

# Influence of Youth Microfinance Economic Empowerment in Masasi District Council Tanzania

Aghaton E. Madonda , Anthony Nyangarika and Norbert Nombo

Department of Adult and Continuing Education Studies, Institute of Adult Education,  
P.O. Box 20679, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## ABSTRACT

*This study investigates the influence of youth microfinance economic empowerment training skills. The study conducted at the Masasi District Council among youths who were the beneficiaries of the microfinance program. A sample of 40 respondents who were the youths benefited from microfinance and operating income-generating activities within the study area were interviewed. Analysis of data was conducted by using qualitative thematic content analysis techniques, tables and graphs were used. The results of the research indicated microfinance has an impact on improving the income, asset ownership, and improving the living standard of the beneficiaries. The finding of the study revealed that access to microfinance enables the beneficiaries to engage in income-generating activities such as small business and agricultural activities. Most of the youth improved their business activities due to the credit and other services granted to them, and microfinance had also positively improved the knowledge and management skills of the youth due to the entrepreneurship training programs provided by Microfinance institutions. The study concludes that the sustainable provision of the microfinance program is recommended to widen the income source of poor people. Since poor people do not have access to formal financial services, microfinance services regarded as a useful way out for financial constraints. Microfinance services have grown immensely since its beginning in the 1970s; it has one of the essential strategies for reducing poverty in the world. Microfinance has a positive impact on the increasing household income, assets ownership, and improving the living standard of the beneficiaries in the world. The study recommends to the Masasi district council to help youth to form economic groups and in that way, they are able to access loans from microfinance institutions in which youths can carry out businesses and will be in a position negotiations skills.*

**Keywords.** Youth, empowerment, microfinance, micro-credit, economic empowerment

## 1. Introduction

Masasi District is one of the nine districts of Mtwara Region in Southern Tanzania. The district is situated about 214 kilometers from Mtwara regional headquarter. The total population of the district is 275,130 people and out of this, 132,000 are male, and 143,130 are female. The district share border of Nachingwea district to the North, Lindi district and Newala districts to the East; Nanyumbu to the West and Ruvuma river to the South. The livelihoods of people in Masasi district depend on agricultural activities and livestock keeping as most people live in rural areas, and their income depends on agricultural. The main commercial crops grown in the Masasi comprises of cashew nuts, sesame and groundnuts. Staple food crops cultivated in the area consist of paddy, legumes, maize, cassava, sorghum, fruits and vegetables. Some of the people keep livestock like goats, sheep, pigs, cattle and poultry (NBS, 2016). Masasi district council is among of the poorest district in Mtwara region and the poverty rate in the district is 8% out of 12% in Mtwara region and unemployment rates in Masasi district are 6% out of 9% in the region. The youth's population in the district who age range between 18-35 are 40,540 and out of this 20,130 are female and 20,410 are male and among of them 10,189 employed in formal sectors and 9,140 employed in informal sectors and the remaining 21,211 youths are unemployed. (ILFS, 2016). The unemployment in Masasi is caused by lack of employment opportunities in both urban and rural area.

Masasi district as the local government authorities have launched youth's development funds (microfinance)

in 1994 and it started effectively in 2008 with the purpose of providing microfinance to the youth to improve business and entrepreneurship activities, providing microfinance for the economic empowerment to youths in the informal sectors helping them to create self-employment and reduce youth unemployment. Masasi district used 5% of its total revenue collected from different sources and provides it to youths as a loan on affordable interest rates of 10% compared with other commercial banks such national bank of commerce, national microfinance bank, community rural development bank and Tanzania postal bank which interest rate range between 17% to 22%. Masasi district provided loans to both male and female youths age between 18-35 years and are involved in informal economic activities such as agricultural, small medium enterprises (Masasi strategic plan, 2016).

Microfinance sector in Tanzania become one of the active economic sector which help and attract poor household's income class against poverty, women and youth empowerment, small and micro business development as well as entrepreneurship sector in emerging economies (Massele, J *et al* 2015). The microfinance sector has been expanding the frontier of finance by providing loans and other financial services to less privileged, underserved and poor households Mtani M *et al.*, (2020).

