



## Occupational Skill Development and Rural Transformation Among Nicobarese Tribal's Youth in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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### Abstract

The paper discusses on Occupational Skill development as a mechanism of rural and economic transformation among the youth to enhance economic growth and employment to increase labour productivity. "Occupational skill is the set of knowledge and skill that any employee needs for the specific job or occupation in industry growth. (Minnesota state career -wise)" Rural transformation is a process which aims to improve the quality of life and economic well -being of people living in isolated rural areas, it holds the development of agricultural and allied activities like cottage industries and arts and crafts economic infrastructure in rural areas it also helps to reduce the poverty and unemployment and promote nutritional health status. The study has been conducted among the women youths of Nicobarese tribes who are engaged in handlooms and handicrafts works. The main objective of the study is to elicit the background of the tribes, to find out the problems and to identify the policies provided and to provide suggestive measures.

**Keywords:** Occupation, Skill Development, Tribal, Nicobarese

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### Introduction

Occupational skill development means a program service rendered to prepare the individuals for paid or unpaid employment it may be skilled or semiskilled workers or technicians or professional workers which support the employment in a specific occupational which are mostly influenced the youth development. Skill for Marketing and Rural transformation (SMART skills) aims to provide employability skills training to youth from economically weaker sections of the society. Skill development act of mechanism of rural social and economic transformation among the youth in enhancing the employment and economic growth. "Rural transformation is a process of change in nature and structure of the society that reduce their dependence on agricultural and education act as a key instrument to shape and fulfill this rural transformation goal. "(Dr. N. Arun Fred, Dr. S. Sam Santhose 2021)

"According to the Handloom census 2019-20 about 35,22,512 handloom workers were employed across the country, out of which 25,46,285 were women workers with a share of 72.29% of the total handloom workers .In around there are 16,87,534 women handicrafts artisans registered with office of development Commissioner (Handicrafts) In Andaman and Nicobar Islands there are 1,963 women handicrafts artisans. (Ministry of Textiles PIB Delhi 2020)". The training programmes are funded by the National SC-ST hub, Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India. The aim of the programmes is to promote Entrepreneurship skills among the tribal's of the Islands through capacity building programmes to enhance their livelihood patterns, (Andaman Sheekha report)"

### Statement of the problem

Nicobarese tribe in Andaman and Nicobar Islands mostly engaged in the



occupational of agricultural works depends on horticultural farming and handicrafts activities to earn their living which is their primary sources. The Nicobarese tribes belong to the Nicobar Islands which are highly remote areas and remains from outside town from Port Blair which is the Capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These tribal's are not much educated due to the lack of infrastructure facilities avail, transportation facilities, slow and interrupted network issues, lack of latest technologies to promote link with external agents of buyers and sellers. They engaged in the horticultural activities and handicrafts items due to less opportunities no private institution are allowed to set up except government departments it so because to safeguard these tribes no outsiders have allowed to settle in this area. Because of this backwardness many youths of these tribes have migrated in search of Jobs in towns. The handicrafts units are spread all round the villages of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are mainly located in the rural based to provide employment to a large number of women and are enabling family business household industries to survive. The lack of skill manpower, low density population, lack of market facilities, resources and climatic conditions which constraints industrial growth and development.

### Past Reviews

**(Seeds, 2006)** has expound the tribal handicrafts use specialized skill from generation to generation which is the mean livelihood of handicrafts artisans but there is absence of organized activity which is not paid service, Nowadays the artisan has taking up the alternative livelihood i.e., migration. It is imperative to understand the problem faced by different sectors. The suggestive steps have taken for the development of tribal handicrafts based on the certain policy intervening need is to be taken by the government to sustain the traditional livelihood of handicrafts.

**Fred and Santhose (2021)** has explored on knowing about the expectations of rural people in skill development programmes to fulfill the rural transformation goal. The study has been conducted among the students with the help of questionnaire. It was found that the people who were motivated after the training to start their own firm but later they get motivated of the trainee behavior. The programmes were given to the same people with similar skill taught in the community. It has noted that tailors after getting the skill they mostly interested to serve their family in stitching work hence there is a zero impact on social development. The trainee comes to the bank to take same kind of loan which is very difficult for the bankers for approval. Hence, it is suggested that the policy makers has to think seriously and selecting the right amount of training which the key of success is.

