



NEW LETTER



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EDI- EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT FOR ECONOMIC REGENERATION OF KACHCHH & SAURASHTRA

Dr. Dinesh Awasthi
Director, EDI

EDI-EU SPEARHEAD TEAM

Dr. KVSM Krishna
Director-Planning

Mr. Bipin Shah
Director-Implementation

Mr. Kirti Vakil
Project Leader

Mr. Nabarun Sen Gupta
Coordinator-R&M

Mr. Pramod Srivastava
Associate Coordinator

Mr. Nikhil Raval
Associate Coordinator

Mr. Prakash Solanki
Trainer

Mr. Prakash Jhurani
Trainer

Mr. Neeraj Sharma
Field Associate-Bhuj Office

Mr. Rajesh Panchasara
Field Associate-Rajkot Office

Ms. Rucha Thakkar
Field Associate-WED

Ms. Megha Ganatra
Project Associate

Ms. Lalita Krishnan
Manager-D & R

Ms. Sarita Modi
Manager-Accounts

Mr. Girish A.
Central Secretariat

EDITORIAL TEAM

Mr. Nabarun Sen Gupta
Editor

Mr. Nikhilesh Desai
Managing Editor

Ms. Julie Shah
Associate Editor

"Never entertain complacency in Business. Complacency means we are resting on our past achievements and taking life easy."

- Brijmohan Lall Munjal
Chairman
Hero Honda Motors Ltd.

Editorial

Rapid urbanisation and industrialization pose challenges to workers' safety and health in many sectors. This is particularly seen in most manufacturing, mining and construction industries besides ports and docks. There are two distinct risks associated with these sectors namely, the risk of explosion and the health risk. Workers are exposed to various kinds of gases, chemicals and dusts. Many years of exposure to these pollutants has demonstrated to have systemic toxic effects.

These pollutants arise from the mechanical and chemical processes and operations and can prove toxic to the human body causing harmful effects. Lung diseases, which have occurred since antiquity, are among the oldest occupational diseases. Anthracosilicosis is one such occupational lung disease, which is caused by exposure to mixed dust in which free silica is the dominant fibrogenic component.

The problem is severe with quartz dust which is present in a number of industrial activities. Silicosis, the most common "pneumoconiosis", worldwide, is caused by exposure to dust containing free silica. Silicosis usually develops gradually over an exposure period. However, the extent of the disease depends on a number of factors, including the nature of the dust, its concentration and the duration of exposure as well as individual susceptibility. There is a distinct absence of epidemiological studies, which help one determine the morbidity of silicosis in relation to occupation in developing countries. This would help in identifying the risks involved; and also in determining the effects of preventive measures. These studies are particularly useful in the context of the ceramic industries which are present in large numbers in Gujarat.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have always shown their concern for workers' health. In the field of occupational health, these international organizations contribute vigorously so as to ensure progress and continuity of action for the protection of workers' health. Occupational health services and the enforcement of statutes on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment are pursued vigorously by these organizations.

The WHO Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All is a strategy that includes a practical and integrated response to meet the challenges and emerging problems of occupational health. Continuous development of occupational health and safety, collaboration and co-ordination at all levels are seen as keys to successful implementation of the Global Strategy.

In India, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is also engaged in promoting eco-efficient industrial operations. The Environmental Management Division (EMD cell) of CII provides a wide range of services through an experienced team of well trained professionals. The thrust is on building in-house capabilities in Indian industry to address environmental issues effectively and pro-actively. EMD facilitates utilization of national and international expertise through numerous seminars, workshops and training programs.

We hope that this issue will encourage technical personnel and workers in industry, occupational health and safety professionals, researchers, and environmentalists to review risk assessments and to strengthen overall safety precautions and control measures thereby reducing exposures and the risk to industrial pollutants. I am sure that Industry Associations will undertake methods to improve the status of occupational safety and health.

Nabarun Sen Gupta
Editor

Important Developments in EDI-EU PERKS Project

Visit by Glenn Laverack: EDI campus 10 Oct 2003

Mr. Glenn Laverack, Member, of the EU Monitoring Mission for EDI-EU Project visited EDI Campus for a day to discuss with the EDI-EU PERKS Project team, the various aspects to strengthen the project and its outcomes. Discussions helped clarify the concerns of empowering community and stakeholders in this project. The discussions centered around the processes initiated by EDI to help NGOs understand the process of enterprise establishment from the end's perspective. Other issues discussed included the processes adopted to mainstream development concerns like gender in the project. The Director of EDI, Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, also gave a detailed narration on how the economic development model in conjunction with the empowerment framework has worked.

