

# Influence of Micro Business on the Economic Empowerment of Women Cooperative Societies in Anambra state, Nigeria

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## Abstract

The study examined micro business and economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study was motivated by the need to determine the influence of micro business on economic empowerment among members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State. The specific objectives are to: identify the socio economic characteristics of the respondents, ascertain the effect of non-registration status of micro business on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, examine the influence of operating capital on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State and determine the effect of level of profit on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State. The area of study is Anambra State where 391 members of women cooperatives were selected from the population of 725 registered women cooperatives in the study area. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire. The study employed regression technique, frequency, and percentage in analyzing the data obtained. The study found out that there is a strong relationship between micro business and economic empowerment at value of (0.970) it also found that business registration status affects the increasing income of members business, it also revealed that operating capital and level of profit on economic empowerment ensures economic contribution, self-confidence, and accountability. The study concluded that micro business has a significant influence on economic empowerment among members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state, Nigeria. The study recommends that women operating micro-businesses need to register their businesses. This is because when registered they stand the chance of accessing funds for expansion from government and donor agencies. Members of women cooperative societies should be financially disciplined and keep proper record which is paramount for operating micro-businesses. Level of profit is found to have a positive and significant effect on the economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. Women business owners are urged to be accountable in their businesses by preparing trading account which will enable them track and grow their level of profit among others.

**Keywords:** Micro Business, Economic Empowerment, Women Cooperative Societies.

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## 1. Introduction

The management and ownership of micro-businesses are done by individuals, and oftentimes the involvement of family members as a family-owned business. <sup>[1]</sup> By its very nature, it constitutes the most viable vehicle for self-sustaining development and possesses the enormous capacity to grow an indigenous enterprise culture more than any other strategy. It is therefore not unusual that micro businesses are generally synonymous with indigenous businesses wherever they exist, they are born out of informal employment and are typically not subjected to labor market regulations, lack basic social or legal protections, and offer few or no employment benefits. These businesses which are highly operated in the informal economy are less likely to have formalized bargaining structures in which workers can collectively organize to negotiate improved conditions an extensive body of research describes it as the most consistent form of employment in empowering women. <sup>[2]</sup> In conjunction, United Nations industrial development organizations state that small is profitable in Africa in describing the immeasurable

contributions of micro-enterprises to the economies of many African countries program. Before micro-business or enterprise can spring forth, there is a need for empowerment through either training or capital support. This assertion justifies the influence of micro business on empowerment as Singer <sup>[3]</sup> buttresses micro business as the best cure for poverty alleviation in any region of the world. Scholars have often seen empowerment through micro-businesses as a palliative to unemployment because once the women are empowered; an entrepreneur is developed among them to compete in this challenging world where women deserve equal participation like men. The concept of a micro business is relative and dynamic. Its definitions change over a while and depend, to a large extent, on a country's level of development. <sup>[4]</sup> Hussain, Bhuiyan, & Bakar <sup>[5]</sup> opine that it is the start-up of a new enterprise that evolves through entrepreneurship development and presents a basis for economic change through new application and knowledge creation. A micro business is generally a one-man start-up that requires small capital investment averaging about five

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million depending on each country's postulation.

All across the world, women's empowerment has attained greater importance and is considered essential for policy formulation in various organizations worldwide. Results highlighted that empowerment relates to active women folk participation.<sup>[6]</sup>

Empowerment is a process, from being unpowered to being empowered. Theorizing of empowerment stresses two main perspectives on this process: namely one more individualistic, namely through women's capacities and free exercise of personal choice and one more collectivistic, namely through collective behavior and the adherence to cultural norms which emphasize collective growth.<sup>[7,8,9]</sup> The study of Obianefo, Mailafia, Ismaila, Ezeano, Isaiah, and Ohalete<sup>[10]</sup> and Selvi and Bakialekshmi<sup>[11]</sup> alludes to Women's economic empowerment as the act of mobilizing women to participate in the process of emancipation and social movement. This assertion is aligned with the earlier study of the Inter-American Development Bank which contends that women empowerment is an expansion of women's right to resources and the capacity of women to make decisions and act independently in the economic, social, and political sphere.

