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Economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs through non-government organization in Bikaner

Dr. Taruna

Abstract

The present study was conducted in Bikaner District (Rajasthan). Descriptive research design was applied for this study purpose. In Bikaner district many famous NGO's have been working out of which two NGO's were selected i.e. Jan Shikshan Sansthan and Abhivyakti (URMUL). Because of J.S.S. NGO's working with 100% grants from the Government and Abhivyakti is working for community based development services. Two entrepreneurial trades selected i.e. food preservation and handicraft trade. From each trade 50 women entrepreneurs selected purposively. Thus, the total 100 women entrepreneurs were selected for the study. This part of the study attempts to explore the economic empowerment in establishing on various life quality parameters of entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Entrepreneurs, economic, empowerment, trade

Introduction

Empowerment is an active process which enables women to realize their identity and power in all aspects of life. It enables women to have more access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan their times, free them from the clutches of irrelevant customs, beliefs and practices.

"Empowerment is a term widely used in the context of women who are equal partners in development of the society and the nation development, especially women's development." They can play their role effectively only when they have equal opportunities and status as those of the men. Women need to be enabled to use improved technology in their daily activities for which relevant education and training have to be imparted to them in the same measure as they are available to men. However, equal opportunities and equal status are only two dimensions of empowerment which is a way of defining, challenging and overcoming barriers on one's life through which an individual increases her ability to shape her life and environment.

Today the sole occupation of women is supposed to be bear children, to look after her husband otherwise to drudge for the household. Not only is the woman concerned to domestic slavery but when she goes as labourer to earn wages, though she works harder than the men, she is paid less. It is mystery why even in the most developed society women are undervalued and their concern are seen as managerial and peripheral. Empowerment of rural women should be a priority area of non-formal, adult and continuing education programme. People in mass media, folk media, and functionaries of voluntary agencies should be sensitized to promote the identified values of empowerment of women. Empowering women involves many things, economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights and so on. Historically the world over, either by law or by custom, the status of women is undermined by asymmetrical power relationships in decision making, personal and social rights, access to resources and entitlement. Women in many countries still lack rights to inherit property, own and land, get education, obtain credit, earn income or work outside home, control their fertility; they are still widely under-represented in involvement in decision making at the household or social level. Empowerment by means of models income generation projects is clearly insufficient to ameliorate the prospects for a high quality of life for women. Empowering women contribute to social development. Economic progress in any country whether developed or underdeveloped could be achieved through social development. Women are changing governance in India.

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They are being elected to local councils in unprecedented numbers as a result of amendments to the constitution which made mandate the reservation of seats for women in local government are evident in the issues they choose to tackle; water, alcohol abuse, education, health and domestic violence.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted purposively in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. In Bikaner district following famous NGO's have been working for urban and rural women for their empowerment and skill development, particularly. These were- Bikaner Praud Shikshan Samiti, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Jai Bharirav welfare society, Mukiti, URMUL trust Prayas, Bless, URMUL seemant, (Bajju), Bikaner Mahila Utthan Jagrati Samiti, URMUL setu, URMUL jyoti, Nokha, Ajit foundation Bikaner, Vikas seva sansthan, Parmpara, Shrrisidhant foundation, Bikaner. Out of these two NGO's

were selected i.e. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (Adult education center, Bikaner) and Abhivyakti (URMUL Seeemant, Bajju) (Panchayat Samiti) Bikaner. Because of following reasons-Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) NGO's working with 100% grants from the Government of India. Jan Shikshan Sansthans are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The affairs of Jan Shikshan Sansthan are managed by respective Board of Management approved by the Government of India. Its collaboration with the central, state and district level and Abhivyakti working with a network of over 5000 artisans which includes 550 artisans of Indo-Pak war displaced families to enhance their earning through providing market linkage and training for better management and meeting the industrial standard to run their small business at the same time developing a platform for artisans to hone and showcase their skills. Abhivyakti aims to strengthening and facilitating the artisans to start their enterprise and run it on their own.

