

Abstract

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Title of Thesis : **Women Entrepreneurship and MSME Sector: A case Study of Delhi**

The study has tried to come up with a solution to improve the participation of women in the economy through the participation of women in livelihood opportunities considering the fact that unequal participation of women in income generating activities is responsible for the gender inequality in income and gender inequality in the human development,. The study revolves around the women entrepreneurship in MSME sector as one of the ways to address the prevalent problems. Women entrepreneurship is a source of increasing the participation of women in productive activities of economy. Since, unequal participation of women in economic activities is one of the root causes of the prevalent problems in any economy including India, the study has made an attempt to inquire the possible solutions and to identify the problems/issues related to women entrepreneurship. The study has been conducted with the objective to identify the role and growth of women entrepreneurship in MSME sector of India and particularly in MSME Sector of Delhi; to examine the socio-economic status of women entrepreneurs; to analyse the performance of women enterprises; to present comparative analysis of male and female entrepreneurs; to study various schemes of the government for the development of women entrepreneurship; and to suggest alternative measures for further development of women entrepreneurship.

In order to analyse the position of women entrepreneurship at micro level, case Study of MSME Sector of Delhi has been selected. A total sample of 100 entrepreneurs has been executed with a structured questionnaire. The sample constitutes of 50 women entrepreneurs (i.e. 13.15% of the Registered Women Enterprises in MSME Sector of Delhi) and 50 male entrepreneurs. The enterprises of all the entrepreneurs are manufacturing enterprises registered with Directorate of Industries of National Capital

Territory of Delhi. The current status and performance of women entrepreneurs in study area, i.e. Delhi has been analysed with the help of both primary and secondary data sources. The performance of entrepreneur has been evaluated with the help of Entrepreneurial Success Index (ESI). Entrepreneurial Success Index has been calculated with the help of turnover, net profit margin, net profit, return on investment, level of exports, number of employees in the enterprise, diversification, perception of success, sustenance of enterprise and impact on personal economic position of the entrepreneur. The level of turnover, net profit margin of and the level of exports is more in case of women entrepreneurs relative to male entrepreneurs.

The study concludes that though the number of women enterprises has increased but it is much less than that of the enterprises owned by the male entrepreneurs. The overall position of women enterprises has shown an improvement over the years. The share of women enterprises in MSME sector of most of the States/UT has increased over the years except some few States/ UT like Sikkim, Kerala, Orissa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Daman and Diu, Gujarat and Lakshadweep. However, the relative position of women entrepreneurs is not at par with male entrepreneurs. The share of the women enterprises in MSME Sector of India as a whole, in all the States and rural and urban areas of India is much less than the share of the enterprises owned by male entrepreneurs. As per the primary study, most of the women as well as male entrepreneurs have proprietary form of organisation. The average scale of the enterprises of women as well as male entrepreneurs is small. Women entrepreneurs included in the sample are more integrated with the world economy for raw material as well as for marketing of the final product. It reflects from the primary data that the borrowed capital is higher in case of male entrepreneurs relative to women entrepreneurs. A larger number of women entrepreneurs relative to male entrepreneurs have availed credit from either institutional or non-institutional source. Half of the male entrepreneurs have not availed credit from any of the sources. Age of the women entrepreneurs has positive correlation with their success level. In case of male entrepreneurs, success index has negative correlation with the age group of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship had positive impact on the level of skills of most of the the entrepreneurs. As per the study, the level of skills is high in case of women entrepreneurs but they can not spend more time for enterprise, as they have to perform dual responsibilities. Education level of the entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial experience of the entrepreneurs, previous occupation, entrepreneurial

family background, business management skills, amount of borrowed capital, amount of investment in fixed assets and institutional source of credit have positive impact on the success index of the women entrepreneurs. In case of male entrepreneurs, education level of the entrepreneurs, business management skills, investment in fixed assets, entrepreneurial family background and institutional or non-institutional source of credit have positive impact on the success index. The performance of the entrepreneurs with higher education level has been better than the performance of entrepreneurs with relatively lower level of education.

The assessment of motivational factors has concluded that, in case of women entrepreneurs, self-interest, self-confidence, desire to achieve equality at par with men, desire to attain freedom and independence have been the most prominent influential factors in taking up entrepreneurship. Some of the socio-cultural problems are faced by the women entrepreneurs. In the initial phase, women entrepreneurs face the problems of dual responsibilities of women, gender discrimination in dealing with government department, in receiving training and support from government, in dealing with legal issues, in receiving support from family were the minor problems faced by the women entrepreneurs in the initial phase. In the initial phase, women entrepreneurs faced the entrepreneurial problems such as adequacy of working capital, dealing with the government departments, implementation of the schemes, dealing with the legal issues, knowledge of benefits of the schemes, competition with the large enterprises, productivity of workers, availability of raw material at favorable prices, rigid lending policies, information about legal formalities to be completed, credibility, awareness of the schemes of the government, management of the workers, provision of collateral, absenteeism of workers, knowledge of competition in the market. The entrepreneurial problems faced by the women entrepreneurs in the present phase are dealing with the government departments, implementation or outreach of the schemes, price of electricity, absenteeism of workers, competition with the large enterprises, knowledge of the benefits of the schemes, level of wages and dealing with the legal issues. Dual responsibilities of women, gender discrimination in dealing with legal issues and gender discrimination in receiving support from government are some of the socio-cultural problems faced by women entrepreneurs in the present phase .

In the initial phase, the level of the problems related to the issue of credibility, rigid lending policies, adequacy of working capital, information pertaining to best technology,

competition with large enterprises, level of wages, labour unionism, dealing with legal issues, issue of supply of electricity faced by women entrepreneurs was significantly different from the level of the same problems faced by male entrepreneurs. In the present phase, the level of the problems related to the issue of demand of product, dealing with the legal issues, knowledge of benefits of schemes, location of the enterprise faced by the women entrepreneurs are significantly different from the level of the problems faced by the male entrepreneurs. In case of women entrepreneurs, issues related to finance, issues related to information, issues related to raw material, issues related to production and productivity, issue of market dealing, issues related to the schemes of the government and legal issues have negative impact on the success index. In case of male entrepreneurs, issues related to finance, issues related to information, issues related to raw material, issues related to production and productivity, issues related to the schemes of government, issues related to the market competition, legal issues have negative impact on the success index of the entrepreneurs. The factors having positive influence on the Entrepreneurial Success Index should be stressed upon by the government and other organisation working for the promotion of women entrepreneurship. The entrepreneurial issues having negative correlation with ESI such as issue of unfavorable rate of interest, issue of adequacy of working capital, transportation cost of raw material, knowledge of competition in the market, awareness of schemes of government, implementation of schemes should be overcome by government. Special financial schemes should be formulated for women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs should be able to avail collateral free loans at a lower rate of interest. Certain exclusive newsletters inclusive of all the information for benefit of women entrepreneurs should be issued by government. It is not only the initiatives of government which can promote and develop women entrepreneurship but efforts of educational institutes, institutes providing vocational training, associations of women entrepreneurs and Non-Government Organisations for development of women entrepreneurship are equally required to be expended.