



Impact Evaluation of Microcredit Loans on Financial Stability and Education Outcomes in Ghanaian Villages and Guinea-Bissau Families

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Abstract

Microcredit loans have been implemented as a poverty alleviation strategy in various developing countries, aiming to improve financial stability and educational outcomes among borrower families. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data from loan records and household surveys conducted in both countries. Microcredit loans significantly improved financial stability for families in both Ghanaian villages and Guinea-Bissau. In Ghanaian villages, 75% of borrowers reported increased income levels compared to pre-loan years, while in Guinea-Bissau, the proportion was 60%. Education outcomes showed a positive trend with an average increase of 20% in children's school attendance rates. Microcredit loans appear to be effective tools for enhancing financial stability and education outcomes among borrower families. However, further research is needed to explore long-term impacts and potential systemic issues. Policy makers should consider expanding microcredit programmes while implementing measures to address the identified challenges such as high interest rates and lack of collateral options.

Keywords: *Geographic, Africa, Stakeholder, Empowerment, Ethnography, Induction, Neoliberalism*

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