



The Youth of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and their Livelihood Practices in India

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ABSTRACT

This research paper presents the livelihood practices and opportunities of the youth of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) living in Andhra Pradesh, India. The PVTGs are a group of tribes under the scheduled tribes of India. There are 75 PVTGs communities living in India, of which 12 PVTGs communities are living in the state of Andhra Pradesh. PVTGs youth are different in many aspects compared to urban youth and rural youth. PVTGs youth are the less developed among tribal groups, more vulnerable, marginalized, live in remote forest areas and hill tracks with poor connectivity and access. This study used two sampling methods i.e. stratified multistage sampling method and systematic random sampling method and conducted with 240 PVTGs youth between the age group of 18-34 years through a structured interview schedule. The study found that the major livelihood practices of PVTGs youth are agriculture or podu cultivation, daily wage, collection and selling of forest products, farm animals and livestock and small scale entrepreneurship. Still, the PVTGs youth are backward because of low income, poverty, poor connectivity, and living in remote forest areas. The PVTGs youth need separate reservations, separate welfare corporation to access the government employment and other welfare or developmental schemes.

1.0 Introduction

Youth is the embodiment of strength and courage of every Nation. Youth is an age between the childhood and adulthood. The Ministry of Statistics of India (2017) adopted population between 15-34 years as the age group of youth. According to the Government of India (2011), this age-group constitutes 34.8 per cent of India's total population. Presently, India has the largest share of the youth population in the world and will continue to hold so for the next 20 years.

1.1 Scheduled Tribes

India has the world's second-largest concentration of tribal population next to Africa. The term tribe has been derived from the Latin word 'tribus' which means a social group (H. Ashok Kumar & T.M. Mahesh, 2014). A tribe is a group of people in a primitive and barbarous stage of development, acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor (Oxford Dictionary, 2020). The Scheduled Tribes (STs) are the indigenous people of India and are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the country. They are considered the oldest ethnological groups, referred to as *Adivasis* or original inhabitants of India. There are 705 schedule tribe groups living in India. Among them, 75 tribal groups are primitive tribal groups (PTGs)/ particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). The Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh have

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lot of concentration on the development as an empowerment of scheduled tribes for better living.

1.2 Definition of Scheduled Tribes

The Constitution of India does not define scheduled tribes, but Article 366 (25) refers to the scheduled tribes as those communities who are scheduled by Article 342 of the Constitution. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the scheduled tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President of India through a public notification (M Nageswara Naik and G Savaraiah, 2017). Scheduled tribes are spread across the country mainly in forest and hilly regions (Jatinder Singh, 2016). The major characteristics of these tribes are a common family name, common language, common territory, and common descent from a mythical or historical ancestor. They have their own political organization. They have developed a well-assessed system of mutual obligations. They are relatively isolated in hills, forests and limited worldview. They practice their traditions, cultures and values.

1.3 Scheduled Tribe Population

According to 2011 census, the scheduled tribes' population in India is 104.3 million (8.7%), accounting for about one-fourth of the total tribal population of the world (S. Devanna & B. Suresh, 2017). There are about 705 ethnic groups in the country categorized as scheduled tribes in the constitution of India and they live in all 29 States and Union territories of the country (K. Mohan Rao, 2016). Andhra Pradesh state has seven per cent of between 15-34 years tribal population.

Table 1: Scheduled Tribe Population in India since 1951

Year	Tribal Population	Percentage of Total Population	Decadal Growth Rate
1951	19,111,498	5.29	41.19
1961	30,130,184	6.86	33.84
1971	38,015,162	6.94	24.80
1981	51,628,638	7.83	24.69
1991	67,658,638	8.08	23.79
2001	84,326,240,	8.20	22.7
2011	104,545,716	8.61	23.7

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs (2008)

The data in the above table show that the percentage of between 15-34 years tribal population has been growing in India. According to between 15-34 years 1951 census, the ST population in India was 5.36 per cent and in 2011 census, the ST population in India was 8.61 per cent in the total population of India. The growth rate of ST population is much lower in comparison with between 15-34 years Scheduled Castes, other Backward Castes and Other Castes of India.

