

Women Entrepreneurship Development through Cooperatives



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Introduction

Entrepreneurs are individuals or group of individuals who invest capital, organize and direct business and industrial units. An entrepreneur assembles, coordinates and directs various factors of production namely land, labor, capital and other materials. "An entrepreneur initiates ventures, employs workers, organizes production, develops markets and influences the development of managerial thoughts" (Shrestha, 1982:11). As stated by Higgins "Entrepreneurship is meant the function of seeing investment and production opportunities, organizing an enterprise to undertake a new production process, raising capital, hiring labor, arranging for the supply of raw materials, finding a site and combining these factors of production into a going concern, introducing new techniques and selecting top managers for day to day operation" (Higgins, 1966:88). The elements common to all of them are the desire for breaking away from traditional ways of doing things, face the organizational and technical problems in decision-making process and measure up to the risks which are implicit in the process (Joshi, 1977: 40). Entrepreneurs can be divided into three broad categories i.e., Private Entrepreneur, Government Entrepreneur and Institutional Entrepreneur (K.C., 1989: 18-19).

Statement of the Problem

Out of the total population in Nepal (approximately 30 million), over 51 per cent are female, yet the number of women entrepreneurs is estimated at 30,000 (0.1 per cent). It is difficult to assess how many of these women are even real entrepreneurs, 'undertaking the organization and management of an enterprise involving innovativeness, independence and risk, as well as the opportunity for profit'. Many of these women are simply self-employed and limit the scale of their enterprise to meet the requirements of household consumption.

This study is concerned with the following issues:

- What are the impacts made by the cooperatives regarding the women entrepreneurship development?
- To what extent the cooperatives have been able to support the women for entrepreneurship development?
- What interest rate is charged by cooperatives and provided on savings?

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- How could the cooperative enhance its service to develop entrepreneurship capacity for its women members?

Objectives of the study

The main research question of this study is how cooperatives have contributed on women's entrepreneurship development. This has been articulated by the following specific objectives

- To examine the impact of cooperatives on Women Entrepreneurship Development
- To assess the role played by the cooperatives on women's financial empowerment.
- To evaluate the interest charged on borrowing and interest provided on savings by cooperatives.

Review Of Literature

Cooperative

Cooperative was founded from Latin word "co-operari" where 'co' means together and 'operari' means working together. Working together for member is the initial concept of cooperatives. The Cooperative is a member centered business. In 1995, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), the apex organization that represents cooperatives worldwide, defined cooperative as: "An autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise." Co-operatives are organizations for mutual benefit, where members own, control and benefit from the co-operational output. The objective is to first and foremost serve members' interests, rather than that of capital invested and to adopt democratic control for socio-economic output, to make distinctions between cooperatives and other forms of business. Co-operatives are based around the concepts of self-help self-responsibility and self-Organization (Cooperative Futures, 2006). Cooperative is community based business. The basic characteristics of cooperative that differentiate it from other type of business are its principle, values and norms. This basically orient general business toward community focused, member centered, democratically controlled and voting right assigned in membership rather than staking of shares (Birchall, J., 2003).

A saving and credit organization is a community based financial organization that is owned and controlled by its members, operates primarily on funds generated through members' savings and has savings mobilization and credit supply as its main activities. In fact, in the later days of the cooperative history its role as a means to Women empowerment could be seen as dominant and effective (Cooperative Darpan, 2007). Cooperative is a movement of human beings for their social and economic development where there is hardly any chance of it members being exploited. At the moment human society is wasting its economic sources across the world, for its right use and for the benefits of the humans there need to be joint enterprises or cooperative (Charles, 1975). Cooperative plays a greater role in transforming whole society into just and prosperous one (Ibid). In the mixed economy Nepal has embraced

cooperatives play a vital role that is the basis for all economic activities is the cooperatives (Newsweek, 1991).

Women Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship can be defined as the process of using private initiative to transform a business concept into a new venture or to grow and diversify an existing venture or enterprise with high growth potentiality. The term 'entrepreneur' has been defined as anyone who 'undertakes the organization and management of an enterprise involving innovativeness, independence and risk, as well as the opportunity for profit' (Timmons and Spineelli 2006, 10). Innovation enables an entrepreneur to venture into new technology, products, and markets, while independence and risk-taking is required in every stage of the business from start-up to expansion (Ming-Yen 2007).

