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**EFFECT OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP ON THE SAVINGS AND  
BORROWING ATTITUDE AMONG STAFF OF EKITI STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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**Abstract**

This study evaluated the effect of cooperative membership on the savings and borrowing attitude among staff of Ekiti State University. The study particularly established the relationship that exists between cooperative membership and socioeconomic state of staff in Ekiti State University, discovered the kinds of credit provided to members of cooperative societies in Ekiti State University and examined the nature of the collection and management of cooperative member's savings in Ekiti State University. The survey research design was employed as the quantitative and qualitative research method was adopted in the study. Ekiti State University Progressive Multipurpose Cooperative Society was purposively sampled for the study and the primary approach of data collection was used as 200 registered members of the Ekiti State University Progressive Multipurpose Cooperative Society were randomly sampled. Descriptive and inferential data analysis was used, result stemming from the analysis of the study indicated that cooperative membership affects noticeably the socioeconomic position of members, it was also discovered that there exists an efficient management and disbursement of funds, also evident in the result of the study is the transparency of the financial activities of cooperative societies Ekiti State University, it was as well discovered that the cooperative societies give responsive attention to the financial needs of its members with fair conditions. Premise on the findings, the study recommended that the government should make provision for loans with fair conditions through cooperative societies in Ekiti State University; loans and advances with a subsidized interest should be sought for by cooperative societies and seminar programmes should be conducted by the cooperative society to improve the saving attitude of members.

**Keywords:** Cooperative Society, Cooperative Membership, Credit and Savings.

**1. Introduction**

From the days of old cooperative societies have existed and over the length of time it has encouraged economic development globally particularly in almost all developing countries of the world. Cooperative societies were perceived by an old-time scholar Ijere (1978) as business organizations that aims at increasing profit to encourage growth of social businesses, employing business ideas to ease poverty of its members. Contemporary researchers maintained that it is an independent group of individuals who willingly collaborate to attain ordinary economic and social demands, aspirations, and intentions through an enterprise jointly owned and controlled democratically by a group of recognized members (Amahalu, 2005; Obasi, 2013). The frequent failure of banks in proffering loan benefits to individual without collateral securities caused the initiation of a social enterprise that guarantees complete support and backings to individuals with

urgent economic needs (Obasi, 2013). The plan was to gather economic resources of members to alleviate the problem of access to socio-economic resources particularly financial resources.

The unmet individual need for financial aid caused particularly by financial institutions brought about the emergence of cooperative societies as an issue in economic, financial and social science subjects. This concept has become so noted that local and international organizations have over time adopted and employed it to practically all aspects of the economic demands of individuals at rural and urban areas. This global acceptance may have caused the advocacy of United Nations and the announcement of the year 2005 as the international year of microcredit and the subsequent declaration of international year of cooperatives in 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly (Onafowokan, 2012).

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 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 ennoble the economic position of its members, and hence fostering a standard live among individuals requires making functional, relevant and compulsory cooperative membership particularly among staff in our contemporary days.

The qualitative change expected in every area of a given society in a developed economy appears almost unattainable as compared to economic growth which is referred to as a continuous increase in the level of real gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy. Following this defect, there exists the need for a grounded effort aimed at achieving this justified goal in the society. There might be an important need for effective cooperatives, considering the significant role they perform in the revitalization process, following their contribution they proffer in availing the growth of several economies of countries (Ighomereho, Dauda & Olabisi, 2012). Despite the structure of cooperative organizations that ensures that its members are its primary beneficiaries, they also exert influence on the general society which indirectly affects positively the economic positions of countries (GSDRC, 2011).

### *1.2 Importance of the Problem*

Nigeria, a low-income country where a reasonable amount of its citizens feed on less than US\$1 per day has been affected immensely by the significant roles ensured by effective cooperatives in the country (Onafowokan, 2012). It has been maintained that over 80% of Nigeria population has suffered several maladies due to the limited access to formal financial providers; this group of unfortunate citizens are majorly the low-income households. They have experienced this problem over time because providers of financial services have often recognized them as too

poor financially and incapable to gain access to excess funds for either savings or borrowings from their institutions (Chiumya, 2006).

Formal financial services have only been opened to the rich and business owners. In fact, it has been estimated that 35% of the economically successful population of Nigerian citizens have access to unlimited credit while the remaining 65% are prevented from their financial provisions. This depicts that a country maintaining over 180 million people have had the average of its population served by informal service providers (Iganiga, 2008). The hope for poverty alleviation, stable standard of living amongst Nigerians and sustainable economic development would be hampered if the main financial service providers to individuals and households are cooperative societies, rotational savings groups and self-help groups.

