



SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN ENROLLED IN TABLE BANKING IN BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA

Sharon Dota Kesa, Dr. Hesbon Otinga, PhD & Dr. Julius Miroga, PhD

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^{1*} Kesa, S. D., ² Otinga, H., & ² Miroga, J.

^{1*} MSc. Student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology [JKUAT], Kenya

² Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology [JKUAT], Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the influence of socio- economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya. The study used the following theories in supporting the research variables; social network theory, capital formation theory, human capita theory and Schien theory. Descriptive research design was used in the study. The study targeted 63 officials from 21 women table banking groups in Busia County. The study adopted census thus collect data from the all the 63 respondents. The study used primary data which was collected using structured questionnaires. Pilot test was conducted to test validity and reliability of data collection tools. Descriptive and inferential analysis was done by the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 23) and presented through percentages, means, standard deviations and frequencies. For variable relationships, inferential analysis was examined and analyzed. Data was presented by use of tables, figures and models. Using Pearson correlation coefficient, the findings established a direct and positive relationship between empowerment of women enrolled in Table banking group and independent variables; fund mobilization, access to finance, social capital and capacity building. Further inference using multiple linear regressions showed the proportionate contribution of socio-economic success factors towards empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. This study observed that fund mobilization showed the greatest positive significant predictive power towards empowerment of women enrolled in table banking while access to finance had least positive significant predictive power. In this regard, the study recommended that table banking groups should as well pursue viable and economical external sources of funding to boost their capital base and support the group investment activities. The study recommended that women enrolled in table banking should enhance social capital through social networking. Further, the study recommended that government should come up with policies that would enhance women accessibility to finance since it has positive effect on women empowerment.

Key Words: Funds Mobilization, Capacity Building, Social Capital, Access to Finance

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INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment became a developing concept which was perceived to bring a better society in the world. Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes (Singh & Gupta, 2018). The quality of life of the citizens of a nation can be effectively improved by raising the standards of living of the people especially poor women. Social, economic and political empowerment in particular is very fundamental in achieving this goal (Malhotra, Schuler & Boender, 2017). Empowerment leads to increased wellbeing, self-sufficiency, expansion of individual choice and overall community development. Empowering women economically boosts both gender equality and wealth of the nations. This entails enabling the women to have the capacity to control income and other key economic resources

In Africa, women are very much disadvantaged in all spheres. For example, women are not allowed to own property like land, women never inherit their parents' properties as compared to men, women have not been given chances to sit in major community development committee and never make major decisions (Laboso, 2014). African Development Bank (2017) has indicated it worse that in instances where women are allowed to sit in development seating, their ideas are normally brushed off and sometimes they are reminded on their roles in cooking and serving the men in these special gatherings. Women have not been given a chance in Africa as compared to men despite the fact that they contribute much than the men in terms of community resources mobilization, community labor providence etc (UN Women, 2016).

According to Murunga (2017) in Kenya, there is still a challenge in women empowerment and their role in community development. According to him, women in Kenya are greatly discriminated, undermined and never put on the spheres of

development. In Kenya, women historically have held control over wages derived from market sales in the agrarian sector (Dolan, 2017). Agricultural diversification in Kenya has led to greater involvement of men in agriculture, thus eroding women's control over income-generating production, and subsequently, their relative power in the household (Dolan, 2017). Changes in milk marketing opportunities in pastoral communities in Kenya highlight non-cooperative models of household decision-making. McPeak and Doss (2016) find that husbands resist their wives' increased opportunity to gain assets through milk sales by making strategic migration decisions that curtail women's access to markets (McPeak & Doss, 2016).

Findings of the latest Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2020 Comprehensive Poverty Analysis report shows that 65 percent of women aged 35-59 years are multidimensionally poor compared to 56 percent of their male counterparts. Incidence of monetary poverty among women aged 35-59 years is 34 percent, while that of men is 30 percent. Similarly, 30 percent of women headed households live below the monetary poverty line compared to 26 percent of those headed by men (KNBS, 2018: 64). The KNBS Economic Survey 2019 figures show that women are underrepresented in wage employment comprising slightly above a third (37%). Similarly, they are underrepresented in most sectors of formal employment requiring high education or specialised skills, including information and communication (36%), financial and insurance activities (39%), real estate (23%), manufacturing (20%), administration and support services (10%), and professional, scientific and technical activities (29%). In addition, they are overrepresented in vulnerable employment (68% compared to 39% of men) and in sectors that highlight women's traditional roles in the society, namely human health and social work activities (58%), and activities of households as employers or domestic work services (61%). Women are also more

disadvantaged than men in access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) which enhances their empowerment through improved access to information, financial services and products, and a higher degree of independence and autonomy including for professional purposes. According to Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2018/19 data, nearly 69 percent of women aged 15 years or over have a mobile phone compared to nearly 73 percent of men (KNBS, 2020).

Table banking was initially developed by the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC) under the former Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030, targeting Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 on eradicating abject poverty, especially in rural settings in Kenya. Table banking is carrying out banking transactions of saving and lending money around a Table. Every member contributes towards the pool on monthly basis or within an agreed period of time. The group members then lend money to any member who needs it. The member will have to pay back the capital plus interest at an agreed period of time. Table banking takes on the model of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and the village savings and loans schemes of Zanzibar. Table banking is a concept whereby people form a group and members loan each other money (Kenya Gazette, 1999). Table banking was first piloted in Gatanga and Bondo constituencies. The results were very impressive but the government did not continue with the roll out thereafter.

Nevertheless, Women have adopted the Table banking concept and since then there has been an ever rising demand in various parts of the country especially in rural areas where it has spread over forty three counties (JOYWO, 2015). Table banking has an effective way of local resource mobilization. It enables group members to build their financial base and to start their enterprises. Consequently, the groups diversify their activities and have gone beyond financing household activities into small business creation through saving, borrowing their

own accumulated money and repaying it at some interest (Tembo Kenya, 2012). Within this arrangement, therefore, an individual member may request for a Table banking credit depending on one's need and pay it back after a certain period of time with low interest which is ploughed back into the group savings (Grace Life Ministries, 2013). This activity is executed and controlled through members' efforts, checks, controls and behavior, with consultation when need arises. Consequent to these activities and the subsequent outcomes, members have realized that with little or no external support they can take charge of their own development and destiny and are also able to unleash their potential. This research project therefore investigated the influence of socio-economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya.

Statement of Problem

It has long been recognized that women's empowerment is a precondition for sustained economic development and poverty reduction; and that it is inexorably linked to social transformation. Empowerment of women and girls has therefore been incorporated in numerous policy and legal instruments like the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Maputo Protocol amongst others. In addition to signing and ratifying these documents, the Government of Kenya mainstreamed women's empowerment through several articles in its 2010 Constitution. The Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) was initiated to foster wealth distribution across various social groups through MSMEs projects (Shah, 2013; WEP, 2009). In addition, with the introduction of Uwezo Fund and other micro-finance funding like Kenya Women Finance Trust, WEP, Jamii Bora and other financial services specifically targeting women groups. Due to their lean success, inclination towards community-led self-financing emerged such as table banking. The government of Kenya through the

Ministry of Devolution formulated policy and institutional arrangements to promote women's participation in entrepreneurial developments. Table banking is one of the opportunities through which group members can pool finances together, mutually borrow and learn investment opportunities. Proper utilization of table banking is instrumental in increasing women empowerment which has a trickle-down effect on the economic growth across the country through job creation.

