OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Woman is often described as the better half of a man. But the actual condition of women in the world does not tally with this description. In no country have women achieved equality with men. Of the world’s 1.4 billion poor people, nearly 70 percent are women. Between 70 and 85 percent of refugees are women and children. Among the one billion adult illiterates of the world, the class that outnumbers is that of women, who account for the two-thirds. Two-third of 150 million children world-wide, who are not in schools are girls. With such wide gaps of disparities in existence, the curiousness of a rational person does awaken to explore the roots of the same and appeals to be take stock of the current scenario. This is the basic purpose of this research study.

The primary objective of the study was to explore and describe the extent to which the NGO’s Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED) programmes has empowered participating women micro-entrepreneurs in the sample study area.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To understand the changes in economic status of selected women entrepreneurs after receiving help from NGO.
2. To analyze the effect of training provided by the NGOs on enterprises run by selected women entrepreneurs.
3. To understand parameters of economic empowerment.
4. To measure the impact of entrepreneurship ventures on women’s empowerment and its contribution to the income of the family unit of the respondent.
5. To know macroeconomic implications of the study and possible policy prescriptions.
6. To understand some remedies and measures to supplement the existing system of women empowerment measurement through NGOs.

21 Bhandari Aravind, Women Deserve a Better Deal, The Tribune, March 8, 2000
The objectives try to cover the untouched areas in the subject and have brought forth certain new areas of discussion.

**HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:**

Keeping the above objectives of the study in mind, the following hypothesis can be framed:

1. Entrepreneurship helps in bringing a positive change in the income level of the beneficiary.
2. The increase in income level lead to economic empowerment of the beneficiary.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

Every research study needs a methodology to be followed to derive its conclusions scientifically.

This study has followed a Cross-Sectional design of research. Data has been collected by Purposive Sampling method. The selected NGOs are the identified universe for data collection. A list of 10 NGOs working in the area of entrepreneurship development for women in Pune District is furnished below:

- Alochana Centre for Documentation and Research on women
- Janaki Devi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sansta
- Gram Vardhani
- Streevani centre for Women’s development
- Akhil Budhawarpeth Devadasi Sansta
- Action for Self reliance Hope and Awareness (ASHA)
- Manasi Foundation
- Swadhar Mahila Sangha
- Chaitanya Gramin Mahila Bal Yuvak Sanstha
- Mann Deshi Women’s Socitey
Selected cases from each of these NGOs will be the sample. The geographic area of study would be Pune District. One or two NGOs have been selected from all 13 Talukas of the district so that the data is representative in nature. 05-10 respondents (women benefitted by entrepreneurship development programmes of above mentioned NGOs) have been selected from each selected NGO. The sample size is expected to be 140-150 responses.

A questionnaire is used to obtain the primary data. The researcher has personally met each of the respondents and has collected data. This has been done to avoid any fallacies in understanding and to be able understand the process of the respondent’s attainment of empowerment. Secondary sources of data obtained from various government agencies and research centers are used to explain the study. Reports of UNDP and World Bank are extensively used as a guideline to determine the empowerment factors.

In the present study various statistical tools have been used to show relationships between various variables and derive results to match the objectives of the study. The variables will be identified in the course of research and data that supports the findings have been adapted to derive the needed conclusions.

Case study method is adapted and built to form a theoretical base to support the background of the study and show its practical applicability as well as derivation of policy implications.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The research study has been perceived with the help of various Primary and Secondary sources of information.

The primary sources would mainly be the Women entrepreneurs who have been approached by the researcher to fill up the questionnaire and to collect data. The NGOs have been personally approached and visited. Thus the data of the profiles collected is primary in nature.
The secondary data sources used in the research are Human Development Reports of the UNDP, The Reserve Bank of India publications and other gazettes of the Government of India. Books, Journals and Research papers have also been referred to gain theoretic as well as practical information.

**Figure 1: Scheme of Study**