

MICROLOANS: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Listen to this segment and write the missing words in the excerpts below.

1. "I have given money to organizations that make microloans. _____ they are the most effective way to help poor people."
2. "That depends on what your measure is. There is some evidence of success. First, _____ that borrowers almost always pay back the loans."
3. "Borrowers almost always pay back the loans—about 95 percent. In addition, _____ by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology _____ that microloans help one group the most: people who already own a business."
4. "No, I wouldn't, because _____ such small amounts of money can make much of a difference."
5. "Well, you are right. These _____ that the loans resulted in no change in the usual measures of poverty."
6. "There is another way to look at the situation, though. Although economic experts do _____ that people in poverty often remain poor after they take out a microloan, the same _____ also _____ that loans allow the families to become more financially stable."
7. "_____ aid suggests that this kind of support increases the chance that microloans will help people break the cycle of poverty."

Review the sentences, and write F next to the facts and O next to the opinions.

Complete the sentences with information from the lecture.

1. What are three ways in which microloans have been successful?
 - a. Ninety-five percent of borrowers _____.
 - b. Microloans help people who _____ to get ahead.
 - c. Microloans help poor families become _____.
2. In what way can microloans be considered a failure? Discuss with your partner.