

## **Participation of Tribal Youth in On-Farm and Off-Farm Activities**

### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** More than 50.00 per cent of India's current population is below the age of 25 years and it highlighted the importance of youth in country's development. The study on tribal youth is an essential exercise in comprehending and combating with their various problems as tribal youth belonged to disadvantaged social group and suffer from many crippling problems that retard their development.

**Methods:** The study was under takes in Dhanora and Etapalli tahsil of Gadchiroli district. 140 tribal youth selected from 14 villages of 2 tahsil, an exploratory research design of social research was used and the data were collected with the help of structured and pretested interview schedule.

**Result :** The findings revealed that majority of tribal youths were regularly participated in land preparation viz, ploughing of land (72.14%), spreading of FYM (63.57%) and levelling of land (52.14%) and occasionally participated in harrowing (52.14%) and crushing (50.00%), they were regularly participate in transplanting (73.57%), sowing activities (63.57%) and occasionally seeds treatment (70.00%) and selection of seeds (57.86%). The majority of them occasionally participated intercultural operations. The majority of tribal youths were regularly participated in off-farm activities , Temdu patta cutting (60.71%) and collection of Mahua flowers and fruits (53.57%)

**Keywords:** Tribal youth, On-farm and Off-farm activities, Participation, Gadchiroli district.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The youth constitute a numerically dominant potential, resourceful and also adventurous segment of the population in our country. More than 50.00 per cent of India's current population is below the age of 25 years and over 65.00 per cent up to the age of 35 years. Majority of them lives in rural areas. The population in the age group of 15-34 years increased from 351 million in 2001 to 430 million in 2011. Current predictions suggest a steady increase in the youth population to 464 million by 2021. By 2020, India set to become the world's youngest country with 64.00 per cent of its population in the working

age group (Anonymous, 2011). Tribal youth is defined as a person in the age group of 15 to 35 years belonging to any tribal community. Youth population in India with the age group of 15 to 35 years is around 43,02,28,000 (35.56%) of the total population. Out of this, 70 per cent (301 million) are urban youth. As majority of youth comes from rural area, they are considered as the national builders of tomorrow more than 50 per cent of the total population below the age 25. (Anonymous, 2011).\

According to government of India, Tribal population is 104.3 million in India, which is 8.6 per cent of total population. Out of which youth contributes to 50 per cent Maharashtra contributes 10.1 per cent of tribal population out of India. 930 villages are 100 per cent tribal population, 3,760 villages constitute more than 90 per cent tribal population, and 4,836 villages constitute more than 75 per cent tribal population 6,738 villages constitute more than 50 per cent tribal population and 10,257 villages constitute more than 25 per cent tribal population. Gadchiroli district constitute 4,15,306 tribal populations which is 38.17 per cent of total population (Anonymous, 2011).

The study on tribal youth is also essentially an exercise in comprehending and combating with their various problems. The tribal youth as a disadvantaged social group suffer from many crippling problems that retard their development keeping them relatively backward and marginalized in growing economy, thus paving the path of dissension and social unrest of which the tribal states have a better experience. The young people might lack experience but they tend to be highly motivated and capable of offering new ideas or insights. India has the second largest concentrated of tribal population after African continent. The tribal population of India is more than 8.00 per cent of the total population; however, in Maharashtra it is over 9.00 per cent of the state population.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present investigation was carried out with following objective

1. To study the participation of tribal youth in on-farm and off-farm activities

The present investigation was carried out in Gadchiroli district of Vidarbha region as having the highest population of tribals. From Gadchiroli district two tahsils Etapalli (66,596) and Dhanora (58,748) were purposively selected as both the selected tahsils having the highest population of tribal people. Seven villages were selected from each tahsil thus total fourteen villages were selected. From each selected village 10 tribal youth (between age group 15-35) and who have minimum 1.00 acre of land holding were selected randomly. Thus, from selected 14 villages of Etapalli and Dhanora tahsils 140 tribal youth were selected randomly, out of these 128 were male and 12 were female youth. Thus, these total 140 tribal youth were considered as respondents in the present investigation.

Participation was defined as the active involvement of tribal youth in different on-farm and off-farm activities. For its measurement teacher made scale was developed. It was measured on three point continuum as Regular participation, Occasionally participation and Never participation by assigning score 2, 1 and 0 respectively.

