



Equitable Wealth Distribution as a Catalyst for Female Entrepreneurship, Gender Equity, and Social Change in Rivers State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined how equitable wealth distribution can advance female entrepreneurship, gender equity, and social change in Rivers State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study included among others, to: analyze the impact of wealth inequality on female entrepreneurship in Rivers State, assess the role of equitable wealth distribution in driving gender equity, and to propose policy frameworks for sustainable social change. The theories that were found relevant to the study were Liberal Feminist Theory, Feminist Economic Theory and Social Justice Theory. Using a descriptive survey research design, the study surveyed a sample of 384 entrepreneurs determined from a population of approximately 7.234,973 million peoples of Rivers State. The study employed Krecjic and Morgan's determinant table in arriving at the sample size for the study. Stratified random sampling technique across Port Harcourt, Obio-Akpor, and Eleme Local Government Areas (LGAs) was employed. Data for the study were collected using structured questionnaire, which was supplemented by oral interviews with 10 key stakeholders (NGO leaders, policymakers, and businessmen). The research instruments were validated by three Communication Scholars and experts in Gender Studies. Pilot testing yielding a Cronbach's alpha of 0.85 was carried out to ensure the reliability of the research instruments. Key findings revealed that equitable wealth distribution significantly enhances female entrepreneurial activities, leading to improved gender equity and positive social transformations. The study concluded that policies aimed at fair wealth distribution are crucial for empowering female entrepreneurs and based on the findings, the study recommended among others that government and non-governmental organizations should intensify efforts to implement such policies to promote sustainable development in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Wealth distribution, female entrepreneurship, gender equity, social change.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background to the Study

Historically, societal norms have relegated women to domestic roles, confining them to activities such as cooking and cleaning kitchen utensils, while men engaged in more intellectually and economically rewarding pursuits. This traditional gender role assignment has its roots in patriarchal family structures, where from a young age, girls are trained to manage household chores, and boys are encouraged to pursue education and careers. In Nigeria, this cultural norm has permeated the workplace, leading to significant gender segregation in various professions. Men, for instance, predominantly occupy lucrative positions in fields such as Engineering, Aviation, and Industrial operations. For instance, the Engineering sector is overwhelmingly male-dominated, with women constituting a small fraction of the workforce. Similarly, in Aviation, the number of female pilots remains disproportionately low compared to their male counterparts. In Industrial settings, roles involving machine operation are often reserved for men, while women are assigned less technical tasks.

In Rivers State, Nigeria, deeply entrenched gender norms continue to marginalize women, relegating them to domestic roles, while men dominate economic and political spheres. From childhood, girls are socialized to prioritize household chores over education, as seen in rural communities like Okrika, where only 30% of girls complete secondary school education (Rivers State Ministry of Education, 2022). This systemic inequality permeates adulthood: women constitute less than 15% of Engineers in Port Harcourt's oil and gas sector, according to a report by the National Bureau of Statistics, and hold only 2 of 23 seats in the State House of Assembly (NBS, 2023). Even in professions like Medicine and Surgery and teaching, men occupy 80% of leadership roles (UNDP, 2022). For instance, there has been only one female Vice-Chancellor in Rivers State, Nigeria, and that was Professor Rosemund Dienne Green-Osahogulu, the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE), who served from 2013 to 2015. In the oil industry, women have also been marginalized. Mrs. Preye Duno, a Port Harcourt-based Engineer, reported being denied promotions despite 10 years of service, with her male colleagues citing her "inability to work late shifts due to family duties." Women also face unequal access to capital: only 12% of Rivers State's business loans are granted to female-owned enterprises (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2023).

