**POSITION PAPER**

**Country:** Poland

**Committee:** United Nation Commission on the Status of Women

**Topic Area:** Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

**Delegate:** Priyanshi Gupta

Poland was among the first nations to grant women legal rights: women's suffrage was delivered in 1918, after the country regained independence that year, following the 123-year period of partition and foreign rule. In 1932 Poland made marital rape illegal. Despite the improvement of the state's policies regarding women's rights, Polish women still faced discrimination on various levels. The interwar period was the time of forming of the "glass ceiling" concept in Polish society. Women had to compete with men mainly for the well paid, high prestige positions. Lower salary was primarily a result of the lower efficiency of the female employees in the physical labour but was later implemented in the other sectors where women were equally productive.

Women form an important segment of the labour force and the economic role-played by them cannot be isolated from the frame work of development. The role of women as business owners is gradually increasing all over the world. Women entrepreneurship development is the instrument of women empowerment. Empowerment leads to self-fulfilment and women become aware of where they are going, what their position is in the society, their status; existence and rights; and women are becoming more empowered, personally and economically through business ownership.

When independence is acquired all sorts of mistreatment can be dodged. Mistreatment includes domestic violence and sexual exploitation even in marriage. Women must possess the self-worth, confidence and freedom to choose what they may with regard to their private and professional choices alike. Gender bias is unreasonable and wrong on so many levels, curbing potent individuals from not only striving towards their best but from living an independent life free of domination and fear.

Some ways by which women empowerment and entrepreneurship can be increased, Education policy should be designed, so as to expand the economic opportunities for women. Poverty eradication program will special address the needs and the problems of women at extreme level. To encourage women entrepreneurship all banks and financial institutions should be asked to provide one fifth of their investment for women owned enterprises. Special training course should be offered for women entrepreneurs to improve skills Interest free consumption credit for vulnerable women should be provided by the Government, Banks, financial institutions and wealthy individuals. Special assistance is to be provided to specially disadvantaged groups like women in extreme poverty, destitute women, women in conflict situations, women affected by natural calamities, women in less developed regions, the disabled widows, elderly women, single women in difficult circumstances, women heading households, those displaced from employment, migrants, women who are victim of material violence, deserted women and prostitutes etc.