

**Experiential Learning
on
Impact Assessment of
Microfinance**

AN INAFI – INDIA INITIATIVE

Experiential Learning on Impact Assessment of Microfinance

Microfinance programmes are amongst the most important interventions in reducing poverty worldwide. This sector has made rapid strides in reaching greater number of poor clients and now attracts / compels a lot of investments from government, donors, apex institutions, etc. It did make significant impact in the lives of the poor through its socio-economic programmes. As the sector grows, there is a need to understand and look at the impact of microfinance in order to keep focus on overarching goal of poverty reduction.

By studying the impact of microfinance on the people and communities they seek to support, NGOs can measure their effectiveness in fulfilling their goals, including that of poverty alleviation. This information may be useful to the NGO in terms of affirming or challenging its own strategy. It may improve their understanding of why certain positive or negative impact occurs.

Impact assessment is an institutional responsibility, which facilitates NGOs for a better understanding as to whether the 'quality of life' of its target population is improving or not. It also helps to assess whether the resources are effectively contributing to the original goals of alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods.

Against this backdrop, INAFI – INDIA, a network of microfinance practitioners takes the initiative to organise this experiential learning programme on Impact Assessment of Microfinance.

OBJECTIVES

1. To expose the participants to the principles and concepts of Impact Assessment of Microfinance
2. To emphasize the importance of Impact Assessment for Microfinance from the perspective of poverty reduction
3. To help design an Impact Assessment study by using various indicators, tools and methodologies
4. To provide experiential learning opportunities
5. To sharpen the understanding and skills of the participants about Impact Assessment
6. To broaden the understanding of the participants on overall changes happening in the context of Microfinance

For whom

Programme Officers / Executives of NGOs practicing Microfinance

Programme content

A brief outline of the training programme is as under

DAY 1: What and Why of Impact Assessment –

- Principles and Concepts of Impact Assessment with specific reference to Microfinance
- Indicators of Impact Assessment – Economic, Social, Political, Cultural
- Tools of measurement
- Methodologies
- Aspects of data / information collection, authenticity, verification
- Looking at the unintended impact of the programme / project – Positive & Negative Impact, Tangible & Intangible Impact.

DAY 2: Field visit to have first hand experience in the given context and to study the Impact

Day 3: Presentation of the learnings of the field by the groups followed by discussion for enhancing their understanding and knowledge level about Impact Assessment

This is a Participative Learning Programme.

Resource Persons

Eminent practitioners of microfinance experienced in this field of Impact Assessment would present resource lectures and also facilitate the workshop.