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Influence of Occupation on Credit Accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County, Kenya

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Abstract:
This research aimed to establish the factors determining credit accessibility from Microfinance institutions among persons with disabilities in Mombasa County, Kenya. The study was carried out to establish the effect of occupation on credit access from Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Mombasa County. The study tested the hypothesis on the above objectives to enhance the realization of the key factors that constrain credit accessibility by PWDs. The research was anchored on Credit rationing theory, Credit channel theory, and imperfect information theory. The study employed a descriptive survey research design, and a target population of 2037 was used in the study—a study of 204 PWDs. Primary data collection method was employed to gather the required information. The information gathered from this research was analyzed using SPSS V.26. The overall results indicated that all respondents agreed that the independent variable and occupation influenced credit accessibility. Pearson's correlation results indicated a positive relationship between gender, occupation, education, and credit accessibility. The null hypotheses were rejected at a confidence level of 95%. The study findings concluded that greater adoption of occupation greatly affects credit accessibility. The study recommends that National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) can use study results to advise PWDs on credit accessibility, promote integration between PWDs and the society around them in Kenya by facilitating the implementation of the existing policies and enhancing development to align with the arising needs of disabled persons.

Keywords: *Credit accessibility, PWDs, national council for persons with disabilities*

1. Background of the Study

Microfinance refers to the provision of banking services to low-income people, especially the poor and the very poor. The clients are not just micro-entrepreneurs seeking to finance their businesses but the whole range of indigent clients who use financial services to manage emergencies, acquire household assets, improve their homes and fund social obligations. The benefits go beyond microcredit and include savings and transfer of services (Christen, 2018). The epicenter of Microfinance can be traced to Bangladesh in 1976 when Muhammad Yunus established Grameen bank as an experiment of providing unsecured loans to the poor but at full-cost interest rates. Microfinance is internationally known for its influential role in reducing poverty and enhancing gender equality and social advancement. Therefore, it has been widely observed as an operative instrument for sustainable social and economic progress, especially in unindustrialized nations. Policymakers are working on developing microfinance sustainably and making it available for their lower-income population in the future. In Vietnam, for approximately three decades, microfinance has made a pivotal contribution in helping the deprived improve their lives through the provision of banking and financial services, especially small loans for their production and entrepreneurial undergoing. The progressive development of microfinance toward maintainable expansion has been a critical element of international integration and social-economic development (Sanson et al., 2018).

Professor Muhammad Yunus, known as the father of microfinance, once visited the poverty-wracked and flood-withered Bangladeshi village of Jobra in 1976. After seeing the distressing poverty in that place, he decided to lend about $27 (interest-free) as working capital to a few women there. To his amazement, the women utilized the money productively in their modest viable enterprises effectively and reimbursed the loan with thanks. That insignificant advance was considered as providing the first astounding blocks to building a global movement to lessen poverty through the provision of credit to disadvantaged people. According to Yunus, (Wade, 2014), the lack of traditional methods of collateral, especially land, hindered the poor from emerging mainstream financial services. Thus, Professor Yunus's alternate way to overcome security barriers is forming borrower groups where peer group pressure or mutual liability would guarantee repayment. This efficacious test became the basis of a universal uprising commonly referred to as microfinance (Mpaka, 2017). People with disabilities are the poorest of the poor and marginalized in society and have inadequate access to communal development programs (Sanson et al., 2018). Scholar maintains that leaving vulnerable groups behind, such as people with disabilities, might hamper the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the safeguarding of an inclusive society (Lagrelius, 2016). Thus, microfinance could be a possible solution to embrace and empower people with disabilities in mainstream society. Microfinance, which is referred to as the provision of formal financial services such as credit, savings, and insurance adapted principally for the poor, is used to develop enterprises to create income (Mersland, 2018). Microfinance is professed as an instrument to reduce poverty and attain economic empowerment for people with disabilities (Armendariz and Labie, 2017; Mersland, 2016). Microfinance is also anticipated to realize the financial needs of disabled consumers (Lewis, 2020) and support them to advance in economic activities, which might augment the living standards of the microfinance recipients (Lagrelius, 2016).

The interest of governments, both national and intercontinental development agencies, for the economically active poor flagged the way for a semi-organized financial system, microfinance, and self-help groups (SHGs) that have been growing since the late 1980s. Self-help groups play an essential role in improving the livelihood of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). They face several barricades to their complete social involvement, which places them at a greater risk of discrimination, abuse, and poverty (Ajai, 2015). Persons with Disabilities are usually a low-priority and ill-treated target group regarding socio-economic integration (ILO, 2021; Lewis, 2020). Despite studies indicating that PWDs are, on average, among the poorest, not all persons with disabilities are inadequate. Persons with Disabilities have long-term physical, mental, visual, hearing, intellectual, or sensory impairments, which adversely impact social, economic, or environmental involvement. Interaction with various barriers may limit their full and active participation in society equally with others (United Nations Convention on the Rights of PWDs, 2016). Association of Persons with Disabilities in Kenya (APDK) is an association that enables persons with diverse abilities to enjoy equal rights and have access to reasonably priced quality rehabilitation services. It also allows PWDs to overcome physical limitations and economically and socially empowers them to become self-reliant and fully integrated members of their communities (APDK, 2021).

1.1. Global Perspective

Globally, some studies showed the constructive outcome of microfinance on clients' lives. Khandkar *et al.* (2016) studied beyond ending poverty, the dynamics of microfinance in Bangladesh. Using panel data showed that 2.5 million households have moved up from poverty by accessing microfinance sustainably in Bangladesh. Other studies found that participation in income-earning opportunities can financially empower and reduce unemployment of people with disabilities (Cole et al., 2017; OECD, 2018). Nevertheless, some randomized assessments did not find significant impacts of microfinance (Banerjee et al., 2015). A study steered by Guerin and Kumar (2017) in South India argued that getting into microfinance might not empower marginalized groups of people in society.

