

Trainings and women involvement in business in Kasese District: A Case of Women Entrepreneurs in Hima Town Council

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed how Microfinance Services affect Women Involvement in Business in Kasese District: A Case of Women Entrepreneurs in Hima Town Council and it was guided by three objectives namely; To find out the relationship between loans and women involvement in business in Hima town council; To examine the relationship between savings and women involvement in business in Hima town council and To assess the relationship between trainings and women involvement in business in Hima town council. The study adopted descriptive cross-sectional research and correlational designs on a sample of 236 respondents. Data were collected using a questionnaire and an interview guide. Quantitative data were analysed using frequencies, percentages means, correlation and regression. Qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis. Inferential analysis results indicated that training a weak positive relationship with women involvement in business. Government should encourage every woman to get involved in any venture that is able to earn her some income every week or every month and financial institutions especially micro finance institutions should carry out regular training programs of women and other client on microfinance services to provide them with the required skills to manage economic resources for developing their families and the country in general.

Keywords: Trainings and women involvement in business

INTRODUCTION

The principle of financial inclusion has assumed greater level of importance in recent times due to its perceived importance as a driver of economic growth. Giving access to the women entrepreneurs who are presently excluded from financial services would provide the possibilities for the creation of a large depository of savings, investable funds, investment and therefore global wealth generation. The agitation for financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs came into the international limelight in 1975 at the international women's conference in Mexico and in Nairobi in 1985. This has paved ways for women entrepreneurs to have access to finance [1].

Globally, women disproportionately represent 70% of the world's 1.3 billion population who live on less than one dollar per day. In World, women comprise (54%) of the entire population [2]. However, most of these Rwandan women are illiterate and this limits their employment opportunities and financial ability to take care of their families of which 37% of household are managed by women [3]. Moreover, 70% of the women live below the poverty line yet a large proportion of these are women [4,5,6].

Women have been the most underprivileged and discriminated strata of the society not only in Rwanda but all over the world. Inspire of all Government and Non-Governments' efforts, they have been highly inactive clients of the financial sector. In the recent times, microfinance has been emerging as a powerful instrument for empowering women particularly; the women that have little financial ability [5,7,8].

Women owned enterprises make tremendous contribution to economic development of the country through their participation in economic activities which has been more in the informal sector [9,10,11].The importance of microcredit in Uganda has soared in the recent decade and the instrument is now seen as one of the most effective tools to tackle poverty in the country. The strong belief in microcredit derives from the fact that the provision of credit to the active poor can contribute to poverty reduction and pass the test of sustainability at the same time.

Aim of the study

The study was done to assess the relationship between trainings and women involvement in business in Hima town council.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed descriptive cross-sectional research and correlational designs in the assessment of the role of Microfinance Services and Women Involvement in Business in Kasese District specifically on Women Entrepreneurs in Hima Town Council. The researcher adopted qualitative and quantitative research approaches to conduct the entire research study.

Qualitative approach located the study in scholarly opinions on microfinance services and women involvement in business. Quantitative approach was also used to compare microfinance services and women involvement in business as well as other sources of microfinance services to businesses and the findings of the study were both numerical and non-numerical and were quantified for easy interpretation and description. These designs enabled the researcher to process, present and analyze the findings of the study.

Study area and population

Study area

The study was carried out in Hima Town Council. The researcher chose this case study area because Hima is considered the business area of Kasese where women lag behind their counterpart - men. Men are booming in business while women are remaining behind them doing petty jobs in the gardens.

Study population

The target population that provided primary data about the study variables included women clients of micro finance institutions owning businesses, Employees of Micro finance and officials of Hima Town Council. These were 575 in number from which a sample size of 236 was obtained using Slovene's formula

Sampling technique

Stratified random sampling with purposive sampling, and simple random sampling techniques were used to select the above proposed sample. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants like officials of Hima Town Council who were thought to have enough information on microfinance services and how it affects women involvement in business. Simple random sampling was used to select women clients of micro finance institutions owning businesses, Employees of Micro

finance; this was used because it helped the researcher to give equal chance of participation.

