EFFECT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN GROUPS IN NORTHERN RANGELAND TRUST, KENYA

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DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other University.

Sign………………... Date………………………………...

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Recommendation

We confirm that the candidate carried out the work reported in this thesis under our supervision.

Sign………………... Date………………………………...

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Sign………………... Date………………………………...

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to God Almighty my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He has been the source of my strength throughout this program and on His wings only have I soared. I wholeheartedly dedicate this work to my late dad who always wanted me to prosper in academics and gave me full support to achieve my desired goals. I also dedicate this work to my husband K L Karmushu who has encouraged me all the way and whose encouragement has made sure that I give it all it takes to finish that which I have started and my children who have been affected in every way possible by this quest.

Thank you. My love for you all can never be quantified. God bless you.

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ABSTRACT

Women groups are empowerment associations that form a basis that women can rely not only for professional growth but also for propelling each other to power and opening up great opportunities that make them outstanding leaders in businesses and companies. That notwithstanding, financial illiteracy among women in North Rangeland Trust groups remains persistent. The main objective of the study was to investigate effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. Specific objectives were; To evaluate the effect of social networks, social support, social participation social cohesion on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. Empowerment theory guided social network variable of the study. Social Capital theory guided social support variable of the study. Social exchange theory guided social participation and social cohesion variables of the study. The current study used descriptive research design to collect quantitative and qualitative data. The target population was 10 women groups registered in Northern Rangeland Trust. The respondents were 10 chairladies, 10 secretaries, 10 treasurers, and 152 women members. Women group leaders were interviewed while the women who were members of self-help groups answered the questionnaire. The study conducted pre-test on 1 women group in Samburu County selected using simple random method. The study also sampled 1 chairlady, 1 secretary, 1 treasurer and 15 women members. Chairladies, secretaries and treasurers were selected using purposive sampling method while the members were selected using simple random sampling method. The descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and median were computed. The findings were presented using descriptive tables, figures and narratives for ease of understanding the results. Inferential analysis to be generated included model summary to test the level of influence, analysis of variance to test hypothesis and regression coefficients to test the study's model. Diagnostic tests such as normality, linearity, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation were tested. The study established that social participation had the greatest effect of 74.5% on financial inclusion. The conclusion made on social networks was that most women lacked money to purchase internet enabled mobile gadgets that would help them when learning on financial matters. The conclusion on social support was that though women had been able to have income projects and financial training, they were limited on how far they could extend their financial freedom wings. The conclusion made on social participation was that in as much as women were in a position of getting finances, the full access to financial opportunities was limited. The conclusion made on social cohesion was that financial management skills such as debt management and recovery was low among the women. The study recommends that on social networks, banking institutions such as saccos and micro-finance should come up with financing products that will serve the purpose of funding women into buying electronic gadgets. The study recommends that on social support, women should be encouraged to support each other to scale up the leadership ladders. The study recommends that on social participation, there should be awareness raised by local leaders on available financial opportunities that women would engage locally to raise money. The study recommends that on social cohesion, both government and non-government institutions should introduce programs on debt management and recovery skills.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFR	Access to Finance Rwanda
CBK	Central Bank of Kenya
CGAP	Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
CHFS	China Household Finance Survey
ECM	Error Correction Method
GMM	Generalized Methods of Moments
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
NGOs	Non-government Organizations
NRT	Northern Rangeland Trust
RCA	Rwandan Cooperative Agency
REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
SCT	Social Cash Transfer
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Women groups are empowerment associations that allows different women to join and gather from time to time acting as a platform of encouraging them socially, economically and politically (International Monetary Fund [IMF], 2022a). The groups form a basis that women can rely not only for professional growth but also for propelling each other to power and opening up great opportunities that make them outstanding leaders in businesses and companies. For example, one of the most outstanding women groups in the world is the Relief Society which has demonstrated that women can become great leaders and managers of resources. Therefore, there are myriads of benefit that women groups contribute not only to the lives of the women but also to the economies of various nations. It is no longer a secret that women are consulted in high end projects worth billions by national and international leaders.

Social capital is defined as a form of network created on the basis of mutual respect that connects people to interact with other people or an institution that has an authoritative power through its representatives (Khalil et al., 2021). That is, any existing interaction that is consciously created between people and with a representative of an institution with power. For example, when a women group is able to network with representatives such as managers at a non-governmental institution that could help them secure funding from local and international donors on various proposed projects that unite the community.

As people interact with each other, they are able to create social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion systems.

Social networks are systems that are established to bring people with common financial goals to interact through various forms of communication to pass financial knowledge from one person to the other (Horan, 2022). As people with common financial interests interact in a system through a social network, they are greatly impacted through provision of jobs that pay adequately which enhances flow of more revenue within the economy and hence payments of taxes are improved such as through companies owned by the women groups (United Nations, 2022). Through social networks, women are able to make international investments in businesses which has enhanced the remittance of profits. It also important to note that women are able to be more skilled and knowledgeable in the management of finances since social networks provide a platform that see to it that they get access to financial inclusion (IMF, 2019).

Social support is the financial backing that a person receives from close friends, relatives and acquittances, that enables them have a positive attitude towards set financial goals (Horan, 2022). Women need to be backed adequately so to achieve their financial goals. The backing could be categorized from moral issues, integrity and financial provision. In terms of financial backing, when women are supported to access cheaper services through their projects such as hospitals opened through the initiatives of women. Women also rely on social support to access and platforms that advance affordable financial education further through schools affiliated with their groups (Orisadare, 2019). This ensures that the women groups get subsidized education hence acquire financial knowledge in a cheaper way.

Social participation are deliberate interrelations that people cultivate and share with each other for the benefit of attaining a desired financial goal (Horan, 2022). As women get opportunities to participate in various financial activities, platforms and goals, they are able to engage in mega projects such as construction of buildings using new technologies such as use of precast panels and fabricated walls (Maina, 2020). This enables each woman to either participate financially or providing manual labor. As women are kept busy, they are able to develop various skills and get financially included.

Social cohesion is the stability that financial relationships have, that brings harmony to the community (Horan, 2022). Women groups have brought harmony in communities they are based through enhancing peace and progress. For example, when projects such as awards of scholarships that are meant to give back to the community are implemented, it brings harmony to various individuals involved. Additionally, when women groups are able to engage in farming activities, they provide farm products that could lower the prices due to the high supply. This simple act enhances harmony in the community since members are able to acquire farm products without necessarily incurring a lot of expenses.

The developments made by the women groups all have a share of being allowed to participate and access monetary services through a process called financial inclusion. The world is changing and so is the thinking of ensuring that women are included in the distribution and allocation of financial resources. It is through this thinking that empowers women to become creative on wealth creation which is very much needed in advancement of the economies.

1.1.1 Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion has been defined by World Bank (2022a) as the process where people get extensive access to monetary services and products. IMF (2022b) adds that through available financial services, people are able to conduct various purposes such as buying, selling, saving and borrowing. Therefore, in this study, financial inclusion is taken to mean as the process of allowing people access financial services and products that can be used to buy, sell, save and borrow for an extensive period of time.

Financial inclusion has been contextualized and interpreted differently related to financial skills and knowledge as stipulated by IMF (2018). World Economic Forum (2019) and (World Bank, 2022b) have linked financial inclusion to availability of collateral to act as a security when securing a credit. In Denmark, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (2022) the scores on debt history of individuals or groups, have been used to enable decision making on whether they would access funds. According to United Nations (2020), availability of legal document such as memorandum of association, bank statements, meeting minutes and constitution on group registration process are the main aspects considered before allowing them access financial services.

A report by Asian Development Bank (2022) has also posited that the number of financial transactions an individual or group conducts could be a signifying factor in determining the level of financial inclusion. In a more comprehensive review by Commonwealth (2018), financial inclusion is considered to be present when updated information regarding financial opportunities such as investing in stocks, shares and bonds is available and accessible. World Bank (2020) also considers the amount of wealth that individuals have which would enable them make contributions and save generally as a way of raising their credit worthiness as a key factor is assessing financial inclusion. According to International Labor Organization [ILO] (2022) and Crawn Trust (2021) financial inclusion has been associated with financial literacy, savings, and borrowing history.

The current study has contextualized financial inclusion from the perspective of financial skills, financial savings, financial transactions e.g., money transfers, credit facility, insurance facility and pension facility (Central Bank of Kenya [CBK], 2021). This study adopted all the measures since they have been used by distinguished governmental and non-governmental entities to measure financial inclusion from various perspectives (CBK, 2021). Therefore, getting access to financial resources has been of great concern to many people and institutions particularly women groups. In as much as women would like to be in a group, they are still limited on the number of financial resources they can access. These issues have been forcing women groups to rethink on how they would access financial resources through maximizing on social capital. The word social capital could be defined as the process of creating meaningful networks that benefit the parties involved. These meaningful networks include relationship between people or between people and representatives of institutions.

1.1.2 Social Capital

Social capital has been contextualized and interpreted differently by Park et al. (2021) who explained that it relates to sourcing for financial donors through social networks to support projects. Additionally, IMF (2022a) associated social capital to capacities developed to organize local networks and also international networks through which they attend to gain more knowledge on financial management, reporting and control aspects. Social support has also been associated with lobbying for financial support from their friends as a measure to improve their saving towards acquiring an asset such as parcel of commercial land that could be used as collateral in future credits (United Nations, 2022). According to Asia Development Bank (2022), when there is a sense of belonging (social cohesion) of individuals since they have been trained on book-keeping and financial reporting, it constitutes social capital.

Further, when there is stability and social trust brought about by financial relationships in existence in and out of the group, it constitutes social capital. Adding further, World Economic Forum (2019) asserts that social awareness has raised opportunities to make investments through Non-government Organizations [NGOs]. Informal and formal training through social participation has been established as an effective mean of equipping and bringing social cohesion individual financial oversights (ILO, 2022). Adding further, Kyungha (2022) asserts that women group members no longer have to wait for their leaders to show them investment opportunities but they inform each other early hence being involved in social participation since they have been trained on how to identify and seize an investment opportunity.

According to Wiley (2022), social capital is measured in six perspectives which are social networks, social support, social cohesion, social trust, social awareness and social participation. The study will contextualize and concentrate with only four social capitals which are social networks, social support, social participation, social cohesion. This is because, the study is approaching the social capital from the financial perspective and not from management perspective (Horan, 2022). The concern on social capital on various groups of individuals such as women groups are that political interference on the leadership of women groups resulting to unnecessary wrangles; embezzlement of group money; abrupt withdrawal of donors from projects particularly when the original goal of uniting community has been diverted to economical one (Kyungha, 2022). Therefore, to ensure that the networks established through social capital are maintained, there is need to allow the institution that has authority and power over specific resources to guide a women group till it's able to achieve the desired financial and community goals. Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) is such an institution.

1.1.3 Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT)

Northern Rangeland Trust [NRT] is an organization that deals with conservancy located in northern and coastal parts of Kenya (Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2017). It is an organization ran by forty-three conservancies which see to it that through a community owned land, people are able to attain economic goals through farming, managing both domestic and wild animals and other ways hence maintaining peaceful environment (Schettera et al., 2022). NRT ensures that sustainable businesses of its members that conserve the environment are well funded. Additionally, they also give direction and train on the management of funds, as well as monitoring and evaluating the performance of each funded project.

NRT has made efforts to support women groups in the regions they are situated. Women who are engaging in beads making are able to partner with NRT for purposes of selling them in international markets (Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2017). They are also engaged in training women on how to avoid conflicts and maintain peace. NRT also financially support and help women groups engaging in mango farming, tree seedling and beekeeping access market as a way of sustaining their livelihoods (Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2017). Additionally, NRT has established a SACCO that receiving savings and offers credit to youth and women (NRT, 2022). The SACCO has a membership of 5,040 as at 2021 (NRT, 2022). Additionally, NRT has been able to disburse loans worth 63.6 million shillings in 2021 to1, 656 women and youth while at the same time, accruing savings worth 20.8 million shillings as at 2021 (NRT, 2022).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Financial inclusion of women has been currently been a growing phenomenon globally. In developed nations such as America, Europe and Asia, women have benefitted a lot from developments made by their groups such that they are able to receive training on financial management and able to save both personal and collective finances through the use of table banking (International Monetary Fund, 2018). In developing nations women in groups have been encouraged through crucial financial training on budget preparation, book-keeping and digital banking such as purchasing of shares, bonds and other money market securities (World Bank, 2022). In Kenya, women are also forefront in accessing more financial resources such as low interest financial credits in both government and non-government organizations (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, 2021).

However, financial knowledge, values and skills among women groups in Kenya is very low (Crawn Trust, 2021). This has greatly disadvantaged them from making meaningful investments that generate sustainable income (KIPPRA, 2020). As a result, the women groups are short lived and do not survive various economic cycles. This is because, they lack adequate financial knowledge on book keeping, past financial records, investment options to undertake in the future, and ways on how to manage risks in their financial ventures that would otherwise be relevant in defending their cause (CGAP, 2022). Despite this weakness, the women group still shy away from networking, supporting, participating and relating with various people/organizations at higher hierarchy glued together by shared cohesion. This has made them miss out a lot on grasping various opportunities to reap maximum benefits that would raise their chances of being financially included in financial matters further (KIPPRA, 2020).

Past studies such as Kyungha (2022) concentrated on how use of mobile money enabled financial inclusion among Nairobian women. Others such as Kimaiyo (2021) and Wangui (2021) examined how types of social capital played part in the financial literacy of the Kenyan household and Kajiado's women groups. The two studies did not examine financial inclusion aspect. The mentioned studies did not investigate the effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya thereby creating the need for the study.

