

Impact of Family Support on Women's Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Women Entrepreneurs in Kabul, Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurs are positioned to play an important role in the economic growth, employment generation, eradication of poverty and empowerment of women, especially in developing nations. Afghan women entrepreneurs, however, are confronted with social and financial barriers which can limit their entrepreneurial efforts and performance. The study investigated the impact of family support instrumental, emotional and financial support on women entrepreneurs in Kabul, Afghanistan. A quantitative approach was used, and the primary data were gathered using a structured questionnaire from 180 registered women entrepreneurs of Kabul. IBM SPSS Statistics 27 and AMOS software were used for the analysis of data. Adopted reliability and validity were Cronbach's Alpha, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity and exploratory factor analysis, and testing the effects of the dimensions of family support was carried out by multiple regression analysis. Results indicated good reliability and validity of the measurement scales. The overall model was significant and accounted for 52.8% ($R^2 = 0.528$) of the variation in women's entrepreneurship. The effects of financial or instrumental family support were both positive and statistically significant, with the instrumental support having the greatest effect. However, emotional family support was also positive but statistically insignificant. The results suggest that family support in Kabul does not only need to be practical and economic to enhance the entrepreneurial development of women, but also emotional support alone might not have much impact on entrepreneurial outcomes. The study adds empirical evidence to the scant literature dealing with family support and women entrepreneurship in Afghanistan.

KEYWORDS: Women-Owned SMEs, Entrepreneurship Development, Afghanistan, Family Support, Entrepreneurial Performance

1. INTRODUCTION

Women's entrepreneurship has become an important area of research because women-owned businesses contribute to employment creation, household income, economic participation, and entrepreneurial development. However, women entrepreneurs continue to encounter various constraints related to access to financial resources, markets, knowledge, institutional support, and family responsibilities. These challenges can be particularly significant in developing economies, where women's entrepreneurial activities are often closely connected with household and social structures (Samandar & Wardak, 2025; Welsh et al., 2021).

Family support represents an important resource within the entrepreneurial process because family members may provide financial resources, practical assistance, encouragement, advice, and assistance with household or business responsibilities. Research has conceptualized family support as a multidimensional construct that may include financial, instrumental, and emotional support, with these forms of support potentially affecting entrepreneurs' experiences and outcomes in different ways (Neneh & Welsh, 2022; Kaciak & Memili, 2024). Recent research also emphasizes that the relationship between family and entrepreneurship is particularly important because entrepreneurs frequently operate within overlapping family and business environments (Huang et al., 2024).

Family support may be particularly important for women entrepreneurs because women frequently manage both business and family responsibilities. Emotional encouragement from family members can help women deal with entrepreneurial stress and role conflict, while instrumental support can provide practical assistance with business and household responsibilities. Welsh et al. (2021) found that perceived family support was associated with reduced perceptions of role conflict among women business owners. Similarly, Kaciak and Memili (2024) examined family-to-business instrumental support among women business owners and demonstrated the relevance of tangible family assistance in the entrepreneurial context.

Financial support is another important dimension of family support. Family members may provide direct financial assistance, loans, or other resources that help entrepreneurs establish or maintain their businesses. Recent research examining entrepreneurs in developing-country contexts has therefore incorporated financial, instrumental, and emotional support as interconnected dimensions of family support (Huang et al., 2024). Research on female technology entrepreneurs has also indicated that combinations of emotional and instrumental family support can be associated with business performance (Neneh & Welsh, 2022).

Although previous studies have examined the general challenges experienced by Afghan women entrepreneurs, comparatively limited empirical research has examined family support as a multidimensional factor influencing women's entrepreneurship in Afghanistan, particularly in Kabul. This is important because family relationships can influence women's access to resources, ability to manage competing responsibilities, and capacity to sustain

entrepreneurial activities. Evidence from other cultural contexts also suggests that family support can have both supportive and complex effects on women's entrepreneurial experiences, indicating the importance of examining this relationship within its specific social and cultural context (Kaciak & Memili, 2024; Welsh et al., 2021).

1.1 Research Problem

Women's entrepreneurship is an important contributor to household income, employment creation, and economic participation. However, women entrepreneurs in developing and fragile economies often face multiple barriers, including limited access to finance and markets, restricted mobility, inadequate training, and gender-related social constraints (Samandar & Wardak, 2025). These challenges may be particularly important in Afghanistan, where women entrepreneurs operate within a complex social and economic environment.

Although previous studies have examined the structural and institutional barriers affecting Afghan women entrepreneurs, relatively limited empirical attention has been given to the role of family support in facilitating women's entrepreneurial activities. Family members can potentially provide different forms of support, including instrumental support, emotional support, and financial support, which may help women establish, maintain, and develop their businesses (Welsh et al., 2021; Neneh & Welsh, 2022; Kaciak & Memili, 2024).

