

Success Metrics For Entrepreneurship Schemes For Differently Abled Individuals: An Analysis Of The Kaivalya Scheme In Ernakulam District

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Abstract

Self-employment provides personal freedom and empowerment, stimulate innovation and financial independence. The Kaivalya Self-Employment Scheme in Kerala supports people with disabilities to start their own businesses ventures. This article explores the success metrics of the Kaivalya self-employment Scheme for differently abled people in Ernakulam district in Kerala. Launched in 2016, the scheme aims to support differently abled individuals through entrepreneurship by providing financial assistance and training. The study reviewed annual funding allocations, numbers of beneficiaries, and repayment rates from 2016 to 2023 in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. The study was conducted with the help of secondary data collected from the records kept at Employment Exchange for differently abled for the period from 2016 to 2023, and also based on the discussions with the officials in the department. The study explores the scheme's potential to enhance the economic independence of differently abled people and their ability to face challenges posed by social barriers and economic instability. By enhancing awareness, training, and support campaigns, the Kaivalya Scheme make a significant contribution to the entrepreneurial success and economic development of differently abled individuals.

Key Terms: Entrepreneurship, Differently Abled, PWD, Self-Employment, Kaivalya

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I. Introduction

Entrepreneurship forms a potential catalyst for innovation and self-reliance. It allows people to convert their ideas into meaningful businesses opportunities. It empowers individuals to convert their ideas into meaningful business opportunity, thereby achieving personal satisfaction and also social development. For differently abled individuals, entrepreneurship is considered to be a better option for attaining social and economic empowerment. The flexibility of entrepreneurial activities allows them to manage their work structure suited to their disabilities. As entrepreneurs, they were able to identify and address unmet needs within the society thereby driving economic growth and social development. By undertaking entrepreneurial endeavours they not only inspire others facing similar challenges but also become advocates for disability rights thereby creating a culture of inclusion and accessibility in the society.

Government schemes plays a vital role in facilitating entrepreneurship for differently abled people by providing necessary support and resources. Various Governmental schemes offers financial assistance, skill development programs, and infrastructure facility necessary to meet the needs of differently abled persons. Entrepreneurship helps to promote self reliance and economic independence among differently abled persons, enabling them to contribute effectively to the economy while achieving personal and professional growth.

Kaivalya Scheme, introduced under the National Employment Service (Kerala), in 2016 aimed to empower differently abled people through entrepreneurship. The scheme is functioning through employment exchange for differently abled persons at district headquarters, and provides financial assistance and training to undertake business ventures. It offers subsidised, interest free loans of ₹50,000/-, extensible up to ₹1 lakh based on business feasibility of which 50% of the loan amount is given as subsidy. In cases where the beneficiaries are unable to undertake the business due to their disability, their parent/child/spouse can avail self-employment loans under the scheme. The repayment period of the balance 50% of the loan is for a span of five years.

II. Review Of Literature

Alendra Tripathi and Dr. A. P. Bharti, (2022) In their study 'Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in India: With Special Reference to Uttar Pradesh' examined the efforts to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Uttar Pradesh through various governmental schemes. It highlights the challenges faced by PWDs and the legal provisions to protect their rights. The paper discusses the increase in budgetary allocations for PWD welfare but notes that actual expenditure remains inadequate. Various initiatives, such as the Accessible India Campaign and health insurance schemes, aim to enhance accessibility and support PWDs. Additionally, scholarships, skill training, and employment schemes are outlined. The study concluded by emphasising the need for improved governance and increased funding to effectively empower PWDs and bridge the gap between allocations and actual expenditure.

Dr. S. Rajamohan, E. Saranyadevi and A. Sathish (2020) through their study 'Barriers of differently abled entrepreneurs in Sivaganga districts: A factor analysis' made an attempt to identify the barriers faced by differently abled entrepreneurs in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu through Factor Analysis. In their study they pointed out that the lack of finance and market prejudice were the major barriers for the entrepreneurship. Though the government was supporting them through loans, it was not adequate to start up a venture. The demand for products produced by differently abled persons was also limited in the market because of the superstition and prejudice that the products would be of low quality. The study concluded that without adequate economic and motivational support from the government and NGOs, it would be very difficult to uplift differently abled entrepreneurs in the society.

