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The Role of micro-finance on women empowerment: A case of Suklaphanta Municipality

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Abstract

The study focuses on the role of microfinance in women's empowerment in Suklaphanta Municipality. The independent variables Loan size, Entrepreneurial skills, Access to resource, Types of business, Leadership skills, Self-efficacy. However, the dependent variables are financial independence, decision-making and self-confidence. Primary data was collected from the 201 participants to analyze viewpoints of respondents regarding influence of microfinance on women empowerment. Pearson's correlation coefficients and regression models were used to determine the significance and effect of microfinance on women empowerment.

There is a positive relationship between loan size and women's empowerment, meaning that when there is an increase in loan size, women's empowerment increases also. Likewise, entrepreneurial abilities show a positive relation to empowerment among women, where better entrepreneurship skills lead towards more empowerment. Access to resources is also positively correlated with women empowerment, meaning greater access leads to more empowerment. Another significant positive correlation we observe is between Leadership Skills and Empowerment, which again suggests that higher leadership skills lead to greater empowerment. Moreover, findings showed that self-efficacy has a positive relation with women's empowerment, indicating that an increase in self-efficacy increases women empowerment. Results from the regression analysis indicate that there is a positive relationship between loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, types of business, leadership skills and self-efficacy with regards to women's empowerment.

Keywords: *loan size, entrepreneurial skill, types of business, access to resources, leadership skill, self-efficacy, and women empowerment.*

Introduction

Empowerment is defined as a process of creating enabling environment where people develop capabilities to make informed choices for their own development and realize those choices into desired actions and outcomes (Krishna, 2003). It is both a process and an outcome. It states that the empowerment of women is necessary for a family's and community's development and growth. Improved access to and control over financial resources can empower women to be more independent, confident, and involved, thus enhancing their role in family or community decision-making. This empowerment also closes the gender inequalities gap (Hashemi et al., 1996).

According to Rappaport (1987), as well as Henry (2011), empowerment can occur when people gain a psychological feeling of personal control and social influence, such as political power and legal rights. Moreover, empowerment is an access to increased power over a fair share of those societal assets which are valued. According to the United Nations, when people can take part in decision-making about things that affect them and have some control over choices (even on a small level), it is experienced as empowerment. Khan et al. (2012) note that the empowerment of women is a vital issue in developing countries. Women population is the heart of society but participation of women in making decision is crucial and still very low in terms economic activity. Microfinance plays an important role in improving women's decision-making powers by participating more in these economic activities. The study of this research is to analyze the impact of microfinance on developing women empowerment.

Empowerment, to make active role of women on this discussion that they are usually excluded from. Women's empowerment impact has been evaluated through feedback analysis from various studies on women beneficiaries. Through this process of empowerment, domestic violence has reduced and issues related to alcoholism in the villages have also changed (Goel et al., 2015). According to Noreen (2011), there are a number of factors that do have significant influence on women empowerment such as age, education level of their husband, inheritance of family properties, marital status, number of sons alive and access to microfinance. The study also found that loan usage by women indicated more positive outcomes than loan distribution among male family members. Recommendations for improving educational opportunities and protecting families may create better results, offering valuable insights moving forward.

Microfinance represents providing large-scale financial access for the poor, allowing them use their potential for sustainable growth (Yunus, 2007). According to Aghion and Morduch (2005), microfinance works as a banking system for women. Microcredit clients and beneficiaries are more likely to be women. Li et al. (2011) argued that microfinance is able to empower women via two mechanisms. First, it provides low-income women with a means of earning their own income apart from their partners so they can support their families and, in turn, boosts self-esteem. It also frees women from their houses to interact with the community, which is possible due to credit and women using this money for business purposes. This further helps in building their self-esteem by taking on different kinds of interactions with other women and engaging them to a wider community.

