

### Review of Literature

#### 2.1 Introduction

In the first chapter, an outline of the present research work has been presented. In this second chapter, the existing available literature on women entrepreneurship is being reviewed. A literature review is an important part of any research. It can be defined as a critical and in-depth evaluation of previous research. It is a summary and synopsis of a particular area of research, allowing anybody reading the paper to establish why a researcher is pursuing this particular research programme.<sup>1</sup>

According to Kothari (2009), literature review is one of the most simple and fruitful methods of formulating research problem or developing hypothesis. Further, according to him, hypotheses stated by earlier researchers have to be reviewed and their usefulness be evaluated as the basis for further research. A researcher work is to review and build upon the work already done by others, but in cases where hypotheses have not yet been formulated, their task is to review the available material for deriving the relevant hypotheses from it.<sup>2</sup> Hence, review of literature is an integral part of any research work.

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from [http://: www.experiment-resources.com](http://www.experiment-resources.com)> Research Designs [Accessed on 13/10/2012].

<sup>2</sup> Kothari, C. R (2009), *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques* (New Age International: New Delhi), pp. 13, 36.

As mentioned, entrepreneurship is an inter-disciplinary concept. It has been studied from the perspective of a variety of disciplines such as Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Management and Finance. Each discipline has its own way of viewing and examining entrepreneurship. In this chapter, both theoretical and empirical review of literature on the subject of women entrepreneur and women entrepreneurship in economic development process is reviewed. The literature survey on different dimensions of the present topic under study is presented in the following manner.

## **2.2 Review of Literature of the Concept of Women Entrepreneur and Role of Women Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship in Economic Development**

According to Knight (1989), the entrepreneur is a bearer of uncertainty or risk for which he receives the reward. There are two types of risks – insurable and non-insurable. Insurable risk can be calculated statistically and precautionary measure can be taken; but, the non-insurable risk cannot be calculated, therefore, no precautionary measures can be taken.

Peter F. Drucker (1991) defines an entrepreneur as one who always searches for change, responds to it and exploits it as an opportunity. He has aptly observes that “innovation is specific tool of entrepreneur, the means by which they exploit change as an opportunity for a different service. It is capable of being presented as a discipline, capable of being learned, capable of being practiced. Entrepreneurs need to search purposefully for the sources of innovation, the changes and their symptoms that indicate opportunities for successful innovation. And they need to know and to apply the principles of successful innovation.”

Rajani's (2000) study in "Role of Women Entrepreneurship in Economic Development" reveals that business is the best occupation for women, since it gives them a chance to apply their creativity, earns additional income for the family, maintain self respect, flexibility of working hours, etc.

Khanka, S. S (2000), in his book, *Entrepreneurial Development*, observes that the economic history of presently developed countries support the fact that 'economy is the effect for which entrepreneurship is the cause,' he also highlighted that Schumpeter, Harbison and Sayigh described entrepreneurship as one of the two necessary conditions for economic development, the other being the increased output of capital. Vasper has identified that the lack of seed capital as one of the barriers of entrepreneurship development.

In Palanichamy's study (2000), "Impact of Entrepreneurship in Pondicherry," reveals that in India, 60 percent of the rural unemployed society is changing especially after the conference of women entrepreneurs (1981) and some of the EDPs conducted by certain specialists' institutions. This has resulted in the growth of women entrepreneurs in Pondicherry. The study further reveals that the most vital aspects for the growth of a modern society in any country is an adequate and increasing supply of enterprises.

Choudhary and Sharma (2000) in "Rural Women Entrepreneur: Problems and Prospect" suggests that there is an urgent need to create a favourable atmosphere to increase self-employment among women to cope up with the overall development of the country. Women employment is the felt need of the day in our country and a separate package is needed to develop entrepreneurship among rural women.

