

Entrepreneurship a source of women empowerment: A case study of Srinagar district of J&K state

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship since its emergence as a concept has attracted the recognition of not only men but even women. Entrepreneurship is a fact that is observed to be recognized both globally and nationally or locally. It is a contemporary point of matter that has sparked the interest in many areas in general and women entrepreneurship in particular. Entrepreneurship is often associated with economic growth and development, generating new jobs, improving living conditions and empower women in many ways. Women play a crucial role in a country as they contribute to the economic development of the nation and their families as well. The current paper is a passable attempt to study about women entrepreneurship a source of women empowerment, a case study of district Srinagar of J&K state. The meaning of empowerment is different in different socio-economic perspective. The current paper focuses mainly on economic empowerment, familial empowerment and social empowerment. Therefore, the present study explores the effects of female entrepreneurship on women empowerment in district srinagar of J&K state.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Women Empowerment, Economic independence, women entrepreneurs, Social Empowerment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship since its emergence as a concept has attracted the attention of not only men but even women. women entrepreneurs contribute to the economic development of their families as well. Entrepreneurship as an admitted fact in general and women entrepreneurship specifically are vital to the economy of the nation with respect to economic development and poverty reduction. In recent years, there has been noticeable importance and growing interest in entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship at both national and international levels because it represents innovation and focuses on economic development. Women entrepreneurs and their businesses make up a rapid contribution towards economy, creating a variety of new ventures and contributing to the development. Women Entrepreneurship has grown to become a paramount area of research. With the growth in its study, interest in examining women's issues associated with entrepreneurship has simultaneously emerged. Entrepreneurship is also associated with increasing the equality across socioeconomic and demographic groups in society, contributing to the growth in women entrepreneurs. A study shows that between 1997 and 2002 the rate of women entrepreneurs increased by 19.8 percent (Lowry, 2006). In every region of the world, the number of women seeking economic opportunity and self-determination through enterprise creation is increasing, thus women's entrepreneurship needs to be focused since it has been acknowledged as a source of potential economic growth. In the global environment, female entrepreneurship has become one of the major driving forces of the economic development in many nations. With women entrepreneurship, there has been a shift towards women becoming empowered as they have started to gain independence, have better access to education, avail more employment opportunities and have been able to start their own ventures. In Srinagar district of J&K state women are playing an active role in every field. They have emerged as pillars for growth and development of nation. Women entrepreneurship has thus gained a lot of importance and value from the few decades as they provide employment to many youths.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Entrepreneurship is an income generating activities, to make the members economically independent, increase their living standard and change their social status. Women are important part of our society. They play a significant role in

nation building. Women can contribute much to our economy if she has been empowered. There are various studies which shows that women entrepreneurship and women empowerment are positively correlated. Batliwala (1994) opined that empowerment is the method of changing present power dealings and having greater power, over the resources. She determines that empowerment of women makes her change the philosophy of male dominance and facilitate her to have access and power over resources and change the organizations through which the principles and tradition of subordination is reinforced. Kumar (2013) in his study has defined that empowerment involves development in social and physical situations, along with decision making ability and power over resources and system for nourishing these benefits. Parveen and Leonhäuser (2004) measured six empowerment indicators influencing women empowerment in rural areas, namely, contribution to household income, access to resources, ownership of assets, participation in household decision-making, perception on gender awareness and coping capacity to household shocks. Tracey et al. (2006) in their study examined the personal and economic empowerment of rural Indian women through self-help group participation. The quantitative data found that working women reported enhanced meaningfulness in their daily lives, increased personal control over spending, enhanced social networks, reduced boredom, increased decision-making power in home and enhanced independence. The inclusion of women in income-generating activities gave support to their personal and economic empowerment. MOWCA (2008) found that discrepancies among male and female are well known in different areas such as; power over resources, employment, education, health, participation in the socio- political activities and decision making in family affairs. Women are socially and economically mistreated as compared to men. This makes the women deprived and less empowered. Therefore the main concern of all developing countries is to empower women. Chaudhary and Nousheen (2009) observed that in many less developed countries important concern of current developmental policies is women empowerment. There are various socio-economic factors that determine women empowerment. Moreover, World Bank (2002) describes that these factors are, self-strength, control over resources, freedom of one’s choice, life of dignity, access to basic human needs, struggle for rights, autonomy, and decision making capability. It is clear from the above literature that, most of the studies bring out into the open that women entrepreneurship had a significant positive impact on women empowerment.