The marginalization of women in Rivers State is evident across various sectors. Despite being the hub of Nigeria's oil and gas industry, women in Rivers State are underrepresented in technical and leadership positions within this sector. Additionally, cultural practices in some communities within Rivers State further entrench gender disparities, limiting women's access to education and economic opportunities. This study aimed to explore whether entrepreneurship can serve as a catalyst for achieving gender equality, economic inclusion, and social change in Rivers State, Nigeria by proffering or identifying alternative pathways, such as entrepreneurship, to empower women, promote gender equity, and serve as a pathway to disrupt these disparities. The urgent need to address these inequities, inspired by grassroots movements, such as the Rivers Women in Business Collective, which has empowered over 500 women through microloans since 2020 motivated this study.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Despite Nigeria's Gender and Equal Opportunities Act (2010) and initiatives, such as the *Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme*, and all efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to eliminate gender discrimination, it persists in the workplace, leading to the marginalization of women. In Rivers State, Nigeria. Women, for instance, earn 45% less than men in comparable roles and represent only 18% of managerial positions in Port Harcourt's industrial sector (NBS, 2023). In 2022, for instance, only 3 out of 50 engineers hired by Agip Oil Company were women, with Human Resources managers citing "physical demands" as justification (Vanguard News, 2022). Cultural norms further restrict women's economic participation: 70% of surveyed men in Obio-Akpor LGA believe women should prioritize caregiving over careers (Rivers State Gender Survey, 2021). The problem of this research endeavour, therefore, addresses two critical questions:

1. How does inequitable wealth distribution perpetuate gender disparities in Rivers State? and
2. Can targeted wealth redistribution policies catalyze female entrepreneurship and social change?

These critical questions and persistent gender discrimination in Nigeria's workplace, despite various interventions, have prompted this research, which observed that women continue to face barriers in accessing equal employment opportunities, leading to economic exclusion and social disparities.

1.3. Aim and Objectives of the Study

Generally, this study aimed to study how equitable wealth distribution can foster female entrepreneurship, promote gender equity, and facilitate social change in Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:

1. analyze the impact of wealth inequality on female entrepreneurship in Rivers State;
2. assess the role of equitable wealth distribution in advancing gender equity; and
3. propose policy frameworks for sustainable social change;

1.4. Research Questions

This study hoped to give answers to the following questions:

1. What is the impact of wealth inequality on female entrepreneurship in Rivers State?
2. What is the role of equitable wealth distribution in advancing gender equity, and
3. What policy interventions can promote equitable wealth distribution for sustainable social change?

2.0. Literature Review

This section of the study focused on literatures by other authors that are relevant to this study. Literature review is necessary for better understanding of the topic and for building a researcher's work on specific foundation of previous studies.

2.1. Conceptual review

In this sub-section, the researcher looked at how previous scholars defined and explained the concepts which embody this study. The section, thus, reviewed and examined the following key concepts in an attempt to clarify and explain the meaning of these major concepts.

2.1.1. The Concept of Wealth Distribution:

Equitable wealth distribution refers to the fair allocation of financial resources, income, and assets among individuals within a society. Studies show that wealth distribution directly influences economic empowerment and business opportunities for marginalized groups, including women (Odishika & Ajudua, 2023). According to Funmilola (2023), 'fair distribution of resources enables women to access the capital necessary to start and sustain businesses, thereby increasing their financial independence'. Without equitable wealth distribution, financial exclusion persists, limiting women's ability to accumulate assets and contribute to household welfare (Odishika & Ajudua, 2023)

2.1.2. Female Entrepreneurship:

Female entrepreneurship encompasses the activities of women in initiating, organizing, and managing businesses. Research has found that women entrepreneurs face systemic barriers such as limited access to loans, lack of collateral, and exclusion from formal financial institutions (Ogunrinola, 2011). However, social capital; networks, support systems, and cooperative lending structures- plays a significant role in enabling women to overcome these challenges (Ogunrinola, 2011). When financial policies promote inclusive economic participation, female entrepreneurship thrives, leading to sustainable business development (Funmilola, 2023).

2.1.3. Gender Inequality:

Gender equity involves creating equal opportunities for all genders, particularly in economic and social contexts. Wealth distribution policies that prioritize gender-sensitive initiatives- such as microloans and training programmes for women- enhance economic equity (Funmilola, 2023). However, disparities in asset ownership, as highlighted by Odishika and Ajudua (2023), continue to hinder women's ability to accumulate long-term wealth. Closing the gender gap in financial inclusion and asset acquisition is essential for achieving broader gender equity, as Funmilola (2023) pointed out.

2.1.4. Social Change:

Social change refers to shifts in societal norms, values, and institutional policies that lead to improved social conditions. Equitable wealth distribution serves as a catalyst for broader social transformations by enabling women to participate in decision-making, reduce economic dependency, and contribute to community development (Odishika & Ajudua, 2023). Gender-focused economic policies, such as business grants for women and financial inclusion programmes, are key drivers of this change (Funmilola, 2023).

