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OPTION: ECONOMIC AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA.

Case study: Mahembe sector, Nyamasheke district

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DECLARATION

Declaration by the Candidate

We INGABIRE Joselyne and DUSHIMIYIMANA Claudine hereby declare that this is our own original work and not a duplication of any similar academic work. It has therefore not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree, diploma or other qualification to Kibogora Polytechnic or any other institution. All materials cited in this paper which are not my own have been duly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

This study is titled the role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda, case study of Mahembe sector aimed at analyzing role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development with three specific objectives which was to identify various economic sector where there is participation of women in Mahembe sector, to evaluate role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development and to identify the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector all objectives are achieved. The descriptive research design was used, and target population was 1232 people and sample size were 363 participants. The sampling techniques were simple random sampling techniques used for students and purposive used for teachers and school leaders, research instruments were questionnaires and interview guide, and data were analyzed through descriptive method by computing frequencies and percentage in table those quantitative data, while qualitative was through analyzing content. This study concludes that women in Mahembe sector are majority participating in agri-based activity 77% and also some of the women in Mahembe sector are still participating only in non-considerable work that reduce women values, even there is big role of women empowering in economic developments not only for family but also for society and country in general. So that the women empowering in has to be strengthened for more economic development of Rwanda. Also this study highlighted the barrier that hinder women empowering in Mahembe including Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women's full participation in economic, political, and social spheres to be addressed

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to:

Our families and relatives

Our Sponsors and Friends.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MDGS: Millennium Development Goals

CEDAW: Convention on Education of all Forms of Discrimination Against Woman

IDP: Integrated Development Programme

SACCO: Saving and Credit Co-operative

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter looked at the background of the study, problem statement, objectives, research questions, significance of the study, limitation of the study, and the time scope of the study.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Participation in development projects implementation across the globe has gained popularity as the sure way of ensuring that development projects success and sustainability is achieved (UN, 2017). According to World Bank (2014), as the world moved to conclusion of the Millennium development Goals that were access their achievements by 2015, the world development strategists found it that in countries where the communities were actively involved in development projects implementation, the millennium development goals had been achieved to greater percentage as compared to countries where passive participation was employed in development projects implementation. (Endalcachew, 2016)

UN (2017) has also indicated that involving all the community members in development projects design, plans, resources mobilization and prioritization influences the rates at which economic development is achieved since the development projects implemented in countries are directly tied to community needs and perceptions Many countries in world have witnessed a significant rise in the number of NGOs, providing welfare services within their women communities. Most of the services provided by these NGOs are those often promised by the State to the people. To be more specific, these NGOs have continued to engage in a range of activities, from education and health to infrastructural development and environmental protection or conservation (Hedayat and Ma'rof, 2016).

However, despite the fact that studies in developed countries like the USA, China, Europe and Parts of Russia (Endalcachew, 2016) have shown that women empowerment has been accepted and women are involved actively in development projects implementation, a number of countries in the developing continents like parts of Asia, Africa and south America have shown that women are left out due to a number of reasons. In fact, in China for example, the women have equal access to education, information and technology; enabling them to acquire skills equally as men to participate in development projects implementation. In Philippines for example, the participation of women in community development projects implementation in Manila has been and is still pegged at 32% for over 15 years in 2015 (UNDP, 2015).

A number of factors for poor participation of women in community development projects implementation have been listed to include: poor gender roles and classifications, poor levels of income of the women, poor cultural and traditional subscriptions that deny women rights to own properties, poor levels of education, poor religious subscriptions and classifications that discriminate women over some opportunities in the community among other factors not listed. In India, women empowerment projects intervention such as financial facilities, savings services, and trainings targeting women are now increasingly being recognised for these two special features. Thus, the non-government Sectors are becoming more and more involved in the process of economic development programs. (Endalcachew, 2016)

According to De Haas (2013) when they were writing on measurement of socioeconomic impact of sustainable livelihoods of Barani areas project in India, they revealed positive impacts of DFP as increase on access to education and using safe drinking water of women beneficiaries and also noted that women projects contributing to an increase of income, creation of employment, increased yields, improved food security, increased sustainability of crops and livestock, improved agricultural methods, better nutrition and more meals taken. Across the different Africa regions Women have stood up to take important roles in the socio-Economic development of their societies. The contribution made by African women in the provision of both financial and social facilities is equal (Abimbola, 2011).

Increasing the number of women entrepreneurs involved in starting new businesses is critical for a country's long-term economic growth (GEM 2000). In addition to their economic and income-generating activities, women assume multi-faceted roles in society, i.e. as breadwinner of family, unpaid family workers, service providers in the communities and mother/caretaker of the family. Cooke et al., (2016),

In Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative project like WOGGE Project was to contribute to poverty reduction by strengthening women's and girls' voices for economic self-reliance in the East African region particularly in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. The project had these four outcomes: Women and girls develop the knowledge and skills to ably influence decisions on their economic self-reliance; Women and girl's groups have a voice through effective collective action at local level to improve economic self-reliance; (Women and girls utilise available information to improve their economic selfreliance; and women and girls benefit from improved regulatory frameworks and business services for economic self-reliance (Makala et al., 2015)

In Rwanda, the government of Rwanda play a key role for socio-economic development for women because women can also perform better in entrepreneurship and development activities. Rwanda is world leader in promoting gender equality (IFC, 2008). Over the past two decades, there has been significant growth in support for women's entrepreneurship development worldwide. Promotion of women's entrepreneurship development constitutes a key strategy for private Sector development, poverty reduction and women's economic empowerment. Increasingly, governments, private Sector stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral agencies are trying to tap into the potential of women-led businesses to economic growth and job creation. Moreover, almost all the projects pay attention to promoting women's enterprises specifically, about half the 50 projects offer access to credit or business networks or have a policy development component of encouraging women's business start -up initiative, few include access to business premises (Dow Jones, 2012).

Nearly 39% of women have joined and opened accounts in SACCOs; Business services and training of women in business skills and management is provided by different institutions such as the Business Development Fund (BDF) and the Business Incubation Centres (BIC) which have been established countrywide. they provide business services and capacity-building in business management for women and youth; the women guarantee fund was set up in 2006 to facilitate women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs without collateral, to obtain credit from commercial banks and micro-finance institutions at affordable terms; Women's organizations have also supported the development of micro-finance projects, such as Duterimbere's COOPEDU , and the women's branch of the community bank, Banque Populaire du Rwanda(NISR,2012) as well as the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Policy (2010), all seek to tap the potential of the large number of women entrepreneurs to spur economic growth. (Parliament, 2014).

This study explored the Contribution of Rural Women Empowerment Project on Socio Economic Development of Project

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women have been side-lined from fully participating in economic, social and political activities, despite them playing important roles such as being mothers, teachers, nurses, farmers and other professional undertakings pivotal in society. This has usually been manifested by low political representation, retrogressive cultural practices, unequal labor rights, lack of participation in decision making, lack of property ownership rights and lack of access to

education. The net effect of this has been to confine women to poverty and socio-economic insecurity (UN Women, 2017).

