



ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF MICROFINANCE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INTERVENTION ON WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN JUBA (CASE OF RUFU IN JUBA)

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ABSTRACT

The traditional believes and norms of the communities in South Sudan oppressed the position of women compare to men. Youth on the other side face challenge of unemployment. Women and youth are engulfed in the circle of poverty portrayed by low education, customary law, limited access to financial services and high rate of unemployment. The study explored the effect of microfinance social economic intervention on women and youth empowerment. Meanwhile, the study used descriptive statistic and correlational design for data collection to explain the basic features of the study and relationship between social economic interventions and empowerment respectively. Probability samplings were used to allow equal chance to all the clients (women and youth) from population for selection. Out of total population of 624 women and youth customers in the category of women group, individual women and individual youth who had taken credit and saved for more than two times with RUFİ in Juba, the researcher selected 244 as a sample size on stratified sampling technique based on the respondent's proportion. Primary and secondary data were the main source of data and the data were obtained using questionnaires and documents. The data was analyzed by inferential statistic in the like of correlation analysis to investigate and gain insight on relationship between social-economic intervention and empowerment of women and youth. Linear regression was also applied using statistic package for social sciences (SPSS). It was found that women and youth are economically and socially empowered through their involvement and participation with RUFİ programs. Verbal financial and social orientation considered as supplementary to the main functions of microfinance services has made women and youth's feel more empowered.

Key words: Social-economic Interventions, Empowerment, Microfinance, Women and Youth

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INTRODUCTION

Women and youth in developing countries like South Sudan are the prime front runners of poverty. It's undeniable that a man resort to alcohol in order to escape household responsibilities while a woman on the other side will occasionally seek "survival route". You find a woman working under unfavorable situation in expense of her children and family welfare. According to the UN (2018), women have limited access to and impact on the political and social economic decision-making process that affect their wellbeing. In South Sudan, barriers to women's participation in income generating activities are significant. They include a heavy domestic burden with insufficient options for childcare and support, illiteracy and lack of formal education, deficient opportunities for technical training and business skills development, lack of access to financial services, and lack of access to factors of production including land, markets and inputs such as seeds and tools (SudaN, 2016).

On the other hand, majority of the youth in South Sudan are unemployed, and there is limited access for youth to quality and relevant education and training as well as lack of meaningful economic opportunities (UN, 2018). Microcredit helps clients to increase their stocks, income and profit of their businesses (Al-shami., 2021). According to Price (2017, mobility of youth away from rural areas to urban centres in hope for generating an income, better education, opportunities and desire for a "modern" lifestyle. Youth that are employed looks after the extended family of their fellow unemployed resulting to reduction in saving and creation of opportunities for economic growth. Microfinance which is the provision of financial and non-financial services has demonstrated immensely as valuable to the poor youth and women on social economic empowerment and sustainability. When a woman has a personal account to store her own income, she can also gain more agencies in her life (Lagarde, 2019). Microfinance programs empowered women and their bargaining power of allocating resources within household is increased

by increasing their monetary income and the value of time, this leads women to invest in education, housing and nutrition of their children (Vinodhini & Vajjayanthi, 2016).

Spithoven (2020) stressed that youth empowerment arises as important topics on most agendas of African nations. Nevertheless, a panacea to solve the youth challenges has not been yet discovered and effective strategy and resulting policies remain to be explored. With increasing microfinance services global wide that target poor women and youth with anticipation of increasing their level of income and improve their involvement in economic activities in developing nations. The main objective of microfinance is to provide financial services to empower women and youth. Women and youth make up a larger percentage of microfinance beneficiaries. Culturally, women and youth in least developed nations constitute smaller participation in economic activities. Microfinance renders financial support needed by women and youth to start-up income generating activities, expand and actively participate in economic activities, which build their self-confidence, improve their social economic status, freedom of expression and participation and be more active in decision making, this increases their income and job creation for self-employment (Degago, 2018). Poverty is an endemic in South Sudan with at least 80% of the population defined as income-poor and living on an equivalent of less than \$1 per day (Mukundi, 2018). South Sudan after independence on July, 9th, 2011 didn't enjoy peace's dividends as expected by the people, the renewed conflict in 2013 and 2016 have worsened and injured the progress of development two years after the independence. Conflict led to nearly 400,00 people excess deaths and more than 4.3 million people displaced internally and to neighboring countries, 90 % in displaced camps are women and children, more than 6 million people in the category of women and youth did not know where their next meal would come from (DeSilva *et al.*, 2020).

