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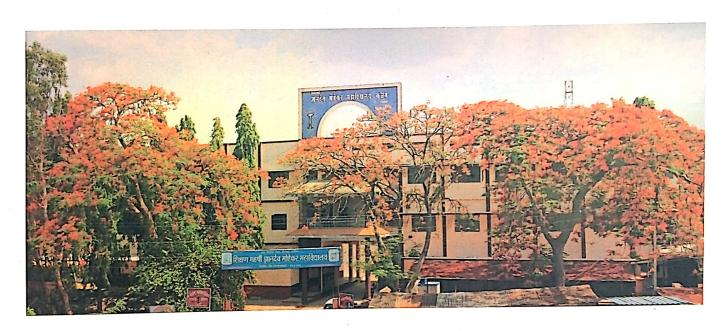
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SPECIAL ISSUE

On the Occasion of One Day National Conference On

ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDIAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

27th January, 2018



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Special Issue on the Occasion of National Conference on Role of Women in Indian Economic Empowerment (27 January, 2018)

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UNORGANIZED SECTOR OF RETAILING & RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Mr. Rajesh V. Shetgaokar Assistant Professor. M.E.S College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar. Goa

Introduction

There is increasing realization that if the nation wants to build a successful economy, there is need of women participation in economic activities. According to the UNDP report 67 per cent work in the world is done by women, only 10 per cent of global income is earned by women and mere one per cent of global property is owned by them. Retailing accounts for nearly 14 per cent of India's GDP and is essentially owner manned small shops. The typical Indian retail shops are very small. According to the estimates over 14 million outlets operate in the country and only 4% of them being larger than 500 sq ft (46 m²) in size. This sector has created direct and indirect employment contributing significantly for women empowerment.

Objective of the Study

- To understand the concept of economic empowerment of women and different frame works involved in measuring it.
- > To analyze the importance of unorganized retail sector in bringing women empowerment
- > To find out the constraints and problems faced by the women entrepreneur for their empowerment
- To offer suggestions for enhancing the women empowerment based on the findings of the study.

Sample Design

The data has been collected from North Goa district and South Goa district. 200 retail outlets operated and managed by women were selected for the study.

Methodology

The research is carried out using simple random sampling. The samples were selected from different groups on the basis of simple random sampling without any personal bias. With the aim of obtaining accurate quantitative information, a questionnaire was prepared for a sum of 200 respondents. The questionnaire was translated to Konkani and explained to the respondents for easy understanding and better feedback. The data collected from the beneficiaries are scored, tabulated and analyzed by using statistical tools such as percentage and ratio-proportion.

Limitation of the Study

- Only those women entrepreneurs in unorganized sector were selected who have completed five years of their retail business.
- The respondent were selected from the rural area only.

Review of Literature

Khundekar (1998) finds a positive relationship between 56 women's education and labour force participation in Bangladesh. His study finds that the husband's education is likely to reduce his wife's labour force participation rate because of the positive wealth effects of potential earnings.

Muhammad (2009) attempted to understand the nature and extent of the corporate success of Grameen Banks and Micro credit enterprises and its claim about poverty reduction and women empowerment. He reviews the success of the Grameen Bank Model how it has crowned as a panacea for poverty eradication and empowerment of women.

Sriram (2010) in his article titled "Microfinance: a Fairy tale turns into a nightmare" mentioned that it was inevitable that the commercial model of microfinance in India, with its minimalist and standardized model of lending, would grow into a bubble and run into trouble. Many microfinance commercial organizations have entered the market in search of profits and are competing to lend to the poor.

Golla et al (2011) observed that women's economic empowerment requires her to have both the ability to succeed and advance economically, and the power to make and act on economic decisions. Having power and agency to benefit from economic activities requires that women have the ability to make and act on decisions, as well as to control resources and profits.

Section II

Chamification of Warner Micro-enterprises: Women were selected who have started the economic started types of a started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started the economic started types of a selected who have started types of a selected types of a selected who have started types of a selected who have started types of a selected types of a selected who have started types of a selected type of a selected type of a selected type of a s Chamification of Women Micro-enterprises: wonten women are promoting diversified types of economic independently. The chamification in below table clearly shows that women are promoting diversified types of economic activities in mutal areas Table: 1

Classification of Women Microenterprise

	7.50 ± 170 mg	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Ser. No	Nature of Resailing	86	11
	Cirma Shops	7.7	11.50
7)	Chemist	4.7	11.20
2	Equivent slup	LO	9.5
-11	Cleating	26	1.3
=	Home Appliance	22	5.5
6	Verentile and Four Vendors	23	11.50
7	Santonary	12	6
//	Total	200	1()()

Source: Primary data

Change in Income per Month of the Family: Change in income is an important parameter to understand the impact in women empowerment. Increase in income is necessary for empowering women's.