Dyer (2018), Leonard Cheshire International, in her article 'the inclusion of Disabled People in Mainstream Micro-Finance Programs' argued: "Although women facing poverty has importantly been acknowledged and social exclusion and economic inequality due to race or ethnicity resulting in poverty are also acknowledged, disability is a dimension of poverty which on the whole remains neglected." Hao (2015) used figures from the Vietnam Living Standard Survey (VLSS) data in 2013 and 2018, in which at least one thousand households were experimented with for his econometric model. The author utilized probit regression to approximate determinants of credit and the Heckman two-step technique to approximate the effect of credit on family well-being. The results indicated that access to official credit positively affects consumption per capita. Lensink and Pham (2012) used panel data with a sample of about 3,200 households obtained from VLSS 2002 and 2004 to evaluate the impact of microcredit provided by VBSP on self-employment profits in Vietnam. The findings showed that MFI had positive and noteworthy effects on the self-employment profits of the borrowers.

1.2. Regional Perspective

Diagne and Zeller (2021) conducted a study in Malawi and concluded that microfinance does not significantly affect household income. In other words, investing in MSEs will not affect rising household incomes because the infrastructure and markets are undeveloped. A study conducted in 2009 on accessibility to Microfinance services by people in Bushenyi District, Uganda, concluded that although disability in itself may not necessarily deny access to MF for those that meet the requirements, there were nonetheless several factors that could improve PWDs' usage of MF.

In Uganda, three lessons were drawn from a study of industrialists with disabilities (Bwire and Mukasa, 2019):

- Firstly, it was captured that PWDs are an unexploited market prospect for MFIs.
- Secondly, to stimulate MFIs to team up with key players from the business, it is essential to appreciate the specific MFIs and their business models, and
- Thirdly, PWDs are often misinformed about MFIs' terms and services and do not know how to tap these openings

Therefore, progressively changing the attitudes of both MFIs and Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) improved the number of clients with disabilities served at MFI without using any economic inducements.

1.3. Local Perspective

In the study, Determinants of Access to Microfinance Services among Self-employed Persons with Disabilities in Nairobi, Kenya (Ayallo, 2014), it emerged that self-employed persons with disabilities could utilize the information to access microfinance services effectively. The availability of these services within the linkage programs and groups also facilitated access to such services. However, the study further established that financial requirements remain a significant hindrance to accessing microfinance services by PWDs at the NGO mainstream banks or MFIs (Ayallo, 2018). A study on the impact of microfinance on rural poor households' income and vulnerability to poverty (Makunji & Rotich, 2017) stated that there is a role for microfinance as a poverty reduction tool. Still, the ability of families to begin informal sole micro-entrepreneurship should not be assumed to be adequate for the improvement of household income (Kiiru, 2017). Households, thus, regardless of social characteristics, should have an avenue through credit to help them establish their businesses.

1.4. Statement of the Problem

Programs endorsing savings and credit groups habitually have a component of credit where the groups are provided with extra funds, either as a credit to some members or as a loan directly to the group, which can be used to advance to members. These inputs give the members the likelihood of getting into larger loans and advancing in more significant business projects. However, common practice shows that access to capital from the outside creates a 'credit focus' in the groups, plummets the members' encouragement to save and often generates governance and ownership challenges. As a result, externally funded groups tend not to be sustainable (Murray and Rosenberg, 2016). A significant encounter for Persons with Disabilities is that community members resolve whom to include as members in a savings and credit group. This regularly leads to the exclusion of disabled persons if community awareness has not been raised on disability matters (Thomas, 2020). People with disabilities repeatedly experience exclusion and rejection. The buildup of such undesirable experiences produces secondary incapacities like a lack of self-esteem, leading to self-exclusion from public and private services such as microfinance (Roeske, 2021). Furthermore, some persons with disabilities and their families may believe in constantly receiving charity or special conditions (Thomas, 2020). Most persons with disabilities in Kenya suffer major inequalities, as indicated by abject poverty and limited chances for accessing education, health, housing, and employment (ILO, 2021). In Kenya, several studies on microfinance services have been done:

- Mugori (2012) researched the effects of access to microfinance on the financial performance of small and medium enterprises owned by youths in Nairobi, Kenya,
- Gombe (2018) studied the impact of microfinance on the formal financial sector development in Kenya,
- Waiganjo (2019) looked at the impact of microfinance services on poverty alleviation at the household level

These studies generally focused on youth, financial sector development, and poverty alleviation but not on disabled people.

Most financial institutions consider PWDs a high-risk category when it comes to lending. Microcredit lenders increased in Bangladesh, with more than one thousand openings since 1990 and offering interest rates between 10% and 30% (Chowdhury & Wright, 2015). As a result of attitudes and biases inside society, the personnel of an MFI will often intentionally or unconsciously dismiss disabled persons. The employees often have minimal knowledge and training to differentiate between real and perceived credit risk. The credit policy practiced by MFIs habitually deters persons with disabilities and other susceptible groups from participating. Mobility challenges make weekly repayments a more significant impediment for persons with disabilities. The disability itself can be a major barricade to accessing offices or information. MFIs give information in both verbal and written form, inaccessible to many deaf or blind persons. Branches are situated far away from people's homes, and to enter the premises, stairs often have to be climbed, and crowds have to be penetrated (MRA, 2019). While most studies have focused on the direct financing of organizations that deal with disabled persons, a few pieces of research have concentrated on empowering these disabled people with knowledge and skills to empower them financially. According to Raymond (2019), 'Most studies have been conducted on the Potential Impact of the Global Economic Downturn on People with Disabilities in Developing Countries'. However, very little has been made of factors influencing user-friendliness to microfinance services by disabled persons. Persons with Disabilities need special consideration on the terms and conditions of borrowing funds as given in most memorandums (Lewis, 2015). This has not been addressed by most funds' investors, especially in Mombasa County, even though APDK has a coastal branch located at Mombasa North. This study established determinants of microfinance institutions' credit accessibility by persons with disabilities in Mombasa County.

