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**Caste and Social Capital formation in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector: A theoretical approach.**

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**Abstract**

*Theoretical understanding of the caste as a social capital and its impact on the Indian micro, small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). To understand the changes in involvement and dynamics not only of Dalits (SC's) but also of other marginalised groups in globalisation era. Based on the review of literature relating to caste and business ownership. The share of SC, ST ownership has declined over the period, SC, ST enterprises are smaller, and more enterprises located in rural areas where caste plays an important role and the enterprises survival is questionable. Even though enterprise set up by SC's for the survival and running of the enterprises they need the network channels apart from the financial capital. We find that most of the Dalits (SC's) businesses are lacking the network channels due to the cultural differences with the caste Hindu business ownership. The case studies of the business units in different states and different individuals give us the clear understanding of the how caste plays important role in the business enterprises. Due to this caste constraint entrepreneurship as a tool for social mobility for Dalits yet to be become reality in India.*

**Key words:** Social capital, MSMEs, Dalit Entrepreneurship, Globalisation.

**1. Introduction.**

Indian small scale industry is playing an imperative role in the economic expansion of the country and have vast approaching for employment generation. Increasing small scale sector units also results in decentralized industrial development, better distribution of wealth and investment and entrepreneurial talent. The government has initiated several policies for the growth and development of small scale industries. Post liberalization economic conditions have created immense growth prospect for the small scale industries. The Micro Small and Medium Enterprises in India are acting as power and spirit of economic growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Ministry of Agro and Land Rural industries and Ministry of SSI have been merged into a single, Ministry namely, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises. The small scale sector has played an extremely essential role in the socio economic development of the country during the past 50 years. It has significantly contributed to the overall growth in

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terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment generation and exports. According to MSMEs Act 2006 and 2014 the enterprises are broadly classified in terms of activity such as enterprises engaged in manufacturing, production and enterprises engaged in services. The classification of SSI's is shown in following chart.

### 1.1 Definition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) important sector in rural development, MSMEs not only play crucial role in providing more employment opportunities with lower capital cost than big industries. Which can also help in industrialization of remote and rural areas, thereby, increase more employment, reducing poverty and regional imbalances through equitable distribution of national income and wealth.

#### Manufacturing

Enterprise	Investment Limit
Micro	Less than 25 lakh.
Small	25 lakh - 5 crore.
Medium	5 crore - 10 crore.

#### Service

Enterprise	Investment Limit
Micro	Less than 10 lakh.
Small	10 lakh - 2 crore.
Medium	2 crore - 5 crore.

Source:MSMED Act, 2006.

### 1.2 Entrepreneurship.

The word "Entrepreneur" is derived from the French verb i.e. "Entrepreneur". It means to undertake which was long before the emergence of the concept of Entrepreneurial function. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was applied to those who are engaged in Military Expedition. But in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the term was used for architects and contractors of public works, which was extended to cover civil, engineering activities such as construction and fortification.

It was only in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the word was used to refer the economic activities. The words Entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurial and Entrepreneurship have acquired special significance in the content of Economic group in rapidly changing Socio-Economic and Socio-Cultural Climates particularly in industrial sectors both in developed and developing countries.

Adam smith (1776) and David Ricardo (1815) believed that the key activity of an Entrepreneur was to provide capital for starting and running a business. Adam smith considered an

Entrepreneurs as a “proprietary capitalist” a supplier of capital: According to Peter Drucker “Entrepreneurship is neither a science nor an art. It is a practice. It has knowledge base. Knowledge in entrepreneurship is a means to an end.

### **1.3 Importance of Entrepreneurship.**

Economic development has been a focal point right from the days of Adam Smith, Mill, Schumpeter and others noted Economists Adam Smith did not assign any significance to Entrepreneurial role in his monumental work “an Enquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations. Ricardo identified Machinery, capital and labor as the three important factors of production, which leads to profit and savings and ultimately go to capital formation and Economic development.

According to Lewis the Proximate ways of Economic development are the efforts of Economics, the increase of knowledge and its application to production and increasing the amount of capital or other resources per head. Since Economic Development is closely associated with human Endowments, Social attitudes, political conditions and historical accidents, only economic requirements for development are not enough.

