



## Message :

**Secretary, Ministry of Women and  
Child Development, GOI**

As India advances for sustainable and inclusive growth, the nation is continuously striving to empower and engage Indian women. The Government of India, along with State-Governments, and non-Govt. stakeholders, is continuously working to augment empowerment of women from all walks of life. India recognises the centrality of gender equality, and strengthening the role of women in all aspects is a primary developmental goal of the country. Towards this end, the Government has been undertaking various reforms and initiatives through different policies, schemes, and interventions. There have been several policies and schemes to strengthen women owned and women led entrepreneurship in India, as entrepreneurship is considered an important vehicle for achieving the objectives of self-reliance and financial independence for women.

The policy brief is a part of the policy-brief series, a thoughtful initiative of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) to bring forth awareness about appropriate policy interventions by the Government of India. This will help to create a knowledge repository and easy access for multiple stakeholders who work in the ecosystem.

My compliment to Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India for this endeavour.

**Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, IAS**

Secretary,  
Ministry of Women and Child Development,  
Government of India

# Women Empowerment & Entrepreneurship: Building an Inclusive and Prosperous India

“There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, it is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.”

– Swami Vivekananda

## 1. Introduction

The impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth is a decisive fact, and it imparts inclusivity to the development process. For India, the growth is dependent on the empowerment of women who constitute 48.45% of the Indian population (2011 census), and entrepreneurship remains a key contributor to the empowerment of women.

Empowering women, through the creation of equal opportunities in familial, social, cultural, civic, economic, and political spheres of life will determine the direction of social change. Bringing about gender equality and women empowerment can unlock human potential on a transformational scale. The Govt. of India, is relentlessly working towards this sustainable goal through various effective interventions, schemes, and policies, both at the State and the Central level. Entrepreneurship remains a robust enabling factor for empowerment, and hence, the Govt. of India has come up with path-breaking schemes and programmes that are advancing the cause of women entrepreneurship in India.

India is soon to become one of the largest working-age population and this demography can act as a dividend only when the women are the equal partners. Women as entrepreneurs play essential roles in the global economy. With consistent quality interventions from the Government and private sectors, women entrepreneurship in India has shown steady growth. The several policies and schemes boosting women entrepreneurship already exhibit a shift towards the right direction.

Today, India has 13.5–15.7 million women owned enterprises, depicting 20% of all enterprises [1]. As per the research conducted by Statista Research Department, women have owned a little over 20 percent of all micro, small and medium businesses across India in the financial year 2021 [2]. Also, India ranks 52nd among 58 countries in terms of the global index of women entrepreneurship [3]. The path has not been an easy one as the challenges and struggles women face have been daunting.

However, the positive forces that supplement women entrepreneurship in India are the rapidly rising economic aspiration and education levels among women, the cultural shifts and the structured initiatives through which women are organised and mobilized. Entrepreneurship as a vital avenue for the economic participation of women, not only offers opportunities for self-employment but also contributes to job creation, something that indeed is a national requirement. Other reasons for promoting Women Entrepreneurship to usher in a new stronger India are as follows:



**Message :  
Director General, EDII**

The economic development of a country is not possible without women's participation as they are in the vanguard of socio-economic growth.

Several studies establish the fact that the total entrepreneurship activities are enhanced if there is a higher degree of women entrepreneurship engagement at different levels.

This Policy Brief highlights India's efforts and initiatives in making women self-reliant and empowered.

My best wishes to the Department of Policy Advocacy, Knowledge and Research at EDII for their efforts to provide relevant information and understanding on Women Empowerment in this Policy Brief.

**Dr. Sunil Shukla**  
Director General, EDII

- Job creation especially for women as women entrepreneurs are likely to recruit other women.
- The enhancement of social outcomes such as reduction in fertility, better education for children, health and safety for women, health, security, eradication of gender-based violence, etc.
- The individual achievement of independence, autonomy, self-reliance, and psychological well-being.
- Assurance of a desirable diversity in the entrepreneurship universe.
- Women are likely to foster innovative enterprises in many domains, e.g. water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and wellness.
- Reducing the digital divide and enabling women to be digitally equipped.

