THE ROLE OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT FUND IN IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN TANZANIA:
THE CASE OF ROMBO DISTRICT, TANZANIA

THE ROLE OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT FUND IN IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN TANZANIA:
THE CASE OF ROMBO DISTRICT, TANZANIA

By

Eudosia Rogath Tairo

Dissertation Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for Award of the Degree of Master of Business Administration - Corporate Management (MBA-CM) of Mzumbe University

2013

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that we have read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Mzumbe University, a dissertation entitled **The Role of Women Development Fund in Improving the Economic Status of Women in Tanzania: The Case of Rombo District** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for award of the degree of Master of Business Administration- Corporate Management of Mzumbe University.

____

Major supervisor

____

Internal Examiner

____

External Examiner

Accepted for the College Board

CHAIRMAN, COLLEGE ACADEMIC BOARD

DECLARATION
AND
COPYRIGHT

I, **Eudosia Rogath Tairo**, declare that this dissertation is my own original work and that it has not been presented and will not be presented to any other university for a similar or any other degree award.

____

Signature

____

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I start by thanking and praising the Lord for the wonderful opportunity He has provided to me. I ought to praise the Almighty God, the most merciful and most compassionate for the many blessings showered upon me to finish my dissertation. What have I done, singularly to deserve such blessings? Many thanks should go to the Almighty God for everything derives existence and for everything I am blessed from God.

I further owe a lot of gratitude to the management of Rombo District for the support and cooperation I received from them. Moreover, I would like to thank all the respondents I have met during my study which gave me piece of time to patiently answer my questions and share their knowledge.

Special thanks should go to my father Mr. Rogath J. Tairo and my brother Mr Andrew R. Tairo and to the whole family for their support in building my academic foundation and with their financial and material support. May God bless them abundantly. Also my relatives who supported me in one way or another may God bless them all.

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my beloved father Mr Rogath Tairo and late beloved mother Mrs Rogath Tairo and the whole family my brother and beloved sisters. Many thanks for their unconditional love that they extended to me ever since I was a little girl and throughout my education life.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARWE	-	Association of Rural Women Entrepreneurs
BNA	-	Basic Needs Approach
CIDA	-	Canadian International Development Agency
CREW	-	Credit for Women in Tanzania
GAD	-	Gender and Development
HBS	-	Household Budget Survey
IFAD	-	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGAs	-	Income Generating Activities
LGA	-	Local Government Authority
NGOs	-	Non Governmental Organizations
MCDWA	-	Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children
ROSCAs	-	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
SACCOs	-	Savings and Credits Cooperative Societies
SAPs	-	Structural Adjustment Programme
SELFINA	-	Sero Lease and Finance Limited
SIDO	-	Small Scale Industries in Tanzania
TWTF	-	Tanzania Women Training Fund
TGNP	-	Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Education Fund
URT	-	United Republic of Tanzania
UWT	-	Umoja wa Wanawake Tanzania
WDF	-	Women Development Fund
WEDTF	-	Women Entrepreneurship Development Trust Fund
WID	-	Women in Development

ABSTRACT

The study intended to assess the Role of Women Development Fund in improving the economic status of women in Rombo district. The objectives of the study were to: assess sources of funds that support activities of women development groups in Rombo district, examine the approaches through which women in Rombo District access WDF, determine the levels of women income before and after joining WDF in Rombo District, determine the extent to which WDF has really helped women to improve their economic status, identify the factors affecting women in accessing WDF in Rombo District, find out ways to enhance Women access to WDF in Rombo District. A total sample of 56 people were interviewed, of whom 40 included WDF beneficiaries from 8 groups, 6 respondents from community development office, 4 councilors and 4 ward executive officers and 1 cooperative officer and 1 respondent from rural financial service office. Data were collected using *questionnaire* and in-depth interviews as well as secondary data. Both descriptive statistics and graphical analysis techniques computed with the aid of SPSS statistical software were used to arrive to conclusions.

The findings revealed that there has been a positive outcome to Women Development Fund (WDF) beneficiaries as a result of borrowing WDF loan as evidenced by increase in income of WDF beneficiaries by 60%, their ability to send children to school, buy household assets, improve family diet, pay medical charges, make savings and increase self confidence. Also, the study revealed facilitating factors to access WDF as lending approach, low interest rate, availability of training sessions and motivation by others. Inhibiting factors to access WDF were institutional related, business related, family related and Government policy related constraints.

The study recommends that amount of loan given to a group should be increased so as to enable WDF beneficiaries to expand their business ventures and loans should be given on time. The Central Government and Local Government should review the

WDF guidelines to make it effective in satisfying the needs of targeted group hence expand women economic status in Tanzania.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Pages

LIST OF TABLES

Pages

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents background information, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, scope, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background Information

More than half of the world population is made up of women (Women's world banking, 2000). Women have also social economic responsibilities in their societies which to some extent differ from those of men. This implies that due to their number and position they constitute a work force that implements most of the nation's development policies and programmes. This was also revealed at the 4th Conference of Women which was held in Beijing China in September 1995 that resulted in the formation of Beijing Platform of action with emphasis on improvement of women's welfare especially in the third world countries (URT, 1995). According to Pearson (1992), there is substantial evidence that women are consistently loosing out in the development process in these countries. One reason for such a situation is that most development efforts tend to discount the potential social and economic contribution of women in development, thus, leading to failure to mobilize and benefit from women as a vital human resource.

The Government of Tanzania has been putting much emphasis on empowerment of women by giving them more chance in education, decision-making post, owning properties and making women access to credit and loans as a way of improving their socio-economic status. The status of women in Tanzania is significant as they are mothers, wives, and the family caretakers. In rural areas the majority of women do not own land but they cultivate. They are obliged by gender division of labour to work in the subsistence sector in order to feed their families. Also, women in urban areas who are self-employed engage themselves in informal sectors dealing with small scale activities. Most of them have no access to credit due to lack of awareness and confidence as well as inhibiting cultural attitudes and societal norms that govern the division of resources in the society. Women constitute over 50% of the Tanzania population (URT 2010; URT 2005). They are found at the bottom level of poverty, illiteracy, landlessness and concentrated in rural areas where facilities and services are scarce (Losilindo.E, Mussa.A and Akkarro R (2010). 60% of women live in absolute poverty and about 90% of them reside in rural areas as wives and mothers; basically engaged in agriculture, subsistence farming and small scale non-farm economy for their livelihood and economic prosperity; consequently vulnerable to poverty (URT 2005).

According to the Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children, (MCDWAC) the dilemma of women in Tanzania has led to the formulation of development policies designed to ensure equity and full participation of women in society (MCDWAC, 1992; Makombe, 1999). This includes creation of institutions which provide credit for women. For example, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has establish a fund known as Training Fund for Tanzanian Women (TFTW) which aimed at enhancing women's technical and managerial skills (Shirima, 1995). Such policies aim at giving priority to raising the social and economic status of women, including, protecting and enhancing women's income earning capacity. However, terms and conditions to access the loans are said to be difficult to meet, the majority failing to satisfy such conditions and hence fail to get credit due to lack of awareness, proper information or knowledge on credit procedures. This acts as an obstacle to women on struggling to improve their socio economic status.

Due to hard conditions and difficulties to access the loans, the government decided to create the Women Development Fund (WDF) in 1993 with the main goal of empowering women economically. WDF is a revolving fund which intends to help women to access to Micro-Soft-Credits specifically women of low income by giving them simple affordable credit. This kind of credit is provided to women groups which consist of five members and above who should have viable projects, and the group acts as collateral to one another. Also, by providing credits to women the WDF educates women on how to run their Income Generating Activities (IGA) in a sustainable manner. The WDF is being contributed by funds from Central Government and Local Government Authorities (CG & LGAs) and women are required to pay only ten percent (10%) as an interest for credit. Despite such efforts made by the government, results of WDF seem to be not yet achieved as the general women's socio economic status is still in vain. This will be the intention of the study to assess the contribution of Women Development Fund in improving economic status of women, by referring a case of Rombo District.

1. 2 Statement of the Problem

Tanzania, like any other developing countries is insisting on income generating activities (IGAs) as one of the development strategies for raising socio economic status of women in the country particularly in the rural areas (Mongi, 2004). The argument behind this is when women are provided with credit it is expected that the credit will enable them to take part in economic activities efficiently and effectively and it will reduce poverty to a great extent. Access to financial services is assumed to contribute to increased income generating and thus achievement of higher standard of living at household level (Temu 2003).

Among the economic problems facing women in Tanzania in general and Rombo in particular is the inaccessibility to resources such as credit for their income generating activities. It is not easy for the rural women to get credit from formal financial institutions like banks due to lack of information, long procedures and collateral requirements. To minimize the economic constraints, the government established Women Development Fund (WDF), which is supported by the government through the national gender machinery and complimented by the local councils. The fund provides credit to women in all the 114 Local Councils of mainland Tanzania as well as similar fund operates in Zanzibar, WDF essence first to enable women to access micro credit facilities; and second to empower women economically so that they can improve their quality of life. The idea was to establish economic projects from which they could generate income for their savings and consumption purpose. As such the Women Development Fund was considered to be more appropriate for large number of women living in rural areas and who receive low income from their activities as compared to state owned banks and other Microfinance Institutions which offer credits to women.

This study explores the extent to which micro-financial institutions such as WDF have truly contributed in improving the economic status of women in Tanzania. The study uses Rombo district as its case study.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the contribution of WDF in improving the economic status of women in Tanzania.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

i. To assess sources of funds that support activities of women development groups in Rombo District.
ii. To examine the approaches through which women in Rombo District access WDF.
iii. To determine the levels of women income before and after joining WDF in Rombo District.
iv. To determine the extent to which WDF has really helped women to improve their economic status.
v. To identify the factors affecting women in accessing WDF in Rombo District,
vi. To find out ways to enhance Women's access to WDF in Rombo District.

1.4 Research Questions

1.4.1 General Question

What is the contribution of WDF in improving economic status of women in Tanzania?

1.4.2 Specific Questions

i. What are the sources of funds that support activities of women development groups in Rombo District?
ii. What are approaches through which women access WDF in Rombo District?
iii. What are the levels of women incomes before and after joining WDF in Rombo District.?
iv. To what extent WDF has really helped Rombo District Women to improve their economic status?
v. What are the factors affecting women in accessing loan in Rombo District?
vi. What should be done to ensure women in Rombo District access credit through WDF?

1.5 Scope of the Study

Due to the limitation of time and financial constraints, geographically the study was covered only 4 Wards out of seven in Rombo District whereby groups and hamlets will be visit during data collection. The study was covered eight groups of women's Income Generating Activities two groups from each Ward whereby these groups represented other women groups in the district.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will contribute to set appropriate policies and strategies related to the provision of financial services. The results may further increase knowledge among women on how to make use of financial services gained from credit institutions like WDF through proper savings and investment. Findings obtained will provide a clear picture to WDF, on how best to deal with its clients with the aim of raising income and improve their economic status. Also the generated knowledge will be useful for development planners, policy makers in government sectors, NGOs and other bodies interested in promoting women's household level and their economic status.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Introduction

This chapter explains how various writers have viewed the concepts of women development funds and socio economic status of women. It gathered information from primary, secondary and tertiary sources. To the end it outlined the theoretical concepts of outsourcing, specifically, the chapter presents definition of key terms used in the study, roles of women, social economic status of women, gender and poverty, different efforts to eliminate poverty among women, women income generating activities in Tanzania and factors hindering women from accessing credits as well as empirical findings from various professionals.

2.1 Literature Review

2.1.1 Definition and Meaning of Key Terms

In this work several terminologies have been used. Key terms used and need to be defined include Women Development Fund, social economic status, and poverty.

2.1.2 Women Development Fund

This is a strategy initiated by the Government in 1993 with the aim of providing soft loans to women. The main objective of the fund is to strengthen economic capacity of women because most women cannot access loans and credit from financial Institutions. There are also other Funds, established by different stakeholders, which target poor women. These include, among others, CREW Tanzania, PRIDE, FINCA, Gatsby Trust and SELF as well as Savings and Credit Cooperative Associations (SACCOs) and Community Banks.

2.3 Poverty

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life **(**World Bank 2011**)**.

Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services. The term 'absolute poverty' is sometimes synonymously referred to as 'extreme poverty (World Bank 2011)

For a few years starting 1990, The World Bank anchored absolute poverty line as $1 per day. This was revised in 1993, and through 2005, absolute poverty was $1.08 a day for all countries on a purchasing power parity basis, after adjusting for inflation to the 1993 U.S. dollar. In 2005, after extensive studies of cost of living across the world, The World Bank raised the measure for global poverty line to reflect the observed higher cost of living. Now, the World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than US$1.25 (PPP) per day, and moderate poverty as less than $2 or $5 a day (but note that a person or family with access to subsistence resources, e.g. subsistence farmers, may have a low cash income without a correspondingly low standard of living – they are not living "on" their cash income but using it as a top up(Martin Ravallion, Shaohua Chen and Prem Sangraula (2008).

Relative poverty views poverty as socially defined and dependent on social context, hence relative poverty is a measure of income inequality. Usually, relative poverty is measured as the percentage of population with income less than some fixed proportion of median income.

2.1.4 Roles of Women.

The question of women being backward both economically and socially has been an issue of concern to the government since the early days of independence. This is because women constitute more than 51% of the total population of Tanzania (URT, 2002; Bureau Statistics, 2002), and they are the ones who contribute extensively in both production and reproduction in their communities. Out of the total active population engaged in agricultural production in the country, 75% are women. They produce, process, preserve, and prepare the family's food supply to meet family needs. In practicing agriculture they also produce raw materials for industries in terms of cash crops such as coffee, sisal, cotton, sun flower etc. in addition to the food consumption needs of the entire family.

Women are not only engaged in agricultural work, they also take party in domestic labour, which is very important for maintaining the family's welfare. Here women perform health care of the family, cooking, fetching water, collecting firewood, washing and housekeeping. Therefore, due to these activities which consume more time and give them less time to participate in income generating activities, they find themselves having triple roles of productive, reproductive and also community roles or activities. Another aspect is that large amount of unpaid work is carried out by women compared to men in the home, as shown by the recent time use data in the Integrated labour Force Survey. This work needs to be valued in the National Accounts and included in GDP, and specific policies/strategies be developed to provide more resources so as to reduce the amount of unpaid labour spent on basic care activities such as child care, cooking, water and fuel provision, nursing ill/elderly, and the like. Therefore, women have a critical role in agricultural production and especially in subsistence agriculture as well as in livestock rising and food processing.

IFAD (1993) stated, that majority of food producers in Tanzania are women. Moreover, women are not only the main contributors in the production of food, but they are also in charge of all sorts of other productive and reproductive tasks. African women are generally responsible for preparation and procurement of food, child care, gathering fuel wood, fetching water, cooking, cleaning and other domestic chores. Many studies have shown that women are using their income to take care of their families; as such they are called breadwinners. Therefore, any poverty alleviation efforts will be destined to failure, unless they promote the advancement of women as producers in their own right and direct beneficiaries (Mongi, 2004).

2.1.5 Socio - Economic Status of Women

Socio-economic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation. When analyzing a family's SES, the household income, earners' education, and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, versus an individual, when their own attributes are assessed(National Center for Educational Statistics 2008). Boitumilo et al (1995) contend that in order for the credit to influence income generating

activities that facilitated to economical development, the following needs have to be addressed:

- Education and training
- Borrowing arrangements
- Business supervision
- Awareness creation
- Confidence building
- Follow up
- Marketing
- Resource mobilization
- Business environment

Awareness and confidence building needs to be given significant attention because are crucial in the process of financial empowerment and integration of women into the economic mainstream. It also assists in increasing their contribution in the process of poverty alleviation. Women need to increase their power and control over the necessary resources for sustainable and dignified life. The issue that arises then is the extent to which the prevailing credit schemes have been able to empower women as the target groups.

Women's status and empowerment in Sub Saharan Africa, including Tanzania, is mediated and influenced by the structural and cultural constraints they face. Studies have shown that in general economically women in Tanzania are poorer than their male counterparts (Rwebangira, 1996). Problems amongst women in Tanzania include high gender inequality, uneven access to resources, social exclusion, insecurity, and women rights abuse. Albeit about 75% of the population engaged in agriculture are women (URT, 2002) and despite women's centrality to productive and reproductive activities; generally, the status of women in Tanzania has remained low both socially and economically. Their contribution to the country's economy has not given women an opportunity to access decision-making authority in the society through discriminatory marriage, divorce, distribution of assets between couples, the right to raise children and inheritance laws, Illiteracy levels have remained high for women in spite of increasing initiatives of educating girls.

The gap between female and male education attainment widens significantly, as you move from primary level education to university. Female enrollment at primary school is relatively equal to male enrollment, however, their drop out ratio rises sharply after grade seven (World Bank, 2003). This explains the low numbers of women in skilled as well as higher paying jobs because access to education is clearly a constraint that differentially impacts women and their ability to earn a living, particularly in moving into salaried employment, especially in technical and professional fields.

2.1.6The Economic Status of Women that Needs to Improved in Tanzania

Although credit schemes for women in Tanzania started in the early 1970s the poverty situation of most women has not changed much. In discussing the impact of credit schemes on women Ackerly, (1995) argues that although it is commonly assumed that credit itself is empowering; by definition credit is a liability. In order for the liability to be empowering, it must be a means of economic development (Ackerly, ibid). The low status of women in the society, lack of access to control resources, limited education opportunities, poor nutrition, and lack of decision making contributes significantly to lower their economic development. Other traditional practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation contribute to high maternal mortalities in Tanzania (TGNP, 1993).

2.1.7 Gender and Poverty

Poverty is a phenomenon that has a woman face and ruralized this is because while women are the majority in the world and their contribution to the world economy although significant there is great diversity in development between women and men. Women enjoy insignificant socio economic advantages especially in the areas of health, education, economic and political participation. Where women lack these opportunities the families suffer from the same. The concern for women in poverty alleviation efforts in Tanzania is important because women continue to be the most disadvantaged group (Misana, 1995 URT / UNICEF, 1990 in Makombe et al, 1999). In measuring poverty or wealth of women, the level of their access to and control or wealth of women, the level of their access to and control over resources must be considered. This is because from a gender perspective, power over resources is a key concept on poverty (Mbughuni, 1994 in Makombe et al, 1999). This view has led to the realization by many people that without a critical analysis of gender relationship in society and overcoming the constraints that militate against women to benefit more men than women (Misana, 1995 in Makombe et al, 1999). While poverty affects household as a whole, gender division of labour and women's responsibilities for household welfare make women bear a disproportionate burden in alleviating poverty. For example, trade liberalization in Tanzanian removed price control and subsidies. This forces women to look for ways of earning incomes to meet the rising prices of food items. The policy has affected women more because they are the immediate food suppliers at the household level. The fact is that poverty is perceived and experienced differently by men, women and social classes (Makombe et al, 1999).

According to Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) (1993) women's reproductive role can be a hindrance to poverty alleviation. Observation on this issue shows that, woman's reproductive responsibilities related to child birth and child care cause absenteeism and lower participation in income generating activities and in employment for those women who have wage employment. This view is supported by URT (1998) which states that "extensive programme related to poverty alleviation were initiated first to create, promote and strengthen credit provision in both rural and urban area. Secondly, to strengthen other funds such as those for youth, small-scale business and women development so as to be able to provide loans for the forgotten groups and thirdly, to negotiate with donors to allocate at least 20% of their assistance to poverty reduction activities (Mongi, 2004)

2.1.8 Efforts to Eliminate Poverty among Women in Tanzania

Tanzania recognizes the importance of women's development as expressed by various policy measures and programs adopted to address women's development issues. For example, the Umoja wa Wanawake Tanzania (UWT) was established in 1962, and one of its most objectives was to organize all women and ensure their participation in all development efforts in the sphere of social, economic, cultural, political, educational and development undertakings in the country. Also, there is the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children which was created in 1990, it works in collaboration with Intergovernmental bodies, Local and International NGO's, in addressing women issues.

Women in Development Approach (WID) started effectively in March, 1992. The policy defines the concept of WID and emphasizes participation in development, aimed at reducing women's work load and coordination of women's development activities. The weakness of the approach did not empower for, it concentrated on social welfare. The failure of Development planning to recognize fully women's contribution to the development process and the impact of the process on them, has led to the failure of the WID approach, as a result it has encouraged Gender and Development approach (GAD). The GAD aims at integrate both women and men in development process. Men and women to utilize resources should be based on equal participation based on the equal access. The approach aims at empowering women and addresses the strategic needs which lead to transformation of the male dominated system, for example property ownership, participation in decision-making. The establishment of the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children (MCDWAC) in 1990 has been a clear manifestation of the Government intention to address burning issues that affect women. Following its establishment, the MCDWAC issued a Government policy on Women in Development (WID) calling both the Treasury and Financial Institutions (FI's) to establish a layout procedure for accessing credit.

In the course of implementation of poverty alleviation strategies, the government of Tanzania, in collaboration with key stakeholders, has formulated gender development policy, which lays down mechanisms for women's advancement gender equality, and protection of women's rights and interests (URT, 2000; Mongi, 2004). The main thrust of the policy is to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all policies and programmes at all levels of government, focusing on women's specific problems. In that regard, policies in the areas of poverty eradication; education, environment and industry have included a gender component like strengthening of gender focal points and gender budgetary initiatives. The policy underscores the recommendations of the presentable commission of inquiry into the Financial and Banking system for Tanzania to establish the women's Bank to support women efforts for self-advancement.

The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) does another effort. This is a Non Governmental Organization whose ultimate objective is to support social transformation and respond to the needs and interests of poor and disadvantaged women and grassroots communities. The organization's main development objectives is to facilitate the process of gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women and the transformation of society, through increased organizational capacity, information generation and dissemination, training and outreach networking, lobbying and advocacy, using animation and social gender analysis, philosophy and methodology (Fenera Mukangara;1992:2).

2. 1.9 Women's Income Generating Activities in Tanzania

Income generating activities for women in third world countries arose in the context of the Basic Needs Approach (BNA) within the dominant concept of Women in Development (WID) which emerged in the early 1970s (Mbughuni, 1994 in Makombe et al, 1999). This was a response to the growing evidence that economic and social development efforts had not benefited women as much as men. The BNA emphasizes the reduction of income inequalities between men and women. It is for this reason that women in Tanzania have for quite a long time now been encouraged to undertake IGAs so as to realize cash income of their own for supplementing their household income and improve their living standard. With the growing importance of the informal sector in Tanzania and the vital contribution of this sector to the national GDP, women IGA's are encouraged since they contribute immensely in terms of providing basic goods and services to the majority of low income group in Tanzania (Maliyamkono et al, 1990). Accordingly, women have been very active in the informal sectors since the 1980s. More than 5,440,000 women are engaged in this sector (Planning Commission, 1991). The planning commission further observes that the informal sector tends to be a sole source of income for women than men. Promoting micro enterprises and hence the informal sector is one of the required actions in order to eradicate poverty. Enabling low-income women to have access to financial credit is thus one of the right interventions.

However, targeting women is by far from being adequate. It should be accompanied by macro policies leading to economic growth, which should in turn expand employment, productivity and wages of the poor. Public resources should be channeled in expanding human development. Furthermore, governments have the responsibility to address structural inequalities in the distribution of assets especially land, credit housing and social services.

Studies on women's IGAS, (Mbughuni and Mwangunga, 1989, Omar, 1991 in Makombe, 1999), found that the activities were small-scale, traditionally feminine, service oriented, utilizing traditional skills with small capital investment and low returns. It is generally felt that although the activities meet women's real and critical need for cash, they didn't have an empowerment component and hence continued to rain fore oppressive gender relation. It was out of such shortcomings of the WID approach to women's IGAs that, the gender and reinforced. Through GAD, women are active participants and have been mainstreamed in the development process. This has enabled them to realize and utilize their participation in poverty alleviation.

2.1.10 WDF in Tanzania

The WDF is the initiative which has been undertaken by the government of Tanzania to improve the situation of women. WDF was a deliberate move introduced in 1993 in relation to exchequer and Audit Ordinance with the intention of enabling women to access Micro Credit Facilities. The main goal of WDF was to empower women economically so as to enable them to improve their quality of life. Also, to help low income earners by gaining those simple and affordable credit due to lack of collaterals. Most women do fail to meet hardly condition set by some of the available lending institutions so as to obtain credit for improving their quality of life through running different IGAs.

