CHAPTER – VIII

Prospects and Contribution of Women Entrepreneurs in Udalguri District:

“Entrepreneurs are the key to rapid economic development”. This statement has been found to be true in a number of cases. Growth of capital is no longer considered as important as the growth of innovative manpower, such as the entrepreneurs, in the determination of the rate of economic development of a nation. Entrepreneurship is the vehicle which mobilizes the scarce resources from different sectors and provides utility to them such that they create value. The experiences of several prosperous countries indicate that entrepreneurship is the magic wand which creates miracles of prosperity.

The role of entrepreneurship in economic development is known to us. It is significant to note that the entrepreneurs contributed to development of business in India from the days of Indus valley Civilization. Indian merchants travelled extensively to sell their products. However, with the gradual transformation of the society over the years, the economic scenario has also undergone a sea-change. Intensified competition has become the order of the day and entrepreneurship is cited by many social scientists as the key variable which links the socio-cultural milieu with the rate of economic development.

According to Joseph Schumpeter, the rate of economic progress of a nation depends upon the rate of innovation which in turn depends upon the distribution of entrepreneurial talent in the population. Technical progress alone cannot lead to economic development, unless technological breakthroughs are put to economic use by entrepreneurs. In other words an entrepreneur acts as a catalyst in the process of industrialization and economic development. How do they accomplish this?
Entrepreneurs mobilize idle savings of the public and help in capital formation locate and convert the latent and idle resources into national income and wealth, generate into national income and wealth, generate employment both directly as well as indirectly; contribute to improvement in the living standards, facilitate establishment of forward and backward linkages.  

However, entrepreneurial development in the country is still plagued by a number of problems like the absence of a concerted effort for entrepreneurship development. Managerial skills in terms of acquisition and allocation of resources and handling crisis situations are most often lacking in the current breed of Indian entrepreneurs. In spite of the existence of a large number of institutions like District Industries Centres, State Financial Corporation, SIDBI, Entrepreneurship Development Institution etc., first generation entrepreneurs are finding it difficult to survive and grow in their chosen business.

Emergence of Women Entrepreneurs:

Another important fact of entrepreneurship in India is the emergence of a large number of women entrepreneurs. Earlier the involvement of women in the establishment and management of business enterprises was very negligible because as in the case of most of the developing countries, in India too, women have been victim of social prejudice and discrimination. They were presumed to be the weak, passive, dependent and people-oriented. However, during the past 2-3 decades Indian women have made their mark in different walks of life, thanks to the increased levels of education, political awakening, urbanization, legal safeguards, social reforms, etc. It has been proved in several instances that business is the best occupation for women since it gives them a

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chance to apply their creativity, earn additional income for the family, maintain self-respect, flexibility of working hours etc. Compared to the developed countries, women entrepreneurs constitute a negligible proportion of the total entrepreneurs in India. Earlier they were running mostly household industries like pickles, pap pads, powders, detergents etc. They are being gradually replaced by more-sophisticated and capital intensive enterprises like textiles, machinery, electronics, engineering goods etc.

Entrepreneurship can help Women’s economic independence and their improved social status. Through this economic independence automatically women gets empowerment also. Development of Women entrepreneurship enables men to understand and appreciate women’s abilities. This is turn can lead to rationalisation of domestic life and it creates awareness about the potentiality in women through which, individual families and society at large can benefit. Women entrepreneurship through enhancing their status with men also can lead to integration of women in economic development.

Both men and women of working age constitute the main strength of economic development of a nation. Women form an important segment of the labour force and the economic role played by them cannot be isolated from the frame work of development as the role and degree of integration of women in economic development is always an indicator of women’s economic independence and social status.

If mother is an entrepreneur, her children may acquire better education, get clothing and medical care and also these children will be more independent, having more interaction with outside world than the children of most housewives.

Entrepreneurial Development among women offers mental satisfaction and provides diversion to women from routine work. It gives psychological satisfaction or
relief to the educated women and profiles a sense of achievement and a separate and enhanced identity in society.

