THE IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS ON THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

A CASE STUDY OF WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA

BY

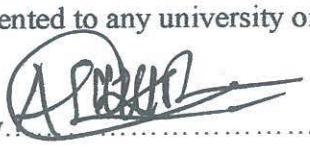
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A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER, 2013

DECLARATION

I ABDULLAHI B. MAALIM hereby declare that this is my original work and has never been presented to any university or institution for the a ward of Diploma or Degree

Signed by. Date 19/09/2013

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research has been under my supervision and it is now ready for submission to Kampala International University with my approval as the university supervisor.

Signed by……

Mr.HENRY BARASA

Date…19/9/2013

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my beloved mother Mrs. Abshira Mogow Ali for her parental support and encouragement through out my studies and entire life. I am grateful to her who have toiled and sacrificed all her effort for my success as seen in parental care, guidance, moral, material, and financial support.

Thank you Hoyo macan.

I also dedicate this piece of work to my brothers Mohamed Bashir and in particular Abdi Aziz Bashir who has been taking care of all my financial need throughout my studies in all possible ways. Through their parental care, guidance and moral support this piece of work is successfully complete. May God grant them all their wishes.

Thank you my brothers.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

MFI	Microfinance Institution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SEDP	Small Enterprise Development Program
WWF	Working Women's Forum

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Wajir County to examine the impact of microfinance institutions on women empowerment. The objectives of the study were to examine the impact of microfinance on women's incomes, to find out other economic benefits of microfinance to women and to identify the challenges hindering microfinance as a tool of women empowerment.

A review of relevant literature was done and compared with the study findings.

The study was descriptive and cross-sectional in design and the researcher employed qualitative and quantitative approaches for data analysis.

The study noted that microfinance improves women's income levels. It also noted a number of benefits which women benefit from participation in microfinance programmes which are improved confidence to claim for political and legal rights, increased decision making power, reduced domestic violence and workload, more participation in politics, and increased asset ownership rights among others. However, the study revealed that although microfinance has been successful in empowering women; it is still hindered by many hindrances. The study concluded that microfinance institutions play a major role in the empowerment through improving women's income.

The study recommended that MFIs should reduce interest on loans advanced to women, that the management of MFIs should train women in loan management programs, and that management should the increase the size of loans advanced to women and women entrepreneurs.

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The term "microfinance institutions" is generally used to refer to those financial institutions that are characterized by their commitment to assisting typically poor households and small enterprises in gaining access to financial service (Ledgerwood, 2002).

MFIs in Kenya consist of moneylenders, micro-finance agencies, Non Government Organizations (NGOs), rural farmers' schemes and savings societies that provide savings and/or credit facilities to micro and small-scale business people who have experienced difficulties obtaining such services from the formal financial institutions. Their range of activities include; deposit taking, savings schemes, small-scale enterprises, agriculture, real estate, group lending, retail financial services, giving advice on financial matters and training in business management (Binswanger, 1995).

Women empowerment is a process of change by which the women gain power ability to take control over their lives. It involves increased well being, access to resources, self confidence, self esteem and respect, participation in decision making and bargaining power and increased control over benefits and their lives (Bagati, 2001).

Throughout the old history of microfinance, women have not always been the centre of attention. In Europe and North America, the first initiatives of the cooperative and mutualistic movement showed little interest for women. Lemire (2001) finds that the proportion of women in the cooperative movement hardly reached 10 per cent. With a quarter of female clients, mostly widows and unmarried, the 18th century Irish funds were

an exception, possibly because of their very small loan amounts (Hollis, 2001). Not only have women been historically disadvantaged in access to material resources like credit, property, and money, but they have also been excluded from social resources like education or insider knowledge of some businesses.

Microfinance an inductive tool of poverty reduction has led to the empowerment of women relieving them from debt and financial burden. Women in poverty and unsecured household need completely a different set of microfinance mechanism that would substantiate their standard of living. Microfinance services lead to women's empowerment by positively influencing women's decision-making power and enhancing their overall socio-economic status. Microfinance Institution (MFI), attempts to eradicate poverty and thereby confer financial and social empowerment of women. An attempt is to explore the reasons why MFIs concentrate on economically poor especially women.

However, according to Mayoux (1999), women are facing discrimination in terms of access to credit and other financial services. All financial institutions invariably neglect women who make up a large and growing segment of the informal economy. Studies show that women's ability to benefit from access micro credit is often still limited by the disadvantages they experience because of their gender. Some MFIs are providing a decreasing percentage of loans to women, even as these institutions grow and offer new loan products. Others have found that on average women's loan sizes are smaller than those of men, even when they are in the same credit program, the same community, and the same lending group.

Wajir County is found in North Eastern Part of Kenya formerly known as North-Eastern Province. Microfinance institutions in the area discriminate against and as such women do not get access to credit and if they get access to credit, the credit terms are unfavorable for women. It is against this background that this study will be conducted in Wajir County to examine the impact of microfinance institutions on the economic empowerment of women.

1.2 Problem statement

Although women's access to credit has increased substantially in the past decade, their ability to benefit from this access is often still limited by the disadvantages they experience because of their gender (Mayoux, 1999). In some parts of the world women remain marginalized as microfinance clients. And even where women's access to microfinance has been established, the virtuous spiral of access and empowerment for women is not automatic.

Studies by Bagati (2001) have shown that women sometimes have little or no control over their loan, with the husband or male family member making all decisions. For example, on average women's loan sizes are smaller than those of men, even when they are in the same credit program, the same community, and the same lending group.

Therefore for women to be empowered, microfinance institutions should design products and services that target women and ensure that these products are favorable to women as they are to men. With the above events at stake, this study will be conducted to examine the impact of microfinance institutions on the empowerment of women in Wajir county.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

The general objective of this study was to examine the impact of Microfinance Institutions on the economic empowerment of women.

1.3.2 Specific objectives of study

- To find out the impact of MFI's on women's income in Wajir County.
- To identify other economic benefits of MFI's to women in Wajir County.
- To identify challenges/ problems faced by MFI's in empowering women in Wajir County.

1.4 Research questions

- What is the impact of MFI's on women's income in Wajir County?
- What are the other economic benefits of MFI's to women in Wajir County?
- What challenges/ problems are faced by MFI's in empowering women in Wajir County?

