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## **Effect of Women's Development Projects in Improving the Social Welfare of the Beneficiaries: A Case of Mother and Child Development Center in Gakenke District**

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# Effect of Women's Development Projects in Improving the Social Welfare of the Beneficiaries: A Case of Mother and Child Development Center in Gakenke District

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## Abstract

The study aimed to analyze the effect of women's development projects on improving the socio-welfare of beneficiaries in Gakenke district. Specifically, it sought to examine the impact of financial support provided by the Mother and Child Development Project on beneficiaries' social welfare, to assess the effect of women's advocacy efforts by the Mother and Child Development Project on social welfare, to determine the influence of women's training and development initiatives provided by the Mother and Child Development Project on social welfare. The sample size, calculated using the Slovin formula, comprised 170 respondents, representing beneficiaries of the Mother and Child Development Project in Gakenke district. Data were collected through documentary analysis and questionnaires. Statistical analyses, including correlation coefficient and R-squared values, were employed to assess the relationships and variations in the outcome variables. The study results found a strong positive correlation (correlation coefficient = 0.901) between financial support provided by the Mother and Child Development Project and beneficiaries' social welfare. The R-squared value of 0.63 indicated that 63% of the variation in social welfare improvement could be attributed to financial support. Additionally, the advocacy efforts of the project showed a strong positive relationship (correlation coefficient = 0.742) with social welfare improvement. The model explained 39.8% of the variation in the improvement of social welfare. In conclusion, the women's development projects, particularly those providing services like healthcare, nutrition, education, and psychosocial support through centers like the Mother and Child Development Project, significantly enhance the socio-welfare of beneficiaries. The study highlights the importance of sustained government support and the need for project sustainability to ensure long-term impact. The study recommends continued government support for women's development projects, emphasizing sustainability and long-term impact. Additionally, it suggests further research to explore additional factors influencing social welfare improvement and to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of such projects.

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**Keywords:** *Women's development, Socio welfare, Beneficiary, Mother and Child Development Center, Gakenke District, Rwanda*

## 1.0 Introduction

Rwanda is a country with a long history of gender inequality. Women have historically been excluded from decision-making processes, denied access to education and employment, and subjected to violence. In recent years, the government of Rwanda has made significant efforts to address these issues, and women's development projects have played a key role in these efforts. In Rwanda, 64% of women live below the national poverty line. 27% of women are literate. Women make up only 20% of the workforce, Women own only 13% of the land.the key challenges faced by women projects in improving sociowelfare of the beneficiaries; such as limited Access to Resources; women often face limited access to resources such as land, credit, technology, and markets.

This lack of access hampers their ability to engage in income-generating activities and limits their economic empowerment. Limited access to productive resources restricts their potential to contribute significantly to household income and overall economic development. Women development projects can help to address these challenges by providing women with access to education, employment, and resources. These projects can also help to raise awareness of women's rights and to challenge the social and cultural norms that limit women's opportunities (Cheston & Kuhn, 2012).

Gender-Based Discrimination; deeply entrenched gender norms and discrimination pose significant challenges for women projects. Traditional gender roles and societal expectations often restrict women's mobility, decision-making power, and participation in economic activities. Gender-based discrimination and unequal power relations undermine the effectiveness of women projects and hinder their ability to promote socio-economic advancement. Lack of Education and Skills; many women face limited educational opportunities and lack the necessary skills to engage in income-generating activities beyond traditional agricultural practices. The absence of basic literacy and numeracy skills, as well as technical and vocational training, hinders their capacity to access better job opportunities, start businesses, and engage in entrepreneurial activities that can significantly improve their socio-welfare. Inadequate Infrastructure (ADB 2012; Han 2017).

Women's development projects have had a number of positive effects on the sociowelfare of beneficiaries in Rwanda. These include: Increased income and assets: Women's development projects have helped women to increase their income and assets, which has improved their financial security and ability to provide for their families. Improved education and health: Women's development projects have helped women to improve their access to education and health care, which has improved their quality of life and the well-being of their families. Reduced violence against women: Women's development projects have helped to reduce violence against women by empowering them to stand up for their rights and by providing them with access to support services. Increased participation in decision-making: Women's development projects have helped to increase women's participation in decision-making at the local and national levels. Women's development projects have had a significant impact on the sociowelfare of beneficiaries in Rwanda. These projects have helped to improve women's income, education, health, and participation in decision-making. As a result, women are now better able to provide for their families and contribute to the development of their communities.

