

**EFFECTS OF TABLE BANKING ON SOCIO-  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN KENYA**

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**Effects of Table Banking on Socio-Economic Empowerment of  
Women in Kenya**

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## DECLARATION

This Thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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This Thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as supervisors.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my husband Richard Koskei Berege, sons Randy, Arnold and niece Peace for their encouragement and support throughout the course. I further dedicate it to my parents Bishop Jackson and Rose Koskei, my sisters Emmy, Naomi, Auntie Daisy and my brother Meshack for their continuous support throughout this study.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>DEFINITION OF TERMS.....</b>	<b>xviii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.1.1 Women Empowerment .....	5
1.1.2 Table banking and women empowerment in Kenya .....	7
1.2 Statement of the problem .....	9
1.3 Research objectives .....	9
1.3.1 General objective .....	9

1.3.2 Specific objectives .....	10
1.4 Research Hypotheses.....	10
1.5 Significance of the Study .....	11
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	12
1.7 Limitations of the Study .....	12
<b>CHAPTER TWO .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW.....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	13
2.2 Theoretical Review.....	13
2.2.1 Gender and development Theories .....	13
2.2.2 Poverty and Social Exclusion Theory.....	14
2.2.3 Grameen Model .....	16
2.3 Conceptual Framework .....	18
2.4 Empirical Review .....	19
2.4.1 Access to finance .....	20
2.4.2 Table banking Financial Services .....	21
2.4.3 Funds Mobilization Techniques.....	23
2.4.4 Access to Table banking Group Resources .....	24
2.4.5 Table banking Management Characteristics.....	25

2.5 Socio-economic Empowerment .....	27
2.6 Summary of Literature Review .....	31
2.7 Research Gaps .....	34
<b>CHAPTER THREE .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>38</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	38
3.2 Research Philosophy .....	38
3.3 Research Design .....	38
3.4 Target Population .....	40
3.5 Sampling Frame .....	40
3.6 Sample and Sampling Techniques .....	41
3.7 Data Collection Instruments .....	43
3.8 Data Collection Procedure.....	44
3.9 Pilot testing.....	44
3.9.1 Instrument Validity .....	45
3.9.2 Instrument Reliability .....	45
3.10 Data Processing and Analysis .....	46

<b>CHAPTER FOUR.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	49
4.2 Response Rate .....	49
4.2.1 Respondents' Profile.....	49
4.2.2 Respondents by County of Residence .....	50
4.2.3 Respondents by Gender .....	50
4.2.4 Respondents by Age .....	51
4.2.5 Respondents by Marital Status .....	52
4.2.6 Respondents by Highest Level of Education.....	52
4.2.7 Respondents holding Bank Accounts .....	53
4.2.8 Respondents Main Source of Income .....	54
4.2.9 Respondents Main Occupation .....	54
4.2.10 Loaning institutions .....	55
4.2.11 Collateral requirements.....	56
4.2.12 Types of collateral requirements.....	56
4.2.13 Cases of defaulting in loan repayment.....	57
4.2.14 Interest Rates paid on loans .....	57
4.2.15 Satisfaction with Interest Rates.....	58

4.2.16 Training of the Group Members .....	58
4.3 Reliability Analysis .....	59
4.4 Findings of the Study Variables .....	60
4.4.1 Descriptive Analysis of Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women .....	60
4.4.2 Access to Finance in Table banking .....	63
4.4.2. 1 Relationship between Access to Finance and Members Livelihoods....	66
4.4.3 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Financial Services .....	68
4.4.3.1: Relationship between loan conditionalities, repayment schedule and savings services on members livelihoods .....	72
4.4.4 Descriptive Analysis of Funds Mobilization Techniques.....	74
4.4.5 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Group Resources.....	79
4.4.6 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Management Characteristics .....	84
4.4.7 Relationship between Table banking and Socio-Economic Empowerment	89
4.4.8 Results of Improved Livelihoods.....	90
4.4.9 Results of Improved Basics of life.....	92
<b>CHAPTER FIVE.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>96</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	96
5.2 Summary of Findings .....	96
5.3 Conclusions .....	98

5.4 Recommendations .....	99
5.5 Areas of Further Studies .....	99
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>113</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 3.1:</b> Sampling Frame .....	40
<b>Table 3.2:</b> Sample Size Per County.....	43
<b>Table 3.3:</b> Reliability Statistics .....	46
<b>Table 3.4:</b> Operationalization Of Variables .....	48
<b>Table 4.1:</b> Respondents By County Of Residence .....	50
<b>Table 4.2:</b> Respondents By Gender.....	50
<b>Table 4.3:</b> Respondents By Age.....	51
<b>Table 4.4:</b> Respondents By Marital Status .....	52
<b>Table 4.5:</b> Respondents By Highest Level Of Education.....	52
<b>Table 4.6:</b> Respondents Holding Bank Accounts .....	53
<b>Table 4.7:</b> Respondents' Main Source Of Income .....	54
<b>Table 4.8:</b> Respondents Occupation.....	54
<b>Table 4.9:</b> Loaning Institutions .....	55
<b>Table 4.10:</b> Collateral Requirements.....	56
<b>Table 4.11:</b> Types Of Collateral Requirements.....	56
<b>Table 4.12:</b> Cases Of Defaulting In Loan Repayment .....	57
<b>Table 4.13:</b> Interest Paid On Loans .....	57
<b>Table 4.14:</b> Satisfaction With Interest Rates .....	58

<b>Table 4.15:</b> Group Training.....	58
<b>Table 4.16:</b> Reliability Analysis Results .....	59
<b>Table 4.17:</b> Socio-Economic Empowerment Of Women.....	60
<b>Table 4.18:</b> Factor Analysis On Socio-Economic Empowerment Of Women .....	62
<b>Table 4.19:</b> Table Banking Improves The Livelihoods Of Members And The General Basics Of Life .....	62
<b>Table 4.20:</b> Access To Finance In Table Banking .....	63
<b>Table 4.21:</b> Factor Analysis On Access To Finance In Table Banking .....	65
<b>Table 4.22:</b> Table Banking Enables Access To Finance Which Improves The Socio- Economic Status Of Member.....	66
<b>Table 4.23:</b> Correlation Between Access To Finance And The Livelihoods Of Members .....	67
<b>Table 4.24:</b> Simple Regression On Access To Finance And Improved Livelihoods	67
<b>Table 4.25:</b> Simple Regression On Access To Finance And Improved Basics Of Life .....	68
<b>Table 4.26:</b> Table Banking Financial Services.....	69
<b>Table 4.27:</b> Factor Analysis On Financial Services .....	70
<b>Table 4.28:</b> Table Banking Offer Better Loan Conditionalities, Better Loan Repayment Schedule And Savings Services .....	71
<b>Table 4.29:</b> Correlation Between Loan Conditionalities, Repayment Schedule, Savings Services And Members Livelihoods .....	72
<b>Table 4.30:</b> Simple Regression On Improved Livelihoods.....	73

<b>Table 4.31:</b> Simple Regression On Improved Basics Of Life.....	73
<b>Table 4.32:</b> Funds Mobilization Techniques.....	74
<b>Table 4.33:</b> Factor Analysis On Funds Mobilization Techniques.....	76
<b>Table 4.34:</b> Funds Mobilization Techniques.....	76
<b>Table 4.35:</b> Correlation Between Funds Mobilization Techniques And Improved Members Livelihoods And Improved Basics Of Life .....	77
<b>Table 4.36:</b> Simple Regression On Funds Mobilization Techniques And Improved Livelihoods .....	78
<b>Table 4.37:</b> Simple Regression On Funds Mobilization Techniques And Improved Basics Of Life .....	78
<b>Table 4.38:</b> Access To Table Banking Group Resources.....	79
<b>Table 4.39:</b> Factor Analysis On Access To Table Banking Group Resources .....	81
<b>Table 4.40:</b> Access To Table Banking Group Resources.....	82
<b>Table 4.41:</b> Correlation Between Group Resources And Improvement Livelihoods and Improved Basics of Life.....	82
<b>Table 4.42:</b> Simple Regression On Group Resources And Improved Livelihoods ..	83
<b>Table 4.43:</b> Simple Regression On Group Resources And Improved Basics Of Life .....	83
<b>Table 4.44:</b> Table Banking Management Characteristics .....	84
<b>Table 4.45:</b> Factor Analysis On Table Banking Management Characteristics .....	86
<b>Table 4.46:</b> Table Banking Management Characteristics .....	87

<b>Table 4.47:</b> Correlation Between Management Characteristics And Improved Members' Livelihoods And Improved Basics Of Life .....	87
<b>Table 4.48:</b> Simple Regression On Management Characteristics And Improved Livelihoods .....	88
<b>Table 4.49:</b> Simple Regression On Management Characteristics And Improved Basics Of Life .....	88
<b>Table 4.50:</b> Model Summary.....	89
<b>Table 4.51:</b> Anova.....	90
<b>Table 4.52:</b> Overall Regression.....	90
<b>Table 4.53:</b> Overall Regression.....	92
<b>Table 4.54:</b> Hypotheses Results Summary.....	95

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 2.1:</b> The Conceptual framework .....	19
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## LIST OF APPENDICES

<b>Appendix I:</b> Letter of Introduction.....	113
<b>Appendix II:</b> Letter of Authorization.....	114
<b>Appendix III:</b> Research Permit.....	115
<b>Appendix IV:</b> Research Questionnaire .....	116

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>ASCAs</b>	Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations
<b>CDF</b>	Comprehensive Development Framework
<b>GB</b>	Grameen Bank
<b>GoK</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>JOYWO</b>	Joyful Women Organization
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MFI</b> s	Micro Finance Institutions
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organization
<b>NPEP</b>	National Poverty Eradication Plan
<b>PREP</b>	Prisoner Rehabilitation Programme
<b>RODI KENYA</b>	Resource Oriented Development Initiatives Kenya
<b>ROSCAs</b>	Rotating Savings and credit Associations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Fund for Women

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Empowerment:** is the process of increasing capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes hence improving their standards of living. Social, economic and political empowerment in particular is very fundamental in achieving this goal (World Bank, 2001).
- Microfinance:** refers to a variety of financial services that target low-income clients, particularly women. Since the clients of microfinance institutions (MFIs) have lower incomes and often have limited access to other financial services, microfinance products tend to be for smaller monetary amounts than traditional financial services. These services include loans, savings, insurance, and remittances (Garikipati, 2008).
- Table banking:** is carrying out banking transactions of saving and lending money around a Table. Every member contributes towards the pool on monthly basis or within an agreed period of time. The group members then lend money to any member who needs it. The member will have to pay back the capital plus interest at an agreed period of time (Kenya Gazette, 1999).

## ABSTRACT

The empowerment of women has been widely acknowledged as an important goal in international development, but the meaning and terminology associated with this concept vary. Moreover, the methods for systematically measuring and tracking changes in levels of empowerment are not well established. Table banking, one of the approaches of empowering women is a concept that is becoming popular among women groups in Kenya. The main objective of this study was to establish the effects of Table banking on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women in Kenya. The specific objectives were: to establish the effects of Access to Finance, Financial Services, Funds Mobilization Techniques, Group Resources and Management Characteristics on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women. The study adopted the descriptive survey design where questionnaires were used to get primary data. Secondary data was used to validate the primary collection. The study involved a sample of 440 members drawn using simple random sampling method from a population of 30,735 Table banking members from Baringo, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Bomet and Kericho counties. A total of 440 questionnaires were administered with a return rate of 70.9%. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The study relied on Pearson's correlation, linear regression and factor analysis to draw inferences from the responses. Statistical analysis was done with the aid of statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) software version 24. The findings of the study revealed a strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between Access to Finance and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women. The findings of the study also showed a fairly strong, positive and statistically significant correlation between Table banking Financial Services and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women. Besides, the findings revealed a very strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between Table banking Group Resources and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women. The results of the study also exhibited a very strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between Table banking Management Characteristics and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women. According to the findings, this study recommends continuous, effective and thorough training of all groups involved in Table banking to enhance their financial management capability and performance. The study also recommends that the government should consider increasing the avenues and mechanisms for socio-economic empowerment of women and special interest groups especially in the rural areas. It is also recommended that the groups find out various ways of raising funds other than from their own contributions and invest prudently. The study further recommends that Table banking group members should consider increasing the amounts of their contributions and savings and uphold high levels of financial discipline. The groups should as well pursue viable and economical external sources of funding to boost their capital base and support the group investment activities. The study also recommends that the group members should properly utilize the available resources to avoid inconveniences to the group members. Based on the study findings, it is important that further research be done on the rationale of men's involvement and active participation in Table banking as a means of achieving economic empowerment. Studies should also be done to unearth the interrelation between adoption of Table banking and performance of women owned micro and small enterprises in Kenya.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Microfinance development has emerged as a major strategy to combat the twin challenges of poverty and unemployment that continue to pose a threat to the political and economic development in developing countries (World Bank, 2001). Globally, microfinance has generally focused on providing credit to foster enterprise development. Furthermore, microfinance programmes have significant potential for contributing to women's economic, social and political empowerment. Access to savings and credit can initiate or strengthen a series of interlinked and mutually inclusive activities that reinforce women empowerment (USAID, 2000).

While many banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) in Africa provide valuable services to the poor, they are most successful in economically dynamic urban areas, where borrowing requirements are high and the costs of reaching clients is low. In contrast, most of the people in Africa live in rural areas and do not readily access finances or credit facilities. There is still a very large gap between the needs for financial services and the ability of MFIs to provide these services, especially to rural women. In addition, there is a gap between the products that MFIs offer and those that are needed by the women (World Economic Forum, 2009).

Practice of micro-financing is culturally rooted and dates back to several centuries. Microfinance institutions have rapidly evolved and have been able to create significant income and employment opportunities for the poor in developing countries. They have steadily grown over the years to provide credit to large number of individuals living in the Developing Countries including the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The spreading of and innovation within the microfinance sector demonstrates a successful neoliberal initiative that is both socially conscious and economically beneficial (World Bank, 1999). By connecting groups of poor individuals to lending institutions or affluent individuals in developed countries and SIDS, Microloans have been able to foster the strengthening of local economies,

necessary for consuming life improving technology, while incurring minimal risk to the lending party. Microfinance programmes have the potential to transform power relations and empower the vulnerable and poor men and women. It has become a central component of many donor agencies, national governments, poverty alleviation, and community development strategies (Campbell, 2010).

In Kenya microfinance services come from different types of financial institutions such as Kenya Women Trust Fund (KWFT) and Faulu Kenya. During the last decades microfinance institutions have provided millions of people access to finances, but provision of access in rural areas remains a major challenge (Berger, 1989). Women empowerment approaches in Savings Groups (SG) such as Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) and merry-go-rounds (MGRs) have developed rapidly over the past 20 years into a fairly standardized methodology, with the main principles being that community members mobilize their own resources and access loans from personal savings. Capacity building is done with community members who develop their constitution and agree on savings mobilization modalities, frequency of savings, loan procedures and governance (Narasiah, 2004).

Rotating Savings and credit Association (ROSCA) is a group of individuals who agree to meet for a defined period in order to save and borrow together. Each member contributes the same amount at each meeting and one member takes the whole amount at once. ROSCAs can be compared and contrasted with Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs) which are also time limited, informal microfinance groups (Rutherford, 2000). Unlike ROSCAs however, they appoint one of their members to manage an internal fund, records are kept and surplus lent out. After a pre-agreed period which is often six to twelve months all loans are called back and the fund plus accumulated profit is distributed to the members.

The standardized ASCAs are also called Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) which has interest on loans per month within twelve months (Hugh, 2007). Similarly, the *Merry-go-rounds* (MGRs), as other dimensions of women empowerment, have been used to enable people to save enough money to buy useful items for the household and make opportunistic business investments. Self-help

Groups (SHGs) play an important role in developing rural women in self employment. Self-help groups refer to self-governed, peer controlled informal groups of people. Self-help groups are formed by community members from the same socio-economic background with common problem or situation for the purpose of pooling resources, gathering information and offering mutual support, services and care (Kenya Gazette, 2015). Self-help group members help each other to buy domestic items, pursue income generating activities and have a desire to collectively perform common purposes. The members agree to save regularly and convert their savings into common fund. The members of the group agree to use this common fund and such other funds that they may receive as a group. Self-help groups have become leading players in addressing community-based concerns such as children's rights issues, youth issues, women issues and economic empowerment of the poor (Koinonia Community, 2006).

Microfinance through the self-help groups developed the entrepreneurial skills among rural women (Saravana, 2012). Self-Help Groups mobilize women latent energy and teach them to earn their own livings. Microfinance with self-help group plays an effective role in promoting women empowerment. It is not only an efficient tool to fight against poverty but also a means of promoting empowerment of the most marginalized sections of the population especially women. Self-help groups have had challenges with microfinance institutions as the loans demanded by women groups are small in size and not sufficient to cover the transaction cost. Collateral requirements are difficult for women as the property is generally registered in the names the male members of the family. Upadhey and Kadam (2008) revealed that the SHGs were facing financial, administrative, and marketing problems. The interest rates charged by microfinance institutions on lending were as high and was difficult for women self-help groups to repay the loans leading to the auctioning of their household items.

Women members are empowered but not at the same pace. The degree of awareness, exposure to socio-economic activities determines the direction of women empowerment (Swain, 2009). Bokil (1999), Singh (2009) inferred that the success of micro finance depends on identification of suitable enterprises, training, skill

development and proper utilization of resources. Another study (Talwar, 2009) revealed that the income levels of the members increased significantly and awareness levels rose satisfactorily. However, the micro finance programmes through self-help groups had not reached to the poorest of the poor women. While they provide a popular and simple means of savings, they tend to be rigid in the way they work, providing either predetermined or unpredictable access to accumulated savings or the inability to offer insurance (Leonor, 2010). Due to the limitations of self-help groups and merry-go-rounds there was need for another strategy that would enable women especially poor women to easily access finances.

To address these constraints and reach many needy women, Table banking has been viewed as a new model for ensuring that women access financial services easily and promptly. It is a concept where banking transactions of borrowing, lending and saving take place around a Table . It is a group activity where members of the group come together, contribute some -money, pool it together on or around the Table , and lend it to its members. The groups are self- managed with no external capital; providing members with a safe place to save their money and acquire small loans. Further, Table banking does not require formal collateral or guarantees. It guarantees payment through group lending, saving, and alternative forms of collateral.

