



**2010-2016**

**PhD in Economics**

**Topic:** Impact of Microfinance on Economic Empowerment of Rural Women of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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It was the intention of the investigator to examine through the study whether provisions of Microfinance for the rural women could transmute the convivial equations in which this subset of the population lives. The study was conducted to appraise the impact of microfinance on economic empowerment of rural women of the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The purpose was to assess the Impact- quality, efficacy, and value of Microfinance programme, as it was currently carried out, to monitor the ongoing process and to examine to what extent Microfinance has led to Saving Mentality in rural women leading to economic upliftment and empowerment so that the attention of the concerned authorities may be drawn to any drawbacks perceived in the current programme and that it might be timely rectified.

The research was crucial to probe into the question whether Microfinance has made any strong impact on the Economic empowerment of rural women. The increase in individual monthly income and savings was found to be nullified by the excessive spending habits of the women as perceived from their level of expenditure and the revelations from unstructured interviews. Though the chief reason behind joining SHGs was the inculcation of saving habits, the inculcation of saving habits, monthly savings, nature of asset ownership questions the efficacy of Microfinance promises towards achieving Economic empowerment. Lack of financial planning, irregular earnings, issues from spouse and family, high cost of living, lack of freedom of mobility makes matters more unfavourable. Suggested measures and recommendations demanded urgent need on the part of the policy makers to overcome the current situation and help achieve the far reaching goals of Economic Empowerment.