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**Women's Financial Fiscal Policy and Its Influence on Women's Economic Empowerment
in Kakamega County, Kenya**

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**Women's Financial Fiscal Policy and Its Influence on Women's
Economic Empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya**



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Abstract

Purpose: The study examined how women's financial fiscal policies have influenced women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya. It focused on evaluating the impact of County government initiatives since devolution, particularly in promoting women's empowerment and reducing poverty. The study assessed affirmative action funds, community awareness of fiscal policies, women's participation in policy formulation, adherence to County procedures in fund allocation, and the effectiveness of systems governing access and availability to County funds.

Methodology: The study, grounded in Empowerment and Financial Inclusion Theory, employed a descriptive survey design to investigate the influence of women's financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya. Data were collected from key officials, women group leaders, and finance officers using questionnaires and interviews. A sample of 910 respondents was selected through stratified, purposive, and systematic sampling methods. The instruments were validated for content and construct validity, and reliability was confirmed with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.7. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analyses, while qualitative data underwent thematic content analysis. Ethical principles such as confidentiality and voluntary participation were upheld.

Findings: The study recorded a high response rate and found a strong, statistically significant positive relationship between financial fiscal policy and women's economic empowerment ($r = 0.484$, $p < 0.001$). This indicates that women's engagement with or awareness of financial policy processes enhances their empowerment, leading to the rejection of the null hypotheses. However, the study identified a major gap in women's participation in institutional financial decision-making. It recommended that finance officers and women's groups actively apply financial fiscal policy strategies to improve women's economic and social well-being. The study also called for full implementation of fiscal policy procedures, especially in rural women's empowerment programs, and encouraged collaboration with the private sector to broaden financial opportunities for both women's groups and individuals.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study extends Financial Inclusion and Empowerment theories by shifting focus from traditional loan-based models to grant-based and individualized financial support as more effective tools for promoting women's agency, autonomy, and sustainable empowerment. It links financial fiscal policy directly to empowerment outcomes rather than mere credit access. The study emphasizes that fiscal policy alone cannot achieve empowerment without strong frameworks for allocation, accessibility, and financial literacy to ensure effective fund utilization. It highlights the need to integrate financial fiscal policy within Public Financial Management (PFM) and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) systems, embedding financial indicators to track fund use and empowerment impact. Empirical evidence confirmed a significant positive relationship between financial fiscal policy and women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County. The study recommends expanding affirmative action funds, increasing fiscal outreach, and offering targeted financial training for rural women, particularly widows and female-headed households, to close existing empowerment gaps.

Keywords: Financial Allocation, Financial Fiscal Policy, Financial Policy Strategies, Women's Economic Empowerment

JEL Codes: G2, H2, G0, J1

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INTRODUCTION

Financial fiscal policies targeting women aim to mobilize and allocate resources in ways that enhance women's economic empowerment an approach increasingly recognized globally as essential for sustainable socio-economic development. International organizations such as the UN and the World Bank, alongside national governments, view women's empowerment as key to improving household welfare and national growth thus enhancing women's economic empowerment (Swaiss, 2024).

In Kenya, this commitment is reflected through the National Policy on Women (1993), the 2010 Constitution, and alignment with regional and international frameworks like the African Union Protocol on Women's Rights. The Constitution (Articles 10 and 27) anchors equality for women and men, inclusivity, and affirmative action, mandating fair resource distribution and representation of women in financial decision-making (Obwogi & Kremte, 2024).

Kenya has progressively integrated Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) into its Public Finance Management (PFM) systems, promoting women's participation in fiscal planning and reporting. However, challenges such as weak gender tagging, poor performance reporting, and inconsistent GRB implementation persist across various government levels (Albu, 2023).

Affirmative action funds including the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) serve as major fiscal tools for empowering women through credit, grants, and capacity-building programs. Recent increases in funding aim to enhance their effectiveness and reach at the county level.

In Kakamega County, the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023–2027) prioritizes women's economic empowerment through initiatives supporting MSMEs, widows, and women's groups. Institutions like KACWASCO and partnerships with national agencies demonstrate growing adoption of gender-responsive financial practices. Nonetheless, persistent gaps remain in consistent implementation, monitoring, and gender tagging (Manoti, 2024).

