



A STUDY ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO MSMES AND ITS INFLUENCE ON INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are pivotal to economic growth, innovation, and employment generation within industrial ecosystems. This study explores the multifaceted role of government support in strengthening MSMEs through financial aid, regulatory reforms, infrastructural development, and technological assistance. It analyses how such interventions influence MSMEs' integration into industrial ecosystems, enhancing their competitiveness and sustainability. The paper also identifies key challenges faced by MSMEs, including limited access to resources and policy fragmentation, and highlights the need for adaptive, participatory policy frameworks. The findings suggest that coordinated government support can significantly enhance MSME performance, contributing to inclusive industrial development and regional economic resilience. This study provides valuable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers focused on fostering a robust MSME sector and vibrant industrial ecosystems.

KEYWORDS: MSMEs, Government Support, Industrial Ecosystems, Policy Frameworks, Economic Development

1. INTRODUCTION

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, or MSMEs, are known as major forces behind economic growth, new ideas, and jobs, especially in developing nations such as India. But these businesses often deal with big problems like not getting enough money, complicated rules, and tax systems that change. Putting the Goods and Services Tax, or GST, in place was a big change in India's tax setup (Bakhtiari, Breunig, Magnani, & Zhang, 2020). It impacted MSMEs by changing what they had to do to follow the rules and how their money moved in and out.

help and resources. Government plans, like money aid, tax breaks, and building digital systems, are very important. They help these businesses get past problems and fit well into the larger business world (Chandra & Sharma, 2021).

Small and medium businesses are basic to growing the economy for everyone. They make jobs, especially in smaller towns and country areas (Dey, 2014). They also add a lot to the total value of goods and services and things sent out of the country. These businesses support the business system by connecting with bigger companies. They provide materials and do work that adds value to products. They help lessen money differences between areas and reduce poverty by helping people from groups that have been left out start businesses (Bhalla, Kaur, & Sharma, 2022). Government actions, like changing taxes and helping with digital tools, have been shown to make these businesses do better financially and grow more. This makes their help to the economy stronger. Knowing how government support affects small and medium businesses and the business system is needed (Bhalla, Sharma, & Kaur, 2022; Bhalla, Sharma, & Kaur, 2023). This helps create plans that lead to steady growth, new ideas, and being able to compete.



Figure 1: MSME growth factors

Source: <https://www.lendingkart.com/blog/list-of-businesses-comes-under-msme/>

GST was meant to make taxes simpler. However, research shows its effect on small and medium businesses has varied (Bhalla, Sharma, & Kaur, 2023). Some businesses had trouble getting used to the new system. Also, the fast move to digital tools means these businesses need to change how they work (Buteau, 2021). This can be hard without enough government

1.1 Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the various types of government support mechanisms available to MSMEs, including financial, regulatory, infrastructural, and technological assistance.
2. To analyse the impact of government support on the growth, sustainability, and competitiveness of MSMEs within industrial ecosystems.
3. To explore the role of MSMEs in industrial ecosystems and how government interventions facilitate their integration and collaboration with larger industries.
4. To identify the key challenges and barriers faced by

MSMEs in accessing government support and participating effectively in industrial ecosystems.

5. To propose policy recommendations and strategic frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of government support and promote a resilient and inclusive industrial ecosystem.

1.2 Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on the comprehensive analysis of government support provided to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and its influence on industrial ecosystems. It encompasses various forms of government assistance such as financial subsidies, regulatory reforms, infrastructural development, and technological facilitation aimed at strengthening MSMEs. The research covers both qualitative and quantitative aspects to understand how these supports affect MSME growth, sustainability, and their integration into larger industrial networks. The study primarily considers MSMEs operating within specific industrial sectors and geographic regions where government schemes are actively implemented. It also examines the role of MSMEs in enhancing industrial productivity, innovation, and employment generation within the broader economic framework.

Despite its comprehensive approach, this study has certain limitations. The findings may be constrained by the availability and reliability of secondary data on government schemes and MSME performance. Regional disparities and sector-specific variations may limit the generalizability of the results across all MSMEs nationwide. Additionally, the study primarily focuses on government support mechanisms and may not fully account for other external factors such as market dynamics, global economic trends, or private sector initiatives that also influence MSME growth. Time constraints and access to primary data sources such as interviews or surveys with MSME owners and policymakers may further restrict the depth of empirical insights.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Bakhtiari, Breunig, Magnani, and Zhang (2020) aimed to review the extent of financial constraints affecting SMEs. The study's objective was to examine how such constraints vary across firms and regions and identify key policy interventions. The scope covers global evidence on SME financing barriers, providing insights for researchers and policymakers addressing credit access and growth challenges.

