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ABSTRACT

Women-owned enterprises play a crucial role in the Kenyan economy, offering significant economic benefits. One of the main benefits of women-owned enterprises is job creation. Despite the many socio-economic benefits of successful women owned enterprises, majority of women who own Micro and Small Enterprises are faced with the challenge of mobilizing resource that is essential to the survival of their enterprises therefore the study sought to assess the effect of resource mobilization on the growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. The study adopted descriptive research design and positivism philosophy. The target population was 1198 enterprise owner. The population was stratified into 6 strati corresponding to the 6 sub-counties. The study used Israel's 1992 formula to determine the sample size of 300 women owning enterprises from all the 6 sub-counties. Simple random sampling was used to pick the specific respondents from each sub county. Primary data was collected using a self-constructed structured questionnaire and secondary data was collected from the women enterprises' financial records. A pilot study was conducted on 33 respondents from 11 women owned enterprises in Nakuru County to test reliability of the questionnaire. The study used both descriptive and inferential statistics. Data was presented in form of tables and graphs. The study concluded that resource mobilization through table banking provides women-owned enterprises with the capital they need to expand into new markets, increasing their customer base and revenue. The results of the correlation analysis indicated that better resource mobilization enhances growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County.

Key Words: Resource Mobilization, Table Banking, Growth, Women Owned Enterprises

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INTRODUCTION

Resource Mobilization in women owned enterprises refers to the strategic process of identifying, acquiring, and managing various types of resources necessary to start, sustain, and grow these businesses (Mwewa, 2019). These resources can be broadly categorized into financial, human, social, and physical resources. Effective resource mobilization enables women entrepreneurs in this region to overcome barriers and leverage opportunities for economic empowerment and business success (Mahmud, 2019).

Resource mobilization helps women entrepreneurs access the necessary capital, skills, and infrastructure to start and grow their businesses, leading to financial independence and increased economic power (Ibay & Pa-alisbo, 2020). Women-owned enterprises contribute to job creation, providing employment opportunities within their communities. This stimulates local economies and promotes sustainable development. Successful women-owned enterprises can lift families and communities out of poverty. As women typically reinvest a significant portion of their earnings into their families and communities, the benefits of their economic activities are widely distributed (Hechevarría, 2019).

Women entrepreneurs gain social status and influence through their business successes, which can lead to increased participation in community and political activities, fostering broader societal change (Hall & Harvie, 2018). Mobilizing resources enables women-owned businesses to improve their operational efficiency, expand their market reach, and enhance their service or product offerings, leading to better market integration and competitiveness. Women entrepreneurs often prioritize community development initiatives. Their businesses can address local needs and contribute to improving local infrastructure, health, and education services. Women entrepreneurs bring unique perspectives and innovative solutions to the marketplace.

Resource mobilization strategies adopted by women-owned enterprises in Bangladesh and India primarily involve table banking and the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In Bangladesh, table banking has enabled over 1000 women in rural Chittagong to access crucial financial resources, facilitating economic and social self-sufficiency and improved livelihoods (Global Giving, 2016). Similarly, in India, SHGs utilizing the table banking model significantly enhanced financial inclusion, allowing women better access to credit, savings, and bank accounts (Jaya & Reeba, 2016). This improvement in financial services access has translated into better economic opportunities and improved livelihoods for women, showcasing the effectiveness of collective savings and credit mechanisms in empowering women entrepreneurs in both countries.

In Tanzania, resource mobilization strategies for women-owned enterprises prominently feature saving and credit societies, which play a crucial role in poverty reduction and economic empowerment (Kihwele & Gwahula, 2015). These societies provide micro loans to women, enabling them to invest in income-generating activities, thus fostering self-employment and increasing their income levels. Table banking, as part of these strategies, has significantly contributed to improving social services and enhancing the overall quality of life for women (Abor & Biekepe, 2016). These collective financial mechanisms not only offer accessible credit but also promote financial literacy and savings discipline, thereby empowering women economically and supporting sustainable development in the region.

In Kenya, women-owned enterprises adopt various resource mobilization strategies to enhance financial inclusion and economic empowerment. Table banking, popularized by initiatives such as the Joyful Women Organization (JoyWo), allows women to pool their savings and provide loans to each other at low interest rates, fostering a supportive financial ecosystem. This model has benefitted over 200,000 women across Kenya, enabling them to

start and expand small businesses, thus improving their livelihoods. SACCOs also play a pivotal role by providing accessible financial services tailored to women's needs, helping them to overcome traditional banking barriers. These strategies have collectively enhanced women's access to credit, boosted their entrepreneurial activities, and contributed to poverty reduction and economic growth in the country (Ouma et al., 2017).

