

Statistical Perspective of Microfinance in India

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Abstract

In a country like India, where almost 70 per cent of the population is in the rural areas, with little or no access to main stream financing options, microfinance has a huge role to play and a huge population to uplift. Microfinance, thus simply brings the rural populace closer to reaching a better lifestyle by helping them with small credit amounts that they acquire with minimum or no collateral. Though the number of MFIs has steadily been on the rise in the past decade, authentic first hand information about their performance and growth is hard to come by. Very few reliable sources of data of this kind are available. The scope of this study is wide in the context that it tries to collate the growth of the microfinance sector in the past five years, from 2002 to 2006. This paper has analyzed the data pertaining to 71 Microfinance institutions and has analyzed the current status of microfinance institutions in India through various indicators both financial and social parameters. It has also presented the implication of the statistics to the industry accompanied by the suggestions for the overall microfinance industry.

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