The existing literature also suggests that family support should not necessarily be treated as a single-dimensional concept because different forms of support may influence entrepreneurial activities through different mechanisms (Dai et al., 2024; Huang et al., 2024). Nevertheless, there is limited empirical evidence examining these dimensions simultaneously among women entrepreneurs in Kabul City. This lack of context-specific evidence creates a research gap concerning the extent to which instrumental, emotional, and financial family support contribute to women's entrepreneurship in Kabul. Therefore, this study investigates the effect of these three dimensions of family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan.

1.2 Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

Q1: What is the effect of instrumental family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan?

Q2: What is the effect of emotional family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan?

Q3: What is the effect of financial family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan?

Q4: What is the overall effect of family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan?

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to examine the effect of family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The study specifically aims to:

- Examine the effect of instrumental family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City.
- Determine the effect of emotional family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City.
- Assess the effect of financial family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City.
- Examine the overall relationship between family support and women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City.

1.4 Research Hypotheses

Based on the research objectives and the existing literature on family support and women's entrepreneurship, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H1: Financial Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship

H2: Emotional Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship

H3: Instrumental Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship

1.5 Significance of the Research

This study is significant from theoretical, empirical, practical, and policy perspectives.

Theoretical significance. The study contributes to the literature on women's entrepreneurship by examining family support as a multidimensional construct consisting of instrumental, emotional, and financial support. This approach provides a more detailed understanding of how different forms of family resources may relate to women's entrepreneurial activities.

Empirical significance. The study provides empirical evidence from Kabul City, a context that has received comparatively limited attention in research on the relationship between family support and women's entrepreneurship. It may therefore contribute context-specific evidence to the broader international literature.

Practical significance. The findings may help women entrepreneurs better understand the potential role of family support in establishing, maintaining, and developing their businesses. They may also provide useful information for entrepreneurship-support organizations and business development programs when designing interventions for women entrepreneurs.

Policy significance. The findings may provide evidence for policymakers and organizations involved in women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship development. In particular, understanding the relative roles of instrumental, emotional, and financial support may help inform programs designed to strengthen the enabling environment for women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan.

Academic significance. The study may serve as a reference for future researchers investigating women's entrepreneurship, family support, gender and entrepreneurship, and related issues in Afghanistan and other developing-country contexts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Women Entrepreneurship

Various scholars have used different words to define women's entrepreneurship. Women Entrepreneurship is the process by which women organize all the factors of production and undertake taking risks and create jobs for others. Vinze (1987) defined women's entrepreneurship as an economic activity in which women think of a business enterprise, initiate it, organize and combine the factors of production, operate the enterprise, take risks, and deal with the economic uncertainty that comes with running a business. Women entrepreneurs, on the other hand, have been described as females who play a captivating role by repeatedly interacting and keenly adjusting themselves to the financial, socioeconomic, and support spheres of society (Pareek, 1992). Similarly, Vinze (1987) defines a woman entrepreneur as an enterprising individual with an eye for opportunities and an uncanny vision, commercial acumen, tremendous perseverance, and, most importantly, a person willing to take risks with the unknown due to her adventurous spirit. Historically, entrepreneurship has been dominated by men, particularly in the business sector (Bridge et al., 2003). Until the late twentieth century, the number of female entrepreneurs worldwide was very small, and they worked in only a few business sectors. Since then, the number has grown. However, the lack of accurate data makes it difficult to estimate their number and market share (Marlow & McAdam, 2013). Despite this increase, there remains a significant disparity between the number of women-owned businesses and those owned by men (Bridge et al., 2003). This imbalance results from patriarchal attitudes in most parts of the world. Women in Britain, for example, were once expected to leave their jobs and stay at home after marriage. According to Bridge et al. (2003), patriarchy, personal desire, ability, and perceived social norms have all contributed to the low number of female entrepreneurs and owned businesses. The social perception of entrepreneurship as being associated with men has resulted in less visibility for women in this field, as well as its continued understudied status. Furthermore, because most definitions and theories of entrepreneurship are broad and non-gender specific and are based on male participants and their experiences, they may be unaware of female entrepreneurs' perspectives and characteristics (Hurely 1991, cited in De Bruin et al., 2006). As a result, further research is required not only to include female entrepreneurship aspects but

also to capture the differences among female entrepreneurs, as they are not and should not be considered as a single group (De Bruin et al., 2006). Prior to the late twentieth century, there were fewer women entrepreneurs than men around the world, and they worked in fewer industries. As a result, women's participation in business has increased in both developed and developing countries. The rise in female entrepreneurship can be attributed to various driving forces that exist across countries. For example, in developed countries, career aspiration is the driving force, whereas in developing countries, it is economic necessity and a lack of viable alternatives to meet households' basic needs (World Bank, 2013). The unfavorable social perceptions and practices concerning female entrepreneurs are not only as a result, women's entrepreneurial activity has become less visible while also being understudied. Women entrepreneurs are divided into three categories. They are classified as created, forced, or chanced entrepreneurs.

