



**Dissertation**

**By**

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**INFLUENCE OF RURAL CREDIT  
FACILITIES ON GENDER  
RELATIONS AT HOUSE  
A CASE STUDY OF POVERT PROJECT IN  
PALLISA DISTRICT**

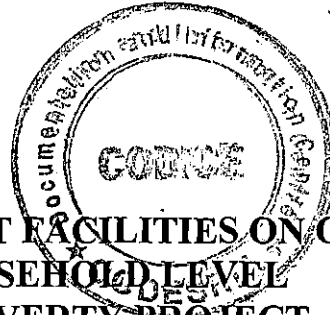
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**INFLUENCE OF RURAL CREDIT FACILITIES ON GENDER  
RELATIONS AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL  
A CASE STUDY OF POVERTY PROJECT  
IN PALLISA DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS  
(WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES)  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY KAMPALA**

2000

## DECLARATION

I KALIMO. MARGARET hereby declare that, the contents of this dissertation are a result of my own findings and they have never been presented for a degree in any other University.

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This dissertation has been submitted with our permission as University supervisors.

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**DEDICATION.**

To my dear parents the late Mubbale Samson and his wife Mrs. Mubbale Miria, my dear brother Mr. Mukama George.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	I
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Table of Contents	iv-vi
List of tables	vii
List of Appendices	viii
Abbreviations	ix
Abstract	x

### CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background	2
1.2 Statement of the problem	5
1.3 Research questions	5
1.4 Study objectives	6
1.5 Scope of the study	6
1.6 Significance of the study	6
1.7 Definition of terms	7

### CHAPTER TWO : LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Access to credit	9
2.2 Utilization of credit	11
2.3 Constraints	13
2.4 Conceptual framework	16-18

**CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Introduction	19
3.2	Research design	19
3.3	Area of study	19
3.4	Study population	21
3.5	Sampling	21
3.5.1	Sample size	21
3.5.2	Sample structure	21
3.6	Data Collection	22
3.6.1	Procedure	22
3.7	Data processing and analysis	23
3.7.1	Qualitative	23
3.7.2	Quantitative	24
3.8	Limitations of the study	24

**CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS**

4.1	Introduction	25
4.2	Social-economic characteristics	26
4.2.1	Age	26
4.2.2	Marital status	27
4.2.3	Level of education	28
4.2.4	Occupation	29
4.2.5	Household type	31
4.2.6	Household composition	32

4.3 Benefits	33
4.3.1 Standard of living	38
4.3.2 Capacity building	41
4.3.3 Economic Solidarity	43
4.3.4 Empowerment through financial and physical assets	46
4.3.5 Empowerment through leadership	54
4.3.6 Household expenditure	57
4.3.7 Decision making	59
4.4 Problems and Limitations	61

#### **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDAIONS**

5.1 Summary and Conclusions	65
5.2 Recommendations	68
5.3 Suggested areas for further research	69
Bibliography	71-72



**List of Tables.**

4.1 Age of respondents by gender.....	26
4.2 Marital status of the respondents.....	27
4.3 Respondent's level of education.....	28
4.4 Occupation of the respondents.....	29
4.5 Household type.....	31
4.6 Household size.....	32
4.7 Amount of loan got by the borrowers.....	33
4.8 Benefits from credit.....	34
4.9 Change in standard of living .....	38
4.10 Skills acquired.....	41
4.11 Economic solidarity groups.....	44
4.13 Savings made by credit recipients.....	48
4.14 Physical Assets.....	50
4.15 Control over Assets and income.....	52
4.16 Client's responses to leadership positions.....	54
4.17 Household expenditure .....	57
4.18 Rate of participation in decision-making .....	60
4.19 Type of problems experienced by the clients .....	61
Figures.....	18

**List of Appendices**

Appendix (I) Questionnaire for individual respondents.

Appendix (ii) Questionnaire for Focus Group Discussions.

Appendix (iii) Interview guide for key informants.

Appendix (iv) Map of Uganda showing areas covered by PAP.

Appendix (v) A map of Pallisa District by sub-counties:

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**Abbreviations:**

NGO	-	Non-Government Organisations.
PAP	-	Poverty Alleviation Project
ADB	-	African Development Bank.
NURP	-	Northern Reconstruction Programme.
OPM	-	Office of the Prime Minister.
CBOS	-	Community Based Organisations.
CERUDEB	-	Centenary Rural Development Bank.
WID	-	Women in development.
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion.
UNRISD	-	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme.
CDS	-	Center for Development Studies.

**ABSTRACT.**

Rural credit facilities in the country have been seen as one of the ways of initiating development and eradicating poverty, particularly in rural areas.

The study sought to examine the influence rural credit facilities has on gender-relations at household level. Benefits were identified for both men and women and the influence on power relations and poverty in the household was found. The findings showed that access to credit leads to changes in power relations, for example change in decision making, gender roles, increased bargaining power.

The gender-relations in terms of access and control favoured more men than women. To some extent benefits were equally obtained, but when it came to control over them conflicts arose. Both men and women respondents were able to acquire financial and physical assets but what varied was the type of asset each individual acquired. They also attained leadership qualities that they did not have before, however this does not mean all individuals benefited. As indicated in the findings, some of them did not. Meanwhile, alongside access to credit, there are constraint factors, which limited empowerment of PAP clients in the study area such as lack of confidence, illiteracy. Based on the study findings, access to PAP credit facilities has led to changes in gender roles of some beneficiaries, joint planning, cooperation, and conflicts in some households. This indicates that there have been positive and negative benefits. Therefore the study recommends that a gender analysis appraisal should be performed so that they gauge household relations in order to have a clear understanding of men and women. It also recommends that women's bargaining power needs to be improved and enhanced as they operate from a weak socio- economic position in the sense that they have limited access to property which is needed as security for obtaining loans from financial institutions. Furthermore, women as well as men need increased access to appropriate financial services such as savings, deposits and credit in order to alleviate poverty.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION.

This study aimed at finding out the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations at household level in Kabwangansi and Kibale sub-counties in Pallisa District. It examined the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations at household level. The study mainly put emphasis on men and women clients of Poverty Alleviation Project in Pallisa District. It is a rural credit and training programme that provides credit to the rural poor through non-government organisations, community based organisations and other associations operating at district level as intermediary entities and directly through the project staff. PAP operates at a village level and is accepted by authorities and communities served and has been specifically selected because it is one of the most lucrative projects which began in 1994 in the area. It has operated in the area long enough to have effects which can be studied. In addition since women constitute the majority of the poor in Uganda PAP project anticipates that more than 60 percent of the project credit lines go to independent women groups.

This section presents the background information on credit facilities as a measure of eradicating poverty in Uganda, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definition of terms.

### **1.1 Background to the study.**

Poverty is a worldwide problem that affects millions of individuals, households and communities often resulting in lack of access to the basic necessities of life among rural and urban people. The government of Uganda in particular has embarked on eradicating mass poverty from the society in the poverty eradication action plan. It is Uganda's vision that within the next twenty years, the majority of Ugandans will have access to; basic social services and housing with acceptable living standards, that they will be able to read and write and be free from the threat of hunger and famine. (Poverty Eradication Action Plan 1997). Rural credit facilities in the country have been seen as one of the ways of initiating development and eradicating poverty particularly in rural areas.

Development in villages cannot be realised unless the people have had a changed way of life, which can be observed, at household level. It has been argued that development policies work out in favour of men because of failure to analyse and incorporate gender relations at the planning stage. It has been further argued that women and children are often under-resourced (Moser 1993). Women and especially rural women have been identified as the poorest of the poor. Deveruex (1997) highlighted the fact that the very poor lack funds to increase production and improve on their living standards.

In light of the above concern for poverty alleviation, recognition of credit is seen as one of the ways to enable the poor undertake income-generating activities in order to improve their well being. Government and non-government organizations have devoted considerable resources to the provision of credit targeted at the poor.

It was observed in studies done that very few women benefit from credit facilities and that the lending principle of financial institutions continued to be inclined to the possession of collateral which most women lacked. It was therefore realised that there was need to assist women, with emphasis on increasing their opportunities to earn money, especially those in the informal sector who form the majority (Kiwemba, 1998).

Musoke and Amajo (1989) recognised that women have the potential like men, entrepreneurship and experience, which are being inadequately tapped, and under utilized. Some organisations came up to meet the credit and savings needs of the poor women and men without collateral security, especially the small and micro-entrepreneurs (Holt and Ribe, 1991). Such organisations include The Women's Finance and Credit Scheme, which targets mainly women clients, poverty alleviation projects target 60% of women (Mukama, 1996). This is meant to achieve a gender balance. However this kind of theory of development presupposes that men will not interfere once women have obtained credit. Because of the existing gender relations within the households, which subordinate women, it is questionable whether men do not interfere with women's credit.

Some studies prepared for the micro-credit summit in February 1997 by non-government organisations questioned the degree to which micro-finance benefits women. This was in an attempt to alleviate poverty (Mayoux, 1997, Goetz and Sen Gupta, 1995) cited in a paper prepared for the UNRISD/UNDP/CDS Gender Workshop, power poverty and wellbeing indicators and strategies. Some argued that micro-finance programmes divert

the attention of women themselves from other effective strategies for empowerment (Ebdon, 1995) and resources from a more effective poverty alleviation (Rogaly, 1996) (ibid). These studies were carried out in India but they were also of significant importance to the Uganda context.

Rural credit facilities mentioned above also pre-suppose that it will bring about changes in the development for the rural poor equally, irrespective of gender. However it has been witnessed by various public and private organisations that they do not bring about gender balance. Therefore a major question that arises is whether accessing credit facilities to both men and women in rural households will bring about changes in gender relations.

The Government and Non-government Organisations also assume that men and women are at the same social economic level and that women like men have the ability to make decisions freely regarding the purchase of food, household supplies and equipment.

The question of men and women's access to credit raises the issue regarding the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations at household level. There was a need to establish who controls the economic activity and the use of the income generated, whether there are changes in gender roles given the power relations in the house-hold whereby traditionally, men have the power to control finances generated even if earned by women.



To date there is no independent study that has been done to verify the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations at household level. The study seeks to investigate the above.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Most of the studies on credit situation and problems in Uganda have tended to focus mainly on the major constraints leading to low participation of women in credit schemes in the formal credit institutions (Musoke and Amajo, 1989, Wavamuno, 1991); utilisation and repayment processes of the loans (Katerega 1997) as mentioned earlier. These studies did not investigate the influence credit facilities would have on gender relations which is an important aspect to the empowerment process. The study therefore sought to establish whether women's participation in rural credit schemes has an influence on gender relations at household level.

## **1.3 Research questions.**

The following research questions guided the study:

- (a) Does accessing credit facilities to women bring about changes in power relations?
- (b) Do women and men benefit equally from credit output?
- (c) Have women been empowered as result of utilising credit facility in terms of decision making, improved income, control of resources, property acquisition, economic independence compared to men?

#### **1.4 Study Objectives.**

The objectives of the study were:

1. To find out the effect micro-credit facilities have on gender relations at household level.
2. To establish whether women and men benefit equally from credit facilities?
3. To find out whether utilization of credit leads to women's empowerment.

#### **1.5 Scope of the study**

The study covered rural households in Pallisa district, in Pallisa county focusing on Kibale and Kabwangasi sub-counties. This is because a number of credit programmes (rural) both government and private sectors (NGOs) have targeted men and women clients. Programmes such as Poverty Alleviation Project (PAP) and Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme (NURP) in the office of the Prime Minister (OPM), NGOs like World Vision and Commercial Banks for example Co-operative Bank and Centenary Rural Development Bank (CERUDEB) have given out credit to the rural poor in form of loans. The study found out the influence credit facilities has on gender-relations at household level. The respondents were both men and women who obtained credit facilities from the poverty alleviation project.

