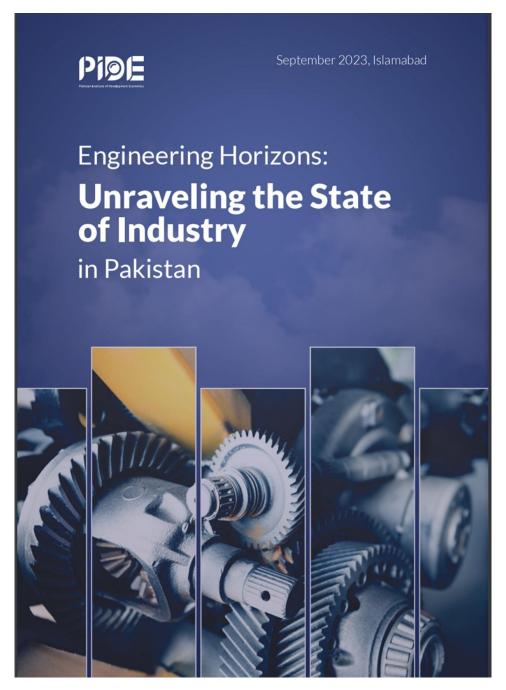
MEDIA COVERAGE

Engineering Horizons: Unraveling the State of Industry in Pakistan



Web Coverage

Dawn

https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/1773313

https://www.dawn.com/news/1773938/stymied-growth

https://www.dawn.com/news/1773930

The News International

https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1107199-political-instability-unfavourable-policies-create-lack-of-trust-in-business

Tribune Express

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2433994/firms-miss-targets-due-to-outages-survey

The Nation

https://www.nation.com.pk/04-Sep-2023/pide-releases-report-on-unravelling-state-of-industry-incountry

https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Sep-2023/impeding-expansion

Daily Times

https://dailytimes.com.pk/1129073/pide-releases-report-on-unraveling-state-of-industry-in-country/

Pakistan Today

https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/03/pide-releases-report-on-unraveling-state-of-industry-in-country/

Islamabad Post

https://islamabadpost.com.pk/engineerin g-horizons-unraveling-the-state-of-industry-in-pakistan/ https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-releases-report-on-state-of-industry-in-pakistan/

Independent News Pakistan

https://www.inp.net.pk/news-detail/pakistan/pide-releases-report-on-unraveling-state-of-industry-in-pakistan

WE NEWS

https://en.wenews.pk/pides-report-highlights-unraveling-state-of-engineering-industry-in-pakistan/

Thugmaza

https://www.thugmaza.com/pide-releases-report-on-unraveling-state-of-industry-in-country/



Firms miss targets due to outages: survey

PIDE survey on engineering industry highlights

• OUR CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD

ity is having a devastating cerns affecting the industry's per cent of the firms. impact on the engineering growth and productivity. a survey raising the issue.

by Dr Nadeemul Hague and industry," it said. included Dr Usman Qadir, release.

survey of 328 engineering achieved. firms from across Lahore, Scheduled and unsched-

production targets, with outlined in the report is the adds to the burden on firms' a staggering 83 per cent of severe impact of electricity operations, impacting 72 operations, a sentiment duction targets, it said.

a crucial factor where econ- to ensure uninterrupted The study revealed that medium-sized enterprises to WITHADDITIONAL INPUT FROM APP

The report is based on a omies of scale need to be

Gujrat, and Gujranwala - uled power outages and KeV issues, concerns with the area often referred voltage fluctuations further to as the 'golden triangle' exacerbate the challenges of engineering firms. The by increasing the risk of report reveals statistics that machinery malfunctions The unavailability of electric- underscore the critical con- and damage, affecting 68

The financial strain of arindustry's ability to meet One of the foremost issues ranging alternate supply companies.

The Pakistan Institute of "A staggering 83 per cent" It recommended that engi-Development Economics of surveyed firms expressed neering firms adopt internative report was the lack of marketability to commercial. The report emphasizes the (PIDE) on Sunday released that the unavailability of tional and national quality an online presence among a report on the challenges electricity creates hurdles standard certifications to Pakistani engineering only five per cent of surveyed relationship between busifaced by engineering firms in achieving their produc- maintain quality standards, enterprises. and provides insights into tion goals, resulting in a a move endorsed by 89 per With a surprising 63 per lines of credit. Limited ac- for economic prosperity.

according to PIDE press their operational efficiency, ing backup power options enhance engagement.