Although Kenya's constitutional, policy, and institutional frameworks establish a solid basis for implementing women-centered fiscal and financial initiatives, disparities in policy application and inadequate monitoring of empowerment outcomes particularly at the county level highlight a critical research gap. Existing evidence suggests that despite these frameworks, women in Kakamega County continue to experience limited economic advancement. The region's poverty rate of 35.1%, which closely mirrors the national average of 35.7%, and an absolute poverty rate of 35.8%, indicate that fiscal interventions have not substantially reduced economic vulnerability (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), 2020). Moreover, data show that 65% of women aged 35–59 remain underprivileged compared to 56% of men, reflecting persistent gender disparities in economic well-being. These conditions underscore the need to examine how financial and fiscal policies influence women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, addressing the apparent gap between policy intent and real-world outcomes (Republic of Kenya, 2010/2023).

Statement of the Problem

Despite extensive fiscal and financial policy frameworks intended to promote women's economic empowerment in Kenya, the persistence of low household economic standards reveals

disconnection between policy formulation and actual impact. The statistics collectively suggest that financial initiatives though significant in scale have not translated into substantial improvements in women's livelihoods. For instance, while Kshs. 21.4 billion was allocated nationally under the Women Economic Empowerment Strategy (2020–2025), poverty and deprivation among women remain high, with 65% of women aged 35–59 still categorized as underprivileged compared to 56% of men (UNICEF, 2020). This imbalance points to systemic inefficiencies in financial allocation and utilization at both national and county levels. The near parity between Kakamega County's monetary poverty rate (35.1%) and the national average (35.7%) underscores that local empowerment strategies have not effectively addressed the economic vulnerabilities of women-headed households. Gwada et al. (2020), further emphasize that women continue to experience weakened financial capacities, food insecurity, and limited access to basic needs, signaling that fiscal interventions have not adequately tackled root causes of poverty. Moreover, evidence from Chisika and Yeom (2023) and Karuru et al. (2025), indicates a persistent gap between national policy intentions and the actual practices within counties, particularly the limited participation of women in the design and decision-making processes governing financial programs. This lack of inclusion undermines the sustainability and relevance of empowerment initiatives. Taken together, these findings reveal that while financial commitments and policy frameworks exist, their effectiveness is curtailed by institutional inefficiencies, inadequate local implementation, and minimal female involvement in fiscal governance. Thus, the empowerment agenda in Kakamega County and Kenya at large remains constrained by a policy-practice divide that limits women's ability to diversify income sources and elevate household living standards.

Objective of the Study

This study examined the influence of women's financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya.

Study Hypothesis

The study was guided by the following null hypothesis;

H₀₁: Women's financial fiscal policy has no significant effect on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section presents a review of relevant literature structured around the study's objective to examine the influence of women's financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya. The study variable encompasses financial fiscal policy as the independent variable and women's economic empowerment as the dependent variable. Based on this review of the literature, the research identifies gaps in the present body of knowledge, synthesizes previous research findings, and establishes the groundwork for an empirical inquiry of the literature.

Theoretical Framework

Financial fiscal policy significantly shapes women's economic empowerment by determining access to financial resources, credit, and supportive institutional systems. Equitable taxation,

gender-responsive budgeting, and targeted financial programs enhance women's participation in economic and decision-making processes.

This study is grounded in two key theories Empowerment Theory and Financial Inclusion Theory which together explain how fiscal policies and access to financial services influence women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya. These theories form the conceptual foundation guiding the research design, variable relationships, and hypothesis testing.

Empowerment Theory propounded by Sen (1988), emphasizes expanding women's capacity, agency, and decision-making power as pathways to improved social and economic outcomes. According to Sen (1988), empowerment is a multidimensional process involving economic, political, and social dimensions shaped by institutional structures and resource accessibility. Within this study, the theory directly informs the dependent variable women's economic empowerment by framing empowerment as an outcome of enhanced participation in productive activities, income diversification, and decision-making autonomy within households.