**Lihong Zhang (2022)** has studied on the production and changes of pottery handicrafts industry in Guanyao town in Qichun country. In the process of change the production from the skill of the past generations which form the immaterial heritage to promote development in the form of pottery handicrafts industry. Hence, the traditional skill of pottery helps to increase income and improve the quality of life. The case study has done to shows that the more job opportunity for the potters through the effective method in production of pottery handicrafts. It suggests that due to the change in system, the economic, technological, social environment the production only abide by the need of the potter bur does not take in account the factors that affect the handicrafts for development.

### Objectives

1. To elicit the background of the tribals.
2. To identify the problems faced among the tribes relating to the occupational works in handicrafts and handlooms production.



3. To study the policies and provide suggestive measures.

### Significance of the study

The study will mainly focus on the occupational skill development and rural transformation among the youth Nicobarese tribal's engaged in handicrafts and handloom production in Nicobar District which is a small islands and remote village areas isolated far from the towns it will help us to know how their skill and changes help them developed their skill and employment to earn their living.

### Methodology

The data is based on the primary and secondary sources. The data has been gathered from the females youth tribal's whose occupational skill is based on

handlooms and handicrafts works selected with the age group of (18-35 years) The interview schedule was prepared and information were randomly collected from the 30 respondents. The secondary data were gathered from the Published articles, journals, magazines and web sites.

### Study area

The study has been done in Car Nicobar block of Nicobar district and the survey done among the Nicobarese tribal women's with the selected 3 villages i.e. Perka, Teetop, Big Lapathy. The study has been carried out among the respondents whose occupational skill is in handicrafts and handlooms works. The interview has conducted from each village among the 30 female respondents.

### Analysis and Interpretations

Table 1: Age composition

Age	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-22 years	11	36.7	36.7	36.7
23-27 years	8	26.7	26.7	63.3
28-35 years	11	36.7	36.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



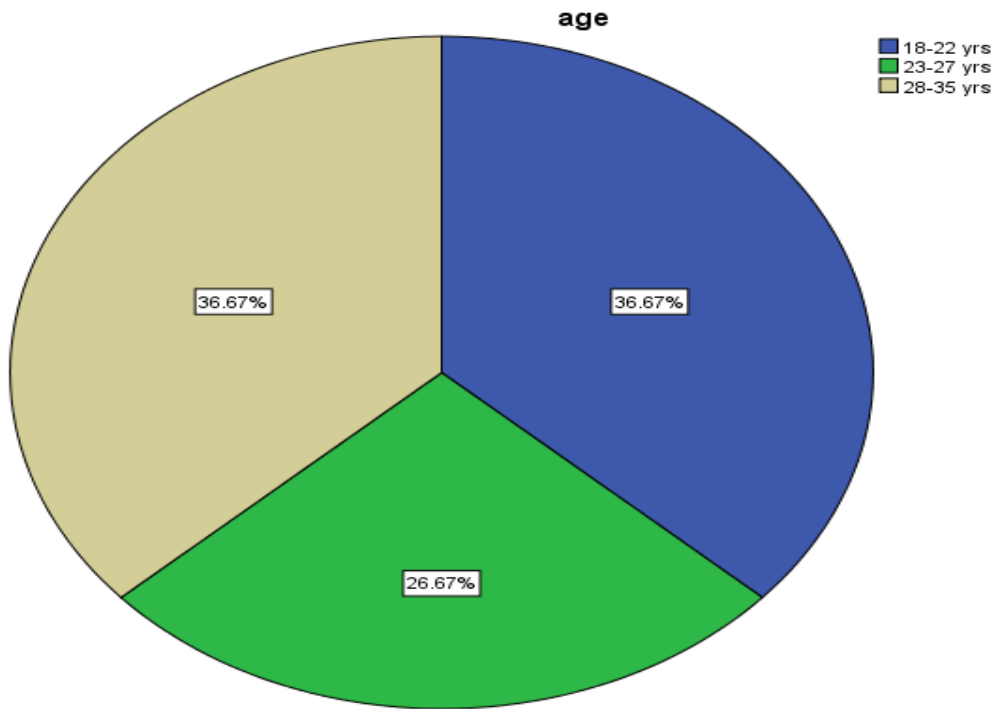


Table 1: According to the above table and pie chart diagram data shows the age group structure of the 30 female respondents were 18-22 years and 28-35 years has the same percentile with 36.7 as highest percentile and looking to the age group of 23-27 years of respondents is 26.7 percentile which has least in percentile.

