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#### **IMPACT OF E-COMMERCE IN INDIAN MSMEs**

GURMEEN KAUR ASST. PROFESSOR AKAL UNIVERSITY TALWANDI SABO

#### ABSTRACT

The e-commerce sector in India is projected to cross USD80 billion by 2020 and USD 300 billion by 2030. The MSME sector accounted for more than 17 percent of GDP in 2014 while contributing to 45 per cent of the nation's industrial output and 40 per cent of the total exports. The MSMEs in India add over 1.3 million jobs per year. By adopting E-commerce, MSMEs shall achieve significant advantages such as increased revenue and margins, improved market reach, access to new markets, cost savings in marketing and communication spend customer acquisition and improved customer experience. The growth of Indian e-commerce sector is voted on a number of drivers but real and tangible allenges exist which must be addressed for this sector to boost the Indian economy as intended patchy internet connectivity due to underdeveloped infrastructure, a general lack of awareness about the benefits that e-commerce offers and lack of trust among organisations considering to go online

#### **KEYWORDS**

e-commerce, MSMEs, customer experience, revenue, organisations.

#### INTRODUCTION

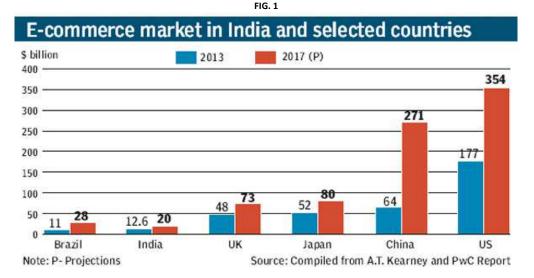
the e-commerce sector in India is projected to cross USD80 billion by 2020 and USD 300 billion by 2030. Increasing Internet Penetration, growing adoption of smart phones and increased market awareness shall further accelerate the growth of e-commerce in India. In the year 2014, India has around 281 million internet users, and the number is expected to increase to 640 million by 2019. The MSME sector accounted for more than 17 percent of GDP in 2014 while contributing to 45 per cent of the nation's industrial output and 40 per cent of the total exports. The MSMEs in India add over 1.3 million jobs per year.

By adopting E-commerce, MSMEs shall achieve significant advantages such as increased revenue and margins, improved market reach, access to new markets, cost savings in marketing and communication spend customer acquisition and improved customer experience.

Although MSMEs in India may or may not have online presence, 43 per cent of them participate in online sales in India.

The Indian regulars and e-commerce players recognise the challenges faced by SMEs sellers to explore a new channel for marketing, sales and Customer Service. The Indian government's initiative such as "Make in India" also aimed at facilitating growth of MSMEs in the county, and enable them to tap into the potential of e-commerce.

The growth of Indian e-commerce sector is voted on a number of drivers but real and tangible allenges exist which must be addressed for this sector to boost the Indian economy as intended patchy internet connectivity due to underdeveloped infrastructure, a general lack of awareness about the benefits that e-commerce offers and lack of trust among organisations considering to go online.



#### MSMEs THE BACKBONE OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY

MSMEs in India contribute around 17 per cent to the country's GDP. They also make a significant contribution to India's exports and Industrial Output at 40 per cent and 45 per cent respectively.

#### E-COMMERCE AN ENGINE OF GROWTH FOR MSMEs IN INDIA

Despite the significant contribution to the Indian economy, MSMEs are faced with a number of challenges including competitive pressures, locally, nationally and internationally.

MSMEs need to improve access to new customer segments and reach customers in all corners of the world. This is where e-commerce comes in to improve their competitiveness and provides business a platform to achieve on a truly global **scale**.

#### WHAT IS E-COMMERCE?

Electronic commerce refers to a wide range of online business activities for products and services. It also pertains to "any form of business transaction in which the parties interact electronically rather by physical exchanges or direct physical contact. E-commerce is usually associated with buying and selling over the Internet, or conducting any transaction involving the transfer of ownership or rights to use goods or services through a computer-mediated network.

