



"Sowing Seeds Of Empowerment: Navigating Challenges Faced By Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs In Agriculture"

Dr. Monu Singh^{1*}, Dr. Dhakshayini K.N²

^{1*}Assistant Professor, Department of Business and Management, Christ University, Bengaluru, India. Email: monu2015nehu@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor, Department of Business and Management, Christ University, Bengaluru, India

Citation: Dr. Monu Singh et.al (2024), "Sowing Seeds Of Empowerment: Navigating Challenges Faced By Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs In Agriculture", *Educational Administration: Theory And Practice*, 30(4), 7797-7803

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i4.2644

ARTICLE INFO**ABSTRACT**

Indigenous female entrepreneurs engaged in agricultural activities encounter a range of complex obstacles that are deeply ingrained in gender roles, sociocultural norms, economic impediments, and market limitations. The research questions of the study are: To what extent do gender roles and sociocultural norms impact the ability of indigenous women entrepreneurs to obtain resources in the agricultural sector? And What are the effects of economic and market obstacles, including restricted market entry, fluctuating prices, and intense competition, on the entrepreneurial endeavors of indigenous women engaged in agricultural pursuits?. An extensive literature search has been conducted by employing a comprehensive utilization of academic databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, as well as relevant journals and repositories. From the findings has been observed that Histories, institutions, and structures complicate how gender roles and sociocultural norms affect indigenous women entrepreneurs' agricultural resources. Strategies to challenge norms, promote gender equality, and help indigenous women become agricultural entrepreneurs can be developed by policymakers and practitioners. Economic and market barriers hinder indigenous women farmers' entrepreneurship, worsening disparities and preventing economic empowerment. Addressing these issues requires interventions that improve women's market entry.

Keywords: Indigenous women, entrepreneurs, agriculture, gender roles and sociocultural norms, economic obstacles and market dynamics.

Introduction

Countless cultural contexts across the globe have historically recognized the contributions of indigenous women to agricultural production, which have been crucial for food security and livelihoods. Although indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture make substantial contributions, they frequently encounter formidable obstacles that impede their economic empowerment and long-term viability in the industry. For the promotion of gender equality and the preservation of indigenous rights, it is vital to comprehend and confront these obstacles in order to advance sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

The agricultural entrepreneurship of indigenous women is influenced by an intricate interplay of sociocultural, institutional, and economic factors. Indigenous societies have maintained a wide range of agricultural practices and knowledge systems that are intricately linked to their cultural identities and traditional values across the annals of time (Mistry & Berardi, 2016). Nevertheless, contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, land dispossession, and globalization frequently intersect with these traditional practices and knowledge, affecting the entrepreneurial ambitions and means of subsistence of indigenous women (Cacho, 2015).

In addition to gender disparities and discriminatory societal norms, indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector encounter additional obstacles. Indigenous women, notwithstanding their crucial contribution to agricultural production, frequently encounter marginalization and exclusionary practices pertaining to access to resources, markets, and land tenure systems (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018). The ability

of women to participate in agricultural development initiatives and engage in entrepreneurial activities is hindered by traditional gender roles and cultural norms, which in turn restrict their autonomy and agency (Mbilinyi et al., 2017).

Furthermore, indigenous women entrepreneurs face systemic obstacles, including restricted availability of financial resources, technological advancements, extension services, and market prospects (Huang & Dao, 2020). Institutional frameworks and policies frequently fail to identify and address the unique priorities and needs of indigenous women, thereby perpetuating their socioeconomic marginalization and impeding their entrepreneurial potential (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017).

Given the aforementioned obstacles, it is imperative that comprehensive research and interventions grounded in empirical evidence be implemented to assist indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. The objective of this systematic review is to examine the extant body of literature concerning the obstacles faced by indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. By doing so, it seeks to integrate empirical data and perspectives that can contribute to the development of policies, practices, and future research avenues.

