Chapter 64


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ABSTRACT

Women plays a vital role in business and they are a major resource potential in entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, women entrepreneurs tend to face greater obstacles in access to credit, market knowledge, business needs and by the limits of trade agreements and the constraints of trade policies. Thus, there is a need for more efficient policies for the development of female entrepreneurship. The chapter offer analysis of state of the empowerment of women in the globalization. Then, the analysis of the theoretical foundations is for justifying the role of women as entrepreneur and promoter of gender equality and constraints that they are facing. Then, it is an opportunity to offer a brief overview about women in the socio-economic development in MENA region. Finally, the question is how to create policies for the business sector to promote their empowerment. A SWOT analysis is done to explore challenges and limits and offer some recommendations. This chapter is an opportunity to explore new area about the degree of adaptation of women’s entrepreneur to the trade policies rules.

INTRODUCTION

Global interest in the development of female entrepreneurship and exploring policies to support recently increased due to the gender gap in entrepreneurial activity. On the other hand, the under-development of female entrepreneurship represents an untapped potential for prosperity growth. Through entrepreneurial activities, women create jobs, generate income to reduce poverty, achieve economic independence and contribute to sustainable development. Although there is a great, need of creating more favorable condi-
Women’s Empowerment and Socio-Economic Development in MENA Region

Women’s empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. Women’s empowerment is achieved when women and girls acquire the power to act freely and fulfill their potential. While empowerment comes from within individuals themselves, cultures, societies, and institutions creating conditions that facilitate the possibilities for empowerment. The process of empowerment involves changes to multiple aspects of a woman’s life. The World Bank (2007) defined women’s economic empowerment principally on markets, which is, “…making markets work for women and empowering women to compete in