With these efforts made by the government, non-state actors and financial institutions in empowering women (of which participation of women is greatest) (Ablorh, 2011) majority of women still face enormous social and economic challenges. Statistics from UN Women, World Bank, Ministry of Public Service and Gender Women Economic Empowerment Strategy 2020-2025 and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) women are still lagging behind in regard to empowerment. Women who account for almost half of the population are the main victims of unemployment and underdevelopment. In Kenya 13% of women are unemployed as compared to other EAC countries. By this we clearly see how opportunities are not equal for men and women. Most women occupy low areas of economic performance as compared to men who occupy high areas of production due to the culture of the society. KNBS (2020) showed that 29 percent of women aged 15-49 years in Kenya are empowered.

The statistics are worrying in Busia County which is predominantly rural county. The National Human Development Report of 2019 (UNDP, 2019) 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, 2019). This was further supported by a study conducted by UN Women (2018) which indicated that women empowerment in Busia was behind other counties such as Baringo, Bomet,

Kakamega, Kilifi, Kirinyaga, Kisumu, Kitui Marsabit, Meru and Turkana. Women in urban areas are nearly twice as likely to be empowered compared to those in rural areas like Busia County, with incidence rates of 40 and 22 percent, respectively which is below national women empowerment index of 29%. While only 6 percent of women belonging to the poorest wealth quintile are empowered, in the richest wealth quintile the rate reaches 53 percent.

Studies have shown that despite the fact that women empowerment is directly proportional to their participation in community development; there is little to show in regards to women empowerment in the society (Chagaka and Rutatora, 2016). In fact, some studies carried out in developed countries like the USA, Netherlands, Sweden and China by the World Bank (2014) and scholars like Chagaka and Rutatora (2016) have shown that development in these countries has been achieved due to the power of empowering their women. However, Africa has been said to lag behind due to its poor traditional ideals and roles that discriminate the women and youth in the society (African Development Bank, 2017); leaving a gap for such a study. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate influence of socio- economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya.

Research objectives

The general objective of the study was to investigate influence of socio- economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- To establish influence of funds mobilization on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.
- To determine influence of capacity building on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.

- To establish influence of social capital on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.
- To determine influence of access to finance on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.

The study tested the following research hypotheses

- H₀₁: There is no significant influence of funds mobilization on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County
- H₀₂: There is no significant influence of capacity building on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County
- H₃: There is no significant influence of social capital on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County
- H₀₄: There is no significant influence of access to finance on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

Capital Formation Theory

According to Bramovitz (2010) capital formation theory holds that the process of capital formation involves three interdependent activities. These are, saving, this is the setting aside of resources that could be potentially used to meet the current needs in favour of future use. Second is finance sourcing, this is the assembling of resources from other sources in addition to the saved for purposes of investment. The third is investment, this is where the resources are assigned to the production means in order to accrue interest and plough back profits and/or returns. The success of capital formation is directly dependent on the intensity and how efficiently the three activities are implemented. Adhikary (2011) in support of the capital formation theory and its impact on empowerment argues that it results in increased employment chances, increases supply among other key benefits. Ndidi and Shuaib (2015) argue that any country that

wants to strengthen its economy must prioritize capital formation.

Human Capital Theory

Human Capital Theory was proposed by Schultz (1961) and developed extensively by Becker (1964). Schultz (1961) in an article entitled "Investment in Human Capital" introduces his theory of Human Capital. Schultz argues that both knowledge and skill are a form of capital, and that this capital is a product of deliberate enterprise growth. The concept of human capital implies an investment in people through education and training. Schultz compares the acquisition of knowledge and skills to acquiring the means of production. The difference in earnings between people relates to the differences in access to education and health. Schultz argues that investment in education and training leads to an increase in human productivity, which in turn leads to a positive rate of return and hence of growth of businesses. This theory emphasizes the value addition that people contribute to an organization. It regards people as assets and stresses that investments by organizations in people will generate worthwhile returns.

Human Capital Theory is associated with the resource-based view of strategy developed by Barney 1991. The theory proposes that sustainable competitive advantage is attained when the firm has a human resource pool that cannot be imitated or substituted by its rival. For the employer, investments in training and developing people are a means of attracting and retaining people. These returns are expected to be improvements in performance, productivity, flexibility and the capacity to innovate that should result from enlarging the skills base and increasing levels of knowledge and competence. Schuler (2000) suggests that the general message in persuasive skills, knowledge and competences are key factors in determining whether organizations and firms will prosper. According to Hessels and Terjesen (2010), entrepreneurial human capital refers to an

individual's knowledge, skills and experiences related to entrepreneurial activity. Entrepreneurial human capital is important to entrepreneurial development.

Social Network Theory

Social network theory focuses on how the social structure affects individual and/or group relationships in solving their day to day problems. The theory was coined by J. A. Barnes in 1954. A social network is composed of individuals or organizations which have ties between them and through such ties, individuals or groups determine ways on how to solve their problems. This perspective of a social network provides a way of analyzing social entities and explaining patterns that have been observed in these social entities (Stanley and Catherine, 2014). To understand social entities a technique known as social network analysis is used. Scott and Davis, (2007) highlights that the technique is used to identify patterns, understand influential entities and understand the dynamics of the network

The construct of a social network provides a theoretical framework that is useful in studying relationships among individuals, groups and organizations. The ties that connect social units are the common contacts that belong to individual units. To be able to understand how social interaction happens, Scott, (2010) in his work on social network theory argues it is the relationships between units that need investigation instead of the units themselves. In regards 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 theoretical foundation 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. At an individual level contacts that 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. This explains why women can easily form groups since their individual interests and links coupled together in a group makes women more prosperous. There, this theory is relevant influence of social capital on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.

Schein Theory

Schein theory was developed by Schein. Schein (2004) argues that there are three levels of culture artifacts, values, and basic assumptions. According to Daniel Denison (1990) artifacts as the tangible characteristics and features of culture that are shared by employees in an organization. Verbal, behavioral and physical artifacts are the external appearance of organizational culture. Rituals are shared interpersonal behavior and values. It includes myths and stories. It shows the history of the organization, values and its beliefs. Schein (1985) argues that values are principles, goals and standards which are shared by members of an organization. Values represent what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in an organization. Du Toit (2002) noted that norms provide the organization with rules that employees are supposed to follow. Artifacts are results that can be seen touched and audible. Assumptions are elements of culture that are unseen and not cognitively identified in day to day interactions between employees. Assumptions are components of culture that are usually a taboo and cannot be discussed in the organization.

According to Schein, culture is the primary source of resistance to change within an organization, and an accurate understanding of organizational dynamics begins with recognizing this fact. Edgar Schein theory presents 3 levels of culture, which are necessary to understand for effective leadership: artifacts (surface cultures, such as dress, which are easily seen but difficult to decipher), espoused

values (conscious goals, strategies and philosophies), and basic assumptions (unconscious beliefs and values that form the core of culture and affect everything we do).

Schein also analyzed group dynamics based on his theory of organizational culture. According to Schein theory, groups operate within the group culture in the same way that organizations operate within the culture of the organization. His model divides informal groups into 3 classifications: Horizontal cliques, or informal groups of similar

organizational rank who work in close proximity; Vertical cliques, or groups containing various ranks within the same department; and The last set identified by Schein's management theory, mixed cliques, or groups containing members of different ranks, departments and locations. According to Schein theory, groups operate within the group culture in the same way that organizations operate within the culture of the organization. This theory was relevant in examining the influence of access to finance on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.

Conceptual Framework

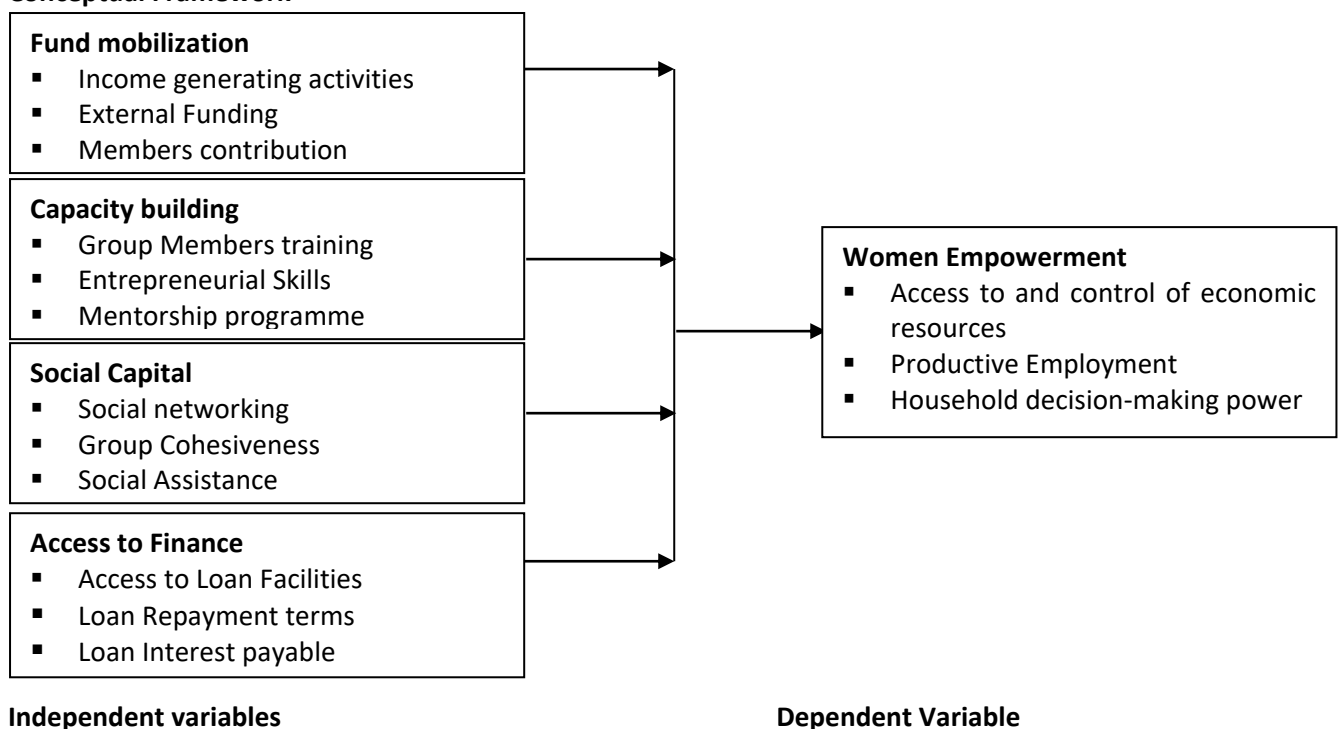


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Funds mobilization

Funds mobilization is regarded as one of the key elements in realizing empowerment of women enrolled in table banking (DBSA, 2005). It enhances the production capacity of the women groups through financial investment in their human and physical capital. Availability of adequate and timely funds mobilization will help in expanding the scope of operation. One of the problems confronting women group is inadequate capital to fund their activities. Lack of access to appropriate/affordable

financial products and services is a serious hindrance to socio economic development among women and poverty reduction. Most of the financial institutions are concentrated in accessible area. Hence, much proportion of the people is less accessible to the financial institution not only in terms of physical access but also social and economic access.

Due to ever increasing competition for the few available resources, coming up with and creating

alternative ways of funding can help an organization have an easy time in managing its projects thereby making its projects to be sustainable. Generating resources from the business activities in an organization can lead to increased financial resources in an organization. Insufficient financing to implement project may prevent it from a ability to be sustainable (Bamberger & Cheema, 2010). However, the ability of a project to be sustained can be linked to numerous ways of funding. Holder and Moore (2012) suggest that local resources have to be developed for enhanced sustainability especially when the donors cease to support external funding, in case funding delays or even when the external funding is inadequate.

Capacity building

Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world (Kwong et al., 2012). Many government and non-governmental organizations are investing massive resources towards women empowerment through capacity building (Mathew, 2010). Despite the continuing debate on whether entrepreneurs are made or born, the contribution of Capacity building towards economic growth cannot go unnoticed. Financial management skills, mentorship, business knowledge skills, and innovation are some of the components that are taught within Capacity building (Odera et al., 2018). Whether the training is offered through mentorship, exercise, or in schools, its principal aim is to ensure that business people become more responsible in risk-taking, management of results, and learning via the outcome.

Capacity building also aims at promoting the business group managers and operators towards addressing various challenges that they may encounter. Women groups need support that leads them through self-confidence and growth. Capacity building is, therefore, offered to ensure that women

change their operational and managerial attitudes (Mwobobia, 2012). Various countries across the world embrace capacity building as a significant driver of businesses in the states (Ijaza et al., 2014). As a result, capacity building have been introduced in many countries. According to Kanyari and Namusonge (2013), capacity building should include ways in which they could incorporate creativity, teamwork, decision-making, marketing, leadership, abilities to accept failure, passion, risk-taking, and confidence.

Social capital

Social capital can be defined as the arrangement among individual and how they relate to each other (Coleman 1988). According to Coleman social capital has elements of social structures that lead to actions by individuals and collectively as groups. There is evidence that social capital increases women ability to acquire knowledge and information, get technology and access. Additionally, social capital widens the options for households in identifying agricultural technology and a variety of substitute investment which in return impacts the diffusion of knowledge as a result of social relationships and networks. Women groups and networks are essential in mobilization of social capital by allowing men and women to participate in challenging gender barriers and class divides (Bantilan & Padmaja 2008).

There are few practical tools for use by policymakers in assessing the effects of social capital as illustrated through impact on women economic growth. Bandiera and Natraj (2013) concluded that multi-country studies though informative, have proved less useful in social policy design as they fail to establish the causes and linkages between social capitals and growth of women empowerment groups.

Access to Finance

Concern with women's access to credit and assumptions about contributions to women's empowerment are not new. From the early 1970s women's movements in a number of countries

became increasingly interested in the degree to which women were able to access poverty focused credit programmes and credit cooperatives. In India organizations like Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) among others with origins and affiliations in the Indian labor and women's movements identified credit as a major constraint in their work with informal sector women workers (Bahemuka, 1998).

The problem of women's access to credit was given particular emphasis at the first international women's conference in Mexico in 1975 as part of the emerging awareness of the importance of women's productive role both for national economies, and for women rights. This led to the setting up of the women World Bank network and production of manuals for credit provision. Other women organizations worldwide set up credit and savings components both as a way of increasing their incomes and bringing women together to address wider gender issues. From the mid-1980s there was a mushrooming of donor, government and NGO sponsored credit programmes (Mayoux, 2005).

The lack of access to credit for the poor is attributable to practical difficulties arising from the discrepancy between the mode of operation followed by financial institutions and the economic characteristics and financing needs of low income households. Commercial lending institutions require that borrowers have a stable source of income out of which principal and interest can be paid back according to the agreed terms. However, the income of many self employed households is not stable, regardless of its size. A large number of small loans are needed to serve the poor, but lenders prefer dealing with large loans in small numbers to minimize administration costs. In addition bankers tend to consider low income households a bad risk imposing exceedingly high information monitoring costs on operation (Hulme, 2011).

Women empowerment

Empowerment is defined as the process by which women take control and ownership of their choices. The core elements of empowerment have been defined as agency (the ability to define one's goals and act upon them), awareness of gendered power structures, self-esteem, and self-confidence (Kabeer, 2001). In this connection microfinance with self-help groups plays an effective role in promoting women empowerment. It is not only an efficient tool to fight poverty, but also a means of promoting the empowerment of the most marginalized sections of the population, especially women. Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. Empowerment refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, to recognize and eventually to use their resources and chances (Rapport, 1984).