The entire change and development of the civilization to a large extent is the result of trade, commerce and industrialization. In this development the human resource in general and entrepreneur in particular played a pivotal role. According to J.B.Say “the Entrepreneur’s function is to combine the productive factors and bring them together” carrying out of new combination of productive factors called ‘Enterprise’ which is the fundamental phenomenon of Economic development. The individual whose function is to carry them out is called an Entrepreneur.

### **2. Objective of the study.**

This paper deals with the theoretical and conceptual understanding of the social capital formation in Micro Small Medium Enterprises.

### **3. Methodology of the Study.**

The present study is theoretical in nature, and review of the literature relating to caste as social capital

formation a conceptual understanding and and exploring the theoretical background of the study on

Micro Small Medium Enterprises.

### **4. Entrepreneurship in India.**

The following sections will provide the historical sketch of the development of Entrepreneurship in India. Being rich in resources, India has been a center for development of several evidence to show that Indians excelled in crafts like weaving, farming and metallurgy. Even during the time

of Rig-Veda, the industrial structure of Indo-Aryan Society was well order and early Indian literature cities numerous references of industrial and commercial organizations.

During the Maryann rule, industries like Mining, ship building, manufacture of arms and ammunition were owned by the state and other artisans ventured into industries like taming, glass making, weaving and handicrafts. A regularized system of state controlled industries was evolved during the Mughal rule in India. The government owned and maintained factories (Kirkham's) in the principal cities of the Empire. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries an organized setup of entrepreneurship was observable among the artisans in cities like Varanasi, Allahabad, Gaya, Puri and Mirzapur which were established on the banks of rivers to enable export of Cottons, Muslins, Carpets, and handicrafts. The middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century saw India as the "Agricultural mother of Asia and Industrial workshop of the world."

However, the same century has also witnessed the decline of Indian industry. The seeds of destruction of Indian industry were sown during the rule of the late Moghul. The Pompon and Extravagant Moghal gave little Economic support to artisans and on the other hand granted commercial concession to alien tradesmen, which directly affected the growth of indigenous industry. In the early years of British influence, Indian industry suffered a serious of setback. During this period Indians were involved, as financiers in changing money, providing bills of exchange, loaning to government, acting as revenue collectors for government and loaning to private parties including Europeans.

According to Tripathi (1971) the factors responsible for the retarded growth of Entrepreneurship in India were lack of capital; lack of political unity, absence of a network of customs barriers, existence of innumerable systems of currency, regional markets plagued by arbitrary political authority (in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), taxation policies and low prestige enjoyed by businessmen. By 1800, India was almost a raw-material 'producing region' and the Indian industry received no encouragement. Some of the important cause for the decline of Indian industry was (i) Disappearance of local courts (ii) British tariff system and (iii) Industrial revolution.

The beginning of modern industry in India can be traced to the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. After the decay of Indian industry several Britishmen tried to introduce the factory system in India. Although several factories were established in India in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was not until the middle of the century. That such manufacturing enterprises extended beyond initial ventures of establishing a few industries. In his study Medora (1965) mentioned that around 1850 Indian industrial and financial entrepreneurs, especially in Western India, involved in the promotion of industrial growth and these entrepreneurs were instrumental in the substantial progress of modern manufacturing sector in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some small beginnings were made in the Indian heavy industries like Steel, Engineering, Electric Power and shipping according to Lamb (1955). The rate of growth in industrial output increased considerably in first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century over the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century between 1912 and 1945, industrial production doubled according to Balakrishna. Following World War I, the colonial government was inclined to encourage local industry, Industrial Development was rapid and diverse in the 1930's and 1940's with indigenous Enterprise increasingly setting the pace, Medora (1965) and Brimmer's (1955) study of a sample drawn from Enterprises in Bombay revealed the increasing role of the Parsis, Gujaratis and Marwaris in industrial growth and conversely, a declining importance of British Entrepreneurship. By 1947, Indian Enterprise had demonstrated the tendency to build 'Empires' combining several kinds of industries. And a few large industrialist and managing agency houses exercised overwhelming control over a major portion of Indian industry.