Lal and Clement (2005), in their study ‘Economic Development in India: The Role of Individual Enterprise (An Entrepreneurial Spirit)’ observes that one of the most recent micro-economic approaches to economic growth is the promotion of entrepreneurial activities. The evidence presented here suggests that recent market reforms encouraging individual enterprise have led to higher economic growth in that country. They further concluded that India can generate additional economic growth by fostering entrepreneurial activities within its borders, particularly within its burgeoning middle class.

Debnath (2006), in “Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes in Tripura” shows that entrepreneurship is independent, which is characterized by self-initiative, risk bearing capacity, coordinating the factors of production, use of innovation and provision of capital. Thus, it is one of the means to achieve women empowerment. The findings of the study further shows that due to discouraging social factors and male domination of the society, women entrepreneurship is comparatively slower.

Das (2006), in “Women Self-Employment in a New Horizon – A Case Study of Beauty Parlour in Agartala,” opines that domestic entrepreneurship can become an important ingredient in the process of socio-economic development, by serving as catalyst for market transformation, market deficiency mitigation, employment generation and increased per capita income. He further mentions that local real market deficiency always encourages local entrepreneurs to create innovation or creative imitation to provide new goods or services to satisfy the local demands.

Sudha (2007), in “Dynamics of Business Entrepreneurship” observes that women entrepreneurs are those women who generate business ideas, identify

profitable business opportunities, assemble the necessary resources, and combine the factors of production, undertake risks and use their business skills to operate the enterprise for the purpose of generating profit, income and growth.

Rao and Prasad (2007), in “Entrepreneurship: An Effective Means to Promote Employment” strongly observes that entrepreneurship is an effective means to promote employment in the country.

Gupta (2007), in “Women Entrepreneurs in India” also opines that entrepreneurship enhances economic growth and provides employment opportunities for the owners and workers. In addition, providing economic opportunities for women can also improve the social, educational and health status of women and their families.

According to Surengarajan and Narasimhan (2008), in ‘Self-Help Groups a viable Alternative for Sustainable Development,’ entrepreneurship is suitable for economic empowerment of rural women. A self-employed woman get better status and it enables her to take part in decision making in the family affairs. Through the economic independence, women automatically get empowerment. Development of women entrepreneurship enables men to understand and appreciate women abilities.

To Khanka (2008), in “Entrepreneurial Development” women entrepreneurs are those women or group of women who think of a business enterprise, start the enterprise, organize and combine the factors of production, operate the enterprise, undertake the risk and capable of facing economic uncertainty while running a business enterprise.

Kumar's (2008), in 'Women Entrepreneurship: Issues and Concerns' clearly reveals that economic empowerment is an approach to enable women to realize their inherent knowledge, skills and competencies for creation of small business enterprises. These are shining examples from the developing nations those women entrepreneurs who started small and grown to large enterprise. Empowered women will contribute to achieving the national and social goals, and take the nation forward.

Vasanthagopal and Santha (2008), in their paper "Women Entrepreneurship in India" states that entrepreneurship is an economic activity, which is undertaken by an individual or group of individuals. Entrepreneurship can be defined as the making of a "new combination" of already existing materials and forces that entrepreneurship throws up as innovations, as opposed to inventions; and that no one is entrepreneur forever, unless he or she is actually doing the innovative activity. They reveal that small business has been a leader in offering women the opportunity for economic expression through entrepreneurship. However, women in North-East enjoy a special status in the society because of their entrepreneurial desire and ability, hard working nature and matrilineal society in some areas of the region. Moreover, women of the region enjoy a comparatively higher status in the society because of the liberal social outlook of the region. They contribute significantly to the development of the society. Their studies also reveal that 89 percent of India's women workers toil in the informal sectors in sub-human conditions. In urban areas, 40 percent of women workers are engaged in providing services, followed by 30 percent in trade, 15 percent in manufacturing, 3 percent in construction and 5 percent in primary activities; 57 percent women work outside the home and 43 percent within the home. 60 percent of those working outside homes are either mobile or operate from pavements without

*pucca* structure at their work place, which make them vulnerable to the vagaries of weather, spelling irregularity of work and income.

Balamurugan (2008), in “Women Entrepreneurship in India: A Gender Perspective” opines that for a country’s economic development, those who are having the ability to sustain and compete in the market should be encouraged to enter into any business venture irrespective of sex, because market is not gender biased. In the present wage employment shrinking situation, there is a need to orient women towards opting for entrepreneurship.

Samata and Ratna (2010), in “Entrepreneurship Development among Members of Self help Groups” shows that the rapid economic growth can be achieved with the help of entrepreneurial spirit, creative attitudes and achieving vision of the persons of a country. They also categorized women entrepreneurs into three groups.

- (i) The first group consists of women who are educated and professionally qualified. They take initiative and manage business as men do. Women entrepreneurs with basic managerial training and educational qualification usually had medium and large units.
- (ii) The second groups consist of women who may not have educational or formal training in management but have developed practical skills required for small scale or tiny enterprises.
- (iii) The third groups consist of service motivated organization to assist economically backward section of the society, who works in the cities and slums to help women with lower means of livelihood.

According to Lavanya (2010), in “Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship” states that a country’s economic progress is found to be positively correlated with the rise in number and quality of its entrepreneurs. Whether it is the

problem of unemployment, income generation, increasing GDP, regional imbalances in industrial progress, entrepreneurship is the potential answer.

According to Pathak (2010), in “Women Entrepreneurship: Untapped Source of Economic Growth,” empowerment of women as entrepreneurs are the goals of sustainable development and the promotion of entrepreneurship among women is a short-cut to rapid economic growth and development.

Elangbam (2010), in “Entrepreneurship in SMEs: A Study of Rural Manipur” state that entrepreneurship is effectively required for improving the economic condition of rural people, generate their income to lift the quality of life and above all, event migration to towns in search of income and employment. He further says that entrepreneurship plays a decisive role in giving a qualitative and quantitative content to rural economy in particular and national economy in general. Without the participation of local and rural entrepreneur, a region cannot develop socially and economically.

Chanu and Terangpi (2010), “Women Entrepreneurship: An Effective Means for Women Empowerment” states that women entrepreneurship brings a change in women’s life and may be considered as a tool for women empowerment. They further states that entrepreneurial activities and women’s involvement in the economic activities help in shaping the status of women.

Rome (2010), in “Small Scale Industries: A Boon of Economic Development,” says that small scale industries have become an important segment of the economy contributing substantially in the form of production, employment and exports. It plays a vital role in the fulfilment of socio-economic objectives.

According to Kanchana; Yasodha & Sujatha (2010), in “Women Entrepreneurs: Driving Factors and Growth – A Study in Coimbatore District,” opine that entrepreneurship among women improves the wealth of the nations in general and family in particular. Their study shows that women entrepreneurs must have different traits and skills to meet the changes in trend and challenging global scenario.

Sorokhaibam and Laishram (2011), in “Women Entrepreneurship in Manipur, North-East India” state that women entrepreneurship brings empowerment and can eliminate ignorance and poverty. They further state that women into entrepreneurial activity contribute to social and economic development of the members of the family; and, thereby gain equality and equal importance for themselves. The main economy should be in terms of women entering diverse fields of entrepreneurship.

To E. E. Hagen, an entrepreneur is an economic man who tries to maximize his profit by innovations. Innovations involve problem solving and the entrepreneur gets satisfaction from using his capabilities in attacking problems.

### **2.3 Review of Literature of Problems and Prospects of Women Entrepreneurship in India**

Gurley and Shaw (1961), in “Money in a Theory of Finance” reveal that development involved finance as well as goods. They developed for the first time a theory of finance in which they discussed the mutual relationship between financial sector and economic development. They showed that an immature financial sector acts as obstacles to growth.

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), in a research study in 1993 on Small Scale Industry reveals that one of the major problems of small

scale industry is finance, besides administrative bottlenecks, procedures, infrastructure, training and counselling.

Kanitkar (1995), in “Grassroots Entrepreneurship,” observes that it is the general belief that people in rural areas are conservative. So, entrepreneurial initiative and managerial capability are not found among them. But as farmers, they have to organize labour and capital in their organization and take decisions as any other industrial manager. So, rural people also possess the characteristics of entrepreneur but motivation is necessary.

Lal (1998), in “The Status of Small Scale Enterprises in Industrial Estate in Andhra Pradesh” observes that most of the small scale units seem to face rigid constraints to their expansion due to insufficient funds for investment. Similar constraints are seen in the management of working capital. For a running unit, the working capital needs are more urgent than the needs for fixed investment.

Singla and Syal (1999), in “Rural Entrepreneurship: First Step towards Sustainable Development,” observe that to stop the trend of immigration of rural youth to urban areas in search of better prospects, the first essential step shall be in creating meaningful job opportunities and encouraging rural entrepreneurs, particularly in the area of agro and allied industries, horticulture, diary and other enterprise in which sufficient raw materials, market and initial expertise is already available.

Saikia (2001) in “Small Scale Industries in Assam,” found that small scale industries in Guwahati who were facing a number of problems while managing their units, marked financial problem as their most extreme problem.

Ganesan, Kaur and Maheshawari (2002), in “Women Entrepreneurs: Problems and Prospects” observe that training plays a significant role in sustaining entrepreneurs, rather than creating them. They also observe that women are willing to take up business and contribute to the nation’s growth. The training, however, needs reorientation in providing inputs on certain skills.

Dhanalakshmi (2008), in “Problems of Women Entrepreneurs” observes that women entrepreneurs should be treated as a separate target group for all entrepreneurial development programmes. Vocational training facilities are to be developed by the government for women as it is the first stage in developing women entrepreneurship. Institutional support system should be designed to suit the requirement of women entrepreneurs. Encouragement should be given to appropriate technologies, equipment and practice for reducing their drudgery and increasing their efficiency and productivity. Government should try to involve women entrepreneurs in decision making process meant for entrepreneurship development. Thus, more women candidates with potential should be motivated to join entrepreneurial activities. For this purpose, effective entrepreneurship development programme is necessary to suit their requirement.

Sakthivel and Begum (2008), in “Predominant Barriers of Women Entrepreneurs” in the context of Chennai City reveals that social and cultural barriers are prominent formidable block for the development of women entrepreneurs in the concerned study area.

Ganesan and Bhuvaneshwari (2008), in “Problem and Prospects of Rural Women Entrepreneurs” reveal that women entrepreneurs face problems like stiff competition from entrepreneurs, low ability to bear economic, social, technical and

environmental risk, discrimination in selection for entrepreneurial development training, inferiority complex among middle and lower class women, family responsibility, lack of entrepreneurial initiative, and late commencement of women entrepreneurship in India. They further reveal that the promotional agencies are firmly determined to turn the smouldering fire into flames. Though they are late entrants in the field, quite a few women entrepreneurs have established units requiring the use of high technology. The growth of women entrepreneurship has socio-economic significance in a country like India, where economic participation has been low. By opening large number of small industrial ventures women entrepreneur can strengthen the industrial base, providing employment opportunities and achieving balanced growth.

Dhar *et. Al* (2008), in “SHG-Banking in India-Empirical Evidences of Banker’s Perceptions and Problems” observes that according to banker’s perception, the main problem in India are: (a) Lack of timely communication with these bodies, (b) Lack of understanding of banking operations by the members and (c) Faulty identification of beneficiaries.

Murlidhar (2010), in his study states that domination by male members, male chauvinism and lack of cooperation by family members in the case of joint families were reported to be the major problems interfering with the pursuit of ventures.

Das (2011), in “Women Empowerment and Self Help Group: An Analytical Study of Constraints in Karbi Anglong District of Assam” reveals that the social constraints viz., ‘dependable nature of women’ which, in turn, suppress them in their empowerment was ranked first, while ‘lack of gender-based academic institutions’, which causes women illiteracy, was ranked second. Again, ‘social taboos,

superstitions, unhealthy tradition and customs were ranked third, while ‘lack of right of free avenues of expression to women’ was ranked fourth towards hindering women empowerment. The fifth reason given was ‘unanimous opposition from family members to participate in social activities’.

Goyal and Parkash (2011), in ‘Women Entrepreneurship in India – Problems and Prospects’ state that women entrepreneurship must be moulded properly with entrepreneurial traits and skills to meet the changes in trends, while challenging global markets and also become competent enough to sustain and strive for excellence in the entrepreneurial arena. They further state that if every citizen works with equal fervour towards respecting the important position occupied by women in society and understanding their vital role in the modern business field too, then very soon, we can pre-estimate our chances of beating our own conservative and rigid thought process, which is the biggest barrier in our country’s development process.

Palaniappan, Ramanigopal & Mani (2012), in “Study on Problems and Prospects of Women Entrepreneurs with Special Reference to Erode District,” reveal finance as the first major problem for women entrepreneurs. They also further found out that improper location and inadequate infrastructure facilities are the hurdles in the way of development of women entrepreneurship. Hence, separate industrial estates may be set up exclusively for women entrepreneurs to reduce the initial investment and to create a special environment.

#### **2.4 Review of Literature of Motivating Factors and Nature of Support System on Women Entrepreneurs in India:**

Lakhanpal (1984), in “Entrepreneurship Development – An Institutional Approach,” examines the performance of financial institutions, promotional

institutions and training institutions engaged in entrepreneurial development in Himachal Pradesh. He studied 58 entrepreneurs in Solan district to evaluate the influence of infrastructure facilities on entrepreneurship development. He stresses the need to make certain adjustment in the institutional frame work and recommended the creation of a State Level Single Window Industrial Support System (SWISS).

Sharma (1980), in “Entrepreneurial Change in Indian Industry” states that new and small entrepreneurs are mainly motivated by factors internal to them such as desire to do something in life, need for independence etc. The study further reveals that financial and development institutions have made a significant contribution to the growth of entrepreneurship.

Chandra (1999), in “Sustainable micro credit model for poverty alleviation and empowerment,” reveals that NGOs with the help of government extension agencies provide training and awareness building for the use of better technologies, inputs, seeds, desired cropping pattern and practices animal health care, etc.

Batra (2000), in “Entrepreneurial Performance in Punjab” finds that a number of factors such as caste, religion, education, experience, income, motivation, etc. play an important role in promotion of right type of entrepreneurship. Analysis also indicates that the internal and external motivating factors tempted entrepreneurs to establish their unit in Punjab.

Ashe and Parrott (2001), in “Impact Evaluation of PACT Women’s Empowerment Programme in Nepal: A Savings and Literacy Led Alternative to Financial Institution Building” conducted a study on the women empowerment programme in Nepal and shows that 68 percent of women in the programme experience an increase in their decision making roles in the areas of family planning,

marriage of children, buying and selling of property and sending their daughters to school; earlier, all these areas of decision-making were traditionally dominated by men.

Patel and Gandotra (2007), in “Empowerment of Women through Self Employment” observe that for the growth and development of the nation, women should be in the main stream of progress and only then the economic and social development would be meaningful. Support of the family plays a very important role in boosting the morale of the women; they can take up employment outside home and contribute to the family as well as to the nation only with their encouragement.

Rani (2007), in “Perspective on Women Entrepreneurship” states that participation of Indian women in entrepreneurial activities can only be triggered by the initiatives taken by the country’s government as well as through an increase of normative support for women entrepreneurship. Some of the dominant characteristics required for the success of an enterprise are self-confidence drive and energy, taking initiative and seeking personal responsibility, positive outlook and long term involvement in a sustainable manner.

Gupta (2007), in “Women Entrepreneurs in India” suggests that programmes encouraging entrepreneurship among women require a change in societal attitude than a mere creation of additional employment opportunities for women. The study further suggests that programmes should go beyond subsidies and credit allocation to attitudinal change, group and association formation, training in both managerial and technical skills and other support services.

Agarwal (2008), in “The need for financial inclusion – Indian perspective” suggests that financial inclusion would not happen on its own; it needs the support of the policy makers.

Kalpana (2008), in “The Vulnerability of ‘Self-Help’ Women and Micro finance in South India” argues that micro credit programme does not have any inherent qualities that empower the women or alleviate poverty. The ways in which the poor experience reduction in poverty or empowerment are subject to the institutional context of the programme.

Pathar (2008), in “Impact of Motivational Factors and Role Stress on Women Entrepreneur in Jammu” observes that women experience a greater stress as the demands of home and career at times cause conflict. However, though the conflict exists, women realize the advantage of being business women.

Saritha (2008), in “Women Entrepreneurship in the Changing Scenario” observes that women should be encouraged to participate in the economic field on the basis of equality as well as promote enterprises. The study further suggests that economic status of the women is an indicator of a society stage of development; therefore, it becomes imperative for the government to frame policies for development of entrepreneurship among women.

Mathivannan (2008), in “A Study on Socio-economy Background and Status of Women Entrepreneurs in Small Scale Industries” reveals that the women entrepreneurs are mainly from backward community; and thus, women take up entrepreneurial activities because of poverty.

Rao (2008), in “Status of Women in Informal Sector” observes that women organization can play a major role in addressing women issues, mobilizing public opinion against any gender discrimination in the society and in lobbying for desired changes. Women have the right to work, which form an integral part of the process of national development.

A study on “Entrepreneurship in India” conducted by National Knowledge Commission (2008) clearly mentions that apart from other motivating factors, socio-cultural factors such as social norms, family norms and values, networks and social values of entrepreneurship play a significant role in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. It also further mentions that economic liberalization has been a key catalyst to encourage entrepreneurship in India.

Kamakar (2009), in “Emerging Issues in Rural Credit,” analyses about financial inclusion schemes implemented by the government and testify to the success of various innovations schemes like SHG bank linkage programme. However, he also argue that poverty alleviation is possible only if serious issues like rural livelihoods, agro processing, land and water problems, under-employment issues, supplementary income sources, etc. are given top priority.

Shetty and Veerashekharappa (2009) in “The Micro Finance Promise in Financial Inclusion: Evidence from India” examine the importance of Micro finance in bringing about financial inclusion and observes that the impact of the increasing gap in demand and supply of financial services in India which has led to the increasing population of the country to be excluded from the formal financial credit system.

Rajagopal *at al.* (2011) in “A Silent ‘Revolution’? Women’s Empowerment in Rural Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu” reveals that women’s entry into local politics as a result of mandatory reservation is more empowering than their participation in micro finance programme. They also reveal that micro finance that reaches the poor is not confirmed because the benefits of the programme are mainly enjoyed by the wealthier participants.

Micro Finance Development and Regulation Bill (2011) highlighted the need for the promotion and orderly development of micro finance institution to speed up the process of financial inclusion.

Naorem, Lonjam & Jayasurya (2012), in “Determinants of the Success of Women Entrepreneur in North East India” conducted a cross sectional study to investigate factors influencing the success of the 452 women entrepreneurs of North East India residing in Assam and Manipur. The study reveals that educational levels, engagement of family member, working hour and financial support are the major determinants of the success of women entrepreneurs. Management of such factors at a level consistent with national goal of economic independence is highly needed.

Sahoo and Das (2012), in “Women Entrepreneurship and Connective Leadership: Achieving Success,” reveal that for an effective management of the enterprises, women entrepreneurs or proprietors should have various approaches of leadership in order to influence the people towards desired goal on the basis of situational demand.

Chanu and Terangpi (2012), in “Women Entrepreneurship Development in Tribal Areas of Assam – An Alternative Approach Towards Poverty Alleviation” reveals that entrepreneurship development in Karbi Anglong district helps in capacity

building of the women entrepreneurs of the district as well as provide services in various forms, which may become a powerful weapon to reduce unemployment, and poverty alleviation in future. They further reveal that there is a need to focus on entrepreneurship development among women in tribal areas so as to develop their living standards as well as to make them ready to face the challenges of the market.

Bal and Kulveen (2012), in “A Walk on Entrepreneurial Path: A study Showcasing Young Entrepreneurs in Orissa” state that entrepreneurship should be developed through natural process by creating an environment for entrepreneurial developing society. They also further state that to develop such an environment, integrated policy measures should be adopted to remove various mismatches like social mismatch, educational training and technology mismatch, banking mismatches, etc.

An expert committee with eleven members headed by Abit Hussain was constituted in December 1995 by Government of India to study the status of small scale enterprises. The committee propose reforms in the small scale sector to make it globally competitive. Major recommendations of the committee include the necessity of establishment of specialise commercial bank branches for small scale industries for easy credit facilities.

Sarkar & Baishya (2012), “Impact of Micro Finance in Women Empowerment of Assam: An Impact study of SHGs in Assam” observes that micro finance sector in Assam is growing fast and have a huge untapped potential that suffer from several constraints. The study suggests:

(a) Women’s access to credit have a role in improving the household decision making capacity.

(b) Workforce participation rate, control over resources and political and legal awareness provide ample opportunities for greater empowerment of women of Assam.

Das, S. K (2012), in “Entrepreneurial Activities of Self Help Groups towards Women Empowerment: A Case Study of Two Hill Districts in Assam,” observes five important elements:

(a) SHGs are successful in empowering rural women through entrepreneurial activities.

(b) Increase in income, expenditure and saving habits of rural women

(c) The SHGs have a major impact on social and economic life of women

(d) An increase in social recognition, status of family in the society, size of social circle and involvement in intra-family and entrepreneurial decision making and

(e) Increase in self-confidence, self-reliance and independence of rural women due to involvement in the entrepreneurial activities.

Terangpi & Chanu, (2016) in “Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Economic Development of Conflict areas with reference to Karbi Anglong district of Assam” observes that economic empowerment of women is one of the most important and valuable need of the society. They further observe that the status of women in any society is an indicator to the level of culture, economic and social development.

## **2.5 Research Gap**

As seen above, though there is a number of a literature available on women entrepreneurs, however, substantial studies have not been done on the women entrepreneurs of tribal communities and backward areas like Karbi Anglong district of Assam. From the available literatures, it is found that because of the discouraging social factors and male domination in the society, the pace of women entrepreneurial development in other parts of India becomes comparatively slower. However, in case of Karbi Anglong district, even though the society is a male dominated, sex discrimination is hardly found and women enjoy more freedom than other parts of the country. Yet, the pace of women entrepreneurship development in this area is very slow. The existing studies do not show the reason behind this slackness. There are numbers of studies on women entrepreneurship development, but the studies on women entrepreneurs and their contribution towards family economy are hardly found. There are studies on perceptual differences between male and female workers; but the studies on the perceptual differences between the women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship promoting agencies are not found in the existing literatures. Therefore, this study is an attempt to fill the existing research gap.

## **2.6 Conclusion**

The review of literature section of the present study has clearly shown that there are good numbers of studies on various aspects of entrepreneurship; it means that substantial research work has been done in this area. However, there are many areas which required serious studies. Some also argue that women entrepreneurs do not play any role in economic development. Therefore, this study is an attempt to

have a serious study on Women Entrepreneurs and their role in Economic Development.

The researcher has undertaken extensive literature survey connected with the problem. In the process, it is found that one source lead to another, and the earlier studies, which are similar to the study in hand, has been carefully studied. For this purpose, abstracting of journals, academic journals, books etc. have been tapped.

From the available literature, it is also found that socio-economic conditions influence women in carrying out entrepreneurial activities. With this given background, chapter three analyses to see how the socio-economic conditions or environment influence the women entrepreneurs of Karbi Anglong district of Assam.