SOCIAL WORK STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS IN RURAL AREAS

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the realm of rural development, focusing on the design and assessment of social work strategies aimed at enhancing livelihoods within rural communities. Drawing upon a robust sample size of 250 individuals, this research undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted challenges and opportunities that rural areas present. The primary objective is to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of specific interventions that can empower individuals and communities in rural settings to improve their socio-economic well-being. Employing a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, this investigation offers a holistic understanding of the intricate dynamics at play in rural contexts. Key areas of examination encompass economic growth, sustainable development, and the overall enhancement of quality of life. The findings of this study hold the potential to inform and guide social workers, policymakers, and stakeholders in devising targeted strategies for rural development that can ultimately uplift the lives of individuals and communities in these vital, yet often underserved regions.

Keywords: social work, rural areas, policy makers, socio-economic.

INTRODUCTION

Enhancing livelihoods in rural areas is a pivotal undertaking with far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and entire communities. Social work strategies play a crucial role in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by rural populations, empowering them to achieve sustainable economic well-being, social equity, and an improved quality of life. The context of rural areas is often characterized by limited access to resources, lower income levels, and higher vulnerability to various forms of deprivation (Drolet & Sampson, 2017). In light of these challenges, the development and implementation of effective social work strategies tailored to rural settings are imperative. Rural livelihoods are intricately tied to agriculture, traditional crafts, and small-scale enterprises, making

them highly dependent on the vagaries of nature and market dynamics. Additionally, rural communities often grapple with inadequate infrastructure, including limited access to education, healthcare, and essential services. These realities underscore the importance of holistic and community-centered approaches to address the unique needs of rural populations.

Social work, as a profession deeply committed to promoting social justice and well-being, can serve as a driving force for transformative change in rural areas. The primary focus of social work strategies in rural development is to empower individuals and communities to harness their inherent strengths and resources. This empowerment takes many forms, including providing access to education and vocational training, improving healthcare infrastructure, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, fostering gender equity, and supporting the formation of community-based organizations (Mhembwe & Dube, 2017). In this comprehensive exploration of "Social Work Strategies for Enhancing Livelihoods in Rural Areas," we delve into a range of objectives, interventions, and best practices aimed at uplifting rural communities. These strategies seek not only to alleviate immediate economic hardships but also to build resilience against future challenges and promote inclusive development. By harnessing the power of social work in rural contexts, we can pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for those living in the heartlands of our nations. In the subsequent sections, we will dissect key objectives and hypotheses, and provide practical insights into how social work can drive positive change and enhance livelihoods in rural areas.

The significance of social work strategies for enhancing livelihoods in rural areas cannot be overstated. Rural populations are not monolithic; they are diverse in culture, geography, and socio economic circumstances. Therefore, effective social work interventions must be tailored to the unique characteristics and challenges of each rural community. This requires a deep understanding of local contexts and close collaboration with community members to identify their specific needs and aspirations. Furthermore, the success of social work strategies in rural development is closely tied to sustainability (Keshavarz et al., 2017). While immediate relief measures are essential, the ultimate goal is to empower rural communities to chart their own paths toward prosperity and self-reliance. This involves a shift from short-term aid to long-term capacity building, fostering a sense of ownership, and nurturing leadership within the community. One of the core principles guiding social work in rural development is the promotion of social justice. This principle demands an unwavering commitment to addressing disparities, discrimination, and

marginalization within rural areas. It involves advocating for policies that create an enabling environment for equitable opportunities and challenging systems that perpetuate inequality.

In this discourse, we will not only explore the objectives and hypotheses of social work strategies for rural livelihood enhancement but also examine real-world examples of successful interventions. These examples span a wide spectrum of activities, from enabling access to modern agricultural techniques and microfinance to promoting women's economic empowerment and fostering community resilience in the face of environmental changes (Damastuti & de Groot, 2017). It is essential to recognize that the challenges faced by rural populations are

not static; theyevolve over time due to factors such as climate change, globalization, and shifts in market dynamics. As such, the field of social work must remain dynamic and adaptive, continually evolving strategies to meet emerging challenges. As I delve deeper into the strategies, objectives,and hypotheses in subsequent sections, I invite you all to explore the rich tapestry of social work'scontributions to enhancing livelihoods in rural areas. Together, we will uncover innovative approaches and best practices that hold the promise of improving the lives of millions who call rural regions home.

