

**THE ROLE OF SAVINGS AND INTERNAL LENDING COMMUNITIES IN
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: A CASE OF MOROGORO
MUNICIPALITY, TANZANIA**

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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AN EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Women economic empowerment is increasingly viewed as one of key elements in poverty reduction strategies. Position of women's economic status in Tanzania has been low compared to men in which about 60 percent of women in Tanzania have low economic status. This study examined the contributions of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) towards improving women's economic status. Specifically, the study examined the main source of income among women, and examined challenges facing women in SILC. The study also assessed the level of women economic empowerment and examined the effect of SILC on women's economic empowerment. A total of 100 respondents were involved. Primary data were collected using questionnaire which was administered to 100 respondents. Key informant interview Focus Group Discussions were also conducted so as to triangulate information gathered from survey. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze socio-demographic characteristics, the main income generating activities performed by women and challenges facing women in SILC. A Cumulative Empowerment Index (CWEEI) was computed to determine the overall level of women's economic empowerment. An ordinal logistic regression model was used to analyze the contribution of SILC on women's economic empowerment. The findings show that majority of women in SILC are involved in petty trading as their income generating activities. It was also found that half of women in the study area have attained medium level of empowerment. In addition, duration in SILC, involvement in IGAs and education were good predictors to women's economic empowerment ($P < 0.005$). The findings revealed further that, failure to repay the loan on time and lack of entrepreneurial/business management skills are the major constraints facing women. Therefore, it is recommended that stakeholders and NGOs should encourage women to join SILC.

DECLARATION

I, Suzana Revocatus Mulimila, do hereby declare to the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture that this dissertation is my own original work done within the period of registration and that it has neither been submitted nor being concurrently submitted in any other institution.

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Date

The above declaration is confirmed by:

Prof. Anna Sikira

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents (Mr. and Mrs. Mulimila) who worked hard to lay the foundation of my education and my brothers Frank and Titus Mulimila and my young Sister Victoria Mulimila.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASCA	Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CWEEI	Cumulative Women Economic Empowerment Index
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FYDP	Five Year Development Plan
HDI	Human Development Index
HDI	Human Development Index
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ILO	International Labor Organization
MFI	Microfinance Financial Institution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Association
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organization
SILC	Savings and internal Lending communities
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TWB	Tanzania Women Bank
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
VICOBA	Village Community Banks
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor
VSLA	Village savings and Loan Associations
WDF	Women Development Fund and
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
WEEI	Women Economic Empowerment Index

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Out of 1.3 billion poor people in the world, about 70% of them are women (Kato and Kratzer, 2013). Women are poor because they have low education and suffer from discriminatory traditions and customary laws (Kato and Kratzer, 2013). Women lack economic opportunities including lack of access to production resources such as land and credits, low participation in decision making, limited mobility as well as lack of control over income and savings (Lyimo-Macha and Mdoe, 2002). Leavens and Anderson (2011), also reports that eighty percent of Tanzania's communities are patrilineal where customary land tenure system that favour males are common. There have been several attempts in addressing women financial needs in Tanzania, these include the introduction of Presidential fund scheme commonly known as "KIKWETE BILLIONS" the funds that were introduced by the then president of Tanzania, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete aiming at providing soft loans to reduce poverty among women and youths (Kato and Kratzer, 2013; Mlowasa *et al.*, 2014). Furthermore, the government established the Women Development Fund (WDF) and Tanzania Women Bank (TWB); all aiming at empowering women economically. Apart from that various Non-Governmental Organizations such as Catholic Relief Service that uses savings and Internal Lending communities (SILC) model (Chiduo and Bostick, 2017) have been adopting microfinance program including saving group approaches.

There was a need to formulate a community based microfinance program to cater for financial services for the poor because majority of poor and illiterate women are unable to

meet requirements to access loans from formal commercial banks, credit union or microfinance institutions. Moreover, the minimum savings required to open a bank account are usually high and often prohibitive for poor households (Vanmeenen and Bavois, 2011). Tanzanian women's economic empowerment program has adopted the Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank model, the pioneer of Micro-Finance and associated solidarity groups to address poverty by ensuring women get access to finance (Kato and Kratzner, 2013). Yunus began his Micro-Credit Scheme since 1976 (Yunus, 2004) as a poverty boosting tool, extending loans to poor households especially women so as to raise their economic status. According to Haque and Harbin (2009) it is believed that extending credit without collateral on the basis that the borrower specifically women would use the money to expand small business, own assets and generate income is a way to economically empower women. Grameen Bank focuses credit as a human right, and is built on a system where one who does not have anything gets the highest priority.

According to Taylor and Perezniето (2014), women economic empowerment is defined as a process whereby women's and girls' lives are transformed from a situation where they have limited power and access to assets to a situation where they experience economic advancement. This includes power to economic decision-making within their household, extending to areas that are traditionally regarded as men's realm and power over access to and control over financial and physical assets, including access to employment and income-generation activities. According to Golla *et al.* (2011) and Friedmann (1992) economic power entails women access to income (financial service), assets, and decision making power in economic activities.

Community-based financial services were formulated for the purpose of providing financial services to the poor, primarily rural communities in Asia, Latin America, Caribbean Africa and Tanzania inclusive (Entz *et al.*, 2016). One of the community based microfinance is Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) which is a savings model promoted by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). CRS is the official international humanitarian agency of the catholic community in the United States that provides development assistance to improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable people around the world. CRS under its microfinance program help community members to form groups, pool their savings and make loans to each other.

According to Vanmeenen (2006) and Ferguson (2012) individuals in the groups are self-selected based on trust, honesty, reliability, punctuality, good standing in the community, hardworking, savings potential and similar social status. SILCs are made up of 15 to 30 individuals usually from among the adult men and women population within the community. If a group has more than 30 members they are encouraged to divide into smaller sub-groups. Each saving group agrees to a set of rules to guide its activities. Groups meet on a regular basis and members contribute a fixed minimum sum of money. Members take out loans, which they pay back with interest. Loans are meant to help women meet their seasonal family needs like education expenses, improve food security, home repairs, and purchase household assets, productive assets and grow businesses.

According to Vanmeenen, (2006) and Karlan *et al.* (2017) a microfinance programme called Accumulated Savings and Credit Association (ASCA) developed by CARE used to exist in Niger in the 1990s. This was known as the "Mata Masu Dubara" or "Women on the Move" Project. According to Karlan, *et al.* (2017), Chiduo and Bostick (2017) and

Vanmeenen and Bavois (2011) savings-led microfinance groups vary depending on the implementing organization and the context; however, the basic features follow the (ASCA) model developed in the early 1990s in Mali by CARE.

According to Vanmeenen and Bavois (2011) SILC incorporate a number of CRS specific adaptations and innovations that ensure accessible, transparent and flexible accumulation of savings and credit groups, which are user-owned and self-managed in communities where members reside. SILC provides flexible savings, credit and insurance as financial products which enables its members meet household consumption needs and business opportunities (Chiduo and Bostick, 2017).

By doing so, SILC in Tanzania economically empower women who are marginalized groups by providing them access to financial capital. CRS has been working with the most vulnerable people in marginalized and underserved communities in Tanzania for over 60 years. CRS microfinance programs in developing countries place a major focus on savings-led microfinance by providing training and capacity strengthening to new savings groups (SILC group), using a highly sustainable fee-for-service, market-based, and agent approach. Upon completing of their first 12-month cycle, groups can operate on their own. Women's economic empowerment is now a mainstream dimension of any development discourse. It is expected that interventions towards improving women's economic status would relieve women from income poverty.

Despite efforts of the government of Tanzania, since 1975 women status is still low (Mmasa, 2017) and the proportion of women who live in poverty is still high. According to URT (2011) and Mtamakaya *et al.* (2018), women have limited opportunity to

influence decision making. Moreover about 60% of women in Tanzania live in poverty which in turn affects their level of economic empowerment. Therefore this study aimed at assessing the contribution of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) towards women's economic empowerment.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women economic empowerment aims at reducing poverty and vulnerability among women at both household level and society at large. According to Girabi and Mwakaje (2013), this empowerment can be through microfinance where women can access credit. Women are seen as minors and their lives are under control of their husbands/ men (ILO, 2010 and Mmasa, 2017).

Literature, Kato and Kratzer, (2013) shows that, about 60% of women in Tanzania have low economic status compared to men. Women are not expected to influence the decision-making processes from domestic level to the national level as majority of them are poor. Therefore, microfinance in Tanzania can potentially make interventions to improve women status in terms of facilitating access to practical skills, credits and assets.

Several studies have been conducted to address the link between women's empowerment and several aspects of socio economic development in Tanzania. These studies include those focusing on women empowerment in agricultural value chains in Northern Tanzania (Jeckoniah *et al.* 2012) and women empowerment through microfinance focusing on PRIDE TANZANIA (Mlowasa *et al.*, 2014). Related studies on women empowerment through microfinance in Tanzania focused on Small Enterprise Development Assistant (SEDA) and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and PRIDE Tanzania

(Kato and Kratzer, 2013). Others studies include an impact study on women empowerment and microfinance in Kondoa that involved women members and non-members of MFIs (Josephat *et al.*, 2017). There was also another related study by Mmasa (2017) that focused on determinants of smallholder women farmers' access to informal credit in Tanzania on Village Community Banks (VICOBA) in Singida and Chamwino districts.

The findings from studies cited above prove that women are empowered due to improvement in their economic status. However little is known on the outcome of those involved in Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) groups. It's important to examine how SILC benefit women in the contexts of the study area which has different socio economic background compare to other studies. Therefore this study aimed at filling the research gap by examining the contribution of SILC in improving women economic status.

