

The Pangs and pathos of Women in Entrepreneurship – A Study

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There are wounds that never show on the body that are deeper and more hurtful than anything that bleed.

-Laurell K, Hamilton

Abstract

In the evolutionary process we the human beings are the top of the peak among the all the creatures in term of neurological system. We keep on striving all the time to become the best version of ourselves where monetary becomes the centre for everything. And there is no harm for it because without it the wheel of life remains unmoved. To do so we are the most comfort and convenience generation ever. But the question is that are we the most pleasant and peaceful generation? The answer is big no because this centre has no power to hold the things of humanity and therefore the mere anarchy such as stresses, anxieties, pains, pathos, anguishes, and traumas which wound our consciousness and enforce our intelligence to turn against us. The impact of this psychological wound is deeper and more harmful than physical wound. This present paper looks at select samples of pangs and pathos faced by the women in their journey of entrepreneurship and how they are dehumanized, marginalized and ignored the importance of their footprints in entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Evolutionary, Neurological system, Anxieties, Anguishes, Entrepreneurship, Dehumanized, Footprints

The word 'entrepreneur' is derived from the French word 'entreprendre' which means 'to do something' or 'to organize something' through taking risk. In this context entrepreneurship means the process through which a business is set up with a purpose of earning profits by taking calculative risk. To do so one has to require emotional stability, risk taking ability, cooperative and friendly attitude, and situation handling ability. It also needs innovative tactful ideas and unique techniques which help to run an enterprise solely. In this sense entrepreneurs are the innovators of new ideas and makers of new products who generate new opportunities on the globe which unlocks the door of growth in a country.

Nowadays the notion of traditional of looking everything has gone. In the competitive world and the game of profit and loss the concept of gender has changed which has begun to play a significant role in the field of entrepreneurship. Today the concepts of 'new woman' have begun to contribute in every area and questioned the patriarchal way of looking the world. Therefore the women in present time are highly empowered and motivated. They are taking part in the field of entrepreneurship to make themselves financially independence and leaving their footprints on the growth of society. In this context the Bollywood and Hollywood actress Priyanka Chopra's, words are really soundable:

“Financial independence is paramount. My mom always says that when a woman is financially independent, she has the ability to live life on her own terms. I think that was the soundest advice that I ever got. No matter where you go in life or who you get married to, you have to be financially independent - whether you use it or not.”

In the field of entrepreneurship talking about women entrepreneurs means that both male and female have accepted the fact that women are inferior to men both physically and mentally. Therefore the most of the female business owners who have attended networking events, can notice that in the business seminar the number of women are less in comparison to men. So, they talk business primarily with male executives where they have to adopt male stereotypical business attitude and in the competitive and aggressive harshness they become the shadow of male dominated society. The successful female CEO Hilary Genga dismantles the suppressive and dominating attitude of men entrepreneurs and encourages women entrepreneurs by saying, 'You made it to where you are through hard work and perseverance, but most importantly, you're there. Don't conform yourself to a man's idea of what a leader should look...'

India is the land of a long spiritual tradition where women deities have been worshipped by both men and women. They are the sources of inspiration and motivation for them. But in reality women are the puppets first in the hand of their fathers and later in the hand of their husbands. Therefore they are not encouraged by their family members to be an entrepreneur. So they are afraid to take risk at the initial stage in the field of entrepreneurship. Even bank and other financial institutions do not give financial support for building their projects up to the middle class women or girls and unmarried women. They have been indoctrinated by the society to not be too ambitious because it is a naked

darkness on their charming beauty which bears a long pang and pathos on their financial independency. In this context again Bollywood and Hollywood actress Priyanka Chopra's utterances are quotable:

“Ambition is a word associated with women negatively. People say she's too ambitious. Why is that a bad thing? My mom always said that when a woman is financially independent she has the ability to live life on her own terms”.

Discrimination in opportunities and inequality are the two major challenges faced by Indian women in every field. Laws, cultures, religion, and politics are built upon a patriarchal foundation by which they are believed to accept as subordinate to men. So the definition of good daughter or good wife is to do everything the way her father or husband wants. Therefore they remain independence on them. Virginia Woolf in her well known essay *A Room of One's Own* points out: 'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction'.

Education is the backbone of any country. But the country like India where around three-fifths (60%) of women are still illiterate. It is the root cause of the women to show less enthusiasm in entrepreneurship because due to the lack of it they remain far from their rights and become parasite on the male dominated society. Therefore they do not know how to advertise, how to motivate and encourage other women, how to handle emotion, how to take risk, how to handle the worst situation and so on. They even do not know how to handle worry when they go through the bad situation. In this context news paper seller the late Edward S. Evans said what the situation was when he was in bankruptcy and how he overcame it.

"I couldn't sleep or eat, I became strangely ill. Worry and nothing but worry," he said, "brought on this illness. One day as I was walking down the street, I fainted and fell on the sidewalk. I was no longer able to walk. I was put to bed and my body broke out in boils. These boils turned inward until just lying in bed was agony. I grew weaker every day. Finally my doctor told me that I had only two more weeks to live. I was shocked. I drew up my will, and then lay back in bed to await my end. No use now to struggle or worry. I gave up, relaxed, and went to sleep. I hadn't slept two hours in succession for weeks; but now with my earthly problems drawing to an end, I slept like a baby. My exhausting weariness began to disappear. My appetite returned. I gained weight.”

Inner wound is much more painful and pathetic than outer wound. It is psychological and emotional. It is invisible and comprehensible which is the main pillar of success and failure. That is why the greatest poet John Milton writes in his magnificent book *Paradise Lost*, 'The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven...' It is the another challenge faced by the women entrepreneurs which is the cause for their pangs and pathos because in general they are emotionally and psychologically less organized than men. It sometime becomes more harmful than the outer threats. That is why Dr. Osier indoctrinated to his Yale students by saying:

"...is a much more marvelous organisation than the great liner, and bound on a longer voyage. What I urge is that you so learn to control the machinery as to live with 'day-tight compartments' as the most certain way to ensure safety on the voyage. Get on the bridge, and see that at least the great bulkheads are in working order. Touch a button and hear, at every level of your life, the iron doors shutting out the Past-the dead yesterdays. Touch another and shut off, with a metal curtain, the Future -the unborn tomorrows. Then you are safe-safe for today! ... Shut off the past! Let the dead past bury its dead. ... Shut out the yesterdays which have lighted fools the way to dusty death. ... The load of tomorrow, added to that of yesterday, carried today, makes the strongest falter. Shut off the future as tightly as the past. ... The future is today. ... There is no tomorrow. The day of man's salvation is now. Waste of energy, mental distress, nervous worries dog the steps of a man who is anxious about the future. ... Shut close, then the great fore and aft bulkheads, and prepare to cultivate the habit of life of 'day-tight compartments'.

It has been considered that male is the centre of society. This traditional patriarchal notion is still the order of the day in India. In the Constitution of India it is clearly written that we both the men and women have equal rights and equal opportunity has to be provided between sexes. But, in reality, this utopian notion becomes a reverie in the dystopian male dominated society. They are not given the proper support and encouragement by their family members as well as by the government. In this context Padmasree Warrior remarks:

"I have seen women who are very interested in tech finish their graduate or undergraduate degrees, but then choose not to pursue a career in tech because they're not sure they want to spend the next 20-30 years in an industry that's very male dominated (Votes: 3)."

After the above discussion it is quite clear to us that the suffering for the psychological pangs and pathos is much stronger than the physical wound which compels sometime women entrepreneurs to commit suicide. In this context Dr. Alexis Carrel, said: "Business men who do not know how to fight worry die young." Now the time has come to deconstruct the traditional way of looking women and support them and help them every possible way for their passion. It is the responsibility of the Family members as well as government of India and financial institutions to motivate them and to encourage them for entrepreneurship. Only then the engine of flourishing and growth of India comes to be realized.

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