

**SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT IN NORTH GEM WARD, SIAYA COUNTY**

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BY

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ABSTRACT

Youth empowerment programmes are implemented globally and by various agencies to help build the capacity of the youth so as to improve their well being. Young people the world over are calling for meaningful chances to participate meaningfully in civic, economic, social and political fields. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP's) youth strategy identifies development challenges and issues facing youth today and more importantly offers forward looking recommendation for strategic entry points. This includes engagement of a broad range of partners in addressing youth empowerment issues around the world. Lack of clear policies and programmes for youth agenda also persists in Africa. In Kenya, for example, the National Youth Policy (2002) provides broad based strategies that can be used to give the youth meaningful opportunities to enable them reach their maximum potential. However, in the context of the devolved governance structures, there are many problems for youth to engage in meaningful participation in governance at county and local levels. Therefore, it is worth evaluating the socio-cultural factors affecting youth empowerment in North Gem ward as it is one of the wards with many non-governmental organizations in the study area and government agencies are also situated there yet there is minimal change in the lives of majority of youths because it is not known what factors leads to such scenario in North Gem. Therefore, understanding the social context under which these factors occur will be of value in providing a better understanding hence providing solutions to youths in North Gem ward. This study specifically, sought to: establish the effects of income on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward; determine the effects of gender on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward; and find out the effects of youth perceptions on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County. The study was guided by social constructionist theory propounded by Bem and Coltrane (1985). The study adopted cross-sectional descriptive research design. The study population comprised all members of 12 youth groups and individuals that have benefited from Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in the Ward. Simple random sampling was used to select 202 respondents from the study population of 407 using a formula by Israel (1992). Purposive sampling was used to select the key informants and focus groups. Quantitative data was collected using semi-structured questionnaires and were analyzed using descriptive statistics by the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. The quantitative data were presented in frequencies, percentages and tables. Qualitative data was analyzed through content and narrative analysis to identify emerging themes and concepts and presented using illustrations and verbatim quotations. The study found out that income, gender and attitude of the youth influenced the participation of the youth in youth empowerment initiatives. It furthermore revealed that majority of the young people were unable to access youth loans because they lacked collaterals to secure youth funds and also the youth unable to repay the loans awarded to them. The study therefore, recommends that the government should ensure that Youth Empowerment Programmes are established in the area and youths be able to access the Youth Enterprise Funds without or with minimal collateral for the loans and grants. Moreover, grass root youth empowerment programmes should target youth groups and the focus should be on elimination of the socio-cultural obstacles that affect youth empowerment.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Worldwide, youth face many challenges in terms of access to equal opportunities, to jobs and a voice in decisions which affect their lives. Globally, young men and women are calling for meaningful civic, economic, social and political participation including consultation on the post 2015 development agenda, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP's) youth strategy identifies development challenges and issues facing youth today and more importantly offers forward looking recommendation for strategic entry points. This includes engagement of a broad range of partners in addressing youth empowerment issues around the world (UNDP, 2014).

Youth empowerment therefore has become a popular way to create effective programs and policies for youth and to help them develop leadership skills, self-esteem, and positive attachments to their communities. Youth-empowerment strategies have special appeal in high-poverty. Urban settings where young people feel marginalized and poorly served by society's institutions. Increasing their voices in decision making is especially effective in such environments. In the United States of America, Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning (YELL) is a participant-led program intended to make young people's voices heard. Participants in YELL projects deal with issues that impact their own lives. The YELL program demands among other requirements, yearlong commitment. In weekly meetings throughout a given year, YELL introduces participants to ethnographic inquiry and prepares them to become knowledgeable and active decision makers and to become self reliant. This program has improved lives of 11% of the youth in US (Malhotra and Schuler, 2005).

The relevance of youth in contemporary development debate has received increased recognition in official circles worldwide. In Africa, it began with the Harare Declaration on the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment in 1995 followed youth ministers meeting in Portugal in 1998 and the youth ministers meeting in Solomon Island in 2000. In Nigeria for example, the National Youth Development Policy of 2001 and its accompanying implementation strategy are palpable testimonies to the renewed interest in the youth and development process.

The democratization process which started since 1991 to date has expanded the political space and provided ample opportunity for actors within the civil society to make their impact in the political process. The youth have been acknowledged as a formidable social force in this process. In fact, the youth are the most active segment of any society imbued with relentless energy vigor and drive. The youth are the major catalyst for development in any given society. As future leaders and key determinants of the peace and stability of society, youth are indeed the greatest assets of any nation. This explains why the Nigerian government decided to embark on such rural development initiatives or programs aimed at empowering the youth over the years. Apart from previous government a failed effort which includes Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Empowerment (NED) and many more. It has also come up with renewed efforts in empowering the youth through poverty alleviation program (PAP). With all these programs, 70% of Nigerians still have an income of dollar a day by 1998 (Ramona et al., 1999).

In Kenya, one of the greatest challenges to youth empowerment and participation is how to ensure that young people are passionate about causing transformation in their lives and the nation at large. Youth empowerment and participation is the essential force for causing such transformation. Young people need a youth oriented platform from where they can speak about issues affecting them, take appropriate action and inspire ideas that have a catalytic impact all over the country. Youth empowerment and participation is strong contribution to national prosperity, economic competition and reduced unemployment. Young people have the ability to contribute greatly towards good governance, democracy, employment opportunities and sustainable peace. In Kenya there are about 500,000 youth who graduate from tertiary institutions ready to enter job market every year. However, due to the slow economic growth, corruption nepotism and demand for experience by employers, 75% are unemployed (Olsen, 2004). In north Gem, due to reasons yet to be established by this study, the borrowing rate of enterprise funds is still as low as 45% (Eve and Wayne, 2004.)

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youth have towards empowerment programs. For instance, many young people were still reluctant to form groups so that they can be facilitated with youth loans to start small businesses. Such youth still believe that white collar job was the surest way to empower themselves. In cases where youths have formed groups, ladies are not given equal opportunities in the youth group management, a perception that has pigeonholed women to the subservient roles rather than development matters. Such attitudes and perceptions are replicated in many parts of Kenya and North Gem ward was no exception. This study therefore explored factors that affected youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Empowering the youth has become a popular way to create effective programs to help them develop leadership skills, self-esteem, positive attachments to their communities and more importantly, to enable them to be self reliant. Youth-empowerment strategies have special appeal in high-poverty, urban, peri-urban and rural settings where young people feel marginalized and poorly served by society's institutions. Increasing their voices in decision making is especially effective in such environments (Vavurus and Fletcher, 2006). Despite the many youth empowerment initiatives being implemented by the Government of Kenya and other organizations to empower the youth, there is very little or no change in the lives of majority of youth in Kenya. In North Gem specifically many youth are suffering from poverty among other factors all these can be attributed to inadequate support given to them by the existing organizations engaged in youth empowerment. Most youth living in this ward are involved in empowerment activities form organization such as Yes Youth Can by World Vision, North Gem Stop Aids Now and Youth Enterprise Fund by the government of Kenya. Today, this is critical since young people are the back bone to the regions development. The wards future development can be changed by having the youth engage in economic activities geared towards empowering them. They are the basis of future development, and can serve as pressure group to lobby governments in defining their needs therefore there is need to evaluate the socio-cultural factors that affect youth empowerment in North Gem Ward.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to evaluate socio-cultural factors that affects youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

The study was guided by the following specific objectives

1. To establish the effects of income on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.
2. To determine the effects of gender on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.
3. To find out the effects of youth perception on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.

1.4 Research Questions

1. To what extent do income affects youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County?
2. To what extent does gender affect youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County?
3. To what extent do youth perception affect on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County?

1.5 Scope and limitation of the Study

The study was on socio-cultural factors affecting youth empowerment in North Gem Ward Siaya County. The research was carried out within the socio-cultural context of North Gem Ward. The study targeted youth in North Gem Ward and was carried out within the moths of January-June 2014. One major limitation of this study was financial limitation as some of the respondents administered with the questionnaires wanted to be paid in order to give information which not available however the importance of the study was explained to them which was to help find a solution to their empowerment condition. Most of them agreed and filled the questionnaires.