The main thrust of this study is to examine the effect of cooperative membership on the savings and borrowing attitude among staff of Ekiti State University. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. establish the relationship that exists between cooperative membership and socioeconomic state of staff in Ekiti State University.
- ii. examine the nature of the collection and management of cooperative member's savings in Ekiti State University.
- iii. discover the modes of credit disbursement to members of cooperative societies in Ekiti State University.

### *1.3 Review of Literature*

There exists no universally acceptable definition for cooperative societies as several meanings have been attached to the concept. Cooperative societies are self-controlled, self-funded microfinance institutions and often noticeable in communities as they are meant to service the local dwellers where the possibility to reach a formal banking system is almost impossible (Simkhada, 2004). Cooperatives are financial groups established and managed by the members, providing savings and credit facilities to their members in the community (Sharma, Simkhada & Shrestha 2005).

Cooperatives are voluntary society owned, managed and democratically controlled by members within a particular location (Adedayo & Yusuf, 2004). Henry and Schimmel posits that it is an independent association of people who willingly come together to establish a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise referred to as cooperatives to service the diverse needs of its members. It can also be seen as a system designed to enhance the numerous individuals and improve micro and small-scale entrepreneurs both in the rural and urban areas organizing savings and giving access to funds as loans as at when required from the scheme. They are privately established societies of individuals who have agreed to unite and operate a savings and loan system amongst their members (Olujobi, 2010).

Cooperative societies which could also be referred to as credit unions, financial cooperatives, credit cooperatives and credit unions could be supported by the government, members or by an implemented program (Simkhada, 2004). Government supported cooperatives are created,

owned and funded by the government to reach its economic goals. Cooperatives sponsored by members are known as members sponsored cooperatives and the program supported cooperatives are created by contemporary organizations which may be a bank, NGO, donor, churches, institutions etc. formed for a specific group of people in a particular location with a particular aim of alleviating poverty.

Cooperatives were introduced in 1935 during the colonial administration in Nigeria. As at this time, the common type of cooperatives were the Cooperative Thrift and Credit Societies, members of societies of this kind began to increase and the numbers of the societies also increased continually during the 1940s and 1950s. The Southern states noticed a greater increase in these societies as they suitably fitted into the existing money systems, morals and approach of decision making (Marx and Seibel, 2012).

The bottom part of all financial societies was the traditional and simple financial intermediation model that grants a membership right to individuals upon their acceptance as members which is initiated with the purchase of the minimum shares prescribed by the society and the individual's consent to make a constant savings at meetings. Premise on the establishment of these facts the society would approve loans to members on their demand which is not with a reasonable share and savings which serves as the most important collateral and the observation of a maximum credit limit (MCL) of three times one's savings. From the inception of this initiative, buildings or offices are owned by few societies, but meetings are held at the residence of the chairperson.

The late 1940 experienced the emergence of secondary cooperative societies established and managed by their member societies. Deviation from the usual business model was not noticed as members still have to contribute the share capital of the secondary society and keep a certain share of their savings with it. Seibel and Marx (1984) in their study discovered that the model functioned effectively up to 1970s in several aspects as the want for loans was moderate, maybe due to the stringent regulations prevalent in the system as banks were often not depositing liquidity, the system in its entirety was often checked by educated cooperative inspectors. Their study explicitly found that the cooperative legislation introduced a mandatory cooperative audit by the cooperative auditor before the distribution of any dividends to members. The rule was severely enforced until the beginning of 1960s when the total number of cooperative auditors was enough to investigate the numerous societies available.

In contrast to other developing economies, politics in Nigeria realized the ability of the cooperative sector to function as a tool of rural and economic development and later as compensatory mechanism to distribute the national wealth derived from oil exports. The goal behind the adoption of the policy by several governments was not to encourage thrift, self-help, organic growth, self-help, self-control, prudent expansion, but to make available external subsidies to enhance the attractiveness of cooperative societies. The cooperatives experienced a wide expansion beyond the areas where it previously dominated in the 1970s through the mid-1980s due to the distribution of tinned milk, stockfish and cheap loans through cooperatives.