In order to address the issue of women's empowerment and development in Rwanda, various programmes have been identified, developed and are being implemented by the Government of Rwanda in partnership with the non-governmental organisations, who have, too, put in place different types of activities and programmes directed towards women's empowerment in the country. It is observed that several NGOs including Women for Women, Rwanda, are implementing women's income generating activities and programmes in different sectors. According to Elisabeth(2018) "developing countries have not given due recognition, attention, and assistance to the role women play in bringing about economic development," according to Claudine(2020) there is the significant contributions of women to Rwanda's economic development following the genocide, emphasizing their impact in both economic and political spheres. (Endalcachew, 2016)

However, despite implementation of various programs to improve the economic status of women in Rwanda, the economic status of women in rural areas is still living in extreme poverty where 18% as poor in Nyamasheke district and others are under economically developed where rural women in Nyamasheke District faces significant challenges in meeting food demands and food security and malnutrition remain a concern with overall stunting rates at 18.6%, 18% of households in Nyamasheke district still using an unimproved drinking water source; 38% of households without access to improved sanitation facilities, 51% of households use mud-covered tree trunks as their wall material, ahead of mud bricks covered with cement (20%) and mud bricks (12%); 42% of households in Nyamasheke district did not own a mobile phone, 51.5% of households in Nyamasheke district did not have at least one savings account, (9.6%) people are did not have health insurance ; the percentage of households using cement flooring (21%) (NISR,2018).

The above challenges raises concern regarding the progress of achieving economic empowerment of women and the use of rural women empowerment projects. A number of research studies have sought to address the issues of socio-economic development of women in regarding to access financial loan. For example, Sohail (2014) on woman empowerment responsible for the development of the economy was a good study, but did not analyse the contribution of rural women empowerment on economic development in Rwanda. This study therefore, sought to assess the contribution of rural women empowerment projects in enabling

highlight the crucial role of women's empowerment in promoting economic development. It also seeks to address the contributions of women that have been overlooked by the community in Mahembe Sector, Nyamasheke District.

1.3 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1 General Objective

Assess the role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

More specifically, the study is seeking:

1. To identify various economic sector where there is participation of women in mahembe sector.
2. To evaluate role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development
3. To identify the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are various economic sector where there is participation of women in mahembe sector?
2. what are role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development?
3. What are the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.5.1. The Researchers

The researcher will be awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Entrepreneurship with Education and was able to conduct field – research for themselves.

1.5.2. Education Sector

This research will be beneficial to people who are in the domain of education since it will help them understand the importance of assessing the role of women's empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda.

1.5.4. Other Researchers

This research will help other people to conduct their research, especially in the education domain.

1.6 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The research activity accomplished; but researchers met with different problems and barriers. As limitation, during this investigation, researchers will face with problems of weather conditions; it will be very sunny. Researchers also face the problem relating to ICT accessibility through the lack of internet. In additional limitations of this study was lack of data records, confidential information or information which was not fully disclosed. Most of people were very busy with the likelihood of giving incomplete information or completely refuse to respond to questionnaires.

1.7. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.7.1. Time Scope

This research was centered on assessing the role of women's empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda from 2021 to 2023.

1.7.2. Geographical Scope

This research was carried out at the level of the Mahembe sector located in Nyamasheke District.

1.7.3. Content Scope

This research was centered on assessing the role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development in Nyamasheke District, Mahembe Sector.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATUR REVIEW

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This second chapter defines key terms and reviews the existing literature on the role of women's empowerment in promoting the economic development of Rwanda. It will also reflect the conceptual framework, theories, and ideas from experts about the impact of the role of women empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda.

2.1. DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

2.1.1. ECONOMICS

ADAM HAYES has contributed to the field of economics through various articles and definitions, but one notable definition comes from his writing on Investopedia. He defines economics as: "Economics is the study of how people allocate scarce resources to meet their needs and wants. It focuses on the choices people make and the impact of those choices on individuals and society as a whole." This definition captures the essence of economics as a discipline concerned with resource allocation, decision-making, and its effects on various levels of society. (Dow Jones, 2012).

2.1.2. DEVELOPMENT

According to Dictionary by Merriam development definition is - the act or process of growing or causing something to grow or become larger or more advanced.

2.1.3. EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities. This enables them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. Empowerment as action refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, and to recognize and use their resources. (Abimbola, 2011).

2.1.4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development, the process whereby simple, low-income national economies are transformed into modern industrial economies. Although the term is sometimes used as a synonym for economic growth, generally it is employed to describe a change in a country's economy involving qualitative as well as quantitative improvements (Abimbola, 2011).

2.2 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN RWANDA

The vast majority of Rwandan households own land (Niyonsaba, Bisiaux, & Habimana, 2013; Abbott & Mugisha, 2015). Land is the main source of subsistence for a majority of the population and the only wealth of most families. Rwanda's declared policy is to eliminate inequalities between men and women, and some of its tools for doing so are the inheritance laws and the land laws, coupled with a regularisation of the system of land tenure to include rights for married women. Land Tenure Regularisation (LTR) has involved the systematic identification of occupiers of all land in Rwanda to determine legitimate occupancy and issue long-term tradable leaseholds. Rwanda is the only country in Sub-Saharan Africa that has succeeded in formalising and documenting individual land tenure on such a comprehensive scale (UNHabitat et al., 2012). Rights for married women are enforced as part of the registration. This article sets out findings from a survey carried out in 2015—the first representative survey in Rwanda to tackle some of these topics—on respondents' experience of LTR, their knowledge of the laws and their ability in practice to claim and be accorded the rights that the laws and LTR are supposed to afford them (Endalcachew, 2016).

The research described in this article was carried out before the 2016 Law Governing Matrimonial Regimes, Donations and Inheritance was passed and gazetted in Rwanda, so the legal position regarding inheritance is now a little different in its detail from the situation to which the survey respondents were reacting, which was based on the 1999 Inheritance Law and the 2013 Land Law. Following the devastating effects of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Rwanda has become a relatively stable and peaceful country with one of the most effective governments in Africa (Collier, 2010; Booth & Golooba-Mutebi, 2011). The country's ambitious social programmes make it dangerously aid dependent, and the poor balance of imports and exports renders it vulnerable (Abbott & Sapsford, 2016), but the economy is growing and poverty is recorded as declining (although the method of measurement has changed over the years and the figures are therefore not entirely to be trusted). There is legislation for gender equality, and Rwanda is famous for the proportion of women in its Parliament, although this is slow to be duplicated in industry or even in government (Burnet, 2011).

Land and its produce remain crucial to Rwanda's economy and the survival of its people. Only 6 % of agricultural production by value is exported, but this accounts for over 40 % of the value of exports (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, 2014; NISR, 2015b). Agriculture was listed as the main occupation of 60 % of men and 80 % of women in 2013/14 (NISR, 2015a).

There is huge pressure on land: Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and the average area cultivated by a rural household is 0.6 ha, despite FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) estimates that at least 0.9 ha of land is needed for a household to feed itself (NISR, 2012); three-quarters of agricultural plots are judged to be too small to support a household by themselves (Abbott & Mugisha, 2015).

The 2003 Constitution mandates gender equality, gender is mainstreamed in all government policies, gender quotas ensure the representation of women at a national level in government and gender-responsive budgeting is practiced (Abbott, Mutesi, & Norris, 2015). Laws governing land (Law No. 08/2005 and its successor, Law No. 43/2013) and inheritance (Law No. 22/1999) give women the right to own land in their own right, girls have the same right to inherit as boys and married women in legal (registered) marriages where community of property has been chosen as the ‘marital regime’ (the vast majority) are co-owners of their joint property and have the same legal rights in principle as their husbands to participate in controlling it and disposing it. The underlying question that this article seeks to address is the impact of the laws and LTR—whether women know their rights and whether they are able to obtain them through the dispute-resolution mechanisms (Abbott & Mugisha, 2015). Our model of empowerment comprises the existence of legal rights, women's awareness of them, awareness of them by others (especially those involved in dispute-resolution) and the absence of barriers to their being asserted successfully. (Abbott & Mugisha, 2015).

