

Socio-Economic Factors and Sustainability of Women Empowerment Groups in Pastoralist Communities in Kenya: A Case of Tiaty Sub-County, Baringo County

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Abstract: Sustainability of women empowerment projects in the pastoralist communities is a significant element of societal development. It is true that women play key roles in providing the family with daily basic needs. However, it is through the establishment of institutions such as women groups that women and other agencies including the government can propagate the empowerment initiative. This study measured the effect of social economic factors on sustainability of women empowerment projects in the pastoralist communities in Kenya. The study focused on the influence of income generating activities, social capital, cultural orientation and education level on how they impact sustainability of women empowerment groups among pastoralist communities in Kenya and was carried out among women groups in Tiaty Sub County; Baringo County. Using descriptive research design 384 out of 3568 women in 182 registered women were sampled. In addition, five key informants including; area chiefs, representatives of financial institutions, and the Tiaty sub-county Social Services department were interviewed. Key Informant Interview (KII) guides and structured questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data and qualitative data respectively. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze quantitative data while qualitative data was organized and analyzed by themes. Using Pearson correlation coefficient, the findings established a direct and positive relationship between sustainability of women empowerment groups and independent variables; Income generating activities at $R=0.934$, Social capital at $R=0.835$. Further inference showed the proportionate contribution of independent variables factors towards sustainability of women empowerment groups at 87.23% (0.934^2) from Income generating activities and 69.72% (0.835^2) from Social capital respectively. Additionally the composite mean and standard deviation for income generating activities and social capital was $M=3.92;SD=1.058$, $M=3.87;SD=0.859$, respectively. This study observed that the income generating activities showed the highest Pearson correlation coefficient towards sustaining women empowerment groups. This study recommends; training women on income generating activities to aid in their empowerment and sustainability of groups, enacting proper legislation to accord equal opportunities to pastoralist women, sustaining programs to challenge male dominance in pastoralist and training women leaders on skills to ensure their groups are well run and managed.

Key word: Income generating projects, Social Capital, Socio-economic, Women empowerment, Women groups

I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, women perform very important duties in every society, they are the pillars of the household and their families rest on them for health and food. In emerging nations, women are hopeful that education will deliver many from poverty and subordination. Albeit the process of modernization processes, [1] observes that women have not occupied the spaces commensurate to their development outputs and they remain subject to male dominance whereas development policies ported to address their plight.

According to [2] in her work on “Measuring Empowerment: A methodical approach” concluded that women bear an unequal burden of world’s poverty and they have higher chances of being poor and hungry due to continuous marginalization which they encounter in provision of health services, education, assets management and employment. Women empowerment as the ability to focus on women groups, is central concerns and values and ability to deal with the social changes that affect women ability to participate and make decision. The author suggest the importance of planning for sustainability women groups from inception. Women’s socio-economic status in both pastoral and agricultural communities is subject to their marital status. Their authority of land resource, which is a basic requirement for agricultural activity, because of their obligations as wives and mothers [3]. A report by SIDA [4] avers that empowerment entails the less powerful in the society acquiring a voice on issues affecting them.

It’s evident that though there exist difference among pastoralist communities, there are basic similarities with deep rooted gender inequalities, diminished social status, low literacy levels and very controlled roles in public life and in ownership of property as compared to other women in society at large [5]. The same study also highlighted retrogressive customary practices such as; polygamy, wife sharing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and the issuance of bride prices encourages demeaning of women.

In Asia, Parvin, et al [6] in the study on “Empowerment of women performances of IGAs as supported through Rural Women Employment Creation Project (RWECP) of Bangladesh showed that there were notable changes were in women’s ability to access basic needs and decision making concerning their households and their ability to access and avail treatment and recreation. A report by [7] showed that women took up 75% of availed credit funds and utilized through acquisition of livestock loans, which is an attractive investment, which interacts well with their normal homestead chores. The report concluded that women are dependable in production and as the borrowers of credit, they are disadvantaged because of lack of knowledge, information, peer pressure and gender sensitization has frequently had favorable results.

A report by [7] on empowering of women through groups in a case of India” observed that women do well compared to men in initiating maintainable income generating projects although they need proper capacity to efficiently and effectively manage the initiatives.

In Africa, for many generations, women have traditionally engaged in bringing together resources during difficult times and in societal functions regardless of their poor socio-economic status [8]. Women groups trigger and sustain economic and social empowerment giving women associated non-domestic pursuits. Study findings by [9] established a positive correlation between enterprise developments initiatives of women groups, training, loaning initiatives to groups of women and empowering women overly. Further, the study found women formed or joined women groups in order to meet basic needs in the family, enhance saving, enhance income generating activities and to access credit facilities.

