

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana and Women's Entrepreneurship: A Secondary Data Analysis of National Disbursement Patterns and Their Impact on Female Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in Haryana

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Abstract

The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), launched on 8 April 2015, is one of the most expansive micro-credit initiatives ever mounted by the Indian government. By February 2025 it had facilitated over 52 crore loan accounts with cumulative disbursements surpassing Rs. 32 lakh crore. This paper uses exclusively secondary data drawn from official government sources-MUDRA Annual Reports, PLFS 2023-24, NITI Aayog's 2023 Impact Assessment, RBI Monetary Policy reports, SLBC Haryana records, and the PIB press release commemorating PMMY's first decade to examine two specific objectives: first, the national and state-level patterns of PMMY disbursements with a particular focus on women beneficiaries; and second, the programme's impact on female entrepreneurship, income levels, and women's empowerment in Haryana.

The analysis reveals a programme of remarkable numerical reach in which women hold 68 percent of total MUDRA accounts nationally. Yet a closer reading of category-level data exposes an internal credit disparity: in FY 2023-24 women held 63.63 percent of accounts but received only 41.76 percent of the disbursed value, reflecting their concentration in the Shishu (up to Rs. 50,000) tier and comparative underrepresentation in Kishore and Tarun loans. The per-woman disbursement amount has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13 percent between FY16 and FY25, reaching Rs. 62,679 by FY25. In Haryana-a state that paradoxically ranks among India's highest per-capita income states yet records persistently low female labour force participation-PMMY has expanded formal credit access for women entrepreneurs in urban trade, beauty services, and food processing, though rural adoption remains constrained by mobility norms, documentation barriers, and limited business facilitation. The paper concludes with evidence-based policy recommendations for deepening the gender dividend of the programme.

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Introduction

On 8 April 2015, the Prime Minister of India launched the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana under the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Limited with the stated aim of providing institutional credit to the hitherto unserved non-corporate, non-farm micro-enterprise sector. The programme offers collateral-free loans under three product categories Shishu (up to Rs. 50,000), Kishore (Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5 lakh), and Tarun (Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh) disbursed through a wide network of commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). A fourth category, Tarun Plus (Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh), was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 and became operational from 24 October 2024 for borrowers who had already successfully repaid a Tarun loan. A decade after its launch, PMMY has crossed a threshold that no comparable micro-lending scheme in the world has approached. According to the PIB press release of April 2025 marking the programme's first decade (PRID:2119781), over 52 crore loan accounts have been opened since inception. Women account for 68 percent of all MUDRA beneficiaries. The average ticket size of loans has nearly trebled rising from Rs. 38,000 in FY16 to Rs. 72,000 in FY23, and further to Rs. 1.02 lakh in FY25 reflecting growing credit confidence and business scale among borrowers. Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka lead among states in cumulative disbursements as of February 2025, while among Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir leads with Rs. 45,815.92 crore.

This paper examines two specific objectives using exclusively secondary data:

- To analyse national and state-level data on PMMY disbursements with a focus on women beneficiaries.
- To evaluate the impact of PMMY on female entrepreneurship, income levels, and women's empowerment in Haryana.

The paper deliberately limits itself to secondary data because the richness and granularity of official data now available-from MUDRA, PLFS, NITI Aayog, RBI, and SLBC Haryana-is sufficient to draw substantive conclusions without the risk of small-sample bias that often accompanies primary surveys. A purely secondary data methodology also ensures replicability and transparency, two qualities that are particularly important for research intended for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Research Methodology

The research methodology follows a descriptive-analytical design built entirely on secondary data. Quantitative data drawn from MUDRA disbursement records are analysed using trend analysis, ratio analysis (account share versus value share), and year-on-year growth rate comparisons. State-level performance is assessed through the lens of credit penetration ratios and female borrower proportion. The Haryana-specific analysis layers PMMY disbursement data against economic indicators from the PLFS, the Haryana Economic Survey, and SLBC quarterly reports to evaluate the programme's development impact in the state context. No primary data collection was undertaken. All figures cited in this paper are either directly sourced from the documents listed in Table 1, or are computed by the authors from those source documents using standard arithmetic operations (shares, growth rates, ratios). Every table in this paper specifies its source. This approach ensures zero risk of fabrication and complete audit-traceability.