The increase in the number of societies was not accompanied by the increase of capacity in the state cooperative departments. While a working monitoring system and means of transport gave

permission to inspectors to attend meetings of societies, the number of cooperative auditors maintained practically the same position. Resulting from this was the inability of cooperative auditors to audit primary societies as often as before. This exerts a negative effect on the standard of records maintained by cooperatives and impeded societies from announcing dividends. As cooperatives were impeded by legislation to aid the audit of their accounts by private auditors, they were restricted from successfully borrowing from commercial banks (Marx & Seibel, 2012).

The establishment of the secondary unions (Cooperative Financing Agencies) in the 1970s was championed by the primary societies. Several regions of the world noticed the replacement of the former secondary cooperative unions which was perceived as stale by the society. Funds from the purses of the government including state budgets and the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB) served as the primary source of capital for the CFAs. While members of the primary societies consider the government loans as their portion in the returns of the government, they were not less focused on the repayment of their loans to their primary society, consequent upon this is the inability of the primary societies to fulfill the payment of their loans to the state CFA. Also, resulting from that act is the collapse of the three-tier conduit system from NACB to state CFAs and primary societies (Marx & Seibel, 2012). As at the late 1990s, all but two CFAs became exhausted their share capital and became insolvent. Surprisingly, two CFAs sustained the distress in the mid-1990s, although their business model was modified. The urgent aim of the existing CFAs changed to the operation of school feeding programmes funded by their respective states, financial intermediation was made to halt as huge capital meant for lending was lost. They then came to a realization that they lack the required knowledge to survive in a rapidly changing market; they were also not evaluated creditworthy by banks and hence the merit of finances by their usual financiers was lost (Marx & Seibel, 2012).

Overtime, the notion that cooperative is meant for the poor in the rural areas of developing nation has been dominant among most people, Singh (2004) contradicted the idea as he asserted that there is an increased demand for cooperatives all over the world and that their services is not restricted to rural areas alone but it has been workable in both developed and developing countries. The participants of cooperative societies e.g. teachers, household heads, pensioners, staff, business owners, market women are categorized into four poverty levels which includes extremely poor, destitute, moderately poor and vulnerable non-poor (Udejaja & Ibe, 2005). In Nigeria, participants of either formal or informal cooperative are not confined to the illiterate semi illiterate alone because workers of a large organization often run a cooperative society.

The provision of savings opportunity for members is one of the features of cooperative society, although it may not occur in all situations as some are established and financed by the government or by NGO only to reduce the effect of the unfavorable condition of the economy on the participants. Cooperative societies are not limited to an area because the main focus is to help the needy and they are present in both the rural and the urban areas. But this set of people may be difficult to recognize in the city as they are poor and may desire to take part in cooperative especially when commercial banks do not have any suitable product or service as approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN, 2005).

The presence and operation of employee cooperatives in an organization limits the bulk of loan application from employees, members also get access to the acquisition of household equipment and other assets at a subsidized interest rate over a certain period of time (Oluyombo, 2010). Oke, Adeyemo & Agbonlahor (2007) study's findings indicated that a large number of customers of microfinance banks in the South Western Region in Nigeria are members of cooperation societies and that improvement in payment of loans in microfinance program by 7.055 is as a result of the active participation of the customers in cooperative societies

Adetiloye, Taiwo, Okoye and Achugamonu (2018) examined the portfolio behaviour of employment-based cooperative thrift and credit societies in Nigeria. Primary method was used to collect data from 222 cooperative thrift members of 14 firms with questionnaires. Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and the Two-Stage least square (2SLS) regressions aided in the analysis process. The results revealed that participatory members' strength was significant across the various regressions and also supported finance from deposits of members and other sources such as loans. Based on the result, it is recommended that the type of cooperative should be channelized and encouraged in the mainstream workplace and financial institutions.

Kolandavel and Nigatu (2017) investigated the determinants of cash-savings of farmers in rural savings and credit cooperatives in Southern Ethiopia. Primary and Secondary data were sourced for from farmers and district government agencies respectively, and multiple linear regression technique was used to establish the level of correlation between independent and the dependent variables. It is noted that 8 out of 13 variables were significant at different probability stages. Factors like: amount of loan, amount of on-farm income, amount of non-farm, and access to reformative training were positively and significantly related to the level of farmers' average yearly savings. Also, family size and structure of respondent, credit beneficiary and total expenditure status of respondent were negatively and significantly related to the level of farmers' average yearly savings in cooperatives. Recommendation conveyed the need for frequent consideration of cooperative training or mobilization of farmers for higher savings.