1.5. Objectives of the Study

<u>1.5.1. General Objective</u>

The General objective of this research was to establish credit accessibility from microfinance institutions by persons with disabilities in Mombasa County, Kenya.

<u>1.5.2. Specific Objective</u>

To establish the effect of occupation on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County, Kenya

1.5.2.1. Research Hypothesis

The following null hypotheses guided the current research:

- HO_1: Occupation has no significant effect on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County, Kenya.

1.6. Significance of the Study

This research may be of boundless prominence to the government. As enshrined in Kenya's 2010 constitution, Affirmative action has been a matter of great concern to the government. To implement this equality model, the government needs informative research that may act as a basis for initiating policies to mainstream this vacuum. Therefore, this research is helpful and explorative by analyzing the Relationship between MFIs, credit access, and persons with disabilities. Consequently, it may aid the government in creating a conducive environment where all citizens enjoy equal opportunities in any undertaking with financial institutions by coming up with a neutral and far from discrimination and sympathetic approach to disabled customers/investors.

This research is necessary for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). This entity had been at the front line in wading integration between PWDs and the society around them in Kenya by facilitating the implementation of the existing policies and enhancing development to align with the arising needs of disabled persons. This research thus may enable them to identify the gaps against PWDs in the microfinance sector for proper action. The research will be of great essence to PWDs too. The insights from this research may be used by several stakeholders, including government and essential Parastatal, to establish favorable policies, social acceptance, and awareness of the treatment of PWDs. Therefore, such steps may give PWDs a comprehensive platform to operate and do business without facing a backlash. This study may also be helpful to research scholars. The chief goal of any research is to add an acquaintance to the existing pool of competencies scattered all over the World by scholars. Therefore, this research is expected to be a source of informed judgments, a guide to researchers, and a future reference for any topic of study relating to MFIs, credit, and PWDs.

1.7. Scope of the Study

This study was carried out in Mombasa County on Kenya's Coast. The research study engaged a population of 2037 PWDs in Mombasa County, whereby a sample of 204 PWDs was questioned.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

This chapter examines both the theoretical and empirical literature on external debt and its effect on the growth of an economy. This chapter comprises: Theoretical Framework, The conceptual framework, Critique of the existing literature relevant to the study, Research gaps, and Summary of Literature review on the effect of external debt and economic growth in Kenya.

2.2. Theoretical Review

It is the 'blueprint' or monitors for a given study (Grant & Osanloo, 2018). It denotes an outline of a theory in the research field of interest, which correlates to the hypothesis under review. This research delved into the following approaches:

2.2.1. Credit Rationing Theory

This theory was suggested by (Stiglitz & Weiss, 1981). It offers a basis for examining monetary marketplace inefficiencies; it describes information as a critical variable that leads to market inefficiencies and malfunctioning. A considerable number of lenders are intensely interested in interest and the risks associated with their loans given to the economic agents. These factors act as a yardstick for the behavior of Borrowers, which affects their credit potential and need. MFIs thus ask for collateral in the form of salary from borrowers with occupations and properties for investors to cushion them from risks since raising interest rates can scare away honest borrowers by leaving the riskiest borrowers like PWDs in the credit market.

Therefore, microfinance institutions devise stiff measures to screen borrowers' data to gauge their creditworthiness and meet loan repayment terms and expected loan return. Most PWDs are not well-informed about the operations of MFIs and the necessity for them to acquire credit. A tendency was primarily contributed by higher illiteracy levels arising through families' discrimination on access to education. PWDs, therefore, lack basic skills to read and write. Since most institutions primarily utilize print media to advertise, sell, and communicate their services, it has proven to be a sizeable challenge to such a group. The lower education levels also contribute to a higher unemployment rate of PWDs, limiting their participation in competitive work. Therefore, illiteracy renders the vulnerable section of society and, specifically, the abled differently, a risky group. Due to that, their chances of acquiring credit from financial institutions will be limited. Thus, the MFIs will not entrust their financial management to them, so PWDs will not be given loans.

2.2.2. Credit Channel Theory

As suggested by (Diagne & Zeller, 2001), this theory is based on credit advancement. The theory is founded on monetary shocks affecting economic enactment through the supply of credit by MFIs due to alterations in the supply calendar. The view of this theory is in line with the existing concept of market deficiencies resulting from the failure between crucial players, borrowers, and lenders that leads to monitoring cost premiums, as discussed by Hubbard. The implication of credit channels in the financial diffusion mechanism is the initiation of mixed reactions both in the credit marketplace and that of the entities to which the rise in the cost premium for outside funding will not be homogenously disseminated all over systems. This theory, therefore, makes access to credit by individuals and firms for investment difficult. This scenario is contributed significantly by stiff monetary policies enhanced, which makes access to credit a toll order. Highly exposed to these shocks are the most vulnerable persons, including PWDs. In most instances, the latter lack the competencies, poor occupations, or even none and no identifiable collateral to cushion them on credit access.

