Do Long-term Orientation, Spirituality, Materialism, and Collectivism Impact the Self-Efficacy of Women Micro-Entrepreneurs: A Study Using SEM

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Abstract

Evidence from across the globe suggests that women micro-entrepreneurships have facilitated empowerment and inclusive growth. Local communities and the economy have benefitted substantially from micro-entrepreneurships as a direct consequence of enhanced household savings and the social and financial empowerment of women. Though several socio-psychological variables that determine entrepreneurial success have been the subject of empirical examination, the enablers of or constraints on women micro-entrepreneurship have not received due attention. The present paper has explored the relationship between long-term orientation, spirituality, materialism, and collectivism on the one hand and self-efficacy on the other. Data collected from 999 women micro-entrepreneurs through multi-stage sampling show that, while long-term orientation and materialism had a significant positive relationship with self-efficacy, no significant relationship was observed with spirituality or collectivism. The implications of the study and the scope for further research are also discussed.

Kev words

collectivism, long-term orientation, materialism, self-efficacy, spirituality, women micro-entrepreneurs

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Introduction

This study examines whether constructs like long-term orientation, spirituality, materialism, and collectivism could impact the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs. Self-efficacy, according to Bandura (1986, 1997), regulates the motivation and beliefs of individuals, and their potential to realize and utilize proficiency in assigned tasks. It acts as a catalyst to interact with and respond efficiently to different socio-economic and environmental conditions. The study focuses on women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), particularly Kudumbasree, which is a community-based SHG program in Kerala, India. Kudumbasree units, which act as the collective voice of women, is a strategic move by the Government of Kerala toward empowering women. Conceived as an alternative model of economic advancement, it has now evolved and developed into an active and well-accepted women empowerment program.

Women empowerment is of crucial importance to achieve growth in any economy, especially developing economies (Hameed et al., 2019). In the past few decades, SHGs and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) have played significant roles in enhancing the position of women across the globe. This has been accomplished through providing a helping hand in establishing and running micro-entrepreneurships (Sivagandhi & Dash, 2017; Sulphey & Vivek, 2015). Micro-entrepreneurships are essential for India, where the majority of the population is rural and where the proportions of male and female in the labor force are highly skewed (Fletcher, Pande, & Moore, 2017). The 2017-18 Report of the Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, showed that the proportions of males and females in the labor force were 54.9 and 18.2 percent respectively. This presents a dismal picture and highlights the social vulnerability of women. The contributions of micro-enterprises to communities and the economy in the form of enhanced household savings, and the social and financial empowerment of women are unparalleled. MFIs also develop strategies to mitigate the effects of the vulnerabilities faced by women micro-enterprises (WME) by empowering them (Herath, Guneratne, & Sanderatne, 2016). The contribution of WMEs to GDP has shown a rising trend, and is now around 29% (International Finance Corporation, 2014).

The socio-psychological variables that determine entrepreneurial success have received wide empirical attention (Córcoles-Muñoz, Parra-Requena, Ruiz-Ortega, García-Villaverde, & Ramírez-Fernández, 2019; Dillon & Stanton, 2016; Hvide & Panos, 2014; Rauch, 2014). They include risk taking, emotional intelligence, self-ef-

ficacy, and long-term orientation. (Frese, 2009; Mortan, Ripolla, Carvalhob, & Bernal, 2014; Obschonka, Hahn, & Bajwa, 2018). Decades ago, Boyd and Vozikis (1994) and Krueger and Brazeal (1994) opined that self-efficacy has a significant role in developing entrepreneurial intentions and actions. Self-efficacy is also identified as a vital cognitive variable that can be used to evaluate opportunity (Bandura, 2001; Krueger & Dickson, 1993) and entrepreneurial behavior (Levander & Racuia, 2001). A few other studies have identified the concept of entrepreneurial optimism as associated with efficacy (Krueger & Brazeal, 1994; Krueger & Dickson, 1993). Further, Mohd, Kamaruddin, Hassan, Muda, and Yahya (2014) found a positive link between those with higher self-efficacy and entrepreneurial success and good performance. Thus, taking into consideration the contribution of self-efficacy toward entrepreneurial success, the present study has chosen it as the dependent variable.

Frese (2009) also identified elements such as self-efficacy, locus of control, and personal initiative as motivational resources that facilitate entrepreneurial success. However, the specific variables that enable or constrain women entrepreneurship have not received due attention (Martínez & Monica, 2016; McKelway, 2018) and only a few studies have been carried out among WMEs about self-efficacy, such as that by Salim, Sulphey, and Thilagar (2017) which found a positive relationship between self-efficacy and entrepreneurial success in WMEs. Building on these, the present study examines the relationships between certain psychological aspects that enable entrepreneurs to succeed. Specifically, the study examines the relationships between the self-efficacy of WMEs and long-term orientation, spirituality, materialism, and collectivism.

