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ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF POPULATION EXPLOSION ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Historically, the world population used to grow very slowly from about 2.5 million at the beginning of urbanization and it grew to some 50 million around the time of the black plague of the middle ages. It is only with the industrial, scientific and medical revolution and during the era of colonial expansion of the western powers that the number of the population risen as unmanageable thereby climbing to the dizzying heights. During the 20th century, the world's population increased almost fourfold, from 1.6 to 6 billion. Until very recently, there were fears that in the next century, if the explosion is not checked by wise leaders of the world, the world population would explode to some 12 billion leaving little room for wilderness areas to preserve wildlife and putting extreme pressure on food production, water and non-renewable resources. The increase of population increases the demand for more food, cars and energy. To satisfy their food requirement, they will have to clear forests in order to grow crops for food. Deforestation may result in destruction of homes of the most diverse wild-animals and plants again resulting in the extinction of many species, possibly including hundreds that are yet unidentified by scientists. It also adds to the problem of global warming, because trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When there are trees, they take in carbon dioxide from the air and turn it into oxygen and release it back into the air again. When the trees are cut down, the carbon dioxide is released back into the air and helps trap heat near the earth and raises the temperature which may contribute in global warming. Therefore, the explosion of population should be checked in such a way the resources on the earth may be used sufficiently and economically preserving some non-renewable resource even for the future use.

KEYWORDS

Carbon dioxide, deforestation, global warming, non-renewable resources, population explosion, wild animals and plants.

INTRODUCTION

In these days, the number of world population is enormously increasing more than ever before. Most of poor countries overpopulated in such a way there could arise striking food shortage. Overpopulation is defined as the condition of having more people than can live on the earth in comfort, happiness and health and still leave the world a fit place for future generations. A population explosion occurs when there is a significant increase in numbers of people in a location in such a way it is difficult to supply necessary resources to maintain and sustain the existence of life of all living things including human being. Some effects include a pressure upon resources as there are more people (e.g. Food has to be distributed among more people), prices of goods will increase as the demand for the products increase (higher demand means higher prices, ecological disturbance will take place when more people go for more use of resources. According to some scientists, the greatest threat to the future may come from overpopulation.

During this century, the world's population has grown rapidly, doubling from 2 to 4 billion between 1925 and 1976, and reaching 5.3 billion by 1990 (Paul, 1993, p.22). Much of this growth occurred after World War II.

Some of the possible reasons for rapid growth of population after 1945 were peace, using fertilizers for mechanization farming, urbanization, industrialization, more income generation and medical facilities. In the 1950s and '60s, authors and policy makers who worried about rapid population growth noted that improved sanitation and health care in the postwar period helped more children survive infancy and enabled adults to live longer. It was common in nineteenth-century Europe for one-quarter of all infants to die before the age of 2.5 years, and one-half of adults by age 37.5. But a century later, one-fourth had not died until age 62.5, and one-half had not died until age 72.5 (Hauser, 1971, p. 107). Consequently, the rapid growth of the world's population over the past hundred years is believed as resulted from a difference between the rate of birth and the rate of death. As it may be known by all of us, in the past, infant and childhood deaths and short life spans used to limit population growth. In today's world, thanks to improved nutrition, sanitation and medical care, more babies survive their first few years of life. The combination of a continuing high birth rate and associated low death rate is creating a rapid population increase in many countries such as Asia, Latin America and Africa. The rapid explosion of human population around the world affects all people through its impacts on the economy and environment. The current growth rate of population is now a significant burden to human well-being.

Improved sanitation and health care in the postwar period helped more children survive infancy and enabled adults to live longer and fueled the explosion of population after the World War II. For instance, while the world's population increased annually by 20 million people during the 1940s, it increased by more than 50 million every year in the 1950s, 65 million a year in the 1960s (My T., 1975). In 1966, the United Nations estimated that world population would reach 7.5 billion by the end of the century (Philip M., 1971). These projections persuaded government officials around the world that rapid population growth was a serious problem and that steps should be taken to slow it down. In 1969, President Nixon announced that the U.S. government would "give population control and family planning a high priority," and called on other governments to take "prompt action" to slow population growth (Bonnie). And in 1974, the United Nations convened its first world population conference in Bucharest, Romania. At the time, government officials expected that population growth would lead to a series of problems: food shortages and hunger, conflict and war, environmental destruction, and the depletion of natural resources. Events in the mid-1970s initially seemed to confirm their worst fears.

