

Received : 05 March 2024, Accepted: 25 April 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33282/rr.vx9il.39>

Comparative Analysis of Conventional and Islamic Microfinance and Its Role in Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan

¹Faisal Aziz, ²Prof. Dr Abdul Ghafoor Awan, ³Dr. Muhammad Azeem Ahmad,
⁴M. Wasim Akram

1. MS Scholar, Department of Business Administration & Commerce, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan **Email:** faziz2976@gmail.com
2. Dean, Department of Business Administration & Commerce, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan **Email:** drabdulghafoorawan@gmail.com
3. Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration & Commerce, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan **Email:** azeemahmad@isp.edu.pk
4. MS Scholar, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan
Email: wasimakramisp1984@gmail.com

Abstracts

This study evaluates Pakistan's Islamic and conventional microfinance systems and investigates how each contributes to the fight against poverty. By giving impoverished members of society, particularly those in developing nations, financial support, microfinance has grown to be an effective strategy to mitigate poverty. As opposed to conventional financial institutions, Islamic microfinance adheres to Sharia-based financial systems that emphasize risk and profit sharing. A number of factors are included in the comparison analysis, including coverage, cost, accessibility, poverty level, and impact on security the research employs quantitative data analysis through questionnaires. Quantitative analysis consists on current loan amount, number of time loans availed, interest rate on loans, per capita income, family size, level of education, income level, asset before loan, asset after loan, monthly expenditure, loan for business, loan for consumption, monthly installment, loan default, security against loan and profitability of banks. The results illustrate the model's advantages and downsides, as well as the Islamic microfinance model's appropriateness to Pakistani poverty. The elements that contribute to the advantages of microfinance are studied, including cultural approval, religious beliefs, managerial styles, and organizational performance.

Keywords. Micro finance institutes, administrative expense, gross domestic product, propensity score matching

1. Introduction:

It is impossible to dispute the fact that poverty exists everywhere in the world. In different places of the world, it has distinct types and features. In the current situation, poverty serves as a haven for interpersonal conflicts. The most damaging economic and social issue facing humans since their existence is considered to be poverty. It has extremely detrimental effects on both individuals and society at large, and poverty is said to be the root cause of all human rights abuses. Poverty is becoming a major global issue in the modern day. It not only impedes the nation's economic progress but also the advancement of humanity. It is commonly characterized as the deprivation of wellbeing. Microfinance has had a good effect on customers' lives and increased the ability of the impoverished to improve their livings. Other reports suggest that the impoverished have used their additional income to improve their level of consumption, their health, and the accumulation of assets Ebimobowei (2012). These days, microfinance is growing as a viable investment option, particularly in developing nations like Latin America and Africa. Major international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the Asian Bank, and the American Development Bank all provide funding and conduct research in this area. This work offers some fresh empirical data on the ways in which microfinance can reduce poverty; however, the relationship between microfinance and poverty is still rising. In certain nations, politicians frequently use microfinance as an instrument of power, stepping in to support borrowers who are having difficulty in repaying their debts during economic resources. Because it makes ensure the availability of loans, deposits, and other financial products and services are available. Microfinance can be an acceptable response to financial and social isolation. It is important to remember that, despite the fact that "there is no globally recognized definition of microfinance," the phrase is typically used to refer to a variety of small-scale financial services and products that are provided to small enterprises and economically disadvantaged or non-bankable clients. Microfinance aims to assist people who are turned down for credit by traditional banking and financial organizations due to a lack of information about formal lending procedures or financial literacy (Leone and Porretta 2014).

1.1 Background of Study

Microfinance has evolved as an important tool for reducing poverty and promoting economic progress in Pakistan, where both conventional and Islamic microfinance institutions are actively participating. The restricting interest-based business and promoting the practice of distributing risks between loan and borrowing parties form the framework of Islamic microfinance. In general, the idea of reducing poverty is linked to the concept of microfinance. When microfinance was first introduced, it was solely known as "microcredit's" and was not included in the official financial system. However, as the industry became more established, microfinance had to be integrated with other financial services. The financial industry's increasing role in the expansion of the economy fortifies its position as a leader in all financial sectors, including

microfinance. Since the banking system is regarded as a subset of the official financial system, it has been the primary source of the development of microfinance.

