

**THE IMPACT OF MICRO FINANCE ON EMPOWERMENT OF
RURAL WOMEN IN WEERAMBUGEDARA DIVISIONAL
SECRETARIAT AREA**



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ABSTRACT

This study basically attempts to analyze the impact of microfinance services in empowering the rural women in weerambugedara divisional secretariat area. The study is also meant to obtain insights regarding factors empowering rural women through microfinance services and which factors influences most and what extent effect on economic, social, and psychological empowerment.

A total of 200 copies of questionnaires were administered to selected women who joined with micro finance in weerambugedara divisional secretariat area. The study made use of descriptive statistics such as frequencies, means, and standard deviation to measure the impact of micro finance on rural women.

The results indicate that there is a significant positive shift of all the indicators of women empowerment in weerambugedara divisional secretariat area after joining in micro finance. According to findings of this research the overall women empowerment has increased by 27.57% after joining in micro finance. Briefly, micro finance seems to be a unique action oriented rural development strategy to tap the gesture for the upliftment in social and economic point of view.

The findings of the study are likely to be important to microfinance institutions, govt. and NGOs in designing policy to empower rural women socially and economically. This study makes the valuable contribution by providing a base to the microfinance institutions for strengthening and expanding their support to rural poor women.

Table of Contents

Contents	Page No.
Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
1 Chapter One: Introduction	1-6
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.3 Research Questions	3
1.4 Research Objectives	4
1.5 Significance of the Study	4
1.6 Scope of the study	5
1.7 The Organization of the Chapter	5
1.8 Summary	6
2 Chapter Two: Literature Review	7-22
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Microfinance	7
2.3 Concept of Empowerment & Women Empowerment	11
2.4 Self Help Group	13
2.5 Importance of Empower women	14
2.6 Methods to empower women	17
2.7 Microfinance environment in Sri Lanka	20
2.8 Summery	22

3 Chapter Three: Conceptualization and Operationalization	23-30
3.1 Conceptualization	23
3.1.1 Definitions of variables	24
3.1.1.1 Microfinance	24
3.1.1.2 Economic empowerment	24
3.1.1.3 Social empowerment	25
3.1.1.4 Psychological empowerment	26
3.2 Operationalization of Variables	28
3.3 Summary	30
4 Chapter Four: Methodology	31-37
4.1 Introduction	31
4.2 Study Design	31
4.2.1 Research Method	31
4.2.2 Variables of the study	31
4.3 Sample	31
4.4 Data Collection	32
4.5 Methods of Measurements	33
4.5.1 Method of Measuring Characteristics of women	33
4.5.2 Method of Measuring the Economic empowerment	34
4.5.3 Method of Measuring the Social empowerment and Psychological empowerment.	35
4.6 Method of data presentation	35
4.7 Method of Data Analysis and Evaluation	36
4.8 Summary	37
5 Chapter Five: Data Presentation and Analysis	38-61
5.1 Introduction	38
5.2 Analysis of Reliability	38
5.3 Data presentation and analysis.	39
5.3.1 Frequency Distribution Analysis of respondents by their Personal Characteristics	39
5.3.1.1 Age	39

5.3.1.2 Marital status	40
5.3.1.3 Education Level	41
5.3.1.4 Occupation	42
5.3.1.5 Family size	43
5.3.2 Analysis of Economic Empowerment	44
5.3.2.1 Annual Income	44
5.3.2.2 Employment	45
5.3.2.3 Productive investment	47
5.3.2.4 Consumption pattern	48
5.3.2.5 Savings	49
5.3.2.6 Assets ownership	51
5.3.3 Analysis of Social Empowerment	53
5.3.4 Analysis of Psychological Empowerment	57
5.4 Summary	60

6 Chapter Six: Discussion **61-66**

6.1 Introduction	61
6.2 Discussion on the demographic characteristics of the women	61
6.2.1 Age level	61
6.2.2 Marital status	61
6.2.3 Educational level	61
6.2.4 Occupation	62
6.2.5 Family size	62
6.3 Discussion on the economic empowerment of rural women.	62
6.3.1 Annual income	62
6.3.2 Employment	62
6.3.3 Productive investment.	63
6.3.4 Consumption pattern	63
6.3.5 Savings	63
6.3.6 Assets Ownership	64
6.4 Discussion on the social empowerment of rural women.	64
6.5 Discussion on the psychological empowerment of rural women.	65
6.6 Summary	66

7 Chapter Seven: Conclusions and Recommendations	67-70
7.1 Introduction	67
7.2 Conclusions	67
7.3 Recommendations	68
7.4 Implications and Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for future studies	69
References	70
Appendices	75