Bhavesh A, Kinkhawala and Vimal Babu (2019) in the paper titled "Differently-Abled Workforce Embracing Mainstream: the Dynamic Roles of Government, Law and Enterprises" examined the roles of various stakeholders, such as government, legal bodies, international agencies, and corporate entities, in empowering differently abled individuals in India. Through a comprehensive literature review, they analysed the current status and challenges faced by differently abled persons, by focusing on their integration into mainstream society. The paper discusses the significance of laws like the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and also identified the gaps in its implementation. The authors also explore initiatives by both government and private sectors aimed at promoting inclusivity and providing employment opportunities for differently abled individuals. They addressed the identified barriers such as lack of awareness, budget allocation, and the coordination between central and state governments. Recommendations include fostering a culture of inclusivity in workplaces and recognising differently-abled individuals as valuable assets in the society. The paper also advocates for a concerted effort to create a society where the abilities of all individuals are recognized and celebrated, echoing the sentiment of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - the entire universe is one family.

Dhanda and Kumar Mishra (2016) in their article "Constraints Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Employment" explore the challenges encountered by individuals with disabilities in accessing employment opportunities. It points out the need for appropriate tasks and environments to explore the abilities of all individuals, including the disabled. Despite some progress in basic education and research activities, there is still a lack of comprehensive data collection and analysis on employment and vocational rehabilitation of disabled individuals. Globally, persons with disabilities face discrimination and barriers to participation in various aspects of society, including education, healthcare, and employment. In India, despite government schemes and initiatives, there remains a gap in understanding and addressing the reality of disability issues due to inadequate resource allocation. Constraints such as low literacy levels, lack of daily living skills, low self-esteem, overprotective parenting, and limited access to skills and technology, hinder the employment prospects of disabled individuals. The study emphasises the importance of raising awareness and removing barriers to create opportunities for differently abled individuals in the workforce, advocating for a more inclusive and supportive environment.

Shanimon S. and Dr. M. Shahul Hameed (2014) in their study on "The Emerging Development Model in India Differently-Abled Entrepreneurs", examined the various schemes and beneficiaries under National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC). The study found that the number of beneficiaries were negligible as the schemes were not reaching the desired stakeholders. They concluded that NHFDC had to restructure the schemes and channelise the same through various agencies including banks, in order to attain the desired result.

Research Gap

There were very few studies on differently abled persons, and even fewer on differently abled entrepreneurs. Existing studies were primarily focused on governmental schemes for providing education and employment. However, empowerment through entrepreneurship and supporting schemes, apart from those by NHFDC, are scarcely mentioned. There exist a gap in the studies relating to Government initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship among differently abled individuals. This study aims to address this gap by discussing the Kerala

Government Scheme for the differently abled called Kaivalya, which promotes entrepreneurship among differently abled in the district of Ernakulam.

Statement of the Problem

The main objectives behind the introduction of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 is to enhance the rights of the persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation, accessibility, and inclusion in every aspects of society. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is the apex agency for the development of disabled persons in India. RCI undertakes various skill development and vocational training programs suited to this marginalised sector of the society. Additionally, it facilitates partnerships with employers to create job opportunities and provides necessary guidelines for policies that support economic independence for persons with disabilities. The Government of Kerala focuses on uplifting persons with disabilities (PWD) in employment sector and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as skill development programs, providing financial assistance, and creating inclusive policies to ensure equal opportunities and support for PWD in the workforce and entrepreneurial endeavors. While these measures represent progress, they are not sufficient due to potential pitfalls such as inadequate implementation, limited awareness, and the existing societal barriers. Challenges like inaccessible infrastructure, discrimination, and lack of specialised training become the bottle neck the full realisation of employment opportunities for the differently abled. Entrepreneurship can be a viable option for some differently abled individuals, offering flexibility, autonomy, and the opportunity to adjust their work environments to specific needs. In this context, it is proposed to conduct an analysis of the implementation of the Kaivalya self-employment scheme in Ernakulam district.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the annual fund allocation and the number of beneficiaries under Kaivalya scheme in Ernakulam district.
2. To analyse the repayment rate of the loan disbursed.

Scope of the Study

This paper discusses the fund allocation, repayment rate, and beneficiary details of the Kaivalya scheme from 2016 to 2023. The present study is limited to Ernakulam district in Kerala, India.

III. Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from the records maintained at the Employment Exchange for the Differently Abled in Ernakulam. Discussions with the District Employment Officer of Ernakulam district was conducted at the time of collectiong the data. The collected data has been analyzed using Percentage Analysis and Trend Analysis.

IV. Data Analysis And Interpretation

Table:1 Statistics of Kaivalya Scheme Ernakulam District for the Period from 2016-20217 to 2022-2023

Year	Total Fund Disbursed	Subsidy Amount	Amount to be demanded up to 31/03/2022	Amount repaid up to 31/03/2023	Balance pending as on 31/03/2023	No. of beneficiaries
2016-17	100000	50000	48300	27070	21230	2
2017-18	700000	350000	337080	274260	66620	14
2018-19	750000	375000	278260	231730	46530	15
2019-20	1100000	550000	263360	225910	45350	22
2020-21	16500000	8250000	2019620	1796390	235990	330
2021-22	3450000	1725000	222990	179370	43620	69
2022-23	3950000	1975000	10920	7280	3640	70

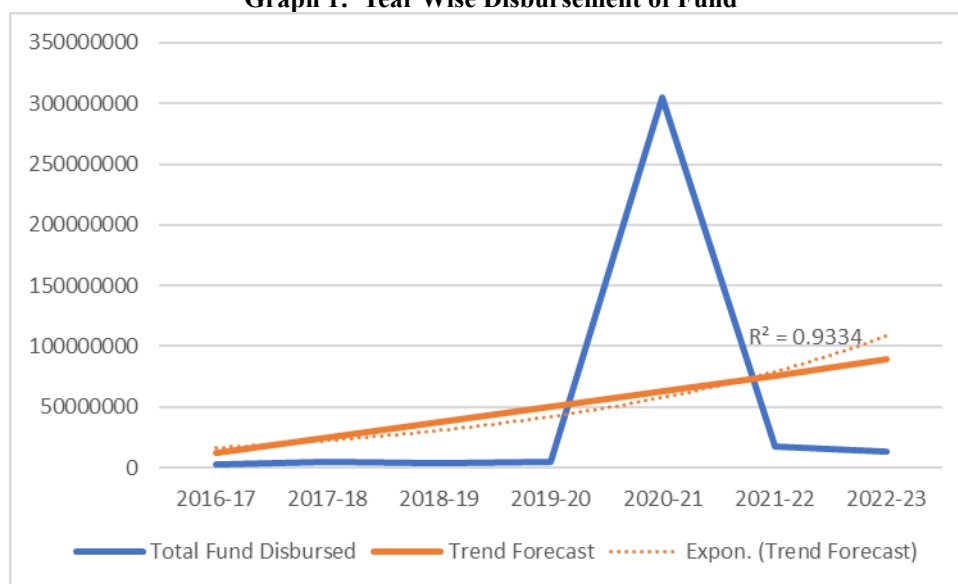
Source: Compiled from the records kept at Employment Exchange for differently abled in Ernakulam District

Table 1 represents the year-wise allocation of funds, the number of the beneficiaries, the percentage of repayment, and the default percentage under the Kaivalya scheme from 2016-17 to 2022-23. From the table, it is clear that from 2016 to 2019, the number of beneficiaries availing of the scheme and the disbursement of funds increased slowly, followed by a sudden spike in 2020, and thereafter a return to the trend seen from 2016 to 2019. According to the officials of the Ernakulam district, many applications were pending during the period from 2016 to 2018. Since the scheme was new, there was significant ambiguity regarding the feasibility analysis of the projects and the allocation of funds (New Indian Express, March 20, 2019). In 2020, all pending applications from 2016 to 2019 were cleared, resulting in a hike in fund allocation and the number of beneficiaries (Newshook, November 6, 2020).

