

**Self Help Groups Contribution to member Socio-Economic development: A case of  
Kizumbi and Samuye wards in Shinyanga District**

**By**

**Deogratius B. Aikaruwa**

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Self Help Groups are common grassroots member — based institutions in which people join to take collective actions in addressing different issues pertaining poverty reduction and improving their socio — economic situations. This research report is an output of a case study investigation on examining the contributions of Self Help Groups (SHGs) to the socio — economic development of their members in two wards of Shinyanga District (i.e. Samuye and Kizumbi). In this study, data, both primary and secondary was collected from the field using various data collection techniques including interview, questionnaire, focus group discussion and documentary review. The data were analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively, Statistical Packages of Social Scientist (SPSS) being helpful in the analysis. Findings showed that, the groups were purely informal and people joined for various motives including credit and saving, social support and technical support. The study also revealed that, members of SHGs performed different economic activities including farming, livestock keeping and petty business. In addition to social assistance, the functions of the groups were focused at assisting members in improving the activities they performed. From the findings, the report recommends that, SHGs as favourable grassroots institutions, if institutionalized, they will be effective way of mobilizing efforts and resources of poor people in the course of combating poverty. As it was found that group action works better than individual, it is recommended that SHGs when formalized may be used by community development actors in addressing poverty concerns in a community.