1.3 Justification of the Study

Much has been done on microfinance as a means towards economic empowerment of women; however, women's economic status is still low. This study aims at bridging the knowledge gap through assessing the contribution of SILC towards improving women economic status. The study is also in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (five) which aims at enhancing policy makers adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of empowerment of women and girls at all levels by 2030. The study is also in line with the Tanzania development vision 2025 target number 1 (one) that aims at promoting high quality livelihood by ensuring realization of gender equality and women economic empowerment by 2025. The study

also contribute in National Five year development plan (FYDP)2016/2017-2020/21 chapter 2, section 2.13 which aim at ensuring women economic empowerment. In general findings from this study will add to existing literature on microfinance institutions and women empowerment. Findings will also be useful to development practitioners of the Government of Tanzania, private sector, women in SILCs groups, policy makers, as well as Non-governmental organizations that develop community based microfinance program which plays an important role in empowering women.

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 General objective

The overall objective of this study was to assess the contribution of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) towards women's economic empowerment.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this study were to:

- i. Examine the main sources of income among women.
- i. Assess the level of women's economic empowerment resulting from SILC.
- ii. Examine the influence of women participation in SILC on women economic empowerment.
- iii. Examine challenges facing women in SILC

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What are sources of the income generating activities that women are involved in?
- ii. What is the level of women economic empowerment for women in SILC groups? Is it low, medium or high level of women economic empowerment?
- iii. What is the contribution of SILC towards women economic empowerment?
- iv. What are the challenges facing women participating in SILC groups?

1.6 Theoretical Framework

1.6.1 Women empowerment theory

Empowerment may be viewed as a process oriented definition emerged as a more salient and revealing approach. Empowerment is defined as an ongoing process of increasing personal, interpersonal or political power so that individuals, families and community can take action to improve their circumstances (Carry, 2003 and Turner and Maschi, 2015). Empowerment seeks to increase personal, interpersonal or political power to improve lives of marginalized people which will enable them to take control of their lives. Carry (2003) suggests that building empowerment requires involvement and engagement in groups of people that have been in similar situation and share goals. Group is an ideal venue for women empowerment as it offers opportunity to find power.

Yunus (2004) and Rahman (2000) considers micro-credit as a means to economically empower the underprivileged in our society. It is also believed that extending credit without collateral on the basis that the borrower specifically women would use the money to engage in income-earning activities. So women economic empowerment is positively influenced by women participation in micro-credit.

1.6.2 Women in development theory (WID)

The WID theory was developed in the early 1970's. The WID theory focuses on productive aspects and economic development of women. It is believed that women contribution could be enhanced by more sensitive development programs and projects (Gershuny and Sullivan, 2003). This approach emphasizes on women economic empowerment by integrating women into development. According to Rathberger (1990) it is believed empowerment enable women gain control of their lives and resolve conflict between their productive and reproductive role. Women are said to be the untapped

resources, so developing projects that focuses on women will increase their productive capacity. Thus, they can also contribute to development.

1.6.3 Women and development (WAD) theory

According Rathberger (1990), WAD perspective focusses on the relationship between women and development processes rather than purely on strategies for the integration of women into development. The WAD approach emphasizes on introducing income generating activities for women to alleviate the problem of subordination of women and improve women position.

1.7 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework as elaborated in Fig. 1, shows relationship between women economic empowerment and the role of SILC. The framework shows the analytical approach of relating variables and concepts that were investigated. Figure 1 shows that women economic empowerment depends on access to credits, savings, insurance and provision of basic financial management skills from SILC as program interventions that contributed to women economic empowerment. It is through these interventions that women may start their own income generating activities and invested into existing ones. However, women economic empowerment is also influenced by the socio demographic characteristics which are expected to influence or hinder women economic empowerment. Therefore, Figure 1.1 indicates that when a woman is economically empowered she will be able to increase her income and make contribution to household expenses. Further, women start to own assets, gain control over income, savings and increased power to make economic decision and gain freedom of movement to pursue her economic activities and time to attend to SILC group. The conceptual framework further shows how

socio-demographic variables such as level of education, marital status, household/family size, age and occupation have influence on women economic empowerment.

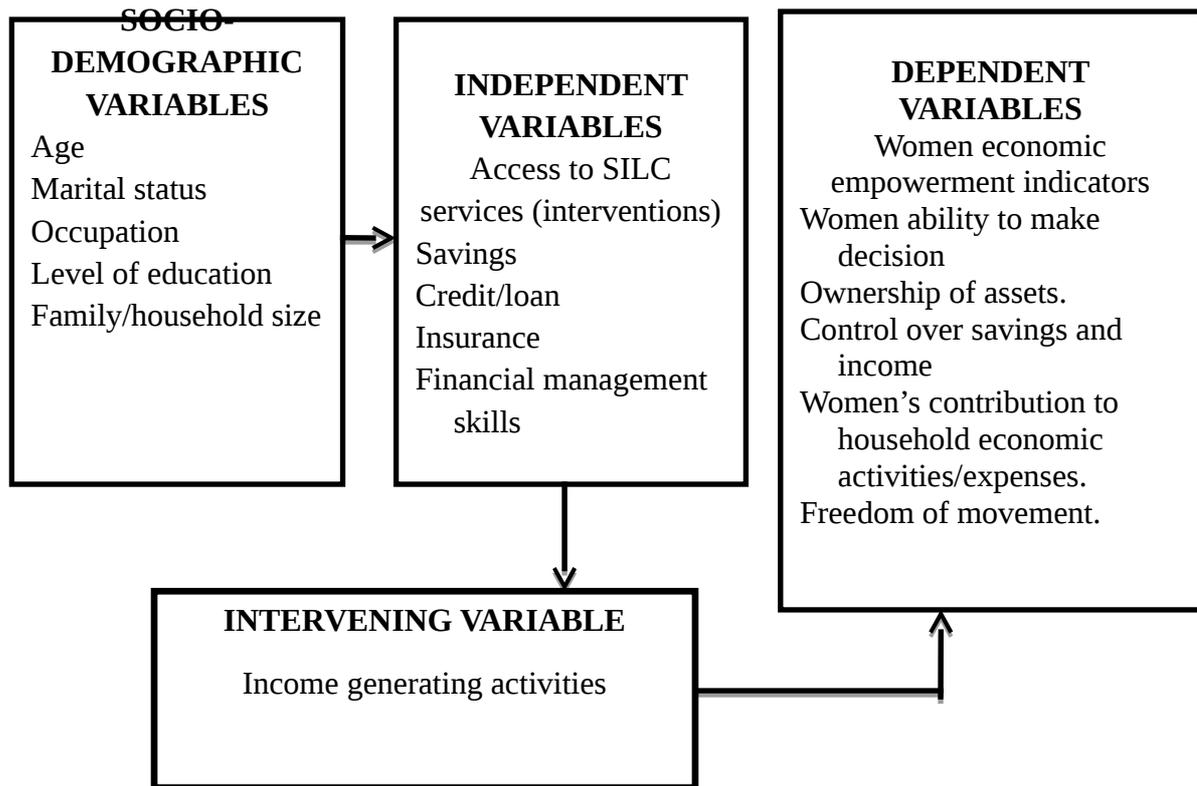


Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework

1.8 Organization of the Dissertation

This dissertation is presented in the publishable manuscript format, and it is organized in four chapters. Chapter one covers introduction which consists of background information problem statement, justification, objectives, research questions, theoretical framework and conceptual framework of the study. Chapter two consists of the first manuscript that focuses on types of income generating activities done by women in SILC. Chapter three consists of the second manuscript which focuses on the level of women's

economic empowerment among women SILC beneficiaries as the results of their participation in SILC. Chapter four covers the general conclusion and recommendations of the study.

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CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Main source of income conducted by SILC Women, towards Women's Economic Empowerment: A Case of SILC in Morogoro Municipal Council, Tanzania

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1.1 Abstract

Income generating activities are considered as initiatives that affect the economic aspects of people's lives. This paper explored women's involvement in income generating activities as a result of their participation in SILC. The study adopted a cross-sectional research design whereby data was collected once. A questionnaire was the main tool for data collection and this was supplemented by the data collected through Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) and Key Informant interview (KI). Descriptive statistics were computed to identify the main income generating activities of women and the socio-demographic characteristics. Moreover, content analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. Generally, results revealed that SILC has enabled women initiate and expand their IGAs including petty trading, crop farming, livestock keeping, Food vending and salon business. Results on loan usage from SILC shows that, majority of

women use loan to increase their capital and pay school expenses. Additionally, challenges that faced most of women in their income generating activities were lack of reliable market. Moreover, women in SILC lack business management skills and failure to repay loan on time are reported to be the major challenges facing them. The study concludes that SILC has enabled women to establish income generating activities (crop farming, livestock keeping, petty trading, food vending, and salon business). However, for women in SILC, petty trading has been their priority since it is more profitable than other activities. Therefore, the study recommends that SILC should provide training on entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy. This will enable women to establish more income generating activities and help women build business management skills in order to overcome the challenges.

Key words: Women Economic Empowerment, Income generating activities, SILC

2.2 Introduction

Recently, the need to meet growing demands for needs such as school fees, health, transport and modern housing and other family needs such as food make income generating activities necessary in meeting these demands. According to Chikoyo (2016), involvement in income generating activities offers alternative ways to household income as well as improvement of economic wellbeing. Therefore, women have been engaging themselves in microcredit associations like SILC so as they may get loan to finance their businesses. Loan is meant to enable women start or expand their businesses and get more income to provide various needs to their dependents and personal needs.

The government of Tanzania has made some intervention to ensure that marginalized groups in the community including women benefit from economic growth. For example

the former presidents introduce a special fund whose objective was to provide softy and affordable loans to women and youths (Kato and Kratzer, 2013; Mlowasa, 2014). In addition to this initiative women also benefit from Women Development Fund (WDF) and Tanzania Women Bank (TWB) all aiming at economic empowerment of women. However, various Non-Governmental Organizations have been adopting microfinance program including saving group approaches, this includes the Catholic Relief Service that uses SILC model (Chiduo and Bostick, 2017). Studies that have linked women income generating activities and women empowerment has largely focused on traditional microfinance institutions such as financial institutions (Mmasa, 2017). However the exact nature of income generating activities among women in SILC and their empowerment is not known. As results, women economic empowerment has not yet been fully achieved. Involvement of women in income generating activities is expected to improve economic status of women. Therefore, this paper examines the main source of income conducted by women participating in SILC.