'GOLDEN TRIANGLE'

engineering firms from Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala took part in the PIDE survey

respondents.

the state of the industry. detrimental gap between cent of the surveyed firms. cent of surveyed firms lack-The research team was led demand and supply for the Moreover, the govern- ing any online presence, ment is urged to focus on there is an urgent need it noted. Moreover, 78 per cent of enhancing the electricity for businesses to establish Dr Abid Rehman, and these firms reported that supply in industrial areas, themselves online to reach suggests that financial in- among business owners, Mohammad Armughan, electricity scarcity hinders with smaller firms explor- a wider customer base and stitutions introduce special impacting productivity and

of firms (63 per cent) showed sion and development. no intent to expand in the The research also explored prospects.

Another critical issue high-pricing. lighted in the report was the Most notably, a substantial lack of access to credit for the 84 per cent of firms source majority of firms.

companies that took part in unavailability on daily proper cent of the surveyed echoed by 76 per cent of the lacked adequate collateral to diversify suppliers and An interesting finding of small size. This reduces their markets.

credit schemes for small and profit margins.

while a significant portion encourage business expan-

coming years, a minority the complex landscape was planning to invest in of international trade for advanced technology, ma- Pakistani engineering firms, chinery, land, and skilled revealing obstacles related labor to boost their business to tax implications, product quality, branding, and

their raw materials domes-The majority of firms tically, emphasising a need to secure loans due to their engage with international

lenders and has resulted in importance of a thriving companies having loans or nesses and the government cess to finance hampers the However, political instability industry's growth potential, and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack To address this, the report of trust and dissatisfaction

Majority of industrial units have no plan to expand in near future: report

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: A majority of the industrial units in the country have no plan to expand in the coming years mainly due to non-availability of electricity, reveals a report released by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on Thursday.

"A staggering 83 per cent of the surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity created hurdles in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the industry," says the report issued by the think-tank working under the Planning Commission.

The report titled "Challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan" highlights that electricity was a major issue faced by the manufacturing units in the country and that around 63 per cent firms showed no intent to expand in the coming years. However a small number of entrepreneurs planned to invest in advanced technology, machinery, land and skilled labour to boost their business prospects.

Based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms in Lahore, Gujrat and Gujranwala, the report revealed compelling statistics that underscored the critical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity.

One of the major issues outlined in the report was the severe impact of the unavailability of electricity on daily production targets.

daily production targets.

one of the major issues outlined in the report was the severe impact of the unavailability of electricity on daily production targets.

The report highlighted that 78 per cent of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hindered their operational efficiency, a crucial factor to achieve economies of scale. It also mentioned that load-shedding and voltage fluctuations further exacerbate challenges by increasing the risk of machinery malfunctions and damage, affecting 68 percent of the firms.

The financial strain of arranging alternate supply, impacted 72 per cent of the surveyed companies, amounting to around R871,000 per unit annually. The report underscored the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommended that engineering firms adopted international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 89 per cent of the surveyed firms.

Moreover, the government was urged to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations, a sentiment echoed by 76 per cent of the respondents.

An interesting finding of the report was the lack of online presence among Pakistani engineering enterprises. With a surprising 63 per cent of the surveyed firms lacking any online presence, there was an urgent need for businesses to establish themselves online to reach a wider customer base and enhance engagement.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report was the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms as majority of them lacked adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size which reduced their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only five per cent of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit.

A limited access to finance hampered the industry's growth potential. To address this, the report suggested that financial institutions should introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage

september 04, 2023



Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a ground-breaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan.

The study conducted by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman and Mohammad Armughan delves into the realities faced by engian extensive survey of 328 en- acerbate the challenges by in- to ensure uninterrupted opergineering firms from Lahore, creasing the risk of machinery Gujrat and Gujranwala.

the unavailability of electricity the surveyed companies. creates hurdles in achieving crucial

'Political instability, unfavourable policies create lack of trust in business'

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where focus on enhancing the elec-minority plans to invest in ad-schemes for small and nomic prosperity.

neering firms and provides in- economies of scale need to be tricity supply in industrial vanced technology, machinery, medium-sized enterprises to sights into the state of the in- achieved. Load-shedding and areas, with smaller firms ex- land and skilled labour to encourage business expandustry. The report is based on voltage fluctuations further exploring backup power options boost their business prospects, sion and development.

