



## Association of Micro Finance Institutions -West Bengal (AMFI-WB)

### Socio-Economic Impact Study among the Micro Finance Borrowers of Jaynagar (I & II) Blocks and Majilpur Municipality area, South 24 Parganas of West Bengal.

*The said impact study is under WE-LEAD Project Activities and the project is supported by SIDBI*

#### Major Area of Study of Microfinance Borrowers:

- Income and expenditure
- Monthly savings
- Average loan status
- Recovery status
- Loan cycle status and increase of household income
- Income from entrepreneurship activities
- Financial decision making process
- Borrowers activities

**Introduction:** The concept of women empowerment was introduced in the year 1985 at the international women's Conference held at Nairobi. Empowerment is a procedure that helps women to recognize their capability, capacity, identity, strength, and power and their application in their day to day life. As a result, they can easily take part in decision making, access resources, are able to properly plan their time for their work as well as their family, and they can also know the difference between right and wrong, and free themselves from any irrelevant customs, traditions, and practices (Deshmukh-Ranadive 2002).

In India, women empowerment was focused upon in the Eighth Five Year Plan in the year 1992-1997 through Panchayat Raj institutions by adopting the National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 into action and which ensured the survival, protection, and development of women and children's rights in India. Women and children's rights were focused upon in the Tenth Five Year Plan, 2002-2007 (Deshmukh-Ranadive 2002).

Microfinance institutions are effective instruments for providing basic services like saving, affordable credit, and skill training (Haimanot 2007, Mahfuz et al., 2017; Misrak 2012). Microfinance institutions are important economic development agents intended to benefit women and lower income people (Cicchello et al., 2021, Duflo 2012; Meressa 2020). Microfinance institution plays a great role in different countries in alleviating women's economic problem, creating self-employment opportunities, and developing businesses for women entrepreneurs. Women are benefited from participating in microfinance program. Women's participation in microfinance credit program increased their economic position, exercise economic independence, and improvement in their business leadership skills (Addai 2017; Haimanot, 2007). However, Women's participation in economic activities is very low in Ethiopia (Dawit 2014, Solomon et al., 2019; Zelalem & Chalchissa 2014).

Women represent the main economic force in different developing countries. As economies become more and more information-driven, the issues of women's access to and the use of information and communication technologies are growing in importance for developing economies (Michota 2013).

Economic empowerment improves women's opportunity to resources and non-financial resources. Moreover, it creates good opportunity for skill development and market information (Addai 2017, Khandre 2015). Women's economic participation is base to exercise women's right and helping them develop decision-making role over their household and influence in their community. Women's empowerment is creating equitable societies (Shaheen et al. 2013).

There are controversies on impact of microfinance on women's economic empowerment. Odell (2010) study identified the difficulty of making generalized conclusions taking to consideration the heterogeneity of microfinance interventions. Stewart et al. (2010) study in Africa found little impact of microfinance on income of beneficiaries. According to Rathirane and Semasinghe (2015) study, there is a weak but significant impact on women empowerment due to microfinance service provision in Sri Lanka. Addai (2017) and Mohammad et al. (2017) study clearly indicated that there is positive effect of microfinance on women's economic empowerment in Ghana and Bangladesh, respectively. Different researchers confirmed the significance effect of microfinance (Kato & Kratzer 2013, Loomba 2017, Misrak 2012).

There are many published studies linking microfinance to women's empowerment. The studies mainly concerned on microfinance role on, poverty alleviation, and socioeconomic development through microfinance. Particularly in West Bengal India, the concept of microfinance is at its infancy level that needs further investigation. Therefore, this study is focused to examine how microfinance service has impact on women's economic empowerment taking into account.

### **Microfinance and women's economic empowerment:**

Microfinance institutions are considered as society based strategy to give different finance related resources for the poor and disadvantage section of the society in order to improve the life of clients (SEEP 2006). Microfinance sector plays vital role in supporting the community in their transition towards development of the country and peace building. Microfinance industry support local economic development by providing the needed financial and non-financial services for small enterprise development. According to Kamberidou (2013), women are naturally strong in using financial and non-financial resources in building strong relationships, and creating a culture of collaboration. Some researchers consider microfinance as survival strategy in time of disaster and sustainable peace development (Dawit 2014, Khanday et al. 2015).