2.2.3. Imperfect Information Theory

As argued by Akerlof (1970) in his paper 'The Market of Lemons,' this theory is based on the premise of market failure. The failure arises from a lack of information to the market participants, resulting in poor decisions when purchasing or selling goods. According to Robinson, the approach majors on the concept that banks may not be in a position to distinguish risky and less risky loan applicants. Therefore, this proves that informal money lenders have better access to customer information and, thus, improved credit business than formal institutions like Banks. Therefore, the theory suggests that banks may not operate profitably in underdeveloped countries' credit markets due to a lack of far-reaching outreach. Thus, based on the model, there is a narrow entrance of commercial banks into diverse credit markets, limiting their visibility and accessibility. As a result, MFIs have gotten a market base that has cultivated their growth. MFIs are, thus, the major financial hubs located near customers at the local level. Having that advantage, they have full access to customers and their information regarding creditworthiness, occupation, etc. Due to that uniqueness, most customers prefer to access services from such institutions, unlike banks. They are thus exposed to hefty credit terms since MFIs have no competitors in that lower niche.

Many nationalities developed policies and programs earmarked explicitly for the vulnerable. These programs were out of touch with the information uncertainties, which resulted in a weak plan flooded with bureaucratic and politicized repayment levels. Most MFIs provide credit to needy persons based on 'social collateral,' through which the customers' reputation or social networks with which they are associated take the place of traditional collateral (Bastelaer, 2000).

2.3. Conceptual Framework

Marshall and Rossman (2016) pronounced conceptual framework as a format to justify a given study. The thought is related to Ravitch & Riggan's (2017) assessment of the framework as an avenue that creates a dispute for the research. The two stressed the significance of basing conceptual framework in the works printed on the focus under review. All these elaborations showed the indispensable association of the conceptual framework to the backgrounds of the study purpose and configuration of research parts.

2.3.1. Occupation

Occupations are daily undertakings that empower individuals to fund the natural life of their family and play a part in the broader society. Occupational therapists have defined it as self-care, output, and leisure (Brown & Hollis, 2018). In everyday language, occupation refers to paid work. It is fundamental to a person's well-being. It has instilled in most people that it is a foundation for structured human lives and reflects society's standards and ethos.

Occupation can be categorized as self-care, output, and vacation. Self-care involves functional mobility and interaction. It is about home management, personal hygiene, or societal activities like grocery shopping. Output is paid and unpaid work. Vacations include open-air activities, competitions, and sports. As discussed by Danang (2016), occupation denotes income levels. This, therefore, symbolizes one's ability to reproduce. Productivity can be through paid work or entrepreneurial skills like farming or any other business that puts economic resources at his disposal. Accumulating substantial financial resources determines the borrowers' viability in the credit market. An individual will be in a position to secure their debt by either attaching it to a job (salary) or a property. Occupation, therefore, is a crucial determinant of credit accessibility.

2.4. Empirical Review

Several kinds of research on the relationship between disability and how it has determined access to financial services have been carried out. Notably, some are conclusive, and others are not due to several limitations. Recently, a study on PWDs' financial literacy and access to financial services was carried out in Indonesia (Thohari & Rizky, 2021) to identify the effects of literacy on persons with disabilities' motives while looking for financial assistance from financial institutions. The study determined that PWDs face myriad obstacles while accessing financial services. The above challenges are necessitated by many factors culminating from their inability to save, prepare expenditures, be solvent in case of unforeseen financial needs, and generally have low financial literacy, which leads to ill-designed financial planning. It emerged from this research that PWDs are underprivileged groups in society who undergo so much discrimination and social exclusion by the public. The Indonesian financial system, in this case, has not embraced inclusivity in access to financial services. In fact, PWDs in Indonesia are met with high loan collaterals and limited access to microfinance services, an issue anchored basically on their illiteracy levels. Besides the aforementioned issues, accessibility to infrastructure seems pertinent. It needs to be echoed to make access by PWDs to financial institutions even before expressing their interest in any service possible.

In Bangladesh, Andrew (2017) carried out a study to establish the relationship between the poverty level among PWDs and micro-financial institutions among groups with various disabilities. The researcher concluded that access to loans had an affirmative influence on the lives of differently-abled persons. The creation of credit by the institutions made capital for the PWDs businesses thrive, consequently reducing their dependency level and leading to self-sustainability. Another study by Humphrey (2016) on social isolation, violence, and extreme exclusion from services and social protection frequently translates into an inability for them to access the labor market, and micro-financial institutions, on the other hand, will also be well-undertaken. An examination proved that funding options for persons with disabilities are many but reaching these funds has proven difficult despite numerous government interventions.

In a study carried out on income Features and the usage of Micro Services with data from Economically Dynamic Disabled Persons (Beisland & Mersland, 2014) in Uganda, disabled farmers and those with visual impairments were the leading target group. The study revealed that disabled farmers have a lower income stream than those without disabilities. Above all, those with visual impairment have a meager income than the average disabled person. Though access to microfinance services' needs by PWDs mirrors those of non-disabled persons, lower-income persons have limited access to recognized savings and credit. This study, therefore, established that access to financial services by PWDs depends solely on income levels. Those whose primary income source is farming have noticeably less access to prescribed MFIs services than those whose income is not farming. As a result, disabled persons need to be engaged in service and trading activities to reap meaningfully from the financial market.

Simiyu (Muricho, 2013) sought to determine the factors affecting the accessibility of finance from microfinance institutions by PWDs in Kimilili, Bungoma. This exploration was grounded on social issues like access to information, competency levels in finance, the existence of collateral, and access to microfinance institutions. The study employed descriptive analysis to discover an affirmative correlation between access to loans and ROA. Therefore, this meant that MFIs strictly based their credit on the availability of the security and the returns in the form of interest from the loans. Besides accruing the high returns on credit from this market section, the institutions were still not fully equipped or designed to tap the market from the PWDs. Mukasa & Flavia Nakabuye (Bwire & F, 2019) also took a study on mainstream microfinance services for PWDs in Uganda. The study was intended to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in microfinance programs. Nakabuye established that businesspersons with disabilities are an unexploited market prospect for microfinance institutions, and PWDs are habitually misled on MFIs' terms and services. A good number do not know how to win these prospects. Therefore, they are not in a position to force themselves into a stratum that does not suit them.

