

**The Impact Of Savings And Credits Cooperatives On The Livelihood Of Business Men And Women In Nebbi District. A Case Study of Nyaravur Saccos**

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**Abstract**

The study was on the impact of SACCOs on the livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district located in west-Nile region northern Uganda, a case study of Nyaravur SACCOs was used, the research findings were guided by the objectives which included; to examine how small loans provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district, to assess how regular small saving deposits accepted by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district and to determine if advisory services provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district. Simple random sampling was used to determined study populations of 250 respondents from 20 employees of the SACCOs, 200 business men and women in Nebbi district and 30 community members, data was collected using questionnaires, face to face interview guide and observations, primary data was used and data were presented in frequency tables and percentages. Findings indicated that 62 of the respondents strongly agreeing, 26% agreeing, 1.6% not sure, 10.4% disagreeing and none strongly disagreeing with the statement that SACCOs improve welfare of the poor as a result of better access to small loans and also 68% of the respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed while none of the respondents were not sure, disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement that SACCOs are set up to create and increase financial services accessible to poor households to either improve livelihood or slow it down. There is need to create more awareness among the people on the importance of joining SACCOs and the benefits of accruing these can be through radio program, reaching people at their various destinations or premises.

**Keywords: Savings, Credits Cooperatives and Livelihood Of Business**

**Background to the Study**

SACCOs stands for Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization or Society. SACCOs are voluntary associations where members regularly pool their savings and subsequently obtain loans that they use for various purposes (Alex & Kazaara, 2023). In general, the idea behind establishing SACCOS is to promote savings and make credit available to members (Derrick, Nelson, Ariyo, et al., 2023). A SACCO as a financial institution is formed by a group of people who aim to collect money and exchange it or directly trade and share the benefits (Alex et al., 2023) and are community financial organizations that are owned and controlled by their members and operate primarily with funds generated through members' savings and their main activity is providing savings and loans (Derrick, Nelson, Kazaara et al., 2023). They are also an integral part of the financial system by which communities are mobilized to engage in productive activities to generate income, create employment opportunities, stimulate the economy of a well-defined area and thereby improve their living conditions (Ntirandekura et al., 2022). SACCOS are reported to have better access to micro-credit that can sustainably improve people's livelihoods and are among the more easily controlled local members (David et al., 2023). It also

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allows members equity as the main source of funds with which to offer financial services (Racheal et al., 2023). In order to effectively coordinate SACCOS in Uganda, the Cooperative Societies Act of 2013 was passed by Parliament and enacted in 2014 to enable the revival of cooperative societies in Uganda (Ivan et al., 2023). Historically; SACCOS in the world can be traced back to two origins of modern cooperation. The first modern collaborations emerged in certain working-class settings in European industrial cities in the 1840s, particularly in Great Britain and France. These pioneers invented models of consumer and worker cooperatives that defend and advance the interests of the working class in the face of the social catastrophes threatened by the industrial revolution (Alex & Moses, 2024). In Uganda, Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS) are financial intermediaries, channeling savings into loans and providing people with opportunities to save, especially in rural areas (Abiodun & Christopher, 2024). Evidence shows that people look for opportunities to save their income in case of emergency or to be able to make larger investments in the future (Julius, 2024b). There is a high potential for savings mobilization among low income earners in Uganda. When traveling across Uganda you will not miss a sign that says "Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCO)". Even businesses that lend money and have nothing to do with formal cooperatives have somehow baptized themselves with the same name. This is a testimony that SACCOS are widely accepted as they offer much needed financial services (Ivan et al., 2023). The sectoral performance of SACCOS is another positive indicator that they tend to perform better than their other counterparts in terms of liquidity (Ntirandekura et al., 2022). The proliferation of SACCOS began during the economic crisis of the 1970s, when banks became less willing to lend because of the high risks associated with borrowers. At this time, civil servants and white-collar workers, some of whom had not been paid for a period of time, had to find alternative sources of credit (Ivan et al., 2023). That's when savings and loan companies came in handy, as most civil servants banded together to save and borrow. Thus, in 1972, the Uganda Savings and Credit Cooperative was born. The goal was to find an entity that would organize and build the capacity of primary financial cooperatives (F. Christopher et al., 2022). Theoretical; scholars have put forward two theories regarding microfinance, which included economic and psychological theories (Maiga et al., 2021). Economic theory views microfinance institutions (MFIs) as fledgling industries, while psychological theory distinguishes microfinance entrepreneurs from traditional moneylenders by portraying them as people driven by social consciousness (Collins et al., 2023). Many companies have adopted microfinance based on economic theory as a major strategic tool in the fight against severe poverty, especially in rural areas. This is primarily based on the belief that providing small loans, savings facilities, insurance products, money transfer services and skills training to poor people, and women in particular, could be a way to provide opportunities for self-reliance and play an active role in their household and community and economy as a whole (Edgar & Moses, 2023). SACCOS have also enabled them to stop depending on moneylenders (moneylenders) and find the credit necessary to modernize their farming operations. In African countries, the first experiences of savings and credit cooperatives were largely the work of foreign missionaries (Polycarp et al., 2023). Conceptually; SACCOS are among the financial services strategies to be implemented in this exercise. The services provided by savings and credit cooperative organizations (SACCOS) and other major financial institutions play a vital role in improving the reach and access to financial services (T.