Widespread public recognition of population growth as a global social problem emerged slowly in the 1950s and '60s. It was assisted by the publication of two books with the same title: *The Population Bomb*. In 1954, T. O. Greissimer published a pamphlet with this title that was widely distributed by the Hugh Moore Fund, a private foundation started by the Dixie Cup Corporation. In it, Greissimer argued that "the population bomb threatens to create an explosion as disruptive and dangerous as an explosion of the atom bomb, and with as much influence on prospects for progress or disaster, war or peace (Ibid, p.40). Then in 1968, Paul Ehrlich published a book with the same title that borrowed some of Greissimer's ideas and extended them to explore the environmental consequences of population growth. These two books, and the work of private philanthropic groups like the Hugh Moore Fund, and the Population Council, a group organized in 1952 by John D. Rockefeller III, helped bring rapid population growth to the attention of policy makers and the public (Ibid, p.37).

The availability of sufficient food and sanitation facilities lowered death rates in countries around the world. As a result, people continued to have children at pre-1950 rates. Because people adjusted their behavior slowly to changed circumstances, healthier babies and longer lives contributed to world population grew rapidly. Policy makers concerned about population growth worried that it would result in a series of social, political, and environmental problems. First, they thought that the growing population had or would soon outstrip the amount of food available to eat, resulting in a Malthusian crisis: *too many people, too little food*. "The battle to feed all of humanity is over," Ehrlich argued. "Sometime around 1958, the stork passed the plow." He expected this to lead to widespread hunger and starvation. "In the 1970s," Ehrlich predicted in 1968, "the world will undergo famines hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death. . . ." Ehrlich and others who supported this view were often called "Malthusians" because this argument relies on Robert Malthus's 1798 *Essay on Population*, which proposed that "the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence [food] for man."

The growing gap between population and food supply would lead first to starvation, population control advocates expected. And the onset of starvation would lead to a second problem: war. As one population control group explained in a 1967 newspaper ad, "There can be no doubt that unless population is brought

under control at an early date, the resulting human misery and social tensions will inevitably lead to chaos and strife to revolutions and wars, the dimensions of which it would be hard to predict." During the 1960s, many U.S. government officials viewed social unrest, communist insurgency, and guerrilla warfare in poor countries as the likely political product of "overpopulation."

Third, the new Malthusians argued that a growing population would increase levels of pollution and waste, which would result in environmental degradation. As Ehrlich wrote, "The causal chain of [environmental] deterioration is easily followed to its source. Too many cars, too many factories, too much detergent, too much pesticide . . . inadequate sewage treatment plants, too little water, too much carbon dioxide all can be easily traced to *too many people*." But in 1990 he still maintained that "Global warming, acid rain, depletion of the ozone layer, and exhaustion of soils and ground water are all related to population size."