The evaluation of the Microfinance services in Tanzania started in the 1990s which provided the loans to low income households to ensure that financial systems play efficient roles to boost the economy and strengthen the investment environment in their countries (Jackson and Layda, 2016). However, access to microfinance services becoming one of the challenges facing low income household, poor families, small peasants and small business entrepreneurs in both urban and rural area. Many poor people in Tanzania lacked opportunity to access microfinance services despite existing number of financial banks such as national microfinance bank, Tanzania postal banks and national bank of commerce. The establishment of microfinance seems like an alternative method for accessing financial services to low income households, small farmers and small businesses in both urban and rural.

Microfinance institutions in Tanzania are categorized in different forms such as; NGOs-MFI, Banks, Community village bank (VICOBA), Saving and Credit Cooperatives Societies (SACCOs), Government Credit Schemes (Masasi district council), Village and Loan Association (VLSA), Credit union, Microfinance companies, Cooperatives Banks, Licences banks, Insurance companies (Jackson and Layda, 2016). Microfinance institutions in Tanzania facilitate the process of providing microfinance to the entrepreneurial activities such as an agricultural activities small business such as fishing, small shops carpentry, tailoring shop, and keeping poultry and cattle. The main objectives of microfinance services are to empower women and youths, improve the standard of living and development of entrepreneurial business activities to reduce poverty (Massele J, *et al.*, 2015). There is a need to ensure an efficient and effective microfinance policy that supports the development of financial services to help the low-income households. It is important to participate in micro- finance sector with financial as well as an economic system of the country. Microfinance services in Tanzania experiencing amazing growth due to an increasing number of organizations engaged in the provision of microfinance services (Massele J, *et al.*, 2015).

Microfinance in Masasi district council established in 1994 started effective providing loans on 2008 and its benefits both youth (female and male) age between 18-35. The purpose of the microfinance is to improve entrepreneurship and business activities and economic empowerment of youth and women. The district used its 5% of annual revenue collected from different sources to provide youth as a loan. Also, microfinance in Masasi characterized by interest rates of 10% and the purpose of interest rate is to cover administrative cost and facilitation process. The microfinance services are based on individual lending in which youths aged between 18-35 applied for the loans. The loans in Masasi district council provided into four phase every year (Masasi strategic plan, 2016).

Youth unemployment in Tanzania is the one major challenge not only to the government and policy makers but also to the society and families. The youth's population in the Masasi district who age range between 18-35 are 40,540 and out of this 20,130 are female and 20,410 are male and among of them 10,189 employed in formal sectors and 9,140 employed in informal sectors and the remaining 21,211 youths are unemployed. (ILFS, 2016). Youth unemployment is characterized by lack of employment opportunities in both urban and rural areas which result in underutilization of most of the labor force (Msigwa, 2013). Since microfinance institutions provide microcredit which has contributed to significant income and employment opportunities for the poor people in developing countries especially in small businesses (Makorere, 2014). Among other activities which microfinance institutions major into is to facilitate community groups to improve their welfare. This is because microfinance institutions are considered as a set of effective tools to combat some of the community problems in the society through the provision of basic services which involve savings,

relatively affordable credit, skill-based training and even access to affordable medical care (Raji, 2017). Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are therefore crucial in filling the institutional voids at the grass-root- level by levelling the playing field and the rules of the game to facilitate inclusive growth in the society (Mair, Marti, & Ventresca, 2012). The unemployment in Tanzania for both men and female for the year 2016 is 2,368,672 people which are equivalent to 10.7% of the labor force population (NBS, 2016). Most of the studies conducted in Masasi district do not address the performance of microfinance to Masasi district council on improving economic empowerment of youths.

Masasi district council as commissioner is lacking information on the influence of microfinance services in the economic empowering of the among the youths in Masasi area. (Haji, 2015). Conducting this study in this locality will provide information on the performance of microfinance institution in empowering youths' development agenda as advocated in the Sustainable Development Goal number 10 which stresses on reducing inequality within and among countries. To assess the influence of microfinance on economic empowerment among the youths in Masasi area in order to provide a recommendation to Masasi district council to improve the performance of microfinance institution on empowering youths.

