

INFLUENCE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A CASE STUDY OF VILLAGE BANK SALAMPUR SWAT, KP

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Abstract

In Pakistan, women constitute more than half of the total population, with the majority residing in rural areas. However, their participation in economic activities remains largely invisible, as their contributions are often unpaid and unrecognized. Women in rural Pakistan face significant socio-cultural constraints that limit their ability to engage in business or participate in formal economic activities outside their homes. Consequently, the economic burden falls disproportionately on men, who alone cannot sustain this responsibility. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bureau of Statistics, over 45% of the population in Pakistan lives below the poverty line, with women representing the majority of those affected by poverty. Addressing this issue requires targeted empowerment initiatives to integrate women into the economic framework. One such initiative is the establishment of Community-Based Financial Intermediaries, which provide sustainable and locally accessible financial services tailored to women in rural areas. The present study employs a mixed-methods research approach to examine the effectiveness of these intermediaries in enhancing women's economic empowerment. Qualitative data was collected through case studies, capturing firsthand experiences of the respondents. Quantitative data was obtained from multiple sources, including SRSP (Sarhad Rural Support Programme) anecdotal records, which provided insights into cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and loan recovery rates. Additionally, primary data was gathered from respondents using the Poverty Score Card developed for Pakistan by the World Bank, with historical poverty scores retrieved from SRSP records for comparative analysis. The findings of this study indicate that the Village Bank model has a significant impact on the economic, social, and political dimensions of women's lives. These factors are essential for fostering empowerment, demonstrating that financial inclusion through localized, community-driven financial intermediaries can serve as a viable strategy for improving the socio-economic conditions of women in rural Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment is a fundamental approach to improving the financial, social, and political status of women, particularly those who have historically been marginalized and disadvantaged in society (Qais et al., 2023). Extensive research has demonstrated that women are more likely than men to allocate a significant portion of their household income towards the welfare and education of their children. When women are effectively empowered to earn, accumulate assets, and enhance their financial security, they not only improve their own livelihoods but also contribute to economic growth by fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and expanding the available pool of skilled human resources within a nation. It is increasingly recognized that women entrepreneurs serve as key drivers of sustainable economic development and represent a growing force in the economies of developing nations (Bhatia & Singh, 2019). However, despite a rising number of women-led enterprises globally, women continue to manage fewer businesses than men, often operating in less profitable sectors that experience slower growth and face a higher likelihood of failure.

Women residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province face systemic socio-cultural barriers rooted in centuries-old patriarchal traditions that marginalize them within society. For generations, these women have lived under deeply ingrained discriminatory norms that restrict their mobility and economic independence. These constraints are imposed not only by societal structures but also by immediate family members, reinforcing their dependence on male counterparts (Qais et al., 2023). Such restrictions contribute to an increase in cases of domestic violence, as women have limited legal and social recourse.

Domestic violence in Pakistan manifests in various forms, including sexual violence, rape and gang rape, forced abortion, human trafficking, dowry-related deaths, forced marriages, acid attacks, and honor killings. In some traditional communities, men are granted implicit social and cultural authority to physically abuse their spouses without legal repercussions. Multiple factors contribute to the persistence of domestic violence in society (Falak, 2022). These include high levels of illiteracy, lack of

awareness regarding women's rights, the entrenched monopoly of patriarchal values, weak institutional support, poor enforcement of legal protections for women, widespread poverty, and other socio-economic constraints. Additionally, there is no comprehensive legal framework to address domestic violence effectively or provide adequate legal assistance to victims (Falak, 2022). Law enforcement agencies often do not recognize domestic violence as a criminal offense, resulting in reluctance or outright refusal to prosecute perpetrators.

In light of these challenges, the objective of this research is to explore mechanisms for providing financial services to women in Salampur Union Council, Swat, drawing insights from the successful and innovative Community-Based Financial Intermediaries initiative established by the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP). This study also seeks to examine the key factors influencing the success of microfinance programs, particularly their impact on increasing income levels, asset accumulation among beneficiaries, and the promotion of women's entrepreneurship. By assessing these elements, the research aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for enhancing women's economic participation and financial independence in rural Pakistan.

2. Literature review

Microfinance is a widely recognized tool for poverty alleviation, providing individuals and communities with financial resources to engage in economic activities. One of the primary challenges faced by low-income individuals in generating sustainable livelihoods is the lack of financial capital. Microfinance seeks to address this issue by offering access to financial services, thereby enabling economic participation among the poor. Scholars define microfinance as the provision of financial opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals, facilitating their ability to initiate and sustain economic activities. Some of the core services offered through microfinance include remittances, microinsurance, savings, and microcredit (Ledgerwood, 1998).

According to the Microfinance Gateway, microfinance represents a sustainable solution for

delivering affordable and high-quality financial services to low-income individuals. These services enable recipients to generate and stabilize their income, accumulate assets, and attain financial security during periods of economic uncertainty. Contrary to the misconception that microfinance is solely about providing loans under favorable conditions, it also encompasses financial instruments such as remittances, payments, savings, and insurance. The primary beneficiaries of microfinance initiatives are classified as the Economically Active Poor, a term referring to individuals who, despite financial constraints, engage in income-generating activities such as small-scale farming, trading, self-employment, and micro-enterprise operations, including shopkeeping, tailoring, and production activities (Guntz, 2001).

