

# Are SACCO'S Doing Enough in As Far As Reducing Poverty Among their Members in Selected Districts in Greater Bushenyi

**Dr. Daphin Nahikiriza**

Valley University of Science and Technology, P. O. Box 44 Bushenyi, Uganda.

## **Abstract**

The study examined the role of SACCOs in poverty reduction. The aim of the study was categorically to; establish as to whether SACCO'S are doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members in selected Districts in Greater Bushenyi is concerned.

A cross-sectional design was used. Qualitative research approach was employed. The Key informants were selected from Sacco's Management and leadership resource persons who provided the qualitative data. Purposive sampling was used to select the 19 Key Informants from 250 Sacco's Management and leadership. A key informant interview guide was used to obtain the data from the SACCO members and the Key Informants respectively. The findings revealed that both financial and non-financial services reduce poverty. The findings revealed that SACCOs are applauded as doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned drawing from financial literacy training and entrepreneurship skilling training services to their members. The findings revealed that for each additional increase in overall rigour of financial services (credit services and saving services), poverty reduction among the Sacco members in Greater Bushenyi was likely to get an average increase of 0.683 units in their poverty reduction ( $\beta = 0.683$ ,  $p = < 0.000$ ); overall increase in rigour of non-financial services leads to a higher likelihood of poverty reduction among the SACCO members in Greater Bushenyi.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

With a gross domestic product annual growth rate of 6.5% on average over the previous three decades, Uganda's economic growth is deemed to have improved. (The World Bank Group, 2021). Due to this, the nation has gradually recovered from the economic downturn endured between the 1970s and the 1980s as a result of political unrest and poor administration (Mbeki, 2005). Uganda's people's living conditions have significantly increased, and the locked economy is on the road to recovery (The World Bank, 2021). Action Aid Uganda has seen an increase in the number of SACCOs during the past ten years, with the bulk of the population living in rural areas (Action Aid Uganda, 2013; Dieter & Gloria, 2019; Emmanuel, 2018). This has significantly improved the quality of life for Uganda's rural residents. However, there is conflicting empirical evidence about SACCOs ability to reduce poverty (Wichterich, 2017; Nuwagaba, 2012; Kizza & Ssekibaamu, 2019) due to their continued vulnerability to shocks, as shown by the increase in poverty in 2016–2017 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2017; Waeyenberge & Bargawi, 2018). This chapter focuses on

background to the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, study objectives, research questions and hypotheses, justification of the study, the study significance and scope.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### Theories of poverty

This study was guided by Political theory of poverty (Brady, 2009) and the Financial Theory of Intermediation (Gurley, 1960).

### Political theory

The political theory of poverty was developed by Brady in 2009. According to Political theory governance and governmental policies are to blame for poverty. This viewpoint contends that institutions and power both exacerbate poverty. It also contends that political outcomes like poverty are the result of power dynamics and group decisions about resource allocation (Brady, 2009). Its foundation is the notion that group political actors assemble the less fortunate classes in support of their own individual goals. It emphasizes the importance of a country's institutional rules, regulations, and policies and the fact that, if they are ineffectual, they may be a factor in some national regions' poverty.

The political theory also raises the idea that weak government policies undermine plans for potentially stronger countries, like SACCOs, by creating inefficient and unproductive economies through economic instability. Since all societies that support change require people and families to have equitable access to economic resources that may be used to produce goods and services, this is relevant to the study of SACCOs and poverty reduction. Ineffective and unproductive government policies are the main contributors to poverty among individuals, households, and economies. There is a system of ineffective laws, rules, and regulations. It's crucial to note that the precise function of productive initiatives like SACCOs in a nation is not expressly described by the political theory of poverty. Additionally, neither the political theory of poverty as a whole provide insight for increasing a nation's productive initiatives, such as SACCOs, making it challenging to interpret the feedback from poverty in a constructive way (Han & Max, 2019; Ghaliba, 2014). As a result, the theory of financial intermediation was used to fill in the gaps left by the constraints of political theory in order to explain SACCOs poverty reduction.

### The Theory of Financial Intermediation (Gurley 1960)

The financial intermediation theory was propounded by Gurley (1960). Gurley (1960) asserted that during economic expansion, a country's financial system grows more swiftly than its total wealth. The fundamental tenet of financial theory of intermediation is that the financial system mediates and facilitates the movement of funds from savings to people and organizations wishing to invest in capital goods as well as those looking to finance investment projects. Financial intermediation is required for the distribution of funds for investments, liquidity, and consumption. Financial intermediation contributes to economic growth and improved public welfare. According to financial theory of intermediation, owners of savings provide borrowers money, who then invest it in the most profitable economic activities.

