DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE THROUGH DIGITAL AWARENESS EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF LIBRARIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

There are many chances for tribal communities to grow and be empowered in the digital age, particularly concerning gender equality, economic opportunity, healthcare, and education. However, geographic remoteness, inadequate infrastructure, and sociocultural barriers contribute to the digital divide, which continues to be a significant problem. Libraries play a critical role in closing this gap by giving access to digital resources and providing programs cantered on digital literacy. This essay examines how libraries, technology, and gender equality can support the advancement of tribal people. It highlights the value of customized digital projects that cater to the particular requirements of tribal communities, especially women, to remove obstacles to opportunities and information. Additionally, the study emphasizes how technology can empower women by improving their socioeconomic circumstances, increasing their access to information, and boosting their involvement in decision-making. To promote digital awareness and guarantee fair access to the advantages of technology for tribal populations, it ends with suggestions for inclusive policies, infrastructure upgrades, and community-based initiatives.

Keywords: Tribal communities, Digital awareness, Technology, Libraries, Gender equality, Digital divide, Digital literacy, Women's empowerment, Digital resources.

INTRODUCTION:

Introduction Tribal communities encounter a distinct set of obstacles when trying to access resources like healthcare, education, and employment opportunities because they frequently reside in isolated and remote areas. These difficulties are made worse by a sizable digital divide that prevents them from fully engaging in the quickly evolving digital world. But in recent years, it has become more and more clear how technology can help close these gaps. In the digital age, the convergence of gender equality, technology, and libraries offers a promising avenue for tribal people's empowerment and development.

Libraries, which have long been recognized for giving people access to books and other learning materials, are now becoming centers for digital literacy and technology. Libraries have the ability to provide tribal people with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed in the digital age by serving as community learning hubs. Libraries can be extremely helpful in assisting tribal communities in overcoming the obstacles presented by the digital divide by implementing programs that encourage digital literacy.

Additionally, in tribal communities, technology can be a very effective tool for advancing gender equality. Because of deeply ingrained social and cultural norms, women in many tribal societies face additional obstacles to decision-making, economic participation, and education. Women now have unheard-of access to education, information, and chances for social and economic empowerment thanks to digital platforms. Technology can help women take an active role in determining their own futures when combined with digital literacy initiatives, which will advance gender equality more broadly. This essay investigates the ways in which gender equality, technology, and libraries can support the growth of tribal communities. The study addresses the obstacles that still need to be overcome to ensure equitable access to these advantages while highlighting the potential of digital awareness to change the lives of tribal people, especially women, by analyzing the functions of digital resources and community-based approaches. Libraries and technology can be important facilitators of advancement and empowerment for tribal populations in the digital age through focused policies and programs.

In the digital age, libraries are more than just places to get books or the internet; they are also essential venues for training in digital literacy, promoting gender equality, and providing platforms for empowerment. Libraries can help close the gender gap in information and technology access by providing resources like digital literacy programs, online learning materials, and social media platforms. By encouraging an inclusive culture, providing equal access to technology, and enabling people to interact with the digital world, libraries can help address gender-based issues. By looking at how libraries are using digital resources and programs to advance gender equity, this paper investigates the relationship between libraries, technology, and gender equality. This paper will examine how libraries can serve as change agents in the digital age by giving all genders equal opportunities to prosper in an increasingly digital world through an examination of case studies, literature, and contemporary practices. To guarantee that libraries continue to function as venues for gender equality

in the digital age, the study will also discuss the difficulties that libraries face, especially those in underfunded or rural areas, and investigate potential solutions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The primary aim of this study is to examine the role of digital awareness, facilitated through libraries, in promoting the socio-economic development of tribal communities while addressing gender inequality in the digital age. Below are the specific objectives of the study:

1. To Explore the Role of Technology in Empowering Tribal Communities.
2. To Examine the Role of Libraries in Bridging the Digital Divide.
3. To Assess the Impact of Digital Technology on Gender Equality.
4. To Identify Challenges and Barriers to Digital Inclusion for Tribal Communities.
5. To Evaluate the Effectiveness of Digital Awareness Programs in Tribal Libraries.
6. To Propose Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Libraries in Digital Development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research methodology for this study will employ a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. This approach is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of digital awareness, technology, and libraries in the development of tribal communities, with a focus on gender equality. The Study is based on secondary data. This is collected through various publications, books, the Internet, and articles.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The geographical, thematic, and demographic boundaries within which the research is conducted define the study's scope. This study aims to comprehend how technology and digital awareness, enabled by libraries, can support the growth of tribal communities, with a particular focus on advancing gender equality. The study's scope will be broad, encompassing the demographic, thematic, and geographic facets of gender equality, technology, and digital awareness in tribal communities, with a particular emphasis on libraries. In the digital age, the study seeks to advance knowledge of how libraries and technology can promote gender equality and inclusive development.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:

Digital technology has become a potent instrument in recent years for promoting gender equality, socioeconomic development, and education, particularly in underserved communities. Tribal populations, who

have historically experienced social, economic, and educational disadvantages, have a special chance to flourish at the nexus of gender equality, technology, and libraries. Libraries can play a critical role in closing the digital divide for tribal communities by empowering women and men to build a more just future by fostering digital awareness and access.

1. Libraries as Hubs for Digital Literacy:

Historically regarded as repositories of knowledge and information, libraries are becoming more and more digital hubs. Libraries provide a useful platform for digital literacy in tribal areas with limited access to technology. The ability to access, manage, and communicate information using information and communication technology (ICT) is known as digital literacy. Libraries can provide the following services to tribal communities, where traditional teaching methods and resources are frequently limited free technology access personal devices and dependable internet access are lacking in many tribal areas. Tribal members can enhance their digital skills by using computers, internet access, and educational software that libraries can offer. Digital training programs to help tribal members develop the skills they need for the digital age, libraries can provide workshops and training programs on subjects like internet

usage, online safety, basic computer skills, and educational resources. Access to online resources to keep tribal communities informed about their rights and opportunities, libraries can provide them with a multitude of online research tools, educational materials, and government services. (Mainka & Khveshchanka, 2012)

2. Empowering Tribal Women through Technology:

Promoting gender equality can be greatly aided by digital awareness, particularly in tribal communities where women frequently encounter ingrained social and cultural barriers. by encouraging education and skill development technology gives women access to online tutorials, courses, and educational resources that may not be available locally. Libraries can use technology to foster an environment that empowers tribal women. Additionally, libraries can help tribal women develop life and career skills, which can lead to self-reliance and economic independence. Breaking gender stereotypes women experience discrimination in many tribal communities regarding their use of technology and education. Libraries promote equal participation in the digital world and challenge traditional gender norms by urging women to use digital tools and take part in training programs. creating expression platforms tribal women can express their experiences, challenges, and goals

through digital platforms. Libraries can help create social media platforms, blogs, or online communities where tribal women can express their views and fight for their rights. (Binoj, Sujatha, & David, 2018)

3. Technology as a Driver of Socio-Economic Development:

In tribal areas, where a lack of infrastructure and economic opportunities frequently impedes growth, technology plays a significant role in promoting economic development. The growth of digital literacy in libraries can result in Access to e-government because of their lack of knowledge or geographic isolation, tribal members frequently have restricted access to government programs and services. Tribal members can obtain information about welfare programs, subsidies, and medical care through the introduction of e-governance services by libraries. Digital entrepreneurship tribal people can investigate online platforms for entrepreneurship if they have access to digital resources. Training on digital marketing, e-commerce, and using social media to promote businesses can be facilitated by libraries. For women in particular, who may encounter limitations in conventional market environments, this creates new opportunities for generating income. Financial literacy and inclusion libraries can also offer digital financial literacy resources to help tribal members

comprehend microfinance, digital transactions, and banking. This lessens their reliance on unofficial credit systems and encourages them to engage in the formal economy. (Hameed, 2007)