By accessing savings services and small loans through Table banking, members acquire income that enable them to meet their basic household consumption needs rather than accruing significant debt which they could be unable to repay. When they borrow through Table banking, loan sizes are generally small and manageable depending on individual's savings. Table banking is becoming popular with women groups in rural areas. It attempts to overcome the difficulties women face in accessing finances by having women groups pool their savings in order to have a source of lending funds (Murthi, 2001).

Table banking is about providing financial services to the poor who are traditionally not served by the conventional financial institutions. Informal sector microfinance institutions have comparative advantage in terms of small transaction costs achieved

through adaptability and flexibility of operations. They are better equipped to deal with credit assessment of the rural women and hence to absorb the transaction costs associated with loan processing. On the other hand, formal sector institutions have access to broader resource base and high leverage through deposit mobilization. The experience of these informal intermediaries shows that although the savings of group members, small in nature do not attract high returns, it is still practiced due to security reasons and for getting loans at lower rates compared to that available from money lenders. These are short term loans meant for crisis, consumption and income generation needs of the members. The interest rates on such credit are low (Ghate, 1992).

Table banking is unique among development interventions because it can deliver social benefits on an ongoing, permanent basis and on a large scale at the grassroots of our society. It is a dual system which blends both formal and informal financial systems. If well managed it can provide financial services in a sustainable way, free of donor support. It thus offers the potential for a self propelling cycle of sustainability and massive growth, while providing a sustainable socio-economic empowerment of women. The other alternatives of microfinance that offer family loans, savings, or money lenders are usually limited by amount, rigidly administered, or available only at exorbitant interest rates (Coleman, 2006). Table banking therefore is a new concept which tries to fill this gap because it has both formal and informal aspects which enable women to access finances especially in rural areas. It has simple structure, procedures, conditionalities and low interest rates that enable rural women to access finances for their socio-economic development.

### **1.1.1 Women Empowerment**

Empowerment is defined as the process by which women take control and ownership of their choices. The core elements of empowerment have been defined as agency (the ability to define one's goals and act upon them), awareness of gendered power structures, self-esteem, and self-confidence (Kabeer, 2001). In this connection microfinance with self-help groups plays an effective role in promoting women empowerment. It is not only an efficient tool to fight poverty, but also a means of

promoting the empowerment of the most marginalized sections of the population, especially women. Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. Empowerment refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, to recognize and eventually to use their resources and chances (Rapport, 1984).

Women empowerment became a developing concept which was perceived to bring a better society in the world. Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. The quality of life of the citizens of a nation can be effectively improved by raising the standards of living of the people especially poor women. Social, economic and political empowerment in particular is very fundamental in achieving this goal (World Bank, 2001). Empowerment leads to increased wellbeing, self-sufficiency, expansion of individual choice and overall community development. Empowering women economically boosts both gender equality and wealth of the nations. This entails enabling the women to have the capacity to control income and other key economic resources.

According to the State of the Microcredit Summit Campaign Report, 14.2 million of the world's poorest women now have access to financial services through specialized microfinance institutions (MFIs), banks, NGOs, and other nonbank financial institutions. These women account for nearly 74% of the 19.3 million of the world's poorest people now being served by microfinance institutions (UNDP, 2001). 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). Furthermore, it is argued that women's increasing role in the household

economy will lead to their empowerment (Hunt & Kasynathan, 2002). Empowerment of women is one of the most important issues as it is viewed as a process in which women challenge the existing institutions to effectively improve their wellbeing and of their children.

Empowerment of women is a global challenge since women have been marginalized and have not been able to access finances due to lack of collateral. About 70 percent of world's poor are women (Khan & Noreen, 2012). They have had financial constraint since their low education level, their knowledge and skills on how to manage their work is generally low. Furthermore, traditionally the position of women has been low compared to men. Women were not expected to influence the decision making processes from domestic level to the national level. In the family level, attitudes which consider men as heads of households still exists, which limit women voices from influencing allocation of domestic resources. This study therefore focused on the effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

### **1.1.2 Table banking and women empowerment in Kenya**

The Government of Kenya (GoK) launched the National Poverty Eradication Plan (NPEP) in 1999, providing policy direction for forging partnerships and mobilizing additional resources from non-State actors in the fight against poverty. The plan was developed in response to global concerns on poverty (United Nations, 1995). The summit set the goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015. A key resolution adopted was for participating member states to develop comprehensive planning and budgeting framework for making the goal a reality. The Government therefore, established the Poverty Eradication Commission through the Kenya Gazette in April 1999, to spearhead the fight against poverty and oversee the implementation of the National Poverty Eradication Plan (1999-2015) (GoK, 2000). The Commission had 14 specific mandates to execute, including advocacy for pro-poor policies and programmes; coordination, monitoring and poverty eradication initiatives and identification and piloting of best strategies to alleviate poverty.

Table banking was initially developed by the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC) under the former Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030, targeting Millenium Development Goal (MDG) 1 on eradicating abject poverty, especially in rural settings in Kenya. Table banking is carrying out banking transactions of saving and lending money around a Table. Every member contributes towards the pool on monthly basis or within an agreed period of time. The group members then lend money to any member who needs it. The member will have to pay back the capital plus interest at an agreed period of time. Table banking takes on the model of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and the village savings and loans schemes of Zanzibar. Table banking is a concept whereby people form a group and members loan each other money (Kenya Gazette, 1999). Table banking was first piloted in Gatanga and Bondo constituencies. The results were very impressive but the government did not continue with the roll out thereafter.

Nevertheless, Women groups adopted the Table banking concept and since then there has been an ever rising demand in various parts of the country especially in rural areas where it has spread over forty three counties (JOYWO, 2015). Table banking has an effective way of local resource mobilization. It enables group members to build their financial base and to start their enterprises. Consequently, the groups diversify their activities and have gone beyond financing household activities into small business creation through saving, borrowing their own accumulated money and repaying it at some interest (Tembo Kenya, 2012). Within this arrangement, therefore, an individual member may request for a Table banking credit depending on one's need and pay it back after a certain period of time with low interest which is ploughed back into the group savings (Grace Life Ministries, 2013). This activity is executed and controlled through members' efforts, checks, controls and behavior, with consultation when need arises. Consequent to these activities and the subsequent outcomes, members have realized that with little or no external support they can take charge of their own development and destiny and are also able to unleash their potential. This thesis therefore sought to investigate the effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Accessing finance is the major constraint on women's ability to earn income. For Africa's most marginalized households, financial inclusion is a long way off. Few institutions exist in the rural areas, and where institutions exist they often have services not accessible to women. The reality is that most poor women have neither the assets nor the skills to interact with formal finance institutions (World Bank, 2005). The unequal distribution of the family resources makes it difficult for women to raise the necessary savings and participate in Micro Finance Institutions. Some women access credit, but are not able to pay back the loans leaving them with the loan repayment burden. Self-help groups, Rotating Savings and credit Associations (ROSCAs), Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs) and merry-go-rounds have rapidly developed over the past twenty years as alternatives that offer family loans, savings, or money lenders.

The main principle is that members mobilize their own resources and access loans from their savings. These approaches have been successful but have had challenges as they tend to be rigid in the way they work, providing either predetermined or unpredictable access to savings and loans (Rutherford, 2000). Table banking therefore, has emerged as a sustainable avenue for bridging the gap of unmet demand for easily accessible financial services to poor women. Table banking enhances socio-economic empowerment of women by building women's financial assets and income through flexible predictable long term access to savings and loans. This study, therefore, sought to establish the effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

## **1.3 Research objectives**

### **1.3.1 General objective**

The general objective of this study was to establish the effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

1. To assess how access to finance in Table banking affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.
2. To establish the effect of Table banking financial services on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.
3. To assess how funds mobilization techniques in Table banking affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.
4. To establish how access to Table banking group resources affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.
5. To assess the effect of Table banking management characteristics on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

### **1.4 Research Hypotheses**

This study sought to address the following research hypotheses;

**H0<sub>1</sub>:** Access to finance in Table banking has no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

**H0<sub>2</sub>:** Table banking financial services have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

**H0<sub>3</sub>:** Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya

**H0<sub>4</sub>:** Access to Table banking group resources has no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

**H0<sub>5</sub>:** Table banking management characteristics has no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

International aid donors, governments, scholars, and other development experts have paid much attention to microfinance as a strategy capable of reaching women and involving them in the development process. Many different rationales have been offered for placing a priority on increasing women's access to microfinance services. Gender and Development Research done by UNDP, UNIFEM, and the World Bank among others, indicates that gender inequalities in developing societies inhibit economic growth and development (Cheston, 2002). Microfinance industry has made great strides toward identifying barriers to women's access to financial services and developing ways to overcome those barriers. However, the revolving fund within each women group still remains inadequate to allow every member to acquire sufficient amount of money as loan and be involved in income generating projects (Malhotra & Schuler, 2001).

Although most microfinance institutions can share evidence of empowerment, very few have studied the effects of their programmes on empowerment (Matunhu, 2011). Access to financial services can empower women to become more confident and does make vital contributions to the economic productivity and their social well being. It can result in women owning more assets, having a more active role in family decisions, and increasing investment in family welfare (Kumar & Laha, 2014). The new concept of Table banking is one of the strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), recently established Sustainable Development Goals and Kenya Vision 2030. Table banking fills the gap as one of the key participatory approaches that empower communities to access finances, identify and mobilize their local resources (Kay, 2003). The study therefore, is relevant to the following stakeholders; This study is of help to the government of Kenya as it seeks to empower women through socio-economic activities and programmes. Through the findings of the study, the government of Kenya is able to come up with policies that promote Table banking activities. The study findings will help the government, Table banking groups and other stakeholders involved in women empowerment to evaluate and improve Table banking in Kenya.

This study adds to the knowledge on effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. International aid donors, governments, scholars, and other development experts will learn from this study and use the findings and recommendations to improve socio-economic empowerment of women. This study serves as a stepping stone for further research on socio-economic empowerment of women. This study is therefore expected to contribute and add value to the existing knowledge on the effects of Table banking on women empowerment in Kenya. It will be useful to the government and other stakeholders especially in its thrust on poverty eradication and gender equality; the donors will use it in planning for their development agenda and NGOs in supporting development activities.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study targeted 30,735 members of Table banking groups from five counties. The focus was Baringo, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Bomet and Kericho counties. These counties are among the pionnaires of Table banking in Kenya and their experiences informed this study. The total sample size was 440 respondents aged 18 years and above obtaining services from various Table banking groups in the study areas. The sample size for each county was developed where the size of each sample was proportionately drawn from the entire population size for better precision. This study adopted a simple random sampling technique to select the respondents for the study and in distribution of questionnaires. The population was considered homogenous since, they all obtain same services from the groups of interest.

### **1.7 Limitations of the Study**

Considering the time duration, the study focused on five counties to get information. Lack of many previous research studies that are relevant to the study was another limitation. Secondary data available was therefore used to validate primary information collected. Also, some of the respondents did not return questionnaires on time due to commitments. This was mitigated by constant follow up through physical visits and phone calls by research assistants.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter is divided into theoretical and empirical review. The theoretical review focused on micro financing and women socio-economic empowerment theories. The empirical review contains review of past studies and literature on access to finance, financial services, funds mobilization techniques, access to group resources, management characteristics and socio-economic empowerment of women. This chapter contains conceptual framework, summary of literature review and research gaps.

#### **2.2 Theoretical Review**

A theory is a reasoned statement or group of statements, which are supported by evidence meant to explain some phenomena. Theories provide a generalized explanation to an occurrence. Therefore a researcher should be conversant with those theories applicable to his area of research (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). A theoretical framework is a logically developed, described, and elaborated network of interrelationships among the variables deemed to be integral to the dynamics of the situation being investigated. It explains the theory underlying these relations, and describes the nature and direction of the relationships. The theories reviewed and which informed the study were: Gender and Development, Poverty and Social Exclusion theory and Grameen Model.

##### **2.2.1 Gender and development Theories**

Since the 1970s, many women's organizations worldwide have included credit and savings, both as a way of increasing women's incomes and bringing them together to address wider gender issues. Since then women movements in a number of countries have identified access to finances as a major constraint on women's ability to earn an income. These women movements became increasingly interested in the degree to which poverty focused credit programmes and credit cooperatives were actually

being used by women. Consequently, the 1980s saw the emergence of poverty targeted microfinance institutions such as the Grameen Bank, followed in the 1990s by an increased emphasis on targeting women in microfinance programmes subsequent to a combination of evidence of high female repayment rates and the rising influence of gender lobbies within donor agencies and NGOs. Throughout the developing countries, innovative lending programmes have emerged that specialize in supplying small capital loans to low income entrepreneurs (World Bank, 2005).

Feminist scholars and activists from across the globe have struggled to alter development thinking and practice. They sought to recognize women as important actors and to identify the many ways in which women's lives have been disrupted by the development process. Most major development institutions now have specialized gender departments that assist in the design, implementation and evaluation of development programmes, concentrating on the impact of such programmes on women. Many of the programme initiatives that concern women are heavily focused on bringing them into development process. Scant attention has been given to altering the overall development process, and even less to changing the oppressive gendered relations that the process often creates or maintains (Dhillon, 1999). Table banking is promoted as an entry point in the context of a wider strategy for women's economic and socio-political empowerment which focuses on gender awareness and feminist organization. Table banking must be part of a sectoral strategy for change which identifies opportunities, constraints and bottlenecks within industries which if addressed can raise returns and prospects for large numbers of women which is perceived to lead to socio-economic empowerment of women (RODI, 2006).

### **2.2.2 Poverty and Social Exclusion Theory**

The concept of poverty has typically been framed by accompanying qualifiers such as absolute and relative poverty. Exhibiting both absolute and relative elements, this constitutes a very broad definition which includes the multi-dimensional character of poverty and the somewhat elusive concept of "dignity". World Bank (2004) offers a more detailed definition of poverty adaptable to different country conditions, whereby poverty is defined as "pronounced deprivation in well-being, comprising

many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of (political) voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life". Poverty includes lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. The elements of lack of participation and exclusion are thus again emphasized, while the possibility that the status of being poor leads to or results from "discrimination" is also put in the forefront (United Nations, 1995).

Traditional approaches and definitions of poverty refer either to basic needs which are not met by social and economic mechanisms, or to the consequences of inequality for vulnerable categories of people. Social exclusion is often treated as an extension of the poverty, or as a lack of social rights (Jordan,1996). The notion of social exclusion was developed in industrialized countries in the 1970s to describe the processes of marginalization and deprivation which can arise where processes of economic and social transformation render traditional systems of welfare and social protection inadequate or obsolete. It is defined as the process through which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from the society in which they live. This ensures that poverty is considered in relation to social systems and structures that are solely economic view of poverty (Levitas, 1998).

Social exclusion is a set of processes, including within the labour market and the welfare system, by which individuals, households, communities or even whole social groups are pushed towards or kept to the margins of the society. It encompasses not only material deprivation but also more broadly the denial of opportunities to participate fully in social and civil life (Democratic Dialogue, 1995). Social exclusion happens when individuals or groups suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown (Social Exclusion Unit, 1999).

European analyses of poverty often tend to highlight the role of social exclusion above other factors in explaining destitution. EU defines social exclusion as a process through which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society in which they live (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 1995).

In turn, Hills and Stewart (2005) define social exclusion as "more than the lack of material resources" by reframing poverty as a feature of society at large that can foster lack of participation. Thus, there is wide consensus among those who focus on exclusion in viewing poverty as non-participation in consumption, production, political and economic engagement and social interaction (Morazes and Pintak, 2007). Table banking concept is therefore seen as a new concept that tries to fill this gap of poverty and social exclusion of women in the society. Table banking enables women to access finances that allow them to get income which increases household well being and translate into improved well being. The main focus is on developing sustainable livelihoods and improving the living standards of women and the poorest through financial inclusion so as to overcome chronic poverty.

### **2.2.3 Grameen Model**

The conflict over microcredit as a concept is traced back to its early years when many bankers and economists rejected the very idea of giving loans to the poor. Such a proposition defied traditional assumptions that the poor were not worthy of loans, couldn't handle the responsibility, lacked collateral and education, amongst other handicaps. Many conventional and traditional banks and some microfinance institutions require collaterals in order to access credit. However, some institutions and banks have emerged which do not require collaterals for one to access credit. Even without collaterals, the microfinance lenders ensure higher repayment rates and returns particularly capitalizing on social networks, concepts of group liability and compulsory savings by borrowers (Rahman, 2010).

An example of a bank with collateral free operational frame of microcredit is the Grameen Bank (GB) which targets women who have limited opportunities of accessing finances through other microfinance institutions with collateral

requirements. With its proven success among marginalized women in Bangladesh, the GB model which emerged from the poor focused grassroots institutions, attracted the attention of microfinance lenders around the world and motivated them to adopt it sometimes with minor modifications to suit the local conditions (Yunus, 2011). As an approach to development, the credit model is thought to be bottom up, fulfilling the credit requirements of the marginalized people who had been ignored by the traditional banks. This, in turn, contributes to increased production, income and consumption, and makes a positive impact on the overall socio-economic development of the country by reducing poverty and bringing entrepreneurial development (Ninah, 2000).

The Grameen Bank essentially adopts the methodology of a bank unit set up with field manager and a number of bank workers, covering an area of about 15 to 22 villages. Groups of five prospective borrowers are formed and taken through a formal training on how to use the finances. In the first stage, only two of them are eligible for, and receive, a loan. The group is observed for a month to see if the members are conforming to rules of the bank. Only if the first two borrowers repay the principal amount plus interest over a period of fifty weeks do other members of the group become eligible themselves for a loan. Because of these restrictions, there is substantial group pressure that locks out most of the women in rural areas who are not able to meet the conditions. Although there is a great resemblance of the operations and management of the GB model with that of Table banking, the latter is better option since it embraces all and does not discriminate against marginalized women. Its overall focus is to empower women by enabling them to easily access finances without restrictions so that they can improve on their standards of living (Yunus, 2016).

