

ABSTRACT

The promotion of women entrepreneurship serves as a significant mechanism for fostering women's empowerment. Access to resources and markets, control over resources, actual ownership and the authority to make and act on decisions are potentially key aspects in empowering women. In a country such as India, characterised by a significant population and the pervasive issue of unemployment, entrepreneurship emerges as a potentially effective mechanism for women to enhance their empowerment.

Entrepreneurship facilitates women's equitable engagement in social, economic, political and cultural decision-making processes. The presence of women entrepreneurs contributes to a shift in societal attitudes by fostering collaboration between women and men in the pursuit of progress, so mitigating gender-based prejudice to a significant degree. In order to effectively pursue the goals of sustainable development, it is imperative to empower women entrepreneurs and address the barriers that impede their progress. By eliminating these obstacles, women can actively engage in commercial activities and contribute completely to the economic growth. The study has been conducted to determine if genuine empowerment can be achieved through entrepreneurship and to study the relationship that exists between women entrepreneurship and empowerment.

There are seven chapters in the research study as follows: (1) Introduction (2) Literature Review (3) Socio-economic background of women entrepreneurs and level of Women Empowerment (4) Motivating factors of Women Entrepreneurs (5) Relationship between women Entrepreneurship and Women Empowerment (6) Problems and challenges faced by Women Entrepreneurs

In the first chapter introduction part includes background of the study, women empowerment, indicators of women empowerment, development of women empowerment, concept of Women entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurship, development of Women Entrepreneurship in India, Conceptual and Theoretical Framework, 1.3 Women Entrepreneurship in Kokrajhar District, statement of problem, need of the Study, objectives of the study, research Questions, research methodology, ethical condition and Chapterization of the study.

The objectives of the study are the following-

- i. To investigate the socio-economic background of women entrepreneurs in study area.
- ii. To find out the motivating factors of women entrepreneurs to start their business enterprises.
- iii. To examine the relationship between women entrepreneurship and level of women empowerment.
- iv. To examine the challenges and problems of women entrepreneurs in managing their business.

Based on the objectives of the study, the research question for the present study is developed. They are-

1. Do the factors like age, marital status, family type, income, education and experience play a significant role in empowering women entrepreneurs of the study area?
2. Do the factors like economic needs; family responsibilities and desire to be independent are the major factors that motivate women to start their own enterprises?
3. Is there any significant relationship between women entrepreneurship and women empowerment?
4. Do the problem of finance; responsibilities, infrastructure marketing problem, role conflict and lack of education are major challenges and problems faced by women entrepreneurs in managing their business enterprises?

Both qualitative and quantitative techniques are used for analysis. To find out the empowerment level of women entrepreneurs in various dimension empowerment index is developed with the help of weighted score formula and Chi-square test is being used to test the relationship between socio-economic factors of women entrepreneurs and level of empowerment

In the second chapter review of literature is done on concept of women empowerment, concept of women entrepreneurship, dimensions of women empowerment, motivating factors responsible for taking up of an enterprise and research gap is identified

Third chapter consists of the socio-economic factors of women entrepreneurs of Kokrajhar district and empowerment level of women entrepreneurs with each socio-economic factor.

Fourth chapter is about motivating factors of women entrepreneurs like economic needs; family responsibilities, desire to be independent and other motivating factors required for starting own business of women entrepreneurs.

Fifth chapter explains the relation between women entrepreneurship and women empowerment. It highlights women's Economic Empowerment, Social Empowerment, Personal Empowerment, Government Empowerment, Professional Empowerment, Political empowerment, Legal Empowerment.

Sixth chapter deals with the Problems and challenges women entrepreneurs face in managing their business.

And last chapter Seven summarizes the findings of the study and presents the conclusions that can be drawn, suggestions for enhancing the women entrepreneur's empowerment.