#### **1.6 Significance of the study**

Researches have been done on the major constraints leading to the low level of participation of women in credit schemes (Musoke and Amajo, 1989, Wavamuno, 1991)

and on loan utilisation and repayment ( Katerega 1997). However, to date little attention has been given to the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations at house - hold level.

The findings of the study are to provide information to PAP and other credit institutions both formal and informal, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Affairs and non-government organizations at national and local level. The study will also be a basis for policy formulation towards the empowerment of the rural poor leading to an increase in opportunities for their participation in economic development. Lastly the study will add more data to the existing knowledge on women and men in relation to credit facilities, which will be useful to the department of Women and Gender Studies of Makerere University and other academicians.

### **1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS.**

**Empowerment-** is the process of improving people's welfare; increasing access to resources of production, raising consciousness and ultimately creating an enabling environment for them to control their destiny/resources and benefit therefrom. For the purpose of this study the attention is put on women.

**Non government organisations-** in this respect refers to women's voluntary organisations, whereby women have come together to ensure that their status changes for the better.

**Micro-credit facilities** - small loans given to small scale entrepreneurs.

**Women and men clients** – refers to women and men beneficiaries of PAP.

**Grassroots** - these are women and men in rural and periurban areas with low-socio-economic status.

**Gender relations** - refer to the relations between men and women as dictated by societal norms and values. These are socially constructed and are liable to change in the family and they determine who has access and control of resources and benefits.

**Gender roles** - These are different duties performed in the household and society at large by men and women.

**Credit facility**- Refers to an institution which provides loans and other services to entrepreneurs.

**Micro credit** - Refers to small loans given to small scale entrepreneurs.

**PAP Credit Officer** - Refers to PAP staff responsible for carrying out PAP activities such as supervision, training and visiting the women and men clients.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Access to credit and effects on Women

Although there is plenty of literature on credit facilities and gender, little scholarly work focusing on the influence of credit facilities on gender relationships at household level is available. The writings available are either too generalised or do not focus on how credit facilities influence gender relations at household level. Credit facilities have to a large extent enabled women beneficiaries and their families to improve their economic position . Increase in family incomes and women's increased access to an independent income have been registered and these seem to be crucial in promoting women's social and economic status and avails an opportunity for improvement in the quality of life. A study carried out by Mensink (1995) indicates that when financial services are provided well, they stimulate growth in women's income and increase their control over assets and resources. This study was relevant but there is need to find out whether the financial services extended to women in the form of credit facilities has an influence on gender relations at household level. In a report by Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC 1992) on banking in Malaysia, with the poor it was noted that increases in household incomes contributed to increases in savings which brought about increases in property .

With the increased savings, in some cases, a woman is enabled to acquire assets that are clearly hers. Women in Bangladesh assisted by the Grameen Bank were able to accumulate bank deposits for the first time in their lives and invested it in other businesses. (Wheat, 1997). Hillhorst and Oppennoth, (1992) noted that most female entrepreneurs appear to select a lateral growth pattern that increase in number rather than the size of the enterprises in which they are engaged in. Micro-credit can improve the incomes of poor people and for a proportion of cases move the incomes of poor households above official poverty lines, since women have been able to raise savings. Therefore it is necessary to find out whether women gain control of their earnings and participate in allocation of the income and also establish how they spend their savings. Lycette (1984) laboured to categorise some of the factors that limit women's accessibility to credit under supply and demand.

According to Lycette, most women in developing countries require and can handle only small amounts of credit, due to their position in the economy. Whilst this scholar ably explains such factors, she does not elaborate on how the little credit acquired influences decision making in the household. Some studies have shown that micro-credit can improve the incomes of poor people and for a proportion of cases move the incomes of poor households above official poverty lines. Micro-credit and small scale enterprises offer one of the most potent means of eradicating poverty in Uganda through increased income (Poverty Eradication Action Plan 1997). The issues are whether women gain control of their own earnings.

## 2.2 Utilisation of Credit and Effect on Women

Studies have shown that men and women spend their incomes in different ways. Women use their income to meet the basic needs of their families such as food, health care, education and clothing, while men devote a greater percentage of their income on non-essential goods (Karl, 1995). Thus women's ability to participate in household decision-making has an effect on the well being of the entire family. Closely connected to the above, the resource allocation process within the households reflects the status, bargaining power and options of the parties concerned which in turn are largely a function of control over assets and income.

Mensink (1995) also observed that women, especially in Africa, often have no control over their own productive and reproductive work. He noted that women's inferior economic position and financial dependency on male partner makes them lack control over the financial resources in the home. This brings out the issue of whether direct financial intervention at household level would benefit women since household members may not share the same economic interest.

World Bank study (1993), illustrates that women's contribution to the productive process is not matched by their control over the use of the resource generated. Men often determine the broad allocation of the household's income regardless of who has actually earned it. Women in Development studies reveal that increases in farm income is appropriated by men who put it to uses that do not benefit women. This has resulted in some programmes failing to achieve positive results for women. The lack of autonomy

means that most women are not leading promoters of their projects, they are co-partners with their husbands who in most cases control the projects. Musoke and Amajo (1989) in their study reported cases where some husband diverted funds from the projects. Kakitahi (1993) points out that the production and distribution of resources, therefore, carry potential for conflict, more especially when it comes to deciding on use of realised produce and capital. Women in such a situation find themselves in a subordinate relationship because of cultural values that deny ownership rights, control and disposal of resources.

Increasingly, there are indications that as families become involved in development, the men showing contempt for women and a more directly hostile and oppressive attitude. When women gain control over the resources, there is a resulting change in the relationship between men and women. Mensink (1995) noted that money relates to power and any financial injection given to women would have an influence on the balance of power between men and women thus there is need to address power and control at household level.

Studies carried out by the Ministry of Women in Development Youth and culture on "women's informal credit" (1994) reported that several members who acquired credit facilities scored important achievements such as buying a plot, oxen and goats, starting up poultry and recapitalising their own businesses. Much as they attained the above which were important achievements, it is doubtful whether these benefits were equally obtained between the women and men.



### 2.3 Constraints Faced in the Process of Acquisition of Credit Facilities

Women, just like men face various constraints in acquiring credit but women are at a more disadvantaged position compared to men. A number of studies have pointed out the constraints that women face in accessing credit. Musoke and Amajo (1989) point out that husbands forbid their wives to get loans for fear of losing their capital assets in case of default. Tibikoma (1993) states that most women have to seek permission from their husbands before engaging in any form of informal borrowing. Whereas their work contribute a lot to the understanding of obstacles that women face in accessing credit, there is need to go further and analyse the influence of credit facilities on the bargaining power of women at household level since they have been able to access credit. This would highlight policy implications of accessing credit facilities to women and men in rural areas. The above situation is linked to the socio-cultural dynamics in society by which women are considered to be subordinate to men in an African cultural setting (UN economic commission, undated). The subordination subjects them to the whims of and caprices of their husbands and sometimes to those of their brothers. In such a situation women are seen to be playing a minor role (ibid).

Further more, most women grow up in situations where decisions are made by men. Although some women make decisions behind scenes and greatly influence decision-making, the fact remains, that women's decision-making power and authority are limited by societies within which they operate. If one looks at the number of women in organised decision making settings be it at tribal or political (members of parliament/ministers civil service and private organisation (Banks) levels, one finds that women are very few at the

decision-making level. This is a reality of women's cultural situation. Lycette (1984), Holt and Ribe (1991) all agreed that poor people's access to formal credit has been constrained by collateral requirements, high borrower's transaction costs, sophisticated procedures, socio-cultural barriers and the nature of their work. These constraints are certainly worse for women than men. In contrast to the above Katerega (1997) found that having collateral was not a major requirement of obtaining the credit facilities as credit institutions were aware the credit was difficult for the poor to acquire due to lack of collateral. They had taken a decision to underplay the importance of collateral. Whereas this was vital as a method of alleviation of poverty among the rural poor it is doubted whether consideration of the utilisation of credit facilities could lead to women's empowerment at household level and taken as a serious issue for policy.

Devereux S and Pares H. (1990) noted that poverty and illiteracy present serious obstacles to many rural borrowers who hope to obtain formal sector credit. Being a woman adds to those difficulties. Women are frequently denied bank credit altogether reflecting the chauvinism in the assumption that men control the financial decisions of women as mentioned earlier. Although he does not mention gender relations in as far as credit acquisition is concerned, Devereux's work is very relevant to this study. In his work he further argues that even if women are in principle permitted to take on loans from Banks, other forms of discrimination make it more difficult for them to do so than men, often for example application forms have to be signed by the women's husbands so that they are unable to take any financial decision without the consent of their husbands.

Gangopadhyay and Sengupta (1987) and Shapiro and Maynes( 1990) held that collateral requirements are the major stumbling blocks for most business women. Small business owners have virtually no collateral, women might own a large percentage of business assets world wide but husbands or families control them and banks in low developed countries often require 200-300% collateral on loan. Lack of property militates against the women's efforts to undertake development projects in their villages and towns (Nyerere,1992). Lycette(1984) and Galukande(1992) highlighted that women are still required to obtain permission to borrow or show their spouses pay-slips or if they are unmarried, evidence of a financial guarantee from their father while men are not. These requirements not only add to the transaction costs of borrowing but represent major obstacles for the large and growing numbers of women who are widowed, divorced or single heads of households, whose husbands have migrated in search of employment. Although discrimination in lending is illegal in many cities, women's access to credit is in fact severely limited and therefore there is need to empower them through credit utilisation.

Recent studies carried out in Zambia (IFAD/FAO/FARMESA, 1998) indicate that agricultural credit is in crisis. The Government institutions that used to be involved in it folded or suspended their activities and Government policy is now to privatise credit to farmers. In Zambia this is operating in some outgrowers schemes where the company contracting to buy produce provides credit for inputs. However, more generalised credit is not available to women or men at present. The Ministry of Agriculture staff concerned with women and the youth programmes stated the opinion that future credit schemes

should be based on the household and not on women or men and that should be properly explained to people from the beginning and accompanied by extension training and monitoring. Where as these studies were very important they did not consider the influence it would have on power relations at household level. It follows from the studies reviewed that availability of credit has a bearing on the lives of women, their families and communities.