The findings from this study will have significance for the Masasi district council. Masasi district council will benefit from these findings as they will be able to know the status of the livelihood of the youths in terms of living standards, income, employment level and poverty level, to know how they can empower youths and provide solutions to challenges facing youths in the country and at local perspective in general.

The results from this study will serve as a booster tool for the stakeholders which engage youths in their operations and to help youths access credit facilities for their economic development and to achieve the objectives.

## 2. Material and Methods

Microfinance is a powerful tool to self-empower the poor people especially youth and women globally and in developing countries. Microfinance services lead to the empowerment of youth by influencing income generating activities to overall social and economic status (Rahman *et al.* 2007). According to Abdulsalam *et al.* (2014) in their study in Nigeria found that microcredit enables businesses to increase the value-capital (physical assets) acquired by the firm while increasing employment generation by firms due to business expansion. Gelan, *et al.* (2011) assessed the empowerment of youth microfinance beneficiaries by examining the factors affecting youth empowerment through microfinance in the South West Oromia Region in Ethiopia. The findings indicated in the aggregate term, youth participation in microfinance program has resulted in increased empowerment index. Additionally, the result of the ordered logit model analysis showed that sex, educational status, social participation, size of business, kind of business, achievement motivation and self-esteem were found to be determinants of youth empowerment Nyangarika *et al.*, (2020a).

Microfinance allows poor youth to move from everyday survival to planning, investing in better-improved living conditions Nyangarika *et al.*, (2020a). Microfinance is a marginal sector and primarily a development concern for the donors, government and socially responsible investors to achieve their full potential of reaching many poor people, microfinance should become an integral part of the large financial sector (Stanley, *et al.*, 2014).

Access to microfinance has the potential to assist the poor in earning income from micro enterprises, smooth their income and consumption and help the household to diversify their income saving (Anand *et al.*, 2005). According to Mayoux, (2005) microfinance makes a significant influence on the reduction of poverty. It helps to increase income and assets building opportunities which make household less reliant on a single assets type and consequences deal with disasters.

Microfinance and entrepreneurship training skills enabling youth to understand the important skills and knowledge in financial matters was crucial. Microfinance training has a significant in promoting the capacity and efficiency of youths in enhancing them to understand skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship and financial matter which are important in youth empowerment (Mecha, 2017). Entrepreneurship training enables the youths to equip with entrepreneurship skills and altitude.

Skill training in microfinance such as financial management, business and marketing skills and record keeping has a great impact on the business performance of the beneficiaries. They can make a better decision on their business, improving their selling and market capabilities. Most of the beneficiaries of



microfinance lack entrepreneurship and business management skills to run successful businesses. A successful entrepreneur possesses microfinance training skills that enable them to start and manage their business in a manner that improves their business and increase their income. Hence, access to microfinance needs to be complemented with the requisite entrepreneurship skills to archive better results (Chowdhury A, 2009). The training skills on microfinance offer young entrepreneurs the chance to learn a better way of production through effective management of productive resources and better management of production processes, leading to high quality and quantity productivity. According to (M, Nelly and Dunford 1998) MFI's can benefit direct or indirect from the training support it offers to clients. If the beneficiaries improve their business and entrepreneurship activities as the results of training, then it is possible that MFI stands to benefit from high repayment rates of loans.

Mensah and Benedict, (2010) argued that the microfinance training has a potential impact on enhancing the capacity of small and medium enterprises for jobs creation and growth in the South of Africa. They also assert that the entrepreneurial training will be more effective when combined with microfinance service. Also, microfinance training enables the youth to have a basic knowledge and skills that facilitate easy management of the business and entrepreneurship and in order to realize the positive returns on the investments of their projects (Grace and Johnson, 2016).

Training skills on entrepreneurship and business in microfinance lead to increase the capability of the beneficiaries to consider several investment opportunities and make a choice that would improve re- turn or profits. Through training received by youth from MFI enable them to gain knowledge in doing business and other economic activities which actual lead to increase income (Abdul N, 2015) and Nyangarika *et al.*, (2020b).

Microfinance has a great impact on the asset's ownership of beneficiaries. According to Berhace and Gardebroek, (2010) Microfinance influence the livelihoods of beneficiaries since the loans received from MFI used to invest in economic activities that generate income. The income provides easy access to basic needs, especially foods, paying for school fees for their children, and other medical expenses. In some cases, part of the income generated from economic activities is saved toward a long-term goal, for example acquisition of assets such as land, livestock keeping or improvement of housing facilities.

Ojo, (2009) in his research on the role of microfinance in entrepreneurship development, found out that there was a significant difference in the number of entrepreneurs who used Microfinance Institutions and those who do no, those who took the loan their life standard improved significantly than those who did not take the loan. Microfinance is sustainable for the development of entrepreneurship activities in Nigeria and that Microfinance has affected entrepreneurship in the country positively through the economic multiplier effects. The impact of Microfinance on livelihoods was focused on the changes in livelihoods assets and the use of livelihood assets to cope with vulnerability. The provision of MF can assist the poor with the means to protect their livelihoods against shocks and to build up and diversify their livelihood activities (Johnson *at el*, 1997). Chowdhury *at el*, (2004) argued that if microfinance is to fulfil its social objectives of bringing financial services to the poor, it is important to know the extent to which its wider impacts contribute to poverty reduction.

Microfinance also contributes to building up livelihood's assets of the beneficiaries. According to Mosley *et al*, (2004), Youths reflected significant increases in ownership of livelihood assets such as live- stock, equipment and land. Through these assets enables youth or clients to be empowered economically.

The access to microfinance has an influence on the economic empowerment of youth in Masasi district council. The results of the study indicated that access to loans enables the respondents (youth) to engage in business and entrepreneurship activities which act as the source of income. This is line with Wanyiku *et al.*, (2016) who narrated that access to credit has the potential to assist the poor in earning income from microenterprises, level their income consumption and help the household to diversify their income source. The saving and profit from the business act as income to youth which empowered them economically. Microfinance makes a significant influence on the reduction of poverty. It helps to increase income-earning and assets building opportunities which make household less reliant on a single asset type and costs to deal with disasters Nyangarika *et al.*, (2020a).

The findings of the research agreed by Tareno *et al*, (2015), he narrated that microfinance has a positive impact to the borrowers, because it shows that the beneficiaries could improve their economic status through participation in the income generating activities and increase income. The use of the microfinance

among the people appeared as the major factor for the borrowers in raising their income. Also, he narrated that access of the microfinance has an impact in terms of job creation, business profits and increase assets creation.

Most of the respondents established the business after receiving loans from a microfinance institution to enable youth to have business as the source of income at the household level. This agrees with Mecha, (2017) who said that microfinance empowers youth by placing money in their hands and allowing them to earn an independent income, donate economically to their households and communities. Microfinance enables youth to engage in self-employment projects that generates income, this permitting them to increase the standard of living for themselves and for their families. Therefore, the involvement of youth in microfinance enable them to engage in a successful income generating activities which translate into a great control and economic empowerment.

Also, the results of the study in line with Mahmood *et al.*, (2016) argued that microfinance has a positive effect on improving the income of the borrowers. The borrowers have engaged in income generating activities which lead to the increase of income.

The results of the study in the perspective of increasing the income of the beneficiaries is in line with Naeem, *et al.*, (2014), who argues that microfinance brings impact on the income of the households because most of the microfinance beneficiaries engaged in income generating activities which enable them to develop profits in their business. The findings of the study in line with Menon, (2006) which indicated that microfinance has effects on the households in minimizing the income shortage and increase household consumptions.

