

Women Entrepreneurs in Egypt: a qualitative study of perceptions of challenges

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Abstract

Although all entrepreneurs and business owners encounter obstacles and barriers, the challenges that female entrepreneurs face in Egypt are surmount. Female entrepreneurs in Egypt lack the requisite training and basic advising services that would keep them updated with new technological skills. Moreover, women are more likely to discontinue their businesses due to limited access to finance. Furthermore, women face restrictive legal and institutional burdens when establishing their business or when starting a new one. In addition, cultural constraints are another challenge that negatively influences women's creditability, their empowerment and self-confidence. The current study, intends to investigate the challenges that female entrepreneurs encounter, as business owners or start-up entrepreneurs in Egypt. The study contributes to the literature on women entrepreneurs by highlighting the challenges they face and presenting solutions that could help to promote their contribution in the economy. Women entrepreneurs encounter more difficult challenges because of their gender as women. They have multiple responsibilities between home, family and work. Moreover, married entrepreneurs do not have the ability to balance between the business and family in comparison, to unmarried entrepreneurs.



However, all face the same challenges such as familial obligations, access to finance and discrimination against women. Further, they lack training and development, management skills that would enable them to establish their

Business efficiently. Finally, the community and its cultural constraints discourage females.

Therefore, a closer look at women's business choices and the enabling environment is necessary to highlight obstacles that prevent a larger portion of women from entering the formal SME sector.

[6th Global Entrepreneurship & Business Management Summit; Webinar Event](#)

Abstract Citation:

Rwan Zakria Abdelrhman, Women Entrepreneurs in Egypt: a qualitative study of perceptions of challenges, Entrepreneurship Summit 2020, 6th Global Entrepreneurship & Business Management Summit; Webinar Event

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