

THE ROLE OF MICRO CREDIT ON WOMEN WELFARE.

**CASE STUDY: BRAC UGANDA IN KATWE-BUTEGO BRANCH, MASAKA
MUNICIPALITY.**

BY

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DEDICATIONS

Dedication and commitment were fundamental aspects towards the completion of this report upon which success the support of my family members, fellow academicians and workmates, UMU Masaka branch administration and facilitators played a very big role.

I therefore dedicate to them this important academic achievement in appreciation for all their tireless endeavors that that heavily contributed to a successful completion of this research report.

This research report is also dedicated to my dear mother Mrs. Namuwawu Viola and all my family members for the prayers and patience you have exhibited over the time I have been studying.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

BRAC- Bangladesh Rural and Advancement Committee.

FIS-Financial Institution.

MIE- Microfinance Information Exchange.

ROSCA- Rotating Savings and Credit Association.

SME-Small and Medium Enterprise.

UNHS- Uganda National Housing Committee.

UWEP- Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

ABSTRACT

This study intended to evaluate the role of Microcredit on Women Welfare considering a case study of the women who are clients of BRAC Uganda which is found in Katwe-Butego division branch in Masaka Municipality.

The research focused the research objectives of, The contribution of Business loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality. The role of Agricultural loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality and the effect of Education loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

This research was based on the Women In Development theory because this theory comprehensively looks at the justifications of carrying out this study and it also supports the women's acquisition of microcredit. In the same way, the study was based on a case study research design which is qualitative and descriptive in nature and it focused on determining the role of microcredit on women welfare. This research study used the questionnaire as the data collection tool.

The study population of the study area was 1300 women from which 297 respondents were sampled using the Morgan Formula. The data was collected using questionnaires as the data collection instrument.

The findings revealed that most women beneficiaries of microloan belong to the age bracket between 30-40 years with generally an education background below Advanced Level particularly a majority belonging to primary level, ordinary level while others had never gone to school.

Furthermore, in reference to the findings, the Business loan is the most common microloan received followed by the Agricultural loan and the lastly, the Education loan. The findings revealed that indeed all the loans have a role on women welfare although there still remain numerous challenges when using the loans and the most outstanding challenge is the high interest rates charged. The study also revealed that there are also many challenges when acquiring the loans but the most outstanding being the too much paperwork and bureaucracy although another most women were not willing to acquire another loan in future.

Hence the recommendations from the research study include policy ones like reducing bureaucracy by the loan officers and those for further research like finding a solution to the problem to diversion of the loans by the women to households which is poor usage of the loan.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study focused on the role of Micro Credit on Women Welfare with a case study of BRAC Uganda which is located along Soweto Speke road in Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality. This chapter contains the introduction, background of the study, the problem statement, general objective, specific objectives, research questions, and the scope of the study, justification of the study, significance of the study and the conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of the study

1.1.1 Historical background.

According to Seibe (1970), in Africa, the history of microfinance dates back to the 16th century where we find evidence of microfinance in the form of 'esusu' or 'susu'; a Rotating Savings and Credit Association (ROSCA) among the Yoruba. The 'esusu', a form of social capital used to be transported during the slave trade to Caribbean islands. Its origin is found in the rotating work associations, where labour as a scarce commodity was accumulated and allocated to one of the members at a time. With the advent of money and commercialization, these transactions were replaced with money such as cowries, pounds and naira.

Microfinance Information Exchange (2005) states that the term` microcredit` came to prominence in development by the year 1980 whereby the major difference between microcredit and the subsidized rural credit programmes of the 1950s and 1960s was that microcredit insisted

on repayment, charging interest rates that covered the cost of credit delivery and by depending on clients who were dependent on the informal sector for credit. It was now clear for the first time that microcredit could provide large-scale outreach profitability.

Robinson (2001) says that Muhammad Yunus founded his Grameen Bank in 1983 to make very small loans of about 15 million dollars to the poor and the non-creditworthy. Since then it has loaned about 3 billion dollars to more than six million of the very poorest in people in Bangladesh and across the Asian sub-continent yet it remained entirely self-financing.

Since the 1990s, microfinance and sustainable banking with the poor, or so called social banking, have been in the focus of the development debate, and there has been a rapid expansion of micro-credit programmes throughout the developing world. Some of these programmes are or have been successes, some failures. National governments, and international and national NGOs or CSOs have presented microfinance as a crucial ingredient in social and economic development. The Beijing (The Fourth World Conference on Women(1995) and Copenhagen (The World Summit on Social Development(1995) agreements include increasing credit as a key strategy for the eradication of women's poverty.(Simojoki 2003).

Over the last two decades, the government of Uganda has initiated, implemented and supported various micro-credit schemes aimed at fighting poverty in the country. The main focus of these programmes has been the provision of revolving funds for micro-credit to households at the lower level.(William 2003).

The government of Uganda having realized that access to small and easily repayable loans is the pathway to poverty alleviation had to face the challenge of having user friendly MCIs legally operating in the regulatory framework of financial institutions. Ledgerwood et al (2002). The government of Uganda through the national parliament responded to this by establishing the Financial Institutions Statute (FIS) in 1993.

At present, MFIs , microcredit institutions and other lending institutions(tier two, three and four) respectively are a great potential to not only provide access to financial services to low income earners in Uganda but to do so in a profitable and sustainable manner. Whether utilization or non usage of small loans would translate into practical improvement of women welfare was the main motive for carrying out the study.(Mugabi2010)

1.1.2 Theoretical background.

Women In Development theory

This is Women In Development theory which is also called the dual economy theory. It divides the world and economies into modern and traditional. Snyder and Tadesse (1995). This approach emphasizes women's status and it aims at making women visible in the development process. Erwer(2000), improving women's access to credit, technology and extension services. The framework does not take into account gender relations and it is considered to over emphasize women's productive side.

Collective Household Model.

Browning and Chiappori (1998) suggested the collective household model .Kandker et al (2003) asserted that the above model by arguing that it motivates change in gender relations brought

about through access to credit .Improvements in women's access to credit through microfinance institutions expands its availability to women by providing them with great access to economic opportunities. This leads to economic empowerment that transpires into greater bargaining power in the intra-house decision making process.

Welfare theory

This stems in the 1950s. In this approach, women's major roles are seen to be reproductive ones, which makes them merely passive recipients of development benefits. Synder and Tades (1995).The welfare approach is gender blind. Women's needs in developing countries are seen as different from those of men. Par part (1989) and modernization and development are seen to benefit both men and women equally. The approach analyses the household as one economic unit.

The research study was based on the Women In Development theory (WID) because women receive microcredit in order to become more productive hence improve their welfare and this is what this theory emphasizes. In addition, this approach addresses women's exclusion from development which this study intends to address by assessing the role of microcredit on women welfare.

1.1.1 Conceptual Background.

Microcredit:-The word credit comes from a Latin word 'credo' meaning I believe or 'trust.' Hence credit entails someone, the lender, to believe or trust someone, the lender, to believe or trust someone, the borrower with funds to be used by the borrower for his or her purposes to be repaid to the lender with interest at a later stage on agreed terms and conditions. Microcredit is

the extension of very small loans (microloans) to those in poverty designed to spur entrepreneurship. These individuals lack collateral, steady employment and a verifiable credit history and therefore cannot meet even the most minimal qualifications to gain access to traditional credit .Microcredit is part of microfinance which is the provision of a wider range of financial services to the very poor.(Asian Business Consortium 2012)

Microcredit refers to small loans. Sinha (1998) and Schreiner and Colombet (2001) state that micro-credit refers to small loans providing credit to the poor so as to help them reduce poverty and improve their standards of living. Micro finance institutions provide micro credit to the poor individuals via micro credit programs in addition, micro finance institutions usually provide saving and insurance services (Amediariz de Aghan and Morduch 2005).In other words, micro credit is a more narrow term than micro finance. Micro credit builds on the premise that financial services are needed to make investments in human capital to smooth out consumption and to overcome un expected shocks. It can be seen as a solution to include previously excluded poor groups without access to credit out of poverty.

Dobra (2011) argues that micro credit not only opens up the opportunity for self-employment, but also contributes to the improvement of the situation for the entire household. Furthermore, micro credit positively effects the social situation of poor individuals by promoting self-confidence and expanding the capacity to play a more important role in society. Dobra (2011).According to Arun et al (2009), one of the advantages with micro credit over other financial services is the possibility of receiving a group- based loan where members work as each-others' collateral. The advantage of being a group is that the group can loan a larger amount. This amount is then repaid regularly in small sums by each member, which makes it possible for

even the poorest borrower to repay his or her loan. If the group makes their repayments as they should, they can acquire access to repeated and larger loans.

Micro credit also helps to resolve some problems that are keeping the poor from the financial market. Micro credit partly solves the problem with portfolio diversification since members of micro credit programs often engage in different types of activities .However, the problem of unexpected shocks like drought and flooding still remains Micro credit also contributes to portfolio diversification using group-based lending .In the group, each member is responsible for every member's debt. If one of the members fails to pay, the other members are obligated to pay this person's debt .Since the risk is spread out on many individuals, the risk taken by the micro finance institution will be lower. (Islam2007).

When the poorest especially the women receive credit, they become economic actors with power to improve not only their own lives but in a widening circle of impact, the lives of their family, their communities and their nations. Asian Business Consortium (2012).A woman is an adult female human being as contrasted to men, an adult male and a girl, a female child. The term woman (irregular plural women) is used to indicate biological sex distinctions, cultural, gender role distinctions or both.

Besides consisting the largest portion of Uganda's population.(51% of the 34.9 million Ugandans) Census(2014), women also form 53% of the 11.5 million economically active population.(UWEP2017).

1.2.4 Contextual Background

Hadi (1997) defines women's strategic needs as increasing women's bargaining capacity, reducing violence against women and make them gain more influence over decision making. The process of empowerment requires women to recognize their strategic needs and their coercive social situation.

Women's activities in the informal sector are not always small, inefficient and unprofitable "survival" activities. Osirim (1996). Women's informal economic activities and entrepreneurship are considered vital to the African economy. Working in the informal sector has also increased women's decision making power within the household, has promoted new skills and given women self confidence in business and public life. Swantz (1995). For some women, working in the informal sector means constructing a career. (Friedman and Hambridge 1991)

Kenya, like other developing countries suffers from high unemployment rate. Opportunities to find salaried employment are few especially for uneducated poor women. Therefore, they seek means of livelihood from the so called informal sector of the economy. But female micro entrepreneurs suffer from gender specific constraints also in the informal sector. Low access to credit is normally seen to be the most significant constraint. The low access to credit is normally seen to be a major/main obstacle to improvement of women's economic situation, thus microcredit is thought to be a solution for financial problems of female members. (Simijoki 2003).

In the context of Uganda, according to UNHS (1999/2000), evidence suggests that most of the NGOs and MIFs target mainly women. By financing small and medium scale enterprises, the MIFs have made a significant contribution to creation of employment levels and also house hold income. According to Wamasembe (2001), the SMEs provide employment opportunities to approximately 90% of the school dropouts, retired and retrenched civil servants, the skilled unemployed, women and army veterans.

Less than 12% of the economically active women are in paid employment, the remainder are either self employed or contribute to unpaid family labour. Even in paid employment, women are more likely than men to be in low status, less paying jobs. This means that the majority start up small businesses to earn a living. Unfortunately, women largely remain excluded from accessing formal financial services that would allow them to access credit.(UWEP 2017)

1.2 The problem statement.

Hashemi et al (1996) investigated whether women's access to credit has any impact on their lives. Their results suggest that women's access to credit contributes significantly to the magnitude of the economic contributions reported by women, to the likelihood of an increase in asset holdings in their own names, to increase in their exercise of purchasing power and in their political and legal awareness. They also found that access to credit was associated with higher levels of mobility, political participation and involvement in major decision-making of women for a particular credit organization.

Simojoki (2003) argued that microfinance empowers women by strengthening their economic role, increasing their income and ability to contribute to family income, increase their

employment and productivity, helping them to establish their identity independent of the family and giving them experience and self-confidence in the public sphere.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provides credit to women as a way of strengthening them economically and politically. Fredrick Graflund (2013). Micro-credit can enhance women's economical independence leading to women's self-esteem and status in households and wider community.(Goetz and Gupta1996) and (Kabeer2001).

However, Mayoux (1997) argues that the impact of microfinance programmes are not always positive. Women who have set up enterprises benefit not only from small increase in income at the cost of heavier workloads and repayment pressures. Sometimes, their loans are used by men in the family to set up enterprises or sometimes women end up being employed as unpaid family workers with little benefit. She further points that in some cases; women's increased autonomy has been temporary and has led to the withdrawal of male support. It has also been observed that small increases in women's income are also leading to a decrease in male contributions to certain types of household expenditure. Rahman (1999) found that between 40% and 70% of the loans disbursed to women are used by the spouse and that the tensions within the households increases (domestic violence)

Also, recent research suggests that claims concerning the empowering effects of micro-credit on women have been exaggerated. Goet and SenGupta(1996). Micro-credit is thought to bring negative effects on women. (Hulme2000).

It is quite evident that microfinance programmes such as microcredit has benefited women in various aspects of life hence improving their welfare, however, this has been argued against by some researchers who argue that the impact of microfinance programmes such as microcredit is not always positive. And so the need to carry out a research study on the role of microcredit on women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

1.4 General objective.

The study was to find out the role of Micro-Credit on Women Welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

1.5. Specific objectives.

To find out the contribution of a Business loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

To examine the role of Agricultural loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

To find out the effect of Education loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

1.6 Research Questions

What is the contribution of Business loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality?

What is the role of Agricultural loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality?

What is the effect of Education loan on Women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality?

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Geographical scope

Geographically, the research study covered the area of Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality. It was particularly concerned about the women clients of BRAC Uganda office which is located along Soweto Speke road in Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality. Masaka municipality is one of the counties of Masaka district with sub-counties including Nyendo-Ssenyange division, Kimaanya-Kyabakuza division and Katwe-Butego division. Masaka Municipality is about 122 Km to the South- West of Kampala on the highway to Mbarara.

The researcher chose the above mentioned geographical location because it had many respondents to the study who were vital in providing information needed by the research study.

1.7.2 Time scope

The research study covered a period from 22 years (1995 to 2017). The study covered that time period because the online journals, organizational reports and the manual text books from which data was sourced were available in the range of this period.

1.7.3 Content scope

Sinha (1998), referred to microcredit as small loans. These small generally include business loans, Agricultural loans and Educational loans as given out by BRAC Uganda (2017).

And so, the research based on the three major variables as mentioned above. This was so because they are the most common types of microloans given to the women in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

1.8 Justification of the study

Access to financial services helps to empower women by enabling the presence of women beyond domestic thresholds, increasing their mobility and building their self-confidence through the exercise of voice. Wright (2006). Moreover, it is argued that poverty alleviation can only be addressed by focusing on the structural, cultural and religious constraints on the poor especially women in a developing country context are among the most marginalized. Mayoux (2000), Kabeer (2001) and Fernando (2006) hence the research seeks to address feminist empowerment by addressing gender equality and the human rights of women through access to microcredit.

Women are among the poorest of the poor and therefore need special attention. Mosley and Hulme (1998). It is argued that given women's roles in the family as wives ,sisters or mothers, they are more concerned and more responsible than men in terms of household well-being and therefore extensions of financial services to women are more beneficial for households and ultimately for addressing poverty. Mayoux (2002) hence the need for this study to address poverty alleviation in the women through access to microcredit.

The argument that women in developing countries tend to be shy, meek and compliant makes microfinance organizations to work towards their financial self -sustainability by embarking mainly on large and profitable ventures that are self-supporting and compete with other private-sector banking institutions. Mayoux (2002). Hence the need of the study to address financial-self sustainability of the women through microcredit.

There is a high growth rate of microfinance institutions ,though according to Wright (2000), many of the microfinance projects fail to reach the poorest thus generally having a limited effect on income and in most cases, it drives women into greater dependence on their husbands and fail to provide additional services desperately needed by the poor. Therefore, this creates a ground that requires finding out why many of these projects initiated to empower women fail.

