

ENTR2119: Business, Global Poverty & the Microfinance Revolution

Professor Shaughnessy; Fall 2010

Reading and Resources List

This Reading and Resources List is in four parts. The first section lists the four required books for the course, which you should buy online (for example, Amazon). The second section lists the six case studies, which you should be via the Harvard Business Press online. The third and fourth sections contain links to free websites to support your reading and research.

A. Books

There are four required books for the class, each is available online (Amazon, Overstock) for about \$15 or less new, or as little as \$5-6 each, used (a total of up to \$60). Be sure to purchase the paperback editions!

1. The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It (Collier, 2007)
2. Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day (Collins, 2009)
3. Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty (Yunus, 1999; paperback ed. 2003)
4. The Microfinance Handbook: An Institutional and Financial Perspective (The World Bank); only one copy per project group is needed

Look to the “Class Schedule” to determine when to read these books, or the chapters you may select to focus your reading effort.

Also posted on Blackboard is a recommended reading list for social enterprise, which includes other books that address microfinance and global poverty (no additional books are required).

B. Case Studies

These are six required business “cases” that you purchase online through the Harvard Business Press. A course will be set up under our course number and my name. The total cost for acquiring these five cases electronically is about \$20.

1. ACCION International (2003)
2. Banco Compartamos: Life After the IPO (2008)
3. SKS Microfinance (2008)
4. Unitus (A): Microfinance 2.0—Reinventing an Industry (2007)
5. Ujjivan: A Microfinance Institution at a Crossroads (2008)
6. Who Killed Bhavani Manjula?—A Story of Microfinance in Andhra Pradesh (2009)
7. Opportunity International: Measurement and Mission (2006)

The link to purchase these cases is below.

<http://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cb/access/6854039>

C. Selected Websites of Leading Microfinance Institutions

These are websites that will help you become more familiar with microfinance generally, and MFI institutions specifically. You should visit each site, on your own schedule, and pick two or three of particular interest to you, and investigate the MFI in more depth.

1. Grameen

Grameen Bank (Bangladesh)

This is the pioneering microfinance institution founded by Dr. Yunus in Bangladesh.

www.grameen-infor.org

Grameen Foundation (USA)

The US foundation that supports the work of Grameen Bank and its related initiatives.

www.grameenfoundation.org

2. ACCION International

Among the largest and most highly regarded global microfinance institutions, with early Latin American focus.

www.accion.org

3. Banco Compartamos

Mexico's largest microfinance bank which recently completed the first public offering by a microfinance bank

www.compartamos.com.mx

4. Esperanza

A leading microfinance institution in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and one that the SEI partners with for its microcredit field study program

http://esperanza.org/us/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

5. SKS Microfinance-India

The largest and most highly regarded of the India microfinance institutions.

www.sksindia.com

6. Unitus

A firm founded by venture capitalists with the intent to increase the scale and efficiency of microfinance institutions.

www.unitus.com

7. Kiva

A new business model that allows individuals to connect via the Web with microentrepreneurs in need of capital

www.kiva.org

8. MicroPlace

The newest entrant to the web-based microfinance world

<https://www.microplace.com/>

9. Opportunity International

Another pioneering microfinance institution, with global reach.

www.opportunity.org

10. FINCA International Village Banking

Similar to ACCION, a large and successful microfinance group with early roots in Latin America, and now very active in Africa and other developing regions

www.villagebanking.org

11. Women's World Banking

Founded by US bankers, this microfinance group has global reach

www.womensworldbanking.org

12. Fonkoze

The leading microfinance bank in Haiti.

www.fonkoze.org

D. Information Resource Sites for the Microfinance Field/Industry

These are sites that offer information on the microfinance field. I suggest that you visit and scan each of these sites, and then pick one or two of particular interest or utility for more in-depth examination.

1. CGAP

A leading resource for understanding microfinance

<http://www.cgap.org/p/site/c/>

2. The Microcredit Summit Campaign

An ongoing private non-profit initiative to promote microfinance

www.microcreditsummit.org

3. The Microfinance Gateway

The premier information source for microfinance information.

www.microfinancegateway.org

4. Global Development Research Center-The Virtual Library on Microcredit

An excellent resource for microfinance concepts, programs and projects

www.gdrc.org/icm/

5. USAID Microenterprise Innovation Project

The USAID has information on microenterprise and microfinance-you need to key word search within their site

www.usaid.gov

6. World Bank Sustainable Banking With the Poor

The World Bank site can be searched for information on microfinanced projects around the world

www.worldbank.org

7. MicroFinance Network

Another site that compiles information for practitioners and borrowers to facilitate microfinance projects

www.mfnetwork.org

8. United Nations Capital Development Fund

The UN's entry into microfinance and microenterprise development

www.uncdf.org