**Emerging- Women Entrepreneurs of Udalguri District:**

Entrepreneurship serve as a boon for rural women in countries like India where the rural women find it difficult to make both ends meet with the meagre earning of their male counterparts. Their illiteracy and ignorance prevents them from being gainfully employed. Therefore, if they are encouraged to start their own cottage enterprise with minimum stake it would help in making them self-sufficient and even contribute their might to the overall economic development of the country. The survey conducted in the Udalguri district by the researcher revealed that even in some of the remote tribal villages of the Udalguri district women were found to be enthusiastic in starting their own ventures. With support from Government agencies and voluntary organisations through programmes aimed at integrated rural development, a substantial number of women entrepreneurs have come forward and are successfully running a wide variety of enterprises like weaving, handloom, handicraft, diary, piggery, fishery, readymade garment, stationery, PCO etc. In semi-urban and urban areas women are running beauty parlours, small-shops, Xerox centre etc.

The tribal and non tribal women entrepreneurs of this district have miscellaneous sources of earning income. The women of this area are expert in handicraft work. Whenever they get free time. They keep themselves engaged in different handicraft works made out bamboo, cane etc. They are expert in making crafts like jakai (a triangular fishing net) khalai (fish basket) muhra (chair made of bamboo and cane) and sell in the market. With this money, they buy their necessary commodities from the
In the realm of art, the tribal and non-tribal women-folk occupies the high place of esteem. Weaving and Spinning constitutes the principal craft among the women, especially Boro and Rabha Women. Eri-silk worm rearing and weaving of Eri cloth is the exclusive culture of the women folk of these areas. They can weave almost all the cloth needed by them and even by the men-folk. The artistic handiwork of these tribal women entrepreneurs is seen from the designs they weaves in their clothes and garments. Besides their household requirements the women entrepreneurs also weave clothes for sale. The women entrepreneurs weave woollen shawl, cotton as well as polyester towels (gamusa), mekhala-chadar, dakhana etc. and selling in the market. These types of activities are seasonal because they can weave clothes only in the dry season (September to April) and during the rainy season the women keep themselves busy in helping the men-folk in the agriculture field. The women entrepreneurs of Udalguri district are also well versed in rearing pigs, goats, chickens, ducks etc. Which also help them in earning their livelihood.

Another important source of income of the native tribal of this area like Boro and Rabha (Hindus) is to sell rice-beer. Through it is socially not justifiable, many of the families engage themselves, in this economic activity because it is a good source of this livelihood.

Fishery is another, but not very important, source of income for the women entrepreneurs of these areas. Most of the household dig fishery ponds in their low lying lands, which cannot be utilized for cultivation due to waterlogging. Almost every household possess fishery ponds of their own. The tribal women are expert in fishing.
Many of them also have their own fishery ponds. Row Mirga, Silverfish, Comoncarp etc. are the most common fish rearing in their fishery ponds. This is also one of the source of incomes of the women entrepreneurs of these areas apart from their agricultural activities.

Business activities on large scale have not emerged in these areas because these activities require big amount of investment. Even if a few women entrepreneurs engaged in business activities, though any new adventure is risky in these areas. And also women entrepreneurs have less entrepreneurial skill to face such risk and uncertainty. The main business activities undertaken by the women entrepreneurs of these areas are stationery shops, readymade garments, grocery shops etc. Very few women entrepreneurs are engaged in service sector like, Beauty Parlour, Restaurant, P.C.O., and Xerox Centre. These types of activities also help employment generation to women entrepreneurs of these areas.

