



Impact of Entrepreneurship Education Among the Tribal Youth in Northeastern Indian States

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ABSTRACT

The northeastern states are rich in natural resources, including biodiversity, hydropower, potential and unique handicrafts. Entrepreneurship enables local communities to leverage these resources effectively. By encouraging entrepreneurship, the region can tap into its natural and cultural heritage, promote sustainable utilization of resources, and create value-added products and services that have a market demand. The northeastern states have a significant youth population, and job creation is essential for providing them with opportunities and reducing unemployment rates. Entrepreneurship has the potential to generate jobs by creating new enterprises and ventures. It empowers individuals to become job creators rather than job seekers, fostering a culture of self-employment and economic independence. By providing entrepreneurship education, training, and access to resources, these communities can overcome social and economic barriers, gain financial independence, and contribute to the region's economic growth. Entrepreneurship education plays a crucial role in building and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems. It creates a supportive environment where aspiring entrepreneurs can access mentorship, networks, funding, and resources necessary for starting and growing their ventures. These ecosystems foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of ideas, enabling entrepreneurs to thrive and contribute to the overall economic and social development of a region. This paper tried to torch on the significant roles of entrepreneurship education and the action taken by the government in the north eastern Indian states in the form of entrepreneurship development policies, programs and their impact.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship Education, Tribal Youth, Empowerment and Tribal Development

INTRODUCTION

A significant number of tribal communities can be found in the northeastern Indian states, which are renowned for their vibrant cultural diversity. These tribal communities frequently experience socioeconomic difficulties, such as restricted access to economic resources, employment opportunities, and educational opportunities. In recent years, entrepreneurship education has grown in popularity as a way to support economic development, empower tribal youth, and safeguard their distinctive cultural heritage. The impact of entrepreneurship education among tribal youth in the northeastern Indian states.

Context of Tribal Youth in Northeastern Indian States:

Numerous tribal communities, each with its own unique traditions, languages, and cultural practices, can be found in the northeastern Indian states. Numerous tribal youth in these states frequently experience economic disadvantages, limited educational opportunities, and marginalization. The opportunity to address these issues and build avenues for their socioeconomic advancement is provided by entrepreneurship education.

Empowering Tribal Youth through Entrepreneurship Education:

The main goal of entrepreneurship education is to give students the knowledge, abilities, and attitude needed to launch and run their own businesses. A transformative platform that enables tribal youth to explore and realize their innate entrepreneurial potential is provided by entrepreneurship education. Entrepreneurship education can enable tribal youth to become self-reliant, creative, and economically independent by giving them the required tools, resources, and direction.

Transforming Mindset and Acquiring Skills:

The mindset of tribal youth must be transformed through entrepreneurship education. They develop self-belief, confidence, and resiliency as a result, which helps them get past social and economic obstacles. In addition, entrepreneurship education gives young people from tribal communities the fundamental skills they need to succeed in business, including problem-solving, financial management, and business planning. Their socioeconomic advancement is facilitated by these skills, which allow them to recognize and seize economic opportunities.

Emergence of Tribal-Led Businesses:

The emergence of tribal-led businesses is one of the important effects of entrepreneurship education among tribal youth. With their newfound knowledge and abilities, tribal youth are starting businesses in a variety of industries, including agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and eco-friendly projects. These businesses help tribal communities by creating employment opportunities and by preserving and promoting their cultural heritage.

Role of Government, Educational Institutions, and Community Engagement:

Multiple stakeholders must work together for entrepreneurship education among tribal youth in the northeastern Indian states to be successful. The government is crucial in providing policy support, funding programmes, and fostering an environment that fosters the growth of entrepreneurship. Institutions of higher learning are essential in incorporating entrepreneurship education into the curriculum and in providing the necessary support and infrastructure. To build a supportive ecosystem that fosters tribal entrepreneurship and promotes cooperation among tribal youth, community engagement and support are also crucial.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the book on entrepreneurship education and training, entrepreneurship is seen as the solution to all of a nation's problems. It is acknowledged as the driving force behind sustainable development all over the world. However, entrepreneurship education must be viewed from a different angle, and researchers must focus on the various components that make up entrepreneurship education. To achieve the desired form of entrepreneurship education, each of these must be examined individually. This book includes chapters that detail experiences with entrepreneurship education from nations including Namibia, Brazil, Spain, and China. Mozambican universities have banded together to advance entrepreneurship education.

This book, *Entrepreneurship: Born, Made, and Educated*, discusses entrepreneurial behaviours in people, particularly in students. It aims to respond to queries like: Can entrepreneurial traits be developed or are they inherited? What age might be ideal for entrepreneurship education? What should the government's and educational institutions' roles be in fostering entrepreneurship education in a nation? How does the ecosystem impact students in terms of entrepreneurship? Does training aid in the development of 35 entrepreneurs? How do students view businesspeople? What should universities do to become effective entrepreneurship-fostering institutions?