Empirical studies have demonstrated the positive impact of microfinance on income levels. Research indicates that individuals who utilize microfinance banking services or are affiliated with microfinance institutions experience a 43% higher income compared to those who lack access to such financial services. Moreover, evidence suggests that when women receive financial support for entrepreneurial activities, they tend to generate higher earnings than men who do not have similar access to financial services. This increased financial participation among women not only enhances their economic empowerment but also strengthens their decision-making power within households and communities (Jinaga, 2024).

Village banking has played a significant role in fostering women's empowerment within rural communities. This concept was first introduced in Pakistan through the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) in 1989, which established a network of community-based financial institutions in the northern regions of the country. Over time, this model expanded, gaining further momentum with the establishment of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), the Microfinance Outreach Program, and several partner organizations. These initiatives have collectively enhanced the accessibility and efficiency of financial service delivery to rural populations, particularly those belonging to lower-income households (Fund, 2010). Through these structured financial interventions, microfinance has

emerged as a key instrument in promoting economic self-sufficiency, reducing poverty, and empowering marginalized communities, particularly women, in rural Pakistan.

2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The current study is based on the "Village Banking Model", a model followed by the small banks formed by the communities which are owned and controlled by these communities and are also known as community-based financial institutions. John Hatch, who was the founder of the Foundation for International Community Assistance devised this model. FINCA is an American organization operating in various countries around the world (Guntz, 2001). In the microfinance field, the concept of village banking emerged in the 1980s. FINCA at that time proved it to the world it is possible to provide banking services to the unbanked people without heavy subsidies from the government (Sanni, 2025). The Village Banking Model of FINCA was an example of adaptability and possibility of microfinance banking services, therefore International Financial Institution gave it proper recognition. There are several advantages attached to this model of micro banking such as reaching the poor, diversifying the products, and substituting the collateral (Fund, 2010). The model was so flexible that it could be adapted to the culture and conditions of different communities and that is the reason behind the success of this model. Along with that this model also promoted the democratic way of life as office bearers were selected based on the voting system and thus transparency in the system was ensured.

2.2 Women's Empowerment: Williams' Theoretical Model

Williams (2005) created a theoretical or hypothetical model in Bangladesh. For this reason, he utilized the efforts done in the field by Hashemi and Schuler (1993) and Kabeer (1999), which gave significant bits of knowledge for the advancement of the model. Kabeer (1999) distinguished three fundamental components of empowerment, which are accomplishments, assets and agency. The monetary, human and social assets should be prerequisites for empowerment and "exercise of Power, or office,

within the sight of assets is the procedure of empowerment". Eventually, results are picked up as accomplishments, by joining assets and organization. The easygoing arrangement of England's (2000) model includes monetary assets and standards by others and these preconditions intuitively influence the utilization of power and legitimately influence the accomplishments Hayat et al. (2024).

2.3 Motivating Theoretical Framework

This part shed light on the available literature to build up a theoretical or hypothetical structure for examining the connection among women empowerment and microcredit. Even though the empowerment of women challenges an 'all-inclusive' description that might be pragmatic for all disciplines, there is more prominent agreement on its conceptualization in writing than anticipated. Regularly the scope of covering terms utilized in the writing counting decision, control and force, allude just to women' capacity to make choices and influence results of significance to themselves and their families. Command over one's own life and assets is frequently focused on (Yount et al. 2018). From this developing writing, a typical idea of women' strengthening can be refined, and is utilized here: women' strengthening is characterized as the development of decisions for women and expansion in women' capacity to practice those decisions in the family (UNDP, 1995)

2.4 Micro Credit and Women's Empowerment

Most of the empirical literature recognizes that the value of power coefficient ' θ ' is increasing in the relative share of women's earned income in the household [Duflo and Udry (2003), Anderson and Eswaran (2005) and Basu (2004)]. Credit is seen as a critical input for increasing the employment of women in home-stead income generating activities or

enhancing the productivity of women's enterprises through the adoption of an improved technology. In whichever circumstance there is a likely increase in the share of female earned income that manifests itself in greater 'power' within the decision-making process. Thus, it is claimed that access to microcredit through increasing women's income leads to empowerment (Hayat et al, 2024; Shumaila et al, 2021; Yasin et al., 2022).

The writing overviewed gets the job done to give the hypothetical establishments to exactly testing the connection among women empowerment and microcredit. Illustration on the key bits of knowledge from the writings, Fig 3.1 depicts the three conduits through which we assume microcredit to advance the situation of women inside the family: I) right off the bat, strengthening achieved by increments in autonomous salary; ii) furthermore, strengthening through 'control' over credit and investment funds choices; and iii) thirdly, through the expanded worth of women inside the family, originating from their capacity to bring a 'significant' resource for the family unit economy.

The recognizable proof of these three components in producing 'empowerment' impacts is basic for inspiring the examination plan for this investigation. The attention on any of these instruments alone will neglect to give a total point of view on women' strengthening. For any experimental investigation that intends to assess the empowering capability of credit, it is, consequently, important to take a gander at the 'results' related with the strengthening impacts instead of looking as it were at the 'measures' through which those strengthening impacts were produced. Cycle based pointers like bookkeeping information (Ackerly, 1995) and administrative control (Goetz & Gupta, 1996) don't get the job done, all alone as proof possibly in support of empowerment (Kabeer, 2001).

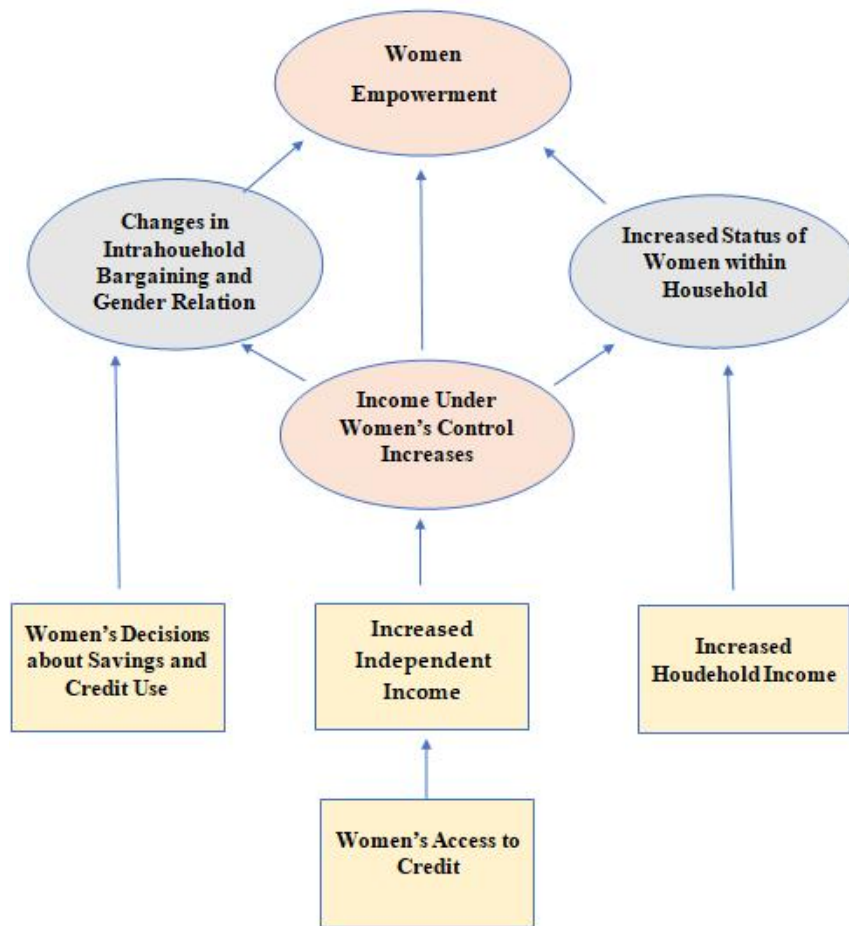


Fig. 3.1: Framework of Women's Empowerment through Microcredit

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design is the path chosen by a researcher for the research study. In this research study, the research designed is used mixed methods. The population who are actively using the services of Village Bank Salampur is around 106 and these are the people who will be the population of this study. The sample size chosen for this research study is 4. The study comprised of 4 case studies of different people. Most of the responses started repeating after the 4 cases, therefore, the researcher decided to stop the collection of further data and interviews.

As the research study is based on mixed methods therefore for the collection of quantitative data a survey was used and also help was taken from anecdotal records and for the collection of qualitative data semi-structured interviews were taken. The quantitative survey was conducted via poverty

scorecards to take both pre and post scores of the sampling units.

Before the data collection consent of the participants was taken by asking them to sign on the consent form to avoid any legal and ethical issues. To analyze the collected data and make inferences, a non-parametric test called the Wilcoxon sign rank test was applied. Wilcoxon test is considered an alternative to parametric paired t-tests. Unlike paired t-tests, Wilcoxon test does not rely on the assumption of normal distribution. The case studies were analyzed by a tool given by Creswell (2009). The interviews were recorded in audio and then were transcribed. The interview answers were coded and different themes were analyzed based on this coding.

4. Results

This study is mainly concerned with the analysis of the quantitative data collected from respondents of

the research. It describes the changes in the assets and income level of the respondents. The tool used to collect data for this analysis was the Poverty Score Card. For Pakistan, the Poverty Score Card was created by the World Bank to measure the poverty found in the country.

Since the motive was to study the assets and income level before and after the intervention, therefore, the

initial data was obtained from SRSP as they already had surveyed in 2006. There are both open-ended and closed-ended questions in the Poverty Score Card. In the annexures, a sample of the Poverty Score Card is attached. Following is the categorization of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund:

Cutoff Ranges	Ranges	Categories of Poverty Levels
1	0-11	Extremely poor/Destitute
2	12-18	Chronically poor
3	19-23	Transitory poor
4	24-100	Better Off

Table 5.1: Poverty Level Categorization

4.1 Quantitative Analysis

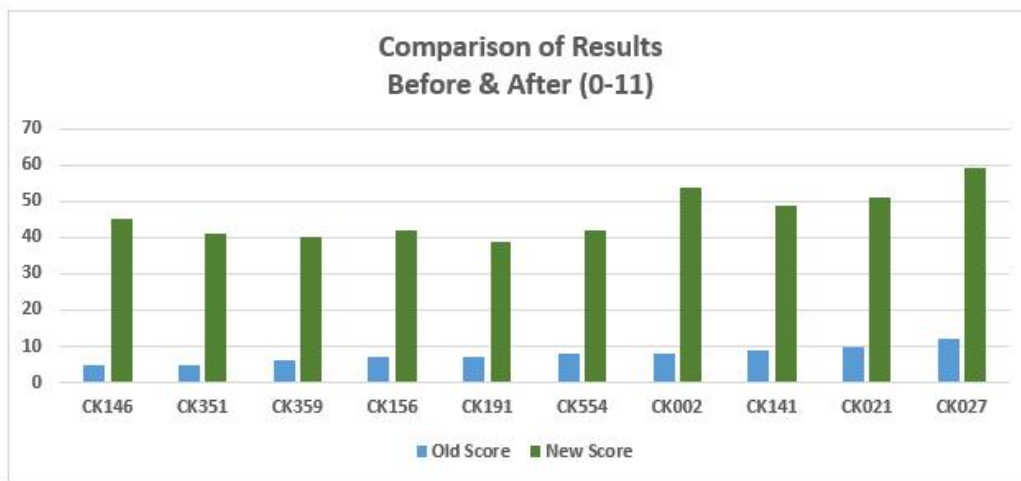


Figure 5.1 shows the values of Strata 1 respondents before and after the intervention. As can be seen, more the graph above the level of poverty has significantly improved from the level of extreme poverty to better off in the last couple of years. When SRSP was implementing the intervention, at that time condition of the respondents was very bad and they fell in the extremely poor category. However, after the implementation of the intervention of the Community-based financial