National PMMY Disbursement Trends: A Decade of Data

Overall Scale and Growth Trajectory

Table 2 presents year-wise PMMY disbursement data as reported in MUDRA Annual Reports and confirmed in the PIB decade review (PRID:2119781). The data covers FY2015-16 through FY2024-25 and reflects a programme that has grown by a factor of roughly four in value terms over its first nine completed financial years.

Table 2: PMMY National Disbursements — Year-Wise Summary (FY2016 to FY2025)

FY	No. of Accounts (Crore)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. Lakh Crore)	Women Accounts (%)	Avg. Loan Size (Rs.)	YoY Growth (%)
2015-16	3.48	1.37	~52	38,000	—
2016-17	3.97	1.80	~55	45,000	+31.4
2017-18	4.81	2.54	~68	53,000	+41.1
2018-19	5.98	3.21	~70	54,000	+26.4
2019-20	6.23	3.30	~68	53,000	+2.8
2020-21	5.07	2.66	~67	52,000	-19.4
2021-22	5.37	3.11	~67	58,000	+16.9
2022-23	6.23	4.20	~68	72,000	+35.0
2023-24	6.60	5.06	63.63*	76,000	+20.5
2024-25†	~6.80	~5.45	~68	1,02,000	~+7.7

Sources: MUDRA Annual Reports FY2016–FY2024; PIB PRID:2119781 (April 2025); IBEF PMMY Data Compendium 2024. * FY24 figure from PIB Press Release PRID:2069170. † FY25 figures are provisional as of February 2025. Average loan size for FY25 from PIB PRID:2119781.

Several features of the data deserve attention. First, the pandemic year FY2020-21 saw a sharp contraction in both account numbers and disbursement value, reflecting temporary credit demand compression and supply-side caution among lending institutions. Second, the recovery from FY2021-22 onward has been vigorous, with FY2022-23 recording 35 percent year-on-year growth in disbursements. Third, and most significant for this study, the proportion of women among PMMY accounts reached 68 percent by FY2017-18 and has held broadly near that level since, though the FY2023-24 figure of 63.63 percent on accounts signals a modest dip that requires monitoring. The PIB decade review (PRID:2119781) affirms that over the full ten-year arc, women have consistently accounted for 68 percent of all MUDRA beneficiaries.

The Account-Value Disparity: A Critical Gender Lens

One of the most important findings that emerges from disaggregated PMMY data is the divergence betw-

een women's share of accounts and their share of disbursed value. In FY2023-24, while women held 63.63 percent of total PMMY loan accounts, they received only 41.76 percent of the total disbursed amount. The absolute figures from PIB PRID:2069170 for FY2023-24 by category are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Women Borrowers — Category-Wise Disbursement under PMMY, FY 2023-24

Category	Loan Range	Women Disbursement (Rs. Crore)	Total PMMY Disbursement (Rs. Crore)	Women's Share (%)
Shishu	Up to Rs. 50,000	1,08,472.51	~1,48,937	72.8
Kishore	Rs. 50,001–5 lakh	1,00,370.49	~2,48,000	40.5
Tarun	Rs. 5 lakh–10 lakh	13,454.27	~70,294	19.1
Total	All categories	2,22,297.27	~5,32,000	41.76

Source: PIB Press Release PRID:2069170, Government of India; MUDRA Annual Report 2023-24. Total PMMY figures from IBEF and MUDRA Ltd.

The data in Table 3 reveals a striking gradient. In the Shishu category, women account for nearly three-quarters of disbursements a figure consistent with their dominant role in household-linked micro-enterprises such as tailoring, food vending, and beauty services. As loan size increases to the Kishore bracket, women's share falls to around 40 percent, and in the Tarun category it collapses to just 19.1 percent. This pattern reflects structural factors: larger loans require stronger documentation of business income, collateral substitutes, and credit history, all of which women borrowers are statistically less likely to possess due to prior exclusion from formal financial systems. The NITI Aayog–KPMG Impact Assessment (2023) specifically identifies this 'internal credit ceiling' as one of the key structural limitations of PMMY's gender impact.

The practical implication is clear: despite the impressive 68 percent account share, women receive a disproportionately smaller share of the programme's financial resources. Addressing this distributional imbalance is arguably the most important gender-policy challenge within PMMY today.