While the socio-economic environment is influencing women entrepreneurship favourably, the policy action is making its impact felt. There are significant central government schemes to promote women entrepreneurship. The state governments are also working in tandem. There is now in vogue institutional mechanism to bolster women entrepreneurship. On the whole, the building of an ecosystem to accelerate women entrepreneurship is proceeding at a brisk pace.

## **2. Policies, Schemes and Programmes**

We are providing here an overview of the existing programmes and institutional developments. The assistance to women is being delivered through women exclusive as well as non exclusive programmes. The non-exclusive programmes have a pronounced focus on women in terms of benefit delivery.

### **(I) The Ministry of Women and Child Development: The Harbinger of Women Empowerment**

Empowering women living with dignity, and contributing as equal partners in development has been the vision of The Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry has advanced policies, plans of action, legislation, programmes, and schemes for the development of women and has been implementing them with the support of State Governments/UTs, Government and Non Government Organisations for achieving its directive.

#### **(a) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh**

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is a national-level organization, an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, established for the socio economic empowerment of women. RMK, as a facilitating agency provides loans to NGO-MFIs termed as Intermediary Organizations (IMO) which on-lend to Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women. Organisations availing loan (Loan Promotion Scheme, Main Loan Scheme, Gold Credit Scheme, Housing Loan Scheme, Working Capital Term Loan Scheme, Repeat Loan Scheme) from RMK on-lend to the end beneficiaries for income generating activities, such as setting up of small business, asset creation, agriculture, petty shop, livestock rearing, transport services, etc.

#### **(b) Mahila E-Haat**

Ministry of Women and Child Development set up the MahilaE-Haat as part of the 'Digital India' and 'Start-up India' initiatives to put up an e-marketing platform to display the products of women led ventures and exhibit self-made products. Mahila E-Haat promotes the Make in-India movement encouraging women to market self-made products.

## Government Initiatives :

The Constitution of India carries a powerful mandate for equality and rights of women in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Duties, and also provides for specific provisions for affirmative actions.

The Government of India's Initiatives like Mahila E-Haat, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Udyam Sakhi scheme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Trade-Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD), Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Startups by Women' programme Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs) and Mudra Yojana have brought special momentum to the process of fostering women entrepreneurship.

In addition to these, there have been other schemes and programmes, such as Cent Kalyani Scheme, Udyogini Scheme, Dena Shakti Scheme, Bhartiya Mahila Business Bank Loan, Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs, Annapurna Scheme, Mahila Udyam Nidhi Scheme, Mission Indradhanush, Stand Up India, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, etc., that have continuously contributed to the goal of women empowerment.

### (c) Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women

Under the umbrella of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme provides competencies and skills that enable women to become self-employed. The training programmes concentrate on skill development specific to different sectors, such as agriculture, pottery, animal husbandry, dairy, embroidery, weaving, tailoring, fisheries, etc. to equip women.

### (ii) MSME: The Torchbearer

The Government is ceaselessly endeavouring to transform and reshape the role of women, encouraging them to step into the mainstream. Ministry of Micro Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSME) is one such vehicle that has relentlessly and consistently worked towards it. The Ministry of MSME, who acted as the force to promote and foster entrepreneurship in India, has actively promoted women entrepreneurship and women empowerment.

#### (a) Udyam Sakhi

Ministry of MSME launched Udyam Sakhi, a network for fostering entrepreneurship generating business models centred around low cost products and services to reduce social inequalities. The Udyam Sakhi portal caters to millions of women entrepreneurs. The platform serves as a support system for creating the network, capacity building, training, mentorship, information dissemination, arranging one-on-one investor meet, providing market survey facility and technical assistance, assisting incubation process, etc. Udyam Sakhi has a special concentration on social entrepreneurship, encouraging the growth of similar enterprises.

#### (b) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is implemented through State Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIBs), District Industries Centres, and Banks. PMEGP is essentially a key credit-linked subsidy programme. The major focus of this intervention is to generate employment in rural and urban areas. PMEGP provides loans for setting up new enterprises, with a subsidy level of 25% and 35% in urban and rural areas for women and other marginalized groups, as compared to 15% and 25% for general category in respective areas. Also, for women beneficiaries, their own contribution is only 5% of the project/venture cost in comparison to 10% for the general category. According to PRS Legislative Research, the committee report on the implementation of PMEGP states that The Indian Bank was appointed as the nodal bank in 2020, and Rs 154 crore will be disbursed by the Bank as of 2020 (PRS Legislative Research 2021).