2.2 Women Entrepreneurs in Afghanistan

Increased women's engagement in entrepreneurial activities and participation in the overall The business chain, as consumers, distributors, and suppliers, can lead to significant economic growth (MGI, 2015). There is evidence that women's leadership in business improves a company's performance (Kotiranta, Kovalainen, & Rouvinen, 2007). Women entrepreneurs can better provide workplaces that meet women's unique needs, such as adequate parental leave, flexible schedules, sponsorship, and capacity building (MGI, 2015, p. 84). Given Afghanistan's underdeveloped private sector in female-dominated sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, women-owned businesses could contribute significantly to the country's private sector development (Ghiasy, Zhou, & Hallgren, 2015). Afghan women prefer to run small businesses, and there is a low proportion of women-owned businesses in sectors that employ women, such as manufacturing, agriculture, handicrafts, and carpet production. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the primary drivers of local economic development in Afghanistan. SMEs account for 85% of all Afghan businesses, contribute half of the country's GDP, and employ more than one-third of its workforce (Butler & McGuinness, 2013). One of the reasons Afghan women start micro-businesses is to achieve economic independence (ILO, 2016). Furthermore, most working women in Afghanistan, particularly those from the younger generation, believe that entrepreneurship allows them to reach their full economic potential (Butler & McGuinness, 2013). Women's economic participation in business is heavily reliant on family support. Almost 96% of female entrepreneurs said they started and ran their businesses with family support (Butler & McGuinness, 2013). Overall, 91.3% of Afghan women were able to participate in economic activity thanks to the support of their family and friends (CSO, 2016b). More than 95% of Afghanistan's production takes place in homes, with all family members involved (McCord Group, 2007). Approximately 90% Women's businesses are not well integrated into the national business community and 75% of women-owned businesses do not form partnerships with other

businesses or institutions. Butler and McGuinness (2013) state that they do not belong to any business associations. 47% of women entrepreneurs prefer to work with the international community, 40% with the local community, and only 13% with the Afghan government.

2.3 Women Entrepreneurs in Islam

Islam represents a way of life. Every Muslim behavior aims to please Allah (SWT). So no distinction is made between religion and business or livelihood earnings. Islam's philosophies and rules, based on Al-Qurān and Hadith, serve as a comprehensive guide for entrepreneurship. According to studies, Islam does not prevent women from starting businesses or realizing their worth through entrepreneurship. The Holy Qur'an and Sunnah encourage lawful livelihoods, indicating that women's entrepreneurship is permissible. Women's entrepreneurship is a business founded and run by women. In such businesses, women owners bear all responsibilities, business activities, and decision-making authority. Women's roles in various business pursuits have been recognized, as have their political, financial, and cultural contributions. Entrepreneurship emphasizes reactivity, innovation, and risk-taking. Previously, entrepreneurship was defined as the entrepreneur's willingness to take calculated business risks. It implies that an unwillingness to take risks is a significant impediment to entrepreneurship. The rule of "qiwama" mandates male-controlled obligation, whereas the rule of "wasta" requires men to assist women by granting them permission to begin networking. To conceal their identity, modesty requires women to wear a hijab scarf covering their hair. The hijab is a strong symbol of Islam's faithfulness, providing its wearer with reverence, security, and all faithful rights. The Islamic value-based entrepreneurial approach differs from traditional entrepreneurship. This concept combines modern business management with Islamic teachings on ethics, honesty, justice, and social responsibility (Gümüşay, 2015; Tlaiss & McAdam, 2021). Similarly, Muslim women's entrepreneurship adheres to Islamic teachings governing muamalah (business matters) and the limitations of Islamic law that accompany them. Muslim women entrepreneurs must follow Islamic principles when running their businesses, such as those governing interest rates (riba), the prohibition of gambling (maysir), and the production and trade of haram goods and services such as alcohol and drugs (ChoudhuryKaul et al., 2023). This concept is based on Quranic and Hadith teachings, which inform work dynamics and promote values that govern business ventures and stakeholder interactions (Tlaiss & McAdam, 2021). Muslim female entrepreneurs must strive to implement Islamic business ethics in order to have a positive impact on society by incorporating values like honesty, justice, and accountability to stakeholders (Ayob & Saiyed, 2020). Furthermore, the rise of Muslim women's entrepreneurship represents an effort to combat negative stereotypes about women (Costa & Pita, 2021). Choudhury Kaul et al. (2023) defined Muslim women entrepreneurs as those who follow Islamic teachings and work in Muslim-majority countries or where Islamic religious traditions are widely practiced within formal and

informal institutional frameworks. Muslim women entrepreneurs will use Islamic principles as an empowerment tool to show that their economic activities can coexist with their religious identities (Ummiroh et al., 2022). According to Islamic history, women play an important role in many areas of life, including entrepreneurship. Khadijah bint Khuwailid, the Prophet Muhammad's first wife, is an excellent example. She was not only the prophet's wife but also a successful entrepreneur in Arab society, where men dominated the field of entrepreneurship. Khadijah established and managed a large business, surpassing many other Quraysh merchants of the time (Juairiah & Lenap, 2024).

