

# **INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS ON WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN INCOME GENERATING AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS IN MUNUKI PAYAM, JUBA COUNTY IN SOUTH SUDAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The share of female-headed families in Sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly growing, making women's income-generating activities an increasingly relevant topic of research. Women's customary occupations are enhanced with the duty of being the breadwinner as they transit into the role of head-of-household, and their success becomes intimately related to the well-being of the entire household. The women engagement in income-generating agribusiness projects, on the other hand, is determined by a variety of factors that comprise of demographic factors, economic considerations, social factors, and skills and knowledge factors. The study's goal was to determine the influence of socio-economic factors on women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan. The study specifically sought to identify the extent to which demographic, economic, social, and skills and knowledge factors influence women's involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan. The descriptive survey research design was used in this research study. This research focused on ten income generating agribusiness project groups in Munuki Payam, Juba County. The 447 respondents, comprising 10 chairpersons and 427 female members, 3 government officials, and 7 field researchers, constituted the unit of analysis. The stratified proportionate random sampling approach was used to select a sample size of 109. Self-administered questionnaires were used to collect primary data. Piloting of research instruments was done on two questionnaires, in order to test on the

viability of the instrument which the questionnaire included open-ended and closed-ended questions. The interview schedule was used to acquire qualitative data. Analysis was utilized descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean score, and standard deviation for all quantitative variables. The results from the quantitative data were presented on tables. Thematic analysis was used to assess the qualitative data from the open-ended questions, which were then presented in narrative style. The research found that majority of the women in the project are not widowed and the bread winners of their families, and involvement in the projects required academic qualifications. The study also found that social factors influence the women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan to a moderate extent. The study found that entrepreneurial skills have been paramount in the generating income for the women, the women's households have become better with the women gaining entrepreneurial skills, the women are able to account for their finances, and the women are mainly affected by low financial literacy due to lack of schooling. The study concluded that economic factors had the greatest influence on women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan, followed by social factors, then demographic factors while skills and knowledge factors had the least influence on women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan. The study recommends that the community should be taught the

importance of appreciating the need for equal opportunity for all and especially women to participate in income generating agribusiness projects. The study also recommended that the women be taught on the benefits of management and financial skills.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic factors, income generating agribusiness projects, demographic factors, economic factors, social factors, skills and knowledge factors

## **INTRODUCTION**

Income-generating initiatives are those in which an individual or a business earns or increases its income or money by delivering goods or services in exchange for capital investment. Additionally, it is defined as small-scale projects that produce revenue for individuals or groups of individuals while advancing the fundamental right to self-determination and the integration, reputation, and reintegration aims (Khlayfat, 2017). According to Kelkar (2016), the term "income generation" encompasses a broad range of activities, including small and medium-sized enterprise growth, local economic development, microcredit, skills and vocational or competency-based training, business training, and agriculture. Income-generating agribusiness projects seek to create financial income while also promoting self-sufficiency, household satisfaction, empowerment, and general community development. Women are integral to income-generating agribusiness activities, particularly in rural areas (Kipkoech, 2018).

Women's participation in income-generating agricultural operations is vital to a country's economic development. Understanding this role is critical for women's growth and economic potential realization. Rural women who follow are typically invisible, mute, and underappreciated, despite the fact that they constitute one of the world's most potent untapped natural resources (Damesa & Ogato, 2016). Over the last two decades, the dynamic changes in the development process have not relieved poverty or diminished women's vulnerability.

Income generating projects (IGPs) are small companies operated by a group of persons with the goal of diversifying their household income. There are several avenues for income generation (Bansal & Song, 2017). Initially, economists used it exclusively to characterize the intricacies of a country's economy. However, it is currently routinely used by community members to perform a variety of productive tasks. In Canada, income-generating agribusiness projects aid individuals and families in overcoming a range of obstacles, including low household income and food insecurity. Economic insecurity is a significant contributor to food insecurity. While food is occasionally available in local markets, the primary obstacle for the impoverished population is a lack of finances (Alur, & Schoormans, 2017). Entrepreneurs, particularly women, can significantly raise their income and standard of life by engaging in a variety of rural activities such as crop and animal production, processing, non-agricultural, artisanal, and commercial businesses. All of these

operations must be technically, commercially, and financially viable (Banerjee & Duflo, 2017).