The four functions of the theory that this study determines to be its strongest aspects are the bridging pool of financial resources, reduction of transaction costs, the decrease of liquidity risk, the accessibility of information, and debt renegotiation. Even while this isn't always required to promote the nation's economic development, a nation's financial system should be set up as a web that encourages interactions between

financial institutions, financial and poverty reduction in this study because of the bridging pool of financial resources, the reduction of transaction costs, the reduction of liquidity risk, and the provision of information. This theory was in addition used because it explained very well the needed details for reducing poverty markets, and financial products. The two theories, the political theory and the theory of financial intermediation reinforced one another and aided in overcoming any shortcomings that might arise from relying just on one of them. This theory is relevant to the investigation of SACCOs.

### 3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

SACCOs does provide access to services, which are utilized to reduce poverty among their members (Kyamulesire, 1988; Financial Sector Deepening Uganda, 2022). The general consensus is that by offering these services, members may grow their own micro businesses, save money, raise their income, control their consumption, take calculated risks, and ultimately lessen their poverty (Kyamulesire, 1988; Uganda Investment Authority, 2014).

Bushenyi, Mitooma, and Sheema are well known for having the majority of well-developed SACCOs (80%) in Uganda (UBOS, 2018; Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, 2021; UBOS, 2020). Nevertheless, a sizable portion of SACCO members from these districts have remained susceptible to disease and poor health, illiteracy, a lack of proper housing, water, clothing, and food, restricted access to education, and appalling living conditions (UBOS, 2018; Musiita *et al.*, 2023; GBDSR, 2020; UBOS 2020; UNHS, 2019/2020; Greater Bushenyi District Community Development Report, 2018). In addition, 40% of SACCO members live in poverty, which is higher than the 32% national average (Bushenyi District, 2020; UNHS, 2019/2020). Despite its significance, no conclusive connection has been made between the reduction of poverty among SACCO members in Mitooma, Bushenyi, Sheema and the financial or non-financial services provided by SACCOs (Mitooma District SACCO Report, 2020; Byabashaija *et al.*, 2017; Bushenyi District Abstract, 2019; Sheema District Abstract, 2020; UNHS, 2019/2020).

More so, according to the literature accessible little is known on the role of SACCOs in poverty reduction among SACCO members in Mitooma, Bushenyi and Sheema districts (Greater Bushenyi District Commercial Development Officer Report, 2021; Greater Bushenyi District SACCO Report, 2020). Even the few studies that have been conducted in Uganda have been conducted in areas far from Sheema, Mitooma, Bushenyi and have contradictory results. For instance, studies by Emmanuel (2018), Benon (2020) and Mwosi (2020) found out that SACCOs did not reduce member's poverty and instead created long-term indebtedness, while Mpubani (2019) and Kizza (2019) found a somewhat positive role of SACCOs in reducing poverty. The information above indicates that there is ongoing disagreement on whether SACCOs genuinely assists its members in Bushenyi, Mitooma, Sheema and throughout Uganda in reducing poverty.

In order to fill the gaps described above and provide pertinent advice for reducing poverty among SACCO members, the researcher undertook a study to examine the role of SACCOs in poverty reduction: A case study of selected districts in Greater Bushenyi, Uganda.

### 4. SACCO financial and non-financial services contribution to poverty reduction.

More still, a study by Hossen and Ruhi (2019) revealed that SACCO credit services have developed into a very well-liked and acknowledged tool used to combat poverty in developing nations like Bangladesh. Hossen

and Ruhi (2019) note that the public currently views SACCOs credit services in many respects as a tool for eradicating poverty. He expressed caution, however, by stating that not all parties and individuals concur that Sacco's credit services have significantly impacted the reduction of poverty.

Adekola & Chidinma (2017) also discussed how SACCOs operating in Nigeria were doing in terms of reducing poverty by offering credit services to their members. A stratified random sampling strategy was used by Adekola and Chidinma (2017) with a sample size of 1,103, or 50% of the SACCO population. They discovered that SACCOs in the study area had empowered its members through their efforts to combat poverty and that the SACCOs had assisted in increasing members' incomes by offering credit facilities. However, research by Adebisi *et al.*, (2020) in Nigeria indicates that SACCO credit services have not significantly reduced poverty, and as a result, the poverty status is concerning. In addition, Adebisi *et al.*, 2020 assert that despite the SACCOs provision of credit facilities, poverty remains ubiquitous, high, and common in Nigeria, affecting a substantial section of the nation's enormous population. Even more Kumaha and Boachie (2016) conducted a critical assessment of the discussion surrounding the efficiency and effectiveness of SACCOs credit services in Ghana as a general tool for reducing poverty. They found that SACCOs credit services increase income levels of their members by allowing them to use credit to buy basic necessities like tools, materials, and equipment, which creates jobs and raises their standard of living.

