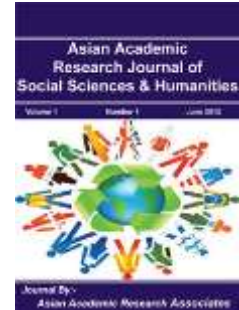




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**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS  
A STUDY ON MICRO FINANCE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Most of the poor lack access to basic financial services that would help them to manage their assets and generate income. Good management of even the smallest assets, such as livestock, can be crucial to very poor people, who live in precarious conditions, threatened by lack of income shelter and food. To overcome poverty, they need to be able to borrow, save and invest, and to protect their families against adversity. With little income or collateral, poor people are seldom able to obtain loans from banks and other formal financial institutions. Microfinance is one way of fighting poverty in rural areas, where most of the poorest people live. In absence of proper education and skills their resource allocations (public distribution system) have proven inefficient in eradicating poverty as the social capital has not developed enough in the country. Hence, the present study is an attempt to study the problems and prospects of micro finance and women empowerment. The objectives set for the study is to understand the concept of micro-finance and women empowerment, to discuss the problems and prospects of micro finance and women empowerment. The data for the present study has been collected from various websites, text books and journals. In general, women need access to small loans (especially for working capital), innovative forms of collateral, frequent repayment schedules more appropriate to the cash flows of their enterprises, simpler application procedures and improved access to saving accounts. Both governments and donors should explore ways of developing innovative credit programs using intermediary channels or institutions close to the target groups such as co-operatives, women's group associations and other grassroots organizations.