

# CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOMALIA: AN EMPIRICAL SURVEY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF SOMALI WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN BANAADIR REGION

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## ABSTRACT

*Women business owners are an important and growing force in the local economy, both in terms of the number of participants and the gross revenues and employment they represent. Somali Women owned businesses are highly increasing in the economies of almost all regions in the country. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. In this study, the researcher studied socio-economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir region at three section Business, Jewelers sellers, Cloth sellers and Gasoline sellers in Bakaara market, Mogadishu, Somalia with the three major objectives to investigate the socio economic condition of women entrepreneurs, to explore the conditions of women entrepreneurs in family including their economic activities and to identify to some extent women entrepreneurs has a role position in the family Using purposive sampling, the researchers selected 110 entrepreneurs. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency; the researchers revealed that the women entrepreneurs contributed economic and social and changed their role towards the family and the community in Banaadir region, The study which was to identify to some extent women entrepreneurs has a role position in the family is identified that women entrepreneurs has great position in their family decisions according to the analysis of the research and The study explained to explore the conditions of women entrepreneurs in family including their economic activities is showed a positive economic contribution in their family, means they have made improvements towards economic growth of their family.*

**Keywords:** Changing role, Women entrepreneur, and Socio-economic contribution, Banaadir.

## INTRODUCTION

In every region of the world, more and more women are seeking economic opportunity and self-determination through enterprise creation. The growth of women's entrepreneurship is frequently cited on an anecdotal basis, and is increasingly covered and commented upon in the business media (The Economist, 2006). By most accounts, looking at a variety of surveys and statistical sources, it appears that between one-quarter and one-third of the formal sector businesses worldwide are owned and operated by women; the share of informal enterprises owned by women is even greater (United Nations, 2000). Furthermore, in many African countries, women have fewer inheritance rights either by law or obstacles preventing women from realizing their economic potentials as well as constraining on economic development (Ong, 2008:1). Downing and Daniels (1992:1) argue that growth-oriented donors have promoted investment strategies in Africa that typically exclude women, due to the commonly held view that woman enterprises are concentrated in dynamic sub-sectors that have little potential for contributing to the growth of the economy.

The traditional-bound civilian regime (1960-1969) did not make women's rights a high priority. The post-colonial administration men held all top political and administrative posts. Although women's right to vote or stand for elections were guaranteed in the constitution, women were de facto able only to vote for men and did not run for office.

However, during the Barre regime the rights of Somali women gained wider public acknowledgement. The government introduced a number of laws that brought about significant changes in women's

status. As a consequence of this legislation, as well as increasing access to education, Somali women were able, in the 1970, and 1980s, to break down some of the socio-political barriers that inhibited their advancement. New opportunities opened up for women in both private and public sector (CRD, 2004).

The theory that will guide this study recognized by Schumpeter (1934) in *“The Theory of Economic Development”* where he emphasizes the role of the entrepreneur as a prime contributor of economic development, achieved through innovation, he further describes the role played by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro firms as the engine of economic growth, where they make up the largest percentage of firms in the economic activity. The OECD (2003) report also defines the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the word entrepreneurship, “As means of generating jobs and raising incomes, increasing rates of enterprise creation is an almost universal concern among local authorities. Along with efforts to attract investment, stimulating entrepreneurship is one of the two pillars of most local and regional development strategies.”

The word entrepreneurship appeared first in French. In the early 16th century men engaged in leading Military expeditions were referred as entrepreneur. Around 17th century the term was used for architects and contractors of public works. Later it was coined by Mark Casson (1991) as ‘an entrepreneur is a person, who specializes in taking judgmental decisions about the coordination of scarce resources’. Entrepreneur is an innovative agent, who introduces something new into the economy – a new method of production or a new product, a new source of material or new markets. An entrepreneur’s function is to revolutionize the pattern of production by exploiting an invention or introducing an untried technological possibility for producing a new commodity (Schumpeter, 1971).

