



## A Study on Personal & Financial Barriers of Women in Urban Slums

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**Abstract:** India is culturally and traditionally known as a male dominated society and now changed due to the transformation of social fabric in terms of varied aspirations for better living, increased educational status and earning opportunities. Determining the role of women in a changing society to the development front is greatly influenced with social and political activities. Though, technological advancements were emerged in the society still women are not able to achieve their full potentials due to their personal and financial barriers. The present paper focused on the personal and financial barriers encountered by select women in slum areas with a view to offer some remedial measures for accelerating the promotion of women status.

**Key Words:** Women Entrepreneurs, SHGs, Slum Women, Financial Barriers & Personal Barriers, Promotion, Women Status.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

India is culturally and traditionally known as a male dominated society and now changed due to the transformation of social fabric in terms of varied aspirations for better living, increased educational status and earning opportunities. Determining the role of women in a changing society to the development front is greatly influenced with social and political activities. Though, technological advancements were emerged in the society still women are not able to achieve their full potentials due to their personal and financial barriers. Being a woman itself poses various problems and balancing the work life with family life is also one of the major problems to women in handling different roles. Due to these conflicting expectations women are facing difficulties with a lot of stress that affects their physical and mental health.

The present paper focused on the personal and financial barriers encountered by select women in slum areas with a view to offer some remedial measures for accelerating the promotion of women status.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW :

Literature review would facilitate to have comprehensive knowledge on women entrepreneurship through SHGs in different areas like MSMEs, microfinance, banks, support to women entrepreneur's slums in India, health and hygiene of women, urban poverty and to identify the gap that exists in the proposed topic. **Sivaparvathi (2015)** in her study "Economic Status of Women through Self Help Groups in YSR District" focused on women entrepreneurs in municipalities of YSR district supported by MEPMA and presented detail information about the growth of the SHGs in the district. **Sreemoyee et al. (2015)** their study focused on the selected areas of West Bengal to know about the impact of SHG on the development of rural entrepreneurship and expresses their opinion as women entrepreneurship is an effective strategy to overcome rural poverty. **Vijayabharathi et al. (2014)** analyzed the status of the women entrepreneurs in the Kadapa district. The study highlighted that the entrepreneurship is not a bed of roses to women. The task of women has become more tedious and full of challenges due to participation in economic activities to complement to their family. **Abir Bandyopadhyay et al. (2013)** in their study represented the status of slums from past days to the recent era. The problems faced by urban slums should be treated with greater concern to make them as active agents in development process. There are many studies on the development of rural women through SHGs by different researchers, but much attention is not given to the study of women in urban slums. Hence, the present study will focus on women in urban slums of revenue divisions in Kadapa District.



### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the present paper are:

1. To trace out the personal and financial barriers encountered by select women in urban slums.
2. To provide suitable remedial measures to overcome the problems faced by them.

### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

Royalaseema is considered as a backward region than the Coastal Andhra with comparison of rich agricultural resources. After the separation of the Telangana region from Andhra Pradesh very less rainfall reserves are noticed in Royalaseema region area and resulted poor financial status of the area. Kadapa, which is located in the centre of Royalaseema is one of the leading districts in the state where the MEPMA Programme is implemented effectively to promote women through SHGs especially in slum areas. The following table gives a bird's eye view of the **sampling design** of the researcher.

**Table 1**

#### SAMPLING DESIGN

Municipalities	Slums	Total SHGs in Slums	Slums selected	SHGs in selected slums	Selected SHGs	Selected members from selected SHGs	Total sample
Kadapa	198	4662	2	405	41	3	123
Proddatur	48	2446	2	354	35	3	105
Rajampet	23	622	2	134	13	3	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>7730</b>		<b>893</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>267</b>

The present study is restricted to the women in urban slum areas of YSR (Kadapa) District. The total number of slum areas exists in all the municipalities are 269. The select sample respondents of 267 have been chosen from three revenue divisions of Kadapa District by following multi-stage random sampling method and judgmental sampling technique. The data for present research is collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data is gathered by applying **Interview schedule** and the secondary data is from *books, journals, published theses, pamphlets, news paper statements, documents of district offices, district statistical hand books, records of MEPMA, published reports of NABARD, microfinance and from the web sources* available. The data has been collected by using close ended questions and 'Likert's five point scale' to draw the meaningful results and suggestions from the respondents for the growth of women in urban slums especially.

#### KMO & BARTLETT'S TEST

Before applying factor analysis, data has to be tested through applying KMO-Bartlett's test to know the sampling adequacy and multivariate normality among variables.

**Table 2**  
**KMO & Bartlett's Test**

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of sampling adequacy.		.525
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi – Square	10121.228
	Df.	300
	Sig.	.000



Table 2 epitomizes about data appropriateness by checking the correlation matrix. The calculated KMO value of the present study is 0.525 which is greater than the standard norm of 0.5 and implies the sample taken for this study is adequate. The value of Bartlett's Test of Sphericity is 0.000 less than the significance value of 0.05 indicating multi normality among variables. The variables determined through factor analysis are fairly correlated with all other variables. Therefore, the data taken for the study did not effected with multi co linearity. Eigen values are the calculated results representing variances of the Factors. From the total loaded variables in factor analysis, only six were extracted with 61.46 per cent variance based on their relevancy. The distribution of total collected data to be fitted into the six factors using variance analysis. The accumulated total variance percentage of the six factors is 61.460 per cent.

### ROTATED COMPONENT MATRIX

“Rotated component matrix is applied to know the relationship between the variables and the factors through the help of rotated factor loadings”. The factor column represents the rotated factors that have been extracted out of the total variables and have been used as the final factors after data reduction.

**Table 3**

#### Rotated Factors

Variables	Factors					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
High wage rates	- .111	-.181	.012	-.605	-.047	<b>.234</b>
Lack of adaptability skills	- .275	-.003	<b>.738</b>	-.019	-.076	.097
Lack of self-confidence and self-belief	<b>.177</b>	.151	-.107	-.058	-.331	-.059
Lack of knowledge about modernized technologies	.013	<b>.871</b>	.171	.020	.064	.000
Lack of proper training	<b>.908</b>	-.097	-.039	.057	.003	.067
Lack of knowledge about various forms of government's financial assistance	- .074	<b>.791</b>	-.076	-.221	.021	.048
Non-availability of skilled workers	.143	-.154	-.083	-.033	-.681	<b>.169</b>
Lack of marketing skills	- .103	-.089	.198	<b>.575</b>	-.268	-.379
Lack of marketing centre	.109	-.289	-.218	<b>.586</b>	.122	-.043
Managing male workers	.047	-.150	-.340	.092	.059	<b>.230</b>
Lack of encouragement from family and society	<b>.648</b>	-.024	-.191	.279	-.397	-.181
Lack of support from banks	.312	-.051	-.049	.179	<b>.648</b>	.082
Poor risk-taking ability	- .105	.049	<b>.292</b>	-.515	.201	-.397
Shortage of own funds	- .108	.152	-.176	-.307	<b>.529</b>	-.033
Tough competitions from larger and established units	.177	.110	.133	<b>.640</b>	.460	.140



Absenteeism	- .128	.171	.069	-.132	-.015	<b>.696</b>
Lack of Initiation	.121	-.010	<b>.872</b>	-.190	.097	.098
Male domination	<b>.766</b>	-.110	-.070	.014	-.383	-.193
Family ties	<b>.871</b>	-.131	.051	.225	.033	-.023
Lack of knowledge about legal aspects	.191	<b>.473</b>	-.034	-.014	.075	-.075
Problem of public relation	- .534	.248	<b>.425</b>	.044	-.122	.099
Inability to provide securities for loan	- .162	.305	.088	-.216	<b>.600</b>	-.338
Lack of marketing facilities	- .040	.120	<b>.779</b>	.193	.130	.102
Lack of knowledge about the agencies and institutions working for entrepreneurs	- .091	<b>.842</b>	.185	.194	.060	.073
Lack of knowledge about the competitors	- .118	-.294	.177	.029	.178	<b>.534</b>

*Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.*

*Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.*

#### BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED BY WOMEN IN URBAN SLUM AREAS

Severity of the problems of women respondents was observed only in six factors which were extracted from the total eight variables loaded in Factor analysis.

**Table 4**

**Factor Loadings and Name of the Factors**

S. No	Variable	Loading	Name of the Factor
1	Lack of self-confidence and self-belief	.177	<b>Personal Barriers</b>
	Lack of proper training	.908	
	Lack of encouragement from the family and society	.648	
	Male domination	.766	
	Family ties	.871	
2	Inability to provide securities for loan	.600	<b>Financial Barriers</b>
	Lack of support from banks	.648	
	Shortage of own funds	.529	

*Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.*

*Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.*



**PERSONAL BARRIERS**

Lack of confidence and practical knowledge, inferiority complex, poor education, less risk bearing capacity, long standing feelings of intimidation and fear of the outside world are some of the personal constraints faced by the women when they come out from the house for engaging economic activities. The following are identified as the personal Barriers to the women respondents while carrying out business activities in the study area:

**Lack of Self-confidence and Self-belief**

Women cannot come forward from the four walls of the kitchen to the outside environment due to lack of self-confidence and becomes one of the important factors which pull women back from engaging economic activities. Generally, women by nature weak shy and are not able to face the risk because of low level self-confidence and self-beliefs.

**Lack of Proper Training**

The knowledge of training helps women entrepreneurs not only to become skillful but also provides more opportunities to expand their enterprises smoothly. Lack of proper training women are unable to adopt dynamic business opportunities and excel in the diversified competitive environment.

**Lack of Encouragement from Family and Society**

Family obligations restrict women in engaging the business activities successfully. Traditions and customs prevailing in India towards women are the biggest obstacles for not growing and prosper as an effective entrepreneur. Women having primary responsibilities of managing their kith and kin cannot allocate sufficient time to meet the business requirements. Caste and religion in the society obstructs women largely for not grooming as successful entrepreneurs.

**Male Domination**

Even though women excel in all angles on par with men, male domination is continuing as the order of the day thereby women are not supposed to be equal to men. A male dominant social order is the biggest hurdle to the women towards business success. Women treated as physically weak, less confident and subordinates to husbands and men. Women require approval from the family head to step into business ventures.

**Family Ties**

Women being emotionally attached to their family responsibilities require a lot of time to manage them. Hence, it is very difficult for women in sparing sufficient time and strength to concentrate and run the business successfully and efficiently. Personal constraints of women entrepreneurs are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5**  
**Personal Barriers of Women in Urban Slum Areas**

Constraints	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Lack of self-confidence and self-belief	642	<b>3.55</b>	3.72
Lack of proper training	642	3.02	1.22
Lack of encouragement from family and society	642	2.87	1.36
Male domination	642	2.95	1.32
Family ties	642	3.10	1.26
Valid N ( List wise)	642	<b>3.10</b>	1.25

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 5 describes about the personal barriers of women in urban slums and their severity through the help of calculating mean and standard deviation. Mean values represent the degree of severity of the problem. From the above analysis, lack of self-confidence, self-belief, family ties and lack of proper training are the problems which influenced the women entrepreneurs severely than the rest with a mean score of more than 3.00. The overall mean score of the personal constrains is 3.10 which denotes the severity of personal constraints on an average faced by the women entrepreneurs in the slum is very high and are not able to manage their enterprises in a successful way.



**FINANCIAL BARRIERS**

Finance is ‘life-blood’ for any enterprise irrespective of the size to run operations of business. Inadequate financial support and resources at the initial stages of advancement discourages women from entering into business decisions. By not having full-fledged knowledge about financing options and opportunities required for running an enterprise provokes women to discontinue the business. The following are the various financial problems faced by women.

**Inability to Provide Security for Loan**

Among the total population of women in the country, less than 5 per cent of women are engaging their own enterprises and they often denied from sanctioning loan by bankers due to lack of collateral security. The lengthy procedure and chaotic formalities of banks in sanctioning loans and exorbitant delay in getting loans dissuade women from venturing out.

**Lack of Support from Banks**

Women denied availing financial assistance from the banks due to repayment norms, legal actions and penalties charged on delay in payments and also with the skeptical opinion on the creditworthiness and inability in managing the enterprise.

**Shortage of Own Funds**

Traditionally women being vulnerable nature do not possess property to show as surety for getting the loan and needs to rely on friends, relatives and others. Financial constraints of women entrepreneurs are traceable in the Table 6

**Table 6**

**Financial Barriers of Women in Urban Slum Areas**

Constraints	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Inability to provide securities for loan	642	2.96	1.19
Lack of support from banks	642	3.09	1.03
Shortage of own funds	642	<b>3.76</b>	1.06
Valid N (list wise)	642	<b>3.27</b>	.56

**Source:** *Field Survey*

Table 6 portrays about the financial barriers of sample respondents under study. Financial barriers impact on women entrepreneurs both at individual and overall levels are more or less equal to the critical value of 3.00 mean score values denotes the severity of financial barriers is very high even though the SHGs are supporting them with needed fund for running the enterprise.

**5. OBSERVATIONS :**

- Personal barriers play a dominant role on women entrepreneurs in the study area which pull back women from the development front in general and lack of self-confidence and self-beliefs in particular.
- Tough competition from well established units is the major problem to the women entrepreneurs in urban slum areas.
- Poor finance is the biggest problem to the women being dependent on the male counterparts and unable to invest sufficient funds for the growth of their businesses.
- Managing male workers is one of the leading problems to women entrepreneurs in the slum areas as male doesn't like to be as subordinates under women supervision.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS :**

- Common platform should be provided to share their experiences with other members to instill the confidence among members for updating their entrepreneurial abilities.
- Creating the facility of freer access to credit through mobile banks is inevitable to introduce for every individual, especially women entrepreneurs living in urban slums.
- In view of growing needs, adequate arrangements must be made for the supply of credit to women entrepreneurs at concession rates and also allow rebate on timely repayment to encourage women.





- Sound credit monitoring system should be established to control the problem of fund diversions and misutilization of loan amount.
- SHGs should form as an independent apex body with peculiar features to extend the support for suppressed women instead of depending on other agencies or institutions.

## 7. CONCLUSION :

Indian women are dominated by their male counterparts faced lots of problems like lack of education, personal barriers, legal formalities, economic independence, limited managerial ability, lack of self-confidence and the like. Providing credit through SHGs is essentially a revolutionary process by making women as a part in nation building with the theme of self-help and mutual-help. Improving access of urban slum poor with resources and confidence enable them to manage their lifestyles and livelihoods on sustainable basis.

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