

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812173503321
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Titolo	The role of microfinance in women's empowerment : a comparative study of rural & urban groups in India // Raji Ajwani-Ramchandani
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bingley, England : , : Emerald Publishing, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	1-78714-928-5 1-78714-425-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (330 pages) : illustrations, charts, maps, tables
Disciplina	332
Soggetti	International economic relations Microfinance - India Business & Economics - International - Economics Finance
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	While the important topic of women's empowerment through microfinance has been the subject of academic and practitioner interest, Ramchandani examines these issues from brand-new perspectives. This new work focuses on the Self-Help Group (SHG) model, an under-studied aspect of microfinance practice, and looks at both rural communities and urban slums. Ramchandani presents recent empirical work from India including first-hand field-level case studies, where microfinance plays a key development role in reducing poverty, addressing women's empowerment, and fostering rural economic growth.