1.3 General Objective

The main objective of the study was to investigate the effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya.

1.4 Specific Objectives

i. To evaluate the effect of social networks on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

ii. To examine the effect of social support on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

iii. To assess the effect of social participation on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

iv. To investigate the effect of social cohesion on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

1.5 Research Hypothesis

$H_0$1: Social networks do not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

$H_0$2: There is no relationship between social support and financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

$H_0$3: Social participation does not have influence on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

$H_0$4: There is no relationship between social cohesion and financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

1.6 Justification of the Study

Financial inclusion of women is a very important venture that not only helps individuals but families as well. Women form part of society that everyone depends on them in one way of the other. In situations where women are oppressed and not given chance to access resources, the family lifeline gets affected so much (Maina, 2020). Therefore, when women come together and form supportive groups, it enables collective access to resources that could be distribute through soft loans to each other or an opportunity for investment (Khalil et al., 2021). Either way, the family where the women come from, benefit too from the groups. These groups have a dire need of being allowed to get resources in all ways possible since without them, the economy would be significantly affected. Additionally, when the women groups are allowed to network and connect, the feel that they have been given social support which is key in maintaining the social cohesion that would otherwise not be present (Horan, 2022).

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study would generally benefit women groups since they would be in a capacity of understanding the solutions that could be used to solve the menace of lack of financial inclusivity. This could act as eye opener to the groups on both informal and formal ways they could use to ensure that women are motivated in understanding the processes needed to access funds on various institutions. Understanding the process, would enable women have all the required documentations such as identification cards, savings and Kenya Revenue Authority [KRA] certificates hence not wasting time when funding opportunity arises.

The management of northern rangeland trust that deals with women groups would find this study useful in the sense that they would be equipped with knowledge on various linking social capital issues that women undergo. This would enable them establish policies and systems that would ease the process of social networking, social support, social connection and social cohesion in the institution.

The government of Kenya would benefit from the findings of the study since it would get updated information of the current standing of women groups in Laikipia county. That is in terms of how many groups they are, selected challenges, and their vision. It could use this information to allocate more financial resources to the Laikipia county government so as to benefit women in the region.

The financial institutions would also get to know of funding gap that exists among women in Laikipia county. They could use the information to come up with policies that either lower or completely eliminate the need for collateral when issuing group credit. The institutions may also set-up competitive interest rates for women in groups, not as a way of generating profit but a way of giving back to the community and building the economy.

The general public would also use the findings from the study to push for gender equality among the political leaders. The public would have both the struggles' women go through and the suggested strategies that could be used to help them. This information could be used by political leaders to advocate for gender equality in the parliament and other legal institutions. As it is well known, the constitution of Kenya demands that there be a 2/3 gender rule when making decisions and sharing of national resources. So far so good, the rule is yet to be fully implemented hence the need for general public to use authentic studies such as the current one to justify their cause.

The study would also create new knowledge in finance when the effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya would be known. Additionally, future researchers would also get in-depth assessment of the current situations facing women groups, and the solutions that could be implemented. The future researchers could also extend the study to other counties beyond Laikipia in attempt of discovering whether there would be either similar or different results.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in of Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. It investigated the effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. Key respondents were women group leaders and women members. The women group leaders were interviewed while the women members answered questionnaires.

1.9 Limitations

The study encountered a limitation such as poor terrain of road networks when tracing the assembly locations of women leaders and women members so as to interview and issue them with the questionnaires. Therefore, the study employed the services of research assistants who used motorbikes which were more convenient in accessing the respondents.

Additionally, the study found it hard to know the exact day and time the groups meet so as to conduct the study. Therefore, the research assistants requested the NRT management to communicate with them on the next women groups meetings and the assembly location. This enabled the research assistants move faster and effectively when groups were meeting to conduct the study.

1.10 Assumptions

The study was guided by the following assumptions:

i. That the respondents would answer the interview questions and questionnaires honestly without any traces of biasness

ii. The study would assume that all concerned authorization parties such as introduction letter from KeMU and NACOSTI will do so without fail to enable the study collect data.

1.11 Definition of Terms

Financial Inclusion

The process of allowing people access financial services and products that can be used to buy, sell, save and borrow for an extensive period of time (Central Bank of Kenya [CBK], 2021).

Social Capital

This is a form of network created on the basis of mutual respect that connects people to interact with an institution that has an authoritative power through its representatives (Khalil et al., 2021).

Social Cohesion

This is the stability that financial relationships have, that brings harmony to the community (Horan, 2022).

Social Networks

These are systems that are established to bring people with common financial goals to interact through various forms of communication to pass financial knowledge from one person to the other (Horan, 2022).

Social Participation

These are deliberate interrelations that people cultivate and share with each other for the benefit of attaining a desired financial goal (Maina, 2020).

Social Support

This is the financial backing that a person receives from close friends, relatives and acquittances, that enables them have a positive attitude towards set goals (Horan, 2022).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter indicated the theoretical framework based on various guiding principles of the study. Thereafter, it reviewed previous studies done closely guided the key objectives of the study. Thereafter a brief summary of gaps derived from the critiqued studies were given. Conceptual and operational frameworks which categorically shows the relationship between the variables of the study concluded the chapter.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The study had three theories that guide it which were; Empowerment theory, social capital theory and social exchange theory. Empowerment theory guided social network variable of the study. Social Capital theory guided social support variable of the study. Social exchange theory guided social participation and social cohesion variables of the study.

2.2.1 Empowerment Theory

Empowerment theory was advanced by Fawcett et al. (2005). The theory guided social network variable of the study. It states that sense of control is achieved through use of all possible intervention methods that provide direction on decision making process on issues affecting one's life. In context of the study, it meant that any reliable method that could help a woman somewhere control their income, finances and debts while engaging them in the whole process of financial control.

Empowerment theory was used to guide social network since it is basically a system established to bring people with common financial goals to interact through various forms of communication to pass financial knowledge from one person to the other. Therefore, when particularly women converge into a seminar, conference, meeting, and symposium among others, it is a clear sign they are want to have control over a financial aspect of life. When they meet, they get a chance to share and empower each other on what they so far know and in return, they also get new information regarding an area. For example, when women group are invited to attend a seminar of how to keep books of accounts by an NGO such as Northern Rangeland Trust [NRT], it is expected knowledge to be shared on two-way traffic. On the one hand, the representatives of NRT get knowledge on the kind of challenges women go through as a result of not maintaining books of accounts correctly. They may use this information to point out the concerns of the group to respective donors.

On the other hand, the women groups are oriented on types of books of accounts, how, when and why they are maintained. The information enables them have a reliable and tangible evidence that they have been in operation for a specific period of time. The orientation of auditors the audit the books may also be key supportive evidence that the women groups books of accounts are legit. Therefore, when there is clear share of knowledge in a social network, there is a chance to access education related to financial matters such as new innovative ways of investing.

There may also be availability of financial information which may help the concerned party re-structure their plans to access opportunities for purposes of access to alternative sources of income and occupational growth. Empowerment theory was criticized by McLaughlin (2016) that it deals majorly on social and political point of view. This criticism did not affect the study since the study's main approach entailed dealing with social network as an indicator of social capital.

2.2.2 Social Capital Theory

Social capital theory was advanced by Bourdieu (1985). This theory guided social support variable of the study. It states that when people have social relationships, it is a form of resource which promotes and accumulates human capital. That is, when people consciously develop and maintain a relationship, it enables them have tangible growth that counts in their lives. The environment that exists becomes more friendly to accommodate growth and development.

Social capital theory was used to guide social support in context of this study, that when someone is backed by close friends, relatives and acquittances, it enables them have a positive attitude towards set goals. The above-named parties could offer moral support, emotional support and financial support among others. Additionally, social support also counts when women groups (our point of focus) develop relationships with various representatives of both governmental and non-governmental institutions. These relationships could translate into constructive financial consultations from working experience in financial matters such as financial management skills. Adding to that, women groups have economic access to financial resources, power and authority through social support from the concerned parties.

In simpler terms, when women groups get supported, there are relationships that are created which provide conducive environment to grow and prosper. This is because when there is an existing relationship, release of finances to support a project idea from women group is not difficult. When this project materializes, it immensely benefits women who come from humble backgrounds to be able to make ends meet and pay their bills. Further on, these relationships ensures that women get trained, mentored and coached in financial matters so that when funds arrive, they do not misuse but re-invest into other personal small projects such as rearing chicken, paying school fees, buying seedlings, fertilizers and other household uses.

Social capital theory was greatly criticized by Claridge (2018) that it divides the society since people create relationships with other people that they know and are willing to commit towards making the relationships work. That notwithstanding, this criticism will not affect the study since the study has approached the benefit of social support not from individuals but from a group of women and an institution of power and authority to make their dreams come true through consultation, training and funding of the women group.

2.2.3 Social Exchange Theory

Social Exchange theory was advanced by Homan (1958). The theory guided social participation and social cohesion variables of the study. It states that when two or more people create a relationship, they do so consciously with the notion of what they would lose and get from it. That is, the exact cost-benefit analysis of the relationship process. What this means is that, social exchange theory advocates for engaging into diverse relationships that benefit more than they cost.

Social exchange theory guided social participation since it is a deliberate interrelation that people cultivate and share with each other for the benefit of attaining a desired financial goal. In relation to women groups, what this means is that they are able to get substantive exchange in terms of financial knowledge, insights on outstanding financial performance, access financial services and financial opportunities on investments by simply establishing a connection with various linking capitals such as NRT. What they all need to give is their commitment plans and other documentation to the institution for legality of various groups.

Social exchange theory will also guide social cohesion since after the relationships have become stable where all parties have mutually benefitted from the relationship, there is harmony to the community. For relationships to have and maintain stability, there are areas that requires attention such as financial values derived, availability of financial resources, development programs and simply growth of personal financial skills. For example, in the case of relationship between women groups and NRT, stability occurs when each party derived most from the relationship. For example, after women groups are funded and trained on financial matters, NRT is keen in observing whether there is simply any growth in terms of financial management among the women. If this objective has been attained, then the cost of funding the groups actually makes sense to the institution, since they realize that they have made significant impact to the community through that one woman, and one group.

Social exchange theory was criticized by Cropanzano et al. (2016) that it only concentrates on what a social relationship can give in term of rewards hence could erode cultural values. That is, people are reduced to becoming selfish and their main concern is what they could derive out of a relationship. Nevertheless, this criticism will not affect the study since the study is majorly concentrating on relationships created on the basis of mutual respect that connects people to interact with an institution that has an authoritative power through its representatives. That is, both parties understand that they are consciously relating so that one party could benefit in terms of skills and finances while the other part provides them.

2.3 Social Networks and Financial Inclusion

These are systems that are established to bring people with common financial goals to interact through various forms of communication to pass financial knowledge from one person to the other (Khalil et al., 2021). Social networks ensure that concerned parties get access to alternative sources of income, access to education especially in financial matters, availability of financial information and opportunity for occupational growth (Chinhema & Qu, 2022). Therefore, one can tell that there are social networks mainly by observing electronic gadgets, bank accounts and frequency of communication among individuals in a women group (Tiwari et al., 2019). Authors have debated on the relevance of social networks towards financial inclusion.

In Russia, Sigova et al. (2021) explored the input that social networking had on financial inclusion. The study used secondary sources to collect data that would be used in analysis. The contention with the study revolved around the interaction of social networks that involved both people and technology towards accessing financial services. Therefore, Sigova et al. (2021) found out that based people were able to use technology in communication on when and what kind of financial services they wanted. Technology was able to place quite a large number of people under one network (investment groups/self-help groups) of financial services where they could send funds; call and send messages in form of texts and emails; make negotiations; buy and sell goods to each other, and report on any suspicious activities such as hacking or misuse of technology. Nevertheless, Sigova et al. (2021) used secondary data which is prone to biasness.

In China, Chai et al. (2018) examined the kind of impact that informal inclusion had on Chinese people as a result of social networks. The study used a database emanating from China Household Finance Survey [CHFS] to note the trends. According to Chai et al. (2018), when there was a system that allowed people with shared interests (groups) to network, homestead in urban setting were able to engage in financial markets, make monetary transactions and get loans though informally. This was because people got subsidized information charges, foresaw the risk, and they cautiously saved for the hard times. Interestingly, Chai et al. (2018) also found out that social networks were most preferred as compared to traditional financial institutions since they required less documentation, conveyed financial information in an easy and understandable manner, related with every age group and charged less when transacting. That notwithstanding, less was said by Chai et al. (2018) on why homestead in rural setting were not able to use social networks to benefit in accessing faster financial services advantage.

In Zimbabwe, Chinhema and Qu (2022) conducted a review on how service delivery of financial services has been enhanced by social networking pre, during and post covid-19 pandemic. The study adopted mixed method to collect data from nineteen banking institutions in the country which included commercial banks, saccos and microfinance institutions. The data was collected sing questionnaires, interviews and secondary sources such as documents. According to Chinhema and Qu (2022), when covid-19 came, the normal traditional way of banking shifted to online due to restriction of movements.

Therefore, social networks were used as tools of dispersing information on what banks were offering and client communication irrespective of the covid-19 tribulations.

On client communication, most banking institutions around clients who had formed self-help groups to hold their meetings in safe banking social networks overseen by a representative of the bank. Therefore, Chinhema and Qu (2022) noted that social networking was expensive since people required to buy phones or computer devices which were expensive, and poor telecommunication services especially in the fringe areas. However, Chinhema and Qu (2022) did not consider collecting information from investment banks which could have added value to the study particularly on how clients were making investment transactions especially during the covid-19 pandemic period.