Women empowerment became a developing concept which was perceived to bring a better society in the world. Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. The quality of life of the citizens of a nation can be effectively improved by raising the standards of living of the people especially poor women. Social, economic and political empowerment in particular is very fundamental in achieving this goal (World Bank, 2001). Empowerment leads to increased wellbeing, self-sufficiency, expansion of individual choice and overall community development. Empowering women economically boosts both gender equality and wealth of the nations. This entails enabling the women to have the capacity to control income and other key economic resources.

Empirical Review

Funds mobilization and Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

Odenyo and Rosemary (2018) sought to bring out the influence of funds mobilization on performance of women group projects. The target population was 491 women group projects in Kakamega County. The respondents of this study comprised women group's officials and project committee members of women group development projects in Kakamega County. Stratified random sampling of projects and projects committee members was done to obtain a sample size of 97 projects. Questionnaires were used in data collection processes. The variables namely acquisition of financial resources, mapping human resources, acquisition of physical resources and community participation were regressed and the study findings showed that all independent variable significantly and positively influenced the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking projects in Kakamega County, Kenya.

Kikaya (2018) explore the determinants of women owned microenterprises (WOEs) performance in the County of Vihiga in Western Kenya. The research engaged a descriptive approach. The target population was derived from women registered members of NISE composed of 300 respondents. The study applied probability sampling technique to generate a sample frame, in this case, a membership list which allowed the coming up with a sample size, and the study settling on 168 respondents. Primary data was collected directly from respondents using structured questionnaires. Capital accessibility had a positive and significant influence on sustainability. The positive relationship means, if Capital Accessibility increases by 1, microenterprise sustainability will increase by 0.572.

Capacity building and Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

Mutunga (2018) analyze the factors that influence sustainability of Uwezo fund projects in Maragua

Sub County in Kenya. The target population of this study consisted of 13 constituency Uwezo fund committee members (CUFCM), 6 Persons with disability groups, 121 youth groups' and 101 women groups giving a total of 241 individuals. Census and Stratified random sampling was employed to get a total of 85 respondents. The study used questionnaires as instruments to collect data. There was a strong positive correlation between capacity building for Uwezo funded groups and sustainability of the fund.

Kakunya (2016) sought to establish the effect of microfinance institutions services on performance of women groups in Machakos County. This study adopted a descriptive research design. The target population was the 10,000 respondents drawn from the registered women groups in Machakos County. The results indicated women have been empowered with entrepreneurial and management skills have been able to attend various training programmes offered by the MFIs and others have managed to further their level of education. The skills acquired during training have also enabled the women to venture into business opportunities they initially thought were beyond their capabilities.

Social Capital and Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

Muhia (2020) measured the effect of social factors on sustainability of women groups in the pastoralist communities in Kenya. Using descriptive research design sample of 384 was obtained from 3568 women in 182 registered women. In addition, five key informants including; area chiefs, representatives of financial institutions, and the Tiaty sub-county Social Services department were interviewed. The study established that social capital had a strong positive Pearson correlation coefficient influence on sustainability of women empowerment groups. Secondly women groups had helped women to meet other peers within the group who had encouraged them and shared their ideas (and women groups enabled women to have

a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities.

Kamala and Jyothi (2018) designed a study to determine social capital of women self-help groups, their growth Pattern and factors contributing to the sustainability of women's groups, in agriculture and allied sectors. Results revealed that out of 447 SHGs studied over a period of 5 years, it was observed that no SHG was defunct or discontinued. It was interesting to note that all the SHG members were working in a coordinated manner with group working spirit. There were no dropouts or nonoperational groups at any stage of SHG or modifications in memberships of the members for many reasons. Members were constant throughout the 5 years' period, indicating their potency and sustainability of the group.

Mwaura (2018) aimed at determining the influence of social capital on the Performance of Women Owned enterprises. The study employed a cross sectional descriptive research design. The study sample size was 260 respondents identified through two stages of probabilistic sampling techniques; stratified and simple random sampling because of the population's homogenous characteristics. Data was collected using structured questionnaire and interview guide. The study found that social capital was a key characteristic of most of the businesses in the study region with most of these businesses being observed to apply various Entrepreneurial Group Dynamic strategies such as training, networking and leadership in their operations.

Access to Finance and Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

Kamuku (2015) sought to find out the factors influencing the sustainability of SMEs projects run by women under the WEF in Mombasa county; Kenya. A descriptive research design was adopted for the study. In the study purposeful sampling was used. The research targeted managers/owners of women run SMEs in Mombasa County. The target population was 368 registered SMEs but a population sample of 79 was used. The results

showed that socio-cultural factors do influence sustainability of small scale and micro enterprises projects funded under Women Enterprise Fund in Mombasa County, Kenya. This translate to fact that an SME run by an entrepreneur who is more experienced, with better education is more likely to be sustainable.

Gachemi (2018) examined the role of women groups in economic empowerment of women in Magutu Division, Nyeri County. The study applied a descriptive research design. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. A sample of 106 respondents was obtained which included group leaders, members and the County Gender Officer. The study employed questionnaires and an interview schedule as the instruments of data collection. The findings indicate that women groups in Magutu Division have devised various income generating activities to improve their income, however, socio-cultural factors such as ownership of assets affected women empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The study design that was used was descriptive in nature. Descriptive survey design was relevant to this study because the study sought to collect data from respondents about their opinions on the influence of Socio-economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking.

Target Population: According to Kenya National Bureau Statistics KNBS (2019) Census Report, Busia County had a total population of 670,406 women who were above 18 years of age. Out of this number, a total of 5,972 consisted of women who belonged to table banking groups since 2010. The current registered table banking groups in the county were 21 however; the study therefore targeted all the 21 table banking groups as unit of analysis. The target respondents were officials of the groups; Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary (21*3=63).

Sampling frame: According to Cooper and Schindler (2014), the sampling frame is a list of elements from which the sample is collected and it is closely associated to the population. The study's sampling frame included 21 table banking groups implementing table banking.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique: A sample size refers to set of observations drawn from a population by a defined procedure (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Sampling is defined as the selection of some part of an aggregate or totality on the basis of which a judgment or inference about aggregate or totality is made (Kothari, 2006). Since the target population is below 100, according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) a census method was adopted.

Data collection instruments: Data was collected through structured questionnaires to collect primary data. Research instruments refer to techniques and materials used by the study to collect information (Gillham, 2000). The questionnaires were designed according to the objectives of the study by highlighting the four Socio-economic factors that the study checked on a 5-Likert scale from 1 strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-fairly agree, 4-agree and 5 strongly agree. The questionnaire was be divided into three parts, part one collected data on demographic characteristics of the respondents. Part two collected data on Socio-economic factors divided into four sections according to study variables and last part, collected data on women empowerment in table banking.

Data collection procedures: The research approached county offices to get contacts of identified table banking groups within Busia County. The researcher got in touch with the table banking groups over the phone so as to make arrangement on data collection exercise. The researcher outlined the purpose of the research and the expected outcome. The questionnaires were self-administered through pick and drop approach, this is important for collection of primary data. Service of three research assistants was sought during the process of data collection. A checklist was maintained to keep track of all questionnaires administered.

