

**UGANDA WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (UWEP) AND WOMEN ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT IN SOROTI CITY, UGANDA**

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Declaration


I, Asekenye Damali do hereby declare that this research report is entirely my original work and has never been presented for any award of Masters in any institution of higher learning.

Signed  Date 17th / 03 / 2023

Approval

I certify that this research proposal prepared by Asekenye Damali and is now ready to be handed in to the school of Post Graduate Studies and Research of Uganda Christian University.

Supervisor: Dr. Olowo George

Signed.......... Date.....20/3/23.....

Dedication

To my family I dedicate this piece of work.

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those people who have given me a hand to achieve this success that I did not imagine to get it in a shorter time. In the first place I pay tribute to my family members, particularly the household for having given me time to put them aside and concentrate on these studies. It is something tasking that one leaves her home and children to spend all this time traveling almost day and night risking the trauma of accidents and other misfortunes on the way. Without reservation may the glory and honour be given back to God who kept me safe all this time?

Special thanks go to my supervisor Dr. Olowo George W'Okongo for his dedicated and parental advice and guideline he gave me during the course of the study without which my study would have been a dilemma. And indeed getting such a person with unique dedicated service is always rare so may God bless you abundantly.

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

UWEP Uganda Women Empowerment Programme

UN United Nations

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GoU Government of Uganda

Abstract

This study investigated “Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Economic Empowerment of Women in Soroti City, Uganda. The main objective was to examine the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City. A descriptive research design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. A sample of 152 respondents was selected from a population of 260. The findings revealed the following: capacity building accounts for 0.2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The P value was .621 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of that capacity building in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It was also revealed that R^2 value was .039. This implies that access to assorted inputs and technologies accounts for 3.9% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The P value was .015 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect on access to assorted inputs and technologies in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The results of the third research objective revealed that $R^2 = .002$. This implies that effect of access to markets accounts for 0.2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The P value was .613 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of access to markets accounts in influencing on women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The study concluded that capacity building, assorted inputs and technologies and access to markets have insignificant effect on women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The study recommended that: Demonstration gardens to be established to enable farming groups adopt the application and use of new technologies to enhance the transfer of women’s practical skills to improve on farm productivity and production. Government should provide market information on existing markets for products produced by women. If women groups are connected to suppliers and consumers of their goods and services, women are likely to fetch or get high prices for their good.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This is an introductory chapter; it is composed of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, main objectives of the study, specific objective of the study, research questions, justification of the study, significance of the study and the limitations/delimitations.

1.1 Background of the study

The background of the study is divided into three sub-sections namely, historical background, conceptual background of the study, contextual background of the study and theoretical background of the study.

1.1.1 Historical Background

Women's economic empowerment is defined as the ability of women to succeed and advance economically and possess the power to make and act on economic decisions. For economic empowerment, women must have access to productive resources such as human capital (education, skills and training), financial capital (loans, savings), physical capital (land, machinery), and social capital (networks and mentors) (Namirembe et al. ,2018). Women must also have the power and agency necessary to make and act on decisions regarding the distribution and control of resources and proceeds from business ventures. Women are as great a resource for creating wealth and facilitating economic development in any country but most often their contribution go undocumented especially in low income countries. Women in least

developed countries suffer economic injustice of limited and or no access to land, capital, credit facilities and even some poses entrepreneur skills are not applied due to inability to limited access to other factors of production. Women are also disadvantaged by socio-cultural factors like beliefs, norm and customs that create gender stereotypes that discriminate women in spheres of life.

The gender stereotypes have widened the economic, political and social gap between men and women and women most affected especially in low income countries (Almaz, 2006). Several studies have been carried on women economic empowerment focusing specifically on women's equal access to and control over economic resources and ensuring they can use them to exert increased control over other areas of their lives (Taylor and Pereznieto, 2014). This is an intervention against the patriarchal dominance of women by men in the society more especially being perpetuated by African traditional belief. Women's economic advancement has led to increased investments in children's education and health, and reduced household poverty (World Bank, 2012; 2013) hence promoting it is a very big advantage towards the national economic growth.

Recent estimates suggest that gender parity overall has the potential to boost global gross domestic product (GDP) by between \$12 trillion and \$28 trillion between now and 2025 (Woetzel et.al, 2015) and it has been shown that 'national economies lose out when a substantial part of the population cannot compete equitably or realize its full potential' (Golla et.al, 2011:3). Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5

which is to achieve gender equality, and Goal 8 to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all; also Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 3 on ensuring health and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities (UN-women, 2018). That means that gender inequality has been a historical problem in as far as achieving social, economic development is concerned. And particularly in Africa, gender responsive services, production resources, markets in agriculture, industry and trade would enhance economic empowerment of women and youth extensively. African countries need to adopt and implement regional and national plans, legislations, policies, strategies, budgets and justice mechanisms in order to strengthen women's economic empowerment.

Safiya, Hussaini & Nasiru (2011) assert that lack of training for women is one of the factors affecting women economic development in many African countries. Trainings equip women with both business and entrepreneur skills to manage their small scale enterprises. The findings revealed that there is a low positive correlation between skill acquisition and women economic empowerment and a high positive correlation between capacity building and women economic empowerment. However, while the relationship between skill acquisition and women economic empowerment was not significant, the relationship between capacity building and women economic empowerment was significant. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that government should invest more on human capital development particularly on women, increase expenditure on instructional materials and infrastructural facilities at vocational training centers, improve by assisting trainees with capital to start business. Finally, women should be allowed by their guardians to

learn functional skills to improve their economic status and avail themselves the opportunity offered by government to get functional skills. This will go a long way in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

The Uganda Women Empowerment Programme (UWEP) is an initiative by government of the Republic of Uganda to improve women's access to financial services, equip them with the skills for enterprise growth, value addition and marketing of their products and services. The women are availed with interest-free revolving credit to initiate or strengthen their enterprise. Since the inception in 2015/2016, 22 sub-projects have been funded amount UGX200, 000,000 and current beneficiaries are 302. Tracing the historical background of women entrepreneurship, it is a global phenomenon which increased in the United States during the 20th and 21st centuries with female owned businesses increasing at a rate of 5% since 1997. Practically this is said to have increased the rise to wealth self-made females such as Coco Chanel, Diane Hendricks, Meg Whitman, and Oprah Winfrey. This should be as a result of the first female owned business in the United States recorded in 1739 when Eliza Lucas Pinckney took over her family's plantations in South Carolina when she was 16 years old.

According to Mayamba (2020) women entrepreneurship programmes are a form of safety net programmes around the world which have proved positive impacts for gender equality, and women's economic empowerment including aid not limited to enabling women's access to small productive assists such as livestock, as well as assets like land via access to credit, promoting access to both formal and informal credit for both men and women, cash transfers to female-headed households and

increasing women's decision making. This is the similar characteristic and activities that (UWEP) is operating on.

1.1.2 Conceptual Background

It has been reported by United Nations women Africa (2018) that since 2016, UN women has been implementing a project across to markets by women vendors, a three year project aimed at supporting women vendors to transform from being informal small scale vendors to formal viable and sustainable big entrepreneurs, which is being implemented in a partnership with the international institute for social Transformation (1st) in Gulu central market and Kalerwe market commenting on the outcome, the Women Economic Empowerment specialist, Enock Mugabi said the project beneficiaries received trainings in business and marketing skills; customer care; financial literacy and simple book keeping, value addition and packaging; confidence and assertiveness, public speaking, gender sensitization and sex and gender based violence. Since women entrepreneurs are dealing in different business enterprises and are at different levels of business organization, a continuous mentoring programme was factored in the project to ensure sustainability.

1.1.3 Contextual Background

The current activities of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on ground range from capacity building and skills development, supporting women with the enterprise fund which has enabled them conduct agricultural production activities such as dairy production, poultry, piggery, value addition and marketing. Off-farm activities such as produce buying and selling, craft making, carpentry and joinery, hair dressing and cosmetology, tailoring and fashion design, bakery/cookery, food

production catering and restaurant management. All these socio-economic activities are now aimed at making profits. Much as the women are carrying it out the usual way, without leaving out the importance of the role of small scale business towards achieving a good national economy. Entrepreneurship is considered to enhance the productivity, capacity and size of the economy, with the help of creativity and competitiveness (ACs et.al, 2008); Zanjirch et.al, 2019). Thus the concept of entrepreneurship is not new in the economic history and many writers have indeed shown the strong relationship of entrepreneurship and economic development. Particularly in this era, economic literature pays special attention to the capacity of entrepreneurship in relation with social well-being and development (Gonzalez-Sanchez, 2012). In a related attempt although amidst challenges, the women in Uganda are part and parcel of steering the national economy to heights.

To ascertain that women entrepreneurship is a historical phenomenon, Knippers (1991) asserts that women produce over 80% of the world's productive resources. Connected to this, women make a very big population, and so including them into the socio-economic spectrum also broaden the economic base of the nation, unlike only men are left to handle the socio-economic spectrum. Female entrepreneurship has been found to be instrumental in fighting poverty, which is also founded to the foundation upon which it is now being implemented among the women in Uganda, women being the bigger population, women entrepreneurs also creates jobs among the population and women in particular. It is a way of transforming the patriarchal society to a matriarchal society. Through access to assorted inputs and technologies, access to markets, access to small scale business and assets, capacity building,

Women Economic Empowerment, Access to productive resources, acquisition of Land acquisition of Credit, Increased women decision making and Other assets

1.1.4. Theoretical Background

Rostow's theory can be classified as 'top down' or one that emphasizes a trickle-down modernization effect from urban industry and western influence to develop a country as a whole. Rostow assumes that all countries have an equal chance to develop regardless to population size, natural resources or location. The five stages in Rostow's stages of development: traditional society, preconditions to takeoff, drive to maturity and age of high mass consumption was published by American economist Walt Whitman (1960). The ideas here are that development starts from the group and moves towards a succeeding level until it reaches the pick. Hence women being part and parcel of the society should be involved in the development trend of their nation. This is because the welfare of the women improved means improving the welfare of all, which in turn can steer progressive development of the nation.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Women economic empowerment is a big challenge in Soroti city. According to Namirembe et al., (2018), women in Soroti City face a number of challenges that deter their economic progress. Economically, women are constrained with limited access to productive assets such as land and credit, partly because men predominantly own the land. The failure to access credit is partly due to lack of the required collateral and running small scale businesses. Most of the women use personal savings as their main funding source. Socially, there is a prevailing negative attitude towards women operating businesses since they are perceived to be overly

assertive and seeking to influence family decisions which are typically considered to be the purview of men. Women have no/limited access to small scale business and assets, access to productive resources, land, credit, limited platform for decision making and access to other assets and services. As much as women economic empowerment is a necessary condition for sustainable development and pro-poor growth, the majority of women in Soroti City are still poor. Uganda government introduced women entrepreneurship programme in 2017 to economically empower women in through access to: capacity building/skills training, markets, appropriate technology and enterprise growth under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. However there is thin literature on the success of this programme especially in Soroti City. It was upon such reasons that this study was undertaken.

1.3 Main Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study was to examine the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

1.4. Specific objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To assess the effects of building capacity on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.
- ii. To examine the effects of access to assorted inputs and technologies on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.
- iii. To evaluate the effects of access to markets on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

1.5. Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. What is the effect of building the capacity on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City?
- ii. What is the effect of access to assorted inputs and technologies on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City?
- iii. What is the effect of access to markets on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City?

1.6. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study was spread into three sub-sections namely; content scope, geographical scope and time scope.

1.6.1 Content Scope

Under the content scope the researcher expected to assess the role of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on building capacity of women (beneficiaries) in Soroti for example how many women have benefited from the trainings and what the impact has been, then establish the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on appropriate technology and value addition and finally to evaluate the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on beneficiaries access to markets in Soroti city, e.g. how easy is it to access markets for their products and competitiveness.

1.6.2. Geographical Scope

This research was conducted in Soroti city, East Municipality which is located in Eastern Uganda. It is comprised of two divisions namely Soroti East and Soroti West.

Among which the researcher and her assistants shall be able to explore all in as far as this study is concerned. For further detail Soroti city is situated in Eastern Uganda, particularly Teso sub-region. Soroti city is about 400kms Northeast of Kampala City the capital of Uganda. Soroti City is surrounded by Soroti District, of the Teso sub-region in the Eastern Region of Uganda, lying north Lake Kyoga. The coordinates of Soroti are 1°42'54.0"N, 33°36'40.0"E (Latitude: 1.715000; Longitude: 33.611111). Soroti lies at an average elevation of 1,130 metres (3,707ft) above mean sea level. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) estimated the mid-year population of Soroti in 2020, at 50,900.

1.6.3 Time Scope

This study was carried out from 2015-2021 which is about seven years down the road. This study period is enough to establish the reality about the changes that might have taken place as far as the study is concerned.

1.7 Justification of the Study

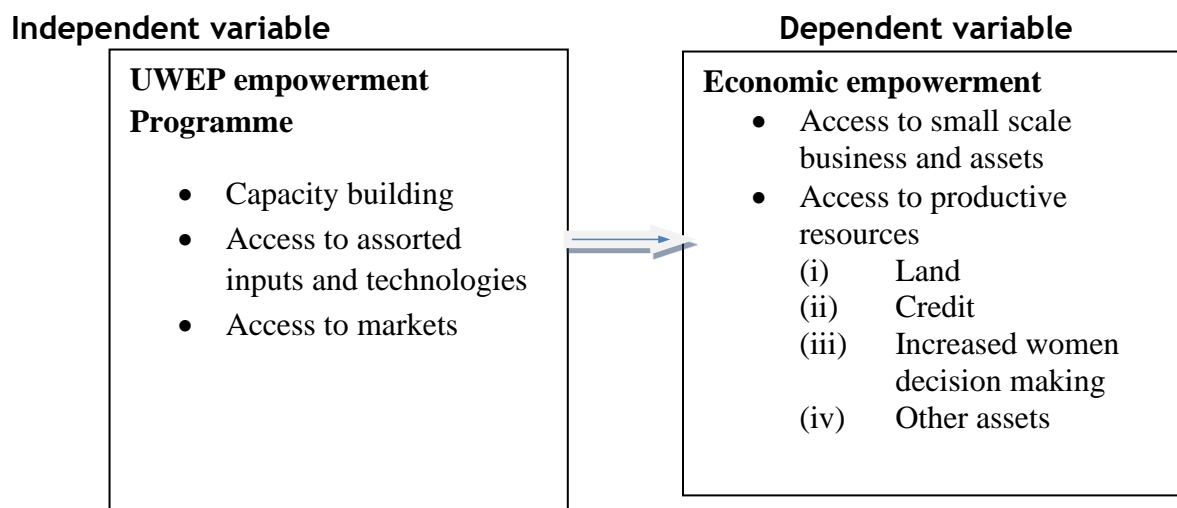
From the inception of the programme in 2015 to-date, out of 22 beneficiary groups, only 4 have fully paid back the loan. Besides, a number of beneficiary groups have disappeared whereas others are full of excuses hence making it difficult to track and ascertain the progress. This study will help track progress as well as challenges in the implementation of the programme without which the programmes is deemed to suffocate completely.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This research will inform policy makers on the economic impact of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti City and the overall adjustments required

while formulating such economic development policy programmes. It will also help in identifying Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme implementation gaps and develop possible recommendations to the identified gaps. The study will also be symbol of socio-economic empowerment that can be adopted by other programs either.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



Source: Researcher, 2021)

Figure1: conceptual framework showing the relationship between the Independent variable (Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme) and Dependent Variable (Women Economic Empowerment). The Independent variable was measured in terms of capacity building to empower women with appropriate skills in book keeping, simple accounting, entrepreneurship, group dynamics, business and enterprise selection; access to appropriate technology like improved animal and crop breeds, and accesses to technologies in form of seeding materials. The dependent variable was measured in form of access to: access to small scale business and assets; access

to productive resources like: land, credit, increased women decision making and other assets.

1.9. Definition of Key Concepts

Access to assorted inputs and technologies: Access to assorted inputs and technologies refers to the availability and utilization of various resources, tools, and technologies that can enhance productivity and efficiency in different economic activities. These inputs and technologies can include improved seed materials, farming equipment, machinery, processing tools, and other resources that contribute to agricultural production, processing, and marketing.

Access to markets: Access to markets refers to the ability of individuals or businesses to reach potential buyers or customers for their products or services. It involves the availability of market channels, information, and opportunities for selling and promoting goods and services.

Access to small scale business and assets: Access to small-scale business and assets refers to the ability of individuals, particularly women, to acquire and utilize resources, tools, and capital necessary for starting or expanding their small businesses. It includes access to financial resources, physical assets, and knowledge or training needed to establish and operate a business effectively.

Women Economic Empowerment: Women economic empowerment refers to the process of enabling women to participate fully, equitably, and meaningfully in economic activities, thereby enhancing their ability to control and benefit from economic resources, opportunities, and outcomes. It involves addressing gender-based

barriers and promoting gender equality in various aspects of the economy, including employment, entrepreneurship, access to financial services, and decision-making.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature on the role of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on building capacity of women, the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on beneficiaries' access to markets, the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on appropriate technology and value addition access; and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme contribution towards enterprise growth.

2.1. The Theoretical Review

This study is informed by W.W Rostow's theory of stages of economic growth who referred to as models of economic growth published by an American economist W.W Rostow (1960), the model postulates that economic growth occurs in five basic stages, of varying length namely the traditional society, pre-condition to take off, the takeoff, the drive to maturity and the age of high mass consumption. W.W. Rostow's theory of stages of economic growth, also known as Rostow's stages of economic growth model, was published in 1960 by the American economist W.W. Rostow. The model proposes a linear progression of economic development through five stages, each characterized by specific economic and social features. These stages are: Traditional Society: In this stage, the economy is primarily agrarian-based, with limited technological advancements and low productivity. The majority of the population is engaged in subsistence farming or traditional economic activities.

Investment and savings rates are typically low, and economic growth is stagnant. Pre-conditions for Takeoff: In this stage, certain conditions start to emerge that facilitate economic growth. These conditions include increased agricultural productivity, infrastructure development (such as transportation and communication), the emergence of a more educated workforce, and the adoption of modern economic practices. This stage sets the foundation for sustained economic growth. Takeoff: The takeoff stage represents a period of rapid economic growth and industrialization. Key sectors, such as manufacturing and industrial production, experience significant expansion and development. There is a shift from traditional agriculture to industrial activities, leading to increased productivity, urbanization, and rising living standards. Investment rates and technological innovation play a crucial role in driving this stage. Drive to Maturity: During this stage, the economy becomes more diversified, with multiple industries and sectors contributing to economic growth. Technological advancements continue to drive productivity gains. The focus shifts from primary sectors (such as agriculture and manufacturing) to secondary and tertiary sectors (services, finance, and technology). Standards of living and quality of life improve further. Age of High Mass Consumption: In this final stage, the economy reaches a level of high affluence and mass consumption. Disposable incomes rise significantly, and a large portion of the population can afford a wide range of consumer goods and services. The service sector becomes dominant, and there is a shift towards a knowledge-based economy. The economy is characterized by high levels of consumption, extensive social welfare programs, and a focus on quality of life. It is important to note that Rostow's stages of economic growth model has received both

praise and criticism over the years. While the model provides a useful framework for understanding the general patterns of economic development, it has been criticized for its linear and deterministic nature, overlooking the complexities and variations that exist across different countries and regions. Critics argue that economic growth is influenced by multiple factors, including political, social, cultural, and institutional dynamics, which cannot be captured adequately in a simple linear model. Furthermore, the model has been criticized for its Western-centric perspective, as it was developed based on the experiences of Western industrialized nations and may not fully account for the unique characteristics and challenges faced by developing countries. While Rostow's stages of economic growth model provides a broad framework for understanding economic development, it is important to supplement it with other theories and approaches that consider a wider range of factors and contextual nuances to have a more comprehensive understanding of economic growth and development.

The argument that Rostow's theory of economic take-off aligns with the focus of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the idea of women's economic empowerment is valid to a certain extent. Rostow's theory suggests that economic take-off is initiated by a few leading sectors, which then drive overall economic development. In the case of UWEP, the focus is on empowering economically disadvantaged groups, specifically women, with the aim of catalyzing economic development. The recognition of women as a significant portion of the population in Uganda and their potential contribution to development is a valid point. Women represent a large portion of the workforce and have the ability to contribute

significantly to economic growth if provided with the necessary opportunities and support. By economically empowering women, UWEP aims to tap into this potential and uplift disadvantaged communities. The idea of women's economic empowerment aligning with a bottom-up approach to development is also valid. The bottom-up approach emphasizes grassroots-level initiatives and participation, aiming to address the needs and challenges of marginalized groups. By empowering women at the individual and community level, UWEP aims to create a foundation for broader development and inclusive growth. However, it is important to note that Rostow's theory primarily focuses on the role of leading sectors and economic transformation at a macroeconomic level. While it provides insights into the importance of specific sectors in initiating economic take-off, it may not fully capture the complexities of gender dynamics and the specific challenges faced by women in achieving economic empowerment. Therefore, while Rostow's theory provides a general framework for understanding economic development, it should be complemented with gender-focused perspectives and approaches that consider the unique needs, barriers, and opportunities faced by women. This can involve targeted interventions, policy reforms, and capacity-building initiatives that address gender disparities and promote inclusive economic development. In summary, there is a connection between Rostow's theory of economic take-off and the focus of UWEP on women's economic empowerment. However, it is essential to consider gender-specific factors and adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses the multidimensional aspects of women's empowerment to ensure sustainable and inclusive development.