Finally, the research study is a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the award of Bachelors' Degree of Business Administration and Management from Uganda Martyrs University.

1.9 Significance of the study.

The research study may help regulators and policy makers such as the Bank of Uganda in formulating policies, regulating the microfinance sector and advancing prudence in management of microfinance establishments like those that advance microcredit to women.

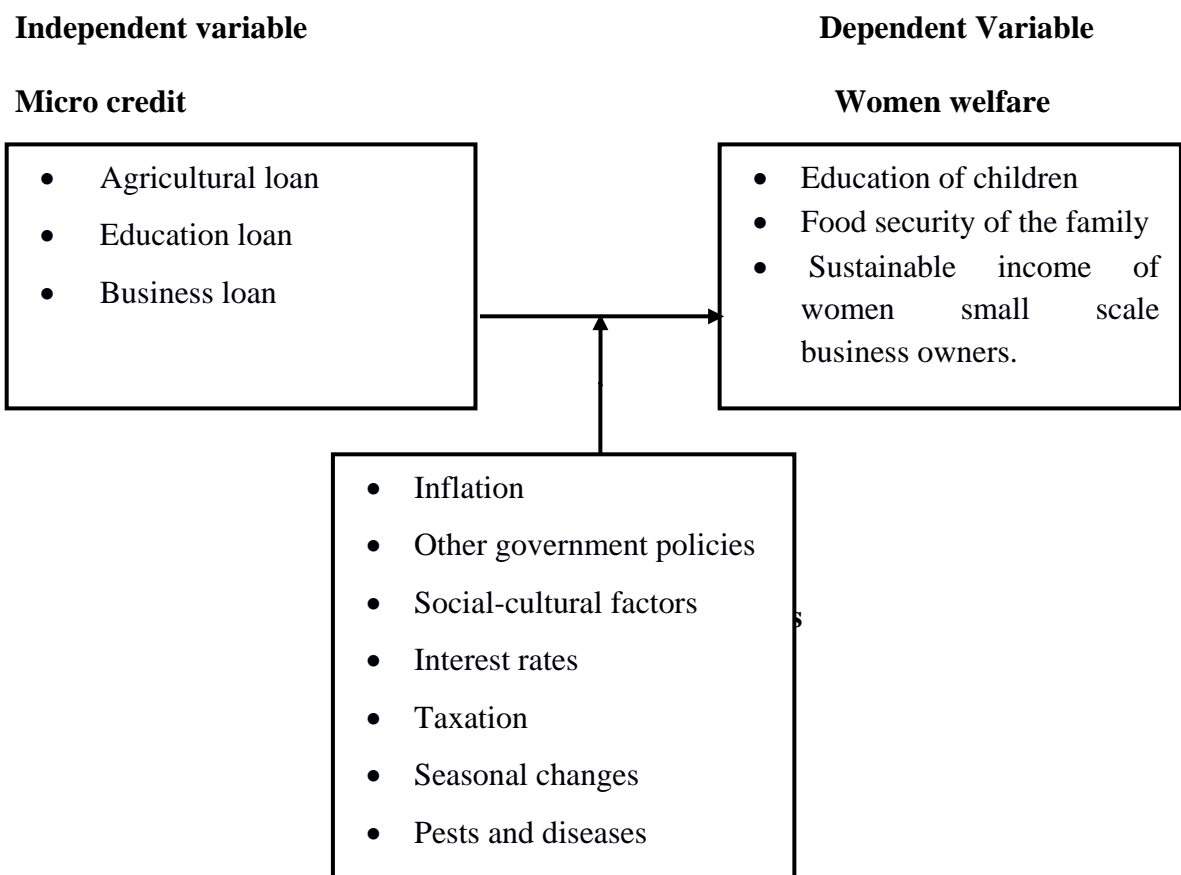
The research study might be significant to finance managers and consultants in understanding factors vital when formulating financial packages for persons with low incomes and women in general. Furthermore, by identifying features of microfinance capital market intermediaries hence can be able to design optimal investment channels for the clientele.

NGOs, capital ventures and donors of microfinance organizations might find this study useful in establishing policies and channels through which this concept can be applied by microcredit providers.

Lastly, given the limited knowledge in the same field, this study will be of great significance to the academicians as they seek to increase their knowledge on the relationship between microcredit and women welfare.

1.10 The Conceptual framework.

Figure 1



Source: The researcher with the help of Amin (2005)

Explanation of the conceptual framework.

When women seek for microcredit from an MFI, they get different loan products in order to at contribute to their welfare.

The women seek a business loan in order to attain a sustainable income as asserted by Hahemi et al (1996) but this is affected by some intervening factors such as inflation which is the persistent rise in prices which increases price levels hence affecting loan usage and the ability to repay the microloan by the women. Another intervening factor is interest rates in such a way that when interest rates are high, it reduces income levels of the women hence reducing their welfare as women but when they are low, it increases their income levels hence their welfare: Another intervening factor are socio-cultural factors such as male dominance of the family in the Ugandan context hence some of these micro business loan got by women are taken over by men in the homestead hence at last only benefiting men and leaving out women welfare. Other intervening factors include government policies such as taxation: when the level of taxation is high, women who use business loans in their businesses are left with less income hence reducing on the contribution of the business loan to women welfare but when the level of taxation is low, the women who use business loans in their businesses are left with more income hence the business loan positively contributing to women welfare.

The women seek education loan in order to contribute to their welfare by educating their children. However, this is affected by some intervening factors such as the socio-cultural factors such as denying a girl child education and positively by some government policies such as promoting the education of the girl child. Other intervening factors are those present in the macro economy such as inflation and taxation policies.

The women seek agricultural loan in order to contribute to their welfare by ensuring food

security of their families .However, this is affected by some intervening factors such as : inflation in such a way that when prices of agricultural inputs rises the profit levels from agricultural outputs decreases which negatively contributes to women welfare. Another factor is season changes and pests and diseases in such a way that these negatively affect agricultural productivity hence reducing on the food security of the family as asserted by Isam(2007). Other factors such as interest rates and taxation are part of the macro- economic environment and they have an effect on agricultural production which affects food security of the women.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This presents a comprehensive review of literature on the study. It is followed basing on the established objectives of the study. It is also based on the facts and reliable sources which include: different authors, journal articles and the Internet.

2.1 Actual Review

Here the researcher presents the review of the different scholars' perspectives of the role of micro-credit on women welfare following the three objectives of the research study one by one.

2.1.1 Business loan and women welfare.

Millions of people make their living through running micro enterprises. Kayu (2005).Evidences from literature show that adequate credit aids entrepreneurship performance. Gatewood et al (2004). The result of such credit assistance to entrepreneurs especially women is often seen in improved income, output, investment employment and welfare of entrepreneurs. Kuzilwa (2005) and Lakwo (2007). Credit has positive impact of business performance of entrepreneurs in Kenya, Peter (2000), income and wellbeing of women in Uganda. Lakwo (2007).Credit had a positive impact on women's entrepreneurs' performance in Tanzania. Kuzilwa (2005). Opportunity for entrepreneurial activity, in terms of new business or business expansion acts as a link between micro credit and women entrepreneurship performance. Micro-credit creates opportunities for women entrepreneurs to generate income. Brana (2008)

Similarly, a study conducted in Tanzania found that micro credit was enriching to borrowers. Kayu et al (2005).He noted that the income of borrowers had increased significantly after participating in borrowing schemes and that they were willing to continue borrowing meaning that such income had been useful in maintaining welfare.

However, researchers in Uganda evaluated the impact of micro-loans on profits of women owned micro enterprises and they noted that women -owned enterprises saw no increase in profits from loans which some women attribute to pressures they face to spend resources on household rather than business needs. (Retrieved from www.ipa.org on 09/04/2017). Also, Buckley (1997) in his research on micro enterprises in the informal sector in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana, he found that these form of capital injections offers the illusion of fixing the profound problems especially women which rather need more structural changes in the socio economic conditions that defines their activities.

The researcher's view is that, the micro enterprise loan generally has a positive role on the welfare of women although there still remains a challenge of women spending more of the micro enterprise loan resources on household rather than on business needs hence limiting the economic ability to better women welfare due to limited income from profits.

And so, as a remedy, Nachiket and Bindu (2008) assert that access to micro credit can help to reduce poverty and improve household wellbeing only if accompanied by other complementary inputs like training, skill and development intervention. This implies that small business operations require business skills and knowledge by the woman micro- entrepreneur for sustainability.

2.1.2 Agricultural loan and women welfare

Literature has showed that micro finance has great influence on agricultural production. Alam (1998).In a study conducted by him, he found out that agricultural woman joining the Grameen bank credit programs increased their income and also enjoyed economies of scale through working in groups which made it relatively easier for them to obtain inputs at a low average cost. He further stated that members of all programs in general achieved a higher agricultural production in terms of per acre yield due to financial support received and the group benefits enjoyed.

On the other hand, some scholars argue that agricultural loan through micro credit to improve women welfare is not always positive. They argue that the providers of micro credit have not generally addressed the credit need of small and marginal women farmers because of their priority of funding the poor and because of some of the perceived problems which include among others: the risk of investing in agriculture, seasonality of agricultural production systems. These factors make it highly risky for lenders to provide loans to small holder farmers thereby limiting production and consequently pushing some farmers out of the field as they seek livelihood opportunities in other sectors and in the long run, micro loans failing to improve women welfare through agriculture.(Sulemana and Appiah2015)

The researcher's view is that the agricultural loan has a positive role on women welfare in the short run given that factors such as seasonality and technical nature of agriculture are favorable. However , the challenge is in the long run due to high risk of investing in agriculture which includes factors such as; seasonality of agricultural production, poor loan repayment

performance and the technical nature of agricultural production systems.

And so as a remedy, micro credit providers should address the credit needs of small and marginal women farmers and should also change their perception about problems in agriculture.

2.1.3 Educational loan and women welfare

Barr (2009) argues that according to the human capital theory, expenditure on education is treated as an investment not as a consumer item. In Uganda, student loans are mainly offered by micro finance institutions with 60% of the beneficiaries from education loan programmes of BRAC Uganda are women (girls). (Retrieved from www.brac.org on 10/04/2017)

According to Somers et al (2006), more families run by women are relying on students loans to finance their children's higher education. Related decision to financial aid, the theory of efficient human capital investment implies that financial aid increases the education attainment of children whose parents do not contribute to their education. Brown et al (2012) hence the parents especially the women. Kandler (1998), found significantly higher levels of schooling for children and especially that of girls for all credit program participants.

However, Banerjee et al (2010) did not find such positive impact on social wellbeing of the household especially when women were the participants in micro credit programs. On the contrary, he found that male applicants are significantly more likely to enroll their children in school than female applicants.

The researcher's view is that the educational loan has a positive role on women welfare in such a way that their children can access free higher education especially in secondary level and the

women can spend their money on other household needs like health care hence improving their welfare. However, the challenge is that due to family neglect by some men in the family, the women are at times forced to spend the education loan resources on household.

The remedy is that micro finance organizations that provide micro-credit educational loans should endeavor to pay the school fees directly to the school office in order to prevent mismanagement.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the research design, the study population, the area of the study, sample size and selection, sampling techniques, methods of data collection, ethical considerations, procedure of data collection and analysis and it covers the validity and reliability of the research instruments.

3.1 Research Design.

Oso and Onen (2009) defined a research design as the study's general structure in as far as a study's overall methodology is concerned. Kothari (2004) also defined a research design as the arrangement of the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims at combining reference to the research purpose with the economy in procedure. The research was based on a case study research design and descriptive nature which was concerned with whether microcredit has any role on women welfare. The case study research design was chosen because it enabled to get a more detailed data or information.

A case study, ideally, was suitable for this research because it used a small sample for in depth analysis, allowed the application of instruments and methods of data collection, provided detailed description of the rare cases and gave a clear understanding of the population under study. The research was also based on sustainable income of women entrepreneurs, food security of the family and the education of the children to determine the role of microcredit on women welfare.

3.2 Study Population.

Enron (2005) defined a study population as a complete collection or universe of all members or units of the group interest to the research. The study targeted all the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe Butego division, Masaka Municipality. The total study population was 1300 according to the the management of BRAC Uganda, Katwe Butego office (2017).Some of them double as both employees and clients but the sample was specific to only the clients in order to avoid biasing the raw data collected.

3.3 Area of the study.

The study took place in Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality .This area of the study was been chosen because of the high customer clientele in the area which provided ground for more respondents in order to gather more raw data related to the study during data collection.

3.4 Sample Size and Selection.

Sample size and selection is the number of observations used for calculating estimates of a given population. The sample size selected was 297 respondents because these were the ones accessible for the research study. This reduced expenses and time by allowing researcher to estimate information about a whole population without having to survey each member of the population. Freebody (2003).The study depended on the sampling technique used . The sampling size and selection was got using the morgans' formular;-

$$\text{Sample size } S = \frac{X^2 NP(1-p)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2 P(1-P)}.$$

S= Required sample size

X= Z value (.eg.1.96 for 95% confidence level)

N= population size

P=Population proportion (expressed as decimal assumed to be 0.5 (50%))

d=Degree of accuracy (5%) expressed as a proportion (0.05) meaning margin for error.

Source : Daryle Morgan (1960)

3.5 Sampling techniques.

According to Freebody (2003), sampling is the process of selecting elements from the population in such a way that the samples selected are representative of the population .It involves extracting the portion of an entire study population. This research study used a simple random sampling technique because all the members of a group had an equal and independent chance of being selected.

3.6 Methods of data collection.

The methods of data collection to be used in the process of data collection included:-

Questionnaire and interview guide:

Questionnaires.

Business dictionary.com (2013) defined questionnaires as a list of a research or survey questions asked to respondents, and designed to extract specific information. It serves four basic purposes which include collecting the appropriate data, making data comparable, and amenable to analysis, minimizing bias in formulating and asking questions. Questionnaires involve the collection of items to which to which a respondent is expected to react in writing. Thus, they constituted of open and closed questions. The questions were written in English and the questions were concise and precise. The questionnaires were issued to every respondent who was given ample time to answer them and prepare for handover once the researcher came for them. Questionnaires were important to this study in the sense that respondents were given the ample time and

freedom to answer the questions at their free will and a lot of information from the study was revealed. However, the challenge with questionnaires was language barrier by some respondents who did not understand English the language in which they were prepared.

3.7 Data management and analysis.

Data was gathered, recorded and edited for completeness, legibility, consistency and clarification, uniformity and easy comprehension in the preparation for analysis. The findings were collected through questionnaires and interview guide. It was analyzed meaningfully through the discussions that were done with reference to the literature review topics and objectives. Data was analyzed using statistical tables and data collected from the field was organized into manageable dimension and prepared for analysis by transcribing interviews, sorting and arranging the data. The researcher read through the data and obtained a general sense of the information that reflected its' overall meaning.

3.8 Reliability and validity.

3.8.1 Validity.

Validity refers to the degree to which a study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept that the researcher is attempting to measure. Silverman (2002). Content validity is a logical process where connections between the study items and the variables to be examined are established and a study analysis properly conducted with an appropriate set of study specifications developed through writing guidelines which were carefully followed to gather the necessary data. Content validity is typically estimated by gathering a group of subject matter respondents together to review the study variables in question. It was used and measured by relying on the knowledge of

people who were familiar with the construct being measured. These subject- matter experts usually provided with access to the measurement tool and were asked to provide feedback on how well each question measure the construct in question.

3.8.2 Reliability.

Reliability is the description of the precision, consistency, repeatability and dependability with the instruments to present the data that is required for the study. Amin (2005)

An instrument is considered reliable if it produces the same result repeatedly. For this study, a parallel reliability method was used to ascertain reliability by comparing two different variables that were created using the same content. This was accomplished by creating a large pool of variable items that measure the same quality and then randomly dividing the items into two different variables (dependent and independent). The two variables were administered to the same subjects at the same time. Parallel reliability was used and measured by administering different versions of an assessment tool (questionnaire and interview guide) to the same group of individuals.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The researcher first sought for permission from the authorities and respondents before interviewing and giving them questionnaires. This also involved explaining to them the reasons for the research and an assurance of confidentiality.