In the economic development of a country the human factor plays an important role. Even the developed nations like USA, UK and Japan have realised the need to promote entrepreneurship for their economic development. These countries could transform their small agro-bases industries into big industrial giants only with the support of entrepreneurial abilities. The advent of industrial era in most of the countries, including India, has led to an unprecedented growth of corporate enterprises. Practically speaking, financial, physical and infrastructural facilities are the crucial inputs in the progress of entrepreneurship. There has been widespread growth of realisation of entrepreneurship in the post-independent India. Entrepreneurship would enable all the resources of economy to be used to the maximum extent resulting in significant development. (2)

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2. Rao J.V.: “ibid”, p. 144

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Entrepreneurship has acquired special significance in the changing economic scenario. Due to various changes taking place and impact of globalization and change in economic status of our country, entrepreneurship is being encouraged. Entrepreneurship in turn may lead to increased production and enhanced economic development of our nation. Although, women entering into the field of entrepreneurship is considered a new phenomenon world over, but women working in cottage industries and handicrafts or even in home-based productions like bee-keeping, sericulture, fisheries, mushroom cultivation or even masala, pickle, papad, making are centuries old small scale, home based enterprises in India.

In India, there is by and large, greater need for women to take up entrepreneurship as it would give them economic status. Economic status would further lead to social well being and status. This is also necessitated on account of the fact that women constitute almost half of the India population and the old system of men being able to feed and look after the needs of their families completely cannot be possible in today’s world of increasing prices and competition.

The scenario is changing in developing countries and in India also due to modernization, urbanization and development of education and business, women are now seeking gainful employment in several fields in increasing numbers. Women are also spreading their wings in entrepreneurship. Today, we can find women entrepreneurs in the different fields of manufacture of different product and in the promotion of technology and consultancy services for women entrepreneurs.

Department of Science and Technology has been entrusted with the implementation of this grants-in-aid scheme for the development of women entrepreneurship in India.
The two schemes offered by DST are TAAS=Technology Absorption and Adaptation TATT=Transfer and Trading in Technology. (3)

Women today must supplement the family income, using their potential and skills that they possess. These skills and competencies may further be sharpened and tuned by way of training. Thus, women in India, no longer need to wait for employment outside home or with an organized sector. They can successfully start their self-employment ventures and earn their livelihoods.

Entrepreneurship happens to be one of the best ways towards self-sufficiency and poverty alleviation for women in a country where employment is not guaranteed. The women entrepreneurs need not be highly educated. It is enough if they possess basic knowledge of a language, entrepreneurial skills and the knowledge of the system. And also entrepreneurship is more suitable profession than regular employment in public and private sectors, since they have to fulfil dual roles. In emergence of nuclear families and diversification of labour activities has resulted in the non-availability of servants, limited baby care facilities at home and work is pushing women towards entrepreneurial activities. Women entrepreneurship is the process where women take lead and organize a business or industry and provide employment opportunities to others. Though women entrepreneurship is a recent phenomenon in India which came into prominence in late 1970's now more and more are venturing as entrepreneurs in all kinds of business and service sector. There are successful women entrepreneurs today leading enterprises like electronics, multimedia, garment, industry and so on.

Entrepreneurs and Economic Development:

Entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in the economic development of any country. Entrepreneurs are considered to be the most important economic agents for the economic augmentation and growth of any country. They act as the owners, producers, co-ordinators, market makers, decision-makers, risk takers and innovators. They provide an improved allocation of resources for the best interest of their enterprises as well as the country. They are considered the economic pioneers initiating changes in the economy. They strive to increase productivity and improve the quality of output through the application of more efficient production technique, better plant layout and effective marketing policies. They ensure production of better quality of goods and services at lowest cost. They generate employment opportunities and arrange for the betterment of the standard of living.

Entrepreneurship is also considered a life moving force behind any economy. It is also believed that without entrepreneurial activities the process of industrialization is not possible.

As per the Economic Survey in 1990 women own 10% of SSI, and it is expected to reach up to 23% by 2010, though it has not reached that level and attained only 14%. It is expected to reach 20 to 25% by the year 2020.  

