

**A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS OF TRIBAL YOUTH IN KERALA SPECIAL REFERANCE OF PATHANAMTHITTA
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The young people in the age group of 10-24 yr in India constitutes one of the precious resources of India characterized by growth and development and is a phase of vulnerability often influenced by several intrinsic and extrinsic factors that affect their health and safety. Nearly 10-30 per cent of young people suffer from health impacting behaviors and conditions that need urgent attention of policy makers and public health professionals. Nutritional disorders (both malnutrition and over-nutrition), tobacco use, harmful alcohol use, other substance use, high risk sexual behaviors, stress, common mental disorders, and injuries (road traffic injuries, suicides, violence of different types) specifically affect this population and have long lasting impact. Healthy life-style and health promotion policies and programmes that are central for health of youth, driven by robust population-based studies are required in India.

Youth are the vocal, dependent, energetic, enlightened and have dreams about the future. This is the liberal and progressive face of Indian youth. There are some youngsters do not represent their whole generation in India. There is another youth, living far away from the reach of the powerful media. National political agitation hardly concerns them. They have their own pressing issues to deal with. They are the young generation of India's Adivasi (tribal) communities. Adivasis make up eight percent of India's population, and 40 % of them are in their 20s or younger.

Youth the most energetic and dynamic sections of the society proved to be vulnerable only if they receive enough opportunities along with proper guidance and support. In the present century, tribal's are facing various kinds of problem in diverse fields. Tribal youth are exposed to a variety of risk factors that increase their chances of becoming involved in delinquency and violent offending—a trend that is compounded by tribal communities' schemes formulated without sound basement on felt needs, misuse of government funds, improper attitude towards government, maladapted behavior of the tribal youth due to harmful drug use. The saddest aspect is that many semi-educated dropout tribal youth are exploited. With money and power to serve criminal matters and exploit their own community. Ultra – left wing radicals, popularly known as Naxalites in India, also take advantage of frustrated Adivasi Youth,

recruiting them into militants or using them as human shields in their Guerrilla war against state agencies

A few years back when I read one article in the famous newspaper regarding the exploitation of tribal youth, I was interested to search the cause for such exploitation. I had made a study on the problems of tribal youth in Pathanamthitta district. The district has the 8th rank in the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population to the total population (13.74%). According to 2001 – 2011 censuses the total number of tribal people in Pathanamthitta district is 8,108. These tribals are settled in various areas, among them *ulladan* and *malavedan* tribal groups settled more in Ranni Division in Pathanamthitta, as samples in my study. There are about 4,705 tribal inhabitants where 2310 are males and 2,395 are females. Malavedan's are considered belong to Pre Dravidian Race. They are subsisted mainly on food gathering and hunting. They are well expert in medicinal herbs. The Naranammuzhi Grama Panchayat in Pathanamthitta district has population of 1257 which constitute approximately 27% of total Malavedan community. Ulladan, also known as kochu velan (ullu means forest areas and Aliyavar means those who ruled). They have the knowledge of collecting medicinal herbs and they have the right to enter the sacred caves. Nowadays they settled down in plain areas and now they are agricultural labors.

Out of total 4, 705 tribal members in Ranni Tribal village, 1410 were youth belonging to the age group of 14 to 33 years. Hundred samples were selected using simple random technique. The researcher used interview schedule for data collection and used a diary for noting down the facts observed during the purpose of visit to the tribal colony and also used direct observation method for perceiving the facts related to the study. For the data collection the investigator used fields study and surveys methods both primary and secondary data pertaining to various aspects of tribal problems were collected. Second data are from Census Hand book, Tribal development Department, records of voluntary organizations and from existing literature.

Based on observation major findings found were majority of respondents irrespective of gender are addicted to alcoholism, panparag and betel leaves. For the purchase of these items, most of them are indebted and often dragged into various forms of exploitation by the contractors and moneylenders by purchasing the cultivated products owed by the tribals at low cost. The drinking habit of tribal's bring following types of problems such as crime and murder, juvenile delinquency, child labor, poverty, sex crime, prostitution, psychological frustration, exploitation, premature death and health problems. Looking through the economical problem, they have poor income due to exploitation, unemployment and lack of basic needs. Poverty is the commonest factor, which deprive many tribal youth the

opportunity for education, and even when education is made available, youth are often forced to “drop out” and seek for daily wages. Another reason for the educational problems is related to unavailability of teaches in these remote areas due to lack of basic amenities, tribal customs and belief. The respondents are more interested to go for collection of minor forest producers rather than going for a permanent job because they seek for the amount that would meet the expense for alcohol consumption.

Youth is the pulse of today’s society. They have the Zeal and the courage to cry out the injustices and the double standards. Which they see all around them, which we have either taken for granted or are too lethargic to correct. Youth scream out and act out against the things which most of us have become resigned to.

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