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History of Nepal’s Industrial Policies

- Nepal's industrial policy evolved since 1957
- Industrial Enterprises Act, 2073 (2016)
- Industrial Enterprises Act, 2076 (2020)
- Lacks specific policies essential for women entrepreneurs, hindering their development.
Why Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy 2023?

Evidence:

- MSME sector engages almost 2.5 million workers in Nepal.
- This accounts for 84.7 percent of the 3.2 million people who make up the country's workforce.
- Women comprise 37.9 percent of the total workforce.
- A large concentration of women are engaged in microenterprises with 69.3% followed by small and medium enterprises.
- Around 13 percent of registered small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Nepal are either fully or partially owned by women (The Asia Foundation 2021).
Some of the recommendations on the draft Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy 2023

- Conduct gender-lens assessments and reviews of relevant existing and new policies, laws, and regulatory frameworks to create a gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- Strengthen the integration of women entrepreneurship in all national micro, cottage, small, and medium enterprises development policies and strategies.

- Establish a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism specific for the development of women’s entrepreneurship, including women’s associations, federations, and policy entrepreneurs.

- Specify the roles and responsibility of all three tiers of government to implement the Policy.

- Establish Business Development Support Services entities/foster and promote gender-inclusion practices in all BDS organizations/entities.

- To include gender-responsive provisions in public procurement policies. Apply quota of public procurement contracts to be awarded to women-led enterprises.

- Remove “educational certificates” and replace with “skills-based certificates”

- Invest in social care infrastructures to address unpaid care work, which is a significant barrier for women’s economic empowerment.

- Monitoring and Evaluation framework with key performance indicators and to be inserted into all relevant national MSME policies and strategies
Thank You!