#### **5. Linkage between Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.**

Growth of an economy in terms of wealth which its population possesses should not be designated as a process of development. Every concrete process of development finally rests upon the preceding development. Every process of developing creates the pre-requisites for the following. Thereby the form of the latter is altered and things will turn out differently from what they would have been if every concrete phase of development had been completed first to create its own conditions. Development, according to Schumpeter, is a distinct phenomenon, entirely foreign to what may be observed in the circular flow or in the tendency towards equilibrium. It is a spontaneous but discontinuous change in the channels of the flow that disturb the Equilibrium state, previously existing. In real life development of industrial and commercial activities and spontaneous and discontinuous changes in consumer's taste disturb the state of Equilibrium. Businessmen in the process of coping with such disequilibrium identifies for him. It is however, the producer who as a rule initiates economic change and consumer are educated by him necessarily. They are as it was, taught to want new things or things which differ in some respect or other form of those which they have been in the habit of using. The produce combines material and forces so as to meet the wants of commerce.

#### **6. Importance of the study in the presence scenario.**

The overall development of society becomes possible when all available factors of production are utilized, by the active participation of all sections of its people. In India only a limited section of people are involved in the Economic activities of the country. Due to various historical and social reasons, certain communities and castes were kept out of the mainstream. However, over the last six decades consistent efforts have been made to overcome the existing hurdles and to

create opportunities for all communities and castes to merge out if this dormant situation and to contribute to the mainstream of life. In recent times, the role of an entrepreneur has been considered to be very significant in accelerating the pace of growth and Economic development in both the developed and developing countries. The advance countries owe much of this economic development to enterprising people. Developing and under-developed countries having seen the history of economic development in developed countries are now conscious of the significance of entrepreneurship for economic development. There is a growing realization that both quantity and quality of entrepreneurs are of utmost significance for achieving the goal of economic development. Active and enthusiastic entrepreneurs can fully exploit the potentialities of the country's available resources like labour, technology, raw managerial and capital.

Entrepreneurial skills are essential for industrialization and for alleviating mass unemployment and poverty. Entrepreneurship was in abundance among Indians but the climate was not conducive. During the British regime in the absence of state assistance and institutional finance, Entrepreneurship was prevalent in few wealthy families. Nothing this historical limitation, the Government of India has taken a number of steps in the form of policy. Measures to bring the backward communities especially Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes to the mainstream in spite of consistent efforts the participation of backward communities in Entrepreneurial activities are still in the primitive stage.

Establishment of an enterprise involves various issues that may encourage or discourage the entrepreneurs to start their unit. These issues include motivational factors to start the unit, selection of the line of activity approach, selection of various development agencies for finance and other services, less education lack of finance, lack of framing, various formalities to be fulfilled to get the required assistance, Entrepreneurs awareness regarding various rules and regulations of different agencies participating in Entrepreneurship development programmes etc.

This obviously shows that there is a need for intensive entrepreneurial awareness among the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes. To create awareness among the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes various institutions have been formulated exclusively for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes. Inspire of having various institutions / organization, the awareness among Scheduled Tribes is still far below the expectation. Therefore, in the proposed study an attempt is made to know entrepreneurial activity, socio-economic conditions and entrepreneurial development programmes among SC & ST.

## **7. Caste System in India.**

Caste system is hurdle for the economic growth as many caste Hindus defined and defended too that caste is like segregation of the people on the basis of the work and this prevailed in every society and nothing wrong in that but it's not appropriate assumption this is supported by the Varna system *chaturvarnaas* a division of labour and the people divided into four Varna's according to their occupation. This argument was countered by the B.R.Ambedkar in his *Annihilation caste* (1936).

Ambedkar in counter with the caste defenders who claims and articulates the caste system is like division of labour which is the feature of all civilized society then the question comes from the arguments that if it is the division of labourers then the all caste are labourers but they won't unite as a workers on this grounds of labour instead they divide on the basis of caste that means it merely not division of labour its division of labourers where in other civilized society this phenomena not exist. More over unlike the other countries in India its graded system where labourers are graded on the basis of their work purity and impurity or high and low work. Another interesting thing we can observe that in caste system the division of labour is not on the basis of skill they acquired but on the basis of the parents social background which is decided by birth instead of by individual choice, so the principle of division of labour here violates. As mentioned by B.R Ambedkar "This principle of division labour on the basis of occupation is violated in the Caste System in so far as it involves an attempt to appoint tasks to individuals in advance, selected not on the basis of trained original capacities, but on that of the social status of the parents."(1936)

Throat (2010) also mentioned in his writings from the caste perspective the caste system characteristics is fixed economic right for each caste, provided that there is restriction to shift from this right which implies that which cause the 'forced exclusion' of lower caste people from some economic rights or we called as occupations that are enjoyed by the higher caste people. This exclusion and discrimination are basic out comes of caste system in economic spheres like occupation and labour employment.

