



A Study on Socio Economic Development of Scheduled Caste Communities through Entrepreneurship Development Training Programmes A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The role of entrepreneurs in economic development may be understood by the contribution they make to the different sectors of economy. Entrepreneurs are the cost-effective agents as they utilize the last bit of resource available at their disposal. When they succeed, they do contribute to the development, otherwise disappear from the market because the market cannot tolerate miscalculation, lack of commitment and in competencies. Further, economic development to include increase in productivity, socio-economic equalization, improved institutions and attitudes, and a rationally coordinated system of policy measures and removal of undesirable conditions and systems that perpetuate a state of development (Black, 1966). Against this background the Study on Socio Economic Development of Scheduled Caste Communities through Entrepreneurship Development Training Programmes: A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation in Prakasam District Of Andhra Pradesh

Key words: Entrepreneurship, Development, Training etc.,.

The spirit of enterprising makes man an entrepreneur. Such a spirit has transformed him from a nomad to a cattle rearer, to a settled agriculturist, to a trader and to an industrialist. Now, entrepreneurs are persons who initiate, organize, manage and control the affairs of a business unit and they combine all factors of production to supply goods and services, whether the business pertains to agriculture, industry, trade or service. The entrepreneur is a central figure of economic activity and a propeller of development under free enterprise. Agricultural and industrial developments are caused by entrepreneurship. The development or underdevelopment is the reflection of abundance or scarcity of entrepreneurship in any society.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of profile respondents in the study area.
2. To measure the perception of respondents towards the role of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation in inculcating entrepreneurialism.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been adopted descriptive research design to explain the socio-economic conditions and assess the perceptions of trainees on effectiveness of EDP training.

For the purpose of the study, the researcher has gathered information vis-à-vis the trainees of EDP trained at Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Cooperative Finance Corporation (APSCCFC) in Ongole, Prakasam District.

The EDP trainees trained at Andhra Pradesh state scheduled caste cooperative society Ltd. in Prakasam District spread over in all the area. The total of 942 candidates in six categories such are Mobile Technician (170), Apparel Making (187), Beautician (90), Computer Skills (225), Retail Sales Associate (225) and Consignment Booking Assistant training (180). These six EDPs are mostly employable and can start their own business ventures. In this reason, the six EDPs are selected and from each category 30.0 percent trainees were selected to give equal preference like from six EDPs a total of 280 trainees all together selected for the purpose of study by using stratified proportionate random sample method.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:**Table – 1: Sex of the Respondent**

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	164	58.6
Female	116	41.4
Total	280	100.0

Of the total sample size of 280 trainee respondents, 164 are male trainees (58.6 percent), and 116 (41.4 percent) are female trainees. The relatively higher percentage of female candidates in the trainee group is an evidence that over time social change is taking place in Indian society and that women taking up outside jobs and venturing into own businesses has become acceptable in our society. This promises well for the cause of women empowerment in general and economic independence of women, in particular.

Table –2: Age of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
< - 20	61	21.8
21 - 30	74	26.4
31 - 40	64	22.9
41 - 50	51	18.2
51 - >	30	10.7
Total	280	100.0

Age is a crucial factor in socio-economic status of a person. A matured person is an experienced person who has seen many ups and downs in his life. He has a matured critical ability and can comprehend the things in a right way than a child or adolescence. A mature person has the ability to influence the decision and opinions of the persons who are younger to him. An advice of the old people in the society is always welcomed. So the sample of the study, the respondents are above 18 years of age are selected for the study. It is clear from the table 2 that out of the sample of 280 respondents, 61 trainees i.e. 21.8 percent are below the age of 20 years. While a total of 74 trainees i.e. 26.4 percent belong to the age group of 21-30 years, a total of 64 trainees i.e. 22.9 percent of the respondents of the sample belong to the age group of 31-40 years, 51 trainees i.e 18.2 percent are belong to 41 – 50 years age group and 30 trainees i.e 10.7 per cent are belongs to 51 and above years of age. Thus, more respondents are found to be between the age group of 21-30 years.

Table-3: Education of the respondents

Education	Frequency	Percent
< - 10 th class	165	58.9
Inter	65	23.2
Graduate& above	50	17.9
Total	280	100.0

The table 3 highlights the educational background of respondents from the viewpoint of low level and high level of education. Majority of the respondents numbering 165 and representing 58.9 per cent had low level of education as against 50 respondents representing 17.9 per cent with high level of education and 65 respondents representing 23.2 percent middle level with intermediate education.

Table-4: Trainees Trained in different types of EDP Training

Type of EDP training	Frequency	Percent
Mobile Technician	51	18.2
Apparel Making	56	20.1
Beautician	27	9.6
Computer Skills	65	23.2
Retail Sales Associate	27	9.6
Consignment Booking Assistant	54	19.3
Total	280	100.0

The table 4 represents the details of type of training undergone by the respondents. Majority of the respondents numbering 65 and forming 23.2 per cent underwent training in computer skills. This was followed by respondents numbering 56, and forming 20.1 per cent having undergone training in apparel making and consignment booking assistant, mobile technician and retail sales associate and they represented 19.3 per cent, 18.2 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively. To conclude, demand potential for consumer durables and their timely servicing created more business opportunities, which led the majority of the respondents to have training in product EDPs.

Table-5: Paired Samples t Test
Status of trainees before and after training

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Before joining EDP - After EDP	.78214	1.56314	.09342	.59825	.96603	8.373	279	.000

The paired sample T test reveals that the status of before and after training of the respondents. The paired T test value is 7.8214. Hence, there is a statically significant and there is difference in both variables of before and after training. Thus, the respondents are acquired the skills after the training. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is accepted.

Table-6: Reasons for join in EDP: Weightage given by respondents

Sl. No	Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total N=280
1	Unemployment	17.5	40.7	27.1	10.4	4.3	100.0
2	To fulfil my own ambition	39.3	16.4	21.5	11.4	11.4	100.0
3	Wanted to diversify business	49.6	31.5	12.5	3.2	3.2	100.0
4	To facilitate loan	18.2	57.9	15.0	6.8	2.1	100.0
5	To be independent	56.1	32.9	5.0	3.9	2.1	100.0
6	To get certificate	5.4	4.6	21.1	25.7	43.2	100.0
7	Learn to start a venture	24.6	56.8	9.3	5.0	4.3	100.0
8	Knowledge desire	49.3	13.2	15.0	8.6	13.9	100.0
9	To achieve more in life	20.7	60.0	9.3	5.4	4.6	100.0
An average total percentage		31.2	34.9	15.1	8.9	9.9	100.0

The table 6 shows majority 40.7 percent, 17.6 percent and 27.6 percent of the respondents somewhat agree, strongly agree and agree respectively to the statement that unemployment. Whereas, 10.4 percent and 4.3 percent of the respondents somewhat disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Hence, the majority respondents are agreed that they joined due to unemployment.

The opinion of the respondents regarding to fulfil my own ambition. Majority 39.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they fulfil my own ambition. 16.4 percent of the respondents somewhat agree and 21.5 percent of the respondents are just agreeing the same. 11.4 percent of the respondents are somewhat disagreeing while 11.4 percent strongly disagree to fulfil my own ambition to joined in EDP training.

The table 6 shows the opinion of the respondents of the Wanted to diversify business in the study area. Shockingly 49.6 percent 31.5 percent and 12.5 percent of the respondents are strongly agree, somewhat agree and agree respectively. About 3.2 percent and 3.2 percent of the respondents are strongly disagreeing and somewhat disagreeing to the statement that wanted to diversify business to get the benefit.

As regards to facilitate loan 18.2 percent and 57.9 percent and 15.0 percent of the respondents strongly agree, somewhat agree and agree respectively. So, majority of the respondents say that training is very

useful to get start the entrepreneurship unit. Whereas, 6.8 percent and 2.1 percent of the respondents somewhat disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Hence, the majority respondents are agreed that they joined due to get loan.

The table shows the opinion of majority of the respondents to be functioning independent, 56.1 percent and 32.9 percent and 5.0 percent of the respondents are strongly agree, somewhat agree and agree that to be independent functioning. Remaining 3.9 percent and 2.1 percent of the respondents are strongly disagree and somewhat disagree with the statement.

They fell this is one of the major supporting factors that helps them to encounter the problem of unemployment in the life.

The opinion of the respondents regarding to get certificate. Majority 5.4 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they to get certificate. 4.6 percent of the respondents somewhat agree and 21.1 percent of the respondents are just agreeing the same. 25.7 percent of the respondents are somewhat disagreeing while 43.2 percent strongly disagree to get certificate.

The table 6 reveals majority 24.6 percent, 56.8 percent and 9.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree, somewhat agree and agree respectively to the statement that learn to start a venture. Whereas, 5.0 percent and 4.3 percent of the respondents strongly disagree and somewhat disagree respectively. Hence, the majority respondents are somewhat agreed that they joined to Learn to start a venture.