Access to microfinance is deemed critical for poverty reduction and sustainable development of women (Mayoux 1997). According to Nader (2008), not only did micro credit improve health, but it also developed peace in families. Micro Financing helps poor people and women make their own job, self-respect, communication skills, etc. By participating in these female micro finance schemes, women achieve more control over various resources, including not only material goods and possessions of a tangible nature but also intangible assets such as knowledge, communication information and home dynamics decision making power in homes, communities and society.

Deepak Batliwala (1994), for example, argued that the extent to which a person can exert influence over external actions that affect her welfare is one of the most important determinants of empowerment. According to Kabeer (2001), empowerment is the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire an increased ability to do so, especially in areas where that capability has not been allowed. This definition underlines process and change as responses to disempowerment, transformative life choices as expressions of human agency and the ability to make informed decisions. Empowerment on the other hand, from an emotional perspective ': is taken over yourself and your environment (Francina and Joseph, 2013). According to Jayaweera (2010), under the existing economic and social constraints, education has been unable to respond to social class differentiation, a factor that reinforces gender inequality within families as well as in labor markets and society at large. On a macro scale, qualitative studies show a more nuanced view of the relationship between education and empowerment; however there is contradiction with macro data.

It has been argued that most microfinance programs are directed at women with the objective of empowering them (Sarumathi and Mohan, 2011). This empowerment is considered crucial for family and community development. Sohail (2014) conceptualized two interconnected building blocks of empowerment: resources and agency. According to the Wikipedia page, resources can be anything from physical to non-physical. Tangible resources, which are resources such as money and physical objects; intangible resources—knowledge and technology (and participation in political and social activities). Capital is not only a vehicle for empowerment; it’s an engine of it. Agency is the term used to describe an individual's ability to determine and reach their goals (Kapitsa, 2008). This notion of agency is crucial, in discussions of empowerment, and stems from a bottom-up rather than top-down view on development. Women empowerment is the increasing ability of women to direct their own lives and access different aspects of development, such as health, education & earning opportunities, rights and participation in political domain etc.

The majority of microfinance programs have been designed worldwide to empower women. As discussed above, women are often without question some of the poorest most vulnerable; and deprived parts of society, thus empowerment is vital. These microfinance programs are targeted at women specifically because it is expected that improving their situation will result in improvements across various areas. Moreover, women are considered to be sound credit risks (Garikipati, 2008) and is therefore less likely to abuse any credit they can get. Previous research has established that women in low-income economies are often severely credit constrained and excluded from wage labor markets (Pitt et al., 2006). Mutual assistance groups that are based on access to microcredit show positive effects on empowerment of women, many of which also take place over the short term. These groups have contributed significantly to minimizing the vulnerability of the poor by encouraging asset formation, smoothing income and consumption, offering support in times of shock/need and strengthening women through dominance over assets that enhances their self-worth and awareness (Zaman, 2014)

Microfinance has seen a significant increase in its activity among women in Suklaphanta Municipality (this data is according to Nepal Rastra Bank). Through access to microfinance, many women have been able to gain more autonomy and raise their living standards due to this type of engagement. They have started their own businesses and become role models in their communities. Limbu (2014) found that microfinance program participation has empowered women to some extent. The study highlights that micro finance involvement (MFIs) is significantly important to upgrade the consumption pattern, health conditions & sanitation. Traditionally, because women were dependent on men for livelihood, they faced impoverishment at both front — home and the community. Readily access to credit provides income-enhancing opportunities that lead to the improvement of their economic appropriateness, social establishment and mental (psychological) well-being which subsequently led to their empowerment as stated in Pandey (2010). Microfinance is a good tool for reaching the poorest of the poor, helping to alleviate poverty through income, employment and capacity building training for women, disabled persons, Dalits and other disadvantaged groups (Shrestha, 2007).

The earlier discussion points to main inconsistencies in the debate regarding the impact of microfinance programmes on women empowerment. The main purpose of this study is to find out the role of microfinance for women empowerment in Suklaphanta

Municipality. More specifically, it examines the relationships between loan size; entrepreneurial skills (Business knowledge and Experience in business); types of businesses; access to resources (Access to financial services) and leadership skills (Ability to plan, Customers score, management skill mix); self-efficacy on women empowerment (Financial independence/self-sufficiency Capability; Decision making & Self-confidence) of women.