Social Work Strategies:

Social work strategies encompass a range of approaches aimed at addressing complex social issues and improving the well-being of individuals and communities. These strategies often involve a combination of direct interventions, advocacy and systematic change. Social workers engage in activities such as counseling, case management and connecting clients to essential services to meet their immediate needs. They also advocate for policy changes and social justice to address underlying inequalities. Collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including government and non-governmental agencies and community based organizations is a fundamental aspect of social work. Additionally, empowerment and strengths-based approaches are central, focusing on helping individuals and community building on their existing assets and resilience to create lasing positive change. Overall, social work strategies are dynamic and adaptable, tailored to the unique needs and contexts of the people and communities they serve.

Organization of the paper

The rest of the paper is organized as follows:
In section II, the work related to the research issue is discussed
In section III, the proposed methodology is discussed at length.
In section IV, the obtained results are presented with a brief discussion, and
Finally, section V throws light on the conclusions and inferences.

RELATED WORK

The approach to sustainable livelihoods enhances understanding of poor people's livelihoods. It organizes and illustrates the elements that limit or increase their living opportunities. It can aid in theplanning of developmental efforts and in assessing the role of existing activities to sustaining livelihoods.

(Riebschleger, et.al 2007) provided examples from their own work as social work practitioners in rural areas to substantiate these suggestions. Focus group audiotape transcriptions were used to generate text data, which was then classified into open, axial, and selected data topics. Despite the limitations of generalizability, this small sample of social workers provided an insight into their perceptions of rural practice. They provided useful suggestions for rural social work practitioners within Community, connections, generalist practice, and variety are the major data

topics.

(Knickel et al., 2018) The author examines historical and contemporary trends that have a detrimental impact on social work services provided in rural Appalachian schools. The distinctive social work-education-community system that allows practitioners to have a beneficial impact is identified. By comprehending the workings of the system and how goals interact, school social workers can help close service gaps?

(Damastuti & de Groot, 2017) There has been a quest to define the essence of rural social work for as long as social workers have believed it to be distinct from other areas of practice. Is there a rural-urban divide, these problems need to be answered in order to improve rural practice and social worker education? The author looks at important challenges in rural social work and also how they affect it.

(Kuang et al., 2019) The findings indicate that while physical assets have increased the predisposition towards the fishery/livestock approach, improving financial, social, and human assets have made it easier to adopt commercial and mixed methods. Additionally, even though financial resources are the most important assets for promoting the adoption of non-environmental techniques, increasing access to money resources may result in increased harvesting attempts if done without also enhancing human and social resources.

(Peng et al., 2019) This article offers research findings from a study on disasters, climate change, and sustainable development that shed light on the various viewpoints of community members on climate change in six communities in British Columbia's interior and northern areas. These six communities have one thing in common: they use social development to combat climate change.

(Keshavarz et al., 2017) The report suggests that the government and the banking industry provide financial support to cooperatives in rural regions so they can grow and diversify their commercial operations. It also suggests that cooperative members receive ongoing training in leadership and management techniques. Additionally, in order for cooperatives, particularly those in the agricultural industry, to easily market their products, producer organisations must be established.

(Shackleton et al., 2019) Regarding indicators of livelihood resilience, household livelihood strategies for engaging in non-farming activities heavily rely on physical capital assets and prior work experience, whereas household size, stable income, social capital, and information sharing lead to diversified livelihood strategies. In order to escape the poverty trap and adjust to the new environment, these findings have policy implications for boosting livelihood resilience capacities and expanding the range of possible livelihood strategies.

(Liu et al., 2020) In 226 villages from 27 Chinese provinces (cities), 8031 rural households participated in a survey for this study. The villages were classified into three types: plain villages, hilly villages, and mountainous villages. In order to investigate the sensitivity of rural households' livelihood strategies to various types of livelihood capitals in different types of villages, the livelihood capitals and livelihood strategies of rural households in different types of villages were examined. This was done using ordinal logistic regression models.