III.OBJECTIVES

To be meaningful, every work needs to devise the objectives of the study. The present study would be undertaken to attain the following specific objectives:

1. To study women entrepreneurship and women economic empowerment.
2. To study women entrepreneurship and familial empowerment.
3. To study women entrepreneurship and social empowerment.

Hypothesis:

H1: There is no significant relationship between women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

H2: There is no significant relationship between women entrepreneurship and familial empowerment.

H3: There is no significant relationship between women entrepreneurship and social empowerment.

IV.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The following research methodology was carried out for the present work. The quantitative method was used to understand the trends and statistical truth in the research. Therefore, the study used a questionnaire as a tool for collecting data to support explanation of the problem statement solution. The population of the study comprised of women entrepreneurs who are residents of district srinagar. The number of respondents who participated in this survey totaled to 100 women entrepreneurs and are engaged in different business enterprises. Sampling method used was simple random sampling.

V.DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The following analysis was done on SPSS to study the variables and the possible relationships that might exist between them. The data analysis tools used in the study were chi-square, one sample t-test and mean.

Chi-square test:

Test Statistics

	Access to resources	Household work	Living Conditions	Income level	Savings	Independence	Freedom of Mobility	Dignity and Self respect	Decision Making
Chi-Square	113.421 ^a	316.326 ^b	305.423 ^b	294.814 ^b	2.9592 ^b	316.689 ^b	147.341 ^b	138.821 ^a	335.402 ^b
df	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

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0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 32.

The chi square table above shows that these variables are statistically significant with $p < 0.001$, so that null hypothesis is rejected. Hence it is concluded that, there is a significant positive relation between women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, women entrepreneurship and familial empowerment and women entrepreneurship and social empowerment.

One-Sample t-test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Access to resources	102.009	99	.000	4.205	4.12	4.29
Household work	104.616	99	.000	4.315	4.23	4.40
Living Conditions	105.690	99	.000	4.238	4.16	4.32
Income level	104.172	99	.000	4.032	3.96	4.11
Savings	99.038	99	.000	4.296	4.21	4.38
Independence	108.508	99	.000	4.242	4.17	4.32
Freedom of Mobility	95.843	99	.000	4.110	4.03	4.19
Dignity and Self respect	112.612	99	.000	4.274	4.20	4.35
Decision Making	104.962	99	.000	4.348	4.27	4.43

Referring to the significance values of t-test, it is found from the table that mean values are significant for all 9 variables. The mean value is considered significant if the value under significance column is below 0.05. Hence for all the factors null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis i.e. there is a significant positive relation between women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, women entrepreneurship and familial empowerment and women entrepreneurship and social empowerment, is accepted. Referring to the t values, it is revealed that women entrepreneurship greatly influences all the factors of women empowerment.

VI.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study discovered that with women entrepreneurship, women entrepreneurs observe increase in their income levels and savings as well which makes them capable to contribute in household expenditures. It increases their control over resources and hence improves their household living standards. Another revelation of the study is that women with women entrepreneurship, women enjoy greater freedom of mobility as well as participate in household decisions on various issues. Many female participants were illiterate, yet women entrepreneurship had made them able to earn livelihood for themselves and for their family and live a life of dignity and respect. At the same time the analysis of the study also demonstrates that women’s involvement in entrepreneurship lessen their economic reliance on husband or other family members and give them secure future which eventually enhances their empowerment.

CONCLUSION

Most of the female respondents agreed to conclude that women entrepreneurship has helped them in improving their household financial situation and living standards with the increase in income. Majority of respondents also mentioned

that entrepreneurship had transformed their lives and make them economically independent. In conclusion to this study, it is stated that women entrepreneurship play an important role in improving overall household living standards. Another impact of women entrepreneurship that was established to be significant is familial empowerment of women. Improvements in family relations have been established by the analysis, along with the reduction in household work has also been noticed by women entrepreneurs. The analysis of data reveals that with entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurs get opportunity to increase their income and support their family financially. Entrepreneurship makes them financially independent. The findings of the study also specify that entrepreneurship have a positive impact on personal empowerment of women as well. Majority of women have reported increase in their level of decision making. To conclude, the analyses of the data obtained in this study indicate that women entrepreneurship has a positive impact on the status of women in the family, economically as well as socially.

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