

# **Impact of Skill Development Programmes on Livelihood of Tribal Youth**

## **(A Study on the Impact of Skill Development Programmes on Livelihood of Tribal Youth in Tapi District)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Skill development and training programme facilitates sustainable employment among the youth. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Skill and entrepreneurship development efforts across the country have been highly fragmented. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India says that, although India enjoys demographic dividend with the youngest workforce is with an average of 29 years in comparison with the advanced economies, where the percentage of the skilled workforce is not enough. The India Skill Report 2023 reveals improvement in overall employability among young people which has increased from 46.2% to 50.3% this year.

In the present scenario, education and skill levels of the youth who enter the labour force is far from desired. Hence, it would be major challenge for India to reap its demographic advantage. India is moving towards a global knowledge economy. It must meet the rising aspirations of youths. This can be partially achieved through focus on advancement of skills that are relevant to the emerging economic environment. The challenge pertaining to skilling lies in providing diverse skills, catering to a huge young population and also providing relevant quality training to youth. Along with the goal to create opportunities, space and scope of the developments of the talents, there is a need to enhance their technical expertise. In the present study, such above mentioned components have been investigated. To understand the potentiality and efficacy of the programme, it has been examined in a tribal setting, which has its own unique issues of development. Hence, in the present study, skill development programmes are seen in the context of their livelihood. At the same time, it attempts to understand the sustainability of jobs in a less developed social setting and their impact on the wider world. In the present study, an effort is made to map out the changes which have taken place after gaining employment or being self-employment.

The findings of the study reveal that the course curricular needs to be updated according to the needs of the industry and market demands. Also, the respondents were of the opinion that additional hours of practical sessions are required because it orients them to the real work life experiences and prepares them for the job. The study also brought out the benefit of academic counselling which helps in various stages in decision making process. The trainees opined that training should be organised at the district and state level in order to create a wider placement opportunity in terms of getting the job and increase the duration of apprentice for the courses. It is also a fact that favourable condition provides self-employment rather than working in a job, as self-employment can be tuned to meet the local demands. It has been observed that learning computer is their cherished dream because it has much attraction in digital world with better scope for employment. Beauty parlour course also demands good scope for self-employment. It is found out that with increase in income, better quality of life in terms of permanent residence structure etc also occurs. Along with agriculture, most of the family members opt for skilled occupation such as electrical, carpentry, sewing, beauty parlour, welding, etc. These skills help in adding supplementary income to the family. In the present study, it is visible that there is a gap between men and women, that more women prefer self-employment as it facilitates income generation as well as looking after the household chores. As per the 80:20 ratio of Pareto test, the vital few affecting trades are COPA, Motor Mechanic, Wireman, Mechanical Diesel Engineer, and Sanitary inspector among the employed respondents and the vital few impacting 80% of the self-employment trades are beauty parlour, COPA, electric mechanic, and wireman.

The study calls for increasing level of skills across sectors among youth. The research leads to the conclusion that in Tapi district, where majority of the population constitute tribal youth, the youth are looking for opportunities for skilling, so that they have alternative opportunities of employment and are able to add supplementary income to families. The crux of the study provides an insight that Skill Training should be in consonance with Programme-Technology-Sustainability-Livelihood.