

The Impacts of the Micro-Finance Services of the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas. Among Women Entrepreneurs in Bobon, Northern Samar, Philippines: An Assessment

Impacto de los servicios de microfinanciación de la Fundación Grameen Pilipinas entre las mujeres empresarias de Bobon, Samar del Norte, Filipinas: Una evaluación

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ABSTRACT

This study endeavored to assess the socio-economic impacts of the micro-finance services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas (FGP) among women entrepreneurs of Bobon, Northern Samar, Philippines. It utilized a descriptive survey method, which involved 37 member beneficiaries as respondents. A survey was conducted, and the data derived have been tabulated and analyzed through frequency counts, percentages, weighted mean, using the Statistical package for Social Science (SPSS) software. Statistical analysis indicated that the amount of loan had significant relationship with income but did not show any relationships with other economic and social indicators. The mode of payments had significant relationships with income, savings, and access to education. The purpose of the loan has proven its significant relationship with savings and self-empowerment; while the terms of loan had significant relationship with income, savings, and self-empowerment. The loans utilized for small businesses proved to be significantly related to income, savings, asset acquisition and self-empowerment. Loans used to finance food processing ventures proved to have no significant relationships with both economic and social indicators. Loans used for handicraft manufacturing businesses proved to be significantly related to income, savings, and asset acquisition, while the loans utilized for backyard piggery proved to be significantly related to income.

Keywords: Socio-economic impacts; micro finance; women entrepreneurs; self-empowerment.

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RESUMEN

Este estudio tenía por objeto evaluar las repercusiones socioeconómicas de los servicios de microfinanciación de la Fundación Grameen Pilipinas (FGP) entre las mujeres empresarias de Bobon, Samar del Norte (Filipinas). Se utilizó un método de encuesta descriptivo, en el que participaron 37 miembros beneficiarios como encuestados. Se realizó una encuesta y los datos obtenidos se tabularon y analizaron mediante recuentos de frecuencias, porcentajes y medias ponderadas, utilizando el programa informático Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). El análisis estadístico indicó que el importe del préstamo tenía una relación significativa con los ingresos, pero no mostraba ninguna relación con otros indicadores económicos y sociales. La modalidad de pago presentaba relaciones significativas con los ingresos, el ahorro y el acceso a la educación. La finalidad del préstamo ha demostrado tener una relación significativa con el ahorro y la autonomía, mientras que las condiciones del préstamo tienen una relación significativa con los ingresos, el ahorro y la autonomía. Los préstamos utilizados para pequeñas empresas demostraron tener una relación significativa con los ingresos, el ahorro, la adquisición de activos y la autonomía. Los préstamos utilizados para financiar empresas de transformación de alimentos no mostraron relaciones significativas con los indicadores económicos y sociales. Los préstamos concedidos para la fabricación de artesanías mostraron una relación significativa con los ingresos, el ahorro y la adquisición de activos, mientras que los concedidos para la cría de cerdos de traspatio mostraron una relación significativa con los ingresos.

Palabras clave: Impactos socioeconómicos; microfinanciación; mujeres empresarias; autocapacitación.

Background of the study

In many situations, women have lesser access to the resources and services that will increase their productivity and enhance their income generating capacities and ease their burden of household duties. Women particularly in rural areas, are held back by limited, if not lack of education, unequal property rights and limited control over resources. Labor intensive and time-consuming activities further hinder them to improve their income-earning potentials.

In other countries, women in the rural areas are usually denied towards access to and control over productive resources, limits their opportunities for employment, access to education and health care, and participation in social activities. On the other hand, women who have access to paid employment and cash income can positively affect intra-household dynamics and the perception of women's roles in the society. Women of younger generation have found that independent sources of income boost their confidence to challenge the traditional views of the rural women's roles both in the household and in society, including the issue about gender biases in the access to resources.

Given the critical role of women in rural areas, addressing gender inequalities can increase the efficiency of resource use and enhance rural development outcomes. Some of the issues related to access services and resources, employment and income and participation in decision making need to be given a serious deal of consideration.

According to Yunus (2002), microfinance makes women economically independent by putting capital and financial resources in their hands. Economic independence results in higher bargaining power for women in their households and communities, and subsequently results in higher prestige and self-esteem, hence the functions of Microfinance are synchronous with its potential to empower. Microfinance has been seen as contributing not only to poverty reduction and financial sustainability, but also to a series of virtuous spirals of economic empowerment for women themselves, thereby addressing goals of gender equality and empowerment.

