

DIGITIS ATION AND INCLUSIVITY: TAKING EVERYONF ALONG **TAKING EVERYONE ALONG**

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2020, FALGUN 5, 1426 BS

ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENTS 2020

Informal economy and economic inclusion

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a rural perspective, local food processing is compatible with the relatively low level of skills possessed by the rural youth, and is more likely to remain located in small towns and rural areas to ensure proximity to the production source. Additionally, it can create strong forward and backward linkages with other food and non-food system activities, paving the way for a virtuous cycle of territorial development.

The labour market's major problem is not a shortage of jobs; it is the shortage of employable skills. The speed of a nation's development is directly related to the quantity and quality of vocational skills possessed by its workforce. The wider the range and the higher the quality of vocational skills, the faster is the growth and more prosperous the society. The availability of employable skills is one of the major determinants of how readily new job seekers find employment. The very low level of employable skills makes the search for work much more difficult. It reduces the market value of the job seeker and adds to the costs of employers who must train new recruits from scratch.

INNOVATIONS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN INFORMAL **ECONOMY**

There is certainly a lot of innovation going on, and it takes many different forms in the informal sector. For the metalworkers in Bangladesh, it is often a case of reverse engineering products sold by formal businesses and working out how to make cheaper alternatives from available materials. But there is also some brilliant high-end creative work. The informal manufacturers are innovative not only in terms of new products they come up with but also in the way they market those products—through attractive, distinctive packaging and other types of branding.



A construction worker stands on a frame of a pillar with sharp iron rods all around him.

There is a diverse range of innovation, but one can also identify some important common points. For example, as in the formal economy, geographical concentration is noticeable. Activities tend to focus in certain areas so that one can identify innovation clusters (e.g. light engineering in Bogra). Indeed, there is often some overlap between formal businesses and informal businesses or workers within a cluster.

Usually, there are ways of regulating knowledge flows and intellectual property (IP) in the informal economy. While these are not the same as formal IP mechanisms, they show some similar features. For example, if a worker within a cluster invents a new product or a new way of doing something, they can enjoy a competitive advantage for a while by being the first to produce or use it, but they will be expected to share it with

their peers in due course. That sort of period of near-monopoly followed by the mandatory sharing of knowledge is essentially the same idea that underlies the patent system and other IP systems. So there is a real sense that informal workers often have their own informal IP rules.

Moreover, through an increased income as a result of economic engagement in the informal economy,

many entrepreneurs are able to save earnings hence aiding in the transformation from informal to formal activities. Additionally, employees in the sector often receive good pay as their employers have no tax obligations. What is more, employee effort in this sector of the economy is often directed towards achieving a loyal customer base through producing the best goods and/or services. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 25**



- 🏮 একটি লেনদেনে সর্বোচ্চ ১৫০০ মার্কিন ভলার অথবা বাংলাদেশী টাকা ১,৫০,০০০/– এর ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার কাগজপত্র ব্যতিরেকে প্রকৃত গ্রাহককে ২% প্রশোদনা/নগদ সহায়তার অর্থ গ্রাহককে সরাসরি বা গ্রাহকের হিসাবে জমা করা হয়।
- 🍬 যদি গ্রাহকের রেমিট্যান্স এর পরিমাণ ১৫০০ মার্কিন ডলার অথবা বাংলাদেশী টাকা ১,৫০,০০০/– এর বেশী হয় সেক্ষেত্রে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরকের বৈধকাগজপত্র বিশেষত পাসপোর্টের কপি এবং বিদেশী নিয়োগকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নিয়োগপত্তের কপি/বিএমইটি কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সনদের কপি, ব্যবসায় নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবসার লাইসেন্সের কপি পাওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রশোদনার ২% নগদ সহায়তা উক্ত গ্রাহকের হিসাবে বা নগদ প্রদান করা হয়।

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- 🏿 যে কোন পরিমাণ অর্থের ক্ষেত্রে, রেমিট্যান্সের মূল অর্থ ততক্ষণাৎ প্রদান করা হয় এবং নির্ধারিত সীমাতিরিক্ত রেমিট্যান্সের
 - 🏮 ০১ জুলাই ২০১৯ তারিখ হতে প্রাপ্ত সকল রেমিটেন্স–এ ২% প্রণোদনা/নগদ সহায়তা কার্যক্রমের আওতাভুক্ত।
 - মার্কেন্টাইল ব্যাংকের এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট ও ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং উইডো'র মাধ্যমে অতি শীঘ্রই রেমিট্যান্স সেবা প্রদান করা হবে।









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