



A study on the role of Women Entrepreneurship in Achieving SDGs in India

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Abstract

At present, the role of women entrepreneurs in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to identify the various challenges they are facing. Sustainable female entrepreneurship is heavily focused on poverty reduction, accounting for 41% of recent research in this field. Women reinvest approximately 90% of their income back into their families more than double the rate of men directly improving health, education, and nutrition. This study focused on the domains that influence Women's Entrepreneurship in Achieving Sustainable Developmental Goals. The research indicates that the entrepreneurship of women plays a crucial role in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it propels economic expansion, nurture creativity, and advances social integration. To reduce gender gaps in the workforce, women entrepreneurs play a critical role in achieving SDG (Gender Equality). They do this by sanctioning additional women and generating occupations. Originality Women's entrepreneurship plays in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the interplay between gender, innovation, and sustainable development from an entirely new perspective.

Keywords: women entrepreneurship, sustainability, SDGS, women empowerment

Introduction

The fastest-growing economic phenomenon in developing countries in recent times has been women's entrepreneurship, or the ability of women to enter the business world. Tunde-Awe & Olajide (2016). These nations are heavily stressing the issue of women's involvement as entrepreneurs and the ongoing rise in it as part of national development initiatives. It is nowadays pure that women entrepreneurs have a major impression on the country's economic

growth, the making of professions, the decrease of poverty, the simplification of gender discernment, and the progression of women's empowerment. However, in the process of economic development, sustainability has taken on greater importance recently. In September 2015, the United Nations finally approved 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inception and maintenance of socio-economic development in both developed and developing nations have been attributed to entrepreneurs. The opening up of markets to the world encouraged more women to launch new businesses and become entrepreneurs. It is a widely held belief that because most Indian women do not engage in financially rewarding activities, they are largely unhelpful.

Objectives

1. To study factors Influencing the Women's Entrepreneurship in Achieving Sustainable Developmental Goals.
2. To find out the countless challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
3. To make suitable suggestions for the development of women entrepreneurs.

Research Methodology

This study is based on secondary data and goals to conduct a methodical literature review of women entrepreneurs' creativities to realize sustainable goals. The SLR is a valuable tool for examining publications over a specific period and is effective in analyzing trends in the field. This technique, extensively acknowledged by academics and researchers, allows for a severe and evidence-focused review of the literature on entrepreneurship.

Review of Literature

Hasan and Parveen in their stated that female-led entrepreneurship fosters job opportunities and accelerates a country's economic development.

Noor *et al.* revealed that the need for a theoretical framework to study women in leadership and entrepreneurship. A few business models take into account the skills of female entrepreneurs. Although research is moving in the direction of even though men and women have equal opportunities, women are still thought to be the family's carers. Women entrepreneurs face many difficulties and a difficult process.

Adefare *et al.* in their study understood that encouraging women to start their businesses is essential to attaining social progress, sustainable economic growth, and women's empowerment. Women business owners face discrimination and societal mistrust. According to the study, the gender gap for female entrepreneurs will close when differences in the legal, social, educational, financial, and other domains are eliminated. In the long run, this can help achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which deals with discrimination against women and girls in all its forms.

Factors Influencing the Women's Entrepreneurship in Achieving Sustainable Developmental Goals

Socio-Economic Factors

SEF plays an important role in empowering women. The socio-economics factors consist of education, financial factors, decision-making power, self-esteem, self-confidence, etc., First of all, education is an important factor for WE, educated women tend to have better health results, receive extra, and have more regulator over their survives. Women's employment opportunities are essential for their economic empowerment and access to decent work and equal pay for equal work are critical factors for women's economic empowerment. Women also get empowered by the access to financial resources for their economic independence, access to credit, savings, and insurance can help women start their businesses and achieve financial stability.

Skills and Training Factors

Socio-economic factors play a crucial role in determining the success of training and skill development programs. These programs are designed to improve the skills and abilities of individuals, particularly in the workforce, and enable them to participate fully in the economy. There are some ways in which socio-economic factors can impact the effectiveness of training and skill development programs such as education is a critical factor that affects an individual's aptitude to contribute in training and skill development agendas.

