

**ASSESSMENT OF ROLE OF MICROFINANCE INSTITUTION ON WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT: A CASE OF SELECTED SACCOS IN TANGA
TANZANIA**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and here by recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania a dissertation entitled: “*Assessment of Role of Microfinance Institution on Women Empowerment: A Case of Selected SACCOS in Tanga Tanzania*”, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Business Administration and Finance of the Open University of Tanzania.

.....

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DECLARATION

I, **Philomena Stewart Mfuko**, declare that, the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other university or institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Business Administration (MBA) of the Open University of Tanzania.

.....

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family for their ethical and material support in my academic career. They are the source of my dreams, success and joy. They always encourage me to achieve higher academic excellence, and I thank God to them in my lifespan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of this work depends on the contribution drawn from a number of people who spare their valuable time and effort to fill my questionnaire, provide advice on how to go about.

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ABSTRACT

Microfinance can be used as a key strategy to empower women, whereas finances from the microfinance institutions used for setting up or expansion of businesses with potential impacts including increased income levels and control over income through enhanced decision making. The study grounded on assessment of the role of microfinance institution on women empowerment in TRA Saccos in Tanga, Tanzania. Specifically, the study examines the effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, assess the effect of financial resource on women empowerment and examine effect of microfinance achievement on women empowerment. The study guided by Williams' model of women empowerment theory. Quantitative research approach coupled with survey design was successfully used. A total of 40 women were obtained through purposive and random sampling technique. Questionnaire was used in data gathering. The study findings indicated that 67.5% of women access loan to run their business from TRA Sacco's. To add microfinance agency, play a significant role on women empowerment in a number of ways such as improvement in income generating activities, opportunity for self-employment, make investment decision with P value 1 (P=1) statistical significance. The study found positive correlation between financial resources and women empowerment at 0.01 significant levels. This linked with control over household income and asset, participation in resources ownership. The study recommends that this microfinance should be provided with mandate to extend their service to poor women so as to have skills of entrepreneur and being independent.

Keywords: Microfinance agency, financial resources and achievement of women empowerment

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
ILO	International Labor Organization
MFI	Microfinance Institutions

OUT	Open University of Tanzania
RWECF	Rural Women Employment Creation Project
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority
URT	United Republic of Tanzania

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The chapter describes background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, and significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the Study

Microfinance is the provision of non-collateral financial services to the households who are unable to offer assets as security (Azevedo, 2007). The poor on income below their countries poverty line often fail to access formal financial products (Helms, 2006). Microfinance has, over the years, been identified as one of the channels to empower women economically. Indeed, empowering women to be economically viable through micro financing projects has taken center stage in development policy. Microfinance services has been and increasingly become a popular intervention against poverty in developing countries, generally targeting poor women. It has been considered an effective vehicle for women's empowerment (Leach & Sitaram, 2002). The argument behind Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) targeting women is that, women are good credit risk, are less likely to misuse the loan, and are more likely to share the benefits with others in their household, especially their children (Garikipati, 2008; Swain & Wallentin, 2009). However, in Sri Lanka women face challenges in accessing microfinance and empowering themselves (Rathiranee, 2017).

Empowerment of women is a global challenge since traditionally women have been marginalized and subjected under the control of men. About 70 percent of world's

poor are women (Khan & Noreen, 2012) and about 60 percent of women in Tanzania live in absolute poverty. They have no access to credit and other financial services. Due to their low education level, their knowledge and skills on how to manage their work is generally low. Furthermore, traditionally the position of women in Tanzania has been low compared to men. Women were not expected to influence the decision-making processes from domestic level to the national level (URT, 2011). In the family level, attitudes that consider men as heads of households still exists, which limit women voices from influencing allocation of domestic resources (URT, 2011).

In addition, women's legal and human rights are constrained by inadequate legal literacy among women. There is discriminatory application of statutory laws, and inadequate legislative protective mechanism (URT, 2011). Like many societies in Africa, customary laws and practices remain discriminatory against women on issues of property inheritance particularly on land, as well as institutionalized violence against women.

Beside the need to empower women in Tanzania is very high like other parts of the world. Kato and Kratzer (2013) argue that women in Tanzania are poorer and have low education. Moreover, they suffer from traditional and customary laws. A study conducted by Goey (2012) in Dar es Salaam Region found out that loans might contribute to positive changes for women in terms of well-being but the changes cannot be attributed to loans alone. The changes for women in terms of well-being, which are caused by the loans, are intertwined with other factors such as microfinance group dynamics and family life. However, study by Leach and Sitaram (2002), and Al-Amin and Mathbor (2019), found that loans that were given to women do not

always go to the women themselves but end up being controlled by their husbands. This makes women more dependent on their husbands while they are the main bearers of the credit risk because debts are registered in their names.

The emergence of the microfinance institutions, Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs) in Tanzania back to 1965 as an integral part of the financial sector, which falls within the general framework of its Financial Sector Reform Policy Statement of 1991 (URT, 2000). Microfinance helped women to manage their roles as mothers, wives, and businesspersons; provide microfinance folks, especially rural women (CEDAW, 2005). These initiative related to a theoretical model of women's empowerment propounded by Williams (2005) in rural Bangladesh which identified three main elements of; microfinance agency, resources and achievements in the direction of women empowerments.

Microfinance is the provision of non-collateral financial services to the poor or those in low-income households who are unable to offer assets as security (Azevedo, 2007). The poor, defined as those living on income below their countries poverty line, often fail to access formal financial services (Banerjee and Duflo, 2007; Helms, 2006).

Microfinance is the provision of non-collateral financial services to the poor or those in low-income Households who are unable to offer assets as security (Azevedo, 2007). The poor, defined as those living on income below their countries poverty line, often fail to access formal financial services (Banerjee and Duflo, 2007; HelmMicrofinance has helped women manage their roles as mothers, wives, and businesspersons. They help women to establish their businesses or expand existing ones. There continue to

be many initiatives to provide microfinance schemes to rural folks, especially rural women (CEDAW, 2005). These initiatives have one common strategic concept empowering women economically contributes to poverty alleviation and reduces the number of children living in poverty.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Microfinance have a positive impact on women's livelihood in leading to higher income that help women to better perform their reproductive role as brokers of the health, nutritional, and educational status of other household members; increasing women's employment in micro enterprises and in improving the productivity of women's income-generating activities; and enhancing their self-confidence and self-esteem, and status within the family as independent producers and providers of valuable cash resources to the household economy (ILO, 1998).

In Tanzania, the introduction of MFIs as part of the National Microfinance Policy in 2001 has been one of the key measures intended to alleviate poverty (Fox, 2016; URT, 2014). Specifically, the policy has enabled low-income earners to receive microcredit services. Although the microfinance sector in Tanzania has gained importance, the outreach to the poorest households, such as MB owners, is still relatively minor (Marwa, 2014). The study by Mng'ang'a et al (2020) on Contribution of Microfinance Institutions in Empowering Women in Tanzania (A Case of Serengeti District Council) found that, the impact of Microfinance Institutions on women empowerment is very crucial in Tanzania. Women members of Microfinance Institutions have more control over savings and income generated from the business, greater role in decision making and greater contribution in house hold income.

However, most of the women beneficiaries complained against MFIs in that they provide little amount of credit coupled with short repayment periods and high interest rates.

Therefore, there is little knowledge about the role of microfinance institution on women empowerment as most of studies such as Marwa, (2014), Mng'ang'a et al (2020) identified the impacts and contribution of microfinance on women empowerment in economical perspectives. It is against this background the study intends to fill the existing knowledge gap by assessing the role of microfinance institution on women empowerment focusing on three variables of agency, resources and achievement of microfinance institution and its role on women empowerment from the selected SACCOS in Tanga.

1.4 Research Objectives

The study was guided by general and specific objectives.

1.4.1 General Objectives

The study assessed the role of microfinance in the light of women empowerment financially.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The study guided by three specific objectives

- (i) To examine effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment.
- (ii) To assess the influence of financial resource on women empowerment.
- (iii) To examine the achievement of microfinance on women empowerment.

1.5 Research Questions

- (i) In what ways microfinance agency affect women empowerment?
- (ii) What is the influence of financial resource on women empowerment?
- (iii) In what ways microfinance contribute to the achievement of women empowerment?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study findings will help women to be aware more about the role of microfinance institution and its contribution on women empowerment economically. The findings also will be used by policy makers and institutions especially those in the microfinance services to develop policy framework which will take care of gender issues in micro financing in Tanga, Tanzania. This study finding provide data base that could be used by other body of study to conduct similar studies.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The study was limited on assessment of the role of microfinance in the light of women empowerment financially. Specifically the study examines effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, assess the influence of financial resource on women empowerment and examine the achievement of microfinance on women empowerment.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter describes definition of key terms and concept, theoretical review, empirical studies and knowledge gap.