This empowerment to a great extent leads to women's economic independence and wellbeing. Behera<sup>[12]</sup> notes that women empowerment intends to increase the employment and labor participation of women, given that it is targeted to bridge the wage differentials of the male and female gender considering the socio-economic characteristics of these groups of people, it energizes the women to participate in social movements and the process of emancipation.<sup>[13]</sup> Rajeshwari<sup>[14]</sup>; Selvi and Bakialekshmi (2017) suggests that this implies increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, or economic strength of individuals and communities of women, this is important for inclusiveness in the development process of women in the area of poverty reduction, education, health, welfare, among others.<sup>[15]</sup> By description, a woman is a female human being. Lawson in his study notes that women in their demography constitute more or less half of the world's population. Globally; women quantitatively contribute to the global labor force participation and qualitatively in educational achievement and skill power.<sup>[16]</sup> Women are the key developmental actors who play a significant role in the domestic and socioeconomic dynamics of society. Nigerian women account for about 41% of the ownership of micro-businesses in the country, placing Nigeria among the highest entrepreneurship rates globally, 23 million female entrepreneurs are operating in the micro-business segment in the country, women own 20% of such businesses in the formal sector; this means that majority are operated informally. They are involved in both farming and non-farming activities, they support their households and communities in achieving food security, nutrition and also to generate income and improve livelihoods of their families. Women play a particularly important role in crop production, including land preparation, planting of crops, harvesting, transporting, processing, storing, and marketing of farm and non-farm produce (Obianefo et al., 2020). Their activities typically range from tending animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises, engaging in trade and marketing and caring for their families, and maintaining their homes when

women can fully participate in economic life and make decisions therein, they feel empowered which is important to building stronger economies, achieving internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improving the quality of life for themselves, their families, and communities, etc.<sup>[17]</sup> Irfana, Sanaullah, Mushtaque, and Zarmina<sup>[18]</sup> assert that the ability of women to elaborate and recreate what it is that they can be, do, and accomplish in a circumstance that they previously were denied depicts empowerment.

Midgley<sup>[19]</sup> states that micro businesses are mainly owned and operated by poor people or groups of poor people with the support of sponsoring organizations. These informal financial organizations have been set up to address the problem of micro credit, these are mainly micro-finance institutions licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria to make funds available to micro and small business owners who are most of the time un-bankable either as a result of no collateral, non-registration status of their business, especially in the rural areas. The micro-finance institutions evolved to break the barricade of poor access to credit by low-income individuals for developmental purposes especially in the rural area these efforts of government, financial institutions, and nongovernmental agencies have not lived up to purpose as women business owners still receive less credit.<sup>[20,21]</sup> The need to address this problem of financial services to women micro-entrepreneurs has led to the rapid growth of informal organizations, self-help groups, women associations, etc. Cooperative societies have sprung up as an effective mechanism for providing financial services. Cooperatives have a role to play in reducing different shocks and paving the way towards recovery that is socially and economically sound and sustainable. Ultimately, cooperatives can create a safe environment where women increase their self-confidence, identify their challenges, make decisions and manage risks in their business. International Cooperative Alliance<sup>[22]</sup> defines Cooperative as people-centered enterprises jointly owned and democratically controlled by and for their members to realize their common socio-economic needs and aspirations. As enterprises based on values and principles, they put fairness and equality first allowing people to create sustainable enterprises that generate long-term jobs and prosperity. This approach to development has been regarded by the government as a tool for the country's economic growth especially in the socio-economic development of the rural area, elimination of poverty, and solving unequal income disparity between rural and urban areas. In the same view, women cooperative societies allow their members who might have been isolated and working individually to band together for better opportunities. Rosenbaum<sup>[23]</sup> asserts that women cooperative societies go beyond simply providing an income for poor women members to support their businesses; it also creates empowerment for them in their businesses or intended startups by providing economies of scale and better bargaining position thus enhancing their dignity and greatly improving their quality of life. As a result, women are empowered to become active agents of change, entrepreneurs, small business owners, and promoters of social transformation who can improve their own lives and