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#### **MODES OF E-COMMERCE**

#### Business to Business (B2B)

B2B is e-commerce between businesses such as between a manufacturer and a wholesaler or between a wholesaler and a retailer. The most common users of B2B online classifieds are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) these small businesses lack the requisite financial resources and, therefore, find it difficult to market their products and services to potential clients through traditional media such as newspapers, banners and television. Trade through online B2B portals increases the visibility of MSMEs in the marketplace and helps them overcome barriers of time, communication and geography. B2B engages complex procurement, manufacturing, planning collaboration, payment terms, and round-the-clock performance agreements. In one sense, B2B is shared commerce. Companies create a long-term alliance and lessen the cost of doing business.

#### Business to Consumer (B2C)

The B2C market in India generates the bulk of revenues across the consumer-facing modes of e-Commerce for purchase or sale of goods and services is known as B2C. Although B2C e-commerce receives a lot of attention, B2B transactions far exceed B2C transactions. According to IDC, global B2C transactions are estimated to have reached US\$ 1.2 trillion at the end of 2012, ten times less than B2B transactions. B2C e-Commerce entails business selling to general public/ e-catalogues that make use of shopping place. There are several variants in B2C model that operate in e-commerce arena. Furthermore, though online travel has typically held a major share of the B2C market, online retail is also growing rapidly and is expected to significantly increase its share.

#### Consumer-to-Consumer (C2C)

India's C2C market, though currently small, is set to grow with the entry of several players. These entrants are attracting VC investment. The C2C segment shows rapid growth in coming years their online portals are also garnering significant traffic. Participants in an online market place can buy and sell goods to each other. Because one party is selling, and thus acting as a business, this treats C2C transactions as part of B2C electronic commerce.

#### **DEFINITION OF MSME**

TABLE 1						
Micro, S	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006					
Profile	Manufacturing	Service Based				
	Investment in Plant and machinery	Investment in equipment				
Micro	Under INR 25 lakh	Under INR 10 Lakh				
Small	INR 25 Lakh to INR 5 Crore	INR 10 Lakh to INR 2 Crore				
Medium	INR 5 Crore to 10 crore	INR 2 Crore to 5 crore				

Source: msme.gov.in

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the present study are:

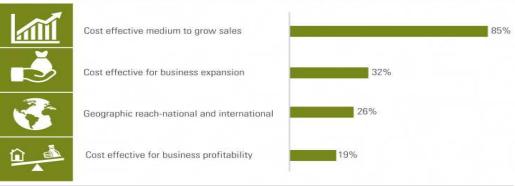
- 1. To study the benefits of E-commerce to MSMEs
- 2. To understand and find out the barrier faced by the MSMEs in adopting E-commerce

#### BENEFITS OF E-COMMERCE TO MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)

E commerce builds on traditional commerce by adding the flexibility and speed offered by electronic communications which can facilitate efforts to enhance operations that lead to substantial cost savings, as well as increased competitiveness and efficiency through the redesign of traditional business methods. Indian companies intending to join the e-commerce business must consider the short term and long term benefits that the companies will get. **Hoi, J., Shim, J. P. and Yin, A.** (2003) observed that increasing international exposure and enhancing customer service quality and responsiveness is one of the perceived benefits of e-commerce to MSMEs. Both MSMEs and large businesses have benefited from the adoption of e-commerce are considered as follows:

#### FIG. 2





Source: SMEStreet survey-The Status of e-commerce among Indian MSMEs (MSME Insights), 2014

#### WEB PRESENCE

Web presence is an own website makes a company visible across geographical boundaries for a company as an entry to the virtual market place which offers tremendous advantages to companies of any size and sector. Web sites can help a company by providing timely and other relevant information to customers about the products and services that are offered. One of the important benefits that a company gets out of a web presence is image enhancement, larger influence of the brand and expansion of overseas market as well as national market.

#### IMPROVED GEOGRAPHIC REACH AND ACCESSIBILITY

The internet transcends all geographic boundaries and provide an opportunity for MSMEs to connect with several buyers and sellers across geographies. This enables them to enter international markets at a fraction of the cost and gives them the opportunity to directly compete with global giants within their industry, thereby contributing to the government's 'Make In India" Campaign. Julta, D., Bodorik, P., Dhaliwal, J. (2002) Studied that e-commerce can improve MSMEs ability to compete with the large organization and bring smaller supplier to compete internationally or regionally from being lack of knowledge and expertise about international trade issues and foreign markets and thus upgraded a company to international scale

#### SUPPLY CHAIN

A proper supply chain can help in reducing costs while ensuring the customers to get right quality of product at the right place and at the right time and at the least cost where it helps the companies in refining their supply chain to a large extent. Channel partners work together in an environment of trust and results are

A Monthly Double-Blind Peer Reviewed (Refereed/Juried) Open Access International e-Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories http://ijrcm.org.in/ seen through reduction in costs, proper maintenance of stocks in the inventory and cycle time reduction. Refinement of supply chain can also be possible over traditional route but e-commerce provides far too many benefits over the traditional route.