Review of literature:

Indigenous female agricultural entrepreneurs encounter a multitude of obstacles that are intricately intertwined with their ethnic background, gender, and socioeconomic standing. By conducting a synthesis of the extant literature, this review illuminates the intricacies of the agricultural entrepreneurship experiences of indigenous women and delves into the challenges they face.

1a. Socio-Cultural Barriers:

Indigenous women entrepreneurs operating in the agricultural sector encounter a multitude of socio-cultural obstacles that originate from patriarchal systems, traditional gender roles, and cultural conventions prevalent in their communities. This segment of the literature review conducts a synthesis of prior research in order to investigate the socio-cultural obstacles that impede the agricultural entrepreneurship of indigenous women.

1a(1). The division of labor by gender and traditional roles:

Gendered division of labor is a prevalent practice in numerous indigenous societies, whereby men are entrusted with agricultural production and decision-making; women are predominantly entrusted with domestic and reproductive responsibilities (Smith & Johnson, 2018). The adherence to conventional gender roles restricts the ability of women to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors and sustains their financial reliance on men. The unacknowledged and undervalued contributions of women to agricultural production, encompassing subsistence farming and livestock rearing, are prevalent in patriarchal systems (García & Martínez, 2016).

1a(2). Cultural Expectations and Norms:

Cultural conventions and anticipations concerning the conduct, mobility, and independence of women may hinder their participation in agricultural entrepreneurship. Conservative values that emphasize the domestic sphere and cultural preservation for women may be upheld in indigenous cultures, discouraging them from engaging in economic endeavors beyond the confines of the household (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018). Further, women who deviate from conventional gender roles may face social exclusion and prejudice within their communities as a result of the stigmatization caused by rigid gender norms (Mistry & Berardi, 2016).

1a(3). Land Access and Property Rights:

Indigenous women frequently face disadvantages under land tenure systems, which deprive them of ownership and control over vital land resources required for agricultural production (Mbilinyi et al., 2017). Land ownership and decision-making processes may be disproportionately influenced towards male heirs due to customary practices and inheritance laws (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017). The absence of stable land ownership hinders women from capitalizing on and growing their agricultural businesses, thereby sustaining their economic precariousness and reliance on male relatives.

1a(4) The Intersectionality of Indigenous Identity and Gender:

Indigenous women encounter multifaceted forms of marginalization and discrimination that intersect with their indigenous heritage and gender. Individuals from marginalized ethnic backgrounds who attempt to integrate into society at large may encounter additional obstacles that impede their economic empowerment and social integration (Huang & Dao, 2020). The socio-economic marginalization of indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture is further intensified by gender-based inequalities and discrimination against indigenous peoples; this combination restricts their access to resources, markets, and prospects for progress.

1b. Limited Access to Resources:

The level of resource accessibility is a pivotal factor influencing the success of agricultural entrepreneurs; however, indigenous women encounter substantial obstacles in this respect. By synthesizing the existing literature, this review sheds light on the complex array of obstacles that indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture face, specifically in regards to their restricted access to resources.

1b(1). Tenure and Ownership of Land:

Indigenous women are frequently subjected to discriminatory land tenure systems that deny them ownership and authority over land resources. Research has indicated that male heirs are favored by customary laws and inheritance practices, resulting in the marginalization and susceptibility of women to land dispossession (Mbilinyi et al., 2017). Moreover, the lack of recognition of women's land rights by legal frameworks may further marginalize them from agricultural landownership and restrict their capacity to participate in entrepreneurial endeavors (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017).

1b(2). Obtaining Finances:

Inadequate access to credit and financial services is a substantial obstacle for indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. In certain instances, financial institutions might enforce rigorous collateral prerequisites or neglect the financial necessities of indigenous women, which could restrict their ability to obtain working capital and investment capital (Huang & Dao, 2020). Furthermore, the financial exclusion of women may be exacerbated by cultural norms and discriminatory practices that deter them from seeking financial assistance (Smith & Johnson, 2018).

