

Role of Micro-Financing in Women Empowerment : An Empirical Study of Urban Punjab

DR.SANGEETA ARORA*, SAPNA ARORA**

Women empowerment is a critical pre-requisite for the socio-economic development of any community. Microfinance industry has always targeted women as she is considered poor strata of the society. Microfinance industry as a tool of poverty alleviation aims to bring a drastic change in lives of female which could magically improve the life of family and society as a whole. The main objective of this research paper is to study the perceived impact of micro credit on the women empowerment in Urban India, with special reference to Punjab, one of the most prosperous states of India. Factor Analysis technique was applied on the 26 variables on a sample size of 334 females. These variables were summarized into six factors namely, socio-economic status, personality factor, Financial liberation, familial relations, child development and inhibiting factor. Regression model further analyzed that micro credit has a significant impact on the socio-economic status, personality, financial liberation and family relations. Moreover it was found that women have adapted to the inhibiting factors which are in their stride.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Micro-Credit, Socio-economic, Livelihood, Dual responsibility, Liberation.

Introduction

Poverty has a women's face. Worldwide, women and girls are poorer and more disadvantaged than men. Gender inequality contributes to their vulnerability, with the result that women make up around 70% of the world's poorest people. (Manjoo & Manders, 2009). In country like India women still have a very weak position in society. She is dominated by male person in Indian household. Punjab, one of the prosperous state of India has no dearth of cases showing the poor state of female. There are just 876 females for every 100 males in Punjab reflecting the biases against women. Women suffer a lot from domestic violence and have to face gender biasness. The societies that discriminate against women have more poverty, lower standard of living and economic growth. To overcome such state, Women empowerment is considered as a ray of hope.

The growing social awareness across the globe has made the issue of gender equality and women empowerment significant in the development discourse of recent past (Samanta, 2009). The economic well-being of women is often used as an indicator of overall advancement as women contributes to nurture the society. In India, microfinance has become an important tool of economic development (Tiwari and Thakur 2007). In this direction, the government of India (GOI) has made continuous attempts to formulate policies and strategies that put more emphasis on empowering women and on bringing women into "Mainstream". Both the Indian government and NABARD have started various microfinance schemes since 1990s to raise poor women and their families above the poverty

*Reader, Department of Commerce and Business Management ,Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

**Project Fellow, Department of Commerce and Business Management, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

line. This paper presents an empirical work on the impact of finance in the hand of women. The research has focused on the empowerment of women with financial services at her disposal. Section-II outlines conceptual framework of women empowerment; Section-III highlights the literature work that has been done on women empowerment and micro-finance and finds the gap between the earlier studies and the present study. In section-IV, objective of the study and the research methodology that has been used in the paper is discussed along with data methodology. The analysis and interpretation of the data has been studied in Section V and finally the paper concludes with the Section VI.

Conceptual Framework

The term 'Empowerment' has been defined in different perspectives by various authors. Many of them have defined empowerment as a process of change in existing power structure. It is concerned with power, and particularly with the power relations and the distribution of power between individuals and group (Kahlon, 2004). Batiwala (1994) describes empowerment as "the process of challenging existing power relations and of gaining greater control, over the sources of power".

The concept of empowerment has been considered from social aspect by many authors (Bennett 2002; Malhotra 2002; Saraswathy 2008; Swain 2007). It has also been viewed from political aspect by few. Women's participation in politics, her awareness and knowledge, her participation in political campaign are considered. Puhazhendi and Badatya (2002) defined empowerment as, "Great depth of the concept of power, which ranges from inner power (covering characteristics like confidence, will and self-esteem) to societal power."

Some literature work has conceptualized empowerment as decision making ability. According to UNIFEM ,

"gaining the ability to generate choices and exercise bargaining power", "developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes, and the right to control one's life" are important elements of women's empowerment. It is the process of increasing the capacity of women to make choices and to transform these choices into desired actions and outcomes (Krishna, 2003).

It can be summarized that women empowerment refers to provision of leverages to women in the society who are otherwise deprived.

