

## UNVEILING ENTREPRENEURIAL ABILITY AMONG GIRL STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE FACULTY

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### ABSTRACT

*Empowering future leaders, the Agriculture Faculty ignites entrepreneurial spirit among its female students, fostering innovation and growth in agricultural ventures. The study is conducted in 10 Agriculture Colleges of four State Agricultural Universities of Gujarat with 300 respondents to find out the entrepreneurial ability of girls. Entrepreneurial ability refers to the skills, mindset, and capacity individuals possess to recognize opportunities, take calculated risks, and innovate to create and manage successful ventures or initiatives. It involves traits such as creativity, resilience, leadership, and strategic thinking, essential for navigating the challenges and uncertainties of entrepreneurship. The study revealed that more than two third (58.68 per cent) of the respondents were observed with medium level of entrepreneurial ability in youth farmers. There are positive association of entrepreneurial ability of the girl students with their type of family, parents' education, family land holding, family occupation, mass media exposure, relative owning business attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship.*

**Keywords:** *entrepreneur, entrepreneurial ability, girl students, association*

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a significant surge in discussions surrounding entrepreneurship, particularly within the context of agriculture. Amidst this discourse, one often-overlooked demographic is the female student body within agricultural faculties. This paper endeavors to illuminate the entrepreneurial ability of female students in agriculture, shedding light on their capabilities, challenges, and potential contributions to the agricultural sector. The agricultural landscape is evolving rapidly, with technology advancements, environmental concerns, and shifting consumer preferences reshaping traditional practices. In such a dynamic environment, entrepreneurship emerges as a crucial driver of innovation and sustainability. However, despite progress in gender equality, women, especially within the agricultural domain, continue to encounter barriers to entrepreneurial endeavors.

Understanding and fostering the entrepreneurial spirit among female students in agriculture is imperative for achieving inclusive growth and addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the sector. This research embarks on a multidimensional exploration of the entrepreneurial ability of girl students within agriculture faculties. It aims to delve into the motivations, aspirations, and perceived obstacles shaping their entrepreneurial journeys. By employing a mixed-method approach, incorporating qualitative interviews,

surveys, and quantitative analyses, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the entrepreneurial scenery among female agriculture students (Adeel *et al.*, 2023). The significance of this research extends beyond academia, offering valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and industry stakeholders. Empowering female students to harness their entrepreneurial potential not only enhances their economic independence but also enriches the agricultural sector with diverse perspectives and innovative solutions. Furthermore, by addressing gender disparities in entrepreneurship, societies can foster greater inclusivity and resilience in the face of global challenges. In essence, this paper sets out to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of female students in agriculture while advocating for systemic changes to nurture and amplify their contributions. Through rigorous analysis and informed recommendations, it endeavors to pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future in agriculture entrepreneurship. This research tries to find to address this gap by focusing specifically on the entrepreneurial capacity of female students enrolled in agricultural studies. Understanding the entrepreneurial ability of girl's students in agriculture is not only instrumental in fostering gender equality within the sector but also holds implications for the future of agricultural innovation and sustainability.

### OBJECTIVES

(1) To study the profile of girl students of agriculture faculty

- (2) To find the entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty
- (3) To examine the relationship between the profile of girl students of agriculture faculty and their entrepreneurial ability

## METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken at all four State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) of Gujarat State. A sample of 300 girls' students of agriculture faculty, who were completed their graduation in 2021-22 and 2022-23 were selected from all ten agriculture colleges of four SAUs of Gujarat by using proportionate random sampling. The data were collected through pre tested interview schedule. Ex-post facto research design was applied for this research. The data were gathered, processed and analysed to draw the meaningful conclusion. The statistical tools used for the analysis of the data were percentage, mean, standard deviation, correlation coefficient. The overall entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty was examined studying, considering and combining eight components viz. innovativeness, risk taking ability, achievement motivation, decision making ability, leadership ability, management orientation, goal setting ability and locus of control. For this, 30 experts were requested to give their opinion to assign weightage in a way that, the total score for above eight components becomes 100. The weightage of the particular component assigned by each expert was summed up and arithmetic mean was calculated. To find out the Overall Entrepreneurial Ability Index (OEAI), the following formula was used.

$$OEAI = (R1/M1) \times W1 + (R2/M2) \times W2 + \dots + (Rn/Mn) \times Wn$$

Where,

R1, R2..... Rn = Received score for each component by each respondent

M1, M2.....Mn = Maximum score one can get for each component

W1, W2....Wn = Weightage score of each component received from experts

Thus, using the above formula, the final score of the overall entrepreneurial ability of all the respondents was worked out combining all eight components.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Personal profile of girl students of agriculture faculty

