



Microfinance Institutions and Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia: A Comparative Study

Alemayehu Assefa¹

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addis Ababa University

Published: 12 May 2008 | **Received:** 21 January 2008 | **Accepted:** 09 April 2008

Correspondence: aassefa@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18881255](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18881255)

Author notes

Alemayehu Assefa is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addis Ababa University and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abstract

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) play a crucial role in empowering women entrepreneurs across various developing economies, including Ethiopia. In this context, MFIs provide financial services and support to small-scale enterprises owned by women, often serving as key drivers of economic development and poverty reduction. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative insights from semi-structured interviews. Data collection was conducted in urban and rural areas of Ethiopia, targeting both established MFIs and newer ones operating within the country. Analysis reveals that women entrepreneurs who have access to MFI services are more likely to secure loans and manage their businesses effectively compared to those without such support. Specifically, 65% of female entrepreneurs reported improved business performance after receiving financial assistance from an MFI. This study underscores the importance of continued collaboration between MFIs and government bodies to enhance women's economic participation in Ethiopia. The findings highlight the need for tailored interventions that address unique challenges faced by female entrepreneurs within different geographical contexts. Policy recommendations include expanding access to MFI services through partnerships with local financial institutions, enhancing training programmes on business management, and ensuring regulatory compliance to foster sustainable growth of women-owned enterprises.

Keywords: *African Development, Empowerment Studies, Gender Economics, Microfinance, Poverty Reduction, Rural Entrepreneurship, Social Banking*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge