

Project Scope Statement

Project Title: Empowerment Through Counter-Accounting: A 'Counter-App' for Holistic Microfinance Evaluation

Project Summary and Justification:

Microfinance initiatives, often hailed as vehicles for poverty reduction and women's empowerment, face criticism for their unintended consequences, particularly the pressure they exert on borrowers, especially women. Traditional accounting practices within microfinance fail to capture these nuances. This project seeks to develop a 'counter-app' that redefines accounting in the microfinance context, enabling impoverished women to make more informed financial decisions. The app will provide tools for assessing the true costs of microfinance loans, curated narratives offering diverse perspectives, a social platform for discussion, and visual representations of financialization.

Project Vision Statement:

The project aims to reform accounting's role in microfinance by challenging conventional norms and empowering impoverished women through a 'counter-account' approach.

Project Stakeholders:

- Poverty-stricken women and financially vulnerable individuals in Australia seeking microfinance services
- Dr. Farzana Tanima, Chief Investigator of the UOW AIGIES Grants team

Product Requirements and Characteristics:

The web application will include:

- Calculator for assessing microfinance loan costs
- Curated narrative repository
- Social media-like forum
- Interactive pictograph illustrating financialization's daily impact

****Additional Nice-To-Have Features:****

- Discussion platform for professionals
- User role for banking institutions
- Bangladeshi translation for international reach

Project Deliverables:

Project Management Related Deliverables:

- Initial business case
- Project timeline
- Work Breakdown Structure
- Milestones report
- Technical report
- Project management progress reports
- Prototype and final product demonstrations

Product Related Deliverables:

- User interface wireframes and design
- Web application prototype
- Viable application solution
- User manuals
- Promotional material

Project Success Criteria:

- Completion within deadline and budget
- Fulfillment of all product requirements
- Satisfied user experience