

The Social Impact of Microfinance

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Abstract

Reformative role of microfinance programmes on rural women in terms of changes in social conditions is studied. A sample of eight hundred women beneficiaries of microfinance services of a leading Cooperative Bank operating in Malenadu Region, Karnataka state is taken. Thus, by this study, it can be concluded that the rural women's have been greatly benefited by Microfinance. The rural women deprived now feel that they can also be associates in the process of rural development by joining the microfinance. The training of the members by the Government and NGOs had increased their confidence, restored self-importance and improved their social concern about the neighbors. The SHG can contribute to changes in economic conditions, social status, decision making and increases women in outdoor activities. Microfinance through SHGs not only changes the outer form of a community or a society but also the social institutions as well as ideas of the people living in the society.

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I. Introduction

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT IS anticipated as a method of rising an intellect of self-confidence and independence also performing collectively and independently to modify the discourses and social relationships and institutions that ignore individuals who are poor and retain them in poverty. Empowerment of people who are poor, and capability to grasp others to account, is inclined intensely by assets and capabilities of individual (savings, housing, land, and livestock) of all kinds: psychological (self-confidence, self-esteem, aspire to a better future and the ability to imagine), social (social belonging, a sense of identity, human (good health and

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