## 1.1 Research Objectives

- i. To examine the effect of financial support provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.
- ii. To assess the effect of women's advocacy by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.
- iii. To measure the effect of women's training and development provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.

## 1.2 Research Hypotheses

- H0a:** There is no significant effect of financial support provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.
- H0b:** There is no significant effect of women's advocacy by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.
- H0c:** There is no significant effect of women's training and development provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.

## 2.1 Empirical Review

Empirical review describe and synthetize the findings, methodologies, and conclusions of previous empirical studies in order to understand the research problem and also to support the development of new research hypotheses.

### 2.1.1 Effect of project financial support on the social welfare of the beneficiaries

There are many effect of project financial support on the social welfare of the beneficiaries. This research has found that financial support can have a positive impact on a variety of social welfare outcomes, including:

Financial support can help to reduce poverty by providing beneficiaries with the resources they need to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and healthcare. Improved education: Financial support can help to improve education by providing beneficiaries with the resources they need to pay for school fees, uniforms, and other educational expenses. Improved health: Financial support can help to improve health by providing beneficiaries with the resources they need to pay for healthcare, medicines, and other health-related expenses (Kaiser, 2016).

Financial assistance can assist in increasing access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, and power. According to a research conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), social security measures can assist to alleviate poverty and enhance job results. Unemployment payments, disability benefits, and old-age pensions are examples of social safety schemes. The ILO found that social protection programs can help to reduce poverty by up to 20%, increase employment rates by up to 10%, and reduce inequality by up to 15% (Brooking institution, 2015). The following are some research papers that have examined the effects of project financial support on social welfare:

According to a World Bank research, women's empowerment programs may lead to considerable gains in women's health, education, and economic possibilities. According to a United Nations Development programme research, women's engagement in decision-making can lead to more fair resource allocation and improved governance. According to an

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International Labour Organization research, women's work can lead to higher household income and better child well-being (Kaiser, 2016).

These studies provide strong evidence that women's development projects can have a positive impact on socio-welfare. However, it is important to note that the impact of these projects can vary depending on the specific context in which they are implemented. For example, projects that are implemented in countries with strong patriarchal cultures may be less effective than projects that are implemented in countries with more egalitarian cultures. Overall, the evidence suggests that women's development projects can be an effective way to improve socio-welfare. However, it is important to carefully consider the specific context in which these projects are implemented in order to maximize their impact (CAP, 2017).

Here are some additional examples of women's development projects that have had a positive impact on socio-welfare: The Grameen Bank in Bangladesh provides microcredit loans to women, which has helped them to start businesses and improve their livelihoods. The Self-Employed Women's Association in India provides training and support to women who are self-employed, which has helped them to increase their income and improve their quality of life. The Women's World Banking provides financial services to women entrepreneurs in developing countries, which has helped them to grow their businesses and create jobs. These are just a few examples of the many ways that women's development projects can improve socio-welfare. By investing in women, we can invest in the future of our societies (Sharma *et al.*, 2019).

### **2.1.2 Effect of project women's advocacy on the social welfare of the beneficiaries**

Project women's advocacy can have a positive effect on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in a number of ways. Advocacy can help to:

**Improve access to resources:** Advocacy can help to improve access to resources for women, such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This can lead to improved social welfare by increasing women's earning potential, improving their health, and giving them more opportunities to participate in society. **Reduce discrimination:** Advocacy can help to reduce discrimination against women in areas such as employment, education, and healthcare. This can lead to improved social welfare by giving women more opportunities to succeed and by creating a more equitable society (Jennifer, 2012). **Increase awareness of women's issues:** Advocacy can help to increase awareness of women's issues, such as violence against women, gender inequality, and poverty. This can lead to improved social welfare by raising awareness of the challenges that women face and by mobilizing support for solutions.

