IMPACT OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ON MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study investigated the Impact of cooperative management on members' participation and financial sustainability in Ekiti state, Nigeria. Specifically, it examines the level of member participation and involvement in cooperative activity and the relationship between cooperative management practices and financial sustainability of members. The study employed descriptive and inferential statistics. The respondents' demography variables and responses were analyzed with the aid of frequency tables and percentages. 150 questionnaires were distributed and 146 retrieved from the respondents. The responses were analysed and the results revealed a positive and significant (0.268284) relationship between Cooperative Management (CPM) and Members' Participation and Involvement (MPI), and a positive and significant (0.835305) relationship with Members' Financial Sustainability (MFS) in Ekiti State. The study recommended that the cooperative societies should encourage savings among their members, make more credit facilities, in large volume, available to their members and provide an easy repayment platform for the members to prevent default.

Key words: Cooperative Management, Members' Participation and Members' Financial Sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

The pride of any nation is to attain a high level of development in such a way that its citizens would derive a natural attachment to governance. Nigeria as a nation has a lot of potential for growth and development. The abundant and natural resources of the country remain largely unexplored. These have to be harnessed to the fullest for the general well-being of Nigeria in the world economy (Aniodoh, 2018). According to Anyanwu (1997), one important way to the realization of this goal is through the encouragement of cooperative movement. A cooperative as posited by United Nation (2011) is an autonomous association of people united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. A co-operative society is an independent group of people who have come together voluntarily to work for the same economic, social, and cultural goals through a jointly owned and democratically run business. Cooperatives frequently have social goals which they aim to accomplish by investing a proportion of trading profits back into their communities (Hamsatu, Mohammed & Gajibo, 2023).

The main objective of any cooperative society is to encourage and promote a development thrift culture within its members and educate them on how to efficiently and effectively utilize their limited resources for the attainment of the economic needs (USAID, 2006). Mwangi (2011) asserts that gaining financial services is a critical step in connecting the member's participation to a broader economic life which in return improves the quality of life. Cooperative assists its members to be financially stable by facilitating credit with little or no interest rates. This role implies that cooperative societies constitute a significant financial potential which can spur the county's economic and social development (Mutiso, 2019).

This recognition was embraced and celebrated worldwide as it is a wise step to suppressing the challenges of identifying effective remedy to poverty and economic meltdown faced by developing countries (Gunga, 2008). Nigeria is faced by increased height of poverty and reduced macroeconomic output. Several policies have been implemented over the years to bring to a halt the situation of poverty and economic failure in Nigeria economy for better standard of living of the citizens (Yusuf, Ijaiya and Ijaiya, 2009). Despite the various policies employed over time, reasonable changes have not been reached; this is evident with the level of economic growth, bad state of security, worsening level of poverty, high level of mortality and morbidity caused by the increased height of transmittable diseases, political uncertainty and unpleasant situation of governance (IMF, 2011; WDI, 2011). The structure and operation of cooperatives are believed to enable the economic position of its members, and hence fostering a standard live among individual requires, making functional, relevant and compulsory cooperative membership particularly among staff in our contemporary days.

One cannot rule it completely that government has not assisted cooperative societies, yet, despite the significant contribution associated with cooperative towards economic development and improvement of the quality of life of the members', the organisations are faced with mired of challenges which can threaten their financial sustainability. USAID (2006) defines sustainability as the ability to maintain, support or endure in the long term. This means that for the cooperative societies to be financially sustainable they must cover all their transaction costs, maintain a consisted return on equity and consequently function without subsidies (Njoronge, 2018). The general question that comes to the researcher's mind is that: how achievable is this assertion in case of default especially when the economy is really biting hard? It is premised on this that the study examined the impact of cooperative management on member's participation and financial sustainability in Ekiti State Nigeria.

Nigeria is an agricultural economy where many SMEs, business men and women that participate as members of cooperative societies are Agricultural oriented persons. One cannot breakthrough without finance power which many individual lacks, thereby running to participate as cooperative members in order to access the required fund to breakthrough in their respective businesses. In spite of the importance of cooperatives in providing loans in agricultural production, its access is fraught with a number of problems such as credit ineffectiveness, institutional bottlenecks, bureaucratic procedures, restriction of credit for specific purposes, lack of collateral, as well as disbursement lag.

Kareem, Arigbabu, Akintaro, and Badmus (2012) opined that cooperatives have the ability to promote and support entrepreneurial development in farms that are compatible with the principles and objectives of the World Summit for social development.

