

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH FOOD PROCESSING UNITS IN KARNATAKA

Dr Dr.R.H.Pavithra

Associate Professor/Chairman

DOS&R in Economics, Karnataka State Open University

Mukthagangothri, Mysore-570006, pavithrarhmysore@gmail.com

Introduction

Women empowerment is a critical aspect in achieving gender equality, where both men and women have equal power and opportunities for education, healthcare, economic participation and personal development. India's journey towards women empowerment has a major role. It has made gains by endorsement international conventions and formulating domestic policies intended to end gender inequality. Women in India are emerging in all sectors, including politics, business, medicine, sports and agriculture.

The Food Processing (FP) is the transformation of agricultural products into food products. The Food Processing (FP) includes process under which any raw product of agriculture, dairy, animal husbandry, meat, poultry/ fishing is transformed through

h a process in such a way that its original physical properties undergo a change and the transformed product has commercial value and is suitable for human and animal consumption.

The major industries constituting the food processing industry are grains, sugar, edible oils, beverages and dairy products. India is the world's second largest producer of fruits & vegetables after China but hardly 2 percent of the produce is processed. In spite of a large production base, the level of processing is low (less than 10 percent). Approximately 2 percent of fruits and vegetables, 8 percent marine, 35 percent milk, 6 percent poultry are processed.

Status of Food Processing In India

India's food processing sector is one of the leading sectors in the world and its output is expected to reach \$535 billion by 2025-26. The FP has a vital role to play in linking Indian farmers to consumers in the domestic and international markets. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is making all efforts to encourage investments across the value chain. The industry engages about 1.93 million people in around 39,748 registered FP units with fixed capital of \$32.75 billion is aggregate output of around \$158.69 billion.

Review of Literature

- A literatures review is very necessary in research. It identifies, evaluates, and synthesizes the relevant literature within a particular field of research.
- In this background a review of literature is made which is broadly categorized into two types:
 - a) Theoretical review of literature
 - b) Empirical review of literature

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the present study:

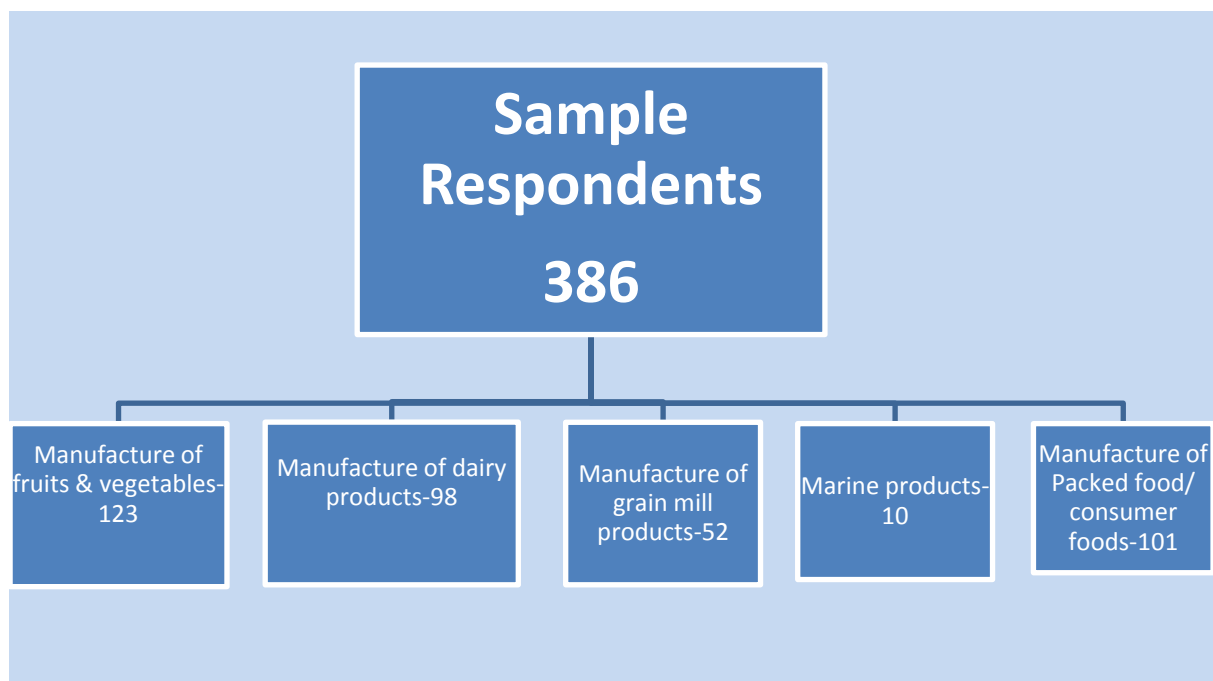
- To evaluate the policies of government for economic empowerment of women.
- To analyze the growth and trend pattern of food processing units in India and Karnataka.
- To study the factors that motivate women engaged in food processing units in Mysore district
- To examine the impact of food-processing units on economic empowerment of women in the study area
- To identify the problems faced by the women engaged in food processing units in the study area

