

A study on current status of Women Entrepreneurs in India

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Abstract

Women entrepreneurs play a key role in economic development because they contribute to economic growth in different sectors. Increasing the number of women entrepreneurs has changed the economic growth scenario of the country. This paper attempts to study the present status and problems faced by women entrepreneurship and to study the activity wise number of establishments and employment under women entrepreneurship. The analysis is mainly based on secondary sources of the data. To explain the growth and present status of women entrepreneurs in India, various key indicators have been used such as total number of Establishments and total number of persons employed in establishments, economic activity wise total number of establishments and employment under women entrepreneur and source of finance etc. The study concludes highest percentage of share in total number of women owned establishments and number of persons employed found in states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. There are many problems faced by women entrepreneurs' But as a business requires qualities like sincerity, hard work, good organization, decision making power, all these qualities we find in women. They are strong and having power, they are ready to face all problems courageously, just they need family support, government assistance and training, capital, and marketing aid then the sky will be the limit for their success.

Keywords: Women Entrepreneurship, Employment and Finance

Introduction

Women entrepreneurship plays vital role because it is contributing more in economic growth and development of the country. It is one of the largest sections for capital accumulation. In fact economic growth is the result of the efforts taken by the entrepreneurs. Increasing women Entrepreneurs generate more employment opportunities; it helps to increase per capita income and standard of living of the people; Women entrepreneurship enhances financial independence and self-respect of them. Initially, Women entrepreneurship was neglected during the past but as the government adopted LPG model, women entrepreneurship has gained importance. In this modern time with the spread of education and awareness among the women the picture has been changed and the women have emerged as most memorable, inspirational, innovative entrepreneurs in India. Women entrepreneurship defines as any business or enterprise whether manufacturing or services initiated, organized, managed controlled and run by one or more women entrepreneurs and which have a share capital of not less than 51 percent as partners/ shareholders/ Directors of Private Limited Company/ Members of Co-operative Society. Important key elements of women entrepreneurship are innovation, risk taking capacity, strategy and vision, planning and organizational skill etc. Entrepreneurship requires attention to business plan, legal details, finance, advertising and marketing and others.

Objectives of the paper:

1. To study the present status of women entrepreneurship in India.
2. To study the activity wise number of establishment and employment under women entrepreneurship
3. To study problems faced by women entrepreneurs.

Data Collection: The present study aims to understand the present status of women entrepreneurship and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. The analysis is mainly based on secondary sources of the data. The Secondary data collected from various journals, articles and all India Report of Sixth Economic Census in March 2016.

Limitations: The researcher has not gone through the primary as the first hand data was not available in time and it was not suitable also. Some relevant factors could not be attended due to paucity of time. The results of the analysis are based entirely on secondary data. In this study various statistical tools has been used like average, percentage and graph etc.

Present status of Women Entrepreneurship in India

Women have a unique position in the society. Real Development cannot take place if it bypasses women. Entrepreneurship increases financial independence, self-respect and confidence of women. According to 2011 census, female population is around 48.52 per cent, but yet most of the business, trade and industry are dominated by men. Indian women are so strong and they can compete with in any economic activities and they can make their entrepreneur successful by exploiting their full potential. Yet there is no any government reports on growth of women entrepreneurs therefore to study the growth and present status most information collected from All India Report of Sixth Economic Census in March 2016 which was conducted during January, 2013 to April, 2014 in all the States and Union Territories of the country.

Table No. 1.1

State/Union Territory wise distribution of total number of Establishments and total number of persons employed in establishments under women entrepreneurs in 2013-14