(You & Zhang, 2017) Few researchers, meanwhile, have examined the relationship between people' livelihood resilience and livelihood strategies from their perspective. They developed a framework for analyzing livelihood resilience and livelihood strategy choice based on a survey of 327 households in four districts and counties of Sichuan Province, China, that were impacted by the Wenchuan and Lushan earthquakes.

(Xu et al., 2019) The paper makes out the case that various migrant categories create unique migration tactics based on a complex intersection of social networks that are influenced by particular settings. Therefore, it is important to consider the policy consequences of the many ways that migrants access, maintain, and build various kinds of networks in various social contexts and with various people.

(P. K. Singh & Chudasama, 2020) The research study uses fuzzy cognitive maps (FCMs), which are used to illustrate causal reasoning, to pinpoint important aspects responsible for reducing poverty in India. The study assesses the effectiveness of existing poverty alleviation strategies, such as community organisation based microfinance, capability and social security, market-based, and good governance, using FCM-based simulations.

(Pour et al., 2018) In places at risk from geological hazards, particularly China's mountainous regions, few researches have examined the livelihood vulnerability index (HLVI) of rural households or the influence of community adaptive capability on HLVI. This study takes into account the community's potential for adaptation and creates an evaluation index system using household data from the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.

(Kapur, 2019) The main areas that have been taken into account in this research paper include, need for improvements in livelihoods opportunities, National Rural Livelihood Mission, aspects signifying rural livelihoods, role of agriculture in improving livelihoods opportunities, and measures to enhance rural livelihoods.

(Fazal et al., 2022) This study is predominately based on secondary data sources culled from various government and ministerial publications. It attempts to assess the transforming status of rural livelihood sustainability in India's states. The main conclusions of this paper show that there are significant interstate disparities for various assets, with southern and northern states of India performing better in terms of livelihood sustainability than central and eastern states due to their higher levels of human, social, and financial capital and consequently greater vulnerability to current shocks and stresses.

(K. Singh, 2012) Development is deemed sustainable if it satisfies current demands without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satiate their own wants. Humans' main priority is making sure that they and their dependents have access to the requirements of existence. Despite plentiful resources, rural livelihood is a big challenge in emerging nations like India. The goal of the current article is to assemble and investigate the many policies of the Indian government regarding sustainable livelihood and how they affect rural life.

(Chaln Chavez & Guevara Paredes, 2014) explored the correlation between livelihood assets and strategies, highlighting significant differences among strategies. The results indicate that statistically significant differences exist in livelihood assets among livelihood strategies. The choice of livelihood strategies is affected significantly by

the status of livelihood assets. (Cavalleri et al., 2022) aimed to evaluate the achievement of goals in rural dairy projects and identify dominant livelihood strategies, while pinpointing determinants affecting strategy choice. (Wei et al., 2019) developed a multidimensional framework considering environmental, sociocultural, economic, and health aspects. Data from expert panels and rural case studies validated the framework, shedding light on community-based agri-tourism's role in diversifying rural livelihoods. These studies collectively contribute valuable insights into livelihood assets, strategies, and their influencing factors, enriching our understanding of rural development dynamics.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to develop and evaluate social work strategies for improving livelihoods in rural areas. Through a comprehensive analysis of rural community challenges and opportunities, this research aims to identify effective interventions. By employing quantitative methods, the study seeks to provide evidence-based recommendations for social workers and policymakers to promote sustainable rural development and enhance the well-being of rural residents.

OBJECTIVES

1.   To assess the effectiveness of gender empowerment programs in reducing gender-based income disparities in rural areas.

2.   To examine the relationship between improved resource access and the overall well-being of rural residents.

3.   To assess the effectiveness of skills training programs in enhancing employability skills among rural residents.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: Gender empowerment efforts result in a reduction of gender-based income disparities and an improvement in gender equality within rural areas.

H2: The relationship between improved resource access and rural residents' overall well-being is moderated by the level of community engagement.

H3: The positive impact of skills training programs on rural residents' income levels is mediated by the improvement in their employability skills.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.   What are the key challenges and barriers that rural communities face in terms of livelihood enhancement, and how can social work strategies effectively address these challenges?

2.   What social work interventions and programs have been successful in improving the livelihoods of rural residents, and what are the best practices and lessons learned from these initiatives?

3.   How can social workers collaborate with local communities and stakeholders to tailor livelihood enhancement strategies that are culturally sensitive and contextually relevant torural areas?

