

Women Entrepreneurship In Nepal: Problems And Their Remedies

Ved Raj Acharya*

INTRODUCTION

In the context of Nepal, right from the beginning of its history, women were not involved in entrepreneurial activities up to the 1970s. The changed socio-cultural values enabled women for this risk taking business including administrative function and decision making, yet the women are kept structurally confined to the domestic activities.

Now the situation is changed. The increasing number of landlessness, the inability of the large-scale sector to provide job and indifferent about career expectations have not helped women to create additional earning in least developed countries. The new thinking of women's development since 1970s is apparently more progressive as it advocates economic involvement of women. Women in these days are disproportionately active in services because employment in services responded to the supply side more than it does in the other sectors of the economy. Moreover the skills that a woman learns in the household can transferred to the services sectors more readily than to industry

The traditional women play an active role in agricultural sector of Nepal. Their involvement in agricultural decision making is also pronounced. It is mostly the women who directly decide when and how the agricultural work is to be carried out. On top of the agricultural work they do planting in the field, threshing, winnowing, grinding, water fetching, collecting firewoods.

But gone are the days because the current research shows the emerging trend of women entrepreneurship. In a study of small scale and cottage industries of Morang and Sunsari districts, among the 50 industrialists 13 women were found satisfied with their business and had developed vision for bright prospects (A charya, 1997).

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN

In the process of women's entrepreneurial activities, many problems were raised in many countries. From the political and economic point of views, women in China for example, enjoy equals positions with men. The constitution, party and state show great concern for the wellbeing of women. However, equal pay for women in country side is not achieved. More working women are self-employed than men, and more women are

* Mr. Acharya is Lecturer in Economics, M.M. Campus, Biratnagar, Nepal.

unpaid family workers. Although the participation of women is gradually increased in the process of development, there are several social, economic attitudinal practices which are directly or indirectly hindering the full participation of woman in development. Low literacy and lack of exposure have pushed the women more to the farm enterprise than to any other jobs.

Since females are found mostly self-employed and working as unpaid family labour, there is little hope for economic development in the country. The following table shows the situation of economically active population.

Table 1
Economically Active Population 10 Years And Above By Employment And Sex 1991

(In percent)

| Status | Male | Female | Total | Female As Percentage Of Total |
|--------------------|------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Employer | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 27.05 |
| Employee | 27.3 | 11.8 | 21.0 | 22.5 |
| Self-employed | 68.6 | 81.8 | 73.9 | 44.5 |
| Unpaid family work | 1.9 | 4.5 | 2.9 | 61.8 |
| Not Stated | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 39.9 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 40.2 |

Source : Statistical Year Book, CBS, 1992.

The Table 1 shows that there is a large number of females who are engaged in unpaid family work. These unpaid labour forces are every where. The following table presents the reason for not being economically active population.

Table 2
Economically Inactive Population

(In percent)

| Status | Male | Female | Total | Female As Percentage Of Total |
|------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Home Work | 10.9 | 66.5 | 46.4 | 91.6 |
| Busy in Study | 66.5 | 19.4 | 36.3 | 34.1 |
| Old Age | 12.3 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 59.5 |
| Physical and Mental Handicap | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 56.8 |
| Pension/Income Recipient | 1.8 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 25.1 |
| Others | 4.9 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 34.2 |
| Not Stated | - | 1.2 | 1.4 | 56.8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 64 |

Source : As of the Table 1.

The Table 2 shows that 66.5 percent female are engaged in home work activities. This indicates the involvement of women in non economic activities and at the same time it brings a point that this scenario needs to be changed to ensure better status for women. The growing woman ratio and the increase in absolute number (Table 3) also force economist to think for them about viable economic activities.

Table 3
Female Population And Female/Male Sex Ratio

| Particular | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 |
|----------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Population | 11,555,983 | 15,022,839 | 18,491,097 |
| Female as Percent of Total Population | 49.7 | 48.8 | 50.13 |
| Male/Female Sex Ratio (per 100 female) | 101 | 105 | 96 |

Source : As of the Table 1.

Regarding the growth of female labour force it is increasing in every decades. The growth rate also in rise. The Table 4 gives a picture of it.

Table 4
Female Labour Force During Two Decade

| Particular | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Labour Force | 4,197,962 | 5,878,188 | 7,339,586 |
| Female Labour Force as Percent of Total | 28.1 | 33.4 | 45.5 |

Source : As of the Tabel 1.

If we compare the age group of labour force in 1991 the following scenario comes to a scene.

Table 5
Women In The Labour Force 1991

| Particular | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Population (in '000) | 9221 | 9270 | 18491 |
| Labour Force (Population aged 10 years and above in'000) | 6445 | 6554 | 12999 |
| Labour Force as Percent of Total Population | 69.9 | 70.7 | 70.3 |
| Economically Active Population (aged 10 years and above in'000) | 4428 | 2982 | 7410 |
| Labour Force Participation Rate (4 as percent of 2) | 68.7 | 45.5 | 57.0 |
| Economically Inactive Population (aged 10 years and above in'000) (as percent of Labour Force) | 2017 31.3 | 3972 54.5 | 5589 43.0 |

Source : As of the Table 1.

The Table 5 explicitly shows that labour force in total population comprises more of females.

The concentration of women as compared to men is very small in industrial sectors. This might be the low opportunity to women in education and skill development activities. The concept of working women was that of supplementary earner and not enough importance was placed in her needs. But the time has been changed. The locus of power shifted from the "competent sex" to the "competent partner" depending upon the resources each partner possessed in terms of education, family background and prestige of the job.

Historically many women had income generating projects but they were suffered from the lack of access to credit. Besides people were thinking that carpentry, electrical repair or doctor are men's job and women's job was confined to domestic world. In this case more males come to entrepreneurial business in developing countries and majority of the non-business persons continue to scratch a bare living with a few primitive tools.

But the context is changed in urban areas. Biratnagar, Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Nepalgunj for example, have a large number of women entrepreneurs who are found engaged in their enterprises. They were associated with knitting, sewing, cutting, garment making, weaving and hotel enterprises. Few of them were also engaged in other industries. The changed social values and the west imported women empowerment programs were the positive forces to bring that situation.

In spite of all these achievements, there are some problems in developing women entrepreneurship. They are: caste problem for lower caste. Because the low caste persons are not allowed to enter into high caste's house. The problem of location is also in rise because the enterprises need transportation facility, raw materials, market facility, power and labor at one place. In the absence of any of these things, enterprises suffer and yield no profit. Management of enterprise is the third problem because well trained women are rarely found in management enterprise. Inadequate investment in enterprise is also a cause for the entrepreneurship development. Only a few amount of money is invested in these types of enterprises because it is felt that substantial amount of investment is not necessary and women cannot bear it. The return from these women enterprises, in comparison to others business, is low so, the return from this side is also low. Banks and financial institutions are not making their effective policy for credit flow. High interest rate is another problem. Marketing facility for the product is also a problem to encourage women enterprises.

CONCLUSION

Commercial banks and similar financial institutions should be groomed to be pro-women enterprises. This orientation help entreprenuring woman to get loans for working capital. Unnecessary formalities to sanction loan should be avoided. Working capital should be provided in a timely manner. There should be inspection and follow up programmes. The supply of required quantities of raw materials at the right time, at the right place and at the right prices should be availed. Liberal and subsidized financial assistance from governmental and institutional side can harness women's potentialities for better production. Managerial and technical guidance should be extended to women entrepreneur. Orientation programmes should be organized in rural areas of the country. The government and other industrial promotion agencies should take greater interest in marketing the products of women producers. The promotion of these products can be done by show-room, display, publicity and export facilites. Similarly, technology transfer and training are also needed to enhance women's self image.

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Book Review

Bhatia, B.S. and G.S. Batra (1999) *Encyclopaedia of Business Management Volume one on Globalisation and Business Management*, (edtd.) (set up in 10 volumes), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, PP xii+300 including List of Contributors and Index, Price IC 5800 .

The World has become a global market characterised by economic inter-dependence and emergence of large economic blocks like EEC, ASEAN, SAPTA, NAFTA and Central American Common Market, etc. The important development of global markets is the resurgence of market forces imparting tremendous impact on technological, economic, societal, cultural and political. The national boundaries have become less significant with the inter-linked effect of technology, information flows and globalisation, improvement in quality of life of the masses assumes great importance at the global level. It is a challenge for management experts as to how best this improvement could be achieved and sustained which is necessary for the success and the continued pursuance of the economic transition with the great vigour. Hence the management discipline has assumed catalytic role in view of the integration of global economy into a composite unit. In this regard, business management of an entity has to gear itself to meet the challenges of change.

Various reform measures introduced since 1992 had a positive effect in Indian economy. Globalisation and Liberalisation have helped India not only to overcome foreign exchange crisis but also build foreign exchange reserves quite fast. They have created confidence in the minds of foreign investors, NRIs and creditors. They have resulted in efficient and fuller utilisation of resources, reduction in balance of payments deficits, and enhanced the competitiveness of MNCs and FDI. Further, increase in investment and inflow of foreign capital will lead to increased production and ultimately increase the demand for human resources. There is no denying the fact that with the foreign direct investment and portfolio investment, industrial sector is in a very comfortable position.

The book under review is one of the set of books on business management. Through this volume one on "Globalisation and Business Management", an attempt has been made to highlight the emerging issues of liberalisation and globalisation. This book dedicated to the doyens of business management education in India, is a collection of research articles contributed by business management scholars. This book is divided into four sections comprising twenty research papers.

Contents include: Section I entitled "Liberalisation and Globalisation" comprises four research articles. The first article on "Liberalisation and Globalisation- An Evaluation" by R. Veermani, analyses the impact of liberalisation policies on various aspects of India's economic growth. The overall industrial performance not only showed a remarkable revival from the low growth but also surpassed the average growth reflects impact of globalisation measures. These measures not only stimulated industrial activity but also facilitated export growth. The paper delineates that however, no policy can be perfect in all situations and at all times. We must have an open mind to take corrective measures whenever and wherever called for. The second article on "Globalisation of Indian Economy: Emerging Dimensions" by Narinder Kaur focuses on globalisation strategy, liberalised exchange rate management system, import licensing, export promotion capital goods scheme and implications of radical liberalisation and globalisation. The writer is of the view that globalisation and liberalisation in India is taking shape for turbulent times. The third article on "Economic Liberalisation- The Tasks Ahead" by S.P. Jalan covers liberalisation an opportunity for growth. While internal liberalisation needs to be intensified further, it is desirable to go slow in external liberalisation. We must learn how to survive in the new scenario of globalisation. The government on its part must generate an environment in which the positive energies of the people of India are suitably harnessed. The fourth article on "Bangladesh and Global Market Economy (Implications of Liberalisation)" by Abdul Mannan, discusses on the issue of freeing its economy from state control on the top of its economic agenda, and is vigorously searching for private investors both at home and abroad primarily for its industrial sector. Absence of skilled manpower, dynamic management cadre, insufficient infrastructural facilities, good marketing mechanism for finished industrial and consumer products, backward looking education system, lack of co-ordination in the tariff structure, over politicization of labour union, etc., have stood in the way of the growth of a viable and considerable private sector in this country.

Section II entitled "Contemporary Issues" contains eleven research articles. In this context, "Impact of Liberalisation on Industrial Development in India (An Inter-Regional Analysis" by H.C.L. Das is fifth article. In this paper, the writer has covered the phases of liberalisation and assessed it on an inter-regional basis. He is of the view that a vast number of people, educated as well as illiterate are still unaware of the implications of liberalisation. The debate for and against the liberalisation has remained confined to the top layer who calculate the gains or loss in their own interests. An article entitled "Economic Liberalisation and New Vistas in Management Education" by G.S. Batra and B.S. Bhatia, is sixth one and examines the development in the Indian business education as a result of

liberalised policy of the government. The problem areas and new vistas in management education have been examined in Indian context. The writers have suggested some recommendations to the present system of management education in India. An article on "Liberalisation and its Impact on Industry" by Kusum Lata has serially ranked in number seven. In this paper the writer has discussed the need of liberalisation and policy implications. But as to title, impact of liberalisation in Indian industry has not been examined properly. It would have been better to go through phase wise liberalisation. Cover of the quotation of Robert Frost's is mentionable. An article eight entitled "Foreign Investments and its Implications for Indian Economy" by G.S. Batra examines the development in the foreign investments, as a result of liberalised policy of the government. The writer has reviewed the policy changes initiated to tap the international resources for the development of the economy. An article nine entitled "Regionalism in the First World: Prospect of Foreign Aid and Technology Flows to Developing Countries" by Munim Kunwar Barai, is dealt with different aspects of aid flow-definition and types of aid, philosophy of giving and taking aid, the aid-Triad and direction of aid flows. The writer has tried to evolve a functional framework of poor countries which still require foreign aid to make their economic transition to happen for a take-off. But the growing tendency of regionalism in the first-world, particularly in the EU and NAFTA, is likely to affect the flows of aid to the developing countries due to directing of generous resources to relatively below-par developed block-partners. This aspect has in deed formed the core of discussion in this paper.

"Impact of New Trade and Exchange Policy Regimes and the Exchange Rate Crisis in India" by M. Sundara Rao and A. Sailaja Devi has been ranked serially in number ten. This paper reviews the exchange rate policies and trends relating to it over a period from 1950/51 to 1995/96. It assesses the impact of new trade and exchange policy regimes on the different dimensions of external sector during the post-reform period. It also analyses the present state of exchange rate conditions in India and emphasises the role of Reserve Bank of India in promoting exchange rate stability. The paper contains policy suggestion also. An article eleven entitled "Management of India's Contemporary Foreign Trade Scenario" by Dulal Bhattacharyya, analyses the entire scenario of India's foreign trade and the impact of the Economic Policy Reform since 1991. The paper has covered basically the period of the last fifteen years since 1981. "Emerging Trends in Capital Markets" by G.S. Batra has been ranked serially in number twelve. In this paper, the writer has examined the recent development in emerging capital markets with special reference to certain developed and developing economies. The study is based on various IFC reports. An article numbered thirteen is entitled with "Foreign

Competition- Will India Survive It" by Chestha. The paper is dealt with rationale of liberalisation, impact of liberalisation and policy implication. But the heads are dealt so in brief that they do not cover the entire content.

An article fourteen entitled "The Role of Joint Ventures and Alliances in International Business: Emerging Dimensions and Challenges for India" by Narinder Kaur, makes an indepth evaluation of joint venture as they operate in Indian context today. The study delineates constraints caused by policies and procedures relating specially to joint ventures. "Dunkel Draft and India" by Veeramani is an article number fifteen which focuses on Dunkel's Draft Text and Indian Patents Act, 1970. Mr. Arthur Dunkel's Draft Text (a long draft over 440 pages full of suggestions and solutions to break the deadlock in GATT negotiations) is nothing but the alterations and modification of the basic obligations of GATT. The writer observes that Dunkel's recommendations are mainly for the market forces to operate in the international trading system. But free play of market forces might work against the economics of the developing countries.

Section III entitled "Fiscal Management" includes three research articles. "Fiscal Management in Indian Economy: Recent Trends" by Kawaljit Singh is an article ranked serially in number sixteen. In this paper, fiscal management is used as an instrument of economic growth to achieve the objective of economic survival, stability and growth and thus accelerating the economic development and can be used as a tool to correct the fiscal imbalance and thus overcome the crisis existing in the economy. Article numbered seventeen and eighteen entitled "Tax Planning for Individual Assesseees in the Changing Economic Scenario" and "Management of Investment Planning for Individual Tax payers" are written by N. Rajavel. In the first paper a model of tax planning along with the different modes of saving schemes available has been highlighted which may be useful to individual tax payers. (assessee particularly salaried group). In the second paper an attempt has been on a brief account on management of investment planning for individual tax payers.

Section IV entitled "Employment Implications" comprises two research articles> "Exit Policy: Its Impact and Issues" by A.D. Saramma has been ranked serially number nineteen. The paper attempts to examine the so-called exit policy: its impact and issues. Article numbered twenty is the final one entitled "Employment Implications of Structural Changes in India (A study of Exit Policy)" by Kawaljit Kaur. In this paper, the writer has analysed the employment implication of liberalisation with particular reference to exit policy. Although a full-fledged exit policy has not yet been formulated, the establishment of the National Renewal Fund is a land mark in making a case for modernisation and restructuring of sick units in India.

It is hoped that this book will be of great help in understanding the various complex economic issues and impact of policy changes on different sectors. It may help to understand the overall trend of India's liberalisation policy and globalisation trends. Despite some of the lackings, the book is useful to the policy planners, researchers, professionals, intellectuals and all those concerned with bringing changes in business management. These new studies in business management will make significant contribution to the ongoing debate on the subject in the changing business world.

Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal

Sohan Kumar Karna
Lecturer