institution, the livelihood became better and they moved on to the better off category from the extremely poor category.

However, the change was only visible in the income level but also the asset accumulation of the respondents. The people of Salampur have benefitted from the village banking system and now their life standard is better than before and it can be said that poverty in the region of Salampur has been considerably reduced.

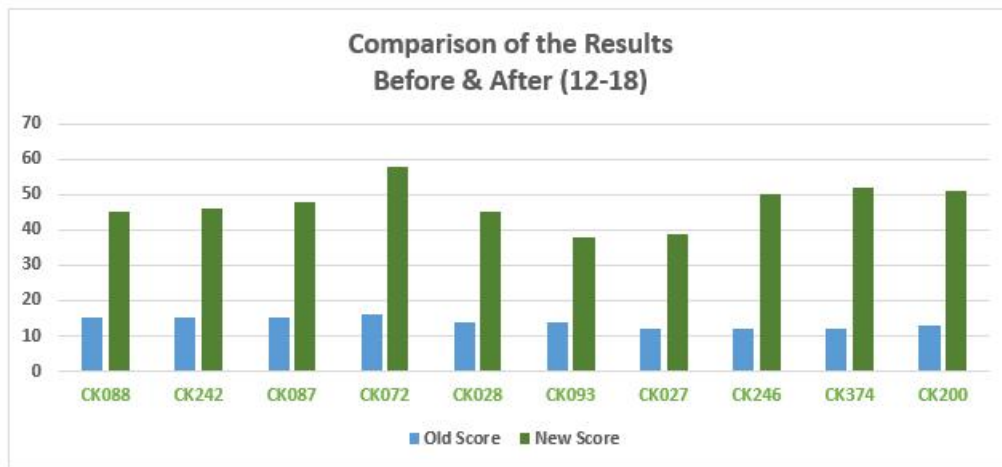


Figure 4.2: Strata 2 Respondents Graph

As obvious from the graph, when the intervention was not applied, the poverty score of the people in this strata fell in the category of chronically poor; their score was between 10 and 18. However, when the Village Bank Intervention or the Community Based Financial Institutions was applied by SRSP, the clients of the banks actively and repeatedly benefit from the services provided by this bank and now their livelihood has moved from chronically poor to the better off category. This change shows two aspects of the financial conditions of the clients of the Village Bank; asset

accumulation of the bank users and their income level as well. This means that the Village Bank has proved beneficial to the bank users and their life status has improved significantly. How this changed happened can be explained by the data collected via the Poverty Score Card from the respondents. There are three aspects based on which the categories change. One is the income level of the respondents. Second is the number of assets owned by the respondents and the last one is the life status of these respondents.

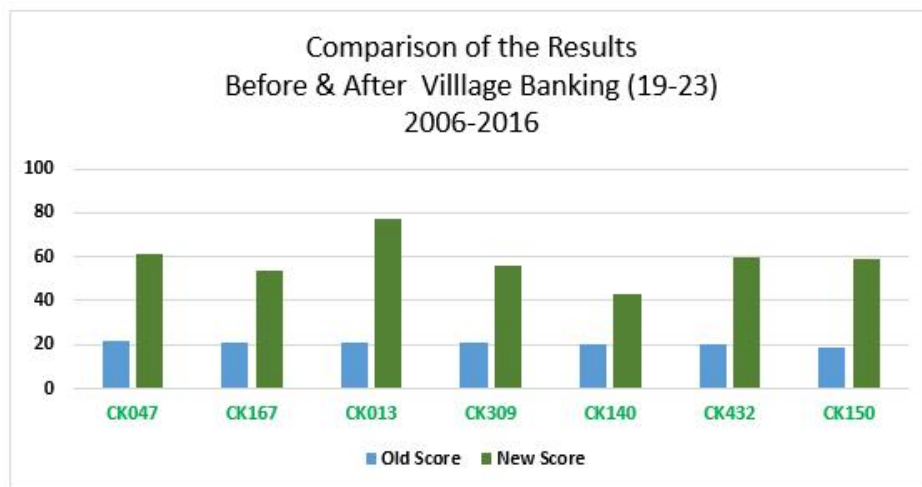


Figure 4.3: Strata 3 Respondents Graph

The life status of people living in the region of Salampur has considerably improved as shown by the data in the graph given above. Before the

intervention of Community Based Financial Institutions, the people had hardly any assets and also their level of income was very low, however,

after the intervention was applied, their assets increased with time and so did their assets and life status. From the extreme poverty category, they have moved on to the category of better off.

Not only this graph shows the level of income of the people of Salampur but also the assets owned by

them and their life status. Thus it can be said that based on the graph above, the livelihood of the people living in Salampur, after availing the financial services of Village bank has significantly improved their life status.

