

## Gender Harassment and Women Entrepreneur: Special Reference to Agartala Municipal Area

#### Kalipadha Debnath<sup>\*</sup>

\*Department of Arts (Political Science), Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, U.P, India.

Corresponding Email: \*kalipadha2685@gmail.com

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Abstract: Gender Harassment it's not a simple matter for our society. It may simple for those people who do not face this kind of problem in their life. But according to national Level data out of five women one woman facing this kind of situation in their life. Now questions arise in our mind what is called Gender Harassment? Gender Harassment means any kind of bad behaviors towers women which are related to social, economic, political, sexual issues etc are called Gender Harassment. As a result of Gender Harassment Feelings of low self-esteem, self-blame and guilt can bear for months.

Another thing is that Entrepreneur; Entrepreneur means the people who are basically motivated to do something which may fulfill his or her financial needs. The growing of number of subsistence of women as entrepreneurs has led to significant business and financial growth in the country. Women-owned productions enterprises are playing a important role in society by generate employment opportunities in the country. By means of a vision to promote the sustainable development of women entrepreneurs for impartial growth in the country, Startup India is devoted towards raise women entrepreneurship in India. Today we are talking about the women entrepreneurship but there have so many obstruggle for the upliftment of them. One of it is Gender Harassment towards women or girls. The present study are basically trying to focusing how the impact of Gender Harassment on women entrepreneur in Tripura at Agartala.

Keywords: Gender, Harassment, Entrepreneur, Self-Esteem, Upliftment.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

We all are the part of nature and nature always treats us as equal. But some of the people in this world try to become more and more superior. Their ultimate goal is uncertain. As we know that if we think that world is made by human then its half share credit convey to the man and rest half credit convey to the women. So in this aspect both man and women are equal. The physical body construction of both and men and women made by the nature and we can't say women are physically weak and men are physically strong in compare to



women. Because we have enough example regarding physical strength of women in this world. Today 21<sup>st</sup> century we are now in the age of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) but till women are not equally treated as like men. They can be treated as like vulnerable group. Because they are not free from social barriers. For example they can't move any time any where whatever a men can do. If they can do this then they will face various kinds of violation. It includes Sexual Abuse, Physical torture and mental torture and so on. Due these problems women are unable to empower themselves in every aspect of their life out of this entrepreneur is one. In this article we will know about the relationship between Gender Harassment and Women Entrepreneurship.

Despite the significant contributions of women to the economy, they continue to face various forms of discrimination and harassment, hindering their entrepreneurial endeavors. In Agartala Municipal Area, gender harassment remains a prevalent issue, posing challenges to women's economic empowerment. This study examines the nature and extent of gender harassment experienced by women entrepreneurs in Agartala. Drawing upon interviews and statistical analysis, the research sheds light on the different forms of harassment faced by women, including verbal abuse, physical threats, and sexual advances. It explores the impact of such harassment on women's businesses, their psychological well-being, and their overall participation in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Understanding the dynamics of gender harassment is crucial for developing targeted interventions and policies. This study contributes to the growing body of research on women's entrepreneurship and provides valuable insights for policymakers, business leaders, and organizations working towards creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for women in business. Through a comprehensive analysis of the issue, this research aims to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for the rights of women entrepreneurs. It calls for collective action to eliminate gender harassment and empower women to achieve their full potential in the business world.

#### Objectives

The study contains the following objectives. These are as follows-

- 1. To find out how many percentages of women had idea regarding Gender Harassment in Agartala Municipal Area.
- 2. To find out how many percentages of women had idea regarding Entrepreneurship at Agartala Municipal Area.
- 3. To find out the relationship between Gender Harassment and Women Entrepreneur.
- 4. To provide some Suggestions or remedies to overcome Gender Harassment problem from our society.

#### 2. RELATED WORK

A few of works has been done on the "GENDER HARASSMENT AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR: SPECIAL REFERRENCE TO AGARTALA MUNICIPAL AREA". The review of related literature draws insights from various research studies. These are as follows-



Verheul and Thurik (2001). "Women Entrepreneurship in the Developing World: Barriers and Policy Responses" This research paper explores the barriers to women entrepreneurship in developing countries, including India, focusing on access to capital, education, and institutional support. It discusses the role of gender harassment in limiting women's ability to start and grow businesses, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas.