2.2. Contribution of building the capacity on women Economic empowerment

The statement you provided highlights the importance of women's economic empowerment and its positive impact on both individuals and societies as a whole. Gender inequality, which persists globally, not only represents a violation of human rights but also has significant economic consequences. Several studies have shown that when women have control over their own income and resources, it leads to positive outcomes for themselves, their families, and communities. For example, when women have economic power, they are more likely to invest in the education of their children, including their daughters. This contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting social development. One study by Almaz (2006) suggests that women's level of education plays a crucial role in their decision-making processes regarding various important aspects of life, including contraception, age of marriage, fertility, child mortality, and employment opportunities. Educated women are more likely to make informed choices, have fewer children, and have improved access to healthcare, leading to better maternal and child outcomes. Additionally, when women have access to modern sector employment and earn their own income, they gain economic autonomy and decision-making power within their households. The positive effects of women's economic empowerment extend beyond individual households. The "wealth and well-being of nations" can be enhanced by harnessing the potential of women in the workforce and enabling their full participation in economic activities. When women are economically empowered, they contribute to economic growth, productivity, and innovation. They also become agents of change and advocates for gender equality and social progress. It is crucial for governments,

organizations, and societies to recognize the importance of women's economic empowerment and work towards creating an enabling environment that ensures equal opportunities and rights for women. This includes implementing policies and programs that promote gender equality, providing access to education and skills training, facilitating access to financial services and credit, and addressing social and cultural barriers that hinder women's economic participation.

Buvinić and Furst-Nichols (2016) provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by women's economic empowerment, which are often rooted in cultural, social, and political factors. These challenges include gender norms, discrimination, unequal access to resources and opportunities, limited decision-making power, and lack of supportive policies and institutions. To address these challenges, governments worldwide have recognized the importance of empowering women economically and have implemented various policies and programs. In Uganda, the government has adopted a women's emancipation approach as a long-term strategy to empower women and promote gender equality. One specific program implemented by the government of Uganda is the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP). The UWEP aims to economically empower women by providing them with access to financial resources, business training, and mentorship. The program supports women in starting and expanding their businesses, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing their overall economic well-being. Through UWEP, women in Uganda are given opportunities to access credit and financial services, acquire business skills and knowledge, and receive mentorship and guidance to develop their entrepreneurial ventures. The program recognizes the potential of women as drivers of economic

growth and social development, and seeks to provide them with the necessary tools and support to succeed. By focusing on women's economic empowerment, the government of Uganda aims to promote gender equality, reduce poverty, and enhance overall socio-economic development. This approach recognizes that empowering women economically not only benefits individual women but also has positive ripple effects on families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

The definition of empowerment provided by the World Bank and referenced by Narayan (2005) and Alsop, Bertelsen, and Holland (2006) emphasizes the expansion of assets and capabilities of individuals, particularly the poor, to engage with institutions, exert influence, and hold them accountable. It highlights the importance of choice, action, and the ability to shape institutional rules that impact people's lives. Empowerment, in this context, goes beyond providing resources and opportunities to individuals. It focuses on strengthening their agency and their capacity to bring about change at both the individual and institutional levels. It recognizes that individuals have the potential to shape their own lives and influence the broader systems and structures that affect them. This asset-based approach to empowerment acknowledges that individuals possess various resources, including financial, human, social, and political capital, which can be leveraged to enhance their agency and influence. By expanding these assets and capabilities, individuals are better equipped to participate in decision-making processes, negotiate for their rights and interests, and challenge existing power dynamics and institutional arrangements. Empowerment, therefore, involves a dynamic process of individuals acquiring and developing assets and capabilities, such as education, skills, social networks, and

access to financial resources, while also challenging and transforming the rules and norms that shape social interactions and power relations.

Furthermore, according to the literature, economic empowerment will only be possible and sustainable if there are changes at different levels: within the individual (capability, knowledge and self-esteem); in communities and institutions (including norms and behaviour); in available resources and economic opportunities; and in the wider political and legal environment (Gollaet *al.*, 2011). Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information (SESRIC, 2018). Women's economic participation and empowerment are fundamental to strengthening women's rights and enabling women to have control over their lives and exert influence in society.

As noted by Kabeer (2012), evidence is there that, education; particularly post primary education has been a positive effect on women's labour force participation and, in many cases, on job opportunities. There is already a great deal of policy focus on education although some concerns about the quality of education and the need to go beyond primary education. What has had less attention is the potential of vocational and technical education for increasing women's productivity and employability. Yet the available data suggests that in most contexts, women have fewer training opportunities than men and that the training they do acquire reinforces a gender stereotyped distribution of skills.

Skill training is one crucial way to help in the economic empowerment of women. If one talks about women's empowerment, it is important that women have access to

the different training opportunities previously denied them. This therefore means: preparing for jobs that are usually not open to them; providing income-generating projects that are market-oriented (not welfare-oriented projects); and training capable female leaders at all levels (UNESCO, 1998). Business training if well designed can be very useful to women in their enterprises and can be vital in complementing their existing skills and knowledge to be employed in the business ventures (Cheston and Kuhn, 2002).

Aware of the poor economic conditions of women in less developed countries living in abject poverty with low levels of education and facing other societal discriminations, training as a microfinance aspect provides the skills and knowledge required by women entrepreneurs (as cited in Maru and Chemjor, 2013). It was observed by Alila (1993) that poor business management and marketing skills, poor planning, and deficiency of available information on the possible assistance are the reasons for the poor performance of female entrepreneurs. Lack of skills is one the reasons that have contributed to the failure by women entrepreneurs to utilize the available microfinance services to their benefit hence the need for training (Maru and Chemjor, 2013).

Women and girls still earn less, learn less, own less, and wield much less economic power than their brothers and husbands. This leads to negative consequences that affect women's health, schooling, job prospects, and even the control women have - or lack - over their own lives and choices. However, we are witnessing critical momentum to achieve gender equality: 193 nations committed to ending gender inequality by 2030 through the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 5,

which is focused on ending gender inequality. Women are also raising their voices to challenge the systems and structures that impede them, building on the earlier milestones of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979, and the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995 (Hendriks, 2019). To capitalize on this momentum, we need evidence-based solutions that can catalyze women's mobility from poverty. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to advancing equality in the world, by investing in research, advocacy and programmes that can dismantle the barriers women and girls face to leading both healthy and productive lives. It is believed that the barriers that perpetuate inequality must be removed, so that women and girls have an equal opportunity to earn a fair income, control their own economic resources, and dictate the course of their own lives.

Khan&Bibi (2011) carried out a study on the effects of a Government run participatory development project on the social and economic empowerment of women and its implications for poverty alleviation in Nasirabad area of Balochistan (a province of Pakistan). The findings show quantitative improvements in the indicators such as capacity building, access to micro credit, involvement in economic activities and reduction in the workload. The results confirm the paradoxical situation facing beneficiaries with respect to involvement in economic activity and spending income. The study concludes that the positive effects of project are not sustainable due to poor functionality of Women Development Groups and therefore, suggest considering the viability of these groups in future follow up/new development projects.

Rahul (2015) contends that the empowerment of women is crucial for the development of a nation. Evidence across nations suggests that the empowerment of rural women can be achieved through the provision of micro-credit to Self-Help Group (SHG) members. This study was undertaken to examine the effectiveness of SHGs in economic empowerment of women in Assam. A number of income generating activities were undertaken by the members after joining SHGs. The result showed positive change in indicators of economic empowerment, viz., income, employment and savings after joining the SHG. The calculated value of Wilcoxon signed Ranks Test for the economic indicators were significant. It revealed that majority of the respondent's income, employment days and amount of savings increased in the post-SHG situation as compared to pre-SHG situation. Thus the study concluded that SHGs have been playing a vital role in the empowerment of rural women in the study area.

According to Hedayat & Ma'rof (2017), NGOs have many programs, functions and roles which assist community to become empowered, and eventually attain sustainable development. This study reviewed some of these roles, functions and programs of Non-Governmental Organizations, such as microfinance, capacity building and self-reliance. Microfinance programs improve the economic well-being of communities by job creation and income generation. In the long run, this economic empowerment will contribute to sustainable community development. Non-Governmental Organizations, through capacity building, develop community capacities such as ability, skill and knowledge of mobilizing resources, planning and evaluating community initiation and solving problems to gain the mastery over their lives. It also motivates the community to participate in the projects and help them to improve quality of their lives.

Participants are expected to coordinate meetings, plan community activities, and be practical in community initiatives. In this way, Non-Governmental Organizations contribute towards sustainable community development. Furthermore, Non-Governmental Organizations mobilize the communities to be self-reliant. It assists the communities to discover their own potentials and rely on their own resources. In short, this paper demonstrates that all these programs and functions of Non-Governmental Organizations could contribute towards the realization of sustainable community development.

2.3. Contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies on Women

Economic Empowerment

Wekwete (2014) explains that gender inequality continues to be a major challenge in Africa. Although progress has been made by ratification of international and regional conventions and commitments by African countries, gender inequality is still prevalent in all sectors of the economy, including the labour market. The majority of women is working in the informal sector or on small pieces of land and are engaged in care work, where the work is invisible and unpaid. Women's labour force participation rates are lower than those for men. More men than women work in the formal sector where the work is paid and supported by all the national policies. Women contribute immensely to the country's economy. Despite their contribution, gender inequality still prevails. Women have limited access to credit, land, agricultural inputs, equipment and extension services, and markets for their produce. They spend more time in care and domestic work than men. Some of the inequities are embedded in the deep-rooted cultural norms and beliefs in the societies. These inequalities can

only be addressed by removal of policies that reinforce gender inequalities as well as formulating and enforcing laws that seek to improve women's economic empowerment. Initiatives identified to improve women's economic empowerment include revision of regulations to increase women's participation in the labour market, skills training, policy reforms on regulations that hinder women's empowerment, setting up of micro-credit schemes, use of technology to access markets such as mobile phones to release women's time in caring and domestic work, fostering of partnership by providing funding to women, cash transfers and welfare fund, subsidized or publicly provided child care and skill training as well as improving infrastructure services such as water and electricity.

Integrating households into market systems have significantly changed their livelihoods with improved income earning, better standards of living and reduced poverty (Oraboune, 2008). However, women have in most cases been less visible and appreciated despite their crucial role in household nutrition and food security (WFP, 2011). In Uganda, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through the Community Agricultural Improvement Programme (CAIIP) has been contributing to rural development and market access through information sharing aimed at empowering poor people in the process of production and marketing (IFAD, 2013). Also, according to Ssajakambwe *et al.*, (2020), market access was found to contribute to the welfare of women and youth.

2.4. Contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment

In the last few years, the International Labour Organization has given itself the mandate of securing decent work. However, economic globalization is making decent work a rarer and rarer commodity. Globalization is associated with the growing chasm between those individuals, firms, and territories that have the capacity to compete in open markets, and those that lack the skills or the potential to do so. The implications are increasing social division and exclusion, as well as greater territorial polarization (Rodríguez-Pose, 2001).

Around the world, resilient and resourceful rural women contribute in a multitude of ways through different livelihood strategies to lifting their families and communities out of poverty. Rural women work long hours and many of their activities are not defined as “economically active employment” in national accounts but are essential to the well-being of their households. They also constitute a significant proportion of the labor on their family farms - whether producing for household consumption or for enterprise or both. Their potential to do so is limited by multiple and diverse constraints by persistent structural gender disparities that prevent them from enjoying their economic and other rights. They are hampered in their ability to access decent work which they could leverage to improve their economic and overall well-being and importantly their social advancement and political participation. Rural women are constrained by unequal access to productive resources and services and inadequate or inaccessible infrastructure. The limitations rural women face in turn impose huge social, economic, and environmental costs on society as a whole and

rural development in particular including lags in agricultural productivity (UN Women, 2011).

Small and Medium Enterprises have historically played an important role in contributing to economic development of many countries around the world. Naturally all businesses start as small businesses or even start out of small businesses initiated by individuals. Available evidence from this study shows that small and Medium Enterprises represent vast portion of businesses in developing countries including South Africa. In South Africa, Small and Medium Enterprises account for about 91% of the formal business entities, contributing to about 51 and 57% of Gross Domestic Product, providing almost 60% of employment. The main challenges affecting Small and Medium Enterprises in South Africa include lack of management skills, finance, access to bank credit, access to markets, appropriate technology, low production capacity, recognition by big companies, lack of interest, long bureaucracy processes, and support for the roles that small businesses can play in economic development. This study re-assesses the role of SMEs in creating jobs, boost, enhance and support economic development in South Africa (Mukole, 2010).

The transition from the Millennium Development Goals into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 was accompanied by Target 5 which indicates the imperative to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” (UN, 2015 p. 20). The main indicator in the document in support of the goal of empowerment is “enhancing the use of enabling technology by increasing the proportion of women and girls who have access” (UN, 2015 p. 20).

There is plenty of evidence that effective infrastructure has positive impacts on economic activity of women. As a matter of fact, the quality of infrastructure (transport, utilities, communications, and energy) in many countries is relatively weak (SESRIC, 2017). The lack of reliable infrastructure poses challenges to female entrepreneurs at three stages: (i) affects women's entrepreneurial intentions, affects women's ability to start a business, and affects the competitiveness and success of women owned enterprises.

More recently, notable attention has been paid to the role of information and communication technology in improving female entrepreneurship. Information Communication Technology offers important benefits to female entrepreneurs by improving business performance and reducing the barriers to women's business development. Information Communication Technology services can empower female entrepreneurs by linking women entrepreneurs with resources such as business trainings, linking women with local markets and consumers, promoting women's participation in community-based entrepreneurial activities, and increasing business networking opportunities for women (APEC, 2016).

Entrepreneurship is to Start or expand a small business or venture run by an entrepreneur who is in position to recruit at least five people and get the work done through them (Gobbi *et al.*, 2005). Welsh and Munzo (2012) described the microenterprise as a small size business operated by an owner and which is started by a low income or marginalized section of society that render services or sell a product or combination of both these two, by putting entrepreneurial efforts. There are various forms of such enterprises operate under dynamic settings in different places

with certain entry challenges and financial problems. These enterprises respond to the market requirements and get financial gains which results in development and expansion of business. Mayoux (2001) writes that micro-enterprise initiatives that build on and develop women's networks through group activities have the potential to contribute to women's empowerment.

Women constitute a society so that a prosperous and empowered society depends upon prosperous and empowered women. Tunon (2007) mentioned that the most essential thing for women in achieving empowerment is to get out of the home and participate in some form of collective entrepreneurial activities which seem to give her a sense of autonomy, compatibility and utilization of her abilities in an effective manner. Microenterprises are seemed to be the helping hands for empowering the women economically. These businesses push the women towards self-reliance, self-sufficiency and self-employment. Sida (2009) added that economic empowerment and gender equality have strong impact on poverty eradication, growth and human development.

A stable society is assured by economically stable women and empowerment through microenterprises leads towards overall growth and development of a country (Mariadoes, 2012). Micro enterprises are tools of converting the dreams into reality. UNIDO (2001) indicated that by taking part in small or medium scale production activities, women's entrepreneurs are not only improving their economic survival but also having positive social acceptability in the community environment. Scholars like Khan & Bibi (2011) added that empowerment is having multiple aspects which enable

the women to realize their abilities, skills and potential towards their development decisions.

Kantor's (2005) study of women home-based micro-entrepreneurs in the garment sector urban India provides some useful insights into differences at the poorer end of the enterprise spectrum. She investigated the determinants of value-addition in these enterprises and of women's control over their own earnings. She distinguished between own-account entrepreneurs managed their own enterprises, dependent home-based workers who relied on intermediaries to provide their inputs and sell their outputs and a mixed group who relied on intermediaries for their inputs but sold their own outputs. She found that training and years of experience proved more important than formal education as forms of human capital that added value to the enterprise. Other positive factors were value of enterprise capital, access to family and hired labour and ability to sell to markets outside the city. Mixed status entrepreneurs and those with diversity of skills reported higher value added than own account or dependent entrepreneurs and those sewing one kind of garment.

The current literature tends to concentrate on gender and development, women economic empowerment, women and development and does not assess the impact/contribution of government intervention on women economic empowerment. There is limited literature on Uganda Entrepreneurship Programme and women economic empowerment in Uganda. This study was intended to address this knowledge gap.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the methodologies used in carrying out the study in order to attain the right findings. They included; Research Design, Population of the study, Sampling strategy, Sample size, Data collection methods/instruments, validity and reliability, data processing and ethical consideration.

3.1 Research Design

Wiersma (2000) defines research design as the structure by which the variables are positioned or arranged in the experiment; but Kumar (2005) adds that a design is the plan, structure or strategy of investigation, or the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data. Thus, research design is about the arrangement of variables, conditions as well as the participants of the study. Design therefore guides the conceptualization of the study variables, handling of research methods, sampling of respondents and data analysis. This shows that the design is the logical structure of the inquiry. The study adopted a correlational research design and both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. There are two main overall methodologies (or designs) i.e. qualitative and quantitative. Quantitative research designs are characterized by data (or findings) which are expressed in numerical forms. Such data are analyzed by suitable statistical methods. Meanwhile, qualitative research designs are characterized by data (or information) that can be described verbally or non-

numerically. In most cases, researchers use a mixture of research paradigms in their studies. This is commonly referred to as triangulation. Triangulation may also be used to describe not only the use of two or more research approaches but also using of more than one method of data collection. Basically this study takes the survey design achieved through descriptive explanation and exploitative research designs.

3.3 Study population

Study population is defined as the numbers of a real hypothetical set of people, events or objects to which a researcher wishes to generalise the results of the research study (Kothari, 2004).

The study population comprised of: City Commercial Officer, Community Development Officers, Members of Gender and Social Development and Women Groups that had benefited under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

3.4. Sample Size Determination

A total sample of 170 respondents comprising of City Commercial Officer, Community Development Officers, Members of Gender and Social Development and Women Groups that had benefited under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme out of the study population of 303 were selected to participate in the study using Krejcie and Morgan table (1970) for determining sample size.

Table 3.1: showing sample size determination

Category of population		Study population	Sample size	Sampling techniques
City Development Officer	Community	01	01	Purposive sampling
Community Development Officers	Development	04	04	Purposive sampling
Members of Gender and Social Development Women Groups		12	06	Simple random sampling
		243	141	Simple random sampling
Total		260	152	

Source: Soroti City Community Development Department, 2021

3.5. Sampling techniques

This technique is characterized by the use of judgment and a deliberate effort to obtain representative samples by including typical areas or groups in the sample. In this method, the researcher handpicked subjects on the basis of role played. It is the most appropriate method to select a sample from the various sectors in this area. It enabled the researcher to select a sample with vital data on the topic under study that can assist in analyzing the problem further (Creswell, 2009).

3.5.1 Random sampling

Random sampling as suggested by Creswell (2009) often means chance or a haphazard method of assignment and it is applied to eliminate bias, both conscious and unconscious, that the researcher could introduce in sample selection. This method also offered every member of the population an equal chance of being selected for the assignment and it is required for inferential statistics since the researcher desires to make inferences about populations based on the behavior of samples.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

3.6.1 Questionnaire Survey

Groves (1989) defines this method as a field of applied statistics of human research surveys, and survey methodology studies involve the sampling of individual units from a population and the associated survey data collection techniques, such as questionnaire construction and methods for improving the number and accuracy of responses to surveys. Survey method was used because it saves time. For illiterate respondents the questionnaire was interpreted in the local language and then allowed to respond.

3.6.2 Interview Method

Andrea (2014) states that interview method of data collection is a verbal conversation between two people with the objective of collecting relevant information for the purpose of research. Therefore, the purpose of the research interview is to explore the views, experiences, beliefs and/or motivations of individuals on specific matters and is particularly appropriate for exploring sensitive topics, where participants may not want to talk about such issues in a group environment.

3.7. Data collection Instruments

This study collected through the questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussions as explained below:

3.7.1. Questionnaire

The researcher used closed-ended questions contained predetermined alternative answers for the respondent to choose from in the process of responding to the question. The questions in the questionnaire were constructed in the simplest language possible to enable participants respond to them with ease. The questionnaires were designed in such a way that specific questions are asked for each objective of the study.

A Likert scale or more accurately a Likert-type scale is a psychometric scale commonly used in questionnaires and were used in this research. When responding to a Likert questionnaire item, respondents specify their level of agreement or disagreement on a symmetric agrees-disagree scale for a series of statements Thus, the scale captured the intensity of their feelings. The format of a typical five-level Likert item was: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Not Sure, 4=Agree and 5=Strongly Agree.

3.7.2 Interview guide

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with key informants in the study area. This is intended to strengthen the response from the respondents gathered through self-administered questionnaire. The questions for interview were also derived from the objectives of the study as lead topic for discussion.

3.8 Validity and reliability

This section tested the reliability, the degree to which an assessment tool produces stable and consistent results.

3.8.1 Validity of the instruments

The validity of the instruments was done by expert judgement of the lecturers from Uganda Christian University. Three lecturers were given the instrument and their opinions were taken.

3.8.2 Reliability of instruments

Reliability of the questionnaire items were tested using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Reliability of this study's instruments was ascertained by pre-testing the questionnaires and interview guide in the field. The researcher established the reliability of the questionnaire by using pre-testing. The researcher gave questionnaire guides to the same groups of respondents and pre-testing was done. This indicated that the instruments used to collect data from the respondents are dependable and reliable and also yielded good results. Therefore, the results and conclusions of this study were a basis for decision making. The reliability obtained is indicated below and was deemed reliable. See appendix attached.

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.747	.746	39

3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation

The quantitative data collected data was edited, coded and cross checked for completeness using Statistical Package for Social Sciences Version 25 for analysis. After making reference to available literature so as to compare and contrast opinions presented to statistical analysis to generate descriptive statistics in order to draw conclusions and make recommendations. The data collected was presented and used in explaining the relationship between the two variables of the research study. The quantitative data was presented in form of numeric using table and charts representing frequencies, percentages, Mean and Standard Deviation of results. In regards to qualitative data, the researcher presented the findings in narrative form by directly reporting respondents' responses through quotations.