It's said that women constitute 70% of the world's

poor. Until now, other communities perceived a woman as a mere housewife whose main duty is to take care and prepare food for children and husband. They are traditionally disadvantaged in access to financial services. South Sudan's literacy rate stands at 28%, but it is much lower among women and girls age 6 or older at 19% than among men and boys in the same age group at 38%. More on this, 83 % of the population lives in rural areas, and 78 percent of the households depend on crop farming, which is dominated by women (Nada, 2017). Men controlled sale of surplus agriculture despite women's contribution in the production process (World Bank, 2015). Furthermore, women in developing countries, one -quarter to one-half of girls become mothers before age 18 (Fund, 2005). South Sudan women faces similar challenges, because women and men play different roles and responsibilities, the roots causes and experience of poverty level differ by gender, for example right to land ownership, financial services (credit and saving) and other productive economic resources are hard for women to obtain. South Sudan has the highest rate of out-of-school girls in the world (76%) and marriage is the most common reason for girls dropping out and girls who are married by the age of 15 are almost 50% more likely to experience physical or sexual violence than women who marry after 18 (Buchanan, 2019). In addition, women and youth in South Sudan are marginalized from social-economic and political activities. They are less involved to available credit; loan size is very small for business start-up. Women and youth find it hard to present required collateral for business loan required by commercial institutions.

On other side, Youth are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed (ILO, 2017), and this explain that youth live on less than \$2 per day (UN, Youth Save, 2010). This leave youth vulnerable in many aspects which is described by high unemployment rate putting them under the high risk of behavior-crime and drugs. According to recent statistics, more than 50% of youths are underemployed and only 12% are formally

employed (Yobou & Flavio, 2018). 51% of the population falls under age of 18 while 72% are under the age of 30. More than 50% of the population between age 18 and 24 are unemployed due to the weak economics, limited education, and limited access to financial services from financial institution which required securities have largely disenfranchised youth from meaningful economic opportunities in the country (World Bank, 2017). In order to combat all the above-mentioned challenges facing women and youth, there is need for microfinance institutions to dwell more on social economic interventions to empower women and youth through provision of financial resources and non-financial services. This study is designed to investigate the effects of microfinance social-economic intervention on the empowerment of women and youth in Juba, South Sudan. The researcher in his view finds out that there is existing gap in knowledge of what effect has microfinance interventions made on the social economic empowerment of women and youth in Juba, South Sudan as many studies conducted already looked at roles of microfinance institution in economic empowerment of women or youth disjointedly.

Research Hypotheses

- There is an effect of microcredit on women and youth empowerment in Juba, South Sudan
- There is an effect of saving on women and youth empowerment in Juba, South Sudan
- There is relationship between orientation and training on women and youth empowerment in Juba, South Sudan

LITERATURE REVIEW

Related Literature

Social Empowerment of women and youth

Social empowerment is defined as social awareness orientation to improve literacy rate of poor women and youth whose social-political rights are affected by culture, poor education and lack of access to finance in developing countries. Their participation in the community and political institution, mobility, decision-making, increase in economic activities and

employment rate among others are the main contributing factors for women and youth empowerment in the society (Vachyya & Kamaiah, 2015).

Economic empowerment of women and youth

Economic empowerment is the process of strengthening women and youth to achieve equal access to and control over economic resource and ensure that they can apply improved control in some parts of their life. As of importance, economic empowerment, income, saving, employment and self-employment increases. Unemployment rate reduces, increase in economic production and land ownership among women and youth also improved (Mayoux, 2000).

Microfinance

Microfinance is credit strategy, which substitute operative and beneficial collateral for the short-term and microcredit to the poor women, youth and micro-enterprises. It evolved as a type of the informal banking for the poor women and youth (Khan & Rahaman, 2007).

Social economic intervention on empowerment of women and Youth

Social economic interventions benefits women and youth, and can have transformative effects on society by fostering greater investment on child well-being, reduced household poverty, increase income, and enhance aspirations for the next generation of the youth and women (Buvinic & Furst-Nichols, 2016). According to Sultana *et al.* (2017), they defined economic empowerment as the ability to have access to saving and credit by women and youth which give them a greater role in decision making and optimizes their own and household welfare.

Microcredit versus empowerment of women and youth

Microcredit is defined as the provision of small loan given to the poor women and youth inform of different projects. Microcredit provides an influential tool for income earning activities, human resource training, poverty reduction, women and

youth empowerment. No society without poverty, event in developed societies, credit providing facility may be considered a vital strategy for the poor women and youth to safeguard their food security and poverty (Debnath *et al.*, 2019). They stated that, gender disparity or low status of women has been recognized as sheer obstacle to equality and development in less developed countries. Nevertheless, women's empowerment has been believed one of the fundamental achievements in the process for women well-being. According to Mark *et al.* (2019), they stated that borrowed money helped borrowers in expanding and sustaining business hence increase in income at household level. Microfinance institutions provide microcredit to women and youth to startup businesses and increase their income and their decision making (Kapila *et al.*, 2016). Shahriar *et al.* (2016) stressed that MFIs with a dominant commercial logic are less likely to provide start-up loans compared to those with dominant development logic.