Sr. No.	State/UT	Number of Establishment	Percentage share of Establishments	Total number of person employed	Percentage share in total employment
1	Jammu & Kashmir	31292	0.39	69067	0.51
2	Himachal P.	49173	0.61	70523	0.52
3	Punjab	110921	1.38	216537	1.61
4	Chandigarh	5783	0.07	10361	0.08
5	Uttarakhand	31419	0.39	66003	0.49
6	Haryana	124524	1.55	208355	1.55
7	Delhi	70434	0.87	159421	1.19
8	Rajasthan	247992	3.08	439335	3.27
9	Uttar Pradesh	482379	5.99	929105	6.91
10	Bihar	153610	1.91	282522	2.1
11	Sikkim	5304	0.07	9066	0.07
12	Arunachal Pradesh	6413	0.08	14079	0.1
13	Nagaland	13657	0.17	27523	0.2
14	Manipur	88286	1.1	110822	0.82
15	Mizoram	15828	0.2	26327	0.2
16	Tripura	14506	0.18	19880	0.15
17	Meghalaya	29530	0.37	58701	0.44
18	Assam	154158	1.91	253072	1.88

19	West Bengal	831337	10.33	1372730	10.21
20	Jharkhand	54732	0.68	118413	0.88
21	Odisha	249600	3.1	445703	3.31
22	Chhattisgarh	77976	0.97	147597	1.1
23	Madhya P.	223405	2.77	398565	2.96
24	Gujarat	528623	6.57	1001256	7.45
25	Daman & Diu	805	0.01	1923	0.01
26	D & N Haveli	1304	0.02	4419	0.03
27	Maharashtra	664300	8.25	1097876	8.16
28	Karnataka	545806	6.78	919039	6.83
29	Goa	16656	0.21	28739	0.21
30	Lakshadweep	460	0.01	949	0.01
31	Kerala	913917	11.35	1147025	8.53
32	Tamil Nadu	1087609	13.51	1856686	13.81
33	Puducherry	10169	0.13	20027	0.15
34	A & N islands	2513	0.03	4981	0.04
35	Andhra P.	849912	10.56	1325009	9.85
36	Telangana	356486	4.43	586546	4.36
37	All India	8050819	100.00	13448182	100.00

Source: Source: All India Report of Sixth Economic Census

Above table 1.1 highlights the total number of establishments owned by women entrepreneurs was 8,050,819 out of which 5,243,044 constituting about 65.12 % of the total establishments were located in rural areas and the remaining 2,807,775 (34.88%) were located in urban areas.

It is also clear from the table highest percentage share in total number of women owned establishments found the states of Tamil Nadu with 13.51%, Kerala 11.35%, Andhra Pradesh 10.56%, West Bengal 10.33% and Maharashtra (8.25 %). Less percentage share of total number of establishments under women entrepreneurship is found in the states of Himachal Pradesh (0.61%), Chandigarh (0.07%), Uttarakhand (0.39), Sikkim (0.07), Arunachal Pradesh (0.08%), Mizoram (0.2), and Goa (0.21).

In terms of share in number of persons employed at all India level in women owned establishments, maximum percentage of employment found in states, these are Tamil Nadu 13.81% (1.85 million) , West Bengal 10.21 % (1.37 million), Andhra Pradesh 9.85 % (1.32 million) , Maharashtra 8.16 % (1.09 million) and Gujarat 7.45 % (1.01 million).

Table No 1.2
Economic activity wise total number of Establishments and employment under women
entrepreneurship by type of establishment in 2013-14

Economic Activity	Without Hired Workers	% share of without hired Workers to Total	With at least One Hired Worker	% share of with at least one hired Workers to Total	Total	% share in total establishments	% share in total employment
Activities relating to agriculture other than crop production & plantation	37294	71	15016	29	52310	0.65	0.76
Livestock	2342134	92	204211	8	2546345	31.63	27.36
Forestry and Logging	118365	95	6110	5	124475	1.55	1.56
Fishing and aqua culture	33747	87	4890	13	38637	0.48	0.46
Total Agricultural Activities	2531540	92	230227	8	2761767	34.3	30.14
Manufacturing	2099355	87	300108	13	2399463	29.8	29.36
Retail trade	1159414	81	272788	19	1432202	17.79	16.34
Transportation and storage	88623	71	36084	29	124707	1.55	1.59
Accommodation and Food service	148988	67	74107	33	223095	2.77	3.47
Others	669434	60	440151	40	1109585	13.79	19.1
Total : Non-Agricultural Activities	4165814	79	1123238	21	5289052	65.7	69.86
Total	6697354	83	1353465	17	8050819	100.0	100

Source: All India Report of Sixth Economic Census

Table no 1.2 shows that most of the women established their enterprises (65.7 %) in non-agricultural activities and 34.3 in agricultural activities. Out of agricultural activities 31.63 percent establishment were in livestock and out of non-agricultural activities 29.8 percent were engaged in manufacturing, 17.79 percent in retail trade and 2.77 percent in accommodation and food.