1.6 Justification of the Study

The study investigated three main factors that affect youth empowerment. The findings would enable the government to know the relationship between the load facilities and youth empowerment. As such, the government would take action aimed at reducing the bottlenecks in empowering the youth. Youth oriented organizations and other non-governmental organizations would also be enabled to know how to approach youth empowerment efficiently and effectively in areas that they offer services to the youth. Learning organizations and institutions would benefit from this study by getting knowledge on the factors affecting youth empowerment in rural areas in Kenya. Similarly, research organizations would benefit from the study by using it as a secondary source of data in researching other related topics.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This study was premised on social constructionism theory as propounded by Bem and Coltrane (1985). Social constructionism is a sociological theory of knowledge that considers how social phenomena or objects of consciousness develop in social contexts. A social construction (also called a social construct) is a concept or practice that is the construct (or artifact) of a particular group. According Bem and Coltrane (1985), when something is socially constructed, the focus is on its dependence on contingent variables of social selves of the society rather than any inherent quality that it possesses in itself. The underlying assumptions on which constructionist theory typically means are reality, knowledge, and learning. A major focus of social constructionism was uncovering the ways in which individuals and groups participated in the construction of their perceived social reality. It involved looking at the ways social phenomena are created, institutionalized, known, and made into tradition by humans. The social construction of reality is an ongoing, dynamic process that is (and must be) reproduced by people acting on their interpretations and their knowledge of it. Because social constructs are facets of reality and objects of knowledge are not given by nature, they must be constantly maintained and re-affirmed in order to persist. It was on this pedestal that made this theory relevant to this study. This study therefore looked at the social constructions (determinants) contemplated in this theory that have been created by society, institutionalized, known and made into tradition by humans. These hinder youth empowerment, perception and attitudes, gender roles and income dimensions. Perceptions

and attitudes for example are grossly engrained in peoples being and made reality in their lives. Perceptions and attitudes can potentially hinder youth empowerment in the sense that the youth may fail to start small enterprises believing the surest way to eliminate poverty is by white collar jobs. Gender issues also affect youth empowerment to a great degree. For instance, if the male youth believed that the position of their female counterparts is in the kitchen then they could not let them take roles that can empower them economically. Means of getting income also depend on the social construction of the youth. For instance, the youth from a business environment would always be convinced that doing business was the best way to empower themselves. Therefore means of getting money play a central role in their empowerment. Hence, social constructionism will be the appropriate theory in evaluating various socio-cultural factors that affect youth empowerment in North Gem ward. The theory will therefore un-earth how existing social and cultural factors in the society impede or facilitate youth empowerment in North Gem ward. However, this theory has been criticized for not recognizing the law of the land because sometimes the youth engage in illegal businesses like male indulging in bhang and alcohol trade and the female youth practicing exchange of sexual affairs for money, so long as they earn a living from it. It also ignores biological influences on behavior and considers them as an important to achieve understanding on human behavior.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the literature review related to the factors that affect youth empowerment. In particular, it concentrated on four thematic areas: first the effect of income on youth empowerment. Secondly, it looks at the effects of gender on youth empowerment as well as the effects of perceptions and attitude on youth empowerment. It finally looks at the knowledge gap between the youth socio-economic status and the empowerment initiatives.

2.2.1 Effect of Income on Youth Empowerment

Around the world, most rural youth are either employed (waged and self-employed) or not in the labor force. The issue, therefore, is not so much about unemployment, but serious under-employment in low productivity, predominantly household-based activities. Almost 25% of young people live in households where income per head is less than \$ 1 a day. The unemployed are mainly better-educated urban youth who can afford to engage in relatively protracted job search. It is better, therefore, to focus on empowerment of the most disadvantaged youth rather than unemployed (Katie, 2004).

According to Katie (2004), it is widely alleged that rural youth are increasingly disinterested in smallholder farming as a source of income, which is viewed as 'dirty work'. Thus, rural youth tend to be relatively mobile, both nationally and increasingly across international borders. Recent research shows that migration from rural to urban areas will continue on a large scale and that this is an essential part of the livelihood coping strategies of the rural poor. Temporary migration and 'commuting' are also a routine part of the combined rural-urban empowerment strategies of the poor across a wide range of developing countries. In many parts of Asia and Africa, remittances from rural to urban migration are overtaking the income from agriculture. It is therefore important that young people in rural areas are prepared for productive lives in both rural and urban environments. Despite the income the youth get in urban areas as a result of temporary migration, empowerment remains a tall order for them.

Janet (1992) posits that rural youth tend to be poorly educated, especially in comparison to urban youth. The extent of 'urban bias' in the provision of publicly funded education and

training services is large in most low-income developing countries. The deployment of teachers and other key workers to rural areas amounts to nothing less than a crisis in many countries. Poor quality education, high (direct and indirect) cost of schooling and the paucity of good jobs continue to dampen the demand for education among poor parents. This means that many in the rural areas remain unemployed and poor yet employment is not the only way for youth to get income and empower themselves whether in urban or in rural settings.

Vavurus and Fletcher (1992) argue that rural youth are engaged in a diverse range of productive activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural to get more income. Statistics are limited, but the proportions of rural youth engaged in waged and self-employment in both these main areas of activity varies considerably across countries. Rural non-farm activities account for a large and growing share of employment and income, especially among the poor and women who lack key assets, most notably land. The Rural Non-Farming (RNF) sector is seen as the 'ladder' from under-employment in low-productivity smallholder production to regular wage employment in the local economy and from there to jobs in the formal sector. The key policy goals for the RNF sector are to identify the key engines of growth, focus on sub sector-specific supply chains, and build flexible institutional coalitions of public and private agencies to ensure more income for the young people. Despite the diversification strategies, youth empowerments in the rural areas remain elusive.

Traditionally, manpower planners have assumed that increased demand for labor in a particular sector such as smallholder agriculture depends on the projected rate of growth of output and the elasticity of employment with respect to output for that specific sector. However, in countries without unemployment benefit systems, total employment is largely supply determined and employment elasticity tend to vary inversely with output growth. Consequently, an increase in the demand for labor is reflected in an increase in the quality rather than the quantity of employment: workers move from unpaid to wage jobs, from worse jobs to better jobs etc. Subsistence agriculture and informal sectors absorbs for surplus labour. The traditional 'manpower planning' analysis sets up a false conflict between increasing productivity and increasing employment. It leads employment planners to talk about the threat posed to jobs of too fast growth in productivity, whereas the process is entirely opposite. Increasing productivity is at the centre stage for any strategy to increase the

quality of employment. It is worth mentioning that income from employment may not be enough due to many dependants in rural areas, a fact that this literature has failed to mention (Haralambos and Horlborn, 2008). Therefore, there is a need to look at how income effect youth empowerment and how the effects relate to youth empowerment in North Gem Ward.

2.2.2 Effects of Gender on Youth Empowerment

According to Oldenburg (1999), the social relationship between men and women has come to be one of the main disagreements occupying the attention of pundits and the public in the contemporary society. Although the discord is great in the United States, the controversy has gone viral throughout the world. Numerous conferences, both national and international including one in Mexico sponsored by the United Nations and which drew delegates together from all walks of life to discuss such questions as youth empowerment especially the female youth and even the basic nature of men and women.

Whatever their position, men and women often invoke examples from other cultures to support ideas about the proper role of each sex. Because women are clearly submissive to men in many countries like Venezuela in Latin America, some experts conclude that the natural pattern is for men to dominate. Among the Asian countries, no one has the right to command others and in West Africa women are often chiefs. The place of women in these countries supports the argument of those who believe that gender roles are not fixed, that if there is a natural order, it allows for many different arrangements (Fisher et al., 1999). This literature, however, fails to underscore the extent to which different arrangements are allowed given that men and women are naturally different.

Carl (1998) asserts that gender acquisition is a self-fulfilling prophecy. The most important insight from research on gender socialization is that because boys and girls are treated differently and put into different learning environments, they develop different needs, wants, desires, skills, and temperaments; in short they become different types of people men and women who hardly question why they are different or how they ended up that way. The basic underlying model is that of the self-fulfilling prophecy. Because people think boys and girls or men and women for that matter, are supposed to be different, they treat them differently and give them different opportunities for empowerment. This differential treatment promotes

certain behaviors and self images that recreate the preconceived social determinants that do not favor female youth active participation in youth empowerment programs, yet nothing has been done to correct this notion.