4.   What are the measurable outcomes and indicators that can be used to assess the impact andeffectiveness of social work strategies in enhancing livelihoods within rural communities?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a survey-based research design to collect data on the topic "Social Work Strategies for Enhancing Livelihoods in Rural Areas." The survey was distributed to a randomly selected sample of rural area across various regions in India.

Sampling Technique

To guarantee representation from various rural areas and geographical locations in India, the sample was chosen using stratified random selection. The sample size was determined through power analysis to achieve sufficient statistical power.

Random Sampling

Random sampling, a method for selecting samples from a population, guarantees that each potential participant has an equal chance of getting picked. Choosing a sample from a random poolmay often result in an accurate depiction the total population. One of the simplest techniques for gathering data from an entire population is random sampling.

The rule of thumb for random sampling is that if a sample is only picked once,

$$P = 1 - \left(^{N-1}_{N}\right)\left(^{N-2}_{N}\right) \; / \left(^{N-n}_{N}\!/_{(n-1)}\right) \quad /$$

P denotes probability in this instance, n denotes sample size, and N denotes population.

Now, P = n/N will be the outcome if 1-(N-n/n) is cancelled. Additionally, it is important to allow for multiple sample selections: P = 1-(1-(1/N)) n.

Data Collection

Primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire consist of items to assess variables such as Social Work Strategies for Enhancing Livelihoods in Rural Areas. Likert scale items were used to measure various constructs.

Moderating Variable

The moderating variable in this study is "Improved resource." It was assessed through specific survey questions related to the rural areas' overall satisfaction with their social work experience and the outcome of their complaint

resolution process.

Mediating Variable

The mediating variable in this study is "Improved Employability skill." It was measured through a set of Likert scale questions exploring the primary reasons, social work approach for the rural areas for dispute resolution or grievance redressal.

Data Analysis

In order to analyze the data, Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was used, and the hypothesized relationships between gender empowerment efforts, gender based income disparities, Gender equality in rural areas, and community engagement were studied. It was possible to examine the direct as well as indirect effects using the SEM.

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

A structure-based model that provides a theory on the interplay of several variables serves as the foundation for the multivariate, hypothesis-driven method known as structural equation modeling(SEM). In the case of these variables, Blood Oxygen Level-Dependent (BOLD) intervals of y1...yn various brain areas are quantified using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (FMRI), and the hypothesized causal relationships are based on relationships among the regions that are physicallytenable. The strength of each link is shown by the so-called route coefficient, which is comparableto a partial regression coefficient in that it depicts how the variance of yi relies on the variance of

yj if all other influences on yj are kept constant. The letters $y_i \to y_j$

The equation provides a summary of the conventional SEM statistical model.

$$y = Ay + u$$

where y is a $n \times s$ matrix of n area-specific time series with s scans each and u is a $n \times s$ matrix of components with the simulation system is driven by zero mean Gaussian errors. (the "innovations"; see equation). A may be thought of as a matrix of with route coefficients of size $n \times n$ (with zeroes for missing connections). It is possible to estimate parameters by reducing the distinction between

the covariance matrices of the model and the observed model. Σ . By translating equation, Σ may be calculated for any given combination of parameters.

$$y = (I - A)^{-1} u$$

$$\Sigma = yy^T$$
$$= (I - A)^{-1} uu^T (I - A)^{-1^T}$$

Remember to act in a manner consistent with the identity matrix. The first line of the equationoffers a generative model for how the system's connectional structure leads to system function:

The interregional connection matrix function is used to produce the observed time series y using the Gaussian innovations u. $(I - A)^{-1}$

Model Fit Assessment

Model fit indices such as chi-square (χ^2), to evaluate how well the suggested SEM model fits the data, we will look at the Root Mean Square errors of Approximations (RMSEA), the Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI), the Comparative Fit Index (CFI), as well as the Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR).

Ethical Considerations

Participants are provided with informed consent, and their data is treated confidentially. The study adhered to ethical guidelines and ensure data privacy.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The table below shows the frequency count of Demographic variable of the respondents participated in the study.