Literature Review

Individuals differ drastically in their beliefs about their competencies and success factors regarding their life domains (Khorakian & Sharifirad, 2019). Bandura (1997, p. 3) termed these cognitions "self-efficacy," which he defined as "belief in one's capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to produce given attainments." Later, Bandura (1986, p. 391) identified self-efficacy as the judgment of an individual about the "capabilities to organize and execute courses of action required to attain designated types of performances." Bandura's (1997) contention regarding self-efficacy is that factors like individual motivation, affective states, and actions are based on beliefs about themselves, and not necessarily about objective truths. Due to this, certain talented individuals suffer from

devastating bouts of self-doubt regarding their own capabilities (Pajares, 2002). The opposite can also be true, as some individuals become confident about what they can accomplish, despite processing limited skills. Gecas (1989) found self-efficacy to be related to certain psychological variables like optimism, motivation, and self-confidence: individuals with a high level of self-efficacy believe in themselves and have the confidence to cope with multiple challenges.

High self-efficacy motivates individuals to achieve their goals with a positive approach, due to which obstacles can be easily handled. Conversely, low self-efficacy makes individuals focus on potential failure (Kapila, Singla, & Gupta, 2016; Locke & Baum, 2007). However, though a multitude of studies have been conducted to explore the effect of various socio-cognitive factors on entrepreneurs, including self-efficacy, only a few have examined the gender dimension (Amatucci & Crawley, 2011), especially among WMEs (Salim et al., 2017).

Self-efficacy is rooted in Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory (SCT: 1986, 1997). In terms of Social Cognitive Theory (SCT), self-efficacy proposes that individuals provide a direction to their effort through "controllable behaviors" which could result in desired outcomes (Bandura, 1997). SCT theorizes that individuals are not driven by "inner forces" nor are they shaped or controlled automatically by the environment, though social support from the environment is a key factor (Bandura, 1989). In addition to environmental factors, self-efficacy is also influenced by individual and certain inherent personal capabilities, which offer humans a multitude of cognitive resources that enable them to determine their own destiny (Pajares, 2002). The present study is based on these theoretical propositions of SCT.

Since the present study focuses on the bottom-of-the-pyramid women micro-entrepreneurs, Feminist Standpoint Theory (FST) is also relevant. FST provides an understanding of how marginalized members of society can generate knowledge and information (Harding, 1991). The theory elaborates on the complex relationship between knowledge, politics, and society. It also offers productive inputs into various aspects associated with socially and politically marginalized groups and their oppressors who occupy higher positions in the social hierarchy.

Self-efficacy

As mentioned above, self-efficacy, as presented in the present work, has its moorings in Bandura's (1997) Social Cognitive Theory. The main notion behind the self-efficacy theory is that an individual's life is often guided by perceived be-

liefs in his/her capabilities. Individuals having high self-efficacy often tend to consider challenges as something that can be overcome and mastered (Nguyen, 2019). On the other hand, those having low self-efficacy often believe it impossible to overcome challenges and hence tend to choose tasks that are easy (Bandura, 1997). Applying this to the entrepreneurial community, Fuller, Liu, Bajaba, Marler, and Pratt (2018) and Zisser, Johnson, Freeman, and Staudenmaier (2019) found self-efficacy shaped entrepreneurial intentions. Multiple studies have also documented the capability of traits like ambition, risk-taking, and self-efficacy to elevate individuals as entrepreneurs (Brandstätter, 2011; Fillis & Rentschler, 2010; Nwankwo, Gbadamosi, & Ojo, 2012; Pihie & Bagheri, 2013).

Self-efficacy involves how individuals feel, think, motivate themselves, and believe in their abilities to fulfill required tasks (Bandura, 1993, 1997). It is observable from multiple elements of individual behavior, such as how one perceives the future and the levels of optimism and pessimism (Bandura, 2006). Self-efficacy strongly influences an individual's motivation to embark on certain activities and continue despite adversities. It induces them to think optimistically, manage negative emotions, and interpret relevant events (Bandura, 1997). Locke and Baum (2007) found individuals with high levels of self-efficacy focus more on available opportunities through ignoring obstacles, or viewing those obstacles as a mere "part of the game." Individuals with high self-efficacy would do their best to solve their problems, while those having low self-efficacy might abandon their attempts without arriving at the logical conclusion (Bandura, 1977, 1982). In line with these, Mortan et al. (2014) identified self-efficacy as a construct that can influence behaviors in multiple ways, while Tierney and Farmer (2002) identified self-efficacy as a powerful antecedent to creative performance. All these qualities are essential characteristics that make entrepreneurs successful. Hackett and Betz (1981) also found that self-efficacy facilitates women's career development.

Studies have identified self-efficacy as a strong antecedent and potential that could influence entrepreneurial intentions and associated behaviors (Fuller et al., 2018; Lee, Wong, Der Foo, & Leung, 2011; McGee, Peterson, Mueller, & Sequeira, 2009; Zhao, Seibert, & Hills, 2005). Bandura (2012) identified self-efficacy as a dispositional trait that has linkages to specific tasks and circumstances. Risk propensity was found to be significantly related to self-efficacy, which had a direct effect on entrepreneurial intentions (Zhao et al., 2005) and outcomes (Zou, Chen, Lam, & Liu, 2016). Several other variables are also found to influence self-efficacy, which could have a direct bearing on entrepreneurial intentions. A few of them are discussed in the following sections.