Data processing and analysis: The collected data was coded and entered into computer for analysis using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Both descriptive statistics and inferential analysis was used to analyze quantitative data by the use of SPSS version 26 and excel. A scale of 1-5 was used to generate frequency counts from the responses in order to develop frequency distributions. Mean, standard deviations, frequencies, correlations, regressions and percentages was generated from SPSS version 26. The following regression model was adopted in determine the extent to which each independent variable predicts empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya. Analyzed data was organized into models and tables for easy reference

Multiple Régression Model

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + e$$

Y = Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

β_0 = Constant

X_1 = Funds mobilization

X_2 = Capacity building

X_3 = Social Capital

X_4 = Access to finance

{ β_0 - β_4 } = Beta coefficients

e = the error term

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics are used to define and describe the properties of a set of data (Mboya, 2019). The presentation of descriptive statistics is based on the frequencies, percentage, mean and standard deviation of study variables. These variables were funds mobilization, capacity building, social capital and Access to finance which were independent variables while empowerment of women enrolled in table banking was dependent variable. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement from 1 strongly disagree, 2-

Disagree, 3-Fairly Agree, 4-agree and 5 strongly agree. The findings are as follows.

Funds mobilization

The first objective of this study was to establish the influence of funds mobilization on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. To achieve this, the researcher queried the respondents about the funds mobilization in respect to empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. The responses are as shown in Table 1 in which percentage are presented inside brackets while frequency outside brackets.

Table 1: Funds mobilization

Funds mobilization	5	4	3	2	1	Mean
The table banking group has access to loans to run its core activities	13 (24.1)	26 (48.1)	8 (14.8)	5 (9.3)	2 (3.7)	3.8
The table banking group sometimes receive grants from well-wishers to help in running its group activities	12 (22.2)	30 (55.6)	7 (13)	3 (5.6)	2 (3.7)	3.87
The table banking group do group contributions to run its group activities	16 (29.6)	15 (27.8)	15 (27.8)	5 (9.3)	3 (5.6)	3.67
The table banking group has income generating activities to boost its financial resources	7 (13)	28 (51.9)	16 (29.6)	2 (3.7)	1 (1.9)	3.7
The table banking group conducts fundraising to get financial resources	8 (14.8)	18 (33.3)	24 (44.4)	3 (5.6)	1 (1.9)	3.54
All women understand and are comfortable with the group source of funds	9 (16.7)	21 (38.9)	22 (40.7)	1 (1.9)	1 (1.9)	3.67
Overall Score						3.71

N=54; KEY: 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3=Fairly Agree; 4= Agree; 5=Strongly Agree; SD= Standard Deviation.

From Table 1, the results indicated that 48.1% of the sampled respondents agreed that the table banking group has access to loans to run its core activities while 24.1% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.80. On the other hand, 14.8% of the respondents fairly agreed that the table banking group has access to loans to run its core activities. The results also indicated that majority of the respondents (55.6%) agreed that table banking group sometimes receive grants from well-wishers to help in running its group activities while 22.2% of

the respondent strongly agreed. On the hand, 13.0% fairly agreed with a mean of 3.87.

In regards to the group charge interest rate on credit advanced to its to increase its loanable fund, 29.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that the group charge interest rate on credit advanced to its to increase its loanable fund while 27.8% agreed with a mean of 3.67. The results also revealed that majority of the respondents were in agreement that the table banking group has income generating activities to boost its financial resources of which

13.0% strongly agreed and 51.9% agreed on that assertion with a mean of 3.70 while 27.8% fairly agreed on the same.

The results further revealed that 44.4% of the respondents fairly agreed that table banking group conducts fundraising to get financial resources while 33.3% of the respondents agreed and 14.8% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.54. Lastly, 38.9% of the respondents agreed that all women understand and are comfortable with the group source of funds and 16.7% strongly agreed on the same with a mean of 3.67 although 40.7% of them fairly agreed. Averagely, the level of funds mobilization had a mean of 3.71 implying that majority of the respondents were in agreement with funds mobilization statement in regard to empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. The study support the work of Bhamra et al (2011) who indicated that the sources of the finance for

any business venture greatly determines its survival in the market. Mochoge (2016) focused on the effects of village savings and loans on rural women livelihoods outcomes among women groups in Kisii County. The findings of the study revealed that the members who save with village savings and loans group members, increase their likelihood of improving their livelihood outcomes.

Capacity building

The second objective of this study was to examine the influence of capacity building on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. So as to achieve this objective, the study sought to establish the degree to which capacity building affected empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. The findings are as shown in table 2 in which percentages are presented inside brackets while frequency outside brackets.

Table 2: Capacity building

	5	4	3	2	1	Mean
Table banking group officials are well trained with entrepreneurial skills to support group activities	12 (22.2)	23 (42.6)	8 (14.8)	9 (16.7)	2 (3.7)	3.63
Trained group officials lead the group in a better way compared to those who have not been trained	10 (18.5)	24 (44.4)	13 (24.1)	5 (9.3)	2 (3.7)	3.65
Group members have been trained on how to make their women's group more productive	6 (11.1)	23 (42.6)	15 (27.8)	7 (13)	3 (5.6)	3.41
Group members training has improved our understanding of the importance of table banking group	11 (20.4)	22 (40.7)	16 (29.6)	3 (5.6)	2 (3.7)	3.69
Group members are able to deal with challenges effectively due to the skills acquired during entrepreneurial management training	5 (9.3)	26 (48.1)	15 (27.8)	6 (11.1)	2 (3.7)	3.48
Mentorship enables table banking group members to understand new ways of seizing opportunities which enables ensures sustainability of the group	9 (16.7)	25 (46.3)	15 (27.8)	4 (7.4)	1 (1.9)	3.69
Overall Score						3.59

N=54; KEY: 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3=Fairly Agree; 4= Agree; 5=Strongly Agree; SD= Standard Deviation.

Results in Table 2, revealed that 22.2% of the sampled respondents strongly agreed that table banking group officials are well trained with entrepreneurial skills to support group activities and 42.6% of the respondents agreed on the same with a mean of 3.65. However, 16.7% of the

respondents disagreed that table banking group officials are well trained with entrepreneurial skills to support group activities. The results also revealed that 44.4% of the respondents agreed that trained group officials lead the group in a better way compared to those who have not been trained

while 18.4% strongly agreed on the same although 24.1% fairly agreed with a mean of 3.65. In regards to group members have been trained on how to make their women's group more productive, 42.6% of the respondents agreed with this assertion while 11.1% strongly agreed. However, 27.8% of the respondents fairly agreed with a mean of 3.41.

The results also revealed that few of the respondents (20.4%) strongly agreed that group members training have improved our understanding of the importance of table banking group and further 40.7% agreed with a mean of 3.69. However, 29.6% of the respondents fairly agreed on the same. More so, 48.1% of the respondents agreed while 9.3% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.48 that group members are able to deal with challenges effectively due to the skills acquired during entrepreneurial management training. However, 27.8% of the respondents fairly agreed while 11.1% of the respondents disagreed on the same.

Lastly, 16.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that mentorship enables table banking group members to understand new ways of seizing

opportunities which enables ensures sustainability of the group and further 46.3% agreed with a mean of 3.69. Averagely, the level of funds mobilization had a mean of 3.59 implying that majority of the respondents were in agreement with capacity building statements. This is supported by Ijaza et al., (2014) note that capacity building was significantly associated with a positive impact on women groups. The growth of women groups depends much on the exposure and the experience of women since it influences their ability to access financial institutions. Kanyari and Namusonge (2013) articulate that mentorship should provide support through capacity building since it matters a lot in the success of businesses

Social capital

The third objective of this study was to examine the influence of social capital on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. To achieve this, the researcher probed the respondents about the social capital. The findings are in table 3 in which percentage are presented inside brackets while frequency outside the brackets.