Land Tenure Regularisation was rolled out across Rwanda in 2012–2014, and land titling is now virtually complete, bar possibly a small number of disputes about ownership. All owners and interested parties, including legitimate children and any illegitimate children recognised by the husband, have to be named on the registration document as having an interest in the land; women legally married (in civil ceremony involving registration of the marriage) who have opted for community of property also appear as joint owners and have the right to be consulted about land sale and management. Elborgh-Woytek et al., 2013)

Gender equality is a human right in itself (see, e.g. United Nations, 1979), but women's empowerment is also an element of ‘smart development’ (World Bank, 2012). Promoting gender equality and empowering women give nations access to the other half of their human capital. Economically empowered women drive development (Elborgh-Woytek et al., 2013)—they produce an increase in gross domestic product at national level, and any money they earn tends to improve the well-being of children and men (Burgess, 2007).

Women's right to own land is complicated by the law on inheritance. Before the 1999 Law, women had no ownership of the household's property and did not inherit it, although they might manage it in the interests of dependent children. The inheritance law of 1999 created a category of 'community of property' that meant that women and men had joint ownership of the property, including what was brought to the marriage and anything acquired afterwards as joint property. On the death of one partner, half the joint property reverted to the sole ownership of the survivor, and the remainder passed to the deceased's children (in equal shares, unlike *umunani*, which at the time of the survey could be given in unequal allocations) or to other relatives of the deceased spouse if there were no children (Elborgh-Woytek et al., 2013).

These rights of inheritance are restricted, however, to the family members of a registered civil marriage plus, from the man's share, illegitimate children recognised by him during his lifetime. (Women's illegitimate children are taken automatically as having been recognised by their mother, because the fact that she gave birth to them is known.) The law provides no protection to women or men living in consensual unions (i.e. not state registered), which can leave them and their children especially vulnerable; on being widowed or abandoned, a woman can be left without means of support. However, there is also nothing in law that prevents partners who are living in consensual unions from registering land jointly, and this has occurred under LTR, as we shall see. (Elborgh-Woytek et al., 2013)

Ownership of land does not necessarily increase women's economic empowerment, however; they need also to share control over the land and its uses. Even when married women know their rights and have their names on the land title, they may have little say in how land is used or how the income from the sale of surplus or cash crops is spent (Abbott et al., 2012; Abbott & Malunda, 2015). Provisions in the law, especially the 1999 Inheritance Law, reinforce traditional values that see women as dependent on and inferior to men (Abbott & Alinda, 2012; Polavarapu, 2011). This is not the situation of legal pluralism, which prevails in some African countries, with 'tribal' laws working in parallel with statute law under rules as to which shall prevail. Before statute law in Rwanda, the common understanding was that land belonged ultimately to families and was inherited in the male line, so a wife (from outside the family) was unable to own land at all, but statute law abolished the old legal bases. The 2006 Land Law and its successor, the Law of 2013, make all land ultimately the property of government, to be managed for the good of Rwanda. Smallholder farmers have a 99-year lease, and there does not seem to be any concerted resistance to this principle. (The state has the power to take away land that is not being properly used and reassign it, however, and there are the usual

provisions found in most countries for requisition of land needed for public projects; unremarkably, these are less popular.)

2.2 THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THAT WOMEN PARTICIPATE-IN RWANDA

According to Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of United Nations (UN), women's empowerment means women gaining more power and control over their own lives. Riano, (1994) empowerment is not just individual achievements or assessing certain power positions, but "the way of energizing of individual and collective objects to participate in social movements and process of emancipation. Women empowerment comes from the root of the idea of power (Sharifah, 2015). Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economics strength of individuals and communities of women (Rajeshwari, 2015). Besides that, women's empowerment also can be defined as "women's ability to make strategic life choices which they had been previously denied from" (Anjuet al, 2009).

In a nutshell, women's empowerment can also seen as an important process in reaching gender equality, which is understood to mean that the "rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female" and according to the UN Population Fund, an empowered woman has a sense of self worth.

According to a group of researchers; Golla, Molhota, Nanba & Mehra (2011) women are economically empowered when she has the ability to succeed and the power to make and act on economic decisions. In fact, according to UN World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014, there are proven synergies between women's empowerment and economic, social and environmental sustainability. Women's active participation in decision making facilitates the allocation of public resources to investments in human development priorities, including education, health, nutrition, employment and social protection. For example, as female education levels rise, infant and child mortality rates fall and family health improves. Education also increases women's participation in the labour force and their contributions to house and national income. (unwomen, 2024)

There are a lot of benefits by empowering women in economic aspect. For instance, when more women work, economies grow: if women's paid employment rates were raised to same level as men's, the USA gross domestic product would be approximately 9% higher, the EURO

zone's would climb by 13%, and Japan's would be boosted by 16%. In 15 major developing economies, per capita income would rise by 14% by 2020, and by 2% by 2030. Moreover, evidence from a range of countries shows that increasing the share of household income controlled by women, either through their own earnings or cash transfers, changes spending in ways that benefit children (Economic Empowerment of Women, 2013). Besides that, in the majority of countries, women's wages represent between 70% and 90% of men's, with even lower ratios in some Asian and Latin American countries (Economic Empowerment of Women, 2013).

Whole world is talking about that women are getting empowered and free to choose and decide their own well being. Nevertheless, various studies have been conducted related to women empowerment and gender equality around the world and many research found that disempowering women happened in many sectors. For instance, feminist working in the field of media has unveiled the limited portrayal of women's images, the increased presence of women in the media profession and despite this, the lack of progressive images of women in the media (Shanti Bhalraj, 2000).

Besides that, the importance of women's empowerment on the international development agenda is amply clear from the policy statements made at such high level international conferences as Beijing Platform for Action, the Beijing + 5 Declaration and Resolution, the Cairo Programme of Action, the Millennium Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women and together with other conventions, has identified that there is gender equality in both as a development objective in itself, as well as a means to promote growth, reduce poverty and promote better governance (Kamla Gupta & Princy Yesudian, 2006).

These researchers also agreed that women's empowerment is important for ensuring not only their personal or household welfare, but also well being of society and responsible for modification of quality and quantity of human resources available in country in order to promote sustainable development. Apart from that, empowerment can also be seen through many perspectives and many researchers have used education, work participation at workplace, exposure to mass media, freedom of movement, autonomy and attitudinal changes in favor of gender equality as indicators of empowerment.

Neha Pandey (2014), wrote that status of women in India has been subject to many changes. Women faced equal status with men in ancient time then gone through low level in medieval

and after that again trying to achieve a respective position in the society, but still they continue to face atrocities such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, domestic violence, human trafficking, forced prostitution of young girls and so forth and according to a global poll conducted by Thomson Reuters, India is the “forth most dangerous country” in the world for women and the worst country for women among the G20 countries. According to Zaiton and Nooraini (2015), women are responsible for about half population of Malaysia and have participated in various sectors of employment such as manufacturing, business, service and agriculture, in addition to their traditional role in the unpaid domestic sectors of the economy. Many researches have concluded that the possibility of Malaysian women participating and succeeding in careers basically depends on their ability in balancing family and work

2.3 MEASURES FOR EMPOWERING WEMEN IN MAHEMBE SECTOR

Economic empowerment implies the act of instituting environmental structures to facilitate individuals in bringing change in their social and economic status. Individuals are said to have become economically empowered when they are provided the tools they need in order to work towards self reliance. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), “economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth” (OECD, 2014). Thus, economic empowerment if widespread within a society invariably translates to economic growth as strategies that emphasize entrepreneurship has been increasingly accepted and proven to be a veritable channel for the generation of economic growth and innovation across economies, both developing and developed (Acs, Desai, & Klapper, 2008). And in the words of Audretsch et al. ‘entrepreneurship makes an important contribution to economic growth by providing a conduit for the spill over of knowledge that might otherwise have remained uncommercialized’ (Audretsch, Keilbach, & Lehman, 2006).