And fourth, the new Malthusians believed that the growing population would consume finite natural resources such as minerals and oil at an accelerated rate, resulting in raw material shortages and rising prices for the goods produced by industrial societies. As the Club of Earth argued in 1988, "Overpopulation and rapid population growth are intimately connected with . . . [the] rapid depletion of non-renewable resources. . . ." Because they expected rapid population growth to lead to starvation, war, environmental degradation, and the depletion of natural resources, private groups and government officials began advocating population control in the late 1960s and early 1970s. And they urged governments to adopt programs that would slow population growth. These included the creation of educational family planning programs, the distribution of contraceptives, and sometimes the provision of clinics that performed abortions and sterilizations, usually on a voluntary but sometimes on an involuntary basis. Population control advocates in government and the private sector believed that rapid population growth was such an urgent problem that drastic steps needed to be taken quickly. Some even advanced the concept of triage as a way to address the problem.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Now-a-days, the number of world population is increasing at an alarming and astonishing rate. According to some scientists, the greatest threat to the future may come from overpopulation. Overpopulation and rapid population growth are intimately connected with the rapid depletion of non-renewable resources. Some effects include a pressure upon resources as there are more people (e.g. Food has to be distributed among more people), prices of goods will increase as the demand for the products increase (higher demand means higher prices, ecological disturbance will take place when more people go for more use of resources. To mitigate food shortage, the simplest solution is to increase the area of cultivation land and plant it with the food crops. To this effect, they cleared forests and planted food crops. When forests are cut down, they released carbon dioxide gases into the air which highly contributed for global warming. In 1974, scientists discovered that man-made gases called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that were used in aerosol sprays, solvents, and Styrofoam destroyed the ozone layer, which protects people and plants from the sun's damaging rays. They also observed that the increase of populations contributed to most of the atmospheric pollution resulting from CFC use. The same is true of global warming. During the mid-1980s, scientists discovered that the burning of fossil fuels and forests had increased the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They predicted that high carbon dioxide levels would trap heat in the atmosphere and make the planet warmer. Rapidly rising temperatures could create serious problems for people in different settings, scientists argue. Rising temperatures could melt polar ice and raise sea levels, inundating islands and low-lying coastal plains where millions live. A one-meter rise would flood deltas on the Nile, Po, Ganges, Mekong, and Mississippi Rivers, displacing millions of people and swamping the croplands now used to feed them. Higher sea levels could drown coral reefs, destroying the fish and ruining the livelihood of people who depend on reefs in the Caribbean and the Pacific. And warmer water could increase the strength of hurricanes and typhoons, causing greater damage for people living along their path in the Western Atlantic and Western Pacific. The insurance industry is particularly concerned about this prospect because windstorms caused \$46 billion in losses between 1987 and 1993.

Higher temperatures could also disrupt agriculture. While farmers in northern latitudes North America and northern Europe and Asia could benefit from higher temperatures, longer growing seasons, and higher levels of carbon dioxide (which plants use to grow), even modest increases could devastate farmers in tropical zones in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Rice yields decline significantly if daytime temperatures exceed 95 degrees, and in many Asian countries, temperatures are already near this limit. One group of scientists predicted that cereal prices could increase between 25 and 150 percent by the year 2060, a development that would cause hunger and starvation for between 60 million and 350 million poor people, most of them in the tropics.

Because of increased number of people, they are highly involving in deforestation. They are using more cars in number. They are using more energy for cooking and heating. There are, for example, sound environmental and social reasons to reduce energy consumption and car use and slow deforestation. Because these activities also release vast quantities of carbon dioxide, efforts to curb the consumption of fossil fuels and wood might also reduce global warming. (The carbon dioxide released by these activities accounts for about half of all greenhouse gases.) The same is true for other activities that produce other greenhouse gases.

People are attempting to satisfy their food demand from different sources. To this effect they increased the number of cows to get meat, milk and milk byproducts. However, the increased number of cows contributed for deforestation and resulted in hunger on the part of human being because of global climate change effect. A reduction of world cow herds would reduce hunger and deforestation, and also curb emissions of methane, which makes up about 18 percent of all greenhouse gases. The ban on CFCs, scheduled to take effect at the turn of the century, will slow destruction of the ozone layer, about which there is no serious scientific dispute, and reduce its contribution (about 14 percent) to global climate change. And if nitrogen fertilizer use was curbed, the problems associated with groundwater pollution could be addressed and nitrous oxide levels in the atmosphere (about 6 percent of the total) could be reduced. However, in the case of nitrous oxide, fertilizer reductions could adversely affect global food supplies and contribute to hunger, which suggests that efforts to curb fertilizer use should be approached with great caution.

Because of explosion of population, the people around the world are using more energy from different sources like fire, petroleum or fuel. For example, to get energy from fire they have to cut down forests for firewood. These would result in releasing more carbon dioxide into the air which may be thought as a major source for global warming. When they want to get energy from fuel, they have to buy the petroleum from the countries endowed with it. This, in turn, hurts the economy of the countries buying fuel from fuel rich countries.