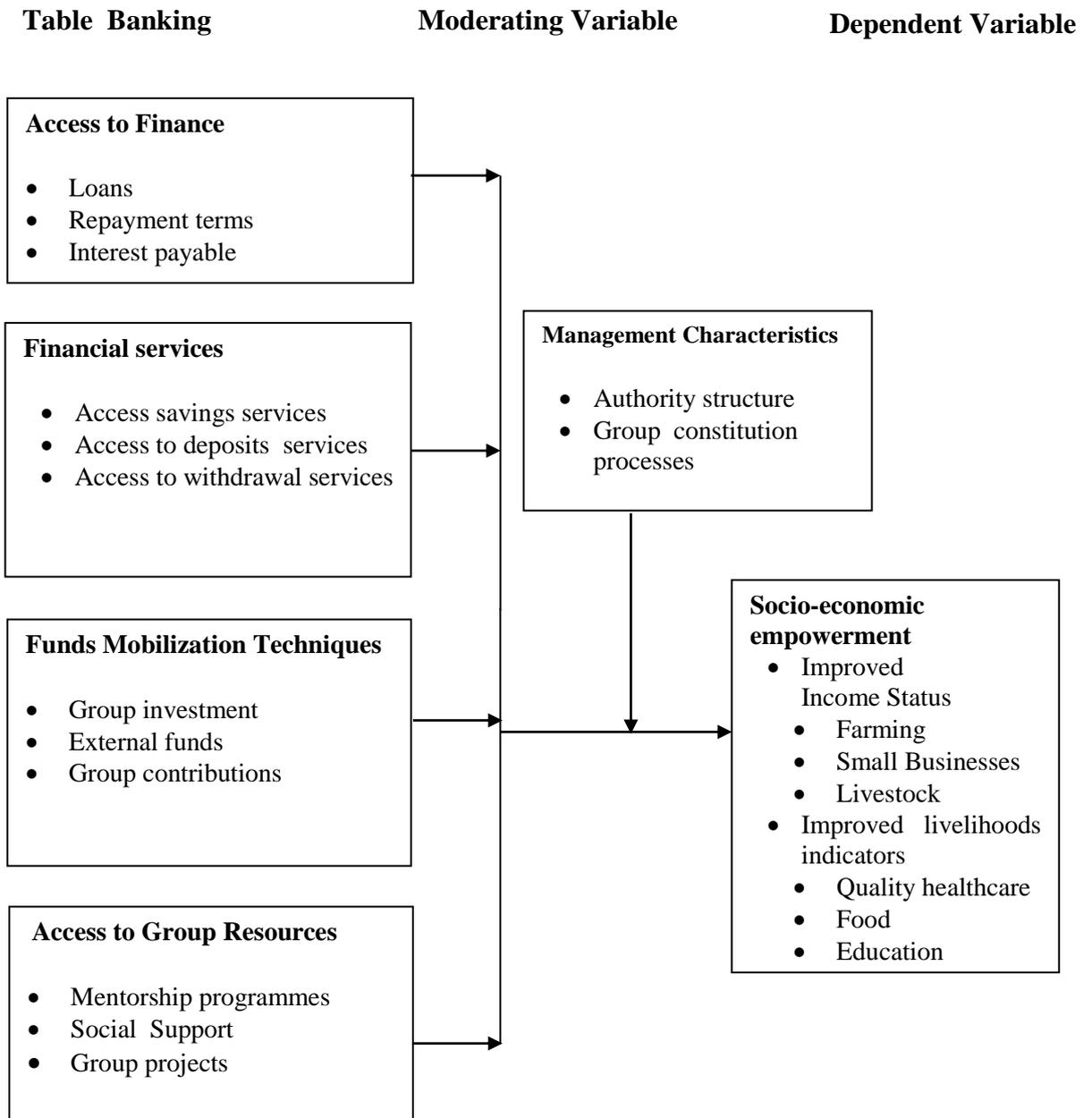
The Grameen Bank of Bangladesh follows the group lending methodology for credit extension. Group collateral is substituted for physical collateral. Using this mechanism, poor people with no physical collateral are able to form groups to gain access to credit (Khandker et al., 2002). Some identifiable benefits of this principle are that groups are effective for education and training participants, networking and information dissemination are enhanced and can reduce administrative costs by

giving responsibilities such as loan monitoring to the group. Mutual trust and peer pressure ensures participation and repayment. Resources can be pooled for initiatives such as common infrastructure development or bulk purchasing (Michael, 2006). The benefits of group organizing can also be extended to networking MFI's. The model provides collateral free loans and various social services for the poor, charging low interest on loans and yet maintaining loan recovery rate. Most of Table banking members are women who are beneficiaries of this model of borrowing at low interests rate without collaterals.

### **2.3 Conceptual Framework**

Conceptual framework identifies the concepts included in the complex phenomenon and shows their relationships. The conceptual framework contributes to research by identifying research variables, and by clarifying relationships among the variables (peter, 1994). It presents the dependent, independent and moderating variables of the study. The conceptual framework for this study illustrates the perceived link between the independent variable (Table banking) and dependent variable (women socio-economic empowerment) moderated by Table banking management style. The framework shows that access to finances, financial services, funds mobilization techniques and access to group resources affect socio-economic empowerment of women. The independent and dependent variables are moderated by Table banking management style which affects women empowerment perspectives and the progress of Table banking.

## Independent Variable



**Figure 2.1: The Conceptual framework**

## 2.4 Empirical Review

Empirical review is a comprehensive survey of previous inquiries related to a research question and a search for published works, including periodicals and books, that discusses theory and presents empirical results that are relevant to the topic at hand (Zikmund et al., 2010). Although it can often be wide in scope, covering

decades, perhaps even centuries of material, it should also be narrowly tailored, addressing only the scholarship that is directly related to the research question (Kaifeng & Miller, 2008).

#### **2.4.1 Access to finance**

Access to financial services allows the poor to get income, manage their risks and build their productive and non-productive assets. Policy debates have focused particularly on the importance of small savings and loan provision for consumption as well as production, group formation and the possible justification for some level of subsidy for programmes working with particular client groups or in particular contexts. Some programmes have developed effective methodologies for poverty targeting and operate in remote areas (Awori & Atema, 2001). Such strategies have recently become a focus of interest from some donors and also the Microcredit Summit Campaign. The assumption is that increasing women's access to microfinance will enable women to make a greater contribution to household income and this, together with other interventions to increase household well being, will translate into improved well being for women and enable women to bring about wider changes in gender inequality (Ledgerwood, 2013).

Donors are beginning to realize that MFI capacity is a more binding constraint than the availability of funds, making it essential for donors and practitioners to operate from the same perspective if they are to meet effectively the substantial need for financial services. When microfinance first emerged as a development tool, both donors and practitioners focused on the cumulative amount of loans disbursed, with no concern for how well the loans suited borrower needs and little concern about whether or not loans were repaid. Neither was it particularly accountable for the long term sustainability of the microfinance institution or for the long term effect on borrowers or beneficiaries. The overall political and economic environment of a country affects how microfinance is provided. Government economic and social policies, as well as the development level of the financial sector, influence microfinance organizations in the delivery of financial services to the poor (Yaron et al., 1994).

Over the past twenty years, however, successful experiences in providing finance to small entrepreneur and producers demonstrate that poor people, when given access to responsive and timely financial services at market rates, repay their loans and use the proceeds to increase their income and assets. The only realistic alternative for them is to borrow from informal market at an interest much lower than market rates. Community banks, NGOs and grass root savings and credit groups like Table banking around the world have shown that these microenterprise loans can be profitable for borrowers and for the lenders and are the most effective poverty reducing strategies (Barry et al., 1996).

#### **2.4.2 Table banking Financial Services**

Concern with women's access to credit and assumptions about contributions to women's empowerment are not new. From the early 1970s women's movements in a number of countries became increasingly interested in the degree to which women were able to access poverty focused credit programmes and credit cooperatives. In India organizations like Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) among others with origins and affiliations in the Indian labor and women's movements identified credit as a major constraint in their work with informal sector women workers (Bahemuka, 1998).

The problem of women's access to credit was given particular emphasis at the first international women's conference in Mexico in 1975 as part of the emerging awareness of the importance of women's productive role both for national economies, and for women rights. This led to the setting up of the women World Bank network and production of manuals for credit provision. Other women organizations worldwide set up credit and savings components both as a way of increasing their incomes and bringing women together to address wider gender issues. From the mid-1980s there was a mushrooming of donor, government and NGO sponsored credit programmes (Mayoux, 2005).

Many MFIs require clients to hold a balance in savings for first or subsequent loans. Compulsory savings differ from voluntary savings in that they are not generally available for withdrawal while a loan is outstanding. In this way compulsory savings

act as a form of collateral. By being required to set aside funds as savings, borrowers are restricted from utilizing those funds in their business activities or other income producing investments. Usually the deposit interest rate paid on the savings is lower than the return earned by the borrowers if the savings were put into their business or other investments (Usha, 2010).

Although microfinance can make a contribution to empowerment of women, this cannot be assumed to be an automatic outcome. There underlies the course of a good approach to solving the incapacitation of the women in rural and disadvantaged areas of Africa to move out of poverty. For this to materialize, women must develop the capacity to generate and maintain their means of livelihood and produce excess that will eventually lead to savings (Akinyi, 2014). The advantage of Table banking over formal financial institutions particularly in the rural areas, lies in their ability to give quick credit and to mobilize savings, their proximity and easy access to those in the rural communities who require their services, the freedom they give their debtors to deploy extended credit to whatever use they desire, the repayment flexibility and adaptability to the peculiar needs of borrowers and their low overhead and transaction costs.

The lack of access to credit for the poor is attributable to practical difficulties arising from the discrepancy between the mode of operation followed by financial institutions and the economic characteristics and financing needs of low income households. Commercial lending institutions require that borrowers have a stable source of income out of which principal and interest can be paid back according to the agreed terms. However, the income of many self employed households is not stable, regardless of its size. A large number of small loans are needed to serve the poor, but lenders prefer dealing with large loans in small numbers to minimize administration costs. In addition bankers tend to consider low income households a bad risk imposing exceedingly high information monitoring costs on operation (Hulme, 2011).

Traditionally, sources of credit in developing countries can be broadly classified as institutional and non-institutional. While institutional sources include financial

institutions and cooperatives, non-institutional supply of credit comes from friends, relatives, and money-lenders. To be successful, financial intermediaries that provide services and generate domestic resources must have the capacity to meet high performance standards. They must achieve excellent repayments and provide access to clients. And they must build toward operating and financial self-sufficiency and expanding client reach. Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader. Cost reductions are due to simplified procedures for loan application, approval and collection processes (Otero et al., 2014).

### **2.4.3 Funds Mobilization Techniques**

Table banking is a group based financial transactions usually governed by rules set out by the group and where such transactions include deposits, contributions, payments and loans issuances are done during the meeting of the group with all members present (Government of Kenya, 2012). The most common type of loan disbursed by Table banking is the small loan which is quoted on the flat-interest-rate calculation method and varies between 10 and 15 percent during the tenure of the loan. Table banking loan products are made flexible to cater for a number of socio-economic segments in terms of loan sizes, interest rates, and repayment periods which is weekly, monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually or annually.

Generally, the loans are lent to low-income women who often have very few assets. Table banking facilitates the formation of groups whose members jointly guarantee each other's loans. Table banking activities can help members mobilize resources both from within and external to build financially self-sufficient, subsidy-free, often locally managed institutions. They provide the same services in similar ways, but with greater flexibility in repayment system. Group members are allowed to repay the loans and borrow at the same time as long as they pay for the interest. The amount borrowed is more affordable since every one borrows depending on their needs, ability to repay and must have cleared the previous loans borrowed. This makes Table banking services very attractive to a large number of low-income clients (Microfinance Information Exchange, 2012).

#### **2.4.4 Access to Table banking Group Resources**

Building local organizational capacity through women groups is a fundamental part of the microfinance revolution on which other elements depend. The two principles that have been established in the last few decades of microfinance lending are that women can borrow and repay on commercial terms and that women have high demand for convenient savings instruments like Table banking. Many of the institutional innovations depend on the capacity of women, particularly in the rural areas, to form groups. Group based methodologies that allow the poor to use their social capital as a collateral asset reduce both risks and transaction costs to the microfinance institution and enable poor people to overcome their lack of material collateral and engage in shared learning (Fernando, 2006).

Many innovations that lead to financial viability take advantage of this group presence. These include frequent repayment in small amounts; incentive based innovations to overcome information asymmetries that include starting with small, short term loans and building up the size over time for those with a good track record of repayment; and requiring a certain amount of up front savings to establish the client's commitment and ability to service a loan. Finally, high discipline in repayment has meant a shift from treating women as beneficiaries to treating them as clients and customers capable of managing their own business affairs (Goldenberg, 2005). Further, such initiatives unite local people, and encourage members to identify their needs and mobilize their resources to meet those needs. It also enables provision of goods and services that the government is unable to provide. Groups are such an important part of reaching women, and particularly the poorest; that they form the base on which other institutional mechanisms mentioned rely (Crowley et al., 2007).

Since the context of women's lives matters and the same interventions are not effective everywhere, most of the policies remain ineffective. The experiences of empowerment and disempowerment are related not just material means and interventions, but also to social relationships. Table banking concept has an advantage over the other microfinance interventions because it does not discriminate

women in accessing finances. The lack of collateral requirements and low interest rates helps women to access finances as they do not own properties or assets for loan security. The Table banking management structure is simple as women are empowered to control and make decisions and come up with rules and regulations that govern all processes (Khan, 2012).

#### **2.4.5 Table banking Management Characteristics**

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. Customary laws and practices remain discriminatory against women on issues of property inheritance particularly on land, as well as institutionalized violence against women. There is need for Women empowerment and microfinance empowerment to be understood in cultural terms. Thus, in addition to changes in organizational culture such as training, education and creating awareness of MFIs, research has highlighted the cultural environment, which is dominated by patriarchal values, within which women's everyday activities and lives are embedded (Kabeer & Haq, 2010). Mechanism of patriarchal gender relations and norms provides an explanation. The emphasis here shifts from structural factors, such as power and material resources of institutions, to an emphasis on the symbols that shape and limit our individual actions, thoughts and feelings. Culture is manifested in values, norms, symbols, emotions, gender identity, frames and interpretations.

Microfinance capacity to empower women is important for both conceptual and policy concerns. These include: gendered norms, symbols and framing processes. These forms shows significance of culture in understanding and explaining the relationship between microfinance and women's empowerment is revealed. While cultural challenges are recognized in the literature, cultural influences take different forms that are sometimes not easily visible. Just as the phenomenon of poverty is multidimensional, so the strategies of its reduction are multidimensional. In the same way, cultural factors are located not in static and easily identifiable categories such

as gender, caste and tribal groups. Rather, they exist in different processes and forms that are not easily visible (Abdullah et al., 2010).

Strategies for improved governance and poverty reduction have focused on formal systems, with little connection to citizens and those working at the community level. An empowering approach to state reform can be viewed as strengthening the demand side of governance for greater public effectiveness. A demand side approach focuses on creating laws, rules, and procedures that enable citizens and women organizations to interact effectively with their governments. Such an approach invests in educating and informing citizens, in creating institutional mechanisms for their sustained inclusion and participation, and in enabling the emergence of strong organizations to interact effectively with their governments (The Microfinance Network, 2001).

These paradigms do not correspond systematically to any one organizational model of microfinance. Microfinance providers with the same organizational form like village bank, Grameen model or cooperative model may have very different gender policies, emphases and strategies for poverty alleviation. What is of concern in current debates is the way in which the use of apparently similar terminology of empowerment, participation and sustainability conceals radical differences in policy priorities (World Bank & IMF, 1999). Although women's empowerment may be a stated aim in the official gender policy and program promotion, in practice it becomes subsumed in and marginalized by concerns of financial sustainability and poverty alleviation (Hermes, 2005).

A conducive policy and regulatory environment is widely accepted as an important prerequisite for the development of a viable, sound and stable microfinance sector. Bangladesh, the world's leader in microfinance has yet to have a formal framework for microfinance, but its policies and regulations could be instrumental in promoting financial services to the poor. The conducive policy environment, however, is required both for formal and informal microfinance programs. The exceptional growth of microfinance in the last two decades is also attributable to the overall supportive policies adopted by the various governments. The objective of formulating the guidelines on microfinance policy and regulatory issues is to

disseminate the best practices in the developing countries and provide them a basic structure of microfinance policies and regulations normally required for the development of a sound, stable and vibrant microfinance sector (Lauer, & Lyman, 2015). Table banking has a simple structure with management and committee members selected from the group. They have a constitution with rules and regulations that guides the group. The members of the group make decisions on all the group activities and investments.

## **2.5 Socio-economic Empowerment**

Socio-economic empowerment has been considered significant for overall development. Women's empowerment is evidently necessary for alleviating poverty when they take part in various development programmes and economic activities for their substantial development. Social empowerment is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty. Poor people's empowerment, and their ability to hold others to account, is strongly influenced by their individual assets (such as land, housing, livestock, savings) and capabilities of all types: human (such as good health and education), social (such as social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to imagine and aspire to a better future). Also important are people's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organization, representation and identity (Micheal, 2006).

Economic empowerment allows poor people to think beyond immediate daily survival and to exercise greater control over both their resources and life choices. It enables households to make their own decisions in making investments on health and education, and taking risks in order to increase their income. Economic empowerment can strengthen vulnerable groups' participation in decision making. For example, microfinance programmes have been shown to bolster women's influence within the household and market place. The evidence also suggests that

economic power is often easily ‘converted’ into increased social status or decision making power (ICRW, 2015).

Women have the potential to change their own economic status, as well as that of the communities and countries in which they live. Yet more often than not, women’s economic contributions go unrecognized, their work undervalued and their promise unnourished. Unequal opportunities between women and men continue to hamper women’s ability to lift them from poverty and gain more options to improve their lives. Women’s economic empowerment that is, their capacity to bring about economic change for themselves is increasingly viewed as the most important contributing factor to achieving equality between women and men. But economically strengthening women who are half the world’s workforce is not only a means by which to spur economic growth, but also a matter of advancing women's human rights. When governments, businesses and communities invest in women, and when they work to eliminate inequalities, developing countries are less likely to be plagued by poverty. Economic development efforts to combat poverty can only succeed if women are part of the solution. Doing so yields a double dividend. When women are economically empowered, they raise healthier, better educated families (Ahmad,1999).

