

Women Empowerment in Textile Industries: With Special Reference to Handloom and Power Loom units

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ABSTRACT

This research paper explores the multifaceted challenges faced by women entrepreneurs across the globe, particularly in developing countries. It highlights the socio-cultural, financial, legal, and personal barriers that restrict women's participation and growth in entrepreneurship. The paper also discusses potential strategies and policy recommendations to foster a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. Women empowerment in the power loom and handloom sectors is a critical aspect of rural and industrial development, especially in countries like India, Bangladesh, and others with strong textile traditions. Here's an overview focusing on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for empowering women in these sectors. Present day's many opportunities are available to entrepreneur to start new business or expand or increase their business, even though the development of women entrepreneurship is very low in India, especially in the rural areas. Due to lack of support from the government, in rural area women entrepreneurs are facing so many problems, so this study thoroughly analysis and exploring problems of handloom units which are comes under Kalaburagi district. A Sample design adopted was convenience and purposive. The sample size selected for the study was 100. To analyse the data is by using Descriptive analysis, using frequency and tables were attempted. Secondly, T Test was used, to test for differences.

Key words: women entrepreneur, Power loom, Handloom and Textile.

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is a key driver of economic growth and innovation. However, women entrepreneurs often face disproportionate challenges compared to their male counterparts. Despite increasing numbers of women-led start-ups and enterprises, structural barriers remain. This paper aims to identify and analyse the core challenges hindering women's entrepreneurial success and offers solutions for mitigating these issues. Women entrepreneurship development is an essential part of human resource development. The development of women entrepreneurship is very low in India, especially in the rural areas. Women have become aware of their existence their rights and their work situation. . However, women of middle class are not too eager to alter their role in fear of social backlash. The progress is more visible among upper class families in urban cities. Handloom industries are industries that plays vital role in rural entrepreneurship development. The word entrepreneurship can born anywhere, it is not restricted only men, but also women. A woman entrepreneur is a woman who starts and owns and enterprise by investing at least 51% in an enterprise. In India the government promote to development of women entrepreneur. Handloom sector play an important role in empowering women entrepreneurship in India.

Handloom Sector: Primarily traditional and artisanal. Often home-based, allowing women to balance domestic responsibilities. **Power Loom Sector:** More mechanized and industrial. Typically located in small-scale manufacturing clusters.

Women participate as:

- Weavers
- Spinners
- Dyers
- Designers
- Entrepreneurs

Challenges of women entrepreneurs low wages, lack of raw material, limited access of training, health problem and finance.

Opportunities for Empowerment

- Skill Development Programs: Design and dyeing training and Digital literacy for online sales
- Formation of SHGs and Cooperatives: Women-led handloom cooperatives increase bargaining power. And Helps access government schemes and credit.
- Market Linkages: Branding of handloom products as eco-friendly and artisan-made. And Participation in national/international trade fairs.
- Access to Finance: Microfinance, government subsidies, and loans tailored for women entrepreneurs.
- Technology Adoption: Use of semi-automated looms to reduce physical strain.

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To identify the major challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ To understand the socio-cultural and economic factors impacting women-led businesses.
- ❖ To recommend strategies and policy interventions to promote women entrepreneurship.

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no challenge faced by handloom and power loom women entrepreneurs.

H₁: There is a challenges faced by handloom and power loom women entrepreneurs

H₀: There is no factors impacting on handloom and power loom women entrepreneurs

H₁: There is a factors impacting on handloom and power loom women entrepreneurs

Research design

- **Type of Research:** The study is exploratory and empirical in nature. It explores the various problems empirically which are associated with handloom units.
- **Type of data:** Both primary and secondary data are used. Primary data is collected by administering a structured questionnaire and secondary data is collected through various reports, books, articles etc.

- **Population of the study:** The study population constitutes all the handloom and power loom women entrepreneurs of kalaburagi district.
- **Type of sampling method:** Convenient sampling technique is employed to choose handloom units from the study population.
- **Type of statistical tools:** Statistical tools used for the analysis of the present study are, descriptive statistics, paired sample t-Test and chi-square test.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Financial Constraints: Women often lack access to capital due to limited collateral, poor credit history, and gender bias in lending institutions.

Socio-Cultural Barriers: Traditional gender roles often discourage women from pursuing careers in business. Societal expectations about family responsibilities hinder their professional aspirations

Lack of Education and Skills. Many women, especially in rural areas, lack formal education, digital literacy, or business training—essential for managing and scaling a business.

Limited Access to Networks: Women are often excluded from formal and informal business networks, leading to fewer partnerships, clients, or investment opportunities.

Legal and Institutional Barriers: In some countries, laws restrict women's rights to property ownership, inheritance, or business registration, making entrepreneurship legally complex.

Work-Life Balance: The dual responsibility of managing home and business puts additional pressure on women, often affecting productivity and growth.

Safety and Mobility Issues: Lack of safe transport and secure workspaces can discourage women from expanding or even initiating businesses, especially in conservative societies

Financial Barriers Remain the Most Critical Challenge: Women entrepreneurs face significant difficulty in accessing formal credit due to lack of collateral, low credit history, and institutional gender biases. This limits their ability to start, expand, or sustain businesses.

Socio-Cultural Norms Inhibit Entrepreneurial Potential: Deep-rooted gender norms and societal expectations often discourage women from taking entrepreneurial risks. Family responsibilities, societal pressure, and the prioritization of household duties over business limit their full participation.

Limited Access to Skill Development and Education: Many women lack adequate training in business management, technology, and finance. This is especially evident in rural and semi-urban areas, where formal education and entrepreneurial exposure are minimal.

Networking Opportunities Are Inaccessible: Women are underrepresented in business and professional networks. Their exclusion from informal power structures and industry associations restricts access to mentorship, partnerships, and market information.

Table no.01
Descriptive statistics of handloom and power loom units

	Handloom units			Power loom units		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Low wage	95(95%)	05	100	90(90%)	10	100
Finance	92(92)	08	100	92(90%)	08	100
Marketing	85(85%)	15	100	90(90%)	10	100
Training and skill	70(70%)	30	100	75(75%)	25	100

Sources: Field Survey

Above table depicts those problems of handloom and power loom unit. Majority of the units are facing the problems of low wage, finance and marketing. Among the entire problems low wage is major problems. The data clearly indicates that both handloom and power loom units face similar structural challenges, with slightly different intensities. Low wages and lack of financial support are the most pressing and uniform problems. Training and marketing support need targeted improvements, particularly adapted to the needs of each sector.

Findings

1. It found that 95% of women in handloom units and 90% in power loom units report receiving low wages. This indicates that wage exploitation is a critical issue in both sectors, with handloom workers slightly more affected.
2. It stated that 92% of respondents in both handloom and power loom sectors face difficulties accessing finance. This reflects systemic issues like lack of collateral, awareness of schemes, and institutional support.
3. It reveals that 85% of handloom respondents face marketing issues compared to 90% in power loom. While both sectors struggle, power loom units show a marginally higher concern, possibly due to larger production needing broader markets.
4. It examines that 70% of handloom workers lack access to adequate training, compared to 75% in power loom. This highlights the need for regular skill enhancement programs, especially with evolving technologies and market needs.

Suggestions:

Handloom workers, often operating in traditional and informal settings, may require more personalized interventions like SHG-based training, whereas power loom workers might benefit from technical and digital up skilling.

Conclusion

Women entrepreneurs play a vital role in driving inclusive economic growth, generating employment, and fostering innovation. However, despite their growing presence in the entrepreneurial landscape, they continue to face significant challenges that limit their potential. These include limited access to finance, socio-cultural constraints, lack of education and training, restricted mobility, and minimal representation in business networks.

The study reveals that many of these challenges are rooted in systemic gender inequality and can be addressed through targeted policy interventions, greater institutional support, and societal change. While several government schemes and non-governmental initiatives exist to support women entrepreneurs, their impact remains limited due to low awareness, poor implementation, and structural barriers. Empowering

women entrepreneurs requires a multi-faceted approach that includes financial inclusion, skill development, legal support, and cultural transformation. Creating an enabling environment—where women are encouraged, supported, and recognized—will not only improve their entrepreneurial outcomes but also contribute significantly to national development. If these challenges are addressed through coordinated efforts by governments, financial institutions, civil society, and communities, women entrepreneurs can emerge as powerful agents of economic and social change.

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