



## MICROFINANCE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A CASE STUDY OF KHUSHALI BANK MICROFINANCE PAKISTAN

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**Abstract-** The aim of this research is to examine the relationship between microfinance and women empowerment. In recent years, no notable work has been done on microfinance in relation to women empowerment. So we undertook this research using primary data. For the analysis of data, t-test, and chi-square tests has been used. We collect data from 60 respondents through interview and questionnaires. There were 30 creditor woman and 30 non creditor woman. The main creditor list was obtained from Khushali microfinance bank and first 30 women were selected for data collection. The result shows that microfinance has positive effects on a woman decision making abilities, her status in the eyes of her children and parents but it did not show that a creditor woman receives more respect from her husband. It also show that credit does not give a woman the freedom to exercise family control measures. However, she (creditor) has good status among peers and has more social participation. The study recommends that credit taking conditions may be relaxed for increasing the scope of the financing.

**Key Words:** microfinance, khushali microfinance, women empowerment, expenditures, productive assets, household assets, decision making.

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the study

Empowerment of women has gained a lot of popularity in recent times. Empowering someone gives them the power and authority to take significant decisions about their lives. Disempowerment is not only the problem of developing countries but the women of developed countries are also facing obstacles in gaining authority or power in many respects of their lives. There are many hurdles which come in any women way like lack of employment opportunities, lack of financial resources, no authority of decision making and lack of basic education etc. Male is preferred over female although they are talented, may have more entrepreneurial skills but rejected or dejected. Worldwide, women are poor as compared to men. Women have limited access to education, economic rights and property but some have limited opportunities to elevate themselves out of poverty and made self-reliable.

Pakistan is the fifth most populated country. According to the 2017 census of Pakistan, the populations of women is 101,314,780 so the needs of women are also high. The literacy rate of female is 45% and that of male is 69% so women also face discrimination in this field. Women face discrimination in male dominated society and in their family, political, social and economic life (Salia, Hussain, Tingbani, & Kolade, 2018) and in addition to it the general duties of managing households create hurdles in their economic and social empowerment. Hence, many efforts have been made by non-governmental and governmental organizations to enhance women empowerment especially in rural areas and one such effort is the microfinance intervention.

The term microfinance is an economic phenomenon of financial services that is provided to low income individuals, who generally lack access to banking services. Microfinance is an effective weapon and strategy to cover a wide range of services like money transfer, savings, insurance etc to served and reach millions of people who have no assets or poor with no access to collateral. The poor people have enormous skills which remain underutilized and unutilized. To utilize the skills of poor people, microfinance emerges to help poor people to start their own business to reduce the extent of poverty and made self-reliant to promote their business. Microfinance suits it good to those who have entrepreneurial

abilities and skills. Traditionally, the microfinance provide an opportunity to low income individuals to become self-reliant by providing a means of borrowing money, saving money and insurance.

In Pakistan, women empowerment is of great importance. It is essential that equity in decision making brings empowerment of women. Women's economic empowerment targets towards gender equality, poverty alleviating and economic growth. Women make many contributions to economies whether as employees, on farms, in business etc. but this may be affected by poverty, violence and discrimination. Gender discrimination means women usually get low wage, insecure while performing their duties and elect a small minority in senior positions. It diminishes access to land and loans and limited participation in shaping economic and social policies because women perform a lot of household duties and work. Often they have limited time left to achieve economic opportunities. Economically strong women are empowered women. Economic dependence weakens women status in family and society.

The rural poor in developing economies have two main sources one is institutional and the other one is non-institutional. Institutional sources include commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperatives etc. and non-institutional which may include money lenders, friends, relatives, traders and landlords.

Around the world, development agencies and governments have been the top most priorities of microfinance and women empowerment. For development process, it is necessary that governments, development experts, scholars, international aid donors have paid much more attention to microfinance as a tool and strategy capable of reaching women and involving them in these affairs. Still women empowerment has been viewed as an achievement of a good deal for women, with the focus mainly on women's wellbeing.

Microfinance is closely attached to women empowerment basically refers to the phenomenon of abilities to control over social, political, economic and legal strength of women to secure equal rights to women and make possible to confident herself to ask/demand for their rights. Many governmental and non-governmental organizations working in Pakistan integrates women empowerment and gender equality to enhance opportunities for women's participation in the labor force to spread out girls access to basic education, promote women rights in economic, political, stop gender based violence and improve health. Worldwide, women are poorer and less enterpreneurial skills as compared to men.

