in not "being able to appear in public without shame" is a good example of a capability deprivation that takes the form of social exclusion. This relates to the importance of taking part in the life of the community, and ultimately to the Aristotelian understanding that the individual lives an unavoidably "social" life. Smith's general point that the inability to interact freely with others is an important deprivation in itself (like being undernourished or homeless), and has the implication that some types of social exclusion must be seen as constitutive components of the idea of poverty, indeed must be counted among its core components.

The assumption in this model is that if a person perceives that a group fund mobilization resources will help in fulfilling his or her goals, the group then becomes attractive to him or her and therefore has a positive impact to the individual. The individual will be driven to join a group if the force of attraction is great. Notably, the overall cohesiveness of a certain group is the sum of all the positive forces in each member's life space (Breckler et al., 2006). Women in self-help groups will need to find ways that will make them remain in the groups and continue with table banking as a way of empowering themselves and by communicating the benefits in order to motivate others to join them. This group later mobilizes resources for the social economic wellbeing of the group members.

Table banking concept is therefore seen as a new concept that tries to fill this gap of poverty and social exclusion of women in the society. Table banking awareness enables women to access

finances that allow them to get income which increases household well-being and translate into improved well-being. The main focus is on developing sustainable livelihoods and improving the living standards of women and the poorest through financial inclusion so as to overcome chronic poverty.

Group Joint liability Theory

In analyzing joint lending, economists have focused on either the effects of joint liability on the pool and behavior of borrowers, or on the fact that lending to groups as opposed to individuals is a way to reduce transactions costs. While we only discuss the joint-liability aspect of these lending programs, our argument is complementary to the transactions costs argument. According to the transactions-costs argument, under many circumstances, it is only slightly more expensive to administer a group of loans than to administer a single loan, so group lending enables a reduction in transactions costs per loan. Aghion, (1999), if the projects to be funded are simple and similar in terms of their characteristics, the time path of their returns, and the geographic location of their activities, then coordinating the lender's dealings with these borrowers by putting them together in a group can save on processing, screening and loan collection costs. Put this way, transaction cost-based theories and joint-liability-based theories can be combined.

The conflict over microcredit as a concept is traced back to its early years when many bankers and economists rejected the very idea of giving loans to the poor. Such a proposition defied traditional assumptions that the poor were not worthy of loans, couldn't handle the responsibility, lacked collateral and education, amongst other handicaps. An example of a bank with collateral free operational frame of microcredit is the Grameen Bank (GB) which targets women who have limited opportunities of accessing finances through other microfinance institutions with collateral requirements. With its proven success among marginalized women in Bangladesh, the GB model which emerged from the poor focused grassroots

institutions, attracted the attention of microfinance lenders around the world and motivated them to adopt it sometimes with minor modifications to suit the local conditions (Yunus, 2011).

As an approach to development, the credit model is thought to be bottom up, fulfilling the credit requirements of the marginalized people who had been ignored by the traditional banks. This, in turn, contributes to increased production, income and consumption, and makes a positive impact on the overall socio-economic development of the country by reducing poverty and bringing entrepreneurial development (Ninah, 2000).

The Grameen Bank essentially adopts the methodology of a bank unit set up with field manager and a number of bank workers, covering an area of about 15 to 22 villages. Groups of five prospective borrowers are formed and taken through a formal training on how to use the finances. In the first stage, only two of them are eligible for, and receive, a loan. The group is observed for a month to see if the members are conforming to rules of the bank. Only if the first two borrowers repay the principal amount plus interest over a period of fifty weeks do other members of the group become eligible themselves for a loan. Because of these restrictions, there is substantial group pressure that locks out most of the women in rural areas who are not able to meet the conditions. Although there is a great resemblance of the operations and management of the GB model with that of Table banking, the latter is better option since it embraces all and does not discriminate against marginalized women. Its overall focus is to empower women by enabling them to easily access finances without restrictions so that they can improve on their standards of living (Yunus, 1976).

This theory is relevant in this study as it suggests that sustainability of group resources depends on individuals' actions and the level of trust that others will disclose truthful information about themselves, which has an impact on the choices that others make, resulting in participation by more members thus ensuring sustainability.