There is an evident and identifiable line which marks the pre- and post-genocide periods, with the genocide providing a tipping point in the forces of equality and inequality and the necessary preconditions for a successful surge in promoting gender equality. Undoubtedly this was also fuelled by other political priorities, including the commitment to building a cohesive society in the post-genocide period and the economic imperative of using the skills of women as well as men in driving forward economic transformation and growth. There has been strong top-down pressure for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and government efforts have

been complemented by programmes at the grassroots level designed to improve the lives of women in rural areas. Women and girls have benefited especially from the government's investment in health and education but less so from the investment in agriculture and trade and industry, and the vast majority of women have yet to become empowered and benefit from any real gains in the achievement of gender equality(Audretsch, Keilbach, & Lehman, 2006)..

Legal reforms and policies designed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women are undoubtedly an essential first step and are now for the most part in place. However, an underlying economic rationale remains dominant, gender policies are implemented only formalistically with a focus on quantitative targets, there is limited scope for civil society and grassroots participation is lacking. A policy implementation gap is undoubtedly a factor in the failure of the majority of women to realise greater gender equality and empowerment. However, the major impediment is the resistance to change at the grassroots level, a resistance based on the continuing dominance of traditional laws and values which are entrenched in the everyday social practices of women as well as men. The transformative potential of the gender equalities policies is thus limited by the deep-rooted social norms and practices within which gender inequalities are embedded. Rwanda remains a deeply patriarchal society and cultural attitudes to women remain negative, especially in rural areas (Abimbola, 2011).

The lack of real progress in women being able to claim and exercise their right to be equal with men can be explained at least partly by looking at the forces of demand and supply for women's equal rights in Rwanda. While women were active in the years following the genocide and especially in the run-up to the agreement of the 2003 Constitution, much of that energy and commitment was incorporated into the government machinery through the election of many of the most active women to parliament and into the Women's National Council. Not only have civil society organisations been deprived of many of the women with the potential to provide leadership but government policies make it difficult for these organisations to promote the interests of women actively and hold the government accountable for prompting gender equality. If we consider the forces of demand and supply for gender equality we can see that it has been driven by the supply side: by government, with the active encouragement of the United Nations agencies and the main Official Development Partners working in the country. The demand side has been weak because women are rarely aware of their rights and, if they are, they have little capacity to advocate for them. When the main pressure is from the supply side then the achievement of numerical targets can easily become seen as the measure of progress. Without pressure from the demand side the measuring of progress by women's

subjective experience is much less likely to be on the agenda, as are policies and strategies to challenge traditional laws and values and change men as well as women. In effect the fight for gender equality is a conflict between men and the government in a struggle over the labour power of women. Men are fighting to protect their control over the labour of their wives and daughters while the government wants women to become economically empowered, to contribute directly to economic growth and to produce healthier and better educated children. The government promotes gender equality and the rights of women to the extent that it fits with this economic rationale(Abimbola, 2011).

2.4 ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

Developing a Rwandan woman creates a vital opportunity for the social and economic development of Rwanda. A developed Rwandan woman will yield a positive impact in the Rwandan society by contributing positively to the economy of both the country and the society. A developed woman reduces the chance of her child dying because of poor living conditions. The chances of controlling the population are high as a developed woman is likely to marry at a later age as opposed to undeveloped woman. In the same vein, David Kavulu argues that when you educate a mother, you have educated the nation. (Abimbola, 2011).

Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unity of the family and society in general. Traditionally, the roles they demonstrate promote greater innovation, skills, intelligence, hard work, and commitment. If we can strengthen these attributes effectively, Rwanda and Mahembe's growth can be more inclusive and equitable(Abidi,2020). The education of women is therefore a key to economic development for all. Every woman controls the economy of the family. In addition, technology in economics can help, when we develop and empower one, we set off a chain reaction that transforms the life of her family and the community she lives in. The mindset common to both men and women must change. We must focus on the girl child and help her escape the traditional stereotypes that stifle her potential. Take women in science as an example, prejudice is that women are less capable of understanding science, despite all the evidence to the contrary. In brief, neglecting the development of women compromises the future of the Rwandan Nation. By investing in Women and their education, we are investing in our present and in our future generations (Abidi,2020).

Some women do help their husband on the distant farm plants. Women are largely responsible for the harvesting of the farm products and they carry it to the market to sell in order to get

school fees to their children. Kyasimire(2021), argues that women play a very important role in transporting of food from the garden to the homes and market.

When they market the produce, they get extra income for paying school fees, buying clothes and other necessities for the family, the same applies to women. The role of women in family units made them indispensable entities in the struggle to survive against the harsh realities of time; and tenses to endow woman with significant influence in their society. Rwandan women are sensitive, compassionate, understanding; empathetic and they are givers and nurturers of life. Emma line Pankhurst once Said that freeing a woman is freeing a half of the human race because they represent a half of the population. On the other hand, Nellie McClung advised the society never to underestimate the power of a woman. Development of woman can be linked to developing the whole family because of the role they play in families and communities. Women in Rwanda play a key role in the social and economic development of the country Cooke et al., (2016),.

Developing a woman uplifts her life as well as the quality of her entire family. It is a fact that any developed woman will definitely support the development of her children especially a girl child and provide a better guidance to her children. A developed woman will easily imbibe an independent and progressive outlook in her children. More importantly, a developed woman in a society like Rwanda will assist in reducing the infant mortality rate and control the blossoming of the population. (Cooke et al 2016).

Gender inequality in education is an important form of discrimination against woman. In many developing countries, poverty and cultural beliefs prevent girls from benefiting from educational opportunities unlike boys. There is often a powerful economic and social rationale for investing in education of the sons rather than daughters, as daughters are perceived to be less valuable once they are educated. (Endalcatchew, 2016)

Girls being employed as child labor, bearings, are affecting their performance and attendance in school and resulting in physical and mental fatigue, absenteeism and poor performance.

Those differences in education between men and women have disappeared or even reversed in Rwanda education because of the role of some leads and the participation of woman in development of education in Rwanda. (Endalcatchew, 2016)

Tuyizere Alice is of the view that “Education is an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. It is a useful tool for addressing the religious and cultural

impediments that deny girls' access to Education" (Tuyizere, 2024). Thus, there is a need for education of girl child in Mahembe sector for purposes of gender, education and development in Rwanda.

