

Women Economic Empowerment through Multiple Enterprises in India

Asoke Howlader, Sidhartha Sankar Laha, Arindam Modak

Abstract: *The inclusive development of the country mainly depends on the economic growth of the people irrespective of caste, creed, gender and religion. It becomes true when all the section of society particularly women come forward to involve themselves in production activities through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The MSMEs sector contributes significantly to the manufacturing output, employment and economic growth of the country. Women entrepreneurs can get benefit from the initiatives of the MSMEs. Entrepreneurship of women can promote financial support for women, especially through MSMEs sector by helping them to become successful entrepreneurs. The roles of women and other marginalized section of society are increasing positively with a very slow but sure pace in MSMEs as an entrepreneur, attracting more support from government and financial institutions. The present paper examines the model of ownership of private enterprises among different social groups such as gender and caste, state wise employment in registered and un-registered sectors of MSMEs in India. Moreover, it also suggests that necessary facilities i.e. land, capital, technological support, training and marketing etc. should be given to promote entrepreneurship by the central and state government among female and SCs/ STs.*

Keywords : *Women empowerment, Women entrepreneurs, SCs/ STs Entrepreneurs, Private enterprises.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the economic and social development of the country is well known. It is the nursery for entrepreneurship, often driven by the individual creativity and innovation, with a significant contribution in the countries' GDP, manufacturing output, exports, employment generation and overall sustainable development. MSMEs in the country manufacture a number of various products. In view of the MSME sector's role in the economic and social development of the country, the government has emphasized on its growth and development. The labor intensity of the MSMEs sector is much higher than that of the large enterprises, facilitating more absorption of the work force. This sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the years. It also plays a crucial role in providing large employment

Revised Manuscript Received on November 15, 2019

Asoke Howlader, PhD Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Durgapur, West Bengal 713209, India

Sidhartha Sankar Laha, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Tufanganj Mahavidyalaya, Cooch Behar, West Bengal 736160, India

Arindam Modak, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Durgapur, West Bengal 713209, India

opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost than large industries but also help in industrialization of rural and backward areas, thereby reducing regional imbalances, assuring more equitable distribution of national income and wealth. Gradually the role of women in this sector is increasing. The performance of the MSMEs sector in recent years (2006-07 to 2012-13) is given in Table-1.

Table-1: Importance and Performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Year	Number of Units (million)	Production (Crore) at current price	Employment (million)	MSMEs exports	
				₹ crore	US\$ million
2006-07	36.18	13,51,383	82.52	1825.38	40,309
2007-08	37.74	14,35,179	84.22	2020.17	50,202
2008-09	39.37	15,24,235	88.11	-	-
2009-10	41.08	16,19,356	92.22	3911.53	22,494
2010-11	42.88	17,21,553	96.57	5077.39	111,403
2011-12	44.77	18,34,332	101.26	6301.05	131,483
2012-13	46.76	-	106.15	6973.18	128,162

Source: RBI, Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy, 2013-14, Table 35 (excerpted).

Figure-1 shows the number of MSME units in million and the employment there in million since 2006-07 to 2012-13. It is clearly indicating that the numbers of MSMEs were increased from 36.18 million to 46.75 million and the employment also increased from 82.52 million to 106.15 million during this period.

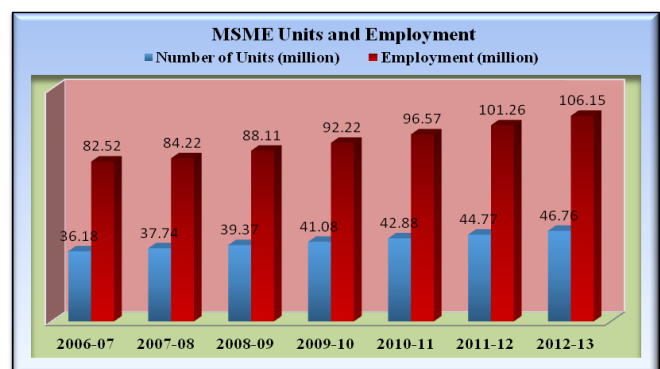


Figure-1: No. of Units and their employment

The emergence of women entrepreneurs and women owned