Visit of Glenn Laverack to Dhrangadhra/Surendranagar

Mr. Glenn Laverack visited the project locations on 14th October 2003 at Dhrangadhra and Surendranagar. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the progress made under the project and to interact, directly, with the beneficiaries of the various programmes. The first visit was at Dhrangadhra where the NGO partner Gyandeeep Trust has conducted one GEDP and 2 REDP/EDP. The Group Leaders of the GEDP comprising 12 groups with 100 members were present. They gave detailed information of the programme and also demonstrated the products manufactured by these groups. Mr. Laverack also had intensive interactions with the NGO and had discussions on the programme aspects like training inputs, financial linkages, marketing networks, assistance provided etc. In the REDP and GEDP

programme, net-
working with the
government
departments for
provision of equip-
ment as well as
initial material,
instruments etc.
was done so as to
strengthen the
processes leading
to sustainable
enterprise
establishment.

Mr. Glenn also
visited the units
set up by entre-
preneurs trained
under the REDP/
EDP. His first visit
was to a unit
manufacturing



Mr. Glenn Laverack, Member, EU PERPEUG monitoring mission, on a visit to Group Enterprise Development Programme, at Dhrangadhra, under EDI-EU PERKS. On his left is Mr. Bipin Shah, Project Director, EDI-EU PERKS, explaining about the developments in the Programme.

shirts. This unit which had started with a turnover of Rs. 10,000 per month has now reached a turnover of Rs. 1,50,000/- per month and employs five persons. His next visit was to a roadside electrical appliances repairing shop set up by another entrepreneur trained under the programme. The total investment here is to the tune of Rs. 40,000/- and the entrepreneur has secured a loan of Rs. 35,000/- from Gujarat Schedule Caste and Tribes Corporation. Mr. Glenn also visited a beauty parlour-cum-beauty training class set up by a female entrepreneur, belonging to a backward community. The total investment in this business is of Rs. 20,000/-. The beauty parlour is housed in the entrepreneur's own ground floor premises.

M/s. Reck Industries and M/s. Dev Krupa Engg. located at Surendranagar GIDC and at Wadhwan Industrial Estate were also visited by Mr Glenn. Both these industries had received inputs under the Industrial Rehabilitation and Corporate Linkage programme of the EDI-EU PERKS Project. M/s. Devkrupa Engineering, which manufactures bearings and undertakes Engineering job-work, has been linked with a Surendranagar based company called Luxite Industries. M/s Reck Industries involved in manufacturing piston rings for compressors and other applications is a relatively smaller unit and presently caters to 4 to 5 companies in Ahmedabad. This unit has been linked with M/s. Kirloskar Electricals at Pune, and Ingersoll Rand at Ahmedabad for vendor registration and supplier arrangements.

Mr. Laverack expressed satisfaction and happiness over the impact and assistance provided under the project to different beneficiaries in this region. He also expressed the need to continue the efforts for a period of 3 to 5 years in order to ensure sustainability and bring about medium term economic regeneration of the region.

The Progress: Programs on Entrepreneurship

During this second year of first phase, a total of fourteen NGOs from Kachchh and Saurashtra conducted 34 programs. In all, 967 men and women received inputs related to launching and managing enterprises from these training programmes. The detail profile of the trainees can be



Mr. Glenn Laverack on a visit to a road side Electric Appliances Repairing shop set up by a trainee of RED programme, conducted under the EDI-EU PERKS, at Dhrangadhra

seen in the table below. During this phase, attention was focussed on involving poor (49.5%) and women (50%). NGOs made special efforts to motivate these two socially marginalized groups to join in as trainees and receive enterprise management related inputs.