2.3 Methodology

The study was conducted in Morogoro Municipal council which is one of the six districts in Morogoro region. Morogoro region is comprised of 6 districts and 19 wards (Census, 2012). Morogoro Municipal was selected due to the fact that SILC group program operates in Morogoro Region and Morogoro Municipal Council has larger population of SILC group members compared to other districts as SILC coordinator informed. However, little information is available on SILC and women economic empowerment in Morogoro Municipal council.

The study adopted cross sectional study design where data were collected at one point in time (Bhattacharjee, 2012). The design proved to be appropriate for this study since the researcher used minimum time and resources. Multi stage sampling procedure was used involving random and purposive sampling procedure. Selection of districts and wards was purposive. Wards with greater number of SILC members were purposively selected, three wards Sabasaba, Kihonda Maghorofani and Mindu were selected.

A total of 100 respondents were randomly selected. From Sabasaba and Mindu wards, 30 respondents were selected from each and 40 respondents were selected from Kihonda maghorofani. A list of beneficiaries names obtained from the SILC coordinator office was used for random sampling exercise. This sample size of 100 respondents satisfies the need for conducting statistical analysis. According to Bailey (1995) and Gray (2014) a minimum sample size of 30 or more is required for statistical analysis. In addition, Sudman (1976) suggests that a minimum of 100 elements/cases for major group in the sample is necessary.

Three methods of data collection employed including questionnaire survey, FGD and key informants interviews. In the questionnaire survey, a semi structured questionnaire was used and administered to 100 women who were SILC members. The aim of the questionnaire was to gather quantitative data. Information gathered through questionnaire included socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, SILC membership status (duration in SILC), type of income generating activities, challenges facing women in SILC and attributes of women economic empowerment.

Checklist of questions was developed to guide the researcher during FGD. The aim of FGD was to gather qualitative information's on number of attributes which included aspects of women economic empowerment, challenges and benefit of SILC, varieties and benefits of income generating activities, and aspects of SILC participation. Two FGD were conducted which comprised of men and women SILC members. Each group had 8 members, 4 men and 4 women for each group which made a total of 16 members that participated in FGD.

Key informant interview was conducted using an interview guide administered to three key informants (one SILC project coordinator and 2 community resource persons (facilitators). Information on contribution of SILC towards women economic empowerment was captured. An interview guide was developed for this purpose. The guide was used to probe issues on SILC operations and sought more clarification on efforts towards women economic empowerment including the challenges facing SILC beneficiaries.

The Qualitative data were analyzed through content analysis while quantitative data were coded and analyzed with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics examined the main income generating activities of women, socio-demographic characteristics and challenges facing women in SILC. Unit of analysis was individual women participating in SILC.

2.4 Results and Discussion

2.4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents focused on marital status, age, level of education, occupation and family size. The minimum age was 20 years while the maximum age was 69 years. Results in Table 1 indicate that all respondents were above 18 years. In Tanzania, people are considered adult when they are aged 18 years and above, this implies that all the respondents were adult. These findings suggest that the study captured the right group of respondents who were in matured and economically active age.

Furthermore, the results in Table 2.1 indicate that (36%) and (21%) of women were aged between 30 - 39 and 40 – 49 years respectively. The lowest percent (9%) of respondents were those aged above 60. On the other hand respondents aged between 20 and 29years and 50-59 years both constituted 17%. The largest age group was those between 30 – 49 years. Women aged 30-49years are assumed to have more household responsibilities like paying school fees, paying medical services and provision of other family needs like food. These findings are in line with Girabi and Mwakaje (2013) who found that majority of women of this age category engage in seeking and accessing credit due to the household responsibility they have.

Table 2.1: Socio-Demographic characteristics of respondents (n= 100)

Characteristics		Frequency	Percentage
Age groups	30-39	36	36.0
	40-49	21	21.0
	20-29	17	17.0
	50-59	17	17.0
	60-69	9	9.0
Marital status	Married	64	64.0
	Single	15	15.0
	Widow	8	8.0
	Divorced	6	6.0
	Cohabiting	6	6.0
	Separated	1	1.0
Level of education	Primary education	42	42.0
	Secondary education	30	30.0
	Higher education	17	30.0
	Vocational training	8	8.0
	No formal education	3	3.0
Respondents main occupation	Non-farm self-employment	50	50.0
	Wage employment	18	18.0
	Crop producer	18	18.0
	Livestock keeper	10	10.0
	Retired officer	4	4.0
Family size	1-5	62	62.0
	6-10	37	37.0
	>10	1	1.0

2.4.1.1 Marital status

Majority of SILC members (64%) were married, while only 15% were single and a few (8%) were widowed. Fewer (6%) respondents divorced and the other 6% were cohabiting and only 1% had separated status. This shows that married women involved more in SILC than others who are single, widowed or divorced so as to contribute to household economic needs. This implies that, being married has not been an obstacle for them to participate in SILC and in income generating activities.

This is contrary to what was reported by Jeckoniah *et al*; (2012) whereas men's attitude in Simanjiro district was reported to be a barrier to women economic empowerment. During focus group discussion men revealed that they joined SILC after they could witness its benefit from their wives who joined first. Married women have been struggling for better livelihood especially for their children and for the well-being of entire family. Mmasa (2017) suggested that married individuals in Singida Rural district in Singida and Chamwino districts in Dodoma region were relatively considered as being more stable, easily identifiable and more credit worthy.

Moreover, having married women joining saving groups has also contributed to reduced violence from their husband since they also contribute to household economic needs as it has also been reported by the study conducted in Mgubwe, Tanzania by Kesanta and Andre (2015).

2.4.1.2 Education level

Level of education was defined into five different categories including: no formal education, primary education, secondary education, higher education and vocational training. A good proportion (42%) of respondents completed primary education, while 30% respondents attained secondary school education. Few respondents (17%) attained higher education level and 8% completed vocational training especially on tailoring. On the other hand very few (3%) had no formal education. This indicates that the literacy level of women in SILC is a factor for their economic empowerment. Education has enabled women to be in a better position to negotiate their terms in matters like decision making, mobility and even control of their income and savings. Education gives women knowledge and greater confidence (Pambe *et al.*, 2013).

Also majority of women seeking credit were primary school leavers who didn't have other income apart from the loans from SILC which helped them engage in income generating activities. In related study Mlowasa *et al.* (2014) found more than 70% of women from study area had primary school level of education who were not in the formal employment but engage in petty trading.

2.4.1.3 Occupation of respondents

Respondent's main occupation as indicated from Table 2.1 shows that half of the respondents (50%) in the study area were involved in non-farm employment activities which were mostly petty business. Also 18% were crop producers doing small scale vegetable, fruits, rice and maize farming and the other 18% were engaged in wage employment such as teachers, secretaries and nurses.

A small proportion (10%) of women in SILC was also involved in livestock keeping mainly keeping cattle and chicken while only 4% were retired officers. This implies that majority of the SILC members were actively involved in various income generating activities to enhance their income so as to meet their family needs. Women participation in SILC has provided with start-up capital to enable them engage in petty trading. It was also noted that salary employees joined SILC so as they may have extra income to improve their living standard while for the crop producers loan from SILC has enabled them buy agricultural inputs.

It was also reported by Aslam (2013) that women's occupation is critically associated with their economic empowerment through decision making power, increase in income and improvement of children's health. According to Gash and Odell (2013) access to loans is expected to increase business-related investment and encourage establishment of

new income-generating ventures. Members often say they use loans and share-out money for their businesses. As a result, there is high likelihood of investment in new and/or existing businesses of members, including increases in the expansion of current businesses and creation of new businesses. This forms a basis for increased women economic empowerment.

2.4.1.4 Family size

The results further revealed family size of respondent was between 1-12. More than half (62%) of respondents had a household size of one up to five members while 37% had six up to ten household members and only 1% had a household size of above ten members. Given these results women with small family size reduces the burden of responsibility on food, medical expenses and school. On the other hand, having these responsibilities has been the reason that they had joined SILC so as to provide various needs to their dependents which include children, parents, and younger siblings. Similarly a study by Pingle (2005) in Egypt and South Africa reported that having young children and extended families meant that they were compelled to join credit associations.

2.4.2 Main Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

Involvement of women in income generating activities is considered as one of the initiatives that affect the economic aspects of women's lives. In examining the main income generating activities, the findings reveals that slightly more than half (53%) of respondents were engaged in petty business which includes selling African clothing guinea fowl and African wax print. Other petty businesses included selling groundnuts and popcorn, tailoring, selling second hand clothes commonly known as *mitumba* in Kiswahili, selling soft drinks. A small proportion (16.3% and 14.4%) of respondents were

engaged in crop farming (fruits, vegetables, puddy) and livestock keeping (chicken, cattle and goat) respectively. On the other hand Table 2.2 shows that, 9.6% and 6.7% were involved in food vending and salon respectively.

A large number of women SILC members were engaged mostly in small scale income generating activities as a result of their participation in SILC .This has been due to fact that they are responsible for taking care of their family basic needs as a part of their economic contribution for household survival and other personal needs. This implies that individuals are not afraid of the risks that come with doing business for fear of loses or inability to repay loans. Similarly Mwaisaka (2012) in Kenya found that majority of SILC members from the study area rely on petty trade as their source of income.

During a FGD, some of the success stories emerged from the collective action of SILC groups. One group at Sabasaba ward purchased a motorcycle used for transportation and at the same time as a source of income. Having a motorcycle was an opportunity for employment for one of group member. Also the group was able to buy plastic chairs used for renting in weddings, funeral, communion and any other community events. One FGD participant was quoted;

“.....The income we accrue is distributed (share out) to each member at the end of each cycle and this was possible due to the additional loan from equity bank...”.