Microcredit training on the youth has a positive effect on the economic empowerment of youth in Masasi district council. Most of the respondents argued that they had been taught on how to run an entrepreneurship activity, were trained in financial management skills, also imparted with knowledge on Loan purpose, received education on how to make good use of the micro-credits obtained, and benefitted with knowledge on record keeping and saving. The study revealed that training on microcredit improve the performance of the business and increase income among the respondents. This finding is line with Abdul N, *et al.*, (2015) who narrated that beneficiaries of microfinance who possesses training skills enable them to start and manage their business in a manner that improves their business and increase their income. Hence, access to microfinance needs to be accompanied with the necessary entrepreneurship skills to achieve better results (Chowdhury A, 2009). The training skills on microcredit offer youths the chance to learn a better way of production through effective management of productive resources and better management of production processes, leading to high quality and quantity productivity. The research concludes that, provides training on microfinance empowered young entrepreneurs in improving business productivity and increasing income. The finding of the study is line with Masseur J, *et al.*, (2015) revealed that the purpose of microfinance and entrepreneurship training are general to enable the beneficiaries of microfinance to manage well their entrepreneurship activities because of microfinance as the financial booster of improving business and income as well.

### 3. Methods

This study was conducted at Masasi district council in Mtwara region. Two villages within the district Mwena and Mpowora. A total number of 40 respondents were interviewed in those villages, because the selection involved two villages due to proximity and availability of respondents required to get the diversity of ideas and perspectives from different respondents. In each village, a total number of 20 respondents were selected for semi-structured interview to get in-depth information from the respondents, and three key informants from microfinance institutions and in Masasi district council were interviewed. This study used both primary and secondary data, where the primary data collected directly from the field which gathered from the study area through respondents using the semi-structured interview. While the secondary data accessed through Libraries, reports, articles and relevant authorities. The villages were selected based on youths who were the beneficiaries (receivers) of the microfinance from Masasi district council.

### 4. Results

This part shows the influence of microfinance on the economic empowerment of Youth in Masasi district Council. The respondents were interviewed, and responses were to assist in analysis on the influence of microfinance on the economic empowerment of youths.

*Table 1: Loans size distribution per phases*

| Loan size    | Number of respondents | Sex of the respondents. |           | The phase of loan distributions |          |           |           |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|              |                       | Male                    | Female    | phase 1                         | phase 2. | phase3.   | phase 4.  |
| 500,000      | 5                     | 3                       | 2         | 5                               | -        | -         | -         |
| 1,000,000    | 6                     | 3                       | 3         |                                 | 2        | 4         |           |
| 1,500,000    | 8                     | 3                       | 5         | -                               | 3        | 1         | 4         |
| 2,000,000    | 7                     | 4                       | 3         | -                               | -        | 3         | 4         |
| 2,500,000    | 6                     | 2                       | 4         | -                               | -        | 2         | 4         |
| 3,000,000.   | 8                     | 5                       | 3         | -                               | -        | 3         | 5         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>40</b>             | <b>20</b>               | <b>20</b> | <b>5</b>                        | <b>5</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>17</b> |

Source: Field data,2020.

In (Table 1) above indicated that in first phase there were few numbers of youths who were seeking for loans because most of the youths were scared on repaying the loans and its interest rates, whilst their pre-determined expectations were to make a profit on their entrepreneurship and business activities. Also, in phase two up to four the results indicated that the respondents had an understanding on the benefits of microfinance through an inspiration of increased income generation in their household but also taking loans several times have increased their incomes.

Table 2: Amount of the loans of the respondents and the ways on how they invested

| Amount of loans | Use of loan                  | Respondents.       |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 500,000         | Gardening                    | 4 (2 men, 2 women) |
|                 | Purchase items for the shop  | 1(man)             |
| 1,000,000       | Keeping poultry              | 3(women)           |
|                 | Small shop                   | 2 (men)            |
|                 | Cashew nuts                  | 1(man)             |
| 1,500,000       | Milky cow                    | 2 (women)          |
|                 | Milling machine              | 1(man)             |
|                 | Keeping poultry              | 1(women)           |
|                 | Small shop                   | 1(woman)           |
|                 | Purchasing a metal shop      | 1(man)             |
|                 | Selling cashew nuts          | 1(man)             |
|                 | Purchase maize               | 1(woman)           |
| 2,000,000       | Purchase carpentry equipment | 2 (men)            |
|                 | Small shop                   | 2(woman, 1 man)    |
|                 | Poultry                      | 1(woman)           |
|                 | Purchase cashewnuts          | 1(man)             |

|           |                             |                  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 2,500,000 | Purchase carpentry shop     | 1(man)           |
|           | Milky cow                   | 1(woman)         |
|           | Purchase cashewnuts         | (1 man, 1woman)  |
|           | Tailoring shop              | 1(woman)         |
|           | poultry                     | 1 (woman)        |
| 3,000,000 | Milky cow                   | 1(woman)         |
|           | Purchasing a sewing machine | 1(woman)         |
|           | Small shop                  | 2(1woman, 1 man) |
|           | Purchase cashewnuts         | 1(man)           |
|           | Motorcycle                  | 1(man)           |
|           | Dug water well              | 1(man)           |
|           | Green house (tomatoes)      | 1(man)           |