Review of Literature

A lot of research work has been carried out in different parts of the world to know the success of micro-credit (finance) in empowerment of women. Goetz & Gupta (1996); Gibb Sarah (2008) found that micro-credit has failed to empower women as women could not change her traditional household role and could not retain control over money. Sijders and Dijstera (2009) also found that micro-credit has failed to effect the political position of women and hence overall empowerment was not observed. Similarly, Samanta (2009) propounded that women have no control over credit which is the failure of microfinance to empower women.

However, Authors like Hashemi, Schuler and Riley (1996); Hunt. J & Kasyanathan N. (2002) Agha et.al.(2004); Anna K.P. Saraswathy & Panicker K.S.M.(2008); Aruna & Jyothimays (2011) studied the impact of micro- credit and micro finance programme on the lives of women and found micro-credit as a significant factor contributing to empower women in one way or other. On the other hand, some studies have concluded with the mixed impact of micro-finance on Women. Leach et. al. (2002) found that micro-credit has succeeded in socially empowering women where economic empowerment could not be possible due to lack of knowledge and understanding

among women about business. Berglund (2007) found the individual empowerment but no empowerment impact was found on groups. Schechter (2007) observed that credit facilities helped women to run a business and earn small profits but they were still found dependent on family members.

There is no dearth of work done on women empowerment and microfinance; it was found that a lot of research work has been done on Southern Region of India. But as far as Punjab is concerned, there is paucity of research especially in Urban Punjab. There is difference in the financial needs of urban and rural people. So, this research paper has focused on Urban Punjab where microfinance industry is still in the nascent stage and not much research work has been done to gauge the impact of microfinance on women's

lives residing in urban Punjab. This research is an attempt to draw the attention of policy makers towards the urban India where the microfinance services can serve in a more profitable and sustainable way to make a drastic change in the lives of women.

Research Methodology

The objective of the study is to determine whether microfinance services are instrumental in empowering Women in Urban Punjab.

The sample size of 350 females' was selected to fill the questionnaire out of which responses of 334 were valid and complete. Table 1 provides the demographic profile of the respondents. Judgment and Convenience Random sampling technique has been used for collecting information from those who belongs to lower income

Table No. 1: Demographic Profile of the Sample

City	Amritsar	Jalandhar	Ludhiana	Total
Age				
18-25	8	8	10	26
25-40	64	62	64	190
40-50	32	30	30	92
50and above	8	10	8	26
Total	112	110	112	334
Income P.M.(Rs.)				
Nil	20	16	18	54
Less than 2000	22	20	26	68
2000-5000	60	62	58	180
5000-7500	9	10	9	28
7500-1000	1	2	1	4
Total	112	110	112	334

Occupation				
Domestic-Servant				
Street-Vendors	30	36	32	98
Petty Shop-keepers	17	15	14	46
Housewife				
Others	19	18	17	54
	15	18	21	54
	31	23	28	82
Total	112	110	112	334

strata. Micro credit female clients has been selected from urban areas of Punjab namely i.e., Amritsar, Ludhiana and Jalandhar. Those women who are availing loan from either informal or formal source have been the part of sample size. The sample contains 142 women taking loan from formal sources like Bank, MFI etc. where 192 respondents were those who were taking loan from informal channels such as moneylender, employee, relative/friends etc. Various questions were made regarding their perception about the benefits of credit on their lives.

Most of the respondents chosen were illiterate or less educated, so the questionnaires were verbally explained to them and responses were recorded according to the answers provided by the sample population. Table 1 provides the demographic profile of the sample.

Further, In order to analyze the data, Factor Analysis Technique was adopted which helped to load the number of variables on few factors and reduced the numbers of variables into more manageable factors. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was adopted to rotate the variables followed by Varimax rotation. Statistical Software SPSS 17.0 was used to analyze the results.

To analyze the impact of microfinance on Women, Multiple Regression model was applied on factors to test the null hypothesis i.e., H_0 : There is no significant impact of Microfinance services on women empowerment.

Analysis and Interpretation

Factors impacting Women Status

The questionnaire contained twenty six statements reflecting the impact of micro credit services on women empowerment. The respondents were asked to rate these statements on five point likert scale as to how they perceive the impact of micro credit on their lives, ranging from highly agree to highly disagree. Table 2 contains the list of the statements provided to women respondents. The responses were further analyzed using the technique of Factor analysis.