Based on empirical investigation, scholars have argued that cooperative societies are not financially stable due to low rate of loan repayment and loan default which has caused a serious setback for the cooperative societies in states like Anambra, Lagos and Maiduguri etc (Okoli, 2018; Amusat, Alasiri, Sannie, Sanyaolu, Olawore and Oyeleye, 2022; Hamsatu**,** Mohammed and Gajibo, 2023). It is on this background that this study was brought up to re-evaluate such in Ekiti State where sparse studies have been empirically documented on cooperative management on member's participation and financial sustainability.

Therefore, the study specifically evaluates the level of member participation and involvement in cooperative activity; and investigates the relationship between cooperative management practices and financial sustainability of members.

Literature Review

Cooperative Societies

Alaba, (2007) defines a cooperative as "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise." It is a business voluntarily owned and controlled by its member patrons and operated for them and by them on a nonprofit or cost basis (Adekunle & Henson, 2007). Aryeetey (2006) postulates that co-operative society is a voluntary association of individuals having common needs, who join hands for the achievement of common economic interest. Its aim is to serve the interest of the poorer sections of society through the principle of self-help and mutual help. The main objective is to provide support to the members. Nobody joins a cooperative society to earn profit. People come forward as a group, pool their individual resources, utilise them in the best possible manner, and derive some common benefit out of it (Garnett, 2012).

A Co-operative Society can be formed as per the provisions of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912. At least ten persons above of 18 years, having the capacity to enter into a contract with common economic objectives, like farming, weaving, consuming, etc. can form a Co-operative Society. Cooperative Societies Act is a Central Act. However, 'Cooperative Societies' is a State Subject (Entry 32 of List II of Seventh Schedule to Constitution, i.e. State List). Though the Act is still in force, it has been specifically repealed in almost all the States and those States have their own Cooperative Societies Act. Thus, practically, the Central Act is mainly of academic interest and as per preamble to the Act, the Act is to facilitate formation of cooperative societies for the promotion of thrift and self-help among agriculturists, artisans and persons of limited means.

Cooperative societies play essential roles from the development and socio-economic point of view in the Nigerian tertiary system. Members of cooperatives are steadily shifting from being uni-functional to multifunctional by joining other cooperative societies so as to increase their financial and non-financial strength as well as been able to meet the demand of the market force (Onah, 2014). An institutional cooperative society is a unique type of cooperative society that embraces both the associative component as well as the business component and are guided by the operations of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in terms of values and principles of cooperation.

The motive is inducing individuals to join existing or to form new cooperatives that can originate in the economic-rational sphere and the sociological and psychological spheres. institutional cooperatives are primarily members of a community who have come together to achieve some common commercial objectives more successfully than they could as individuals such as marketing their produce, purchasing luxurious assets, purchasing consumer goods for sale or supplying services such as storage or transport (Masuku, Masuku & Muntangura, 2016).

Unlike other forms of cooperative societies, the institutional cooperative society has contributed greatly to help enhance and self-sufficiency of members as regards to household products, facilitation of cooperative loans from both financial institutions (Banks) and non-bank financial institutions (institutional cooperatives) and encouraging democratic decision-making processes, leadership development and education. Addisu (2011) opines that institutional cooperative societies have a great potential to serve the needs of members better than other business types. Institutional cooperative societies have been established to support members who are handicapped by their lack of negotiating power in the global economy.

Institutional cooperatives have become more open to members of staff and are now relatively democratic and acceptable as a means of raising member's standard of living. Thus, institutional cooperatives have provided higher satisfactory services to members than what is obtainable in the financial sector of the economy. The actual constraint of institutional cooperative societies is limited to financial constraints. As a result, the majority of cooperators continue to rely on joining more than one cooperative society within their respective institutions (Tekeste, Muthyalu & Azmera, 2014). The key factors that contribute to institutional cooperatives success include but are not limited to; leadership strength, number and members' participation, sufficient resources and above all, institutional management supports. The internal factors that would affect a cooperative's success are the ones that arise internally and these include members' commitment, members' participation, structural, communication and managerial factors. The external factors, considered essential in the success of a cooperative, include assistance that acts as motivation for members in a cooperative, external assistance, government policies, regulatory frameworks and market factors (Desalegn, 2019).

