
Problems of Women Handloom Entrepreneurs in West Tripura District, Tripura

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Abstract: *Women are an integral part of our Society. With the evolving time, women have turned out to be sufficiently striking to begin something new and to demonstrate that women are equal to a man in all fields. The present study 'Problems of Women Handloom Entrepreneurs in West Tripura District, Tripura' clarifies about the different issues and deterrents looked by the Women Handloom Entrepreneurs and the social support networks accessible to the Women Handloom Entrepreneurs. It is centered on the tribal women of the province of Tripura and their issues being business people. The study was conducted in the region of fourteen villages of Hezamara, Mandai and Lefunga blocks of West Tripura locale. In the present study, it is discovered that the problem faced by the women is a direct result of the absence of fund, lack of quality product, lack of information and furthermore, because of the act of credit framework. Majority of the respondents are from rural area and they use traditional loin loom for creating handloom items. The purpose of taking up an entrepreneurship is for monetary necessities, requirements for accomplishment, for self-satisfaction and to have financial autonomy. In the present study, convenience sampling has been used for data collection. The study uncovered that majority (44%) of the women entrepreneurs belongs to the age group of 21 to 30 years and the greater parts of them (79%) are literates. The majority (87%) of the respondents have financial crisis i.e. there is a need to make utilization of different schemes given by the Government and spread awareness.*

Keywords: Handloom, Entrepreneurs, Tripura, majority, financial autonomy

Research Area: Social Science

Paper Type: Research Paper

1. INTRODUCTION

An entrepreneur is an individual who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on financial risk to do so. Entrepreneurship is defined as "the activity of setting up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit" (Oxford word reference). Entrepreneurship refers to the demonstration of setting up another business or resuscitating a current business in order to exploit new open doors. In this way, entrepreneurs shape the economy by making new riches and new employment and by concocting new items and administrations.

Definitions of Entrepreneurship: Cantilon (1730) defined entrepreneurship as self-employment of any sort. Entrepreneurs buy at certain prices in the present and sell at uncertain prices in the future. The entrepreneur is a bearer of uncertainty. Penrose (1963) expressed that entrepreneurial activity involves identifying opportunities within the economic system. Managerial capacities are different from entrepreneurial capacities.

Meaning of Handloom: Handloom is entirely different from the factory made, self-loader and power loom segments in the region of creation, measuring, planning and furthermore more grounded than a similar sort of plant-made and control loom fabric because

of twofold reeds and lower speed of weaving. The word Handloom gets its significance from the procedure of operation by the handmade of a wooden structure called loom. (Rao 1991)

Handloom in India: These are an imperative art item and include the biggest cottage industry of the nation. In the whole nation, there are more than 23, 00,000 handlooms. In northeastern states, there are more than 15, 00,000 domestic handlooms and in Tripura, there are more than 1, 30,000 handlooms. Handloom weaving has been one of the principal variables of development in the Indian economy, advancing between intra-connection and various groups. This segment has been viewed as imperative for the sheer size of individuals invested with conventional craftsman, make abilities sensitive to the nearby needs and assets. Today the handloom business is the biggest economic activity in the informal sector after agriculture, with roughly 2.3 million handlooms in India occupied with the generation of common fiber textures like cotton, silk, and woolen and in man-made and blended fiber textures. Indispensably a piece of rural life, around ten million individuals or more relies upon these weaving looms for their business. (The third Handloom Census, 2009-10)

Handloom in Tripura: Handloom is the single biggest and maybe the oldest industry in the state of Tripura and is scattered in the rural and in addition semi-urban areas. It has developed with the progress itself and individuals in this region hope to weave as an indistinguishable piece of life. Weaving has developed as the art and it is passed from one era then onto the next. It assumes an overwhelming part in the financial improvement of the country's masses. This industry additionally frames an essential division giving work to the provincial poor. The tribal women of Tripura are religiously committed to weaving. It was a pre-imperative for each tribal young lady to know weaving. Else, she ought not to be considered as a lady. According to the 2009-10 Census, led as a piece of All India program, there were around 1.37 lakh handloom weavers in the State.

Handloom weaving is the most important specialty in the state. The principle highlight of Tripuri handloom is vertical and even stripes with scattered weaving in various hues. It has a rich legacy in plans that vary from tribe to tribe. The handloom industry assumes an essential part in the economy of the state and gives an optional method for work and wage to tribal cultivators. In Tripura, the majority Loin loom is utilized for weaving. These deep-rooted looms are simple and easy to operate.

Women Handloom Entrepreneurs: Kamal Singh who is a woman entrepreneur from Rajasthan has characterized woman entrepreneurs as 'a certain, imaginative and inventive lady equipped for accomplishing self-financial autonomy exclusively or in coordinated effort, creates work open doors for others through starting, setting up and running the venture by keeping pace with her own, family and social life.' Women passage into business is another wonder. Women are not anymore bound by the customary attitude of remaining inside four dividers of the house and considered as the weaker segment of the general public. Women are taking an interest and performing in all circles of exercises and they are developing with business enterprise past the kitchen which incorporates pickle, powder, and pappad. Women who are occupied with handloom meshing are developing into an enterprise. Handloom is a customary method for making garments for the tribal of Northeast now it has turned into a wellspring of business for a few people. It is not an obsolete method for acquiring a job but rather it is still in the pattern. Presently women are thinking of new ideas and development for promoting the item with more adornments and plan. Around here, the middleman assumes a critical part in promoting the items. The agent is a wellspring of associating with the retailers and clients.

The following are the major factors influencing the women entrepreneur:

- Economic independence
- Establishing their own identity
- Building confidence
- Developing risk-taking ability
- Motivation
- Equal status in society
- Greater freedom and mobility

Types of women entrepreneurs in India:

Women entrepreneurs in India are broadly divided into the following categories: They are

1. Affluent entrepreneurs
2. Pull factors
3. Push factors
4. Self-employed entrepreneurs
5. Rural entrepreneurs

Affluent entrepreneurs: Wealthy women business visionaries are those women business people who are from rich families. In this sort of business, the entrepreneurs are upheld by their family. These entrepreneurs are the daughter, daughter-in-law, sisters, sister-in-laws, and spouses of rich individuals in the general public. Generally, they are occupied with magnificence parlor, interior decoration, book distributing, and film conveyance organizations.

Pull factors: Force factor entrepreneurs are those women from towns and urban areas who have responded to the enterprise as a call to explore new territory and to be economically independent. These business entrepreneurs are instructed women of the general public who have taken up a little and medium business where the hazard is low. These women more often focus on schools, beauty parlor, and sustenance providing food, eateries, basic need shops and so forth. In light of financial needs, these women are attracted to startup business enterprise.

Push factors: To defeat the money related challenges a few women need to take up entrepreneurship. The circumstance of the family compels them either to build up the current privately-run company or to begin new dares to enhance the financial states of the family. Such classifications of entrepreneurs are named as push factors.

Self-employed entrepreneurs: Independently employed entrepreneurs are the women of villages and town who are poor and extremely poor. They need to depend on intensely individually endeavors for sustenance in the general public. These women begin modest and small undertakings like broom making, wax candle making, handloom, handicrafts, weaving, giving tea and espresso to workplaces, pressing of garments, sewing work, fitting and so on.

Rural entrepreneurs: Women in rural areas or towns begin endeavors which require slightest arranging expertise and fewer hazards. Low-risk business can be made of dairy items, pickles, organic product juices, pappads, Jagger, and so forth. Keeping in mind the end goal to help their family, the women are urged to begin a business enterprise.

Problems of Women Entrepreneurship:

There are many difficulties women need to look in a business enterprise in India. The best test to women entrepreneurs is that they are women and they need to substantiate themselves as identical to men. The women Entrepreneurs confront two arrangements of

issues, i.e. the general issues of business enterprise and the issues of women in a business enterprise.

Capital constraints: It is a typical issue of the vast majority of the entrepreneurs in the state. Women entrepreneurs experience the ill effects of a deficiency of back in light of the fact that women do not by and large have property on their names to utilize them as security for getting reserves from outer sources. What's more, the women must be subject to their family to support their business at first.

Technological adaptation: Inability of adjusting new systems of creation makes the business people unfit to build generation level of their items with exceptional quality and highlight. The entrepreneurs are as yet appended to the conventional apparatus (loom) for the creation of apparel material.

Male dominated Society: Most of the Indians have a place with the man-centric family. Despite the fact that the law is equivalent to each sex, actually, women are looked at a weaker area in all regards. India is a male-dominated society; here women are not treated similarly to men. This transform fills in as a boundary to women passage into the business.

Lack of Education: In India, around 30% of women are as yet unskilled. The absence of education is the primary driver of the financial issue. Because of the absence of training women are unconscious of business, innovation and market learning. Likewise, an absence of training causes low accomplishment inspiration among women. In the present study majority, 54 % of the women entrepreneurs have studied underneath class tenth and 21 % of them are uneducated.

Training Programme: Preparing programs are basic to new rural and youthful entrepreneurs who wish to set up a little and medium scale unit. The projects improve the expertise and capability of women business people.

2. METHODOLOGY

The present study is descriptive in nature which tries to comprehend 'Problems of Women Handloom Entrepreneurs in West Tripura District, Tripura' and the social support network access for them. Since there is an expansion in the quantity of women handloom business visionaries (according to the third handloom evaluation), it is imperative to know the issues of women in this field.

2.1 Objective of the study

1. To find out the Problem faced by the Women Handloom Entrepreneurs.
2. To study the support systems available to the Women Handloom Entrepreneurs.

2.2 Sources of data condition

The information for this investigation has been gathered both from primary and secondary sources. Primary information was gathered from the respondents through a semi-structured schedule specially designed for the purpose. The researcher specifically gathered the information from the villages of West Tripura. The information was gathered by utilizing semi-structured interview schedule. This scheduling technique was utilized for the accommodation of the respondents as a large portion of them do not know English.

Secondary data was gathered from different sources like journal, articles, books, reports, sites, and so on.

2.3 Type of sampling

In the present study, the researcher has taken up convenience sampling for data collection. A sample of 71 women entrepreneurs was selected based on the availability of

women entrepreneurs. In the present investigation, the problem of women entrepreneur is arranged into financial and social support networks.

2.4 Tools of data collection

The researcher arranged a meeting plan which contains forty-one questions which are semi-structured interview schedule.

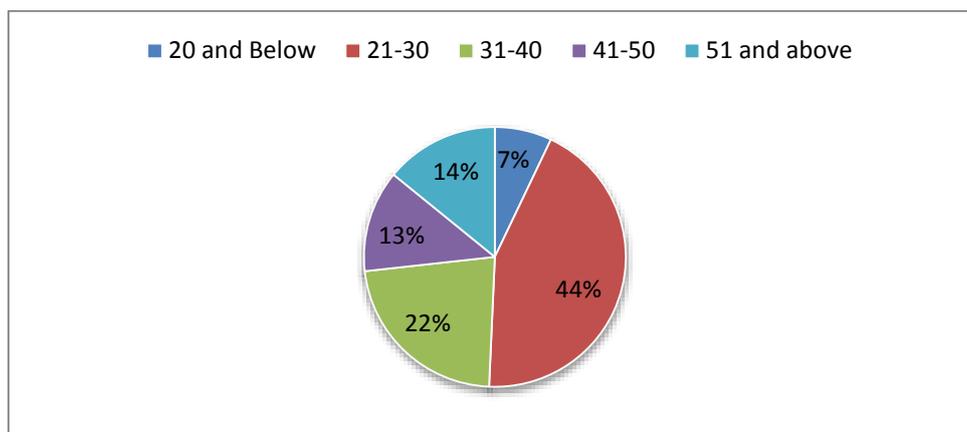
2.5 Limitation

The sample size was limited to 71 and the study is restricted to three blocks of West Tripura district, Tripura.

3. FIGURES AND TABLES

Background Profile of the Sample Respondents:

Figure No.: 01 Age wise classification of the Respondents



The above figure No. 01 shows 44% of the respondents belong to the age group of 21-30 years, 22% of the respondents belong to 31-40 years, 14% of the respondents belong to above 50 years, 13% of the respondents belong to 41-50 and only 7% belongs to the age group of 20 and below. The researcher has found that the majority of the respondents belong to the age group of 21-30 years.

Table No.-01 Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Qualification	Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	15	21%
Below 10 th std.	38	54%
10 th std.	17	24%
12 th std.	01	02%
Total	71	100%

The above table No. 01 shows the qualification of the respondents, which shows a majority of 54% of the respondents have studied below 10 standards, 21% of the respondents are illiterate, 24% of the respondents have studied till 10th standard and about 2% of the respondents finished their 12th standard. The researcher has found that the majority 79% of the respondents are literate.

From the above which is figure no.01 and table no. 01, the researcher has found that the respondents of the age group of 21-30 are more active in the business than of other groups. Age plays an important role as the respondents of this group are all literate.

Table No.-02 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage
Married	60	85%
Unmarried	03	04%
Widow	08	11%
Total	71	100%

The above table No. 02 reveals that majority 85% of the respondents are found to be married, 11% of the respondents are a widow and 4% of the respondents are unmarried therefore the majority of the respondents found by the researchers in the study are married.

Table No.-03 Family Structure of the Respondents

Family Type	Respondents	Percentage
Joint	14	20%
Nuclear	57	80%
Total	71	100%

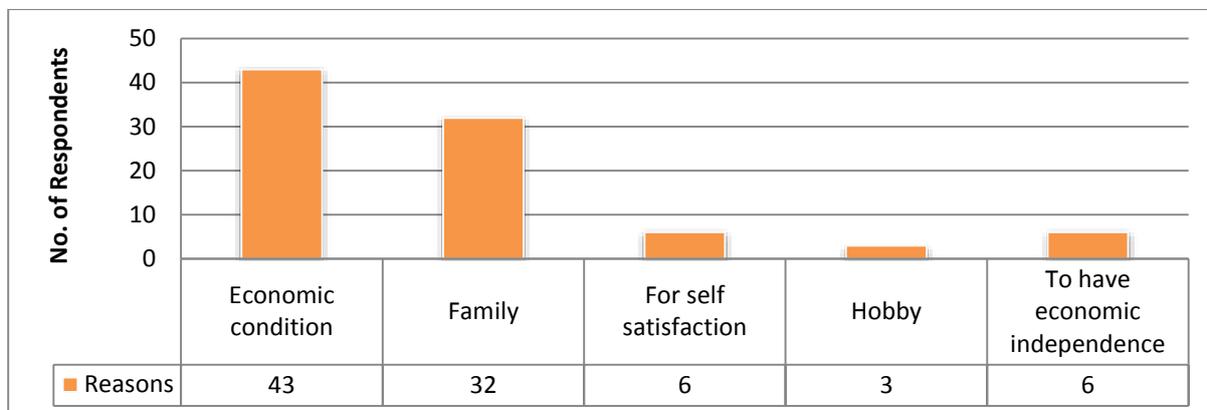
The survey reveals that majority of the sample respondents 80% of the respondents belong to Nuclear family. And 20% of the respondents are from Joint family. Through the study, the researcher has found that majority of the respondents are from nuclear family. This trend may be due to the practice of small family norms, their awareness regarding the cost of living and difficulties in the maintenance of big family which they might have found it beneficial to have small families to lead a better and comfortable life.

Table No.-04 Income Details of the Respondents

Monthly Income	Respondents	Percentage
Below 5,000	51	72%
5,000-10,000	17	24%
10,000-15,000	03	04%
Total	71	100%

The above table No. 04 shows 72% of the respondents' incomes are below Rs.5000, 24 % of the respondents' incomes are between Rs.5000-10,000, and only 04% of the respondents' incomes are above Rs. 10,000. The researcher found out through the study that the respondents do not earn much to support their family. The majority of the respondents' incomes are below Rs.5000. The study has found that there are other sources of income of the respondents and about 48% of the respondents have supplementary income while 52% of the respondents do not have a supplementary income.

Figure No.-02 Reason to start up Entrepreneurship



The study shows that out of 71 sample respondents, 43 (48%) of the respondents have taken up the entrepreneurial work for the economic condition, 32 (35%) for family needs, 6 (7%) for self-satisfaction and another 6 (7%) of the respondents have started entrepreneurship to have economic independence and only 3 (3%) of the respondents have stated they have taken entrepreneurship as a hobby.

Table No.-05 Workplace of the Respondents

Work Place	Respondents	Percentage
Own house	69	97%
Neighbor’s house	02	03%
Total	71	100%

A glance at the above table No. 05 reveals that 97% of the respondents work in their own house and only 3% of the respondents work in their neighbors’ house. So the majority of the respondents work in their own house.

Table No.-06 Number of production of handloom material in a month

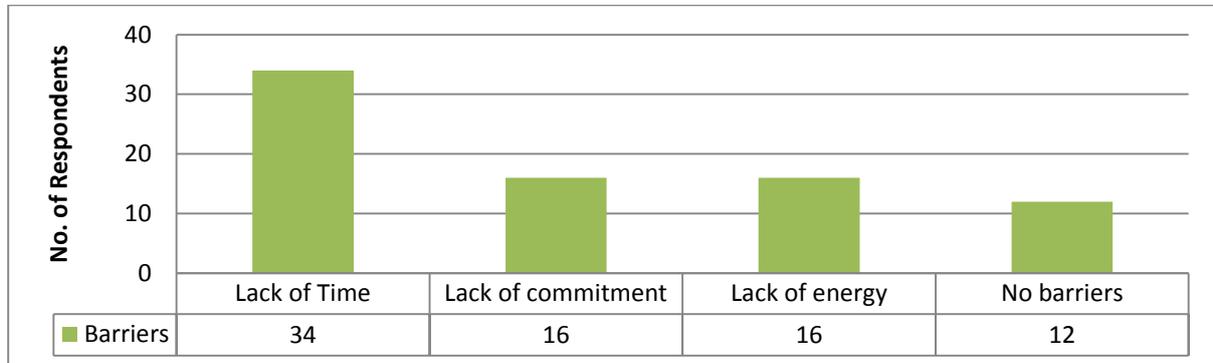
No. of Production	Respondents	Percentage
One or less	52	73%
Two	14	20%
Three	5	07%
Total	71	100%

It is observed from the above table No. 06 that majority of sample respondents 73% of the respondents can complete only one or less set of the traditional clothing material in a month, whereas 20% of the respondents can complete two sets and only 7% can complete three sets in a month. From the research, it is clear that making of handloom clothing material is very hard and time-consuming which is why there is less number of productions in a

month. It is only possible for women who are more efficient in handloom to complete more than two traditional clothing materials.

Problems of Women Entrepreneurs:

Figure No.-03 Barriers faced in Works



The survey reveals that out of 71 sample respondents, the majority of 34 (52%) of the respondents face lack of time while 16 (24%) face lack of commitment and other 16 (24%) face lack of energy and rest 12 (15%) of the respondents do not face any problem.

Table No.-07 Financial problem of the Respondents

Financial Problem	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	63	87%
No	09	13%
Total	71	100%

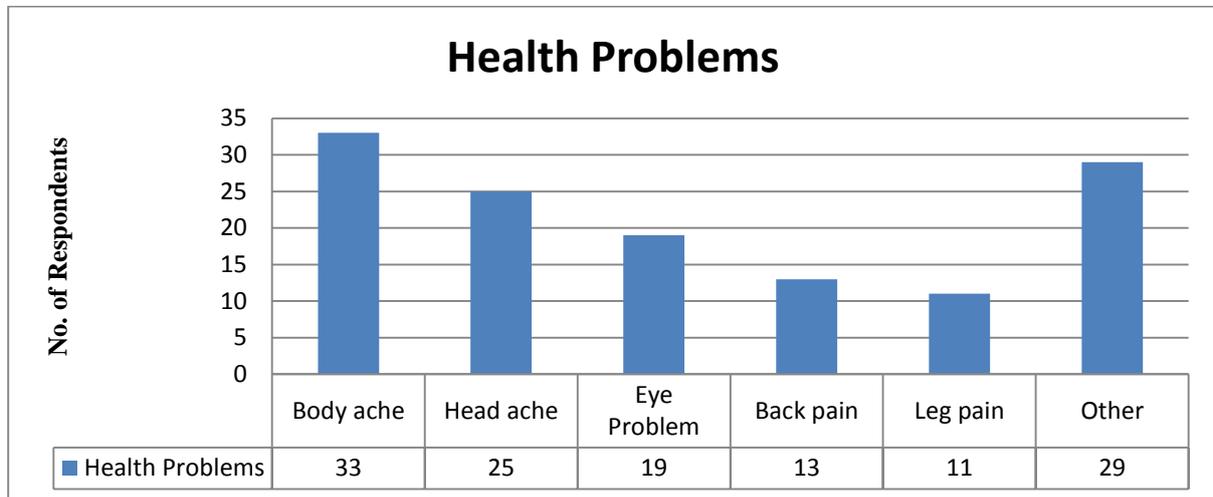
The above table No. 07 shows 87% of the respondents face financial problems whereas 13% of the respondents do not face any financial problems. The reasons for the financial problems are due to 98% lack of Capital and 2% high cost of raw material.

