Female Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Programs Offered To Women in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Christine A. Beckstedt  
*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Shelly M. Poorman  
*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Moises Avelino  
*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999)

Part of the [Business Commons](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999)

**Recommended Citation**  
Christine A. Beckstedt, Shelly M. Poorman, and Moises Avelino (1999). *Female Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Programs Offered To Women in Fort Wayne, Indiana.*  
[http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999/41](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999/41)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium at Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1999 IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium by an authorized administrator of Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. For more information, please contact admin@lib.ipfw.edu.
FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED TO WOMEN IN FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
Christine A. Beckstedt, Shelly M. Poorman, Robert H. Bellinger, and Moises Avelino
(Hedayeh Samavati, Associate Professor of Economics)
Department of Economics, School of Business and Management Sciences

Self-employment has been increasing in the nonagricultural sector of the U.S. economy since the 1980s. This trend has been particularly strong among females, as compared to males. Between 1985 and 1997, female self-employment increased from 30 percent to 45 percent of all self-employed workers in the nonagricultural sector. The purpose of this paper is to ascertain whether factors such as marital status, year-round and full-time status, education, and industry have a role in women's decisions to become self-employed. The characteristics of this new wave of self-employed females are compared to those of wage-and-salary females and self-employed females of the 1980s. In addition, this paper explores the programs available to female entrepreneurs in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which help to finance and establish a new business. Findings of this paper should be useful to those women who wish to pursue self-employment in order to achieve economic independence. Furthermore, a better understanding of the magnitude and possibilities of employment in this area should help both citizens and policy makers in demanding and creating programs that are both efficient and effective in helping female entrepreneurs.