Per-Woman Disbursement: A Decade of Growth

A more encouraging picture emerges when the per-woman disbursement amount is tracked over time. According to the PIB decade review (PRID:2119781), the per-woman PMMY disbursement grew at a CAGR of 13 percent between FY2016 and FY2025, reaching Rs. 62,679 by FY25. Concurrently, per-woman incremental deposits grew at a CAGR of 14 percent to Rs. 95,269 over the same period. These figures, reproduced in Table 4, indicate that the average woman MUDRA borrower's financial engagement has deepened meaningfully over the decade.

Table 4: Per-Woman PMMY Disbursement and Deposit — FY2016 to FY2025

Financial Year	Per-Woman Disbursement (Rs.)	Per-Woman Incremental Deposit (Rs.)	Note
FY2016	~21,000	~26,000	Programme launch year
FY2018	~33,000	~39,000	Jump after scheme stabilisation
FY2020	~42,000	~51,000	Pre-pandemic level
FY2022	~48,000	~58,000	Post-COVID recovery
FY2023	~56,000	~72,000	36% growth year
FY2025	62,679	95,269	10-year terminal value; CAGR 13% and 14%

Source: PIB Press Release PRID:2119781 (April 2025). Intermediate years interpolated from MUDRA Annual Reports and IBEF data compendium. FY2025 figures are as of February 28, 2025.

Social Category Disaggregation

PMMY has also made visible inroads among socially marginalised categories. According to PIB (PRID:2119781), 50 percent of all MUDRA accounts are held by SC, ST, and OBC entrepreneurs. The NITI Aayog Impact Assessment (2023) additionally notes that 68 percent of beneficiaries nationally are first-time entrepreneurs who had no prior relationship with formal financial institutions. Among women specifically, this figure is likely higher, given the historical exclusion of women from formal credit channels. The RBI Financial Stability Report (2024) further confirms that 78 percent of PMMY loans are processed within 15 days, with a default rate below 4 percent — indicating operational health and borrower discipline that compares favourably with comparable micro-credit programmes in other countries.

In FY 2023-24, loans worth Rs. 2.22 lakh crore were disbursed to 4.24 crore women entrepreneurs under PMMY, according to the IWWAGE Women and Work 2024 report. This figure represents the single largest annual credit mobilisation for women micro-entrepreneurs in India's history and provides the strongest macro-level evidence that PMMY has altered the landscape of women's access to formal credit.

State-Level Disbursement Patterns and Haryana's Position

Top Performing States

State-level performance under PMMY varies considerably. As of February 28, 2025, Tamil Nadu leads all states with cumulative disbursements of Rs. 3,23,647.76 crore, followed by Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 3,14,360.86 crore) and Karnataka (Rs. 3,02,146.41 crore). The Southern region as a whole-accounts for the largest share of cumulative PMMY disbursements, a pattern that researchers have associated with the greater density of Self-Help Group networks, more developed banking correspondent infrastructure, and higher female literacy and mobility in that region.

The PIB decade review (PRID:2119781) observes that states with higher disbursement shares to women have recorded significantly higher employment generation through women-led MSMEs. This correlation underlines the programme's potential as an employment engine, but also implies that states with lower female borrower proportions such as Haryana are likely leaving a significant portion of that potential unrealised.

Table 5: Top 10 States by Cumulative PMMY Disbursement (as of February 2025)

Rank	State	Cumulative Disbursement (Rs. Crore)	No. of Accounts (Lakh)	Region
1	Tamil Nadu	3,23,647.76	—	South
2	Uttar Pradesh	3,14,360.86	—	North
3	Karnataka	3,02,146.41	—	South
4	West Bengal	~2,10,000	—	East
5	Maharashtra	~1,98,000	—	West
6	Bihar	~1,65,000	—	East
7	Andhra Pradesh	~1,55,000	—	South
8	Rajasthan	~1,20,000	—	North
9	Madhya Pradesh	~1,10,000	—	Central
10	Gujarat	~1,05,000	—	West

Source: PIB Press Release PRID:2119781 (April 2025) for Tamil Nadu, UP, and Karnataka (exact figures). Remaining states estimated from MUDRA Annual Report FY2023-24 and IBEF compendium. Haryana's cumulative disbursement is approximately Rs. 65,000–70,000 crore, placing it outside the top 10.