As well, Kihwele and Gwahula (2015) conducted a study on the effects of SACCOs credit services on Tanzanian poverty reduction. Poverty reduction was the dependent variable in the study, whereas entrepreneurship abilities and microfinance services were the independent factors. 40 SACCO beneficiaries were selected as a sample by Kihwele and Gwahula (2015). Their findings demonstrated that, as long as loans were used to fund income-generating activities (IGAs) or productive activities, SACCOs credit services helped to reduce poverty by 50%. Additionally, they found that SACCO recipients enjoyed higher earnings, superior social services, and self-employment. More still, they discovered that SACCOs offered entrepreneurial skills, however at a low rate because the majority of the training provided by SACCOs is intended to raise members' awareness of the terms and conditions of loans and savings accounts rather than to develop business abilities.

Emmanuel Ahurira (2018) carried out a study on Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies and members poverty reduction. The study used a correlational descriptive design and employed both quantitative and qualitative methods for data gathering and analysis. According to the report, there is a direct link between financial access and the decline in poverty. Additionally, Emmanuel Ahurira (2018) pointed out that the members of SACCOs were able to take advantage of their credit services in order to meet their basic, medical, and other social needs. This, however, conflicts with some academics who said that SACCOs credit services did not enhance the revenues of its members instead increased their long-term debt, rendering them helpless (William Nyanja, 2017; Makoba & Wakoko-Studstill, 2016; Dieter & Gloria, 2019). In addition, Nuwagaba (2012) findings through his study on SACCOs as a source of financing agriculture show that SACCO's credit services do not increase productivity in Agriculture because the SACCOs are more unwilling to offer credit services to agricultural activities.

### **Savings services and poverty reduction**

According to Nyarondia (2017), SACCOs have given the poor a financial safety net by enabling them to save and borrow money to finance the expansion of their businesses. According to Nyarondia (2017), many

businesses have seasonal sales cycles, and some industries—like manufacturing and agriculture—experience sharp swings in demand between high and low seasons. He continued by saying that the more frequent and significant the downtimes, the more savings the company should have, and that even for businesses that experience minimal or no downtime, it is still a good idea to prepare for unforeseen circumstances by making savings that ensure the companies of SACCO members will have access to sufficient crisis funds to cover working capital requirements. Additionally, SACCOs have increased incentives for investors to engage in hazardous or dangerous investments under the implicit assumption that SACCOs will share part of the losses with investment account holders (Farook, Hassan, and Clinch, 2012). The SACCOs financial services are impacted by the way risk is distributed among its clients, which also helps members' businesses expand. Adekola (2019) asserts that encouraging customers to save with SACCOs has a positive impact on the expansion of customers' businesses. However, when provided with adaptable and welcoming saving amenities, the ability and willingness of the poor to save can lead to the mobilization of significant amounts of resources. Greater net savings per member or customer per year (and consequently more resources for SACCOs) can be generated through voluntary, open-access savings plans than by being coerced into such plans.

Ssengendo (2016) focused on the impact of SACCOs services on customers' saving habits in the Wakiso neighborhood. The goals of the study were to define the services provided by SACCOs, identify the difficulties members encounter when saving with SACCOs, determine how SACCOs affect their clients' saving habits, and identify the methods SACCOs employ to help clients develop better saving habits. The results of the study showed that SAACOs had a noticeable impact on clients' saving habits in terms of financial mobilization, business management, improved standard of living, business skills, and advising services. SACCOs used information sharing, loan committees, credit history examination, and frequent visits as ways to encourage clients to save more money. According to the report, it is important to prioritize client mobilization and sensitization.

### **SACCO non-financial services contribution to poverty reduction**

#### **Entrepreneurial and skill development and poverty reduction**

Firstly, there seems to be a growing consensus that entrepreneurship is necessary for wealth accumulation or building in order to reduce poverty (Nguyen, Swain, and VO, 2009). While non-productive loans just encourage consumers to consume more, loans to micro entrepreneurs help them accumulate assets (Bruton, Ketchen, and Ireland, 2013; Usman *et al.*, 2015; Banerjee *et al.*, 2015). We choose this agenda since research frequently focuses on micro-entrepreneurs (Khavul, Bruton & Chavez, 2011). Additionally, both official and informal microfinance are essential for microbusiness owners in underdeveloped areas (Banerjee *et al.*, 2015). For instance, more than 67% of farming households in China (Turvey & Kong, 2010) borrow from family and friends since they may contact them "at no cost" (Gine, 2011) other than maintaining a social network (Banerjee *et al.*, 2015). Trade credit, moneylenders, and rotating credit and savings associations (ROSCAs) are further forms of informal credit (Tsai, 2004). For instance, ROSCAs are thought to increase business chances, especially for women, even in less impoverished areas like urban Malaysia (Ghazali, 2012).