those of the community. <sup>[24]</sup>

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Today, most cultural gender roles have limited women's involvement in certain economic activities. Women with little or no formal education remain deprived of employment opportunities as wage workers because of their family responsibilities, they cry aloud to cultural discrimination, resource constraint, and domestic workload. Despite the conscious efforts of the government, global partners, international organizations and financial institutions in addressing the challenges encumbering women in business, the challenge continues to persist. The absence of tangible security, inability to pool resources has resulted in a lack of productive assets and has made women feel powerless. Hence, the intervention of establishing micro-businesses serves as a remedy and an important approach for inclusiveness, a survival strategy, and a self-employment opportunity. Women feel empowered through their business activities; it creates an avenue for them to be involved in social dialogue and participation, boosting their self-confidence and sense of belongingness. Most of these businesses are not registered as they are neither taxed nor monitored by the government; they are kept out of formality by high regulatory costs, most notably entry regulation, and as such find it difficult to expand beyond subsistence. They operate mostly in the informal sector of the economy which according to Ulysea <sup>[25]</sup> is a reservoir of potentially productive entrepreneurs but are characterized by limited operating capital, lack of access to credit, poor product quality output, simple technology, and peasant production, low volume of sales leading to little or no profit for business expansion.

Notwithstanding, several studies have been carried out on micro business and women empowerment from various standpoints and varying literary perspectives and most studies confirm that micro business is a development strategy in any economy of which women are key economic players who should not just be perceived as the bottom of the pyramid <sup>[26,27]</sup> To the best of the researcher's knowledge, these existing studies have paid attention in examining micro business and different dimensions of empowerment regardless of gender but therein lies an existing content gap which this study aim to fill by investigating micro-business (proxied by non-registration of business, limited operating capital and level of profit}on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies, thus expanding gender-based research on business and cooperatives in the study area.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to investigate the influence of micro-business on the empowerment of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study specifically tends to:

- i. Identify the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.
- ii. Ascertain the effect of non-registration status of the business on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state.
- iii. Examine the influence of operating capital on

economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state.

- iv. Determine the effect of level of profit on economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

Research design connotes the approach researcher(s) intends to take in carrying out the study, a survey research design approach will be adopted. A survey design approach samples individual units of a population (study representative). The goal is to gain an understanding of the detailed nature and inter-relationships and operations of the study units. For this reason, the researcher will make use of a well-questionnaire to elicit information from the women business owners in the study location.

### Area of Study

The study area is Anambra State which is located in South East of Nigeria with Igbo ethnic majority, created on the 27th of August 1991. The State is known for its commercial activities and manufacturing of various products which play host to the largest market in West Africa (Onitsha main market and manufacturing company in Nnewi). Also, Anambra is endowed with a lot of mineral resources especially oil and gas and other Agro-based resources and activities like fishery, farming as well as land cultivated for pasturing and animal husbandry with 100% arable soil as most of the state inhabitants are living in rural areas of the State. The state is predominately occupied by the Igbo ethnic group who by nature are farmers, fishermen, craftsmen, and traders. Among crops grown by farmers in the state are yam, palm produce, rice, cassava, cocoyam, vegetables, and different varieties of fruit trees among others. Anambra State is rich in natural gas, crude oil, bauxite, ceramics, and arable soil. It boasts of undulating landscape with tall trees and rich vegetation that is green all year round. The state experiences two major seasons, the rainy season which starts at the end of March and lasts till the end of October, and the dry season which starts in November and ends in March. It records about 3,000mm of rainwater per annum, this makes the area suitable for agricultural production. Meanwhile, as at the last official census, Anambra State has a total population of 4,055,048 (NPC, 2006) with 21 local government areas (LGAs) and 177 communities. Also, the State shared boundaries with Delta State in the West, Kogi State in the North, and Enugu State in the East while Imo State in the South. Anambra State is situated between Latitudes 6° 13' and 6°19' N and Longitude 6°75' and 7°08 'E respectively. The State has an estimated land area of 4,865sqkm. The 21 LGAs that makeup Anambra State is categorized into three senatorial zones which include; Anambra North (Onitsha North, Onitsha South, Oyi, Ogbaru, Anambra East, Anambra West, and Ayamelum), Anambra South (Ihiala, Nnewi North, Nnewi South, Orumba North, Orumba South, Aguata and Ekwusigo) and Anambra Central (Awka North, Awka South, Njikoka, Anaocha, Idemili North, Idemili South, and Dunukofia)