3.9.1 Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data was analyzed using narrative analysis

3.9.2 Ethical Considerations

The researcher obtained consent of respondents and assure them that the study is purely academic and voluntary; they have a right to withdraw from participation. All sources used and referred to by the researcher in the study acknowledged and respect, confidentiality and privacy of respondents were considered.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

4.0. Introduction

In this chapter the analysis of the findings was made basing on the bio data, the objectives of the study which include to assess the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on building capacity of women (beneficiaries) in Soroti city, Eastern Uganda, to establish the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on appropriate technology and value addition access in Soroti city, Eastern Uganda, and to evaluate the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on beneficiaries access to markets in Soroti city, Eastern Uganda. Out of 159 questionnaires that were distributed, 152 were returned representing 95%.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The analysis of this section was based on the relevant information concerning the sex of the respondents, age bracket of the respondents, level of education of the respondents and employment status of the respondents.

Table 4.1.1: Gender of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Male	13	8.6
Female	139	91.4
Total	152	100

Source: Field data, (2021)

The findings of the study indicated that 139(91.4%) the majority of the respondents were women and only 13(8.6%) were men. This brings about the implication that

Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme is a women organization thus female dominated hence men had less concern about it, the reason for which the percentage of the female participants was too high. The finding that 139 (91.4%) of the respondents in the study were women while only 13 (8.6%) were men implies that the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) is predominantly focused on women and has a stronger appeal and relevance to women compared to men. This gender disparity in participation suggests that women are more interested and actively engaged in the program, while men have less concern or interest in it. The high percentage of female participants was attributed to several factors. Firstly, the UWEP's primary objective is to promote women's economic empowerment, indicating a targeted approach towards women's needs and aspirations. This focus on women have generated greater awareness and motivation among women to by government of Uganda participate in the program. Secondly, women in Uganda face specific economic challenges and constraints that the UWEP aims to address. Gender disparities in access to resources, financial services, and business opportunities contributed to the higher level of interest and participation among women. The UWEP, by offering financial support, training, and other resources tailored to women entrepreneurs, have resonated more strongly with their needs and aspirations. Additionally, societal and cultural factors also influenced the gender disparity in participation. Women's economic empowerment programs often aim to challenge traditional gender roles and norms that restrict women's access to economic opportunities. This created a greater sense of urgency and motivation for women to participate in initiatives like the UWEP, as they seek to break free from these

constraints and improve their economic situation. It is important to note that the higher percentage of female participants does not necessarily indicate that men are uninterested in entrepreneurship or economic empowerment. Rather, it suggests that the UWEP's design, messaging, and outreach strategies have been more successful in attracting and engaging women. The finding highlights the gendered nature of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, with a majority of female participants indicating a strong interest and perceived relevance among women. Understanding the factors underlying this gender disparity can inform program design and implementation to ensure that both women and men have equal opportunities for economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Table 4.1.1: Age of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
18-35	14	9.2 %
36-50	80	52.6%
51-60	26	17.1 %
61+	32	21.1%
Total	152	100

Source: Field data, 2021

The findings in table (4.1.1) above revealed that 80(52%) majority of the respondents were between the age brackets of (36-50) years. This was followed by respondents aged between (60 years and above)32(21.1%). Respondents aged between (18-35) 14(9.2%)years were the least followed by respondents who were aged between (51-60)26(17.1%) years. It is therefore, observed that respondents who formed the majority in this study were mature and their opinions and responses in the interviews can be relied on. The implication here is very clear that the number of the female participants of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme decreased of the female

participants of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme decreased with increased age of participants and vice versa.

The findings show that the majority of respondents in the study fell within the age brackets of 36-50 years, followed by those aged 60 years and above, suggests that the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) has a higher appeal and participation among women in their prime working-age years. This age group, which is often associated with greater experience, knowledge, and established networks, was more inclined to actively engage in entrepreneurship and take advantage of economic empowerment opportunities. On the other hand, the study found that respondents aged between 18-35 years constituted the smallest percentage of participants, followed by those aged between 51-60 years. This indicated that younger women, who may be starting their careers or facing other socio-economic challenges, are less represented in the UWEP. Similarly, older women, who are facing different priorities, also have relatively lower participation rates. The implication of this age distribution is that the UWEP's impact and outreach is stronger among women in their prime working-age years, while it is less reach and effectiveness among younger and older women. To enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of the UWEP, it would be crucial to consider tailored approaches that cater to the specific needs and circumstances of different age groups. For example, providing targeted support and mentorship to younger women who are just starting their entrepreneurial journeys or designing programs that address the specific challenges faced by older women who might be transitioning or seeking alternative forms of income generation. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that the program's messaging and outreach strategies effectively

reach and engage women across different age groups. Understanding the barriers and motivations specific to each age group can inform program design, delivery, and communication strategies to maximize participation and impact. It is important to emphasize that the age distribution of respondents in the study suggests that the UWEP's participation rates vary across different age groups, with a higher representation of women in their prime working-age years. Tailoring program interventions to address the unique needs and circumstances of women in different age brackets can help improve the program's inclusivity and effectiveness in promoting women's economic empowerment across all age groups.

Table 4.1.3: Level of Education of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No qualification	33	21.7%
Certificate	87	57.2%
Diploma	20	13.2%
Degree	12	7.9%
Total	152	100

Source: Field data, 2021

The results of the study findings indicated respondents who had attained certificates at various levels of education formed the majority in this study represented by 87(57.2%). This was followed by respondents who had no academic qualifications at all represented by 33(21.7%). Respondents who had attained Diplomas were 20 represented by 20(13.2%) while those who had attained the Degree qualifications were the least represented by 12(7.9%). The findings of the study suggest that respondents with various levels of educational attainment were represented in the sample. The majority of respondents, 87(57.2%), had attained certificates at different

levels of education. This indicates that a significant proportion of participants had completed educational programs that provided them with specific skills and knowledge. Furthermore, 33(21.7%) of the respondents reported having no academic qualifications. This could include individuals who may have received informal education or acquired skills through practical experience rather than formal schooling. These individuals may have developed their entrepreneurial abilities through alternative means and may bring different perspectives and expertise to their business ventures. The study also found that 20(13.2%) of respondents had attained diplomas, indicating a moderate representation of individuals with higher levels of formal education. Diplomas typically require a higher level of educational achievement and can contribute to a broader knowledge base and specialized skills. In contrast, the findings showed that only 12(7.9%) of respondents had attained a degree qualification, which is the highest level of formal education mentioned in the study. This suggests that individuals with university degrees were less represented in the sample. Interpreting these results, it can be inferred that the majority of participants in the study had completed educational programs at various levels, including certificates and diplomas. This indicates that a significant portion of the respondents had acquired formal or semi-formal education that could potentially contribute to their entrepreneurial endeavors. At the same time, the lower representation of individuals with degree qualifications may reflect a variety of factors such as limited access to higher education, financial constraints, or the focus of the entrepreneurship program in reaching individuals with different educational backgrounds. The findings suggest that educational attainment among the

respondents varied, with the majority having attained certificates and a notable portion having no academic qualifications. The presence of individuals with diverse educational backgrounds can contribute to a more inclusive and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem, as different levels of education can bring a range of skills, experiences, and perspectives to business ventures.

4.2. Status of Economic Empowerment of Women in Eastern Division in Soroti City

Women economic empowerment in Soroti City is very important aspect which is intended to reduce vulnerability and urban poverty among women. In order to determine the status of women economic empowerment, respondents were required to give their opinion about the six indicators of women economic empowerment and their responses varied (Table 4.2.1).

Table 4.2.1: Status of Economic Empowerment of Women in Eastern Division in Soroti City

Construct	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	S.D	Comment
Women access to small scale business	35(23.0%)	60(39.5%)	0	37(24.3%)	20(13.2)	2.7500	.97145	Low
Women access to assets	20(13.2)	81(53.2%)	0	20(13.2%)	31(20.4%)	2.6711	.94747	Low
Women access to land	26(17.1%)	100(65.8%)	0	10(6.6%)	16(10.5%)	2.3421	.7556	Low
Women access to credit services	20(13.2%)	77(50.6%)	0	20(13.2%)	35(23.0%)	2.7237	.96424	Low
Increased number of women public offices/positions	25(16.4%)	100(65.8%)	0	7(4.6%)	20(13.2%)	2.3553	.76693	Low
Women participation in business decision making	23(15.1%)	100(65.8%)	0	9(5.9%)	20(13.2%)	2.3816	.78844	Low
Overall mean \bar{X}						2.5373	.8656	Low

Source: Field Data, 2020

For purpose of presentation of findings, the responses for strongly agree and agree were added together as they were positive and those of strongly disagree and disagree were also added together as they were negative. The “not sure” was left as it is. The interpretation of the scale used is as below.

Likert Scale		For Mean Values
1. Strongly disagree	= Very Low	0-1.0 Very low
2. Disagree	= Low	1.1-2.0 Low
3. Not Sure	=Moderate	2.1-3.0 Moderate
4. Agree	= High	3.1-4.0 High
5. Strongly Agree	= Very High	4.1-5.0 Very High

In mean values, “very high” means that the disparity in answers was minimal while “very low” meant that many respondents had varying answers.

In order to establish the status of economic empowerment of women in in Soroti City, six indicators were generated to guide the study (Table 4.2.1). When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women access to small scale business, majority of the respondents 95(62.5%) disagreed with the opinion that women access to small scale business and those who agreed were represented by 57(37.5%). The calculated mean (\bar{X} =2.7500, standard deviation = .97145) shows low

response on women access to small scale business. The findings suggest that a majority of the respondents 95(62.5%) disagreed with the opinion that women have access to small-scale business in Soroti City. On the other hand,57 (37.5%) of the respondents agreed with this opinion. This indicates that there is a perception among the respondents that women face challenges or barriers when it comes to accessing small-scale businesses. The calculated mean of 2.7500 and a standard deviation of 0.97145 further support this interpretation. The mean value of 2.7500 is below the midpoint of the scale (which is typically set at 3 in a 5-point Likert scale), indicating a tendency towards disagreement among the respondents. Additionally, the standard deviation of 0.97145 suggests that the responses are relatively dispersed, indicating some variability in the opinions expressed. The findings suggest that the respondents, who were likely participants in the study, perceive that women in Soroti City, face limitations or challenges in accessing small-scale businesses. The relatively low mean score and the disagreement expressed by the majority of respondents indicate a need for further investigation into the factors contributing to this perception and the potential barriers faced by women in accessing small-scale business opportunities in the region. The study findings are in tandem with results from interview that showed that women groups have not benefited much from Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti City.

In several interviewees revealed that:

“The City authorities did not carry out thorough baseline survey on enterprise selection and most of the selected and implemented enterprises were not viable. Some

enterprises like maize, beans, groundnuts and horticulture depend on rain and these registered great harvest loss. Women groups had signed memorandum of Understanding with government of Uganda and since these enterprises were not insured, we are compelled to pay back the loan. The small capital that we had been used to pay the loan and so access to small business as group members funded under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme is not possible for all members and may be out of 13 members only 1 or 2 have access to small business.”

When the respondents were demanded to give their view about whether women access to assets, majority of the respondents 101(66.4%) disagreed with the opinion that women access to assets and those who agreed were represented by 51(33.6%). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=2.6711$, standard deviation = .94747) shows low response on women access to assets. The findings indicate that a significant majority of the respondents (66.4%) disagreed with the opinion that women have access to assets. In contrast, 33.6% of the respondents agreed with this opinion. This suggests that there is a perception among the respondents that women face challenges or limitations when it comes to accessing assets. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=2.6711$ and a standard deviation of 0.94747 further support this interpretation. The mean value of $\bar{X}=2.6711$ is below the midpoint of the scale, indicating a tendency towards disagreement among the respondents. The standard deviation of 0.94747 suggests that the responses are relatively dispersed, indicating some variability in the opinions

expressed. These findings suggest that the respondents, who likely participated in the study, perceive that women in the study area have limited access to assets. The relatively low mean score and the disagreement expressed by the majority of respondents highlight the need for further investigation into the factors contributing to this perception and the potential barriers faced by women in accessing assets. Understanding and addressing these barriers is crucial for promoting women's economic empowerment and reducing gender inequalities in asset ownership. From the results of the interviews conducted, the respondents generally disagreed that women have access to assets as detailed below.

Several interviewees revealed that:

“Yes, as women who had received financial support under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme unfortunately, few groups made a fortune out of it. Most groups could fail to perform to their expectations and there were limited returns in terms of profits. Most group members opted to sell off their assets like goats, cows and farm produce to repay the loan. So, if we sold off our household assets, how do you expect us to have access to assets? The programme made poorer than it found us. We are praying that we finish paying Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme loan and focus on our usual petty business and get out this stress.”

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women access to credit services, majority of the respondents 97(63.8%) disagreed with the opinion that women access to credit services and those who agreed were represented by 55(36.2%). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=2.7237$, standard deviation = .96424) shows low response on women access to credit services. The findings suggest that a majority of the respondents, representing 63.8%, disagreed with the opinion that women have access to credit services. This indicates a prevalent perception among the respondents that women face challenges in accessing credit services. On the other hand, 36.2% of the respondents agreed with the opinion, implying that there is a significant portion of respondents who believe that women do have access to credit services. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}= 2.7237$ supports the interpretation that the overall response on women's access to credit services is low. A mean score below the midpoint of the scale (which is typically set at 3) indicates a negative perception or a lack of confidence in women's access to credit services. The standard deviation of 0.96424 suggests a moderate level of variation in the responses, indicating that there is some diversity in the opinions among the respondents. These findings highlight a potential issue or concern regarding women's access to credit services in the studied area. Limited access to credit can hinder women's economic empowerment and their ability to start or expand businesses, invest in productive assets, and improve their livelihoods. Further investigation into the specific barriers or constraints that women face in accessing credit services would be beneficial. It would help identify areas for intervention and policy measures to improve access to credit for women, potentially enabling them to participate more effectively in economic activities and achieve

greater financial independence. The findings indicate a low level of response regarding women's access to credit services, as perceived by the respondents. This suggests a need for targeted efforts to address the barriers and challenges faced by women in accessing credit, ultimately promoting their economic empowerment.

When the respondents were demanded to give their view about whether there is increased number of women public offices/positions, majority of the respondents 125(82.27%) disagreed with the opinion that increased number of women public offices/positions and those who agreed were represented by 27(17.8%). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=2.3553$, standard deviation = .76693) implying a low response on increased number of women public offices/positions. For the question about women's access to credit services, the findings reveal that a significant majority of the respondents (63.8%) disagreed with the opinion that women have access to credit services. On the other hand, 36.2% of the respondents agreed with this opinion. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=2.7237$ and a standard deviation of 0.96424 further support the interpretation of a low response on women's access to credit services. This suggests that the respondents perceive that women face challenges or limited opportunities in accessing credit services. Regarding the question about an increased number of women in public offices/positions, the findings indicate that a majority of the respondents (82.27%) disagreed with the opinion that there is an increased number of women in public offices/positions. Only 17.8% of the respondents agreed with this opinion. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=2.3553$ and a standard deviation of 0.76693 suggest a low response on the topic of increased representation of women in public offices/positions. Taken together, these findings suggest that the respondents

perceive limitations or challenges in both women's access to credit services and their representation in public offices/positions. The relatively low mean scores and the majority of respondents expressing disagreement highlight the perception of existing gender inequalities and barriers in these areas. This emphasizes the need for further examination of the underlying factors contributing to these perceptions and the implementation of strategies to address the barriers hindering women's access to credit services and their representation in public offices/positions. Generally the majority of respondents disagreed that there is increased number of women public offices/positions. The affirmative action and women economic transformation programmes are well intended but women still lag behind because of socio-economic and cultural factors. In a series of interviews with women group members, this is what they said:

“The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme support does not necessarily translate into more administrative and political appointments. Elections and appointments in administrative and political posts are based on individual interests and may be in our groups; we can convincingly say that some members have taken up these positions.”

Majority of the respondents 123(80.9%) disagreed that women participate in business decision making and only 29(19.1%) of the respondents agreed with the opinion (Table 4.2.1). The calculated mean $\bar{X}=2.3816$, standard deviation = .78844 shows that women participation in business decision making is at a low level. The findings

indicate that a significant majority of the respondents (80.9%) disagreed with the opinion that women participate in business decision making. Conversely, only 19.1% of the respondents agreed with this opinion. The calculated mean of $\bar{X} = 2.3816$ and a standard deviation of 0.78844 further support the interpretation that women's participation in business decision making is at a low level. This suggests that the respondents perceive a lack of active involvement and influence of women in decision-making processes related to business. The majority of respondents expressing disagreement indicates a prevailing perception of limited or minimal participation of women in shaping business strategies, policies, and decision-making processes. Such findings highlight the existence of gender disparities and inequalities in the realm of business decision making. It suggests the need for efforts to promote and enhance women's participation, representation, and influence in decision-making processes within the business sphere. Encouraging women's involvement in business decision making can lead to more diverse perspectives, innovative ideas, and inclusive decision-making processes, ultimately benefiting the overall success and sustainability of businesses. Addressing these barriers and promoting women's active engagement in business decision making can contribute to achieving greater gender equality, empowering women economically, and fostering inclusive and sustainable business practices.

The findings are in tandem with focus group discussion interview results which revealed that low women participation in business decision making is low given the

fact that platforms and programmes for engagement are limited and they were all in agreement that:

“customs, traditions, cultural or religious practices greatly limit their formal interaction in the field of business. Our husbands continue to decide for us on any business idea and loan we want to access. The Banks always ask for collateral and force us to ask our husbands to use family assets like land, buildings as collateral before accessing a loan to implement the business idea we would have come-up with. In reality, this becomes a family business controlled by our husbands. So, you decide to have money or leave the business for the man to save your marriage”.

The overall mean is (2.5373) implying that women economic empowerment in Soroti City is at a low level. The overall mean of $\bar{X}=2.5373$ suggests that women's economic empowerment in Soroti City is perceived to be at a low level by the respondents. This indicates that, based on the indicators and opinions gathered in the study, there are significant challenges and limitations in terms of women's economic empowerment in the region. A low overall mean suggests that women in Soroti City face various barriers and obstacles that hinder their economic empowerment. These barriers could include limited access to resources, inadequate opportunities for entrepreneurship, restricted access to credit and financial services, lack of participation in decision-making processes, and unequal access to assets and markets. This finding emphasizes

the need for targeted interventions and policies to address the underlying factors contributing to the low level of women's economic empowerment. Efforts should be made to enhance women's access to resources, including financial capital, education, and training. Promoting entrepreneurship among women, facilitating access to credit and markets, and creating an enabling environment for women to participate in business decision making are crucial steps towards improving their economic empowerment. Furthermore, it is important to challenge and transform social norms and gender stereotypes that limit women's economic opportunities and reinforce gender inequalities. By addressing these systemic barriers and empowering women economically, it is possible to create more inclusive and sustainable development in Soroti City.

4.3. The contribution of building capacity

In order to determine the contribution of capacity building on women economic empowerment, six indicators were generated to guide the study (Table 4.3.1).

Table 4.3.1: Showing the contribution of building capacity

Construct	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	S.D	Comment
Women were trained on enterprise selection	12(7.9%)	29(19.1%)	12(7.9%)	19(12.5%)	80(52.6%)	3.5855	1.113	moderate
Women were trained on group dynamics	0	1(.7%)	4(2.6%)	47(30.9%)	100(65.8%)	3.7434	1.0516	moderate
Women were trained on financial	0	1(.7%)	5(3.3%)	46(30.3%)	100(65.8%)	3.7039	.9822	moderate

management								
Women trained on book keeping	0	2(1.3%)	3(2.0%)	27(17.8%)	120(78.9%)	3.691	.9916	moderate
Women trained on record keeping	0	2(1.3%)	9(5.9%)	41(27.0%)	100(65.8%)	3.6711	.99520	moderate
Women were trained in community procurement	0	2(1.3%)	6(3.9%)	100(65.8%)	44(28.9%)	3.9342	.29725	moderate
Overall mean \bar{X}						3.8366	.39834	moderate

Source: Primary Data, 2021

When respondents were requested to give their view about whether women were trained on enterprise selection, 99(65.1%) of the respondents agreed with the opinion, that women were trained on enterprise selection, whereas 41(27%) of the respondents disagreed while 12(7.9%) of the respondents were undecided with the opinion (Table 4.3.1). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.5855$, standard deviation = 1.113) indicates that women were trained on enterprise selection is at a moderate level. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}= 3.5855$, along with the standard deviation of 1.113, suggests that the perception of women being trained on enterprise selection in Soroti City is at a moderate level according to the respondents' views. The majority of respondents, 65.1%, agreed that women were trained on enterprise selection, indicating that there are efforts being made to provide training in this area. This suggests that some women in the region have received training or guidance on how to select and

establish enterprises. However, it is worth noting that 27% of respondents disagreed with the opinion, indicating that a significant portion of respondents believes that women have not received sufficient training on enterprise selection. This suggests that there may be gaps or limitations in the effectiveness or coverage of the training programs in place. The moderate mean indicates that while there are efforts to train women on enterprise selection, there is room for improvement. It highlights the need to strengthen and expand training initiatives to ensure that more women have access to comprehensive and effective training programs. These programs should equip women with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to make informed decisions about enterprise selection, improve their business acumen, and enhance their chances of success in entrepreneurship. These findings underscore the importance of ongoing training and support for women in Soroti City, to enhance their capacity to identify viable enterprises and contribute to their economic empowerment.