In Northern Samar, the Grameen Model of Microfinancing program was originally implemented by the Northern Samar Coalition Against Poverty Foundation (NSCAPF) with the support from the Grameen Foundation Australia. The NSCAPF, is a non-stock and non-profit organization and started its operation in October of 2004. In order to improve, expand or reach out more clients, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the NSCAPF in April 27, 2008 that the operations be turned over and managed by the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas, (FGP) by June 1, 2008, and the turn over involved all the operating branches in the province, namely: Victoria, Lavezares, Catarman, Palapag, Laoang, Bobon, San Jose and Catubig.

Since 2008 until today, the FGP has continued its operations serving mostly women who have the capacities and capabilities to run and manage economic activities that will help augment their family incomes. Particularly, in Bobon, Northern Samar, several women have been served by the FGP, and undoubtedly, the services have created a significant dent on their lives, this however, need to be documented and brought in the fore. Hence, this study.

Objectives of the Study

This study endeavored to determine the socio-economic impacts of the micro-finance services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas (FGP) on the women entrepreneurs of Bobon, Northern Samar, Philippines, Specifically, it aimed to achieve the following:

1. To determine the profile of the women entrepreneurs in terms of: age, civil status; number of children; educational attainment and family income
2. To identify the credit services offered by the FGPI to the women entrepreneurs in terms of the amount of the loan, mode of payments, purpose of the loan, and terms of the loan.
3. To determine the utilization of the loan proceeds availed by the women entrepreneurs from the FGPI.
4. Determine the socio-economic impacts of the services of the FGPI to women entrepreneurs.
5. Find out if significant relationships exist between the following:

5.1 Profile of the women-entrepreneurs and the impacts of the services of FGPI to the respondents.

5.2 The credit services offered by the FGPI to the women entrepreneurs and the impacts of their services.

5.3 The loan utilization and the impacts of the services offered by the FGPI.

Review of Literature and Studies

There have been several authors who came up with definition about microfinance and almost all these definitions put more importance on the provision of financial services to the poor, low-income households, and micro-enterprises that more often, denied of the credit services afforded by banks and other formal financial institutions. Many people think that microfinance is just a lending facility for the poor, but it also has broader focus including insurance and savings, to name a few. Moreover, microfinance is one of the poverty alleviation strategies that could help the poorer sectors of society. In fact, according to Djulius, et al. (2022), poverty alleviation initiatives are specifically aimed at improving access to health care, education, and purchasing power for low-income families. This is consistent with the philosophy of human development, which considers these three factors to be essential.

Microfinance provides access to financial and nonfinancial services to the low-income people who intends to engage or develop an income generating activity. It came into being from the notion and appreciation that micro-entrepreneurs can also be bankable, that is, they can pay back the loan, on time, and make savings, provided the financial services granted to them suit their needs. Microfinance as a discipline has created financial products and services that together have enabled low-income people to become clients of a banking intermediary.

The characteristics of microfinance products include, but not limited to the following: little amounts of loans and savings; short-term loan; payment schedules for both the loan and deposits attribute frequent installments; considerably higher interest rate than the commercial banks but lower than that of the loan-sharks, thus reflecting labor-intensive work associated with making small loans and allowing the microfinance intermediary saves time and money of the client and permits the intermediary to have a better idea about the clients' financial and social status; and the loan application procedures are simple (Murray, et.al.,2002).

Feong (2003), cited the findings of the study conducted by Johnson and Rogally which drew one of the conclusions that microfinance services have a positive input on specific socio-economic variables such as: children's education, household nutrition status, and women empowerment.

The Grameen Model of banking has been introduced by Dr. Muhammad Yunus when he established the Grameen Bank, now considered as one of the most successful models in the microfinance industry. The Grameen Bank finds the economically active poor who are excluded from formal financial services and helps them by providing the needed services. The bank also emphasizes savings mobilization. It provides small loans to the poor, especially among women, using innovative ways of getting around their borrowing constraints. The Grameen Bank has been enormously successful in generating livelihoods, reducing poverty and driving development in Bangladesh (Roy, 2003).

Khan et al. (2007), regarded that the Grameen Model is one of the most modern and tailored version of microfinance. It emerged as a main business sector when it became evident that low-income people also can pay back their loans on time and can save money, provided they are able to access to customized financial services.