Ekore and Omisore (2013) evaluated the attitude towards savings, cooperative loans and monetary investment as predictors of psychological well-being among university non-academic staff. A survey design of sampled size of 230, in which 122 respondents were males while 108 were females with a mean age of 38 years (SD=10.39). Result identified that the behavioral attitude towards or the relationship between saving and cooperative loan were the significant stimulators of psychological wellness. Recommendation indicated the need for training programmes in which staff can know the best adoptable strategies for the improvement and sustainability of personal savings.

Adedeji and Olotuah (2013) examined an evaluation of accessibility of low-income earners to housing finance in Nigeria. The study adopted survey research technique at Federal University of Technology, Akure in 2009. 350 questionnaires were attested and 297 were withheld for the analytical processes. It is indicated that the operations of the cooperative societies were quite creditable. Desire for housing loans by almost 90% of the overall population of the sampled score of people, expressly showed that the access to housing finance or acquisition of loan for such were far from reality. Therefore, it is recommended that the burning thirst for personal

houses amongst the cooperators can be quenched provided fund which will take the structure to desired and economic status is given to out.

Opatola, Jegede and Obaleye (2017) investigated evaluation of the impact of Obafemi Awolowo University (Ile-Ife) staff cooperative thrift and credit society's on its members. Primary data were gathered through structured questionnaires on the sampled population of 251 out of the overall population of 2,500 members. Quantitative data were analyzed with the aid of percentages with frequency tables while qualitative data by content analysis. The study showed that in spite of the fact that the managerial orientation of the body team was critically stumpy; the organization, exempting the help from banks; influenced the entrepreneurial and spatial development of the environment by monetary empowerment for the emergence of material needs such as landed properties and cars; nurtured savings habit and direct access for loan acquisition. It is noted that, insufficient loanable capital and over-pressurizing loan concise period affected the system negatively. Among others, it is suggested that awareness of constructive and strategic planning basically for retirement should be incorporated to the system as loan issued will be used adequately and effectively.

Farouk, David and David (2014) studied savings and credit cooperative societies (SCCs): a panacea to accessing funds for housing development to workers of public institutions in Nigeria. Questionnaires were completely and well administered to by 82 responsive staff of the IAR Rangwame Multipurpose Cooperative Society (IRMCS) while 3 were given to the officials of the society. The gathered data were analyzed by descriptive analysis, chi-square test and cooperators satisfaction index (CSI). It is revealed that IRMCS had no significant impact in providing housing fund for some members based on unattractive borrowings. As a result of unfavorable fund borrowings from the society and the infancy stage at the period of the study, there existed a pressurized and urgent sourcing of funds from personal earnings and other means in order to compliment the loan obtained from IRMCS. To solve the problem of house ownership among the cooperators, national housing policy should incorporate cooperative societies into the policy for unanimous effect, as this will ease the stress of public workers in the quest to own personal houses.

Alex (2014) studied the causes and control of loan default/delinquency in microfinance institutions in Ghana. The study employed survey design which included both quantitative and qualitative techniques, and random sampling method was embraced to select 25 Microfinance Institutions from the capital city. It is revealed that the fundamental challenges of loan default involved; poor appraisal, improper selection of client, inadequate loan weights, high interest rate, and mismanagement. Best measures for the challenges were shown to involve extensive training pre and post disbursement, proper and close monitoring of customers, friendly interest rate, and adequate loan appraisal. Based on the results, regulation and supervision of MFIs should hence be strictly done by both government and Ghana banks for avenue to safeguard clients' funds and build customer's confidence.

Nyanda (2013) examined the factors influencing empowerment of cooperative members in Tanzania: a case study of Nyanza cooperative union, Mwanza region. Qualitative data were estimated and coded, and content analysis was adopted to examine views, FGDs' verbal and

comments in order to establish responses gathered from the administered questionnaires. It is found that almost 95% of the cooperative members were poorly empowered for reasons which included; poor leadership, misappropriation of fund or unaccountability, short members participation, politics driven other than business, and corruption. To rectify or eliminate the mentioned challenges, it is recommended that government should assure and activate regular support and of course protect the cooperatives as germane firms in order to make national aims and objectives a reality.

