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**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A STUDY WITH
REFERENCE TO SELECTED WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN
MANGALORE REGION**

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INTRODUCTION

“If you push through that feeling of being scared, that feeling of taking risk, really amazing things can happen.”
-Marissa Mayer ,CEO Yahoo! Inc.

Women entrepreneurship is the process in which women initiate a business, gather all resources, under take risks, face challenges, provide employment to others and manages the business independently. Women Entrepreneurs are inspiring. Today, more women are breaking free from the traditional, gender-specific roles and venturing into the business world. Not only are they holding high corporate positions but they are also successful women entrepreneurs.

The emergence of women entrepreneurs in a society depends, to a great extent, on the economic, religious, cultural, social, psychological and a host of other factors. In developing countries like India, the presence of entrepreneurs, that too women entrepreneurs is a vital necessity to achieve a rapid, all around and regionally and socially balanced economic growth through industrialization.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the various schemes/facilities for women entrepreneurs provided by the government, bank etc.
- To learn the contribution of women entrepreneur towards society.
- To analyse the factors motivating women entrepreneurs in Mangalore Region.

METHODOLOGY

For this study both primary and secondary data are used. Primary data are collected directly through questionnaire from 50 women entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada District. Secondary data are collected from journals and publications, books, website etc.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Basically, the emergence of women as economic realities and as an emergence force into areas that have been traditionally populated by men has taken two roots: (i) business start-up and ownership typically referred to as entrepreneurship; and (ii) the field of management [Begley and Boyd: 1987 Carland et. al.: 1984 and Hisrich and Brush: 1986].

However, the emergence of women entrepreneurs has undergone two evolutionary phases. The first phase started with women becoming a significant component of labour force and they became very effective entrepreneurs. In the report titled, Workforce 2000, it was projected that by the year 2000, women will comprise the majority of new entrants into the labour force [Johnston and Packer: 1988]. Working women in general have heightened their profile in recent years and this will certainly be maintained in the foreseeable future, not least because of their increasing participation in labour force, they now form 42.6 per cent of work force [EOC: 1988].

According to the study by Halpern and Szurek [1987], this massive entrance of women entrepreneurs into economic arena can be judged by the actual numbers of women entering self-employment: between 1981 and 1987 the figures for women showed an increase of 70.00 per cent while for men an increase of only 30.00 per cent.

The National Foundation of Women Business Owners [NFWBO] reports that there has been tremendous growth in the number of women in non-traditional industries and two out of three women-owned firms remain in the retail trade and service sectors [NFWBO: 1994]. Although figures vary, it is estimated that women currently own 28.00 percent of all the business in the United States and are projected to own 50.00 per cent by the year 2000.

Pacific Business Review International is "an enterprise owned and controlled by a women having a minimum financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving at least 51% of the employment generated in the enterprise to women." In India, the role of women in the economic activity of the nation was practically ignored. The increasing participation of women in the work-force, the multiple role of women as mothers, homemakers and paid workers and misunderstandings of the nature of unemployment among women, therefore, suggest the usefulness of redefining trends and relationships, in participation of women in corporate.

VARIOUS SCHEMES/FACILITIES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:

Women Entrepreneurs can be seen everywhere in the startup-up ecosystem of India. Women too are seen leaving their high-profile jobs as well as some stepping out of the four walls of their homes and joining the pool of Entrepreneurship in India. The major factor to jumpstart the entrepreneurial journey is capital and various banks offer specialized loans for women entrepreneurs that have slightly different and more flexible set of terms and conditions pertaining to collateral security, interest rates, etc.

1. ANNAPURNA SCHEME; This scheme is offered by the State Bank of Mysore, for those women entrepreneurs who are setting up food catering industry in order to sell packed meals, snacks, etc. The maximum amount of money that is granted is Rs.50,000 which has to re-paid in monthly installments for 36 months.

2. STREE SHAKTI PACKAGE FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: This scheme is offered by most of the SBI branches to women who have 50% share in the ownership of a firm or business. The scheme also offers a discounted rate of interest by 0.50% in case the amount of loan is more than Rs.2 lakhs.

3. BHARATIYA MAHILA BANK BUSINESS LOAN: This loan is a support system for budding women entrepreneurs looking to start new ventures in the fields of the retail sector, loan against property, MICRO loans, and SME loans. The maximum loan amount under this loan goes up to Rs.20 crores in case of manufacturing industries and also a concession is available to the extent of 0.25% on the interest rate and interest rates usually range from 10.15% and higher.

4. DENA SHAKTI SCHEME: This scheme is provided by Dena bank to those women entrepreneurs in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, micro-credit, retail stores, or small enterprises; who are in need of financial assistance. The interest rate is also decreased by 0.25% along with the maximum loan amount being Rs.20 lakhs for retail trade; education and housing whereas Rs.50,000 under the microcredit.

5. UDYOGINI SCHEME: This scheme is offered by Punjab and Sind Bank so as to provide women entrepreneurs involved in Agriculture, retail and small business enterprises to get loans for business at flexible terms and concessional interest rates. The maximum amount of loan under this scheme for women between the age bracket of 18-45 years is Rs.1 lakhs but your family income is also taken into consideration and is set at Rs.45,000 per annum for SC/ST women.

6. CENT KALYANI SCHEME: This scheme is offered by the Central Bank of India with the aim of supporting women in starting a new venture or expanding or modifying an existing enterprise. This loan can be availed by women who are involved in village and cottage industries, micro, small and medium enterprises, self-employed women, agriculture and allied activities, retail trade, and government sponsored programs.

7. MAHILA UDYAM NIDHI SCHEME: This scheme is launched by Punjab National Bank and aims at supporting the women entrepreneurs involved in the small scale industries by granting them soft loans that can be repaid over a period of 10 years. Under this scheme there are different plans for beauty parlors, day care centres, purchase of auto rickshaws, two-wheelers, cars, etc. the maximum amount granted under this scheme is Rs.10 lakhs and the interest depends upon the market rates.

8. MUDRA YOJANA SCHEME FOR WOMEN: This scheme has been launched by the Govt. of India for individual women wanting to start small new enterprises and businesses like beauty parlors, tailoring units, tuition centers, etc. as well as a group of women wanting to start a venture together.

9. ORIENT MAHILA VIKAS YOJANA SCHEME: This scheme is provided by Oriental Bank of Commerce to those women who hold a 51% share capital individually or jointly in a proprietary concern. No collateral security is required for loans of Rs.10 lakhs up to Rs.25 lakhs in case of small-scale industries and the period of repayment is 7 years. A concession on the interest rate of up to 2% is given.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS TO THE SOCIETY

The role of women in the economic development of the nation cannot be neglected. In fact they have to be encouraged and motivated to take active part in any business activity. Women entrepreneurs play the role of change makers both in the family and also in the society and inspire other members of the society to take up such activities. Women entrepreneurs are assets of the nation as they are engaged in certain productive activity and also the create job opportunities for others. This leads to poverty reduction and minimising the problem of unemployment.

❖ **Capital Formation:** An economy grows rapidly if the idle savings are invested in some productive activities. The idle funds mobilised and

invested in the industry and thus optimum utilization of national resources is done. This accelerates the economic growth.

- ❖ **Improvement in per capita income:** The exploitation of the opportunities to convert the idle resources like land, labour and capital into national income and wealth in the form of goods and services is the outcome of increasing entrepreneurial activities. The per capita income and the net national product will be increased resultantly.
- ❖ **Generation of employment:** Entrepreneurial activities give rise to employment opportunities. The women entrepreneurs become the job creators and not job seekers. Naturally the economic growth will be accelerated by generating employment.
- ❖ **Balanced regional development:** The regional development of the nation is balanced as the women mostly start their business activities in the rural and underdeveloped regions. Government also encourages the entrepreneurs to start businesses in these areas through different schemes and subsidies
- ❖ **Improvement in standard of living:** Various products are produced by the women in their small scale businesses, which are offered to the people at reasonable rates. New products are introduced and the scarcity of essential commodities is removed. This facilitates the improvement in standard of living.
- ❖ **Innovations:** An entrepreneur through his/her innovations begins new enterprise and thus plays an important role of pioneer and industry leader.

THE MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE WOMAN TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS.

In order to find out the factors influencing the women to become entrepreneurs 18 attributes

that can influence their decision were identified such as economic independence, dissatisfaction with existing job, unemployment, seeking challenge, self interest, self prestige, traditional/hereditary, employment opportunities, financial assistance, technical knowledge, encouragement from family members, use of idle funds, infrastructural facilities, entrepreneurial experience, market potentials, family members interest, social status and family background. The respondents were then requested to express their level of opinion on the influence of those attributes.

Variables	Percentage of Women Entrepreneur agree	Percentage of Women Entrepreneur Disagree
Economic Independence	100%	0%
Dissatisfaction with the Existing job	54%	46%
Unemployment	88%	12%
Seeking Challenge	13%	87%
Self Interest	55%	45%
Self Prestige	9%	91%
Traditional / Hereditary	40%	60%
Employment Opportunities	80%	20%
Financial Assistance	52%	48%
Technical Knowledge	96%	4%
Encouragement from family members	24%	76%
Use of Idle Funds	0%	100%
Infrastructural Facilities	36%	64%
Entrepreneurial Experience	8%	92%
Market Potentials	78%	22%
Family Members Interest	24%	76%
Social Status	32%	68%
Family Background	76%	24%

FINDINGS

- All the respondents agreed that Economic Independence is the factor that influences women to become an entrepreneur.
- 80% of the respondents agreed that employment opportunities are the factor that influences women to become an entrepreneur whereas 20% of the respondents do not agree to it.
- 52% of the respondents agreed that financial assistance is the motivational factor to become an entrepreneur whereas 48% of the respondents do not agree that financial assistance is the motivational factor to become an entrepreneur.
- When asked, whether Encouragement from family members is a factor to become an entrepreneur, 24% agreed for the statement whereas 76% of them are not agreed for the statement.
- Not surprisingly, 32% of the Women became entrepreneur for a social status wherein 68% of the respondents did not Women became entrepreneur for a social status.

SUGGESTIONS

- Bank or any other financial institutions should provide a loan to women entrepreneurs at Concessional Rates of Interest
- Government and other NGO's should undertake a Training Facilities to the women to become successful entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurial motivation should be built in women at school level by including it in the curriculum.
- Government should provide a facilities and concessions to women entrepreneurs.
- Society should support women to become an entrepreneur by enlightening them through seminar, workshop, street play etc.
- Women should be awakened to make use of the various facilities given by the government.

CONCLUSION

There is direct relationship between the economic growth, poverty reduction and women entrepreneurship. It has been correctly stated by our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, that "when women move forward, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves.

The transition from homemaker to women entrepreneur is not so easy and in the same way it is also difficult for a woman to succeed and sustain in her business. She has to learn from her experiences, adapt herself and overcome the challenges in her field. She has to creatively utilize her strengths to overcome the threats and grab all the opportunities to minimize her weaknesses. This will be certainly be a mantra for her to develop and grow her business successfully. The right kind of assistance from family, society and Government can make these Women Entrepreneurs a part of the mainstream of national economy and they can contribute to the economic progress of India in this era of globalization.

It is worthwhile to conclude by quoting the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,

"WHEN WOMAN MOVES FORWARD, THE FAMILY MOVES, THE VILLAGE

MOVES AND THE COUNTRY MOVES".

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ROLE OF BANKS IN PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneur is an important engine of growth in the economy. Entrepreneur is a person who starts a business. entrepreneurship has traditionally been defined as the process of designing, launching and running a new business, which typically begins as a small business, such as a start-up company, offering a product, process or service for sale or hire, and the people who do so are called 'entrepreneur'. It has been defined as the capacity and willingness to develop, organise, and manage a business venture along with any of its risk in order to make a profit. Rather than working as an employee, an entrepreneur runs a small business and assumes all the risk and reward of a given business venture, idea, or good or service offered for sale. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as a business leader and innovator of new ideas and business processes.

There is no doubt that our banks and other financial institutions occupy strategic positions in the operation of our economic system. The importance of these banks and other financial institutions are so encompassing that one may not imagine the working of the economic system without them. In an economy such as ours, things have to be bought and paid for (e.g. an entrepreneur, buying raw materials from suppliers). Such transactions in modern times are usually done in many cases, through the bank credit transfer system because apart from the large amount of money that may be involved in the payment; there is also the need to consider the security of the money. It is for this reasons that modern organisation make use of banks and other financial institutions for many of their financial transactions. Banks just act as intermediaries in important roles which will be discussed in this paper. Accepting of money by banks as deposits for saving has been becomes a very significant role of banks today because of the great expansion of the economy and particularly because of the large amount of money being handled by each organisation. By accepting to keep money of customers, banks have bought more value to the money deposited in terms of earning interest. This role is even of more importance to

the entrepreneur in that banks provide security for their money assets and also given them the opportunity to use their deposits to borrow more money from banks and from other financial institutions. Thus with banks playing this important role they have become a very important organ of promoting entrepreneurial development.