These and others related problems pushed the researcher to investigate the case based on Descriptive Research with the help of secondary data from published texts on globalization in order to arrive at possible solutions as the findings of the study.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to communicate the effects of problems of population explosion to the people of the world to generate awareness about the problems associated with the alarming increase of population and push everybody to contribute and heed towards slowing down the number of population all over the world at the earliest.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To show the impact of population explosion to the people of world
- To make the world leaders heed and take corrective actions towards the explosion of population.
- To generate awareness of the danger of population explosion to householders and make them limit the number of their children thoroughly understanding the impact of the problem and the devastation it causes if not mitigated.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is population explosion mercy or curse to our planet at present? How?
- If it is curse, then how it can be checked?
- Who is more responsible for global warming, the advanced or underdeveloped countries? Why?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The number of world population is increasing at an alarming rate. If it continues at the same rate, it is becoming a real danger, worry and curse to the earth. As it is obvious to many of us, we are increasing the number of our children sometimes not knowing the consequences of it. Other times, we are increasing the number of them simply being shy of cultural products like children are wealth gifted from God and people should not involve themselves in checking of such blessings and they should bear as many children as possible. The importance of this study is to generate the awareness of the danger of population explosion and make every concerned body understand the problem and make the decision on the number of his/her children in such a way that the planet (earth) could provide them all necessary facilities of life. Because the increase of population if not supported by economy it is curse rather than mercy. It becomes mercy only when it is managed appropriately and commensurately with the available resources on the earth.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on Descriptive Research with the investigation of secondary data. The secondary data are collected from the published sources on globalization.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is entirely focused on consequences of the explosion of population based on Descriptive research with the assistance of secondary data from the texts written on globalization. The study is about the impact of explosion of population on environment all over the world.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Overpopulation is resulting in a striking food shortage because more farm land is being used for urbanization and industrialization in larger quantity in order to accommodate the exploding large number of population. Thus, the greatest threat to the future may come from overpopulation (*too many people, too little food*).
2. Much of the growth of population occurred after World War II due to peace, using fertilizers for mechanization farming, urbanization, industrialization, more income generation and medical facilities (improved sanitation and health care).
3. To maintain the life of people on the earth, the scientists and other concerned bodies should focus on innovations and increase productivity in many folds from the available smaller farm land employing advanced technologies as to feed more people.
4. A growing population would increase the levels of pollution and waste, which would result in environmental degradation. Too many cars, too many factories, too much detergent, too much pesticide, inadequate sewage treatment plants, too little water, too much carbon dioxide all can be easily traced to *too many people*.
5. The growing population would consume finite natural resources such as minerals and oil at an accelerated rate, resulting in raw material shortages and rising prices for the goods produced by industrial societies. Moreover, unbalanced utilization of resources may ultimately lead to the depletion of natural resources.
6. The number of population, thus, should be checked as increasing of population is believed as to leading to the destruction of population thereby creating acute shortage of resources necessary for existence of life.
7. To minimize global warming, every person in the world has to plant one seedling every year personally initiating the Motto "one seedling for one person". Then, the plants absorb the carbon dioxide thereby releasing oxygen and global warming can be checked.
8. Rich countries are more disturbing the environment though industrialization and deforestation. They have to fund the projects of poor countries in order to plant trees to maintain the environmental balance.

CONCLUSION

Now-a-days, the number of world population is significantly increasing. The increase of population has been followed by food shortage. To produce more food crops, they involved themselves in deforestation and planting more food crops. To that effect, they cleared or cut-down more trees from the forest. The cut-down of trees contributed to releasing more carbon-dioxide into the air. That, in turn, contributed to global warming. To curb these all problems resulting from the expansion of population, it should be checked as more increase may mean danger to population itself. Finally, for what is happening all over the world, the advanced countries should take more responsibility as they are more disturbing environment in which human being can live through industrialization and technological advancement.