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Christopher, 2022). Notably, financial services and their assets contribute to GDP (Kazaara et al., 2024). Providing small loans, regular savings deposits that businessmen and women put into their SACCOs and later SACCOs provide investment advisory services that will lead to improved livelihoods in the long term, thereby enabling businessmen and women to invest in both liquid assets and non-liquid assets, which will enable them to pay school fees, pay medical bills and improve food security and expand their businesses (Ivan et al., 2023). Contextually; In Uganda, SACCOs, as financial intermediaries that channel savings into loans, provide savings opportunities for people, especially in rural areas, but further improvements are necessary to make their services more efficient and sustainable. The Government of Uganda subsidized the establishment of new SACCOs across the country (Julius, 2024a). Newly established SACCOs can apply for a start-up grant from the government's apex institution, the Microfinance Support Center (MSC). MSC also provides interest-free loans to SACCOs or other subsidized loans (Collins et al., 2023). In addition to grants and loans, SACCOS can also receive operational support from the government. The government pays wages and rent for the first two years after start-up.

#### **Statement of the problem**

Although many organizations as well as the Government of Uganda are investing in these SACCO initiatives such as “One SACCO per Parish” (Denis & Richard, 2023), there is justification that SACCOs actually improve livelihoods. The livelihood impact of SACCOs is still poorly understood by the Nebbi indigenes and all other stakeholders in Uganda despite its existence. In order to improve livelihoods, the ability of SACCOs to improve livelihoods needed to be assessed. Although SACCOs are one of the livelihood mitigation interventions in rural areas like Nebbi, there is still insufficient information on the relationship between the availability of SACCOs and the livelihoods of traders and entrepreneurs in Nebbi district (Nancy & Prudence, 2024). In order to speed up the effectiveness and efficiency of SACCOs in Nebbi District, there is a need to find out the impact of SACCOs in improving the livelihoods of Nebbi District, especially traders and women, whether it is small loans provided by SACCOs (Racheal et al., 2023), small savings deposit accepted SACCOs as well as advisory services provided by SACCOs contribute to the improvement of livelihoods and if well understood, many could have large business enterprises and various branches within the district and even outside the district, therefore leading to an increase in the financial base thereby their livelihoods will improve in terms of eating in case of family emergency, taking children to school, having a balanced diet at all times, etc. (Winny et al., 2023). The aim of the study is to provide information on the impact of SACCOs on the livelihood of entrepreneurs in Nebbi District (Lydia, Kazaara, et al., 2023).

#### **Specific Objectives**

1. To examine how small loans provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district.
2. To assess how regular small saving deposits accepted by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district.
3. To determine if advisory services provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood of business men and women in Nebbi district.

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### Methodology

The researcher used cross sectional research design, explanatory and also the existing literatures. The researcher used Cross- sectional survey to select samples, to analyse and discover their occurrences (Olanrewaju et al., 2021). The researcher also used qualitative and quantitative approaches and both primary and secondary data source. The study population included the employees of the SACCOs, community, and business men and women operating business within Nebbi district (Nafiu et al., 2013). The number of employees of SACCOs were got from the SACCO's database and number of business men and women operating businesses within Nebbi district was also got from the chairman business men and women in the district and the number of people in the community was got from the chairman LC1 (Lu et al., 2013). The sample in this study included a simple random sampling and **n** individuals were randomly drawn from the target population (Anwar et al., 2022).