The situation of women empowerment initiative in East Africa illustrated by [10]. In their study on Empowering pastoralist women economically which compared program encounters in Sudan, Uganda and Somaliland, concluded that traditionalists, Islamists and men oppose social change because empowering a woman results to men losing power, their domineering status and selfish privileges only reserved for men.

In Kenya, [11] observed that women groups ensure the survival of both rural and urban women, through merry go rounds, which provide affordable sources of financial resources that could be invested in income generating activities as well as personal development. There also existed the traditional mutual assistance groups among different Kenyan ethnic groups, which formed the nucleus of the prevailing women groups [12].

The overall purpose of women groups is to ensure individuals socio-economic improvement for its group members and their community. The qualitative involvement of women frequently succeeds collective efforts of self-help groups among in Kenya [13]. Women are at better position to stir for social

behavior change among their peers and it is hitherto important for women to rise and lead others towards the change they deserve.

In Kenya women, groups have grown exponentially, by the mid-1980s there were estimated 15,000 –20,000 self-help groups and currently 800, 000 registered women groups are registered. [14] concluded that groups have a major stake in linking women tap on opportunities accorded to them by the governmental and nongovernmental actors and their main activities comprise group meetings, group money and items contributions, group farming, savings and credit, creative income generating ventures, faith related engagement and assorted social support events. Together with the NGOs, women’s groups have helped raise the status of women.

There is expansion of the women's group movement as demonstrated through the rise of associations and women groups involved in agricultural and social welfare in the rural areas. Women group’s projects and activities comprise a significant percentage of self-help concern in the countryside. Women groups in Kenya today, form relatively more successful categories applying the principles of self-help development, if we view women aside against other social groups.

Statement of the Problem

There exists a systematic exclusion of women from social, political activities and economic initiatives. This is despite their pivotal and important contribution as teachers, mothers, health workers, and farm workers in addition to other important roles, which are key in the community. This is further manifest through minimal political participation, regressive traditions, skewed access to jobs, diminished voices in the society, poor access to education and ownership of property. This has for generations contributed towards condemning women to eternal poverty and social economic deprivation.

According to Kenya Vision 2030, a large number of pastoralist women live in Semi-Arid and arid regions of Kenya, usually under developed though the government has developed the blue prints for their empowerment. [15] observe that challenges faced by pastoralist’s women relates to; discriminating traditions, unequal gender roles, lack of access to resources, education and trainings. This situation was further compounded by the structural adjustment programs (SAP) adopted by the government of Kenya which resulted in redundancy government workers which left women vulnerable due to gender inequalities.

Women groups have become a powerful tool of transforming society by empowering women, to acquire assets, make decision about their families and communities and access credit for businesses. By July 2013, 20,000 women groups were registered. [16] Significant rise compared to 13,529 groups registered in 2005 as indicated by [17]. In Tiaty sub-county in Baringo County 5000 registered women groups

exists geared towards economic empowerment of women in the region [18]. However, inequalities meted towards women still exists in pastoralist communities regardless of the continued rise in the number of women groups.

Few studies exist on sustainability of women empowerment groups among pastoralist communities in Kenya. [19] Explains that pastoralist women are the best success in realizing empowerment in control of resources and making decisions. Poor literacy, non-access of information and barriers to women's physical movement hinders pastoralist women empowerment [10]. Further, [20] examines the marginalization of women in the pastoral regions of East Africa and Horn of Africa concludes that women are pivotal in livestock production and yet their input and contribution lacks at the community and policy levels.

Objectives of the Study

The study objectives were:

- i. To establish influence of income generating activities on sustainability of women empowerment groups in Tiaty sub county
- ii. To determine the influence of social capital on sustainability of women empowerment groups in Tiaty sub county

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sustainability of women empowerment groups

An Evaluation of a CARE projects working with women groups in Zanzibar by [21] found evidence that loans to groups had significantly boosted the capacity of households to generate income. The use of groups increased household assets and knowledge on how to use financial capital. [22] studied; 'Understanding the West Nile SLAs and Charting a path for the future in Uganda, arrived at the conclusion that groups were mainly composed of low income women which help overcome the challenge of market access better than any other way of outreach. Furthermore this study found that the flexibility of women groups had enabled them be utilized in other areas such as providing emergency loans and welfare funds.

Globally, women development projects have demonstrated significant role especially in the low and middle-income nations [23]. In Kenya, the interest of government in women groups grew at around the between 1970s and 1980s leading to the rapidly increase of women groups in the entire nation [24]. This study in addition avers women groups profoundly changed from welfare household enhancement to income led and savings initiatives and extending their assistance from member of their groups to other needy groups in the society.

