

Gender Discrimination and Violence Against Women Entrepreneurs



Economics

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper an attempt has been made to analyse the gender discrimination with women entrepreneurs in informal sector. The study has been conducted in Uttar Pradesh. Data has been collected from 935 women entrepreneurs in the informal sector on the basis of well developed questionnaire.

Summary: Majority of the women entrepreneurs (57.5%) working in informal sector are literate. 31.4 percent reported that they face physical violence inside the house, 30.9 percent faced before marriage, 27.8 percent faced violence outside the house and 9.9 percent faced physical violence after marriage. As far as discrimination is concerned, majority of the women entrepreneurs (70.1 %) reported that they do not face discrimination for being a woman.

Introduction:

At the same time in the process of industrial development unorganised sector also played a very important role for the generation of employment and removal of poverty. Entrepreneurial activities are also very important for the industrial development. In society females are lag behind male but they are equally contributing in the process of economic development. Women's participation in economic activity and production of goods and services is far greater than formal statistics might reveal as much of it takes place in the informal sector and households. With the spread and increase in the level of education the compulsion for earning has grown among women and more and more women have started to opt either wage employment or self-employment/entrepreneurship career. In case of woman, however, handicaps to entry into business ownership have been for too many given the traditional, conservative, orthodox Indian society.

Discrimination refers to the process and outcome of keeping a social group outside the power centers and resources. Social exclusion, discrimination and identity formation have become central focus of discourses in India today. Hence, to state that in the modern, liberal society and polity, exclusion and discrimination are reduced or eliminated seem to be not in tune with the reality. Martin Patrick (1998) attempted to study the saleswomen working in the registered shops and establishments by analyzing the aspects of discrimination, time allocation and migration. Using field data from Ernakulam district of Kerala, the author has shown that there is large-scale discrimination against saleswomen compared to salesmen in the labour market in terms of wages. Raja Sekhar (2005) represented the socio-economic evils like gender discrimination and poverty the two social banes ruling the community. Discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, race, religion or social status lead to social exclusion and look people in long term poverty traps.

Anjali Prasad and Jyoti Prasad, (2009) pointed out that empowerment is a multidimensional social process that helps people to gain control over their own lives, communities, and their society, by acting on issues that they decline as important. Women in India are being discriminated in the family, society, government and business organisation, in a big way. Intra house-hold discrimination of food and nutrients and allocation of resources makes the position of women worst. The present paper throws light violence and discrimination against women entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh.

Data and Methodology

The Present study takes in to account the Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow (KAVAL) cities of Uttar Pradesh.

The present study focuses on the women role in the running enterprises in informal sector and the problem faced by them like social exclusion among KAVAL cities of Uttar Pradesh.

Women entrepreneurs will be our universe for each districts and list of those female entrepreneur involved in the entrepreneurial activities will be prepared in each districts. Our respondent will be female entrepreneurs involved in the entrepreneurial activities. Total 935 samples in the study have been interviewed with the help of pre design questionnaire. Simple statistical tools like descriptive statistics, average, percentage have been used in the present study.

Results

Total 935 women entrepreneurs, working in informal sector, were interviewed personally on the basis of pre-designed interview schedule in KAVAL cities of Uttar Pradesh for the purpose of the study. Table 2 shows education, entrepreneurial activities and income of women entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh. Majority of the women entrepreneurs (57.5%) working in informal sector are literate. 42.5 percent are illiterate, 3.6 percent are below primary, 11.0 percent are primary, 11.6 percent are middle, 10.9 percent are high school, 9.2 percent are intermediate, 7.4 percent are graduate and only 3.9 percent are higher education and above. As far as entrepreneurial activities performed by women entrepreneurs in informal sector are concerned, out of 935 enterprises 18.9 percent are vegetable/fruit/flower/fish shops, 7.3 percent are beauty parlours, 6.8 percent are boutiques, 3.5 percent are stationary/gift/toy shops, 9.1 percent are general stores, 10.8 percent are cosmetic/bangle shops, 7.49 percent are kirana stores, 16.5 percent are tea/cold drink/egg/pan shops, 7.7 percent are cloth/garments and 11.4 percent are others groups of enterprises. It is really disappointing that of total 935 women entrepreneurs a majority (60.9%) earns 5000 & below Rs. 5000/- per month, 29 percent respondents earn in between Rs.5000 to 10000, 6.4 percent respondents earn in between Rs.10000 to 15000 and 1.1 percent each women entrepreneurs earn in between Rs.15000 to 20000 and Rs.20000-25000. And 1.6 percent women entrepreneurs earn Rs. 25001 and above.