Women are more prone than men are to self-declared ill health; reduce work capacity due to illness and mental disorders related to stress (WHO, 2006). It is clear that women play a crucial role in welfare of the family and preventing diseases and disorders. In Mahembe, sector women fight for the welfare of the family. This is the way to avoid unbalanced opportunities. Abidi adds: "The struggle for equal opportunity, justice and fairness by women organizations has strong reasons. Women remain a disadvantaged lot not only in developing countries but also in developed world. Cooke et al., (2016),

The governance gender gap can be found in countries regardless of the education status, economic and religious or institutions. Factors contributing to the lack of female participation in decision-making process include their low labor force participation and time poverty in relation to Men as well as stereotypical attitude towards the social role of women in promoting economic development. In terms of the resource impacts, women tend to leave a smaller ecological footprint than men due to their more sustainable consumption partners do. Men's lifestyle and consumer partner, whether they are rich or poor tends to be more resource intensive and less sustainable than women (Johnson Latham 2006) are. Women are responsible for activities such as shopping, food preparation in order to get school fees for their children. Women in Mahembe sector are responsible for the same activities, which lead to social economic development of the sector but at low level. (Cooke et al, 2016),

2.5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Classical Development Perspective. Focusing on economic development, the classical modernization perspective considers increases in democracy and human choice as a direct outcome of economic development (Lipset 1959; Rostow 1960; Deutsch 1964; Bell 1999 Inkeles & Smith 1974). In relation to gender equality, this approach holds that economic development is central to increasing the pool of women eligible for positions of social power. These scholars establish that increased economic development associates with a more broad-based distribution of educational and occupational resources. (Greater access to educational and occupational resources increases women's chances of professional development, creating a larger pool of women eligible for power positions such as political office. Cultural Modernity: The Human Development Perspective. A more recent theory emphasizes the conversion of economic development into a cultural process of human development that gives rise to an

emancipative worldview, reflected in self-expression values that emphasize human choice and autonomy, including the choices and autonomy of women (Inglehart & Welzel 2005; Welzel 2003; Welzel, Inglehart & Klingemann 2003).

This rise in emancipative orientations develops mass expectations targeted at making elites responsive and inclusive. In this way, rising emancipative values lead to increases in women's empowerment throughout society (Inglehart & Norris 2003; Inglehart & Welzel 2005) and in parliament (Welzel 2003; Inglehart, Norris & Welzel 2002). The human development perspective and the classical modernization perspective offer theories to explain why modern societies are more conducive to gains in gender equality. This section on cultural and institutional path dependency presents 8 historical legacies potentially capable of affecting the improvement modernization brings to women's social and political status. The developmental trends of social modernization may face legacies of path dependent cultural and institutional organization that affect societies' abilities to improve women's lives (Krasner 1984; Skocpol 1992).

The theories of modernization: emphasize the impact of economic resources and values on women's empowerment in society and historical legacies emphasize the impact of cultural and political traditions, researchers typically stress other factors to explain the representation of women in government. These researchers highlight the relevancy of the characteristics of political institutions as causal factors. This literature holds that variation in institutional characteristics mediates mass support for women's empowerment and the pool of women eligible for political office in ways that either enable or constrain women's attainment of political leadership. Three aspects of the political system find support in this literature: the strength of democracy, the electoral system, and gender electoral quota systems. (In comparison to autocracies, it is not surprising that scholarship on explanations of women's social and political empowerment highlights the role of democratic institutions. The argument is rather straightforward. The oppressive, unequal treatment of women clashes with the democratic idea of human equality (McDonagh 2002; Welzel 2003).

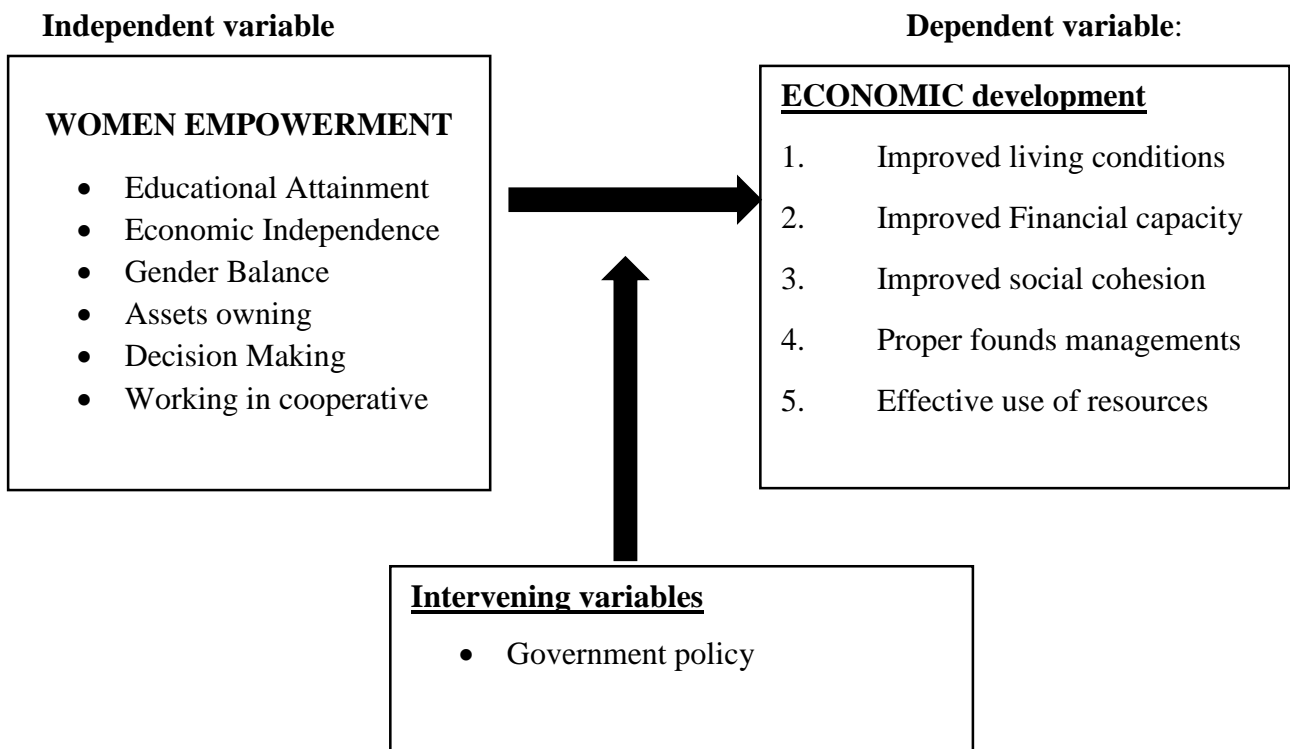
2.6. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework is the diagram represents the research topic and its constituents in order to raise the awareness of the variables. It shows the causal-effect of the independent variable as the predictor to the dependent variable which is the observer. Indeed, in order to illustrate the flow of ideas in the design of the research. We have independent variables, dependent variables and Intervening variables. Thus, the independent variable is what the

researcher (or nature) manipulates, influences, predict, control and determine the dependent variables.

The dependent variable is what is affected by the independent variable, the roles/outcomes whereas the intervening variables work with the independent hypothetical internal state that is used to explain relationships between observed variables, such as independent and dependent variables.

Figure 1: Conceptual frame work



Source: The researcher, 2024

Conceptual framework is the determination of the relationship between variables independent and dependent where on the above chart women empowerment is the independent and Economic Development is the dependent variable which means that the economy will be developed. Also, there are extraneous variables which consider as which can influence the dependent variables in a relationship including Government policy and financial institution policy.

2.7 RESEARCH GAP

A research gap is an unanswered question or unresolved problem in a field, which reflects a lack of existing research in that space. The four most common types of research gaps are the classic literature gap, the disagreement gap, the contextual gap and the methodological gap.(Ethar Al-Sarah,2022) different research conducted on role of women empowerment in economic development and also I want to continue to the existing by focus on rural area of Rwanda by which this study focus at specifically in on how the perception of women and leaders which is not yet highlighted from the previous study.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter involved research design, sample size and sampling techniques of the study, instrument or techniques of data collection, and the methods of data analysis and interpretation.