In relation to the research hypothesis that women's financial fiscal policy has no significant effect on women's economic empowerment, empowerment theory provides the basis for examining whether fiscal policies (such as taxation, budgeting, and financial programs) actually strengthen women's control over financial resources and opportunities. Conceptually, the theory suggests that fiscal interventions that promote equitable resource distribution and participatory policy processes can foster empowerment, while poorly designed or exclusionary fiscal systems may perpetuate dependence and economic marginalization.

Thus, Empowerment Theory guides the study's analytical focus on whether fiscal mechanisms enable women to gain greater agency, income security, and decision-making power, or whether these mechanisms remain structurally biased against them.

According to Chakrabarty (2023), financial inclusion theory asserts that ensuring universal access to affordable and suitable financial services such as credit, savings, insurance, and digital finance is essential for fostering economic growth and promoting social equity. The theory emphasizes that inclusive financial systems help reduce economic vulnerability, encourage investment, and enhance livelihood stability, particularly among marginalized and underserved groups.

In this study, the theory directly informs the independent variable financial fiscal policy by explaining how equitable taxation systems, gender-responsive budgeting, and targeted credit or grant programs shape women's access to financial services and capital. The theory aligns with the idea that fiscal policies are not neutral; they determine who benefits from public spending and financial reforms.

From a conceptual standpoint, Financial Inclusion Theory links fiscal policy to empowerment outcomes by highlighting that inclusive financial systems enhance women's productivity, entrepreneurship, and economic independence. Therefore, the study tests whether fiscal measures designed to promote inclusion actually translate into measurable improvements in women's economic empowerment within Kakamega County.

Together, these theories provide a policy-relevant framework for understanding the link between fiscal systems and empowerment outcomes. Empowerment Theory explains why women's

participation and agency are essential for sustainable development, while Financial Inclusion Theory explains how access to financial resources and supportive institutions operationalize empowerment in practical terms.

Empirical Review

This study reviewed literature on the influence of women's financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, Kenya. Fiscal policy is a critical driver of women's economic empowerment because it determines how public resources are raised, allocated, and distributed to support inclusive growth. The reviewed literature underscores that fiscal policy promotes empowerment through three main mechanisms: gender-responsive budgeting, targeted affirmative funds, and equitable taxation systems.

At the national level, Kenya's progressive Constitution and policy frameworks explicitly recognize women's inclusion in fiscal decision-making as a foundation for empowerment (Kamau, 2021). The Government's commitment is evident through initiatives such as the National Policy on Women (1993) and the creation of institutional structures supporting gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), which ensure that budget allocations address gender-specific needs in access to healthcare, education, and enterprise financing. These mechanisms enhance women's participation in productive sectors by channeling fiscal resources toward initiatives that reduce gender gaps in income and opportunity.

Empirical evidence further illustrates how fiscal interventions directly impact empowerment outcomes. Mahadew (2024), examining developing economies, found that budgetary reforms, tax incentives for women-owned enterprises, and social protection programs significantly increase women's access to financial resources, employment, and entrepreneurship. By integrating Empowerment and Fiscal Policy Theories, the study showed that inclusive fiscal measures expand women's economic participation while reducing income inequality. This aligns with Kenya's experience, where affirmative action funds including the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Uwezo Fund, and National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) provide women in rural areas with credit, grants, digital financial tools, and business training (Karuru et al., 2025). These funds operationalize fiscal empowerment by bridging gaps in financial accessibility and building women's entrepreneurial capacity.

At the institutional level, Nason (2021) found that integrating women's empowerment within fiscal policy frameworks can transform gender-equitable public finance systems when supported by strong institutional capacity and political commitment. The study emphasized that fiscal policies embedded with gender mainstreaming principles such as earmarking funds for women-led enterprises or offering tax relief for female entrepreneurs directly enhance women's financial independence and control over resources. However, weak institutional enforcement and limited technical skills often constrain full implementation, creating disparities between policy intentions and practical outcomes.

In the Kenyan context, Kenyatta (2023), demonstrated that fiscal measures promoting equitable resource access, education, and capacity-building are vital in addressing poverty and gender inequality. These findings suggest that fiscal policy serves as a redistributive instrument capable

of reducing structural inequalities that hinder women's participation in economic activities, especially in rural counties like Kakamega.