2.2 Definition of Key terms and Concepts

2.2.1 Microfinance

Schreiner and Colombet (2001) define microfinance as the attempt to improve access to small deposits and small loans for poor households neglected by traditional banks. Agarwal and Sinha, (2010) noted that microfinance is the provision of financial services to low-income poor and very poor self-employed people. These financial services generally include savings and credit, it also include other services like insurance and payment (Bi and Pandey, 2011). Kaur (2014) defined microfinance as a financial instrument like borrowings, savings, advances, insurance and other basic financial services. Microfinance facilitates the provisions for small loans or finances (micro credit) to the people with no financial access and helps them venture into in new productive economic activities or to expand the existing ones (Singh et al., 2014). Sandhu and Gurveen, 2013) noted that better access to microfinance results in poverty alleviation, economic empowerment financial sustainability, improved standard of living and overall empowerment.

2.2.2 Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of women to make choices and to transform these choices into desired actions and outcomes (Krishna, 2003). It is

also defined as the process of enabling or authoring an individual to think, behaves, take action and control work in autonomous way.

2.3 Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure the equal right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their fundamental rights (Dejene, 2007).

2.3.1 Microfinance Agency

Microfinance agency refers as any financial organization providing a particular service on behalf of another business, person, or group. It also defined as intervention producing a particular effect (Christie et, al, 2005) as it appears to be closer in provision of loans to women. Therefore in this study microfinance agency describe strategies employed by the financial institution to enhance women empowerment in terms of resources ownership, decision making and provide family with basic needs.

2.3.2 Financial Resource

Financial resource defined as part of the organization assets. On the other hand financial resources refer as fiancé, often with some attributes such as Business finance, Personal finance, public finance (Collin dictionary, 2016). In this study financial resource defined as money drawn from Saccos to by women to operate their business.

2.3.3 Microfinance Achievement

Microfinance achievement defined as efforts to provide financial services to different financial services (Afzal 2009). In this study microfinance achievement involve ability

to provide women with advice, training, loan to run their business and involvement of women in decision making.

2.4 Theoretical Review

A theoretical model of women's empowerment was developed by Williams (2005) in rural Bangladesh. For this purpose he used the work of Hashemi and Schuler (1993) and Kabeer (1999), which gave important insights for the development of model. Kabeer (1999) identified three main elements of empowerment, which are agency, resources and achievements. The economic, human and social resources are supposed to be preconditions for empowerment and "exercise of power, or agency, in the presence of resources is the process of empowerment". Ultimately, outcomes are gained in the form of achievements, by combining resources and agency. The casual sequence of England's (2000) model involves economic resources and norms by others and these preconditions interactively affect the use of power and also directly affect the achievements (Afzal 2009). The theoretical model however used successfully in examining the role of microfinance agency on women empowerment in terms of resources ownership, decision making in financial matters as well as achievement of the micro credit offered by the micro finance institution to enhance women empowerment.

2.4 Empirical Literature

2.4.1 Effect of Microfinance Agency on Women Empowerment

Study by Shohel, et al (2021), How the persistence of patriarchy undermines the financial empowerment of women microfinance borrowers? Evidence from a southern sub-district of Bangladesh. The study presents the findings of a mixed-method study

comprising 331 surveys and 33 in-depth interviews with women receiving microfinance and their husbands in a southern sub-district of Bangladesh; it draws upon gender socialization and gender performance theory to understand how patriarchal gender norms influence women's financial empowerment in households receiving microfinance. Findings demonstrate that participation in microfinance programs has not shifted gender norms, nor financially empowered women. Women's loans were largely controlled by men as prescribed by underlying, unchanged patriarchal gender norms. The inter-generational reproduction of patriarchal gender relations continued to reproduce a strict gendered division of labor that reinforced restrictions on women's behavior, mobility, and decision-making domains, and men's dominance in household and economic decision-making.

The study by Mwewa (2019) focuses on the assessment of contribution of small loans in enhancing the economic empowerment to women micro-entrepreneurs obtaining loans from MFI's whereas FINCA in Lusaka district was used as the case study. The study aimed to assess whether small loans contribute to women economic empowerment in relation to their current socio-economic activities they engage in and also to determine relationship between credits offered by FINCA and the empowerment attained by women entrepreneurs receiving such credits.

The study revealed that the loans given by FINCA have an impact on women entrepreneur's lives as agreed by 98% respondents as it enables them to grow as business women and also workers in the society. The positive Pearson correlation of 0.648 was obtained between credits offered by FINCA and women economic empowerment, which indicates large strength between the variables with coefficient

of determination of 0.42 (42%). One of the recommendations drawn from the study was that seminars and trainings should be given to women entrepreneurs on how to effectively manage their loans.

Bansal and Singh (2020) did a study on microfinance performance in improving women's lifestyle in India. They found that microfinance by giving loans to women, as the marginalized section of the society, helped them develop entrepreneurial skills, start their own microenterprises, and in the end, support themselves and their families. Moreover, microfinance improved women's involvement in household decision-making and facilitated women to become self-reliant. Women were found to be more socially empowered. As a result, it contributed to narrowing down the gender gap in the society.

2.4.2 The Influence of Financial Resources on Women Empowerment

Study by Tariq Khan, (2018), the impact of Microfinance on empowerment find out that participation of women in Microfinance more particularly through Self Help Groups (SHGs) empowers them under the domains of economic, social, psychological and political. Apart from the benefits women derive from Microfinance, there are evidences regarding disempowerment as well, such as increased workload for women, lack of control over income and assets and also negative impact on children's education.

Hence, whether Microfinance empowers or dis-empowers women needs further empirical investigation, to trace out the fair linkage between Microfinance and women empowerment assigning proper weights to various dimensions of empowerment.

Study by Syhanath (2020), *Microfinance and women's empowerment: The case of Lao PDR in Southeast Asia* revealed that microfinance might help empower women, it provides insight into the important role of the Bank of Lao PDR and Lao Women's Union in helping Lao women to access microfinance including microcredit and micro-saving, which are perceived to be important enablers for empowerment. However, other forms of resources that are no less important to empowerment were also found. These resources are networks, education and jobs. The findings further shed light on the constraints facing women's empowerment, including cultural issues; gender inequality and gender pay gaps.

Simael and Honoré (2021) did study on *Micro financing and Its Benefits to Women-owned micro-enterprises in Chad: A Case Study of the City of N'Djamena*. The study aims to examine the impact of finance on the profits derived by women owned micro-enterprises in Chad. Generalized Least Squares estimation, and the Maximum Likelihood method were used. The results show that financing is significantly and positively correlated to profits in women-owned micro-enterprises in Chad. This suggests that an improvement in microfinance lending conditions could improve women-run businesses. Financing that is derived from private microfinance institutions and the support in terms of training and management consultancy services (accounting and marketing) has a positive effect on profits. Thus, it becomes necessary to improve lending conditions and intensify the support in training and management consultancy services in favor of women.

Debnath, et al (2019) did a study on *Empowering Women through Microcredit in Bangladesh: An Empirical Study*. The study was carried out to identify the

determinants of microcredit accessibility by rural women households and its impact on rural women empowerment in Bangladesh. A face-to-face survey was conducted during 2018, interviewing 300 women households in two locations in Bangladesh. Descriptive statistics and econometric modeling were used to achieve the objectives.

The results of the study showed that the higher annual income inversely related with the accessibility to the microcredit program, whereas family size ($P < 0.05$) was positive and significantly influenced the accessibility to the microcredit program. The empirical results indicate that borrowers of microcredit have greater control over their own savings. The regression outcome also exposes that microcredit has a positive and significant impact on enhancing participation in household decision making process and women's legal awareness. The study suggested that microcredit providers in Bangladesh should be encouraged to review their program planning and redesign loan products by putting more emphasis on higher income group women.

Lindvert (2017) did a study on Financial Barriers and How to Overcome Them: The Case of Women Entrepreneurs in Tanzania. The study found that women entrepreneurs face particularly high barriers in search for capital and other resources. Drawing on institutional theory, it is clear that not only do they face all the formal financial barriers, like their male counterparts, but also informal barriers related to them being women. These barriers are related to the perception of women as entrepreneurs, and the role complexity that many women are facing, especially in the combination of working wife and motherhood. They also face discriminatory attitudes when applying for loans, they have less freedom to select business sector and find it harder to enter business associations.

