

Institutional support for Women Entrepreneurship in India



Economics

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship among women has been a matter of recent concern in the country. The hidden entrepreneurial potential of women has gradually been changing with the sensitivity to their role and economic status in the society. Women are increasingly being conscious of their existence, their rights, and work situation. However, New Industrial policy of 2009-14 and other schemes which are started post and recent are helping to the poor women and women entrepreneurs in the form of generation of employment, income and to improve their social status. Definitely, the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneurs would improve, if these schemes, programmes and policies are implemented strictly both by the Centre and the State governments and it goes a long way for the growth and development of women, women entrepreneurs and the industrial sector of the Indian economy.

Entrepreneurship among women has been a matter of recent concern in the country. The hidden entrepreneurial potential of women has gradually been changing with the sensitivity to their role and economic status in the society. Women are increasingly being conscious of their existence, their rights, and work situation. However, the position of women work participation as well as both is low in India in comparison to selected countries of the world. Women work participation in India is 31.6 Per cent where as in USA it is 45 per cent, UK 43 Per cent, Canada 42 per cent, France 32 per cent, Indonesia 40 per cent Sri Lanka and Brazil both 35 per cent. Table-1 refers women entrepreneurship position in the selected states of India is 30 per cent on an average, but in Bihar it is only 15.04 per cent. Further, in India, men generally take the lead in the entrepreneurial world. With the change of time as well as cultural norms, and increase in literacy, women are increasingly ready to enter the field of entrepreneurship.

Table-1, Women Entrepreneurship in India

State	No. of Units	N+o of. women	percent
Tamil Nadu	9618	2930	30.36
Uttar Pradesh	7980	3180	39.84
Kerala	5487	2135	38.91
Punjab	4791	1618	33.77
Maharashtra	4339	1394	32.12
Gujarat	3872	1538	39.72
Karnataka	3822	1026	26.84
Madhya Pradesh	2967	842	28.38
Behar	7344	1123	15.04
Other sates	14576	4185	28.71
Total	64,796	19,971	32.82

Source: CMIE Report-2011.

Since the 1970's, ushering in the decade of the international women's Year, systematic efforts have been made by the governments to promote self-employment among women. Although women constitute about 48.3 per cent of the total population of the India, so far, only a small minority of them have benefited from social legislation, new education and job opportunities. It is only when the process of development reaches out to all section of the masses that the independent women will cease to be regarded as an oddity and find her place in society. However, women entrepreneurs should be regarded as individuals who take up roles in which they would want to adjust their personal needs, family life, social life and economic performance.

Women development was not distinguished as an identified sector in the initial years of planning in India. It was only during the VI th Plan, which began in 1980, that the magnitude of women's problems was perceived and the need to make special efforts for

the economic development of women recognized. In the VII th Plan (1985-90) there was a definite shift in focus from the welfare concept to development concept in programming for women, this ushering in a new thrust for the development of women.

In the recent years Governments take so much of interest on development of new women entrepreneurs through training; at present most of the states are involved in WED (Women Entrepreneurship Development) Programming, and SEP/IGP (Self-employment & income generation Programme), Supporting facilities like infrastructure, finance and training are quite favorable. There are a number of schemes and policies for encouraging women to become successful entrepreneurs. When the UN declared 1975 as the International Women's Year, the approach to women entrepreneurs began to change and the government announced various schemes to bring women out from the household chores into the mainstream of industries. During 1975-78, the number of industrial units run by women was only 73. Thereafter, it has registered a steady growth every year. While during 1986-87 it was 1143, within 6 years it has risen to 4190. This indicates a proof of the changing attitude of government agencies towards women. Women entrepreneurship is being given institutional support by types of agencies- One at the national level and the other at the state level. A brief description of the various schemes at national level, formulated and operated by such agencies as given below.

National level Institutions

Governments at the Centre as well as the State designed a number of schemes and programmes for the support of entrepreneurs in general and for women entrepreneurs in particular. The schemes of the government of India support for Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are providing their help for the development women entrepreneurs. An another scheme, called the Trade-Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) and Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) are useful for the holistic empowerment of women. In spite of several schemes /programmes established by the governments, women have no sufficient securities to offer or to take large amount of loans. To tackle this situation and to ensure adequate financial support to women enterprises, the RBI took several initiatives.

NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION (NSIC)

The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a corporation under the union ministry of industries was set up in 1955 to promote and facilitate the growth of small scale industries in the country. NSIC offers a package of assistance for the benefit of small scale enterprises.