Literature Review

Gibson (2008) emphasising more on learn about business plans, survival income, discounting, researching your market, targeting your customers, listening to your customers and selling; promoting your business tax, national insurance and VAT.

Ive (2012) more focused on the practical and emotional aspects of setting up on your own. Being self-employed is different from being employed because you have to do everything for yourself and have to complete responsibility for the success or failure of the business and he try to provide frank insight into the world of self-employment and enables people to see if it is right for them.

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To study the role played by banks in developing entrepreneurs.
- ❖ To study the problems faced by entrepreneurs when starting their business.
- ❖ To gives some suggestions

Research Methodology:

To realise the objectives of the study, both the primary and secondary sources are used for the collection of data. The study focuses on the few selected banks in Mangalore city limit. Random sampling techniques are used for our study. The study being descriptive in nature, an attempt is made to study the role of banks in promoting entrepreneurship.

Role of Bank in Promoting Entrepreneurs:

Banking sector has flourished today because of the selfless services provided by them. Together with functioning with lending and borrowing they have taken steps towards promoting entrepreneurship. The government of India through the banks has taken initiative to give rise to make in India which indirectly leads to the development of self-employed. There are many schemes come up by the bank in order to motivate entrepreneurship. There are also schemes specially set up for women in order to make them self- employed. Entrepreneurs have the option of choosing the plans offered by various banks.

Banks are important for entrepreneurs to use to protect and invest their earnings as well as pay employees and other expenses. Banks contribute in a number of ways in developing entrepreneurs:

- i. Banks play an important role in accepting of deposits and safeguarding of same, transfer of money, giving of loans and advances etc.
- ii. Banks are in a position to play investment promotion roles to entrepreneurs which includes management of investment for customers, analysing the pros and cons of each investment alternative etc.
- iii. Banks now also engaged in business advisory, guaranty and other consultancy services which help immensely in the promotion and financing of entrepreneurship activities.
- iv. Banks generates entrepreneurial environment and promotes, encourages and stimulates the entrepreneurial resources.
- v. It assists the potential entrepreneurs from the stage of generation of ideas to the stage of appraisal of the projects.
- vi. It advises the entrepreneurs and allocates funds to the most productive ventures.
- vii. It encourages socially useful investment in order to increase and improve the social services.
- viii. It provides financial aid and technical assistance in short and long run.

Problems faced by Entrepreneurs when starting their business

Everyone has the dream of starting up their own business and wants to become a successful entrepreneur. But, for most of the people it always stays a dream due to many problems faced in starting a business. Some problems that all entrepreneurs and business owners face when they starting a business are:

- i. New entrepreneurs are the inability of selecting the right business and doing it in the proper manner.
- ii. Time management is probably the biggest problem, especially for the new entrepreneurs
- iii. Lack of knowledge about the procedure of accessing loan.
- iv. Lack of knowledge about finances available in banks.
- v. Most of the time poor response from banks.
- vi. Discouraged by high rate of interest levied by banks.
- vii. Unavailability of proper financial records as a result of lack of book keeping knowledge.
- viii. Most of the banks expect collateral security from the loan applicants. Here an entrepreneur lacks collateral security.
- ix. Lack of personal capital. Every entrepreneur needs to begin with a certain amount of initial capital to pay for initial expenditure.

Recommendations and Suggestions

In the light of the analysis, interpretation and findings, the following suggestions can be made regarding the implementation and disbursement of finance for the self-employed.

The study revealed that the beneficiaries should be properly educated about the implementation of the project they took up.

- i. Before granting of the loans training should be given on the proposed business.
- ii. After sanction of the loan, follow up should be done so that the beneficiaries are found using the money for the purpose which it is taken.
- iii. More decision making powers should be vested with the bank managers so that the sanctioning of the loans is not delayed.
- iv. There is greater need for the simplification of loan procedures, as many respondents are not educated.
- v. The bank personnel should be co-operative with the customers when they seek their help.
- vi. Bank personnel's should be given training regarding the right approach and behaviour towards customers.
- vii. Borrowers of the loans should make it a point to repay the loan amount at the time specified, so that the bank can disburse further loans
- viii. Banks should provide more benefits to the women respondents in order to promote women empowerment.

