



Microfinance's Influence on Food Security and Nutrition in Ethiopian Towns: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

Microfinance has emerged as a significant financial tool in developing countries, aiming to alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods. In Ethiopia, microfinance institutions (MFIs) operate within diverse contexts, influencing various economic sectors including food security and nutrition. Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with microfinance clients, MFIs staff, community leaders, and local government officials. Data analysis involved thematic coding and content analysis. Findings indicate that while some participants reported increased access to food sources due to improved income from microfinance, others faced challenges related to dietary diversity and health outcomes. Microfinance appears to have mixed effects on food security and nutrition in Ethiopian towns. Further research is needed to understand these dynamics better. Future studies should consider longitudinal data collection methods and incorporate perspectives of both microfinance service providers and beneficiaries to provide a more comprehensive understanding. microfinance, food security, nutrition, qualitative study, Ethiopia

Keywords: *African Geography, Microfinance, Poverty Alleviation, Livelihoods, Qualitative Research, Community Development, Food Security Studies*

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