



Women and Youth Entrepreneurship: Changing Demographics

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DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.17905980

Abstract:

In today's era of globalization, entrepreneurship has become a very important factor in the process of economic development. Entrepreneurship is not just a means of making profit, but it is a driving force for innovation, job creation and social change in society. The population structure in a developing country like India is changing rapidly the rising percentage of youth and the increasing participation of women are key factors in this change. Women today have broken the traditional boundaries and carved their own niche in the business and industry sectors. On the other hand, new technologies and the digital age have increased the sense of self-reliance and innovation among the youth. Government initiatives like 'Startup India', 'Skill India', 'Stand Up India' are creating new opportunities for youth and women. Against this backdrop, the growth of women and youth entrepreneurship is not only leading to economic progress, but is also writing a new chapter in the balance of power and gender equality in society. This wave of entrepreneurship, arising from the changing demographic structure, is shaping the overall development of the country.

Research objective:

The aim of this research is to conduct an in-depth study of the development, challenges, and opportunities of women and youth entrepreneurship in the context of India's changing demographic structure. The main goal of this research is to understand the role of these factors in the process of economic and social transformation through this medium.

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To study the current trends and growth in women and youth entrepreneurship in India.
2. To analyze the impact of changing demographic structure (factors such as age, education, gender, urbanization, etc.) on entrepreneurship.

3. To explore the major social, economic and technical challenges faced by women and youth entrepreneurs.
4. To review the assistance and schemes provided by the government, NGOs and the private sector.
5. To study employment generation, self-reliance and social empowerment through entrepreneurship.
6. To propose necessary measures and policy suggestions for the development of women and youth entrepreneurship in the future.

Review of Demographic Changes:

India has undergone major changes in its demographic structure over the past

few decades. These changes are having a direct impact on economic growth, employment generation, and entrepreneurship. India's population is not only large in numbers, but its composition in terms of age, gender, education, rural-urban divide, and technological literacy is changing rapidly.

1. Youth Dominated Population: India today is known as a “Young Nation.” About 65% of the population is under the age of 35. This age group is more innovative, risk-taking, and prone to using technology, making this an extremely fertile environment for youth entrepreneurship.

2. Increasing Participation of Women: Education, digital technology, and government incentives have increased women's economic and social participation. Women are starting their own businesses in both rural and urban areas. Women are gaining economic independence through initiatives like 'Self-Help Groups' and 'Women's Entrepreneurship Forums'.

3. Urbanization and Migration: A large number of people are migrating from rural areas due to the availability of employment and infrastructure in urban areas. This process is creating new business opportunities in various service and manufacturing sectors in cities.

4. Education and Skill Development: Youth and women are becoming more self-reliant due to the spread of education and skill development programmes. Schemes like ‘Skill India’ and ‘Digital India’ have given a boost to new business concepts and digital entrepreneurship.

5. Spread of Technology: The spread of the internet, smartphones and social media has made access to information and markets easier. E-commerce, online marketing and digital payments are giving a new generation of entrepreneurs the opportunity to compete on a global scale.

6. Social and Psychological Changes: The mindset of the society is changing, and a positive attitude towards business and entrepreneurship has emerged. There is an increasing desire to set up one's own business rather than a traditional job.

Women Entrepreneurship:

The role of women in India's social and economic development is becoming increasingly important. Previously, the role of women was mainly limited to domestic chores, but today they are actively participating in all sectors, including education, technology, and industry. Women entrepreneurship is the process of women creating and managing a business using their own ideas, skills, and resources.

1. Rise of Women Entrepreneurship: In the last few decades, women have increasingly broken traditional boundaries and started their own businesses. Previously, women were mainly employed in small and cottage industries, but today they are making their mark as entrepreneurs in various sectors such as information technology, fashion design, digital marketing, food processing, tourism, and e-commerce.

2. Role of Education and Technology: Increased female education rates and easy access to digital technology have made it easier for women to make

business decisions and enter the market. The internet and social media platforms have made it possible for women to advertise, sell their products, and connect directly with consumers.

3. Government Schemes and Incentives:

The Indian government has implemented many schemes for women entrepreneurship, such as 'Stand Up India Scheme' Loan assistance to women to start businesses. 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' Capital assistance through banks for small entrepreneurs.

'Women Entrepreneurship Forum (WEP)' NITI Aayog initiative, which provides mentorship and networking facilities to women. 'Den Deyal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission' provides self-employment opportunities to rural women.

