

**DOES PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVES EMPOWER WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS ECONOMICALLY? A CASE STUDY OF SAVINGS AND
CREDIT COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN MVOMERO DISTRICT, TANZANIA**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE
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ABSTRACT

Cooperatives have been identified as powerful vehicles of economic, social and political empowerment for women; especially those taking part in entrepreneurial activities, although it seems majority still live in absolute poverty. This study set out to investigate whether participation in cooperatives especially, Saving and Credit Cooperative Societies empower women entrepreneurs. The study has used Mvomero District as a case study. Specifically, the study focused on examining the level of participation in cooperatives among women entrepreneurs, to measure the altitude of women toward empowerment through activities and services provided by SACCOS, assessing the services provided by SACCOS and comparing economic empowerment in terms of the income level and assets owned by women entrepreneurs before and after being members of the SACCOS. A cross-sectional design to obtain data was used, where a total of eighty women entrepreneurs were interviewed, guided by focus group discussions with SACCOS women members for over two years and a checklist for stakeholders including SACCOS leaders and Cooperative officer of Mvomero District. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The main study findings show that there is low level of women participation in leadership as they only provide ideas when invited to do so which does not guarantee that those ideas will be taken aboard. Women agreed that SACCOS has positively changed their lives as now they have power of owning, use, purchase assets and income but skeptical about ability to talk in the public and transfer of assets. Services provided by SACCOS have brought positive changes in their entrepreneurial activities. Substantiate by the fact that the SACCOS in Mvomero did not provide adequate services (both material and non-material) to assist the unemployed women entrepreneurs. Generally, participation in SACCOS provided economic gain among women entrepreneurs as there was a rise in income, however only

limited training in skills and knowledge like entrepreneurship skills, business management and leadership skills were provided. The study recommended that more knowledge should be provided to women who are entrepreneurs and unemployed. The knowledge provided will improve their way of doing business and hence will run business in a way that more profit will be generated.

DECLARATION

I, Jacqueline Ndosi Mandeye do hereby declare to the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture, that this dissertation is my own original work done within the period of registration and that it has neither been submitted nor being concurrently submitted for degree award in any other institution.

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The above declaration is confirmed

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DEDICATION

I dedicated this work to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. M.A.T. Ndosì who laid the foundation of my education.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCM	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
CRDB	Cooperative and Rural Development Bank
DAICO	District Agriculture Irrigation and Cooperative Officer
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGA's	Income Generating Activities
ILO	International Labor Organization
KNCU	Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Unity
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MSE's	Micro and Small Enterprises
MVIWATA	Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NGP	National Gross Product
NMB	National Microfinance Bank
NMP	National Microfinance Policy
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
ROSCA	Rotating Saving and Credit Association
SACCOS	Saving and Credit Cooperatives Societies
SHG	Self Help Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
VICOBA	Village Commercial Banks

VLSA	Village Loan Saving Account
WDF	Women Development Fund

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

1.1.1 The relationship of cooperatives and women empowerment

The conference held in Beijing in 1995 put women access to credit on the international agenda. This is because to women, access to credit is much more important than access to money since credit from different microfinance institutions is all about uplifting women out of poverty and enabling them gain economic and political empowerment at all levels, i.e. from household to the national level. The conference pointed out the relationship between microfinance institutions and women empowerment, among them, microfinance institutions provides not only credits to women, but also important life skills which take a woman to a higher stage of life. The life skills provided constitute literacy classes, business training and childcare (Khandler, 2005).

IFAD's (2009) report identifies four main types of women empowerment that occur because of sustainable access to microfinance services. The first is economic empowerment in the sense that, if women are given access to money they will be in a good position to start up new and invest in more profitable businesses, get assets and hence have power to control household income. Second is the increase in household well-being which is partly the result of economic empowerment. IFAD (2009) contends that once acquired, women's income is normally spent on members of the family including the husband and children. This occurs when income is more directed toward improving the well being of the family.

The third is a combination of economic empowerment and increased women's power in decision making. This leads to a wider social and political empowerment, simply because providing for the families and making decisions gives them confidence and a sense of self-worth. Finally, the kind of economic activities women engage in identifies them as great contributors in the national economy, since the economic activities they do also contributes to the Gross National Products (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ILO (2007) stated that, microfinance institutions have a major role to play toward achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG), one of which is to empower women. The Report show the relationship that exists between microfinance and women empowerment reveals that, services provided to women through microfinance institutions influence women power over decision making, enhances socio-economic status and has a greater role in promoting gender equality and sustainable livelihood plus better working condition for women. It further reports that, microfinance services like saving, credit and other products help women to contribute toward world economic growth and sustainable livelihood and also helps in income generating activities (IGAs) as well as assists them to better cope with risks.

Celestina (2009) also reported that microfinance has proved to be an important means in development process in the world, mainly because of the approach used when providing financial services. Microfinance provides access to credit to those who were formerly deprived from such important service and were out of any development program, mainly being unemployed women. Women in most cases spend their income on household needs and so by providing them with access to credit will lead into greater indebtedness and therefore result into a decrease in additional services. Furthermore, the author adds that microfinance can offer additional services including business training and raising gender awareness among others, which could form a basis for more efficient use of loan.

1.1.2 The advantage of cooperatives in Africa

Nippierdet *al.*, (2013) pointed out that cooperatives allow women who might have been isolated or work individually in informal sectors to form a group where they will voice out and increase their negotiation power. According to them, the group will assist women to avoid default. Cooperatives are also easily accessible to women residing in rural areas because they are locally based, culture sensitive, and less intimidating compared to commercial banks which are not available in rural areas and have got stringent conditions. Cooperatives can provide a functional tool for empowerment and economic independence in addition to providing a long-term sustainable socio-economic recovery by combining the power of rural women in conflicts areas. Cooperatives can fit well in conflict areas like the Middle-east in Africa, because they provide access to credit, accumulated savings, pool of resources, and shared risks.

ILO (2010) insisted that SACCOS tend to be more accessible than standard banks as they are often locally based, culturally closer to the individual, and with less intimidating procedures than standard banks. Additionally, in many cases they have more suitable loan conditions in terms of loan sizes that enable women to access saving and loan services for the benefit of their business, education, health or social development purpose.

1.1.3 The advantage of cooperatives among women in Tanzania

Generally, cooperatives have a very important role to play in as far as providing equal opportunity for women to participate in decision making in all spheres, especially those that directly affect their lives. Cooperatives do provide equal control and access to resources and benefits of development, ensuring that both men and women have equal chances to participate in development initiatives (ILO, 2010).

According to Cheston and Kulm (2002), providing women with access to finance and income-generating activities can significantly reduce women vulnerability to poverty. To

some extent, statistics have justified that increasing women's access to financial services improves their well being because on ground women are relatively more disadvantaged than men. Strategies to alleviate poverty and various other problems among women in Tanzania has been linked to women empowerment whereby many poverty reduction program specifically targeting women have been a credit component which has been extensively promoted as a way to alleviate poverty and empower women.

The issue of women empowerment has been a topic of discussion in Tanzania and across the world (Kato, 2013). Microfinance institutions are well sought out strategy as one among the motivating forces toward women empowerment. According to Kato, microfinance institutions provide women with opportunities to start up their own business, out of which the income gained helps them to provide important family needs like taking children to school, providing food and clothes among others. Furthermore, the income gained from these income generating activities will increase the chances of decision making, since women's participation in Microfinance services could provide women with a door to gain power and control when making decision concerning their well being.

It is believed that providing women with the proper resources will increase women's ability to help the whole family and the entire community escape poverty. Microfinance services can significantly increase women's ability and capacity to work independently by providing them with access to finance for entrepreneurial activities thus reducing their vulnerability to poverty (Wrigley-Asante, 2011).

Cooperatives can help to increase the speed of development and participation of women in organization and business activities. Women commitment and participation in cooperative organization and other local government bodies does not only provide an opportunity to stay out of problems but also help to be active partners in decision making processes (Haug and Sanyang, 2008).

Additionally, Ackerly (1995) provide evidence that giving credit to women has been accepted as a means of economic development in terms of increase in income, for example, the annual household income of Bangladesh was reported to increase by \$ 0.22 for every addition of \$ 1.22 borrowed by women from credit (Banerjee,2009).

1.1.4 Types of Cooperative Operating in Tanzania

Table 1: Types of cooperatives operating in Tanzania

Types of cooperative	Total	Active	Dormant
Federation of cooperatives	1	1	
Specialized coop Apex Organizations	4	3	1
Cooperatives union	45	32	13
Agriculture Marketing cooperative societies	2640	2240	400
SACCOS	921	606	315
Livestock	108	73	35
Industrial	295	180	115
Consumer	698	88	610
Fisheries	70	46	24
Transport	12	6	6
Services	284	146	138
Mining	7	5	2
Housing	45	15	30
Banks	2	1	1
Agriculture processing	5	1	4
Others	69	26	43
Total	5,205	3,471	1,734

Source: Mwalukilwa Joshua Sizya (2010) as cited from COASCO status report on statistics of cooperative societies.

1.2 Problem Statement

Tanzania has been one of the countries in Africa that works and has strategies toward poverty alleviation for both men and women, but more so women. Among these strategies

are; the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR), aiming at ensuring secure and better access of rural microfinance services for subsistence farmers, youths and women among other things and the Women Development Fund (WDF) which aims at making sure that there is effective participation of women in microfinance, especially in accessing credit for different income generating activities. It is believed that through these strategies, women's groups would develop more skills in business and participate more in microfinance industry (Lukas, 2013).

URT (2000) reported that in 2000, the government of Tanzania together with other donor communities started initiating different financial rural programs that focus on rural population. This was followed by the introduction of the National Microfinance Policy (NMP) approved in the same year. Since the 2000s, there has been a tremendous increase of Microfinance institutions that aim at helping the poor, especially focusing on women.

There have been several initiatives with regard to women empowerment through entrepreneurship, yet women entrepreneurs remain poor. Reportedly, 60% of women in Tanzania live in absolute poverty (Khan and Noreen, 2012). The Government of Tanzania has been coming up with various efforts to empower women, mostly the marginalized ones and those who do not have full control of financial services from their husbands, so as to reach and provide them with financial support to overcome poverty. Furthermore, out of about 60% of the women living in absolute poverty in Tanzania, 40% are found in rural areas (Khan and Noreen, 2012). This indicates that there are still several efforts that need to be done in order to reduce poverty among women entrepreneurs residing in rural areas who are not officially employed.

A number of researchers have reported that women who have had an opportunity to participate in any kind of cooperative like SACCOS, has greater chances in making decisions concerning family and community matters. They mention how Microfinance increase women's confidence into engaging in development activities, how they facilitate the reduction of isolation among women, as they come together and share information about marital life and discuss different matters and come up with a common understanding and forum that was either previously not there (Sach, 2005; Hulme and Mosley, 1996; Murdudh and Hashem, 2003). They, however, did not research if SACCOS in rural areas has any positive impact on women entrepreneurs who are not officially employed by the government or any NGO.

The aim of this study therefore, is to investigate if selected SACCOS in Mvomero District are the way forward for empowering women entrepreneurs who are not officially employed, since the situation reported by researchers differs tremendously from that of Mvomero District. Despite having one SACCOS in the seven wards in the district, women entrepreneurs especially those that are not officially employed in Mvomero seems to be still very poor.

