

Need Of Vocational Training for the Upliftment of Socio-Economic Status of the Tribal Women at Namakkal District

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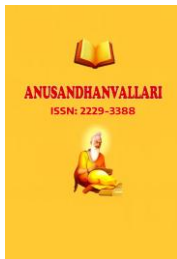
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Abstract: This study explores the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal women in Namakkal District and examines the role of vocational training in enhancing their skills, economic independence, and overall empowerment. Tribal women experience compounded difficulties, navigating the intersection of gender-based inequalities and the socio-economic constraints within their communities. The lack of access to quality education and vocational training further exacerbates their economic vulnerability. Vocational training programs, though increasingly available through government and non-governmental efforts, can be transformative for tribal women, offering them opportunities for skill development and economic independence. However, these programs remain underutilized due to factors such as lack of awareness, financial barriers, and entrenched societal norms. This article delves into the specific challenges faced by tribal women and examines how vocational training can empower them, enhance their skills, and improve their overall quality of life, ultimately fostering greater social and economic inclusion. A sample size of 110 tribal women was selected from various tribal communities to ensure diversity and Stratified Random Sampling technique was implemented. To analyze the collected data the statistical tools used were Simple Percentage Analysis, Chi-square, Correlation Analysis & Multiple Regression analysis. The findings suggest that while awareness of vocational programs is relatively high, participation remains limited due to factors like lack of information and financial constraints. The study emphasizes the need for improved access to training, financial support, and awareness to empower tribal women.

Keywords: *vocational training, socio-economic empowerment, financial barriers, economic independence.*

INTRODUCTION

Tribal communities in India represent a diverse and vibrant section of the population, with distinct cultures, traditions, languages, and lifestyles that have evolved over centuries. These communities, often residing in isolated regions, continue to preserve their age-old customs while adapting to the changing dynamics of modern society. Despite their rich cultural heritage, tribal people face significant challenges, including limited access to basic amenities, education, and healthcare, as well as social and economic marginalization. Tribal women, in particular, encounter additional barriers, as they navigate both gender-based inequalities and the constraints of their cultural and socio-economic circumstances. While tribal women play a vital role in sustaining their communities through agriculture, handicrafts, and household management, they often lack opportunities for formal education and economic empowerment. Vocational training programs, though increasingly available, remain under utilized due to factors such as lack of awareness, financial constraints, and societal norms. This article delves into the challenges faced by tribal women and examines the impact of



vocational training in enhancing their skills, economic independence, and overall quality of life.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the awareness and participation of tribal women in vocational training programs in Namakkal District.
2. To identify the Socio-economic challenges faced by tribal women in accessing vocational training opportunities.
3. To evaluate the impact of vocational training on the economic independence and empowerment of tribal women in Namakkal District.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The need for this study arises from the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal women in Namakkal District, who often lack access to educational and employment opportunities. Vocational training has the potential to enhance their skills, economic independence, and overall quality of life. By understanding the barriers to participation and the impact of such training, the study aims to highlight the importance of vocational programs in uplifting the socio-economic status of tribal women, empowering them to become active contributors to their communities and society at large.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study focuses on the tribal women in Namakkal District, exploring their participation in vocational training programs and the challenges they face in accessing these opportunities. It will examine the impact of such training on their socio-economic status, including improvements in income, employment and empowerment. The study will also analyze the role of government policies and community initiatives in promoting vocational training among tribal women. The findings aim to provide insights into the effectiveness of vocational training in enhancing the lives of tribal women and offer recommendations for better access and support in the future.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma (2020): This literature review focuses on the benefits of vocational training programs tailored for tribal women, such as tailoring, handicrafts, and agriculture-related skills. It discusses how such programs not only enhance employability but also help in preserving cultural heritage, offering a dual benefit of economic empowerment and cultural preservation.

Bharathi & Sekar (2018): This study explores the role of vocational training in enhancing the livelihood opportunities of tribal women in rural India. It highlights the positive impact of skills training programs in improving economic independence and social status, thereby contributing to the overall empowerment of women in marginalized communities.

Chakraborty & Biswas (2017): This research investigates the socio-economic status of tribal women and the challenges they face in accessing vocational training. It emphasizes the importance of government schemes and policies in providing vocational education, which has shown to improve employment opportunities and reduce gender inequality in tribal areas.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive and Analytical Research Design has been used to analyze the current socioeconomic conditions and the need for vocational training among tribal women in Namakkal District.