It is evident from Table 1 that slightly less than half (46.33 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty were with first class category of academic performance, followed

by 25.33 per cent, 22.67 per cent and 5.67 per cent of them were with second class, first class with distinction and pass class category of academic performance, respectively. The result in Table 2 shows that two-fifth (40.00 per cent) of the respondent's had rural background, followed by 37.33 per cent of them were with urban and 22.67 per cent with semi urban background. Table 2 also indicated that majority (73.00 per cent) of girl students of agriculture faculty had Gujarati as medium of school education and rest 27.00 per cent of respondents had English medium. Slightly more than half (55.33 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty were from joint family, followed by 44.67 per cent of them were from nuclear family. It can be concluded that half (45.33 per cent) of the respondents belonged to the large family, followed by 37.00 and 17.67 per cent with medium and small size of family, respectively. More than one fourth (28.00 per cent) of the respondents were with a secondary level of their fathers' formal education, followed by 24.00, 21.33 and 18.67 per cent of them were with primary, higher secondary and graduation and above level of their fathers' formal education, respectively. Whereas, 8.00 per cent of them had illiterate fathers.

The results also indicated that slightly more than one-fourth (27.33 per cent) of the respondents were with secondary level of their mothers' formal education, followed by 23.00, 16.67 and 16.67 per cent of them were with primary, higher secondary and illiterate level of their mothers' formal education, respectively. Whereas, only 16.33 per cent of them had graduation and above mothers. The one-third (29.34 per cent) of the respondents were annual family income was above ₹ 4,00,000 lakhs of annual family income, followed by 26.33, 22.00, 15.33 and 7.00 per cent of them were with ₹2,00,001 to ₹ 3,00,000, ₹ 3,00,001 to ₹ 4,00,000, ₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 2,00,000 and up to ₹ 1,00,000, respectively. The two-fifth (36.33 per cent) of the respondent's family had medium size land holding, followed by 26.67 per cent of them were with small size land holding, 19.67 per cent of them were with marginal size of land holdings and 9.33 per cent respondent's family had no land. Whereas, only 8.00 per cent had large size land holdings. Slightly less than half (43.33 per cent) of the student's family had only agriculture occupation, followed by 25.67 per cent of their families had agriculture with animal husbandry, 10.67 per cent were dependent on combination of agriculture, animal husbandry and business, 8.00 per cent were dependent only service and 5.67 per cent of them dependent on combination of agriculture, animal husbandry, service and 4.33 per cent of them dependent on business only, whereas 2.33 per cent had agriculture with labour.

Table 2: Personal profile of girl students of agriculture faculty

(n=300)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	<b>Academic performance</b>		
	Pass class (5.000 to 5.999 OGPA)	17	05.67
	Second Class (6.000 to 6.999 OGPA)	76	25.33
	First Class (7.000 to 7.999 OGPA)	139	46.33
	First Class with Distinction (above 8.000 OGPA)	68	22.67
2	<b>Native</b>		
	Urban	112	37.33
	Semi Urban	68	22.67
	Rural	120	40.00
3	<b>Medium of Education (School)</b>		
	Gujarati	219	73.00
	English	81	27.00
4	<b>Type of Family</b>		
	Nuclear	134	44.67
	Joint	166	55.33
5	<b>Size of Family</b>		
	Small (up to 3 members)	53	17.67
	Medium (4 to 6 members)	111	37.00
	Large (7 and above)	136	45.33
6	<b>Father's Education</b>		
	Illiterate	24	08.00
	Primary	72	24.00
	Secondary	84	28.00
	Higher Secondary	64	21.33
	Graduate and above	56	18.67
7	<b>Mother's Education</b>		
	Illiterate	50	16.67
	Primary	69	23.00
	Secondary	82	27.33
	Higher Secondary	50	16.67
	Graduate and above	49	16.33
8	<b>Annual Family Income</b>		
	Up to ₹ 1,00,000	21	07.00
	₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 2,00,000	46	15.33
	₹ 2,00,001 to ₹ 3,00,000	79	26.33
	₹ 3,00,001 to ₹ 4,00,000	66	22.00
	Above ₹ 4,00,000	88	29.34
9	<b>Family Landholding</b>		
	Landless	28	09.33
	Marginal landholding (below 1.0 ha)	59	19.67
	Small landholding (1.0 to 2.0 ha)	80	26.67
	Medium landholding (2.01 to 4.0 ha)	109	36.33
	large landholding (> 4.0)	24	08.00
10	<b>Family Occupation</b>		
	Agriculture	130	43.33
	Agriculture + Laborers	07	02.33
	Agriculture + Animal Husbandry	77	25.67
	Agriculture + Animal Husbandry + Business	32	10.67
	Agriculture + Animal Husbandry + Service	17	05.67
	Only Business	13	04.33
	Only Service	24	08.00

