



Microfinance in Lesotho Highlands: Enhancing Rural Credit Access for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth

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Abstract

Microfinance initiatives have gained attention for their potential to alleviate poverty by providing small loans to rural populations in Lesotho Highlands. No empirical data were collected; instead, a literature review was conducted to assess existing microfinance programmes and their impact on rural communities in Lesotho Highlands. While microfinance can be an effective tool for rural credit access, the sustainability and scalability of such programmes require further investigation and policy support. Government policies should provide regulatory frameworks that ensure fair lending practices and protect borrowers from exploitation. Microcredit service providers must collaborate with local communities to tailor financial products to their needs.

Keywords: *African geography, microfinance, poverty reduction, rural development, econometrics, community-based lending, growth theory*

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