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DATA ON INDIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: AN ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION SOUGHT THROUGH RTI**BHAVANA RAO****ABSTRACT**

Indian women's entrepreneurial ventures as well as their participation in the economy should be documented through data. It would significantly increase not only the women's income and societal well being, but also it would alleviate poverty. Trade, and more specifically international trade, can expand women's role in the economy, decrease inequality, and improve women's access to skills and education. However keeping a gender-disintegrated data only would give a real picture of women's participation in international trade. This would enable clear policy changes to accommodate women in this field.

Keywords: Women, Entrepreneurs, Data, RTI, Gender Equality, International Trade, Exporter

INTRODUCTION

Women have not been properly representing Indian Exporters for various socio cultural factors. The cultural set up being one and limitations of access to credit and ownership in family properties being another example. "Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth." A lot of women are left out or are not economically empowered. There are both direct and indirect reasons why women are not economically well. Much has been said and little done on this front.

It is therefore pertinent to enquire into the reasons why women are not participating in certain vocations and in particular international trade as an exporter of goods and services. Women owned businesses are very few in number and there is a need to achieve parity on this front on an urgent basis. The first step towards gender mainstreaming in businesses is managing data on women entrepreneurs. The researcher did a study as part of a larger study to find out if the aspect related to managing data of women entrepreneurs is taken care of by the institutions responsible for it.

RESEARCH DESIGN**1. Type of Research**

The Research is Exploratory in nature and employed quantitative methods. The purpose of the study was to find if institutions responsible for holding data are keeping records of gender segmented data. So this part was a quantitative research as part of a larger study which is both quantitative and qualitative.

2. Universe of Study

Institutions of the government of India who train women in business and holding women exporters related data were chosen. The reason why this was chosen is that these are institutions specifically mandated under different schemes and policies of the government to hold gender data. If these institutions fail to hold separate data for all the genders, there is bound to be difficulty in implementing the schemes and thereby improve gender figures, which also effect the participation of women in trade and exports. Not only this, this segregation itself is important to adjudge the skewed ratio of participation of women vis a vis men.

3. Sampling Technique

The researcher visited Ministerial Websites and found and made a list of all 100 institutions responsible for implementing various schemes and then using **systematic** sampling technique, made a list of fifty institutions. So first was **purposive sampling**. For selecting the institutions from the first list a **randomiser** was used to select 50 institutions.

4. Tools Used

Close ended questionnaire was sent to the selected commissions and institutions. The first set of questionnaires was in the form of RTIs for the commissions like Central Tool Design Institute and National Skill Development Agency responsible for training and facilitating women entrepreneurship. These questionnaires had two segments. One segment was common to all institutions and totalled 7 questions. For the SEZs a separate set was framed.

5. Statistical Tools Used

1. SPSS
2. Microsoft EXCEL

6. Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher sought information through RTI from the following for receiving gender disintegrated data on women who are trained or with potential to be trained in the field of entrepreneurship.

RTI replies were received from the following in **TABLE A**.

TABLE A

1.	KVIC
2.	UDAAN
3.	Central institute of hand tools, Jalandhar
4.	Indo German Tool Room, Indore
5.	Central footwear training institute, Agra
6.	Central tool room and training centre, kolkatta
7.	Statistics and Data Bank Division, MSME Ministry
8.	International Cooperation Section, MSME
9.	Development Commissioner, Delhi, MSME
10.	Coir Board Kochi, MSME
11.	Skill Development Section, MSME
12.	EDI Section, MSME
13.	Central institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad
14.	Indo Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur
15.	Central Tool Room, Ludhiana
16.	Entrepreneur Development Scheme, MSME Skill Development Section
17.	Rashriya Mahila Kosh
18.	Electronics Service and Training Center, Nainital, Ministry of MSME
19.	Entrepreneur Development Scheme, MSME Skill Development Section

Replies were also received from SEZs in **TABLE B**:

TABLE B

1.	KASEZ
2.	FALTA SEZ
3.	Vishakhapatnam SEZ
4.	MEPZ SEZ
5.	NEPZ
6.	Kandla SEZ
7.	SEEPZ SEZ

The researcher through the Office of the Development Commissioner(s) sought replies from six SEZs through RTIs. These SEZs are set up by the central government.

