

**A STUDY ON PROBLEM AND PROSPECTS OF WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
ERODE DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT:

Women have been successful in breaking their confinement within the limits of their homes by entering into varied kinds of professionals and services women entrepreneurs have proved to be on par with their men counterparts in business acumen and are emerging as smart and dynamic entrepreneurs. Women owned businesses are highly increasing in the economies of almost all countries. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. Skill, knowledge and adaptability in business are the main reasons for women to emerge into business ventures. 'Women Entrepreneur' is a person who accepts challenging role to meet her personal needs and become economically independent. The state of Tamilnadu is the industrially developing area in which some of the entrepreneurs excel in small scale industry. Even though the government organizes women by various associations, they are not ready to undertake the business. As compared to men, women are less motivated to start business units due to some unwanted fear, lack of motivation and kind of activities. Thus, the study aims at undertaking the entrepreneurial development among women highlights their motivational forces and relationship between socio-economic background of women entrepreneurs, motivational factors and their existing entrepreneurial traits. The future will see more women venturing into areas traditionally dominated by men. The socio background including factors, type and mode of business, training programmes are the important problems of women entrepreneurs in Erode District.

Keyword: Women Empowerment, EDP, Socio-Economic, IT, Women Entrepreneur.

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Introduction:

Women have been successful in breaking their confinement within the limits of their homes by entering into varied kinds of professionals and services women entrepreneurs have proved to be on par with their men counterparts in business acumen and are emerging as smart and dynamic entrepreneurs. There are many reasons for women to enter into entrepreneurial ventures in a predominantly society. Entrepreneurship among women is an important avenue through which women can overcome their subordination within the family and the family and the society as a whole. Therefore, development of entrepreneurship among women has received special attention of the policy makers. In this direction, a special character in the seventh plan has converted into the integration of women in economic development. The new industrial policy has stressed the need for conducting special Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDPs) for women. Besides this, today, a network of institutions exists in the country to promote women entrepreneurship. The commercial banks and the financial institution are an integral part of this network. Many organizations / institutions and association promote and develop women entrepreneurship by providing financial assistance at concessional rates of interest and also organize industrial fairs and exhibitions. Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDPs) for women creates entrepreneurial awareness among them.

Besides organizing short-term EDPs for women, continues training in all management areas should be given to them. Separate industrial estates may be set up for women entrepreneurs to create altogether a special environment. At the national level and the state level, there is a need to set up Women Industrial Development Bank in the existing banks and financial institutions, and it is advisable to start a separate cell called "Women Entrepreneurs Guidance Cell" to promote and guide the women entrepreneurs. More and more research is to be conducted to identify the problems, which are faced by them. Organizing the implant visit of successful women entrepreneurs may encourage the new entrants. Besides this, to promote and development the rural women entrepreneurship, efforts shall be made to get the achieve involvements of 'Mahila Samajs' or Women's organization by launching village adoption schemes. In recent years, there has been a heightened global awareness regarding the contribution, which women can make for the process of economic development, although it is still in the growth stage, there is unquestionably a business revolution in the works across the

nation and women are major part of it. The efforts are on it to uplift the social and economical status of women. The development of women as a entrepreneurs will generate multifaceted socio-economic benefits for the country.

“Women” as Entrepreneurs in India:

Women owned businesses are highly increasing in the economies of almost all countries. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. Skill, knowledge and adaptability in business are the main reasons for women to emerge into business ventures. ‘Women Entrepreneur’ is a person who accepts challenging role to meet her personal needs and become economically independent. A strong desire to do something positive is an inbuilt quality of entrepreneurial women, who is capable of contributing values in both family and social life. With the advent of media, women are aware of their own traits, rights and also the work situations.

The challenges and opportunities provided to the women of digital era are growing rapidly that the job seekers are turning into job creators. They are flourishing as designers, interior decorators, exporters, publishers, garment manufacturers and still exploring new avenues of economic participation. In India, although women constitute the majority of the total population, the entrepreneurial world is still a male dominated one. Women in advanced nations are recognized and are more prominent in the business world. But the Indian women entrepreneurs are facing some major constraints like

- Lack of confidence in their strength and competence.
- Socio-cultural barriers
- Market-oriented risks
- Motivational factors
- Knowledge in Business Administration
- Awareness about the financial assistance
- Exposed to the training programs
- Identifying the available resources

Statement of problem:

Entrepreneurship is one of the important factors of industrialization; in the absence of entrepreneurship, industrialization cannot take place. Entrepreneurs are playing an important role in the economic development of underdeveloped country. Women's skills and knowledge, their talents and abilities in business and a compelling desire of wanting to do something positive are some of the reasons for the women entrepreneurs to organize industries. According to World Bank, investing more in business of women rather in men leads to greater development of a nation. Empowering women in entrepreneurship leads to break the inequalities and reduces the poverty. Entrepreneurship plays an important role in developing society of a fast developing country like India. Nowadays it has been realized that enterprising women have cast entrepreneurial talents which could be harnessed so as to convert them from the position of 'Jobseekers' to 'Job givers'. The government has realized the importance of women entrepreneurship. As a result, it offers a variety of programmes for women entrepreneurs.

The state of Tamilnadu is the industrially developing area in which some of the entrepreneurs excel in small scale industry. Even though the government organizes women by various associations, they are not ready to undertake the business. As compared to men, women are less motivated to start business units due to some unwanted fear, lack of motivation and kind of activities. Thus, the study aims at undertaking the entrepreneurial development among women highlights their motivational forces and relationship between socio-economic background of women entrepreneurs, motivational factors and their existing entrepreneurial traits.

Objectives of the study:

The present study has been carried out with the following objectives in

1. To study the socio-economic background of the women entrepreneurs in Erode District.
2. To analyze the motivational factors and other factors that influence women to become entrepreneurs.
3. To analyze the major strength and weakness of women entrepreneurs and the environmental opportunities and threats which promote the entrepreneurship.

4. To offer suggestions to improve the satisfaction of women entrepreneurs and to framework for the promotion of women entrepreneurship of selected districts in Tamilnadu.

Scope of the study:

The study focuses on the women entrepreneurs in selected districts in Erode district, Tamilnadu selected depends on industrial growth has been phenomenal. The selected districts with its good infrastructural facility, offers sound prospects for industrial developments. The scope of the study encompasses women entrepreneurs in Erode District and the problems faced by women entrepreneurs who are engaged in starting a new enterprise. The study is limited only to the women entrepreneurs of selected groups in Erode District.

Sampling Design:

Women entrepreneurs who are the main source of primary data are collected from the women entrepreneurs through a well structured questionnaire. As the area of study is limited in Erode district of Tamilnadu and as the total population of women population is numerable, the researcher has proposed the sampling techniques for the selection of respondents. To identify the right respondents which are also very essential for the collection of primary data the following process has been adopted scientifically. Finally 90 respondents were selected and included the study from various taluks of erode districts who have engaged to start an enterprises and running successfully.

Tools of analysis:

Personal interview is the major tool of data collection. Interview technique is to be made at women entrepreneurs. The secondary data are also proposed to collect from various departments. All these data are to be arranged in various form of tables and proposed to critically analyse with the help of a number of statistical tools. Percentage Analysis, Average, Weightage Score and Chi-Square Test are the various statistical tools applied.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

This study aims to identify the problems and prospects of women entrepreneurs in Erode districts. For this purpose, the study was conducted for 90 respondents of the women entrepreneurs. An attempt has been made in this section to analyse the collected data with reference to activities of the women entrepreneurs. A detailed analysis is given below.

The table 1.1 shows that problems faced by women entrepreneurs, the weighted ranking method was applied. It is inferred that the most number of the respondents have given First rank for Lack of strong leadership; the respondents have given Second rank for financial deficit. The third rank was lack of systematic planning and working and followed by health problem, Non-awareness of Government scheme, Non-repayment of loan by the members, Leaders misusing the group's money, Other problems, Lack of Education and Lack of proper training.

Socio Economic Background:

The personnel characteristics of the selected respondents like age, educational status, marital status, family income, business type, size of the business, financial sources and spend expenses are discussed in this section.

