

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF DALIT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN MADURAI DISTRICT

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Abstract

Women perform an important role in building the real backbone of a nation's economy. They have the potential and the will to establish and manage enterprises of their own. These qualities and strengths of women are to be tapped for productive channels. Yet women should overcome additional barriers to have equitable access to entrepreneurial opportunities. The primary objective of the study is to study the socio-economic conditions of Dalit women before and after becoming an entrepreneur in Madurai city.

Keywords: Women Entrepreneur, Dalit, Social Status, Economic Status, Dalit Women.

INTRODUCTION

Economic growth of any nation has been achieved through the optimum utilization of available resources – both physical and human. India is being attacked by unsolved problems of over population, unemployment, under-employment, poverty and the like. Entrepreneurship is consistently equated with the establishment and management of small business enterprises and setting up these units is the solution to these mysterious problems.

The status of women in India deteriorated during the medieval period with the entrance of the Muslims. Several evil practices such as female infanticide, sati and child marriage were practiced during this period. In the contemporary India, women are playing inter-disciplinary role. The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. . In modern India,

women have held high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition ,CEO.

Women perform an important role in building the real backbone of a nation's economy. They have the potential and the will to establish and manage enterprises of their own. These qualities and strengths of women are to be tapped for productive channels. Yet women should overcome additional barriers to have equitable access to entrepreneurial opportunities. The concept of entrepreneurship has to be implemented among the women in a large sense.

Women entrepreneurship is the process where women organize all the factors of production, undertake risks, and provide employment to others. The definition of women entrepreneurship has never been differentiated on the basis of sex and hence could be extended to

women entrepreneurs without any restrictions. Thus, a woman entrepreneur is one who starts business and manages it independently and tactfully, takes all the risks, faces the challenges boldly with an iron will to succeed.

Empowerment of women entrepreneurship

Women entrepreneurship is an economic activity of those women who think of a business enterprise, initiate it, organize and combine the factors of production, operate the enterprise and undertake risks and handle economic uncertainty involved in running a business enterprise².

Women entrepreneurs create new employment opportunities and scope for women's economic independence. Therefore women's entrepreneurship encompasses self-employment, income generation and the management of businesses/enterprises. Empowerment of women through entrepreneurship in India is increasingly being recognized a limited utilised resource of economic growth. The women empowerment towards entrepreneurship should be achieved irrespective of castes. But in India dominant castes maintain leadership positions on lower caste people.

The caste system is the dominant and ruling philosophy of Hinduism. The caste system declares Dalit women to be basically impure and 'untouchable', declares social exclusion and exploitation. Hereby it implies that the whole Dalit community has to struggle for survival. The discrimination against the Dalits is especially significant. There are approximately 167 million Dalits in India, constituting over 16 percent of the total population who are yet to be developed⁴.

Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe people are uneducated,

impoverished and illiterate particularly those who are living in rural area Even discrimination within the Dalit exists against women .Approximately three-quarters of the Dalit workforce are in the agricultural sector of the economy therefore improving their standard of living is an emerging task.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

James R. Barth (2006) entrepreneurship precisely paves a route out of poverty. The need for sensible entrepreneurship policies is even more critical as a mean to promote ownership to reduce the bifurcation of wealth and income trends. There is even greater confusion about how to foster entrepreneurship in low- and moderate-income communities.

R.Tamilarasi (2010) empirically studied the performance of women entrepreneurs in Salem district. Despite growing industrialization, urbanization and social legislation, the status of women in India has not changed. Women empowerment becomes significant through the development of women entrepreneurship in the country. It is true that women are equally competent to do business. Yet, this potential remains largely untapped, with less than 10 per cent of the entrepreneurs in India being women. Indian women suffer from many disabilities and social injustice.

Yogita Sharma (2013) inferred that women have potential and determination to setup, uphold and supervise their own business in a systematic manner. Appropriate support and encouragement from the society, family and government can make the women entrepreneurs being a part of nation's economy.

Dr. C.Paramasivan (2013)⁷⁴ enquired the status of Dalit entrepreneurs in India. The study explores that due to

the stiff competition of the business and marketability traits Dalit entrepreneurs are facing problem.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is a gap of standards of social development between Dalit and non-Dalit in Madurai as evidenced by the statistics. Scheduled Caste constitutes 20 per cent and Scheduled Tribe constitutes 1.1 percent in the total population of Tamilnadu, according to Census survey 2011. But SC share of ownership in Indian enterprises is only 9.8 per cent and ST share is 3.7 per cent. Hence, the caste difference in the Indian society which is a hindrance to the entrepreneurial development of Dalit especially among women population has been considered as the crux of the problem of this study.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the socio-economic conditions of Dalit women before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

Testing of Hypotheses

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between Socio- economic status of a respondent before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is an analytical in nature. The researcher used both primary and secondary data for the study. Primary data were collected were collected from well –structured interview schedule whereas secondary data were gathered from authenticated websites and previous studies. The researcher collected primary data from 100 respondents from each block of Madurai city. The study adopted stratified random sampling method.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between expenditure pattern of respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

It is understood from the table 1 there was a significant difference between the mean scores of each variable. The details also reveal that the p value is 0.000 hence then the null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance. Therefore there is significant relationship exist between expenditure pattern of dalit before and after becoming an entrepreneur. Among the 10 variables the respondents spend more on food expenses followed by clothing and they give less importance to birth day expenses.