Table: 2 Change in Income per Month

Se.No	Income(in Rs)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
2	2000-10000	93	46.50
3	10000-20000	7.4	37
4	20000 - 25000	23	11.50
6	More than 25000	LO	5
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

The result in Table No. 2 provide very encouraging fact about the change in the level of income of women entrepresent The income earning capacity has change significantly after establishment of retail business. The 46.50 per cent of woman emrepreneur have registered increase in income between Rs 2000 to Rs. 10000 and 37 per cent have registered the change in income between Rs. 10000 to Rs. 20000.

Amount of Annual Saving and Value of Household assets: The amount saved by women entrepreneur is significant as in is important to meet the uncertainty, providing financial security, improving standards of living etc.

Table-3 Amount of Annual Saving

Sr.No	Amount of Saving (in Rs.)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Nil 10000 2000	8	4
3	10000-20000 20000-30000	105	52.50
4	30000-40000	62 19	9.5
6	40000-50000 More than 50000	<u>.</u>	2
nesm date	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

It is clear from Table Number: 3 that majority of women (52.50 per cent) save between Rs 10000 to Rs. 20000 per month. There are also 31 per cent women who do the amount from their month. There are also 31 per cent women who do the saving between Rs 20000 to Rs. 2000 per month from the

Table: 4
Value of Household Assets

Sr. no	Value of House Hold Assets	No. of Respondent	Percent
1	<10,000	16	8
2	10,000-20000	26	13
3	20000-30000	35	17.50
4	30000-40000	39	19.50
5	40000-50000	7.4	37
6	>50000	10	5
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

The value of household asset has increased substantially. The analysis reveals the facts that 8 per cent of women have the assets of < Rs.10000, 26 per cent of women's have the assets of Rs.10000 – Rs. 20000, 17.50 of women have the assets of Rs.20000 – Rs.30000. The analysis makes it very clear that there is substantial increase in the household assets of women as 37 per cent possessed household asset more than Rs. 40000.

Section III

Social Empowerment

The economic empowerment provides greater role for women in family and society. Women empowerment can be judged from collective factors such as her power in decision making, weightage for her decision and opinion participation in social activities etc. The table below shows the analyses of certain important indicators of social empowerment.

Table: 5

		Lante.			
Variables	Significantly	Marginally	Not Change At	Can't Say	Total
	Changed	Changed	all		
Self Confidence & Self	142	28	22	08	2000
Esteemed	(71)	(14)	(11)	(4)	(100)
Participation in Decision	50	120	24	06	2(%)
Making	(25)	(60)	(12)	(03)	(100)
Participation in Social	35	129	25	11	(200)
Activities	(17.5)	(64.5)	(12.5)	(5.5)	100

Source: Primary data *Figures in the bracket shows the percentage

The greater role in decision making allows the women to exercise her power in the family and society. However, the study shows that 12 per cent believed that their position in decision making have not changed and 60 per cent believe that that even if it is changed it has change marginally. The women cannot be empowered in real sense if they lack self-confidence and self-esteemed. The self-confidence helps the women to overcome the hurdles in economic and social life. The increased economic prosperity must ensure boost in their self-confidence. The result can be encouraging as 71 per cent of women believe that their self-confidence and self-esteemed have increased significantly due to participation in economic activity. The study shows that participation in social activities has change marginal as they have to wait for their family decision in participating in social activities.

Major Constraints of Women Empowerment

The women encounter number of problems in their way of empowerment. It was felt necessary to investigate the main causes which come in way of empowerment.

Table: 6
Constraints of Women Empowerment

Sr. No	Constraints	No of Respondent	Percent
1.	Lack of Self Confidence	16	8
2	Family Encouragement	32	16
3	Attitude of the Society	18	9
4	Lack of skill	45	22.50
5	Lack of Financial Resources	95	47.50
6	Lack of Exposure	12	6
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

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The above table reveals the fact that 47.50 per cent of women are of the opinion that lack of financial resources is a major problem. The 22.50 per cent considered lack of skill, 16 per cent considered lack of family encouragement, 6 per cent believed that lack of exposure and no risk bearing capacity while 8 believed that lack of confidence as a major hurdle in their empowerment.

Suggestions

- Measures should be taken to spread awareness and provide the information for women empowerment. The information center can be set up in village school, health center, panchayat, aganwadi etc.
- The banking procedure must be simplified to have easy access to credit. The banks should take more efforts and initiative to develop the skill, training and support to start the enterprises by the women
- The technical training should be extended to the women's. The training can be imparted through NGO. associations and social organization.
- The grievance of the women should be carefully handled and action must take against those who make complication in the government department.
- There should be identification and innovation of high income generating activities suitable for women's.

Conclusion

The study clearly shows that the retail business has important role in the economic empowerment of the women. The retailing has lead to increase in income, saving and assets of poor women which in turn have raised the standard of living and help in alleviating the poverty. The effort should be made to empower the women socially and politically. Women are potent force to reckon with the nation building process. The success of nation will be really recognized if we are able to empower the women in all respects and bring them in main streams of development. We can look forward towards women entrepreneur to achieve this goal. The future of nation will be decided as how far we can achieve the empowerment of women since no nation can march forward if the women are left behind.

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