Bhalla, Kaur, and Sharma (2022) aimed to investigate how tax reforms and firm-level characteristics influence the financial performance of micro and small enterprises. The objective was to analyse the effect of tax determinants and demographic variables on profitability and growth. The study focused on Indian MSMEs, particularly examining how tax policy changes shape business sustainability.

This study by Bhalla, Sharma, and Kaur (2022) aimed to understand how tax knowledge and digitalization in the taxation system affect business performance. The objective was to use PLS-SEM analysis to establish the impact of tech-driven tax

systems on operational outcomes. It covered MSMEs in India adapting to e-tax platforms like GST.

The 2023 research by Bhalla, Sharma, and Kaur focused on the effect of the GST system on MSME business performance. The objective was to quantify how tax compliance, filing efficiency, and digitalization influence outcomes. It scoped into MSMEs' adoption of GST norms and its role in reshaping business activities.

Sharon Buteau (2021) aimed to map out a digital roadmap for India's MSME sector. The objective was to highlight the challenges and opportunities that digital transformation brings to MSMEs. The study covered India's tech ecosystem and its capacity to integrate MSMEs into formal economic frameworks through innovation.

Chandra and Sharma (2021) aimed to analyse how government policies foster start up growth in Uttar Pradesh. The objective was to identify effective policy mechanisms that stimulate entrepreneurship. The scope included a regional assessment of start-up schemes and their spill over effects on MSMEs.

Sanjeeb Kumar Dey (2014) aimed to present the growth trajectory and potential of MSMEs in India. The study's objective was to evaluate key performance indicators and government interventions. It scoped into historical growth patterns and future opportunities within the MSME sector nationally.

Di Nola, Kaas, and Wang (2023) aimed to assess the effectiveness of COVID-19 rescue policies for small businesses. The objective was to model the impact of temporary liquidity and employment support schemes. The scope included advanced economies, using simulations to evaluate MSME stability during economic shocks.

P. K. Gupta (2023) aimed to study government initiatives promoting MSMEs in India. The objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of various schemes in enhancing MSME competitiveness. The scope encompassed financial, infrastructural, and digital support initiatives at national and state levels.

Gupta and Gautam (2021) aimed to examine how start-ups influence MSMEs in Uttar Pradesh. The objective was to analyse policy linkages and economic outcomes stemming from entrepreneurship-driven development. The scope involved the start-up ecosystem's interaction with existing MSMEs.

Jha and Kumar (2020) aimed to explore the current challenges and propose revival strategies for MSMEs in India. The objective was to highlight structural issues and suggest policy directions. The study focused on post-pandemic resilience and long-term sustainability of MSMEs.

Kanda, Handa, Kumar, and Bhalla (2018) aimed to evaluate the GST's impact on rural businesses in Himachal Pradesh. The objective was to assess how the new tax system altered

operational and compliance behaviour. The scope focused on rural MSMEs dealing with infrastructural and knowledge deficits.

Pooja Khatri (2019) aimed to identify the primary challenges confronting Indian MSMEs. The objective was to investigate factors like finance, technology, and regulatory hurdles. The study scoped across diverse sectors to develop a generalized view of MSME bottlenecks.

Raju and Peri (2022) aimed to design a growth strategy for MSMEs in India's defence sector. The objective was to promote self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The scope involved mapping defence procurement frameworks and aligning MSME capacities with national security needs.

Dr. P. Mari Selvam (2021) aimed to evaluate the contribution and performance of India's MSME sector. The objective was to present a statistical review of sectoral growth, employment, and GDP share. The study covered nationwide trends and sectoral diversification.

Sharma, Singh, Gupta, and Rastogi (2020) aimed to understand how start-ups contribute to MSME development in Uttar Pradesh. The objective was to map innovation spill overs, job creation, and capital formation. The study scoped regional start-up-MSME linkages and institutional support systems.

Deshraj Son (2023) aimed to assess the impact of technology on MSMEs in India. The objective was to understand how digital tools and platforms improve operational efficiency. The scope included technological adoption, cost-benefit analysis, and scalability among Indian MSMEs.