**Table2: Marital status**

Marital status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Unmarried	14	46.7	46.7	46.7
Married	11	36.7	36.7	83.3
Divorcee	2	6.7	6.7	90.0
Single parent Total	3	10.0	10.0	100.0
	30	100.0	100.0	



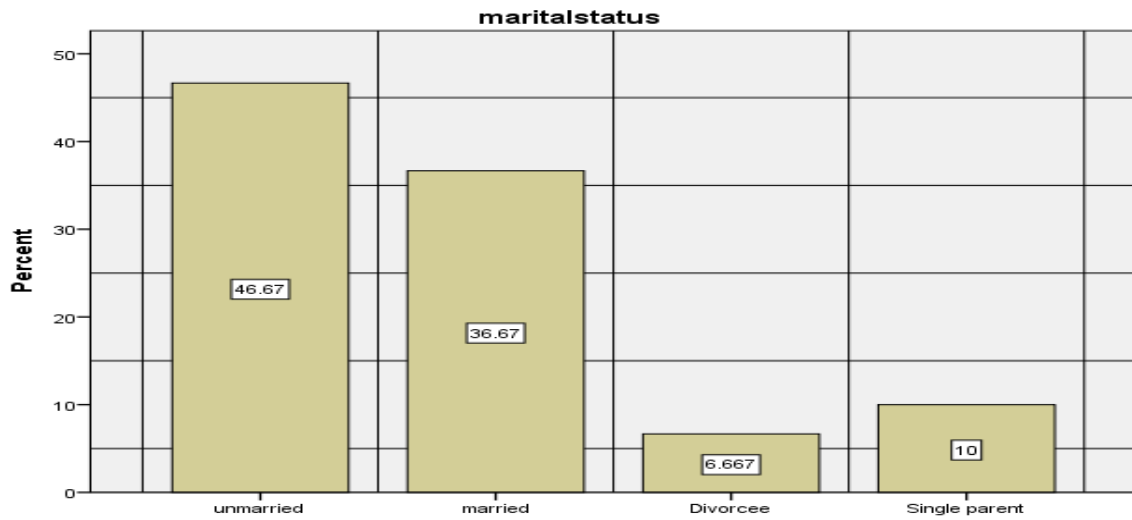


Table 2: According to the above table and the bar chart it shows the marital status of the 30 female respondents were the share of unmarried respondents is the highest with 46.7 percentile leading with the share of married female respondents which is 36.7 percentile next is the single parent with 10 percentile share and the least contributed with the divorcee with 6.7 percentile.

**Table3: Occupational status**

Occupational status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Farmers	12	40.0	40.0	40.0
Horticultural Labor	2	6.7	6.7	46.7
Students	4	13.3	13.3	60.0
Non- horticultural laborer	3	10.0	10.0	70.0
Self- employed	9	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