1.2 Objectives of study

The objectives of this study are listed below

- To study the microfinance situation in Pakistan
- To study the impact of Shariah-based financing on economic development in Pakistan.
- To analyze the impact of microfinance on financial inclusion and poverty in Pakistan.
- To examine the role of small entrepreneurial firm in job creation and poverty alleviation.
- To compare the Shariah based micro finance and conventional micro finance and their impact on poverty alleviation in Pakistan.
- To compare products of Islamic and Conventional banking and their impact on the profitability of Islamic and Conventional banks in Pakistan.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What is the situation of microfinance in Pakistan?
2. What is the impact of Shariah based financing on poverty alleviation in Pakistan?
3. What is the impact of Islamic microfinance on financial inclusion and poverty in Pakistan?
4. What is the difference between the products of conventional and Islamic Banks?
5. What is the impact of Shariah based micro finance and conventional micro finance profitability in Pakistan?
6. What is difference between the products and profitability of Islamic and conventional banking?

1.3 Scope of study

Islamic microfinance and conventional microfinance are different financial models that have certain benefits for providing financial services to disadvantaged groups. Although these strategies have their pros and cons, they have all been successful in revitalizing Pakistani economy. The principle of Islamic finance, which prohibits the payment of interest while encouraging profit and risk sharing, forms the basis of Islamic microfinance. Low-income microfinance users are driven into poverty by interest payments. A comparison of the quantity and capabilities of Islamic and conventional financial institutions in Pakistan, along with an evaluation of the kinds of financial services and products offered, credit admissibility, reimbursement and default rates, and available financial products and services, are all possible to

include in this study. Analyzing how microfinance influences job creation, small-scale development, and poverty alleviation might help measure how much it contributes to the reduction of poverty in Pakistan. When microfinance and Islamic microfinance models are compared in Pakistan, investors and legislators can make an informed decision about which financing model most effectively supports the nation's mitigation efforts by learning about both the advantages and disadvantages of each system.

2. Literature Review:

Do et al (2021) Stated that foreign direct investment (FDI) is a significant factor in the fight against poverty, particularly in industrialized nations. International corporations frequently build factories and sales offices in the foreign nations where they make investments, providing jobs to impoverished and unskilled laborers.

Kasali's (2020) stated how microfinance might diminish poverty in western Nigeria. This study used a survey intended to gather cross-sectional data and adopted the stratified sampling approach. In the present review, the propensity score matching (PSM) method was employed. Results from the research illustrate the successful effect of microfinance in lowering poverty in the targeted area. Research indicates that the government requires assistance. It recommended that governments should provide financial support to Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) with funds disbursed at lower interest rates. Additionally, creating a more conducive environment and improving infrastructural facilities would encourage the establishment of more MFIs in rural areas.

Ashta (2019) has stated that when micro finance institutions use mythologies based on promises to get funds from donor agencies, the stakeholders play a critical role. The efficient fulfillment of commitments is a prerequisite for performance efficiency, particularly when it comes to obtaining the desired societal consequences. Many donors might cease to provide MFIs financial support if they cannot live up to the social promises they create, and MFIs may start to operate more like banks.

Hadidi (2020) has stated that assessed the effect of microfinance on both urban and suburban families' wages in Egypt. The descriptive data collection procedure included 280 rural and 500 urban women borrowers. The logistic regression results reveal that after three years or more of affiliation with microfinance, borrowers had greater income levels than new customers. Additionally, the findings indicate that microcredit plays an integral part in helping rural woman borrowers to escape from poverty.

Chepkwei (2020) stated that many countries throughout the world, especially developing ones remain severely impacted by an epidemic of poverty. Due to accepted descriptions, poverty can be defined by the inability of a person to meet basic needs including clothing, food, and

shelter; incapacity to fulfill social and economic obligations; lack of assets, skills, or dignity; and constrained freedom from social and commercial networks.