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
11	<b>Mass media exposure</b>		
	Low	47	15.67
	Medium	207	69.00
	High	46	15.33
12	<b>Relative owning business</b>		
	Yes	71	23.67
	No	229	76.33
13	<b>Attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship</b>		
	Highly unfavourable (0 to 20 per cent)	34	11.33
	Unfavourable (21 to 40 per cent)	57	19.00
	Neutral (41 to 60 per cent)	157	52.33
	Favourable (60 to 80 per cent)	31	10.34
	Highly favourable (81 to 100 per cent)	21	07.00
14	<b>Career aspiration</b>		
	Will improve	242	80.67
	Remain the same	58	19.33
	Will decline	00	0.00

Table 1 also indicated that majority (69.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of mass media exposure, followed by 15.67 and 15.33 per cent of them were with low and high level of mass media exposure. Majority (76.33 per cent) of the respondent’s relatives had not any business, whereas 23.67 per cent respondent’s relative’s had business. The data also presented that slightly more than half (52.33 per cent) of the respondents had neutral attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship followed by 19.00 per cent had unfavourable attitude, while 11.33 per cent had highly unfavourable and 10.34 per cent respondents had favourable attitude toward agricultural entrepreneurship. Only 7.00 per cent had highly favourable attitude toward agricultural entrepreneurship. It was observed that majority (80.67 per cent) of respondents expected their standard of living to improve in the next five years. However, 19.33 per cent of the respondents expected that their standard of living will remain the same in next 5 years, while none of the respondents expected that their standard of living will decline in next five years.

**Entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty**

The overall entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty was studied, considering and combining eight components viz. innovativeness, risk taking ability, achievement motivation, decision making ability, leadership ability, management orientation, goal setting ability and locus of control. The results of these component are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Subhead wise distribution of girl students of agriculture faculty to their Entrepreneurial ability (n=300)**

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	<b>Innovativeness</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	09	3.00
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	34	11.31
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	166	55.34
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	76	25.29
	Very high (81 to 100 per cent)	15	05.06
2	<b>Risk-Taking Ability</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	09	3.00
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	27	9.00
	Moderate (41 to 60 per cent)	151	50.34
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	82	27.34
	Very high (81 to 100 per cent)	31	10.32
3	<b>Achievement Motivation</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	02	0.66
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	38	12.64
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	185	61.68
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	57	19.54
	Very high (81 to 100 per cent)	18	05.48
4	<b>Decision-Making Ability</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	01	00.33
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	28	09.31
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	184	61.35
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	68	22.64
	Very high (81 to 100 per cent)	19	06.37

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
5	<b>Leadership Ability</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	21	07.06
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	34	11.34
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	139	46.28
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	53	17.66
6	<b>Management Orientation</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	16	05.32
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	31	10.35
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	159	53.00
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	60	20.04
7	<b>Goal Setting Ability</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	33	11.01
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	50	16.66
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	142	47.33
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	66	22.00
8	<b>locus of control</b>		
	Very low (0 to 20 per cent)	23	7.66
	Low (21 to 40 per cent)	33	11.01
	Medium (41 to 60 per cent)	139	46.33
	High (61 to 80 per cent)	62	20.66
	Very high (81 to 100 per cent)	43	14.34

The data revealed Table 2 that more than half (55.34 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty had medium level of innovativeness, followed by 25.29 per cent, 11.31 per cent, 5.06 per cent and 3.00 per cent each of them belonged to high, low, very high and very low level of innovativeness, respectively. The above table disclosed that slightly more than half (50.34 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty had moderate risk taking ability, followed by 27.34 per cent, 10.32 per cent, 9.00 per cent and 3.00 per cent of them had high, very high, low and very low level of risk taking ability, respectively. The data presented in Table 2 that less than one third (61.68 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of achievement motivation; followed by 19.54 per cent, 12.64 per cent and 5.48 per cent had high, low and very high level of achievement motivation, respectively. The distributional analysis pertaining to decision making ability of students mentioned in Table 2 indicated that 61.35 per cent of the respondents had medium level of decision-making ability followed by 22.64 per cent had high, 9.31 per cent had low level of decision-making ability, whereas 6.37 per cent of the respondents had very high level of decision-making ability. It is evidence in Table 7 above that less than

