



H.NO:3, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 1<sup>st</sup> Cross, Kodigehalli Main Road,  
Bhadrapa Layout, Nagashettihalli, Bengaluru-560094

## **AKMI Updates: Feb - 2025**

### **About AKMI:**

AKMI (Association of Karnataka Microfinance Institutions) was established in 2007 to bring in better transparency and governance, client protection and ethical practices among the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Karnataka. AKMI is registered under the Society Act 1960 and has 31 members as of now.

Sl. No.	AKMI Members	Number
1	NBFC -MFIs	23
2	NBFCs	1
3	Society/Trusts/Other	1
4	SFBs	6
	Total Members	31

**AKMI is affiliated** to Sa-Dhan and MFIN, which are national level network organizations and are self-regulatory organizations (SROs) for the microfinance industry. Both Sa Dhan and MFIN are recognized by RBI and are monitoring the Microfinance industry very closely.

The **main activities of AKMI** fall into field level engagement, communication, capacity building for members and client protection.

AKMI organizes district level meetings among its members in all districts of the state, which is helpful in quickly identifying problematic locations, troublemakers and then working with local administration in solving such problems.

We conduct various programmes such as FLPs (Financial Literacy Programs) at different districts inviting senior district level officials such as DC, SP, CEO Zilla Panchayath, Lead Bank, NABARD etc... and the work of the sector is showcased.

We conduct street plays at various Gram Panchayath, TV episodes on success stories of beneficiaries etc...

For the benefit of members, we conduct programs on industry best practices in areas such as HR, Audit, IT / digitization, Grievance handling and client protection.

We have grievance redressal cells at districts Lead MFIs and redressal cell in Bangalore with toll free number.

AKMI is a special invitee to the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and District Level Bankers' Committee in every district where we can update the happenings in the sector.

**AKMI Members are also conducting** social events, conducting financial literacy programs, construction of toilets, financial assistance to Mid-Day meal program (Akshaya Patra foundation), etc. as part of their CSR activities. Our members have also taken up lot of initiatives to combat distress during Covid Pandemic, flood, drought etc...

**AKMI Outreach:**

Particulars	Sept-2024	June-2024	Mar-2024
MFI Members	31	31	28
No of Branches	3090	3056	3019
No of Staff	37967	37345	36859
Loan Borrowers accounts (in Lakhs)	109.88	112.09	111.22
Outstanding (Amt. in Crs.) including BCs ' fig reflected in Banks' books	59367.76	60189.35	60597.78

**AKMI Bi- Monthly District Meetings in Karnataka:**

AKMI is operating in all 31 Dist. of Karnataka and has 30 District AKMI units having the leadership of a Lead MFI and Co-Lead MFI to each district. The lead MFI who is having major exposure in the district is conducting district level AKMI meeting bimonthly on the fixed day. These meetings are attended by members of AKMI who are operating in the district by area

representatives. AKMI district meetings are mainly concentrating on field issues and seeking remedies for the issues in the field and may discuss latest developments in the microfinance sector, CB report, Ring leader problems, staff issues etc.

The lead MFI having AKMI district grievance redressal cell is handling MFI clients' grievances in the field, and have liaison with AKMI HO.

Particulars	February-2025	December-2024	September-2024
No of District in Karnataka	31	31	31
No of AKMI dist. units	30	30	30
No. of Meetings Conducted	30	30	30
Next bi-monthly meeting will be in <b>April - 2025</b>			

**Contact AKMI Ombudsman:**

OMBUDSMAN,

AKMI, H.NO:3, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 1st cross

1<sup>st</sup> Main Kodigehalli Main Road

Bhadrappa Layout

Nagashettihalli, Bengaluru. Toll Free No: **1800 – 4255654**

Particulars	Feb-25	Jan-25	Dec-2024
No of Grievances calls Received	23	35	28
No of Grievances calls Solved	21	35	28
Pending – i) Insurance			
ii) Loan not yet sanctioned	2		
iii) CB report Problems			

Ombudsman at AKMI HO, Bangalore is having toll free helpline Number: 18004255654. MFI customer/s may approach AKMI ombudsman if their grievance is not solved by concerned MFI regarding-

Staff behavior

Charging of higher rate of Interest than stipulated by RBI

Any unreasonable delay or denial of micro credit

**# Observations:** At few places problems like over lending, complaints on staff behavior with customers and ring leader menace are observed. The disbursement of loan and Collection slowed down to little extent. We formed a team of four persons in each district (Lead, Co-lead and other two member MFIs) to rush to the help of MFIs facing problems because of public protests in some areas . More clarity is expected by GOK about ordinance.