Entrepreneurship is neither a science nor an art. It is a practice. It has a knowledge base. Knowledge in entrepreneurship is a means to an end. Indeed, what constitutes knowledge in practice is largely defined by the ends, that is, by the practice (Drucker, 1986). The definition adopted for this study is that: Entrepreneurship is a process undertaken by an entrepreneur to augment his business interest. Basically, it is an exercise involving innovation and creativity that will go towards establishing the enterprise. It is the propensity of mind to take calculated risks with confidence to achieve a pre-determined business or industrial objectives (Edvinraj, 2005).

Thus, entrepreneurship is a purposeful activity indulged in initiating and maintaining economic activities for the production and distribution of wealth. It has been recognized as an essential ingredient of economic development and an integral part of socio-economic transformation.

A small but significant number of women rose to executive positions in the government and to midlevel ranks within the armed forces. But the most dramatic change occurred in the number of women employed as clerks, teachers, nurses and veterinarians. Somali women had very few employment options, usually secretaries and nursing, when women married they were typically encouraged to retire and become a house wife and raise children they might have.

During the civil war after the central government collapsed the Somali women took the former positions of men as family bread winners, showing them that they could work as well as men in some cases.

Women of today are in several ways different from the women of yester years, they seek social and economic independence and are prepared to take risk for the same, and they have come out of the traditional boundaries of cooking, child bearing and serving within the family limits. From the role of dependence on father (childhood), husband and son (old age), they have taken up administrative and managerial roles where policy formation and decision making are crucial. Despite the importance of women, little research has been conducted on women entrepreneurship in Somalia.

The prolonged civil war and insecurity following the collapse of the Somali state in 1991 have caused immense human suffering and material losses across the south-central regions, leaving physical and emotional scars on all aspects of Somali society. In addition to death and destruction, the violent conflict has resulted in widespread displacement of people both within and beyond the country’s borders. Family relationships have been disrupted, traditional social values eroded, and roles and responsibilities within the family have undergone major fundamental changes (CRD/WSP, 2004),

In Somali society, women are traditionally seen as the backbone of the family, the primary caregiver looking after the household and children, while the man protects and provides for the family and acts as its decision maker and representative in the community. However, the lengthy civil conflict has eroded these traditional roles, forcing people to seek the protection of their clans. Men and boys were forced to fight or leave their home areas to seek work to provide income for their families; some, faced with an inability to protect or support their families, even abandon them. The serious stresses placed upon the family system during this period led to an increased number of divorces, women-headed households, and abandoned children (a phenomenon that was rare in Somali society prior to the collapse of the state).

The well-documented emergence of women as the primary economic providers in the post-war period is not limited to women-headed households. Many married women have also become the main source of income for their households due to high unemployment among men. Generally, men are unwilling or unable to engage in low income opportunities, such as petty trade in local markets. Male unemployment is also compounded by the widespread chewing of khat, a mildly intoxicating plant.

A variety of studies have found that, across Somalia, women now run 80% of petty trade (CRD, 2004) and small businesses, as well as running their own households. It is sometimes argued that this dramatic socio-economic shift demonstrates an enhanced position for women although there is little evidence that this has translated into changes either in their economic status or their decision-making powers outside the family. This research will conduct to identify the Social and Economic Contribution of these women entrepreneurs.

This research will conduct to identify the Social and Economic Contribution of these women entrepreneurs. The major objective of this study is to have an overview of the existing socio-economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir region. The main research question of this study is whether women entrepreneurship has any socio-economic impact or not. The two sub-questions are (1) to what extent women entrepreneurship has a role in changing women's position in the family and (2) to what extent women entrepreneurship has a role in economic development.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Economic Contribution of Women Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship is a purposeful activity indulged in initiating and maintaining economic activities for the production and distribution of wealth. It has been recognized as an essential ingredient of economic development and an integral part of socioeconomic transformation.

As a part of this economic and social development it is clear that the role of women entrepreneurs is important. But there is dearth of research on women entrepreneurs to get clearer insight about them. (Holmquist1997) points out that empirical studies of women entrepreneurs and the development of theories about women entrepreneurs is a neglected subject in descriptive & perspective research work. (Baker ET al.1997) stated that surveys with focus on women entrepreneur still account for only 6-8 percent of international research into entrepreneurship. According to (Heffernan 2006), women business owners typically possess the characteristics experts think are needed in 21st-century businesses: combining "discipline, focus, detachment, and systematic thinking with playfulness, empathy, and design". Heffernan found that many women started their own businesses after working for corporations that didn't respect or listen to them. In charge of their own companies, their abilities to assert their values, nurture their employees and customers, "orchestrate" rather than "command and control," emphasize collaboration rather than competition, stay open to change, ask for help, learn from mistakes and make time for family became a formula for success (Heffernan, 2006).