Conclusions

The entrepreneurs really are the backbone of our nation, starting from the small tea shop at construction sites to the scrap dealers to the tailors, pickle makers and going all the way up to the hotspot entrepreneurs. Self-employment is something which needs to be encouraged since it has been shown time and again that private entrepreneurship and initiative is, really one of the big things about India.

Government of India together with the banks should take measures to encourage self-employment in order to reduce unemployment and to ensure profitability. As many of the respondents have availed loans for starting up the business, Banks should provide loans at a lower rate to the self-employed in order to

encourage and support them. Women should be encouraged to go in for self-employment in order to be empowered and to be independent. If more and more self-employment is availed, then there will be great reduction in the level of unemployment prevailing in the country.

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“A STUDY ON ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

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INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial we have been taught that India is developing nation, if we do not take any initiative or measures India will still remain the developing country for many more years. One simple solution for this problem is more and more youth entrepreneurs should be motivated to establish themselves. Universities play a vital role for the development of the entrepreneurs not just by giving them theoretical education but also giving them moral support and practical training. Universities can take initiative to inform students regarding the different facilities available for the entrepreneurs. Many students do not take the initiative to become entrepreneurs because they are not aware of the procedure and the facilities provided by the government or any other institutions. Thus, universities should provide good knowledge and essential information regarding creativity and innovative entrepreneurship. In this paper we are going to study on the role of Universities in fostering Entrepreneurship.

Literature Review

Mitra Jay: This book is unique in that it addresses the central factors in economic development – entrepreneurship, innovation and organizational learning – as regional phenomena. This definitive text focuses on different types of organizations to illustrate the value of entrepreneurship and innovation both for businesses and for regional development. Establishing a firm link between entrepreneurship, innovation and economic regeneration, the book also examines the factors contributing to their success. Replete with international case studies, empirical evidence of concepts and practical examples, this is an ideal text to support postgraduate teaching and research

related to entrepreneurship, innovation management and regional economic development.

M Charantimath Poornima: In today's economic scenario, entrepreneurial development has assumed increased significance because the objective of industrial development, regional growth and employment generation depend greatly on it. In fact, entrepreneurial development is a key to economic development. Similarly, small business enterprises today constitute a very important segment in the Indian economy and are also closely linked to entrepreneurial and economic development. This book provides comprehensive coverage of the fast-growing field of entrepreneurship teaching and research. Written in a clear style, with coherent and logical organization of themes, the book also offers effective visualization of key ideas to facilitate students' course planning and study.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this study are:

- To study about the awareness of the students regarding entrepreneurship
- To find out the initiatives taken up by the educational institutions to foster entrepreneurship
- To discover the expectations of the students from the universities
- To provide suggestions to foster youths to become entrepreneurs

Research Methodology

To realize the objectives of the study, a survey is conducted on selected students in Mangalore Region. Both the primary and secondary sources are used for the collection of data. We have used Random sampling method. The study being descriptive in nature, an attempt is made to study on role of Universities in fostering Entrepreneurship.

FINDINGS

The major findings of our study are:

- From our study we have found out that most of the non commerce courses do not have any particular subject of entrepreneurship. Sadly even commerce courses also do not give much importance for entrepreneurship.
- Majority of our respondents are aware of the concept of entrepreneurship, only few respondents are not aware of entrepreneurship.
- 60% of our respondents do not have a subject on entrepreneurship only 40% of our respondents do have a subject on entrepreneurship. Some of the courses do not have a exclusive subject on entrepreneurship but this concept is studied as a part of other subjects.

