

**TWO DAYS NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
INTEREST FREE MICRO FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2024

**Jointly Organized by
INFACC Sustainable Development Society and SAFI Institute of Advanced
Study (Autonomous)**

About the Seminar:

INFACC Sustainable Development Society in association with SAFI Institute of Advanced Study (Autonomous) and Sahulat Microfinance Society, is organizing a two-day National Seminar on INTEREST FREE MICRO FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT to analyze the dimensions and impacts of inclusive finance towards ensuring sustainable development in complex and diverse real-world conditions. The primary objective of this seminar is to foster insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and dialogue among scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to advance the understanding of interest free micro finance. The dissemination of the theories and practices of interest free finance, identification of gaps and potential areas and collaborative opportunities for research are the expected outcomes of the National Seminar which comprises keynote lectures, panel discussions, research paper presentations and interactive sessions.

INFACC Sustainable Development Society:

INFACC Sustainable Development Society was registered under Societies Act in 2012 to introduce practical alternatives in Kerala through interest free micro finance free from exploitation. INFACC aims to equip society through women empowerment, poverty alleviation, economic growth, employment generation and sustainable development. It functions as an NGO by forming NHGs (neighborhood groups) under local NGOs in each district and 95 percent of the members are women. NHGs mobilize the micro deposits from the members, redistribute them as interest free micro credits, and encourage micro entrepreneurship, training, leadership development, and social awareness. At present, 1,02,050 members are working with 5600 NHGs under 242 local NGOs spread across 14 districts of the state with a tremendous growth in

membership, deposits, loans and empowering programs each year.

SAFI Institute of Advanced Study (Autonomous):

SAFI Institute of Advanced Study (Autonomous) is a prestigious higher education institution located in Vazhayur, Malappuram (Dist.), Kerala, India. It was founded in 2005 by the Social Advancement Foundation of India (SAFI), a renowned Charitable Trust to serve the economically disadvantaged, socially underprivileged, and needy students. The institute offers a wide range of undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programs in various fields such as Arts, Science, Commerce, Management, and Media studies. Affiliated to the University of Calicut, SAFI Institute of Advanced Study (Autonomous) is recognized by the Government of Kerala and the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f), accredited with A++ Grade (CGPA 3.54) by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The institute has also been granted Minority status by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Government of India. The SAFI PMA HR institute (approved by AICTE) offers various leadership programs including PG Diplomas and residential Civil service coaching. The institute aims to foster leaders with social and ethical responsibility who embraces the vision and mission of SAFI.

Sahulat Microfinance Society:

Established in 2010, Sahulat Microfinance Society (Sahulat) has transformed the financial landscape for those willing to bridge the gap of financial exclusion. With an aim to reduce the socio-economic disparities among low-income individuals, Sahulat endeavors to provide easy access to interest-free finance for small businesses through a wide range of practical and affordable financial products and services, including savings, transactions, payments, loans etc.

Sahulat has been a leading force behind the advancement of an interest-free microfinance model in the legal format of credit cooperative societies and named it Interest-free Cooperative Credit Society (IFCCS) model. These IFCCS offer thrift and lending services to the beneficiaries.

Growing at a steady pace since the last 14 years, Sahulat has achieved significant landmarks and made important contributions in the sector. Empirically, Sahulat has

established following significant legends for the interest-free finance sector in India:

- i. Practicing Interest-free finance is possible in India under the cooperative laws.
- ii. Interest-free deposits are available and in significant volume.
- iii. Interest-free loan/finance is possible with all its compliances, and it also provides a revenue to sustain the institutions.

As on 31st March 2024 Sahulat has a network of 57 IFCCS spread across 13 states with 111 branches. These IFCCS branches served 331,000 families with:

- Deposit services of around INR 1460/- crores
- Loans/financing of INR 625/- crores

Major Thrust Areas of Seminar:

❖ Structures and models of micro finance:

Interest free micro finance models - Conventional micro finance models -
Conventional v/s Interest free micro finance - Legal structures of micro finance
- Innovative products and structures in micro finance - Participatory micro
finance

❖ Impact of micro finance in sustainable development:

Poverty alleviation - Financial inclusion - Gender empowerment - Community
development - Disaster management - Disaster Risk Financing

❖ Technology Integration, Innovation, FINTECH:

AI and Machine Learning - Credit Scoring - Mobile banking - Digital wallets

❖ Entrepreneurship and employment generation:

Human resource development - Fostering innovation - Comprehensive financial
solutions - Reduction of gender biases - Defaults and other risk sharing

❖ Regulatory framework and micro finance in India

Framework and hurdles in existing legal structure - Recommendations of
official committees - Amendments in the legal framework - Challenges faced
by Interest free micro finance

❖ Or any other related studies adhering to the major thrust areas

Abstract/full paper submission Guidelines:

- ❖ Abstracts shall be between 250-400 words.
- ❖ Full paper submission: Full papers should be between 3000-5000 words, excluding references.
- ❖ Papers must be submitted in English. The format and citation shall be as per APA style guidelines. The text of the submission should be in Times New Roman with a font size of 12 and a line spacing of 1.5.

Opportunities:

- Publication: All selected papers will be published in an edited book with ISBN.
- Certificates of participation and presentation will be provided.

Registration:

Register your details through the link provided below.

Registration Link: <https://interestfreemicrofinance.in/>

Category	Participation only (INR)	Paper Presentation & participation only (INR)	Paper Presentation, participation & Publication (INR)	Accommodation (Hostel) (INR)
Faculty	1000	1500	2000	100
Students/Scholars	500	1000	1500	100
NGO (General)	1500	2000	3000	100

Note:

INR 500 will be charged extra for the spot registration in each category.

The Registration fee includes Seminar participation/paper presentation and food during the seminar hours.

Account details:



Mail id to send Abstract/communication: info@interestfreemicroifinance.in

Contact Details:

Conference Coordinators

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(HoD, Department of Commerce, SAFI)

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(Co-Ordinator, INFACC)

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(Manager Research & Training, Sahulat)

Important dates:

Registration/Abstract submission start date : **2024 August 30**

Last date of Abstract Submission : **2024 September 10**

Date of Acceptance Notification : **2024 September 15**

Date of Full paper submission : **2024 October 5**

Last date of Registration : **2024 October 12**