Dencker et al (2021) examined the substantial risk poses. particularly when officers connect with desperate entrepreneurs, the relational lending technique that makes microcredit available can also have an impact on lender intention. Officers who find their practical fieldwork with these entrepreneurs enriching should establish stable lending relationships.

Adekoya and Aibangbee (2020) investigated the ways the pandemic impacts corporate entities in the nation of Nigeria debt and attempts to recover. They discovered that the pandemic had a negative impact on Nigerian companies' corporate debts and that nearly every one of these business' restructuring strategies had not produced any discernible advances.

Ahmed & Khan (2018) stated that in accordance with Islamic principles and sticking to Sharia law, Islamic finance is a quickly expanding industry. This system varies from traditional finance in that it restricts interest-based financing and instead depends on non-interest-based ways of funding such as leasing (ijarah), cost-plus financing (murabahah), profit-and-loss sharing (mudarabah), and to help others.

Hossain (2019) examined that on one hand, poor people and entrepreneurs with micro enterprises can manage contracts like ones that assure capital needs (qard hassan), equipment (murabahah), and leased equipment (ijarah). Financial and non-financial services are incorporated in microfinance. Microcredit, microsavings, and microinsurance products are samples of the financial services that microfinance offers. On the other hand, healthcare services, skill and training programs, marketing and management efforts, education, building self-confidence, and enterprise development are the primary non-financial services that are provided through microfinance.

Portes et al. (2019) examined the overall impact of household decision-making dominated by gender on the economy. Women's empowerment is looked at in conjunction with household savings and habits of spending. The study's conclusions indicate that financially stable women spend more on food. Moreover, women's higher risk aversion leads toward greater savings, which in turn boosts capital creation through higher investment, boosting compensation for workers and national productivity.

2.1 Summary of reviewed literature

Because poverty is an ongoing condition that necessitates a long-term cure, the relationship between these two is not as straightforward as it first appears, according to a critical review of microfinance's role in alleviating poverty. When properly monitored and examined microfinance can be an effective restorative technique to address the problems associated with temporary poverty. Using microfinance as a "silver bullet" can have severe overstated effects

that could completely reverse the situation. Without addressing the mission drift challenges focusing on the double-bottom line would only lead to inefficiencies and temptations that will severely harm the admirable goal of reducing poverty (Mersland and Strøm, 2010; Armendáriz and Szafarz, 2009; Copestake, 2007). The literature evaluation clarifies how Islamic and conventional microfinance contribute to the reduction of poverty. The low success of conventional microfinance can be attributed to systemic malfunctions within the current framework. However, Islamic microfinance also needs a strong financial foundation and a diverse range of products in order to be able to meet these problems. A group of Islamic banks and financial institutions can work together to create a common pool that will be helpful in effectively meeting the demands of programs aimed at reducing poverty.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The chapter provides the overview of the methodologies, strategies, and research design used to achieve the study's specified objectives. It provides specific information regarding the population, sampling strategies, research instrument development process, data collection and analytical procedures, and other essential key elements of the research process.

3.1. Research Design

Quantitative research design based on survey technique was employed to identify the comparative analysis of conventional and Islamic microfinance for poverty alleviation in Pakistan. The quantitative research design is an investigation into a social or human issue that relies on testing a theory made up of variables, assessed with data, and evaluated with statistical techniques to see if the theory's prescriptive generalizations are accurate (Creswell, 1994). The reason to choose this design was its efficacy in evaluating the behaviors and attitudes that would otherwise necessitate direct observation within a representative sample population. This approach was selected because of its effectiveness in assessing the attitudes and behaviors of participants representative sample population. Moreover, this study used quantitative survey research because it is widely used and can collect data quickly and easily, especially in the social sciences. Since the purpose of the study was to compare Islamic and conventional microfinance for the purpose of reducing poverty in Pakistan.