Source: Field data, 2018

The (Table 2) above shows an overview of the respondents with the amount of loans they received and way on how they invested their loans in the income generating activities. From the table 4 above indicated that female youths engaged in the income generating activities which enabled them to acquire profits for short time and repay back the loans on time. The results show that some of the male youths took the loans and sometime failed to repay back because the money was spent on other expenses rather than on projects investment. The male and female youth respondents revealed that accessing microfinance from microfinance institution enable them to improve their income. One of the female respondents revealed that 'After I applied for loans for the second phase to expand my venture, now I can increase my income, and I can buy clothes for a special occasion such as Christmas', having big families, whatever saving, we try to make, is still spent on children's clothes, education and household'.

The respondents in phase two up to four also revealed that access of the microfinance enables them to improve their investment in the economic activities in agricultural activities, gardening and keeping chicken, goats, cattle. These investments activities improved the economic empowerment of the youths. One of the male respondents revealed that ..... 'I took, 1,500,000/=millions Tanzania shilling loans for the second time and I invested in a milling machine. After one year I got 2,000,000 million in returns, and from that income, I managed to pay school fees for my two children studying in secondary school'. Another male respondent revealed that 'I took 1,500,000 Tanzania shilling for the third time, and I pay for laborers who dug a water well, and I sold water for one year. And I have increased my household income and investment'. Accessing credit has a positive impact on the investment and improving the living standard of the male and female respondents.

The finding shows that the respondents in phase two up to four revealed that the access of microfinance enabled beneficiaries to increase the level of saving. Most of the respondents engaged in income generating activities and small business which enable them to improve the profits and saving. One of the male respondents revealed that .... 'With the loan of 3,000,000 I managed to establish a small shop which gives a profit. Some of my profit I decided to put into my bank account as saving and enable me to repay back the loans'. From the findings above, income status of the respondents in phase II, III and IV show greater growths compared to the income of the respondents in phase one because the respondents in phase I, II and III accessed the loans for several phases which enable them to engage income generating activities for a long time and it improved the household income of the respondents.

Microcredit and entrepreneurship training skills have an impact on the business performance of the entrepreneurs. The training in business enables a successful entrepreneur to possess skills that enable to establish and manage their business in a way that improves this business and increase income. The access to credit needs to compliment with the entrepreneurship skills to achieve good results for the business. Respondents were asked to indicate whether the MFI that loaned them offered any entrepreneurship training



skills. The findings revealed that the Microfinance Institution offered microcredit's training to the respondents to have the basic skills on how to start and manage their businesses and allocate the resources as well as this statement was revealed by the key informants.

The results of the research indicated that 32 out of 40 of respondents equal to 80% received the training on microfinance and entrepreneurship skills. The respondents said that they were trained in how to run an entrepreneurship activity, financial management skills, marketing strategies and product value added. Also, the results revealed that the respondents received training on record keeping, management and operation of the business entity, management of daily business transactions, products pricing, how to set the price of products, product innovation and technical support.