Heffernan (2007) explains how women entrepreneurs are altering the course and the culture of business today and states that between 1997 and 2004, privately held, woman-owned businesses grew at three times the rate of all U.S. privately held firms, and woman-owned businesses created jobs at twice the rate of all other firms.

The author thinks that what is really unique about women is the huge emphasis that they place on values, meaning that women may think about what values their company will stand for even before

they know what the company will do. It is remarkable how much time, attention, and resources that they devote to culture and how broadly they define that, to say culture will include not just employees, but customers and the broader community. Also, women entrepreneurs are fantastically good at improvisation. That is not to say that they are bad planners, but that they are comfortable with the degree of improvisation that entrepreneurship demands. Additionally, women are more likely to ask for help and build a broad network of advisers.

They understand that a company is smarter if it has access to smart people. There is less of a Solo concept of leadership. Fundamentally, women lead by orchestration, not by domination. They absolutely understand building value by developing people. For most men, their mental model of a company is a machine. The same author states that for every woman she worked with or interviewed, their mental model is a living organism. It means attention to culture is mission-critical, not peripheral. For example, that woman can't afford health benefits or child care. They defy clichés and go much further in looking after people, their employees, customers, and the community than the average business does.

For these women, power is about orchestration, being the conductor of the symphony, the person who doesn't make noise but pulls it all together. It is very different from the military model of leadership of issuing orders. Power in women-owned business comes from the ability to attract and inspire talent, not having the most talent yourself (Heffernan, 2007).

Mammon (2009) presents his point of view on the importance of self-knowledge and honesty for entrepreneurs in order to achieve success in business. He says that: 'Every skill required to \form a business should be judged on make-or-buy grounds. If you don't have it, outsource it'.

Entrepreneurs must take a full accounting of their strengths and weaknesses before they get started. Outsourcing is the strategic entrepreneur's solution to most problems.

According to a report by The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and The International Finance Corporation (IFC) (2007) female entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been increasing and becoming more visible over the last decade. Women-owned businesses are making activities to economic growth and wealth creation and creating employment opportunities for other women (and men as well) Moreover, economically active women represent a potentially profitable market niche for the financial sector (CAWTAR and IFC, 2007).

### **Social Contribution of Women Entrepreneurs**

Traditionally, women-owned businesses were primarily in the retail and service sectors, but more and more women are moving into the world of technology. A new study by the Kauffman Foundation, Sources of Financing for New Technology Firms: A Comparison by Gender , found fundamental differences between high-tech firms owned by women versus ones owned by men. Women-owned firms generated less revenue and profits, employed fewer people, and were more likely to be home-based than male-owned firms.

In addition, women-owned firms were less likely to have employees or intellectual property assets than their male counterparts and were growing at a slower rate. Women-owned businesses launched with about 70 percent of the capital compared to ones owned by men. As for sources of capital, women used more personal equity while men were more likely to rely on outside equity. Women may choose to retain more control over their businesses (Brusino, 2009).

Reis (2010) argues that the idea that entrepreneurship is a guaranteed path to fame and richness is not true, and shows that building a startup is incredibly hard, stressful, chaotic and more often than not results in failure. So why become an entrepreneur? Bjerke and Hultman (2000) point out that there are three reasons why entrepreneurs, and in particular women, choose this hard path, namely: willingness to enjoy independence; the desire to change the world; and the insistence on creating an organization of lasting value to the organization and all its stakeholders.

Turley (2009) believes that women entrepreneurs in general are patient and resilient by nature, and if they are given the help they need and aspire to, they will likely be planning the seeds of the next major growth companies, despite the recession. Schawbel (2009) states that women entrepreneur's tent to

build their businesses on something they are passionate about and love, working hard enough to make the business successful.

Furthermore, it has been argued that while women entrepreneurs strive to achieve financial profit to enhance their independence and prove their competencies and efficiency, their dedication to social entrepreneurship is quite evident as they feel more socially responsible than their male counterparts (Al-Alak, 2010).

A variety of studies have found that, across Somalia, women now run 80% of petty trade and small businesses, as well as running their own households. It is sometimes argued that this dramatic socio-economic shift demonstrates an enhanced position for women – although there is little evidence that this has translated into changes either in their economic status or their decision-making powers outside the family. Instead, women's increased involvement in trade appears to be a reflection of economic necessity. In most cases, women lack investment capital, own few assets, and earn a subsistence income to support their families through work in harsh conditions and an insecure environment. In south-central Somalia, there are relatively few women owners of wholesale businesses or major corporations, and very few major Somali companies have a woman on their boards. Somalia's de facto commercial capital of Dubai requires that all Somali businesswomen have a male business partner. Across Somalia, men continue to dominate in the key areas of financial credit and money transfers, the import-export trade (including livestock and khat), and information technology (CRD, 2007).

The challenges that Somali women face in the economic sphere are exacerbated by poor access to education. Half as many women as men can read and write (adult literacy rates: men 25%, women 13%) and school attendance by girls falls off dramatically from age nine onwards, with secondary school enrolment

Extremely low among girls in south-central Somalia (CRD/WSP's, 2004) Although women express keen interest in adult education and several women's groups and Islamic charities support women's education projects, the daily demands to provide material as well as emotional care for the family Mean that most women have little time or energy to spare for such projects – let alone collective action to address the underlying causes of their circumstances.

### **Women's Economic Structures in Prewar Somalia**

Women's economic standing and responsibilities in prewar Somalia varied by location, Women who lived in urban settings might likely have had husbands who worked in industry or government and acted as sole breadwinners for the family. These women would be tasked with the activities of running the household and bearing and raising children. In pastoral families, women shared in some duties outside the household, including the care and feeding of animals, selling of milk, and in some cases herding of livestock. Women in agricultural communities also engaged in activities outside the traditional household duties, assisting in the cultivation of fields and harvesting of crops. Women's work, in the sense of maintaining the household and bearing and rearing children, has historically been recognized as essential to Somali society. Some women have been able as well to secure and maintain control over independent economic resources through inheritance. By tradition, any livestock, jewelry, or other property inherited by a female from her father or older relatives can never be acquired by a husband upon marriage.

This tradition has afforded Somali women some access to property outside of the clan structure. Although some women effectively maintained property, women's contributions to the economic livelihood of the family and clan outside of household duties were largely discounted and ignored, and they did not give women any power within kinship decision-making structures. (Timmons, 2004).

### **War's Impact on Women in Somalia**

The prolonged civil war and insecurity following the collapse of the Somali state in 1991 have caused immense human suffering and material losses across the south-central regions, leaving physical and emotional scars on all aspects of Somali society. In addition to death and destruction, the violent conflict has resulted in widespread displacement of people both within and beyond the country's borders. Family relationships have been disrupted, traditional social values eroded, and roles and responsibilities within the family have undergone major fundamental changes (CRD/WSP, 2004),

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In 1997 ACORD, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) conducted a study in Lower Shabelle that found that women in the region were working 30 percent more than men. By 2001 ACORD found that an estimated 70 to 80 percent of the region's households were dependent on women's earnings for the family's livelihood. Somali women faced with either the loss of a husband or a husband unable to find work found means of earning a living through petty trade and cooperatives established with other women. According to Powers-Stevens, at the household and sub-clan level, «there has been an increased level of respect for the important role women are playing in meeting the economic burdens of supporting the family. This is an area which women will need to capitalize on in the future if they are to increase their voice in decision making (Timmons, 2004).

In conclusion, though we have discussed how the world and Somalia contribute women entrepreneurship in economic and social, but the researcher have special gap which did not emphasized former researchers which is empirical survey of Social and Economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir region.

## CONCEPTUAL PROSPECTIVE

The framework of this study shows the changing role of Somali women: an empirical survey of Social and Economic activity of women entrepreneurs' in Banaadir region. Women entrepreneurship depends on the variables such as starting of capital, training, education, age, status, and business opportunity.

Women entrepreneurship has a direct and positive impact on women's social status, women's rights, self-dependency, the eradication of gender discrimination, and self-inspiration. At the same time, it has a great impetus on the socio-economic sphere as it helps women earning extra money for the family, enjoying economic freedom, creating employment opportunities for themselves and others, and gearing up the process of economic development.

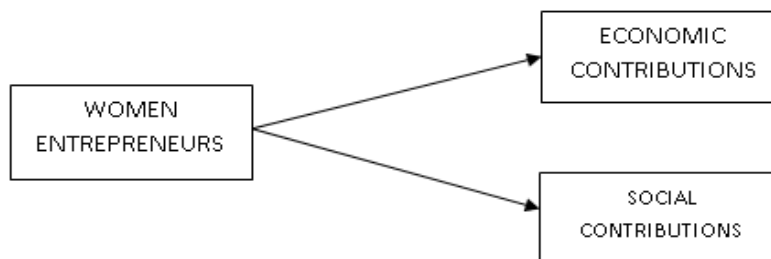


Figure 1

There are also other factors that take part to increase the economic; some of them are security, labor organization and also micro-financing. This study will try to emphasize the changing role of Somali Women and its impacts on the socio-economic sphere of life.

In this research, women entrepreneurship and its socio-economic impact were respectively identified as independent and dependent variables on the basis of a causal relationship.

## METHODOLOGY

This study conducted through cross-sectional survey design because it is a popular and common strategy in business and management. Cross-sectional survey is a research design used to investigate population by selecting samples to analyze and discover occurrences. The researchers' purpose is to

describe and explain events as they are, as they were or as they will be. According to Saunders, Philip Lewis and Thomhil (2004) “using a survey strategy should give you more control over the research process.

Cross-sectional survey design is suitable for this research because it considers issues as economy of the design, rapid data collection and ability to understand a population from a part of it.

The study conducted Women entrepreneurs In Banaadir region. The target population was 150 women entrepreneurship who involve import business especially: Jeweler sellers, Gasoline sellers, and Cloth sellers because they have comprehensive knowledge and experience to the socio-economic contribution.

The sample consists of 110 respondents- including Jeweler sellers, Gasoline sellers, and Cloth sellers. The size of the sample was distributed as 40 for jeweler sellers, 35 cloth sellers, 35 for gasoline sellers. This number is selected according to the nonexistence of the definite statistics of the target population.

A social survey was conducted through structured questionnaire among 110 women entrepreneurs of Mogadishu City business. Since no comprehensive directory for women entrepreneurs in Mogadishu is available, the respondents for questionnaire survey were purposively selected for this research. The purpose for choosing purposive sampling is those people are able to meet research objectives.

## FINDINGS

### Background of the Respondents

The first research question of the study was to determine the profile of the respondents used in this study. The respondents of the questionnaire were three major types Jeweler sellers, Gasoline sellers, and Cloth sellers. The purpose of this background information was to find out the characteristics of the respondents and show the distribution of the population in the study, the findings are presented below.

**Table 1: Marital Status of the Respondents**

Profile of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Married	84	76.4
Single/ unmarried	14	12.7
Widow	10	9.1
Divorcee	2	1.8
Total	110	100.0

Table1 shows that among women entrepreneurs questioned in Banaadir region, 76.4percent are married, 12.7percent are unmarried, 9.1 percent are widows and 1.8 percent is divorced. Hence, marital status is an important factor that has vital influence on women’s socio-economic life. These data indicate that after marriage women are gradually becoming interested to be involved in business and entrepreneurial activities. Widows and divorced women also become self-reliant by the entrepreneurship.

**Table 2: Sector of Investment**

Industry	Frequency	Percentage
Clothes	38	34.5
Jewelers	36	32.7
Gasoline	36	32.7
Total	110	100.0

As shown in Table 2, most Banaadir women entrepreneurs are engaged cloth selling and tailoring, 34.5% of the respondents were Cloth Sellers, 32.7% were Jewelers Sellers and 32.7% were Gasoline Sellers of the total respondents. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of the type of business in the sample was Cloth Sellers represented by 34.5%, while minorities of the business in the sample were both Gasoline and Jewelers 32.7%.

**Table 3: Type of Investment**

Form of the business	Frequency	Percentage
Sole	88	80.0
Partnership	22	20.0
Total	110	100.0

Table 3 shows that sole ownership is the dominant type among the women entrepreneurs in Banaadir. Among the enterprises, 80 percent are owned by an individual, and only 20 percent are partnership. This seems to indicate that in Banaadir city most of the women entrepreneurs want to run their business by themselves.

**Table 4: Duration of Business**

Experience of the business	Frequency	Percentage
1-2years	4	3.6
4-5years	38	34.5
6-8years	38	34.5
9-10years	19	17.3
11-over	11	10.0
Total	110	100.0

The findings of the study indicated that majority of owners represented by 34.5% of the respondents have worked for 6-8 years. Where the minority of the respondents represented by 3.6% whereas 1-2 experience, the findings indicate that women entrepreneurs have been running long time in business.

**Table 5: Business Establishing**

Business establishing	Frequency	Percentage
self-starting	80	72.7
Inherited	7	20.9
Other	23	6.4
Total	110	100.0

According to the table5, 72.7% of respondents stated that they were started the business themselves and 6.4% referred that they are inherited from their family. This result shows that the most of women in business were established their business by themselves.

### Socio Economic Contribution

The main objective of this research was to disclose socio economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir-Somalia, respondents were required to show the degree to which they agree each of the point by written the number that best illustrates their ideas. To attain this objective the respondents were inquired to respond to some statement. The findings are summarized in the below tables:

**Table 6: Economic Contribution**

Indicator of the Economic Contribution of Women Entrepreneurs	Mean	Standard deviation	Interpretation
Women entrepreneurs created self-employment	1.39	.651	Very good
They created employment opportunity	1.77	.983	Good
Women entrepreneurs generated extra income	1.73	.741	Very good
They have changed their life style	1.92	.756	Good
Women entrepreneurs contributed poverty reduction	2.22	.913	Good
Overall mean	1.80	.814	Good

The mean and standard deviation in table 6 suggested that the most people selected to socio economic respondents rated (mean 1.39) and standard deviation (.651). The finding indicates that on most



respondents rated their business as having very good self-employment. Creation of employment opportunities scored mean (1.77) and standard deviation was (.983). This result referred that women entrepreneurs create employment opportunities of other people is good. They have generated extra income of the family rated very good of the mean(1.73)and standard deviation (.741) it seems that generating extra income is very good which helps to contribute the economic development.

As regards women entrepreneurs have changed their life style scored mean (1.92) and standard deviation is (.756). This result shows that women changed their standard of life is good according to the study.

According to the above table 6 presented women entrepreneurs contributed poverty reduction rated mean (2.22) and standard deviation (.913). This finding describes that women entrepreneurs' contribution in poverty reduction is good.

**Table 7: The Conditions of Women Entrepreneurs in Family**

<b>Indicator of the Condition of Women Entrepreneurs in Family</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Women entrepreneurs reduced discrimination	1.38	.690	Very good
They upgraded social status	1.64	.687	Very good
Women entrepreneurs establishing institutions	2.37	1.074	Good
They reduced self-dependence	1.46	.673	Very good
They enhanced economic freedom	1.90	.918	Good
Overall mean	1.75	.808	Very Good

Gender discrimination is very obvious in our socio-cultural environment, among the women entrepreneurs surveyed, (highly mean 1.38 and standard deviation 0.6090) opined that women entrepreneurship has satisfactory role in eradicating gender discrimination.

Women upgraded social status was rated highly mean (1.64) and standard deviation (.687). This finding states that women entrepreneurs enhanced the lifestyle and status is very good.

As regards of Women entrepreneurs establishing institutions scored mean (2.37) and standard deviation (1.074). This result indicates that women established institution is good.

The women entrepreneurs reduced self-dependence rated mean (1.46) and standard deviation (0.673). This finding describes that the women entrepreneurs enhanced independently and decreased the dependency is good.

