AN INVESTIGATION INTO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE BUSINESS IN KAPSERET DIVISION, UASIN GISHU COUNTY, KENYA.

BY

YEGO JOSEPHINE JEMESUNDE

MD/053/08

THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTERS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES FROM ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY, KENYA

JULY, 2011

ST PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

Print to PDF without this message by purchasing novaPDF (http://www.novapdf.com/)

ABSTRACT

Everywhere in the world, entrepreneurship is seen as one of the most important solution to unemployment, poverty and low growth. The creation of new ventures and growth of the existing businesses are vital contributing factors to any economy. The purpose of the study was to investigate the socio-economic challenges facing women in small scale business enterprises in Kapseret division, Uasin Gishu County. In order to achieve the purpose of this study three specific research objectives were addressed .This objectives were: to identify the small scale business activities carried out by women in Kapseret division, to find out the socio economic challenges facing women in small scale business enterprises and to suggest some policies and strategic recommendations that are conducive for women small-scale business enterprise growth in Kenya. Descriptive survey research design was used to carry out the study. The population of two hundred and fifty five (255) small scale entrepreneurs formed the sampling frame upon which the study sample was picked using simple random sampling.

Primary data was collected using questionnaires and direct interviews. Secondary data was collected from past research reports. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented using tables and percentages. Qualitative data was derived from reading the responses of the open questions and was used to answer the research questions

The research established the socio economic challenges facing women are twofold, Social challenges are mainly embedded in the low status of women in the African society leading to several believes and practices associated to them, Economic related challenges include lack of collateral securities, low per capita income and unequal distribution of income

From this study it is recommended that the government develops an appropriate legal mechanism that will help boost the sector. This would include encouraging and facilitating training of

ST PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

Print to PDF without this message by purchasing novaPDF (http://www.novapdf.com/)

women on entrepreneurial skills and encouraging women to form networking groups for synergy. There is need also to develop tailor made services and solutions that reflect the unique aspects of women enterprises.

ST PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

Print to PDF without this message by purchasing novaPDF (http://www.novapdf.com/)