Table No.-08 Problem in handloom Production

Problem	Respondents	Percentage
Health	70	99%
Other	1	1%
Total	71	100%

It is evident from the table No. 08 that majority of the sample respondents 99% of the respondents face health problems in the production of handloom, while 1% of the respondents stated other problems.

Figure No.-04 Health Problems of the Respondents



The survey reveals that out of 71 sample respondents, majority of 33 (25%) of the respondents have body ache, 29 (22%) of the respondents have other health problems like hand pain, vomiting sensation etc., 25 (19%) a headache, 19 (15%) eye-related problem, 13 (10%) back pain and 11 (9%) leg pain.

Table No.-09 Problem in marketing of Product

Problems	Respondents	Percentage
Quality	10	14%
No Problem	61	86%
Total	71	100%

The above table No. 09 shows 86% of the respondents have no problem in marketing their products whereas 14% of the respondents have a problem in marketing their products due to lack of quality product.

Table No.-10 Way of marketing the products

Marketing the product	Respondents	Percentage
Self (A)	10	14%
Middleman (B)	50	70%
Both A and B	11	16%
Total	71	100%

The above table No. 10 shows 70% of the respondents sell their products through a middleman, 16% of the respondents sell the products themselves and also through middleman while 14% of the respondents sell their products themselves. There is a fixed price set for the middleman.

Table No.-11 Problem in getting the raw material

Problem	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	5	7%
No	66	93%
Total	71	100%

It is clear from the above table No. 11 that majority of 93% of the respondents have no problem in getting raw material while 7% of the respondents have a problem getting raw material. The problems can be lack of stock or lack of finance and have to get the raw materials in credit basis from the shop.

Table No.-12 Income of the respondents during the offseason

Income during the offseason	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	44	62%
No	27	38%
Total	71	100%

The survey reveals that 62% of the respondent stated there is a decrease in profit during the offseason, whereas 38% of the respondents do not get a decrease in profit even during the offseason.

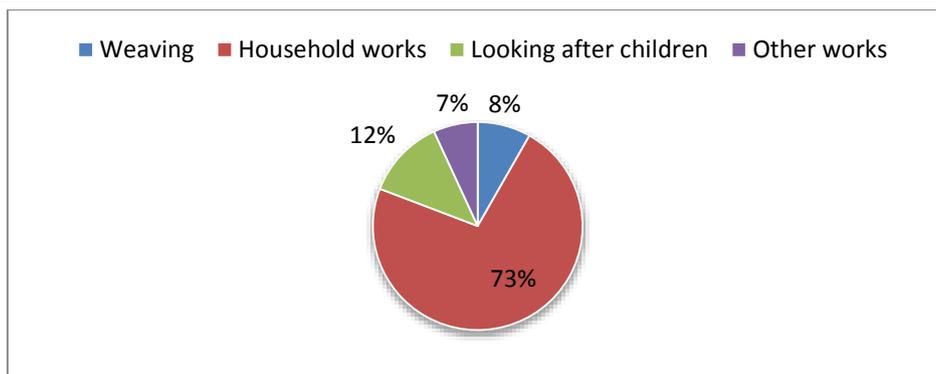
Support System available to the Women Entrepreneurs:

Table No.-13 Support from the Society

Support system	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	54	76%
No	17	24%
Total	71	100

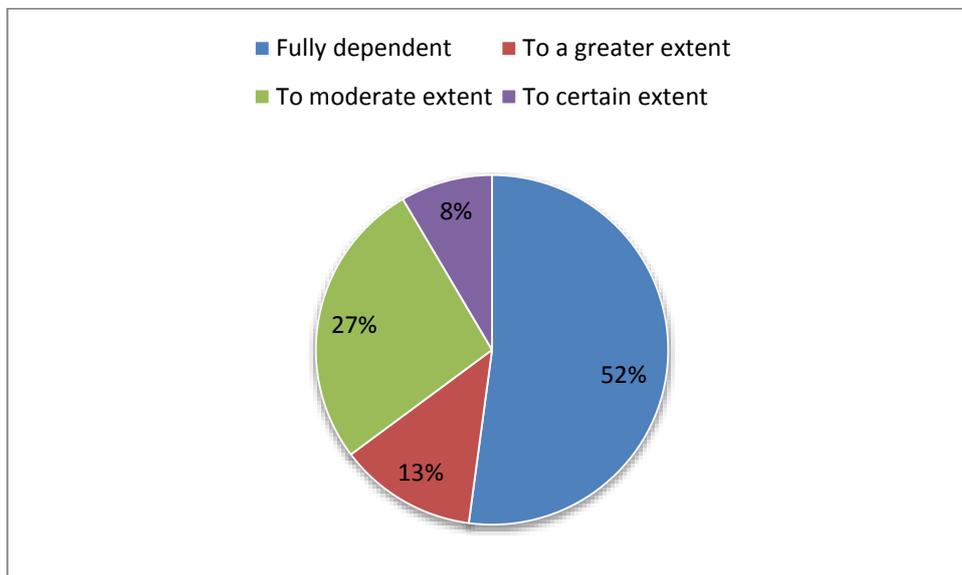
The above table No. 13 shows 76% of the respondents get support from the society and 24% do not get any support from the society.

Figure No.-05 Help from family members



The above figure No.05 shows 73% of the respondents get help from their family members mostly in household works, 12% in looking after the children, 8% in weaving and 7% in other work.

Figure No.-06 Dependence of family member on the respondents' income



The above figure No. 06 shows 52% of the respondent's family is fully dependent on the respondents' income, 27% of the respondent's family to a moderate extent, 13% of the respondent's family is dependent up to greater extent, and 8 % of the respondent's family is dependent to a certain extent.

Table No.-14 Employment in shaping the self-esteem of women in society

Improvement in self-esteem	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	63	89%
No	8	11%
Total	71	100%

It is clear from the above table No. 14 that majority 89% of the respondents agrees to the point that employment helps them to shape their self-esteem while 11% of the respondents disagreed.

Table No.-15 Society against women employment

Society against women employment	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	9	13%
No	62	87%
Total	71	100%

The above data reveals that 87% of the respondents stated there is no one in the society who is against women working, while 13% of the respondents said there are some people who are against it.

4. CONCLUSION

The present study uncovers that the respondents have turned out to be financially autonomous subsequent to taking up the entrepreneurship. Presently, these women are assuming liability to give legitimate instruction to their kids. In spite of the fact that they have begun acquiring through entrepreneurship despite everything, they confront money related limitation as they do not have capital. Less sparing possible as all the income are spent in youngster training and other family unit use because of this reason they cannot put more in the business. Financial strengthening is accomplished in the wake of beginning enterprise and furthermore, the basic leadership control in the family problems and recommending that there ought to be modest credit offices and information about various sorts of entrepreneurship development that are important for the women with the goal that they are urged to enter into entrepreneurship. The Government and NGOs should approach with awareness programs especially for women about entrepreneurship among the less instructed women. Introduction of Special training programs is required for those representatives and officers who should help women entrepreneurs. The Government should step up with regards to sort out substantial quantities of agreeable social orders of women entrepreneurs.

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