Another critical issue ations, a sentiment echoed by highlighted in the report is plores the complex land-An interesting finding of for the majority of firms. The for Pakistani engineering outlined in the report is the se-nancial strain of arranging al-the report is the lack of an on-majority of firms lack ade-firms, revealing obstacles vere impact of electricity un-ternate supply, amounting to line presence among Pakistani quate collateral to secure related to tax implications, availability on daily production Rs71,000 per unit annually, engineering enterprises. With a loans due to their small size, product quality, branding surprising 63% of surveyed This reduces their mar- and pricing. Most notably, a surveyed firms expressed that operations, impacting 72% of firms lacking any online pres-ketability to commercial substantial 84% of firms ence, there is an urgent need lenders and resulted in only source their raw materials The report recommends for businesses to establish 5% of surveyed companies domestically, emphasising a their production goals, result- that engineering firms adopt themselves online to reach a having loans or lines of need to diversify suppliers ing in a detrimental gap be-international and national wider customer base and en-credit. Limited access to fi- and engage with internatween demand and supply for quality standard certifications hance engagement. The study nance this hampers the in-tional markets. the industry. Moreover, 78 per to maintain quality standards, also reveals that while a signif-dustry's growth potential. To cent of these firms reported a move endorsed by 89% of icant portion of firms (63%) address this, the report sug-importance of a thriving relathat electricity scarcity hinders the surveyed firms. Moreover, show no intent to expand in gests that financial institu- tionship between businesses their operational efficiency, a the government is urged to the coming years, a proactive tions introduce special credit and the government for eco-

The research also exthe lack of access to credit scape of international trade

The report stresses the



PIDE releases report on unravelling state of industry in country

APP PESHAWAR

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"The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem-ul-Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced by engineering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the industry," according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Golden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala. It reveals compelling statistics that underscore the critical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity.

One of the foremost issues outlined in the report is the severe impact of electricity unavailability on daily production targets. A staggering 83% of surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity creates hurdles in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the industry.

Moreover, 78% of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hinders their operational efficiency, a crucial factor where economies of scale need to be achieved.

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The study also reveals that while a significant portion of firms (63%) show no intent to expand in the coming years, a proactive minority plans to invest in advanced technology, machinery, land, and skilled labour to boost their business prospects.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms.

The majority of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit. Limited access to finance hampers the industry's growth potential.

To address this, the report suggests that financial institutions introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage business expansion and development.

The research also explores the complex landscape of international trade for Pakistani engineering firms, revealing obstacles related to tax implications, product quality, branding, and pricing.

Most notably, a substantial 84% of firms source their raw materials domestically, emphasizing a need to diversify suppliers and engage with international markets.

The report emphasises the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavourable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins.



PIDE RELEASES REPORT ON UNRAVELING STATE OF INDUSTRY IN COUNTRY

PESHAWAR STAFF REPORT

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Pakistan OBSERVER

September 04, 2023

ECONOMY WATCH

Report on unraveling state of industry in country released

PESHAWAR

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PIDE releases report on Unraveling the State of Industry in Pakistan

B City Desk

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The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins.

The release of this comprehensive report marks a significant contribution to the understanding of Pakistan's engineering industry. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and businesses to collaborate and drive positive change in the sector. By addressing the identified challenges, Pakistan can position itself for a brighter industrial future.



PIDE releases report on unraveling the state of industry in country

MT REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of D e v e l o p m e n t Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a ground-breaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan.

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Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms.

The majority of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit. Limited access to finance hampers the industry's growth potential.

To address this, the report suggests that financial institutions introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage business expansion and development.



PIDE releases report on unraveling the state of industry in country

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR

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PIDE report unravels state of engineering industry

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MAHNOOR ANSAR

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The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins. The release of this comprehensive report marks a significant contribution to the understanding of Pakistan's engineering industry. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and businesses to collaborate and drive positive change in the sector. By addressing the identified challenges, Pakistan can position itself for a brighter industrial future. Note: For more information and to access the full report, please visit the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics website:



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underscores the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommends that engineering firms adopt international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 89% of the surveyed firms. Moreover, the government is urged to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas, with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations, a sentiment echoed by 76% of the respondents. An interesting finding of the report is the lack of an online presence among Pakistani engineering enterprises. With a surprising 63% of surveyed firms lacking any online presence, there is an urgent need for businesses to establish themselves online to reach a wider customer base and enhance engagement. The study also reveals that while a significant portion of firms (63%) show no intent to

expand in the coming years, a proactive minority plans to invest in advanced technology, machinery, land, and skilled labor to boost their business prospects.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms. The majority of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit, Limited access to finance this hampers the industry's growth potential. To address this, the report suggests that financial institutions introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage business expansion and development. The research also explores the complex landscape of international trade for Pakistani engineering firms, revealing obstacles related to tax implications, product quality, branding, and pricing. Most notably, a substantial 84% of firms source their raw materials domestically, emphasizing a need to diversify suppliers and engage with international markets.