Table 1
Frequency of Demographic variables

Demographic variables		Frequency	Percent
GENDER	Male	110	44.0
	Female	140	56.0
	Total	250	100
AGE	18-25	88	35.2
	25-35	80	32.0
	35-45	82	32.8
	Total	250	100
EDUCATION LEVELS	Higher study	78	31.2
	Secondary study	79	31.6
	Post-graduation	93	37.2
	Total	250	100

The table offers a comprehensive demographic snapshot of the 250 participants in the study. Firstly, in terms of gender representation, the data reveals a fairly even split, with 44% of the

respondents identified as male and 56% as female. Secondly, when considering age groups, the study encompasses a diverse range of respondents. The largest segment falls within the 18 to 25 age bracket, constituting 35.2% of the sample. Additionally, 32% fall into the 25 to 35 age group, while 32.8% are in the 35 to 45 age category. Lastly, in relation to educational attainment, the findings showcase a varied group. Approximately 31.2% of the participants have pursued higher education, a similar 31.6% have completed secondary education, and the remaining 37.2% have achieved post-graduate qualifications. This comprehensive demographic breakdown provides valuable insights into the composition of the study's participant pool, offering a solid foundation for further analysis and interpretation of research findings.

H1: Gender empowerment efforts result in a reduction of gender-based income disparities and an improvement in gender equality within rural areas.
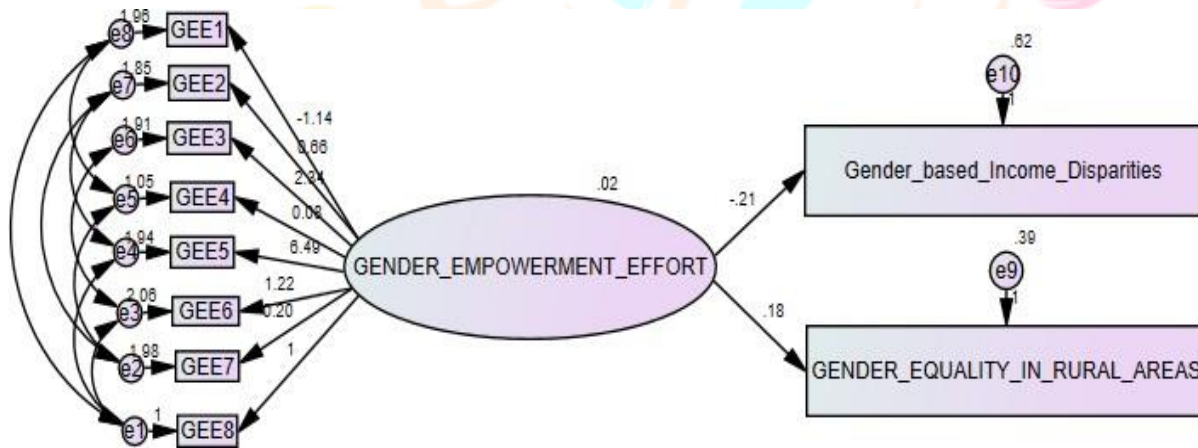

Figure 1 hypothetical structural equation model

Table 2 **Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)**

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
GEE7	<---	e2	1.980			
GEE6	<---	F1	1.220	2.0061	.566	.005
GEE6	<---	e3	2.060	1.253	.122	.002
GEE5	<---	F1	6.490	3.621	.521	.023

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
GEE5	<---	e4	1.940	1.298	.265	.009
GEE4	<---	F1	.080	3.654	.892	.031
GEE4	<---	e5	1.050	2.652	.213	***
GEE3	<---	F1	2.340	4.698	.154	***
GEE3	<---	e6	1.910	1.236	.874	.021
GEE2	<---	F1	.660	4.675	.634	.004
GEE2	<---	e7	1.850	2.158	-.521	.046
GEE1	<---	e8	1.960	2.065	-.641	.039
Gender_based_Income_Disparities	<---	F1	-.210	3.398	-.657	***
GENDER_EQUALITY_IN_RURAL_AREAS	<---	F1	.180	7.084	.650	***
GEE1	<---	F1	-1.140	1.647	.640	.023
GEE7	<---	F1	-.200	3.265	-.768	.041
GEE8	<---	F1	1.000	1.099	.605	.019

Table 1 presents a hypothetical structural equation model illustrating the interdependence between two factors, namely Gender empowerment effort and gender equality in rural areas. In this model, Gender empowerment effort is treated as the variable independent, gender equality in rural areas is the variable being measured. The fit indices suggest that the model fits well, as factors are found to be Significant statistically with p-values exceeding 0.05 (as shown in Table 1). The overall model fit was assessed using seven different fit indices, indicating a substantial and beneficial relationship in between Gender empowerment effort the space between.