Saving versus empowerment of women and youth

Saving is where microfinance mobilizes the poor to make deposit with them as recruitment policy and stand as security. Saving is considered by MFIs as strategy of encouraging the poor women and youth to save more systematically. Saving enables people to save their assets with help of weekly saving and also contribute to individual and group saving (Asad *et al.*, 2020). Microfinance Institution that offers saving opportunities to the poor women and youth help them to resolve their health emergencies (Dupas & Robinson, 2013).

Orientation and Training versus empowerment of women and youth

According to Krishma (2003), empowerment comes about when capacity of the individual or groups are increased through necessary means like orientation and trainings to the level of individual or groups can make effective development and choice and translate the choices into desired outcomes.

Empowerment of Women and Youth

Empowerment of women and youth refer to

increasing and improving the social-economic, political legal strength of women and youth, to ensure the equal rights and participation and build their self-confident enough to claim their fundamental rights in the society (Owusu *et al.*, 2020).

Economic empowerment of women and youth by microfinance through increase in business income

When poor women and unemployed youth access microfinance services for business start-up and microcredit, insurance and saving, it is expected that women and youth will engage themselves in income generating activities which increased their productivity and expansion of business lead to a positive increase in business income that are under their control (Kratzer & Kato, 2013).

Economic empowerment of women and youth by microfinance through increase in household assets

According to Corner (2012), poor women participation in microfinance services inform of group invest their loan in income generating activities that increases their economic security, improve provision of more assets to their families and this positively contribute towards support from their husbands leading to consideration of their views resulting to ownership of land, shop and business by women without complain and restrictions from their spouse.

Economic empowerment of women and youth by microfinance through inclusive decision-making

According to Mayoux (2000), Women and youth access to microfinance services give them a greater economic role in decision making about saving and credit, decisions of this group of people regarding credit and saving optimized their own and household welfare. Empowerment of women through provision of microfinance services is the process and the outcome of the process, by which women gain control over material and intellectual resources and challenge ideology of patriarchy and the gender-based discrimination against women in structure and institution of such society (Akter & Ahmed, 2020).

Social empowerment of women and youth through their right to participation and freedom of movement

Empowerment socially contribute to freedom of movement, increased youth participation, reduced discrimination against young girls, participation of women and youth in decision making in business related activities, ability to participate in political system, access to information, ability and right to vote (Kratzer & Kato, 2013). According to UN report (2018), 67 million young people between the age 15 and 24 reports that they are actively searching for work but unable to find a job. The report stated that, youth in developing economic face have high unemployment, poverty and marginalization resulted to school dropout to help their families' rising cost of living.

Theoretical Review

Group Lending Model

Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank introduced the concept of Group in 1976 in Bangladesh then replicated by various Microfinance Institutions across different nations of the world (Haldar & Stiglitz, 2016). Group lending has been defined as the provision of loans to poor individual clients who belong to a small group (comprised of 5 to 20 members) and meet once a week or monthly to repay their loans (Gine, et al., 2011). Group lending has been applauded for being able to innovatively solve the challenge of lack of collateral associated with access to lending to the poor women and youth (Obinna et al, 2019). Group lending model some time assumed that all members of group monitor each other and such monitoring stand as the fundamental responsibility of every member (Van Eijkel et al., 2011). The model is related to this study since the purpose of microfinance is the provision of financial services and non-financial services to those financially disadvantaged poor, mostly women and youth excluded from accessing credit from commercial institutions due to lack of collateral.

Individual lending model

This is considered as a straight forward credit

lending model where microloans are provided directly to the individual borrowers, it does not require group to ensure loan repayment. Under this model some financial services than group credits are increasingly delivered under individual lending, the requirement for acquiring an individual credits are different from requirements of group credit because individual credits are considered to have higher risk (Armendariz & Morduch, 2010).

Empowerment theory

Accounting to Hadi *et al.* (2015) stressed that, if the poor women and youth are well trained with essential skill, they can attain a better socio-economic status through enjoyment of better health, employment prospects and indeed contributes to the national economic development. They defined empowerment goals emphasize on the reduction of poverty in general rather than raising average income, it concerns with the uplifting of the poor women and youth in improving income, saving, reduce unemployment, infant mortality rate, essential healthcare and education, food and nutrition in order to change their life and living standard. This theory has helped researcher intrinsically gives the actual meaning of being empowered.

