

The Impact of Microfinance on Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: This research study identifies the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in Colombo district, Sri Lanka.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A sample of 200 women who are engaged in taking microcredit via official, non-official, rural cooperatives, and self-help groups were selected through convenience sampling for data collection. Descriptive statistics were used to data were analyzed using SPSS software.

Findings: The results confirm that microfinance has a significant positive impact on women's empowerment. Furthermore, the variables of women engaging in an income-earning activity, age of the women, and most valuable asset owned in the household have a positive significant effect on the level of women empowerment in the study area.

Conclusion: The final result emphasizes that there is a significant positive impact on women's empowerment with income-earning activity, age, and most valuable asset. Further, it was found that there is no significant effect on education, the number of children, and the Marital status of women's empowerment.

Keywords: *Women empowerment, Microfinance, Sri Lanka*