

Unlocking Opportunities: A Data-Driven Study on Microfinance and Women Entrepreneurs in India's Small and Medium Enterprises

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Abstract: *In India, microfinance has been crucial in encouraging women to start their own businesses, particularly in the small and medium-sized business (SME) sector, where it is still difficult for them to have access to traditional financial institutions. By examining its effects on company expansion, financial independence, and general empowerment, this study seeks to evaluate the effects of microfinance on female entrepreneurs. Data has been gathered from a wide range of women-led SMEs in various Indian regions using a quantitative research methodology. The study looks into important topics such loan availability, microfinance money utilisation, financial literacy, business growth, and the socioeconomic advantages of entrepreneurship for women.*

The results indicate that microfinance plays a vital role in company growth by helping women launch and grow their businesses, which enhances financial security and creates more job opportunities. However, obstacles including exorbitant interest rates, pressure to repay loans, and a lack of financial literacy still prevent microfinance efforts from reaching their full potential. Furthermore, the study investigates how microfinance institutions (MFIs) and self-help groups (SHGs) promote financial inclusion and looks at how government regulations and assistance initiatives might increase their efficacy.

The purpose of this project is to test and examine the effects of microfinance, a crucial tool for female entrepreneurs. A "standard questionnaire," which was developed using a five-point interval scale, yielded a sample of 145 respondents.

Keywords: Microfinance, Women Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises, Women Entrepreneurs

