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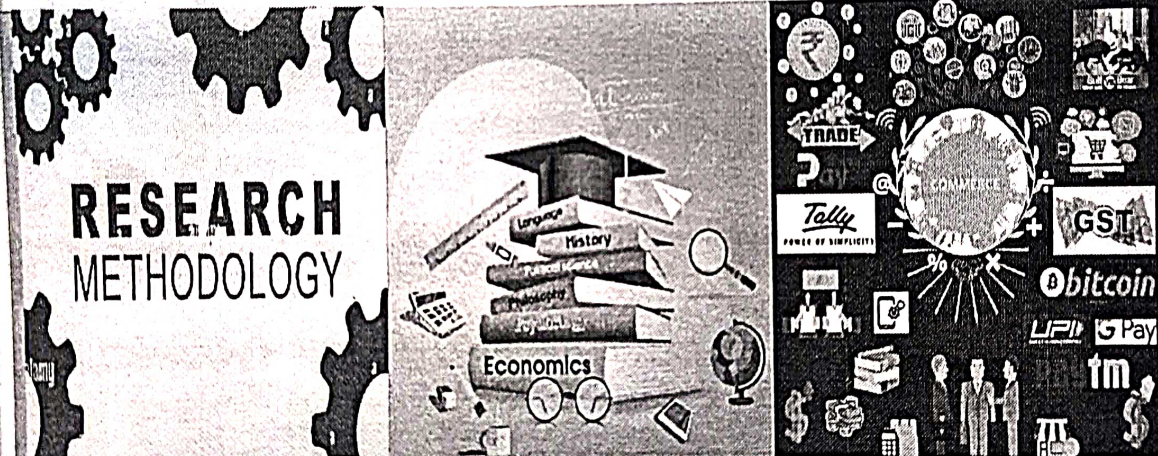
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**INDEX-A**

No.	Title of the Paper	Authors' Name	Page No.
1	Research Methodology in Business and Management	Dr. Bhausaheb Nanasaheb Shinde	1
2	Sampling Methods in Research Methodology	Dr.Govind Pandurang Choudhari	6
3	A study of customer satisfaction on service quality of Private life Insurance Companies	Mrs. Varsha Ashish Agrawal	10
4	Resources and Services in Academic Library For Research	Dr.Vijaykumar N.Mulimani	12
5	A Critical Outlook on Types of Research	Dr.Ganesh J. Dubale	16
6	Research Methodology: An Overview	Dr. Baliram P. Awachar	19
7	Research Methodology	Dr. Archana N. Dharme	22
8	A Study of Unemployment Problems in Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in India	Dr. Avinash Changdeo Dhotre	24
9	The Role of Regional Parties in Coalition Politics	Vishakha Gupta	30
10	Literature Review: Approaches and Information sources for Neophyte	Dr.KAWADE V.P ,Waysal Sunil Dattaray	33
11	A Study On Customers' Perception Towards Green Product (Marketing) In Aurangabad District, Maharashtra, India	Dr. Baig Firoz Azagar	36
12	A comparative Study Between The Applications Of Parametric Test And Non-Parametric Test	Dr. B. B. Rajemane	40
13	The Research Methodology Writing Commerce And Management Science's Research Proposal And Purposes of The Research Proposal.	Mr. Narayan Vinod Kadubal	45
14	Types of Sampling Methods In Research	Dr.Kawade V.P. ,K.PRATISHI	51
15	A Study On The Research Methods In Library And Information Science	Mr. Arun Bhalerao , Dr. Arun Modak	55
16	The Effective Rural Marketing Strategies: A Study of Rural Consumers in Maharashtra	Mr D.N. Ghane	60
17	Oscillation in Edible Oil Prices-A Study on India	Madasu Veerender	64
18	The Importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Agricultural Development of Maharashtra State	Dr. Ingle Sangapal Prakash	67
19	Evaluation Of Research Report Writing	Dr. Satyanarayan R. Rathi	71