The sampling technique and procedure used was based on simple random sampling principles where individuals were randomly sampled from the target population (Abiodun & Christopher, 2024). A survey was carried out and the data collection techniques included the following; face to-face interview, key informants interview, survey and observations and 250 participants were sampled out (Nafiu et al., 2012). These were carried out using tools such as an interview guide and a questionnaire whereby a questionnaire was administered to the respondents with semi structured questions with regards to the subject matter (Nafiu, 2012). The data collection instruments included; interview guides and questionnaires, Key informants' guides, group discussion topics, observation checklists, and the researcher used them for the purpose of explaining to the respondents the reason for the research and receive appropriate and reliable information from the respondents (Olanrewaju & Abiodun, 2021). Responses to questions in the questionnaires were checked for errors and coded. This involved allocation of numerical values to the answers given by respondents for the ease of data entry and analysis (Jallow et al., 2021). Descriptive data was summarized into frequencies and histograms. A computer software package SPSS has been used for the analysis of the data concerning the relationship between Simple savings deposits, simple loans got from SACCOs and income levels of rural poor participating in SACCOS (Nelson et al., 2022).

### RESULTS

#### How do small loans provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood?

**Table 1 how do small loans provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood?**

| Response                                                        | Frequency |     |    |    |    | Per cent |      |    |    |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----------|------|----|----|------|
|                                                                 | SA        | A   | NS | D  | SD | SA       | A    | NS | D  | SD   |
| Helps in Emergency expenses                                     | 95        | 65  | 10 | 50 | 30 | 38       | 26   | 04 | 20 | 12   |
| Getting Working capital                                         | 115       | 135 | -  | -  | -  | 46       | 54   | -  | -  | -    |
| Helps in Debt consolidations                                    | 45        | 33  | 50 | 65 | 57 | 18       | 13.2 | 20 | 26 | 22.8 |
| Built capacity to possesses necessary assets or large purchases | 107       | 98  | 15 | 20 | 10 | 42.8     | 39.2 | 06 | 08 | 04   |
| Increases money supply in an economy                            | 120       | 100 | 05 | 15 | 10 | 48       | 40   | 02 | 06 | 04   |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Helps businesses in adding value to their products to beat competitions | 105 | 85 | 50 | 05 | 05 | 42 | 34 | 20 | 02 | 02 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

As illustrated in Table 1 above, the respondents were asked how small loans provided by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood, 38% of the respondents strongly agreed, 26% agreed and 04% not sure, 20% disagreed and 12% strongly disagreed with the statement that helps in Emergency expenses (Moses et al., 2023). Regarding the statement that helps in getting Working capital, 46% of the respondents strongly agreeing and 54% agreeing and the absence of not sure, disagreeing and strongly disagreeing voices is an indication that loans is believed to work towards improving lives in a way that business people are able to start up new ventures with the loans they obtained from the SACCOs (Abiodun & Hamadi, 2021). While 18% of respondents affirmatively strongly agreed, 13.2% agreed, 20% not sure, 26% disagreed and 22.8% strongly disagreed with the statement that small loans help in Debt consolidations. Concerning the statement that small loans Built capacity to possess necessary assets or large purchases this is represented by 42.8% strongly agreeing, 39.2% agreeing, and 06% not sure, while 08% of the respondents disagreeing and 04% strongly disagreeing with the statement (Musaibah et al., 2023). Basing on the respondent's response on the statement that small loans Increases money supply in an economy, 48% strongly agreed, 40% agreed, 02% not sure, 06% disagreed and 04% strongly disagreed. Regarding helps businesses in adding value to their products to beat competitions; respondents were in agreement with the statement presented by 42% strongly agreeing, 34% agreeing, 20% not sure, 02% disagreeing and 02% strongly disagreeing (Racheal et al., 2023).