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PROBLEMS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VELLORE (INDIA) AND THIMPHU (BHUTAN)

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship is the core of economic development. It is a multi dimensional task and essentially a creative activity. Entrepreneur is key factor of production process in any economy. Women entrepreneurship is a recent phenomenon and in the process have to face various problems. Therefore, this study was conducted with a sample size of one hundred and forty women entrepreneurs selected through random sampling technique from Vellore (India) and Thimphu (Bhutan), seventy each. Garment business, shoe making, beauty parlours and general stores were the enterprise selected for the study. The statistical tools applied for the study were to ascertain the financial, making, social and environmental, managerial, family life problems and many other problems of women entrepreneurs. This paper analysed problems faced by the Vellore women entrepreneurs and Bhutanese women entrepreneurs for the above categories and it also discussed the comparative analysis that means the weightage given by both women entrepreneurs to each problem as such. This paper also focused on male domination to check whether women entrepreneurs are comfortable in male dominated society or not. Finally this paper discussed some solutions to overcome the above problems in the form of suggestions to the family members and the policy makers.

INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneur is the key factor of entrepreneurship and now women have been recognized as successful entrepreneurs as they have qualities desirable and relevant for entrepreneurship development. In the process of entrepreneurs, women have to face various problems associated with entrepreneurship and these problems get doubled because of her dual role as a wage earner and a homemaker. According to Reddi (1991) women entrepreneurs in Goa feel frustrated at times because they need to space their time and energy, both towards their business as well as domestic affairs. Women in Asian countries a larger proportion of total unemployed population and hence it is imperative to find out the entrepreneurial constraints faced by them.

CONCEPT AND DEFINITION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Generally, economic development depends on the efforts of people to generate goods and services. This effort is labeled as 'entrepreneurship'. Such entrepreneurs may be classified into 'innovative' and 'imitative' entrepreneurship. Both of these entrepreneurship styles have a role to play in any economy. If innovative entrepreneurship lays the foundation for development potentials, the imitative entrepreneurship results in equitable distribution of fruits of economic development. Totally, entrepreneurship is referred to a 'fourth factor' of production and a 'catalyst of development'.

Much early literature debates at length the question of how 'entrepreneur' should be defined. The debate has not yet concluded and a variety of 'working' definitions are adopted, the justification of which is rarely made clear. The bases for defining entrappers have ranged across the following: length of time in business; number of others employed (Creigh, 1986) level of turnover; innovation ((Schumpeter, 1954) propensity for risk taking; success (Hornaday and Abound, 1971) scores on need for achievement (McClelland, 1961) and so on. Specifically, Cantillion (Circa, 1700) portrays "an entrepreneur as the individual who assumed the risk for the firm." Palmer (1971) states that the "risk assessment and risk-taking are the primary elements of entrepreneurship". Further, Sexton and Bowman (1986) and Carland et. al. (1995) discovers "a higher propensity for risk-taking among entrepreneurs". However, Brockhaus (1980) and Sexton and Bowman (1983) indicate no significant differences in risk-taking propensities for entrepreneurs as compared to the general population.

McClelland (1961) Hornaday and Abound (1971) Timmons (1978) Brockhaus (1982) Carland et. al. (1984) and Gartner (1990) state that innovation remains a frequently identified functional characteristic of entrepreneurs. Timmons (1978) suggested that "creativity and innovation were conditions inherent in the role of entrepreneurs".

Adding another dimension to the concept, Drucker (1985) defines 'entrepreneurship as innovation in a business setting'. Further, Olson (1985) states entrepreneurship as "an invention, an activity analogous to innovation, as a primary entrepreneurial activity". Further, Carland et. al. (1984) proposes that innovation as the critical factor in distinguishing entrepreneurs from managers and small business owners.

Similarly McClelland (1961) concludes that "a high need for achievement would influence the self selection of an entrepreneurial position". Further evidences by Hornaday and Bunker (1970) Hornaday and Abound (1971) DeCarlo and Lyons (1979) and Lachman (1980) and Begley and Boyd (1986) show "a positive relationship between achievement motivation and entrepreneurship". The most pertinent definition of entrepreneurship suitable for developing countries like India has been provided by Envic and Langford (1997) who define an entrepreneur as "someone who created or seized his/her own business..." It is also important to note that the concept of entrepreneurship is not empirically delineated in the right perspective and in fact, it is virtually a black box. With all these unresolved issues, the economic show has been going on in every country of the world basically through revolutionary change agents called entrepreneurs.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Harper (1996) refers to the lack of exposition to information as an important barrier of women to create and expand their business. This is probably due to the accumulation of domestic and agricultural, tasks which rural women are involved in rural areas (Dollinger, 1985). Furthermore, Harper (1996) points out that lack of time is not an important factor and poverty per se, is not a "pushing" factor to entrepreneurship. Awareness has to be created and change has to be perceived as something possible.

