

## *Preface*

---

The entrepreneurship development and economic development are closely interrelated subjects. Entrepreneurship development opens large number of opportunities to the people in the era of globalization, liberalization and privatization of the economy. The issue of concern for the developing economies these days is how to utilize potential of human and other resources of the economy in an effective manner. Entrepreneurship development also ameliorates the volley of socio-economic problems encountered by the society.

Realising the importance of women entrepreneurship, the area is being given increasing attention in terms of Government concern, research and new courses. At global level majority of small enterprises are managed by women. In our economy, women constitute almost half of the total population, but their participation in business is found to be low. To tap the human resource potential of female, the government has initiated various schemes to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among women.

With the advent of liberalization and the move towards globalization, the Indian economic environment offers immense opportunities to entrepreneurs in India. Today, as our research study indicates, several women are becoming entrepreneurs, especially the middle class women due to the pull factors. They choose entrepreneurship profession as a challenge, as an adventure with an urge to do something new and independent. On the hand, under push (forced) conditions, women take up business enterprise to get over financial difficulties when responsibility is thrust upon them due to adverse family circumstances.

In spite of women taking up entrepreneurship in many challenging fields, the present women entrepreneurial activity in India is not very high. The inherent

potential in women is not being properly and completely nurtured by our society owing to the orthodox and traditional socio-cultural environment, women entrepreneurs face various problems (as our study reveals) in the process of establishing, developing and running their enterprises.

More so, the actual data and statistics about the women owned enterprises are scant, fragmented and rarely documented. The review of research on women entrepreneurs is scarce and scattered with only few in-depth studies of a limited nature.

The present study is an attempt in this direction. Majority of the critical issues concerning women entrepreneurs are discussed and several meaningful, useful and interesting suggestions are included. It is based on empirical study made on various aspects of women entrepreneurs with the help of interview schedule. Therefore, this study assumes greater significance. It is expected that this study will be quite helpful in the days to come for all the researchers and academicians.

The study is organized into eight chapters. Introductory chapter one is followed by chapter two on review of literature, chapter three on research methodology detailing sampling design and questionnaire related details. Chapter four shows the research setting describing the state of Manipur – A land of jewels. Chapter five is divided into six parts and each part deals with the empirical findings and discussions on the basis of the objectives of the study which are sub-headed as i) Socio-economic profile of the Women Entrepreneurship, ii) Motivational factors of Women Entrepreneurship, iii) Analysing pull and pushed factors associated with Women Entrepreneurship, iv) Mechanism of handling dual role and its related problems at workplace and at home, v) Knowledge of the Women Entrepreneurs about the Government policy/programs and vi) Challenges and future prospects of Women Entrepreneurs in Manipur. Chapter six provides some case study and the focus

group discussions. Chapter seven presents the conclusion and the major findings of the study and lastly, a reflective suggestion and the scope of social work intervention on the basis of my study have been presented in chapter eight.

I am thankful to my supervisor Dr. Subhabrata Dutta, who despite of his busy schedules, provided a number of hindsight based directions that has helped me a lot to complete this research, and to all those who helped me in completion of this research.

Silchar

CHONGTHAM CHANCHAN