Conceptual Framework

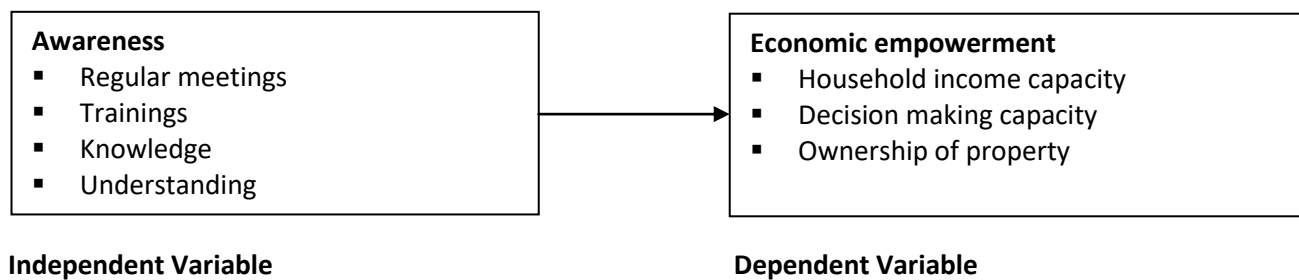


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Review of Study Variable;

Awareness of table banking and Socio Economic Empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, Kakamega County; Kakamega

According to Mohindra (2019), table banking meetings open up a space for women to not only engage in financial activities, but also as a place of discussion. Through regular meetings, women become more comfortable in sharing their ideas, and learn to speak up for themselves and for each other. In turn, they begin to increase their voice outside of table banking's, in private and public domains creating a political autonomy for themselves. This voice may be used both within the household, to have more control over household decisions, positively impacting on the wellbeing of the family, or by participating in public debates and forums, potentially impacting on the formation of public health programs, services, and policies. It is important for members in the table banking groups to meet on a weekly basis.

The members should decide the place of the meeting, the day and time of the meeting suitable to them. The regular meetings give them a sense of belonging. They start sharing their lives with one another, which leads to a strong support system. The regular meetings lead to collective action, which may be beneficial to themselves, to the community or even enable them to take necessary action against unfair and harmful practices in the community (Kinder Not Hilfe, 2018). A group generally has ten to twenty members. Mohindra (2019) indicates that the

women meet weekly on a rotational basis at each other's homes. Groups begin their meetings with a prayer, proceed to business affairs, and conclude by socializing. During each meeting they will make their weekly contribution. The funds are collected and deposited in the bank by the book writer who also carefully records all transactions and minutes from their meetings in notebooks. This position is rotated each year, distributing power and sharing responsibilities among members.

The participation of all the members in the meeting is important. The attendance of all the members guarantees the correctness of the accounts and the success of the group (ILO, 2017). The implication here is that regular group meetings are crucial in enhancing group cohesion. When the groups do not meet regularly, it is an indication that there are problems within the group and hence they are not able to perform optimally.

Training is an important asset to an individual since it gives the necessary skills required to run a business. Proper accounting in any enterprise helps one to know what is going on as far as the business is concerned. Entrepreneurial, management, and technical training is very important to enterprise development (Stevenson and St-Onge, 2019).

The processes of table banking formation and training are critical stages for stability of the group. Training includes teaching rules and regulations, governing table banking procedures and administrative requirements, maintenance of book of accounts, rules for internal lending and repayment of loans, keeping the group fund intact

(Saluja, 2019). There are many governmental, private, and non-governmental agencies professing to offer training in areas such as starting a business, continuing its existence, and expanding it, yet very few female entrepreneurs have access to such.

In explaining the importance of training and utilizing the knowledge women already have, Yunus, (2019), there is need to train more women in group dynamics and team building strategies, record keeping, leadership skills, monitoring and evaluation of projects as well as proposal writing, including grants and business plans (Kane, Walsh and Nelson, 2018).