2.5. Critique of the Existing Literature

Mohammed Yunus (2018) enhanced the establishment of microfinance institutions to elevate living standards through access to credit for investment to low-income earners. PWDs form a large customer base to enjoy access to funds from such institutions to enhance entrepreneurship and impact the economy positively. Despite the government's implications, the MFIs had failed to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups in society, including the PWDs. They are more vibrant on repayment levels. Thus, the services are thoroughly enjoyed by the borrowers who can repay their credit with high interest, which, therefore, contrasts the reason behind the formation of MFIs.

The government should protect its vulnerable section of the citizens and, by extension PWDs. The establishment of NCPWD in 2004 through an Act of Parliament was meaningful for the disabled fraternity. Its core mandate was to ensure that all policies, laws, and regulations in place of PWDs are implemented to the latter, besides being the critical monitor of their welfare across the country. The entity is supposed to support programs for PWDs and enhance training to make them competitive. Lately, NCPWD has been highly ditching credits to a section of its members, which is supposed to be repaid after a given period (Kokonya, 2018). This act debilitates the economic well-being of PWDs, and it is against the NCPWD's primary goal. The success of Business enterprises depends on the careful execution of plans and processes that may give it a foundation to wade through the harsh business environment. The government and entrepreneurial stakeholders help improve PWDs businesses through affirmative action practices like Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) (Ojijo, Aila, & Bando, 2019). Most government institutions are supposed to protect PWDs businesses by empowering them through access to opportunities equal to their counterparts without disabilities. However, the government has not sensitized PWDs on the necessities and how to access these benefits, an act contrary to their policies.

In research by Mutunga (2019), most youth Living with Disabilities (YLWD) in Chuka accessed credit from MFIs. An indication that capital to start or run businesses is a huge challenge to most PWDs. High-interest rates, lack of collateral, and slim repayment time were the main challenges hindering them from conveniently being creditworthy. This research did not expound on the significant determinants of access to credit besides the three, which leaves a big gap that needs to be exhausted. This study will bridge that gap to enhance structured access to pertinent services like credit from such institutions.

2.6. Research Gaps

Many studies on credit access have been carried out, but only a few touches on access to credit by PWDs. In a survey carried out in South Africa (Balogun, Nazeem, & Agumba, 2016), firms' characteristics were the prominent influencers of access to credit. Entrepreneurs, in this case, are deemed to maintain attractive attributes in their firms to inspire lenders and attract ample funds to their investments. For entities to access loans, they have to meet the requisite threshold, and the most notable is the availability of collateral. Such necessities, which are at the discretion of the lender to control, make borrowing a challenge. In this case, the researcher focused his study solely on Banks without considering MFIs which are significant contributors of credit to SMEs. The above analysis presented a considerable gap in knowledge on the contribution between Banks and MFIs to the economic growth of SMEs.

Credit is a crucial component for factors of production that actively reward the economy. Access to credit should be flexed to enhance production efficiency (Omonona, Lawal, & Oyinlana, 2017). Borrowers should have efficient access to credit with guidance on making the loan productive. They should not be limited on what type of credit to pursue if they have met the requisite conditions to acquire the loan, as discussed by Omonona, Lawal, & Oyinlana (2017), where creditors are subjected to receiving credit in the form of farming household tools which negate on the freedom of the borrower to make decisions on how and where to invest the amount borrowed.

In Kenya, even though the government has put effort into implementing various policies, many PWDs have minimal or no access to education to the highest competencies leading to a lack of recognized occupations that can sustain their lives. This situation has rendered them poor and dependent because they are not creditworthy. Most of them lack catchy assets that can be used as collateral. To enhance the contribution of MFIs in uplifting PWDs, the government should be at the forefront of eliminating barriers that hinder PWDs from accessing education. Through this, they will develop various competencies and suit society with ease. They will be more creditable and less vulnerable. Even traditional financial institutions like banks, which usually deny customers little or no cash revenue or collateral, will open the door to them (Mersland, 2015). To bridge such vacuums, researchers need to exhaust on leading causes of low schooling of PWDs to advise the government. The NCPWD, too, has left PWDs hanging without acknowledged documentation. Many people living with incapacities lack authentic documents to access funds from MFIs. Additionally, most PWDs have no Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) membership. They churn away from registration, which is necessary for one to be identified as a disabled person. The lack of such vital documentation also worsens the situation since several institutions require such documentation to get tax/license exemptions. The study thus leaves the researcher with a desire to comprehend the genesis of accessibility of funds by most susceptible sets like PWDs in the country.

2.7. Summary

The review of the works above generally shows that access to funds by persons with disabilities vividly affects their poverty level. It is evident that constricting credit necessities and regulations inhibit entry to funds by debtors, which is a stumbling block to the success of PWDs businesses. The inquiry thus tries to narrow breaches identified which create a hindrance that prevents PWDs from accessing funds from MFIs. To fill these gaps accordingly, the Central Bank of Kenya and the government of Kenya should initiate policies that encourage MFIs to grant access to credit to PWDs like any other borrower without barriers and abolish the various exclusion mechanisms that prevent PWDs from accessing credit.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Design

It refers to the process of coming up with a structure or plan for one's research project (Leavy, 2017). It generally connotes the art of collecting and analyzing data structurally to attain the research goals using pragmatic evidence (Cooper & Schindler, 2016). This research used a descriptive survey design. The design was appropriate since it required data from several varied groups.

