



# Microfinance Institutions and Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopian Development Policies

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## Abstract

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have emerged as a significant component of development policies in Ethiopia, aiming to empower women entrepreneurs through financial inclusion and access to credit. A qualitative approach was employed to explore the policies, practices, and outcomes of MFIs targeting women entrepreneurs. Interviews with policymakers, MFIs representatives, and beneficiaries were conducted. MFIs have successfully facilitated access to credit for over 40% of surveyed female entrepreneurs, contributing significantly to their business growth and income diversification. Microfinance institutions play a crucial role in promoting economic empowerment among women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia by providing financial support and market access. Policy makers should further integrate MFIs into broader development strategies and ensure alignment with existing policies, fostering sustainable growth for both women entrepreneurs and the economy.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Women's empowerment, Microfinance, Credit access, Development policies, Gender economics, Small business analysis*

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