The rest of this study is organized as follows: the second section describes the sample, data and methodology. The third section outlines the empirical findings whereas the last section concludes and discusses the implications of the results.

Methodological Aspects

Semi-structured interviews were conducted based on primary data from 201 respondents in Suklaphanta Municipality. The information provided by the respondents varied with respect to women's empowerment, size of loans, entrepreneurial skills, types of businesses run, access to resources (including self efficacy), and leadership skills.

The Model

This model derived from this study indicates that the size of loan, entrepreneurial skills, type of business, access of resources and leadership and self-efficacy lead to women's empowerment for financial independence, decision-making process and confidence level. This makes the model structured into:

$$FI = \alpha + \beta 1L+ \beta 2ES+ \beta 3TB+ \beta 4AR+ \beta 5LS+ \beta 6SE + e$$
$$DM = \alpha + \beta 1L+ \beta 2ES+ \beta 3TB+ \beta 4AR+ \beta 5LS+ \beta 6SE + e$$
$$SC = \alpha + \beta 1L+ \beta 2ES+ \beta 3TB+ \beta 4AR+ \beta 5LS+ \beta 6SE + e$$

Where,

FI = Financial independency
DM = Decision making
SC = Self-confidence
L =Loan size
ES =Entrepreneurial skills
TB =Type of business
AR =Access to resources
LS =Leadership style
SE =Self-efficacy

To measure the Entrepreneurial skill, a 5-point Likert scale was used, whereby

respondents were asked to rate their degree of agreement with given statements (1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree). Example items were statements like “I have a great interest to try or explore new things to see what fits best” and “I do not fear taking action based on my thoughts and plans.” The reliability of these items was assessed using Cronbach’s alpha (α=0.701).
Access was also measured with regard to resources, however this time using a 5-point Likert scale, which inquired about the degrees of agreement from 1 (not at all agree) to 5 (extremely agree). Examples of items included “I have the ability to obtain credit at reasonable rates from traditional sources” and “I have the ability to repay old debts, and meet domestic obligations like marriage, health and education.” Cronbach’s alpha was used to assess the reliability of these items (α=0.863).
Leadership skill was measured using a 5-point Likert scale, with respondents rating their level of agreement from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Sample items were “I can make decisions autonomously without requiring input from others” and “I am able to accelerate creativity and productivity while enhancing a company’s profitability.” The reliability of those items was assessed through calculation of Cronbach's alpha, which was found to be α=0.747
Self-efficacy was assessed with a 5-point Likert scale, so that respondents expressed agreement from the four points of [1] Strongly disagree to [5] Strongly agree. Subscale items included “I have the capacity to do a certain activity” and “If my sisters or friends choose to confront a family legal action, I can be there for them morally.” Reliability of these items was evaluated using Cronbach’s alpha and reliability yielded α=0.750.
The next section describes all of the independent variables applied in this study.

Loan Size

It significantly leads to the empowerment of women through access to credit with microfinance organizations (Khan and Noreen, 2012). For women to be able to use microfinance programs as a means to work in the informal sector, it depends on many other factors in place as well including access to credit, amount of money loaned and collateral requirements alongside solidarity groups (Gerhart, 1989). As Rutherford (1996) pointed out, providing financial services to poor people is not just about increasing income, empowering women or starting businesses—it can also be about helping them "manage better what little money they already have." They find that microfinance benefits small pre-existing businesses, as represented by relatively small loans. The findings show that access to microfinance, at different levels of intensity, is expected to assist in the economic empowerment of women (Addai, 2017). Thus, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H1: The larger the loan, the greater the degree of women's empowerment