Results from the interview analysis varied depending on the respondent. Some of the views were in agreement with the quantitative analysis and others were in disagreement as detailed below:

One interviewee said that:

“The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme prioritizes trainings and after our groups were identified, we were mobilized and clustered by the Division Community Development Officer to attend trainings as per the agreed

schedule. The grouping was based on the types of enterprises we had proposed to undertake and to be funded by government. In our cluster, the following groups were trained: Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association for book making, Teso Women Initiative For Development for soap making, Wakeup Women Friends Association for boutique/sell of clothes, Ekopaikinos Women Group for saloon and Anyoutu Women's Group for tailoring in Soroti City."

Majority of the respondents 151(99.3%) agreed that women were trained on group dynamics and only 1(.7%) respondent disagreed with the opinion (Table 4.3.1). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.7434$, standard deviation = 1.0516) shows that women were trained on group dynamics is at a moderate level. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.7434$ and the standard deviation of 1.0516 indicate that the perception of women being trained on group dynamics in Soroti City is at a moderate level, according to the respondents' views. The overwhelming majority of respondents, 99.3%, agreed that women were trained on group dynamics. This suggests that efforts have been made to provide training in this area, aiming to enhance women's understanding of group dynamics and their ability to effectively work together in collective endeavors. The very low percentage of 0.7% of respondents who disagreed with the opinion indicates that there is a high level of consensus among the participants that women have received training on group dynamics. This implies that the training programs implemented have been successful in reaching a large number of women and providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to work collaboratively within

groups. The moderate mean suggests that while training on group dynamics has been implemented, there is still room for improvement. It indicates that there may be certain aspects or areas within group dynamics training that could be further developed to enhance women's understanding and application of group dynamics principles. The findings highlight the importance of training women on group dynamics as a means to strengthen their collective action and collaboration within various initiatives. Continued efforts to provide comprehensive and effective training in this area can contribute to enhancing women's ability to work together, promote synergy, and achieve collective goals, ultimately leading to improved women's economic empowerment in the region.

Majority of the respondents 146(96.1) agreed that women were trained on financial management whereas 5(3.3%) of the respondents were undecided while only 1(.7%) respondent disagreed with the opinion (Table 4.3.1). The calculated mean ($\bar{X} = 3.7039$, standard deviation = .98222) shows that women were trained on financial management is at a moderate level. The calculated mean of $\bar{X} = 3.7039$ and the standard deviation of 0.98222 indicate that the perception of women being trained on financial management in Soroti City is at a moderate level, according to the respondents' views. The majority of respondents, 96.1%, agreed that women were trained on financial management. This suggests that efforts have been made to provide training in this area, aiming to enhance women's knowledge and skills in managing their finances effectively. The low percentages of 3.3% of respondents who were undecided and 0.7% who disagreed with the opinion indicate that there is a high level of consensus among the participants that women have received training on

financial management. This indicates that the training programs implemented have been successful in reaching a large number of women and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their financial resources. The moderate mean suggests that while training on financial management has been implemented, there is still room for improvement. It indicates that there may be certain aspects or areas within financial management training that could be further developed to enhance women's understanding and application of financial principles. The findings highlight the importance of training women on financial management as a means to improve their financial literacy and empower them to make informed decisions about their finances. Continued efforts to provide comprehensive and effective training in this area can contribute to enhancing women's financial independence and overall economic empowerment in the region. In another interview session, when women were asked whether they were trained on financial management, in their response, they confirmed and said that:

“I was trained on book keeping, record keeping, enterprise selection, group dynamics, simple accounting and loan repayment. A few of group members could miss some training sessions due to many factors like: distance, sickness, and commitment to other activities. Some members thought we were not going to get money from government and others preferred to concentrate on their already established businesses and nether bothered to be part of the newly formed groups in Soroti City.”

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women trained on book keeping, majority of the respondents 147(96.7%) agreed with the opinion that women trained on book keeping whereas 2(1.3%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view only 3(2.0%) were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.691$, standard deviation = .9916) indicates that women trained on book keeping is at a moderate level. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.691$ and the standard deviation of 0.9916 suggest that the perception of women being trained on bookkeeping in Soroti City is at a moderate level, according to the respondents' opinions. The majority of respondents, 96.7%, agreed that women were trained on bookkeeping. This indicates that efforts have been made to provide training in bookkeeping skills to women, aiming to enhance their ability to effectively manage financial records and transactions. The low percentages of 1.3% of respondents who disagreed and 2.0% who were undecided about women being trained on bookkeeping suggest a high level of consensus among the participants regarding the provision of such training. This indicates that the training programs implemented have been successful in reaching a large proportion of women and equipping them with the necessary skills to maintain accurate financial records. The moderate mean value suggests that while training on bookkeeping has been implemented, there is still room for improvement. It implies that there may be certain aspects or areas within bookkeeping training that could be further developed to enhance women's understanding and application of bookkeeping principles. The findings highlight the importance of providing training in bookkeeping to women, as it contributes to their financial literacy and empowerment. By acquiring bookkeeping skills, women can

better manage their finances, track their income and expenses, and make informed financial decisions. Continued efforts to provide effective and comprehensive training in bookkeeping can contribute to improving women's economic empowerment in the region.

When the respondents were demanded to give their view about whether women were trained on record keeping, majority of the respondents 141(92.8%) agreed with the opinion that women were trained on record keeping and those who disagreed were represented by 2(1.3%) while respondents who remained neutral were only 2(1.3%). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.6711$, standard deviation = .9952) shows a moderate level of response on women access to assets. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.6711$ and the standard deviation of 0.9952 suggest that the perception of women being trained on record keeping Soroti City is at a moderate level, according to the respondents' opinions. The majority of respondents, 92.8%, agreed that women were trained on record keeping. This indicates that efforts have been made to provide training in record keeping skills to women, aiming to enhance their ability to maintain accurate and organized records of their business transactions, financial activities, or other relevant information. The low percentages of 1.3% of respondents who disagreed and 1.3% who remained neutral suggest a high level of consensus among the participants regarding the provision of training on record keeping. This indicates that the training programs implemented have been effective in reaching a significant proportion of women and equipping them with the necessary skills to maintain proper records. The

moderate mean value suggests that while training on record keeping has been implemented, there is still potential for improvement. It implies that there may be certain aspects or areas within record keeping training that could be further enhanced to ensure women have a comprehensive understanding of the importance and techniques of maintaining accurate records. The findings highlight the significance of providing training in record keeping to women, as it empowers them with the knowledge and skills necessary to keep track of their financial activities and make informed decisions. Effective record keeping can contribute to improved financial management, business growth, and long-term economic empowerment for women. Continued efforts to provide comprehensive and practical training in record keeping can further strengthen women's economic empowerment in the region.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women were trained in community procurement, majority of the respondents 144(94.7%) agreed with the opinion that women were trained in community procurement whereas 2(1.3%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view only 6(3.9%) were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.9342$, standard deviation = .2973) also indicates that women were trained in community procurement is at a moderate level. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.9342$ and the standard deviation of 0.2973 suggest that the perception of women being trained in community procurement in Soroti City is at a moderate level, according to the respondents' opinions. The majority of respondents, 94.7%, agreed that women were trained in community procurement. This indicates that efforts have been made to provide training on the processes and practices of community procurement to women, aiming

to enhance their understanding and skills in this area. The low percentages of 1.3% of respondents who disagreed and 3.9% who remained undecided suggest a high level of consensus among the participants regarding the provision of training in community procurement. This indicates that the training programs implemented have been effective in reaching a significant proportion of women and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills related to community procurement. The moderate mean value suggests that while training in community procurement has been provided, there may still be room for improvement. It implies that there may be certain aspects or areas within community procurement training that could be further enhanced to ensure women have a comprehensive understanding of the processes, rules, and strategies involved. The findings indicate that training in community procurement has been implemented and is perceived positively by the respondents. This training can play a crucial role in empowering women to actively participate in community procurement processes, such as bidding, negotiating, and managing contracts. By enhancing their skills in this area, women can have greater opportunities for economic engagement and contribute to the development of their communities. Continued efforts to provide comprehensive and practical training in community procurement can further strengthen women's economic empowerment in the region.

The overall mean is ($\bar{X}=3.837$) implying that capacity building on women economic empowerment in Soroti City is at a low level. The overall mean of $\bar{X}=3.837$ suggests that the level of capacity building on women economic empowerment in Soroti City is relatively low, based on the respondents' perceptions. The mean value falls below the

midpoint of the scale, which typically represents a neutral response. In this case, it indicates that the respondents, on average, perceive the level of capacity building efforts to be below their expectations or desired level. While specific aspects of capacity building, such as training on enterprise selection, group dynamics, financial management, bookkeeping, record keeping, and community procurement, were found to have moderate levels of response, the overall mean suggests that there is still room for improvement in terms of the comprehensiveness, effectiveness, and reach of capacity building initiatives related to women's economic empowerment. This finding implies that the current efforts in capacity building may not be fully meeting the needs and expectations of women in Soroti City. There may be a need for more targeted and tailored capacity building programs that address the specific challenges and barriers faced by women in accessing economic opportunities and achieving empowerment. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of continuous evaluation and improvement of capacity building initiatives to ensure they effectively address the diverse needs of women and provide them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to succeed in their economic endeavors. To enhance women's economic empowerment, it is crucial to strengthen and expand capacity building efforts, taking into account the specific contexts, constraints, and aspirations of women in Soroti City. This can involve a multi-dimensional approach that encompasses not only technical skills but also addresses systemic issues such as gender norms, social barriers, and access to resources and opportunities. By investing in comprehensive and impactful capacity building programs, policymakers, organizations, and

stakeholders can contribute to the advancement of women's economic empowerment, leading to more inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

4.3.2: Model summary showing effect of building capacity on women economic empowerment in Soroti City

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.040 _a	.002	-.005	.40743	.002	.246	1	150	.621

a. Predictors: (Constant), capacity building

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.3.2 above, R² value was .002 which translates to 0.2%. This implies that access to capacity building accounts for 0.2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The remaining 99.8% is contributed to by other factors which means that this is a fit model

4.4. To establish the contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies

In order to determine the contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies on women economic empowerment, seven indicators were generated to guide the study (Table 4.4.1).

Table 4.4.1: Showing the contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies

Construct	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	S.D	Comment
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Women were helped to access materials for book making	00	4(2.6%)	3(2.0%)	126(82.9%)	19(12.5%)	4.053	.4989	High
Women were helped to access improved seed materials	00	12(7.9%)	00	125(82.2%)	15(9.9%)	3.941	.6432	Moderate
Women were helped to access walking tractors	9(5.9%)	53(34.9%)	3(2.0%)	83(54.6%)	4(2.6%)	3.132	1.108	Moderate
Women were helped to access assorted modern grinding mills	5(3.3%)	10(6.6%)	3(2.0%)	126(82.9%)	8(5.3%)	3.803	.7724	Moderate
Women were helped to access poultry assorted material and technologies	2(1.3%)	5(3.3%)	1(.7%)	130(85.5%)	14(9.2%)	3.980	.5921	Moderate
Women were helped to access piggery materials and technology	00	4(2.6%)	00	137(90.1%)	11(7.2%)	4.019	.4224	High
Women were helped to access tailoring machines and materials	3(2.0%)	6(3.9%)	6(3.9%)	125(82.2%)	12(7.9%)	3.901	.6687	Moderate
Overall mean \bar{X}						3.833	.0672	Moderate

Source: Field Data, 2021

When respondents were requested to give their view about whether women helped to access materials for book making, the majority of respondents 145(95.4%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access material for book making while 4(2.6%) of the respondents disagreed, and 3(2.0%) of the respondents were undecided with the opinion (Table 4.4.1). The calculated mean (\bar{X} =4.053, standard deviation = .4989) indicates that women helped to access materials for book making is at a high level. The findings indicate that the majority of the respondents, 145 (95.4%), agreed that women were able to access materials for book making, while only 4 (2.6%) disagreed

and 3 (2.0%) remained undecided. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=4.053$ suggests that the level of women's assistance in accessing materials for book making is relatively high, based on the respondents' perceptions. The mean value being above the midpoint of the scale indicates that, on average, the respondents perceived a high level of support and facilitation for women in accessing the necessary materials for book making. This finding implies that there are efforts or initiatives in place that have been successful in providing women with the required resources and materials to engage in book making activities. It suggests that there may be existing programs, organizations, or support systems that are actively promoting and facilitating women's involvement in this specific economic activity. This high level of support in accessing materials for book making can have positive implications for women's economic empowerment. It indicates that there are opportunities for women to engage in income-generating activities through book making, which can contribute to their economic independence and overall empowerment. Furthermore, this finding highlights the importance of providing women with the necessary resources, such as materials, tools, and equipment, to engage in various economic activities. Access to such resources can enhance women's productivity, expand their income-generating opportunities, and enable them to participate more actively in economic development.

To sustain and further enhance this high level of support, it is crucial to continue investing in initiatives that facilitate women's access to materials for book making. This can involve partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, and local communities to ensure the

availability, affordability, and quality of materials for women engaged in book making. Overall, this finding reflects a positive aspect of women's economic empowerment in Soroti City, indicating that efforts to support women in accessing materials for bookmaking have been effective.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women helped to access to improved seed materials, majority of the respondents 140(92.1%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access to improved seed materials and only 12(7.9%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.941$, standard deviation = .6432) also indicates that women helped to access to improved seed materials is at a moderate level.

The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, 140 (92.1%), agreed that women were able to access improved seed materials, while only 12 (7.9%) disagreed. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.941$ suggests that the level of women's assistance in accessing improved seed materials is at a moderate level, based on the respondents' opinions. Although the mean is above the midpoint of the scale, indicating a moderate level of support, it is important to note that there is room for improvement. The standard deviation of 0.6432 indicates some variation in responses, suggesting that there may be differing perceptions or experiences among the respondents. This finding implies that efforts have been made to facilitate women's access to improved seed materials, but there may be challenges or limitations in fully ensuring widespread access and availability. It suggests that there are initiatives or programs in place that have been somewhat successful in providing women with improved seed materials, but further improvements are needed to enhance the level

of support. Access to improved seed materials is crucial for women engaged in agriculture or gardening activities, as it can contribute to increased productivity, better crop yields, and improved food security. By providing women with access to high-quality seeds, they are empowered to enhance their agricultural practices and generate sustainable income. To further improve the level of support, it is important to address any existing barriers or challenges that hinder women's access to improved seed materials. This may involve addressing issues such as affordability, availability, knowledge dissemination, and access to markets for these materials. Collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including agricultural extension services, government agencies, NGOs, and seed suppliers, can help ensure that women have access to a diverse range of improved seed varieties. Additionally, providing training and technical assistance to women farmers on seed selection, storage, and management can contribute to their overall agricultural productivity and empowerment. While the findings suggest a moderate level of support for women in accessing improved seed materials, there is still room for improvement. By addressing the challenges and investing in initiatives that promote equitable access to improved seeds, it is possible to further enhance women's economic empowerment in the agricultural sector. In an interview with one of the women groups that received Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme funds to buy assorted technologies/materials said that:

“We were 29 women groups that were supported or given funds by government of Uganda in former Soroti Municipality between 2018 and 2021. The Municipal Town Clerk, Division Town Clerk, Resident City Commissioner, Community Development Officer and political

leadership convened a meeting in 2018 and every financial year to tell us that we had received a total of 179,012,500/= and groups received between 2.900.000/= and 12,000,000/= depending on the enterprise. It is true we received funds/loans from government and we purchased the items we had budgeted for with the Community Development Officer under the guidance of Municipal/City technical leadership. The subject matter specialists would technically guide on variety to ensure quality supply. Unfortunately, due to several factors, repayment of loans has been a problem. Some group members thought this was free money and they shared it. Some groups disintegrated and it is hard to trace the members. Some enterprises completely failed to take off and registered losses from the beginning. Some members were not honest and mismanaged the funds. However, a few had a breakthrough especially Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association that make books. It received 4,976,000/= and their loan balance is less than 1,000,000/=. We can say that the programme was well intended but it was hurried in terms of group formation, enterprise selection and loan disbursement that explain why many groups have failed to repay the loans in Soroti City”.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women helped to access walking tractors, majority of the respondents 87(57.2%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access walking tractors while respondents who

disagreed with the opinion were represented by 63(40.8%) and only 3(2.0%) were undecided. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.132$, standard deviation = 1.108) shows moderate response on women helped to access walking tractors. The findings indicate that 87 (57.2%) of the respondents agreed that women helped to access walking tractors, while 63 (40.8%) disagreed with this opinion. Only 3 (2.0%) respondents were undecided. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.132$ suggests a moderate level of response regarding women's assistance in accessing walking tractors, based on the opinions of the respondents. While the mean is above the midpoint of the scale, indicating a moderate level of support, it is important to note that there is some variation in the responses, as indicated by the standard deviation of 1.108. This suggests that there may be differing perspectives or experiences among the respondents regarding women's access to walking tractors. The interpretation of these findings suggests that efforts have been made to facilitate women's access to walking tractors, but there may still be challenges or limitations in fully ensuring widespread access. The responses from the respondents indicate that there is some support for women in accessing walking tractors, but it may not be as high as desired. Walking tractors are agricultural machinery that can significantly enhance productivity and efficiency in farming activities. Access to such machinery can help women farmers to cultivate larger areas of land, increase crop yields, and improve their overall agricultural practices. To further improve access to walking tractors for women, it is important to address the barriers or challenges that hinder their access. This may include issues such as affordability, availability, knowledge and training on operating the machinery, and access to maintenance and repair services. Collaboration between

relevant stakeholders, including agricultural agencies, financial institutions, and women's empowerment organizations, can help address these barriers and improve access to walking tractors for women farmers. Providing training and technical support on the use and maintenance of walking tractors can also contribute to enhancing women's capacity and productivity in agricultural activities. It is important to note that the findings suggest a moderate level of support for women in accessing walking tractors. While efforts have been made, there is room for improvement in ensuring equitable access to this agricultural machinery. By addressing the challenges and investing in initiatives that promote women's access to walking tractors, it is possible to enhance their economic empowerment in the agricultural sector.

The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, 134 (88.2%), agreed that women helped to access assorted modern grinding mills. Conversely, 15 (9.9%) respondents disagreed with this opinion, and only 3 (2.0%) respondents remained undecided. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.803$ suggests a moderate level of response regarding women's assistance in accessing assorted modern grinding mills, based on the opinions of the respondents. Although the mean is above the midpoint of the scale, indicating a moderate level of support, it is important to consider the standard deviation of 0.7724, which implies some variation in the responses. This suggests that there may be diverse perspectives or experiences among the respondents regarding women's access to assorted modern grinding mills. The interpretation of these findings suggests that efforts have been made to facilitate women's access to modern grinding mills, and there is a moderate level of support for women in this aspect. Assorted modern grinding mills can significantly improve women's productivity and efficiency in

processing agricultural products, such as grains and spices. To further enhance women's access to modern grinding mills, it is essential to address potential barriers that may hinder their access. These barriers may include affordability, availability, and knowledge on the operation and maintenance of modern grinding mills. Collaboration between relevant stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and women's empowerment groups, can help address these barriers and improve access to modern grinding mills for women. Providing training and technical support on the use and maintenance of grinding mills can also contribute to empowering women in processing and value addition activities. The findings indicate a moderate level of support for women in accessing assorted modern grinding mills. By addressing the barriers and challenges, and investing in initiatives that promote women's access to these mills, it is possible to further enhance women's economic empowerment and contribute to their overall well-being in Soroti City.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women were helped to access poultry assorted materials and technologies, majority of the respondents 144(94.7%) agreed with the opinion that women were helped to access poultry assorted material and technologies whereas 7(4.8%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view only 1(.7%) were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean (\bar{X} =3.980, standard deviation = .5921) also indicates that women were helped to access poultry assorted material and technologies is at a moderate level. The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, 144 (94.7%), agreed that women were helped to access poultry assorted materials and technologies. Only 7 (4.8%) respondents disagreed with this opinion, and 1 (.7%) respondent remained

undecided. The calculated mean of 3.980 suggests a moderate level of response regarding women being helped to access poultry assorted materials and technologies, based on the opinions of the respondents. The interpretation of these findings suggests that efforts have been made to facilitate women's access to poultry-related materials and technologies. Assisting women in accessing these resources can contribute to their economic empowerment and participation in the poultry sector, which has the potential to generate income and improve livelihoods. However, it is important to consider the standard deviation of 0.5921, which indicates some variation in the responses. This suggests that there may be differing perspectives or experiences among the respondents regarding the level of support provided to women in accessing poultry materials and technologies. To further enhance women's access to poultry assorted materials and technologies, it is important to continue addressing barriers such as affordability, availability, and knowledge gaps. Providing training and technical support, ensuring affordable access to quality inputs and technologies, and promoting women's entrepreneurship and leadership in the poultry sector can contribute to their economic empowerment. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and relevant stakeholders can help create an enabling environment for women in accessing poultry resources. This can include providing training programs, establishing networks and platforms for knowledge-sharing and market access, and advocating for gender-responsive policies and programs. The findings indicate a moderate level of support for women in accessing poultry assorted materials and technologies. By addressing the identified barriers and implementing targeted interventions, it is possible to further enhance

women's economic empowerment and promote their active participation in the poultry sector in Soroti City.