Arif (1999) evidences problems of women entrepreneurs as (1) immobility; (2) dual role as a mother-cum-householder as well as employer, manager, and entrepreneur; (3) lack of motivation; (4) lack of confidence of women entrepreneurs as perceived by banks and financial institutions; and (5) lack of infrastructural facilities in most non-metropolitan and small cities. She also observes: "The training that a girl receives at home to be a good house-wife that is a good manager of the house, has developed in her over the years, an intrinsic ability to manage effectively." This has been noticed both in the office and at the universal level. She also suggests that there is specific support needed, for existing women entrepreneurs as most of the agencies concentrate in the direction of developing new entrepreneurs. At the same time, all of us must necessarily engage ourselves in a silent cultural revolution for changing our attitudes towards women. Special training-cum-orientation programmes for appraising officers of banks and state agencies should be planned to change their basic attitude. While dealing with this group, documentation should be maintained regarding number of women entrepreneurs running the enterprise, production performance, available facilities for training, credit, directories of women entrepreneurs, enterprise run by women and compilations of existing facilities granted by various agencies should be prepared on high priority basis. Lastly, she concludes that our motto should be "take care of the women entrepreneurs" and she will take care of her small enterprise.

Asghari (1987) identified problems of rural women entrepreneurs such as illiteracy, lack of vital information and skill, lack of knowledge regarding accounting, sources of raw materials, technology, rules and regulations, fear to take risks and lack of experience. In a study of rural women entrepreneurs in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, she found that in Andhra Pradesh entrepreneurs have some previous/traditional family skill and are helped initially by male members of family and officials in establishing their enterprises. Their activities were mostly confined to traditional and family based enterprises. In contrast, women in Kerala venture into non-traditional and non-family based enterprises in the case of forward class women, whereas the backward class women confine to traditional and non-family based enterprises. Women entrepreneurs in both states were willing to take moderate risks and had a desire for expansion/diversification of business.

Pushpa (1983) identified the problems of educated women entrepreneurs in raising finance and problems due to lack of expertise in marketing, accounting and management and in identifying viable projects. She suggested that banks should remove prejudices of their staff towards women entrepreneurs, establish special cells, at least at regional levels to look into the credit needs of women entrepreneurs and provide counseling to them. She called for the establishment of a single window development agency, 'Women's Development Corporation' to act as a focal agency to promote and finance women entrepreneurs.

The study by Pushpa (1983) identified procedural difficulties faced by women entrepreneurs such as obtaining suitable land/sheds, bank procedures (guarantees, margin money) procurement of raw materials, lack of information on procedures to be followed, agencies involved and changes in policy. She recommended that all applications of women entrepreneurs should be routed through a single agency, or alternatively a special window for women entrepreneurs should be created in all agencies. She advocated reservation of lands, sheds, raw materials etc. for women, joint appraisals for loans by commercial banks and state finance corporations and development of information literature on various procedures involved in establishing a unit.

Saravanavel (1987) identifies the problems faced by women entrepreneurs. According to him attitude of the society towards women and the constraints in which they have to live and work keep women away from entrepreneurship. Women also face difficulties in obtaining finance, and due to lengthy procedures of obtaining finance, and due to lengthy procedures of obtaining bank loans. The delay and the running around deter many women from venturing into entrepreneurship. He recommends that in order to ensure adequate credit flow to women entrepreneurs a sub-goal may be fixed under the priority sector advances by banks. Also, banks and financial institutions can waive the insistence for provision of collateral security.