She received replies from two state notified SEZs including Vishakhapatnam and Dahej. She is awaiting replies from other state notified SEZs. One Scheme called UDAAN on Women Entrepreneurs was also selected for an RTI to find if the scheme implementors have data segregated gender wise.

Reasons for choosing the above mentioned are various for each. For example, the khadi and village industries commission is India's leading cottage industry commission which trains and facilitates micro industries like textiles, handicrafts, gems and jewellery. The researcher posed the following questions to the commission through an RTI of which the questions are herein asunder. The Skill Development Agencies have to keep data related to those skilled in the specific domains.

ANALYSIS OF DATA RECEIVED

Questions related to women put to all these Institutions were seven. They were:

1. How many women have been trained for setting up businesses?

2. What is the Yearly data on the total number of women trained ?
3. Are there any schemes or concessions for women?
4. How many women are from rural background?
5. How many women are from urban background?
6. What is the total number of exporters in all three genders?
7. What is the yearly data on the total number of women exporters.

Total Questions posed to these institutions = 7

Table 1

Sno	Institution	Questions Answered	Questions Not Answered
1.	Khadi and Village Industries Commission	3	4
2.	Indo Danish Tool Room Jamshedpur	2	5
3.	NER Cell Development Commissioner MSME	0	7
4.	Indo German Tool Room Aurangabad	1	6
5.	Development Commissioner NER cell	0	7
6.	National Small Industries Corporation	5	2
7.	Central Institute Of Hand Tools Jalandhar	5	2
8.	MSME Tool Room Indore	4	2
9.	Central Footwear Training Institute Agra	4	3
10.	Central Tool Room and Training Center Kolkatta	5	2
11.	National Productivity Council(LMCS)	4	3
12.	MSME EDI Section	0	7
13.	Central Institute of Tool Design Hyderabad	0	7
14.	Central Tool Room Ludhiana	0	7
15.	NSIC Okhla	3	4
16.	Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare	0	7
17.	Entrepreneur Development Scheme, MSME Skill Development Section	4	7
18.	Rashritya Mahila Kosh	1	6
19.	Electronics Service and Training Center, Nainital, Ministry of MSME	7	0