3.1. RESEARCH APPROACHES AND DESIGN

3.1.1 Research approach

A research approach is a plan of action that gives direction to conduct research systematically and efficiently. There are three main research approaches as (Creswell, 2009):

Qualitative method: According to Bailey (1978:27) qualitative methods as the name indicates are the methods that don't involve measurement or statistics, the tools that was applied here by the researcher are the techniques of interview and documentary methods, the researcher analyzed qualitatively. Quantitative method According to Bailley (1972) quantitative methods refers to the systematic empirical investigation of social phenomena via tabulation, mathematical or computational techniques, in this research for the purpose of quantitative data analysis, the collected data expressed in different tables especially the responses from the representative sample under the study, with regard to this study the researcher analyzed the data collected, basing on the respondents, this was calculated in percentages on which the research based to design to conclusion.

3.1.2. Research design

According to the nature of the study “the role of empowerment woman in promoting economic development “a design on its execution is known as. “Survey design” according to research design it is a systematic plan to study scientific problems. Research design is the framework that has been created to seek answers to research questions. It is also a detailed outline of how an investigation took place. A research design typically included how data was collected, that instrument was employed, how instrument was used and intended as means for analyzing data collected. Both quantitative and qualitative data was used in this study. Quantitative data was used from questionnaires while qualitative data was obtained from analysis and interpretation of data.

3.2. TARGET POPULATION

For the target population, lavrakas (2008) defines a population as any finite or infinite collection of information of individual elements. The target population was people of 2979 who Are women mature above 18 years im Mahembe sector(NISR,2022). selected citizens of Mahembe sector

Table 1. Research population

Category	Number
Selected women Citizens within the Mahembe Sector (Above 18 years old).	2979
Selected Leaders within the Mahembe Sector (Executive Secretary and Social Affairs).	2
Total	2979

Resource:nirs,2022

The four categories of population was our respondents because they are expected to have the required information for the effectiveness and successfulness of our research.

3.3. SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Sampling procedures is the process of selecting several individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large group from which they was selected (Ogula, 2005). There are two types of sampling which are purposive sampling and random sampling.

3.3.1 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling is a technique widely used in quantitative research to identify and select information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources (Patton, 2002). This involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals that are especially knowledgeable about or experienced with a phenomenon of interest (Cresswell & Clark, 2011) Purposively, the researcher selected for the leaders.

3.3.2 Simple random sampling technique

Kothari (2004) defined Simple random sampling as a method used to cull a smaller sample size from a larger population and use it to research and make generalizations about the larger group. It enables a researcher to select the sample randomly from the sampling frame using a random number in this study of 359 citizens.

3.3.3 Stratified sampling technique

Stratified sampling is a probability sampling technique used in a sample survey. The elements of the targeted population are divided into distinct groups or strata, with elements within each stratum being similar to one another in terms of certain survey-relevant characteristics (Parsons, 2017).

3.4 SAMPLE SIZE

To facilitate the work, we selected a sample of 2979 population to represent others by the use

of the formula calculus: $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$ where $e=0.05$ and where $e=0.05$, n is the sample size and N is the total population

$$\text{Therefore, } n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)} = \frac{2979}{1+2979(0.05)^2} = 359$$

The sample size of our study was composed of 359 respondents from 2979 individuals as the Slovene formula gives it.

The total sample size was composed of 359 respondents selected randomly and 2 respondents selected purposively to make a total of 361 respondents.

Table 2: level of Respondents

Level/Item	Frequency	Percentage
Ordinary people	359	98.3
Executive Secretary Of the Sector	1	0.275
Social Affairs	1	0.275
Total	361	100%

Source: primary data, data 2024

For the reasons known to the research; the respondents were willing to take part in the study including authorities Citizens were 359 equals 98,3% from 39 villages, social affairs represented 0.275%, executive secretary of the sector represented 0.275%

3.5.DATA COLLECTION OF INSTRUMENTS

The main methods of data collection are questionnaires and interviews. Questionnaires and interviews were used in this research. Questionnaires; a set of statements or questions prepared by a researcher and administrated to the respondents to obtain in writing some information. In other words, it is a set of written questions used to collect data from respondents. The respondents answered questions by tucking or selecting one of the suggested answers and unstructured questions where they have to provide detailed information according to their views. The respondents were asked to help in filling a questionnaire to provide detailed information concerning the role of empowerment woman in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector Nyamasheke district.

Questionnaires are less expensive than other methods. However, the mailed questionnaires can be used only for educated people Kline (1980) maintained that an interview is a face-to-face verbal exchange in which one person (interviewer) attempts to get opinions or beliefs from

another person (interviewee) this is one of the method of data collection where the researcher asks questions directly to participants in an open interview, the research starts with a single board question which invites the participants to be elaborative as possible.

3.6. DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

The data obtained was tested by the researcher, this was done by carrying out additional information and applying other methods like documentation, observation, and literature review. The information was obtained from all those resources was put together and measured to determine its correctness and accuracy to ensure the consistency of the results.

3.7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethics refers to the appropriateness of your behavior about the rights of those who become the subject of your work or are affected by it. The following ethics will be observed in the research study: Right to privacy: The nature and quality of participants' performance must be kept strictly confidential. Informed consent: Participants should be given the choice to participate or not to participate, and furthermore be informed in advance about the nature of the study. The use of a questionnaire guide was applied by the researcher to the various respondents. The researcher also physically participated in this research about the role of women in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector, Nyamasheke district. Through observation of the family's everyday activities for building confidence among the respondents, the researcher explained the reason for carrying out this study.

3.8. DATA ANALYSES

Data analysis is a process by which information collected from the field and gathered from different reports is organized. Studied and described the questionnaires were filled by respondents and turned back. The collected data was analyzed to conclude and support decision-making. It involves examining what has been collected in a survey or experiment and making decisions and inferences. Data analysis aims at reporting the information collected from respondents of this study.

Findings are presented, analyzed, and discussed in conjunction with the objectives of the study. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used for data analysis. Quantitative data from the questionnaire was computed statistically.

This technique gives simple summaries about the sample data and presents quantitative descriptions in a manageable form, (Orodho, **2003**). The data was presented using tables, in the form of frequency and percentage distribution, for easier understanding.

The qualitative data was generated from interview data in a narrative form where the researcher noted the data which was being said by the interviewee and qualitative data was obtained through open and closed questions by categorizing them by research objectives. Without analysis, data alone cannot provide meaningful and useful information. Data was obtained from primary and secondary sources.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARY

4.0. INTRODUCTION

The study was carried out in the Mahembe sector. This study is entitled The Role of Women Empowerment in Promoting Economic Development in Nyamasheke District (a case study of the Mahembe sector. The data collected cover the period from (2022 to 2023).

4.1. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1.1. Study Respondents

This section will provides the information of the respondents in Mahembe sector.

Table 3 Identification of respondents according to sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	2	1
Female	359	99
Total	363	100

Source: primary data,2024

The table 4.1 displays the ordering of respondents according to their gender distribution and the results show that despite the unequal distribution there are majority of females in respondents set as only 2 of them representing 1% are male and 361 respondents representing 99% were female.

Table 4: Age categorization of respondents

Age	Number	Percentage (%)
18-20	46	12.6
21-25	66	18.2
26-30	71	19.7
31-35	65	17.9
36-40	48	13.2
Above 40	52	14.3
Total	363	100

Source: Respondent's field data 2024

The age categorization of respondents was such that, 46 respondents were between 18-20 years representing 12.6 %, 66 respondents 18.2% were between 20-25, 71 people also belonged to 26-30 Years representing 19.7%, 65 represents were belonging to 31-35 as the percentage was 17.9%, 48 between 36-40 represents 13.2% the remaining 52 (14.3%) of the respondents were aged 40 years and above 40 years were 52 representing 14.3%.

