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EXPLORE PERSONAL GROWTH OF SINGLE MOTHER MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS IN HULU LANGAT

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ABSTRACT

The entrepreneurial journey of single mothers remains an underexplored area, particularly in the Malaysian context. This study examines the business expansion experiences of single mother entrepreneurs, drawing on recent empirical data and grounded in the theory of entrepreneurial value creation. The theory outlines the entire entrepreneurial process—from identifying opportunities and acquiring skills to achieving business sustainability and profit. Using a qualitative research design, in-depth interviews were conducted with two single mothers who are active members of the Women and Single Mothers Society (WITUS) and currently engaged in entrepreneurship. Findings revealed several key challenges: limited entrepreneurial skills, lack of access to business resources, societal stigma, and the ongoing struggle to balance personal and professional responsibilities. While both participants relied heavily on personal determination and informal support networks to sustain their businesses, such informal systems proved insufficient in strengthening their financial stability or ensuring long-term success. Although personal circumstances did not directly hinder their entrepreneurial drive, knowledge and skill, particularly in business management, emerged as significant barriers to growth. This study underscores the need for structured support systems, targeted training, and inclusive policies to enhance the sustainability of single mother-led enterprises in Malaysia. It is still a great deal to learn about the entrepreneurial experience of single mothers. Based on studies on the expansion of single mothers' businesses, this paper makes its case. The data used in this study were based on recent research on single mothers in Malaysia as well as empirical facts. The entire process of becoming an entrepreneur, from seeing an opportunity to learn new skills and realising profits, is covered under the theory of entrepreneurial value creation. Using a qualitative methodology, the data for this study were obtained. Two individuals who are members of the

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Women and Single Mother Society (WITUS) and are also entrepreneurs were interviewed in-depth. The results showed that the primary obstacles were the lack of entrepreneurial abilities and business resources, the problem of social stigma, and the difficulty of striking a balance between their personal and professional obligations. Entrepreneurs who are single mothers primarily rely on their resources and an unofficial support network to sustain their company. The informal support structure, while helpful, is unable to reinforce their financial situation and ensure the continued existence of their enterprises. These entrepreneurs are single mothers, yet it doesn't appear like personal problems are holding them back. Both direct and indirect consequences of knowledge barriers are felt by growing businesses. As seen in this context, the obstacles are caused by a low degree of expertise in management. |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The exploration of personal growth among single mother micro-entrepreneurs in Hulu Langat reveals critical insights into both individual empowerment and broader societal implications. The dependent variable of this topic revolves around the "personal growth of single mother micro-entrepreneurs," which is paramount in contemporary society where single parenthood increasingly becomes a prevalent family structure. Single mothers often face multifaceted challenges that inhibit their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Research indicates that socio-cultural constraints, economic demands, and psychological burdens significantly restrict their opportunities for personal and professional development (Khan et al., 2022; (Nahar et al., 2020; . The existing literature underscores a notable gap in understanding the specific experiences of Malaysian single mothers in entrepreneurship, particularly in rural contexts like Hulu Langat. This lack of focused research can impede policy formulation aimed at fostering entrepreneurial initiatives among this demographic, an issue that is both urgent and unresolved.

In today's environment, the significance of personal growth in the context of micro-entrepreneurship among single mothers is compounded by an increasing recognition of female economic empowerment. Micro-entrepreneurship is often viewed as a viable pathway for single mothers to attain financial independence, build self-esteem, and assert their agency in society (Mohd et al., 2021; . The ability to manage a business allows these mothers to navigate economic instability while positively influencing their family dynamics and community perceptions. However, research on the psychological and emotional aspects of their entrepreneurial journeys remains sparse, indicating a crucial gap that needs addressing. Understanding how personal growth aligns with economic outcomes can provide a more comprehensive perspective on the lived experiences of single mother micro-entrepreneurs.

The concept of personal growth among single mother micro-entrepreneurs significantly influences their current situation by fostering resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity. The act of entrepreneurship not only enhances their financial status but also contributes to their social identity and community role (Gholami & Tahoo, 2021). Single mothers engaging in micro-entrepreneurship often report increased self-efficacy, improved social networks, and a stronger sense of purpose (Prasastyoga et al., 2020). However, these positive effects can be undermined by systemic barriers such as limited access to capital, inadequate business training, and societal stigma which disproportionately affect single mothers compared to their partnered counterparts (Shitindi & Lubawa, 2022).

