



Impact of Microfinance Institutions on Women Entrepreneurs in South African Informal Markets: A Five-Year Growth Assessment

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Published: 22 May 2000 | **Received:** 15 February 2000 | **Accepted:** 23 April 2000

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18721566](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18721566)

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Abstract

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have gained prominence in South Africa's informal markets as a means to support women entrepreneurs. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data from MFI client surveys with qualitative interviews in selected informal market zones. The findings suggest that MFIs play a crucial role in fostering sustainable economic growth and social empowerment among women entrepreneurs in South Africa's informal markets. Further research should explore the long-term impacts on community development and the potential to scale these programmes across broader regions of the country.

Keywords: *African Geography, Microfinance Institutions, Women Entrepreneurs, Informal Markets, Mixed-Methods, Empowerment Studies, Development Economics*

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