Better access to financial services enables women to establish and expand micro enterprises and improve their incomes, status and participation of decision making, thus contributing positively to socio-economic development. Unlike their formal counterpart, microfinance organizations have made their stride in delivering financial services (both savings and credit) to the poor, especially women, at a very low loan default cost. Strategies such as collateral free, group based lending and mobilization of savings, even in small amounts, have helped them mitigate the problems of poor outreach and high loan default costs of their formal counterpart. However, they assume high transaction costs in order to keep credit discipline among borrowers through group pressure and monitoring of borrowers’ behavior. The transaction cost is substantial and programs have been relying on donors for sustaining their operations (Khandker, 1988; Khan, 2012; Morduch, 1999; Yaron, 1994).

Nonetheless, the government and donors continue to support microfinance programs with the expectation that society benefits from such investment. Microfinance programs support the production and consumption of the poor. Loans in easy repayment terms help smooth consumption and create jobs for the unemployed. The basic theory is that microfinance empowers women by putting capital in their hands and allowing them to earn an independent income and contribute financially to their households and communities. This economic empowerment is expected to generate increased self esteem, respect, and other forms of empowerment for women beneficiaries. Involvement in successful income generating activities should translate into greater control and empowerment. Closer examination shows us, however, that this equation may not always hold true and that complacency in these assumptions can lead MFIs to overlook both opportunities to empower women more profoundly and failures in empowerment (Manimekalai, 2004).

An empowering approach to participation treats women as co-producers, with authority and control over decisions and resources devolved to the lowest appropriate level. Inclusion of women and other excluded groups in decision making is critical to ensure that limited public resources build on local knowledge and priorities, and brings about commitment to change. The 1980s and 1990s also saw development and rapid expansion of large minimalist poverty targeted microfinance institutions and networks like Grameen Bank, ACCION and Finca among others. In these organizations and others, evidence of significantly higher female repayment rates led to increasing emphasis on targeting women as an efficiency strategy to increase credit recovery. A number of donors also saw female targeted financially sustainable microfinance as a means of marrying internal demands for increased efficiency because of declining budgets with demands of the increasingly vocal gender lobbies (Copestake, 2002).

The trend was further reinforced by the Micro Credit Summit Campaign starting in 1997 which had ‘reaching and empowering women’ as its second key goal after poverty reduction. Microfinance for women has recently been seen as a key strategy in meeting not only Millennium Goal three on gender equality, but also recently established Sustainable development goals (SDGs) and vision 2030. Table banking

concept is one of the strategies seen to meet these goals as its becoming popular with women especially in rural areas. Table banking model has become an increasingly popular model for providing poor women with access to financial services. Individual members accumulate savings, which eventually become their own source of investment capital (Bennett, 1997). Table banking gives women the ability to work together, organize themselves, and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interest that leads to their socio-economic empowerment.

Table banking impact goes beyond just business loans. The poor use financial services not only for business investment in their microenterprises but also to invest in health and education, to manage household emergencies, and to meet the wide variety of other cash needs that they encounter. The range of services includes loans, savings facilities, insurance, transfer payments, and even micropensions. Evidence from the millions of microfinance clients around the world demonstrates that access to financial services enables poor people to increase their household incomes, build assets, and reduce their vulnerability to the crisis that are so much a part of their daily lives (Rushidan, 2001).

There are an increasing number of well documented, innovative success stories in settings as diverse as rural Bangladesh, urban Bolivia, and rural Mali. This is in stark contrast to the records of state run specialized financial institutions, which have received large amounts of funding over the past few decades but have failed in terms of both financial sustainability and outreach to the poor. The innovations like Table banking that have shown the most promise are solving the problem of lack of collateral by using group based and character based approaches; solving problems of repayment discipline through high frequency of repayment collection, the use of social and peer pressure, and the promise of higher repeat loans; solving problems of transaction costs by moving some of these costs down to the group level and by increasing outreach; designing group incentives to achieve greater outreach and high loan repayment; and providing savings services that meet the needs of small savers (Pitt, 2019).

Table banking allows poor people to protect, diversify, and increase their sources of income, the essential path out of poverty and hunger. The ability to borrow short term loans payable within one to six months to take advantage of a business opportunity, to pay for school fees, or to bridge a cash flow gap, can be a first step in breaking the cycle of poverty. Similarly poor households will use a safe, convenient savings account to accumulate enough cash and borrow long term loans payable within six months to one year. This will enable them to buy assets such as inventory for a small business enterprise, to pay for health care, or to send more children to school. Table banking also helps safeguard poor households against the extreme vulnerability that characterizes their everyday existence. Loans, savings, and insurance help smooth out income fluctuations and maintain consumption levels even during the lean periods (Dupas, 2008).

## **2.6 Summary of Literature Review**

From reviewed literature, it has come out that several writers like; Micheal, 2006; and Rahman, 1999 relate in some fashion to women's empowerment. Thus, measures of economic development should strongly relate to the measures of women's empowerment. The human development approach stresses the role of increasing human resources in expanding the scope of social inclusion and human choice. Inglehart and Norris (2005) find that cultural modernity holds real, positive consequences for women. When controlling for alternative hypotheses, their measure of attitudes toward gender equality is the sole predictor of the proportion of women in leadership positions. It is not so much gender egalitarian attitudes in particular but the broad emancipative implications of self expression values in general that positively predict gender empowerment.

The Grameen model shows that collateral free operational frame of microcredit offered opportunities and choices to women. The women are socially and economically marginalized and had limited access to finances from other institutions hence this model forms basis for this study. Manimekalai (2004) in his article stated that SHG need the help of NGOs to run the income generating activities successfully. The bank officers should counsel and guide the women in selecting and

implementing profitable income generating activities. Das Gupta (2005) in his article says that a paradigm shift is required to form finance sector reform to microfinance reform in the country. SHGs should be included in the priority sector and loan should be made mandatory to them. The Microcredit facilities must be monitored vigorously so that there may not be shortage of funds to SHGs. Gupta (2005) mentioned that SHGs have become most effective tools for women empowerment. The confidence level of women members of SHGs has been increased, as a result of which, both the family and society are at beneficial stage.

Kumar (2009) observed that this may lead to improved household level outcomes with respect to health, education particularly education of the girl child, nutrition and family planning. Mansuri (2010) stated that microfinance has gained a lot of significance and momentum in the last decade, India now occupies a significance and niche in global micro finance through promotion of self help groups (SHGs) under SHG Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) and the micro finance institution model. The Indian model offers greater promise and potential to address poverty as it is focused on building social capital through access to financial services through linking with the mainstream. In its simplest term it means banking for poor.

Empowerment of women and discipline amongst the poor will undoubtedly have long-term socio-economic benefits. The term 'Women empowerment' implies women's hold over use of resources and participation in the decision making as well leading to improvement in their socio-economic status. The studies of rural women have proved their business excellence. They have been found to be better in credit utilization than men (Pitt, & Khandker, 2019). Though there can be no magic bullet, which can bring about radical structural transformation that the empowerment of women needs, the success of micro financing organizations in building up the organizational capacity of the poor women provides the basis for their social mobilization that many other class interventions have not been able to achieve (Kabeer, 2001). The underlying logic is that by providing financial services to the poor, for example in the form of credit or savings, they manage their money differently, investing, acquiring productive assets, increasing their skills levels, and opening new businesses.

Some indicate much more mixed impacts, such as benefits for the poor but not for the poorest (e.g., Copestake et.al., 2001, Morduch, 1999; Zaman, 2001); or helping the poor to better manage the money they have but not directly or sufficiently increasing income (e.g. Husain et al., 2010, Mayoux, 2005; Rahman, 2010) or that money spent on microfinance could be better used more effectively for other interventions (Karnani, 2009) or that a single intervention (such as microfinance) less effective as an anti-poverty resource than simultaneous efforts that combine microfinance, health, education. Others point out negative impacts such as the exploitation of women, increased or at best unchanged poverty levels, increased income inequality, increased workloads and child labor, the creation of dependencies and barriers to sustainable local economic and social development (Bateman & Chang, 2010; Copestake, 2002; Rogaly, 2009).

Microfinance is increasingly questioned, for its lack of proven poverty reduction and development outcomes (Bateman, 2011; Dichter, 2007; Fernando, 2006; Roy, 2010). The recent crisis which has hit the industry in India where thousands are over indebted with serious implications for people's livelihoods and communities also increased the concerns. Further, an increase in the commercialization of the industry has been met with suspicion and concerns around the ethics of making money from the poor, and talk of "mission drift", even within the microfinance industry (Fernando, 2006; Karnani, 2009; Yunus, 2011). The evidence for the positive claims surrounding microfinance is being challenged, and rigorous evaluations sought. But much of the available research has focused on how to improve the industry, rather than how to prove impact (Hulme, 2000). (Banerjee et al., 2009; Karlan & Zinman, 2010) failed to find evidence that microfinance alleviates poverty, sparking a defensive response from within the industry (Accion International et al., 2010).

There is a need to systematically bring together this varied evidence to establish what the combined good quality evidence shows about whether or not microfinance benefits the poor in terms of a wide range of outcomes. Furthermore, in acknowledgement that microfinance itself varies enormously and is available to a wide range of people in a variety of contexts (Goldenberg, 2005; Odell, 2010), there is a need to consider what we know about the different types and models of

microfinance and whether or not they work, for whom and in what circumstances. While the level of evidence is gradually increasing, a simple search of bibliographic literature, and more thorough overviews of the evidence, reveals that the majority of microfinance and of the related evaluations still emanate from Asia where the microfinance movement originated. Theory suggests however, that microfinance works differently in different regions where the population density, attitudes to debt, group cohesion, enterprise development, financial literacy, and financial service providers all vary (Ghate, 1992).

## **2.7 Research Gaps**

Self Help Group programmes have been successful in not only meeting peculiar needs of the rural women, but also in strengthening collective group capacities at the local level, leading to their empowerment. Before 1990's, credit schemes for rural women were almost negligible. The concept of women's credit was born on the insistence by women oriented studies that highlighted the discrimination and struggle of women in having the access of credit. However, there is a perceptible gap in financing genuine credit needs of women in the rural sector. The Government measures have attempted to help in implementing different poverty alleviation programmes but with little success. Most of the programmes are target based involving lengthy procedures for loan disbursement, high transaction costs, and lack of supervision and monitoring. Since the credit requirements of the rural women cannot be adopted on project lending approach as it is in the case of organized sector, there emerged the need for an informal credit supply through SHGs.

The predominant image of empowerment in development is that of women gaining material means to empower themselves as individuals, and putting this to the service of their families and communities. This is primarily because empowerment is understood in relation to deliberate and planned interventions such as electoral quotas, education, economic empowerment initiatives, legislative change and non-governmental public action (Cornwall & Edwards, 2010). Since the context of women's lives matters and the same interventions are not effective everywhere, most of the policies remain ineffective (Abdullah, Aisha & King, 2010; Sardenberg,

2010a). The experiences of empowerment and disempowerment are related not just to material means and interventions, but also to social relationships (Kabeer & Haq, 2010; narrative & Rahim, 2010), choice (Kabeer, 2008).

It is not that MFIs do not pay attention to women's empowerment issues; however, they do so marginally by adhering to the latter two paradigms. Mayoux (2005) explains that in the financial self-sustainability paradigm, women's empowerment strategies are seen as entailing unacceptable costs as the paradigm's explicit aim is to develop fully financially self-sufficient MFIs. In the poverty alleviation paradigm, women's empowerment is seen as an external imposition by a Western influenced middle-class feminist elite, with little relevance to the needs of poor women. It is also seen as politically sensitive and involving conflicts within households and communities that may undermine organizational sustainability." Thus the feminist paradigm where the central concern lies in promoting gender equality and human rights has been emphasized as an effective route to women's empowerment through microfinance institutions. Although microfinance programmes adhere to the latter two paradigms, there are arguments on why MFIs should adopt empowerment approaches. An agenda of targeting women for loan access, and detaching the empowerment aspect, will thus be an anti-poverty strategy that is not only rationally unmusical, but also morally incomprehensible. For this reason, the agenda for MFIs should be to develop useful linkages between the functions of MFIs and their empowering potential.

Over the past fifteen years, a substantial literature has been produced on various aspects of microcredit programs in poor communities. A few studies have focused on the relationship between credit program participation and some notion of women's empowerment. Using a five level scale reflecting the degree of control that women have over the loans they take, they conclude that most women have a minimal level of control over their loans, and that when the time comes for loans to be repaid, this lack of control can have a damaging impact on the well-being of women (Gupta, 2007).

While much is known about empowerment, much remains to be learned. There is a vast monitoring and research agenda that needs to inform project design and implementation as well as policy reforms. Organizations that adopt empowerment as a key goal must also adopt empowering processes and behaviors internally. Empowerment approaches by definition include behaviors that build people's self-confidence. Discussions about informal norms and behavior that support ownership, dignity, and respect need to be part of the dialogue of institutional reform in countries, in support organizations, and within microfinance institutions. There are few studies available on Table banking, micro-finance and women empowerment. The battle for total eradication of poverty requires combining microfinance schemes with parallel, complementary programmes addressing the social and cultural dimensions of want, privation, impoverishment and dispossession (Kapoor, 2001).

Women's empowerment is much more likely to be achieved if women have total control over their own organizations, which they can sustain both financially and managerially without direct dependence on others. Pattanaik (2003) reveals that SHGs are continuously striving for a better future for women as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the domestic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life. But due to certain constraints like gender inequality, and exploitation of women, various Self Help Groups are not organized properly and effectively.

Giving women the opportunity to realize their potential in all spheres of society is increasingly important. Cheston and Kuhn (2002) concluded that microfinance programmes have been very successful in reaching women. This gives microfinance institutions an extraordinary opportunity to act intentionally to empower poor women and to minimize the potentially negative impacts some women experiences. Therefore, Table banking has emerged as the most vital instrument in the process of participatory development and women empowerment. Das Gupta (2005) commented that a paradigm shift is required from "financial sector reform" to "microfinance reform". While the priority sector needs to be made lean, mandatory micro credit must be monitored rigorously. Simultaneously space and scope have to be properly designed for providing competitive environment to microfinance services. Sinha (2005) observed that microfinance is making a significant contribution to both the

savings and borrowing of the poor. The main use of microcredit is for direct investment. Some studies reveal that microfinance programmes have had positive as well as negative impacts on women. Some researchers have questioned how far microfinance benefits women.

Some argue that microfinance programmes divert the attention of women from other more effective strategies for empowerment, and the attention and the resources of donors from alternative, and possibly more effective means of alleviating poverty (Rogaly, 2009). In some cases women's increased autonomy has been temporary. It only benefits women who are already better off. But in most cases the poorest women are least able to benefit because of their low initial resources base, lack of skill and market contact. This chapter has addressed from a theoretical perspective the empirical observation that money in the hands of women leads to their empowerment and economic development.

However, to fully understand the effects of such gender based development policies, one needs to know the mechanism that generates the observed empirical findings. Perhaps the most important conclusion arising from this work is that more measurement and empirical work is needed to distinguish between the various theoretical models outlined above. The empirical implications of the models are quite distinct and could in principle be tested. In particular, empirical research to date has mostly focused on microfinance lending but not on the effect of credit on women empowerment.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the research design and methodology that was used in the research study. It describes the research design, target population, sampling procedures and techniques, sample population, a piloting of research questionnaires, testing for validity and reliability. It also describes data collection procedures, proposed data analysis techniques and procedures.

#### **3.2 Research Philosophy**

This study was anchored on the positivist research paradigm which views the researcher as independent of the study they are carrying out. They view reality as objective and measurable, human beings as rational; and that research emphasizes fact and predictions to explain cause and effects (Bryman & Bell, 2007). Through positivism, induction and deduction, scientists routinely collect data for both quantitative and qualitative variables in an attempt to interpret, understand and explain social life (Sekaran, 2009). High priorities are placed in identifying causal linkages between and amongst variables (Cooper & Schindler, 2006). Mill made a distinction between deduction and induction and defined induction as the process for discovering and proving general propositions and took the experience of the uniformity of nature as the warrant induction. He reaffirmed the belief that it is possible to apply the principle of causation and the methods of physical science to moral and social phenomena. Thus Comte and Mill agreed on the possibility on the possibility of a genuine social science (Scambler, 2014). This research, therefore, focused on this line of reflection and adopts the social science view in relation to other studies on women empowerment and microfinance.

#### **3.3 Research Design**

Kothari (2004) defines a research design as the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the

research purpose. Kombo and Tromp (2006) define research design as the structure of research, glue which holds all of the elements in a research project together. Its purpose is to show how all of the major parts of the research project work together to try to address the central research questions. Orodho (2003) defines research design as the scheme outline or plan that is used to generate answers to research problems. The plan is the complete scheme or programme of the research that includes an outline of what the investigator intended to do from writing the hypotheses and their operational implications to the final analysis of data (Kerlinger, 2000). According to Creswell (2008) research designs are plans and the procedures for research that span the decisions from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. This study adopted a descriptive research design which is a fact finding operation, with adequate interpretation, generally used to describe phenomena. The major purpose of descriptive research design is the description of the state of affairs, people's attitudes, opinions, habits, or any of the variety of education or social issues as it exists at present.

A descriptive research determines and reports the way things are (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2005). It is a type of research undertaken with the aim of describing characteristics of variables in a situation. Descriptive study describes and interprets conditions or relationships that exist through collection of quantitative or qualitative information. It is a method of collecting information by interviewing or administering a questionnaire to a sample of individuals (Best & Khan, 2009). Descriptive research has been used in other studies like Webb (2006) used descriptive research techniques to investigate the effect of collaborative groups as they worked within schools. Rysavy and Sales (2001) also used descriptive approach to study the role of group collaboration for the success of working at computers. This type of design was suitable for this study because it can be used to ascertain attitudes and opinions as well as factual information. The study therefore aimed at collecting information from respondents by use of questionnaires with both close and open ended questions. This design was used because it allows simple ways of gathering, summarizing, presenting and interpreting data.

### 3.4 Target Population

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) population refers to an entire group of individuals, events or objects having a common observable characteristic. A researcher had therefore to define the population to which he or she wants to generalize the results and hence target population. Ranjit (2005) defines target population as classes, families from which you select a few individuals to question in order to find answers to ones research questions. The study targeted 30,735 members of Table banking groups from five counties. The focus was Baringo, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Bomet and Kericho counties. These counties are among the pionnaires of Table banking in Kenya and their experiences informed this study.

