



Introduction

1.0. Background

Reporting on the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector is quite an innovative experience in the developing world. This new trend owes to the initiatives of a specialized platform within the Institute of Small Enterprises and Development, the ISED-Small Enterprises Observatory. India MSME Report series, which forms part of the path-breaking experiment, the India MSME Communication Programme (IMCP), has come of age. In its 17th round of annual reporting, the Observatory and the Institute believe that it needs to serve an important purpose and should set an example to analysis and understanding of the current global crisis and its implications on the common man through MSME glasses. Reporting should not be a simple narration. It should serve three important purposes:

- 1) An understanding of the major streams of change in the economy and society from an MSME point of view; and
- 2) Highlighting the opportunities and imperatives of new policy imperatives at different levels of the economy – national, regional and local.

3) Providing pointers to the synchronization of regional and international trade policies and cooperation programmes.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are undoubtedly a significant global presence. People need them because they speak the common man's language. And it is the common man that ultimately shapes history. The word 'ultimate' is crucial. History is shaped by the strenuous initiatives and experiments of the 'common man'. Instantly they may fail, but ultimately they win - and that is what history teaches us.

Bringing to the limelight the unknown, and documenting it, is the researcher's job. But from the society's point of view, the scientist's job, even with the best of justice he has done to his work, just begins there. He cannot just remain complacent with his research findings. The societal implication of his exercise comes out only when the result his research is communicated.

Science and technology provided the basic building blocks of the world's achievements today. However, indifferent attitude of

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write to us:

Institute of Small Enterprises and Development

ISED House, ISED Enclave, ISED Road,
Vennala, Cochin- 682028, Kerala, India

Tel : 0484-2808171, 2808727, 2809884

Fax: 2809884

Mail: info@isedonline.org, bds@isedonline.com

Institute of Small Enterprises and Development

ISED House, ISED Enclave, ISED Road, Cochin - 682028

Tel: 0484 2808171, 2808727, 2809884

Email: info@isedonline.org Web: www.isedonline.org