Mushtag (2014), investigated the economic impact of microfinance institutions on household borrowers in particular the impacts of small amount of loans in a high inflationary economy like Pakistan. The findings indicated that there is a positive and significant impact of microfinance on the income of the borrowers. It increased the income of the borrowers due to expansion of existing business or starting a new business and increase in income which is associated to better food, better health services and facility, better standard of living and others. Moreover, due to increase in income, it also increased the savings of the clients. Further, Khander (2001), found out that microfinance has a significant positive impact on poverty alleviation and it reduces the vulnerability of the clients. By using microcredit, clients increase their income by the way of starting a new business, expanding their existing business or by utilizing the loan amount for any productive purpose, so that the income of the clients increases.

Morduch (1999) concluded that the development in microfinance industry is based on a strong assumption that the poor have the potential and ability to implement income generating activities and can improve their standard of living, but they cannot do so because of lack of access to credit, savings and insurance facilities. Coleman (2006) argued that it is the size of the loans that households were able to acquire that was very important in determining the impact of those loans in household incomes. In his study, he found out that many poor women borrowers dropped out of the borrowing programs citing the size of the loans as too small to make any significant investments that can significantly improve their incomes.

Khan et al. (2007), averred that microfinance programs target both economic and social poverty. To assess the success of their efforts, microfinance institutions need to measure the impact of the borrowers. The primary objective of the microfinance institutions' interventions is poverty reduction. Poverty reduction is perceived from the economic point of view. On the other hand, the microfinance institutions' interventions promote living condition of poor people by offering supportive service. These supportive services are important indicators of human development. The objective of this program is to create sustainable changes in the lives and livelihood of the poor, women in particular.

According to Uniyal et al. (2014), empowerment of women is one of the very important issues in developing countries. As women are integral part of society, her status and participation in decision making as well as economic activities is very low. According to Benerjee et al. (2023), empowering of women has been recognized as one of the important pathways of economic development of a country because the positive effects of women empowerment trickles down to various channels like improving future human capital, improving labor market outcomes etc. He indicated that the importance of women empowerment as a determinant of child education.

Microfinance plays very important role in improving women decision making by contributing in economic activities. Over the years, various efforts have been made by many government and non-government organizations to promote women-empowerment especially in rural areas. One such effort is the microfinance intervention. Microfinance institution aims to provide credit to the poor who have no access to commercial banks. In general, this institution receives financial support from donors, NGOs or commercial banks who lend to microfinance institutions often against below market interest rates. Many leading public and private sector banks are offering schemes exclusively designed for women to set up their ventures (Unival et al., 2014).

As a strategy for removing poverty, microfinance institutions emphasize on improving the health of the poor, which is a main concern worldwide, and particularly in low-income countries, where the burden of disease is heavier. The relationship between poverty and ill health has been characterized as synergistic and bidirectional. Poverty confines the capacity to produce health and ill health leads to further impoverishment that diminishes the potential of individuals and households to improve their economic status. Poverty alleviation strategies like micro credit programs, may pilot to health benefits. There is a growing recognition that poor health is a dimension of poverty, therefore, one potential result of poverty reduction is progress in the health of the poor (Khan et al., 2007) Health intervention has been an integral part of the microfinance institutions. Different organizations apply differently or similar policy to identify the health problems, undertake rigorous experimentation and try to explore and then apply suitable, affordable, and culturally acceptable technology. Throughout the work process, they measure and monitor its implementation, and recommends corrective actions to modify methods of implementation of program.

Equally important goal of all microfinance institutions is to spread the light of education throughout the society. Development this program, along with the health program, indicates human development among the people. Health and education are two key areas of non-financial impact of microfinance at a household level. Households who are clients of microfinance programs appear to have better nutrition, health practices, and health education than those who are non-client households.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the municipality of Bobon, a 4th class municipality of the province of Northern Samar, which involved four (4) poblacion barangays, namely: Barangays Sta. Clara, San Juan, Salvacion, and General Lucban.

The study is a descriptive-correlation survey method of research and adopted a purposive sampling method, and the actual respondents were drawn through the proportional allocation technique. The criteria used in drawing the respondents were: the number of years of being an active member, frequency of loans, amounts of loan availed. Out of 40, about 37 actual respondents participated in the study, the 3 others failed to participate in the survey although the researchers tried several times, but the respondents begged off in the end due to their preoccupations which were related to their businesses.