3.2. Target Population

The population is the totality of cases conforming to labeled groups like people, events, or things aligned with the researcher's area of interest (Sekaran, 2020). This study used a target population of 2037 working personnel in various sectors of PWDs in Mombasa County, as shown below in table 1.

Constituency	PWDs Target Population
Changamwe	309
Jomvu	336
Kisauni	361
Likoni	339
Mvita	345
Nyali	347
Total	2037

Table 1: Target Population
Source: Researchers

3.3. Sampling Techniques

Sampling has been defined by Hamed (2016) as taking a subsection from a selected specimen frame or the whole population. The researcher adopted purposive stratified sampling to warrant that all the groups selected were represented. As discussed by Nkapa (1997), this technique is necessary when the researcher is concerned with indefinite itemized characteristics and, in this case, customers with disabilities.

3.4. Target Sample Size

Sample size refers to the number of individuals from whom the researcher obtains the needed information (Ranjit, 2011). Kerlinger (2016) indicates that a sample size of 10% is large enough so long as it allows for reliable data analysis and testing for the significance of differences between estimates. Therefore, a proportionate sample size of approximately 204 respondents, which is 10% of the population in every Sub-County of PWDs in Mombasa County, was randomly selected.

Constituency	PWDs Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
Changamwe	309	31	10%
Jomvu	336	34	10%
Kisauni	361	36	10%
Likoni	339	34	10%
Mvita	345	34	10%
Nyali	347	35	10%
Total	2037		10%

Table 2: Sample Size

3.5. Data Collection Methods and Procedures

The study used the primary data collection method as the main source of data. Questionnaires were administered by imposing the drop-and-pick technique to collect the preliminary data for the research. Questionnaires were given out to the selected PWDs to enhance the adequacy and accuracy of the information gathered. The questions were both open and close-ended. The reason that encouraged the researcher to back the use of questionnaires is that it is less costly and convenient.

3.6. Pilot Testing

A pilot test was undertaken for PWDs within Mombasa town to ensure valid data. The research instrument, too, was pretested to ensure their accuracy for the performance of the task it is meant. After the pretest, the questionnaire was thoroughly revised and amended in conjunction with (Peil, 2015). He stated that for an unanticipated problem in a study to be identified, the researcher should ensure that the pretest results enhance the validity and reliability of the expected outcomes.

3.6.1. Validity of the Measuring Instrument

An effective instrument measures the model in question and processes it accurately. The content validity technique ensured that the researcher had enough questions to collect data that enabled the researcher to come up with the required conclusion. Someone with experts who gave a fair judgment on the suitability of the instruments was allowed to utilize the tools before the actual study was carried out. After that, the researcher used the recommendations on the appropriateness of the devices to revise and amend the tools for the analysis. For this research, the researcher got guidance from the supervisors to judge and examine the questionnaires prepared, which was heighten sensible adjustment of the research tools to enhance validity.

3.6.2. Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability gauges the consistency in the result. It had been well-defined as the degree to which a measure gives similar outcomes across repetitively at diverse stretches, collections of people, or items (Vanderstoep & Deirdre, 2019). High reliability in a measure does not validate it. It is purposely taken to help the research highlight the inadequacies that may result from the instrument during the actual study.

In this study, the test-retest reliability technique was utilized to measure how similar the participants' scores with common characteristics to the actual sample will be. The data obtained were correlated to get the coefficient of reliability. If Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient tumbles averagely at 75%, it would be convincing that the instrument is 85% dependable and thus reliable and stable enough to be utilized in responding to the inquiry questions of the research. The reliability coefficient of the research instrument was assessed by using Cronbach's alpha (α) which is computed as follows:

The researcher determined the reliability of the instrument items through a single test administration for the fifty sets of questionnaires to be piloted in five constituencies. The values range from 0-1, in which the increase in value shows an increase in reliability. Thus, a coefficient value of between 0.6 and 0.7 is recommended as it shows the accepted reliability. Further, Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) indicate that a 0.8 coefficient value is most recommended.

3.6.3. Data Analysis and Presentation

The researcher used descriptive statistics to decode and examine the facts collected with the help of a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) V. 26. Quantitative analysis was done in the form of inferential analysis, namely correlation and multiple linear regression analysis. The correlational analysis was done to determine whether the multicollinearity problem exists before ultimately running the multiple linear regression analysis model. A multiple linear regression model was applied to analyze the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The regression coefficients generated were fitted in the regression model shown below to generate the coefficient of determination coefficients. The multiple linear regression model was established in the following manner:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \beta_4 x_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

- Y = Accessibility to credit.
- α = Intercept/Constant
- β = x's slope/coefficient
- x_1= Gender

- X_2 = Occupation
- X_3=Education
- X_4= Interest rate

3.7. Ethical Consideration

According to Alan, Bryman, and Bell (2015), the following ten principles of ethical considerations have been compiled due to analyzing the ethical guidelines of nine professional social sciences research associations:
Research participants should not be subjected to harm in any way whatsoever,

- Respect for the dignity of research participants should be prioritized,
- Full consent should be obtained from the participants prior to the study,
- The protection of the privacy of research participants has to be ensured,
- Adequate level of confidentiality of the research data should be ensured,
- Anonymity of individuals and organizations participating in the research has to be ensured,
- Any deception or exaggeration about the aims and objectives of the research must be avoided,
- Affiliations in any form, sources of funding, as well as any possible conflicts of interest have to be declared,
- Any type of communication in relation to the research should be done with honesty and transparency, and
- Any type of misleading information and representation of primary data findings in a biased way must be avoided All these principles were observed in this study.