(FGD participant in Sabasaba ward, 07th December, 2018).

This particular findings is in-line with Kumar (2013) who contended that most of women found these small business activities as a means to hold petty cash and reducing dependency from their spouses. Similarly, Kim *et al.* (2007) reported that women in

South Africa experience high levels of autonomy in decision making and household contribution. Women were also valued by their partner as the result of participation in microcredit when they use their loan for conducting petty businesses. This in-turn increased their level of economic empowerment. Moreover, the theory of women and development suggests that introducing IGAs to women alleviate the problem of subordination, while in other societies, IGA could be a source of violence. This implies that IGAs could be a means and an end towards improving women economic position.

Table 2.2: Main income generating activities (n=100)

Income generating activities	Frequency	Percent
Crop farming	17	16.3
Livestock keeping	15	14.4
Petty trading activities	55	53.0
Food vending	10	9.6
Salon business	7	6.7

2.4.3 Loan usage

Respondents were asked to mention the most important use of loan they get from SILC. Based on the findings presented in Table 2.3, majority (24.9%) of respondents used loans to expand their business. This has enabled them to meet family needs like schools fees, food and medical expenses. SILC has made such a major contribution to women's economic empowerment. Women can make household economic contribution, the loan covered expenses such as paying school fees (21.4%) while 10.2% used it for food and 11.9% for improving housing condition. Moreover, 9.4% and 7.7% improved their housing condition, bought household assets and paid their medical expenses respectively.

Similar findings were reported by Kim *et al.* (2007) in South Africa where women used credit to finance their retail businesses which included fruit and vegetables vending,

selling of second hand clothes and tailoring business. School fees and improving capital has also been an important usage of loan for women in SILC. Similar results concerning loan usage were reported by Kesanta and Andre (2015) as study conducted in Mgbuwe Tanzania, where as 23% and 15% of women in the study area used loan for school fees and food respectively.

Table 2.3: Women use of credit/loan from SILC (n= 100)

Use of credit	Frequency	Percent
Improved capital	71	24.9
Paid school fees	61	21.4
Improved housing condition	34	11.9
Purchased food	29	10.2
Purchased household assets	27	9.4
Paid medical expenses	22	7.7
Contributed on ceremony	10	3.5
Use for personal needs	9	3.2
Constructed modern house	8	2.8
Paid debts	5	1.8
Rented a house	4	1.4
Bought agricultural inputs	3	1.1
Added income generating activity	2	0.7

2.4.4 Challenges facing SILC women in income generating activities

There were several factors that hinder participation of women in income generating activities. Lack of access to market has been the bigger challenge facing women in their income generating as shown in Table 2.4. More than a quarter (27%) of women have reported lack of entrepreneurship skills to have been their obstacle to the success of their business while 23% and 5% reported lack enough capital to run their business, lack support from their spouse respectively. These findings are related to (Chikoyo, 2016) study in which 43.7% of women in Igurusi Ward, Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, reported that market fluctuation and competition as major constraint to their business.

Also 26.2% respondents revealed that inadequate initial working capital to their business hinders them to gain high income.

Table 2.4: Challenges facing SILC women in income generating activities

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Lack of access to market	45	45.0
Lack of entrepreneurial skills	27	27.0
Lack of enough capital	23	23.0
Lack of support from spouse/partner	5	5.0

2.4.5 Benefit accrued from SILC by women beneficiaries

Despite the above challenges, SILC members had access to flexible, stress-free, accessible loans provided in a regular basis. This enabled them to improve their household income and food security. As part of SILC participant access small loans and paying back. But also participants meet annually to share the accumulated profit that results from loan interests. Women were able to start income generation activity to satisfy their household basic needs.

Moreover, Community savings groups play an important role in Tanzania by allowing members to save money, borrowing for both consumption and investment, and providing emergency relief (Green *et al.*, 2014). Women participating in SILC shared their appreciation with the social fund savings which allowed them to cover health care or funeral costs in emergency situations. The social fund has also been used for helping orphans with their school needs which includes uniforms and school fees.

Women members of SILC benefited through improvement of women's role in the household as they contribute in providing basic needs at household level; a woman may

gain a greater voice in expenditure decisions. Successful implementation of their income generating activities increased confidence among individuals and the community at large.

Similar studies, Karlan *et al*; (2017) Vanmeenen (2010) and Brannen (2010) found that women participation in microcredit also resulted to increased household expenditure. This is due to increased income as results of women contribution to household income. This contribution is considered as an aspect of women economic empowerment.

2.5 Conclusion and Recommendations

It can be concluded that participation in SILC has greatly contributed to establishment and improvement of women IGAs, which as well increased women economic empowerment. Participation in SILC enhance and serve as capital for small businesses that women in the study area engage in. This being the case SILC serve as an alternative source of income since the formal financial service for the poor is not accessible in the study area. The study recommends that SILC coordinator in collaboration with government should ensure formulation of reliable markets for domestic commodities produced by women. Women should be given training on proper loan utilization, business skills (financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills) so that they succeed in their IGAs and repay their loan on time.

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CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Contribution of SILC towards Women Economic Empowerment: A Case of Morogoro municipality, Tanzania.

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3.1 Abstract

The empowerment of women has been associated with development of economies around the world. This study aimed at assessing the contribution of SILC in improving women economic status. The study was conducted in Morogoro Municipal and adopted a cross-sectional research design. Questionnaire was administered to 100 respondents to collect quantitative data while qualitative data were collected from 8-10 FGD participants both men and women. Women's economic empowerment index scales was developed using five indices to gauge the level of women's economic empowerment in different spheres; cumulative empowerment index was computed to gauge the overall women economic empowerment. An ordinal logistic regression was used to determine the effect/contribution of SILC to women economic empowerment. It was found that half of

the respondents (50%) attained medium level of empowerment. The study concludes that SILC has a great potential to empower women economically. Additionally, the level of empowerment was relatively high in the sphere of economic contribution and control over savings and income. In addition, duration in SILC, involvement in IGAs and education were good predictors of women's economic empowerment ($P < 0.005$). Thus, it is concluded that, SILC has a great potential to empower women economically. Therefore, it is recommended that stakeholders and NGOs should encourage women to join SILC.

Key words: Women Economic empowerment, SILC

3.2 Introduction

Women economic empowerment is a pressing development issue. The importance of women's economic empowerment is recognized internationally as one of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 5: which states; "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". According to Mcneilly (2008) women in developing countries are the major targeted group because they are often the most vulnerable socioeconomically. Moreover, microcredit associations including SILC focus on providing services mostly to women with the purpose of empowering them by improving their access to and control over economic resources.

Full realization of women economic empowerment is still constrained by a number of factors. These includes women underperformance in their income generating activities (Tundui and Tundui, 2013), men's attitude which do not allow women to have full control of resources and restrictions on women movement (Jeckonia *et al.*, 2012).

Government and non-government organizations have introduced many initiatives in order to support women's effort to empower themselves economically. Among non-Government initiatives was SILC which was introduced by Catholic relief service (CRS). According to (Vanmeenen, 2016) Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was founded in 1943 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged living overseas. (SILC) is an approach that aims at increasing household's income through provision of people, primarily women, with income-generating opportunities through provision of credit.

Although many studies have reported improved economic status of women as a result of their involvement in microcredit, still little is known on the outcome of those involved in Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs). Therefore this paper assesses the contribution of SILC to women economic empowerment. In addition challenges facing women in SILC are also discussed.

3.3 Methodology

The study was conducted in Morogoro Municipal Council which is one of six districts in Morogoro region. Morogoro region comprised of 6 districts and 19 wards (URT, 2013). Morogoro Municipal Council was selected due to the fact that SILC group program operates in Morogoro Region and Morogoro Municipal Council has largest population of SILC group members among all districts. In addition, little information is available on SILC and women economic empowerment in Morogoro Municipal council.

The study adopted cross sectional study design where data were collected at one point in time (Bhattacharjee, 2012). The design proved to be appropriate for this study since the

researcher used minimum time and resources. Multi stage sampling involving random and purposive procedure was used. Selection of districts and wards was purposively. Wards with greater number of SILC members were purposively selected. Three selected wards were Sabasaba, Kihonda maghorofani and Mindu. A total of 100 respondents were randomly selected in which 30 respondents were picked from each of the two wards (Sabasaba and Mindu). 40 respondents were selected from Kihonda maghorofani. A list of beneficiaries names obtained from the SILC coordinator office was used for random sampling exercise. This sample size of 100 respondents satisfies the need for conducting statistical analysis. According to Bailey (1995) and Gray (2014) a minimum sample size of 30 or more is required for statistical analysis.

Three methods of data collection were employed. These were questionnaire survey, FGD and key informants' interviews. In questionnaire survey a semi structured questionnaire was used and administered to 100 women who are SILC members. The aim of the questionnaire was to gather quantitative data. Information gathered through questionnaire included socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, SILC membership status (duration in SILC) and attributes of women economic empowerment.

Checklist of questions was developed and used to guide FGD. The aim of FGD was to gather qualitative information's on number of attributes which included aspects of women economic empowerment and aspects of SILC participation. Two FGD were conducted which comprised of men and women SILC members. Each group had 8 members, 4 men and 4 women for each group. Men were included in order to gather their perception since most them have spouses who are SILC beneficiaries. Hence, a total of 16 members participated in FGD.

Key informant interview was conducted using an interview guide administered to three (3) key informants (one SILC project coordinator and 2 community resource persons (facilitators). Information on contribution SILC towards women economic empowerment was captured. The interview guide was used to seek more clarification on efforts towards women economic empowerment. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis while quantitative data was coded and analyzed with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The level of women empowerment was computed by developing a Women's Economic Empowerment Index (WEEI) in five women economic empowerment spheres. The spheres of women's economic empowerment that were measured are; Freedom of Movement index (FMI), Household economic decision-making Index (HEDMI), Economic Contribution to Household Index (ECHI), Control over Savings and Income Index (CSII) and Ownership of Assets Index (OAI). Cumulative/Composite Economic Empowerment Index (CEEI) was constructed based on the WEEIs from different spheres in order to establish an overall women's economic empowerment.