According to census (2011) report, the state-wise scheduled tribe population in India is as follows: Madhya Pradesh stands first with 14.7%, followed by Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%), Gujarat (8.6%), Jharkhand (8.3%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%) and West Bengal (5.1%). The states of Karnataka (4.1%), Assam (3.7%), Meghalaya (2.5%), and the remaining States represent 11.6% of the tribal population. The proportion of ST population in the rural areas is 11.3% and in urban areas is 2.8%. More than half the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. The state of Andhra Pradesh contributes to seven per cent of between 15-34 years total scheduled tribes' population. The below table presents the district-wise scheduled tribes' population

in the state of Andhra Pradesh:

Table 2: District-wise Scheduled Tribe Population

S. No	Name of the District	Percentage of ST population in total district population
1	Srikakulam	6.1
2	Vizianagaram	10.0
3	Visakhapatnam	14.4
4	East Godavari	4.1
5	West Godavari	2.8
6	Krishna	2.9
7	Guntur	5.1
8	Prakasam	4.4
9	Nellore	9.7
10	Chittore	2.6
11	Kadapa	2.0
12	Kurnool	3.8
13	Anantapur	3.8

Source: Andhra Pradesh Planning Department, 2014

The data in the above table show that Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Nellore and Srikakulam contribute more per cent of scheduled tribe population in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It may be the reason that geographical locations of these districts are associated with forest and agency areas.

1.4 Primitive Tribes in India

In 1975, the Government of India initiated Dhebra commission to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and that committee declared 52 communities as PTGs. In 1993, Government of India added another 23 groups to the PTGs category, making it a total of 75 PTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census). In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (G Muralidhar (2014). The main criteria adopted for identification of such tribe are: 1) forest-dependent livelihoods, 2) pre-agricultural level of existence, 3) stagnant or declining population, 4) low literacy rates and 5) a subsistence-based economy. According to the 2001 census, the PVTGs population is approximately 27,68,322 in India (Virginus Xaxa et.al. 2014).

At present, there are 75 tribal groups identified and categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), (earlier known as Primitive Tribal Groups). In Andhra Pradesh, there are 12 primitive tribes living in the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 3: Major PVTGs Communities in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh	1.Chenchu
	2.Bodo Gadaba
	3.Gutob Gadaba
	4.Dongria Khond
	5.Kultia Khond
	6.Kolam
	7.Konda Reddi
	8.Kondasavara

	9.Bondo Porja
	10.Khond Porja
	11.Parengi Porja
	12.Thoti

Source: Prof. T. Subramanyam Naidu, 2020

Among them, Gutob Gadaba, Parengi Porja, Konda Savara and Dongria Khond groups are living in the study area i.e. parts of Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts. They are simply called as Gadaba, Porja, Savara and Kodhu in the study area.

Gadaba: the Bodo or Gutob Gadabas are predominantly found in the Scheduled Areas of Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh. The total Gadabas' population according to 2011 Census reports is 37,798. They live in huts. Gadabas speak their own dialect called 'GADABA'. At present the Gadabas are cultivators and agricultural labourers and collect Forest Produce.

Kodhu: the Kondhs are called Kodhu in the study area. They are predominantly distributed in the densely wooded hill slopes in the Scheduled Areas of Visakhapatnam district. They are also known as 'Samantha', 'Kodu', 'Kodi', 'Kodhu', 'Kondu' and 'Kuinga' (Indira Dutta and Meera Lal, 2016). Their population according to the 2011 Census is 1,02,378. The Khonds mainly subsist on cultivation and they are experts in *Podu* cultivation. They are adept in hunting and fishing and also specialized in basket making, mat weaving, oil extraction, etc.

Porja: the Porja living in Andhra Pradesh belong to the Parengi Porja who belong to Austro Asiatic linguistic family were recently migrated from Orissa. Their population as per 2011 Census is 36,143. They have their own dialect but also speak Telugu as well as Adivasi Oriya. Most of the Porjas who are living in the interior are largely subsisting on *podu* cultivation on hill slopes and collect forest produce. The landless sections work as agricultural labourers.

Savara: the Savara community is found inhabiting mainly hill slopes and near hill streams particularly in the mandals of G.L.Puram and Kurupam in Vizianagaram District. Their population is 1,37,613 as per 2011 Census. They speak their own Savara dialect besides Telugu. The Savara tribes are usually living in the interior and hilltops areas. The main occupation of the community is agriculture, horticulture and gathering of minor forest produce.