Empirical Review

According to study conducted by Ondoro and Omena (2012), the effect of microfinance services on the financial empowerment of youth in Migori County in Kenya. The objective of the study was to investigate the effect of microfinance services on the financial empowerment of youth in Migori County in Kenya. The analysis was done using descriptive statistic involving measure of central tendency and dispersions. Chi square model was used to establish relative level of the effect. ANOVA was used to compare the effect of microfinance services on saving, income levels and investments of the youth between and within group. The study showed that there is no significant relationship between microfinance service saving or investment among the youth in Migori County. However, positive relationship was revealed of microfinance

services on financial management skills; therefore, the study recommended that more training is necessary among the youth that enable them to understand the important of Microfinance services.

Rahman *et al.* (2017) studied the effects of microfinance on women's empowerment: new evidence from Bangladesh with the purpose to examine the effects of microcredit on women's empowerment in rural Bangladesh using the latest primary data. Logistic regression was used to estimate the odd of improving women's empowerment after participating in microfinance. The finding shows positive impact of microfinance on most of the selected indicators for women's empowerment. Microcredit to women strengthened women financial base and enhance economic contribution to the communities and families; increased their bargaining power and decision making, improves welfare and strengthens their voice. They recommended that to increase empowerment through capacity building, microcredit and saving must be supplemented by significant amount of skill training and long-term educational opportunities to these poor women.

Degago and Yibeltal (2018) studied a paper titled the role of microfinance in social-economic and psychological empowerment of women in some selected zones of Somali Region, Ethiopian. The objective of the study was to know how well microfinance services are contributing in social-economic and psychological of women in the region. The data was analyzed using inferential statistics like t-test to gain an insight about the changes before and after the microfinance interventions in women life. Linear regression and correctional analysis were made. The result reveals that women are economically, socially and psychologically empowered by participating in microfinances with focus on providing skill training, consultancy and consciousness raising which are supposed to be combined with core function of a microfinance program of providing financial services like loan, saving, insurance and money transfer let women feel empowered.

Asad *et al.* (2020) carried out a study on the contribution of microfinance institutes in women empowerment and role of vulnerability in Southern Punjab, Pakistan and the prime objective of the study was to examine the role of microfinance institutes in Southern Punjab, Pakistan. The researchers used cross-sectional research design to achieve the objective. Therefore, the data was analyzed using Partial Least Square (PLS)-Structured Equation Modeling (SEM). The finding of the study revealed that Microfinance Institutes are most significant to enhance women-empowerment. Their services such micro-credit, micro-saving and Micro-insurance has significant positive relationship with women empowerment. However, their vulnerability decreases positive effect of microcredit on women empowerment shown.

According to the research conducted by Herath *et al.* (2015) on the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment: a case of two microfinance institutes in Sri Lanka and the objective of their research was to investigate the impact of microfinance on poverty and social-economic vulnerability of women and the ability to form social capital through group-based micro loans. They used four main indicators of Accessibility to resources, decision making, and status of women in the community and family because the study assumes that if these variables have positively affected the women, then women are empowered. However, the logistic result revealed that the household income level before taking credit, age of the household head and market availability for the product have been significant in effecting women's empowerment and reducing vulnerability.

Limitation of the Current Literature

Most of the studies conducted by previous researchers limited their scope related to the effect of microfinance social economic on empowerment either women or youth based selected variables on a particular group either women or youth group. The purpose of this study is to quantify the effect of microfinance social economic intervention on both

women and youth based on the indicators and parameters that are easily measurable at local scale context. There is gap in existing literature about the effect of microfinance services on the social economic performance of the clients in South Sudan. One of the objectives of this study is to fill such gap because microfinance strategic plan in the country is still at the infancy stage. So, the recommendation and result of this paper will be used as reference on the improvement and development of microfinance institution and evaluate the performance of their performance. The researcher also want to fill the methodology used by other researchers like (Mark *et al.*, 2019), only used cross-sectional analysis in the methodology but this study extends the analysis of the data by using linear regression analysis to investigate the effect of independent variables (micro-credit, saving, insurance, orientation) on women and youth empowerment using the inferential statistic model.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used both descriptive statistic and correlational research design for data collection and analysis. However, descriptive statistic was used to explain and summarized the basic features of the study while, the correctional research design was used to explain the relationship between social economic interventions and empowerment. The researcher also used both quantitative and qualitative to test and described the relationship, examine the effects of interaction the variables. The target population of this study was 624, being the number of women and youth who had taken credit and saved for more than two times with RUI in Juba. The sample size for data collection was determined by the researcher using Slovin's formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$
 where; n= Sample size N= Population size and e= Assumed error type1.