3.3.1 Development of women economic empowerment indices

3.3.1.1 Women economic decision making index

Women's decision making over economic aspects was measured using women economic decision making index. Six statements were included in the questionnaire. For each statement respondents indicated whether economic decision making was made by woman only, jointly or by man only. Statements included decision on selling assets, decision on spending income from business, decision to engage in IGAs, decision on large purchase and decision on purchasing household appliance. The response for each variable

statement was given values, whereas” 1” was given for man only, “2” was given for jointly and “3” was given for woman only. The lowest score was expected to be 6 and the highest score 18. Then for each respondent a total score for each statement was obtained. Score of 6-9 were considered as low level of economic decision making, 10-13 as medium level of economic decision making and 14-18 as high level of economic decision making.

3.3.1.2 Women economic contribution index

Women economic contribution was measured by using the women economic contribution index. Six statements were included in the questionnaire, in which for each statement the respondents indicated if “yes” or “no” they make or do not make economic contribution at their household. Statements included contribution to school expenses, donation on social issues, ownership of any productive assets, any other economic activity apart from crop and livestock, use income for household food consumption and spend money on health expense. The response for each variable statement was given values, whereas” 1” was given for YES, and “0” was given for NO responses. The scores ranged from 0-6 and for each respondent a total score for all statements was obtained. Score of 0-2 were considered as low level of economic contribution, 3-4 as medium level and 5-6 as high level of economic contribution.

3.3.1.3 Women control over savings and income index

Women control over savings and income was measured by using the women control over savings and income index. Seven statements were included in the questionnaire. For each statement respondents indicated whether control over savings and income was done by woman only, jointly or man only. The statements included control over how much to save, how to use income, how to use loan, which IGA to start, greatest say on major purchase,

how to use profit and how to use savings. The response for each variable statement was given values, whereas "1" was given for man only, "2" was given for jointly and "3" was given for woman only. The scores ranged from 7-21, then for each respondent a total score for each statement was obtained. Score of 7-11 was considered as low level of control over savings and income, 12-16 as medium level and 17-21 as high level of control over saving and income.

3.3.1.4 Women freedom of movement index

Women freedom of movement was measured by using women freedom of movement index. Six statements were included in the questionnaire. For each statement respondents indicated whether their freedom of movement was never, occasionally or frequently. The statements included freedom to visit financial institution, purchase items from distant shop/market, freedom to attend meeting/training, freedom to visit family/ relatives within or away from district/region, visit market places outside the ward/street/village and participation in social functions (wedding, ceremonies). The response for each variable statement was given values, whereas "1" was given for never, "2" was given for occasionally and "3" was given for frequently. The lowest score was expected to be 6 and the highest score 18, then for each respondent a total score for each statement was obtained. Score of 6-9 were considered as low level of freedom of movement, 10-13 as medium level and 14-18 as high level of freedom of movement.

3.3.1.5 Women ownership of assets index

Women ownership of assets was measured by using the women ownership of assets index. 13 assets were included in the questionnaire, in which for each asset the respondents had to state whether they were able to control their own assets and enjoy

benefits accruing from them. Then respondents were supposed to indicate if the control over assets is done by woman only, jointly or man only. The assets included land, television, cattle, radio, bicycle, mobile phone, poultry, fridge, sewing machine, goat, household furniture, motorcycle and car. The response for each variable statement was given values, in which "1" was given for man only, "2" was given for jointly ownership of assets and "3" was given for frequently. The lowest score was expected to be 1 and the highest score 24, then for each respondent a total score for each variable/ asset was obtained. Score of 1-7 were considered as low, 8-16 as medium level and 17-24 as high level of assets ownership.

In all five spheres of women empowerment assessed in this study, the women economic empowerment index scale was developed using a set of indicators. The Composite Economic Empowerment Index (CEEI) was developed through aggregating the scores from all the indices. The use of CEEI is also recommended and used by other scholars in various organizations in measuring the level of empowerment among women (Parveen and Leonhauser 2004), (Pokhriyal *et al.*, 2014), (Matekere, 2015) and (Josephat *et al.*, 2017). The ordinal logistic regression model was used to measure the effect/contribution of SILC on women economic empowerment. The model specification is as follows.

$$y_1 = \alpha e + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + \dots + b_n X_n \sum i \dots \dots \dots$$

Y_1 CWEEI (1=low level of economic empowerment; 2= Medium level of economic empowerment, 3=high level of economic empowerment)

X_1 Age of respondent (in years)

X_2 Household/family size (in Numbers)

- X₃ Occupation (1=Non-farm employment, 0=Farm employment)
- X₄ Duration in SILC (in years)
- X₅ Participation in income generating activities (1= Yes, 0= No)
- X₆ Level of education (1= formal education, 0=no formal education)
- X₇ Number of groups (in numbers)
- X₈ Marital status (0=single, 1=married)
- e The natural log
- α The intercept of the equation

3.4 Results and Discussion

3.4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents discussed here focused on marital status, level of education and occupation.

Table 3.6: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents ($n= 100$)

Characteristics		Frequency	Percent
Marital status	Married	64	64.0
	Single	15	15.0
	Widow	8	8.0
	Divorced	6	6.0
	Cohabiting	6	6.0
	Separated	1	1.0
Level of education	Primary education	42	42.0
	Secondary education	30	30.0
	Higher education	17	30.0
	Vocational training	8	8.0
	No formal education	3	3.0
Respondents main occupation	Non-farm self-employment	50	50.0
	Wage employment	18	18.0
	Crop producer	18	18.0
	Livestock keeper	10	10.0
	Retired officer	4	4.0

3.4.1.1 Marital status

Majority of SILC members (64%) were married, while only 15% were single and a few proportion (8%) were widowed. Few (6%) of respondents divorced and the other 6% were cohabitating and only 1% had separated status. This shows that married women were more involved in SILC than others who are single, widowed or divorced so as to contribute to household economic needs. This shows that being married has not been an obstacle for them to participate in SILC and in income generating activities.

This is contrary to what was reported by Jeckonia *et al.* (2012) whereas men's attitude in Simanjiro district was reported to be a barrier to women economic empowerment. During a focus group discussion men said that the reason they joined SILC was after they could witness its benefit from their wives who joined first. Married women have been struggling for better livelihood especially for their children. According to Mmasa (2017) married individuals in his study area (Singida and Chamwino districts, Tanzania) were relatively considered as being more stable, easily identifiable and more credit worthy.

Moreover, for married women, joining saving groups has also contributed to reduced abuse from their husband because they also contribute to household economic needs. This sort of contribution has also been reported by the study conducted in Mgubwe, Tanzania by Kesanta and Andre (2015). Saving and loans groups have contributed to the improvement of marital relationships since women have stopped being physically abused after joining the savings group.

3.4.1.2 Education level

Level of education was defined into five different categories including: no formal education, primary education, secondary education, higher education and vocational

training. A good proportion (42%) of respondents completed primary education, while 30% respondents attained secondary school education. A small proportion (17%) attained higher education level and 8% completed vocational training especially on tailoring. On the other hand very few 3% had no formal education. This indicates that, the literacy level of women in SILC is a factor for their economic empowerment. Education has enabled women to be in a better position to negotiate their terms in matters like decision making, mobility and even control of their income and savings. Education gives women knowledge and greater confidence (Pambe *et al.*, 2013). Also majority of women seeking credit were primary school leavers who didn't have other income apart from the loans from SILC which helped them engage in income generating activities. Similarly, Mlowasa *et al.* (2014) found more than 70% of women from his study area are primary school leavers who were not in the formal employment but engage in petty trading.

3.4.1.3 Occupation of respondents

Respondent's main occupation as indicated from the table above its shows that half of the respondents (50%) in the study area were involved in non-farm employment/activities which are mostly petty business. Also 18% are crop producers doing small scale farming like vegetable and fruits, rice, maize and the other 18% were engaged in wage employment such as teachers, secretaries and nurses. A small proportion (10%) of women in SILC was also involved in livestock keeping mainly keeping cattle and chicken while only 4% were retired officers. This implies that majority of the SILC members are actively involved in various income generating activities to enhance their income so as to meet their family needs. Women participation in SILC has provided with start-up capital to enable them engage in petty trading and those who are wage earner. They joined SILC so as they may have extra income to improve their living standard while for the crop producer's loan from SILC has enabled them buy agricultural inputs.

It was also reported by Aslam (2013) that women occupation is associated with women's economic empowerment through decision making power, increase in income and improvement of children's health. According to Gash and Odell (2013), access to loans is expected to increase business-related investment and encourage the establishment of new income-generating activities. Members often say they use loans and share-out money for their businesses. Therefore, there is high likelihood of investment in new and/or existing businesses of members, including increases in the expansion of current businesses, and creation of new businesses. As a result this forms a basis for increased women economic empowerment.

3.4.2 Level of women's economic empowerment in five aspects

The levels of women empowerment were relatively higher in two spheres namely: economic contribution and control over savings and income. However in the sphere of economic decision making, freedom of movement and ownership of assets, the level of economic empowerment for majority of women was moderate.

3.4.2.1 Economic decision making

According to Table 3.1 majority (53%) of the respondents were in the medium level of economic decision making while 47% were in the high level of economic decision. Women in the study area were also highly empowered in economic decision making as a result of their participation in SILC as shown in Table 3.1. According to Mayoux (2000) women's access to savings and credit gives them a greater economic role in decision-making through their decision about savings and credit. Women increased involvement in economic decision making at household level includes decision to engage in income

generating activity, decision on spending income from business which contributes to increasing income at household and improve employment opportunities for women.

Results in this study are similar to a study by Adnan *et al.* (2015) in Pakistan reported who that microfinance has greatly contributed to the women economic empowerment due to involvement of women. This involved decisions on the major household purchases and in children's education. According to Mwaisaka (2012) who conducted his study in Kenya, household income was somehow improved as a result of women participation in SILC. Similarly Loth (2016) in his study conducted in Arusha district council found that about half of respondent made decision by themselves on purchasing household daily needs like food and provide remittance to parents and helping relatives.