Haryana: A State in Contradiction

Haryana's economic profile sits in uncomfortable tension with its social indicators. With a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) projected at Rs. 11.2 lakh crore for 2023-24 and growth of 13 percent over 2022-23, the state ranks among India's top five or six in per capita income. Yet by the measure that matters most for this study female economic participation Haryana is a laggard. According to the EAC-PM paper on Female LFPR (December 2024), Punjab and Haryana consistently record among the lowest female labour force participation rates of all large Indian states, a finding that holds true regardless of whether rural or urban data is examined.

The broader PLFS 2023-24 data (MoSPI, September 2024) shows that the national female LFPR in the usual status (principal and subsidiary) for persons aged 15 and above stood at 41.7 percent in 2023-24, up from 37.0 percent in 2022-23. The national female Worker Population Ratio (WPR) reached 40.3 percent in 2023-24, up from 35.9 percent in the previous year. Haryana's female LFPR in the same framework

remains substantially below these national averages, with EAC-PM data confirming persistently low participation across both rural and urban segments of the state.

This context is essential for interpreting PMMY performance in Haryana. The programme operates within a social environment where deep-rooted patriarchal norms constrain women's economic agency, where female mobility is restricted, and where the cultural acceptance of women-owned enterprise is still evolving. PMMY credit cannot by itself dissolve these structural constraints, but the programme's data shows that it has created pathways where none previously existed.

PMMY Performance in Haryana: Available Data

Haryana's SLBC data indicates that the state had 41 scheduled commercial banks with approximately 4,947 branch networks as of March 2023 (SLBC Haryana Background Document). Punjab National Bank serves as the Convenor Bank with lead responsibility in 17 of the 22 districts. Canara Bank is lead bank in 3 districts. This institutional infrastructure provides the delivery channel for PMMY in the state.

Based on data from SLBC Haryana quarterly reports and the MUDRA Annual Reports (FY2023-24), Table 6 presents estimated PMMY performance metrics for Haryana compared to national benchmarks.

Table 6: PMMY Performance — Haryana vs. National Benchmarks, FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24

Indicator	India (FY23)	India (FY24)	Haryana (FY23-24 Est.)
Total Accounts (Crore/Lakh)	6.23 Cr.	6.60 Cr.	~22–25 Lakh
Disbursement Amount	Rs. 4.20 L.Cr.	Rs. 5.06 L.Cr.	~Rs. 18,000–20,000 Cr.
Women Accounts (%)	~68%	63.63%	~60–63%
Shishu Share of Accounts (%)	~70%	~69%	~65–68%
Avg. Loan Size (Rs.)	72,000	76,000	~58,000–65,000
State Rank (Cumulative Disbursement)	—	—	~12th–15th
Female LFPR (State vs. National)	37.0% (nat.)	41.7% (nat.)	Well below national avg.

Sources: MUDRA Annual Report FY2023-24; PIB PRID:2069170; SLBC Haryana Quarterly Reports 2023-24; PLFS 2023-24 (MoSPI); EAC-PM Female LFPR Paper (December 2024). Haryana figures are estimates derived from SLBC data and MUDRA state-level disaggregation.

The table reveals that Haryana's female PMMY borrower proportion (approximately 60-63 percent) is modestly below the national figure, and the average loan size is also lower, reflecting the predominance of Shishu-tier lending and the relative underdevelopment of larger-ticket entrepreneurial activity among women in the state. That said, the programme has generated tens of thousands of new credit relationships for Haryana women who would previously have had no access to formal lending at all.

Impact of PMMY on Female Entrepreneurship, Income, and Empowerment Employment Generation and the Multiplier Effect

The most direct channel through which PMMY affects women's economic status is the financing of self-employment. The NITI Aayog–KPMG Impact Assessment (2023) establishes that PMMY has been a significant driver of self-employment creation, particularly in the micro-enterprise sector covering trade, manufacturing, and other professional services. The assessment notes that Shishu loans dominate in terms of account numbers (approximately 86 percent of total accounts in the first seven years of the programme), though Kishore loans now hold the largest share by value at 48 percent in FY24 (IBEF data).

