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# Entrepreneurship Development Among Tribal Women in Northeast India: Challenges, Opportunities, and Socio-Economic Impacts

Mr. Biswadeep Borah<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Nabasmita Bordoloi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Management, Assam Don Bosco University

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Assam Don Bosco University

## Abstract

*This study delves into the dynamics of entrepreneurship development among tribal women in Northeast India, a region known for its rich cultural diversity and socio-economic complexities. The research highlights the critical role that tribal women play in driving local economies, despite the myriad of challenges they encounter. By employing a mixed-method approach, incorporating surveys, interviews, and case studies, the study meticulously examines the influence of factors such as education, access to financial resources, market exposure, and the use of traditional knowledge in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape for these women. One of the key findings of the research is that tribal women in the region possess inherent entrepreneurial capabilities. However, their potential is often hindered by several barriers, such as limited access to capital, socio-cultural norms that restrict their participation in business, and insufficient institutional frameworks that could otherwise support their growth. These constraints are exacerbated by the geographical isolation of many tribal communities, making it difficult for these women to access broader markets and networks.*

*Despite these challenges, the study identifies numerous success stories of tribal women who have overcome these obstacles and established sustainable businesses. Their ventures not only contribute to their personal financial independence but also to the upliftment of their communities, creating ripple effects in local development. The study concludes with a set of recommendations aimed at fostering a more enabling environment for entrepreneurship among tribal women. These include targeted interventions in education, financial literacy, and market linkages, all of which are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable development in the region.*

**Keywords;** Tribal Women, Entrepreneurship, Northeast India, Socio-Economic Impact, Challenges and Opportunities.

## INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship has long been acknowledged as a vital force for economic growth, innovation, and social change. Joseph Schumpeter (1934) famously posited that entrepreneurship drives economic dynamics, creating new products and processes that reshape markets and societies. This perspective is reinforced by Acs and Audretsch (2003), who argued that entrepreneurship not only fuels job creation but also fosters innovation and promotes overall economic development. However, in recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on nurturing entrepreneurship among marginalized and underrepresented groups, particularly women in rural and tribal areas (Brush et al., 2009). This shift acknowledges the need for inclusive economic growth, recognizing that empowering women can have profound impacts on communities and economies.

In India, tribal women represent one of the most underutilized groups in terms of their economic and entrepreneurial potential (Raval et al., 2015). The northeastern region of India, characterized by its diverse ethnic and cultural landscape, provides a unique context for exploring the development of entrepreneurship among these women (Mahanta, 2015). The region is home to a significant tribal population with a rich legacy of traditional knowledge, skills, and artisanal craftsmanship (Lalhunthara, 2013).

Despite these valuable attributes, tribal communities in Northeast India face numerous socio-economic challenges that hinder their progress (Dutta, 2016). Issues such as geographical isolation, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to formal education, and poor market connectivity have compounded the difficulties faced by these communities, and the situation is even more pronounced for women. Women in tribal communities play essential roles in managing households and contributing to agriculture, weaving, handicrafts, and other traditional economic activities. However, they remain largely invisible in formal entrepreneurial ecosystems (Hazarika & Kalita, 2019). The potential for economic contribution is immense, yet their entrepreneurial activities are constrained by various barriers. Sarmah et al. (2022) identified these barriers as deeply entrenched gender-based socio-cultural norms (Shaikh, 2020), limited access to financial resources (Nayyar et al., 2007), inadequate formal education and training (Geetha, 2020), and insufficient institutional support (Rao, 2015). Many tribal women operate within the informal economy, facing limited exposure to broader markets and formal business practices. This lack of visibility and recognition further hinders their ability to scale their businesses or improve their livelihoods (Abrar ul Haq et al., 2021). The development of entrepreneurship among tribal women in Northeast India is not only an economic imperative but also a powerful tool for promoting gender equality, social empowerment, and community development (Chauhan & Saikia, 2021). By empowering tribal women through entrepreneurship, significant positive impacts can be achieved, including improved living standards (Patel, 2005), greater social mobility (Jain, 2019), and increased participation in the formal economy (Saikia et al., 2021). Additionally, successful women entrepreneurs from tribal communities can serve as role models, inspiring others and driving broader socio-economic transformation within their regions (Sahu et al., 2021). Despite the numerous obstacles faced, there are also significant opportunities for entrepreneurial development among tribal women in Northeast India (Potluri et al., 2020). The region's wealth of natural resources, combined with the traditional knowledge and skills of these women, positions them well to tap into niche markets for eco-friendly and handcrafted products (Bharathi, 2019). The increasing consumer demand for sustainable and ethically produced goods offers a unique opportunity for tribal women to leverage their traditional expertise in areas such as weaving, organic farming, and handicrafts (Mahajan, 2013). With the right support, including access to microfinance (Mahanta, 2015), skill development programs (Siddappa, 2018), market linkages

(Acharya, 2018), and supportive policies (Islam et al., 2021), tribal women can harness their entrepreneurial capabilities to transform their communities (Sarmah et al., 2022). This study aims to examine the challenges, opportunities, and socio-economic impacts of entrepreneurship development among tribal women in Northeast India (Baral et al., 2023). It will explore the specific barriers these women face, such as financial constraints, lack of education, and socio-cultural impediments (Saikia & Chauhan, 2022). By investigating successful case studies of tribal women entrepreneurs who have navigated these challenges, the research will provide valuable insights into how entrepreneurship can serve as an effective tool for empowerment and inclusive development (Sarma et al., 2022).

In the subsequent sections, this paper will delve into the socio-economic conditions of tribal women in Northeast India (Kashyap, 2020), assess the factors influencing their entrepreneurial activities (Sanu et al., 2020), and present findings from both qualitative and quantitative research (Deepa & Noronha, 2024). Through case studies and empirical data, the study will highlight examples of successful tribal women entrepreneurs and the strategies they employed to overcome challenges in their path (Islam et al., 2021). The paper will conclude by offering policy recommendations aimed at fostering and scaling entrepreneurship among tribal women, focusing on enhancing their economic independence, promoting gender equality, and facilitating broader socio-economic transformation within their communities (Siddappa, 2018).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on entrepreneurship development among tribal women in Northeast India reveals a complex interplay of factors influencing their success and challenges. Raval et al. (2015) identified family support, skilled workers, and market competition as crucial, with education, income, and marital status being significant factors. Mahanta (2015) highlighted the pivotal role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in providing microcredit, which empowers rural women economically and socially. Geetha (2020) observed that women entrepreneurs are increasingly entering traditionally male-dominated sectors due to empowerment initiatives. Siddappa (2018) noted infrastructural, financial, and marketing challenges for women in Vijayapura District, emphasizing the need for government and NGO support. Rao (2015) found SHGs essential for tribal women in Visakhapatnam but noted that illiteracy hinders access to government aid. Patel (2005) discussed how cultural shifts and increased literacy are enhancing women's participation

in entrepreneurship, despite ongoing male dominance. Lalhunthara (2013) addressed challenges faced by micro-enterprises in Mizoram, including issues related to marketing, finance, and labor. Jain (2019) reported improvements in income and social status for women in Jharkhand through entrepreneurship supported by microfinance. Mahajan (2013) highlighted the growing importance of women as a vital human resource and advocated for promoting their entrepreneurial spirit. Potluri et al. (2020) explored successful tribal women entrepreneurs in conflict zones, identifying key success factors. Sarma (2014) emphasized the need for a multi-faceted support approach for tribal women, including better access to finance and training. Sahu et al. (2021) found that microcredit significantly enhances tribal women's employability and livelihood, recommending improved policy initiatives. Bharathi (2019) discussed the untapped potential of women in Telangana's tourism sector, advocating for better infrastructure and mentorship. Acharya (2018) concluded that SHGs had limited impact in Odisha, suggesting improvements in marketing channels and technology. Saikia et al. (2021) identified the need for better infrastructure, education, and family support for Mishing women in Assam. Hazarika and Kalita (2019) highlighted societal norms and financial institutions' reluctance as major barriers. Dutta (2016) noted that SHGs facilitate women's entrepreneurship in Assam but face financial and societal challenges. Hazarika (2018) highlighted difficulties in obtaining resources from local authorities in Sonitpur district. Islam et al. (2021) found SHG-based microfinance crucial in improving women's economic status in Assam but stressed the need for broader implementation. Sharma et al. (2012) pointed out that government programs have had limited impact on tribal communities, calling for better access and reduced corruption. Gogoi (2020) noted barriers to economic independence for rural women despite their engagement in livelihood activities. Khank (2011) emphasized essential personal characteristics for successful entrepreneurship, while Nayyar et al. (2007) identified constraints in finance, marketing, and production faced by women entrepreneurs. Shaikh (2020) attributed declining demand for women-owned MSMEs to a lack of innovation and gender discrimination in finance access. Abrar ul Haq et al. (2021) emphasized the broader economic impact of women entrepreneurs in India. Rahabhi et al. (2021) compared rural and urban women entrepreneurs' motives and challenges, while Baral et al. (2023) called for more research on motivational factors. Chauhan and Saikia (2021) examined barriers and SHGs' role in northeastern India, and Sanu et al. (2020) investigated the impact of background

