

EDII Trains 58,887 Micro-entrepreneurs under Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program

Rural Marketing - Online | June 08, 2021 | www.ruralmarketing.in

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Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has trained around 58,887 rural entrepreneurs under **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP)**, a sub-scheme of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). EDII is designated as National Resource Organisation (NRO) for implementation of non-farm projects and currently associated with 15 State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM)) in multiple employment generating activities. The objective of this programme is to help these micro-entrepreneurs and their family members to setup small enterprises in rural areas under non-farm sector.

To promote micro-entrepreneurs and create an ecosystem in which these micro-entrepreneurs flourish and sustain in the long run, the programme is being implemented in 75 blocks, across 15 states in India. The 4-year programme commenced implementation in 2016. Till date, 58,887 people have been imparted training.

Out of them, 57,184 micro-enterprises including group enterprises, have been promoted under this programme while 1,034 community resource person- enterprise promotion (CRP-EP) have been trained as business consultants at village level.

In the ongoing pandemic, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has been the worst hit. Small businesses and the informal sector workforce have got significantly impacted as countries across the world have imposed lockdown or restrictions to contain the spread of the virus. However, some of these trained entrepreneurs when found out ways of earning out of it. Today, around 523 SVEP trained entrepreneurs have not only sustained their business but have adapted to the prevailing situation by diverting into activities such as making masks, sanitisers, food delivery to the needy various other activities in 32 blocks of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Telangana, Jammu Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Haryana.

Explaining the project, **Dr. Rajesh Gupta, Project Head, SVEP-EDII** said, “Rural India is still largely agrarian and runs on informal sectors. Many such entrepreneurs there lack the means to scale-up a business and cushion of resources. This has a bearing on their prospects when times are tough and challenging. Hence, through the SVEP programme, we aim to instil the sense of resilience in them through hands on training and mentorship. Many of these rural entrepreneurs consulted their local EDII mentors, used their training and decided not to kneel before the situation.”

“With support from the respective State Rural Livelihoods Missions and local administration, they were successful in divesting their businesses and regain it when the crisis hit. They are earning and learning in the process. In their training programmes, they were trained to innovate and adapt to changing environment. Their actions in the present scenario prove that their training has been successful,” Gupta added.

Such a resolute mind-set and a spirit of innovation in times of crisis are important for entrepreneurs especially micro-enterprise, who are resource constrained and even a small upheaval can uproot them. The current pandemic crisis in India has sent across a lesson that it is highly important and advisable to invest in building capacities to create micro-enterprises.

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