Cultural norms often are so strongly ingrained in an individual's daily life that the individual may be unaware of certain behaviors. Until these behaviors are seen in the context of a different culture with different values and beliefs, the individual may have difficulty recognizing and changing them. Some norms are healthy and some are not. Some contribute to the achievement of egalitarian society or at least societies that both genders is not marginalized in terms of economic empowerment; others are precisely the kinds that bestows power exclusively to men that mainstream American society would like to reduce or eliminate (Eve and Wayne, 2004).

In many African countries such as Uganda, especially in the rural and peri-urban settings, status of women is to a large extent determined by societal traditions. These traditions give different roles to men and women and place women in subordinate positions. While men are ascribed bread wining responsibilities and more prominent roles in public sphere, women are more valued in their domestic roles as wives mothers and family helpers. Such divisions of role have consequences not only in terms of opportunities available for women to seize for purposes of empowerment, but also for their own desires to join active economic activities and participate in both agricultural and entrepreneurial activities (Dobbie et al., 2003). This literature does not point out the exact consequences that befall either gender in terms of development and aspiration for politics.

For a long time men held the position of power and women's positions were lower as far as division of power between the genders is concerned throughout the world. Power relations have always existed throughout society where ever there is an ability of one individual or group able to coerce, oblige, command, direct or influence the life or lives of others. In many cases it is detrimental to those affected. On the other hand society cannot exist without some sort of ordered hierarchal arrangement. This however leads to imbalance of empowerment of the female youth despite the fact that all men and women are born equal (Bernard, 2002).

Batten (1999) posits that in countries emerging from conflict in the great lakes region of Africa like Burundi, women do not own resources. They are usually co-owners and as such property lies in the hands of men. Poverty is also an important factor in power relations given that in such countries status goes to those who control the distribution of valued goods and make economic contribution and hence wield power. Equality arises when both sexes work side by side in economic undertakings of wealth creation and poverty eradication and when women do less of this, they become completely subordinate, yet women are equal in number which they can use to empower themselves. Therefore, this study aimed at filling this knowledge gap through identifying the effects of gender on youth empowerment and how this affects development among the youths in North Gem Ward.

2.2.3 Effects of Perceptions of Youth on Youth Empowerment

The low level of attitude of rural youth on agricultural activities is the basis of their immigration to urban areas and their inclination to pseudo jobs which leads to lack of empowerment. Swanson et.al. (1991) believe that the role of extension and education programs in motivating people for employment in agricultural sector and decreasing the immigration of rural youth and achievement of the rural enduring stability includes several factors; the most important of them include providing essential proficiency for appropriate employment, providing and improving the creative sense as well as fostering the citizenship identification. Whereas there is a general consensus that agricultural sector is pivotal in youth empowerment, there is also realization that agriculture is not only the platform for youth empowerment (Barry and Lorine, 2011).

According to (Aziz, 1987), there is also funding perspective to the whole agenda of youth empowerment. To that extent, the youth require financial resources to put up small and medium size enterprises and even promote and market their products and services. Sadly, the youth do not have the capacity to borrow loans from the financial institutions due to lack of collateral or convincing bank statement. On the other hand the idea of collateral and bank statement is just but an issue of attitude and perception. In Bangladesh for example, 60% of the youth access funds for their small and medium enterprises purely on social collateral. It means therefore that the youth can form groups and embrace the idea of table banking,

register with a microfinance institution and access funding as a result. But with these avenues available to the young population, poverty rate is still high among the youth and they also continue to depend on their parents and relatives.

The attitude and perception of the youth towards occupation is also one of the hindrances of the young people on their bid to be self reliant. This attitude has been compounded by socialization process. The society has put emphasis on formal education which continues to produce many graduates every year with very minimal job opportunities to accommodate all of graduated youth. The white collar job therefore has continued to dominate the thinking pattern of the youth today. To a great extent, the perception that for the youth to be empowered they have to go to formal school and get a 'good' job has lead to lack of empowerment among the younger members of the society imbued by relentless energy and drive. On the other hand, formal education is important for youth empowerment. However, for education to address youth empowerment, the lacuna that exists between classroom theory and industry practice must be breached. Perception, however, cannot be the single reason for lack of empowerment among the youth in a knowledge based economy (Larson et al., 1996).

Cultural norms play a dominant role in influencing the leadership perception among the youth. Often, cultural norms are so strongly ingrained in an individual's daily life that the individual may be unaware of certain behaviors. Until these behaviors are seen in the context of a different culture with different values and beliefs, the individual may have difficulty recognizing and changing them. Some norms are healthy and some are not. Some contribute to the achievement of egalitarian society or at least societies that both genders is not marginalized in terms of leadership and financial management; others are precisely the kinds that bestows power exclusively to men that mainstream American society would like to reduce or eliminate. Leadership determines the success of youth empowerment projects and hence if it is influenced by retrogressive culture and norms, it can lead to tremendous flop of the project. Culture and norms however exist in every society and cannot be blamed solely for lack of youth empowerment (Loevinsohn and Gillespie, 2003).

Passion for the youth themselves to be liberated from poverty and attain self reliance also influences their attitude towards empowerment. Some youth, for example, may have negative attitude with regard to youth group formation and attendance. Decision making for youth projects may take unnecessarily longer time and slow growth of such projects. It must be understood however that the youth are dynamic with dynamic thinking and tend to be mobile. This assertion therefore ignores this unique and important attribute of the youth (Larraine, 2006). The youths perception entails their worldviews, knowledge and meanings that they attach to youth empowerment and the definition they offer. The perception of youth empowerment by the youths are learned and, are therefore a product of social interaction therefore, this study set to find out the perception youths have about the empowerment programs which in turn guide the actions they take regarding the available programmes in North Gem Ward.

3.4 Study Population and Sampling

The study population constituted 1 youth officer from ministry of planning and devolution, 4 non governmental agencies staffs, 2 local leaders, and 12 youth groups with 400 memberships in North Gem Ward within Siaya County. These groups were mixed in terms of age and gender. The study population is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Study population

Study population	Frequency
Youth officer	1
Non Governmental organization	4
Local leaders	2
Umina young generation development group	30
North Gem Peers Youth Group	50
Sinanga Village Youth group	35
Asayi Lion Deers	20
Malanga Transporters	25
Gor Regen Business Youth group	30
Rid Wiyi Youth group	30
Kowil Youth group	30
Kagola Youth group	30
Kodiaga Transporters Youth group	50
Ombolezi Youth group	30
Lundha Youth group	40
Total	407

Source: Department of Social Services, Gem Sub County

The sample size was determined using Yamane formula (1967) as quoted by Israel (1992).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \dots\dots\dots \text{Equation 1}$$

Where;

n-is the sample size; N is the study population size; and (e) is the level of precision (0.05)

$$n = \frac{407}{1 + 407 (.05)^2}$$

n= 202



From the equation 1, the sample of the study was 202. The sample population is shown in Table 2: Proportionate to study population approach sample size.

