ABSTRACT
The research study aimed at examining women in development through cooperatives and how cooperatives can be made more effective as instruments to empower women in development in Rwanda, taking Kicukiro District of Kigali City in Rwanda as a case study. It was conducted along the following objectives: to examine the contribution of women in development through cooperatives, to identify the challenges which women face in development through cooperatives, to establish the strategies for overcoming setbacks which women face in development through cooperatives in Kigali City. Data were collected using questionnaire, face to face interviews and focus group discussions and they were guided by the questionnaire which was distributed to be filled in by 100 respondents who constituted the sample size of the study; existing literature on cooperative enterprises was reviewed and the information generated contributed to the understanding of Cooperative movement and their contributions to the socio-economic welfare of members. The study showed that cooperatives have helped women to contribute greatly to development although, as members of cooperative they were facing a multiplicity of challenges. These challenges were being tried on a variety of strategies ranging from social to economic measures. There is need for government support in order to exploit full potential of cooperative movement to attain development of women through them.