For a long time, resources distribution between women and men has had short comings that are laws, traditions, customs and guidelines for resource distribution have been unfavorable to women. This is seen from household to national level as a result even programmes which directed to women are not given adequate and appropriate resources hence becomes difficult to implement and therefore result to poor situation of women (Policy on Women and Development 1992). It is from this reason that WDF was established in order to solve some of the problems which are basically rooted in economic grounds. Therefore WDF has the following goals

1. Expand and sustain the fund through various sources including revolving fund contribution from LGA, NGOs and Donors.

2. Create employment through IGAs and impart knowledge to women on credit management and equip them with entrepreneurial skills.
3. Improve the welfare of women and create conducive environment to the families' in terms of economic, health, physical environment, education and technology.
4. To encourage group savings accounts at banks so that the women will introduce a microfinance bank

WDF is managed through group, ward and District committees. The District loan committee is chaired by District Executive Director and it is the highest loan committee and it has final decision on loan approval. Terms and conditions to access WDF is free to a group of five women who are 18yrs old and above with low incomes and in the informal sector or self employed. Types of activities funded are production of various food and cash crops, small agro industries, poultry and piggery and diary keeping, tailoring, farming activities and other small business such as kiosk, wood, charcoal selling, food vendors etc. Most loans which are provided to women are short and medium term loans to be repaid for one year with the interest rate of 10%

Many women in Tanzania in general and Rombo in particular join groups for emotional support, encouragement, a sense of belonging, consolation during misfortunes and direct economic support mostly through IGA's. Women have been forced to form IGA's so that they could be able to raise income to meet their own financial obligations as well as supplementing family's income (Ambali, 1991:8), also another objectives is to improve the standard of living of their families / household, employment opportunities, acquire technical and entrepreneurial skills and participation in poverty alleviation

2.1.11 Problems Facing/Affecting Women in Accessing Credit

Studies on women in Tanzania also indicate that their outcome is constrained by some degree of women's lack of access to capital, raw materials, skills and technology (Mbughuni, 1994, in Makombe et al, 1999:15). There are also some gender specific limitations like lack of free time, restricted mobility, misuse of resources by husbands, various forms of officialdom, welfare orientation of the activities, dependence on grants, and misappropriation of funds for poor women by the well connected (Mbughuni, ibid). Yet, other limitations are cultural, religious and ideological systems prevailing in a society.

The majority of women have had no access to credit due to lack of awareness and confidence as well as inhibiting cultural attitudes and societal norms that govern the division of resources in the society (Mbughuni, 1994). Moreover, our banks have difficult terms and conditions which cause the majority of women been left outside the banking track. Some reasons why Banks and other formal Financial Institutions have very few clients are in two economic factors:

The supply factor; in the Financial Institutions (FI's) did not give women loans and see as the loss to them since they can incur a lot of costs/expenses for lending a small amount of loan which mostly women needed.

Demand factor; which inhibit demand for credit from FI's, they include transaction cost, collateral require and cultural constraints. Also, another cost includes payments for paper, travel costs, time taken to negotiate loans. Due to the FI's reluctance to provide credit to women due to the failure of women to meet the conditions they have in order to obtain the loan like heaving collaterals, the Government of Tanzania has formulated policies and loans permitting women's share of conjugal property; however, discriminatory belief are a common practice (Msambichaka, et al, 1994).

Efforts of Commercial Banks to reach women's as potential customers are very recent and have been limited by resources, traditional lending procedures and practices identify women as risky borrowers whose projects are expensive to monitor and little projects (MCDWAC report, 1992). There is a physical communication gap between banks and potential customers, particularly women; banks are allocated far from women who live in scattered villages. Due to heavy workload women find it difficult to go to distant banks or their agencies cannot always go to villages due to poor road conditions and other technical considerations. And women do not borrow from banks because of several factors, these includes lack of collaterals to offer because by tradition women do not own land or other property like house. They are uneducated and lack awareness of the bank's operations and procedures. Also, women involved in productive activities do not have their own savings due to hard roles they have in their families, they spend even the small income they get from different income generating activities.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review:

According to Women Entrepreneurship Development Trust Fund (WEDTF) Report in Zanzibar Tanzania "Increased women's income benefits their children particularly in education, diet, health care and clothing". The report further reveals that 55% of women's increased income is used to purchase household items, 18% goes to school and 15% is spent in clothing. Within this context therefore assisting women generates a multiplier effects that enlarges the impact of the institution activities (Suzy and Lisa, 2002) Microfinance institutions around the world have been quite creative in developing products and services that avoid barriers that have traditionally kept women away from accessing formal financial services such as collateral requirement, male or salaried guarantor requirement, documentation requirements, cultural barriers, limited mobility and literacy. Nevertheless, in a number of countries and areas few or no institutions which offer services under terms and conditions that are favorable to women (Suzy and Lisa, 2002). Together these findings confirm that the type of products offered their conditions of access and distribution of an institutions portfolio among different product and services. .

Indeed microfinance has been assumed to increase the economic empowerment of clients particularly women as result of the development in their entrepreneurial activities (Women' World Banking 2000). These programmes are expected to raise the welfare of the poor women by promoting human capital. Goetz et al (1996) when studying credit for women in rural Bangladesh highlighted the problems of ascertaining control of loan and repayment which are also potential sources of gender related tension within rural households. They said that increasing and improving women's access to credit is appositive step but not enough to secure their economic empowerment. They conclude that, credit and any income generating programme tends to focus on input delivery by measuring success in terms of how much credit is delivered to women and by taking high repayment rate as an alternative indicator of these loans. Thus, more attention is needed to assess the quality activities financed by loans so as to ascertain if they are really raising economic condition of women. It is widely believed that microfinance positively impacts on women's livelihood in leading to higher income that will help women to better perform their reproductive roles as brokers of health, nutrition and educational status of other household members. On top of that it increases women's employment in micro enterprises and improves the productivity of women's IGAs as well as enhancing their self confidence and status within the family as independent producers and providers of valuable cash resources to the household economy.

Terry (2006) in her study to analyze the impact of micro-finance on women micro-entrepreneurs in Temeke District, Dar-es-Salaam revealed that, some of the factors that contributed to women's empowerment were: an increase in income, ability to save and accumulate savings, and contribution towards their children's education. Additionally, women felt empowered because they acquired an ability to purchase household assets and were able to improve their household diet. As a result, women improved their economic status, self-esteem and they gained more confidence.

2.10 Micro Credit Theory

Mayoux (1998, 1999) provides three complimenting and contrasting paradigms of micro- finance includes; financial self-sustainability, poverty alleviation, and feminist empowerment. It is assumed that in the financial self-sustainability paradigm that by contracting micro-finance programmes women will automatically be empowered economically. In the poverty alleviation paradigm micro-credit is viewed as a means to improve well being by reducing household poverty and vulnerability. Women are the target group because they are considered to be poorer than men, and women are more likely to spend earned income on family welfare. As a feminist empowerment paradigm micro-credit is seen to promote women's social and economic issues. Lairap-Fonderson (2002) argues that, in the process of accessing micro-credit to women, it influences women to operate more as a disciplinary power. Women's participation in micro-finance programmes places them in the market economy turning them to be competent producers regardless of their poor skills in marketing (Mayoux, 1999). The idea of micro-finance programs in organizing group loans is to make each member of a group responsible for repayments and it is widely assumed that groups will benefit women borrowers socially. The group lending system is intended to provide women a chance to meet, make repayments, and discuss and exchange various social development issues such as health, nutrition, education, and business issues. Analysts suggest that both the loans and the social aspects of credit programs contribute to women's development (Nelson et al, 1996).

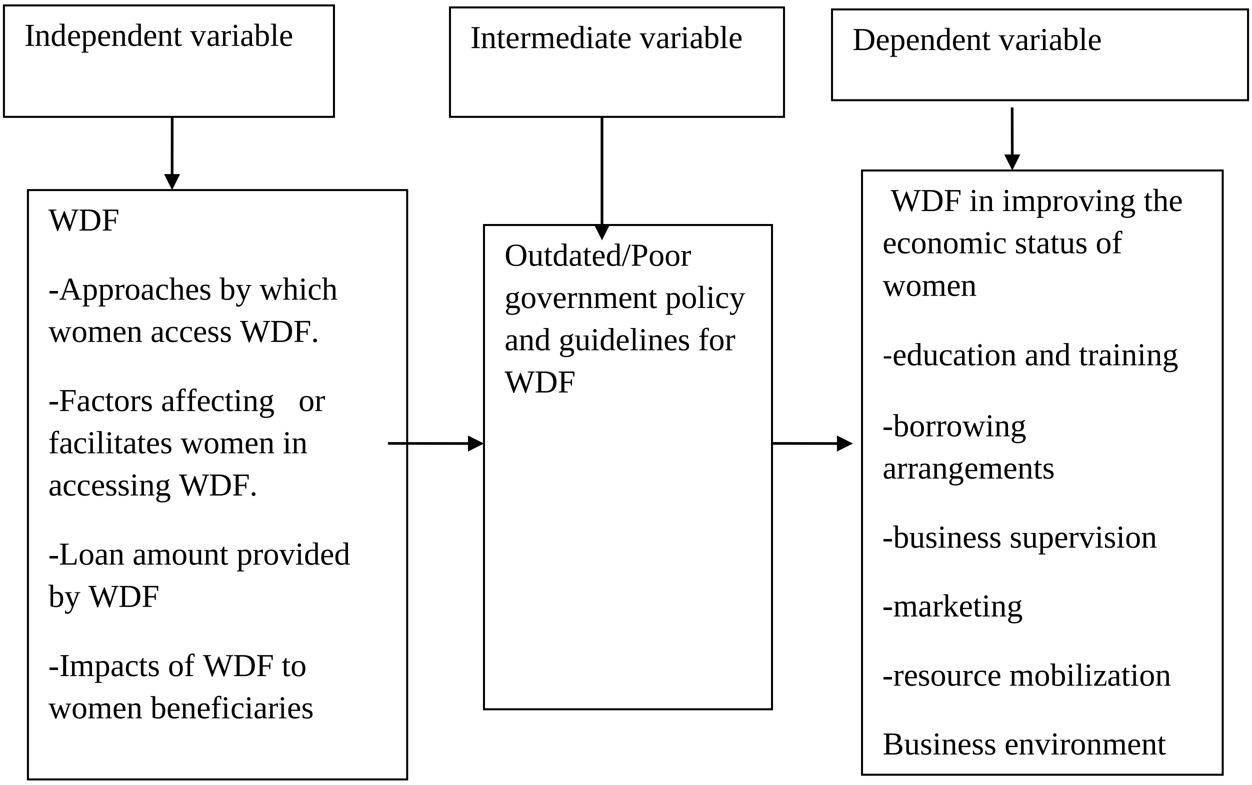
The rationale behind targeting women is not only to enable them equal access to financial services. Muhammad Yunus (2004), the founder of Bangladeshi Grameen Bank, for instance writes that women have greater long-term vision and are excellent managers of scarce resources. It is also believed that they are more likely to spend their income on the household well-being (Cheston and Kuhn, 2002; Kabeer, 1998; and Mayoux, 2002) and they reach higher repayment rates (Cheston and Kuhn, 2002; Kabeer, 1998). While this might be true, it does however not necessarily translate into poverty reduction.As mentioned above, it has been recognized that women are more likely to spend the money in ways that are more beneficial to the household than their male counterparts. They proportionally spend more of their extra income on things that help develop human capital, better sanitation, better nutrition and also better health care and education (Islam, 2006:11).

Micro-credit programs assume that the provision of credit for women's development is a set of mutually reinforcing virtuous spirals. Additionally, by empowering women economically, it will automatically improve their well-being and social economic developments of their families (Mayoux, 1999).

2.11 Conceptual Framework for WDF and Economic Status of WDF Beneficiaries.

This shows the theoretical framework and empirical analysis which comprises of intermediate, independent, and dependent variables shown in figure below.