Sample size

The researcher used a sample size of two hundred thirty six (236) respondents. This sample size was a representative of the whole population as manageable in terms of administering the questionnaire and the interview guide during research data collection using data collection instruments. It is these selected respondents that the data collection instrument was given.

Data source

The researcher generated data from one source that is the primary sources. This was the main source of data. This formed the first hand information obtained from the field by the researcher using data collection instruments.

Data collection methods/ instruments

The researcher used a combination of methods to obtain primary data from the field/ area of study about the research problem. These include Questionnaires, Interview guide

Questionnaire

The researcher formulated a set of questions from using a questionnaire. This was comprehensive enough to cover the extent of the problem and all aspects of the study variable basing on the objectives of the study. The questionnaire was open ended that enabled the respondents to express their views and opinions. These questionnaire were distributed to women in business and employees of microfinance institutions in Hiima town council.

Interview Guide

This was done through oral discussions in order to get information. To increase the response rate the researcher used interview method to obtain primary data. The interviews were formal involving a pre-designed interview guide. Here the researchers visited the selected officials of Town Council and interviewed them.

Data Quality Control

Validity

The researcher used Content Validity Index (CVI) founded by Lynn in 1986 which is a scale developed by computing or rating the relevant items in the instrument or questionnaire by checking their clarity, their meaningfulness in line with all objectives stated divided by the total number of items. Validity refers to

the degree to which a statistical instrument measures what it is intended to measure. The study instruments were developed bearing in mind that, they measure what they are expected to measure and accurately. They were first be analyzed and piloted on some people in similar situation like the one under investigation of study as that of the researcher and they were scrutinized and developed under close guidance of the supervisor. Thus,

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{\text{Relevant items}}{\text{Total number of items}} = \frac{21}{26} = 0.8$$

Total number of items

Reliability

Reliability of an instrument is its degree of consistency. In other words, a reliable instrument must give the same score even when used several times to measure the same variable, provided the variable has not changed for a given entity. The test-retest method was used to find out the reliability of the instrument. Here the researcher administered the instrument to a few people and after a period of around two weeks, he would administer it to the same people to see whether the instrument was reliable. These people gave the same answers as at first, the researcher then declared the instrument as reliable. In reference to the test-rest method the researcher also used the Cranach alpha Coefficient method using the statistical package for social scientists' program (SPSS) to analyse data. A Cranach alpha Coefficient of 0.79 was obtained which is above 0.7. Therefore the instrument was reliable.

Data collection procedure

Pilot study

A pilot study/ surveys were conducted to collect evidence that many women do not access microfinance services and thus lagging behind their counterpartmen. This data was analyzed, tabulated and conclusions were made basing on the respondents' responses.

Data handling

- a) **Data source:** The researcher collected primary data from respondents using the questionnaire and interview methods.
- b) **Editing:** The questionnaires were edited to ascertain completeness, accuracy and uniformity.
- c) **Data coding:** Data was coded or given numbers according to their sequence and entered into the computer and there after frequency tabulation, pie chart representation and narration was done.

Data analysis

Data collected from the field was carefully edited, sorted and coded to eliminate the inconsistencies and errors that had been made during data collection. This involved the use of simple frequency and percentages table and pie charts. After, data was subjected to further analysis for easy understanding and interpretation. The use of excel computer package using statistical techniques was necessary.

The Pearson linear correlation coefficient and regression analysis was used to measure the relationship between the variables at 0.05 level of significance

Ethical Consideration

Like any other research project of any organization, this research identified a number of moral standards that the researcher dealt with in treating his respondents and their opinions in the field. The researcher did the following to put everything right.

University Policies: The researcher followed the proper guidelines and procedures from the University of Which before going to the field to meet the respondents; he first got the introductory letter from the University authorities introducing him to the selected respondents for information provision and other staff. The researcher therefore in line with Kampala International University research policy and procedures through the presentation in order to avoid replication of other people's work without going to the field, was supervise and his work moderated.