Challenges faced by Cooperative Societies in Nigeria

Cooperatives can be found in every corner of the world. Cooperatives confront one or more challenges, Nigeria inclusive. Anyanwuocha (2011) listed five significant issues for cooperative societies. Difficulty in finding an experienced person to manage the firm, insufficient money in the cooperative organization, fraud and misappropriation of funds by unscrupulous leaders, abuse of funds for political objectives, and cooperative profits are not subject to taxation are some of these issues. Also, Akanle, Omotara, Busari (2014) asserted that competition from other financial institutions is one of the challenges faced by cooperative societies in Nigeria, since there are many alternatives to financing the business, other financial sectors compete with cooperative society by offering similar or additional benefits. Other challenges according to Gbadeyan (2021) are loan defaulting (loan delinquency), irregularity in the repayment of loan, poor saving culture of some members because of the soften regulation in some cooperative organizations, few members take advantage of it by making unequal savings, which may lead to insolvency. Some cooperative societies choose the management board based on the number of shares and total saving without considering the expertise and level of education, and lack of good management and cooperatives capacity building have been identified as the challenges encountered by the cooperative societies in Nigeria (Akanle, Omotara & Busari, 2014).

Restructuring Cooperative Societies in Nigeria

Considering the metrics of socioeconomic including education, gender, poverty, housing, amenities, employment, income level, exposure to the internet, and other economic indicators, government and stakeholders need to consolidate resources (men, machines, materials, money) and leverage on the strengths (requisite skills) of teammates. Also, of concern, is the institutionalization of the activities of the cooperatives i.e regulatory bodies through rules and procedures to influence the collectiveness of the cooperative societies. Unfortunately, the Nigerian business environment is characterized by complexities and prevailing issues which are sometimes beyond the whims and caprices of most entrepreneurs in Nigeria. To this end, administration of business requires a regular audit of the business environment, operating firms, and adoption of a situational style of stewardship. This approach is essential to establish the environmental analysis and initiate a corresponding marketing mix for business sustenance and goal accomplishment (Akinyosoye, 2013; Baba, 2013; Oladunjoye et al, 2019).

Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability refers to the ability of an entity to cover all operational and financial costs from internally generated income (Kinde & Pradhan, 2012). Financial sustainability can be categorized into two categories (Ganka, 2012). The first category is operational financial sustainability which is the ability to cover operational costs regardless of whether they are subsidized or not (welfarists' approach). The welfarists' approach is concerned with the welfare of the members, where the concern of the institution is to reach as many people as possible and empower them economically regardless of whether the institution is profitable or not without being concerned with the source of funding (Muthomi, 2015).

The other category is financial self-sufficiency, which is the ability to cover both operating and financing costs from internally generated income (Zerai & Rani, 2012). This falls under the Institutionists' approach, which advocates for financial deepening with the aim of creating sustainable financial intermediation for the poor. This approach is concerned about ensuring that the institution is profitable enough to cater for the financial needs of the institution based on the profitability theory. When cooperative societies focus too much on poverty reduction they risk being financially unsustainable since commercialization increases sustainability but decreases outreach (Millson, 2013).

Cooperative Society and Members' Standard of Living

The ability of any cooperative society to affect the members positively at household and enterprise level signifies an improvement in standard of living and better economic condition of the participants (Oluyombo, 2012). The findings of Shaw (2004) shows that there is change a 25% change in income of households that were initially below poverty line exit poverty after joining an informal finance program and the household income of frequent clients is more than new clients. The income of members increased when compared to their income level before joining the cooperative and helps to fight poverty (Ghosh & Maharjan, 2001). Simkhada (2004) reported that members experience better household income (62%) than non-members (20%). Edgcomb and Garber (1998) suggested that more clients than new clients increased their household income over a year period, while Sharma, Simkhada and Shrestha (2005) recorded that household income of members (61.7%) was higher than non-members (20%).

Falaiye (2002) reported insignificant difference between existing clients and new clients in household income and increase in household income is not statistically (p=0.074) traceable to membership of the program, but Oke, Adeyemo and Agbonlahor (2007) documented a significant result (p=0.01) on the effect of program loan on members household income. Ramotra and Kanase (2009) result indicated a positive correlation (r=0.71) between members income and household condition. Falaiye (2002) reported that more of the existing clients than new clients own the house they live in. Adjei and Arun (2009) documented significant difference (p=0.000) between clients and non-clients with respect to ownership of sewing machine, refrigerators, radios, beds and mattresses, while insignificant difference was found in acquisition of televisions (p=0.155) and gas/electric cookers.