#### (c) Trade-Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development

Trade-Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) Scheme is initiated by PMEGP and caters to capacity building of women entrepreneurs. TREAD aims at empowering women by disseminating knowledge of business, training, mentoring, and handholding. The three main types of assistance under this scheme are, a) loan/financial aid, b) training and capacity building programmes, c) Sanction of need-based Go I grant up to Rs. 5 lakh per project to National Entrepreneurship Development Institutions.

## Impact Highlight :

- As of February 2021, more than 81 percent, that is, 91,109 accounts with an amount of Rs 20,749 crore were sanctioned to women entrepreneurs under the Stand-Up India Scheme [4].
- According to *Women, Business and the Law 2021* report when it comes to constraints on women's starting and running a business, India scores a decent 75 out of 100 [5].
- Since the inauguration of the public procurement policy monitoring platform MSME Sambandh in December 2017 Government departments, organisations, and ministries had already purchased goods and services worth Rs 563.88 crore from 3,622 women-owned MSEs as of March 2021 (Financial Express, March 2021) [4].
- The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has accorded guarantee approval to 67,171 loan accounts of women entrepreneurs for an amount of Rs. 3,366.63 crore as of December, 2020 (Financial Express, March 2021) [4].
- The GEM India reports for the past three years exhibit a steady growth with Female Total Entrepreneurship Activity (TEA) scores being 8.2% (2017-18), 8.7% (2018-2019), and 12.7% (2019-2020) – [GEM India Reports]. However, due to the COVID-19. Pandemic, 73% of women-run businesses were hit badly, and nearly 20% were on the brink of closure, as per an October 2020 Bain-Google-AWE Foundation report. Also, the GEM Global report of 2020/2021 depicts a 41 rank out of 50 for female early-stage entrepreneurship in India, depicting a hit due to the Pandemic [6], [7].

### (iii) Women Entrepreneurship Platform

Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is another unique, one-of-its-kind initiative of NITI Aayog. It is a unified portal that is a hub for women from different parts of the country who aspire to realise their entrepreneurial dreams. WEP is set up with a focus to form a sturdy ecosystem of women entrepreneurs and aspiring women entrepreneurs to conceptualize innovative ideas and formulate business strategies. The platform aspires to create more women entrepreneurs for New India. Ichha Shakti - inspiring aspiring entrepreneurs to initiate their enterprise, Gyaan Shakti - providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship, Karma Shakti - providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting up and scaling up businesses remain the three major pillars of WEP.

### (iv) Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Startups by Women

To pilot initiation, incubation, and acceleration for growth and scaling up of businesses Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has implemented a project named 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Startups by Women'. MSDE specifically focuses on women micro-entrepreneurs. MSDE assists women to start new businesses and scaling up existing enterprises. One of the major focuses of MSDE is Vocational Training Programme for Women, stimulating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women.

### (v) Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Rural Development, interventions for skill development and facilitating bank loans are organised via Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs). It is a bank-led initiative where a trainee can have access to a credit loan for starting a business initiative. RSETI programme is executed through 585 RSETIs by 23 Leading Banks in 33 States/UTs covering 566 districts in the country. These banks include both Public Sector and Private Sector as well as a few Gramin Banks.

### (vi) Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) creates an inclusive, value-based entrepreneurial culture, in collaboration with partner institutions in achieving economic success and financial security. The scheme provides loans up to 10 lakhs to small/micro-enterprises. The target set by the Government of India under PMMY for the year 2019-20 was Rs. 3.25 lakh crore which was distributed across various lending institutions, banks, MFIs, and NBFCs based on their outreach and presence. Against this target Rs. 3.37 lakh crores were achieved (2019-20).