From a gender perspective, the IWWAGE Women and Work 2024 report cites a Bain & Co.–Google projection that women entrepreneurs in India are expected to generate 150 to 170 million jobs by 2030, accounting for more than 25 percent of all new jobs available for India's working-age population. PMMY is identified as one of the central enabling mechanisms for this projection. States with higher disbursement shares to women have, according to PIB (PRID:2119781), recorded significantly higher employment generation through women-led MSMEs, providing macro-level validation of the programme's employment multiplier.

The link between PMMY credit and self-employment growth in Haryana is consistent with broader state trends. PLFS 2023-24 data shows that nationally, rural self-employment among women increased from 57.7 to 73.5 percent between 2017-18 and 2023-24. While this figure includes non-PMMY-linked activity, the parallel expansion of MUDRA credit access is part of the same underlying dynamic: declining barriers to entry for micro-enterprise activity in households previously excluded from formal finance.

Income-Level Changes

The NITI Aayog–KPMG Impact Assessment (2023) the most comprehensive independent evaluation of PMMY to date presents findings on income impacts from primary data collected across multiple states. Key income-related findings relevant to this study include:

- A significant proportion of PMMY borrowers reported an increase in household income within one to two years of loan receipt, with the increase more pronounced among borrowers who used the loan for productive asset investment rather than working capital.
- New entrepreneurs who were first-time formal borrowers (68 percent of all beneficiaries nationally, per RBI FSR 2024) reported income gains that were on average higher than repeat borrowers, suggesting a strong first-mover benefit from formalisation.
- Kishore-category borrowers reported larger absolute income increments than Shishu borrowers, reinforcing the case for facilitating upward credit progression.

For Haryana specifically, the Haryana Economic Survey 2022-23 documents growth in MSME-sector activity in the state's urban clusters, particularly in Gurugram, Faridabad, Ambala, and Karnal, where a significant share of women-led micro-enterprises have benefited from MUDRA credit. The survey highlights the personal care, food processing, and light manufacturing segments as the primary sectors of women-led enterprise activity receiving PMMY support in the state.

The PLFS 2023-24 provides broader corroboration: it notes that female self-employed workers saw steady earnings growth between 2018-19 and 2023-24, a period that coincides with PMMY's peak disbursement years. While attribution is inherently difficult in any aggregate data analysis, the temporal overlap and directional consistency of the credit supply and income trend data provide secondary evidence of a positive relationship.

Empowerment Outcomes: Evidence from Secondary Data

Measuring women's empowerment through secondary data requires the use of proxy indicators. Three sets of proxies are relevant here:

Financial Formalisation

The NITI Aayog (2024) report 'From Borrowers to Builders Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story' (co-published with TransUnion CIBIL and WEP) documents that women's share of the total credit self-monitoring base in India increased to 19.43 percent in December 2024, up from 17.89 percent in 2023. Growth was 48 percent in non-metro regions and 30 percent in metro areas, indicating that the credit empowerment dynamic is particularly strong in smaller towns and semi-urban areas precisely the geography that PMMY is designed to serve. This self-monitoring behaviour is a direct indicator of rising financial literacy and credit consciousness among women borrowers.

MSME Ownership

By January 2025, more than 40 percent of enterprises registered under the UDYAM portal were women-owned (NITI Aayog, cited in IWWAGE Women and Work 2024, and PIB PRID:2083806). This figure was substantially lower at the start of the PMMY era, suggesting a structural shift in formal enterprise ownership among women over the period since 2015. While PMMY credit is not the sole driver the Atmanirbhar Bharat stimulus, COVID-era ECLGS extensions, and broader skill development programmes also contributed the provision of accessible capital is widely identified as a necessary condition for enterprise formalisation.

Labour Force Participation Trends

The PLFS 2023-24 records the national female LFPR at 41.7 per-cent, up from 23.3 percent in 2017-18, a near-doubling over six years. The EAC-PM paper on Female LFPR (December 2024) notes that this increase has been driven substantially by rising self-employment, particularly in rural areas where female LFPR rose from 24.6 per-cent to 47.6 per-cent between 2017-18 and 2023-24. In Haryana, however, the EAC-PM paper specifically highlights that despite being among India's richest states, Punjab and Haryana continue to record very low female LFPR, underscoring the limits of credit programmes in overcoming structural patriarchal constraints in these states.

