

Preface

India's exports have seen notable expansion and geographical reach in the aftermath of the adoption of liberalization of economic policies since the early 1990s. The policy focus on export-led growth has percolated from the national to the regional level. An increasing number of Indian states started making efforts in creating an enabling framework to facilitate and promote exports by local enterprises.

While the existing literature, generally, analyzed India's export performance from all possible aspects, a few have addressed the export dimension of Indian states. We could not find any major study that focused on subnational export performance of Indian firms. Under the policy regime of economic openness and increasing role of agglomeration or cluster-based production for global markets, studies on state-level export competitiveness may have deeper policy implications than studies merely focusing on national-level export performance. This book makes a small contribution to the nascent literature on subnational export competitiveness of regions and firms.

It has been both a major challenge and an opportunity for us in undertaking the present work involving analyses of the trends and pattern of exporting by enterprises in various Indian states. The compilation and processing of the huge database for the study have been a Herculean task. The work has benefited from support from a number of organizations and individuals, which we acknowledge gratefully.

Our work on the present study started with the initiation of the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic & Social Research (SPIESR)—Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) research project on *Regional Patterns of Internationalization of Indian Firms: Learnings for Policy* supported and funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi in 2010.

This project has been an outcome of an inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation among faculties and staff across the two aforesaid ICSSR institutions and two central universities where the first author worked subsequently. This study draws upon the research infrastructure, human and social capital of the four academic institutions involved, namely GIDR, SPIESR, Central University of Karnataka (CUK), and Central University of Gujarat (CUG).

We bear a special debt to Professor Y. K. Alagh, Chancellor, CUG and Vice-Chairman, SPIESR for his support for the present regional study. We are also most appreciative of Professor Syed A Bari, Vice Chancellor, CUG; Professor A.

M. Pathan, the then Vice Chancellor, CUK; Professor R. K. Kale, the then Vice Chancellor, CUG; Professor Amita Shah, the then Director, GIDR and Professor N. C. Shah, the then Director, SPIESR for their encouragement during the conduct of this study.

The present work has also benefitted significantly from comments and suggestions from Professor N. S. Siddharthan, Professor K. V. Ramaswamy, and Dr. Neelam Singh. Useful inputs on the work had been received from anonymous referees of the ICSSR and Springer.

Thanks are due to the GIDR staff for the excellent administrative, computational, library, and secretarial facilities. Ms. Arti Oza and Mr. Gani Memon had offered competent data entry/processing and miscellaneous research assistance. Dr. Raj Kishor Meher of Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies and Mr. Arvind Agarwal, former Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, both have been extremely generous in providing access to important study material, documents, and data for the case studies of selected Indian states.

We express our sincere thanks to the ICSSR for funding this important study and providing useful suggestions at the various stages of its progression.

Our sincere thanks to Sagarika Ghosh, Commissioning Editor of Springer (India), for her professional approach and personal attention to details that rendered the process smooth and quick.

We greatly appreciate the persistent support and patience of Nupoor Singh, Aiswarya Narayanan, N. S. Pandian and Deepshikha Chauhan that led to the excellent production of this volume.

Earnestly, we can only hope that the book would be useful to those it is meant for and would encourage richer research and thinking in the future.

Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad

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Manufacturing Exports from Indian States

Determinants and Policy Imperatives

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2016, XVIII, 231 p. 15 illus., 12 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-81-322-2481-5