

PASSIVE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURISM- A HURDLE TO THE PRACTICE AND SUCCESS OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION SCHEMES

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Abstract:

In India today Passive Entrepreneurism is a major issue afflicting the growth and development of women as entrepreneurs. The fact that the characteristics of patriarchal society extend its grip over the aspirations of women to become entrepreneurs cannot be denied in totality in India. The successive governments of the country designed and developed several women specific financial schemes to promote entrepreneurial spirit among them and to make women self-sufficient in their business ventures. However, all these efforts have gone in vain due to the counterproductive narrative of Passive entrepreneurship.

Key Words: Passive Entrepreneurism, Entrepreneurs and Financial Inclusion

In India today Passive Entrepreneurism is a major issue afflicting the growth and development of women as entrepreneurs, The fact that the characteristics of patriarchal society extend its grip over the aspirations of women to become entrepreneurs cannot be denied in totality in India. Though not uniform across the nation the passive entrepreneurship indeed a wide spread concern requiring the attention of all major stake holders who care for uplifting the women sections of the society. In its simplest meaning the Passive entrepreneurs refers to the women who remain as partner in estoppel with no role whatsoever in the business entrepreneurs except lending their names for securing loans, concessions and other benefits.

The successive governments of the country designed and developed several women specific financial schemes to promote entrepreneurial spirit among them; all these efforts have gone vain due to the counterproductive narrative of Passive entrepreneurship. Though the intended beneficiaries of women specific entrepreneurial development schemes are reality women, in reality only men become ultimate users and beneficiaries of such schemes.

Now is high time the government looks into the problems of Passive entrepreneurship among women seriously and initiates efforts to eradicate this evil from the society. In this regard, government should enlighten both men and women regarding the need to involve the later in the active management of business enterprises. The men folk should be made to realize that women are more useful than merely lending their names for loans. They are to be considered for managerial roles so that their untapped skills, knowledge and abilities are put to optimal use.

Let us see the experience of a few authors who have dealt with the concept of Passive entrepreneurship among women.

Vibhavari M. Chavan, Dr. Prachi A. Murkute (Mar.2016)¹ mentioned that while introducing the policy of privatization, liberalization, computerization and globalization, it

¹ Vibhavari M. Chavan and Dr. Prachi A. Murkute (Mar.2016), Role of Women entrepreneurship In Indian Economy, International Journal of Science Technology and Management, Vol.5, Issue No.3, pp.604-612, www.ijstm.com.

was expected that there would be noticeable improvement in entrepreneurial activities of women entrepreneurs. Though they gained some recognition, the way is still long to go. The transformation from the role of homemaker to a woman entrepreneur is a complex issue to succeed and sustain in her business. Her strengths should be utilized creatively by learning from experiences and overcome the challenges and weaknesses. With a team of different skills and abilities, women should be able to lead and coordinate for a successful business venture.

Annual Report of Government of India (2016-2017)² states that the program of the country relies on the empowerment of women. Various training and awareness programs, gender concerns legislature support provide all round development to reach their full potential. The Government of India, Ministry of women, and Child Development propose various schemes and programs to improve the status of women and become an active partner of transformation in social, economic, cultural and political progress of the nation.

Maniklal Adhikary and SupravatBagli (2010)³ have given their insights on the initiatives taken by RBI regarding channelization of the savings of the people through formal financial institution. Financial Inclusion motivates people to save money by utilizing formal financial services. Extending formal financial assistance to the rural areas will bring down informal financial institutions. To enhance the Financial Inclusion Government supports people by providing loans through Self-Help Groups. Under the Instructions given by RBI, banks offer a no-frills account for people in standardizing their life. Education is one of the determining factors in inculcating the financial habits in customers, is accepted by educated people. However the level of financial inclusion is measured at various levels through parameters like education, occupation, and community background. To reach out to all the categories of people, the Government has to take several necessary steps.

When the government and the financial institutions act in lackadaisical manner in preventing Passive Entrepreneurism, then every women specific schemes will bound to be a failure and eventually the intended purpose of these schemes would never be served.

The researcher has identified a few reasons that typically play dominant role in causing Passive entrepreneurship among women.

➤ **Conventional disbelief**

In the conventional male chauvinistic society, women are restricted from achieving success just because they happened to be women. Further, men strongly believe that investing money on the ventures run by women is risky and uncertain.

➤ **Cynical thoughts:**

The financial organizations which are still under the conventional clutches of the society doubt the entrepreneurial skills of the women. Hence, the financial organizations demand impractical and rigid securities while processing of obtaining loans. But empirically, the repayment ratio is higher than that of men states United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO, 1995b).

➤ **Lack of Education:**

In comparison to men the literacy level of women are significantly lower in many of the Indian states. Inadequate literacy typically forces women into a marital life at a younger age. This situation makes them dependent on the male members of the family. The low literacy level also prevent women

² Towards a New dawn, Ministry of Women and Child Development", Annual Report (2016-2017). Government of India, pp.1-193.

³ Maniklal Adhikary and Supravat Bagli (Dec.2010), Impact on SHG on Financial Inclusion – A case study in the District of Bankura, Journal of Management and Information Technology, Vol.2, Issue No.1, pp.16-32

from understanding and assimilating new technologies, new methods of production, marketing techniques and financial management techniques necessary for successfully managing the modern day business challenges.

➤ **Limited Risk Bearing Ability:**

Due to the discriminatory nature of laws concerning property rights and sharing in Indian families women often get negligible share in the ancestral properties of the family. This discriminating practices make women financially vulnerable and male dependent. Poor financial support and lack of independence often deprive women from giving collateral securities to financial Institutions while availing loans. Cumulatively all these factors make women remind passive in businesses.

Conclusion

The foregoing discussions make it amply clear that the practice of Passive entrepreneurship is rampant and deep rooted. It warrants the immediate attention of banks and other institutions which tend to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. They should have to ensure that the ultimate beneficiaries of the women schemes of only women who play active role in the affairs of the business. These stake holders must offer higher priorities for business runs solely by women entrepreneurs. They can also encourage women centered Self Help groups and small enterprises to avail larger loans and also technical advices for effective management of their business concerns.

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¹ Vibhavari M. Chavan and Dr. Prachi A. Murkute (Mar.2016), Role of Women entrepreneurship In Indian Economy, International Journal of Science Technology and Management, Vol.5, Issue No.3, pp.604-612, www.ijstm.com.

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