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**Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Promoting Small-Scale Industries
and Sustainable Development**

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurs play a significant role in promoting small-scale industries and achieving sustainable development. Through their skills, creativity, innovation, and managerial abilities, women are increasingly establishing enterprises in areas such as handicrafts, food processing, textiles, agriculture-based industries, digital services, and household products. Their participation in small-scale industries creates employment opportunities, promotes the effective utilization of local resources, and strengthens rural and semi-urban economies. Women entrepreneurship also contributes to increased family income, financial independence, and greater participation of women in household and community decision-making. Furthermore, women entrepreneurs can contribute to sustainable development by adopting environmentally friendly production methods, using locally available raw materials, reducing waste, promoting recycling, and encouraging responsible consumption. Women-led enterprises also support social inclusion and provide employment opportunities to other members of the community. However, women entrepreneurs continue to face challenges such as limited access to finance, inadequate technical knowledge, lack of training, restricted market access, and social barriers. Therefore, appropriate financial assistance, entrepreneurship training, digital literacy, market support, technological facilities, and government schemes are essential for strengthening women-owned enterprises. Encouraging women to participate in small-scale industries can contribute significantly to economic growth, social empowerment, employment generation, and environmentally sustainable development.