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Theme:

“PROSPERITY OF WOMEN ENTERPRISE

THROUGH INNOVATION:

NEW VISION FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS”



RUSSIAN WOMAN IN STATE GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS

(News & Analytic Brief)

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Meeting

Women make up 55% of the Russian population.

Women are represented in the National Parliament Chambers in the following proportion:

5.5% in the Upper Chamber (Federation Council);

8.5% in the Lower Chamber (State Duma).

The share of women among medium-level state leaders does not exceed 10%, for the top level – 1.5%.

State power and policy is “men’s club” in Russia. The influence of women is minimal. In the recent years, a deteriorating quality of women’s participation in state governance has been observed. The center of women’s leadership has shifted from policy to business.

According to COMCON data, the men to women ratio in executive business positions is 64% to 36%.

Executive positions	Men managers, %	Women managers, %
Total in executive positions	64	36
Executives (presidents, directors)	73	27
Deputy leaders	57	43
Division managers	64	36

Thus, Russia is one of the world’s leaders in the number of women holding executive positions in business.

On the whole, executive positions are held by 5% of men against 3% of women.

The highest share of women in executive positions – 44% – is observed in state enterprises.

Type of enterprise	Women executives, %	Men executives, %
State enterprise	44	56
Public organization	42	58
Joint enterprise	40	60
Russian non-state enterprise	32	68
Individual entrepreneurship	30	70
Foreign enterprises (representative offices)	27	73

Small and medium businesses in Russia are “women’s estate”, where the number of women managers considerably exceeds the number of men.

Enterprise staff, people	Men managers, %	Women managers, %
Less than 50	38	62
50-100	42	58
100-500	38	62
More than 500	30	70

Big business is almost totally occupied by men, the same as fuel and energy, automobile, construction and transport industries.

Women dominate in culture and art, health, education, public catering, utilities.

Sphere	Women managers, %	Men managers, %
Culture and art	72	28
Health	71	29
Education	70	30
Public catering	60	40
Utilities	54	46
Authorities, administration, state establishment	45	55
Tourism, hotel business	44	56
Mass media, advertising	44	56
Trade (wholesale and retail)	44	56
Finance, crediting, insurance	44	56
Science	38	62
Communication	34	66
Court, procurator's offices, lawyers	32	68
Agricultural production and processing	31	69
Household services	30	70
Industry	24	76
Transport	18	82
Construction	18	82
Army, Ministry of Internal Affairs etc.	11	89

According to certain estimates, women business is growing 1.7 times faster than men's.

However, women tend less to start their own business. 30% of men managers run their own businesses, whereas among women managers this figure is only 15%. 51% of men managers and only 38% of women are sure of their ability to set up a company.

Women make up 35% of all Russian managers.

Russian women succeed rather despite the circumstances. They often have to devote themselves totally to career. 30% of women managers are not married or divorced. The same figure for men managers is 11%.

In many cases, starting own business is the only chance for a woman to fully realize her potential and achieve real professional success.

Research shows that Russian women encounter greater difficulties than men when hired or dismissed, in having access to certain professions and positions, in being promoted or provided access to credit resources. Today, the average women's salary is about a third lower than the average men's salary.

An important cause of woman's business activity lies in impossibility to support the family because of a very low level of remuneration in budget institutions of culture and art, health and education.

In general, the place of the Russian woman in the political and economic power system does not reflect her contribution in national development. One of the key reasons for this is a weak women's movement.

Strategic imperatives of the women's movement in Russia are as follows: consolidation of woman leaders' efforts, formation of really influential women's organizations;

creation of a permanent "site" for a dialogue with the authorities;

obtaining due skills of working with mass media, public opinion, political parties;

building up research work;

integration in the global woman leadership movement.