Long-term Orientation

Long-term orientation, first conceptualized by Hofstede (1991), is derived from concerns related to time. It includes traits like perseverance, respect for tradition, and concern for the future. According to Hofstede (1991), long-term orientation is "forward-looking," in contrast to the "present and past looking" approach. In the initial conceptualization stages of long-term orientation, it was posited to include characteristics like "respect for tradition" and "learning from the past," which formed the "negative pole" of long-term orientation. Later, it was altered to include short- and long-term values related to persistence. Lately, long-term orientation emerged to evolve into a broad framework that endeavors to appreciate how time is experienced (Brigham, Lumpkin, Payne, & Zachary, 2014). Bearden, Money, and Nevins, (2006, p.457) provided a comprehensive definition of long-term orientation when they defined it as:

[···] the cultural value of viewing time holistically, valuing both the past and the future rather than deeming actions important only for their effects in the here and now of the short-term.

Sternad and Kennelly (2017) state that certain cultural, social, and organizational factors influence long-term orientation. Societies with a long-term orientation value future long-term relationships and their interactions revolve mostly around this context. Considerable literature is available regarding the relationship between long-term orientation and many other constructs (Bearden et al., 2006; Richtnér & Löfsten, 2014; Salim et al., 2017; Shi & Prescott, 2011). According to Bearden et al. (2006), those scoring high on long-term orientation value the future more than the present, and are "no-nonsense guys," who strive to accomplish their tasks prudently. Hofstede (1980) states that individuals having high levels of long-term orientation tend to maintain a thought pattern whereby their respective societies could assist them in overcoming their issues and problems. Further, they nurture virtues that are more oriented toward future rewards (Hofstede, 1991). Lumpkin and Brigham (2011) suggest that long-term orientation is proactive, directed toward "future payoffs and rewards," and provides an understanding of how current decisions impact the future. Individuals with high long-term orientation are proactive and make elaborate plans for the future, and are successful entrepreneurs (Crant, 1995). They work hard, aiming at future benefits and creating a unique personal identity (Bearden et al., 2006). Long-term orientation is also associated with

sustainable behavior (Sternad & Kennelly, 2017) which can lead to organizational success (Sternad & Kennelly, 2017; Sulphey, 2019a, 2019b; Sulphey & Alkahtani, 2017). Yanev and Tsenkov (2016) found long-term orientation to have a direct effect on self-efficacy, while Salim et al. (2017) similarly found long-term orientation to be positively correlated to self-efficacy. Based on these findings it is hypothesized that there is a positive relationship between long-term orientation and the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs (H1).

Spirituality

Spirituality is an inseparable dimension that provides individuals with an "integrative factor" evidenced in one's behavioral characteristics (McGhee & Grant, 2015). Rego and Pina e Cunha (2008, p. 137) define workplace spirituality as "workplace opportunities to perform meaningful work in the context of a community with a sense of joy and personal fulfillment." It provides employees with feelings of completeness, personal fulfillment, and joy (Giacalone & Jurkiewicz, 2003; Rego & Pina e Cunha, 2008). It facilitates the fostering in employees of feelings of trust, belongingness, meaning, and fulfillment in all aspect of work. Absence of spirituality has been identified as causing psychological and social deficiencies and the consequent inability to achieve the maximum capability (Hosseini, Torkani, & Tavakol, 2013). According to SCT, individuals "extract, weight, and integrate morally relevant information" and this "moral reasoning" is guided by a host of complex rules that combine various informational cues (Bandura, 1988, p. 52). These moral behaviors are precursors of spirituality. Social scientists have theorized that spiritual modeling of self-efficacy is an important factor in building resilience (Fergus & Zimmerman, 2005; Oman & Thoresen, 2005), which is essential to bouncing back after a tough situation.

Workplace spirituality has been subject to multiple empirical examinations (Dev et al., 2018; Hatami, Mahmoudi, Nia, Badrani, & Kamboo, 2019; Khaleghkhah, Babaei, Mozafari, & Sheshgelani, 2017). Rezaei, Golmakani, and Mazloum (2015), found a significant positive relationship between employee spirituality and self-efficacy and workplace spirituality has been found to have a positive impact on individual self-efficacy (Hartsfield, 2003). However, a few studies have also observed results to the contrary. For instance, Duggleby, Cooper, and Penz (2009), Miller, McConnell, and Klinger (2007), and Rahmanian, Hojat, Jahromi, and Nabiolahi, (2018) found no significant relationship between spirituality and self-efficacy. Recent studies, however, have pointed to a significant relationship between spirituality and self-efficacy.

Among students, both Dev et al. (2018) and Hatami et al. (2019) observed a significant relationship between spiritual intelligence and self-efficacy. Accordingly, based on this literature, it is hypothesized that there is a positive relationship between workplace spirituality and the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs (H2).