3.2. Population

The whole banking sector is the population of this study. Out of which the following banks are selected as a sample of study.

1. Khushali Bank
2. Apna Bank.
3. Mobilink Bank.
4. Faisal Bank

5. Al Falah Islamic Bank
6. HBL Microfinance Bank
7. NRSP Bank
8. U Microfinance Bank
9. MCB Islamic Bank
10. Meezan Islamic Bank

Several criteria were taken into consideration when choosing these banks. First of all, their placement in Burewala's urban areas provides important context-specific information. Second, the fact that these institutions were recently founded offered the chance to investigate new findings regarding conventional and Islamic microfinance. Finally, these banks are the best sources of information regarding microfinance that are applicable to the current research.

3.3 Sample of Study

According to Kothari and Garg (2014) sampling is a process of choosing representative components from a specific population to create the sample for a research project. According to the Cooper and Schindler (2011) a targeted population is a group of entities that share specific traits and act as the foundation for generalizations. About 300 employees were selected through convenience sampling method from the branches of 10 banks operating in Tehsil Burewala of District Vehari.

3.4. Research Tool

The instrument employed in this study to collect data was a questionnaire. A questionnaire is essentially a tool for collecting and recording data regarding the opinions, attitudes, and views of a set individuals that are of interest. The questionnaires work well as a fast way to extract data from massive amounts of data. It was both affordable to manage and enabled the participants to finish it in the allocated time (Powell & Connaway, 2004).

3.5. Pilot Study

A pilot test was conducted to assess the questionnaire's validity and reliability. The researcher made the decision to visit several banks that provide microfinance. Ten microfinance banks were the intended target group for the pilot test. In order to assess the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, it was distributed among the employees of banks. The Cronbach Alfa value of 8.3 obtained from the test in SPSS is regarded as trustworthy enough to be used in the study. A questionnaire was also sent to the experts to assess the validity

3.6 Data Collection

The researcher also collected data through questionnaire from the employees of different microfinance banks. In this journey firstly, the researcher visited Khushali Microfinance bank on 11th February 2024 and collected data from 35 officials of bank. On the very next day the researcher visited HBL microfinance and collected data from operational and sale staff. In this way the researcher visited personally other banks and collected data from respondents for the study.

4. Data Analysis

In the context of Pakistan, this chapter compares the roles that Islamic Microfinance (IMF) and Conventional Microfinance (CMF) play in reducing poverty. The results of this quantitative analysis are presented. Utilizing a convenience approach, the study thoroughly assessed the efficacy and reach of both microfinance models by combining demographic data with Likert scale-based questions. This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of the data that was gathered. It commences with a sample population demographic profile and then discusses the respondents' opinions and experiences regarding conventional and Islamic microfinance institutions. Likert scale responses were analyzed to determine trends, preferences, and satisfaction with various aspects of financial services. In addition, statistical methods such as chi-square test and regression analysis were used to test the relationship between the perspective on microfinance and demographic characteristics. The findings of this chapter aim to confirm that Islamic economics and traditional microfinance can be effective in eradicating poverty in Pakistan. By examining participants' demographic characteristics and microfinance attitudes, this study aims to provide important evidence for ongoing debates about financial inclusion and national poverty reduction strategies. The following section summarizes the results of the analysis and provides an overview of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for development of the conventional and Islamic microfinance sectors in Pakistan.

4.1. ANOVA Test

The table that presents the findings of the ANOVA provides valuable insights into the ways in which different features of microfinance are seen, especially in relation to Islamic microfinance in Pakistan. Every item in the table denotes a distinct microfinance-related statement, and the corresponding p-value and F-statistic assist in assessing the importance of variations in group perceptions. After analysis, it becomes clear that most F-statistics have associated p-values higher than traditional significance thresholds (e.g., 0.05), suggesting that there aren't any statistically significant variations in views across the groups that were questioned. For example, respondents' opinions about the relationship between interest rates and loan amounts, the difficulty of calculating interest rates, and the efficacy of microfinance in reducing poverty and encouraging entrepreneurial endeavors do not significantly differ from one

another. Furthermore, there are no discernible group variations in the opinions of statements about the moral behavior of employees of microfinance banks, the business-oriented nature of loans from these companies, and the adherence of Islamic microfinance to Shariah laws.