Kane et al (2020) further noted that the immediate social and economic environment experienced at the household level can be linked to a trend that makes most women groups struggle to operate their businesses efficiently. So, efforts must be made to strengthen women groups' management and logistical capacity (Herz, 2019). In addition, Jivetti and Edwards (2019), recommend that table banking members should be provided with training in the development of business plans and guidance on how best to avoid redundancy or undue duplication of income generating activities and projects.

Kinder Not Hilfe (2018) suggests that training and competence building should be provided to members of table banking to enhance their capacity. Most of these poor members have missed out on education and its benefits. The capacity building is functional and centered around individuals and group activities.

In Africa, table banking awareness is still low. In rural areas, is where table banking was started according to the Dynamics Survey (2018), due to the devastating effects of post- election violence, lack of education and finances after discovering that rural women were living in abject poverty. It was also noted that women in the rural areas were more vulnerable to diseases, malnutrition, abuse and poverty related issues. Women carry the

world's heaviest burden of caregiving and also poverty due to their role as producers, investors, consumers and farmers.

Women also play the greatest roles in the world by ensuring security in food and nutrition, poverty eradication and improving the wellbeing of their families. These lead to challenges like gender discrimination that deny the society opportunities, assets, resources and services (Shane & Venkataraman, 2019)

According to Howarth et al., (2017) in Africa, table banking has gathered great momentum and taken root as a leading business model. It was also emphasized by Action Aid in 2006 whereby Shane (2019) indicated on the need for creating awareness of table banking so as to ensure that women entrepreneurs embraced it effectively both in the rural and urban areas in their self-help groups and to easily access finances for their businesses. Shane (2018) notes that with much publicity, larger lending volumes are expected, in the years ahead which is good for the table banking though the awareness of table banking could still be low.

A study by Christakis (2019) shows that besides the awareness done through televised campaigns, the rate of membership withdrawal in table banking still remains high. Asseto (2019) confirmed that some groups in Kenya had adopted table banking so as to empower themselves as it helped them to save as well as access loans for the investment from their contributions. Empowerment was achieved through running several income generating projects as well as vocational training and education for the adults.

METHODOLOGY

Cross Sectional design was therefore used to determine an association between the conceptualized independent and dependent variables as shown in the study's conceptual model. This study targeted 40 table banking groups in Malava Sub- County, Kakamega County; Kenya. A sampling frame is a list of all the items in the

population (Cooper & Schinder, (2007). That is, it is a complete list of everyone or everything you want to study or a list of things that you draw a sample from. In this study it consisted of respondents of 40 table banking groups in Malava Sub-County, Kakamega County; Kenya. The study employed Krejcie and Morgan Formula technique to determine a sample of 400 from the 40 groups of respondents of Malava Sub-County in the County Government of Kakamega ; Kenya. Primary data was collected by means of self-administered questionnaires. The questionnaires had structured questions. These questionnaires were structured and designed in multiple choice formats. Section one introduced the researcher, topic of research and its purpose to the respondent. Data collected from the field was coded, cleaned, tabulated and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of specialized Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).version 25 software. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages as well as measures of central tendency (means) and dispersion (standard deviation) was used. Data was also organized into graphs and tables for easy reference. Further, inferential statistics such as regression and correlation analyses was used to determine both the nature and the strength of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. Correlation analysis is usually used together with regression analysis to measure how

well the regression line explains the variation of the dependent variable. The linear and multiple regression plus correlation analyses were based on the association between two (or more) variables. SPSS version 25 is the analysis computer software that was used to compute statistical data.

Study conceptualized Regression Model;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \epsilon$$

Y = Socio Economic Empowerment

β_0 = Constant

X_1 = Awareness of Table Banking

$\{\beta_1\}$ = Beta coefficients

ϵ = the error term

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study involved 400 questionnaires being dispatched for data collection, 400 questionnaires were returned completely filled, representing a response rate of 100% which was good for generalizability of the research findings to a wider population.