1.5 Background of PVTGs Youth

Tribal youth, particularly PVTGs youth are different in many aspects and cannot be compared with urban and rural youth in India. The PVTGs are vulnerable, marginalized and less developed tribal communities leading poor quality of life (QOL) in India. There are 75 PVTGs communities living in India and among them four PVTGs communities are living in the study area. PVTGs youth lives in remote forest areas, hill tracks and hill slopes. They get married at an early age and choose a livelihood to run the family. They are dependent on the forest for food and livelihood. Poor health care facilities, lack of transportation, poor connectivity and access, and impact of Naxalism are the major challenges to them. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and India initiated many schemes through the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) for the development of PVTGs youth like income generation support, education to children, basic health facilities, agricultural support, and awareness on various human rights and health problems. But these schemes are not reaching the PVTGs both in quantity & quality and still, they are backward in society leading a poor quality of life (QOL).

Livelihood is very important for every human being to engage with some work in their day to day activity. It provides them with the basic needs i.e. food, shelter and cloth. People with scant livelihood opportunity may migrate from that place, undergo extreme poverty, and they may face more health problems for the self, family and older people. Studies reported that the migration is very high in tribal areas due to lack of livelihoods including income generation programmes (IGPs). Some of the youth turned towards Naxalism and some of them are involved in the smuggling of Ganja and other unhealthy activities. There are a few studies conducted on livelihood opportunities, income sources and problems of PVTGs youth. Based on the above conditions, the present study has been conducted on PVTGs youth.

2.0 Review of Literature

Santanu Panda (2017) conducted a study on 'Development Scenario among the PVTGs: A Case Study of Birhor'. In this study, the researcher found that most of them for their livelihood depended on forest produce collection and non agricultural day labourer. The findings revealed that the reasons behind of the non utilization of the development inputs are following points. The government had given goats under a goatery scheme and pig under a piggery schemes to all the Birhor families in Purulia district to improve their socio-economic condition. But after 10 to 15 days the entire goat population died after suffering from diseases, because the beneficiaries had no knowledge of how rearing goats. The major reason behind the non-utilization of funds for house building lay in the poor and non-participatory nature of the planning the construction of the houses by the concerned department of the government. The major reason behind the non-utilization of *patta* land was that the government gave pople *patta* record but the Birhor beneficiaries have not seen the actual plot, let alone right to cultivation in his/her plot.

Bhattacharjee Suchiradipta et al (2018) conducted a study on 'Dynamics of Livelihood Diversification: A Study on Rural Tribal Youth in North Indian state Tripura'. The study found that the tribal livelihood has always been more or less dependent on land, but with the redistribution of forest land consequent to introduction of Forest Rights Act, increased restriction on traditionally practiced jhum cultivation, and distinct signs that over the time solely agriculture-based livelihood has been becoming to be non-remunerative, there is a need to rethink on the issue of the use of the land by the tribal communities, especially tribal youth.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Aim of the study

The present study is an attempt to study the livelihood practices, opportunities and challenges of PVTGs youth and suggest alternative livelihoods, schemes, programmes for the empowerment of PVTGs youth living in parts of Andhra Pradesh. This study has focused on PVTGs youth in the age group of 19-34 years.

3.2 Objectives of the study

1. To study the socio-economic, demographic and educational profile of PVTGs youth of Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh;
2. To understand the traditional livelihood practices and challenges of PVTGs youth; and
3. To provide appropriate suggestions to promote the development of PVTGs youth.

3.3 Research Design

A *descriptive research design* is formulated for the present study with a view to describe, compare and analyze the perceptions of the PVTGs Youth towards their livelihood opportunities in an agency area of two districts of Andhra Pradesh.

3.4 Sample

The researcher used two sampling methods for the present study. The first sampling method is a *stratified multistage sampling method*. The researcher selected two high populated and two low populated mandals from each selected districts. The total mandals selected for the present study is eight mandals. From the selected each mandal, the researcher selected two high populated and two low populated villages. The total selected villages for the present study are 32 villages. The second sampling method adopted for the present study is a *systematic random sampling method*. The researcher prepared a list of PVTGs youth between the ages of 19-34 years in the selected villages. The total youth living in these 32 villages is 2407. Every 10th number has been selected for the present study and the sample size for the present study is 240 youth from 32 villages.