Economic development is essentially a process of upward change whereby the real per capital income of an economy increases over a period of time. Entrepreneurship plays a premium role in promoting the economic development of the country. Men have been the part of the entrepreneurial culture for long. But it's only recently that Indian women joined their counterparts. They have steadily moved from the status of

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housewives to educated women, employed women and now women entrepreneurs. They are now contributing their share of potentiality towards economic development of the country though not equally but to some extent. Initially they confined themselves to the industrial business of pickle and papad making. But now they can also be seen in the technical fields such as engineering, electronics, and energy. Government support and social changes have been largely responsible for the development of women entrepreneurs. But still the growth is not satisfactory. Women entrepreneurs constitute a negligible proportion of the total number of entrepreneurs. An array of factors could be ascribed as hindering the growth of the women entrepreneurs.

The most dominant ones are the lack of proper training, inadequate, financial assistance, inherent weaknesses in Indian women namely poor self image, inadequate encouragement and motivation, lack of courage and confidence, fear of failure and criticism and last but not the least societal attitudes. To rectify the situation a lot is needed to be done by the government women herself and society at large.

It can be said the women entrepreneurship has crossed the stage of transition and it is finally in flight, but still there is a long way to go till they actually can compete with men, and emerge as successful business giants. Thus the need of the hour is the creation of congenial social, political and economic environment where the entrepreneurial skill of the women can be nurtured and developed which, in turn results in the economic development of the country.

The best scale to measure the progress of a nation is its contribution of women. A nation can only be developed if its women are given ample opportunities to develop in every field. Developing entrepreneurship among women is the right approach for their
improvement. Once a woman feels that she is economically strong, she will feel equal with man in all respect.

**Strategies to Develop of Women Entrepreneurs:**

In order to develop entrepreneurship among women, following strategies may be adopted:-

1) Creation of awareness among women about the different activities, schemes of Government and financial institutions for starting an enterprise.

2) Bank and financial institutions should have give preference to women entrepreneurs while sanctioning loans and advances

3) Women entrepreneurs should be given training to improve their skills.

4) They should be provided the facility of single window clearance.

5) They should be linked up with existing marketing agencies so that their products are disposed of properly.

6) They should be encouraged to work in groups for produce as well as marketing of their products.

Last but not the least a women entrepreneur should have confidence; enthusiasm and realistic goal setting. Women’s participation and empowerment through economic activities can help in speeding up industrialization and development of a nation and that’s what we need now, specially in India.

**Prospect of Women Entrepreneurship in the Udalguri District:**

The field of women entrepreneurship in the district of Udalguri is full of problems, still there are great prospect. Such prospects may be observed from the
viewpoint of social-economic changes, availability of resources, increasing role of promotional organisation and also infrastructural facilities.

It is accepted that women can take up entrepreneurial activity for economic gain in particular and industrial development in general. Earlier there was a kind of resistance from the family as well as from the society to allow women to take-up entrepreneurship. However, there have been decline in the male domination to some extent. Many husbands are found to have encouraged their wives to take up enterprises. This is visible in case of upper middle class families where wives are educated. Moreover, parents, brothers of unmarried women also help in their enterprises. Parents-in-law have also been gradually encouraging their daughter-in-law to take up entrepreneurial career.

Secondly, the availability of resources in the district has great impact on various economic and industrial activities. At present the most important stress is given on food processing industries for women.

Thirdly, there are different promotional organisations to help entrepreneurship. Though there is no exclusive organisation for the promotion of entrepreneurship among women, yet the existing organisations themselves have been implementing the policy and programmes for women entrepreneurs. Such organisations in fact encourage women entrepreneurs to take up each and every type of enterprise. Officials have soft and positive attitude towards projects started by women entrepreneurs in the district.

At present, there are special women cell at Directorate of Industries, DICC’s and these cells are manned by women officers. So that women entrepreneurs find it easy to meet and interact with them. The existence of “single window scheme” is very useful where women entrepreneurs may get all types of clearance from DICC’s office.
Women entrepreneurs are in an advantageous position for development as they are endowed with special benefits and scheme in addition to the general ones.

Entrepreneurship development programmes are undertaken exclusively for women, which have considerable impact upon potential women entrepreneurs.

Various important schemes are now in operation to reduce the drudgery of women in household.

