

ROLE OF MICROFINANCE IN EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN: AN IMPACT STUDY OF SHGs IN THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH

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1.11 Conclusion

The present study indicated the impact of microfinance on socio-economic growth of the selected districts Dhar, Barwani, Dindhori, Mandla, Jhabua, and Alirajpur of Madhya Pradesh. However, these conclusions are resulting from a sample of 600 individual microfinance beneficiaries and 120 MSME through MFIs. Despite the benefits and positive impacts of microfinance in the state, still, there have some limitations. In the normal view, the interest charged by the microfinance seems to be not high. Microfinance helps borrowers to achieve higher family incomes, lift savings rates, improve lifetime spending habits, and eventually be able to diversify their revenue generation resources. It improves the empowerment of poor people, especially women, by enabling people accessing greater health and education services, from intermittent lesser daily employment to differentiated forms of income for business owners. Therefore it is very much necessary to regulate the interest rate of microfinance in the state by the respective authority. One of the interesting experiences during the study is that women's empowerment relies on women's economic empowerment. In the coming days, microfinance will appear to be a rather essential aspect of women's empowerment. After joining the SHG and bank linkage program, rural women are socio-economically and mentally empowered, and having access to micro-credit in service has reduced poverty, but women entrepreneurs have also demonstrated their dedication to achieving their goal. Some of the beneficiaries were found to reduce their income after getting a microfinance loan. The main reason is that they utilized the maximum amount of microfinance loans to repay the money borrowed from moneylenders which they already used in their business. Due to this their capital amount has been reduced and ultimately the income also reduced. Moreover the advantages of creating self-help groups should be understood and an environment of information sharing and cooperation inside the community should be established. Microfinancing, which can be used in the real essence, is truly a useful weapon for Tribal economic and social change in these areas. Microfinance, therefore, is a way of lifting the vulnerable from under the poverty line and freeing them from the chains of exploitation to personality and freedom. Self-help groups are an important link between the members and the local banks. There are several benefits conferred by different activities under the SHG scheme. Self-help groups effectively take care of the present need and requirements of the tribal women in the area studied. SHGs improve tribal women's household income and position, reducing their financial dependence. Finally, it can be concluded that there have many advantages and

disadvantages of microfinance in the state, particularly in the selected six districts. Even though the beneficiaries say microfinance is good for them, they do not know how much interest microfinance charges from them. As a result, it's still a huge question, whether microfinance still works for the poor? Or Are they just working for profit?

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