In 1970s, Professor Muhammad Yunus (economist) started microfinance from rural Bangladesh from just \$27. He found that to help poor people without interest and this helped them to be able to start and operate their own business which make the foundation/milestone of what we today known the microfinance for those who are in extreme poverty but they have the capabilities to bring about their own development and improve living standard. The Grameen bank was chosen as an organization that is devoted to microfinance.

The microfinance program is a sole innovation credit technique to raise income generating activities. The program design to lend small loans to poor people for self-employment activities to allowing the borrowers to obtain a better quality of life. In Pakistan, microfinance is basically a new and emerging phenomenon but it is gaining fast importance as a tool of economic mobilization, women empowerment and poverty alleviation. Generally, the resources and empowerment are directed towards men who finally results in the deprivation of women rights. To enhance women empowerment, it is necessary to change the present situation. In Pakistan, the Khushali bank microfinance has been very active in serving the nation. It gives a glimpse of social and economic well-being of poor o spoors (Montgomery, 2006). Microfiance was proved to be helpful in uplifting women (Setboonsarng, n.d.). The study attempts to probe this notion in details.

This study is significant from different point of views. It shows the effect of micro financing on women empowerment for a case of government regulated organization, which in recent past has not been researched empirically.. General public and policy makers can take help from the results for this study. It will also benefit economists to take help from the results and it will add to already existing stream of knowledge.

## **Problem statement:**

Women are the neglected participant of our society. It is observed that their credit taking activities are considered negative. Additionally, very few female show their credit status. The economic dependence of our women has weaken their status .Women has been a unit of research in various socio-economic status but there has been few studies in which empowerment is related to micro-credit so this research address the issue empirically to fill the gap.

## **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This section reviews in detail the existing literature on impact of microfinance on women empowerment. This chapter is dedicated to the existing practices of managing microfinance in various countries as well as improvement in women empowerment.

Khan and Rahaman (2007) examined the role of microfinance institutions in providing free collateral loans in rural areas of Bangladesh. This study used group lending methodology. The analysis specified that improve health , education ,sanitation ,basic rights ,living standard and reduce poverty it is necessary to provide microcredit to poor people .It was showed that 84% of borrowers of these programs were mainly targeted towards women who have no assets .They found that microfinance institutions has no requirements of collateral to take loan thus significantly improved women confidence ,security ,right and status within the household.

Haq and kamran (2009) analyzed the role of micro-credit to promote women empowerment for the growth of microenterprises in Pakistan and its impact on socio-economic characteristics ,social status and improvement in the economy .They also studied economic activities of women and reduce the extent of poverty .The study is based on qualitative research and in depth interviews .It not only provide better education to their children but also increases their business .The result suggested that micro-credit has significantly increased income of women borrowers, self confidence, control over assets ,role in decision making and it will lead to good investment in their business.

Sarumathi and Mohan (2011) carried out research to investigate the effects of microfinance through Self Help Group (SHG) which is a modern tool to reduce poverty, creating awareness and for the development of rural areas of nation .Through microfinance, the three dimensions are considered to play role in psychological, social and economical empowerment. The rural areas of pondichery region are selected for the study. The primary as well as secondary data were used for the study. The methods that were used are percentage method, simple correlation coefficient, paired t-test and cross tabulation for the purpose of analysis. As a result, microfinance brought psychological as well as social empowerment than economic empowerment.

Sultana and Hassan (2010) analyzed the impact of micro-credit on rural women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh. A number of 90 respondents were selected as sample using stratified random sampling technique .Surveys and interviews was taken and was used to collect data .They studied economic indicators like personal income ,savings and assets ownership. A sample t-test was performed to find the impact of micro-credit on economic empowerment. The study showed that Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) women have more economically empowered and had more active participant in various incomes generating activities .The result suggested that the personal income of BRAC women was more than that of non-BRAC women. As a result, savings and assets helped them as a protection against household risks.

Kumar, Bohra and Johari (2010) studied the poverty situation of India. They found that 60% of people are dependent on agriculture and their per capita income is \$3262 so this is not efficient to provide food for one individual. The factor that is responsible for rural poverty is the low assets. They used secondary data collecting from various websites, research paper and magazines. The result showed that microfinance institutions growing fastly which provide loans to poor people to reduce poverty.

