

This Thesis is dedicated to:

My Mother

Smt. Kusum Lama

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "**Financial Literacy and Financial Well-Being of Women Microfinance Beneficiaries: A Study of Darjeeling District**" submitted to the University of North Bengal for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Commerce has been prepared by me under the guidance of Prof. Samirendra Nath Dhar, Professor, Department of Commerce, University of North Bengal. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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29/7/2024
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ABBREVIATIONS

ALF	-	Apex level federations
APY	-	Atal Pension Yojana
ASV	-	Average Shared Variance
AVE	-	Average Variance Extracted
CCL	-	Cash Credit Limit
CFA	-	Confirmatory Factor Analysis
CFI	-	Comparative Fit Index
CFPB	-	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
CIF	-	Community Investment Fund
CR	-	Composite Reliability
CRP	-	Community Resource Persons
CSP	-	Community Service Providers
DFID	-	Department for International Development
DMMU	-	District Mission management Unit
DRDC	-	District Rural Development Cell
EFA	-	Exploratory Factor Analysis
FAME	-	Financial Awareness Messages
<i>FINRA</i>	-	<i>Financial Industry Regulatory Authority</i>
FLAB	-	Financial Literacy Advisory Body
FLAP	-	Financial Literacy Awareness Programme
FLC	-	Financial Literacy Centre
FLCC	-	Financial Literacy and Credit Counselling Centre
FLWE	-	Financial Literacy and Women Empowerment
FCA	-	Financial Consumer Agency
FSA	-	Financial Services Authority
GFI	-	Goodness-of-Fit Index
GOF	-	Goodness-of-Fit
GTA	-	Gorkha Territorial Administration
HRS	-	Health and Retirement Study
IGMS	-	Integrated Grievance Management System
INFE	-	International Network for Financial Education

IRDAI	-	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
KCC	-	Kisan Credit Card
KMO	-	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
KYC	-	Know Your Customer
MFI	-	Microfinance Institutions
MIP	-	Micro-investment Plan
MoRD	-	Ministry of Rural Development
MSV	-	Maximum Shared Variance
NABARD	-	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NEFE	-	National Endowment for Financial Education
NFCS	-	National Financial Capability Study
NFI	-	Normed Fit Index
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NISM	-	National Institute of Securities Markets
NPCI	-	National Payment Corporation of India
NRLM	-	National Rural Livelihoods Mission
NSFE	-	National Strategies for Financial Education
OECD	-	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCA	-	Principal Components Analysis
PCFI	-	Parsimony Comparative Fit Index
PFRDA	-	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
PGFI	-	Parsimony Goodness-of-Fit Index
PLF	-	Primary level federations
PMJDY	-	Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
PMSBY	-	Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
PMJJBY	-	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
PNFI	-	Parsimony Normed Fit Index
PSIG	-	Poorest State Inclusive Growth
RBI	-	Reserve Bank of India
RF	-	Revolving Fund
RMR	-	Root Mean Square Residual
RMSEA	-	Root Mean Square Error of Approximation
SBI	-	State Bank of India
SCORES	-	SEBI Complaint Redressal System

SEBI	-	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SEC	-	Securities and Exchange Commission
SEM	-	Structural Equation Modeling
SGSY	-	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SHG	-	Self Help Group
SHG-BLP	-	Self Help Group – Bank Linkage Programme
SHPI	-	Self-Help Group Promoting Institution
SIDBI	-	Small Industrial Development Bank of India
SLF	-	Secondary level federations
SRMR	-	Standard Root Mean Square Residual
TGFIFL	-	Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy
TL	-	Term Loan
TLI	-	Tucker Lewis Index
UPI	-	Unified Payments Interface
VRF	-	Vulnerability Reduction Fund
WBSRLM	-	West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission