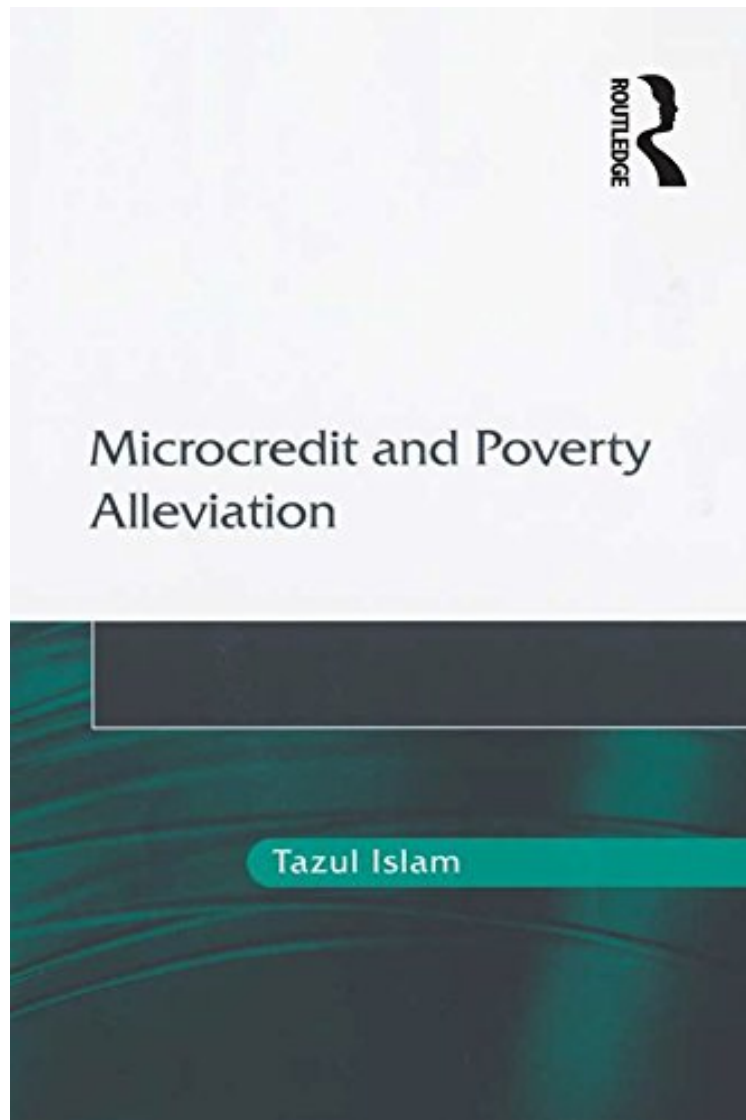


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The attempt of the Grameen Bank to alleviate poverty and enhance the skills and productivity of its rural women clients provides the fascinating backdrop to this important study of micro-credit institutions. Tazul Islam examines the real extent to which the Grameen Bank's credit-alone policy has been successful in securing the Bank's financial sustainability; its practical role in alleviating poverty and its actual impact on the productivity of its clients. This book

concludes by considering alternative policy options that hold out the possibility of increased poverty alleviation.

'A highly recommended book for those interested to see how financial sustainability may conflict with poverty alleviation in the operation of micro-credit institutions in the epicentre of micro-credit, Bangladesh.' Kenneth E Jackson, University of Auckland, New Zealand 'For those who want to learn more about the now famous Grameen microfinance model of development, this is certainly a good reference.' The Journal of Comparative Asian Development 'Explores the microfinance model of development, focusing on the significance of changing the focus of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank from a credit-centred organization into a client-led, flexible financial services organization.' Journal of Economic Literature About the Author Tazul Islam is from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, The University of Tokyo, Japan.