## AKMI Activities/Meetings during Feb - 2025

Sl. No	Date	Particulars	Remarks
1	05.02.2025	Visited Vijayavani office	Team AKMI (Mr. Salimath, Mr. Anand Rao, Mr. Hegde) met Editor of Vijayavani newspaper Mr. Channe Gowda. We took help of PR agency Mr. Sharma. The editor gave a patient hearing and gathered additional information to know the crux of the problem. We feel he is now having information on different dimensions of the issue. Hopefully we may get balanced reporting from Vijayavani in future.
2	06.02.2025	Meeting with Chief Secretary & Hon'ble Revenue Minister	Team AKMI (Mr. Salimath, Mr. Nagendra Mali, Mr. Hegde) along with Mr. Nanaiah accompanied Sa Dhan ED and CEO Mr. Jiji Mammen for meeting Chief Secretary, Mr. Ponnanna Legal advisor to Chief Minister, Hon'ble Revenue Minister Mr. Krishna Bhyregowda & also advocate Mr. Venkatesh. Requested them for replacing the word 'Microfinance' with 'lending Institutions' and bring out more clarity to avoid confusion in the field.
3	07.02.2025	Visited Tiptur	Team AKMI met Tiptur Tahsildar Pawan Kumar KAS & CPI Venkatesh C.
4	11.02.2025	Mr. Karthik (Sa-Dhan)	Mr. Karthik (Sa-Dhan) visited our office, discussed various issues and strategies.
5	12.02.2025	Shimoga DC meeting	There was a meeting organised by District Collector in Shimoga. SP, LDM, AGM NABARD and few Govt officials were

			<p>also there. Almost all operating MFIs, SFBs and Banks attended the meeting /. Representatives from Pawn Broker Association were also called. The following points were emphasized by the District Collector in the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The District Administration is not against MFIs as Microfinance promotes Financial Inclusion.</li> <li>2. There is a need for diligence in Lending practices like not lending beyond 4 loans, not pushing loans beyond capacity of borrowers which may lead to debt trap.</li> <li>3. Not to over lend based on Target and Profits.</li> <li>4. Not to visit clients in odd hours ie after 6 PM, not to visit workplace of clients, not to shame clients or harass them. If complaints come necessary action will be taken.</li> </ol> <p>We shared with DC that all our members have been advised to adhere to Code of Conduct and Fair practice code strictly. We also explained about Microfinance status in the district.</p> <p>Overall, the meeting ended with positive note, the Collector said hopefully we don't meet again due to any issues related to Microfinance.</p>
6	14.02.2025	AKMI Meeting (Virtual)	Conducted meeting (Virtual) at 4 pm to discuss about the recent developments with all senior field staff explaining about ordinance, precaution & code of conduct etc..
7	17.02.2025	Visited Bagalkot	<p>Attended the meeting organized by Bagalkot DC Smt. K M Janaki IAS &amp; Amarnath Reddy IPS, SP. LDM was also present.</p> <p>All operating MFIs attended the meeting. We made our submission and clarified that the ordinance clearly says that it is not applicable to RBI regulated entities. They said they want MFIs to operate and requested to ensure that there should not be coercive methods of recovery. Terms of loan should be in local language and RBI guidelines to be followed. They will take necessary actions if any complaints are there. We told them that we had advised members to follow code of conduct strictly and same is being monitored.</p>
8	17.02.2025	AKMI Meeting at Bagalkot	Had AKMI meeting with MFI members.
9	18.02.2025	Visited Vijayapura	AKMI along with Sa-Dhan had a Meeting with Superintendent of Police, Vijayapura district and discussed with him regarding Microfinance in the district. He clearly mentioned that the ordinance is not applicable to RBI regulated entities. He asked us to sensitize our members to ensure that RBI guidelines are followed. He said in case of any violations and complaints,