2.4.3 The Achievement of Microfinance on Women Empowerment

Study by Ebenezer et al (2020) entitled Microfinance and Women's Empowerment in Ghana: Challenges and prospects. The study evaluates the contributions of microfinance institutions in Ghana to the empowerment of the Ghanaian women, taking a specific interest in the Challenges and prospects. Using a sample size of 210 respondents from three regions of Ghana, perspectives were sought from women who are beneficiaries of microfinance and the management of MFIs. It was observed that micro financing is playing a key role in contributing to the individual lives of women by encouraging and providing the avenue for savings, providing loans and providing some level of business advice.

The study further revealed two main challenges facing the women to be: high-interest rate and the demand for guarantors and collateral for loans. The challenges facing the microfinance industry were: the decline of goodwill from the public, especially women client, lack of adequate regulatory framework and high default rate, which makes the cost of loans very expensive. The study recommends that the government and non-governmental organizations should support private MFIs to set up select units for only women, which will tax interest rate and provide extensive business support for them.

Gulsan Ara Parvin, (2018) carried out a study on Women Empowerment Performance of Income Generating Activities Supported by Rural Women Employment Creation Project (RWECP): A Case Study in Dumuria Thana, Bangladesh. The study is an attempt to examine the performance of income generating activities supported by Rural Employment Creation Project (RWECP) in empowering poor women. Out of 12

than as under this project this study covers only Dumuria Thana of Khulna district. Study reveals that irrespective of type, all economic activities supported by RWECP have induced positive impact in women empowerment, though the extent of changes is not significantly high. The activities have enabled women to have a better access to basic needs and make important contribution to household decision making, especially the decision regarding their personal needs and availing treatment and recreational facilities. It is also found that, husbands of most of these women possess full control over income and sole right of decision making. As a concluding remark of this study it can be said that marital status (women living with husband or without husband) and ethnic affiliation act as influential factors of women empowerment.

Mtamakaya et al (2018) did a study on Microcredit and Its Impact on women's Empowerment. Some Evidence from Moshi, Tanzania. Logistic regression was done to examine association between participation and indicators of women empowerment. Crude and adjusted odds ratios, P-values and 95% CI were computed to show the association. The study findings indicated that microcredit program participation in Moshi is significantly associated with all forms of empowerment manifested in various dimensions such as control over financial resources, mobility, decision making, legal/laws awareness and purchasing ability. However, efforts are needed to make the programs reach the most disadvantaged.

Study by Raphael (2017) on assessing the Role of Microfinance on Women Empowerment: A case of PRIDE (T) –Shinyanga. The objective of the study was to assess the role of micro finance (PRIDE) on women empowerment in Shinyanga Municipality. The study tried to assess two specific objectives, which were to assess

the best way to be considered by pride to empower women and assess the relationship between the roles of micro finance on women empowerment. The study used a sample of 92 beneficiaries of microfinance services from micro finance institution, PRIDE (T). Microfinance services and entrepreneurial skills were independent variables and women empowerment was the dependent variable. The researcher used primary data collection tools such as interviews.

Table 2.1: Summary of Empirical Review

Objectives	Author	Methods	Findings	Area for further studies
Effect of microfinance agency	Shohel et al (2021)	Mixed methods	Microfinance agency has not shifted gender norms	Women financial inclusion and empowerment
	Mwena (2019)	Questionnaire and Observation	Financially empowered women loan are largely controlled by men Loan given by Finca enables women to grow as business women and workers in society	Examining the women economic empowerment
Resources	Tanq Khan, (2018)	Qualitative	Empower women under domain of economic, social, psychological and political	Linkage between microfinance and women empowerment
	Syhanath (2020)	Qualitative methods	Lao PDR helping women to access including micro credit and micro-saving	Broader set of institutions in private organization
Achievement	Ebenezer et al (2020)	Mixed method	Microfinance contributing to individual lives of avenue for savings, providing some level of business level	Examine participation of poor women in microcredit program
	Mtamakaya et al (2018)	Quantitative	Microcredit program participation significantly associated with empowerment manifested in financial resources, decision making and purchasing ability.	

The findings revealed that both microfinance services contribute 97 percent of women empowerment and entrepreneur skills also contribute 71.4 percent on women empowerment. Finding from the multiple linear regressions showed that reduction of harsh condition, increase of entrepreneur skills, saving, loan and reduction of interest rate were 0.327, 0.316, 0.274, 0.370, and 0.289 respectively. The model explained that there is direct relationship between women empowerment and the role of micro finance services as well as entrepreneur skills.

2.5 Research Gap

Microfinance institution play a significant role in women empowerment as it provide opportunities for women to access loans that enable them to run their business smoothly. Though, the contribution of microfinance institution may vary significantly across global, regional and local level and from an individual perspective. Numerous studies on the contribution of microfinance institution on women empowerment conducted in Tanzania context by Raphael, (2017), Mng'ang'a et al (2020), and Mtamakaya et al (2018), to mention concentrate on the ways of how microfinance paved the way toward women empowerment and the factors that prohibit women participation in accessing services from the institution. The assumption of this study is that if the three variables of agency, financial and achievement taken into consideration the level of women empowerment financial and in other related aspects such as decision making, resources ownership would have been improved.

Therefore, the study bridge the existing knowledge gap by assessing the role of microfinance institution on women empowerment focused on three variables of agency, financial and achievement in Tanga Tanzania.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

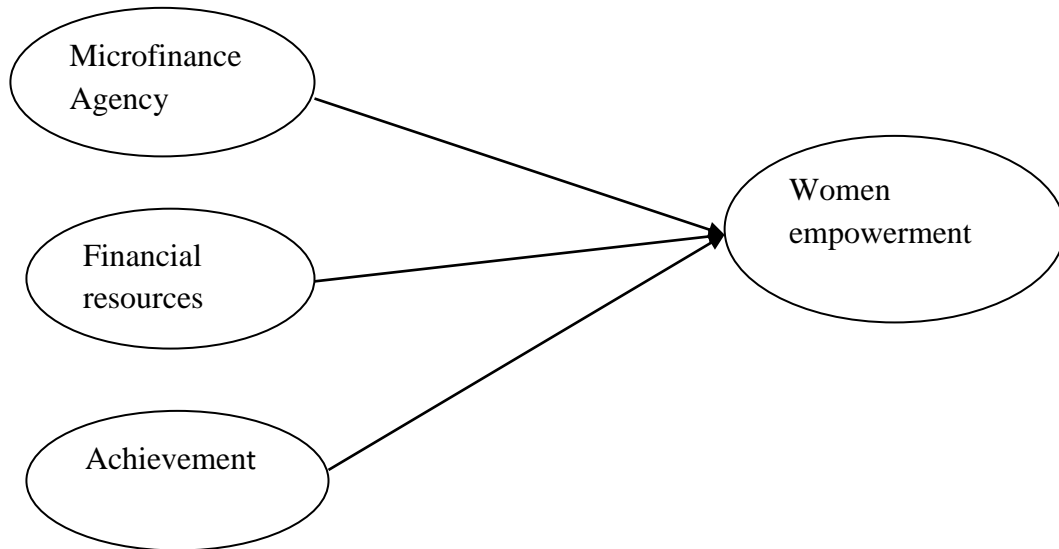


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Author

Conceptual framework describes the relationship between the role of microfinance and women empowerment. Independent variables include the role of microfinance agency, financial resource and achievement of microfinance. These factors have great impact on women empowerment. While dependent variable includes women empowerment. These variables were used in assessing its contribution on women empowerment in the light of resource control, decision making and the overall of financial status in the family. It has been observed that microfinance agency; financial resources play a significant role in women empowerment.

H₁: There is relationship between microfinance agency and women empowerment (H₁=0.05).

H₀. There is no relationship between financial resource and women empowerment (H₀≠0.05).

H₁: There is relationship between achievements of microfinance on women empowerment.

2.7 Organization of the Study

The study organized into five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction and background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions. It also covers the significance of the study as well as scope of the study. Chapter two describes review of literature, theoretical review on the role of microfinance on women empowerment, empirical review and establish gap. Chapter three presents methodology used in the study. It describes research design, research approach, study area, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection methods, data analysis. It is also discusses validity and reliability as well as ethical consideration. Chapter four present the findings obtained from the study and discussion. The last chapter provides summary of the findings and recommendations of the study based on the objectives.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem with the logic behind them or a science of studying how research is done scientifically (Kothari, 2004). This chapter describes research design, data collection methods and analysis procedures.

