

Impact of Government Initiatives on Entrepreneurship Development in Jammu and Kashmir- A Case of Mushroom Farming

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Abstract- *In India, Jammu and Kashmir is known for its Mushroom Cultivation. Owing to the favorable climatic conditions, there have been several recent reports of increase in profitability of farmers involved in mushroom cultivation while many have found it to be a new source of income. Since Government of India is taking lot of initiative on the direction of developing entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir and at the same time mushroom farming is emerging as booming entrepreneurial options, it is imperative to study the impact of government initiatives on entrepreneurship development in Jammu and Kashmir in the field of mushroom cultivation. For this, a quantitative analysis has been conducted in the present research. Herein, primary data has been collected using survey strategy for which a structured quantitative questionnaire has been used as the data collection instrument. The study found a significant impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir.*

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Mushroom Cultivation, Jammu and Kashmir, Government initiatives.

I. INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is one of the key ingredients in the present times, which contributes maximum to the economic development of a country. Entrepreneurs are not only concerned with their own development and growth but also facilitate in employment generation which then contributes to the economy. Apart from this, entrepreneurship also brings up new and innovative ideas thereby enhancing the business reach for the nation and creating and business environment of dynamism.

India has become home to many entrepreneurs and budding of startups ranging in different product and service industries across the nation. According to Economic Survey 2020-21 presented in Parliament of India, there are 41,061 startups (till December 23, 2020) out of which approximately 39,000 startups have generated 4,70,000 jobs in the country [1]. Moving in the same direction, India has the third largest startup space in the world [2]. Thus, India holds a good position as far as entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem is concerned. Herein, Government of India has played a major role by providing more than 120 schemes for entrepreneurship development in the country across different sectors and

domains [3].

Jammu and Kashmir is an Indian union territory having plentiful of unutilized and untapped natural resources making it an emerging golden spot to launch businesses owing. It is an untapped market from the prospective of doing and establishing businesses. Owing to these reasons, it holds a huge potential for entrepreneurs and start-ups to prosper in the area.

II. THE BACKGROUND

(a) Initiatives of the Indian Government- Government of India has focused on to encourage and motivate the young and entrepreneurial enthusiasts of Jammu and Kashmir to follow innovation and entrepreneurship via building a vivacious and favourable Startup ecosystem in the region [4-6]. For the same reasons, Government of India has launched several schemes for the region in order to support entrepreneurship including Seed Capital Fund Scheme, Youth Startup Loan Scheme, Himayat Initiative and National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) schemes [7]. Further, the government has also launched a dedicated online portal called "Startup JK" that provides open access to all the important resources like relevant Government Schemes, Learning & Development program, Market and research reports to all the stakeholders. Further, Government of India is also offering many incentives and assistances in the entrepreneurship support aspects like co-working space, monthly allowance, and energy assistance, international patent filing reimbursement, product research and development / marketing / publicity, tax benefits and exemptions, public procurement and self-certification of compliance under labour law [8].

(b) Scope of Mushroom Farming in Jammu and Kashmir - In India, Jammu and Kashmir is known for its Mushroom Cultivation. It started in Jammu and Kashmir in 1964 by the Department of Agriculture, Lamandi, Srinagar [9]. The reason for huge potential of mushroom cultivation in the region is because of varied agro-climatic conditions and accessibility of raw materials. Mushroom can be grown in all climatic scenarios on a condition that it is provided with appropriate temperature. It is a crop which does not require land to grow and thus, does not disturb the cultivation of other crops or vegetation. As a matter of fact, the climatic and temperature conditions of the region naturally suits the mushroom cultivation [10].

Owing to the favorable climatic conditions, there have

been several recent reports of increase in profitability of farmers involved in mushroom cultivation while many have found it to be a new source of income [11]. According to the Agriculture department, the climatic changes in the region are leading to shrinkage of agricultural land thereby reducing the income of the farmers. On the other hand, since mushroom farming does not require land for cultivation, it can contribute to doubling the income of farmers [12]. Thus, mushroom cultivation can be considered to be one of the most prominent and profitable entrepreneurial options for the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

III. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Since Government of India is taking lot of initiative on the direction of developing entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir and at the same time mushroom farming is emerging as booming entrepreneurial options, it is imperative to study the impact of government initiatives on entrepreneurship development in Jammu and Kashmir in the field of mushroom cultivation.

None of the researches have been found to focus in this direction. Thus, the present research will help filling this gap.