Education and entrepreneurship have long been studied together. According to the researcher, more research is needed on the topic of entrepreneurship education in the northeastern Indian States. This must be viewed in the context of bringing entrepreneurship education to tribal youth, which should result in the emergence of new tribal entrepreneurs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify and review the existing tribal entrepreneurship education policies/schemes/institutions/programs in Northeastern India.
2. To identify the needs for tribal entrepreneurship education in Northeastern India.
3. To understand the significance, role and impact of entrepreneurship education in Northeastern India.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NORTHEASTERN INDIA

The Central Government of India has implemented several initiatives in Northeastern India to promote entrepreneurship education and support the growth of startups in the region.

North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS): To encourage industrialization and entrepreneurship in the Northeast region, the Central Government established NEIDS. The programme offers a number of incentives, such as capital investment subsidies, credit access, and skill development programmes, to promote the development of new businesses and industries.

Northeast Venture Fund (NEVF): The NEVF was created by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to support startups and business owners in the region. The fund encourages entrepreneurship education and training in the area and supports tech-driven businesses and creative business ideas.

Northeast Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (NEDS): To encourage entrepreneurship education and skill development in the Northeastern states, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship established NEDS. The programme provides aspiring entrepreneurs with financial aid, programmes to build their capacity, and support for incubation.

Technology Business Incubator (TBI) Scheme: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) introduced the TBI Scheme to promote entrepreneurship and technology-based startups in the Northeast region. This strategy calls for the establishment of TBIs in educational institutions to provide startups and students with resources, mentoring, and entrepreneurship education.

Atal Incubation Centers (AIC): The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a division of NITI Aayog, has established Atal Incubation Centres in the Northeast to support and nurture startups. These centres offer incubation facilities, mentoring, funding access, and entrepreneurship education programmes in order to encourage an innovative and entrepreneurial culture in the region. To encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development in the Northeastern Indian states, these programmes offer the necessary infrastructure, support, and opportunities for entrepreneurship education and training.

NEEDS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NORTHEASTERN INDIAN STATES

Entrepreneurship education plays a crucial role in empowering Northeastern Tribal youth for several reasons:

- i. **Economic Empowerment:** Youth who receive entrepreneurship education are given the knowledge and abilities necessary to launch and manage their own businesses. Entrepreneurship can be a route to economic empowerment in the context of Northeastern tribal communities, where there may be few job opportunities and little economic development. Youth can create their own employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy by encouraging their entrepreneurial skills.
- ii. **Job Creation:** High unemployment rates and restricted access to formal employment are common in the Northeastern region's tribal communities. Youth are encouraged to become job creators rather than job seekers through entrepreneurship education. They can identify local needs and opportunities, create novel solutions, and launch businesses that provide jobs for themselves and others in their communities by cultivating their entrepreneurial mindset.
- iii. **Cultural Preservation:** Tribal communities in the northeast have distinctive cultural practises, knowledge systems, and handicrafts that can be preserved and capitalised on through business. Education in entrepreneurship can assist young people in recognising and capitalising on their cultural heritage, transforming artisanal practices into profitable businesses. This not only contributes to the preservation of their cultural identity but also ensures their economic sustainability and the honouring of their traditional skills and knowledge.
- iv. **Community Development:** Youth are inspired by entrepreneurship education to think about issues that go beyond their own success, such as community growth. Youth can recognise and address social, environmental, and economic challenges in their communities by encouraging a spirit of social entrepreneurship. They can start businesses that offer remedies for neighbourhood issues like access to clean water, renewable energy, healthcare, or education, helping to advance the general advancement of their communities.
- v. **Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** Youth who receive entrepreneurial education develop a sense of agency and independence. It develops their capacity for creativity, critical analysis, problem-solving, and judgement. They become more resilient, adaptable, and confident in their ability to achieve their objectives by adopting an entrepreneurial mindset. They can overcome obstacles, take calculated risks, and seize opportunities thanks to their independence, which ultimately results in empowerment and personal growth.
- vi. **Breaking Stereotypes and Empowering Women:** In Northeastern Tribal communities, entrepreneurship education can be a key factor in eradicating gender norms and empowering women. It can support economic growth, encourage young women to become entrepreneurs, and challenge traditional gender roles by ensuring equal access to entrepreneurship education and resources. Increased gender equality and the empowerment of women within communities can result from this.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NORTHEASTERN INDIAN STATES

Education in entrepreneurship is essential for promoting economic development, innovation, and job creation. India's northeast is renowned for its vibrant cultural diversity and entrepreneurship. However, the area faces a number of difficulties, such as restricted access to resources, infrastructure, and knowledge. Despite these obstacles, there is an increasing focus on encouraging entrepreneurship and offering training and assistance to aspiring businesspeople in the area.