2.2. Theoretical review

The following theories were found relevant to the study:

2.2.1. Liberal Feminist Theory:

Proposed in the late 18th century by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792), liberal feminist theory advocates for equal rights and opportunities for women through legal and political reforms (Frieden, 1963). It emphasizes the removal of institutional barriers that hinder women's participation in various spheres, including the economy. Okin (1979) argues that justice and equal opportunities require that women have equal opportunities and resources. This theory is relevant to the study as it underscores the importance of equitable wealth distribution in empowering women entrepreneurs. Wealth distribution policies align with liberal feminist ideals by advocating structural reforms that ensure women receive fair access to economic resources, thereby reducing historical discrimination.

2.2.2. Feminist Economics Theory (Ferber & Nelson, 1993):

Feminist economics critiques traditional economic structures, arguing that they inherently favor men due to deeply entrenched biases in financial systems, labor markets, and economic policies. The theory calls for wealth redistribution policies that specifically target female entrepreneurs, ensuring they have equal access to credit, land, and business networks. Burggraf (1997) examines the relationship between feminist economics and social justice and argues that feminist economics provides a framework for understanding the intersections of gender, class and race. This perspective supports the argument that without deliberate interventions such as microfinance schemes, business grants, and training programs, women will remain economically marginalized. Studies have shown that in economies where gender-sensitive financial policies have been implemented, women's participation in entrepreneurship has significantly increased (World Bank, 2022).

2.2.3. Social Justice Theory (Rawls, 1971):

The Social Justice Theory advocates for policies that redistribute wealth to uplift marginalized groups, informing microloan schemes. Rawls' theory of justice provides a foundational argument for why equitable wealth distribution should be a policy priority. By ensuring that wealth is fairly distributed, society moves toward greater fairness, reducing systemic barriers that prevent women from achieving economic independence. In practical terms, policies such as progressive taxation, gender-focused economic policies, and investment in female-led businesses exemplify the application of social justice principles in economic development (UNDP, 2023).

2.3 Empirical review

In this section, a comprehensive and systematic examination of existing research works carried out by previous scholars using empirical methods were reviewed: Four relevant studies were analyzed, examining their objectives, methodology, findings, and contributions to knowledge.

1. Ogunrinola, I. O. (2011) in a study titled "*Social capital and earnings distribution among female micro-entrepreneurs in rural Nigeria*" examined the role of social capital in determining and distributing business earnings among female entrepreneurs in selected rural communities of Ogun State, Nigeria. The findings indicate that, while human capital variables contribute to earnings, social capital and neighborhood effect variables are more significant determinants. The study advocates for a multidisciplinary approach to enterprise development and coordinated efforts to promote self-help organizations among rural women.

2. Funmilola, O. D. (2023) carried out a study on "*Gender gap in financial inclusion: An empirical analysis in Nigeria context*" and identified the gender gap in financial inclusion among business owners in Southwest Nigeria. Using survey data from 409 business owners, the research reveals that male respondents are more likely to use formal financial services than female respondents, with a gender gap of 11.3%. Conversely, more female business owners rely on informal financial services. The study recommends that stakeholders develop appropriate financial products and services accessible to female business owners and emphasizes the need for formal financial institutions to educate and sensitize women on the importance of formal financial inclusion.

3. Odishika, V. A., & Ajudua, E. I. (2023) in the study "*Gender Wealth Gap in Asset Ownership and Household Welfare in Lagos State, Nigeria*" examined the welfare implications of the asset gap between genders in Lagos State households. Data from 1,000 households reveal significant disparities in asset ownership, with men predominantly owning land and higher-value businesses. The research highlights that these wealth gaps adversely affect household welfare and decision-making processes. The authors recommend policies that create an enabling environment for women to accumulate assets, thereby promoting inclusive development and reducing intergenerational poverty.

4. Funmilola, O. D. (2023) in the study "*Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion: An Empirical Analysis in Nigeria Context*" identified the gender gap in financial inclusion among business owners in Southwest Nigeria. Survey data from 409 business owners indicate that male respondents are more likely to use formal financial services than female respondents, with a gender gap of 11.3%. Conversely, more female business owners rely on informal financial services. The study recommends that stakeholders develop appropriate financial products and services accessible to female business owners and emphasizes the need for formal financial institutions to educate and sensitize women on the importance of formal financial inclusion.

These studies provide valuable insights into the challenges and dynamics of female entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in Nigeria. Incorporating their findings into your empirical review can enhance the credibility and relevance of your research.