The researcher avoided bias by choosing respondents of different religion, tribes. The researcher also avoided choosing respondents who were employees of BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego office

in order to avoid bias in the raw data collected. The information was only obtained from women clients of BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego office in order to make the research rich.

Honesty was highly observed by avoiding falsification and plagiarism which are not ethically accepted before during and after the study, all information and data obtained was original and not a misrepresentation of facts.

3.10 Limitation of the Study

Research limitations are methodological weaknesses in the study design that may lower its validity and reliability, Wills and David (2009). The limitations include;

The research was limited by financial resources and it explains why he used only one case study and few questionnaires.

The research was faced by bias from the respondents since not all people are ready to give out information. Under this limitation, people tended to hide some information that might be relevant to the study.

The study would have used for the whole country and a longitudinal study would have been used but in the interest of time and financial resources, it was limited to a cross sectional study of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality.

CHAPTER FOUR

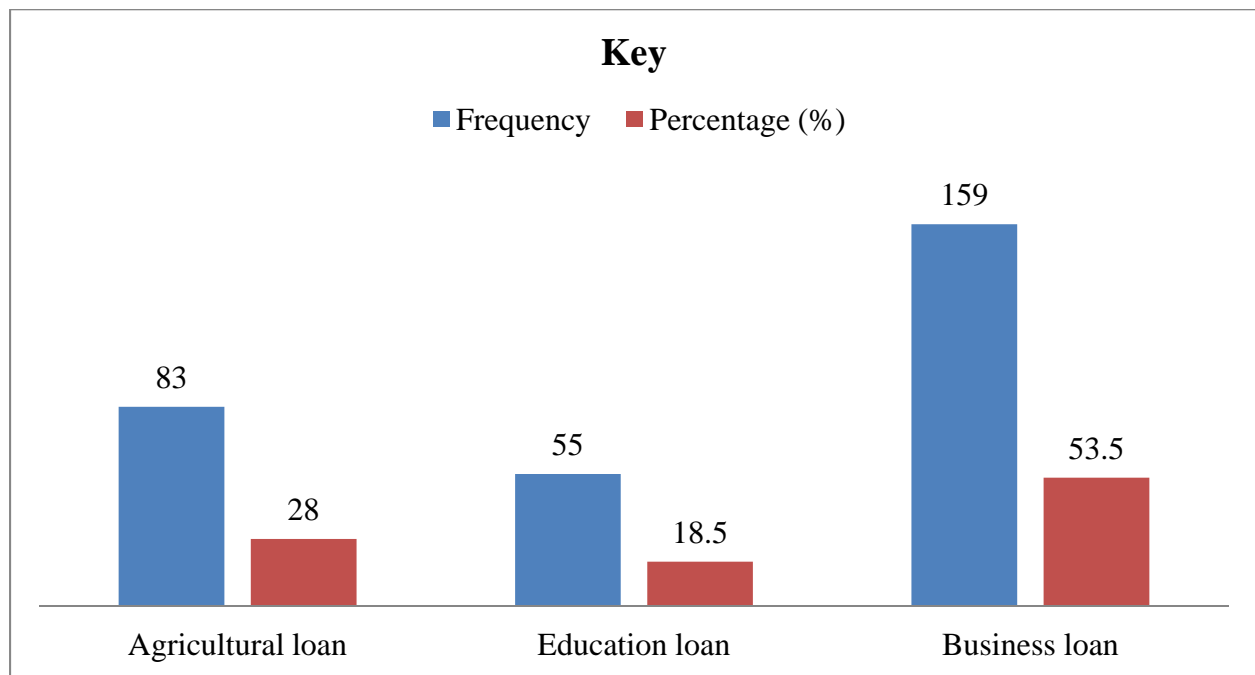
DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The main objective of this study was to determine the role of Microcredit on Women Welfare in Katwe-Butego division - Masaka Municipality basing on the women clients of BRAC Uganda. Therefore, this chapter presents the research findings in terms of background information of the respondents, presentation and discussion, (objective by objective) and the conclusion. The findings were analyzed by the use of a simple descriptive analysis, tables, percentages and the presentation made on bar graphs. The purpose of this was to give a clear statistical representation of the findings.

4.2 A bar graph showing the respondents of the different types of loans.

Figure 2



Source: Primary Data (2017)

Data was collected from a total of 297 respondents but these were divided according to the type of loan acquired. Out of the 297 respondents, 159 were business loan respondents and this comprised of 53.5%, 83 were Agricultural loan respondents and this comprised of about 28% and 55 were Education loan respondents and this comprised of about 18.5%. This is represented according to table 1 below. This is in line with the Asian Business Consortium (2012) which asserts that microcredit is given to the poor people mainly to promote entrepreneurship.

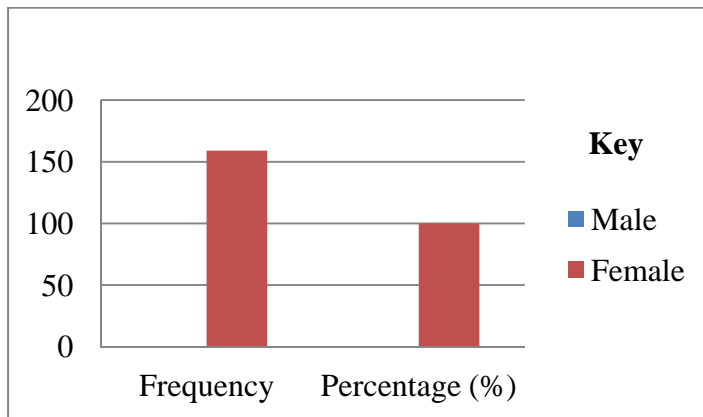
4.3 Business loan and Women Welfare.

In reference to the bar graph 4.2, data was collected from 159 respondents (women clients of microcredit from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division) and this was based on various variables of Gender, Age, Educational Background and the type of Business loan acquired, the

contributions of the business loan, the challenges of using the business loan, the possible solutions of using the business loan, the challenges when acquiring the business loan and the possible solutions when acquiring the business loan.

4.3.1 A graph showing the Gender of the respondents of the business loan.

Figure 3

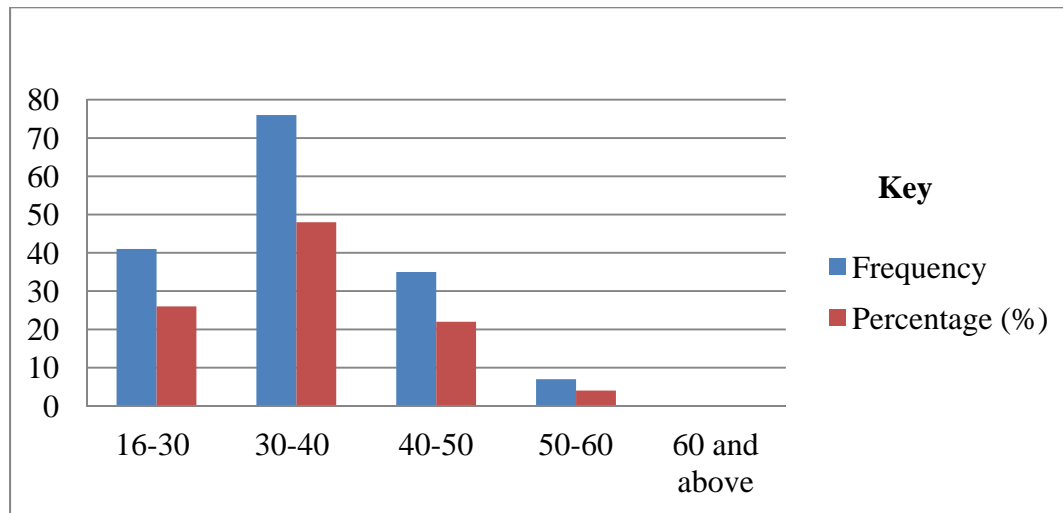


Source: Primary Data(2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.3.1 revealed that,100% of the respondents were Female. This implies that all the clients who aquireda business loan BRAC Uganda(Katwe Butego)in Masaka Municipality were females. This is in line with the main objective of this study which was to find out the role of microcredit on **women**welfare in Katwe Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

4.3.3 A graph showing the age of the respondents of the business loan.

Figure 4

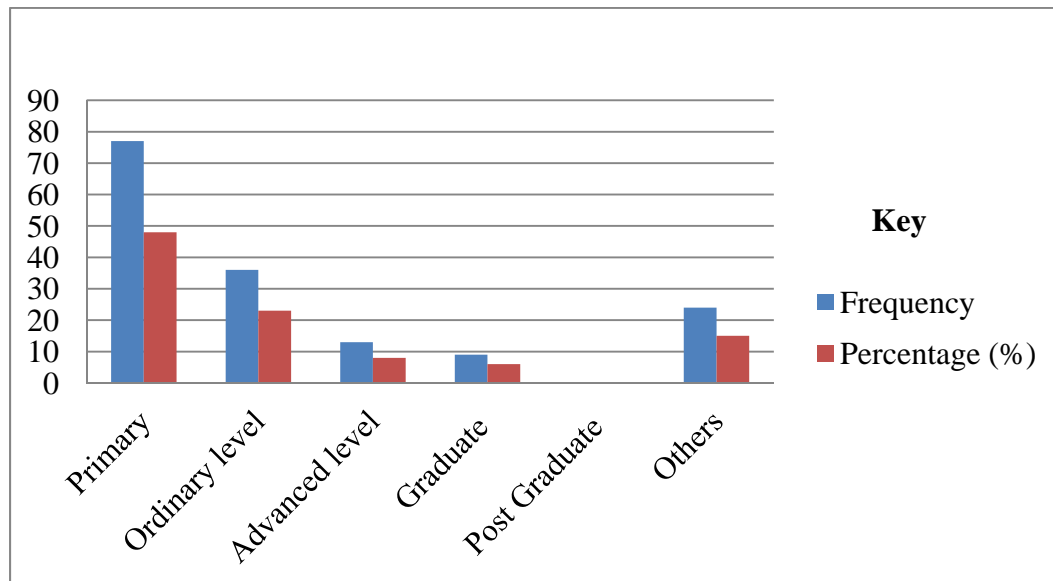


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.2.3 on the age of the respondents revealed that,26% of the respondents were between 16-30 years and these were 41 respondents,48% were between 30-40 years and these were 76 respondents, 22% were between 40-50 years and these were 35 respondents,4% between 50-60 years and there were no respondents above 60 years as shown above. Hence, it is seen that the majority of the respondents of the business loan were between 30-40 years. This is in line with one respondent who asserted that most women who acquire the business loan are between 30-40 years.

4.3.4 A bar graph showing the educational background of the respondents of the business loan.

Figure 5

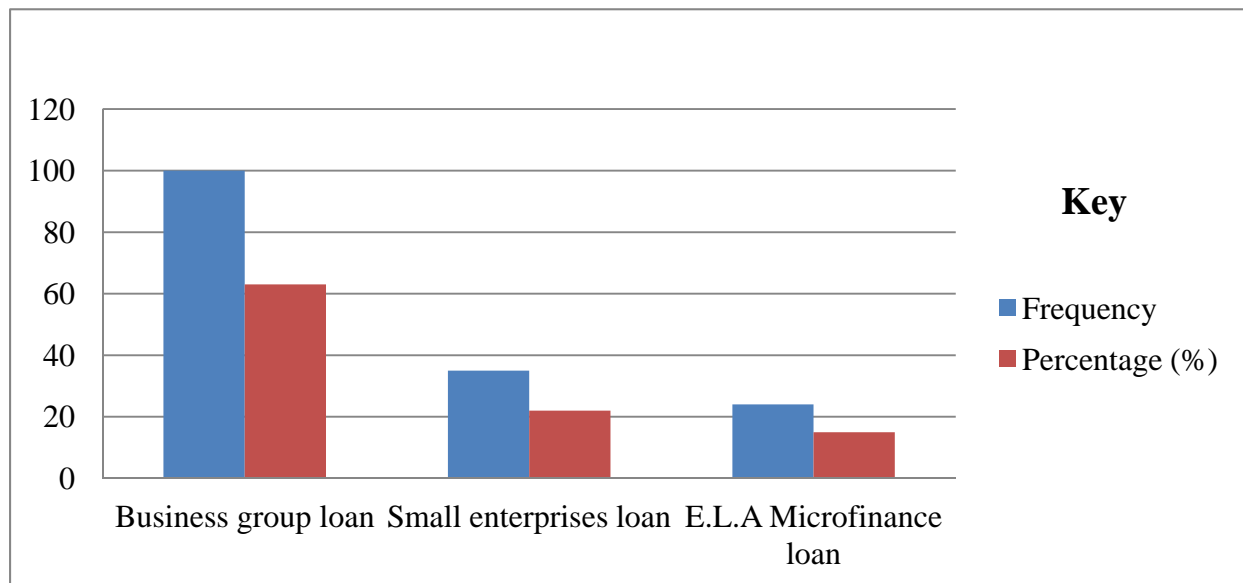


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.2.4 on the education background of the respondents revealed that 48% were for Primary level and these were 77 respondents, 23% were for Ordinary level and these were 36 respondents, 8% were for Advanced Level and these were 13, 6% were for graduate and these were 9, others were 15% and these were 24, there were no respondents with a post graduate level of education. And so, it is seen from the bar graph that the majority of the respondents attained an education up to Primary Level. This is in line with Asian Business Consortium (2012) which asserts that most recipients of microcredit lack a steady employment and as seen from the findings, a person with an educational background of Primary cannot secure a professional job in Uganda which would be steady employment.

4.3.5 A bar graph showing the types of Business loan acquired by the respondents.

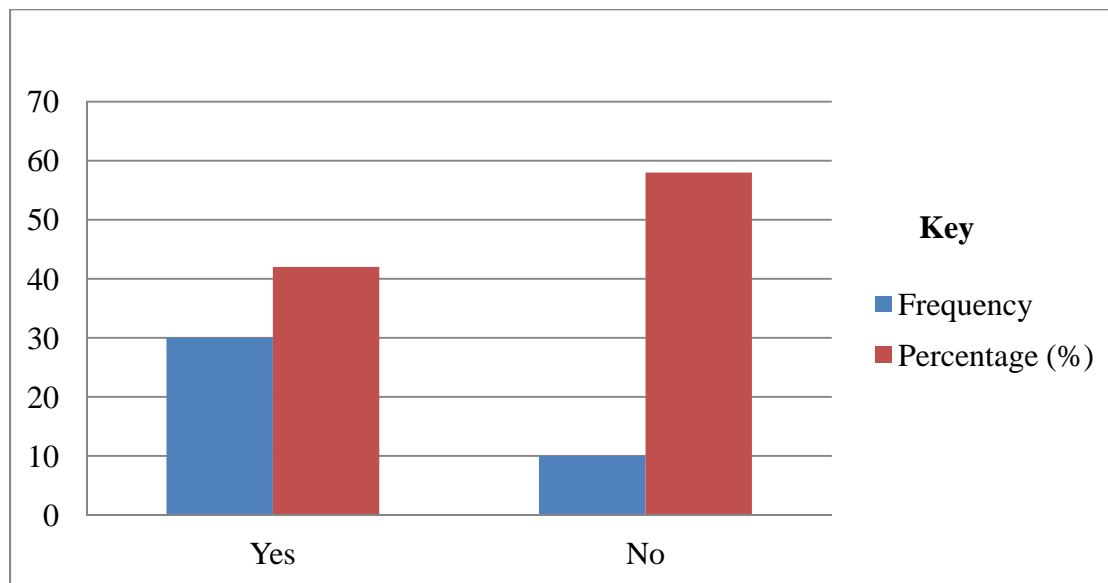
Figure 6



Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.3.5 revealed that 63% of the respondents were for the Business Group loan and these were 100 respondents, 22% of the respondents were for the Small Enterprise Loan and these were 35 respondents, 15% of the respondents were for the ELA Microfinance Loan and these were 24 respondents. Hence, it is seen from the bar graph that most of the respondents for the business loan acquired the Business group Loan. This is in line with Arun et al (2009), who argues that one of the advantages with micro credit over other financial services is the possibility of receiving a group- based loan where members work as each-others' collateral. The advantage of being a group is that the group can loan a larger amount. This amount is then repaid regularly in small sums by each member, which makes it possible for even the poorest borrower to repay his or her loan. If the group makes their repayments as they should, they can acquire access to repeated and larger loans hence business group loans are the favorite for women clients of BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division as revealed by the findings.