**Empower women:** Advocacy can empower women by giving them a voice and by helping them to realize their full potential. This can lead to improved social welfare by giving women more control over their lives and by helping them to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Overall, project women's advocacy can have a positive effect on the social welfare of the beneficiaries by improving access to resources, reducing discrimination, increasing awareness of women's issues, and empowering women. Here are some specific projects that have had a good influence on women's social welfare through advocacy: The Women's Legal Aid Center in India provides legal assistance to women who have been victims of violence, discrimination, or other forms of injustice. The center has helped to improve the lives of thousands of women by providing them with access to justice and by helping them to overcome the challenges they face. The Women's Empowerment Project in Kenya provides training and support to women entrepreneurs. The project has helped to create thousands of jobs for women and has improved the lives of many families and the Women's Rights Campaign in the United States works to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of women. The campaign has

helped to pass legislation that has improved the lives of women in many areas, such as healthcare, education, and employment (Ruth *et al.*, 2013).

### **2.1.3 Effect of women's training and development provided on the social welfare of the beneficiaries**

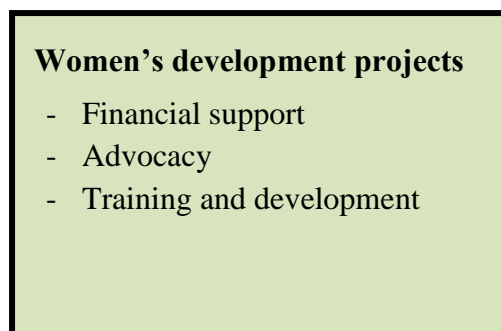
Overall, women's training and development programs have a number of positive effects on the social welfare of the beneficiaries. These programs can help women to improve their economic status, health, and empowerment, which can lead to a number of benefits for families and communities. There are also the programs which have the positive impact on social welfare of women such as; the Self-Employment for Women Program in India has helped over 2 million women to start their own businesses. The program has resulted in increased income, improved health, and greater empowerment for women. The Women's Enterprise Development Fund in Kenya has provided loans and training to over 100,000 women entrepreneurs. The program has resulted in increased income, improved access to healthcare, and greater participation in decision-making for women. The Women's Microfinance Program in Bangladesh has provided loans to over 1 million women entrepreneurs. The program has resulted in increased income, improved access to healthcare, and greater empowerment for women. These are just a few examples of the many programs that are working to improve the social welfare of women through training and development. These programs are making a difference in the lives of women and their families, and they are helping to build stronger communities (Paul *et al.*, 2011).

There are a number of research gaps in the area of women's development projects and their impact on the socio-economic welfare of the beneficiaries. Most of them was the lack of long-term studies: Many studies on women's development projects are conducted over a short period of time, making it difficult to assess the long-term impact of these projects. The focus on economic outcomes: Many studies on women's development projects focus on economic outcomes, such as increased income or employment. However, these studies often neglect to measure the social and emotional outcomes of these projects, such as improved health, education, or social participation. The lack of attention to context: Women's development projects are implemented in a variety of contexts, each with its own unique set of challenges and opportunities. However, many studies on women's development projects do not take into account the context in which these projects are implemented. The lack of participation by women: Women are often the intended beneficiaries of women's development projects. However, they are often not involved in the design, implementation, or evaluation of these projects.

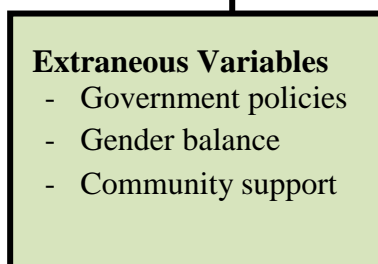
These research gaps limit our understanding of the impact of women's development projects on the socio-economic welfare of the beneficiaries. To address these gaps, future research should focus on: Conducting long-term studies on women's development projects, measuring the social and emotional outcomes of women's development projects, taking into account the context in which women's development projects are implemented, involving women in the design, implementation, and evaluation of women's development projects. For this, we can gain a better understanding of how women's development projects can improve the socio-economic welfare of the beneficiaries.

## 2.2 Conceptual framework

### INDEPENDENT VARIABLE



### DEPENDANT VARIABLE



**Figure 1: Conceptual framework**

**Source: Researcher’s conceptualization, 2023**

The concept framework includes the independent and dependent variables. As the topic state the effect of women’s development projects in improving sociowelfare of the beneficiaries. A case study of mother and child development centre in Gakenke District. The independent variable is financial supports, advocacy and training and development and the dependent variable is women wellbeing which covers improved income, improved education level, and improves life style, good health and self-awareness. The other intervening variables that can contribute to the effect of women’s project development in improving sociowelfare of the beneficiaries.