Privacy and confidentiality: The participants in this research study were guaranteed with privacy in that they freely interacted with the researcher and ensured that they provided the necessary data under the assurance of the researcher that there no disclosure of their names or private information to the public. Some documents were signed between the researcher and the respondents or informants revealing the agreement and privacy terms for conformity that their information is protected with utmost confidentiality.

Informed Consent: In order to consider the human rights issues, the researcher gave a letter of informed consent to the respondents so as to be fully involved in something they knew about and also to participate willingly. The researcher then assured the respondents that he would provide them the feedback of the final work.

Anonymity: The researcher made sure that the names of the informants and

respondents were not reflected anywhere for confidentiality.

RESULTS

Table 1 Showing Descriptive statistics on the relationship between training and women involvement in business.

No	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
1	Am trained on the use of loan borrowed	<i>f</i> 10	22	55	10 4	42	3.76
		% 4.3	9.4	23. 6	44. 6	18	
2	Am trained on how to manage my Finances	<i>f</i> 13	20	48	10 1	51	3.73
		% 5.6	8.6	20. 6	43. 3	21. 9	
3	Am trained on how to manage my businesses	<i>f</i> 9	26	57	98	46	3.47
		% 3. 8	11 .0	24 .2	41 .5	19 .5	
4	Am trained on risk taking in business	<i>f</i> 10	31	50	99	43	3.45
		% 4. 3	13 .3	21 .5	42 .5	18 .5	
5	Trainings have helped me to prosper in my businesses	<i>f</i> 14	25	44	10 0	50	3.69
		% 6.0	10 .7	18 .9	42 .9	21 .5	
6	Trainings have given me the confidence to start and manage my business	<i>F</i> 12	25	40	10 3	53	3.70
		% 5. 2	10 .7	17 .2	44 .2	22 .7	
7	Trainings have increased women participation in businesses	<i>F</i> 7	23	46	10 1	56	3.68
		% 3. 0	9. 9	19 .7	43 .3	24	

Source: Primary data 2020

From table 1 presents the reactions of respondents as to whether trainings have helped business owner to use loans borrowed appropriately. In giving out

their reactions, 44.6% of the respondents agreed that trainings have helped them to use loans borrowed in an appropriate manner whereas 18% of the respondents

strongly agreed about the same idea explaining that when loan forms applications are filled they indicate the purpose for the loan and therefore, it is this purpose that is followed to indicate the proper use of the loan borrowed. As 23.6% of the respondents were neutral about the influence of training, 9.4% of the respondents disagreed and 4.3% strongly disagreed this is supported by high mean of 3.76 which indicates that most respondents agreed that training has helped them to how to use borrowed funds and this confirmed by findings from with some young business ladies in Hima Town Council, they said that when borrowing a loan from finance institutions including Hima SACCO, you state how you are to use it. This indicates that some business women have been trained on how to use loans from finance institutions. They stated, *"We cannot borrow money without a purpose, we get loans to run our businesses"* With these responses the researcher was prompted to assert that some women are now able to use loans borrowed in an appropriate way and in relationship to their enterprises despite of varied responses presented.

Findings from table 4.5 above shows the respondents' responses on how to manage businesses as an influence of trainings offered by financial institutions. It is vivid that **43.3%** of the respondents agreed that they are trained on how to manage their businesses, 21.9% strongly agreed while 20.6% were neutral. Only 9.3% disagreed and 5.9% strongly disagreed and this supported by high mean of 3.73 which indicates that most of the respondents have learnt to manage their businesses due to trainings offered by financial institutions. While conducting an interview with some women in their saloons they said, *"As saloon owners we believe we have enough training because we were trained by one of the leaders from financial institutions and again we had another training with Hima SACCO on how to manage business. We are now managers of our own saloons"*.