Table 1.1

Socio-Economic Background of the Respondents

| Factors | Category | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Age | Below - 30 | 20 | 22.22 |
| | 30 - 40 | 32 | 35.56 |
| | 40 -50 | 26 | 28.89 |
| | 50 and above | 12 | 13.33 |
| Marital Status | Unmarried | 31 | 31 |
| | Married | 69 | 69 |
| Educational Qualification | Illiterate | 5 | 5.56 |
| | Primary | 9 | 10 |
| | Secondary | 16 | 17.78 |
| | Higher Secondary | 42 | 46.67 |
| | Graduate Level | 18 | 20 |
| Annual Income | Below 10,000 | 15 | 16.67 |
| | 10,000 - 20,000 | 32 | 35.56 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----|-------|
| | 20,000 - 30,000 | 21 | 23.33 |
| | 30,000 - 40,000 | 14 | 15.56 |
| | 40,000 and above | 8 | 8.89 |
| Business Type | Trading | 24 | 26.67 |
| | Manufacturing | 38 | 42.22 |
| | Service | 16 | 17.78 |
| | Combination | 10 | 11.11 |
| | Others | 2 | 2.22 |
| Size of the Business | Below 1 Lakhs | 42 | 46.67 |
| | 1 - 5 Lakhs | 22 | 24.44 |
| | 5 - 10 Lakhs | 17 | 18.89 |
| | 10 Lakhs and above | 9 | 10 |
| Source of Financing | Spouse Income | 32 | 35.56 |
| | Personal Savings | 27 | 30 |
| | Loan from banks | 23 | 25.56 |
| | Other Source | 8 | 8.89 |
| Spend the business Income | Family Expenses | 37 | 41.11 |
| | Personal Savings | 29 | 32.22 |
| | Re-Investment in her business | 24 | 26.67 |

Source : Primary Data

Table 1.2
Problems of Women Entrepreneurs in Erode District (Weighted Ranking Method)

| Sl. No | Particulars | Weight | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Total | Rank |
|--------|---|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------|----|----|-------|------|
| | | | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | | |
| 1 | Lack of Strong Leadership | | 17 | 13 | 15 | 20 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 650 | 1 |
| | | | 170 | 117 | 120 | 140 | 18 | 45 | 20 | 15 | 4 | 1 | | |
| 2 | Financial Deficit | | 16 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 569 | 2 |
| | | | 160 | 81 | 64 | 91 | 42 | 60 | 40 | 21 | 4 | 6 | | |
| 3 | Leaders misusing the group's money | | 10 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 465 | 7 |
| | | | 100 | 72 | 48 | 49 | 54 | 65 | 20 | 27 | 14 | 16 | | |
| 4 | Lack of Education | | 8 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 451 | 9 |
| | | | 80 | 99 | 56 | 21 | 30 | 45 | 52 | 36 | 20 | 12 | | |
| 5 | Non-awareness of Government scheme | | 13 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 500 | 5 |
| | | | 130 | 45 | 72 | 70 | 66 | 35 | 28 | 27 | 16 | 11 | | |
| 6 | Non- repayment of loan by the members | | 4 | 13 | 12 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 493 | 6 |
| | | | 40 | 117 | 96 | 35 | 72 | 25 | 40 | 45 | 18 | 5 | | |
| 7 | Lack of proper training | | 3 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 427 | 10 |
| | | | 30 | 63 | 88 | 21 | 54 | 65 | 36 | 39 | 18 | 13 | | |
| 8 | Lack of systematic planning and working | | 13 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 561 | 3 |
| | | | 130 | 90 | 120 | 49 | 72 | 40 | 24 | 21 | 6 | 9 | | |
| 9 | Health problems | | 7 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 527 | 4 |
| | | | 70 | 81 | 72 | 140 | 54 | 45 | 36 | 9 | 10 | 10 | | |
| 10 | Other problems | | 12 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 455 | 8 |
| | | | 120 | 63 | 64 | 28 | 54 | 15 | 48 | 27 | 20 | 16 | | |

Source: Primary Data

The table 1.2 shows that problems faced by women entrepreneurs, the weighted ranking method applied. It inferred that the most number of the respondents have given First rank for Lack of strong leadership; the respondents have given Second rank for financial deficit. The third rank was lack of systematic planning and working and followed by health problem, Non-awareness of Government scheme, Non- repayment of loan by the members, Leaders misusing the group's money, Other problems, Lack of Education and Lack of proper training.

Chi-Square Analysis:

The opinion of the respondents and socio-economic characters relationship is applied for chi square test. The selected variables only to applied in this model. Table 1.3 reveals that the summary of the respondents. The chi-square analysis reveals that the factors are Age and Education are significant at 1% level. Marital status, business type and sources of finance are significant at 5% level of significance. The remaining factors are not significant at 5% level.