Sarika Srivastava (2020) aimed to study the MSME sector's role in Gujarat's economy. The objective was to evaluate the contribution to industrial output, employment, and exports. The scope centered on Gujarat's policy environment and industrial clusters.

Priya Zanjurne (2018) aimed to examine the future prospects of MSMEs in India. The objective was to highlight sectoral opportunities and potential risks. The scope included evolving market dynamics and the need for policy innovation to support MSME scalability.

Van Stel, Lokshin, and de Vries (2019) aimed to investigate whether productivity gains in SMEs influence large firms in the EU. The objective was to model the productivity spill over effects across enterprise sizes. The scope included EU economies and sectoral interdependencies.

2.1 Research gap

Many studies look at how small and medium businesses help the economy grow. But research does not fully show how government help affects the whole industrial system. Most studies focus on things like money help, tax breaks, or problems small businesses face. They do not cover how this help affects supply chains, technology, regional growth, or jobs. Also, there is little deep study on how government rules affect unofficial

and unregistered small businesses. These make up a large part of this sector in countries like India. This misses how complex and varied small businesses are and how unofficial ones work with official ones. This affects how strong industries are overall. Few studies look at how government actions help new start-ups and older businesses work together. This is important for new ideas and staying competitive. Also, there are few studies comparing India's support for small businesses with what works best globally. This limits knowing how to make policies better to help industries last. Filling these gaps is needed to make better policies. These policies should not just help small businesses grow but also make sure industrial growth includes everyone and lasts a long time.

3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Rules for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) depend on how much they invest in equipment. Sometimes rules also consider how much money they make. These rules differ slightly from country to country. In India, the MSMED Act of 2006 sorts MSMEs mainly by how much they invest in machines and equipment. Micro businesses are the smallest and invest the least. Small and medium businesses invest more. This system helps the government direct aid and policies to fit the size and needs of these businesses (Gupta, 2023). MSMEs include many types of work, like making goods, providing services, and trading. They create many jobs and help the economy become more varied.

3.1 Types of Government Support (Financial, Regulatory, Infrastructural, Technological)

Type of Government Support	Description	Purpose/Impact	Reference
Financial Support	Subsidized loans, grants, credit guarantee schemes to ease liquidity and capital constraints	Helps MSMEs overcome funding barriers and manage cash flow	Di Nola, Kaas, & Wang (2023)
Regulatory Support	Simplification of compliance procedures, tax exemptions, and reforms to reduce bureaucratic hurdles	Creates a more favourable and less complex business environment	Gupta (2023)
Infrastructural Support	Development of industrial clusters, technology parks, incubation centres providing shared facilities and networks	Facilitates access to resources, collaboration, and economies of scale	Gupta (2023)
Technological Support	Promotion of digital adoption, innovation, capacity building	Enhances MSMEs' productivity, competitiveness, and innovation	Jha & Kumar (2020)

3.2 Interaction between MSMEs and Industrial Ecosystems

Small and medium businesses are important parts of industry. They often supply goods, provide services, and develop new ideas within larger systems. Because they are flexible, they can fill specific roles that big companies might miss.

Small businesses and large industries depend on each other. Small businesses gain market access and knowledge. Large companies benefit from the new ideas and lower costs of small business suppliers (Gupta & Gautam, 2021). Also, groups of small businesses help areas develop and specialize. This makes the whole industry stronger and more competitive. Government rules that make small businesses stronger help the overall productivity and staying power of industry.

3.3 Theoretical Models Relevant to MSME-Government Relations

Several ideas help explain how small businesses and governments work together. One idea says that small businesses need important things like money, technology, and skills. Governments can help with these things so businesses can do well for a long time (Jha & Kumar, 2020). Another idea sees businesses and government help as parts of a larger system. When one part changes, it affects the whole system. This means policies need to work together and think about the economy, society, and technology (Di Nola, Kaas, & Wang, 2023). These ideas show that government help should be specific and connected. It should meet the different needs of small businesses and help them grow in their industries.

4. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR MSMES

The government supports small businesses in several ways to handle their many problems. Financial help includes subsidies, credit plans, and loan guarantees. These ease money problems and give small companies more cash flow. This help is necessary for these businesses to invest and grow. Government groups like MSME Development Institutes and incubators provide training, advice, and facilities. These are needed to build skills and start new businesses.