Majority of the respondents 148(97.3%) agreed that women were helped to access piggery materials and technologies and only 4(2.6%) of the respondents disagreed with the opinion (Table 4.4.1). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=4.0197$, standard deviation = .4224) shows that women were helped to access piggery materials and technologies is at a high level. The findings indicate that a significant majority of the respondents, representing 97.3%, agreed with the opinion that women were helped to access piggery materials and technologies. This suggests that there is a strong perception among the respondents that efforts have been made to support women in accessing the necessary resources and technologies for piggery farming. On the other hand, a small percentage of respondents (2.6%) disagreed with this view, indicating that there may be a minority who do not believe that women have received adequate support in accessing piggery materials and technologies. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=4.0197$ supports the interpretation that the level of support provided to women in accessing piggery materials and technologies is high. This implies that, on average, the respondents perceive that women in Soroti City, have received significant assistance in obtaining the necessary resources and technologies to engage in piggery farming. This finding is encouraging as it suggests that efforts have been made to address the specific needs of women in the piggery sector, potentially leading to increased economic opportunities and empowerment. However, it is important to note that the interpretation is based on the respondents' perceptions and opinions. It would be valuable to complement these findings with objective data on the actual access and

utilization of piggery materials and technologies by women in the region. The findings indicate a high level of perceived support for women in accessing piggery materials and technologies. This highlights the importance of continued efforts to provide women with the necessary resources and support to engage in the piggery sector effectively.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies, majority of the respondents 137(90.1%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies whereas 6(3.9%) of the respondents were undecided, 9(5.9%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.9013$, standard deviation = .6687) also indicates that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies is at a moderate level. The findings reveal that a majority of the respondents, 137 (90.1%), agreed that women were helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies. On the other hand, 9 (5.9%) respondents disagreed with this opinion, and 6 (3.9%) respondents remained undecided. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.9013$ suggests a moderate level of response regarding women being helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies, based on the opinions of the respondents. The interpretation of these findings suggests that efforts have been made to support women in accessing tailoring machines and materials and technologies. Access to these resources can enable women to engage in tailoring businesses, improve their skills, and generate income. This can contribute to their economic empowerment and promote their participation in the textile and garment industry. However, it is important to consider

the standard deviation of 0.6687, which indicates some variation in the responses. This suggests that there may be differing perspectives or experiences among the respondents regarding the level of support provided to women in accessing tailoring machines and materials and technologies. To further enhance women's access to tailoring machines and materials and technologies, it is crucial to address barriers such as affordability, availability, and training. Providing financial assistance or microloans, establishing tailoring centers or cooperatives, and offering skill-building programs can help women overcome these barriers and access the necessary resources. Moreover, promoting gender-responsive policies and initiatives that support women's entrepreneurship in the textile and garment industry can also contribute to their economic empowerment. This can involve creating an enabling environment for women, fostering inclusive business networks, and advocating for equal opportunities and fair working conditions. The findings indicate a moderate level of support for women in accessing tailoring machines and materials and technologies. By addressing the identified barriers and implementing targeted interventions, it is possible to further enhance women's economic empowerment and promote their active participation in the tailoring sector in Soroti City.

The overall mean is ($\bar{X}=3.833$) implying that access to assorted inputs and technologies in Soroti City is at a moderate level.

The overall mean of 3.833 suggests that access to assorted inputs and technologies in Soroti City is at a moderate level. This mean value is based on the responses of the respondents regarding various aspects of access to different resources and technologies, such as book making materials, improved seed materials, walking

tractors, grinding mills, poultry materials and technologies, and tailoring machines and materials. Interpreting the overall mean indicates that there is a certain degree of access to assorted inputs and technologies in the study area. While the mean suggests a moderate level, it implies that efforts have been made to provide some level of access to these resources and technologies to support women's economic activities and empowerment. However, it is important to note that the moderate level indicated by the mean does not necessarily imply uniform or equal access for all individuals. There might be variations and disparities in access among different groups or individuals within in Soroti City. To further enhance access to assorted inputs and technologies, it is crucial to address any existing barriers or challenges. This may involve initiatives such as improving availability and affordability of resources, providing training and capacity building programs, fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and advocating for policies that promote inclusive and equitable access. By improving access to assorted inputs and technologies, individuals, particularly women, can enhance their productivity, expand their economic opportunities, and contribute to overall development in Soroti City. It is essential to continue monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of existing interventions and implementing targeted strategies to ensure sustained and equitable access for all individuals in the community.

4.4.2: Model summary showing effect of access to assorted inputs and technologies on women economic empowerment in Soroti City

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.198 _a	.039	.033	.39971	.039	6.105	1	150	.015

a. Predictors: (Constant), access to assorted inputs and technologies

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.4.2 above, R² square value was .039 which translates to 3.9%. This implies that access to assorted inputs and technologies accounts for 3.9% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. This means that the remaining 96.1% is accounted for by other factors and therefore it is a fit model.

4.5. Contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City

In order to determine the contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City, five indicators were generated to guide the study (Table 4.5.1).

Table 4.5.1: showing contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City

Construct	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	S.D	Comment
Women have access to their products	0	0	3(2.0%)	100(65.8%)	49(32.2%)	3.9803	.13955	moderate
Women groups have	0	1(.7%)	6(3.9%)	45(29.6%)	100(65.8%)	3.9474	.25187	moderate

formed savings and marketing cooperative								
Women encouraged to brand their products	0	2(1.3%)	9(5.9%)	120(78.9%)	21(13.9%)	3.9145	.32438	moderate
Women have access to market information	0	7(4.6%)	19(12.5%)	26(17.1%)	100(65.8%)	3.7829	.51363	moderate
Women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products	0	39(25.7%)	13(8.6%)	60(39.5%)	40(26.3%)	3.4013	.87087	moderate
Overall mean \bar{X}						3.8052	2.1003	Moderate

Source: Field Data, 2021

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women have access to their products, majority of the respondents 149(98.0%) agreed with the opinion that women have access to their products and only 3(2.0%) respondents were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean (\bar{X} =3.9803, standard deviation = .13955) indicates that that women have access to their products is at a moderate level. The findings from the respondents indicate that the majority, representing 98.0% of the respondents, agreed with the opinion that women have access to their products. This suggests that women in Soroti City, have a certain level of access to the products they produce. The calculated mean of \bar{X} = 3.9803 further supports this interpretation, indicating a moderate level of access to their products. This means that, on average, respondents perceive that women in the area have reasonable access to their own products, whether it be goods they produce through entrepreneurship, agricultural products, or other types of products. However, it is worth noting that there were a small number of respondents (2.0%) who were

undecided about women's access to their products. This could imply that there may be some variability or differing perspectives among the respondents regarding the extent of access women have to their own products. To fully understand the factors affecting women's access to their products, it would be valuable to investigate the specific barriers or challenges that may limit or enhance their access. This could include examining issues such as market dynamics, distribution networks, transportation infrastructure, gender norms, and social or cultural factors that may influence women's ability to access and benefit from their own products. By addressing any existing barriers and promoting mechanisms that facilitate women's access to their products, it can contribute to their economic empowerment and overall development in the region.

Majority of the respondents 145(95.4%) agreed that women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperatives whereas 6(3.9%) of the respondents were undecided and only 1(.7%) respondent disagreed with the opinion (Table 4.5.1). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.9474$, standard deviation = .25187) shows that women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperatives is at a moderate level. The findings from the respondents indicate that the majority, representing 95.4% of the respondents, agreed with the opinion that women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperatives. This suggests that women in Soroti City, have actively formed groups and cooperatives to collectively save and market their products or services. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.9474$ further supports this interpretation, indicating a moderate level of women groups forming savings and marketing cooperatives. This means that, on average, respondents perceive that women in the area have been

successful in organizing themselves into cooperative groups for the purpose of saving money and collectively marketing their products. However, it is worth noting that there were a small number of respondents (3.9%) who were undecided about the formation of such cooperatives, and an even smaller number (0.7%) who disagreed with the opinion. This suggests that there may be some variation or differing perspectives among the respondents regarding the extent to which women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperatives. To further understand the functioning and impact of these cooperatives, it would be valuable to investigate their operations, membership dynamics, success stories, challenges faced, and the overall effectiveness of the cooperatives in supporting women's economic empowerment. Such insights can help identify areas of improvement and inform strategies to strengthen and expand the role of women groups in savings and marketing cooperatives. The findings suggest that women groups in the area have made progress in organizing themselves into cooperatives, which can contribute to their economic empowerment and provide them with opportunities for collective decision-making, resource pooling, and market access.

In a focused group discussion with women on whether they have formed savings and marketing cooperatives in City, their response was as follows:

“Under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, women groups are encouraged to form savings groups and many women had their informal saving groups. There is no SACCO that was formed as a result of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti East. Some members are also members of

EMYOGA SACCO as individuals and that is how we live and survive. It was hard to start a SACCO because up to now, the majority of our groups have not paid back the loan totaling to 125,173,125/= according to Soroti City Community Development Officer. This is a big challenge and many members are selling off family assets to pay the loan and remain in their informal savings groups”.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women encouraged to brand their products, majority of the respondents 141(92.8%) agreed with the opinion that women encouraged to brand their products whereas 2(1.3%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view only 9(5.9%) were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.9145$, standard deviation = .32438) shows that women encouraged to brand their products is at a moderate level. The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, representing 92.8%, agreed with the opinion that women are encouraged to brand their products. This suggests that there is a supportive environment or initiatives in place that promote and encourage women to engage in branding their products in Soroti City. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.9145$ further supports this interpretation, indicating a moderate level of agreement among the respondents regarding the encouragement of women to brand their products. This means that, on average, the respondents perceive that there are efforts or interventions in place to promote branding among women entrepreneurs. However, it is important to note that a small number of respondents (1.3%) disagreed with the view, and a few (5.9%) were undecided. This implies that there might be some

variation in the perceptions or experiences of respondents regarding the extent of encouragement provided to women in branding their products. To gain a deeper understanding, it would be valuable to explore the specific initiatives or programs that exist to encourage women in branding, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with product branding for women entrepreneurs in the area. This can provide insights into the effectiveness of current efforts and guide the development of targeted strategies to enhance women's participation and success in branding their products. The findings suggest that there are initiatives in place to encourage women in Soroti City, to brand their products. Encouraging women entrepreneurs to engage in branding can have various benefits, such as enhancing the visibility and marketability of their products, increasing their competitiveness, and contributing to their overall economic empowerment.

When the respondents were demanded to give their view about whether women have access to market information, majority of the respondents 126(82.9%) agreed with the opinion that women have access to market information and those who disagreed were represented by 7(4.6%) while respondents who remained neutral were only 19(12.5%). The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.7829$, standard deviation = .51363) shows a moderate level of response on women have access to market information. The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, representing 82.9%, agreed with the opinion that women have access to market information. This suggests that there is a perception among the respondents that women in Soroti City, have access to relevant and timely information about the market. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.7829$ further supports this interpretation, indicating a moderate level of agreement among the respondents

regarding women's access to market information. This means that, on average, the respondents perceive that there are channels or mechanisms in place that facilitate women's access to market information. However, it is important to note that a small number of respondents (4.6%) disagreed with the view, and a significant portion (12.5%) remained neutral. This implies that there might be some variation in the actual access to market information among women in the area, as perceived by the respondents. To gain a deeper understanding, it would be valuable to explore the specific sources and channels of market information available to women entrepreneurs and to identify any existing gaps or challenges in accessing such information. This can help identify strategies to further improve women's access to market information, which is crucial for their business decision-making, market positioning, and overall economic empowerment. The findings suggest that there is a perception among respondents that women in Soroti City, have access to market information. However, it is important to continue assessing and addressing any barriers or limitations that may exist to ensure that women entrepreneurs have equitable access to up-to-date and relevant market information.

When respondents were asked to give their opinion about whether women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products, majority of the respondents 100(65.8%) agreed with the opinion that women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products whereas 39(25.7%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view while 13(8.6%) were undecided with the opinion. The calculated mean ($\bar{X}=3.4013$, standard deviation = .87087) indicates that whether women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products is at a moderate level. The overall

mean is ($\bar{X}=3.8052$) implying that access to markets is at a low level. The findings indicate that a majority of the respondents, representing 65.8%, agreed with the opinion that women utilize public radios and televisions to market their products. This suggests that there is a perception among the respondents that women in Soroti City, make use of public broadcasting platforms for marketing their products. On the other hand, a considerable proportion of respondents (25.7%) disagreed with this view, indicating that there may be a significant number of women who do not utilize public radios and televisions for product marketing. Additionally, a small percentage of respondents (8.6%) remained undecided on this matter. The calculated mean of $\bar{X}=3.4013$ supports the interpretation that the utilization of public radios and televisions for marketing women's products is at a moderate level. This means that, on average, the respondents perceive that women in the region do engage to some extent with public broadcasting platforms for promoting and selling their products. However, it is important to note that the overall mean for access to markets is calculated as $\bar{X}=3.8052$, indicating a low level. This suggests that there may be other factors, beyond the utilization of public radios and televisions that contribute to the overall access to markets for women in Soroti City. To gain a comprehensive understanding, it would be beneficial to explore additional avenues and strategies that women entrepreneurs can use to access markets effectively. This could include assessing the utilization of other marketing channels such as social media, local markets, and community networks. While women's utilization of public radios and televisions for product marketing is perceived to be at a moderate level, there is still a need to address the overall access to markets, considering the low overall mean.

This could involve providing support, training, and resources to women entrepreneurs to enhance their marketing strategies and increase their visibility in the market.

4.5.2: Model summary showing effect of access to markets on women economic empowerment in Soroti City

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.041 _a	.002	-.005	.40742	.002	.257	1	150	.613

a. Predictors: (Constant), access to markets

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.5.2 above, R² square value was .002 This implies that effect of access to markets accounts for 0.2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti. This means that the remaining 99.8% is accounted for by other factors and therefore it is a fit model.

Correlations				
		EMPOWERMENT	CAPACITY BUILDING	ACCESS TO MARKETS
EMPOWERMENT	Pearson Correlation	1	.344*	.246
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.012	.076
	N	53	53	53
CAPACITY BUILDING	Pearson Correlation	.344*	1	.474**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012		.000
	N	53	53	53
ACCESS TO MARKETS	Pearson Correlation	.246	.474**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.076	.000	
	N	53	53	53
ACCESS TO ASSOTED INPUTS	Pearson Correlation	.269	.428**	.535**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.051	.001	.000
	N	53	53	53

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

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

Coefficientsa

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	20.920	2.999		6.976	.000

CAPACITY BUILDING	.206	.121	.264	1.705	.094
ACCESS TO MARKETS	.019	.059	.053	.318	.752
ACCESS TO ASSORTED INPUTS	.088	.111	.128	.792	.432

a. Dependent Variable: EMPOWERMENT

From the table above, $Y=(B1+B2+B3*\text{constant})$ which means that capacity building contributes more followed by access to assorted inputs and lastly access to markets.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of the findings according to study objectives and independent variables.

5.1. Status of Economic Empowerment of Women in Soroti City

Women economic empowerment in Soroti City is very important aspect which is intended to reduce vulnerability and urban poverty among women. The United Nations Development Programme explains that achieving human development is a process which is linked to a third perspective of development and involves freeing people from obstacles that affect their ability to develop their own lives and communities. The objective of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme is to empower women to live a longer and healthier life, be more knowledgeable, have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living and be more able to participate in the life of the community. Therefore, development is empowerment where women are expected to take control of their own lives, expressing their own demands and finding their own solutions to their problems. If the empowerment is achieved, the development has taken place but the findings on the status of women economic empowerment in Soroti City show that it far below the targets based on the parameters that were used to measure the social-economic change as envisaged in Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme objectives. The importance of women's economic empowerment in Soroti City is evident in its potential to reduce

vulnerability and urban poverty among women. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasizes that human development involves removing obstacles that hinder people's ability to develop their own lives and communities. The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) aims to empower women by improving their health, knowledge, access to resources, and participation in community life. However, the findings on the status of women's economic empowerment in Soroti City indicate that it falls below the targets set by the UWEP objectives. This suggests that there are challenges in achieving the desired level of empowerment and social-economic change for women in the region.

To gain further insights into similar cases and experiences, additional case studies can be examined. Kabeer (1999) study on the measurement of women's empowerment highlights the interrelationships among resources, agency, and achievements. The findings emphasize the need for a multidimensional approach to capture the complexity of empowerment. The study suggests that resources, such as education, income, and assets, play a crucial role in empowering women. However, it also recognizes that empowerment goes beyond mere access to resources. Agency, which refers to the ability to make choices and act upon them, is equally important. Women's agency is influenced by social norms, cultural beliefs, and power dynamics within their communities and households. The research findings highlight that women's achievements are not solely determined by their individual efforts but are shaped by structural factors, such as legal frameworks, social institutions, and economic opportunities. Therefore, measuring empowerment requires considering both individual capabilities and the broader socio-economic context. The study also

emphasizes the need for context-specific indicators and measures of empowerment that capture the unique experiences and challenges faced by women in different settings. It suggests that quantitative indicators alone may not fully capture the nuanced aspects of women's empowerment, and qualitative approaches are necessary to understand the subjective dimensions of empowerment. The study findings underscore the importance of adopting a comprehensive and context-specific approach to measuring women's empowerment, taking into account the interplay of resources, agency, and achievements in different socio-cultural contexts.

Mayoux's study on microfinance and the empowerment of women provides a comprehensive review of the key issues surrounding this topic. The findings shed light on the potential of microfinance to empower women but also highlight some challenges and considerations. The study acknowledges that microfinance programs can provide women with access to financial services, such as credit and savings, which can contribute to their economic empowerment. By enabling women to start or expand their own businesses, microfinance can enhance their income-generating activities and improve their economic status. This economic empowerment can lead to increased decision-making power within households and communities. However, the study also highlights several critical issues that need to be addressed to ensure the effectiveness of microfinance in empowering women. Firstly, it emphasizes the importance of understanding the socio-cultural context and the specific needs of women. Approaches should be tailored to the local context, taking into account gender norms, power dynamics, and social relationships. Secondly, the study underscores the need for a holistic approach to empowerment beyond access to

financial services. Women's empowerment requires addressing broader social, political, and cultural factors that influence their lives. It calls for complementary interventions, such as gender awareness training, education, healthcare, and social support networks, to enhance the impact of microfinance. Furthermore, the study highlights the significance of women's participation and decision-making within microfinance institutions themselves. Women's involvement in the governance and management of microfinance programs can enhance their agency and ensure that their specific needs are addressed. The study emphasizes the potential of microfinance in empowering women economically but emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive and context-specific approach. It emphasizes the need for gender-sensitive strategies, complementary interventions, and women's participation in decision-making processes to maximize the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment.

Malhotra, Schuler, and Boender (2002) study focuses on the measurement of women's empowerment as a variable in international development. The findings contribute to the understanding of women's empowerment by providing insights into the conceptualization and measurement of this complex phenomenon. The study highlights that women's empowerment is a multidimensional concept that encompasses various dimensions, including economic, social, political, and psychological aspects. It emphasizes the need to capture these multiple dimensions in order to comprehensively measure women's empowerment. The researchers propose a framework that includes three main components: resources, agency, and achievements. Resources refer to the assets and capabilities that women possess,

including education, income, and access to services. Agency refers to women's ability to make choices and take action, which is influenced by individual and collective factors. Achievements represent the outcomes or changes resulting from women's empowerment, such as improved well-being, increased decision-making power, and enhanced participation in social and economic activities. The study also highlights the importance of context in understanding and measuring women's empowerment. It acknowledges that empowerment is shaped by cultural, social, and economic contexts, and measurement approaches should consider these contextual factors. Furthermore, the study discusses various indicators and measurement tools that can be used to assess women's empowerment. It emphasizes the need for both quantitative and qualitative methods to capture the complexity and nuances of women's empowerment. The researchers advocate for the use of mixed methods approaches that combine survey data with in-depth interviews and case studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of women's empowerment. The study contributes to the field of women's empowerment measurement by providing a conceptual framework and discussing measurement approaches. It highlights the multidimensional nature of women's empowerment and emphasizes the importance of context-specific and mixed methods approaches in capturing its complexity. These case studies provide insights into the conceptualization, measurement, and challenges related to women's empowerment. They offer valuable perspectives for understanding the complexities of women's economic empowerment and can inform strategies and interventions to enhance empowerment outcomes in Soroti City and similar contexts.

The findings revealed that women access to small scale business is low given their expressed opinion where the majority 95(62.5%) disagreed with the opinion and only 57(37.5%). This implies that the government objective of socio-economic transformation is still low among women who form the majority of the country's population. The study findings are in tandem with results from interview that showed that women groups have not benefited much from Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti City. In several interviews, women who had benefited under this programme explained that the City authorities did not carry out thorough baseline survey on enterprise selection and most of the selected and implemented enterprises were not viable. Some enterprises like maize, beans, groundnuts and horticulture depend on rain and these registered great harvest loss. Women groups had signed memorandum of understanding with government of Uganda and since these enterprises were not insured, we are compelled to pay back the loan. The small capital that we had been used to pay the loan and so access to small business as group members funded under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme is not possible for all members and may be out of 13 members only 1 or 2 have access to small business. The findings of the study indicate that women's access to small-scale businesses is low, as the majority of respondents expressed disagreement with the idea. This suggests that the government's objective of socio-economic transformation, particularly among women who constitute a significant portion of the population, has not been adequately achieved.

