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Use and Impact of Information and Communication Technologies in Developing Countries' Small Businesses

Evidence from Indian Small Scale Industry

Frankfurt/M., Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2002. XX, 215 pp., 11 fig., 88 tab.

Development Economics and Policy . Bd. 27

Herausgegeben von Heidhues Franz / von Braun Joachim

ISBN 3–631–39320–2 / US–ISBN 0–8204–5959–3 pb.

SFR 62.00 / €* 42.50 / €** 39.70 / £ 26.00 / US–\$ 47.95

Small businesses constitute an important part of developing countries' economies. They are considered to operate on low technological levels. However, in the growing discussion on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and economic development small businesses have been identified as major potential beneficiaries of ICTs' rapid evolution. Evidence, whether small businesses in developing countries manage to participate in these developments have, so far, been scarce. This work analyses in depth the use of ICTs in small businesses based on empirical data from the Indian Small–Scale Industry sector. Patterns of ICT penetration and use are described. Models of ICT adoption and usage intensity are developed and tested. The impact of ICTs on the enterprises' development is assessed.

Contents: Small–scale enterprises and information and communication technologies (ICTs) in developing countries' – Patterns of ICT use in Indian Small–Scale Industry – Determinants of ICT adoption and use – Impact of ICTs on small–scale enterprises' performance.

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