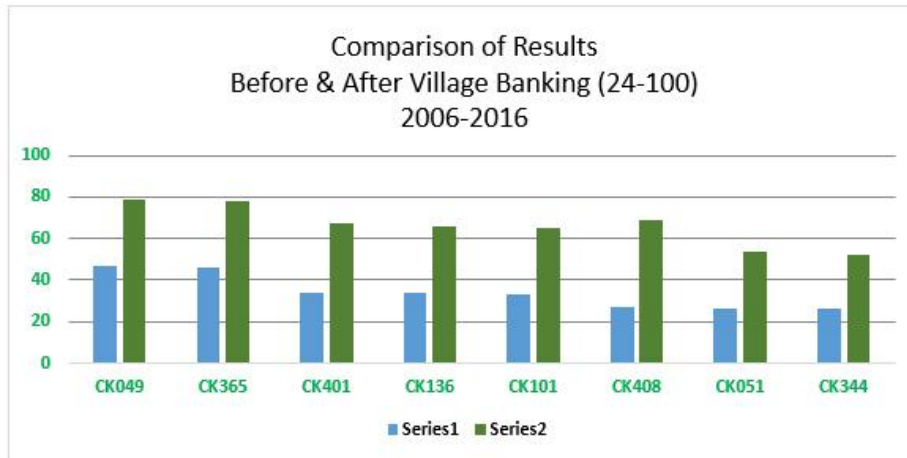


Figure 4.4: Strata 4 Respondents Graph

As shown in the graph above, this strata’s respondents were already in the better off category before the application of the intervention, however, this does not mean their livelihood has not been affected by the intervention application. They have rather improved their livelihood by availing the financial services of the Village Bank.

The graph indicates that the life status, income level and asset accumulation of the respondents have improved, and they have moved up on the scale of Poverty Score Card. This means that the intervention of SRSP; Community Based Financial Institutions have improved the livelihood of these people which fall in the strata 4 of this research study.

5.2 Sustainability of community-based financial intermediaries

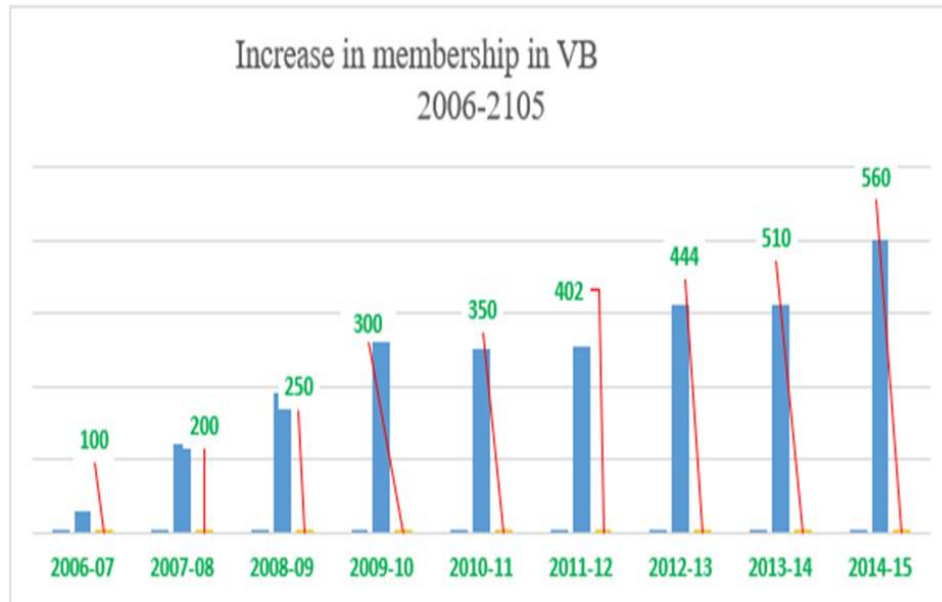
Following are the indicators used in the measurement of Community Based Financial Intermediaries’ sustainability;

- 1) Membership increase trend over time
- 2) The trend of disbursement of funds over time
- 3) Loans passed per year
- 4) The trend of recovery of loans over time

These indicators were identified with the help of anecdotal records of SRSP which are given below;

- 1) Monthly Progress Report of Village Bank Islampur (VBMPR)
- 2) SRSP Management Information (System) for Microfinance
- 3) SRSP Financial Information System (FIS) for Microfinance

Membership increase trend over time



The initiative of Community-Based Financial Institutions was started by SRSP in 2006. Ever since its start, the number of members has kept on increasing every year. It could be one of the reasons we can say that the initiative of SRSP was a success it

is obvious from the graph above. The trend has kept on increasing and it shows the utter effectiveness of the Community Based Financial Intermediaries as a tool for alleviating poverty.

