

Unveiling the dynamics: a shifting landscape of First Nation women-led enterprise; a case of the Northern Territory

Abstract

Women-led enterprises are significant accelerators for equitable economic growth; however, they consistently function under structural and sociocultural limitations, across remote and regional territories like the Northern Territory (NT), Australia. First Nations women entrepreneurs faced additional obstacles influenced by a colonial legacies, systemic injustices, and traditional responsibilities. Regardless their major contributions to social stability, livelihoods, and creativity many women continue to be marginalized and not adequately embraced within standard economic frameworks. The study aims to explore challenges and opportunities for female-owned enterprises in Darwin, NT, with a special focus on First Nations women. The study will adopt an integrated methodology, including a literature review and a set of survey questionnaires, to investigate female entrepreneurs' strategies in response to gender disparities, economic inequalities, and policies. At least 30 women entrepreneurs from various sectors, including education, health care, textiles, and hospitality, are expected to participate. This study aspires to influence policy makers, entrepreneurial frameworks, and academic dialogue on gender inclusive entrepreneurship by offering a broad understanding of the real-world circumstances of women entrepreneurs, especially those from indigenous community. The findings could aid community-based organizations dedicated to equitable economic participation, development organizations, and legislators.