The results from the respondents indicated that microfinance training enables the respondents to manage their business and minimize the misuse of the of a loan secured for the intended purpose, competition, minimize risk related to bankrupt, market trends, lack of proper business skills and knowledge. The results indicated that eight (8) out of 40 respondent's equals to 20% did not receive any training because they were not sure the training session offered by microfinance institution is of importance in conducting small businesses. The respondents revealed that microfinance training had benefited them on acquiring knowledge on how to manage well funds circulating in business, benefited on savings and record keeping, knowledge on knowing different entrepreneurial opportunities, procedures of adding value for the products and marketing. *One of the female respondents revealed that...."I received training on entrepreneurship especial on making soap...now I manage to make 50 liters of soap per week and I sold to my customers to increase my income, I manage to pay school fees for my child and my business still going on."*

The male and female youths revealed that the microcredit's training provided by MFI and local government has enabled the beneficiary's opportunities to learn a better way of production through the management of productive resources, improving production and enhance increased income. *One of the male respondents revealed that.... "running business and entrepreneurship activities has increased my income which I use to complement other activities in meeting basic needs especially foods, medical expenses and by doing so it has empowered me economically."*

## 5. Conclusion

The conclusion of the study based on the research question and sub questions, which was the influence of microfinance on the economic empowerment of the youth, the influence of microfinance on the asset's ownership of the youths and influence of microfinance training on the economic empowerment of the youths. The study concluded that the access to credit in a microfinance institution has a potential contribution to increasing the income of the youths, facilitated self-employment and employed youths in informal sectors.

- On the influence of microfinance to economic empowerment of the youth. The research found that accessing microfinance has enabled the male and female youths to engage in income generating activities and increased their income. It is recommended to Masasi district council through community development officers to help youth form economic groups and in that way, they are able to access loans from Microfinance institutions which the youth can use to carry out their businesses and will be in a position negotiation skill. The access of loans in groups will enable the youth to earn income through the economic activities.
- The research has found that microfinance has an impact on the asset's ownership of the youths. The income generating activities facilitated the increase of income which enables them to buy and owned assets such as land, motorcycle, power tiller machine, constructed house, keeping chicken, goat and cow. Therefore, the research is recommending to Masasi district council to provide microfinance to the low-income people especial youths in both urban and rural area to invest in small business and small farming activities to generate profits and to increase the number of assets ownership. The assets sometime act as the collateral security in acquiring loans from microfinance institutions.

## References

1. Berhane, G., & Gardebroek, C., 2010 "Does Microfinance Reduce Rural Poverty? Evidence Based on Household Panel Data from Northern Ethiopia," American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 93 (1), 43-55.
2. Biggeri, M. and Ferrannini, A., 2014 'Sustainable Human Development'. doi: 10.1057/9781137380296.