- 50% of the colleges organize seminars and workshops on entrepreneurship and remaining 50% of colleges do not organize any seminars or workshops relating to entrepreneurship.
- Surprisingly only 10% of our respondents have a interest to become a entrepreneur. This can be attributed to the fact that majority of the respondents are not aware of the privileges and facilities available for entrepreneur.
- Even though very few of our respondents want to become a entrepreneur, a high percentage of our respondents do want to learn more about entrepreneurship. Which shows us that students are actually interested to gain knowledge on being a entrepreneur.
- 25% of our respondents have only theoretical training on the subject of entrepreneurship, 25% of our respondents have only practical training on the subject of entrepreneurship, 25% of our respondents have both theoretical and practical training on the subject of entrepreneurship and remaining 25% do not have any kind of training at all.
- 50% of our respondent's institutes do not invite real life entrepreneurs as resource person, 30% of our respondents institutes invite real life entrepreneurs as resource person, remaining 20% occasionally give opportunity to the students to interact with real entrepreneur.
- 70% of our respondents do not receive any assignments where they can interview entrepreneurs only a mere 30% of our respondents receive such assignments where they actually have direct contact with the entrepreneur and ask queries.
- Shockingly none of our respondents have interned under an entrepreneur, which is a sad fact and indicates that students never got opportunity to develop themselves or closely watch the entrepreneur at work.
- Most of the institutes do not take any serious initiatives to develop entrepreneurship among students which might be a reason for the students not to opt for entrepreneur as their career choice.
- Not surprisingly many of the students felt that universities play a very important role in fostering entrepreneurship among students.
- All our respondent students believe that it is possible to develop our nation through entrepreneurship which indirectly implies that universities should take up initiatives to mould and encourage a student to be an entrepreneur.

SUGGESTIONS

The major recommendations from our study are:

- Universities should include entrepreneurship development subject in the syllabus of every course irrespective of the stream. Entrepreneurship development subject should be made a compulsory subject even for non commerce courses.

- Practical training has to be provided to the students in all aspects of entrepreneurship which includes managerial skill, handling the funds and accounts, marketing and advertising information, etc.
- All the latest technological developments should be explained in detail so that the students can use this technology in their entrepreneurial ventures.
- Universities should organize seminars and workshops on the topic of entrepreneurship development where the resource persons will be a real life entrepreneur.
- Universities can collaborate with other universities and conduct classes on entrepreneurship development.
- Universities has to conduct various awareness programs to inform the students about the various facilities available for the entrepreneurs given by the banks, government organizations, NGO's, etc.
- As a part of assignments or projects the institutes should send the students to interview real life entrepreneurs so they have direct contact with the entrepreneurs and get knowledge as well as answer to their queries.
- Under graduate students should be given a option of working as a intern under entrepreneur so that they get opportunity to develop themselves.

CONCLUSION

Entrepreneur now constitute a decisive force with which the future destiny of the world is inextricably blended. It is hoped that the suggestions made on the basis of this research study will help the students as well as universities. The basic approach must be to inculcate confidence into students to create an awareness of their potential powers and to encourage them to use them for their own betterment. Under the entrepreneurial development programs, students all over the state and in the country as a whole are getting benefitted. They will achieve recognition and will make valuable contribution to the economy. Universities actually play a very important role in developing young entrepreneurs, the more they succeed the more the nation will succeed.

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St Agnes College, Mangaluru is a premier Catholic minority institution which from its inception in the year 1921 has imparted value based education to the women of South India. It is benchmark of repute in the field of Higher Education and has ceaselessly worked for the holistic development of young women on the west coast of India. As such, the intellectual and social contribution made by St Agnes College as it approaches its centenary year is matchless.

The institution has the distinction of producing women graduate and men/women post graduates who hold positions in different spheres as educators, scholars, scientists, chartered accountants, entrepreneurs, management professionals and service professionals serving in various parts of the world.

St Agnes College was the first college under Mangalore University to submit itself to the NAAC Accreditation process in 1999 and had the honour of being awarded a **“Five Star”** status. Subsequent re-accreditation in 2005 2012 and 2017 saw its banner flying high with an A Grade in both cycles and **'A+' grade** (CGPA 3.65/4) in the fourth cycle. It is one of the first colleges in Mangalore Universities to be recognized as a **'College with Potential for Excellence'** by the UGC in 2006 and has been the only institution under Mangalore University and third in the Karnataka State to be awarded the **'College of Excellence'** in 2017. The college is awarded **'Star Status'** by DBT, MST, Govt of India in 2017. The institution is also the proud recipient of the International **'Jimmy and Roselyn Carter Foundation Partnership Award'** in 2006 for its path breaking project in rainwater harvesting and watershed management which brought succour to villages on the rural outskirts of Mangalore.

The departments of Commerce and Business Administration have grown in all areas of curricular, co-curricular, extracurricular activities imparting value based education to produce academically efficient, professionally competent and socially empowered graduates who are well equipped not only to shoulder the challenges and demands of corporate sectors but also to pursue higher studies in different areas of interests. The syllabus offered by these departments is unique and keeps pace with industrial requirements. The departments have also conducted National Seminars/ Conferences on contemporary topics in trade and industry.