

**Mumbai University minor research project awarded 2016-17 – Grant Rs. 26000/-**

**Title- Innovations in Urban poverty Alleviation – A study of women initiatives**

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Microfinance in India have made an undeniable impact especially in the rural and interior parts of India in the form of self-help groups and has made considerable amount of contribution towards the poverty alleviation amongst the members and protecting them from the clutches of the money lenders . Microfinance has created such a deep emotional bond with its lenders that; the modern day concept of loan recovery does not even exist in the self-help groups. The project will focus on the government of Kerala's and NABARD's joint SHG project known as kudumbashree which differs from conventional programmes in that it perceives poverty not just as the deprivation of money, but also as the deprivation of basic rights. The poor need to find a collective voice to help claim these rights. Kudumbashree is a project, which helps not only women empowerment but also the empowerment of youth also. This project makes people financially independent as well as socially secured. This also helps young children who are the family members of the members, more independent as well as bold especially those from backward classes. The young children will have their own groups, which will take care of their initiative and independent decision making skills. This project massively and single handed changed number of lives in Kerala and gave them the opportunity to get out from the poverty pit and secure their future financially. This project will also emphasise how these groups have improved the standard of living of people, made them owners of properties and led to conscious capitalism.