Agriculture has historically been a critical component of Pakistan's economy. Agricultural output, on the other hand, had been declining for years prior to the loan approval in 2005, despite the fact that agricultural operations employed the bulk of rural residents. Women's participation in agribusiness has been limited, resulting in a detrimental influence on productivity. The country's concentration on poverty reduction necessitated a higher level of value addition in industry in order for the economy to grow more quickly and create more jobs. The agribusiness development initiatives sought to increase the economic value of agricultural products, particularly horticultural output and related exports, as well as the development of dairy farms (Ashraf, Grunfeld, Hoque & Alam, 2017).

In India, an organization known as the Council for Tribal and Rural Development (CTRD) was established with the assistance of international funders. The group ensures that rural women receive training in order to address their health concerns and improve local self-help organizations. Its mission was to eradicate poverty and sustain self-help efforts in the community by hiring women and involving them in project activities aimed at enhancing agribusiness and food security. They mobilized 100 women's organizations and aided them in investing in agriculture, goat husbandry, poultry, and riverbank tree planting (Muhia, 2020).

The growing proportion of female-headed households in Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the factors that has prompted a considerable number of women to establish income-generating agribusiness operations (Tanassum, 2018). When women assume the role of family head, their traditional projects grow to include the obligation to be breadwinners, and their success becomes inexorably linked to the household's total well-being. IGP tend to raise women's standing within the family, and research demonstrates unequivocally that the more money women control, the more money they invest to their children's education, health, and nutrition (Botha, Nieman & Van Vuuren, 2017).

Gender disparities have a direct effect on agricultural and human development outcomes. According to a study undertaken in four African nations, namely Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Algeria, and Cote d'Ivoire, giving women farmers with the same number and quality of inputs as males, as well as increasing their access to agricultural education, will help them succeed. This might result in a ten to twenty percent rise in agricultural output and revenues on a nationwide scale (Musinguzi, Bosselmann & Pouliot, 2018).

Female farmers in Eastern African countries face a slew of gender-specific market access barriers. They cannot pay the high permission cost required to sell their produce in the market, they are constrained by time constraints that prohibit them from obtaining the highest pricing, and they compete with male counterparts for crops that women have successfully farmed (Nhamo & Mukonza, 2020). Market-based agriculture efforts aimed at women will be more effective if they address gender inequities concurrently. Women faced

difficulties entering Tanzania's market, since firms viewed males as the primary producers in the household and were therefore more likely to contact men (cited in Aboda, Vedeld, Byakagaba, Mugagga, Nabanoga, Ruguma & Mukwaya, 2021). Women are typically responsible for planting, cultivating, and harvesting the foods used by the household, as well as livestock husbandry for protein value, in the perceived setting. Where there is no livestock, they sell little amounts of protein in the market to supplement the family's diet. Women process the majority of household food in order to ensure a varied diet, minimize losses, and sell in the market. According to Uduji and Okolo-(2019) Obasi's study on women's expenditure on food and children's necessities, limiting their engagement in agribusiness was obvious.

Since 2017, the South Sudan conflict has displaced over two million people internally, with more than double that number facing acute food shortages. Despite this, the country possesses immense agricultural potential and the capacity to build sophisticated agricultural value chains (Botha et al., 2017). Pastoralists have enhanced their sedentarization at the expense of mobility. The majority of women live in towns and villages and are becoming more involved in agricultural operations. Numerous projects have been launched since then to enhance and improve local markets, making them more inclusive and accessible to agribusinesses.

Additionally, the programs place a strong emphasis on aiding women in establishing their own businesses (Alur & Schoormans, 2017).

Women's engagement in income-generating initiatives is hampered by a lack of financial capital, required education, and requisite skills. Microfinance is a technique used primarily by organizations such as Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC), Finance Sudan Ltd, and Sudan Microfinance Institution to provide financial services to women. While it appears to have benefited some women through capital loans, there is unfairness in the distribution because women living in urban slums on the outskirts of Juba frequently are unable to meet the loan terms. The requirements stipulate that these women must either own land or provide proof of nationality (Ifejika, Akinbile, Ifejika & Olajide, 2018). As a result, while the majority of microfinance institutions in South Sudan serve urban clients, rural areas have significant challenges in terms of access to cash and credit. Microfinance institutions have a difficult time infiltrating these remote areas.

Inadequate security and transportation are the primary impediments to microfinance banks expanding into rural communities (Hassan & Saleem, 2017). South Sudan, as a result, has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, at 25% in 2007, compared to 49.9% in Northern Sudan (Sultana, Jamal & Najaf, 2017). As a result, 92% of women are unable to read or write (Mark, Mwaura & Otiende, 2019). As a result, they have limited ability to calculate manufacturing costs and analyze market data to determine if products will be competitive and profitable in the relevant markets.

Reading and numeracy skills deficiencies, particularly among women, are significant hurdles to smallholder commercialization. Additionally, despite the fact that women play a significant part in agriculture, the country's laws prevent women from owning land, a severely discriminatory practice. Alemu et al. (2021) confirm that female-headed households cultivate less land than male-headed households, which could have a negative impact on household food security. One aspect is the heavy labor necessary to clear extra land; yet, little attention has been paid to the demands and limitations of women in agricultural systems. In South Sudan, the majority of gender assessments have focused on protection concerns related to post-traumatic stress disorder and violence against girls and women as a result of the fighting (Cukier, Trenholm, Carl & Gekas, 2016). As such, the goal of this study was to examine the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's involvement in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of female-headed families is quickly increasing, making women's income-generating activities an increasingly essential research topic. The majority of women's traditional jobs are increased as they transition into the role of family head and assume the duty of being the breadwinner. Their performance is inextricably linked to the overall well-being of the household (Mark et al., 2019). Women's participation in revenue-generating agribusiness is challenged by demographic, economic, and sociological factors.

When developing long-term development programs and policies to help women in this new position, it is critical to first acquire an awareness of women's current income-generating activities (Charmes, 2016). It is argued that the success of East Africa's sustainable development plans and policies is contingent on women's performance as they transition into the critical role of primary wage earners. Women's participation in income-generating agriculture efforts is rapidly rising in South Sudan, resulting in a shift in household dynamics and income-generating projects (Gachemi, 2018). According to a research conducted by IFAD (2016), 73 percent of women mentioned the incurrence of an additional cost as the primary reason for rejecting income-generating agricultural programs. Some say that working for others is preferable since they avoid the costs associated with starting and running their own revenue-generating ventures.

On the other side, the women of Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan, have historically faced restricted economic prospects and have embraced income-generating chances to help their family earn a living. Despite their desperate circumstances, these women are unable to engage in a variety of economic activities, including access to agricultural resources and financial services. Additionally, women lack the knowledge and expertise necessary to engage in additional income-generating activities to augment their income.

Food security for the majority of women is jeopardized by agricultural production insufficiency as a result of land depletion. Women have restricted access to health and educational services (Charmes, 2016), which results in their illiteracy, reduced career possibilities, and diminished competitiveness in the labor market. Women are usually overloaded with daily chores such as water collecting, firewood gathering, meal preparation, and kid care. The society has a poor understanding and appreciation for the importance of female education. Education is intended to enhance their standard of living, increase their wages, and promote family planning. Other issues of concern to women on a sociocultural level include early marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM). The study's objective was to determine the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's involvement in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The following research objectives guided the study.

- i. To determine the extent to which demographic factors influence the women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan.
- ii. To assess the extent to which economic factors influence the women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan.
- iii. To establish the extent to which social factors influence women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan.
- iv. To examine the extent to which skills and knowledge factors influence women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan.

### **Theoretical Review**

The theoretical framework discusses theories related to the independent and dependent variables of the study. The theories to be discussed in this section included income theory of money, resource theory and empowerment theory. The section sought to prove how each theory is anchored to the study variables.

#### **Income Theory of Money**

In 1517, Nicolaus Copernicus proposed the income theory of money. The theory investigates the flow of expenditures, which provides an explanation for the quantity and velocity of money. The hypothesis assumes that commerce and commercial activity are constant; that the supply of credit money is constant; that the velocity of money is constant; and that there is no money hoarding (i.e., no part of money is kept as savings and total income is used in consumption). Income theory does not deny the role of money—money is a crucial variable, but its effect on prices cannot be assumed.

In actuality, rather than the quantity of money, the value of money is decided by overall income. It stresses the reality that money is frequently a byproduct rather than a cause of revenue levels. The version emphasizes the fact that total income, rather than its quantity, affects the value of money (Galbács, 2015).

Benchimol (2016) asserts that as income increases, expenditure increases, and as prices increase, the value of money increases. Money income (Y) is defined as the total income of money earned by the elements of production over a specified time period in the form of rent, wages, interest, and profits. It depicts the monetary value of total real output over a certain time period. Real income refers to the total number of goods and services produced by a community during a specified time period (O). In this way, monetary and actual income are complementary. Money income is the monetary worth of real income, which is defined as real income (O) multiplied by the current price level (P). In a capitalist economy, the productive process is designed in such a way that it generates both production and employment while also generating money income adequate to purchase the output at current prices.

Women, girls, and young men, as they are in most conflicts, are among the most vulnerable in South Sudan. They face a slew of impediments, including extreme poverty, a lack of access to fundamental productive assets, and the adverse consequences of climate change on livelihoods and well-being. These populations face the greatest difficulty during times of conflict, and many of the hazards they face, such as gender-based violence (GBV), are typically increased.

Income is a critical measure of people's socioeconomic condition in South Sudan, as it is in other parts of the world. In rural areas, a family's entire revenue is comprised of agricultural and non-farming income. Agriculture generates cash through crop production, cattle, poultry, fisheries, vegetables, and fruits, as well as farm labor sales. Women's economic participation can immediately improve their overall status and empower them. Economic empowerment, according to a certain South Asian study, is the starting point for women's entire empowerment if they are gathered together on a single platform. This idea was pertinent to this study since it demonstrated how economic factors might influence women's participation in agribusiness development projects.

## **Resource Theory**

In 1991, Jay Barney coined the term "resource theory." This approach presupposes that all of an organization's resources are undifferentiated and immobile. According to the theory, strategic resources provide a unique chance for an individual or organization to obtain a competitive edge over competitors. These competitive advantages, in turn, can assist the organization in generating substantial revenue, particularly over time. Historically, interpersonal interactions in the marketplace have been viewed as resource exchanges. In a barter system, commodities were physically exchanged for one another. Later, one commodity-money-became standardized and widely recognized; so was born the money-

merchandise trade, which has retained prominence in economic practice and theory until the present day.

Women in South Sudan and many other African countries frequently face seclusion and exclusion as a result of patriarchal socio-cultural norms, which ultimately restrict their access to development and empowerment, including denial of basic legal rights to economic participation, restrictions on work outside the home, a lack of education and skills, incorrect interpretations and implementations of purdah, and the honor associated with women's sexuality, domestic workloads, and so on. This theory was pertinent to this study because it demonstrated how demographic factors such as education, skills, and knowledge, which are considered factors, might influence women's participation in agribusiness development projects.