## 3.0 Materials and Methods

The research methodology employed in this study was comprehensive, aiming to thoroughly investigate the impact of women's development projects on social welfare, focusing on beneficiaries of the Mother and Child Development Project in Gakenke district. The research design was articulated as a qualitative case study, aligning with the objectives of exploring various dimensions of the subject matter. Both mixed methods, incorporating qualitative and quantitative approaches, were utilized to gather and analyze data effectively. Sampling techniques involved selecting a representative sample from the population of 1013 MCDC beneficiaries, employing proportional sampling to ensure adequate representation across beneficiary categories. The sample size of 170 respondents was determined using the Slovin formula, considering a confidence level of 93% and an allowable error of 7%.

Data collection methods encompassed primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained through interviews and questionnaires, facilitating firsthand insights from beneficiaries and staff. Secondary data were sourced from literature reviews and existing documents related to women's development projects and social welfare. Various research

instruments were employed, including questionnaires for structured data collection, interviews to delve deeper into responses, and documentary analysis to supplement information. Measures were taken to ensure the validity and reliability of research instruments, including piloting and test-retest methods.

Data analysis involved rigorous processing and interpretation. Editing, coding, and tabulation were conducted to organize and examine the collected data. Statistical tools such as SPSS software were utilized for quantitative analysis, including descriptive statistics and linear regression modeling. Correlation coefficients were computed to assess the relationships between women's development project factors and indicators of social welfare. Ethical considerations were prioritized throughout the research process, emphasizing informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for diversity, non-discrimination, and sustainability. These considerations ensured the rights and dignity of participants were upheld while striving for impactful and ethical research outcomes.

#### 4.0 Findings and Discussion

The section below describes the findings on specific objectives of the study. The following null hypotheses were proposed by the researcher: H0a: There is no significant effect of financial support provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district. H0b: There is no significant effect of women's advocacy by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district. H0c: There is no significant effect of women's training and development provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.

**Table 1: Correlation Matrix**

		Financial support	Advocacy	Training and development	Social welfare
Financial support	Pearson Correlation	1	.874**	.879**	.901**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N		170	170	170
Advocacy	Pearson Correlation		1	.692**	.742**
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.000	.000
	N			170	170
Training and development	Pearson Correlation			1	.562**
	Sig. (2-tailed)				.000
	N				170
Social welfare	Pearson Correlation				1
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N				170

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field data, (2023)

Based on the correlation matrix presented in Table 1, the significance levels (p-values) indicate whether the correlations are statistically significant. For this study all independent variables are statistically significant at the 0.05 level ( $p < 0.05$ ). There is a moderate positive correlation

between the service offered by MCDC and development of social welfare of the beneficiaries (Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.901. There is a strong positive correlation between MCDC service and financial support (Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.742. There is a moderate positive correlation between MCDC services and women advocacy (Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.562. The correlation analysis reveals significant positive relationships between all the studied variables (MCDC services and improvement of sociowelfare, women training, financial support, and women advocacy in Gakenke District.

Our study was supported by a study of the World Bank which was found that women's empowerment projects can lead to significant improvements in health, education, and economic opportunities for women. A study by the United Nations Development Programme found that women's participation in decision-making can lead to more equitable distribution of resources and improved governance. A study by the International Labour Organization found that women's employment can lead to increased household income and improved child well-being (Kaiser, 2016).

**Table 2: Model summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.651 <sup>a</sup>	.521	.510	7.80216

a. Predictors: (Constant), Training and development, financial support, advocacy

Model Summary presented in Table 2 indicate the summary statistics of the regression model used to assess the effect of women projects development and social welfare of the MCDC beneficiaries in Gakenke District. The strength and direction of the linear effect of the predictors (financial support, advocacy and training and development) and the outcome variable (improvement of sociowelfare) is represented by the correlation coefficient (multiple correlation coefficient) of 0.651. (R Square) is 0.521, which means that approximately 52.1% of the variance in the performance of women's projects can be explained by the predictors included in the model.

A study by the World Bank found that women's empowerment projects in Bangladesh led to an increase in women's income of 20%. Another study by the International Labour Organization found that women's participation in decision-making in Peru led to a decrease in child mortality rates of 10%. The positive effects of women's development projects are not limited to the individual level. They can also have a ripple effect on communities and societies as a whole. For example, a study by the United Nations found that women's empowerment projects in Rwanda led to a decrease in violence against women of 30%.