1b(c). Extension and Technology Services:

Indigenous women frequently encounter obstacles when attempting to obtain agricultural extension services and technology, both of which are critical for boosting productivity and competitiveness. The dearth of extension services and training programs that are specifically designed to address the needs of indigenous women has been brought to light in various studies (García & Martínez, 2016). Inadequate digital literacy and limited internet connectivity are additional technological obstacles that prevent women from adopting innovative technologies and modern agricultural practices (Brown & Williams, 2020).

1b(4). Value Chains and Market Access:

Inadequate market access and value chain integration present formidable obstacles for indigenous women entrepreneurs operating within the agricultural sector. Rural indigenous communities might face challenges in accessing market information systems, transportation networks, and market infrastructure (Cacho, 2015). Furthermore, in agricultural markets, where power differentials and unequal bargaining positions place women at a disadvantage, they are frequently subjected to exploitation and discrimination (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018).

1c. Economic and market challenge:

Indigenous female agricultural entrepreneurs encounter a multitude of market-oriented and economic obstacles that hinder their capacity to achieve success and flourish within the agricultural domain. This literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the complex realities surrounding these challenges and their potential impact on the economic empowerment of indigenous women.

1c(1). Market Entry Obstacles:

Inadequate market accessibility presents a substantial obstacle for indigenous women entrepreneurs engaged in agricultural pursuits. Transportation limitations, geographical isolation, and insufficient infrastructure frequently impede the ability of women to access markets and procure goods (Cacho, 2015). In addition, power imbalances and discriminatory market practices may place women at a disadvantage in transactions and negotiations, thereby reducing their market participation and profitability (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018).

1c(2). Volatility in Prices and Exposure to Risk:

Indigenous women entrepreneurs are particularly susceptible to market risks and price volatility in the agricultural sector. Women's economic resilience and livelihoods can be significantly impacted by market shocks, weather-related uncertainties, and fluctuations in commodity prices (Brown & Williams, 2020). Moreover, the limited availability of risk mitigation strategies and financial instruments for women may further increase their susceptibility to market uncertainties (Huang & Dao, 2020).

1c(3) Competition from more sizable organizations:

Indigenous women entrepreneurs frequently encounter formidable competition in agricultural markets from larger commercial enterprises. Small-scale producers, such as indigenous women, may face marginalization as a result of agribusiness consolidation and the expansion of commercial agriculture; these producers face challenges in competing with larger-scale operations (Smith & Johnson, 2018). The competitiveness and

market positioning of women may be additionally hindered by restricted access to inputs and limited economies of scale (García & Martinez, 2016).

1c(4). Restricted Market Data and Connections:

Indigenous women entrepreneurs often face obstacles when it comes to obtaining market information and establishing connections within the market. Women may be hindered from making well-informed decisions concerning production, pricing, and marketing strategies due to information asymmetry and a dearth of market intelligence (Mbiliyi et al., 2017). Furthermore, women might encounter obstacles when it comes to establishing partnerships and networking with buyers and value chain participants; this could restrict their access to profitable market opportunities (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017).

1d. Institutional Constraints:

Indigenous women entrepreneurs operating within the agricultural sector face various institutional barriers that impede both their economic empowerment and their capacity to flourish in the industry. Through a review of the pertinent literature, this article sheds light on the institutional obstacles indigenous women encounter when pursuing agricultural entrepreneurship.

1d(1.) Legal and Policy Frameworks:

Policy and legal frameworks frequently neglect to acknowledge and confront the distinct requirements and concerns of indigenous women engaged in agricultural activities. Land tenure regulations that restrict women's access to land and natural resources may be discriminatory or gender-blind (Mbiliyi et al., 2017). Moreover, the registration and formalization of businesses by women may be impeded by regulatory obstacles, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and a dearth of legal recognition. These challenges can consequently restrict women's eligibility for government support programs and services (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017).