Women-owned enterprises play a crucial role in the Kenyan economy, offering significant economic benefits. One of the main benefits of women-owned enterprises is job creation. According to a report by the African Development Bank, women-owned enterprises account for up to 40% of formal jobs in Kenya. These businesses provide much-needed employment opportunities, especially in rural areas where women often struggle to find work (Ekpe, Ma, & Razak, 2019). In addition, women-owned enterprises tend to be small and medium-sized businesses, which are crucial for the development of local economies and for supporting small business growth in Kenya (Sarker & Palit, 2019).

Despite the many socio-economic benefits of successful women owned enterprises majority of women who own Micro and Small Enterprises still lack platform for networking that is essential to the survival of their enterprises (World Bank Report, 2020). Women owned also lack adequate capital needed for their business. Women also lack access to business information such as new markets, market linkages, new technologies and new concept and this makes it difficult to improve the survival and performance chances of new enterprises or growing an existing one easily. Such challenges have been associated to slow growth of women owned business. Therefore, the study sought to assess the effect of resource mobilization on growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County–Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Resource Mobilization Theory

The study was anchored on resource mobilization theory. The resource mobilization theory was developed by McCarthy and Zald (1977). The theory assumes that individuals are rational they weigh the costs and benefits of movement participation and act only if benefits outweigh costs. According to Seltzer (2014) resource mobilization is the process of getting resources from resource provider, using different mechanisms, to implement an organization's pre-determined goals. It deals in acquiring the needed resources in a timely, cost-effective manner. Resource mobilization advocates having the right type of resource, at the right time, at right price with making right use of acquired resources thus ensuring optimum utilization of the same.

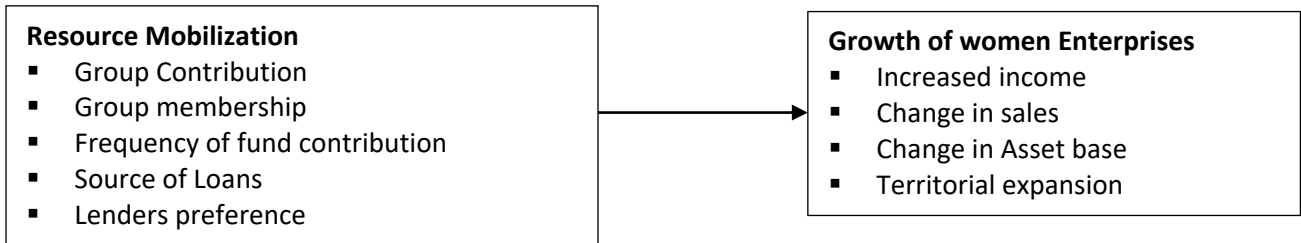
Morris and Aldon (1992) supported this theory and stated that it emphasizes on the ability of a movement's members to acquire resources and to mobilize people towards accomplishing the project goals. In this case the main aim of table banking is to mobilize women to save their funds collected frequently when they meet. The funds collected are meant to help them eradicate poverty through capacity building and provision of business capital which is the back bone of table banking. According to resource mobilization theory, core, professional group in a social movement organization works towards bringing money, mobilizing, attention of the media, alliances with those in power, and refining the organizational structure.

Critics of resource mobilization theory argue that there is too much of an emphasis on resources, especially financial resources. Some movements are effective without an influx of money and are more dependent upon the movement of members for time and labor. This theory revolves around the central notion of how messages of social change are spread from person to person and group to group. The conditions needed for a social movement is the notion that grievances shared by multiple

individuals and organizations, ideologies about social causes and how to go about reducing those grievances (Kendall, 2006).