2.4. Summary of Literature Review & Gap Identification

This sub-section provides the summary of the literatures reviewed as well as identified the gaps in the literature reviewed.

2.4.1. Summary of Literature Review

The literature reviewed in this study consistently underscores the critical role of wealth distribution in shaping economic opportunities for women. Empirical investigations by Ogunrinola (2011) and Odishika and Ajudua (2023) highlight that unequal asset allocation and limited access to formal financial services hinder female entrepreneurs from accessing the necessary capital. Funmilola (2023) further demonstrates that gender disparities in financial inclusion have significant ramifications on business growth. Theoretically, frameworks such as Liberal Feminist Theory, Feminist Economics, Social Justice Theory, and the Capabilities Approach provide robust explanations for how equitable wealth distribution not only improves individual economic outcomes but also contributes to broader social transformations. Collectively, these studies suggest that policies aimed at redistributing wealth can bridge gender gaps, foster economic independence, and drive societal progress, especially in regions like Rivers State, where historical and cultural factors continue to marginalize women.

2.4.2. Gaps Identified

Despite the rich body of literature addressing gender inequality and financial inclusion in Nigeria, several gaps remain that this study seeks to fill:

1. Regional Specificity: While studies such as those by Funmilola (2023) and Odishika and Ajudua (2023) provide valuable insights on financial inclusion and asset ownership, there is a notable scarcity of research focusing specifically on Rivers State. Given the state's unique socioeconomic dynamics and the prevalence of oil-induced wealth disparities, the impact of equitable wealth distribution in this context remains underexplored.

2. Integrated Theoretical Framework: Existing research often isolates economic factors from sociocultural influences. Few studies have combined multiple theoretical perspectives, such as Liberal Feminist Theory, Feminist Economics, and Social Justice Theory, to comprehensively analyze how wealth redistribution policies can mitigate systemic gender biases and catalyze social change.

3. Direct Linkages with Female Entrepreneurship: Although there is evidence linking financial inclusion to improved business outcomes, there is limited empirical research that directly examines how equitable wealth distribution influences the rate of female entrepreneurship and its role in promoting gender equity. This study aims to bridge that gap by explicitly investigating the interplay between wealth distribution policies and entrepreneurial success among women in Rivers State.

2.5. Contribution of this Study to Knowledge

This study makes several important contributions to the field:

- 1. Contextual Insight:** By focusing on Rivers State, a region characterized by both significant oil wealth and pronounced gender disparities, this research provides a much-needed regional perspective. It highlights how local economic and cultural factors intersect with wealth distribution, offering insights that are directly applicable to policymaking in similar contexts.
- 2. Theoretical Integration:** The study advances existing literature by integrating multiple theoretical frameworks to explain how equitable wealth distribution can empower female entrepreneurs. This multidimensional approach not only clarifies the economic mechanisms at work but also underscores the role of social justice in fostering long-term gender equity and social change.
- 3. Policy Implications:** The empirical findings derived from this study offer concrete evidence for the effectiveness of targeted wealth redistribution policies. These insights can inform the design of gender-sensitive economic interventions—such as improved access to credit, affirmative action programs, and education initiatives—that are critical for supporting female entrepreneurship and reducing systemic gender disparities.
- 4. Bridging Research Gaps:** By addressing the identified gaps in regional specificity, theoretical integration, and the direct impact on female entrepreneurship, this study enriches the academic discourse on economic inclusion and provides a blueprint for future research in similar socioeconomically challenged regions.

3.0. Methodology

This section deals with the method of research employed by a researcher. Research methodology refers to the systematic way to solve research problem employed by the researcher in order to achieve the research objectives, and these includes the research design, the population of the study, sample size and sampling technique, research instrument, methods of data collection and analysis

3.1. Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive survey design to assess how equitable wealth distribution can foster female entrepreneurship, promote gender equity, and facilitate social change in Rivers State. The descriptive approach allows for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data from entrepreneurs, policymakers, and economic stakeholders.

3.2. Population of the Study

The population of Rivers State, according to the National Population Commission (NPC), is estimated at 7.3 million people (2023 estimate). Women constitute approximately 49% of the population. Among this, an estimated 35% (1.25 million women) are engaged in some form of business or entrepreneurship.

3.3. Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample size of 384 entrepreneurs from different sectors, including agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and services, was selected using stratified random sampling. This ensured representation across different industries and business sizes. This sample size was determined using Krejcie and Morgan's Table.

3.4. Instrument for Data Collection

A structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data. Interview guide was also used in collecting data from respondents. The questionnaire consisted of three sections:

Section A: Demographic information

Section B: Questions on wealth distribution and female entrepreneurship

Section C: Impact on gender equity and social change

3.5. Validity of research instrument

With regard to research instrument, this study took the construct validity form. Construct validity refers to when all the major concepts and variables used in a study are adequately defined and included in the instrument. A copy of the questionnaire was presented to 2 experts in the field of Entrepreneur and Gender issues for vetting of content and approval. The study achieved Content validity index of 0.83 (CVI = 0.83).

3.6. Reliability of research instrument

The researcher conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire and interview guide on 30 participants within the University of Port Harcourt to determine the reliability of the research instrument. The responses from this pilot study conducted with 30 respondents to test the reliability of the research instrument (questionnaire) was reasonable. The instrument achieved a Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient of 0.85, indicating high reliability.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The primary data for this study were sourced from the questionnaire which was distributed to respondents online because of the duration of this research and retrieved with the help of three field assistants. The study also obtained data using interview guide, which was conducted face-to-face considering the fact that the respondents scheduled for interview were few in number. The interview session was a task solely executed by the researcher and within possible duration.

3.8. Method of Data Analysis

Data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics in data presentation and analysis. Frequency distribution/simple percentages was employed in the presentation and analysis of data in the questionnaire retrieved from the respondents and presented in Tables. In analyzing data from interview, notes taken during the interview sessions were examined and all observations made were analysed qualitatively.

4.0. Results and Discussion

This section basically presents the data obtained from the research instrument. The researcher administered a total of 400 copies of the questionnaire. Out of this number, 394 were retrieved from which 384, which were properly filled were used for presentation and analysis that formed the results of this study.

4.1. Presentation and Analysis of Data

This section presents the quantitative and qualitative analyses of the study's findings based on the research questions raised in section One. The quantitative data is summarized in tables, while the qualitative findings are thematically analyzed to provide deeper insights.

4.1.1. Quantitative Data Presentation and Analysis

Research Question 1: What is the impact of wealth inequality on female entrepreneurship in Rivers State?

The following tables present the statistical findings related to the research questions.

Table 1: Impact of Wealth Inequality on Female Entrepreneurship

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Wealth inequality hinders female entrepreneurship	240	62.5%
Wealth inequality has no impact on female entrepreneurship	80	20.8%
Wealth inequality promotes female entrepreneurship	64	16.7%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field survey, 2025.

The data indicates that 62.5% of respondents believe wealth inequality hinders female entrepreneurship, suggesting that financial constraints are a major barrier. A smaller proportion (16.7%) believe wealth inequality encourages female entrepreneurship, possibly implying that financial challenges push women to become self-reliant.

Research Question 2: What is the role of equitable wealth distribution in advancing gender equity?

Table 2: Role of Equitable Wealth Distribution in Advancing Gender Equity

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Equitable wealth distribution promotes gender equity	288	75%
Equitable Wealth distribution has no impact on gender equity	64	16.7%
Equitable Wealth inequality hinders gender equity	32	8.3%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The majority (75%) of the respondents agree that equitable wealth distribution fosters gender equity, reinforcing the argument that economic empowerment of women reduces gender disparities. Only 8.3% feel equitable wealth distribution hinders gender equity, suggesting minimal opposition to such policies.

Research Question 3: What policy interventions can promote equitable wealth distribution for sustainable social change?

Table 3: Policy Interventions for Equitable Wealth Distribution

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Education and Training programmes	160	41.7%
Access to credit and capital	128	33.3%
Tax policies and incentives	32	16.7%
Other (please, specify)		8.3%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The most preferred intervention is education and training programmes (41.7%), followed by improved access to credit (33.3%). Tax policies and incentives (16.7%) were also recognized as effective, but not as high a priority as financial support and skills development and other unspecified measures (8.3%).

4.1.2. Qualitative Data Analysis (Thematic Presentation)

The qualitative analysis offers deeper insights into the statistical findings through three key themes, aligned with the research questions.