Adjei and Arun (2009) indicated strong association between the loan amount given to established clients and acquisition of household assets. They reported that participation in the program lead to ownership of television (p=0.0000) and refrigerator (45%), while marital status (p=0.000), level of education (p=0.000) and household size (p=0.008) are statistically significant to fridge ownership. They found no difference between the clients and non-clients on acquisition of a sewing machine, and much difference was not found on ownership of electric cookers.

Adedayo and Yusuf (2004) documented that member own house 0.6%, motor car 1.5%, motorcycle 16%, radio 18.5%, television 18.8%, video 20.9% commercial vehicle 0.9%, grinding machine 9.7% and 5.8% on sewing machine. The study concluded that membership of cooperative enhances assets acquisition within a short period. Larocque (2002) found that 21% of members used loan in financing housing. Simkhada (2004) reported that cooperative members acquire more land, house, vehicle, motorcycle and jewellery than non- members. Sharma et al. (2005) indicated that members acquired more of jewellery, house and vehicle than non-members, but non-members own more of land than members. Ramotra and Kanase (2009) reported that 67.57% of the members have telephone facility while 81.01% own two-wheelers with a positive correlation of 0.67 between per capital income and household assets.

Edgcomb and Garber (1998) reported 33% and 16% for clients and non-clients respectively on ownership of storage facility with a statistical significance of p=0.03. On acquisition of small tools, the study reported 40% for clients and 19% for non-clients, while Falaiye (2002) documented 50% for clients and 31% for incoming clients. Edgcomb and Garber (1998) and Falaiye (2002) indicated that clients were able to acquire major tools than non-clients, and also invest in minor assets in their marketing site more than non-clients. Clients were able to acquire a means of transportation for their business more than non-clients (Edgcomb and Garber, 1998). On investment in structures in business locations, Edgcomb and Garber (1998) reported that clients own 55% and non-clients 54% which is statistically significant with p=0.03, while Falaiye (2002) documented 21% and 8% for clients and incoming clients respectively. Edgcomb and Garber (1998) and Falaiye (2002) reported that existing clients increase their enterprise assets more than new clients.

Theoretical Review

The lifecycle income theory was developed by Friedman (1957). The theory focused on the expenditure pattern of a family unit, anchored within the stage of its life cycle. When consumption is higher than saving, it leads to (dis)saving, which negatively affects capital formation. Robert Hall undertook an early test of the Permanent Income Hypothesis in 1978. He noted that if previous consumption, based on all information consumers had at the time, past income should not contain any additional explanatory power about current consumption above past consumption. The younger family unit has the propensity to save more than what they expend, unlike a family unit that is the focal point of survival. Hence, when the family unit is retracting in old age, they live off their build-up capital/ money put away. As a result, the predisposition to save money relied on the individual's maturity, which is not the same amongst different age brackets. The theory is anchored within the economic assumption, which tries to demonstrate the pattern by which people disperse their consumable income throughout their existence. The postulation is that an individual's consumption will be hinged on current earnings and by anticipated earnings in the upcoming period, known as 'permanent income.' Consequently, consumption follows a random path (Galbacs, 2015). Individuals are assumed to plan a pattern of consumer expenditure based on anticipated earnings throughout their lifetime. The application of this theory in this study and the link between it and the study of Stephens (2013) is that it will enable people in the study area to plan well around their permanent income by reducing consumption and increasing savings through participation in credit and thrift cooperative schemes.

Empirical Review

Hamsatu, Mohammed and Gajibo (2023) evaluated how cooperative societies affect Maiduguri residents' financial wellbeing, with a focus on the Rice Farmers Cooperative Society according to the stated criteria, which include; ease of access to credit facility, low interest rate on loan, saving opportunity, business advice and entrepreneurial training and social activities support. Questionnaires which was structured on Likert format was distributed to three hundred and ninety five respondents who have been purposively selected from two groups within the cooperative societies in Maiduguri. Data collected from the respondents were analyze using t-test. Majority of the respondents affirm that cooperative societies have strongly assist members both directly and indirectly in acquiring assets thereby improve their wellbeing. The study concludes that cooperative societies have impacted positively on the wellbeing of the people and hence recommended that Cooperative society activities should be properly regulated by government so that it will continue to impact positively on the wellbeing of its members.