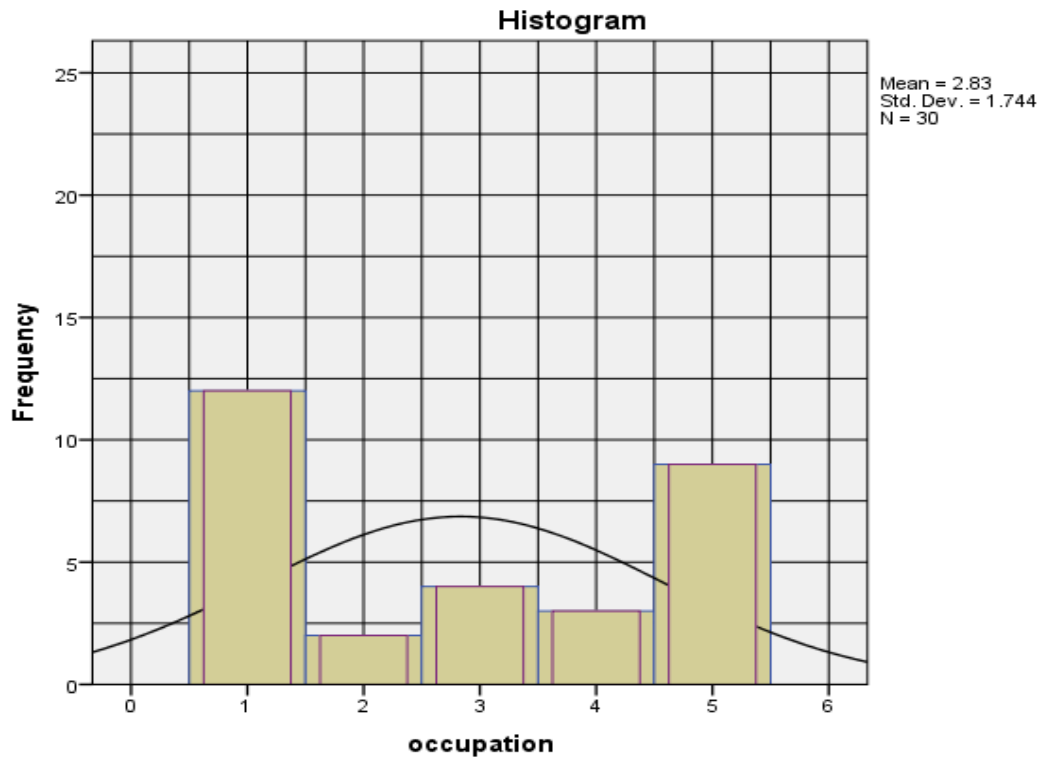


Table 3: The above table and histogram shows the occupational status of 30 tribal women respondents where the farmer’s occupational share is highest with 40 percentile. Next comes with the self employed whose share is 30 percentile. Thirdly, the students whose share is 13 percentile then comes the non- horticultural laborer whose share is 10 percentile and lastly comes the horticultural labor whose share of contribution is least which is 6.7 percentile and relating to their curve it represents mean which is 2.83 and the standard deviation as 1.744 has manipulated.

**Table 4: Annual earning of household**

Annual income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 60000 Rs	7	23.3	23.3	23.3
70000- 1 Lakhs	12	40.0	40.0	63.3
110000 - 2 Lakhs	9	30.0	30.0	93.3
210000- 3 Lakhs	1	3.3	3.3	96.7
310000 & above	1	3.3	3.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



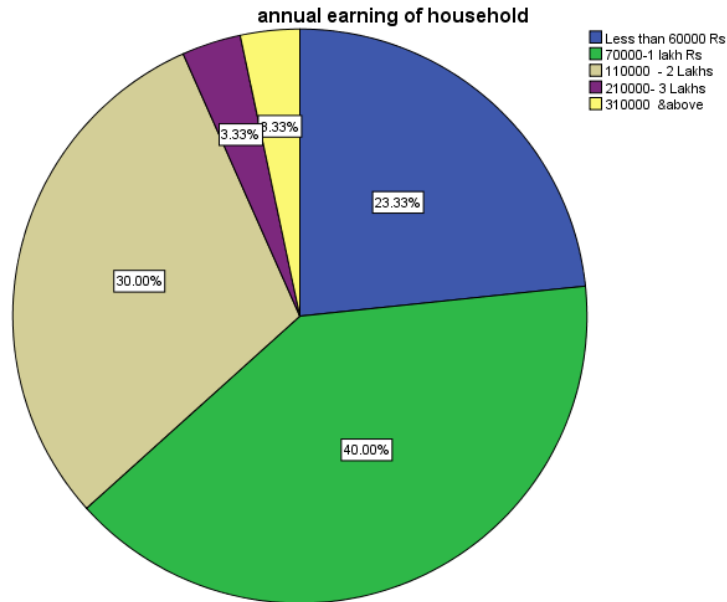


Table 4: According to the above table and pie chart diagram shows the annual income earnings of the household of the respondents. The annual earning of the respondents were 70000 - 1Lakhs with 40 percentile has contributed the highest annual earning share. The income earning share of the household in two earning range groups which are the same 3.3 percentile in the range 21000- 3 Lakhs and 3 lakhs and above has the highest earning among all the respondents. And the lastly, less than 60000 Rs earning is among 23.3 percentile who earns the least income.