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SIDO)

SIDO is created for development of various small scale units in different areas. SIDO is a subordinate office of department of SSI

and ARI. It is a nodal agency for identify the needs of SSI units, coordination and monitoring the policies and programmes for promotion of the small industries. It undertakes various programmes of training, consultancy, evolution for needs of SSI and development of industrial estates. All these functions are taken care with 27 offices, 31 extension centers of SISI (Small Industries Service Institute) and 7 centers related to production and process development.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES BOARD

Small Scale Industries Board (SSIB) established in 1954 to advice on development of small scale industries in the country. In order to facilitate co-ordination and inter-institutional linkages, the small scale industries board has been constituted. It is an apex advisory body constituted to render advices to the government on all issues pertaining to the development of small-scale industries.

NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

In order to develop the Small scale Industrial units both in quality and quantity, National Small Industries Corporation helps in providing imperial and motivational inputs, directed activities and structural changes to expand its services. The corporation also provides financial assistance to purchase the raw material to these units.

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Development of women entrepreneurs is possible mainly by co-ordination of the institutional activities at the central and the state level industries. For this purpose, Small Industries Development Organization is doing its job as an apex body concerned with planning the policy, co-coordinating the institutional activities at the central and state-scale industries and providing infrastructure for sustained and organized growth.

NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF INDIA

Under the section 25 of Companies Act, the National Research development Corporation of India (NRDC) is a government of India enterprise established in December 1953 as a non-profit organization. It was specially designed to develop and exploit indigenous know-how, inventions, patents, and processes emanating from all types of research and development institutions in the country.

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) is one of the important institutional agencies in India. It was taken up various programmes for the welfare of children, women and the handicapped. It runs vocational training courses leading to better employment prospects for poor and needy women: The Board gives training to rural women in public co-operation to enable them to participate more effectively in the process of socio-economic development and to acquire leadership qualities.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In order to coordinate and overseeing the activities of various institutions / agencies engaged in entrepreneurship development, particularly in the area of small industry and small business, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) was established in 1983. The main objective of the institute is to serve as an apex national-level resource institute to accelerate the process of entrepreneurship development ensuring impact thought the country and among all strata of the society.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

According to parliament Act, an statutory organization was set up namely Khadi and Village Industries commission for generation of employment opportunities in the rural areas. The board started its activities on April 1st 1957, to provide better training facilities about 25 item in the village industries. The Board also

provides different types of facilities like provision of raw material, arrangement new technical methods and marketing facilities by arranging co-operative societies.

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

Small Industries Development Bank of India is a promotional agency to the development of women entrepreneurship at the country level. The objectives of this agency are: To provide training and extension services support to women entrepreneurs according to their skills and socio-economic status; and to extend financial assistance on concessional terms to enable them to set up industrial units in the small-scale sector.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

The National alliance of young entrepreneurs was set up in 1975 for promotion of women entrepreneurship. The women's wing has set up in five states. In other states, Associations of women entrepreneurs have affiliated themselves with the women's wing of NAYE, making it the most representative organization of women entrepreneurs in the country.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND EXECUTIVES

The National Association of women entrepreneurs and Executives was formed to perform as a cleaning house on problems and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs and executives at all levels and to assist them in their self development and protection.

SATE BANK OF INDIA

SBI is useful for the other agencies involved in development and financing of enterprises set up by women entrepreneurs. In order to make the assistance to women entrepreneurs more effective and to ensure a wide coverage, the bank has providing help too many schemes across the country.

IFCI SCHEME OF INTEREST FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The main objective of the scheme of interest subsidy for women entrepreneurs is to provide incentives to women having business women and entrepreneurial skills, for their industrial development. The scheme will function through SFC, and granting assistance to women entrepreneurs to set up the units.

PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

The Government of India has announced a new Programme called Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme in lieu of PMRY on 15.8.2008. The scheme contemplates to provide self employment to unemployed youths by extending financial assistance to start their units.

Further, National Institute for Entrepreneurship, National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs and Small Business Extension Training, Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) are the other agencies rendering assistance to women entrepreneurs. Besides these, indirect financial assistance is provided by the National small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Industrial Developments Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporations of India (IFCI) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) Provides refinance facilities to banks and financial corporation's for financing small scale industrial sector. However, New Industrial policy and recent schemes/programmes are helping to the poor women and women entrepreneurs to generate employment opportunities, income and to improve their socio-economic status. Definitely, the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneurs would improve, if these schemes/programmes and policies are implemented strictly both by the Centre and the State governments and it goes a long way for the growth and development of women, women entrepreneurs and the industrial sector of the Indian economy,

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