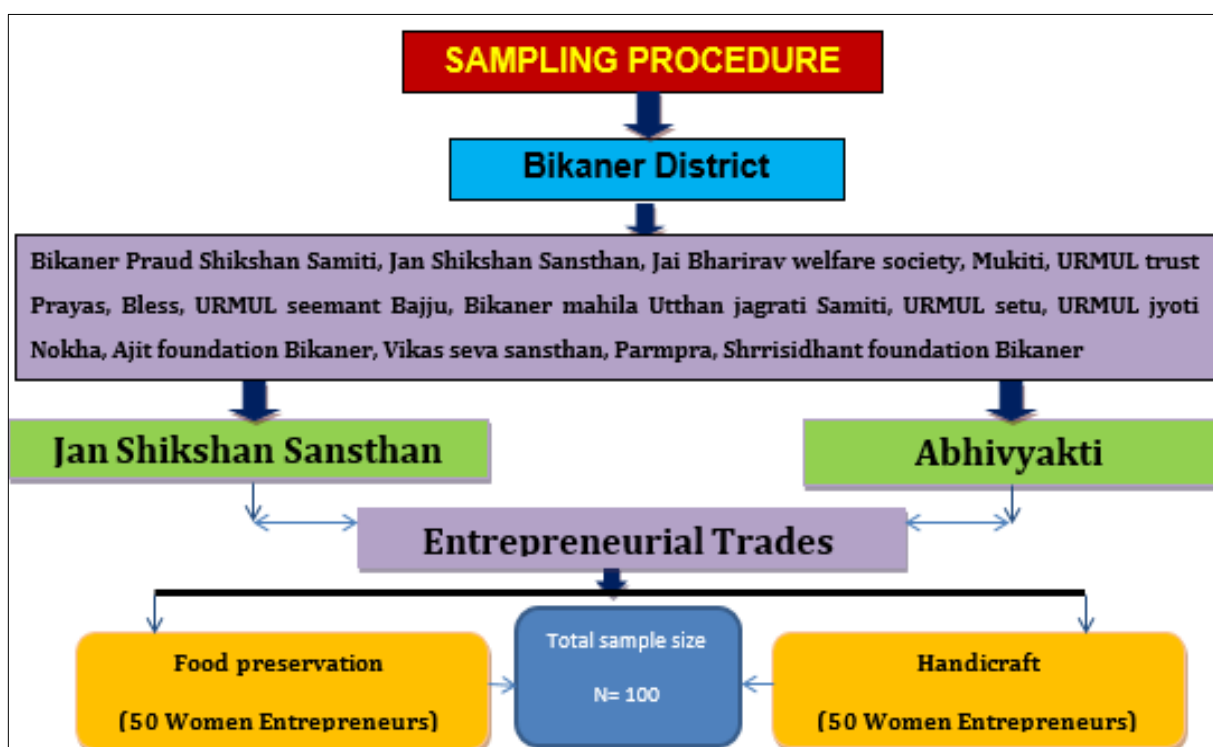


Fig 1: Sample selection procedure

Results and Discussions

Table no. 1. shows that majority of the respondents (84.00%) reported visionary outlook for profit in food preservation trade where as 82 percent of them reported value addition for more income and employment.

26 percent respondents reported that their thrift habit decreased followed by control over income (18.00%), income to meet emergency needs (16.00%) and only 7 percent found that freedom to discuss financial matters.

In entrepreneurial traits related aspects, most of the respondents (90.00%) found that their saving level increased followed by profit making (88.00%), self-confidence (86.00%) and positive self-concept (84.00%). Reduction in seeking additional information 24.00 percent followed by expenditure (16.00%) and 14.00 percent money transaction.

The impact on nutritional and health related aspects revealed that majority (78.00%) of the respondents reported increased quality of food followed by expense on health care (68.00%) and expenses on food (54.00%)and also found reduction in experience of strain and fatigue.

The result of impact on housing aspects of the women respondents revealed that majority of the respondents (78.00%) went for interior decoration followed by home improvement and repair and maintenances of home (62.00%) while reduction in home rent was reported by 24.00 percent followed by construction of house (16.00%).

The information regarding educational aspects found that majority (86.00%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they were able to provide better schooling for their children after started food preservation trade followed by tuitions and coaching's (68.00%) and enrollment in extra-curricular courses.

It is revealed from Table 1 that 76.00 percent of the respondents agreed for creativity and self-confidence (72.00%) was increased. Increased in independent thinking (66.000%) followed by communicating skills (62.00%). Only 10.00 percent reported decrease in independent decision making.

Impact on social aspects was found that 74.00 percent of the respondents reported increase in social contacts followed by

holding of position (72.00%), whereas according to 66.00 percent of the respondents reported increase credibility. Less percentage (10.00%) reported decrease in membership in social organization.

It is revealed from Table 1 that 78.00 percent respondents in food preservation trade agreed that the managerial capabilities was increased and also increase clarity of goal (72.00%)

followed by ability to influence others (70.00%) while reduction found in problem solving (22.00%) followed by managing time (14.00%) and managing market (10.00%).

Regarding other aspects, increase in expenditure on clothing was reported by 62.00 percent and 44.00 percent expenditure on Jewellery respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their economic empowerment in food preservation trade (n= 50)

Response category						
Sr. No.	Aspects	Increase	Same	Decrease	Weighted mean score	Rank
1.	Economic					
i	Money keeping	31(62.00)	19(38.00)	-	2.62	VI
ii	Control over income	24(48.00)	17(34.00)	9(18.00)	2.30	XI
iii	Access to income	36(72.00)	14(28.00)	-	2.72	IV
iv	Borrowing tendency	3(74.00)	13(26.00)	-	2.74	III
v	Employment of hired labour for work	32(64.00)	18(36.00)	-	2.64	V
vi	Income to meet emergency needs	33(66.00)	9(18.00)	8(16.00)	2.50	IX
vii	Freedom to discuss financial matters	28 (56.00)	15 (30.00)	7(14.00)	2.42	X
viii	Thrifty habit	20 (40.00)	17 (34.00)	13(26.00)	2.14	XII
ix	Avenues for employment and income generation	29(58.00)	21(42.00)	-	2.58	VII
x	Value addition for more income and employment	41 (82.00)	9(18.00)	-	2.82	II
xi	Visionary outlook for profit	42 (84.00)	8(16.00)	-	2.84	I
xii	Satisfaction for income	27 (54.00)	23 (46.00)	-	2.54	VIII
2.	Entrepreneurial traits					
i	Independence	36 (72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	X
ii	Initiative	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	VII
iii	Opportunity seeking	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	IX
iv	Risk taking	28 (56.00)	13 (26.00)	9(18.00)	2.38	XIV
v	Problem solving	23 (46.00)	22 (44.00)	5(10.00)	2.36	XV
vi	Hard work	38 (76.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.76	VIII
vii	Positive self-concept	42 (84.00)	8 (16.00)	-	2.84	IV
viii	Improving quality of product	35 (70.00)	15 (30.00)	-	2.70	XI
ix	Expanding the enterprise	41 (82.00)	9 (18.00)	-	2.82	V
x	Money transaction	15 (30.00)	28 (56.00)	7(14.00)	2.16	XVIII
xi	Self confidence	43 (86.00)	7 (14.00)	-	2.86	III
xii	Adoption of improved technologies	34 (68.00)	16 (32.00)	-	2.68	XII
xiii	Seeking additional information	25 (50.00)	13 (26.00)	12 (24.00)	2.26	XVII
xiv	Profit making	44 (88.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.88	II
xv	Income	40 (80.00)	10 (20.00)	-	2.80	VI
xvi	Expenditure	23 (46.00)	19 (38.00)	8 (16.00)	2.30	XVI
xvii	Saving	45 (90.00)	5 (10.00)	-	2.90	I
xviii	Investment	28 (56.00)	22 (44.00)	-	2.56	XIII
3.	Nutrition and health					
i	Expenses on food	27 (54.00)	16 (32.00)	7(14.00)	2.40	III
ii	Quality of food	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	I
iii	Expense on health care	34 (68.00)	16 (32.00)	-	2.68	II
iv	Experience of strain or fatigue	20 (4.00)	12 (24.00)	18 (36.00)	2.04	IV
4.	Housing					
i	Rent	22 (44.00)	16 (32.00)	12(24.00)	2.20	VI
ii	Furnishings	29 (58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	IV
iii	Repair/ maintenances	31 (62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	III
iv	Home improvement	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	II
V	Construction	28 (56.00)	14 (28.00)	8(16.00)	2.40	V
vi	Interior decoration	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	I
5.	Educational					
i	Better Schooling of children	43 (86.00)	7 (14.00)	-	2.86	I
ii	Provision of private tuitions/ coaching's	34 (68.00)	16 (32.00)	-	2.68	II
iii	Enrollment in extra-curricular courses like- computers, art classes, dance classes etc.	31 (62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	III
6.	Personal					
i	Self confidence	36 (72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	II
ii	Self-satisfaction	34 (68.00)	10(20.00)	6(12.00)	2.56	V
iii	Communicating skills	31 (62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	IV
iv	Creativity	38 (76.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.76	I
v	Independent thinking	33 (66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	III
vi	Independent decision making	28(56.00)	17 (34.00)	5(10.00)	2.46	VI

vii	Accounting skills	27 (54.00)	15(30.00)	8(16.00)	2.38	VII
7.	Social					
i	Social contacts	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	I
ii	Participation in local institution	32 (64.00)	9(18.00)	9(18.00)	2.46	VII
iii	Credibility	33 (66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	III
iv	Membership in social organization	31 (62.00)	14(28.00)	5(10.00)	2.52	VI
v	Social status	19 (58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	IV
vi	Equality of opportunity	30 (60.00)	9(18.00)	11(22.00)	2.38	IX
vii	Social mobility	27 (54.00)	23 (46.00)	-	2.54	V
viii	Holding of position	36 (72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	II
ix	Capacity to resolve conflict	32 (64.00)	6 (12.00)	12(24.00)	2.40	VIII
8.	Managerial					
i	Problem solving	17(34.00)	22 (44.00)	11(22.00)	2.12	XII
ii	Independent decision making	31(62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	VI
iii	Awareness of values and attitudes	29 (58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	VII
iv	Clarity of goal	36 (72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	II
v	Managing time	30(60.00)	13(26.00)	7(14.00)	2.46	VIII
vi	Managing financial resource	32 (64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	V
vii	Managing market	25 (50.00)	20 (40.00)	5(10.00)	2.40	X
viii	Ability to influence others	35 (70.00)	15 (30.00)	-	2.70	III
ix	Managing day to day problem	23 (46.00)	20 (40.00)	7(14.00)	2.32	XI
x	Managerial capabilities	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	I
xi	Commitment for work	30 (60.00)	13 (26.00)	8(16.00)	2.42	IX
xii	Goal orientation	33 (66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	IV
9.	Others					
i	Clothing	31 (62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	i
ii	Jewellery	22 (44.00)	28 (56.00)	-	2.44	ii

Table no. 2. shows that majority of the respondents (84.00%) reported visionary outlook for profit in handicrafts trade whereas 82.00 percent of them reported value addition for income and employment followed by avenues for employment and income generation (78.00) and money keeping (74.00%) while 26 percent women beneficiaries reported that their thrift habit level decreased followed by borrowing tendency (20.00%) and control over income (16.00%).

The impact of entrepreneurial traits related aspects studies revealed that (92.00%) respondents described about their saving level was increased followed by increase profit making (86.00%) and expanding the enterprise (82.00%) while reduction in risk taking (30.00%) followed by expenditure (24.00%), adoption of improved technology (22.00%), income (18.00%) and money transaction (16.00%) respectively.

The impact on nutritional and health related aspects revealed that majority (78.00%) of the respondents reported increased quality of food followed by expenses on health care (74.00%) and expenses on food (64.00%) while reduction found in experience of strain or fatigue was reported by 34.00 percent of them.

The result of impact on housing aspects of respondents revealed that majority of the respondents (66.00%) home improvement followed by interior decoration (64.00%) and furnishings (58.00%) while reduction found in interior decoration (16.00%) respectively.

The information pertaining to impact on educational aspects revealed that majority (78.00%) of the respondents agreed that they were able to provide better schooling of children

after started the enterprise followed by provision of private tuitions of children (72.00%) and enrollment in extracurricular courses like computer, art classes and dance classes etc.

It is revealed from Table no. 2 that increased percentage found i.e. 88.00 percent respondents agreed for the creativity and self-confidence followed by communicating skills (68.00%), Independent thinking (66.00%). Further it was reported that self-satisfaction has been increased by 58.00 percent.

As far as impact on social aspects was concerned, it was noticed that 82.00 percent of respondents reported increase equality of opportunity followed by holding of position (76.00%), whereas according to 64.00 percent of the respondents reported increase social contacts with other people. Less percentage (16.00%) reported in social mobility, credibility, capacity to resolve conflict and membership in social organization.

It is revealed from Table 2 that 86.00 percent respondents of handicraft trade agreed to the point that the commitment for work was increased followed by increase goal orientation, ability to influence others (78.00%) and managerial capabilities (74.00%).

It can be concluded that there was increase in awareness of values and attitudes, clarity of goals and managing market while reduction in problem solving (22.00%) followed by managing day to day problem (20.00%) and managing time (18.00%).

About other aspects such as jewellery and clothing it was increased that in expenditure on clothing was 74.00 percent and 58.00 percent of the jewellery respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their economic empowerment in handicraft trade (n= 50)

Response category						
Sr. No.	Aspects	Increase	Same	Decrease	Weighted mean score	Rank
1.	Economic					
i	Money keeping	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	IV
ii	Control over income	29 (58.00)	5 (10.00)	16(32.00)	2.26	XII
iii	Access to income	33 (66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	V
iv	Borrowing tendency	31 (62.00)	9 (18.00)	10(20.00)	2.42	X
v	Employment of hired labour for work	32 (64.00)	18 (63.00)	-	2.64	VI
vi	Income to meet emergency needs	28 (56.00)	22 (44.00)	-	2.56	VII
vii	Freedom to discuss financial matters	27 (54.00)	23 (46.00)	-	2.54	VIII
viii	Thrift habit	28 (56.00)	9 (18.00)	13(26.00)	2.30	XI
ix	Avenues for employment and income generation	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	III
x	Value addition for more income and employment	41 (82.00)	9 (18.00)	-	2.82	II
xi	Visionary outlook for profit	42 (84.00)	8 (16.00)	-	2.84	I
xii	Satisfaction for income	30 (60.00)	14 (28.00)	6(12.00)	2.48	IX
2.	Entrepreneurial traits					
i	Independence	33 (66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	VIII
ii	Initiative	31 (62.00)	19 (38.00)	-	2.62	X
iii	Opportunity seeking	37 (72.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	VI
iv	Risk taking	21 (42.00)	14 (28.00)	15(30.00)	2.12	XVIII
v	Problem solving	12 (24.00)	38 (76.00)	-	2.24	XV
vi	Hard work	32 (64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	IX
vii	Positive self concept	39 (78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	IV
viii	Improving quality of product	38 (76.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.76	V
ix	Expanding the enterprise	41 (82.00)	9 (18.00)	-	2.82	III
x	Money transaction	17 (34.00)	25 (50.00)	8(16.00)	2.18	XVI
xi	Self confidence	36 (72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	VII
xii	Adoption of improved technologies	18 (36.00)	21 (42.00)	11(22.00)	2.14	XVII
xiii	Seeking additional information	24 (48.00)	26 (52.00)	-	2.48	XIII
xiv	Profit making	43 (86.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.86	II
xv	Income	34 (68.00)	7 (14.00)	9(18.00)	2.50	XII
xvi	Expenditure	27 (54.00)	11(22.00)	12(24.00)	2.30	XIV
xvii	Saving	46 (92.00)	4 (8.00)	-	2.92	I
xviii	Investment	26(52.00)	24 (48.00)	-	2.52	XI
3.	Nutrition and health					
i	Expenses on food	32(64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	III
ii	Quality of food	39(78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	I
iii	Expense on health care	37(74.00)	9 (18.00)	4(8.00)	2.66	II
iv	Experience of strain or fatigue	18(36.00)	15 (30.00)	17 (34.00)	2.02	IV
4.	Housing					
i	Rent	23(46.00)	16 (32.00)	11(22.00)	1.76	VI
ii	Furnishings	29(58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	II
iii	Repair/ maintenances	23(46.00)	13 (26.00)	14(28.00)	2.18	IV
iv	Home improvement	33(66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	I
v	Construction	16(32.00)	15 (30.00)	19(38.00)	1.94	V
vi	Interior decoration	32(64.00)	10 (20.00)	8(16.00)	2.48	III
5.	Educational					
i	Better Schooling of children	39(78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	I
ii	Provision of private tuitions/ coaching's	36(72.00)	14 (28.00)	-	2.72	II
iii	Enrollment in extra-curricular courses like- computers, art classes, dance classes etc.	32(64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	III
6.	Personal					
i	Self confidence	37(74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	II
ii	Self satisfaction	29(58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	V
iii	Communicating skills	34(68.00)	16 (32.00)	-	2.68	III
iv	Creativity	44(88.00)	6 (12.00)	-	2.88	I
v	Independent thinking	33(66.00)	17 (34.00)	-	2.66	IV
vi	Independent decision making	27(54.00)	18 (36.00)	5(10.00)	2.44	VI
vii	Accounting skills	17(34.00)	23 (46.00)	10(20.00)	2.14	VII
7.	Social					
i	Social contacts	32(64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	III
ii	Participation in local institution	29(58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	IV
iii	Credibility	28(56.00)	14 (28.00)	8(16.00)	2.40	VI
iv	Membership in social organization	29(58.00)	9 (18.00)	12(24.00)	2.34	VIII
v	Social status	28(56.00)	22 (44.00)	-	2.56	V
vi	Equality of opportunity	41(82.00)	9 (18.00)	-	2.82	I

vii	Social mobility	26(52.00)	16 (32.00)	8(16.00)	2.36	VII
viii	Holding of position	38(76.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.76	II
ix	Capacity to resolve conflict	29(58.00)	4 (8.00)	17(34.00)	2.24	IX
8.	Managerial					
i	Problem solving	27(54.00)	12 (24.00)	11(22.00)	2.32	XI
ii	Independent decision making	38(76.00)	12 (24.00)	-	2.76	IV
iii	Awareness of values and attitudes	34(68.00)	16 (32.00)	-	2.68	VI
iv	Clarity of goal	32(64.00)	18 (36.00)	-	2.64	VII
v	Managing time	28(56.00)	13 (26.00)	9(18.00)	2.38	IX
vi	Managing financial resource	26(52.00)	16 (32.00)	8(16.00)	2.36	X
vii	Managing market	28(56.00)	17 (34.00)	5(10.00)	2.46	VIII
viii	Ability to influence others	39(78.00)	11 (22.00)	-	2.78	III
ix	Managing day to day problem	14(28.00)	26 (52.00)	10(20.00)	2.08	XII
x	Managerial capabilities	37(74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	V
xi	Commitment for work	43(86.00)	7 (14.00)	-	2.86	I
xii	Goal orientation	41(82.00)	9 (18.00)	-	2.82	II
9.	Others					
i	Clothing	37(74.00)	13 (26.00)	-	2.74	I
ii	Jewellery	2(58.00)	21 (42.00)	-	2.58	II

Conclusion

Majority of the entrepreneurs are managing their enterprise from home. Infrastructure set up plays an important role for any business. Govt. can set some priorities for entrepreneurs (women) for allocation of govt. plots, sheds and various other amenities. Increasing the knowledge regarding the particular enterprise there is need for conducting specialized skill oriented training so that the women entrepreneurs consummate with latest advancement in the entrepreneurial trades. Economic empowerment of women entrepreneur's positive changes was seen in social, entrepreneurial, educational, nutritional, housing, economic, personal and managerial aspects.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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