



Center of Excellence in Microfinance (CMF)

Introduction

The Center of Excellence in Microfinance (CMF) is a specialized center of the Institute of Management Science Peshawar (IMSciences) in the field of microfinance education, research and capacity building. Established in 2004, CMF is a new initiative of its kind in Pakistan and one of the few such centers established across the globe.

The center is established with the aim to address the capacity building needs of the various stakeholders i.e., MFIs and trainers, bankers and policy-makers, etc that exist in the sector and facilitate the micro-finance movement through a cadre of trained managers and leaders.

The support and encouragement given by IMSciences to CMF has proven to be beneficial in its sustainability, institutional strengthening and services to the microfinance sector of Pakistan

Vision

“A Microfinance industry where adequate, sustainable and skilled human and financial and knowledge resources are available in an enabling environment”

Mission

To strengthen the microfinance industry, as a strategy for poverty alleviation by; fostering HRD, research and facilitating network functions.

Objectives of the Centre

- ❖ To provide a thrust to microfinance practice through research and development
- ❖ To significantly enhance the human and institutional capacity of the microfinance sector in Pakistan
- ❖ To be known as an educational innovator in quality microfinance education

Collaborative History

Financial Sector Strengthening Program (FSSP) of Swiss Agency for development Cooperation (SDC) had selected CMF as a training service provider in 2004 and provided financial assistance for center's establishment and courses development. Later on Pakistan Financial Services Sector Reform Program

(PFSSRP) of European Commission had also extended the grant for research and facilitated in the establishment of Sarhad Microfinance Network (SMFN).

CMF got affiliated with the global network of the Microfinance Management Institute (MFMI), a joint venture of CGAP and Open Society Institute (OSI) in 2007. In recognition of its services to the microfinance industry, the Master Card Foundation (MCF) awarded scholarships for selected trainings of CMF to its participants, through MFMI.

Center's Thematic Areas

- ❖ Human and Institutional Development
- ❖ Research and Development
- ❖ Microfinance Education
- ❖ Networking and Linkages Development

Identified Thematic Areas for research:

- ❖ Market Assessment
- ❖ Sector Mapping
- ❖ Impact Assessment
- ❖ Action Research

CMF's Past Experience in Microfinance

CMF has worked with SDC, EU and MFMI in the following areas:

1. Capacity Building of Practitioners

So far CMF has conducted **39** microfinance short term courses in which more than **500** microfinance practitioners from different microfinance institutions, NGOs, Microfinance Banks, and government employees have participated from all over the country. Besides short courses, a three-month certificate course has also been designed and delivered for the microfinance practitioners.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research studies conducted in microfinance

CMF conducted four research studies on microfinance and product development. These studies include;

- ❖ Mapping of the Microfinance Sector in NWFP (Province Based)
- ❖ Causes of Delinquency in Microfinance (Nation Wide)

- ❖ Microfinance Need Assessment Study in Khyber Agency – FATA (Area Specific)
- ❖ How to develop a viable model for the light engineering industry of Dara Adam Khel – FATA (Area Specific)
- ❖ 25 Student thesis supervised

3. Course and Curriculum Development

Curriculum development is one of the core activities of CMF. The centre has successfully developed microfinance courses for “MBA Banking & Finance” students, short-term microfinance courses for practitioners, microfinance certificate course and enterprise development training for entrepreneurs. Besides that, curriculum for MBA in Microfinance is in its initial designing phase.

Training Courses Organized and Conducted

CMF has organized and conducted 39 trainings on the following topics.

1. Credit Appraisal Techniques
2. Skills Training for Service Providers
3. Gender and Microfinance
4. Poverty-led Microfinance
5. Basic Microfinance Concepts
6. Basic Accounting using Spreadsheets
7. Financial Management for MFI Staff
8. Essential Skills for field Operations
9. Islamic Mode of Financing
10. Social Mobilization and Microfinance
11. Loan Portfolio Management
12. Certificate Course for Loan Officers
13. Human Resource Management
14. Financial Management for non-finance professionals of MFIs
15. Product Development and Islamic mode of finance
16. Efficiency Measurement in Microfinance
17. Credit Appraisal Techniques
18. Customers Relationship Management
19. Effective Branch Management

Microfinance Courses offered to MBA (Banking and Finance)

IMSciences has already offered specialization in microfinance to the students of **MBA Banking and Finance** in 2008

1. Introduction to Microfinance
2. Innovation in Microfinance
3. Operations Management I
4. Operations Management II

4. Linkages and Networking

CMF has facilitated the establishment of **Sarhad Microfinance Network (SMFN)**, a provincial network of NWFP based organizations working on microfinance and micro enterprise.

The mission statement of the network is “to enable the members to exchange experiences, build common performance standards and influence government policies to facilitate the growth of formal and informal Microfinance institutions”.

In pursuit of its mission statement, the network has arranged a series of seminars and workshops on different issues, two country level Microfinance Melas, developed MIS and PIR reporting systems for standardization of reporting and arranged several meetings with the concerned government departments to facilitate the growth of microfinance sector in the province.

Not only at local level but both national and International level, CMF has built linkages with educational Institutes, Network and MFIs. The most prominent are University of Pretoria, South Africa and the MFMI, USA.

Future Endeavors

- ❖ Certificate Courses for practitioners and non-practitioners
- ❖ Diploma in Microfinance
- ❖ Executive MBA in Microfinance
- ❖ Capacity Building programmes for MFIs
- ❖ Faculty Development Programme
- ❖ Initiation of Summer School
- ❖ Conducting nation-wide research studies
- ❖ Establishment of Micro Lab for designing new MF products
- ❖ Development of Conflict sensitive microfinance for complex environments
- ❖ Short term and long term courses and training module development
- ❖ Technical Assistance to the MFIs

For Further Information and Details, Please Contact:

Ms. Salma Amir (Erasmus Mundas Scholar)
Coordinator
Center of Excellence in Microfinance (CMF)
Institute of management Sciences (IMSciences)
1-A, E/5, Phase 7, Hayatabad, Peshawar,
Pakistan
PABX: 0092-91-5861024/25 Ext 314
Fax # 0092-91-5861026
Email : cmf@imsciences.edu.pk
s.amir@imsciences.edu.pk
Web site: www.imsciences.edu.pk