Further on, In Uganda, Okello et al. (2020) examined how financial inclusion was related to financial literacy approaching it from social networks. According to Okello et al. (2020), the concern of social networks was lacking in most studies that discussed about financial inclusion and literacy. Therefore Okello et al. (2020) adopted cross-sectional approach design to collect data from a target population of 1.2 million household. The study further sampled the population using simple random sampling to obtain 400 respondents computed using Yamane sampling method. They were sampled based on how poor they were and living in rural areas. The findings collected by Okello et al. (2020) established that the mobile users in rural setting were able to access financial services based on the strength of social networks. However, Okello et al. (2020) used cross sectional research design method and not using longitudinal survey design which would have been more appropriate based that it was an examination of use of social networks over a period of time. Additionally, the study did not investigate how non-mobile users accessed financial services.

In Kenya, Muema (2019) investigated what opportunities that social networks brought on each gender in relation to financial inclusion. The study used secondary data from databases from financial service providers. The results indicated there was not much difference on opportunities that social networks brought on each gender but men tended to use financial services more than women. According to Muema (2019), this was because men had high educational qualifications that women, hence it did not require much to understand how the social networks worked. Therefore Muema (2019) concluded that education inequalities were the highest inhibitors of financial inclusion opportunities to female gender.

In northern Kenya, Tiwari et al. (2019) looked into limitations that hampered financial inclusion among women from the perspective of social networking. The study used 750 women who were issued with questionnaires. Additionally, there was a discussion from 8 focus groups that had 5-7 members from Rural Entrepreneur Access Project [REAP] which was from BOMA NGO. In line with this, Tiwari et al. (2019) discovered that most women were illiterate, did not know how to count and were unfamiliar with use of mobile phones, internet and computers to facilitate their access to financial services. Therefore, not even considering the understanding level of how financial services would be accessed, women did not have in-depth knowledge of operating electronic devices, which complicated the matter further. Therefore Tiwari et al. (2019) advised that there should be provision for simpler tools that would be used particularly by illiterate women to be able to access financial services. The study was conducted in Northern Kenya which included Samburu and Marsabit counties hence the need to extend to other regions such as Laikipia County.

2.4 Social Support and Financial Inclusion

This is the financial backing that a person receives from close friends, relatives and acquittances, that enables them have a positive attitude towards set goals (CGAP, 2019). Social support relates to working experience in financial aspects, economic access to financial resources, access to power and authority, and financial management skills (Access to Finance Rwanda [AFR], 2022). Therefore, one can tell that there is presence of social support towards financial inclusion by observing different types of backing offered by family members, community and various government agencies (Komitu & Kidombo, 2019). Authors have debated on the relevance of social support towards financial inclusion.

A study by Firmansyah et al. (2021) assessed how social assistance impacted financial inclusion of families in Tegal, Indonesia. The target population included 5,890 families who were sampled using Slovin sampling formular. The selected respondents were families that had benefitted before from non-cash (use of combo card similar to debit card) social assistance. The results derived by Firmansyah et al. (2021) show that Indonesian government had been able to make significant strides towards enabling families access financial services. Further on, there was a positive attitude and acceptance of non-cash social assistance however, there was still room for improvement since most families were not quite conversant with the non-cash social assistance process of withdrawal. Additionally, there were few points of combo card facilities where families would withdraw funds. Notably, Firmansyah et al. (2021) did not reveal how many families composed the sample size.

A report by Consultative Group to Assist the Poor [CGAP] (2019) investigated how Turkey as a nation is ensuring that financial inclusion among women is made a reality through encompassing gendered social norms and support. The reports posited that there was a change of game plan to include informal groups as a measure of ensuring financial service is rendered to them. According to CGAP (2019) women in Turkey have faced myriad of challenges related to lack of social support to women such obligations of disclosing their finances to husbands, not having assets, no savings, and no huge businesses. To ensure that women have a reach to financial services, there have been social marketing campaigns to drum support on letting the women have access to financial services, there have been new financial products that are women needs inclusive, employing women at various financial institution's positions as a way of embracing change and informing the society that women can indeed be on great value.

Another study by Uzoma et al. (2020) explored on various financial inclusion methods used to socially integrate displaced people in 27 Sub-Saharan African nations. The study used database from the World Bank to gather data. The same data was analyzed using Granger Error Correction Method (ECM) with Generalized Methods of Moments (GMM). The findings derived by Uzoma et al. (2020) revealed that social isolation had a negative relationship with financial inclusion. What that meant was that, when people do not get chance and support from institutions through formal or informal employment, they are unable to benefit through access of financial services. Therefore, Uzoma et al. (2020) advised that displaced people should be given opportunities to gain financial management skills, access to power and authority in bid to have economic access to financial resources and create wealth for themselves and the nation at large.

In Rwanda, a synoptical report by Access to Finance Rwanda (2022) concentrated on how women in the nation could have greater financial inclusion. The main complaint was that rural women had very low financial inclusion attributable to high poverty levels, low literacy levels, lack of support from government policies which highly regulate and limit Rwandan Cooperative Agency [RCA], culture of interest free funding, lack of whatsoever working experience in financial aspects, and very few solidarity women groups that are willing to commit towards a cause that will guarantee them access to finances.

In Samburu County, Komitu and Kidombo (2019) evaluated the factors that make self-help women groups make decision to take financial credit. The sample size included chairpersons, treasurer, treasurer and two members in each of the sampled 23 groups hence forming 115 respondent who were issued with questionnaires to collect data. According to Komitu and Kidombo (2019), education level, social support offered through training on finances and management were mains reasons for uptake of credit. For example, it was ascertained that many women did not really understand the requirements needed to qualify for a financial credit facility hence having fear due to lack of information. Additionally, the cultural practices which demanded most women's time played a huge factor in accessing financial credit. For example, when the culture demands that a woman stays at home taking care of the children and homestead, it would require social support from their husband to get time and attend financial management trainings organized through the women groups. However, despite the informative results, Komitu and Kidombo (2019) did not provide any evidence of pre-test making it hard to ascertain that the questionnaires used were reliable.

2.5 Social Participation and Financial Inclusion

These are deliberate interrelations that people cultivate and share with each other for the benefit of attaining a desired financial goal (Horan, 2022). Social participation includes financial knowledge, insights on outstanding financial performance, access to financial services such as accounting services, availability of financial opportunities on investments (Climate Center, 2019). One can tell that there is social participation by equipping each other members with education, skills and knowledge in financial matters (Jorge, 2019). Authors have debated on the relevance of social participation towards financial inclusion.

To begin with, Ozili (2019) examined the intricacies of ensuring that all society members are able to participate and ensure that individuals access finances and opportunities in international countries. The countries of focus related to European, Asian, Middel East and African nations. Access to finances was measured on whether a person had an active bank account or registered as a mobile money user for the past one year. The measurements aspects used to ascertain whether the society members were well connected was dine using policies. Therefore, Ozili (2019) used secondary sources inform of World Bank reports to collect data from these nations.

The results revealed that on the one hand, social participation and financial inclusion was higher in Asian and European countries. This was based on number of account holders and mobile money users implying that most of the people had adequate financial knowledge, had access to financial services and there was availability of opportunities that were related to financing investments. On the other hand, it was clear that African and Middle East countries have a huge milestone to cover since half of their population did not have any access to financial services nor did they have any social participation that could facilitate the access. Nevertheless, Ozili (2019) concentrated on only bank account ownership and mobile money as measures of financial inclusion, failing to include insurance and pension account holders.

In Spain, Salinas and Merino (2020) explored ways in which social capital was used as a tool to ensure there is financial inclusion. It used inductive, exploratory, and descriptive research designs to conduct several workshops where data was collected using group discussions. The study established that efficiencies, capacity, team work, connection, and management of social capital facilitated inclusion of financial services and brought value to the population. However, Salinas and Merino (2020) did not investigate how financial literacy as part of social capital would lead to financial inclusion.

Further, Jorge (2019) in Senegal investigated the relationship between financial inclusion and social capital. The study was conducted in a span of four months where the sampled population was 2,056 people. The people were put into two groups, the first group was frequently sent a weekly text message that reminded them on saving behavior. The other group was not only sent a weekly text message but also reminded through social participation they had. According to finding by Jorge (2019), men were perceived to use their bank accounts more and saved more than women. However, the women who were sent the text message and reminded through social participation, they saved and used their bank accounts just like the men. The results insinuated that it was vital for people to have social participation since they act as stimulants towards having the desire to access financial services. Additionally, they were platforms used to share financial knowledge, and have available financial opportunities in investments. Therefore, Jorge (2019) advised on having a simple and cost-effective device that could be used in favor of ensuring women are not financial excluded. This is because the study used text members which had zero-cost. That notwithstanding, there is need to extend the study to a nation like Kenya to ascertain the impacts of social connection towards financial inclusion.

In Uganda, Agabalinda and Isoh (2020) explored on how social learning impacted access and utilization of formal financial services The study sampled 384 adults from a population of 884, 126 people who had eighteen years of age through Krejecie and Morgan sampling table. They were issued with questionnaires which were answered by 351 respondents. The study examined how financial knowledge, skills and behavior was affected by interactions on use of loans, saving and insurance products. According to Agabalinda and Isoh (2020), when adults observed and discussed with their peers on the named financial services, were able to use them. However, Agabalinda and Isoh (2020) assumed that only employed respondents were capable of using financial services hence neglecting the respondents with businesses.

In Kenya, Musembi and Chun (2020) explored on the influence that long-term relationships had on development and financial inclusion. Time series data ranging from 2007 to 2018 was used as the source of data. The results indicated that mobile money had increased financial inclusion over a significant period of time. This was because mobile money had overall established confidence in the long-run among various clients. Peer to peer sharing of knowledge related to finances and outstanding insights on how to reap maximum benefits on the use of mobile money were considered the key reasons why individuals were considering mobile banking. However, Musembi and Chun (2020) choice to use secondary data could result to making significant conclusions based on biased data from the original authors of the document.

2.6 Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion

This is the stability that financial relationships have, that brings harmony to the community (UNHCR, 2019). Social cohesion involves aspects such as financial values, availability of financial resources, development programs and growth of personal financial skills (Nabi, 2021). Social cohesion could be ascertained by observing the chemistry of group members, frequency of conflicts and attained goals (Krammer et al., 2022). Authors have debated on the relevance of social cohesion towards financial inclusion.

In Portugal, Pinto et al. (2020) examined how migration policies related to finances affected social cohesion among Portuguese residents. One of the kinds of migration policies examined was related to availability of jobs as means of accessing finances. A sample of a hundred and seventy-six respondents were selected. According to Pinto et al. (2020), migrants were perceived as invaders whose presence would corrupt the Portuguese culture. They were perceived to posses' fewer financial values, lack financial resources and not interested in any personal financial skills. However, Pinto et al. (2020) involved Portuguese respondents that had some education qualifications leaving behind the one's that did not have any education qualifications.

In Malawi, Burchi and Roscioli (2022) conducted a study on how social cohesion was affected by social protection programs. The main social protection program was the Social Cash Transfer [SCT] program. The study had two groups where one group included homesteads that were enrolled to SCT program and the other (control group) was not enrolled. The study included 615 household in which 530 were control group. The study conducted interview on 25% of both groups while 75% were issued with questionnaires to answer. According to Burchi and Roscioli (2022), no amount of money transferred to the homesteads was big enough to support social cohesion. However, what brought social cohesion was the training of financial management, financial values, growth of personal skills and interactions the SCT representatives rolled out. However, Burchi and Roscioli (2022), included only two groups which include the ones that had received cash and training from SCT representatives and the ones not enrolled into SCT program. Therefore, they did not consider adding a group that received cash only from SCT program and did not undergo any training.

A report by UNHCR (2019) explored how money assistance brought about social cohesion among the refugees in Kalobeyei, Kenya. The report ascertained that money ensured that refugees felt more safer since they had the purchasing power to acquire resources. This whereby they were able to buy and sell commodities needed for survival and construction purposes. Additionally, they also had leadership power traits since with available resources, leadership on where, how and when to invest in projects was paramount. Further, they were able to open more reliable businesses and reduce the tensions in the markets since money in circulation was in plenty to accommodate everyone's needs. In addition, when cash assistance was present in form of loans, the refugees were able to join hands and build more permanent infrastructure that would house homesteads, social halls, hospitals, churches, mosques and shops. For example, when a church/mosque was built, they were able to worship together bringing cohesiveness. Social halls would be used by non-governmental institutions to train and instill financial values.

Further in Kenya, Naituli and Nasimiyu (2018) elaborated acuities of social cohesion. The study included twenty-seven focus groups each with eight to ten members. According to Naituli and Nasimiyu (2018), 14% of the respondents did not have trust on other people of ethnic groups. Additionally, seventy eight percent agreed that they were not able to relate well with other social-economic groups. The reason being that there was little growth of personal financial skills since the groups incorporated a mixture of professionals and amateurs in finance. Therefore, it was certain that most Kenyans have become more aware of socio-economic status in the community and had a desire to explore more values relating to a relationship rather than just availability of financial resources.

2.7 Summary of Gaps

The reviewed studies on social networks revealed that most women were illiterate, did not know how to count and were unfamiliar with use of mobile phones, internet and computers to facilitate their access to financial services. Therefore, not even considering the understanding level of how financial services would be accessed, women did not have in-depth knowledge of operating electronic devices and used mobile devices less which complicated the matter further in rural setting. However, less was said on why homestead in rural setting were not able to use social networks to benefit in accessing faster financial services advantage. Further on, studies claimed that social networking was expensive while other studies used secondary data which is prone to biasness while others used cross sectional research design method and not longitudinal survey design which would have been more appropriate based that it was an examination of use of social networks over a period of time. Additionally, special attention was paid to mobile users and not the non-mobile users.