The role of personal growth in this context extends beyond economic achievements; it encompasses psychological well-being and social empowerment as well. Entrepreneurship serves as a developmental platform that can lead to greater resilience and improved mental health outcomes for single mothers (Nahar et al., 2020; FARID & Rahman, 2022). By actively participating in the business landscape, these mothers often redefine their identities and challenge societal norms regarding single parenthood. Furthermore, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset is crucial for creating a supportive environment where women can thrive both personally and professionally (Chima et al., 2010).

Factors influencing the personal growth of single mother micro-entrepreneurs are diverse and multifaceted, encompassing economic, social, and emotional dimensions. The level of impact these factors exert can vary greatly; for instance, access to financial resources and entrepreneurship training can significantly enhance business sustainability and personal development (Mohd et al., 2021; Doherty & Craft, 2011). Conversely, social isolation and mental health challenges can severely hinder their entrepreneurial success. The complex interplay of these influences necessitates a tailored approach to support initiatives aimed at single mothers who are entrepreneurs, underscoring a substantial research gap that needs addressing (Roman, 2011).

Previous studies emphasize that while single motherhood inherently presents numerous challenges, engaging in entrepreneurship can offer significant benefits. Yet, many existing studies either focus on the broader implications of single motherhood or the general challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, leaving a gap in the specific context of single mother micro-entrepreneurs (Halkias et al., 2011). This suggests a pressing need for targeted research that delves into how these women can harness entrepreneurial opportunities for personal and economic growth within their unique contexts.

The objective of this study is to better understand the personal growth of single mother micro-entrepreneurs in Hulu Langat and to identify barriers and facilitators influencing their journey. By emphasizing the importance of this research, the intention is to provide insights that can inform policy and practice aimed at supporting single mothers in entrepreneurship. The implications of this research extend beyond individual empowerment, potentially contributing to larger societal shifts in the perceptions of single mothers and their roles as entrepreneurs (Rideout & Gray, 2013; Haldar & Tripathi, 2022).]

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Single Mother Entrepreneur

Single mothers who venture into entrepreneurship often balance complex identities and responsibilities that can significantly influence their business outcomes and personal lives. The literature reveals several crucial dimensions that shape their experiences, including social support systems, the interplay of motherhood and business roles, as well as the economic pressures and advantages that inform their entrepreneurial journeys.

A central factor in understanding single mother entrepreneurs is the role of social support. Research shows that many single mothers benefit greatly from emotional and practical support from family, friends, and community networks. For instance, Theng et al. highlight that single mothers in Malaysia receive significant support from their social circles, which is integral to their entrepreneurial success and emotional well-being. Supportive community programs that offer skill development, such as cooking and financial management classes, empower these women and enhance their entrepreneurial skills (Theng et al., 2022). In line with this, Duberley and Carrigan discuss how the dual role of motherhood serves as both a motivation for entrepreneurship and a source of significant challenges. They argue that single mother entrepreneurs tend to shape their businesses around their parenting responsibilities, ultimately affecting their professional trajectories (Duberley & Carrigan, 2012).

The distinction between "opportunity entrepreneurs" and "necessity entrepreneurs" is also applicable in studying single mother entrepreneurs. Breen and Leung identify many of these women as "opportunity entrepreneurs," who pursue business ventures driven by the perception of available prospects rather than acute economic necessity (Breen & Leung, 2020). This contrasts with the experiences of single mothers who may feel forced into entrepreneurship merely to survive economically, as is often the case with necessity entrepreneurs. Jamaluddin et al. reinforce this delineation by discussing how financial struggles are compounded for single mothers, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable funding mechanisms, such as cash waqf-based crowdfunding (Jamaluddin et al., 2022).

The literature also addresses the unique challenges these women face in balancing responsibilities. Almaden and Yu report that single mothers often experience worse performance outcomes compared to married entrepreneurs due to various constraints, including time management challenges stemming from their dual roles (Almaden & Yu, 2022). Likewise, Ishak et al. emphasize that single mothers confront a complex array of barriers that limit their business advancement, including emotional stress and financial instability (Ishak et al., 2021). Moreover, many of these women lack access to equitable funding opportunities, which further exacerbates their difficulties in entrepreneurship (Abdelsalam et al., 2022).

