

Institutional Support for Women Entrepreneurs in the Cottage Industries of Patna

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There is a growing realization about the potential of Small Scale and cottage Industry in India. Considering the scope of these industries, more and more women are getting engaged as entrepreneurs in this field. The same can be seen in Patna, where small scale and cottage industries have paved a way for self employment amongst women. For a women entrepreneur starting and operating a business involved considerable risks regarding obtaining credit, problems in marketing, production, advertising, raw materials and preparing the inventory. Considering all these factors a number of Institutions (Government, Non-Government, and Financial) of Patna have formulated schemes and packages especially for Women Entrepreneurs. With the help of such support systems, women entrepreneurs of Patna are in a position to contribute much more than they are already doing. These women entrepreneurs are not utilizing the institutional support available to them to the optimum level due to various reasons, one of which is lack of awareness regarding these institutions. Therefore, through this research work an attempt was made to identify and document the support system extended by Government, Non-Government as well as Financial Institutions for women entrepreneurs in Patna. Also, remedial means are suggested both for the institutions as well as for women entrepreneurs in order to bridge the gaps between the benefit, providers and beneficiaries. This would further help in the acceleration in women entrepreneurship in Patna.

Key words : Institutional Support, Women Entrepreneurs, Financial Institutes.

Introduction : The emergence of women entrepreneurs and their contribution to the national economy is quite visible in India. The same can be seen in Patna also, where women are becoming self reliant and financially independent through self employment. Women entrepreneurs may be defined as a woman or a group of women who initiate, organize and operate a business enterprise. Government of India has defined women entrepreneurs as an enterprise owned and controlled by women having a minimum financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving atleast 51% of employment generated in the enterprise to women.



Fig: 1. The support extended by institutions for Women Entrepreneurs

The government, non-government as well as financial institutions of Patna provide a number of facilities and incentives through a plethora of schemes for women entrepreneurs but still there are bottlenecks and gaps. Women entrepreneurs in Patna although they have initiated their ventures, have little interest in expanding their business due to which their growth has come to a standstill. The main reason behind this is that women, due to lack of knowledge and awareness and a casual attitude are depriving themselves from availing the various benefits offered by the government, non-government as well as financial institutions. Also these entrepreneurs belong to an unorganized sector since they are not registered with any concerned government organization. This makes it very difficult for supporting institutions to reach out to them. Therefore, with a view to develop guidelines on the basis of problems faced by them, this study has been planned with the following objectives:

1. To trace the various support agencies involved in promoting women entrepreneurship in Patna.

2. To document existing policies, schemes, programmes, offered by these organizations, especially designed for Women Entrepreneurship in Patna.
3. To explain the other roles of various institutions operating in assisting Women Entrepreneurs in Patna.

Methodology :

The area of study under taken was government, non-government as well as financial institutions of Patna. Since a number of institutions were being relied upon, it was difficult to maintain uniformity in sample size. Data were collected through primary as well as secondary sources. The primary data were collected through the officials of the institutes. This data were collected with the help of an in-depth interview schedule. The secondary data were obtained by the raw information obtained from these institutions in the form of records, booklet, brochures, internet and through relevant books. Qualitative analyses of the data were done to draw conclusions rather than rigorous statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion :

Financial institutions: Schemes available with banks for the finance of Women Entrepreneurs in Patna are:—

SIDBI's schemes of assistance for women entrepreneurs provide training and extension servicing support to women entrepreneurs and financial assistance on concessional terms to enable them to set up industrial units in the small sector.

Bank of India's Priyadarshini Yojna provides long term and working capital assistance to professional and self employed, small business, retail traders, village or cottage and small scale industry, road transport operators and allied agricultural activity.

IDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi scheme has set up a special fund with a corpus of Rs.5 crore to provide seed capital assistance to women entrepreneurs.

Mahila Vikas Nidhi scheme by IDBI has decided to set up a special development fund with an initial allocation of Rs.3 crore. Activities such as setting up of training cum development centres, skill upgradation programmes, programmes of marketing assistance as

well as management upgradation and such other industrial activities which improve the economic status of women would be eligible for support under the MVN.