Studies reviewed on social support complained that there was lack of social support to women such obligations of disclosing their finances to husbands, not having assets, no savings, and no huge businesses. Other gaps were that rural women had high poverty levels, low literacy levels, lack of support from government policies, culture of interest free funding, lack of whatsoever working experience in financial aspects, and very few solidarity women groups that are willing to commit towards a cause that will guarantee them access to finances. In terms of sampling gaps, it was found out that studies fell short of providing information on the sampling methods used and not pre-testing.

Studies reviewed on social participation complained that African and Middle East countries had a huge milestone to cover since half of their population did not have any access to financial services nor did they have any social participation that could facilitate the access. In addition, the most omitted aspect was an investigation of how financial literacy as part of social capital would lead to financial inclusion. Also, studies assumed that only employed respondents were capable of using financial services hence neglecting the respondents with businesses. In terms of methodology, most studies relied on secondary sources which is prone to biasness.

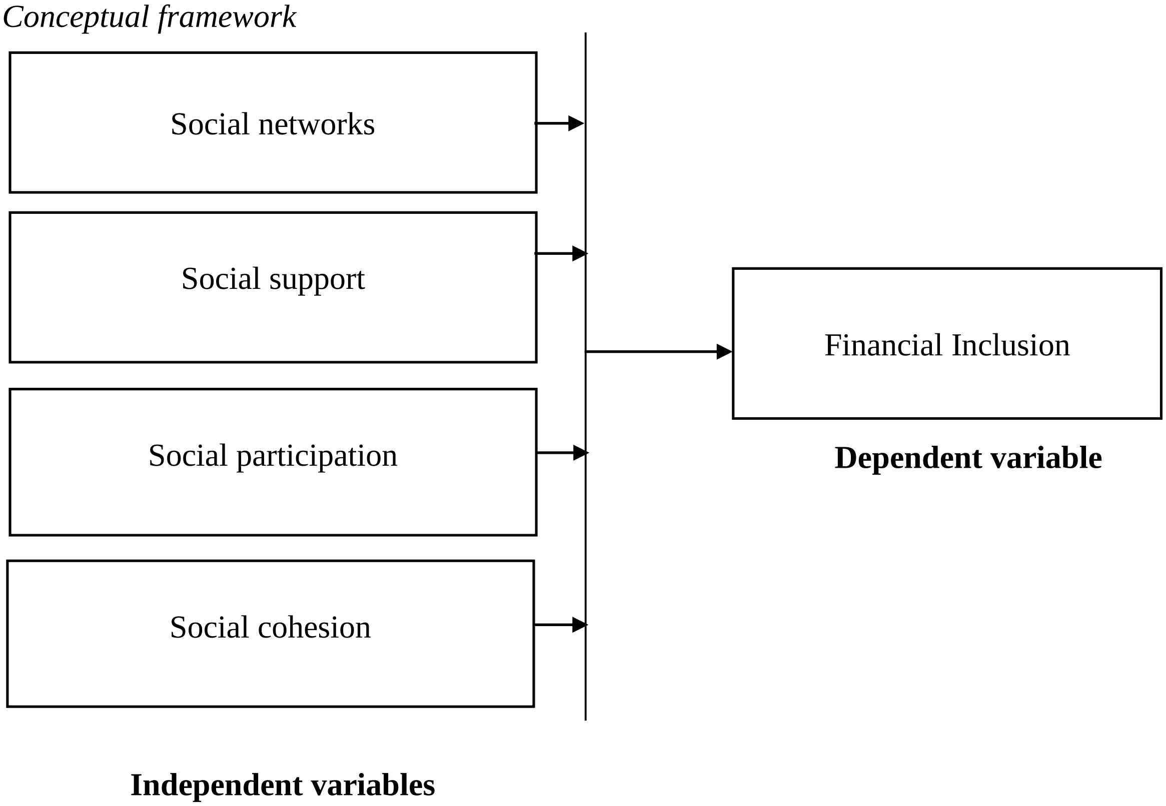
Studies reviewed on social cohesion complained that there lacked financial values, financial resources and general lack of interest in any personal financial skills. However, the respondents involved had some education qualifications leaving behind the one's that did not have any education qualifications. Additionally, studies such as Burchi and Roscioli (2022), included only two groups which include the ones that had received cash and training from SCT representatives and the ones not enrolled into SCT program. Therefore, they did not consider adding a group that received cash only from SCT program and did not undergo any training.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

The dependent variable was financial inclusion while the independent variables were social networking, social support, social participation and social cohesion. The dependent variable is indicated on the right side while the independent variables are located on the left side as indicated on Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1

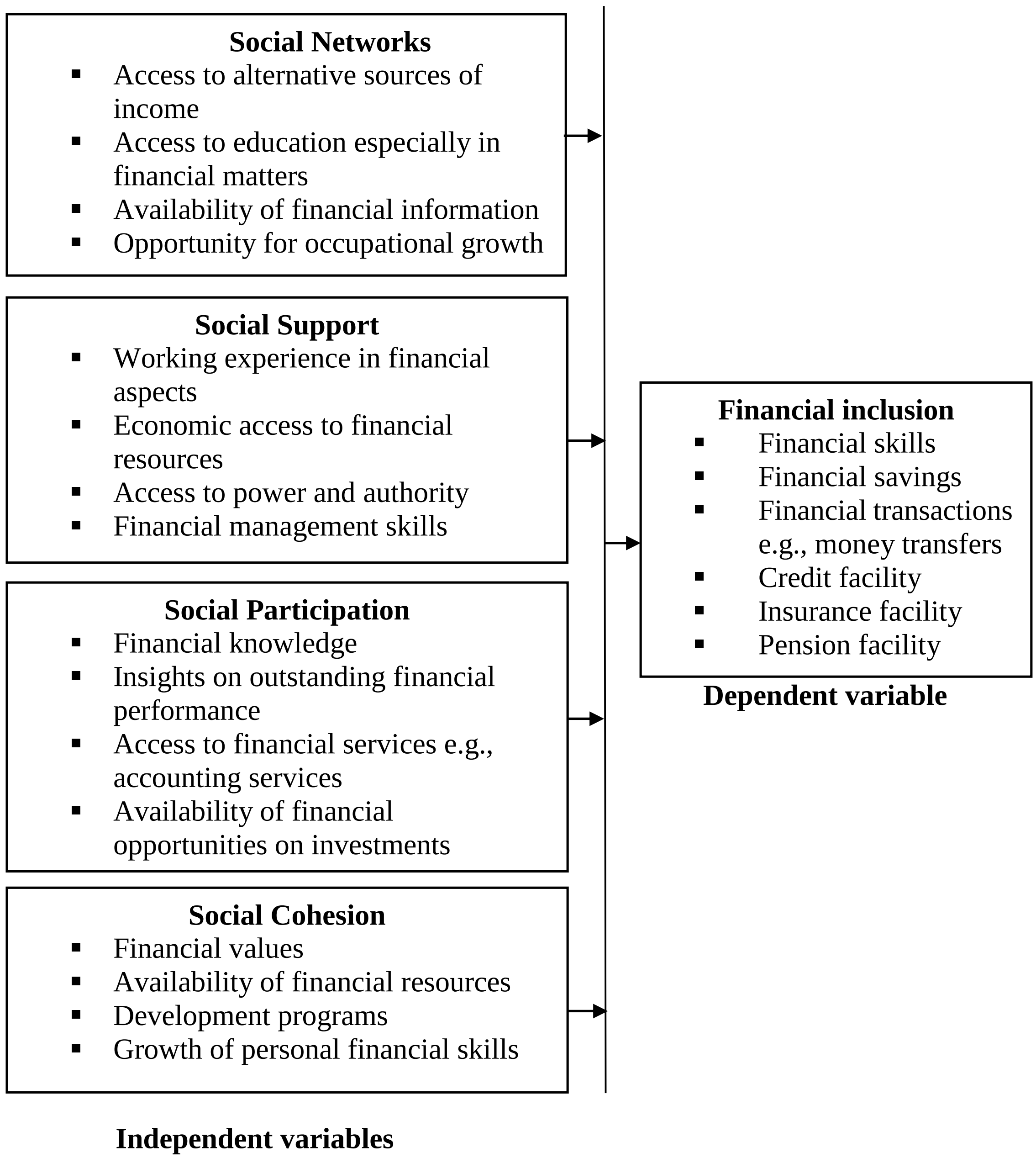
Conceptual framework



2.9 Operational Framework

Figure 2.2

Operationalized Framework



According to Figure 2.2, financial inclusion which was the dependent variable had indicators such as financial skills, financial savings, financial transactions, credit facility, insurance facility, and pension facility (World Bank, 2020). Social networking was an independent variable which had indicators such as access to alternative sources of income, access to education especially in financial matters, availability of financial information and opportunity for occupational growth (Khalil et al., 2021).

Social support was an independent variable which had indicators such as working experience in financial aspects, economic access to financial resources, access to power and authority, and financial management skills (CGAP, 2019). Social participation was an independent variable which had indicators such as financial knowledge, insights on outstanding financial performance, access to financial services, and availability of financial opportunities on investments (Horan, 2022). Social cohesion was an independent variable which had indicators such as financial values, availability of financial resources, development programs and growth of personal financial skills (UNHCR, 2019).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter showed the methodolgy that was used in data collection and analysis. Various areas such as the design, location, target population, sample and sampling design were indicated. Further on, data collection isntruments, pre-testing, reliability, validity, analysis and ethical considerations have been explored.

3.2 Research Design

A research design is a plan of the group situations and data analysis to syndicate their connection with the purpose of the study so as to be measured (Sileyew, 2019). The current study used descriptive research design to collect quantitative and qualitative data. Descriptive statistics enables the study to collect data without influencing the normal operation of the respondents. In addition, it permits the study of relationships between compared variables and reporting the characteristics and values as they appear (Sharma, 2019). It therefore gave a prospect to gather evocative information that would entail the measuring of variables as they naturally occur.

3.3 Location of Study

The location of the study was in Kenya. This is because women groups registered at NRT in Kenya were disadvantaged in the sense that they hardly got access to finances, had low skills, lacked social support from family and friends and lacked adequate financial knowledge that would enable them have a higher advantage in accessing finances

(Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2022). Additionally, the women lagged behind as far as financial education matters were concerned. This therefore created a huge population of women with high illiteracy levels that worked to their disadvantage when accessing financial services. This is because, they lack necessary documents needed to set up bank accounts such as KRA pin and identification documents among others.

3.4 Target Population

A target population describes the unit of analysis that is used in the study to underpin the research objectives (Mohajan, 2018). The target population was 52 women groups registered in Northern Rangeland Trust in Kenya (Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2022). The respondents were 156 women group leaders (chairlady, secretary and treasurer), and 2,377 women who were members of self-help groups (Northlands Rangelands Trust, 2022). Women group leaders who included chairlady, secretary and treasurers were key in providing information related to various social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion that women groups used in bid of accessing financial services. Women members provided information that entailed on the issues they went through as they try to access financial services.

3.5 Sampling Technique

A sampling technique is the method through which a representative population is taken from the target population (Mohajan, 2018). According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), they advised that a sample size could vary from 10%-30% depending on the sample size. Therefore, in line with the guideline, the study used 20% of 52 groups to have 10 sampled groups. The study used simple random sampling method to select chairlady, treasurer and secretaires in the 10 groups which constituted 30 women leaders as respondents. Additionally, the study also sampled 20% of 2377 to sample 475 women members in the 10 groups. Thereafter the study used Nassiuma (2000) formulae to derive the sample of the women members as shown;

$$n = \frac{NC^2}{C^2 + (N-1)\, e^2}$$

Where:

n = Sample size

N =Population

C =co-efficient of variation as 0.3

e = standard error, as 0.02

Therefore:

$$n = \frac{475 \times 0.3 \times 0.3}{0.3 \times 0.3 + (475-1)\, 0.02 \times 0.02}$$

$$n = \frac{42.75}{0.2796}$$

$$n = 152$$

The sample size therefore comprised of 10 chairladies, 10 secretaries, 10 treasurers and 152 women members. Table 3.1 indicates the sample size.

Table 3.1

Sampled Size

Women Group Population	Target Population	Sampling Proportion	Sample size
Chairlady	52	20%	10
Secretary	52	20%	10
Treasurer	52	20%	10
Members	2377	20% and Nassiuma formulae	152
Total	2533		182

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

Data was collected through the use of interview guide and questionnaire. Women group leaders were interviewed while the women who were members of self-help groups answered the questionnaire. The vivid description of both the interview guide and the questionnaire are described in section 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 respectively.

3.6.1 Interview Guide

The interview guide was used to obtain data from the women group leaders (see appendix II). It was key since the study got more information on them through their word of mouth. The interview guide had six sections namely A, B, C, D, E, and F. General information about the respondent was asked in section A. Section B asked questions related to social networks and financial inclusion. Section C asked questions related to social support and financial inclusion. Section D asked questions related to social participation and financial inclusion. Section E asked questions related to social cohesion and financial inclusion. Section F asked questions related to financial inclusion. The questions asked in the interview guide were derived from the gaps identified in studies reviewed in chapter two and indicators of each variable.

