

Strengthening the Discourse on Economic Policy to Generate Good and Better Jobs in India

Background and Rationale

One of the biggest challenges for Indian economy today is job creation. This *problematique* has essentially two components i.e. creation of jobs and ensuring that the jobs that are created are 'good and better jobs' which can reduce inequality among sections of the society. 'Good and Better jobs' imply higher and rising productivity and entail necessary support, safety, security and incentives for the workers to grow and perform better.

That said, there are several challenges to achieving such an objective. These may range from diminishing export markets to the impact of automation, digitalisation and so on. For India, an additional challenge of a burgeoning young demography, with low and medium skills poses another serious threat.

Therefore, it is necessary to create opportunities of employment for low and medium skilled workers while ensuring that such employment is adequately remunerative and safeguards the interests of workers. This would, *inter alia*, require creation of an ecosystem which will be complete at the intersection of discourses of three cognate policy areas, namely, Industrial Policy, Competition Policy and Trade Policy.

Objective

To strengthen the discourse on economic policy that generates good and better jobs in India and make her growth job-intensive. This would be achieved through collaborative research to identify non-budgetary and non-legislative economic strategies to facilitate good and better jobs and by convening influencers, and generating informed discussions.

Envisaged Outputs

- Field Assessment Report based on Qualitative Enterprise Survey
- Case Studies on sector-specific institutional aspects having a bearing on good and better jobs Study Briefs based on the Case Studies
- Synthesis Report focussed on convergence of understanding from the field assessment and existing initiatives shall also be prepared and
- Papers to analyse the current status and future prospects of sectors and spell out

sector and firm specific non-budgetary and non-legislative recommendations for enabling good and better jobs

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes will entail the following:

- Knowledge generation through formulation of alternative, non-budgetary and non-legislative economic strategies based on evidence from the field that would facilitate growth of good and better jobs
- Better understanding for policy decisions amongst influencers on non-legislative and non-budgetary policy decisions leading to rapid and sustainable growth of good and better jobs
- Strengthening Communication Strategies by enabling wider acceptance through a shared approach of communicating the need for and feasibility of strategies that facilitate jobful

growth thereby leading to good and better jobs.

Key Indicators

- Papers and Case Studies developed on the basis of the enterprise survey in a number of select sectors shall enable formulation of evidence-based, non-budgetary and non-legislative economic strategies to facilitate good and better jobs based on the Enterprise Surveys
- Number of sector-specific discourses based on informed discussions on sector-specific perspectives, covering industrial, competition and trade-related issues, along with alignment with other flanking issues as key catalysts for good and better jobs

- Sensitisation of a number of influencers and other stakeholders on job-rich growth strategies that shall facilitate good and better jobs and
- Conducting outreach and communication activities to foster better understanding of linkages between different discourses and need for an integrated discourse on economic policy to make growth job intensive

Project Duration and Support

The project will be implemented for a period of **three years** commencing from October 01, 2018 which is supported by The Ford Foundation.

