Problems Faced By Women Entrepreneur Engaged In Small Scale Businesses

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Abstract

Background- This survey study was conducted to have an understanding of the major problems faced by small scale women entrepreneurs. For this a pre-constructed questionnaire was used. 300 Women entrepreneurs were selected as subjects on Purposive base sampling for the study. They were interviewed personally and were discussed in detail about the relevance for the study and the issues they are facing as entrepreneurs.

Result of the study- The result of the study shows that nearly 50% women as entrepreneurs have to play many roles at one time, while a good 40% feel that their life have to suffer seldom due to business work, similarly a 51% strength feels that they find it difficult to attend social and community programme. While 40% women feels that they had to sacrifice many of their family roles for this status. Due to work load and lack of time a 32% women feels that they can’t concentrate better in their business work, a huge 53% admits that due to their work and family issues they are not able to take care of their health. while 42% feel sick at home due to their energy loss in business activities, and 48% have to visit physician frequently for their health problems due to work and 52% admits that their health issues are related to work while a 39% feels that they are fatigued due to work load in the family.

Conclusion- Therefore it is the need of the hour that women should get the liberty of choosing her work load and should not be solely responsible for the house chores, rather she should have options available for sharing their house responsibilities. The well distributed job responsibilities will ensure better outcome.

Key Words- Entrepreneur, Work Life Balance, Family and Social Roles, Work Load.

Introduction

Women are known for their multi-tasking, even if they are at home they manage to handle different tasks at one point of time, for instance early morning when they have to do plenty of house chores with time constraints they do it very smoothly, using all the resources to the fullest. But when it comes to manage home life and work life at the same time then it becomes a challenge for them. Some women get through this and many of them get stuck between the two fronts, keeping their health and personal lives at stake.

Women no doubt have extreme potential and they are not behind their male counterparts at any level, this has been proved by them every time their skills and abilities were questioned but if we closely inspect this situation of handling both the lives home and work life then we need to seriously think twice before testing the females and their stamina.

After researching these small scale entrepreneurs the researcher get to know that these women are facing health issues due to work load on different fronts.

The point of highlighting these issues is that a women constantly undergoes biological and physical changes throughout her life yet she has to balance herself along with her work and life, which
is a big deal therefore she needs to be looked after while working outside or inside home. Her work should be well planned and as per the capability of the entrepreneur otherwise she will be lacking somewhere or the other and will compensate these losses by sacrificing herself in bits and pieces. This is highly ignored by these entrepreneurs and they are being passive about their personal problems, which is not good for them in long run.

M White and others conducted a study on work-life balance. The effects of selected high-performance practices and working hours on work-life balance are analyzed with data from national surveys of British employees in 1992 and 2000. Alongside long hours, which are a constant source of negative job-to-home spillover, certain ‘high-performance’ practices have become more strongly related to negative spillover during this period. Surprisingly, dual-earner couples are not especially liable to spillover — if anything, less so than single-earner couples. Additionally, the presence of young children has become less important over time. Overall, the results suggest a conflict between high-performance practices and work-life balance policies.

Rincy V. Mathew* and N. Panchanatham conducted an exploratory study on the work-life balance of women entrepreneurs in South India. In India, entrepreneurship has traditionally been considered a male prerogative. However, in tandem with a changing socio-cultural environment and an increase in educational opportunities, women have started recognising their inherent talents and business skills. With the help of various governmental and non-governmental agencies, growing numbers of women are joining the ranks of entrepreneurs. However, in the existing familial and societal setup, entrepreneurial women are overburdened and find it increasingly difficult to balance their work and life roles. Therefore, the major objective of the present study was to develop and validate an appropriate tool to illustrate the work-life balance (WLB) issues faced by women entrepreneurs of South India. We also sought to understand the important factors influencing the WLB of these women entrepreneurs. To achieve this end, data were collected by area sampling (clustering) paired with semi-structured interviews and a questionnaire. The generated data were subjected to standard statistical procedures, such as factor analysis, regression analysis, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and student's t-test. The five-point psychometric tool developed consisted of 39 statements related to five factors. Each of the statements possessed adequate reliability and validity. This study revealed that role overload, dependent care issues, quality of health, problems in time management and lack of proper social support are the major factors influencing the WLB of women entrepreneurs in India. Furthermore, even though the vast majority of the entrepreneurs examined in this study suffers from WLB issues, there are significant differences in the level of WLB issues faced by the various categories of women entrepreneurs. The present study provides recommendations for human resource professionals, management consultants, academicians and women entrepreneurs themselves to deal with the major WLB issues faced by Indian women entrepreneurs.

Methodology - The study was designed to assess the problems of women entrepreneurs. The research was conducted in North Indian Cities.

Selection of Subjects - 300 subjects were taken for the purpose of the study from different cities of North India.

Selection of variables Collection of data - A pre-constructed questionnaire was used to record their responses. The data was collected personally interviewing entrepreneurs and noting down their responses, besides the set of limited questions they were asked about other aspects of their work life and their personal life in order to gain a better picture of their life and problems they are facing.

Analysis of data - After collection of data, descriptive analysis (percentile) was used to analyse the collected data.
Results-The table clearly reveals that 49.33% women entrepreneurs have to play many roles in a given time but the 36% are not agree with the statement. 40% women entrepreneurs feels that their life selfdom suffers due to entrepreneurial role and 36% are not agree with statement. Where as 51% feel that they are burdened with business and family roles against the very small 6% who goes against this. Whereas 40% feels that they had to sacrifice many of their family roles in order to become a successful entrepreneur against the 32% who don’t feel so. An equal proportion of 32% feels that they are not able to give proper attention to their personal life and their business life due to the excessive work load against an equal 32% who stands against the statement. A huge proportion of 53% feels that due to lack of time and work family issues they find it difficult to take care of their health against 23% who don’t support this statement.

A majority of 42% women feels that the business drains away their energy and time, therefore they feel sick at home against 32% who don’t believe so. A majority of 52% believe that their health problems are due to their continuous work schedule against 32% who don’t think so. While 48% had to frequently visit their physician after becoming an entrepreneur against the 38% who doesn’t experience this. A majority of 39% feels that they are fatigued to look after my business due to their work load in the family against 35% who don’t feel so. A majority of 56% feels that they could have done better if the social support network was available to them.

Graphical Representation of all Issues.

I have to perform many roles in a given time

![Graph showing the distribution of responses to the statement](image-url)
Fig.-1

My Family life seldom suffers due to my entrepreneurial role

- Strongly disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 4%
- Undecided: 15%
- Agree: 36%
- Strongly Agree: 40%

Fig.-2

Burdened with business and family roles, I find it difficult to attend social/community activities

- Response Strongly disagree: 31%
- Response Disagree: 6%
- Response Undecided: 7%
- Response Agree: 51%
- Response Strongly Agree: 5%

Fig.-3

I have become a successful entrepreneur by sacrificing many of my family roles

- Response Strongly disagree: 40%
- Response Disagree: 9%
- Response Undecided: 6%
- Response Agree: 36%
- Response Strongly Agree: 9%
Due to excessive work load and lack of time, I am not able to give proper attention in my personal life as well as in my business

Due to the work family issue and lack of time, I find it difficult to take care of my health

As my business drains away my energy and time, I feel sick at home
My health problems are related to the long and continuous work schedule

![Fig.-8](image)

After becoming an entrepreneur, I frequently visit my physician for health issues

![Fig.-9](image)

I am too fatigued to look after my business due to my work load in the family

![Fig.-10](image)
Discussion of findings-

Being a women is not an easy job, if the male counterparts thinks that their job is difficult in comparison to women's, then they need to live a life of female once, in order to realize that their life too, is not a piece of cake.

The term women associates with many underlying responsibilities like giving birth to children, feeding them, raising them, taking care of them and doing the other household chores are many such of those responsibilities which are not mentioned anywhere yet they are supposed to be fulfilled by them only. As the conducted study reveals that due to these unsaid roles her life is more hectic than its visible from the surface and there needs to be a proper role handling with more consciousness of time division and responsibility specifications.

Conclusion-As the figures are indicating that the major percentage of women are facing many problem on becoming an entrepreneur, for instance most of them have to face the multi role playing in a given point of time. 40% women entrepreneur feels that their life have to suffer sometimes because it is not easy to handle both the fronts with equal perfection some or the other time you have to compromise with an inferior quality, also there are issues like work overload, lack of time which are the two major issues which majority of the women entrepreneurs face in their day to day life and due to this health and well-being are two basic constraints which have been overlooked by them and later these women have to face health issues due to the overload of work.

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