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REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN GROWTH OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG SC/STs IN MSMEs: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship enables to create employment opportunities, delivers goods and services to people, thereby promote economic development and growth. Along with various broad socio-economic advantages, entrepreneurship also provides source of livelihood for the individuals. As part of their empowerment, it is essential to ensure that SC/STs are also participating in entrepreneurial activities. Micro Small and Medium enterprises serve as seed beds of entrepreneurship. Hence in a State, entrepreneurship in MSMEs should be promoted among SC/STs also. In a State governed by same set of rules and regulations is supposed to have uniform development of entrepreneurship throughout. However, the research paper proves that in Kerala State there is regional difference in the status of entrepreneurship among SC/STs in MSMEs.

KEYWORDS

MSMEs, entrepreneurship, regional difference, northern region, southern regions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Economic growth and development requires vibrant and visionary participation of entrepreneurial community. As an iterative, business churning process, entrepreneurship stimulates economic development and generates social wealth through opportunity discovery and exploitation (Venkataraman 1997). Entrepreneurship is generally perceived as an engine of social and economic growth (Acs and Audretsch 2005). They act as nursery of entrepreneurial and managerial skills. MSMEs form the fulcrum of job creation and income generation in many developing economies. As per the 4th Census of MSME sector (2011), in India, MSME sector employs 59.7 million persons spread over 26.1 million enterprises and in terms of value, the sector accounts for about 45 per cent of the manufacturing output and around 40 per cent of the total exports. MSMEs contribute about eight per cent of the GDP of the country. The status and growth of MSME form of entrepreneurship can be measured by the variables such as the number of MSME units set up. The available data show that these measures are lower in the northern region as compared to that of the southern region. The table 1 shows the number of MSME units registered by SC/ST entrepreneurs in the northern and southern regions of Kerala upto 31. 03. 2014.

TABLE 1: MSME UNITS REGISTERED IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA UPTO 31. 03. 2014

District / Region	Number of Units Promoted By SC/STs
Thiruvananthapuram	1400
Kollam	1185
Pathanamthitta	747
Alappuzha	614
Kottayam	649
Idukki	567
Ernakulam	725
Thrissur	1415
Southern Region Total	7302
As % of Total of Kerala	69.88
Per Capita	0.0004
Palakkad	1468
Malappuram	560
Kozhikode	660
Wayanad	241
Kannur	267
Kasaragod	260
Northern Region Total	3456
As % of Total of Kerala	30.12
Per Capita	0.0002
Kerala Total	10758

Source: Economic Review 2014

The table shows that, the entrepreneurship in the form of MSMEs are very lower in the northern region as compared to that in southern region. The 69.88 per cent of the MSMEs promoted by SC / STs in the state are in the southern region as against only 30.12 per cent in the northern region. The per capita MSMEs promoted by SC / ST entrepreneurs in the southern region were 0.0004 as against only 0.0002 in the northern region. Thus it indicates that as on 2014, the status of entrepreneurship in MSMEs is lower / backward in the northern region as compared to that in the southern region.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted in Kerala State. Kerala State, covering a geographical area of 38863 Square Kilometer (Sq. Km) which is only 1.18 percent of the Indian Union but accounts for 2.76 per cent of the total population. Prior to the formation of Kerala state in 1956, there were two distinct regions (princely states) viz., Travancore-Cochin and Malabar. Hence the present study has classified the State into the northern (Malabar) and southern (Travancore- Cochin) regions. The southern Region (erstwhile Travancore-Cochin Region) consisting of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Thrissur, and The Northern Region (erstwhile Malabar Region) consisting of Palakkad, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Kannur and Kasaragod.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To examine whether there is any regional difference in respect of status and growth of entrepreneurship among SC/STs in MSMEs in Northern and Southern Regions of Kerala.

4. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

H₀: There is no significant difference in the status and growth of entrepreneurship among SC/STs in MSMEs between the northern and southern regions of Kerala.
H₁: There is significant difference in the status and growth of entrepreneurship among SC/STs in MSMEs between the northern and southern regions of Kerala.