3.2 Research Paradigm

Research paradigm is an approach or model of conducting research. The study used deductive research approach. Deductive reasoning moves from the general to the particular. “It takes a general premise and deduces particular conclusions”. (Harvey, 1995) Deductive methodology considered being important and feasible because of the nature of data needed along with objectives of study. The approach was used in establishing the relationship between microfinance agency and women empowerment through the use of Pearson correlation coefficient. On the other hand the choice of the approach influenced by the sample used in data collection as well as data analysis approach.

3.3 Research Design

A research design is a plan showing the approach and strategy of investigation aimed at obtaining relevant data, which fulfill the research objectives and the research questions (Cohen and Marnion, 2000). The study makes the use survey approach. A survey is defined as a method of collecting data from people about who they are, how

they think (motivations and beliefs) and what they do (Malhotra, 2007). The choice of this design based on its capability in obtaining information from large samples of the population and its effectiveness in data collection with the lower cost.

3.4 Research Approach

This study guided by quantitative research approach. Quantitative research approach has been used in collecting data on the achievement of microfinance to women empowerment from the selected Saccos. According to Creswell (2012), quantitative research identifies a research problem based on trends in the field or on the need to explain why something occurs.

3.5 Study Area

The study was conducted from the selected SACCOs in TRA in Tanga. The TRA Sacco's in Tanga have been chosen based on researcher familiarity and easy accessibility of respondents. The choice of the area influenced by Sacco's beneficiaries.

3.6 Population of the Study

According to Ogula (2010), population defined as any group of institutions, people or objects that have at least one characteristic in common. Thus, the target population is the whole set of available objects for which the data obtained can be used to make conclusions and get relevant information that will be used in the research (Kothari, 2004). In this study the population from which the researcher draw sample comprise a total of 106 SACCOs beneficiaries, 56 is women and 50 is men. The choice of the group based on knowledge about microfinance role and its contribution on women empowerment.

3.7 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

3.7.1 Sample Size

Sample size refers to the number of items or persons selected from the entire population (Kothari, 2004). Sample size selection is influenced by the time and resources available for the collection of data in a particular research study (Patton, 2002). For possible access and manageability, a total sample of 40 out of 56 women involved. The chosen sample influenced by two factors of financial constraints and time.

3.7.2 Sampling Technique

Sampling technique is a procedure used to select some elements of a population in such a way that it represents actual characteristics of the total population (Cohen *et al.*, 2000). In this study therefore, simple random technique was used.

Simple random sampling is a way of selecting subjects in which every element in the population has an equal chance of being selected (Sekaran, 2003). The procedure has been chosen because it provides each subject equal probability of being selected, the sample have the same composition and characteristics as universe (Kothari, 2004). The respondents from the study area were randomly selected by the use of registered beneficiaries from the SACCOs office in Tanga TRA. Basing on the simple randomly sampling each women chosen randomly by writing number on a slip of paper and put them into a box and mix them thoroughly, and then draw the required number of slips for sample one at a time without replacement until the sample of 40 out of 56 are so selected.

3.8 Data Collection Method

Data from this study obtained from primary source. Primary data are original data collected for a specific research goal (Hox and Boeije, 2005). In this study primary data collected by using questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered to 40 SACCO's women. A questionnaire is a structured data collection method, which involves a range of question format that can be completed in print or oral (Gillham, 2008). Questionnaires are widely used to obtain information about current conditions and practices and to make inquiries concerning attitudes and opinions quickly in the precise form (Kombo, 2006). In this study closed-ended question was self-administered to obtain quantitative information relevant for the study. The closed ended questions was useful in getting specific information about the effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, the role of financial resources and achievement of microfinance on women empowerment on a likert scale.

Closed ended question is often used to describe a person's attributes, beliefs, or attitudes (Dillman et al., 2014). It provides the person with a range of response options that he/she can select from to indicate his/her answer. Closed-ended question may consist of Scalar/likert scale, order, unordered and partial format. In constructing likert scale questions Dillman et al (2014) suggest the use of 5-7 items in each question or statement.

The study therefore, adopt scalar scale in preparation of tools ranging from agree to disagreement level where the respondents instructed to indicate their responses. The tool was prepared in accordance to three research objectives. The tool has been prepared in English language and translated into Kiswahili to make easier

communication during data collection. This technique has been chosen as it enables researcher to collect a lot of information from large number of respondents within a short period of time (Kothari, 2004).

3.9 Data cleaning and Analysis

3.9.1 Data Cleaning

Data cleaning is the process of modifying data to ensure that it is free of irrelevances and incorrect information. It includes scoring tests, matching data files, selecting cases, and other tasks that are required to prepare data for analysis (Salkind, 2010). In this study incomplete questionnaire was sorted out and the completed questionnaires were assigned serial number before coded to maintain quality and clear information before analysis stage.

3.9.2 Data Analysis

Regression analysis, correlation and descriptive analysis were used. Regression analysis used in testing relationship between the role of microfinance and women empowerment while likert scale used in descriptive analysis related to three variables of agency, resources and achievement of microfinance on women empowerment. Data analysis is a process that implies editing, coding, classification and tabulation of collected data (Kothari, 2004). Data analysis was done in accordance to research objectives. In this study data that obtained from the use of questionnaires was edited and assigned serial numbers for the purpose of easy identification during the coding process and rechecking of information on the questionnaires during data entering exercises. Then computer software Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 16.0 was used to figure out frequency and percentage value.

3.10 Regression Model

The regression measurement model depict independent Variables; agency, resource, and achievement of microfinance as dependent variable were successful used in testing whether these variables predict the occurrence of linear correlation assumption. In this study multiple linear regression was performed to estimate how independent variable change and dependent variable change.

In performing multiple linear regression the model assume the existence of normal linear regression.

$$Y_1 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EAGC + \beta_2 EFRS + \beta_3 MFACMT + E$$

Y₁ = Dependent Variable (Women empowerment)

b_0 = Y intercept

EAGC = Agency

EFRS= Effect of financial resource

MFACMT= Achievement of microfinance

E=Error term

3.11 Validity and Reliability

3.11.1 Validity

Validity refers as the degree to which a research study measures what it intends to measure (Bashir, et al, 2008). The validity of this study maintained through the use of proper words and concepts in developing questionnaire tool. Validity is also maintained through proper identification of research title and questionnaire survey tool in data collection. Pilot study was also done prior to the administering of questionnaire instrument.

3.11.2 Reliability

Reliability refers to the degree to which an assessment tool produces stable, consistent results (Phelan & Wren, 2006). It is also defined as the extent to which results are consistent over time (Joppe, 2000). Reliability of this study has been achieved through test and pre-test method during pilot study. On the other hand, random sampling and survey questionnaire method that translated from English to Kiswahili was used to maintain reliability of the instrument. Thus, Cronbach's alpha was used to estimate the reliability of the instrument used in data collection and testing the consistency of the data.

3.12 Ethical Consideration

Ethics are the moral principles that govern a person's behavior (Parveen and Showkat, 2017). It is also referred to as doing what is morally and legally right in research. Ethical clearance for this research will be requested and certified by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). Then, permission letter for doing research and collecting data was obtained from Tanzania Revenue Authority Manager in Tanga. Meanwhile, the purposes of the study were explained and informed consent was obtained from all participants from Sacco's beneficiary. The researcher clearly stated to the respondents that the collected data were mainly for study and not otherwise. Confidentiality and privacy have been maintained throughout the study process by excluding identifications in the questionnaires.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This section provides presentation, analysis and discussion of the study findings on the role of microfinance on women empowerment in TRA Sacco's in Tanga. The chapter comprises four parts. The first part describes the demographic characteristics of the respondents followed by the effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment. Third part explains the influence of financial resource on women empowerment and the last section describes achievement of microfinance on women empowerment.

4.2 Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents

The researcher was interested to explore respondents' demographic characteristics as it play a significant role in examining the role of microfinance on women empowerment. Among the demographic characteristics assessed from the study area includes; respondents age, gender, education background and business types owned by the respondents.

4.2.1 Age of the Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their age. In response to this many (42.5%) of the respondents fall under the age category of 35-39. 20% are in between 45-49 years, 15% of the respondents fall in age category of 30-34 while minority were in age category of 50 and above (Table 4.1). The findings further revealed that many respondents were in the age category of 35-49. These are matured enough to be employed to work in different department (Table 4.1).