Table 2: List of Statements

Sr. No.	Statements
1	Poverty reduction
2	Improvement in Income level
3	Rise in unnecessary expenditures on consumption
4	Improvement in employment level
5	Improvement in consumption level of family
6	Improvement in standard of living
7	Better utilization of available resources
8	Developed entrepreneurship skill
9	Improvement in social status
10	Awareness of social issues
11	Increase in children enrollment to schools
12	It does not result into increase child labor in family business
13	It serves families instead of individuals
14	Confidence building and gaining self-respect
15	Increase in decision making power
16	Recognition in family
17	Improves market knowledge
18	Improved communication skill
19	Control over loan use
20	Increase in self-consumption
21	Positive impact on family health
22	Increase in mobility
23	Reduced domestic violence
24	Positive change in men's attitude
25	Increased burden
26	Participation in group discussion

For this purpose the internal consistency of the data was verified through cronbach alpha which turned out to be 0.880. This is a good indicator of reliability proving it adequate for further analysis. Further, the sampling

adequacy was measured through Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity which were also found to be favorable.

Table 3: Sampling Adequacy Tests

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha		N of Items
0.880		26
KMO and Bartlett's Test		
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO)		.868
Barlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. chi-Square	3532.760
	Df	325
	Sig.	.000

Application of Factor Analysis

In order to extract the factors that have impact on women's lives, factor analysis has been carried out. For this purpose Principal Component analysis was used and a six factor solution was obtained (after Varimax solution) on the basis of the criterion of Eigen Value greater than one (>1). Initially, correlation matrix was obtained showing the inter-correlation amongst the variables. Moreover correlation between the variables

came out to be significantly high. Similarly, sampling adequacy of the data was cross checked through anti-image matrix.

Rotated Factor Analysis

Once the correlation variables are obtained, variables were explained through Eigen value. As table 4 reveals that there are six factors that have Eigen values greater than 1.

Table No. 4: Rotated Factor Matrix

Variables	Factors						Eigen Values
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
VAR 1	.736	.265	.063	.171	.090	.014	7.826
VAR 2	.814	.214	.096	.178	.085	.013	1.913
VAR 3	.243	-.083	.148	.146	-.139	.792	1.759
VAR 4	.630	-.113	.250	.230	.022	-.085	1.399
VAR 5	.594	.163	.019	.094	.074	.253	1.369
VAR 6	.704	.346	.023	.069	-.010	.143	1.037
VAR 7	.690	.232	-.086	-.022	-.027	.085	.972
VAR 8	.695	.289	.328	.086	-.028	-.111	.940
VAR 9	.550	.264	.475	-.059	-.338	.132	.915
VAR 10	.514	.288	.291	.003	-.316	.226	.794
VAR 11	-.228	-.214	.212	.138	.616	.115	.744

VAR 12	-.243	-.128	-.003	.113	-.647	.086	.699
VAR 13	.111	.515	-.067	.132	-.055	.014	.664
VAR 14	.248	.720	.051	.055	-.033	-.087	.656
VAR 15	.254	.717	.218	.112	-.003	.111	.576
VAR 16	.123	.676	.206	.149	.116	-.010	.512
VAR 17	.248	.615	.063	.091	.056	.082	.444
VAR 18	.340	.470	.167	.309	-.052	.122	.435
VAR 19	-.055	.193	.760	-.161	.200	.066	.400
VAR 20	.309	-.120	.627	.269	-.101	-.064	.383
VAR 21	.081	.300	.459	.460	-.238	.187	.347
VAR 22	.166	.166	.684	.263	.158	.037	.309
VAR 23	.167	.179	.078	.814	-.009	.027	.275
VAR 24	.147	.258	.073	.740	.060	-.014	.252
VAR 25	-.028	.325	-.112	-.218	.339	.512	.211
VAR 26	.367	.266	.090	.277	.349	-.018	.167
% of variance	30.099	7.358	6.764	5.380	5.266	3.989	
Cumulative Variance	30.099	37.456	44.220	49.600	54.865	58.854	

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

The second last row of the table shows the percentage of variance explained by individual factor. It was observed that these six factors jointly explained 58.854 percent of the variance.