### **Empowerment Theory**

In 1981, Julian Rappaport coined the term "empowerment theory." The concept, which has connections to Marxist sociological theory, situates human difficulties within a stratified and oppressive social, political, and economic framework. Additionally, empowerment theory situates human problems within a person-in-environment context, recognizing not only the interdependence and mutual influence of individuals and communities, but also proposing that successful interventions to human problems occur simultaneously at the intra-personal, interpersonal, and community levels.

According to the philosophy, empowerment aims to lessen the powerlessness generated by the weak and oppressed being labeled as such. Empowerment interventions may primarily aid individuals in improving psychological self-efficacy or coping capacities necessary to adjust to their present social situation in direct practice. Empowerment practice is based on a problem-solving approach that entails defining strengths and identifying/resolving problems; developing goals; involving social workers; intervening on intrapersonal, interpersonal, and community levels; and collaboratively evaluating accomplishments. This understanding of the problem-solving paradigm is congruent with the flexibility principle inherent in the generalist-eclectic approach.

Women's empowerment is a central notion in contemporary development discourse and a critical component of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the more recent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (SDG 2017). Gender equality and empowerment, portrayed as a panacea for women's participation difficulties (Gachemi, 2018), are high on policymakers' priority lists, particularly in developing countries. The terminology of gender equality and empowerment typically refers to factors such as access to aid, education, and health care, economic position, and equal involvement in decision-making (Ifthikar & Senathiraja, 2016). These can be acquired through economic progress (Hanmer & Klugman, 2016). However, the idea that economic development necessarily results in empowerment has come under fire (Hanmer & Klugman, 2016). Financial income, the authors contend, is insufficient to create equality and does not

address the root causes of poverty. They emphasize that women's empowerment is highly contextualized and is contingent on cultural frames of constraint and limitation, and that it transcends financial success. This can impair women's ability to exert their innate authority and influence on decision-making within their own social factors, such as their cultural context, and can leave them vulnerable and undermined within their own communities. This idea was pertinent to this study since it demonstrated how social factors might women's participation in agribusiness development projects.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study used a descriptive survey design. This design is optimal because the research involved gathering and comparing data from the phenomena concurrently with the study. Wang (2015) claimed that descriptive survey designs are appropriate when the primary goal is to determine whether significant relationships between variables existed at some point in time. The design was optimal because it tried to define the features of specific groups, estimate the number of individuals who share those traits, and make predictions. This design entailed the collection of quantitative data for inferential analysis and qualitative data for describing and explaining the behavioral themes identified regarding the influence of socioeconomic factors on women's involvement in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan.

Thus, the approach is appropriate for this study, as the study's objective is to collect thorough data via descriptions that aid in identifying factors. This design is also quite beneficial for examining the relationships between the variables described previously in the conceptual framework (Flick, 2015). In descriptive research, researchers might use quantitative data to elicit information and characteristics about the population or phenomenon being studied. The advantages of descriptive survey research are numerous since it provides for a variety of data collection procedures, including interviews, observations, questionnaires, and participant involvement.

### **Target Population**

A population is a group that the researcher wishes to generalize, while a sample is the group that is chosen to participate in the study. This study will target 10 agribusiness development projects' groups in Munuki Payam, Juba County. The unit of analysis was the 447 respondents comprising 10 chairpersons and 427 women members, 3 government officials and 7 field researchers. The target population is as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Target Population**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Chairpersons	10	2.2
Women members	427	95.5
Government officials	3	0.7
Field researchers	7	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: ACF International (2020)**

## Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

A sample is a representative portion of the population of interest which is randomly chosen (Wang, 2015). The sample size was determined from a target population of 447 using the Nassiuma (2000) formula as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N (cv^2)}{Cv^2 + (N-1) e^2}$$

Where  $n$ = sample size

$N$  = population (447)

$Cv$ = Coefficient of variation (take 0.6)

$e$  = tolerance of desired level of confidence (take 0.05) at 95% confidence level)

$$n = \frac{447 (0.6^2)}{0.6^2 + (447-1) 0.05^2} = 109$$

The sample size was therefore 109. To determine how the sample is distributed among the targeted women from 10 agribusiness development projects' groups, the sampling ration (0.244) was calculated, that is ,109/447=0.244 and then multiplied by target population for each category of respondents. Table 2 presents the sample size.

