

**ROLE OF WOMEN GROUPS PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF  
KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

Women in Kenya are finding that if they pool their resources together in groups of their own creation, they can radically change their lives and the lives of their families. The study aimed at investigating the role of women groups' participation on economic development a case of women groups, Uasin Gishu County. The specific objectives of the study included to investigate the: To identify the types of women groups promoting development and their influence on socio economic development of rural women in Uasin Gishu County, to find out the development role played by women groups projects on socio economic development of rural women in Uasin Gishu County, to establish the influence of women group's micro credit facilities towards effort to promote development of rural women in Uasin Gishu County. And lastly, to find out the suitable strategies to mitigate the challenges faced by women their effort to promote development. The study utilized socio network theory as its theoretical framework. The study was conducted in Uasin Gishu County. Both exploratory and descriptive research design strategies were used. The target population comprises 400 women group and NGOs within the County of more than 3000 members. The sample size for the study comprised of 200 women in the Uasin Gishu County selected purposively. The data collected was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using descriptive statistics. Findings of the study were presented using frequency distribution tables and bar graphs. Results of the study have shown that there is significant role of women groups towards economic development of Uasin Gishu women. The study established that Women in the same locality tend to come together thus forming groups participating in manufacturing and making of pots, handcraft, baskets, mats, utensils and clothing items by women to promote development. The groups are formed from the international level, through national and regional groups to local groups. It was also evident that Women in their quest for developments are faced with challenges but strategies like training the women and giving them knowledge for example in the field of agriculture and enterprises will enable them to know what to avoid in their dealings. Also the coming up with credit facilities will so much help the women to get the capital for starting and maintaining their enterprises. The study recommends that financial institutions should support women groups in increasing amount of loans given to women to improve both economic and community development and also, women Group members should use labour-saving farm implements to increase productivity.