The study involved 2 groups of variables- the independent and the dependent variables. The independent variable was the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, civil status, number of children, educational attainment, family income; the services offered to women of the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas (FGP) that were determined through the loan profile of the respondents in terms of amount of the loan, mode of payment, purpose of the loan and terms of the loan; and the Loan utilization which is classified into small businesses, food processing, handicraft manufacturing, backyard piggery and others. The dependent variable on the other hand, was the Socio-economic impact of the services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas to the respondents.

The data have been derived through a questionnaire which the researchers had administered to the respondents. The said questionnaire was patterned from the study of Khan and Rahaman (2007), with some modifications after validating it through the pre-testing procedures which was conducted in another municipality of the province.

The responses of the respondents were scored and interpreted using frequency counts and percentage distribution specifically as regards the loan profile of the respondents in terms of the amount of loan, mode of payment, purpose of the loan, terms of loan and loan utilization.

The economic impacts of the services of the FGP were categorized as follows:

As to income based on the poverty threshold of Php 10,977 for Northern Samar set by the Philippine statistics Office as at the year 2021. This was quantified using the scale below:

Description	Numerical Rating	Adjectival Rating
Above	Php 10,977	High
Within	Php 10,977	Moderate
Below	Php 10,977	Low

As to savings, mean or average savings was used. Above the average were considered as high impacts, below the average were low.

The responses on the social impacts of the services of the FGP was scored using the scale below:

Numerical Rating	Adjectival Rating	Interpretation
5 (3.80-5.00)	Always	High
3 (2.40-3.79)	Seldom	Moderate
1 (1.00-2.39)	Never	Low

The data have been treated through the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Findings

Socio -Economic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the data as to the socio-economic profile of the respondents. The data reveal that most of the respondents belong to the middle age bracket, having 1 to 3 children and have finished elementary education. Majority of them are married, and their source of income have been derived from small businesses that they operated and managed.

Table 1. Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents.

Socio-economic profile	Frequency N37	Percent
Age		-
26-35	2	5.41%
36-45	11	29.73%
46-55	15	40.54%
60 & above	9	24.32%
Total	37	100%
Civil status		-
Married	35	94.59%
Widow	2	5.41%
Total	37	100%
Number of Children		-
1 to 3	17	45.95%
4 to 5	9	24.32%
6 to 10	9	24.32%
Others		0.00%
11 & above	1	2.70%
no child	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%
Educational attainment		-
Elementary	15	40.54%
High school	10	27.03%
College	2	5.41%

Socio-economic profile	Frequency N37	Percent
Collge graudate	10	27.03%
Total	37	100%
Family income		-
Employment	2	5.41%
Small business	27	72.97%
Others		0.00%
Beautician	1	2.70%
Barangay official	2	5.41%
Copra dealer	2	5.41%
Farming	1	2.70%
Direct selling	1	2.70%
Water refilling station	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%

Own source.

This implies that more mature women are inclined and motivated to engage in livelihood activities that will help them augment their family income. Although many of them did not pursue college education, yet this does not preclude them to be actively involved in economic endeavors such as managing small business to contribute to the income of the family.

Credit Services Offered by Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas to the Respondents

The data in Table 2 presents the credit services offered by the Grameen Fundacion Pilipinas to the respondents. The data reveal that most of the respondents (21 or 21.60 percent) availed loans ranging from Php 20,000 to Php 22,000, and same number of respondents with loans falling on the range of Php 28,000 to Php 30,000. This implies that most of the respondents have been extended loans by the FGP several times already after they have successfully paid off their initial loans of which the amount was half lower than the presently availed.

All the respondents have weekly payment modes, which is in conformity with the credit policy of the FGP. As regards the purpose of the loan, majority of the respondents availed credit for the additional capital for their existing business and opted to payment terms of 24 weeks or 6 months.

Table 2. Credit Services Offered by Fundación Grameen Pilipinas to Respondents.

Credit services offered by FGP	Frequency N37	Percent
Amount of loan		
8,000 to 10,000	6	16.22%
12,000 to 14,000	3	8.11%
16,000 to 18,000	7	18.92%
20,000 to 22,000	8	21.62%
24,000 to 26,000	1	2.70%
28,000 to 30,000	8	21.62%
Over 30,000	4	10.81%
Total	37	100%
Mode of payment		
Weekly	37	100%
2.3 Purpose of Loan		-
Additional capital	33	89.19%
New capital	3	8.11%
Educational loan	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%
Term of loan		-
40 weeks or 10 months	2	5.41%
24 weeks or 6 months	34	91.89%
20 weeks or 5 months	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%

Own source.