With respect to the proposal's and Islamic microfinance's willingness to contribute to the government in reducing poverty, boosting business capacity, and further improving the effectiveness of Islamic microfinance, those who responded haven't shifted much either. All things considered, the analysis of variance results recommend that the tested groups mainly agree on several features of microfinance in Pakistan. Even though these findings offer valuable insights into the customs of the groups that were reviewed, additional investigation and verification could be indispensable to fully comprehend the nuances or foundations that could contradict these views. Similarly, considering the complexity and diversity of microfinance, acquiring new knowledge or developing strong skills will help one comprehend how the microfinance industry is changing landscape.

Table4.1 ANOVA Analysis

	F	Sig.
Existing interest rate on loans enhance amount of loan	.359	.549
Between Groups Within Groups Total		
Existing interest rate of microfinance loans and calculation of repayment installments are complex and not understandable.	.656	.419
Between Groups Within Groups Total		
Existing interest rate on microfinance loans is serving the interest of poor people in the society.	.186	.667
Between Groups Within Groups Total		
Existing interest rate on microfinance empowering the poor people.	.158	.691
Between Groups Within Groups Total		
Existing interest rate on microfinance loans lift the poor out of poverty.	1.602	.206
Between Groups Within Groups Total		
The staff of	1.276	.259
Between Groups		

microfinance banks use unethical practices for the recovery of loans.	Within Groups Total		
Existing microfinance loans are oriented.	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.006	.941
Conventional microfinance is effective for alleviation.	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.408	.523
Conventional microfinance promotes entrepreneurial firm	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.224	.636
Islamic interest free microfinance operates under the Shariah Compliance	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.151	.698
The main objective of Islamic interest free microfinance is to help poor people.	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.022	.882
Islamic interest free microfinance is a better tool for poverty alleviation.	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.207	.650
In case of default Islamic interest free microfinance do not use unethical practices for recovery	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.238	.626
Through government support Islamic interest free microfinance can be used more effectively in poverty alleviation efforts.	Between Groups Within Groups Total	.091	.763
Islamic interest free microfinance is	Between Groups Within Groups	2.227	.136

emerging in Pakistan Total due to an emerging of Islamic banking and finance.		
Islamic microfinance Between Groups promotes Within Groups entrepreneurial firm in Total Pakistan.	.314	.575

4.2. Conclusion:

The outcomes of the research illustrate that, right through the whole inquiries, the responses of participants on a range of matters associated with microfinance in Pakistan were largely similar, with no discernible discrepancies in their choices. The data gathered above shows an overall knowledge and embrace of microfinance theory and approaches, including how interest rates work, how credit quality is chosen, how poverty alleviation affects businesses, how models are applied, how compliance is maintained, how effective conventional and Islamic microfinance is, how the government supports microfinance, and how development models function. The findings draw attention to just how important it is to keep working to guarantee that microfinance activities are open, just, and decent. This study furthermore highlights the necessity of deeper research along with evaluation to enhance the efficiency of microfinance interventions in maintaining financial inclusion and economic progress in Pakistan. As a whole, even though this study highlights frequent misunderstandings about microfinance, additional studies and analyses are required to identify additional details or underlying issues that may have an impact on these impressions. In order to address the population's changing demands and optimize their benefits, stakeholders can better design financial programs which efficiently reduce poverty and promote the growth of the economy in Pakistan by zeroing in on these areas. This study further highlights the necessity of more investigation and assessment to enhance the efficiency of microfinance interventions in boosting financial inclusion and business growth in Pakistan.