### 3.5 Sampling Frame

To select a representative sample, the study first had a sampling frame from where respondents were selected from the sampling frame form the sample of respondents selected to represent the total population and the aim of selecting a sample is to achieve maximum precision in estimates made within a given sample size and to avoid bias in the selection of one's sample (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Kothari (2004) sees a sample as respondents selected to represent the total population. To Kumar (2005) the aim of selecting a sample are to achieve maximum precision in estimates made within a given sample size and to avoid bias in the selection of one's sample. Therefore, in this study a sampling frame consist of all Table banking groups in Baringo, Nakuru, Uasingishu, Bomet and Kericho counties.

**Table 3.1: Sampling Frame**

County	Total No. of Table banking Groups	Average No. of Members Per Group	Total Population
Baringo	250	15	3750
Nakuru	409	15	6135
Uasin Gishu	1000	15	15000
Bomet	190	15	2850
Kericho	200	15	3000
	2049	75	30,735

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, (2015)

### **3.6 Sample and Sampling Techniques**

Sampling involves any procedure that draws conclusion based on measurement of a portion of the population (Kothari, 2004). It is the process of selecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group has elements representative of the characteristics found in the entire group (Orodho & Kombo, 2002). When dealing with people, it can be described as a set of respondents selected from a larger population for the purpose of a survey. Research conclusions and generalizations are only as good as the sample they are based on. Samples are always subsets or small parts of the total number that could be studied. Sampling is the act, process or technique of selecting a suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population (Kumar, 2005). The way in which a researcher selects subjects for a study will determine how one is able to generalize the results of the study (Kombo & Tromp, 2006).

According to Kothari (2005) a sampling technique is a definite plan for obtaining a sample from a given population. It refers to the technique or the procedure the researcher would adopt in selecting items for the sample. This study adopted a simple random sampling technique to select the respondents for the study and in distribution of questionnaires. Table banking groups from the five counties had an estimated population of 30,735 (Ministry of Labour, Social Security and services, 2015). The total sample size was expected to comprise of 440 respondents aged 18 years and above obtaining services from various Table banking groups in the study areas. The population was considered homogenous since, they all obtain same services from the groups of interest. The sample size for each county was developed where the size of each sample was proportionately drawn from the entire population size for better precision.

The total sample size was calculated using Yamane's formula for sample size calculation

$$\text{Equation: } n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where;

n = is the sample size,

N = (equal to 30,735 women in the Table banking groups in the five counties) was the population size and

E = (equal to 5%) was the level of precision.

$$n = \frac{30735}{1 + 30735 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = 399$$

$$n = 399 + 10\% \text{ Attrition}$$

$$n = 440 \text{ women}$$

**Table 3.2: Sample Size Per County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Women in Groups (2015)</b>	<b>Sample of Size</b>
<b>Bomet</b>	2,850	40
<b>Kericho</b>	3,000	43
<b>Baringo</b>	3,750	54
<b>Nakuru</b>	6,135	88
<b>Uasin Gishu</b>	15,000	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,735</b>	<b>440</b>

### **3.7 Data Collection Instruments**

Data collection refers to gathering specific information aimed at proving or refuting some facts. In data collection the study must have a clear understanding of what they hope to obtain and how they hope to obtain it. Data collection is important in research as it allows for dissemination of accurate information and development of meaningful programmes (Kombo & Tromp, 2002). A questionnaire is a tool used for collecting data. It consists of a number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or set of forms. The questionnaire is given to respondents who are expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space meant for the purpose (Kothari, 2004). Questionnaire administration is a method that has been used widely over time for various purposes and has actually proven to be effective in obtaining both qualitative and quantitative information. Questionnaires can be close ended, open ended or a combination of both. (Dawson, 2002).

The major advantage of using questionnaires as stipulated by Kumar (2005) offer greater anonymity as there is no face to face interaction between respondents and interviewer and hence high likelihood of obtaining accurate information when sensitive questions are asked, there is adequate time for respondents to give well thought answers, respondents not easily approachable can be reached conveniently

and, large samples can be made use of. Questionnaires were used to collect data for this study. Questionnaires with both open ended and close ended questions were used for collecting data. A questionnaire was given to each respondent who was expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space meant for the purpose. This study, therefore, used structured questionnaires to collect both qualitative and quantitative primary data. Kothari (2004), defines secondary data as data that is already available, collected and analyzed by someone else. Secondary data involves use of data gathered in previous study through published works, including periodicals, journals and books that discusses theory useful to the study at hand (Polit & Beck, 2003). This study therefore, used secondary data to validate results gathered from primary data.

### **3.8 Data Collection Procedure**

Primary data was collected through questionnaires administered to the respondents. Kothari (2004) describe primary data as original fresh data collected from the respondents. Data collection for this study was undertaken using questionnaires and conducting interviews. The questionnaires were administered and interviews conducted among Table banking members in the selected population. The procedure for collecting data involved personal administration of the questionnaire and face to face interviews. Two visits were made; the first one was for the distribution of the questionnaires and interviews and the second visit for the collection of the filled in questionnaires and debriefing the respondents. Every respondent was expected to fill in the questionnaire for further analysis.

### **3.9 Pilot testing**

Pretesting is trying out the questionnaire in the field to a selected sample which is similar to the actual sample which the researcher plans to use in the study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The aim of pre-testing is to detect any errors or weaknesses that may result in inaccurate answers. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) indicate that a pre-test sample normally contains between 1% and 10% of the selected sample depending on the sample size. Pretesting helps in enhancing the reliability of the instrument, that is, as a consistent measure of the concept being studied (Mugenda &

Mugenda, 1999). The study sampled 44 respondents in Table banking who were not included in the final study sample to avoid biasness and repetition of respondents. The Table banking group members for pilot testing had similar characteristics in terms of access to services provided. Pilot testing was done to ensure that there are no deficiencies and ambiguities in the final questionnaire.

### **3.9.1 Instrument Validity**

According to Walingo and Ngaira, (2008), Validity is the ability of the questionnaire to measure what it is supposed to measure. It considers whether data obtained in the study represents the variables of the study. This is important in research because conclusions drawn from such data is more accurate, relevant and meaningful. To check on validity, the researcher presented the questionnaires to members of Table banking and experts in the field of Table banking to evaluate the exactness and adequacy of the items in the questionnaires. The review was focused on representativeness of the items in relation to the objectives and variables in the study.

### **3.9.2 Instrument Reliability**

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instruments yields constant results or data after repeated trials (Kothari, 2004). Reliability enables the researcher to estimate error and make the necessary corrections if any. This is because the larger the reliability the smaller the error and conversely, the larger the error, the smaller the reliability. After pilot testing, reliability of the questionnaire was determined using the Cronbach's coefficient test. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2000), a reliability of 0.70 or higher is preferable for research purposes. The pilot test was within the recommendation as the 44 questionnaires were coded and input into statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 24 for Cronbach reliability test.

**Table 3.3: Reliability Statistics**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
Access To Finance	0.714
Financial Services	0.734
Funds Mobilization Techniques	0.713
Group Resources	0.995
Management Style	0.744

### **3.10 Data Processing and Analysis**

Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass information collected (Cooper & Schindler, 2003). Data analysis involves reduction of accumulated data to a manageable size, developing summaries, looking for patterns and applying statistical techniques. Data collected in this study was processed and analyzed in accordance with the outline laid down for the purpose at the time of developing the research plan by editing, coding, classification and tabulation of collected data, so that they are ready for analysis (Lawrence, 2006).

The edited data was then coded by assigning numerals or other symbols to answers so that responses can be put into a limited number of categories or classes. Classification was done by arranging data in groups or classes on the basis of common characteristics. This research categorized respondents in terms of gender, age, employment status and income. Data was tabulated by summarizing raw data and displaying the same in compact form (in the form of statistical Tables) for analysis. Responses were put in their appropriate categories after which statistical analysis follows. The results from the Table serve as the basis for analysis.

Descriptive statistics was used to describe and summarize the data collected using Tables. Pearson's correlation analysis was used to analyze the relationship between the study variables (Montgomery, 2001). Multiple linear regression model was used to test the statistical significance of the various independent variables (Access to finance, Financial services, Techniques of mobilization of funds, Access to group resources and Table banking management style), and on the dependent variable

(socio-economic empowerment). According to Orodho (2007), regression analysis is a statistical process for estimating the relationships among variables. It includes many techniques for modelling and analyzing several variables, when the focus is on the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables. The study used a 95% confidence level. A 95% confidence interval indicates a significance level of 0.05. This implies that for an independent variable to have a significant consequence on the dependent variable, the p-value ought to be below the significance level (0.05). Multiple regression was used to determine whether a group of variables together predict a given dependent variable. The regression model is of the form:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \varepsilon$$

Where: Y- is the dependent variable

$X_{1-n}$ - are the independent variables

$\beta_0$ - is the constant

$\beta_{1-n}$ - are the regression coefficients or change induced in Y by X

$\varepsilon$ -is the error

Y- Socio-Economic Empowerment

$X_1$ - Access to finance

$X_2$ - Financial services

$X_3$ -Techniques of mobilization of funds

$X_4$ -Access to group resources

$X_5$ -Management characteristics

**Table 3.4: Operationalization of variables**

No	Variable Name	Nature of Variable	Variable Indicators and Measurement	Data Collection Method	Types of Scale	Types of Analysis	Level of Analysis
1.	Access to finance	Independent	Loans Repayment terms Interest payable	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	Descriptive analysis
2.	Table banking financial services	Independent	Access to savings services Access to deposits services Access to withdrawal services	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	Descriptive statistics, and Pearson's correlation
3.	Techniques of mobilization of funds	Independent	Group investment External funds Group contributions	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	descriptive statistics, and Pearson's correlation
4.	Access to group resources	Independent	Mentorship programme Social support Group projects	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	descriptive statistics
5.	Table banking management characteristics	Moderating	Authority structure Constitution	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	multiple regression analysis
6.	Improved Income status	Dependent	Farming Small Businesses Livestock	Questionnaire	Ordinal	Quantitative	descriptive statistics
7.	Improved livelihoods indicators	Dependent	Quality healthcare Food Education	Questionnaire Interview Guide	Ordinal	Quantitative	descriptive statistics
		Dependent	Shelter Clothing	Questionnaire	Ordinal	Quantitative	descriptive statistics

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter entails a descriptive analysis of the research data collected, the interpretation and discussion of the findings of the study as outlined in the research methodology. The chapter first presents the response rate, the details of the respondents' profile and then the descriptive and inferential findings of the study. The study findings are presented and discussed in this chapter subsequent to the data processing and analysis. The said data was collected exclusively using the structured questionnaires and the interview guide which were designed in line with the objectives of the study.

#### **4.2 Response Rate**

Schwarz (2013) defines the response rate as the number of units in the net sample expressed as a percentage of the units in the gross sample. In this study, primary data was collected between May and August, 2017. Out of all the 440 questionnaires that were issued to the participants, a total of 262 were filled, returned and cleaned hence used in the analysis. Therefore, considering the number of the sampled participants, all the used questionnaires represent an overall response rate of 70.9%. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) and Hager et al. (2003) a response rate of 50% is adequate for research studies. This implies that the response rate for this study was adequate.

##### **4.2.1 Respondents' Profile**

In this study, the respondents were classified based on their gender, age, education level, economic engagements, marital status among other indicators.

#### 4.2.2 Respondents by County of Residence

**Table 4.1: Respondents by County of Residence**

<b>County</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nakuru	51	19.5%
Baringo	35	13.4%
Bomet	29	11.1%
Kericho	26	9.9%
Uasin Gishu	121	46.1%
Total	262	100.0%

Table 4.1 provides the detailed statistics of all the study participants in respect of their counties of residence expressed in percentages. From the findings, out of the 262 respondents who participated in the study, 19.5% of them were from Nakuru County, 13.4% hailed from Baringo County, 11.1% reside in Bomet County, and 9.9% of the respondents were residents of Kericho County while the remaining 46.1% were from Uasin Gishu County. This implies a high level of Table baking activity in UasinGishu County followed by Nakuru, Baringo, Bomet and Kericho counties suggesting high levels of economic activity in each of the said counties respectively.

#### 4.2.3 Respondents by Gender

**Table 4.2: Respondents by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	54	20.6
Female	208	79.4
Total	262	100.0

Table 4.2 shows that the Table banking is dominated by women representing 79.4% of the respondents which implies that a majority of the women are involved in Table banking activities as an avenue of enhancing their socio-economic standing. 20.6% of them were male which shows that they are accommodated to take part in Table banking activities. This further implies that Table banking is not an activity undertaken by women only but an all-inclusive activity gaining prominence in the society.

#### 4.2.4 Respondents by Age

**Table 4.3: Respondents by Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
18-29 years	22	8.4
30-39 years	198	75.6
40-49 years	26	9.9
50-59 years	16	6.1
Total	262	100

Table 4.3 shows the composition of the respondents by their ages. The findings indicate that majority of women involved in Table banking are aged 30-39 years old representing 75.6% of the study subject. The findings further indicates that 9.9% of women involved in Table banking are aged 40-49 years and 8.4% were in the age bracket of 18-29 years while 6.1% are in the category of 50 and above years of age. The high number of members aged 30-39 can be explained by more financial needs among members in this aged group. Majority of people tend to have high financial demand when they are below 40 years.

#### 4.2.5 Respondents by Marital Status

**Table 4.4: Respondents by Marital status**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Married	155	59.2
Single	47	17.9
Widow	37	14.1
Divorced	23	8.8
Total	262	100.0

Table 4.4 shows that 59.2% of the people involved in Table banking are married, 17.9% of them are single while 14.1% are widowed and 8.8% are divorced. This implies that majority of participants in Table banking are married. Individuals who are married have more financial responsibilities such as school fees and therefore tend to engage in economic related activities through Table banking. It is also possible that a number of the single participants have considerable amount of time and resources that they invest in Table banking while the widows and a number of the divorced participants could be straining to sustain their involvement in Table banking.

#### 4.2.6 Respondents by Highest Level of Education

**Table 4.5: Respondents by highest level of education**

<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Primary education	29	11.1
Secondary education	165	63.0
Higher Level education	68	26.0
Total	262	100.0

Table 4.5 shows that quite a majority (63%) of the respondents have attained secondary education level while 11.1% of the participants attained primary education as their highest form of education while 26% of the participants have attained higher levels of education qualifications. This implies that a considerable majority of the participants are people are educated and a number of them have vast experiences and exposure hence their active involvement in Table banking.

#### 4.2.7 Respondents holding Bank Accounts

**Table 4.6: Respondents holding Bank Accounts**

<b>Account holding</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	230	87.8
No	32	12.2
Total	262	100.0

The study further revealed that majority of the respondents (87.8%) has bank accounts while only 12.2% of the participants do not have a bank account. Individuals' involved in Table banking tend to be more involved in other financial transaction such as savings which prompt them to open bank accounts. Table banking is also associated to better financial management skills which can be attributed to more participants holding bank account.

#### 4.2.8 Respondents Main Source of Income

**Table 4.7: Respondents' Main Source of Income**

Source of Income	Frequency	Percent
Food crop Farming	54	20.6
Cash crop farming	44	16.8
Poultry Farming	31	11.8
Livestock	52	19.8
Casual work	7	2.7
Small Business	48	18.3
Permanent employment	26	9.9
Total	262	100.0

Based on the data, the findings show that the source of income for the majority of the participants is farming with specialties in food crop farming 20.6%. 16.8% of the participants being cash crop farmers while 11.8% of the participants engage in poultry farming and 19.8% of the respondents rearing livestock as their major source of income. In addition, 18.3% of the respondents take part in small business while 9.9% are permanent employees and only 2.7% of the participants have casual work as their main source of income. Majority of participants involved in Table banking are low income earners which explains the reason why foodcrop farmers are more involved in Table banking to boost their income.

#### 4.2.9 Respondents Main Occupation

**Table 4.8: Respondents Occupation**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Full time farmer	147	56.1
Part time farmer	40	15.3
Employed (salaried)	42	16.0
Businessperson/trader	33	12.6
Total	262	100.0

The study findings indicate that the main occupation of the study population is full-time farming (56.1%) followed by formal employment (16.0%), part-time farming (15.3%) and trading (12.6%). This implies that quite a majority of the participants relies the Table banking for enhancing their farming activities.

#### 4.2.10 Loaning institutions

**Table 4.9: Loaning institutions**

Source of loans	Frequency	Percent
Kenya Women Finance Trust	39	14.9
Sacco	53	20.2
Faulu Kenya	22	8.4
Table banking	148	56.5
Total	262	100.0

The results of the study also indicated that a majority of the participants source for loans from Table banking (56.5%) and Sacco's (20.2%) while a few of them obtain loans from KWFT (14.9%) and Faulu bank Kenya (8.4%). This could imply that the Table banking groups and Sacco's offer credit at relatively low and affordable rates. However, given the percentage of participants obtaining loans from KWFT and Faulu Bank, it also implies that the Table banking groups may not have sufficient resources for members requiring large amounts of loans. Also 52.4% of the interviewed respondents also indicated that through their Table banking groups, they also obtain external funds from organizations such as KWFT, Jiweze funds, ECLOF, NGOs, SACCOS among others while other groups have no external source of funds. This implies that a number of the Table banking groups still need more mentorship and exposure on how to raise more finances from external stakeholders. In addition, the study further indicates that 63% of the participants borrow loans once per year while 16.8% members borrow loans every week and 16.0% borrow loans once per month signifying a considerable liquidity required by the participants to facilitate their operations and economic activities.

#### 4.2.11 Collateral requirements

**Table 4.10: Collateral requirements**

Collateral requirement	Frequency	Percent
Yes	220	84.0
No	42	16.0
Total	262	100.0

The findings of the study also indicate that 84% of the participants stated that Table banking require collateral for individual to secure loan while 16% of the participants stated that Table banking do not require collateral for individual to secure loan. This shows that majority of Table banking groups require collaterals. Just like any other form of credit institution Table banking groups are exposed to the risks of losing money therefore they demand collateral to cushion them against such risks.