The theory was relevant to the study in explaining how resource mobilization has an oriented goal similar to the social movement groups. This is in consideration that women groups meet on monthly

Conceptual Framework



Independent Variable

Dependent Variable

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted descriptive research design and positivism philosophy. The target population was 1198 enterprise owner courtesy of table banking from six sub-counties in Uasin Gishu County. The population was stratified into 6 strati corresponding to the 6 sub-counties. The study used Israel’s 1992 formula to determine the sample size of 300 women owning enterprises from all the 6 sub-counties. The sample was apportioned proportionately to the 6 sub-counties. Simple random sampling was used to pick the specific respondents from each sub county. Primary data was collected using a self-constructed structured questionnaire and secondary data was collected from the women enterprises’ financial records. A pilot study was conducted on 33 respondents from 11 women owned enterprises in Nakuru County to test reliability of the questionnaire. Split half method was used to calculate Cronbach coefficient to determine the reliability of the instrument a reliability coefficient of at least 0.7 confirmed the reliability. Content validity index (CVI) and experts’

or weekly basis depending on the policies of the group to contribute money and other resources for group investment which uplift their financial status. From the resources contributed, some can take loans where they repay the group enhances the financial performance of the group as a whole while they also get to establish their businesses.

opinion was used to ascertain content and construct validities respectively. Descriptive statistics, that is, percentages, frequencies, mean and standard deviation and inferential statistics, multiple and simple regression were used to analyze data. Pearson correlation tested the strength of the relationship between the variables. Data was presented in form of tables and graphs. On the basis of findings, conclusions and recommendations were made.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Response Rate: The researcher distributed 333 questionnaires to the women business owners. Out of the total questionnaires administered, 294 were filled and returned. This represented 82% overall successful response rate.

Resource Mobilization on the Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

The researcher sought to find the effect of resource mobilization on the growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County, the findings are as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Resource Mobilization on the Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

Resource Mobilization	Min	Max	Mean	Std
Business owners from table banking groups with high number of memberships tend to perform better in their business compared to groups with few members	2.00	5.00	3.876	.915
In majority of table banking organizations members receive more loans than their shares or contribution which help them to grow faster	2.00	5.00	3.586	1.210
The group guarantee nature of table banking makes it easier	1.00	5.00	3.788	.882
Resource mobilization through table banking provides women-owned enterprises with the capital they need to expand into new markets, increasing their customer base and revenue.	2.00	5.00	3.612	.953
Group contribution influence the amount of loan member can borrow from the table banking group	2.00	5.00	3.418	1.284
Groups that contribute frequently tend to give out bigger loans than those that contribute less often	1.00	5.00	3.300	1.360
Table banking groups can easily source for loan from external sources on-behalf of their members	1.00	5.00	3.971	1.032
Majority of lenders prefer lending to a member in a group than an individual person which positively affect growth of businesses of members in the table banking groups	2.00	5.00	3.876	.977
Table banking help their members to access funding from different lenders since majority of lenders are more comfortable to loan such groups	2.00	5.00	3.971	1.032
Average	1.66	5	3.711	1.072

Source: Research Data (2023)

According to the findings, with a mean of 3.876 and a standard deviation of 0.915, the majority of respondents agreed that business owners from table banking groups with high number of memberships tend to perform better in their business compared to groups with few members. In a table banking group, the amount of loan a member can borrow is often influenced by their group contribution. Table banking is a form of informal banking where members of a group contribute money regularly, and the pooled funds are then used to provide loans to individual members for various purposes, such as starting or expanding businesses, meeting personal financial needs, or investing in income-generating activities.

According to Wamariyu, (2019) one of the main reasons why group contribution influences loan amounts is to ensure fairness and equity within the group. By contributing more to the pool, members

demonstrate their commitment and financial capacity, which can be seen as an indicator of their ability to repay the loan. It also helps to build a sense of responsibility and accountability among group members.

Furthermore, with a mean score of 3.586 and a standard deviation of 1.210, in majority of table banking organizations members receive more loans than their shares or contribution which help them to grow faster. The study findings are in line with those of Karimi, & Lwangu, (2019) who found that table banking organizations typically operate on a trust-based model rather than requiring collateral for loans. Traditional financial institutions often require collateral, which can be a barrier for individuals with limited assets or those starting small businesses. By providing loans based on trust and social connections, table banking organizations can extend credit to a wider range of members,

enabling them to grow their businesses or meet personal financial needs.

Furthermore, majority of respondents agreed that the group guarantee nature of table banking makes it easier 3.788 and a standard deviation of 0.882. The study findings concurs with those of Kumar, (2016) who found that a table banking group with a higher number of members typically accumulates a larger pool of capital. This increased capital base allows business owners to access larger loans when it's their turn, providing them with more substantial funds to invest in their businesses. With access to greater capital, they can pursue larger-scale projects, purchase more inventory, or invest in equipment, ultimately enhancing their business operations and growth prospects.

