



A Study On Socio-Economic Conditions Of Women Entrepreneurs With Special Reference To Kalaburagi And Bidar Districts

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Abstract

Women entrepreneurship has emerged as an essential force of economic development, promoting innovation, employment generation, and social empowerment. However, socio-economic conditions significantly influence entrepreneurial performance and sustainability, especially in developing regions. The present study examines the socio-economic characteristics of women entrepreneurs in the Kalaburagi and Bidar districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region using primary data collected through structured questionnaires. The study focuses on demographic profiles, enterprise characteristics, support systems, and economic conditions that shape women's entrepreneurial experiences. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize responses from 50 women entrepreneurs. The findings indicate that majority of the respondents belong to the working-age group, operate micro and small enterprises, come from low to middle-income households, and face infrastructural, financial, and technological challenges. The study concludes with suggestions for policy interventions aimed at enhancing entrepreneurial ecosystems in backward regions.

Keywords: Women entrepreneurs, Socio-economic conditions, technology, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Kalyana Karnataka.

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in economic development through job creation, wealth generation, innovation, and social transformation. In recent years, women entrepreneurship has gained substantial visibility in India due to increasing awareness, educational advancement, and supportive institutional interventions. Despite these improvements, women entrepreneurs continue to face constraints arising from socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, limited access to finance, and inadequate market linkages.

The Kalyana Karnataka region, formerly known as the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, is socio-economically backward compared to other parts of Karnataka. It consists of districts such as Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary, and Vijayanagara. Women entrepreneurship in these districts is shaped by factors

like low income, inadequate infrastructure, and restricted access to institutional support. Therefore, examining the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneurs in this region becomes essential.

2. Review of Literature

Scholars globally acknowledge the socio-economic significance of women entrepreneurship. Studies indicate that women entrepreneurs contribute to family welfare and local economies but face constraints in financial access, market participation, and skill enhancement. In India, socio-cultural expectations, risk perceptions, mobility restrictions, education level, and family responsibilities influence entrepreneurial participation. Studies specific to Karnataka highlight infrastructural bottlenecks and institutional gaps as major barriers. However, limited empirical studies focus on the Kalyana Karnataka region, creating a research gap addressed by this study.

3. Research Gap & Rationale

Existing literature focuses on national and state-level entrepreneurial conditions, but minimal empirical studies examine socio-economic realities of women entrepreneurs in Kalaburagi and Bidar districts. This study fills this gap by using primary data to analyze demographic, social, and economic conditions influencing women entrepreneurship in a backward region.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To study the demographic profile of women entrepreneurs in Kalaburagi and Bidar districts.
2. To examine the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneurs in the study region.
3. To identify enterprise-related characteristics such as income levels, investment patterns, and registration status.

5. Research Methodology

- **Nature of Study:** Descriptive, empirical
- **Study Area:** Kalaburagi and Bidar districts
- **Population:** Women owning or managing enterprises
- **Sample Size:** 50 respondents
- **Sampling Technique:** Convenience sampling
- **Data Collection:** Structured questionnaire (Google Form + direct responses)
- **Data Type:** Primary data
- **Analysis Technique:** Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages)

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

6.1 Demographic Profile

Based on primary data of 50 respondents, demographic distribution is as follows:

6.1.1 Age

Age group	Frequency
30-45 years	29
45-55 years	15
Less than 30 years	4
55 years	2

Interpretation:

Majority (58%) are aged 30–45, indicating women enter entrepreneurship after gaining maturity and family stability.

6.1.2 Marital Status

Status	Frequency
Married	37
Widowed	7
Single	5
Divorced/separated	1

Interpretation:

72% are married, which reflects entrepreneurship as a supplementary economic activity supporting family income.

6.1.3 Location

Location	Frequency
Rural	25
Urban	18
Semi-urban	7

Interpretation:

Half (50%) operate in rural areas, showing rising rural entrepreneurship among women.

6.1.4 Education Level

Education	Frequency
Secondary	15
Graduate	14
Primary	9
postgraduate	6
No formal schooling	6

Interpretation:

54% have completed secondary or higher education, aiding skill-based entrepreneurship.

6.2 Economic & Enterprise Characteristics**6.2.1 Annual Family Income**

Income	Frequency
₹1,00,001 – ₹3,00,000	28
Less than ₹1,00,000	16
₹3,00,001 – ₹6,00,000	4
₹6,00,001 – ₹10,00,000	2

Interpretation:

54% fall in the lower-middle-income group, indicating financial constraints.

6.2.2 Monthly Enterprise Income

Income	Frequency
₹50,001 – ₹1,00,000	14
₹25,001 – ₹50,000	11
₹10,001 – ₹25,000	11
>₹1,00,000	8
<₹10,000	6

Interpretation:

Most enterprises are micro-scale with modest monthly income levels

6.2.3 Type of Industry

Major categories included:

- Manufacturing
- Services
- Trading
- Handicrafts
- Agribusiness

Interpretation:

Women engage in low-entry-barrier sectors requiring limited capital and local market access.

6.2.4 Registration Status

Status	Frequency
MSME/Udyam Registered	27
Not Registered	20
Shops & Establishments Act	3

Interpretation:

52% formal registration indicates improving institutional linkage.

7. Major Findings

1. Women entrepreneurs in Kalaburagi & Bidar are predominantly rural and lower-middle income.
2. Education levels support entrepreneurial capability but lack specialized skill training.
3. Enterprises are mostly micro-scale with income between ₹10,000–₹1,00,000 per month.
4. Formal registration is gradually increasing but 40% remain informal.
5. Socio-economic motivations include supplementing family income, financial security, and self-employment.

6. Challenges include:

- Limited market exposure
- Poor infrastructure
- Low institutional awareness
- Financial dependence on family income

8. Suggestions

- Strengthen MSME training programs for women
- Expand financial literacy and credit accessibility
- Improve digital & market linkages through exhibitions and e-commerce
- Promote rural entrepreneurial clusters in handicrafts, agribusiness, and services
- Encourage SHG–entrepreneurship transitions through subsidies and mentorship

9. Conclusion

Women entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi and Bidar districts is growing but constrained by socio-economic and infrastructural challenges. With appropriate policy interventions, skill development, financing mechanisms, and institutional support, women-owned enterprises can significantly contribute to regional socio-economic development.

References

- Government reports, MSME documents
- Previous empirical studies on women entrepreneurship
- Journals on socio-economic development
- Books on entrepreneurial studies

Annexure

- Questionnaire used
- Primary data sheets