Technological Factors

Women now have more options and accessibility to education in the financial and other spheres of life thanks in part to technology. Research has indicated that increased female participation in the formal economy and production and service sectors has been facilitated by women's learning through access to finance, mobile money, inclusive aspects of finance or

microfinance, digitally based health, and agriculture. Technology has improved women's participation in science and empowered them politically and institutionally.

Rates and Regulatory Factors

Government policies, business policies, licenses, administration, production, and sales services rules and regulations have a great impact on women's participation as entrepreneurs in entrepreneurial activities. Women's involvement as entrepreneurs is also affected by Government grants, subsidies, etc. Women's inadequate access to data limits their well-informed contribution into policymaking.

Women Entrepreneurs in Achieving SDG Goals

Gender equality is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Equal resource distribution is also necessary for it to work. Achieving sustainable social development, sustainable economic growth, and sustainable environmental outcomes all depend on the empowerment of women. It fosters solidarity both within and between generations and is founded on these ideals. Women share primary responsibility for child care, nutrition, and household management in almost all countries.

Countless Challenges are facing by Women Entrepreneurs

The women entrepreneurs continue to drive global economic growth while navigating persistent gender-specific barriers. These challenges range from systemic financial gaps to deep-rooted societal norms that disproportionately affect women-led ventures.

The most critical challenges identified in recent research include:

Access to Finance and Capital

The Funding Gap: A major report in 2025 revealed that 78% of women entrepreneurs cite limited access to finance as their greatest barrier. All-female founder teams often receive a fraction of the venture capital compared to all-male teams.

Collateral Requirements: Many women lack significant assets (like land or property) in their own names, making it difficult to secure traditional bank loans that require collateral.

Societal Norms and Gender Bias

- **Dual Responsibility:** Women often face the "double burden" of managing both a business and a disproportionate share of household chores and caregiving, which limits their available time for business growth.
- **Not Being Taken Seriously:** Many women CEOs report struggling to gain credibility in male-dominated industries, frequently needing to work "twice as hard" to receive the same recognition as their male counterparts.

Networking and Mentorship Gaps

- **Exclusive Networks:** Elite professional networks are often male-dominated, making it difficult for women to find the mentors, collaborators, and high-level contacts necessary for scaling.
- **Lack of Role Models:** A scarcity of visible, successful female leaders in certain sectors (like manufacturing or construction) can discourage new women from entering those fields.

Technical and Regulatory Hurdles

Limited access to technology and lower digital literacy rates particularly in rural areas prevent women from leveraging e-commerce and digital marketing for growth.

Internal and Psychological Barriers

Societal expectations often place higher pressure on women to succeed, leading to a heightened fear of failure or a tendency toward perfectionism before launching.

Suggestions

- To explore crowdfunding platforms (e.g., i Fund Women) and angel networks that specifically prioritize female founders.
- To provide bank loans In India, programs like Stand-Up India and Mudra Yojana provide collateral-free loans up to ₹1 crore specifically for women.
- To develop the Founders are encouraged to use "female intuition" to select investors whose values align with their vision, being prepared to "walk away" if the relationship is not a genuine two-way street.
- To seek sponsors who actively advocate for your advancement within industry circles, rather than just mentors who provide advice.
- To focus on high-potential sectors such as sustainability (eco-friendly products) and health-tech (personalized wellness), where women-led innovations are currently leading the market.

Conclusion

In today situation women need to break out of the traditional and conventional mound if they want to improve the quality of their lives. In India, women entrepreneurs are emerging as a dominant economic force, significantly contributing to the nation's goal of becoming a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). Women now own approximately 20% of all MSMEs in

India and lead nearly 45% of registered startups. The state and central government has launched several schemes to developed their activities. The Research study showed that women-led startups often generate **over 60% more revenue** per dollar invested compared to male-led counterparts, demonstrating greater fiscal discipline and resourcefulness.

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