

## MICROFINANCE INTERVENTIONS FOR QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL CHILDREN IN KARNATAKA

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### ABSTRACT

Microfinance programs (MF) extend small loans to under privileged for their varied needs such as consumption, shelter, income generation, and self employment. M F programs offer combination of several services to their clients along with Micro Credit. These include linkages with savings and insurance avenues, skill development training, other requirement and marketing network. They facilitate poverty reduction through promotion of sustainable livelihood and bring about women empowerment through social and collective action at the grass root level. Microfinance interventions lead to increased social interaction for poor women within their HH and in the community, besides greater mobility that increases their self worth and self ascertain in the social circle. Much research has been done on the impact of microfinance on education, mostly focusing on quantitative aspects such as literacy, enrolment and dropout rates. This exploratory study shifts away from the quantitative aspect of education, and focuses on the quality of education: how education could be improved, and how MFIs could play a role in this. This study takes next step in order to gain a more complete idea as to the potential impact of microfinance on the quality of educations, by looking into what happens when microfinance clients actually send their children to institute. What are the educational situations of the children and what could be the impact of relevant parties upon educational outcomes?

**KEYWORDS:** Educational Empowerment, Rural Children, Microfinance, Women Empowerment, Quality Education.