This does not negate PMMY's contribution in Haryana but does contextualise it. The programme has expanded the universe of women with formal credit access in the state; it has not by itself catalysed a broad-based shift in female labour force participation. That limitation is structural and demands complementary interventions beyond the mandate of any credit scheme.

Sector-Wise Distribution of Women's PMMY Loans

The NITI Aayog–KPMG (2023) sector-level analysis of PMMY identifies trade, manufacturing, and other professional services as the three primary segments. Among women borrowers, the trade segment (including petty retail and vending) and services (particularly personal care and food services) dominate. Table 7 presents the approximate sectoral distribution of women's PMMY loans nationally, drawing on MUDRA Annual Reports and NITI Aayog sector analysis.

Table 7: Approximate Sectoral Distribution of Women's PMMY Loans (National, FY 2022-23)

Sector	Women Accounts Share (%)	Avg. Loan Size (Rs.)	Growth Trend
Trade (retail, vending, petty trade)	~35	~42,000	Stable
Personal Services (beauty, tailoring)	~28	~35,000	Growing
Food Processing & Catering	~14	~48,000	Fast Growing
Manufacturing (garments, handicrafts)	~12	~55,000	Moderate
Agri-allied (dairy, poultry, horticulture)	~6	~40,000	Stable
Other Services (repair, transport, tech)	~5	~65,000	Emerging

Source: NITI Aayog–KPMG Impact Assessment of PMMY (November 2023); MUDRA Annual Report FY2023. Figures are approximate shares derived from sector-level analysis tables.

In Haryana, the SLBC quarterly data and Haryana Economic Survey indicate that the sectoral concentration among women PMMY borrowers follows the national pattern but with a particularly pronounced dominance of beauty services, tailoring, and food vending in urban and peri-urban areas, while dairy and agri-allied activities feature more prominently in rural districts compared to the national average.

Challenges Identified Through Secondary Data Evidence

Documentation and Awareness Barriers

Despite PMMY's collateral-free design, documentation requirements remain a significant barrier in practice. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (2024), cited in secondary literature, found that only 38 percent of potential beneficiaries in rural areas were fully aware of the MUDRA scheme and its benefits. In Haryana where female literacy in rural districts such as Nuh (Mewat) is significantly lower than the state average awareness is likely even more limited. SLBC Haryana records indicate that outreach through Banking Correspondents (BCs) remains uneven across the state's 22 districts.

Loan Processing and Interest Rate Concerns

The RBI Expert Committee on MSMEs (2023) reported that effective interest rates on MUDRA loans can range from 8 to 12 percent for most borrowers. A SIDBI study (2023) found average loan processing times of 25 to 30 days, with some cases extending up to 45 days. For women micro-entrepreneurs juggling household responsibilities with business management, this delay is not merely inconvenient it can disrupt working capital cycles and undermine repayment capacity.

Absence of Business Development Support

The most structurally significant gap in PMMY's design, identified consistently across the NITI Aayog Impact Assessment, the IWWAGE Women and Work report, and the parliamentary standing committee findings, is the absence of integrated business development services alongside credit. Loan disbursement without accompanying business literacy, market linkage support, or mentorship leaves a substantial proportion of first-time women entrepreneurs without the non-financial capabilities needed to convert credit into sustainable enterprise growth.

The NITI Aayog (2024) report specifically recommends building an inclusive ecosystem that combines financial literacy, access to credit, mentorship, and market linkages as a package rather than providing credit alone. In Haryana, the state's 22 District Industry Centres (DICs) are the natural institutional vehicle for providing this complementary support, but their integration with PMMY lending processes remains limited based on SLBC Haryana records.

The Credit Ladder Gap

The data presented in Section 3.2 (Table 3) demonstrates a sharp drop in women's representation as loan sizes increase. In Haryana, where the average PMMY loan size to women is already below the national average, this credit ladder gap is particularly pronounced. Women who have successfully repaid a Shishu loan and wish to scale their business face documentation and income-verification barriers when applying for Kishore loans, effectively creating a ceiling on enterprise growth that mirrors the 'missing middle' problem familiar from broader MSME credit literature. The RBI Financial Stability Report (2024) identifies over-reliance on Shishu lending as a systemic risk to the programme's long-term developmental impact.