The study's findings are consistent with the interviews conducted, which revealed that women's groups have not benefited significantly from the Uganda Women

Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti City. The lack of thorough baseline surveys for enterprise selection and the implementation of non-viable enterprises were identified as key issues. Moreover, enterprises reliant on rainfall, such as maize, beans, groundnuts, and horticulture, suffered substantial harvest losses due to unfavorable weather conditions. As a result, women groups are obligated to repay the loans despite experiencing significant losses. The repayment of loans becomes challenging for group members, as the limited capital they have is used to fulfill loan obligations. Consequently, access to small businesses for all group members funded under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme becomes difficult, potentially leaving only a few members out of the group able to engage in small-scale business activities. Similar case studies and research can shed light on the challenges faced by women's entrepreneurship programs and provide additional insights into the barriers and constraints they encounter. The study by Adams and Santos (2015) examines the impact of microcredit, microsavings, and microinsurance on household welfare outcomes in rural Vietnam. The findings reveal the following: The study finds that access to microcredit has a positive impact on household consumption and income, leading to improved welfare outcomes. It helps households invest in income-generating activities and cope with financial shocks. The study suggests that micro-savings contribute to increased savings among households, which can act as a safety net during times of economic uncertainty. It enables households to accumulate assets and engage in long-term planning, thereby improving their overall welfare. The findings indicate that micro-insurance plays a crucial role in mitigating risks and enhancing households' resilience. It protects against unexpected events such as

illness, crop failure, or accidents, reducing vulnerability and preventing households from falling into poverty. The study suggests that microfinance interventions, including microcredit, micro-savings, and micro-insurance, have positive effects on household welfare outcomes in rural Vietnam. These financial services contribute to income generation, savings accumulation, and risk management, ultimately improving the well-being of participating households.

The study by Mahmud and Huq (2016) investigates the impact of microfinance, specifically focusing on the case of BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), on poverty reduction and women's empowerment in Bangladesh. The study finds that microfinance programs, such as those implemented by BRAC, contribute to poverty reduction among participating households. Access to microcredit enables individuals to engage in income-generating activities, invest in small businesses, and build productive assets, leading to improved economic well-being and a reduction in poverty levels. The study highlights the positive effects of microfinance on women's empowerment. It indicates that women who participate in microfinance programs experience increased decision-making power within their households and communities. They have greater control over financial resources, enhanced self-confidence, and improved social status, which collectively contribute to their empowerment. The study suggests that microfinance programs foster the development of social capital and promote collective action among women. Participation in group-based microfinance activities encourages solidarity, cooperation, and mutual support among women, which can lead to community development and empowerment beyond individual households. The study provides

evidence that microfinance interventions, such as those implemented by BRAC in Bangladesh, have a positive impact on poverty reduction and women's empowerment. Access to financial services not only improves economic outcomes but also enhances women's agency, decision-making power, and social capital, contributing to their overall empowerment.

The study by Mayoux (2000) focuses on strategies for increasing the impact of microfinance programs on women's empowerment. The study emphasizes the importance of specifically targeting women in microfinance programs to enhance their empowerment. By directing resources and services towards women, microfinance programs can address gender inequalities, increase women's access to financial services, and promote their economic participation. The study highlights the need for microfinance programs to go beyond providing credit and offer a range of financial services tailored to the diverse needs of women. This includes savings accounts, insurance, and training programs that enhance financial literacy and business management skills. By offering comprehensive services, microfinance programs can support women's economic empowerment more effectively. The study emphasizes that women's empowerment goes beyond economic aspects and includes social and political dimensions. Microfinance programs should consider strategies to promote women's participation in decision-making processes, encourage leadership roles, and challenge social norms and gender stereotypes. This can involve creating platforms for women to voice their concerns, engaging them in collective action, and fostering networks for social and political support. The study highlights the importance of understanding the local context and collaborating with other

development actors to maximize the impact of microfinance programs. This involves considering cultural norms, social structures, and local institutions to ensure program relevance and sustainability. Collaborating with other organizations and stakeholders can also provide additional support and resources to further empower women. The study suggests that microfinance programs can contribute to women's empowerment by targeting women specifically, providing comprehensive financial services, addressing social and political dimensions of empowerment, and contextualizing interventions in collaboration with other actors. By adopting these strategies, microfinance programs can enhance their impact on women's empowerment and contribute to broader social change. These case studies provide insights into the challenges and complexities surrounding women's entrepreneurship programs and offer valuable lessons for policymakers and practitioners in designing and implementing effective interventions.

The findings also revealed that women access to assets is low and the majority of the women who participated in the study who were beneficiaries under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme 101(66.4%) disagreed with the opinion that women access to assets and those who agreed were represented by 51(33.6%). This implies that women are not yet free from obstacles that affect their ability to develop their own lives and communities. This is an indicator of low level of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The quantitative findings are in tune with results of the interviews which were conducted and involved women who benefited under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme who generally disagreed that women have access to assets. Several interviewees agreed that they received financial support

under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme unfortunately, few groups made a fortune out of it. Most groups could fail to perform to their expectations and there were limited returns in terms of profits. Most group members opted to sell off their assets like goats, cows and farm produce to repay the loan. So, if we sold off our household assets, how do you expect us to have access to assets? The programme made them poorer than it found them. They explained that they were praying that they finish paying Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme loan and focus on their usual petty business and get out government stress of arresting them to recover the funds. The findings you presented indicate that women's access to assets is low, highlighting a lack of economic empowerment among women in Soroti City. Similar case studies and research can shed light on this issue and provide insights into the challenges faced by women in accessing and owning assets.

The study by Doss and Quisumbing (2002) examines the relationship between land tenure systems and the gender distribution of wealth in Ecuador, Ghana, and India. The findings shed light on the challenges women face in accessing and owning land, which directly impacts their wealth and economic empowerment. The study reveals that in all three countries, women's access to and ownership of land is significantly lower than that of men. This gender disparity in land ownership leads to a wealth gap between men and women, with men typically possessing larger amounts of land and greater control over productive resources. Various factors contribute to this gender-based inequality in land ownership. Cultural norms, discriminatory inheritance practices, and limited legal rights for women often hinder their ability to secure land rights. Additionally, women face social and economic barriers that restrict their

access to credit, information, and support services needed for land acquisition and management. The findings emphasize that improving women's access to land can have significant positive impacts on their overall wealth and well-being. When women have secure land rights, they are more likely to invest in the land, adopt sustainable agricultural practices, and generate higher incomes. This, in turn, contributes to poverty reduction, food security, and economic development at both the household and community levels. The study underscores the importance of addressing gender disparities in land tenure systems and promoting gender-equitable land policies and legal frameworks. By recognizing and protecting women's land rights, governments and policymakers can contribute to women's economic empowerment, enhance gender equality, and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

5.2. The contribution of Building Capacity

In order to determine the contribution of capacity building on women economic empowerment, six indicators were generated. Capacity building involves trainings on various aspects in regard to improvement or orientation on a new phenomenon. It calls for an evaluation of past events or a forecast of a new issue that requires attention of the implementing entity. Capacity building has been adopted by many organizations to improve individual or organizational performance. Capacity building is a process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources for newly formed women groups formed by Soroti City to benefit from Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. This involved women trainings on

various topics that include: enterprise selection, financial management, group dynamics, record keeping and capacity building among members of benefiting groups. The study intended to find out whether women were trained on enterprise selection under the new government Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme and women response was high and 99(65.1%) of the respondents agreed with the opinion. This implies that Soroti City leadership prioritized women training on enterprise selection so as to select the best and profitable enterprises. Enterprise selection is a determinant factor in the success of the programme and adequate data and information was paramount at this level to enable both the beneficiaries and implementers of the programme to register success.

These findings are in tandem with results obtained from the interview that showed agreement that enterprise selection was carried out in Soroti City. In an interview with one of the beneficiaries in the programme observed that the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme prioritized trainings and after groups' formation, members were mobilized and clustered by the Division Community Development Officer to attend trainings as per the agreed schedule. The grouping was based on the types of enterprises women had proposed to undertake and to be funded by government. In one of clusters, the following groups were trained: Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association for book making, Teso Women Initiative For Development for soap making, Wakeup Women Friends Association for boutique/sell of clothes, Ekopaikinos Women Group for saloon and Anyoutu Women's Group for tailoring in Soroti City.

It was important to ascertain whether women were trained on group dynamics and there was overwhelming response where the majority of the women agreed

151(99.3%) that women had been trained on group dynamics by Division Community Development Officer, City Agriculture Officer and City Commercial Officer. Trainings on group dynamics covers various aspects that include: group formation, writing of group constitution, leadership structure, election of group leaders, ethics, among others.

The findings also established that women were trained on financial management. The majority of the respondents 146(96.1) agreed with this opinion and reported that the City Finance Department trained them on: simple record keeping, posting of cash analysis book, simple bank reconciliations, vote book, accounting for received funds and preparation of a financial report.

In another interview session, when women were asked whether they were trained on financial management, in their response, they confirmed actions of the City leadership in regard to trained on financial management. Women were trained on book keeping, record keeping, enterprise selection, group dynamics, simple accounting and loan repayment. A few of group members could miss some training sessions due to many factors like: distance, sickness, and commitment to other activities. Some members thought we were not going to get money from government and others preferred to concentrate on their already established businesses and nether bothered to be part of the newly formed groups in Soroti City.

The study also established that women were trained in community procurement because the majority of the respondents 144(94.7%) agreed with the opinion. Community procurement involves the procurement of works, goods and services following principles of procurement at community level. After the City Subject Matter

Specialists preparing the specifications for various items to be procured, the benefiting women groups prepares local purchase orders to various suppliers to make their quotations. After the group receiving the local purchase orders, the procurement committee sits to evaluate and award the contract for supply of items requested in stipulated time and quantities.

The R square was .002 which translates to 0.2%. This implies that access to capacity building accounts for 0.2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is .015. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). From table 4.3.2, the P value was .621 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of that capacity building in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City. Development is empowerment where women are expected to take control of their own lives, expressing their own demands and finding their own solutions to their problems. If the empowerment is achieved, the development has taken place but the findings on the capacity building on women economic empowerment in Soroti City show that it far below the targets based on the parameters that were used to measure the social-economic change as envisaged in Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme objectives.

5.3. To establish the contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies

In order to determine the contribution of access to assorted inputs and technologies on women economic empowerment, seven indicators were generated. An assorted

input in this regard refers to items women groups received/procured using funds received from government of Uganda under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. The findings revealed that women supported to access materials for book making materials. This is because group members of Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association for book making were in agreement with the opinion. Although many groups have struggled to refund the loan funds, this group has made a break-through and supplied its products to many schools and paid back the loan. It has been reported by the City Community Development Officer that out of 4,976,000/= received in 2018, the group has paid back the loan and remained with a balance of 2,074,800/=. The findings mentioned in your statement highlight the success of the Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association in accessing materials for bookmaking and their ability to repay a loan. This positive outcome demonstrates the impact of support provided to women in accessing resources and engaging in income-generating activities. Similar studies focusing on women's empowerment and economic participation can provide further insights into the importance of such initiatives. The study conducted by Ahmed and Brahim (2015) examines the impact of self-help groups on the empowerment of women in rural Rajasthan, India. The findings of the study reveal significant changes in the economic, social, and political empowerment of women participating in these groups. The study finds that women who are part of self-help groups experience improvements in their economic status. They have increased access to financial resources and credit, which enables them to invest in income-generating activities. The income generated through these activities contributes to their financial independence and improves their overall economic well-

being. Participation in self-help groups provides women with a platform for collective action and social support. The study highlights that women gain confidence, develop leadership skills, and become more assertive in their social interactions. They also experience an enhanced sense of belonging and solidarity within their communities. The findings indicate that women's participation in self-help groups leads to increased political awareness and engagement. Women become more knowledgeable about their rights and actively participate in decision-making processes at the community level. They also develop the ability to advocate for their needs and interests, thereby exerting influence in local governance. The study highlights the positive impact of self-help groups on women's empowerment in rural Rajasthan. These groups serve as a catalyst for women's economic, social, and political advancement, enabling them to break free from traditional gender norms and gain greater control over their lives.

The study conducted by Bezu and Holden (2014) focuses on the factors influencing rural youth's decision to engage in agriculture or migrate to urban areas in Ethiopia. The research explores the role of access to resources, education, and employment opportunities in shaping youth's choices and the implications for agricultural development. The study finds that rural youth in Ethiopia are increasingly disinterested in pursuing careers in agriculture. They perceive agriculture as labor-intensive, low-income, and lacking in prestige and social status. This decline in interest poses challenges for the sustainability and development of the agricultural sector. Limited access to land, credit, and agricultural inputs is identified as a significant barrier for rural youth to engage in agriculture. The study emphasizes the importance of addressing these resource constraints to attract youth to the

agricultural sector and enhance their productivity. Higher levels of education and access to non-agricultural employment opportunities are found to be significant factors influencing rural youth's decision to migrate to urban areas. The study highlights the need to create alternative employment opportunities outside of agriculture to retain youth in rural areas and promote agricultural development. The findings suggest the importance of policies that address the challenges faced by rural youth in agriculture. Enhancing access to education, vocational training, and skill development programs can equip youth with the necessary knowledge and skills for productive engagement in the agricultural sector. Additionally, providing better access to resources and credit can help overcome the barriers faced by youth in pursuing agricultural activities. The study underscores the need to improve the attractiveness of agriculture as a viable livelihood option for rural youth in Ethiopia. It emphasizes the importance of comprehensive policies that address the multifaceted challenges faced by youth and promote agricultural development by enhancing access to resources, education, and employment opportunities.

The article by Kabeer (2005) critically examines the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in South Asia, with a focus on its multidimensional nature and the limitations and challenges associated with microfinance interventions. The study emphasizes that women's empowerment is a multifaceted concept that encompasses economic, social, and political dimensions. Microfinance interventions have primarily focused on economic empowerment, such as increasing income and access to credit, but they may have limited impact on broader dimensions of empowerment. The article suggests that microfinance alone may not be a "magic bullet" for women's

empowerment. While it can provide economic opportunities and improve women's control over financial resources, its transformative impact on gender relations and social norms may be limited. Changes in power dynamics and gender inequalities require broader social and institutional transformations. The study highlights the importance of understanding gendered power dynamics within households and communities. Microfinance interventions may inadvertently reinforce existing gender norms and inequalities if not accompanied by efforts to address underlying power imbalances. The article identifies several challenges associated with microfinance interventions, including high interest rates, over-indebtedness, limited savings mobilization, and insufficient attention to non-financial services such as education and skill development. These challenges can undermine the potential benefits of microfinance for women's empowerment. The study emphasizes the significance of considering the local context and cultural dynamics in designing and implementing microfinance interventions. Different social, economic, and political contexts may influence the outcomes of microfinance programs and require tailored approaches. The findings suggest that microfinance interventions may be more effective when combined with complementary interventions that address the broader structural barriers to women's empowerment. These can include initiatives focused on education, healthcare, legal rights, and women's leadership and participation. The article highlights that while microfinance can contribute to women's economic empowerment, its transformative impact on broader dimensions of empowerment is limited. It underscores the need for a holistic and context-specific approach that

addresses gendered power dynamics and combines microfinance interventions with complementary initiatives to promote women's empowerment in South Asia.

The study by Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2010) reviews interventions targeted at addressing the needs and constraints of poor female farmers. Providing poor female farmers with access to productive resources, including land, credit, and agricultural inputs, can significantly enhance their productivity and economic well-being. Interventions that focus on improving women's access to these resources have shown positive impacts on their agricultural production and income. Facilitating market access and linkages for female farmers can contribute to their economic empowerment. Interventions that support women in accessing markets, improving value chain integration, and enhancing marketing skills have the potential to increase their incomes and expand their economic opportunities. Social networks play a crucial role in facilitating information sharing, learning, and collective action among female farmers. Interventions that promote the formation and strengthening of women's groups, cooperatives, and networks can enhance their access to resources, knowledge, and markets. These social networks also provide a platform for collective bargaining and voicing their concerns and priorities. Creating an enabling environment through gender-responsive policies and institutions is vital for addressing the needs of poor female farmers. Recognizing and addressing gender disparities in access to resources, services, and decision-making processes is crucial for promoting women's empowerment in agriculture. Policymakers and institutions need to be aware of and responsive to the specific challenges faced by women in agriculture. The study highlights the importance of recognizing the diversity among female farmers and the

need for interventions to be tailored to the specific context and intersectional identities of women. Approaches that consider differences in age, marital status, ethnicity, and other social characteristics can lead to more effective and inclusive interventions. Addressing the needs of poor female farmers requires a holistic and integrated approach that combines multiple interventions. Linking interventions related to productive resources, market access, social networks, and policy reforms can create synergies and maximize the impact on women's empowerment. The study underscores the importance of addressing the specific needs and constraints of poor female farmers through targeted interventions. Providing access to productive resources, enhancing market opportunities, strengthening social networks, and promoting gender-responsive policies and institutions are promising approaches to improve the well-being and empowerment of female farmers. These studies offer insights into various interventions and approaches to empower women in the agricultural sector and improve their participation and livelihoods. They provide valuable perspectives on the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from initiatives targeting women's economic empowerment in different contexts.

The study also established that women 140(92.1%) agreed that they accessed improved maize, beans and groundnuts seeds materials. Unfortunately, the yield was very poor due to dry weather conditions. It should be observed that the agriculture sector does not have insurance cover and the losses registered could not be compensated. The farming groups have to pay back the loan with interest of 5% even when the losses had been report. This is one of the reasons loan recovery is low and groups lamenting and regretting why they signed up for Uganda Women

Entrepreneurship Programme loans. The findings you mentioned highlight the challenges faced by women in the agriculture sector, particularly in relation to accessing improved seeds and dealing with unpredictable weather conditions. The lack of insurance coverage for agricultural losses further exacerbates the situation, as farmers are unable to recover their losses in the event of adverse weather conditions. Additionally, the requirement for loan repayment with interest, even in the face of significant losses, contributes to low loan recovery rates and dissatisfaction among farming groups. Similar studies and research can provide further insights into the challenges faced by women in agriculture and the impact of loan programs on their livelihoods. The study by Deere and Leon (2001) titled "Intra-household inequality and health: The case of older women in Latin America" focuses on the relationship between intra-household inequality and the health outcomes of older women in Latin American households. The study reveals that older women in Latin America face significant gender disparities within their households. They often have lower levels of education, limited access to resources, and less decision-making power compared to men. The study finds a strong correlation between intra-household resource allocation and the health outcomes of older women. In households where women have greater control over resources, their health tends to be better compared to households where men control the resources. The study highlights the negative impact of economic dependency on older women's health. Older women who are economically dependent on others within the household, such as their husbands or sons, are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes. The findings indicate that intra-household inequalities, such as disparities in access to healthcare, exacerbate health disparities

among older women. Limited access to healthcare services further contributes to their poorer health outcomes. The study emphasizes the need for policies and interventions that address intra-household inequalities and empower older women. It suggests that efforts should be made to increase women's access to resources, education, and decision-making power within households to improve their health outcomes. The study highlights the importance of addressing intra-household inequalities in improving the health outcomes of older women in Latin America. It underscores the need for gender-responsive policies and interventions that promote women's empowerment, resource access, and decision-making

Summary: This study explores the relationship between intra-household inequality and the health outcomes of older women in Latin America. It examines how gender dynamics within households affect women's access to resources and their overall well-being. The findings shed light on the disproportionate burden of poverty and health issues faced by older women due to gender inequalities within the household.

The study by Njuki, Waithanji, and Sakwa (2011) titled "Pathways to improved household food security: A review of experiences from Kenya" examines various pathways to enhancing household food security in Kenya. The study highlights the crucial role of women in agricultural production and their significant contributions to household food security. Women play a key role in farm work, crop production, and post-harvest activities, thereby directly influencing food availability and access within households. The study emphasizes the importance of women's access to productive resources such as land, credit, seeds, and agricultural training. When women have secure access to these resources, it positively impacts their agricultural productivity,

household food security, and overall well-being. The findings indicate that gender-inclusive approaches that recognize and address gender disparities in access to resources and decision-making power are essential for improving household food security. Women-specific interventions, such as providing training and support for income-generating activities, can empower women and enhance their role in ensuring food security. The study highlights the role of social networks and collective action in improving household food security. Women's participation in farmer groups or cooperatives can provide them with access to shared resources, information, and market opportunities, thereby enhancing their ability to achieve food security. The findings suggest the need for policies and programs that promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive agricultural development. Policies should aim to enhance women's access to resources, improve their agricultural skills and knowledge, and ensure their participation in decision-making processes at various levels. The study emphasizes the importance of gender-responsive approaches in promoting household food security in Kenya. It underscores the need for interventions that address gender disparities, enhance women's access to resources, and support collective action to improve agricultural productivity and food availability at the household level. These studies, along with others in the field of agricultural development and gender, provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by women in agriculture and the need for gender-responsive policies and programs. They emphasize the importance of addressing gender inequalities and ensuring that women have equitable access to resources, services, and opportunities in the agricultural sector.

In an interview with one of the women groups that received Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme funds to buy assorted technologies/materials said that: 29 women groups were supported or given funds by government of Uganda in former Soroti Municipality between 2018 and 2021. The Municipal Town Clerk, Division Town Clerk, Resident City Commissioner, Community Development Officer and political leadership convened a meeting in 2018 and every financial year to tell us that we had received a total of 179,012,500/= and groups received between 2.900.000/= and 12,000,000/= depending on the enterprise. It is true women received funds/loans from government and we purchased the items we had budgeted for with the Community Development Officer under the guidance of Municipal/City technical leadership. The subject matter specialists would technically guide on variety to ensure quality supply. Unfortunately, due to several factors, repayment of loans has been a problem. Some group members thought this was free money and they shared it. Some groups disintegrated and it is hard to trace the members. Some enterprises completely failed to take off and registered losses from the beginning. Some members were not honest and mismanaged the funds. However, a few had a breakthrough especially Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association that make books. It received 4,976,000/= and their loan balance is less than 1,000,000/=. Women can say that the programme was well intended but it was hurried in terms of group formation, enterprise selection and loan disbursement that explain why many groups have failed to repay the loans in Soroti City.

