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ABSTRACT:

This case is about YVU Microfin, an MFI (Micro Finance Institution) which has been engaged in Micro Finance activities for the last 15 years. Manipur is an industrially backward state having more than 70% people living in rural areas and most of them depending on Government Services for means of livelihood. There is no such scope of private sector in the state which can provide job as a means of livelihood. People have to depend on other activities like agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, weaving and dairy as means of earning of earning for their livelihood. However, activities other than agriculture have also not been doing well due to certain social factor in the past few years. The people have no other options but to start up their new small business like grocery shops, vegetable vendors and other various small businesses as a means of earning. For this they need financial supports. But the economic condition of the state is very worse. The sources of finances are very less for such initiatives and they are not willing to provide finance very easily. In light of the above facts, YVU Microfin has taken up some initiatives like formation of SHGs and extending micro credit facilities to provide a means of livelihood for different groups of people through its microfinance activities.

This case focuses on the strategic initiatives taken up by YVU Microfin to provide a means of livelihood for the various people of the state. This case is also aimed at capturing the dynamics of strategic management of YVU Microfin.

Keywords: Credit, Microfinance, MFI, SHG and YVU

BACKGROUND:

YVU had emerged in 1970 from spontaneous urge of a group of 5 young teenagers responding to a flood that affected Thoubal and its adjoining villages. YVU is a group of young dedicated men and women as a voluntary endeavor primarily as a social service institution based on no-profit basis, having no political intention and to make variety of socially and locally based services available so as to reach the marginal farmers.



YVU - a movement of people particularly by youth identifies completely and directs its efforts in collaboration with local people to enable them to design their developmental initiatives, economically, socially, environmentally, so that the deprived classes of community also enjoy the fruits of human dignity resulting in transformation of their life and environment in which they live.

YVU is one of the NGOs which have been self sustained from its own income generating activities. YVU do not depend on others for its own sustenance. It has expanded its microfinance activities outside the state of Manipur i.e. in Assam and Delhi. YVU supports the rural and urban people to have their own income generation activities and made the stand on their own foot.

In recognition of YVU's contribution to national development, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development awarded the prestigious National Youth Award in the year, 1987-88.

The developmental activities of YVU are spread over in 6 Districts of Manipur viz. i) Thoubal District, ii) Bishnupur, iii) Imphal West, iv) Imphal East, v) Chandel and vi) Senapati District. Outside Manipur YVU has its Microfinance Branch Offices at Guwahati, Assam and Delhi. The activities of YVU are aimed at improvement of livelihood circumstances of the people living in adverse situations. They can be included under different headings like irrigation, agriculture, livestock, horticulture, forestry, water & sanitation, income generation, vocational training, reclamation of cultivable land, appropriate technology, microfinance operation and various self sustainable income generating activities.

YVU has been the pioneer in the national development initiatives and has become a visible entity in the lives of socially disadvantaged and underprivileged community. YVU has been able to touch to the lives of more than 12,000 families over its four decade service to the cause of mankind.

YVU Microfin (YMF):

YVU Microfin is a microfinance unit of YVU. It is a trust registered under Indian Trust Act 1882. YVU commenced its microfinance operation in Manipur on 2nd October, 1996 under the leadership of Akoijam Tikendrajit, with a capital of Rs. 35,000 and small grant assistance from

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Evangelische Zentralstelle (EZE), Germany. YVU works at grassroots level and operates through women groups, village committees, farmer-based local associations and youth groups. YVUis dedicated to enable them in their development efforts with the sole aim to enhance their economic base and enable them to lead a more dignified way of life in the local context.

In mid 1990s, YVU evaluated the impact of its projects. It was found that the community assets created under grant projects were not utilised properly and some of them were left abandoned. In such projects involvement of people is very minimal. The role of beneficiaries ended the day they got grant. YVU took a firm stand for self sustainability. It identified credit as a better tool for improving the economic condition of downtrodden people as well as sustainability of YVU. Hence, YVU started its microfinance operation in 1996.