Amusat, Alasiri, Sannie, Sanyaolu, Olawore and Oyeleye (2022) examined how cooperative societies can be restructured for enhanced socio-economic benefits and entrepreneurship development. The study adopted a descriptive and survey design using a structured research instrument to elicit relevant data from 316 cooperatives in Ikeja and Lagos Island local government and its LCDAs of Lagos State. Random sampling technique was adopted for the study. Hypotheses were validated using regression analysis for SPSS v. 23, while descriptive statistics of obtained data were presented in frequency tables and percentages. Findings showed that members of cooperatives hold a strong belief that accessible link road and regular power supply will promote that aspect of business sector. Also, the much-desired sustainable development can be enhanced through friendly regulations.

Ogah, Olagunju and Ogebe (2021) examined effects of farmers' cooperative society on agricultural productivity in Ogun State, Nigeria. Two-stage sampling technique was used to select 120 respondents. Descriptive statistics and probit model analysis were used to analyzed data generated using structured questionnaire. The analysis revealed that the mean age of the respondents was 45years, mostly males (70.83%), many (34.17%) of the respondents were in their active age of 40-50. Majority of the respondents were married (80.83%), with mean household size of 4 persons and nearly all respondents had formal education. Farming experience was 12years averagely. The result of probit analysis revealed that age and educational status were the important and significant variables that influence the probability of being a member of cooperative society. The results revealed that cooperative is a veritable tool for improving farmer's productivity as members have best advantage of new technologies, easy access to inputs, better bargaining power for their products and resolution of conflict on land related matters which help to boost their production.

Egware, Ejuetueyin and Alakpa (2021) assessed the effectiveness of agricultural cooperative societies in credit delivery to members in Benin metropolis of Edo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to describe the socio-economic characteristic of small-scale farmers, determine the effectiveness of the cooperatives in credit delivery to members, determined to what extent the co-operatives have benefited members in financing their investments; and identified the challenges militating against the role of cooperatives in the provision of credit facilities to its members. The study used a multi-stage random sampling technique to select 120 respondents from 20 agricultural cooperative societies in the Benin metropolis. The data collected were analyzed using simple descriptive statistics and the Queue model. In terms of effectiveness of credit delivery, findings revealed that majority of the cooperatives studied were not effective in credit delivery as reflected by the queue model employed. With respect to cooperatives financing of members' investments, computed mean average indicates that majority were of the view that cooperatives have benefited members in financing their investments. However, there is room for improvement because the approval rate was 4.23, the overall idle time was 0.13 and the traffic intensity was 1.132 instead of 1. The major constraints militating against cooperative societies' effectiveness were low loan repayment and embezzlement of funds (poor management of funds) with respective means of 2.66 and 2.64.

Danjuma and Tanko (2020) appraised the influence of socioeconomic characteristic of members on their participation in cooperative societies in Adamawa State. In order to achieve the objectives, this study was guided by three research questions. The structured questionnaire was used to collect data from randomly selected 397 members from four agricultural zones of the state. This study recorded 95% returning rate and data collected were analysed with simple percentage, frequency table and chi-square. The results of analysis established that majority of members of cooperative in Adamawa state were self-engaged, fairly educated, married and in their actives ages. This study also found insignificant differences in the level of commitment of respondents irrespective of their level of education and job types. Also, there was insignificant difference in the proportionate of members benefiting from cooperative irrespective of their education and job type. However, the study showed slightly influence of education in participation and benefits. This study concluded that cooperatives are for all class of work, ages, gender, marital status as well as educational level.

Kelvin-Iloafu, Ukpere, Adekanmbi and Arukwe (2020) examined factors constraining the effective performance and sustainability of cooperative credit and thrift schemes in the local government areas (LGAs) in Enugu State. The study used a survey of 269 households drawn from 17 LGAs in Enugu state. The current researcher tested the study's hypotheses by conducting a descriptive statistic that specified the ascending mean differences of the highlighted constraints. The findings revealed that the factor that poses the most constraints to the effective performance and sustainability of credit and thrift schemes in the LGAs in Enugu State is the failure of some loaners to pay back, followed by insufficient funding and ignorance the scheme. It is essential to add that the strategic measures to accelerate the growth of cooperative credit and thrift schemes in the State include a well-designed strategy that increases the growth of thrift and loan, members receiving education, and orientation on as well as enacting legislation to protect the scheme. The study's finding reinforces the Government's attempt to overhaul its current monetary policy to afford cooperatives better opportunity to obtain the necessary funding. Finally, the paper proposed that efforts should be made to ensure a well-designed strategy that increases the growth of thrift and loan, create more awareness on the relevance of cooperative credit and thrift schemes, and create a more exclusive account for the scheme with reasonable interest.