2.4 Family Support

Family support refers to childcare or advice provided by family members to help people manage their daily tasks and function as productive and responsible employees (Friesen, Brennan, & Penn, 2008). Researchers (Neneh, 2017; Mari, Poggesi, & De Vita, 2016) found that family plays an important role in women's entrepreneurial activities. It provides resources and support while also establishing responsibilities, limitations, and duties. Female-owned businesses are more likely to survive and grow with family support. The family also has a significant impact on the performance of female entrepreneurs (Neneh, 2017; Mari, Poggesi & De Vita, 2016; Powell & Eddleston, 2013). Family support promotes business growth and survival by fostering trust, information sharing, and collaborative problem-solving among family members, all of which improve business performance (Mari, Poggesi, & De Vita, 2016; Welsh, Memili, & Kaciak, 2016). The need to understand and conceptualize family support is well supported by the literature. Weissbourd asked the question (p. 44) in 1994: Is family support a program with specific characteristics? Is there a set of principles that apply to all social service delivery systems? Is this an approach? Is it all of the above? During this time, the Audit Commission (1994, p. 39) in the United Kingdom pushed for the development of family support, which is defined as any activity or facility provided by statutory agencies, community groups, or individuals with the goal of advising and supporting parents in raising their children. Daly et al. (2015, p. 12) developed the following general definition of 'family support': family support is a set of (service and other) activities aimed at improving family functioning and grounding child-rearing and other familial activities in a system of supportive relationships and resources (both formal and informal).

2.5 Women's entrepreneurship and family support

According to earlier research, family connections with human capital from family members (Aldrich and Cliff 2003), task-related social support from family members (Kim, Longest, and Aldrich 2013), and family cohesion in the entrepreneurial process (Edelman et al., 2016). All have a significant impact and can help lay the foundation for new businesses for female entrepreneurs. Additionally, women in developing nations depend

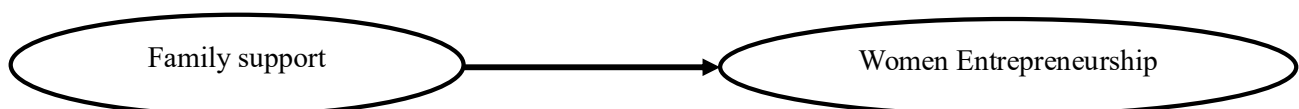
more than men on their families for human capital, financial support, and social support (Arregle et al., 2007). Additionally, family responsibilities have a greater impact on women's enterprises than on men's, and because of certain societal factors, women need more work to launch a new business than men do. The literature has extensively examined the impact of the family on work outcomes, such as entrepreneurial performance. Numerous studies have demonstrated the significance of the relationship whether one of enrichment or conflict between work and family in terms of entrepreneurial performance. The conflict perspective on work-family relationships has given way to an enrichment perspective, according to research conducted in the last few decades. The process by which experiences in one role in a person's life enhance their performance in other roles is known as family-work enrichment (Greenhaus and Powell 2006). According to existing research (Mari et al., 2016; Roger, 2005; Welsh et al., 2016), family support can help entrepreneurs in their business context in three different ways: financially, emotionally, and instrumentally. Financial capital is a vital resource that is required for the acquisition of fixed assets, the funding of startup operations, and the entrepreneur's living expenses during the early phases of the business.

2.6 Theoretical Framework of the study

The theory of reasoned action (TRA) is used in this study:

Martin Fishbein and Icek Ajzen created it in the 1970s and 1960s. It is a psychological theory that attempts to explain and predict human behavior using individual attitudes and subjective norms. It is a foundational model for understanding decision-making that has been widely applied in a variety of fields, including marketing and consumer decision-making.

2.7 Theoretical model



3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design and Study Area

This study employed a quantitative, cross-sectional research design to examine the effect of family support on women's entrepreneurship in Kabul City, Afghanistan. Kabul City was selected as the study area because it represents an important center of economic and private-sector activity in Afghanistan and has a considerable number of women-owned and women-led businesses operating across different sectors. The study focused exclusively on female entrepreneurs who owned or managed businesses operating in Kabul City.

The study population consisted of women entrepreneurs operating in sectors including food processing, information and communication technology (ICT), beauty services, design and engineering, logistics, printing, carpentry, restaurants, handicrafts, tailoring, and legal services. According to the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI, 2026), 180 women entrepreneurs were registered and operating in Kabul. Therefore, all 180 registered women entrepreneurs were included in the study as the target population and sample through a census sampling approach.

3.2 Population and Sampling

The target population comprised 180 registered women entrepreneurs in Kabul City. Because the population was relatively small and an accessible list of registered women entrepreneurs was available, the study adopted a census sampling technique, whereby all members of the identified population were invited to participate in the study rather than selecting a smaller sample.

The contact and business information of the women entrepreneurs was obtained from the directory published by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI, 2024). The use of the directory provided a sampling frame for identifying eligible participants and contacting them during the data-collection process.

The inclusion of all identified women entrepreneurs was intended to minimize sampling error within the accessible population and provide comprehensive coverage of the registered women-owned businesses included in the study.