Women are the main target audience of microfinance programs. This credit amount not only helps poor women to grow economically but also improves gender equality, the status of women within the family, their health, and their education level (Kabeer 2001). Moreover, women are examined as a good credit risk by microfinance programs due to their increased propensity to repay loans (Hashemi et. al 1996). In contrast, men are more interested in moving their money toward risky business practices and are at high risk to consume this money on tobacco, gambling, or drinking (Goetz & Gupta 1996). However, Goetz and Gupta also highlighted that a significant percentage of women's loans are directly invested in business activities by their male relatives, but the liability of repayment goes to women borrowers. The recent literature primarily discusses the evaluation process of microfinance programs (Alatas et. al 2012, Khaandkher, 2005, Shetty, 2008) in the context of the well-being of borrowers (Chemin 2008, McIntosh et. al 2011) and empowerment capabilities of women (Rai & Ravi 2011). The reporting of these evaluations reveals some conflicting conclusions, and it still tells that borrowers have an absence of accounts for themselves and this impact of credit can affect their lives (Kabeer 2001). There is limited evidence in the literature on how the poor perceive the process of microfinance loans. In addition, the existing literature has limited scope regarding the "transformative process" of entrepreneurship, which reveals the lives of those needy people who are living in extreme poverty (Tobias et. al 2013). In

response, this study fills the gap in the literature by examining how most disadvantaged borrowers or potential borrowers themselves perceive and experience microfinance in a context characterized by extreme poverty, one where family responsibility and entrepreneurial activities are closely intertwined.

A study reported that 95% of Grameen's borrowers were females and this percentage kept on rising till 2011. Similarly, Aghion and Morduch (Armendaritz & Morduch 2005) highlighted that 71% of total borrowers of MFIs were women. Further, past researchers have also pointed out that MFIs target women because their default rates are very low as compared to men (Al. Mamun et. al 2014, Kevahe& Wydick 2001). Because of this reason, MFIs have launched several innovative schemes to financially support their female clients. MFIs play a crucial role in enhancing the empowerment of women as it boosts their resources, increase return on human capital by improving their affordability, and consequently improve their living standards.

### **Measuring empowerment:**

The study of Malhotra et al. in 2002, reports that the identification of empowerment as a primary development tool has been done, but still, institutions such as the World Bank and development agencies haven't introduced an authentic method for estimating and analyzing the tracking variations in various levels of empowerment. Researchers define empowerment as a dynamic procedure that is complex to measure. The reason behind this is that empowerment is related to social, economic, and political challenges as well (Schuler et. al 2010). The spiritual, social, political, and health factors make the complete empowerment measurement procedure and these all factors are interconnected with each other. The term empowerment can also be expressed as a way of independent decision making, identification, and utilization of resources (Afridi 2010). The literature reveals that empowerment is a multidimensional concept and it can be assessed under multiple dimensions (James & Braddus 2016). This study primarily focuses on the influential impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in the context of the financial and social aspects. This is because the financial and social aspects of women's empowerment help increase the development

of both the quality and quantity of existing human resources. These two aspects are proven as critical factors in enhancing the development of a society.

### **Meaning of women's empowerment:**

There is significant diversity in the agendas, emphases, and terminologies used for describing women's empowerment. Many papers have defined empowerment and its measurement approaches. The most common terms used in the extant diverse approaches use power, choice, control, and the option to describe women's empowerment (Van et. Al. 2013). However, it is still confusing to say whether the terms "empowerment", "gender equality," "women's autonomy," and "women's status in society" are similar or different concepts. The term women empowerment has been conceptualized mostly as an outcome or a capacity or some means to an end, and a process of achieving power (Kabeer 2001, Njoh & Ananga 2016).

### **Significance of the study:**

- India is a developing country and the majority of its population is living under the poverty line and are mostly unaware of different sources of financial facilities.
- MFIs particularly focus on such rural areas in which most of the people are unbreakable and marginalized. This study contributes to the extant literature, as it explores the lived experiences of women borrowers regarding empowerment and entrepreneurial development.
- To get deeper insights into the structural meaning of empowerment analyzed by considering participants' histories, lived experiences, and social interactions, we used a qualitative approach

that relies on in-depth interviews and a focus group under the case study research design. This study provides valuable insights into how MFIs/Banks are making women socially and financially empowered. Also, how microfinance/Bank helps in women-led ventures' creation process.

- To investigate how microfinance/Bank are increasing women's empowerment, we deduced the following sub-objectives:
  - To explore how women become socially empowered after getting micro-financed.
  - To figure out how women become financially empowered after getting micro-financed.
  - To determine how microfinance increases women's entrepreneurship.

### **Materials and methods:**

**Study Area:** In the present study data was collected from Jaynagar (I & II) blocks and Majilpur Municipality of south 24 Parg. District west Bengal.

**About South 24-parganas District:** The nomenclature 24-Parganas has been in vogue since 15 July 1757 when Mir Jafar whom the East India Company had just established as Nawab of Bengal ceded to the Company the rights of 24 mahals. The treaty by which the cession is recorded says that "all the land lying to the south of Calcutta as far as Culpee, shall be under the Zemindari of the English Company and all the officers of this Zemindari shall be under their jurisdiction. The revenue to be paid by it (the company) in the same manner with other Zemindari". The Parwana notifying effect to the Treaty mentions the name of the 24 units of granted land.