4.1.4. Marital Status

Table 5: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital status	Number	Percentage %
Marriage	185	51
Single	123	34
Widows	55	15
Total	360	100

Source: Respondent's field data 2024

In terms of the marital status of the respondents, 51% (185) were married while 34% (123) were single but also 15% (55) were widows. A question concerned with marital status was posed to all. Respondents were unfolding clearly in their answers. Information about the respondents' marital status was concerned with a certain level of responsibility that was tested upon each of the respondents.

4.1.5. Level of education of the respondents

Level	Frequency	Percentage%
Informal	56	15
Primary	95	26
Secondary:		
Ordinary level	90	25
Advanced level	87	24
University	35	10
Total	360	100

Source: primary data, from field 2024

The above table of the studying level indicates those who did not study was 15% (56) according to their age and event from the traditional belief said that in their family their grandmother and grandfather did not allow them to study, they got informal education. 26% (95) studied primary level only; even if they studied some of them did not complete it. 25 % (90) finished the ordinary level only, 24 % (87) completed the advanced level while 10 % (35) remaining finished university. These include those working in the sector and cooperatives.

4.1.2 the activity of the participation of the women in Mahembe sector

The first objective of this study was to evaluate different economic activity by with the women in Mahembe sector participate in , the findings is summarise in the following table

Table 6: the economic activities of women in Mahembe sector

	Activity	agree	%
1	Trading business	55	15%
2	Agri business	218	77%
3	Manufacturing business	2	0.5%
4	Government related employment	17	4%
5	Only participate in home based activity	10	3%
6	Leadership	11	3%
7	Working for private individual	61	16%
	Total	361	100%

Source: primary data,2024

From the table 6 above, which summarize different economic activity by with the women in Mahembe sector, the findings indicate that the majority of the respondents agree that the major economic activity for women in Mahembe sector is agriculture with 77% of the total respondents another activity is trading business with 15% of the total respondents while working for private individual, working for government, leadership, home based work, manufacturing business occupy 16%, 4%, 3%, 3%, and 0.5% respectively. While conducting the interview with the sector leader says that “the dominant activity in mahembe sector as a rural sector is agriculture but also female are likery to join the trading of fish(Isamba since we are new kivu lake”

4.1.3 the role of women empowering in the economic development

The second objective of This study was to assess the role of the woman empowering in Mahembe sector the findings is summarized in the following table 7

Table7 :the role of women empowering in the economic development

Statements	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Women empowerments Increased Labor Force Participation.	30	8%	27	9%	14	8%	195	67%	39	9%
Empowering women improve Economic Growth of family	0	0%	10	2%	3	.1%	341	96%	6	11%
Women who have access to resources and opportunities are more likely to start and grow businesses.	-	-	-	-	7	1%	48	78%	303	13%
Women are more likely to use their income to support their families, which can lead to improved living standards and reduced poverty rates.	30	8%	65	18%	-	-	310	88%	0	0%
women in economic decision-making processes brings diverse perspectives, which can lead to more effective and inclusive policies and solutions.	3	.2%	.3	5%	-	-	355	97%	1	.01%
Companies with gender- diverse leadership teams often see improved financial performance and	30	8%	65	18%	-	-	310	88%	0	0%

organizational effectiveness.										
Empowering women contributes to social stability by promoting equality and reducing discrimination.	10	3%	13	4%	-	-	185	51%	152	42.1%

Source: Primary data, 2024

The table 4.7 presents data from respondents based on role of women empowering in economic development of mahembe sector, It is presented that the majority of respondents that correspond to 67% agreed and 9% strongly agreed that there Women empowerments Increased Labor Force Participation. and the majority of respondents that correspond to 68% agreed and 11% strongly agreed that there was lower income before joining Sacco.

Also, it is presented that 78% agreed and 13% strongly agreed Women who have access to resources and opportunities are more likely to start and grow businesses. There are also, other indicators Women are more likely to use their income to support their families, which can lead to improved living standards and reduced poverty rates. This is true as 59% agreed and 15% strongly that women in economic decision-making processes brings diverse perspectives, which can lead to more effective and inclusive policies and solutions . The findings revealed that 65% agreed and 15% strongly agreed that Companies with gender-diverse leadership teams often see improved financial performance and organizational effectiveness, and also 51% agreed and 19 % strongly agreed that Empowering women contributes to social stability by promoting equality and reducing discrimination.

While interviewing the leader they said that, Empowering women is crucial for economic development because it unlocks a significant portion of the population's potential, leading to increased productivity, innovation, and economic growth, which ultimately benefits entire communities and drives sustainable progress”.

4.1.4 Challenge that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector

The last objective of this study was about to examine challenges that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector the findings is summarized in following table

Table 7: Challenge that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector

Statements	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women's full participation in economic, political, and social spheres.	3 2	9%	41	14%	-	-	21 0	64%	55	13%
Although Rwanda has made strides in improving girls' education, there are still gaps in access to quality education and vocational training for women, particularly in rural areas	3 3	9%	36	13%	35	10%	19 2	54%	54	14%
Women often face barriers in accessing financial resources, such as loans and credit, due to lack of collateral, lower financial literacy.	8 9	38%	32	9%	-	-	16 9	49%	17	4%
While Rwanda has one of the highest rates of female parliamentary representation globally, women's participation in higher levels of decision-making and leadership positions outside of politics remains limited	3 6	10%	22	10%	-	-	26 1	71%	31	9%
Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment, continues to be a significant issue	1 9	5%	24	9%	-	-	30 1	77%	37	10%
Although legal reforms have improved women's rights, including property rights, implementation and	2 5	8%	36	10%	19	5%	21 0	65%	40	12%

enforcement of these laws can be inconsistent.

Women may encounter 1 5% 13 4% - - 21 74% 44 17
 discrimination in the workplace, 7 1 %
 including unequal pay, limited career advancement opportunities, and lack of support for work-life balance.

Source: Primary data, 2024

The table 4.8 presents data from respondents based on the Challenge that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector. According to the result presented in the table8 it is presented that the majority of respondents that corresponds to 64% agreed and 13% strongly agreed that there is a challenge for Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women’s full participation in economic, political, and social spheres. The researchers also, presented that Although Rwanda has made strides in improving girls' education, there are still gaps in access to quality education and vocational training for women, particularly in rural areas as the majority of respondents that corresponds to 54% agreed and 14% strongly agreed. Again, it is presented that 49% agreed and 4% strongly agreed that Women often face barriers in accessing financial resources, such as loans and credit, due to lack of collateral, lower financial literacy. It is also; presented that 71% agreed and 9% strongly agreed that While Rwanda has one of the highest rates of female parliamentary representation globally, women’s participation in higher levels of decision-making and leadership positions outside of politics remains limited whereby 77% agreed and 10% strongly agreed that Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment, continues to be a significant issue.

The findings also revealed that 65% agreed and 12% strongly agreed that Although legal reforms have improved women’s rights, including property rights, implementation and enforcement of these laws can be inconsistent whereby 74% agreed and 17% strongly agreed Women may encounter discrimination in the workplace, including unequal pay, limited career advancement opportunities, and lack of support for work-life balance.

4.2. DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

The discussion of finding is done based on answering the research questions which was What are various economic sector where there is participation of women in mahembe sector? what are role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development? And What are the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector? For achieving the research objectives.

