



Microfinance Institutions and Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopian Development Context, 2010

Birtukan Kibret^{1,2}, Zenebe Desta³, Mekdes Gebreab^{1,4}

¹ Hawassa University

² Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Hawassa University

⁴ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)

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Correspondence: bkibret@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Birtukan Kibret is affiliated with Hawassa University and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Zenebe Desta is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Hawassa University and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Mekdes Gebreab is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and focuses on Business research in Africa.

Abstract

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have emerged as significant actors in promoting economic empowerment among women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia's development context. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative insights from semi-structured interviews was employed. MFIs have successfully facilitated loans to approximately 50% of surveyed female entrepreneurs, contributing significantly to their business growth. Despite progress, MFIs face significant barriers in fully addressing the needs and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia. Policy recommendations include enhancing collaboration between MFIs and government agencies to improve access to services such as legal advice and infrastructure support.

Keywords: *African development, microfinance, gender economics, empowerment strategies, qualitative research, participatory methods, rural economies*

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