North East Women Entrepreneurs Association (NEWEA) has also been set-up, which takes up various schemes for entrepreneurship development among women in the region.  

An integrated approach is necessary for making the movement of women entrepreneurship a success. For this purpose both the Government and non Government agencies have to play a vital role. In order to achieve the desired goal, there should be re-orientation of educational system for women, curriculum change, career guidance, reservations, scholarships and timely assistance are required. The joint efforts of both men and women entrepreneurs can help India into a fully developed country.

Programmes for the development of women entrepreneurs should focus on two major areas. First, social attitudes and discrimination against women need to be removed. Secondly, adequate facilities should be provided to widen entrepreneurial base among women. Women entrepreneurs on their part should adopt modern management concept and improve their competitive strength. Women should realise their power and reach out for new area and new responsibilities.

Entrepreneurship development programme with women, particularly the new generation should take cognisance of the of the entrepreneurial environment with a

5 Mali D D.: "Promoting Entrepreneurship Lessons from the India's North East" A Speed Publication, P.33, 2005
practical and theoretical understanding of entrepreneurship. The role of women in a state like Assam should be viewed as an asset. The entrepreneurial inputs should help women develop skill to meet future challenges. Many of these have to do with global issue. Skill up gradation on an aspect like marketing strategies should be constantly updated through proper networking facilities. The training on marketing and information technologies would determine the success of enterprises.

Developing social network could be one such strategy. The culture of sharing and exchanging views, and innovative ideas will go a long way in preparing women to face the challenges of bigger players. Reorienting policies to focus on developing existing women entrepreneurs would be necessary. This shall help us achieve a rapid, all round and socially balanced economic growth and development. The women entrepreneurs in business should be equipped with entrepreneurship skills and modern management practices. This shall impact positively on our national economy in future.

In future, with the help of high technology, women will be able to work from home and thus balance better between the work place and home. The opportunities for women will increase manifold with the changes in technological, cultural and social environment.

The growing trend for women in the North East to come forward to take up entrepreneurial activity is due to a number of positive factors. First, spread of education has given encouragement to women to take up entrepreneurial activity. Secondly, opportunities for self-employment for women have been increasing in recent years. Handloom activity itself has been offering opportunities for women to take it up on commercial lines for converting a leisure time activity in to a full time income generating
activity. Thirdly, educated women have found that they can fulfil their creative urge by taking up entrepreneurial activity in the areas of their interest and choice.

Women setting up private schools and crèches boutique shops are some of the emerging areas in the recent years. Fourthly, parents are supporting their daughters to take-up income generating activities to become self-dependent. This is a new trend not found earlier. Earlier, the tendency of the parents was to see how quickly they could get their daughter married. Not to speak of the parents, parents-in-law in case of married women have also been found to encourage their daughter-in-law to take up entrepreneurial activities. Thus, the family environment has been more positive for women to take up entrepreneurial activities. Fifthly, there are different organisations to train and guide women to take up entrepreneurial career.

Finally, infrastructure facilities available in any region have much to do with entrepreneurship development. In Assam, there are 13 (thirteen) industrial estates and 6(six) growth centres, which are providing sheds to prospective women entrepreneurs. A women entrepreneur to be successful has to cross the barriers of self, family and society.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was established in 1992 with a fund of Rs. 31 crores to meet the needs of poor women by giving them loans. RMK is also organising training, apprenticeship and orientation programmes for trainers under the Indian Mahila Block Society (IMBS). The objectives of RMK are that credit becomes a widely known and used facility for enhancement of the daily income of poor women. The experience of RMK is that the women would have been able to double or triple their daily income with the credit support of Rs. 2500 or Rs. 5000. The activities followed may be dairying, petty shop keeping and investment on the agricultural operation.
RMK has disbursed Rs. 16 crores out of the sanctioned credit limit of Rs. 26 crores and the recovery is 92 percent consequently for the last three years. This only proves that poor women are extremely credit worthy if NGO's give them the necessary support and guidance.