3.6.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a series of printed or written queries, designed for the purpose of a survey or statistical analysis, with a choice of responses (Sileyew, 2019). Self-administered questionnaire which had close-ended questions were used to gather data in this study as indicated in appendix III. The close-ended questions were in 5 points tabular Likert scale. The sections asked in the questionnaire followed similar pattern as the one for the interview guide. That is, six sections namely A, B, C, D, E, and F. General information about the respondent was asked in section A. Section B asked questions related to social networks and financial inclusion. Section C asked questions related to social support and financial inclusion. Section D asked questions related to social participation and financial inclusion. Section E asked questions related to social cohesion and financial inclusion. Section F asked questions related to financial inclusion.

3.7 Pre-testing of Research Instruments

It is vital to pre-test the questionnaire beforehand to ascertain the reliability of the tools that will be used in the study (Bolarinwa, 2015). The study conducted a pre-test study on women group in Samburu County. This is because women in Samburu County experienced similar hardship factors when trying to access financial services. According to Mugenda and Mugenda, a pre-test should be 10% of the sample size. The study obtained 10% of 10 groups to have 1 group. Therefore, the study conducted pre-test on 1 women group in Samburu County selected using simple random method. The study also sampled 10% of 152 to get 15 women members. The study also sampled 1 chairlady, 1 secretary, 1 treasurer and 15 women members. The leaders were selected using purposive sampling method while the members were selected using simple random sampling method.

3.7.1 Reliability

Reliability is the ability of the research instruments to maintain consistency of measure (Mohajan, 2017). The types of reliability that exists include test-retest reliability, interrater reliability, parallel form's reliability and internal consistency (Taherdoost, 2016). Test-retest reliability is a test that is conducted the same away in two different period of time (Taherdoost, 2016). Interrater is conducted by different people (Taherdoost, 2016). Parallel form's reliability is done through different versions designed to be the same (Taherdoost, 2016). Internal consistency is a test done on individual items of a test. Internal consistency type of reliability is most suitable in this study since the study would wish to ascertain the reliability of both interview guides and questionnaires separately (Mohajan, 2017).

For that to happen, reliability in this study was measured using Cronbach Alpha. This measured the internal consistency scale reliability of research instruments such as the questionnaires and interview guides. The responses to both interview and questionnaires were subjected to the scale which runs from 0 to 1. According to Trizano and Alvarado (2016), when the results of Cronbach Alpha range from 0 to 0.6 on scale, they are weak but when they range from 0.7 to 1 on scale, they are reliable to be used for the main study.

3.7.2 Validity

Validity is the accuracy of the study to articulately measure and achieve the objectives of the study (Boralinwa, 2015). That is, the ability of the research instruments to measure what they are intended to measure. Validity is measured in three ways which are face, content and construct validity (Boralinwa, 2015). This study ensured that it measured the three types of validity in its undertaking. Face validity was indicated when the effect of each independent variable on the dependent variable is known (Surusu & Maslakci, 2020). Content validity was indicated when the research queries asked are related to the variables of the study (Surusu & Maslakci, 2020). Lastly construct validity was indicated when the outcome of the study was compared with past studies to ascertain how well it had been able to measure the variables of the study (Surusu & Maslakci, 2020).

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher first sought authorization from Kenya Methodist University (KeMU). This approval by KeMU allowed the researcher to acquire a research certification from the National Council of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to conduct the study. As the study awaits the NACOSTI permit, the researcher recruited two research assistants who were well knowledgeable with Laikipia county region. They were trained on presentations, confidence and oriented on the study's purpose and objectives. Once the NACOSTI permit was issued, the researcher headed to NRT headquarter offices in Lewa for purposes of being shown the regions where women groups were located and probably their contacts. After being shown, the researcher then proceeded to the said locations.

Later on, the research assistants called through the contacts issued of the women groups to know their meeting location. Once the locations were known, the researcher and research assistants headed towards the said location to meet the women groups. Once they met the women groups, they introduced the study and purpose of the study. They then identified the respondents and interview the leaders while issuing the questionnaires to member to fill in. In the interviews, the researchers and two research assistants were tasked the responsibility of interviewing each of the three leaders. For example, the researcher interviewed the chairperson while the secretary and treasurer were interviewed by the research assistants. During the interviews, the responses were noted in a notebook. Once done with the interviews, the researcher and research assistants thanked the leaders and stored the responses in a safe place for further analysis. After the interviews are complete, the research assistants then checked on other women members to know whether they had completed filling in the questionnaires. Once they had finished, they collected the filled in questionnaires and stored them in a safe awaiting analysis.

3.9 Data Analysis

Data analysis refers to a variety of activities and processes that a researcher administers to make certain decisions regarding the data collected from the field, in order to get meaning and be able to explain various features from raw materials (Mbwesa, 2009). The chronologically serialized and numbered questionnaires were checked for completeness. After this clean up activity, data was entered into Statistical Package for Social Sciences [SPSS] version 24 computer software for statistical analysis after which descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and median were computed. The findings were presented using descriptive tables, figures and narratives for ease of understanding the results. Inferential analysis that was generated included model summary to test the level of influence, analysis of variance to test hypothesis and regression coefficients to test the study's model. Diagnostic tests such as normality, linearity, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation were tested. The study used multiple regression analysis in order to determine the relationship between social capital and financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Laikipia County, Kenya. The following regression model was used:

$Y = C + \beta 1X1 + \beta 2X2 + \beta 3X3 + \beta 4X4 + \hat{e}$

Where:

Y = Financial inclusion

βi = Coefficients to be estimated

C= Constant

XI= Social networks

X2 = Social support

X3 = Social participation

X4 = Social cohesion

$\hat{e}$ = Error

Qualitative data from interview was first organized into themes and categories for analysis purposes, while the quantifiable information gotten from document analysis was coded and entered into SPSS for statistical analysis. Interview responses were transcribed to yield qualitative data which was organized according to the identified themes.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The study maintained utmost ethical standard by first getting approval from Kenya Methodist University [KeMU] through issuance of an introductory letter. The approvals were required for applying research permit from NACOSTI. The study-maintained confidentiality whereby the identity of respondents was not be revealed. The respondents were also be at liberty to make a choice of voluntary participation in the study.

This was done by introducing the study through issuance of the study's introduction letter. The study gave due credit to all the sources of information through appropriate citation and references in full adherence to APA 7th edition. The study also maintained privacy of information by ensuring that the interview responses and answered questionnaires had been stored under lock and key once analysis was complete. The results of this study were displayed at public domains such university repository for institutions and future studies to greatly benefit from the outcome of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSISON

4.1 Introduction

The chapter first provided results on pre-test study which were in form of Cronbach Alpha Coefficient to measure reliability. Thereafter, the response rate, demographic information and diagnostic test were provided. The chapter presented descriptive statistics on financial inclusion which is the dependent variable and consecutive interview responses. Afterwards, the descriptive results, interview results, linear regression analysis such as model summary and ANOVA was provided on social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion. Thereafter, multiple regression analysis was provided on social capital such as model summary and ANOVA. The chapter concluded by presenting the regression coefficient results as a means of answering the study's model.

4.2 Reliability Results

The study conducted pre-test on 1 women group in Samburu County whose 1 chairlady, 1 secretary, 1 treasurer and 15 women members, were considered for the pre-test study. The leaders were selected using purposive sampling method while the members were selected using simple random sampling method. Table 4.1 presents the results.

Table 4.1

Reliability Results

Instrument	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
Questionnaire	.942	15
Interview	.887	3

As per Table 4.1, the questionnaires had a Cronbach Alpha coefficient value of 0.942 while the interview guide had 0.887. According to Trizano and Alvarado (2016), when the results of Cronbach Alpha range from 0 to 0.6 on scale, they are weak but when they range from 0.7 to 1 on scale, they are reliable to be used for the main study. Therefore, since all the coefficients were above 0.7, the study's instruments were reliable.

4.2 Response Rates

The sample size of the study comprised of 10 chairladies, 10 secretaries, 10 treasurers and 152 women members. Table 4.2 presents the results.

Table 4.2

Response Rate

Women Group Population	Sample size	Responded	Percentage
Chairlady	10	7	70%
Secretary	10	8	80%
Treasurer	10	7	70%
Members	152	134	88%
Overall Total	182	156	86%

As per Table 4.2, 7 out of 10 chairladies agreed to be interviewed. This signified a 70% response rate. Additionally, 8 out of 10 secretaries also agreed to be interviewed, signifying an 80% response rate. Further 7 out of 10 treasurers agreed to be interviewed, signifying a 70% response rate. On members, 134 out of 152 answered the questionnaire signifying an 88% response rate. Therefore, the total response rate was 156 out of the sample size of 182 which was 86%. The results indicated that the both the women leaders and members came out in large numbers to participate in the study. The reason could be that, the women groups were ready to be heard so that they could be in positions of accessing finances and knowledge that could help their members move from poverty to stability. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) also advised that when the response rate is above seventy percent, it implied that there was a 'very good' response turn out.

4.3 Demographic Information

The study inquired on demographic information from various leaders and members. The leaders were required to indicate the number of years they had been in leadership while the members were required to indicate the number of years of their membership. Table 4.3 presents the results.

Table 4.3

Demographic Information

Years of Membership	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Above 10 years	12	9	9
3-5 years	22	16	25
1-3 years	92	69	94
Less than 1 year	8	6	100
Total	**134**	**100**	
Years of Leadership	**Frequency**	**Percent**	**Cumulative Percent**
Above 3 years	2	9	9
1-3 years	15	68	77
Less than 1 year	5	23	100
Total	22	100	

As per Table 4.3, it was clear that most members, 92(69%) were registered and actively engaged in the activities of the group between 1-3 years. Additionally, 15 (68%) leaders had led their respective groups for a period of 1-3 years. However, it was noted that only 8(6%) members had stayed in the groups for less than 1 year; and 5(23%) of leaders led for less than 1 year. The results mean that most women groups failed to keep on recruiting more members into the groups since for at least less than 1 year, the groups had enrolled only 8(6%). This indicated that the requirements for joining a group were more demanding and expensive for new recruits to be able to afford. Additionally, the study gathered most constitutions of the groups advised that the leaders get elected after every three years. The results were the same just as a report by Access to Finance Rwanda (2022) indicated that when enhancing financial inclusion among Rwandan Women, cost to join a financial group was a key determinant on the number of women to be financially included.

4.4 Diagnostic Test

Diagnostic tests such as normality, linearity, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation were tested as indicated in sub sections 4.4.1 to 4.4.5.

4.4.1 Normality Test

The study tested whether the collected data was normal through the help of One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test as presented on Table 4.4.

Table 4.4

Normality Test

		Social networks	Social support	Social participation	Social cohesion	Financial inclusion
N		156	156	156	156	156
Normal Parameters[a,b]	Mean	15.3284	17.0451	13.8284	16.8421	17.0672
	Std. Deviation	3.85796	2.19457	3.93275	2.19449	2.41299
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.174	.123	.113	.138	.168
	Positive	.113	.090	.089	.090	.112
	Negative	-.174	-.123	-.113	-.138	-.168
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		1.009	1.423	1.303	1.588	1.245
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.084	.053	.067	.051	.072

a. Test distribution is Normal.
b. Calculated from data.

As per Table 4.4, social networks had a significance value of 0.084; social support had a significance value of 0.053; social participation had a significance value of 0.067; social cohesion had a significance value of 0.051; financial inclusion had a significance value of 0.072. The significance values for all variables were above 0.05 indicating that the data was normal. Normal data meant that there were no abnormalities such as having one extreme data set which is not skewed proportionately with other normal parameters (Mishra, 2019).

4.4.2 Linearity Test

The study tested whether the collected data was linear and the results are presented on Table 4.5.

Table 4.5

Linearity Test

			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Financial inclusion * Social networks	Between Groups	(Combined)	111.208	14	7.943	1.425	.152
		Linearity	43.949	1	43.949	7.886	.006
		Deviation from Linearity	67.259	13	5.174	.928	.526
	Within Groups		663.188	142	5.573		
	Total		774.396	156			
Social support	Between Groups	(Combined)	47.442	9	5.271	.893	.533
		Linearity	13.766	1	13.766	2.333	.129
		Deviation from Linearity	33.676	8	4.210	.713	.679
	Within Groups		725.806	147	5.901		
	Total		773.248	156			
Social participation	Between Groups	(Combined)	101.135	14	7.224	1.277	.232
		Linearity	6.593	1	6.593	1.165	.283
		Deviation from Linearity	94.542	13	7.272	1.285	.231
	Within Groups		673.261	142	5.658		
	Total		774.396	156			
Social cohesion	Between Groups	(Combined)	67.585	9	7.509	1.314	.236
		Linearity	.262	1	.262	.046	.831
		Deviation from Linearity	67.323	8	8.415	1.472	.174
	Within Groups		703.047	147	5.716		
	Total		770.632	156			

As per Table 4.5, social networks had a significance value of 0.526; social support had a significance value of 0.679; social participation had a significance value of 0.231; and social cohesion had a significance value of 0.174. The significance values for all variables were above 0.05 indicating that the data was linear hence the values could be easily be presented using on a straight line proportionately.

4.4.3 Multicollinearity Test

The study conducted the multicollinearity test with use of Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and tolerance level as presented on Table 4.5. The

Table 4.6

Multicollinearity Test

Model		Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)		
	Social networks	.866	1.155
	Social support	.961	1.041
	Social participation	.835	1.197
	Social cohesion	.951	1.052

As per Table 4.6, social networks had a tolerance level of 0.866 and VIF of 1.155; social support had a tolerance level of 0.961 and VIF of 1.041; social participation had a tolerance of 0.835 and VIF of 1.197; social cohesion had a tolerance of 0.951 and VIF of 1.052. Based on the results, the tolerance level was above 0.2 and VIF below 5 which concurs with (Wanjiku, 2019). The results indicated that the study was linear hence the values could be proportionately be distributed along a straight line. Additionally, it indicated that the social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion withheld their characteristics without necessarily being swayed by financial inclusion variable.