### (vii) Other Schemes:

To sensitise the role of women in the economy, and to galvanize the way for women entrepreneurship, the Govt. of India has come up with several schemes and programmes in collaboration with several banks and other Institutions. The Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) Subsidy Scheme provides funding for artisan women living in rural areas (producing coir fibre). The scheme is being implemented by the Government through the Coir Board under its Coir Vikas Yojana. There is also the Annapurna Scheme, which applies to women who have started a food catering unit or wish to start one. The loan limit under this scheme is Rs, 50,000/- to purchase kitchen and cooking essentials. The loan can be repaid in 36 installments in 3 years. Another noteworthy support is the Stree Shakti Package. The women who have registered for the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and hold over 50 percent ownership in the business can avail of this loan under the Stree Shakti Package. Loans under the scheme require no security. The repayment tenure is a maximum of 36 months, including a one-month moratorium period. The Udyogini

- Under diverse loan schemes, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) has disbursed a total of 304.11 crores loan for beneficiaries (Dated 2017-18) [8].
- Till 31st March 2018, 28000 women entrepreneurs across 28 States have demonstrated approximately 4000 different products and services through the Mahila E-Haat. More than 4.45 lakh people are benefitted out of these [8].
- According to research studies, after joining E-Haat women contributed to the household activities more effectively, and their income increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 [13].
- Research data suggests that after training and development under the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) 45% of women beneficiaries have started their own business ventures [13].
- As the Principal Financial Institution for promotion, financing, and development of the MSME sector, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) allocated/reserved 10 percent of the Rs. 10,000 crore Fund of Funds (FFS) for women-led start-ups [9].
- The Udyam Sakhi scheme set up a fund of Rs. 10,000 crores to strengthen the women business leaders. The women farmers were a major emphasis under this scheme [9].
- More than 1.38 lakh projects have been set up by women entrepreneurs under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme since its inception in 2008 up to 23.01.2019 [9].
- Under the PMEGP Scheme, about 30% of the total entrepreneurs who set up their own business ventures are women (2018-19) [9].

Scheme provides interest-free loans of up to 3 lakh rupees for aspiring women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs between the ages of 25 and 65 with a family annual income of less than Rs 1.5 lakh can apply for this benefit. The Cent Kalyani Scheme is offered by the Central Bank of India for women business owners in multiple areas across manufacturing and services. Under this scheme, loans up to Rs 1 crore are sanctioned with a 20 percent margin on collateral.

### 3. Institutional Initiatives

The efforts of the government and its different agencies are supplemented by NGOs and associations that play an equally important role in facilitating women entrepreneurship. In this context, Kudumbashree, Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), and the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) are worthy to be highlighted.

- a) The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) which is being run under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a forward-looking initiative by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The SVEP is being implemented by two National Resources Organisations, viz. EDI-Ahmedabad and Kudumbashree. By 2020, the EDII has implemented SVEP programme in 68 blocks of 14 states, fostering 665 trained cadres of Community Resource Person-Enterprise Promotion, who provide services to 42657 rural entrepreneurs of around 41182 enterprises. Out of this, the number of women entrepreneurs who are supported under SVEP is 35,998. Further, 467 women Community Resource Persons were trained (EDII Data repository, 2020). In the year 2016, Kudumbashree, which is another National Resource Organisation for SVEP, has implemented this programme in Kerala, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- b) SEWA, a trade union, based in Ahmedabad, aims to protect and promote the rights of low-income, independently employed female workers. SEWA is the largest non-profit organisation in India. SEWA sisters are contributing to mitigating the detrimental effect of the pandemic Covid-19 in villages by engaging in Mask Distribution, Setting Up Covid isolation centers, and mobilizing vaccination. During the 2020 Pandemic and subsequent lock down SEWA started reaching out to its over 1.9 million members through various technology platforms like WhatsApp, Kaizala, Zoom, Facebook. SEWA connected over 10,000 grass-root members across 9 districts in Gujarat through digital platforms. SEWA used these groups to reach out to members with posters and voice-based messages regarding Covid-19 precautions, information about loans, training on masks stitching, E-modules for agricultural training, thereby generating an alternative source of livelihood. (SEWA News, home portal, 15 September 2020).
- c) WeAct (Women Entrepreneurs Access Connect Transform) is an initiative supported by Accenture and implemented by EDII since March 2020. WeAct is working presently with 2781 women comprising 134 groups and 56 individuals engaged in areas, such as Food & Agro, Handicrafts, and Household supplies. Spread over 11 States and 1 Union Territory WeAct has been actively working in networking with B2B, B2C, and entrepreneurs for providing linkages, training, conducting exhibitions, buyer seller meets, Workshops, etc. (EDII Data repository, 2020).

