

A Workshop on Microfinance and Women's Empowerment: The Road Ahead

Jointly organised by DRIVE (University of Liverpool), IRD (University of Paris I Sorbonne)
and CERMI (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

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University of Liverpool, Management School

Microfinance is a widely practiced development tool – with the dual objective of poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. Presently several hundred million poor women have been provided with access to savings, loans, insurance and payment services. The primary objective of targeting poor women is to enhance their income earning and budget management capacities and empower them. Three decades on, the empowering achievements of microfinance are still fiercely debated.

This workshop brings together some of the experts in this field to examine more closely some aspects of this debate.

- What do we know about measuring empowerment
- The role of methodological approaches in the empowerment debate
- How much does “context” matter in empowerment?
- The role of “product design” for women's empowerment
- How much do social ties among group members matter?
- What is the role of governance?

While consolidating what is known, this workshop will focus on new ideas that help improve our understanding of the linkages between financial inclusion and women's empowerment. The workshop will also reflect on further work required and the methodological challenges that lie ahead.

Registration for the workshop is open. To register please email **Dr Carol Porter** (c.j.porter@liv.ac.uk). Registration fee is 50 pounds, which includes lunch and workshop materials. Students are entitled to a reduced rate of 25 pounds.

Organisers:

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