

Women Entrepreneurs in Belgaum District

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Introduction:

“Women Entrepreneurs in Belgaum District”

The emergence of entrepreneurs in a society depends to a great extent, on the economic, social, religious, cultural and psychological factors prevailing in the society. In the advanced countries of the world, there is a phenomenal increase in the number of self-employed women after the World War II. In the U.S., women own 25 per cent of all businesses, even though their sales on an average are less, than two-fifths of those of other small businesses.

Women are no longer confined to the hearth and home. The entrepreneurial capacity of women has made a mark in many areas and women have entered the industrial segment, too. It is time to foster and harness the entrepreneurship of women in a big way.

According to the second census of small-scale industries, women entrepreneurs accounted for 7.7 percent of the total small-scale enterprises in India. Though their share is less than 10 percent, the heartening feature is that it is steadily increasing.

Meaning of Women Entrepreneur:

Women Entrepreneurs means the women or a group of women who initiate, organize and operate a business enterprise. A woman entrepreneur is therefore a confident, creative and innovative woman desiring economic independence individually and simultaneously creating employment opportunities for others

Definition:

By Government of India:- “An enterprise owned and controlled by woman having a minimum

financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving at least 51% employment generated to women”

J.Schumpeter:- “Women who innovate initiate or adopt business actively are called women entrepreneurs.”

Concept:

Women entrepreneur may be defined as a woman or group of women who initiate, organize, and run a business enterprise. In terms of Schumpeterian concept of innovative entrepreneurs, women who innovate, imitate or adopt a business activity are called “women entrepreneurs”.

Methodology:

The study is based on secondary sources. This paper is the initial Part of my Project entitled “Women Entrepreneurs in Belgaum District”.

Kamal Singh : who is a woman entrepreneur from Rajasthan, has defined woman entrepreneur as “a confident, innovative and creative woman capable of achieving self-economic independence individually or in collaboration, generates employment opportunities for others through initiating, establishing and running the enterprise by keeping pace with her personal, family and social life.”

The Government of India: has defined women entrepreneurs based on women participation in equity and employment of a business enterprise. Accordingly, the Government of India (GOI2006) has defined women entrepreneur as “an enterprise owned and controlled by a women having a minimum financial interest of 51 per cent of the capital and giving at least 51 per cent of the employment generated in the enterprise to women.” However, this definition is subject to criticism mainly on the condition of employing more than 50

per cent women workers in the enterprises owned and run by the women.

Women Entrepreneurs - Types

According to gender and age,

- i. Men Entrepreneurs
- ii. Women Entrepreneurs

Hence women entrepreneurs are of three types:

- Young
- Middle aged
- Old.

Women Entrepreneurs- Functions

Like a male entrepreneur, a woman entrepreneur performs different functions of different nature.

Some of them are:

- Generating new business ideas
- Exploring the prospects of starting new enterprises
- Undertaking risks and handling of economic uncertain tic
- Employment generation
- Introducing new ideas of innovation
- Support to family's income
- Overall economic growth
- Balanced regional development

Conclusion:

It was seen that there was lot of important information to be obtained from selected women entrepreneurs. The researcher found the following important facts about the selected women

entrepreneurs:

- Most of the selected women entrepreneurs stored their raw materials in their own unit.
- Most of women entrepreneurs invested a sum of Rs. 25000 to Rs. 50,000 as initial investment.
- More than half of the women wanted to take loan but could not succeed for the same.
- Most of them did not have license.
- Almost all of them made sincere efforts to maintain health and hygiene.
- Women faced highest problems in the area of co- operation.

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