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Subject scope

The study focused on the impact of Microfinance institutions on the economic empowerment of women.

1.5.2 Geographical scope

The study was confined to Wajir County located in Northern Eastern part of Kenya. The choice of the place was dictated by the fact that the area is well endowed with women credit associations and Microfinance institutions.

1.5.2 Time scope

The period understudy was 2010-2011.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study will be useful to a number of stakeholders;

- To the women of Wajir County, the findings will provide a basis for government intervention in the economic empowerment of women. This will influence the decisions of microfinance institutions towards the economic empowerment of women.
- Policy makers like AMFIU will use the findings to impose policies on MFIs that discriminate against women and to design policies that protect women.
- The researcher will get the opportunity to apply research skills and theory in practical setting which is the requirement for the award of a Bachelors degree of Business Administration of Kampala International University.
- The findings will provide a useful source of literature for future researchers.

1.7 Conceptual framework of the study

Independent variables

Microfinincing the women

1. Educating the women
2. Funding the women
3. Enterprenuership programme
4. Women behind empowered financially.

Dependent variables

Economic empowerment

1. Income generation
2. Improved lifestyle
3. Improved standard of living
4. Growth of business and economy
5. knowledgable business wise

Interviening variables

1. Improved intervention flow
2. Technology
3. Empowering women
4. Improved lifesyle

CHAPTER TWO:
LITERAURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents views of scholars about the impact of Microfinance institutions on empowerment of women. It presents literature on the impact of microfinance institutions on women's incomes, other economic benefits of microfinance institutions for women and the problems faced by microfinance as a tool of empowering women.

2.1 The impact of MFI's on women's income

According to the State of the Micro credit Summit Campaign 2001 Report, 14.2 million of the world's poorest women now have access to financial services through Specialized microfinance institutions (MFIs), banks, NGOs, and other non bank financial institutions. These women account for nearly 74 percent of the 19.3 million of the world's poorest people now being served by microfinance institutions. Most of these women have access to credit to invest in businesses that they own and operate themselves. The vast majority of them have excellent repayment records, in spite of the daily hardships they face. Contrary to conventional wisdom, they have shown that it is a very good idea to lend to the poor and to women.

Women's access to credit is generally believed to result in their economic empowerment. As a result, the provision of microfinance to women has been called for by various international and national organizations in light of their productive role for economic development and women's rights. However, many still question the empowering capacity

of credit in relation to the economic social and political conditions of women. (Mayoux, 2002)

The impact of microfinance on income has been observed to be variable. It appears that for the majority of borrowers income increases are small and even in some cases negative. This is due to the fact that most women invest in existing activities which are low profit and insecure. In addition, women's choices and ability to increase income is constrained by gender inequalities in access to other resources for investment in household responsibility and lack of mobility (Mayoux, 2002).

In a study of the Small Enterprise Development Program (SEDP) in Bangladesh, Kabeer (1999), found that although empowerment and well-being benefits substantially increased when women controlled their loans and used them for their own income-generating activities, just the act of bringing financial resources to the household in the form of credit was enough to secure at least some benefits for the majority of women in her study.

Hence, the presumption that access to credit automatically leads to women's empowerment is not often true. This is because women with access to credit are usually unable to gain and maintain control of it. In addition there are additional disadvantages that women face including inability to access information, productive resources and social networks that hider their access to and control of resources (Mayoux, 2002).

As mentioned earlier, access to microfinance, by and large, has a positive economic impact. The impact becomes larger for those closer to the poverty line and it also

increases with the duration of membership or intensity of loans as members begin to invest in assets rather than consumption (Morduch and Haley 2001). Microfinance delivery in various points of the world has improved the economic position of households, enhancing the asset base and diversification in to higher return occupations among members.

2.2 Other economic benefits of MFI's for women

Microfinance institutions around the world have been quite creative in developing products and services that avoid barriers that have traditionally kept women from accessing formal financial services such as collateral requirements, male or salaried guarantor requirements, documentation requirements, cultural barriers, limited mobility, and literacy. Nevertheless, in a number of countries and areas few or no institutions offer financial services under terms and conditions that are favorable to women (Bagati, 2001).

By giving women access to working capital and training, microfinance helps mobilize women's productive capacity to alleviate poverty and maximize economic output. In this case, women's entitlement to financial services, development aid, and equal rights rests primarily on their potential contribution to society rather than on their intrinsic rights as human beings and members of that society (Noni, 2001).

Micro finance programs have generally targeted poor women by providing access to financial services only through women—making women responsible for loans, ensuring repayment through women, maintaining savings accounts for women, providing insurance coverage through women—micro finance programs send a strong message to

households as well as to communities.. Women have become more assertive and confident (FDEA, 2000).

Microfinance empowers women by putting capital in their hands and allowing them to earn an independent income and contribute financially to their households and communities. The economic empowerment is expected to generate increased self-esteem, respect and other forms of empowerment for women beneficiaries. It is clearly visible that involvement in successful income generating activities should translate into greater control and empowerment (Narayan, 2002).

Other benefits for women
Improved Decision making

Women ability and influence to take up a decision is dependent on what type of decision and the degree of participation in decision making process. A study conducted on Women's Empowerment shows that an average of 68 percent of women in its program experienced an increase in their decision-making roles in the areas of family planning, children's marriage, buying and selling property, and sending their daughters to school—all areas of decision making traditionally dominated by men *(*Ashe & Parrott, 2001*)*.

Self –Confidence

According to Ashe and Parrott (2001), a difficult area to measure in terms of empowerment is self confidence but it relates with the women's perception and actual level of skill and capabilities. Any program of its nature will bring a drastic change in terms of self-confidence and self esteem. The increased result will show an improved effect in the level of knowledge in understanding the issues around themselves and business knowledge that will improve the financial conditions.

Women Status and Gender Indiscrimination:

According to MkNelly et al (2001), new and improved roles by women show an improved relationship with men within the household. All the people at home may help the women but the process of managing gets a difficult task when it comes for utilizing loan. Hence the economic role of women remains sustained and it has not lead to substantial changes.

