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Impact of Cluster Development Programme on MSME Sector in West Bengal: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

The MSME sector, which is also considered the backbone of the country's manufacturing output, is facing stiff competition from large-scale as well as multinational manufacturers. The Cluster Development Programme (CDP) was introduced by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India in 2007. The CDP acts as a protection mechanism for the second largest employment generating MSME sector. CDP is used to improve the productivity, competitiveness and capacity building of MSMEs. The aim of this study is to examine and assess the impact of Cluster Development Programme on MSME sector, using eight selected clusters in West Bengal as case study. The results of the study show that MSMEs have benefited greatly from CDP. The results could be useful to the MSME department and its policymakers, new entrepreneurs, researchers, as well as government and academic institutions.

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