The table portrays that Knowledge desire is also one of the key fact to grown up in training so ultimately needs begin the business enterprise nor to get an employment. The majority 49.3 percent, 13.2 percent and 15.0 per cent of the respondents strongly disagree, somewhat disagree and agree respectively to the statement. However, 8.6 percent and 13.9 percent of the respondents strongly disagree and somewhat agree that desire of knowledge.

The opinion of the respondents regarding to achieve more in life. Majority 20.7 percent and 60.0 percent and 9.3 per cent of the respondents strongly agree, somewhat agree and agree that they achieve more in life.

An average total percentage of respondents on reasons for join in training and given weightage that 31.2 percent and 34.9 percent are strongly agreed and somewhat agreed for joining in training respectively. 15.1 percent of the respondents are agreed with varied reasons followed by 8.9 percent and 9.9 percent of respondents are somewhat disagree and strongly disagree on varied reasons for joining in training.

Table - 7: Assessment of Trust areas of EDP training

Sl. No	Statement	Excellent	Good	Average	Bad	Very Bad	Total N=280
1	Achievement motivation training	22.9	26.7	19.3	26.1	5.0	100.0
2	Training in management skills	21.1	28.9	18.9	25.0	6.1	100.0
3	Counselling on available opportunities	47.1	11.8	13.9	10.4	16.8	100.0
4	Selecting a business/ product	26.8	28.2	22.1	20.0	2.9	100.0
5	Preparing project report	32.9	23.9	16.1	21.7	5.4	100.0
6	Conducting marketing survey	19.6	44.6	13.6	18.3	3.9	100.0
7	Field visits	37.9	28.6	12.5	14.6	6.4	100.0
An average total percentage		29.8	27.6	16.6	19.4	6.6	100.0

Table 7 shows the assessment of trust areas of EDP training regarding Achievement motivation training to the respondent's 22.9 percent of respondents expressed that it is excellent, 26.7 percent of the respondents revealed that it is good, whereas 19.3 percent of the respondents felt that it is an average followed by 26.1 percent and 5.0 percent of the trainees expressed that the training trust areas are bad and very bad respectively.

Training in management skills is one of the core areas of EDP training that 21.2 percent, 28.9 percent and 18.9 percent portrays that the training is excellent, good and average respectively. Therefore, 25.0 percent and 6.1 percent of the respondents depicted that it is bad and very bad.

The another core areas of training is Counselling on available opportunities stated that 47.1 percent excellent, 11.8 percent good and 13.9 percent moderate. About 10.4 percent and 16.8 percent of the training modules are bad and very bad respectively. The method of counselling is very useful to the trainees while they would forego for set up the business enterprise.

The assessment of other trust areas of EDP training regarding Selecting a business/ product to the respondent's 26.8 percent of respondents expressed that it is excellent, 28.2 percent of the respondents revealed that it is good, whereas 22.1 percent of the respondents felt that it is an average followed by 20.0 percent and 2.9 percent of the trainees expressed that the training trust areas are bad and very bad respectively. The selection of business and product is the key factor for success or failure of the business.

Preparing project report is very essential element in promotion business venture the majority respondents' 32.9 percent, 23.9 percent and 16.1 percent of the trainees opined that it is excellent, good and average.

While 21.7 percent and 5.4 percent of the trainees the training area of project preparing is bad and very bad respectively.

Conducting marketing survey is one of the core areas of EDP training that 19.6 percent, 46.6 percent and 13.6 percent revealed that the training is excellent, good and average respectively. Therefore, 18.3 percent and 3.9 percent of the respondents depicted that it is bad and very bad.

About 37.9 percent respondents says it is excellent, 28.6 percent and 12.5 percent of the respondents says that it is good and average. Only 14.6 percent and 6.4 percent of the respondents says it is bad and very bad respectively. Field visits in the training gaining more practical knowledge than the theoretical. It could be more helpful to the trainee while compare to other components of the training core areas.

An overall average, 29.8 percent, 27.6 percent and 16.6 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed, somewhat agreed and agreed respectively that the trust area of the EDP training are useful. Whereas, 19.4 and 6.6 percent of the respondents are revealed that trust area of EDP strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

Conclusions

The present study was an endeavour to investigate into the effectiveness of entrepreneurship training programmes in entrepreneurship development. The results of the study confirm the importance of entrepreneurship training alongside socio-economic conditions of the trainees and its effectiveness as a strategy of entrepreneurship development. The concept of entrepreneurship has evidenced a paradigm shift from innovation to enterprise initiation. It also highlights the role of APSCCFC in promoting by imparting training as adopting effective teaching methods, managerial skills, improvement of the trainees in their traits before and after training, financial support for the setting of the enterprises and also assess the problems towards the establishment and running of business ventures.

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