20	Stress Management useful for field & another workplace Mr. Hivraj Isru Raut	74
21	Benefits and Pitfalls of Online Insurance Policies Shaikh Md Altaf Shaikh Ibrahim, Prof. Dr H.S Patange	79
22	Impact of ICT on Library and Web-based library Services Dr. Umesh Gangadhar Harde	82
23	A study of online education with special reference to Maharashtra Mr. Yogesh Baldev Puri	85
24	Income Tax Planning By Individuals In Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Erstwhile Aurangabad) Maharashtra for assessment year 2023-24 Dr. Chitra K. Deshpande	88
25	Role of Computer in Research Dr. Nasiket Govindrao Suryavanshi	95
26	Effects Of Industrialization On Indian Economy Mr. Bhushan Shrirampant Mangate,	100
27	Incentives and growth of Food Processing Industry in Jammu-An Impact Study Miss Aditi Chopra	104
28	Consumer behaviour towards E-Commerce in online Shopping Asst. Prof. Kendra Kalpana Kashinath	115
29	A Study Of Diary Industry In Marathwada Region Dr. Datta Shivajirao More	119
30	Exploring Research Methodology: Review Article Dr. Vinod P. Bhoskar	123
31	Librarian: Beyond the school (For the development of the girl child) Dr. Seema Parag Malpe	128
32	Recent Trends in E-Commerce Dr. Balkrushna S. Ingle	130
33	Crop Insurance As A Tool For Risk Management: Pmfby And Farmers Participation Mr. Mangesh Dagadu Jadhav	132
34	Importance of data in Research of Social Science Dr. K. P. Deshmukh	136
35	E-Retailing in India: Challenges & Opportunities Dr. Gajanan Prabhu Dagade.	139
36	Research Methodology in Commerce: Current Trends and Best Practices Dr Vinod Ratiram Bansile	142
37	Research Methodology in commerce Dr. Memon Ubed Yusuf	145
38	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Commerce: A Comparative Analysis Dr. Padmapani Bhagwan Sawai	148
39	Exploring Areas Covering Rural Women Entrepreneurs' Problems And Possible Solutions Prof. Kishor Navsagare	151
40	The Study relating to conceptual framework of marketing research Dr. Yogesh Laxmanrao Patinge	154



The Importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Agricultural Development of Maharashtra State

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Abstract:

Agriculture and allied sector is of utmost importance to the Indian economy. It contributes about one-sixth to the Indian national income and provides employment to about 50% of the workforce. We applaud India's farmers as much as the doctors and nurses who are risking their lives to ensure that food stocks are well stocked amid the lockdown. The development and use of innovative technology through the use of improved seeds, irrigation, soil conservation techniques, harvesting techniques, electric pumps, diesel pumps, etc. has led to incredible improvements in the Indian agriculture sector. All this has been done by KVK. It affects, Indian agriculture sector was rapidly moving from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture which is based on research, science and technology and from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture. Here the researcher is focused on the importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in agricultural development of Maharashtra State. This study will become helpful to make awareness among non-beneficiaries of KVKs about its importance in the development of agriculture sector.

Keywords:- KVKs, Importance, Development, Agriculture sector.

Introduction:-

Agriculture sector has played a vital role in the development of human civilization and the outstanding development in agriculture sector has made a fundamental presence and vibrant change in the world socio-economic situation. Sustainable agriculture requires the successful management of available resources to meet human needs in the present without jeopardizing the potential of future generations. Consider industrial sector as well as agricultural sector to ensure adequate income from farming. Consider industrial sector as well as agricultural sector to ensure adequate income from farming.

If the Indian economy is to be revived, there is a need to invest a large amount of money in Indian agriculture. Although the share of agriculture in the country's GDP is declining, it is observed that the Indian economy is still completely dependent on agriculture. Industry and service sector can develop only when agriculture is developed. Animal husbandry is an important component of Indian agriculture and the share of animal production in the national GDP (6%) is increasing rapidly. The central government realized that organic farming and sustainable agriculture are not possible without animal husbandry. Animal husbandry business will play an important role in improving the economy of India in future also. If agriculture develops, it will help strengthen the economy by increasing the demand for other products such as vehicles or other services.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra In an effort to educate farmers about new technologies and methods of crop production and dairy development, rapid transfer of technology to the farmer's field (this is the time between production of technology and its transfer to the research institute) is helpful in To bridge the gap (farmer sector) so that the weaker section of the rural society can grow rapidly in agriculture.

Objectives of the Study:-

1. To study the services of Krishi Vigyan Kendra.
2. To know the importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in agricultural development of Maharashtra State.

Hypothesis of the Study:-

1. Krishi Vigyan Kendra is playing a vital role in agricultural development.

Research Methodology:

The researcher used secondary data for this research study such as newspapers, articles, magazines, govt. reports, internet, etc.

Limitation of the study:

This study is only limited to study the importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in agricultural development of Maharashtra State.

**Importance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in agricultural development of Maharashtra State:**

The state of Maharashtra is one of the richest states in terms of per capita income and the second largest state in the country in terms of population and according to the 2011 census it has a total population of 112.4 million, which is 9.3% of the total population of the country. , , GSDP meaning Gross State Domestic Product is estimated to be Rs. 15,10,132 crore at current prices for the year 2013-14, with 88.7% contribution by both industry and service sector and 11.3% by agriculture and allied sector in GSDP. Agriculture is the mainstay of the state of Maharashtra. This is the main occupation of the people. There is a total of 308 lakh hectares of land in Maharashtra. Out of that it is 231 lakh hectare lands under cultivation and 52.1 lakh hectares land is under forest.

The lockdown brought about by COVID-19 in India was a major economic shock. It continues across the country as Janta Curfew on 22 March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic is the world's largest global humanitarian action since World War II. However, the lockdown came with an economic cost and is affecting all sectors of society. This delayed the economy with a complete shutdown of enterprises in all sectors. Even though agricultural activities were exempted, the agricultural value chain also faced massive disruption in the initial phases of the lockdown. This had a direct detrimental effect on the rural Indian economy. But agriculture sector took care of everyone and it all happened because of KVK.

