

The Correlation between Educational Attainment and Occupational Distribution among the Mannan Tribe

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Abstract

This study explores the correlation between educational attainment and occupational distribution among the Mannan tribe of the Idukki district, Kerala. Traditional occupations of the Mannan tribe are based on natural resources and indigenous technology. However, industrialization, modernization, and deforestation have significantly altered these occupational patterns. By analyzing data from 727 working individuals across 300 households, this study aims to elucidate the impact of education on job prospects within the tribe. The findings reveal a strong correlation between higher educational levels and better employment opportunities, particularly in the private and government sectors. Conversely, lower educational attainment is prevalent among those engaged in traditional work and agriculture. This research highlights the crucial role of education in enhancing socio-economic status and underscores the need to address educational barriers to improve occupational outcomes for the Mannan tribe. The study provides insights into the relationship between education and employment, offering a basis for policies aimed at fostering educational and economic development within tribal communities.

Keywords: Occupation, education, tribe, job opportunities.

Introduction

The traditional occupational patterns of tribes are heavily reliant on natural resources and indigenous technology. Post-Independence, the rapid growth of industrialization, modernization, and deforestation has significantly impacted tribal life, forcing many to seek new avenues to meet their basic needs. Some tribes have migrated to urban areas for livelihood. Occupation plays a crucial role in determining the socio-economic development of a community, particularly among tribes. Education plays a crucial role in determining employment opportunities and socio-economic status. This study aims to examine the relationship between educational attainment and occupational distribution among the Mannan tribe, highlighting the impact of education on job prospects. By analyzing educational levels and corresponding employment sectors, the study seeks to understand how education influences job opportunities and economic mobility within the tribe. This study aims to examine the relationship between educational attainment and occupational distribution among the Mannan tribe, highlighting the impact of education on job prospects.

Methodology

The data was collected through surveys conducted among the Mannan tribe's working population in the

Idukki district of Kerala. This study covers 727 working people from 300 households. The educational levels were categorized into Primary level, secondary level, high school, higher secondary, and degree holders. The occupations were classified into private sector, government sector, agricultural, and coolie workers.

Result

Based on the data, most of the Mannan tribes were illiterate and their main occupations were based on traditional occupations (86.67%) including fishing, honey collecting, and agriculture.

Private Sector Workers: 68.19% of private sector workers have a minimum education level of high school. Higher secondary and degree holders are also predominantly found in this sector.

Government Employees: 65.79% of government employees have completed high school education, with higher secondary and degree holders also being well-represented.

Agricultural Workers: Only 5.58% of agricultural workers have completed high school, and a mere 0.40% have higher secondary education.

Coolie Workers: 28.68% of coolie workers have studied up to high school, while only 0.38% have reached the higher secondary level.

The table presents the distribution of educational attainment among different occupational groups.

Education and Occupation

Occu. Edu.	Traditional works	Agriculture	Coolie	Private Sector	Government Sector	Sibling Care/ Domestic Work	Self-Employment	Total
Illiterate	104 86.67	121 48.21	25 9.43	0	1 2.63	1 50.00	0	252 34.66
Primary	13 10.83	75 29.88	53 20.00	1 2.27	0	1 50.00	1 14.28	144 19.81
Secondary	3 2.50	40 15.93	110 41.51	10 22.72	10 26.32	00	3 42.86	176 24.21
High school	0	14 5.58	76 28.68	30 68.19	25 65.79	00	3 42.86	148 20.35
Higher Secondary	0	1 0.40	1 0.38	2 4.55	1 2.63	0	0	5 0.69
Degree	0	0	0	1 2.27	1 2.63	0	0	2 0.28

	120(16.51)	251(34.53)	265(36.45)	44(6.05)	38(5.22)	2(0.28)	7(0.96)	727(100.00)
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Discussion

The data indicates a close relationship between educational level and occupation among the working population of Mannan tribes. Higher educational qualifications are associated with better job opportunities, particularly in the private and government sectors. Conversely, lower educational levels are prevalent among those engaged in traditional work and agriculture. The data indicates a strong correlation between higher educational qualifications and employment in more prestigious and better-paying jobs in the private and government sectors. On the other hand, lower educational levels are associated with manual labor jobs in agriculture and as coolie workers. This trend underscores the critical role of education in enhancing job prospects and improving socioeconomic status among the Mannan tribe.

Conclusion

The study highlights the importance of educational attainment in securing better employment opportunities. Efforts should be made to improve access to education for the Mannan tribe, as it directly impacts their occupational choices and overall socioeconomic development.

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