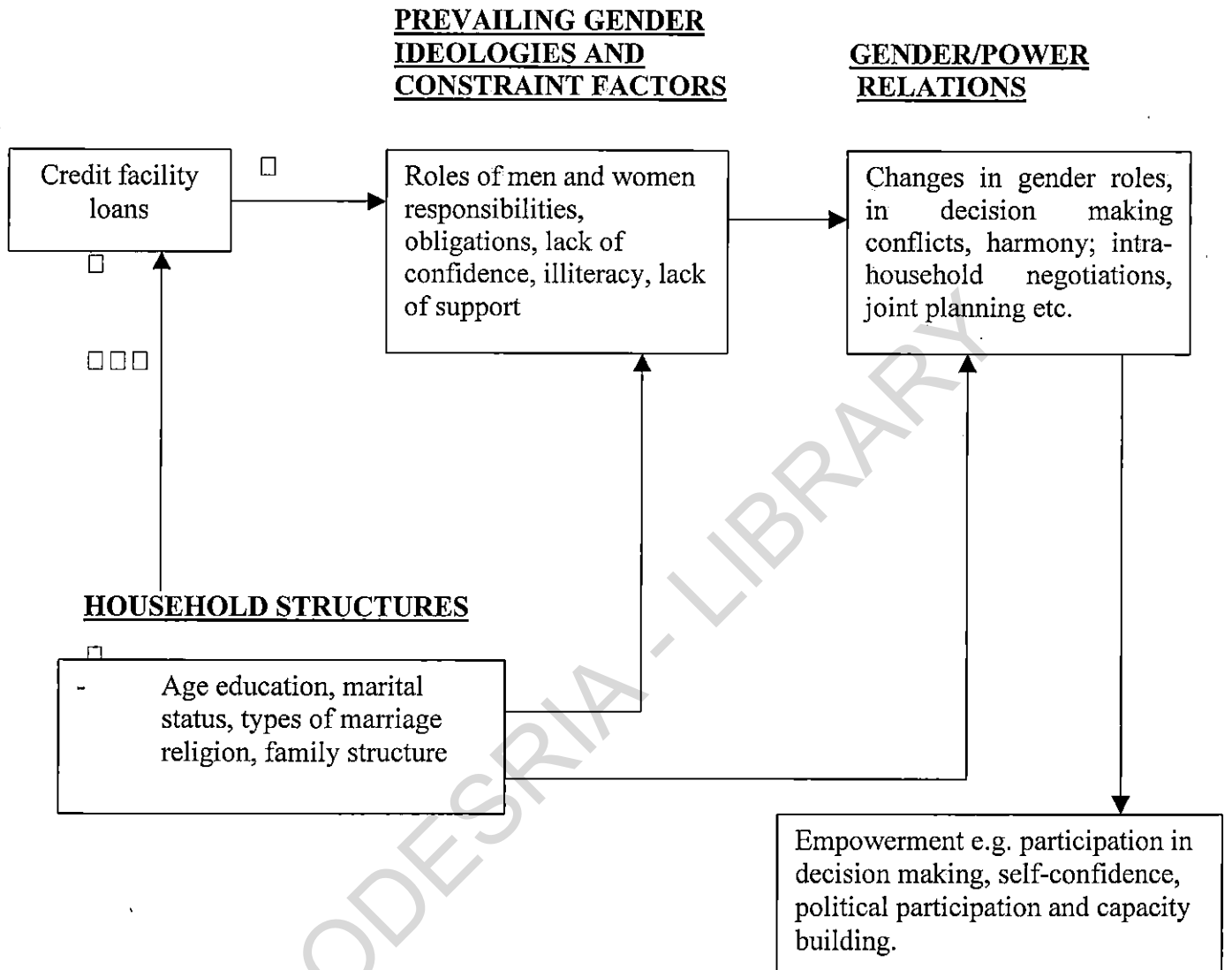
There is need to find out how the women and men beneficiaries of the Poverty Alleviation Project have been empowered in terms of decision making, control over their own earning, acquisition of knowledge and skills. There is also need to find out how their families have been affected as a result of the credit facility, whether there has been change in gender roles, increase in bargaining power of women, change in leadership of women as well as men, conflicts, harmony, intrahousehold negotiations and joint planning and problems experienced as a result of the facility .

#### **2.4 Conceptual Frame Work**

The study is based on the conceptualisation that when men and women have access to credit facilities, it may have an influence on gender relations on men and women within the household. There are constraining factors and prevailing gender ideologies, which may hinder the realisation of expected outcomes, women and men may benefit differently from accessing credit. This may limit economic empowerment. The prevailing gender ideologies as pointed out by scholars for example Rhyne E and Otero M. (1990) include roles of men and women, responsibilities, obligations and different power relations

between women and men. The fact that gender roles are socially ascribed where women are assigned to do reproductive work but credit is given to individuals who do both productive work and reproductive work which leads to economic empowerment of men and women. Constraining factors include gender roles, lack of support, lack of collateral and illiteracy which can influence the outcome of the utilisation of credit facilities negatively. Secondly these factors have an influence on gender relations which include changes in gender roles, decision making, conflicts, harmony, intra-household negotiations and joint planning which may lead to varying degrees of empowerment. The household structure at the same time has a bearing on gender relations, which may also lead to varying degrees of empowerment. However, when these constraining factors are overcome then more positive results can be achieved through proper utilisation of credit hence economic empowerment of both genders.

The conceptual framework is articulated in the following figure 1.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAPTER.**

This Section describes the methodology that was used in the study, it presents the research design, describes the area of the study and sample selection. it also presents data collection analysis procedures that were used and the limitations of the study.

#### **3.2 Research Design.**

The research design which was used in this study was descriptive and analytical where both qualitative and quantitative methods were utilised. The study focused on PAP men and women clients who obtained credit facilities. Information about the influence of rural credit facilities on gender relations was collected using qualitative methods and additional information was obtained from discussions and interviews.

#### **3.3 Area of Study.**

The study was carried out in Pallisa District, which is located in the Eastern Region of Uganda, about 190 Kilometres Northeast of Kampala. Pallisa District has a population of 357,656 people of whom 49 percent are male and 51 percent female. Bagwere and Itesots are the dominant ethnic groups. Pallisa District was purposely selected because it is among the remote areas with abject poverty, where PAP has given loans to both men and women clients in order to alleviate poverty in the area. Secondly, the language spoken is easily understandable by the Researcher. The study covered both men and women

clients in the sub-counties of Kibale and Kabwangansi in Pallisa district. The programme has been operating in the above-mentioned areas long enough to have effects which can be studied. Therefore, the Researcher was able to get a wide range of respondents with varying socio-economic backgrounds and was able to get the information concerning the influence of micro-credit facilities on gender relations at household level required from the area. Kibale and Kabwangansi sub-counties have similar characteristics. They are all poverty stricken areas. These counties have an extensive network of main and feeder roads. They have trading centres for women and men's produce. These act as an incentive for the women and men to use credit on income generating activities mentioned in chapter four. At the time the study was carried out a highly lucrative economic activity popularly known as boda boda had drawn in many young men from rural households to the main road junctions. Boda boda is a form of transport by motor cycles and bicycles which is popularly used in feeder roads where public transport by buses is not frequent. This further depletes the rural areas of active labour force leaving all laborious work to women and children which may affect the productivity of women's projects. The two sub-counties have both private and government schools including training institutions. However the cost of education in secondary schools is prohibitive to most parents in the area under study. Therefore most children sent to school stop at primary level yet these schools do not offer quality education. This may play a role in the general low levels of education attained by women.



### 3.4 Study Population.

The targeted population under study included PAP clients (both men and women). The study also considered the promoters of PAP and the key informants who were presumed to have had relevant information on women and men's activities in the area.

### 3.5 Sampling.

To minimise distance to be travelled/walked during the research two sub-counties were selected from 22 sub-counties in the district. The area had PAP programmes within it. A purposive-random sampling method was used. The sub-counties have medium and lower economic activities.

#### 3.5.1 Sample Size.

Structured interviews were administered to 30 respondents from each sub-county, making a total of 60 respondents. The focus group discussions comprised of two separate groups of clients of which were 10 women and 10 men from each sub-county making a total of 40. The key informants were five comprising three PAP officials and two other PAP staff known as intermediaries.

#### 3.5.2 Sample Structure.

Type of respondents	Number
Men and women clients	60
Key informants	5
Focus Groups of Discussion (2 groups of 10 persons each from the selected sub-counties)	40

### **3.6 Data Collection.**

Data was collected through interviews and discussions that were based on questionnaires. These were supplemented by informal conversations that were held with key informants, who were women and men, local leaders and the PAP credit officers. More information was generated from focus group discussions that were based in the two sub-counties. The researcher acted as a facilitator during the group discussions.

Qualitative technique was used to collect data, in-depth interviews, whilst focus group discussions were mainly to give deeper insights into the study meant to supplement quantitative data. Secondary data included available documents, official records and reports at PAP offices. Quantitative techniques used involved the use of standard questionnaires which were pre-coded, pre-tested and changes made. Each questionnaire was checked every day for accuracy and completeness. The sources of data used were a structured questionnaire, written documents and official records from PAP which were used for gathering quantifiable data from individual respondents.

#### **3.6.1 Procedure:**

The researcher got an introductory letter from Makerere University, which was presented, to the project co-ordinator of Pallisa who introduced her to the staff and the respective sub-county promoters. PAP promoters assisted in obtaining the Sampling Frame. It consisted of a list of names of men and women clients in their respective groups in the two sub counties in the district, identification of those groups who received credit from

the start of the project from the three selected sub-counties was made. A list of beneficiaries was made from each sub-county.

The project co-ordinator of PAP in Pallisa district introduced the researcher to the credit intermediary officers in charge of the various women and men groups in the district. The researcher and the officers in charge visited the respondents during their free time after coming from their gardens. The intermediary officers introduced the researcher to the clients and was given 3-5 minutes to brief the respondents about the research. Respondents were randomly selected in their respective groups. The researcher consulted with the intermediary officers, chairpersons of the groups and it was agreed that interviews be carried out after their day's work in the afternoon since this was their most convenient time. Appointments were made to interview some respondents in their homes and places of work according to their convenience.

### **3.7 Data processing and analysis.**

#### **3.7.1 Qualitative Analysis.**

Field notes were written and work was edited at the end of each working day to ensure accuracy in recording and consistency in information given by respondents. Themes were developed and in coding categories, using quotations and identifying literature which was used to discuss findings. The participatory qualitative method was used because it helped to capture more in-depth information. It gave both genders a platform to air out their views and problems.

### **3.7.2 Quantitative Data Analysis.**

Structured questionnaires were administered, pre-coded, pre-tested, and changes were made. Each questionnaire was checked every day for accuracy and completeness. Analysis was done using descriptive frequency and percentages for socio-demographic characteristics like age, level of education, marital status etc. cross tabulations were used. Quantitative method was chosen because it identified the numerical aspect of phenomena being studied and it established the cause and effect relationships among the variables. In other words, it showed the number of responses to a particular question thus making conclusions about the affected group or the beneficiaries thus giving tangible evidence of the findings.

### **3.8 Limitations of the Study.**

The greatest limitation to the study was the financial resources available for the research. Because of the limited funds, it was not easy to interview all the people who were associated with the scheme, therefore the researcher randomly sampled a stated number of respondents. The second limitation was the short time allowed for the research, coupled with difficulty in finding the right time to interview the clients. Since most of them were farmers, businesswomen and men, it was difficult to meet the clients at the Researcher's convenience. This required the researcher to call on some clients more than once before interviewing them. This delayed the research work further.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS.

#### 4.1 Introduction.

The study sought to examine the influence of micro-credit facilities on gender-relations at household level using a case study of Kibale and Kabwangansi Sub-counties in Pallisa District. This chapter presents the findings of the study. The findings of both qualitative and quantitative data supplement each other in answering the research questions. The analysis and discussion of the findings are presented concurrently and comparison is made between proportions of males and females as a way of enabling proper discussion of gender differentials.

The analysis is based on the research objectives and research questions, which are presented in chapter one. The chapter is divided into two sections. Section one presents socio- economic characteristics of the respondents by gender. Section two presents benefits the clients have obtained as a result of utilization of credit facilities and its influence on gender relations and poverty at household level. Benefits accrued from the credit output were in terms of ownership of property, financial, and welfare but all these have influence on gender relations.

## 4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of respondents.

In order to create a profile of the types of people that access micro-credit, socio-economic characteristics of respondents were looked at noting any key differences between women and men clients of PAP

### 4.2.1 Age of respondents.

Age was considered important because it is the project policy that those who access the credit are above 18 years of age and below 70 years.

**Table 4.1: Age of respondents.**

Age group	Male Frequency	Percentage	Female Frequency	Percentage
20-30	9	35	18	53
31-40	9	35	13	38
41-50	5	20	1	3
50+	3	12	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

Of all the 34 female respondents interviewed 53% were between 20-30 years old whereas males in the same age group were 35%. As explained earlier the project targets more women than men. The respondents were adults ranging from 20-64 years of age as shown in the table above. The findings show that the highest percentage of clients who obtained credit were between 20-40 years old. This could be attributed to the fact that elderly people were not able to engage in productive occupations to service the loans. The younger women and men clients had more family responsibilities, capital resources and were more exposed to opportunities for investment in income generating activities as stated by one of the key informants from PAP.