4. Access to Information and Digital Literacy:

A more informed and inclusive society is built on the foundation of digital literacy and information access. People who don't have access to trustworthy information and the cognitive ability to process it run the risk of falling behind in an increasingly connected world. Therefore, initiatives to increase digital literacy are closely related to concerns of equity, social justice, and human development and are not solely focused on technology. In this regard, libraries have become essential organizations for advancing digital literacy and information access. They guarantee that communities, particularly those that are underprivileged, are not left out of the opportunities presented by the digital age, offer programs aimed at fostering digital skills, and grant free access to technology. Policymakers, educators, and institutions must prioritize efforts to ensure that everyone can fully utilize the potential of the digital world because the intersection of digital literacy and information access is a potent tool for empowerment and transformation. (Mastromatteo, 2021)

Libraries have long served as hubs for knowledge and community

empowerment, particularly for women and marginalized genders. For women and other marginalized groups looking to advance their careers and access opportunities, libraries provide digital resources, online courses, and e-books. Through free technology access, libraries contribute to closing the digital divide. Digital literacy in developing nations in particular, gender differences in digital literacy continue to be problematic. By providing training programs that teach digital skills, libraries can close this gap and empower women to access online learning materials and fully engage in the digital economy.

Digital literacy and information access are vital foundations of contemporary society, promoting economic expansion, individual empowerment, and active engagement in a world that is changing quickly. The ability to access, navigate, and evaluate information is more important than ever as digital technologies become more widely used. People and communities run the risk of losing out on opportunities in civic engagement, work, healthcare, and education if they lack these skills. By offering fair access to technology, encouraging digital literacy, and making sure that everyone, regardless of gender, age, or socioeconomic background, has the resources they need to succeed in the digital age, libraries, and other community organizations play a critical

role in closing the digital divide. We can give people the tools they need to successfully negotiate the complexity of the information age, make wise decisions, and make significant contributions to society by fostering digital literacy. In the end, promoting digital literacy and guaranteeing that everyone has access to information involves more than just offering resources; it also entails enabling people to fully engage in the opportunities and difficulties of a connected world. Therefore, these initiatives are essential to building a society that is more equitable, inclusive, and informed for everyone. (Noh, 2017)

5. Promoting Gender Equality through Library Services:

Libraries assist individuals of all genders in acquiring the knowledge and abilities required to succeed in the modern world by providing educational resources, workshops, and digital literacy initiatives. Libraries can also serve as a safe place for advocacy and support while promoting conversations about social justice and gender equality. By providing these services, libraries contribute significantly to the advancement of gender equality, personal empowerment, and the dismantling of antiquated gender-based norms that restrict opportunities. Libraries are in a unique position to spearhead the fight for gender equality in a world that is changing quickly. They can use their platforms and resources to

build an inclusive, equitable, and informed society. (Atuase, 2018)

Libraries that specialize in gender-specific programming can create services and programs that are especially suited to the needs of women and underrepresented communities. This includes programs like workshops on entrepreneurship for women, materials for educating people about sexual and reproductive health, and forums for conversations about gender-based violence. Curating collections that represent a range of gender experiences is a significant task for collection development libraries. This entails making sure that various gender identities, sexual orientations, and cultural contexts are represented in their collections in addition to offering literature on gender equality. A library collection that is inclusive of all genders can empower patrons and foster understanding.