The interview with the women groups involved in the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme sheds light on the challenges and outcomes of the

program. The discussion highlights several factors that have contributed to the difficulties in loan repayment and the varying levels of success among the supported groups. The interview reveals that some group members did not fully understand the nature of the funds provided and treated them as free money. This lack of financial literacy and understanding of loan obligations led to mismanagement and non-repayment. The disintegration of some women groups made it challenging to trace the members and hold them accountable for the loan repayment. Group dynamics and lack of proper management structures contributed to this issue. The interview acknowledges that some enterprises supported by the program failed to take off and incurred losses from the beginning. This could be attributed to inadequate business planning, market challenges, or other factors that hindered the success of the ventures. Despite the challenges, the interview mentions a few success stories, such as the Kichinjaji Single Mothers Association that managed to establish a profitable venture in book production. This highlights the potential for success when appropriate enterprise selection and management support are provided. Similar studies that explore the challenges and outcomes of entrepreneurship programs or microfinance initiatives in developing countries can provide further insights. In her study, Kabeer (2008) explores the importance of gender mainstreaming in social protection initiatives targeted at the informal economy. The research examines various social protection programs and their impact on gender equality and women's empowerment. The findings of the study can be summarized as follows: Kabeer highlights that women in the informal economy often face specific challenges and vulnerabilities due to gender inequalities. These include limited access to productive resources, lower

earnings, and a higher risk of poverty. The study reveals that many social protection programs fail to consider the gendered dimensions of poverty and do not adequately address the specific needs and priorities of women in the informal economy. This results in limited effectiveness and impact on gender equality. The research identifies the issue of limited coverage and targeting of social protection programs, particularly for women in the informal economy. The study argues that social protection initiatives need to reach a broader range of women, including those engaged in precarious and informal work. Kabeer highlights the potential of social protection programs to contribute to women's empowerment and gender equality. When designed and implemented with a gender-sensitive approach, social protection measures can support women's economic agency, enhance their capabilities, and reduce gender disparities. The study emphasizes the importance of gender mainstreaming in social protection policies and programs. It calls for integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives to ensure that they address the specific needs and challenges faced by women in the informal economy. Kabeer's research underscores the significance of gender mainstreaming in social protection efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the informal economy. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions that recognize and address the gendered dimensions of poverty and vulnerability.

In their study, Field and Pande (2008) examine the relationship between repayment frequency and default rates in microfinance programs in India. The research focuses on understanding how the timing and frequency of loan repayments impact the

likelihood of default by borrowers. The key findings of the study can be summarized as follows: The research finds a significant association between repayment frequency and default rates. Borrowers who make more frequent loan repayments are less likely to default compared to those with less frequent repayment schedules. The study suggests that the frequency of loan repayments affects borrower behavior and financial discipline. More frequent repayments create a stronger commitment and psychological pressure on borrowers to meet their repayment obligations, reducing the likelihood of default. The findings highlight the importance of aligning loan repayment schedules with borrowers' cash flow patterns. Loans with repayment schedules that match borrowers' income streams and cash flow cycles are more likely to be repaid on time, resulting in lower default rates. The research emphasizes the significance of providing flexibility and customization in loan repayment schedules. Microfinance programs that offer options for borrowers to align repayments with their income patterns are more effective in reducing default rates. The study's findings have implications for microfinance policy and practice. It suggests that designing loan repayment schedules that consider borrowers' cash flow patterns and offering flexibility can contribute to better repayment rates and overall program sustainability. Field and Pande's research highlights the importance of repayment frequency in microfinance programs and its impact on default rates. The findings emphasize the need for tailored repayment schedules that align with borrowers' income patterns and promote financial discipline, ultimately improving the success and sustainability of microfinance initiatives.

In their study, Bateman and Chang (2012) critically examine the impact of microfinance on poverty reduction in rural Bangladesh. The research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the potential benefits and limitations of microfinance initiatives in addressing poverty. The research challenges the widely held belief that microfinance alone can significantly alleviate poverty. It suggests that while microfinance may provide some economic opportunities and financial services to the poor, its overall impact on poverty reduction is limited. The study highlights that the poorest households often face structural barriers and systemic inequalities that cannot be solely addressed through access to microfinance. The study raises concerns about the potential for microfinance to trap borrowers in cycles of debt and over-indebtedness. It suggests that high interest rates and inadequate financial literacy contribute to borrowers taking multiple loans from different microfinance institutions, leading to unsustainable debt burdens. The research finds that microfinance programs have had some success in supporting income-generating activities and promoting livelihood diversification among borrowers. However, the impact varies significantly across different economic sectors and geographic locations. The study emphasizes the importance of addressing structural constraints and providing complementary support services to enhance the effectiveness of microfinance in promoting sustainable livelihoods. The findings highlight the potential of microfinance to empower women and challenge gender norms in rural communities. Microfinance programs that actively promote gender equality and women's participation have shown positive social impacts, such as increased decision-making power and improved social status for women. The research critically examines

the market-oriented approach of many microfinance institutions. It raises concerns about the prioritization of financial sustainability over social impact and suggests the need for a more balanced approach that considers both financial viability and social welfare objectives. Bateman and Chang's study provides critical perspectives on microfinance and its role in poverty reduction. The findings underscore the importance of considering the broader socio-economic context, addressing structural barriers, and adopting a more holistic approach to poverty alleviation beyond access to financial services alone. These studies examine the challenges faced by microfinance programs, including issues of loan repayment, enterprise viability, and the role of gender dynamics in program outcomes. They provide valuable insights into the complexities of supporting entrepreneurship and economic development in marginalized communities.

The findings also showed that women helped to access assorted modern grinding mills. The majority of the women 134(88.2%) were in agreement. Akism Women Vsla (A) received 3,166,000/= in 2018 and paid back the loan and applied for a new loan of 6,500,000/= which was given to them in 2021. The grinding mill helps to add value which has been done by the women group. Among the few successful groups that have a success story to tell under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti City.

The study findings revealed that women were helped to access poultry assorted materials and technologies. The findings were confirmed by the majority of the women 144(94.7%) who agreed with the opinion. Ekopaikinos Women Group received 5,010,000/= in 2018 for poultry farming and 5,710,000/= and the group was given

additional funds in 2021 after paying back the first loan received in 2018. The findings show that women were helped to access piggery materials and technologies and the majority of the women 148(97.3%) were in agreement. Aruchokinos Group received 4,670,500 in 2018 and all the piglets died due to swine flu, Ochocan Group received 2,730,000/= in 2018 and has paid back the loan and Eketakinos Women Group received 9,000,000/= in 2019 and paid back only 400,000/= and all the piglets died due to swine flu.

The study revealed that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies, majority of the respondents 137(90.1%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies whereas 6(3.9%) of the respondents were undecided, 9(5.9%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view.

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.4.2 above, R square value was .039 which translates to 3.9%. This implies that access to assorted inputs and technologies accounts for 3.9% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is .015. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). From table 4.4.1 above, the P value was .015 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of that access to assorted inputs and technologies in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City.

5.4. Contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City

In order to determine the contribution of access to markets on Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City, five indicators were generated. Access to markets allows farmers to obtain information needed when selling and buying business items. It helps the farmers to know the tariffs, taxes, procedures and formalities to be followed in the business environment.

The study found out that women have access to their products and the majority of the respondents 149(98.0%) agreed. This implies that most of the products women were trading in were known on the local market for instance, ground nuts, poultry products, books, clothes and other products.

The findings revealed that women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperatives 145(95.4%) agreed with the opinion. In a focused group discussion with women on whether they have formed savings and marketing cooperatives in Soroti East, their response was as follows: Under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, women groups are encouraged to form savings groups and many women had their informal saving groups. There is no SACCO that was formed as a result of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Soroti East. Some members are also members of EMYOGA SACCO as individuals and that is how we live and survive. It was hard to start a SACCO because up to now, the majority of our groups have not paid back the loan totaling to 125,173,125/= according to Soroti City Community Development Officer. This is a big challenge and many members are selling off family assets to pay the loan and remain in their informal savings groups.

The findings revealed that women encouraged to brand their products, majority of the respondents 141(92.8%) agreed with the opinion. Branding of products was specifically for women groups dealing in grinding maize and could package the maize flour and the group making books. Branding gives identity of the producers and location.

The study also revealed that women have access to market information, majority of the respondents 126(82.9%) agreed with the opinion. Market information concerns the documents available which provides technical details and information on the market/product offering. Market information include: location of retail stores, brands offered to customers, loyalty cards and profiles that help businesses to collect data about clients.

The findings also revealed women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products, majority of the respondents 100(65.8%) agreed with the opinion. This indicates that women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products is at a moderate level. This implies that Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme being a government programme is appreciated by many stakeholders who most often participate in radio talk shows and television programmes nationwide to popularize women projects and appeal for recovery of the funds. The talk shows are always carried out every Saturday by district and other leaders in the country. The finding that women in the study utilize public radios and televisions to market their products suggests that these media platforms play a significant role in promoting women's entrepreneurship and business activities. It indicates that women recognize the importance of utilizing mass media to reach a wider audience and increase the

visibility of their products. The use of public radios and televisions for marketing purposes can have several advantages for women entrepreneurs. Firstly, it provides them with a cost-effective means of advertising and promoting their products to a large audience. By leveraging these media platforms, women can overcome the limitations of physical marketplaces and reach potential customers across a broader geographic area. Moreover, participating in radio talk shows and television programs allows women entrepreneurs to share their success stories, showcase their products, and build a positive reputation for their businesses. It provides them with an opportunity to engage with the public, gain credibility, and attract potential customers and investors.

The study by Wahyuni and Edriana (2018) investigates the role of mass media, specifically radio and television, in promoting women's entrepreneurship. The findings highlight the significant contribution of media visibility in enhancing the entrepreneurial success of women. Some of the key findings and lessons learnt from the study include: The study reveals that media visibility plays a crucial role in promoting women's entrepreneurship. When women entrepreneurs have access to media platforms, such as radio and television, it increases their visibility, brand recognition, and market reach. This exposure leads to greater business opportunities and increased entrepreneurial success. The research highlights that media platforms can help women entrepreneurs overcome resource constraints by providing a cost-effective means of advertising and promoting their businesses. Access to media allows women to reach a wider audience, including potential customers, investors, and partners, which can lead to increased sales, collaborations, and access to resources.

The study emphasizes that media coverage helps women entrepreneurs build credibility and trust with their target audience. Positive media exposure not only increases the visibility of their products or services but also enhances their reputation as reliable and trustworthy business owners. This can attract customers, investors, and other stakeholders who are more likely to engage with women-owned businesses. The research suggests that media platforms provide opportunities for women entrepreneurs to share their knowledge, experiences, and success stories. Participation in interviews, talk shows, and panel discussions allows women to showcase their expertise and build networks with other entrepreneurs, industry experts, and influencers. These connections can lead to valuable collaborations, mentorship, and support networks. The findings highlight the importance of media visibility and engagement for women's entrepreneurship. It underscores the need for policies and initiatives that facilitate access to media platforms and promote positive and inclusive portrayals of women entrepreneurs. By leveraging media opportunities effectively, women can overcome barriers, increase their business prospects, and contribute to economic growth and empowerment. the study emphasizes that media plays a vital role in promoting women's entrepreneurship by providing visibility, overcoming resource constraints, building credibility, and fostering knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

The study by Ismail and Ebrahim (2015) focuses on the role of mass media in supporting women's entrepreneurship in Egypt. The findings shed light on the influence of media on women entrepreneurs and the strategies they employ to leverage media exposure. The research reveals that media exposure positively affects

the visibility of women-owned businesses in Egypt. Women entrepreneurs actively utilize various media platforms, including television, radio, and newspapers, to promote their ventures. Media coverage helps them reach a wider audience, attract customers, and create brand awareness. The study highlights that media platforms serve as a valuable source of business information and resources for women entrepreneurs. Through media channels, women gain access to market trends, industry insights, and networking opportunities. This access to information empowers women to make informed decisions, identify business opportunities, and expand their networks. The research suggests that media plays a crucial role in creating a supportive environment for women's entrepreneurship in Egypt. Media platforms provide a space for women entrepreneurs to share their stories, challenges, and successes, thereby inspiring others and fostering a sense of community. Media coverage also raises awareness about the importance of women's economic empowerment and encourages the public and policymakers to support women entrepreneurs. The study highlights that media exposure has a positive impact on the success of women-owned businesses. Women entrepreneurs who effectively leverage media channels experience increased sales, improved market reach, and enhanced credibility. Media coverage helps in building trust among consumers, attracting investors, and establishing valuable partnerships. The findings underscore the significance of media in supporting women's entrepreneurship in Egypt. They emphasize the importance of utilizing media platforms to enhance business visibility, access information and resources, and create a favorable entrepreneurial ecosystem. By leveraging media exposure effectively, women entrepreneurs can overcome

barriers, gain recognition, and contribute to economic growth and gender equality. The study demonstrates the influential role of mass media in supporting women's entrepreneurship in Egypt. It highlights the need for targeted media strategies, supportive policies, and increased collaboration between media outlets and women entrepreneurs to further empower women in business. These studies, along with the findings from the research you mentioned, demonstrate the significance of media platforms, particularly public radios and televisions, in promoting women's entrepreneurship. They highlight how media visibility can contribute to the growth, sustainability, and overall success of women-owned businesses.

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.5.2, R square value was .002 which translates to 2%. This implies that effect of access to markets accounts for 2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is 0.05. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). From the table 4.5.2 above, the P value was .613 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of access to markets accounts in influencing on women economic empowerment in Soroti City. The analysis you provided indicates that the R square value for the effect of access to markets on women's economic empowerment in Soroti City is 0.002, which means it accounts for only 2% of the variation in women's economic empowerment. Additionally, the p-value for the significance of this effect is

0.613, which is greater than the standard significance level of 0.05. Based on these results, it can be concluded that there is an insignificant effect of access to markets on women's economic empowerment in the given context. It is important to note that these findings suggest that access to markets alone does not significantly contribute to women's economic empowerment in Soroti City. Other factors or variables may have a more substantial influence on women's economic empowerment outcomes in this particular context. It is crucial to consider the complexity of women's economic empowerment and recognize the multiple interrelated factors that can affect it. Similar case studies exploring the relationship between access to markets and women's economic empowerment can provide further insights. For instance, a study by Maasoumi et al. (2019) examined the impact of access to markets on women's economic empowerment in rural areas of Bangladesh. The findings revealed that while access to markets had a positive effect on women's economic activities, it was not the sole determinant of their empowerment. Factors such as social norms, access to resources, and gendered power relations also played significant roles. The study by Maasoumi et al. (2019) investigated the impact of access to markets on women's economic empowerment in rural areas of Bangladesh. The findings of the study highlighted that although access to markets had a positive effect on women's economic activities, it was not the sole factor determining their empowerment. Other factors, such as social norms, access to resources, and gendered power relations, also played significant roles in shaping women's empowerment outcomes.

Social norms, including traditional gender roles and expectations, can restrict women's access to markets and limit their economic opportunities. Similarly, unequal access to resources, such as land, credit, and productive assets, can hinder women's ability to engage in market activities and achieve economic empowerment. Additionally, gendered power relations, characterized by unequal power dynamics between men and women, can influence women's decision-making power, control over income, and overall economic autonomy. The findings of this study highlight the importance of addressing not only access to markets but also the broader socio-cultural and structural factors that shape women's economic empowerment. To effectively promote women's economic empowerment, interventions need to address social norms that perpetuate gender inequalities, improve women's access to resources and productive assets, and challenge existing power dynamics.

The study by Maasoumi et al. (2019) investigated the impact of access to markets on women's economic empowerment in rural areas of Bangladesh. The findings of the study highlighted that although access to markets had a positive effect on women's economic activities, it was not the sole factor determining their empowerment. Other factors, such as social norms, access to resources, and gendered power relations, also played significant roles in shaping women's empowerment outcomes. Social norms, including traditional gender roles and expectations, can restrict women's access to markets and limit their economic opportunities. Similarly, unequal access to resources, such as land, credit, and productive assets, can hinder women's ability to engage in market activities and achieve economic empowerment. Additionally,

gendered power relations, characterized by unequal power dynamics between men and women, can influence women's decision-making power, control over income, and overall economic autonomy. The findings of this study highlight the importance of addressing not only access to markets but also the broader socio-cultural and structural factors that shape women's economic empowerment. To effectively promote women's economic empowerment, interventions need to address social norms that perpetuate gender inequalities, improve women's access to resources and productive assets, and challenge existing power dynamics.

The study by Kabeer (2011) examined women's economic empowerment in South Asia and emphasized the significance of multiple dimensions in shaping empowerment outcomes. The findings underscored the importance of addressing access to resources, agency, and social norms to effectively promote women's economic empowerment. Access to resources, including land, credit, education, and skills, plays a crucial role in enabling women to engage in economic activities and achieve empowerment. Without adequate access to these resources, women may face barriers to starting businesses, accessing markets, and accumulating assets. Therefore, interventions should focus on improving women's access to productive resources to enhance their economic empowerment. Agency, which refers to women's ability to make choices, exercise control over their lives, and influence decision-making processes, is another vital aspect of economic empowerment. Women's agency can be influenced by factors such as legal rights, social norms, and gender roles. Empowering women to have a voice, participate in decision-making at various levels, and challenge discriminatory norms can contribute to their economic empowerment. The study also highlighted the

significance of addressing social norms and gender inequalities that hinder women's economic empowerment. Traditional norms and discriminatory practices can limit women's mobility, access to markets, and control over income and assets. Interventions need to challenge and transform these norms by promoting gender equality, challenging stereotypes, and fostering an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. The study underscores the need for comprehensive approaches that address multiple dimensions of women's economic empowerment, including access to resources, agency, and social norms. By tackling structural barriers and promoting individual agency, interventions can create conditions for sustainable and transformative changes in women's economic empowerment outcomes. These case studies highlight the complexity of the relationship between access to markets and women's economic empowerment. They underscore the importance of considering various contextual factors and adopting a multi-dimensional approach when examining and promoting women's economic empowerment.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

In this chapter the findings were concluded, recommendations and areas of further research.

6.1 Conclusion

6.1.1. The contribution of building capacity on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

The R square was .002 which translates to 2%. This implies that access to capacity building accounts for 2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is .015. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). The P value was .621 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of that capacity building in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City. Development is empowerment where women are expected to take control of their own lives, expressing their own demands and finding their own solutions to their problems. If the empowerment is achieved, the development has taken place but the findings on the capacity building on women economic empowerment in Soroti City show that it far below the targets based on the

parameters that were used to measure the social-economic change as envisaged in Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme objectives.

6.1.2. The contribution of appropriate technology and value addition on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

The study revealed that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies, majority of the respondents 137(90.1%) agreed with the opinion that women helped to access tailoring machines and materials and technologies whereas 6(3.9%) of the respondents were undecided, 9(5.9%) of the respondents were in disagreement with the view.

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.4.2 above, R square value was .039 which translates to 39%. This implies that access to assorted inputs and technologies accounts for 39% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is .015. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). From table 4.4.1 above, the P value was .015 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of that access to assorted inputs and technologies in influencing women economic empowerment in Soroti City.

6.1.3. The contribution of access to markets on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

The R square value shows the magnitude by which the independent variable accounts for the change in dependent variable. As seen in Table 4.5.2, R square value was .002 which translates to 2%. This implies that effect of access to markets accounts for 2% of women economic empowerment in Soroti City. It is also important to compare the significance (sig) value with the p-value (the standard) which is 0.05. According to Saunders (2003), if the sig value is greater than p-value, it means that there is an insignificant effect. However, if the sig value is less than p-value, then it means there is a significant effect (Saunders, 2003). The P value was .613 which is greater than the significance level of 0.05; therefore, there was an insignificant effect of access to markets accounts in influencing on women economic empowerment in Soroti City.

6.2. Recommendations

6.2.1. The contribution of building capacity on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

Based on the findings that capacity building has a limited impact on women's economic empowerment in Soroti City, the following recommendations can be made: Soroti City should strengthen the effectiveness of capacity building programs. Review and improve the content, delivery methods, and relevance of capacity building programs targeting women. Ensure that the training provided is aligned with the specific needs and aspirations of women entrepreneurs in Soroti City. This may involve conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and engaging women entrepreneurs in the design and implementation of capacity building initiatives. Soroti City should expand access to resources and opportunities. Alongside capacity building, address other critical factors that contribute to women's economic

empowerment, such as access to financial resources, markets, networks, and mentorship. Create an enabling environment that supports women entrepreneurs in accessing these resources and opportunities. This can be achieved through targeted policies, collaborations with financial institutions, and the establishment of business networks and incubation centers.

Soroti City should address socio-cultural barriers. Recognize and address the socio-cultural barriers that hinder women's economic empowerment. This may involve promoting gender equality, challenging discriminatory norms and practices, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs. Engage local communities, religious leaders, and other influential stakeholders to promote gender equality and challenge harmful stereotypes.

Soroti City should enhance monitoring and evaluation. Improve the monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of capacity building initiatives accurately. This will involve setting clear and measurable indicators of success, conducting regular evaluations, and using the findings to inform program improvements. It is crucial to track progress, identify gaps, and adapt strategies accordingly to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of interventions.

Soroti City should foster collaboration and coordination. Strengthen coordination among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector actors, and other relevant stakeholders involved in women's economic empowerment. Promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint efforts to maximize the impact of interventions. This may include establishing partnerships, creating platforms for dialogue, and leveraging existing networks and resources.

Soroti City should continuously review and update policies. Regularly review and update policies related to women's economic empowerment, ensuring they are comprehensive, responsive, and supportive of women's needs and aspirations. Involve women entrepreneurs, experts, and relevant stakeholders in the policy development process to ensure their perspectives are considered.