3.3 Data Sources and Data Collection

The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected directly from women entrepreneurs in Kabul City through a structured questionnaire. Secondary information was obtained from relevant academic literature, reports, institutional publications, bulletins, websites, and other documentary sources related to women's entrepreneurship and family support.

Data collection was conducted over approximately three months. During this period, questionnaires were distributed to the identified women entrepreneurs. The data-collection process was affected by practical challenges, including respondents' availability, limited time, and willingness to provide information. These factors were considered during the administration and follow-up of the questionnaires.

3. 4 Research Instrument

A structured questionnaire containing 26 items was used as the primary data-collection instrument. The questionnaire consisted of two principal measurement sections in addition to the demographic section.

The first section collected demographic information about the respondents using close-ended questions. The second section measured the study variables using statements based on a five-point Likert scale.

The questionnaire contained 13 items measuring family support. These items were adapted from previously published measurement instruments developed by Mohd Noor et al. (2025), Prasad et al. (2013), and Rizvi (2020), with modifications made where necessary to suit the context of women entrepreneurs in Kabul City.

The remaining 13 items measured women's entrepreneurship and were adapted from the instrument used by Abebe and Kegne (2023). The previously developed instruments were adapted rather than reproduced without modification to ensure that the statements were appropriate for the Afghan entrepreneurial context.

The questionnaire used a five-point Likert response scale. However, for clarity and consistency with standard Likert-scale terminology, the response categories were coded as follows:

3.5 Questionnaire Translation

Because the study was conducted in Kabul City, where Dari and Pashto are widely used for communication and education, the questionnaire was translated into both Dari and Pashto to facilitate participants' understanding and obtain accurate responses. The translated versions were used according to the language preference of the respondents.

For methodological rigor, the translated questionnaires should preserve the meaning and conceptual content of the original English items. Any necessary linguistic modifications were made to ensure that the questions were understandable and culturally appropriate for the study population.

3.6 Measurement of Study Variables

The study examined family support as the independent variable and women's entrepreneurship as the dependent variable.

Family support was operationalized through three dimensions:

Instrumental support: practical assistance and help provided by family members.

Emotional support: encouragement, understanding, motivation, and emotional assistance provided by family members.

Financial support: financial resources or monetary assistance provided by family members to support entrepreneurial activities.

Women's entrepreneurship was measured through 13 questionnaire items adapted from Abebe and Kegne (2023). Higher scores on the measurement items represented stronger agreement with statements concerning women's entrepreneurial activities.

3.7 Data Analysis

The collected questionnaire data were coded and entered into a statistical analysis program for quantitative analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the distribution of responses to the study variables. Inferential statistical techniques were then used to examine the relationships between family support and women's entrepreneurship and to test the proposed research hypotheses.

Because the study investigates the effects of three dimensions of family support on women's entrepreneurship, the analysis should include an appropriate multiple regression model.

The statistical significance of the regression coefficients was used to determine whether the hypothesized relationships between the dimensions of family support and women's entrepreneurship were supported.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Participation in the study was voluntary. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the research and the use of the collected information for academic purposes. Participants' responses were treated confidentially, and information that could directly identify individual respondents or their businesses was not disclosed in the reporting of the findings.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability Test

Thirteen indicators that represented the instrumental, emotional, and financial aspects of family support made up the Family Support construct. A Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.869 was obtained from the analysis. Joseph F. Hair defined Cronbach's Alpha values of > 0.70 as acceptable reliability, > 0.80 as good reliability and > 0.90 as excellent reliability. The obtained value (0.869) hence suggests internal consistency among the items of the measurement. This is an indication that the family support items all focus on the same conceptual domain and that the items were interpreted in a similar manner by the respondents. In addition, the high reliability coefficient indicates a relatively small amount of random measurement error and enhances the confidence in the accuracy of subsequent statistical analyses.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics of Family support

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.869	13

Thirteen indicators representing entrepreneurial intention, business growth, customer expansion, income growth, asset accumulation, and entrepreneurial commitment were used to measure the Women Entrepreneurship construct. A Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.901 was obtained from the analysis. This value

shows a very high level of internal consistency among the measurement items and surpasses the threshold for excellent reliability. The findings imply that the indicators taken as a whole offer a consistent and trustworthy gauge of women's entrepreneurship.

Table 2: Reliability Statistics of Women entrepreneurship

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.901	13

4.2 Normality Test

Table 3: Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Standardized Residual	.065	180	.058	.989	180	.158

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Since many inferential processes rely on normally distributed residuals, the assumption of normality is essential to parametric statistical analyses. Both the Shapiro-Wilk and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests were used to determine normality. The findings showed that the Shapiro-Wilk significance was 0.158 and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov significance was 0.058. The null hypothesis of normality cannot be rejected because both significance values are higher than the traditional cutoff of 0.05. This outcome shows that the regression analysis's underlying assumptions have been met and that the residuals are normally distributed. Because it improves the precision of parameter estimates, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing techniques, residual normality is especially crucial. As a result, the study's regression results can be regarded as statistically reliable.

4.3 Collinearity

Table 4: Collinearity Statistics

Model		Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
1	FFS	.659	1.518
	FES	.435	2.299
	FIS	.568	1.760

a. Dependent Variable: Women_Entrepreneursip

Multicollinearity is when there are too many independent variables that are correlated. Inflating standard errors, decreasing statistical power, and making it challenging to identify each predictor's distinct contribution are all consequences of excessive multicollinearity. The multicollinearity among the variables was evaluated by using the Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) statistics. Tolerance values varied from 0.435 to 0.659, and VIF values ranged from 1.518 to 2.299. These are within known limits. According to methodological guidelines, multicollinearity is not a problem as long as tolerance values are more than 0.10 and VIF values are below 10. The regression model can thus include both Financial Family Support, Emotional Family Support and Instrumental Family Support at the same time since they measure mostly different aspects of the family support. The absence of multicollinearity makes the interpretation of regression coefficients more confident as all the variables contribute to the regression equation can be estimated separately.

4.4 Multiple Regression Analysis

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.726 ^a	.528	.520	.29047	1.731

a. Predictors: (Constant), FIS, FFS, FES

b. Dependent Variable: Women_Entrepreneurship

The results of the regression analysis showed a strong positive correlation between women's entrepreneurship and family support dimensions, with a R value of 0.726. The coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.528, meaning that family support dimensions' account for 52.8% of the variance in women's entrepreneurship. Explaining more than half of the variance in a behavioral outcome is typically regarded as substantial in social science research. This result shows that women's entrepreneurial outcomes are significantly influenced by family support. After accounting for the number of predictors, the model's explanatory power is confirmed to be stable by the Adjusted R^2 value of 0.520. There is no autocorrelation, as indicated by the Durbin-Watson statistic of 1.731, which is within the acceptable range. All of these findings point to the model's strong explanatory power and compliance with important regression assumptions.

Table 6: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16.587	3	5.529	65.531	.000 ^b
	Residual	14.850	176	.084		
	Total	31.436	179			

a. Dependent Variable: Women_Entrepreneurship

b. Predictors: (Constant), FIS, FFS, FES

The ANOVA test determines whether the dependent variable is significantly predicted by the regression model as a whole. The results of the analysis were ($F = 65.531$, $p = 0.000$). The regression model is statistically significant since the significance value is less than 0.05. This finding suggests that the three aspects of family support work together to explain differences in women's entrepreneurship. Put differently, the model outperforms a model with no predictors by a significant margin. The theoretical claim that family support is connected to women's entrepreneurial outcomes is strongly supported by the significant F-statistic.

4.5 Model Fit Measures

Table 7: Overall Model Fit Measures

Measure	Estimate	Threshold	Interpretation
CMIN	319.552	--	--
DF	222.000	--	--
CMIN/DF	1.439	Between 1 and 3	Excellent
CFI	0.937	>0.95	Acceptable
SRMR	0.058	<0.08	Excellent
RMSEA	0.050	<0.06	Excellent
PClose	0.513	>0.05	Excellent

The degree to which the suggested theoretical model matches the observed data is assessed through model fit analysis. Model fit evaluation is crucial in SEM because even trustworthy indicators might not accurately reflect the overall theoretical structure. This study yielded a Chi-square to Degrees of Freedom ratio (CMIN/DF) of 1.439. Good model fit is indicated by a value less than 3.0, while excellent fit is indicated by values near 1.0. As a result, the obtained value shows that there is very little difference between the model-implied covariance matrix and the observed covariance matrix. 0.937 was the Comparative Fit Index (CFI). The proposed model

and a null model, which assumes that all variables are unrelated, are compared by the CFI. Excellent fit is indicated by values above 0.95, while values above 0.90 are typically regarded as acceptable. Consequently, the obtained value indicates that the suggested model provides a very good fit to the data. The model's approximation error was measured by the RMSEA, which had a value of 0.050. Excellent fit is indicated by values less than 0.06, according to SEM literature. As a result, the model has very little approximation error, as shown by the RMSEA result. The SRMR was 0.058. The average difference between observed and predicted correlations is assessed by this statistic. The model shows excellent fit because the value is less than the suggested threshold of 0.08. The PCLOSE value was significantly greater than 0.05, at 0.513. The conclusion that the RMSEA value indicates close model fit is further supported by this finding. Taken together, all model fit indices indicate that the proposed measurement model adequately represents the observed data and can be used for structural analysis.

4.6 Hypothesis Testing

Table 8: Regression Coefficient

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1							
(Constant)	1.434	.234		6.128	.000		
FFS	.118	.046	.165	2.587	.010	.659	1.518
FES	.098	.075	.103	1.313	.191	.435	2.299
FIS	.465	.056	.568	8.267	.000	.568	1.760

a. Dependent Variable: Women_Entrepreneurship

H1: Financial Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship: $\beta = 0.165$, $p = 0.010$. The positive coefficient indicates that increased financial support from family members is associated with higher levels of women entrepreneurship. The significant p-value demonstrates that access to family financial resources enhances entrepreneurial activity. This finding is consistent with resource-based theories of entrepreneurship, which argue that access to financial capital is a critical determinant of venture creation and business success. Women who

receive financial assistance from family members are likely to face fewer resource constraints and therefore possess greater capacity to establish and expand businesses. H1 Supported.