Table 3.1: Index of Women Economic Decision Making (WEDM) and its categorization (n=100)

Score	Percent
12.00	34.0
13.00	19.0
14.00	3.0
15.00	2.0
16.00	3.0
17.00	2.0
18.00	37.0
Categories of WEDM	
Low	0.0
Medium	53.0
High	47.0

3.4.2.2 Women economic contribution

Findings in Table 3.2 indicate that majority (61%) of respondents were in high levels of economic contribution at household level while 37% are in the medium level of economic contribution. This means that women access to credit enabled them start income generating activities thus increased their income for paying children's school fees,

medical expenses (medicine, health fees), buy food and even buy productive assets to support household economic expenditure.

Josephat *et al.* (2017) reported that women were contributing up to 63% of the household income per month in Singida district as a result of proper usage of loan. This shows that micro-credit has positive effects on women economic empowerment. Similar findings on education was reported by Mwaisaka (2012) whereas majority of the respondent in Bamba division spent their money on education. This shows that individuals do value education.

A study by Khan and Noreen (2012) in South Asia found that loans taken by women improved household's well-being, improved nutritional intake and general household expenditure was reported to have also increased. Also due to loans educational level of children in improved and almost three-fifths of women in the study area reported that. The overall family socio-economic status had improved.

Similarly in his study on the effects of SILC project on the sustainability of the socio-economic status of the intended beneficiaries of Bamba division, Kilifi county in Kenya, Mwaisaka (2012) revealed that, with the SILC intervention in place, almost 93% of the respondents in the study area used their money on food and perishables, while 73.6% used credit for their children's educational needs. Also, 76.4% used their savings from SILC for health expenses. Generally, larger amount of money borrowed was used for other purposes like medication, education and IGAs.

Table 3.2: Index of Women Economic Contribution (WEC) and its categorization (n=100)

Score	Percent
2.00	2.0
3.00	14.0
4.00	23.0
5.00	23.0
6.00	38.0
Categories of WEC	
Low	2.0
Medium	37.0
High	61.0

3.4.2.3 Control over savings and income

Findings in Table 3.3 majority (62%) of the respondents were in high levels of control over savings and income while 44% are in the medium level of control over savings and income. This implies that participation of women in SILC especially married women increased their access and control over savings and income. One of FGD participants commented that:

“...Before joining SILC I had no income from my own sources. I depended on my husband’s income and had no any say on how to spend it. But, now am able to do what I want since I also make my own money...” (FGD, participant in Kihonda maghorofani ward, 08thDecember, 2018)

These findings are in line with Asim (2009) who found that the position of women in Pakistan within the household improved through control over savings and access to independent income. The implication here is that, women with income have more power in participating in making households decisions.

Table 3.3: Index of Control over Savings and Income and its Categorization

Score	Percent
12.00	1.0
14.00	34.0
15.00	5.0
16.00	4.0
17.00	5.0
18.00	4.0
19.00	1.0
20.00	6.0
21.00	40.0
Categories of control over saving and income	
Low	0.0
Medium	44.0
High	62.0

3.4.2.4 Freedom of movement

The results in Table 3.4 show that, majority (56%) of the respondents were in medium level of freedom of movement while 43% are in the high level of freedom of movement. This means participation of women in SILC has greatly contributed to increased mobility in various issues like attending training/ meeting, visiting financial institution specifically SILC for loan application/making weekly contribution and visit market places. This implies that women are also able to make enough time to engage into income generating activities which also requires unlimited mobility. Similarly, according to Loth (2016) in his study conducted in Arusha district council and Mbilinyi (2018) in her study in Morogoro district (TASAF project) for women to fully engage into income generating activities they may need freedom of movements. However, in some instances this freedom is constrained by spouse or male members of the household. However women in the study area did not have any complaints about being limited by their male partners or husbands. Freedom of movement was also among five indicators identified by

Hashemi *et al.* (1996), ability to make small purchases, ability to make larger purchases and involvement in major decisions.

Similarly a study by Kato and Kratzer (2013) found that women members of saving and lending group participate in activities outside their home than non-members and almost 100% of the women indicated that they had been to different places alone like attending weekly meeting at PRIDE branch or going for loan processing provided the husbands is informed of this movement. This implies that men have no problem with their wives movement provided that their mobility are fruitful and reasonable.

Table 3.4: Index of freedom of movement and its categorization

Score	Percent
9.00	1.0
10.00	4.0
11.00	3.0
12.00	43.0
13.00	6.0
14.00	10.0
15.00	6.0
16.00	6.0
18.00	21.0
Categories of Freedom of movement	
Low	1.0
Medium	56.0
High	43.0

3.4.2.5 Ownership of assets

According to the Table 3.5 majority (61%) of the respondents were in the medium level of asset ownership while 25% were in the high level of assets ownership, this implies that women do not have complete ownership and control of assets and enjoying benefits from them. However majority of respondent 61% both husband and wife had joint ownership of assets. This implies that through income accrued from their IGAs they also contribute their share to buy household assets. These findings are in line with Shekilango (2012)

who found that women who took loans from their SACCOS in Mbeya felt that their access to loan had a positive contribution. Women could buy assets like TV and Radio.

Table 3.5: Index of ownership of assets and its categorization

Score	Percent
1.00	3.0
2.00	2.0
3.00	2.0
4.00	1.0
5.00	1.0
6.00	3.0
7.00	2.0
9.00	10.0
10.00	6.0
11.00	6.0
12.00	10.0
13.00	9.0
14.00	2.0
15.00	18.0
17.00	6.0
18.00	4.0
19.00	4.0
21.00	8.0
24.00	3.0
Categories of ownership of assets	
Low	14.0
Medium	61.0
High	25.0

3.4.2.6 Cumulative empowerment index

This was obtained after the summation of all indices for each respondent then divided by the total number of indices (5). Therefore, Table 3.7 shows that half (50%) of the respondents were in the medium level of empowerment (those who scored between 12-17), while 43% of respondents who scored 18 and above were in the high level of economic empowerment and only 7% who scored 8-11 were in the low level of economic empowerment.

Generally, it was found that majority of women in the study area were empowered economically at different levels (Table 3.7). Results show that 50% were in the medium level of empowerment and 43% are in the high level of empowerment. This implies that involvement of women in SILC enables them to get access to credit which enables them to meet their daily and routine household needs. The findings are in line with Mwaisaka (2012) in Kenya, who found that women participating in SILC increased their income compared to those who were not involved in SILC, also they were able to cater for their children's educational and medical expenses. These findings are also in line with Mlowasa *et al.* (2014) who found that women who took loans improved their economic status in Arusha as they were able to change their life standards from low to high and were able to meet their daily needs.

Table 3.7: Cumulative empowerment index

Level of women economic empowerment	Score	Percent
Low economic empowerment	8-11	7.0
Medium economic empowerment	12-17	50.0
High economic empowerment	>18	43.0

3.4.3 Influence of SILC on women economic empowerment

Ordinal logistic regression was used to examine the effect of SILC on women empowerment. This model was used because the dependent variable had more than two variables; hence, it was measured in categorical scale. The result of the ordinal logistic regression model (Table 3.8) revealed that duration in SILC, education level and involvement in IGAs were good predictors for women's economic empowerment in Morogoro Municipal council ($P \leq 0.005$). Among the eight factors only three predictors were related to women's economic empowerment.

Table 3.8: Ordinal logistic regression results *on contribution of SILC on women economic empowerment*

Variables/predictors	Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.
Family size	.121	.150	.657	1	.417
Duration in SILC	2.087	3.326	3.893	1	.048
Marital status	3.936	.716	30.188	1	.500
Education level	1.489	.788	3.572	1	.049
Occupation	-.857	.607	1.993	1	.158
Involvement in income generating activities	2.161	1.970	204.398	1	.003
Groups apart from SILC	.065	.627	.011	1	.918

Model fitting information chi-square = 58.168 (p= 0.000), Cox and Snell $R^2 = 0.441$, Nagelkerke $R^2 = 0.529$

The chi-square for Model Fitting Information was significant (p = 0.000); the independent variables entered in the model were good predictors of the outcome. Nagelkerke R^2 was 0.529 implying that 52.9% of the chances of the respondents being empowered were predicted by the predictors entered in the model.

For a unit increase in respondent duration in SILC the odds of being economically empowered increased by 2.087 while the other variables in the model were held constant.

For a unit increase in education level, the odds of being economically empowered increased by 1.489 while the other variables in the model were held constant.

Involvement in income generating activities had positive influence on chances of being economically empowered by 2.161 while other variables in the model were held constant.

Duration of SILC members was considered as one of the most important variable in this study. The duration of member to participate as active members was significant as shown in Table 3.8. This indicates duration that one has spent in SILC is associated with increased women empowerment. The finding is in-line with Shekilango (2012) who conducted his study in Mbeya region, Tanzania. Findings revealed potential changes in women's lives as a result of access to microcredit which in this case is a catalyst for change.

Also the study by Kesanta and Andre (2015) found that women have experienced significant changes since they joined saving and lending/credit group. More years spent in savings and lending groups (SILC) seems to be associated with more loan availability. Hence as women have access to loan, they become more economic independent and contribute more to the households need. This kind economic contribution was one of the attribute in women empowerment index. Moreover, these findings are in line with women in development theory which ascertain that through program and projects women are enabled to take control of the lives and improve productive role.

Education was significantly associated with women economic empowerment as shown in Table 3.8. This implies that being educated is associated with increased women economic empowerment. It also implies that women with high level of literacy are likely to be more empowered. Education enabled women to be more involved into economic decision making at household level like decision to buy assets, decision on spending income from business, decision on spending income from business, decision to engage in income generating activity which has contributed to women economic empowerment.