3.5 Data Collection and Analysis

The data were collected at the houses of PVTGS youth between the months of April – June 2019. The data were collected from 240 PVTGs youth through a structured interview schedule which was tested through a pilot study. The researcher also interacted with 25 government officers and NGOs to get more clarity on the issues related to PVTGs youth. The data were analysed through MS Excel 2007 version and SPSS 17th version.

3.6 Limitations of the study

The data were collected between April – June Months. It is a summer season in India. Majority of the livelihood practices are related to the summer season. Another limitation is that the study conducted with the youth of four PVTGs. The livelihood practices belongs to these four PVTGs only.

4.0 Results of the Study

4.1 Age of the respondents

Age is very important for every research study. It is a independent variable influence many factors of the life. The below table presents the age of the respondents of the present study:

Table 4: *Distribution of the respondents by their Age*

Age	Frequency	Percentage
19-22	15	6.3
23-26	46	19.1
27-30	76	31.7
31-34	103	42.9
Total	240	100.0
Mean 27.70 years Median 28.00 years Mode 32.00 years Range 19-34 years		

Source: *field work, 2019*

The data in the above table show that the larger percentage (42.9%) of the respondents belonged to 31-34 years age group, followed by 31.7 per cent respondents belonged to 27-30 years age group. The class interval is four years. The mean age is 27.70, the median is 28.00 and mode is 32.00. The age range of the respondents is from 19 years to 34 years. The below table presents the caste of the respondents.

Table 5: *Distribution of the respondents by their Caste*

Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Gadaba	62	25.8
Kodhu	113	47.1
Porja	28	11.7
Savara	37	15.4
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table show that 47.1 per cent of the respondents belonged to the Kodhu community, 25.8 per cent of the respondents belonged to the Gadaba community, 15.4 per cent of the respondents belonged to the Savara community and 11.7 per cent respondents belonged to the Porja community. It is observed that the Kodhu and Gadaba communities lives in both the districts i.e. Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram, the Savara community lives in Vizianagaram districts and the Porja community lives in Visakhapatnam districts only. It may be a reason that the Gadaba community and Kodhu community have more representation in the sample

4.2.0 Major Livelihoods of Tribal Population in India

The PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as the collection of forest products and selling in the nearby markets, agriculture or shifting cultivation, livestock rearing, daily wage work, MGNREGS and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest. The forest is their life and livelihood.

4.2.1 Agriculture

The PVTGs depend on forest lands and hill slopes for *podu* cultivation. *Podu* is a local word which means shifting cultivation. Under this cultivation, they select a piece of land and cut the trees and bushes, partially or fully. After cutting the bushes and trees they leave it to dry and then burn them. In those lands, they plant the seeds without using ploughs into holes. Depending on the altitude, they grow maize, millets, pulses, rice, potatoes, vegetables, chillies, beans, sweet potatoes, mustard, sugar cane, sesame, pineapples, citrus, bananas and jackfruits. After some years, when they find that the crop yield is decreasing, they leave that land and move to another land. After 5 to 20 years, they restart cultivation in their previous lands. This cultivation is practised by PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha states of India. But the government declared their shifting lands as reserved forest areas and forced the PVTGs to prepare new lands for shifting cultivation (*G Muralidhar, 2014*). The following table presents the information about the agricultural landholding status of tribal youth:

Table 6: *Distribution of the respondents by having Land*

Having Land	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	225	93.8
No	15	6.2
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table show that 93.8 per cent of the respondents have agricultural land in

their villages while 6.2 per cent of the respondents do not have agricultural land. The respondents stated that the land is inherited from their parents, some of them reported that the government has given banjar lands and some of them are benefited from the Forest Rights Act 2006.

About 70 per cent of the population mainly depends on rain-fed agriculture characterized by low productivity, un-predictive weather and calamities, degraded soil with low fertility, unproductive irrigation and degraded natural resources (*Mohammad Ajaz-ul-Islam, 2012*). Recently, PVTGs youth started the cultivation of commercial crops like turmeric, cashew, coffee, pepper and silver trees which gives more income with less amount of agricultural work.

