

**The Contribution of Village Community Banks to the Growth of Women's Micro
and Small Enterprises
Evidence From Mosiii Municipality**

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The VICOBA is said to be important to the rural and urban people who are marginalised from the formal MFIs. In order to understand the contribution of VICOBA to the growth of women micro and small enterprises, study was conducted in the selected VICOBA in Moshi Municipality. The specific objectives of the study were to assess the characteristics of women enterprises served by VICOBA; examine services offered by VICOBA; examine the effects of services offered by VICOBA on the women enterprise's growth; and determine the challenges of women entrepreneurs in accessing loans from VICOBA. A cross-sectional research design was used. Questionnaire, interview checklist and documentary review guide were used to collect data. Quantitative data was analysed and presented by using means, frequencies and percentages. Also, the test was used to determine variation between groups. Qualitative data was analysed through content analysis. On women characteristics findings showed that large number of women enterprises owners acquired small amount of capital from VICOBA. Also, about the services offered by VICOBA it was found that savings and loans were the most preferred services by the members though the priority of loans spending was on household consumptions. Additionally, women owned enterprises revealed low growth after joining VICOBA. Small loan size was the most challenge for enterprises growth. The study concludes members to effectively utilise acquired loans for intended business purposes. This study recommends on government to support VICOBA activities and VICOBA leaders should provide frequent training and education to members as well as close supervision to accommodate enterprise needs.