**Table 2 how do regular small saving deposits accepted by SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood?**

| Response                                                   | Frequency |     |    |    |    | Per cent |      |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----------|------|-----|-----|-----|
|                                                            | SA        | A   | NS | D  | SD | SA       | A    | NS  | D   | SD  |
| Helps in emergencies                                       | 145       | 105 | -  | -  | -  | 58       | 42   | -   | -   | -   |
| Cushions against sudden business loss                      | 108       | 87  | 05 | 35 | 15 | 43.2     | 34.8 | 02  | 14  | 06  |
| Helps finance those big-ticket items and major life events | 210       | 35  | 01 | 04 | -  | 84       | 14   | 0.4 | 1.6 | -   |
| Limits debt                                                | 51        | 99  | 20 | 65 | 15 | 20.4     | 39.6 | 08  | 26  | 06  |
| Helps prepare for retirement                               | 140       | 95  | 04 | 9  | 02 | 56       | 38   | 1.6 | 3.6 | 0.8 |

As seen in the Table 2 above, all the respondents were in agreement that regular small saving deposits accepted by the SACCOs Helps in emergencies, where 58% of the respondents strongly agreeing and 42% agreeing. While none of the respondents not sure, disagreeing and strongly disagreeing. This means that there was a general feeling that regular saving deposit improved their livelihood (Racheal et al., 2023). Regarding whether regular saving

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deposit Cushions against sudden business loss, respondents agreed, with 43.2% strongly agreed, 34.8% agreeing, 02% not sure, 14% disagreeing and 06% strongly disagreeing. Respondents also answered affirmatively that regular small saving deposits accepted by the SACCOs helps finance those big-ticket items and major life events. This was represented by 84% strongly agreeing, 14% agreeing, and 0.4% not sure and 1.6% disagreeing while none of the respondents strongly disagreeing with the statement (Wegulo et al., 2023). Basing on the respondent's response on the statement that regular small saving deposits accepted by the SACCOs limit debt, 20.4% strongly agreed, 39.6% agreed, 08% not sure, 26% disagreed and 06% strongly disagreed. In the matters concerning regular small saving deposits accepted by the SACCOs Helps prepare for retirement; respondents were in agreement with the statement followed by the pronouncement made by the respondents, 56% strongly agreed, 38% agreed, 1.6% not sure, 3.6% disagreed and 0.8% strongly disagreed (Lydia, Ariyo, et al., 2023).

**Table 3 how does the advisory service provided by the SACCOs contribute to improved livelihood?**

| Response                            | Frequency |     |    |    |    | Per cent |      |     |      |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----------|------|-----|------|-----|
|                                     | SA        | A   | NS | D  | SD | SA       | A    | NS  | D    | SD  |
| Gain insights and guidance          | 150       | 30  | 05 | 60 | 05 | 60       | 12   | 02  | 24   | 02  |
| Improve efficiency and productivity | 135       | 99  | 06 | 08 | 02 | 54       | 39.6 | 2.4 | 3.2  | 0.8 |
| Manage risks and uncertainties      | 145       | 87  | -  | 18 | -  | 58       | 34.8 | -   | 7.2  | -   |
| Foster innovation and growth        | 97        | 115 | 08 | 27 | 03 | 38.8     | 46   | 3.2 | 10.8 | 1.2 |
| Enhance culture and engagement      | 95        | 109 | 16 | 25 | 05 | 38       | 43.6 | 6.4 | 10   | 02  |

As demonstrated in Table 4.6 above, the respondents were in agreement with the statement that advisory service provided by the SACCOs helps gain insight and guidance, where 60% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 12% agreed, 02%not sure, 24% disagreed and 02% strongly disagreed with the statement. Concerning whether advisory services provided by the SACCOs Improve efficiency and productivity, respondents were in agreement with 54% strongly agreeing and 39.6% agreeing, 2.4% not sure, 3.2% disagreeing and 0.8% strongly disagreeing. Regarding those advisory services provided by the SACCOs helps in Managing risks and uncertainties, 58% of the respondents strongly agreeing, 34.8% agreeing, and none not sure, 7.2% disagreeing and also none strongly disagreeing with the statement. Basing on the respondent's response on the statement that advisory service provided by the SACCOs Foster innovation and growth, 38.8% strongly agreed, 46% agreed, 3.2% not sure, 10.8% disagreed and 1.2% strongly disagreed. Regarding advisory services enhance culture and engagement; respondents agreed with 38% strongly agreed, 43.6% agreed, and 6.4% not sure, 10% disagreed and 02% strongly disagreed.