Family relationship

Microfinance strengthens and improves family relationship rather than destroying it. Palier (2005) identified that family relationship have improved and home has become a comfortable place to live in and this results in her contribution productively and lessen the case of abuse. A study on the impact of rural credit program states fear of public exposure clearly played a role in the reduction of violence but there is considerable anecdotal evidence of women attributing the reduction of abuse directly to their access to credit and their economic contribution to the household. Another study suggests that the level of women's economic contribution to the family may also be significant (Kabeer, 1996).

Women Involvement in the community

Since women are making financial contribution to their family they confer greater legitimacy and value than ever before. Women also perceive more respect and dignity from the male counterparts once after functionally joining microfinance program. If given a freedom to move the success is invisible which can pave for gaining self respect and value from the society (Palier, 2005).

Political participation and Women's rights:

MFIs do concentrate on mobilizing the political skill of the women through an advocacy of programmes that may nurture their knowledge of participating in political parties, exhibiting the leadership styles, representing the elections and mobilizing the group. Working Women's Forum (WWF) in India has been successful in mobilizing very large numbers of women for political and legal changes that support women's rights and

2.3 Challenges of micro credit as a tool to the empowerment of women

There are cases where micro credit has not acted as a tool to the empowerment of women. The factors for this situation may be gender related;

Sustainable development: This calls for maximum and equal participation of both men and women in the economic, political and social cultural development.

Other problems that have contributed immensely to the failure of micro credit not being an effective to women empowerment include;

Disparities realized in advancement between men and women and these involve women poverty, inaccessibility to education, women's property and inheritance rights, elimination of gender inequality in employment, access to health care, and related service, limited women's share in governance at national and local levels, combating violence against women, trafficking of women and children into forced marriages, prostitution, bonded labour and domestic servitude, gender related barriers to access justice (Narayan, 2002).

Disadvantaged gender, some MFIs are providing a decreasing percentage of loans to women even as there institutions grow and offer new products. Others have found that on average women's loan sizes are smaller than those of men even when they are in small

credit programmes, some community and some lending groups. This may be as a result of women's great poverty or limited capacity of women's business to absorb capital (Narayan, 2002).

Cultural factor; it is sometimes felt in the third world countries that women's empowerment is a western concept. The question has been raised not only in microfinance but also in broader field of international development. Whether it is ethical and appropriate for development institutions to promote women's empowerment. The empowerment or disempowerment of women and other groups in each society is closely linked to the culture of the society. The promotion of women's empowerment implies advocacy for cultural and social change, which some fear is an inappropriate imposition of "western" values or non-western societies (Rahman, 1996).

Extreme poverty of women; as cited by Gibbons (1992), inmost cases credit was not creating a "virtuous circle" to break 'vicious circle' of poverty and was not empowering women. The findings reveal that credit was not a simple magic ingredient to reduce poverty or empower women. Credit has a complex and negative and neutral impact depending on who receives it and on a set of persons with specific factors not all poor rural women who take credit experience similar and predictable changes in their poverty situation. This provides support to the evidence that credit has limited and negative effects on the rural poor, (Khandker and Hulme, 2000).

However, there are also a number of issues within the women's empowerment framework that impede the poverty reduction capacity of microfinance (Skarlatos, 2004). First the size of the loans is too small which does not enable the women to make long lasting

income change for the household. Secondly, the increased access to credit in the same geographic area could contribute to market saturation of products provided by women. This is because poor women usually engage in similar businesses. Thirdly, there is the possibility that the women's successful business might have a negative impact on the girl-child who might be required to help her mother leaving the school.

Women have a stake in the overall economic achievement of the household. However, in societies where there are restrictions on women's public mobility the impacts of microfinance on women are marginal or even nonexistent. In addition, the economic impact of microfinance on women depends on whether they have full control over the loan secured and their voice in house hold decision making (Goetz and Gupta, 1996).

Problems faced by women entrepreneurs

Key issues facing new and growing women -owned enterprises in the United States include access to capital, access to information, and access to networks. In Korea, women business owners experience financing and the effort to balance work and family as their most difficult tasks. Indonesian women entrepreneurs on the other hand, have difficulties in exporting their product overseas and in increasing the volume of production, both of which are of importance for their competition in the global market (Cheston, and Kuhn, (2002). Lee-Gosselin and Grise (1990) as cited in Maysami et al. (1999) found that in general, the most common start-up problems seem to be lack of capital. Also important was lack of confidence in female business owners' abilities on the part of banks, suppliers, and clients alike, as well as family issues.

In a study by Barwa (2003) on women entrepreneurs in Vietnam, the author found that women face additional handicaps due to the prevailing social and cultural gender-based inequalities and biases. For instance, the barriers that women entrepreneurs face in accessing credit from formal institutions is magnified in view of their limited access to formal education, ownership of property, and social mobility. Other aspects of unequal access to opportunities and markets include business experiences, limited knowledge of marketing strategies, weak business associations, lack of networking facilities, and poor access to education and training programmes. In a study by Karim (2001) on women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, financial problems were the most common problems faced by their women entrepreneurs. Inadequate financing was ranked first, particularly so in rural areas and among small economic units (fewer than 5 workers), all the more so with those located in the household and unregistered sectors.

In Kenya (UNIDO Document, 2003), women entrepreneurs in rural areas suffer from a lack of training and advisory services that would allow them to upgrade their managerial and technical skills and solve immediate production problems, thus improving productivity and increasing profitability. In Kenya, where more than 70 percent of enterprises employ less than 20 people, micro- and small enterprises play an important role in the economic and social life of the majority of citizens.

CHAPTER THREE:

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section presents the methodological focus that guide the researcher. The specific areas include research design, area of study, sample size, data collection methods, data sources, data processing, analysis and presentation, ethical considerations, research procedure as well as anticipated problems and limitations.

3.1 Research design

A descriptive case study was presented, emphasizing both qualitative and quantitative aspects of data about the impact of microfinance institutions on empowerment of women.

3.2 Area of the study

The area of the study was Wajir County which is located in North Eastern part of Kenya.

3.3 Sample size

Random sampling was used to select a total of 60 women respondents. These women were clients of microfinance institutions. Random sampling will be used to avoid bias in selecting the respondents.