5. Findings of Study:

The four components that make up this article methodological framework qualify the framework for the empirical findings that are discussed in this section. The first section explores the two forms of microfinance using a survey in order to highlight the distinctions between Islamic and conventional microfinance. Using information from a survey conducted in Pakistan in January 2024, a second look at how people suspect the disparities between Islamic and conventional microfinance may assist us to better understand people's opinions about both types of banking. The recently created Islamic microfinance approach for combating poverty is presented in the first section, and how well it works in Pakistan is examined in the fourth. Presentation of empirical proof then demanded information.

6. Conclusions and Policy Implications

This study looked into the potential as well as constraints of microfinance in Pakistan to reduce poverty. The dissertation is focused on two segments. First the comparative analysis of Conventional and Islamic Microfinance and the second segment consist on its role in poverty alleviation in Pakistan.

6.1 Conclusion

This research has examined that the comparative analysis of Conventional and Islamic microfinance and its role in poverty alleviation in Pakistan. This paper represents that the current situation of is not be controlled just only follow the concept of conventional microfinance. It supports the findings of many researchers who invent the multifactor approach. Microfinance is playing a very vital role in poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Its modern approach supports the current individual level. Microfinance is most powerful tool for poverty. There is evidence that smallest quantity of loan has not a big impact on borrower's life style but also their work holds and wider community. So according to this research paper it also becomes an important factor for poverty alleviation by the use of modern technologies. On the other hand, the Islamic microfinance is also a major tool for poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Due to interest free system this also reduce the poverty level for individuals and also enhance the lifestyle of the participants. So, the researchers must work on these two systems and also enhance the financial level of individuals and also remove poverty level in Pakistan.

6.2 Policy Implications

- Introduce Shariah law while offering Islamic microfinance institutions with a clear set of guidelines so that these MFIs can conform to Shariah.
- Support and help conventional micro finance institutions incorporate Islamic microfinance products. Both infrastructure and Islamic microfinance products are crucial.
- Invest in training initiatives for the staff participants in microfinance institutions. This is intended to increase their understanding of the basic concepts of Islamic finance. I'm writing to ask that you provide money for this, as the costs associated with this kind of program can be high.
- stimulating research and platforms for knowledge exchange to create best practices in Islamic microfinance
- Measure the eradication of poverty by incorporating social impact assessments into microfinance programs.
- Encourage cooperation between corporate entities and Islamic microfinance to expand the number of recipients and increase their benefits.
- Coordinate with international organizations, NGOs, and government agencies to increase the availability of high-quality financial services.

6.3 Limitations and Suggestions for Further Research

- To protect both micro finance institutions' finances and those of borrowers from double-dipping and non-performing loans (non-performing loans), an efficient system of appropriate monitoring of MFIs is required. The multinational financial institutions are required by the current Prudential Regulations {clause 11(i)} to

develop its own internal system to protect against the potential threats. Such rules ought to be kept an eye on by the State Bank of Pakistan or at the centralization level. This clause will improve Pakistani conventional microfinance's financial efficiency.

- The implementation of Islamic microfinance based in mosques in rural and agricultural areas can serve as a catalyst for the reduction of poverty by providing help to impoverished peasants and farmers nationwide. Because there is a documented decline in lending to "small and medium enterprises," (small and medium-sized), soft loans should also be given to them. Lending fell by 9% in the second quarter of the financial year 2015–16, from Rs. 287.8 billion to Rs. 261.75 billion, as reported by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). As compared to the prior year, lending to SMEs actually decreased, falling to 5.8% of total lending.
- The establishment of volunteer selection committees at the union council level is necessary to improve the success of Islamic microfinance based in mosques. These committees can be useful in evaluating feasible Islamic microfinance borrowers.
- Given the essential function that prayer leaders play in the mosque-based Islamic microfinance model, it is urged that training and awareness efforts on lending and borrowing money should be carried out.
- In order to track the mosque-based Islamic microfinance model's relevance and viability and to improve on its effectiveness in alleviating poverty, a team of union council members should be represented. This team might be led by any government officer, former or current.
- After the mosque-based Islamic microfinance model is put into practice, monitoring and follow-up studies ought to be performed. These investigations will aid in determining the model's shortcomings, the problems observed by the borrowers, and the general efficacy of such initiatives, among other things. To learn more about the experiences of the poverty in their daily lives and how microfinance interventions impact them, ethnographic studies would be especially helpful.

