

Inclusive Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals

A Global Research Perspective

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This chapter explores the linkages between inclusive women's entrepreneurship (WE) in Sri Lanka and three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). This research aims to explore how WE activities can contribute to inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic growth and the synergistic effects between these SDGs.

Using a qualitative case study of women-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (WMSMEs) in Sri Lanka, the chapter reveals significant links between inclusive WE and the three SDGs. The experiences and contributions of these entrepreneurs are analyzed, with transcripts coded to identify themes. Findings provide insights into the challenges, achievements, and interconnected impacts of WE on health and well-being, gender equality, and socioeconomic growth in Sri Lanka. The study reveals significant links between inclusive WE and the three SDGs. Women entrepreneurs often prioritize health and well-being in their business practices, promoting healthy workforces and communities, which aligns with SDG 3. They challenge traditional gender roles, promote gender equality, provide employment opportunities, and advocate for supportive policies, thereby promoting SDG 5. Women-led businesses make a significant contribution to SDG 8 by creating jobs, fostering innovation, and increasing productivity. The study identifies a synergistic cycle in which improvements in one SDG led to improvements in others. Through nurturing inclusive WE, the chapter underscores the critical role of women entrepreneurs in contributing to a diversified and resilient economy that promotes sustainable and inclusive growth.

Keywords

Women's entrepreneurship (WE); Sri Lanka; Sustainable development goals (SDGs); Synergistic cycle; MSMEs

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