Collectively, these studies affirm that well-designed fiscal policies are vital in advancing women's economic empowerment by creating enabling environments where women can access financial resources, participate in decision-making, and sustain livelihoods. Fiscal policy achieves this by directing public funds toward inclusive programs, using taxation and budget reforms to remove gender barriers, and strengthening institutional accountability to ensure women benefit equitably from development spending. Nonetheless, gaps remain regarding how effectively such fiscal mechanisms operate in rural contexts like Kakamega County where inefficiencies in budget processes and limited local awareness of fiscal programs continue to constrain women's economic progress.

Summary of Literature Reviewed and Research Gaps

The reviewed literature shows that financial fiscal policy is vital in promoting women's economic empowerment globally, regionally, and nationally. Mahadew (2024) reveal that gender-responsive budgeting, tax incentives, and social protection programs expand women's access to resources, employment, and entrepreneurship. Similarly, Britt and Egerer (2024) emphasize that public spending in education, health, and labor programs, along with inclusive fiscal policymaking, significantly enhances women's empowerment.

A study by Schopohl et al. (2021) confirms that financial fiscal policy measures strengthen equality, empowerment, and development, while weak institutional integration limits effectiveness. In Kenya, Kenyatta (2023), highlight that despite women's major contributions to local economies, challenges such as poverty, limited education, and poor access to financial resources persist. The Women Enterprise Fund and national women-focused programs Kiambati and Kalangi (2024), have supported empowerment but face issues of low funding and weak implementation.

Overall, the literature affirms that equitable financial fiscal policies foster women's empowerment through fair resource distribution and institutional reforms. However, most studies are global or national in scope and rely on descriptive methods, leaving a gap in localized, empirical evidence. This study addresses that gap by investigating how financial fiscal policy through budgeting, taxation, expenditure, and fund allocation affects women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County, focusing on fiscal efficiency, equity, and empowerment outcomes in the households at the county level.

Conceptual Framework

In conceptualizing this study, two variables were taken into consideration: financial fiscal policy and economic empowerment of women representing the independent and the dependent variables respectively as elaborated in figure 1 below.

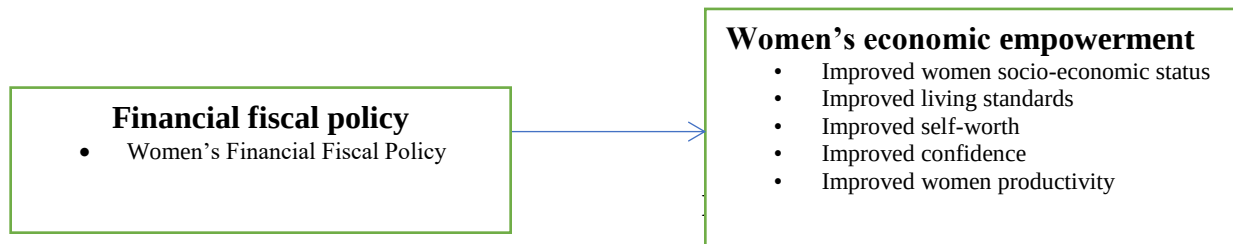


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Review of Study Variable

Women's financial fiscal policy focuses on designing and implementing budgets, taxation, and expenditure programs that promote gender equality and strengthen women's economic empowerment. It examines how fiscal tools such as taxes, subsidies, government loans, and social spending affect women differently from men.

According to Ahir et al. (2021), the policy is grounded in four pillars: gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) to ensure equitable resource allocation, taxation equity to reduce gender disparities in tax burdens, public investment in the care economy to ease unpaid care work, and improved financial access through loans and incentives for women-owned enterprises.

Reports such as those by UN Women and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Kenya (2023) highlight strong government commitment to women's empowerment through constitutional, legal, and institutional reforms. Similarly, Kamau (2021) emphasized Kenya's long-standing dedication to women's empowerment, beginning with the National Policy on Gender and Development (2000) and reinforced by enhanced institutional mechanisms for its implementation.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design using a mixed-methods approach that combined qualitative and quantitative techniques to explore the influence of women's financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment. The target population was 2,998 respondents, and a sample of 910 participants was selected using stratified, systematic, and purposive sampling based on the Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) formula.

Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires (for women group representatives) and interview guides (for finance officials). Instruments were pre-tested to ensure validity and reliability protocols were observed, including informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation, with approval obtained from NACOSTI.

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 26. Descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations) summarized demographic data, while Pearson correlation and inferential statistics examined relationships between financial fiscal policy and women's economic empowerment. Quantitative results were presented through tables, charts, and graphs, whereas qualitative data were analyzed thematically.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Response Rate

The study achieved a 93.4% response rate, with 850 out of 910 questionnaires successfully returned. This high rate was attributed to the effective self-administration of research instruments, which were completed and collected on the same day.

Descriptive Statistics

The study aimed to investigate how women's financial fiscal policy influences women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County. Quantitative data from questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while qualitative data from questionnaires and interviews were analyzed thematically. Women's economic empowerment served as the dependent variable, and financial fiscal policy as the independent variable. Using the Women's Economic Empowerment Questionnaire (WEEQ), empowerment levels were measured through a composite score based on yes/no responses, reflecting how financial fiscal policy aspects were adopted within women's groups and female-headed households.

Women's Economic Empowerment

The descriptive results revealed a positive significant scenario for women engaging in economic empowerment. The mean score for women's economic empowerment was $M = 0.47$, $SD = 0.11$, suggesting a moderate level of empowerment among the respondents. The most positively endorsed indicators were having access to a bank or mobile money account (93.4%), control over spending and saving (89.6%), and participation in household financial decisions (68.0%). A majority also reported owning production assets (66.4%) and having a personal bank account (60.3%). However, relatively few respondents had their own source of income (17.7%), or reported that their income allowed them to invest in children's education (16.8%), improve living conditions (23.3%), or contribute more to household expenses (24.1%). Additionally, just 25.1% associated their income with increased self-confidence or self-worth, and 21.2% reported greater bargaining power in the household. These findings indicate that while women in Kakamega County have achieved strong access to financial tools and household financial participation, economic independence and self-directed outcomes such as education, savings, and asset

expansion remain limited for many as shown in table 4.1.

Table 1: Women's Economic Empowerment

Statement	Mean	Std. Deviation
Do you have your own source of income?	.1765	.38144
Has your income allowed you to improve your living conditions?	.2332	.42313
Has your income allowed you to invest in your children's education?	.1682	.37430
Has your income allowed you to save for the future?	.3083	.46208
Has your income allowed you to contribute more to household expenses?	.2408	.42783
Has your income increased your self-confidence and self-worth?	.2506	.43361
Has your income increased your bargaining power within the household?	.2123	.40915
Are you involved in major household decisions such as purchase of car, house, house appliance or agricultural machinery?	.7376	.44021
Do you own any production assets such as land, animals, and machinery?	.6643	.47251
Do women exercise a voice in economic decision-making in the market and the community?	.1847	.38829
Do you participate in financial decision-making within your household?	.6804	.46659
Do you have control over how to spend some money or saving?	.8963	.30499
Do you have a personal bank account?	.6026	.48965
Do you have access to your own bank account or mobile money account?	.9339	.24863
Have you ever taken out a loan or borrowed money	.8227	.38215
Aggregate Mean, Std. Dev.	.4741	.10750

In addition, the respondents had qualitative responses providing additional insights into monthly savings from personal income.

Respondent Quotes: *"I opened a savings account but I'm not able to set aside a portion of my income every month for saving."*

Respondent Quotes: *"I'm not able to save for emergencies and future expenses, like medical bills."*

The findings are consistent with studies conducted by Nyamweya & Obuya (2020), which shows that while many low-income Kenyans, especially those earning below KES 25,000, save via mobile money, a significant number of women still do not. Savings levels remain modest overall, with higher income and education linked to better saving habits. Many women believe additional income and trust are significant to improving their savings.