The trend of Disbursement of Funds over Time

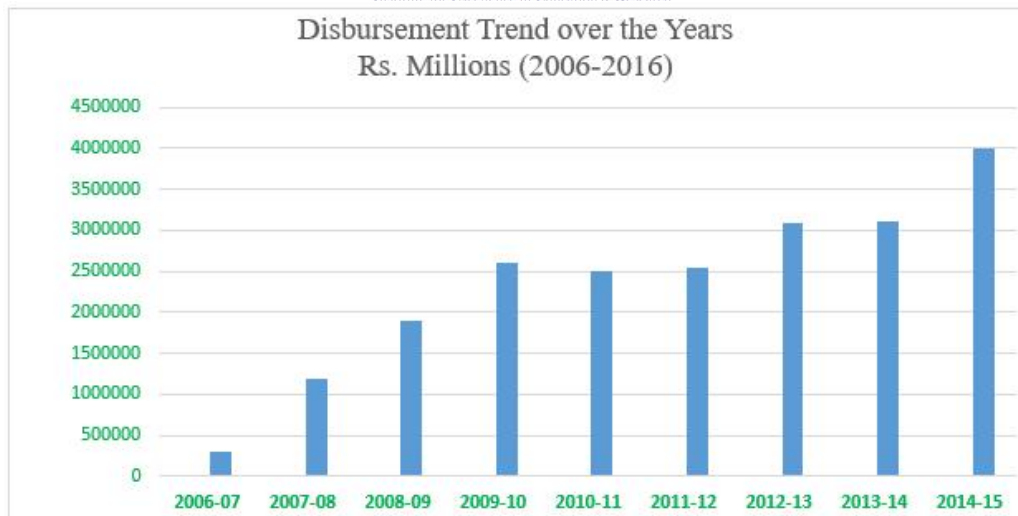


Figure 4.6: Trend of Disbursements Over Time

The above graph shows the number of disbursements made by the Village Bank over some time of 2006 to 2015. The graph shows that it has been increasing ever since its start. The graph also shows that it fall

in the trend from 2012 to 2012 however the trend has recovered itself from the coming year and up till 2015, it has been increasing again. In a time of years,

the amount of disbursement has increased from PKR 400,000 to 4,000,000.

Loans passed per year

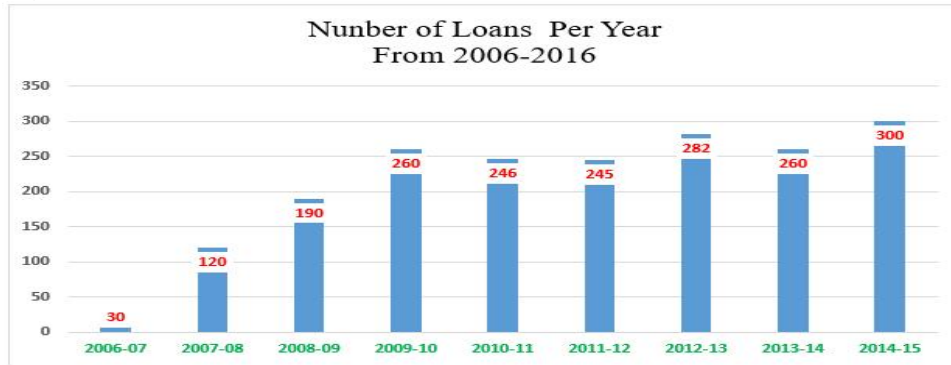


Figure 4.7: Number of Loans Passed Per Year

This graph is about the number of loans passed every year starting from 2006 up till 2015. It has been seen from the data that in the initial year only 30 loans were passed by the Community Based Financial Institution of SRSP. The data shows an increasing trend from 2006 up till 2010, however, in the coming 2 years there was a stability in the number of

loans. The trend has been increasing and decreasing over time, however, the change is not great and eventually, in 2015, the greatest number of loans were passed. This number shows that there is a high demand for the financial services of Village Bank in this region.

The trend of recovery of loans over time

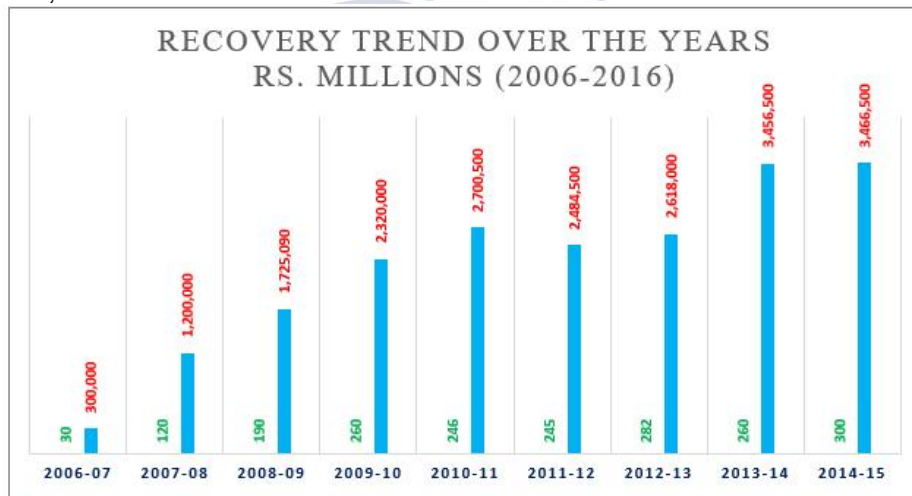


Figure 4.8: Loan Recovery Over Time

The graph clearly shows that the recovery process of the loans was quite smooth in the Village Bank initiated by SRSP. Since the start of the first bank and provision of the first loan, the recovery proportion has been 100%. The total amount disbursed in the village of Islampur was around 21

million out of which 20 million was recovered. The remaining was expected to be recovered soon. So basically, there were no defaulters in the process of the loaning out and then recover the money in the region of Islampur.