Regarding rules, policy help like GST breaks and easier approvals lower paperwork and delays. This helps businesses run more smoothly. Research shows tax changes like GST have greatly affected rural small businesses. They made taxes simpler and helped businesses become more formal (Kanda et al., 2018). Also, technology and facility support from programs like Digital India, Cluster Development Programs, and Make in India help small businesses. They encourage using digital tools, support new ideas, and help businesses connect to worldwide supply chains.

These different types of support work together to make small businesses stronger and last longer. This is clear in the growth plans for specific areas like defence (Raju & Peri, 2022). Even with these efforts, it is still hard to reach and help all small businesses. This is especially true for those in the countryside and unofficial areas (Khatri, 2019; Selvam, 2021).

Support Mechanism	Description	Objective	Examples/ Initiatives
Financial Support	Subsidies, credit schemes, loan guarantees	Ease liquidity and capital constraints	Subsidized loans, Credit Guarantee Scheme
Institutional Support	MSME Development Institutes, incubators	Capacity building, mentorship, business incubation	Training programs, incubation centres
Policy and Regulatory Support	Tax reforms (e.g., GST relaxations), single window clearance	Reduce compliance burden and bureaucracy	GST implementation, streamlined clearances
Technological & Infrastructure Support	Promotion of digital adoption, industrial clusters, innovation hubs	Improve productivity, promote innovation, foster integration	Digital India, Cluster Development, Make in India

Table 1: Government support mechanisms for MSMEs

Source: Own processing using Kanda et al. (2018), Selvam (2021), Kanda et al. (2018), Khatri (2019), Raju & Peri (2022), Selvam (2021)

5. INFLUENCE ON INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Smaller businesses are very important in supply chains and how things get made and sold. They act as key suppliers and service providers to bigger companies. When they are involved, it makes industrial work more flexible and run better, and it lowers costs. By helping with different steps of making and selling things, these smaller businesses help build strong networks that add a lot to how industries grow and compete. This connection makes industries stronger and helps different areas work together (Sharma, Singh, Gupta, & Rastogi, 2020).

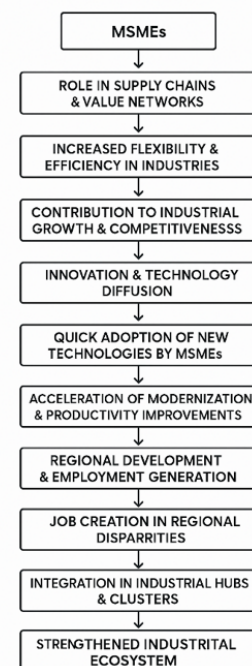


Figure 2: Flowchart: Influence of MSMEs on Industrial Ecosystems

Source: Own processing using Sharma, Singh, Gupta, & Rastogi, 2020, Son, 2023, Srivastava & Sarika, 2020, Sharma et al., 2020

When it comes to new ideas and spreading technology, smaller businesses are key players in sharing new technology and ways of doing things within industries. Because they can move quickly and are located locally, they can quickly take on and change new technology. This helps spread these changes more widely across industries. This speeds up how modern things become and how much is produced, helping these businesses and those they work with stay competitive in markets that change quickly (Son, 2023).

Smaller businesses also add a lot to how areas develop and to creating jobs. They get the economy moving in cities and in the countryside, making jobs and helping people earn a living. By helping areas outside big cities grow evenly, these businesses help reduce differences between regions and support growth that includes everyone. The jobs they create are especially needed in areas that are less city-like, where there may not be big industries or many of them (Srivastava & Sarika, 2020).

Many examples show how smaller businesses fit into industrial centres and groups, helping the whole system grow and be strong. These examples show that when smaller businesses are part of local industrial networks, they not only gain from shared facilities and knowledge but also help the whole industrial system be lively and last. Being connected like this helps smaller businesses grow, come up with new ideas, and work together well, making them even more important in the bigger economy (Sharma et al., 2020).

6. KEY CHALLENGES

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, employment, and industrial diversification. However, despite numerous government initiatives designed to support MSMEs, several persistent challenges limit their effective utilization and, consequently, their impact on the broader industrial ecosystem. Understanding these key challenges is essential for designing more targeted and impactful policies that promote sustainable development in the sector.