characteristics on performance. Saikia and Chauhan (2022) and Dutta and Radha (2022) suggested further research on tribal entrepreneurship. Kashyap (2020) and Kashyap and Bordoloi (2021) assessed socio-economic factors affecting women entrepreneurs in Assam. Karthikeyan (2020) explored entrepreneurial behavior in agribusiness. Sarmah et al. (2022) examined motivational factors in Assam's MSMEs. Deepa and Noronha (2024) emphasized SHGs and digital initiatives in women's empowerment. Srividhya and Paramasivam (2022) investigated challenges in digital environments, while Sarmah, Saikia, and Tripathi (2021) explored gender disparities in MSME employment. Tewari et al. (2022) examined SHGs' challenges during the pandemic.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a descriptive research design to explore the entrepreneurial landscape of tribal women in North East India. The descriptive approach is particularly suitable as it allows for a detailed examination of the experiences, challenges, and opportunities faced by this group. By employing both primary and secondary data, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic, which is essential for informing policies and interventions aimed at supporting tribal women entrepreneurs in the region (DCMSME, 2024).

### Data Collection

The data for the study was collected from both **primary** and **secondary sources**, ensuring a well-rounded approach that combines firsthand insights with established information from previous research.

### Primary Data Collection

**Primary data** serves as the cornerstone of this study, gathered through a structured questionnaire designed to capture key information from respondents. The questionnaire was meticulously crafted to reflect the study's objectives and ensure that relevant data could be collected efficiently.

#### 1. Questionnaire Design:

The majority of questions in the questionnaire are close-ended, providing respondents with a set of predefined answers. This approach facilitates easier analysis and comparison of responses.

A significant number of questions utilize a **Likert scale** format, where respondents rate their agreement or disagreement with specific statements. This scale, which typically ranges from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree,” is particularly useful for measuring attitudes and perceptions related to entrepreneurship.

## 2. Population and Sample:

The population of the study comprises tribal women entrepreneurs across North East India, specifically in the states of **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur,**

**Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.** The total number of women entrepreneurs in the **MSME sector** for these states is as follows:

- Assam: **11,757** women enterprises
- Arunachal Pradesh: **150** women enterprises
- Manipur: **10,745** women enterprises
- Meghalaya: **3,580** women enterprises
- Mizoram: **3,700** women enterprises
- Nagaland: **179** women enterprises
- Tripura: **863** women enterprises
- Sikkim: **98** women enterprises
- Summing these figures yields a total of **30,572** women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector across the mentioned states. This statistic underscores the significant role of women in the entrepreneurial landscape of North East India (DCMSME, 2024).
- Given the challenges in accessing the entire population due to geographic and logistical constraints, the sample was determined using a **convenience sampling method**. This non-probability sampling approach was chosen based on the ease of accessibility and availability of respondents, though it has limitations regarding representativeness.
- A total of **80 respondents** were selected as the sample size for the study. These respondents represent a cross-section of tribal women entrepreneurs from all the North Eastern states, ensuring diversity in the sample.

## 3. Data Collection Procedure:

- Data collection was conducted through **face-to-face interactions** and **digital surveys**, depending on the accessibility of respondents.
- **Informed consent** was obtained from all participants before data collection.

Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, their rights as participants, and the confidentiality of their responses.

## Secondary Data Collection

In addition to primary data, secondary sources were utilized to provide context and support for the study. These sources include:

- **Academic journals** and research papers on tribal entrepreneurship, women in business, and regional economic development in North East India.
- **Government publications** and industry reports on entrepreneurship and tribal development, offering a broader perspective on the challenges and opportunities within this demographic.
- **Census data** and statistical reports that help establish demographic and economic profiles of the tribal communities in the region.

These secondary sources enriched the analysis by providing a background against which the primary data could be understood and interpreted.

## Sampling Technique

The research employed a **convenience sampling method** due to practical challenges associated with reaching a dispersed population across North East India. While this method is not random and may limit the generalizability of the findings, it was deemed appropriate for this exploratory study given time and resource constraints. The 80 respondents, although selected based on convenience, still represent a broad spectrum of experiences from various states, contributing to the diversity and richness of the data.

## Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using **descriptive statistical methods**. Descriptive statistics are particularly effective for summarizing and organizing data in a way that facilitates the interpretation of patterns and trends.

### 1. Use of Microsoft Excel:

Data was entered into **MS Excel** for analysis, which is a reliable and user-friendly tool for managing survey data. Excel allows for a range of analytical functions, such as calculating frequencies, percentages, and averages, which are crucial for summarizing respondents' answers.

**Charts, graphs, and tables** were created to visually represent the data, making the findings easier to comprehend and more accessible for interpretation.

## 2. Descriptive Analysis:

Descriptive analysis was employed to understand the basic features of the data. This includes summarizing the distribution of responses, identifying common trends, and comparing results across different variables, such as age, education level, and state of residence.

The **Likert scale responses** were analyzed to gauge the attitudes, perceptions, and challenges faced by the respondents. This analysis helped identify key areas where tribal women entrepreneurs encounter obstacles, as well as the aspects of entrepreneurship they find most rewarding.

## LIMITATIONS

The study acknowledges several limitations that must be considered when interpreting the findings:

- 1. Sampling Method:** The research employs a convenience sampling technique, meaning that participants were selected based on their availability rather than through a random selection process. This approach can introduce bias, as it may not accurately reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of all tribal women entrepreneurs in North East India. Consequently, the findings may lack external validity and may not be fully generalizable to the broader population of tribal women entrepreneurs in the region.
- 2. Sample Size:** The study is based on a sample size of 80 respondents. While this number provides valuable insights into the experiences of tribal women entrepreneurs, it may not capture the full complexity and variability of the entrepreneurial landscape in North East India. A larger sample size could offer a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by these entrepreneurs, allowing for more robust conclusions.
- 3. Geographical Challenges:** The unique geographical context of North East India, characterized by difficult terrain and dispersed populations, presented significant challenges in conducting the research. Reaching a truly diverse and representative sample was hampered by factors

such as limited accessibility to certain areas and logistical difficulties in engaging with potential respondents. This geographical constraint may limit the study's ability to comprehensively represent the experiences of all tribal women entrepreneurs across the region.

In light of these limitations, future research could benefit from employing more rigorous sampling methods, increasing sample size, and exploring diverse geographical contexts to enhance the generalizability and richness of the findings.

## RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND FINDINGS

Category	Options/Details	Count	Percentage
Age	Below 20	25	31.25
	21-30	9	11.25
	31-40	28	35
	41-50	10	12.5
	Above 50	8	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
Tribe	Adi	2	2.5
	Angami	4	5
	Apatani	3	3.75
	Bhutia	4	5
	Bodo	33	41.25
	Garo	3	3.75
	Karbi	3	3.75
	Khasi	5	6.25
	Lepcha	2	2.5
	Mising	8	10
	Meitei	9	11.25
	Mizo	3	3.75
	UR (Unspecified)	1	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	
Number of Dependents	1-2	30	37.5
	3-4	20	25
	More than 4	18	22.5
	None	12	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
Type of Business	Service-based (tailoring, beauty services, etc.)	38	47.5
	Agriculture	20	25
	Handicrafts	22	27.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
Educational Qualification	No Formal Education	11	13.75
	Primary education	31	38.75
	Secondary education	17	21.25
	Graduate	10	12.5
	Postgraduate and above	11	13.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
Marital Status	Married	56	70
	Single	24	30