3.4 Methods of data collection

The major method of data collection for the study was the questionnaire, which was reinforced with an interview guide. The questionnaires provided respondents with ample time to comprehend the questions raised and hence were able to answer factually.

3.4.1 Questionnaire

These contained structured and open questions about systems, activities and procedures. A questionnaire guide was used as the major instrument for the study. The questionnaire

measured responses on a 5 point scale using agreement statements of agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree and not sure

3.4.2 Interviews

Oral face to face interviews were held with women. The questions reflected in the interview guide corresponded to those raised in the questionnaire.

3.5 Sources of data

There were two sources of data

3.5.1 Primary data

This comprised of all the responses achieved through the questionnaire and interviews.

3.5.2 Secondary data

This comprised of literature related to Microfinance institutions and women empowerment. The literature was obtained from text books, journals, the internet and other published sources.

3.6 Reliability and validity of data

All the data that respondents provided was treated as important and revealed in the analysis. It was then checked and edited several times by the researcher. This act was done to ensure reliability of data. The validity of data was ensured by designing relevant questions that generated the study data. To ensure greater chances of data validity, questionnaire and interview items were reviewed with the research supervisor for expert advice.

3.7 Data processing and analysis

After data collection, manual editing and sorting was done using Microsoft Word. Findings were presented in frequency, percentages and graphs. Data analysis was done using a 5 point Likert model showing the extent of respondents' agreement.

3.8 Ethical considerations

The researcher got the letter of introduction from Kampala International University introducing the researcher as a student, requesting the local leaders of Wajir County to grant him/her permission and assistance necessary when collecting data.

The researcher deemed it ethical to keep certain information confidential on special request by respondents. The researcher was ethically bound to acknowledge all published sources of literature used in the study.

3.9 Limitations of the study

This research was limited by a number of problems;

Wrong information: some respondents deliberately provided wrong information for fear of implicating themselves. To overcome this limitation constant cross checking of data was done with individuals and section heads.

Time: there were time constraints resulting from researcher's attention to other academic programmes. This was overcome by putting up a time schedule which was rigidly followed by the researcher.

Another limitation was lack of enough money to run the research activities; transport, typing, printing and other facilitations. This delayed the entire research process. To overcome this problem, some financial contributions were raised from friends to overcome this.

CHAPTER FOUR:

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.0 Introduction

The study examined the effect of microfinance on the economic empowerment of women. Questionnaire and interview guide were used to collect data. The data collected were analyzed using percentages and frequencies. This chapter presents objective by objective, the results of the study and the analysis of the study findings.

4.1 Preliminary information

Here the researcher presented, analyzed and interpreted data gathered from the background information of the respondents. This included information on sex of respondents, religion, marital status, level of education and the duration in service with the organisation.

Table 1: Age of the respondents

Age range	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-40	40 and above	Total
Responses	5	12	15	22	6	60
Percentages	8	20	25	37	10	100

Source Primary data

Out of 60 respondents, 5(8%) were aged between 20-24; 12(20%) were aged between 25-29; 15(25%) were aged between 30-34 years; 22(37%) were aged between 35-40; 6(10%) were aged 40 years and above. The results imply that most of respondents who participated in the study were adults. It can be observed microfinance products are used by people who are old enough. Such people have the capacity to invest the loans acquired from MFIs responsibly.

Table 2: Respondents by marital status

Religion	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Responses	45	10	2	3	60
Percentages	75	16	4	5	100

Source Primary data

From the table 2 above, 45(75%) were married; 10(17%) were single; 2(4%) were widowed; 3(5%) were divorced. Therefore the largest percentage of the respondents were married. Married people have more responsibility and as such they use MFI products more than any one else.

Table 3: Respondents' qualifications

Qualification	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Illiterate	3	5
Read and write	12	20
Primary education	15	25
Secondary level	26	43
Tertiary education attainment	4	7
Total	**60**	**100**

Source: Primary data

According from the table 3 above, 3(5%) were illiterate; 12(20%) could only read and write; 15(25) had completed primary education; 26(43%) had completed secondary level while only 4(7%) had attained tertiary education. The implication of this is that most of the respondents could read and write. This indicates the extent to which women have been empowered.

Table 4: Respondents duration with the organisation

Year	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-6 years	More than 7 years	Total
Responses	10	28	17	5	60
Percentages	17	47	28	8	100

Source Primary data

From the table 4 above, 10(17%) respondents had spent less than one year as members of the MFI; 28(47%) had spent 1-3 years; 17(28%) had spent 4-6 years while 5(8%) had spent more than 7 years with the MFI. The implication of this that most respondents had spent between 1-3 years with the MFI. Respondents who have spent more years with the organisation have more experience with MFI and are very well informed about the operations of the MFIs.

4.2 The impact of Microfinance institutions on women's income

The impact of microfinance institutions on women's income was achieved using 9 questionnaire items with results presented below;

4.2.1 Level of respondents' income before joining a MFI

Table 5: The level of respondents' income before joining a MFI

Level of income	Frequency	Percentage
< 100,000	35	58
101,000-200,000	20	33
301,000,400,000	2	4
401,000-500,000	-	-
> 500,000	-	-
Do not know	3	5
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

From the table 5 above, majority of the respondents 35(58%) revealed that their income was less 100,000; 20(33%) said that their incomes lied between 101,000-200,000; only 2(4%) said that incomes lied between 301,000-400,000 and the rest 3(5%) said that they didn't know. None of the respondents said their income was between 401,000 - 500,000 and above 500,000. The findings show that women had low levels of income before joining MFIs. Some women indicated that they never had any source of income. They revealed that they were only doing subsistence agriculture. Some women indicated that they did not have capital to start or to expand their businesses.

4.2.2 Level of respondents' income after joining a MFI

Table 6: Respondents' level of income after joining a MFI

Level of income	Frequency	Percentage
< 100,000	-	-
101,000-200,000	3	5
301,000-400,000	7	12
401,000-500,000	15	25
> 500,000	38	63
Do not know	2	4
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

From the table 6 above majority 38(63%) of the respondents that they earned more than 500,000 after joining a MFI; 15(25%) of the respondents revealed that their now range between 401,000-500,000; 7 (12%) said that their incomes now range between 301,000-400,000; 3(5%) said that their incomes range between 101,000-200,000; none of the respondents said that they income is still below 100,000; while 2(3%) of the respondents said that they didn't know. The findings show that women's income levels have increased

since joining MFIs. Some respondents expressed that joining MFIs has enabled them to acquire enough capital to invest in their businesses. Some women indicated that they can now do productive agriculture with loans acquired from MFIs.