Table 3 Social capital

	5	4	3	2	1	Mean
Social networking with other social groups over the running of the group activities has enhanced women empowerment	10 (18.5)	31 (57.4)	7 (13)	4 (7.4)	2 (3.7)	3.8
Social capital among women, enhance team work where they can learn to work together for a common purpose in a group	17 (31.5)	12 (22.2)	18 (33.3)	5 (9.3)	2 (3.7)	3.69
The group's interactions at regular meetings facilitate collective identity and mutual trust among the members	12 (22.2)	17 (31.5)	14 (25.9)	8 (14.8)	3 (5.6)	3.5
Table banking group enable women to have a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities to enhance women empowerment	13 (24.1)	21 (38.9)	12 (22.2)	4 (7.4)	4 (7.4)	3.65
Being a member of a women's group has enables members to participate in economic activities through the group	7 (13)	22 (40.7)	15 (27.8)	6 (11.1)	4 (7.4)	3.41
Being a member of a women's group has enables member to meet other women whom we share and encourage each other	9 (16.7)	21 (38.9)	15 (27.8)	5 (9.3)	4 (7.4)	3.48
Overall Score						3.59

N=54; KEY: 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3=Fairly Agree; 4= Agree; 5=Strongly Agree; SD= Standard Deviation.

From Table 3, majority of the respondents (57.4%) agreed that social networking with other social groups over the running of the group activities has enhanced women empowerment while 18.5% of the respondents strongly agreed with a mean of 3.80. However, 13.0% of the respondents fairly agreed on the same.

Moreso, 22.2% of the respondents agreed that social capital among women, enhance team work where they can learn to work together for a common purpose in a group and further 31.5% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.69 while 33.3% of the respondents fairly agreed on the same. Similarly, few of the respondents (22.2%) strongly agreed that the group's interactions at regular meetings facilitate collective identity and mutual trust among the members and further 31.5% agreed on the same. On the hand, 25.9% of the respondents fairly agreed and 14.8% disagreed with a mean of 3.50.

In regards to table banking group enable women to have a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities to enhance women empowerment, 38.9% of the respondents agreed and 24.1% who strongly agreed with a mean of 3.65. However, 22.2% of the respondents fairly agreed while 7.4% of the respondents disagreed on the same assertion.

The results also revealed that 40.7% of the respondents agreed that being a member of a women's group has enables members to participate in economic activities through the group and further 13.0% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.41 while 27.8% of the respondents fairly agreed on the same. Lastly, 38.9% of the respondents agreed that being a member of a women's group has enables

member to meet other women whom we share and encourage each other and 16.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with a mean of 3.48.

Averagely, the level of social capital had a mean of 3.59 implying that majority of the respondents were in agreement with social capital in relationship to empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Ali et al (2017) avers that women empowerment is directly impacted by social capital. Social capital encompasses social networks, team work and social intelligence.

The study by Ali et al (2017) observed that the situation of women before they engaged in social networking was dire and after engaging in social networks their household income increased because through the social networks they engaged in income generating activities. The study concluded that there was increased income and control over it by women, their ability to incur expenditure, increased access to credit and a rise in savings among women. It is clear that social capital is critical in women ability to participate in household decision making and the element of social networks through groups helps women to get empowered in all spheres.

Access to finance

The fourth objective of this study was to determine the extent to which Access to finance of revenue payment laws influences empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. So as to achieve this objective, the researcher sought to find out how Access to finance affects the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. The results are presented in Table 4 in which percentage are presented inside brackets while frequency outside brackets.

Table 4: Access to finance

	5	4	3	2	1	Mean
Ease of access to loans has enhanced members' empowerment through investments	8 (14.8)	21 (38.9)	19 (35.2)	3 (5.6)	3 (5.6)	3.52
Access to loans with flexible repayment terms has increased empowerment of women in Table banking	8 (14.8)	27 (50)	15 (27.8)	1 (1.9)	3 (5.6)	3.67
Access to affordable loans has led to empowerment of women in Table banking	7 (13)	33 (61.1)	5 (9.3)	7 (13)	2 (3.7)	3.67
Re-investing back finances generated from the table banking has enhanced empowerment of women in Table banking	10 (18.5)	23 (42.6)	14 (25.9)	4 (7.4)	3 (5.6)	3.61
Access to loans with better conditionalities has empowerment of women in Table banking	8 (14.8)	29 (53.7)	10 (18.5)	4 (7.4)	3 (5.6)	3.65
Access to short-term loans enhances income generating activities thus improving livelihoods/empowerment of women in Table banking	7 (13)	29 (53.7)	10 (18.5)	4 (7.4)	4 (7.4)	3.57
Overall Score						3.61

N=54; KEY: 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3=Fairly Agree; 4= Agree; 5=Strongly Agree; SD= Standard Deviation.

The findings indicated that out of 54 respondents took part in the study. The line had a mean of 3.52 indicating that respondents agreed that ease of access to loans has enhanced members' empowerment through investments. On the statement access to loans with flexible repayment terms has increased empowerment of women in Table banking which was supported by a mean of 3.67. The statement that access to affordable loans has led to empowerment of women in Table banking had a mean of 3.67 indicating that access to affordable loans has led to empowerment of women in Table banking. The re-investing back finances generated from the table banking has enhanced empowerment of women in Table banking had a mean of 3.61.

The access to loans with better conditionalities has empowerment of women in Table banking was supported by mean of 3.65. Lastly, the statement that access to short-term loans enhances income generating activities thus improving livelihoods/empowerment of women in Table banking had a mean of 3.57.

Averagely, the level of access to finance had a mean of 3.61 implying that majority of the respondents were in agreement with access to finance statements. This agreed with a study by Kiura, (2015) who argued that women hold only about 1% of registered land title deeds in Kenya, without title deeds, women are often unable to access credit. Lacking accumulated wealth, education and access to affordable and trustworthy financial services makes it hard for the women to advance in their financial generating economic activities. Table banking helps safeguard poor households against the extreme vulnerability that characterizes their everyday existence. Loans, savings, and insurance help smooth out income fluctuations and maintain consumption levels even during the lean periods.

Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

The general objective of the study was to examine influence of socio- economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. The results are presented in Table 5 in which percentage are presented inside brackets while frequency outside brackets.

Table 5: Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

	5	4	3	2	1	Mean
Members participation in table has increased members access and control of economic resources at home and community level	10 (18.5)	18 (33.3)	17 (31.5)	5 (9.3)	4 (7.4)	3.47
Participation in Table banking has improved the level of economic decision making of members at household and community level	3 (5.6)	10 (18.5)	18 (33.3)	18 (33.3)	5 (9.3)	2.78
Since joining table banking, members have been able to buy physical assets	4 (7.4)	24 (44.4)	13 (24.1)	10 (18.5)	3 (5.6)	3.30
Table banking promotes financial inclusion amongst their members	8 (14.8)	27 (50)	10 (18.5)	8 (14.8)	1 (1.9)	3.61
Since joining table banking, member have been able to establish and improve income generating activities	11 (20.4)	16 (29.6)	17 (31.5)	7 (13)	3 (5.6)	3.46
Since joining table banking, members have managed to attend required clinics and visit the hospital when required	7 (13)	20 (37)	16 (29.6)	7 (13)	4 (7.4)	3.35
Through table banking, members have been able to pay school fees for their children	6 (11.1)	17 (31.5)	15 (27.8)	14 (25.9)	2 (3.7)	3.20
Table banking improves wealth creation among members	10 (18.5)	20 (37)	14 (25.9)	8 (14.8)	2 (3.7)	3.52
Overall Score						3.34

N=54; KEY: 1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3=Fairly Agree; 4= Agree; 5=Strongly Agree; SD= Standard Deviation.