4.3.6 A bar graph showing the response to the contributions of the Business loan to the respondents. Figure 7

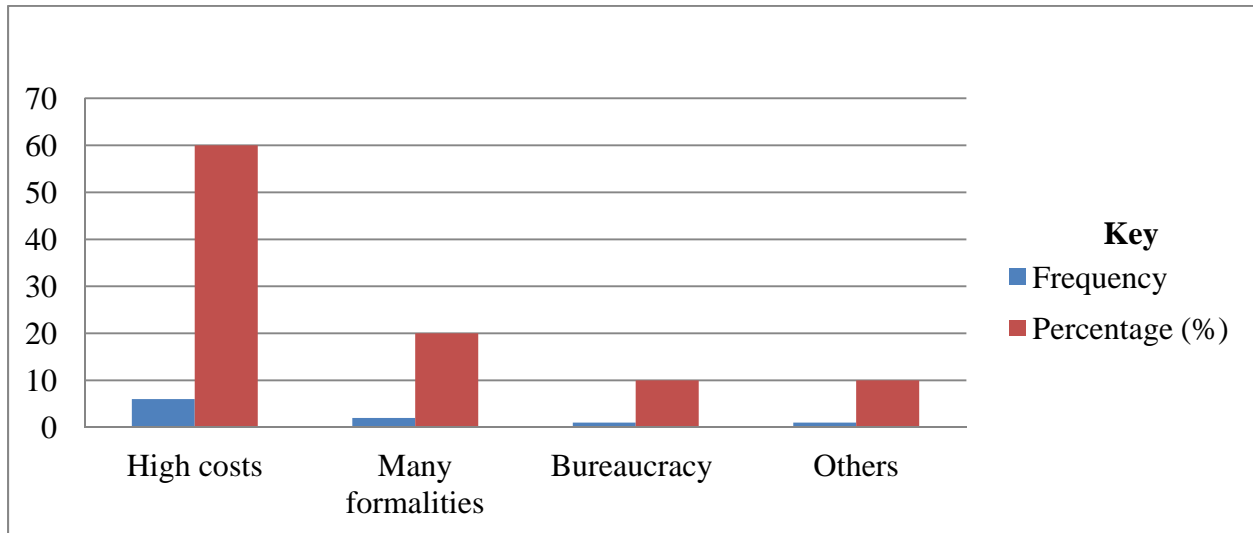


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.3.6 revealed that 58% of the respondents said NO meaning that they assert that the Business loan did not have any contributions to their welfare and these were 10 respondents. 42 % of the respondents said YES meaning that they assert the Business loan had some contributions to their welfare and these were 30 respondents. This implies that most respondents agreed that the Business loan did not have any contributions to their welfare. However, what should be noted is that the response rate of this section never covered all the respondents as some dogged to fill it. This is in line with Buckley (1997) in his research on micro enterprises in the informal sector in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana, he found that these form of capital injections offers the illusion of fixing the profound problems especially women which rather need more structural changes in the socio economic conditions that defines their activities.

4.3.7 A bar graph showing the Limitations to the contributions of the business loan by the respondents.

Figure 8

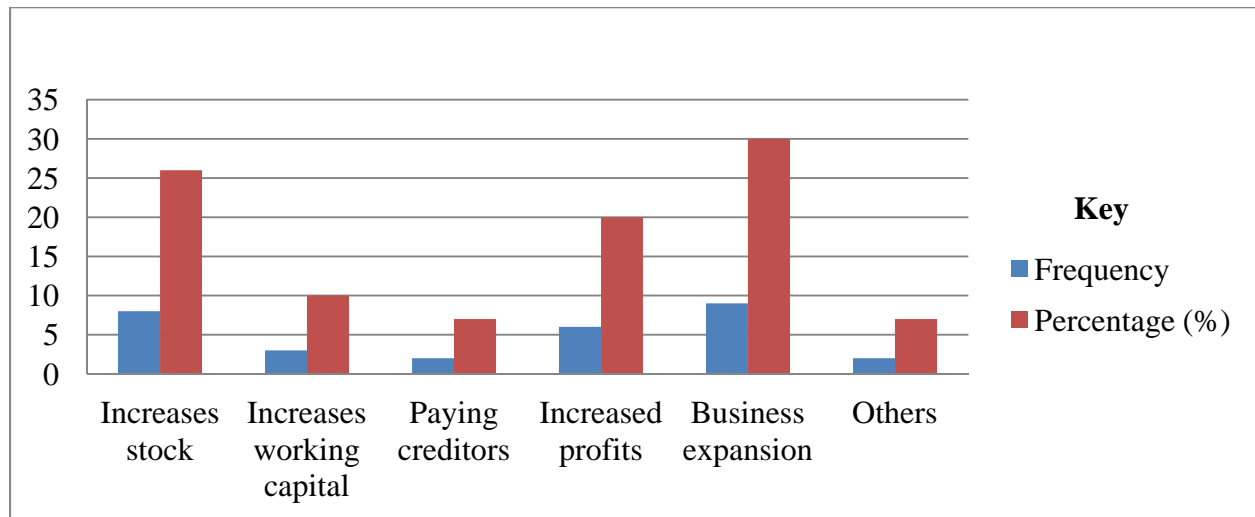


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.3.7 reveal that 60% of the respondents said NO because of the high costs involved in using the loan and these were 6 respondents, 20% of the respondents said NO because of the many formalities involved in using the loan and these were 2 respondents, 10% of the respondents said NO because of the bureaucracy involved in acquiring the business loan and this was 1 respondent, other reasons constituted for 10% and this was 1 respondent. This implies that the majority of the respondents said NO because of the high costs involved in using the loan. However, the response rate to this question was not comprehensive enough as most respondents dodged to answer it. This is not in line with the researchers in Uganda who evaluated the impact of micro-loans on profits of women owned micro enterprises and they noted that women-owned enterprises saw no increase in profits from loans which some women attribute to pressures they face to spend resources on household rather than business needs. (Retrieved from www.ipa.org on 09/04/2017).

4.3.8 A bar graph showing the uses of the business loan according to the respondents.

Figure9

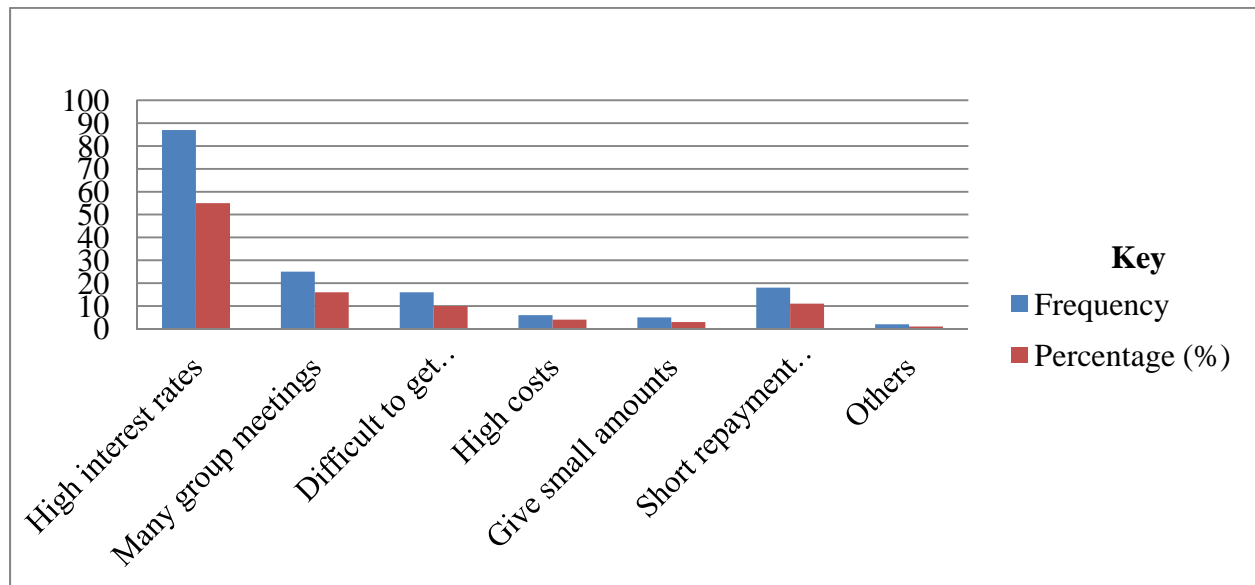


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.3.8 revealed that 26% of the respondents said the business loan increases stock and these were 8 respondents, 10% said it increases working capital and these were 3 respondents, 7% said the business loan enables the business to pay creditors and these were 2 respondents. 20% said the business loan increases business profits and these were 6 respondents, 30% said it leads to business expansion and these were 9 respondents, the other reasons constituted for 7% constituted for other reasons and these were 2 respondents. This implies that most respondents find business expansion as the most important use of a business loan to them. This is in line with Brana (2008) who argues that micro credit provides for opportunity for entrepreneurial activity; in terms of new business or business expansion hence micro-credit creates opportunities for women entrepreneurs to generate income.

4.3.9 A bar graph showing the challenges faced by the respondents when using the business loan.

Figure 10



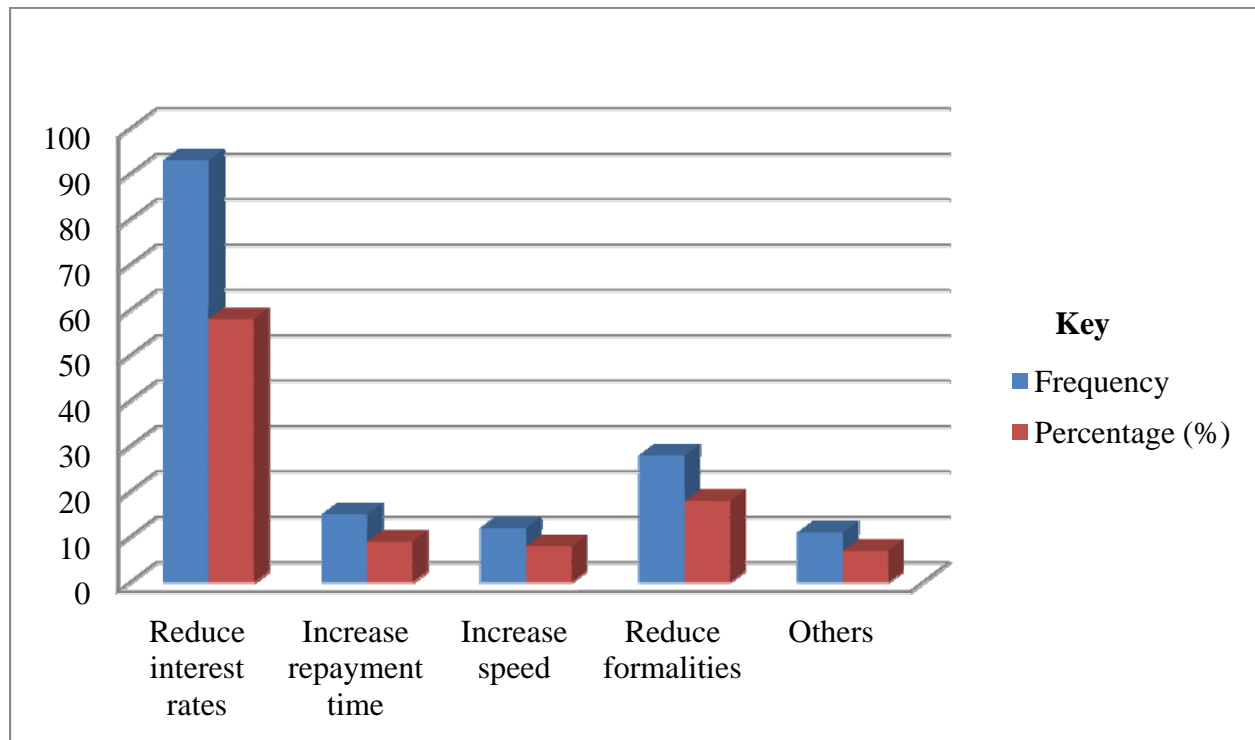
Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.3.9 revealed that 55% gave interest rates as a challenge when using the loan and these were 87 respondents, 16% complained of the many group meetings involved to monitor the loan and these were 25 respondents, 10% said it was difficult to get guarantors and these were 16 respondents, 4% gave high costs as a challenge in using the loan and these were 6 respondents, 3% complained of the small amounts given and these were 5 respondents, 11% gave shorter repayment periods and these were 18 respondents and the other reasons constituted for 1% from 2 respondents. Hence, this implies that high interest rates are the major challenge faced by the respondents when using the business loan.

This is in line with Mayoux (1997) argues that the impact of microfinance programmes are not always positive. Women who have set up enterprises benefit not only from small increase in income at the cost of heavier workloads and repayment pressures.

4.3.11 A bar graph showing the possible solutions to the challenges when using the business loan by the respondents.

Figure 11

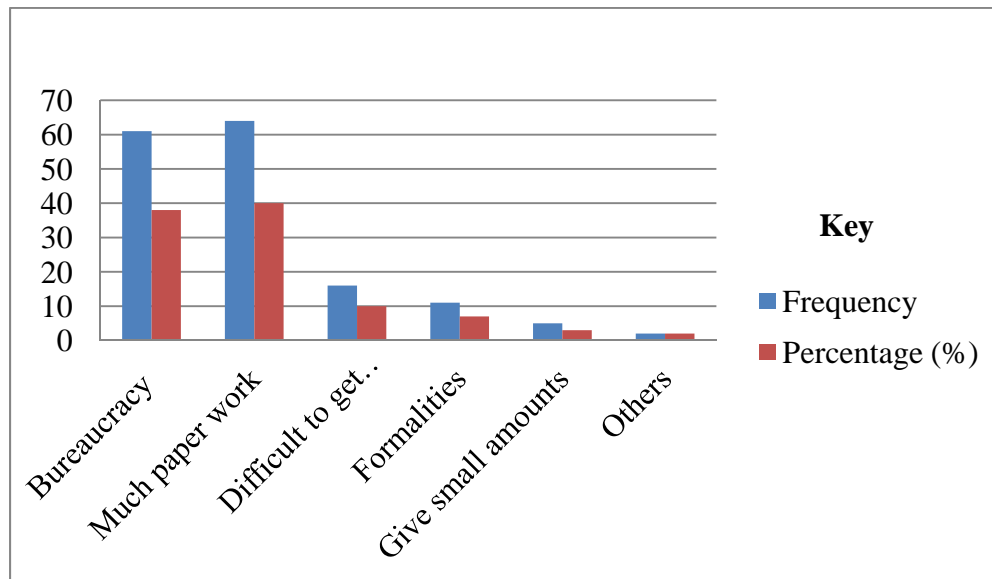


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.3.10 revealed that 58% of the respondents gave reducing interest rates as a solution to the challenges when using the loan and these were 93 respondents, 9% gave increasing repayment time and these were 15 respondents, 8% gave increasing speed in delivery of the loan and these were 12 respondents, 18% gave reducing formalities and these were 28 respondents, other solutions constituted for 7% and these were 11 respondents. This implies that a majority of the respondents say that reducing high interest rates is the major possible solution to the challenges when acquiring the business loan. This is line with Mayoux (1997) who asserts that microcredit's role on women welfare is negatively affected by the heavier workloads and repayment pressures as evidenced in the findings.