The present district of South 24 Parganas came into existence on 1st of March, 1986. It then comprised of two sub divisions- Alipore and Diamond Harbour and of 30 blocks. Presently there are five sub divisions (Alipore, Baruipur, Canning, Diamond Harbour and Kakdwip), 29 blocks and 7 Municipalities.

South 24 Parganas is, indeed, a complex district, stretching from the metropolitan Kolkata to the remote riverine villages up to the mouth of Bay of Bengal, Apart from its staggering size and population, the district administration has to contend with problems typical of metropolitan living in the urban area as high population density in the rural area the lack of transport and communication facilities and weak delivery systems. Overall 84% of the population lives in the rural areas, where development is taken care of by the panchayat bodies. The remaining 16% population is looked after by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and seven municipalities.

Total population of South 24 Parganas district is 81,61,961 as per census 2011. South 24 Parganas had a sex ratio of 949 females for every 1000 males, and literacy rate of the district is 77.51% among them 83.35% are males and 71.4% are females. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made up 24,64,032 (30.19%) and 96,976 (1.19%) of the population respectively. The scheduled caste comprises 39% of the total population and B.P.L. families constitute 37.21% of the population. There were 29 Panchayat Samitis and 310 Gram Panchayats in the District.

The following Gram panchayat were covered for the present study; Sreepur, Harinarayanpur, Uttar Durganagar, Dakshin Barasat under Jaynagar -I block and Mayahowri, Gordoani, Gordoani, Durganagar, Mayda under Jaynagar - II blocks.

**Methods of Study:** In the present study data were collected through group discussion, interview, observation, case study methods, questionnaire- schedule methods. Primary data /first hand data were collected by the WE-LEAD project staffs.

**Inclusion criteria of study:** The borrowers/beneficiaries were selected for the present study, which are received loan from MFI/Bank minimum three times, (minimum two cycle of loan was completed).

**Sample size and some basic information about the subjects:** A total 302 female borrowers, aged between 20-60 years were included for the present study. Most of the participants were belonged to Hindu (71.2%) and rest of them were Muslim (28.8%) religious group. Group was created basis on the cycle of loan completed. 1<sup>st</sup> group loan cycle completed up to 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> group loan cycle completed 3-4 times and 3<sup>rd</sup> group loan cycle completed more than 4 times.

**Social category of the participants:**

Social category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
General	78	25.8
Scheduled caste	139	46.0
Scheduled tribe	4	1.3
Others Backed-ward classes - A	69	22.8
Others Backed-ward classes B	12	4.0

## Results:

**Table (1): Loan cycle completed and floor type of the borrower houses:**

Loan Cycle Completed	Floor Type				Total
	Mud		Concrete		
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Up to 2	26	30.6	59	69.4	85
3 - 4	21	20.0	84	80.0	105
Above 4	22	19.6	90	80.4	112
Combined	69	22.8	233	77.2	302

Table (1) shown the relationship between number of loan cycle completed and floor type of the beneficiaries houses. From the preset study we found that floor made by concrete was gradually increased with the number of loan cycle completed.

**Table (2): Loan cycle and roof type of the borrower houses.**

Loan Cycle Completed	Roof type/made by						Total
	Tiles		Asbestos		Concrete		
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Up to 2	0	0.0	70	82.4	15	17.6	85
3 - 4	4	3.8	56	53.3	45	42.9	105
Above 4	4	3.5	46	41.1	62	55.4	112
Combined	8	2.6	172	57.0	122	40.4	302

Table (2) shown the relationship between cycle of loan completed and roof type of the borrower houses. From the table we found that loan cycle completed up to -2, 3-4 and above-4 the rate of concrete roof were 17.6%, 42.9% and 55.4% respectively. From the result it is clear that there were strong relationship between number of loan received and roof type of the houses.



**Table (3): Social category wise family members among the studied population.**

Social category	Number Family Members			Total
	Up to 3	4 - 5	Above 5	
	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	
General	34 (43.6%)	32 (41.0)	12 (15.4)	78
Scheduled caste	26 (18.7%)	85 (61.2%)	28 (20.1%)	139
Scheduled Tribe	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)	1 (25.0%)	4
Others backward classes- A	15 (21.7%)	44 (63.8%)	10 (14.5%)	69
Others backward classes- B	4 (33.3%)	6 (50.0%)	2 (16.7%)	12
Combined	26.2 (26.2%)	170 (56.3%)	53 (17.5%)	302

Table (3) present numbers of family members according to caste wise. Overall 56.3% studied populations family members were belonged 4 to 5. In general category maximum of the family members were belonged to 1 to 3.