In a similar vein, Kihwele & Gwahula (2015) investigated how SACCOs affect the reduction of poverty in Tanzania. The dependent variable of the study was poverty reduction, whereas the independent variables were entrepreneurship skills and microfinance services. 40 SACCO beneficiaries were utilized as a sample by

Kihwele and Gwahula. According to their findings, SACCO services helped to reduce poverty by 50% as long as credits are capitalized or spent in profitable or productive endeavors. Furthermore, SACCO beneficiaries reported better social services, income, and self-employment (Kihwele & Gwahula, 2015). They highlighted that SACCOs were also found to give entrepreneurship training, but at a low rate, as the majority of the training is focused on increasing members' awareness of saving/loan conditions and terms rather than building entrepreneurial abilities.

### **Financial literacy training and poverty reduction**

Han (2019) & World Bank Group (2020) claim that microfinance institutions (SACCOs) have shown the ability to provide dependable facilities or services to underprivileged consumers, which ultimately helps to reduce poverty. However, Mia, 2017; Railien & Sineviiien, 2015 showed that Bangladesh now has the largest microfinance operations in the entire world. It has been noted that SACCOs have helped people in Bangladesh develop not only their material resources but also their human resources by ensuring improved access to education, health care, system, and general awareness among the people about their skill acquisition, rights, and responsibilities, health services, education, social capital, management, and financial education, all of which are argued to be crucial components of microfinance (World Bank Group, 2020; Mia, 2017).

More so, the SAACOs provide their members with training in financial management as one of their services (Adebisi, 2020). This is consistent with the cooperative movement's fifth norm or principle, which emphasizes the need for cooperatives to provide their members with training, education, and training (Adebisi, 2020). Churk (2015) emphasizes the need for advising services and notes that the effect of financial services on welfare depends on the accessibility of complementary inputs including market services, irrigation, and education. Additionally, it is claimed by Bendig *et al.*, (2009); Patel, 2018; Sinha, 2019) that a lack of education, isolation from time-consuming banking procedures, and low-income levels make it difficult for people to access formal financial services. Financial education programs can help SACCO members make better borrowing, saving, and financial decisions (Owolobi, 2015; Msuya, 2018; Elem, 2018).

In his study on the Impact of Microfinance Institutions on Growth and Development of SMEs in Machakos County, Kyale (2013) sought to determine the real-world application of purported solutions provided by Microfinance organizations and how this impacts the expansion of small enterprises. To examine the information gathered, SPSS was employed. According to the study's findings and the responses of 36.4% of the participants, small-scale enterprise credits are the primary service offered by microfinance firms. According to the survey, MFIs should schedule workshops and seminars to teach small businesses about financial literacy, management techniques, and ICT usage. Arising from the above, it is hypothesized that;

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

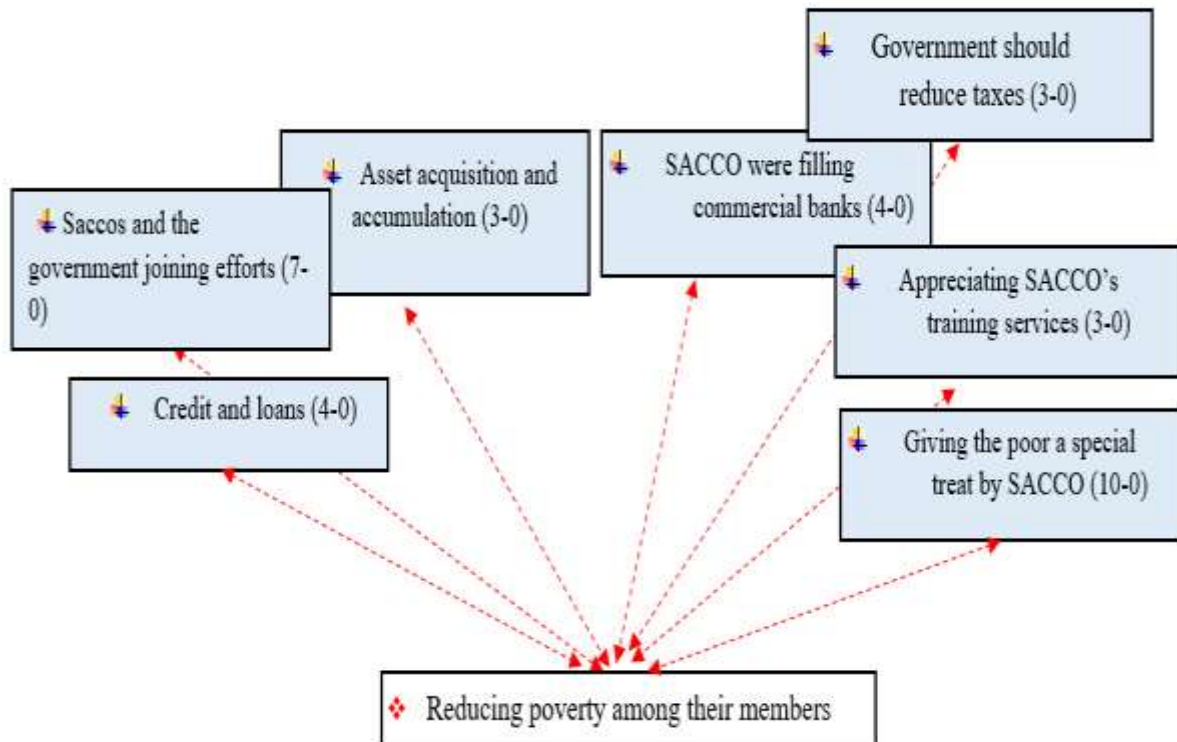
A cross-sectional design was used, where a qualitative research approach was employed. Key informants were selected from Sacco's' Management and leadership resource persons provided the qualitative data. Purposive sampling was used to select the 19 Key Informants from 250 Sacco's' Management and leadership. Key informant interview guide was used to obtain the data from the Sacco members and the Key Informants respectively. 19 key informants were proposed for interviews. Data was collected from 17 key informants

