PERSPECTIVES OF MICROFINANCE &

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



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ROLE OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND MICRO FINANCE IN RE-VITALISING RURAL ECONOMY: EVIDENCE FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The co-relation between micro finance and financial inclusion for a new, focus on rural economy is extremely strong and significant in India. Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring access to financial services especially in rural economy. Especially in the area of women empowerment, micro finance is playing an admirable role and Kerala is the model state for achieving growth in rural finance through various forms of financial services like micro finance, micro credit is to name but a few. The present study deal with contribution of financial inclusion and micro finance in development of rural economy in various interventions such as micro credit, self-help group and micro and small-scale industries.

KEY WORDS

Financial inclusion, micro-finance, rural economy, women empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Financial Inclusion is the process of. ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable. Microfinance is a category of financial services targeted at individuals and small businesses who lack access to conventional banking and related services. Microfinance includes micro credit, the provision of small loans to poor clients; banking and accounts, micro insurance; and payment system Microfinance services are designed to be more affordable to poor and socially marginalized customers and to help them become self-sufficient. Self-help group is a holistic programme of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment, organisation of the rural poor into self-help groups and their

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PERCEPTION TOWARDS FINANCIAL INCLUSIONS: A STUDY ON KUDUMBASHREE WORKERS IN MALAPPURAM

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ABSTRACT

Financial inclusion denotes the process that guarantees the ease of access, availability and usage of the financial system and coordination to all members of an economy. An inclusive financial system facilitates effective allocation of resources and this access to appropriate financial services can suggestively progress the day-to-day management of finances. Thus, an inclusive financial system helps in reducing the growth of informal sources of credit, which are often found to be exploitative. In addition, an inclusive financial system augments efficiency and welfare by providing avenues for secure and safe saving practices and by enabling a whole range of efficient financial services. The concept and practice is unavoidable for a developing country like India as our society has a majority in the lower and deprived group and the present central government has succeeded in creating more effect for the same. The current analysis reveals that the southernmost state of our country, Kerala tops the index of Financial Inclusion and this creates a necessity to analyze the societal perception of Keralites with special reference to the women folk engaged with the Kudumbasree units towards this service. The cram is limited to Kudumbasree workers in Malappuram District of Kerala and proceeds in analyzing the influence of demographic factors on the perception towards financial inclusion schemes. Amongst the numerous factors that can influence publics' perception towards inclusive financing, demographic factors like age, education, income and marital status has been analyzed. The study

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Mar Athanasios College For Advanced Studies Tiruvalla- 689101, Kerala policies for its effective execution so that the negative perception can be brushed away at the initial stage itself. As education and income act as influencing factors variety of schemes should be developed for inclusive financing targeting on people from varied educational and income group. Kudumbashree represents the largest women empowering group, and it constitutes members from varied demographic, geographic and socio-cultural environment, their perception represents that of the society as a whole and the study will be hence effective in considering the influence of a much popularized program, the inclusive financing.

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