Table 1
Profile of the Participants of Third Phase

| Program | EDP | REDP | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----|------|-------|
| Total Programs | 17 | 16 | 33 |
| DISTRICTS | | | |
| Saurashtra | 229 | 206 | 435 |
| Kachchh | 273 | 259 | 532 |
| SEX | | | |
| Female | 256 | 224 | 480 |
| Male | 246 | 241 | 487 |
| AGE GROUP | | | |
| 18-24 | 222 | 188 | 410 |
| 25-44 | 274 | 270 | 544 |
| 45+ | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| Illiterate | 23 | 47 | 70 |
| Primary | 254 | 247 | 501 |
| Secondary | 84 | 75 | 159 |
| Senior Secondary | 65 | 63 | 128 |
| Graduate | 61 | 27 | 88 |
| Post Graduate | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Technical | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| CASTE | | | |
| General | 111 | 108 | 219 |
| Oth Back Class | 179 | 232 | 411 |
| Scheduled Caste | 50 | 39 | 89 |
| Sheduled Tribe | 15 | 20 | 35 |
| Others | 147 | 66 | 213 |
| Muslims | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| INCOME | | | |
| <18000 | 175 | 129 | 304 |
| 18001-23999 | 76 | 99 | 175 |
| 24000-35999 | 149 | 125 | 274 |
| 36000-59999 | 61 | 83 | 144 |
| 60000+ | 41 | 29 | 70 |

Progress Made In Enterprise Creation

The combined efforts by NGOs involved in the EDI-EU Project, the EDP Trainers from EDI and the support institutions have resulted in more and more enterprise establishment by trained trainees. The start-ups have crossed the 60% mark and the investments coming from other sources too, have registered significant increase during the last few months.

Success Story

Carving wood and future: Case of an Entrepreneur

Alimamal Ibrahim Luhar is a middle aged person. He hails from a minority community in village Mirzapar. Although he never went to school, he received informal education as he got himself inducted into the process of learning while being an apprentice. His family comprises his wife, daughter and

two sons. His elder son runs a small garage.

The killer earthquake of January 26th, 2001 devastated his life. He lost his job as the place where he worked as a chief crafter came down completely. He also lost all his household belongings as the rented house collapsed like pack of cards. The only fortunate part was that except some minor injuries there was no loss of life. He was fortunate.

The next few months were days of hardship for the entire family. He struggled to set his house and his livelihood into some order. It was extremely difficult to do both as getting help from agencies was extremely difficult. He went ahead on his own to build a roof for his family. He was also fortunate when one of his friends offered him a place where he could start his own carpentry business. With very little capital raised from his past employer as arrears, he started his furniture business, manufacturing essentials - windows, doors, and household furniture.

He knew the art of manufacturing but had very less idea of business aspects like the aptitude and insight of running and managing the things properly. He was in desperate need of good business ideas. It was around this time that the EDI - EU sponsored Entrepreneurship Development Programme launched by the local organisation (ARDF) attracted him. He met the trainer and realized that the training programme could give him the inputs that he wanted desperately. The next two months (October and November 2002) were spent in attending training classes. He was regular in attending the input sessions. It was difficult for him to have worked the entire day running his business and then attending the classes in the late evening hours. But he managed to toil as he knew that he was getting what he wanted. The inputs he received during the training gave him insights into aspects like managing a small scale unit, marketing his products and the processes for initiating growth, strategies on product orientation, costing, etc. He also came to know about institutions like the DIC and the Bank and learned about the schemes which could give him support.

He very soon initiated change in his business. He worked on product differentiation and on customer orientation. This helped him immensely and he could expand his business soon. He made good rapport with the local public and established linkages with the furniture showrooms too. He was in no time flooded with orders and that too with advance payments. He could invest this money in machines and tools which he knew was critical for his work. He also went in for initiating a fabrication unit which helped him get good business.

Managing a business means need for working capital. Alimamal understands that it is not wise to wait for subsidy as delay in processing of applications for subsidy would adversely affect the prospects of business growth. He has therefore, applied to a local bank for loan for working capital.

The business has given him money to build his home. His younger son is involved in his business. He has plans to set up a large workshop having machines and instruments that would considerably better the product quality. The local Swaminarayan temple has also given him recognition. His work can be seen displayed in an exhibition in the reconstructed temple.

The European Union (EU)

The European Union, previously known as the 'European Community' is an institutional framework for the construction of a united Europe. It is a unique, treaty-based, institutional framework that defines and manages economic and political cooperation among its fifteen European member countries. The Union is the largest stage in the process of integration begun in the 1950s by six countries-Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands - whose leaders signed the original treaties establishing various forms of European integration. While common EU policies have evolved in a number of other sectors since then, the fundamental goal of the Union remains the same: to create an ever closer union among the people of Europe. Presently 15 European countries; are the members of European Union.