4.2.3 Respondents' source of income before joining MFIs

Table 7: Respondents' source of income before joining MFIs

Source of credit	Frequency	Percentage
Private money lenders	14	24
Relatives/friends	17	28
No means	29	48
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

According results from the table 7 above, 29(48%) of the respondents revealed that they used to secure credit from private money lenders before joining a MFI; 17(28%) revealed that their source of credit were relatives and friends while 14(24%) said that they had no source of credit. This implies that most of the women had few and unreliable sources of credit before joining MFIs. According to the findings of the study these sources were characterized by borrowing from relatives, and from private money lenders. Respondents revealed that private money lenders were so exploitative. Private money lenders according to respondents charged high interest rates since their actions could not be controlled by any one.

4.2.3 Purposes of loans from MFIs

Table 8: Purposes for which microfinance loans are used for by women

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Purchase of food items	15	25
Business/trade	32	53
Other purposes	13	22
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

Basing on results from table 8 above, 15(25%) of the respondents said that they use microfinance loans to purchase food items; 32(53) said that they use the loans for business/trade while only 13(22%) said they use the loans for other purposes. From these results it was observed that majority of the women invest microfinance loans in business. Respondents indicated that they do retail business, saloons, restaurants, and others.

4.2.4 Who makes decisions pertaining loan secured through MFI in a home

Table 9: Who makes decisions pertaining loan secured through MFI in a home

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Women	08	13
Men	38	63
Both men and women	14	23
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

Results from the table 9 above indicate that men make most of the decisions pertaining loan secured microfinance with 38(63%) saying this; 14(23%) said that it is both men and women while only 8(13%) said that its women who make the decisions. It can therefore that women had less decision making power joining MFIs.

4.2.5 Husband's cash expenditure in homes

Table 10: Husbands' expenditure before their wives joined MFIs

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Spend for family purpose	40	67
Spend more for personal use	7	12
Doesn't have a job	8	13
No spouse	5	8
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

From the table 10 above, 40(67%) respondents noted that husbands used to spend for family purpose before their wives joined MFIs; 7(12%) noted husbands used to spend more for personal use; 8(13%) noted that their husbands do not have jobs; while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. From these findings, it was observed that men used to spend for family purpose than for any other use before their wives joined MFIs. Women indicated that their husbands could spend on purchase of household materials like salt, soap, sugar, etc. and on school fess for children.

4.2.6 Husband's cash expenditure after their wives joined MFIs

Table 11: Husbands' expenditure after their wives joined MFIs

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Spend for family purpose	13	22
Spend more for personal use	34	57
Doesn't have a job	8	13
No spouse	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

Basing on results from the table above, 13(22%) noted that husbands spend more for family purpose after their wives joined MFIs; 34(57%) noted that their husbands spend

more for personal use; 8(13%) noted that their husbands do not have jobs; while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The findings show that husbands' household expenditure has reduced since their women joined MFIs. Women indicated that they are now capable of catering for the needs that men used to provide. They indicated that they are responsible for purchase of all most all household items ranging from salt, sugar, posho, matooke etc.

4.2.7 Husband's view of their wives contribution to household prior to MFI participation

Table 12: Husband's view of their wives contribution to household prior to MFI participation

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Appreciation	-	-
Keeps quite (as normal)	7	12
Less important (no appreciation)	48	80
No spouse	5	8
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

From the table 12 above, husbands showed no appreciation for wives' contribution to the household prior to MFI participation; 7(12%) said that husbands only dismissed wives' contribution as normal; 48(80%) said that husbands viewed wives contribution as less important while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The results that husbands did not appreciate their wives contribution to the household before participation in MFIs.

4.2.8 Husband's view of wives contribution to household after MFI participation

Table 13: Showing husband's view of wives contribution to household after MFI participation

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Appreciation	46	77
Keeps quite (as normal)	9	15
Less important (no appreciation)	-	
No spouse	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

46(77%) respondents noted that husbands were appreciative of their wives contribution to household after joining MFI; 9(15%) said that husbands view their wives contribution as normal; no of the respondents said that husbands were not appreciative while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The results imply that men appreciate wives contribution to the household after participation in MFIs.

4.3 Other benefits for MFIs for women

4.3.1 Assessment of decision making power of women before joining a MFI

Table 14: Respondents' assessment of women's decision making power before joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Fully participate	-	-
Occasionally/partly	11	19
Rarely	44	73
No spouse	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

According to results from the table 14 on the previous page, 11(19%) noted that women partly/occasionally participate in decision making; 44(73%) said that women rarely participate in decision making; none said that women fully participate while5 (8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The results indicate that most of the women rarely participated in decision making before joining MFIs. Women indicated in an interview that their participation was limited because they did not have income sources. Some revealed that their husbands were responsible for every decision made in the house.

4.3.2 Assessment of decision making power of women after joining a MFI

Table 15: Respondents' assessment of women's decision making power after joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Fully participate	41	68
Occasionally/partly	14	24
Rarely	-	-
No spouse	5	8

Source Primary data

Accordingly, 41(68%) noted that women fully participate in decision making after joining a MFI; 14(24%) noted that women participate occasionally/partly; none said that they participate rarely while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The results imply that most of the women frequently participate in decision making after joining MFIs. The results show that women's decision making power has increased ever since they joined MFIs. These decisions include; which schools to take children to, where to invest as a family, which plots to buy, etc.

4.3.3 Level of domestic violence

Table 16: The level of domestic violence against women prior to participation in MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Frequent	35	58
Occasionally	17	29
Rare	3	5
Never	-	
No spouse	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

According to the table 16 above, 35(58%) of the respondents noted that domestic violence was frequent before prior to women participation in MFIs; 17(29%) said domestic violence was occasionally; 3(5%) said that it was rare while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses. The findings show that the level of domestic violence was frequent before women joined MFIs. Some women indicated that they used to get a lot of beatings from their spouses because their spouses considered them as worthless since they did not have any contribution to the family in monetary terms.