1.3 Justification

In Tanzania there are few studies that have investigated the direct and indirect relationship of credit and empowerment of women entrepreneurs who only depend on cooperative like SACCOS as their main source of capital to run their IGAs. This study is in line with the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) II, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and the Women Development Fund (WDF) strategies which aim at improving the lives of women in Tanzania and beyond, particularly in the

areas where cultural factors strongly influence the ability of many women to realize their potential in business.

Study findings will add on to the body of knowledge by providing a clear picture and an understanding of whether cooperatives around Mvomero District empower women entrepreneurs who are officially unemployed and are members of SACCOS. The study will also produced relevant information that will inform the District Agriculture Irrigation and Cooperative officer (DAICO) of Mvomero District and the government at large on the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperatives on empowering women entrepreneurs who are not officially employed. Furthermore, the recommendations of the study will produce important information that will help to advice the cooperatives on how to improve the provision of their services that will assist in empowering women entrepreneurs.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General objective

The main objective of this study was to investigate whether women entrepreneurs are economically empowered through participation in cooperatives at Mvomero District in Morogoro Region.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

Specifically, the study intended to

1. Examine the level of participation among women entrepreneurs in cooperatives activities.
2. Find out the attitude of women entrepreneurs toward empowerment through services and activities provided by SACCOS.

3. Asses the services provided by SACCOS.
4. Compare economic empowerment in terms of income level and assets of women entrepreneurs before and after being a member of SACCOS.

1.4.3 Research questions

- a) To what level are women entrepreneurs participating in SACCOS activities?
- b) What are the attitude of women entrepreneurs toward empowerment through services and activities provided by SACCOS?
- c) What are the services provided by the SACCOS?
- d) What is the level of economic empowerment before and after membership in SACCOS in terms of the rise of income level of women entrepreneurs?

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is to change and transform all sorts of culture and traditions that discriminate and brings unequal power relations between men and women in the society. Empowerment is to allow women to have access and control over the factor of production and to allow them to use their ability in making decisions on how to use the factors of production. Empowerment occur where men and women are involved in the development process at all level from family, community, national and international level. Involving women in development process will allow policy makers to know women and men needs in development. Women have the power to make great changes in our society, they can lead, and they can make decisions that will influence positive changes in our nations. All this will come if they will be given a room to make use of their ability and if their mind sets will be changed by transforming the negative perception that exists in the societies. As discussed by the following authors.

Batliwala (2007); Elliot (2008); and Harcourt (2010) cited by UNDP (2010), defines women empowerment as “the process of enabling women individually and collectively to transform unequal power relations and unjust structure and institutions, being reduced to an instrument concept that is on individual right”. Women will be empowered if and only if are given a chance to change important aspects like having equal power in decision making starting from family level to national level, to change community and national structures which do not give them equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of development, but also institutions like culture and traditions that undermine their capabilities.

According to Shekilango (2012), empowerment of women is when women are involved in the whole process of empowerment or is when women themselves carry out the whole process of development. When talking of the whole process of development it means, involving women in development projects, in all political, social, and economic matters as well as in developing development policies. The results of women empowerment is when women who had no power or authority over matters that have effects over their daily lives become the center of their development matters at all levels.

Petesch *et al.* (2005) defined empowerment as the process of increasing ability of individual or groups to proper choices and capacity to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. This definition implies that empowerment is the process of increasing capacity of the poor, excluded and disadvantaged groups to make choices and be able to use them to realize desired outcomes. It is about the extent to which some categories of people are able to control their own destinies, even when the people with whom they interact oppose their interests.

Furthermore, Cheston (2014) argues that women empowerment is all about three aspects, these are; change, choice and power. It is the process of change by which those who had no room or authority and ability to make choices regain that ability and power make choices that will have positive impacts on their daily basis.

2.1.2 Level of Women Empowerment

Several scholars discussed in deep about the typologies of women empowerment from being nominal members to having effective voice. For instance Agarwal (2010) discussed the typologies from nominal membership to its broadest in terms of dynamic interactive process in which the disadvantages have voice and influence in decision making. As Table 2 shows.

Table 2: Forms or Levels of Women Empowerment by Agarwal

Form/level of participation	Characteristics features
Nominal participation	Membership in the group
Passive participation	Being informed of decisions(ex post factor)or attending meetings and listening in on decision making without speaking up
Consultative participation	Being asked an opinion in specific matters without guarantee of influence the decision
Active participation	Expression opinions, whether or not solicited, or taking initiatives of others sorts
Interactive participation	Having voice and influence in the group's decisions, holding position as office barriers

On the other hand, (Longwe, 2011) developed an interested women empowerment framework from the highest level where women and men have the equal control of factors of production to women's material needs such as food, income and medical care are met. The author tried to incorporate gender awareness, women's participation and women's issues into development program with the goal of overcoming inequality. As table 3 shows

Table 3: Women Empowerment Framework

Framework	Description
Control	Women and men have equal control over factors of production and distribution of benefits, without dominance or subordination
Participation	Women have equal participation in decision making in all programs and policies
Conscientization	Women believe the gender roles can be changed and gender equality is possible
Access	Women gain access to resources such as land, labor, credit, training, marketing facilities, public services and benefit on an equal basis with men. Reforms of law and practice may be prerequisites for such access
Welfare	Women material needs, such as food, income and medical care are meet

2.1.3 Forms of women empowerment

There are three main forms of women empowerment according to Mayoux (2000). These are; economic empowerment, increased well being and social as well as political empowerment as explained below.

- i. ***Economic empowerment:*** Economic empowerment comes about when women have all access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services such as credits, property rights and other productive assets, development skills and market information. But also economic empowerment is the capacity of women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from development processes in ways which reorganize the value of their contribution, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a faire distribution of the benefits of development
- ii. ***Increased well-being:*** After women have achieved economic empowerment, they will be able to contribute to the well being of their families and their husbands, in the sense that if women will be economically empowered, they will be in a good position to raise income through IGAs. A raise in income will be used in improving family well being.
- iii. ***Social and political empowerment:*** A result of economic empowerment is the increase in confidence. Through this, women will be in a position to air out their voices, make choices and be able to contribute in political matters that affect their daily lives.

2.2 Microfinance

Mohan and Samurathi (2011) defined microfinance as the provision of financial services to low income earners, including consumers and self employed who do not have access to

banking and related services. The main aim of microfinance institutions is to bring bank services close to the poor ones who cannot be served by regular banks. Such services include; saving, credit and other related financial services.

Khan and Noreen (2011) defined Microfinance as one of banking services that target poor or unemployed populations by providing financial and non-financial services. This is one of the very important instruments toward self empowerment of the poor, especially women in developing countries.

Explaining the meaning of microfinance, Cheston and Kuhn (2002) referred to microfinance as the process of looking at the future of the low income earners and making sure that there is a sustainable access of financial services at different levels of higher quality financial services to finance their IGA's, building assets, stabilize consumption and protection against business risks.

2.2.1 Microfinance in different countries in Africa

Microfinance's are more pronounced as places where psychological and social empowerments are produced than economic empowerment among African women. This is because the end product of financial services is the increase of confidence, courage, skill development and empowerment at all levels, starting from household to the national level. Through Microfinance Self Help Group (SHG), different changes like women development skills and self worthiness have been improving as time goes (Mohan and Samurath, 2011).

However, Khan and Noreen (2011) argue that, microfinance services can significantly empower women entrepreneurs if services will be provided without any collateral through

different microfinance institutions in order to increase the value of women's IGA's. Women empowerment in many developing or African countries they say is not as much satisfactory especially at household level due to factors like age, husbands' education levels, marital status, number of sons, fathers' assets and the amount of loan.

Kato (2012) reported that participation of women in microfinance institutions in Tanzania has a positive impact on women empowerment in the sense that, microfinance help women gain the ability to make strategic choices concerning their lives. With access to financial services women could have an opportunity to start up or improve new businesses. Lastly microfinance institutes have positive relationship with women participation in household decisions making, household ownership of assets/properties, self-esteem, self-efficiency and mobility which in turn lead to participation in outside activities.

2.3 Cooperatives in General

Cooperatives is the society were people come together then save and receive material like credits, farm implements among the few and non-material like trainings and services. Cooperative has been helpful to the poor who in rural areas and cannot receive bank services. Cooperatives in Tanzania were first regarded as the place where people meet and discuss matters of spirit of self-reliance. It was until 2002 when policy of Cooperative Development was establish that allowed cooperatives regain their power in economic lives of people.

A co-operative as defined by Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives limited (2014) is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly-owned and democratically-

controlled enterprise. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity. Co-operative members believe in honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

In Tanzania, cooperatives have a long history, dating back to the 1920s. Following the Arusha Declaration, cooperatives became the main tool for building a spirit of self-reliance during the Ujamaa period. However, following the introduction of free markets, cooperatives have struggled to compete with the private sector and many have not been able to provide their members with services they need. The Government has responded to this problem by introducing a new Cooperative Development Policy (2002) to help cooperatives to regain their importance in the economic lives of the people.

Lately, cooperatives have been playing a very important role especially in poverty alleviation among women, of which without them small producers will be left with no form of collective organization. On the other hand however, many Tanzanian cooperatives are now seen as being stuck in the past, unable to cope with modern realities.

2.3.1 Forms of cooperatives

Lawcastles Technical Paper (2006) pointed out the following forms of Cooperatives; primary cooperative society, secondary society, apex cooperative and federation as explained below.

- a) ***Primary cooperative societies***: these are generally registered societies whose members are individual person or an association of such individual persons and any cooperative body other than a body registered under the Companies acts. It is a co-operative formed by a minimum of five natural persons whose object is to

provide employment or services to its members and to facilitate community development;

- b) ***Secondary society:*** these are registered cooperative societies whose membership is open only to primary societies. It is a co-operative formed by two or more primary co-operatives to provide sectoral services to its members, and may include people in partnership.

- c) ***Apex cooperative societies:*** these are registered cooperative societies whose membership is restricted to secondary societies. These are normally established to facilitate the operations of all primary and secondary societies. These are cooperatives oversees how primary and secondary cooperatives are being operated by leaders.

- d) ***Federations:*** these are cooperatives whose members are top specialized primary and secondary cooperative societies. This is the forum where cooperation among cooperative is strengthen by fulfilling the sixth cooperative principles. These principals are solidarity, self-help, self-responsibility, democracy and equality. For example Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives Limited, is the national Cooperative Umbrella Organization that promotes, serves and coordinates the development and prosperity of all Cooperative societies in Tanzania Mainland

The Tanzania Federation of Cooperative Limited (2006) however only outlines two main types of cooperatives which are mostly encouraged by the Tanzanian Government. The first one is the Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) and Cooperative banking. The Savings and Credit Cooperative society is encouraged by the government

mostly in rural areas because rural populations do not have access to banking services like saving, credits, insurance and other related services. Cooperative banking on the other hand, refers to banks that are mostly responsible to finance other types of cooperatives.

2.4 SACCOS and Women Empowerment in Tanzania

The emergence of Savings and Credit Cooperatives Societies (SACCOS) in Tanzania dates back to 1965 with the emergence of microfinance institutions (Chao- Berrof *et al.*, 2000 and Nyamsogoro, 2010), cited by Kato (2013), although they not provide small scale financial services demanded by majority of poor people especially women (Randhawa and Gallardo 2003). This was due to serious funding problems and financial mismanagement which caused most SACCOS not to accomplish much of their established objectives.

In 2000 the Government of Tanzania together with donor communities started to implement the financial rural programs and it was in the same year the National Micro Finance Policy approval by the government was finalized. In its statement of the overall microfinance policy, the Government recognizes the microfinance sector as an integral part of the financial sector, which falls within the general framework of its Financial Sector Reform Policy Statement of 1991 (URT, 2000). Since then there had been a big growing number of Micro Finance Institutions in Tanzania helping the poor people especial women.