Gujarat Earthquake & EU

On the day of the Earthquake the Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission (EC), Mr. Christopher F. Pattern was on his visit to India. Knowing about the tragedy, he not only offered his condolences but also showed his solidarity with the ill-fated people of Gujarat which culminated into an assistance of Euro 100 million (Rs. 400 crores) for relief and rehabilitation efforts in the region. EDI is privileged to be a partner of EU in this effort.

The EDI

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), is an autonomous and not-for-profit Institute set up in 1983, by IDBI, IFCI Ltd., ICICI Ltd., SBI and Government of Gujarat. EDI has been spearheading entrepreneurship movement nationally & internationally through education, research and training.

One of the priority areas for EDI is to identify, motivate, train and create micro and rural entrepreneurs through self-employment and small business development programmes. It is being implemented by about 350 Voluntary Organisations throughout the country. The Institute has completed 13 years of fruitful partnership with NGOs in implementing Micro Enterprise Development Programmes (MEDPs) and other related programmes, particularly in rural areas. The Institute has conducted 610 MEDPs during the decade, training 15,243 rural youths, besides a cadre of 586 Rural Entrepreneur Trainer-Motivators.

The Institute has also been working towards capacity building of NGOs and sensitizing environment and support system. In the programmes on micro-credit, about 100 professionals from NGO sector have been developed to manage credit operations. To facilitate smooth flow of credit, EDI has also been sensitizing bankers, through NGO-BANKER Interface programmes.

Our Partner NGO

Gayatri Mahilla Khadi Gram Udyog Sangh, Gandhinagar

The organization was established in the year 2001 with a mandate to promote the Khadi and Village Industries. Ever since its inception the organization is striving to achieve the dream of women empowerment. It also believes that the solution and emancipation of rural poverty and gender disparity lies in the strategy of promotion of village industries.

In carrying out this task of employment and income generation the organization is associated with the State Khadi and Village Industries Board and understands that promotion of the agenda of rural industries holds significance even in the present times.

The organization is engaged in carrying out development work at various levels. Promotion of rural and home based industries is one aspect of its design. However it also understands that rural producers require support and hence provides them training, capacity building besides establishing linkages with Market Support agencies and with financial institutions. This three pronged strategy has helped the producers in getting higher benefits.

The promotion of village and home based products and manufacturing rural consumables are the mainstay of the programs the organization promotes. In carrying out such a difficult mandate the organization has good networks with agencies like District Industries Centre, District Rural Development Agency and the KVIB and many others.

The organization is actively engaged in various employment generation programs being carried out under various schemes of the state and the central government.

The organization is also an active partner in the European Union Project and has been working to promote entrepreneurship among women in rural locations in Kachchh. The organization has carried out Rural Entrepreneurship Development programs in Madhapad and Sukhpar in Kachchh during the first three phases.

Contact Person:

Ms Anandi A. Patel
Bungalow No 147 GHA Type Sector 19,
Gandhinagar. Phone : 23227287

European Week for Safety and Health at Work

A natural and close link exists between the promotion and protection of health in the workplace and it can be very strongly argued that it is impossible to promote the health and wellbeing of employees in a working environment where there are unnecessary risks to their health and safety.

This year the European Week for Safety and Health at Work draws attention to the need to reduce the health risks associated with dangerous substances in the workplace. The week takes place during October (with each country designating it's own week in the month as the European Week for Safety and Health at Work).

The initiative is organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and is an information campaign with the aim of 'making Europe a safe and healthy place to work by promoting activities to reduce the risks of working with dangerous substances'. The Campaign has the backing of all the major stakeholders including the Member States, the trade unions and employers organisations.

Further information on the European Week for Safety and Health at Work can be found at <http://www.agency.osha.eu.int>.

EDI-EU Secretariat

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India

(Via Ahmedabad Airport & Indira Bridge), P. O. Bhat 382 428 Dist. Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India
Tel : (91)(079) 23969161, 23969162, 23969163 Fax : (91)(079) 23969164
E-mail : ediindiaad1@sancharnet.in Website : <http://www.ediindia.org>

Project Offices

EDI-EU Secretariat

Rajkot : No. 8, Saurashtra Kala Kendra Society, 8/9 Corner, Opp. Nirmala School,
Rajkot - 360001 Tel : (0281) 2585037

EDI-EU Secretariat

Bhuj : G.F.4, Orient Colony, Opp. V.D. High School, Bhuj. Tel : (02832) 221266