

The Impact of Microfinance on Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Study Across Rural and Urban Areas

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Abstract: *Microfinance has proven to be an important poverty-alleviation instrument and a vehicle for women's empowerment, particularly in developing economies. This research investigates the effects of microfinance schemes on women's empowerment and poverty alleviation in rural and urban settings. We pursue a comparative method to investigate differences in economic independence, decision-making authority, and social mobility. Applying a mixed-method research design, the research evaluates the impact of microfinance schemes through primary data gathered from beneficiaries in varying regions. The research indicates that microfinance plays a positive role in women's empowerment in both contexts, with rural areas experiencing higher difficulties with financial literacy and access to resources. It concludes that differentiated microfinance approaches are essential to maximize the impact across different socio-economic settings.*

Keywords: Microfinance, Women Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, Rural , Urban Areas