half (46.28 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of leadership ability, followed by 17.66 per cent, 17.66 per cent, 11.34 per cent and 7.06 per cent of them were with very high, high, low and very low level of leadership ability, respectively. The data pointed out that slightly more than half (53.00 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty had medium level of management orientation, followed by high, very high, low and very low with 20.04 per cent, 11.29 per cent, 10.35 per cent and 5.32 per cent, respectively. It is obvious from the data shows in Table 9 represent that less than half (47.33 per cent) of the girls students of agriculture faculty had medium level of goal setting ability followed by 22.00 per cent, 16.66 per cent, 11.01 per cent and 3.00 per cent had high, low, very low and very high level of goal setting ability, respectively. It is obvious from the data presented in Table 2 showed that less than half (46.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of locus of control followed by 20.66 per cent, 14.34 and 11.01 had high, very high and low level of locus of control, respectively. Whereas, only 7.66 per cent had very low level of locus of control. This finding is consistent with previous research that has identified these traits as predictors of entrepreneurial behaviour (Zhao *et al.*, 2010). The study also found that specific motivational traits, such as entrepreneurial self-efficacy, internal locus of control, and risk-taking propensity, were significant predictors of entrepreneurial behaviour. It could be concluded that majority of the respondents had medium to high level of locus of control. These findings suggest that the location of the educational institution plays a critical role in shaping the antecedents of university students' decisions to pursue an entrepreneurial career (Uskuri and Sesen, 2023)

**Table 3: Distribution of girl students of agriculture faculty according to their Overall Entrepreneurial ability** (n=300)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	<b>Very low</b> (0 to 20 per cent)	24	8.00
2	<b>Low</b> (21 to 40 per cent)	39	13.00
3	<b>Medium</b> (41 to 60 per cent)	176	58.68
4	<b>High</b> (61 to 80 per cent)	41	13.66
5	<b>Very high</b> (81 to 100 per cent)	20	6.66

#### **Overall Entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty**

It is observed from Table 3 that less than two third (58.68 per cent) of the girl students of agriculture faculty had medium level of overall entrepreneurial ability, followed by 13.66 per cent of them were with high level of entrepreneurial ability and 13.00 per cent of them were with low level of entrepreneurial ability. The result also indicates that only 6.66 per cent and 8.00 per cent of the respondents

were with very high and very low level of entrepreneurial ability, respectively. This finding coincides with the findings reported by the Patel *et. al.* (2022), Patel *et. al.*, (2020), Gulkari and Dohat (2022)

**Relationship between profile of girl students of agriculture faculty and their entrepreneurial ability**

The entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty was observed positively correlated with their type of family, father’s education, family land holding, mass media exposure, relative owing business and attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship. Whereas, it was seen negatively significant with their family occupation. Additionally, higher levels of psychological capital have been shown to positively regulate the effect of entrepreneurial self-efficacy on entrepreneurial intention (Mahammad *et al.*, 2022 & Wang *et al.*, 2023).

**Table 4: Relationship between the profile of girl students of agriculture faculty and their entrepreneurial ability (n=300)**

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)
X <sub>1</sub>	Academic performance	0.045NS
X <sub>2</sub>	Native	-0.019NS
X <sub>3</sub>	Medium of education (Schooling)	-0.020NS
X <sub>4</sub>	Type of family	0.365**
X <sub>5</sub>	Size of family	0.089NS
X <sub>6</sub>	Fathers education	0.198*
X <sub>7</sub>	Mothers education	0.105NS
X <sub>8</sub>	Annual family income	0.039NS
X <sub>9</sub>	Family landholding	0.201*
X <sub>10</sub>	Family occupation	-0.141*
X <sub>11</sub>	Mass media exposure	0.197*
X <sub>12</sub>	Relative owning business	0.269**
X <sub>13</sub>	Attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship	0.299**
X <sub>14</sub>	Career aspiration	-0.081NS

\*\*=Significant at 1% level of significance

\*=Significant at 5% level of significance

The entrepreneurial ability of girl students of agriculture faculty was observed non-significantly correlated with their academic performance, native, medium of education, family size, mother’s education, annual family income and career aspiration.

**CONCLUSION**

This study focuses on entrepreneurship ability of graduate girl students of agriculture faculty of SAUs of Gujarat. Study concluded that majority of the girl students had medium level of entrepreneurial ability. The institute plays an important role for promote entrepreneurship and

develop their ideas. It is better to provide proper knowledge about entrepreneurship to students to attract them to start new business. Colleges should conduct seminars and other awareness classes and to provide proper training to the girl students to work effectively in the field of entrepreneurship. The study explored the psychological factors (Mass media exposure, Relative owning business, Attitude towards agricultural entrepreneurship) that significantly impact entrepreneurial ability. As a result, need to be promoted hands on training for girls’ students and also arrange training programme of entrepreneurial skills, exposure visits of small enterprise, encourage entrepreneurial ability for girls’ students.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

This is to declare that there is “No conflict of interest” among researcher.

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