interview and the overall response rate 98%. This was a perfect response rate, higher than then minimum of 60% recommended by Fincham 2008.

Qualitatively, out of 250, a total of 19 respondents participated in the qualitative interviews. Specifically, these were Board Members, Sacco General Managers, and Credit Officers. This unlike the quantitative methodologies where the sample sizes are predetermined, in this study the sample size was determined purposively majorly on key informants. These were purposefully chosen for the study due to their unique knowledge of Sacco’s and poverty reduction in Greater Bushenyi. Therefore, a total number of 17 respondents were considered for this qualitative study.

The qualitative data was analyzed using Atlas.ti version 7. To determine the impact of Sacco financial services (credit and saving services on poverty reduction.

Participants were asked in if their own views whether they thought SACCOs were doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned. In the light of financial services, the majority of the participants affirmed that SACCOs were doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members.



The themes that emerged from the views of the Key Informants:

**Credit and loans that are advanced to members have seen them grow and develop (4 responses)**

SACCO members appreciate the services of SACCOs as being transformative. Their financial services have served them where commercial banks excluded them as poor and lacking collateral property. With group loans SACCOs have been able to serve the poor section of the communities and societies. SACCO non-financial services have equipped the SACCO members with entrepreneurship skills that has seen members start and thrive in business doing and income-generating activities as well as training the members with financial management. In this regard, Key Informant elicited that credit and loans that are advanced to members have seen them grow and develop (4 responses)

*“SACCOs are trying to do their work of reducing poverty among their members. This is because members have started businesses, agricultural activities have increased and improved, and the SACCOs have offered loans to its members, among others” – (Key Informant 7, male aged 39).*

*“SACCOs are trying to do their role of reducing poverty. Members have been given credit facilities, for example, and have paid them back; the SACCOs have tried to train members; and the general standard of living of members has improved” – (Key Informant 10, Male aged 39).*

*“SACCOs are doing their work well. A person who was taking one million in the last few years is now taking ten million, indicating that there is an improvement in income and a reduction in poverty” – (Key Informant 11, Male aged 62).*

*“SACCOs have helped common people take their children to school due to school fees loans” – (Key Informant 5, Male aged 51).*

*“SACCOs have tried to do their work of reducing poverty among the members through the provision of credit facilities to enable them to do the activities they want to do so as to get out of poverty” – (Key Informant 2, male aged 43).*

So, it may be concluded that from voices of the Key Informants, SACCOs financial services have seen members grow and develop.

#### **Asset acquisition and accumulation by SACCO members (3 responses)**

From the loan facilities advanced to members, SACCOs have seen members prosper in business and income-generating activities. In this regard, the Key Informants elicited asset acquisition and accumulation by SACCO members as proof enough that SACCOs were doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned **(3 responses)**.

*“SACCOs are helping their members reduce poverty. Many members have developed because of SACCOs. When these people feel like wanting to buy land, start a business, or pay fees for their children, among others, and they find that they don't have the large sum of money at the moment, they come to the SACCO, get money, and keep on paying in bits” - (Key Informant 3, Female aged 37).*

*“SACCOs have tried to do their work. SACCOs have helped the members save, and through that, they have been able to buy plots of land, pay fees for their children, acquire basic needs, and start businesses, among other things that have helped reduce poverty” - (Key Informant 12, Male aged 56).*

*“SACCOs have played a great role in reducing poverty among their members. The respondent said that things that used not to be there are now available. Now people no longer use traditional lighting systems, that most of them now use solar, that almost all homes have houses roofed with iron sheets, and that their children are educated, among others” - (Key Informant 8, male aged 46).*

As such, it can be concluded that asset acquisition and accumulation by SACCO members is one of the proofs that SACCOs were doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned.

#### **SACCOs were filling commercial banks gap (4 responses)**

SACCOs target the poor sections of our society. Most of these poor are excluded from banking services of traditional commercial bank loan facilities. Commercial banks find it difficult to cover the costs of providing rural financial services, thus exclude the unbanked poor. SACCOs have come in handy to fill the gap for which that Key Informants elicited that SACCOs were filling commercial banks gap **(4 responses)**.