He said that,

**“We gave loans to middle aged and the youths because during our survey before loan disbursement we found out that they were more exposed to opportunities for investment in income generating activities”**

#### **4.2.2 Marital status of the respondents:**

Marital status was included so as to indicate the category of respondents that were accessing credit because it was closely related to the disadvantages women face, in the household, which influence their capacity for empowerment.

**TABLE 4.2: Marital status of respondents.**

	<b>Marital status.</b>	<b>Male Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>Female Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1.	Married	25	96	30	88
2.	Single	1	4	2	6
3.	Widower/widow	-	-	1	3
4.	Separated	-	-	1	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

Using the random sampling method of data collection, of the population interviewed, 96% of the 26 male respondents who obtained credit facilities were all married and 4% were single. Of the 34 women who got credit 88percent were married and 6% single, 3% widows and 3% separated. However more married women than men obtained credit. This is because as explained earlier, the project's (PAP's) target is to avail credit facilities to more women than men as they are the most disadvantaged in terms of acquisition of economic resources hence, poverty is much more physically and economically conspicuous in women than men. Though the findings show that many of the women

interviewed were married, the marriage status may not be recognised by the types of marriage according to the laws of Uganda as many of these were cohabiting.

#### 4.2.3 Level of Education.

Level of education was considered important because it is a precondition for any development activity as it exposes individuals to different kind of environment and therefore a key determinant of male and female status in society

**Table. 4.3: Respondents' Level of Education**

Educational level.	Male Frequency	Percentage	Female Frequency	Percentage
1.Never attended school.	-	-	2	6
2.Lower primary	3	12	4	12
3. Upper primary	15	58	11	32
4. Secondary	6	23	12	36
5.Tertiary	2	8	4	12
6. University	-	-	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

Among the 34 female respondents interviewed 6% never went to school, 12% reached lower primary (p1-p4), 32% attained upper primary level, 36% (S1-S6) and 12% tertiary while 2.9% went up to university level. By contrast, all male respondents went to school, 12% studied up to lower primary, 58% attained upper primary while 23% attained s1-s6 level, 8% reached tertiary institution though non attained university education. The results show that women need higher education than males to access credit and yet evidence shows that education levels of women are usually lower than that of men. The uneducated females and males hardly access credit. On the other hand credit offered does not attract highly educated people. Therefore, it should be noted that educational



attainment was an important prerequisite for an individual to obtain credit. As a result, many women are automatically left out. Thus it was not the borrower's ability to manage and utilize the credit but the level of the basic education they have by sex. Although two of the respondents who had never gone to school had been given loans, they were fewer. The respondent's education and literacy levels of influences individual's way of life and could have an influence on the power status, gender-roles and level of perception.

#### 4.2 .4 Occupation of the respondents.

The occupation of the study population according to their sexes is shown in the table 4.4. From the table it is shown that majority of loan holders were semi-illiterate unemployed and this was because the project policy sought to address the poor economic situation of the rural poor.

Peasant farming was observed as the major occupation of the study population. Even those with occupations like businesses, civil servants reported that they also had farms for cultivation to supplement their earnings.

**Table 4.4 : Occupations of the Respondents.**

Occupation	Male frequency	Percentage	Female frequency	Percentage
1.Peasant farmer	19	73	22	64
2.Civil servant	3	12	1	3
3.Business	4	16	10	30
4.others	-	-	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The table 4.1.4 shows that more women (30%) are engaged in business trade than men 16% while 12% of men have salaried employment (civil servants) compared to women (3%). This difference was attributed to the fact that more women were now increasingly becoming economically independent and were using credit accessibility to break the traditional socio-economic bonds that used to confine women to mainly household chores. Secondly, they had been excluded from formal employment and had resorted to the informal sector. The percentage of women who were peasant farmers was 64% and other occupation was around 3%.

Based on the findings, the proportion of female peasant farmers was significantly higher than that of male business traders. This could be attributed to the fact that the gender division of labour in the area entailed that women be responsible for providing food to the household. Information in FGDS revealed that it was a woman's duty to ensure that food was served in the home and it was a man's duty to ensure the availability of household income for use.

Furthermore the findings indicated that majority of the women were in the informal sector, where they derived their employment opportunities and source of livelihood. This agrees with several other studies like Mensink (1995), Devereaux and Pares (1990). Women as salaried earners occupied positions of nurses, primary teachers, and secretaries while the men occupied positions of drivers, accountants and officers.

The fact that more women in the study area were appearing in the business trade was a sign of economic empowerment. They were becoming economically empowered and moving away from peasant farming towards higher social and economic revenue earnings thus enhancing their social status. Secondly they are excluded from formal employment and have resorted to informal sector.

#### 4.2.5 Household Type.

Findings from qualitative data indicated that heading a household was considered important because it determined the access to and control of available resources like credit. The survey followed up this aspect with the following findings.

**Table 4.5: Household type.**

Type of household	Frequency	Percentage
Female headed	10	16
Male headed	50	84
Total	60	100

Of the households visited 84% were headed by males and 16% by females. It was observed that even in some households where husbands worked in city centers and never stayed at home, they were still considered by their wives as heads of the households. This could be attributed to the fact that men are assumed to be the heads of the household in patriarchal societies and households in the study area inclusive. Categories of female-headed households included women who have never married, and widows.

#### 4.2.6 Size and Composition of Household by Gender.

The investigation into the size and composition of the household was to establish whether the credit was used on the intended micro-project, or was used on other expenses such as medical bills, school fees and clothing. The analysis showed that credit to a household was used to finance a wide range of activities including the micro project mentioned. This diversion of credit to other activities sometimes yielded negative results, as the intended micro project was eventually under-funded. However, in some instances it helped relieve pressure from the client's other urgent budgeting constraints in a household business. Where this was so, repayment was not a problem.

**Table 4.6: Household size**

Family size	Female frequency	Percentage	Male frequency	Percentage
0-5	6	18	3	12
6-10	19	56	11	46
11-15	5	15	7	27
16+	4	12	3	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

Of all the 60 respondents interviewed 18% of the 34 female and 12% of the 26 male respondents had between 0-5 people living in the household while 56% of the female and 46% of the male respondents had between 6-10 people. About 15% of the female and 27% of the male had between 11-15 people in the household. The remaining percentage of 12% female and 15% of male had 16 people and above.

Women had more people living in their household than the men, which contributed to the level of poverty. Therefore, credit was looked at as an additional tool to help the respondents improve their welfare as stated by respondents in the focus group discussion.

#### 4.3 Benefits from credit and its influence on gender relations at household level.

In order to find out what benefits the respondents obtained after loan utilization, they were asked to mention what activities they were carrying out. The activities mentioned were cattle trading, selling Veterinary drugs and feeds, purchase of retail stock, Hiring out land for crop farming and brick laying, poultry, buying crop production, piggery keeping, operation of restaurants and clinics. This has given the clients an added source of income, which has supplemented their dependence on subsistence agriculture. It was discovered that with the exception of cattle trading, both men and women dealt in similar activities.

The respondents were requested to reveal what amount of loan each individual received, and majority of the respondents received from (10,000-250,000) Shs. as shown in the table below.

**Table 4.7: Amount of loans obtained by the borrowers.**

Amount in Shs.	Male Frequency	Percentage	Female Frequency	Percentage
10,000-250,000	5	19	20	59
260,000-490,000	10	38	5	15
500,000-750,000	8	39	6	18
760,000	3	12	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The table above indicates that majority of the male respondents obtained loans ranging from 260,000-490,000 while for women it was from 0-250,000. Fewer women got between 760,000 - 750,000 as compared to men. The reason was that they applied for small loans. It was said by one of the project administrators that there was no discrimination between men and women in loan disbursement each individual was given the amount he/she applied for. Findings from FGD revealed that men, unlike women, opted to borrow larger amounts of money because their projects, though similar in nature, were generally bigger than those of women.

Micro-credit facilities have benefited both women and men in the two study areas of Kibale and Kabwangansi sub-counties in social, economic and political spheres and have had an influence on power relations and poverty. The respondents were asked to reveal what benefits they obtained after loan utilisation and the findings are indicated in the following table:

**Table 4.8: Benefits obtained from credit.**

Benefits	Female frequency	Percentage	Male Frequency	Percentage
Increased income	4	12	5	19
Balanced diet	3	9	2	8
Acquired household property	8	6	4	15
Expansion of Agriculture	2	24	1	4
Opened a retail shop	1	3	2	8
Nil	4	12	1	4
Others	12	35	10	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings reveal that 4 of the 34 female respondents and 5 of the 26 male respondents who obtained the loan were able to increase household income. The table also shows that

3 of the 34 women respondents and 2 of the 26 men respondents said there was an improvement in the diets of their families. Also 8 of the 26 men and 4 of the 34 women were able to buy household property, which included chairs, bedding and household utensils. Only 2 men and 1 woman of the 34 respondents managed to open retail shops, 12 of the 34 women respondents and 10 of the 26 male respondents interviewed by questionnaire had other benefits which included education of their children, paying taxes.

Furthermore, the female respondents who used the loan to expand agricultural micro-projects were 2 while only 1 of the men used it. From the findings, 4 of the 34 women and 1 man interviewed by questionnaire did not get any benefits. The reasons being that drought led to low yields in addition to the poor market. According to the findings the project did not take into account the limiting factors which could enable the clients benefit.

Other respondents had different reasons. For example one woman said that the moment she obtained the loan, she fell sick and therefore used the loan for medical expenses and other domestic expenses. This meant that the loan was not used for the economic purpose for which it was obtained. The economic situation of such families, which obtained the credit facility but diverted it, declined further and worsened the situation in their households. This is because they had to pay back the principal loan amount and accrued interest and yet they had not invested it in anything and obtained no benefits. The husband had to sell household assets and this created conflicts. In such a home credit only brought poverty.

According to the wife whenever she requested her husband to buy either salt or sugar for the family, he would just insult her because of the assets he sold and in most cases a quarrel erupted which always led to a fight. By the time the researcher interviewed this woman, she was planning to lead an independent life. The findings reveal that slightly more men than women were able to increase their household income. This, according to the research findings from the FGD, is because women spent most of their income on purchasing food and taking care of their children. In addition some women had their money taken away by men. The unfavorable power relations in the community studied made it difficult for some women to control resources as revealed by one female respondent, "my husband used half of the money I had saved to marry another woman therefore my income remained insufficient." The findings show that exploitation of women is one of the manifestations of patriarchy, which have not been successfully challenged by women and sometimes perpetuated by the women themselves.

In spite of some negative experiences expressed, increased income helped both male and female respondents to improve their standards of living and that of their families. Individual female respondents complained of the burden of meeting education, health, and nutritional needs of their children and that of other family members. These findings concurred with those of a UN study (UNO 1998), which stated that once low-income women increased their income and assets, they used these new earnings to improve the education, health and nutrition of their families. They complained of their husbands not being cooperative in meeting the above needs. Men generally had a greater income than



women did. This could be attributed to the fact that women tend to spend their money buying household utensils while some men spend their money on drinking alcohol. Although increase in income applied to both sexes, findings from the male and female FGD revealed that female headed- households tended to be poorer than the male headed households as observed from the kind of structures (houses) they were staying in. Male-headed households in most cases had permanent structures as compared to female-headed households that had temporary structures.

From the findings it is evident that more women than men reported issues concerning improved diets of their families. This is because women tend to be the principle providers of food in the household and therefore responsible for the nutritional status of the family as dictated by cultural norms. As a 45-year-old man said a woman's work is to take care of the young and provide food. The findings also reveal that 12 of the 34 women had other benefits, which included paying taxes for their husbands, school fees, drinking milk by family members as well as eating eggs. For example the broken eggs which could not be sold by poultry keepers were consumed in their homes thereby improving their family household nutritional standards. On the other hand 10 of the 26 men had other benefits which included clothing themselves, starting poultry project and paying graduated tax for themselves.

