IMPACT OF WOMEN ENTERPRISE FUND ON WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN RONGAI LOCATION, RONGAI CONSTITUENCY; NAKURU COUNTY- KENYA

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A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION.

This paper is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or any other award.

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This proposal has been submitted with the approval of University Supervisors

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment is an important consideration in activities targeted at worldwide development. Governments, donors and NGOs have over the years initiated and implemented programmes aimed at empowering women socially and economically. The government of Kenya came up with the Women Enterprise Fund as a flagship project in the Vision 2030 to address serious national development challenges regarding the marginalization and exclusion of women from mainstream economy by providing accessible and affordable credit to support women start and/or expand business for wealth and employment creation. This study has been prompted by the recognition that just handing funds to women does not automatically translate into empowerment and thus sought to find out the effect of the WEF fund on the empowerment of women of Rongai Location, Rongai Constituency in Nakuru. The study begins with a background on entrepreneurship and women empowerment, a statement of the problem whereby it states that five years after the launch of the WEF it is unclear whether the fund is contributing to the growth of MSMEs and improving the livelihood of women. The objectives that will guide the study include the challenges that both the fund and the women face, whether the fund has increased the influence of women over economic participation, the structures of the fund that have facilitated women of Rongai location to access the fund and the strategies that can be put in place to ensure that the fund contributes to the growth of MSMEs and promote women empowerment. Chapter two looks at the review of related literature on the overview of the status of gender and economic empowerment, women in enterprise development and the constraints to women empowerment. The chapter concludes with the theory of gender stratification by Rae Lesser Blumberg in 1984 and a conceptual framework which will guide the study. On the methodology, a descriptive research design will be used in the study. Data will be generated from Focused Group Discussions, interview schedules and the use of questionnaires. Quantitative data will be analyzed using the SPSS while data generated from Focus Group Discussions and interviews will be analyzed according to the themes based on the research questions.