

An executive summary of the final report of work done on the Minor research project of Mr. Sonal Steevan Lobo entitled “**An evaluation of the role of district industrial center in Enterprise Development Programme and promotion of SME’s in Dakshina kannada**”, sanctioned by UGC, vide sanction letter No: MRP (H)-0805/13-14/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO dated 28-03-2014.

The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) play a vital role in the industrial development of any country. The importance of SME sector is well recognized world over from its significant contribution gratifying various socio-economic objectives, such as higher growth of employment, output, and promotion of export and fostering entrepreneurship. There is growth recognition worldwide that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have an important role to play in the present context given their greater resource-use efficiency, capacity for employment generation, technological innovation, and promotion inter-sectoral linkages, raising exports and developing entrepreneurial skills.

Role of District Industrial Center: The DIC programme was started by the central government in 1978 with the objective of providing a focal point for promoting small, tiny , cottage and village industries in particular area and to make available to them all necessary services and facilitates at one place.

This study was conducted to determine role of district industrial centre in Enterprise Development Programme and promotion of SME’s. It was a collective of opinions of entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada district, who were selected using a non probability, simple random sampling method. A questionnaire consisting of five parts was used to collect primary data. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted using simple statistical techniques.

From the current study it has been observed that the limited availability of technological, human, financial, and management resources on the one hand, and the weaker capability and bargaining power of SMEs on the other hand, are amongst the most crucial barriers that must be overcome when it comes to dealing with actors in their external environment, including suppliers, clients, the labour market, development agencies, and fund providers. As a corollary to this scenario, specific initiatives and policies to support small firms were increasingly seen to be implemented in the last decade of the twentieth century.

In India, the Ministry of Industry and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), along with other agencies, introduced specific programmes for SMEs and cluster development in the recent past, which are directed towards networking their needs and demands with knowledge institutions. The authors concludes the study by stating that the SMEs development strategy should be coordinated and monitored at the central level through a lean, but high level institution and progress should be reviewed jointly by public and private sector. SMEs need business services to improve their competitiveness (i.e. information, consulting, training, accounting, legal, advertising and marketing, courier services, technical and technology services, including testing for standards and certification requirements abroad, product upgrading, etc.).The overall analysis of data and study clearly shows that there is a marginal growth and development of SME sector in the study area.