Loan Utilization of the Respondents

Table 3 presents the data on how the loans availed by the respondents have been utilized. The data reveal that majority of 73% of them, used their loans to finance their small businesses. This implies that the respondents are more inclined to businesses that are easy to handle and do not require huge capital, while the return of investment is evident in a shorter period.

Table 3. Loan Utilization of the Respondents.

Loan utilization of the respondents	Frequency N37	Percent
Small business	27	72.97%
Food business	4	10.81%
Backyard piggery	4	10.81%
Handicraft manufacturing	2	5.41%
Total	37	100%

Own source.

Impact of the Services of the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas in terms of Income before and After Membership

Table 4.1 presents the data as to the income of the respondents before and after their membership with the FGP. The data reveal that the average monthly income before membership were below the poverty threshold of Php 10,977 (Philippines Statistics Office, 2021) for a family of 5 for the Province of Northern Samar. After membership however, the average income of the respondents increased and found to be within the poverty line. This implies that their income after membership is sufficient to defray the expenses for the whole family. The increase in the average income indicates that the impact of the FGP's services as regards income is moderate.

Table 4.1 Income as Indicator.

Income before members-hip (per month in Php)	Frequency N37	Percent	Income after membership (per month in Php)	Frequency N37	Percent
1,000 to 4,999	21	56.76%	2,000-8,999	19	51.35%
5,000 to 8,999	11	29.73%	9,000 to 15,999	10	27.03%
9,000 to 12,999	1	2.70%	16,000 to 22,999	5	13.51%
13,000 to 16,999	1	2.70%	23,000 to 29,000	1	2.70%
17,000 to 20,000	1	2.70%	30,000 to 36,999	1	2.70%
21,000 to 24,999	2	5.41%	40,000 to 46,999	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%	Total	37	100%
Average income Php6,242.73			Average income Php10,973.36 Moderate		
			Increased by 75.77%		

Own source.

Impact of the Services of the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas in terms of Savings

Table 4.2 presents the data about the savings upon and after membership of the respondents with the FGP. The data show that savings upon membership were low, with only Php 2,576.03. However, after membership, savings soared up to Php 13,703.79 constituting an increase of 432 percent. This indicates that the impact of the services as to savings is high.

Table 4.2 Savings Upon and After Membership.

Savings upon membership	Frequency N37	Percent	Savings after membership	Frequency N37	Percent
24 to 2,023	19	51.35%	1,000 to 6,999	19	51.35%
2,024 to 4,023	5	13.51%	7,000 to 12,999	10	27.03%
4,024 to 6,023	3	8.11%	13,000 to 18,999	4	10.81%
6,024 to 8,023	1	2.70%	19,000 to 24,999	1	2.70%
8,024 to 10,023	1	2.70%	25,000 to 30,999	2	5.41%
no savings	8	21.62%	31,000 to 36,999	1	2.70%
Total	37	100%	Total	37	100%
Average saving Php2,576.03			Average savings Php13,703.79 High Impact		
			Increased savings of 432%		

Own source.

Household Assets Before and After Membership

Table 4.3 presents the data regarding the household assets of the respondents before and after membership. The data reveal that electric fan was the most acquired asset before membership. On the other hand, television was the most acquired asset after membership.

Table 4.3 Household Assets Before and After membership.

Household assets before membership	Frequency	Percent	Household assets after membership	Frequency	Percent
Radio	15	16%	Radio	15	8%
Electric fan	21	23%	Electric fan	28	15%
Gas stove	13	14%	Gas stove	13	7%
Television	19	20%	Television	41	22%
Refrigerator	17	18%	Refrigerator	32	17%
Motorcycle	5	5%	Motorcycle	19	10%
Gas Range	1	1%	Gas Range	11	6%
Washing machine	1	1%	Washing machine	18	10%
Computers	1	1%	Computers	8	4%
Total	93	100%	Total	185	100%

Own source.

This indicates that the income of the borrowers improves their assets ownership. Most of the respondents were able to acquire appliances that they need for their households such as television, washing machines and refrigerator among others.

Self-Empowerment of the Respondents

Table 5.1 presents data as to the assessment as regards the level of self-empowerment among the respondents of the FGP in Bobon, Northern Samar. The data reveal that with a grand mean of 4.51, the respondents have a high level of self-empowerment. This is attributed to their being free to do their livelihood activities for additional income (mean of 4.78); that their efforts in income activities and household chores were recognized at home (mean of 5.00); that there was consultation in terms of decision making at home (mean of 4.95); that they handled the budgeting of the family (mean of 4.68); that they participated in community activities (mean of 4.73); and have been recognized as officer or member of the community organization (mean of 2.89). The data imply that self-empowerment among the respondents is evident not only in their respective homes, but likewise in their communities.