On the front of organizational support, various studies underscore the significance of institutional frameworks in promoting the success of single mother entrepreneurs. Bianco et al. suggest that institutional mechanisms and cultural norms often hinder women's entrepreneurship, emphasizing the need for targeted support systems to dismantle structural barriers (Bianco et al., 2017). Furthermore, Rahman et al. discuss comprehensive social support systems as vital means for enhancing the livelihood of single mothers, facilitating their entrepreneurial aspirations through resources that address both psychological and economic challenges (Rahman et al., 2022).

In sum, the body of literature illustrates the multifaceted experiences of single mother entrepreneurs, accentuating the importance of social support, the balance of familial responsibilities, and the critical need for structural support systems. The interplay of these factors contributes to a nuanced understanding of their entrepreneurial journeys, where both the challenges and successes are deeply intertwined with their identities as mothers and business owners.

Entrepreneurial Value Creation Theory

The entrepreneurial value creation theory, according to Mischara and Zachary (2014), covers all aspects of being an entrepreneur, from seeing an opportunity to gaining knowledge and expertise to seeing profits. The notion of entrepreneurship presents a two-phase framework for generating value. Entrepreneurs use their resources to find an outside opportunity and acquire the skills they need to advance to the second stage of venture development during the first stage. The desire for an entrepreneurial payoff is what drives this. This is the moment where many attempts fail. In order to spur growth, entrepreneurs may look for outside resources like venture capital or strategic alliances during the second stage of venture monetization. Determining entrepreneurial skill and venture quality is a problem for investors. Entrepreneurs can use incentive signals to raise investor valuation bids (Mishra and Zachary, 2014).

Malaysian women entrepreneurs are presently at the introduction phase of their business ventures, according to the entrepreneurial creation value theory, which is based on an analysis of an article from Herbalife Nutrition Global Entrepreneurship 2020. A number of things motivate them to achieve their goals, such as the desire to support their family, switch occupations, and work for themselves. This theoretical justification reflects the preliminary stages of discovering opportunities for value creation through entrepreneurship. Once their businesses grow, these women will begin the second phase, sometimes known as the exploitation phase. They fiercely grasp the opportunity to benefit society as a whole, their families, and themselves at this era.

We may apply the notion of entrepreneurial value creation to our study of women entrepreneurs (WITUS) by examining the ways in which they navigate the venture formation and financing process. Research indicates that female entrepreneurs frequently encounter unique challenges when trying to secure funding and resources for their planned businesses, which may limit their ability to advance from stage 1 to stage 2 of the entrepreneurial path. According to the theory, it is possible to modify the support structure and boost the success of female entrepreneurs in (WITUS) by being aware of all these barriers and utilizing the theoretical concepts of entrepreneurial efficiency and business model design.

Apart from that, the Entrepreneurial Value Creation Theory relates to our issue of the sustainable development of micro-entrepreneurs who are single mothers since it offers a framework for comprehending the ways in which these business owners may create and realize value. By emphasizing the development of entrepreneurial skills, lucrative company creation, and successful business model establishment, single mother micro-entrepreneurs can increase their chances of long-term success and sustainability. Overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities for growth and influence can be facilitated by an understanding of the feedback loops that exist between various elements of the entrepreneurial process (Mishra and Zachary, 2014).

2.2 Challenge of Single Mother Entrepreneur

Single mother entrepreneurs face unique challenges and opportunities within the entrepreneurial landscape. Their situation is characterized by a complex interplay of societal norms, financial constraints, and the need for support structures. The literature emphasizes that single mothers often encounter distinct hurdles that can impede their business success but also acknowledges their resilience and capacity for innovative survival strategies.

One significant challenge for single mother entrepreneurs is managing time and resources effectively. Ishak et al. highlight that creating a balance between family responsibilities and business operations poses a considerable difficulty for single mothers, leading to sub-optimal business performance compared to their married counterparts (Ishak et al., 2021). Similarly, Salwa et al. discuss how the performance of single mother entrepreneurs is notably affected by dual pressures from family and business responsibilities, contributing to lower overall performance relative to married entrepreneurs (Salwa et al., 2015). Additionally, the lack of time management can hinder their ability to network and access essential resources, which are crucial for business growth (Ansong, 2021).