Income generating activities and sustainability of women empowerment groups

Sustainability of women empowerment projects as viewed through a wider scope as observed by [25] where she

concluded that in order to ensure sustainability of the women projects especially when external funding is no longer there, beneficiary's involvement must be throughout the project lifecycle. She singles out transparency and accountability as key elements. It must however be noted that her study involved women groups in the context of donor funding. An assessment by [26] on 'Impact Evaluation of Kupfuma Ishunga CARE international project in Arusha, Tanzania found evidence that the use of women groups to advance loans had contributed to an increase in business and consumer assets amongst group member households. The researchers however found out that enabling the use of capital in other activities apart from small livestock and school fees was not successful. In Malawi, [27] found evidence that women groups had helped increase household income and diversification of economic activities.

[28] the study on Influence of women participation in groups on Socio Economic development of rural communities in Kenya reported that women groups are meant to empower women in the community but it fails since the investments are managed by husbands and sons. The element of control of the investment by men can deal a huge blow to the sustainability of the groups projects as those who labor are not the beneficiaries. [29] Determinants of sustainability of women self-help groups in Mombasa Island found that minimal skills affected the sustainability of group the most. The study further cited lack of obligation and financial challenges among members as the major hindrance in the management and growth of the women groups. Further, [29] observed that inadequate access to advisory services by the groups was major challenge in sustaining the women self-help groups.

Empirical evidence from measuring the Impact of Income-Generating Projects on Women's Empowerment Outcomes: Evidence from Rural Morocco by [30] showed that implementation of income generating projects among women lead to a significant increase in their empowerment by 14.21% and 39.63% while assessed using Propensity Score Matching Instrumental Variable and methods respectively. However, findings observed a challenge in obtaining empirical data for this kind of analysis.

According to [31] in his study in Tinderet sub County of Nandi County which targeted 122 registered women self-help groups with 1220 members showed that women who participated and belonging in women groups had an income rise. Findings also showed that women had greater self-confidence and assumed greater role in making decisions regarding the household needs. Moreover, some of the challenges faced by women were on collateral for loans, and delays in paying monthly personal contributions.)

[32] Explored the responsibilities and roles played by women groups in pastoralist regions; Kachia, Bokkos and Jos Plateau in Nigeria in regards to their contribution in human health and animal health development. The research findings showed that women empowerment groups promoted physical, social and

psychological health towards women engagement in incomes creating projects among groups. Further, groups with sustained self-help initiatives exhibited a desire to better their livelihoods in the face of challenging environment and social cultural constraints. Women engagement in self-help groups of livestock production was a strong force in among pastoralists in enhancing human and environmental sustainability. The study further shows evidence of a relationship between income generating activities among women groups and sustainability of women empowerment projects.

Social capital and sustainability of women empowerment groups

Social capital is the arrangement between how individuals relate to each other. Social capital has elements of social structures that lead to actions by individuals and collectively as groups

There is evidence that social capital increases women ability to acquire knowledge and information, get technology and access. Additionally, social capital widens the options for households in identifying agricultural technology and a variety of substitute investment, which in return affects the diffusion of knowledge because of social relationships and networks. Women groups and networks are essential in mobilization of social capital by allowing men and women to participate in challenging gender barriers and class divides [33].

There are few practical tools for use by policymakers in assessing the effects of social capital as illustrated through impact on women economic growth. [34] Wrote that multi-country studies though informative, have proved less useful in social policy design as they fail to establish the causes and linkages between social capitals and growth of women empowerment groups.

[35] Studied how social is impacts by women. Social capital encompasses social networks and social intelligence. The study by [35] observed that the situation of women before they engaged in social networking was dire and after engaging in social networks their household income increased because through the social networks they engaged in income generating activities. The study concluded that there was increased income and control over it by women, their ability to incur expenditure, increased access to credit and a rise in savings among women. It is clear that social capital is critical in women ability to participate in making decision at the household and the element of social networks through groups contributes to women empowerment in all spheres.

A report by [36] observed that in sub-Saharan Africa, 69% women are entrepreneurial as compared to 56% of male counterparts. Consequently, Sub-Saharan Africa holds the highest women entrepreneurial rates in the world. It also observed that women are initiating IGAs at regular rate 80% above that of men. Additionally, worldwide, female initiate

IGAs due to need as opposed to opportunities. In sub-Saharan Africa, 36% of females set up business as matter of need. This is a result of gender polices instituted by governments and development agencies towards women empowerment programs. In comparison to the study [35], women are capable of networking and enhancing social capital and this is evident in their entrepreneurial capabilities.

Women participation in-groups helped them improve their social economic status by harnessing the social capital of all members from different backgrounds and levels of empowerment. Kenya has a commitment to fast tracking the policy framework towards women empowerment by providing the necessary platform for women to establish networks and create social capital among themselves.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is anchored on Social network and Asset building theories.