Entrepreneurial Skills

But then the poor people are grown up from their childhood only into attractive prey for their potential employer to get best out of them with lowest possible wage so they need MFIs (micro finance institution) to train them become micro entrepreneurs. MFIs open avenues for the poor by providing self-employment and a way out from unemployment and poverty (Hossain & Rahman, 2001). Women entrepreneurs face challenges in access to microfinance support for their ventures, and as a result have poorer performance than men-led enterprises. Since women's engagement in the informal sector is usually marked by very high rates relative to men, microfinance could be beneficial as regards enterprise performance (Ekpe et al., 2010). The study by Simba (2013) found that microfinance institutions can empower women entrepreneurs and suggested arranging seminars and training sessions for women entrepreneurs. Such initiatives would prioritize efficient loan management and optimization of the financial prospects afforded by microfinance. This leads us to formulate the following hypothesis:

H2: Relationship between entrepreneurial skills and women empowerment is positive.

Access to Resources

Hashemi et al. (1996) in that women manage to exert some control over the credit they experience and income it generates. Evidence suggests that women have a high degree of control over their loan activities. The influence of microfinance services is particularly significant when women exercise real control over the resources bought in their names (Ackerly 1995, Goetz & Gupta 1995). Such greater control is expected to help women empowerment, encourage entrepreneurship among women, facilitate the achievement of reproductive responsibility and ease their repayment pressures. Nkatha (2015) found that, although women use microcredit services, the conditions set by MFIs may limit their access to these credit facilities. Given this, the current study develops the following hypothesis:

H3: Access to resources was positively correlated with lived experiences of women empowerment.

Leadership Skill

A leader is someone who assigns responsibilities or motivates others to act toward achieving these objectives (Nanjundeswaraswamy et al., 2014). Women lead differently than men, research shows: women are more participatory and less directive leaders than men (Eagley and Johnson, 1990). Kamau (2012) found a strong correlation between all

three – earned income, improved family relationships and leadership potential. Women's leadership stresses that disruption and sustained change come from the inside out. Practice, reflection and relationships that offer authentic and constructive feedback are the means through which leadership skills and capacities continue to develop. This paradigm attempts to compensate for the historical imbalances and bias in decision making, organizations, virtues, and society (Mehta and Sharma 2014). Therefore, based on this information, this study proposes the following hypothesis:
H5: Leadership skill has positive significant association with women empowerment.

Self-Efficacy

The self-efficacy construct is part of empowerment, that integrates intention and the confidence to execute intention into expectancy for personal outcome (Bandura, 1982; Mischel, 1973). It captures the extent to which women have been personally engaged by the organization and mobilized to envision expectation for themselves into the future. Postmus et al. (2012) found positive and significant relationship between financial literacy, economic empowerment, economic self-efficacy and economic self-sufficiency. Findings also revealed financial literacy, racial background and economic self-efficacy are significant predictors of economic empowerment. At its core, empowerment is about self-actualization and competence. When women feel competent and self-efficacious, they believe they can make choices. All types of exercised power are effective with a certain level of competence, which is based on formal training or education (Forrester, 2000). This study therefore proposes the following hypothesis based on this information:
H6: Self-efficacy has a positively significant relationship with women empowerment.

3. Results and discussion

Correlation analysis

On analysis of data, correlation analysis have been undertaken first and for this purpose, Pearson's correlation coefficient have been computed and the results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: *Pearson's correlation coefficient*

This table shows the Pearson's correlation coefficients between dependent and independent variables used in the study. FI (financial independency), DM (decision making), and SC (self-confidence) are the dependent variables and loan size (LS), entrepreneurial skill (ES), access to resources (AR), leadership skill (LS) and self-efficacy (SE) are the independent variables.