#### ENHANCED CUSTOMER SERVICE

E-commerce provides lot of opportunities to enhance customer service for example a bank customer who has an online access to his account is spared the burden of visiting the bank branch and carrying out transactions in the traditional way which saves a lot of time and results in improved customer service and satisfaction. **Matlay, H.** (2001) studied that while many MSMEs have adopted e-commerce in order to gain a greater share of the global market; many other MSMEs are simply intent on improving internal efficiency

#### COMPETITIVE PRICING

E-commerce offers the benefit of online ordering of goods and payment options. Buyers and sellers come together in electronic market place and it is a win-win situation for both at competitive pricing and sellers do not have to build brick and mortar stores which results in direct reduction of costs of the products and the companies pass on to this benefit to their customers. MSME segment players can make online bidding or quoting prices of products in an electronic marketplace constraint of bidding in the traditional way to overcome the result in increase in business for many organizations.

#### INTERNAL BUSINESS PROCESSES

Internal Business Processes can be linked with the E-commerce of an enterprise where the Companies can link the e-commerce initiative with their enterprise resource planning, supply chain management and customer relationship management initiatives through a seamless integration of business processes and providing great value to the end customers if taken properly will also help companies to stay ahead of the competition

#### INCREASE IN REVENUES

MSMEs not availing e-commerce facilities has limited geographical reach and therefore the efforts in expanding the consumer base which is acquired over a long period of time, e-commerce aids MSMEs in conducting business by providing them with the global platform that leads to increased revenue generated.

The improved speed to market, global consumer base and flexibility to conduct business can potentially boost the MSMEs revenue by providing e-commerce specific advantages such as more customers, service and feedback channels to improve future sales.

#### LOWER MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION SPEND

E-commerce players are spending heavily on both digital and traditional media for improving site traffic, acquiring customers, building relationships and ultimately improving sales.

MSMEs could reduce expenses and even offline advertising and thereby optimising the overall marketing and sales spend. Additionally, e-commerce adoption reduces the cost associated with traditional marketing as well as cost required for opening additional stores at multiple locations.

#### SHORTER TIME TO MARKET

The window of demand for a particular product category can be very short, and if companies fail to respond to the demand in the given time, they could miss out on the opportunity.

The ability to introduce a product into the market before competitor does could be a key success factor and there are few sectors in which this is more conceivable than in e-commerce. Adopting e-commerce enables faster communication between MSMEs sellers and buyers and helps to avoid potential chaos in the supply chain.

They can streamline communications, eliminate redundant processes, and improve order management capabilities.

#### INCREASE IN PROFIT MARGINS

Adoption of E-commerce enables MSMEs to take advantage of third party trading platforms with limited or no investment in developing and hosting online storefronts and in managing infrastructure/operations for packaging, logistic, warehousing etc. This may boost the profit margins by reducing overhead costs and upfront capital investment.

E-commerce platforms allows MSMEs to engage directly with consumers without the need for any middle man or agent which further results in reduced transaction costs.

#### BARRIERS TO ECOMMERCE ADOPTION IN INDIA MSMEs

TABLE 2				
1	Lack of finance/managerial skills			
2	Lack of equipment and technology			
3	Lack of access to international market			
4	Lack of support service, Multiple of taxes.			
5	Lack of Focus and inadequate market research, lack of proper book keeping, inability to separate business and family finance, Lack of business strategy, inability to utilise access modern technology; inability to distinguish between revenue and profit; lack of succession plan; inability to employ the right calibre of staff			
6	Poor management practices; lack of entrepreneurial skill; Lack of educational; and technical ground			
7.	High cost of Implementation;			
8	E-commerce is too complex to implement.			
9	Lack of technical skills and IT knowledge amongst employees; Lack of computer literate/ specialised staff,			
10.	Lack of Critical mass among customers, suppliers and business partners, Heavy reliance on external consultants.			

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