### Population of the Study

The population of the study is made up of all the

members of women cooperatives societies in selected communities in Anambra State. There are four agricultural zones in Anambra State: (Anambra zone, Onitsha zone, Awka zone, Aguata zone), and the twenty-one (21) local governments in Anambra State are divided within each of these zones. The total number of women cooperative societies in Anambra State is seven hundred and twenty five (725) cooperative societies with a membership strength of Twenty two thousand (22,000) in Anambra State which served as the population of the study.

(Source: Department of Cooperatives, Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Market & Wealth Creation, Anambra State, [28]).

### Sample Size Determination

Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size of the study. This is because it is the simplest and unbiased way of selecting a sample from a finite population. The Yaro Yamane (1964) formula is given below as:

$$n = N$$

Where n= sample size

N = Population Size

E = Error term (5%)

I = Constant

Substituting the value in the formula

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

$$N = 22000$$

$$e = 5\% (0.05)$$

$$\text{From the above } n = 22,000 / (1 + 22,000(0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 488$$

Out of the 488 copies of questionnaires that were distributed, 391 (80%) copies of the questionnaires were filled and returned, while 97 (20%) copies of the questionnaires were not returned.

### Sampling Technique

A multi-stage sampling technique was used to determine the actual sample of the study. This was carried in four stages before narrowing down to the final samples selected. Multi-stage sampling is the combination of other sampling techniques. The first stage was the random selection of two agricultural zones (Onitsha zone & Aguata zone) from the four agricultural zones (Anambra zone, Onitsha zone, Awka, zone, and Aguata zone) using a simple random sampling technique. In the second stage, judgmental sampling was used to select four Local Government Areas (Nnewi North, Nnewi South, Orumba North, and Orumba South LGA) as advised by the Development Officers at the Department of Cooperatives, and also because of the basis of civilization and the nature of business activities carried out by these members of women cooperative societies of these LGAs. In the third stage, simple random sampling was used to select three towns each from each of the four selected Local Government Areas in the zones, making a total of twelve towns. In the fourth stage, a simple random sampling technique was again used to select two cooperative societies from each of the twelve towns making a total of twenty-four (24) cooperative societies (see Table 1) below

### Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, means and percentages was used to analyze the data obtained to address the objectives of the study. Also inferential statistics such as T-test and regression was employed to address the

research question and to test the hypothesis respectively. Specifically, mean rating and descriptive statistics were used to address the address the research questions while t test were used to test the hypotheses at 5% level of significance.

### Model Specification

Descriptive analyses were carried out using frequency counts, percentages, objectives one to four were analyzed using regression analysis while Paired T-test via SPSS version 23 was used to test hypothesis one to four.

A). the descriptive statistics used to describe the socioeconomic characteristics and micro-business profile is defined as:

$$\bar{X} = \sum FX / n$$

Where  $\bar{X}$  = mean, X = observed variables, n = sample size, F = frequency

Considering the objectives and hypotheses in chapter one, a model was specified to examine the relationship between micro business and economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state. The multiple regression model for analyzing the objectives is explicitly defined as thus, the model of this study, is stated as follows:

$$Y = a + \beta_0 + \beta_1 RS + \beta_2 OC + \beta_3 LP \quad \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Where  $Y_i$  is economic empowerment,  $\beta_0$  is constant,  $\beta_i$  is the parameters to be estimated,  $X_i$  are the economic indicators: RS is the registration status (N), OC is operating capital (N), LP is the level of profit),  $e_i$  = stochastic error term.