Table 2: Sample population

Group name	Study population	Sample size
Youth officer	1	1
Non Governmental Organization Agency staff	4	1
Local leaders	2	1
Umina young generation development group	30	15
North Gem Peers Youth Group	50	25
Sinanga Village Youth group	35	17
Asayi Lion Deers	20	10
Malanga Transporters	25	12
Gor Regen Business Youth group	30	15

Rid Wiyi Youth group	30	15
Kowil Youth group	30	15
Kagola Youth group	30	15
Kodiaga Transporters Youth group	50	25
Ombolezi Youth group	30	15
Lundha Youth group	40	20
Total	407	202

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

The study used both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Semi-structured questionnaire were used for the purpose of collecting quantitative and qualitative data. Key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGDs) used to collect qualitative data to complement the quantitative methods. Piloting of research tools was done prior to actual data collection to ensure reliability and validity of the questionnaires and the KII, FGDs schedules. Structured questionnaires was used to obtain primary data from the sample while secondary data was obtained from internet, books, past revered papers, and journals

3.4.1 Semi-Structured Questionnaires

The first method of data collection was structured questionnaire. According to Israel (1992) states that questionnaire comprises a written set of questions to be personally completed by respondents. It is usually accompanied by general information on what is expected from respondents as well as instructions to respondents on how to complete the questions. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008), states that questionnaires give a detailed answer to complex problems. Additionally, questionnaires are a popular method to data collection in deduction because of the relative ease and cost-effectiveness with which they are constructed and administered. They give a relatively objective data and therefore, are most effective. Structured questionnaire contained open and closed-ended questions were used whereby free response questions was permitted and the respondent answered in their own words and this stimulated a person to think about his/her feeling or motivates and express what he/she was consider to be important (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008). Moreover, questionnaire allowed

researcher reaching to the respondents conveniently (Kothari, 2011). Secondary data which is data obtained from previous publications, periodicals or reports also was used where appropriate. Questionnaire was randomly distributed to 202 youth group members from the 12 Youth groups in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.

3.4.2 Key Informant Interviews

The second method of data collection was key informant interviews. A key informant is a person who knows the community as a whole or a particular portion of interest and is able to express thoughts, feelings, opinions and his or her perspective on the topic (McKillip, 1987). This study purposively interviewed 1 Youth officer from the Ministry of Planning and Devolution, 4 Non-Governmental Agencies staff, and 2 Local Leaders. The knowledgeable informants shed light on economic factors, social factors, attitudes and perceptions that affected Youth Empowerment in North Gem Ward.

3.4.3 Focus Group Discussions

The third method of data collection was Focus Group Discussion (FGD). It was a qualitative research method involving a group of people who are asked about their participation beliefs and attitudes towards a service, concept, product or idea (Kombo, 2006). In this study 20 Focus Group Discussions of between 8 to 10 members from the 12 Group. This involved the use of Focus Group Discussion Guide. The method was used to clarify various issues that emerged during data collection using the other methods.

3.4.4 Secondary Data

This study reviewed available secondary information related to the topic from among other data sources such as University Libraries, relevant Ministries and reports and internet on issues to youth group empowerment programmes.

3.5 Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of ordering and structuring data from the field so that one would be able to grasp the overall meaning in relation to the thesis statement or research question (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2008). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of SPSS version 20.0. A descriptive procedure in form of percentages and frequency distribution analysis was applied to describe the study's primary

variables and the associated indicator items, mainly as they relate to the study objectives and hypotheses as suggested by (Fisher and Stoeckel, 1983). Analytical procedures involving Pearson's correlation was used to determine and describe variable relationships. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. This involved summarizing and editing interviews, observations and questionnaire responses that helped in creating categories and themes in line with the hypotheses. This was in turn provided a basis for establishing patterns and relationships. Each theme was developed by explaining, interpreting and commenting on the data, as well as advancing arguments on pertinent factors relating to the study objectives (Bernard, 2002).

3.6 Ethical Considerations

This study observed all ethical standards of behavior and practical procedures that researchers expected to follow. The researcher sought research permission from the area chief. Permission to collect data in the study area was sought from the chief of North Gem location. The assistance of the village elders was sought in the study to enable the researcher to gain access into the area of study. The consent of the respondents to participate in the study was sought by informing them of the purpose of the study. Assurance of maintaining confidentiality and anonymity was given. This was done by having the identity part on the questionnaires optional. Copyright of the author of materials used was applied to protect the researcher by making correct references to avoid plagiarism.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with presentation, analysis and interpretation of data gathered during the study of North Gem Ward, Siaya County

4.2 Presentations of Findings

From the target population of 407 , a sample size of 202 was used. The researcher distributed 202 questionnaires to the group members. The response rate was 84.2% (170) while 15.8% (32) questionnaire were not returned because of , refusal, neglect and losing the questionnaire by the respondents. This section describes the findings of the study as presented in the tables below.

4.2.1 Analysis and Interpretation of Demographic Data

4.2.1.1 Location of the Respondents

The study sought on the sub location of the respondents. The study showed that respondents from Malanga were 33.5%, followed by Lundha, Ndere, Nyabeda, Maliera, Got Regea, Asayi and Sirembe with the response rate of 23.5%, 11.8%, 10.6%, 7.3%, .3%, 3.5% and 3.5% respectively. However, 1.2% of the respondents did not indicate their location. The result is shown in Table 3.

Table 3:Sub-Location

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Malanga	57	33.5
	Lundha	40	23.5
	Maliera	12	7.1
	Got Regea	9	5.3
	Asayi	6	3.5
	Nyabeda	18	10.6
	Ndere	20	11.8
	Sirembe	6	3.5
	Total	168	98.8
Missing	System Missing	2	1.2
Total		170	100.0

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.2 Age of the Respondents

The study sought to establish the age of the respondents. The study findings in Table 4 revealed that majority of respondents fall within the age group of 21-25years(39%), followed by 26-30 year (24%),31-35 year (16%), 15-20 year (16%) while 5% is at the range of 36 years and above. The finding suggested that the majority of the respondents are young.

Table 4: Age of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
15-20 Years	27	16
21-25 Years	66	39
26-30 Years	41	24
31-35 Years	27	16
36 and Above	9	5
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.3 Gender of the respondent

The study sought to establish the gender of the respondents. The study results showed that 77 representing 45% of the respondents were male while 93 female (55%) respondents were female. Therefore it could be concluded that majority of respondents are female. The results are shown on Table 5.

Table 5: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)
Male	77	45
Female	93	55
Total	164	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.4 Level of education of the Respondents

The study sought to establish the level of education of the respondents. The finding in Table 6 showed that 54% had secondary education, only 26% had tertiary education, 19% had primary education while 2% never attended school. Therefore, majority of the respondents are secondary graduate holders followed by tertiary.

Table 6: Level of Education of the Respondents

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent (%)
Primary	31	19
Secondary	90	54
Tertiary	44	26
Never Attended	3	2
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.5 Marital status of the respondents

The study sought to establish the marital status of the respondents. The study found out that majority of the respondents were married with 57%, followed by single (41%) while only 2% are divorced. This implied that the North Gem Ward in Siaya County has a population that is obligated with family responsibilities. The results are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Marital Status of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Single	70	41
Married	97	57
Divorced	3	2
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.6 Employment Status of the respondent

The research sought to establish the employment status of the respondents in North Gem Community. The result in Table 8 revealed that 82 (48%) of the 170 respondents are self employed, while 58 (34%) are unemployed .Only 30(18%) of the respondents are employed. This implied that empowerment programs are required by the population in North gem Ward, Siaya County.

Table 8: Employment Status of the Respondents

Years	Frequency	Percent (%)
Employed	30	18
Self Employed	82	48
Unemployed	58	34
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.7 Source of Occupation of the Respondents

The study sought to establish source of occupation of the respondents. The study results in Table 9 showed that the 74% of the respondents were self employed, Casual laborers are 14% while civil servant is 12 %. Moreover, during the key informant interviews it emerged that some female youths engaged in empowerment programmes to get equal opportunity in leadership or decision making positions. This is supported by the verbatim below:

“The female youth engaged in empowerment activities get equal opportunity in decision making and leadership however, they don’t play their roles effectively especially the married ones due to the retrogressive culture surrounding them. This has made the male ones to dominate” (Sub-county Youth officer, 40 years old).

Table 9: Source of Occupation of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Self employed	126	74
Casual Laborer	23	14
Civil Servant	21	12
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.1.8 Respondents awareness on the empowerment activity in the North Gem Ward

The study sought to unveil whether the respondents were aware of the empowerment activity in their ward. The study findings showed that 90% of the respondents are aware of the empowerment activity in the location while 10% are not. The results could imply that majority are aware of the empowerment programs in North Gem Ward, Siaya County. During the FGD sessions youths were asked whether they were aware of the youth empowerment initiatives in North Gem ward. The outcome was that they were aware of the youth empowerment initiatives such as environmental conservation, income generating activities, sporting activity, Stop Aids Now/SAN Project, Yes Youth Can/Civic education/Financials support, theatre/drama performance/Behaviour Change and Agriculture

based/One Acre Fund. The verbatim confirms that the youths were aware of the existence of empowerment initiatives but there existed some cultural factors that affecting their participation in such programmes.