#### 4.2.12 Types of collateral requirements

**Table 4.11: Types of collateral requirements**

Types of collateral requirements	Frequency	Percent
Assets	198	76
Guarantors	64	24
Total	262	100.0

The findings of the study also indicate that 76% of the participants stated that Table banking demand assets as collateral requirements while 24% of the participants stated that Table banking demand guarantors as collateral requirements. This shows that majority of Table banking groups demand assets as collaterals. Assets are mostly preferred as collateral since they are more disposable compared to guarantors explaining why credit institutions prefer them over guarantors.

#### 4.2.13 Cases of defaulting in loan repayment

**Table 4.12: Cases of defaulting in loan repayment**

Cases of defaulting in loan repayment	Frequency	Percent
Yes	74	28.2
No	188	71.8
Total	262	100.0

Table 4.12 also shows that relatively low loan defaulting rates (28.2%) since a significant majority (71.8%) of the participants indicated no loan default rates. On the same note, 38.1% of the interviewed respondents agreed that there are instances where group members default in loan repayments while a similar number of the interviewees noted very rare instances of loan default and only 19% of the interviewees indicated zero loan defaulters in their groups. To deal with the high risk involved in loans, 81% of the interviewed respondents indicated that in their groups, loan defaulters are penalized, they are fined from their savings and contributions and at times are denied loans until they clear their outstanding repayments. This implies that while a few cases of loan compliance exist, there is need to instill financial discipline in Table banking to minimize loan default rates.

#### 4.2.14 Interest Rates paid on loans

**Table 4.13: Interest paid on loans**

Interest paid on loans	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5%	90	34.4
5-10%	144	55.0
10-20%	28	10.7
Total	262	100.0

The study findings on Table 4.13 shows that majority (55%) of the participants pay an interest rate of 5-10% on loans from Table banking, 34.4% of the participants pay less than 5% interest rate while 34.4% of them indicated that they pay 10-20% interest on credit. As much as the government through central of bank of Kenya regulate the interest rate, high competition among credit institutions result to majority of them tend to offer a competitive interest rate.

#### 4.2.15 Satisfaction with Interest Rates

**Table 4.14: Satisfaction with Interest Rates**

Satisfaction with Interest Rates	Frequency	Percent
Yes	194	74.0
No	68	26.0
Total	262	100.0

Table 4.14 findings reveal that 74% of the participants are satisfied with the interest rates while only 26% showed dissatisfaction indicating that loans granted are never sufficient for their needs. In addition, the interviewed respondents revealed that the interest rates charged by the groups on loans ranging from five to ten percent are friendly to their needs and expectations.

#### 4.2.16 Training of the Group Members

**Table 4.15: Group Training**

Group Training	Frequency	Percent
Entrepreneurship	13	65.0
Loan Management	4	20.0
Farming	3	15.0
Total	20	100.0

The findings of the study indicate that the respondents undertake 65% training on entrepreneurship, 20% training on loan management and 15% training on farming.

### 4.3 Reliability Analysis

The study determined the extent to which the research instrument could be relied upon prior to conducting the actual study and the pilot results obtained were as shown in Table 4.16.

**Table 4.16: Reliability Analysis Results**

<b>Construct</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
Access to Finance in Table banking	10	0.714
Table banking financial services	9	0.734
Funds Mobilization techniques	6	0.713
Access to Table Banking Group Resources	4	0.995
Table Banking Management Style	5	0.744
Socio-Economic Empowerment	4	0.876
Average Cronbach's Alpha		0.796

The reliability analysis implied that the research instrument met the threshold of Cronbach's value  $\geq 0.7$ . According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2000), a reliability of 0.70 or higher is preferable for research purposes. The closer Cronbach's alpha coefficient is to 1, the higher the internal consistency reliability (Sekaran, 2003). A coefficient of 0.7 is recommended for a newly developed questionnaire and therefore 0.796 was adequate for this study.

#### 4.4 Findings of the Study Variables

The study was on effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The study narrowed down to five indicators that comprised the independent variables including access to finance, effect of Table banking financial services, fund mobilization techniques, access to Table banking group resources, and Table banking management styles while the dependent variable was socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

##### 4.4.1 Descriptive Analysis of Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

The analysis in this section is in line with the dependent variable of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the respondents on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.17 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.17: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

Statements	Mean	Std
Ease of access to loans has increased members' incomes through investments	4.48	.731
Being in Table banking has ensured improved livelihoods	4.44	.729
Being in Table banking has enabled members access quality health care	4.11	.977
Table banking has enable members to raise fees to educate their children better	3.99	1.249

Key: 1-1.7 =Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents agreed that ease of access to loans has increased members' incomes through investments with a mean of 4.48. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that being in Table

banking has ensured improved livelihoods with a mean of 4.44. In addition majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.11 agreed that being in Table banking has enabled them to access quality health care. Finally majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has enabled them to raise fees to educate their children better. The study is in line with Khan (2012) who argued that better access to financial services enables women to establish and expand micro enterprises and improve their incomes, status and participation of decision making, thus contributing positively to socio-economic development. The study also agrees with Dupas (2008) who argued that Table banking allows poor people to protect, diversify, and increase their sources of income, the essential path out of poverty and hunger. This will enable them to buy assets such as inventory for a small business enterprise, to pay for health care, or to send more children to school. Table banking also helps safeguard poor households against the extreme vulnerability that characterizes their everyday existence.

The assumption is that increasing women's access to microfinance will enable women to make a greater contribution to household income and this, together with other interventions to increase household well-being, will translate into improved wellbeing for women and enable women to bring about wider changes in gender inequality (Ledgerwood, 2013). Community banks, NGOs and grass root savings and credit groups like Table banking around the world have shown that these microenterprise loans can be profitable for borrowers and for the lenders and are the most effective poverty reducing strategies (Barry et al., 1996).

From the findings the ability of Table banking in making it easier for members to access loans and the ability of Table banking in improving their livelihood had the highest means while the ability of Table banking in enabling members access quality health care and in raising fees had a mean of less than 4.4. This implies that Table banking helps members in accessing loans more than in raising fees to educate their children.

**Table 4.18: Factor Analysis on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

	Component	
	1	2
Being in Table banking ensures improved livelihoods	.972	
Ease of access to loans increase members' incomes through investments	.972	
Being in Table banking enables members to access quality health care		.737
Table banking enables members raise fees to educate their children better		.730

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings the ability of Table banking in ensuring improved livelihoods and easing access to loans which consequently increase member's investments loaded together. The two constructs were combined and was named improved livelihoods. The ability of Table banking in enabling members to access quality health care and the ability of Table banking in enabling members raise fees to educate their children loaded together. The two constructs were combined and were named improved basics of life

**Table 4.19: Table banking Improves the Livelihoods of Members and the general Basics of life**

	Mean	Std	Cronbach Alpha
Improved Livelihoods	4.46	.730	0.672
Improved Basics of life	4.05	1.113	0.751

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings the factor on the ability of Table banking in improving members' livelihoods and the factor on the ability of Table banking in increasing members' income which loaded together had the highest mean of 4.48 and 4.44 respectively. In addition the factor on the ability of Table banking in enabling members access quality health care and the factor on the ability of Table banking in enabling members raise fees to educate their children which also loaded together had the lowest mean of 4.11 and 3.99 respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking improves the livelihood of members and increase their income through investment more than enabling members access loans and raising fees to educate their children. The study also agrees with Swain, (2009) who argued that the degree of awareness, exposure to socio-economic activities determines the direction of women empowerment.

#### 4.4.2 Access to Finance in Table banking

The analysis in this section is in line with the first objective of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the participants on the effects of access to finance on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.20 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.20: Access to Finance in Table banking**

Statements	Mean	Std
Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Farming	3.65	1.310
Table banking as MFI has led to Business growth	4.11	1.030
Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Investment	4.03	1.095
Table banking has enabled members to access loans	3.99	1.092
Table banking has enabled members access health services	3.72	1.156
Table banking has led to awareness creation through trainings?	3.91	1.297
Table banking has enabled members raise fees to educate their children better	4.00	1.244
Table banking has increased members involvement in decision making in the community	4.04	.995
Table banking has enabled members acquire assets	4.07	1.059
Table banking has enabled members get more income	3.95	.847

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Farming with a mean of 3.65. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking as MFI has led to business growth with a mean of 4.113. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking as MFI has led to increase in investment with a mean of 4.03.

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has enabled them to access loans with of mean 3.99. This in line with World Bank (2005) findings that throughout the developing countries, innovative lending programmes have emerged that specialize in supplying small capital loans to low income entrepreneurs. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has enabled them to access health services with a mean of 3.72. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has led to awareness creation through trainings with a mean of 3.91. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking enabled them to raise fees to educate your children better with a mean of 4.00. When women are economically empowered, they raise healthier, better educated families (Ahmad, 1999).

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has increased their involvement in decision making in the community with of mean 4.04. According to ICRW, (2015) economic empowerment can strengthen vulnerable groups' participation in decision making. Microfinance programmes have been shown to bolster women's influence within the household and marketplace. The evidence also suggests that economic power is often easily 'converted' into increased social status or decision making power. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has enabled them to access health services with a mean of 4.07. Finally majority of the respondents agreed that that Table banking has enabled them to get more income with a mean of 3.95. The standard deviation ranged 1.310 to 0.847 indicating that the dispersion of the respondents from the mean was minimal.

The study is in line with Barry et al. (1996) who argued that Table banking around the world have shown that these microenterprise loans can be profitable for borrowers and for the lenders. Evidence from the millions of microfinance clients around the world demonstrates that access to financial services enables poor people to increase their household incomes, build assets, and reduce their vulnerability to the crisis that are so much a part of their daily lives (Rushidan, 2001). Table banking helps safeguard poor households against the extreme vulnerability that characterizes their everyday existence. Loans, savings, and insurance help smooth out income fluctuations and maintain consumption levels even during the lean periods.

The mean for the responses ranged between 3.65 and 4.11 with the majority of the responses having a mean of > 4 indicating that majority of the respondents agreed on the various aspects access to finance in Table banking. The ability of Table banking as MFI in business growth had the highest mean of 4.11 while the ability of Table banking as MFI in improving farming had the lowest mean of 3.65. The findings of this study show that Table banking enhances business growth as opposed to farming.

**Table 4.21: Factor Analysis on Access to Finance in Table banking**

	Component 1
Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Farming	.950
Table banking as MFI has led to Business growth	.935
Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Investment	.935
Table banking has enabled members to access loans	.934
Table banking has enabled members access health services	.907
Table banking has led to awareness creation through trainings?	.769
Table banking has enabled members raise fees to educate their children better	.765
Table banking has increased members involvement in decision making in the community	.759
Table banking has enabled members acquire assets	.717
Table banking has enabled members get more income	.626

From the findings all the items on access to finance in Table banking loaded together. All the constructs were combined to form a new variable named access to finance.

**Table 4.22: Table banking enables Access to Finance which Improves the Socio-Economic status of member**

	Mean	Cronbach Alpha	Std
Access to Finance	3.947	.830	1.1125

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings the ability of Table banking as MFI in improving business growth had the highest loading factor and the highest mean while the ability of Table banking as MFI in improving business growth had the lowest loading factor and the lowest mean. This implies that Table banking increase business growth, investments and help members acquire loans and assets more as opposed to access of school fees, health services and improved farming. The findings agrees with Ninah (2000) that Table banking contributes to increased income and makes a positive impact on overall socio-economic development by reducing poverty and bringing entrepreneurial development. Loans, savings, and insurance help smooth out income fluctuations and maintain consumption levels even during the lean periods

#### **4.4.2. 1 Relationship between Access to Finance and Members Livelihoods**

This section outlines the results of correlation analysis between access to loan and members livelihoods (Table 4.23). The findings are interpreted and discussed.

**Table 4.23: Correlation between Access to Finance and the Livelihoods of Members**

		Access to Finance
Improved Livelihoods	Pearson Correlation	.365
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005
	N	262
Improved Basics of life	Pearson Correlation	.268
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005
	N	262

The results of the study indicates a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.365$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between improved livelihoods and access to loans. Further the study indicates there is positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.268$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between basics of life and access to loans. This implies that access to loan improve the livelihoods of women through improved basics of life. The study also agrees with Kumar, (2009) who observed that access to finance leads to improved household level outcomes with respect to health, education, nutrition and family planning.

**Table 4.24: Simple Regression on Access to Finance and Improved Livelihoods**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
	Access to Finance	.245	.104	.179	2.356	.022

- a. Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods
- b. Independent Variable: Access to finance

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between access to finance and improved livelihoods. To test the relationship the Regression Model

fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 2.047 + 0.245 X_1 + e$ . It implies that access to finance leads to improvement in members' livelihoods.

**Table 4.25: Simple regression on access to finance and Improved Basics of life**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.216	.875		1.390	.071
	Access to finance	.233	.081	.245	2.877	.006

- a. Dependent Variable: Improved Basics of life
- b. Independent Variable: Access to finance

The results of the study indicated that there was positive relationship between access to finance and improved basics of life. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 1.216 + 0.432 X_1 + e$ . It implies that access to finance leads to improvement in basics of life. The study is in line with a study by Ledgerwood, (2013) who argued that increasing women's access to microfinance will enable women to make a greater contribution to household income and this, together with other interventions to increase household wellbeing, will translate into improved wellbeing for women and enable women to bring about wider changes in gender inequality. The null hypotheses ( $H_0$ ) was therefore rejected and concluded that access to finance has a significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

#### 4.4.3 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Financial Services

The analysis in this section is in line with the second objective of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the respondents on the effects of Table banking financial services on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.26 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.26: Table banking Financial Services**

Statements	Mean	Std
Table banking finance offers better access to loans	4.06	.748
Table banking provides better services in the withdrawal of savings	3.70	.704
Table banking offers better interest rates unlike other lenders	3.79	.703
Table banking offers better collateral requirements	3.99	.514
Table banking provides much better loan Conditionalities	4.00	.610
Table banking offers better terms on the amount borrowed compared to other microfinance institutions	4.06	.652
Table banking credit has better repayment schedule	4.09	.669
Table banking finance has better loan application procedures	4.05	.530
Table banking has better rules and regulations, unlike other MFIs	4.00	.451

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking finance offers better access to loans with a mean of 4.06. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking provides better services in the withdrawal of savings. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking offers better interest rates unlike other lenders.

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking offers better collateral requirements. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking provides much better loan conditionalities. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking offers better terms on the amount borrowed compared to other microfinance institutions. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking credit has better repayment schedule. High discipline in repayment has meant a shift from treating women as beneficiaries to treating them as clients and customers capable of managing their own business affairs (Goldenberg, 2005).

Furthermore the findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking finance has better loan application procedures. Finally majority of the respondents agreed that Table banking has better rules and regulations, unlike other MFIs. The standard deviation ranged 0.451 to 0.748 indicating that the dispersion of the respondents from the mean was minimal. The study is in line with Otero et al. (1994) who argued that Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader. The mean for the responses ranged between 3.70 and 4.09 with the majority of the responses having a mean of  $> 4$  indicating that majority of the respondents agreed on the various aspects of access to Table banking financial services. The ability of Table banking in offering better credit repayment schedule had the highest mean of 4.11 while the ability of Table banking in providing better services in the withdrawal of savings had the lowest mean of 3.65. The findings of this study shows that Table banking offer better credit repayment schedule as opposed to withdrawal of saving.

**Table 4.27: Factor Analysis on Financial Services**

	Component		
	1	2	3
Table banking offers better collateral requirements	.955		
Table banking provides much better loan conditionalities	.903		
Table banking offers better terms on the amount borrowed compared to other microfinance institutions	.816		
Table banking finance has better loan application procedures	.811		
Table banking has better rules and regulations, unlike other MFIs	.621		
Table banking credit has better repayment schedule		.871	
Table banking provides better services in the withdrawal of savings		.733	
Table banking finance offers better access to loans			.927
Table banking offers better interest rates unlike other lenders			.766

From the findings three factor were extracted. The ability of Table banking in offering better collateral, better loan conditionalities, and better terms on the amount borrowed better loan application procedures and better rules and regulations, unlike other MFIs loaded together to form a new variable name. The five constructs were combined to form new variable named loan conditionalities. The ability of Table banking in offering better repayment schedule and better service in the withdrawal of saving. The two constructs were combined to form a new variable named repayment schedule. Finally the ability of Table banking finance in offering better access to loans and better interest rates unlike other lenders loaded together. The two constructs were combined to form a new variable named savings services.

**Table 4.28: Table banking offer better loan conditionalities, better loan repayment schedule and savings services**

	Mean	Cronbach Alpha	Std
Loan conditionalities	4.025	.871	0.577
Loan repayment schedule	3.40	.802	0.687
Savings services	3.925	.847	0.726

Key: 1-1.4=Strongly Disagree, 1.5-2.4=Disagree, 2.5-3.4=Undecided, 3.5-4.4=Agree and 4.5-5= Strongly Agree

From the findings the ability of Table banking in offering better loan conditionalities had the highest loading factor and the highest mean while the ability of Table banking in offering better repayment schedule had the lowest loading factor and the lowest mean. This implies Table banking offer better loan application procedure as opposed to loan repayment procedure. This agrees with Rahman, (2010) that Table banking lenders ensure higher repayment rates and returns particularly capitalizing on social networks, concepts of group liability and compulsory savings by borrowers.

#### 4.4.3.1: Relationship between loan conditionalities, repayment schedule and savings services on members livelihoods

This section outlines the results of correlation analysis between loan repayment procedure and loan repayment terms on members livelihoods. Table 4.29 shows the findings as interpreted and discussed.

**Table 4.29: Correlation between loan conditionalities, repayment schedule, savings services and members livelihoods**

		Loan conditionalities	Loan repayment schedule	Savings services
Improved Livelihoods	Pearson Correlation	.234	.345	.453
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.005	.001
	N	262	262	262
Improved Basics of life	Pearson Correlation	.256	.321	.458
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.005	.008
	N	262	262	262

The results of the study indicates a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.234$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between improved livelihoods and loan conditionalities. In additional positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.234$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between improved livelihoods and loan repayment schedule. Further a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.453$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between improved livelihoods and savings services. The results of the study indicates a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.256$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between basics of life and loan conditionalities. In additional positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.321$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between basics of life and loan repayment schedule. Further a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.458$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) relationship between basics of life and savings services.

