

WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR IN MUSHROOM CULTIVATION - A CASE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Sadhana Manwatkar is a women entrepreneur in mushroom cultivation. Twenty five years old Sadhana is a home maker, with 4 year old girl child, having a rural and urban family background. She has passed H.Sc. examination with 50 per cent. She is a very active, bold and enthusiastic women. Apart from the Mushroom cultivation she runs a Sanskar Kendra for young children. She also has hobbies such as Rangoli making, Sewing, Nib Painting, Dancing, etc.

This case study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the nature of enterprize.
2. To asses the achievements of the enterprenuer.
3. To know the constraints involved in the enterprize.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken by personal interview, visits to the spots and participatory observation method and video recording of the enterprize. Thoe information collected is presented as follows:

Mushroom entreprize was initiated in August 2001 which was started in colloboration with Shilpa Mushrooms, Aurangabad wherein the entrepreneur undergone the training about handling and running mushroom enterprize. Availability of leisure time, interest in mushroom cultivation and the

announcement of 50 per cent subsidy by central government and 20 per cent subsidy by state government for Mushroom cultivation helped Mrs. Sadhana in deciding to start the enterprize.

Nature of Enterprize

The activities undertaken were as follows:

1. Cultivation of Mushroom
2. Training in Mushroom cultivation
3. Sale of literature on Mushroom
4. Sale of Spawn
5. Sale of Fresh and Dried Mushroom
6. Advertisement
7. Purchase of Mushroom

Input in the Enterprize

The following were the inputs made by entrepreneur:

1. Extended constructions
2. Bamboo structures
3. Spawn (5Kgs)
4. Chemicals
5. Hay (Wheat)
6. Polythene bags

Mrs. Sadhana had undergone one day training in Mushroom cultivation at Shilpa Mushroom Aurangabad.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table 1 showing month wise account of the activities undertaken by Mrs. Sadhana revealed that the total number of persons

providing training in mushroom cultivation while from the sale of spawn, the earning was Rs. 2,500.00. The sale of literature added Rs. 1,200.00 in the earnings. Mrs. Sadhana could earn Rs. 9,000.00 and Rs.

Table 1 : Month wise account of the activities undertaken by the entrepreneur

Sr. No.	Month	A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	August 2001	4	25	—	—	—	—
2.	September 2001	8	35	—	—	—	—
3.	October 2001	12	50	—	—	—	—
4.	November 2001	20	50	30	30	—	—
5.	December 2001	12	50	50	50	—	—
6.	January 2002	4	40	20	20	—	—
	Total	60	250	100	100	60	1000

Keys

A- Personnel trained

C- Sale of fresh mushrooms

E- Sale of literature on mushroom (nos.)

B- Sale of spawn

D- Sale of dry mushroom

F- Profit earned from sale of chemicals

trained during August 2001 to Jan 2002 was 60 out of which 56 were male and 4 were female.

As regards the sale of spawn during the six month period (from August 2001 to Jan 2002) 250 Kgs spawn was sold. As far as sale of Mushroom is concerned, 100 Kgs of Mushroom (each fresh and dried) was sold during the same period. Further, it was indicated that 60 books on Mushroom cultivation were sold and from the sale of chemicals Mrs. Sadhana could earn Rs. 1000 approximately.

Table-2 showed the account of output of the enterprise. It was observed that an amount of Rs. 18,000.00 was earned through

Table 2 : Output of the Enterprise:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Income in Rs.
1.	Training	18,000
2.	Sale of Spawn	2,500
3.	Sale of Literature	1,200
4.	Sale of Fresh mushrooms	9,000
5.	Sale of dried Mushrooms	4,500
6.	Sale of Chemicals	1,000
	Total :	36,200

4,500.00 from sale of fresh mushroom and dried mushroom, respectively. Where as from the sale of chemicals an amount of Rs. 1,000.00 was earned. Thus, in all an amount of Rs. 36,200.00 was earned during August 2001 to January 2002 from the mushroom enterprise.

Table-3 revealed the constraints faced by the entrepreneur.

Table 3: The constraints faced by the entrepreneur:

Sr. No	Constraints
1.	In the beginning of the enterprise the entrepreneur have faced the problems such as place to erect the shed for Mushroom cultivation, sterilization of spawn, etc.
2.	Acquiring of the skills such as preparation of bed
3.	Overlapping of different roles (of mother, wife, home maker, entrepreneur, etc)
4.	Providing training for the illiterate people was time consuming
5.	Untimely supply of raw material such as spawn and chemicals from the Aurangabad office

Table 4: Achievements of the entrepreneur:

Sr. No.	Constraints
1.	An amount of Rs. 36,000.00 approximately was earned through the enterprise
2.	Self identity in the society was gained by the entrepreneur
3.	Out of 60 person undergone training in mushroom cultivation 20 persons (16 male and 4 female) have started the enterprise
4.	Feeling of satisfaction

In the beginning of the enterprise the entrepreneur have faced the problems such as place to erect the shed for mushroom cultivation, sterilization of spawn, etc. The acquisition of skills of preparation of bed was difficult at the initial stage. The most difficult task was to justify different roles to be

played by the entrepreneur including that of a mother, a wife, a home maker and also an entrepreneur.

Table-4 shows achievements of the entrepreneur.

The entrepreneur has earned a sum of Rs 36,000.00 through the enterprise in the six months. Simultaneously, she could get her personal identification in the society; beyond making 20 persons to start the mushroom enterprise after giving them training.

CONCLUSION

Mrs. Sadhana Manwatkar was on the path of success. Though, six months is a very short period for any enterprise to come up. It could be said that the mushroom cultivation can easily be taken-up by rural women for making additional earning to the home.