Yes, we are aware of the empowerment programmes, they are good but we face cultural barriers in accessing such programmes. Some of our cultural beliefs do not allow women to hold some positions at the grassroots level. This is a big barrier to our young women. (A female FGD participant, 31 years old).

The results in Table 11 indicate that the majority of the youths were aware of IGA (44%), then followed by BCC (27%), Theatre/Peer education (20%), and Sports (9%), and (Katie, 2004) asserts that are engaging in small farming for income generation.

Table 10: Empowerment Activity Youth are Aware of.

Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
IGA	75	44
BCC	46	27
Theatre/peer education	34	20
Sports	15	9
Total	170	100

Source: Research data (2014)

The youth who were not aware of the empowerment activity in North Gem Ward mentioned the following reasons in Table 11. Table 11 shows clearly that political difference could be a major hindrance for the youth from being aware of the empowerment activity in their location. Information access was also noted as a contributor to youth empowerment activity awareness in North Gem Ward.

Table 11: Reasons for Non engagement in Youth Empowerment Activity

Reasons for Non engagement in Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
Lack of Information	102	60
No empowerment activities	17	10
Political differences	51	30
Total	170	100

Source: Research data (2014)

4.2.1.9 Engaged in Youth Empowerment Activity

The study sought to establish whether the youth had ever engaged in any youth empowerment activity in North Gem Ward. The study results revealed that 94% of the youth had participated in youth empowerment activity while 6% did not. The youth empowerment activity that those youth had participated are shown in the Table 12

Table 12: Youth Empowerment Activity

Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
IGA	63	37
BCC/Theatre/Peer education	34	20
Environmental initiatives	51	30
Sports	20	12
Others	2	1
Total	170	100

Source: Research data (2014)

It was clear that most youth had engaged in IGA (37%), BCC/Theatre/peer education (20%), Sports (12%), and Environmental Initiatives (30%). Only 1% had involved in other youth empowerment activity. It was also evident from the FGD sessions that youths were engaged in the youth empowerment activities. When asked on any impact of the empowerment initiatives. The youth members in the FGD said that empowerment initiative could lead to a changed life style, eradicate ignorance, strengthen social network and provide financial support to the youths in North Gem Ward in Siaya County.

The reasons for the youth not participating in the youth empowerment activity in North gem Ward are enlisted in the Table 13. Majority of the respondents indicated that gender bias (40%) was the main reason for not involving in the youth empowerment activity. On the other hand 46% of the youth asserted that there was lack of information while 10% had

negative attitude towards the youth empowerment activity. Some of the 4% indicated that stated that there was no empowerment activity. The study implied that the stakeholders involved in youth empowerment program should change the strategy of accessing the youth by making information available, demystify the their activities and help both gender get involved.

Table 13: Reasons for Non engagement in YEA

Reasons for Non engagement in Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
Lack of Information	78	46
No empowerment activities	7	4
Gender Bias	68	40
Negative Attitude	17	10
Total	170	100

Source: Research data (2014)

4.2.2 Income and Youth Empowerment

4.2.2.1 Main Source of Respondent Livelihood

The study sought to establish source of livelihood of the respondents. The findings in Table 14 revealed that 74% of the respondents were self employed, 12% are civil servants, and 14% are casual laborers . The study results shown that over 93% are engaged into some activity that could raise money for their socio economical growth and sustainability. Vavurus and Fletcher (1992) also confirmed this that majority of the rural population are engaged in income generating activities.

Table 14: Source of Livelihood of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Self employed	126	74
Casual Laborer	23	14
Civil Servant	21	12
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.2 Monthly income of the Respondent

The study sought to establish monthly income of the respondent. The study results in Table 15 revealed the monthly income status of the respondents. Thirty seven percent of the respondents earned money in the bracket of 1001-5000, 26% earned between 500-1000, 14% earned between 5001-10000, 13% earned 10001 and above while 10% earned less than 500. The results could imply that 73% of the population earned below Sh. 5001. This could call for more socio-economic Youth Empowerment Programme. It was noted in the FGD sessions that majority of the youths averagely earned less than Sh.5000. Similarly, the key informant interviews revealed that the youths had an average income of Sh. 2000 in North Gem Ward with 98% (14 out of 15) response. This confirms the statement by (Katie, 2004) on the income earned by the youth from their agricultural and non agricultural activities.

Table 15: Monthly Income of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Less Than 500	17	10
501-1000	45	26
1001-5000	63	37
5001-10000	23	14
10001 and Above	22	13
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.3 Budgeting distribution by respondents

The study sought to establish whether the respondents were preparing budget with their income. It was found out that 73.5% budgeted with their income while 26.5% did not. The respondent who did not budget with their income cited several reasons shown in Table 16. The major factor for non-budgeting with the income is insufficient funds (84%), ignorance (13%), and they do not see the need/value of budgeting (3%).

Table 16: Reasons for not budgeting with income

Reasons for not budgeting with income	Frequency	Percent (%)
Insufficient funds	143	84
Don't Know how/ignorance	22	13
Don't see the need/ value	5	3
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.4 Respondents get enough self support from the income

The study sought to establish whether the respondent was getting enough self support from the monthly income. The majority of the youth had inadequate income to support them with 70% response while only 30% had enough self support from the monthly income. During Focus Group Discussions, the youth group members cited that they do not have enough income to support themselves due to unlimited basic needs, increased expenditure and high cost of living. Further, the key informant interviews outcome confirmed that income earned by the youths was not enough to support themselves because of higher living standards (Haralambos and Horlborn, 2008). This showed the need for more economic youth empowerment programmes in North Gem Ward, Siaya County. The County Government of Siaya and the NGOs in the County should prioritize activities that would empower the youth both socially and economically.

The respondents who did not have enough income for self support stated the following reasons mentioned in Table 17. The study shows that insufficient income (58.4%) was the main reason for not having enough self support, unlimited basic needs(34%), many dependants (7%), and luxurious spending (1%) .According to Kelly (1996), almost 25% of young people live in households where income per head is less than \$1 per day.

Table 17: Respondents get enough self support from the income

Reasons for inadequate income for self support	Frequency	Percent (%)
Many dependants	11	7
Unlimited basic needs	58	34
Insufficient income	99	58
Luxurious spending	2	1
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.5 Ownership of Bank Account

The research sought to establish whether the respondents had bank account. The results revealed that 59.4% of the respondents owned bank account while 40.6% did not. The respondent who had bank account mentioned Saving Account (64%), Current account (29%), fixed deposit account (5%) while only 2% mentioned other accounts not specified in the study as shown in Table 18. This result implied that most youth embrace the banking idea as a way of managing their money.

Table 18: Type of Bank Account held by respondents.

Type of Bank Account	Frequency	Percent (%)
Current Account	49	29
Saving Account	109	64
Fixed deposit Account	9	5
Others	3	2
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

On the other hand, those who did not own bank account provided the following reasons shown in Table 19. Majority of the youth did not have bank account because of lack of income (66%), ignorance (29%), and inaccessibility of banks (5%). It is evident that due to lack of income it makes youth to be unable to own bank account. This is confirmed by the family background of the most youth, they live below \$1 per day. (Kelly,1996)

Table 19: Reason for not owning bank account.

Reasons for not owning bank account	Frequency	Percent (%)
Lack of income	102	66
Inaccessibility of banks	9	5
Ignorance	49	29
Tedious procedure measures	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.6. Reasons for youth borrowing from loan group/organization

The study sought on whether the youth had ever borrowed from loan group/ organization. It was found out that 43.8% of the respondents had borrowed money from the loan group or organization, while 56.2% had not. The reason provided by the youth for borrowing money from the loan group or organization is shown in Table 20. The youth borrowed money to expand their business (85%), lacked money for basic needs (9%), and other factors (6%).None of the youth mentioned luxury for borrowing from loan group or organization. This finding implied that youth were aggressive in investing money into business. A study by Vavurus and Fletcher (1992) in supported the statement by noting that rural youth are engaged into productive activities both agricultural and non agricultural to get more money.