4.3.11 A bar graph showing the challenges when acquiring the business loan by the respondents.

Figure 12

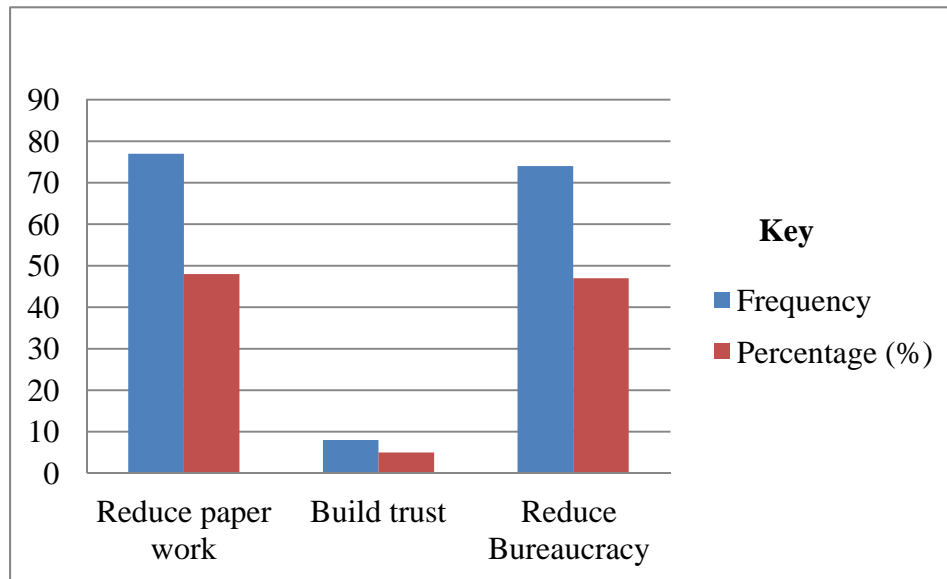


Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.3.11 revealed that 38% of the respondents gave bureaucracy as a challenge when acquiring the business loan and these were 61 respondents, 40% gave much paperwork and these were 64 respondents, 10% gave the difficulty to get guarantors and these were 16 respondents, 7% gave many formalities and these were 11 respondents, 3% complained of the small amounts given at acquiring stage and these were 5 respondents and 2% represented others who were 2 respondents. This implies that according to the respondents, the most pressing challenge when acquiring a business loan is the much paperwork. This is in line with Mayoux (1997) who asserts that microcredit programmes are mainly affected by heavier workloads and repayment pressures.

4.3.12 A bar graph showing the solution to the challenges when acquiring the business loan.

Figure 13



Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.3.12 reveals that 48% of the respondents gave reducing paperwork as a solution to the challenges when acquiring a business loan and these were 77 respondents, 5% gave building trust and these were 8 respondents, 47% gave reducing bureaucracy and these were 74 respondents. This implies that most respondents think that reducing paperwork is the main solution to the challenges when acquiring the business loan. This is line with one respondent who asserted that reducing paperwork would make access to microloans more simpler.

4.3.13 A Table showing the possibility that the respondents would acquire another business loan in future.

Table 1

Will you acquire another loan	Frequency	Percentage	Reason
Yes	85	53	Expands the business
			Acquisition of working capital
			Requires no collateral security
			Charge lower interest rates Compared to commercial banks.
No	74	47	Lack of confidentiality
			Time consuming because of many group meetings.
Total	159	100	

Source: Primary Data (2017)

Similarly, this is in line with a study a study in Tanzania about whether micro credit was enriching to borrowers. Kayu et al (2005) noted that the income of borrowers had increased significantly after participating in borrowing schemes and that they were willing to continue borrowing meaning that such income had been useful in maintaining welfare.

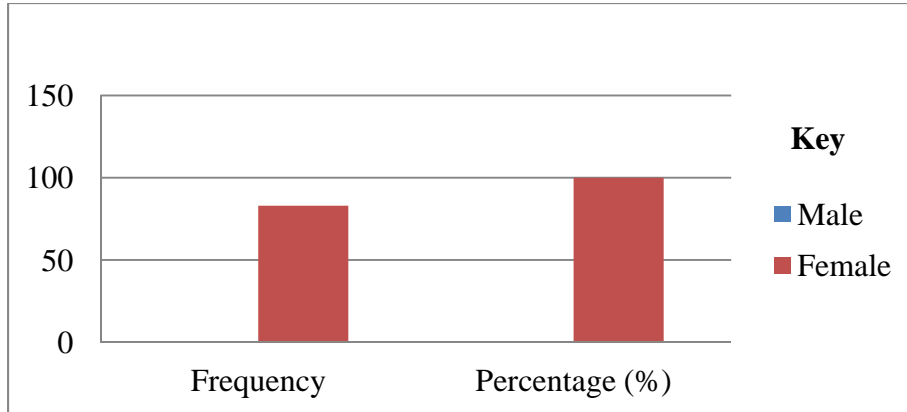
4.4 Agricultural Loan and Women Welfare.

In reference to bar graph 4.2, data was collected from 83 respondents (women clients of microcredit from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division) and this was based on various variables of Gender, Age, Educational Background and the type of Agricultural loan acquired,

the contributions of the Agricultural loan, the challenges of using the Agricultural loan, the possible solutions of using the Agricultural loan, the challenges when acquiring the Agricultural loan and the possible solutions of acquiring the Agricultural loan.

4.4.1 A bar graph showing the gender of the respondents of the Agricultural Loan.

Figure 14

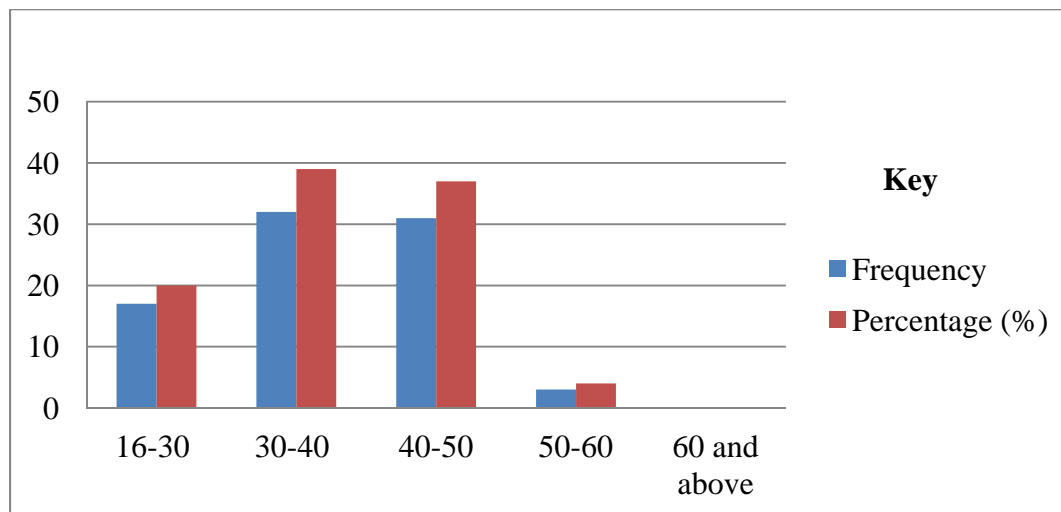


Source: Primary Data(2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.4.1 revealed that,100% of the respondents were Female. This implies that all the clients who acquired an Agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda(Katwe Butego)in Masaka Municipality were females.This is in line with the main objective of this study which was to find out the role of microcredit on **women**welfare in Katwe Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

4.4.2 A bar graph showing the age of the respondents of the Agricultural loan.

Figure 15

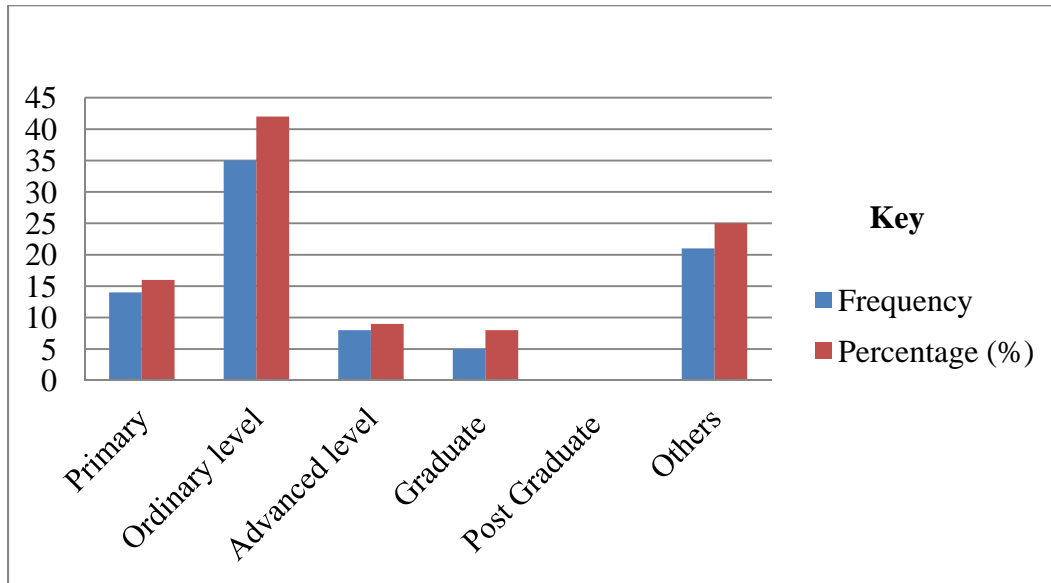


Source: Primary Data(2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.4.2 on the age of the respondents revealed that,20% of the respondents were between 16-30 years and these were 17 respondents,39% were between 30-40 years and these were 32 respondents, 37% were between 40-50 years and these were 31 respondents,4% between 50-60 years and these were 3 respondents, from the bar graph above, it can be seen that there were no respondents above 60 years. And so, it implies that the majority of the respondents for the Agricultural Loan were between 30-40 years. This is line with one respondent who asserted that most women who acquired the Agricultural loan were between 30-40 years.

4.4.3 A bar graph showing the age of the respondents of the Agricultural loan.

Figure 16

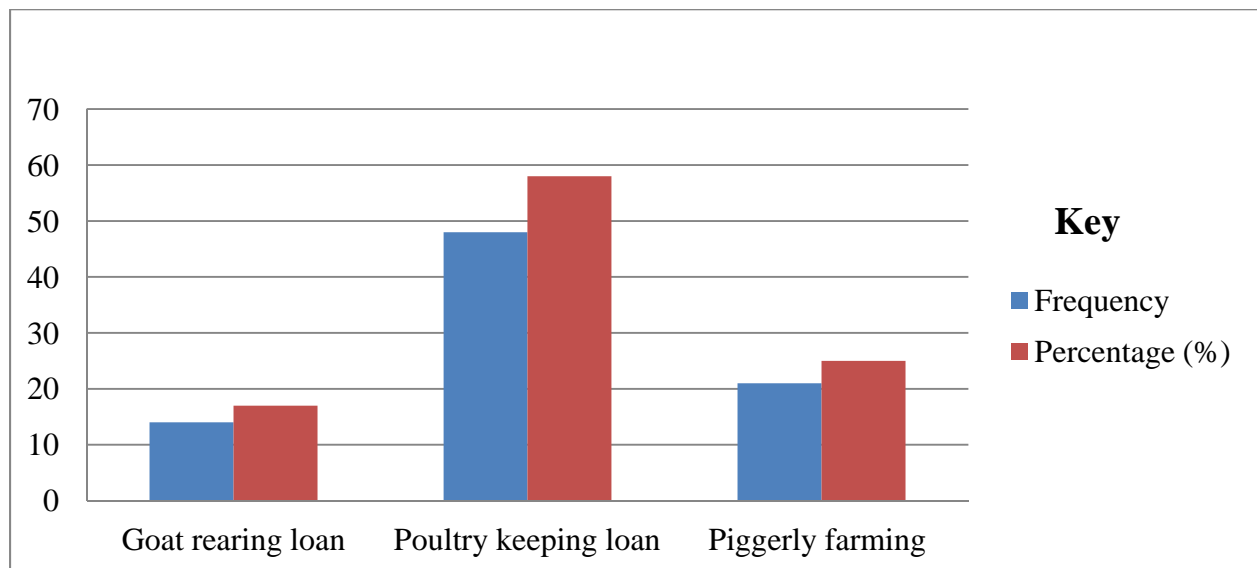


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.4.3 on the education background of the respondents revealed that 16% were for Primary level and these were 14 respondents, 42% were for Ordinary level and these were 35 respondents, 9% were for Advanced Level and these were 8, 8% were for graduates and these were 9, others were 25% and these were 21, there were no respondents with a post graduate level of education. And so, it is seen from the bar graph that the majority of the respondents attained an education up to Ordinary Level. This is in line with Asian Business Consortium (2012) which asserts that most recipients of microcredit lack a steady employment and as seen from the findings, a person with an educational background of ordinary level cannot secure a professional job in Uganda which would be steady employment.

4.4.4 A bar graph showing the types of the Agricultural loans acquired by the respondents.

Figure 17

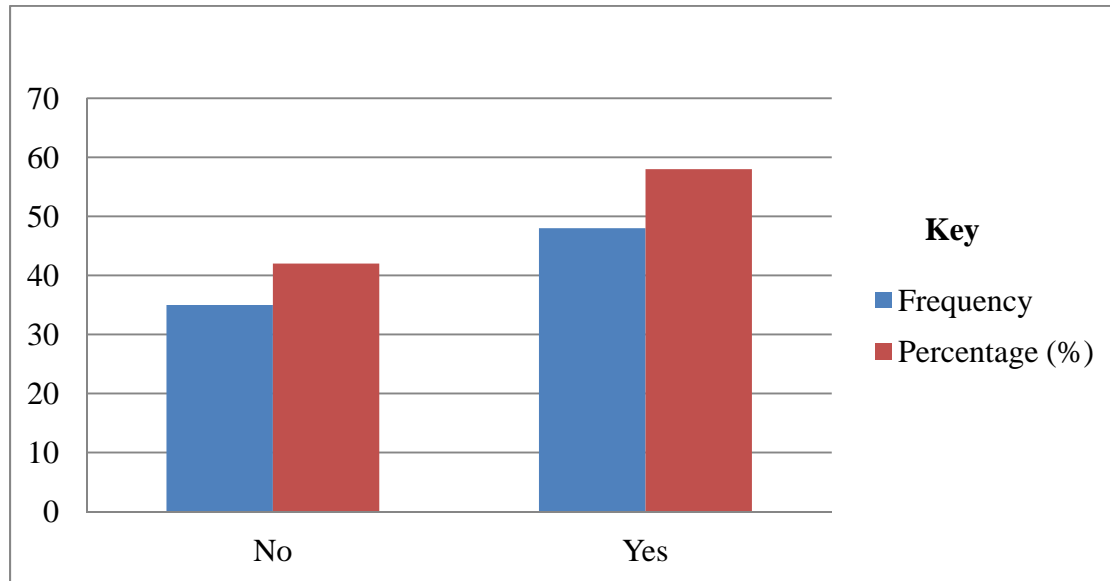


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.4.4 revealed that 17% of the respondents were for the Goat rearing loan and these were 14 respondents, 58% of the respondents were for the Poultry keeping Loan and these were 48 respondents, 25% of the respondents were for the Piggery Farming Loan and these were 21 respondents. Hence, it is seen from the bar graph that most of the respondents for the Agricultural loan acquired a poultry keeping loan. This is in line with one respondent who asserted that most Agricultural loans from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality are for poultry keeping.