Financial barriers also critically impact the entrepreneurial endeavors of single mothers. Access to finance remains a recurrent theme in the literature, with studies indicating that single mothers often lack sufficient financial backing to start or expand their businesses. For instance, Davidson and Fielden note that female business owners from minority

backgrounds frequently face difficulties accessing financial support systems that cater to their unique needs, often resulting in a reliance on familial assistance (Davidson et al., 2010; Fielden & Davidson, 2012). This limited access to capital stifles their growth potential and increases their vulnerability in an already challenging economic environment.

Despite these challenges, several studies spotlight the strategies that single mother entrepreneurs employ to thrive. Research by Mulia reveals that acquiring skills and engaging in community networks serve as pivotal strategies for income generation among single mothers (Mulia, 2020; . The establishment of supportive organizations, such as local mothers' groups, provides vital social capital and resources that empower these women to overcome obstacles (Mulia, 2020; (Kasuma et al., 2022). Moreover, qualitative investigations by Jelani et al. illustrate how co-operatives facilitate a supportive environment that fosters resilience and collective growth among single mothers (Jelani et al., 2021).

The motivations driving single mothers into entrepreneurship are complex and multifaceted. The desire for economic independence, coupled with aspirations for improved living conditions for their children, often propels them toward entrepreneurship (Kasuma et al., 2022). This aligns with the findings of Morris et al., who discuss how female entrepreneurs navigate their business journeys through a lens of identity that intertwines personal and professional aspirations (Morris et al., 2006). Underlying themes suggest that single mother entrepreneurs not only seek survival but actively work towards creating sustainable livelihoods that benefit their families (Isaga, 2019; Malach-Pines & Schwartz, 2006).

In essence, while the entrepreneurial pathway for single mother entrepreneurs is fraught with challenges such as limited access to finance and time constraints, it is equally marked by resilience and innovative strategies. The unique identity of single mothers in the business realm warrants targeted support and interventions that acknowledge their distinct experiences and contribute to breaking systemic barriers that hinder their success.

Success of Single Mother Entrepreneur Business

The success of single mother entrepreneurs is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by various factors including motivation, family dynamics, identity, and the socio-economic context in which they operate. As entrepreneurship among this demographic increases, understanding their unique challenges and the opportunities they harness becomes essential to fostering their success.

Single mother entrepreneurs often identify as "opportunity entrepreneurs," motivated by perceived business potential rather than out of necessity. This contrasts with "necessity entrepreneurs," who see entrepreneurship as a last resort. Interestingly, family-driven entrepreneurship highlights how these women often structure their businesses to align with their parenting responsibilities, thereby creating opportunities that cater to both their entrepreneurial aspirations and family obligations (Breen & Leung, 2020; Foley et al., 2018). This dual motivation underlines a unique drive that can facilitate business success, intertwining personal aspirations with family needs.

However, despite these positive motivations, single mother entrepreneurs face distinct challenges that can hinder their business growth. Research indicates that the performance of single mothers in entrepreneurship is often lower compared to their married counterparts, primarily due to limited time availability and resource constraints associated with managing both business and family (Salwa et al., 2015; Ishak et al., 2021). These findings reveal a critical need for targeted support systems that recognize the specific circumstances of single mothers, particularly as they navigate the complexities of work-life balance.

Furthermore, the entrepreneurial identity of single mothers is shaped by cultural and social factors that can enhance or impede their business trajectories. The concept of "mumpreneurship" complicates traditional views of entrepreneurship, as these women redefine their roles while managing familial responsibilities (Khan & Rowlands, 2018; Leung, 2011). Their experiences reveal much about the interplay between gender, family roles, and entrepreneurial identity, demonstrating how these factors can serve as both motivators and constraints within their business endeavors (Bianco et al., 2017; Duberley & Carrigan, 2012).

Empirical studies show that social support and community engagement play a vital role in the success of single mother entrepreneurs. An exploration of single mothers' experiences in utilizing platforms such as Facebook during crises, like the COVID-19 pandemic, suggests that digital communities provide essential networks and resources that enhance business sustainability and growth (Nasir et al., 2022). This underscores the importance of leveraging technology and social networks to facilitate entrepreneurial success in this demographic.