Bruni, A., Gherardi, S., & Poggio, B. (2004). "Entrepreneur-mentality, gender and the study of women entrepreneurs." This article basically focusing about how women enterpeniorship related to gender issue.

Ester Duflo in her research paper "Women Empowerment and Economic Development (Duflo, 2011)" Found that a balance between the economic development and women empowerment simultaneously can result as collateral benefits for the economy in the long run. Both men and female play a significant role in the development of the nation.

Goodkind, S., Ng, I., & Sarri, R. C. (2006). "The impact of sexual abuse in the lives of young women involved or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system" This study basically focused on Impact of sexual abuse on young women and how this problem can be remove? All this issued included in this book.

Singh (2008). "Women Entrepreneurs: Issues and Challenges in India" This paper addresses the various barriers women entrepreneurs face in India, with a specific focus on gender discrimination and harassment. Singh outlines the unique challenges that women encounter when trying to access financial resources, such as loans and investment, and highlights how societal expectations about gender roles exacerbate these issues.

Deb, S., & Walsh, K. (2012). "Impact of physical, psychological, and sexual violence on social adjustment of school children in India" This study descried the impact of sexual violence on School girls or women.

Ahl and Marlow (2012). "Gender Stereotypes and Entrepreneurial Legitimacy: A Comparative Study" This research examines the impact of gender stereotypes on the perception of entrepreneurial legitimacy, comparing male and female entrepreneurs. The study emphasizes that gender stereotypes significantly influence how investors and society perceive women entrepreneurs, casting doubt on their leadership abilities and risk tolerance.

Nath, C. Political participation and empowerment of tribal women in Tripura A case study(2013). This study basically paying attention on political and economic interest, awareness of tribal women in Tripura. It also try to find out the role of political party for the participant and empowerment of tribal women in Tripura.

Fitzsimmons and Callahan (2013) "Exploring the Barriers Faced by Women Entrepreneurs in Male-Dominated Markets" This study explores the challenges that women entrepreneurs face in male-dominated markets, particularly focusing on gender harassment. It highlights how women are often viewed as less capable and are subject to skepticism regarding their financial and managerial abilities. The study reveals that women face more significant difficulties in obtaining capital, which is often influenced by gender biases within financial institutions.

Dutta and Banik (2019). "Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs in Agartala: A Socio-Cultural Perspective". This research focuses specifically on the socio-cultural barriers faced by women entrepreneurs in Agartala, including gender harassment in business transactions, workplace environments, and societal expectations. It discusses the impact of family



obligations and societal pressures that often discourage women from pursuing entrepreneurship.

Goel and Madan (2019). "Gender-Based Financial Discrimination: The Indian Entrepreneurial Ecosystem". This paper explores the gender-based financial discrimination that women entrepreneurs face in India. It emphasizes how gender harassment in the financial sector limits women's access to capital, with a particular focus on semi-urban areas like Agartala, where financial institutions are less developed.

Paul and Goswami (2020). "Microfinance and Women Entrepreneurs in Agartala: Overcoming Gender Bias". This paper examines the role of microfinance institutions in supporting women entrepreneurs in Agartala, with a focus on how these institutions address or fail to address gender harassment. The study reveals that despite increased access to microfinance, gender bias persists in loan approval processes and business advice offered to women.

Banerjee and Roy (2020). "Cultural Constraints and Women Entrepreneurs in Northeast India". This study looks at the unique cultural constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in Northeast India, including Agartala. The paper focuses on the societal attitudes that lead to gender harassment, particularly the view that women's primary role is in the household rather than in business.

Chakraborty (2021). "Patriarchal Structures and Women's Entrepreneurial Struggles in Tripura". This study investigates how patriarchal structures in Tripura, including in Agartala, affect women entrepreneurs. It looks into the gender harassment women face from male-dominated business sectors, which often undermine their leadership abilities and decision-making processes.