YVU Microfin has its operation concentrated in the state of Manipur. Manipur is well known for general strikes, blockade and law and order problems. Their products are well designed keeping in mind the situation and people of Manipur.

Philosophy:

Vision

To empower the underprivileged people by augmenting their income earning capacity through credit support and other financial services towards their economic independencies and self – sustainability.

Mission

- In pursuit of its vision YVU Microfin has adopted the following missions:
- To remain an effective change agent and bring about a constructive transformation in the lives of people
- To improve its efficiency, sustainability and outreach;
- To improve the quality of life for micro-entrepreneurs, small business owners and poor households who have strong determination through provision of credit, capacity building and economic empowerment of downtrodden people;
- To promote & encourage income generating activities for poor



Cultures and Values

- Transparency: YVU Microfin is a transparent organisation. We believe that being transparent is an essential element of accomplishing their objectives. Borrowers are well educated about the rate of interest on loan and other charges. We do not have hidden charges. In every branch office, rate of interest and charges are displayed on a poster.
- Secularism and nepotism: YVU Microfin is a non-religious, non-sectarian and non-political organisation. All members are same in their eyes, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or political affiliation. YVU Microfin is against nepotism. We do not favor anyone. In their yes, everyone is same.
- Teamwork & creativity: Encourage treamwork and creativity at YVU Microfin. YVU Microfin has come a long way through think and thin. What YVU Microfin is today is because of the dedication and hard work of its employees. YVU Microfin welcomes creative ideas from employees. Brain stroming sessions are held regularly to come up with better ideas of serving the disadvantaged women.

AREAS OF OPERATIONS: YMF operates in the four major Districts of Manipur. They are:

- Thoubal District,
- Bishenpur District
- Imphal West District
- Imphal East District

COLLABORATIVE AGENCIES:

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI)
- YMBT (YVU Mutual Benefit Trust)
- LMBT (Luxmi Mutual Benefit Trust)



COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES PROVIDED BY YVU MICROFIN: Some of the comparative advantages provided by YVU Microfin are:

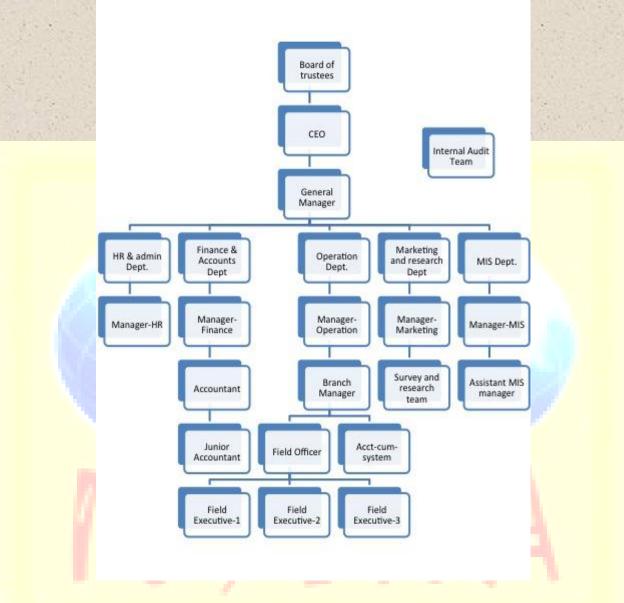
- Low Interest rate
- Flexible repayment options.
- Less documentation
- On-site collection facility
- Rapid processing of loan.

INTEREST AT A GLANCE:

Sl.	Particulars Partic		Interest p.a.
	Daily /	Weekly repayment loans	
	i)	General category/ JLG (Loan above Rs. 10,000/member)	22.80%
1	ii)	CIG / SHG	21.00%
	iii)	Widow, disabled, below poverty line,	18.00 %
	Monthly repayment loans		
	i)	General category	24.00%
2	ii)	Widow, disabled, below poverty line, CIG / SHG	21.00%
		NO HIDDEN COST	



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF YMF:



CREDIT POLICY:

- Loan only to the members.
- First Loan after having saved 10% of the demand loan.
- Credit delivery and recovery at members' doorstep.
- Savings deposit and withdrawal facilities at member's doorstep.