4.2.2 Forest Collection and Fishing

Forest is a primary resource for the PVTGs youth. Collection of forest products and selling in the near markets is one of the livelihood practices for PVTGs youth. Forest provides various products such as fuel-wood, the timber for house construction, vegetables, fruits, and medicinal herbs, etc. The household members have engaged in a full day work of collecting forest produce (*Prayas, 2005*). It is a seasonal activity. This work is available between the months of March to June. The following table presents the percentage of respondents involves in the collection of forest products.

Table 7: Distribution of the respondents by Collection of Forest Products

Collection of Forest Products	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	97	40.4
No	143	59.6
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table revealed that there is 40.4 per cent of the respondents are collecting the forest products and selling at their homes and at near markets. It is a seasonal activity and they earn Rs.1000/- to Rs.1500/-. They collect various NTFP items such as tamarind, curry leaves, Adda leaves, soap nut, tree moss, bamboo, honey, gum, amla, fuel-wood, sprouts, medical plants, roots and tubes. But today, they have a lot of restrictions on their movement in the forest because of the National Forest Policy of 2006 which regulates the movements of people with traditional rights, for several reasons, of which one is for helping to regenerate the forests. Still, some of the people use their traditional rights to go into the forests for collecting Minor forest products (MFP) and travel considerable distances over a period of time for collection of forest produces. The following table presents the association between the caste and collection of forest products.

Table 8: Distribution of the respondents by their Caste and Collection of Forest Products

	Caste Yes	Collection of Forest Products		Total
		No		
Caste	Gadaba	5 (5.1) (8.1)	57 (39.8) (91.9)	62 (25.8) (100.0)
	Kodhu	62 (63.9) (54.9)	51 (35.7) (45.1)	113 (47.8) (100.0)
	Porja	21 (21.6) (75.0)	7 (4.9) (25.0)	28 (11.7) (100.0)
	Savara	9 (9.3) (24.3)	28 (19.5) (75.7)	37 (15.4) (100.0)
Total		97 (100) (40.4)	143 (100) (59.6)	240 (100) (100)
Pearson Chi-Square		54.631(a)	3	.000

Source: field work, 2019

Analysis of the data on the caste and collection of forest products by the respondents show that there is an association between two variables as it is evident from the data that majority of the Kodhu and Porja community people are collecting the forest products. As both communities' lives very near to forest, they collect NTFP. Remaining two communities like the Savara and Gadaba are dependent on daily wage work and other sources of livelihoods. It is proved in the statistics as the Pearson Chi-Square 54.631(a), Df.3, Significance is .000.

4.2.3 Daily wage work

Daily wage work is another livelihood source for the PVTGs youth. They attend the daily wage work for the other tribal communities like the Kondadora, Baghata, and Valmiki in the nearby villages. It is one of the seasonal livelihood sources for the PVTGs youth. Both men and women attend daily wage work. The following table presents the attendance of daily wage work of the respondents:

Table 9: Distribution of the respondents by the Attendance of Daily Wage Work

Daily Wage Work	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	196	81.7
No	44	18.3
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table show that majority 81.7 of the respondents are going for the daily wage work, while 18.3 per cent of the respondents are not going to the daily wage work. Daily wage work is seasonal work in PVTGs villages and it is available in the months of June – January (rainy season). Daily wage work is available at their villages and another nearby villages. Most of the time the Kondadora, Bagata and Malludora communities invite them for daily wage work in their agricultural lands. They earn Rs. 200-300per day through daily wage. They work from morning to evening. It is also observed that some people who came from the plain area took the land of 30-40 acres for lease and are doing the agriculture in the PVTGs villages. PVTGs youth get daily wage work in those lands. The study observed that the people who have completed higher education are also attending the daily wage work due to lack of employment in agency areas. The following table presents the association between education and daily wage work.

Table 10: Distribution of the respondents by their Education and Daily Wage Work

Education		Daily Wage		Total
		No	Yes	
Education	Illiterate	112 (57.1) (88.9)	14 (31.8) (11.1)	126 (52.5) (100.0)
	1-5	33 (16.8) (91.7)	3 (6.8) (8.3)	36 (15.0) (100.0)
	06-10	30 (15.3) (75.0)	10 (22.7) (25.0)	40 (16.7) (100.0)
	Intermediate	17 (8.7) (56.7)	13 (29.5) (43.3)	30 (12.5) (100.0)
	Degree	4 (2.0) (57.1)	3 (6.8) (42.8)	7 (2.9) (100.0)
	PG and Above	0	1(2.3) (100.0)	1(0.4) (100.0)
Total		196 (100.0)	44	240
Pearson Chi-Square		27.771(a)	5	.000

Source: field work, 2019

Analysis of the data on the Education and Daily wage work of the respondents show that there is an association between Education and Daily wage work as it is evident from the data that majority of the illiterate respondents and literate respondents are attending the daily wage work. The people who have good education like intermediate and degree are also attending for the daily wage work. It may be reason that there are no job facilities in tribal areas. It is proved in the statistics that the Pearson Chi-Square 27.771(a), Df.5, Significance is .000.