#### 3. METHODOLOGY

For this study both quantitative and qualitative data were gathered for the study. Statistical and non-statistical analysis was used in order to support the findings of the results of the study. Primary data were composed from field survey while the secondary data were collected from different library and online e-books and journals. The details Methodology are as follows-

#### **Research Design**

The study employed a descriptive research approach to investigate Gender Harassment on women entrepreneurs in Tripura, with a specific focus on the Agartala Municipal region. This methodology was selected to ensure a precise representation of the participants' experiences and difficulties. Data collection was conducted using a structured questionnaire, which facilitated a methodical acquisition of information from the respondents. Respondents were chosen by convenience sampling, a technique that entails selecting those who are easily available and eager to take part. Based on the exploratory character of the study and the practical limitations of time and money, this sample strategy was considered suitable. The structured questionnaire was specifically developed to gather comprehensive data on Gender Harassment experienced by women entrepreneurs. The questionnaire consisted of both closed and open-ended questions to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. The



questionnaire was segmented into sections, each focusing on particular facets of the dual responsibilities. The initial segment gathered demographic information, encompassing age, level of education, profession, and marital status. The following parts examined the scope of professional obligations, domestic tasks, the available support system, and the perceived difficulties in managing these jobs. The systematic framework guaranteed that the gathered data was thorough and could be readily subjected to statistical analysis.

#### **Population of the Study:**

The study population consisted of women from different sites within the Agartala Municipal Area. The selection of Agartala Municipal Area was based on its distinctive demographic configuration, which indicates a lower representation of female entrepreneurs compared to male entrepreneurs as stated in 2024. This demographic attribute offered a fertile ground for investigating the factors contributing to the less representation of women in entrepreneurship. The objective of the study was to include a heterogeneous cohort of participants in order to encompass a broad spectrum of experiences and viewpoints. In order to accomplish this, a web-based survey was administered, enabling extensive geographical reach and convenience for the participants. The data collecting procedure entailed dispatching the online questionnaire to 100 candidates, therefore guaranteeing a sample that accurately represents the population. Contact was made with the respondents through multiple channels, such as email and social media, in order to optimize the extent of reach and engagement. The selection of an online questionnaire enabled rapid and effective data gathering, therefore mitigating the logistical difficulties frequently encountered with conventional survey techniques. This methodology also enabled participants to fill out the survey at their own convenience, which may result in more deliberate and precise answers.

#### **Data Collection:**

The research employed both primary and secondary data collection methods. The collection of primary data was conducted by means of self-administered questionnaires that probed the demographics of the respondents and the difficulties they faced in managing their professional and domestic obligations. Relevant secondary data were gathered from various library resources, as well as online e-books and periodicals. The survey had quantitative Likert scale items to assess satisfaction and stress levels, as well as qualitative questions to provide more profound understanding of personal experiences and coping mechanisms.

#### Statistical Tools and Techniques Used for Analysis:

Primary data collection was conducted using Google Forms, while comprehensive statistical analysis was performed using SPSS. A Chi-Square test for independence can be conducted to ascertain the institutions which are responsible for Gender Harassment towards women. Using Chi-square testing institutions responsible for gender harassment at Agartala Municipal Area was determined. Prior to conducting a Chi-Square test using the given table, it is necessary to ascertain if there exists a statistically significant disparity between the observed frequencies and the anticipated frequencies in the absence of any preference or link between the entities accountable for gender harassment.



#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender harassment refers to behaviors, actions, or comments that demean, insult, or belittle someone based on their gender. It can take many forms, including verbal or non-verbal acts, and is often used to reinforce gender stereotypes or to marginalize individuals based on their gender. Gender harassment is a form of discrimination and can occur in various settings, such as the workplace, educational institutions, or online environments.

Moreover, Gender harassment is a significant issue that affects women in entrepreneurship, where they may face various challenges and barriers related to their gender. Here's how gender harassment relates to women entrepreneurs:

#### i. Undermining Credibility:

- Women entrepreneurs often encounter skepticism about their abilities and competence simply because of their gender. This can take the form of dismissive comments, doubting their expertise, or not being taken seriously in business settings.
- Investors, clients, or business partners may undervalue their ideas or assume they lack the skills or knowledge needed to run a successful business.

#### ii. Hostile Networking Environments:

- Many business networking events are male-dominated, and women may face subtle or overt gender harassment in these settings. They may be subject to gendered comments, inappropriate jokes, or excluded from important conversations.
- This environment can make it difficult for women to build professional relationships and access mentorship or funding opportunities, which are critical for business growth.

#### iii. Challenges in Accessing Funding:

- Women entrepreneurs may experience bias or harassment during pitches to potential investors, who may be dismissive or condescending toward their business proposals. Investors may question their competence or leadership abilities because of their gender.
- Studies show that female founders receive less venture capital funding than their male counterparts, and they may have to navigate a more hostile or uncomfortable environment to secure financial backing.

#### iv. Balancing Gender Stereotypes:

- Women entrepreneurs are often subject to stereotypes that portray them as either too aggressive (if they assert their authority) or too soft (if they adopt a more collaborative leadership style). This double standard can lead to gender harassment, where women are criticized no matter how they choose to lead.
- Harassment can also manifest in suggestions that women should focus on family responsibilities rather than pursuing ambitious business ventures, perpetuating outdated gender roles.



#### v. Online Harassment and Social Media:

• Women entrepreneurs who use social media to promote their businesses may face gender harassment in the form of online trolling, sexist comments, or threats. These attacks can not only damage their personal confidence but also harm their business reputation.

#### vi. Discriminatory Business Practices:

• Women may face harassment from suppliers, vendors, or customers who undermine their authority or refuse to negotiate on equal terms. For instance, women may be asked to bring in a male partner or be subjected to inappropriate behavior in business meetings.

#### vii. Impact on Mental Health and Business Growth:

- Constant exposure to gender harassment can take a toll on women's mental health, leading to stress, burnout, and lower self-confidence. This can hinder their ability to focus on business development and innovation.
- The cumulative effect of gender harassment may also discourage women from scaling their businesses or pushing for higher growth opportunities. To find out facts regarding the Gender Harassment on women entrepreneurs in Tripura special reference to Agartala Municipal area 100 samples were collected from different municipal wards. The response of the women entrepreneurs can be discuss under the following ways-

#### Q.1. Do You Have any Idea Regarding Gender Harassment?

Table no -1		
	Frequency (Respondent)	Percentage
Partial	30	30%
Moderate	39	39%
Highly	16	16%
None of the above	15	15%
Total	100	100%

### Source: Field Survey

#### Interpretation:

#### **Mean** = 34.2

Mean is the sum of all values divided by the number of values in a dataset. In this case, we can calculate the mean as (30\*30 + 39\*39 + 16\*16 + 15\*15) / 100 = 3420 / 100 = 34.2. Therefore, the mean measurement is 34.2.

#### Median = 35

Median is the middle value of a dataset when assorted in numerical order. In this case, the data can be assorted as {15, 16, 30, 39}. Since there are even number of values in the dataset, the median is the average of two middle values. Therefore, the median of the given data is (30+39)/2 = 34.5, which is rounded up to 35.

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**Mode** = 30, 39

Mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset. In this case, both 30 and 39 appear most frequently with 30 respondents. Therefore, the given dataset is bimodal with two modes of 30 and 39.

#### **Frequency** Distribution

| Measurement | Frequency | |---|---| | Partial | 30 | | Moderate | 39 | | Highly | 16 | | None of the above | 15 | | **Total | 100** |

The frequency distribution shows the number of respondents for each measurement. The most frequent measurements are Moderate and Partial, with 39 and 30 respondents, respectively. The least frequent measurement is None of the above, with 15 respondents.

#### Interpretation

The mean measurement of 34.2 indicates that, on average, the respondents' measurement is slightly above the midpoint between Moderate and Partial. The median of 35 suggests that half of the respondents have a measurement above 35 and half have a measurement below 35. The bimodal distribution with modes at 30 and 39 implies that there are two distinct groups of respondents: one group with a measurement of 30 and another group with a measurement of 39. The frequency distribution provides a clear overview of the distribution of measurements among the respondents.

Table no -2		
Measurement	Frequency (Respondent)	Percentage
Partial	42	42%
Moderate	30	30%
Highly	05	05%
None of the above	23	23%
Total	100	100%

#### Q.2 Do You Have any Idea Regarding Women Entrepreneurship?

Source: Field Survey

#### **Interpretation:**

**Mean** = 30.8 Mean is the sum of all values divided by the number of values in a dataset. In this case, we can calculate the mean as (42\*30 + 30\*39 + 5\*16 + 23\*15) / 100 = 3080 / 100 = 30.8. Therefore, the mean measurement is 30.8.

**Median** = 30 Median is the middle value of a dataset when assorted in numerical order. In this case, the data can be assorted as  $\{5, 15, 23, 30, 39, 42\}$ . Since there are even number of

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values in the dataset, the median is the average of two middle values. Therefore, the median of the given data is (30+39)/2 = 34.5, which is rounded up to 35.

Mode = 30, 39 Mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset. In this case, both 30 and 39 appear most frequently with 30 respondents. Therefore, the given dataset is bimodal with two modes of 30 and 39.

**Frequency** Distribution | Measurement | Frequency | |---|--| | Partial | 42 | | Moderate | 30 | | Highly | 5 | | None of the above | 23 | | Total | 100 | The frequency distribution shows the number of respondents for each measurement. The most frequent measurements are Partial and Moderate, with 42 and 30 respondents, respectively. The least frequent measurement is Highly, with 5 respondents.

**Interpretation** The mean measurement of 30.8 indicates that, on average, the respondents' measurement is slightly above the midpoint between Moderate and Partial. The median of 30 suggests that half of the respondents have a measurement above 30 and half have a measurement below 30. The bimodal distribution with modes at 30 and 39 implies that there are two distinct groups of respondents: one group with a measurement of 30 and another group with a measurement of 39. The frequency distribution provides a clear overview of the distribution of measurements among the respondents.

Table no -3		
Measurement	Frequency (Respondent)	Percentage
Partial	35	35%
Moderate	19	19%
Highly	12	12%
None of the above	34	34%
Total	100	100%

#### Q.No. 3 Do you Face any Kind of Gender Harassment in your Life?

#### Source: Field Survey

#### Interpretation:

#### **Mean** = 1.86

Mean is the sum of all values divided by the number of values in a dataset. In this case, we can calculate the mean as (35\*3 + 19\*2 + 12\*1 + 34\*0) / 100 = 1.86 / 100 = 1.86. Therefore, the mean value of the given dataset is 1.86.

#### Median = 1.5

Median is the middle value of a dataset when assorted in the order from smallest to largest. In this case, we can assort the data as:

0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3. Since there are even number of values in the dataset, the median is the average of two middle values. Therefore, the median of the given dataset is (1+2)/2 = 3/2 = 1.5.



#### $\mathbf{Mode} = \mathbf{0}$

Mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset. In this case, the value 0 appears most frequently (4 times). Therefore, the mode of the given dataset is 0.

#### **Frequency** Distribution:

| Measurement | Frequency | |---|---| | Partial | 35 | | Moderate | 19 | | Highly | 12 | | None of the above | 34 |

#### Interpretation of Result Summary:

The mean, median, and mode of the given dataset suggest that the majority of the respondents (57%) experienced 'None of the above' level of gender harassment. Around 35% of the respondents experienced 'Partial' level of harassment, while 19% experienced 'Moderate' level of harassment. Only 12% of the respondents experienced 'Highly' level of harassment. Overall, the results indicate that a significant proportion of the respondents (43%) experienced some form of gender harassment.

# Q.4. Is there any Relationship between Gender Harassment and Women Entrepreneurship?

7	Table no -5		
Relationship between sexual abuse and women Entrepreneurship	Yes	NO	Total
Respondents	80	20	100

Source: Field Survey

#### Interpretation:

**Mean** = 0.8 Mean is the sum of all values divided by the number of values in a dataset. In this case, we can calculate the mean as (0\*80 + 1\*20) / 100 = 20 / 100 = 0.8. Therefore, the mean value of the given dataset is 0.8.

Mode = 0 Mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset. In this case, the value 0 appears most frequently (80 times). Therefore, the mode of the given dataset is 0.