Mutiso (2019) investigated the major challenges that have threatened the sustainability of Saccos in Kiambu County and propose practical solutions that can be adopted by the Saccos to ensure their survival. Guided by a descriptive survey design the study randomly sampled fifty (50) deposit taking Saccos which formed the basis of investigation. Data was collected with the help of a self- administered questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study established that among the challenges facing the sampled Saccos three featured prominently, which included competition from other financial institutions such as commercial banks, microfinance institutions, insurance companies and pension provident funds.

Research Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design, and focused particularly on cooperative management on member's participation and financial sustainability in Ekiti State with special reference to Seven (7) Local Government Areas (Ado, Oye, Moba, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ikole, Ido-Osi and Gbonyi) and with the total population of 260 in the seven (7) local government areas. The population is based on the cooperative societies with active members of the societies (Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperative, Ekiti State). The study Ado Ekiti LG, and selected three (3) Cooperative Societies with 150 respondents using random sampling method based on ratio 50:50:50 on the 3 cooperative societies. Therefore, fifty (50) respondents from the 3 understudied cooperative societies were taken into consideration with a copy of questionnaire each. From the 150 questionnaire distributed, 146 were retrieved. Therefore, the analyses were based on 146 respondents.

Model Specification

The model specification is based on the objectives of the study. Hitherto, two (2) model specification are designed to address the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

Model I: captured Cooperative management and its effect on members participation and involvement

Model II: captured Cooperative management and its effect on members financial sustainability

Hence, the model I and II are stated as:

MPI = f (CPM) i.

MFS = f (CPM) ii.

Where:

MPI = Members participation and involvement (Dependent variable)

MFS = Members financial sustainability (Dependent variable)

CPM = Cooperative management (Independent variable)

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics

	CPM	MPI	MPS
Mean	7.972603	8.431507	8.424658
Median	8.000000	8.000000	8.000000
Minimum	5.000000	5.000000	5.000000
Maximum	13.00000	14.00000	13.00000
Std. Dev.	1.494566	1.968397	1.552909
Skewness	0.855330	0.774887	0.335119
Kurtosis	4.302912	3.866187	3.521176
Jarque-Bera	28.12897	19.17515	4.385126
Probability	0.000001	0.000069	0.111630
Sum	1164.000	1231.000	1230.000
Sum Sq. Dev.	323.8904	561.8151	349.6712
Observations	146	146	146

Source: Author's Computation (2024)

Mean is the average value of the series which is obtained by dividing the total value of the series by the number of observations. Table 1 indicates that on average, cooperative management (CPM), members participation and involvement (MPI) and members financial sustainability (MPS) have respective mean of 7.972603, 8.431507 and 8.424658 which varies from minimum of 5.00 for all the variables understudied to maximum of 13.00, 14.00 and 13.00 respectively. Standard Deviation measures the degree of discrepancy in the series. The variable that recorded the highest value of discrepancy is MPI. Conversely, CPM shows the lowest level of discrepancy. Generally, the skewness of a normal distribution is zero, hence, positive skewness implies that the distribution has a long right tail and negative skewness implies that the distribution has a long-left tail. Evidently, it was observed that all the variables have positive skewness which implies that CPM, MPI and MPS have long right tail with coefficient of 0.855330, 0.774887, and 0.335119 respectively. Kurtosis measures the degree of peakedness or flatness of a distribution compared to a normal distribution. Positive kurtosis indicates a more peaked distribution (leptokurtic), while negative kurtosis indicates a flatter distribution (platykurtic). A distribution with a coefficient larger than 3 is said to be leptokurtic and one with a coefficient smaller than 3 is platykurtic. Hitherto, all the variables have a kurtosis value greater than 3, therefore, they are leptokurtic and all the variables have positive kurtosis value. Jarque-Bera is a statistical test that assesses whether the data follow a normal distribution based on skewness and kurtosis. Higher values indicate a departure from normality. The Jarque-Bera value in the result shows that all the data do not follow normal distributed based on probability value lesser than 5% significance level with the exception of MPS which has a lower level of Jarque-bera couple with an insignificant probability level at 5%.