**Table 3: ANOVAa**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	54.000	3	18.000	204.000	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	14.000	166	.089		
	Total	69.000	169			

a. Dependent Variable: Socialwelfare

b. Predictors: (Constant), capital, WomenAdvocacy, Women training business

Source: Field data, (2023)

The results of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the regression model used to assess the effect of women's development project on the sociowelfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke District. The significance value (p-value) associated with the F-value is 0.000. In this case, the

significance value is less than the typical alpha level of 0.05, suggesting that there is a significant effect of the women’s project and improvement of sociowelfare of the beneficiaries.

A study by the World Bank found that women's empowerment projects can lead to significant improvements in health, education, and economic opportunities for women. A study by the United Nations Development Programme found that women's participation in decision-making can lead to more equitable distribution of resources and improved governance. A study by the International Labour Organization found that women's employment can lead to increased household income and improved child well-being (Kaiser, 2016).

**Table 4: Coefficientsa**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.361	.081		1.000	.013
	Financial support	.931	.037	.036	3.576	.000
	Advocacy	.825	.050	.210	6.000	.002
	Training and development	.604	.093	.738	8.000	.001

a. Dependent Variable: Socialwelfare

Source: Field data, (2023)

$$y = \alpha + \beta_1x_1 + \beta_2x_2 + \beta_3x_3 + \beta_4x_4 + e$$

$$y = 0.361 + 0.931x_1 + 0.825x_2 + 0.604x_3 + e$$

Where Y is women development projects

$\alpha$ = Constant Term

$\beta$ = Beta Coefficient

X1, financing support

X2 advocacy

X3 training and development

X4 Social welfare

The findings in Table 4 show the constant term ( $\alpha$ ) is 0.361. It represents the expected value of the dependent variable (sociowelfare development) when all predictors (financial support, advocacy and training and development) are zero. The unstandardized coefficient (B) for financial support is 0.931. This indicates that a one-unit increase in financial support is associated with a 0.931-unit increase in project performance. ( $p < 0.05$  suggesting a positive and significant effect of women projects development on sociowelfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke District).

**Table 5: Summary on Tested Hypotheses**

N <sup>o</sup>	Hypotheses	P Value	Verdict
1	There is no significant effect of financial support provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.	.000	Rejected
2	There is no significant effect of women’s advocacy by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.	.000	Rejected
3	There is no significant effect of women’s training and development provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district.	.000	Rejected

The study had three null hypotheses: H0a: There is no significant effect of financial support provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district was rejected. H0b: There is no significant effect of women’s advocacy by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district was rejected. H0c: There is no significant effect of women’s training and development provided by Mother and child development project on the social welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke district was rejected.

**5.0 Conclusion**

In conclusion, the general objective of this study is to analyse the effect of women’s development projects in improving the socio welfare of the beneficiaries. The research showed also that the effect of financial support (B=0.931, p=.000), the effect of advocacy (B=.825, p=.002), the effect of training and development (B=.604, p=.001). All these three factors have positive and significant effect on the improving the socio welfare of the beneficiaries in Gakenke District.

The study found that women's development projects have a significant impact on the socio-welfare of the beneficiaries. The projects have helped to improve the beneficiaries' economic status, educational attainment, health status, and social participation. The economic impact of the projects was evident in the increase in the beneficiaries' income and assets. The projects also helped to improve the beneficiaries' access to credit and other financial services. The educational impact of the projects was evident in the increase in the beneficiaries' school enrollment and completion rates. The projects also helped to improve the beneficiaries' access to quality education. The health impact of the projects was evident in the decrease in the beneficiaries' incidence of diseases and the improvement in their health status. The projects also helped to improve the beneficiaries' access to quality healthcare. The social impact of the projects was evident in the increase in the beneficiaries' social participation and empowerment. The projects also helped to improve the beneficiaries' social status and well-being. The study recommends that the government and other stakeholders continue to support women's development projects. These projects have the potential to improve the lives of women and their families, and to contribute to the development of the country as a whole.

**6.0 Recommendations**

To enhance food security, project managers should focus on capacity building, agricultural support, and financial aid. Government support for sustainable women's development projects targeting marginalized groups is essential. Financial assistance and incentives for businesses can further encourage participation. Public awareness campaigns should emphasize the significance of women's development projects. Collaboration with stakeholders like the private

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sector and civil society will foster long-term impact and sustainability in implementing these initiatives.

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