## 5. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSES OF EMPIRICAL RESULTS

The presentation and analysis of data collected from the field was carried out in this section. The aim is to present the data in an interpretable form so that the variables of the study can be well understood.

As shown in Table 2, 3.6% of the respondents are between the ages of 18-25. 6.6% of the respondents are between the ages of 26-35. 38.9% of the respondents are between the ages of 35-45. 50.9% of the respondents are between the ages of 45 and above. From table 4.1, all the respondents had formal education. 4.3% of the respondents had primary education. 71.9% had secondary education while 23.8% had tertiary education. With respect to cooperative experience, table 4.1 revealed that 16.9% of the respondents had 1-5years of cooperative experience. 21.7% of the respondents had 6-10years of cooperative experience. 29.9% of the respondents had 11-15years of cooperative experience, while 31.5% of the respondents had 15-30years of cooperative experience.

From table 2, 73.4% of the respondents are married. 16.9% of the respondents are single. 5.4% of the respondents are widows/widowers while 4.3 of the respondents are divorced. Concerning the occupation of the respondents, 48.8% of the respondents are farmers, 25.9% of the respondents are traders, and 8.4% of the respondents are artisans while 16.9% of the respondents are into other economic activities. With respect to years of business existence, 19.4% of the respondents had 1-5years of

business existence. 24.3% of the respondents had 6-10 years of business existence. 27.4% of the respondents had 11-15 years of business existence, while 28.9% of the respondents had 15-30 years of business existence.

### Dependent Variable: Economic Empowerment

Predictors: (Constant), Non-business registration, operating capital, and level of profit

The data is analyzed based on the SPSS output presented in table 2

R-squared (R<sup>2</sup>) = 0.783

Adjusted R-squared = 0.750

F-Statistic = 68.13

The regression model is summarized as thus;

$Y = F(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4)$

We therefore estimate that, fitting the regression line we have;

Economic Empowerment = 0.155 + -0.136RS + 0.160OC + 0.516LP

To determine the influence of micro business on economic empowerment in Anambra State, Nigeria, the weighted mean of the three independent variables were regressed on the dependent variable to enable us to determine the nature of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables, the effect of the three independent variables on the dependent variable, the overall fitness of the model using the F-statistics probability value and the level of significance. The above estimation implies that about 80.3% of the variation in the dependent variable (economic empowerment) was explained by the independent variables. This can be interpreted as a very strong positive relationship. The table above shows the regression result. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> means that our model has accounted for 75% of the variance in the dependent variable, the remaining 25% of the variation in economic empowerment is explained by stochastic factors. The F-statistics with the value of 68.13 explains that the independent variables jointly explained the variation that occurred in the dependent variables and thus reveals the model to be a good fit for prediction. It also shows the precision of the model which was analyzed using economic a priori criteria and statistical criteria.

### Test of Hypotheses

The t-test is used to know the statistical significance of the individual parameters at a 5% significance level. The result is shown in table 4 below.

We begin by bringing our working hypothesis to focus in considering the individual hypothesis. From table 4, the t-test result is interpreted below:

**Hypothesis One**

Ho1: Non-Registration status of business has no significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area.

Ha1: Non-Registration status of business has significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area.

From table 5, the t-test value of business registration is significant; which represents 8.749. Since the p-value is 0.000 which is less than the critical value 0.05, this study upholds that there exists a significant positive relationship between business registration and economic empowerment among

members of women cooperative societies in Anambra state at 5% level of significance.

### Hypothesis Two

Ho2: Operating capital has no significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area.

Ha2: Operating capital has a significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area.

From table 6, the t-test value of operating capital is significant at the 0.003 level of significance. We, therefore, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that operating capital has a significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area.

### Hypothesis Three

Ho3: Profit has no significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies involved in micro-business.