SACCOS, these are form of informal financial institutions in nature; owned, controlled, used and democratically governed by members themselves. The main purpose is to encourage saving among members and using the pooled funds for loans to its members at

reasonable interest rates and providing related financial services to enable members improve their economic and social conditions (Agriculture Support Program, 2010).

Savings and Credit Cooperatives Societies (SACCOS) are user-owned financial intermediaries with members who typically share a “common bond” based on geographic area, employer, community, or other affiliation and have equal voting rights. As time goes on, SACCOS are being regarded as one of the important actors in the microfinance industry because of the significance of its services and because its services are provided at a very lowest cost which can also be afforded by the poor especially in rural areas (CGAP, 2005).

Tache (2006) defined SACCOS as financial institutions intended for people, to have their own well-organized financial service. These institutions empower members in building assets by giving knowledge on saving and make themselves accessible to credit at any time they need money.

Objectives of any SACCOS especially in rural areas are; first, to encourage and promote the development of saving culture within members as well as the community by teaching them the wise use of their money and efficient management of their limited resources. Secondly, to teach people how to create assets which help them to have a guarantee and collateral for future loan access. Third, to make finance more accessible to members when needed. Lastly, to develop a linkage between rural people and urban banks in order to have broader financial flows into the community and a safe place for rural people savings.

2.5 Entrepreneurship

2.5.1 Women entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs are women, who work for themselves, perform their own activities on their own and maintain profit or an entrepreneur is a woman who owns their own business having employees (Thutupalli, 2013).

Carter *et al.* (2012) reported that compared to developed countries, in developing countries women entrepreneurs are relatively younger and manage smaller businesses that are made up of fewer resources. Women entrepreneurs are most likely to be in the informal economy, usually doing their business at home, earn low earnings and compete in an overcrowded sector (Mayoux, 2000).

2.5.2 Women entrepreneurship and development of African countries

Entrepreneurship is vital for enabling the innovativeness and responsiveness of businesses, to boosting productivity and to improving cost structures and trade performance. The entrepreneurial spirit manifest itself in the development of new markets, new products, new methods of production and management, the discovery of new inputs and the establishment of new businesses and even new organizational forms. Entrepreneurship is significant to the analysis of how new ideas or ‘recipes’ for reconfiguring objects in the material and social world can be harnessed to enhance a nation’s wealth (Harper, 2003).

Burdus (2010) reported that entrepreneurship is the most important aspect of economic development in the last period of business history. Worldwide, these heroes of the new economy changed the business environment and their companies play an increasingly important role in the global economy. In an almost unbelievable pace, small business

entrepreneurs have to show new products and services surpassed the old frontiers of the old technologies have created new jobs, opened new markets. It has never been greater interest in knowing that now to start entrepreneurship in this 21century.

2.6 Positive and Negative Linkages between SACCOS and Women Empowerment

2.6.1 Positive linkage between SACCOS and women empowerment

Channeling credits through SACCOS may enable women to play an active role in intra household decision making, decrease potential household vulnerability and increase investment in family welfare especially in areas of children's nutrition and education. Consequently, social and political empowerment arise from a combination of women's increased economic activity and increased decision-making in the household as it gives women greater confidence and a sense of self-worth (IFAD 2008; Mayoux, 2005).

On their study, Sultana and Hassan (2010) found that, women who had access to microcredit experienced a raise in income and were able to save more money compared to their counterparts. Another significant outcome was the increase in women's ownership of productive assets and non productive (i.e. jewelry, TV, radio) as a result of accessibility to credits enabling them to afford such assets through profits generated from their microenterprises.

Sonfield and Barbato (1999) argued that micro credits in Nigeria are considered to be an appropriate solution because the amount of money needed to start a micro or small business is generally quite minimal. Access to credit enables the MSE'S owner to cover some or all of the cost of capital equipment, expansion, or renovation of buildings. It helps existing or would help entrepreneurs to acquire the means for establishing or expanding a business (e.g. building premises and working capital) (ILO/UNDP, 2000).

Without sufficient capital, micro and small firms are unable to develop new products and services or grow to meet demand (Coleman, 2000).

Savings and credit cooperatives societies are much more accessible to women than standard banks, especially in rural areas due to the fact that they are “locality-based,” making them more culturally sensitive and less intimidating. Moreover, they tend to offer a wider range of loan sizes, allowing women to find suitable loan conditions such as smaller sizes to fit their business, health, or educational needs.

In areas with conflict like Middle East, cooperatives give a huge support to women especially in IGA's. In these areas participation of women in cooperatives is very limited and confined to small women only cooperatives, mainly because of overall number of cooperative which is equal to less 1 percent. On the other hand, women ability and power to own land and other assets is relatively very small, and opportunities like jobs and employment are less than one-fourth of all opportunities to women. During times of conflict, cooperatives may be most advantageous because they enable members to accumulate savings, pool resources, access credit, and share risks. By combining the power of rural women in conflict states who would have achieved very little by themselves, cooperatives provide a functional tool for empowerment and economic independence, in addition to providing a “long-term sustainable (ILO, 2013).

SACCOS act as an alternative or compliment source of capital from other financial institutions especially the formal ones like banks and others. According to Karim (1999) microcredit's which are non-governmental have as well much authority over the rural population, above all women, and this phenomenon has big impacts on women who do not have power over any financial institution. Karim (1999) further highlight negative

approaches used during loan recovery, whereby the group is mostly responsible for the repayment of loan and if it happens that a woman fails to fulfill the obligations of the loan her reputation is publicly ashamed.

In the same way, Jahiruddin *et al.* (2008) after conducting a study on small women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, noted that microcredit can even exacerbate poverty of borrowers in four interrelated circumstances which are delayed returns from investment, suffering loss in the initial stage of the business, using up loan for emergency purposes and using up loan for household expenditure. 25% of the cases from a survey spanning 35 villages and 320 microcredit borrowers showed no improvement in economic status of the borrowers, and on 6% of the cases, poverty actually worsened due to various reasons like investment in activities that are slow to start generating revenue or encountering emergency circumstances that led to the use of the loan for other purposes.

Nippierd (2002) argued that cooperatives give out the way on how to avoid the above negative consequences mainly because of their affordable terms and conditions, cooperative provide a forum where women view out their financial concerns. Cooperative provides financial support even at rough times. Furthermore, cooperatives provide a huge space to those women who might have been isolated and work individually in the informal economy, to avoid the failure of return of loan because they join with other member to create economies of scale and increase bargaining power in the market.

2.6.2 Negative linkage between SACCOS and women empowerment

Kulkarni (2011) argued that providing women with loan, giving them easy access to financial assets and important needs for empowerment does not provide a guarantee for

empowerment of women. As a result there is a need to come up with a particular design where development can be recognized.

Mayoux (2000) advised that if women themselves will not be in positions to bring out detectable appreciably increase in income under their management or negotiate changes in intra-household and community gender inequalities, they may still dependent on loans to continue in very low-paid occupations with heavier workloads and enjoying little benefit.

Also, Olawale (2012) identified some of the factors which hinder women from effective participation in cooperatives. These factors are like pressure from the husband, insufficient fund and low membership, level of educations, in some areas women are not allowed to conduct business independently without their husbands' consent/approval. Ashanti (1993) (cited by Olawale, 2012) gave some of the reasons for the lack of effective participation which persist till today in some communities that the main roles of women are reproducing and domestic responsibilities and do not have chance to engage in other productive activities.

Moreover, participation in MFIs can lead to indebtedness that is unmanageable, simply because there are no sufficiently profitable income-earning projects in which to invest. In this situation, women may end up being even more dependent than they were before (ILO, 1998).

Mayoux (2000) asserts that where women are not able to significantly increase income under their control or negotiate changes in intra-household and community gender inequalities, they may become dependent on loans to continue in very low-paid occupations with heavier workloads and enjoying little benefit.

Goetz and Gupta (1995) also presents counter effect findings, that access to credit in some cases may not bring any empowerment to women especially when it is the husbands who control the credit instead of the women themselves, in the sense that women do not have any power over the use of the loan borrowed.

2.7 Methods and Frame Works that have been used to Assess Women Empowerment

2.7.1 Women empowerment frameworks

Women empowerment has been assessed using several frameworks including the one by Kabeer (2001) and Longwe (2011) among others. Kabeer (2001) relied on dimension of increase in women economic power in the household. The dimension include increase in the magnitude of women economic contribution to their family, increase in women asset holding in their own names, increase in women purchasing power, increase women awareness in political and legal aspect.

Contrary to Kaber (2001), Longwe (2011) contend that poverty among women arises not only from lack of productivity but also oppression and exploitation. She conceptualizes five progressive levels of equality, arranged in hierarchal order with each higher level denoting a higher level of empowerment in any area of social or economic life. These levels as explained below are; control, participation, conscientization, access and welfare.

- i. Control:** the achievement of the balance of control between women and men over the factor of production without any one in a position of dominance.
- ii. Participation:** equal participation in decision making process, policy making, planning and administration.

- iii. **Conscientization:** this pertains to an understanding of the differences between sex roles and gender roles and belief that gender relation and gender division of labor should be fair and agreeable to the both sides
 - (i) **Access:** this entails women's access to factors of production like labor, credit, training, market facilities and many others.
 - (ii) **Welfare:** this pertains to the level of material welfare women relative to men with respect to food supply, income and medical care.

2.8 Reasons Governments in Developing Countries should focus on Women

Empowerment

Empowering women is a global challenge because women have been marginalized and subjected under the control of men. About 70 percent of the world's poor are women and almost 60 percent of women in Tanzania live in absolute poverty. They have no access to credit and other financial services due to their low education level, knowledge and poor skills on how to manage their work (Khan and Noreen, 2012).

Anderson and Eswaran (2005) debate on how to empower women centers on women's participation in economic activity and access to financial services For instance in many developing countries including Tanzania, credit programs have been introduced targeting women with the explicit goal of empowering them (Swain and Wallenting, 2008; Pitta *et al.*, 2003).

Gobezie (2010) argues that if women have access to microfinance services, they can make a greater contribution to household income, in turn translating into improved standard of living. Women have fewer resources available to them hence they tend to be more vulnerable when economic challenge or unforeseen circumstances occur. Microfinance

can increase women's resources through the access of loans and thereby reduce the overall vulnerability.

Nguyen (2000) and Shane (2004) reported that support from the cooperatives have a lot of positive impacts not only to women themselves but to the community in general. Cooperatives are capable of poverty reduction through asset ownership and the ability to invest thus increasing more power in asset ownership that will help improve their productive capacity. These will in addition enhance health, education and nutrition status of other members of the household.

Khan and Noreen (2011) also reported that access to financial services will help women empowerment positively by influencing women's decision making power status at household level and their overall socio-economic.

2.9 Why Governments should specifically Empower Women Entrepreneurs.

According to Salhiabana (2010) women entrepreneurs if empowered will have a wider chance to exploit and utilize all the available opportunities and move from one step to a better step. These opportunities could be like utilizing modern technology, increase investment, provide employment opportunities to others, find profit opportunity in export market and hence decrease poverty. Salhiabana (2010) reports that women plays so many roles toward development like for instance create jobs for themselves and for others, provide society with different solutions to management, organization and business problems as well as are inclined to exploit entrepreneurial opportunities.