4.2.4 Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is another source of livelihood for PVTGs youth. Entrepreneurship is the process of initiating, designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business. Some of the PVTGs youth initiated a business, gather all resources, undertake risks, face challenges and manages the business independently in the tribal villages. Most of the time these entrepreneurships in PVTGs is based upon the agriculture, forest-based products and other tribal related activities. The following table presents information about the existing entrepreneurs in PVTGs villages.

Table 11: Distribution of the respondents by Finding of any Entrepreneurship in their Village

Entrepreneurship in Your Village	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	36	15.0
No	204	85.0
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table show that majority (85 per cent) respondents stated that they did not find any entrepreneurship in their villages, while 15 per cent of the respondents stated that they did find some entrepreneurs in their villages running by their PVTGs youth. The major entrepreneurships are a petty business, goat rearing, village poultry programme, honey making, photography at tourist places, and selling of forest products. Majority of the respondents have the interest to start the business but the guidance, capacity building and financial support are required by the Government and the NGOs.

4.2.5 Farm animals and Livestock

The PVTGs rear different types of farm animals and livestock such as goats, sheep, cows, donkeys, horses, bullocks, buffaloes, and chickens. They use farm animals for the cultivation of the land because there is no other machinery available in the hill areas. The tractors may not reach the agricultural lands due to lack of road transportation facility and the land is on hill slopes. The major farm animals in tribal areas are buffaloes, cows, bulls, donkeys and horses. The following table presents the information about the number of farm animals is available with tribal youth:

Table 12: Distribution of the respondents by having Farm Animals

Farm Animals	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	125	52.1
No	115	47.9
Total	240	100.0

Source: field work, 2019

The data in the above table show that the majority (52.1 per cent) of the respondents have farm animals, while 47.9 per cent of the respondents not have the farm animals. It is also found that the majority (84.8 per cent) of the respondents have 1-2 bullocks/cows. The remaining livestock rare by the PVTGs is chicken, goats, sheep, etc. Livestock is a major source of milk and meat to the PVTGs. They

used to get nutritious food and income from livestock. Previously, PVTGs youth hunt livestock from the forest. But after an inception of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Wildlife Protection, Act, 1972 and other Policies of the government of India are prevented the hunting of livestock in the forest. Then PVTGs youth started the rearing of livestock at their houses. They also catch fishes in streams, tanks, ponds, seashore, lagoons and rivers for consumption (G Muralidhar, 2014). Majority of the respondents are not getting any income from the livestock. There is one government programme i.e. village poultry programme reached many PVTGs youth. They received 20-30 chicks which are forest friendly, gives more eggs in a year. It is a useful programme for nutritious development and income generation.

5.0 Suggestions

Scarcity of water for cultivation is a major problem in scheduled areas. *Podu* cultivation is dependent on rain. The Government and the NGOs should initiate the programmes related to the construction of tanks, canals, and the micro irrigation watershed development projects to provide water for agriculture.

Collection of the forest products is another important livelihood source for PVTGs youth. It provides the income and fulfils the daily home needs of fuel and fodder of PVTGs families. Generally, PVTGs youth collects the forest products between the months of March – July. PVTGs women also play an important role in the collection of forest products for the home. Regular training should be given on collection of forest products based on the demand and season. The daily wage is very less in the tribal areas when compared with the rural and urban areas. It should be increased; otherwise tribal families cannot save any money for basic survival.

Equal pay for equal work should be practised by the farmers at PVTGs villages. The daily wage amount and days of work in MGNREGS should be increased in tribal areas because they work in hard / rock soil. It is difficult to work in tribal areas than the rural areas. PVTGs youth have an interest to start the village friendly entrepreneurship like goat rearing, small business (kirana and fancy) at their house, vending of food material, honey processing units, poultry, milk dairy, and basket making which are suitable entrepreneurship ideas in the tribal area. Making pickles is one of the livelihood practices for tribal youth. The fruits are available in the forest at free of cost. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and other village-based associations should be trained as entrepreneurship units because they are interested and trained in many aspects. Special attention is required to create basic infrastructure facilities, like roads, transportation, and electricity on a priority basis in the interior hill tracts where the PVTGs generally reside.

The PVTGs are more backward communities than other non-PVTGs communities living in scheduled areas. Hence, PVTGs required separate reservations & schemes for their growth and development. Saving habit is very less among PVTGs youth because of their remoteness. Some of the PVTGs youth have invested their money in some false organizations like agri-gold and welfare because of the field visits by the agents. Bank and post-office employees also conduct the field visits to promote the savings among the PVTGs in bank accounts and post offices. PVTGs youth do not have proper security documents for their house and agricultural lands. Banks should provide loans to PVTGs youth without any security documents. It may help them to increase their income through entrepreneurship. Awareness among PVTGs youth should be promoted on Government Welfare Programmes and acts related scheduled tribes in India ex: PESA Act, Forest Rights Act and SC&ST Atrocities Act. Separate Corporation for the welfare and development of PVTGs should be initiated by the Governments or bifurcation of ITDA should be done. The separate corporation may provide the services to the PVTGs.

5.1 Steps to empower the PVTGs Youth

The figure presents the steps to empower the PVTGs youth in India. The steps were developed based on the experience gained in the present research study. PVTGs youth require sustainable livelihoods. The work should be available for 365 days at their villages. Initiation of the new livelihoods through skill development gives more income to PVTGs youth. Agency friendly entrepreneurship should be developed and cultivation of commercial crops should be promoted among PVTGs youth. PVTGs youth should increase their strengths, capacities in education, business and access the new marketing strategies to promote their products. All these steps help PVTGs to reduce the migration and increase the healthy and happy life.

6.0 Conclusion

Overall, the study discussed the livelihood practices of the youth in PVTGs. the youth of PVTGs are traditionally dependents on the forest and natural resources. Over the decades, the tribal economy and the livelihood strategies have undergone substantial changes. The development of PVTGs is very poor. They have a poor quality of life. The influence of the concepts globalization, urbanization and privatization not very strong on the day to day life of PVTGs youth. They need more financial support from government and NGOs to start entrepreneurship. They need separate corporations to access the government schemes. Media should publish the conditions of PVTGs youth. The academicians should do research on the economical problems of PVTGs youth. They need more support to improve their quality of life.

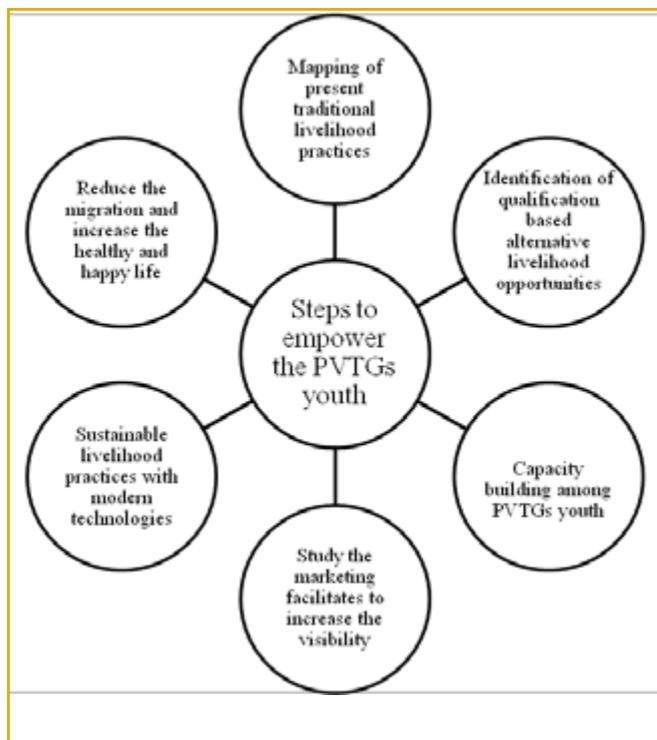


Figure 1: Steps to empower the PVTGs Youth.

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