

Title: Work Opportunities for Women: NGO's Support to Microenterprises

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ABSTRACT

This article compares the similarities and differences in approach between two NGOs (Non-government Organizations) that support microenterprise development in an urban area of Bel Horizonte, Brazil, one that focuses its support on women and another whose support is more broadly focused. One of the NGOs is Centro CAPE (Center for Training and Promotion of Small/Micro Enterprises). After its creation as a NGO in 1991, Centro CAPE's objective was to provide management training to staff of public and private organizations, other NGOs, microentrepreneurs and artisans.

The other NGO is an affiliate of Banco Women's World Banking, which was created in 1984, in Rio de Janeiro. Today there are eight state affiliates in Brazil, one of which is Banco da Mulher.MG, established in Belo Horizonte in 1989. Banco da Mulher/MG provides credit and the trade fairs for women, and a course on management training on topics such as entrepreneurial planning, buying inouts and controlling quantities, financial account and control sheets, cost and price formulation, and scales.

This paper examine What does the kind of support given by these NGOs tell us about the promotion of women? Underlying questions are: 1) Which women benefit from each NGO approach and what are the characteristics of their businesses? 2) How do the men and women at Centro CAPE, the characteristics of their business, their attitudes, and their difficulties and perspectives toward the microenterprises differ from each other? I used the case study method, which allowed better understanding of the cases studied.