Table 1.3
The Summary of Opinion of the Women Entrepreneurs

| Sl.No | Factors | Chi-Square Value | Degree of Freedom | Table Value | Result |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Age | 17.26 | 6 | 16.81 | Significant** |
| 2 | Educational Qualification | 14.97 | 4 | 13.28 | Significant** |
| 3 | Marital Status | 12.56 | 2 | 5.99 | Significant* |
| 4 | Family Income | 3.65 | 6 | 12.59 | Not Significant |
| 5 | Business Type | 11.54 | 4 | 9.49 | Significant* |
| 6 | Size of the Business | 7.23 | 4 | 9.49 | Not Significant |
| 7 | Sources of Finance | 13.68 | 6 | 12.59 | Significant* |
| 8 | Amount Spend | 7.26 | 4 | 13.28 | Not Significant |

Note: * - Significant at 5% Level, ** - Significant at 1% Level

Source: Primary Data

Findings:

1. 35.56% of the respondents are belonging to 30 – 40 years age group of the entrepreneurs. 28.89% of the respondents are between the age of 40 - 50 year. The 22.22% of the respondents are below the 30 years age group and rest of the respondents are above the 50 years.
2. 46.67% of the respondents are belonging to higher secondary level of the entrepreneurs. 20% of the respondents are graduates and 17.78% of the respondents are secondary level of education. The 10% of the respondents are primary level and rests of the respondent are illiterates.
3. 35.56% of the respondents are belonging to 10,000 to 20,000 incomes of families. 23.33% of the respondents are Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 income group and only 8% of the respondents are their family income of above 40,000.
4. 42.22% of the respondents are deals with manufacturing types of business. 26.67% of the respondents who are engaged in trading type of business. Only 16% of the respondents are doing our business for service sectors. 10% of the respondents are combined all type of business.
5. 69% of the respondents are married category and rest of the respondents are unmarried. Therefore, marital status is important factor to determine the women entrepreneurs.
6. 46.67% of the respondents are invested below 1 Lakhs in their business. 24.44% of the respondents are 1 lakhs to 5 lakhs category.
7. 35% of the finance sources from spouse income, 30% of the respondents financed from personnel savings and 25.56% are loan from banks as well as 8% respondents financial sources are other sources.
8. 41.11% of the respondents opinion are to meet family expenses, 32.22% of the respondents opinion are personnel savings, and 26.67% of the respondents opinion are re-investment in her business.
9. Problems faced by women entrepreneurs, the weighted ranking method applied. It inferred that the most number of the respondents have given First rank for Lack of strong leadership; the respondents have given Second rank for financial deficit. The third rank was lack of systematic planning and working and followed by health problem, Non-

awareness of Government scheme, Non- repayment of loan by the members, Leaders misusing the group's money, Other problems, Lack of Education and Lack of proper training.

10. The chi-square analysis reveals that the factors are Age and Education are significant at 1% level. Marital status, business type and sources of finance are significant at 5% level of significance. The remaining factors are not significant at 5% level.

Suggestions:

1. Most of the women entrepreneurs are of the opinion that because of lack of training, they are not able to survive in the market. Hence, the government should conduct frequent training programmes with regard to new production techniques, sales techniques, etc, This training should be made compulsory for women entrepreneurs.
2. Finance is the first major problem for women entrepreneurs. Hence, the government can provide interest free loans to encourage women entrepreneurs. To attract more women entrepreneurs, the subsidy for loans should be increased.
3. Since the number of entrepreneurs from scheduled caste and most backward communities is very low, awareness is to be created those women, by providing special attention.
4. Women entrepreneurs should be encouraged to start their entrepreneurs as joint stock companies rather than as a sole trade and partnership concerns to avail the advantages of large scale operation.
5. parents of unmarried potential women entrepreneurs should be encouraged in spending money on setting up business rather than giving preference to their marriage.
6. Marketing product is one of the main problems for women entrepreneurs. Here, women co-operative societies can be started to procure the products from women entrepreneurs. They will help them in selling their products at a reasonable price.
7. Improper location and inadequate infrastructure facilities are the hurdles in the way of development of women entrepreneurship. Hence, separate industrial estates may be set up exclusively for women entrepreneurs to reduce the initial investment and to create a special environment.

Conclusions:

It is evident from the study that women are ready to face the challenges associated with setting up of business. Society is very much receptive to the concept of women entrepreneur, so is the family. Women are not into business for survival but to satisfy their inner urge of creativity and to prove their capabilities. Women education is contributing to a great extent to the social transformation. The future will see more women venturing into areas traditionally dominated by men. The socio background including factors, type and mode of business, training programmes are the important problems of women entrepreneurs in Erode District.

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