References:

- Alshebami, A. S., & Khandare, D. M. (2015). The role of microfinance for empowerment of poor women in Yemen. *International Journal of Social Work*, 2(1), 36-44.
- Ashta, A. (2019). *A realistic theory of social entrepreneurship: A life cycle analysis of micro-finance*. Springer Nature.

- .Awan, A.G., and Taufique Tahir: (2015) Impact of working environment on employees' performance: A case study of Banks and Insurance Companies in Pakistan
- Alam, M. M., Hassan, S., & Said, J. (2015). Performance of Islamic microcredit in perspective of Maqasid Al-Shariah: A case study on Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. *Humanomics*, 31(4), 374–384. <https://doi.org/10.1108/H-12-2014-0072>.
- Adekoya, O., & Aibangbee, R. (2020). Covid-19 economic downturn-The implication for corporate debts and recovery actions in Nigeria. *Available at SSRN 3583053*.
- Armendáriz, B., and Szafarz, A. (2009). Microfinance mission drift?. Working paper No. 09-015RS, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Centre Emile Bernheim (CEB).
- Kipruto, C. A. (2020). Growth of Microfinance Industry: A Critical Global Review. *Growth of Microfinance Industry: A Critical Global Review*, 51(1), 17-17.
- Kipruto, C. A. (2020). Growth of Microfinance Industry: A Critical Global Review. *Growth of Microfinance Industry: A Critical Global Review*, 51(1), 17-17.
- Christensson, L. (2017). Microfinance institutions and poverty reduction: evidence from Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1103573/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Cooper, D., & Schindler, P. (2011). *Business research methods* (11th ed.). Boston: McGraw- Hill.
- Creswell, J. W. (1994). *Research design: Qualitative & quantitative approaches*. New York: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Copstake, J. (2007). Mainstreaming microfinance: Social performance management or mission drift? *World Development*, 35(10), 1721-1738
- Dornyei, Z. (2007). *Research methods in applied linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dencker, J. C., Bacq, S., Gruber, M., & Haas, M. (2021). Reconceptualizing necessity entrepreneurship: A contextualized framework of entrepreneurial processes under the condition of basic needs. *Academy of Management Review*, 46(1), 60-79.
- Ebimobowei, Appah, John M. Sophia, and Soreh Wisdom (2012). Analysis of Microfinance and poverty reduction in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review* 1: 38–57. [Google Scholar]

Hadidi, H E.(2020). The Impact of Microfinance on Poverty Reduction in Egypt: An Empirical Study. *Arab Journal of Administration*. 40(2), 215-222. doi: 10.21608/aja.2020.88344.

Hossain, M. S., & Saif, A. N. M. (2019). Impact of firm size on financial performance of banking companies in Bangladesh. *Journal of Banking & Financial Services*, 11(2), 143-160.

Herani, G. M. (2010). Microfinance And self-help finance system to reduce poverty from Pakistan: an it-based solution.

Kasali, T. A. (2020). Influence of Microfinance Intervention on Rural Poverty Alleviation in South-west Nigeria: An Application of Propensity Score Matching Technique. *Asian Journal of Economics and Finance*, 2, 411-22.

Kothari, C. R., & Garg, G. (2014). *Research methodology: methods and techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International Publishers.

Leone, Paola, and Pasqualina Porretta (2014). *Microcredit Guarantee Funds in the Mediterranean: A Comparative Analysis*. Berlin/Heidelberg: Springer.

Portes, L. S. V., Atal, V., & Torres, M. J. (2019). From households to national statistics: Macroeconomic effects of Women's empowerment. *Economic Modelling*, 79, 286-294.

Powell, R. R., & Connaway, L. S. (2004). *Basic research methods for librarians*. (4th edition). Westport: Libraries Unlimited.