





- Many claims to help the "Poorest of the Poor"
- Hard to evaluate impact
- 7,000 Organizations worldwide
- 16 million people have access

Pros

- Common Conclusions of effects on households:
 - Higher and more reliable savings
 - Increased access to healthcare
 - Improved housing
 - Greater number of children placed in school

Cons

- Microfinance alone will not improve livelihood
- Misguided assumptions of poverty alleviation
- Fine line before exploitation
- Tracking negative effects

Self-help Groups

- Hands on approach
- Community support
- Single account, lower transaction cost
- Eliminate the need for collateral
- Peer Pressure
- Growth and survival of group

Poorest of the Poor

- Opportunity to those without collateral or identification
- Ill and handicap
- Hard to identify
- Consuming V. Investing
- Mosley and Mulme 1998

Women

- Pitt and Khandker 1996-8
- Increased empowerment and development
- Grameen Bank
- Important in achieving positive welfare for children
- Khandker 1998
- Exploitation, lack of empowerment
- The Case Solutions.com