Table 17: The level of domestic violence against women after participation in MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Frequent	2	4
Occasionally	8	13
Rare	23	38
Never	22	37
No spouse	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

From the table on the table 17 above, only 2(4%) said that domestic violence is frequent after participation in MFIs; 8(13%) said that domestic violence was occasional; 23(38%) noted that it was rare; 22(37%) noted that there was no domestic violence while 5(8%) said that they didn't have spouses.

4.3.4 Level of domestic workload for women

Table 18: The level of domestic workload prior to membership in the MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	32	53
High	22	37
Medium	6	10
Low	-	-
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

According to the table 18 above, 32(53%) revealed that domestic workload for women was very high prior to membership in the MFI; 22(37%) noted the workload was high; 6(10%) said that it was medium while none said it was low. From these results, it can be observed that the level of domestic workload for women high before they joined MFIs. Women indicated that they were subjected domestic workload since they were at home every other time.

Table 19: The level of domestic workload after membership in the MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	-	-
High	6	10
Medium	16	27
Low	38	63
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

38(63%) said that the level of domestic workload is low after membership in the MFI; 16(27%) said that it is medium; 6(10%) said that it is high while said that it is very high. The findings show that women's domestic workload has reduced since their participation in microfinance activities. Women revealed that they are no longer looked at housewives but rather businesswomen and enterprising women. They were revealed that their engagement in microfinance activities has enabled them to hire the services of house workers.

4.3.5 Level of confidence to claim for political and legal rights

Table 20: Respondents level of confidence to claim for political and legal rights prior to joining the MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	-	-
High	-	-
Medium	12	20
Low	48	80
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

From the table 20 above, 48(80%) of the respondents noted that women's level of confidence to claim for political and legal rights before joining the MFI was low; 12(20%) said that it was medium. There no results for very high and high respectively.

The results indicate low levels of confidence for women to claim for political and legal rights prior to joining MFIs.

Table 21: Respondents' level of confidence to claim for political and legal rights after joining MFIs

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	17	28
High	33	55
Medium	10	17
Low	-	-
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

Accordingly, 17(28%) noted that the level of confidence to claim for political and legal is very high after joining the MFI; 33(55%) noted that the level of confidence is high; 10(17%) said that that is medium while none said that the confidence is low. It can therefore be observed that women's level of confidence has increased after joining MFIs.

4.3.6 Asset ownership rights

Table 22: Whether women enjoyed asset ownership rights prior to joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No	55	92
Yes	5	8
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

From the table 22 above, 55(92%) respondents said that woman didn't enjoy asset ownership prior to joining a MFI; while only 5(8%) said that women enjoyed asset ownership. This implies that majority of the women did not enjoy asset ownership before joining MFIs. Majority of the women indicated that they did not own assets before they joined MFIs.

Table 23: Whether respondents enjoyed asset ownership rights after joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No	13	22
Yes	47	78
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

47(78%) of the respondents noted women enjoy asset ownership after joining a MFI; with 13(22%) disagreeing to this position. It can therefore be observed that most of the women enjoy asset ownership after joining MFIs. Majority of the women indicated that their participation in microfinance activities has enabled to purchase plots of land, to buy cows, goats, etc. Thus women's asset ownership has increased.

4.3.7 Political participation

Table 24: The level of political participation before joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Many times	-	-
Sometimes	17	28
Never	43	72
Total	60	100

Source Primary data

From the table 24 above, 17(28%) said that women sometimes participated in politics after joining a MFI; 43(72%) said that women never participated in politics while none of the respondents said that women participated in politics. The findings imply that women's political participation was low before joining MFIs. Some women indicated that their political participation was restricted by low levels incomes and lack of recognition.

Table 25: The level of political participation after joining a MFI

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Many times	30	45
Sometimes	20	33
Never	10	12
Total	**60**	**100**

Source Primary data

Results from the table 25 above indicate women participate in politics a joining a MFI many times (30/45%); 20(33%) said that women participate in politics sometimes whereas only 10(17%) said that women never participate in politics. The results indicated women's participation had increased after joining MFIs. Respondents were positive that participation in MFIs has increased their ability to participate in leadership of groups to which they belong. They indicated that they can now participate for these positions with men.

4.4: Microfinance problems hindering the empowerment of women

Table 26: Microfinance problems hindering the empowerment of women

Variables	Responses				
	SA F (%)	A F (%)	NS F (%)	SD F (%)	D F (%)
High interest rates	17 28	31 52	5 8	-	7 12
Too small loan size	23 38	30 50	2	-	5 8
Poor repayment policy	27 45	27 45	3 5	-	3 5
Problematic group dynamics	13 22	32 53	5 8	-	10 17

Source Primary data

According to results from the table above, 17(28%) respondents strongly agreed; 31(52%) agreed; 7(12%) disagreed; 5(8%) were not sure. Too small loan size recorded 23(38%) in strong agreement; 30(50%) agreed; 2(4%) were not sure while 5(8%)

disagreed. Poor repayment policy recorded 27(45%) in strong agreement; 27(45%) agreed; 3(5%) were not sure while 3(5%) disagreed. Problematic group dynamics recorded 13(22%) in strong agreement; 32(53%) agreed; 5(8%) were not sure while 10(17%) disagreed.

Respondents revealed that the interest rates charged by most MFIs in the area are too high and unbearable. They revealed that most of MFIs charge an interest rate 2.5 % of the loan amount. As compared to rates charged by banking institutions, such rates charged are too high. Respondents (women) noted the most of the banking institutions charge a market of 1.25%. Respondents (women) revealed that in addition to high interest, the MFIs make unfair charges in acquiring loans. They indicated that the loan application is too high (10,000 ugx) and administrative. Respondents indicated that these costs discourage them from borrowing.

Respondents indicated that the sizes of the loans advanced to them are too small to facilitate their development. Women revealed that the institutions give small loans to them as compared to men. For instance of the women had this to say "I can not get more than 500,000 ugx from the institution". Respondents revealed that size of the loan limits their businesses from expanding.