Table 3 Model fit summary

Variable	Value
Chi-square value(χ^2)	613.724
Degrees of freedom (df)	142
CMIN/DF	4.322
P value	0.063
GFI	0.936
RFI	0.951
NFI	0.921
IFI	0.911
CFI	0.910
RMR	0.05
RMSEA	0.063

The quality of The sample data fitted satisfactorily. ($\chi 2$= 613.724), with NFI (Normed Fit Index =0.921; IFI = 0.51. Fitness Index) = 0.911; GFI (Fitness for Use) = 0.936; RFI (Relative Fit Index) equals zero.951; and the Comparison Fitness Index is 0.910, each of which is significantly higher than the 0.90. Also lower than the 0.080 essential value are RMR (Mean Root RMSEA ((Approximate Root Mean Square Error) equals zero; RMSR (Equal Square Root Residuals) =

0.05.063. The results indicated that provided model matched data accurately, with RMSEA of 0.063, RMR of 0.05, GFI of 0.936, and CFI of.910.

H2: The relationship between improved resource access and rural residents' overall well- being is moderated by the level of community engagement.

Figure 2 sem model for Rural Residents Overall Well-being, Improved resource access on moderating interaction

Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)

PATH			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
ZRural_Residents_Overall_Well_being	<--	ZImproved_resource_access	.060	.061	.563	.022
ZRural_Residents_Overall_Well_being	<--	INTERACTION_N	.010	.063	.289	.031

According to hypotheses generated by path analysis, Rural Residents Overall Well-being Enabled On Improved resource access is substantially and positively related to Rural Residents Overall Well-being (β=.060, P<05). Rural Residents Overall Well-being is positively correlated with andstrongly correlated with INTERACTION_N (β=.010, P<05).

Moderation Testing

Rural Residents Overall Well-being, Improved resource access, and INTERACTION_N -enabledonline customer experience are treated as independent factors, dependent variables, and moderator variables, respectively, in the moderation analysis. Using SPSS, interaction terms are created usingthe variables' standardized scores to compute the findings.

Path		Estimate	S.E	C.R.	P.
ZRural_Residents_Overall_Well_being	<-- ZCmmunity_engagement	.020	.061	.927	.023

As a moderator, the Community engagement was put to the test. Results show that the connection between a perception trust and Rural residents overall well-being enabled online Improvedresource access is influenced by positive and substantial influence on Improved resource access (β=0.061, P.023). The finding demonstrates that, in contrast to the connection hypothesis, there isstatistical evidence for the moderating function of perceived trust in our data.

Table 4 Model fit summary

VARIABLE	VALUE
CHI-SQUARE VALUE(X^2)	26.538
DEGREES OF FREEDOM (DF)	11
CMIN/DF	2.412
P VALUE	0.042
GFI	0.956
RFI	0.947
NFI	0.934
IFI	0.948

CFI	0.972
RMR	0.036
RMSEA	0.02

The sample data ($\chi 2$= 26.538, NFI = 0.934, IFI = 0.948, GFI = 0.956, RFI = 0.927, and CFI = 0.961, which is much larger than the 0.90 threshold, represent the sample data in an acceptable manner. Also lower than the 0.080 required threshold are RMR =0.036 and RMSEA =0.02 values. The results indicated that provided model matched data accurately, with RMSEA of 0.02, RMR of 0.036, GFI of 0.956, and CFI of.972.

