

**MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN
RWANDA
A CASE STUDY OF DUTEREMBERE MICROFINANCE INSTITUTION (2005 -2012)**

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ABSTRACT

This research examined the contribution of microfinance institutions on women's entrepreneurship development in Rwanda. It aimed at seeing if women are moving from poor small scale entrepreneurs and would be entrepreneurs from low growth enterprises to high - growth enterprises using microfinance institutions (MIFs). The general objective of the study was to determine the contribution of microfinance institutions on women entrepreneurship in Rwanda. The specific objectives included: To find out the sources of capital for empowering women in economic activities in Duterimbere; To assess the economic activities performed by women to generate income in Rwanda; To determine the extent to which women participate in economic activities in Rwanda; Find out the factors that inhibit the empowerment of Women in Rwanda. The study is of great importance because it was to help the researcher meet the requirements for the award of the master's degree in business Administration since it is one of the requirements to be fulfilled prior to its completion and achievement and the researcher was also required knowledge, skills and experience of conducting research. The series of microfinance institution programmes and policies which study intends was to see if those policies of the government to reduce rate of poverty through empowering women to have increase access to credit facilities on women entrepreneurship were put in place. The research tries to evaluate the impact of microfinance institution and women entrepreneurial development in Rwanda as well as Duterimbere microfinance. The research problem emerged out of the needs to assess the extent to which microfinance institution impact on women entrepreneurship. Survey method of study was used. A simple percentage was used in data analysis. The study was found that women entrepreneur was know about microfinance existence. The study was employed both descriptive and explanatory approaches to seek answers to the research question. The study was revealed that there is an increase in the numbers of employees and amount of working capital of entrepreneurs after using the services of microfinance institutions (MIFs). The researcher was concluded that Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are key players in entrepreneurship development; it recommended that microfinance institutions (MFIs) should packages their services together (financial and non financial) in order to positively boost growth of small and medium enterprise (SMEs)