*“SACCOs have tried to reduce poverty among their members ... commercial banks are business banks and*

*that they are far removed from the very poor. SACCOs get time and go to villages to see how the members are faring, which is not done by commercial banks, and interestingly laughed and mentioned that maybe commercial banks go to villages when they are going to confiscate and sell the properties of their members in case they have failed to pay” – (Key Informant 5, Male aged 51).*

*“SACCOs are trying to reduce poverty among their members. SACCOs charge a fair interest rate to their members and other charges are fair compared to commercial banks” – (Key Informant 6, Female aged 38).*

*“SACCOs have assisted in reducing poverty among their members...it is easier to get a loan from the SACCOs within a short period of time than from commercial banks” – (Key Informant 7, male aged 39).*

*“SACCOs have helped the common man. This is because even the poor people who fear going to commercial banks can easily get their services from the SACCOs because they interact with them one-on-one and sometimes advise them on what they should do to reduce poverty amongst themselves” – (Key Informant 14, Male aged 41).*

With filling commercial banks’ gap of finding, it difficult to cover the costs of providing rural financial services and excluding the unbanked poor, SACCOs have positioned themselves as paramount to reducing poverty among SACCO members.

#### **Appreciating SACCOs training services offered to their members (3 responses)**

SACCOs financial literacy and entrepreneurship skilling trainings have factored a great deal in appreciating them as doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned. Key Informants voiced this appreciating SACCOs training services offered to their members **(3 responses)**

*“SACCOs are trying to do their work despite the fact that there is still a need for SACCOs to do more training for their members” – (Key Informant 12, Female aged 27).*

*“SACCOs have helped train their members on how to use the acquired finances productively (financial literacy training), thereby reducing wastage on their part” – (Key Informant 12, Male aged 56).*

*“SACCOs train members on how to start their businesses and projects that can eventually help them get out of poverty, though the respondent mentioned that it is not seriously done by these SACCOs” – (Key Informant 6, Female aged 38).*

So, it can be concluded SACCOs are applauded as doing enough in as far as reducing poverty among their members is concerned drawing from financial literacy training and entrepreneurship skilling training services to their members. Key Informants voiced this appreciating SACCOs training services offered to their members **(3 responses)**

#### **Conclusion**

The study findings indicated a positive relationship between Sacco’s roles and poverty reduction. The findings further showed that Sacco’s are commended for their efforts to reduce poverty. Sacco members agreed that Sacco’s are playing their part in as far as poverty reduction is concerned. This is through financial literacy and entrepreneurship training services to their members, making it easier for the poor to obtain a loan from the Sacco’s than from commercial banks, promoting members’ welfare and prosperity as a source of more savings while encouraging more to join the Sacco’s, and assisting members in growing through the loans and credit extended to them. Members have been able to acquire and accumulate assets, and Sacco’s has also helped to fill the commercial banks gaps and have offered training services.

## Reference

1. Adebisi, I, M., Abubakar, T., Aremu, B., Emmanuel, I. A. & Sidikat, S. (2020). Cooperative Societies and Households Poverty Reduction Nexus. A study of Minna metropolis, Niger State, Nigeria. Kampala International University Journal of Social Sciences. Vol 6, No 2. <http://repository.futminna.edu.ng:8080/jspui/handle/123456789/7527>.
2. Adebisi, I, M., Abubakar, T., Aremu, B., Emmanuel, I. A. & Sidikat, S. (2020). Cooperative Societies and Households Poverty Reduction Nexus. A study of Minna metropolis, Niger State, Nigeria. Kampala International University Journal of Social Sciences. Vol 6, No 2. <http://repository.futminna.edu.ng:8080/jspui/handle/123456789/7527>.
3. Adekola, G. & Chidinma, D. (2017). Co-Operative Societies and Poverty Reduction among Members for Community Development in Rivers State, Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*, edition vol.13, No.8 ISSN: 1857 – 7881 (Print) e - ISSN 1857- 7431
4. Ahurira, E. (2018) Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and poverty alleviation among SACCO members in Jinja District. A dissertation submitted to the School of Management Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a master's degree in business administration of Uganda Management Institute.
5. Akalpler, E., & Duhok, D. (2018). Does Monetary Policy affect Economic Growth? Evidence from Malaysia. *Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences*, 34(1), 2-20.
6. Alexander (2019). The impact of taxes on Kenyan Microfinance Institutions' financial performance.
7. Allen, F. & Santomero, M. A. (1997). The theory of financial intermediation. *Journal of Banking & Finance*, Volume 21, Issues 11–12, December 1997, Pages 1460-1480, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-4266\(97\)00032-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-4266(97)00032-0).
8. Arabsheh, Qudah, Alwashah, and AlQudah (2021) .The impact of tax increases on the earnings and long-term viability of Jordanian commercial Banks.
9. Aryachamu (2011). How taxes affected Uganda's microfinance institutions' (SACCOs) performance.
10. Bendig, M., Giesbert, L. and Steiner, S. (2009). Savings, Credit and Insurance: Household Demand for Formal Financial Services in Rural Ghana, Working Paper 94, German Institute of Global and Area Studies
11. Brady D, Blome A, Kleider H. (2016). How Politics and Institutions Shape Poverty and Inequality. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty*, ed. D Brady, LM Burton, pp. 115-139. New York: Oxford University Press.
12. Brady D. 2009. *Rich Democracies, Poor People*. New York: Oxford University Press
13. Brady, D. (2019). *Theories of the causes of poverty*. University of California, Riverside & WZB Berlin Social Science Center. Retrieved from <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-soc-073018-022550> .
14. Brenes, E. R., & Haar, J. (Eds.). (2012). *The Future of Entrepreneurship in Latin America*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137003324>.
15. Bushenyi ,D, (2021). District Status Report: Busenyi District Local Government.
16. Bushenyi ,D,(2020). Bushenyi District Commercial Development officer Report.