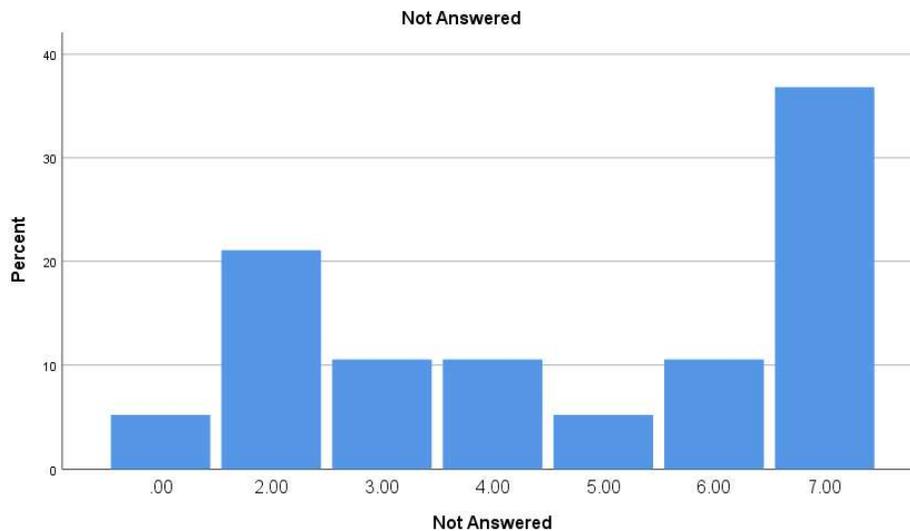
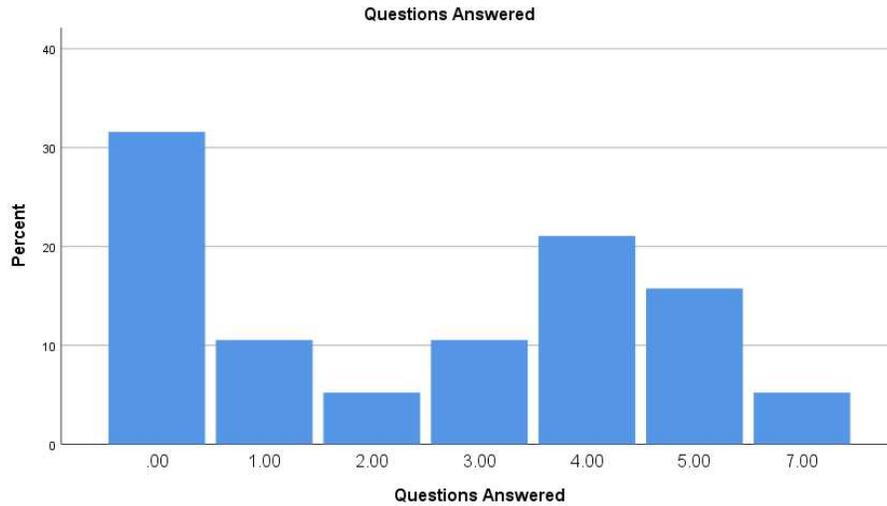
After the collection of data, the following tables were generated.

Frequency Tables

Questions Answered					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	6	31.6	31.6	31.6
	1.00	2	10.5	10.5	42.1
	2.00	1	5.3	5.3	47.4
	3.00	2	10.5	10.5	57.9
	4.00	4	21.1	21.1	78.9
	5.00	3	15.8	15.8	94.7
	7.00	1	5.3	5.3	100.0
	Total	19	100.0	100.0	

Not Answered					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	1	5.3	5.3	5.3

	2.00	4	21.1	21.1	26.3
	3.00	2	10.5	10.5	36.8
	4.00	2	10.5	10.5	47.4
	5.00	1	5.3	5.3	52.6
	6.00	2	10.5	10.5	63.2
	7.00	7	36.8	36.8	100.0
	Total	19	100.0	100.0	



Data on SEZs

Table 2

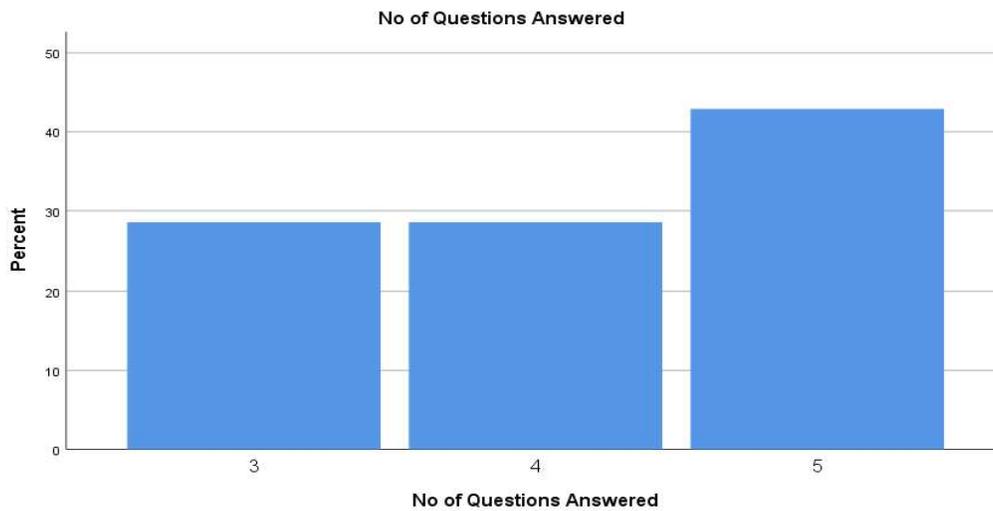
SEZ NAME	No of Questions Answered	Unanswered
KASEZ	4	10
FALTA SEZ	3	11
Vishakhapatnam SEZ	5	9
MEPZ SEZ	4	10
NEPZ	5	9
Kandla SEZ	5	9
SEEPZ SEZ	3	11