$$n = \frac{624}{1 + 624(0.05)^2} = 244$$

The researcher used questionnaires with 244 respondents from women's group, individual women and individual youth of RUFU Microfinance in Juba for primary data. Also, the research used secondary data from previous documents (journals and articles) concerning social-economic conditions and effects of microfinance institutions intervention on women and youth empowerment in South Sudan. The researcher used both primary and secondary data; the primary data was collected

from 244 respondents from RUFU Microfinance's clients in Juba using questionnaires. Also, the researcher used secondary data from previous documents (journals and articles) concerning social-economic conditions and effects of microfinance institutions intervention on women and youth empowerment in South Sudan. The researcher analyzed the data collected using descriptive and inferential statistic.

RESULT

Table 1: Effect of Microcredit offer by RUFU on women and youth empowerment in Juba

| | NA | | SD | | D | | A | | SA | | Me an | Std. |
|--|----|-----|-----|------|----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | | |
| Microcredit has increased income level of my business and provision of basic need to my family or myself | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 46 | 19 | 196 | 80 | 4.8 | 0.47 |
| Used credit to start-up small business | 24 | 9.8 | 173 | 70.9 | 47 | 19.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.66 |
| Used the loan from RUFU to expand and sustain my business | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3.3 | 2 | 0.8 | 38 | 16 | 196 | 80 | 4.7 | 0.64 |
| Credit has led to the increase in household income and make decision on the spending without restriction from Spouse and relatives | 0 | 0.0 | 12 | 4.9 | 8 | 3.3 | 24 | 10 | 200 | 82 | 4.7 | 0.76 |
| Micro-credit has increased the stock, income and profit of my business | 2 | 0.8 | 3 | 1.2 | 4 | 1.6 | 8 | 3 | 227 | 93 | 4.9 | 0.57 |
| Ability to purchase cloth for children, food and furniture for house and own the asset independently | 6 | 2.5 | 6 | 2.5 | 3 | 1.2 | 30 | 12 | 199 | 82 | 4.7 | 0.83 |
| The credit has enabled me to engage in income generating activities resulted to create job for myself and others | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4.1 | 3 | 1.2 | 37 | 15 | 194 | 80 | 4.7 | 0.69 |
| Credit has improved household asset and ownership without restrictions from spouse and relatives | 1 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.8 | 4 | 1.6 | 15 | 6 | 222 | 91 | 4.9 | 0.50 |
| Average | | | | | | | | | | | 4.5 | 0.64 |

The result in table 1 showed that majority of the respondents at 80.3% strongly agreed that the loans has increased income level of their businesses and are able to provide basic need to their families and themselves since they received loans and perhaps, supported by very high mean of 4.8 and Standard deviation of 0.47. This indicates strong collective statistic of existing fact and heterogeneity in response from the respondent. Our finding indicates that microcredit has made positive and significant effect on increase in stock and borrowers has experience increase in their business income and improve their household standard of living. Mecha (2017) also indicated that one of the proponents of microcredit impact is the reduction of poverty through job creation and increase in come level and this expectedly led to improved nutrition, improved education level of the women and their children and also increase facilitation of more business creations and business growth.

Of 70.9% strongly disagree that they received loan to start up business with low mean of 2.6 and standard deviation of 0.66. This proved that loans offer by RUFU are not meant for startup capital but mainly to the individual with established business and this has eventually left behind the poorest with potential business plan but lack starting up capital access to credit. Our finding concluded that the full potential of small business empowerment will remain untapped if the credit continuously flows to the already establish business. This evidence cheerfully agrees with the finding from Shahriar et al. (2016), who stressed that MFIs with a dominant commercial logic are less likely to provide start-up loans compared to those with dominant development logic.

The result indicated that 80.3% strongly agree that loan has enabled them to expand and sustain their business. The credit received by women and youth has aided in expansion and sustainability of their business and this is supported by very high mean= 4.7 and very high standard deviation = 0.64. The finding supported the finding from Mark et al. (2019) stated that borrowed money helped them in

expanding and sustaining business hence increase in income at household level. The result also indicates that 82% of the respondents strongly agree that loan has increased their household income and improved their decision making on the spending of income without restriction from love one and relatives and the respondents view is supported by a very high mean =4.7 and standard deviation =0.76. The probabilities of women and youth involvement in decisions related to expenditures, children's education and social development has increased. This finding correspond with finding from (Al-shami et al., 2021), the household decisions proved higher among women with credit access compare to non-borrowers.