**Table 2: Sampling Frame**

<b>Groups Name</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Chairpersons	10	0.244	2
Women members	427	0.244	104
Government officials	3	0.244	1
Field researchers	7	0.244	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>		<b>109</b>

The study used a stratified proportionate random sampling technique to choose respondents. Stratified random sampling is an unbiased sampling technique that involves subdividing a diverse population into homogeneous subsets and then picking within each subset to achieve representativeness. The purpose of stratified random sampling was to acquire the required representation of the population's various subgroups. Subjects are chosen in stratified random sampling in such a way that existing subgroups in the population are more or less represented in the sample (Yin, 2017). The study selected respondents in each stratum, which was a category of respondents, using simple random sampling (that is, chairpersons, women members, government officials, and field researchers).

## Research Instruments

Primary data were collected by self-administered questionnaires to members of a registered women's group. A questionnaire, according to Flick (2015), is a pre-designed list of questions used to communicate with respondents. The researcher employed well-trained local research assistants to translate the questions into the indigenous language spoken by the respondents. There were both open-ended and closed-ended questions on the questionnaire. The open-ended questions were utilized to enable respondents to provide an in-depth and felt response without feeling constrained in terms of illuminating any information, whereas the closed-ended questions allowed respondents to react from pre-stated possibilities. According to

Wang (2015), open-ended or unstructured questions elicit more detailed responses from respondents, whereas closed-ended or structured questions are typically easier to evaluate. The closed ended question used a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very low extent, 2 indicating medium extent, 3 indicating moderate extent, 4 indicating great extent, and 5 indicating very great extent. Qualitative data were also collected using the interview guide. This was distributed to chairpersons, government officials, and field researchers in order to give their perspectives on the subject. A schedule of interviews was employed to supplement the quantitative method (Flick, 2015).

### **Pilot Testing**

A pilot study is the assessment of a dependent variable in a small sample of people. Its objective is to verify that all instrument items are stated clearly and have the same meaning for all respondents. Pre-testing the data instrument was conducted to ensure that all items were stated clearly and had the same meaning for all respondents. This included ensuring that the questions were clear and cancelling any good or negative response in this study (Wang, 2015). The instruments' content and construct validity were successfully validated throughout their piloting. The respondents were chosen at random from Kator Payam and were excluded from the main study. After one day, the same individuals were asked to complete the identical surveys but without prior notification in order to determine if there was any difference in response patterns between the first and second tests. This is critical during the research process because it aided in identifying and correcting ambiguous questions and directions. Additionally, it was a great opportunity to record critical comments and ideas from the participants. This contributed to the instrument's increased efficiency. This procedure was repeated until the researcher was convinced that there were no variations or ambiguities in the instrument.

### **Validity of Research Instruments**

According to Creswell & Creswell (2017), validity refers to the precision and significance of inferences drawn from study findings. Validity refers to the degree to which a sample of test items accurately reflects the content of the test. The term "content validity" refers to the degree to which data obtained using a certain instrument accurately represent a specific domain or content of a particular idea. One of the primary objectives for performing the pilot study is to ensure the questionnaire's validity. The study used content validity, which makes inferences about a vast domain of things similar to those on the test based on test scores. Concerned with content validity was the representativeness of the sample population. According to Wang (2015), the test items' coverage of knowledge and skills should be indicative of the greater area of knowledge and abilities. Expert advice was solicited to remark on the representativeness and applicability of the questions and to make structural improvements to the research tools. This aided in increasing the content validity of the data acquired. Content validity was determined by inquiring about the questionnaire's suitability for the purpose from the supervisor, lecturers, and other

professionals. Additionally, the researcher scheduled appointments three days before to the visit by phoning the respondents on the phone.