H2: Emotional Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship: $\beta = 0.103$, $p = 0.191$. Although the coefficient is positive, the relationship is not statistically significant. This suggests that emotional encouragement alone may not be sufficient to directly influence entrepreneurial outcomes. A possible explanation is that emotional support primarily affects psychological well-being rather than measurable business performance. H2 Not Supported.

H3: Instrumental Family Support with Women Entrepreneurship: $\beta = 0.568$, $p = 0.000$. Instrumental Family Support emerged as the strongest predictor. This finding indicates that practical assistance, information sharing, business advice, equipment provision, and operational help have substantial effects on entrepreneurial success. The large standardized coefficient suggests that practical support may be even more valuable than financial assistance in the entrepreneurial process. H3 Supported.

4.7 DISCUSSION

This study's main goal was to examine how family support affects women's entrepreneurship in Kabul, Afghanistan. The study specifically focused on the effects of three dimensions of family support financial, emotional, and instrumental support on women's entrepreneurial activities. Multiple regression analysis was used to examine these relationships. The results showed that a significant proportion of the variation in women's entrepreneurship could be explained by family support. The regression model yielded an R^2 value of 0.528, indicating that approximately 52.8% of the variation in women's entrepreneurship was explained by the three dimensions of family support. The remaining 47.2% may be associated with other factors outside the scope of this study, such as entrepreneurial education, business experience, access to financial institutions, government policies, market conditions, digital technology, personality traits, cultural norms, and institutional support.

The explanatory power of the regression model suggests that family support represents an important factor associated with women's entrepreneurial outcomes in the study context. This finding is consistent with previous research emphasizing the role of family resources in supporting women entrepreneurs (Neneh & Welsh, 2022; Welsh et al., 2021). However, the interpretation of $R^2 = 0.528$ should be understood in relation to the specific sample and model rather than as evidence that family support is universally the most important determinant of women's entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial outcomes are generally influenced by multiple individual, family, institutional, and environmental factors.

The findings further indicate that the three dimensions of family support had different effects on women's entrepreneurship. Among the independent variables, instrumental family support had the strongest effect, followed by financial family support, whereas emotional family support did not have a statistically significant

effect in the present study. The stronger role of instrumental support is consistent with research showing that practical assistance from family members can be particularly relevant to women business owners because such support can help them manage business and family-related responsibilities (Kaciak & Memili, 2024). Similarly, previous research has identified instrumental and other forms of family support as relevant resources in women's entrepreneurial activities (Neneh & Welsh, 2022).

The finding that financial support has a significant effect is also consistent with the broader literature, which recognizes family members as potential providers of financial and other resources to entrepreneurs. Financial resources can help entrepreneurs overcome initial capital constraints and support the establishment, continuation, and expansion of businesses (Dai et al., 2025). In contexts where women have relatively limited access to formal financial resources, family-based financial support may become particularly relevant. Recent research on women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan has documented challenges involving access to finance, markets, mobility, education, and other business resources (Samandar & Wardak, 2025). Therefore, the significant relationship between financial family support and women's entrepreneurship found in this study may be particularly relevant to the Afghan context.

In contrast, emotional family support did not have a statistically significant effect on women's entrepreneurship in this study. This finding differs from some previous research that has identified emotional family support as an important resource for women entrepreneurs. For example, Welsh et al. (2021) found that family emotional support can influence women's entrepreneurial experiences by helping them manage role-related challenges. Similarly, Neneh and Welsh (2022) identified emotional and instrumental family support as relevant dimensions in the context of female technology entrepreneurs. The difference between these findings and the present study may reflect differences in the research context, sample characteristics, types of businesses, cultural environment, or the operationalization of family support.

The findings suggest that, within the context examined in this study, practical and financial assistance may be more directly associated with women's entrepreneurial activities than emotional assistance. Women entrepreneurs require resources and practical assistance to establish and sustain their businesses, particularly where they face constraints related to finance, markets, mobility, business knowledge, and professional networks. Research on women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan has identified several of these structural and gender-specific challenges (Samandar & Wardak, 2025). Consequently, family members may provide important forms of practical assistance, financial resources, business advice, transportation, childcare, and other forms of support that facilitate women's participation in entrepreneurship.

The family can therefore function as both a social and economic resource for women entrepreneurs. Previous entrepreneurship research has emphasized that family support extends beyond emotional encouragement and

can include financial resources, knowledge, social networks, labor, managerial advice, and practical assistance (Kaciak & Memili, 2024; Neneh & Welsh, 2022). Such resources may reduce resource constraints, facilitate business establishment, and assist entrepreneurs in managing the demands associated with operating a business. The findings can also be discussed in relation to the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). According to Fishbein and Ajzen (1975), behavioral intentions are influenced by individuals' attitudes and subjective norms. Subjective norms refer to perceived social expectations regarding a particular behavior. In the context of women's entrepreneurship, family members may constitute an important reference group whose expectations and support can influence women's perceptions and intentions toward entrepreneurial activity. Thus, family support may contribute to the social environment within which women make entrepreneurial decisions.