Orthogonal Rotation with Varimax Rotation method was applied on all the twenty six variables loaded on six important factors extracted through Eigen values. Table 4 shows the rotated factor matrix. Varimax Rotation method is one of the popular method of orthogonal rotation and it has helped in reducing the number of variables and factor loadings greater than 0.50 (ignoring signs) have been retained.

Explanation of Factors

Table 5 lists the factors extracted from the list of variables and the variables attached therewith. The

factors were extracted on the basis of common dimensions reflected by the variables.

FACTOR 1: Improvement in Socio-Economic Status This factor explained 30.09 per cent of the variance of all the factors. This factor is inclusive of number of variables, namely, poverty reduction, improved income level and standard of living, improvement in employment level, family consumption. Women are now socially more active and aware about social issues. They consider themselves in a better position economically as well as socially. With financial services they are able to develop their entrepreneurial skills and utilize the resources in an improved way (V7).

FACTOR 2: Enhancement in Personality Factor As women can easily avail credit services, they

perceive themselves more confident (V14). Generally, the women are so much occupied by household activities that they are not recognized as an equal partner in household decisions. But with more credit services available at their doorstep women take decisions and

are more knowledgeable about market (V17=0.615). Women perceive contribution of micro finance services towards the family rather than as an individual benefit. Combination of all these variables addsto their personality.

Table No. 5: Factors of Women empowerment as perceived by WomenClients

Factors No.	Factors Name	Statements	Score
1.	Improvement in Socio-Economic Status	V 1:Poverty reduction	0.736
		V2:Improvement in Income level	0.814
		V4:Improvement in employment level	0.630
		V5:Improvement in consumption level of family	0.594
		V6:Improvement in standard of living	0.704
		V7:Better utilization of available resources	0.690
		V8:Developed Entrepreneurship Skills	0.695
		V9:Improvement in social status	0.550
		V10:Awareness of social issues	0.514
		2.	Enhancement in Personality Factor
V14: Confidence building and gaining self-respect.	0.720		
V15:Increase in decision making power	0.717		
V16:Recognition in family	0.676		
V 17:Improves market knowledge	0.615		

3.	Improvement in Financial Liberation	V 19:Control over loan use V20:Increase in self-consumption V22:Increase in mobility	0.760 0.627 0.684
4.	Improvement in Familial Relations	V 23:Reduced domestic violence V24:Positive change in men's attitude	0.814 0.740
5.	Positivity towards Child Development	V 11: Increase in children enrollment to schools. V 12:It does not result into increase child labor in family business	0.616 0.647
6.	Inhibiting Factor	V 3:Rise in unnecessary expenditures on consumption V 25:Increased burden	0.792 0.512

FACTOR 3: Improvement in Financial Liberation

This factor is indicative of financial independence of women. In a country like India, where gender discrimination exists even at household level, the woman is dominated by male person. Micro finance services have a potential to liberalize women financially where she has power to control the funds. The variables that are highlighted include her control over loan use, self-consumption and increase in mobility. This factor is contributing 6.764 per cent towards women empowerment.

FACTOR 4: Improvement in Familial Relations

As women are able to earn and feed her family, Microcredit has helped women to improve her familial relations. This factor contributes 5.380 percent variances towards women empowerment as women. The results showed that the attitude of men has changed

positively with reduced domestic violence (V23= 0.814). As a woman is capable to share the family responsibility and is a contributor in bringing funds at home, she is respected by her family. Moreover due to shared responsibility, men's frustration can also be diminished resulting into improved family relations.

FACTOR 5: Positivity towards Child Development

This factor is an indicator of the change in the attitude of women and contributes 5.266 per cent of the total variance. She seems to be more aware about the importance of education for her child. It has been observed that the funds are utilized for children welfare and their education. Women are able to perform her duties towards child in a greater efficient way. The same is proved through research that resources in women hands' result in the form of enhanced children enrollment to school (V11) and diminished child labor in family business (V12).

FACTOR 6: Inhibiting Factor

This factor does not directly contribute to women empowerment but shows that micro credit services has led into increased expenditure on consumption (V3). As such loans are easily available from informal sources which are spent on unproductive purposes. Moreover this factor also adds to the burden of women as she is under dual responsibility. But still women consider it as part of their empowerment; the reason being that she perceives itself to be more progressive rather than considering it as a restrictive factor in their

pathway to empowerment.