Das (2012) carried out his research on the impact of Self Help Group on women empowerment. The study is undertaken in three districts of Assam. This study used descriptive analysis and impact assessment to find women empowerment. The study showed that microfinance help in alleviating poverty

and empowered women. The result found that there is a positive relationship of Self Help Group (SHG) and empowerment.

Idrees, Ilyas and Cheema (2012) undertook a study in backward areas of Pakistan to find out the association between women empowerment and micro crediting by using estimation sampling. The sample size consisted of 54 respondents. The data collection technique for the study was survey and interview schedule. The finding suggested that there is a significant association between income generating activities and micro crediting. In the rural areas of Pakistan, non-governmental organizations also promote women empowerment through micro-crediting. The result concluded that women participating in micro-credit programmes have led to significantly role in household decision making, having access to economic and financial resources and generate independency of mobility.

Kumar, Hossain and Gope (2013) studied the fastly growing micro-credit institutions around the globe for the development process of the poor. The study is undertaken in Jhonaidah and Kushtia districts of Bangladesh to identify the role of Grameen bank and its impact on rural women empowerment. They used structured questionnaire, observation and in-depth interview from 100 respondents .The result of the study suggested that women play role in reducing the rural unemployment and poverty. As a result, women welfare increases which increases employment and also increases mobility.

Owusu, Akanbasiam and Anyesepari (2013) analyzed the microfinance programmes and its contributions to reduce poverty and enhance women empowerment in Ghana for the time period of 1991-1992. Primary data was used to collect data from 29 informants. The study found that microfinance institutions gave credits with terms and conditions that are not favorable to the needs of the women.

Kato and Kratzer (2013) examined the situation of poverty and women empowerment in Tanzania. The study investigated microfinance institutions that extract money from poor women through high interest rates, causing higher social pressure and lead to domestic violence .Using quantitative and qualitative data from three regions of Tanzania. Mann-Whitney U test was used to collect data. Women members of microfinance institutions have more control over savings and income generated from business activities. The study shown that microfinance services could be a way for women to gain the ability to make strategic choices concerning their lives.

Selome and Tshuma (2014) focus the role of government in women development fund (WDF) to empowered rural women in Zimbabwe .Although in developing countries ,women discrimination are in terms of employment opportunities ,basic needs support ,access to capital and credit facilities .The study mainly focuses on the micro-credit that leads to reduce women poverty ,improving their wellbeing ,empowered women and reducing their weakness that they face in the rural society .The study was undertaken in Umgusa district of Zimbabwe and employed purposive sampling. The data was collected through questionnaire, oral history, focus group discussion and interviews. Their findings are insignificant because poor women were indebted instead of helping them out of poverty and they used loans for their personal use.

Rocque (2015) conducted a study to investigate the microfinance borrowers and its emphasis on women empowerment. The OLS regression runs on cross-sectional time series data. The large gender differences shows that 73% of microfinance borrowers were women .The measures that were used for women empowerment are enrollment rate of female in secondary school and financial independence with proportion of female. The result showed that microfinance negatively effect on women empowerment.

Ullah., khan et al (2015) examined the socio-economic conditions such as women empowerment and poverty alleviation and its impact on microfinance borrowers to improve living standard of the people of Dir lower KPK,Pakistan.The borrowers taken loans from the bank of Khyber and helping hands. Microfinance has positive impact on poverty reduction and women empowerment. The data collecting techniques were structured questionnaires and in-depth semi structured interviews. For collection of data, descriptive statistics and correlation analysis were applied by using SPSS version 16.As a result; microfinance has significantly impact on life standard, women empowerment in terms of both social and economic terms.

Rehman, Moazzam and Ansari (2015) examined the role of microfinance on women empowerment in Pakistan by using qualitative approach and case study method by employing Grameen and Banco sol method. Their findings are significant in alleviating poverty and empowered women in respect to children

health, education, socially and economically. Their study also investigated four variables to observe their influence on women in domestic or social life age, education, marital status and family type. It was concluded that to eradicate poverty and reduce gender discrimination, it is necessary to empower women.

