

A Study on the Problems and Challenges faced by Muslim Women Entrepreneurs

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Abstract- The study focuses on the factors influencing the development of Muslim Women entrepreneurship. The study covers on identifying the problems and challenges faced by Muslim Women entrepreneurs.

Key words: entrepreneur, Muslim entrepreneurs

I. INTRODUCTION

Islam clearly supports trade and commerce including women as entrepreneurs through the Koran (the holy book for Muslims). Islamic entrepreneurship is doing business either through innovations and risk while adhering to some guidelines set by Islam that is by prohibiting dishonesty, greed, exploitation, monopoly, uncertainty, interest and transacting prohibited goods and services (known as haram) in a way to regulate profit accumulation. Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) himself managed trade affairs for his wife (Khadija) who was one of the richest female entrepreneur in mecca. The Koran also has set some guidelines for Muslim women in doing business that is to give priority to their family first and foremost as the breadwinners are men while women are caretakers. Now a days, there is still a misconception in the Muslim community that Muslim Women should not go to entrepreneurial activity.

Educated Women are contributing to a great extent to the social transformation and in the future, will be seen that more women venturing into areas which are traditionally dominated by men. Today, many women have established their own entrepreneurial empire and are now ruling their world as they wished to. With the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society, the hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have been gradually changing. Skill, adaptability, and knowledge in business are the main reasons for women to emerge into business ventures.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women represent around half of the Indian population. In the official proclamation they are as equal as men. But in reality the truth prevails otherwise. In conventional society, role of women was naturally limited to the family. Since she was the bearer of children, she was fully occupied with her duties as mother and house maker. The men's responsibility was to make available the household with raw materials which were then converted by the women into consumable products or objects, under uncertain housing conditions and by means of elementary methods and tools. It can be said that many of the opportunities are being used only by a certain segment of the population. This segment consists of the rich or educated families who regard women as equals. For many families, on the other hand, that are submerged in poverty and tradition, women remain as second-class citizens. There are restrictions on their profession and education. Many people are still want their girls to be non-achievers and to remain will full subordinates to man.

Male dominancy in our society, particularly in rural society still exists and women are not treated as equivalent to their male counterparts both inside and outside of the house. Marriage is the career for most women in India. Even professionally they have restricted their activities to some areas like teaching, office work, nursing and medicine. It is rare that they enter professions like engineering and business. The area of women entrepreneurship is considered to be under developed. This is due in the part of the fact that entrepreneurship is regarded to be male activity. Economic needs have let more and more women to take up employment. Exposure to education, urbanization and emergence of technology has increased the potential source of women entrepreneurs.

Today women’s position in society is slowly becoming equal to that of men in all social, economic, educational and political spheres. Changing social perceptions and community practices make women work in all fields. They are entering into the organized workplace in larger and larger numbers, including male dominated areas like entrepreneurship. For women to be empowered they should be financially, socially, educationally and politically independent. Among the above variables, economic empowerment is the basis of all other variables in order to enhance financial stability of women. The social and cultural roles played by women may place an additional burden on them. Perception and support of society are the major determinants of women’s entrepreneurial success. As a part of their social binding, women entrepreneurs have to play dual role at the same time. They perform household responsibilities with operating her business simultaneously.

Objective of the study

The following are the objective of the study:

- To study the problems faced by Muslim Women entrepreneur
- To study the major challenges faced by Muslim Women to start their own enterprises.

III. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study, descriptive research design was used. Descriptive research design is a powerful tool used by scientists and researchers to gather information about a particular group or phenomenon.

Sampling method

Here, convenient sampling method used for study. convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling method where units are selected for inclusion in the sample because they are easiest for the researcher to access.

Sources of data

In this study both primary and secondary source of data are used for data collection.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Dr.j.Angel Beulah Gracelin,(2016)conducted a study on examine ”A Study on problems faced by Women entrepreneurs in Tuticorin district” The

objective of the study was to analyses the problems faced by the women entrepreneurs in tuticorin district and to know the factors influencing women entrepreneurial development .The study was done in tuticorin district. The sample size was 60. The research used interpretive qualitative methodology. Statistical tool used Enova ’F’ test. The study found that it is the important to note that students, especially Women, should be afforded opportunities and resources to make decision and learn about entrepreneurship.

2. Nadiya Arshad (2020) conducted a study on examine “The challenges of female entrepreneurs operating in the middle east” The objective of the study was to gain an understanding of the different challenges that female entrepreneurs face when launching and developing a business in the middle east region. The study was done in 17 countries: Turkey, Syria’ lebanon, Palestine, Israel, egypt, Jordan, Iraq, iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, unaited Arab emirates, Oman, Cyprus, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The researcher used sampling method. Statistical tool used coding. The study found that there are three main challenges that female entrepreneurs face when operating within the Middle East Region. Lack of finance, lack of support and discrimination

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table no: 1 - Challenges faced at the startup phase

Category	Respondents	Percentage
No obstacles	5	7
Doubt of self confidence	22	32
Financial issues	42	62
Lack of information	20	29
Support from family	25	37
Combining domestic and professional life	3	4

Interpretation:

The above table shows that 62% of respondents have financial issues.

Table no: 2 - Most disturbing external problem

Category	Respondents	Percentage
Government regulations	3	4
Increase competition	36	53
Capital	17	25

Poor power supply	11	16
Lack of demand	29	43
Grand total	68	100

Interpretation:

The above table shows that 53% of respondents claim that increasing competition is the most disturbing external problem.

Table no:3 - Most disturbing internal problem

Category	Respondents	Percentage
Managing debit or credit	8	12
Maintaining cash flow	43	63
Record keeping	7	10
Insecurity	8	12
Employee fraud	2	3
Grand total	68	100

Interpretation:

The above table shows that 63% of respondents claim that maintaining cash flow is the most disturbing internal problem.

Table no:4 - Problems face in managing their businesses

Category	Respondents	Percentage
A little	32	47
Moderate	6	9
Much	8	12
Not at all	8	12
Very much	14	21
Grand total	68	100

Interpretation:

The above table shows that 47% of respondents are a little problems face in managing their business.

VI. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Findings

- Most of the respondents say that the challenges faced during the start-up phase of business on the factor financial issues.
- It reveals that, support from family is the important challenges faced by women entrepreneurs during the startup phase of business.
- Majority of the respondents says that the most disturbing external problem is increasing competition.
- Majority of the respondents says that the most

disturbing internal problem is maintaining sufficient cash flow.

- Majority of the respondents are a little problems face in managing their business.

Suggestions

- Most of the entrepreneurs are untrained. Acquiring training can address the lack of education and knowledge and it lead to greater success.
- Make a budget to help you resolve your financial problems.
- Competition cannot be avoided, but competition can be better dealt with by knowing the customer's need and highlighting your difference
- Preparation of cash flow project and proper earning of profit will help to managing sufficient cash flow.

CONCLUSION

In this study” problems and challenges faced by Muslim Women entrepreneurs.” I found that today many Muslim women have started their own business. Most of the women have family support and there is also lack of family support for Muslim Women in some traditions. The Problems faced by Muslim women are managing sufficient cash flow, financial issues and increasing competition. New opportunities, family occupation and personal satisfactions are some of the factors that influencing women to start their own enterprises. Most of the Women are untrained. Proper training should be given to the women that can enhance their level of work-knowledge, risk-taking abilities enhancing their capabilities.

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