



Microfinance Institutions and Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopian Microenterprise Development

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Abstract

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) play a crucial role in providing financial services to marginalized populations, including women entrepreneurs who often face systemic barriers. A mixed-methods approach incorporating quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews was employed to gather data from a diverse sample of women entrepreneurs across different regions of Ethiopia. The survey revealed that over 75% of respondents reported improved access to credit, which significantly contributed to their business growth and financial stability. The findings underscore the critical role of MFI support in fostering economic empowerment among female microentrepreneurs in Ethiopia. Policy makers should consider implementing targeted interventions to complement MFI services, particularly focusing on capacity building programmes for women entrepreneurs.

Keywords: *African Geography, Microfinance Institutions, Women Entrepreneurs, Empowerment Studies, Gender Economics*

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