

## CONTEMPORARY FACTS ABOUT INDIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

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### **Abstract**

Women are generally observed as home makers with little to do with economy or commerce. Women in Entrepreneurship has been largely neglected both in society in general and in the social sciences. Not only have women lower participation rates in entrepreneurship than men but they also generally choose to start and manage firms in different industries than men tend to do. Women across India are showing an interest to be economically independent. The current paper highlights the overall view about the woman entrepreneurs in India, their economic activity (agricultural and non-agricultural), number of workers employed, religion, cast and source of finance etc. Secondary data from All India Report on 6<sup>th</sup> Economic Census, 2016 has been considered, where simple graph and percentage methods is used to provide a current status of women Entrepreneurs in India.

**Keywords:** Modern India, Women Entrepreneurs, men, number of workers.

### **Introduction**

In the era of Liberalization, Globalization and Privatization along with growing IT revolution, today's world is changing at a surprising step. This change has created economic opportunities for Women and Men who want to do own operate business. Enterprise is a vital source of economic growth. Without enterprise and entrepreneurs, there would not be much innovation, productivity growth and jobs. It is an available resource of the nation that can be utilized effectively **According to Drucker** "An entrepreneur is the one who always searches for change, responds to it and exploits it as an opportunity. Innovation is the specific tool of entrepreneurs, the means by which they exploit changes as an opportunity for a different business or different service"

In this dynamic world women entrepreneur are significant part of global expedition for sustained economic development and social progress. Women entrepreneurs in India are bringing about a lot of development in the public and private sectors. They represent a vast untapped source of innovation, job creation and economic growth in the developing India. The barriers to women's entrepreneurship are various. Women face greater obstacles in accessing credit, training, networks and information, as well as legal and policy constraints. At a global level, about 126 million women have started or are running their businesses and whereas in India, there are about 8 million women have started or are running their businesses. Apart from that, women have 24% share in corporate senior management positions and in India it's 30% for the same. Not only that, round about 37% of formal enterprises owned by women around the globe whereas 10% of formal enterprises in India

are being operated by women. In Comparison to other countries, the development of women entrepreneurship is very low in India, especially in rural areas (Bizztor, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018)

As per Population Census 2011 Female literacy rate was 65.46 % and the work force participation rate for female was 25.51 %. It has been observed in India, that 8.05 million out of the total 58.5 million establishments were run by women entrepreneurs which are around 13.76 % of the total number of establishments. Total workers engaged in women owned & run establishments were 13.48 million persons, which is 10.24% of the total number of workers engaged in India under different economic activities. Also, the average employment per establishment for women owned establishments was found to be 1.67. (All India Report on 6<sup>th</sup> Economic Census, 2016)

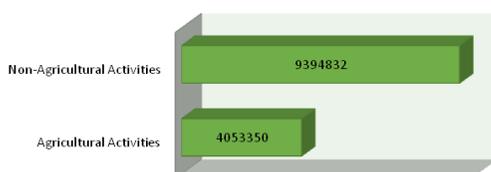
The possible reasons for the rise of women entrepreneurs in India can be: Overall changing perception of entrepreneurship, Better access of education, Increasing social acceptance of women entrepreneurship, Better infrastructure, especially in technology, Better access to finance, Rise of Role Models, etc., The total number of establishments owned by women entrepreneurs was 8,050,819 out of which 5,243,044 constituting about 65.12 % of the total establishments were located in rural (All India Report on 6<sup>th</sup> Economic Census) areas and the remaining 2,807,775 (34.88%) were located in urban areas. Number of studies has been conducted at national and international levels regarding women entrepreneurs. Stoner et.al., (1990), Lalitha, I. (1991), Rani (1996), Dhaliwal (1998), Nussbaum M.C (2000), obinson(2001), Kutanis & Bayraktaroglu (2003), Bhargava (2007), Langowitz N and Minniti, M (2007), Cohoon, Wadhwa & Mitchell, (2010), Jyoti et al, (2011), Palaniappan, et al., (2012), and Vijayakumar A and S. Jayachitra (2013), Krishnamoorthy and Balasubramani (2014) exclusively focuses on the growth, development and problems faced by women Entrepreneurs.