**Table (4): Households utilities among the studied population.**

Sl. No.	Particulars/Item	Yes		No	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1	Electric Connection	299	99.0	3	1.0
2	Gas (LPG) Connection	273	90.4	29	9.6
3	T.V	209	69.2	93	30.8
4	Refrigerator	114	37.7	187	61.9
5	Computer	3	1.0	299	99.0
6	Air Conditioner	2	0.7	300	99.3

Table (4) present the house hold utilities among the studied population. The rate of electric connection and gas (LPG) were 99.0% and 90.4% respectively. Only (0.7%) having air conditioner and computer (1.0%) among the studied population.

**Table (5): Used of cooking fuel type among the studied population.**

Sl. No.	Fuel type	Frequency	Percentage
1	Wood	58	19.2
2	L.P.G	41	13.6
3	Wood & L.P.G	200	66.2
4	Cow dung & L.P.G	3	1.0

Table (5) demonstrated the cooking fuel type among the studied population. Maximum of the participant used wood & L.P.G (66.2%) for their cooking. We found that more than 90% of participant having L.P.G connection but used only L.P.G was 13.6%. Most the participants used both wood and L.P.G (66.2%)for their cooking.

**Table (6): Age group wise Educational status of the studied population.**

Age group (in years)	Educational status							Total
	Illiterate (%)	I - IV (%)	V - VIII (%)	IX - X (%)	M.P (%)	H.S (%)	Graduate (%)	
Up to 30	1 (1.2)	3 (3.7)	41 (50.6)	30 (37.0)	2 (2.5)	3 (3.7)	1 (1.2)	81
31 - 40	5 (3.2)	31 (20.0)	100 (64.5)	12 (7.7)	6 (3.9)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	155
41 - 50	4 (6.6)	11 (18.0)	34 (55.7)	8 (13.1)	2 (3.3)	2 (3.3)	0 (0.0)	61
Above 50	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5
Overall	12 (4.0)	46 (15.2)	177 (58.6)	50 (16.6)	10 (3.3)	6 (2.0)	1 (0.3)	302

Age group wise educational status demonstrated in table (6). Overall 58.6% borrowers belonged to upper primary (class V - VIII) level. Only 12 (4.0%) beneficiaries were illiterate and 1 (0.3%) was graduate. The overall rates of educational status i.e primary (class I-IV), IX- X, M.P and H.S were 15.2%, 16.6%, 3.3% and 2.0% respectively.

**Table (7): Monthly family income according loan cycle completed category.**

Loan cycle completed	Monthly family income (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (85)	17784.12	366.66	8000	26500
3 - 4 (105)	19397.14	5770.12	10000	35500
Above 4 (112)	22151.78	11457.09	9500	83000
Overall (302)	19964.73	8179.32	8000	83000

Table (7) present the mean family income and cycle of loan completed. Overall mean monthly family income if the borrowers were Rs: 19964.73. In the above table we that mean monthly family income were gradually increased with the increase of loan cycle completed. Figure (1) also presents the mean monthly family income of the studied beneficiaries according to number of loan cycle completed.



**Table (8): Monthly family expenditure according to loan cycle completed category.**

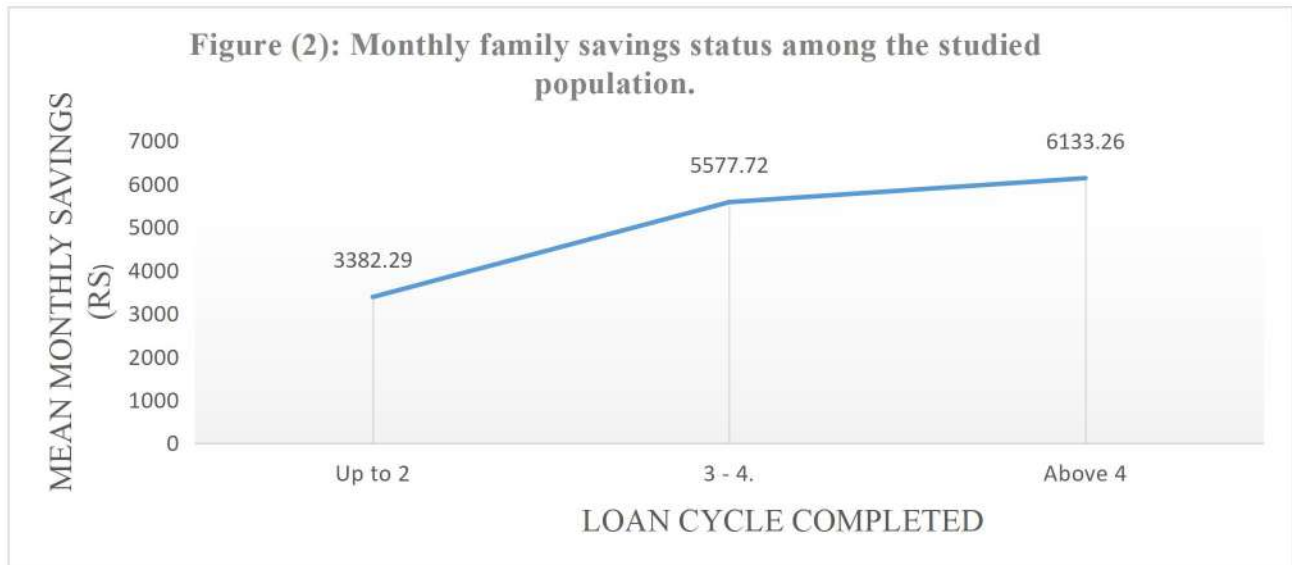
Loan cycle completed	Monthly family expenditure (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (85)	14401.82	2905.69	7000	24500
3 - 4 (105)	13819.37	3924.00	6100	34300
Above 4 (112)	16018.53	9179.00	6600	73330
Overall (302)	14798.90	6299.17	6100	73300

