



Profile of Registered and Un-Registered Micro-Enterprises From Sub-Mountainous Region of Punjab

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ABSTRACT

The present study was an attempt to address the profile of registered and un-registered micro-enterprises from sub-mountainous region of Punjab. The study was conducted in randomly selected two districts viz. Hoshiarpur and Roopnagar of sub mountainous region of Punjab. After the selection of districts “all women enterprises” were randomly selected from the list procured from various sources like Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Regional Research Stations (RRSs) of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and Farmer Advisory Service Centre (FASC). The study contacted only those enterprises which were functional enterprises in both districts. Further proportionally from each districts four enterprises were contacted which were registered and six were un-registered thus a total of ten enterprises comprised the sample for study for preparing the profile of enterprises. The registered enterprises were engaged in manufacturing activities same as of un-registered enterprises like pickle making, squash making, jam preparation, murabba making, cloth stitching, embroidery, tokri making, toy making, decorative goods preparation etc. They all had fixed working hours and work throughout the year except Nari Shakti which worked on the basis of demand. They all were in contact with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for expert advice and other useful help. Raw material was procured either from open market or from contractor as per the availability of raw material in market. Un-registered enterprise sold their products directly to customers, during RKMs and also in collective manner. Study suggested that un-registered enterprises should be motivated and guided to get their enterprise registered to draw benefits and to make them economically viable and vibrant.

Key Words: Micro-enterprises, Women entrepreneurs, Registered enterprises, Un-registered enterprises and Sub-mountainous region.

INTRODUCTION

Micro enterprises simply mean small business supported by micro-finance which provides goods or services to a local area or a local market. According to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), any business which has an investment in plant and machinery or equipment less than one crore and annual turnover less than five crores is called micro-enterprises (w.e.f. 1st July, 2020). Micro-enterprises rapid employment opportunities with relatively low capital investment, builds up the more equitable circulation of national income,

makes effective mobilization of untapped capital and human skills, diffusion of manufacturing activities all over the country, leading to the development of villages, small towns and economically lagging regions (Kaur, 2014, Singh *et al*, 2013 and Singh, 2012).

MSME play a very significant role in the growth of our economy. MSME's contribution to the GDP of our country is 28.90 per cent in 2016-17 (Annual report of MSME 2018-19). MSME also give employment to the large volume of the population of our country that is why named as ‘the

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engine of growth” (Vasal, 2020). Small industries have always provided strength to the Indian economy since independence (Cheeroli and Kumar, 2018). The government has also a contribution to the development of this sector. Currently, the Government is making continuous effort to put the MSME on the way of success. Every year government initiates new schemes and programs to provide a sufficient atmosphere to develop these enterprises. They are providing special provisions of loans and training courses. These schemes have shown positive outcomes in many ways. Punjab government is also taking necessary actions to facilitate the functioning of MSMEs.

In July, 2020 Punjab has sanctioned Rs 2,166 crore to MSMEs units under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) with more additional benefits (Anonymous, 2020) and facilitate the market of the MSMEs product. Punjab government is making efforts to facilitate the online selling of products (Roy, 2020). These conditions are providing an optimum environment for the enterprises to excel in Punjab. Punjab is divided into different zones where different kinds of enterprises are working based on local conditions. Self-help groups have provided a stage for women entrepreneurs to shine in Punjab. Every district has many functional self-help groups which is the first step in the direction of establishing a successful enterprise. The present study is based on the Sub-mountainous region of Punjab which covers only 9.5 per cent of the geographical area of the entire state. In Sub-mountainous region the women are engaged in the activities like suit embroidery, soft toys making, pickle formation, squashes, chutney, *murabba*, juice, *phulkari*, jam, sweater, jackets, domestic showpieces, *naale* etc. The study was an attempt to address the profile of registered and un-registered micro-enterprises from sub-mountainous region of Punjab.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the sub-mountainous region of Punjab. This region is

also known as *Kandi* belt and covers 9.5 percent of total geographical area of the state. This region was selected as it has significant participation of women in microenterprises as compared to other regions of the state. It is appearing as a new area for the emergence of women entrepreneurs. The study was conducted in two randomly selected districts i.e. Hoshiarpur and Roopnagar (Ropar) of the sub-mountainous region of Punjab. Hoshiarpur was a district where already many enterprises had been established and new were coming to function (Kaur, 2014 and Singh, 2012).