Cost Effectiveness

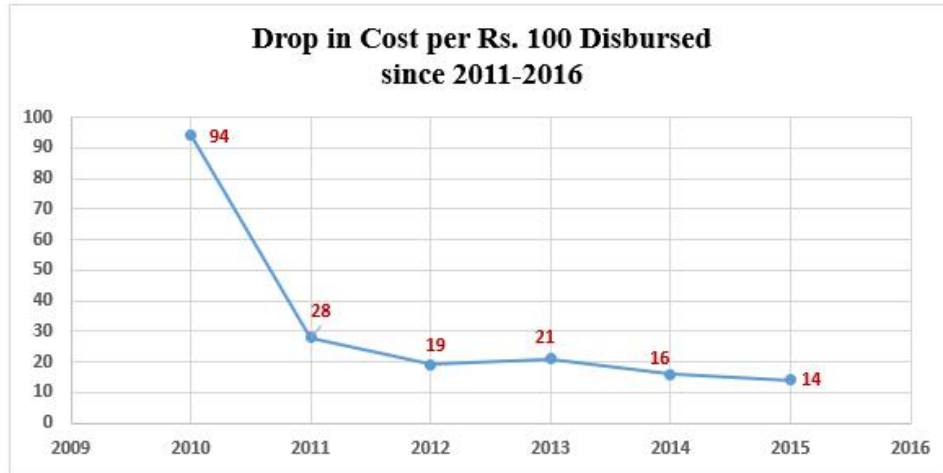
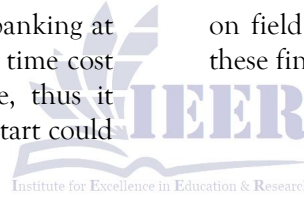


Figure 4.9: Program Cost-Effectiveness

The above-given graph cost per 100 rupees disbursed to the members from 2011 to 2016. The cost was initially were high, however, the trend over time has decreased and now in the year 2015-2016, the cost is at its minimum level. It shows that retail banking at the start was very expensive, however, with time cost decreased and it's not expensive anymore, thus it could be sustainable. The high cost at the start could

be associated with the high transport cost because the staff of SRSP had to go on field visits and collect the amount themselves from the those who had availed these financial services. Also, they would go on field visits daily to determine those who require these financial services.



5.3 Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Data of poverty score card collected in 2006 - Data of poverty score card collected in 2016	-1.62857	1.13981	.19266	-2.02011	-1.23703	-8.453	34	.000

Paired Samples Statistics

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1 Data of poverty score card collected in 2006	2.37	35	1.140	.193
Data of poverty score card collected in 2016	4.0000	35	.00000	.00000

Table 4.2: Paired Sample Test

H₀: The difference between the poverty level before and after the intervention is not significant.

H_A: The difference between the poverty level before and after the intervention is significant.

By analyzing the values of the poverty level before and after the intervention is applied, we get that in the t-test the significance value of the pained samples is significant and there is a significant different

between the poverty level before and after the application of the intervention. This shows that right before the intervention most of the people of this region fell into the extremely poor category and after the intervention application, their condition got better with time and most of them are now in the better off category.

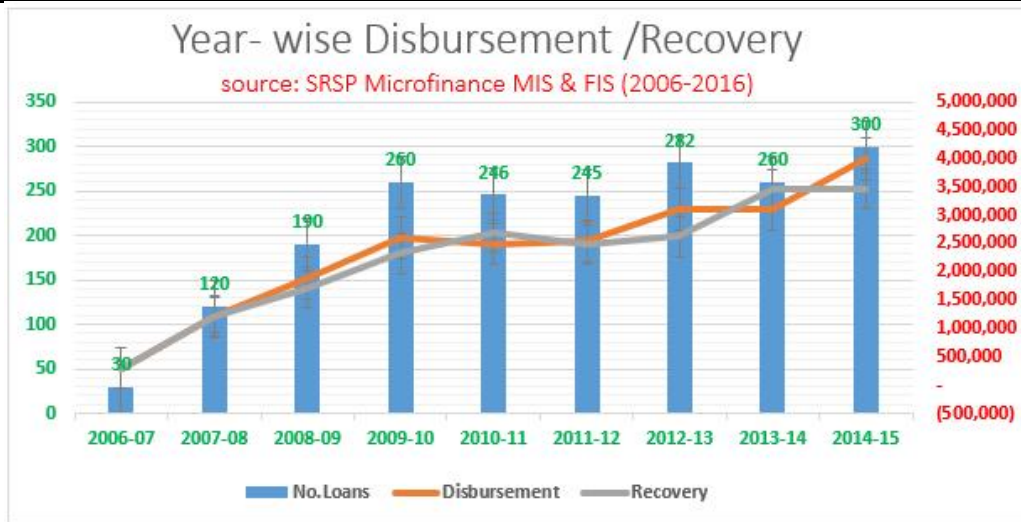


Figure 4.9: Overall Achievement of Village Bank Salampur

The quantitative information demonstrates the maintainability of Community-Based Financial Intermediaries through the expanding pattern of enrollment, some advances and smooth recuperation of advances. These outcomes have demonstrated that town banks are reasonable and are successfully working in Islampur. The dynamic/rehashed customers are having profited by town banks and the degree of salary and resources are expanding throughout the most recent 10 years. The improvement in the scores of the recipients features huge upgrades in the degree of destitution of the people. The expansion in salary and resources is proof of the positive effect of CBFIs on the lives of recipients. The thing that matters is the destitution level is additionally noteworthy as appeared by the combined example t-test.

5.4 Case Study:

Rahat Bibi (UC Salampur, SWAT)

Rahat Bibi is 50 years old and comes from a family with lower income. They live in the Muhalla Ghar Sayyadan of Union Council Salampur. Rahat Bibi has 9 children; 3 girls and 6 boys. Rahat Bibi’s husband is a poor man who owns a small land. Only other capital assets are a donkey and a cart. Their main sources of livelihood were the yield of the land and the donkey cart. They hardly earned Rs. 200 a day. They were living hand to mouth in such a low income. The basic needs of life this family were far from fulfilled. Rahat Bibi Said” *“being illiterate women*

I always wished to educate my children, but the financial conditions were not allowing me to provide better education and health facility to them, but I never lost hope. Being illiterate, I can understand the importance of education in one’s life”.