A sample size of 110 tribal women was selected from various tribal communities to ensure diversity and Stratified Random Sampling technique was implemented. To analyze the collected data the statistical tools used were Simple Percentage Analysis, Chi-square, Correlation Analysis & Multiple Regression analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS:

The study indicates that a large portion of the respondents (47.3%) fall within the working-age group, primarily belonging to the Toda and Kattunayakan tribes. While the majority of respondents have access to basic amenities like electricity and clean drinking water (81.8% and 80%, respectively), there is a notable lack of awareness about vocational training and government schemes, with 60% citing this as the main barrier to participation. Tailoring training is the most common skill learned, and 57.3% believe vocational training can enhance their employment opportunities. To improve participation, respondents emphasized the need for local training centers, financial support, and awareness programs.

CHI SQUARE ANALYSIS

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AWARENESS OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THE PARTICIPATION IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

TEST	VALUE	DF	ASYMP.SIG.(2-SIDED)
Pearson Chi-Square	97.778	1	0
Continuity Correction	91.762	1	0
Likelihood Ratio	90.907	1	0
Fisher's Exact Test			0
Linear-by-Linear Association	96.889	1	0
N of Valid Cases	110		

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no relationship between awareness of government policies and participation in vocational training programs.

Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): There is a relationship between awareness of government policies and participation in vocational training programs

RESULT

The Chi-Square tests show significant results ($p < 0.05$), indicating a strong relationship between the awareness of government policies and the participation in vocational training programs

CORRELATION ANALYSIS

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD

INCOME

Test	Value	Asymp. Error	Std.	Approx. T	Approx. Sig.
Pearson's R (Interval)	0.25	0.092		2.687	0.008
Spearman Correlation (Ordinal)	0.255	0.093		2.743	0.007
N of Valid Cases	110				

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no significant correlation between educational qualification and monthly household income.

Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): There is a significant correlation between educational qualification and monthly household income.

RESULT

The Pearson's R and Spearman's correlation result show a positive, statistically significant relationship between the variables ($p < 0.05$).

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS

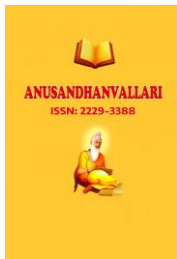
Multiple Regression Analysis was used to analyze the factors that influences the respondents belief in vocational training benefits.

Variable	B	p-value	Effect
Education	0.215	0.012 ✓	Positive
Income	0.173	0.014 ✓	Positive
Awareness	0.482	0.008 ✓	Positive
Participation	0.365	0.029 ✓	Positive
Cultural Barriers	-0.278	0.037 ✓	Negative
R² = 0.526, p < 0.001			

RESULT

Education, income, awareness, participation, and cultural barriers significantly influence belief in vocational training benefits.

The survey shows that 41.8% of tribal women are aged 46-55, with 18.2% having no formal education and 20.0% holding secondary education. A majority (81.8%) have access to electricity, and 79.1% have sanitation facilities at home. While 80.0% are aware of government policies, 60.0% of respondents cite



lack of awareness as a key barrier to vocational training. Financial assistance (60.0%) and local training centers (58.2%) are viewed as crucial to improving access, with 75.5% expressing interest in participating in training if improvements are made.

SUGGESTIONS

To improve participation in vocational training, efforts should focus on raising awareness about available programs through targeted community outreach. Establishing local training centers would reduce accessibility barriers, especially in remote areas. Financial assistance and scholarships should be provided to alleviate the financial constraints faced by many women. Additionally, training schedules should be made flexible to accommodate family responsibilities and other personal commitments. Lastly, government schemes should be more effectively communicated, and community leaders can play a pivotal role in mobilizing women for training opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The study highlights the significant need for vocational training programs to empower tribal women in Namakkal District. The findings reveal that while many women have participated in government-sponsored training, a lack of awareness and societal barriers continue to hinder broader participation. Vocational training is widely seen as an essential tool for improving economic independence and employment opportunities. However, improvements such as establishing local training centers, providing financial assistance, and raising awareness are crucial to enhancing accessibility and participation in these programs. The data suggests that empowering tribal women through targeted vocational training can significantly uplift their socio-economic status.

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