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHT:

PARTICULARS	As on 31 st March, 2011
No. of Branch	09
No. of Field Staff	65
No. of State covered	3
No. of Districts Covered	09
No. of Active Group	1550
No. of Active Borrowers	12,273
Numbers of members	25,084
Outstanding Portfolio (Rs. million)	112.332
Cumulative Loan Disbursed (Rs. million)	202.69
Cumulative Loan recovery (Rs. million)	187.78
Repayment %	99.39
No. of Borrower Per Field Officer	188.82
Outstanding Portfolio Per Field Officer (Rs. million]	1.73
Operating Self Sufficiency Ratio (%)	173.00

SWOT analysis of YVU Microfin:

Strength:

- 1. Dedicated and motivated staff.
- 2. Mutual co-operation and coordination between staffs.
- 3. Good environment to work.
- 4. Competitive advantage provided to the clients.

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Opportunities:

- 1. Demand is more than supply.
- 2. Microfinance is a fast developing rural industry in the state.
- 3. Becoming a promising support for means of livelihood for many people
- 4. Goodwill

Weakness:

• Capacity utilization low

Threats:

- 1. Emergence of many MFIs in the state.
- 2. Law and order situations in the state.

IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC OPTIONS:

Examining the potential demand of micro finance for self employment of people in the state, the YVU Micofin can go for product development and market development strategy.

Products Market	Existing Products	New Products
Existing Market	Penetration (expansion)	Product Development
New Market	Market Development	Diversification

Reasons:

- Demand of micro finance is growing.
- Experienced and better networking with the clients.
- To strike in its core competence area like low interest rate, flexible repayment options and on site delivery of loans and collection of installments.
- Vast untapped market.

CONCLUSION:

Manipur is an industrially backward state. Most of people depend mostly on Government for jobs as a means of livelihood. The rate of unemployment is increasing very fast. So many educated youths are wandering around for a means of income. The scope of private sector is also very negligible. So the people have to employ themselves as a source of income and livelihood. For this, they need micro credit facilities in the form of micro finance from various MFIs which can provide small business loans for establishing small enterprises. The YMF has taken the initiatives for providing credit facilities to people belonging to different part of the states who has the potential and wanted to establish or expand their small business enterprises.

Major Issues:

- 1. Should YVU Microfin go for rapid expansion or keep improving on its core competence area?
- 2. Should YVU Microfin diversify itself to other financial products?
- 3. Will there be problems in the brand positioning of YVU Microfin which is perceived as Non Profit organization when they enter into the business of diversified financial products?
- 4. Will YVU Dairy be able to tackle various environmental problems including government interference and provide the means of livelihood to people of the state?

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Success story of a Self Employed woman (Client of YVU Microfin)

One can live a decent life if he/she is hard working and gets the micro credit facility for establishing one's own small enterprise ---- says Mema Devi.

Name : Sukham Mema Devi

Age : 55 years

Village : Thoubal Ningombam

Education : 10th pass

She used to run a Dry fish vendor which earns a mere income for her entire family. His husband sits idle with no job. She has three sons, one at high school, one graduate and one post graduate. She used to manage everything from foods to her children's education through her mere income from dry fish vendor. Later on she got the information about micro credit facilities provided by YMF at such affordable interest rate and very fast process. She took business loan of Rs 5000 from YMF and expanded her vendor. She started earning a good income for her entire family. After the completion of first loan of Rs 5000, she took loan of Rs 10,000. In this way, the micro credit facilities provided by YMF proved to be a life saver for Mema Devi's entire family. Later on, one of her son also started a shoe shop with the small loan from YMF. Her son also started earning a mere income at the initial phase but at the later stage it proved to be a good source of income for himself and his entire family.

In this way, her entire family becomes a happy family with the more sources of income. Mema and his son started earning a good monthly income of Rs 15,000-20,000 per month which is a very good income in a state like Manipur with the financial micro credit facility from YMF.

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