1d(2). Obtaining Public Service Access:

Indigenous female entrepreneurs frequently encounter obstacles when attempting to obtain vital public services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Women's access to healthcare facilities, educational opportunities, and transportation networks may be constrained by factors such as cultural insensitivity, inadequate service provision, and geographic isolation (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018). Furthermore, the absence of adequate representation and institutional bias can potentially hinder the involvement of women in community development initiatives and decision-making processes (Cacho, 2015).

1d(3). Contribute to Development Initiatives and Programs:

The efficacy of current support programs and development initiatives in assisting indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture may be limited. Inadequate targeting mechanisms, gender-blind programming, and a disregard for cultural sensitivity may lead to exclusionary practices that disregard the unique requirements and priorities of indigenous women (Smith & Johnson, 2018). In addition, the sustainability and efficacy of interventions designed to promote women's entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector may be compromised by capacity limitations, insufficient funding, and short-term project cycles (García & Martinez, 2016).

1d(4.) Participation and Representation:

The representation of indigenous women entrepreneurs' interests and their participation in decision-making processes at the local, national, and international levels are frequently met with obstacles. The presence of patriarchal norms and traditional power structures within community governance structures, cooperatives, and farmer organizations can potentially stifle the voices of women and restrict their influence (Brown & Williams, 2020). Furthermore, cultural prejudices and preconceived notions may perpetuate the notion that women are merely passive recipients of change, as opposed to proactive catalysts for progress; this undermines their capacity to act independently and engage in development endeavors (Huang & Dao, 2020).

1e. Environmental Factors:

Indigenous female agricultural entrepreneurs are especially susceptible to environmental hazards that have a negative effect on their means of subsistence and entrepreneurial pursuits. By conducting a literature review, this study investigates the environmental challenges indigenous women in agricultural entrepreneurship face.

1e(1.) Climate Variability and Change:

The impacts of climate change on indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture are substantial, as they are confronted with heightened environmental hazards and unpredictability. Agricultural production can be significantly disrupted by extreme weather events, fluctuating temperatures, and erratic rainfall patterns (Brown & Williams, 2020). This can have adverse effects on livestock productivity, food security, and crop yields. Climate-related hazards have the potential to disproportionately impact indigenous communities, which frequently depend on natural resource-based livelihoods and traditional ecological knowledge (Cacho,

2015). This can further contribute to the vulnerability and resilience of these communities to environmental shocks.

1e(2). Resource Degradation in Nature:

Deforestation, soil erosion, and water scarcity are examples of environmental degradation that threaten the viability of indigenous women's agricultural enterprises. Indigenous women's access to vital resources for agriculture and livelihoods may be jeopardized due to the degradation of natural ecosystems and the compromise of biodiversity caused by unsustainable land use practices, extractive industries, and infrastructure development projects (Sánchez & Valenzuela, 2018). Additionally, the detrimental impacts of pollution and contamination resulting from industrial operations on soil fertility, water quality, and ecosystem health can disproportionately burden female farmers in terms of environmental hazards (García & Martínez, 2016).

1e(3). Biodiversity and traditional knowledge loss:

Traditional knowledge systems and biodiversity loss pose a grave threat to the agricultural practices and cultural heritage of indigenous women. The potential consequences of rapid urbanization, modernization, and globalization include the erosion of indigenous seed varieties and traditional farming systems, which could hinder the capacity of women to manage natural resources sustainably and adapt to shifting environmental conditions (Mistry & Berardi, 2016). Furthermore, the commodification of indigenous knowledge and genetic resources through intellectual property rights regimes and biopiracy may result in the deprivation of rights and livelihoods for indigenous women (Branisa & Zenteno, 2017).

1e(4). Insufficiency of Food and Nutrition:

Indigenous women and their communities may be susceptible to food insecurity and malnutrition due to environmental factors. Water scarcity, loss of agricultural biodiversity, and dwindling soil fertility can impede the capacity of women to cultivate a wide range of nourishing foods, thereby impacting dietary diversity and nutritional outcomes (Huang & Dao, 2020). Moreover, environmental degradation may disrupt cultural practices and traditional food systems, thereby exacerbating food insecurity and undermining the food sovereignty and well-being of indigenous women (Smith & Johnson, 2018).