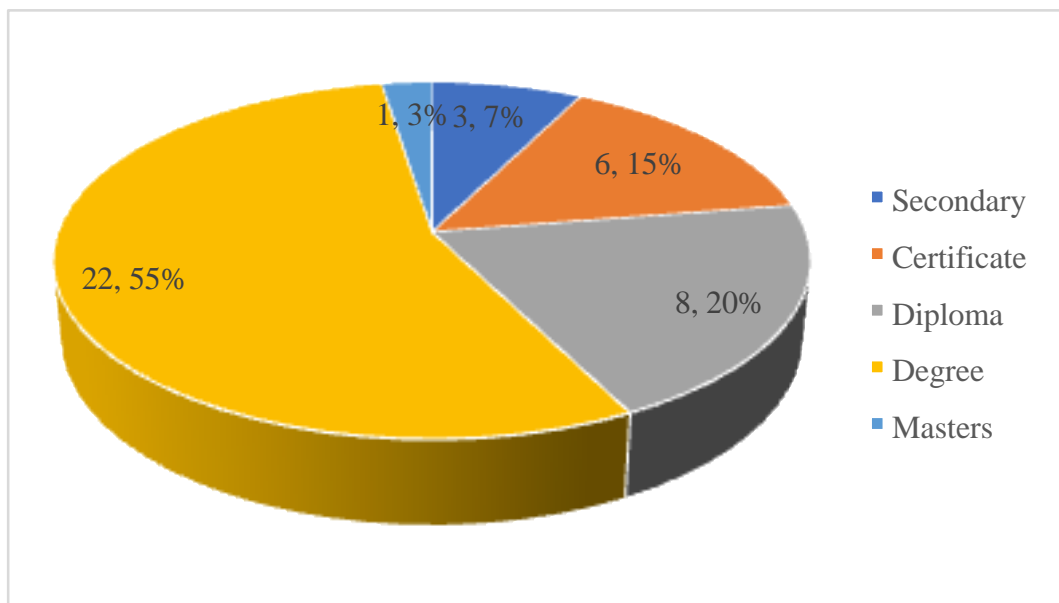
Table 4.1: Respondents Age

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
25-29	5	12.5
30-34	6	15
35-39	17	42.5
45-49	8	20
50+	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

4.2.2 Education Background

The respondents were further requested to indicate their level of education. Respondents' responses indicated that many 55% are degree holder, 15% of the respondents had certificate, and 7.5% had secondary level of education. While 2.5% of the respondents have had masters (Figure 4.1). The findings suggest that with education play a significant role in raising awareness on the contribution of loan offered by microfinance institution in women empowerment.

**Figure 4.1: Respondents Level of Education**

4.2.3 Types of Business

Respondents were also requested to indicate the types of business they own. The responses shows that 15 (37.5%) of the respondents own saloon, 12 (30%) own restaurant, 11(27.5%) possess Saloon while 2 (5%) own other business types including school fee payment, constructions and other related family problem (Table 4.2). This signifies that most women manage to own their own business as they are offered with loan from microfinance institution to run their firm.

Table 4.2: Respondents Types of Business Owned

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Restaurant	12	30
Shop	11	27.5
Saloon	15	37.5
Others	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

4.3 Effect of Microfinance Agency on Women Empowerment

The first research question aimed at examining the cumulative effect of microfinance (Sacco's) on women empowerment. Before examining the effect of micro the respondents were requested to mention financial institution offers credit to run their business. Their responses presented in the Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Financial Institutions Offers Credit to Run Business

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Sacco's	27	67.5
Bank	9	22.5
Pride	1	2.5
Others	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

Table 4.3 present's findings about the financial institution offers credit to women to run their business. The findings informed that 27 (67.5%) of the respondents' access loan to run their business firm from Sacco's, 9 (22.5%) get loan from Bank, 3 (7.5%) get loan from other sources including Vicoba. While minority 1 (2.5 %) obtain loan from Bank. It signifies that almost all women are Sacco's beneficiaries as they are provided with loan either in group or individual with promising conditions to run their business unlike other financial institution offer the same service.

4.3.1 Way in which Microfinance Contribute to Women Empowerment

The respondents were further asked to state clearly the contribution of microfinance on women empowerment. The findings portrayed that microfinance contribute toward women empowerment in various ways including: improve income generating activities, provide opportunity for self-employment, provision of entrepreneur training, and provide loans to run business (table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Contribution of Microfinance on Women Empowerment

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Improve income generating activities	20	21.5
Provide opportunity for self- employment	28	30.1
Provide entrepreneur training	22	23.7
Provide loan to run business	23	24.7
Total	93	100

Source: Field data, 2021

Respondents responses indicated that 28 (30.1%) acknowledged that microfinance provide women with opportunity for self-employment. 22 (23.7%) argued on provision of loans to run their business. 23.7% of the respondents proclaimed that they

are empowered as they provided with entrepreneur training relevant to their daily basis activities. While 20 (21.5%) commented that with microfinance assistance they are income generating activities has been improved (Table 4.4).

The implication here is that women are become economic active as they are well equipped financial and training on how to run their business and other development activities. Regression analysis used to evaluate effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment. The study established positive correlation of microfinance agency on women empowerment with P value equal to 1 (P=1).

Table 4.5: Regression Analysis on Effect of Microfinance Agency on Women Empowerment

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.253	.220		5.695	.000
Able to start my business	.226	.121	.350	1.871	.070
Make investment decision	.002	.116	.003	.014	.989
Able to receive appreciation from family member	.014	.101	.026	.134	.894

Source: Field data, 2021

4.4 Effect of Financial Resources on Women Empowerment

In examining the effect of financial resources on women empowerment the respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement on five Likert scale. Their responses presented in the Table 4.6 to 4.11.

Table 4.6: Respondents Responses on Lack of Control Over Income and Assets

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	19	47.5
Strongly agree	11	27.5
Not sure	8	20
Disagree	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

Table 4.6 shows that 19 (47.5%) of women agrees that lack of control over income and assets contribute to low involvement in business and decision making. 11 (27.5%) strongly agree with the assertion, 20% were not sure and 5% disagree that lack of control over income and asset cannot contribute to women empowerment. This data suggests that majority 75% proclaimed that lack of women control over income and asset deter their participation in business firm and decision making.

Table 4.7: Financial Resource Improve Women run their Business

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	25	62.5
Strongly agree	7	17.5
Not sure	8	20
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

The information from the Table 4.7 provides a description on the effect of financial resources on women empowerment. It was established that 25 (62.5%) agreed that financial resources contribute to the improvement of women run their business, 8 (20%) were not sure while 7 (17.5%) strongly agreed with the assertion. It signifies that with financial resources women are able to run their business smoothly as they have access to loan offered by TRA Sacco's with reasonable conditions.

Table 4.8: Financial Resources Encourage Participation in Resources Ownership

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	24	60
Strongly agree	7	17.5
Not sure	6	15
Disagree	2	5
Strongly disagree	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

Table 4.8 shows that financial resources encourage participation of women in resources ownership as 24 (60%) of the respondents agree on the statement, 7 (17.5%) strongly agree, however, 6 (15%) were not sure and 2 (5%) do not see any contribution of financial resource ownership on women empowerment. The data implies that women empowerment is linked with the means on how women involved in resources ownership in family level and national at large.

Table 4.9: Financial Resources help Women Overcome Barrier to Gender Role

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	20	50
Strongly agree	7	17.5
Not sure	9	22.5
Disagree	2	5
Strongly disagree	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

Respondents' responses from the Table 4.9 indicated that 20 (50%) agreed that with financial resources women are able to overcome barrier to gender role, 9 (22.5%) were not sure if financial resources could overcome gender role barriers. 7 (17.5%) strongly agree, 2 (5%) disagree and strongly disagree respectively. The implication

here is that with the availability of capital accessed from these institutions enable women to participate in firm like their male counterpart.

Table 4.10: Financial Resources Enable Women to have Control Over Household Income and Assets

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	26	65
Strongly agree	6	15
Not sure	4	10
Disagree	3	7.5
Strongly disagree	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

From the responses presented in table 4.10 described that financial resource enable women to have control over household income and assets. As per response from the statement 26 (65%) respondents agreed, 8 (15%) strongly agree, 4 (10%) were not sure to the statement, 3(7.5%) disagree and 1(2.5%) strongly disagree. It implies the power vested to women on household income and assets play a significant role on women empowerment as they are exposed to what the family earn from their daily firms and what actual owned in family.