The factors scores of factors those extracted with the help of factor analysis were used for further analysis i.e. Multiple Regression Analysis.

Application of Multiple Regression Analysis

The technique of multiple regressions has been used to analyze the impact of microfinance services on women empowerment as perceived by them. Table 6 provides the list of variables used in multiple regression analysis.

Table 6: Multiple Regression Analysis

	Name of the Variable	Definition	Label
Dependent Variable	Impact of Microfinance Services on Women Empowerment	Microfinance services lead to the improvement in the status of women as perceived by them	Y
Independent Variable	REGR factor Score1	Improvement in Socio-Economic Status	X ₁
	REGR factor Score2	Enhancement in Personality Factor	X ₂
	REGR factor Score3	Improvement in Financial Liberation	X ₃
	REGR factor Score4	Improvement in Familial Relations	X ₄
	REGR factor Score 5	Positivity towards Child Development	X ₅
	REGR factor Score6	Inhibiting Factor	X ₆

Dependent Variable

Dependent Variable taken was the empowerment of women with microfinance services as perceived by them and the same was rated on five point likert scale.

Independent Variable

All the six factors were taken as Independent Variables

that were extracted from factor analysis out of the list of 26 variables as provided in the table 4.

Model formulation

Before formulating model for regression analysis, it is necessary to validate the data by checking whether the multi-collinearity exists between data. For this

purpose, estimated partial correlation between dependent and independent variables was calculated which measures the correlation among women empowerment and the factors affecting the women micro credit clients (Table 7). Moreover, the Pearson

correlation matrix also indicates the nonexistence of collinearity as no correlation is too high. It is insignificant in case of X5 and the same variable is removed in later stage while forming equation.

Table 7: Pearson Regression of Correlation between dependent and independent variables

	X 1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	Y
X1	1						
	-						
X2	-.106	1					
	(.053)	-					
X3	-.173	-.081	1				
	(.001)	(.143)	-				
X4	-.057	-.027	-.043	1			
	(.298)	(.629)	(.430)	-			
X5	.035	.016	.026	.009	1		
	(.525)	(.768)	(.630)	(.874)	-		
X6	-.062	-.029	-.047	-.015	.009	1	
	(.262)	(.602)	(.395)	(.779)	(.864)	-	
Y	.432**	.217**	.341**	.119*	-.73	.128*	1
	(.000)	(.000)	(.000)	(.030)	(.184)	(.019)	-

** Correlation is Significant at 0.01level (2 tailed)

*Correlation is significant at 0.05level (2 tailed)

In order to obtain more accurate results, tests such as Variance Inflation factor (VIF) and Tolerance level (1/VIF) were measured to test the multi-collinearity. VIF equivalent or below 10 is said to be acceptable as it reflects that data is free from multi-collinearity. In this case, the value of VIF and Tolerance level came out to

be 1.000 for each independent variable; hence it can be accepted from the analysis that there exists no collinearity among the data.

After checking the multicollinearity, we can estimate the regression model. To meet the objective, the

perceived impact of microcredit services on the lives of women has been studied. Following model was used for studying the relationship between dependent and independent variables:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + U_t$$

Where,

Y= Dependent Variable;

= Intercept term $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6$

are Regression coefficients

$X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6$ represent Independent variables;

U_t = Error term.

The model has been summarized in the table given below (Table 8):

Table No. 8 Model Summar

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
.621	.385	.374	.655	1.968

The value of R in the model shows a marked degree of correlation. The value of adjusted R² is 0.374 which indicates that all the variables extracted could explain 37.4 per cent of the variation in the dependent variable. Hence, the model can be confidently said to be a generalized model. The difference between R square and adjusted R square is also satisfactory (0.385-0.374=0.009), which is interpreted as the 0.09% less variation in the outcome if it is derived from the actual population. To check whether the model fulfills the assumption of independent errors, Durbin- Watson test is applied. The result of Watson test (1.968) is found to be near 2, which is considered to be significant. It has been proved through the test that the data meets the assumption of independent errors. To cross check the assumption of normal distribution of the standard errors,

it is confirmed through normal probability curve and histogram.