According to the women entrepreneur's enhanced economic freedom was rated mean (1.90) and standard deviation (.918). This result shows that the women entrepreneurs reached economic freedom is good.

As above mentioned that women contribute growth and status of the family is very good. Further this table confirms the fact that after their entering into business these women have felt that positive change has occurred in their family as well and their status have increased in the family and society.

**Table 8: Changes of Women Entrepreneur's Position in their Family**

<b>Indicator of Women Entrepreneur's Role Position in the Family</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Women entrepreneurs have power of the family in decision	1.38	.590	Very good
Women entrepreneurs give their children better education	1.30	.643	Very good
Women entrepreneurs enhanced their standard of living	1.90	.918	Good
Women entrepreneurs made Saving	1.93	.875	Good
Women entrepreneurs have a decision making on community	2.02	.928	Good
Overall Mean	1.71	.791	Very Good

Maximum portion of the respondents (which scored mean 1.380 while standard deviation was 0.590) feel that their position has been changed in the family after involvement in business. Women

entrepreneurship is not only contributing to our economic development but also changes the decision making process in the family structure This indicates that women entrepreneurs have high decision in the family is highly very good.

As we discussed above the majority of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir region are married and most motivation factor was to help and contribute family development. Women entrepreneurs give their priorities children education as rated mean (1.30) and standard deviation is (0.643). This shows that women entrepreneurs play vital role in education of their children.

The mean scores women entrepreneurs enhanced their standard of living (1.90) and standard deviation (0.918). This result suggested that a promotion standard of living women entrepreneur is good.

Women entrepreneurs made saving rated mean (1.93) and standard deviation (0.875). This result indicates women entrepreneur have made saving which generated from the business is good.

In regarding of women entrepreneurs have a decision making on community rated mean (2.020) and standard deviation (0.928). This result shows that women entrepreneur participate the decision on the local community.

## CONCLUSION

Realization has gradually dawned on all concerned that a society cannot afford to waste half of its human resources by discrimination on grounds of gender. Women have now become aware of their socio-economic rights and have ventured to avail the opportunities initiated for them.

It has been recognized that women have an important role to play in synthesizing social progress with economic growth of developing countries. Women entrepreneurs as an opportunity of productive work for women, is not only a means of higher income, but as a means of self-respect to the development of their personality and to a sense of participation in the common purposes of the society.

Women have owned and operated businesses for decades, but they were rarely recognized or given credit for their efforts. Often women entrepreneurs were "invisible" as they worked side by side with their husbands, and many only stepped into leadership positions when their husbands died. But a variety of factors have combined in recent years to contribute to the visibility and numbers of women who start their own businesses. As more women joined the work force, for example, they gained the professional and managerial skills and experience they would need as entrepreneurs.

This objective of the study was to investigate the socio-economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir region has overall mean *1.80*, which indicates a good condition implying that women entrepreneurs have contributed socio-economic condition in Banaadir region.

The study explained to explore the conditions of women entrepreneurs in family including their economic activities has overall mean *1.75* this shows a positive economic contribution in their family. This means they have made improvements towards economic growth of their family.

The study which was to identify to some extent women entrepreneurs has a role position in the family found overall mean *1.71* this identifies that women entrepreneurs has great position in their family decisions.

The present study has been conducted to evaluate the socio economic contribution of women entrepreneurs in Banaadir Region. Previous researchers and studies on the role of women in the contemporary society have adequately pointed out that the contribution of women in the overall development of our society has been enormously commendable. In every sphere of our social system women have played their role as integral source of development.

The data required and analyzed here indicate that the traditional role of women has now changed and the process of change is continuing.

Academics and governments appear to be focused on encouraging entrepreneurship, because it symbolizes innovation and a dynamic economy. This has meant that women's contributions and concerns remain too often ignored in economic structures such as, economic and social as well as in families and households. The present research is an effort to provide some meaningful information and

understanding about women entrepreneurs in Bakaara business to researchers, policy makers and women entrepreneurs themselves. It desires to do value addition to the field of research & their implications on Women Entrepreneurs and their socio-economic contribution in Banaadir region.

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