Table 5.1 Self-Empowerment of the Respondent.

Indicators	Always (5)	Seldom (3)	Never (1)	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
1. Are you free to do livelihood activities for additional income?	34	2	1	4.78	High
2. Are your efforts in income activities and household chores recognized at home?	37	0	0	5.00	High
3. Is there consultation from you in terms of decision making at home?	36	1	0	4.95	High
4. Do you handle budgeting of the family?	32	4	1	4.68	High
5. Do you participate community activities?	31	6	0	4.73	High
6. Are you a member or officer of an organization in the community?	13	9	15	2.89	Moderage
Grand Mean				4.51	High

Own source.

Access to College Education

Table 5.2 presents the data as regards access to education of the children of the respondents specifically in tertiary education or in college. Before their membership to FGP, 21 or majority among the respondents said that they had no children pursuing college education, they claimed that they could not afford to send their children to school because their income then was not enough to cover the costs of college education, and some of the respondents claimed that their children were still in their elementary and high school levels. Nine respondents or 24.30 percent averred that they had a child who is pursuing college education; 6 respondents have 2 children; while one respondent had 3 children being sent to college. After membership with FGP, 17 respondents or 45.90 percent said that they have no children sent to college because some of them have already finished and graduated last year; others claimed that their children are still in high

school and elementary levels; 8 respondents or 21.60 percent were able to send one child to college; ten or 27 percent having 2 children sent to college; and 2 or 5.40 percent having 5 children pursuing college education. Some of the respondents' children pursuing college education have also availed of the educational assistance from the FGP, aside from the fact that they can now afford to send their children to college in different universities.

The data imply that because the respondents have already a steady income or they have augmented their income, they were able to invest in their children's education, an indication that they have changed their social status.

Table 5.2 Access to College Education.

Number of College Students before Membership	Frequency N37	Percent	Number of students after membership	Frequency N37	Percent
0	21	56.76%	0	17	45.95%
1	9	24.32%	1	8	21.62%
2	6	16.22%	2	10	27.03%
3	1	2.70%	3	2	5.41%
Total	37	100%	Total	37	100%

Own source.

Relationship Between the Profile of the Respondents and the Impacts of the Services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas

Pearson correlation was used to test the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the profile of the respondents in terms of age, number of children, educational attainment and civil status and the level of economic indicators such as income, savings, assets acquisition, and social indicators in terms of self-empowerment and access to education.

Results of the analysis showed that age had significant relationship with income ($r = .401$, $p < 0.05$) and access to education ($r = .298$, $p < 0.05$). The positive relationship between age and income means that older respondents had higher income compared to younger respondents. Similarly, the positive relationship between age and access to education means that the older respondents have better access to education than the younger ones. This implies that older women can help increase family income owing to the fact that they were only elementary graduates and would exert more efforts in looking for practical ways and means to increase their family income by joining microfinance institutions, like the FGP, in order to avail its credit services to finance their economic endeavors.

Civil status had no significant relationship with all the economic and social indicators. It means that it is not a factor that affects the income and savings, and in their self-empowerment and access to education.

Number of children had significant relationship with self-empowerment ($r = -.376$, $p < 0.05$). The negative correlation coefficient means that respondents with many children have lower manifestations of self-empowerment. It means that the respondents with fewer children have more time to act and exercise more meaningful and useful activities for herself, her family, and likewise get involved in significant community affairs; thus, showing higher manifestations of self-empowerment.

Table 6. Relationship Between Socio-economic Profile and the Impacts of the Services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas.

Independent Variable	Parameters	Income	Savings	Asset Acquisition	Self Empowerment	Access to Education
Age	Pearson r	0.401	0.039	0.102	0.026	0.298
	Sig.	0.033	0.33	0.200	0.201	0.001
	Interpretation	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Significant
Number of Children	Person r	0.11	0.234	0.029	-0.376	0.0134
	Sig	0.23	0.23	0.092	0.002	0.0325
	Interpretation	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant
Educational Attainment	Person r	0.333	0.425	0.11	0.509	0.5943
	Sig	0.017	0.007	0.43	0.005	0.001
	Interpretation	Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Significant	Significant
Civil Status	Person r	0.102	0.109	0.051	0.120	0.11
	Sig	0.824	0.434	0.472	0.0838	0.0983
	Interpretation	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

Own source.