The fact that some female beneficiaries have been able to afford to pay school fees, buy house hold utensils, pay taxes including graduated taxes for their husbands and buy bicycles shows that there has been a major contribution to the socio-cultural well-being

of families studied. Meanwhile for a good number of men the benefits they obtained enabled them to meet household obligations, which included medical bills and school fees as well as clothing. These benefits have therefore to some extent prepared the people in the study area for further intervention in other areas of development.

#### 4.3.1 Change in the Standard of Living.

In order to find out whether there were changes in standards of living in terms of nutritional status, welfare and improved income the respondents were interviewed using a questionnaire interview and the following data was obtained.

**Table 4.9: Change in Standard of Living**

Changes in standards of living	Female frequency	Percentage	Male Frequency	Percentage
Nil	3	8.8	1	3.8
Nutritional status improved	14	41.2	13	50
Welfare	7	20.6	5	19.2
Income improved	10	29.4	7	26.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

Of all the 60 respondents, 10 of 34 women and 7 of the 26 men interviewed said their income improved while 7 of 34 women and 5 of 26 men said the welfare of the family improved. 14 of the 34 women and 13 of 26 men reported that the nutritional status of their families improved. However another 3 of 34 women and 1 of the 26 men did not experience any change in living standard.

The findings reveal that all but three women and one man did not realize improvements in their standards of living. In the male FGD, it was revealed that the veterans who had received loans in 1994 benefited from the project and managed to put up permanent

houses as compared to mud-grass thatched houses they hitherto had. It was also revealed that they could now afford to send their children to school. As to how this affected their household relations, the respondents said they lived in harmony with their spouses. This could be attributed to the fact that people with good living conditions tend to have fewer problems in their families.

In the female FGD, the most common reply from the women respondents was that they could now cater for their needs, for example purchase of essential commodities like sugar, soap and salt. But most important of all, they could afford to pay school fees for their children. They could also buy Vaseline and clothing, for themselves, which is an indication of economic enhancement, independence and empowerment as a result of credit from PAP. They further said they could not afford the above before the loans.

Nonetheless there have also been negative consequences as a result of credit utilization. For example, the woman who opened a retail shop came into conflict with her husband. At first, her husband used to be very supportive and happy when her project was still in the trading center in Kabwangasi. Conflict started when she moved her retail shop out to the urban center in Pallisa town in search of a better market. She established herself successfully and was exposed to both local and external markets. At the time the researcher interviewed this individual woman, she had separated from her husband within the household. The husband made it clear to her that he did not want her business far away from home. She went ahead with her plans and this resulted in conflict. From her narration, it can be concluded that the husband felt threatened that the woman would

challenge his position, as head of the household. He would feel insecure if the woman remained in the public sphere, which for him is culturally unacceptable. The husband ended up taking up another wife.

In another case, a woman in Kibale sub-county obtained a loan as an individual in a group. Her husband obtained all the money by force and used it in his own business. During the recovery of the loan by PAP, the woman reported that her husband had taken all the money and never wanted the woman to reveal this. Recovering the loan became a very big problem because the husband had used all the money. According to this woman the recovery task force exposed her husband to local authorities who pressed him to pay back the loan. They impounded his animals, detained him and gave him a short time to pay the loan. After paying the loan, he put the blame on his wife and went to the extent of divorcing her. This could be attributed to the societal norms that all wealth in the house belongs to men and women should have no control over them.

In another case a male respondent obtained a loan of three million shillings to invest in business. Instead he bought an air ticket to Japan for business. He had hardly stayed there for three days than he was deported. After a period of three months the recovery task force wanted him to pay back the loan. He sold land belonging to his wife in order to begin paying back the loan. By the time the researcher interviewed this respondent, his wife had sued him in court for selling her property without her agreement.

### 4.3.2 Capacity Building of the Clients.

Capacity building pertains to an individual's or group's actual and perceived capabilities to take action. Personal initiatives or individual efforts are important aspects of empowerment. Credit builds the capacity of the clients at an individual or group level. It was important to establish the extent to which women and men PAP loan clients have been empowered as far as training skills are concerned at an individual level and group level. The respondents were asked to reveal the training skills they acquired from PAP loan in the study area. These are indicated in the table 4.1.14.

**Table 4.10: Skills Acquired**

Skills	Male frequency.	Percentage	Female Frequency.	Percentage
1. Banking	4	15	2	6
2. Record keeping and Accounting	8	31	11	32
3. Project management	3	12	7	21
4. Proper utilization of the loan	8	31	9	27
5. Others	3	12	3	9
None	-		1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings show that 4 of 26 men (15%) and 2 of the 34 women (6%) interviewed by questionnaire acquired the skill of banking. Meanwhile 8 men of 26 and 11 women of the 34 interviewed acquired recording keeping and accounting, while 7 women of the 34 and 3 men of the 26 interviewed obtained project management skills.

The other 8 (27%) of the women and 9 of the women interviewed acquired proper loan utilization skills, 3 of the 34 women and 3 of the 26 men interviewed acquired other skills which include book-keeping, group management, and socialization skills. The findings

reveal that the respondents acquired new skills and registered improvement in the already existing ones. This was reported as realized through the training received in various fields, exposure and interaction in their respective groups.

Some individual respondents reported having acquired knowledge and skills in business planning, communication and public speaking. Most male and female respondents showed that they had learnt proper budgeting whereas before they used to spend whatever money they received.

Further individual and FGD reports revealed that the training skills and knowledge acquired for the type of projects they undertook helped them in managing their micro-projects competently. In addition the same group said that project management training provided managerial competence required for performing day to-day entrepreneurial activities.

Although the majority of the male and female respondents reported having received skills through training 88% (52), others - (12%) said that they gained skills through exposure visits. The respondents said that they considered access to credit an added benefit, on top of training and improvements of their families' well being. This is another important observation given the fact that in some areas beneficiaries take access to credit for granted. For example according to the documentation from PAP (1994) Luwero area loans are perceived as compensation for the suffering they under went during the war.

From the findings it can be deduced that capacity building played a big role in empowering the respondents as far as training skills and knowledge of credit utilization were concerned. Participatory data from the female respondents indicated that some of the training skills they obtained brought about conflicts in their homes. An example is the skill of budgeting and banking. When some women acquired these skills they began running their own accounts without the help of their husbands. Conflicts arose when their husbands demanded to know how much money they owned on their accounts because these women refused to reveal and what followed was that their husband denied them help in meeting household obligations. This remained a constraining factor to the empowerment process. To some women there was co-operation as result of acquisition of these skills as they reported having no problem with their husbands as far as running their accounts were concerned.

In the male FGD, the men said that they have no problem with their spouses since they had full control over their finances. Thus these skills promoted the well being of their relations in the households. However men unlike women had already some initial skills as observed by the researcher during individual interviews.

#### **4.3.3 Economic solidarity groups**

These are groups formed by PAP clients in order to obtain loans and they also act as security for the beneficiaries. Solidarity groups came into existence because the rural poor ( beneficiaries) could not afford collateral which included land titles, gold and other tangible and portable assets that could easily be transformed into cash. In this case

economic solidarity groups were useful as mechanisms of accessing credit. The respondents were asked whether they belonged to any economic group. The findings were as follows:

**Table 4.11: Economic solidarity groups**

Economic Solidarity groups	Female frequency.	Female Percentage	Male Frequency.	Male Percentage
1. Bagwere Twegaite	7	21	2	8
2. Abiyai Women group	3	9	1	4
3. Kampolampola	7	21	2	8
4. Individuals	17	50	21	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings indicate that 21% (7) of the female and 8% (2) of the male respondents belonged to Bagwere Twegate solidarity group. There were more women than men because more women do not have collateral and groups are used to provide security for each other. As one PAP official said, "we normally give credit to women in groups because they have no collateral." Abiyai Women's group comprised of three women and one man, Kampolampola comprised of seven women and two men. The remaining percentage of 50% (17) women and 81% (21) men were individuals.

Asked whether they contributed money to join such groups all the respondents who belonged to groups said that they did because it was for maintaining the group and at the same time it showed one's seriousness and commitment to the group.

The respondents were further asked to reveal who provided the money to join the scheme. The following were the findings, 56% of women provided the money to join the



scheme by themselves while men were 96. The remaining percentage of 32% of women got the money from the groups while 3% of the women got it from other sources like friends and relatives. There are no male respondents who got money to join the group from other sources. This could be attributed to fact that men in society have independent resources as compared to women.

The female respondents revealed that women who used their own money to join the scheme, had full control and access to the income generating activity they started. If the husband was the source of the money to join the scheme, some women respondents reported having partial or no access to and control over the income generating activity. Male respondents on the other hand reported having full control and access to their income generating activities they started.

Asked whether they owned any enterprise, a group of 20 men and women in the FGD reported that they had enterprises they owned which ranged from piggery, retail shops and restaurants. When the respondents were asked about their benefits from the group, some of the women respondents said their leadership qualities had improved, confidence and self-esteem enhanced increased free participation in group discussion, improved ability to speak for ones self in public. Men on the other hand reported gaining interpersonal skills, increased free participation in-group discussion as well.

Some respondents said that the group helped them to acquire working capital and provided security for the group. About 10 of the men interviewed said, "Formation of

groups is a good idea because we are able to get working capital which helps us in building our projects". Such group formation was quite important because it helped in alleviating household poverty through improved income. Most of the respondents saw the benefit of belonging to the group. Groups consisted of females' only or mixed males and females. The groups were also helpful in applying for repayment of the loan through encouragement and advice given.

In relation to the foregoing, the FAO (1997) report concedes that groups have played an important role in increasing rural women's visibility at local and international level, representing and safeguarding women's traditional and legal rights. For example participation in decision-making process at village level, improving women's ability to control their income, and facilitating women's access to credit.

Individuals who never wanted groups said it was difficult to trust each member in a group. They also talked of conflicts, which characterized groups due to delayed repayment. If one member failed to pay it would jeopardize future loan opportunities, for the whole group so they instead preferred carrying their risks alone.

#### **4.3.4 Empowerment of Clients through Financial and Physical Assets.**

Financial assets and physical assets were one of the benefits obtained by PAP borrowers and which had influence on power relations and poverty. The respondents were asked whether they engaged in profitable projects that could earn them meaningful income thus leading to savings. All the 10 men and women in the FGD unanimously agreed that their

projects were viable. However, it was reported that some of the projects registered a slight decrease in income because the items they deal in are either seasonal or perishable, for example tomatoes. Seasonal items included school uniforms and sweaters, which are mostly bought at the beginning of the school term.

Apart from the shopkeepers, the projects of the other focus group members were reported to be doing well. One female respondent said,

**"I planted a garden of pineapples after getting a loan of shillings 400,000. After selling the produce, I can pay school fees for my children, buy fertilizers for the plants and buy salt, sugar and other household necessities."**

Hence the loan had not just provided a social break-through for some women but it had helped the women to become economically independent from their husbands and other male relatives. This increased their bargaining power in the household because they could now participate in decision making in their homes since they now contribute to the finances in the homes. Additionally, the loans helped them in increasing income. The discussant reported that they had benefited tremendously from such loans especially where the loan repayment period was reasonable. One discussant reported to have started a poultry unit. The same informant explained that, "I am able to dress my family and buy essential commodities."