**Table 4 contribution of SACCOs towards livelihood improvement**

| Items                           | Frequency |    |    |   |    | Per cent |    |    |   |    |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----|----|---|----|----------|----|----|---|----|
|                                 | SA        | A  | NS | D | SD | SA       | A  | NS | D | SD |
| Create employment opportunities | 190       | 60 | -  | - | -  | 76       | 24 | -  | - | -  |
| Give credits services           | 200       | 50 | -  | - | -  | 80       | 20 | -  | - | -  |

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|                                                                   |     |    |    |     |    |      |    |     |    |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|-----|
| Encourage saving mobilisation                                     | 198 | 50 | 02 | -   | -  | 79.2 | 20 | 0.8 | -  | -   |
| Protect its members from risk                                     | 85  | 15 | 04 | 130 | 16 | 34   | 06 | 1.6 | 52 | 6.4 |
| Members get friends within the SACCOs                             | 105 | 70 | 10 | 20  | 45 | 42   | 28 | 04  | 08 | 18  |
| Encourage Saving accounts                                         | 185 | 60 | 05 | -   | -  | 74   | 24 | 02  | -  | -   |
| Members are able to get guarantee from other members to get loans | 10  | 30 | 85 | 60  | 65 | 04   | 12 | 34  | 24 | 26  |

**Source: field survey**

As demonstrated in Table 4 above, all the respondents were in agreement that SACCOs creates employment opportunities to people both in rural and urban areas, where 76% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 24% agreed. None of the respondents not sure, disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. This means that there was a general feeling that SACCOs creates employment to the people which improves their livelihood. Regarding whether SACCOs give credits services to people, respondents were in agreement, with 80% strongly agreeing and 20% agreeing. The absence of not sure, disagreeing and strongly disagreeing voices is an indication that SACCOs is believed to work towards improving lives in the community through giving credits services. Respondents also answered affirmatively that SACCOs is beneficial to the business men and women in that it helps in encouraging saving mobilisation (Nelson et al., 2023). This was represented by 79.2% strongly agreeing, 20% agreeing, and 0.8% not sure, while none of the respondents disagreeing and strongly disagreeing with the statement. Basing on the respondent's response on the statement that SACCOs Protect its members from risk, 34% strongly agreed, 06% agreed, 1.6% not sure, 52% disagreed and 6.4% strongly disagreed. Regarding Members get friends within the SACCOs; respondents were in agreement that SACCOs improves the relationship between their members. This was the pronouncement made by the respondents, where 42% strongly agreed, 28% agreed, 04% not sure, 08% disagreed and 18% strongly disagreed. In matters concerning that SACCOs encourage saving accounts, 74% strongly agreeing and 24% agreeing, 02% not sure, while none has disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. In evaluating whether SACCOs Members are able to get guarantee from other members to get loans, there were some dissenting voices, were 04% strongly agreed, 12% agreed, 34% not sure, 24% disagreed and 26% strongly disagreed.

**Table 5 challenges facing SACCOs**

| Items                                         | Frequency |    |    |    |    | Per cent |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|
|                                               | SA        | A  | NS | D  | SD | SA       | A  | NS | D  | SD |
| SACCOs lack proper credit delivery mechanisms | 55        | 60 | 20 | 75 | 40 | 22       | 24 | 08 | 30 | 16 |
| Finance challenges                            | 145       | 25 | 35 | 30 | 15 | 58       | 10 | 14 | 12 | 06 |
| Poor administrative systems                   | 40        | 55 | 35 | 75 | 45 | 16       | 22 | 14 | 30 | 18 |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| SACCOs has a challenges of errors and Fraud from its management/staffs | 95  | 55 | 10 | 60 | 30 | 38 | 22 | 04 | 24 | 12 |
| Illiteracy level of the borrowers                                      | 125 | 65 | 25 | 15 | 20 | 50 | 26 | 10 | 06 | 08 |
| Poor lending methods used by the SACCOs                                | 75  | 20 | 60 | 55 | 40 | 30 | 08 | 24 | 22 | 16 |

**Source: field survey**

The presentations in the table above, regards the findings on the challenges facing SACCOs where respondent's perceptions were asked. Were 22% strongly agreed, 24% agreed, 08% not sure, 30% disagreed and 16% strongly disagreed that SACCOs lack proper credit delivery mechanisms. On Finance challenges, 53% strongly agreed, 10% agreed, 14% not sure, 12% disagreed and 06% strongly disagreed. Regarding respondent's perception on Poor administrative systems, 16% strongly agreed, 22% agreed, 14% not sure, 30% disagreed and 18% strongly disagreed. About SACCOs has a challenge of errors and frauds from its management/staffs, 38% strongly agreeing, 22% agreeing, 04% not sure, 24% disagreeing and 12%strongly disagreeing with the statement. On the Illiteracy level of the borrowers, 50% of the respondents strongly agreed, 26% agreed, 10% not sure, 06% disagreed and 08% strongly disagreed with statement. Findings also indicated that, 30% of the respondents strongly agreeing, 08% agreeing, 24% not sure, 22% disagreeing and 16% strongly disagreeing with statement that Poor lending methods used by the SACCOs is one of challenges they are facing.