The result shown 82%% strongly agreed that loan has improved their purchasing power and this is supported by very high mean of 4.9 and Standard deviation of 0.57. Microcredit to women strengthened their financial base and enhances their economic contribution to the communities and families; increased their bargaining power and decision making, improves welfare and strengthens their voice. The finding determined that women and youth with access to credit independently purchase furniture, cloths for their children and themselves without permission from their relatives. (Debnath et al., 2019), indicated that the likelihood buying children's and own clothes was higher for the borrowers then non- borrowers.

The result indicates that 93% Strongly Agree that the loan has helped them increase the stock, income and profit of their business this is supported by very high mean of 4.9 and Standard deviation of 0.57. (Al-shami et al., 2021), microcredit borrowers experienced increased in revenue production. Of the interviewed, 80 % strongly agree that credit has enabled them to engage in income generating activities and this is supported by high mean of 4.7 and standard deviation of 0.69. The finding concurs with study from (Mwangi, 2015), microfinance has positive effect on empowerment since it helps create independent contribution on business income and household income. Of 91% strongly

agree with the statement that credit has improved the asset ownership with mean = 4.86 and Standard deviation=0.50. The result indicates significant increase in asset ownership in household level for the RUFU clients with access to credit. These finding concurs with Cornor (2012), who stated that women participation believe to have significant positive increase in asset ownership in the household. Generally, empowerment of women

and youth was measured increase in stock, increase in income level (household and business), ownership of the asset, and start up business, business expansion and sustainability and purchasing power. With exception of loan for startup business, the mean response of the rest of indicators tended to be in agreement as indicated by high average mean =4.5 and standard= 0.64).

Effect of saving on women and youth empowerment in Juba

Table 2: Effect of saving on women and youth empowerment in Juba

| | NA | | SD | | D | | A | | SA | | Mean | Std |
|--|----|-----|----|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|------|------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | | |
| Used The saving for house and personal Expenses | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 3.3 | 5 | 2.0 | 30 | 12.3 | 201 | 82.4 | 4.74 | 0.66 |
| Used The saving for better Healthcare and education for the family or myself | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 1.2 | 9 | 3.7 | 42 | 17.2 | 190 | 78.9 | 4.72 | 0.59 |
| Saving enables me access to loan as source of capital for the business | 5 | 2.0 | 3 | 1.2 | 228 | 93.4 | 2 | 0.8 | 6 | 2.5 | 3.00 | 0.45 |
| Used the saving for Loan repayment | 0 | 0.0 | 62 | 25.4 | 181 | 74.2 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 2.75 | 0.44 |
| Use the saving as back up capital for the business | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 3.3 | 10 | 4.1 | 72 | 29.5 | 154 | 63.1 | 4.52 | 0.73 |
| Used the saving for health emergencies | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | 1.6 | 22 | 9.0 | 216 | 88.5 | 4.84 | 0.51 |
| Average Mean | | | | | | | | | | | 4.10 | 0.56 |

The result indicated that 82.4% of the respondents strongly agree that they use saving for household or personal expenses, the response is supported by mean=4.74 and Std. deviation=0.66. We concluded that saving made positive improvement at individual household and personal expenses, it has taught the clients culture of saving for future usage and safety of the money in the bank and health emergencies. The finding is in agreement with Buvinic & Julaka (2018) who stated that saving increased economic self-reliance, especially less-empowered women who are more exposed than others to pressure to spend. They mentioned that

savings from women are protected, not diverted into response to immediate pressure to spend or saving invested in business improvement.

78.9% of the respondents strongly agree that they use saving for better healthcare services and support education of their children and themselves supported by mean=4.72 and std. deviation= 0.59. The result has shown positive effect of saving because clients save more on education and health care for each individual family and themselves. This finding concurs with Schultz (2002); women invest more on children education and health, policies

targeting women like saving made larger impact on overall economic growth in the long run

The results indicate 93.4% disagree that they save in order to have access to loan as this is not one of the conditions toward loan application while 74% disagree that they purposely save for loan repayment. This implies that saving with RUFi has no connection with loan accessibility and loan repayment in case of default in payment supported by mean=3.00 and St. Deviation=0.45 and mean=2.5 and St. Deviation=0.44 respectively. Women and youth save to improve their lives and invest more in their business not save in order to access to loan the bank or repayment. The finding is in agreement with Buvinic & Jalaka (2018) explained that savings from women are intentionally meant for protection, not diverted into response to immediate response pressure to spend or loan recovery in case of default in repayment.