The significance of the model is measured through ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) to test the following null hypothesis:

$$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = \beta_5 = \beta_6 = 0$$

The Null hypothesis explains mean values of regression co-efficient are equivalent to zero. Table 9 has been drawn to reveal the significance level for F statistics. F ratio is highly significant; hence the null hypothesis is rejected i.e., there is no significance difference between the mean values of co-efficient. It is evident that the value of one or more regression coefficient is not equal to zero.

Table No. 9: Analysis of Variance

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	87.864	6	14.644	34.142	.000
Residual	140.256	327	0.429		
Total	228.120	333			

All these favorably support the argument that the model is significant and can predict the outcomes.

Table 10 reveals the coefficient for regression variables. The beta value coefficient allows us to test the strength of relationship between women empowerment and the impact of micro credit services on the lives of Women clients. Independent variables i.e., X1, X2, X3, X4, and X6 have positive correlation as well as significant values at 5 per cent level of significance. X5 which has negative beta has been eliminated for the purpose of interpretation as well as from regression model.

Regression Equation

The estimated equation is as follows:

$$Y=3.108+0.357 X_1+0.180X_2+0.282X_3+0.98X_4+0.106X_6$$

This equation can be used to know whether the micro-finance services are instrumental in women empowerment given the values of the factors determining the impact of such services on women respondents. The equation has been obtained by capturing the values of beta co-efficient through Table 10.

Table No. 10: Factors influencing the empowerment of Women

Model	B	S.E	Beta	T	Sig.
Constant	3.108	.036		86.724	.000
X1	.357	.036	.432	9.954	.000
X2	.180	.036	.217	5.004	.000
X3	.282	.036	.341	7.856	.000
X4	.098	.036	.119	2.740	.006
X5	-.60	.036	-0.73	-1.680	.094
X6	.106	.036	.128	2.949	.003

The significant t-value corresponding to each variable confirms the significant contribution of each independent variable to the model. All factors have significant values except X5 hence excluded while formulating equation. Larger the value of t statistics, the contribution of the respective variable is known to be greater. The same fact has been shown through beta values.

The value of Beta coefficient is highest in case of X1(improvement in socio-economic status of women) revealing that 43.2 percent of the variation in the women empowerment can be explained by this variable. So, it can be said that micro credit services lead to improvement in status of women economically

as well socially. Similar results are shown by other variables such as positive impact of micro credit services on personality of women and financial status of respondents. The next highest contributing factor that leads to empowerment of women is inhibiting factor (X6) which is making an indirect contribution to empower women. The positive results (Beta=0.128) reflects that it has very small contribution in women empowerment and the respondents does not hesitate to avail micro services due to this variable. The smallest Beta in case of X4 i.e. 0.119 shows that micro credit services contribute least to the family relationship of women clients. As proved by Table No. 9, Standard error (S.E.) corresponding to the beta value is 0.036 shows that only small portion of S.E. varies across the samples.

Conclusion

In this paper the impact of micro credit services on the empowerment of women clients has been discussed. The factor analysis and regression test revealed several factors that can influence the lives of women. The six factors socio-economic status; enhancement in personality; financial liberation; improved familial relations; child development and inhibiting factor were extracted with Factor analysis technique. Then, Multiple regression analysis was applied to test whether these factors have any significant impact on women empowerment. Out of the six factors, five variables were found significant and X5 (Positivity towards child development) was eliminated that was highly insignificant and hence it is not a part of regression equation. The results of the study showed that women clients are benefitted highly as far as their status (social and economic) is concerned (X1). It revealed that yet micro credit can empower women by providing them financial liberalization (X3) but the family relations (X4) are being least influenced by micro credit services. Moreover, inhibiting factors are taken up as a challenge by women. So it can be concluded that in urban India micro finance services had been a boon to women as it had led to their empowerment. The credit services can be more beneficial if the funds are taken up from formal sources rather than informal. Poor and underprivileged women clients must be taught about the benefits of productive use of loans and more sources of finance must be provided to them. There is quick need to take some action to empower women by providing them more financial services. The finance in the hand of women can lead to empowerment of family as well as society so they must be encouraged to make productive use of finance which could help them to step out of the poverty trap.

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