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been framed;

- There is a significant increase in food processing units in India and Karnataka.
- There is no significant difference between the economic factors that motivate women entrepreneurs and workers engaged in food processing units in Mysore district.
- There is no significant difference among the problems which are related to raw materials faced by women engaged in Food processing units in study area. `
- There is no significant difference among the problems related to marketing faced by the women in Food processing units in study area.

Sample Design



Growth and Trends in Food Processing units in India and Karnataka

The Indian food industry's output is expected to reach \$ 535 Bn by 2025-26. Rising household incomes, urbanization and the growth of organized retail are currently some of the major drivers of this market. According to the latest Annual Survey of Industries (2016-17), food processing accounted for:

- 15.95 percent of the total number of factories
- Employment to 11.36 percent of the workforce
- 14.09 percent of the output
- 16.78 percent of the operational factories

The Indian market is fast evolving and has seen some major changes in terms of changing consumption patterns due to urbanization, changes in the gender composition of the workforce, and growing consumption rates. The growing consumption of food is expected to reach \$ 1.2 Trn by 2025-26, owing to these factors.

According to the data provided by the Department of Industrial Policies and Promotion (DIPP), the food processing sector in India has received around US\$ 7.54 billion worth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the period April 2000-March 2017. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) estimates that the food processing sectors have the potential to attract as much as US\$ 33 billion of investment over the next 10 years and also to generate employment to nine million employers.

- Over the past three years, the food services sector has observed a tremendous development. The sector witnesses growth of 11 percent CAGR during 2015-16 to 2018-19. In 2018-19, the sector was estimated at INR 4, 23,865crore (\$ 56.11 Bn) and is projected to reach INR 5, 99,784 crores (\$ 79.40 Bn) at a CAGR of 9 percent by 2022-23.
- The organized segment holds a share of 35 percent. This segment witnessed a CAGR of 13percentduring 2015-16 to 2018-19 which is estimated to reach a CAGR of 15percentby 2022-23. The sector was estimated to have a market size of INR 1, 48,353crores (\$ 19.64 Bn) in 2018-19 and is expected to reach INR 2, 57,907crores (\$ 34.14 Bn) in 2022-2023.

India's Sales Volume of Packaged Foods in 2014 and 2018 ('000 Tons)

Category	2014	2018	%
Baby Food	86	98	14
Baked Goods	2,614	2,960	13
Biscuits and Snack Bars	1,636	1,910	17
Breakfast cereals	44	69	57
Confectionery	451	640	42
Dairy	15,800	20,997	33
Ice Cream and Frozen Desserts	289	460	59
Edible Oils	5,898	11,070	88
Processed Fruit and Vegetables	46	59	28
Processed Meat and Seafood	30	46	56
Ready Meals	51	85	67
Rice, Pasta and Noodles	2,156	3,786	76
Sauces, Dressings and Condiments	396	604	53
Soup	8	12	50
Margarine and Spreads	7	13	86
Savory Snacks	702	1129	61

Status of Food Processing Sector (Per cent)

Source: National Accounts Statistics, World Integrated Trade Solution and Annual Survey of Industries data.