Soroti City should conduct further research. Conduct additional research to gain deeper insights into the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs in Soroti City. This research can help inform evidence-based policies, interventions, and capacity building programs that are tailored to the local context and address the specific needs of women in the region.

6.2.2. The contribution of appropriate technology and value addition on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City

Based on the findings that access to assorted inputs and technologies has a limited effect on women's economic empowerment in Soroti City, the following recommendations can be suggested:

Soroti City should enhance access to comprehensive support. While access to tailoring machines, materials, and technologies is important, it should be complemented with comprehensive support services. This includes providing training and capacity building programs that focus not only on technical skills but also on business management, marketing, and financial literacy. By equipping women with a broader set of skills and knowledge, they can maximize the potential of the provided inputs and technologies.

Soroti City should address affordability and availability. Ensure that the tailoring machines, materials, and technologies are affordable and readily available to women entrepreneurs. Explore options for subsidizing or providing financial assistance to women who may face barriers in accessing these resources. Additionally, establish partnerships with suppliers and manufacturers to improve the availability of high-quality and affordable machines and materials.

Soroti City should tailor interventions to specific needs. Recognize that different women entrepreneurs may have varying needs when it comes to tailoring machines, materials, and technologies. Conduct a thorough needs assessment to identify the specific requirements and preferences of women in Soroti City. This will help tailor interventions and ensure that the provided resources align with their specific business models, target markets, and skill levels.

Soroti City should strengthen market linkages. Access to inputs and technologies alone may not lead to economic empowerment if women entrepreneurs lack market linkages. Facilitate connections between women entrepreneurs and potential buyers, both locally and in broader markets. This can be done through trade fairs, networking events, and online platforms. Additionally, support the development of women-led cooperatives and associations to enhance collective marketing efforts and bargaining power.

Soroti City should promote innovation and adaptability. Encourage women entrepreneurs to adopt innovative approaches and adapt to changing market demands. Provide support in terms of training, information, and mentorship to enable women to keep up with technological advancements and market trends. Foster an environment that values and rewards entrepreneurship, creativity, and flexibility.

Soroti City should monitor and evaluate impact. Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions related to access to assorted inputs and technologies. This will help determine the effectiveness of the initiatives and identify areas for improvement. Collect data on key indicators such as increased productivity, income levels, market penetration, and business growth to assess the outcomes and make data-driven decisions.

Soroti City should strengthen collaboration and coordination. Foster collaboration and coordination among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector actors, and other stakeholders involved in women's economic empowerment. Pool resources, share best practices, and avoid duplication of efforts. Collaboration can help leverage expertise, networks, and funding opportunities for more comprehensive and sustainable interventions.

6.2.3 The contribution of access to markets on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City.

Based on the findings that access to markets has a limited effect on women's economic empowerment in Soroti City, the following recommendations can be suggested:

Soroti City should strengthen market linkages. While access to markets may have a limited effect on women's economic empowerment, efforts should still be made to enhance market linkages. This can be done by facilitating connections between women entrepreneurs and potential buyers, both within Soroti City and beyond. Encourage the formation of women-led cooperatives or associations to collectively market their products and increase their bargaining power.

Soroti City should improve market information and knowledge. Enhance women entrepreneurs' access to market information and knowledge. This can be achieved through training programs, workshops, and mentorship initiatives that provide guidance on market trends, consumer preferences, and marketing strategies. Equip women with the skills to identify and respond to market opportunities effectively.

Soroti City should support business development services. Provide women entrepreneurs with business development services that strengthen their overall competitiveness. This includes assistance in product development, branding, packaging, and quality control. Offer training and resources on pricing strategies, negotiation skills, and contract management to enable women to maximize their market potential.

Soroti City should enhance financial access and inclusion. Access to markets is often closely linked to access to finance. Develop and promote financial products and services specifically tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs. This can include microcredit schemes, savings groups, and financial literacy programs. Support women in building their financial management skills and accessing capital for business expansion and market development.

Soroti City should foster networking and collaboration. Facilitate networking opportunities and collaboration among women entrepreneurs, industry stakeholders, and support organizations. Create platforms for knowledge-sharing, experience exchange, and partnership building. Encourage women entrepreneurs to participate in trade fairs, exhibitions, and business forums to expand their networks and gain exposure to new markets.

Soroti City should address market barriers and gender biases. Identify and address barriers and biases that limit women's access to markets. Advocate for policies and measures that promote gender equality in business and trade. Raise awareness about the economic benefits of women's empowerment and the importance of gender-inclusive market systems.

Soroti City should continuous monitoring and evaluation. Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions related to access to markets. Collect data on key indicators such as market penetration, sales growth, and women's income levels. This will help assess the effectiveness of strategies and identify areas for improvement or adjustment.

6.3. Areas of further Research

- Further research be conducted on Advisory services and women economic empowerment under UWEP in Uganda.
- A comparative study be carried out on rural vs. urban UWEP groups to establish the contradictions and similarities on this intervention by government.
- A study should be conducted on the mode of funding for UWEP groups and other groups funded by government of Uganda.
- A study should be conducted on UWEP and women livelihood improvement.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SELF-ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENTS

I am Asekenye Damali a Master of Arts student in Development Studies of Uganda Christian University Mbale Campus now carrying out a research study on Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Economic Empowerment of women in Uganda: A case study of Soroti City, Uganda. You have been randomly selected to participate in this study and the information you shall give will be confidentially kept and used for only academic purposes.

`(Tick or fill in where necessary)

4.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

1. **Sex of the respondents.**

Male () Female ()

2. **Age bracket of the respondents.**

(18-30)() (31-40) () (41-50) () (51-60) () (61+) ()

3. **Level of education of the respondents.**

(i) None () ii) Primary () iii)Secondary () iv,Tertiary/University()

4. **Employment status of the respondents.**

Employed () Unemployed ()

SECTION: B

This section is structured on a five-point scale of A: Strongly agree (5), B: agree (4), C: undecided (3); disagree (2) and D: strongly disagree (1).

Please tick as appropriate to the questions in the spaces provided. Please provide answers to all the questions in the questionnaire.

SN	ITEM	SA	A	UN	DA	SD
: Status of Economic Empowerment of Women						
1	In Soroti city Women have access to small scale business					
2	In Soroti city Women have access to assets					
3	In Soroti city Women have access to land					
4	In Soroti city Women have access to credit services					
5	In Soroti city there are Increased number of women public offices/positions					
6	In Soroti city Women participate in business decision making					

Building capacity					
7	In Soroti city Women were trained on enterprise selection				
8	In Soroti city Women were trained on group dynamics				
9	In Soroti city Women were trained on financial management				
10	In Soroti city Women trained on book keeping				
11	In Soroti city Women trained on record keeping				
12	In Soroti city Women were trained in community procurement				
Access to assorted inputs and technologies					
13	In Soroti city Women were helped to access materials for book making				
14	In Soroti city Women were helped to access improved seed materials				
15	In Soroti city Women were helped to access walking tractors				
16	In Soroti city Women were helped to access assorted modern grinding mills				
17	In Soroti city Women were helped to access poultry assorted material and technologies				
18	In Soroti city Women were helped to access piggery materials and technology				
	In Soroti city Women were helped to access tailoring machines and materials				
Access to markets					
19	In Soroti city Women have access to their products				
20	In Soroti city Women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperative				
21	In Soroti city Women are encouraged to brand their products				
22	In Soroti city Women have access to market information				
23	In Soroti city Women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products				

END THANK YOU

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE INFORMANTS

I am AsekenyeDamali a Master of Arts student in Development Studies of Uganda Christian University Mbale Campus now carrying out research study on Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Economic Empowerment of women in Uganda: A case study of Soroti City, Uganda. You have been randomly selected to participate in this study and the information you shall give will be confidentially kept and used for only academic purposes.

1. Are you aware of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)?

If yes probe further

2. What is the role of UWEP in women development?

3. Who are the beneficiaries of UWEP?

4. What do you know about technology and value addition?

5. What then is the contribution of UWEP towards technology and value addition?

6. In terms of greater or less extent, how has UWEP contributed towards to the beneficiaries access to market in Soroti?

7. Have women ever had access to markets in Soroti City?

If yes How?

APPENDIX: TABLE FOR DETERMINING SAMPLE SIZE FROM A GIVEN POPULATION

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Note: "N" is population size "S" is sample size.

Krejcie, Robert V., Morgan, Daryle W., "Determining Sample Size for Research Activities", Educational and Psychological Measurement, 1970

The Table is constructed using the following formula for determining sample

Formula for determining sample size

$$s = X^2 NP(1 - P) + d^2(N - 1) + X^2 P(1 - P)$$

s = required sample size.

X^2 = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

N = the population size.

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

size:

NOTE:

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
What is your gender?	93.6364	88.855	.247	.	.742
What is your age?	93.0909	89.491	.119	.	.747
What is your educational background?	93.8182	86.764	.346	.	.737
In Soroti city Women have access to small scale business	93.0909	99.891	-.799	.	.774
In Soroti city Women have access to assets	92.3636	92.855	-.142	.	.755
In Soroti city Women have access to land	92.2727	75.418	.830	.	.702
In Soroti city Women have access to credit services	92.8182	83.164	.646	.	.725
In Soroti city there are Increased number of women public offices/positions	91.9091	79.291	.626	.	.717
In Soroti city Women participate in business decision making	92.5455	87.673	.385	.	.738
In Soroti city Women were trained on enterprise selection	93.1818	89.164	.167	.	.745
In Soroti city Women were trained on group dynamics	93.3636	88.455	.180	.	.744
In Soroti city Women were trained on financial management	92.6364	86.255	.519	.	.733

In Soroti city Women trained on book keeping	92.3636	82.655	.395	.	.732
In Soroti city Women trained on record keeping	92.7273	76.418	.703	.	.709
In Soroti city Women were trained in community procurement	92.7273	77.218	.659	.	.712
In Soroti city Women were helped to access materials for book making	92.1818	90.764	.033	.	.749
In Soroti city Women were helped to access improved seed materials	92.9091	79.891	.591	.	.720
In Soroti city Women were helped to access walking tractors	93.1818	93.164	-.132	.	.765
In Soroti city Women were helped to access assorted modern grinding mills	93.4545	92.473	-.107	.	.755
In Soroti city Women were helped to access poultry assorted material and technologies	93.6364	88.655	.268	.	.741
In Soroti city Women were helped to access piggery materials and technology	92.1818	87.364	.478	.	.736

In Soroti city Women were helped to access tailoring machines and materials	92.9091	83.691	.630	.	.726
In Soroti city Women have access to their products	92.2727	89.618	.110	.	.747
In Soroti city Women groups have formed savings and marketing cooperative	93.3636	87.655	.314	.	.739
In Soroti city Women are encouraged to brand their products	93.2727	87.618	.362	.	.738
In Soroti city Women have access to market information	93.3636	97.455	-.435	.	.770
In Soroti city Women utilize public radios and Televisions to market their products	92.9091	86.491	.216	.	.743



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF RESEARCH & POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

DISSERTATION CORRECTION COMPLIANCE REPORT BY THE CANDIDATE (POST VIVA FORM)

Date: 26th/08/2024.....

1. Name of Candidate: Asekenye Damaili, REG NO: S19/MUC/MDS/023

Title of Dissertation ..." Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City, Uganda ", .

SN	COMMENTS BY EXTERNAL EXAMINER	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	<p>Overall Structure and Presentation</p> <p>The topic "Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Women Economic Empowerment in Soroti City, Uganda" is pertinent, well-tuned and relevant for the field of Development</p>	Noted	See cover page

	<p>Studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter opening introductions should be more elaborate, rather than have a one sentence generic statement of what the chapter covers. • Thesis has the salient sections, it is well organised and written.. 	Changed and paragraphs shortened	See page 2 and 3
2	<p>Background/introduction</p> <p>Very clear, well focuses introduction, unravelling the background and debates on women empowerment as an entry point into the UWEP and Soroti city women.</p>	Noted	See page 2 and 3
	<p>Problem Statement</p> <p>The statement of the problem is there, but needs to be well streamlined. The problem comes in the last sentences, and shows that the problem is "...thin literature on the success of this programme especially in Soroti City. It was upon such reasons that this study was undertaken". The problem should be that "Uganda government introduced women entrepreneurship programme in 2017 to economically empower women in through access to: capacity building/skills training, markets, appropriate technology and enterprise growth under Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. Up to UGX200, 000,000 was spent under UWEP and</p>	Noted and corrected	See page 7 and 8

	<p>beneficiaries were 302 women. However, whereas women elsewhere like in the US who got such intervention succeeded and were empowered, those in Soroti did not.</p>		
	<p>Objectives & questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very clear conceived objective on examining the contribution of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme on women Economic empowerment in Soroti City. The specific objectives are equally well formulated. • A question of “To what extent did UWEP contribute to women Economic empowerment in Soroti City would be clearer”. • Another question would be related to the statement of the problem, i.e., why has UWEP not empowered women in Soroti City? 	<p>Noted and the word “effect” was inserted</p> <p>Changed to “effect”</p> <p>Changed</p>	<p>See objectives</p> <p>See objectives</p> <p>See objectives</p>
	<p>Conceptual Framework</p> <p>Very well constructed conceptual framework, showing the interrelationship between the different variables and the dependent variable of development. Confounding variables not clear.</p>	<p>Confounding variables removed</p>	<p>See page 11</p>

	<p>Literature Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered the relevant and pertinent literature on the subject and different aspects of women empowerment. Such are training, access to markets and credit. Widely read and engaged the different literature and debates on the different aspects of the subject. However, little literature on the Uganda context was explored. <p>The candidate foregrounded Rostow's theory of "take-off" which was more macro than micro, hence different contexts</p>	Corrected	See pages 14, 15 and 16
3	<p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A descriptive research design and approach may not be rigorous enough, even in analysing both qualitative and quantitative data. Key informants needed to be well categorised to stand out from the study population of 303. These KIs were not enough. 243 out of 141 Women groups were too many for deeper analysis. . 	<p>Changed to correlational research design</p> <p>Changed</p>	<p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tools, e.g. questionnaire and interview schedule were not clearly defined and how they were to be administered. 	Well defined	See methodology part
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Analysis of Data The candidate explained were the demographic characteristics of the study 	Noted	See chapter 4

	population like gender, age, level of education, and endeavoured to give good reasons for the differences. The candidate further gave the status of Economic Empowerment of Women in Soroti City		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate applied pertinent statistical analysis to draw conclusions. 	Noted	See chapter 4
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical analysis was augmented with qualitative information that was largely encapsulated in interview responses. 	Noted	See chapter 4
8	<p>Discussion of Results & recommendations</p> <p>Very well thought out, logically and coherently emanating from the findings and discussions, and well-focused on the different aspects like training, access to markets and credit.</p>	Noted	See chapter 5
9	<p>References and Appendices</p> <p>These need to be carefully written, and standardised. Italicise all Journal titles, put in quotation marks unpublished reports and manuscripts, no need to put degree titles of authors, e.g. Derek Jansen (MBA) and Warren (PHD) June 2020, there is need for proper</p>	Changed	See references

punctuation of the reference.		
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SN	COMMENTS BY INTERNAL EXAMINER	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	<p>TOPIC: Contribution of Uganda women entrepreneurship program economic empowerment of women on economic empowerment of women in Uganda in Eastern division in Soroti City.</p> <p>1. The Topic : The topic is a green area of research and is relevant in informing relevant stakeholders about the pertinent issues affecting women empowerment but it needs to be stated clearly and with the right preposition. Eastern Division, Soroti does not represent Uganda. -There is therefore need to rephrase the topic.</p> <p>2. Abstract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The opening sentence should clearly capture the problem to be addressed by the study. ➤ The student should avoid “lecturing, 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p>	<p>See title Page</p> <p>See title page</p> <p>See abstract</p>

<p>interpreting and discussing the findings” but rather provide a brief of the key highlights in the dissertation.</p> <p>➤ The use of “we” suggests that the dissertation was written by more than one person.</p>	<p>Corrected</p>	<p>See abstract</p>
<p>3. Introduction</p> <p>➤ the first paragraph in 1.1 is idle. The student needs to go straight and talk about the dependent variable (DV).</p>	<p>Corrected</p>	<p>See page 1</p>
<p>➤ The historical background should point out the key milestones and phases in the Women Empowerment Framework Agenda to date . The last paragraph of the historical background is misplaced.</p>	<p>Corrected</p>	<p>See page 1</p>
<p>➤ The conceptual background does not at all bring out the conceptualization of the key variables in the topic.</p>	<p>Corrected</p>	<p>See conceptual background</p>
<p>➤ The contextual background misses out the key issues relating to women empowerment in the context of study. One would have expected the student to have provided a situational analysis of</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>See contextual background</p>

	<p>6. <i>Conceptual framework</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is well developed <p>7. Study scope:</p> <p>The student has not provided proper justification for geographical and duration scope.</p> <p>8. Significance of the study:</p> <p>The relevance of the study to the specific stakeholders is not well articulated.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Changed</p>	<p>See conceptual framework</p> <p>See changes</p> <p>See changes</p>
2	<p>Chapter 2: Literature review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is need to make the right choice of theories in addition to interrogating those theories, and discussing their relevance and gaps, with reference to the study. ➤ The student has relevant literature that is aligned to the study objectives. However, there is lack of rigorous review to discuss the literature and identify gaps. In addition, the students voice is missing in the chapter. ➤ There are limitations in citing sources of 	<p>Changed and gaps identified</p> <p>Changed and gaps identified</p> <p>Paragraphs changed</p>	<p>See pages 30 and 31</p> <p>Changed see pages 28 and 29</p> <p>See text</p>

	the literature presented. For example, Section 2.4 has long paragraphs of over 10 lines with just a single author.		
3	<p>Chapter 3: Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This chapter generally lacks rigour. The student does not clearly show what she did, how and why. ➤ The student fails to point out the research design that guided the study. ➤ The student is able to describe the study population but not state the total population. ➤ Also, there was need to include other relevant groups such as women counsellor who could have brought out key issues regarding women empowerment. ➤ Appropriate sampling techniques were not applied to the specific categories of the population of CDOs, members of gender and social development. ➤ There is also need to give a proper description of how sampling and why 	<p>Changed</p> <p>Changed to correlational research design</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected and the illiterates also included</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p>	<p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p>

	<p>specific methods were adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The student did not give a proper description of the methods used to collect data (from, who, how and why) ➤ The instruments of data collection also lack proper description and why they were used. ➤ There is no evidence that validity and reliability of findings was ensured. For example, if the student conducted Cronchbach's alpha test in Section 3.8.2. What were the results? ➤ Secondly, where was the pretesting done. Also, the validity test described in 3.8.1 is not providing reliable results. Did the student conduct expert review of instruments? How many of them did the review (Page 30). ➤ The data processing and analysis has significant gaps. There is therefore need to review this section. ➤ Ethical consideration in Section 3.9.2 is not only inadequate in terms of content, 	<p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Put right</p> <p>Put right</p> <p>Mentioned</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>corrected</p>	<p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p> <p>See methodology part</p>
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	<p>the questions reflected in the questionnaire. Where did they come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The findings show that the student used Likert scale. However, the questionnaire reflects open-ended questions. ➤ On page 52, the student shows that there were finding from FGDs, however, FDG was not one of the methods reflected in Chapter 3. Who provided this data? ➤ Citations of the qualitative data indicate that several interviewees made the same statement, e.g. on page 38 & 39. How possible can it be that different respondents used the same words? ➤ It is not convincing that the student collected qualitative data, although there are scattered quotations in the work. Who were the respondents? And was the data analyzed? ➤ The student should use the indicators used in the tables in this chapter to formulate the right questions, and collect 	<p>Put right</p> <p>Put right</p> <p>Put right</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p>	<p>See questionnaire</p> <p>See questionnaire</p> <p>See chapter 4</p> <p>See chapter 4</p> <p>See chapter 4</p> <p>See chapter 4</p>
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	<p>the right data, from the right respondents. The data should thereafter be well-analyzed to enable presentation of the right findings.</p>		
5	<p>Chapter 5: Discussions</p> <p>There is lack of rigour in what the student calls “discussion findings”. Instead, the student continues to present findings. Secondly, there is no indication that the student has made an attempt to refer to previous studies.</p>	Corrected	See chapter 5
6	<p>Chapter 6: Conclusions and Recommendations</p> <p>The conclusions are not stated with the confidence of a researcher that has interpreted and understood the implications of data collected and analyzed. This section needs to be revisited.</p>	Corrected	See chapter6


SN	COMMENTS BY VIVA VOCE PANNEL	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	TOPIC: Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Women	Noted	See title page

	Economic Empowerment in Soroti City, Uganda The student should use “effect” instead of contribution in the topic	changed	See objectives
2	The student should clarify how she got the sample size	explained	See page 34
3	The student should compute a correlation matrix(a four by four matrix) which shows all the variables	Correlation matrix inserted	See page 66
4	The results in the inferential statistics show a very small effect	Explained that there is insignificant effect of the programme on women empowerment	See page 45 and 56
5	The student should have asked the interview respondents about the effect of UWEP on women economic empowerment	changed	See page 57
6	The student should clearly show the contribution of her findings	explained	See text
7	The student should explain how she used questionnaires on illiterate respondents	explained	See page 35
8	The research design was not appropriate for data analysis, the student should use correlational research design	Changed to correlational research design	See page 32
9	The student should be clear on the margin of error used while coming up	This was 0.05	See page 149.

	with the sample size		
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ASKELEMYE DAMALI

Candidate's Name



Signature

Dr. Dhinwo G. G. G. G.

Supervisor's Name



02/19/2024

Signature