Sujatha, Gangadhar and Malyadri (2015) investigated the effectiveness of microfinance on empowerment of women in India. The main indicators of women empowerment are household economic decision making, legal awareness, mobility, economic security and family decision. They used cross-sectional time series and questionnaire methods. The result indicated that microfinance helps women to start participating in microfinance program. The mobility increases and increases self confidence which empower women in society.

Shakya (2016) analyzed the situation of alleviating poverty and encouraging women in Nepal to give status in life of Nepalese women. The study investigated the role of microfinance and its effect on borrowers. The findings are based on questionnaires, previous research and interview also suggested that there is an improvement not only in economic terms but also in social terms. The result concluded that the microcredit interest rate is not favorable for women in rural areas that's why the amount borrowed by urban women is higher than money borrowed by rural women.

Poominathan, Amilan and Muthukrishana (2016) carried out research on the role of microfinance on women empowerment. The area of study was Karaikal districts. The association of microfinance with Self Help Group (SHG) is important to be successful to support women empowerment which brings improvement in lives of women. They used primary as well as secondary data collected through NGO's report. It was also showed that Self Help Group has an effective strategy to reduce poverty and bring economic empowerment.

Kapila, Singla and Gupta (2016) studied Self Help Group to improve the status of rural women to achieve economic development. The study was done in Punjab province of India. They used both primary and secondary data. It was showed that micro-credit has significantly improved participation of women in household decisions. The result exposed that income and empowerment level increases after joining Self Help Group. There is a positive relationship between micro-credit and empowerment which enhances the status of rural women.

Gangadhar, Bhat and Malyadri (2017) studied the impact of microfinance on empowerment in India. The study is undertaken in Karimnagar district of telangana state, India. The study analyzed three factors of women empowerment that is legal awareness, political awareness and health awareness. Through structured questionnaire, Self Help Group (SHG) belonging to women empowerment was conducted on scheduled tribe and scheduled caste. The result suggested that Self Help Groups programs increases women empowerment after participation in the programmes and improved health awareness rather than political and legal awareness.

Addai (2017) conducted his research to study the services of microfinance on the social and economic empowerment. The area of study was Ghana and using purposive non-probability sampling technique. The sample sizes of 500 respondents were selected from Greater Accra, Ashanti, Eastern, Central and Western regions of Ghana. He found that microfinance programmes promote women empowerment and reduce poverty in Ghana. He used probit model and estimation model to analyze the data. The result suggested that access to microfinance has significantly increased economic and social empowerment.

(IGI Global, 2019) in its book chapter refers to self-help group (SHG) in India. It considers SHGs as effective for women economic empowerment and that's why they are promoted. The study investigates the effect that access to microfinance have on three facets of women empowerment. These include influencing decision making related to credit issues, expenditures and children. The research based on a primary survey in which 800 women respondents were selected who were the beneficiaries of microfinance from various credit institutions. They applied multivariate probit estimation technique for data analysis. The results suggests the effect of greater access to microfinance as negative towards economic empowerment of women; the credit and expenditure related issues.

(Thanh et al., 2020) studies microfinance's impact in Vietnam in relation to women economic empowerment. The research consisted on primary data which the team acquired from microfinance

institutions/organizations and women unions in Tra Vinh province of Vietnam. The feminist organizations were focus of the study who emphasize on developing and under developed countries for the promotion of women empowerment. For this purpose they mostly employ microfinance solutions based on the notion that women encounters significant challenges of gender inequality. The research finds a strong association between women unions and microfinance institutions in providing microfinance and non-pecuniary services to women folks on the basis of trust agreements (delegation of authority). The main objectives behind microfinance services is poverty reduction, financial security, and gender equality. The results finds the effect of microfinance on not only economic empowerment but legal empowerment and feminist factors.

(Lamichhane, 2020) done a descriptive study for highlighting the role of microfinance. The researcher considers microfinance as rural based, focusing on deprived women, and targeted at marginalized persons. Microfinance is best amongst all other programs for poverty alleviation in rural areas especially for women. It has served as a great tool of self-employment and provides loans without any collateral. Research finds that women who have gained microfinance have been able to generate self-employment opportunities and consequently economically and socially empowered as a result of small projects which increased their income. The study reveals that there is a positive relationship between microfinance and women empowerment. Microfinance becomes catalyst for social change and women's empowerment.