Table 1: Age, education, entrepreneurial Activities, income of women entrepreneurs and their family

Characteristics of Women Entrepreneurs	Number	Percent
Education of Entrepreneur		
Illiterate	397	42.46

Characteristics of Women Entrepreneurs	Number	Percent
Below primary	34	3.64
Primary	103	11.02
Middle	108	11.55
High school	102	10.91
Intermediate	86	9.2
Graduation	69	7.38
Higher education and above	36	3.85
Entrepreneurial Activities		
Vegetable/Fruit/Flower/Fish	177	18.93
Beauty Parlour	68	7.27
Boutique	64	6.84
Stationary/Gift/Toy	35	3.74
General Store	88	9.41
Cosmetic/Bangle	101	10.8
Kirana Store	70	7.49
Tea/Cold Drink/Egg/Pan	153	16.36
Cloths/Garment	72	7.7
Others	107	11.44
Income of Entrepreneur		
5000 & below 5000	569	60.86
5001_10000	271	28.98
10001_15000	60	6.42
15001_20000	10	1.07
20001_25000	10	1.07
25001 and above	15	1.6
Total	935	100

Note: Based on survey data

Table 2 represents access of women entrepreneurs to newspaper/magazine, radio and television in KAVAL cities. Out of 935 women entrepreneurs, 44.9 percent informed that they read newspaper/magazine whereas a large number of respondents (55.1%) do not read newspaper/ magazine. 30.9 percent respondents read news-paper or magazine almost every day, 8.5 percent read news-paper or magazine once in a week, 5.6 percent read news-paper or magazine less than once in a week. Of total 935 women entrepreneurs, 31.4 percent informed that they listen to the radio but the majority of the respondents (68.6%) do not listen to the radio. 14.7 percent respondents listen to the radio almost every day. 10.4 percent respondents listen to the radio once in a week. 6.4 percent respondents listen to the radio less than once in a week. Around fifty percent respondents said that they watch television almost every day. 10.2 percent respondents said that they watch television once in a week. 1.5 percent said that they watch television less than in once in a week. 38.9 percent women entrepreneurs never watch television.

Table 2: Access of women entrepreneur to newspaper/magazine, radio, television, cinema/theatre

Characteristics	No.	Percentage
Do you read newspaper or magazine :		
Almost every day	289	30.91
Once in a week	79	8.45
Less than once in a week	52	5.56
Not at all	515	55.08
Do you listen to the radio:		

Characteristics	No.	Percentage
Almost every day	137	14.65
Once in a week	97	10.37
Less than once in a week	60	6.42
Not at all	641	68.56
Do you watch television?		
Almost every day	462	49.41
Once in a week	95	10.16
Less than once in a week	14	1.5
Not at all	364	38.93
Your husband differ in opinion		
Yes	488	55.71
No	388	44.28
What are the major areas of discontent		
Education and nutrition of children	213	22.78
Family expenses	469	50.16
Social contacts	68	7.27
Job/work	123	13.16
Any other	62	6.63
Physical violence		
In- side the house	221	31.35
Outside the house	196	27.8
Before marriage	218	30.92
after Marriage	70	9.93
Discrimination for being a woman		
Yes	280	29.95
No	655	70.05
Discrimination in your education life		
Yes	264	28.24
No	671	71.76
Discrimination against you in out -side of your home		
Yes	179	19.14
No	756	80.86
Have you ever hit, slapped, kicked to your husband		
Yes	254	27.97
No	654	72.03
Does your husband drink alcohol		
Yes	396	42.35
No	539	57.65
From the time you were 15 old anyone hurt you physically		
Yes	246	26.71
No	675	73.29
In the last 12 month anyone physically hurt you		
Often	87	9.75
Sometime	215	24.1
Not at all	590	66.14
Total	935	100

Note: Based on survey data.

Table 2 also depicts the difference in opinion, violence and discrimination against women entrepreneur. Women entrepreneurs are asked about difference of opinion. 55.7 percent reported that there is difference of opinion with their husband whereas 44.3 percent reported that there is no difference of opinion with their husbands. Fifty percent respondents reported that family expenses are the major area of discontent. Women entrepreneurs are also asked about physical violence. 31.4 percent reported that they face physical violence inside the house, 30.9 percent

faced before marriage, 27.8 percent faced violence outside the house and 9.9 percent faced physical violence after marriage. As far as discrimination is concerned, majority of the women entrepreneurs (70.1 %) reported that they do not face discrimination for being a woman. There are also asked whether they faced discrimination in their education life on this majority of them (71.8%) reported that they did not face any discrimination in their education life. A large number of respondents (80.9 %) reported that they do not face discrimination outside their homes. When the respondents are asked whether they hit, slapped or kicked their husbands, 72 percent gave negative answer but 28 percent gave positive answer. As far as drinking alcohol is concerned, majority of the respondents (57.7%) reported that their husbands do not drink alcohol and 42.4 percent reported that their husbands drink alcohol. Of total 935 women entrepreneurs 73.3 percent reported that they are not physically hurt from the time they are 15 years old but 26.7 percent reported that they are physically hurt from the time they are 15 years old. 33.9 percent Women entrepreneurs reported that they are hurt physically during the last twelve months.

Findings of the study

The analysis of various socio economic characteristics reveals that most of the women entrepreneurs working in informal sector in Uttar Pradesh belong to poorer socio-economic background. Women entrepreneurs are found to be engaged in running vegetable/fruit/flower/fish beauty parlour boutique stationary/gift/toy general store cosmetic/bangle, kirana store tea/cold drink/egg/pan, cloths/garment and others. The present chapter made an attempt to raise some of the radical questions i.e. exposure towards newspaper, magazine, violence and discrimination against women entrepreneurs in KAVAL Cities. As far as access towards news paper/magazine, TV radio is concerned percentage is not found very high. Economic independence has given women entrepreneurs the power to take major decisions but the need is to increase it. Though the women entrepreneurs faced discrimination for being a woman but the percentage is not very high.

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