**Table 5: Types of production in Handicrafts**

Handicrafts items	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Mats, Nicobarese huts, baskets, wooden crafts	5	16.7	16.7	16.7
Bamboo carvings, jewellery	9	30.0	30.0	46.7
Traditional Nicobarese costumes	3	10.0	10.0	56.7
statues , dolls, flowers, coconut fiber, shell crafts	11	36.7	36.7	93.3
canoes, Hoddies, canes	2	6.7	6.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



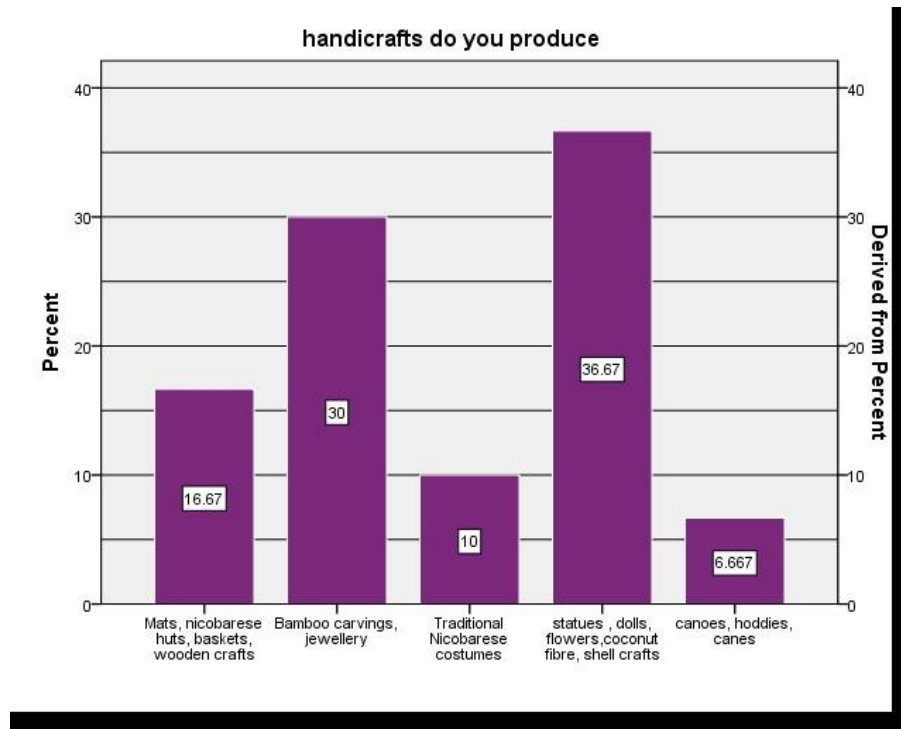


Table 5: The above table and bar charts shows the types in the production of the handicrafts items where the highest share of the respondents are engaged in the producing statues, dolls, flowers, coconut fiber, shell crafts statues, dolls, flowers, coconut fiber, shell crafts which 36.7 percentile. Next comes the Bamboo carvings, jewellery were the respondents producing share is 30 percentile. Production of Mats, Nicobarese huts, baskets, wooden crafts shares 16.7 percentile. Traditional Nicobarese costumes shares 10 percentile. Lastly, the canoes, Hoddies, canes produced least for sale contributing 6.7 percentile.

**Table 6: Where do you sell your handicrafts products**

Mode of selling products	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary/Cooperative society	5	16.7	16.7	16.7
Self help groups Household industries	6	20.0	20.0	36.7
Others	16	53.3	53.3	90.0
Total	3	10.0	10.0	100.0
	30	100.0	100.0	