State Bank of India has introduced Stree Shakti package for development of women entrepreneurs in Patna. The concessions and facilities under the package are to conduct entrepreneurial development programmes exclusively designed for women and the branch manager along with field staff would provide the necessary inputs and assistance to those women who do not plan to set up full fledged industrial ventures but would like to do something at home. In the scheme for loans of upto Rs.25000/- neither the guarantee nor the margin money is taken from borrowers. Further the discount of half a percent is allowed on the interest charged. The loan proposals received from women entrepreneurs would be sanctioned within a period of 30 days except in cases of proposals for high value and also where other financial institutions are involved.

Government institutes: Bihar state Women Development Corporation is a government institution and was established with an aim to work towards the progress and development of women and to promote entrepreneurship among them. The main objectives of the corporation are to undertake marketing and production related activities. The corporation in order to empower rural women has initiated four comprehensive projects:

- The first project to be initiated was **Swa-Shakti Project** funded by World Bank and IFAD, in six blocks of Muzaffarpur district for nurturing 500 Self Help Groups, with the help of four partner Non-Government Organizations.
- The next project undertaken by the Corporation was **Swawalamban** for nurturing of 1000 Self Help Groups in 20 blocks of 10 districts of Bihar with 10 partners of the project, with the Additional Central Assistance from GOI.
- It was followed by **Swayamsidha** under which 6100 Self Help Groups are being formed in 18 districts and 61 blocks of the state with 27 partners Swa-Shakti project, Swawalamban, Swaymsidha and Deep-Project.
- Next was the **Deep Project** which has been recently initiated especially for SC women in 21 districts of Bihar with 17 partners under which 2000 Self Help Groups are being organized with SC women.

Jeevika is the collaborative effort of the government of Bihar and the World Bank which aims to empower the rural women by creating self-managed community institutions and to enhance their incomes through sustainable livelihoods.

- Incense Stick
- Art & Craft
- Goatery/Piggery/Poultry
- Pottery
- Fruit & vegetable Vending
- Vermi Composting & selling of vermin-compost & earthworm
- Aggregation of agriculture produce/commodities/produces of non-farm sectors
- Job Sector - Training & placement for rural community

Fig: 2 Livelihood Interventions by JEEVIKA

ADRI (Asian Development Research Institute) is a social science research institute, working with particular focus on rural women development human resource development, communication, information, cultural development and demystification of research findings. It was established in 1991.its main work is to monitor and give training to the rural women according to their wish.

It has three wings which work in different fields.

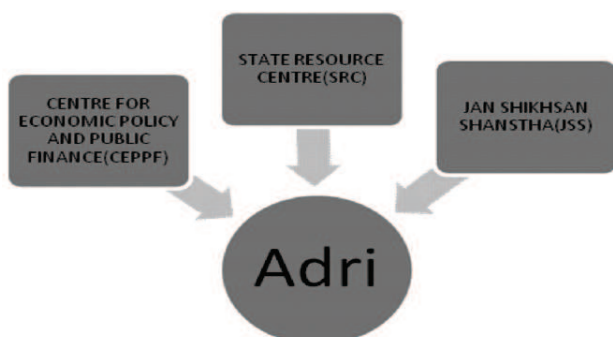


Fig: 3 Three Wings of ADRI

Jan Shikshan Sansthan :

Besides providing training, matching the requirements of local employment opportunities, the centre also organizes courses for 'barefoot entrepreneurs' to promote self-employment.

Non-Government: Adithi is a Non-Government institution which functions with an aim to enable the empowerment through economic and social development of women of poor families. The supports extended by Adithi are credited through micro finance and training of traditional craftswomen and marketing their products.

Bihar Mahila Udyog sangh is a registered organization and the main objective of the sangh are to identify women entrepreneur and motivate them, help them to become socially and economically independent, provide rural and cottage industries in Bihar, from time to time organize several workshops and seminars to train women entrepreneurs.