Agriculture and allied sectors registered a growth of 3.4% during 2020-21 while the overall economic growth declined by -7.2% during the same period. The growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors during the last 5 years is given below.

Year	Growth (%)
2016-17	3.8
2017-18	6.6
2018-19	2.6
2019-20	4.3
2020-21	3.4

{Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO) M/o Statistics & PI}

If we look at the past decades, India found a low level of agricultural production because farmers had to follow traditional methods of farming, lack of research and technology, lack of transfer of technology, lack of advanced inputs, etc. This resulted in reduced productivity. For the affected farmers, the farmers had to bear the loss to earn their livelihood. Compared to the agricultural production of other developed countries, our country's agricultural production was found to be very low. Therefore, a need was felt to conduct additional drills, conduct research and provide training to farmers for adoption of latest machinery/technology. With its effect the agricultural production of the farmers can be increased and Krishi Vigyan Kendra are playing an important role in taking new technology from the laboratory to the fields and if any practical problem is found then KVK submits it to the laboratory for further study. KVKs have a major role in providing information, knowledge and resources in the field of agriculture at the district level. We can say that through KVKs Indian agriculture sector was moving very fast from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture which is based on research, science and technology and from survival agriculture to commercial agriculture. At that time the Ministry of Agriculture was focusing on extension services and transfer of technology to the farmers. Krishi Vigyan Kendra has played a vital role in showcasing state-of-the-art technologies, capacity building among stakeholders, leading technology application, information and inputs, participatory approach in planning, implementation, execution and evaluation and refinement of various agriculture relevant technologies. - Climate conditions. It helps farmers to become a global competitor through science and technology, new strategy, knowledge empowerment, new market strategy and capability/capacity building of farmers which will lead to increase in agricultural production and farmers' income, along with conservation of farming practices. It will help in making it beneficial for of natural resources.

**No. of KVK's working in area wise—**

Sr. No.	Area	No. of KVK's
1.	India	706
2.	Maharashtra state	47

KVKs provide a variety of services to farmers such as participation in training, participation in extension activities such as Kisan Melas, study tours, field days, seminars, farmer-scientist interactions, technology weeks, exhibitions, etc., demonstrations and trials, consultancy, Soil and water testing, Diagnostic services, Weather information and linkage with farmers, Farmers call centre, Help-line services, Study tour to KVKs, Dissemination of technology and hiring of farm equipment, Library facilities and scientific literature, Radio talk and TV Shows, Market Information Center, etc. KVK is providing lot of services as an institution for grass root level vocational training to farmers, farm women and rural youth with emphasis on "Karke Seekho" to generate self employment, entrepreneurship. This is important to make development of agriculture sector in Maharashtra State as well as in the country.

KVK is an organization that inspires the 21st century world for farmers. It has decentralized application of technology in each district on various aspects of agriculture and its allied sectors.

All the KVKs are working effectively to reduce the time lag between generation of technology in the research institute and its application in the farmers' fields. It also impacts on increasing agricultural production, productivity and net farm income on a sustained basis.

According to Prasad etc. (1987), Krishi Vigyan Kendra is designated as a need-based and skill-oriented vocational training institute for farmers, service field level extension workers and those desirous of going into service for self-employment. Three basic principles viz. 1) Agricultural production as the main goal, 2) Work experience as the main method of imparting training and 3) Priority to the weaker sections of the society form the backbone of the KVK programme. Dr. Ashish Kumar Das and Dr. Manoranjan Mishra (2004) stated that, Krishi Vigyan Kendra is the beacon for the rural people, as it provides inspiration, motivation, necessary skills, knowledge and attitude by providing training, constructive and regular mentoring. Also provide proper guidance and initiative and new concepts to start entrepreneurial activities for their livelihood to solve the problems faced by the rural people with respect to agriculture and allied sectors and all these factors lead to the empowerment of the rural people. So KVK is light house for rural people.

If we look at the agricultural situation of India since the crisis of 1960 till now, we find that India has achieved self-sufficiency in the matter of food grains. KVK is one of the pillars and pillars of this achievement which is playing a vital role in the refinement and dissemination of agricultural technology and complete agricultural transmission and its development.

There is a need for creative, safe and practical solutions to boost the morale of the farmers.

Although agriculture work is an essential service, agriculture has suffered due to Corona. But it is known that the farmer is the savior of the world.

As the saying goes, "Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan", a farmer should be saluted like a soldier. Farmers are also dying a brave death in this soil and for the soil. Also our village helps us in difficult times. The saying "Aamchi Mati-Aamchi Mansa" is true. All these things are also proven.

Conclusion:

KVKs has played a vital role in increasing agricultural production and income which has a positive impact on the development of agriculture sector and empowerment of farmers. Farmers were found satisfied from the services of KVK's. Therefore, most of the farmers were found positive that Krishi Vigyan Kendra is playing a vital role in agricultural development of Maharashtra State. Here one thing has come out that, KVK should make efforts to increase the number of female and male beneficiaries.



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