- i. **Government Initiatives:** A number of initiatives have been started by the Indian government and several state governments to encourage entrepreneurship in the area. These initiatives include financial support, educational opportunities, incubation facilities, and funding programmes created especially to help startups and business owners in Northeastern India.
- ii. **Incubation Centers:** To encourage and support entrepreneurial endeavours, a number of incubation centres have been established in the area. These facilities give startups access to funding, mentoring, training, and networking opportunities. Examples include the Technology Incubation Centre in Tripura and the Northeast Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) in Assam.

- iii. **Skill Development Programs:** Programmes for skill development are crucial for giving aspiring business owners the skills and knowledge they need to launch and run their enterprises. In Northeastern India, the government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and educational institutions have been actively implementing entrepreneurship-focused skill development programmes. These courses cover a range of topics, including marketing, business planning, and financial management.
- iv. **Educational Institutions:** Through specialised courses, workshops, and training programmes, entrepreneurship education is provided by a number of educational institutions in Northeastern India. These institutions offer a setting where students can learn about business management, hone their entrepreneurial skills, and network with established businesspeople. Examples include the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) in Arunachal Pradesh, which offers a course on entrepreneurship development, and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in Assam, which provides entrepreneurship training programmes.
- v. **Networking and Collaboration:** Collaboration and networking are essential components of entrepreneurship education. In Northeastern India, numerous conferences, networking opportunities, and events are held to promote interactions between businesspeople, financiers, and mentors. These platforms support startup ecosystem connections, exposure, and resource access for entrepreneurs.

IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AMONG THE TRIBAL YOUTH

Entrepreneurship education can have a significant impact on tribal youth in the Northeastern Indian states.

- i. **Economic Empowerment:** Tribal youth who receive entrepreneurship education are better prepared to launch and run their own businesses. By encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset, they can generate jobs for both themselves and others, resulting in community economic empowerment.
- ii. **Poverty Alleviation:** Northeastern India is home to many tribal communities that struggle with extreme poverty and lack of access to resources. By encouraging tribal youth to use their skills and resources to generate income and raise their standard of living, entrepreneurship education and awareness can aid in ending the cycle of poverty.
- iii. **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Native American tribes in the northeastern states have a rich cultural heritage and distinctive handicrafts. The promotion of traditional crafts, textiles, and indigenous knowledge are just a few examples of how entrepreneurship education can assist tribal youth in identifying opportunities to use their cultural heritage for entrepreneurial endeavors. This helps to promote sustainable development while also preserving their cultural identity.
- iv. **Reduction of Unemployment:** For tribal youth, unemployment is a serious problem. Young people can be inspired to start their own businesses rather than look for scarce employment opportunities by providing entrepreneurship education and raising awareness about government entrepreneurship development programmes. This may lower unemployment rates and promote economic inclusion.
- v. **Skill Development:** Tribal youth have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills through entrepreneurship education, including problem-solving, marketing, financial management, and business planning. These abilities help them launch their businesses and increase their employability across industries.
- vi. **Local Economic Development:** Tribal youth who start their own businesses help the local economy grow. By launching businesses, they boost economic activity, provide local residents with employment opportunities, and draw in investors. Overall growth and prosperity in the area may result from this.
- vii. **Encouraging Innovation and Creativity:** Tribal youth are inspired to innovate and think creatively by receiving entrepreneurship education. By encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset, they are inspired to come up with original solutions to local issues and investigate fresh possibilities for advancement.
- viii. **Self-Reliance and Autonomy:** Tribal youth who receive entrepreneurial education develop a sense of independence and autonomy. They are given the ability to take charge of their economic future and actively participate in the development of their communities rather than solely relying on government initiatives or outside aid.

CONCLUSION

The north-eastern region is experiencing a serious problem with unemployment. It also causes other issues. Government and other agencies' efforts to provide self-employment as a means of resolving such issues are in a position to find a coordinated solution. As a result, entrepreneurship education has the potential to empower tribal youth in the northeastern Indian states by altering their perspectives, giving them business acumen, and encouraging the growth of tribally owned businesses. Initiatives for entrepreneurship education, supported by the government, educational institutions, and community involvement, can promote inclusive economic growth, preserve cultural heritage, and establish sustainable livelihoods for tribal youth in the area by recognizing the particular difficulties and opportunities faced by tribal communities. Youth from Northeastern Tribal groups can benefit from entrepreneurship education by becoming more economically independent, creating jobs, preserving their culture, developing their communities, and promoting gender equality. It gives young people the abilities, frame of mind, and information required to succeed as entrepreneurs who can have a

positive influence on their communities and contribute to the regional economy. To maximise the benefits of entrepreneurship education and awareness among tribal youth, it is essential to make sure that suitable training programmes, mentorship support, capital access, and supportive policy environments are available. Government, educational institutions, and other relevant stakeholders working together can be extremely helpful in promoting the growth of entrepreneurship in the Northeastern Indian states.

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