Further, mentioning the advantage of entrepreneurship activities to women and to the country in general, the author points out that these are; economic empowerment,

improved standard of living, self confidence, enhance awareness, sense of achievement ,increased social interaction and engaging in political activities among others.

Dwivedi (2013) reported that entrepreneurship activities have a lot of importance because they contribute to economic development and enhance social security not only that but also it fits into different aspects, the first being that entrepreneurship can be conducted by women who have problems in their homes because of family responsibilities and limitations from their culture, in the sense that they can carry out business near home or open business in their home place. The second is that, entrepreneurship activities can also be done by even those women who do not have professional education which means that basic education is somehow important as long as she knows how to read and write but this is only possible if government will be providing those women with entrepreneurship training, organizing a seminar with the successful entrepreneurs for women to be able to expand knowledge and gain new experience, policies should be made for empowering women in this field, provide a forum where women will be in a position to share and solve some problems together to mention but a few.

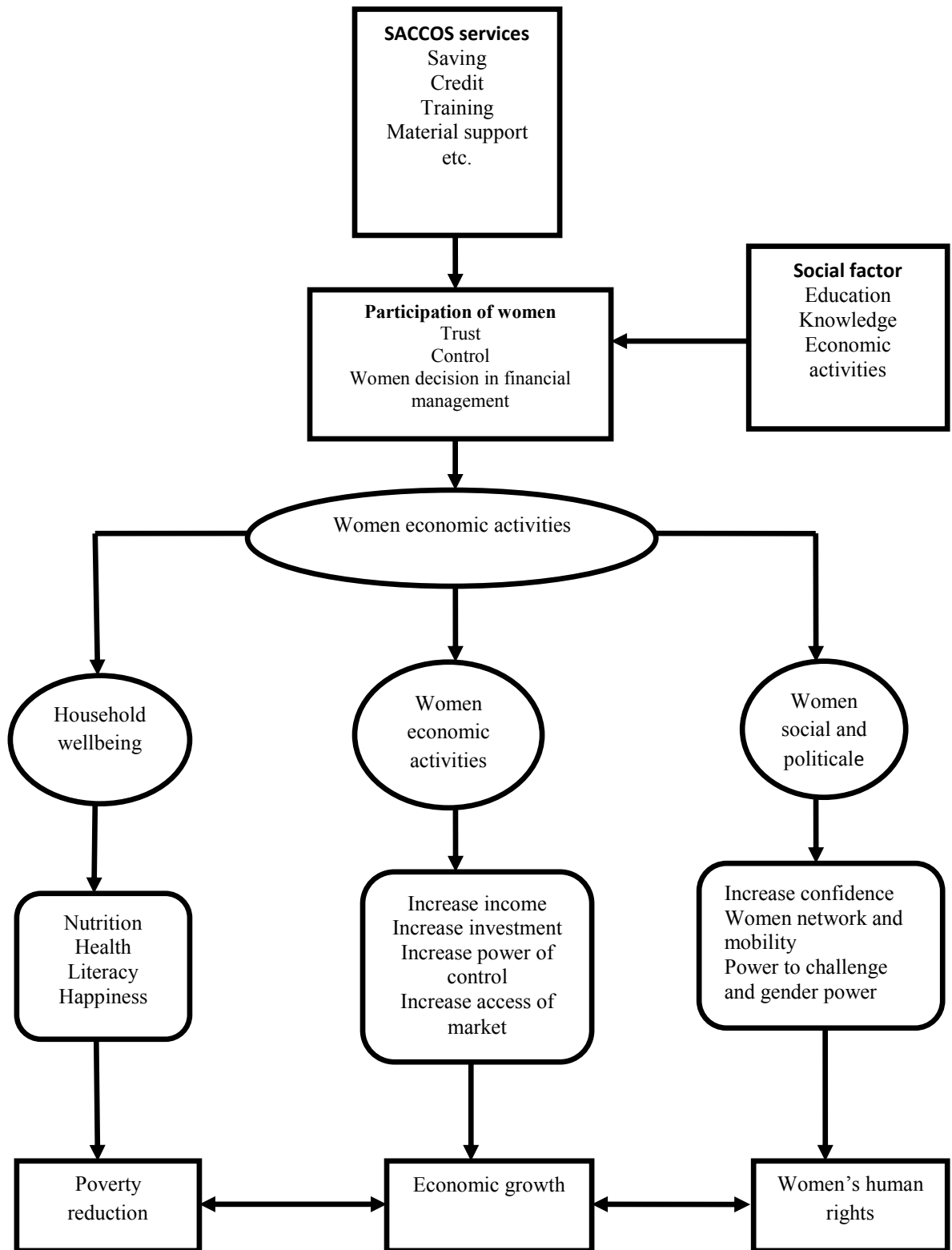


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source from (IFAD and Mayoux, 2009)

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of the Study Area

3.1.1 Geographical location and description of the study area

This study was conducted in Mvomero District in Morogoro Region. Mvomero is one of the six districts in Morogoro Region, and is the biggest District having a total land area of 7325km² and a total population of 312,109 people, according to the (Tanzania National Census of 2011). Mvomero has 17 wards namely Mlali, Melela, Diongoya, Doma, Mzumbe, Mvomero, Langali and Hembeti.

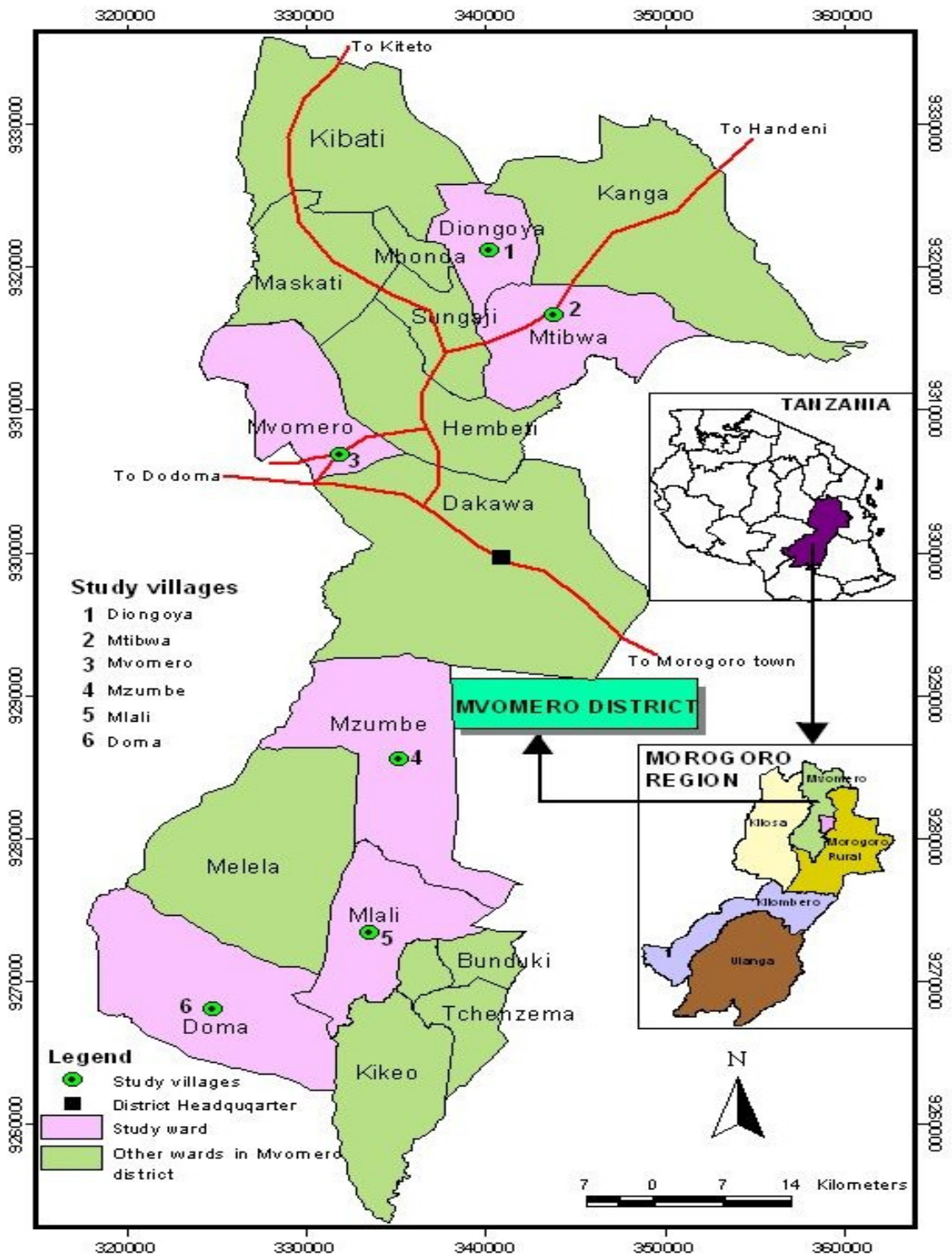


Figure 2: Mvomero district map showing wards involved in the study

3.1.2 Main economic activities

The main economic activity carried in the study area is agriculture; whereby the main cash crops were rice, maize and sugarcane and the food crops grown were maize and rice. The other major economic activity is transportation of food and cash crops from farmers to the main markets in Morogoro town, inputs supply and maize milling. Other important economic activities are petty businesses of selling foods and drinks.

3.1.3 Cooperatives in Mvomero District

There were 17 cooperatives in Mvomero District which were within the mentioned 17 wards. Four SACCOS out of those 17 were involved in the study. These are Mlali SACCOS in Mlali village, Diongoya SACCOS in Turiani, Mzumbe SACCOS in Mzumbe and Mtibwa SACCOS in Mtibwa. The remaining 13 cooperatives were not included in the survey because they were not operating at the time of the survey.

3.2 Research Design

The study employed a cross sectional design which allowed data to be collected at one point in time. This technique is useful for descriptive study as well as for determination of relationship between variables. This design was also useful because it allowed data collection to use mixed methods which are questionnaire for collecting quantitative data and focused group discussion and checklist for qualitative data. Also the method was so useful because it helped to collect information from a large number of respondents at little cost and in a short period of time.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

The sampling frames were women entrepreneurs' members of SACCOS in Mvomero District. The sampling frame was selected purposively so that women entrepreneurs who

are not employed by any organization composed the sample without mixing with those women entrepreneurs who are employed. A total of 80 women entrepreneurs in the four SACCOS were selected for the survey.

3.4 Sample Size

During the research only four SACCOS that were providing services to its members were involved namely Mlali SACCOS, Mzumbe SACCOS, Diongoya and Mtibwa SACCOS. In each SACCOS, twenty women were randomly selected; whereby ten were purely involved in agriculture activities, five were involved in small businesses and the last five were engaged in both agriculture and small businesses. Twenty was an estimated number of women entrepreneurs who were interviewed because many SACCOS had a maximum of twenty women entrepreneurs who are members but not employed. Thus a total of 80 respondents from four SACCOS were involved in the study.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

3.5.1 Primary data collection

Questionnaire with both open and closed ended questions was used to collect primary data in this study. The questions were formulated in English and then translated into Swahili to facilitate easy communication during data collection. So as to add more information to the answers given by the questionnaire, Focus group discussion and checklist were used. Whereby, two focus group discussions were used, the first focus group discussion comprised of eight women from Mlali and Mzumbe SACCOS and the second focus group discussion comprised of women from Diongoya and Mtibwa SACCOS. Those women were supposed to be members of SACCOS for over two years. Checklists were used during discussion within the group discussions and with key informants like SACCOS

leaders, Cooperative Officer of Mvomero District and MVIWATA who are in partnership with SACCOS. The checklists are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

3.5.2 Secondary data collection

The secondary data were used to supplement or add information obtained from the primary field data. Data about the distribution of SACCOS in Mvomero District were collected from Mvomero District office. Annual budget and annual plans reports were also collected from the respective SACCOS management. Relevant documents/reports and other documentary materials mainly from internet were mostly used. This included recent journals from Tanzania especially those that have discussed the importance of credit to women, women empowerment, gender and credits and international reports like IFAD and ILO.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

Data from the field were first coded and then analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science research (SPSS) which is very useful in analyzing quantitative data. Different statistical techniques were used according to the nature of the objective and so each objective was analyzed using its own statistical method.