(Rehman et al., 2020) studies the effect of microfinance on women empowerment and alleviating poverty. He used case studies and qualitative approach for in-depth analysis of microfinance disbursed by Akhuwat organization in Pakistan. Akhuwat gives interest free micro loans. The research finds that microfinance acts as change agent in women's lives in the context of family social status and well-being and household conditions. The study took four variables for studying its influence on women's decision making ability for her social and domestic life. It is found that age, education, family type and marital status have significant effects on women empowerment. The altruism of women is evident form the results as they spend more on their family.

(Mostafa, 2020) selected sample from two Bangladeshi microfinance banks, Grameen and BRAC which consisted of 316 women. However 285 questionnaires were returned in complete form. The results confirms the contribution of microfinance in empowering women to a certain extent. The economic empowerment' measurement was done by women' household income, control over finances and saving. Study finds a relationship between these three variables and with the amount of loan. However the research could not give any proof of a relationship between loan and geographic area of the lender women. The engagement of women in income generating activities viz-a-viz their long term membership increases the probability of increase in household income.

## **Conclusion**

The research review shows the importance of microfinance in women empowerment. There has been studies throughout South Asia and other countries. Pakistan too had been researched for the phenomenon in early years of the previous decade but no significant study has come across the research team in the recent past few years. There is not a notable work on the sampled bank which specializes in microfinance and it is a government bank. To fill this gap, this study was undertaken for better understanding the effect of government formal efforts in uplifting women status and empowering them.

## **III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

All the information related to data collection, population and sample sizes are given below.

### **Population of district Mardan:**

District Mardan is located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan. The total area of district Mardan is 1632km<sup>2</sup>. According to 2017 latest census of Pakistan, the population of district Mardan is 2373061 and the population of females is 1172112. After Peshawar, it is the second largest city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There are almost all the bank branches in Mardan but khushali microfinance is the only bank which is specialized for micro level loans. This bank was our sampled bank.

### Sample size:

The sample size chosen for the study is 30 respondents from credit taking women and 30 from non credit taking women. As there were time and financial constraints, the sample size was kept low.

### Sample frame:

A sample frame of micro creditor women was obtained from khushali microfinance bank and the first 30 women were contacted for data collection.

### Data collection:

This research is based on primary data which was collected through interviews schedule and questionnaire. Questionnaire was developed and used when the respondents was literate and interview schedule was used in case of illiterate respondents.

### Tools for analysis:

We used Chi-square and t test for analysis purposes. We indexed the responses and tested for difference between creditor women and non-creditor women which were used as control variables through t test. The chi-square test is a statistical test used to determine whether observed frequencies are significantly different from expected frequencies. It is based on the outcome of the chi-square test will either reject or fail to reject the null hypothesis. The chi-square goodness of fit test is accurate when the following conditions are applied.

- The sample method is simple random sampling.
- The variable under study is categorical.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Contribution to decision making and mobility

We hypothesize that there is no difference between non creditor and creditor women regarding various aspects of decision making etc. against alternate of significance: The chi square value for decision making regarding purchase of basic household needs was found significant at 5% level. It shows that there is a significant difference between creditor and non-creditor women in respect to decision making regarding purchase of basic household needs. Similarly the chi-square values for decision making regarding purchase of livestock was found to be significant at 5% level. It shows that there is a significant difference between creditor and non-creditor women in respect to decision making regarding purchase of livestock. The chi-square value for decision making regarding use of birth control methods was found to be insignificant at 5% level. It shows that there is an insignificant difference between creditor and non-creditor women in respect to decision making about use of birth control methods and we cannot claim that economic empowerment or independence makes a women carry or take birth control decision. So in case of various purchases, a women is empowered if she is creditor (having money).

**Table 1: Difference between creditor and non-creditor women: Purchase of various items**

Statement	Chi square	P value
Purchase of basic household needs	11.7	.003
Purchase of livestock	25.9	.000
Purchase of household assets	19.60	.000
Purchase of land	25.90	.000
Children schooling expenses	21.70	.000
School to send to children	20.100	.000
Health/medical expenses for self	6.40	.041
Use of birth control methods	1.20	.549
Use of loan amount	67.60	.000
Girl marriage decision	25.90	.000

## The Effect of credit taking on Social Status

We also asked about the change in the attitude of the surrounding people towards women who took credit for some productive/non-productive work. Table two shows various statements and the chi square values corresponding to them. As per the results, there was found no significant difference between the respect given to a creditor woman and a non-creditor one from their respective husband. We can say that there may be some other attributes that can make a husband respect his woman more. However, apart from husband, there was a significant difference between creditor and non-creditor female in terms of respect from family viz. parents and children. There was also recognition from within the group and active participation in the community activities by creditor woman and her views mattered in family decision and decisions about her children marriages. So we can say that having money, makes a woman more valuable.