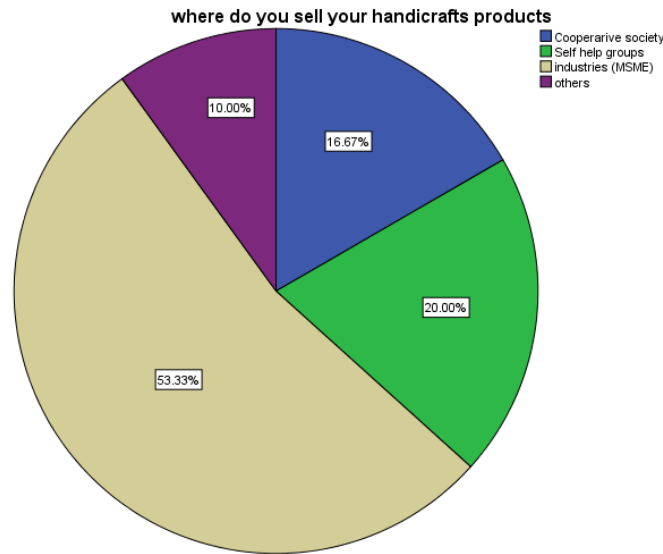


Table 6: According to the above table and pie chart diagram it shows the mode of selling the handicrafts products by the respondents in industries (Micro Enterprises) contributes the highest 53.3 percentile. 20 percentile of respondents sells their handicrafts products to Self help groups. 16.7 percentile of the respondents sells their products to Primary/ Cooperative society. And least comes the other sectors which contributed 10 percentile.

**Table 7: Monthly income earn from handicrafts**

Income earn from handicrafts	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rs 1000-2000	6	20.0	20.0	20.0
Rs 2100-3000	8	26.7	26.7	46.7
Rs 3100-4000	16	53.3	53.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



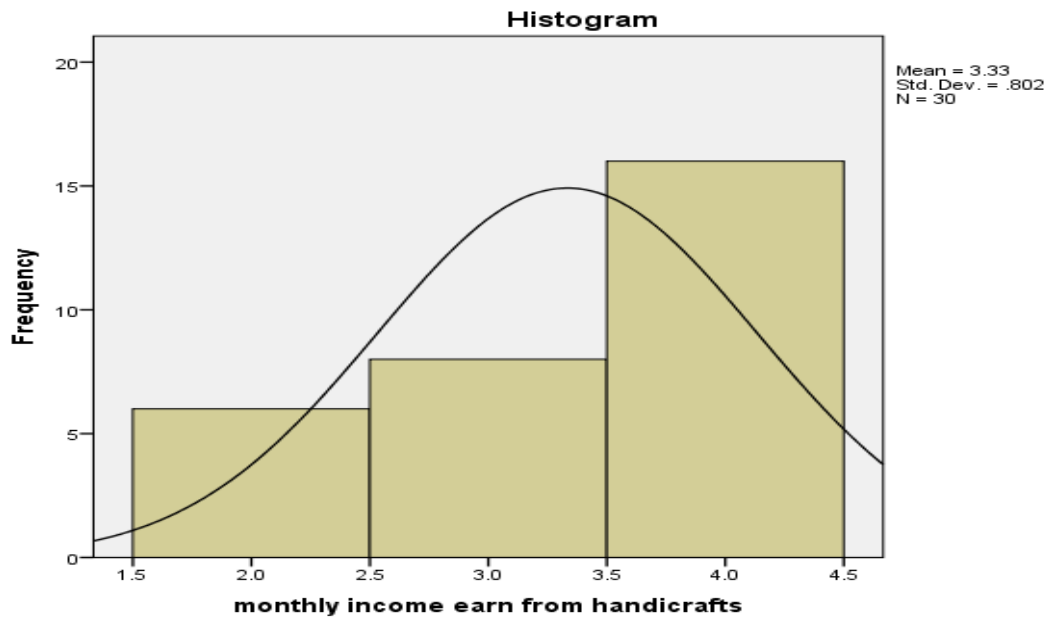


Table7: According to the above table and histogram it shows the monthly income earning of 30 female respondents through handicrafts activities where 53.3 respondents earns 3100 -4000 Rs which is the highest share among all the respondents. Next comes the 26.7 percentile respondents earns monthly income with 2100-3000 Rs. The least share is given by 20 percentile respondents who earn the income of 1000-2000 Rs. The curve shows the mean which is 3.33 and the standard deviations is .802.