17. Chortareas, G. E., Girardone, C., & Ventouri, A. (2012). Bank supervision, regulation, and efficiency: Evidence from the European Union. *Journal of Financial Stability*, 8(4), 292–302. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfs.2011.12.001> [Crossref], [Web of Science ®], [Google Scholar]
18. Chortareas, G., Kapetanios, G., & Ventouri, A. (2016). Credit market freedom and cost efficiency in US state banking. *Journal of Empirical Finance*, 37, 173–185. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jempfin.2016.03.002> [Crossref], [Web of Science ®], [Google Scholar]
19. Churk JP (2015). Contributions of savings and credit co-operative society on Improving Rural Livelihood in Makungu Ward Iringa, Tanzania. Proceedings of the second European Academic Research Conference on Global Business, Economics, Finance and Banking (EAR15Swiss Conference). Zurich-Switzerland, 3-5 July 2015 Paper ID: Z550
20. Crafts (2015). Fiscal Regulation detrimental effects brought on by fiscal policies that erect barriers to entry.
21. Daniel (2013). The economy-wide effects of fiscal policy changes on poverty reduction
22. Dieter, S. H. & Gloria, A. (2019). Women and Men in Rural Microfinance: The Case of Uganda. [https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/23705/1/2002-4\\_UG\\_Microfinance.pdf](https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/23705/1/2002-4_UG_Microfinance.pdf).
23. District Community Development Report (2014). Report on SACCO operation in Greater Bushenyi, Uganda.
24. Farook, R. (2012). Risk/Return Performance of Diversified Firms and growth of an enterprise.
25. Fincham, J.E. (2008) Response Rate and Responsiveness for Surveys, Standards, and the Journal. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 72, 43.
26. Gatsi, Gadzo, and Kportorgbi (2013) examined the impact of taxes on manufacturing companies listed on Ghana's exchange markets
27. Ghaliba, Asad K., Issam, Malki, & Katsushi, S. Imai. (2014). Microfinance and household poverty reduction: Empirical evidence from rural Pakistan. *Oxford Development Studies*, 85–100.
28. Gurley, J.G. & Shaw, E.S. (1960). Money in a theory of finance. Brookings.
29. Han, J., Wang, J., & Ma, X. (2019). Effects of Farmers' Participation in Inclusive Finance on Their Vulnerability to Poverty: Evidence from Qinba Poverty Stricken Area in China. *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 55(5), 997-1014.
30. Harting, P. (2019). *Macroeconomic stabilization and long-term growth: The role of policy design*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1365100519000488>.
31. Hossen, A., Miah, M. R. & Ruhi, R. A. (2019). Contribution of Micro Finance on Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh. doi:10.20944/preprints201911.0045.v1
32. *Humanomics*, 33(1), 1537.
33. Jellema, Jon, Astrid Haas, Nora Lustig, and Sebastian Wolf. 2016. "CEQ Master Workbook: Uganda. Version: July 28, 2016," CEQ Data Center on Fiscal Redistribution (CEQ Institute, Tulane University, and International Growth Center)
34. Kihwele, E.A. & Gwahula, R. (2015). Impact of savings and credit cooperative societies in poverty reduction. Empirical evidence from Tanzania. *European Journal of Business and Management*, 7(23), 103-112