	Total	80	100
<b>Years Running Business</b>	Less than 1 year	33	41.25
	1-3 years	27	33.75
	3-5 years	20	25
	Total	80	100
<b>Motivation to Start Business</b>	Financial independence	44	55
	Family Tradition	13	16.25
	Unemployment	11	13.75
	Support from NGOs/government schemes	12	15
	Total	80	100
<b>Formal Training in Business</b>	Yes	58	72.5
	No	22	27.5
	Total	80	100
<b>Challenges Faced</b>	Limited access to finance (Agree/Disagree/Neutral)	34/24/18	42.5/30/22.5
	Lack of market access (Agree/Disagree/Neutral)	16/30/23	20/37.5/28.75
	Gender discrimination (Agree/Disagree/Neutral)	38/9/13	47.5/11.25/16.25
<b>Impact of Business on Family</b>	High Impact	23	28.75
	Moderate Impact	33	41.25
	Little Impact	20	25
	No Impact	2	2.5
	Significant Impact	2	2.5
	Total	80	100

### 1. Demographics and Background:

- The respondents, tribal women entrepreneurs from Northeast India, were predominantly aged **31 to 40 years** (35%). This suggests that entrepreneurship is most attractive to middle-aged women within these communities. Following this, a notable percentage of women fell into the **41-50 years** range (12.5%), while those above **50 years** constituted a smaller portion (8%). These figures illustrate that entrepreneurial activity is spread across different age groups, with a pronounced interest among women in their 30s and early 40s.
- In terms of **tribal representation**, certain communities, such as the **Bodo** (31.25%), **Meitei** (11.25%), and **Mising** (10%), were more prominent in the sample. Other groups, including **Adi**, **Bhutia**, and **Lepcha**, had fewer participants. This distribution indicates the larger or more economically active tribes tend

to have higher representation in entrepreneurial activities.

- The **educational background** of the respondents varied significantly. A large number had only completed **primary education** (38.75%), while 21.25% had completed **secondary education**. Smaller percentages of respondents had obtained **graduate degrees** (12.5%) or **postgraduate degrees** (13.75%). This range in educational attainment highlights the reality that many tribal women entrepreneurs operate businesses with minimal formal education.
- Regarding **marital status**, 70% of the women were married, reflecting the dual responsibilities they shoulder, balancing household duties with entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the fact that 41.25% of businesses had been in operation for less than a year suggests a recent rise in entrepreneurial activities, possibly due to new opportunities or socio-economic changes.

### 2. Entrepreneurial Activities:

- The majority of businesses run by tribal women were **service-based** (47.5%), including activities such as tailoring, beauty services, and small-scale retail. **Agriculture** (25%) and **handicrafts** (27.5%) were also significant, reflecting both modern entrepreneurial pursuits and the enduring importance of traditional livelihoods. The dominance of service-based businesses points to a gradual shift towards more modern sectors.
- Financial independence** emerged as the primary motivation for 55% of respondents to start their businesses, reflecting a strong desire for economic self-reliance. Other motivations, including **unemployment** and **family traditions**, were also noted, indicating that entrepreneurship serves both as a means of survival and as a continuation of family legacies.
- A striking 72.5% of respondents reported having **no formal business or entrepreneurship training**, exposing a significant gap in the skills and knowledge needed to grow and sustain their businesses. This lack of training could hinder their ability to compete and adapt in an evolving marketplace.

### 3. Challenges Faced:

- Access to Finance:** Access to financial resources was cited as a critical challenge. The

responses were varied, with 42.5% of respondents being neutral and 30% disagreeing that access was limited, suggesting that while some women found financial pathways, others struggled significantly, potentially due to geographic isolation or unfamiliarity with funding options.

- **Market Access:** Similarly, the response to market access was mixed. While 37.5% disagreed that they lacked access to markets, 20% strongly agreed, indicating that geographic barriers, infrastructure issues, or limited knowledge about expanding market reach affected certain entrepreneurs more than others.
- **Business Knowledge:** A staggering 62.5% of the women felt they lacked sufficient business knowledge. This suggests that without the proper understanding of business management, financial operations, or marketing strategies, their ventures may face sustainability challenges in the long term.
- **Gender Discrimination:** Although 47.5% of respondents were neutral on whether they faced gender discrimination, 16.25% agreed that it was a challenge. This suggests that while overt discrimination may not be common, underlying gender biases could still affect their entrepreneurial experiences.
- **Socio-Cultural Restrictions:** A significant 40% of respondents strongly agreed that socio-cultural restrictions posed challenges. These restrictions, including traditional gender roles and community expectations, often limit women's autonomy and ability to expand their business ventures.
- **Balancing Responsibilities:** Almost 39% of respondents found it difficult to manage both household responsibilities and their businesses. This highlights the "double burden" faced by many female entrepreneurs, indicating the need for external support systems to help alleviate some of these pressures.