Paired T-test was used to compare business turnover in 2011 and 2012. The aim of analyzing this turnover was to know if there were positive changes after spending the loan for a year. Positive changes which the study was looking for were increase in income, expansion of business and increase in the use of improved inputs in agriculture.

Objective number one: the aim of this objective was to assessing the level of participation among women in cooperatives. These levels were self mobilization,

partnership, functional, consultation, informed, and manipulation as suggested by Allahdad (2011) also nominal, passive, consultative, active and interactive as suggested by Agarwal (2010). These levels were analyzed by SACCOS to know at which level are women participating in a respective SACCOS. Also awareness among women entrepreneurs was analyzed to know if women are aware about the planning process.

Objective number two: this objective aimed at measuring altitude of women entrepreneurs toward SACCOS by investigating if SACCOS has any contribution on changing women entrepreneur's attitudes using the following nine variables;

- i. Influence women's power to own input to use in production activities
- ii. SACCO influence women power over decision on production activities
- iii. Influence women's access to resources
- iv. Influence women's access of credit from different microfinance institute
- v. Reduce women's ability to use income from profitable -earning projects invested
- vi. Ability to purchase or transfer of assets
- vii. Limits women's ability to give their views when with other members
- viii. SACCOOS limits women ability to talk in the public
- ix. Day's timetable reduce women's time to participate fully in SACCOS activities

Likert scale was found to be useful in measuring altitude whereby against each above variable five ranks were used namely, strong disagree, disagree, undecided, agree and strong agree. During analysis only three ranks were used which are agree, undecided and disagree because women did not respond using neither strong disagree nor strong agree. Descriptive statistics were used so as to get percentage which allowed seeing which rank has scored higher. Lastly chi-square was used to find the significance difference of each variable.

Objective number three: Objective three aimed at assessing services offered by SACCOS and whether they empower women. This was analyzed using descriptive statistics to find the extent at which they change women entrepreneurs' welfare. Services that were assessed included trainings, financial services, employment, material support and housing.

Objective number four: Economic empowerment in terms of income level of women entrepreneurs before and after membership in the SACCOS was assessed and analyzed using Paired sample T-test. In order to know the income level before becoming members of SACCOS, women were asked to mention the actual amount of income. Then the income before becoming members of SACCOS was compared with the income after becoming members of SACCOS. The changes in income were then used to assess if they have any influence in social, economic and political aspects. Variables assessed to find out if there is any increase of capital before and after becoming member of SACCOS were economic, social and political changes that have occurred due to the increase of income. The study investigated what other means were used to obtain capital and hence increase income.

3.7 Limitation of the Study

Negative attitude of the respondents: Some of the respondents thought that the researcher was paid to conduct the study; so they also wanted some money. The researcher explained that the research was for academic purpose and the findings would also be of benefit to them. After this, respondent were very cooperative and the study was successfully done.

Incorrect information from respondents: This was so because most SACCOS were on the edge of collapsing/closing hence the leaders and respondent were not willing to share information. The researcher had to ensure confidentiality of the information provided.

Poor transportation facilities: Data collection was done during rainy season in which most roads were damaged. Researcher had to walk long distances thus some randomly selected respondents were not reached and instead were replaced by those who were on proximity.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Social Characteristics of the Respondents

Social characteristics are used to develop a profile of a community which in turn helps to determine different stimulus socially and economically available in the community (USEPA, 2010). In this study, age, education level and the type of the business undertaken by the respondent were considered.

4.1.1 Age of the respondents

Table 4 shows that 55.6% of women at the age between 20 and 40 decided to become members of SACCOS for easy access of loan. SACCOS has easy terms and conditions that allow one to access loan. That can be used to start a new business or improve the existing ones. Slightly more than half 45.5% of women at the age of 41-60 and 50% of those with age 61 and above joined SACCOS for saving and access of loan (Table 4). In rural areas banking services are not available as compared to urban areas. As that SACCOS becomes a center where women entrepreneurs are able to save and access loan. Also SACCOS has become a financial institution for economic and social development through financing of innovation projects and programs that will ensure sustainable development to its members (Rukio, 2010).

Table 4: Distribution of Respondent by Age (n=80)

	Age		
	20-40	41-60	61 and above
Reasons to join SACCOS	%	%	%
Saving	40.9	25.5	0
Access loan	55.6	24.0	50.0
Saving and access loan	4.5	45.5	50.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.1.2 Level of education

The study found that 43.0% of women entrepreneurs who are unemployed had either primary education or do not have formal education (Table 5). This is one of the reasons as to why they decided to engage in petty business. According to them primary education do not provide them any employment opportunities. According to SACCOS leaders, petty business is the common business to women entrepreneurs who are unemployed. The reasons contributing to low level of education among women entrepreneurs who are unemployed include early pregnancies and marriage which forced them to quit from school.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondent by Level of Education (n=80)

Education level	Percentage
University/collage	3.0
Secondary	8.0
Primary education	43.0
No formal education	46.0
Total	100.0

4.1.3 Business Turn over

In order to know if there was any significant difference between turn over in 2011 and turn in over 2012 after taking loan. Paired t-Test was used and the results were as follows. There is no significance difference between the two turnovers because the p- value was (0.230), t-value is -1.211 with the degree of freedom (df-79).

The mean values of the two turnovers were as follows: the mean value of turnover in 2011 was 2.0750 while the mean value of turnover in 2012 was 2.2125. The effect size was - 0.018915. The main reasons for non-significant were the differences between the two

years: the nature of the business is small because of the low starting capital out of which they get low income that does not allow women entrepreneurs to open new business, women entrepreneurs who produce cash crops like rice and maize said their produce did not do well in the market since the prices were very low and hence were not in a position to produce more so as to increase turnover in 2012.

- **Type of business and initial capital**

The study revealed that there is huge relationship between type of the business and initial capital. The result shows that the 100.0% of women selling charcoal, fire woods, bits, 94.1% were growing and selling cash and food crops, 84.6% those who are food vendors and 88.9% were selling soft/hard drinks started business with the capital of less than five hundred thousand shillings

This shows that initial capital can determine the type of the business one establishes. For instance women who were selling charcoal started with two bags that cost one hundred thousand and twenty thousand. The same to food vendors and those selling bites who started with a capital of less than one hundred thousand. This means that, if these women would have more than five hundred thousand they would be in a position to establish big business. This is why SACCOS is now playing an important role of providing loan so as to increase the capital which helps in establishing new business and expand/improve existing business (Table 6).

Table 6: Initial capital and type of business established (n=80)

Initial capital	Type of business				
	Live stock keeping (%)	Growing/selling cash crops (%)	Food vender (%)	Selling soft/hard drinks (%)	Others (%)
Below 500000	95.5	94.1	84.6	88.9	100.0
600000-1000000	4.5	0	15.4	7.4	0
1000000 ^	0	5.9	0	3.7	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2 Level of Participation among Women in SACCOS Activities

4.2.1 Reasons for Joining SACCOS by Women Entrepreneurs

Results in table 7 show that in 2006 and 2010, 85.2 % of women entrepreneurs joined SACCOS so as to have access to loan. To women entrepreneurs capital for establishing business has been the obstacle that is why access to credit has been the main demand. Women entrepreneurs recommended that SACCOS provide different types of loan like agriculture loan and business loan through easy procedures and affordable interest rate.

Between 2011 and 2014, 76.9% of women entrepreneurs joined SACCOS for saving purposes. Saving to women entrepreneurs is important for income protection reasons, can act as a security for loan and could be re-invested in business. Saving enable women entrepreneurs with few assets to save. Mvomero District like any other rural areas does not have bank services like saving hence SACCOS is considered as the safe place for saving

Table 7: Reasons for Joining SACCOS over Years by Women Entrepreneurs in Mvomero District (n=80)

Year joined SACCOS			
Reasons to join SACCOS	2000-2005	2006-2010	2011-2014
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Saving	27.5	14.8	76.9
Access loan	32.5	85.2	23.1
Saving and access loan	40.0	0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.2 Leadership position

Majority 80.0% of women entrepreneurs had never held any leadership position while 20.0% were leaders or are still leaders but hold low positions like cashier or SACCOS assistance. As reported by Kamuhanda (2009) that at the management level, only one or no SACCOS has a female overall manager, and none has female credit officers. Females mostly hold the lowest positions like SACCOS assistants, cashiers, and support staff. Barriers to females' participation in management and credit officer positions include low education, lack of relevant skills and negative stereotypes about women's ability to effectively hold management and credit officer positions. Some women think that their ability to lead is not as that of men hence they tend to shy away from leadership position. These have affected those with the ability to lead not to contribute much in these organizations.

4.2.3 Women participation in annual budget meetings by SACCOS

Annual budget meetings are held at the beginning of the year to plan how funds will be used. But the level used by SACCOS to involve women entrepreneur and other members is the lowest one because they are consulted after decisions have been made. Effective participation is applied where members together with their leaders make final decisions.

Women entrepreneurs from Mzumbe and Mtibwa consulted after the annual budget meeting has been held (Table 8). To be consulted to give suggestion is low level of participation; because to be consulted after all decisions have been made does not give guarantee that ideas and views of women entrepreneurs will be included in the final decisions. According to Allahdadi (2011), women entrepreneurs cannot collaborate with their leaders and have not been empowered to influence decisions and expand their opportunities in rural SACCOS.

According to SACCOS leaders, there is low level of participation because of poor response from women entrepreneurs though they understand the importance of these meetings. Poor respond is because of family responsibilities and production activities. Nippierd (2002) emphasized that, pressure to uphold the unequal division of labor and care working the household severely restricts their job choices, even putting them on the outside circle in cooperatives because there is little time left for mandatory meeting attendance and other tasks. As table 8 show 90.8% of women entrepreneurs from Mlali SACCOS pointed out that leader are apply the higher level of participation where women entrepreneurs and other member together with leaders decide on the annual budget. District Cooperative Officer pointed out that higher level of participation is applied to those SACCOS where the management and leaders are responsible.

Table 8: Methods used to involve women entrepreneurs in annual budget meetings in Mvomero District (n=80)

Methods used	SACCOS			
	Mlali %	Mtibwa %	Mzumbe %	Diongoya %
Interactive participation	90.8	0	0	22.2
Consultative participation	7.1	100.0	100.0	77.8
Passive participation	2.1	0	0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.4 Women Participation in planning process

Table 9 present data of women awareness on planning process. The results show that, 88.1% of women at the age of 31to40 indicated that they are aware about participation planning process. Women entrepreneurs understand that participation planning process allow members to know all the plans and participate full during its implementations.

Giving out their views during FGD, women entrepreneurs from Mlali SACCOS reported that *'our leaders make sure that every member participates in the whole process of planning. In this way member understands every plan and expected outcome of each plan'*.