H3: The positive impact of skills training programs on rural residents' income levels is mediated by the improvement in their employability skills.
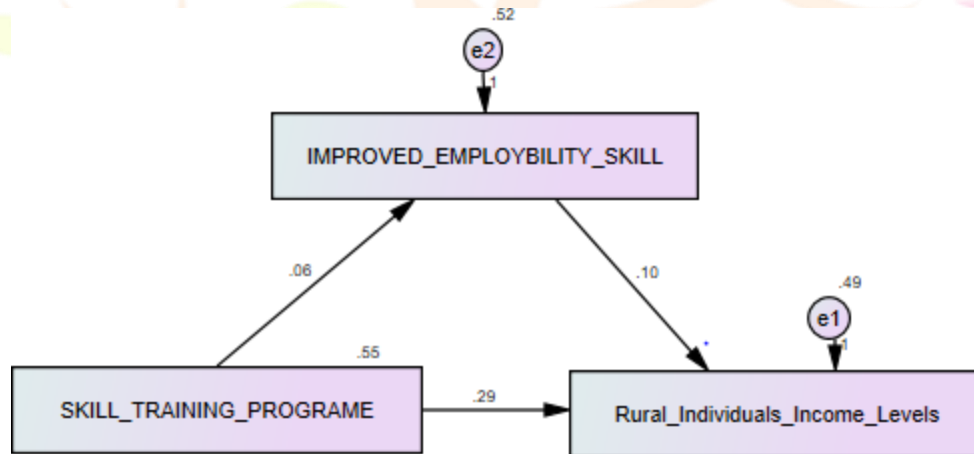

Figure 3 **SEM model for reason for approach mediates the relationship between skill training program and Rural individual income levels**

We used Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) with the AMOS to examine the impact of Skill training program on user Rural individual income levels with improved employability skillconsumption as a mediating factor

Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMPROVED_EMPLOYBILITY_SKILL	<--	SKILL_TRAINING_PROGRAME	.052	.062	.938	.048
Rural_Individuals_Income_Levels	<--	IMPROVED_EMPLOYBILITY_SKILL	.105	.061	1.716	.036

The structural equation model examining the association between Skill training program and Ruralindividual income levels, with improved employability skill as a mediator, is presented in above table. This analysis allows for testing all relevant paths and includes measurements errors and feedback directly within the model. The fit indices indicate that the model fits well, as the factorsare statistically significant at p<0.05. The model fit was assessed using global fit measures, including seven different fit indices and 'r' values to assess the consistency between the hypothesized model and the available data. Based on the results presented in the table, there is a strong and significant association between improved employability skill and Rural individual income levels when mediated by improved employability skill. According to the results of the overall research on mediation, improved employability skill has a favourable mediating impact on the association among improved employability skill & Rural individual income levels. This was shown to be the case when examining the relationship between skill training program and Rural individual income levels. This shows that improved employability skill contributes to the reason why people with greater degrees of skill training program were more likely to engage in Rural individual income levels activities than those with lower levels of skill training program.

Model Fit Summary

Variable	Value
Chi-square value(χ^2)	162.963
Degrees of freedom (df)	45
CMIN/DF	3.6214
P value	0.075
GFI	0.957
RFI	0.936
NFI	0.925

IFI	0.946
CFI	0.916
RMR	0.06
RMSEA	0.016

The quality of fit was acceptable representation of the sample data (χ^2 = 162.963), NFI (Normed Fit Index) =0.925; IFI (Incremental fit index) = 0.946, GFI (Goodness of Fit) = 0.957, RFI (Relative Fit Index) = 0.936 and CFI (Comparative Fit Index) =0.916 which is much larger than the 0.90. Similarly, RMR (Root Mean Square Residuals) =0.06 and RMSEA (Root mean square error of approximation) = 0.016 values are lower the 0.080 critical value. Results indicated a goodfit for the model presented including RMSEA of 0.016, RMR of 0.06, GFI of 0.957, and CFI of

.916.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study represents a significant step forward in the realm of rural development and social work strategies aimed at enhancing livelihoods within rural areas. The comprehensive analysis of 250 samples has provided valuable insights into the complex challenges and opportunities that rural communities face. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, this study has shed light on the multifaceted dynamics in rural contexts, with a particular focus on economic growth, sustainable development, and the overall enhancement of the quality of life for rural residents. The findings emphasize the critical importance of tailored interventions and strategies that empower individuals and communities, fostering self-reliance and sustainable progress. As we move forward, the lessons learned from this study will serve as a guiding beacon for social workers, policymakers, and stakeholders, enabling them to better addressthe unique needs of rural areas and contribute to the long-term well-being and prosperity of thesevital regions.

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