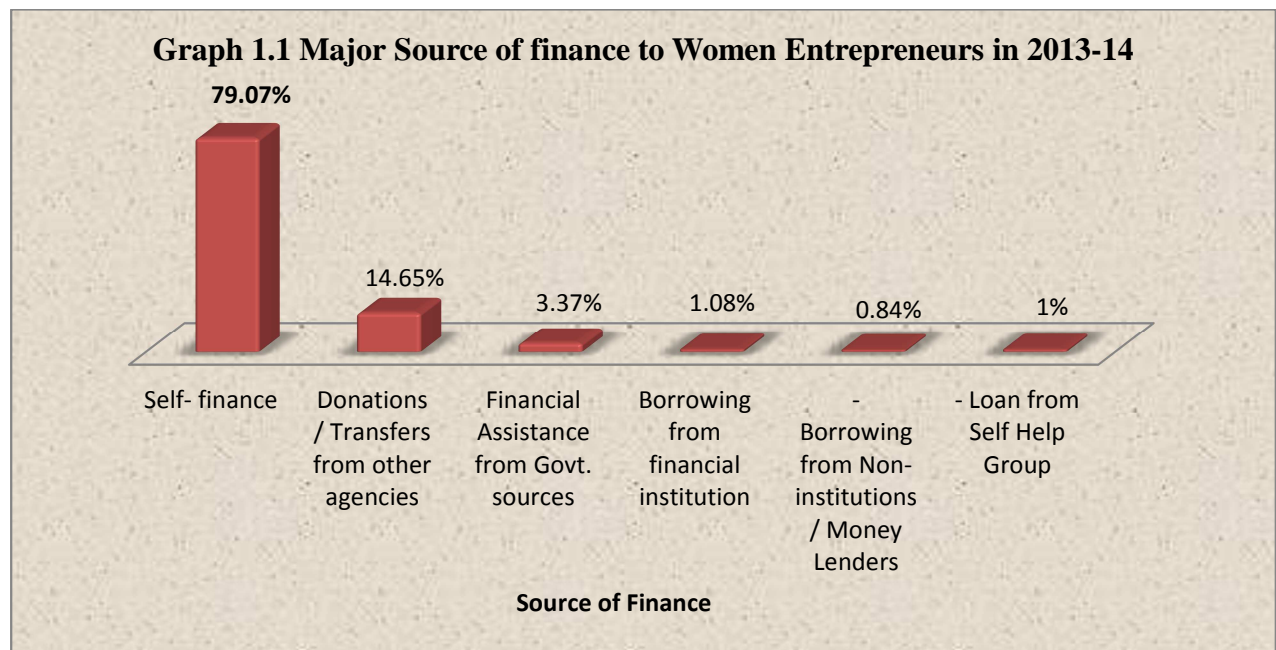
Total number of establishment of enterprise under women without hired workers were average 83% which is more than with at least one hired workers 17 percent. Total number of women establishment without hired worker and with at least one hired workers in agricultural activities were 92 % and 8% respectively. In terms of non-agricultural activities, total number of women establishment without hired worker and with at least one hired worker were 79 percent and 21 percent respectively.

In agricultural establishment, percentage share in total employed were 27.36 % in livestock, 1.56 % in forestry and lodging and 0.76 % in activities relating to agricultural other than crop production and plantation. In non-agricultural establishment, percentage share in total

employment were 69.86 out of which, maximum percentage share in total employment were in manufacturing with 29.3%, Retail trade (16.34%), accommodation and food services (3.47%) and others (19%) employed in Mining and quarrying, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, construction, Whole sale trade, retail trade & repair of motor vehicles & motor cycles, Information & communication, Financial and insurance activities, real estate activities, education, social health and social work activities, Arts entertainment, sports & amusement and recreation etc.