			necessary action as per law would be taken. They were quite positive.
10	18.02.2025	Arranged Meeting at BSS office	Arranged online meeting of BCs against whom caveat has been filed by Govt. of Karnataka. Senior officials of BSS, SKDRDP, NOCPL, Save-Saggraha & Sub-K joined the meeting. Decided to send a request to Govt. to remove the confusion regarding Banking Correspondences.
11	19.02.2025	Met DC, Vijayapura	AKMI team had a Meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mr. T. Bhoobalan, IAS, Vijayapura district and discussed with him regarding Microfinance in the district. He clearly mentioned that the ordinance is not applicable to RBI regulated entities. He asked us to sensitize our members to ensure compliance of RBI guidelines.
12	20.02.2025	AKMI – Sa-Dhan Orientation programme (Virtual)	For southern districts of Karnataka about discussion on Ordinance, handling objections of District Administration, Police, Rules to be followed in field, Dealing with overdue borrowers. Do's & Don'ts by MFIs etc.,
13	21.02.2025	AKMI – Sa-Dhan Virtual Orientation programme (Virtual)	For northern districts of Karnataka about discussion on Ordinance, handling objections of District Administration, Police, Rules to be followed in field, Dealing with overdue borrowers. Do's & Don'ts by MFIs etc.,
14	21.02.2025	Met Principal Secretary Finance & SLBC Convenor	Mr. V N Hegde (AKMI) met Principal Secretary Finance, Secretary and advisor to Finance Division, GOK. Also met Convenor and GM SLBC and AGM SLBC. Handed over Sa-Dhan letter along with copy of RBI circular and explained about position of BC as extended arm of Bank., requested for more clarity in the ordinance.
15	24.02.2025	Sa-Dhan meeting (Virtual)	Attended online meeting organized by Sa-Dhan for CEOs/COOs/Business Heads of the MFIs, SFBs and Banks Operating in Karnataka.
16	25.02.2025	LDM & DRCS	Spoke to Lead Bank & DRCS (Davanagere, Chitradurga & Belagavi) clarifying about ordinance. Registered Entities are not required to register with local authorities.
17	25.02.2025	Meeting with Chaitanya Team (Virtual)	With Risk Management Team (Chaitanya) for keeping track of media reports.
18	28.02.2025	AKMI Meeting (virtual)	Arranged meeting to discuss about script for Kannada celebrity endorsement. Mr. Shanta Kumar (L&T), Mr. Pradeep B (Ujjivan) & Mr. Panchakshari (BSS) & Mr. Uma Shankar Sharma (PR) attended the meeting.