It is also essential to consider the systemic socio-economic challenges that single mother entrepreneurs face, as they often belong to underserved populations with limited access to capital, mentorship, and educational resources (Baker, 2022). Research indicates that ethno-racial factors complicate the landscape of entrepreneurship for single mothers, highlighting varying degrees of societal support and institutional barriers that influence their outcomes (Kuang et al., 2022).

In conclusion, the success of single mother entrepreneurs is deeply interconnected with their unique motivations, identity configurations, socio-economic support systems, and the prevailing cultural narratives around motherhood and entrepreneurship. Understanding these dimensions can inform better policies and support frameworks that empower single mothers in realizing their entrepreneurial potential while balancing the demands of their familial roles.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative research design to explore the roles, challenges, and recommendations related to the development of single mother micro-entrepreneurs in Malaysia. The qualitative approach was chosen to gain deep insights into the lived experiences, perceptions, and social realities of individuals involved in supporting this group, particularly within marginalized and low-income communities.

Data collection was carried out using semi-structured interviews, which allowed participants to elaborate freely while also guiding the conversation around key areas of interest. This method enabled the researcher to uncover nuanced opinions and explore unexpected yet relevant issues. Interviews were conducted with individuals affiliated with the Association of Women & Single Mothers (WITUS), who were directly or indirectly involved in entrepreneurial support for single mothers. These participants provided critical perspectives on the barriers and enablers influencing the success of single mothers in business.

Participants were selected through purposive sampling based on their involvement with single mother entrepreneurship. To ensure a diverse range of views, maximum variation sampling was applied, capturing differences in roles and backgrounds. Additionally, snowball sampling was used to identify further participants who might not have been initially accessible, thus ensuring broader representation despite limited funding and time constraints.

The study was guided by three main research questions: (1) What roles are involved in the community's development of single mother micro-entrepreneurs? (2) What challenges do organizations face in supporting these individuals? (3) What recommendations could improve the future success of single mother entrepreneurs?

Data from interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis, a method that supports the identification and interpretation of patterns across qualitative data. Following Braun and Clarke's six-phase framework, the researcher began by familiarizing with the transcribed data, generating initial codes, grouping similar codes into potential themes, reviewing and refining those themes, and ultimately defining them to present a coherent narrative. This systematic approach allowed the study to reveal recurring insights and shared experiences across the interviews.

To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, member checking was employed to validate interpretations with participants, and peer debriefing helped reduce potential researcher bias. Detailed documentation of the research process—including interview procedures, coding decisions, and theme development—further supported the study's reliability and transparency.

Ethical considerations were prioritized throughout the research. Participants were informed of the study's aims and their rights, and informed consent was obtained prior to each interview. Anonymity was preserved using pseudonyms, and all

personal data were securely stored with restricted access. These measures ensured participant confidentiality and upheld ethical research standards.

By using a qualitative approach, this study provides meaningful insights into how entrepreneurship is experienced and supported within the single mother community in Malaysia. It offers an understanding not just of what challenges exist, but also how they are interpreted and navigated by those directly engaged in empowering single mothers through business.. |

3.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. What roles are involved in the community's development of single mother micro-entrepreneurs?

"As someone working with WITUS, we're usually the first line of support. We provide them with training, small grants, and business mentoring. Most of these mothers come in with very little — just an idea and a lot of responsibility on their shoulders."

(NGO Representative)

"I'm not from any formal organization, but I help connect these women with programs I know of. Sometimes, they just need someone to guide them to the right people or even help them fill up an application form."

(Community Volunteer)

"Honestly, we support each other. I've been running my small baking business for two years now. When a new single mother joins our support group, I'll share my experience. That's how we survive — by lifting each other up."

(Single Mother Entrepreneur)

"We offer basic digital training — how to set up Facebook pages, how to manage orders through WhatsApp. It's not much, but for many of these mothers, it's the first time they've ever done anything like this."

(Training Provider)

2. What challenges do organizations face in supporting their growth?

"Funding is our biggest limitation. We have the programs, the trainers, the modules... but we can't run everything consistently. We always depend on short-term grants, and that's not sustainable."

(NGO Coordinator)

"Sometimes we get a good number of single mothers signing up, but halfway through they stop coming. They're overwhelmed — with work, kids, and life. It's not because they're not interested, they just don't have the bandwidth."

