



# Replicating Microfinance Loan Portals for Rural Fishmongers in Madagascar: A Study of Financial Literacy Gains and Economic Growth Impact in 2004 Context

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### Abstract

This study revisits and expands upon previous research on microfinance loan portals in Madagascar's rural fishmonger communities, focusing on their impact on financial literacy and economic growth. A replication study using mixed-methods approach, including quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. Data was collected through online questionnaires and face-to-face discussions with participants from . Microfinance loan portal users demonstrated a significant improvement in financial literacy ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to non-users, with an average increase of 30% in knowledge about credit management and savings strategies. The results confirm the positive impact of microfinance loan portals on enhancing financial skills among rural fishmongers, supporting their ability to manage resources more effectively. Policy makers should consider expanding access to these platforms for broader benefits. Further research is recommended to explore long-term impacts and sustainability. Model estimation used  $\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{ \theta \} \operatorname{sumiell} (y_i, f\theta(\xi)) + \lambda l_{\text{Vert}} \theta r_{\text{Vert}} 2^2$ , with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, microfinance, financial literacy, credit scoring, econometrics, rural development, poverty reduction*

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