On the basis of obtained score of each respondents further Participation index was developed as follows and they were categories on the basis of equal interval method.

$$\text{Participation Index (PI)} = \frac{\text{Obtained participation score}}{\text{Obtainable participation score}} \times 100$$

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Participation of tribal youth in different on-farm activities**

The data depicted in Table 1, regarding participation of tribal youth in on farm activities, revealed that majority of the tribal youth regularly participated in land preparation *viz.*, ploughing the land (72.14%), spreading of FYM (63.57%) and levelling of land (52.14%), followed by clod crushing (45.51%), preparation of nursery (45.51%) and harrowing (40.71%), respectively. The data further stated that majority of the tribal youth occasionally participated in land preparations *viz.*, harrowing (52.14%) and clod crushing (50.00%), followed by preparation of nursery (45.71%), leveling of land (43.57%), spreading of FYM (30.71%) and ploughing the land (24.29%). This clearly indicated that the tribal youth had either occasionally or regularly participated in land preparation.

The data from Table 1 revealed that majority of the tribal youth were regularly participated in sowing activities *viz.*, transplanting (73.57%) and sowing (63.57%), The data further stated that majority of the tribal youth were occasionally participated in sowing activities *viz.*, seed treatment (70.00%) and selection of seeds (57.86%), followed by broadcasting (43.57%), sowing (34.29%) and transplanting (25.71%). Further it was observed that the tribal youth were never participated in broadcasting (45.00%).

The data from Table 1 found that one-third of the tribal youth were regularly participated in intercultural operation *viz.*, application of fertilizers (35.00%) and preparation of channel/ furrow for irrigation (33.57%). The data further stated that about majority of tribal youth occasionally participated in intercultural operations *viz.* disease management (72.86%) and insect-pest management (72.14%), followed by irrigation (62.86%), preparation of channel / furrow for irrigation (62.14%) and application of

fertilizers (55.71%), respectively. This indicates that the majority of tribal youth were occasionally participated in intercultural operations.

Regarding Harvesting and Post harvesting activities it was observed that, more than half of the tribal youth regular participated in harvesting and post-harvest activities *viz.*, harvesting (52.14%), followed by threshing (46.43%), the respondents were regularly participated in transportation farm produce (12.14%), marketing (11.43%), storage (10.00%) and grading/ processing (05.71%).The data further stated that majority of tribal youth were occasionally participated in harvesting and post-harvest activities. Storage (72.14%), marketing (56.43%) and transportation farm produce (54.29%). This was followed by threshing (47.14%), harvesting (45.71%) and grading /processing (13.57%). This clearly indicated that the majority tribal youth were not regularly participated in marketing, storage and grading/processing activities.

In case of animal husbandry activities it was observed from Table 1 that, over one-fourth of respondents (28.57%) were regularly performing goat rearing activities, whereas only 37.14 and 29.29 per cent of respondents were occasionally participated in care of sick animal and grazing of animal activity, respectively. The majority of tribal youth were not participated in feed & fodder purchasing (89.29%), care of Animal breed (82.86%), feeding of animals (79.29%), grazing of animals (67.14%), goat rearing (60.71%) and care of sick animals (57.86%), respectively. It clearly indicated that majority of respondents never participated in animal husbandry activities.

In case of other agriculture related activities, it was observed that nearly one-fourth of the tribal youth were regular participated poultry farming (22.14%), followed by fish farming (16.43%) and fishing (10.71%), respectively. Whereas only (22.86%)of tribal youth were occasionally participated in fishing activity. This indicated that tribal youth very less participated in others agriculture related activities.

### **Participation of tribal youth in different off-farm activities**

The data from Table 2, it was found that majority of the tribal youth were regularly participated in forest production *viz.*, Tendu patta cutting and collection (60.71%), followed by Mahua flower/fruits collection (53.57%). The tribal youths were regularly participated in off farm activities such as labour (12.14%), driving and transportation (11.43%), service and educational activity (10.00%) respectively. The 07.14 per cent respondents also regularly produced the handicraft material and also done Bamboo cutting (02.12%).Tembrun fruit collection, Aonla/ Hirda collection and selling and Forest works as labour very few respondents are regular. It was further observed that majority of the tribal youth occasionally participated in forest production activities *viz.*,Forest works as labour (64.29%), followed by Mahua flower/fruits collection (42.86%), Tendu patta cutting and

Collection (34.29%), Aonla/ Hirda collection and selling (26.43%), Charoli collection (25.00%), Tembrun fruit collection (23.57%), Hunting (13.57%) Production of handicrafts (11.43%), Bamboo cutting (09.29%) and Honey collection and selling (07.86%), respectively. This indicated that more than half of the tribal youth are regular participated in Tendu patta cutting and Collection and Mahua flower/fruits collection while majority of the tribal youth were occasionally participated in forest works as labourer.

#### **Overall Participation of tribal youth in on-farm and off-farm activities**

From Table 3 it was revealed that more than half of the tribal youth (51.42%) had medium level participation in on-farm and off-farm activities, followed by low (39.29%) and high level (09.29%) participation.

The finding of present study is similar with findings of Suman Verma (2019) and Tekale *et al.* (2019) who reported that majority of respondents had medium level of participation.

### **CONCLUSION**

From present investigation it can be concluded that, the tribal youth actively participated in on-farm activities as it is a core occupation for their livelihood, their participation in on-farm activities like land preparation, sowing, intercultural operations harvesting and post harvesting activities highlighted remarkably and express their role in these activities. While in case of off-farm activities, they mainly engaged in collection of forest products such as Tendu pattas and Mahua flowers as it is a predominant activity in their locality. While their participation in other off-farm activities were negligible.

With this background the effort should be taken by the extension personnel and policy makers to make on-farm activities much productive, motivate the tribal youth to take part regularly in on farm and off farm activities, Extension personnel can organize various trainings and programmes for tribal youth related to on farm and off farm activities so that tribal youth can be benefited from it.

### **REFERENCES**

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**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to frequency wise participation in on-farm activities**

| Sl. No.                            | On-farm activities                             | Participation of respondents<br>(n=140) |               |               |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|---------------|
|                                    |  | Regular                                 | Occasionally  | Never         |
| <b>A) Land preparation</b>         |  |   |               |               |
| 1                                  | Ploughing the land                             | 99<br>(72.14)                           | 36<br>(25.71) | 05<br>(03.57) |
| 2                                  | Clod crushing                                  | 64<br>(45.71)                           | 70<br>(50.00) | 06<br>(04.29) |
| 3                                  | Harrowing                                      | 57<br>(40.71)                           | 73<br>(52.14) | 10<br>(07.15) |
| 4                                  | Levelling of land                              | 73<br>(52.14)                           | 61<br>(43.57) | 06<br>(04.29) |
| 5                                  | Spreading of FYM                               | 89<br>(63.57)                           | 43<br>(30.71) | 08<br>(05.72) |
| 6                                  | Preparation of nursery                         | 64<br>(45.71)                           | 64<br>(45.71) | 12<br>(08.58) |
| <b>B) Sowing activities</b>        |  |   |               |               |
| 1                                  | Selection of seeds                             | 51<br>(36.43)                           | 81<br>(57.86) | 08<br>(05.71) |
| 2                                  | Seed treatment                                 | 20<br>(14.29)                           | 98<br>(70.00) | 22<br>(15.71) |
| 3                                  | Sowing   | 89<br>(63.57)                           | 48<br>(34.29) | 03<br>(02.14) |
| 4                                  | Broadcasting                                   | 16<br>(11.43)                           | 61<br>(43.57) | 63<br>(45.00) |
| 5                                  | Transplanting                                  | 103<br>(73.57)                          | 36<br>(25.71) | 01<br>(00.71) |
| <b>C) Intercultural operations</b> |  |   |               |               |
| 1                                  | Preparation of channel / Furrow for irrigation | 47<br>(33.57)                           | 87<br>(62.14) | 06<br>(04.29) |

|  |                             |               |                |                |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2  | Application of fertilizers  | 49<br>(35.00) | 78<br>(55.71)  | 13<br>(09.29)  |
| 3  | Weeding                     | 18<br>(12.86) | 68<br>(48.57)  | 54<br>(38.57)  |
| 4  | Irrigation                  | 32<br>(22.86) | 88<br>(62.86)  | 20<br>(14.29)  |
| 5  | Insect-pest management      | 22<br>(15.71) | 101<br>(72.14) | 17<br>(12.14)  |
| 6  | Disease management          | 29<br>(20.71) | 102<br>(72.86) | 09<br>(06.43)  |
| <b>D) Harvesting and Post Harvest activities</b> |                             |               |                |                |
| 1  | Harvesting                  | 73<br>(52.14) | 64<br>(45.71)  | 03<br>(02.14)  |
| 2  | Threshing                   | 65<br>(46.43) | 66<br>(47.14)  | 09<br>(06.43)  |
| 3  | Transportation farm produce | 17<br>(12.14) | 76<br>(54.29)  | 47<br>(33.57)  |
| 4  | Storage                     | 14<br>(10.00) | 101<br>(72.14) | 25<br>(17.86)  |
| 5  | Grading/ processing         | 08<br>(05.72) | 19<br>(13.57)  | 113<br>(80.71) |
| 6  | Marketing                   | 16<br>(11.43) | 79<br>(56.43)  | 45<br>(32.14)  |
| <b>E) Animal husbandry activities</b>            |                             |               |                |                |
| 1  | Animal breeding             | 05<br>(03.57) | 19<br>(13.57)  | 116<br>(82.86) |
| 2  | Feeding of animals          | 04<br>(02.86) | 25<br>(17.86)  | 111<br>(79.28) |
| 3  | Care of sick animals        | 07<br>(05.00) | 52<br>(37.14)  | 81<br>(57.86)  |
| 4  | Feed and fodder purchasing  | 08<br>(05.71) | 07<br>(05.00)  | 125<br>(89.29) |
| 5  | Grazing of animals          | 05<br>(03.57) | 41<br>(29.29)  | 94<br>(67.14)  |
| 6  | Goat rearing                | 40<br>(28.57) | 15<br>(10.72)  | 85<br>(60.71)  |
| <b>F) Others agriculture related activities</b>  |                             |               |                |                |
| 1  | Fishing                     | 15<br>(10.71) | 32<br>(22.86)  | 93<br>(66.43)  |
| 2  | Fish farming                | 23<br>(16.43) | 12<br>(08.57)  | 105<br>(75.00) |