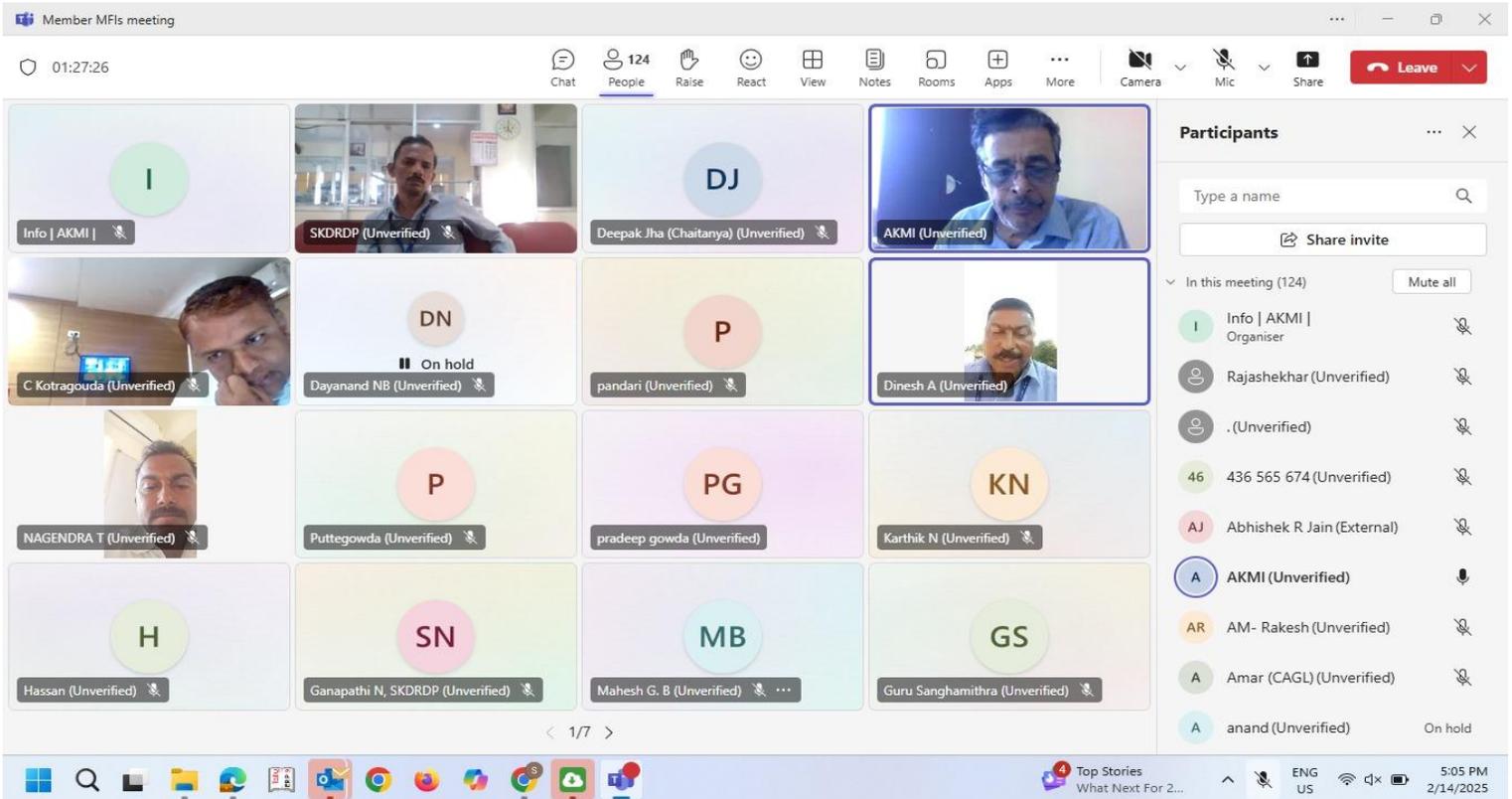
19	28.02.2025	AKMI helpline	Came out with Advertisement in three Kannada dailies (Vijayavani, Vijay Karnataka and Prajavani) giving details of 3 helplines (Kalburgi, Davanagere & Mysore) set up by AKMI for redressing customers' grievances.
20	27.01.2025 to 10.02.2025	Financial Literacy Programs (Street Play)	Arranged street plays in various places of Kalburgi district.



**Team AKMI met CPI Venkatesh C. in Tiptur on 07.02.2025**



**DC Meeting in Shimoga on 12.02.2025**



**Conducted meeting (Virtual) on 14.02.2025 to discuss about the recent developments with all senior field staff explaining about ordinance, precaution, code of conduct etc.,**



Attended the meeting organized by Bagalkot DC and SP along with Mr. Karthick (Sa-Dhan) on 17.02.2025



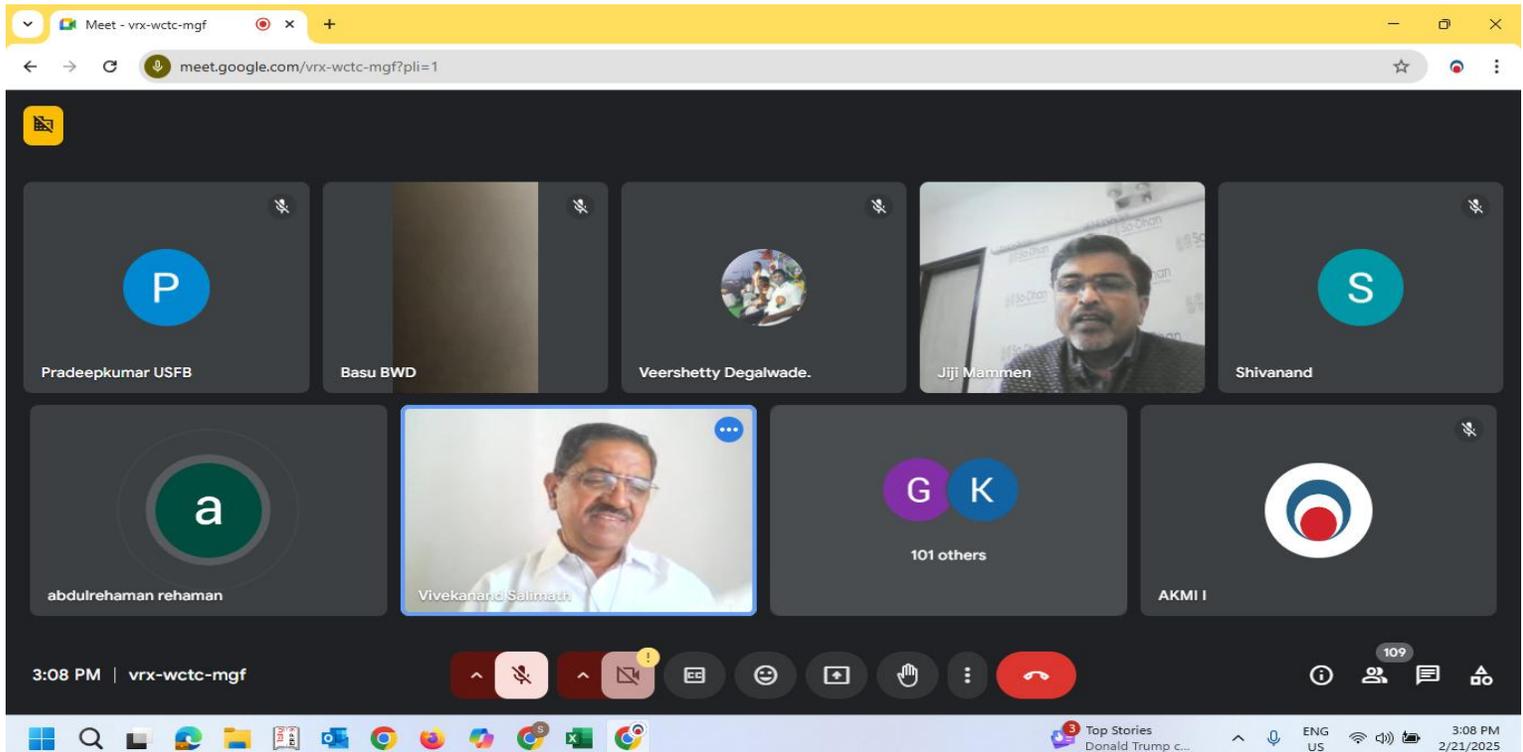
**AKMI meeting with MFI members at Bagalkot on 18.02.2025**



**Mr. R V Kulkarni (AKMI) & Mr. Karthick (Sa-Dhan) met Superintendent of Police, Vijayapura on 19.02.2025 & handed over AKMI Reports to him.**



**AKMI – Sa-Dhan Virtual Orientation programme (Virtual) for DM's & RM's of MFIs, SFBs and Banks operating in southern districts of Karnataka on 20.02.2025**



**AKMI – Sa-Dhan Virtual Orientation programme (Virtual) for DM's & RM's of MFIs, SFBs and Banks operating in northern districts of Karnataka on 21.02.2025**



AKMI Team met Vijayapura Deputy Commissioner Mr. T Bhoobalan IAS on 19.02.2025

Meeting - wdg-ujmn-cug

https://meet.google.com/wdg-ujmn-cug

Rakshitha S (Presenting, annotating)