Based on the above theory and literature, the current paper highlights the concept of woman entrepreneurship in India, i.e. economic activity (agricultural and non-agricultural), number of workers employed, religion, cast and source of finance of Women Entrepreneurs.

### **Number of Establishments under Women Entrepreneurs**

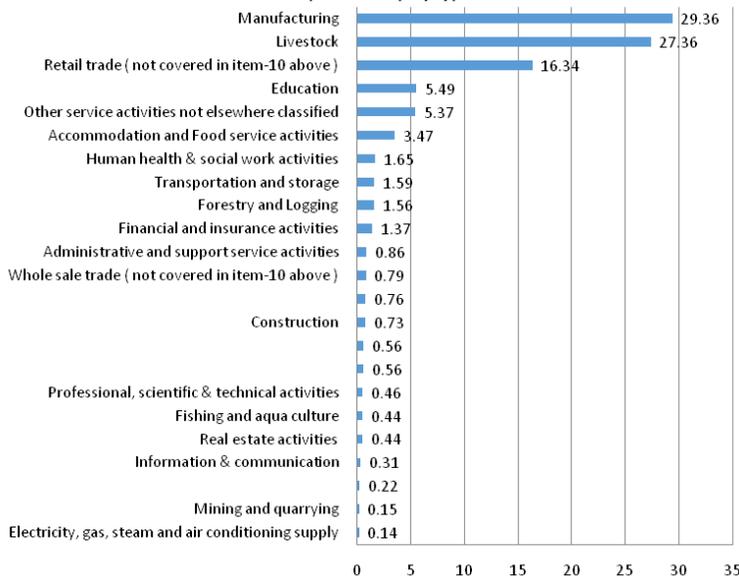
The total number of persons employed in establishments under women entrepreneurs for agricultural and non-agricultural activities is presented in chart 1. In agricultural establishments, maximum persons employed were 4.05 million (30.18%) in Livestock followed by Forestry and logging, agriculture other than crop production & plantation and Fishing and aquaculture. In non-agricultural establishments, about 9.39 million persons (69.86%) were engaged in manufacturing activity. Other important activities in terms of employment are trading, education, other services and accommodation and food services.

Chart 1 No. of establishments under Women Entrepreneurs for agricultural and non-agricultural activities



The economic activities as per the number of persons employed (in percent) in establishments owned by women entrepreneurs is presented in chart 2. It is clear from the chart that manufacturing (29.36 %), Livestock (Agriculture) 27.36%, Trade (16.37 %), Education (5.49 %) are the top few economic activities (in percent) owned by women entrepreneurs in India.

**Chart 2 Broad Activity wise total number of persons (%) employed in establishments under women entrepreneurship by type of establishment**



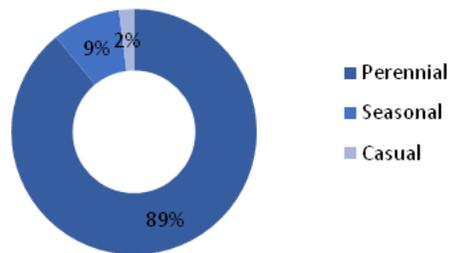
**Nature of Operation**

Chart 3 reveals the total number of establishments under women entrepreneurship. It is clear from the table that 89.4 % of the workers work in perennial (continuing) establishments and 8.95% work in seasonal establishments and remaining 1.6% works in casual establishments. Perennial establishments were 93.71% in urban areas whereas it was 86.5% in rural areas.