**Table 4.30: Simple Regression on Improved livelihoods**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
	Loan conditionalities	.622	.186	.491	3.342	.002
	Loan repayment schedule	.642	.176	.573	3.648	.001
	Savings services	.639	.262	.478	2.439	.033

Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

Independent Variable: Loan conditionalities, Loan repayment schedule and Savings services

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between loan conditionalities and improved livelihoods. The Model equation was:  $Y=2.047 + 0.622X2a$ . The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between regulations on loan repayment schedule and improved livelihoods. The Model equation is:  $Y=2.047 + 0.642X2b + e$ . The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between withdrawal and savings services and improved livelihoods. The Model equation was:  $Y=2.047 + 0.639X2c$ .

**Table 4.31: Simple Regression on Improved Basics of life**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	1.216	.875		1.390	.071
	Loan conditionalities	.201	.114	.297	1.771	.001
	Loan repayment schedule	.241	.147	.421	1.640	.008
	Savings services	.219	.144	.286	1.517	.006

Dependent Variable: Improved Basics of life

Independent Variable: Loan conditionalities, Loan repayment schedule and Savings services

The null hypotheses (Ho2): Table banking financial services have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya was rejected. The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between loan conditionalities and improvement in basics of life. The Model equation was  $Y=1.216 + 0.201X1a$ . The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between regulations on loan repayment schedule and basics of life. The Model equation is:  $Y=1.216 + 0.241X2b$ . The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between savings services and improved basics of life. The Model equation was:  $Y=1.216 + 0.219X2c$ .

#### 4.4.4 Descriptive Analysis of Funds Mobilization Techniques

The analysis in this section is in line with the third objective of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the respondents on how funds mobilization techniques in Table banking affect socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.32 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.32: Funds Mobilization Techniques**

Statements	Mean	Std
Access to short-term loans of 1-6 months enhances income generating activities and improves livelihoods	3.86	.824
Investment has improved the income levels and profitability	3.86	.961
Group investment increases job opportunities and engagement in economic activities	4.11	.830
The group relationships, activities and savings attract external funding	4.09	.864
Group contributions ensures loans are adequate, extra income is obtained and amount contributed are used for income generating activities	4.47	.500
Amount to be deposited is flexible, the time and process for deposits is friendly and simple	4.20	.802

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents with a mean of 3.86 agreed that access to short-term loans of 1-6 months enhance income generating activities and improves livelihoods. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents with a mean of 3.86 agreed that investment has improved their income levels and profitability. In addition majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.11 agreed that group investment increases job opportunities and engagement in economic activities.

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that the group relationships, activities and savings attract external funding. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that group contributions ensure loans are adequate, extra income is obtained and amount contributed are used for income generating activities. The findings is in agreement with a study by Fernando, (2006) that group based methodologies that allow the poor to use their social capital as a collateral asset reduce both risks and transaction costs to the microfinance institution and enable poor people to overcome their lack of material collateral and engage in shared learning.

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that amount to be deposited is flexible, the time and process for deposits is friendly and simple. The study is in line with Microfinance Information Exchange, (2012) report which concluded that Table banking provide the same credit services like any other micro-lending institutions but with greater flexibility in repayment system. Table banking loan products are made flexible to cater for a number of socio-economic segments in terms of loan sizes, interest rates, and repayment periods which is weekly, monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually or annually. This makes Table banking services very attractive to a large number of low-income clients. Group members are also allowed to repay the loans and borrow at the same time as long as they pay for the interest.

**Table 4.33: Factor Analysis on Funds Mobilization Techniques**

<b>Component Matrix<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Component</b>
	<b>1</b>
Group investment increases job opportunities and engagement in economic activities	.830
Group contributions ensures loans are adequate, extra income is obtained and amount contributed are used for income generating activities	.803
Investment has improved the income levels and profitability	.769
Access to short-term loans of 1-6 months has enabled you to have income generating activities and improved your livelihoods	.752
Amount to be deposited is flexible, the time and process for deposits is friendly and simple	.676
The group relationships, activities and savings attract external funding	.551

From the findings only one factor was extracted meaning that all the items loaded together. The aspects of income generating activities had the highest loading factor (0.830) while the aspect of Table banking in ensuring group relationships, activities and savings had the lowest loading factor(0.551).

**Table 4.34: Funds Mobilization Techniques**

	<b>Cronbach Alpha</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std</b>
Funds Mobilization Techniques	.730	4.09	0.797

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings all the items on funds mobilization technique in Table banking loaded together. All the constructs were combined to form new variable named funds mobilization techniques.

#### **4.4.4.1 Relationship between Funds Mobilization Techniques and members livelihoods and Improved Basics of life**

This section outlines the results of correlation analysis between funds mobilization techniques and improved members livelihoods (Table 4.35). The findings are interpreted and discussed.

**Table 4.35: Correlation between Funds Mobilization Techniques and Improved members livelihoods and Improved Basics of life**

		Funds Mobilization Techniques
Improved Livelihoods	Pearson Correlation	.314
	Sig. (2 – tailed)	.001
	N	262
Improved Basics of life	Pearson Correlation	.326
	Sig. (2 – tailed)	.005
	N	262

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

Going by the study findings, there emerged a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.314$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between improved livelihoods and funds mobilization techniques. It also emerged that a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.326$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between basics of life and funds mobilization techniques. Table banking loan products are made flexible to cater for a number of socio-economic segments in terms of loan sizes, interest rates, and repayment periods which is

weekly, monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually or annually. This makes Table banking services very attractive to a large number of low-income clients.

**Table 4.36: Simple regression on Funds Mobilization Techniques and improved livelihoods**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
	(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
1	Funds Mobilization Techniques	.660	.196	.452	3.189	.002

Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

Independent Variable: Funds Mobilization Techniques

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between funds mobilization techniques and improved livelihoods. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 2.047 + 0.660X + e$ . It implies that funds mobilization techniques improve members' livelihoods.

**Table 4.37: Simple regression on Funds Mobilization Techniques and Improved Basics of life**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
	(Constant)	1.216	.875		1.390	.071
1	Funds Mobilization Techniques	.323	.106	.360	3.052	.003

Dependent Variable: Improved Basics of life

Independent Variable: Funds Mobilization Techniques

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between funds mobilization techniques and improved basics of life. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_3 X_3 + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 1.216 + 0.323 X_3 + e$ . It implies that funds mobilization techniques improve basics of life. The study is in line with Tembo Kenya, (2013) report which concluded that Table banking groups diversify their activities and have gone beyond financing household activities into small business creation through saving, borrowing their own accumulated money and repaying it at some interest. The null hypotheses ( $H_{03}$ ) was therefore rejected and concluded that Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

#### 4.4.5 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Group Resources

The analysis in this section is in line with the fourth objective of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the respondents on how Table banking group resources affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.38 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.38: Access to Table banking Group Resources**

Statements	Mean	Std
The group mentors each other to improve their resources.	4.22	.915
Table banking group mentors each member to improve on their investments.	4.32	.873
Table banking has enabled you to access mentorship programs, social support and group projects	4.20	.872
Loan management training has led to decrease in the number of loan defaulters	4.40	.724

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.22 agreed that the group mentors each other to improve their resources. The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.32 agreed that Table banking group mentors each member to improve on their investments. In addition majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.20 agreed that Table banking has enabled you to access mentorship programs, social support and group projects. This is line with Crowley et al. (2007) that groups are such an important part of reaching women, and particularly the poorest; that they form the base on which other institutional mechanisms mentioned rely .

The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents with a mean of 4.40 agreed that loan management training has led to decrease in the number of loan defaulters with of mean 4.40. The standard deviation ranged 1.310 to 0.847 indicating that the dispersion of the respondents from the mean was minimal. The study is in line with Michael (2006) who argued that groups are effective for education and training members, networking and information dissemination are enhanced and can reduce administrative costs by giving responsibilities such as loan monitoring to the group. Mutual trust and peer pressure ensures participation and repayment.

Group collateral is substituted for physical collateral. Using this mechanism, poor people with no physical collateral are able to form groups to gain access to credit (Khandker et al., 2002). Some identifiable benefits of this principle are that groups are effective for education and training participants, networking and information dissemination are enhanced and can reduce administrative costs by giving responsibilities such as loan monitoring to the group. Mutual trust and peer pressure ensures participation and repayment.

The mean for the responses ranged between 4.20 and 4.32 with all of the responses having a mean of  $> 4$  indicating that majority of the respondents agreed on the various aspects on access to Table banking group resources. The ability of Table banking in decreasing the number of loan defaulters had the highest mean of 4.40 while the ability of Table banking in enabling members to access mentorship

programs, social support and group projects had the lowest mean of 4.47. The findings of this study show that Table banking helps in reducing the number of loan defaulters as opposed to enabling members to access mentorship programs, social support and group projects

**Table 4.39: Factor Analysis on Access to Table banking Group Resources**

<b>Component Matrix<sup>a</sup></b>	
	Component 1
The group mentors each other to improve their resources.	.919
Loan management training has led to decrease in the number of loan defaulters	.886
Table banking has enabled you to access mentorship programs, social support and group projects	.716
Table banking group mentors each member to improve on their investments.	.565

From the findings the ability of Table banking in mentoring members to improve their resources had the one of the highest loading factor and the highest mean while the ability of Table banking in mentoring member to improve their investment had the lowest loading factor and the lowest mean. This implies that Table banking mentor members to improve their resources. The study is in line with Bennet, (1997) who argued that Table banking allows women to work together, organize themselves, and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interest that leads to their socio-economic empowerment.

**Table 4.40: Access to Table banking Group Resources**

	Cronbach Alpha	Mean	Std
Group Resources	.7715	4.23	.846

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings only one factor was extracted meaning that all the items loaded together. The aspects of group mentoring each other to improve their resources had the strongest factor loading of 0.919 while the aspects of Table banking group mentoring each other in improving on their investments had the weakest loading factor of 0.565.

#### **4.4.5.1 Relationship between Group Resources and improvement of their livelihoods and Basics of life**

This section outlines the results of correlation analysis between mentorship of members in improving their resources and improvement of their livelihoods. Table 4.41 presents the findings as they are interpreted and discussed accordingly.

**Table 4.41: Correlation between Group Resources and Improvement livelihoods and Improved Basics of life**

		Group Resources
Improved Livelihoods	Pearson Correlation	.324
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001
	N	262
Improved Basics of life	Pearson Correlation	.336
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005
	N	262

The findings of the study also revealed that there is a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.324$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between improved livelihoods and group resources. It also emerged that a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.336$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between basics of life and group resources.

**Table 4.42: Simple regression on Group Resources and Improved Livelihoods**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
	Group Resources	.333	.109	.377	3.057	.003

Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

Independent Variable: Group Resources

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between group resources and improved livelihoods. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 2.047 + 0.333X + e$ . It implies that access to group resources improves members' livelihoods.

**Table 4.43: Simple regression on Group Resources and Improved Basics of life**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	1.216	.875		1.390	.071
	Group Resources	.140	.091	.137	1.547	.126

Dependent Variable: Improved Basics of life

Independent Variable: Group Resources

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between group resources and improved basics of life. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_3 X_3 + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 1.216 + 0.140 X_4 + e$ . It implies that a group resource improves basics of life. Group collateral is substituted for physical collateral. The null hypotheses ( $H_{04}$ ) was rejected and concluded that Table banking Group Resources have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya

#### 4.4.6 Descriptive Analysis of Table banking Management Characteristics

The analysis in this section is in line with the fifth objective of the study which sought to find out the perceptions held by the respondents on how Table banking management characteristics affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Table 4.44 shows the descriptive statistics and results in details.

**Table 4.44: Table banking Management Characteristics**

Statements	Mean	Std
Authority and Regulatory Framework is important for Table banking	4.32	.675
There are clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities	4.48	.731
Supervisory framework is important for Table banking	4.36	.717
The process and procedure are flexible enough for members to abide by easily	4.33	.857
The group members participate in making their constitution which makes it clear to understand rights and wrong	4.48	.676

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.6-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

According to the findings, majority of the respondents agreed that authority and regulatory framework is important for Table banking with a mean of 4.32. Which concurs with Lauer and Lyman (2015) that the objective of formulating the guidelines on microfinance policy and regulatory issues is to disseminate the best practices in the developing countries and provide them a basic structure of microfinance policies and regulations normally required for the development of a sound, stable and vibrant microfinance sector? The findings further indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that there are clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities with a mean of 4.48. In addition majority of the respondents agreed that supervisory framework is important for Table banking with a mean of 4.36. Furthermore majority of the respondents agreed that the process and procedure are flexible enough for members to abide by easily with a mean of 4.33. Finally majority of the respondents agreed that the group members participate in making their constitution which makes it clear to understand rights and wrong with a mean of 4.48. The standard deviation ranged 0.857 to 0.675 indicating that the dispersion of the respondents from the mean was minimal.

Table banking has a simple structure with management and committee members selected from the group. They have a constitution with rules and regulations that guides the group. The members of the group make decisions on all the group activities and investments. Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader.

The mean for the responses ranged between 4.32 and 4.48 with all of the responses having a mean of  $> 4$  indicating that majority of the respondents agreed on the various aspects on Table banking management style. The ability of Table banking in helping members participate in making their constitution had the highest mean of 4.48 while the importance of Authority and Regulatory Framework in Table banking had the lowest mean of 4.32. The findings of this study show that Table banking enables members participate in making their constitution as opposed to enabling them understand the importance of Authority and Regulatory Framework.

**Table 4.45: Factor Analysis on Table banking Management Characteristics**

<b>Component Matrix<sup>a</sup></b>	
	Component 1
There are clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities	.951
Supervisory framework is important for Table banking	.949
The group members participate in making their constitution which makes it clear to understand rights and wrong	.913
The process and procedure are flexible enough for members to abide by easily	.906
Authority and Regulatory Framework is important for Table banking	.835

From the findings only one factor was extracted meaning that all the items loaded together. The aspects of clarity of rules and regulations that guide daily activities had the strongest factor loading of 0.951 while the aspects of the importance of authority and regulatory Framework in Table banking had the weakest loading factor of 0.835. From the findings the ability of Table banking having clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities had the one of the highest loading factor and the highest mean while the importance of Authority and Regulatory Framework in Table banking had the lowest loading factor and the lowest mean. This implies that Table banking has clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities. Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader. Cost reductions are due to simplified procedures for loan application, approval and collection processes.

**Table 4.46: Table banking Management Characteristics**

	Cronbach Alpha	Mean	Std
Management Characteristics	.903	4.38	.731

Key: 1-1.7=Strongly Disagree, 1.8-2.5=Disagree, 2.5-3.3=Undecided, 3.4-4.1=Agree and 4.2-4.9= Strongly Agree

From the findings all the items on management characteristics in Table banking loaded together. All the constructs were combined to form new variable named funds management characteristics.

#### **4.4.6.1 Relationship between Management Characteristics and Improved members livelihoods and Basics of life**

This section outlines the results of correlation analysis between rules and regulations that guide daily activities and improved members' livelihoods (Table 4.47). The findings are interpreted and discussed accordingly.

**Table 4.47: Correlation between Management Characteristics and Improved members' livelihoods and Improved Basics of life**

		Management Characteristics
Improved Livelihoods	Pearson Correlation	.414
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001
	N	262
Improved Basics of life	Pearson Correlation	.426
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005
	N	262

The findings of the study also revealed that there is a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.414$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between improved livelihoods and management characteristics. It also emerged that a positive and statistically significant ( $r = 0.426$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) correlation between basics of life and management characteristics.

**Table 4.48: Simple regression on Management Characteristics and Improved Livelihoods**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
	Management					
	Characteristics	.634	.092	.787	6.898	.000

Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

Independent Variable: Management Characteristics

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between management characteristics and improved livelihoods. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 2.047 + 0.634.X + e$ . It implies that management characteristics leads to improvement of members' livelihoods.

**Table 4.49: Simple regression on Management Characteristics and Improved Basics of life**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	1.216	.875		1.390	.071
	Management Style					
		.432	.106	.382	4.075	.000

Dependent Variable: Improved Basics of life

Independent Variable: Management Style

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between management style and improved basics of life. To test the relationship the Regression Model fitted was  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + e$ . The Model equation is:  $Y = 1.216 + 0.432X + e$ . It implies that management style improves basics of life. The members of the group make decisions on all the group activities and investments. This agrees that Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader. Cost reductions are due to simplified procedures for loan application, approval and collection processes. The null hypotheses ( $H_0$ ) was rejected and concluded that Table banking management characteristics have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

#### 4.4.7 Relationship between Table banking and Socio-Economic Empowerment

This study assessed how Table banking affects socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Tables 4.50 shows model summary.

**Table 4.50: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.965 <sup>a</sup>	.931	.929	.18738

a. Predictors: (Constant), Table banking Management Characteristics, Table banking Financial Services, Access To Finance, Funds Mobilization Techniques, Table banking Group Resources.

Table 4.50 provides a detailed overview of the results of coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) and correlation coefficient (R). The results of ( $r^2 = 0.931$ ) and ( $R = 0.965$ ) reflected a very strong positive correlation between the between Table banking and Socio-Economic Empowerment of women in Kenya.

**Table 4.51: ANOVA**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	120.813	5	24.163	688.149	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	8.989	256	.035		
	Total	129.802	261			

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Empowerment

b. Predictors: (Constant), Table banking Management Characteristics, Table banking Financial Services, Access to Finance, Funds Mobilization Techniques, Table banking Group Resources.

Table 4.51 presents the findings of analysis of variance (ANOVA) which indicates that Table banking significantly affects socio-economic empowerment of women ( $F=688.149$ ;  $p<0.01$ ) at 99% degree of confidence. These findings were based on the adoption of Table banking to enhance the socio-economic empowerment of women with specific interest in the Nakuru county, Bomet county, Baringo county, Kericho county and UasinGishu County.