4.4.4 Heteroskedasticity Test

The study also analyzed the heteroskedasticity test on the values as presented on Table 4.7.

Table 4.7

Heteroskedasticity Test

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	16.702	2.471		.758	.241
	Social networks	.159	.057	.252	.774	.326
	Social support	.213	.096	.192	.227	.828
	Social participation	.023	.058	.037	.397	.692
	Social cohesion	.031	.096	.028	.323	.747

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.7, social networks had a significance value of 0.326; social support had a significance value of 0.828; social protection had a significance value of 0.692; and social cohesion had a significance value of 0.747. Therefore, the results meant that all the significance values of the variables were above 0.05 hence the study did not have heteroskedasticity issue.

4.4.5 Autocorrelation Test

The aspect of correlation of the variables were tested through Durbin Watson test as presented on Table 4.8.

Table 4.8

Autocorrelation Test

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.944[a]	.891	.861	2.34902	1.547

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social cohesion, social support, social networks, social participation

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.8, it was clear that the Durbin Watson of the combined variables of the study was 1.547 which indicated that it lied between 0-2 signifying positive correlation. As directed by Turner (2019), when the Durbin Watson values ranged from 0-2, there was positive correlation and anything between 2.1-4, the correlation was negative.

4.5 Descriptive Statistics of Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion which was the dependent variable had indicators such as financial skills, financial savings, financial transactions, credit facility, insurance facility, and pension facility. The study collected data using questionnaires for women members and interviews for women leaders. The questionnaires had options such as: 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree. The results are presented on Table 4.9.

Table 4.9

Descriptive Statistics of Financial Inclusion

Statements N=134	1	2	3	4	5	Median
Access to financial skills gotten from seminars and conferences	2(2%)	11(8%)	0(0%)	26(19%)	95(71%)	**5.00**
Ability to save money in safe and reliable banks hence earning interest	44(33%)	68(50%)	0(0%)	20(15%)	2(2%)	**2.00**
Updated on various financial transactions e.g., money transfers due to adequate financial knowledge	49(37%)	46(34%)	0(0%)	33(25%)	6(4%)	**2.00**
Access credit facilities since they have all documentatio ns needed	0(0%)	15(11%)	3(2%)	111(84%)	5(3%)	**4.00**

As per Table 4.9, 95(71%) and 26(19%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women have been able to access financial skills as a result of seminars and conferences attended (Median 5). That notwithstanding, 44(33%) and 68(50%) strongly disagreed and disagreed that women were able to save their money in safe and reliable banks hence earning interest (Median 2). Additionally, 49(37%) and 46(34%) strongly disagreed and disagreed that women were able to keep tabs with various financial transactions e.g., money transfers due to adequate financial knowledge they had acquired over time. These results mean that there was still a long way to be covered as far as ability to save and follow up on financial transactions. This clearly indicated that women had not yet reached the level of having enough money to be able to keep some in the bank since the little they got was directly used in their households. Additionally, the women were not well versed with the operations of banking as supposed. International Monetary Fund (2019) also pointed out that most of the women had low knowledge on financial matters such as having no clue on the processes followed to know their balances and cashflows. They therefore relied on personal manual calculations on what they thought was the balance.

The study interviewed the women group leaders who were chairladies, secretaries and treasurers. The study required them to highlight the various products offered at NRT SACCO that women groups benefit from. The products named included group loans, personal loans, business loans, personal and business accounts, fixed deposits, money market, foreign exchange services and mortgages. Further, the study required them to explain the elimination method used in approval of credit facility. The method stated were availability of banking statements, memorandum of association, filled in loan request form, collateral and amount of savings. Additionally, the study required them to elaborate the kind of financial transactions that women groups engaged that could indicate that they had access to finances. The transactions included banks deposit, bank withdrawals, approved loans, and approved foreign exchange currencies. From the interview results it was clear that there were clear financial products put in place by various financial institutions support women, methods instilled on how women would access the finances; and also, the common ways women interreacted on financial systems. The results tally with what Kyungha (2022) revealed that ways of examining the impact that Nairobi women had gotten from mobile money, involved understanding the mobile money products and access methods.

4.6 Descriptive Statistics of Social Networks

Social networking was an independent variable which had indicators such as access to alternative sources of income, access to education especially in financial matters, availability of financial information and opportunity for occupational growth. The study collected data using questionnaires for women members and interviews for women leaders. The questionnaires had options such as: 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree. The results are presented on Table 4.10.

Table 4.10

Descriptive Statistics of Social Networks

Statements N=134	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**Median**
Access and learn alternative sources of income through use of internet enabled mobile phones	93(69%)	23(17%)	0(0%)	13(10%)	5(4%)	**2.00**
Group leaders are actively mandated to ensure that women are educated in financial matters	6(5%)	26(19%)	0(0%)	33(25%)	69(51%)	**5.00**
Reliable social network sources of financial information	24(18%)	12(9%)	8(6%)	11(8%)	79(59%)	**4.00**
Women groups have partnered with NGOs such as NRT financial systems	0(0%)	20(15%)	9(7%)	36(27%)	69(51%)	**5.00**

As per Table 4.10, 69(51%) and 36(27%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups had partnered with NGOs such as NRT financial systems which had brought an opportunity for occupational growth for members. However, 93(69%) and 23(17%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that women were able to access and learn alternative sources of income through use of internet enabled mobile phones. The results indicate that most women lacked money to purchase internet enabled mobile gadgets that would help them when learning on financial matters. They only relied on NGOs for the training of financial issues and also access to opportunities. This meant that the women members did not get a personal chance of learning and accessing finances without necessarily involving the group. A study by Schettera et al. (2022) indicate that NGOs were encountering with the challenges of violence against women since they did not diversify their low incomes to create a pool of personal resources they could access, when need be, thereby depending fully on their husbands who did not also have stable income.

The study interviewed the women group leaders who were chairladies, secretaries and treasurers. The study required them to highlight the various sensitization measures put in place to ensure women can identify alternative sources of income and hence access opportunity for occupational growth through use of social networks. The named sensitization measures included peer influence, formal and informal meetings. Further, the study required them to explain the process of ensuring that women groups get funds to acquire electronic gadgets so as to access education especially in financial matters.

They named that the specific women write an application to group leaders. The group leaders weigh the matters and when the members payment history is trustworthy after the assessment, they are given a go ahead to take credit from the NRT Sacco. The group leaders mobilize the members to sign that they have agreed to act as grantors for this particular member towards accessing credit to purchase a mobile phone, tablet or a laptop. NRT assesses the loan application and when they approve the loan, the member is able to either get direct funds to their account or purchase of the electronic gadget is purchased by the Sacco. Additionally, the study required them to elaborate various websites or portal that they normally recommended women in the groups to read for purposes of accessing financial information. The portals/ websites included NRT Sacco website, Laikipia county government website, and SASSRA website.

The results have proved that most women group leaders had enacted reliable sensitization measures and the process groups underwent to ensure that the women members got electronic gadgets. It was also noted that most members were being informed on how to adequately use the gadgets to improve their financial knowledge such as directing them on various websites they could log into to ensure that they got financial education even at a personal level. The results concur with a past study such as Wangui (2021) who found out that growth of women in various groups was experienced when financial literacy was expanded through personal initiatives such as accessing websites rich in financial statistics.

4.7 Model Summary of Social Networks and Financial Inclusion

The study examined the level of influence that social networks had on financial inclusion as presented on Table 4.11.

Table 4.11

Model Summary of Social Networks

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.712[a]	.507	.500	2.35238	1.524

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social networks

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.11, the R coefficient was 0.712 while R-Square was 0.507. This meant that social networks had a 50.7% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 49.3% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. Therefore, the results meant that financial inclusion was greatly affected by social networks hence required attention to details to explore how various indictors such as access to alternative sources of income, access to education especially in financial matters, availability of financial information and opportunity for occupational growth played out.

4.8 ANOVA of Social Networks and Financial Inclusion

The study tested through ANOVA the null hypothesis which stated that social networks do not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. Table 4.12 presents the results.

Table 4.12

ANOVA of Social Networks

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	43.949	1	43.949	7.942	.006[b]
	Residual	730.447	155	5.534		
	Total	774.396	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion
b. Predictors: (Constant), social networks

As per Table 4.12, the significance value was 0.006 which was less than 0.05. The study rejected null hypothesis that social networks do not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. This means that when exploring financial inclusion social networks forms integral part in expressing wholeness. That is, social networks cannot be disregarded as far as their influence on financial inclusion is concerned.

4.9 Descriptive Statistics of Social Support

Social support was an independent variable which had indicators such as working experience in financial aspects, economic access to financial resources, access to power and authority, and financial management skills. The study collected data using questionnaires for women members and interviews for women leaders. The questionnaires had options such as: 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree. The results are presented on Table 4.13.

Table 4.13

Descriptive Statistics of Social Support

Statements N=134	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**Median**
Group leaders have partnered with several financial professionals	0(0%)	29(21%)	8(6%)	47(35%)	50(37%)	**4.00**
Many income projects of the groups have opened a door on economic access to financial resources	1(1%)	16(12%)	2(2%)	37(28%)	78(57%)	**5.00**
Women have been able to access power and authority through engaging various local and international sponsors	0(0%)	108(80%)	0(0%)	6(5%)	20(15%)	**2.00**
There are frequent trainings offered to women	9(7%)	9(7%)	0(0%)	40(30%)	76(56%)	**5.00**

As per Table 4.13, 78(57%) and 37(57%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that there were many income projects of the groups which had opened a door on economic access to financial resources. Additionally, 76(56%) and 40(30%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that there were frequent trainings offered to women to enhance their financial management skills. That notwithstanding, 108(80%) disagreed that women had been able to access power and authority through engaging various local and international sponsors willing to invest in some of the projects' women groups had developed.

The results mean that though women had been able to have income projects and financial training, they were limited on how far they could extend their financial freedom wings. That is, the study found out that women groups were allowed to access available trainings and income projects but never got a chance to access real power. Therefore, they required support from someone else or an institution to access power and freedom to explore ways in which they could engage the sponsors one on one. World Bank (2022b) also revealed that due to lack of equal economic rights, the women's level of funds access and financial training was pegged on the good will of support offered which at times came with a price. Any decline in the good will, would definitely result to women being taken back to square one as far as availability of income and financial education.

The study interviewed the women group leaders who were chairladies, secretaries and treasurers. The study required them to elaborate social support women get from your personal working experience in financial aspects which have led to economic access to financial resources. The support included funding, financial expertise mentorship, goodwill and financial opportunities connections. Further, the study required them to explain the various financial management skills that you have ever helped women access. The skills were accounting skills, financial reporting, auditing, and financial transactions reconciliations. Additionally, the study required them to highlight the steps involved for women to be in a position of joining NRT. The steps included being in a group of at least twenty people who have a memorandum of association and minutes of meeting indicating the intention of joining NRT will all members present and appended their signature. Filling in the NRT group application and bank statements to disclose the financial history of the group.

The results are similar to a report by European Investment Bank (2021) which revealed that as an initiative of the Africans transiting and rising into digital economy, all people needed to be included in the program. More specific to women, the report found out that digital transition was faster when an initiative to improve their financial management skills such as accounting, financial auditing, mentorship, and connecting them to financial opportunities, was increased.

4.10 Model Summary of Social Support and Financial Inclusion

The study examined the level of influence that social support had on financial inclusion as presented on Table 4.14.

Table 4.14

Model Summary of Social Support

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.829[a]	.687	.670	2.40782	1.444

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social support

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.14, the R coefficient was 0.829 while R-Square was 0.687. This meant that social networks had a 68.7% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 31.3% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. This meant that social support was a key aspect in determining the financial inclusion and hence more emphasis should be enhanced on improved working experience in financial aspects, enhanced economic access to financial resources, more access to power and authority, and increased financial management skills.

4.11 ANOVA of Social Support and Financial Inclusion

The study tested through ANOVA the null hypothesis which stated that social support does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. Table 4.15 presents the results.

Table 4.15

ANOVA of Social Support

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	13.766	1	13.766	2.374	.026[b]
	Residual	759.482	155	5.798		
	Total	773.248	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social support

As per Table 4.15, the significance value was 0.026 which was less than 0.05. The study rejected null hypothesis that social support does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. This meant that social support had a positive effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust, signifying the relevance that social support as a building block on financial inlusion.

4.12 Descriptive Statistics of Social Participation

Social participation was an independent variable which had indicators such as financial knowledge, insights on outstanding financial performance, access to financial services, and availability of financial opportunities on investments. The study collected data using questionnaires for women members and interviews for women leaders. The questionnaires had options such as: 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree. The results are presented on Table 4.16.