Table 2: Descriptive Analysis of Respondent Demographic Variable

S/N	Demographic variable	Grouping	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Sex	Male Female	66 80	45.2 54.8
2	Marital Status	Single Married Divorced	35 89 22	24.0 61.0 15.1
3.	Age	21-30 31-40 41-50 51 years and above	7 43 52 44	4.8 29.5 35.6 30.1
4.	Educational Qualification	B.Sc./HND M.Sc./M.A P.hD.	42 46 58	28.8 31.5 39.7

Source: Field Survey Report (2024)

The analysis in table 2 showed that out of the total respondents in the study, 66 respondents were accounted for 45.2% while the remaining 80 respondents represent 54.8%. This implies that female participants are greater than male participants from the selected cooperative societies. 35 respondents representing 24%, 89 respondents representing 61% and 22 respondents representing 15.1% are single, married and divorced respectively.

More so, 7 (4.8%) of the total respondents are between the age of 21-30 years of age, 43 (29.5%) were between the age rank of 31-40 years, 52 (35.6%) are between the age range of 41-50 years and the remaining 44 (30.1%) were 51 years and above. The analysis of the table further revealed the educational qualification of the respondents, 42 respondents representing 28.8% were University/higher national diploma graduates, 46 (31.5%) obtained M.Sc. degree qualification and 58 (39.7%) were P.hD. degree holders.

Regression Result on Model I

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
CPM	0.268284	0.059192	4.532442	0.0000
C (MPI)	5.710564	0.512407	11.14460	0.0000
R-squared	0.124849	F-statistic		20.54303
Adj R-squared	0.118772	Prob(F-statistic)		0.000012
Observation	146	Durbin-Watson stat		2.24

Source: SPSS (2024)

The values in the table represent the regression coefficients between the exogenous and endogenous variables which are mathematically expressed as:

$MPI = 5.710564 + 0.268284_{\mathbf{CPM}} + \mu_t$

The regression finding reveals that there is a positive and significant relationship between the studied variables. The coefficient of CPM is 0.268284 which indicates a positive and significant relationship with MPI in Ekiti State. The result implies that at any given time within the scope of the study, CPM will always affect MPI positively. Furthermore, the changes in level of variation which stood at 12.48% implies that the R^2 is averagely low, which could be attributed to coefficients of the studied variables. However, the value of F-stat (20.54) and its probability $P<0.05$ suggests that the overall model is statistically significant.

Regression Result on Model II

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C (MPS)	7.016297	0.080191	0.203229	0.8392
CPM	0.835305	0.686886	11.40700	0.0000
R-squared	0.320287	F-statistic		9.141302
Adj R-squared	0.266656	Prob(F-statistic)		0.009243
Observation	146	Durbin-Watson stat		2.117508`

Source: SPSS (2024)

The values in the table represent the regression coefficients between the exogenous and endogenous variables which are mathematically expressed as:

$MPS= 7.016297 + 0.835305_{\mathbf{CPM}} + \mu_t$

The regression finding reveals that there is a positive and significant relationship between the studied variables. The coefficient of CPM is 0.835305 which indicates a positive and significant relationship with MPS in Ekiti State. The result implies that at any given time within the scope of the study, CPM will always affect MPS positively. Furthermore, the changes in level of variation which stood at 32.02% implies that the R^2 is averagely low, which could be attributed to coefficients of the studied variables. However, the value of F-stat (9.14) and its probability $P<0.05$ suggests that the overall model is statistically significant.

Summary of Findings

Evidence from the output of the result, it was established that, against all odds and expectations, cooperative management positively and significantly impact members' participation and involvement, and also, it was revealed that cooperative management has positive and significant influence on members financial sustainability in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Based on the result, it can be affirmatively stated and established that cooperative management cannot stand alone without the support of members' participation and their financial prowess.

The study concluded that cooperative management positively and significantly impacted members' participation and involvement, also, it was revealed that cooperative management has positive and significant influence on members' financial sustainability in Ekiti State, Nigeria. This suggests that cooperative societies have the interest of its members at heart and consider their financial strength in managing the welfare of the cooperative society. As such, the more financially literate and strengthened the members are, the more advanced it will affect the cooperative societies.

The study hereby recommended that the cooperative societies should encourage savings among their members, make more credit facilities, in large volume, available to their members and provide an easy repayment platform for the members to prevent default.

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