

Impact of Microfinance on Women Empowerment: Evidence from Galle District

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Abstract

This study attempts to investigate the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in Sri Lanka, paying particular attention to the Galle district. Microfinance is the sole resource that helps those below the poverty line who cannot access banks and other formal financial institutions to meet their financial needs to lift themselves out of their current low-income situation. The social aim of eradicating poverty depends critically on the empowerment of women. Women are capable of managing time and money while dealing with issues that arise in the household. The husband's income alone is insufficient to cover all necessary expenses. The wife must participate in the process of creating revenue in order to solve these issues. However, a lack of funding might dissuade women from entering this field. Therefore, in this case, microfinance consolidation is crucial. This study is significant for microfinance institutions because they aim to empower women for a better future. To find the real scenario, primary data was collected from the women in the Galle district using a questionnaire under the survey method. The collected data was analyzed and evaluated using correlation and regression techniques. The conceptual framework is developed based on several literatures to test the relationship between microfinance and women's empowerment. Findings revealed that providing funds by microfinance become meaningful when women utilize them effectively, protecting their reliability. Furthermore, leading women through microfinance institutions is essential after granting the loan for better achievement. Microcredit services, microfinance savings, and training significantly impacted women's empowerment.

Keywords: *microcredit, microfinance institutions, micro-savings, microfinance training, women empowerment*