Over the past three decades, the global policy process has become more gender sensitive and individual countries have endorsed the protocol for integrating women more actively into the development programs with emphasis on empowerment and equity. Women and poorer households are frequently among the worst affected as policy issues change in specific ways. Within this context, women are viewed as (Payne, 1991; Egunjobi et al, 1990). This includes their day-to-day decision-making and implementation of tasks pertaining to the production and consumption activities in low-income households, which accounts for substantial proportion of the gross domestic product of developing countries (Braun et al, 1991; Garcia, 1991; and Chiappori, 1992). However, the market character of the low-income household has not been rigorously investigated with respect to the important role of women in cottage enterprises, particularly in terms of the nature of demand and supply curves for women entrepreneurship as well as their interaction within the household framework.

However, critics have pointed out that the conflation of the goals of women's empowerment and entrepreneurship has resulted in a 'magic-bullet' approach to development which, far from empowering women, subjects them to the disciplinary power of market (Lairap-Fonderson 2002).

Neo-liberal ideas of market-led growth promote the development of women's entrepreneurship, mainly because they are seen as harder workers and better at meeting credit repayments than men (Rogaly 1996). Various microfinance schemes aligning with this concept work on assumption that group activities will 'empower' women, and that women can be lifted out of poverty through development projects. However, women's entrepreneurship may have an insignificant effect on generating meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for women, and an even lesser effect on the country's economic advancement and its entrenched gender relations. (Mayoux 2001b). While it may enhance personal well-being and family security on a temporary basis, embedded traditions and structural constraints make for only marginal increase in women's independence and abilities to lead businesses.

Cooperative and Entrepreneurship

Investment is the most important aspect for any entrepreneurs to put her dream into practice. It is already clear that women have limited access to finance so have been getting a barrier to start any business. Studies have also shown that the elements of self-reliance and collective action built into the cooperative model also allow women to develop social capital that would be otherwise difficult to attain. Membership in collective enterprises allows women to build both working and personal relations, often increasing their social standing Women me (World Bank, 2009). Members of collective organizations also often report increased self-esteem and a sense of solidarity and support, particularly in times of need (Jones, 2012). Rijal (2005) found that socio economic empowerment of women has happened in many aspects such as developing saving habits, exposing them to external world, providing them opportunity to organize. Poudyal (2005) has used primary as well as secondary data applying questionnaire as well as observation methods. Data revealed from 72 samples out of 228 members of seven centers are analyzed with correlation, regression & chi-square test. Bhattarai (2005) has a comparative study with control group. He has attempted to examine livelihood security as well as empowerment of women through micro credit program has used indicators like curtail unproductive benefits, develop saving habit, savings mobilization to assess economic benefit and indicators such as social awareness, lowered social evils, health and sanitation to assess none economic benefits. Kharel (2008) has done the research on Financial performance of Micro Finance Institution and the Women economic Empowerment in Mahila Prayas Bachat tatha Rindh Sahakari Sanstha Limited (MPBRS) at Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu. It was taken from focused group discussion and key format interview. Shrestha (2009) found the impact of the project is positive, most of group leaders have responded curiosity about saving and credit cooperatives in all the VDC of the project area, and the blanket approach is not effective even within the project area. He has suggested that there should be a good facility to transfer group saving in cooperative account, livestock insurance product needs to make more effective and practical and there should be effective participatory monitoring system and evaluation system to sustain MCPW in Kaski district. Dargi (2009) had made a study of the women's economic participation to their house hold management in Teranthum district. The main objective of theses was (i) to study the social economic condition of women. (ii) to assess the role in their economic support to their families (iii) to study women's participation in the household activities and decision making process. (iv) to suggest measure for uplift their status in a society. His research works in mainly based on field survey.

Research Gap

In this way, these scholars have tried to study on different aspects of contribution made by the cooperatives. The study is mainly focused on how are the financial performance made by the cooperatives based on the PEARLS monitoring tool, how much these cooperatives have been able to impact on the economic upliftment of the women, livelihood security and so on. Some of the studies have been focused to analyze women's economic participation as well but are restricted into the household management and improvement on financial gain. However no study has been carried out especially focusing on the contribution made by the cooperatives for the women entrepreneurship development. Therefore, this study has tried to explore to

what extent the cooperatives have been able to support its members particularly the women in regard to entrepreneurship development from the financial, technical and administrative perspectives. The study has made its effort to look for some steps for the further improvement as well.

Research Methodology

The study has focused on analyzing the effect of micro finance program in entrepreneurship development of women in Kathmandu district. The study has focused particularly on the activities and performance of cooperative. Kathmandu district was purposively selected for this study after considering several things.

Research design

The researcher employed the exploratory research design which is suitable for exploratory studies that emphasize on formulating a problem for more precise investigation. The population of the study is considered as the whole 5 centers of WSC. However, the study of the impact of such center on all the members with regard to entrepreneurship development is difficult to analyze. Thus, only 10 women from each center, all of whom have received loans from WSC and 1 WSC employee are taken as sample for the study.

Table 1: Population and Sample

S.N.	Center	Population	Sample
1	Mahadevsthan Center	1911	10
2	Manamaiju Center	2467	10
3	Basundhara Center	1243	10
4	Balkhu Center	1299	10
5	Mahankal Center	984	10
	Total	7904	50
	Marketing Officer of WSC		1

Source: Research Activities and Schedule (2018)

Data Collection Methods and questionnaires

In order to accomplish the objectives in this research and come up with correct results the researcher used only Primary Data. A questionnaire is a set of questions, which are usually sent to selected respondents to answer at their own convenient time and return back the filled questionnaire to the researcher. Questionnaires were distributed to selected respondents who were requested to fill them and the researcher collected them at a later date as agreed.

Data Presentation And Analysis

Demographic Profile

The demographic variables such as the occupation, education, age, number of children, family's land and types of houses they are living on are analyzed. The 70% of the women

are involved in business only, and the 12% of the respondents are doing both agriculture and business. Moreover, the nature of agriculture has also been changed and is turning to agricultural business. The 42% of the surveyed has just 10+2 education, and 46% of these women are within the age of 20 to 30 year. Moreover, the majority, 42%, of the women has just 2 children, and 54% of the women have land limited to some. Most of the women, 52%, have 1 year to 5 year experience on the embraced occupation and 26% of the women are just the apprentices on their business or occupation.

Analysis of Services of WSC

Under this section of the study, the purposes to take micro lending services, problem in applying for loan, the interest charged on the loan and paid on the savings by cooperatives, time for loan processing, lent amount and others have been analyzed.

Purpose to Take Micro Loan

The needs that need to be achieved drive people to take loan. Various people have numerous needs to take loan. To examine for what specific purpose the surveyed members, women, of the group have taken micro loan from the WSC, cooperative, the respondents are asked.

Table 2: Purpose to Take Micro Loan

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Business/Agriculture	6	6	5	10	9	36	72
House Building	0	2	1	0	0	3	6
Children's Education	1	1	2	0	1	5	10
Home Needs	2	0	2	0	0	4	8
Others	1	1	0	0	0	2	4
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The study found that the most of the women who have taken micro loan from the WSC invested such loan in either expanding the business they are running on or buying the materials such as fertilizers or insecticides for crop agriculture, food and medicines for the livestock and so on

Problem in Loan Applying Process

Table 3: Problem in Loan Applying Process

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
No Problem	3	1	1	1	5	11	22
Submitting Loan Form	0	1	1	0	1	3	6
Service Fees	0	4	7	9	2	22	44
Wait Turn in Group	7	4	1	0	2	14	28
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

Out of the 50 surveyed members, the 11 members, 22%, said that they have not experienced any problem while taking loan from the cooperative, WSC, and the other 78% said that they faced some sorts of problems. The 6% of the surveyed members said that the submission process of the loan form is much difficult. However, only 1 member from each Manamaiju, Basundhara and Mahankal centers pointed this problem and this has not been the problem for the members of Mahadevsthan and Balkhu Centers.

Time to Get the Loan

Table 4: Time to Get the Loan

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
1 day	2	1	0	0	4	7	14
2 days	8	6	6	10	6	36	72
3 days	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
2 Weeks	0	3	3	0	0	6	12
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinions Survey, 2018)

The lending of micro finance by the cooperative, WSC, is in 1 day at prompt and within 2 weeks at maximum after the submission of loan application by the members. However, the majority of the respondents, 72%, are getting the micro credit in 2 days of submission of loan application. The study finds that the WSC has granted micro loan in 2 days to all the loan applicants of Balkhu Center.

Monthly Savings of Earnings from Investment of Borrowings

Table 5: Monthly Savings of Earnings from Investment of Borrowings

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
No Savings	1	0	3	0	3	7	14
Up to Rs. 5000	6	4	1	6	2	19	38
Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000	2	3	5	0	3	13	16
Rs. 10000 to Rs. 20000	0	1	1	3	2	7	9
Rs. 20000 and above	1	2	0	1	0	4	4
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The study found that 14% of the surveyed women said that they could not save from the earnings; earned from the occupation on which the micro-credit has been invested, after

paying the loan and interest. On the other facet, it has been found that the rest 86% of the surveyed women saved somewhat per month after repayment to WSC.

Status of Surveyed Women

Under this section, the activeness of the women to participate on the programs, the change in status after participation and after mobilizing the micro credit, training and services taken from WSC, management of housekeeping and business, willingness to expand business and suggestions provided for enhancement of entrepreneurship to eventually reduce deprivation and others are analyzed.

Involvement/Participation on Program of WSC

Table 6: Involvement/Participation on Program of WSC

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Yes	9	9	8	8	10	44	88
No	1	1	2	2	0	6	12
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The respondents showed overwhelming participation to the programs of WSC that are directly or indirectly related to the economic empowerment and entrepreneurship development of women and eventually aiding in the reduction of the events of deprivation. The 88% of the women said that they have participated in the programs conducted by WSC. The 9 women from Mahadevsthan, 9 women from Manamaiju, 8 women from Basundhara, 8 women from Balkhu and 10 women from Mahankal said that they have been involved in such empowering programs.

Change in Social Status After Participation

Table 7: Change in Social Status After Participation

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Yes	10	10	10	8	10	48	96
No	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

After participation on the programs conducted by the WSC, the women not only achieved economic benefits but also experienced change in the perceptions of the surrounding

people, who could be the family members, relatives, neighbors and other, on their social status. The 96% of the total respondents, comprised of 10 women from each Mahadevsthan, Manamaiju, Basundhara and Mahankal centers, and 8 women from Balkhu center, said that the participation on such skill development/entrepreneurship development program indeed turned to be lucrative and aid in the enhancement of the social status.

Training or Services Taken from WSC

Table 8: Training or Services Taken from WSC

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Education to Adult							
Technical Education							
Cleaning Program					1	1	2
Market Management		2		2		4	8
Women Legal Rights							
Record Keeping			1	1		2	4
Income and Skill Development		3	4	6	3	16	32
Saving and Loan Management Training	8	5	4	0	6	23	46
Environment Protection							
None	2			1		3	6
More than One Service			1			1	2
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The collection of saving from the members and providing loan along with the loan management training to the borrowers are the most important services provided to the women member of the most of the centers. However, the study also finds that the members of some centers are also being deprived by these services of WSC, exemplified by the case of Balkhu Center showing that the members have not got any such loan management and savings training or services from WSC and they showed strong grievance for not having such training or services, in lieu demanding such initiation from cooperative, WSC.

Management of Housekeeping and Business

Table 9: Management of Housekeeping and Business

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Sharing work with Husband	8	7	6	5	3	29	58
Only Extra Time to Business	1	3	3	0	0	7	14
Employing Staff at Business	0	0	0	3	4	7	14
Employing Housemaid	0	0	0	2	2	4	8
Others	1	0	1	0	1	3	6
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The concept of cooperative has been one of the beneficial mediums for improvising the relationship of spouse, as the loan provided by the cooperative either for business, agriculture or for other needs is directly or indirectly making the women busy on their work, turning the status of the women from just housewives to working women, and due to their busy time in managing the housekeeping and business, their husbands are sharing the hands for their work.

Willingness to Expand Business

Table 10: Willingness to Expand Business

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Yes	10	9	10	9	7	45	90
No	0	1	0	1	3	5	10
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

Most of the respondents, 90%, have shown their strong enthusiasm in expanding their business or agriculture. These 90% respondents cover 10 women from Mahadevsthan, 9 women from Manamaiju, 10 women from Basundhara, 9 women from Balkhu and 7 women from Mahankal Center. These respondents seek loan, training, supervision, monitor and suggestions from cooperatives, WSC, for ensuring profitable business, securing the investment, and making correction of any unwanted activities that could lead harm to their business and to the society. However, the 10% of the respondents; 1 from Manamaiju, 1 from Balkhu and 3 from Mahankal centers, said that they don't want to expand their business either because they are

satisfied to their business, fearing loss, if expanded, or because they do not want to continue their business or occupation.

Investment of Loan

Table 11: Investment of Loan

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
1. Agricultural Business	4	4	0	0	0	8	16
2. Other Business	6	6	10	10	10	40	80
a. Grocery	5	3	1	3	4	16	32
b. Pharmacy	0	0	2	0	2	4	8
c. Hardware	0	1	1	2	1	5	10
d. Beauty Parlor	0	1	1	3	0	5	10
e. Tailoring	1	1	3	2	3	10	20
3. Other	0	0	2	0	0	2	4
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

Most of the borrowers preferred to invest the taken loan in their business or occupation. Only few have invested the loan for the needs of home stuffs and for medical and clothing expenses. The 16% of the surveyed members have invested the loan in agricultural business, including the purchasing of the instruments to plough, buying the seeds, investment in poultry farms, cattle farming, fish and pig farming and others. The 4 women from Mahadevsthan and 4 women from Manamaiju centers have invested the borrowed amount in agricultural business. Among the livestock agricultures, the charm in poultry farming, and in dairy goods is increasing among the women entrepreneur who want to do the agriculture from business perspective.

Implementation of Suggestions by WSC

Table 12: Implementation of Suggestions by WSC

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Yes	5	7	8	5	4	29	58
No	5	3	2	5	6	21	42
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The 58% of the total respondents, comprised of 5 members from Mahadevsthan, 7 from Manamaiju, 8 from Basundhara, 5 from Balkhu and 4 from Mahankal Centers, said that the cooperative, WSC, is really working for their welfare, as these respondents further stated that the recommendations provided by them have been really implemented by WSC, and the WSC micro finance program and others are exactly they have expected and are for the members' uplift, economically and socially.

Means to Develop Entrepreneurship in Women by WSC

Table 13: Means to Develop Entrepreneurship in Women by WSC

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Financial Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Training	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Loan Granting	10	9	10	7	1	37	74
Business Suggestions	0	1	0	1	9	11	22
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The majority of the surveyed members perceived that the WSC, cooperative, is developing the entrepreneurship of women and empowering them through micro financing only. The 74% of the total respondents, including 10 members from Mahadevsthan, 9 members from Manamaiju, 10 members from Basundhara, 7 members from Balkhu, and 1 member from Mahankal Center, shared this opinion.

Difference in Status

Table 14: Difference in Status

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
No Difference	0	0	2	1	1	4	8
Status Improvement	8	9	5	8	9	39	78
Involvement in Decision	2	1	3	1	0	7	14
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The helping hand of cooperatives in women entrepreneurship development is significant, as the study ascertained that the most of the respondents experienced improvisation in the

social status as well. The 78% of the total respondents said that they have realized change in the perception of the society on looking at them.

Satisfaction on Business/Occupation

Table 15: Satisfaction on Business/Occupation

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Yes	7	8	10	9	10	44	88
Little Bit	3	2	0	1	0	6	12
No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The satisfaction on the business or in occupation is high in most of the surveyed members. The 88% of the surveyed women said that they are much satisfied to the current business or occupation and wish to persistently do the same job, business or occupation in the forthcoming periods.

Ownership of Family's Property (Land and House)

Table 16: Ownership of Family's Property (Land and House)

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Self	0	1	7	0	3	11	22
Husband	3	2	2	3	3	13	26
Children	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Other	6	7	1	7	1	24	48
Couple	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

The entitlement to the property is rare in case of female, as evidenced by just 22% of the total respondents claiming that they have the some land or house in their name. The surveyed members of Mahadevsthan and Balkhu centers, however, have no ownership in any fixed property. However, the most members of Basundhara have ownership in some sections of fixed properties. The 26% of the surveyed members further stated that the fixed properties of the family are entitled to their husband and thus they have no such possession.

Opinion to Enhance Entrepreneurship

Table 17: Opinion to Enhance Entrepreneurship

Answer	MHS	MM	BSD	BK	MK	Total	
						No.	%
Operating Business Training	10	10	7	10	5	42	84
Providing Knowledge on Investment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promptly Floating Loan	0	0	2	0	5	7	14
Tour to Educate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Record Keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50	100

(Source: Opinion Survey, 2018)

All the respondents from Mahadevsthan, Manamaiju, Balkhu and 7 respondents from Basundhara and 5 respondents from Mahankal stated that training should be provided by cooperatives in addition to micro financing for enhancing women empowerment. The rest 5 respondents from Mahankal and other 2 respondents from Basundhara, totaling 14% of the total respondents, said that the cooperatives should flow loan promptly after the submission of loan application.