Table (8) present monthly family expenditure and number of loan cycle completed. Mean monthly family expenditure of the of the studied population was Rs: 14798.90. mean monthly family expenditure of above-4 group was higher than the others two groups and maximum expenditure per-month was also higher than the others.

**Table (9): Monthly family savings according loan cycle completed category.**

Loan cycle completed	Monthly family savings (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (85)	3382.29	2486.14	350	9900
3 - 4 (105)	5577.72	4355.85	300	17800
Above 4 (112)	6133.26	5604.56	200	32700
Overall (302)	5165.83	4601.83	200	32700

Table (9) showing the monthly showing status and loan cycle completed among the studied population. Overall monthly savings of the studied population was Rs: 5165.83. Mean monthly savings was higher among (above-4 cycle completed) group than the others. From the study its clear that monthly savings were gradually increase with the increase of loan cycle completed. Figure (2) showing the monthly family savings among the studied borrowers.



**Table (10): Present loan amount among the studied population.**

Loan cycle completed	Present Loan Amount (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (85)	55941.17	28655.32	20000	125000
3 - 4 (105)	71523.81	37346.63	10000	150000
Above 4 (112)	72321.42	38920.85	20000	180000
Overall (302)	67433.77	36355.39	10000	180000

Table (10) present the current loan receiving status among the studied population. Overall loan receiving amount is Rs: 67433.77. Amount of loan receiving amount like monthly family income and monthly savings were gradually increase with the increase of number of loan received. Average loan amount was higher Rs: 72321.42 among (above-4 cycle loan completed) group than the others groups.

**Table (11): Monthly loan repayment status among the studied population.**

Loan cycle completed	Monthly loan repayment (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (85)	4864.94	2716.15	1760	11000
3 - 4 (105)	4788.47	2373.00	1650	15000
Above 4 (112)	4826.04	2601.01	2000	16000
Overall (302)	4826.04	2549.70	1650	16000

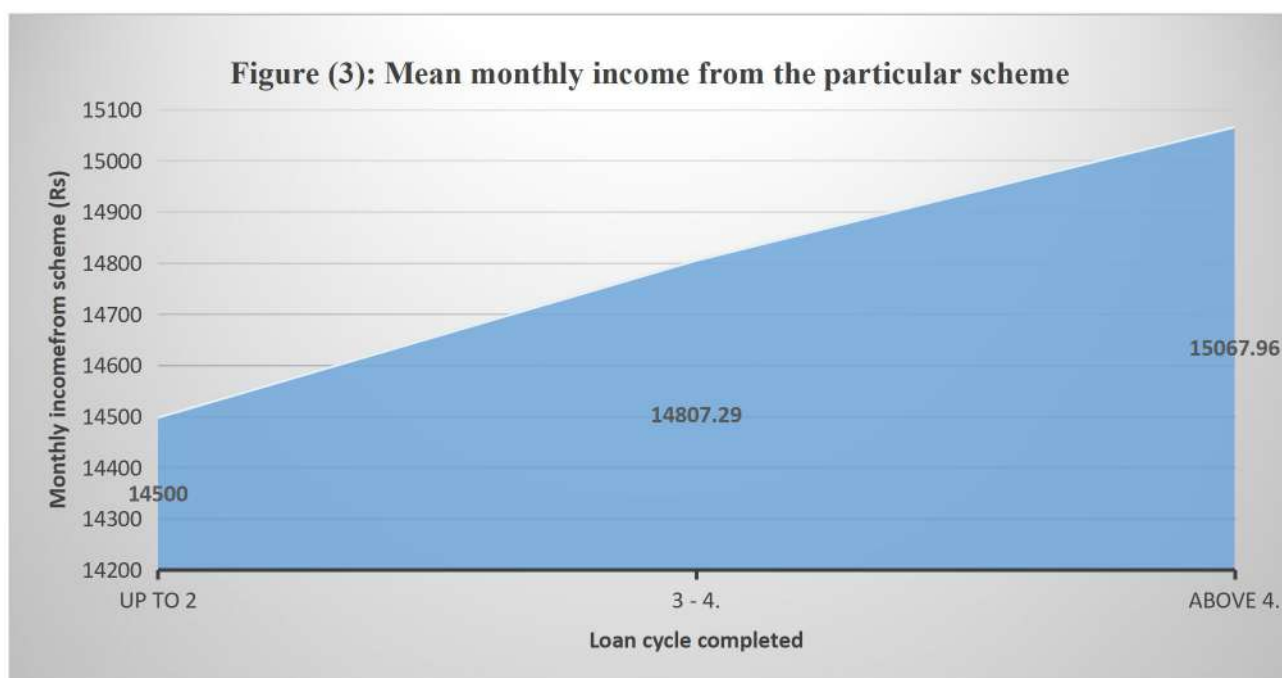
Table (11) shown the monthly loan repayment amount among the studied population. Overall loan repayment amount among is Rs: 4826.04. Mean loan repayment amount was lower among the second category (3-4 loan cycle completed) than others groups.