State Government Institutes for Small Scale and Cottage Industries.

Apart from the organization discussed above which exclusively support Women Entrepreneurs in Patna, a number of other agencies have also been setup by the State Government to provide assistance and incentive to Small Scale and cottage Industries of the state.

Table:1 Organizational Structures for Small Scale Industries Bihar

S. No.	Name of Board/Council/ committee	Correspondence
1.	Department of Industries Development	Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Bailey Road, Patna.
2.	Directorate of Industries	Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Bailey Road, Patna.
3.	District Industries Centre	In all districts of Bihar
4.	Bihar State Financial Corporation	BSFC (H.Q) Fraser Road, Patna. Tel No. 0612-2234210, 2223051.
5.	Bihar Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation(BICICO)	BICICO, 3 rd Floor Indira Bhawan, R.C. Path, Bailey Road. Patna Tel No.0612 - 2228552, 2232298, 224298
6.	Bihar State Small Scale Industries, Corporation (BSIDC)	Indira Bhawan, R.C. Path, Bailey Road, Patna
7.	Bihar Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organization Ltd.(BITCO)	Bihar Industrial and Technical Consultancy Org. Ltd. (BITCO) 6 TH Floor, Indira Bhawan, Ram Charitra Singh Path, Patna- 800 001 Fax 0612-220758
8.	Bihar State Khadi and Village Industry Board	Khadi Bhawan, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna.
9.	Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority, Patna	BIADA, 6 th Floor, Indira Bhawan, R.C. Path, Bailey Road, Patna. Tel No. 0612 - 2221750,22217483
10.	Bihar State Export Corporation	1 st Floor, LDB Building, Buddha Marg,

Table: 2 Organizations Supporting Village and Cottage Industries in Bihar

S. No.	Name of Board/Council/committee	Correspondence
1.	Bihar Handloom Board	Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Bailey Road, Patna. Tel No.0612 -2235812
2.	Bihar Silk Board	Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Bailey Road, Patna. Tel No. 0612 -2235812
3.	Bihar Coir Board	East Gandhi Maidan, Patna
4.	Bihar State Textile Corporation	Industry Bhawan, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna
5.	O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Carpet Weaving Training Cum Service Centre.	E.S.I. Colony, Ambedkar Path, Patna-800014 (BIHAR). Tel No. 0612-2598638
6.	O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Marketing and Service Extension Centre,	Ambedkar Bhawan, In Front Of D.M.'s Residence. Madhubani-874211, (BIHAR). Tel. no. 06276 -222260
7.	Upendra Maharathi Training Institute	Anusandhan Sansthan, Digha, Patna-13 Tel. no. 0612-2262482
8.	Weaver Training Centres	Handloom Bhawan, Rajendra Nagar, Patna
9.	Udyog Mitra	Indira Bhawan, R.C.Path, Bailey Road, Patna

Conclusion :

The study highlights that the state government has envisaged a number of policies to synchronize and harmonize the rapid growth and development of the women entrepreneurs of Patna. In spite of such support system, women entrepreneurship in Patna is lagging behind.

Suggestions :

In order to bridge the gap between the benefit providers and the beneficiaries the first step should be taken by the government, non-government organizations and financial institutions in the following ways:

- This should be done by organizing women entrepreneurs' collectively under one roof.

- Credit agencies should keep organizing seminars and workshops to train and update the women entrepreneurs.

- Credit agencies should be encouraged to finance the aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Proper implementation of the above given measures is not possible until and unless women entrepreneurs work in tandem with these organizations.

- They need to organize themselves in form of some association or businesswomen's groups either on the basis of the kind of products manufactured or sold at their units.

- List of these women entrepreneurs in the form of a Directory should be made available with full information including phone number, address, details of the product available. This would thus make them more approachable for the institutes.

Empowering women entrepreneurs is essential for achieving the goals of sustainable development and the bottlenecks hindering their growth must be eradicated to entitle full participation in the business. Henceforth, promoting entrepreneurship among the women is certainly a short-cut to rapid economic growth and development.

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