The findings are in line with Parveen and Leonhäuser (2004) who found strong positive effects of education to increased economic empowerment of rural women in Bangladesh. Similarly a study by Mmasa (2017) found that 85% of women in the study area had high level of formal education which suggested possession of high literacy level, which is an advantage in appreciating procurement of credit (informal microcredit) as literate borrowers have enhanced capacity to repay loans. This suggests that educated women had more skills and knowledge. These skills not only enhanced their economic power in terms of earning but also lead to more ability and power to make decision concerning their wellbeing. Parveen and Leonhäuser (2004) suggest that literate women can more easily demand and protect their rights in order to change and improve their situations. Also women in SILC have shown that, their priority for education is the most important aspect for their children.

Involvement in income generating activities was also significant predictor of women economic empowerment. IGAs create employment for women and enable them to contribute to household needs. Brannen (2010) also found that women in Zanzibar have experienced positive changes due to their involvement in IGAs as the result of their participation in VSLA. For instance “One respondent used a Tsh 100 000 loan to buy a used sewing machine. Now she is one of the most successful tailors in the region”. As women engage in income generating activities therefore it is very likely for them to be economically empowered in all the five aspects of empowerment as used in this study.

3.5 Challenges Facing Women in SILC

Women members reported various challenges as a result of their participation in SILC groups. Failure to repay their loan on time has been a challenge. This was mentioned by

34% of respondents. Findings from SILC coordinator indicated that loan defaulters incur some penalty/fine that piles up to their loan. As a result of this penalty mechanism SILC become sustainable. Also Waller (2014) reported similar problem for SILC women in Malawi where women fear to take large/bigger amount of loan because of poor returns from businesses. During focus group discussion, one woman revealed that;

“.....I am afraid of taking large amount of loan for fear of defaulting since my business is not stable, she added that sometimes my husband backs me up in case I default...”(FGD, participant in Kihonda maghorofani on 8th December, 2018).

A good proportion (25%) of respondents reported that lack business management skills was another challenges and this affect their business as they fail to get enough profit to repay their loans. Lack of business management skills has also contributed to failure of women to repay their loan on time. Nevertheless, some few women got support from their husbands in case repayment failure.

In order for business to produce good returns business management skills is important. A study conducted by Tundui and Tundui (2013) in Morogoro and Iringa towns which involved women who were PRIDE microfinance program clients found that, in order to ensure loan repayment business skills, management and practice play a very crucial role.

Similarly, a study conducted in Same district, Tanzania by Jackson (2016) found that delayed payment of loans, inadequate capital and inadequate entrepreneurship skills respectively were major challenges facing women in the study area. On the other hand, slightly more than a quarter (26%) of respondents had no problem with how SILC

operates. This implies that women have experienced more positive changes in their lives after joining SILC.

Very few women reported that lack of support from men (5%), high interest rate (5%), small loan (2%) this was in case they need assets of high value or start a business that needs high amount of money and poor leadership (2%) and only 1% reported marital conflict been their challenge.

Table 3.9: Challenges facing SILC Members

Challenges faced by SILC members	Frequency	Percent
Failure to repay the loan on time	34	34.0
Non(no challenge)	26	26.0
Lack of entrepreneurial/business management skills	25	25.0
Lack of support from men	5	5.0
High interest rate	5	5.0
Small loan	2	2.0
Poor leadership	2	2.0
Marital conflicts	1	1.0

3.6 Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that SILC has succeeded in changing the lives of women enhancing their incomes and improve level of their economic empowerment in all five aspects. It also shows that the level of education was an important predictor of women's economic empowerment. Lastly, IGAs has contributed towards building strong economic growth of women. It is recommended that the Catholic relief services-SILC, Government of Tanzania, local government authority, development practitioners and other NGOs to continue support microcredit association within our communities. This will promote women economic empowerment.

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CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

The study examined the role of SILC on women economic empowerment in Morogoro Municipal Council. The study had four objectives. The first objective was to identify and examine the main income generating activities of women; the second was to assess the level of women economic empowerment resulting from SILC, the third was examine the effect/contribution of SILC on women economic empowerment and the last was to identify and examine challenges facing women in SILC. From the findings, the study makes conclusion based on each objective.

4.1.1 Main income generating activities of women

Access to credit has enabled women engage into various income generating activities. Income generating activities has enabled women meet their household needs and improve their economic status. Women contribution to household welfare gives women greater valuation/appraisal, something that apparently reduces marital conflicts, hence, increased their economic empowerment. Also SILC has greatly support women initiatives to generate income and get extra income for those who are employed through the provision of soft loan. As women and development theory suggests, introducing income generating activities to women helps in alleviating the problem of subordination of women and improve women position.

4.1.2 Contribution of SILC on women economic empowerment

There was a strong positive effect of SILC on women's economic empowerment. It can be concluded that SILC has real focused on ensuring women access to credit so as to cater for their financial needs through financing their income gaining activities. The level of education of women was an important aspect that contributed to their economic empowerment. Findings generally support women empowerment theory on the role of micro credit on enhancing women empowerment. In general, IGAs contributed to building strong economic growth of women, improved household situations, improved children health, growth and well-being.

4.1.3 Level of women economic empowerment

Based on CEEI measure, half of women were in category of high empowerment index. Women score differently in various indicators used to measure women empowerment. Results have generally shown that indicator in which women seem to score highest was control over savings and income. If women were empowered, then it was due to their ability to control savings and income. It can also be concluded that high level of control over savings and income has also led to increased expenditure of women for household needs.

It can also be concluded that this high score was due to SILC interventions as it has a great potential to empower women economically. This implies that women's efforts towards attainment of economic empowerment had increased especially at family level. SILC has succeeded in changing the lives of women through enhancing their incomes and improve level of women economic empowerment in all five aspects.

4.1.4 Challenges facing women in SILC

Women face challenges as a results of their participation in SILC and major challenges being lack of business management skills and failure to repay loan on time. These challenges limit fully realization of women economic empowerment. It should be however noted that, SILC has also made things easy for women as they provide them loan with low interest, collateral free and loans are easily accessible. Therefore, it can be concluded that failure of women to repay their loan on time is caused by poor returns from their IGAs while SILC itself provide favorable environment for women to access loan.

4.2 Recommendations

Several recommendations can be given based on the conclusions. Microfinance institution and the local government should encourage women to engage in income generating activities apart from farming. They should be given business management skills and of market trends is important since their business depends on market conditions.

SILC coordinators in collaboration with government and policy makers as well local government authority and other stakeholder should ensure facilitation of loans and formulation of reliable markets for domestic commodities produced by women. Also, it is recommended that strengthening entrepreneur's capacity will enable women gain income. This will enable women build competitive business leading to advancement of women economic empowerment. Lack of skills and market were the key challenges noted by women in the study area.

Further, SILC should continue to be promoted by the government, local government authority and microfinance institutions and other stakeholders in order to strengthen people's livelihoods and contribute to women economic empowerment in all five spheres discussed in this study. Women participation in SILC is related to increased women economic contribution, freedom of movement, increased ownership of assets, increased control over income and savings as well increased involvement of women in decision making.

The Government of Tanzania, local government authorities, development practitioners and NGOs to continue support formation of microcredit association within local communities. Microcredit association such as SILC proved to have improved women economic status therefore should continue to be supported. Moreover women education should also be taken into consideration by the government by ensuring more women have increased access to schooling. Education has positive effect on women economic empowerment.

Lastly, based on the theories used in the study it shows that in order for women to improve their situation it requires a process of empowerment as the theory of empowerment suggests that empowerment is an ongoing process of increasing personal, interpersonal or so that individuals, families and community can take action to improve their circumstances. Based on women and development theory if women engage into income generation active it will enable women transform their economic status.

4.3 Areas for Further Research

- i. There is a need for further research on contribution of SILC on household income that will also involve men and women SILC members
- ii. There is a need for an impact study that will measure the level of women economic empowerment at different time interval
- iii. More research that will involve SILC members/beneficiaries and other microcredit beneficiaries or non-SILC beneficiaries.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Informed Consent

Introduction

My name is Suzana Mulimila a postgraduate student pursuing Master of Arts in Project management and Evaluation (MAPME) at Sokoine University of Agriculture. I am conducting a research on ‘the role Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) and women economic empowerment’. I kindly ask you to participate in my research by responding to the questions below.

Confidentiality and Consent

I am going to ask some personal questions that some people might find difficulty to answer”. Your answers are completely confidential and anonymous. Your name will not be written on this form and will never be used in connection with any of the information you tell me. You are kindly requested to answer all questions completely and to the best of your knowledge. Your honest answers to these questions will help us better understand ‘the contribution of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) on women economic empowerment’.

Section A: Questionnaire Identification

Date of interview

Questionnaire No.....

Ward.....

Hamlet/street.....

Name of the interviewee (enumerator)

Section B: Respondents Background Information

In this section, I would like to know your background information. It is my humble request that you provide the following information about yourself.

1. Age of Respondent (Circle the correct answer)

- a) 18-27
- b) 28-37
- c) 38-47
- d) 48-57
- e) 57 and above

2. Sex of Respondent (circle the correct answer)

- a) Female
- b) Male

3. Marital status (circle the correct answer)

- a) Single
- b) Married
- c) Divorced
- d) Widowed
- e) Separated

4. Education level in years (circle the correct answer answer)

- a) No formal education
- b) Adult education
- c) Primary education
- d) Secondary school
- e) Higher Education
- f) Vocational training

5. Main Occupation of the respondent (circle the correct answer answer)

- a) Livestock keeper
- b) Wage employment e.g. teacher
- c) Non-farm self-employment e.g. business
- d) Retired officer
- e) Crop producer
- f) House wife
- g) Others (specify).....

6. Religion (circle the correct answer answer)

- a) Christian
- b) Muslim
- c) Traditional religion

d) Others (specify).....