Social Network Theory

Social network theory focuses on how the social structure affects individual and or group relationships in solving their problems. This theory was the work of J. A. Barnes. A social network is composed of individuals or organizations with ties between them and through such ties, individuals or groups determine ways on how to solve their problems. This perspective of a social network provides a way of analyzing social entities and explaining patterns that are in the social entities. To understand social entities a technique known as social network analysis identifies patterns, understand influential entities and understand the dynamics of the network

The construct of a social network provides a theoretical framework that is useful in studying relationships among individuals, groups and organizations. The ties that connect social units are the common contacts that belong to individual units. To be able to understand how social interaction happens, social network theory argues the relationships between units that need investigation instead of the units themselves.

In regards to this study, the researcher found this theory very useful because it explained the importance of relationships formed in a social network. This laid a theoretical foundation for the hypothesis that women come together into groups because relationships formed in these groups are important in solving their problems, thus empowerment. It is through these groups that women enjoy the freedom to choose how they want to attain their empowerment. At an individual level contacts that are obtained from these groups interactions are important in pursuing economic resources. At a group, level the collective bargaining obtained enables women to form beneficial relationships with other organizations such as banks, NGO's and governments. This explains why women can easily form groups since their individual interests and links coupled in a group makes women more prosperous.

Asset-Building Community Theory

Assets building community theory is a changing conceptual theory that describes the form and changing aspects of areas and settings. It underpins a continuous and level asset building energy for youth and children. Developmentally attentive communities and multiple community residents’ relationship with children youth, socializing and building community action are a product of economic and governmental platforms directly or indirectly. It represents an emergency conceptualization and inquiry advancing asset-building capacity to individuals and systems. Access to growing experiences such as affirmations, support, connectives, empowerment, engagement and socializing systems have positive empowerment of those involved (Benson & Saito, 2011). Being supportive and connected is a predictive significant of good health.

Conceptual Framework

Conceptual structure is a graphical mapping of the interrelationship between various variables. The independent variable is a factor that determines the behavior or result of another variable while the dependent variable is a factor that is capable of determining the effect of the independent variable if observed over time and measured.

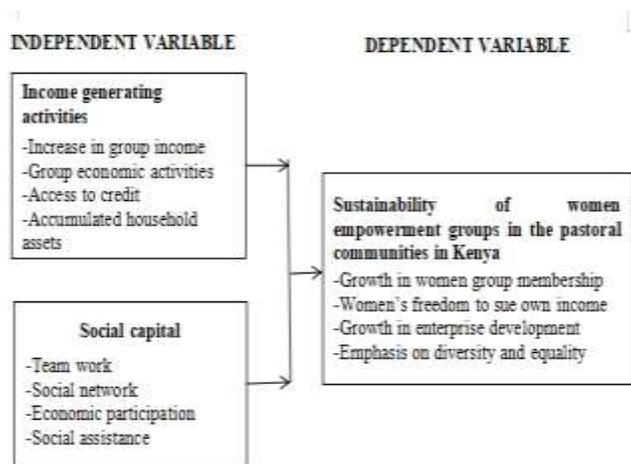


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive-survey design is used for this study. The descriptive survey design involved gathering data that described events and then organizing, tabulating, depicting, and describing the data. Descriptive studies portray the variables by answering who, what, and how questions [37]. The descriptive survey research design assisted in collecting quantitative and qualitative data to answer the study questions to determine the effects of social-economic factors on sustainability of women empowerment groups in Tiaty Sub County in Baringo County.

The study targeted registered women groups in Tiaty Sub County, Tiaty constituency of Baringo County. The unit of observation was registered women empowerment groups composing of women in all women empowerment groups engaged in various activities in social projects, financial, livestock, business and mixed activities. Government officials, financial institution officers, community women leaders targeted as key informants. The sample size representing the study population was 384 derived through Fisher et al, 1998 formula. Simple random, proportionate stratification and purposive sampling techniques adopted. Key informant interview (KII) guides collected qualitative data while structured questionnaires were to collect quantitative data. Pearson correlation coefficients was used for inferential statistics to predict income generating activities and social capital influence sustainability of women empowerment.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Response rate

Of the 384 respondents, 380 questionnaires were duly filled returned. This represented a 98.9% response rate. The response rate achieved in the study was sufficient for the analysis of this study.

Demographic Information

This section analyses the demographic pattern of the respondents among them being, distribution of respondents by site distribution, age, respondents level of education, marital status, source of income, source of cash transfer scheme, number of groups the respondents belong to, and their group benefits.

Distribution of Respondents by site distribution

The study sought to establish the distribution of respondents who took part in the study by site. The results are as shown in table 4.1:

Table 4.1 Participants by site distribution

	Frequency	Percent
Tangulbei	98	25.8
Kolowa	94	24.7
Nginyang	47	12.4
Churo	62	16.3
Mondi	79	20.8
Total	380	100.0

The results indicated the proportional distribution of the study participants by site as follows; Tangulbey 25.8%, Kolowa 24.7%, Nginyang 12.4%, Churo 16.3% and Mondi 20.8%. The highest proportion was 98(25.8%) from Tangulbei and Nginyang had the least proportion at 47(12.4%).

Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education

The study sought to establish the respondents’ level of education so as to find out if the level of education had any

connection with the membership of women empowerment groups. The results are as shown in table 4.2:

Table 4.2: Participant’s education level

	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	112	29.5
Primary	114	30.0
Secondary	82	21.6
Tertiary	72	18.9
Total	380	100.0

The results showed participants education background were as follows; primary education at 30.0% (114), followed by participants with no formal education at 29.5% (112), secondary education had 82 (21.6%) and tertiary education level participants were 18.9% (72). This indicates that majority of the study participants had at least primary education at 59.5% (226). A third 29.5% of the study participants had no formal education. This indicated that at least the women who had attained some formal education found it easy to become members of various women empowerment groups compared to those who did not have.

Distribution of Respondents by Age

The study established the distribution of the respondents by age distribution to find out if age factor had any contribution to members’ membership with various women empowerment groups. The results are as shown in table 4.3:

Table 4.3: Participants’ age distribution

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 18	2	0.5
19 – 24	17	4.5
25 – 35	193	50.8
Greater than 36	168	44.2
Total	380	100.0

Findings from the study showed that 0.5% respondents were less than 18 years, 4.5% were aged between 19-24 years, 50.8% aged between 25-35 year while 44.2% were aged above 36 years. Majority of the study respondents were aged 25 and above years of age at 95.0% (361) the rest were aged below 25 years of age at 5.0% (19). This indicates that majority of women who were able to form women empowerment groups were aged 25-35 years than any other group. This is age group represent the socially active segment of the society.

The study further sought to determine the marital status of the respondents who took part in the study. The results in table 4.4:

Table 4.4: Marital status distribution

	Frequency	Percent
Single, never married	57	15.0
Married, monogamous	197	51.8
Married, polygamous	87	22.9
Divorced/separated	15	3.9
Widowed	24	6.3
Total	380	100.0

The respondents who were married in a monogamous relationship were the majority at 51.8% (197), participants in a polygamous relationship were 22.9% (87), those who were single were 15.0% (57) and the respondents who were divorced/separated and widowed were 3.9% and 6.3% respectively. These findings are consistent with other empirical findings which shows that 51.8% majority of pastoralist are married and a significant proportion of 22.9% in polygamous

The study further sought to find out the respondents source of income. The results in table 4.5 Source of income:

APPENDIX 1

A higher proportion of respondents at 67.9% (258) were practicing livestock rearing, while those who were farming were 16.8% (64). Women who earned income from charcoal burning were 0.8% while 15% of the participants were practicing either all or a combination of either two of the income earning activities. These finding are a true representation of the pastoralist women who rear animals as an integral part of their culture.

4.3.6 The Groups income generating activities

The study sought to determine the respondents groups’ income generating activities. The results are as indicated in table 4.6: *Group’s income generating activities*

APPENDIX 2

The respondents who affirmed that they were participating in financial services were 87.4% , with 61.3% engaging in business, 10.0% social project, 17.9% mixture of activities, 65.0%) group provide loan services to its members, 34.2% of groups were offered a loan facilities from the government and 25.8% of women in women’s group were enrolled in a cash transfer program. These finding indicate that sustainability of women groups majorly depends on income generating activities such as financial services, small businesses, social project and a mixture of activities.

4.3.7: Source of Cash Transfer Scheme

The study further sought to determine the respondents’ source of cash transfer scheme. The findings are as shown in table 4.7:

Table 4.7: Source of cash transfer scheme

	Frequency	Percent
N/a	282	74.2
WFP	37	9.7
Red Cross	2	.5
World Vision Kenya	43	11.3
Government	9	2.4
InuaJamii Fund	6	1.6
Uwezo	1	.3
Total	380	100.0

The study results showed that majority 11.3% had cash transfers from World Vision Kenya and 9.7% from WFP. Only 4.3% indicated that they had received cash transfer from either the Government, Inua Jamii Fund or Uwezo fund. The findings show that through government has rolled out various social assistance programs, a majority of the respondent had not benefited from them. However, the NGOs cash transfer programs appeared to have a significance-combined proportion of 21.5% as compared to 4.3%

4.3.8: Number of Groups the Respondents belongs to

The study sought to find out the number of women groups the respondents were able to subscribe to. The findings are as shown in table 4.8:

Table 4.8: Number of group’s women belongs to

	Frequency	Percent
One group	305	80.3
More than 1 group	75	19.7
Total	380	100.0

Finding showed that the total number of women who were in at least one group were 80.3% while 19.7% of the women participants belonged to more than one. The results therefore indicate that majority of the women found it easy to subscribe to one group rather than more than one.

