



# **Microfinance Institutions and Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopian Empowerment: A Mixed-Methods Exploration**

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**Published:** 12 August 2005 | **Received:** 27 April 2005 | **Accepted:** 20 July 2005

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18820222](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18820222)

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## **Abstract**

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) play a pivotal role in facilitating financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia's business landscape. A mixed-methods approach integrating semi-structured interviews with focus groups and a structured questionnaire to gather detailed participant accounts and statistical data on financial outcomes and empowerment levels. Women entrepreneurs reported significant improvements in their business operations (72%) and overall income (65%), while maintaining traditional gender roles at home. Empirical analysis confirmed these qualitative findings, validating the effectiveness of MFIs as catalysts for economic change. MFIs significantly contribute to women's empowerment through financial inclusion, enhancing entrepreneurial success and sustainability in Ethiopia's business environment. Continued support from policy makers and development organizations is recommended to ensure sustainable access to MFI services for all eligible female entrepreneurs.

**Keywords:** *Ethiopia, Geographic, Feminist Economics, Qualitative Inquiry, Quantitative Research, Empowerment Studies, Mixed-Methods Design*

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