

### About the Book

This book highlights how microfinance has emerged as a powerful catalyst for change in India particularly in empowering women and uplifting rural communities. It examines how small, collateral-free loans, coupled with ecosystem support, are transforming lives and advancing financial inclusion. As of March 2025, India's microfinance sector had attained a gross loan portfolio of approximately ₹3.75 lakh crore, serving nearly 79 million borrowers an extraordinary scale that underscores its centrality to inclusive growth. Yet, this expansion has not been without challenges. The sector is currently undergoing a phase of recalibration and consolidation. By the end of FY25, the microfinance loan portfolio registered a year-on-year contraction of about 14%, standing at around ₹3.8 lakh crore, and further declined to approximately ₹3.59 lakh crores by June 2025. During the same period, active loan accounts declined sharply from about 15.93 crore in June 2024 to nearly 14 crores by March 2025, and further to around 13.2 crore by June 2025 reflecting tighter credit conditions, regulatory recalibration, and heightened concerns related to borrower stress and portfolio quality.

### About the Editor



**Dr. Md. Mahtab Alam** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce, G.D. College, Begusarai, Bihar (a constituent unit of L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga, Bihar) and has previously served as a Faculty Member in the Department of BBA, S.M. College, Bhagalpur (a constituent unit of T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, Bihar), where he played an active role in nurturing managerial and entrepreneurial skills among students. He holds a Ph.D., an M.Com, as well as an MBA, and has qualified the UGC-NET as well as the SET in Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. He has also done ARPIT Course in Delhi University and with more than seven years of academic experience, he also contributes as an Academic Counsellor, IGNOU. His scholarly achievements include more than 22 research papers in reputed journals, authorship of the book "Marketing Management Concepts, Strategies and Practices for Success", edited a multidisciplinary conference book, and 11 book chapters published with reputed national and international publishers. He has actively participated in over 65 national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, FDPs, and webinars, and has held significant roles as convener, co-convener, and organizing secretary of academic events, including women's entrepreneurship workshops, awareness programs, and competitions. Additional responsibilities include serving as evaluation coordinator, team manager, external examiner, project supervisor, paper setter, and examiner in both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. His contributions have been recognized with the Excellence Faculty Award, Young Teacher Award, and Leadership Talk Series Award. He is also an Editorial Board Member in IJARCMS, and a life member of the Indian Commerce Association, Inspira Research Association, and Esteemz Foundation.



**MGM PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Reg. No. - SCA/2023/14/134811

Published by:  
MGM Publishing House  
Durgapura, Jaipur - 302015 (Raj.)  
Mobile No.: 9828571010  
Email: publicationmgm@gmail.com

Copyright: Publisher

Website: [www.mgmpublications.com](http://www.mgmpublications.com)



₹1290/-

ISBN : 978-93-49468-53-5



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