

Preface

This book, *Women Entrepreneurs in the Global Marketplace*, examines the position of women entrepreneurs in nine countries and seven regions of the world. The countries are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Iceland, India, Jamaica, Sweden and the United States of America and they represent the regions of South America, North America, Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania. One questionnaire was used to consistently analyze the women entrepreneurs regarding various factors related to human capital, network structures and financial capital. The book is an attempt to treat in a concise and objective manner the dominant economic, political and societal policies that impact the position occupied by women and as a consequence women entrepreneurs in the various countries.

Sources of information used in writing this book include journal articles, books, reports on women, reports on women entrepreneurs and government reports. In addition to the original data on the women entrepreneurs in each country, statistical data on women from an educational, health, political and social perspective have also been presented. A key aim of this book is to highlight that addressing just one aspect of the impediments for women entrepreneurs is far too simplistic. Instead, what is needed is a complex matrix of elements that address a number of factors at once. The benefits that income can provide, both to women directly as well as to their family, have been clearly outlined in various research outlets. Women without access to income are often subjected to other societal ills. Entrepreneurship for women can rectify this disadvantaged position. Through proper strategies, steps can be taken to remedy and ultimately reverse the situation.

The purpose of this book has been motivated by the desire to assist women entrepreneurs from various societal levels and economic backgrounds. The hope is that the book will serve as a wake-up call and roadmap for women entrepreneurs, organizations that assist women, and government agencies alike.