Ha3: Profit has a significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies involved in micro-business.

From table 7, the t-test value of level of profit is significant at 0.006 level of significance. We, therefore, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate by concluding that level of profit has significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies involved in micro-business.

## 6. Discussion of Findings

### Discussion based on economic a priori criteria

Discussion using this criterion enables us to determine the nature of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. In this case, the sign and magnitude of each variable coefficient are evaluated against theoretical or economic a priori criteria/expectations. As shown in table 3, it is observed that the regression line has a positive intercept as presented by the constant (c) = 0.155. This means that if all the variables are held constant or fixed (zero), the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies will increase by 15.5%. The result also conforms to the a priori expectation. This states that the intercept could be positive or negative, so it conforms to the theoretical expectation. Business Registration has a negative influence on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. This implies that as the micro businesses of the members of the cooperative societies in the study area fail to gain business registration status, it will have an adverse effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. In other words, a 1% increase in the non-business registration status of the members will bring about a 13.6% decrease in the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies.

Operating capital has a positive relationship with the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. In other words, a 1% increase in operating capital will bring about a 16.0% increase in the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies.

The level of profit has a direct and positive relationship with the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. As the level of profit grows, it increases the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies.

**Table 1: The LGAs Selected, Towns, Names of societies, and their membership strength**

S. No	Names of societies	L.G.A	Total
1.	Rainbow markersOtolo MCS Ltd	Nnewi North	19
2.	UruaguNnewi Enlightened women FMCS Ltd	Nnewi North	23
3.	EzegwuOtoloNnewi FMCS	Nnewi North	26
4.	NnedimmaUruaguNnewi Women FMCS Ltd	Nnewi North	52
5.	ExcellersNnewi MCS Ltd	Nnewi North	12
6.	UmuezeaguUruagu FMCS Ltd	Nnewi North	12
7.	Osumenyi Women FMCS Ltd	Nnewi South	30
8.	ObiomaOsumenyi Women FMCS Ltd	Nnewi South	19
9.	UbakaUmudidaEzinifite WFMCS	Nnewi South	22
10.	Goodwill Osumenyi MCS	Nnewi South	10
11.	Peace Ezinifite Women FMS Ltd	Nnewi South	16
12.	OyeUnubi MCS Ltd	Nnewi South	07
13.	Unique Women (Ezira) Fmcs	Orumba South	20
14.	ChidinmaUmunze MCS Ltd	Orumba South	18
15.	UmuakugharaUmunze FMCS	Orumba South	12
16.	NdiamakaOgboji Women MCS	Orumba South	30
17.	Nwachinemerem (Ogboji) MCS Ltd	Orumba South	13
18.	Chikwado Women MCS Ltd	Orumba South	20
19.	Seat of wisdom women MCS Ltd	Orumba North	15
20.	Bell super Industrial MCS Ltd	Orumba North	17
21.	Young Family MCs Ltd	Orumba North	10
22.	Chinedu Women Ltd	Orumba North	18
23.	Mystical Rose MCS Ltd	Orumba North	10
24.	God's Own widows Ltd	Orumba North	19
			391

Source: Computation from Field Survey, 2021

**Demographic Profile of the Respondents****Table 2: Distribution According to socio economic characteristics of members of women cooperative societies**

Variable	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative (%)
Age			
18-25	14	3.6	3.6
26-35	26	6.6	10.2
36-45	152	38.9	49.1
46 years and above	199	50.9	100.0
Total	391	100.0	
Educational Qualification			
Primary	17	4.3	4.3
Secondary	281	71.9	72.6
Tertiary	93	23.8	100.0
Total	391	100.0	
Cooperative Experience			
1-5	66	16.9	16.9
6-10	85	21.7	38.6
11-15	117	29.9	68.5
15-30	123	31.5	100.0
Total	391	100.0	
Marital Status			
Married	287	73.4	73.4
Single	66	16.9	90.3
Widow/Widower	21	5.4	95.7
Divorced	17	4.3	100
Total	391	100.0	
Nature of Business			
Farming	191	48.8	48.8
Trading	101	25.9	74.7
Artisan	33	8.4	83.1
Others	66	16.9	100
Total	391	100.0	
Years of Business Existence			
1-5	76	19.4	19.4
6-10	95	24.3	43.7
11-15	107	27.4	71.1
15-30	113	28.9	100
Total	391	100	
Household size			
1-3	176	45.0	45.0
4-6	171	43.8	88.8
7-9	31	7.9	96.7
9 members and above	13	3.3	100
Total	391	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2021