1. Accessibility and Awareness Issues: One of the primary barriers faced by MSMEs is limited awareness about the various government schemes and support programs. Many small enterprises, particularly those in rural and underserved regions, lack access to reliable information channels. This results in low participation rates and missed opportunities for financial and technical assistance. The gap in outreach and communication hampers MSMEs' ability to leverage government resources fully, thereby restricting their growth prospects (Zanjurne, 2018).

2. Bureaucratic Hurdles and Policy Fragmentation: Government support for MSMEs often suffers from bureaucratic complexities and fragmented policies spread across multiple departments. MSMEs face cumbersome documentation, lengthy approval processes, and inconsistent implementation of schemes. These administrative bottlenecks not only increase operational delays but also discourage smaller enterprises from engaging with formal support systems, thereby weakening the

potential benefits of government initiatives (Zanjurne, 2018).

3. Financial Constraints and Credit Access: Access to affordable and timely finance remains a significant challenge for MSMEs. Despite the availability of credit schemes and subsidies, many enterprises struggle to meet the stringent requirements of financial institutions, such as collateral demands and credit history. The perceived high risk associated with lending to MSMEs further limits their ability to secure funds, impacting their working capital and capacity for expansion (Zanjurne, 2018).

4. Capacity Building and Skill Development Needs: Inadequate managerial expertise, technical skills, and lack of innovation capability pose serious constraints on MSMEs. The absence of structured training programs tailored to the sector's needs limits their ability to adopt new technologies, improve productivity, and respond to competitive pressures. Government support in skill development is often insufficient or poorly targeted, which undermines the overall efficiency and sustainability of MSMEs within the industrial ecosystem (Zanjurne, 2018).

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

To maximize the impact of government support on MSMEs and the broader industrial ecosystem, strategic policy interventions are needed. Effective measures should not only address current gaps but also enable MSMEs to contribute more meaningfully to innovation, supply chain resilience, and regional development. Based on emerging evidence and international best practices, the following policy implications and recommendations are proposed:

1. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborative efforts between the government, industry associations, and large firms can facilitate knowledge transfer, technology sharing, and market access for MSMEs. By embedding MSMEs within formal industrial value chains through public-private partnerships (PPPs), policymakers can enhance their productivity and innovation capabilities. This synergistic approach has been shown to yield positive spill over effects, where productivity gains in small firms also benefit larger enterprises (Van Stel et al., 2019).

2. Enhancing Policy Coherence and Implementation: To address fragmentation and bureaucratic inefficiencies, there is a pressing need for integrated policy frameworks that ensure coherence across different ministries and levels of government. Establishing centralized digital platforms, single-window clearance systems, and cross-sectoral coordination bodies can improve the efficiency and transparency of support delivery. Streamlined policy implementation will encourage greater MSME participation and increase trust in formal institutional mechanisms.

3. Promoting Digital Literacy and E-Governance for MSMEs: Given the rapid digitization of economies, improving digital literacy and e-governance access for MSMEs is

essential. Government initiatives should focus on building digital infrastructure, providing training in digital tools, and simplifying compliance through online systems. E-governance can also help reduce red tape, enhance transparency in subsidy disbursal, and improve real-time policy monitoring, ensuring that support reaches the intended beneficiaries.

4. Creating Inclusive and Resilient Industrial Clusters:

Developing region-specific industrial clusters that integrate MSMEs, start-ups, and large firms can foster inclusive growth and supply chain resilience. These clusters should be designed with a focus on equitable access to infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic inclusion. Supportive ecosystems that promote collaboration, innovation, and shared resources will enable MSMEs to scale operations while contributing to balanced regional development (Van Stel et al., 2019).

8. CONCLUSION

This study shows how important government help is for small and medium-sized businesses. This help makes them stronger, more productive, and able to last in changing business settings. Looking at help with money, rules, buildings, and technology shows that good policies can help these businesses grow. They can also lead to new ideas and fair business growth. Government actions like making it easier to get loans, simplifying rules, using digital tools, and helping groups of businesses have greatly improved what these businesses can do and how they compete. Also, when these businesses are part of the larger business system, it helps in many ways. It creates jobs, helps local areas grow, and makes supply chains stronger. But problems like not enough money, poor buildings, and scattered policies still stop them from doing their best. So, future policies need to be more complete and involve everyone. This means working with business leaders, local governments, and business groups to create help that fits different areas and can change. As business systems change because of world economy shifts and new technology, helping these businesses with steady and specific government support will stay needed for growth that is fair and includes everyone.

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