Respondents revealed that institutions have a poor repayment policy. In a discussion with some women, they indicated that the repayment period is too short. They revealed that they are required to pay before even their investments have shown any fruits. They indicated that usually the institutions give them a repayment period of 1-2 months.

Respondents indicated that they face many problems within their groups. They revealed that some of these groups are led by men who over influence the decisions of the group. They reported that some of the groups may restrict them on the amount to taken and some members take more than what the others have taken. Usually groups are characterized by conflicts may disintegrate the group. Respondents revealed that usually the size of the group is too big and the size of the loan is too small.

Respondents revealed that their loan acquisition was also limited by the lack of collateral. Some women revealed that they do not own any property at all in their homes. They revealed that men do not allow them to use property like land, assets for collateral.

CHAPTER FIVE:

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the discussion of findings, summary, conclusion, recommendations and suggestions and areas of further research. It therefore represents the discussion of the data which was gathered by the researcher in finding out the impact of microfinance on the economic empowerment of women.

5.1 Discussion of findings

5.1.1 The impact of microfinance on women's income

The study investigated the sources of credit for women before joining a MFI. Respondents revealed that their major source of credit before joining a MFI were private money lenders' followed by relatives and friends. This implies that the sources of credit of credit by joining MFIs were limited the majority relying on private money lending. This finding is in contention with Bagati (2001) views on the sources credit before introduction of microfinance.

The study analyzed the level of income for women prior to and after joining the MFI. In all the study found out that women's income levels had grossly increased ever since joining MFIs. The results justify Narayan (2002) arguments MFIs help to improve women's income levels.

Regarding the purpose for which secured loans were used for, majority revealed that the loans were used for business and trade, an implication that women mainly use the loans secured from MFIs to business and to generate income. This implies that loans secured

by women are put to proper use. This observation is in line with Noni (2001) observations that loans should be put to proper use.

Regarding who makes decisions pertaining loan secured in a home, majority noted that men make most of the decisions. The implication of this is that women still lack decision making power pertaining loan secured which is a deterrent women empowerment and the ability to improve their incomes. Mayoux (2002) argues that women should given autonomy and power to decide on how to use the loan secured from MFIs.

The study studied husband's cash expenditure in homes before and after their wives joined MFIs, majority revealed that husbands used to spend more for family purpose than for personal use before their wives joined MFIs and less for family purpose than for than for personal use after their women joined MFIs. The findings indicate that women's participation in MFIs has reduced their husband's expenditure in families. This observation was earlier cited by Morduch and Haley (2001).

On whether husbands appreciate their wives contribution to the household after their wives joined MFIs, majority revealed that their husbands appreciate their contribution to the household. This implies that MFIs have enabled women's contribution in the family to be appreciated by their husbands. According to Bagati (2001) this is one of the major benefits of MFIs for women.

5.1.2 Other benefits of MFIs for women

The study investigated the decision making power of women before and after joining MFIs. It was noted that women's decision making power is higher after joining MFIs compared to when they had not joined MFIs. The fact that microfinance improves women's decision making power was earlier highlighted by Khandker and Hulme (2000).

The study also studied the level of domestic violence in families before and after joining a MFI. Majority revealed that domestic violence had reduced after women had joined MFIs compared to when they had not joined. This is an implication that MFIs help to reduce domestic violence families and hence empowering women. This observation has been noted by (Narayan, 2002) and (Rahman, 1996).

The study also investigated the level of domestic workload for women before after joining MFIs. The study found out that the domestic workload for women reduced after joining MFIs compared to when they had not joined MFIs. This observation is in line with Kabeer (1996) that when women engage microfinance programmes their domestic workload reduces.

The study investigated the level of confidence of women to claim for political and legal rights before and after joining the MFIs, a majority said that that their level of confidence had increased after joining the MFIs compared to when they had not joined MFIs. According to Ashe and Parrott (2001) it can be observed that participation increase women's level of confidence to claim for political and legal rights.

The study assessed women's assets ownership rights prior to and after participation in MFIs, a majority revealed that their asset ownership rights had increased after they joined MFIs as compared to before they had joined MFIs. This is an implication microfinance helps women to improve their asset ownership rights which in turn empowers them as noted by Palier (2005).

Finally the study investigated the of women's political participation before and after joining MFIs. A majority revealed that their political participation had improved after joining MFIs as compared to before they not had joined MFIs. The fact that participation in MFIs improves women's political participation was earlier observed by MkNelly et al (2001).

5.1.3 Problems hindering microfinance as a tool of women empowerment

A number of problems hindering microfinance as a tool of women empowerment were noted by respondents and these were high interest rates, too small loan sizes, poor repayment policy, and problematic group dynamics among others. It shows that although microfinance is aiming at empowerment; it is still sidelined by a number of obstacles as mentioned above which need to be rectified to boost women empowerment. These hindrances were earlier noted by (Barwa, 2003) and Skarlatos (2004).

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that microfinance institutions play a major role in the empowerment through improving women's income. It also noted a number of benefits which women benefit from participation in microfinance programmes which are improved confidence to claim for political and legal rights, increased decision making power, reduced domestic violence and workload, more participation in politics, and increased asset ownership rights among others. However, the study revealed that although microfinance has been successful in empowering women; it is still hindered by a number of factors among which are high interest rates, too small loan sizes, poor repayment policy and problematic group dynamics.

5.3 Recommendations

From these conclusions the study recommends that;

MFIs should reduce interest on loans advanced to women. This should be done to enable women acquire enough credit to boost their incomes and their businesses.

The management of MFIs should train women in loan management programmes to boost their repayment abilities.

The study also recommends that MFIs should increase the size of loans advanced to women. This can enable women to take up important investments and raise their incomes.

The management of MFIs should create products that target women.

5.4 Areas for Further Research

The following areas are recommended for research;

- The impact of lending terms on the economic empowerment of women
- Factors hindering women empowerment in microfinance institutions
- Microfinance experience in reducing gender imbalance

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

This questionnaire is for obtaining your views on the impact of microfinance institutions on the economic empowerment of women in Wajir County. You are kindly requested to answer all the questions as objectively as possible. Note that the questionnaire is purely for academic purposes and that your response shall be treated with maximum confidentiality.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

.....