**Table (12): Monthly income from the particular scheme.**

Loan cycle completed	Present income from the particular scheme (Rs)			
	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Up to 2 (77)	14500.00	6373.64	2000	25000
3 - 4 (96)	14807.29	7040.25	4000	35000
Above 4 (103)	15067.96	10848.12	4000	70000
Overall (276)	14829.71	8473.57	200	70000

Table (12) present mean monthly income from the particular scheme. Out of 302 borrowers, there were 26 borrowers closed their business during pandemic situation (covid) and after pandemic period. Overall mean monthly income from the particular scheme was Rs: 14829.71. The mean monthly income were gradually increase with the increase of loan receiving and loan cycle completed number. Figure (3) also showing the mean monthly income of the studied borrowers from the particular scheme.

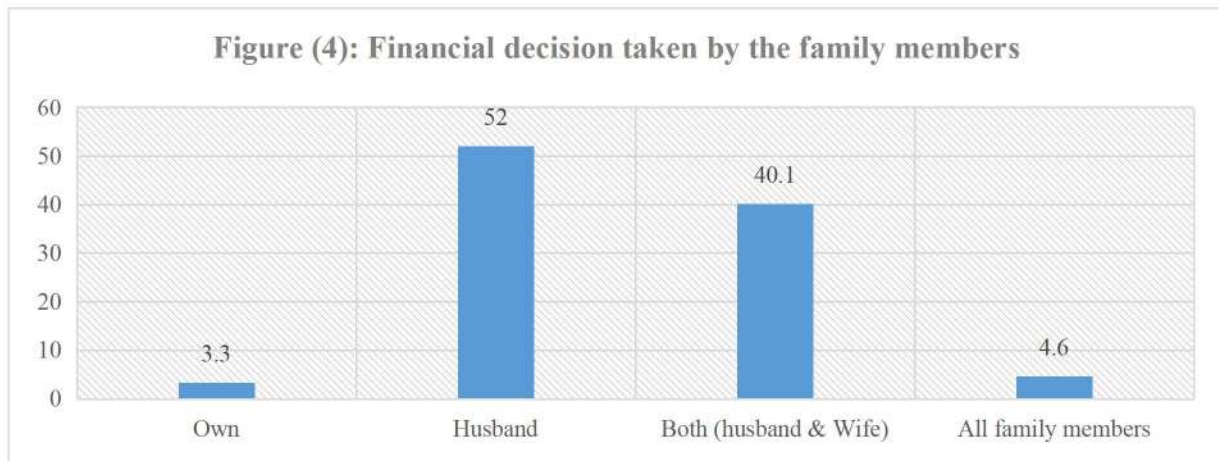


**Table (13): Any financial decision taken by the family members among the studied population.**

Sl. No	Family members	Frequency	Percentage
1	Own	10	3.3
2	Husband	157	52.0
3	Both (husband & Wife)	121	40.1
4	All family members	14	4.6

Table (13) demonstrated that any financial decision taken by the family members. Here “own” mean the beneficiaries/borrowers herself. Though, till now 52.0% financial decision taken by husband and 40.1% financial decision taken by both (husband & wife) among the studied population. Only 3.3% financial decision taken by borrowers herself. Figure (4) also showing the making financial decision among the studied population.