Staff's Responses Analysis

To make the study more valid and much meaningful, the study made the opinion survey of the staff of the WSC as well. Regarding the Role and the Challenges the surveyed employee of WSC said that she did not face any major challenge while performing her duty. However, the ignorance of the members and misunderstanding has created some confusion but now such problems have now been solved, as per her opinion. In the case of Contribution of WSC in Women Entrepreneurship the surveyed staff said that the WSC has definitely contributed to develop the entrepreneurship by providing loans and other financial services along with the valuable suggestions. Similarly, in the case of Changes to be Made by WSC the surveyed employee said that WSC needs to make its loan granting process much simple and easily understandable by the women. As per them, the paper harassment should be reduced and the loan should be provided if applied in the group model so that the group members oblige the borrower of the group to effectively invest the borrowed amount in lucrative sectors and the WSC would not as well face difficulty in recovering the loan. Finally in the context of government Action for Increasing the Access to Credit the surveyed employee said that mainly the government should reduce the interest rate on the micro credit for increasing the access of the women on credit. She also said that the government should have specific

program in the same way as it has for the young people; Yuva Swarojgar Program. In the case of Loan Repayment the staff was asked to comment on the loan repayment record of individual women or women groups who have benefitted from loans granted by WSC. The respondent said the loan repayment status among women is extremely good and thus the staff said that she has no bad comment. Further, the results imply that there is generally a positive trend of loan repayment.

Findings from Members' Survey

Findings from Employee Survey indicates that the ignorance of the women, creating misunderstanding, could be the major challenge for WSC objective in developing entrepreneurship of women. And the WSC is cautious enough for preventing such mishaps. The employee of WSC claims that the cooperative has played significant role to develop entrepreneurship in women by providing micro loan, business training and suggestions. The employee also said that the chances of loan default are extremely low on the members of WSC. The employee of WSC further said that WSC should make the loan application process much simple and understandable to the members, and should reduce paper harassment, if any. Further, the government should introduce new programs targeting to develop women entrepreneurship.

Summary And Conclusion

Summary

Formulating an appropriate intervention for transforming the status of women both within and outside their homes has been one of the major preoccupations of development practitioners, at least since the mid-1970s. A number of strategies have been formulated over time, for example, raising women's status through education, training, access to health and family planning services as well as access to legal counseling. Politically, attempts have been made to raise the proportion of female participants in representative organs. Economically, the most popular strategy, especially since the 1990s, has been the involvement and participation of women in microfinance programmes to assist micro and small enterprise owners.

At the same time, there is a theoretical debate going on concerning the centrality of income or ideology to women's autonomy. Ideological and cultural values operate to constrain the behaviors and expectations of women and other subordinate groups. Another gender-related constraint is the withdrawal of husband's support. Some scholars found that critical constraints experienced by female entrepreneurs include multiple roles due to the gender division of labour, unequal access to resources such as credit due to gender prejudices, lack of skills due to gender stereotypes and biased curricula and, lastly, lack of self-confidence and ability to take risks due to early inculcation of a dependence mindset. It is therefore pertinent to explore the impact of the cooperative on women's entrepreneurship development and for this one cooperative, run totally by women, Women Supporting Cooperative, has been chosen to achieve the objective of the study.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the lack of sufficient business experience, lack of entrepreneurship skill and lack of enough education on the women of surveyed areas are the major hinders for the expected outcome from the micro loan provided by the WSC. However, the role of WSC in seemed changes in the economic status and the social status of the women could not be undermined, although this cooperative needs to exercise more and refine its policies and procedures for ensuring easy access of women to the micro finance. The holding of deposit and lending the loan are not just the only useful services, but also the adequate business advices and training are strongly urged by the women from WSC for entrepreneurship development. The study finds that there is no problem of loan repayment in the surveyed centers, as all the women are paying their installment within specified time. The changes in the entrepreneurship development have been evidenced by the charm of the women in doing business, mostly the grocery and then tailoring, pharmacy and others. The study concludes that the involvement of other cooperatives would create the competitive environment, and finally aids in further enhancement of the entrepreneurship development, economic and social status of the women.

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