5.4.1 The Ray of Hope

A team of SRSP in 2006 went to Ghari Sayyadan for social mobilization and to create a Women Community Organization for the sake of the microfinance program. Rahat Bibi took motivation from the team and actively played a role in the community building. She faced opposition from her community and even her husband however she never lost hope and continued on her efforts. *“It took a month to convince my husband and notables of Ghari Sayyadan for the formation of WCO,”* said Rahat Bibi. Eventually, WCO Ghari Sayyadan came into being. It carried 18 women belonging to poor families. Rahat Bibi was selected as president of the WCO and one other lady as secretary of WCO Ghari Sayyadan.

5.4.2 Structure of Village Bank at Islampur

It was believed by the Sarhad Rural Support program that the participation of the community is necessary for development. Thus, SRSP made it acceptable for the community devising a CBMFI i.e. a financial intermediary that is based on the community of the village. 6 WCO was immersed in VO for the formation of the bank. Rahat said that the

participation of the community would play a vital role in Salampur's VB formation.

5.4.3 Issue regarding the Management of Bank

Since most of the members were not educated, therefore the management of finances of VB was a critical problem. While answering a question, it was told by Rahat that most of the people at the village were constantly raising the issue that how come illiterate women run a bank? However, it was made simple by the team of SRSP. The democratic system was adopted for the management of day to day activities. Rahat told that he was also of the candidate for the election of the chairperson of VB but couldn't successfully get enough votes to secure this position. The process was designed in a way that members of WCO would be chosen as the members of GB while among these the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and credit committee would be chosen to secure a smooth operation of the bank.

5.4.4 The story of the first Loan

In comparison to conventional banks where there is a long and detailed process for sanctioning of the loans, here only a national identity card was needed to go through the whole process, said by Rahat. The beneficiaries were trained by SRSP so that loan income could be properly used.

5.4.5 Turning Point in Life of Rahat BiBi

She told that I was very excited to initiate my business activity once I attended the initial training regarding basic financial literacy. The promise was fulfilled by the VB Islampur and people were able to use the credit facilities only based on their CNIC card. There was no collateral required. The basic demand for the process set by SRSP was just the original computerized national identity card along with the MIP. SRSP designed a simple form that will enable the client to understand how they would be generating their income. The initial amount of the loan was for 10 months i.e. PKR 10K with a monthly instalment of PKR 1000 per month.

5.4.6 Start of Business and income generation

Rahat said that it was bleak mid-winter, probably the month of December where everyone wants a blanket since it is very cold in the village but some people were not able to afford a blanket since they were

poor. Rahat and her husband decided to go Karkhano market in Peshawar and buy blankets in bulk. They issued these blankets to villagers on instalment with an instalment rate of PKR 150 per month. She used to visit each customer to collect the monthly instalments. By the end of the month, she collected total PKR 1500 from 10 customers. Paid PKR 1000 to VB and saved PKR 500 for herself. Rahat further expanded her business activities with time. The total loan she owed was PKR 14K while the average amount of loan was PKR 18,125.

5.4.7 Improved Social Status

Rahat said that she was a very shy lady. But being a member of GB, interacting with the staff of SRSP, being a regular member of the credit committee had her help buildup her confidence. By regularly attending the meetings and solving the various issues at VB, attending meetings at SRSP helped Rahat to gain skills regarding the management of resources and solving conflicts. While responding to a question she said that it is the mind that brings all sorts of changes in society. The females of the SRSP who were educated they helped me to make this thing possible. I now have a different vision for life as compared to all other villagers.

Conclusion & Recommendations

For this study the following recommendations have been concluded so far;

1. Initiatives should be taken to develop COs since they play the role of a federation unit for VB.
2. Improvement should be bought in the mechanism for the delivery of cash since it affects the decision making of the GB.
3. There is a prerequisite for acknowledgement at the state level of the problem. Even though the legislature of Pakistan has thought about this issue in any case, steady follow-up is compulsory.
4. There ought to be sufficient educational projects in all social orders and societies, both for men and women at similar levels.
5. Structural reforms in the police department and judicial system should be inculcated to break the barriers so that a woman can receive justice without any delay.

6. Providing women with equal opportunities to participate in politics and compete for the legislative assembly. This can lead to women empowerment which can be fruitful in policymaking for domestic violence.
7. Awareness campaigns regarding domestic violence and its impacts on the lives should be initiated at every educational level.
8. Laws should be passed on criminalizing the acts of domestic violence.

Community-based Financial Intermediaries and their role as a sustainable source of development in a community have been discussed in this study. The microfinance system that helped in the development of rural women was the major focus of this program. It was concluded in the study that CBFIs is a better alternative to easily finance rural women of a region.

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The overall analysis of the region that shows a clearer picture of before and after the launch of the CBFIs in the region show a significant change in the figures.

VB program was expanded in just a few years in the form of an increase in the number of team members of the core team as well as the number of loans that were sanctioned based on applications and the effectual growth of the people living in the region. The growth can also be noticed from the increase in the number of enterprises in the region and the women owning their own business had also shown how does the VBs played their role in the detrimental noteworthy growth of the people of this area. The key elements of empowerment are easy to access to finances and regular income for the households.

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