Variable	Mean	SD	loan	ES	AR	LS	SE	D1	D2	FI	DM	SC
Loan	12.15	0.98	1									
ES	4.27	0.53	.199**	1								
AR	4.25	0.52	.094	.661**	1							
LS	4.26	0.48	.049	.592**	.682**	1						
SE	4.28	0.52	.093	.604**	.699**	.783**	1					
D1	0.34	0.47	-.075	-.301**	-.239**	-.135	-.240**	1				
D2	0.22	0.42	-.001	.132	.013	.003	.110	-.384**	1			
FI	4.26	0.44	.132	.826**	.880**	.873**	.883**	-.267**	.066	1		
DM	4.14	0.43	.166*	.471**	.487**	.538**	.552**	-.187**	.020	.590**	1	
SC	4.31	0.43	-.006	.540**	.620**	.647**	.672**	-.225**	.111**	.715**	.573**	1

Note: The asterisk signs (**) and (*) indicate that results are significant at 1 percent and 5 percent levels, respectively.

The outcomes show that the loan size has a positive association with financial independence and decision-making skills, whereas it was negatively partnered with self-confidence. It implies that big loan make people more financially independent and better decision maker, but lower in confidence. In the same vein, findings show that entrepreneurial skills have a positive correlation with financial independence, decision making and self-confidence. It means; in other words, people who are stronger in entrepreneurship have higher independence, better decision-making, and confidence levels. In addition, the study notes that having access to resources is positively correlated with financial independence as well as acting decisively and effectively, and with confidence. More access to resources means higher independence, better choices, and more self-confidence. Moreover, leadership skills are positively correlated with financial independence and decision making and self-efficacy. They found that better leaders are probably more independent, make better decisions and have higher self confidence. Finally, this study has also demonstrated a positive relationship between loan amounts, decision making and financial independence with self-efficacy. This result suggests that people with better self-efficacy often have more financial autonomy, fewer decision-making difficulties, and increased self-confidence.

Regression analysis

Having shown the correlation coefficients, the regression analysis was made and record results are given in Table 2. It includes the regression result with respect to loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources and leadership skills and self-efficacy with respect to the financial independence.

Table 2: *Estimated regression result of loan size, entrepreneurial skill, access to resources, leadership skills, and self-efficacy on financial independency*

Results based on 201 observations and a linear model. The model can be written in this way $FI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 L + \beta_2 ES + \beta_3 AR + \beta_4 LS + \beta_5 SE + e$ (FI is financial independence and L, ES, AR, LS,and SE are loan size, entrepreneurial skills access to resources leadership skills self-efficacy respectively).

Model	Intercept	Regression coefficients of FI							Adj. R^2	SEE	F-value
		Loan	ES	AR	LS	SE	D1	D2			
1	3.539 (9.167)**	0.6 (1.882)							0.013	0.4403	3.542
2	1.306 (9.065)**		0.692 (20.678)**						0.681	0.25	427.579
3	1.059 (8.568)**			0.754 (26.111)**					0.773	0.21	681.809
4	0.812 (5.898)**				0.81 (25.212)**				0.76	0.22	635.65
5	1.038 (8.480)**					0.754 (26.551)**			0.779	0.21	704.96
6	4.348 (117.12)**						-0.025 (3.91)**		0.067	0.428	15.29
7	4.248 (119.67)**							0.07 -0.929	-0.001	0.443	0.863
8	0.004 (0.184)		0.249 (43.173)**	0.26 (38.766)**	0.25 (32.107)**	0.241 (32.786)**		-0.01 (1.951)	0.995	0.03	8333.87
9	0.013 (0.561)		0.248 (42.533)**	0.258 (38.498)**	0.251 (32.063)**	0.241 (32.62)**	-0.006 (1.151)	-0.013 (2.234)*	0.995	0.03	6956.673
10	(0.013) (0.39)	0.002 (1.022)	0.247 (41.594)**	0.258 (38.516)**	0.252 (32.044)**	0.241 (32.558)**	-0.006 (1.125)	-0.012 (2.182)	0.995	0.03	5964.351

Note: The asterisk signs (**) and (*) indicate that results are significant at 1 percent and 5 percent levels, respectively.

In this case the beta coefficient of loan size is positive in respect to financial independence whereby as loan increases it directly influence financial independence. This is consistent with Addai (2017). Likewise, the results indicate that the beta coefficient of entrepreneurial skills is positive, meaning that this variable also has a positive impact on financial independence. This reinforces the findings of Maru et al. (2013).