Table 2: Year wise Disbursement of Fund with Trend Forecast

Year	Total Fund Disbursed	Trend Forecast
2016-17	2750000	11834642.86
2017-18	4597000	24684857.14
2018-19	3800000	37535071.43
2019-20	5000000	50385285.71
2020-21	305350000	63235500
2021-22	17900000	76085714.29
2022-23	13300000	88935928.57

Graph 1: Year Wise Disbursement of Fund



Computed Data

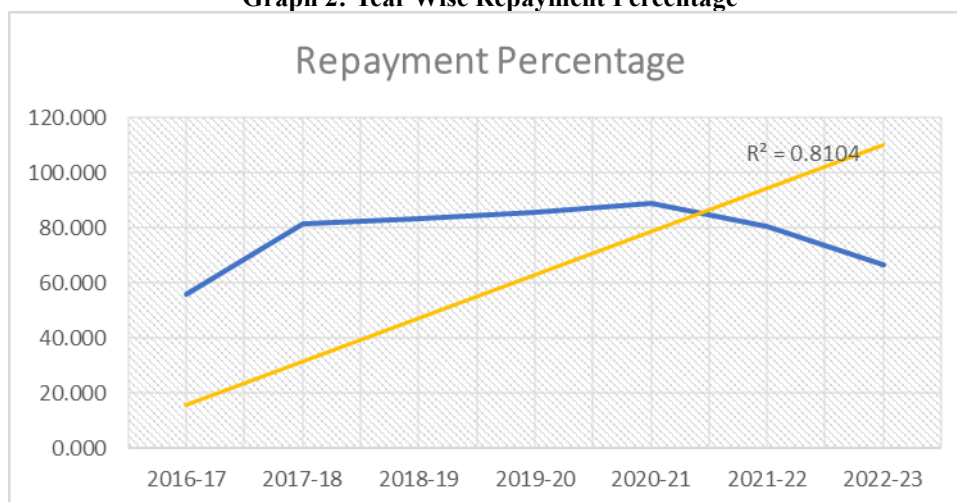
The graph and data table indicate a clear trend in the total fund disbursed under the Kaivalya Scheme from 2016-17 to 2022-23. Initially, from 2016-17 to 2019-20, there was a slow and steady increase in fund allocation, with amounts rising from ₹ 2,750,000 to ₹ 5,000,000. A drastic spike occurred in 2020-21, with disbursement surging to ₹ 305,350,000, due to clearing a backlog of applications from previous years. Following this peak, the funds allocated dropped significantly to ₹ 17,900,000 in 2021-22 and further to ₹ 13,300,000 in 2022-23, reflecting a return to more normalised levels, a little bit higher than the initial years. The trend forecast, which shows a steady increase, aligns closely with the actual data, with an R^2 value of 0.9334, suggesting a strong correlation. However, the forecast did not predict the sharp spike in 2020-21, indicating it was an outlier due to unforeseen factors rather than a consistent trend.

Table 3: Year Wise Repayment Percentage

Year	Total Fund Disbursed	Amount to be demanded up to 31/03/2023	Amount repaid up to 31/03/2023	Repayment Percentage	Trend Forecasting
2016-17	100000	48300	27070	56.045	74.39346
2017-18	700000	337080	274260	81.363	75.52493
2018-19	750000	278260	231730	83.278	76.65639
2019-20	1100000	263360	225910	85.779	77.78786
2020-21	16500000	2019620	1796390	88.946	78.91932
2021-22	3450000	222990	179370	80.438	80.05079
2022-23	3950000	10920	7280	66.666	81.18225