Table 4.11: Financial Resource Enable Women to have Control Over Serving and Income

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	22	55
Strongly agree	12	30
Not sure	2	5
Disagree	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

Responses presented in the Table 5.9 showed that 22 (55%) respondents agree with the statement, 12 (30%) strongly agree, however 4 (10%) do not accept that with financial resources enable women to have control over serving and income. 2 (5%) were not sure whether financial resources may enhance women empowerment. The information further indicated that 80% supported the statement, as it clearly revealed that women have been exposed in business ownership and able to generate income from their firms. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to establish the relationship between financial resources and women empowerment as presented in the Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Correlation between Financial Resource Control and Women Empowerment

		Financial resource control	Women empowerment
Financial resource control	Pearson Correlation	1	.509**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	40	40
Women empowerment	Pearson Correlation	.509**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	40	40

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

The findings from table 4.12 indicated that $r = .509$ describing a positive correlation between financial resource control and women empowerment. There is positive significant correlation at P value of 0.01 level ($P < \alpha (0.05)$) indicating the relationship is significant. Therefore, financial resources are likely to improve women empowerment.

4.5 Effect of Microfinance Achievement on Women Empowerment

The third research question intended to explore achievement of women empowerment. Responses presented in three categories of responsible financial institution, satisfaction of the selected financial institution and the relationship between achievements of microfinance in empowering women.

4.5.1 Responsible Financial Institution in Provision of Loan to Women

The respondents were further asked to identify responsible financial institution offers credit to run their business. Responses categorized as; government, Bank, Microfinance (Sacco's), Non-governmental organization as shown in the Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Responsible Financial Institution Providing Loan to Women

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Government	5	12.5
Bank	7	17.5
Microfinance	21	52.5
Non-governmental organization	1	2.5
Non	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2021

The study revealed that a number of financial institutions offers loan to women with reasonable condition which facilitate their business. The response indicated that 21 (52.5%) argued on microfinance, 7 (17.5%) reported that bank is responsible financial institution providing loan, 15% were neither obtain from bank nor microfinance. Possibly their business depend from other sources of fund like vicoba, vibati and pride. 5 (12.5%) get loan or credit to run their business from government institution

(Table 4.13). The study findings implied that microfinance support women in terms of fund as working capital.

4.5.2 Status of Microfinance in Achieving Women Empowerment

The respondents were asked to state if microfinance institution is doing enough in achieving women empowerment or not. Respondents responses categorized into yes and no respectively. The study found out that 23 (75%) of respondents commented that microfinance is doing enough in achieving women empowerment as almost all women offered with credit as initial capital to run their business including shops, unlike 17 (43%) who claimed that microfinance is not active in promoting women empowerment (Figure 4.2). Possible they had never requesting loan from microfinance as they can take from other financial institution or source like bank and government institution.

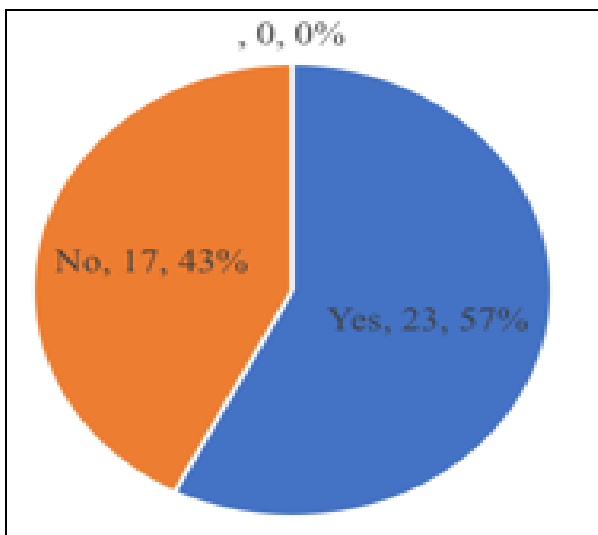


Figure 4.2: Respondents Response on Microfinance Status in Achievement of Women Empowerment

Source: Field data, (2021)

Table 4.14: Reasons for the Achievement of Women Empowerment

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Increase access to loan or credit	22	22.9
Increase gender mainstreaming	13	13.5
Reduce vulnerability of household of women	19	19.8
Financial resources ownership	18	18.8
Participation of women to run business	24	25
Total	96	100

Source: Field data, 2021

Achievement of women empowerment attributed by a number of factors ranging financial and psychological and gender perspectives. The study found that 24 (25%) of respondents commented that achievement of women empowerment linked with increased level of women participation in business, 22 (22.9%) argued on increase level of loan or credit access, 19 (19.8%) reduction vulnerability of household of women, 18 (18.8%) reported on financial resource ownership and 13.5% increase gender mainstreaming (Table 4.14). On the other hand respondents were requested to rank the statement evaluating the achievement of microfinance on women empowerment on five Likert scale. The responses presented in the Table 4.13 to 4.16.

Table 4.15: Microfinance Increase Purchasing Power to Women

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	27	67.5
Strongly agree	7	17.5
Not sure	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

Microfinance plays an important role in achievement of women empowerment. It was established that 27 (67.5%) agreed that with microfinance ability of purchasing power

among women increased as they are assisted with enough fund to run their business. 7 (17.5%) strongly agree with the statement, 6 (15%) were not sure whether microfinance increases purchasing power to women (Table 4.15). Cumulatively 80% of the respondents supported the statement by agree and strongly agree respectively. It signifies that women has been full engaged in business as they have been offered with.

Table 4.16: Training on Income Generating Activities

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	16	40
Strongly agree	9	22.5
Not sure	10	25
Disagree	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

The responses shown in the Table 4.16 indicated that 16 (40%) agree with the statement that training on income generating activities offered by microfinance provide women with technical on how to conduct business activities. 9 (25%) were not sure about the statement, 9 (22.5%) strongly agree and 5 (12.5%) disagree. It is clearly observed that with microfinance contribute toward women empowerment since training on how to manage and financial control offered regularly and strictly abides to principles and condition guide small firms activities.

Table 4.17: Microfinance Provide Advice on how to Run Business

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	22	55
Strongly agree	7	17.5
Not sure	4	10
Disagree	5	12.5
Strongly disagree	2	5
Total	40	100

Sources: Field data, (2021)

The information presented in the Table 4.17 describes the contribution of microfinance on women empowerment. It has been revealed that 22 (55%) of respondents agreed that advice on how to run small business provided attribute the successful achievement of women empowerment, 17.5% strongly agree, while 5 (12.5%) do not accept that microfinance advice to small business owners cannot empower women. 4 (10%) were not sure, and 5% strongly disagree to the statement. The study maintains that 72.5% acknowledged that achievement of women empowerment is successful attributed by advice offered by microfinance among small holder business owners.

Table 4.18: Microfinance Manage to Provide Loan to Women

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	23	57.5
Strongly agree	12	30
Not sure	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

Among the factors for the achievement of women empowerment is provision of loan, as the study found that 23 (57.5%) of respondents agree with the assertion, 12 (30%) strongly agree and 5 (12.5%) not sure (Table 4.18). The result suggests that beneficiaries of the microfinance (Sacco's) coupled with satisfactory condition enhance women empowerment as most of them own business and provide for family necessities including school fee for their children and have control over household resources and assets. This impacted to the eradication of gender biasness on resource ownership.

Table 4.19: Regression Analysis

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.936	.470		1.989	.055
	Microfinance increases purchasing power to women	.804	.188	.551	4.277	.000
	Help women to develop entrepreneur skills	-.396	.144	-.319	2.741	.010
	Encourage participation in resource ownership	.140	.125	.135	1.115	.273
	Able to start my business	.016	.160	.011	.099	.921

Source: Field data, (2021)

In regression analysis the result illustrates that microfinance increases purchasing power to women with a statistical significance correlation of .000 or $p \leq 0.05$. The findings indicate linear correlation as regression analysis results have less than .000 statistical significant with normal distribution.

However other item including able to start business shows that there is no significant correlation as its P value is .921. It implies that women able to start business with credit offered by microfinance cannot contribute to women empowerment. The implication here is that participation in resource ownership, increase purchasing power among other factors play a significant role in achievement of women empowerment.

4.5.3 Effect of Microfinance Agency on Women Empowerment

Cronbach's result analysis was used in testing the internal consistence of questionnaire item used in examining its effect on women empowerment.