Table 4.16

Descriptive Statistics of Social Participation

Statements N=134	1	2	3	4	5	Median
There is a platform for women to participate with each other projects	10(8%)	37(27%)	0(0%)	44(33%)	43(32%)	**4.00**
Women have gotten a chance to attend finance seminars and conference	6(5%)	36(27%)	1(1%)	49(37%)	42(30%)	**4.00**
Women groups are able to access to financial services	40(30%)	18(13%)	11(8%)	26(19%)	39(29%)	**5.00**
Availability of financial opportunities on investments as a result of women groups selling products to internal and external promoters	80(60%)	27(20%)	0(0%)	13(10%)	14(10%)	**2.00**

As per Table 4.16, 39(29%) and 26(19%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups were able to access to financial services e.g., accounting services at subsidized rates after partnering with NGOs such as NRT. However, 80(60%) and 27(20%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that there has been availability of financial opportunities on investments as a result of women groups selling products to internal and external promoters. The results meant that though women were in a position of getting finances, the full access to financial opportunities was limited. This is whereby many groups of women had to rely on few economic activities that were majorly pegged on the directions given by both national and county governments. Kimaiyo (2021) pointed out that the ability of limited investment opportunities among women in the household was affecting their ability to save.

The study interviewed the women group leaders who were chairladies, secretaries and treasurers. The study required them to highlight examples of various types of financial knowledge women in groups were bound to get that enabled them have outstanding performances in their projects. The financial knowledge included book-keeping, reconciliation and auditing. The study required them to name ways that NRT linked women to access financial services such as accounting services. The ways included connecting them with various accounting firms, accountants, financial managers and auditors. The study required them to point out the selection criteria that they used to rule out women groups that got access to financial opportunities on investments such as beadworks. They named availability of memorandum of association, group minutes and application status to NRT. Maina (2020) also necessitated the relevance of self-help groups in joining empowerment institutions to have socio-economic growth. These empowerment institutions were named as both government and non-government institutions which promoted financial management skills, knowledge and opportunities.

4.13 Model Summary of Social Participation and Financial Inclusion

The study examined the level of influence that social participation had on financial inclusion as presented on Table 4.17.

Table 4.17

Model Summary of Social Participation

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.0863[a]	.745	.701	2.41178	1.496

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social participation

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.17, the R coefficient was 0.863 while R-Square was 0.745. This meant that social participation had a 74.5% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 25.5% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. These results meant that social participation was a major building block promoting financial inclusion of women. Therefore, there is need to improve financial knowledge, advance insights on outstanding financial performance, promote access to financial services, and increase availability of financial opportunities on investments.

4.14 ANOVA of Social Participation and Financial Inclusion

The study tested through ANOVA the null hypothesis which stated that social participation does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. Table 4.18 presents the results.

Table 4.18

ANOVA of Social Participation

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.593	1	6.593	1.133	.009[b]
	Residual	767.803	155	5.817		
	Total	774.396	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social participation

As per Table 4.18, the significance value was 0.009 which was less than 0.05. The study rejected null hypothesis that social participation does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. This meant that social participation had a positive effect on financial inclusion and required continuous implementation of policies on ways to ensure there are clear channels and ways of ensuring the stakeholders are involved.

4.15 Descriptive Statistics of Social Cohesion

Social cohesion was an independent variable which had indicators such as financial values, availability of financial resources, development programs and growth of personal financial skills. The study collected data using questionnaires for women members and interviews for women leaders. The questionnaires had options such as: 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree. The results are presented on Table 4.19.

Table 4.19

Descriptive Statistics of Social Cohesion

Statements N=134	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**Median**
Women have been equipped with clear financial values so as to engage in ethical deals	5(3%)	18(13%)	0(0%)	33(25%)	78(59%)	**5.00**
Women are able to relate well with various stakeholders such as debtors	91(68%)	26(19%)	1(1%)	15(11%)	1(1%)	**2.00**
Women groups have been able to learn a lot from other groups who attend development programs together	2(2%)	15(11%)	0(0%)	24(18%)	93(69%)	**5.00**
Growth of personal financial skills	18(13%)	17(13%)	2(2%)	35(26%)	62(46%)	**5.00**

As per Table 4.19, 78(59%) and 33(25%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women had been equipped with clear financial values so as to engage in ethical deals both at personal or communal levels. Additionally, 93(69%) and 24(18%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups had been able to learn a lot from other groups who attended development programs together. That notwithstanding, 91(68%) and 26(19%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that women were able to relate well with various stakeholders such as debtors who had promptly paid thereby availing financial resources. The results indicated that financial management skills such as debt management and recovery was low among the women. What this meant was that, women were vulnerable towards losing their hard-earned income out of bad debts. They did not enough skills to manage debts and recover any debt issued to friends, relatives and family members. Crawn Trust (2021) also found out that women potential to advance their economic status was being slowed down due to their inability to manage and recover debt.

The study interviewed the women group leaders who were chairladies, secretaries and treasurers. The study required them to elaborate various financial values that they upheld in women groups. The financial values were accountability, trustworthy, and resourcefulness. The study required them to explain the methods used to ensure that each and every woman had growth of personal financial skills. The methods were teaching, empowerment, and peer influence. The study required them to name various development programs that women groups were actively engaged which had opened up the availability of financial resources. The programs were engaging women in beads making, mango farming, tree seedling and beekeeping. NRT also enabled the women sell the products in both local and international markets as a way of sustaining their livelihoods. A report by

International Labor Organization (2022) revealed that informal African women entrepreneurs were being encouraged to practice financial values in their undertaking so that by the time they were growing into becoming formal, they transferred the values towards having sustainable development.

4.16 Model Summary of Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion

The study examined the level of influence that social cohesion had on financial inclusion as presented on Table 4.20.

Table 4.20

Model Summary of Social Cohesion

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.727[a]	.528	.516	2.42501	1.426

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social cohesion

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.20, the R coefficient was 0.727 while R-Square was 0.528. This meant that social cohesion had a 52.8% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 47.2% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. This indicated that social cohesion was more of a minor building block towards financial inclusion. Therefore, there was need to have more input made on ways to ensure there was cohesiveness of the stakeholders.

4.17 ANOVA of Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion

The study tested through ANOVA the null hypothesis which stated that social cohesion does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. Table 4.21 presents the results.

Table 4.21

ANOVA of Social Cohesion

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.262	1	.262	.044	.033[b]
	Residual	770.370	155	5.881		
	Total	770.632	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion
b. Predictors: (Constant), Social cohesion

As per Table 4.21, the significance value was 0.033 which was less than 0.05. The study rejected null hypothesis that social cohesion does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. This meant that social cohesion had a positive effect on financial inclusion though the effect was not much. Therefore, there was need to re-look into the various cohesive means such as financial values, availability of financial resources, development programs and growth of personal financial skills. This is because, their impact was minimally felt towards growth of financial inclusion.

4.18 Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was provided on social capital such as model summary, ANOVA and regression coefficients.

4.18.1 Model Summary of Social Capital and Financial Inclusion

The study examined the level of influence that social capital which comprised of social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion had on financial inclusion as presented on Table 4.23.

Table 4.23

Model Summary of Social Capital

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.944[a]	.891	.861	2.34902	1.547

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social cohesion, social support, social networks, social participation

b. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.23, the R coefficient was 0.944 while R-Square was 0.891. This meant that social capital had an 89.1% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 10.9% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. This meant that social capital was a key factor when building financial inclusion. Therefore, the key areas such as social networks, social support, social participation and social cohesion should be enhanced to even have a higher margin in building financial inclusion.

4.18.2 ANOVA of Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion

The study had a main objective of investigating the effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. To examine whether there was any effect, ANOVA analysis was used. Table 4.24 presents the results.

Table 4.24

ANOVA of Social Capital

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	68.740	4	17.185	3.114	.018[b]
1	Residual	700.775	152	5.518		
	Total	769.515	156			

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social cohesion, social support, social networks, social participation

As per Table 4.24, the significance value was 0.018 which was less than 0.05. The study therefore indicated that social capital had a significant effect on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. This meant that social capital had a positive effect on financial inclusion hence the various aspects such as social cohesion, support, networks and participation should be further improved.

4.18.3 Regression Coefficients of Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion

The study's regression model was as follows: $Y = C + \beta 1X1 + \beta 2X2 + \beta 3X3 + \beta 4X4$, where: Y was financial inclusion; βi was Coefficients to be estimate; C was Constant; X1 was social network; X2 was social support; X3 was social participation; and X4 was social cohesion. Table 4.25 presents the results.

Table 4.25

Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	16.702	2.471		.758	.241
	Social networks	.159	.057	.252	.774	.326
	Social support	.213	.096	.192	.227	.828
	Social participation	.023	.058	.037	.397	.692
	Social cohesion	.031	.096	.028	.323	.747

a. Dependent Variable: Financial inclusion

As per Table 4.25, constant was 16.072; social networks had beta coefficient value of 0.159; social support had beta coefficient value of 0.213; social participation had beta coefficient value of 0.023; social cohesion had beta coefficient value of 0.031. When equated to the model it was; Y= 16.072C+ 0.159XI+0.213X2+0.023X3+0.031X4. The results indicated that separately each variable was significant but when combined all variables were statistically insignificant hence had a high chance of improving the financial inclusion among women groups.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The main objective of the study was to investigate effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. Specific objectives were; To evaluate the effect of social networks on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya; To examine the effect of social support on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya; To assess the effect of social participation on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya; and to investigate the effect of social cohesion on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya. The study had three theories that guide it which are; Empowerment theory, social capital theory and social exchange theory. Empowerment theory guided social network variable of the study. Social Capital theory guided social support variable of the study. Social exchange theory guided social participation and social cohesion variables of the study.

The current study used descriptive research design to collect quantitative and qualitative data. The target population was 10 women groups registered in Northern Rangeland Trust in Laikipia County. The respondents were 10 chairladies, 10 secretaries, 10 treasurers, and 152 women members. Women group leaders were interviewed while the women who were members of self-help groups answered the questionnaire. The study conducted pre-test on 1 women group in Samburu County selected using simple random method. The study also sampled 1 chairlady, 1 secretary, 1 treasurer and 15 women members. Chairladies, secretaries and treasurers were selected using purposive sampling method while the members were selected using simple random sampling method.

The descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages and median were computed. The findings were presented using descriptive tables, figures and narratives for ease of understanding the results. Inferential analysis to be generated included model summary to test the level of influence, analysis of variance to test hypothesis and regression coefficients to test the study's model. Diagnostic tests such as normality, linearity, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation were tested. The study used multiple regression analysis in order to determine the relationship between linking social capital and financial inclusion of women groups in northern rangeland trust, Laikipia county, Kenya.

5.2 Summary of Results

The study analyzed data from social networks, social support, social participation, social cohesion and financial inclusion.

5.2.1 Social Networks

The results from the questionnaires revealed, 69(51%) and 36(27%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups had partnered with NGOs such as NRT financial systems which had brought an opportunity for occupational growth for members. However, 93(69%) and 23(17%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that women were able to access and learn alternative sources of income through use of internet enabled mobile phones. The R coefficient was 0.712 while R-Square was 0.507. This meant that social networks had a 50.7% influence on financial inclusion. The significance value was 0.006 which was less than 0.05. The study therefore rejected null hypothesis that social networks do not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

The results from the interviews revealed, the various sensitization measures put in place to ensure women can identify alternative sources of income included peer influence, formal and informal meetings. Additionally, the process of ensuring that women groups got funds to acquire electronic gadgets included specific women write an application to group leaders. The group leaders weigh the matters and when the members payment history is trustworthy after the assessment, they are given a go ahead to take credit from the NRT Sacco. The group leaders mobilize the members to sign that they have agreed to act as grantors for this particular member towards accessing credit to purchase a mobile phone, tablet or a laptop. NRT assesses the loan application and when they approve the loan, the member is able to either get direct funds to their account or purchase of the electronic gadget is purchased by the Sacco. Further, the various websites or portal that the groups normally recommended women in the groups to read for purposes of accessing financial information included NRT Sacco website, Laikipia county government website, and SASSRA website.

5.2.2 Social Support

The results from the questionnaires revealed, 78(57%) and 37(57%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that there were many income projects of the groups which had opened a door on economic access to financial resources. Additionally, 76(56%) and 40(30%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that there were frequent trainings offered to women to enhance their financial management skills. That notwithstanding, 108(80%) disagreed that women had been able to access power and authority through engaging various local and international sponsors willing to invest in some of the projects' women groups had developed. The R coefficient was 0.829 while R-Square was 0.687. This meant that social networks had a 68.7% influence on financial inclusion. The significance value was 0.026 which was less than 0.05. The study therefore rejected null hypothesis that social support does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

The results from the interviews revealed, the social support women got from personal working experience in financial aspects of their leaders included funding, financial expertise mentorship, goodwill and financial opportunities connections. Additionally, the various financial management skills that leaders ever helped women access included accounting skills, financial reporting, auditing, and financial transactions reconciliations. Further, the steps involved for women to be in a position of joining NRT included being in a group of at least twenty people who have a memorandum of association and minutes of meeting indicating the intention of joining NRT will all members present and appended their signature. Filling in the NRT group application and bank statements to disclose the financial history of the group.

5.2.3 Social Participation

The results from the questionnaires revealed, 39(29%) and 26(19%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups were able to access to financial services e.g., accounting services at subsidized rates after partnering with NGOs such as NRT. However, 80(60%) and 27(20%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that there has been availability of financial opportunities on investments as a result of women groups selling products to internal and external promoters. The R coefficient was 0.863 while R-

Square was 0.745. This meant that social networks had a 74.5% influence on financial inclusion. The significance value was 0.009 which was less than 0.05. The study therefore rejected null hypothesis that social participation does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

The results from the interviews revealed, the various types of financial knowledge women in groups were bound to get that enabled them have outstanding performances in their projects as book-keeping, reconciliation and auditing. Additionally, the ways that NRT linked women to access financial services included connecting them with various accounting firms, accountants, financial managers and auditors. Further, the selection criteria that they used to rule out women groups that got access to financial opportunities on investments included availability of memorandum of association, group minutes and application status to NRT.