After the selection of districts “all women enterprises” were randomly selected from the list procured from various sources like Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Regional Research Stations (RRSs) of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and Farmer Advisory Service Centre (FASC). The study contacted only those enterprises which were functional enterprises in both districts. Further proportionally from each districts four enterprises were contacted which were registered and six were un-registered thus a total of ten enterprises comprised the sample for study for preparing the profile of enterprises. The registered enterprises are entitled to various facilities like bank loan at low interest rate, subsidies etc. Some of the enterprises of the sub-mountainous regions were registered under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and remaining were registered through Government sponsored welfare scheme Aajeevika- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). From July, 2020 Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has opened an online platform known as Udyam Registration Process for registration without any charges of registration or fees.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The profile of the enterprise provides us with the general overview of its working conditions. It helps to form the background of enterprises making the research more concrete. It tells about the structural and functional growth aspects of enterprises

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giving an insight of the working environment. The profiles of sampled enterprises were sub-divided into two categories: - registered and un-registered enterprises.

Profile of registered enterprises

The selected enterprises from Hoshiarpur district were Sada Shiv Modern (2003) and Sandhya (2005). From Rupnagar district Nari Shakti (2018) and Mani (2019) were selected. The enterprises in the Hoshiarpur were the one with more experience and old as compared to that in Roopnagar district. In Roopnagar district the enterprises were young and thus not had much work experience at group level. The selected registered enterprises in Hoshiarpur

district were engaged in the activities like pickle making, squash making, jam preparation, *murabba* making etc. They were also engaged in the activities like cloth stitching, embroidery, *tokri* making, toy making, decorative goods preparation etc. According to the research of Hazarika and Kalita (2019) tailoring and embroidery were famous home-made enterprises especially among women in India as more than 80 percent of them were engaged in this operation. Loan availed by these enterprises was of ten lakh by Sandhya followed by 1.5 lakh by Sada Shiv Modern and 15,000 by Mani enterprises. They all had fixed working hours and work throughout the year except Nari Shakti which

Table 1: Profile of registered enterprises

Name of the group	Sada Shiv Modern	Sandhya	Nari Shakti	Mani
Year of establishment	2003	2005	2018	2019
District	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Roopnagar	Roopnagar
No. of members	27	14	13	12
Initial contribution (Rs.)	500-1000/-	1000/-	500/-	100/-
Items produce	*Aloe vera products *Juice *Murabba	*Pickle *Squash *Jam *Murabba	*Clothes stitching *Embroidery *Masks	*Decorative goods *Tokri *Jhumar *Pakhi
Amount of loan	1.5 lakh	10 lakh	-	15,000/-
Working hours	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed
Working type	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	On demand	Throughout the year
Work building	Yes	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Owned	Owned	Public	Public
Source of Information and networking	KVK Television, Internet, Whatsapp	KVK Television, Internet	KVK Television	KVK Television, Internet, Whatsapp
Helping sources of support	Family Experts	Family Relatives Experts	Mahila Mandal Group	Family Friends Experts
Procure raw material	Open Market Contractor	Open market Contractor	Open Market	Open Market
Distribution of output	Collectively Directly to consumer Regional Kisan Melas	Collectively Directly to consumer Regional Kisan Melas	Direct Customer	Direct Customer Collectively
Visit to Kisan Mela	Sometimes	Always	Sometimes	Sometimes