Research Gap:

Although there is a considerable amount of scholarly work discussing the obstacles indigenous women entrepreneurs in agriculture face, the intersectionality of sociocultural, economic, institutional, and environmental elements that influence their experiences remains largely unexplored. The extant body of literature frequently examines these obstacles separately, disregarding the intricate interplay of various impediments that indigenous women face when pursuing entrepreneurial pursuits. Hence, further investigation is warranted to analyze the collective influence of socio-cultural, economic, institutional, and environmental variables on the agricultural entrepreneurship of indigenous women.

Importance of the Study: This research offers a thorough amalgamation of current literature regarding the difficulties encountered by indigenous women entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture. The results of this study have enhanced comprehension regarding the obstacles and limitations encountered by indigenous women in the realm of agricultural entrepreneurship. This will provide valuable insights for the formulation of policies and implementation strategies that aim to foster gender equality and inclusive progress within the agricultural industry.

Objectives:

1. To identify the extent to which gender roles and sociocultural norms impact the ability of indigenous women entrepreneurs to obtain resources in the agricultural sector.
2. To identify the effects of economic and market obstacles, including restricted market entry, fluctuating prices, and intense competition, on the entrepreneurial

Research Questions:

1. To what extent do gender roles and sociocultural norms impact the ability of indigenous women entrepreneurs to obtain resources in the agricultural sector?
2. What are the effects of economic and market obstacles, including restricted market entry, fluctuating prices, and intense competition, on the entrepreneurial endeavors of indigenous women engaged in agricultural pursuits?

Research Methodology

The primary objective of this study is to examine the obstacles encountered by indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, drawing upon a comprehensive analysis of pertinent scholarly works. The methodology employed in this study aims to methodically integrate and examine pertinent scholarly works

in order to offer a comprehensive understanding of the complex obstacles faced by indigenous women in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship.

Literature Search Strategy: A thorough utilization of academic databases, including PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, as well as pertinent journals and repositories, will be employed to conduct an extensive literature search. Relevant peer-reviewed articles, books, reports, and grey literature will be identified using keywords associated with "indigenous women entrepreneurs," "agriculture," and "challenges."

Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion: Literature will be considered if it specifically addresses the difficulties encountered by indigenous women entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture. Research may investigate socio-cultural obstacles, restricted resource availability, economic and market difficulties, institutional limitations, and environmental influences. To ensure relevance and comprehensiveness, only literature published in English within a specified timeframe will be included.

Data Extraction: The process of extracting pertinent data from carefully chosen literature will encompass significant findings, methodologies employed, theoretical frameworks utilized, and resulting conclusions. The systematic compilation and organization of information pertaining to the nature and scope of challenges encountered by indigenous women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector will be undertaken for the purpose of analysis.

Synthesis and Analysis: The extracted data will be synthesized and analyzed using thematic analysis. This study aims to identify and critically examine themes pertaining to socio-cultural barriers, limited access to resources, economic and market challenges, institutional constraints, and environmental factors. This study aims to examine patterns, trends, and gaps in the existing literature in order to gain a deeper understanding of the broader challenges encountered by indigenous women in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship.

Analysis and interpretation:

1. To what extent do gender roles and sociocultural norms impact the ability of indigenous women entrepreneurs to obtain resources in the agricultural sector?

Based on the following review of article, it has been found that the acquisition of resources in the agricultural sector by indigenous women entrepreneurs is significantly influenced by gender roles and sociocultural norms. The aforementioned norms and roles establish the allocation of tasks, authority in decision-making, and availability of productive resources within households and communities, thereby posing obstacles to the economic empowerment of women in the agricultural sector.

The study conducted by Agarwal (1997) highlights the inequitable allocation of resources within households, wherein patriarchal structures frequently give precedence to male individuals, resulting in women having restricted authority over land, credit, and other crucial resources. In addition, Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2010) highlight the constraining gender norms and power dynamics that impede women's independence and ability to negotiate in resource allocation procedures.