Table 1 above also gives the responses of respondents on whether business owners are trained on risk management in business and 41.5% agreed that they are trained on risk taking in business, 19.5% strongly agreed and 24.2 were neutral about trainings. It is also shown that 11.0% disagree and 3.8% strongly disagreed and this was supported by mean of 3.47 which indicates that most

respondents agreed that most business owners are trained on how to manage risks in their businesses. Responses from an interview also indicated that some business women had gone through similar trainings although some men claimed not to have received such trainings. They said, *"Most trainings about businesses are given to only women. Men are not catered for, we only maneuver around"*. In reference to the respondents' responses the researcher notices that trainings have influenced some business women to have training on risk taking in business compared to business men who only maneuver around. Table 4.5 above illustrates the response of respondents on whether trainings have helped business women to prosper in their businesses. As indicated, 42.5% of respondents agreed that they have prospered due to trainings, 19.5% are reported to have strongly agreed about this notion while 21.2% were neutral. It is also indicated that 13.3% of the respondents disagreed and 4.3% strongly disagreed and this was supported by high mean of 3.47 which indicates that training helps business women to prosper in their businesses. While interviewed on the same issue, some business owners refuted the idea claiming that the prosperity of one's business depends much more on the ability of a person to use loans and capital in an appropriate way. To confirm this, one of the Hima town council officials further said, *"Many have gone into similar trainings but their prosperity is in vain"*. The researcher noticed that trainings alone cannot make one prosper in business instead it involves a combination of factors such as proper use of loans and capita among others.

Findings from table 1 above also shows different responses of the respondents about increase participation of women in businesses. As depicted from the pie chart, 42.9% agreed that trainings have increased women participation in business, 21.5% strongly agreed and 18.9% were neutral about this idea. It is also observable directly from the pie chart that 10.7% disagreed and finally 6.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed and this was supported by mean of 3.45 which indicates that there is an increase of women participation in business. In addition, responses captured from those respondents that were interviewed indicate that there is a high participation of women in business.

They indicated that in a market place the total number of women exceeds that of men occupying nearly all viable businesses like selling fish, garden crops, owning shops, hotels among others. With this information, the researcher affirmed that trainings have a significant influence in women's participation in business.

Table 1 above, presents respondents' reactions about the confidence and management that trainings influence on business holders. As seen from the table, 43.3% of the respondents agreed that trainings give confidence to start up and manage business. A total number of 24% of respondents strongly agreed on the same issue while 19.7% were neutral and 9.9% disagreed and finally 3.0% strongly disagreed and this was supported by high mean of 3.64 which indicates that training by financial institution increases confidence to women in business. While conducting an interview with some business women in Hima Town Council, some respondents indicated that some

women have started small businesses because of frequent trainings offered to them by some finance institutions such as SACCOs. One of the Hima town council who were interviewed said, "*Women now have confidence that they can borrow money from the SACCO and start up my business*". Following these responses and with an observation taken from the field, it is rightly to conclude that trainings have given confidence to some business women to start up and manage businesses. As depicted from the research findings on each and every objective of this study, it is very significant to conclude that there a significant correlation between microfinance and women involvement in business in Kasese district. This affirms that micro finance services therefore leads to women entrepreneurs, entrepreneur skills and formation of women SACCO groups as evidenced by the conceptual frame work in chapter one. The hypothesis thus becomes valid.

DISCUSSION

It was also established that there exists a statistically significant strong positive relationship between training and women involvement in business in Hima town council Kasese district ($r = 0.841$) and ($\beta=0.178$, $p>0.05$). Numerically, a beta coefficient of 0.178 indicate that when training in business knowledge is enhanced, women involvement in business in Hima town council kasese district increases by 17.8%. Thus, the hypothesis was accepted by concluding that training in business knowledge has a significant influence on women involvement in business in Hima Town Council Kasese district. In addition, [6]

signifies the importance of training stating that having prior experience and acquired skill, women entrepreneurs become willing to take risk and this contributes to their business performance. The findings are also in agreement with [7] who evaluated Ethiopian Women Economic Empowerment through Microfinance and the findings indicate that women benefit much from micro finance institution when they have prior knowledge on how to use the funds to develop their businesses.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that training leads to improvement in women involvement in business in Hiam Town Council in Kasese district. Improved training of women in business knowledge leads to

more numbers of women getting involved in business. In every enterprise, business knowledge is an important tool that facilitates growth and development.

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