4. Research Findings and Discussions

4.1. Response Rate

The data which were collected from the field out of 204 questionnaires that were given to the study respondents, 165 were filled and returned with an 80.88% response rate. The response rate was satisfactory to make a general conclusion about the study. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) observed that a 50% response rate is adequate, 60% is good, and 70% is rated very good. The current study had 80.88%, which is very good based on the assertion.

4.2. Reliability and Validity

Before exploring and describing the relationship between gender, education, occupation, interest rate, and credit accessibility, the measures were examined and assessed to gauge reliability and validity.

<u>4.2.1. Reliability Analysis</u>

Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the internal reliability of the questionnaire used in this study. Values should range between 0 and 1.0, 1.0 indicates perfect reliability, and the value 0.70 is deemed to be the lower level of acceptability (Hair, Black, Barry, Anderson, & Tatham, 2016). The reliability statistic for each of the identified factors is presented in table 3. It is evident from table 3 that Cronbach's alpha for each of the identified factors is well above the lower limit of acceptability of 0.70. The findings indicated that:

- Strategic gender had a coefficient of 0.815,
- Occupation had a coefficient of 0.729,
- Education had a coefficient of 0.736,
- Interest rate had a coefficient of 0.845, and
- Credit accessibility obtained a coefficient of 0.776
  The results indicate that the questionnaire used in this study had a high level of reliability.

	Cronbach's Alpha	**Comments**
Occupation	0.729	Accepted

Table 3: Reliability Statistics

4.3. Demographic Information of the Respondents

This section gives the background of the respondents according to gender, professional qualification, age bracket, and salary scale. Demographic statistics helped to understand the nature of respondents.

<u>4.3.1. Gender of Respondents</u>

The researcher sought information on the gender of the respondents. This information is presented in table 4 below.

Gender	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Male	107	64.85%
Female	58	35.15%
Total	165	100%

Table 4: Gender of Respondents

Table 4 above indicates that the majority of the respondents for this study (64.85%) were male, while female respondents accounted for 35.15%. The distribution of respondents by gender indicates that there was no equal participation in the study.

4.3.2. Professional Qualification

The results of table 5 below indicated that the majority of respondents were from form four with 52.73%, and there were no Ph.D. respondents with 0%, 1.82% of the respondents were Master's degree holders, 9.09% of the respondents were undergraduate, and 36.36% of the respondents had diploma qualification.

Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Ph.D.	0	0%
Masters	3	1.82%
Undergraduate	15	9.09%
Diploma	60	36.36%
Form Four	87	52.73%
Total	165	100.0%

Table 5: Professional Qualification

4.3.3. Age Bracket

Table 6 below gave frequency analysis on age distribution and results indicated that the majority of respondents were of age between 31-40 years with 30.91%, and the lowest no. of respondents were aged 20 years and below. 27.27% of the respondents were in the age group of 21-30 years, and lastly, 22.43% of the respondents were aged 41 years and above.

Years	Frequency	Percent
20 years and below	32	19.39
21-30 years	45	27.27
31-40 years	51	30.91
41 and above years	37	22.43
Total	165	100.0

Table 6: Age Bracket

4.3.4. Range of Salary Scale

Table 7 gave the frequency distribution of salary scale for those PWDs working in different sectors in the county. The analysis shown in table 7 indicated that the majority of respondents (46.06%) were not employed or were self-employed, and the lowest earnings ranged between 1000 and 5000 per month. 13.94% of the respondents earned between 6000 and 10,000, and lastly, 33.94% of the respondents earned 10,000 and above.

Salary	Frequency	Percent
1-5	10	6.06
6-10	23	13.94
11 and above	56	33.94
N/A	76	46.06
Total	165	100.0

Table 7: Range of Salary Scale

4.4. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics indicate the mean and standard deviation of the study variables by showing the variance between the independent variables. The analysis also gives the minimum and maximum values of the study variables, which assists the researcher in giving the maximum and minimum values achieved by both independent and dependent variables.

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Occupation	165	2.50	5.00	4.35	.228

Table 8: Descriptive Statistics Occupation, Education, Interest Rate, Gender, Credit Accessibility

Table 8 above indicated descriptive analysis of occupation, education, interest rate, gender, and credit accessibility. The overall results indicated that all respondents agreed that the four independents influence credit accessibility. The mean for occupation, education, interest rate, and gender were: 4.35, 4.12, 4.58, and 3.77, respectively. The strongest indicator of credit accessibility was interest rate which had 4.58, and the lowest was gender, with a mean of 3.77. Standard deviation statistics were accepted at normal distribution at 96%, and they were all within the accepted limits of +/-2 from the mean. Standard deviation for occupation, education, interest rate, and gender were: 0.228, 0.252, 0.251, and 0.248, respectively.

		Credit Accessibility	Gender	Occupation	Education	Interest Rate
Credit Accessibility	Pearson Correlation	1	.566	.264	.282	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.008	.046	.043	-.120
	N	165	165	165	165	165
Occupation	Pearson Correlation	.264	-.245	1	-.374	.581
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.046	.494		.287	.078
	N	165	165	165	165	165

Table 9: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient
***. Correlation Is Significant at the 0.01 Level (2-Tailed)*

4.5. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient

Pearson correlation coefficient was used to compute the correlation between the dependent variable (credit accessibility) and the independent variables (gender, occupation, education, and interest rate). According to Sekaran (2018), this relationship is assumed to be linear, and the correlation coefficient ranges from -1.0 (perfect negative correlation) to +1.0 (perfect positive relationship). The correlation coefficient was calculated to determine the strength of the relationship between dependent and independent variables (Kothari, 2013)

<u>4.5.1. Relationship between Occupation and Credit Accessibility</u>

Table 9 indicated a positive relationship between occupation and credit accessibility of 0.264. This was a weak association and was significant at 95% confidence level. This meant that it is easy to access loans when PWDs are employed and have pay slips. The results further indicated that when occupations increase by one unit, credit accessibility increases by 26.4% when all other factors affecting credit accessibility are held constant. These findings are in line with the study by Brown & Hollis (2018) which indicated that occupation had a positive relationship with credit accessibility.