Table 4.20: Internal Consistence of Item Analysis on the effect of Microfinance Agency in Women Empowerment

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Improve income generating activities	1.5000	.50637	40
Provide opportunity for self-employment	1.3000	.46410	40
Provide entrepreneur training	1.4500	.50383	40
Provide loan to run business	1.4250	.50064	40

Source: Field data, 2021

In cronbach's analysis indicate that all items were important in examining effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment. However, question one is so important in establishing relationship between women empowerment.

Table 4.21: Inter-Item Correlation Matrix

	Improve income generating activities	Provide opportunity for self-employment	Provide entrepreneur training	Provide loan to run business
Improve income generating activities	1.000	.436	.302	.455
Provide opportunity for self-employment	.436	1.000	.285	.320
Provide entrepreneur training	.302	.285	1.000	.239
Provide loan to run business	.455	.320	.239	1.000

Source: Field data, 2021

The results from inter item matrix shows identical correlation of item as there is 1.00 scores across the diagonal. It implies that item used to collect were relevant as per objective and well knowledgeable to the respondents.

4.5.4 The Influence of Financial Resource On Women Empowerment

The result from item analysis indicated that question one and seven are the most important in assessing the influence of financial resource on women empowerment as its score is a little bit high compare to other items.

Table 4.22: Item Analysis on Influence of Financial Resource on Women Empowerment

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Lack of control over income and assets	1.8250	.93060	40
Improve women run their business	1.5750	.81296	40
Encourage participation in resource ownership	1.7250	1.06187	40
Financial resources help women overcome barrier to gender role	1.9750	1.18727	40
Women have control over household income and assets	1.6750	1.09515	40
Able to pay for my children school fee	1.7000	.79097	40
Control over serving and income	1.7500	1.10361	40

Source: Field data, (2021)

Table 4.23: Inter-Item Correlation Matrix on the Influence of Financial Resource on Women Empowerment

	Lack of control over income and assets	Improve women run their business	Encourage participation in resource ownership	Financial resources help women overcome barrier to gender role	Women have control over household income and assets	Control over serving and income
Lack of control over income and assets	1.000	.509	.417	.228	.270	.256
Improve women run their business	.509	1.000	.544	.440	-.044	.079
Encourage participation in resource ownership	.417	.544	1.000	.666	.318	-.060
Financial resources help women overcome barrier to gender role	.228	.440	.666	1.000	.289	.054
Women have control over household income and assets	.270	-.044	.318	.289	1.000	.695
Control over serving and income	.256	.079	-.060	.054	.695	1.000

Source: Field data, 2021

In inter item matrix correlation the results shows that there is perfect correlation coefficient of item analysis with $r=1$.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The discussion of the study findings is grounded on the solicitation of the thoughts originated from the reviewed empirical literature in chapter two. The discussion also reflects the research objectives and research questions concerning with examining effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, effect of financial resources and effect of achievement of microfinance on women empowerment. The study findings informed that Sacco's is the main financial institution providing women with credit to run their business as almost all women access loan or credit to run their business smoothly. The reason behind could be friendly procedures employed in loan access unlike banks where small business holders find it difficult to comply with the laid down principles and conditions.

Microfinance agency plays a significant role in women empowerment, as there is positive linear correlation with P value equal to 1 ($P=1$). The study established that microfinance provide women with opportunity for self-employment, provision of loans or credit to run their business, women offered with entrepreneur training relevant to their daily basis activities as well as improvement of income generating activities. The findings suggest that with microfinance agency women equipped with business skills that enhance the attainment of women empowerment.

Similarly study by Bansal and Singh (2020), found that provision of loans to women by microfinance helped them to develop entrepreneurial skills, start their own microenterprises, and in the end, support themselves and their families. In addition microfinance enhanced women's participation in household decision-making and enabled women to become self-reliant.

Moreover microfinance agency contributed to the improvement of income generating activities among women. This can be linked with the provision of financial services to the poor, utilizing credit and serving to help the families. This obey the assumption of Agency propounded by Williams' theoretical model of women empowerment (2005), which stressed that agency measured through increased decision-making power or through an individual's emotional. Meaning that providing women with loan and training related to business activities will enhance women empowerment.

The result indicated that microfinance agency play a significant role in women empowerment as they are able to commence their business with the assistance of loan borrowed from the Sacco's. The results tested statistical with P value .070. It implies that women empowerment attributed by the tendency of microfinance agency in provision of loan to run their business. To add the findings revealed that microfinance agency enable women to make investment decision and being appreciated from family member.

This can be linked with increased decision-making power allows almost all women to positively contribute to their well-being. Contrary to this Shohel, et al (2021), demonstrate that participation in microfinance programs has not shifted gender norms, nor financially empowered women. Women's loans were largely controlled by men as prescribed by underlying, unchanged patriarchal gender norms.

Next the study maintain that women empowerment influenced by financial resource as a good number of respondents agreed on the assertion that lack of control over income and assets deter participation of women in business related activities and decision

making. On the other hand few respondents disagree with the statement. Possibly they do not encounter any challenges in accessing to microfinance credit offered to smallholder business owners.

The result further revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that financial resources contribute to the improvement of women to run their business smoothly. This is likely to encourage women to participate more in accessing loan to run their business and able to close gender gap in economic related activities. Similarly study by Simael and Honoré (2021), show that financing is significantly and positively correlated to profits in women-owned micro-enterprises in Chad. Meaning that an improvement in microfinance lending conditions could improve women-run businesses. However few women were not sure whether financial resources provide loan or credit with reasonable condition to run their business.

Financial resources also enable women to overcome barrier to gender role. This is likely to be attributed by active participation of women in financial control and freedom to select business of their choice. In contrast Lindvert (2017) found that women entrepreneurs face particularly high barriers in search for capital and other resources. It is clear found that not only do they face all the formal financial barriers, like their male counterparts, but also informal barriers related to them. They also face discriminatory attitudes when applying for loans, they have less freedom to select business sector and find it harder to enter business associations.

On the other hand the findings informed that few women were not sure if financial resources could overcome gender role barriers. Probably they still encounter

difficulties in accessing loan from microfinance including sacks and other responsible financial institution such as Brack, Finca and Bank.

Again the study informed that financial resources encourage participation of women in resources ownership as majority of the respondents agree and strongly agree with the assertion. However, few respondents do not see any contribution of financial resource ownership on women empowerment. The result suggests that empowering women financial contribute positively on resources ownership including material resources like land and house as there is equal treatment of women in terms of credit acquisition both the two gender. The finding is on line to Mtamakaya et al (2018) who argued that microcredit program participation in Moshi is significantly associated with all forms of empowerment manifested in various scopes including control over financial resources, mobility, decision making, and legal/laws awareness as well as purchasing ability.

Financial resources enable women to have control over serving and income. The financial resources enable women to provide for their day-to-day needs and those of their families. Holloway et al (2017) argued that women in the developing world consistently report lower levels of formal savings balances. Meanwhile the study findings established a positive statistical significant correlation between financial resource and women empowerment at P-value of 0.01 levels.

Lastly the study came up with the effect of achievement of microfinance on women empowerment. In this respect the respondents' responses indicated that microfinance is responsible institution offering credit to women despite of the existence of other

financial institution provide the same service. Probably the procedures used is not complex compare to other financial institution and because most of them are beneficiary.

In addition it is clearly noticeable that microfinance is doing enough to achieve women empowerment since there is an increase access to loan or credit targeting women, increase gender mainstreaming, reduce vulnerability of household of women, women exposed in financial resources ownership, and there is extreme participation of women in conducting business related matter. With such situation, microfinance contributed much on women empowerment as women are given priority in loan accessibility unlike their counterpart male.

Microfinance achieves to enhance ability of purchasing power among women increased as they are supported with enough fund to run their business. This has been witnessed as majority of respondents positively agreed with the statement. In relation to Williams' model of women empowerment Kabeer (1998), found that most women do have a say in the utilization and management of their loans although occasionally men pressure Micro Finance Institution (MFI) to give their wives loans so that the husband can use it.

Furthermore majority of the respondents agree with the statement that training on income generating activities offered by microfinance contributed to the achievement of women empowerment. Similarly study by Parvin (2018) found that income generating activities have enabled women to have a better access to basic needs and make important contribution to household decision making, especially the decision

regarding their personal needs and availing treatment and recreational facilities. Microfinance managed to provide advice to women on how to run small business.

