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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-57349**

**Title: Women's Empowerment through SHG-Led Entrepreneurship in India The Role of Entrepreneurial Leadership, Social Capital and Innovation**

**Recommendation:**

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

**Accept after major revision .....**

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

**Reviewer's ID: JPR-002**

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

The manuscript titled “**Women’s Empowerment through SHG-Led Entrepreneurship in India: The Role of Entrepreneurial Leadership, Social Capital and Innovation**” addresses a relevant and socially significant topic by examining how self-help group (SHG) based entrepreneurship contributes to women’s empowerment in India. The study highlights the importance of entrepreneurial leadership, social capital, and innovation in promoting sustainable business success among women entrepreneurs. The topic is timely and aligns with current academic interest in inclusive economic development, gender empowerment, and entrepreneurship studies. The manuscript demonstrates a broad understanding of the literature and attempts to integrate multiple theoretical perspectives into a single conceptual discussion. The title is appropriate and reflects the core content of the study.

The **originality of the paper** is moderately strong because it combines women’s empowerment, social capital, and innovation within the framework of SHG-led entrepreneurship. The effort to connect entrepreneurial leadership with women’s economic advancement provides a meaningful contribution. However, the novelty could be strengthened further by clearly identifying the research gap in existing studies and explicitly stating how this paper differs from prior work. At present, the manuscript appears more descriptive than analytical, and the unique contribution of the study needs stronger emphasis in the introduction and conclusion sections.

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The **technical quality of the manuscript** is satisfactory, but several methodological limitations reduce its academic rigor. The study claims to follow a qualitative and theoretical framework; however, the research design lacks clarity regarding data sources, sampling strategy, analytical procedures, and validation of findings. The methodology section should provide more precise details on how the literature was selected, evaluated, and synthesized. If empirical evidence is intended, the author should include primary or secondary data analysis to support the conceptual arguments. The current form relies heavily on literature discussion without sufficient methodological transparency, which affects the strength of the conclusions.

The **clarity and organization** of the paper are acceptable, but improvements are required. The manuscript follows a logical structure with introduction, thematic discussion, methodology, and conclusion. Nevertheless, some sections contain repetitive explanations and overly lengthy paragraphs that reduce readability. Language usage should be carefully edited to improve grammar, sentence construction, and academic tone. Certain statements appear generalized without direct evidence, and transitions between sections could be smoother. The abstract summarizes the study well, but it should mention the methodology more clearly and present the main findings in a more concise manner.

The **significance of the study** is considerable because women's entrepreneurship through SHGs remains an important area in the Indian socio-economic context. The paper has the potential to contribute to policy discussions on women's empowerment, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurial development. The recommendations concerning technological integration, social networking, and leadership development are relevant for policymakers and practitioners. However, the practical implications would become stronger if the manuscript included more specific policy suggestions supported by evidence from Indian SHG experiences.

The **literature review** is extensive and demonstrates the author's familiarity with entrepreneurship and innovation research. A wide range of references has been included to support the discussion. However, the review could be more critically presented rather than descriptive. Some references appear only loosely connected to the Indian SHG context, and the paper would benefit from including more recent and directly relevant studies on women-led enterprises in India. The citation style also requires consistency, and a few references need formatting corrections according to the journal guidelines.

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In conclusion, the manuscript addresses an important topic with meaningful social relevance and offers a useful conceptual perspective on women's entrepreneurship. However, the paper requires **major revision** before it can be considered for publication. Strengthening the research gap, improving methodological clarity, reducing repetition, enhancing language quality, and presenting stronger evidence-based implications will significantly improve the scholarly value of the study. With these revisions, the manuscript can make a valuable contribution to the literature on women's empowerment and entrepreneurial development.