Financial Fiscal Policy

The descriptive results indicated a moderate but statistically significant positive correlation with WEE, $r = .484$ ($p < .001$), suggesting that engagement with or awareness of financial policy processes supports empowerment, though to a slightly lesser extent than the other variables. The mean score for financial policy was $M = 0.23$, $SD = 0.30$, indicating a low level of awareness and involvement in financial policy processes among the respondents. A total of 29.6% of respondents reported having encountered the term financial fiscal policy. Furthermore, only 26.7% indicated prior participation in policy-making processes. Only 18.9% acknowledged awareness of financial policies specifically designed to promote women's economic empowerment. In addition, 24.3% affirmed that such policies have contributed to strengthening financial allocation strategies in support of women's empowerment. Moreover, 15.4% of respondents observed that age plays a role in shaping women's participation in policy-making, while 21.4% emphasized that educational attainment influences women's awareness of policy issues pertinent to their empowerment. These findings highlight a significant gap in policy-level engagement, suggesting that many women remain disconnected from institutional decision-making and policy development that directly affects their financial opportunities.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on Financial Policy

Measurement Aspect	Mean	Std. Deviation
Have you ever heard of the term financial fiscal policy?	.2969	.22695
Have you ever participated in policy making process?	.2671	.44268
Do you know any financial policy guiding women economic empowerment?	.1885	.39131
The financial policy has enhanced financial allocation strategies for women economic empowerment?	.2439	.30185
Age affects women's participation in policy making process?	.1547	.23331
The level of education affects women's awareness in policy matters related to their empowerment?	.2145	.20144
Aggregate Mean, Std. Dev.	.2276	.29959

In addition, the respondents had qualitative responses providing additional insights into percentage of funds controlled by groups.

Respondent Quotes: *"No one in our community talks about these financial policies participation processes. The government should come to the grassroots level to educate us about them."*

The results align with Kenya's constitutional framework particularly Article 10, which outlines national values, and Article 27(8), which mandates affirmative action. Alongside gender-targeted initiatives such as the Women Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, and the 30% procurement quota, these provisions provide a strong foundation for women's participation in fiscal processes (Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Kenya, 2023). However, participation remains low, with only 17% of citizens attending budget forums and just 39% believing they can influence county decisions, largely due to civic illiteracy, poor communication, and logistical barriers (UN Women & United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), 2023). At the grassroots level, women's limited awareness of rights and available opportunities further constrains engagement (World

Bank, 2024). Consequently, while constitutional and policy mechanisms exist, their impact remains limited by systemic barriers and low awareness (Safesteps Foundation Kenya, 2023).

Association between Financial Fiscal Policy and Women's Economic Empowerment

To determine how if the independent variables of this study contributed to the observed Women's economic empowerment levels among the sampled women groups, inferential testing was carried out on the null hypotheses at the 0.05 level of statistical significance. The correlation results revealed a moderate but statistically significant positive correlation between financial fiscal policy and women's economic empowerment (Pearson's $r = 0.484$, $p < 0.001$). This indicates that increased engagement with or awareness of financial policy processes enhances women's empowerment. The results suggest that integrating financial fiscal policy with practical financial allocations in women's groups can effectively strengthen economic empowerment, as the financial dimensions are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Table 3: Correlation results

Variable	Economic Empowerment
Financial fiscal policy	0.484

*** $p = 0.001$**

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

These results are consistent with Koome, Muna, and Mange (2021), who reaffirmed women's limited involvement in economic policy-making, largely influenced by low awareness and entrenched gender norms. However, the findings diverge from those of the World Bank (2023), which reported progress through targeted policies and legal reforms aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment. This contrast underscores a policy practice gap, indicating that strong national frameworks coexist with weak grassroots outcomes.

Furthermore, Koome, Muna, and Mange (2021) emphasized that enhancing financial fiscal policy and infrastructure directly supports women's participation in the formal economy, enabling them to exercise greater control over resources and reducing vulnerability to economic shocks outcomes that mirror empowerment indicators at the household level.

Model Summary for Relationship between Financial Fiscal Policy and Women's Economic Empowerment

This was determined by performing Simple Regression analysis. The model summary indicated that financial policy accounted for 23.4% of the variance in women's economic empowerment ($R^2 = .234$). This reflects a moderate relationship, suggesting that awareness and engagement with financial policy frameworks contribute meaningfully to empowering women economically

Table 4: Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.484 ^a	.234	.232	.33939

a. Predictors: (Constant), Financial Policy

Table 5: ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) for Fiscal Policy Relationship with Women's Economic Empowerment

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	29.882	1	29.882	259.843	.000 ^b
	Residual	97.678	848	.115		
	Total	127.56	849			

a. Dependent Variable: WEE

b. Predictors: (Constant), Financial Policy

The ANOVA results revealed that the regression model was statistically significant, $F(1, 848) = 259.84$, $p < .001$. This indicates that financial policy significantly contributes to explaining variance in women's economic empowerment, validating the model's overall fit.

