



Empowerment of Tribal Women through Entrepreneurship: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

This article explores the empowerment of tribal women through entrepreneurial activities, highlighting the transformative impact of enterprises on their socioeconomic status. By systematically reviewing literature, the study identifies key factors that contribute to the success of tribal women entrepreneurs, including access to resources, education, and supportive policies. Findings indicate that engagement in enterprises enhances financial independence, self-esteem, and social standing, while also fostering community development. Despite notable challenges such as limited access to capital, market constraints, and cultural barriers, the review underscores the potential of entrepreneurship to drive significant positive change. Recommendations for future research include examining the role of technology, male allies, and sector-specific opportunities to further support the empowerment of tribal women through enterprises. The review intends to analyse and combine findings from various research in order to have a better understanding of how entrepreneurial activities can improve the socioeconomic position of indigenous women. The review emphasizes crucial aspects that impact empowerment, such as the availability of resources, education, and favorable legislation.

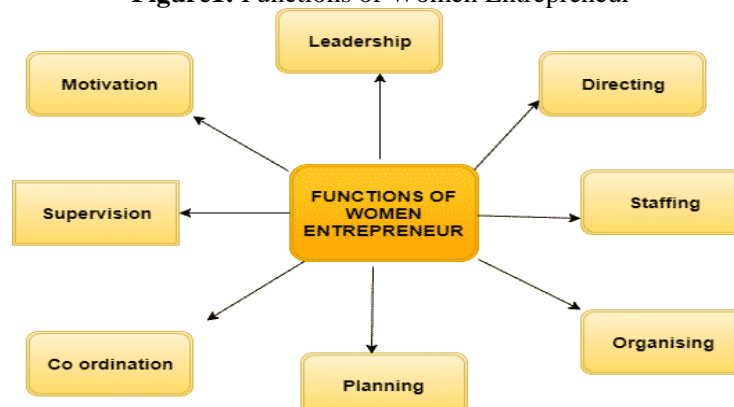
Keywords: Tribal Women, Women Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, SHG

Introduction

Empowering women in tribal communities with the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors is a strategy that can enable them to become economically and socially viable. This article is to shed light on the concept of entrepreneurship within the context of a particular tribal community and to offer some insights into specific situations or circumstances that pertain to the empowerment of women. They suffer from isolation as a result of their language and lifestyle

being different from the rest of society, which made the growth of their business and their ability to compete difficult, and consequently affected their ability to make various decisions in their lives. Despite the fact that there are many initiatives from international organizations and governmental institutions to support women entrepreneurs, particularly tribal women, they are still subject to this isolation. This study investigates the steps that can be taken to gain a better knowledge of how to broaden access to entrepreneurial opportunities.

Figure1: Functions of Women Entrepreneur



The economic and social advancement of tribal women is hampered by the unique problems they encounter, particularly in regions that are still in the process of development. Among these

problems are the limited access to education, healthcare, and economic possibilities, as well as the cultural and societal restraints that exist. One potential answer to these problems is the

empowerment of individuals through the establishment of businesses. Women from tribal communities have the potential to achieve financial independence, enhance their social position, and make a contribution to the development of their communities if they participate in entrepreneurial activities. Agarwal, Deepti (2001) argues that women should not only be seen as recipients, but also as active contributors to the advancement of development and transformation. In her review of the progress of Self-Help Groups, Jaya S. Anand (2002) aims to analyze the performance of selected Self-Help Groups and NHGs, as well as evaluate their impact, particularly the influence of microcredit programs on women's empowerment.

Review of Literature

Women's empowerment procedures are significant change agents and contribute to the advancement of women (Mehra, 1997). Empowerment is a comprehensive process that enhances women's bargaining power when they work outside their households (Anderson and Eswaran, 2009; Naila, 2005; Akhter and Ward, 2009). According to Duflo (2012), parents may have lower expectations for their daughters because they believe that women are treated unfairly in the home and that there are less prospects for them in the work market.

Additionally, it supports the notion that if women are not allowed outside the home, they will require less services, such as healthcare and education Moudio, (2013). Other research has demonstrated that providing women with the opportunity to manage their income and expand the labor force in general (Field et al., 2021). Empowering women is a crucial component of the solution to almost any problem we face, whether it is combating global climate change, enhancing education in underdeveloped nations, or solving any other issue (Bill Clinton, 2009). It is not only morally right, but also shrewd, to invest in women (Ban Ki Moon, 2008).

Training has the potential to generate income for women (Creevey and Edgerton, 1997), increase their assets and earnings, and increase the supply of female labor in order to restore gender balance. Nevertheless, it is fraught with numerous obstacles (Bandiera et al., 2017).