MFI Media - Google Sheets

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15vUdYHQnQaAHRMRYchVbWcYp\_FOZO\_txahA/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Sl No	Date of the News	Type of the Media	Media Name	Category	Brief of news	MFI Name	Page No.	Link	Collected By
1	9-Feb-2025	News Paper	Udayavani	Ordinance	Governor rejected the rules made by Karnataka Government.			https://www.udayavani.co	Manju
2	9-Feb-2025	News Paper	The Hindu	Customer SV	It will be sent back to Governor with clarifications, says the Minister.			https://www.thehindu.com	Manju
3	9-Feb-2025	Others	Public TV	Customer CT	ie resent to governor				Rakshitha
4	9-Feb-2025	News Paper	Etaarje	Customer MFI	ie sent back after clarification, and the bill has been sent again with modifications.				Rakshitha
5	9-Feb-2025	News Paper	Pravasi	Ordinance	Customer paid 5.2% for final settlement asking 2.5%, Customer angle Sutra		Page 7	https://www.praavasi.com	Manju
6	9-Feb-2025	News Paper	Pravasi	Political Party	ie resent to governor				Rakshitha
7	10-Feb-2025	News Paper	Vijay Karnataka	NBFC other than MFI	was harassed by the customers: Sankhal: First inductive agent for collection to customer (40k), they snatched the exca. ID card harassed him, Later id Manager spoke through call and exca was released	Beistart	Page 9	https://www.vijaykarnataka.com	Rakshitha
8	10-Feb-2025	News Paper	Vijay Karnataka	General	s put out of house and locked, and notice was pasted: kept. Customer name Dheerajagi's sub customer was put out notice was pasted as FMI not paid. He for Mangla Sutra, and got 2), for settlement officer is # 2.5), and not accepting 2.		Page 9		Rakshitha
9	10-Feb-2025	News Paper	Pravasi	Non-MFI	ie article about MFI		Page 6		Manju
10	10-Feb-2025	News Paper	Sanyukta Karnataka	Customer MFI	Belga Customer name Dheerajagi's sub customer was put out of house, and notice was pasted as " 8 " month FMI not paid. For 2), sub customer paid 5.2% for final settlement 2), Customer Pledge		Page 6	https://www.sanyukta.com	Manju

2:38 PM | wdg-ujmn-cug

29°C Sunny

2:38 PM 2/25/2025

Meeting with Risk Management Team (Chaitanya) for keeping track of media reports on 25.02.2025

**Street Plays (Financial Literacy Programs) in various places of Kalaburagi district from 01.02.2025 to 10.02.2025**



Samsung Dual Camera  
Shot with my Galaxy M10

Parasavali, Alanda Tq, Kalburgi on 01.02.2025



Samsung Dual Camera  
Shot with my Galaxy M10

Kadaganchi, Alanda Tq on 01.02.2025



Bhusanur, Alanda Tq, Kalburgi on 02.02.2025



Koralli, Alanda Tq, Kalburgi on 02.02.2025



Pattana, Kalburgi on 03.02.2025



Kanamasa, Alanda Tq, Kalburgi on 03.02.2025



Kamalapur, Kalburgi on 04.02.2025



Tavaregere, Kamalapur, Kalburgi on 05.02.2025



Arasuru, Kamalapuram Tq on 05.02.2025



Sharanashirishi, Kalburgi on 06.02.2025



Srinivas Saradagi, Kalburgi on 07.02.2025



Agarga, Alanda Tq on 07.02.2025



Gola, Kalburgi on 08.02.2025



Kalangeri, Kalburgi on 08.02.2025



Rajapura, Kalburgi on 09.02.2025



Shahbad Nagara, Kalburgi on 09.02.2025



Dhramapura, Kalburgi on 10.02.2025



Mugalnagavi, Kalburgi on 10.02.2025

## ದೂರುಗಳ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ AKMI ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಾತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸುಗ್ರೀವಾಜ್ಞೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಾದ ಮೈಕ್ರೋಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು RBI ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸುಗ್ರೀವಾಜ್ಞೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ ಅಸೋಸಿಯೇಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ಮೈಕ್ರೋಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್ (AKMI) ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ RBI ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗೂ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಶಯಗಳಿಗೂ ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಾ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಜೊತೆಗಿದ್ದು ಅವರ ದೂರು, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೀಘ್ರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳು ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಸಾಲದ ಮೇಲಿನ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳು RBI ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರವಾಗಿಯೇ ಇದ್ದು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶದಲ್ಲೂ ಕಿರುಕುಳ, ಬಲವಂತದ ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಿಯಂಥ ಅನುಚಿತ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು AKMI ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅವರ ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕವಾರು ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಾಲ ಮರುಪಾವತಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅನುಮಾನ, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇಂತಿವೆ:**