Figure 2.1: Relationship between variables in conceptual framework



CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the overall study area, research design, study population, sample size and sampling procedures, as well as data collection methods and data processing and analysis.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Kilimanjaro region. The case study was chosen to be Rombo District particularly in four wards namely; Ushiri Ikuini, Kelamfua Mokala, Makiidi, and Mrao Keryo. These areas were selected due to the presence of Women Groups Income Generating Activities funded by WDF.

Figure 3.1: Map of Kilimanjaro Region

Source: Kilimanjaro Regional Office (2012)

3.3 Research Design

A research design is the arrangement of the conditions for the collections and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure or it is a conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes a blue print for the collection, measurements and analysis of data (Kothari, 2006).Case study involves in-depth, contextual analysis of similar situations in other organizations where the nature and definition of the problem happen to be the same as experienced in the current situation. They are useful particular when one intends to gain a rich understanding of the context study. The advantages of case study are it is fairly exhaustive method which enabled the researcher to study deeply and thoroughly different aspects of the phenomenon. It is flexible in respect to data collection methods and it saves both time and costs.

3.4 Study Population

Population can be defined as a group of individuals or items that share one or more characteristics from which data can be gathered and analyzed. Population of this study includes women entrepreneur's beneficiaries of WDF, Community Development Officers, Rural Financial Services Programme officer, Cooperative officer and Ward Executive Officers.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

3.5.1 Sample and Sample Size

Kothari (2006) defines sample as a collection of some parts of the population on the basis of which judgement is made small enough to convenient data collection and large enough to be a true representative of the population from which it had been selected. Sample size refers to a number of items to be selected from the universe to constitute a sample. A sample size of 56 (100%) respondents was purposively selected from among the population based on their familiarity with the research topic. The sample includes 46 (82.1%) of WDF beneficiaries and 10 (17.9%) men respondents. Forty (40) (71.4)WDF beneficiaries entrepreneur women from 8 groups of Women in the District funded by WDF. Also, the study included 6 (10.7%) respondents from Community Development Office. The study also included 4 (7.1%) councilors and 4 (7.1%) Ward Executive Officers because they are the leaders of the areas concerned, that is Chairman and Secretary of Ward Development Committee (WDC). The remaining respondents were 1 (1.8%) from Cooperative Office, and 1 (1.8%) respondent from Rural Financial Service Office. The distribution of respondents by unit is illustrated in the table 3.1

Table 3.1 Sample Size

Source of information	No of respondents	Percentage
WDF Beneficiaries	40	71.4
WEOS	4	7.1
Councilors	4	7.1
Community development officer	6	10.8
Cooperative officer	1	1.8
RFSP Officer	1	1.8

Source: Research findings, 2013.

3.5.2 Sampling Procedure.

In selecting the sample both probability and non-probability sampling was be used. Probability sampling is a type of sampling where by every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. The simple random sampling was used in probability sampling and in non probability sampling the purposive sampling was used to select respondents.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Both primary and secondary data were used to obtain data in the field.

3.6.1Primary data

Primary data refers to information collected afresh for the first time and thus happens to be original in character. In collecting primary data it employed questionnaires as attached in Appendix 1, observation and interview.

3.6.2 Secondary Data

Documentation method was used since it enables get ready made data and information by reviewing through books, journals and annual reports. This method simplifies the task of providing statistical information recorded in terms of numbers and percentages also depicted in tables, figure, charts and graphs.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

3.7.1 Data processing

Data processing involved editing of questionnaires, coding, clearing and verifying for entering in a computer.

3.7.2 Data analysis

This study employed both qualitative as well as quantitative data analysis techniques. In quantitative analysis, descriptive analysis was done which involved the use of proportions, means, median, mode and variances to describe the different characteristics of the respondents. In qualitative analysis, content analysis was performed to describe different responses. The link between qualitative and quantitative analysis was be made to enable the researcher to make sound and objective conclusions. In the analysis process, data was analyzed by using a computer through statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and MS Excel.

3.7.3 Data Presentation

After collection of data, data/information was corrected, edited to ensure that data are accurate, consistent, uniformly entered and well be arranged to facilitate coding and tabulation. Coding followed after data edited where numerals or other symbols assigned to items of questionnaires and put in computer programmed SPSS then analyzed data was presented in tables, boxes, graphs and charts.

CHAPTER FOUR
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and discussion related to this study. The first part of the chapter contains background characteristics of the respondents focusing on age, sex, education, marital status and economic status of women. The second part gives sources of funds that support women development activities, approaches used by WDF to provide loans to women, levels of women income before and after joining WDF, factors facilitating and hinders women in accessing loan from WDF.

4.2 Demographic and Social Economic Characteristics of Respondents

4.2.1 Age of Respondents.

Age structure of the respondents is important in analyzing the relationship within the group members. Age of the most women interviewed ranged between 18 to 30 years old15 (37.5%) because they were many as they are strong in working in order to feed for their family followed by women aged 31to 40 which represented as 12(30%) thereafter 41 to 50 old 7(17.5) and least represented age group was women above 50 years of age who were 6 (15 %) respondents. Table 4.1 summarizes the respondents age.

Table4.1: Age of Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 30	15	37.5
31 – 40	12	30
41 – 50	7	17.5
51 – 60	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: Study findings 2013

4.2.2 Marital Status

The study was intended to show the marital status of respondent because marital status can be differentiating people and their needs as well as their responsibilities. The study discovered that the 14 (35%) were married followed by 11 (27.5%) who were single and 8(20%) divorced and 7(17.5%). This shows that women with household responsibilities were most likely to secure loans. It also goes with the belief that married women are considered to be more responsible and are more unlikely to break a promise on their loans than younger women who have never been married. This was pointed out by some of the members during interviews when they were complaining about the default rates on their loans. Some of these members pointed out that unmarried and single woman can just pack overnight and leave the area without anybody noticing. The proportion of married women is comparable with Kibas' (2001) study of women micro-entrepreneurs in Uasin Gishu district in Kenya, which shows that married women form a large share of micro-credit borrowers. This is illustrated in Table 4.2

Table 4.2 Marital status of respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Single	11	27.5
Married	14	35
Widow	7	17.5
Divorce/separated	8	20
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013

4.2.3 Education Levels

The level of education tends to determine level of awareness, ability to handle responsibility, where one will work and confidence level. Women's participation in income generating activities is partly influenced by low levels of education, which stimulated the development of women's competency including entrepreneurship.

This can be supported by Kibas (2001), who indicates that the majority of women Income Generating Activities are conducted by people who have primary level education. The study found that 20 respondents (50%) respondents had primary education and 11 respondents (27.5%) had secondary education while 9 (22.5%) had college and university education. This illustrated by Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Levels of education

	Frequency	Percentage
Primary Education	20	50
Secondary Education	11	27.5
College Education	9	22.5
	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

4.2.5 Economic Activities

The study revealed the kinds of activities taken by respondents. This was relevant to ascertain their income generating capacities. The findings shows that majority of the WDF beneficiaries 27 (67.5%) are engaged in the farming activities followed by business women 6(15%) involved on cooked food vending businesses, shops, charcoal and grocery while 5 (12%) are doing animal husbandry and 2(5%) were employed. A possible explanation for why women are concentrated in farming activities could be it needed low capital to start up. That means women can easily secure initial capital from personal savings, husbands, friends and relatives. Additionally, women want to involve themselves in business ventures such as home based enterprises, which will allow them enough time to attend to other household activities. The economic activities performed by women are illustrated in the Table 4.5.

Table 4.4 Main Economic Activities performed by respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	27	67.5
Business women	6	15
Animal husband	5	12.5
Employed	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

4.2.6 Years WDF Beneficiaries Joined the Group

The study was interested to find out for how long the women groups have existed. This was done so in order to check the sustainability of the groups which gets credit from WDF. The sample of the study included respondents who have enrolled in the WDF for two years up to five years and above. Table 4.5 shows that those who have been in WDF groups for two years represented the highest number 21 (52.5%) and that comparatively those who have been for five years and above had the lowest number more than 3years. This depicts that only few groups do exists for a long time and probably most groups are formulated in order to get loan and they ceases soon after they repay back their loan. Table 4.5 below illustrated and gives the records of years with which WDF beneficiaries joined their groups.

Table 4.5 Showing years respondents joined in the groups

	Frequency	Percentage
One year	11	27.5
Two year	21	52.5
Three year	8	20
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013

4.3 Sources of Funds That Support Women Development Activities in Rombo District Council

The study wanted to identify sources of funds for women groups' development activities. The researcher aim was to know to what extent women in Rombo were supported and facilitated by the Government, private sector and the community at large so as to stand on their own. The questions were directed to women the beneficiaries of WDF, WEOs, Councilors, CDOs, CO and RFSP Officer. The study revealed that 13 (32.5%) respondents their main source of fund is from WDF 12(30%) get their funds from their husband and other financial institutions such as National Microfinance Bank, Vikoba etc, and Presidential Trust Fund. Moreover 1 (2.5%) respondents said that they got initial capital or funds from relatives such as sisters and brothers and the rest 9 (22.5%) respondents said to get the initial capital from the other sources includes friends and sold their properties. Table 4.6 below illustrates

Table 4.6 Source of fund for supporting women groups development activities

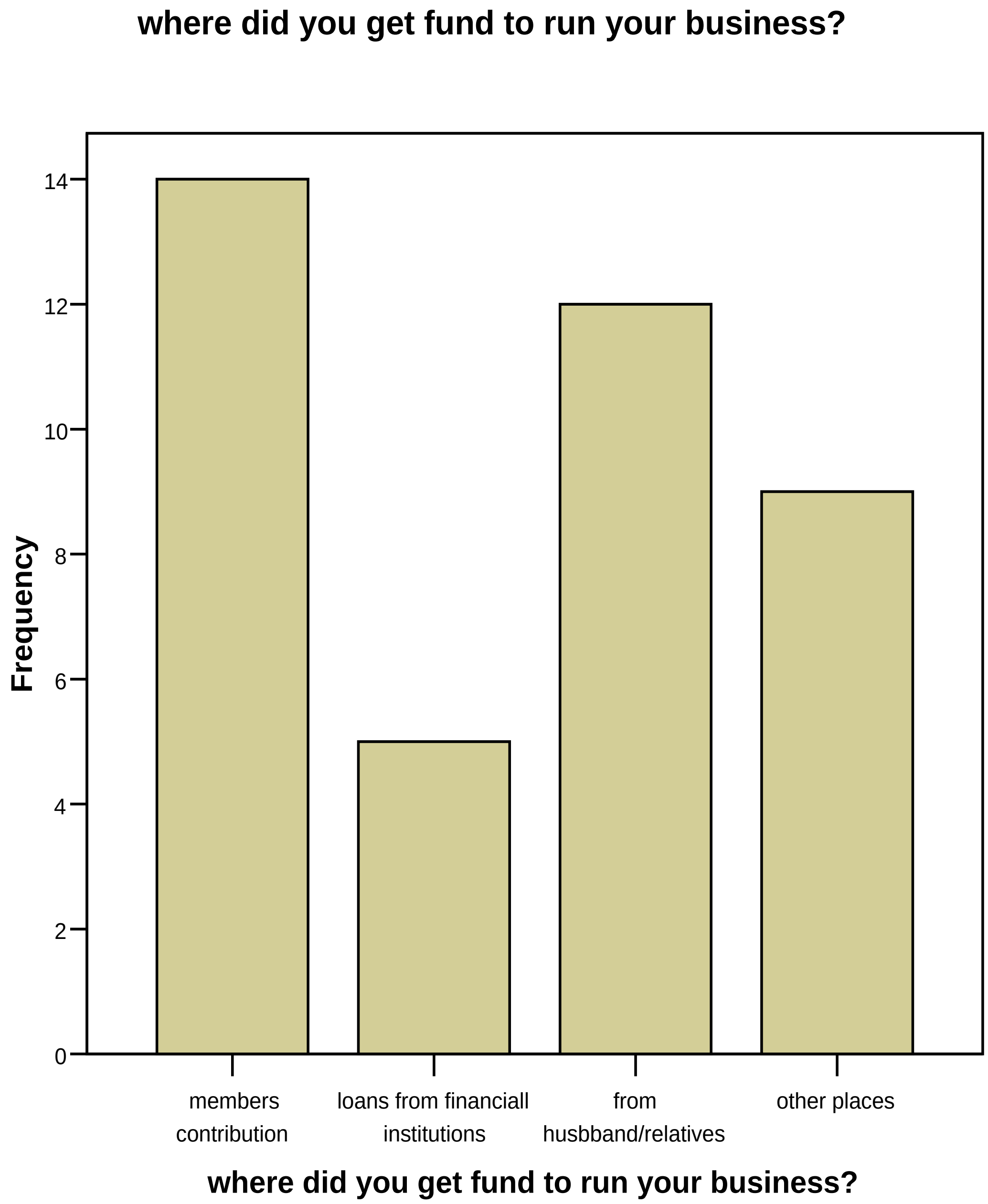
	Frequency	Percent
Member contribution	13	32.5
Loan from financial institution	5	12.5
Husband	12	30
Relative	1	2.5
Other places	9	22.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

The majority of the respondents said that they got fund or capital to run their activities through loan. This means that sustainability of women groups' development activities depended much on the existence of credit/loan, contrary to that many groups are likely to die as they cannot survive on their own. On the other hand respondents argued that despite those financial institutions had high interest rate they find themselves to have no alternative as WDF loan was too small to run a sustainable business. On top of that it was not easy to get the loan as soon as one needed. This implies that WDF played a big role in boosting the lives of women and that there is a need to improve it so that it can meet the client’s needs.