Opportunity is a critical concept in the field of entrepreneurship, as researchers believe that entrepreneurs seize opportunities as a result of their prior knowledge of the labor market, the development of their social networks, and their understanding of the market's needs. Additionally, entrepreneurs are distinguished by a set of personal characteristics, such as optimism, which propels them to achieve success in the field of entrepreneurship (Ardichvili et al., 2003; McMullen et al., 2007). The need-satisfaction relationship is

strongly linked by Maslow's theory, which is based on three dimensions of human needs: growth, connection, and connection (Alderfer, 1969).

Banerjee et al. (2020) found a correlation between the desire to work in entrepreneurship, career planning, and agricultural labor capacity, which suggests that agricultural education in India can encourage entrepreneurship and follow the best methodologies to succeed in it. The pupils of an agricultural university in India were the focus of this investigation. Manimekalai and Rajeswari (2002) carried out a study on "Grass roots entrepreneurship through Self Help Groups (SHGs)" with the aim of analyzing the enterprise performance of Self-Help Groups in terms of growth of investment, turnover, capacity utilization, profit, etc. and determining the factors which have motivated women to become members of SHGs and eventually become entrepreneurs.

Material & Methods

The PRISMA criteria, which stand for Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, have been adhered to throughout this review. A comprehensive search was undertaken across numerous databases, including PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar, using keywords such as "tribal women," "empowerment," "entrepreneurship," and "enterprises." We included studies that were published from old to new one. Following an initial screening of titles and abstracts, full-text publications were examined in order to evaluate the value and significance of the information they contained. For the purpose of the final analysis, a total of fifty studies were considered.

Results & Discussion

Economic Empowerment

There has been a considerable contribution made by entrepreneurial activity to the economic empowerment of women from indigenous communities. It has been demonstrated over and over again via research that participation in businesses results in higher levels of income, improved financial management, and improvements in living standards. Microfinance programmes, for instance, have made it possible for tribal women to launch small companies, which have, in turn, resulted in steady earnings and a decreased reliance on traditional livelihoods, which are frequently focused on subsistence.

Social Empowerment

Participation in businesses also contributes to the development of social empowerment. Women from indigenous communities that participate in business activities see improvements in their self-esteem, leadership ability, and decision-making capabilities. In addition to this, it inspires individuals to question and triumph over the constraints and values that are imposed by society.

Several case studies have found that women who have been successful in business have reported feeling more respected and valued within their communities as a result of their businesses.

Education & Competency Development

In order for tribal women entrepreneurs to achieve success, it is essential for them to have access to educational and skill development programmes. It has been demonstrated that providing employees with training in areas such as financial literacy, business management, and technical skills can bring about an increase in the organizations' ability to remain profitable and sustainable. Men should relinquish power by educating women and helping them realize that women are valued members of society and that their presence is a result of their equality B. Suresh Lal (2015). There is a significant contribution made by both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the provision of these instructional resources.

Policy and Institutional Support

There is a considerable relationship between the availability of enabling policies and institutional frameworks and the efficacy of empowerment through enterprises. Policies that encourage financial inclusion, offer access to markets, and guarantee legal protection are the most important factors in determining the level of success that tribal women entrepreneurs achieve. In addition, organizations that provide chances for mentoring and networking can assist in overcoming obstacles that are associated with social isolation and a lack of information.

Challenges

Despite the positive outcomes, tribal women entrepreneurs face several challenges. These include:

- **Limited Access to Capital:** Many tribal women have difficulty securing loans and financial assistance due to lack of collateral and credit history.
- **Market Access:** Geographic and infrastructural constraints often limit their access to broader markets.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Traditional gender roles and societal norms can restrict their entrepreneurial activities and mobility.
- **Sustainability Issues:** Ensuring the long-term success and growth of enterprises remains a challenge due to limited resources and external support.

Gaps and Future Research

There is a need for more longitudinal studies to understand the long-term impact of entrepreneurship on the empowerment of tribal women. Future research should also focus on:

- **Impact of Technology:** Investigating how digital tools and platforms can support tribal women entrepreneurs.
- **Role of Male Allies:** Understanding how the involvement of male family members and community leaders can enhance the success of women-led enterprises.
- **Sector-Specific Studies:** Exploring the potential of different industries, such as agriculture, crafts, and services, in empowering tribal women.

Conclusion

One of the primary goals of this paper was to ascertain whether or not entrepreneurship influenced the empowerment of women in tribal societies, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between entrepreneurship, women's empowerment, and decision-making. The research contributes to the current corpus of knowledge regarding the ways in which entrepreneurship fosters the identity and recognition of tribal women within their communities.

Empowerment of tribal women through enterprises holds significant promise for enhancing their socioeconomic status. While there are challenges to be addressed, the positive impacts observed in various studies underscore the potential of entrepreneurship as a tool for empowerment. Continued support from policymakers, institutions, and the broader community is essential to sustain and expand these gains. Further research is needed to develop targeted strategies that address the unique needs and contexts of tribal women entrepreneurs.

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