### **Reliability of Research Instruments**

The reliability of a measure reveals its lack of bias (error) and so provides consistent measurement over time and across the instrument's many elements. It is a measure of the instrument's stability and consistency in measuring the concept and aids in determining the instrument's quality of measure. The term "reliability" refers to the capacity of a study's findings to be replicated. The questionnaire was distributed to a pilot group of 21 randomly chosen respondents from the target community, and their replies were analyzed to determine the tool's reliability. The split half approach was used to determine the instrument's reliability, which was then calculated using Spearman Brown correlation equations to determine the instrument's overall dependability. If the total scale is completely dependable, the study expected perfect correlation between the two halves. A construct composite reliability coefficient of 0.7 or above was deemed appropriate for this study (Mohajan, 2018).

### **Data Collection Procedures**

The study gathered primary data through the use of questionnaires; questionnaires were chosen because they are well-suited for descriptive study since they are simple to administer, assure rapid delivery, and allow respondents to respond at their convenience. Interview strategies were given to research assistants, including how to establish rapport with respondents, persuade them to submit relevant data, and clarify when necessary. At least two days previous to their visit, research assistants made an appointment to administer questionnaires with respondent organizations. The research assistants distributed the questionnaire and allowed the chosen respondent a maximum of three days to complete it before collecting it for data analysis. Additionally, the researcher informed participants that the information they provided would be kept strictly confidential. A sealed envelope labeled with the questionnaire and thesis topic was provided to ensure secrecy inside the organization and protection against potential victimization by the human resource division or the person chosen by the organization to coordinate the procedure. The study assistants then distributed the surveys via designated officers, coordinating with them to ensure respondents had the time to complete them. This created a hospitable environment for the questionnaire's distribution and administration. The questionnaires were administered in accordance with the established questionnaire. the research assistants were on hand to assist responders with any questions that required clarification.

### **Data Analysis Techniques**

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used to examine the data (SPSS Version 25.0). To assist data entry, all questionnaires received were referenced and the questionnaire items were coded. After cleaning the data, which included a check for entry mistakes,

descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean score, and standard deviation were computed for all quantitative variables, and the information was presented in tables. Thematic analysis was used to examine and present the qualitative data from the open-ended questions. Pearson's product moment correlation analysis was used to evaluate inferential statistics. To determine relationships between the independent and dependent variables, Pearson's product moment correlation analysis was utilized. Correlation analysis was chosen since it proved to be effective in determining the relative contribution of independent variables to the dependent variable (Wang, 2015).

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### **Reliability Analysis**

Reliability analysis was subsequently done using Cronbach's Alpha which measures the internal consistency by establishing if certain items within a scale measure the same construct. The findings for reliability test were as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Reliability Analysis**

	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
Demographic factors	.817
Economic factors	.831
Social factors	.746
Skills and knowledge factors	.718
Women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects	.848

Cronbach Alpha was established for every objective which formed a scale. Women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects was the most reliable with an alpha value of 0.848, followed by economic factors had an alpha value of 0.831, then demographic factors with an alpha value of 0.817 then social factors with an alpha value of 0.746 while skills and knowledge factors was the least reliable with an alpha value of 0.718. This illustrates that all the five variables were reliable as their reliability values exceeded the prescribed threshold of 0.7 (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

### **Pearson Moment Correlation Results**

Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine the strength and the direction of the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable. The analysis using Pearson's product moment correlation was based on the assumption that the data is normally distributed and also because the variables are continuous. Table 4 shows the results for the Pearson moment correlation.