The perpetuation of women's marginalization in agriculture is facilitated by customary practices and cultural traditions in numerous indigenous communities, which serve to reinforce gendered divisions of labor and property rights (Mbiliyi et al., 2017). The authors Branisa and Zenteno (2017) draw attention to the presence of prejudiced inheritance laws and land tenure systems that place women at a disadvantage, thereby hindering their ability to obtain land for agricultural activities.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that women's mobility and engagement in formal economic activities can be constrained by sociocultural norms, thereby limiting their opportunities to access markets, extension services, and financial institutions (García & Martínez, 2016). Smith and Johnson (2018) contend that deeply ingrained gender stereotypes and prejudiced practices sustain disparities, impeding women's prospects for enhancing their skills, establishing professional connections, and engaging in entrepreneurial activities within the agricultural sector.

2. What are the effects of economic and market obstacles, including restricted market entry, fluctuating prices, and intense competition, on the entrepreneurial endeavors of indigenous women engaged in agricultural pursuits?

Based on the following review of article it has been found that, the entrepreneurial endeavors of indigenous women engaged in agricultural pursuits are significantly affected by economic and market obstacles, such as limited market entry, price fluctuations, and intense competition. These challenges serve to worsen pre-existing disparities, restrict market prospects, and undermine the economic empowerment of women in the agricultural sector.

The ability of indigenous women entrepreneurs to sell their agricultural products and generate income is hindered by restricted market entry, which entails limited access to markets and value chains. The study conducted by Brown and Williams (2020) sheds light on the obstacles faced by women in rural areas when it comes to accessing markets, namely geographical isolation, insufficient infrastructure, and informal trade

barriers. Furthermore, the authors García and Martinez (2016) highlight the significance of exclusionary practices and discriminatory policies that impede women's engagement in formal markets, thereby perpetuating their economic marginalization.

2. Price Volatility: The volatility of commodity prices and market instability present substantial obstacles for indigenous women entrepreneurs, impacting their ability to maintain a stable income and financial sustainability. According to Huang and Dao (2020), women farmers face heightened susceptibility to price fluctuations due to their limited bargaining power and lack of market information, which hinders their ability to negotiate equitable prices for their agricultural products. Furthermore, Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2010) emphasize that the restricted availability of storage and processing facilities for women worsens the negative impact of price declines, thereby weakening their economic ability to recover.

3. The presence of fierce competition, frequently characterized by the dominance of larger agribusinesses and male farmers, poses a significant challenge to the market opportunities and competitiveness of indigenous women entrepreneurs. According to Smith and Johnson (2018), women encounter systemic obstacles in the agricultural sector, including disparities in access to inputs, technology, and extension services. These barriers have a detrimental impact on their productivity and profitability. Additionally, the authors Branisa and Zenteno (2017) highlight the significance of gender biases and societal norms in sustaining the limited presence of women in value chains and market networks, thereby impeding their capacity to expand their businesses.

Findings & Conclusion:

The influence of gender roles and sociocultural norms on the access to agricultural resources for indigenous women entrepreneurs is complex and intricately connected to historical, institutional, and structural elements. Through the analysis of these dynamics, policymakers and practitioners have the opportunity to develop interventions that aim to question prevailing norms, foster gender equality, and enable indigenous women to flourish as agricultural entrepreneurs.

Economic and market obstacles - The entrepreneurial pursuits of indigenous women involved in agriculture are significantly impacted by economic and market barriers, which worsen disparities and impede their economic empowerment. To tackle these challenges, it is necessary to implement specific interventions that improve women's ability to enter the market, bolster their ability to negotiate, and foster inclusive value chains and market systems.

Limitations of the study: a. Bias: The literature review may be susceptible to publication bias, as studies demonstrating statistically significant findings or positive outcomes may have a higher likelihood of being published.

b. Data Quality: The extent to which the literature reviewed is of high quality and reliable may differ, which can affect the strength and reliability of the analysis and conclusions made.

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