**Table 4.13: Savings made by credit recipients after receiving the loan.**

Amount saved	Male frequency	Percentage (%)	Female frequency	Percentage (%)
None	5	20	10	30
Less than 10,000	5	20	6	18
10,000 – 20,000	10	39	10	30
20,000 – 30,000	2	8	5	15
30,000 – 40,000	4	16	3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings show that most of the respondents had some savings with the exception of 10 women and 5 men as indicated in the table above. They were confirmed by reports from the focus group discussion that the credit recipients had some money, although the savings were low. The group and individual savings would have been higher had they not been using the same money as capital to keep their businesses going. Of the 34 women interviewed 10 who did not have bank accounts reported having passed on their loan amounts to family members and repaid loans using money provided by their men in the family from their earnings. This indicates that there was co-operation in such homes.

Probed as to whether they had opened up bank accounts to deposit these savings, 20% of the 26 men and 18% of the 34 women had done so whereas 39% of the males and 15% of the females had not opened up bank accounts. Another 16% of men and 24% of women kept their savings in joint accounts with their spouses. Although only 37% of men and women opened up bank accounts to save their profits, 53% of those who did not open bank accounts reported that they used their profits efficiently to pay off the loan. Others put their savings in physical assets like goats, turkey and cows.

The above findings from the individuals concurred with findings in the borrowers' group discussion, where 30% of the female and male discussants reported that the credit recipients had opened up bank accounts to deposit their savings, some women said had joint accounts with their spouses an indication of co-operation.

The fact that some beneficiaries of PAP loan opened savings account whether joint or individual, was a financial asset for the borrowers, which helped them to increase savings and reduce expenditures. A group of 20 women respondents in a FGD said they had no savings on their accounts because they could not save before finishing repayment. Other groups said it was because of family expenditure with no reliable source of income, while those who had savings said it was because they had profitable micro-projects and an awareness of the need to save.

The majority of PAP men and women clients - 80%(48) in the study area, have indicated that they had been able to improve their wellbeing. Women particularly have gained financial power and economic self-sufficiency.

Most of the female and male respondents (90%) 54 revealed that they had learnt to manage their finances properly through budgeting for the expenditures whereas before they used to spend whatever money they received. Further individual and focus group discussions revealed improvements in the day-to-day management of income generating activities and catering for the household.

### Physical Assets.

Physical assets are other benefits acquired by the borrowers as a result of PAP loan. The respondents were asked whether they acquired any assets and revealed the following information.

**Table 4.14: Physical Assets**

Type of assets	Male Frequency	Percentage(%)	Female frequency	Percentage
Bicycle, Radio and mattress	6	23	5	15
Land	10	39	4	12
Other domestic Utensils	2	8	10	30
Business facilitating equipment	4	38	4	15
Domestic animals	2	35	6	18
None	2	8	5	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that 23%(6) of the 26 male respondents and 15 (5) of the 34 female respondents acquired Bicycles, radios and mattresses. A small percentage of women 12%(4) acquired land as a family property while men were 38%(10). It was reported that 3 of 10 men who acquired land even constructed permanent houses. Furthermore 8%(2) of the male and 30%(10) female acquired domestic utensils such as saucepan, furniture and cutlery.

Another 39%(4) male and 12% of the female respondents acquired business-facilitating equipment, which included sewing machines, hairdryers and motorcycles. A third of the male respondents acquired domestic animals like heifers, bulls goats, pigs were 35%(2).

Of the 26 males and female respondents were 18%(6) of the 34 females while 8%(2) of the male and 15%(5) of the female respondents did not acquire any physical property.

The findings reveal individual ownership of business facilitating equipment and property ownership by some women and men. To the women it facilitates their access and control over resources such as land and information, which enables women to have ownership, rights and contributes to their empowerment. A few women 4(12%) of the 34 purchased land and built permanent houses as compared to men 10(39%). This could be attributed to the negative patrilineal rules of inheritance which limit women's access to wealth in this case land. This has been a constraining factor for women to obtain loans since land can be used as collateral.

In the FGD, women unlike men reported insecurity due to lack of property ownership such as land and houses in their individual capacity. However women now gradually own properties such as land, buildings for their own development through purchase. As one respondent said, "I can only own personal property through purchase though men acquire through inheritance."

Reports from individual respondents revealed that women especially those with children purchased property for the family as security and assurance for future survival and sustainability. This arises out of the need to secure land, houses and animals for their children's future use. The male respondents informed the researcher that purchase of property was to increase wealth in their families and hence alleviate poverty.

From the findings therefore, it can be deduced that PAP loans have been useful to clients and have made a contribution towards the economic empowerment of both women and men through the creation of economic security and self-reliance among some female and male clients.

### **Control Over the Assets and Income.**

The respondents were asked to reveal who had control over assets and income, since it had a bearing on power relations in the household; the answers were compiled in the following table.

**Table 4.15: Control over Assets and Income**

<b>Control over assets and income</b>	<b>Female frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Male frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Husbands	25	74	24	92
Wives	9	27	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

Findings show that 25(74%) of the 34 female and 24(92.%) of the male respondents controlled their own assets and income. The other 9(27%) of the 34 female and 2(8%) of the male respondents, the assets and income were controlled by wives. The findings indicate that husbands had more control over the assets and income in the homes than wives. This clearly shows that much as the women are striving to be economically, self-reliant, they are still constrained. If majority of the women could only buy the assets but had no control over them, then they have not yet been empowered and hence there is still



need for sensitization for the public to understand. It was confirmed from the FGD that the women who controlled the assets and income in the household were either not married or the widows.

As PAP strives to empower women economically, they should also realize the need to sensitize the community on the inherent asymmetries. Hopefully, even if the transition from total dependency and total subordination to independent women is still slow, it is at least taking root and it is hoped that sooner rather than later through economic empowerment and sensitization, we shall have independent and confident women. To some women, the question of who has control over the income and other benefits from the loan utilization did not seem to matter.

A few women however stated that they did not have influence on the loan, management of the activity and income. According to one woman, the loan availed for poultry unit was diverted by husbands for cultivation purposes and the rest was used for household expenses. This is an indication that it was not used for the economic purpose for which it was obtained. There was much pressure on her from the group on account of diverting the loan amount. With great difficulty, she repaid the loan out of the earnings from wage labour. She became reluctant to rejoin the group; she has in fact turned down the request of her husband to borrow for cultivation purposes.

In another case, the loan was taken by a woman for the fattening of goats. Just after one month of purchase, her husband sold the goat and apparently spent all of it on alcohol consumption.

#### 4.3.5 Empowerment of the Clients through Leadership.

Credit in the study area led to PAP clients to attain leadership positions. Women's participation in decision-making levels in the community can also be measured in terms of women elected to occupy leadership positions in the community. The respondents were asked whether they held any leadership positions in their community as a result of utilisation of credit

**Table 4.16: Clients' Responses to Leadership Positions**

Leadership position	Male frequency	Percentage	Female frequency	Percentage
Yes	22	84	29	86
No	4	16	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

The table shows that of the 26 men interviewed by questionnaire 84%(22) held leadership positions in the community while of the 34 women 85%(29) had leadership positions. The other 4 of the 26 men 16% and 5 of the 29 female respondents did not participate in any community leadership. The group, which held leadership position in the community reported participating in local councils, religious organizations, community based local groups and PAP women and men groups.

When asked how they had been helped in their leadership roles as PAP clients, they reported that their self-confidence, time management, and ability to mobilize others, teamwork, interpersonal communication and public speaking improved. Others included solidarity and support from PAP group members who always gave support to their fellow colleagues when it came to campaigning and elections especially in local council elections. This does not concur with the traditional attitudes that public life is men's domain. As a result of the gained self-confidence, communication and management skills, women have been able to confidently compete with men in public affairs. One woman respondent confidently reported that she represented their interests in standing in the forthcoming local council elections as leaders.

PAP as an organization has functioned as a source of support, social interaction and a vehicle for the poor especially women to develop and exercise their own leadership potential, which has contributed to the political empowerment of the clients. However women who held leadership positions in the community complained that their husbands refused them to attend meetings. One woman reported that, "my husband does not allow me to attend weekly meetings because he feels insecure about me interacting with other men in discussions regarding matters of the community." This was an indication that women were not fully participating in the activities of the community. This is attributed to the subordination of women, which curtails their mobility. Reports from key informants and individual respondents revealed that women played a more active role in the community and some had taken up leadership positions in local councils, religious and local women groups as mentioned earlier. When asked how their neighbours and

other members of their community had benefited as a result of their being PAP clients, individual reports revealed that as a result of their improved incomes, they had been able to provide financial and material support such as salt, tea leaves and sometimes lending their money in case of eventualities. Some of them had mobilised others to join PAP after seeing the benefits the clients enjoyed and the changes in their lives and household. In this way PAP clients had acted as agents of change in their communities.

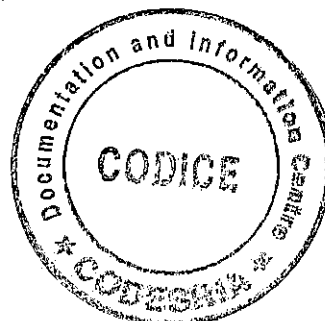
In another case a 37 year old woman who held a leadership position as a secretary for the group which obtained credit in the village reported having conflicts with her husbands as she tried to perform her work of mobilization of the group members. She said,

**"Each time I go home after a day's work, I find my husband so annoyed I am just thinking of resigning from the post so that I settle down in my marriage"**

Further still, three women respondents who had gained leadership positions as a result of utilization of PAP loan reported having the ability to participate in decision making in their household. They said these leadership roles had helped them to earn income." we can no longer solely depend on our husbands for everything and has reduced quarrels unlike before attaining these roles".

One male respondent said that he had no problem with his wife as far as his leadership role in conducting group meetings was conceived,

**"My wife is really very supportive to me, she welcomes me home from my meetings, encourages me to attend these meetings every time they are convened and has always stood by me whenever I aspire for a leadership position "**



In another case one male respondent was however unhappy with the behavior of his wife whenever they attended the group meetings. Both were members of the credit group. He said,

**"My wife misbehaves during and after the meetings. During the meetings, she feels threatened when other women sit next to me directly. After the meetings when we reach home, she starts pointing accusation by accusation hastening a quarrel at home every time we come from the meetings. I really feel discouraged by the behavior of my wife".**

This kind of incident occurred with enough frequency to be cited by the respondent as a major source of anxiety. This was due to the circumstances surrounding it, which required women to organize themselves in-groups. Therefore in such a home credit facility sometimes led to conflicts amongst spouses and unfavorable power relations.

#### 4.3.6 Household Expenditure

The table below shows changes in the household expenditure. Sixty people were interviewed of which 34 were women and 26 men.

**Table 4.17: Household Expenditure**

Responses	Female frequency.	Percentage	Male Frequency.	Percentage
I meet all household expenditure	7	21	13	50
Do not contribute to household expenditure	1	3	-	-
Contribute half of household expenditure	23	68	13	50
None	2	26	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

The study examined the changes respondents have encountered in terms of household expenditure (food, clothing, and education) since they joined the credit scheme. The

respondents were asked to comment on the extent to which they contributed to household expenditure and the findings are shown in the table above.

Findings showed that 7 of the 34 women (21%) and 13 of the 26 men (50%) respondents reported that they could now meet all the household expenditure due to improved income, while 23 of the 34 female respondents (68%) and 13 of the 26 male respondents (50%) contributed half of the household expenditure. Also 1 of the 34 female respondents and none of the male respondents said they could not contribute to household expenditure at all.

Both the male and female FGDs revealed that most respondents in the household contributed half of the household expenditure. This has enhanced cooperation strengthened and changed gender relationships in the family. A 36-year-old respondent said,

**"My husband used to complain about my not being productive in the household because I used not to buy anything in the house apart from the food I used to get from the garden, but now, since I can contribute to household expenditure, we now live in harmony with him."**

This change of event has made women more capable. They complement the household and welfare. Men are no longer the sole bread winners because they receive financial support of their wives. Furthermore, women's contribution to household expenditure has led to increased self-esteem and confidence.