While, 52.2% of women entrepreneurs with the age between 20 and 30 are not aware of the planning processes. This is common to those SACCOS where leaders are not responsible. For example, women from Mzumbe SACCOS claimed that leaders had never called for a meeting to discuss any plans. And continue saying, there are new members in the SACCOS but leaders do not take trouble to call for meeting to tell them about the plan of the SACCOS. It was also observed that 20.2% at the age of 20 to 30 were aware of the planning process and they were participating effectively so as to criticize were the planning processes were done as agreed by all members of SACCOS.

Also, 1.7% of women entrepreneurs at the age of 41 to 60 are aware of the planning process. This is the small percent that do not participate because of lack of understanding on the importance if participating during the planning process.

Table 9: Women awareness on planning process in Mvomero District (n=80)

Age (year)	Awareness	
	Yes %	No %
20-30	20.2	52.2
31-40	88.1	44.1
41-60	1.7	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0

4.2.5 Participation of women entrepreneurs in planning process

In participation planning process majority 87.5% of women from Mtibwa, 92.9% from Mzumbe and 69.4% from Diongoya were invited to provide suggestions (Table 10). However lack of formal education hinders their confidence to air out their views. Olawale (2012) reported that one of the constraints to women participation in any SACCOS activities like planning process is their low level of education and recommended that any policy that would further increase the level of education would increase their participation in SACCOS.

During field survey the SACCOS leaders reported that, women do not know their roles and responsibilities in SACCOS they think that their roles in SACCOS are to save and take loan. This was also reported by Lukas *et al.* (2013) that there is lack of adequate understanding of cooperatives financial institutions in Tanzania both to men and women, however, women are the most affected. Failure to understand the operations, policies, rights and responsibilities has decrease female participation in SACCOS activities.

Contrary to the other three SACCOS interviewed as table 9 show majority of women entrepreneurs 85.7% from Mlali SACCOS are participating planning processes. They approved all the discussion together with their leaders. When planning meetings are held

leaders make sure that all members are participating and final decisions are reflected from views and ideas from both sides.

In general the finding shows that there is low level of participation among women entrepreneurs in planning process. Being invited to provide suggestions does not guarantee that those decisions will be included in the plans of the year. According to Arnstein (1969) inviting people to provide their suggestions; this level is still shallow since no assurance is offered to views and ideas from women entrepreneur and other members.

Table 10: Methods used to Involve Women entrepreneurs in SACCOS Planning

Process (n=80)

Methods used	SACCOS			
	Mlali (%)	Mtibwa (%)	Mzumbe (%)	Diongoya (%)
Approve together with leaders	85.7	0	7.1	27.8
Invited to give suggestions	14.3	87.5	92.9	69.4
Told what has been approved	0	12.5	0	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.6 Participation in formulating development plans

Table 11 below present the results on methods used to involve women in formulating developing plan of the year. The results show that all women entrepreneurs from Mzumbe and majority 62.5% from Mtibwa and (78.6%) were invited to give their suggestions after annual development plans have been made. This method cannot empower women specially unemployed. Being invited does not assure that their ideas will be included during decision process. Allahdadi (2011) contend that most women are not involved in

the decision-making process, and do not attempt to voice their views and hold the management accountable. Empowerment of women comes into reality when women are involved in decision planning process because it strengthens the relationship between women entrepreneurs and the management and provides the space for their partnership.

Contrary to other wards, in Mlali 58.3% of women entrepreneurs formulate annual development plans together with their leaders. This is possible because leaders try to capture all the ideas and views from all members.

Table 11: Methods used to involve women in formulating development plans of the year by SACCOS (n=80)

SACCOS from Mvomero District				
Methods used	Mlali (%)	Mtibwa (%)	Mzumbe (%)	Diongoya (%)
Approve together with leaders	58.3	37.5	0	14.3
Invited to give suggestions	41.7	62.5	100.0	78.6
Told what has been approved	0	0	0	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.7 Participation in policy making and implementation

As table 12 show that 71.4% of women entrepreneurs from Mlali SACCOS participate in policy making and implementation. Women understand that participating in policy making and implementation is important because it creates a sense of ownership of the policy to every member. While 28.6% do not participate in policy making and implementation because of family and production activities. Women do not have time to attend those meeting because their time is being consumed by family activities or production activities.

In Mtibwa 31.3% of women entrepreneurs participate in policy making and implementation. While 68.8% did not participate (Table 12). Women views on policy making and implantation, *'the policy that we are using is the policy which was created in 2000 during the establishment SACCOS. Women who were present when the policy was established have dropped out. A lot of us here were not present during the establishment of the policy. Since 2000 no amendments have been done'*.

Majority 66.7% of women from Mzumbe did not participate in policy making and implementation since SACCOS has not improved their lives. Other members use SACCOS for saving purposes and take loan but do not find the importance of other activities. While 33.3% participate during policy making but do not effectively participate in its implementation.

Their views on policy making and implementation *'leaders are not responsible, they do not implement the policy that is why the SACCOS is collapsing instead of growing. Our leaders are not making enough efforts to amend this policy. Leaders have not called for a meeting and remind us the policy'. Because the SACCOS is collapsing members find it helpless to take any action of amending the policy*

In Diongoya SACCOS 57.1% of women entrepreneurs participated in policy making and implementation. While 42.9% did not participate in policy making and implementation. Women pointed out that they were not in a position to attend because of family responsibilities and production activities. Other women said that members who attended the meeting presented their ideas.

Table 12: Participation of Women entrepreneurs in policy making and implementation

Participate	SACCOS			
	Mlali (%)	Mtibwa (%)	Mzumbe (%)	Diongoya (%)
Yes	71.4	31.2	33.3	57.1
No	28.6	68.8	66.7	42.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.8 Participation of women in policy making and implementation

In policy making and implementation, majority 93.8% of women entrepreneurs from Mtibwa, 92.9% from Mzumbe and 72.2% from Diongoya indicated that they are only invited by the management to give out their suggestions after the policies have been made. In this way women are not given full power to come with up with policy which will hold leaders accountable for any mistake done. District Cooperative Officer pointed out that some of women entrepreneurs and other members, due to illiteracy do not understand the importance of participating in the process of formulating policy and implementation. SACCOS leaders reported that they always call all members to participate in the meetings but only few women entrepreneurs attend or participate in the whole process.

Majority of women entrepreneurs in Mlali ward 92.9% formulate the policy and implement it together with their leader. A leader From Mlali SACCOS emphasized that the policy will be respected by all members if all members participated from when it was formulate till its implement (Table 13).

Table 13: Methods used to involve women in policy making and implementation**(n=80)**

Methods used	SACCOS			
	Mlali	Mvomero	Mzumbe	Diongoya
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Plan together with leaders	92.9	0	7.1	25.0
Invited to give suggestions	7.1	93.8	92.9	72.2
Told what has been planned	0	6.3	0	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.9 Women entrepreneurs' participation in SACCOS activities in Mvomero**District**

Women entrepreneurs, 56.2% indicate that their participation is moderate which means do not participate effectively in all activities. They even indicate that they usually do not find their ideas in the decisions made by the management and so do not find the importance of participating in any activity (Table 14).

Table 14: Level of Women Entrepreneurs' Participation in SACCOS Activities**(n=80)**

Level of participation by women entrepreneurs'	Percentage
Low	22.5
Moderate	56.2
High	21.2
Total	100.0

According to District Cooperative Officer this is the main reason why a lot of SACCOS are collapsing. In most cases Management decide on behalf of members which is detrimental to the progress of SACCOS.

According to women entrepreneurs, they do not know if they have to participate in all activities and thus ignore some of the activities. District Cooperative Officer of Mvomero District reported that these women members know how to save and take loan but have little understanding or awareness on their obligation in SACCOS activities. This was also reported by Lukas (2013) that women do not have enough knowledge on institutional set-up, operations, services, activities and benefits of SACCOS. Some of this SACCOS were politically formed thus miss ownership and understanding. For example Melela SACCOS was established during 2005 election period, with the support from the ruling party. The SACCOS was announced with leaders being appointed and with no consensus on its objective. At the end of the day leaders misused the fund, hence collapsed in 2012 which means it operated only for 8 years.

4.3 Attitude of Women Empowerment through SACCOS.

It is important to investigate if women entrepreneurs agreed the government efforts of establishing SACCOS in rural areas. The aim of establishing SACCOS and other micro-financial institutions was to ensure easy access of credit. SACCOS were perceived to bring positive change to the life of marginalized women especially in rural area.

As table 15 shows that, 53.8% of the respondent agreed that SACCOS has empowered women entrepreneurs in owning inputs for production activities. The study found that women who were engaged in agriculture activities reported that since they became members of SACCOS it has been easy for them to buy agriculture implements like seeds, hoe, fertilizers, labor and power tillers. Loan as one of the services provided to women has to a large extent supports women entrepreneurs to buy inputs and own them without any restrictions from husbands. And women who were doing petty business agree that without loan from SACCOS they wouldn't be in position to buy commodities for business

like charcoal, firewood the same to food vendors and women selling bites. Access to resources like farm, house plot, cars and others was among the main target of establishing SACCOS in rural areas but 17% of women disagree that SACCOS has empowered them in owning inputs for production activities. Because the system used by SACCOS in providing loan does not allow some women to utilize its benefits for example the shortness of the grace period. This forces women to sell those inputs in order to return the loan. Despite the discussion above a chi-square results revealed that there was no statistically significant differences between the power to own inputs for production and the ranks ($\chi^2 > 0.05$).

Women are leading in production activities both in agriculture products and petty business products. In Mvomero 60.5% of women entrepreneurs have agreed that SACCOS has played a very important role to empower to make decision on production activities. Loan and training services provided by SACCOS gave women confidence of making their own decisions on what and when to produce. It is different from when women had to depend on their husbands on every matter concerning production. SACCOS has to increase more emphases especially through training on how to run production activities for profit as 39.5% of women disagree that SACCOS has changed their decision power on production activities. Because of that women blame SACCOS not to be able to disseminate market information. Chi-square results revealed that there was no significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

In Mvomero 60% of women entrepreneurs have agreed that SACCOS in one way or the other has opened the door for them to access resources. Women doing petty business reported that, currently they are saving so as to be able to access those resources at the future. And women doing agriculture agreed that SACCOS has helped them to have

access to resource. Also reported that even if they will not be able to access and own resources now, they are certain at the future will be in a position to access and own resources. Only few women 5% disagree that SACCOS has empower them to have access to resources. This is because some of SACCOS in Mvomero are collapsing without returning its benefits to the members. Regardless of the discussion a chi-square results revealed that there was a significant differences between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

Ability to purchase and transfer of assets is the positive indicator that women in rural areas are empowered. SACCOS in Mvomero District have not succeeded to empower women to have power to purchase and transfer assets since 78% disagree that SACCOS has changed their purchase and transfer ability. Women reported that purchasing power among women is at least changing positively as women are now in a position to purchase assets but decision on transfer is still on husbands power. On the other hand, 22% of women have agreed that SACCOS through its services have changed positively purchase and transfer ability/power. This was mostly common to widow and single women who reported that before receiving services from SACCOS were not able to purchase assets because of lack of enough money. Never the less a chi-square results show that there was a significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