Table 20: Reason for Borrowing from Loan group or Organisation

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Insufficient income to meet basic needs	15	9
To invest in business	145	85
Other	10	6
Luxury	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.7. Respondents currently engaged in any IGA

The study sought to establish whether the youth were engaged in any income generating activity. The results showed that 66.3% of the youth were engaged in income generating activity in the location while 33.7% were not. The majority of the youth who engaged in IGA sourced from their Savings (68%), loan (25%), friends (2%), and donations (5%). The results are shown in Table 21.

Table 21: Sources of capital for Investment.

Source of Capital	Frequency	Percent (%)
Savings	116	68
Loan	42	25
Donation	9	5
Friends	3	2
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.2.8. Bank Account owned by the Respondent.

The study sought to establish bank account owned by the respondents. The study revealed that most of the youth hold bank account with Equity bank (55%), KCB (28%), Barclays (5%), Standard Chartered bank (2%) and others (10%). The study result is shown in Table 22.

Table 22: Bank Account owned by the respondent.

Bank Account owned by the respondent	Frequency	Percent (%)
Equity	93	55
KCB	48	28
Barclays	9	5
Standard Chartered Bank	3	2
Others	17	10
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3 Gender and Youth Empowerment

The second objective of the study was to determine the effects of gender on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County.

4.2.3.1 Relationship of the respondent to the Household head.

The study sought to establish the relationship that existed between the respondent and the household head. The study showed that the majority of the respondents related to the household head as spouse (31.2%), Head (28.2%), child (27.1%), other relatives (8.2%), non relative (1.2%) and only 4.1% did not respond to the question. The study finding is shown in table 23.

Table 23: The relationship of the respondent and the household head

		Frequency	Percent (%)
Valid	Head	48	28.2
	Spouse	53	31.2
	Child	46	27.1
	Other relatives	14	8.2
	Non relative	2	1.2
	Total	163	95.9
Missing	System Missing	7	4.1
Total		170	100.0

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.2 Youth empowerment Activities inhibiting fulfilling gender roles

The study sought to establish whether youth empowerment activities inhibit respondents from fulfilling gender role in the society. The study found out that 41.7% agreed that there are some youth empowerment activities that hindered the respondent from fulfilling their gender role in the society. On the other hand, 58.3% of the respondents had contrary opinion. For the respondents who asserted that youth empowerment activities inhibit the youth from fulfilling their gender role in the society mentioned the following YEA in Table 2. The Table

23 shows that BCC/Theatre performance/peer education at 60% was major hindrance, followed by sporting initiatives(3%), environmental initiatives(3%), IGAs(30%), and finally civic education(4%).

Table 24: Youth empowerment Activities inhibiting fulfilling of gender role in society

Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
IGAs	51	30
BCC/Theatre performance/peer education	102	60
Environmental initiatives	5	3
Civic education	7	4
Sporting initiatives	5	3
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.3 Expected roles for each gender in the Youth Empowerment Activities

The study sought to establish the expected roles for each gender in the youth empowerment activities the respondent is engaged in. The study result showed that 79.5% agreed while 20.5% disagreed. For the respondents who agreed the following roles were mentioned as shown in Table 25. The result cited leadership (45%), mobilization (29%), member (6%), welfare (20%), spirituality (10%) and treasure (2%). The study finding is shown in table 23.

Table 25 Gender roles in Youth Empowerment Activities

Gender roles	Frequency	Percent (%)
Leadership	77	45
Spirituality	17	10
Welfare	34	20
Mobilisation	29	17
Treasurer	3	2
Member	10	6
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.4 Female are given equal opportunity in YEA

The study sought to establish whether female youth were given equal opportunity of participation in the youth empowerment activities. The study result revealed that 95.2% agreed that female were given equal opportunity of participation in the youth empowerment activities while 4.8% disagreed. It was further confirmed by the key informant interviews which stated that female were given equal opportunities to participate in the Youth Empowerment Activities. The study findings implied that there was gender equity and equality in the Youth empowerment Activities. However, Carl (1998) asserts that boys and girls are still treated differently by communities, and it leads to different wants, desires, skills, and temperament.

The youth empowerment activities that the female participants are provided with equal opportunity to engage are shown in Table 26. Female participants were allowed to assume leadership roles (60%), decision making (31%), Delegates (4%), and others not specified in this study (5%).

Table 26: Youth Empowerment Activities that female engage in

Youth Empowerment Activity	Frequency	Percent (%)
Leadership role	102	60
Decision making	53	31
Delegate	7	4
Others	8	5
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

On contrary, female participants were not allowed to participate in some youth empowerment activities because of reasons shown in Table 27. The majority of the youth felt that negative attitude towards women leadership caused inequality of opportunities between the male and female gender (75%). This agrees with Carl (1998) statement on different treatment for boys and girls. Lack of education among the female participant denied them of not participating in some of the youth empowerment activities. Further, cultural beliefs that women should not lead played some role in denying the female participant equal chance of participation in the empowerment programmes. The finding is in Table 27.

Table 27: Reasons why Female has no equal opportunities in YEAs

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Lack of education	17	10
Negative attitude towards women leadership	123	75
Cultural beliefs that women should not lead	30	15
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.5 Female participants have equal opportunities in decision making

The study sought to establish whether the female participants had equal opportunities in decision making. The research findings showed that 92.9% of the respondents agreed while only 7.1% did not support. This was further confirmed by the key informant interviews that pointed that female participants were accorded equal opportunities of decision making in youth empowerment activities this is due to gender equality. It is evident that both genders are accorded the chance to participate and contribute to decision made in the YEA. The reasons for female participants to be accorded equal opportunity in decision making are stated in Table 28. In Table 28, female have the right to participate and be elected (67%), policy making (20%) require the female to be included in decision making, female have acquired necessary education (3%) as their male counterparts and finally, the position of female in the community (10%) allow female to be included in the decision making process.

Table 28: Reasons why female are given equal opportunities in decision making

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Right to participate and to be elected	114	67
Policy making	34	20
Education	5	3
Position in the community	17	10
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

On the other hand, 7.1% of the respondents who disagreed that female have equal opportunities in decision making stated that incompetence, culture or tradition, and myths and misconception with response rate of 30%, 40%, and 30% were the reasons why female were not accorded equal opportunities in decision making. This agreed with Carl (1998) research finding that boys and girls were treated differently by the society despite the effort of gender parity. The results are further shown in Table 29.

Table 29: Reasons why female have no equal opportunities in decision making

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Culture/Tradition	68	40
Myths and Misconception	51	30
Incompetence	51	30
Total	170	100

4.2.3.6 Female participants have equal chance of leadership

The study sought to establish the opinion of the respondents on whether the female participants had equal chance of leadership. The study result showed that 89.4% of the respondents agreed that female participants had equal chance of leadership while 10.6% disagreed. The results could imply that youth groups in North Gem Ward provide room for leadership to all regardless of their gender. The majority of the youth who supported the question said that female participants had right to participate and to be elected into leadership (60%), policy making (16%), education (14%) and their position in the community (10%). The result is shown in Table 30.

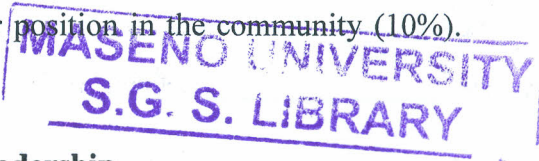


Table 30: Reasons why female have equal chance of leadership

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Right to participate and to be elected	103	60
Policy making	27	16
Education	23	14
Position in the community	17	10
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

The respondents who cited that female had no equal chance of leadership because of culture/traditions (63%), myths and misconception (30%) and incompetence (7%). This led to imbalance empowerment of the female youth despite the fact that all men and women are born equal (Bernard, 2002). The results are further put in Table 31.