5.2.4 Social Cohesion

The results from the questionnaires revealed, 78(59%) and 33(25%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women had been equipped with clear financial values so as to engage in ethical deals both at personal or communal levels. Additionally, 93(69%) and 24(18%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women groups had been able to learn a lot from other groups who attended development programs together. That notwithstanding, 91(68%) and 26(19%) strongly disagreed and disagreed correspondingly that women were able to relate well with various stakeholders such as debtors who had promptly paid thereby availing financial resources. The R coefficient was 0.727 while R-Square was 0.528. This meant that social cohesion had a 52.8% influence on financial inclusion while the reminder of 47.2% were other aspects not under the review in the current study. The significance value was 0.033 which was less than 0.05. The study rejected null hypothesis that social cohesion does not have significant effect on financial inclusion of Northern Rangeland Trust women groups, Kenya.

The results from the interviews revealed, the various financial values that leader upheld in women groups were accountability, trustworthy, and resourcefulness. Additionally, the methods used to ensure that each and every woman had growth of personal financial skills were teaching, empowerment, and peer influence. Further, various development programs that women groups were actively engaged which had opened up the availability of financial resources were engaging women in beads making, mango farming, tree seedling and beekeeping.

5.2.5 Financial Inclusion

The results from the questionnaires revealed (71%) and 26(19%) strongly agreed and agreed correspondingly that women have been able to access financial skills as a result of seminars and conferences attended (Median 5). That notwithstanding, 44(33%) and 68(50%) strongly disagreed and disagreed that women were able to save their money in safe and reliable banks hence earning interest (Median 2). Additionally, 49(37%) and 46(34%) strongly disagreed and disagreed that women were able to keep tabs with various financial transactions e.g., money transfers due to adequate financial knowledge they had acquired over time.

The results from the interviews revealed the various products offered at NRT SACCO that women groups benefit from included group loans, personal loans, business loans, personal and business accounts, fixed deposits, money market, foreign exchange services and mortgages. Additionally, the elimination method used in approval of credit facility included availability of banking statements, memorandum of association, filled in loan request form, collateral and amount of savings. Further, the kind of financial transactions that women groups engaged that could indicate that they had access to finances included banks deposit, bank withdrawals, approved loans, and approved foreign exchange currencies.

5.3 Conclusions of the Study

The conclusion made on social networks was that most women lacked money to purchase internet enabled mobile gadgets that would help them when learning on financial matters. They only relied on NGOs for the training of financial issues and also access to opportunities. This meant that the women members did not get a personal chance of learning and accessing finances without necessarily involving the group. As a result, they did not diversify their low incomes to create a pool of personal resources they could access when need be.

The conclusion made on social support was that though women had been able to have income projects and financial training, they were limited on how far they could extend their financial freedom wings. That is, women groups were allowed to access available trainings and income projects but never got a chance to access real power. Therefore, they required support from someone else or an institution to access power and freedom to explore ways in which they could engage the sponsors one on one. The implication of this was that, the women's level of funds access and financial training was pegged on the good will of support offered which at times came with a price. Any decline in the good will, would definitely result to women being taken back to square one as far as availability of income and financial education.

The conclusion made on social participation was that in as much as women were in a position of getting finances, the full access to financial opportunities was limited. This is whereby many groups of women had to rely on few economic activities that were majorly pegged on the directions given by both national and county governments.

The conclusion made on social cohesion was that financial management skills such as debt management and recovery was low among the women. What this meant was that, women were vulnerable towards losing their hard-earned income out of bad debts. They did not enough skills to manage debts and recover any debt issued to friends, relatives and family members.

The conclusion made on financial inclusion was that there was still a long way to be covered as far as ability to save and follow up on financial transactions. This clearly indicated that women had not yet reached the level of having enough money to be able to keep some in the bank since the little they got was directly used in their households. Additionally, the women were not well versed with the operations of banking as supposed. Most of them had no clue on the processes followed to know their balances and cashflows. They therefore relied on personal manual calculations on what they thought was the balance.

On the model of the study, constant was 16.072; social networks had beta coefficient value of 0.159; social support had beta coefficient value of 0.213; social participation had beta coefficient value of 0.023; social cohesion had beta coefficient value of 0.031. When equated to the model it was; $Y= 0.159XI+0.213X2+0.023X3+0.031X4$. The results indicated that separately each variable was significant but when combine social networks were statistically insignificant.

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

The study recommends that on social networks, banking institutions such as saccos and micro-finance should come up with financing products that will serve the purpose of funding women into buying electronic gadgets. The women groups on the one hand should encourage frequent saving and as time progresses, they should increase the saving threshold so that the group grows. This would enable the group have alternatives such that they do not necessarily require their women members to be funded by various financial institutions to acquire basic electronic gadgets. On the other hand, the women members should embrace the culture of savings in their personal lives so that they have disposable income that can be used to not only save in the groups but also have money to purchase mobile phones and other electronic gadgets.

The study recommends that on social support, women should be encouraged to support each other to scale up the leadership ladders. More emphasis should be made on how both women leaders and members could be appointed in various government and non-government posts. There should be sharing of information on various job openings so that the qualified women could apply. Additionally, more emphasis should be done on women going back to schools to complete their basic education and other formal courses. This will enable them have realistic educational background that could be considered in cases where a job position comes up. Further, women should also be encouraged into engaging entrepreneurship whereby they should open industries that make them have a basis of bargaining for more opportunities for fellow women.

The study recommends that on social participation, there should be awareness raised by local leaders on available financial opportunities that women would engage locally to raise money. Various non-government organizations should encourage women to start various non-tradition business and explore wider on fields such as forex trading, online jobs, application of both local and international tenders among others. This would give an upper hand towards promoting more financial opportunities.

The study recommends that on social cohesion, both government and non-government institutions should introduce programs on debt management and recovery skills. The programs could be delivered formally and informally to the women groups. There curriculum should also make compulsory the debt management course to enable the young women acquire the skill as early as possible.

The study recommends that on financial inclusion, the government should promote various policies that encourage income generating projects such as establishment of food processing and other finished products industries that will encourage women to get formal employment. Additionally, the non-government organizations should look for more donors who support humanitarian programs that not only give back to the community but recruit women as a way of enabling them have sustainable incomes. The banking management should introduce sensitization programs that aim at spreading awareness on various banking processes among the women groups. This would encourage them have reliable information on what they should expect as far as the banking processes are concerned.

5.5 Suggestion for Future Studies

The study was conducted among women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust in Kenya. Future studies should expand the horizons to include among other women groups in other non-government organizations. Additionally, future studies should include women groups in government organizations to get their feedback.

The study collected data from women leaders who included the chairladies, secretaries, treasurers and women members. Future studies should also collect data from other respondents such as financial experts and organizational leaders coordinating the activities of the women groups to get their views.

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APPENDICIES

Appendix I: Letter of Consent

Dear Respondent,

RE: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

I am a post graduate student at Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) pursuing Master's in Business Administration (Finance). I am carrying out a study effect of social capital on financial inclusion of women groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya. I kindly request you to assist me gather information through giving responses. The information provided will only be used for the purpose of this study and the identities of the respondents will be held in strict confidence. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Fatuma Hussein Ali
Reg no: BUS-3-0925-1/2017

Appendix II: Interview Guide for Women Leaders

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. How long have you served in your capacity?

SECTION B: SOCIAL NETWORKS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Highlight the various sensitization measures put in place to ensure women can identify alternative sources of income and hence access opportunity for occupational growth through use of social networks?
2. Please explain the process of ensuring that women groups get funds to acquire electronic gadgets so as to access education especially in financial matters?
3. Elaborate various websites or portal that you normally recommend women in the groups to read for purposes of accessing financial information

SECTION C: SOCIAL SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Elaborate social support women get from your personal working experience in financial aspects which have led to economic access to financial resources?
2. Please explain the various financial management skills that you have ever helped women access?
3. Highlight the steps involved for women to be in a position of joining NRT?

SECTION D: SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Highlight examples of various types of financial knowledge women in groups are bound to get that enable them have outstanding performances in their projects?
2. In what way does NRT link women to access financial services such as accounting services?
3. Briefly point out the selection criteria that you use to rule out women groups that get access to financial opportunities on investments such as beadworks?

SECTION E: SOCIAL COHESION AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Elaborate various financial values that you uphold in women groups?
2. Explain the methods used to ensure that each and every woman has had growth of personal financial skills?
3. Please name various development programs that women groups are actively engaged which have opened up the availability of financial resources?

SECTION F: FINANCIAL INCLUSION

1. Highlight the various products offered at NRT SACCO that women groups benefit from?
2. Please explain the elimination method used in approval of credit facility?
3. Elaborate the kind of financial transactions that women groups engage that could indicate that they have access to finances.

Appendix III: Questionnaire for Women Members

You are requested to answer the following questions as truthful as you can. By filing in this questionnaire, you are affirming that you have agreed to participate in this study. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used for academic purposes only.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. How long have you been a member in the women group?

a) Less than one year ☐
b) 1-3 years ☐
c) 3-5 years ☐
d) Above 10 years ☐

SECTION B: SOCIAL NETWORKS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This section has statements regarding social networks and financial inclusion. Kindly respond with the response that matches your opinion. Please tick as appropriate in the boxes. 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree.

No	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Women are able to access and learn alternative sources of income through use of internet enabled mobile phones					
2.	Women group leaders are actively mandated to ensure that women are educated in financial matters through social media networks such as WhatsApp and Facebook					

3.	There are reliable social network sources of financial information that women could use to acquire knowledge					
4.	Women groups have partnered with NGOs such as NRT financial systems which has brought an opportunity for occupational growth for members.					

SECTION C: SOCIAL SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This section has statements regarding social support and financial inclusion. Kindly respond with the response that matches your opinion. Please tick as appropriate in the boxes. 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree.

No	**Statement**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
1.	The women group leaders have partnered with several financial professionals with many years of working experience in financial aspects so that women can get equipped with financial knowledge					
2.	The many income projects of the groups have opened a door on economic access to financial resources					
3.	Women have been able to access power and authority through engaging various local and international sponsors willing to invest in some of the projects' women groups have developed					
4.	There are frequent trainings offered to women to enhance their financial management skills					

SECTION D: SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This section has statements regarding social participation and financial inclusion. Kindly respond with the response that matches your opinion. Please tick as appropriate in the boxes. 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5-strongly agree.

No	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Women groups have provided platform for women to participate with each other projects for purposes of learning from each other hence enhanced financial knowledge					
2.	Women have gotten a chance to attend seminars and conference that promote insights on outstanding financial performance					
3.	Women groups are able to access to financial services e.g., accounting services at subsidized rates after partnering with NGOs such as NRT					
4.	There has been availability of financial opportunities on investments as a result of women groups selling products to internal and external promoters					

SECTION E: SOCIAL COHESION AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This section has statements regarding Social Cohesion and Financial Inclusion. Kindly respond with the response that matches your opinion. Please tick as appropriate in the boxes. 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5-strongly agree.

No	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Women have been equipped with clear financial values so as to engage in ethical deals both at personal or communal levels					
2.	Women are able to relate well with various stakeholders such as debtors who have promptly paid thereby availing financial resources					
3.	Women groups have been able to learn a lot from other groups who attend development programs together					
4.	There has been growth of personal financial skills due to opportunities women get to practice financial practices such as book-keeping, reconciliation and reporting.					

SECTION F: FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This section has statements regarding financial inclusion. **Kindly respond with the response that matches your opinion. Please tick as appropriate in the boxes. 1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-neutral, 4, agree, 5- strongly agree.**

No	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Women have been able to access financial skills as a result of seminars and conferences attended					
2.	Women are able to save their money in safe and reliable banks hence earning interest					
3.	Women are able to keep tabs with various financial transactions e.g., money transfers due to adequate financial knowledge they have acquired over time					

4.	Women groups are now able to access credit facilities since they have all documentations needed and they qualify					

Appendix IV: Introduction Letter from KeMU

KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

P. O. Box 267 Meru - 60200, Kenya
Tel: 254-064-30301/31229/30367/31171

Fax: 254-64-30162
Email: deanrd@kemu.ac.ke

DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

August 17, 2022

Commission Secretary,
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovations,
P.O. Box 30623-00100,
NAIROBI.

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ALI HUSSEIN FATUMA – (REG. NO. BUS-3-0925-1/2017)

This is to confirm that the above named is a bona fide student of Kenya Methodist University, in the School of Business and Economics, Department of Business Administration undertaking a Master's Degree in Business Administration . She is conducting research on: "Effect of Social Capital on Financial Inclusion of Women Groups in Northern Rangeland Trust, Kenya."

We confirm that her research proposal has been presented and approved by the University.

In this regard, we are requesting your office to issue a research license to enable her collect data.

Any assistance accorded to her will be appreciated.

Thank you.

Dr. John Muchiri (Ph.D)
Director, Postgraduate Studies

Cc: Dean SBUE
CoD, BA
Postgraduate Co-ordinator - SBUE
Student Supervisors

Appendix V: NACOSTI Research Permit

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **686083**

Date of Issue: **23/August/2022**

RESEARCH LICENSE

This is to Certify that Miss.. FATUMA HUSSEIN ALI of Kenya Methodist University, has been licensed to conduct research in Laikipia on the topic: EFFECT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN GROUPS IN NORTHERN RANGELAND TRUST, KENYA for the period ending : 23/August/2023.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/22/19886**

686083

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION

Verification QR Code

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