There are a lot of micro-financial institutions SACCOS being one of them. All these were established so as to allow wider choices of services and to allow competition in providing services among financial institutions. But as table 15 shows that, SACCOS in Mvomero did not empower women to have access to credits from other institutions. As 72.5% of women reported that multi-membership is a burden and increases poverty among women. Leaders taught members to avoid multi-membership in financial institutions because it

reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of members to return loan from financial institutions they acquired the loan. However, 27.5% agreed that SACCOS empowered them to have access to credit from other financial institutions because terms and condition used by SACCOS are easy to meet. For example women from Mlali reported that, interest rate from SACCOS allows them to pay loan on time and acquire another loan from a nearby micro-financial institutions like PRIDE and FINCA. Despite the discussion above chi-square results show that there was a significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

From the table it can be observed that 75% has agreed that SACCOS has changed the power on the use of income from production activities. Loan and other financial services allow women to be independent on what, when and how to produce. This has given women enough chance to use the income out of their income generating activities. This is different from 25% of women who disagreed that SACCOS has changed the power to use income from income generating activities because all power on the use of income rest in the hands of the husbands. Chi-square results revealed that there was no significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

Women who are not employed residing in rural area consider themselves inferior especially when with other members. But majority 71.9% agreed that SACCOS allowed them to meet a lot of people and thus be able to contribute and give their views. And are more encouraged when they see their view considered. Some reported that confidence of speaking before a group of people developed more after joining SACCOS. While 28.1% disagreed that SACCOS has changed their ability to give their views when with other members. Chi-square results revealed that there was no significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

Ability to talk in public is one of the indicators that a woman is empowered as it allows to air out their views in public. SACCOS has succeeded by empowering 68.2% of women. This is possible because general meetings are held each year. This was very possible from Mvomero District where in each general meeting women are given first priority to give their views. Few women were skeptical as 9.1% could not tell whether SACCOS has succeeded to empower women to talk in the public. The reason was that a large number of unemployed women in rural areas are not educated. And emphasize that its only education that give a woman confidence of speaking in the public. Chi-square results revealed that there was significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

Women are occupied by a lot of domestic and production activities which do not allow women to participate effectively in SACCO's activities. The results show that 56.6 % disagree that time table allow women to participate effectively in all SACCOS activities. Because most of SACCOS activities are done in the morning the time which women are engaging in production activities. For example women selling bites cannot be available in the morning time. While 15.8% did not neither agree nor disagree that timetable allows women to participate in all activities. Chi-square results revealed that there was no significant difference between the variable and the ranks ($\chi^2 < 0.05$).

Table 15: Ranking of attitude among women empowerment

Variables	Ranking			Sign.
	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)	Level at (P)
Power to decide on the use of input for production	17	0	53.8	P = 0.000
Power to make decisions on production activities	39.5	0	60.5	P = 0.001
Power to own assets and resources	20	0	60	P = 0.134
Ability to purchase or transfer of assets	78	0	22	P = 0.000
Access of credit from other financial institutions	72.5	0	27.5	P = 0.540
Power on the use of income from production activities	25	0	75	P = 0.002
Ability to give views when with other members	28.1	0	71.9	P = 0.000
Ability to talk in public	22.7	9.1	68.2	P = 0.000
Timetable allow women to participate in SACCOS activities	56.6	15.8	31.6	P = 0.003
Overall assessment/Total	359.4	24.9	470.5	

4.4 Types of Services Provided by SACCOS

The study found that training services provided by SACCOS indeed has contribution to women empowerment and especially for unemployed women who do not have other sources of capital or any other implements. These services were provided free by SACCOS for purpose of empowering women by expanding their understand on sustainable and profitable entrepreneurship.

4.4.1 Training Services offered and its Contribution to Improvement of Women's business

SACCOS in order to implement the Millennium development goal of poverty alleviation, has tried to provide training services so as to increase awareness among women entrepreneurs with the main goal of increasing production. Trainings were provided for free in order to allow easy and cheap access of training.

The study found that among the trainings provided by SACCOS, only a few women entrepreneurs 11.8% who had been provided with training on saving has been able to establish their own businesses that is growing and selling cash crops having obtained an increase in capital from savings. According to them this low response was because this kind of training was new and so women entrepreneurs were skeptical on applying the knowledge.

With regard to the training on the usage of loan that was also provided to women entrepreneurs only 5.9% applied the knowledge in growing and selling cash crops. This was followed by 3.6% of women entrepreneurs who decided to implement the knowledge in selling things like charcoal, fire wood, bites, soft and hard drinks. The knowledge on how to use to loan helped a lot of women because they learned that loan can only be used to invest so as to produce and be able to return the loan.

Some of the SACCOS provided training on how to manage business, from which 14.3% used the knowledge to manage their small business for instance selling charcoal, fire wood, bites, honey, soft and hard drinks and 9.1% in keeping livestock such as cattle, goat and chicken. Entrepreneurship training was also among the training provided by some of the SACCOS like Mlali from which 41.2% of women entrepreneurs used the knowledge in

growing and selling cash crops while only 38.5% used the knowledge in selling food crops. However, 90.9% of women entrepreneurs who are keeping livestock and 75.0% selling charcoal, fire wood, honey, selling soft drinks reported that they did not receive any kind of training, hence they used their own experience to establish businesses.

SACCOS leaders said that women entrepreneurs are not active when they are called upon to attend trainings. Other leaders also revealed that at times SACCOS members do not get access to training because it is so expensive to call the trainer. However, women from Mlali got the chance to receive training because they were invited to attend a meeting in Dodoma of which without it they would not have received any training (Table 16).

Table 16: Training Services offered and selection of business (n=80)

Types of the business				
Attended trainings	Livestock keeping (%)	Growing and selling cash crops (%)	Food vender (%)	Others (%)
Saving training	0	11.8	0	0
Use of loan	0	5.9	0	3.6
Manage business	9.1	5.9	0	14.3
Entrepreneurship	0	41.2	38.5	7.1
No training	90.9	35.3	61.5	75.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.4.2 Training services provided and its contribution to improvement of business conducted by women entrepreneurs

The training provided to members assisted them in running their businesses as well as in increasing their entrepreneurship skills. This was indicated by 47.5% of women entrepreneurs. To some women, the training provided opened their minds, from which

they were able to think of how to open new businesses and further increased their ability of doing more than one business. On the other hand, 10.0 % did not receive any kind of training that could enlarge their experience on how to manage and run a business

4.4.4 Financial services

Loans are types of financial services provided to women entrepreneurs with aim of allowing easy and cheap access of financial services in rural areas where there are no formal financial institutions like bank. But only 52.5% of the respondents received loans to aid them in their farming activities and petty business. This was particularly true for Mlali SACCOS.

Results on table 17 show that 47.5% said that financial services were provided but they cannot access big loans because of unaffordable collateral requested by SACCOS. Women cannot afford collaterals like houses plot, farm plot, machines and animals in order to get big loans. This was said by women from Mvomero, Mzumbe and Diongoya SACCOS.

Table 17: Financial Services Provided to Women Entrepreneurs (n=80)

Get financial services on time	Percentage
Yes	47.5
No	52.5
Total	100.0

4.4.5 Agriculture Implements provided by SACCOS to women entrepreneurs

All SACCOS in Mvomero District do not provide material/implements like hoes, tractors, and inputs for agriculture to women entrepreneurs. One of the cooperative leaders from Mlali SACCOS reported that, they have not reached that extent of distributing implements

to its members as there is no enough fund to buy implements and provide to all the members.

4.5 Income and Assets Before and After Becoming Member of SACCOS

4.5.1 Income before and after becoming membership with SACCOS

Contribution of SACCOS to women entrepreneurs is very small to bring out changes in the income level. This was confirmed during FGD; with reason being depending on agriculture of which sometimes it does not perform as expected because of drought, pests, low prices, diseases and the use of poor inputs. Furthermore taking into consideration that the loan borrowed has all been spent on production because of this misfortunate's a woman cannot get any profit out of agriculture. Sometimes the small earnings from the produce can only be used to pay the debt and remain with nothing as profit. This was reported by ILO (1998) that participation in MFIs can lead to debt that is unmanageable, simply because there are no sufficiently profitable income-earning in which to invest. In this situation, women may end up being even more dependants than they were before.

To those who do business, it has been hard for them to increase their income because of poor returns from businesses. Also family commitment such as paying school fees, buying basic needs for children like food, clothes, and shelter all depend on the income from the small businesses they have. The small rise of income has impacts on economic, social and political aspect.

Economically, respondents were able to start new business. They have increased their livestock such as chicken, goat, cattle, bought farm plots, engaged in more productive agricultural system because of the ability to buy improved inputs. This was also reported by Shekilango (2012) that women felt the economic activities they undertake have

established a certain level of income security, a sense of self dependency and a feeling of increased respect from others in the locality. Women had not yet experienced any economic changes because of the small contribution from SACCOS and many family responsibilities hence the income obtained is only used in meeting family responsibilities and not for expanding their businesses.

Views of women entrepreneurs during focus group discussion (FGD) on the increase of income

Women entrepreneurs from Mtibwa SACCOS said that; *“Yes income has increased but not to every woman entrepreneur. This is because the increase of income depends upon the activity one is doing, for instance for those women entrepreneurs who only engage in agriculture, their income has not expanded because of poor produce and so they find themselves with nothing or spend the little amount she got to pay back the loan”*.

According to women entrepreneurs from Mlali SACCO; *“Before receiving a loan anywhere it was hard to get extra money for expanding business because the income was not enough for family needs and expansion of the business or even start a new one. But the loan from SACCOS helped a lot to expand and start new businesses and hence increase of capital though not much, but there is a difference in the capital”*.

Socially, women have also experienced some changes both in their family and in the community, because after the raise in income they are now been in a position to give out suggestions in decisions concerning any family or community matters. Most women are now in a good position to provide for their families which even makes their husbands pay them some respect. The income ability among women as a result of the undertaken IGAs has empowered women to make expenditures that included contribution to the household

welfare. Some of the women mentioned to have supported their husbands to meet children educational needs basically in form of top up to the amount that was already available. On the other hand, women from Female Headed Households also acknowledged that access to credit has reduced their dependency on others in meeting their children's expenses (Shekilango, 2012).

Views of women entrepreneurs during focus group discussion (FGD)

According to women entrepreneurs from Mlali SACCOS, *“Yes, the rise of income has helped a lot, since we became members and received loans from SACCOS we were able to do business and expand those businesses. The income I get enables to provide family needs like providing food, clothes and even paying children school fees.*

Yes it has helped to improve the status. Since the dependency syndrome is over we are now depending on our own and above all the business we do contributes to the development of our community and so the community recognizes our contribution and respects us a lot compared to the past when we had to depend on our husbands”.

And according to women entrepreneurs from Mtibwa SACCOS *“the rise of income has not our social life as it was expected before joining SACCOS, because despite the fact that we help our family needs and the community in general but the perception that women are in a low position and helpless still persists till now in our community.”*

Generally, the cooperative officer added that there are changes in the lives of the women entrepreneurs after becoming member of SACCOS. He mention the following changes; business expansion, capital expansion, improvement in status in the community, building houses, taking their children to schools, providing family need like clothes, food and shelter.

On the other hand, all women said that the increase in income did not have any influence on them to participate in political matters because they were either not interested or did not find politics helpful.

4.5.2 Asset owned by women before and after membership with SACCOS

Majority of the respondents owned assets such as houses, rooms, couches, tables, sofa sets, farm plot, fridge, animals and house plot after becoming member of SACCOS. This is because these assets were very expensive and through SACCOS it was easy for them to afford (Table 18).

