



Social Safety Nets and Their Impact on Food Security and Economic Empowerment in Ethiopian Rural Communities: An Intervention Study

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Abstract

Social safety nets have been implemented in Ethiopia to address food insecurity and poverty among rural communities. The study employed mixed-methods research including quantitative data from surveys and qualitative insights from interviews to assess changes in household consumption indexes over a two-year period. A significant increase in household food security was observed, with an average improvement of 15% across surveyed households compared to baseline levels. Qualitative analysis revealed enhanced community resilience strategies as key drivers of economic empowerment. Social safety nets have been effective in mitigating short-term food insecurity but require complementary policies for sustained long-term economic development. Further interventions should focus on diversifying livelihoods and strengthening local markets to foster sustainable economic growth. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: Ethiopia, Food Security, Empowerment, Nutrition, Livelihoods, Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation

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