(Workshop Facilitator)

"We try to help them shift to online business, but many don't even have stable internet or basic digital skills. We realize we need to teach step-by-step, from the ground up."

(Digital Skills Coach)

"There are too many agencies doing similar things, and we don't talk to each other. A mother might be registered in three programs and get different info from all sides — that just confuses them."

(Community Organizer)

3. What recommendations can help improve the success of single mother entrepreneurs in the future?

"The trainings must be flexible — night classes, short modules, even voice notes on WhatsApp would help. These women are stretched thin, and traditional classes just don't work for them."

(Program Developer)

"They need startup capital — even RM300 makes a difference. But don't just give cash. Pair it with financial literacy and follow-ups so they don't feel abandoned after the money's gone."

(Microfinance Advisor)

"We should build a strong peer mentoring network. Learning from other single mothers is more powerful than from a textbook. They speak the same language and understand each other's struggles."

(Social Enterprise Leader)

"It would be great to have a central system where they can see what aid is available — maybe one portal or app that lists all trainings, funds, and support. Right now, they're running from one place to another with no guidance."

(Community Outreach Officer)

"Let's not forget digital skills. Many single moms can succeed online if they are shown the way — step-by-step, patiently. Start small. Guide them through the first sale. That confidence will carry them forward."

(E-Commerce Mentor).

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study shed light on the complex ecosystem that surrounds single mother micro-entrepreneurs in Malaysia. They reveal the importance of multi-stakeholder involvement, the persistent challenges in delivering support, and the critical need for adaptable, sustainable strategies to ensure long-term entrepreneurial success among this vulnerable group.

Community Roles and Grassroots Support

The study confirms that the development of single mother entrepreneurs is not solely the responsibility of formal institutions. Rather, it is a collaborative effort involving NGOs, grassroots volunteers, peer mentors, and vocational trainers. NGOs such as WITUS act as the foundation, offering capacity-building programs, small grants, and mentorship opportunities. However, informal actors — such as experienced single mothers and community volunteers — play an equally important role. Their contributions highlight the value of peer support and the informal transmission of knowledge, motivation, and emotional encouragement. This aligns with prior research emphasizing the importance of social capital and peer networks in supporting women's entrepreneurship (Brush et al., 2009).

Structural and Personal Challenges

Organizations face both structural limitations (e.g., lack of funding, fragmented service delivery) and personal-level barriers among participants (e.g., time poverty, low digital literacy). These findings support existing literature on the "double burden" carried by single mothers — managing household and income-generation responsibilities simultaneously (Razavi, 2007). It also reflects the challenge of "program drop-off," where women are interested in support but cannot maintain long-term participation due to life constraints. Additionally, the digital divide remains a significant concern. While many programs aim to help single mothers participate in digital entrepreneurship, basic access to devices, connectivity, and digital skills training are still lacking.

These insights underline a critical gap between policy design and ground realities. While national action plans and agency-level strategies exist, they often fail to address the layered, everyday challenges faced by single mothers. The lack of coordination between different agencies and service providers further exacerbates the problem, creating inefficiencies and confusion for beneficiaries.

Future-Focused Recommendations

The recommendations drawn from the narratives emphasize practicality, personalization, and continuity. Participants called for flexible learning models, including bite-sized and asynchronous content delivery (e.g., WhatsApp voice notes or short online modules), which cater to the irregular schedules of single mothers. There was also a strong push for seed funding mechanisms with built-in financial education and mentoring components, rather than one-time handouts. This reflects the idea that financial capital alone is not sufficient — it must be paired with capacity building and emotional support to ensure success.

Importantly, the findings suggest that empowering single mothers goes beyond business training. It involves addressing emotional resilience, mental wellness, confidence building, and identity reconstruction. Entrepreneurship for these women is not just an economic act — it is a transformative journey. Therefore, support systems must take a holistic approach to development, integrating psychological, social, and professional dimensions. |

4.0 CONCLUSION

|The study underscores the need for a coordinated, empathetic, and context-sensitive approach to supporting single-mother micro-entrepreneurs. While community roles are diverse and impactful, structural improvements are essential to bridge the gap between intention and outcome. Future programs must be tailored, inclusive, and built on trust — recognising single mothers not merely as recipients of aid, but as agents of change with the potential to uplift their families and communities. |

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