The same information is depicted using Bar Chart as shown in figure 4.1

Figure 4.1: Sources of Fund for Support Women Groups Development Activities



Source: Field Findings 2013.

4.3.1 Loans Amount

The researcher was interested in understanding the amount of loan for women groups get from WDF. This was relevant to ascertain whether the amount was satisfactory to run an income generating activity. The study revealed that the average amount of loan which was given to one group ranged between Tsh 500,000/= to 2,500,000/=. WDF tries to ensure that majority of women who apply for loan get it. In doing so it makes the amount available to be distributed to a big number of women. As a result applicants do not get enough amount of fund for the kind of business/activity one applied for. This is because the District loan Committee may reduce the amount which the groups have requested. Table 4.7 below summarized the above explanations.

Table 4.7 Amount of loan for a group

	Frequency	Percent
500,000 – 800,000	**2**	**5**
900,000 – 1,200,000	3	7.5
1,300,000 – 1,750,000	11	22.5
1,800,000 – 2,500,000	24	60
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

4.4 Approaches through Which Women in Rombo District Access WDF

4.4.1 Approach to Access WDF

The study sought for information on the criteria set by the Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children through Local Government Authority for women to access the Women development Fund. The aim was to know if the approach is favorable and accepted by the WDF beneficiaries as well as service providers. This question was directed to WDF beneficiaries, CDOs, CO, RFSP, WEOs and Councilors. It was revealed that procedures for accessing WDF were through group lending. Respondents explained that women were supposed to join in groups, prepare their proposals, present them at Village Executive Officers, then at Ward Executive

Officer and finally submitted it at the District level for further processes. Normally, WDF provides loan in groups as explained in chapter two of this work. When discussing the group lending methodology, some WDF beneficiaries believed that they learned a lot through group interactions and through exchanging ideas with fellow members.

Discussions with women's groups in South East Asia showed women valued meeting in the credit groups (Kasynathan and Hunt, 2001). Some of the group members who have had the opportunity to become leaders such as a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer, felt empowered and confessed that being leaders within WDF groups also had a spillover effect. Their community sees them as leaders too and they find themselves being elected leaders in their local communities. A woman respondent, who was a group the chairperson said:

> *I have never been a leader before, I am a very shy person and when they chose me as a chairperson I was shocked. I told the whole group I cannot speak in front of people…they insisted…the whole group said I can do it. I have been the chairperson for two consecutive loan cycles and I have gained confidence*

However, on the other hand 16 (40%) complained about the group lending methodology because if a group has unfaithful person she brings disturbance to others as they will have to pay for her. The 15(37.5%) prefer individual loans. Another member commented as follows,

> *You cannot trust people; we normally bring our friends in the group to receive loans. But the moment she receives the loan she starts problems with repayments. There is a lot of burden because the group has to pay for her.*

The Table 4.8 below explained the respondent's views about group lending methodology

Table 4.8 Group Lending Methodology

	Frequency	Percent
Yes satisfied	9	22.5
Not satisfied	16	40
Prefer individual loan	15	37.5
Other places	9	22.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

According to Community Development Officers, Cooperative Officers and Rural Financial Services Officer the lending methodology were good as they enabled the group to have joint accountability hence self control. By doing that it was easier for the District officials to make frequent follow up simply because if there is someone stubborn at the first place it is the group who deals with her. Also, the group members learn how to interact with each other and learnt leadership skills. So, to them they believe that group lending brings collective responsibility and accountability to the beneficiaries.

4.4.2 Source of Information

The study went so far to identify channels of communication which were used by WDF beneficiaries to get information about the fund. This was done in order to know if the information about WDF is available at the grassroots level. Women respondents admitted that they got the information concerning WDF from different sources as shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Source of the information for WDF

	Frequency	Percent
Village assembly	6	15
Village and ward leaders	6	15
Friends	25	62.5
Any other	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

Study revealed that 6 (15%) heard information from village assembly while 6 (15%) got information from District officials and Ward Executive Officers, 25 (62.5%) got information from their friends when meet together during different occasions like funeral ceremonies visit their friends at their homes and when they meet in the church, 3(7.5%) from the other sources like relatives and heard at the radio and other got information from the internet. This implies that WDF is widely known in the District.

4.5 Levels of Women Income before and after Accessing WDF in Rombo District.

To understand whether WDF had improved income of women in Rombo District or not a scale was developed. The findings showed that the average income for WDF beneficiaries before and after received loans from WDF. For instance most of 29 (72.5%) WDF beneficiaries had an income which was ranged from 10,000.00 to 50,000.00 per month before accessing WDF followed by 7(17.5%) who have income of above 51,000 per month followed by 2(5%) those has average income of 101,000-150,000 and lastly was 1(2.5%) equally for those has average income of 151,000-200,000 and those of 201,000- 250,000 as illustrated in table 4.10 below.

Table 4.10 Levels of Income before Accessing WDF

	Frequency	Percent
10,000 – 50,000	29	72.5
51,000 – 100,000	7	17.5
101,000 –150,000	2	5
151000-200000	1	2.5
201000-250000	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

The study shows that after WDF beneficiaries had started accessing loans from WDF their income has raised ranged between Tsh. 51,000.00 to 100,000.00 per month equals to 19 (47.5%) of WDF beneficiaries involved in the study. This means that the loans received from WDF by thus women have a positive impact on their income has it was raised from average of 10,000-50,000 up to an average of 51,000 to 100000 per month. This has been verified by the increase levels of women economic status which help them to expand and strengthening their business as a result of earn more hence increases their income levels.

Table 4.11 shows the respondents' levels of income per month after getting loan from WDF.

Table 4.11 Levels of Income after Accessing WDF

	Frequency	Percentage
10,000 – 50,000	12	30
51,000 – 100,000	19	47.5
101,000 – 150,000	5	12.5
151,000 – 200,000	2	5
201000-250000	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

Respondents in this study felt that the increase of income had a positive impact on their lives as they had an opportunity to save a little amount of money which they could contribute to their children education and they were able to purchase household assets. Additionally, they were able to make improvement in household diet, housing and health status. Moreover, they were able to receive appreciation from their family members. Increased access to cash income enabled most of women to use their income in conducting economic activities for the well-being of their families. These findings are similar to those of Mayoux (1999), who reported that in the case where loans were given to women who were already in business, and who has the basic skills, increases of incomes were evident

4.5.1 Ability to Send Children to School

The study reveled that the increased of income of WDF beneficiaries had a substantial contribution towards the education of their children. Apparently 80.3% of the respondents had children or grandchildren in school ranging from nursery (kindergarten) school age to Secondary education. The respondents believed the ability to pay for basic school needs, such as school uniforms, exercise books, and pens/pencils, (since children spend almost nine hours in school) relieved them from the tensions and worries of how to pay for their children's education. The possible explanation for this could be the fact that WDF helped women to invest in education as a form of upward mobility, which became easier for their families to achieve with the assistance of the additional income provided from their activities

4.5.2 Household Assets

The study revealed that the loans given to women increased their ability to purchase assets, such as household assets and plots of land for building houses or farming, which in turn greatly improved their quality of life. Some of them were able to improve their own houses and to do a number of other home improvements. This was important because other studies have observed that women are more likely to spend their income on household assets such as homestead, land, while males tend to invest in further productive activities (Kabeer, 2001). Kibas (2001) confirmed that women micro-entrepreneurs who were borrowing could purchase fixed assets such as commercial plots, business premises and tools and equipment for production.

Table 4.12 Assets bought with WDF Funds

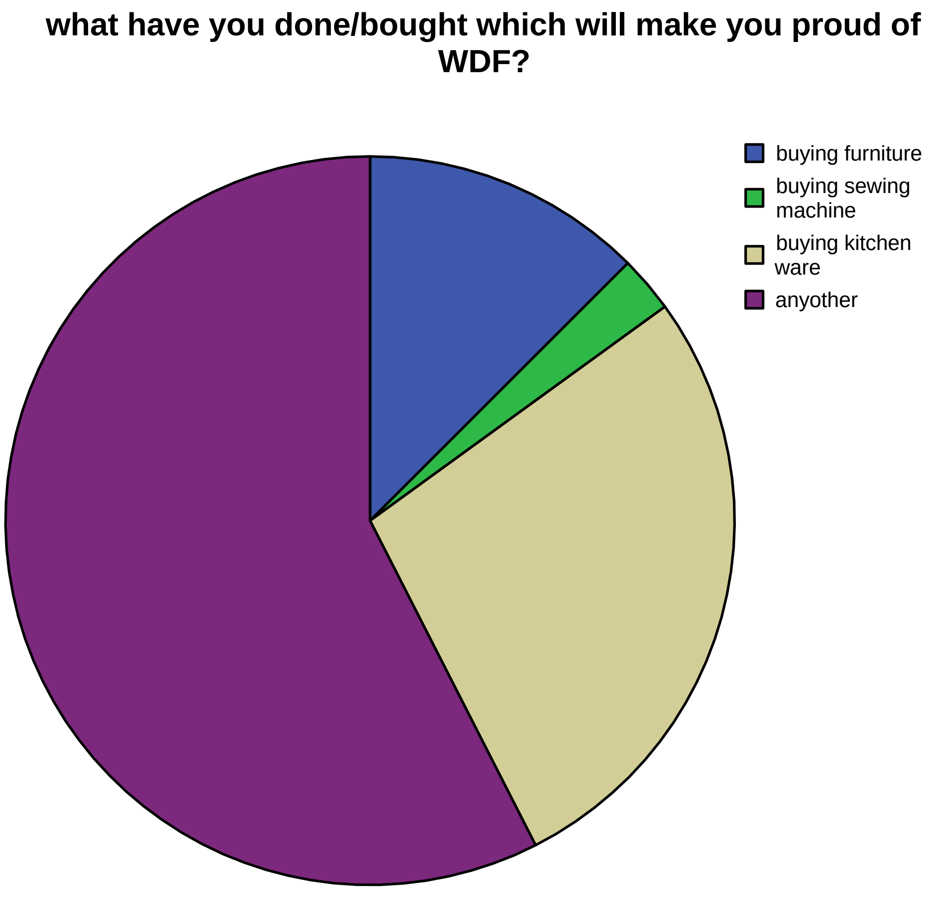
	Frequency	Percentage
Buying furniture	5	12.5
Buying sewing machines	1	2.5
Buying kitchen ware	11	27.5
Any other	23	57.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

The study revealed that 5(12.5%) of the respondent bought furniture for their house as the result of receiving money from WDF, 11(27.5%) bought kitchen ware for their daily uses in the kitchen while and 23(57.5%) have different uses of WDF funds like increases stock for their business, while the least was 1(2.5%) bought sewing machines.

The same information is depicted using pie chart as shown in figure 4.2

Figure 4.2: Assets bought with WDF funds



Source: Study findings 2013.