Finally, some other challenges that were mentioned by the respondents include; lack of awareness by the people especially far distances people, loans defaulting were some failed to pay the loans they borrowed, poor data management by the staffs in-charge, loan repayment delays by some members, low turn-up by the members in case of meetings, high interest rate charged limiting some people from getting loans from the SACCOs.

**Table 6 Relationships between SACCOs and livelihood improvement**

| Items                                                                                           | Frequency |    |    |    |    | Per cent |    |     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----------|----|-----|------|------|
|                                                                                                 | SA        | A  | NS | D  | SD | SA       | A  | NS  | D    | SD   |
| Through the SACCOs the poor access credit for personal developments which improve livelihood    | 135       | 50 | 05 | 25 | 35 | 54       | 20 | 02  | 10   | 14   |
| SACCOs increases employment opportunities at the household level and thereby improve livelihood | 67        | 45 | 15 | 70 | 53 | 26.8     | 18 | 06  | 28   | 21.2 |
| SACCOs improve welfare of the poor as a result of better access to small loans                  | 155       | 65 | 04 | 26 | -  | 62       | 26 | 1.6 | 10.4 | -    |

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|                                                                                                                                        |     |    |   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|
| SACCOs are set up to create and increase financial services accessible to poor households to either improve livelihood or slow it down | 170 | 80 | - | - | - | 68 | 32 | - | - | - |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|

**Source: field survey**

In the above table 6, respondent's perceptions were asked on the relationships between SACCOs and livelihood improvement; where on the statement that through the SACCOs the poor access credits for personal developments which improve livelihood were 54 % of the respondents strongly agreeing, 20% agreeing, 02% not sure, 10% disagreeing and 14% strongly disagreeing. Regarding the relationship that SACCOs increases employment opportunities at the household level and thereby improve livelihood, 26.8of the respondents strongly agreed, 18% agreed, 06% not sure, 28% disagreed and 21.2% strongly disagreed with the statement.

### Conclusion

As per the research findings the following conclusions were made;

SACCOs plays a great role in improving livelihood of business men and women through the small loans they give, the small saving deposit they accept and the advisory services provide to their clients.

SACCOs has increases financial access to business men and women hence making them to start up the branch of their businesses in various trading centre in the district which can sustained their life hence improving their livelihood.

SACCOs has to increase on their thoroughly public advert on the services there are providing so that most of public become aware of their existence and the kind of services they provide hence issue of finance challenges are control as many joined them in saving and obtaining loans.

The interest rate charged on the loans by Nyaravur SACCO, was too high for members to service the loan.

Member savings are sources of SACCO's income and are extremely important in determining SACCO's continuity. From the results, it is also concluded that member savings are significant in SACCOs sustainability SACCOs should promote welfare and prosperity of members as a source of more savings while encouraging more to join the SACCO.

The study revealed that there is positive relationship between the amount of loan provided by SACCOs and women livelihood that means as the amount of loan provided by SACCOS increase the women livelihood increase as well.

Also there is negative relationship between interests charged by SACCOs, SACCO's loan condition and business men and women livelihood, that means as interest rate decreases and SACCOs loan conditions loosened the business men and women livelihood will be strengthening.

### Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the study findings;

- ❖ The SACCOs management should ensure continuous training for its members to increase their skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship and financial management. This will enable members to reduce their burden of failure to return loan on time and misallocation of loans.
- ❖ SACCOS should come up with more techniques to attract members to save more in SACCOs like giving loans at an affordable rate so that finance challenges are addressed.
- ❖ Government should play a role in mobilizing people so as to reap the benefits from SACCOs. At community level, a robust behavioural and communication change strategies need to be developed for example, community mobilization for saving and loans to raise awareness and utilization of SACCOS.

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