Further, majority of the respondents also agreed that resource mobilization through table banking provides women-owned enterprises with the capital they need to expand into new markets, increasing their customer base and revenue with a mean of 3.612 and standard deviation of 0.953. The study findings agreed with those of Ranson, (2015) who found that when group members contribute more frequently, it leads to the accumulation of a larger pool of funds. As a result, the group has a higher capacity to provide larger loans to its members. This is because the loan amount is often determined by the total savings or funds available within the group. If members contribute more often, the pool of funds grows faster, allowing for larger loan disbursements.

From the findings, majority of the respondents agreed that group contribution influence the amount of loan member can borrow from the table banking group with a mean of 3.418 and standard deviation of 1.284. The ability of table banking groups to access external sources for loans may vary depending on several factors, such as the size and reputation of the group, its track record, and the local financial environment. According to Biersteker, (2018) the reputation and performance of the table banking group play a significant role in its ability to access loans from external sources. If a

group has a strong track record of regular savings, timely loan repayments, and efficient management, it may be more likely to gain trust from external lenders.

Further, majority of the respondents also agreed that groups that contribute frequently tend to give out bigger loans than those that contribute less often with a mean of 3.300 and standard deviation of 1.360. In table banking, members of the group serve as both borrowers and guarantors for each other's loans. This collective liability acts as a form of collateral for lenders, as the group as a whole is responsible for loan repayment. This group guarantee reduces the risk for external lenders and increases their willingness to provide loans to table banking groups. According to Othieno, (2018) the group guarantee system creates a strong sense of peer pressure and accountability within the table banking group. Group members closely monitor and motivate each other to ensure timely loan repayments. This self-regulation within the group reduces the risk of default and enhances the confidence of external lenders in extending loans to the group.

Majority of the respondents agreed that table banking groups can easily source for loan from external sources on-behalf of their members with a mean of 3.971 and standard deviation of 1.032. The study findings agreed with those of Jayne, (2016) lending to a group reduces the risk for lenders. In a table banking group, members are collectively responsible for loan repayments. If one of the group members default, the group as a whole take responsibility, this reduces the lender's risk. This group-based guarantee system provides lenders with a sense of security and increases their confidence in lending to group members. Moreover, Muriuki and Owino, (2017) table banking groups often have a strong sense of social cohesion and mutual support among members. By lending to a group, lenders can tap into this social collateral. The trust and accountability within the group create an environment that encourages members to honor their financial obligations. This reduces the risk of

default and increases the likelihood of timely loan repayments.

Majority of the respondents also (97%) agreed that majority of lenders prefer lending to a member in a group than an individual person which positively affect growth of businesses of members in the table banking groups with a mean of 3.876 and a standard deviation of 0.977. Table banking allows women-owned enterprises to access capital that may otherwise be difficult to obtain through traditional financial institutions. As women entrepreneurs often face challenges in accessing formal credit, table banking provides an alternative source of financing. The pooled savings and contributions from group members create a fund that can be utilized by women entrepreneurs to invest in expanding their businesses into new markets. According to Mwebaza, (2017) access to capital through table banking empowers women-owned enterprises to invest in marketing and promotional activities targeted at the new markets. They can allocate funds to advertising campaigns, branding, market research, and market entry strategies. Effective marketing efforts supported by adequate capital can create awareness, generate leads, and attract customers in the new markets, thereby driving revenue growth.

Additionally, majority of the respondents agreed that table banking help their members to access funding from different lenders since majority of lenders are more comfortable to loan such groups with a mean of 3.971 and a standard deviation of 1.032. According to Duggan, (2012) table banking groups provide a platform for members to establish a strong track record of savings and loan repayments within the group. This enhances their credibility as borrowers in the eyes of external lenders. The group's collective guarantee and peer monitoring further reinforce the trustworthiness of group members, making them more attractive to lenders. Lwoga, (2015) also revealed that lenders often perceive table banking groups as lower-risk borrowers compared to individuals. The collective responsibility and guarantee within the group provide a safety net for lenders. If one group member faces difficulties repaying a loan, the group as a whole can step in to ensure repayment. This reduces the risk of default and encourages lenders to provide funding to group members.