The present findings provide empirical support for considering family-related social influences within the theoretical framework of entrepreneurial behavior. When family members provide financial resources, practical assistance, or encouragement, women may perceive greater social support for engaging in entrepreneurship. However, the current findings also indicate that different forms of family support may not have identical effects. Financial support primarily addresses resource and capital constraints, while instrumental support provides practical assistance, knowledge, managerial guidance, and operational resources. Emotional support may primarily contribute to confidence, encouragement, and psychological well-being, although its direct statistical effect on women's entrepreneurship was not significant in the present study. This distinction is consistent with research suggesting that family support is multidimensional and that its different forms may influence entrepreneurial experiences through different mechanisms (Dai et al., 2025; Welsh et al., 2021).

5. CONCLUSION

This study's main goal was to investigate how family support affects women's entrepreneurship in Kabul, Afghanistan. This study has focused on the impact of the three types of family support: financial, emotional, and instrumental on women's entrepreneurship. This study was inspired by the growing importance of women entrepreneurs as a catalyst for economic development, poverty reduction, job creation and women economic empowerment in Afghanistan.

Although women entrepreneurs are becoming more well-known, there is little empirical data on how family support contributes to entrepreneurial success in Afghanistan. Therefore, the study sought to fill this gap in the literature by providing empirical data obtained from quantitative analysis of data. The statistical analysis was used to validate the measurement tools used in this investigation, in order to ensure the validity and reliability of the measurement tools. The validity analysis showed that the constructs were effective in measuring the theoretical concepts, and the reliability analysis confirmed the internal consistency of the measurement items at acceptable levels.

Also, the regression model has satisfactory explanatory power, meaning that family support is a factor that influences women's entrepreneurship in the research area. The empirical findings indicated that family support has a significant positive impact on women's entrepreneurship but that the three parts of family support have varying impacts on entrepreneurship outcomes. Financial family support positively and statistically significantly affecting women entrepreneurship. In this study, the financial support of the family was found to be helpful to the female entrepreneurs in overcoming capital constraint, starting up business, expanding the business and improving business performance.

The findings imply that, in Afghanistan, where access to formal financial institutions is still restricted, financial support is still one of the most crucial entrepreneurial resources available to women entrepreneurs. It further revealed that emotional family support was positively related to entrepreneurship of women, though the relationship was not significant. Emotional support contributes to women's self-confidence, ambition, courage and mental well-being, which in turn does not have a significant impact on entrepreneurial performance. The results of this research show that emotional support alone is not enough to overcome the institutional, financial and structural problems of Afghan entrepreneurs. The role of emotional support is thus more of an 'add on' than a standalone variable in explaining entrepreneurial success; it would seem that providing emotional support along with financial and instrumental support enhances the effectiveness of the latter two supports. The strongest predictor of women's entrepreneurship among the three factors looked at was instrumental family support. Practical assistance and support in the form of business advice, running direction, child-care, transportation, networking, managerial support, and knowledge sharing were provided by family members, which greatly enhanced the performance of the women entrepreneurs.

This study highlights the importance of practical family engagement in the success of entrepreneurship ventures, particularly in developing countries with limited institutional entrepreneurship support services. Instrumental family support allows women entrepreneurs to be more efficient and sustainable in their business, and also to balance between business and domestic work. In addition, the study demonstrated the value of family support beyond the social-emotional realm. Family support, on the other hand, is a complex entrepreneurial asset that integrates financial resources, practical assistance, business skills and psychological support into one. The findings also emphasize the importance of considering family participation in entrepreneurship development efforts to boost women's entrepreneurial involvement in Afghanistan. The findings indicate subjective norms have an effect on entrepreneurial behavior, as predicted by the Theory of Reasoned Action, and also within the family context. Positive family attitudes, encouragement, financial investment, and direct involvement help to reinforce women's entrepreneurial intentions and ease their entrepreneurial behavior.

5.1 Recommendation

In order to increase women's entrepreneurial participation and support sustainable economic development, it suggests creating family-inclusive entrepreneurship programs, better access to financial resources, business training programs, and useful support systems.

5.2 Suggestions for Further Research

1. More wider geographic regions may be included in future studies.
2. Qualitative approaches may be used in future studies to offer deeper insights into family support and women entrepreneurship.
3. To ascertain which approach has the biggest influence on women entrepreneurship, future researchers might look into each aspect of family support independently.

5.3 Conflict of Interest

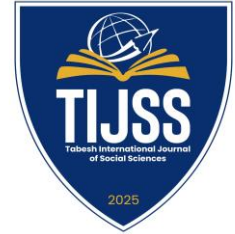
All authors express no conflict of interest in any part of the research.

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