

Impacts of women based micro-credit on poverty alleviation: the case study of FINCA Tanzania, Dar es salaam Cluster

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This dissertation examines the poverty alleviation and women empowerment through access to and control of credit in a case study of FINCA Tanzania Dar es Salaam cluster. Based on the research questions, in-depth interviews were used as a method of survey research. Participant observations were also used. Data were collected from structured and unstructured interviews with 100 active female borrowers. Most of women in my sample was married and completed basic/ primary education, learnt about FINCA Tanzania through word of mouth, used loans productively and they were involved in different businesses. Women participation in the microfinance loans is helping them because women expand their choices by gaining access to credit, growing their businesses, experiencing increased self-confidence and respect from their families, renovate their houses, bought different types of house hold assets, exposed them to improved household diet, owned transport facilities like bicycles, motorcycles and Cars and reinforcing their status as independent female micro entrepreneurs. Despite the success of FINCA Tanzania micro credit program, this research recommends that FINCA Tanzania implement flexible requirements, provide additional microfinance services and increase outreach to the female micro entrepreneurs particularly those with lower incomes of rural Temeke District and the Tanzania Government continue to support microfinance programs in order to facilitate their positive social and economic impacts.