Computed Data

Graph 2: Year Wise Repayment Percentage

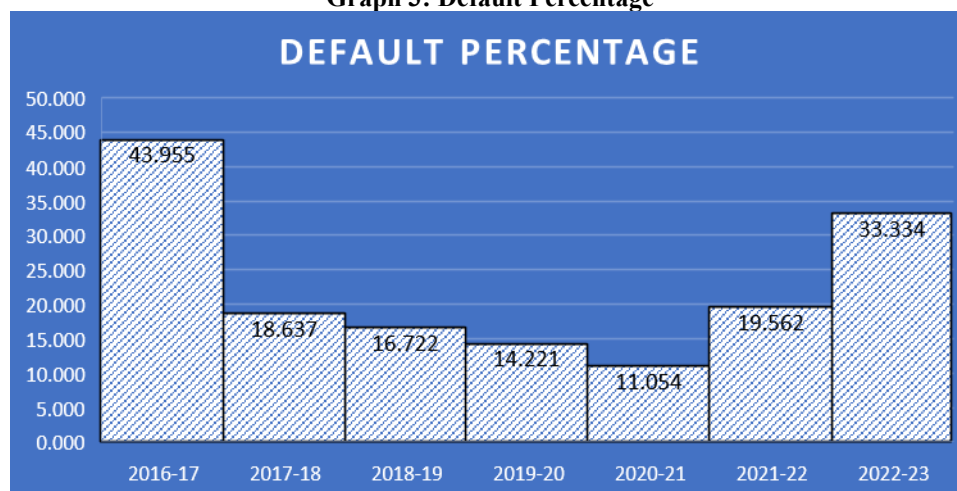


The graph and data table illustrate the repayment percentage under the Kaivalya Scheme from 2016-17 to 2022-23. The repayment percentage started at 56.045% in 2016-17 and showed a general upward trend, peaking at 88.946% in 2020-21. This peak aligns with the period of significant fund disbursement, likely due to clearing backlogs. However, post 2020-21, the collection percentage declined, dropping to 80.438% in 2021-22 and further to 66.666% in 2022-23. The drop in repayment percentage after 2020 was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted repayment capacity. This global crisis led to widespread economic instability, significantly impacting individuals' capacity to fulfil their financial obligations. The trend forecast, indicates a consistent increase over the years, with an R^2 value of 0.8104, suggesting a good fit with the historical data. However, this forecast does not fully account for the pandemic's impact.

Table 4: Year Wise Default Percentage

Year	Amount to be demanded up to 31/03/2022	Amount collected up to 31/03/2022	Balance pending as on as on 31/03/2022	Percentage of Collection	Default Percentage
2016-17	48300	27070	21230	56.045	43.955
2017-18	337080	274260	66620	81.363	18.637
2018-19	278260	231730	46530	83.278	16.722
2019-20	263360	225910	45350	85.779	14.221
2020-21	2019620	1796390	235990	88.946	11.054
2021-22	222990	179370	43620	80.438	19.562
2022-23	10920	7280	3640	66.666	33.334

Graph 3: Default Percentage



The data and corresponding chart display the default percentages for the fiscal years 2016-17 to 2022-23. There is a notable fluctuation in default percentages over these years. Initially, in 2016-17, the default percentage was high at 43.955%. It then significantly dropped to 18.637% in 2017-18 and continued to decrease gradually, reaching its lowest point at 11.054% in 2020-21. This decline indicates an improvement in the repayment efficiency up to 2020-21. However, starting from 2021-22, there was an increase in the default percentage to 19.562%, and it further escalated to 33.334% in 2022-23. This rise coincides with the period following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely impacted the repayment capacity of individuals and businesses. The pandemic likely disrupted financial stability, leading to an increase in defaults from 2021 onwards.

V. Findings Of The Study:

- From 2016 to 2019, the Kaivalya Scheme saw a gradual increase in beneficiaries and fund disbursement, followed by a spike in 2020 due to the clearance of pending applications, and then a return to the previous trend.
- The percentage of collection under the Kaivalya Scheme increased from 56.045% in 2016-17 to a peak of 88.946% in 2020-21 due to backlog clearance, then declined to 66.666% by 2022-23, with the drop attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on repayment capacity.
- The default percentage under the Kaivalya Scheme decreased from 43.955% in 2016-17 to 11.054% in 2020-21, indicating improved collection efficiency, but after that it shows an increasing trend due to market instability as a part of post covid impact

VI. Implications Of The Study

- The study emphasised the need for enhanced government policies to support entrepreneurship among differently abled individuals.
- The study highlights the effectiveness of financial assistance and subsidies in promoting entrepreneurial activities. Policymakers should consider flexible loan terms and extended repayment options for promoting entrepreneurship.
- Awareness campaigns, improved accessibility to scheme benefits, and comprehensive training and skill development programs are essential for the success of differently abled entrepreneurs.

VII. Conclusion

Ernakulam district in Kerala is distinguished as the state's commercial capital, centred around the port city of Kochi. It is an emerging IT and industrial hub, home to Info Park and several industrial estates, offering ample opportunities for entrepreneurship (J.S. McMullen, 2011). Based on the study, it is clear that the number of beneficiaries, disbursement of funds, and repayment rates under the scheme show an upward trend, except for the period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted the global economy (S Naseer, S Khalid, S Parveen, K Abbass, 2023). By implementing awareness campaigns, training facilities, and necessary guidelines, this scheme can foster successful entrepreneurs among this marginalised differently-abled individuals, enabling them to contribute significantly to the nation's economic development.

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