

Looking beyond the Conventional Approaches: Enhancing financial linkages for entrepreneurship through RangDe

evelopment Alternatives under the HSBC Empowerment through Entrepreneurship programme, has partnered with a peer-to-peer online lending platform RangDe. The purpose of this partnership is to strengthen financial linkages to promote entrepreneurship development in rural areas. This initiative has been able to provide loans to 99 entrepreneurs in the last three months, with a total loan amounting to INR 32,15,000 (with average loan size of INR 35,000). This partnership will enhance accessibility to affordable credit. These loans have been accessed by enterprises such as CSC centres, animal husbandry units, repair centres etc. for their expansion. This platform connects social investors with a community of entrepreneurs to provide loans ranging from INR 10,000 to INR 50 lakhs.

This is in line with our work to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem. In the past, Development Alternatives has actively facilitated financial linkages through banks, SHGs and MFIs. However, experiences from the ground reveal that micro-enterprises and particularly those with investments of less than INR 10 lakhs still struggle to get a loan as part of their working capital, ultimately affecting the business sustainability. Therefore, such partnerships cater to growing aspirations and emerging needs while continuing to create local prosperity and wealth. Microenterprises play a major role in the Indian economy, significantly contributing to the economy in terms of employment generation, employing 107



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million of India's workforce, according to MSME Annual Report 2020-21. However, they are still marred with high-interest rates and low accessibility to financial services. Only a meagre 25% of the banks and NBFCs loans to MSMEs are availed by micro-enterprises in India. The partnership with RangDe is delivering support to new and existing entrepreneurs to meet their credit requirements and enabling them to avail collateral-free loans at affordable interest rates of 8% per annum.

Furthermore, to increase the reach of financial linkages provided to the entrepreneurs, udyaME kiosks have been leveraged through their capacity building, for becoming a common resource centre between a lender and a loanee. The program will now focus on ensuring more needy entrepreneurs can have easier access to the RangDe funds.

