



## An Outlook on Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in Indian Economy and a Note on its Role in Women Empowerment

SK. CHANDBASHA

Department of Zoology, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.

T.SAMBA SIVA  
RAO

Department of Zoology, K.B.N.College, Vijayawada.

### ABSTRACT

*Small scale industries(SSIs) the miniature in terms of its infrastructure but occupies a credible role in yield with respect to production, employment, export potentialities above all it is one of the potential player in Inclusive growth and Women empowerment in a sustainable way. Small scale industries occupies the second position next to agriculture in terms of employment opportunities owing its endemic and labor-intensive, low capital requirements and embodying space for the women to participate and empower themselves in a credible way leading to social justice, therefore small scale industries can be considered as a common man's industry as it entertains the aspirations of the utmost needy individual. The paper puts an informative content with respect to the basic issues of small scale industries, its features, advantages, draw backs. The paper also put forth different initiatives of Indian government to promote small scale industries, also the role of industrial sickness which hampers the small scale industries. The paper generalizes its role in women empowerment especially its easy accessibility to women and issues regarding to it for instance different ways to start an industry. The papers also gesticulate about the different obstacles to women empowerment via SSIs and propound remedial ways to insulate women empowerment. Finally, since small scale industries uplifts the down trodden individuals and connects them to the main stream developmental issues by reforming small scale industries with accordance to the changing circumstances so that its pace can be maintained vis-à-vis to global developments.*

**KEYWORDS :** 1. Small scale industries (SSIs) 2. Inclusive growth 3. Women empowerment  
4.Global developments.

### INTRODUCTION

Small scale Industries the manifestations of common man in fulfilling his dreams playing an important role in inclusive growth and women empowerment sustainably. In India there is an imminent need for infrastructural facilities, capital requirements for expanding its major manufacturing sector but supports a relatively less proportion of population in terms of employment in the midst of this scenario the small scale industries which are less capital intensive and labor productive supports a majority of the population which are the needy individual thus connecting them to the main stream developmental issues fulfilling the concept of **inclusive growth**. On the other hand it also enables the women to participate in developmental issues thus materializing the two goals in one shot. Economically SSIs contribute in different spheres of major economy as follows with accordance to the systematic data as follows.

8% GDP Occupation  
45% Manufactured output  
40% Exports  
60 million employment opportunities  
26 million enterprises  
6 thousand products

Source: Strategic Action Plan of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

95 % Industrial units  
40% of value addition in manufacturing sector  
80% manufacturing employment

Source: www.smallscaleindustriesinindia

### Small scale industries and inclusive growth

The down trodden people which are deprived from all the basic amenities with out which there is no meaning to lead a quality life the reason for their downtroddenness is due to illiteracy, poverty, unawareness, societal stigma making them to lead to distress life, for them large and mega industrial developments doesn't have any relevance because it doesn't have any bearing in their life. At this juncture the SSIs play a pivotal role in uplifting the lives of deprived individual owing to its endemic character, low capital, and labor intensive requirement.

In order to uplift downtrodden people and improve their standard of life the only way out is to make them employed by giving necessary assistance and facilities so that they not only connects to the developmental trends but rather consider themselves as bricks of nation building. SSIs which generally contributes high labor intensity are food and food products, garments, cotton textiles, non electrical machinery, doll making, handicrafts are some of the major labor intensive SSIs.

### Small scale industries a gate way for common man because of some of the following advantages

- Less capital requirement.
- Labor intensive.
- Relatively less technical requirement.
- Illiterates can also easily participate
- Government's handy incentives and programmes.
- Availability of raw materials.
- Production with accordance to the local priorities making them profitable.

### Government promotional programmes for SSIs

1. National manufacturing competitiveness programme (NMCP) to enhance the Competition amongst the SSIs as part of the MSMEs.
2. National Council of Skill Development (NCSDE) that impart skills so as to catalyze the Efficiency of individuals involved in SSIs.
3. Cluster development programme for SSIs that increases the competitiveness, productivity, Capacity building of SSIs.
4. Credit Guarantee programme that ensures the credit to the SSIs without collateral Security.
5. Central government schemes viz...PMEGP, KVIC, TRYEG and others to promote SSIs.
6. SIDBI as an apex bank for financial assistance to the SSIs.

### Draw backs to the SSIs

Despite the different promotional schemes and institutions working for the same still SSIs suffers from different set backs due to divergent factors as follows.

1. Infrastructural bottlenecks viz...Power shortage, Raw material deficit, Lack of marketing facilities, Transport problems.
2. Growing cases of Sickness in SSIs as a major deterrent affecting them critically especially industries such as Handicrafts, cotton industries.

3. Lack of international exposure that disconnects them from getting into the mainstream global developments.
4. Declining of demand for SSIs products due to absolute traditional touch without any reforms.
5. Lack of Export promotional channels for instance poor technology in packaging and other export oriented issues.

### Small Scale Industries and Women Empowerment

The Concept of women empowerment emerges where there is a dire need to upgrade a certain section of women who are illiterate, poor, facing divergent taboos and placed at a remotest place from the main stream developmental issues at this juncture the SSIs provides a considerable scope to expand the concept of women empowerment that not only uplifts her but also her entire family owing to rise in financial strength. SSIs are the easy channels for the under empowered women especially rural women because its labor intensive, low capital requirement above all it has been institutionalized due to the local preference and tradition that makes easy entry into the SSIs. Generally in rural areas the women based on common homogeneity factors such as same community, same economical status, and same locality women us to start a collective business in the form of SSIs viz... Handicrafts, Toy making, Textiles, leading to the generation of income which in turn uplifting their families by connecting to developmental institutions for instance children will be going to schools, access to quality life such as safe drinking water, electricity, quality/nutritional food, even the men change their attitudes, habits from sick activities due to the women empowerment on the whole it upgrades the quality of house holds.

**Fig.1. Collective women participation in SSIs**



Source: [www.google.images.in](http://www.google.images.in).

SSIs mobilizes the rural women towards the developmental trends also encouraging them to think innovatively consequently generation of new products that will surely enhances their strength, energies, confidence leading to several positive implications viz...Expansion of small scale industries, social justice, exposure of traditional Indian products to the global level, Gender equality, Rise in GDP, Export value above all women empowerment in a sustainable way.

### Set backs to Women empowerment in SSIs

1. Soceital malaises such as family's non co-cooperativeness, especially husband due to their inferiority complex on women.
2. Illeterate women may not understand global developments with out assistance from others.
3. Rural women have less knowledge on market fluctuations to sell-out their products there By incurring loses.
4. Banks reluctance to finance rural women to their ventures.
5. Lack of demand, infrastructural bottlenecks hampers the concept of women Empowerment.

**The Remedy:** The general paper extends its probable remedial solutions for women empowerment viz...Basic education has to be incurred that is useful in account issues, Preliminary IT knowledge to browse the global developments, promoting innovative ideas, meeting with inspired role models in SSIs that will enhance the confidence and strength of the women all these will have higher probability in uplifting he lives of women called women empowerment.

**Conclusion:** Since SSIs have inclusive impact in uplifting the lives of down trodden in general and women in specific there has to be regular reforms in SSIs so as to keep pace with the changing global issues that sustain and inclusivize both SSIs and women empowerment which in turn strengthen our country's economy and integrity.

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