Figure (4): Financial decision taken by the family members



### Major Findings:

- In the present study we found that overall 78 (25.8%), 139 (46.0%), 69 (22.8%), 12 (4.0%) and 4 (1.3%) were belonged to general caste, scheduled caste, others backward classes -A, others backward classes - B category and Scheduled caste respectively.
- Overall 72.2% and 28.8% were belonged to Hindu and Muslim religious groups.
- Most of the borrowers were literate, overall literacy rate was 96.0% and only 4.0% was illiterate. In literate group most the participant belonged to upper primary level, (i.e class V- VIII) the rate was 58.6%.
- Most of the floors were made by concrete i.e 77.2% and only 22.8% floor was kaccha (Mud).
- Most of the houses walls were made by brick i.e 94.6% and only 4.1% & 1.3% were mud & wood respectively.
- From the study we found that roof of the houses of the borrowers were asbestos, concrete and tiles were 57.0%, 40.4% and 2.6% respectively.
- All of the borrowers have toilet facilities.
- Most of the toilet was pakka i.e. 92.1% and made by the borrowers i.e. 93.5%.
- The rates of electric connection among the studied population were 99.0%.
- The rates of gas connection (LPG) were 90.4% among the studied population.
- Having television among the borrowers house was 69.2%.
- Overall rates of vehicle (2/4 wheeler) and refrigerator were 12.9% and 39.2% respectively.
- Only 0.7% borrowers have computer and air conditioner facilities.
- Overall 92.7% borrowers used android phone.
- In the present study we found the monthly family mean incomes were increase according to the cycle of loan was completed.
- From the study it's clear that like as monthly family income, monthly savings were gradually increase with the increase of loan cycle completed.
- Like as monthly family income and savings, the income of the borrowers from their particular income were increase according to the cycle of loan was completed.
- Purpose of loan business, home construction, daughter marriage, education, agriculture, poultry farm, auto business, gold purchase, bike purchase and medical related were 78.8%, 12.6%, 2.6%, 1.0%, 0.7%, 0.7%, 1.7%, 0.3%, 1.0% and 0.7% respectively.

- In the present study we found that any financial decision were taken by own (borrowers) 4.2%, husband 39.6%, both (husband & wife) 52.1 and all family members 4.2%.
- We found that after two to three loan cycle, they take loan but use it for their house hold work. Though they repay these loans through their business. According to them this is possible because they have been able to improve their business with the help of MFI.
- Most of the cases we found that borrowers faced problem/difficulties during pandemic (covid) period.
- According to some borrowers/traders find it better to arrange their top-up loans by the MFI.
- In case of agricultural loan, if MFI provide different seeds they are much benefited.
- They need more money with low interest rate.

**General observation and borrowers' opinion:** Most of the borrowers received loan for business purpose. We found that after two to three loan cycle, they take loan but use it for their house hold work. Though they repay these loans through their business. According to them this is possible because they have been able to improve their business with the help of MFI/Bank. Most of the cases we found that borrowers faced problem/difficulties during covid period. According to some borrowers/traders find it better to arrange their top-up loans by the MFI/Bank. In case of agricultural loan, if MFI/Bank provides different seeds they are much benefited. They need more money with low interest rate.

**Conclusion:** As is common knowledge, financial institutions play a crucial role in the growth of our economy. Microfinance has a significant impact on reducing poverty in societal structure. The study can conclude that weaker sector of Indian economy is in dire need of money lending methods to earn credits. So microfinance program should be an important one to focus the need of the poor people and improve their standard of living which leads economic growth. Specially, it promotes women's empowerment, which is a significant step in the growth of the nation.

**Limitations of the Study and Scope for Further Research:** The scope of the research is limited to the state of West Bengal for a period of five months; from July to October 2023. The remaining districts of the state have been not taken into consideration. Hence, the results cannot be generalized for West Bengal. Moreover, the number of months considered for the study can be a limitation, as the results could come to be more accurate if few more years were taken into consideration and the results may also show a new dimension towards the study. The limitations can act as pointers for future research in this direction.

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## Annexure: - 1 case study

### Case Study: 1

Name of the informant: Jhuma Naskar  
Age (in year): 36 Sex: Female  
Municipality: Jaynagar Majilpur, ward No. 2,  
District: South 24 Pgs, West Bengal, Pin: 743337.  
Educational qualification: Madhyamik Pass



Jhuma Naskar is an inhabitant of the municipality of Majilpur, ward No. 2. She lives with her husband and two daughters. Her husband is a business man and her daughters are studying in class IX & II. They need more money to run their family comfortably and also to support their children's education. He thought that it is never possible to live a healthy life and educate the girls on the income of one family member. For that reason, she applied for the MFI loan in the year 2013 and after receiving the amount they invested it into female garments business. Along with doing this business, he spent his own money and trained himself to beautician and make bags out of puthi and thread. One thing she has always mentioned is that her husband has always stood by her side and helped her in all aspects of her training and business. At present he is running these 3 businesses after doing the work of the family. Presently, she earns minimum Rs:30000 per month from this three business. He currently wants to join "WE-LEAD" project to further develop his garment business. She is really satisfied and benefited with this MFI loan.