Sources of Finance for women entrepreneurs

Finance is observed as “life-blood” for any enterprise. Without finance we cannot run the business. It is observed from the following graph 1.1 almost 79.07 % of the women establishments were self-financed. It shows most of women entrepreneurs face difficulties in getting loan or finance from banks and other financial institution.



The second important source i.e. donation or transfer from other agencies contributed 14.65%. The next important sources were assistance from Government sources and others from financial institutions with contributions of 3.37%. It is also clear from the graph; finance provided by financial institution, non- financial institutions / money lenders and self-help group were 1.08 %, 0.84% and 1 % respectively.

Table No 1.3

Number of persons employed in women establishment by religion of owner and Social group of Owner (Year 2013-14)

% share of Women establishments by Social group of Owner					% share of number of persons employed in women establishments by religion of owner								
SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total	Hindu	Islam	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi	Jain	Others	Total
12.2	6.9	40.6	40.19	100	60.8	12.3	4.9	0.96	0.4	0.03	0.6	19.9	100

Source: All India Report of Sixth Economic Census

It can be seen from Table 1.3, percentage share of number of persons employed in women establishments by religion of owner of the establishments were Hindu 60.8% entrepreneurs, Islam 12.3, Christians owned 4.9 %, Sikhs 0.96%, Jains 0.6% , Buddhist 0.4 %, Parsi 0.03 % and rest were women owned establishment by other religious communities. It is also observed maximum women establishments by social group of owner constituting 40.6 % were owned by OBCs. Others i.e. General category owned 40.19% establishments, SCs owned 12.2%, and ST owned 6.9 percent

Key problems faced by women Entrepreneurs

Though women have embarked on their journey of entrepreneurship but the problems faced by them are certainly more than men entrepreneurs. It is a very difficult for women to break these problems and work according to their desired goals. Few problems faced by women entrepreneurs are 1) Inadequate Finance: Bank and other Financial Institutions do not consider Middle Class Women Entrepreneurs as proper applicants for setting up their projects and they are hesitant to provide financial assistance to unmarried women or girls as they are unsure as to who will repay the loan either their parents or in-laws after their marriage. This humiliates unmarried women and they generally leave the idea of setting up their ventures. 2) Marriage and family life are given more importance than career and social life in Indian society. 3) A kind of patriarchal male dominant social order is building block them in their way to success in business. Women face a big competition with men. 4) Due to illiteracy and lack of information women do not get the benefit of different scheme and incentives like subsidies provided by the government. 5) Another challenge before women is lack of mobility. They cannot move freely around the market, if they want to travel to day and night in different region and states, they need permission form husband and family members and most of times family do not support 6) illiteracy rate of women is found less as compared men population it, they do not think or adopt the technology, product diversification new

methods of production and marketing strategy which will be beneficial to grow business.7) Women entrepreneurs continuously face the problems in marketing their products. For marketing the products women entrepreneurs have to be at the mercy of middlemen who pocket the chunk of profit. Although the middlemen exploit the women entrepreneurs, the elimination of middlemen is difficult 8) low level risk taking attitude is another factor affecting women folk to enter in business. They face many difficulties while doing the business just they require family support assistance from government organizations, training, capital, and marketing aid then they can become successful entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

The role of women in economic development of India is inevitable. This study is an attempt to create awareness challenges faced, successful women entrepreneur and the government assistance to achieve progress. Holistic approach should be adopted by the regulators and the society as a whole towards Women entrepreneur. The main findings of the study reveal that highest percentage of share in total number of women owned establishments and number of person employed in states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is found that women established their enterprises more 31.63 percent in livestock activities, 29.8 percent in manufacturing, 17.79 percent in retail trade and 2.77 percent in accommodation and food. There are many problems faced by women entrepreneurs to solve these, certain measure should be adopted such as family support, financial assistance from government and financial institution, training and marketing aid etc. Government, NGOs, Financial Institutions and regulatory agencies should take effective steps to encourage and promote Women Entrepreneurs in India.

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