Table 2: Profile of un-registered enterprises

Name of the group	Kamai Devi	Jwala	Bebe Nanki	Baba Deep Singh	Kirti	Mata Sahib Kaur
Year of establishment	2003	2004	2018	2017	2019	2019
District	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Roopnagar	Roopnagar	Roopnagar
No. of the present members	12	13	22	14	13	12
Initial contribution (Rs.)	500-1,000/-	100/-	4,000	100/-	300/-	100/-
Items produce	*Pickle *Chutney *Murabba	*Murabba *Jaggery *Pickle	*Amla candy *Chutney *Murabba	*Tailoring *Suit Embroidery *Stiching clothes	*Sweaters *Wool clothes *Jackets	*Mude *Jhumar *Phulkari *Naale *Pen stands
Amount of loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Working hours	Not fixed	Not fixed	Not fixed	Not fixed	fixed	Not fixed
Working type	On demand	On demand	On demand	Throughout the year	On demand	Throughout the year
Work building	No	No	No	No	No	No
Transportation	Public	Public	Owned and public	Public	Public	Public
Source of Information and networking	KVK Television	KVK Television	KVK Television Facebook	KVK	Television	KVK
Helping sources of support	Friends Experts	Family Friends	Family Friends Experts	Friends Experts	Other Enterprises	Friends Experts
Procure raw material	Open market	Open market	Open market	Open Market Contractor	Open Market	Open Market Domestic Waste from Vicinity
Distribution of output	Order basis Collective Direct consumer Regional Kisan Melas	Order basis Collective Direct Customer	Order basis Collective Direct consumer Regional Kisan Mela Stalls	Direct Customer	Direct Customer	Direct Customer Fairs in Kurukshetra, Banaras, Odisha etc Collective
Visit to Kisan Mela	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Always	Sometimes	Always

worked on the basis of demand. Sandhaya and Sada Shiv had separate work places besides their homes. Mani and Nari Shakti enterprises did not have their own vehicle for transportation in order to perform entrepreneurial works. They all were in contact with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for expert

advice and other useful help. Family, friends and experts from KVK helped them in transportation and other operations of enterprises. Raw material was procured either from open market or from contractor as per the availability of raw material in market. Outputs produced were sold directly to

customers either collectively or in the Regional Kisan Melas (RKMs). Sandhaya and Sada Shiv Modern enterprises had participated in various activities in Regional Kisan Melas and other functions and had been awarded with like Successful women self-help group award, Sardarni Jasveer award for innovative farm women by Sandhaya; Award of Honour by State level Model Agency Punjab, Award of honour by National Level Rural Health Mission Hoshiarpur by Sada Shiv Modern enterprise.

Profile of un-registered enterprises

The un-registered enterprises were engaged in manufacturing activities same as of registered enterprises. In Hoshiarpur the un-registered enterprises selected were Bebe Nanki (2018), Kamai Devi (2003) and Jwala (2004). The enterprises selected from Roopnagar district were Baba Deep Singh (2017), Kirti (2020) and Mata Sahib Kaur (2019). These enterprises did not avail any loan so they were investing the money from previous order in order to finish the next orders. Most of these enterprises did not have any fixed working hours and they were working on the demand basis. During demand period these women worked up to late hour at night in order to finish the orders compromising with domestic chores. They all work either from their respective houses or from their head's house. The transportations were done by vehicle of others like friends or relatives as they did not have their own vehicles. They were all working under the guidance of information received from KVKs regarding Regional Kisan Melas, trainings, expert advises etc. Family, friends and relative also helped them in different operations like supervision, lending money, transportation etc. Raw material was mainly procured from open markets. They sold their products directly to customers, during RKMs and also in collective manner. Most of these women were inexperienced in matters of enterprises. There was a great deal of competition among them and also with registered enterprises. They were unable to take their work to next level and also to get registered.

CONCLUSION

The profile of the enterprises provides us with the general overview of its working conditions. It helps to form the background of enterprises making the research more concrete. Both the enterprises were in contact with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for expert advice and other useful help. Raw material was procured either from open market or from contractor as per the availability of raw material in market. Study suggests that un-registered enterprises should be motivated and guided to get their enterprise registered to draw benefits and to make them economically viable and vibrant.

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