Table 31: Reasons why female have no equal chance of leadership

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Culture/Tradition	107	63
Myths and Misconception	51	30
Incompetence	12	7
Total	1170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.7. Effect of culture on gender balancing in youth empowerment activities

The study sought to establish from respondents their thought on whether culture had effects on gender balancing in youth empowerment activities. The study finding showed that 64.2% of the respondents agreed while 35.8% disagreed. The respondents cited tradition (50%), myths and misconceptions (40%), incompetence (10%) as the reasons that culture affected gender balancing in youth empowerment activities. Other reasons which were not mentioned in this study also supported the statement. This was further evident during the Focus Group Discussion where youth group members noted that culture has hindered female participants to engage in some empowerment activities. For instance, environmental conservation was a traditional obligation to the male gender. Also moonlight was feared by female participants because it will contribute to the behavioral change. On the other hand poverty too hindered the female gender to participate in the empowerment initiative. Key Informant Interviews also cited that culture to some extent affects the ability of female youths in participating in Youth Empowerment Activities. This could be seen from the need to harmonize the cultural beliefs in the area with the Youth Empowerment Activities so that everyone should not be barred by culture from participating in the Youth Empowerment Activities. According to (Loevinsohn and Gillespie, 2003), culture does not solely influence the engagement of the youths in the youth empowerment initiatives. The finding is in Table 32

Table 32: Reasons why Culture has affect gender balancing in YEAs

Reasons	Frequency	Percent (%)
Traditions	85	50
Myths and Misconception	68	40
Incompetence	17	10
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.3.8. Perception of the respondents on empowerment

The research sought to establish whether the respondents were empowered. The study results showed that 77.2% of the respondents agreed while 22.8% disagreed. The majority of the youth felt that they were empowered from the empowerment initiatives in North Gem Ward. The indicators that showed that the youth were empowered were; education (58%), financial stability (20%), social status (25%) and property ownership (5%). This is showed in Table 33.

Table 33: Indicators that show that youth are empowered

INDICATORS	Frequency	Percent (%)
Education	85	50
Financial Stability	34	20
Social Status	43	25
Property Ownership	08	5
Total	170	100

Source: Research Data (2014)

4.2.4. Perceptions of Youth on Youth Empowerment

The final objective of the study was to find out the effects of perceptions of youth on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward, Siaya County

4.2.4.1. Funding

The study sought to establish the perception of the youth on funding in the youth empowerment activities. The study results in Table 34 revealed that Income Generating Activities (IGAs) are the best way to empower the youths with 92% response. Also 40% of the respondents noted that youth have no collateral to secure youth loans while 42% said that youths have collateral to secure youth loans. The study result also showed that loans, grants and revolving funds are the best means of funding youth IGAs with 72% response. However, Table 34 revealed that funds for YEA were inaccessible to youths with 71% response. Youths require financial resources to put up small and medium size enterprises and even promote and market their products and services. Sadly, the youth do not have the capacity to borrow loans from the financial institutions due to lack of collateral or convincing bank statement. (Aziz, 1987). This was further confirmed by the FGD members the youths unable to access youth funds because they could not pay back their loans, they lacked collaterals for the loans, poverty and also non compliance with the loan regulations. The key Informant Interviews result showed that for youth business proposals/plans to be cleared for funding the youths must be of good conduct, considerable and ability to repay the loan. However, not all youth could fulfill these conditions set for funding. On the hand, the Key Informants Interview revealed that leniency is applied as a strategy for recovering of refundable funding in North Gem Ward in Siaya County. The study findings implied that the funding for the Youth Empowerment Activities should be made accessible to the youths since it was the best means of enabling the youths to engage in Income Generating Activities, which will lead to socio-economic empowerment to the youths in north Gem Ward, Siaya County.

Table 34: Funding of the YEA

	Percent (%) Response				
	SA	A	NC	DA	SDA
Income generating activities (IGAs) are the best way to empower the youths.	62	30	2	2	4
Youths have collateral to secure youths loans.	5	37	18	22	18
Loans, Grants and revolving funds are the best means of funding youth income generating activities.	45	27	9	8	10
Funds for youth empowerment activities are easily accessible to the youths?	9	13	7	36	35

Source: Research Data (2014)

Key: SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, NC- No Comment, DA -Disagree,

SDA- Strongly Disagree

4.2.4.2. Occupation

The research sought to establish the attitude of the youth on occupations as a youth empowerment activity. The study results in Table 35 it showed that 74% of the respondents preferred self employment than being employed in office while 17% of the respondents preferred office employment rather than self employment. Table 35 further revealed that 76% of the respondents agreed that Small Scale Income Generating Activities are meant for the lowly in the society while 18% had the contrary opinion. About 71% of the respondents perceived that IGAs are just like any other job while 26% disagreed. (Katie,2004), Further the study finding in Table 35 showed that 52% of the respondents perceived that the Youth empowerment Activities benefitted the adults rather than the Youths while 43% said the contrary. From the finding it could imply that youths should be helped to change their attitude towards the Income Generating Activities since their perception that it is meant for

lowly persons in the society is incorrect. Income Generating Activities is for everyone in the society and therefore they need to engage in the IGAs so that they attain economic stability. Similarly, their perception on the beneficiaries of the youth empowerment activities should change. Youths needs not to see IGAs as any other job but to take it as a serious activity that can assist in lifting their living standards in the society. Also the study results could mean that youths like to be self employed rather than employment in office hence there is need for more empowerment in job creation by the youths themselves and not to focus on the white collar jobs in offices.

Table 35: Occupation of the youth

	Percent (%) Response				
	SA	A	NC	DA	SDA
I prefer to be employed in an office rather self employment.	10	7	9	45	29
Small scale income generating activities are for the lowly in the society.	11	7	7	36	40
Income generating activities are just like any other job.	31	40	3	13	13
Youth empowerment activities benefit the adults.	29	23	5	13	30

Source: Research Data (2014)

Key: SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, NC- No Comment, DA -Disagree,

SDA- Strongly Disagree

4.2.4.3. Leadership

The study sought to establish the perception of the youth on leaders as a youth empowerment activity. The study result in Table 36 revealed that 81% of the respondents supported that their group officials are democratically elected while only 11% said the contrary opinion. It is also noted that female members are provided with equal chances of leadership with 84% of response while only 07% did not agree 68% of respondents said that their group meetings are conducted regularly while 24% disagreed. Further the findings in Table 36 showed that youth leaders have the capabilities to manage the youth groups with 60% response while 20% of the respondent said that youth leaders have no capacity to manage the youth groups. During FGD session, youth group members confirmed that female participants were accorded equal chance for participating in the youth empowerment activities. This was achieved due to the democracy, availability of opportunities and enlighten among the youths in north gem Ward. The key informant interviews finding shown that youths fear responsibility and thus influence their involvement in the youth empowerment activities. The findings in table 18 could imply that youths should be empowered in leadership roles and responsibilities. Also youths should be encouraged to provide leadership opportunities to both genders without gender disparity. Indeed it is encouraging to put the female gender in leadership of the youth groups in North Gem Ward, Siaya County despite of the cultural influence. Youth leadership also has the ability to run their own affairs as youth managers within their groups. Female participants can also perform better as their male counterparts in the IGA.(Dobbie et al.2003)

Table 36: Leadership of the YEA

	Percent (%) Response				
	SA	A	NC	DA	SDA
Our group officials are democratically elected.	43	38	8	7	4
Female members have equal chances of leadership	47	37	9	6	1
Group meetings are conducted regularly	29	39	8	18	6
Youth leaders have what it takes to manage youth groups	18	42	20	14	6

Source: Research Data (2014)

Key: SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, NC- No Comment, DA -Disagree,

SDA- Strongly Disagree

4.2.4.4. Finance and Management

The study sought to establish the perception of the youth on finance and management as a youth empowerment activity. The study finding in Table 37, it revealed that 60% of the respondents cited that the amount of money and resources given to the youth groups are inadequate while 28% had the contrary opinion. Further, the findings in Table 37 showed that somehow the money received by the youth groups are spend into the intended purpose with 39% response. However, 41% of the respondents said that the money earned by the youth groups is not used in the intended purpose. From the table also it is noted that 49% of the youths are not involved in the management of the youth group funds. Only 27% of the youths supported that they are involved in the management of the money in their youth groups. In addition, the study results showed that 55% of the respondents were unable to refund or repay the loans awarded to them. On the hand, only 29% of the youths had the money to repay their loans. From the findings it implied that the majority of the youths were unable to

repay their loans this is contributed by the fact that they do not have money. Further, the results implied that there is need to improve the availability of resources and money to the youth groups. Many youths were not involved in the management of the youth group funds and therefore there was need for the capacity building in the funding management for the youth group. Moreover, the study noted that funds were not spent into the intended purpose and therefore there was need for training on the use of funds acquired by the youth groups.

