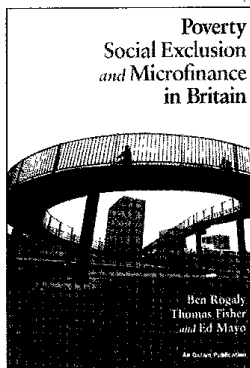


Micro-Enterprise



Poverty, Social Exclusion, and Microfinance in Britain

Ben Rogaly, Thomas Fisher, and Ed Mayo

'This objective, painstaking, and comprehensive review is a key read for anyone concerned to draw on the findings of the pioneers in microfinance, in the UK and abroad, and to see how the initiatives in the South can enrich our thinking and our doing in the North.' Dr Tony Gibson OBE

This important book analyses the potential of micro-financial services to reduce poverty and combat social exclusion in Britain.

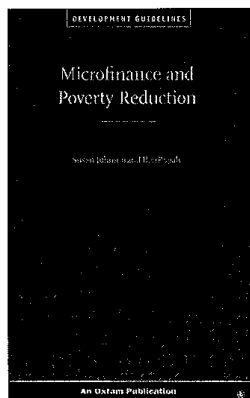
In recent years, some of the most innovative economic responses to poverty have been developed in countries in the South, such as Bangladesh and Bolivia. In favourable circumstances, 'microfinance initiatives' can enable poor people to build up security through savings and insurance, and to obtain credit to cover times of hardship or to establish small businesses.

What can be learned from these international experiences in Britain, where increasing numbers of poor people are being excluded from commercially provided financial services?

From an analysis of the nature and causes of poverty in the UK, the authors move to a critical review of the outcomes of microfinance interventions around the world. Then drawing on their own research, they suggest a range of ways to counter financial exclusion in Britain: how to enable people to build assets and acquire capital, and provide mechanisms for retaining wealth in communities deserted by conventional banks.

■ Ben Rogaly is Lecturer in Development Studies at the University of East Anglia. Thomas Fisher and Ed Mayo work for the New Economics Foundation.

Published in association with the New Economics Foundation
1999 | 0 85598 413 9 | paperback 184pp | **£12.95** | **\$18.95**
1999 | 0 85598 412 0 | hardback 184pp | **£29.95** | **\$45.00**



Microfinance and Poverty Reduction

Susan Johnson and Ben Rogaly

'... provides a measured, well-informed commentary on the benefits and problems of microfinance as a vehicle to reduce poverty.'

Small Enterprise Development

This book considers various types of microfinance schemes and compares the effectiveness of different approaches in promoting poverty reduction.

The provision of credit and other financial services has become increasingly seen as the answer to the problems facing poor people. Microfinance interventions have the capacity to increase incomes, contribute to individual and household security, and change social relations for the better. But it cannot be assumed that they will do so, and it may often be more effective in terms of poverty

reduction to combine credit provision with other development activities.

The authors emphasise the importance of first studying the local context, and then considering the macro-economic factors that may be operating upon the economy of a particular country. Five extended case studies, in the Gambia, Ecuador, Mexico, Pakistan, and the UK, are examined, and aspects of sustainability and impact assessment are considered with reference to these case studies and to other examples.

An Oxfam Development Guideline, co-published with ActionAid
1999 | 0 85598 369 8 | paperback 144pp | **£9.95** | **\$15.95**

Also available in Spanish (*Microfinanciamiento y Reducción de la Pobreza: Alternativas de Ahorro y Crédito para los Sectores Populares*)
0 85598 379 5 | paperback 144pp | **£9.95** | **\$15.95**