4.5.3 Diet Improvement

The WDF beneficiaries 27 (67.5%) reported an improvement in their household's diet; they noted that the quantity of food had increased as they were able to buy more food than before receiving the loans. The ability to make protein choices such as fish, meat and poultry was also mentioned. This finding is not different from Khandker's (1998) who noted that women's credit had a large and statistically significant impact on the nutritional well-being of both their male and female children. However, a few member responded by saying absolutely that getting a loan does not mean that you celebrate and eat luxuriously. If one uses the loan extravagantly on food related costs, one will not be able to repay the loan. Table 4.13 shows diet improvement to most of WDF beneficiaries' homes or families.

Table 4.13 Diet improvement for WDF beneficiaries

	Frequency	Percentage
Improved	27	67.5
Satisfactory	20	50
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

Furthermore, the community around them noticed their sense of well-being had made them role models. This is also in agreement with a report from Women's Entrepreneur Development Fund (WEDTF), in Zanzibar, Tanzania, which says that women from one of the WEDTF's credit groups enjoyed considerable prestige and empowerment as a result of their successful joint business selling kerosene (Cheston & Kuhn, 2002).

Most WDF beneficiaries reported that the increase of income made them feel empowered because their self-confidence was promoted, leading to an enhanced ability to exchange and learn new ideas from fellow group members. By accessing loans from WDF they have seen improvements in their lives, within the household and in the community at large. Women have a tendency to invest more in human capital, whereas men invest more in physical capital. This finding is further supported by research results from the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Trust Fund (WEDTF) in Zanzibar, which reports that 55% of women's increased income is used to purchase household items, 18% goes for school fees, and 15% is spent on clothing (Cheston & Kuhn, 2002). Most of the WDF beneficiaries 25

(62.5%) reported an increase in their incomes from the time they accessed loans from WDF.

4.5.4 Savings

The majority of the WDF beneficiaries 12 (30%) expressed their participation in the WDF had given them an opportunity to accumulate savings, something which they could not have achieved in the past. They felt empowered because they owned this money even though it was small. They still could accomplish gender specific roles and responsibilities within their households. One woman said:

> *Before I got credit from WDF, I did not have a single cent that I could call savings. Where would you put the money? If you put the money under the mattress; it is obvious that you will use the money. I could not open a bank account because just the idea of walking to a bank was something I couldn't dare. I had a feeling banks are for certain class of people*

Table 4.14 Indicates access to WDF improved women ability to save.

	Frequency	Percent
Bank	12	30
Home	3	7.5
Neighbor	1	2.5
Somewhere else	24	60
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013

This evidence supports the findings of Bagachwa (1995), who commented that the use of savings from micro-loans can be used to finance education of children, to meet needs such as funerals and weddings and to invest or expand businesses. Probably it appears that most of women who get loans from WDF also have been able to get loans from other financial institutions such as National Microfinance Bank, SACCOS, Presidential Trust Fund, FINCA and VIKOBA. Nevertheless, 7.5% of the respondents acknowledged that they normally reserve a small portion of their income, Tsh 1000- 5000, as savings at home. Normally they keep this small amount of savings at home for immediate use.

4.5.5 Ability to Pay for Medical Charges

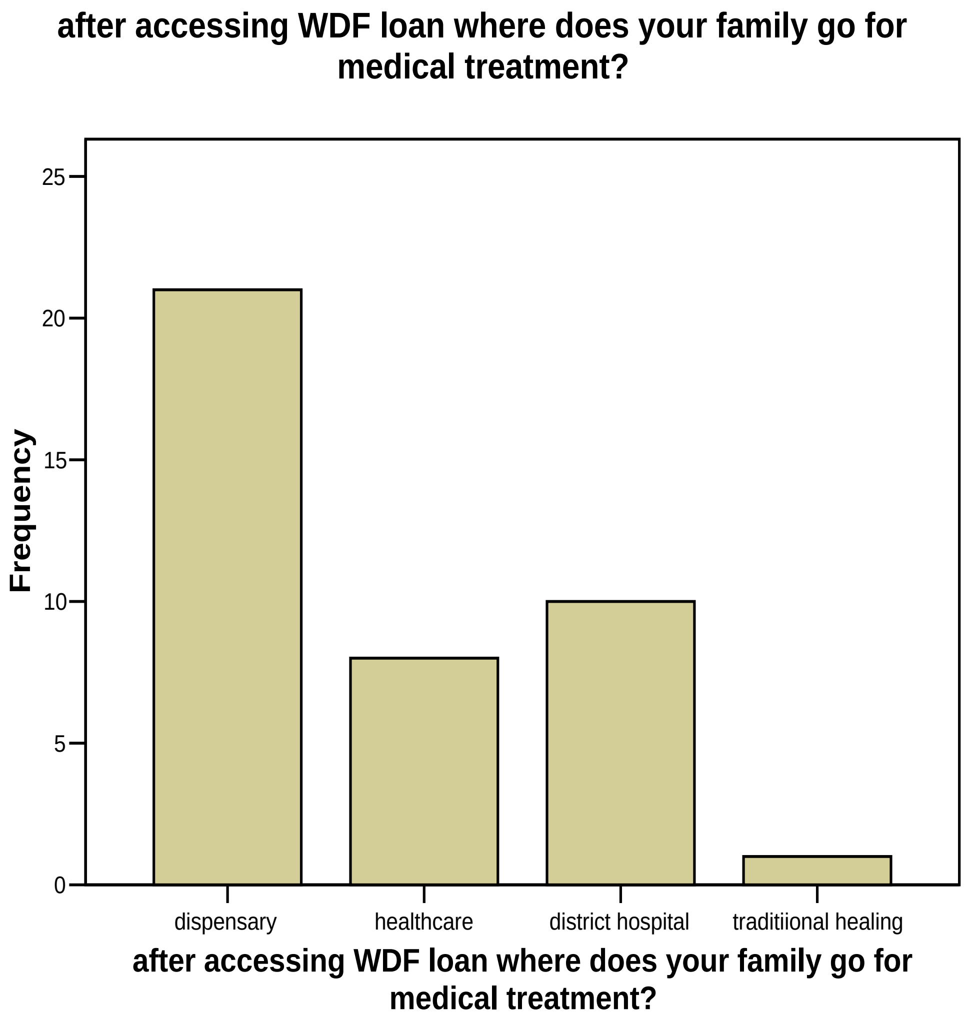
WDF beneficiaries expressed that the fund had helped them to pay for health services. They said that they were able to get such services from both public and private health centers, dispensaries and hospitals. Table 4.14 summaries the places from which WDF get medical treatment for their family members.

Table 4.15 Medical treatment after receiving loans from WDF

	Frequency	Percentage
Dispensary	21	52.5
Health care	8	20
District hospital	10	25
Traditional healing	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings 2013

Figure 4.2 Medical Treatments after Loans from WDF



Source: Research findings 2013.

From the figure above the finding shows that about 21(52.5%) went to dispensaries for their treatment, 8(20%) receives medical treatment from health care centre while 10(25%) get their medical services from district hospital and 1(2.5%) get their medical treatment from traditional healing hence the funds helps the majority of

Rombo district women and their family to pay for the medical treatment which was provided from different sectors including but not limited to dispensary, health care, district hospital and traditional healing.

4.5.6 Increase Self Confidence

Generally a good number (80%) of the WDF beneficiaries admitted that the rise of income enabled them to increase self-confidence because they can control their lives, and the feeling of ownership and being successful. One woman commented that

> *When you do something and get positive results, you feel so good and confident about yourself. Some of us had never thought that we could come this far. I had bad times in my life when I could not afford even a bar of soap. I was ashamed of myself and my failure in life. But look at me now, would you even know that in the past I had gone for days without a bath?*

4.6 Rombo District Staff Member Perception in WDF Impacts

In regards to increase of income, Rombo staff in response to the question "Whether they feel there is an increase of income hence improvement on women's lives". Officers expressed that they saw loans had a positive impact on women's lives. However, they acknowledged that the women borrowers were faced by a number of challenges but they can proudly appreciate about the loan that it helps them to bought furniture, sent their children to school improving their family diet and covering their medical expense.

4.7 Councillors and Ward Executive Officers Perceptions on the Impact of WDF

The researcher was also interested to hear from Councilors and Ward Executive Officers about the impact of WDF to women. This was because they were always close to the women at the respective areas of their work. The results showed that Councilors and WEO's admitted that WDF beneficiaries has gained a lot socially and economically because through training they got from the LGA experts they were in position to identify business opportunities surrounding them and manage their IGAs.

Also, WDF beneficiaries were able to expand their little capital they got by making some savings. By doing that WDF beneficiaries were in a position to attend their necessary needs. This observation further illustrated that the WDF beneficiaries' exposure in business had made them better home financial managers and that there was a possibility of WDF beneficiaries to develop some more skills in planning and interpersonal relationship as an entrepreneur.

4.8 Factors Affecting/ Facilitates Women in Accessing WDF in Rombo District.

The study sought for factors that facilitated and those inhibited women access to WDF.

4.8.1 Factors Facilitating Women Accessing WDF

4.8.1.1 Lending Methodology

Group lending methodology has given low income women who have no collateral a chance to borrow. This is because lending in the Micro Financial Institutions requires a person to have collateral such as land, house etc. But in WDF women are supposed to join in group of at least 5 women, select their leaders, and then request the fund by following the stated procedures.

4.8.1.2 Low Interest rate

Low interest rate which is paid by WDF beneficiaries also encourages many women to apply for the loan. At a collective level WDF loans has involved economic participation for the majority, particularly marginal groups, including women that had been previously not considered as potential lenders by lending institutions. The women in this study would have otherwise been left out by formal financial institutions because they lack certain characteristics required such as collateral.

4.8.1.3 Training Sessions

Pre loan training encouraged many women to apply WDF loan. WDF has been considering training as one of its primary goals. Generally, entrepreneurship skills training which was offered briefly during the training sessions and most women who got such opportunity expressed satisfaction with training and its relevance and practicability in their Income Generating activities. This is an indication that when loan is combined with proper complimentary products such as business training and new skills, then credit can be viewed as a contribution towards women's increase in socio economic status (Mayoux, 1999).

4.8.1.4 Motivation by Others

The WDF beneficiaries were motivated by the fact that they could see positive changes in their lives, especially those changes they considered important in their lives. By participating in the WDF, the beneficiary's self-esteem and confidence had increased due to access to cash income. In turn, the women IGA's had progressed and enhanced women's lives improvement within households, communities and other improved factors such as education, nutrition, health and lender's abilities to accumulate assets.

4.8.2 Factors Inhibiting Women from Accessing WDF

4.8.2.1 Institution-related constraints

The majority of the WDF beneficiaries thought that although group lending had a number of advantages, there were however, disadvantages as well. They pointed out that one of the major problems was when one of the group members failed to pay; the whole group is obliged to pay for her. In turn, this demoralized the group members to a large extent as they expressed it as major setback to grow in their businesses and family welfare. Ledgerwood (1999) noted that while group lending may work to some people, but there are people who consider joint liability as a punishment when group members have to pay for delinquent members. Therefore, WDF beneficiaries suggested that despite a number of benefits they get from group lending them feel individual loans can yields fruits more than group.

Time for finishing the loan repayment thus was reported by the WDF beneficiaries that the notion of the whole group to finish repayment of the loan before accessing a new loan as a serious obstacle to the development of the group. Types of activities that are performed by the group members are not the same. For this case repayment becomes difficult for someone who is undertaking farming activities as she has to wait for harvest, while for a food vendor paying is quick and easier. Table 4.14 shows differences of one group members' activities

Table 4.16 Activities of One Group members

Position	Activity
Chairperson	Food vendor
Secretary	Retail shop
Treasurer	Farming
Member	Farming
Member	Glossary

Source: Research findings, 2013.

Since WDF is a revolving fund is expected that as more women repay their loans with interest the great number of women will get loans or will be involved in the program. The study shows that majority of women do not pay on time while others do fail to pay back their loans. This implies that not all women will be able to get loan from WDF. Table 4.17 shows the trend of repayment since the establishment of the Fund in Rombo District.

