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# SOCIAL CAPITAL AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN KENYA

## CASE STUDY OF MURANG'A COUNTY

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*This work is being carried out with technical support from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Office, DLSU-AKI, Manila, Philippines through the PEP-PAGE Program funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (or UK Aid), and the Government of Canada through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).*

## CONTEXT AND RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

- Women empowerment is essential Pro-poor growth and sustainable development (OECD, 2012).
- When women are economically empowered:
  - A direct path to **poverty eradication**
  - Inclusive economic growth
  - And **gender equality** is opened up

## CONTEXT AND RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

- The building of social institutions and social capital
  - Is considered as one of the pillars towards directly bringing about empowerment (World Bank, 2001).
- Social capital is thought
  - To magnify the pay-off of physical and human capital investments (Putnam, 1993).

## CONTEXT AND RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

- Associations and institutions set up informal frameworks for:
  - Organizing sharing of information,
  - Activity coordination and joint decision making.
- This is made possible through
  - Peer monitoring,
  - A set of norms binding members and some form of sanctions.

## OBJECTIVE

- To assess the patterns of different dimensions of women empowerment
  - Across sub-population groups
- To examine the extent of access to government funds and micro credit/finance
  - Among women across sub-population groups

## OBJECTIVE

- To study the effect of various HC and IC on women's empowerment?
- To examine the effect of government funds and micro credit/finance on women's empowerment?
- To analyze the effect of social capital on women's empowerment

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- According to Jones and Woolcock (2007), social capital can be assessed across six dimensions.
  - Groups and networks: participation in social organizations, informal networks and in activities in the community.
  - Trust and solidarity: how individuals trust their neighbors and how their perception of trust has changed over time.
  - Collective action and cooperation: community coming together to work on communal projects.
  - Other three not considered are: information and communication, social cohesion and inclusion and empowerment and political action.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- Groups and networks
  - Membership to various groups (finance/investment, farm, trade, religious, women),
  - Whether a woman was visited or visited friends in the past three months
  - Whether a woman went out or met a group of friends in the past three months.
- Collective action and cooperation
  - Participation in a community project in the past one year
- Trust and solidarity
  - Whether a woman thinks the neighbors can be trusted,
  - How often she stops to talk to people in the neighborhood,
  - Whether she has someone to talk to when in trouble
  - Whether she has someone she confides in.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- To construct the social capital index, we run pca on the variables above.
- Then we predict the score.
- Then using xtile command we generate an index that separates the score into 10 quantiles.
- We also generate a binary variable for social capital where we only divide the score into two quantiles.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- Malhotra et al. (2002) identify three sets of indicators of empowerment frequently used in literature:
  - Domestic decision making,
  - Access to and control over resources and
  - Freedom/mobility indicators.
- The decision making indicator
  - Whether a woman makes decisions on her own earnings, major purchases, food cooked and own health
- Access to and control of resources
  - Woman's employment status, asset ownership (house, land, livestock and household assets), savings and enterprise ownership

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- Freedom and mobility
  - Whether a woman makes decisions on visiting her family and/or relatives
- To get the women empowerment index, we run pca on the variables above.
- Then we predict the score.
- Then using xtile command we generate an index that separates the score into 10 quantiles.
- We also generate a binary variable for women empowerment where we only divide the score into two quantiles.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- The model can be specified as follows:
- (1)  $WE = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 SI + \alpha_2 WC + \alpha_3 HC + \alpha_4 CC$
- OLS regression is used to estimate the model when social capital is measured as an index
- We will also estimate a probit for the binary indicator of women empowerment
- There may be a reverse causality between social capital and women empowerment
- Social capital may lead to women empowerment, women empowerment can also lead to creation of social capital.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- This bring about simultaneity bias
- Causing a problem of endogeneity
  - Whereby the error term in equation 1 maybe correlated with the social capital variable (Wooldridge, 2002).
- To address the endogeneity problem we'll use two stage least square (2SLS) estimation technique.