(a) Objective of the Research - The objectives of the present research are as follows-

- (i) To assess the impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir
- (ii) To identify the individual initiatives of Government having maximum impact on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Hypothesis of the Study- The present research has tested the following hypothesis-

- (i) H_0 - There is no significant impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir.
- (ii) H_A - There is a significant impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Methods and Material- For assessing the impact of government initiatives on entrepreneurship development in Jammu and Kashmir in the field of mushroom cultivation, a quantitative analysis has been conducted in the present research. Herein, primary data has been collected using survey strategy wherein a structured quantitative questionnaire has been used as the data collection instrument. The respondents of the study are the entrepreneurial enthusiasts who want to peruse mushroom farming. These respondents were contacted at different mushroom cultivation training workshops and sessions conducted in Jammu and Kashmir during the time frame of January 2021 to April 2021. Their email

ids were retrieved from these workshops and sessions and questionnaire were mailed in form of Google form links. Approximately 300 questionnaires were received.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Analysis- Descriptive analysis has been conducted in the present research to describe the primary data collected in the present research.

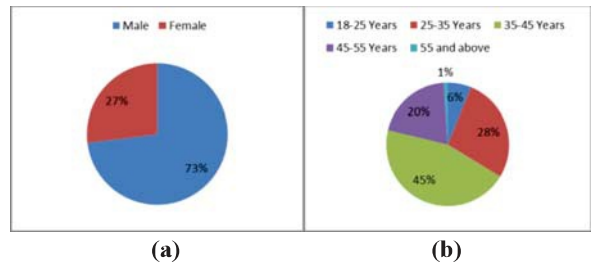


Fig. 1 (a) Gender of Respondents (b) Age of Respondents

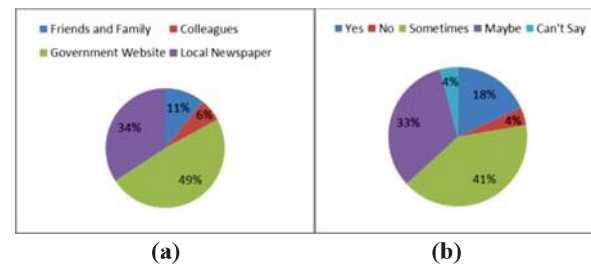


Fig. 2 (a) How did you come to know about this session/ seminar/ workshop (b) Jammu and Kashmir has business environment for growth of entrepreneurship

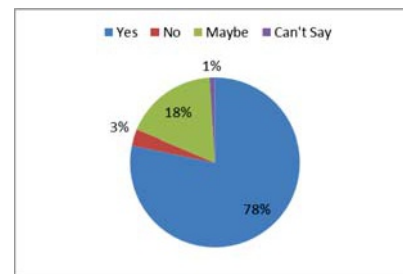


Fig. 3 Awareness about government schemes for Startup and entrepreneurship development in Jammu and Kashmir

(a) Inferential Analysis

The inferential analysis has been conducted to test the hypothesis of the study. For testing this hypothesis, bivariate correlation and linear regression has been conducted as below-

i. Correlation Analysis- The bivariate correlation analysis has been conducted to assess the relation between the independent factors (Factors of Government Initiatives) and dependent variable (Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option) as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Factors and relations

Factors of Government Initiatives	Pearson Correlation	Sig. (2-tailed)
The subsidy provided by Government on mushroom farming	.402**	.000
Financial assistance of Government	.642**	.000
Training programs run by Government	.489**	.000
Tax exemption schemes of Government	.402**	.000
Incentives being provided by government like battery-operated spray pumps, polybags, quality spawn and chemicals	.583**	.000

Table 2: Correlation Analysis

Introduction of new varieties of high commercial importance in mushroom farming by Government	.426**	.000
Seed Capital Fund Scheme (SCFS) of Government	.563**	.000
Youth Start up Loan Scheme (YLS) of Government	.634**	.000
Himayat initiative of Government	.513**	.000
National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) of Government	.451**	.000
Tie ups of JKEDI with various other renowned institutes in the country promoting entrepreneurship	.473**	.000
Initiative of Government of India to double the income of Farmers by 2022	.491**	.000

It can be inferred from Table 2 that all the factors of Government initiatives were found to be statistically significant. Further, the strongest relation was found to exist between the independent variable “Financial Assistance of Government” and dependent variable “Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option” with Pearson coefficient value of 0.642. Thus, it can be stated that as the financial assistance provided by Government of India increases, development of mushroom farming as entrepreneurial option also increases. In a research conducted by Davari & Farokhmanesh, (2017) on assessing the impact of policies on opportunities of entrepreneurship, it was found that financial support has a positive impact on the growth of entrepreneurship opportunities thereby supporting the findings of the present research [13].

