

Challenges in Technical Skill Development Faced in Rural Kerala among Female Students

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Abstract: Technology has been fast developed. To attain its pace both the Central and State Government promotes technical skill development courses all over the country. This article mainly focuses on whether it is properly functioned in rural areas and to attain good results. Government of India has been initiating a lot of skill development courses in 2014 like Vocational degrees, Community Courses etc. Our Government's mission is to mould the young generation to become entrepreneurs and promote self-employment skill development courses. Many Universities and Colleges in Kerala have been implementing and focusing in rural areas to provide skill based technical education and to make them become independent entrepreneurs and appropriate employees with ostensible fees. Initially, the course was funded by UGC, but now due to the lack of sufficient funds, universities and colleges are compelled to change into self-financing sector. This will affect the students belonging to economically backward communities or from poor education backgrounds striving to achieve their goal.

Keywords: Enter key words or phrases in alphabetical order, separated by commas.

1. Introduction

Among the 3.28 crore approximate population of Kerala, lion's share is held by the teens from rural areas where their knowledge on modern technology is insufficient. Unfortunately, the circumstances are against female students to join Technical skill development courses. Even though problems exist, government has succeeded in executing the proposed technical courses to an extent. The UGC sanctioned several funds for graduation and diploma courses. This enables economically backward students to afford the fees and provides opportunities to get trainings and placements in good companies. Universities and colleges are forced to opt to self-financing courses over regular courses due to insufficient funds. Another reason for this transition is unaffordability of high cost learning materials eventually affecting economically backward students. Apart from this challenge the another obstacle is female students are discouraged by the society to acquire technical skill. As a result, active involvement of women in technical education is low. Enhancing the technical skill of a girl child will help to improve the standard and strength of the society. To overcome the traditional barriers which pull back girls from the upfront of technical education and skill development programmes we must supply adequate support

and strength from their household. Family constraints determine girls to partake in technical education. Discrimination, destitution and disproportion disposed by society especially in rural areas over women should transform from traditional perception. The intention of this paper is to examine the challenges in technical skill development faced in rural Kerala among female students. Random groups of female students from rural areas of Kerala were approached to inquire about their challenges and issues that they had faced. Certain measures are being proposed to improve the present conditions in participation of female students for technical education. To accomplish this, the following study was conducted.

2. Methodology

Study is a descriptive survey method

A. Sample and sampling methods

Gathered information from randomly selected female students who opted technical course in Kerala especially from rural areas.

B. Research questions

- Is Government initiatives and schemes for female students sufficient enough for technical education?
- What are the factors dissuading female students to involve in technical education?
- How society and family intercept opportunities of attaining technical education for female students?
- Why technical education is ineffective in rural areas?

C. Hypothesis

- Due to insufficient funds Universities and Colleges are compelled to start self-financing courses for technical education that prevent students from joining technical courses.
- Poor technical education background, attitudes towards technical education and gender imbalance in technical job opportunities are some factors that averts women from involving technical education.
- Economic and financial set up of family and attitude of society towards female students aspiring technical education.

Table 1

Instructions: Over all feedback of the survey is mentioned in the below table. Rating as Strongly Agree (3) Agree (2) Disagree (1): NA (Not Applicable)

Sl.No.	Questions	Responses			
		Yes/ No	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree
1	Are you aware of several schemes initiated by the government to improve female technical education?	Yes: 20 No:50	NA	NA	NA
2	Constraints from family prevents girls from involving technical education.	NA	20	10	40
3	Acquiring technical education by girls is considered as tough task.	NA	10	15	45
4	The performance and knowledge of your technical education instructor is very poor.	NA	20	15	35
5	Are you interested to attain a good job in technical field?	Yes::30 No:40	NA	NA	NA
6	Universities or College gives sufficient learning materials to enhance technical skill.	NA	16	30	24
7	Gender inequality in job opportunities offered by companies affects girls participation in technical education		10	30	30

Table 2
Score

S. No	Items	Score
1	Strongly Agree	76
2	Agree	100
3	Disagree	174

- Lack of learning materials, unawareness about courses and inefficient facilitators in the field of technical education.

D. Data analysis

Collected data by using questionnaire. Responses given by the selected students are interpreted to get results.

3. Conclusion

Study has explored the challenges faced by female students in technical education from rural areas of Kerala. From the data analysis the major problem of female students from rural areas, they are unaware of schemes and policies offered by the government. Financial constraints, gender inequality and the pressure given by the society are also serves as major reasons preventing them from the courses. Financial environment of their family pull backs them from acquiring good technical courses offered by highly reputed institutions. Prejudice and confusion job opportunities also avert them from technical education. In some areas efficiency of the course instructor is also a reason for the same.

A. Recommendations on the basis of findings

- Mould them to pursue courses in order to their ability and potentials.
- Universities and colleges should keep an eye on ensuring adequate and good facilities for technical courses.

- The Government should observe the execution and functioning of several policies initiated to enhance the technical education among female students.
- Skillful and proficient should be appointed as instructors.

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