### 4. Life-enhancement of the women beneficiaries

Apart from financial benefits, the effect of these different schemes and interventions has nurtured the well-being of the women beneficiaries. As women could start and expand their businesses, there has been a remarkable enhancement in their

- During 2016-17 and 2017-18, under the Khadi Programme of KVIC, women entrepreneurs have set up 30437 projects for which margin money of 85,305 lakh Rupees have been disbursed [9].
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) has over 13000 registered women and has supported and benefited over 500 entrepreneurs (2019) [11].
- Under the umbrella of NITI Aayog Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) invited women-owned startups and small businesses to procure, supply raw materials for masks in order to support women who are at home under the detrimental effect of COVID 19 [9].
- Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETI) extend training for 61 courses allied with National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Out of these 61 courses, as many as 38 courses are entirely suitable for women aspirants to take up self-employment ventures after being trained in these courses [9].
- Women as a special category of borrower, under different schemes of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), continue to be significant in 2019-20. The share of women borrowers stands at 63% by a number of accounts and 43% by sanction amount (2019-20) [11].
- World Bank April 2020 report states that 67 million women are members of 6 million Self Help Groups (SHGs) [12].
- The 2019-2020 GEM-India report reveals the sign of a brighter future. It illustrates that 85% of women perceive that they possess the capability to start a business, and 83% (higher than male) of females perceive the availability of opportunities to start a business [7].

**self-confidence.** The women also asserted that it has empowered them with good education, health, purchase power for their children and family. In some cases, women have stated that they could **resist domestic violence** because of their economic independence. Moreover, with this constant support and encouragement from the Govt. women are becoming assertive enough to **claim equality** in prices, ownership of land, hygienic sanitation facility, etc. Further, these organised, structured programmes have provided a **collective identity** to the marginalized, rural women, making them stronger. On the whole, the Govt. interventions continue to encourage **self-reliance and autonomy** among women of India.

## 5. The Way Forward

The traditional barriers to full-scale engagement of women in economic activity and hence entrepreneurship are easing; these barriers are household and childcare responsibility, lesser autonomy, inadequate network of relationships relevant to establishing and managing business, and safety in public and workplaces. At the same time, the institutional framework built around Ministries of Women & Child Development, MSME, Rural Development and MSDE is gaining strength. At the state level, the women economic development corporations and livelihood promotion corporations are adding traction to institutional development required to promote women entrepreneurship.

The gamut of programmes elucidated earlier need to be viewed, keeping in mind the favourable environment for the growth of women entrepreneurship, in the wake of such institutional development.

The potential for women entrepreneurship is truly large. Bain & Company estimates that women-led enterprises would provide 50 to 60 million jobs by 2030. The SHG movement in India offers a ready reservoir of potential- 67 million women are members of 6 million SHG's.

The existing programmes are equipping women with essential competencies, providing much-needed soft support, and extending the valuable concrete assistance in terms of credit on soft terms and subsidies. However, there appears to be scope for reviewing and integrating the schemes and to formulate high impact schemes rather than operate a wide range of schemes. In this behalf, all stakeholders-Central and State Govt, credit providers, women organisations, corporates-need to come together for a meaningful and continuing dialogue.

The women entrepreneurship universe consists of varied segments-urban micro-enterprises, rural micro-enterprises, urban small enterprises, rural small enterprises, startups (potentially large), and agripreneurs. The micro-enterprises generally do not have hired workers. Most programmes are now, justifiably, focussed on micro-enterprises. Under the emerging environment, there is considerable scope for women owned small enterprises which employ workers. This is evidenced by the enrolment of women in higher education, strong presence of women professionals in such domains as financial services, IT, healthcare, education, travel and tourism, bio, retail, and others. The policy action to address the needs of women who wish to set up decent-sized small enterprises will invigorate the women entrepreneurship movement in India. The ongoing reform process will unlock many enterprise opportunities in the Agri sector in India; women have a dominant presence in this sector. Hence the particular need for policy intervention in Agri entrepreneurship for women. The policy formulation, inevitably, warrants review and refinement. A mechanism to capture experiences and perspectives concerning present policy and feeding these into the policies would facilitate refinements.