Libraries are essential for advancing gender equality because they offer accessible, welcoming environments that empower people of all genders. Libraries address the particular obstacles that women and marginalized genders encounter when trying to access information, education, and opportunities through a wide range of services, including community workshops, digital literacy initiatives, educational materials, and safe spaces for advocacy. Libraries not only aid in closing the gender gap but also contribute to a more knowledgeable, just, and equitable society by aggressively advocating for gender-inclusive policies and developing programs that promote gender equality. Libraries continue to play a crucial role in addressing gender inequality and making sure that everyone, regardless of gender, has the means to succeed as cultural norms and technological environments change. Libraries can spark positive social change by focusing on gender equality and enabling people to fully engage in all facets of life, including civic engagement, work, and education. This will ultimately contribute to the creation of a world where everyone can realize their full potential. (Izah, 2021)

6. Libraries as Safe Spaces:

Libraries have long been acknowledged as essential community assets that provide access to knowledge, instruction, and chances for individual development. In addition to being knowledge bases, libraries are safe places where people can go to get help, interact with others and ideas, and do so without fear of prejudice, harassment, or condemnation. The idea of libraries as safe spaces is more important than ever in the increasingly diverse and complex world of today. A safe space is one where people can interact without worrying about being excluded or hurt, regardless of their identity, background, or unique situation. Many people find that libraries offer a unique haven

where they can access resources, explore ideas, and take part in community and educational events without fear of discrimination. For marginalized groups that might experience violence or discrimination in other public or private settings, such as women, members of racial minorities, LGBTQ+ people, and those going through socioeconomic hardships, this is especially important.

Libraries also provide a safe, welcoming space for people to access technology and information in the digital age when cyberbullying and online harassment are common. Through inclusive programming, employee training, and policies that put safety, equity, and respect first, libraries actively foster a welcoming environment. Libraries can be transformative places that support mental health, social cohesion, and empowerment in addition to offering access to resources by embracing the values of respect, equity, and inclusion. In this sense, libraries serve as safe havens that greatly promote an open, welcoming society in which everyone can prosper and make a contribution.

To create inclusive, equitable communities where people can obtain opportunities, support, and information without worrying about prejudice or injury, libraries must be considered safe spaces. Libraries offer a haven for marginalized groups, such as women, racial minorities, LGBTQ+ people, and others who might experience discrimination or exclusion in other contexts, by emphasizing safety, respect, and inclusivity. These areas are essential for fostering social justice, mental health, and community cohesion in addition to providing a warm setting for education and personal development. Libraries will remain essential for promoting safety, respect, and inclusivity as we advance in a world that is becoming more digital and diverse. Their dedication to establishing secure environments contributes to making sure that everyone, irrespective of identity or background, has the chance to learn, experiment, and make significant contributions to society. By doing this, libraries contribute to the development of a more welcoming, encouraging, and just society for everybody. (Szetela, 2021)

7. Technology and Gender Advocacy:

Libraries can serve as centers for gender advocacy by utilizing digital platforms to raise awareness and encourage action on issues related to gender equality. Libraries can create forums for discussion and activism by hosting webinars, virtual meetings, and online campaigns centered on issues like equal pay, reproductive rights, or preventing sexual harassment. In addition to supporting scholarly research, gender studies and research libraries can give users access to online journals, gender studies databases, and open-access materials that add to the

corpus of knowledge on gender equality in the digital age.

But while technology can empower people, it can also perpetuate gender inequality. Online harassment, gender biases in technology design, and obstacles to digital access are commonplace for women and gender minorities, particularly in underrepresented or developing regions. Therefore, it is imperative to promote the development of inclusive technologies and equitable digital spaces that take into account and represent the various needs of all genders. When utilized sensibly and inclusively, technology has the potential to revolutionize gender equality. It can help women and other marginalized genders with their education, economic empowerment, and social engagement by giving them the resources and platforms they need to question conventional gender norms and advance social change. In the continuous struggle for gender equality, technology can be a crucial ally with careful advocacy and an emphasis on fair access.