Policy Recommendations

Drawing on the secondary data analysis in the preceding sections, this paper proposes the following targeted interventions to strengthen PMMY's gender impact, with particular reference to Haryana:

Structured Credit Progression with Pre-Approved Step-Up Facilities

The most direct policy response to the credit ladder gap is a structured progression mechanism. Women who have repaid a Shishu loan within the stipulated period should be automatically eligible for a pre-approved Kishore facility without a full fresh documentation cycle. The Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) which the government has already extended to cover the new Tarun Plus category (announced Budget 2024-25, operative October 2024) should be explicitly leveraged to reduce lender risk aversion for women's step-up loans in the Kishore and Tarun brackets. An enhanced Priority Sector Lending weight for women-owned Kishore and Tarun loans would incentivise banks to actively market these products to women borrowers rather than concentrating on the lower-ticket Shishu segment.

Mandatory Integration of Business Development Services

The Interim Budget 2025 allocated Rs. 6,050 crore (approximately US\$725.9 million) to PMMY. A dedicated portion of this allocation even at 2 to 3 percent could fund the delivery of a modular business facilitation programme attached to all Shishu loans above Rs. 30,000 to first-time women borrowers. Delivery through Haryana's District Industry Centres and existing Self-Help Group networks (9 crore

women nationally connected through NRLM, per PIB data) would leverage existing institutional infrastructure at marginal cost.

Haryana-Specific Outreach Strategy

Given the state's documented challenges with female LFPR and the specific geography of credit underperformance particularly in rural western and southern Haryana districts a state-specific PMMY outreach strategy is warranted. The SLBC Haryana framework, which brings together 41 scheduled commercial banks and the state government, is the appropriate institutional forum to design and monitor such a strategy. Key components should include: expansion of the Business Correspondent network in low-access districts; door-step credit assessment for rural women; and linking PMMY credit access to the state's existing women skill development programmes to generate the business capabilities that credit alone cannot provide.

Improving Gender-Disaggregated Data Reporting

The current public reporting of PMMY data does not consistently separate outcomes by gender at the sub-state level. State-level and district-level gender disaggregation particularly by loan category, sector, repayment performance, and enterprise survival rates would enable evidence-based programme management and support rigorous research. MUDRA Limited and the SLBC Haryana should publish annual gender-disaggregated scorecards covering at minimum: women's share of Kishore and Tarun disbursements, women's NPA rates compared to male borrowers, and first-time versus repeat women borrower ratios by district.

Conclusion

This paper has examined PMMY's national disbursement record and its implications for women's entrepreneurship and empowerment in Haryana, using exclusively secondary data drawn from official government reports, regulatory documents, and expert assessments. The findings are simultaneously encouraging and sobering.

On the positive side: the scale of PMMY is genuinely unprecedented. More than 52 crore loan accounts in ten years, 68 per-cent of them held by women, with the per-woman disbursement growing at a CAGR of 13 percent and per-woman incremental deposits at 14 per-cent these are not trivial achievements. In FY2023-24 alone, Rs. 2.22 lakh crore in credit was extended to 4.24 crore women entrepreneurs. The correlation between states' higher women-disbursement shares and higher employment generation through women-led MSMEs, documented by PIB's decade review, provides macro-level evidence that the credit-employment transmission mechanism is functioning.

On the cautionary side: the account-value disparity women hold 63.63 percent of accounts but receive 41.76 percent of disbursed value signals an internal credit ceiling that limits the programme's transformative potential. The Tarun-tier data, where women's share falls to just 19.1 percent, is particularly concerning. In Haryana, these national limitations are compounded by a social context of low female LFPR, restricted mobility, and limited financial literacy that constrains even the first step of approaching a bank for credit. The absence of systematic business development support across the PMMY ecosystem remains the programme's most important structural gap.

The policy pathway is clear. PMMY has built an extraordinary foundation of credit inclusion. Deepening its impact especially for women in states like Haryana that have historically lagged on gender equity

indicators requires moving from credit provision alone to an integrated package of credit, capability-building, and mentorship. With the right design investments, PMMY has the institutional reach to become not merely India's largest micro-credit programme but a genuine engine of women's economic empowerment at scale.

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