Educational attainment had significant relationships with income ($r = .333$, $p < 0.5$); savings ($r = .425$, $p < 0.05$); self-empowerment ($r = .509$, $p < 0.05$) and access to education ($r = .594$, $p < 0.05$). These findings show that education positively affects most of the social indicators of the respondents. It further shows that it also positively affects the economic indicators. This implies that the respondents with higher educational attainment have better managerial skills and tools in running livelihood activities, can handle their finances well, and higher awareness of social activities compared with the respondents with lower educational attainment.

Relationship Between Credit Services Offered and the Impacts of the Services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas

Table 7 presents the data as to the result of the test to determine whether a significant relationship exist between the services offered and the level of economic and social indicators. The results of the analysis show that the amount of loan had significant relationship with income ($r = .429$, $p < 0.05$) but did not show significant relationships with other economic and social indica-

tors. This finding shows that the amount of loan did not positively affect the economic indicators of saving and asset acquisition, and the social indicators of self-empowerment and access to education. This means further that the bigger the amount of loan, the higher the amount of generated income would be.

The mode of payments had significant relationship with income ($r = .318$, $p < 0.05$) and savings ($r = .377$, $p < 0.05$). This means that the mode of payment affects positively the income and savings but had no positive effect on the social indicators. This means further that longer interval of the mode of payments, the more positive effects it had on income and savings.

Table 7. Relationship Between Credit Services Offered and the Impacts of the Services of Fundación Grameen Pilipinas.

Independent Variable	Parameters	Income	Savings	Asset Acquisition	Self Empowerment	Access to Education
Amount of loan	Pearson r	0.429	0.093	-0.137	0.109	0.111
	Sig.	0.004	0.35	0.290	0.324	0.683
			Not	Not	Not	Not
	Interpretation	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Mode of payments	Person r	0.318	0.317	0.022	-0.0184	-0.32
	Sig	0.011	0.007	0.761	0.38	0.023
				Not Significant	Not Significant	
	Interpretation	Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Significant
Purpose of loan	Person r	0.888	0.377	0.073	0.501	0.099
	Sig	0.398	0.032	0.290	0.002	0.209
				Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant
	Interpretation	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant
Terms of loan	Person r	0.410	0.343	0.035	0.313	0.0983
	Sig	0.002	0.023	0.626	0.023	0.0741
				Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant
	Interpretation	Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant

Own source.

Purpose of the loan had significant relationship with savings ($r = .377$, $p < 0.05$) but did not affect the other economic and social indicators having significance values all greater than the 0.05 margin of error level. This finding means that the purpose of loan affects positively the economic indicators of savings and the social indicators of self-empowerment, but none of the other indicators. This implies that the respondents utilized their loan proceeds in income generation activities thereby giving them sense of self confidence and economic independence and therefore, self-empowerment.

Finally, the terms of the loan had significant relationships with income ($r = .410$, $p < 0.05$); savings ($r = .509343$, $p < 0.05$); and self-empowerment ($r = .313$, $p < 0.05$). These findings show that the terms of loan positively affect the economic indicators. This indicates that access to loans of lower interest rates would encourage more borrowers. To small scale business this would mean affordable source of capital gave the respondents the feeling of economic independence and self-confidence, thus, self-empowerment.

Relationship Between Loan Utilization and the Impacts of the Services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas

Table 8 presents the data on the test of relationship between loan utilization and the level of economic and social indicators. Results of the analysis showed that small businesses had significant relationship with income ($r = .471$ $p < 0.007$), savings ($r = .398$ $p < 0.003$), asset acquisition ($r = .543$ $p < 0.002$) and self-empowerment ($r = .398$ $p < 0.008$). These findings mean that small businesses positively affect all the economic indicators and the social indicator of self-empowerment. This implies that more respondents are utilizing the loan proceeds by engaging in small businesses as their means of livelihood activities.

Food processing result of the analysis showed that it had no significant relationship with income ($r = 0.11$ $p < 0.23$); savings ($r = 0.11$ $p < 0.44$); asset acquisition ($r = 0.011$ $p < 0.079$); self-empowerment ($r = 0.076$ $p < 0.286$); access to education ($r = 0.104$ $p < 0.014$) These findings mean that food processing did not positively affect all the economic and social indicators. This implies that very few or seldom of the borrowers would use the loan proceed in food processing as a form of livelihood activity.