## Key Outcome of the Government Interventions

- Development of Entrepreneurship Learning Tools.
- Disseminating simple way of preparing a business plan.
- Availability of suitable training, seminars and workshops.
- Information dissemination of Government Policies and Programmes.
- Information of every state Directorate of Industries and Policies of that state.
- Assistance via Finance Schemes for Small Businesses.
- Finance Scheme designed by important individual banks in line with Government Policies and directives.
- Marketing information and support through Mobile App and online portals by enabling networking.
- Setting up Technology Centres; Development of Technological Portals and Apps.
- Increased frequency of Business meets, Buyer Seller Meets and Exhibitions.
- Creating Incubation Facilities across India with the help of different Govt. as well as private Institutions.
- Providing assistance for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- Aiding for Cluster Development Programmes.
- Enabling networking and events for international business promotion.
- Availability of Mentors in business and other facilities.
- Designing and developing focused Skill Development Programmes.

The shifts in socio-economic environment, present policies, and institutional development combine to produce an optimistic outlook for the growth of women entrepreneurship in India.

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## Global Initiatives for Women Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Development

### We-Fi by World Bank:

The World Bank Group announced two new initiatives to improve access to start-up financing and e-commerce markets for women entrepreneurs. We-Fi, housed at the World Bank, has so far allocated close to US \$ 250 million to tackle challenges women entrepreneurs face in developing countries. The allocations aim to reach 114,000 women entrepreneurs. We-Fi is a powerful catalyst for additional investment, helping mobilize more than US \$ 2.6 billion in additional public and private sector funds.

(Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/02/16/world-bank-group-launches-initiatives-supporting-women-entrepreneurs>)

### ITC's Women Economic Empowerment Programme:

ITC's Women Economic Empowerment Programme aims to provide sustainable livelihoods to over 77300 women in India. These women with opportunities to earn independent incomes strengthen their position as decision-makers in their families and communities.

(Source: <https://www.itcportal.com/sustainability/womens-economic-empowerment-programme.aspx>)



#### About EDII:

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), an autonomous and not-for-profit institute, set up in 1983, is an acknowledged National Resource Institute for Entrepreneurship Education, Research, Training & Institution Building. It is sponsored by apex financial institutions - the IDBI Bank Ltd., IFCI Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd. and the State Bank of India (SBI). The Government of Gujarat pledged twenty-three acres of land on which stands the majestic and sprawling EDII campus. To pursue its mission, EDII has helped set up twelve state-level exclusive entrepreneurship development centres and institutes. In view of EDII's expertise in Entrepreneurship, the University Grants Commission had also assigned EDII the task of developing curriculum on Entrepreneurship and the Gujarat Textbook Board assigned to it the task of developing textbooks on Entrepreneurship for 11th & 12th standards. In order to broaden the frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research, EDII has established a Centre for Research in Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CREED), to investigate into a range of issues surrounding small and medium enterprise sector through its publication, "The Journal of Entrepreneurship". CREED also establishes a network of researchers and trainers by conducting a biennial seminar on entrepreneurship education and research. In the international arena, efforts to develop entrepreneurship by way of sharing resources and organising training programmes, have helped EDII earn accolades and support from the World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIDO, ILO, FNSt, British Council, Ford Foundation, European Union, ASEAN Secretariat and several other renowned agencies. EDII has also set up Entrepreneurship Development Centre at Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam and is in the process of setting up such centres at Uzbekistan and five African countries.

#### Department of Policy Advocacy, Knowledge, and Research:

The Department of Policy Advocacy, Knowledge and Research (DPA) is a dedicated department for formulation and advocacy of 'Public Policies', creation of 'Knowledge Products', and publication of 'Research Studies'. The DPA conducts various government-supported and inhouse sponsored research studies as well. The DPA focuses on the creation of indigenous 'Knowledge Products' for institutions, entrepreneurs, students, and policymakers.



### Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India Ahmedabad

Bhat, Gandhinagar (Dist) 382 428, Gujarat  
Phone: 079-6910 4900 / 6910 4999  
E-mail: [dpa@ediindia.org](mailto:dpa@ediindia.org)  
Web: [www.ediindia.org](http://www.ediindia.org) | [www.ediindia.ac.in](http://www.ediindia.ac.in)