5. DATA USED AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The study is analytical in nature. It is based on secondary data. In order to examine the regional difference in the status and growth of entrepreneurship among SC/STs in MSMEs, a comparison using the data relating to a decade period 2014 and 2004 on per capita and per square Kilometre basis is done. The comparison using per capita and per Sq. Km. measures assumes significance because number-wise, the southern region of Kerala consists eight districts as against only six districts in the Northern Region. Since the reliable population data of the regions are available only in respect of census years, for computing per capita figures of 2014, population data of Census 2011 and for computing per capita figures of 2004, population data of Census 2001 are used uniformly throughout the study. Quantitative data relating to selected variables are analysed using average, standard deviation and Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR). The CAGR is computed with the formula- $CAGR = [(t_n / t_1)^{1/n}] - 1$. The significance of difference in the absolute status of MSME entrepreneurship has been analysed using 't' test. For this purpose, secondary data for a period of 23 years from 1991 to 2013 has been used.

6. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

For achieving an inclusive economic growth, participation in entrepreneurial activities by persons belonging to all communities, particularly SC/STs is needed. The table 1 shows decadal comparison of number of units of SC/ST entrepreneurs in MSME sector in the northern and southern regions of Kerala.

TABLE 1: DECADAL COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF UNITS OF SC/ST ENTREPRENEURS IN MSME SECTOR IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA IN 2004 AND 2014

Particulars	2004		2014		Gap Between Regions	
	North	South	North	South	2004	2014
No of Units	2856	7842	3456	7302	4986	3846
Per Capita #	0.0021	0.0037	0.0002	0.0004	0.0016	0.0002
Per Sq.Km.	0.1635	0.3664	0.1979	0.3412	0.2029	0.1433

Source: Economic Review 2004 and 2014.

#SC / ST Population figures of 2004 are based on Census 2001 and that of 2014 are based on Census 2011

The table shows that in 2004 in the southern region the per capita number of MSME units of SC / ST entrepreneurs is 0.0037, while the northern region it is only 0.0021. By 2014, in the southern region per capita number of units of SC / ST entrepreneurs has decreased to 0.0004 and that in the northern region, it has decreased to 0.0002. Thus it shows that, though the gap between the two regions was reduced, over the decade period, MSME entrepreneurship by SC / STs is lower in the northern region as compared to that in the southern region on per capita basis. In 2004, in the southern region per Sq. Km. number of MSME units set up by SC / ST entrepreneurs is 0.3665, while the northern region it was only 0.1630. By 2014 per Sq. Km., number of units of SC / ST entrepreneurs in the southern region has decreased to 0.3412 as against an increase to 0.1979 in the northern region. Thus it shows that, though the gap between the two regions was reduced, over the decade period MSME entrepreneurship by SC / STs is lower in the northern region as compared to that in the southern region on per capita and per Sq. Km.,basis.

The table 2 shows the number of MSME units promoted by SC / ST entrepreneurs in the northern and southern regions of Kerala from the year 1991 to 2013, along with their annual growth rate and Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR).

TABLE 2: GROWTH OF UNITS PROMOTED BY SC / ST ENTREPRENEURS OF MSMEs IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA FROM 1991 TO 2013

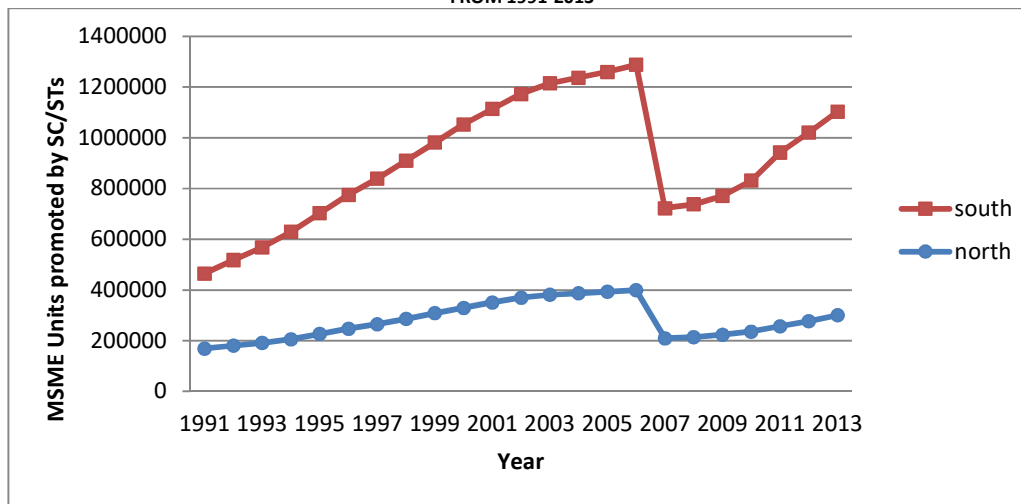
Year	Northern Region		Southern Region	
	Number	Growth Rate (%)	Number	Growth Rate (%)
1991	999		1559	
1992	1104	10.51	1793	15.01
1993	1376	24.64	2880	60.62
1994	1663	20.86	3823	32.74
1995	1843	10.82	4696	22.84
1996	1976	7.22	5289	12.63
1997	2190	10.83	5773	9.15
1998	2404	9.77	6442	11.59
1999	2578	7.24	6833	6.07
2000	2682	4.03	7262	6.28
2001	2737	2.05	7458	2.70
2002	2812	2.74	7679	2.96
2003	2847	1.24	7796	1.52
2004	2856	0.32	7842	0.59
2005	2866	0.35	7904	0.79
2006	2869	0.10	7949	0.57
2007	2739	-4.53	5509	-30.70
2008	2797	2.12	5625	2.11
2009	2767	-1.07	5734	1.94
2010	2839	2.60	5944	3.66
2011	2972	4.68	6184	4.04
2012	3094	4.10	6487	4.90
2013	3134	1.29	6826	5.23
CAGR	5.097		6.631	