4.4.5 A bar graph showing the response to the contributions of the Agricultural loan to the respondents.

Figure 18

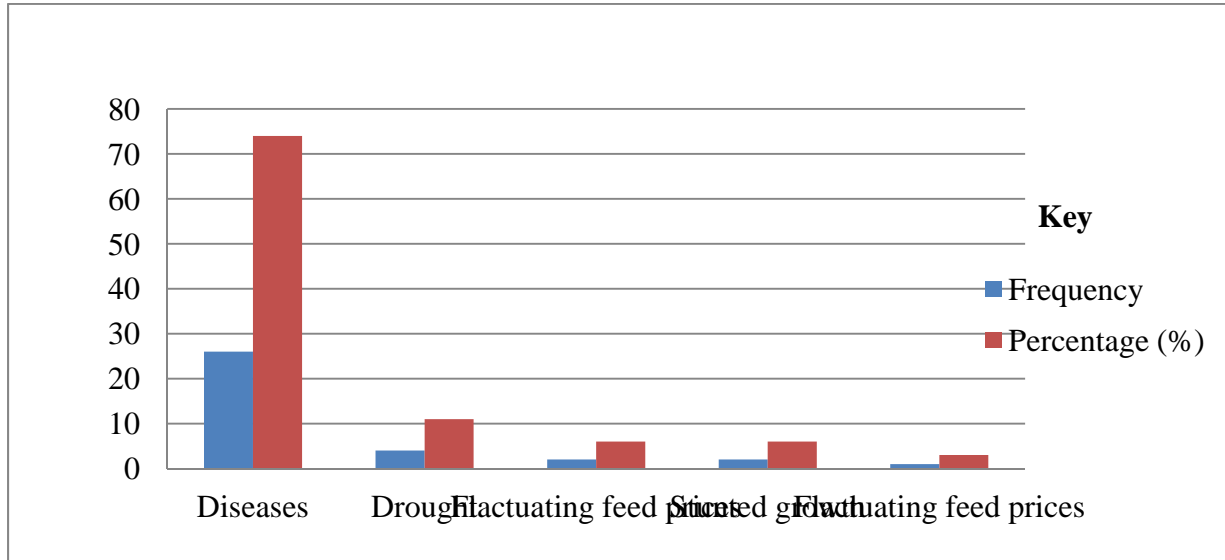


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.4.5 revealed that 42% of the respondents said NO meaning that they assert that the Agricultural loan did not have any contributions to their welfare and these were 35 respondents. 58 % of the respondents said YES meaning that they assert the Agricultural loan had some contributions to their welfare and these were 48 respondents. This implies that most respondents agreed that the Agricultural loan had contributions to their welfare.

4.4.6 A bar graph showing the Limitations to the contributions of the Agricultural loan by the respondents.

Figure 19

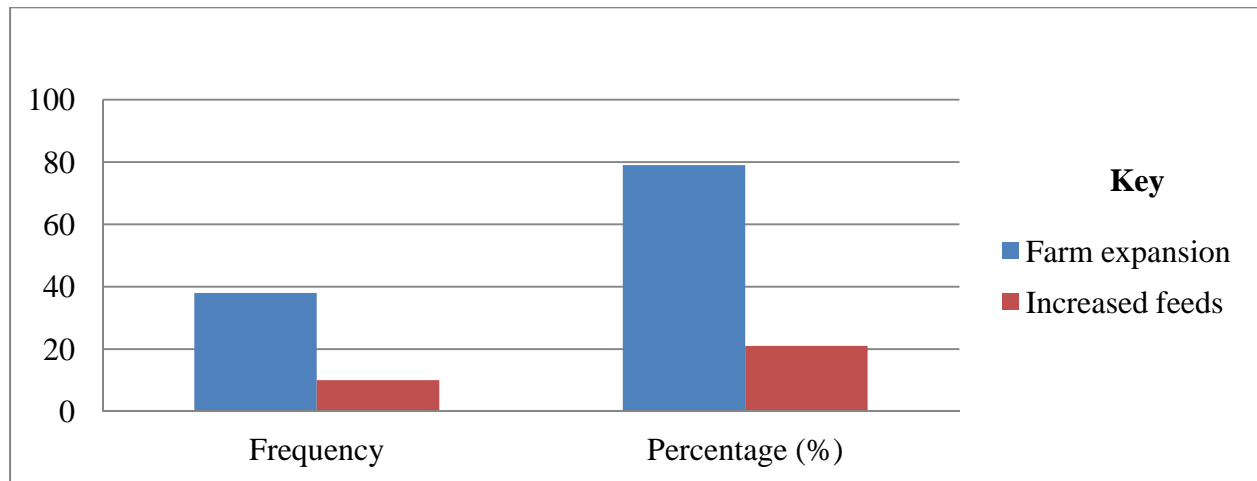


Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.4.6 reveals that the 26 respondents gave animal diseases 74% as a limitation to the contribution of the Agricultural loan, 11% for drought from 4 respondents, 6% for fluctuating feeds prices from 2 respondents and 3% for other limitations from 1 respondent. This implies that the most pressing limitation to the contribution of the business loan is animal diseases. This is in line with one respondent who asserted that mostly in poultry keeping, diseases affect them a lot and that at times, they kill all the birds leading to big losses.

4.4.7 A bar graph showing the uses of the Agricultural loan to the respondents.

Figure 20



Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.4.7 revealed that 79% of the respondents gave farm expansion as the use of the Agricultural loan to them and these were 38 respondents and 21% of the respondents gave increased feeds as the use of the Agricultural loan to them. This implies that according to the respondents, the most important use of the Agricultural loan is farm expansion. This is in line with Alam (1998), in a study conducted by him, he found out that agricultural woman joining the Grameen bank credit programs increased their income and also enjoyed economies of scale through working in groups which made it relatively easier for them to obtain inputs at a low average cost.

4.4.8 A table showing the challenges faced by the respondents when using the Agricultural loan.

Table 2

Challenges when using the Agricultural loan	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High interest rates	30	36
Diseases	24	29
Stunted growth	9	11
Break even risk	6	7
Drought	2	2.4
Fluctuating feeds prices	9	11
Short repayment periods	2	2.4
Others	1	1.2
Total	83	100

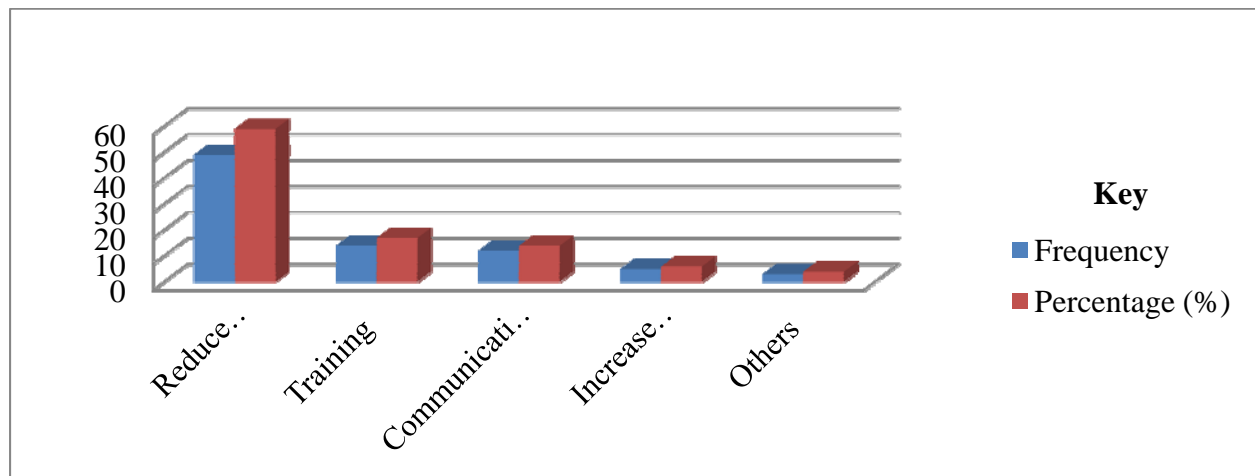
Source: Primary Data (2017)

The table 4.4.8 revealed that 36% of the respondents said that high interest rates was the challenge they faced when using the Agricultural loan and these were 30 respondents, 29% said diseases and these were 24 respondents. 11% said stunted growth of the animals and these were 9 respondents, 7% said breakeven risk and these were 6 respondents, 2.4% said drought and these were 2 respondents, 1.2% gave other reasons and this was 1 respondent. This implies that the most pressing challenge when using the Agricultural loan is High interest rates. This is line

with Sulemana and Appiah (2015) who argue that agricultural loan through micro credit to improve women welfare is not always positive. They argue that the providers of micro credit have not generally addressed the credit need of small and marginal women farmers because of their priority of funding the poor and because of some of the perceived problems which include among others: the risk of investing in agriculture, seasonality of agricultural production systems. These factors make it highly risky for lenders to provide loans to small holder farmers thereby limiting production and consequently pushing some farmers out of the field as they seek livelihood opportunities in other sectors and in the long run, micro loans failing to improve women welfare through agriculture.

4.4.9 A bar graph showing the possible solutions to the challenges faced when using the Agricultural loan.

Figure 21



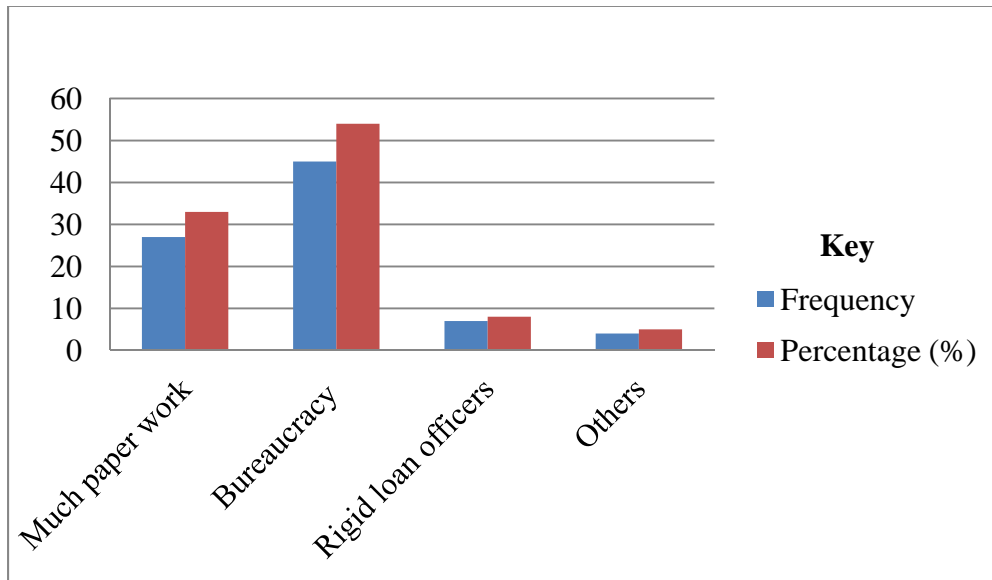
Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.4.9 revealed that 59% of the respondents gave reduction of interest rates as a possible solution to the challenges faced when using the Agricultural loan and these were 49 respondents, 49% gave training of the farmers and these were 14 respondents, 14% gave

improving of communication with the loans officers and these were 12 respondents, 6% gave increasing the repayment time and these were 5 respondents, 4% gave other reasons and these were 3 respondents. This implies that according to the respondents, the major possible solution to the challenges when using the Agricultural loan is reduction of the interest rates. This is in line with Schrenier and Colombet (2001) who asserts that microcredit should be aiming at providing credit to the poor so as to reduce poverty and improve their standards on living.

4.4.10 A bar graph showing the challenges faced by the respondents when acquiring the Agricultural loan.

Figure 22



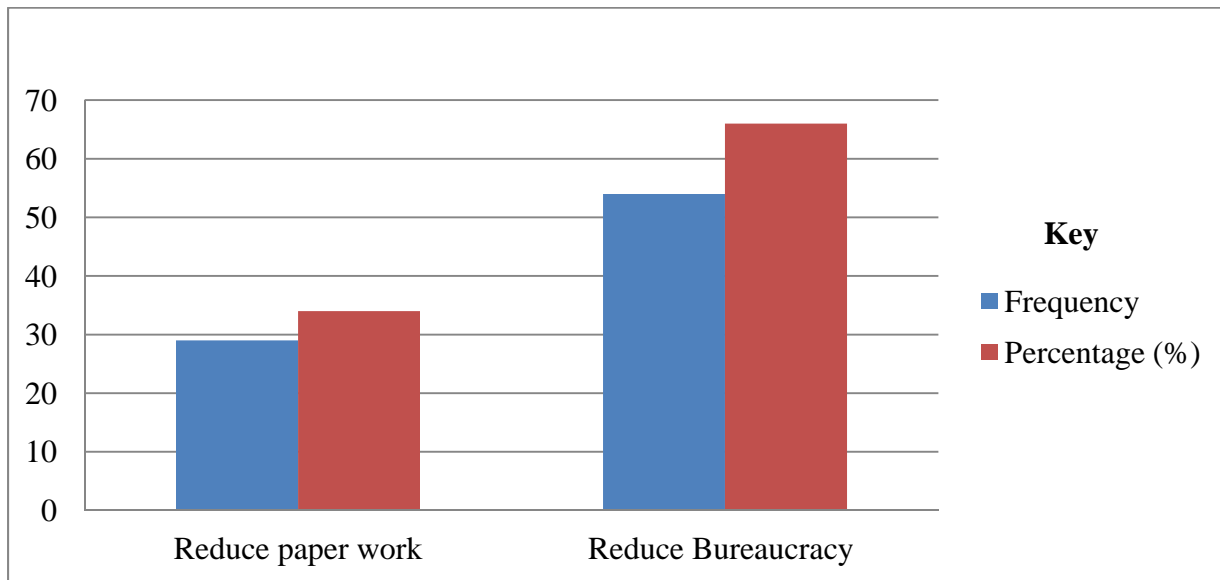
Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.4.10 revealed that 33% of the respondents gave much paperwork as a challenge when acquiring the Agricultural loan and these were 27 respondents, 54% gave bureaucracy and these were 45 respondents, 8% gave rigid loan officers and these were 7 respondents, other reasons were 5% from 4 respondents. This implies that the most pressing challenge when

acquiring the Agricultural loan is the much paperwork. This is in line with Mayoux (1997) who asserts that microcredit's role on women welfare is heavily affected by heavier workloads and repayment pressures.

4.4.11 A bar graph showing the possible solutions to the challenges when acquiring an Agricultural loan.

Figure 23



Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.4.11 revealed that 34% of the respondents said reduced paper work was the solution to the challenges when acquiring the Agricultural loan and these were 29 respondents, 66% gave reducing bureaucracy and these were 54 respondents. The best solution to the challenges when acquiring the Agricultural loan was reducing paperwork. This is line with one respondent who asserted that reducing paperwork would make access to microloans more simpler.

4.4.12 A Table showing the possibility that the respondents would acquire another Agricultural loan in future.

Will you acquire another Agricultural loan	Frequency	Percentage	Reasons
Yes	21	25	Expands the farm
			It is reliable
No	62	75	It is too risky
			Normally ends in losses
Total	83	100	0

Source: Primary Data (2017)

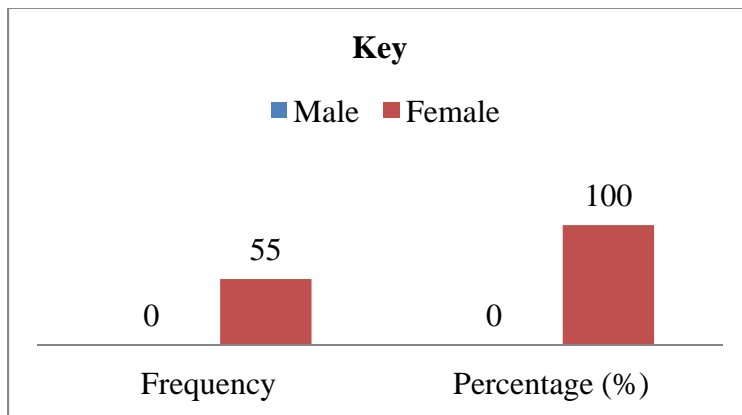
This is in line with This is line with Sulemana and Appiah (2015) who argue that agricultural loan through micro credit to improve women welfare is not always positive. They argue that the providers of micro credit have not generally addressed the credit need of small and marginal women farmers because of their priority of funding the poor and because of some of the perceived problems which include among others: the risk of investing in agriculture, seasonality of agricultural production systems. These factors make it highly risky for lenders to provide loans to small holder farmers thereby limiting production and consequently pushing some farmers out of the field as they seek livelihood opportunities in other sectors and in the long run, micro loans failing to improve women welfare through agriculture.