4.6. Model Summary-Regression

Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**Change Statistics**
				Sig. F Change
1	.779[a]	.606	.291	.000

Table 10: Model Summary-Regression

Model summary regression was done to test if the overall model is significant. The results in table 10 indicated that the model was significant for predicting that all independent variables influence the dependent variable with a p-value (F-Test) less than 0.05 (0.000<0.05). Table 10 indicated an R-squared of 0.606, which meant that 60.6% of credit accessibility was accounted for by the study variables being used in this research. Adjusted R-squared indicated that 29.1% of the variability of credit accessibility was accounted for by the model as per the number of indicator variables with the assumption that all other variables were held constant.

4.7. ANOVA Analysis

From the ANOVA table 11 below, it is clear that the overall variables: Interest Rate, Education, Occupation, and Gender, are significantly predicting credit accessibility with a p-value less than 0.05 confidence level (0.000<0.05).

Model		**Sum of Squares**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	0.397	0.099	1.924	0
	Residual	0.258	0.052		
	Total	0.656			

Table 11: ANOVA
a. Dependent Variable: Credit Accessibility

4.8. Regression Model Analysis

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	
1	(Constant)	3.871	1.664		.000
	Occupation	.088	.194	.239	.000

Table 12: Regression Model Analysis

The multiple regression equation was $Y = \alpha + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \beta_4 x_4 + \varepsilon$, and after analysis, regression model analysis gave the following equation for the current study:

- $Y = 3.871 + 1.667X_1 + 0.088X_2 + 0.756 X_3 - 0.720X_4$
- Y = Accessibility to credit.
- α = Intercept/Constant
- β = x's slope/coefficient
- X_1= Gender
- X_2 = Occupation
- X_3=Education
- X_4= Interest rate

Regression results of the coefficients on gender, occupation, education, and credit accessibility were positive, while on the interest rate and credit accessibility, the results were negative. The equation model analysis shows that one unit change in gender, occupation, and education leads to an increase in credit accessibility by 166.7, 8.8, and 75.6, respectively. There is a decrease in credit accessibility by 72.0 units when there is a unit change in interest rate.

4.9. Hypothesis Testing for Relationship between Gender, Occupation, Education, Interest Rate, and Credit Accessibility

Hypotheses Statement	Sig.	Conclusion
H_01: Occupation has no significant effect on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County.	.000	Reject **H_01** Since (0.000<0.05)

Table 13

5. Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

5.1. Summary of Key Findings

The General objective of this research is to establish determinants of microfinance institutions' credit accessibility by persons with disabilities in Mombasa County. The study employed a descriptive survey design requiring data from different or several groups to draw conclusions. The target population was 2037 working personnel in various sectors of PWDs in Mombasa County. The sample size was 10% which gave 204 respondents to the study, the response rate was 165 PDWs, and the primary data were collected by the use of questionnaires.

5.2. To Establish the Effect of Occupation on Credit Accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County

Table 13 indicated a positive relationship between occupation and credit accessibility of 0.264. This was a weak association and was significant at 95% confidence level. This meant that it is easy to access loans when PWDs are employed and have pay slips. The results further indicated that when occupations increase by one unit, credit accessibility increases by 26.4% when all other factors affecting credit accessibility are held constant. **H_01, which was:** Occupation has no significant effect on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County, was rejected since (0.000<0.05).

5.3. Conclusions

Regression analysis was done to test if the overall model is significant and it was concluded that the model was significant for predicting how independent variables influence dependent variables with a p-value (F-Test) less than 0.05 (0.000<0.05). R-squared of 0.606, which meant that 60.6% of credit accessibility was accounted for by the study variables being used in this research. Adjusted R-squared indicated that 29.1% of the variability of credit accessibility was accounted for by the model as per the number of indicator variables with the assumption that all other variables were held constant. The analysis of variance concluded that all the overall study variables, such as Interest Rate, Education, Occupation, and Gender, are significantly predicting credit accessibility with a p-value less than 0.05 confidence level (0.000<0.05).

5.4. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study and the conclusions drawn, the following recommendations were made:

- National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) can use study results to advise PWDs on credit accessibility and show them how to keep proper books of accounts as proof of business existence which can help them get loans from financial institutions,

- National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) should promote integration between PWDs and the society around them in Kenya by facilitating the implementation of the existing policies and enhancing development to align with the rising needs of disabled persons,
- The government needs to implement policies that enable PWDs to be beneficiaries of grants from the World Bank, IMF, and any other body that can give financial support for them to start a business,
- National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) make policies that facilitate financial training to disabled peoples to equip them with current knowledge and enable them to compete with other business people in society, and
- Microfinance institutions can use the results, see the untapped market for lending purposes, and develop strategies to expand the market share

5.5. Suggestions for Further Studies

The General objective of this research is to establish determinants of microfinance institutions' credit accessibility by persons with disabilities in Mombasa County. Specifically, this study studied the following:

- The effect of occupation on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County,
- The effect of gender on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County,
- The effect of education on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County, and
- The effect of interest rate on credit accessibility from MFIs by PWDs in Mombasa County

These variables have not been exhausted and can be studied in different industries like commercial banks, SACCOS, and other lending institutions.

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