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#### WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AN EMERGING WORKFORCE IN 21st CENTURY

# JAINENDRA KUMAR VERMA RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW LUCKNOW

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Indian sociological setup is a male dominated one. Women are considered weaker and have to depend on male folk in their family and outside, throughout their life. They are left with lesser commitments and kept as a dormant force for a quite long time. But traditional setup is changed in the modern era. Women sector occupies nearly 45% of the Indian population. The Indian women's education standard raised in the last few decades. This conceptual paper emphasises the women entrepreneurs as the potentially emerging workforce in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### KFYWORDS

Women Entrepreneurship, Motivating factors, Policies and schemes, Associations, Traits, Successful Women Entrepreneurs, Emerging Workforce in 21st Century.

#### INTRODUCTION

be term entrepreneur is from, and is commonly used to describe an individual who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on financial risk to do so. The term was first defined by the Irish-French as the person who pays a certain price for a product to resell it at an uncertain price, thereby making decisions about obtaining and using the resources while consequently admitting the risk of enterprise.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the study are:

- To explore women entrepreneurship
- To enumerate Factors Motivating Women to Become Entrepreneurs
- To explore Policies and Schemes for Women Entrepreneurs in India
- To explore Women Entrepreneur Associations
- To explore Traits of Women Entrepreneurs in India
- To give some example of women entrepreneurs
- To explore Women Entrepreneur as an Emerging Workforce in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The paper is a conceptual paper and the method of reviewing articles of different articles of different researchers, research journals and case studies has been involved for the drafting of the paper.

#### **WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

By "women entrepreneurship" we mean an act of business ownership and business creation that empowers women economically. Women entrepreneurship has been recognised as an important source of economic growth. Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others and also provide society with different solutions to management, organisation and business problems. However, they still represent a minority of all entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs often face gender-based barriers to starting and growing their businesses, like discriminatory property, matrimonial and inheritance laws and/or cultural practices; lack of access to formal finance mechanisms; limited mobility and access to information and networks, etc. two main stream of thoughts have influenced the promotion of women entrepreneurship in India by the government as well as by various other agencies. The first stream is employment centred. It has been argued that considering their weaker bargaining power in the market as well as society, women should be given higher priority in various entrepreneurial schemes. The second most stream of thought relates to the argument for autonomy of women.

#### FACTORS MOTIVATING WOMEN TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS

The following attributes influence women to become entrepreneur:

- Economic independence
- Dissatisfaction with existing job
- Unemployment, seeking challenge
- Self interest
- Self prestige
- Traditional/ heredity employment opportunities, technical knowledge, encouragement from family members, use of idle funds, infrastructural facilities, entrepreneurial experience, market potentials, family members' interest, social status and family background.

#### POLICIES AND SCHEMES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN INDIA

In India, the micro, small and medium enterprise development organisations, various state small industries development corporations, the nationalised banks and even NGOs are conducting various programmes including Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) to cater to the needs of potential women entrepreneurs, who may not have adequate educational background and skills. The Office of DC (MSME) has also opened a women cell to provide coordination and assistance to women entrepreneurs facing specific problems.

There are also several other schemes of the government at central and state level, which provide assistance for setting up training-cum-income generating activities for needy women to make them economically independent. Small industries development bank of India (SIDBI) has also been implementing special schemes for women entrepreneurs.

- Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)
- MSME Cluster Development Programme
- Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises

#### WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR ASSOCIATIONS

Different agencies and NGOs are playing important role in facilitating women empowerment along with Indian government such as:

- Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE)
- Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs (CWE)
- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- Women Entrepreneurs Promotion Association
- The Marketing Organisation of Women Entrepreneurs
- SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurship Council
- Women Empowerment Corporation

Along with these organisations, there are many others acting at state level for the development of women entrepreneur.

#### TRAITS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN INDIA

Characteristics of women entrepreneurs in India are as follows

- Women entrepreneurs have strong desire for autonomy, to be their own boss, and live life on their own terms.
- They are an independent self-starter, not needing or wanting others to tell them what to do.
- They are calculated risk taker, with a higher-than-normal tolerance for failure and consider failure a non-issue.
- They like to be in control.
- They are highly self-motivated and are indefatigably fearless when it comes to getting the job done.
- They have a high level of energy that is sustainable over a long period of time.
- They are creative and innovative, a strong decision maker, and able to think quickly on their feet, and set things in motion.
- They are a big-picture thinker capable of seeing how everything relates to each other.

#### SUCCESSFUL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN INDIA

- Dream Weavers: started with Rs. 500 and now earns 25 Lakhs
- Patricia Narayan: winner of FICCI Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- Sarala bastian: owner of successful mushoom business
- Kiran Majoomdar: the Biocon Queen
- Saloni Malhotra: founder of DESICREW
- Revathi Krishna: founder of COFEE, books and more
- Lata Manohar: running successful boutique "Vishuddhi"
- Radha Rajakrishnana: a successful entrepreneur in apparel business

#### WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR AS AN EMERGING WORKFORCE IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Business world of 21<sup>st</sup>century is certainly very different from the past decades due to impact of the forces of technology, information, competition and market trends.

Keeping in view the 21<sup>st</sup> century women entrepreneurship, it is an emerging workforce having capabilities of improvement and enhancement provided they are supported and facilitated through customised policy frameworks by government institutions.

Women entrepreneur of 21st century is potentially motivated for change in order to improve the living conditions of her family, provide a sharing hand to her husband in income generation, provide quality education to her children, contribute positively by creating job opportunities, empowering other women and bringing out the society out of economic disparity and unemployment.

#### **DISCUSSION**

- Education and Training: women entrepreneurs require pre-entrepreneurial training before setting up a business successfully. So the proper training in right direction should be planned meticulously.
- Capital and Fund Raising Platforms: the most common and hesitant aspect among women entrepreneurs is capital generation for their business ventures. Unfortunately, all over the world policies are not very encouraging for women entrepreneurs regarding capital generation. Women entrepreneurs have to go through complex and time consuming procedures for capital generation due to number of reasons, consequently turning their motivational spirit off as business start-ups.

Policies need to be reviewed and reframed considering the challenges of women entrepreneurs to improve and speed up the finance generation processes

#### CONCLUSION

Despites all the problems, successful women entrepreneurs do exist. Women being the vital gender of the overall population have great capacity and potential to be the contributor in the overall economic development of any nation. Therefore, programs and policies need to be customized to not just encourage entrepreneurship as well as implement strategies which can help support entrepreneurial culture among youth.

Media has the potential to play the most vital role in entrepreneurial development by creating and highlighting all such platforms which can bring out the creativity and innovation among the women and men to grow entrepreneurship culture in society. Developing countries are definitely in dire need to encourage women entrepreneurship as women workforce is promptly available to exploit the unexplored dimensions of business ventures. Developed nations should primarily focus on entrepreneurial educational programs in order to develop women entrepreneurs. Generally speaking, globally business world has realized and is working on war footing to create entrepreneurship as the final remedy to overcome all types of business and market challenges.

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In this age of Commerce, Economics, Computer, I.T. & Management and cut throat competition, a group of intellectuals felt the need to have some platform, where young and budding managers and academicians could express their views and discuss the problems among their peers. This journal was conceived with this noble intention in view. This journal has been introduced to give an opportunity for expressing refined and innovative ideas in this field. It is our humble endeavour to provide a springboard to the upcoming specialists and give a chance to know about the latest in the sphere of research and knowledge. We have taken a small step and we hope that with the active cooperation of like-minded scholars, we shall be able to serve the society with our humble efforts.