4.5 Educational loan and Women Welfare.

In reference to bar graph 4.2, data was collected from 55 respondents (women clients of microcredit from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division) and this was based on various variables of Gender, Age, Educational Background and the type of Agricultural loan acquired, the contributions of the Educational loan ,the challenges of using the Educational loan, the possible solutions of using the Educational loan , the challenges when acquiring the Educational loan and the possible solutions of acquiring the Educational loan.

4.5.1 A bar graph showing the gender of the respondents of the Educational loan.

Figure 24

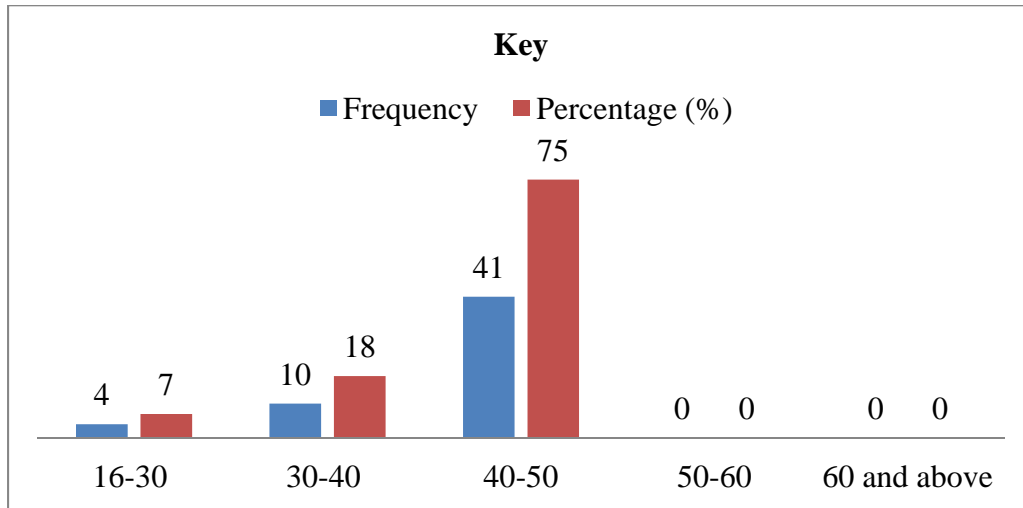


Source: Primary Data(2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.5.1 revealed that,100% of the respondents were Female. This implies that all the clients who aquired an Educational loan from BRAC Uganda(Katwe Butego)in Masaka Municipality were females.This is in line with the main objective of this study which was to find out the role of microcredit on **women**welfare in Katwe Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

4.5.2 A bar graph showing the Age of the respondents of the Educational loan.

Figure 25

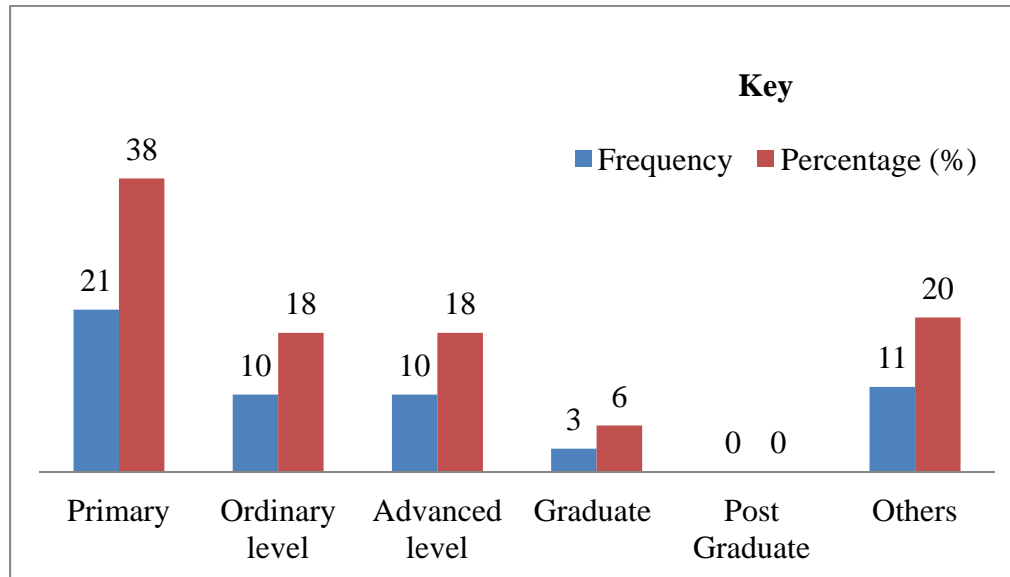


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.5.2 on the age of the respondents revealed that, 7% of the respondents were between 16-30 years and these were 4 respondents, 18% were between 30-40 years and these were 10 respondents, 75% were between 40-50 years and these were 41 respondents, there were no respondents between 50-60 years and also there were no respondents of the age of 60 and above. This implies that most of the respondents of the Educational loan were between 40-50 years of age. This is line with one of the respondents who asserted that most women who seek for education loans are those whose children have reached secondary level and the women are between 40-50 years.

4.5.3 A bar graph showing the Educational background of the respondents of the Education Loan.

Figure 26

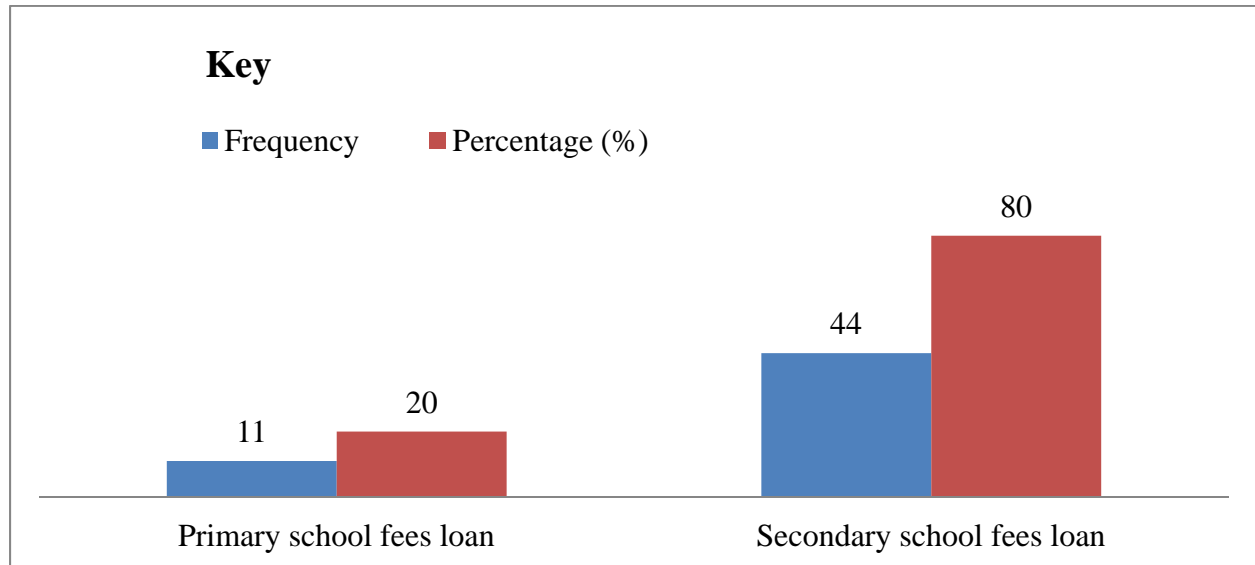


Source: Primary Data.(2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.5.3 on the education background of the respondents revealed that 38% were for Primary level and these were 21 respondents, 18% were for Ordinary level and these were 10 respondents, 18% were for Advanced Level and these were 10 respondents, 6% were for graduates and these were 3 respondents, others were 20% and these were 11, there were no respondents with a post graduate level of education. And so, it is seen from the bar graph that the majority of the respondents attained an education up to Primary Level.

4.5.4 A bar graph showing the types of the Education Loans acquired by the respondents of the Educational loan.

Figure 27

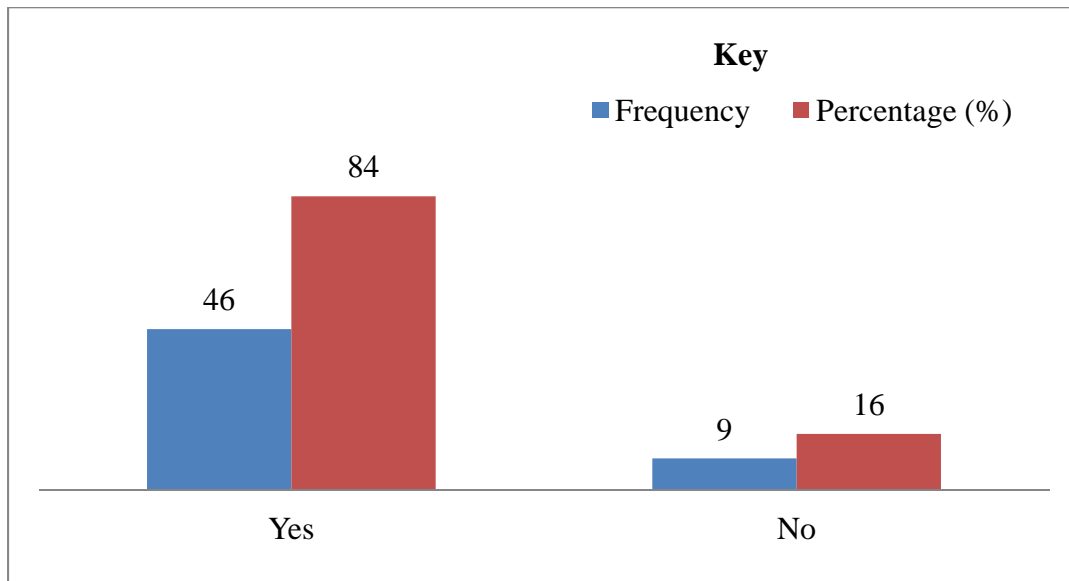


Source: Primary Data. (2017)

The findings from the bar graph 4.5.4 revealed that 20% of the respondents were for the Primary School fees Loan and these were 11 respondents, 80% of the respondents were for the Secondary school Loan and these were 44 respondents. This implies that most of the respondents of the Education loan were for the Secondary school fees loan.

4.5.5 A bar graph showing the response to the contributions of the Agricultural loan.

Figure 28



Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.5.5 revealed that 84% of the respondents said YES to the contribution of the Educational loan and these were 46 respondents, 16% of the respondents said NO and these were 9 respondents. This implies that most of the respondents say that the Educational loan has some contributions to their welfare. This is in line with Somers et al (2006) who says that more families run by women are relying on students loans to finance their children's higher education.

4.5.6 A Table showing the uses of the Educational loan to the respondents.

Table 4:

Uses	Frequency	Percentage
Took back children to school	46	84

Source: Primary Data (2017)

The table 4.5.6 revealed that the use of the Education loan was that the respondents were able to

take their children to school and this is in line with Somers et al (2006) who says that more families run by women were relying on student loans to finance their children's education.

4.5.7 A table showing the limitations to the contributions of the Educational loan according to the respondents.

Table 5:

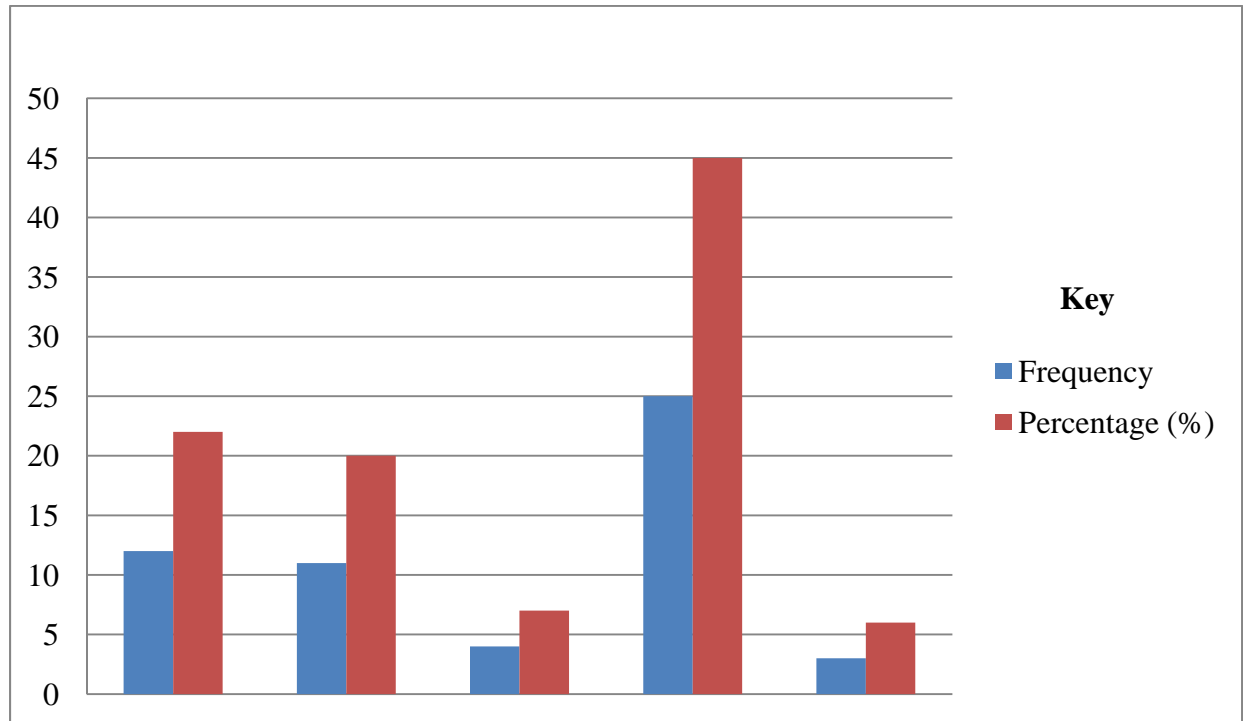
	Frequency	Percentage
High costs	20	43
Many formalities	10	22
Bureaucracy	16	35

Source: Primary Data (2017)

The table above revealed that there are many limitations to the contributions of the Education loan as shown above.

4.5.8 A bar graph showing the challenges when using the Educational loan by the respondents.

Figure 29

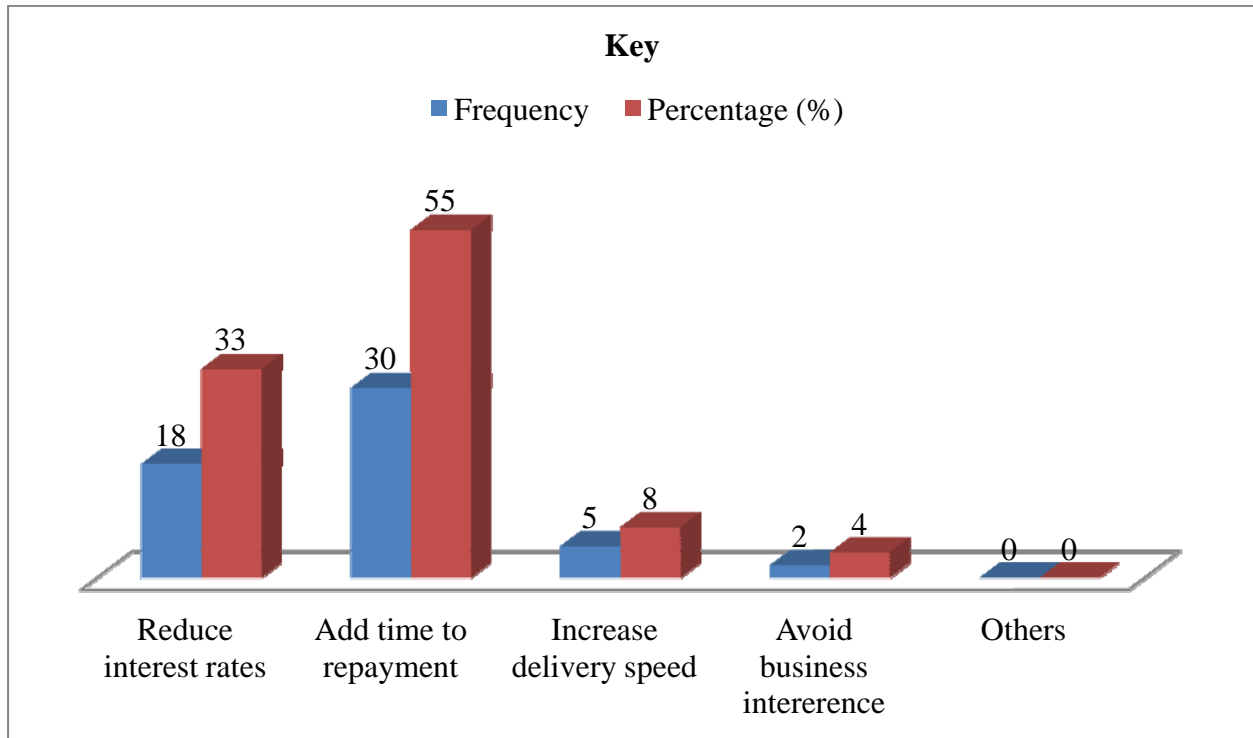


Source: Primary Data (2017)

The bar graph 4.5.8 revealed that as a challenge when using the Educational loan, high interest rates had 22% from 12 respondents, interference with the business and the home had 20% from 11 respondents, Late delivery of the loan had 7% from 4 respondents, very short repayment time had 45% from 25 respondents, other reasons had 6% from 3 respondents. This implies that High interest rates are the most pressing challenge when using the educational loan. This is in line with Mayoux (1997) argues that the impact of microfinance programmes are not always positive. Women who have set up enterprises benefit not only from small increase in income at the cost of heavier workloads and repayment pressures.