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between savings pattern of respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

The table 2 depicts that among the various variables under savings pattern only the mean difference of insurance policy scheme is significant therefore the respondents give more importance to insurance policy scheme as their savings pattern here the null hypothesis is rejected only in the case of insurance policy scheme.

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between investment on assets by the respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

The table 3 shows that there is significant mean difference exist between the variables of insurance policy, post office deposits, own houses, vehicles, home appliances and mobile phones. The null hypothesis is rejected on these

variables at 5% level of significant under investment pattern of the respondents.

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between behavioural changes of the respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

The table 4 reveals that the mean difference exist in the each and every variable. Since the p value is less than 0.005 the framed null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance therefore there is significant mean difference exist between the behavioural changes of the respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between Facilities at the respondents place before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

It is understood from the table 5 that the p value for the variables electricity facility, drinking water facility, computer purchased by own, washing machine, refrigerator, Air conditioner and type of vehicle are greater than 0.05 hence the null hypothesis is rejected. The result reveals that there is significant difference between the mean values of above said variables.

Ho: There is no significant mean difference between family commitments of the respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

The table 6 shows that all the variables under family commitment are significant hence the null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance therefore there is significant mean

difference lies between family commitments of the respondents before and after becoming an entrepreneur.

CONCLUSION

The economic status of Dalit women before and after becoming an entrepreneur has significant improvement in the study area but social condition is not that much extent. They are facing caste based discrimination by upper caste people or the upper caste people are not allowing them to achieve social empowerment. Both central and state governments are taking effort to promote these people's social status but officials and authorities' lethargies are de-promoting the Dalit people to avail the schemes offered by the government.

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Table-1

S. No	Expenses	Before		After		T Value	P Value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	Home Rent	15120	20546.71	18480	26473.73	2.370	0.000
2	Phone Bill	4500	3036.48	11164	8694.64	8.935	0.000
3	Food Expenses	52640	22845.78	73780	32692.66	11.332	0.000
4	Clothing	32200	9346.3	39440	11039.25	10.877	0.000
5	Medical Expenses	6600	4868.53	10640	6846.07	6.969	0.000
6	Children's Educational Expenses	23240	18160.41	36806	24760.77	10.605	0.000
7	Travelling Expenses	6496	6037.22	10268	8168.56	6.617	0.000
8	Electricity Bill	7028	5513.88	14712	14123.05	5.931	0.000
9	Birth day Expenses	966	913.50	1382	1221.02	5.480	0.000
10	Home Maintenance	10672	12158.53	17456	18323.38	6.841	0.000

Table-2

S. No	Savings	Before		After		T value	P value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	Post office	5880	10755.58	7060	5847.075	1.189	0.237
2	Chit funds	3920	11345.52	3760	10750.73	0.172	0.864
3	Insurance policy	1760	2920.22	1900	2984.81	3.192	0.002
4	Cash in hand	3908	5530.37	4800	3949.12	1.773	0.079
5	Cash at Bank	34520	97360.88	25260	29461.54	1.104	0.272

Table-3

S. No	Assets	Before		After		T value	P value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	Insurance policy	68000	105294.2	70000	106363.21	2.031	0.045
2	Bank deposits	7280	14946.42	14200	24850.26	2.81	0.006
3	Own houses	0.64	0.482	0.80	0.492	3.44	0.001
4	Non-agricultural land	0.68	1.197	0.90	1.633	1.117	0.267
5	Number of vehicles	0.88	0.433	1.16	0.545	5.25	0.000
6	Home appliances	40680	36651.48	62000	42259.42	7.176	0.000
7	Gold	56.48	60.92	63.20	45.91	1.448	0.151
8	Mobile phones	1.08	0.563	1092	1.24	8.298	0.000

Table-4

S. No	Behavioural changes	Before		After		T value	P value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	Recognition in your family and surroundings	1.64	0.746	2.92	0.273	16.42	0.000
2	Recognition in your community	1.80	0.752	2.88	0.327	14.443	0.000
3	Communication skill	2.08	0.939	2.96	0.197	9.201	0.000
4	Interaction with outsiders	1.60	0.804	2.64	0.689	11.301	0.000
5	Going to government offices	1.48	0.703	2.64	0.689	13.851	0.000

Table-5

S. No	Facilities at home	Before		After		T value	P value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	LED TV	1.32	0.469	1.36	0.482	0.894	0.374
2	Toilet facility	1.68	0.469	1.72	0.451	1.157	0.250
3	Electricity facility	1.76	0.429	1.80	0.402	2.031	0.045
4	Drinking water facility	1.60	0.492	1.56	0.499	2.031	0.045
5	Computer purchased by own	1.32	0.469	1.60	0.492	5.25	0.000
6	DTH telecast	1.48	0.502	1.56	0.499	1.647	0.103
7	Washing machine	1.40	0.492	1.52	0.502	2.771	0.007
8	Refrigerator	1.52	1.56	0.502	0.499	2.031	0.045
9	Air-conditioner/ Air Cooler	1.32	0.469	1.44	0.499	2.771	0.007
10	Type of Vehicle	1.36	0.482	1.20	0.402	3.438	0.001

Table-6

S. No	Facilities at home	Before		After		T value	P value
		Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation		
1	Time spend with the family	2.24	0.653	1.76	0.653	5.926	0.000
2	Confidence level to face financial crisis at home	1.24	0.515	2.56	0.808	13.020	0.000
3	Attending functions and celebrations	2.48	0.643	1.52	0.703	10.432	0.000