



MICRO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN SELF- RELIANCE: A STUDY IN TRIPURA

Amit kr.Deb¹



¹Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Tripura University, Tripura(W), India.

ABSTRACT

Women constitute almost half of total population of the world. Women are most important part of our society. They are facing numerous problems in family as well as society. Most of the women in the context of Indian society are engaged with their household activity and serve their families. As the Indian society is mostly patriarchal in nature women are not able to contribute themselves in full-fledged economic activity. In spite of social and economic barrier today women are trying hard to overcome these barriers and gradually able to participate work outside of their home. To empower women in respect of socially, economically and politically microenterprises are an essential means and way of their self-reliance. The aim of this study is to find out changes taken place after engagement in micro-entrepreneurial activity by women and also to search the factors of their involvement in entrepreneurial activity. This study is extensively based on empirical research where one semi-structured questionnaire used and the research study identifies that after engagement in entrepreneurial activity the life of women has been significantly changed towards economically healthy and prestigious social life in Tripura.

KEY WORD: Microenterprise, Women empowerment, Entrepreneurship.

INTRODUCTION

In the view point of Max Weber an entrepreneur is a person who has charismatic personality and the entrepreneur gain profit through entrepreneurial activity. Whereas in Schumpeter's view on entrepreneur is an innovative person or a leader who can bring change within market economy, he or she may able to identify

opportunities and use innovative approaches to explore these. According the Government of India report women entrepreneur is defined as an enterprise owned and controlled by women and having a minimum 50% financial capital and giving at least 51% of employment generation in women enterprise (R.Saritha). The emergence of women

entrepreneurs and their contribution to national economy is quite visible in India. The number of women entrepreneur has been grown since after the economic liberation in 1990s. Women are gradually engaging themselves to entrepreneurial activities to alleviate poverty from their life and hence employ themselves. In this course of entrepreneurial activity they are engaged themselves in traditional business activities like papad and pickle making, masala making, handicrafts, handloom, embroidering, small vegetable shop in market, street vender etc. small business activities.

Since from the eighteenth century to the end of nineteenth century so many scholars have been studied entrepreneurship and many theories invented and field based practices have completed for various research studies throughout the world. Many classic and contemporary thinkers from social science and also from other discipline contributed their thoughts and practices in the study of entrepreneurship. Karl Marx thought on entrepreneurship is that a system entrepreneurship is based only for economic profit seeking and through this the labour contributes their overtime at workplace by which the capitalist become more profit and become rich, in this way the gap increases between proletariat that labour class and bourgeois that is the capitalist. On the other hand another great thinker Max Webers' thought on an entrepreneur as a charismatic leader, who has some extra ordinary inner quality charisma in his entrepreneurial activity by making profit. Among the contemporary thinkers Joseph Schumpeter is one without whom entrepreneurship theory is incomplete. His thought on entrepreneurs: an entrepreneur is a person who is an innovator, and able to identify opportunities and use innovative approaches to explore these in his entrepreneurial activity and brings change within market economy. And in 1970s the economist Nobel laureate of Bangladesh Mohammad Yunus introduced microfinance for micro entrepreneurial activity. For Yunus a person who is poor is not responsible for this situation. It is the roles and regulations of society which responsible for poverty. Yunus provide

small amount of loan to the poor villagers especially to the women to start new entrepreneurial activity to come out from their poverty and he has his idea was grandly success till today. The amount of loan return is almost ninety eight percent. Yunus thought that all socially conscious person should start entrepreneurial activity and bring change the world around them.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ⇒ To search socio-economic status of women entrepreneurs.
- ⇒ To search the factors of involvement in micro-entrepreneurship and problems faced by them.

METHODOLOGY

Women face problems in entrepreneurial activities like gender biasness for patriarchal society, absence of entrepreneurial aptitude, family conflicts, credit facilities, lack of raw materials, high competition, high production cost, social barriers, middlemen profit seeking, lack of self-confidence, shortage of information and awareness. As women constitute half of total population they can contribute a great portion to the Indian economic activity. Though a great portion of Indian women are belonging from below poverty line these women can initiate new entrepreneurial activity for their self-reliance as well as alleviate poverty from their life. Self-employment through micro entrepreneurship is the best employment method which is true fact throughout the world. Indian women are neglected section of workforce. They are not considered with their male counterpart. Unemployment is the basic reason of low status of women in social and economic fields. India's new industrial policy emphasized on the development of entrepreneurship for men and women both. The aim of this study is to find out microenterprises are as successful tool for women's self-reliance and self-employment based on extensive empirical study in Tripura. This research study has done using descriptive study method. And the geographical are selected for this study in Tripura a remote part of North-eastern India. This state is geographically landlocked surrounded by Bangladesh and only one side has linked through Cachar district and Aizal