Technology has enormous potential to advance gender equality and gender advocacy globally. Technology enables people and organizations to advocate for women's and LGBTQ+ rights, combat gender-based discrimination, and raise awareness through digital platforms, social media campaigns, and online activism. Unprecedented opportunities to elevate underrepresented voices, influence social norms, and promote inclusivity are presented in the digital age. Addressing the obstacles that stand in the way of equal access and participation, especially for women and gender minorities, is crucial as we embrace the transformative potential of technology. Making technology a true ally in the fight for gender equality requires addressing the digital gender divide, stopping online harassment, and making sure that technology is created with inclusivity in mind. In the end, technology can be a force for good when used carefully and fairly, elevating gender advocacy to new heights and fostering a more equitable, inclusive, and just society for all. (Antonites, 2021)

8. Addressing the Digital Gender Divide:

Gender and technology access Although technology presents previously unheard-of opportunities, women and marginalized genders frequently encounter obstacles to access, particularly in rural and low-income areas. By providing resources like free Wi-Fi, computer access, and technology workshops, libraries can play a critical role in guaranteeing that all genders have equal access to technological tools and internet services. Creating inclusive libraries for technology development can also serve as a means of raising awareness of the

gender gap in the tech sector. In addition to offering resources and mentorship to help close the gender gap in technology and innovation, programs can inspire young girls and women to pursue careers in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

To achieve gender equality in the digital age, it is imperative to address the digital gender divide. The gaps in access and digital literacy between men and women must be closed as technology plays a bigger role in social interaction, work, healthcare, and education. In addition to restricting women's opportunities, the digital gender divide makes it more difficult for them to fully participate in the global economy and society. Improving access to digital devices, providing digital literacy programs, guaranteeing online safety, and encouraging gender-inclusive technological design are all essential components of a comprehensive strategy to close this gap. We can unleash the full potential of women and marginalized genders and promote more inclusive, equitable societies by providing them with the knowledge and abilities necessary to succeed in the digital world. Creating equal opportunities for all genders to succeed in a digital world is ultimately what will help close the digital gender gap, not simply granting access to technology. We can build a future where technology acts as a catalyst for gender

equality and universal empowerment if governments, institutions, and communities work together with purposeful efforts. (Mare, 2021)

9. Promoting Cultural Preservation through Technology Cultural Sensitivity and Global Perspectives:

Tribal communities can now preserve and share their cultural heritage in new ways thanks to technology. To prevent tribal cultures from being lost to modernization, libraries can assist in the digital documentation of tribal languages, folklore, music, and customs. Tribal people can also access and share their cultural history with the world through digital archives, which helps them feel proud of who they are.

A global viewpoint acknowledges that each region or community's distinct cultural and social dynamics must be taken into consideration when finding solutions to problems like the digital gender divide, education, and empowerment. In the end, cultural sensitivity and global perspectives are about more than just appreciating diversity; they are about taking what we can from it, identifying areas of agreement, and working together to develop inclusive, successful, and cross-culturally sustainable solutions. These ideas are essential for advancing social progress, equity, and understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Libraries that understand intersectionality must acknowledge that

people experience gender inequality differently based on their race, class, ethnicity, and disability. Libraries must make sure that their services are intersectional, addressing the particular difficulties faced by women and marginalized genders in a variety of contexts, as technology has the power to either exacerbate or lessen these disparities. Digital tools can be used by global gender issues libraries to link communities around the world and offer resources on gender equality from around the world. To promote solidarity and a deeper comprehension of how various cultural, political, and economic circumstances influence gender inequality, they can facilitate online debates and exchange viewpoints on gender issues from around the world.

Fostering a more inclusive, understanding, and cooperative world requires cultural sensitivity and global perspectives. Understanding the various cultural contexts in which issues like gender equality, social justice, and environmental sustainability arise is essential as we confront these global concerns. Understanding and appreciating cultural differences enables more impactful, respectful, and locally relevant solutions that are both globally informed and culturally appropriate. We can advance just policies and programs that uphold the needs and values of various communities while pursuing universal objectives by incorporating cultural

sensitivity into international discussions and deeds. Accepting different points of view improves our comprehension, increases our capacity for empathy, and fortifies our capacity to develop inclusive and long-lasting solutions. The ability to respectfully and openly negotiate cultural differences will be a key component of social progress in a world that is changing and becoming more interconnected by the day. This will help to create a more just and equitable future for everybody. (Alsharif, Brennan, Abrons & Chahine, 2019)

10. Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age:

Rapid change has been brought about by the digital age, which has altered how we access information, communicate, and work. From the internet to artificial intelligence, technological advancements have opened up a world of possibilities for advancement in every sphere of society. But in addition to these advantages, the digital revolution also brings with it a number of difficulties, especially when it comes to privacy, equity, and security. These opportunities and challenges take on particular dimensions when considering libraries, gender equality, and technology, as organizations attempt to negotiate a terrain that is both disruptive and empowering. On the one hand, digital tools provide never-before-seen access to knowledge and education, opening up new avenues for

social change, economic growth, and individual empowerment. Digital technologies, for instance, can be used by libraries to support community engagement, democratize access to education, and give historically underrepresented groups such as women and underrepresented genders access to vital resources. More inclusive settings can be created in the digital age, giving voice to those who have been marginalized or ignored in more conventional contexts. (Lisenkova, 2018)

However, the digital divide differences in access to technology according to gender, location, and income continue to be a major obstacle. Concerns about privacy, online safety, and the possibility of biased algorithms perpetuating current disparities are also important issues that need to be addressed. New types of gender-based violence and harassment are also brought about by the growth of digital platforms, especially in areas where anonymity and a lack of regulations may make these problems worse. To ensure that technological advancement benefits everyone, regardless of gender, background, or socioeconomic status, it is crucial to comprehend both the opportunities and challenges brought about by the digital age. This investigation focuses on the relationship between gender equality, technology, and libraries, showing how these factors interact to either support or impede the development of a more inclusive, equitable, and just digital future.

The digital era is a two-edged sword that presents both difficult problems and revolutionary possibilities. Technology can empower marginalized communities, democratize information, and foster more inclusive environments, but it also carries risks that need to be carefully considered. The digital era offers organizations like libraries, which are essential for promoting knowledge, education, and community, a special chance to fulfill their missions while facing new challenges. There are lots of opportunities. By providing online resources, digital literacy initiatives, and virtual community engagement spaces, libraries can use digital tools to improve accessibility. By giving underrepresented voices a platform, promoting women's involvement in STEM fields, and questioning conventional gender norms, technology can also promote gender equality. Libraries can close access gaps and enable people to pursue lifelong learning and personal growth by making information and educational materials widely accessible.

But there are also big obstacles in the way of these opportunities. The digital divide continues to be a significant obstacle, particularly for women and underrepresented groups, concerning access to technology and the internet. To guarantee that technology

benefits everyone equally, it is also necessary to address problems like online harassment, data privacy issues, and the possible reinforcement of preexisting biases through algorithmic decision-making. Technology has the potential to reinforce or even worsen gender inequality if it is not used with caution, particularly in areas that are not properly planned to be safe and inclusive. In the end, surviving the digital age calls for a balanced strategy that embraces the opportunities presented by technology while addressing its drawbacks with purposeful action and well-considered policy. Libraries are uniquely positioned to promote gender-sensitive digital practices, guarantee equitable access to technology, and safeguard the rights and safety of all users because they are trusted institutions and community centers. By doing this, they can contribute to making sure that the digital future promotes gender equality, inclusivity, and the prosperity of all people. (Catalano, 2019)

11. Overcoming Challenges in the Digital Transformation:

Notwithstanding the possible advantages, there are a number of obstacles to incorporating technology into tribal communities, such as infrastructure gaps many tribal areas have inadequate electricity and internet connectivity, which makes it challenging to put digital programs into place. Digital illiteracy tribal communities may have low levels of digital literacy overall, despite the fact that libraries can offer resources. To get past this obstacle, focused awareness campaigns are required. Cultural resistance adoption of technology may encounter cultural resistance in certain tribal areas, particularly among elders. This challenge requires a culturally sensitive approach from libraries and other stakeholders. Partnerships with governmental organizations, non-profits, and tech firms can be crucial in addressing these issues. These obstacles can be addressed through cooperation in the creation of infrastructure, localization of content, and funding digital projects.

12. Conclusion: Building an Inclusive Digital Future:

To achieve gender equality and socioeconomic empowerment in the digital age, libraries must help tribal people develop their digital awareness. Libraries can play a key role in closing the digital divide by facilitating technology access, providing training, and encouraging cultural preservation. Digital inclusion can challenge gender norms and create new avenues for social participation, education, and entrepreneurship, especially for women. Libraries can contribute to the development of a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive future for all by raising digital literacy in tribal communities. To guarantee that the advantages of the digital age reach even

the most marginalized populations, governments, institutions, and the community must work together on this journey.

FINDINGS:

The study's conclusions are predicated on the examination of information gathered from members of the tribal community, library employees, local authorities, and other parties with an interest in digital literacy initiatives. The study sheds light on the degree of digital awareness that exists today, the function of libraries in fostering digital inclusion, and how technology affects gender equality in tribal communities. The study emphasizes how important libraries are to fostering gender equality and digital awareness in tribal communities. Libraries support cultural preservation and socioeconomic development by empowering women and men through digital literacy initiatives. To guarantee that digital inclusion benefits all tribal people, however, issues like infrastructure constraints, gender-specific barriers, and cultural resistance must be resolved. The results imply that libraries can be effective change agents in advancing gender equality and digital empowerment in tribal areas with focused interventions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Interpreting and analysing the study's findings while relating them to the goals, literature review, and theoretical framework are the functions of the Results and Discussion section. It examines the findings' ramifications, identifies important discoveries, and talks about their importance in gender equality, digital awareness, tribal development, and the function of libraries. In conclusion, there is no denying the importance of libraries in promoting digital empowerment. They are important change agents who close gaps in socioeconomic development, gender equality, and education. But to reach their full potential, libraries need to address gender-specific barriers, overcome infrastructure issues, and create inclusive, culturally sensitive programs. Through consistent digital literacy programs, supported by policy changes and facilitated by libraries, tribal communities can gain access to a more inclusive and accessible future as the world grows more digitally connected.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

Enhance digital infrastructure to guarantee consistent access to digital tools, make investments in tribal areas' electricity, internet, and library facilities. Customize digital literacy programs use local languages and context-specific content to create interactive, culturally relevant training programs, particularly for women and underrepresented groups. Address gender barriers to lessen social and familial constraints, establish digital spaces exclusively for women, make devices reasonably priced, and promote technology through culturally aware initiatives. Boost community engagement to guarantee cultural acceptance and relevance, include community members and tribal leaders in the planning and execution of digital programs. Encourage digital entrepreneurship to promote entrepreneurship and economic opportunities in tribal communities, provide training in mobile banking and digital business skills. Program monitoring and evaluation continually evaluate how digital programs affect community development and gender equality, using input to make improvements.

CONCLUSION:

The study has shed important light on how technology and digital awareness, supported by libraries, can support gender equality in the digital age and greatly aid in the development of tribal communities. Tribal libraries have become important centers for digital literacy, providing chances for both men and women to learn critical digital skills. Tribal communities have been able to interact with the outside world thanks to this access, which has

improved their socioeconomic opportunities, cultural preservation, and involvement in public services. According to the findings, digital technology can empower tribal women by giving them access to previously unattainable social platforms, health information, education, and employment opportunities. However, there are still gender differences in digital access, and tribal women continue to face obstacles because of cultural resistance, traditional norms, and restricted access to digital devices. However, digital awareness initiatives have helped close some of these gaps, especially in cases where libraries have customized their programs to meet the unique needs of tribal women. Despite advancements, widespread digital inclusion is still significantly hampered by infrastructure constraints like erratic electricity and internet. Significant obstacles to fu are also presented by the lack of digital literacy, particularly in rural areas, and the reluctance of certain communities to embrace technology.

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