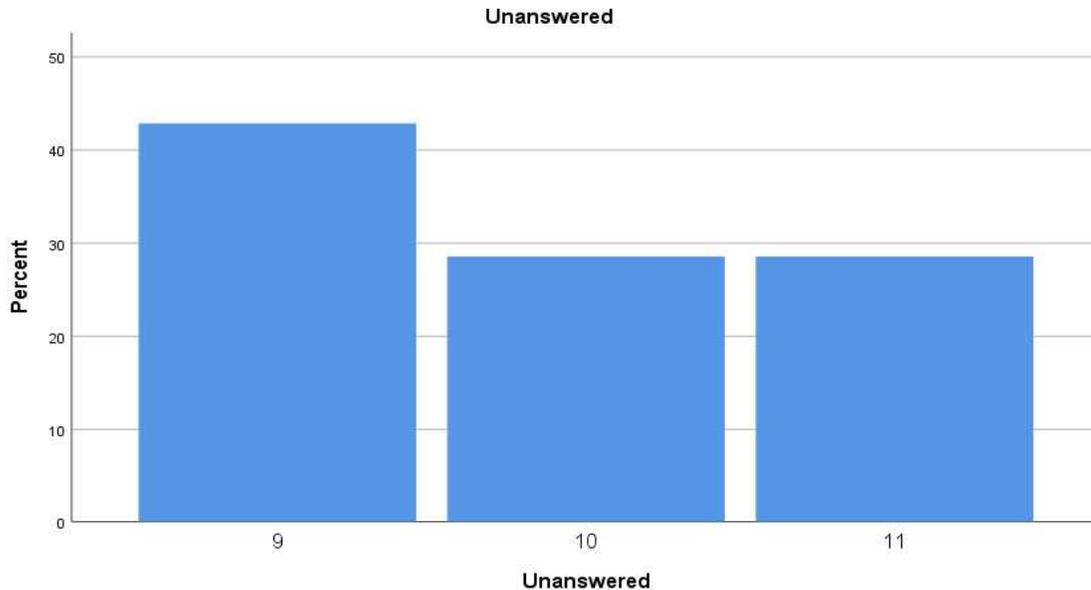
After recording the above table, frequency tables were generated as following.

Frequency Tables

No of Questions Answered					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	3	2	28.6	28.6	28.6
	4	2	28.6	28.6	57.1
	5	3	42.9	42.9	100.0
Total		7	100.0	100.0	

Unanswered					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	9	3	42.9	42.9	42.9
	10	2	28.6	28.6	71.4
	11	2	28.6	28.6	100.0
Total		7	100.0	100.0	





FINDING :

Institutions responsible to hold gender data do not keep a record of gender disintegrated data in India.

CONCLUSION

The following suggestions are made among others presented in a similar study. However, empirical evidences should be collected through field studies to corroborate the effect of the suggestions.

1. Keeping a record of the adult population who are entrepreneurs, by sex, should be a high priority in India.
2. Removing barriers to trade by improving access to finances, skill training, promoting gender based entrepreneurship.
3. Working on the societal barriers like ownership of property in women's name and having a hold on the finances.
4. Partnering with the corporates to facilitate female entrepreneurship, start-ups and keep data.
5. Adding gender provisions in the trade legislations like FEMA and FTA to facilitate women.
6. Adding gender provisions in the clauses including exception clause of the GATT 1994 Agreement.

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