Materialism

Materialism is a contentious issue and is considered as a negative construct (Bevan-Dye, Garnett, & de Klerk, 2012). However, it can foster positive motives like the need to achieve, succeed, and be self-sufficient (Kamineni, 2005). Dittmar, Bond, Hurst, and Kasser (2014, p. 880) defined materialism as "individual differences in people's long-term endorsement of values, goals, and associated beliefs that centre on the importance of acquiring money and possessions that convey status." According to Parker and Ivtzan (2016), however, a higher than normal importance assigned to materialism could negatively impact psychological well-being. Richins and Dawson (1992) defied materialism as a personal value that provides prominence to material possessions and considered materialistic people as having these four characteristics: a higher yearning for acquiring wealth and possessions, self-centered behaviors, over-investment in material goods, and total dissatisfaction with all current possessions. They always tend to want more and more, are optimistic about the future and believe they can achieve what they aspire to.

This parallels Bandura's (1997, 2006) description of self-efficacy. Bandura (2006) considered self-efficacy to be observable from multiple human behaviors, like perception about the future and the levels of either optimism or pessimism. Similarly, Locke and Baum (2007) observed that individuals with high self-efficacy anticipate positive outcomes and focus on the multitude of available opportunities by ignoring obstacles. They make further improvements and consider obstacles as generators of opportunities. Pajares (2002) found self-efficacy to be associated with confident individuals who anticipate positive outcomes. It supports certain motives like the need for achievement and success (Duh, 2015); while, according to Kasser and Ryan (1996) and Kasser (2002), materialist values are associated with financial success and better social status.

Materialists work hard to enhance their living standards (Sidhu & Foo, 2015), suggesting its relationship with entrepreneurial intention. Studies have also examined the relationship between entrepreneurship and cultural aspects like materialism (Lee & Peterson, 2000; Morales & Holtschlag, 2013; Mueller & Thomas, 2001). Fatoki (2014) found a positive relationship between materialism and en-

trepreneurial intention though the relationship was statistically insignificant. Other studies, for instance, Robichaud, McGraw, and Roger (2001) and Uhlaner and Thurik (2007), found entrepreneurs to be predominately materialistic. Though several studies have been conducted in this regard, the results are still inconclusive, highlighting the need for an objective analysis of the relationship between the two. Based on this backdrop, it is hypothesized that materialism is positively related to the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs (H3).

Collectivism

According to Hofstede (2001, p. 235) "give priority to the goals of their in-groups, shape their behavior primarily on the basis of in-group norms, and behave in a communal way." Members of collectivist cultures are highly interdependent with their in-groups. They accord priority to such in-groups, become part of the community, and form their behaviors based on its group norms. Differentiating between collectivism and individualism, Hofstede (2011) opined that collectivists stress the "we" rather than the "I" consciousness. They focus on maintaining group harmony and welfare rather than on individual rewards. Members of a collectivistic society tend to achieve more with the extended group of people in society (Hofstede, Hofstede, Minkov, & Vink, 2008). In a study on Saudi society, Cassell and Blake (2012) found collectivism influenced entrepreneurial intentions. Bullough, Renko, and Myatt (2014) found collectivism to be a predictor of business ownership and success among women. They, however, differentiated between "In-group level collectivism" (family, friends, and colleagues) and "Institutional collectivism" (the society). The former was found to be an important predictor of women's business ownership, while the latter acted on the background conditions and influenced in-group collectivism. Adequate freedom to pursue individual goals, in combination with adequate support from in-groups, would provide women with a milieu conducive to developing business. The present study considers the in-group collectivism of women micro-entrepreneurs. These inputs and the paucity of literature about the relationship between self-efficacy and collectivism has aided in the formulation of the next hypothesis. Thus, it is hypothesized that Collectivism is positively related to the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs.

Since the present study was conducted on data related to the Kudumbashree micro-entrepreneurs, a scheme initiated by the State Government of Kerala, India (http://www.kudumbashree.org), a discussion of this scheme is required.

Kudumbashree

The State of Kerala, which leads other Indian states in social indicators, has wide disparities in terms of economic growth (Jeromi, 2007; Parwez, 2016; Vaidyanathan, 2006). Problem areas include large-scale unemployment among the educated, declining agricultural production, a low credit-deposit ratio, and inadequate development in the industrial sector (Economic Review, 2016). This scenario has led to farmer suicides in the state and rampant poverty. Since women are always made to bear the burden of poverty within their respective households, the state government in 1998 embarked on an innovative and ambitious micro-credit movement in association with the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, called "Kudumbashree." Conceived as an alternative model of economic advancement, it is a community-based self-help group (SHG) program intended to empower poor women. It has now evolved and developed through different phases of experimentation. Though initially started as a micro-finance agency, it became an active subsystem of the local governments. Later on, it embarked upon multiple activities intended to address poverty eradication. According to its website (http://www.kudumbashree.org), by 2018-2019 there were 291,507 SHGs, with an overall membership of 4,393,579. Though many SHGs have been set up in Kerala for various purposes, Kudumbashree was initiated with the specific aim of eradicating poverty among women through the setting up of micro-enterprises.

