

Review of: "Determinants of Women Entrepreneurs' Business Performance: Evidence from Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises in Arba Minch Town, Southern Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study lacks specificity in addressing unique challenges or factors that are distinctively relevant to women in business. Moreover, the investigation into factors such as access to land, tax, finance, and economic elements seems to highlight commonalities that affect both genders similarly. To enhance the depth and significance of the study, a more nuanced exploration of gender-specific dynamics is warranted. Below are key points for consideration:

1. Lack of Gender-Specific Findings:

- The study appears to primarily focus on issues that are generic and not uniquely tied to women entrepreneurs. It is imperative to delve into factors specifically pertinent to women, acknowledging the distinct challenges or advantages they may face in the business landscape.

2. Need for Gender-Responsive Approach:

- A more gender-responsive approach is recommended, tailoring hypotheses and analyses to unearth aspects particularly relevant to women entrepreneurs. This could involve a deeper exploration of gender-specific barriers, opportunities, or strategies, thereby enriching the study's insights.

3. Enhanced Contribution to Gender Literature:

- For a more substantial contribution to the literature on women in business, the study should strive to uncover insights that transcend the common observations in both male and female entrepreneurs. A focused exploration of women's experiences will significantly enhance the study's scholarly impact.

4. Commonality in Business Factors:

- The study seems to emphasize business factors that exhibit commonalities between male and female entrepreneurs. It is essential to spotlight and analyze elements that distinctly shape the experiences of women in the business environment.

5. Need for Gender-Specific Insights since the study targets women specifically:

- Given that the study specifically targets women, there is a critical need to identify and explore factors uniquely

relevant to women in business. Delving into aspects with gender-specific implications will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and successes of women entrepreneurs.

6. Clarification on Gender-Neutral Variables:

- A request for clarification is made regarding the inclusion of certain variables, like access to land, which appear to impact both genders similarly. Considering cultural, marital, and other relevant contextual factors will not only justify the inclusion of these variables but also uncover gender-specific variables that warrant exploration.

7. Suggestions for Gender-Responsive Research:

- A recommendation is made for the study to adopt a more gender-responsive research approach. Refining research questions, hypotheses, and analyses to capture gender-specific nuances will contribute to a more detailed and insightful exploration of women's entrepreneurship.

8. Enhanced Contribution to Gender Literature:

- Emphasizing the unique aspects of women's entrepreneurial journeys is crucial for the paper to make a distinctive contribution to the literature on women in business. This focus will elevate the significance of the study within the broader academic discourse.

9. Encouragement for Further Exploration:

- The authors are encouraged to further explore factors that uniquely affect women in business. Suggesting specific areas for future research will not only enhance the significance of the current study but also contribute to the ongoing scholarly dialogue on women's entrepreneurship.

Additional Points for Exploration:

Beyond the economic and business factors, there is a crucial need to delve into the intricate dynamics of women's experiences in entrepreneurship, especially in contexts characterized by sex corruption, power dominance, home abuse, lack of decision-making autonomy, male monopoly, lack of freedom, and physical security risks. These aspects pose unique challenges to women entrepreneurs and merit in-depth exploration. So it is my view to further enhance the study's relevance and contribution to women, by considering to restructure the framework through following points:

1. Sex Corruption and Power Dominance:

- Investigate how instances of sex corruption and power dominance within the business environment affect women entrepreneurs. Explore power dynamics, potential exploitation, and the impact on decision-making and professional growth.

2. Home Abuse and Lack of Decision-Making Autonomy:

- Examine the intersection of home abuse and its influence on women entrepreneurs' decision-making autonomy.

Explore how domestic circumstances may impede or empower women in their business pursuits.

3. **Male Monopoly and Lack of Freedom:**

- Analyze the challenges posed by male monopoly within specific sectors or industries. Explore how this monopoly limits women's freedom to operate, innovate, and compete on an equal footing.

4. **Security Risks and Physical Well-being:**

- Investigate the security risks women entrepreneurs face in both public and private spheres. Consider how these risks impact their physical well-being and overall ability to conduct business safely eg during nights.

5. **Cultural and Societal Norms:**

- Explore how deeply ingrained cultural and societal norms contribute to challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. Investigate the ways in which traditional expectations may hinder their professional progress.

6. **Intersectionality:**

- Consider the intersectionality of challenges, acknowledging that women entrepreneurs may face compounded difficulties due to factors such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other dimensions of identity.

7. **Legal and Institutional Barriers:**

- Examine how existing legal and institutional frameworks either empower or hinder women entrepreneurs. Investigate areas where reforms or interventions may be needed to create a more equitable business environment.

8. **Access to Support Systems:**

- Explore the availability and effectiveness of support systems for women entrepreneurs, including mentorship programs, networking opportunities, and community initiatives that address their unique challenges.

9. **Psychosocial Well-being:**

- Investigate the psychosocial well-being of women entrepreneurs, considering factors such as stress, mental health, and the emotional toll of navigating a business landscape marked by gender-specific challenges.

10. **Impact on Business Performance:**

- Assess how the identified challenges impact the overall business performance of women entrepreneurs. Understand the interconnected nature of these challenges and their implications for long-term success.

By exploring these nuanced dimensions, the study has the potential to make a more comprehensive and impactful contribution to the understanding of women's entrepreneurship, shedding light on the multifaceted challenges they encounter beyond traditional economic factors.