Further, a strong relationship was also observed between independent variable “Youth Start up Loan Scheme (YLS) of Government” and dependent variable “Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option” with Pearson coefficient value of 0.634. Thus, it can be stated that YLS scheme is positively contributing to development of mushroom farming as entrepreneurial option in Jammu and independent variables “Factors of Government Initiatives”.

Kashmir.

Since all the factors of Government initiatives were found to be statistically significant in correlation, all these factors will be used in the regression analysis to test the hypothesis in the section below-

ii. Regression Analysis - Linear regression analysis has been conducted between independent variable “Factors of Government Initiatives” and dependent variable “Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option”

Table 3: Model Summary of Regression Analysis

Model Summary	Model	1
	R	.787 ^a
	R Square	.620
	Adjusted R Square	.595
	Std. Error of the Estimate	.523

It can be inferred from Table 3 that value of R Square is 0.620 showing that 62% of the changes in the dependent variable “Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option” can be attributed to

It can be inferred from Table 4 significance level in less than 0.05 (>0.000) stating that null hypothesis of the

present research can be ignored. Thus, it can be stated that there is a significant impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir. Further

a small F-value (24.475) indicates that the primary data collected in the present research fits the alternate hypothesis.

Table 4: ANOVA Table for Regression Analysis

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	80.422	12	6.702	24.475	.000 ^b
	Residual	49.288	180	.274		
	Total	129.710	192			
a. Dependent Variable: Development of Mushroom Farming as Entrepreneurial Option						

Table 5: Coefficient table for Regression Analysis

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.189	.180		1.051	.295
	Subsidy provided by Government on mushroom farming	-.029	.062	-.029	-.462	.645
	Financial assistance of Government	.281	.068	.274	4.139	.000
	Training programs run by Government	.051	.052	.062	.973	.332
	Tax exemption schemes of Government	-.178	.073	-.178	-2.448	.015
	Incentives being provided by government like battery-operated spray pumps, polybags, quality spawn and chemicals	.173	.067	.176	2.586	.010
	Introduction of new varieties of high commercial importance in mushroom farming by Government	-.072	.054	-.085	-1.342	.181
	Seed Capital Fund Scheme (SCFS) of Government	.151	.056	.161	2.685	.008
	Youth Start up Loan Scheme (YSL) of Government	.255	.053	.293	4.796	.000
	Himayat initiative of Government	.072	.063	.075	1.146	.253
	National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) of Government	.043	.063	.044	.682	.496
	Tie ups of JKEDI with various other renowned institutes in the country promoting entrepreneurship	.149	.068	.148	2.199	.029

Initiative of Government of India to double the income of Farmers by 2022	.052	.067	.052	.776	.439
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It can be inferred from Table 5 that out of all the factors of government initiatives considered in the present regression model that contributes to growth of Mushroom farming as entrepreneurial option in Jammu and Kashmir, Financial assistance of Government (0.000), Tax exemption schemes of Government (0.015), Incentives being provided by government like battery-operated spray pumps, polybags, quality spawn and chemicals (0.010), Seed Capital Fund Scheme (SCFS) of Government (0.008), YSLS Scheme (0.000) and Tie ups of JKEDI with various other renowned institutes in the country promoting entrepreneurship (0.029) were found to be statistically significant while all others are statistically insignificant. Further, Financial assistance of Government and YSLS Scheme were found to be highly significant with significance value of 0.000. The value of unstandardized coefficient of "Financial assistance of Government" was found to hold the highest value (compared to other significant factors) that is 0.281 thereby suggesting that if 1 unit change takes place in this factor, it will cause 0,281-unit changes in the dependent variable that is in development of Mushroom farming as entrepreneurial option in Jammu and Kashmir. Previous researches conducted in this domain also support this finding that financial support leads to development of entrepreneurship [14-16]. In the same direction, in a research conducted by Chowdhury, it was found that lack of financial support from the government and other institutions lead to reduction in growth of entrepreneurship. Thus, all these prior researches are in sync with the findings of the present research [17].

V. CONCLUSION

The present research was focused on assessing the impact of government initiative on the development of entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir taking Mushroom farming as the sector of interest. The study found a significant impact of Government initiatives on development of Mushroom farming as an entrepreneurship option in Jammu and Kashmir. Further, it was found that financial assistance by the government is the factor that contributes most towards the development of entrepreneurship in Mushroom farming in the region. Further, YSLS Scheme was found to be second most influential factor leading to development of entrepreneurship in Mushroom farming owing to which it can be stated that the government assistance to the youth has a huge potential and contribution in developing entrepreneurship in Mushroom farming in the Jammu Kashmir. This also points towards the fact that assistance to youth and overall financial assistance can further speed

up the process of entrepreneurship in Mushroom farming in Jammu and Kashmir apart from other factors.

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