

Socioeconomic Empowerment of Women Through Apparel-Making Entrepreneurship: A Study on Kudumbashree Women Self-Help Group

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The socioeconomic condition of women is the key for overall growth and development of a country. The economic status of women is now accepted as an indicator of the stage of development. The present paper aims at studying the socioeconomic empowerment of women who are involved in apparel making under a women self-help group program called Kudumbashree of Kerala state government in India. The main objective is to understand the socioeconomic empowerment, the problems faced by women entrepreneurs when they set up their units and to assess the impact of Kudumbashree activities on women entrepreneurs in the apparel sector. A questionnaire-based survey was conducted among the Kudumbashree apparel-making division of women in the Ernakulum district of Kerala. A sample size of 40 apparel-making units involving 120 women was taken. The results show that this program has made a significant positive impact on the socioeconomic empowerment of women in Kerala.

Introduction

The socioeconomic condition of women is the key for overall growth and development of the country. The economic status of women is now accepted as an indicator of the stage of development, and therefore, it becomes imperative for the government to frame policies enhancing the rights, roles and opportunities of women, for their betterment in particular and of the society in general. In developed countries, entrepreneurship has gained attention in the last century. However, in developing countries, it has gained consideration only in recent decades. The social status of women in the society depends upon the part played by them and the attitude of the society towards them. The status of women is intimately connected

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