Microfinance managed to provide advice related to the way of accessing loan to run their firms, the best way of maximizing profit, and means of publishing their products. It is clearly observed that most women with access of loan from microfinance are able to provide family with all necessities including household meals and paying school fees. In so doing the burden of household requirements is shared equally and gender gap is almost covered in terms of households' basic needs. Raphael (2017) supported that both microfinance services contribute 97% of women empowerment and entrepreneur skills also contribute 71.4 % on women empowerment. In multiple regressions the model explained that there is direct relationship between women empowerment and the role of micro finance services as well as entrepreneur skills.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter explains summary of the key findings, conclusion and recommendations for action and further study.

5.2 Summary of Key Findings

The study assessed the role of microfinance institution on women empowerment in Tanzania, a case of TRA Sacco's in Tanga. The study recognized that microfinance institution play a significant role on women empowerment. To accomplish this, the study was guided by three specific objectives of; effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, effect of financial resources on women empowerment and achievement of microfinance on women empowerment. The theoretical framework that underpinned the study was Williams' Theoretical Model of women' empowerment (2005). The theoretical model guided by three assumptions: Agency, resource and achievement. The following are the summary of the key findings:

5.2.1 Effect of Microfinance Agency on Women Empowerment

- (i) The study findings revealed that microfinance institution providing women with loan to run their business is Sacco's. This is because almost all women access to loan run their firm from this institution. Though other financial institution found from the study area offer the same service few opt for bank and government institution as the certified and approved by the government agency.

- (ii) Microfinance also provide women with opportunity for self-employment, provision of loans or credit to run their business, women offered with entrepreneur training relevant to their daily basis activities as well as improvement of income generating activities. These factors are likely to enhance women empower women in all spheres business.
- (iii) Microfinance agency contributed to the improvement women empowerment as they have been vested with ability to start their own business. It can be associated with microfinance financial ability coupled with readiness of women to take loan with reasonable conditions, as the institution intended to improve women participation in business.

5.2.2 Effect of Financial Resource on Women Empowerment

- (i) The study findings revealed that financial resource contribute to the women empowerment as majority of the respondents acknowledged that lack of control over income and assets discourage involvement of women in business related activities and decision making.
- (ii) Many respondents agreed that financial resources contribute to the advancement of women in business related matters. In this perspective participation of women in resource ownership provide women with an opportunity to control earnings and control over expenditure.
- (iii) Financial resource provided women with opportunity to overcome barrier to gender role. This may contribute to the raise in productivity and reduce the chance of being poor and minimize gender role to be done by women.

- (iv) The findings further indicated that financial resource enables women to have control over saving and income. This could be attributed by microfinance loan provided to smallholder business owners.
- (v) It has been revealed that microfinance has positive impact on women empowerment as there is statistical significance with P value less than 0.05 at an acceptance level of 5% and 95 degree of freedom. Meaning that with the increase of financial resource women become more powerful in controlling means of production in family level.

5.2.3 Effect of Microfinance on the Achievement of Women Empowerment

- (i) The findings showed that almost all respondents acknowledged that microfinance (Sacco's) responsible for the provision of loan that invested in business operated by women. This is linked to what women believe to be true from what is offered by the institution as it promotes women financially.
- (ii) The findings informed that microfinance is doing enough to maintain women empowerment as every woman under the institution is liable to access loan if meet with criteria and the underlying principles and conditions.
- (iii) It is noticeable that microfinance contributes positively to the achievement of women empowerment. This is likely to be affected by increased level of purchasing power among women compared to the male counterpart increased as they are supported with enough fund to run their business.
- (iv) Majority of the respondents make it clear that achievement of women empowerment linked with income generating activities. The implication here

is that they are exposed into training related to small project that can contribute to increase of financial gain among women. Such activities could be establishment of small project like saloon, poultry husbandry and retail trade with minimal capital and maximize profit.

- (v) The findings further indicated almost all respondents agreed that achievement of women empowerment contribute by microfinance advice offered to women on how to run their business, procedures to be followed if they are in need of being provided with loan to be invested into their business.

5.3 Implication of the Findings

The following are the implication of the findings.

5.3.1 Implication of the Findings to the Microfinance Institution

Microfinance should develop a culture of motivating women to commence new business and request for loan or credit access so as to expose women in the world of self-independent in financial resource ownership and gender stereotype that discourage women participation in business oriented activities.

5.3.2 Implication of the Findings to Women

There is a need to raise awareness among women to borrow loan from microfinance (Sacco's) so as to boost their firm and reduce gender role that deter their participation in related economic matters.

5.3.3 Implication of the Findings to the Policy Maker

Policy make play crucial role in to create and facilitate favorable environment for microfinance credit access initiatives and strategy to enhance women empowerment.

Policy makers should ensure formulated policies and other guidelines are promising for the loan borrowers so as to promote women empowerment and effective achievement of women empowerment.

5.4 Conclusion

Microfinance plays a vital role in women empowerment. The effectiveness of credit access with favorable condition and principles attract large number of women to participate in firms and raise the standard the standard of performance and being active in economic participation.

The effectiveness of women participation in business associated with microfinance agency on women empowerment as almost all women provided with training related on firms and purchasing power.

The study establishes positive correlation between microfinance agency and women empowerment. Thus, microfinance pave a way toward women empowerment as it provide women with loan to commence their business, entrepreneur skills as well as advice on how to invest more in firms and other development like construction of buildings.

The study revealed that microfinance managed to achieve women empowerment as most women have access to loan provided with friendly condition. It concluded that with TRA Sacco's women are now provided with credit or loan to operate their business ranging from 10,000,000/= to 40,000,000/= depending on contribution made by each members.

5.5 Recommendations

5.5.1 Recommendation for Actions

- (i) There is a need to encourage women to land loan from Sacco's for economic development and other related development. This can be attained through seminars targeting women.
- (ii) Microfinance should provide entrepreneur skills focusing on proper management of financial resources provided to women. This can be done in achieved by conducting workshop regularly pertaining to entrepreneur skills.

5.5.2 Recommendation for Further Study

- (i) Since the study was confined within TRA Sacco's in Tanga branch, the study recommends similar study to be conducted in other Sacco's so that the result could be used for comparison purpose, as what may work in TRA Sacco's cannot work in other institution.
- (ii) There is a need to assess effectiveness of microfinance agency on women empowerment.

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APPENDICES**Appendix 1: Questionnaire for Succors Beneficiary****Section A: Demographic information**

1. Age group (identify your age)
 - a) 25-29
 - b) 30-34
 - c) 35-39
 - d) 45-49
 - e) 50 and above
2. What is your gender
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
- i. What is your level of education
 - a) Primary
 - b) Secondary
 - c) Certificate
 - d) Diploma
 - e) Degree
 - f) Masters
3. Type of business doing
 - a) Restaurant
 - b) Saloon
 - c) Shop
 - d) Others specify

Section B: Effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment

4. The following statement explains the effect of microfinance agency on women empowerment, indicate the level of agreement or disagreement on five Likert scale: 1 -Agree, 2- Strongly Agree, 3- Not sure, 4-Disagree and 5-Strongly Agree

S/No	Statement	1 Agree	2 Strongly agree	3 Not sure	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree
1	Help women to develop entrepreneurial skills					
2	Support their family financially					
3	I'm able to start my business					
4	I can make investment decision					
5	There is improvement in personal development					
6						

Section C: The influence of financial resource on women empowerment

5. The following statement describes the influence of financial resource on women empowerment. Indicate the level of agreement or disagreement on five Likert scale

S/No	Statement	1 Agree	2 Strongly Agree	3 Not sure	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree
1	Lack of control over income and assets					
2	Improve women run business					
3	Encourage participation in resource ownership					
4	Financial resources help women overcome barrier to gender role					
5	Women have control over household income and assets					
6	Women set free from psychological problems					

Section D: Achievement of microfinance on women empowerment

6. Do you think that microfinance is doing enough to achieve women empowerment?

a) Yes

b) No

7. If yes how? Choose what is applicable in your case

- a) Increase access to loan or credit
- b) Increase gender mainstreaming
- c) Reduce vulnerability of household of women
- d) Financial resources ownership
- e) Participation of women to run business

8. The statements that follows describes the achievement of microfinance on women empowerment. Indicate the level of agreement or disagreement in each statement on five Likert scale as provided

S/No	Statement	1 Agree	2 Strongly Agree	3 Not sure	4 Disagree	5 Strongly disagree
1	We have provided with advice on how to run our business					
2	Microfinance manage to provide loan to women					
3	Microfinance increases purchasing power to women					
4	We are able to make decision over financial resources					
5	We have been provided with seminar of business start ups					
6	There is no training on income generating activities					