Table 37: Finance and Management

	Percent (%) Response				
	SA	A	NC	DA	SDA
The amount of money/resources given to your group by supporting projects is adequate.	10	18	12	44	16
All the money is used for intended purpose.	6	33	20	26	15
I am involved in management of the money.	4	23	24	33	16
I have the money to refund/repay the loans awarded.	12	17	16	33	22

Source: Research Data (2014)

Key: SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, NC- No Comment, DA -Disagree,

SDA- Strongly Disagree

4.2.4.5. Time and Availability

The study sought to establish the perception of youth on time and availability as a youth empowerment activity. The study results in Table 38 indicated that 67% of the respondents had time to attend to group activities while only 20% were unable to attend the group activities. 52% of the youths did attend for their personal needs before they could attend the group meetings. On the other hand, only 41% of the respondents had to attend for the group activities before attending to their own personal needs. Further, the results revealed that 17% of the respondents attended the group activities when free while 76% of the respondents

attended the group activity as an obligation. The findings further showed that only 21% of the youths attended the group activities to show solidarity while 69% attended the group activities not to show solidarity. The study finding implied that youths valued the attendance in group activities. In addition, the finding meant that most youths perceived group activities to very important. The youths who just attended group activities when free need to encourage to change their attitude towards group activities. It could also be noted that the majority of the youths do not attend the group activities to just to show solidarity but they attend the group activities as obligation. Generally, when the youth in FDG sessions they noted that the negative attitudes and perceptions of the youths had serious effects on the empowerment initiatives in North Gem Ward. This was culminated by poor communication, stigma and discrimination, low value of odds jobs, lack of education, fear of the unknown, poor relation with programme officials, low living standards, poor attendance/Membership, lack of trust and also small groups within groups. Further the during the FGD session youth members were asked whether they felt empowered. Most of the youth members felt that they were not empowered because it could be evident by unemployment, low income, poverty, gender barriers, lack of inspiration, low level of education, unlimited wants, inability to meet basic needs on daily basis, and retrogressive culture. On the hand, the key Informant Interviews revealed that youths in North Gem Ward are empowered because they could manage their own shops/motorbikes. Further, the key informants indicated they look into establishing resource Centers, exposure of funding and establish youth friendly Hospitals as their future plan to enhance youth empowerment in North Gem Ward.

Table 38: Time and Availability

	Percent (%) Response				
	SA	A	NC	DA	SDA
I do not always have time to attend group activities	8	12	13	39	28
I always attend first to my personal needs before group activities	18	34	7	26	15
I only participate in group activities when free	4	13	7	46	30
I participate in group activities just to show solidarity	14	7	10	28	41

Source: Research Data (2014)**Key:** SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, NC- No Comment, DA -Disagree,

SDA- Strongly Disagree

4.2.5 Testing relationships of variables of the study

A correlation test was done to test relationship between the independent and dependent variable of the study. Results of the test are shown in Table 39.

Table 39: Correlation Results

Question	Correlation coefficient
Income	0.8836
Gender	0.2157
Perception and Attitude	-0.7564

Dependent variable: Youth Empowerment

Source: Research Data (2014)

There was a weak positive correlation in gender for youth empowerment (0.2157) and a stronger in income (0.8836). Perception and attitude had strong negative correlations of (-0.7564). This is due to the fact gender of the youth will somehow influence the participations in youth empowerment activities. This is also true for the level of income. Most of the youths due to poverty, low income and high cost of living will prevent them from attending the group meetings and other group activities because they would first attend to their personal

needs before attending to the group activities. The study also noted that perception of the youths influenced their participation in the empowerment initiatives. Some of the youths perceived that Small scale IGAs were just meant for the lowly in the society, which in turn hindered them from involving in the IGA initiated in their areas.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the summary of findings, followed with conclusion, recommendation and suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Summary of findings

The first objective was to establish the effects of income on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward. The study found out that 93% of the youth were engaged in some activity that could raise money for their socio economic growth and sustainability. It also revealed that the majority of the youths earned less than Sh. 5001 a month. This could influence the Youth Empowerment in North Gem since this earning it is not enough for them to sustain themselves. In addition, the study also found out that 70% of the respondents were not getting enough support from the income they earn.

The second objective was to determine the effects of gender on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward. The study found out that female participants were given equal opportunities in Youth Empowerment. In addition the female gender was granted equal opportunities in decision making processes and chance of leadership within the Youth Empowerment Activities. The results could imply that youth groups in North Gem Ward provide room for leadership to all regardless of their gender. Further, the study found out that culture could have affected gender balancing in youth empowerment activities in North Gem Ward.

The third objective was to find out the effects of perception on youth empowerment in North Gem Ward. The study found out that 92% of the youths perceived that Income Generating Activities (IGAs) was the best way to empower the youths. It was also revealed that youths lacked collateral to secure youth loan. Further, the study found out that most of the youth preferred to be self-employed rather than the white collar jobs. Majority of the youth, about

76% of the respondents perceived that Small Scale Income Generating Activities was meant for the lowly in the society. The study also revealed that the youth group leadership was democratically elected and the female members were provided with equal chances of leadership. The study also found that youth leadership was able of tackling the leadership roles in the youth group. The majority of the respondents stated that money or resources were inadequate and the money earned by the youth groups was used in the intended purpose. Furthermore, the study found out that most of the youths were unable to refund or repay the loans awarded to them. From the study results revealed that the majority of the youths attended the group. However, 52% of the youths attended first for their personal needs before they could attend the group meetings.

5.3 Conclusion

The study therefore concluded that there is need for extensive Youth Empowerment Programmes in North Gem Ward, Siaya County. Both the County Government of Siaya and the Non Governmental Organizations in the County should prioritize activities that would empower the youth both socially and economically. The study also concluded that gender equity and equality in the Youth empowerment activities was necessary. The study further concluded that culture within the community in North Gem Ward should be harmonized with the youth empowerment programmes so that the goal of empowering youths is realized. This will furthermore lead to

Moreover, the study further concluded that culture within the community in North Gem Ward should be harmonized with the youth empowerment programmes so that the goal of empowering youths is realized.

The study concluded that loans, grants and revolving funds are the best means of funding Youth Income Generating Activities. At the same time, the funding agencies should make it flexible for youth to access funds without collaterals since most of the youth do not have the collaterals for the loan facility. The study further concluded that youth are advised on the significance of attending the meetings since it could affect the way the youth empowerment is done in the area. Income Generating Activities is for everyone in the society and therefore they need to engage in the IGAs so that they attain economic stability. Similarly, their

perception on the beneficiaries of the youth Empowerment Activities should change. Youths needs not to see IGAs as any other job but to take it as a serious activity that can assist in lifting their living standards in the society. the results implies that youths valued self employment rather than employment in office hence there is need for more empowerment in job creation by the youths themselves and not to focus on the white collar jobs in offices. The study also concluded that youths should be encouraged to provide leadership opportunities to both gender without gender disparity. Indeed it is encouraging to put the female gender in leadership of the youth groups in North Gem Ward, Siaya County despite the cultural influence. Youth leadership also has the ability to run their own affairs as youth managers within their groups. The study further concluded that more funding need to be allocated for the for the youth activities.

5.4 Recommendations

The study recommends that the Government should take into consideration income as a factor that affect Youth Empowerment Programmes. The youth should be able to access the Youth Enterprise Funds without or with minimal collateral for the loans and grants as the study shows.

The study recommends that youth need to be empowered regardless of their gender. Therefore, issues of gender equity should be considered in youth empowerment hence inclusivity should be encouraged in all the group activities of youth empowerment programmes.

The study recommends that as much as more funding is required, the beneficiaries' perceptions should also be taken into consideration.

5.5 Sugestions for Further studies

The study is suggesting further studies about the analysis of socio-cultural influence on youth participatory role in the community development projects.

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