STEP was started in 1987 with the objective to provide training to rural women for increasing their production capacity and income generation. In this programme, they give training in the areas of traditional business like- agriculture, milk, fisheries, handlooms, khadi development etc.

2.5 lakh women have been benefited by the programme since its inception. Maximum numbers of beneficiaries are of milk producing area. In 1996-97, this programme has an expenditure of Rs. 1.44 crore and the number of women beneficiaries are 2400.

In recent year, the self-employment opportunities are most popular with rural women. They can start poultry, diary, piggeries, bee-keeping, goatry, petty shop, agriculture and allied operations and establish small units to produce pickle, paped, sauce and other similar products in collective way. Easy facilitation of credit through Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and Indian Mahila Block Societies (IMBS) can go a long way in ensuring this. NGO's wherever working, should motivate women to become entrepreneurs— appropriate training is needed in various developmental activities and programmes so that they can improve their knowledge, attitude and skills to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively. This should include vocational training for income generating activities and training to develop self-confidence to take up entrepreneurship. The only urgent need is to create a favourable atmosphere to increase self-employment
among women to cope up with the overall economic development of the country. Women employment is the felt need of the day in our country and a separate package is needed to develop entrepreneurship among rural women for economic development of the country.\(^6\)

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UDALGURI DISTRICT:**

The economy of this area, or for that matter, the economy of any backward area, is of dualistic nature. This feature is found more prominently in production technology of agriculture and in the prevailing financial system.

In agriculture sector, more than 81.06 percent farm households use their very old and traditional methods of cultivation. At the same time, there are also some farmers, though less in number, who have undertaken the modern way of cultivation in their agriculture, using the new technology, like tractors, shallow tube well (STW) for irrigation. The primitive way of cultivation results in very low yield whereas the modern techniques of cultivation are more efficient and give high yields at low cost of production.\(^7\)

Again, there is financial dualism while there are some organized money markets in the town area, functioning with relatively low rate of interest, at the same time, there are also some unorganized money market in the rural areas in the form of village money lenders, who charge high rates of interest for lending to the borrowers. In the rural areas, the village money lenders supply credits in more than 29.58 percent of cases.

There are also socio-cultural constraints in the smooth functioning of the economy of this area. Lack of capital, no doubt, is a serious obstacle but it is not the only

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6. Rao, JV: "ibid" p. 90
7. Daimari, P.: "ibid" p126

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obstacle to economic development. Economic development has much to do with human endowments, social attitudes, political conditions and historical accidents. Capital is a necessary but not a sufficient condition of progress. In the backward societies, there exist some social institutions, which display such attitudes that are not conductive to economic progress of the area. Attitudes like involving inferior valuation attached to business roles, permanent attachment to land, non-acceptance of the new technologies, non-allowance of women to participate in the common economic activities and confining them to house-hold activities, etc., are some of elements of social resistance to economic change in the area.

Another characteristic feature of the economy of such a backward area is the social attitude towards education, which is not conducive to economic progress. Purely academic education, that trains people for government and other clerical jobs, is preferred to technical and professional education, adding more fuel to educated unemployment problem. There is prejudice against manual work, which is despised and ill rewarded. This sort of social attitude hinders the economic development of a region.

We have also observed that in cultivation there is not much variation among the indigenous people- whether tribal or non-tribal households. In fact, their agricultural practice, business activities, sources of income, consumption pattern etc. are almost similar, disregarding some differences in (i) participation in trade and commerce and (ii) participation in service. Tribal people have come up in the participation of market economy very recently. Most of them are at the petty-trader’s stage and they have not yet undertaken any large-scale enterprise as entrepreneurs or proprietors. They have just started with small business activities – stationery shop, grocery shop, Xerox centre, PCO,
readymade garment shops etc. This transformation of the rural tribal people can be termed as a micro-transformation. Though the non-tribal people are well ahead of the tribal in this respect, yet there are no big business establishment or enterprise owned by the non-tribal people too. A few enterprises run by the non-tribal people do exist, but these are situated in the urban areas. Secondly, among the indigenous people, there are some differences in doing service; yet, in this matter, the dichotomy is not between the tribal and the non-tribal, but between the people of remote villages and those of the village situated by the towns. It has been found that people living near the towns have more employment opportunities and receives more income from service than do the people of the remote villages. In the rest of the economic spheres they exhibit almost the same characteristics.