Sl. No	Indicators	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2016-17	2017-18
01	Share in Total Value Added	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4
02	Share in Manufacturing Value Added	9.4	9.4	7.4	7.7	7.9
03	Share in Manufacturing Employment	13.2	15.4	12.1	11.4	11.4
04	Share in Total Manufacturing Exports	5.1	5.4	2.9	4.4	4.5
05	As Proportion to Agricultural Value Added	4.1	5.6	7.2	9.2	9.5
06	As Proportion to Agricultural and Allied Exports	56.0	97.2	70.8	91.4	101.0

**Status of Food Processing Industry in India
(Average of 2000-01 to 2016-17) (Percent)**

Item	Value added to output	Share in output	Share in employment	Share in exports
Manufacture of macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products	35.9	0.2	0.3	0.1
Manufacture of prepared meals and dishes	30.1	0.4	0.6	-
Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	25.5	1.5	1.8	0.6
Processing and preserving of fruits and vegetables	20.9	1.5	3.3	3.7
Manufacture of bakery products	18.9	2.8	4.6	1.0
Total	10.7	100	100	100.0

India’s food processing Market status

- India’s food processing sector is one of the largest in the world and its output is expected to reach US\$ 535 billion by 2025-26.
- This sector is expected to generate 9 million jobs by 2024.
- The Indian food industry is expanding at a CAGR of 11percent and the food processing sector accounts for 32percent of the total food industry.
- India’s food sector attracted US\$ 4.18 billion in foreign direct investments between April 2014 and March 2020.
- By 2030, Indian annual household consumption is expected to triple, making India the fifth-largest consumer in the world.
- There is growth in the organized food retail sector and increase in urbanization.
- MSME’s are playing a vital role in India’s food processing chain through various advancements in skills and technology.

- The online food ordering business in India is witnessing an exponential growth.
- There is high demand for packaged, healthy and immunity booster snacks such as roasted nuts, popcorns, and roasted pulses.
- There is a shift in focus from loose to branded packaging.
- The government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative places priority on this sector and offers support through various policies.

Major Findings of the Study

Findings from Secondary Data

- From the study it is revealed that women entrepreneurs of the age group 31-45 years are most common in food processing units.
- The study found that in the study are a majority of women engaged in food processing units have only secondary and graduation level of education.
- From the study it is revealed that majority women workers in food processing units belongs General category and OBC.
- From the study it is revealed that majority women workers have very less land assets i.e., less than 5 acres.

Policy Implication

Following policy implications are listed in the study.

- ❖ Due to lack of promotional activities women entrepreneurs are not able to overcome the market therefore free promotional activities has to be conducted by the government to promote the enterprise.
- ❖ In food processing sector storage facilities is very essential. Hence storage capacities and infrastructure should be increased.
- ❖ Development of the agricultural facility with good agricultural practice leads to the transition from staple food crops to diversification of crops. Therefore government should formulate the policies regarding agriculture facilities which help the women to enter food processing units.
- ❖ However government taking measures to improve the status of SC and ST majority women workers in food processing units GM and OBC only. Thus government should make more policies regarding empowerment of SC and ST category of women.

- ❖ Even though Indian has high literacy rate in the study women workers in food processing units have only secondary and graduation level education. But in food processing units' technical and professional education is required; hence government should provide technical and professional education to women to increase their professional competency.
- ❖ To improve the quality management government should take care of training and other quality improvement programs which improve customer services and skilled labour.

Conclusion

The present research study is exclusively dedicated to Economic Empowerment of Women by the means of food processing industries in Mysore district. The chapter provides deeper insights regarding the women folk associated with food processing units such as manufacture of fruits & vegetables, manufacture of dairy products, manufacture of grain mill products, marine products, and manufacture of packed food /consumer foods.

In aggregate it may be summarized that Economic Empowerment of Women is largely evident and proven to be effective. The factors like of employment creation, size & operation of processing units, annual income, savings, percentage change of year on year contribution and revenue earning potential of food processing industries are creating benchmarking footprints in the study area. Manufacture of fruits & vegetables, Manufacture of Packed food/consumer foods, Manufacture of dairy products, Manufacture of grain mill products and marine products are worth mentioning with regard to the economic empowerment of women.

The study found that there is a positive relationship between economic empowerment of women through food processing unit in terms of income and savings in the study area. Even though there are problems relating to raw materials, marketing, inadequate publicities etc., The study shows an increasing growth rate in FPU's in India, Karnataka and also in the study area.

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