

IMPACT OF MICRO-CREDIT FINANCING ON
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY
ERADICATION IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates the impact of micro-credit finance (MF) on women empowerment and poverty eradication in Pakistan. The need for the study arises from the fact that the existing literature on MF is widely divided on the impact and potential of MF, indicating that one-size-fits-all is not true. Most of the MF models have been developed in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, etc. Very little research has been conducted in Pakistan on the impact of MF, especially through the broader socio-economic impact assessment approach, instead of the widely-used outreach and repayment rate approach. These gaps in literature warrant research on the impact of MF on women empowerment (WE) and poverty eradication (PE) in Pakistan, especially in view of the different socio-economic conditions for women.

This study was undertaken as an exploration of the notable works by Ahmed (2009); Brau et al. (2009); Hatch (2002, 2004); Henry et al. (2003b); Khandker et al. (2010); Littlefield et al. (2003); and Zeller et al. (2003a, 2003b, 2006). The research reveals that participation in micro-credit finance program (MFP) eradicates poverty in Pakistan, however, poverty eradication for males is much higher than females because they tend to invest the loans in micro-enterprises rather than family-weddings/use-at-home. Participation in MFP also empowers women in Pakistan through poverty eradication. In addition, MFP produces greater social-acceptance, awareness and involvement of women in decision making; and greater control of women over money/assets in Pakistan. The findings of the study provide many insights and will be useful to policy makers and managers to make MF programs more effective and purposeful.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised /read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in quality and scope, as a thesis for the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.



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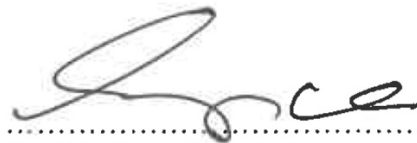


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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis submitted in fulfilment of the PhD degree is my own work and that all contributions from any other persons or sources are properly and duly cited. I further declare that the material has not been submitted either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university. In making this declaration, I understand and acknowledge any breaches in this declaration constitute academic misconduct, which may result in my expulsion from the programme and/or exclusion from the award of the degree.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owais', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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“To Him belongs the dimension of the Heavens and the Earth, it is He who gives life and death and He has power over all things.” – Al-Quran

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