Findings showed that women met half of the household expenditure. Two women interviewed during FGD reported that men do not cooperate with them in meeting

household expenses. They shift the burden to women, which constrains the development of women since it depletes their savings and increases their workload. This concurs with a World Bank report (1995) which stated that women unlike men in developing countries have the primary responsibility for household management, child-rearing, caring for the sick and therefore are principle providers of good health, hygiene and nutrition.

Interestingly the men the researcher interviewed in the focus group discussion about meeting household expenditure said that they were responsible for meeting all household expenditure. They further complained of the great burden they face in purchasing salt, sugar and dressings for their families yet the money they had was not adequate to all the expenses

#### 4.3.7 Decision-making in the household.

In order to find out whether the membership of the respondents to the credit scheme affected decision-making in the household, the respondents were asked to explain the extent to which it affected their participation.

**Table 4.18: Rate of participation in Decision-Making.**

Rate of participation	Female frequency.	Percentage	Male Frequency.	Percentage
Increased participation	30	88	24	92
No change	4	12	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

Findings revealed that 30 (88%) of the 34 women while 24 of the 26(92.%) male

respondents that their membership at the scheme increased their participation in decision making in the household. The other 4(12%) of the 34 women and 2 (8%) of the 26 men interviewed reported there was no change in as far as decision making in the household was concerned.

Notably, the percentage of men involved in decision making is still bigger. However there has been an increased participation of women in household decision making in socio-economic affairs as a result of utilization of credit.

This is in line with the FAO Report (1997), which stated that decision making is traditionally seen as a man's role, and men hesitate giving women this responsibility. In addition women usually require more training and experience their self-confidence and leadership capacity.

The above findings concurred with those of the 10 women in the FGD who said that they were now decision makers, which was not the case before they had access to credit. Their husbands would now consult them on matters concerning decision-making in their homes.

An example of school fees was given by the respondents as one of those issues where they were consulted. This is different from previous trends where women grew up in situations where only men made decisions. In addition the same FGD of women expressed the fact that the loans had helped them to become self-sufficient especially in as far as clothing both the children and themselves, buying other essential commodities like sugar, salt,



paraffin and soap in the homes were concerned. Loans have also helped in terms of paying school fees for their children. The implication is that if economically empowered, women can become economically independent and break the syndrome of depending on their husbands for survival in terms of income. In these homes it was found out that there was harmony in as far as power relations were concerned. For example in some homes both husband and wife could be on the same village council as officials.

#### 4.4 Problems Faced and Limitations of Credit Facilities.

The respondents were asked to mention the type of problems they experienced. The following were the results.

**Table 4.19 Types of problems experienced by the clients.**

Type of problem	Female frequency	Percentage	Male Frequency	Percentage
Loan repayment	3	8	4	15
Inadequate savings	5	15	2	8
Inadequate capital	10	30	10	39
Inadequate time	6	18	5	20
Inadequate training	10	30	5	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

The findings show that 8% of the female and 15% of the male reported having experienced problems with loan repayment. The one-year loan term was set to attract the clients who had major agricultural investments, found problems with the monthly loan repayment and realization of savings. Some invested the loan but had to look for cash from other sources such as borrowing, from husbands or relatives to fulfill the monthly financial demands and maintain their membership and which most of them could not fulfil. The men interviewed borrowed from their wives and other relatives as well. Those

who failed had to forego some of their properties to raise funds to meet financial obligations and this was a constraint to the wellbeing of their families. Others had to miss some cycles without getting the loan and some had to drop out completely thus missing out on the other benefits accrued from group membership.

About 15% female and 8% male reported having had problems with realising reasonable savings. This was attributed to high household financial demands coupled with the short-term programme financial requirements. However, others felt that though practically they were experiencing those problems, it gave them 'the drive' to work hard, always thinking creatively and innovatively and devoting time to plan, set priorities in order to fulfill the financial obligations and maintain their membership in PAP because of its diverse benefits.

Also 30% of the female and 39% of the male respondents reported having had problems of inadequate capital. The amount of savings determined the new loan size therefore inadequate savings affected the size of the loan received in the subsequent cycles that affect the amount of capital. Further reports from focus group discussions revealed that short-term loan repayment periods tended to "squeeze" into their capital. This curtailed the level of self-sufficiency and promoted dependency on husbands in case of women who were married.

Furthermore, 6 of the 34 women and 5 of the 26 men reported not having enough time to attend the monthly meetings, especially those that had full time salaried employment.

These thought the monthly meetings were too demanding and costly since they had to pay fines for late coming and for the missed meetings. Women particularly reported having experienced difficulties in fulfilling the demands of the full-time employment, domestic, reproductive and productive roles.

On the other hand most women as well as men appreciated the monthly meetings in that they learnt to plan for and utilize their time effectively, worked hard, set priorities in order to fulfill the programme, family and personal requirements. They reported having learnt time management at an individual level and group level. Reports and observations revealed that monthly meetings took strictly two to three hours as agreed by the group members. This indicates that time management is important in one's empowerment. Furthermore 30% of the female respondents and 20% of the male respondents revealed having had a problem of inadequate training and access to information concerning business. Reports from individual respondents revealed that they had received some information from PAP on policies and procedures and some training in mobilising, savings, keeping records concerning loan repayments and savings prior to the loan disbursement. However they were encouraged to identify their needs and identify their own resource persons and meet any expenses involved but many reported that this had been difficult and expensive on their part. Some groups tried but found that they could not continue due to various financial demands they had.

Other respondents had to rely on their own experiences, information and advice from their friends and colleagues. Many expressed the need for more training in business

skills. Lack of adequate training and information is a constraining factor to the empowerment of the clients.

In conclusion the respondents were faced with a number of problems which ranged from inadequate capital, training, time.

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

Given the findings of the study, access to PAP credit facility has had an influence on gender- relations and poverty at household level among the men and women clients in the two sub-counties of (Kabwangansi and Kibale) of Pallisa district.

The study findings revealed that socio-economic characteristics of the respondents had a bearing on the level of the client's empowerment. In reference to age, it was found that majority of the men and women clients who acquired the loan were middle aged and the youth, very few elderly people were actually involved. This calls for special attention to target the elderly people who are helpless.

Education was also found to be an important factor in the acquisition of credit as the uneducated hardly accessed credit facilities apart from the two women respondents indicated in the table 4.13. Divisions were found in education, it is a well-known fact that the literacy rate for women stands at 39%(World Bank 1993) in Uganda. The fact that majority of the literate were the ones using credit, it calls for PAP project to be mindful of the way literacy is a gender issue and how gender-relations embedded in the interactions between women and men causing social classes and segregation on the use of credit.

An examination of the influence of credit on gender-relations revealed change in gender-roles as some women paid taxes for their husbands and school fees. It also revealed conflicts among some clients due to disagreements between their partners in the household.

Regarding household expenditure it was found that women as well as men contributed to household expenditure and this promoted co-operation in some households. From the study women and men's participation at the credit scheme increased the decision making power in socio-economic affairs. Some women in the study area are now decision-makers; their husbands can consult them for example on matters concerning school fees. It was clear from the study that those women clients, who made contribution to their family welfare, participated in decision making, improved on their self-esteem and self-confidence that helped them realize greater achievements.

From the findings it is evident that women as well as men were engaged in profitable projects that earned them meaningful income in order to save. It was found out that the loan provided a social break-through for some women to become economically independent from their husbands hence increasing their bargaining power. It was also found out that economic solidarity groups played a big role in increasing the visibility of women in the communities studied. They helped women to improve their leadership qualities, confidence and self-esteem, free participation in-group discussions.

Almost all respondents reported having acquired new skills and registered improvements in the already existing ones, which were realised through training in various fields, exposure visits and interaction organized by PAP. It was further realised that these skills helped the respondents in managing their micro-projects competently. It is also evident that some women like men were able to acquire property in the form of assets which ranged from bicycles, domestic animals to business facilitating equipment as shown Table 4.17. Individual ownership of assets facilitated their access and control over resources.

The majority of the women interviewed had complete control over their assets and utilised the loan they had obtained themselves, see table 4.1.18. This is a positive development and suggests the emancipation of women whose rights have been down trodden for a very long time. However, the fact that there are still a percentage of women that toil for their income and just hand over what they have achieved to spouses, shows that the struggle to break the chains of suppression has not yet reached its zenith. A lot is still lacking. Working hard to get an income and not having control over that income will not help to emancipate the women.

The findings also show that having access to credit through groups has helped both men and women acquire leadership roles. Many of the women in the study area now hold leadership roles in political, religious and social spheres. Participation in leadership indicates contribution to decision making which is an indicator of the empowerment

process. They can now be consulted on matters pertaining to decisions being made at household level and on matters that affect the society. Nevertheless, this has not been achieved to a satisfactory level since there still a number of women who lack self-confidence required for one to take up leadership positions.

In conclusion, basing on the findings from the study it can be concluded that PAP credit facility has had an influence on gender relations at household level. Access to credit facility has led to changes in gender roles of some clients, joint planning, conflicts, co-operation in the households as indicated in the findings. It has led to increased bargaining power of some women in the household and control over resources. It has further led to various benefits for the clients which include ownership of property, financial resources and changes in the standard of living.

## **5.2 Recommendations.**

1. PAP as an organisation should perform a gender analysis appraisal so that they gauge household relations in order to have a clear understanding of husbands and wives before giving out a credit facility and the community at large.
2. Women's bargaining power needs to be improved or enhanced as they operate from a weak socio-economic stand point in the sense that they have limited access to property which is needed as security for obtaining loans from financial institutions.



3. Women as well as men in rural areas need increased access to appropriate financial services such as savings, deposits and credit. They also need a greater capacity to negotiate with formal rural finance structures.
4. PAP as an organisation should carry out household surveys right from the household on gender relationships before offering credit facilities to the rural poor however this may be hard because power- relations change over time.
5. There is also need to encourage the formation of economic solidarity groups.

**Suggested areas for further research.**

1. A study should be carried out addressing the effect of credit on women's small-scale businesses in rural or urban areas.
2. A study should also be carried out addressing the effect of credit on gender-relations in the wider socio-economy.

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**Appendix I**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE  
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARIES  
OF RURAL CREDIT FACILITIES**

**CREDIT FACILITIES AND GENDER RELATIONS AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL**

1.0 Date of interview -----  
Address of Borrower -----  
-----  
-----  
Location -----  
Name of Respondent -----  
Sub County -----

**2.0 Socio - Economic Background**

2.1 Age ----- Sex -----

**2.2 Marital Status**

- [a] Married.
- [b] Never married.
- [c] Widow.
- [d] Divorced.
- [e] Separated.

**2.3 Type of marriage**

- [a] Monogamous.
- [b] Polygamous.
- [c] Cohabiting.
- [d] Others.

2.4 Level of education

- [a] Never went to school.
- [b] Lower Primary (P1 - P4)
- [c] Upper Primary (P5 - P7).
- [d] Secondary (S1 - S6).
- [e] Tertiary.

2.5 What is your spouses level of education ? -----

2.6 What is your occupation ?

- [a] Farming.
- [b] Civil Servants.
- [c] Business.
- [d] House wife.
- [e] Others.

2.7 What is the type of your household ?

- [a] Female headed.
- [b] Male headed.

2.8 Family size

2.9 Total number of children -----

3.0 Number of children going to school : Girls -----Boys -----Total-----

3.1 How many people live in this household ? -----

3.2 Do you hold any leadership position in your position in your community ? If yes name it -----  
-----

3.3 How did you attain that leadership position ? -----  
-----  
-----

3.4 **Economic activities.**

Do you belong to any group ?

If yes name it -----

3.5 Did you contribute any money to join the group

Yes ----- Give reasons

No ----- Give reasons.

3.6 If yes who provided the money to join the group ?

[a] Self.

[b] Husband.