Abdullahi B. Maalim

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1) Age

a) 20-24 ☐ b) 25-29 ☐ c) 30-34 ☐

d) 35-40 ☐ e) 40 and above ☐

2) Religion

a) Orthodox ☐ b) Muslim ☐ c) Catholic ☐ d) Protestant ☐

b) Others (specify)

.....

3) Marital Status

a) Married ☐ b) Widow ☐

c) Divorced ☐ c) Single ☐

4) Level of education

a) Illiterate ☐ b) Read and write ☐

c) Primary Level ☐ d) Secondary level ☐

5) For how long (in years) have you been a member of the MFI?

a) <1yr ☐ b) 1-3 ☐ c) 4-6 ☐ d) >7 ☐

SECTION B: THE IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS ON WOMEN'S INCOME

6) What was your level of monthly income before joining the MFI?

a) <100, 000 ☐

b) 101, 000 – 200, 000 ☐

c) 201, 000 – 300, 000 ☐

d) 301, 000 – 400, 000 ☐

e) 401, 000 – 500, 000 ☐

f) 500, 000 ☐

g) Do not know ☐

7) What is your level of income after joining the MFI?

a) <100, 000 ☐

b) 101, 000 – 200, 000 ☐

c) 201, 000 – 300, 000 ☐

d) 301, 000 – 400, 000 ☐

e) 401, 000 – 500, 000 ☐

f) 500, 000 ☐

g) Do not know ☐

8) For what purpose(s) do you use the loan secured from the MFI?

a) Purchase of food items ☐

b) Business/trade ☐

c) Others (specify)

.....

9) Who makes decisions pertaining to the use of loan secured through MFI?

a) Myself alone ☐

b) My husband and myself together ☐

c) My husband ☐

10) How was your husband's cash expenditure before joining the MFI?

a) Spend for family purpose ☐

b) Spend more for personal use ☐

c) Doesn't have a job ☐

d) No spouse ☐

11) How is your husband's cash expenditure after joining the MFI?

a) Spend for family purpose ☐

b) Spend more for personal use (cloth, drinking liquors, etc) ☐

c) Doesn't have a job ☐

d) No spouse ☐

12) How did your husband view your contribution to the household prior to MFI participation?

a) Appreciation ☐

b) Keeps quite (as normal) ☐

c) Less important (no appreciation) ☐

d) Doesn't have a job ☐

e) No spouse ☐

13) How does your husband view your contribution to the household after the MFI participation?

a) Appreciation ☐

b) Keeps quite (as normal) ☐

c) Less important (no appreciation) ☐

d) Doesn't have a job ☐

e) No spouse ☐

SECTION C: OTHER BENEFITS OF MFI'S FOR WOMEN

14) What was your source of credit prior to joining the MFI?

a) Private money lenders ☐

b) Relatives/friends ☐

c) No means ☐

15) How do you assess the decision making power you had before joining the MFI?

a) Fully participate ☐ b) Occasionally/partly ☐

d) Rarely ☐ d) No spouse ☐

16) How do you assess the decision making power you have after joining the MFI?

a) Fully participate ☐ b) Occasionally/partly ☐

c) Rarely ☐ d) No spouse ☐

17) How was the level of domestic violence prior to joining the MFI?

a) Frequently ☐
b) Occasionally ☐
c) Rarely ☐
d) Never ☐
e) No spouse ☐

18) How is the level of domestic violence after joining the MFI?

a) Frequently ☐
b) Occasionally ☐
c) Rarely ☐
d) Never ☐
e) No spouse ☐

19) How do you assess the domestic workload before your membership in the MFI?

Very high

a) High ☐ b) Medium ☐ c) Low ☐

20) How do you assess the domestic workload after your membership in the MFI?

a) Very high ☐ b) High ☐ c) Medium ☐ d) Low ☐

21) How do you view your confidence to claim for political and legal rights before joining the MFI?

a) High ☐ b) Medium ☐ c) Low ☐

22) How do you view your confidence to claim for political and legal rights after joining the MFI?

a) High ☐ b) Medium ☐ c) Low ☐

23) Did you enjoy asset ownership rights before joining MFI?

a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

24) Do you enjoy asset ownership rights after joining MFI?

a) Yes ☐ b) No ☐

25) How was your political participation before joining the MFI?

a) Many times ☐ b) Sometimes ☐ c) Never ☐

26) How is your political participation after joining the MFI?

a) Many times ☐ b) Sometimes ☐ c) Never ☐

SECTION D: PROBLEMS HINDERING MFI'S AS A TOOL OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

27) What are the limitations of the MFI?

a) High interest rate ☐

b) Too small loan size ☐

c) Repayment policy ☐

d) Problematic groups dynamic ☐

e) Do not know ☐

f) High interest rate, small loan size, repayment policy ☐

APENDIX II: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW

Age _____

Religion _____

Marital Status _____

Level of Education _____

Duration of Microfinance (MFI) Membership (In Years) _____

1) Before joining the MFI, where did you use to borrow money from? If you had a source of credit, please explain any problems you experienced with the former source of credit.

2) In your view, what are the advantages and limitations of the microfinance delivery by the institution?

3) How do you utilize the loan secured from the MFI? How do you compare the income and saving levels before and after joining the MFI?

4) Who decides on the use of the loan received from the MFI?

5) Who is the head of your family?

6) Do you make contributions to the household from the loans secured from the MFI? If yes, how does your husband view your contribution to the family?

7) How do describe your husband's cash expenditure before you and after you joined the MFI? If you have noticed any change, what do you think are the reasons for it?

8) Is there any change in your household decision making after your MFI membership?

9) How do you compare the level of domestic violence caused by your husband before and after joining the MFI? What are the types of domestic violence encountered and what do you think are the reasons for the situation?

10) How do compare your domestic workload before and after you joined the MFI?

Why? Does your husband assist you in carrying out the workload?

11) Are there any changes in your political participation before and after you became a member of the MFI? What about with respect to your legal rights?

12) Are there any changes in your political participation before and after you became a member of the MFI? What about with respect to your legal rights?

13) How would you compare your self-confidence before and after you joined the MFI? Why?