4.5.9 A bar graph showing the possible solutions to the challenges when using the Educational loan.

Figure 30

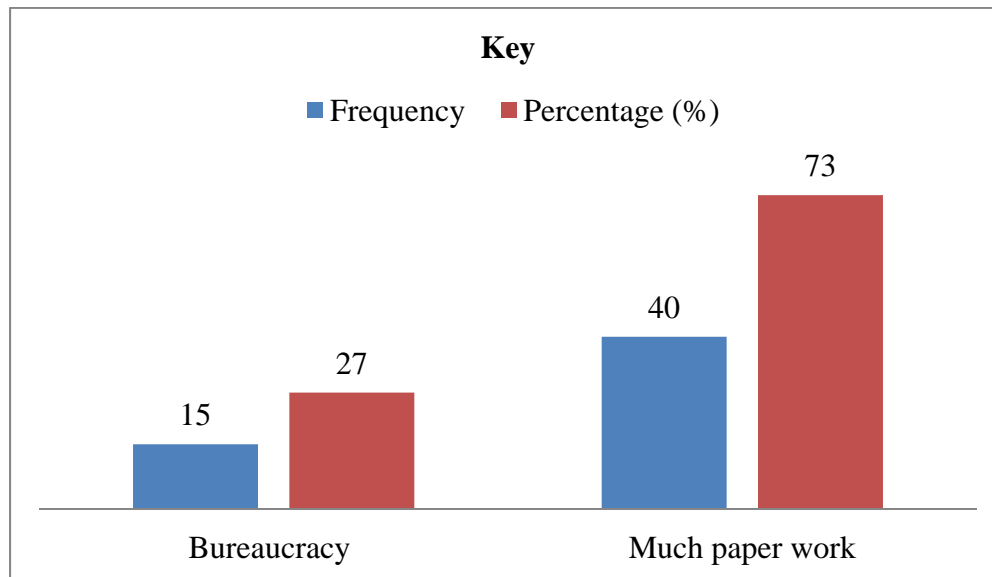


Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.5.9 revealed that 33% (18 respondents) said that reducing interest rates was the solution to the challenges when using the loan, 55% (30 respondents) said that adding time for repayment was the solution, 8% (5 respondents) said that increasing delivery time of the loan was the solution, 4%(2 respondents) said that avoiding interference of the business and the home was the solution . This implies that adding time for repayment of the loan was the best solution for the challenges when using the Educational loan. This is in line with Schrenier and Colombet (2001) who asserts that microcredit should be aiming at providing credit to the poor so as to reduce poverty and improve their standards on living.

4.5.10 A bar graph showing the challenges faced by the respondents of the Educational loan when acquiring the loan.

Figure 31

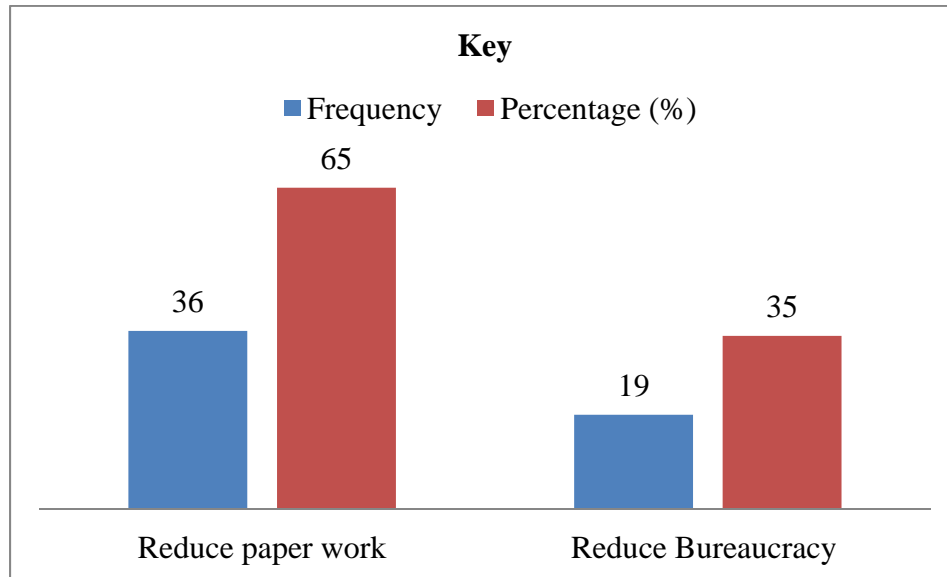


Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.4.10 reveals that 27% (15 respondents) said that bureaucracy was the challenge when acquiring the Educational loan by the respondents, 73%(40 respondents) said that much paperwork was the challenge in acquiring the Educational loan. This implies that the most pressing challenge when acquiring the Educational loan is much paper work. This is in line with Mayoux (1997) who asserts that microcredit's role on women welfare is heavily affected by heavier workloads and repayment pressures.

4.5.11 A bar graph showing the possible solutions to the challenges when acquiring the Education loan.

Figure 32



Source: Primary Data (2017)

This bar graph 4.4.12 revealed that 65% (36 respondents) gave reducing paperwork as a solution to the challenges when acquiring the Education loan and 35% (19 respondents) gave reducing bureaucracy as a solution to the challenges when acquiring an Educational loan by the respondents. This implies that reducing paperwork was the best solution to the challenges when acquiring the Education loan. This is line with one respondent who asserted that reducing paperwork would make access to microloans more simpler.

4.5.12 A Table showing the possibility of acquiring the Education loan by the respondents.

Table 6

Will you acquire another loan	Frequency	Percentage	Reason
Yes	18	33	Quick money to pay school fees
			Assures continuity of child education
No	37	67	Unfavorable interest rates
			Done with educating children
			Timing is not efficient compared to demand periods
Total	55	100	

Source: Primary Data (2017)

This is line with Banerjee et al (2010) who did not find such positive impact on social wellbeing of the household especially when women were the participants in micro credit programs. On the contrary, he found that male applicants are significantly more likely to enroll their children in school than female applicants.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations from the findings of the study. This chapter also presents the suggestions for further research. It is divided into section 5.2 on summary of the findings, section 5.3 on conclusion, section 5.4 on policy recommendation, and section 5.5 on the recommendation for further research.

5.2 Summary of the findings.

5.2.1 The contribution of Business loan on Women Welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the business loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality were between the age of 30-40 years.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the business loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality had studied up to Primary level.

Whether the business loan helped the women in their businesses, the findings revealed that the business loan helped the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality by increasing their stock ,increasing their working capital, helping them to pay

business creditors, increasing their business profits and generally expanding their businesses which was in line with the theory of Women In Development which aims at making women visible in the development process by emphasizing women's productive side.

Whether there are any challenges faced by women when using the business loan by the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality. The findings revealed that there are a number of them that include high interest rates, a lot of group meetings that consume business time and involve limited confidentiality, high costs of using the loan, shorter time of repayment. Further, the research revealed that the most pressing challenge was the high interest rates charged on the loans.

Whether there are any challenges faced by the women when acquiring the business loan from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality. The findings revealed that there are a number of them that include much paperwork, bureaucracy and many entry requirements. Further, the research revealed that the most pressing challenge when acquiring the business loan was the much paperwork required. These were against the Women In Development because these limit access of microcredit to women which excludes them from the development process.

Whether the women were willing to acquire another business loan from BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality or any other MFI in future, The findings revealed that most of the women were willing to acquire another business loan in future which is in line with the Women In Development theory which aims at making the women visible in the development process.

5.2.3 The role of Agricultural Loan on Women Welfare in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the Agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality were between the age of 30-50 years.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the Agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality had acquired education upto Ordinary level

Whether the Agricultural loan had any contributions to the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality. The findings revealed that there were many contributions that include farm expansion and the women being able to buy feeds for the animals. However, the findings further revealed that the Agricultural loan did not enable the women to ensure food security because the types of Agricultural loans given were for only animal and poultry keeping which were sold off for a profit and not eaten. However this was in line with the theory of Women In Development because if women are able to expand their farms and buy feeds for their animals then, they are more productive.

Whether there were any challenges when using the Agricultural loan by the Women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality, the findings revealed that there were a number of them that included high interest rates, animal diseases, stunted growth of the animals, breakeven risk, drought, fluctuating prices, shorter time for repayments among others. The findings further revealed that interest rates was the most pressing challenge of all.

These were against the Women In Development theory because they lead to failure of usage of the loan by the women hence excluding them from the development process

Whether there were any challenges when acquiring the Agricultural loan by the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality, the findings revealed that there were a number of them that included much paperwork, bureaucracy and the difficulty of convincing loan officers. The findings further revealed that too much paperwork was the most pressing challenge when acquiring the Agricultural loan. These were against the Women In Development theory because they limited access to credit by the women hence excluding them from the development process.

Whether the women were willing to acquire another Agricultural loan in future, the research revealed that most of the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe- Butego, Masaka Municipality were not willing to acquire another Agricultural loan in future and this was against the Women In Development theory because this excludes them from the development process.

5.2.4 The role of Education loan on Women Welfare.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the Education loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality were between the age of 40-50 years.

The findings revealed that most of the women who acquired the Education loan from BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego division in Masaka Municipality had not acquired any education.

Whether the Education loan contributed to women welfare, the research revealed that the Education loan contributed to women welfare by enabling the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality to take their children to school and this was in line with the Women In Development theory because educating children makes women visible in the development process.

Whether there were any challenges when using the Education loan by the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality, the findings revealed that there are a number of challenges that included home and business interference when using the loan, shorter time of repayment of the loan, high interest rates and late delivery of the loan. These were against the Women In Development theory as they lead to failure of usage of the loan which limits the visibility of women in the development process.

Whether there were any challenges when acquiring the Education loan by the women clients of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego, Masaka Municipality, the findings revealed that there were a number of them that included too much paperwork and bureaucracy. The findings further revealed that too much paperwork was to most pressing challenge. These were against the Women In Development theory because these limited women from accessing microcredit hence excluding them from the development process.

Whether the women clients of BRAC Uganda, Katwe-Butego in Masaka Municipality were willing to acquire another Education loan in future, the findings revealed that most women were not willing to acquire another Educational loan in future and this was against the Women In Development theory because this excludes women from the development process.

5.3 Conclusion of the Research Study.

The major objective of the study was to find out the role of microcredit on women welfare in Katwe-Butego division, Masaka Municipality. According to the study findings, microcredit has a role on women welfare because the different microloan products such as Business loan, Agricultural loan and Educational loan have many contributions to women welfare which is in line with the theory of Women In Development because it aims at making women visible in the development process by emphasizing their productive side.

5.4 Policy Recommendations.

The management of BRAC Uganda Katwe-Butego division office in Masaka Municipality should reduce paperwork, bureaucracy in order to enable more women to access micro credit in order to participate in the development process.

The management of BRAC Uganda Katwe- Butego division office in Masaka Municipality should be flexible enough for the entry requirements of the loans especially business loan and allow to give loans to even the women that do not have any running business initially in order to include more women in the development process.

The management of BRAC Uganda in Katwe-Butego division in Masaka municipality should develop more new more inclusive loan products like the ELA Microfinance loan which targets women (girls) who are school drop outs in order to involve more poor women in the development process.

The management of Uganda Martyrs University should add more time to the students when writing the research reports in order to devote more time and produce better reports.

5.5 Recommendation for furtherer research.

Future researchers should find out how better the loan officers can manage the Agricultural loan given the many threats to its success especially in developing countries like Uganda that include drought and environmental changes.

Future researchers should find out the solution to misuse of the Education loan, business loan or agricultural loan when the men in the household force the women to divert the loan to solving house hold problems.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

I am Kalungi James, a student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management. I am conducting research on the role of microcredit on women welfare with a case study of BRAC Uganda Masaka Municipality branch. Your feedback is very important and shall be accorded the utmost confidentiality and the results of the study shall be used for academic purposes only.

Thank You.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. GENDER

Male

Female

2. AGE

16-30

30-40

40-50

50-60

Above 60

3. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.

Primary level

Graduate

Ordinary level

Post graduate

Advanced level

Others

4. Type of loan acquired

Business

Agriculture

Education

SECTION B

Part two: BUSINESS LOAN AND WOMEN WELFARE.

1. Have you ever acquired business loan from BRAC Uganda?

Yes

No

2. If yes, which business loan have you ever got from BRAC Uganda?

Business group loan

Small Enterprises loan

ELA Microfinance loan

3. Did the business loan help you in your business?

Yes

No

4. If yes, please list the **uses** of the business loan.

.....
.....
.....

If No, give reasons.

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. In your view, please list down some of the challenges faced when **using** a business loan from BRAC (Uganda)?

.....
.....

.....
6. Cite the possible solutions.

.....
.....
.....
.....

7. Give some of the challenges faced when **acquiring** the business loan from BRAC Uganda?

.....
.....
.....

8. Cite the possible solutions.

.....
.....
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9. Would you acquire another business loan from BRAC Uganda in future?

Yes

No

10. If yes, give reasons.

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11. If No, give reasons

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SECTION C

PART THREE: Agricultural loan and women welfare.

1. Have you ever acquired an agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda?

Yes No

2. If yes, which type of agricultural loan did you acquire from BRAC Uganda?

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3. Did the agricultural loan have any contributions to you?

Yes No

4. If yes, give the contributions of the agricultural loan to you.

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5. If No, give reasons.

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In your view, please list some of the challenges faced when using the agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda?

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6. Cite the possible solutions.

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7. Give some possible challenges faced when **acquiring** an agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda?

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8. Cite the possible solutions.

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9. Would you acquire another agricultural loan from BRAC Uganda in future?

Yes

No

10. If yes, give reasons.

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11. If No, give reasons.

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SECTION D

Part four: Education loan and women welfare.

1. Have you ever acquired an education loan from BRAC Uganda?

Yes

No

2. If yes, which type of education loan did you acquire from BRAC Uganda?

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3. Did the education loan have any contribution to you?

Yes

No

4. If yes, list some of these contributions?

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5. If No,give reasons

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6. In your view, please list some of the challenges faced when **using** an education loan?

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7. Cite the possible solutions?

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8. Give some possible challenges faced when **acquiring** an education loan from BRAC Uganda.

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9. Cite the possible solutions.

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10. Would you acquire another education loan from BRAC Uganda?

Yes

No

11. If yes, give reasons.

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12. If No, give reasons.

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