**Table 8: Problems faced by tribes in selling the products**

Problems faced by tribes in selling the products	Frequenc y	Percent t	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Lack of Market intelligence	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
Lack of skill knowledge Lack of resources and technologies	5	16.7	16.7	23.3
	9	30.0	30.0	53.3
Sales of product in low price	3	10.0	6.7	63.3
All of the above	9	30.0	100.0	93.3
Others	2	6.7		100.0
Total	30	100.0		



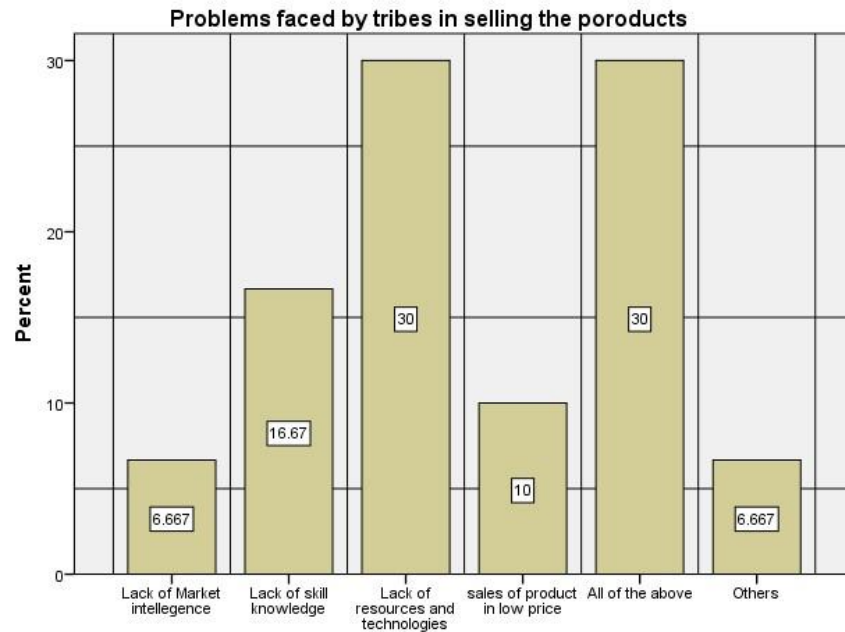


Table 8: The above table and bar charts represents the problems faced by tribes in selling their product. It shows that the respondents mostly faced the problems in lack of resources and modern technologies and all the above consequences which has the highest contribution with 30 percentile. Next comes the lack of skill knowledge and trainings given to the respondents which shares 16.7 percentile. The sale of the product with lower price has the main drawbacks due to lack of knowledge about the products rate in the market which share 10 percentile among the respondents. Lastly, it shows that lack of knowledge about the market intelligence and the other factors among the respondents which contributes 6.7 percentile which has the least share given by the respondents.

**Table 9: Shortcoming among the tribal's handicrafts artisans**

Shortcomings of tribal's handicrafts artisans	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Problems of less education	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
Lack of information's about govt aids and credit facilities	5	16.7	16.7	23.3
No information about exports				60.0
Lack of financial support and working capital	5	16.7	16.7	80.0
Lack of knowledge about the use of advanced machines	6	20.0	20.0	100.0
Other factors	6	20.0	20.0	
Total	30	100.0	100.0	



