

教科書原典文字データ

Chapter 5

Microfinance: Seeds of Change

Money may not hang from trees, but it can grow. Sometimes all you need is a little bit to get started. Microfinance enables people to escape a cycle of poverty by giving them loans to start a trade or business and savings accounts to accrue interest. Working at the ground level of poverty, microfinance plants seeds of a better future.

The idea behind microfinance is simple: offering basic financial services to the poor, instead of offering donations, can enable them to lift themselves out of poverty. Micro-loans, usually in amounts under \$200 U. S., give people the chance to start a small business. A woman living in an isolated village in the Philippines, for instance, may take out a loan to buy a cell-phone. She then rents out her phone on a per-call basis. A woman in Bangladesh, meanwhile, may take out a \$40 loan to start up a small trade business. She will spend part of the money to buy dried fish, nuts, and chocolates and use the other part to pay for her bus fare as she travels to various towns. Other people may use their loans entirely for transportation to get goods that they already produce to a market where they can sell them for a profit.

While microfinance institutions thrive in urban settings, they also have the ability to change life for the better in rural areas. A successful business in a rural village could employ several people. A new cell-phone business in an isolated village, meanwhile, provides an important link to the outside world. A trade business can benefit the villagers who produce the items.

Microfinance programs also provide clients with other basic financial services that they need to grow the money they earn. They provide savings accounts, so that clients can safely store their money and earn interest over time. They also offer... mean family ruin. Some also provide “consumption... child’ s tuition.

本文の元となった原典の英文を収録しております。(一部の章のみ)

One of the most innovative aspects of microfinance is... not just individuals. Some microfinance institutions organize small “solidarity groups” of about five people, while others have groups as large as fifty people. Individuals receive loans, but the group is responsible for repayment. Sharing the responsibility gives the bank assurance that the loan will be repaid without the need for collateral, which people living in poverty simply do not have.

Because all members are invested in one another’ s success, they offer peer-support to one another. Group members meet weekly to ensure that they maintain stable savings and loan repayments. Different groups have varying levels of autonomy. Some determine interest rates, repayment terms leadership positions, and penalties for default.

Personalized services also help many clients succeed, Sometimes this is as simple as having a bank representative come to collect the weekly loan payment (instead of insisting the client comes to the