When the person is not allowed to shift from one occupation to other occupation which is operated through the restriction on the various markets like land, labour, capital, credit, other inputs and services which are necessary for any economic activity, which is ultimately cause for the market discrimination.

Ambedkar further explains in annihilation of caste (1936) the effect of caste system on the economy and peoples life when a person didn't have choice to choose the occupation and if he stick to the religion assigned work on the basis of caste system or hereditary rather individual interest and skills, by this not permitting the readjustment of occupations caste becomes the reason for much of the unemployment. At the same time some works are treated as the pure and some works are treated as impure this restricts not to touch such type of works by other caste people and the Hindu caste people provoke that works as a degraded work which in turn the people who are holding such types of works are unable concentrate on the work .with which leads to the unemployment and poverty. Therefore caste is the evil for the economic development. In the words of B.R.Ambedkar "As an economic organization Caste is therefore a harmful institution, inasmuch as, it involves the subordination of man's natural powers and inclinations to the exigencies of social rules."

### **8. Caste Structure and Economic Discrimination.**

Since the caste system is based on the occupational structure, the caste system didn't allow one caste person to teach his professional skills to any person belonging to other caste. Only the members of their own caste people are allowed to learn the skills. This becomes hurdle for the occupation mobility. In a rapid industrial development, the individual must have freedom to choose his occupation. But because of the social restriction on occupational mobility has several consequences: like by not allowing into other occupation, caste become a direct cause for the unemployment in various caste groups, as a religious Hindu would remained to be unemployed instead of employed in occupation of other caste, and because of the restriction on inter-occupational mobility of labour, capital and entrepreneurship across caste groups the caste system creates segregation in each of these markets. Labour and capital thus does not flow from one occupation to another even though there is high wage rate or profits are higher in the other occupations. This leads to greater impact on resource allocation (Shyam Lal, K S Saxena, 1998).

The division of occupation is not based on individual interest. Some of the occupations are socially degrading, and lower caste people are forced to perform certain occupations which are allotted to them on basis of their caste origin. In such case people of that lower caste cannot derive job satisfaction. As an economic organisation, caste is therefore a harmful institution in as much as it involves the reduction of man's natural powers and feeling of requirements of social rules. This also results in decline in the intelligence from work. The dignity of labour is absent in the general theory of caste.

This practice of untouchability has ruined the Indian society and also the whole economy. Which in turn resulted the lower strata or lower caste (untouchables) people are not allowed to mix or engage with other caste this is refusing the basic civil right of the human beings. They didn't have any access to source of income. They had no right to education. The important economic source denied that is property and they were banned from procuring wealth. The Caste system has exploited the untouchable because of denying the economic security and the freedom to choose work.

In the opinion of B.R.Ambedkar the economics of the caste system had six types of consequences:i)it divided labour ii) it disassociated work from interest iii) it disconnected intelligence from the manual labourer iv) it devitalized persons by denying them right to cultivate vital interest v) it prevented mobilization vi) it deprived Sudras of all economic avenues of employment and took them nearly to the position of a slave.(B.R.Ambedkar ,1918)

### **9. Capital is a Social Relation.**

Capital is not just *wealth*, but wealth in a specific historically developed form: wealth that grows through the process of circulation. As an aside, it should be noted that *wealth* itself is a *social relation*, not just an accumulation of *things*. For example, if you owe someone a favor, then that is something *personal* between the two of you; if your debt is determined by a third party or by some social ritual such as a birthday, then that is a *social* relation. Wealth is a social relation in the same sense, and its various historically developed forms are social relations. The issue is to understand exactly *what kind of social relation* is capital and where it leads.

### **10. Caste as a social capital.**

It is also observed in the societies like India where caste plays an important role and works as a social network channel where the most of the researches like "The Grammar of caste: Economics of Discrimination in Contemporary India" (Ashwini deshbandhe, 2011) and "Blocked by Caste: Economics discrimination" ( Sukhdeo Thorat,2012) points out that the jobs in private sectors recruitments are on the caste grounds rather than merit and eligibility it is well proven by the researches.

Social capital is of network based structure in all societies and relation among the people in the society, the networks may connect according to the tastes, habits, and same social back ground like religion. The social capital will works efficiently until the networks are on the basis of collectiveness rather than discriminatory like religion and caste, if people are forming as networks based on the caste and religion keeping other attributes ideal the society will exclude some groups those groups do not possess the basic assets like land, capital because of historical limitations.