From table 5, few of the respondents confirmed that members participation in table has increased members access and control of economic resources at home and community level as indicated by 18.5% of the respondents who strongly agreed and further 33.3% who agreed on the same. However, 31.5% of the respondents fairly agreed which was supported by a mean of 3.47. The results also revealed that 18.5% of respondents agreed that participation in Table banking has improved the level of economic decision making of members at household and community level and additional 5.6% strongly agreed on the same with a mean of 2.78. This low mean was supported by 33.3% of the respondents who fairly agreed and 33.3% of the respondents who disagreed.

More so, 7.4% of respondents strongly agreed that since joining table banking, members have been able to buy physical assets and 44.4% agreed on the same although 24.1% of the respondents fairly agreed and 18.5% disagreed with a mean of 3.30. The study also established that 14.8% of the

respondents strongly agreed table banking promotes financial inclusion amongst their members and 50.0% agreed, although 14.8% fairly agreed on the same. This was supported by a mean of 3.61.

In regard to improvement in income generating activities, 20.4% of the respondents strongly agreed and 29.6% of the respondents agreed with a mean of 3.46 that since joining table banking, member have been able to establish and improve income generating activities. However, 31.5% of the respondents fairly agreed while 14.8% disagreed on the same. The results also revealed that 13.0% and 37.0% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that since joining table banking, members have managed to attend required clinics and visit the hospital when required although 27.8% of the respondents fairly agreed while 25.9% disagreed on the same.

In regard to through table banking, members have been able to pay school fees for their children, 31.5% of the respondents agreed and 11.1%

strongly agreed on the same although 27.8% fairly agreed and 25.9% disagreed on the same. Lastly, 37.0% of the respondents agreed that table banking improves wealth creation among members with 18.5% of strongly agreed on the same although 25.9% fairly agreed with a mean of 3.52. Averagely, the level of empowerment of women enrolled in table banking had a mean of 3.34 implying that majority of the respondents fairly agree with empowerment of women enrolled in table banking statements.

Inferential Statistics Analysis

Correlation Analysis:

The researcher undertook correlation analysis to establish the nature and strength of the relationships between the independent and the

dependent variables of the study. Linearity was also tested by use of Pearson Correlation analysis which computes both the linear and nonlinear components of a pair of variables.

Linear regression analysis assumes there is linear relationship between independent and dependent variables. The linearity is as a result of significance level being less than 0.05 which was evident for all study variables. All linear relationships were significant at 0.01 (99.0% confidence level). The results are as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Pearson Correlation Analysis

		Funds mobilization	Capacity building	Social capital	Access to finance
Funds mobilization	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N	54			
Capacity building	Pearson Correlation	.455**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000			
	N	54	54		
Social capital	Pearson Correlation	.620**	.612**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		
	N	54	54	54	
Access to finance	Pearson Correlation	-.229**	-.385**	-.488**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	54	54	54	54
Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking	Pearson Correlation	.611**	.588**	.533**	.468**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	54	54	54	54

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results indicated that funds mobilization has a strong positive Pearson correlation ($r=0.611$, $p=0.000$) influence on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. This indicates that funds mobilization play a major role in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Koech (2014) sought to determine the contribution of women groups in the

empowerment of rural women. In its findings, the study showed that the groups had averagely played a part in advancing the economic growth of women through improving their accessibility to economic resources at the family and community level. The study also showed that the groups had played a role in enabling women makes decision at the family

and community level as well as in helping them access credit facilities

The results also indicated that there is moderate relationship between capacity building and empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County (Pearson correlation coefficient= 0.588, P=0.000). Capacity building therefore has a positive influence in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Mutunga (2018) analyzed the factors that influence women empowerment as result of Uwezo fund projects in Maragua Sub County in Kenya. There was a strong positive correlation between entrepreneurial training for Uwezo funded groups and women empowerment.

The analysis in table 6 showed that social capital has a moderate positive Pearson correlation coefficient ($r= 0.533$, $P=0.000$) influence on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. This indicates that social capital factors cannot be ignored whenever considering the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. Muhia (2020) established that social capital had a strong positive Pearson correlation coefficient influence on sustainability of women empowerment groups. Secondly women groups had helped women to meet other peers within the group who had encouraged them and shared their ideas (and women groups enabled women to have a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities).

The results showed that there is positive relationship between Access to finance and empowerment of women enrolled in table banking (Pearson correlation coefficient, $r= 0.468$, $P=0.000$).

This implies that Access to finance is very necessary in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. The low Pearson correlation coefficient also suggest that a wider scope of access to finance factors ought to have been considered which shows that culture is dynamic and should be looked at broadly. The study also agrees with Kumar, (2019) who observed that access to finance leads to improved household level outcomes with respect to health, education, nutrition and family planning.

Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regressions try to figure out whether a set of variables predicted a single dependent variable (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008). Multiple regressions were used in this case since there were multiple independent variables in the sample. This study was interested in finding out whether and how funds mobilization, capacity building, social capital, Access to finance affects empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. The four independent variables were considered together (one equation) as predictors of empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. A multiple linear regression model was used to test the significance of the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The results of multiple linear regression analysis were presented below.

The study sought to determine the model summary findings in order to determine the overall percentage change in the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking that was explained by all the metric of the socio- economic factors by use of R^2 . The results in Table 7 presented R , R^2 , Adj R^2 , F ratio and Sig. value.

Table 7: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.744 ^a	.553	.545	.5617	.553	72.760	4	49	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Access to finance, Funds mobilization, Social capital, Capacity building

b. Dependent Variable: Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

The results from the model summary in Table 7 give us information on the overall summary of the model. It can be deduced that socio- economic factors account for 55.3% significant variance in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking (R square =.553, P=0.000) implying that 44.7% of

the variance in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking is accounted for by other variables not captured in this model. The next Table 8 is ANOVA which is also known as model of fit (goodness of fit; F Ratio, Sig Value).

Table 8: Model of Fit (ANOVA Table)

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	91.344	4	22.836	72.760	.000 ^p
Residual	73.829	49	.316		
Total	165.173	53			

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Access to finance, Funds mobilization, Social capital, Capacity building
 b. Dependent Variable: Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

According to the data, the F value is more than one, as demonstrated by a value of 72.760, which indicates that the enhancement obtained as a consequence of model fitting is significantly greater than the model errors/inaccuracies that were not included in the model (F (4,53) = 72.760, P=0.000) The big F value is very unlikely to have occurred by coincidence (95.0 percent), meaning that the final research model has significantly improved in its

capacity to forecast empowerment of women enrolled in table banking as a result of the socio-economic factors techniques examined.

Table 9 contained regression coefficient (Unstandardized & standardized), t-value and Sig. value results. The study used unstandardized coefficient column because we want to compare socio- economic factors influence across same measures (Likert Scale 1 through 5).

Table 9: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-1.091	.266		-4.105	.000
Funds mobilization	.558	.070	.448	7.921	.000
Capacity building	.402	.069	.325	5.789	.000
Social capital	.336	.061	.279	5.492	.000
Access to finance	.294	.080	.280	3.675	.009

- a. Dependent Variable: Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

A regression of the four predictor variables against empowerment of women enrolled in table banking established the multiple linear regression model as below as indicated.

$$Y = -1.091 + 0.558X_1 + 0.402X_2 + 0.336X_3 + 0.294X_4$$

where:

Y= Empowerment of women enrolled in table banking

X₁= Funds mobilization

X₂= capacity building

X₃= social capital

X₄= Access to finance

From the findings presented, all socio- economic factors in this study had significant influence on the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. If socio- economic factors are held at zero or it is absent, the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County would be -0.1.091, p=0.000. This implies that absence of socio- economic factors the empowerment of women

enrolled in table banking will be negatively significantly.