Table 4.17 Trend of WDF Repayment

Year	Loan given	Loan repaid	Percentage
1998	4,707,000	4,707,000	100
1999	17,206,000	17,206,000	100
2000	6,435,000	6,435,000	100
2002	16,500,000	16,500,000	100
2005	27,145,800	26,207,500	97
2006	19,809,900	16,869,500	84
2007	19,800,000	13,334,000	67
2008	16,896,000	6,404,000	38

Source: Rombo District Council, 2009.

Table 4.16 above shows that there is a diminishing trend of loan repayment from 100% in 1998 to 38% in 2008. This situation is very alarming, and its implication is that WDF will collapse or it will die a natural death. Rombo staff explained the difficulties in collecting repayment which is caused by political interest of some councilors who sometimes prohibit them from disturbing their voters. Therefore delaying of women repayment causes WDF to lag behind. Diminishing trend on the part of the District in contributing to WDF thus was raised by Rombo District Council staff as the problem/constrains in implementation of WDF in the District. Table 4.17 shows the declining trend of contribution for the last four years from both Central and Local Government.

Table 4.18 WDF Contribution

Year	Central Government	Local Government
2005	8,000,000	16,670,000
2006	-	18009,000
2007	8,000,000	18,009,000
2008	8,000,000	7,360,000

Source: Rombo District Council, 2009.

Table 4.18 above shows that there has been a decline of both parties in contributing to WDF for stances in 2005 the LGA contributed Tsh. 16,670,000.00 compared to the Tsh. 7,360,000.00 in 2008. So there is a decline of Tsh. 9, 310,000.00. Central government cannot be avoiding to be blamed for not being able to add up the amount every year. Table 4.16 displays the same amount being provided for four years consecutively without taking into consideration that the value of money does fall.

Furthermore, WDF beneficiaries attributed their success to pre-loan training and raised concerns about members who joined the groups without training. The members claimed that members who joined the group without training are normally difficult especially with making repayments on time. Equally this was supported by Officials who are making follow up by saying that for three years consecutively the District has not been able to offer training to WDF beneficiaries as a result the repayment trend has not been promising.

4.8.2.2 Business-Related Constraints

Major constraint pertaining to WDF beneficiaries were customer- related complaints. This is probably due to the nature of the businesses which the WDF beneficiaries conducted; business, food vendor, charcoal and grocery. Problems encountered included complaints from customers on quality of service, goods and quantity. For instance, the women respondents who were in food vendor business claimed their customers wanted to be served with big portions of food with more meat pieces for a small amount of money. The WDF beneficiaries allowed the largest part of their customers to buy from them on credit. Collecting money from customers is a big problem according to the WDF beneficiaries, since customers do not pay at the agreed upon time. As a result, WDF beneficiaries said there are a number of times they fail to make repayments because their customers have not paid them.

Some of the women activities is farming which normally relies heavily on climatic and weather conditions. About 27 (67.5 %) of WDF beneficiaries (Refer table 4.4) were doing farming activities. However, WDF beneficiaries complained about the delay of getting the loan applied from the District level. This is due to the fact that you may apply for a loan but it takes more than 8 months to one year to get the loan. This affects them much as farming is a seasonal activity.

Furthermore, seasonality of the market was expressed as another problem which facing WDF beneficiaries. For instance, respondents in the clothes business said that the market for their goods and services is more active during festivals, mainly the religious ones such as Eid, Easter festival and Christmas. Additionally, the respondents noted they could sell on occasions such as weddings, Maulids (Moslem special ceremonies) and baptism. They claimed that one has got to be extra careful in requesting for loan amounts and the seasonality of the business, because the loan amount must coincide with the business needs.

4.8.2.3 Government Policies-Related Constraints

Respondents were also asked to tell if they know any policy that affects women. The aim was to evaluate level of people's awareness and understanding about Government policies specifically those related to women and their development. The result shows that 29 (72.5%) respondents acknowledged they do not know any government policy which affects women. A possible reason for this is the majority of the respondents do not consider activities that are managed by women as economical ones and this is because most types activities that are done by women ends up for consumption purposes. On the other hand, most of businesses which are operated by women are home based enterprises mainly informal sector. Although the government of Tanzania is advocating a support for small enterprises, in the real sense directives at local councils have not featured the development of women activities which are in the informal economic activities and remain vulnerable.

Table 4.19 WDF beneficiaries and Policy Awareness

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	0	0
Don't know	29	72.5
Don't understand	11	27.5
Total	40	100

Source: Research findings, 2013.

4.8.2.4 Family Constraints

A very small percentage of women confessed that they were denied access to loans from WDF by their spouses. Some commented they were denied in the beginning, however, after the members went against their spouses and went ahead to get loans anyway, their spouses experienced good outcomes from the loans, their husbands are now willingly supporting them. Some confessed that they have kept their loans a secret from their spouses, taking loans without their spouse's knowledge. However, one woman commented, "If you see women staying at home, not engaged in business, they might have been denied by their husbands, not government policies." Nonetheless, WDF beneficiaries pointed out that by accessing loans they had increased heavy burdens on their responsibilities because they had to work hard balancing household responsibilities and enterprise activities. The involvement of women in business and accessing loans has added an additional responsibility on top of traditional multiple roles they had in the society. Several implications can be drawn from the reversed gender roles within households.

4.9 Ways to Enhance/Improve Women's Access to WDF in Rombo District

Generally, the study shows that credit demand to women in Rombo District Council is higher compared to the very limited financial resource being disbursed. This means that women in the study area know about the fund but the more they apply the less they get loan. Therefore, it will be better for the district to find other sources of Fund in order to top up the WDF because it will enable more women to get opportunities.

WDF beneficiaries complained that the amount of loan given to them was too small. For instance certain groups were given 500,000.00 of which one member could get only 100,000.00. To them such kind of amount is not satisfactory taking into consideration that it doesn't matter how soon you repay, to get another loan will take a number of months if not more than a year. Therefore, the women concern was to raise the amount of loan given to every group of women which will enable or increase the women business ventures hence significant impact.

WDF guidelines section 6 sub section 7 states that "…..10% interest will remain for training and follow up". Respondents agreed to have been given training once before given credit. Since then they have been doing their activities by using their experiences. Most likely it appears that the training which has been offered couldn't contribute to high repayment and efficient use of loan. On the other hand WDF beneficiaries declared to get visitation from officers when they were making follow up of loans repayment only and follow up for advising them is rarely done. This means that the LGA should make sure those women groups are closely monitored to advise and encourage them specifically on how to manage their IGA's and how to embark upon challenges they are facing. Apparently, the 10% of interest is too small for a fund to cover all administrative costs therefore it is the researcher's view to call upon the LGA to top up to the fund so that it can be able to attend all necessary activities hence development of the fund.

Moreover, the interviews for the Community Development Officers, Cooperative officers and Ward Executive Officers centered on criteria for giving loans, the type of help or assistance they give to the women, and how they ensured that the loans are paid back. They also responded to how often they interact with the women, and how they feel the impact of the loans on women's lives, what needs to be done to improve WDF activities.

In general, LGA experts' feels that the loans help a lot to boost the capital of the women and as a result women get more income. In return they are able to accumulate assets and cover other expenses. They mentioned the point that these women get a certain amount of money at once which is not easy to get from other source, and this definitely helped them to solve their problems. Based on the LGA experts comments, there were a number of reasons which resulted to negative impacts. Some women who have no viable business or activities at all have at certain times borrowed from the organization. The outcome is that they failed to pay and the group was obliged to recover the loan amount.

There is also problem of diverging funds; loans were not directly invested into the intended activity. The WDF desk officer (loan officer) mentioned that for those with sound businesses there was no problem if they diverged funds, they would still make repayments even if they used the loans for other activities. It was an obvious problem for those with poor performing businesses/activities because as a result, they failed to pay back the loan.

On the side of Councilors they said that to making follow up so that women can repay their loan is their responsibility. But sometimes it becomes difficult to them because if they use force it becomes difficult for them to ask for their votes during election period.

CHAPTER FIVE
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents conclusion and recommendations regarding the Women Development Fund.

5.2 Conclusions

The study conclude that the positive outcomes of WDF beneficiaries borrowing loans from the WDF raised economic status of women in the district included expanding and strengthening their business which was supported by the improvement on survival purposes such as household consumption, to pay school fees for their children, improve diet, and accumulate assets which have long term pay -off. Likewise, by providing healthcare and improved nutrition to the members of the household, women are relieved from burdens of taking care of the sick and therefore, they can spend ample time on improving and maintaining their businesses.

Also, the study revealed facilitating factors to access WDF as lending approach, low interest rate, availability of training sessions and motivation by others. Inhibiting factors to access WDF were institutional related, business related, family related and Government policy related constraints.

In additional the loans amounts provided by WDF are of small amount of which women have spent it for family expenditure like paid school fees for their children as well as medical expenses and in feeding for their family and not for the business purposes so even the repayment was difficult because no productivity for thus small amount of money hence the expectation of WDF and what exactly happened in the field are not attainable hence economical status of women are still poor despite the presence of WDF in the district.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the research findings, the study recommended that;

- The government through the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children should review the Women Development Fund (WDF) guidelines to make it more effective in satisfying the needs of the targeted group because it seems to be outdated compared to the current situation and the amount of loan provided by WDF.
- The Local Government should provide more training to the WDF entrepreneurs so that they will keep on mind that the loan amount received is not the gift from government rather they should repay for it so that others can benefit from the WDF.
- Flexibility should be emphasized because from the study observations, WDF lending methodology is rigid and the methodology does not accommodate a range of IGA's needs and loan requirements. For instance, initial loan size of Tsh 500, 000.00 to a group which means 100,000.00 to a person was considered too small to help businesses grow by potential members.
- Criteria to give loans should consider type of activities which are performed by the group members especially to ensure that there is uniformity. This will enable repayment of loans for a group to be done at the same time for example if someone takes a loan for farming activities should not be in group of the one like food vendor.
- The officials from District level should cross check if those women do really have IGA's instead of believing that their proposal was checked by Village and Ward committees. This will enable the women to use the loan to the intended activity instead of transferring the loan to the other activity.
- The Government should look into women as disadvantage group seriously and effectively and empower them socially and economically so that they can reduce the problem of poverty at household level.

- Community Development Department should arrange their time table in the implementation plan work plan for the staffs to visit women group regularly so that they can have chance to know well their improvements or failures about the groups, knowing the existences the groups, views and giving challenges to each other so that the group can get more challenges in performing their activities.

- The Government through the Ministry of Community Development women affairs and children should increase the funds budget under WDF fund from the present 10% to at least 20% so that money should be enough to provide loans for women groups so that they can improve their living standard and economic status of them.

- Women should be able to improve and change their situation by involving and organized themselves to establish different activities for their own benefit. By doing that, they will be in a good position to contribute in household income and poverty alleviation.

- The government of Tanzania has to address gender sensitive policies which shall facilitate the needs of women, so as to enable them to receiving benefits from participating in the sector. To accomplish that, equal participation, access to and control over resources is important. Access to women's education, particularly at the post-primary level should be encouraged and reinforced by the government.

REFERENCES

Ambali, K..A. (1991) *An Evaluation of Women Economic Group in Tanzania,* Unpublished dissertation for Award of Post Graduate Diploma in the Institute of Rural Development Planning, Dodoma.

Bagachwa, M. (1995) *Estimating the Second Economy in Tanzania*. *World Development*, 23(8), 1387-1399.

Bryman, A. (2004). Social Research Methods, Oxford University Press

Charlton, S. E (1984), [Women in Third World development.](#) Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1984. 240 p retrieved on 20th December 2008

Cheston, S., and Kuhn, L. (2002), *Empowering women through micro-finance* UNIFEM http://www.opportunity.org/files/Empowering%20Women%20Paper%20FINAL.

Escobar, A. (1995), *Encountering Development: The making and the unmaking of the Third World.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Goetz et el (1996), *Gender Power and Control over loan use in rural Credit Scheme Programme in Bangladesh*, World Development, Vol.24, No. 1

Hashemi, S., Schuler, S., & Riley, A. (1996), *Rural credit programs and women's empowerment in Bangladesh*. World Development

Hunt, J., & Kasynathan, N. (2001). "Pathways to empowerment. Reflections on microfinance and transformation in gender relations in South Asia". *Gender and Development.*

Islam, T. (2006), *Micro credit and Poverty Alleviation. Aldershot Ashgate.*

Kabeer, N. (2001). Conflicts over credit: Re-evaluating the empowerment potential of loans to women in rural Bangladesh World Development.