In Kudumbashree, group members contribute their small savings regularly toward investment purposes and for starting micro-enterprises. Loans are sanctioned to SHGs against their respective accumulated savings. Among others, one objective of Kudumbashree includes ensuring people's participation through various innovative measures (Ruby, 2008). Several studies have reviewed the effectiveness of Kudumbashree and its activities to empower women and eradicate poverty (Jose, 2015; Joseph, Shaji, & Joseph, 2015; Panackal, Singh, & Hamsa, 2017). During the last two decades, it has mobilized untapped savings and utilized them to achieve its objectives (Government of Kerala, 2019). As of 2019 March, Kudumbashree had mobilized a total of INR 400.8 million (http://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/5) and the total number of WMEs under its auspices as of March 2019 stood at 32,765. These units belonged to various sectors, including manufacturing, apparel, and food (http://www.kudumbashree.org/pages/219). All this points toward the successful implementation of the Kudumbashree vision of achieving women empowerment.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted an exploratory research design as the research was conducted for a problem that has not been clearly defined. The population of the study was women who were members of different Kudumbashree SHGs, spread across the state of Kerala.

Sampling

To have a fair representation of members from across the state, multi-stage sampling was used to collect data. Toward this, the state was categorized geographically into three zones—North, Central, and South. This was followed by a random selection of five revenue districts from each zone. Three taluks (a group of three to five panchayats) were identified randomly from each of these revenue districts. Thereafter, one municipality (urban local authority) and one panchayat (rural local authority) were randomly chosen from each of the taluks, thereby covering 58 local authorities. A total of 999 valid responses were collected from these 58 local authorities with structured questionnaires. For data collection, the methodologies suggested by Kerlinger and Lee (2000) and Kinnear and Taylor (1996) were closely followed as they provide guidelines for collecting attitudinal and behavioral data.

Tools for Data Collection

Five sets of structured questionnaires were used to collect data from the respondents. Since the SHG members tended to have relatively low levels of education, questionnaires translated into their vernacular language were used. The following is a brief overview of the questionnaires used:

- **1. Self-efficacy:** To measure self-efficacy, the eight-item questionnaire developed by Chen, Gully, and Eden (2001) was used. The authors reported a fairly good alpha value of .87.
- 2. Long-term Orientation: The long-term orientation questionnaire developed and standardized by Bearden et al. (2006) was used. The questionnaire has eight items—four each under the two variables of "Respect For Tradition"

(RFT) and "Planning" (P). The authors reported fairly good alphas of 0.83 and 0.71 respectively.

- **3. Collectivism:** Collectivism was measured using the six-item, five-point-scale questionnaire (alpha of 0.70), developed by Yoo and Donthu (2005).
- **4. Materialistic Attitude:** The questionnaire developed by Torlak and Koc (2007), which reported an alpha of 0.73, was used to measure materialistic attitude. The tool had six items on a five-point scale.
- **5. Spirituality:** For measuring spirituality, the twelve-item Spirituality Index of Well-being Questionnaire developed by Daaleman and Frey (2004) was used. The questionnaire had two factors with six items each—"life scheme spirituality index of well-being" (alpha of 0.89) and "self-efficacy spirituality index of well-being" (alpha of 0.86).

Relevant demographic particulars (age, marital status, and experience as a micro-entrepreneur), were also elicited. Since the original questionnaires were in English, they were translated to Malayalam, the vernacular language, by experts and the accuracy of the translation was verified by re-translating it to English, with no significant differences being observed between the translated and original versions. The responses were collected during the weekly SHG meetings, which took place on Saturdays/Sundays. A total of 1016 questionnaires were returned, of which 999 were valid and were used for analysis. This sample is well above the required size suggested by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). According to them, for a population of one million, the required sample size is 384. With the increase in population, the required sample size tends to increase at a diminishing rate and plateaus off. It does eventually remain constant over 380, and little is to be gained beyond 380 samples (Alreck & Settle, 1995). The KMO measure of sampling adequacy was .775. and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was 1883.061 (significant at .000). Thus the sample of 999 collected for the study is appropriate. Table 1 presents the demographics of the sample.

SPSS and R-Program were used to analyze the data. PLS structural equation modeling (SEM) was run using OpenMx and Lavaan. SEM is ideal for complex and multidimensional models as it permits simultaneous examination of all possible relations (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). SEM helps in testing theories that involve multiple equations, relationships, and interdependencies of multiple variables (Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2010).

Table 1
Demographics of the Sample

Particu	Number		
	Below 20	30 (3%)	
	21 to 29	106 (10.6%)	
A (C)	20 to 39	224 (22.5%)	
Age (in years)	40 to 49	298 (29.9%)	
	50 to 59	296 (29.7%)	
	60 and above	45 (4.2%)	
	Unmarried	102 (10.25)	
Model Core	Married	433 (43.5%)	
Marital Status	Divorced	258 (25.9%)	
	Widowed	206 (20.4%)	
Experience (in years)	Less than 1	85 (8.5%)	
	2	407 (40.7%)	
	3	238 (23.8%)	
	4	230 (23%)	
	5	29 (2.9%)	
	6 and above	10 (1%)	

Reliability and Validity

The reliability and validity of questionnaires are critical for research rigor. Further, *SEM* requires the assessment of data for "fit" (Yuan, 2005), the details of which are presented in the upcoming sections. Reliability is assessed with Cronbach's α (Johnson & O'Leary Kelly, 2003), and the recommended minimum value is 0.7 (George & Mallery, 2003; Hilton, Leenhouts, Webster, & Morris, 2014; Nunnally, 1978). The *a* values of all the constructs (Table 2) were well above .70. Convergent validity is the degree of association between the various items of a latent factor and the items within the factors (Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2016). According to Fornell and Larcker (1981) and Hair et al. (2016), an Average Variance Extracted (AVE) above 0.5 indicates good convergent validity. Table 2 shows that the AVE exceeds this stipulation for constructs, thereby denoting good convergent validity.

Discriminant validity is the extent to which latent variables are different from other concepts (Hair, Hollingsworth, Randolph, & Chong, 2017). Discriminant validity was determined using Fornell and Larcker's (1981) criterion. The details of discriminant validity are presented in Table 3. To have discriminant validity, the square root of each construct's AVE must be larger than its correlation with other constructs. It can be clearly seen that the measuring instruments employed enjoy discriminant validity.

Table 2 Reliability and Validity

Constructs	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Long-term Orientation	0.81	0.78	0.61
Spirituality	0.85	0.85	0.58
Self-efficacy	0.95	0.72	0.63
Collectivism	0.76	0.79	0.74
Materialism	0.84	0.91	0.71

Table 3 Discriminant Validity

Constructs	Long-term orientation	Self-efficacy	Collectivism	Materialism	Spirituality
Long-term Orientation	0.78				
Self-efficacy	0.26	0.79			
Collectivism	0.31	0.14	0.86		
Materialism	0.03	0.22	0.09	0.84	
Spirituality	0.28	0.04	0.39	0.27	0.76

Note. Authors' calculation

Model Fit

In SEM, fit indices are used to determine how well a model fits the sample data (McDonald & Ho, 2002). This is also an indication as to how well the theory fits with the collected data.

The indices of the ineasurement model						
Index		,	Value		Citation	
	Model			Recomm	mended	
Incremental fit index (IFI)	0.95		> 0.90		Davey and Savla (2010)	
Normed Fit Index (NFI)	0.97		> 0.95		Hooper, Coughlan, and Mullen (2008)	
Relative Fit Index (RFI)	0.99		> 0.90		Bollen (1986); Hu and Bentler (1999)	
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)		0.91		> 0.90	Bentler (1992); Hair et al. (2010)	
RMSEA		0.08		< 0.08	MacCallum, Browne, and Sugawara (1996)	

Table 4
Fit indices of the Measurement Model

Note. Authors' calculation

A few popular fit indices are the chi-squared test, RMSEA, CFI, RFI, and TLI (Hooper et al., 2008). The results of the model fit used in the study are presented in the following sections. The χ^2 value was found to be 58.62 (p < .01). All the identified dimensions had high significant loading on the second-order latent factors with p < .01, thereby enjoying perfect fit. The various other fit indices are presented in Table 4, which shows that all the fit indices are within the stipulated limits.

Findings

The descriptive statistics and the correlations between the variables are presented in Table 5. No significant correlation can be found between self-efficacy and spirituality. Further, a significant negative correlation was found between spirituality and collectivism (r = -.350). All other variables had significant positive correlations at the .001 level.

Table 5
Correlation between Variables and Descriptive Statistics

	Long-Term Orientation	Collectivism	Materialism	Spirituality	Self- Efficacy	Mean	SD
Long-Term Orientation	1					47.26	6.616
Collectivism	.281**	1				21.65	5.527
Materialism	.273**	.574**	1			21.24	5.602
Spirituality	144**	272**	350**	1		31.56	11.578
Self- Efficacy	.475**	.384**	.297**	060	1	30.81	6.262

Note. ** Significant at .001 level N = 999 Authors' calculation

SEM

Based on the review of the literature (Bullough et al., 2014; Hatami et al., 2019; Locke & Baum, 2007; Salim et al., 2017; Sternad & Kennelly, 2017), the study proposed a theoretical model, which aimed at assessing the effect of spirituality, long-term orientation, materialistic attitude, and collectivism on self-efficacy. Spirituality, long-term orientation, and self-efficacy were formative variables, the details of which have been presented in the methodology section. The causal model is presented in Figure 1.

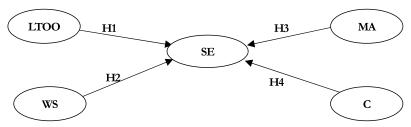


Figure 1. Causal model - Proposed SEM

Nate. LT - Long-term orientation: SE - Self-efficacy: WS - Workplace spi

Note. LT - Long-term orientation; SE - Self-efficacy; WS - Workplace spirituality; MA - Materialism; C - Collectivism

Validation of Model and Discussion

Model Validation

The model aimed to assess the relationship between long-term orientation, spirituality, and workplace spirituality using the PLS path modeling technique of *SEM* (Geladi & Kowalski, 1986; Götz, Liehr-Gobbers, & Krafft, 2010). The bootstrapping and output based on *SEM* are presented in Table 6 and Figure 2 respectively.