[c] Group.

[d] Others (Specify).

3.7 Do you belong to any Enterprise

Yes.

No.

3.8 How did you get the capital to get the Enterprise

[a] Joined a Rural Credit Scheme.

[b] Got help from a husband/relative.

[c] Used his/her own money.

3.9 Who influenced you to join the scheme ?

[a] Myself.

[b] Husband.

[c] Wife.

[d] Local Leaders.

[e] Friends.

4.0 What benefits did you anticipate in joining the scheme ?

[a] Become economically independent.

[b] To enhance social status in society.

[c] To counter male/female dominated credit schemes.

4.1 What have you actually benefited from the group ?

i] ----- ii] -----

iii] ----- iv] -----

4.2 What changes have you encountered since you joined the scheme?

[a] I met all household expenditure/income.

[b] Do not contribute to household expenditure at all.

[c] Contribute half of the household expenditure.

[d] None of the above.

[e] Others.

4.3 How has your membership at the scheme affected your role in household decision making in socio - economic affairs ?

[a] Increased my participation.

[b] Decreased my participation.

[c] Caused min - revolutions in the household.

[d] No change.

4.4 How much loan did you receive ? -----  
-----

4.5 What was it intended for ? -----  
-----  
-----

4.6 How much did you utilize ? -----  
-----

4.7 How did you utilize it ? -----  
-----

4.8 Did you utilize it for the economic purpose for which it was obtained? -----  
**Benefits**

4.9 What are the proceeds from the loan ? -----



-----  
-----

5.0 How have you shared the proceeds ? -----  
-----

5.1 What profits (if any) did you receive from your micro project ? -----  
-----

5.2 How have you utilized these profits ? -----  
-----  
-----

5.3 What amount of household income is spent on:  
school fees ? -----  
food ? -----  
medical bills -----

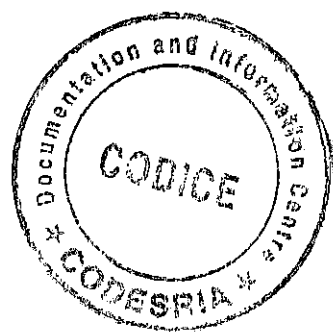
5.4 Who is responsible for the above expenses ? -----

5.5 Is there any change in living standards with the acquisition of the loan? -----  
-----  
-----

5.6 Did you acquire any assets using the loan ? If yes name them:  
-----  
-----  
-----

5.7 Who has control over these assets ?

- [a] Husband.
- [b] Wife.
- [c] Children.
- [d] Others.



5.8 What other benefits did you get as a result of utilizing credit facilities? -----

-----  
-----

5.9 Did you encounter any problems in the credit delivery systems ?

If yes give reasons -----  
-----

If no give reasons -----  
-----

6.0 Have you acquired any training skills as a result of obtaining credit facilities ?

If yes specify -----  
-----

6.1 What skills can you now impart to your family members and neighbours ? -----  
-----  
-----

6.2 What can you recommend on the process of accessing credit facilities to women and men in rural areas in order to alleviate poverty ?  
-----  
-----  
-----

6.3 What is your view of governments role in rural credit schemes ?

[a] It is very minimal -----

[b] I do not know -----

[c] Others. -----

**Appendix II**

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GROUP BENEFICIARIES OF CREDIT FACILITIES**

1.0 Date of interview.....

**1.1 Location**

County.....

Parish.....

Village.....

1.2 Name of village.....

**2.0 Traditional gender relations.**

2.1 What are Women's roles in the household?

2.2 What are men's roles in the household?

2.3 Who is responsible for household activities in your household?

**3.0 Micro-credit facilities.**

3.1 Who has accessed a loan.....

3.2 Has there been any change in the household roles as a result of the loan accessed?

Yes or No

Explain.....

**4.0 Utilisation of the loan**

4.1 How is the loan utilised?

4.2 Why.....

- 4.3 Who controls the utilisation of the loan?.....
- 4.4 Has your membership at the scheme improved as a result of using the loan?.....
- 4.5 How have you used the income generated/obtained?.....

**5.0 Benefits from the loan**

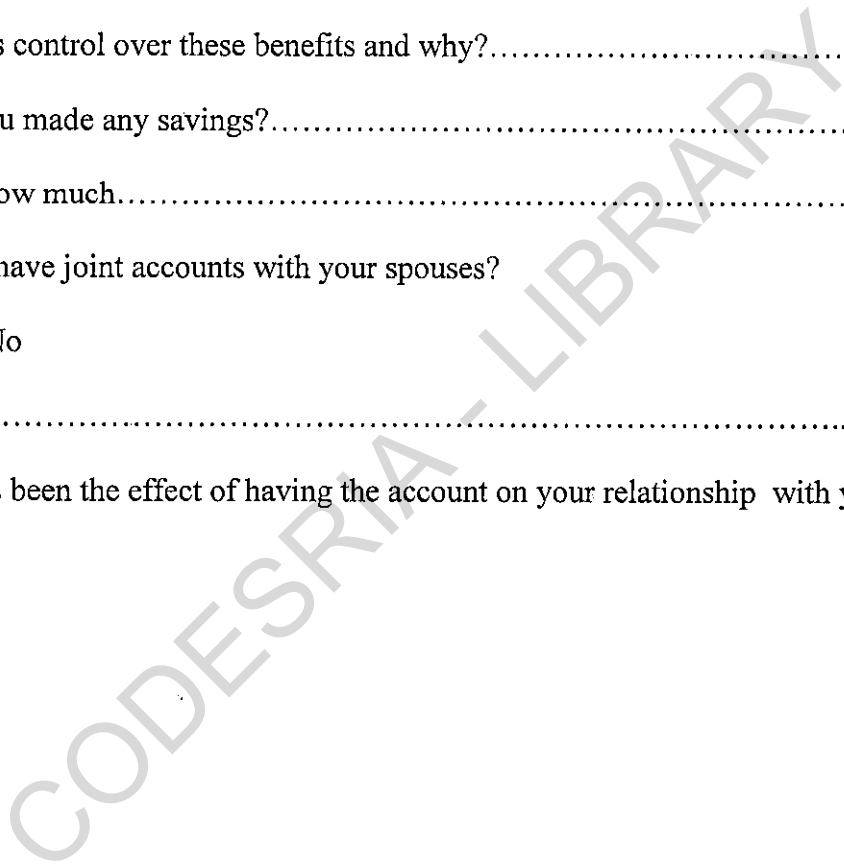
- 5.1 What benefits did you obtain from the loan?.....
- 5.2 Who has access to the benefits?.....
- 5.3 Who has control over these benefits and why?.....
- 5.4 Have you made any savings?.....  
If yes how much.....

5.5 Do you have joint accounts with your spouses?

Yes or No

Explain.....

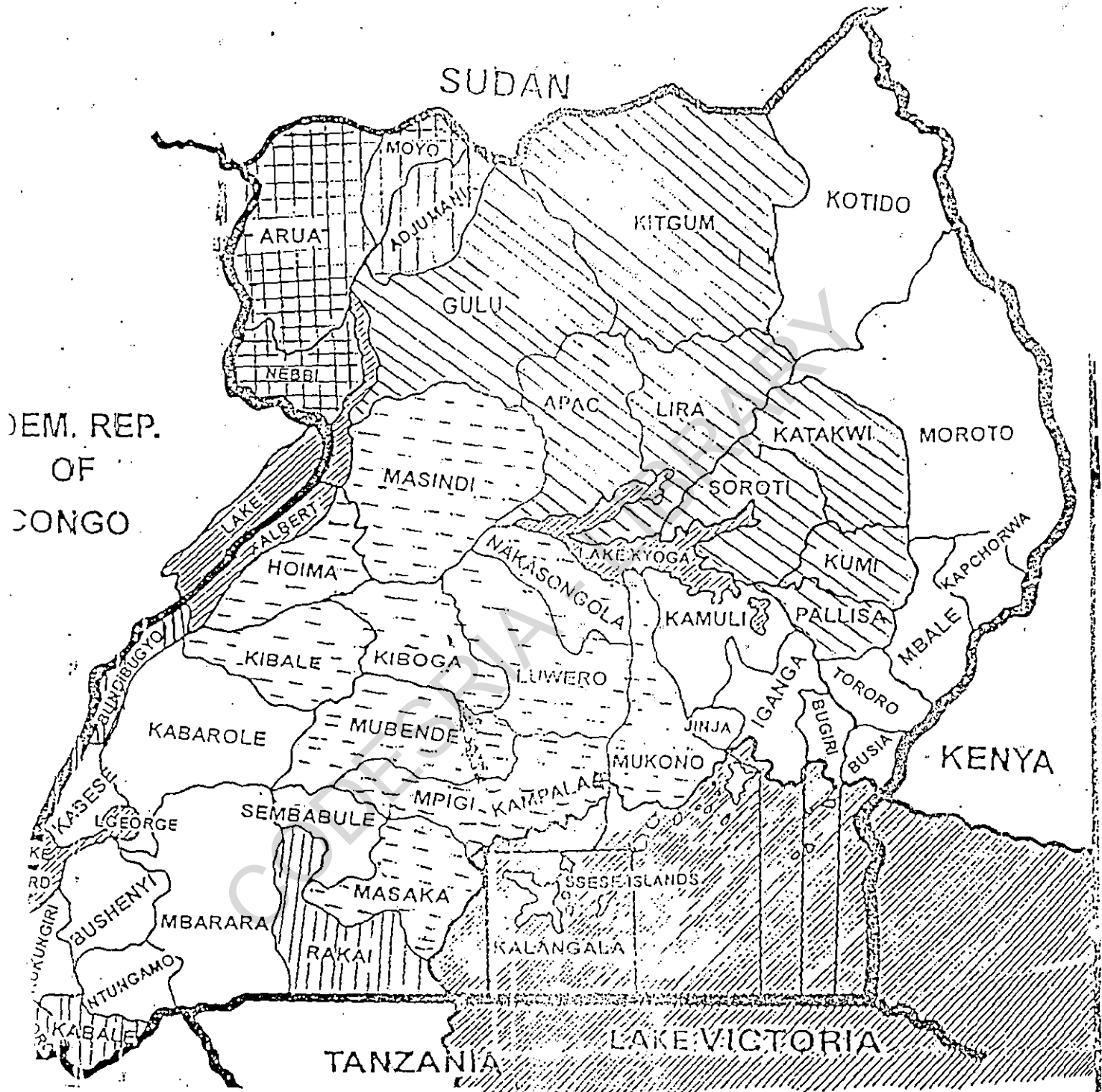
5.6 What has been the effect of having the account on your relationship with your spouse?






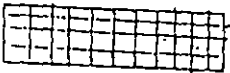
**Appendix III****QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE FOR THE KEY INFORMANTS:**

- 1 What is the name of your organisation?
- 2 What is your name?
- 3 What position do you hold?
- 4 What are the credit objectives of your organisation?
- 5 What are the policies of this programme?
- 6 How long have you carried out this programme?
- 7 Who gets the loan ?
- 8 Why ?
- 9 Are the women aware of this programme ?
- 10 If yes how did they know about it?
- 11 What percentage of males to females have benefited from the scheme?
- 12 What are people's attitudes towards loans in this area?.
- 13 What type of training do you provide to the borrowers?
- 14 When is it provided?
- 15 Is it before or after the loan?
- 16 Is it given to the borrower?
- 17 What problems have you faced with the borrowers ever since you began working in this organisation?
- 18 What can you recommend as the best ways of accessing rural credit facilities to women and men in order to alleviate poverty?

# MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING AREAS OF ORIGINAL COVERAGE BY PAP



## KEY

-  GULU AREA
-  LUWERO AREA
-  KABALE AREA
-  ARUA AREA

# PALLISA DISTRICT BY SUB-COUNTIES