It was revealed that funds mobilization had unique significant contribution to the model with $B=.558$, $p=.000$ suggesting that controlling of other variables (Capacity building, Social capital and Access to finance) in the model, a unit increase in Funds mobilization would result to significant increase in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking by 0.558 units. Findings agreed with past studies by Odenyo and Rosemary (2018) sought to bring out the influence of access to fund on women empowerment in Vihiga County, Kenya. The variables namely acquisition of financial resources were regressed and the study findings showed that all independent variable significantly and positively influenced women empowerment. Kikaya (2018) revealed that capital accessibility had a positive and significant influence on women empowerment. The positive relationship means, if Capital Accessibility increases by 1, women empowerment will increase by 0.572. Gituma (2017) examined the entrepreneurial determinants affecting women empowerment in Kenya. The study found that factors components access to capital has a great positive influence on the women empowerment.

The coefficient of capacity building was 0.402, which was significant ($p=.000$) and also positive. When the variance explained by all other variables (Funds mobilization, social capital and Access to finance) in the model is controlled, a unit increase in capacity building would result to significant increase in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking by 0.402 units. The results are in agreement with Mbai (2017) who examined the influence of self-help groups' activities on women empowerment in Miambani ward, Kitui County. The findings indicated that management skills were found to positively and significantly affect performance of SMEs; macro environment factors were found to significantly affect sustainability and Infrastructure did not significantly affect performance of SMEs in the study area. Anampiu

(2020) sought determine the influence of entrepreneurship education on the growth of women groups' businesses funded by the Women Enterprise Fund in Meru County, Kenya. The results indicated that entrepreneurship education significantly influenced sustainability of women groups' businesses funded by the Women Enterprise Fund in Meru County.

Another variable that also had a unique significant contribution to the model was the value for social capital ($B=.094$, $p=.005$). When other variables in the model are controlled (Capacity building, Funds mobilization and Access to finance), a unit increase in social capital would result to significant increase in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking by 0.294 units. Muhia (2020) established that social capital had a strong positive influence on women empowerment groups. Kamala and Jyothi (2018) sought to study to determine social capital of women self-help groups, their growth Pattern and factors contributing to the sustainability of women's groups, in agriculture and allied sectors. The results indicated that social capital of women self-help groups significantly contributed to the women empowerment groups. According to Shane, (2003), the social capital theory, the cognitive theory and the theory of empowerment explain the concept of group membership and related factors that influence households' decision to join groups or cooperatives and how membership to these groups/cooperatives impacted on income and access to credit. Memberships are perceived to comprise social capital necessary for obtaining a critical mass to sustain fund pooling.

Lastly, access to finance had unique significant contribution to the model with $B=0.294$, $p=.009$ implying that when other variables in the model are controlled (Capacity building, social capital and Funds mobilization), a unit increase in access to finance would result to significant increase in empowerment of women enrolled in table banking by 0.294 units. The study is in line with a study by Leach & Sitaram, (2002) who argued that women's

access to microfinance has been and increasingly become a popular intervention against poverty in developing countries generally targeting poor women. It has been considered an effective vehicle for woman's empowerment. Gachemi (2018) indicated that women groups in Magutu Division have devised various income generating activities to improve their income, however, socio-cultural

factors such as ownership of assets affected women empowerment. Temam and Megersa (2018) exhibited socio-cultural attitudes; lack of asset, gender inequality, religion factor and lack of collateral to access to credit were significantly associated with challenges of women socio-economic development.

Test for Null Hypotheses

Hypothesis	Evidence	Verdict
H ₀₁ : There is no significant influence of funds mobilization on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.	P-Value<0.05(P=0.000) t-Statistics>1.96 (t=7.921)	Reject
H ₀₂ : There is no significant influence of capacity building on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.	P-Value<0.05(P=0.000) t-Statistics>1.96 (t=5.789)	Reject
H ₀₃ : There is no significant influence of social capital on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.	P-Value<0.05(P=0.000) t-Statistics>1.96 (t=5.492)	Reject
H ₀₄ : There is no significant influence of Access to finance on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County.	P-Value<0.05(P=0.009) t-Statistics>1.96 (t=3.675)	Reject

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There emerged a very strong, positive and statistically significant correlation between funds mobilization techniques and empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County indicating that the funds mobilization techniques employed greatly affects the status of the Kenyan women. This implied that increase in utilization of automated empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County system would enhance empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Access to fund played a very key role in ensuring that women were well empowered economically and help in sustaining their programs within the organization they subscribed to. Through access to funds, women were able to increase their incomes by putting the accessed money in various projects that could see their resources multiply.

The study concluded that capacity building has significant influence on the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. This postulated that capacity building plays major role in enhancing empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Some table banking group

officials were trained to run and support the group affairs which could influence the operations in the groups. Although trained group officials lead the groups in considered better ways compared to the untrained ones, most women in various table banking groups had not undergone necessary training to improve on their empowerment. This clearly indicated that capacity building necessarily result into good managing of the groups, but the skills the women had acquired were the key in gaining empowerment through table banking activities.

The study concluded that social capital has significant influence on the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. This suggested that social capital plays significant role in enhancing empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Social capital aspect is very important aspect in achieving sustainable women empowerment. When in table banking groups, women are able to meet their peers with whom they share and encourage each other hence build self-confidence. By coming together in their table banking groups, they are able to have a

stronger voice in seeking opportunities, receive emotional and psychological support and also participate in economic activities in their respective communities.

The study concluded that access to finance has significant positive influence on the empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County. This suggested that access to finance does play significant role in enhancing empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Access to affordable loans has led to empowerment of women in table banking. Further, re-investing back finances generated from the table banking has enhanced empowerment of women in table banking.

The study made the following research recommendations;

The study recommended that the women enrolled in table find out various ways of raising funds other than from their own contributions and invest prudentially. In this regard, the study recommended that the Table banking group members should also consider increasing the amounts of their contributions and savings and uphold high levels of financial discipline. The groups should as well pursue viable and economical external sources of funding to boost their capital base and support the group investment activities.

The women enrolled in table banking should equally be put on capacity building forums which allow the members to be trained and equipped on the challenges that bedevil groups. Active programmes by non-governmental organization players and civic advocacy organizations geared towards ensuring that the women enrolled in table banking have enhanced capacities should be undertaken. This will give credence to the table banking groups already in place to hold for longer and it may inspire individuals not in table groups to seek out membership with an aim of having a change of fortunes as pertains livelihoods empowerment.

The study recommended that women enrolled in table banking should enhance social capital through

social networking. This would ensure that table banking groups within or outside the County are able to recognize, create or act upon business opportunity and carry the group's visions and objectives to greater heights in order to ensure women empowerment.

The study recommended that financial institutions such as microfinance and commercial banks should develop financial products and services tailored to women in term of interest rate, period of repayment and range of products. The study also recommended that the government and NGO should come with women fund programmes through affirmative action increase women access to finance. The study also recommended stakeholders should intensify gender sensitization programmes in the rural areas with the aim of changing anti-development traditions and cultural beliefs that hinder women access to finance

Areas for Further Research

This study investigated the influence of socio-economic factors on empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya. Four specific objectives were considered that is the role of fund mobilization, capacity building, and social capital and access to finance. To begin with, the scope of the study was only limited to Busia County and therefore the findings may not necessarily reflect other counties in Kenya due to different socio-economic dynamics, thus there is a need for similar study considering all counties in Kenya.

Secondly, the study focused on four socio-economic factors which did not fully determined empowerment of women enrolled in table banking in Busia County, Kenya. This implies there may be other independent, moderating, mediating or intervening variables which may influence empowerment of women enrolled in table banking. Further studies should focus on government regulations and policies as an intervening variable or other independent variable such as group characteristics and cultural orientation.

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