For first objective which was to evaluate the economic activity the findings indicated that the majority of the respondents agree that the major economic activity for women in Mahembe sector is agriculture with 77% of the total respondents another activity is trading business with 15% of the total respondents while working for private individual, working for government, leadership, home based work, manufacturing business occupy 16%, 4%, 3%, 3%, and 0.5% respectively. Also developed where rural women in Nyamasheke District faces significant challenges in meeting food demands and food security and malnutrition remain a concern with overall stunting rates at 18.6%, 18% of households in Nyamasheke district still using an unimproved drinking water source; 38% of households without access to improved sanitation facilities, 51% of households use mud-covered tree trunks as their wall material, ahead of mud bricks covered with cement (20%) and mud bricks (12%); 42% of households in Nyamasheke district did not own a mobile phone, 51.5% of households in Nyamasheke district did not have at least one savings account, (9.6%) people are did not have health insurance ; the percentage of households using cement flooring (21%) (NISR,2018).

For second objective with was to assess role of women empowering in economic development that 78% agreed and 13% strongly agreed Women who have access to resources and opportunities are more likely to start and grow businesses. There are also, other indicators Women are more likely to use their income to support their families, which can lead to improved living standards and reduced poverty rates. Also Developing a woman uplifts her life as well as the quality of her entire family. It is a fact that any developed woman will definitely support the development of her children especially a girl child and provide a better guidance to her children. A developed woman will easily imbibe an independent and progressive outlook in her children. More importantly, a developed woman in a society like Rwanda will assist in reducing the infant mortality rate and control the blossoming of the population. (Cooke et al 2016).

For third objective which was the challenge that hinder women empowering the findings indicated that the majority of respondents that corresponds to 64% agreed and 13% strongly agreed that there is a challenge for Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women's full participation in economic, political, and social spheres. The researchers also, presented that Although Rwanda has made strides in improving girls' education, there are still gaps in access to quality education and vocational training for women, particularly in rural areas as the majority of respondents that corresponds to 54% agreed and 14% strongly agreed

Women remain a disadvantaged lot not only in developing countries but also in developed world. Cooke et al., (2016), The governance gender gap can be found in countries regardless of the education status, economic and religious or institutions. Factors contributing to the lack of female participation in decision-making process include their low labor force participation and time poverty in relation to Men as well as stereotypical attitude towards the social role of women in promoting economic development. In terms of the resource impacts, women tend to leave a smaller ecological footprint than men due to their more sustainable consumption partners do. Men's lifestyle and consumer partner, whether they are rich or poor tends to be more resource intensive and less sustainable than women (Johnson Latham 2006)

CHAPTER FIVE: GENREAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter contain the conclusion, recommendation and suggestion for the further researcher.

5.1. CONCLUSION

This study in titled the role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development in Rwanda, case study of Mahembe sector aimed at analyzing role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development with three specific objectives with was to identify various economic sector where there is participation of women in mahembe sector, to evaluate role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development and to identify the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector all objective are achieved. The descriptive research design was used, and target population was 1232 people and sample size were 363 participants. The sampling techniques were simple random sampling techniques used for students and purposive used for teachers and school leaders, research instruments were questionnaires and interview guide, and data were analyzed through descriptive method by computing frequencies and percentage in table those quantitative data, while qualitative was through analyzing content.

This study concludes that women in Mahembe sector are majority participating in agri-based activity 77% and also their some of the women in Mahembe sector are still participation only in non-considerable work that reduce women values, even there is big role of women empowering in economic developments not only for family but also for society and country in general. So that the women empowering in has to be strengthen for more economic development of Rwanda. Also this study highlighted the barrier that hinder women empowering in Mahembe including Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women's full participation in economic, political, and social spheres to be addressed.

.2 RECOMMENDATION

From the preceding discussions, the following key recommendations have been made

5.1.1 men

Men have to take the opportunity for women empowering as chance for family economic growth

5.2.2 women

To use all the opportunity provided by government of Rwanda for women empowering for more economic growth

5.2.3 government

Educate society for removing women digressive norms and provides more opportunity for empowering women

5.3 suggestion for further researchers

The further researchers can conduct study on;

1. Effect of women empowering on innovation and creativity

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear respondent,

We are NSHIMIYIMANA Jean and ABIKUNDA Clemence and we are the final year students in Kibogora Polytechnic in the Faculty of Education, Department of Humanities. Therefore, we are conducting a study to assess **‘THE ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA. Case study of Mahembe sector.** where we can conduct this study. For that pursuit, we kindly request for your opinion and answers to the questions raised in this questionnaire to facilitate our study by ticking the appropriate option. The information obtained shall be used for academic purposes only and shall be treated with confidentiality. It’s only through your positive response that this study can be completed successfully.

Thank you for your cooperation and time

INGABIRE Joselyne

DUSHIMIYIMANA Claudine

Appendix 2: QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGNED FOR MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVES,
AND OTHER CITIZENS

SECTION A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

Notice: There is no need to disclose your name

Kindly respond to all questions

Put a mark (v) in the corresponding box according to your choice

Names:

Sex: Male. , Female

Age: 18-19 , 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 35-39 , 40-above

Marital status:

Single

Married

Widowed

Level of study:

Primary

Secondary

University

Other

1) In the family who is responsible for Economic Development

A. Father

B. Mother

C. Elder children

D. Housekeeper

E. Both mother and father

II. Questions

1. **What** various economic sector where there is your participation in mahembe sector you are participating in

Tick in the activity

A	Trading business	
B	Agri business	
C	Manufacturing business	
D	Government related employment	
E	Only participate in home based activity	
F	Manufacturing	
G	Working for private individual	

1. At which extent the following statements explain the role of women empowering in the economic development.

A: Agree, D: Disagree, N: Neutral, SD: Strong Disagree, SA: Strong Agree

No	Statements	AS	A	N	D	SD
	By ticking by indicating the role of women empowering in the economic development.					
A	Women empowerments Increased Labor Force Participation					
B	Empowering women improve Economic Growth of family					
C	Women who have access to resources and opportunities are more likely to start and grow businesses					
D	Women are more likely to use their income to support their families, which can lead to improved living standards and reduced poverty rates.					
E	women in economic decision-making processes brings diverse perspectives, which can lead to more effective and inclusive policies and solutions					
F	Companies with gender-diverse leadership teams often see improved financial performance and organizational effectiveness					
G	Empowering women contributes to social stability by promoting equality and reducing discrimination.					

1. At which extent the following statements shows the Challenge that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector

No	Statements	AS	A	N	D	SD
	2. By ticking indicate Challenge that hinder women empowering in Mahembe sector					
A	Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditional gender roles often hinder women’s full participation in economic, political, and social spheres.					
B	Although Rwanda has made strides in improving girls' education, there are still gaps in access to quality education and vocational training for women, particularly in rural areas					
C	Women often face barriers in accessing financial resources, such as loans and credit, due to lack of collateral, lower financial literacy, or discriminatory practices within financial institutions.					
D	While Rwanda has one of the highest rates of female parliamentary representation globally, women’s participation in higher levels of decision-making and leadership positions outside of politics remains limited					
E	Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment, continues to be a significant issue					
F	Although legal reforms have improved women’s rights, including property rights, implementation and enforcement of these laws can be inconsistent.					

g	Women may encounter discrimination in the workplace, including unequal pay, limited career advancement opportunities, and lack of support for work-life balance.					
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COLLABORATION!!!

Interview guide for the leaders

1. What are various economic sector where there is participation of women in mahembe sector?

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2. what are role of woman empowerment in promoting economic development?

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3. What are the barriers that hinder women's empowerment in promoting economic development in the Mahembe sector??

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