4.3.9: Number of years the Respondents have been in their first group

The study further determined the number of years the respondents had been in the first group. The results are as indicated in table 4.9:

Table 4.9: Number of years you been in your group one

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5	176	46.3
6 – 10	65	17.1
11 – 20	47	12.4
Greater 21	92	24.2
Total	380	100.0

Further findings on number of years one had been in a group showed women who had less than 5 years were 46.3% with participants with greater than 21 years in the group at 24.2%. Women with 6 – 10 years were at 17.1% while respondent who had between 11 – 20 years were 12.4%. The largest percentage of women who had less than five years membership can be attributed to the earlier findings that revealed that the greatest age group of women who were in the groups were of ages 25-35 years, and had only subscribed to one group. Qualitative findings further showed that a majority of the women groups had not been in existence for a long period and that they had initiated with support from donors and other organizations:

“Most of these women groups have not existed for many years; they are mostly initiated by organizations who come to support women in our community.....”

(Social services Officer)

4.3.10: Benefits of Women Group Membership

The study further sought to establish the key benefit of the women empowerment groups as it played a major factor in attracting the groups of women in joining them. The results are as depicted in table 4.10: *Benefits of women group membership*

APPENDIX 3

Majority of the women indicated that they had benefitted through group membership by having household assets, small animals, School fees/ school uniforms and loans 22.4% (85), household assets and small animals 20.3% (77), household assets, small animals and School fees/ school uniforms 15.8% (60) the other benefits ranged from 0.5% - 8.2%. The results therefore indicate that household assets, animal feeds and school fees/uniforms through loans were the major determinants for the women membership subscription in the women empowerment groups. In addition, qualitative findings showed that membership in women groups provided an opportunity for women to share and empower each other as captured by the one interview response:

“Yes, I can say women in these communities have been supported; especially those who join women groups. They (donors) mostly come to support widows and those who are going through problems and they help them get an income and support through sharing with other women...For me I can say that these women groups have really empowered women, some bought livestock and others have opened small business to support their families. For me I have seen the good things that have come from having these groups....”

(Sub County Administrator)

4.4: Income Generating Activities and Sustainability of Women empowerment Groups

The first objective of this study was to establish the influence of income generating activities on sustainability of women

empowerment groups in Tiaty Sub County. In order to achieve this objective, the study therefore sought to find out the extent to which income generating activities on sustainability of women empowerment groups. The results are as presented in table 4.11

APPENDIX 4

The study findings from table 4.13 indicate that out of 380 respondents who took part in the study 48.9% (186) strongly agreed, 48.2% (183) agreed and only 2.9% (11) disagreed with the statement that they all understood and were comfortable with the group source of income. The line had a mean and standard deviation ($M=4.43$; $SD= 0.648$), which is an indicator that majority of the respondents well understood their groups source of incomes. On the statement, that they were able to access loans from their groups, 16.1% (61) strongly disagreed, 13.2% (50) disagreed, 0.8% (3) were neutral, 41.3% (157) agreed and 28.7% (109) strongly agreed. Although a majority were not able to access loans, some were able to as captured by this response;

“Not all women are able to get these loans, because you have to have raised some money to qualify; so sometimes it is challenging.....”

(Microfinance Officer)

This could be attributed to wider range of member benefits that the groups offered as earlier established, hence implying that the few women preferred other benefits as opposed to loans. In addition, having had enough savings reported as a consideration to qualify for a loan. The statement had a mean and standard deviation ($M=3.53$; $SD=1.433$). On the statement of family support to attend to income generating activities both at home and in the women empowerment groups, of the respondents who took part in the study, 5.3% (20) strongly disagreed, 8.2% (31) disagreed, 0.3% (1) remained neutral, 61.1% (232) agreed while 25.3% (96) strongly agreed ($M=3.93$; $SD=1.026$). This implies that majority of the women family members were able to support the women in order to enable them become empowered through their groups and at home. Majority also used the proceeds from their groups in supporting their families. An explanation by qualitative findings as captured by the response below:

“In fact we met with one man who told me how happy he was that his wife bought a cow using proceeds from her women groups’ savings. That encourages me to keep supporting women in pastoralist communities and empower them.....”

(Local NGO worker)

Out of 380 respondents who participated in this study, 0.8% (3) strongly disagreed, 0.5% (2) disagreed, 0.3% (1) was neutral, 58.7% (223) agreed and 39.7% (151) strongly agreed that with the statement that through their groups they had learnt new skills on income generating ($M=4.36$; $SD=0.603$). This indicate that majority of the women had benefited in

acquiring the income generating skills through their groups which could be through training or sharing of ideas and experiences among the members in the groups. One of the key informants further reported this:

“When they (women) meet, they get to share and learn from each other, they are even taught new skills by some churches and organizations.”