## METHODOLOGY: Analytical Framework/Model

- This study uses three instrumental variables measured at community level:
  - Proportion of women per cluster who have people they can confide in (PC),
  - proportion of women per cluster who went out or met up with a group of friends (PF)
  - proportion of women per cluster who participated in a community project in the past one year (PS).
- The reduced form model for social capital is given as:  
(2) 
$$SC = \beta_0 + \beta_1 WC + \beta_2 HC + \beta_3 CC + \beta_4 CC + \beta_5 PC + \beta_6 PF + \beta_7 PS$$
- 2SLS estimation technique to estimate equation 1 and 2 jointly.

## METHODOLOGY: Sources of Data

- The study will use CBMS data collected in Gikindu location in Murang'a County.
- This was a census data where all the households in Gikindu location were interviewed.
- Gikindu location has three sub-locations: Mirira, Gikindu and Kambirwa.
- Data was collected using three sets of questionnaires.
- The household questionnaire covered basic information about all the household members and household characteristics
- The rider questionnaire on social capital and women empowerment covered the additional information specifically on women.
- This targeted women respondents in the household.
- All females who were either household heads or spouses to household heads were sampled and interviewed.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Question	Findings Based on Analysis of Data
What are the patterns of different dimensions of women empowerment across sub-population groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Older women are more likely to be empowered than the youthful ones</li><li>• Asset ownership also increases with age of women.</li><li>• Women empowerment increases with the level of education</li><li>• More educated women are more likely to own enterprises, assets and to have savings.</li></ul>

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Question	Findings Based on Analysis of Data
<p>What is the extent of access to government funds and micro credit/finance among women across sub-population groups</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Less than 1% of the women accessed each of the funds with YEF recording the lowest percentage, close to zero.</li> <li>■ While only 0.24% of women with no formal education accessed UWEZO fund, 4.11% of those with tertiary education accessed UWEZO fund.</li> <li>■ About 24% of women accessed micro credit/finance.</li> <li>■ Non-youthful women were more likely to access credit than the younger ones</li> <li>■ Among those with no formal education, only 13% accessed credit, but among those with tertiary education, 44% accessed credit.</li> </ul>

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Question	Findings Based on Analysis of Data
<p>What is the relationship between HC and IC and women's empowerment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women aged between 35 and 64 years are more likely to be empowered than the younger ones</li> <li>• Married women were less likely to be empowered but the widowed women were more likely to be empowered relative to the unmarried women</li> <li>• Women who came from wealthy households were more likely to be empowered</li> <li>• Women who came from households headed by males were more likely to be empowered</li> <li>• Women also who came from households where the head was employed were more likely to be empowered</li> <li>• Distance to market reduced chance of empowerment</li> </ul>



## RESEARCH FINDINGS

<b>Research Question</b>	<b>Findings Based on Analysis of Data</b>
What is the effect of use of WEF and micro credit/finance on women's empowerment?	Access to government funds and to micro credit/finance increased chance of women empowerment

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

<b>Research Question</b>	<b>Findings Based on Analysis of Data</b>
What is the effect of social capital on women's empowerment	Social capital increases chance of women empowerment

# CONCLUSION: KEY FINDINGS, POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Findings	Policy Implications	Recommendations
1.Social capital promotes women empowerment	Women have a resource that is readily available in form of social capital that they can use to empower themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness creation on what social capital (what it is and how it can be generated)</li> <li>• Supporting women to come together to form groups and interact</li> </ul>
2.Access to government funds and micro credit/finance promotes women empowerment	Promoting access to government funds and to micro credit/finance can help promote women empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization and a follow up on government funds to ensure that the disbursed funds reach the intended recipients</li> <li>• The government should promote access of women to micro credit/finance by leveraging on women groupings as a form of collateral</li> </ul>

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# THANK YOU!

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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