Table 6				
Bootstrapping	for	Structural	Equation	Model

Hypothesis	Constructs	Estimate (Beta)	't' Statistics	Results
H1	$\Gamma LO \rightarrow SE$	0.18	3.514	Significant
H2	$WS \rightarrow SE$	-0.10	-2.845	Not significant
НЗ	$MA \rightarrow SE$	0.16	2.589	Significant
H4	$C \rightarrow SE$	-0.02	-2.657	Not significant

Source: Authors' calculation

Note. LT – Long-term orientation; SE – Self-efficacy; WS – Workplace spirituality; MA – Materialism; C – Collectivism

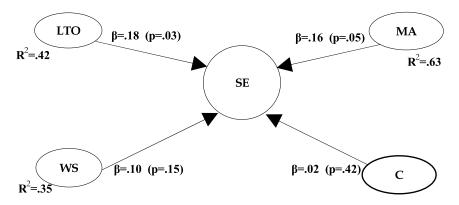


Figure 2. Output based on SEM and Research model validations
Note. LT - Long-term orientation; SE - Self-efficacy; WS - Workplace spirituality; MA - Materialism;
C - Collectivism

The study examined the effects of some constructs on self-efficacy, which is considered essential for entrepreneurial success. The hypotheses formulated and the model constructed based on rigorous review were tested for tenability (Hair et al., 2016), and the details are presented in the following sections.

The first hypothesis (H1) was that "There is a positive relationship between long-term orientation and the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs." Self-efficacy signifies belief in one's ability, which provides the required push that could result in individual success. It impacts individual performance, as it facilitates "goal selection" and identification of the course of action needed to maintain the required persistence toward an identified goal (Bandura, 1997). According to Hofstede (1983), India has an intermediate score of 51 in long-term orientation. It is further stated, based on this score, that a dominant preference for long-term orientation in Indian culture cannot be determined. Those cultures with high scores tend to take a fairly pragmatic approach concerning savings and future. This was also echoed by Bearden et al. (2006) who opined that those who score high in long-term orientation maintain a unique personal identity and work hard for future benefits. The results show a significant relationship between long-term orientation and self-efficacy (β = .18; t-value = 3.514), thereby accepting H1. This finding is on expected lines and provides support to earlier studies that found a direct relationship between the two (Lumpkin & Brigham, 2011; Yanev & Tsenkov, 2016). These studies were on the general population, and not specifically females. The current findings are also in tandem with the results of Salim et al., (2017) which

found a significant positive relationship between long-term orientation and self-efficacy among females. Jain and Ali (2013) in their study of an Indian sample found a relationship between self-efficacy and entrepreneurial attitude. The present study also advances the findings of Venugopal, Hsiao, Sonoda, Wiedau-Pazos, and Chandler (2015) that self-efficacy predicted the entrepreneurial intentions of low-income women in India.

The second hypothesis (H2) proposed a positive relationship between workplace spirituality and the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs. The SEM analysis showed the β to be -.10 and t-value -2.845. This is not significant, thereby rejecting H2. The results show there is no significant relationship between spirituality and self-efficacy. This runs counter to the findings of Hatami et al. (2019), and Rezaei et al. (2015), but substantiates those of Duggleby et al. (2009), Miller et al. (2007), and Rahmanian et al. (2018). The present study has thus found that workplace spirituality has no relationship with self-efficacy among WMEs. Individuals having high self-efficacy focus more on available opportunities by overcoming obstacles and anticipating positive outcomes, viewing obstacles as merely part of the game (Locke & Baum, 2007). Individuals with high self-efficacy strongly believe and take pride in their ability to execute a task effectively (González-Rivera & Rosario-Rodríguez, 2018). Spirituality, which is a critical and essential foundation for moral behaviors (McCuddy & Pirie, 2007), helps in performing "meaningful work" and provides individuals with joy and personal accomplishment (Rego & Pina e Cunha, 2008). Thus, while self-efficacy is about overcoming obstacles in anticipation of positive outcomes and taking pride in themselves, spirituality is more qualitative—it is about the reinforcement of relationships with other people (González-Rivera, 2017). Further, self-efficacy generates in the individual a belief in his/her ability to organize and maintain the necessary behaviors to achieve goals (French, Olander, Chisholm, & McSharry, 2014), to the exclusion of other extraneous factors. This underlying dimensional difference could be the reason there is no significant relationship between the two constructs.

H3 proposed that "Materialism is positively related to the self-efficacy of women micro-entrepreneurs." The results indicate a significant positive relationship between the two (β =0.16; t-value=2.589). Kilbourne, Grunhagen, and Foley (2005) found a negative relationship between "self-transcendence" and materialism, and a positive relationship between "self-enhancement" and materialism. The conflict between spirituality and materialism has also been observed in many studies (Kilbourne et al., 2005; Schwartz, 1992, 1994; Stillman, Fincham, Lambert, &

Phillips, 2012). It is natural that when spirituality and self-efficacy are unrelated, materialism and self-efficacy could be positively related. The present study substantiates these findings. Further, self-efficacy involves belief in one's abilities to overcome challenges, based on unique individual adaptations (Adegbola, 2011).

H4 hypothesized that "There is a positive relationship between collectivism and self-efficacy among women micro-entrepreneurs." The results of the analysis (β =-0.02; t-value=- 2.657) show no significant relationship between the two. Hence the hypothesis is rejected. This could be due to the intermediate position of Indian citizens in terms of collectivism. According to Hofstede (1983), in terms of collectivism, India has an intermediate score of 48, signifying that Indian society exhibits the traits of both a collectivist and an individualist culture. While collectivism involves a high preference to be part of a "larger social framework," wherein members act for the welfare of their group, individualism is defined by the religious philosophy prevalent among the majority of the citizens of the country. The intermediate score arises as a result of the interaction between this individualist focus and the normally collectivist tendency of Indian society. There is a paucity of literature about the relationship between collectivism and self-efficacy. This result can therefore be considered a fresh contribution to the literature. Based on the results of the study, the final model is presented as Figure 3.

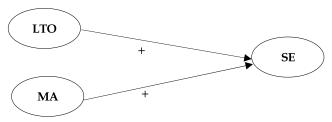


Figure 3. Final model
Note. LTO - Long-term orientation; MA - Materialism; SE - Self-efficacy

Discussion

As mentioned earlier, labor force data in India shows employment is highly skewed against females (Fletcher et al., 2017), which presents a dismal picture of their social vulnerability. In a country like India, wherein social and economic imbalances are rampant, inclusive growth can only be achieved through women empowerment. Relying solely on governmental support and resources will in no way enable inclusive growth. WMEs have immense potential for contributing sub-

stantially toward financial empowerment and the resultant gender equality for the downtrodden and vulnerable sections of society. Sufficient literature exists to prove this point (Sivagandhi & Dash, 2017; Sulphey & Vivek, 2015). Further, feminist approaches and theories propose that the various social roles and the manner in which females deal with day-to-day issues differ considerably based on the contexts to which they are exposed. The contexts can vary based on the uniqueness of the culture, society, race, religion, and certain other demographics. Feminist Standpoint Theory (FST) provides insights into how marginalized members of society are capable of generating less distorted knowledge and information (Harding, 1991). FST, which is highly relevant to the present study, has also elaborated the complex relationship and interplay between the powers of knowledge, politics, and society. It is also capable of offering productive inputs into aspects related to socially and politically marginalized members of the society, as well as their oppressors who occupy a higher position in the social hierarchy.

If WMEs are to succeed, the micro-entrepreneurs need to have certain psychological and emotional capabilities. The present study examined the relationship between self-efficacy and constructs like long-term orientation, spirituality, materialism, and collectivism. The present study has succeeded in identifying those constructs; this will help in facilitating entrepreneurial success among micro-entrepreneurs, which will in turn be useful in addressing or even solving many social problems related to inclusive growth in India. Another study could be conducted with a larger sample to confirm and generalize the results of the present study. The administrators of Kudumbashree could utilize the findings to design training for their members in their weekly/monthly meetings, with separate training materials designed for members and group supervisors. They could also be sensitized about the need for certain personality traits like self-efficacy and long-term orientation. As Kudumbashree has a well-oiled and dynamic structure, the supervisors could be provided with special training and made responsible for overseeing this. The findings of the study will most definitely have significant practical implications for WMEs and its quest for bringing about inclusive growth.

Limitations and Scope for Further Research

Any study has its limitations, and the present work is no exception. First, the study was limited to a few constructs that could have an impact on self-efficacy. There could be other intervening factors that mediate self-efficacy, such as culture, religion, age, and certain other psychological constructs. Future studies could be

undertaken to examine these complex relationships. This study has also not examined entrepreneurial success—as to what could be the relationship between the constructs for those micro-entrepreneurs who were successful in their ventures. Such an examination would be expected to provide path-breaking results with practical implications which could be used by stakeholders. This could go a long way toward making the Kudumbasree vision of inclusive growth and women empowerment much easier to achieve. Another limitation could be sampling. The study has been limited to 999 samples. Taking into consideration the overall number of SHG members in the state, this could be seen as small. However, since scientific sampling techniques were employed for the data collection (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970), this limitation is addressed.

Conclusion

Entrepreneurship is a complex phenomenon that comprises certain prerequisites, interfaces, and influencers. (Noorderhaven, Thurik, Wennekers, & van Stel, 2004). Substantial evidence exists in the literature identifying self-efficacy as a strong antecedent of entrepreneurial intentions and associated behaviors (Lee et al., 2011; Zhao et al., 2005). Though many studies have explored these relationships in general, no study has explored this phenomenon among WMEs. By examining this unexplored area, the present study has filled the gap identified in the literature. The study findings have certain theoretical and practical implications. The constructs of long-term orientation and materialism have been identified as likely to influence the level of self-efficacy, while spirituality and collectivism were not found to be connected to long-term orientation. Identifying and focusing on those psychological traits of women that could facilitate entrepreneurial success could help in achieving women empowerment and inclusive growth. It is expected that the present work would stimulate further research in this interesting area.

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