

## How to Evaluate the Contribution of Social Finance to Regional Economy

**Authors :** Jungeun Cho

**Abstract :** Social finance has received increasing attention as a means to promote the growth of regional economies. Despite the plenty of research discussed their critical role and functions in regional economic development such as the financing and promotion of co-operatives or social enterprises and the offering credit to the financially excluded in the region, however, rarely are efforts made to measure the contribution of social finance in the regional economy. It is essential to establish an evaluation model in order to encourage social finance institutions to perform their supposed role and functions on regional economic development. The objective of this paper is to formulate an evaluation model of the contribution of social finance to the regional economy through an analytic hierarchy process (AHP) approach. This study is expected to provide useful guidelines for social finance institutions' strategies and the policies of local or central government regarding social finance.

**Keywords :** social finance, regional economy, social economy, policies of local or central government

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