35. Kizza, J. & Ssekibaamu, A. (2019). The contribution of Luweero teachers' saving and credit cooperative organization to the socio-economic welfare of teachers in Luweero district, Uganda.
36. Kumaha, A. & Boachie, W. K. (2016). An Investigation into the Impact of Microfinance in Poverty Reduction in Less Developed Countries (LDCs): A Case of Ghana. American Scientific Research Journal for Engineering, Technology, and Sciences (ASRJETS), ISSN (Print) 2313-4410, ISSN (Online) 2313-4402.
37. Kyale, M.S. (2013). Impact of microfinance institutions on growth and development of SMEs in Machakos town. Unpublished PhD thesis, university of Nairobi.
38. Kyamulesire A.R (1998), A History of The Uganda Cooperative Movement, UCA Ltd, Kampala
39. Makoba, J. w. & Wakoko-Studstill, F. (2016). *From Prosperity for All (PFA) to Prosperity for Few (PFF): Political SACCOs and Their Impact on Rural Development in Uganda*. Association of Third World Studies, Inc. ISBN 13-978-0-931971-62-4 ISBN 0-931971-62-4.
40. Makoba, J. w. & Wakoko-Studstill, F. (2016). *From Prosperity for All (PFA) to Prosperity for Few (PFF): Political SACCOs and Their Impact on Rural Development in Uganda*. Association of Third World Studies, Inc. ISBN 13-978-0-931971-62-4 ISBN 0-931971-62-4.
41. Matinaro, V., Liu, Y., Lee, T. R., & Poesche, J. (2019). Extracting key factors for sustainable development of enterprises: Case study of SMEs in Taiwan. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 209, 1152–1169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.10.280>.
42. Mbeki, M. 2005, 'Perpetuating Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: How African Political Elites Undermine Entrepreneurship and Economic Development'. International Policy Network, London.
43. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. (2014). Poverty status report 2014: Structural change and poverty reduction in Uganda. Economic Development Policy and Research Development.
44. Mitooma, d, (2020). Mitooma District Sacco Report
45. Mlungusi & Adrino (2023). The role of fiscal policy on poverty reduction in South Africa
46. Musiita, B. et al. 2023. Productivity Factors and the Growth of the Manufacturing Sector among the East African Community Members States.
47. Nuwagaba, A. (2012). Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) As a Source of Financing Agriculture. Challenges and Lessons Learnt. *Journal of Environment and Earth Science*. ISSN 2224-3216 (Paper) ISSN 2225-0948.
48. Nyarondia Samson Mecha, 2017. Effect of Microfinance on poverty reduction: A critical scrutiny of theoretical literature. Business studies, Rongo University, P.o Box 103-40404, Rongo Kenya from rural Bangladesh. City University, London, Uk
49. Okongo (2018) investigated how taxes affected the operations of small and medium-sized enterprises in Siaya County,
50. Owolobi, O. E. (2015). Microfinance and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: A Case Study of LAPO Microfinance Bank. Submitted in accordance with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Leeds University Business School, the University of Leeds. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Index (OPHI) (2019) Policy – a multidimensional approach – what is multidimensional poverty? <https://ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>. Accessed 22 Aug 2019

51. Panel and Carlo Milani (2011). How taxes affect bank earnings using data from EU Banks.
52. Patel, R., Patel, M., & Patel, N. (2018). Impact of microfinance on poor women: Lessons from North Gujarat. *Prabandhan: Indian Journal of Management*, 11(2).
53. Schweltnus & Anorld (2008): The impact of corporation taxation on financial institutions' investment and profitability in OECD economies between 1996 and 2004
54. Sinha, M., Mahapatra, S. S., Dutta, A., & Sengupta, P. P. (2019). Microfinance and Women Empowerment: An Empirical Analysis. In *Handbook of Research on Microfinancial Impacts on Women Empowerment, Poverty, and Inequality* (pp. 5264). IGI Global.
55. Slimane (2012), Well-constructed fiscal policies used to uphold government integrity have a beneficial effect on poverty reduction by increasing production while improperly constructed regulations have a negative effect on poverty reduction
56. Ssendendo, C. (2016). The effect of savings and credit co-operatives (SACCOs) services on members saving culture. A case of Wakiso District. Unpublished MBA research report. College of Business and Management Sciences, Makerere University
57. Turvey, C. G., and Kong, R. (2010). Informal lending amongst friends and relatives: Can microcredit compete in rural China? *China Economic Review*, 21(4), 544–556.
58. UBOS (2018). Uganda National Household Survey 2016/2017. Kampala, Uganda: UBOS. Available at: [https://sun-connect-ea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2017\\_UNHS\\_26092017-Final\\_Presentation.pdf](https://sun-connect-ea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2017_UNHS_26092017-Final_Presentation.pdf) UBOS (2017). Statistical Abstract. (Kampala, Government of Uganda)
59. UNHS (2019/2020). Impact of Fiscal Policy on Poverty and Inequality in Uganda.
60. Waeyenberge, E. V. & Bargawi, H. (2018). Macroeconomic policy, inclusive growth and productive employment in Uganda. *Employment*, Working Paper No. 244. Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch.
61. Wichterich C (2017). Microcredit's, Returns and Gender: Of Reliable Poor Women and Financial Inclusion in South Asia. In *Work, Institutions and Sustainable Livelihood*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. pp. 275-300.