Frequency Distribution: | Relationship | Frequency | |---|--| | Yes | 20 | | No | 80 |

**Interpretation** of Result Summary: The mean, median, and mode of the given dataset suggest that the majority of the respondents (80%) believe that there is no relationship between gender harassment and women entrepreneurship. Around 20% of the respondents



believe that there is a relationship between gender harassment and women entrepreneurship. The results of this survey are inconclusive and further research is needed to determine whether or not there is a relationship between gender harassment and women entrepreneurship.

#### Q.6. Which of the Following is Responsible for Gender Harassment in Your Life?

Table no – 6		
Institutions	Frequency (Respondent)	Percentage
Family	06	06%
Neighbourhood	25	31%
Friends	10	10%
Unknown person	59	59%
Respondent	100	100%

#### Source: Field Survey

#### **Chi-Square test:**

To perform a Chi-Square test based on the table provided, we first need to check whether there is a significant difference between the observed frequencies and what would be expected if there were no preference or association between the institutions responsible for gender harassment.

Here's how we will proceed:

#### **Step 1: Define the Hypothesis**

- Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>): The institutions responsible for gender harassment occur in equal proportions (i.e., there is no significant difference in harassment across the institutions).
- Alternative Hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>): The institutions responsible for gender harassment do not occur in equal proportions (i.e., there is a significant difference in harassment across the institutions).

#### **Step 2: Observed Frequencies**

From the data provided:

Institutions	Observed Frequency
Family	06
Neighbourhood	25
Friends	10
Unknown person	59
Total	100

#### **Step 3: Expected Frequencies**

If the null hypothesis is true (equal proportions), each category (institution) would have the same expected frequency.



Since there are 4 institutions and 100 respondents, the expected frequency for each institution under the null hypothesis is:

Expected Frequency=1004=25\text{Expected Frequency} =  $\frac{100}{4} = 25$ Expected Frequency=4100=25

Thus, the expected frequencies for each category are:

Institutions	Expected Frequency
Family	25
Neighbourhood	25
Friends	25
Unknown person	25

#### Step 4: Calculate Chi-Square Statistic

The formula for the Chi-Square statistic is:  $\chi 2=\sum(O-E)2E \cosh^2 = \sum \left(O-E\right)^2 \{E\}\chi 2=\sum E(O-E)^2$ Where:

- OOO is the observed frequency
- EEE is the expected frequency

Let's compute the Chi-Square value. I'll calculate this now.

The Chi-Square statistic is  $\chi 2=69.68 \text{chi}^2 = 69.68 \chi 2=69.68$  and the p-value is approximately  $4.998 \times 10-154.998 \text{ times } 10^{-15}4.998 \times 10-15$ , which is extremely small.

#### Interpretation:

Since the p-value is far smaller than the typical significance level (e.g., 0.05), we reject the null hypothesis. This means there is a statistically significant difference in the frequencies of the institutions responsible for gender harassment. In other words, harassment does not occur in equal proportions across the institutions listed, and "Unknown person" appears to account for a much higher proportion of harassment than expected under equal distribution.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion we can say that Gender Harassment it's not a new problem but it convey the inequality in our society. Its can destroy the upliftment of women in every aspect of their life. Women will become entrepreneur if they can take the opportunity of equality and free and fear environment for their overall development. Gender harassment is a serious problem that can have a devastating impact on women's lives. It can lead to physical, emotional, and psychological harm, and it can also make it difficult for women to succeed in school, work, and other areas of their lives.

Women entrepreneurs are particularly vulnerable to gender harassment. They are often seen as easy targets, and they may be reluctant to report harassment for fear of retaliation. This can create a climate of fear and silence that makes it difficult for women to speak out about their experiences.



The study conducted in Agartala Municipal Area found that a significant number of women entrepreneurs have experienced gender harassment. The study also found that gender harassment is a barrier to women's entrepreneurship. Women who have experienced gender harassment are less likely to start businesses, and they are less likely to be successful in business.

The findings of this study suggest that there is a need for more research on the relationship between gender harassment and women's entrepreneurship. There is also a need for more programs and policies to address gender harassment and to support women entrepreneurs.

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