The development of the economy of an area depends on the enhancement of the resource base, development of infrastructure, technological development and prevalence of favourable socio-economic institution. These pre-requisites of economic development are hardly available in the study area. In what follows, we suggest a few measures to promote development in the study area.

**Development of Entrepreneurship in the study area:**

In the rural areas of Udalguri district the natural as well as the human resources are grossly underutilized. The villages of the northern part of the district, right from Kundarbil in the west to Sikaridanga in the east, are situated at the Himalayas Foothills and these villages are abundantly endowed with valuable forests.

The possibilities of social forestry, medicinal plants, floriculture, mushroom cultivation etc., are immense in the area. However, no initiative has been made in this
direction as yet. In general people in the villages are not aware of these possibilities. They have to be informed and trained to enter into these enterprises. There are small-scale enterprises which the rural people can undertake along with their agricultural cultivation and which also do not require much investment of capital. The rural people have many potentialities in respect of animal husbandry like goat farming, pig farming, poultry farming etc., and bee keeping, fishery farm etc. In this area, there are lots of open spaces and grazing lands for goats, cattle and rice husks are available in every farmer’s house to feed to the pigs and fouls. What is seen in this area is that most of them rear these animals just in traditional way and commercial part of it does not get much attention. Of course, to do that it also requires sufficient amount of time and training and some amount of invisible capital. Now a days various organization (mostly NGOs) and institutions have come forward to conduct vocational training courses to the interested entrepreneurs. The interested entrepreneurs should take training from these organisations given from time to time.

Presently a few enterprises are working in ericulture. Many of them have only meagre technical knowledge regarding scientific management in this sphere. Additionally, they do not have enough finance, trained manpower, contacts in the market and necessary equipment. To promote this enterprise, the Government should take a special initiative to train the manpower working in this enterprise, make enough finance available to them and organize them to cope with the market.

Enterprises will come up and sustain themselves only if they are facilitated with good infrastructure facilities- good transport and communication systems, electricity, marketing, credit facilities etc. These infrastructure facilities are regarded as the essential
preconditions for industries as well as business. Good transport and communication facilities help in transporting the produced goods to the markets. Electricity helps efficient production of goods by reducing the time and cost of production.

Available credit and marketing facilities lead to up-gradation of the level of technology and scale of production. Therefore, since the rural people are not in a position to initiate all these by themselves, the Government should come forward with an initiative to improve such infrastructures in this area.

Another discouraging feature of the remote village of the study area is the lack of proper marketing facility due to which entrepreneurs do not get satisfactory price for their products. Therefore, the weekly markets should be organised for the villagers at every 5 to 10 square kilometres distance so that they can easily buy and sell, their farm inputs as well as farm product. Government should make necessary arrangement to set up Agricultural Marketing and Co-operative Societies at these market places. These societies should buy the farm produce from the entrepreneurs when the prices of these goods fall, and sell certain goods at low price when their prices shoot up. This will encourage the rural entrepreneurs to go for intensive production of their products.

The new technique of production involves investment of capital. And the entrepreneurs have to bear the burden of risk and uncertainty as soon as they invest capital in farming. This generally leads most of the entrepreneurs to think twice whether they should adopt the new technology in production or not. Therefore, in order to make the entrepreneurs free from such uncertainties, they should be given insurance schemes so that enterprising entrepreneurs can invest in the farming sector without a fear, risk and uncertainty.
Financial institutions like banks, insurance companies etc., should be established in these areas to facilitate the entrepreneurs and non-farm entrepreneurs with credit facilities at low rate of interest and insurance covers. The Government should encourage such financial institutions to expand their branches into the remote village of this area.