Result of the analysis showed that handicraft manufacturing had significant relationship with income ($r = 0.333$ $p < 0.007$); savings ($r = .398$ $p < 0.16$); asset acquisition ($r = 0.398$ $p < 0.003$), but no significant relationship with the social indicators. These mean that handicraft manufacturing affects positively the three economic indicators but not on social indicators. This implies that only a relatively few of the respondents would engage in handicraft manufacturing.

Result of the analysis showed that backyard piggery had significant relationship with income ($r = 0.49$ $p < 0.035$) but had not significant relationship with savings ($r = 0.11$ $p < 0.402$); asset acquisition ($r = 0.051$ $p < 0.0472$); self-empowerment ($r = 0.12$ $p < 0.0838$); access to education ($r = 0.108$ $p < 0.127$). These mean that backyard piggery affects positively only one of the economic indicators but not on social indicators. This implies that only few of the respondents engage themselves in backyard piggery.

Table 8. Relationship Between Loan Utilization and the Impacts of the Services of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas.

Independent Variable	Parameters	Income	Savings	Asset Acquisition	Self Empowerment	Access to Education
Small Businesses	Pearson r	0.471	0.398	0.543	0.398	-0.112
	Sig.	0.007	0.003	0.002	0.008	0.388
	Interpretation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Not Significant
Food processing	Person r	0.11	0.11	0.011	-0.076	-0.104
	Sig	0.23	0.44	0.079	0.286	0.014
	Interpretation	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Handicraft / manufacturing	Person r	0.333	0.398	0.384	-0.097	0.108
	Sig	0.007	0.016	0.003	0.171	0.370
	Interpretation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Backyard piggery	Person r	0.490	0.110	0.051	0.120	0.108
	Sig	0.035	0.402	0.472	0.0838	0.127
	Interpretation	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

Own source.

Conclusion and Implication

In the light of the findings of the study the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Majority of the respondents are middle-aged women belonging to 45-55 years' old which implies that of this age have greater productivity in terms of running a business. They are motivated to generate value not only for themselves but also for their family.
2. Almost all the respondents were married which implies that married women have much more managerial skills in handling finances.
3. Majority of the respondents had 1 to 3 children only, which implies that women having few children have higher level of self-empowerment.
4. Most of the respondent were elementary graduates, which implies that they have lesser opportunities of white-collar jobs, hence, they availed of the loan to engage in small businesses to augment their family income.

5. Majority of the respondents derived their family income from small business, which implies that the clients of the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas are those that are economically challenged, hence they availed of the loans.
6. Most of the respondents availed Php 20,000 to a maximum of Php 30,000 of loan from Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas. It implies that majority of the respondents have good credit standing in their previous loans, hence they were given much higher amount of loans.
7. All the respondents paid their loans on a weekly basis. It means that respondents can pay weekly as per agreement with the credit policy of Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas.
8. Almost all the respondents availed of the loans for additional income. It means that the respondents have existing businesses, henceforth they are adding more capital to expand their businesses.
9. Majority of the respondents paid their loans within 24 weeks or 6 months. It implies that they wanted a lesser interest rate in their loans, because the shorter the term the lesser the interest charges, hence, they opted for a shorted period of payment. It also means that there is a higher chance to reloan if they can fully pay the loan in shorter period.
10. Majority of the respondents utilized their loans for small businesses.

Recommendations

On the bases of the findings of the study, the following recommendations are advanced:

To the Fundacion Grameen Pilipinas (FGP)

1. The management should review FGP's credit policies which will consider some new lending windows that will suit to the needs of their beneficiaries.
2. FGP should strengthen its campaign activities that will encourage other women especially the unemployed to engage in economic activities that will augment their family income.
3. The FGP should encourage their members to fully utilize their loan proceeds or engage in some other livelihood projects like food business, backyard piggery, food business and other economic activities with are in demand and have higher income generating potentials.
4. Members who have children in the elementary and high school levels must continue their membership to be able to sustain sending their children to college and be productive individuals in their communities.

5. Functional linkages with government and non-government institutions should be established and forged purposely to capacitate women entrepreneurs on the management of their livelihood projects. These linkages could be in terms of trainings, seminars and other exposures that help strengthen the capabilities and capacities of women entrepreneurs in the area.

Further Research

1. A replication of this kind of study in a different research setting is recommended to further validate findings.
2. Research activities that will delve on the topics such as the profitability, Credit delivery mechanisms, Delinquency Status of Microfinance institutions at different levels- municipal, provincial, or regional could also be initiated.

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