- Black, J.A. and Champion, D.J., 2016 *Methods and Issues in Social Research*, New York: Wiley
3. Chowdhury A., 2009, *Microfinance as a Poverty Reduction Tool: A Critical Assessment*, DESA working paper no. ST/ESA/2009/DWP/89 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
  4. FAO.,2009 *The Livelihood Assessment Tool-kit, The effects of a brief mindfulness intervention on acute pain experience: An examination of individual difference.* doi10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004.
  5. Grace and Johnson., 2017 ‘*Prevailing Gaps in the Functioning of Microfinance Institutions in Rural Areas; the Case Study of Lokingamma SACCOS at Mwika in Moshi Rural District, Tanzania*’, *The International Journal of Business and Management*, 5(2), pp. 79–84.
  6. Haji, M., 2015 ‘*Youth employment in Tanzania Taking stock of the evidence and knowledge gaps Youth employment in Tanzania.* Available at: [www.mastercardfdn.org%0Awww.idrc.ca](http://www.mastercardfdn.org%0Awww.idrc.ca).
  7. Hietalahti J. and M. Linden., 2006, “*Socio-Economic Impacts of Microfinance and Repayment Performance: A Case Study of the Small Enterprise Foundation, South Africa,*” *Progress in Development Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 201-210.
  8. Ismail A, Ahmad ZS, Hasan M, Rozanariah M., 2011 *Procedural justice as a moderator in the relationship between performance appraisal communication and job satisfaction.* *Scientific E-journal of Management Science* **19** (7), 162-186.
  9. Jackson, M. and Layda, W., 2016 ‘*Microfinance in Tanzania: Assessment of The Gap Between Services Provided and Market Demand, The Case Of Arusha And Arumeru Districts*’, (2), pp. 520–532.
  10. Kayunze, K, Orissa, J. and Mwakalobo, A., 2005. *Credit for enriching or impoverishing? Voices of credit recipients in the southern highlands of Tanzania.* *Tanzanian Journal of Development Studies*, 6(2), pp.79-93.
  11. Kuzilwa, J. A., 2002. *The Role of Credit for Small Business Success: A Study of the National Entrepreneurship Development Fund in Tanzania.* In; of ICAESB conference, White Sand Hotel, Dar es Salaam
  12. Liliane, U, Mbambazi P., 2015 ‘*The Impact of Women Economic Empowerment Projects on Their So- cio-Economic Development in Rwanda: European Journal of Business and Social Sciences*, 4(6), pp. 59–87.
  13. Mahmood, T. et al. 2016 ‘*Impact of Microfinance on Income Generation and living standards: A Case Study of Dera Ghazi Khan Division*’, *Pakistan Economic and Social Review*, 54 pp. 73–80
  14. Mair J., Martí I., and Ventresca M., 2012. *Building Inclusive Markets in Rural Bangladesh: How Intermediaries Work Institutional Voids.* *Academy of Management Journal*, 55(4): 819-850.
  15. Makorere, R., 2014. *The role of microfinance in promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania: Empirical Evidence from SMEs holder who has received microcredit from financial institutions in Morogoro, Tanzania.* *Global Business and Economics Research Journal*, 3(4): 1-19. *management*, 14, 176.
  16. Mtani Mugabe, & Anthony Nyangarika. (2020). Constraints of Empowering Women’s Entrepreneur’s and its Impact in Community Welfare in Tanzania. *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovative Ideas in Education*, 6(4), 1696-1709.
  17. Massele, J., Fengju, X. and Zabron., 2015 ‘*The Role of Government Microfinance Credit Scheme in Tanzania: A Case of NEDF-SIDO*’, *IOSR Journal of Business and Management Ver. I*, 17(7), pp. 2319– 7668. doi: 10.9790/487X-17710519.
  18. Mayoux, L. ,2005. *Microfinance and the Empowerment of Women: A Review of Key Issue*, *Social Finance Unit. IFAD publication*
  19. Mecha, N. S., 2017 ‘*The Role of Microfinance in Youth Empowerment. An Examination of Theoretical Literature*’, 7(2), pp. 435–451.

21. Nyangarika Anthony, & Bernadetha .B. Kapinga. (2020a). Impact of Community Involvement in Development of Secondary Schools in Tunduru District Council. *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovative Ideas in Education*, 6(4), 418-430.
22. Nyangarika Anthony, & Felician S.M. Bundala. (2020b). Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Deposits Growth in Sacco's Development Case of Geita Tanzania. *International Journal of Advance Research and Innovative Ideas in Education*, 6(2), 1273-1288.
23. Ng 'ang' a N.S, 2015, *Social Factors that Influence Loan Accessibility by Youth Entrepreneurs in Kenya: A Case of Youth Enterprise Development Fund in Gatundu South Constituency International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*.
24. Ojo, O., 2009. *Impact of microfinance on entrepreneurship development: The case of Nigeria. Proceedings of the International Conference on Administration and Business*, Nov. 14-15, Faculty of Administration and Business, University of Bucharest, Romania.
25. Onyina P.A. and S. Turnell., 2013 "The Impacts of a Microfinance Lending Scheme on Clients in Ghana," *Accounting and Taxation*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 79-88.
26. Raji, A., 2017. *The Role of Microfinance in Women's Empowerment; A Comparative URT (2008) Report on Launching Microfinance Policy*.
27. Stanley, B., Fondo, F., 2014 'The Role Microfinance in Economic Empowerment of the Youth (A case of Mombasa County)', *IOSR Journal of Business and Management Ver. 1, 16(5)*, pp. 2319-7668. Available at: [www.iosrjournals.org](http://www.iosrjournals.org).
28. Terano, R., Mohamed, Z. and Jusri, H., 2015 'Effectiveness of microcredit program and determinants of income among small business entrepreneurs in Malaysia', *Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research. Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research*, 5(1), p. 22. doi: 10.1186/s40497-015-0038-3.
29. Wanjohi, A., 2009. *Management of Business Challenges among Small and Medium Enterprises in Nai-robi-Kenya*.