



Empowered Weavers in Urban Slums: Female Craftsmen and Microfinance Initiatives in Senegalese Ghana,

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Abstract

Urban slums in Senegalese cities have seen an influx of female craftworkers seeking economic opportunities. Qualitative research methods including semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and document review were employed to understand the experiences of women in Senegalese urban settings. Women's craft production increased by an average of 35% after receiving microfinance support from initiatives based in Ghana. This led to a notable reduction in poverty levels among participants. Microfinance programmes have significantly enhanced the economic viability and resilience of female artisans in urban slums, offering replicable models for other African contexts. Policy makers should consider integrating microfinance support into existing social welfare programmes to aid women in urban areas.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, urbanization, microfinance, qualitative methodology, gender studies, artisanal economy, community development*

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