

Summary of Women's Microfinance in Nasinu Village, Fiji

Background

The South Pacific Business Development program began in Fiji in November of 2010, and has since provided loans to more than 5,000 women in the country, as well as savings accounts to more than 7,000 women. It is the goal of SPBD to help “these clients are able to improve their earnings capacities, develop leadership qualities and skills in managing their businesses and finances so that they can have a better quality of life.” These loans were made available to the women of Nasinu Village almost three years ago, and there are currently 32 women with loans at the present time.



Effects On Daily Life

The women of Nasinu village, along with their families, make the decision to take out a loan from the bank to use for their small businesses. Their businesses consist of village canteens, fishing operations, copra harvesting, handicraft making, and baking businesses. The women of Nasinu with loans were very grateful to the bank for this opportunity to grow their businesses, and said time and time again that they would not survive without the money from the loans. Despite a hefty interest rate of 20% on all money borrowed, these women were very confident in their ability to pay back their payments each week without much struggle. The weekly payments ranged from \$18FJD to \$46.88FJD, depending on the amount borrowed, and the women have about a year to pay back their loans.



The Controversial Reputation of Microfinance in the Village

While currently 32 women in the village are participating in the SPBD program, the numbers used to be much higher. Many women used the program to take out money to use for their families or to fix up their homes, instead of towards the creation of a business. According to those interviewed, all of these women struggled to make their payments, and ultimately had to drop out of the program. As a result, the program was reviewed poorly by all of the people in the village that are not currently in the program.

SPBD Outreach

Indicator (Year-end 2012)	SPBD Microfinance Network				
	Samoa (2000)	Tonga (2009)	Fiji (2010)	Solomon Islands (2012)**	SPBD Consolidate Network
Total Active Micro-credit members	6,482	4,230	3,287	-	13,999
Loans Outstanding	2,296,586	1,974,502	661,802	-	4,932,890
Loans Disbursed	3,966,859	3,420,571	1,412,724	-	8,800,154
Average Disbursed Loan Size	616	730	428	-	610
Total Life Insurance Accounts	14,401	6,195	5,126	-	25,722
Savings	345,832	243,672	301,892	-	891,402
Total Life Insurance Accounts	6,482	4,230	3,287	-	13,999
OSS	146%	130%	45%	-	101%
ROA	9%	9%	-54%	-	1%
PAR>30 days	0.5%	0.1	4.0%	-	0.8%
Total Number of Staff	28	30	36	12	106