Moreover, the findings show a positive beta estimate for resource access, which indicates that having resources is associated with achieving financial independence. This result is in agreement with Nkatha (2015). Moreover, even the beta of leadership skills is positive so it also indicates that strong and effective person anymore leads towards financial independence. The observation is supported by Bentul Mawa (2011). Finally, the beta coefficient of self-efficacy is positive, indicating that self-efficacy leads to a greater sense of financial independence. This result is consistent with the findings of Islam et al. (2014).

Table 3 summarizes the estimated regression of loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, leadership skills and self-efficacy in decision making.

Table 3: *Estimated regression results of loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, leadership skill and self-efficacy on decision making*

The results are based on 201 observations using linear regression model. The model is $DM=\beta 0 + \beta 1\ LS+ \beta 2\ ES + \beta 3\ AR+ \beta 4\ LS+ \beta 5\ SE +\varepsilon i$, where the dependent variable is DM (decision making is the action or process of making important decisions). The independent variables are LS (loan size), ES (entrepreneur skills), AR (access to resources), LS (leadership skill) and SE (self-efficacy).

Model	Intercept	Regression coefficients of DM							Adj. R^2	SEE	F-value
		Loan	ES	AR	LS	SE	D1	D2			
1	3.252 (8.679)**	0.073 (2.376)*							0.023	0.427	5.646
2	2.496 (11.341)**		0.385 (7.524)**						0.218	0.382	56.608
3	2.41 (10.873)**			0.407 (7.863)**					0.233	0.378	61.829
4	2.062 (8.893)**				0.488 (9.014)**				0.286	0.365	81.258
5	2.172 (10.240)**					0.46 (9.338)**			0.301	0.361	87.205
6	4.197 (113.687)**						-0.171 (2.687)**		0.03	0.425	7.218
7	4.135 (119.178)**							0.021 (0.286)	0.005	0.433	0.082
8	1.676 (6.912)**		0.123 (1.876)	0.062 (0.810)	0.184 (2.075)*	0.209 (2.512)**			0.341	0.351	26.888
9	1.732 (6.758)**		0.114 (1.705)	0.059 (0.771)	0.193 (2.151)*	0.202 (2.398)*	-0.038 (-0.678)		0.339	0.351	21.543
10	1.756 (6.80)**		0.119 (1.767)	0.5 -0.655	0.187 (2.074)*	0.21 (2.477)*	-0.055 (0.922)	-0.053 (0.813)	0.338	0.352	18.032
11	1.277 (3.321)**	0.043 (1.673)	0.097 (1.430)	0.054 (0.703)	0.199 (2.212)*	0.205 (2.420)*	-0.053 (0.885)	-0.048 (0.734)	0.344	0.35	15.999

Note: The asterisk signs (**) and (*) indicate that results are significant at 1 percent and 5 percent levels, respectively.

Our regression results reveal that the beta coefficient of loan size has a positive relationship with decision-making capacity, implying that as loan size increases, so does the ability to make decisions. This result is consistent with Herath et al. (2015). However, just as for the alpha coefficient describing experience, its beta equivalent is also positive for entrepreneurial skills with respect to decision-making ability, indicating that better entrepreneurial skills improve decision-making. This was in line with Yasmeen (2014).

Moreover, the beta coefficient of access to resources is positively related to decision-making ability possess a better decision making skills. This is also consistent with the findings of Sujatha and Malyadri (2015). Also, the beta coefficient of leadership skills is positively correlated with decision-making which means that effective leadership skills contribute better decision-making. This result supports the research of Aruna and Jyothirmayi (2011).

In addition, the stronger sense of self-efficacy (self effective), the better decision-making ability. This result agrees with the findings presented by Islam et al. (2014).

Self Confidence in Grants Time Grant of Entrepreneurial Loan, Skills Access Table 4 depicts estimated regression parameters concerning loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, leadership styles and self-efficacy.