7. Family size (household size).....

8. Duration in SILC.....

Section C: Women economic empowerment

Respondent's knowledge on women economic empowerment(in this section I am going to ask you questions about how you understand the concept of women economic empowerment)

Please circle the correct answer

9. Have you ever heard about women economic empowerment?

- a) Yes b) No

10. If Yes, what does women economic empowerment mean

- a) To empower women
 b) To give women credit and loans
 c) To make women independent
 d) To increase women access and control over resources e.g. land
 e) To involve women in decision making
 f) Others (specify).....

11. Are you participating into the Women Economic Empowerment Activities?

- a) Yes
 b) No

12. What are you doing/how are you participating?

- a) Savings and shares
 b) Taking loans
 c) Involved in income generating activities
 d) All of the above
 e) Others (specify).....

Section D: Income generating activities questions

Please circle the correct answer

In this section, I am going to ask you question about the activities that you are engaged in to increase your income.

13. Do you have any income generating activity?

- a) Yes b) No

14. If yes which one of these are you involved with

Restaurant (Mgahawa)	Put a tick ()
Mama Ntilie (Genge la vyakula	
Retail shop	
Selling cereals	
Local brewing	
Barber shop	
Selling second hand clothes	
Selling Khanga/Vitenge	
Sugar cane press	
Selling firewood	
Selling charcoal	
Grain milling machine	
Guest house	
Selling dried fish	
Selling furniture	
Selling utensils	
Selling soft drinks/ice cream	
Butchery	
Selling snacks	
Tailoring	
Selling 'fruits and vegetables	
Hair saloon	
Fish ponds	
Pharmacy	

15. Who owns the business? (Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Woman only
b) Man only
c) Jointly

16. If you have more than one income generating activity which pay more than the other.....

Can you explain why?

.....

17. What challenges do you face in your income generating activity? (Circle the

correct answer).

- a) Lack of enough capital
- b) Lack of market
- c) Lack of entrepreneurial skills
- d) Lack of support from spouse/partner
- e) Others (please specify)

18. How do you cope with these challenges?

- a)
- b)
- c)

19. What are the opportunities?(Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Increased income
- b) Solve unemployment problem
- c) Improve well-being
- d) Help to become self-reliant
- e) Gain self-respect and dignity
- f) Ownership of assets
- g) Others (please specify)

20. Is microfinance (SILC) a better solution? (Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Yes
- b) No

21. If YES, Why do you think it is better? (Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Easy accessibility of loan
- b) Collateral free loan
- c) Low interest rate
- d) Others (please specify)

Section E: Challenges and opportunities around women participating in SILC

I would like to know about the challenges that you as SILC member face and opportunities around SILC.

22. What challenges do you face as a member of SILC group? (Circle the correct

answer)

- a) Lack of entrepreneurial skills
- b) Lack of familiarity with IGAs undertaken
- c) Lack of support from men
- d) Higher social pressure to ensure loan repayment
- e) Loan is controlled by men
- f) Higher interest rate
- g) Domestic violence
- h) Others (specify).....

23. What are the opportunities around SILC?(Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Setting up own business
- b) Develop greater voice in the home
- c) Confidence and ability to be independent
- d) Improve personal well being
- e) Improve children well being
- f) Meeting family needs
- g) Ownership of assets
- h) Increased mobility
- i) Increased access and control over income
- j) Others (specify).....

Section F: Contribution of SILC (Savings and Income)

In this section, I would to ask you questions about the contribution of SILC to your economic empowerment

24. Are you satisfied with SILC operations?(Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Yes b) No

25. If yes why? Please provide reasons. (Please circle the correct answer)

- a) Low interest rate
- b) No need of collateral to secure a loan
- c) Flexible contribution/saving shares
- d) Others (specify)

26. If no why?

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

27. Do you have your own savings apart from SILC group savings? (circle the correct answer)

- a) 1. Yes b) 2. No

28. Has SILC improved your savings habits? (Please circle the correct answer)

- a). Yes b). No

29. If yes, how much do you save per month?(Please circle the correct answer)

- a).10,000 d). 50,000
 b). 20,000 e).100, 000
 c). 30,000 f). More than 100,000

30. Please rank your three most important uses of the credit. If business, productive investment, or any other please specify

Use of credit/loan	Put a tick
Food	
School fees	
Paid off debts	
Improve housing condition	
Increase my capital	
Family celebration/ceremony	
Medical expenses	
Buying household assets	
Others (please specify)	

Section G: The Level of Women Economic Empowerment contributed By SILC

I am going to ask you questions so as to know to what extent has SILC contributed to your level of economic empowerment in the following five aspects.

31. Ownership of Assets

SN	Items (Who own and control the following assets;	Use the codes below		
		1	2	3
1	Land			
2	Television			
3	Cattle			
4	Radio			
5	Bicycle			
6	Motorcycle			
7	Car			
8	Sewing machine			
9	Poultry			
10	Household furniture			
11	Goat			
12	Mobile phone			
13	Fish pond			
14	Others (please specify)			

1. Spouse 2. Jointly 3. Woman

32. Economic Decision Making

SN	Who makes decision on the following issues	Use the codes below		
		1	2	3
1	Decision to sell assets			
2	Decision on spending income from business			
3	Decision to engage in income generating activity			
4	Decision on major/large household decision like large purchase (car, house, land, animal, machinery)			
5	Purchasing of cloths and makeup articles			
6	Decision on household appliance			
7	Spending personal income e.g. send money to parents and relatives			

1. Spouse 2. Jointly 3. Woman

33. Women Economic Contribution to Household

SN	Variables	Participate/contribute	
1	School expenses for the children	Yes	No
2	Donations on social issues like wedding, funeral, traditional ceremony etc.		

3	Own any productive assets (for example: cattle, land, sewing machine) that contribute to household income?		
4	Do you do any other economic activity (apart from crop and livestock) e.g. curving, small business that earns you some money for use in household		
5	Do you use your income for household food consumption?		
6	Do you spend your money for Health care expenses?		

34. Control over Savings and Income

SN	Who has major decision on the following;	Use the codes below		
		1	2	3
1	How much to save?			
2	How to use your income or profit?			
3	How to use loan?			
4	Which income generating activity to start?			
5	Who has the greatest say in major purchase of household goods, such as radio, bed, cupboard etc?			
6	How to use profit?			
7	How to use savings?			

1. Spouse 2. jointly 3. woman

35. Freedom of movement

S/N	How can you rank your freedom of movement	Use the codes below		
		1	2	3
1	Visiting financial institutions e.g. SILC for loan application or paying installments			
2	Purchasing business items from distant shop/market			
3	Attend meetings/ training/group meeting			
4	Visits to family, relatives within or away from the district/region?			
5	Visiting market places outside the village or nearby to sell or buy			
6	Participation in social functions local e.g. wedding ceremonies.			

1. Never 2. Occasionally 3. Frequently

36. Do you belong to any other group apart from SILC?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Appendix 2: Checklist for Focus Group Discussion

Women Economic Empowerment

1. Tell me a little about your group and how it works.
2. How long has the group been into existence?
3. What are some of the challenges your group faces?
4. What do you believe the benefits are to belonging to SILC group? What are your reasons for joining?
5. How do women use their income at Household level?
6. Do women have access and control of resources?
7. Do women participate in decision making at household level.
8. Does women idea being implemented at household level.
9. Do women participate in allocation of resources like land?

Appendix 3: Checklist for key informants

Date	
Ward	
Street	
Name of the interviewee	
Position in SILC	

1. What are the membership requirements for joining SILC?
2. What are the qualifications for securing a loan?
3. What do you understand about women economic empowerment?
4. What can you say about women's loan repayment trend?
5. What changes do you observe in women lives in terms of their,
 - a) Ownership of assets?
 - b) Contribution to their family expenses like health and education?
6. Are there any challenges facing women due to their participation in SILC?
7. What ways does the program use to encourage participation of women in accessing its services?
8. What else would like to share with me?

Thank you for cooperation

Appendix 4: Operational definition of variables

Variables	Definition	Indicator	Level of measurement
Age	Number of years of the respondents.	18 years and above	Interval
Marital status	The of being married or not married	1= married 0=not married	Nominal
Religion	Respondents spiritual belief	1= Christian 0=Muslim	Nominal
Education level	Number of years in schooling.	Years of	Nominal

		schooling	
Control over loan	Women control over and decision over use of a loan	1=man 2=jointly 3=woman	Ordinal
contribution to household income	Share of income contributed by woman to household expenses.	1= man 2=jointly 3=woman	Ordinal
Ownership of assets	Ability of a woman to control her own current productive and non-productive assets and enjoy benefits accumulating from them.	1=man 2=jointly 3=woman	Ordinal
Control of income, savings	Ability of a woman to control her earnings, saving and assets	1=man 2=jointly 3=woman	Ordinal
Economic decision making	Extent of women's ability to participate in formulating and implementing decision at household level.	1=man 2=jointly 3=woman	Ordinal

Appendix 5: Women economic empowerment indicators

Indicators	Individual /household level	Categories
Economic Decision making index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision on major/large household decision like large purchase (car, house, land, animal, machinery) • Decision on household appliance • Purchasing of cloths and makeup articles • Decision to engage in income generating activity • Decision on spending income from business • Decision to sell assets 	1.man decides independently 2.Joint decision 3.woman decides independently
Index of Control over income and savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women ownership of productive assets • Women control over how they spend some cash • control over loan • Individual/household savings • Safe place to save 	1.man complete control 2.Jointly 3.woman complete control
Ownership of assets index	Radio, mobile phone, house, land, cattle, goat, car, television, sewing machine, poultry, bicycle, household furniture's	1.man only 2.jointly 3.woman only
Contribution to household income index	Share of household income provided by women	1.spouse 2.jointly 3.woman
Index of Freedom of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting financial institutions e. g SILC for loan application or paying installments • Purchasing business items from distant shop/market • Attend meetings/ training/group meeting • Visits to family, relatives within or away from your district/region. • Participation in social functions local e.g. wedding ceremonies. • Visiting market places outside the village or nearby to sell or buy 	1.never 2.occasionally 3.frequently