The study of Pooja Nayyar et. al (2007) were ascertain the financial, marketing and production constraints faced by women in their enterprises; assessment of their health status, work place facilities and to develop guidelines for becoming a successful entrepreneur. Poor location of unit, tough competition from larger and established units, lack of transport facility, lack of rest and sleep and non-availability of raw material were the significant problems faced by entrepreneurs. The factors causable to these problems were; difficulty in affording own vehicle, not being popular, heavy schedule of work and long working hours. Common entrepreneurial problems can be dealt by formulating self help mutually aided groups.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The review of literature reveals that the studies in many countries examined, only the women entrepreneur's problems and prospects. No study was done comparing problems faced by women entrepreneurs of different countries. As a result, there is a gap in research on women entrepreneurship, in a sense that no study has been conducted comparing problems faced by the women entrepreneurs based on socio-cultural and economic factors prevailing in the country. In other words, problems of women entrepreneurs were not examined based on country's geographic, climatic, economic, and socio-cultural conditions. Hence, the present study has been taken up to fill this gap and the researcher chooses Vellore (India) and Thimphu (Bhutan) for the study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to find out the problems faced by the women entrepreneurs based on socio-cultural and economic factors prevailing in any economy and also to find whether these factors have any impact on women entrepreneurs' business success.

HYPOTHESES FOR THE STUDY

Bhutanese women entrepreneurs are facing lack of confidence is considered as a problem when compared to Indian women entrepreneurs.

Indian women entrepreneurs believe that bankers wrongly perceive them when they apply for loan is considered as a problem when compared to Bhutanese women entrepreneurs.

Indian women entrepreneurs believe that collateral security is considered as a problem while availing loan from bank when compared to Bhutanese women entrepreneurs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Based on the snap survey, the researcher could find 140 business women entrepreneurs running the enterprises. We could cover only the business women entrepreneurs having located their units in northern part of Tamil Nadu (India), Vellore and the capital city of Bhutan-Thimphu. The activities of these entrepreneurs included garment business, shoe making, beauty parlors and general stores and like. The schedule questionnaire consisted of twenty-two statements, which were perceived as problems faced by women entrepreneurs while starting and running a business, was prepared and the responses were elicited from 140 women entrepreneurs, 70 from India and 70 from Bhutan. The opinions were sought on a five-point scale consisting of strongly agree, agree, cannot say, disagree and strongly disagree. These degrees of opinions were given weightages of 5 points, 4 points, 3 points, 2 points and 1 point respectively. Finally, the data were collaged and interpreted by applying the mean value, standard deviation and chi-square test to arrive at meaningful conclusions.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

In carrying out the study, the following were the limitations of the study.

The sample size was smaller because the physical identification of business unit was not traced out through proper channel.

The sample respondent mainly drawn from India was restricted to only Vellore (Tamil Nadu), which is a small part of India. Vis-à-vis the sample respondent drawn from Bhutan was restricted to only Thimphu, which is a small part of Bhutan.

The Researcher could not attempt on gender performance analysis of entrepreneurship from one country to another.

OPINIONS ON STATEMENTS PROBLEMS OF THE ENTREPRENEURS COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Statements	Indian women entrepreneurs		Bhutanese women entrepreneurs	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
Guidance	4.1000	1.06526	3.9286	1.17117
Government control and procedures	3.4571	0.91185	3.2571	0.97335
Initial Capital	3.4714	0.89639	3.8571	2.39738
Marketing Practices	3.4571	0.81090	3.4000	0.96909
Stiff competition with opposite counterpart	3.4857	0.97420	3.5000	1.12611
Proper motivation	3.2000	1.00145	3.3714	0.93517
Collateral security while availing loan	3.3857	0.87299	3.9857	1.02848
Managing dual role (as a married women)	3.0286	0.88418	3.0714	1.38649
Environmental factors	3.1429	1.08060	3.4000	1.22060
Exploitation by dealers and agents	3.1000	1.13124	2.6286	1.18164
Wrong perception by bankers about women	3.0429	0.99907	2.5429	1.12528
Working long hours	3.2000	0.05775	3.9714	3.52618
Disturbance in family life	3.1143	0.92537	3.3714	1.02394
Cooperation from family members	3.2571	0.94310	3.0000	1.11641
Business skills	3.4000	0.87477	3.4429	0.98739
Proper skills	3.1571	1.00196	3.3429	1.04792
Untimely cash flow	3.0571	1.03400	3.0571	0.99160
Poor skills in risk management	3.0857	1.00351	3.3286	0.95889
Appropriate education	3.0571	1.00557	3.0571	1.01989
Lack of confidence	2.7429	1.12528	3.1143	1.12344
Lack of working capital	2.9143	0.98897	3.2857	1.00927
Socio-cultural Barriers	3.0571	0.97632	2.8571	1.21924