**Table 4: Pearson Moment Correlation Results**

		Women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects	Demographic factors	Economic factors	Social factors	Skills and knowledge factors
Women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.				
Demographic factors	Pearson Correlation	.744	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.041				
Economic factors	Pearson Correlation	.992	.755	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.009	.023			
Social factors	Pearson Correlation	.965	.707	.963	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.013	.034	.006		
Skills and knowledge factors	Pearson Correlation	.537	.947	.547	.491	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.027	.008	.021	.004	

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The analysis of correlation results between the women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan and demographic factors shows a positive association where the correlation coefficient is .744, with p-value of .041 which was significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$ . The correlation results between economic factors and women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan also indicates the same type of result where the correlation coefficient is .992 with a p-value of .009 which was significant at  $\alpha = 5\%$ .

The results also show that there is a positive association between social factors and women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan where the correlation coefficient is .965, with a p-value of .013. Further, the result shows that there is a positive association between Skills and knowledge factors and Women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan where the correlation coefficient is .537, with a p-value of .027. Nevertheless, the positive associations indicate that when the practice of the aforementioned factors is in place the levels of women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan increases.

Overall, economic factors had the greatest influence on women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan, followed by social factors, then demographic factors while skills and knowledge factors had

the least influence on women involvement in income generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County in South Sudan. All the variables were significant since p-values were less than 0.05.

## **Conclusion**

The study revealed that demographic factors had a favorable and significant effect on women's involvement in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan. The study indicated that if conventional impediments to women's mobility, decision-making, and work beyond the four walls of the household are eliminated, women will become increasingly active in income-generating agribusiness projects.

Economic variables have a substantial impact on women's participation in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan. The study revealed that economic constraints cause women to fall behind in development concerns because they are unable to manage development projects that would improve their living conditions.

The study revealed that social variables had a substantial impact on women's participation in income-generating agribusiness projects in South Sudan's Munuki Payam County. The study concluded that social aspects are critical to the success of any community. However, the survey revealed that the community continues to adhere to a culture that bans women from taking an active role in projects.

The study concluded that women's participation in income-generating agribusiness projects in Munuki Payam, Juba County, South Sudan is influenced by their abilities and expertise. The research concluded that capacity building workshops enable women to understand what is expected of them and so equip individuals who attend to educate the community about the benefits and drawbacks of their culture, as well as the overall impact on the community if they do not change. The study concluded that entrepreneurial skills are critical for women's income generation, that women's households have improved as a result of their entrepreneurial skills, that women are capable of accounting for their finances, and that women are disproportionately affected by low financial literacy due to a lack of schooling.

## **Recommendations**

The study advises that the community be taught the value of equitable opportunity for all, particularly women, to participate in income-generating agribusiness projects without jeopardizing men's primacy as family head. Women should be encouraged to participate in income-generating agribusiness projects in order to contribute their expertise rather than sit on the fence and criticize males for poor decision-making.

The study concluded that women should be economically empowered by establishing more income-generating agricultural projects. This can be accomplished by incorporating women into these enterprises in order to diversify management and by building marketplaces near

communities so that residents do not have to travel vast distances to sell or purchase things. Training women in financial management will also instil in them an awareness of the importance of saving for future needs.

Women need opportunities to diversify their sources of income in order to improve their living standards. Increase the number of income-generating agribusiness projects in the area so that they can enable women to pool their resources and also involve women in the management of these projects, ensuring that all opinions are heard and no blame game occurs. Additionally, it is important that women be taught the value of managerial and financial abilities.

The government should collaborate with other organizations to host further seminars to educate the community about the necessity of enabling women to engage in income-generating agribusiness projects, since this will allow participants to raise any concerns they may have. It is advised that workshops be arranged and funded to encourage participation by as many members of the community as possible, as those who have participated have received valuable knowledge and their perceptions may have shifted.

The government should guarantee financial literacy is offered and supported, as this would help women improve their money management abilities. Monitoring and evaluation activities include making unplanned visits to income-generating agribusiness projects to provide technical assistance and ensure that the projects are viable and can persist, thereby improving the community's and country's economy.

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