

# **Contribution of Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies to Members' Social Welfare**

## **A Case of Evangelical Lutheran Church and Tumaini SACCOS in Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania**

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The study intended to assess the contribution of ELCT and Tumaini SACCOS to improving social welfare of members in Kilimanjaro region. The specific objectives of the study were to assess the financial products or services offered by ELCT and Tumaini SACCOS towards social welfare improvement; examine how the products and services offered by ELCT and Tumaini SACCOS have improved social welfare of members; and determine challenges faced by ELCT and Tumaini SACCOS, in improving social welfare in Kilimanjaro region. It was a case design which intended to deeply understand the construct and contribution SACCOS on social welfare. Data were collected through questionnaire, interview and observation from 97 purposively sampled respondents. Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, which involved percentages, tables and figures, were used to present data collected. The findings from the study revealed that SACCOS provided loans, savings and training as services to their members. It was also found out that there was a significant and positive relationship on the improvements of social welfare of members before and after joining the SACCOS. Also, the study revealed that the major challenges facing ELCT and Tumaini SACCOS on improving social welfare to its members were collateral condition, weather and lending methods, regulations and policies. The study recommends that there should be availability of trained staff, SACCOS should organize regular training programmes for their clients and qualified institutions should conduct, there should be easy access to credit and members were must develop savings culture.