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು	AKMI ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಬಹುದು
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	18002022411	ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ, ಬೀದರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
ಮೈಸೂರು	9686877435	ಮೈಸೂರು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಕೊಡಗು, ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು (R&U) ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ	8192296307	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ (ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ), ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮತ್ತು ಗದಗ

## Is Microfinance harming the poor people in Karnataka???

Microfinance is an RBI regulated financial intermediation activity. Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFCs are the formal institutions extending micro finance. As per RBI, microfinance is defined as a NON COLLATERAL loan given to a POOR household with Less Than Rs.3 LAKH ANNUAL INCOME.

The institutions which are giving such loans are mostly registered with RBI and regulated by it. In addition, RBI has appointed two Self-Regulatory organisations (SROs) to monitor the Microfinance activities. There are about 50 such regulated entities operating in Karnataka at present.

### Microfinance in Karnataka

Karnataka is one the leading States in the country in Financial Inclusion through microfinance. It is here where microfinance was borne some 40 years back. SHG Bank linkage programme was started by NABARD along with MYRADA in 1987

As on 30th November 2024, there are about 65 Lakh unique borrowers in the State benefitting from formal financial services provided by microfinance institutions regulated by RBI. The Microfinance portfolio is about 37,356 Crores which is provided by RBI regulated institutions doing microfinance, like. In addition, there is a unique programme by Banks, which finances poor people through Business correspondent mode, which channelizes loans to the poor households. There is about 21,000 Crores outstanding to around 30 lakh households. There are also SHG Bank linkage programme run by State Rural Development department of the Government and NGOs. Together the approved microfinance programme supports nearly one crore households poor and provides around Rs.60,000 crores.

The Microfinance institutions borrow from higher lending institutions and provide credit at the doorstep of the poor people and collect from their door step with minimum hassles. The loans given are without any collateral. Sa-Dhan, an SRO, has studied the ground position in Karnataka. Most of the problems that have come up in the name of microfinance in Karnataka are caused mostly by other institutions that are not Microfinance institutions. There are many players in the field which mimic MFIs in their operations and are mostly outside the fold of RBI regulations or members of SROs. Moreover, local influential persons work as ring leaders and befool the genuine borrowers. All such actions are also wrongly attributed to MFIs

### MFI Regulations and Supervision

Most of the MFIs are regulated by RBI. Almost 98% of the loans portfolio under microfinance is issued through RBI regulated entities. There are two SROs, one being Sa-Dhan overseeing the activities of MFIs. They have prescribed a Code of Conduct (COC) for the MFIs which is closely monitored. **The regulatory framework of RBI and Industry code of conduct strictly prohibits coercive recovery practices and visiting clients in odd hours. Sa-Dhan keeps a close watch on any such non-compliance.** There is a dedicated Grievance redressal mechanism set up by lenders, SRO and RBI to address grievances of borrowers in a timely manner.

The loans are provided in a transparent manner as pricing and other details are clearly mentioned in loan cards provided to borrowers in local language. The rate of interest charged by MFIs is fixed as per RBI regulations and closely monitored by RBI.

All regulated MFI's under aegis of Self Regulatory Organisations (SRO) have robust grievance redressal and distress support policies & systems to help the borrowers in distress and unable to repay the loans by rescheduling in such a manner to make it easier for them to repay over period of time and help them to restart their income generating activity.

### Microfinance and distress – Reality check

The borrowers of microfinance are people from the bottom of the pyramid and many of them are outside the formal banking system. These people generally depend on money lenders, who charge anywhere between 5 to 10% per month. The microfinance institutions which generally lend to their borrowers on a declining balance mode at a rate of interest as regulated by the RBI.