**Table 2: Difference between creditor and non-creditor women: Change in Family and Social Relationship**

Statement	Chi square	P value
Respect from husband	3.8	.150
Respect from parents	8.53	.003
Respect from children	4.800	.028
Recognition within the group	14.267	.003
Participation in community activities	11.86	.008
Views for household decision	14.0	.003
Views for children education/marriages	24.93	.000

## Economic status of Creditor Woman

The economic well-being of a creditor woman as per her perception are given in table 3. It shows that microfinance does increase income, value of productive assets, increases power of decision making and provides employment opportunities (self-employment). However, microfinance is not significant in increasing savings and households assets. So we can assume that microfinance may increase consumption but not saving. It may not upgrade social status but it enables the creditor to know about banking operations and add to her confidence to face problem. Accordingly, the creditor has better awareness of surroundings.

**Table 3: Difference between creditor and non-creditor women: Economic Status**

Statement	Chi square	P value
Microfinance increases income	13.4	.004
Microfinance Increases savings	2.6	.273
Microfinance increases value of household assets	5.4	.141
Microfinance increases value of productive assets	23.6	.000
Microfinance provide employment opportunities	9.6	.008
Microfinance increases power of decision making	11.3	.010
Microfinance increases confidence to face problems	20.4	.000
Microfinance creates better awareness	9.2	.027
Microfinance creates knowledge about banking operations	8.1	.043
Microfinance improve social status	4.2	.122

## Overall difference of Creditor and Non-Creditor women

Table 3 shows the difference of means between creditor and non-creditor women in terms of expenditures, household assets and productive assets. Expenditures comes when we combine or add all the expenditures of creditor and non-creditor women which they have done on different commodities. There p value for t test is significant. Means different from zero. That's why the expenditures of creditor and non-creditor women are different. A household asset comes when we combine all the assets of



creditor and non-creditor women that they own. The t-values are 2.088 and is significant. So we can say there is also difference in terms of household assets. Productive assets comes from adding all the assets of creditor and non-creditor women that they done on different assets. The t-value is .003 which is less that's why it is statistically significant. So a creditor woman may have more productive assets or may have created them out of credit and its investment. So the results are evident that creditor and non-creditor woman vary in expenditures, productive assets and family assets. It may also be an expression that non-creditor woman are more poor. They may not have the surety for taking loan. It may be the hindrance in their credit taking ability as microfinance too requires surety.

**Table 4: Overall difference of Creditor and Non-Creditor women**

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Expenditure	Equal variances assumed	13.93	.000	3.015	58	.004	30390	10078.469	10215.75	564.25
	Equal variances not assumed			3.015	29.856	.005	30390	10078.469	9802.85	50977
Household Assets	Equal variances assumed	8.28	.006	2.088	58	.041	396218	189772	16348.35	776088
	Equal variances not assumed			2.088	29.314	.046	396218	189772	8271.21	784165
Productive Assets	Equal variances assumed	9.45	.003	2.294	58	.025	1745970	761197	222266	3269670
	Equal variances not assumed			2.294	30.258	.029	1.70	761197	191951	3299980

## V. CONCLUSION

1. The results conclude that microfinance increases income, savings and provide employment opportunities to the creditor which has significant impact on women empowerment. Productive assets and household assets are significantly different from zero hence we can say microfinance makes woman. Self-perception of beneficiary empowerment means that microfinance increases income, savings, household assets and productive assets. Our analysis shows that expenditures have statistically significant values which means that the creditor and non-creditor women have different expenditures level.

2. It also shows that the use of birth control methods is statistically insignificant at 5 % level.

3. In a nut shell

- Our analysis shows that there is a strong relationship between microfinance and women empowerment.
- Our overall values shows significant result that there is some relationship between microfinance and women empowerment and conclude that if respondents wants to take microfinance, ultimately their living standard will be improved.

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