The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins. The release of this comprehensive report marks a significant contribution to the understanding of Pakistan's engineering industry. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and businesses to collaborate and drive positive change in the sector. By addressing the identified challenges, Pakistan can position itself for a brighter industrial future.



PIDE releases report on unraveling state of industry in country

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a groundbreaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan. The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced by engi-neering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the industry, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Golden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala. It reveals compelling statistics that underscore the critical concerns affecting the industry's

growth and productivity. One of the foremost issues outlined in the report companies. is the severe impact of electricity unavailability on daily production targets.

A staggering 83% of surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity creates hurdles in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the industry.

Moreover, 78% of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hinders their operational efficiency, a crucial factor where economies of scale need to be achieved.

Load-shedding and voltage fluctuations further exacerbate the challenges by increasing the risk of machinery malfunctions and damage, affecting 68% of the firms. The financial strain of arranging alternate supply, amounting to PKR 71,000 per unit annually, adds to the burden on

firms' operations, impact-ing 72% of the surveyed

The report underscores the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommends that engineering firms adopt international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 89% of the surveyed firms.

Moreover, the government is urged to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas, with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations. a sentiment echoed by 76% of the respondents.

An interesting finding of the report is the lack of an presence among Pakistani engineering enterprises. With a surprising 63% of surveyed firms lacking any online presence,

themselves online to reach a wider customer base and enhance engagement.

The study also reveals that while a significant portion of firms (63%) show no intent to expand in the coming years, a proactive minority plans to invest in advanced technology, land, machinery. and skilled labor to boost their business prospects.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms.

The majority of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit. Limited access to finance hampers the industry's growth potential.

To address this, the there is an urgent need for report suggests that finanbusinesses to establish cial institutions introduce and profit margins.

special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage business expansion and development.

The research explores the complex landscape of international trade for Pakistani engineering firms, revealing obstacles related to tax implications, product quality, branding, and pricing.

Most notably, a substantial 84% of firms source their raw materials domestically, emphasizing a need to diversify suppliers and engage with international markets

The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity



PIDE releases report on unraveling state of industry

T.M. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a groundbreaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan.

The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced by engineering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the industry, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Golden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala. It reveals compelling statistics that underscore the critical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity.

One of the foremost issues outlined in the report is the severe impact of electricity unavailability on daily production targets. A staggering 83% of surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity creates hurdles in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the industry.

Moreover, 78% of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hinders their operational efficiency, a crucial factor where economies of scale need to be achieved. Load-shedding and voltage fluctuations further exacerbate the challenges by increasing the risk of machinery malfunctions and damage, affecting 68% of the firms.

The financial strain of arranging alternate supply, amounting to PKR 71,000 per unit annually, adds to the burden on firms' operations, impacting 72% of the surveyed companies. The report underscores the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommends that engineering firms adopt international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 89% of the surveyed firms.

Moreover, the government is urged

to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas, with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations, a sentiment echoed by 76% of the respondents. An interesting finding of the report is the lack of an online presence among Pakistani engineering enterprises.

With a surprising 63% of surveyed firms lacking any online presence, there is an urgent need for businesses to establish themselves online to reach a wider customer base and enhance engagement. The study also reveals that while a significant portion of firms (63%) show no intent to expand in the coming years, a proactive minority plans to invest in advanced technology, machinery, land, and skilled labor to boost their business prospects.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the majority of firms. The majority of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit. Limited access to finance hampers the industry's growth potential.

To address this, the report suggests that financial institutions introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage business expansion and development. The research also explores the complex landscape of international trade for Pakistani engineering firms, revealing obstacles related to tax im-

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Most notably, a substantial 84% of firms source their raw materials domestically emphasizing a need to discount of the competition of t

firms source their raw materials domestically, emphasizing a need to diversify suppliers and engage with international markets. The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins.

PIDE releases report on unraveling the state of industry in country

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Development unveiled a ground-breaking report shedchallenges faced by industry in Pakistan.

The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, here on Sunday.

Guirat. Gujranwala. It reveals panies. compelling statistics try's growth and pro- recommends

on daily production move endorsed by 89% targets.

production engineering for the industry.

Moreover, 78% of the respondents. these firms reported ational efficiency, a online crucial factor where among need to be achieved. prises.