Growth of Enterprises in Uasin Gishu County

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement on the growth of enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. The findings are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Growth of Enterprises in Uasin Gishu County

Growth of Enterprises	Min	Max	Mean	Std
The number of women who are able to access external funding through table banking has really increased	1.00	5.00	3.876	.915
The women enterprises have experienced positive change in sales since joining table banking group	2.00	5.00	3.586	1.200
The women enterprise has experienced positive growth in asset base since joining table banking group	2.00	5.00	3.786	.882
The number of members in the table banking group has gradually over the years	1.00	5.00	3.612	.953
Table banking has improved the socio-economic livelihoods of its members	1.00	5.00	3.418	1.284
Women owned business funded by or through table banking are able to employ more employees	2.00	5.00	3.300	1.360
Majority of members are able to pay their loans on time	2.00	5.00	3.971	1.032
The loan limit of group members has grown due to positive credit scores	2.00	5.00	3.876	.977
The number of members borrowing for business growth has increased of the years	1.00	5.00	3.971	1.032
Table banking has increased the income of its members through investment	2.00	5.00	3.974	1.208
Average	1.67	5.00	3.737	1.084

Source: Research Data (2023)

According to the findings majority of the respondents agreed that the number of women who are able to access external funding through table banking has really increased with a mean of 3.876 and the standard deviation of 0.915. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents (68%) agreed that the women enterprises have experienced positive change in sales since joining table banking group with a mean of 3.586 and the standard deviation of 1.200. According to Ochieng, Ondiek and Kobia, (2017) there has been a growing recognition of the importance of entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth and job creation. This increased awareness, coupled with a supportive entrepreneurial culture, has encouraged more individuals to pursue business ventures and seek funding to fuel their growth.

Also, the findings indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that women enterprise has experienced positive growth in asset base since joining table banking group with a mean of 3.786 and a standard deviation of 0.882. Further majority of the respondents agreed that number of members in the table banking group has gradually over the years with a mean of 3.612 and a standard deviation of 0.953. Odhiambo, Ntabo, and Muturi, (2017) table banking provides members with access to credit that they may not have been able to obtain from traditional financial institutions. Members can borrow from the pooled savings based on their needs and investment plans. This access to credit enables them to finance various income-generating ventures, such as starting or expanding businesses, investing in agriculture, or undertaking other entrepreneurial endeavors.

Majority of the respondents also indicated that the table banking has improved the socio-economic livelihoods of its members a mean of 3.418 and a standard deviation of 1.284. In addition, majority of the respondents agreed that the women owned business funded by or through table banking are able to employ more employees with a mean of 3.300 and a standard deviation of 1.360. Majority of the respondents also agreed that majority of members are able to pay their loans on time with a mean 3.971 and a standard deviation of 1.032. According to Liisa, (2016) study which noted that table banking provides a platform for individuals who may have limited or no access to formal financial services to participate in savings and credit activities. This inclusion allows members to save money, access credit, and engage in income-generating activities that can uplift their socio-economic status.

Majority of them also agreed that the loan limit of group members has grown due to positive credit scores with a mean of 3.876 and a standard deviation of 1.977. Majority of the respondents also agreed that the number of members borrowing for business growth has increased over the years with a mean of 3.971 and a standard deviation of 1.208. Moreover, majority of the respondents also agreed that table banking has increased the income of its members through investment with a (mean=3.974, SD=1.208). The study agrees with Azhar, (2017) table banking provides a platform for individuals who may have limited or no access to formal financial services to participate in savings and credit activities. This inclusion allows members to save money, access credit, and engage in income-generating activities that can uplift their socio-economic status.

Correlation Analysis

Table 3: Correlation analysis

		Resource Mobilization
Growth of Enterprises	Pearson Correlation	.866**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	273

The study established that a moderate positive correlation existed between resource mobilization and growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County ($r=0.866$; $p<0.05$). The results of the correlation analysis indicated that better resource mobilization enhances growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. The findings agree with, Wujung, Aziseh & Isiah (2020) who found that table banking provides a mechanism for

women entrepreneurs to access capital that may otherwise be unavailable to them through traditional banking channels. By pooling their resources with other members of the group, women can access loans and financial services to invest in their businesses, purchase inventory, expand operations, or diversify product lines. This access to capital is critical for fueling growth and scaling up women-owned enterprises.

Regression Analysis

Table 4: Model Summary for the Effect of Resource mobilization

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.395 ^a	0.156	.141	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Resource mobilization

From the findings the R-square =0.156 which indicates that resource mobilization predicts 15.6% of the variation in growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. Participation in table banking groups facilitates networking and collaboration among women entrepreneurs. Through regular meetings and interactions, women can share experiences, exchange ideas, and explore potential partnerships or joint ventures. This networking creates opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and access to markets, which

can accelerate the growth and expansion of women-owned enterprises.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for the Effect of Resource mobilization on the Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

The study further conducted an analysis of variance to understand how well the model fits the data and whether the chosen predictors are significant in explaining the variation between resource mobilization and growth of women owned enterprises.

Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for Resource Mobilization

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	5.365	1	5.365	50.140	.000 ^b
	Residual	29.026	271	.107		
	Total	34.391	272			

a. Dependent Variable: Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

b. Predictors: (Constant), Resource mobilization

The study conducted an Anova test to determine whether the model of is statistically fit to be adopted in the study. From the findings the $F=50.140$, $p=.000$ which implies that the model was fit in predicting the businesses financing and growth of women owned enterprises.

Coefficients for the Effect of Resource mobilization on the Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

The study also conducted a coefficient analysis to determine the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the predictor and the dependent variable in this case the direction and magnitude of the relationship between resource mobilization on the growth of women owned enterprises

Table 5: Coefficients for the Effect of Resource mobilization Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	.528	.034		15.367	.000
	Resource mobilization	.865	.009	.985	95.489	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Growth of Women Owned Enterprises

The findings indicated that for each unit increase in resource mobilization, there was up to 0.865 unit increase in growth of women owned business enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. Based on the above results the study derived the following simple linear regression model as shown below.

$$Y = 0.528 + .865x_1 + \epsilon$$

The findings agree with Ouma (2021) who argue that resource mobilization through table banking empowers women economically and enhances their agency as entrepreneurs. By taking an active role in mobilizing resources, making financial decisions, and managing their businesses, women gain a sense of ownership and control over their economic destinies. This empowerment fosters confidence, resilience, and a commitment to pursuing opportunities for growth and success.

DISCUSSION

In summary, based on the analysis, the findings of the study revealed that resource mobilization through table banking provides women-owned enterprises with the capital they need to expand into new markets, resulting to increased customer base. Table banking allows

women owning enterprises to access capital that may otherwise be difficult to obtain through traditional financial institutions. The study findings also indicated that table banking group with a higher number of members typically accumulates a larger pool of capital. This increased capital base allows business owners to access larger loans when it's their turn, providing them with more substantial funds to invest in their businesses. The study also revealed that the group guarantees nature of table banking make it easier for them to mobilize and access financial resources. In table banking, members of the group serve as both borrowers and guarantors for each other's loans. This collective liability acts as a form of collateral for lenders, as the group as a whole is responsible for loan repayment. This group guarantee is believed to reduce the risk for external lenders and increases their willingness to provide loans to table banking groups. The group guarantee system of table banking creates a strong sense of peer pressure and accountability within the table banking group. Group members closely monitor and motivate each other to ensure timely loan repayments. This self-

regulation within the group reduces the risk of default.

Finally, the study revealed that table banking helps their members to access funding from different lenders since majority of lenders are more comfortable to loan such groups. Table banking group enhances the credibility of members as borrowers in the eyes of external lenders. The group's way of operation where there is a collective guarantee and peer monitoring further reinforce the trustworthiness of group members, making them more attractive to lenders. The collective responsibility and guarantee within the group provide a safety net for lenders. If one member of the group faces difficulties in repaying a loan, the group as a whole step in to ensure repayment. This reduces the risk of default and encourages lenders to provide funding to group members.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concluded that resource mobilization through table banking provides women-owned enterprises with the capital they need to expand into new markets, increasing their customer base and revenue. The study further concluded that table banking helps their members to access funding from different lenders since majority of lenders are more comfortable to loan such groups. The study also concluded that there was a

moderate positive correlation existed between resource mobilization and growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County ($r=0.741$; $p<0.05$). The results of the correlation analysis indicated that better resource mobilization enhances growth of women owned enterprises in Uasin Gishu County. The findings agree with Ouma (2021) who argue that resource mobilization through table banking empowers women economically and enhances their agency as entrepreneurs. By taking an active role in mobilizing resources, making financial decisions, and managing their businesses, women gain a sense of ownership and control over their economic destinies. This empowerment fosters confidence, resilience, and a commitment to pursuing opportunities for growth and success.

From the findings the study recommends that there is a need to explore options for expanding resource mobilization beyond individual member contributions, such as seeking grants or external funding specifically targeted at supporting table banking groups. Beyond the loans, there are non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders who have interest in table banking and on businesses owned by women which women business owners in table banking groups could tap into.

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