Most of the issues that we see are mislabelling of loans of local and other un-registered institution as well as non-microfinance loans by lending institutions as Microfinance which affects the sector badly. The sector is eagerly looking forward to the **Banning of Unregulated Lending Activities (BULA) initiative of Govt. of India** to address the issue.

We are committed to stand by the poor people of Karnataka and the country and provide them the support of credit in a most transparent and hassle free manner

- Sa-Dhan - National Level Association of Community Finance Institutions and SRO.
- AKMI- State Level Association of Microfinance institutions for Karnataka.

# ಮೀಟರ್ ಬಡ್ಡಿಯೇ ಖಳನಾಯಕ ?

ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಸಾಲ ಬಾಕಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠವಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದೆ ಆರ್‌ಬಿಐ

■ ಪ್ರಮೋದ ಹರಿಕಾಂತ್ ಕಾರವಾರ  
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ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎದ್ದಿರುವ ವಿವಾದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೊಂದು ರೂಪ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು ಸದೃಢವಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಆರ್‌ಬಿಐ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಟರ್ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಸೇರಿ ನಾನಾ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಾಲದ ಮುಖಗಳು ಹೊರ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳ ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪ ಎದ್ದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್‌ಬಿಐ 2024 ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 24ರವರೆಗಿನ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1.09 ಕೋಟಿ ಸಾಲಗಾರ ಖಾತೆ ಇವೆ. ಅವುಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಗೆ 59,367 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಾಲ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಪೈಕಿ 7.79 ಲಕ್ಷ ಖಾತೆಗಳಿಂದಷ್ಟೇ 1152 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಾಲ ಮರು ಪಾವತಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಆ ವರದಿ ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಾಗಾದರೆ, ಸಾಲದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್ನುವ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಎದ್ದಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಮೀಟರ್ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಹಾವಳಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕವಾಗಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ  
ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಸಾಲ ಖಾತೆಗಳು  
**1.09** ಕೋಟಿ

ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಸಾಲ ಮೊತ್ತ  
**59,367** ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.

ಸಾಲ ಬಾಕಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಖಾತೆಗಳು  
**7,79,347**

ವಸೂಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಹಣ  
**1152.80** ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.

ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಡಗೋಡ ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಟರ್ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದ 200 ಚೆಕ್‌ಗಳು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿವೆ. 12 ಜನರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕೇಸ್ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ.

## ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲದೂರು

ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದಂಧೆ ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸೇರಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಆವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೂರು ಇದೆ. ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದವರ ಚೆಕ್, ಬಡ್ಡಿ ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ಮಾಡುವವರ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲೂ ಏಜೆಂಟರು ಹುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಗುಂಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮೋಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇವೆ.

ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮೇಲೆ

ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಗುಂಪುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ ಸಾಲ ಕೊಡುತ್ತವೆ. ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಾತಿ ದರ ಈಗಲೂ ಶೇ.95 ರಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಲ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಅಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾರೂ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವರು ಮೀಟರ್ ಬಡ್ಡಿ, ಗೃಹ ಸಾಲ, ಕೈಸಾಲ ಹೀಗೆ ನಾನಾ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಪವಾದವನ್ನು ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗೆ ಅಂಟಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

-ವಿ.ಎನ್. ಹೆಗಡೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ಅಸೋಸಿಯೇಶನ್ ಆಫ್ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಇನ್ ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್.

ಸಾಲ ಇದೆ ಎಂಬ ದಾಖಲೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಬ್ಬರು ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದೂ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅನೇಕ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ಮಹಿಳೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಂಘಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೇ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರಿಂದ ಒಬ್ಬರೇ ಮೂರ್ಮಾಲು ಸಂಘಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದರೂ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರಿಂದ ಸಾಲ ಮರುಪಾವತಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರವೂ ತಮ್ಮತ್ತಿದೆ.

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