Source: Economic Review 1991- 2013.

The table shows that in the northern region, out of the 23 years analysed, the highest annual growth recorded in SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs is only to the extent of 24.64 per cent as against the growth of 60.62 per cent in the southern region. Though in both the regions, annual growth rate of the SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs was declining from 1993 level, SC/ST entrepreneurship in the southern region was growing at a much higher rate than that in the northern region. During the end years of analysis, SC/ST entrepreneurship is showing a rising trend in the southern region, as against a falling trend in the northern region, in terms of annual growth rate.

The CAGR shows that, the SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs in the southern region has grown at faster rate (6.631 per cent) as against that in the northern region (5.097 per cent). Thus to conclude, the table shows that the northern region has lower status and growth of SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs than that in the southern region. The figure 1 shows the trend line of growth of MSME units promoted by SC / ST entrepreneurs in the northern and southern regions of Kerala.

FIGURE 1: TREND LINES OF GROWTH OF MSME UNITS PROMOTED BY SC / ST ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA FROM 1991-2013



Source: Economic Review 1991- 2013

The chart shows that the SC / ST entrepreneurship in the form of MSMEs is at a very lower level in the northern region than that in the southern region. The trend lines show that though, there was a sharp decline in SC / ST entrepreneurship in the southern region in 2007, the region is well ahead of the northern region in respect of promoting SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs.

The table 3 shows the mean, standard deviation and results of t test in respect of SC / ST entrepreneurship in MSMEs in the northern and southern regions of Kerala.

TABLE 3: ANALYSIS OF NUMBER OF MSME UNITS PROMOTED BY SC / ST ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF KERALA FROM 1991-2013

Region	N	Average	Standard Deviation	t	*p
South	23	5882	1867	8.366	0.0001
North	23	2441	637		
H ₀ : Rejected					

Source: Economic Review 1991- 2013.

*Significant at 0.05 level

The table shows that the average number of units set up by SC / STs during 1991-2013 is 5882 in the southern region as against only 2441 units in the northern region. Thus the table shows that the average number of units set up by SC / STs in the northern region is lower than that in the southern region. The t test results show that, since $p=0.000 < 0.05$, there is significant difference between the regions in respect of participation of SC / STs in entrepreneurship in the form of MSMEs and the northern region promotes SC / ST entrepreneurship lesser than that in the southern region.

7. CONCLUSION

The study has found that in the northern region, the status of entrepreneurship in MSMEs, as measured by number of units promoted by SC / STs is lower as compared to that in the southern region. Decadal analysis using per capita and per Sq. Km., has also proved this. The analysis of Compounded Annual Growth Rates (CAGR) has shown that entrepreneurship in MSMEs in the northern region has lower growth than that in the southern region. Testing of hypotheses has proved that status of entrepreneurship is lower in the northern region as compared to that in the southern region and there is significant difference between the regions in this regard.

In order to promote entrepreneurship among SC / STs, the promotional agencies should develop innovative business models. Among SC / STs, lack of awareness or personal skill/ knowledge related problems are found to be common. Hence intensive and rigorous training on entrepreneurship at the initial and at regular intervals are needed. Specific business idea based orientation may give a better result to promote entrepreneurship among them. In order to meet initial shortages, business incubation or similar other business models can be adopted. At all point of entrepreneurship, they should be adequately guided, morally encouraged and professionally supported so that more number of females may turn into entrepreneurship in the male dominated profession.

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