Theme 1: Wealth Inequality as a Barrier to Female Entrepreneurship

Respondents emphasized lack of access to capital, networks, and financial resources as major obstacles to female entrepreneurship. According to Mr. Matthew Okeke.

"Wealth inequality is a major challenge for female entrepreneurs in Rivers State. Many women lack access to capital, networks, and resources, making it difficult for them to start and sustain their businesses." (Interviewee 1)

"I tried to start a business, but I couldn't get a loan because I didn't have collateral. The banks require collateral, which many women don't have." (Interviewee 2)

These responses indicate that financial exclusion remains a key barrier, preventing many women from launching or sustaining businesses.

These responses highlight how equitable distribution of wealth and financial resources can help reduce gender disparities. The responses also indicate that financial exclusion remains a critical barrier for female entrepreneurs preventing them from accessing the necessary resources to establish and grow businesses.

Theme 2: Equitable Wealth Distribution as a Catalyst for Gender Equity

Respondents acknowledged that equal access to wealth and resources would significantly reduce gender disparities. As Madam Isaac noted,

"Equitable wealth distribution can help reduce the gender gap in entrepreneurship. When women have access to resources and capital, they can start and grow their businesses, creating jobs and wealth." (Interviewee 3)

"We need policies that promote equitable wealth distribution, such as affirmative action programs, to address the historical inequalities faced by women." (Interviewee 4)

These responses emphasize the need for gender-sensitive economic policies to improve financial access and bridge gender gaps in business ownership.

Theme 3: Policy Interventions for Equitable Wealth Distribution

Respondents suggested various policy measures that could improve access to financial resources, education, and tax incentives for female entrepreneurs. As Mr. Kelvin Okoro pointed out,

"The government should provide education and training programmes for women entrepreneurs, focusing on business management, financial literacy, and marketing." (Interviewee 5)

"Access to credit and capital is crucial for women entrepreneurs. The government should establish programmes that provide affordable loans and grants to women-owned businesses." (Interviewee 6).

These insights suggest that a multi-faceted approach, involving financial reforms, training initiatives, and legislative changes, is needed to promote inclusive wealth distribution.

4.2. Discussion of Findings of the Study

The findings are aligned with feminist economic theories and global development goals, particularly Amartya Sen's (1999) and Martha Nussbaum's (2000) capabilities approach, as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 8.

Finding 1: Wealth Inequality Hinders Female Entrepreneurship

The study confirms that wealth inequality significantly limits female entrepreneurship by restricting access to financial capital, collateral for loans, and business networks.

Women struggle to secure funding, leading to lower business startup rates and reduced economic participation.

Finding 2: Equitable Wealth Distribution Enhances Gender Equity

The study demonstrates that equitable wealth distribution leads to greater gender equity by providing women with equal access to financial and business opportunities.

Policies that support wealth redistribution empower women economically, enabling them to start businesses and contribute to economic growth.

Finding 3: Policy Interventions are Essential for Equitable Wealth Distribution

The research highlights the importance of targeted policies, such as education programmes, financial access reforms, and tax incentives, in reducing gender-based wealth disparities. Without these interventions, existing inequalities will persist, limiting women's participation in entrepreneurship.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

This study provides strong evidence that wealth inequality significantly hinders female entrepreneurship, equitable wealth distribution enhances gender equity, and targeted policies are necessary to address these challenges.

Addressing these issues requires a collaborative approach involving governments, financial institutions, and private-sector stakeholders. By implementing these recommendations, policymakers can help close gender wealth gaps, foster economic growth, and achieve sustainable development goals.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Strengthen Financial Inclusion for Women Entrepreneurs: Governments and financial institutions should increase access to credit and capital for women through low-interest loans and grants without collateral requirements.
2. Introduce alternative credit-scoring models to assess women's financial potential beyond traditional banking systems: Encourage microfinance institutions to provide gender-sensitive financial products.
3. Promote Equitable Wealth Distribution through Policy Reforms: Implement affirmative action programmes that allocate funding and business contracts specifically for women entrepreneurs. Develop equal pay policies to bridge income gaps between men and women.
4. Promote public-private partnerships to finance women-led businesses.
5. Develop Targeted Education and Training Programs
6. Introduce entrepreneurial training initiatives, focusing on business management, marketing, and financial literacy.

7. Support STEM education and digital skills training to equip women with competitive advantages in emerging industries. Establish business incubators and mentorship programs for aspiring female entrepreneurs.

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