Descriptive Statistics: Awareness of Table Banking and Socio Economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County

The researcher sought to establish whether awareness of table banking has an influence on economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, the results was as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Awareness of table banking

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Great Extent	138	34.5	34.5	34.5
	Great Extent.	154	38.5	38.5	73.0
	Moderate extent	66	16.5	16.5	89.5
	Small extent	21	5.3	5.3	94.8
	Not at all	21	5.3	5.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

The results presented in table 1 above revealed that 38.5% of the respondents to a great extent agreed that they are very much awareness of table banking

on socio-economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, 34.5% to a very great extent agreed that they are very much awareness of table

banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, 16.5% of the respondents agreed to a moderate extent that they are awareness of table banking on economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County, while there was a tie on the number of respondents who agreed to a small extent and to not at all at 5.3% respectively. The findings of this study imply that the economic activities of table banking in Malava Sub County have been made aware.

Inferential Statistics;

Regression Analysis on awareness of table banking and Socio-Economic Empowerment

The primary objective of the study was to establish whether awareness of table banking on economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County. The null hypothesis tested was awareness of table banking has no significant relationship economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County. The regression model is presented as follows in table 2 below.

Table 2: Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson	
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2		Sig. F Change
1	.733 ^a	.537	.536	.743	.537	461.292	1	399	.061	.912

a. Predictors: (Constant), Awareness of table banking
b. Dependent Variable: Economic empowerment

The study therefore, modeled the influence of whether awareness of table banking on economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County using linear regression analysis. The significance of the relationship between a given independent variable and the dependent variable was tested at $p=0.05$. The results of the regression analysis in table revealed that the constant of the regression is statistically significant indicating that the variables fit in the model were able to predict the outcome variable. The variables in the model; (Awareness,) were able to predict 0.537 (53.7%) of the variation in economic empowerment and that 46.3% are factors not examined in the study with a significance level of $0.61 > 0.05$. This study therefore rejected the null hypothesis awareness of table banking has no significant relationship on economic This results imply that as respondents progress in their economic endeavors the knowledge and skills they gain are beneficial to their economic empowerment. This implied that members who are aware of the table banking are predicted to produce better economic empowerment. For example, Table-banking awareness (Al-Mamun,

2016) is a group-activity conducted by members to a group who converge to raise capital from individual contributions; normally varying in amounts depending on the group's abilities, needs, interests and preferences. Table banking units comprise social bankers whose population is growing very fast hence is an important concern in research especially pertaining to economic empowerment for marginalized minority groups; majority being women (Olaf et al, (2017). It comprises of more than 2 billion people world-wide consisting of saving-groups and networks mainly the "unbanked poor" who prefer exploiting this form of social-banking and money lending due to its flexibility. The popularity of these groups stems from a great need among the poor for help with managing household cash flow, particularly in remote villages or urban slums where no brick and mortar financial institution exists (Olaf et al., 2017).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As regards to the awareness of table banking groups to deal with economic empowerment, the study therefore, modeled the influence of whether awareness of table banking on economic empowerment of women in Malava Sub-County

using linear regression analysis. The results revealed that the constant of the regression is statistically significant indicating that the variables fit in the model were able to predict the outcome variable. The variables in the model; (Awareness,) were able to predict of the variation in economic empowerment. This study therefore rejected the null hypothesis awareness of table banking has no significant relationship on economic. These results imply that as respondents progress in their economic endeavors the knowledge and skills they gain are beneficial to their economic empowerment. This implies that members who are aware of the table banking are predicted to produce better economic empowerment.

Based on the findings, the study concludes that awareness significantly influenced success of table banking, this was due to group members were primarily interested in their own welfare. In particular, the most essential aspects of awareness

strategy that are significant in enhancing wealth maximization in groups are: attraction of new members, regular group meeting, continued savings arrangements and liquid products.

Results from this research reveal that group awareness has an imperative influence on economic empowerment. Therefore, the research recommends the need for the table banking groups to strengthen their awareness strategy related aspects though more regular group meetings and more trainings to members.

Areas for further research

This study focused on influence of awareness of table banking activities on economic empowerment of women in Malava sub- county, Kakamega, Kenya. Future studies could be conducted in different regions to verify the significance of the variables studied in influencing the economic empowerment of table banking.

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