Kabeer, N. (2005) ―Gender equality and women's empowerment: a critical analysis of the third Millennium Development Goal 1‖, Gender and Development Vol. 13(1), March 2005.

Kamuzora, J.A, (2008), *Research Methods for Business and Social Studies,* Morogoro: Mzumbe Book Project..

Kibas, P. B. (2001), *Impact of credit on women-operated micro enterprises in Uasin Gishu District*. In Patrick, O. A., & Poul, O. P. (Eds.), Negotiating social space: East African Micro-enterprises (pp.197-222). Africa World Press, Inc.Trenton, NJ; Asmara, Eritrea.

Kothari, C.R. (2004), *Research Methodology & Methods & Techniques*, Second Edition

New Age International (P) Limited Publishers, New Delhi India

Lairap-Fonderson, J. (2002), *The disciplinary power of micro-credit: Examples from Kenya and Cameroon.*. In Parpat. J, Rai, S, and Staid, K (Eds.), Rethinking Empowerment: Gender and Development in a Global/Local World.

Ledgerwood, J. (1999), *Micro-finance handbook: An institutional and financial perspective*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

Losindilo et al (2010). Some Factors That Hinder Women Participation in Social, Political and Economic Activities in Tanzania, Online Publication, Arts and Social Sciences Journal, Volume 2010: ASSJ-4

New York: Routledge. Ledgerwood, J. (1999), *Micro-finance handbook: An institutional*

and financial perspective. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
Makombe I.A et al, (1999), *Credit Schemes and Women's Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation. The case of Tanga Region,* Tanzania REPOA Commercial printers, Dar-es-Salaam PP 67.
Maliyamkono, T., & Bagachwa, M. (1990), *The second economy in Tanzania*. London:
J. Currey; Athens: Ohio University Press.
Mayoux, L. (1999), "Questioning virtuous spirals: Micro-finance and women's empowerment in Africa". *Journal of International Development.*
Mayoux (2000). Micro-finance and the empowerment of women: A review of the key issues
Mayoux, L. (2002), "Microfinance and Women's Empowerment: Rethinking Best Practice" *Development Bulletin***.**
Mayoux, L (2005) Micro-finance and the empowerment of women — A review of the key issues
Online www.microcreditsummit.org/papers/empowerment.pdf , Accessed 2011-09-18
Mbughuni P & Mwangunga S. (1989), *The Integration of Women into Small Scale Industrial Sector*. A report prepared for SIDO and SIDA, Dar es salaam.
Mukangara F. et al (1997), *Tanzania gender networking programmer and SARDC-WIDSAA, Beyond inequalities*.
Mongi, M.J, (2004), *The role of Women's Savings and Credit Groups in the Alleviation*
of poverty in East Arumeru. Unpublished Dissertation for Award of M.A degree at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.
Pearson R. (1992), *Gender Matters in Development* in Allen T. and Thomas A (eds) Poverty and Development in the 1990s, Oxford OUP
Rwebangira, M. (1996), *The legal status of women and poverty in Tanzania*. Motala Grafiska, Motala, Sweden.

Semboja J. (1994), *Poverty Assessment in Tanzania, Theoretical Conceptual and*

Methodological issues. In Bagachwa MSD (Ed), Poverty

Stevenson L, and St-Onge, (2005), *A. Support for growth-oriented women entrepreneurs in T anzania. Geneva*: ILO

Suzy, C. and Lisa, K. (2000) *Empowering women through microfinance,* UNIFEM www.unifem.org.

Tanzania Development Gateway, http://books.google.com retrieved on 20th December 2008.

Temu S.S. (2003), "*Micro finance Institutions (MFIs) Practices and Poverty alleviation. in Tanzania"*, AJM No 2, and NISC.

TGNP (1993), Gender profile of Tanzania. Dar-es-Salaam Intre Press of Tanzania Ltd.

Terry W (2006) *The Impact of Micro finance on Women Micro Entrepreneurs*, Ohio: Centre of International Studies.

URT (2002), *Policy of Women in Tanzania. Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children*.

URT (2000), *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)*, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania. Government Printers.

URT (1992), *Policy of Women and development, Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children.*

URT (2000) "National Micro Finance Policy", Dar es Salaam.

World Bank, (2000), *World Development Report 2000/10: Attacking Poverty overview* Washington DC: World Bank.

Women's World Banking (2000), *Case Studies in Microfinance sustainable Banking with the poor*. Columbia.

World Bank (1993), *Tanzania, A Poverty Profile draft of report* No. 12298 World Bank

World Bank (2004), *World Development Report 2004*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Yunus, M. (2004) *Grameen Bank, Micro credit and Millennium Development Goals*. Economic and Political Weekly

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Questions for Councilors

1. What are the main economic activities that are carried out by women in your District?

2. Mention any development funds that helps women in carrying out their economic activities

3. What do you understand by WDF?

4. When did the Women Development Fund started in your District?

5. Do you know any activities of this fund? If yes mention some
   - ………………………………
   - ………………………………
   - ………………………………
   - ………………………………

6. What do you think is the status of availability of WDF in the District?
   a) Very good
   b) Good
   c) Satisfactory
   d) Bad
   e) Worse
7. As a leader what are your responsibilities as far as Women Development Fund is concerned?
8. Do you think that all women in your area know about WDF?

a) Yes
b) No
c) Don't know

9. If no why?

10. How would you rank the level of WDF beneficiaries' Income after establishment of WDF
    a) Very good
    b) Good
    c) Satisfactory
    d) Bad
11. Indicate whether you think the level of development of women has improved after receiving these funds?
    a) Improved
    b) A great deal
    c) Remain the same
    d) Don't know

12. What are the major problems in the management of the WDF?
13. What do you think should be done to solve/improve the administration of WDF

Appendix 2

Questions for Staff Members Community Development Officer's, Cooperative Officer and RFSP Staff

1. Staff name
2. Year joined the Organization
3. What are the economic activities performed by women in your district?
4. Mention ways through which WDF provide loans to women?
   a) …………………………….
   b) …………………………….
   c) ……………………………
5. Do you see any motivation from the women in accessing loan from the WDF?
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) Don't know
6. What is the status of availability of WDF in your district?
   a) Very good
   b) Good
   c) Satisfactory
   d) Bad
   e) Worse

7. How would you rank the level of women Income after establishment of WDF
   a) Improving
   b) Not Improving
   c) Satisfactory
   d) Worsened

8. Indicate whether you think the level of development of women has improved after adoption of WDF
    a) Improved
    b) Farming
    c) Pastoralist
    d) Both
9. Indicate whether you think the socio economic status of women has improved after adoption of WDF
    a) Improved
    b) A great deal
    c) Remain the same
    d) Don't know
10. If yes, mention the changes?
11. What kind of activities normally supported by WDF?
    a) Farming
    b) Pastoralist
    c) Both
12. How do you rank the level women groups in terms of loan repayment?
    a) Very good
    b) Good
    c) Satisfactory
    d) Bad
    e) Worse
13. What is your opinion towards women groups in terms of attitudes, behaviors and group members' relationships?
    a) Very good
    b) Good
    c) Satisfactory
    d) Bad
    e) Worse
14. What are problems do you face in implementing the WDF in your District?

15. What is a future prospect of WDF in your district?

Appendix 3

Questions for Ward Executive Officers

1. When did the Women Development Fund started in your District?
2. Do you know any activities of this fund? If yes mention some
    - ➢ …………………………………
    - ➢ …………………………………
    - ➢ …………………………………
    - ➢ …………………………………
    - ➢ …………………………………
3. As a leader what are your responsibilities as far as Women Development Fund is concerned?
4. Do all women in your area know about WDF? If no why?
5. Have you noticed any social or economic improvement to the women who gets credit from WDF?
6. If yes what is it
7. What are the major problems in the management of the WDF?
8. What do you think should be done to solve/improve the administration of WDF

Appendix 4

Questionnaires for Women Development Fund Beneficiaries

Personal Information

1. What is your name?
2. How many members are you in the group?
3. How older are you?
    a) 18 - 30
    b) 31 - 40
    c) 41 - 50
    d) 51 - 60
    e) 60+
4. Level of education
    a) Primary education
    b) Secondary education
    c) College education
    d) None
5. Marital Status
    a) Single
    b) Married
    c) Widow
    d) Divorced/Separated
6. What is main economic activity in your district?
    a) Farmer
    b) Business woman
    c) Animal husbandry
    d) Employed
    e) Any other
7. For how long you have been a member of this group?
    a) One year
    b) Two years
    c) Three years

d) Four years

e) Five and above years

8. Mention any development activities that are carried out in your area

a) Farming

b) Pastoralist

c) Business

d) Any other

9. Where did you get fund/capital to run your activity/business

a) Members contribution

b) Loan from Financial institution

c) From husband/relative

d) Other place (Mention)

10. Mention any sources of fund that help women in carrying out development activities in your ward

a) VIKOBA

b) BRAC

c) FINCA

d) Any other

11. Do you know about WDF?

a) Yes

b) No

12. How did you know about the existence of the fund?

a) From village assembly

b) From village and Ward leaders

c) From a friend

d) Any other

13. Mention ways through which WDF provide loan (Procedures to get loan)

a) To join in groups

b) To have collateral

14. How much did your group get as a loan?

a) 500,000.00 – 800,000.00

b) 900,000.00 – 1,200,000.00

c) 1,300,000.00 – 1,750,000.00

d) 1,800,000.00 – 2,500,000.00

15. Did you get any formal training before receiving the loan?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Don't know

16. Did you involve your family before applying for WDF loan?

a) Yes

b) No

17. Have you benefited from the loan?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Don't know

18. If Yes, How?

19. If the answer is No Why____

20. Is there any changes that you have realized after receiving the loan

a) Yes

b) No

c) Don't know

21. Before accessing WDF Loan what was your average income per month?

a) 10,000.00 – 50,000.00

b) 51,000.00 – 100,000.00

c) 101,000.00 – 150,000.00

d) 151,000.00 – 200,000.00

e) 201,000.00 – 300,000.00

22. After accessing WDF Loan what has been your average income per month?

a) 10,000.00 – 50,000.00

b) 51,000.00 – 100,000.00

c) 101,000.00 – 150,000.00
d) 151,000.00 – 200,000.00
e) 201,000.00 – 300,000.00

23. What have you done as result of getting loan from WDF?
    a) Starting business
    b) Expanding business
    c) Building houses
    d) Paying school fees
    e) Any other
24. Do you make any saving in case of emergency?
    a) Yes
    b) No
25. If yes where do you normally put your saving
    a) Bank
    b) Home
    c) To a neighbors
    d) Somewhere else
26. After accessing WDF loan have you managed to at least improve your family diet?
    a) Improved
    b) Satisfactory
    c) Not improved
    d) Worsened
27. After accessing WDF loan where does your family go for medical treatment?
    a) Dispensary
    b) Health Centre
    c) District Hospital
    d) Traditional healing
28. What have you done/bought which will make you proud of WDF
    a) Buying furniture
    b) Buying sewing machine

c) Buying kitchen ware
d) Any other

29. What are the main constraints /problems in accessing WDF loan
    a) Delay in getting the loan
    b) Small amount
    c) Bureaucracy
    d) Poor cooperation from District Officials
30. What constraints /problems you face in repayment of WDF loan
    a) High interest rate
    b) There is no grace period
    c) Time to the loan is too short
    d) Any other
31. As a group is there any problem do you face in the management of your group?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) Don’t know
32. If the answer is yes mention at least two
    a) …………………………..
    b) …………………………..
33. How often have you been visited by officers from the District since you got the loan from WDF?
    a) Once
    b) Twice
    c) Thrice
    d) They have never visited us
34. Are you satisfied with the methodology of providing loan through groups
    a) Yes satisfied
    b) Not satisfied
    c) Prefer individual loan
35. Do you know any policy that affects the development of women?

a) Yes
b) Don’t know
c) Don’t understand

36. What do you think should be done to improve the WDF?