**Regression Analysis Result****Table 3: Regression Result showing the effect of non-business registration, operating capital, level of profit on the economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria**

Model	B	Std. error	T	Sig.
Constant(C)	0.155	0.034	4.579	0.000
Non-Business Registration	-0.136	0.061	-8.749	0.000
Operating Capital	0.160	0.066	6.991	0.003
Level of Profit	0.516	0.128	4.046	0.006
R	0.803			
R <sup>2</sup>	0.783			
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	0.750			
F-statistic	68.13			0.000

Source: Researcher Computation using SPSS

**Table 4: Summary of t-statistic**

Variables	t-cal (tcal)	Sig.	Conclusion
Constant(C)	4.579	0.000	Statistically Significance
Business Registration	-8.749	0.000	Statistically Significance
Operating Capital	6.991	0.003	Statistically Significance
Level of Profit	4.046	0.006	Statistically Significance
F-statistic	68.13	0.000	Statistically Significance

Source: Researchers computation (2021)

**Table 5: Hypothesis One**

Variables	t-cal (tcal)	Sig.	Conclusion
Constant(C)	4.579	0.000	Statistically Significance
Business Registration	-8.749	0.000	Statistically Significance

Source: Researchers computation, 2021

**Table 6: Hypothesis Two**

Variables	t-cal (tcal)	Sig.	Conclusion
Constant(C)	4.579	0.000	Statistically Significance
Operating Capital	6.991	0.003	Statistically Significance

Source: Researchers computation, 2021

**Table 7: Hypothesis Three**

Variables	t-cal (tcal)	Sig.	Conclusion
Constant(C)	4.579	0.000	Statistically Significance
Level of Profit	4.046	0.006	Statistically Significance

Source: Researchers computation, 2021



## Discussion based on statistical criteria

In order to also determine the influence of influence of micro-business on the empowerment of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria, the analysis was also done based on statistical criteria by applying the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and the F-test. In general, the joint effect of the explanatory variables-independent variables-in the model account for 0.783 or 78.3% of the variations in the empowerment of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria. This implies that 78.3% of the variations in the empowerment of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria are being accounted for or explained by the variations in the explanatory variables. While other independent variables not captured in the model explain just 21.7% of the variations in micro-business. All the three coefficients (Business Registration, Operating capital, and Level of profit) significantly influence the empowerment of women cooperative societies in Anambra State, Nigeria.

## 7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

i.Non-Business Registration has a negative and significant influence on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. The descriptive statistics also suggest that the registration status of businesses affectsthe economic empowerment of members of women cooperative societies in the study area with a grand mean of 3.24 and a standard deviation of 0.834.

ii.Operating capital has a positive and significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. In other words, a 1% increase in operating capital will bring about 16.0% increases in the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies.

iii.The level of profit has a direct and positive relationship with the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. As the level of profit grows, it increases the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. In other words, a 1% increase in the level of profit will bring about 51.6% increases in the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

i.Women operating micro-businesses should register their businesses. This stands the chance of accessing funds for expansion from government and donor agencies.

ii.Financial discipline and proper record keeping are important for women operating micro-businesses. This will help sustain the operating capital of their business. Control measures should also be taken as this represents cash and a substantial share of funds for the business.

iii.The level of profit is found to have a positive and significant effect on the empowerment of members of women cooperative societies. It is therefore important that they prepare their financial statement and trading account to enable them to track and grow their level of profit.

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