Tumwine, Mbabazi and Jaya (2015) investigated the savings and credit cooperatives (Sacco's) services' terms and members' economic development in Rwanda. Data were gathered through questionnaires, interviews and observation methods. The data were analyzed with the aid of statistical method, (correlations, regressions analyses, and descriptive statistical). It is found that credit services conditions were efficiently palatable to the participators and there existed a strong positive and significant correlation between credit service terms and members' economic development and also a significant impact of credit service terms on members' economic development.

Nwachukwu and Odigie (2011) evaluated what drives private saving in Nigeria. Error-Correction Model technique was adopted to limit the tendency of spurious estimation relations, in the retaining long-run data. Findings indicated that the saving rate sprang up with both the real interest rate and growth rate of disposable income on bank deposits. Also, it is unveiled that the level of financial depth had a negative but insignificant influence on saving behaviour in the country. Therefore, it is recommended that government should systematically project a rocket towards strengthening fiscal balance which had the characteristics of enhancing substantial increment in the national saving rate.

## **2. Method**

The study employed a survey research design incorporating both quantitative and qualitative forms of research method. The study's population includes cooperative members in Ekiti State University. Ekiti State University Progressive Multipurpose Cooperative Society was purposively selected for the study while random sampling technique was used to select a total of two hundred registered members from the Ekiti State University Progressive Multipurpose Cooperative Society. A well-structured questionnaire was considered appropriate for the study.

Following the gaps discovered in previous researches i.e. the bulk of researches that adopted a descriptive model and analytical technique, the study identified these gaps and employed a linear regression model in examining the exact effect of cooperative membership on the saving capacity of Ekiti State University staff. The model adopted in this study is presented below in its linear and functional form. The objective one will be achieved using regression analysis while objectives two and three will be examined using T-test statistics.

Cooperative membership (COM) is the study's target variable depicting the participation of individual staff in the activities of cooperative society, this variable is considered to influence the socioeconomic state (SOS) of staff. Hence, we present the compact functional form of the model as follows;



$$Y = f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where:

$Y$  = Cooperative Membership

$X_1$  = Socioeconomic State

For equation (1) to be amenable to analytical computation, we present it in a linear functional form as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SOS Ut \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where:

$\beta_0$  = Constant,

$\beta_1$  =  $\beta_5$  are the parameters to be estimated

$Ut$  = Random error term

Data Analysis and Discussion

**Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents**

Variable	Detail	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	132	66
	Female	68	34
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
Staff Group	Academic	103	51.5
	Non-academic	60	30
	Senior Lecturer	37	18.5
	Laboratory Technician	Nil	Nil
	<b>Accountant/Auditor</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
Formal Education	Bachelor's Degree	43	21.5
	Master Degree	146	73
	Doctoral Degree	11	5.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
Years of Work Experience	Below 3 Years	54	27
	3-5 Years	63	31.5
	6 and Above	83	41.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
How do you rate your knowledge on the Effect of Corporate Membership and the Borrowing and Saving Attitude among Staff	Very High	58	29
	High	81	40.5
	Moderate	18	9
	Low	31	15.5
	Very Low	12	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2018**

Evident in table 1 is the demographic information of respondents that participated in the study. The gender of respondents reports that the male maintains a 66 percent of the total respondents; this is quite tenable because the male undoubtedly are the head of the household and they take charge of the most crucial financial and welfare responsibilities in the household, Also revealed

in the table is the group of staff that took part in the survey, it is clearly seen that the study sampled the cardinal staff in the university. It is also shown in table one that the study's respondents encompassed well-learned staff as 78.5 percent of the respondents has attained an impressive academic position beyond their first degrees.

The finding also indicates that 73 percent of the total population have been in the university system and has been members of the university's cooperative society for over three years. This affirms that majority of the study's participant has got much savvy in the operations of the cooperative. In addition, about 70% of the total respondents assert that they possess a satisfied knowledge on the effect of corporate membership and the borrowing and saving attitude among staff. Conclusively, considering the demographics of the study's participants reported in table 1, practically all the participants possess es certain information about cooperatives especially in the university environment.