Of 72% agree that they use saving as backing up capital for the business. The result is supported by

very high mean=4.52 and standard deviation=0.73. This implies that the clients use their saving with MFI as reinforcement capital to their business. 88.5% strongly agree that they save for emergencies supported by mean=4.84 and standard deviation=0.51. This implies that saving has positively enabled women and youth to save for health emergencies and depleted the dependency syndrome from either working spouse or relative. It has brushed women and youth to be more financially independent and self-reliance in managing their micro-business. This finding concurrently agrees with finding Buckley (1997), He viewed saving as a basis to achieved financial independence and self-sufficiency for the micro-enterprise. The results generally indicate that micro saving has made significant effect on women and youth empowerment through improvement in decision making, response to health emergencies and became more financially independent and self-reliance as supported by high average mean= 4.10 and standard deviation=0.56.

Contribution of orientation and training on women and youth empowerment in Juba

Table 3: Contribution of orientation and training on women and youth empowerment

| | NA | | SD | | D | | A | | SA | | Mean | Std. |
|--|----|------|----|------|------|------|----|------|-----|------|------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | | |
| RUFi gave advice on business sustainability resulted to increase in profit and proper management of the business resulted to improve business income | 0 | 0.0 | 7 | 2.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 50 | 20.5 | 187 | 76.6 | 4.71 | 0.62 |
| They advised me on business opportunities in the market which has increased business income. | 34 | 13.9 | 30 | 12.3 | 26.7 | 28.7 | 65 | 27 | 45 | 18.4 | 3.23 | 1.28 |
| The knowledge from orientations on saving and credit procedures has improved my business in term of size of good, income and profit | 2 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.4 | 10 | 4.1 | 230 | 94.3 | 4.91 | 0.47 |
| No advice at all | 2 | 0.8 | 15 | 6.1 | 225 | 92.2 | 2 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 2.93 | 0.31 |
| Received training on business skill from RUFi | 0 | 0.0 | 32 | 13.1 | 212 | 86.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2.87 | 0.34 |
| Average | | | | | | | | | | | 3.73 | 0.60 |

The result indicate 76.6% strongly agree the receive advice on business sustainability this response is supported by mean=4.71 and Standard deviation=0.62. This implies that advices by RUFU have positively influenced business performance of these clients. The finding concurs with finding from (Sidek et al. 2016); access to finance orientation is positively significant to business performance. Of 28.7% disagree that they are receive advices on business opportunities in the market supported by the mean =3.23 and very low standard deviation=1.28. This indicates that the clients are not aware of market opportunities in order to engage and adapt new products needed in the market. Of 94.3% strongly agree that they are being oriented on saving and credit procedures supported by mean=4.91 and standard deviation=0.48. This has significant improvement on loan repayment and gives them chance to apply for the second loan. 92.2% disagree that they have never been advised and this supported by very mean=4.91 and standard deviation=0.48. This implies most of the clients have received advices on issues related to microfinance services. And 86.9% disagree that they receives training on business skills this is supported by very mean=2.87 and standard deviation=0.34. Lack of financial literacy and

business skill training has negatively affected the performance of each client’s business. The finding agree with (Girma, 2021), majority of the clients are engaged in traditional and low paying business because they do not have enough knowledge about alternatives marketable skills that can benefit them when business do not function properly and also most these clients do not know how to read and write or make simple calculation

Inferential statistics

This unit supports the general objective of the study, which is to investigate the effects of microfinance social-economic interventions on women and youth empowerment in Juba and in order to attain this objective. The correlation analysis was done and presented using Pearson collection technique to establish the relationship between microfinance social-economic intervention and empowerment of women and youth in Juba and finally study model was established using regression analysis.

Correction analysis

The researcher adopted to use correlation design as a technique in order to investigate the relationship between the variables in the conceptual frame of this study.

Table 4: Correlation’s coefficient

| | | Social Economic interventions | Empowerment |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Social Economic interventions | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .941** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 244 | 244 |
| Empowerment | Pearson Correlation | .941** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 244 | 244 |

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

The result in table 4, showed that the results were statistically significant, strong positive correlation between social economic interventions and empowerment of women and youth in Juba (r =.941, p- value = 0.000 <0.001 with social economic interventions explaining 88.5% variation in empowerment is shown due to many other

variables. Study accepted null hypothesis that continue effective social-economic intervention influences empowerment on women and youth in Juba. The findings are agreement with Degago &Yibeltal (2018). They found out in the research that access to microfinance services and products have indicated strong and positive relationship with

social economic and psychological empowerment at p value of 0.001.

Regression analysis

The regression models were used to exam whether

the model was significant or not. The accepted significant relationship of the model between variables (dependent and independent) was at 5% significance level.