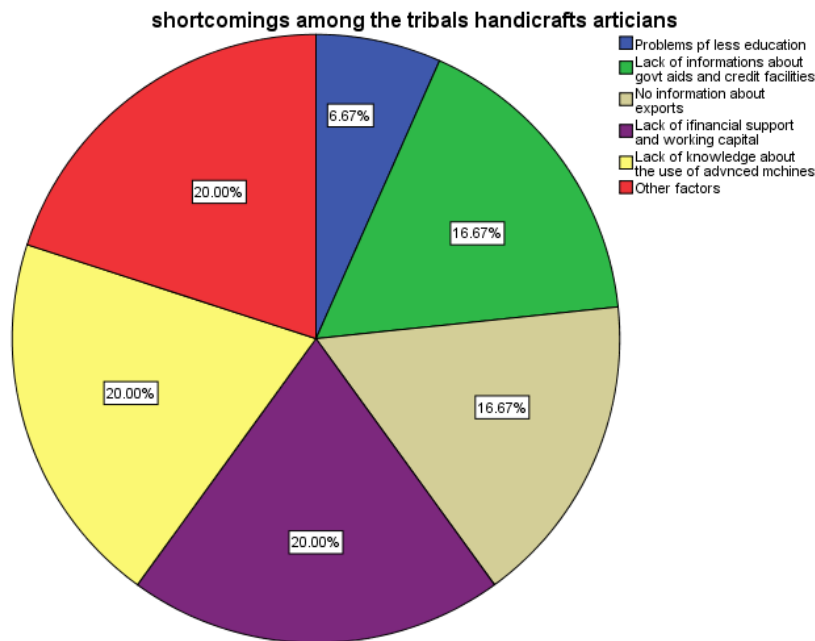


Table 9: According to the above table and pie chart diagram shows the shortcomings among the tribal's artisans where it has noted the lack of financial support and working capital, lack of knowledge about the advanced machines and other factors responsible which have contributed the same share among the respondents is the highest which is 20 percentile. Next, it has noted the constraints which faced by the respondents is the lack of information and govt aids and credit facilities, no information about the export facilities has 16.7 percentile lastly, the lack of educational facilities causes the burden in the youth tribal's which is least share among the respondents which is 6.7 percentile .

**Findings**

❖ According to the Age structure are shows that the age group of 18-22 and 28-35

female youth respondents with 36.7 percentile is highly engaged in the work of handicrafts and handlooms.

- ❖ Taking to the Marital status unmarried respondents are involved more in this occupation which is 46.7 percentile.
- ❖ In consonance with Occupational status of the respondents 40 percentile which is the highest share among farmers are engaged in the handicrafts and handlooms industry.
- ❖ Relating to the annual earning of the household which is 70000- 1 lakhs that is 40 percentile with the highest share among the respondents.
- ❖ Keeping with the view of handicrafts production where highest share of the respondents given to the statues, dolls, flowers, coconut fibres, shell crafts items with 36.7 percentile.
- ❖ In accord with the selling the handicrafts products the respondents mostly sell their items to the nearby household industry (Micro Enterprises) where it share highest in 53.3 percentile.
- ❖ Pursuant to the monthly income earn from the handicrafts the respondents share 31004000 Rs which is the highest



53.3 percentile gain through household industry.

- ❖ Relating to the constraints among selling the products that higher share with 30 percentile of the responded the lack of market knowledge and all the above stated problems.
- ❖ Relating to the shortcomings among the tribal's handicrafts artisans 20 percentile of the respondents lacks in the financial support and working capital, lack of knowledge about the advanced tools and other factors responsible which are highest response given by the respondents.

### Limitations

1. The study is limited to the Nicobar District of Car Nicobar block .
2. The study was conducted among the female youth respondents.
3. The age group of the respondent s belongs to the 18-35 years.

### Conclusion and suggestions

Employment is major factor which is becoming a source for a social structure of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Hence, now its improving the scenario of cottage and handicrafts industry which plays a major role in eradicating the unemployment and boosting the income generation among the tribal's youth .Around 500 artisans are involved in handicrafts work the major constraints among them is the lack of marketing facilities and the products which generated are much competitive in the national and international market but which is unique in the local markets.

In today's market designs make a difference in value of the product items where it needs the diversified techniques and designs, advanced skill , knowledge and experience where local artisans lacks due to this certain demerits. The geographical disadvantage,

transportation, lacking with skill power and infrastructure facilities, Lack of marketing facilities, and higher inflation rates they are unable to meet their demands.

The indigenous local handicrafts are not following by the local youth due to outdated techniques, defective marketing, non – availability of the raw materials. The tribal youth artisans involved in the manufacturing of indigenous tribal handicrafts are moving to other sector due to the higher profits and job satisfaction in other islands. Hence, there is the loss of inter- generational skill of and craftsman in handicrafts sector.

The administration of Andaman and Nicobar implemented the policy on the handicrafts for the economic and social development “BRANDAMAN” has implemented project for local artisans to encourage the innovate items of handicrafts product. The Handicrafts, Khadi and Village Industries provides handicrafts units in the rural areas to promote the large employment to youth women's who are dropouts enabling them to earn and being self employed. It has suggested that the government and administrations to support the tribal youth of Nicobar islands as remote villages though due to some constraints it's very difficult to fulfill all the needs but hence, it should promote the better training programme, subsidy, financial support and provide the mechanized tools and resources so that they may be self employed and independent in living a better life.

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