#### 4.4.8 Results of Improved Livelihoods

**Table 4.52: Overall Regression**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
Access to finance	.245	.104	.179	2.356	.022
Loan conditionalities	.622	.186	.491	3.342	.002
Loan repayment schedule	.642	.176	.573	3.648	.001
Savings services	.639	.262	.478	2.439	.033
Funds Mobilization Techniques	.660	.196	.452	3.189	.002
Group Resources	.333	.109	.377	3.057	.003
Management Characteristics	.634	.092	.787	6.898	.000

In testing the hypothesis, a regression equation model was used in the form of;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + e$$

$$Y = 2.047 + .245X_1 + .622X_{2a} + .642X_{2b} + .639X_{2c} + .660X_3 + .333X_4 + .634X_5$$

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between access to finance and improved livelihoods. It implies that access to finance has a positive influence on members' livelihoods. The study is in line with a study by Leach & Sitaram, (2002) who argued that women's access to microfinance 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 woman's empowerment. The null hypotheses (Ho1) was therefore rejected and concluded that access to finance has a significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between loan conditionalities and improved livelihoods. The study is in line with Talwar, (2009) who revealed that the income levels of the members increased significantly and awareness levels rose satisfactorily. The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between regulations on loan repayment schedule and improved livelihoods. The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between savings services and improved livelihoods. The null hypotheses (Ho2) was rejected and concluded that Table banking financial services have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between funds mobilization techniques and improved livelihoods. According to the findings of Koinonia Community, (2006) the members agree to save regularly and convert their savings into common fund. The group agrees on the use of this common fund and such other that they may receive as a group for income generating activities and investment. The null hypotheses (Ho3) was therefore rejected and concluded that Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The results of the study further

revealed that there was positive relationship between group resources and improved livelihoods. It implies that group resources improves livelihoods. The study agrees with Michael, (2006) that resources can be pooled for initiatives such as common infrastructure development or bulk purchasing. The null hypotheses (Ho<sub>4</sub>) was rejected and concluded that Table banking Group Resources have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between management style and improved livelihoods. This implies that management style improves livelihoods. The members of the group make decisions on all the group activities and investments. According to Kabeer&Haq, (2010) organizational culture environment, which is dominated by values within which women’s everyday activities and lives are embedded influences women empowerment. The null hypotheses (Ho<sub>5</sub>) was rejected and concluded that Table banking management characteristics have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

#### 4.4.9 Results of Improved Basics of life

**Table 4.53: Overall Regression**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.047	.209		9.813	.000
Access to finance	.233	.081	.245	2.877	.006
Loan conditionalities	.201	.114	.297	1.771	.001
Loan repayment schedule	.241	.147	.421	1.640	.008
Savings services	.219	.144	.286	1.517	.006
Funds Mobilization	.323	.106	.360	3.052	.003
Techniques					
Group Resources	.140	.091	.137	1.547	.126
Management Characteristics	.432	.106	.382	4.075	.000

In testing the hypothesis, a regression equation model was used in the form of;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + e$$

$$Y = 1.216 + .233X_1 + .201X_{2a} + .241X_{2b} + .219X_{2c} + .323X_3 + .140X_4 + .432X_5$$

The results of the study established that there was positive relationship between access to finance and improved basics of life. It implies that access to finance has a positive influence on members' basics of life. The study is in line with a study by Garikipati, (2008) who argued 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. The null hypotheses (Ho1) was therefore rejected and concluded that access to finance has a significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

The results of the study indicated that there was positive relationship between loan conditionalities and improved basics of life. The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between regulations on loan repayment schedule and improved basics of life. This agrees with Pitt, (1998) that the innovations like Table banking that have shown the most promise are solving the problem of lack of collateral by using group based and character based approaches; solving problems of repayment discipline through high frequency of repayment collection, the use of social and peer pressure, designing group incentives to achieve greater outreach and higher loan repayment while providing savings services that meet the needs of small savers. The results of the study also revealed that there was positive relationship between savings services and improved basics of life. This agrees with USAID, (2000) findings that access to savings and credit can initiate or strengthen a series of interlinked and mutually inclusive activities that reinforce women empowerment. The null hypotheses (Ho2) was rejected and concluded that Table banking financial services have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between funds mobilization techniques and improved basics of life. This implies that funds

mobilization techniques improve basics of life. The study is in line with Murthi, (2001) who argued that by accessing savings services and small loans through Table banking, members acquire income that enable them to meet their basic household consumption needs. When they borrow through Table banking, loan sizes are generally small and manageable depending on individual's savings. Table banking attempts to overcome the difficulties women face in accessing finances by having women groups pool their savings in order to have a source of lending funds. The null hypotheses (Ho<sub>3</sub>) was therefore rejected and concluded that Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

The results of the study further revealed that there was positive relationship between group resources and improved basics of life. It implies that group resources improve basics of life. The study agrees with Ghate, (1992) that although the group savings are small in nature, it enables members to get loans for crisis, consumption and income generating activities. The null hypotheses (Ho<sub>4</sub>) was rejected and concluded that Table banking Group Resources have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The results of the study revealed that there was positive relationship between management style and improved basics of life. This implies that management style improves basics of life. The members of the group make decisions on all the group activities and investments. This agrees with the findings that Table banking has more advantage over the other microfinance institutions because their administrative costs are low and their client base is broader. Yaronetal., (1994) also agrees that economic and social policies as well as the development level of the financial sector, influence microfinance organizations in delivery of financial services to the poor. The null hypotheses (Ho<sub>5</sub>) was rejected and concluded that Table banking management characteristics have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

**Table 4.54: Hypotheses Results Summary**

	<b>Null Hypotheses</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1.	H <sub>01</sub> Access to finance in Table banking have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.	Rejected
2.	H <sub>02</sub> Table banking financial services have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.	Rejected
3.	H <sub>03</sub> Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.	Rejected
4.	H <sub>04</sub> Access to Table banking group resources have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.	Rejected
5.	H <sub>05</sub> Table banking management characteristics have no significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.	Rejected

Table 4.54 summarizes the null hypotheses and the outcome as per the results of the study. The null hypotheses (Ho1) was therefore rejected and concluded that access to finance has a significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The null hypotheses (Ho2) was rejected and concluded that Table banking financial services have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The null hypotheses (Ho3) was also rejected and concluded that Funds mobilization techniques in Table banking have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The null hypotheses (Ho4) was rejected and concluded that Table banking Group Resources have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The null hypotheses (Ho5) was rejected and concluded that Table banking management characteristics have significant effect on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The study investigated the effect of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The specific objectives were: to establish the effects of access to finance, financial services, funds mobilization techniques, group resources and management characteristics on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. This chapter entails the detailed summary of findings and conclusions from the study highlighting results that are most relevant to policy issues, decisions and undertakings relevant to effective Table banking for enhanced socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The chapter further provides detailed recommendations for specific areas requiring action and future research.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

As per the study findings for the first objective on the effects of access to finance on socio-economic empowerment of women, it emerged that a majority of the respondents concurred with the view that Table banking has led to increase in farming. A majority of the respondents also indicated that investment and business activity has increased significantly due to the Table banking. The respondents also strongly agreed that they access loans and better quality health care due to Table banking. The study also established that the participants also strongly alluded that they get to raise school fees for their children's education and that they acquire assets and raise additional income from Table banking.

The study also revealed according to the second objective on the effects of financial services on socio-economic empowerment of women, that through Table banking majority of respondents have better access to loans. They also strongly concurred that Table banking provides better services when it comes to savings and withdrawals. In addition, the study also indicated that through Table banking, women get loans at relatively low interest rates. It also emerged from the study

findings that Table banking offers acceptable and flexible collateral requirements and that loan conditions are bearable. Besides, the participants indicated that the Table banking groups offer better loan terms considering the flexible repayment schedule, loan application procedures, rules and regulations compared to the existing micro finance institutions.

In line with the third objective on effects of funds mobilization techniques on socio-economic empowerment of women, the findings of the study established that access to short-term loans payable in periods ranging from 1-6 months enhance income generating activities and improves livelihoods. It also emerged that the women's investment through Table banking has improved their income levels and profitability and further indicated that group investments have increased job opportunities and further enhanced their engagement in economic activities. In addition, the study further revealed that the participants' funds are mobilized through the healthy intragroup relationships, activities and savings attract external funding. It also emerged that group contributions which are flexible to every member's ability increase the Table banking loan amounts, extra income is obtained and contributions are used for further income generation.

As per the fourth objective on the effects of Table banking group resources on socio-economic empowerment of women, the results of the study indicated that the group mentors each of the members to improve their resources. The findings also revealed that the group also has mechanisms for mentoring each member to enhance and improve on their investments. In addition, it emerged that Table banking enables the group members to access mentorship programs, social support and take part in group projects for mutual benefit. In this regard, the study results showed that that Table banking exposes each member of the Table banking groups to mentorship programs, social support opportunities and benefits from group projects. With regards to financial discipline, the respondents strongly indicated that financial management training has reduced loan default rates.

In line with the fifth objective on management characteristics as a moderating variable, it emerged that there exist clear rules and regulations that guide the actions

and conduct of the group members when it comes to handling group resources. The findings revealed the importance of the authority and regulatory framework for effective and efficient Table banking. It was established that the supervisory framework is important for Table banking considering also that the management process and procedures are flexible enough for the group members to abide by. The study also revealed that the group members participate in making their constitution thereby making it easier to understand the right and wrong for ease of management. Through Table banking, easy access to loans has increased members' incomes through investment. The results also indicate that being in the Table banking groups has helped the participants improve their livelihoods and basics of life by enabling them to access better quality health care, to raise fees for their children's education, provide food, shelter and clothing for their families.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The conclusions in this section were made in context of the stated objectives of the study. The results of the study revealed a strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between Access to Finance and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. The findings of the study also showed a fairly strong, positive and statistically significant correlation between Table banking Financial Services and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya indicating that an increase in the quality of Table banking financial services increases the level of socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. Going by the outcome of the study, there emerged a very strong, positive and statistically significant correlation between Funds Mobilization Techniques and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya indicating that the funds mobilization techniques employed greatly affects the socio-economic status of the Kenyan women.

Besides, the findings revealed a very strong, positive and statistically significant relationship between Table banking Group Resources and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. It emerged that the more the group resources are properly utilized with higher order financial discipline the more the group members stand to benefit. The results of the study also exhibited a very strong, positive and

statistically significant relationship between Table banking Management Characteristics and socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya. This implied that proper management and inclusivity in group decision making enhances women empowerment and hence their socio-economic standards.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

The recommendations made herein were based on the study findings in relation to the existing literature. According to the findings presented in the previous chapter, the following recommendations were imperative: First this study recommends continuous, effective and thorough training of all groups involved in Table banking to enhance their financial management capability and performance. The study also recommends that the government should consider increasing the avenues and mechanisms for socio-economic empowerment of women and special interest groups especially in the rural areas. Secondly, it is recommended that the groups find out various ways of raising funds other than from their own contributions and invest prudentially. In this regard, the study recommends that the Table banking group members should also consider increasing the amounts of their contributions and savings and uphold high levels of financial discipline. The groups should as well pursue viable and economical external sources of funding to boost their capital base and support the group investment activities. The study also recommends that the group members should properly utilize the available resources to avoid loss of collaterals as well as inconveniences to the group members.

#### **5.5 Areas of Further Studies**

Based on the study findings, it is important that further research be done on the rationale of men's involvement and active participation in Table banking as a means of achieving economic empowerment. Studies should also be done to unearth the interrelation between adoption of Table banking and performance of women owned micro and small enterprises in Kenya.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Letter of Introduction

Respondent No.....

To.....

.....

Date.....

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **RE: COLLECTION OF RESEARCH DATA**

My name is Nancy J. Kosgei a PhD student in Development Studies at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. I am carrying out a research on the “ *Effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya*”. I am in the process of gathering relevant data for this study. You have been identified as one of the respondents in this study. I am kindly requesting for your assistance towards making this study a success. I therefore request you to take some time to respond to the attached questionnaire by filling in and return it for further processing. I wish to assure you that your responses will be treated with confidentiality and will be used solely for the purpose of this study.

Thanks in advance.

Yours Sincerely,

Nancy Jepchumba Kosgei

REG.NO. HD424-C004-3315/2013

## Appendix II: Letter of Authorization



### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,  
2241349, 3310571, 2219420  
Fax: +254-20-318245, 318249  
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke  
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke  
when replying please quote

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Utalii House  
Uhuru Highway  
P.O. Box 30623-00100  
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref. No.

Date

**NACOSTI/P/17/13329/15350**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017**

Nancy Jepchumba Kosgei  
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture  
And Technology  
P.O. Box 62000-00200  
NAIROBI.

#### **RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION**

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*The effects of table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya*," I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in selected Counties for the period ending **1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**.

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioners and the County Directors of Education, selected Counties** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.

  
BONIFACE WANYAMA  
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioners  
Selected Counties.

The County Directors of Education  
Selected Counties.

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is ISO 9001:2008 Certified



## Appendix IV: Research Questionnaire

My name is Nancy J. Kosgei a PhD student in Development Studies at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. I am carrying out a research on the “ *Effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kenya*”. I am in the process of gathering relevant data for this study. You have been identified as one of the respondents in this study. I am kindly requesting for your assistance towards making this study a success. I therefore request you to take some time to respond to the attached questionnaire by filling in and return it for further processing. I wish to assure you that your responses will be treated with confidentiality and will be used solely for the purpose of this study.

County \_\_\_\_\_

### Section A: (Profile of the respondent)

1. Gender

Male [ ]

Female [ ]

2. What is your age?

18-29 years [ ]

30-39 years [ ]

40-49 years [ ]

50-59 years [ ]

3. Marital status () tick where applicable.

1. Married ( )

2. Single ( )

3. Widow ( )

4. Divorced ( )

5. Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your educational level?

1. None ( )

2. Primary ( )

3. Secondary ( )

Any other.....

5. What is your household's **MAIN** source of income? (**TICK ONE ONLY**)

<input type="checkbox"/> Food crop farming
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash crop farming
<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry farming
<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> casual work
<input type="checkbox"/> Small business
<input type="checkbox"/> permanent employment
<input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)_____

6. What is your **MAIN** occupation?

1. Full time farmer ( )

2. Part time farmer ( )

3. Employed (salaried) ( )

4. Business person/trader ( )

Others (specify).....

7. Which microfinance institution do you borrow loan from?

- Kenya Women Finance Trust [ ]
- Sacco [ ]
- Faulu Kenya [ ]
- Table Banking [ ]
- Any other specify.....

8. Do you have any collateral requirements?

Yes

No

9. If yes, which kind of requirement?

Assets

Guarantors

Any other.....

10. Are there any cases of defaulting in loan repayment?

Yes

No

11. How much interest do you pay on loan repayment?

Less than 5%

5- 10%

10-20%

Any other please specify.....

12. Are you satisfied with the interest rates?

Yes       No

**Section B- Evaluation of the effects of Table banking on socio-economic empowerment of women**

Indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements in relation to the effects of Table banking by putting a tick (✓) against the most correct response.

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Relationship Indicator</b>					
13. Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Farming	<input type="checkbox"/>				
14. Table banking as MFI has led to Business growth	<input type="checkbox"/>				
15. Table banking as MFI has led to increase in Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
16. Table banking has enabled you to access loans	<input type="checkbox"/>				
17. Table banking has enabled you to access health services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
18. Table banking has led to awareness creation through trainings.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
19. Table banking has enabled you to raise fees to educate your children better	<input type="checkbox"/>				
20. Table banking has increased your involvement in decision making in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>				
21. Table banking has enabled you to acquire assets	<input type="checkbox"/>				
22. Table banking has enabled you to get more income	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Table banking financing offers better services compared to other microfinance institutions in this area. Indicate the extent to which you agree with the statement in relation to access of finance by putting a tick against the most correct response.

<b>Access to finance</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Do not know</b>
23. Table banking finance offers better access to loans						
24. Table banking provides better services in the withdrawal of savings						
25. Table banking offers better interest rates unlike other lenders						
26. Table banking offers better collateral requirements						
27. Table banking provides much better loan conditionalities						
28. Table banking offers better terms on the amount borrowed compared to other microfinance institutions						
29. Table banking credit has better repayment schedule						
30. Table banking finance has better loan application procedures						
31. Table banking has better rules and regulations, unlike other MFIs						

**SECTION C: Section B- Evaluation of the effects of Funds Mobilization Techniques and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

Indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements in relation to the effects of Funds Mobilization Techniques on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women by putting a tick (✓) against the most correct response.

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Relationship Indicator</b>					
32. Access to short-term loans of 1-6 months enhances income generating activities and improves livelihoods	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
33. Investment has improved the income levels and profitability	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
34. Group investment increases job opportunities and engagement in economic activities	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
35. The group relationships, activities and savings attract external funding	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
36. Group contributions ensures loans are adequate, extra income is obtained and amount contributed used for income generating activities	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
37. Amount to be deposited is flexible, the time and process for deposits is friendly and simple	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**SECTION C: Section B- Evaluation of the effects of Access to Table banking Group Resources and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

Indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements in relation to the effects of Table banking Group Resources and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women by putting a tick (✓) against the most correct response.

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Relationship Indicator</b>					
38. The group mentors each other to improve their resources.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
39. Table banking group mentors each member to improve on their investments.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
40. Table banking has enabled members to access mentorship programs, social support and group projects	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
41. Loan management training has led to decrease in the number of loan defaulters	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**SECTION C: Section B- Evaluation of the effects of Table Banking Management Characteristics and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

Indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements in relation to the effects of Table banking management style on socio-economic empowerment of women by putting a tick (✓) against the most correct response.

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Relationship Indicator</b>					
42. Authority and Regulatory Framework is important for Table banking	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
43. There are clear rules and regulations that guide daily activities	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
44. Supervisory framework is important for Table banking	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
45. The process and procedure are flexible enough for members to abide by easily	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
46. The group members participate in making their constitution which makes it easier to understand right and wrong	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**SECTION C: Section B- Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women**

Indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements in relation on socio-economic empowerment of women by putting a tick (√) against the most correct response.

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
47. Ease of access to loans has increased members' incomes through investments	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
48. Being in Table banking has ensured improved livelihoods	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
49. Being in Table banking has enabled me to access quality health care	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
50. Do you think Table banking has enabled you to raise fees to educate your children better?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**SECTION D: General Information**

In your opinion, what measures would you consider important for improving Table banking as a Microfinance Institution?

.....

What recommendations would you make that will improve the effectiveness of Table banking financing in this area?

.....

.....