

The way banking is evolving, particularly with the rise of alternative financing models, was the aspect of money and finance this week that truly drew my attention. However, trust in traditional banking dropped after the 2008 financial crisis, which was partly caused by banks making risky loans. As a result, new financial models developed which offer different ways of accessing money.

Crowdfunding has become one of the most appealing alternatives. Businesses and individuals can raise funds directly from people who share their opinions rather than depending on banks. Even though many of these borrowers would not be eligible for conventional bank loans, they can launch businesses and aim for financial independence with a little sum of money. It makes investing more accessible and helps startups grow without getting buried in debt. Microcredit, which offers tiny loans to individuals in underdeveloped nations who would not be eligible for conventional bank loans, is another intriguing idea. It's amazing how something as small as a few hundred dollars can help someone start a business and break out of poverty.

I think that such possibilities will continue to develop in 2025, particularly as digital finance becomes the norm. Platforms that eliminate the middlemen will become more popular, increasing accessibility and transparency in money. With power shifting from large banks to communities and money becoming more accessible to all, the future of finance appears brighter.

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