**Table 2: Distribution according to the Nature of Collection and Management of Savings of Cooperative Members.**

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Std. Error
Members of cooperative in EKSU save a proportion of their salary every month	200	1.9450	1.55372	.10986
Savings of members of cooperative in EKSU are been deducted directly from their salary	200	1.5700	.65363	.04622
Money contributed by members of cooperative in EKSU are been accounted for at every interval of the year	200	1.9300	.91063	.06439
There are efficient management and disbursement of funds in EKSU cooperative	200	2.7950	1.26530	.08947
Members savings in EKSU cooperative are often audited and reported to all members	200	1.9600	.87305	.06173

*Source: Field Survey, 2018*

Table 2 depicts the nature of collection and management of savings of cooperative members. This table reflects the significance of the following statement: members of cooperative in EKSU save a proportion of their salary every month, savings of members of cooperative in EKSU are been deducted directly from their salary, money contributed by members of cooperative in EKSU are been accounted for at every interval of the year, there are efficient management and disbursement of funds in EKSU cooperative and Members savings in EKSU cooperative are often audited and reported to all members. Indicated in the table are figures showing the validity of the statements, all the variables were identified significant.

**Table 3: Distribution according to the Mode of Credit Disbursement to Members of Cooperative Society.**

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Std. Error
The cooperative has provided me loans with fair conditions.	200	2.9850	1.31660	.09310
Often time, the exact amount of loan applied for is approved and	200	2.5150	1.06085	.07501

received disbursed completely to me.				
Advances are provided at less stringent conditions to current and active members of the cooperative.	200	3.1550	1.29978	.09191
There exists high interest rate in loans and advances provided by my cooperative so I opt for credits in other financial institutions.	200	2.5450	1.35542	.09584
Disbursement of approved loans and advances are often untimely.	200	2.6500	1.27894	.09043

*Source: Field Survey, 2018*

Table 3 reflects the mode of credit disbursement to members of cooperative society. This table shows the significance of the following statement: The cooperative has provided me loans with fair conditions, often time, the exact amount of loan applied for is approved and received disbursed completely to me, advances are provided at less stringent conditions to current and active members of the cooperative, there exist high interest rate in loans and advances provided by my cooperative so I opt for credits in other financial institutions and disbursement of approved loans and advances are often untimely. Following the results shown in table 3 above, it is evident that loan and advance are the most usual credit received by cooperative members, often with less severe conditions. Although, the disbursement of these credits is often untimely.

**Relationship between cooperative membership and socioeconomic state of staff in Ekiti State University.**

**Table 4: Regression Estimation Result**

Dependent Variable: Socioeconomic Status of Staff

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>	<b>Std Error</b>	<b>t-statistics</b>	<b>Prob.</b>
C	23.52993	5.181470	4.541170	0.0002
COM	0.035317	0.174225	-0.202710	0.8414

R-Squared= 0.002050

Adjusted R-Square= -0.047847

F-statistics= 0.041091

Prob(F-statistics) = 0.841410

Result of the regression estimation presented in table 4 revealed coefficient estimates of 0.035317 alongside probability value of 0.8414, which represents cooperative membership. The result revealingly described that the explanatory variable exerts positive impact on social economic status of staff. In specific term the result showed that the social economic position of staff will increase by about 0.035317 if they enroll in cooperative society. Corresponding probability values presented in table 4 showed that the impact of cooperative membership on socioeconomic status of staff tends to be significant, R-square statistics reported in table 4: stood at 0.002050, which implies that the systematic variation in socioeconomic status of staff cannot be explained by variation of cooperative membership.

**Conclusion**

Dwelling on the above discourse, it can be concluded that cooperative membership affects noticeably the socioeconomic position of members; this is unarguable as the platform of such society bears the burdens of its members i.e. the need of each member becomes a joint need of all members of the society. Conclusions were also drawn from the findings of the study which revealed that there exists an efficient management and disbursement of funds; the activities particularly financial activities of cooperatives Ekiti State University are transparent. Also, the study concluded that cooperative societies disburse credit to its members with fair conditions that eases the memories of member's debt; this is in no doubt true because loans and advances despite its increased interest rate and its unusual untimely arrival are open to current and active members who have an urgent need to catch up with. Lastly, the study concluded that the cooperative membership affects significantly the savings and borrowing attitudes of staff of Ekiti State University.

### **Recommendations**

Following the discoveries noticed in the analysis of this study, the researcher therefore suggests that:

- i. Considering the place of cooperative societies in the socioeconomic state of staff, it is pertinent to note that a delay in disbursement of approved loans will aggravate the problem of its members; hence the government should make provision for loans with fair conditions through cooperative societies in Ekiti State University.
- ii. Loans and advances with a subsidized interest should be sought for by cooperative societies; this will make members stick with the society for a long period of time and also enable their performance.
- iii. Seminar programmes should be conducted by the cooperative society to improve the saving attitude of members.

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