district respectively Assam and Mizoram state with rest part of India. The population of this state is mixed type. Tribal and non-tribal both populations are available. According to Census-2011 total Tribal population in Tripura is 31.8% (Total: 11,66,813. Male: 5,88,327. Female: 5,78,486). This study represented sample from all the eight district of Tripura. For this study 50 samples are selected using purposive sampling method and only those tribal women entrepreneurs are taken for research who engaged into micro-entrepreneurial activity especially handloom and handicraft based and also has taken loan from any Government agency. The reason behind selecting handloom and handicraft is, as in Tripura maximum numbers of tribal women are involved in handloom and bamboo based handicraft. The tribal women make their traditional dress like Pachra, Rikutu, Gamcha, Risa etc. and various bamboo products like chair, table, dinner set, and essential household product.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study conducted in Tripura on the tribal women micro-entrepreneurs who have taken loan from any organisation. In Tripura various governmental and non-governmental organisation are involved for promoting the status of women. Among these agencies SGSY-Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna scheme are implementing by the District Rural Development Agency earlier. Through this women are united in Self Help Group and given loan. Recently this scheme has been reshaped and introduced in new form in Tripura through Aajeevika program monitored by Department of Rural Development and National Rural Livelihood Mission of Government of India. North-East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is another scheme funded by World Bank for development of women and rural poor exclusively for North-eastern rural poor and hence rural poor of Tripura. Women take loan from these organisations and they are trained according to their skill and initiate new micro-entrepreneurship towards their economic and social development. The study result shows that the average age of women who are involved in micro-entrepreneurial activity is 33.5 years old and most of them are from nuclear family. Average

percentage of women from nuclear family is 54% and 46% are from joint family structure. Before initiating their entrepreneurial activity they were daily labour and living below poverty line. But after involving them in business activity now their monthly average income raised upto Rs.4500. while taking interview many of them described that how they have struggled and their life was miserable. But this micro-entrepreneurial activity has changed their life. Now they are economically stable and with the money of profit they can help their family directly or indirectly. This micro-entrepreneurial activity not only gave them a prestigious life but also their opinion are now granted by their family members and their participation in political activity has introduced and new horizon decision making. In a word after engagement in micro-entrepreneurial activity women are now economically, socially and politically empowered.

Factors for Involvement in Micro-entrepreneurial activity:-

“Women are fifty percent of the world’s population, do the two third of the world’s work, receive ten percent of the world income and own less than one percent of worlds property”-(ILO). Though women constitute half of total population their discriminated in society in various forms it may be in their family activity or out of family work. This study has found that the tribal women who are involved in micro-entrepreneurial activity due to provide economic help to their family and able to give their children better life with better education and health. With this most of them mentioned that with helping their family economically social security and desire of independence is another factor of their involvement.

Problems Faced by the Tribal women Entrepreneurs:-

In search of this objective it has been found that though most of women entrepreneurs are given training by any agency but they need more training and technological advancement with flexible economic support. In the post-modern era though we are moving ahead very rapidly, the rural communication still are in unfavourable condition.

Many of the rural women entrepreneurs face communication problem due to lack of vehicle in their village. And they also face problem of scarcity of raw materials for their business activity. To purchase raw material they need to come out from their own village regularly and while returning to their villages they fall in problems like this.

CONCLUSION

In spite of many obstacles in state Tripura women micro-entrepreneurship can be a new horizon of economic and social development provided they are nourished properly. Micro-entrepreneurship empowers rural poor women and they are now able to live a prestigious life in society as well as in their family too. Women who are involved in micro-entrepreneurial activity represent from various poor socio-economic profiles and after engagement in business their life has been changed towards economic and social growth. This study also suggest to strengthen women entrepreneurs more training is required for skill development along with introduction of new advanced technology and more economic support as well.

REFERENCES

1. Swedberg, R. (2000). *Entrepreneurship: The Social Science View*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Muhammad Yunus, Alan Jolis. (1999). *Banker to the Poor: Micro Lending and The Battle Against World Poverty*. New York: PublicAffairs.
3. V. Ganesamurty (2007). *India: Economic Empowerment of Women*. New Delhi: New Century Publisher.
4. *Census of India Report-2011*, Government of India
5. *Rural Development Department, Government of Tripura*.

Internet Sources:-

1. <http://www.theatlantic.com/saxes/archive/2013/03/women-own-1-of-world-property-a-feminist-myth-that-wont-die/273840/>
2. <http://www.publishyourarticles.net/eng/articles/436-words-short-essay-on-women-entrepreneurs.html>
3. http://www.answers.com/Q/What_is_women_entrepreneur
4. http://www.answers.com/Q/Definition_of_women_entrepreneur
5. <https://www.scribd.com/doc/55335421/Problems-of-Women-Entrepreneurs-in-India>