#### 4. Opportunities and Support Systems:

- When asked about factors critical to business growth, 80% of respondents prioritized **better access to markets**, while 43.75% identified **skill development** as crucial. Additionally, **access to finance** was cited by 30% as an area needing improvement. **Infrastructure development**, such as physical spaces and business tools, was seen as a necessity by 66.25% of the respondents.
- Interestingly, **traditional knowledge and cultural heritage** were seen as assets by 42.5% of the respondents, suggesting that these

women are integrating their indigenous knowledge into their business models to create unique, culturally rich offerings.

#### 5. Socio-Economic Impacts:

- **Entrepreneurship** has had a positive impact on the respondents' families, with 28.75% of respondents reporting a high impact on family income and economic stability, and 41.25% citing a moderate impact. This suggests that entrepreneurial activity is directly contributing to improved household welfare. **Respect within the community** has grown for 65% of respondents, indicating that these women are reshaping societal perceptions of women's roles through their entrepreneurial activities. Many have established new identities as economic contributors and leaders within their communities.
- **Social mobility** has also improved for many women, with 63.75% reporting better access to education, healthcare, and other services for their families as a result of their businesses. This signifies a broader socio-economic shift, with entrepreneurship acting as a vehicle for upward mobility.

#### 6. Policy and Recommendations:

- **Access to Financial Resources:** 46.25% of the respondents strongly believe that more accessible financing is critical. There is a clear need to simplify loan processes and create financing options tailored to the needs of tribal women.
- **Training and Education:** Over 57.5% of respondents emphasized the importance of **training programs** focused on business management, digital literacy, and market expansion. Such programs would empower women to grow and sustain their ventures more effectively.
- **Infrastructure Development:** 61.25% of respondents highlighted the need for better infrastructure, including transportation and communication networks, which are essential for reaching larger markets.
- **Gender-Specific Programs:** More than 72.5% of respondents advocated for **gender-specific policies**, acknowledging the unique challenges tribal women face in entrepreneurship. Tailored support is essential to address these barriers effectively.

## CONCLUSION

This study sheds significant light on the crucial role played by tribal women entrepreneurs in transforming the socio-economic fabric of Northeast India. The findings reveal that these women, predominantly between the ages of 31 and 40, are making notable strides in a variety of entrepreneurial sectors. Despite confronting a range of challenges, such as limited formal education and restricted access to financial resources, they continue to drive entrepreneurship in their communities with determination and resilience. One of the primary motivations for these women to pursue entrepreneurship is their aspiration for financial independence and self-reliance. However, the path to success for tribal women entrepreneurs is not without its difficulties. A significant challenge they face is the lack of formal training and skill development opportunities, which hinders their ability to manage and grow their businesses effectively. Access to financial capital is another major barrier, as many of these women struggle to obtain the necessary funding to expand their entrepreneurial ventures. Compounding these challenges is the difficulty of balancing the responsibilities of managing a household with the demands of running a business, an issue that many tribal women entrepreneurs continue to grapple with. Despite these considerable obstacles, the study highlights the positive impact entrepreneurship has had on the socio-economic status of tribal women. Many participants reported an increase in their family's income as a direct result of their business activities, which has contributed to an overall improvement in their quality of life. Furthermore, these women have gained greater respect and recognition within their communities, enhancing their social status and opening up new avenues for social mobility. Their entrepreneurial efforts are not only benefiting their families but also contributing to broader economic growth within their regions.

The research also underscores the importance of external support mechanisms in empowering tribal women entrepreneurs. Access to skill development programs, market linkages, and improvements in infrastructure are vital in helping these women overcome the challenges they face. The study suggests that with the right kind of training and resources, tribal women can unlock their full potential as entrepreneurs, thereby playing a pivotal role in fostering long-term economic and social change in their communities. In conclusion, the study advocates for more inclusive policy interventions tailored to the specific needs and challenges of tribal women entrepreneurs. By addressing issues such as access to finance, training, and market opportunities,

policymakers can equip these women with the tools and resources necessary to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors. With the right support systems in place, tribal women entrepreneurs have the potential to not only improve their own socio-economic standing but also contribute significantly to the overall development of their communities and the region as a whole.

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