As if people or communities form as networks of their own people it will good to do things as everyone knows one to another there is nothing to learn new things, but on the other hand the diverse people or a diverse community form as a networks there is chance of learning things which are not already in their occupation of knowledge and skills. In a fast changing world with technology its crucial the power of networks links to unfamiliar people and communities ( Gee 2002 p68) When we appropriate this with the India the diverse groups are living in India based on caste, religion, and tribes. It is good to form as networks with diverse community rather forming on the basis of caste but situation are different the networked people are of same community which will hinders the knowledge sharing and also economy sharing among all the groups. This type of social capital will prosper the nation.

It is not possible to force the people of the group who do not possess assets to invest in the networks then the people of particular community will excluded. and even though the people possess the required assets to invest the people excluded and not allowed it's because of trust, goodwill and pre notion exist among the other community about that particular community that they won't perform well, even though they possess skills, knowledge which will not be recognized as caste creates this notion of under estimating the lower caste which will leads to discriminate certain groups on caste grounds.

In *Indian Express* P M Mathew (2014) points out by mentioning the Legatum Prosperity Index developed by the Legatum Institute which is the only global measurement of prosperity based on both income and well-being

Which clearly reflects that the India low ranking is of low trust among the communities and weaker networks as pointed out by the Nathan Gamester programmer director of prosperity index, the societies of high trust and well-connected only benefited in all aspects including economy. In *Indian Express* P M Mathew (2014) explained in his article "social capital key to prosperity" As Italian economist Leonardo Becenti says, "The future of humankind is in the civil economy and in the increasing importance of the role of social capital and social and environmental responsibility of citizens and business organizations." The traditional composition of natural capital, physical or produced capital, and human capital needs to be broadened to include social capital. Without social capital, society at large will collapse.

### **11. Downsides of Social Capital**

Scholars working on social capital have written about potential negative externalities that can be caused by the same characteristics of social capital that enable productive benefits. Potential

demerits or downsides of social capital include: fostering behavior that worsens rather than improves economic performance; acting as a barrier to social inclusion and social mobility; dividing rather than uniting communities or societies; facilitating rather than reducing crime, education underachievement and health-damaging behavior. (Aldridge et al. 2002), (Carroll and Stanfield 2003; Fine 1999; Torpe 2003). According to Erickson (2002) there is paradox: 'every feature of social structure can be social capital in the sense that it produces desired outcomes, but also can be a liability in the sense that it produces unwanted results'. The kinds of groupings and associations which can generate social capital always also carry the potential to exclude others (Hunter 2000; Morrow 1999; Szreter 2000). Social capital can become a constraint to individuals' actions and choices Wall et al. (1998) explained how there is a particularly high risk of negative social capital in urban poverty situations (Small 2002). The World Bank (1999) has brought a statistics that indicate some negative impacts of social capital, for example, when disgruntled local elites joined together to close health clinics in Uttar Pradesh. Child mortality rates soared as a result. The negative of social capital was first documented by Portes (1996) but now is synonymous with our understanding of social capital theory. A stock of social capital is simultaneously productive and perverse.

## **12. Conclusion.**

We find clear and persistent caste disparities in virtually all enterprise characteristics in the registered manufacturing MSME sector over 2001-2 and 2006-7. The share of SC-ST ownership has declined over the period, SC-ST enterprises tend to be smaller, more rural than urban, have a greater share of owner-operated (single employee) units. The inter-state variation in share of ST-SC businesses reveals that with the exception of the tribal majority north-eastern states, SC and ST businesses are under-represented as compared to their share in state populations. The sectoral mix varies considerably by rural-urban location as well as by the caste and gender of the owner. The traditional stigmatizing association with leather-work continues to be one of the top five business activities for SCs and not for other caste groups; however, we see a decline in this share for SC-owned enterprises.

For OBC-owned firms, the evidence is mixed. The proportion of OBC ownership reflects their population share. Also, the top five states in terms of ownership are those where OBCs are also the dominant group in politics, suggesting that small business ownership has been one of the factors contributing to their political dominance. But there are clear disparities between OBCs and Others. Caste is the hurdle even after the many affirmative action plans the SC,ST are not

able to succeed in the MSME.Globalization brought many opportunities but in India it is far to the certain communities and groups due to the existing caste system in India.

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