4. Social and Economic Challenges:

Women face many challenges in their entrepreneurial journey, including lack of financial capital, family responsibilities and time management, social constraints and traditional mindsets. Despite the challenges of limited management training, women have carved out a niche for themselves through their strong will, hard work, and creativity.

5. Role of Women in Social Change:

Women's entrepreneurship not only leads to economic progress, but also creates new values of gender equality, self-reliance, and social empowerment in society. Many women entrepreneurs also provide employment to other women, thus starting the process of collective development in society.

Youth Entrepreneurship:

India is one of the youngest countries in the world. About 65% of the country's population is under the age of 35. This young generation is forming the foundation of India's economic progress. In today's digital and technology-driven era, youth have become more innovative, willing to take risks, and eager to start their own businesses. Against this backdrop, youth entrepreneurship is becoming increasingly important for India's development.

1. Importance of Youth Entrepreneurship:

Youth entrepreneurship is not only a means of employment generation, but also a means of social and economic transformation. Youth boost the economy by creating new industries, products, and services through their innovation. This reduces unemployment and strengthens India's position in the local as well as global markets.

2. Entrepreneurship-Friendly

Environment: The government has launched several initiatives to encourage youth towards entrepreneurship, such as Startup India Registration, financial assistance and tax incentives for new entrepreneurs. Skill India Mission providing essential skill training to youth. Mission Incubation centers to promote innovations. Digital India Ease of doing business through technology literacy and e-governance. These schemes are making it easy for youth to access the resources and guidance they need to set up businesses.

3. Emerging Sectors:

Today's youth are not limited to traditional industries but

are exploring entrepreneurship in various modern sectors, e.g. Information Technology (IT) & App Development E- Commerce & Digital Marketing Agri -Tech Renewable Energy & Eco-Friendly Products E-Learning & Ed-Tech Healthcare & Fitness In these sectors, young people have revitalized the Indian economy by implementing new ideas.

4. Challenges in Youth Entrepreneurship:

Although opportunities are widely available, some key challenges remain: Difficulty in raising capital, Insufficient information about business planning, Lack of guidance and mentorship Education, guidance, and strategic support are needed to overcome the challenges of intense market competition, fear of failure, and social pressure.

5. Social Impact of Youth Entrepreneurship:

Youth entrepreneurship strengthens the spirit of self-reliance, innovation, and leadership in society. Youth create jobs for others by setting up their own businesses, contributing to rural and urban development, and achieving sustainable development by utilizing local resources.

Changing Demographic Effects:

The demographic structure of India has been changing significantly over the past few years. These changes are having a direct impact on women and youth entrepreneurship. Changing demographic factors are giving a boost to entrepreneurship and giving new direction to

the process of economic and social development.

1. Impact of Urbanization: The pace of urbanization has increased in the last few decades. Migration from rural areas to cities has led to the growth of industry, services, and business sectors in cities. This has increased business opportunities for youth and women. The urban lifestyle, amenities, and proximity to markets encourage entrepreneurship.

2. Education and Skill Development:

The percentage of educated and skilled youth and women in the population is increasing. Therefore, innovative business concepts, management skills, and digital literacy are becoming more effective. Skill India, Digital India, and other technical training programs are complementing this process.

3. Youth and Female Dominated Population:

A young and educated population has increased the risk-taking ability, adoption of new technologies, and willingness to innovate in business. The increasing participation of women is ensuring economic independence and social empowerment.

4. Spread of Technology:

Along with demographic changes, digital literacy has also increased. The internet, smartphones, e-commerce, and social media have opened up business opportunities for all. Youth and women gain access to global markets and are able to expand their businesses.

5. Social and Psychological Changes:

Demographic changes are also affecting social thinking. More people are developing the mindset of starting their

own business rather than traditional jobs. Women and youth entrepreneurs in particular are embracing innovation and leadership roles.

Conclusion:

India's changing demographics are creating a conducive environment for women and youth entrepreneurship. A youth-dominated population, increasing economic participation of women, urbanization, education and digital literacy are all having a positive impact on entrepreneurship. Women entrepreneurs are expanding their reach from traditional industries to digital and technology-based businesses. Young entrepreneurs are demonstrating innovation, willingness to take risks, and the ability to embrace global competition. Government schemes and training programs are providing them with the necessary tools and guidance to start a business. However, some challenges still remain, including lack of financial support, lack of guidance, social constraints, and

intense competition in the market. Policy measures, training, guidance, and networking are needed to overcome these challenges. Overall, women and youth entrepreneurship is not only a key to economic development, but also a force for social empowerment and self-reliance. In the future, women and youth entrepreneurs will play a significant role in India's economic and social development in the face of a changing population.

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