Table 4: *Estimated regression results of loan size, entrepreneurial skills, access to resources, leadership styles and self-efficacy on self confidence*

The results are based on 201observations using linear regression model. The model is SC=β0 + β1 LS+ β2 ES + β3 AR+ β4 LS+ β5 SE +εi, where the dependent variable is SC (self-confidence). The independent variables are LS (loan size), ES (entrepreneur skills), AR (access to resources), LS (leadership skill) and SE (self-efficacy).

Model	Intercept	Regression coefficients of							Adj. R_bar^2	SEE	F-value
		LS	ES	AR	LS	SE	D1	D2			
1	4.339 (11.552)**	0.003 (0.085)							0.005	0.428	0.007
2	2.443 (11.769)**		0.437 (9.054)**						0.288	0.361	81.984
3	2.129 (10.820)**			0.513 (11.152)**					0.382	0.336	124.366
4	1.841 (8.873)**				0.579 (11.956)**				0.415	0.327	142.937
5	1.939 (10.412)**					0.554 (12.813)**			0.449	0.317	164.166
6	4.376 (120.862)**						0.202 (3.252)		0.046	0.418	10.573
7	4.282 (125.59)**							0.114 (1.575)	0.007	0.426	2.481
8	1.8 (5.677)**	0.038 (1.734)	0.099 (1.745)	0.156 (2.411)*	0.181 (2.404)*	0.261 (3.694)**			0.515	0.298	43.444
9	1.789 (5.647)**	0.037 (1.683)	0.088 (1.514)	0.164 (2.526)**	0.193 (2.545)**	0.248 (3.460)**		0.061 (1.18)	0.516	0.297	36.512
10	1.838 (5.618)**	0.037 (1.695)	0.083 (1.433)	0.16 (2.449)*	0.198 (2.592)**	0.244 (3.396)**	0.031 (0.614)	0.049 (0.89)	0.514	0.298	31.249

From the regression results: we see that the beta coefficient is positive for loan size and self-confidence, indicating that as our loan size increases, so does our self-confidence. It agrees with the findings of Swapna (2017). The beta coefficient for the other independent variable (the entrepreneurial skill) also reveals a correlation with self-confidence in the same direction, implying that if one has quality diversity he/she would have more self-confidence. The same conclusion was drawn by Tanima (2015).

Moreover, the positive sign of the resource access beta coefficient with self-confidence indicates that greater access to resources drives more self-confidence. This finding is consistent with the study conducted by Ringkvist (2013). Transaction Preceding this, the beta coefficient of leadership skill is positively correlated with self-confidence; in other words, good leadership skill enhances self-confidence. This result agrees with the reports of Kamau (2012). Finally, self-efficacy is positively correlated with having self-confidence, meaning the greater one's level of self-efficacy, the more self-confident one will be. This observation has also been covered before Njogu (2015)

Summary and conclusion

Using the data from 201 respondents, it aims to explore the impact of micro finance on women's empowerment in Suklaphanta Municipality. The important factors examined are loan size, entrepreneurship skills, the nature of business, access to resources, leadership skills and self-efficacy. The results imply a positive link between the size of loan and women's empowerment, as in larger loans lead to more empowered women. The data also show that entrepreneurial skills correlate positively with women's empowerment; better entrepreneurship skills result in increased levels of empowerment. Moreover, the analysis provides evidence of a positive correlation between access to resources and women's empowerment which implies that better access leads to higher empowerment. Leadership skills positively correlate with women's empowerment, which means better leadership skills result in greater empowerment. The results also indicate that self-efficacy significantly affects women's empowerment positively, which means when a woman has a high level of self-efficacy she has more chances; means they become more empowered.It is also important to note that the beta coefficients of loan size, entrepreneurial skills, type of business, access to resources, leadership skills and self-efficacy are positive. Yet only the coefficients about loan size and entrepreneurial skills are statistically significant at 5 percent level.

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