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RESPONSE TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRACTICES BY NEPALESE ENTERPRISES

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Abstract

Hydro resource-rich country Nepal is still unable to supply sufficient energy to enterprises at reasonable rate in comparison to the two big neighboring countries India and China. Reducing energy costs through energy efficiency practices could be one of the measures to increase the competitive advantage of Nepalese industrial products compared to its trade competitors. With this background, this research has attempted to explore the perception of energy efficiency practices in Nepalese micro, small, and medium enterprises. The study is carried out on a questionnaire-based sample survey on 119 micro, small, and medium enterprises in Nepal, taking owners and higher-level staff as the major respondents. The findings indicate that besides knowing energy efficiency practices and their role in reducing energy intensity and carbon intensity, the majority of the enterprises are found unwilling to implement energy efficiency strategies in the coming year. Ninety-one percent of enterprises had not installed energy-saving machines/devices in the last three years. Financing was regarded as the major problem in implementing energy efficiency practices. As the major contributor to the total business activities; micro, small, and medium enterprises should be motivated by the government and industrial associations to become the leaders in energy efficiency. Likewise, energy management system should be made compulsory by fixing the implementation time as per the size and age of the firms which could support the sustainable development of the industrial sector.

Key words: energy efficiency, industrial association, Nepal, SMEs, sustainable development

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