This would encourage the rural entrepreneurs to go in for starting various household and small-scale enterprises as well in the area.

The rural areas of this district are lagging behind in the sphere of skilled labourers. The prevailing education system inparts general education in different disciplines without giving any emphasis to technical or practical education. The dignity of manual work or labour is very low in the rural society. Once a person is a little educated he would not like to do manual work. He keeps on looking for some job, which does not involve manual labour. This type education system has not been able to serve the purpose of providing productive livelihood to the people. Therefore, the government should establish multi-purpose technical institutes at various centres of the areas of the district. This will encourage the rural people to acquire technical education and open their own business establishment. This will not only increase their household income, but it will also reduce the excessive pressure of population on land. After all, the rural people must be educated. They should be taught not only to read and write so that they may know what is going on and around the world, but they should also be taught to come out of the discordant social institutions, customs and traditions etc., which stand on the way of economic advancement. This would help the people to accept new technology from any part of the world and promoting economic development of the district.
Economic development depends much on the "will" of the people of the area concerned. If the people have the will to improve their economic conditions by earning more from agriculture, animal husbandry, small-scale industries etc., they themselves must take interest in it. The entrepreneurs will have to adopt and adjust themselves to the changing situation and environment that are emerging around them. Otherwise, even if the government or for that matter any other external agencies, give all the facilities for development, that would go in vain.

Through women entrepreneurship is a very recent development in Udalguri District it has gathered momentum. There is less resistance from family and society in the district to women taking up entrepreneurship. It is important to note that the economic activities and employment have been a subject of male domain, over the years, the increasing participation of women in all fields including non-conventional fields like marketing, advertising, export of garments, handicrafts, food-processing have brought tremendous changes in economic scenario in Udalguri District. It is also true that women are essential agents of economic change. Investing in women capabilities and empowering them to exercise their choice in not only valuable in itself but is also the surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall development of the district. Therefore it can be said that economic development in the district is positively correlated to women's development. Such development usually begins at the grassroots level of the district economy where women entrepreneurs needed to be empowered for decision making about their lives.

After taking the entrepreneurial activities by the women entrepreneurs in the district, they not only create the employment opportunities themselves but also provide
employment to the unemployed person. Through these processes the women entrepreneurs also contribute directly or indirectly to the economic development of this district.

It is also true that the women entrepreneurs of this area are playing their vital role in complementing and supplementing the government’s efforts for economic development of the district. In fact, entrepreneurial development is a prerequisite for economic growth and development of an area.

Women entrepreneurs of the district have an important role in social stability. Social values, forms, behaviours, beliefs, tradition and conceptions etc. play vital role in the formation of entrepreneur’s tendencies. It is the entrepreneur who can bring social stability by establishing new small enterprises. Emergence of new entrepreneurs will check concentration of economic power, create new employment opportunities, overall economic development of the district and finally bring social stability.

Generally industrial development has a tendency to establish and develop industries (big or small) in urban areas. This brings unbalanced regional development of industries. In this context also, women entrepreneurs of this district are required to play an important role in balanced regional development of industries. The women entrepreneurs generally set up industries particularly in backward area like Udalguri District to avail of the various concessions and subsidies offered by the government. Through the establishment of balanced regional development of industries particularly in the backward areas, the women entrepreneurs of the district creating infrastructural facilities and contribute economic development of the district.
Women entrepreneurs should now realize that they will have to be united and organised independently for their rights. Women entrepreneurs should try to establish an organisation for their development in the line of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BWCCI). Its founder member Salima Ahmed visited 11th Guwahati International Trade Fair (2004) and commented “Our main objectives is to provide support to the women entrepreneurs in undertaking business and trade activities, we have been providing valuable support to our members in terms of training, market, access to finance, networking, business awareness and capacity building.”

Such types of organisation will help our rural women entrepreneurs to work unitedly for economic development of our society.

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8. Women forge trade links “The Telegraph” daily from Kolkata, dated 22nd Feb 2004