Load-shedding strain of arranging enhance report is alternate supply, ment. based on an extensive amounting to PKR survey of 328 engi- 71,000 per unit annu- reveals that while a tax neering firms from ally, adds to the bur- significant portion of product

engineering One of the fore- adopt international

Moreover, expressed that the to focus on enhancing small goals, exploring

An that electricity scarci- finding of the report tial. ty hinders their oper- is the lack of an economies of scale engineering enter- tions introduce spe-

delves and voltage fluctua- 63% of surveyed firms um-sized enterprises into the realities tions further exacer- lacking any online to encourage business faced by engineering firms and provides bate the challenges by presence, there is an expansion and develorms and provides increasing the risk of urgent need for busivaluable insights into machinery malfunc- nesses to establish the state of the industry, according to a affecting 68% of the reach a wider cus-landscape of internapress release issued firms. The financial tomer base and tional

> that their business with firms prospects.

Another critical emphasizes in the report is the standard certifica- the report is the lack ing

of the surveyed firms. firms lack adequate ity.

the collateral to secure of surveyed firms government is urged loans due to their unavailability of elec- the electricity supply reduces their martricity creates hurdles in industrial areas, ketability to commer-Economics (PIDE) has in achieving their with smaller firms cial lenders and has backup resulted in only 5% of ding light on the mental gap between ensure uninterrupted having loans or lines demand and supply operations, a senti- of credit. Limited ment echoed by 76% of access to finance hampers the indusinteresting try's growth poten-

> To address this, presence the report suggests Pakistani that financial institucial credit schemes With a surprising for small and medi-

The research also engage- Pakistani engineering firms, revealing The study also obstacles related to implications. across the Golden den on firms' opera- firms (63%) show no branding, and pric-Triangle of Lahore, tions, impacting 72% intent to expand in ing. Most notably, a and of the surveyed com- the coming years, a substantial 84% of proactive minority firms source their The report under- plans to invest in raw materials domesthat underscore the scores the signifi- advanced technology, tically, emphasizing concerns cance of addressing machinery, land, and a need to diversify affecting the indus- these challenges. It skilled labor to boost suppliers and engage international markets. The report most issues outlined and national quality issue highlighted in importance of a thrivsevere impact of elec-tions to maintain of access to credit for between businesses tricity unavailability quality standards, a the majority of firms. and the government The majority of for economic prosper-



Political instability, economic policies led to lack of trust, dissatisfaction among businessmen

By Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a groundbreaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistas.

The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Hagor, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Ahid Behroan, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced by engineering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Goiden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala. It reveals compelling bate the challenges by increasing respondents.

ical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity. According to the press release

issued from the PIDE, one of the foremost issues outlined in the report is the severe impact of electricity unavailability on daily production targets. A staggering 83% of surveyed firms expressed that the unavailability of electricity creates hurdes in achieving their production goals, resulting in a detrimental gap between demand and supply for the indus-

Moreover, 78% of these firms reported that electricity scarcity hinders their operational efficiency, a crucial factor where economies of scale need to be achieved. Loud-shedding and volt-

statistics that underscore the crit-the risk of machinery malfunctions and damage, affecting 68% of the firms. The financial strain of arranging alternate supply. amounting to PKR 71,000 per unit. annually, adds to the burden on firms' operations, impacting 72% of the surveyed companies.

The report underscores the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommends that engineering firms adopt international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 80% of the surveyed firms. Moreover, the government is urged to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas, with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations, age fluctuations further exacer- a sentiment echoed by 70% of the

An interesting finding of the report is the lack of an online presence among Pakistani engineering enterprises. With a surprising 60% of surveyed firms lacking any online presence, there is an urgent need for businesses to establish thenselves online to reach a wider customer base and enhance engagement.

The study also reveals that while a significant portion of farms (57%) show no intent to expand in the coming years, a proactive minority plans to invest in advanced technology, machinery, land, and skilled labor to boost their business prospects.

Another critical issue highlighted in the report is the lack of access to credit for the nujority of firms. The regionity of firms lack adequate collateral to secure loans due to their small size. This to diversity suppliers and engage

reduces their marketability to commercial lenders and has resulted in only 5% of surveyed companies having loans or lines of credit.

Limited access to finance this hampers the industry's growth potential. To address this, the report suggests that financial institutions introduce special credit schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises to encourago business expansion and development.

The research also expicres the complex landscape of international trade for Palostani engineering firms, revealing obstacles related to tax implications, product quality, branding, and pricing. Most notably, a substantial 84% of firms source their raw nuterials domestically, emphasizing a need with international markets.

The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfactor among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins.

The release of this comprehensive report marks a significant contribution to the understanding of Pakistan's engineering industry. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and businesses to collaborate and drive positive change in the sector. By addressing the identified challenges, Pakistan can position itself for a brighter industrial