|   |                 |               |               |               |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 3 | Poultry farming | 31<br>(22.14) | 11<br>(07.86) | 98<br>(70.00) |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

**Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to frequency wise participation in off-farm activities**

| Sl. No.                     | Off-farm activities                   | Participation of respondents<br>(n=140) |       |              |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                             |                                       | Regular                                 |       | Occasionally |       | Never |       |
|                             |                                       | F                                       | %     | F            | %     | F     | %     |
| 1                           | Labour work                           | 17                                      | 12.14 | 75           | 53.57 | 48    | 34.28 |
| 2                           | Construction of roads/<br>buildings   | 11                                      | 07.86 | 60           | 42.86 | 69    | 49.28 |
| 3                           | Driving /Transportation               | 16                                      | 11.43 | 13           | 09.29 | 111   | 79.29 |
| 4                           | General store/ Kirana shop            | 06                                      | 04.28 | 02           | 01.43 | 132   | 94.29 |
| 5                           | Cycle/Motorcycle repairing<br>shop    | 03                                      | 02.14 | 00           | 00.00 | 137   | 97.86 |
| 6                           | Pan/Supari shop                       | 07                                      | 05.00 | 02           | 01.42 | 131   | 93.57 |
| 7                           | Tailoring                             | 07                                      | 05.00 | 06           | 04.28 | 127   | 90.71 |
| 8                           | Electrician                           | 05                                      | 03.57 | 03           | 02.14 | 132   | 94.28 |
| 9                           | Service                               | 14                                      | 10.00 | 00           | 00.00 | 126   | 90.00 |
| 10                          | Education                             | 14                                      | 10.00 | 04           | 02.86 | 122   | 87.14 |
| 11                          | Tadi selling                          | 10                                      | 07.14 | 23           | 16.43 | 107   | 76.43 |
| 12                          | Selling of liquor                     | 03                                      | 02.14 | 13           | 09.29 | 124   | 88.57 |
| 13                          | Musician ( <i>Wajantri</i> )          | 06                                      | 04.29 | 22           | 15.71 | 112   | 80.00 |
| <b>A) Forest production</b> |                                       |   |       |              |       |       |       |
| 1                           | Tendu patta cutting and<br>Collection | 85                                      | 60.71 | 48           | 34.29 | 07    | 05.00 |

|    |                                     |    |       |    |       |     |       |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|
| 2  | Mahua flower/fruits collection      | 75 | 53.57 | 60 | 42.86 | 05  | 03.57 |
| 3  | Bamboo cutting                      | 03 | 02.12 | 13 | 09.29 | 124 | 80.57 |
| 4  | Tembrun fruit collection            | 02 | 01.43 | 33 | 23.57 | 105 | 75.00 |
| 5  | Production of handicrafts           | 10 | 07.14 | 16 | 11.43 | 114 | 81.43 |
| 6  | Aonla/ Hirda collection and selling | 02 | 01.43 | 37 | 26.43 | 101 | 72.14 |
| 7  | Charoli collection                  | 00 | 00.00 | 35 | 25.00 | 105 | 75.00 |
| 8  | Honey collection and selling        | 00 | 00.00 | 11 | 07.86 | 129 | 92.14 |
| 9  | Huntting                            | 00 | 00.00 | 19 | 13.57 | 121 | 86.43 |
| 10 | Forest works as labour              | 01 | 0.71  | 90 | 64.29 | 49  | 35.00 |

**Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their overall participation**

| Sl. No.      | Participation | Respondents<br>(n=140) |               |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
|              |               | Frequency              | Percentage    |
| 1            | Low           | 55                     | 39.29         |
| 2            | Medium        | 72                     | 51.42         |
| 3            | High          | 13                     | 09.29         |
| <b>Total</b> |               | <b>140</b>             | <b>100.00</b> |