Table 5: 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 | .941 ^a | .886 | .885 | 2.06734 | .886 | 1875.977 | 1 | 242 | .000 |

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Economic interventions

The value of R is 0.941, the value that measures the correlation between the observed value and predicted value of social-economic empowerment of women and youth in Juba. The table reveals that there is strong and straight relationship between the two variables (microfinance social-economic interventions and empowerment of women and youth in Juba). The value of R-square in the table

=0.886 which implies 88.6% variance in economic and social empowerment of women and youth in Juba which indeed can be described by microfinance social-economic interventions. The overestimation is revealed in R-square was corrected in Adjusted R-Square to 88.5% which indicates variance in social-economic empowerment of women and youth in Juba.

Table 6: ANOVA

| Model | | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------|------------|----------------|-----|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1 | Regression | 8017.700 | 1 | 8017.700 | 1875.977 | .000 ^a |
| | Residual | 1034.279 | 242 | 4.274 | | |
| | Total | 9051.980 | 243 | | | |

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Economic interventions

b. Dependent Variable: Empowerment

The result in table 6, it reveals that the microfinance social-economic interventions was statistically significant at the p-value of 0.01 (p-value <0.05 which is the accepted critical value)

which clearly explain the variance in women and youth empowerment in Juba. The result must be concluded that there was a goodness of model fit for this study.

Table 7: Linear regression Coefficient

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | .748 | 1.475 | | .507 | .612 |
| | Social Economic interventions | .786 | .018 | .941 | 43.313 | .000 |

a. Dependent Variable: Empowerment

The result in table 7, indicate that the increase in one unit of women and youth empowerment as predictor variable which is the dependent variable

is measured by beta in units of standard deviation. A unit change in social economic intervention as independent variable increases empowerment of

women and youth in Juba by 0.786 Units. The equation was used under unstandardized beta and this implies that the contribution of microfinance social-economic interventions as independent variable explains the empowerment of women and youth in Juba. The value of change of coefficient with level of significant to 0.01 which is less than p-value 0.05 of accepted significant level as indicated by significant level in the table above. This implies that the investigated contribution of microfinance social-economic intervention has significantly made positive effect on women and youth empowerment in Juba. Therefore, the regression equation is equated as follow;

$$\text{Women and youth empowerment (Y)} = 0.748 + 0.786(\text{MSES}_1)$$

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The finding from the study credited positive improvement and participation of women and youth in business activities, improved purchasing power of women and youth as a result from increase in business income and are vigorously able to provide basic needs to their families or themselves to improve their living standard, reduced their vulnerability and contributing to economic development of the country.

Saving with MFI enabled the protection of money from chief and fire, women and youth save for health emergencies and expand their business and stand as a backup capital to the business and payment of school fee for their families or themselves and improved their right to participate in community and household discussion, freely move and create social network with their counterpart, engage themselves with business activities that enable self-confidence, job creation and increased asset ownership within the household. The analysis revealed that women and youth participation in saving with RUFi has improved their saving culture and reduced the pressure of spending money on unnecessary issues and improved their decision making and are no longer considered housekeepers or bread

consumers by their spouse or relatives since they are now considered active providers of bread in the household welfare. Saving enabled women and youth to save for health emergencies and depleted the dependency syndrome from either working spouse or relative and this implies that saving improved women and youth to be more financially independent and self-reliance in managing their micro-business. Furthermore, the study revealed significant change between microfinance intervention and social empowerment. Women and youth that have participated in RUFi activities are able to get opportunities within the community, move freely without restriction from the spouse and this enabled them to create social network with their counterpart in business and friends. The study reveals improvement in financial empowerment of women and youth in the community through their access to financial services. The finding revealed positive and strong relationship in correlation coefficient between microfinance social economic interventions and empowerment of youth and women in Juba.

The study recommended that the government of South Sudan should put in place monitoring and evaluation system to provide information on self-sustainability and appropriate regulations for MFIs. Introduce financial inclusion metric into the supervision and reporting standard for MFIs and establish auditing standard that publish data in order to enable comparison among microfinance institutions and provide an update to MFIs and cooperatives about the availability of social support funds or programs. Strengthen supervisory capacity to enforce the microfinance act that will stand as compliance guideline to the MFIs and other cooperatives operating in the country. Provide capacity building training to the management of microfinance institution in order to have required knowledge and skills for them to strengthen their capacities for efficient and effective provision of financial and non-financial services to the poor in the country.

The study also recommended that RUFi should

provide financial literacy training to the client mostly women and youth who needed skills and resources to compete in the market and improve their basic financial management and bookkeeping skills. Provide startup capital to the poor women

and youth with potential business plan but lack capital to start. Increase loan size that enable increase in business activities and business for the clients

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