### Case Study: 2

Name of the informant: Taslima Shek  
Age (in year): 45 Sex: Female  
Village: Laxminarayanpur  
Gram Panchayat: Sreepur, Block: Jaynagar- I  
District: South 24 Pgs, West Bengal,  
Pin: 743337  
Educational qualification: VII



Taslima Shek worked as daily wages labour a hands gloves manufacturing factory and reside in village Laxinarayanpur, South 24-pgs. She lives with her husband and two children's. About 13-14 years, ago she took is first loan of Rs: 5000/= for agriculture work. Next time she took a loan amount of Rs: 10000/= for the business and started potato business with her husband. Along with this business with her husband, she also works in a hand gloves factory and from that income she set up a separate shop for her son. She plays an important role in taking any decision of the family. Presently, they earn minimum Rs:15000 per month from this potato business.

She is fully satisfied about this MFI/Bank loan scheme and also wants to apply further for a large amount for open a hands gloves manufacturing factory, for this reason she wants to join the 'WE-LEAD' project activities.



**Association of Micro Finance Institutions- West Bengal**

**Annexure: -2**

**Scheduled**

**Socioeconomic Study among the Micro Finance Borrowers of Jaynagar I & II Blocks and Majilpur Municipality of South 24 (P) District.**

Crop. Office: BD-407, Sector -I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700064, Phone: +913323340013

Reg. office: EC-76, Sector – I, Salt Lake City- 64.

Strictly Confidential

<b>Household No:</b>	<b>Contact No.:</b>
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General Information: Name of the informant:

Age (in year):

Sex

Village:

P.O.:

PS.:

Block:

G.P.

District:

PIN:

Category: GEN/SC/ST/OBC-A/OBC-B. Religion: Hindu/Muslim/ Christian/ Others...

**Socioeconomic Information:**

1. Ownership of the House: Own/ Rented/Others (specify):

2. Floor: Mud/Concrete/Wood/Others(specify):

3. Wall: Mud/Wood/Bamboo split/Brick/Others (specify.....)

4. Roof: Thatched/Concrete/Asbestos/Tiles/tin/others (specify.....)

5. Number of Living Room:

6. Source of Drinking Water: Tube- well/ Well/Tap water/Pond/River/ Others (specify.....)

7. Distance of the source of Drinking water (km):

8. Toilet Facilities: Yes/No.

9. Type of Toilet: Kaccha/Pakka/Semi-Pakka

10. Use of Toilet: Personal/Shared/Open air

11. Made by/ Funded by: Own/Govt./Others Sources (specify.....)

12. Bathroom: Personal/Shared/Open air

13. Electric Facilities: Yes/No

14. Cooking Fuel: Wood/Cow dung/ LPG/Kerosene/Electricity/Coal//Others (specify.....)

15. Does your family own/Purchased any of the followings in the last six years:

Gas oven..... TV..... Refrigerator.....

Cable connection/Dish TV..... Vehicle.....

Computer..... Air conditioner (A.C) .....

Others (specify) .....

16. Traditional/Present occupation of the Family Head:

17. Number of family member(s): (Male: .....+ Female.....) =

18. Total number of Mobile Phones in the family:

i. Number of non-android Phones:

ii. Number of smartphones:

19. Family type: Nuclear/Joint/Extended

20. Monthly income of the Family (Rs):

i. Agriculture (Rs):

ii. Business (Rs):

iii. Service/Daily wages (Rs):

iv. Others (specify):

21. Monthly household expenditure:

i. Food consumption (Rs):

ii. Education (Rs):

iii. Medical (Rs):

iv. Loan Repayment (Rs):

v. Mobile & T.V (cable) Recharges (Rs):

vi. Others (Rs):

22. Indebtedness: Yes/no



If yes, the reason for indebtedness:

- i. Basic necessities (Food, Shelter, Clothing, Medicine)
- ii. Social financial commitments (Marriage, Education)

23. Your family possess any savings: yes/No

If, Yes please specify:

**Nature of the scheme in details**

- 1. Name of the beneficiaries: 2. Age:
- 2. Educational status:
- 3. How many cycles of loan has been availed by you?

Item	Loan Details						
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Present loan
Propose of Loan							
Mode of expenditure							
Amount of loan							
Duration of Loan							
Rate of Interest							

4.Sources of loan: Bank/MFI/Cooperative/Money lenders/SHG/JLG/relatives/others:

5.Type of Business: Service/Product/Marketing/ Product cum Marketing/others

6. Mode of enrolment: Individual/ Group

7. Implementation of the scheme: Yes/No

If, yes mentioned in short

8. Source (s) of information/From where she/they known about the MFI/Bank:

9. Monthly income of the persons from the particular scheme (Rs):

10. Are you benefited after availing this Loan: Yes/No

Please specify:

11. Have you faced any difficulties while availing the scheme: yes/No

If yes, mentioned the causes:

12. Family participation/Engagement: Yes/No.

Explain details:

13. Who initially take the financial decision in yours family:

14. Overall opinion of the recipient about the scheme:

15. Further possibilities of the development:

16. Your comment on self-employment/ income generation scheme for sustainable development through Micro Finance:

Remarks:

Date:

Signature of the Investigator.

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