Source: Field Survey

The above comparative statement analysis shows the various problems faced by Indian women entrepreneurs and Bhutanese women entrepreneurs. Majority of the Indian women entrepreneurs and Bhutanese women entrepreneurs strongly agreed that guidance was the main problem for starting their business for which, mean value stood at 4.1000 and 3.9286 and the standard deviation stood at 1.06526 and 1.17117 respectively. Most of the Bhutanese women entrepreneurs agreed that working long hours was the main problem where the mean value and standard deviation stood at 3.9714 and 3.52618 respectively, whereas Indian women entrepreneurs' mean value and standard deviation stood at 3.2000 and 1.05775 respectively for the same problem. Many Bhutanese women entrepreneurs agreed that initial capital was the problem for starting their business where the mean value stood at 3.8571 and standard deviation at 2.39738, where as Indian women entrepreneurs face comparatively less problem with initial capital to start their business, the mean value and standard deviation being 3.4714 and 0.89639 respectively. Most of the Bhutanese women entrepreneurs agreed that another problem was lack of confidence where the mean value and standard deviation stood at 3.1143 and 1.12344 respectively. As against this, only few Indian women entrepreneurs agreed that another problem was the wrong perception by bankers while availing loan where the mean and standard deviation stood at 2.5429 and 1.12528 respectively. To conclude, majority of the Indian women entrepreneurs strongly agreed that guidance was the main problem for starting their business where the mean value stood at 4.1000 and standard deviation stood at 1.06526 and majority of Bhutanese women entrepreneurs agreed that working long hours was the main problem for them where the mean and standard deviation stood at 3.9714 and 3.52618 respectively.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

No.	Null Hypothesis	Chi-square value (Sig. value)	Accepted /Rejected Null Hypotheses
	Bhutanese women entrepreneurs are facing lack of confidence is considered as a problem when compared to Indian women entrepreneurs.	0.294	Accepted
	India women entrepreneurs believe that bankers wrongly perceive them when they apply for loan is considered as a problem when compared to Bhutanese women entrepreneurs.	0.058	Accepted
	Indian women entrepreneurs believe that collateral security is considered as problem while availing loan from bank when compared to Bhutanese women entrepreneurs.	0.075	Accepted

CONCLUSIONS

On the whole, most of the Indian and Bhutanese women entrepreneurs considered proper guidance and initial capital are the main problems to start and run the business. It is interesting to note that, most of the Indian women entrepreneurs believed that socio-cultural barriers are the major problem and as against this, Bhutanese women entrepreneurs considered lack of business skills are the main problem. To conclude, most of Indian as well as Bhutanese women entrepreneurs given the weightage to almost all statements in between 3 and 4 i.e. cannot say and agree respectively. So, this is where the government and family have to think and can take few steps to empower and educated women entrepreneur about problem recognition and solving techniques. If the government and family overlook this issue invariably women entrepreneurs lead to the emergence of potential sickness, which ultimately kills the laudable objective of women emancipation itself. In order to aver this situation the women entrepreneurs should get educated and trained in various functional areas of an enterprise otherwise the status of women will find a retreat.

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**ANNEXURE
STATEMENT OF OPINION**

Statements	More ← → Less				
	5	4	3	2	1
Guidance					
Government control and procedures					
Initial capital					
Marketing practices					
Stiff competition with opposite counterpart					
Proper motivation					
Collateral security while availing loan					
Management dual role (as a married women)					
Environmental factors					
Exploitation by dealers and agents					
Wrong perception by bankers about women					
Working long hours					
Disturbance in family life					
Cooperation from family members					
Business skills					
Proper training					
Untimely cash flow					
Poor skills in risk management					
Appropriate education					
Lack of confidence					
Lack of working capital					
Socio-cultural Barriers					

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