**Source of Finance**

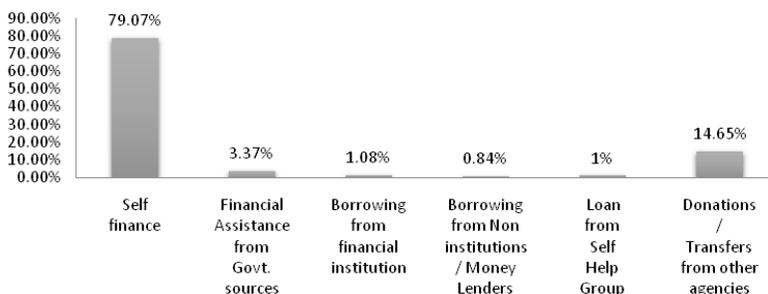
Chart 4 reveals the Percentage of Establishments under women entrepreneur by major Source of Finance like, loan, borrowing, self-finance etc. It is clear from the table that almost 79% of the women establishments were self-financed. The second important source which is 14.5 % is from donation or transfer from other agencies. The next important sources were Assistance from Government and Borrowing from financial institutions which is 3.4% and 1.1 % respectively.

**Chart 3 Nature of operation**



**Religion of Women Entrepreneurs**

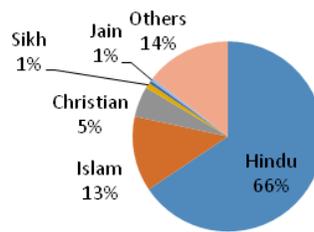
**Chart 4 Percentage of Establishments under women entrepreneur by Major Source of Finance**



As may be seen from Chart 5, that 65.6% of the establishments were owned by Hindu entrepreneurs, 12.8% by the followers of Islam. Christians owned 5.2%, Sikhs 0.9%, Jain's owned 0.5%, Buddhist 0.5% of the establishments and rest were owned by other religious communities.

Chart 6 reveals the number of persons employed in women establishments by religion of owner, it is clear from the chart that, 60.8% Hindu, Jain and Sikh 1%, 12.3% Islam and 4.8% Christians were employed by women entrepreneurs.

**Chart 5 Number of Establishments under women entrepreneurship**



**Chart 6 Percentage of persons employed by Entrepreneurs**

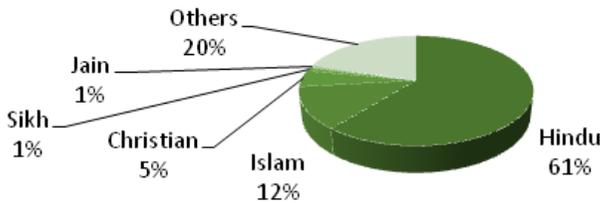
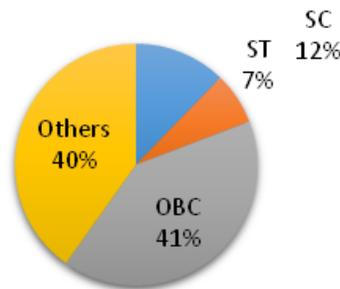


Chart 7 depicts the distribution of women owned establishments by social group of the owner. It is observed that 3.27 million establishments constituting 40.6 % were owned by OBCs. Others i.e. General category owned 3.23 million (40.2%) establishments, SCs owned 12.18 %, and ST owned 6.97%.

**Chart 7 percentage of Women establishments by Social group of Owner**



**Conclusion**

The Indian Economic Forum shows little progress in narrowing the economic gap between women and men. In Modern India, more and more women are taking up entrepreneurial activity especially in micro, small and medium scale enterprises. Entrepreneurship for Women development is an essential part of human resource. This paper provides an overview of the Indian landscape of women’s entrepreneurship. It aims to reveal the current status of women entrepreneurs in India, regarding their caste, religion, and employment etc., Hence the following policies are suggested regarding women entrepreneur

- A focused service for the aspiring women entrepreneurs must be provided by the current Government will help them transform their ideas into profitable enterprises.
- Specific advice and counseling must be provided to the specialized members on the various available opportunities and their benefits.

- Personalized suggestions must be provided by the professional advisory board, regarding latest opportunities and trends

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