(Local NGO worker)

Majority of the women also agreed 46.3% (176), 49.7% (189) strongly agreed that they had also learnt to acquire various house hold assets in their groups. The statement had a mean and standard deviation ($M=4.41$; $SD=0.747$). In order to quantitatively establish the relationship between income generating activities and sustainability of women empowerment groups, Pearson correlation was done. The results are as shown in table 4.12:

APPENDIX 5

The results indicate that income generating activities has a strong positive Pearson correlation ($r=0.934$) influence on sustainability of women empowerment projects. This indicate that the income generating activities plays a major role in ensuring that the women empowerment groups remain sustainable for the benefit of the members. These findings are consistent with earlier findings on income generating activities which women groups are engaged in which ranged from financial, merry go rounds, small businesses and mixture of activities.

4.5: Social Capital and Sustainability of Women Empowerment Groups

The second objective of this study was to establish the influence of social capital on sustainability of women empowerment groups in Tiaty Sub County. To achieve this objective, the study sought to establish the degree to which social capital influenced sustainability of women empowerment groups. The findings are as shown in table 4.13:

APPENDIX 6

Out of the 380 respondents who took part in the study, 0.3% (1) disagreed, 0.3% (1) remained neutral, 46.1% (175) agreed and 52.4% (203) strongly agreed with the statement that women groups had helped women to meet other peers within the group who had encouraged them and shared their ideas. The statement had a mean and standard deviation ($M=4.53$; $SD=0.521$). This implied that women groups were a major source of social capital for women in the community.

Concerning the statement that women groups enable women to have a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities 2.6% (10) strongly disagreed, 1.1% (4) agreed, 0.3% (1) was neutral, 57.6% (219) agreed while 38.4% (146) strongly agreed ($M=4.28$; $SD=0.767$). This indicates that

women groups play a very vital role in ensuring that resources and opportunities reach their members.

On the statement that women have equal access to opportunities and resources with men in their community, 34.5% (131) strongly disagreed, 42.6% (162) disagreed, 3.4% (13) remained neutral, 14.7% (56) agreed while 4.7% (18) strongly agreed. The statement had a mean and standard deviation ($M=2.13$; $SD=1.176$), implying that majority of the women still faced challenges in having equal access to opportunities and resources as their male counterparts. This may negatively affect their empowerment.

On the line that being a member of a women's group had enabled women to participate in economic activities in their community, 3.9% (15) strongly disagreed, 5% (19) disagreed, 63.9% (243) agreed, 27.1% (103) strongly agreed. The statement had a mean and standard deviation ($M=4.05$; $SD=0.909$), indicating that majority of the women were able to participate in economic activities courtesy of women empowerment groups.

On the statement that as member of a women's group, they had received emotional and psychosocial support from peers, 0.3% (1) strongly disagreed, 1.1% (4) disagreed, 0.3% (1) was neutral 52.9% (201) agreed, 45.5% (173) strongly agreed. The statement drew a mean and standard deviation ($M=4.42$; $SD=0.587$) indicating that most of the women were able to receive emotional and psychological support from their peers in the women empowerment groups.

The study further sought to establish quantitatively the relationship between social capital and sustainability of women empowerment groups by use of Pearson correlation coefficient. The results in table 4.14;

APPENDIX 7

The analysis in table 4.16 show that social capital has a strong positive Pearson correlation coefficient ($r= 0.835$) influence on sustainability of women empowerment groups. This indicate that social capital factors cannot be ignored whenever considering the sustainability of women empowerment groups as it play a major role in ensuring that women empowerment groups remain sustainable over a long period of time.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The study findings revealed that there was positive relationship between income generating activities and sustainability of women empowerment groups. It is through income generating activities that women were able to become well empowered economically and help in sustaining their programs. Through access to loans and credit, women were able to increase their incomes by putting the accessed money in various projects that could see their resources multiply. Acquiring new skills and training paved way for women to explore various and new paths in increasing their incomes in their groups and sustain their programs and projects for longer

period hence increase their chances of reaching their longtime objectives.

Secondly, there was a great challenge towards equal access to opportunities for the female gender compared to their male counterparts, which was a very big undoing in ensuring the sustainability of women groups' empowerment. On other hand, social capital was key to ensuring there was sustainability of women empowerment groups. This is attributed to women being able to meet their peers with whom they were able to share and encourage each other and end up building confidence among themselves. It is through social capital that women were able to come together and have a stronger voice in seeking opportunities receive emotional and psychological support and participate in economic activities in their respective communities.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

Based on the findings from this study, several recommendations are availed in line with socio-economic factors and sustainability of women empowerment groups in Tiaty sub county, Kenya as follows:

1. Women in groups training and equipping with skills by women and gender departments in the county government. NGOs supporting pastoralists on how to increase channels of income generating both at home and also in the welfare groups as it plays a very crucial role in ensuring that their empowerment groups remain sustainable for long period of time.
2. Proper legislation should enacted by the national government and the county government to ensure that women in pastoralism areas don't face challenges on equal access to opportunities compared to men as it derails their empowerment process.
3. Women should have full freedom to own assets such as land and livestock in their communities. This is achievable by making sure that the male dominance is minimal, as it is a major undoing factor that affects their empowerment
4. Training and ensuring that the women leaders have necessary skills to run their welfare groups is key to ensuring that the programs are well managed and the women groups attain their long term objectives. This will be by the NGOs supporting the women pastoralists and the county government ensuring that they conduct seminars and conferences targeting this group of individuals and women at large to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills and training required in 21st century in running the welfare groups.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Table 4.5: Source of income

	Frequency	Percent
Charcoal Burning	3	0.8
Livestock rearing	258	67.9
Farming	64	16.8
Other, specify	13	3.4
Charcoal Burning, Livestock rearing, Farming, Support from family	17	4.5
Charcoal Burning, Livestock rearing	3	.8
Charcoal Burning, Farming	3	.8
Charcoal Burning, Livestock rearing, Farming	13	3.4
Charcoal Burning, Livestock rearing, Support from family	2	.5
Charcoal Burning, Farming, Support from family	3	.8
Livestock rearing and farming	1	.3
Total	380	100.0

APPENDIX 2

Table 4.6: Group’s income generating activities

	No	Yes
Financial services i.e. merry-Go Round, table banking	48 (12.6)	332 (87.4)

Business (Livestock, Crop, Small Scale Business)	147 (38.7)	233 (61.3)
Social project i.e. Water Project, awareness on HIV/AIDS and FGM, school fees support, poverty eradication, advocacy and economic empowerment	342 (90.0)	38 (10.0)
Mixture of activities	312 (82.1)	68 (17.9)
Group provide loan services to its members	133 (35.0)	247 (65.0)
Group offered any loan facilities from the government	250 (65.8)	130 (34.2)
Member of a women's group are you enrolled in a cash transfer program	282 (74.2)	98 (25.8)

APPENDIX 3

Table 4.10: Benefits of women group membership

	Frequency	Percent
Household assets	16	4.2
Small animals	10	2.6
School fees/ school uniforms	4	1.1
Loans	3	.8
Household assets and small animals	77	20.3
Household assets and School fees/ school uniforms	8	2.1
Household assets and loans	31	8.2
Household assets, small animals and School fees/ school uniforms	60	15.8
Household assets, small animals and loans	30	7.9
Household assets, small animals, School fees/ school uniforms and loans	85	22.4
Household assets, School fees/ school uniforms and loans	26	6.8
Small animals and School fees/ school uniforms	2	.5
Small animals and loans	2	.5
School fees/ school uniforms and loans	6	1.6
Small animals, School fees/ school uniforms and loans	20	5.3
Total	380	100.0

APPENDIX 4

Table 4.11: Influence of income generating activities on sustainability of women empowerment groups

	Mean	Std. Deviation
All women understand and are comfortable with the group source of income	4.43	.648
I have been able to access loan as a member of our women group	3.53	1.433
Our women group has access to loans from local microfinance institutions when needed	3.36	1.551
I get support from my family to attend to income generating projects at home and in the	3.93	1.026

women's group		
I support my husband/spouse with proceeds from my women's group	3.43	1.396
I have learnt new income generating skills to earn a living from our women's group	4.36	.603
I have been able to acquire household assets from proceeds of our women group	4.41	.747
Composite mean and standard deviation	3.92	1.058

APPENDIX 5

Table 4.12: Income generating activities and sustainability correlations

Correlations			
		Sustainability of WEG	Income generating activities
Sustainability of WEG	Pearson Correlation	1	.934**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	380	380
Income generating activities	Pearson Correlation	.934**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	380	380

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

APPENDIX 6

Table 4.13: Influence of social capital on sustainability of women empowerment groups

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Being a member of a women's group has enabled me to meet other women whom we share and encourage each other	4.53	.521
Women groups enable women to have a stronger voice in seeking resources and opportunities	4.28	.767
Women have equal access to opportunities and resources with men in our community	2.13	1.176
As a member of a women's group, I feel more empowered as a woman in my community	3.86	1.072
Being a member of a women's group has enabled me to participate in economic activities in my community	4.05	.909
As a member of a women's group, I have received emotional and psychosocial support from my peers	4.42	.587
Composite mean and standard deviation	3.87	0.859

APPENDIX 7

Table 4.14: Social capital and sustainability correlation

Correlations			
		Sustainability of WEG	Social capital
Sustainability of WEG	Pearson Correlation	1	.835**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	380	380
Social capital	Pearson Correlation	.835**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	380	380
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			