As reported by Morris and Gaile (1999) in Kato (2013) that participation in microfinance programs has positive impact on client households acquiring assets. This is because SACCOS provides loan that can help women entrepreneurs to buy assets. Also through loans that are provided to expand business help to increase the capital which is used to buy assets like farm plot, house plot, couches, sofa and other assets. Mahmud (2003) found that microcredit program participation has only a limited effect in increasing women's access to choice-enhancing resources, but has a much stronger effect in increasing women's ability to exercise agency in intra-household processes. Also Ghebre Michael (2013) in his research found that all the respondents increased their assets in form of business, agricultural equipments, land, building and the like are possible.

Views of women entrepreneurs during focus group discussion (FGD) on assets owned by women before and after membership with SACCOS

“Yes, to a very large extent it has facilitated to our economic welfare and material ownership because before becoming SACCOS members it was not easy to buy our own assets, to expand our capital so as to start up a new business but after receiving loan from SACCOS it has been easy for us to have anything we want”

Mtibwa SACCOS has facilitated ownership of assets but to only small assets like couches, hoes, slashes, bicycle and so on and not big assets like cars, houses, farm plots, and houses

Table 18: Assets owned by women entrepreneurs before and after becoming member in SACCOS. (n=80)

Assets	Percentage	
	Before	After
House	53.8	13.8
Room	47.5	10.0
Machines	10.0	18.8
Animals	22.5	28.8
Fridge	12.5	36.2
Farm plot	35.0	46.2
Couches	48.8	26.2
Table	73.8	15.0
Bicycle	38.8	43.8
Sofa	17.5	12.5
House plot	27.5	37.5

4.5.3 Alternative means used to increase income apart from SACCOS

Women reported that they work hard on their own using the small loan given by SACCOS while others engage in other sources of capital acquisition like UPATU, VICOBA, FINCA and VSLA. This was also reported by Shekilango (2012) that SACCOS do not have any positive direct impacts to some women. Poor women including the ones with ordinary membership to SACCOS continue to rely on informal loaning practices especially the ROCSA called UPATU. Further reported that regardless of their access to loans from the scheme, women were still dependent on additional credits from other sources so as to combine these with the one obtained from the SACCOS. This is being done regularly in order to establish enough capital to undertake investment activities.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Participation among women entrepreneurs is not satisfactory as they are invited to give their suggestions after the decisions have been made. In this sense women cannot have direct influence over important matters impacting the sustainability of a SACCOS. Leaders have more power over the final decisions, because of this; women and other members cannot have the direct power to make final decision.

Women entrepreneurs had positive attitude toward SACCOS. Women agreed that there are positive changes in their lives as compared to before membership with SACCOS where they were not in a position to get access to financial services like loan. Financial services have changed their owning power as now can purchase and use resources and assets without confines from husbands. But they are skeptical the giving women more power of expressing themselves in the public.

Lucky of enough funds have caused Mvomero SACCOS not to provide any agriculture or any other types of implements to women entrepreneurs. The reason to the lucky of fund is poor return of loans from members. SACCOS was not able to buy agriculture implements and provide to its members in form of loan to easing production activities of its members

The income has increased after membership with SACCOS though not to every women. Before receiving a loan it was very hard for women to get extra money for expanding and starting new business. Expanding and starting new businesses enhanced the increase of capital.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Recommendation to SACCOS

1. More material services should be provided to women entrepreneurs like agriculture implements.
2. More emphases should be directed to empower women entrepreneurs who are not employed.
3. Members should have effective participation in all activities so as to make sure there are accountable and responsible leaders.

5.2.2 Recommendation to policy makers

1. Government should find the way out on how to restart the collapsed SACCOS because, to women who are not employed SACCOS is like a second chance for them to initiate or establish new business and hence increase income.
2. Policy makers should ensure harmonization of policy that guides SACCOS so as to allow effective participation of members.

5.2.3 Recommendation for further research

1. More research should be done to investigate the collapse of SACCOS in rural areas.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for Women Entrepreneur Credit Beneficiaries'

Title of the study: Does participation in cooperatives empower women entrepreneurs?

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

District.....

Division.....

Ward.....

Village.....

SECTION A. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENT

1. Name of the respondent.....

2. Age of the respondent.....

3. Marital Status

(1) Married

(2) Widow

(3) Divorced/separated

(4) Single

4. Number of own children in your household.....

5. Number of dependent.....

(1) Children with the age below 5 years

(2) Adult with age above 64

(3) Others specify (i.e. unemployed)

6. What is your level of education?

(1)University

(2) College

- (3) Secondary school
- (4) Primary education
- (5) No formal education

7. What sector is your business?

- (1) Trade
- (2) Production
- (3) Services
- (4) Hand-craft
- (5) Other (specify)

SECTION B. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENT

8. What is the type of the business activities do you undertake

Type of the business	Year established		Turnover 2011	Turnover 2012
1.	Year	Initial capital		
2.				
3.				

9. Who is the owner of the business?

- (1) Yourself
- (2) With the spouse/family members
- (3) With colleagues

10 Why have you decided to do such business (motivation factors)

- (1).....
- (2).....

11. What was your starting capital?.....

12. (a) Number of employees in your business

(1) Less than 5

(2) 6-10

(3) 11-15

(4) More than 15

(b) Do you employ them permanently or casual?.....

13. Where was the idea of doing business generated?

(1) From parents/ other family members

(2) From friends/ neighbors

(3) Own idea

SECTION C: Level of participation among women in cooperatives

14 When did you become a member of this cooperative.....

15 What motivated you to join the cooperatives?

.....

.....

16 Do you hold any position in the cooperative since you have joined the cooperatives?

(1) Yes

(2) No

17. Do you know the concept of participation planning process?

(1) Yes, I know it

(2) No, I do not know it

18 If yes, in which ways are you participating?

(1) As members you plan on your own

(2) Plan together with your leaders

(3) Invited to give your suggestions

(4) Told what has been decided

(5) Presented on official board

19 Does meeting for approving the budget held each year?

(1) Yes

(2) No

20 If yes, in which ways are you participating?

(1) As members you approve on your own

(2) Approve together with your leaders

(3) Invited to give your suggestions

(4) Told what has been approved

(5) Presented on official board

21 Does the SACCOS management give feedback about the decisions made on the budget of the year?

(1) Yes

(2) No

22 If yes, in which ways are you being involved in those decision made?

(1) As members you decide on your own

(2) Decide together with your leaders

(3) Invited to give your suggestions

(4) Told what has been decided

(5) Presented on official board

23 Does meeting for formulation of development plans held each year

(1) Yes, they are held each year

(2) No, they are not held each year

24 If, yes in which ways do you participate?

(1) As members you formulate development plans on your own

(2) Plan together with your leaders

(3) Invited to give your suggestions on the plans

(4) Told what has been planed

(5) Presented on official board

25 Do you participate in policy making and policy implementation?

(1) Yes

(2) No

26 If yes, in which ways are you participating?

(1) As members you make and implement your policies

(2) Make and implement policies together with your leaders

(3) Invited to give your suggestions

(4) Told what has been done

(5) Presented on official board

27 How can you rate women entrepreneurs' participation in your SACCO'S?

(1) Low

(2) Moderate

(3) High

SECTION D; SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE COOPERATIVES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

40 Do you attend in any of the trainings provided by the cooperatives?

(1) Yes

(2) No

41 If yes, what kind of Training was it?

(1) Savings training

(2) Loan management

(3) Business Management

(4) Entrepreneurship training

(5) Other (specify)

42 If no. where do you do you get the knowledge to run your business

(1) Neighbors/friends

(2) Trial and error

(3) Other institutions (specify)

43 If yes for how long?

(1) Full time

(2) Half of the allocated time

(3) Quarter of the allocated time

(4) Don't know

44 Do the trainings help to improve the business?

(1)Yes

(2) No

FINANCIAL SERVICES

45 Do you get financial services in time?

(1) Yes

(2) No

46 Do you receive as an individual or as a group

(1).....

(2).....

47 If as an individual, when did you receive the current loan.....

48 The amount received.....

49 If as a group, when did your group receive the last loan?

50 The mount received.....

MATERIAL SERVICES

51 Do you receive any material support from the agency?

(1) Yes

(2) No

52 What type of material support do you receive?

(1).....

(2).....

(3).....

53. Which of the following assets do you possess before and after material support?

ASSET		BEFORE	AFTER
1	House		
2	Room		
3	Machine		
4	Animals		
5	Television		
6	Fridge		
7	Farm plot		
8	Couches		
9	Tables		
10	Bicycle		
11	Sofa		
12	House plot		

SECTION E: INCREASE OF INCOME BEFORE AND AFTER BECOMING THE MEMBER OF SACCOS

(54) Level of income before and after becoming member of SACCOS

Level of income	Before becoming the member of SACCOS (Tsh)	After becoming the member of SACCOS (Tsh)

(55) Economic changes after the increase of income

1.
2.
3.
4.

(56) Social changes after the increase of income

1.
2.
3.
4.

(57) Political changes after the increase of income

1.
2.
3.
4.

(58) Alternatives means used to increase the source of income

1.
2.
3.
4.

Appendix 2: Checklist for Key Informants**Title of the study; does participation in cooperatives empower women entrepreneurs?**

- (1).What membership requirement are involved
- (2).What are the loan requirements and regulations?
- (3). Is women empowerment been identified as the focal point in the policy?
- (4).In what ways does the management try to promote women empowerment?
- (5).Is the current interest rate support empowerment of women entrepreneurs?
- (6).Do women entrepreneurs meet necessary collateral to secure loan amount
- (7).Do repayment schedule support empowerment of women entrepreneurs?
- (8).Given the rural women context, what changes in women's lives can you say to have been attained from their access to microcredit?
- (9).Is there a mechanism for advocating empowerment of women entrepreneurs in the SACCOS?
- (10).What performance measures do you use to monitor empowerment of women entrepreneurs?
- (11). Are regular meeting of partners organization (e.g. government, NGO, donor etc) take place to review empowerment of women entrepreneurs?

**Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion for Women Entrepreneurs Credit Benefiries
who are member of SACCOS for Over 2 Years**

**Title of the study; does participation in cooperatives empower women
entrepreneurs?**

1. What is the history of the SACCO'S?
2. When did the SACCO'S start officially?
3. What microfinance's institutions are more preferred by women in this district?
4. Are services from the SACCOS provided in time?
- 5 How are the SACCO's procedures on membership and loan taking?
(If easy or not easy to meet on time; and why)?
6. Has the loan enable accumulation of funds to sustain business efficiently?
7. Has the capital expanded after receiving services from the SACCO'S?
8. Membership to SACCOS has facilitated economic welfare and material ownership such
as IGAs, assets accumulation? (Yes/No) explain
9. How is the availability of market information after the membership with SACCOS?
10. Financial and non-financial services from the SACCO'S facilitate provision of family
needs?
11. Membership to SACCOS has help to improve status in the community, household,
family and other relatives? (Yes/no) explain
12. Apart from the financial aspects, are there any skills and knowledge gained through
SACCO's membership? (Yes/no) explain

Appendix 4: Liker scale to measure level of empowerment of women entrepreneurs

Title of the study; does participation in cooperatives empower women.

Statement	S.disagree	D. agree	Undecided	Agree	S. agree
SACCOS influence women power to over input to use in production activities					
SACCO influence women power over decision on production activities					
SACCOS provide equal power of purchasing, selling or transferring of assets					
SACCOS provide equal control and access to resources					
Women have access of credit from different microfinance institute					
SACCOS reduce women's ability to use income from profitable -earning projects in which they invest					
Women when with their group members, limits the ability to give their views					
The day's timetable reduce women's time to participate fully in SACCOS activities					
SACOOS activities reduce women's time to relax					