The coefficient regressions is further shown in Table 5

Financial Fiscal Policy Regression Coefficient

The results indicated that financial policy had a positive and statistically significant effect on women's economic empowerment, $B = 0.305$, $t = 13.86$, $p < .001$. This means that a one-unit increase in the financial policy score is associated with a 0.31-unit increase in the WEE score. Although the effect size is smaller compared to other predictors, the standardized coefficient ($\beta = .214$) confirms a meaningful contribution. Therefore, the fourth hypothesis (H_4): Financial policy significantly influences women's economic empowerment is supported.

Table 6: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.175	.106		1.651	.099
	Financial Policy	.305	.022	.214	13.863	.000

a. Dependent Variable: WEE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study found strong empirical evidence that financial fiscal policy positively influences women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County indicating that greater fiscal policy initiatives lead to higher empowerment levels. The moderate yet significant positive correlation confirms that fiscal strategies play a vital role in improving women's economic status. The rejection of the null hypothesis reinforces this relationship. The study recommends that policymakers expand affirmative action financial products, intensify fiscal policy outreach, and implement targeted training programs, especially for female-headed and widowed households in rural areas, to strengthen economic empowerment outcomes.

Recommendations

Recommendation for Practice

Enhancing women's financial fiscal policy requires tackling structural barriers that hinder their participation. This includes simplifying financial processes, revising loan terms, and improving service accessibility. Women's active participation in budgeting decisions is vital to ensure policies reflect their real needs. Tailored rural programs and affirmative funds such as WEF, UWEZO, and NGAAF should offer blended support packages combining credit, grants, digital access, and training. Sustainable empowerment also relies on legal reforms in land rights, inheritance, and anti-discrimination, backed by civic engagement frameworks like the Kenya Women's National Charter. Moreover, gender-disaggregated data, strong evaluation systems, and fiscal sustainability are crucial to achieve inclusive and lasting empowerment outcomes.

Implications

Policy Implications

The study found that financial fiscal strategies significantly enhance women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County. However, low policy awareness and broad targeting that merges women with youth dilute attention to women's specific needs. To address this, the study recommends grant-based and individualized support, inclusive governance, expanded financial education, and gender-specific reforms, especially for female-headed households and widows. The findings provide valuable insights for county policymakers, serve as a reference for future academic research, and contribute to understanding financial allocation strategies in rural and poverty affected contexts.

Managerial Implications

The study offers key managerial insights for county officials, stressing the adoption of women's empowerment fiscal policies and gender-disaggregated data to improve women's financial access, and availability especially for female-headed households and widows. It underscores the need to integrate fiscal policy literacy programs and localized financial management strategies to enhance efficiency and promote sustainable women's economic empowerment. Additionally, the study fills an important literature gap by highlighting the crucial role of county-level fiscal management in strengthening the impact of women-centered economic initiatives in Kenya.

Theoretical Implications

The study advances Financial Inclusion and Empowerment theories by moving beyond traditional loan-based models, advocating for grant-based and individualized financial support to strengthen women's agency and long-term economic sustainability. It calls for stakeholders to design fiscal allocation frameworks that ensure meaningful application of financial policies for women's empowerment. Additionally, it emphasizes the need to integrate financial allocation into Public Financial Management (PFM) and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) systems, embedding clear fiscal indicators to track beneficiaries, fund utilization, and empowerment outcomes thereby addressing gaps identified in PEFA's GRPFM assessment on gender tagging and performance monitoring.

Areas for Further Research

The study examined the influence of financial fiscal policy on women's economic empowerment in Kakamega County and recommends further research on other factors influencing women's empowerment beyond fiscal policies. It suggests conducting studies in urban settings to assess how financial fiscal policies affect women in these economically dynamic areas. Additionally, the study calls for a comparative analysis between rural and urban women-headed households to evaluate differences in how financial fiscal policies contribute to their empowerment.

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