

**Pazhassiraja College**  
**IQAC**  
**Best Practice- Prabhodhan**

**Background of initiating PRABODHAN in the Campus**

The institution decided to initiate PRABODHAN after conducting a pilot study with 41 responses representing the tribal youth among the surrounding communities. This pilot research was propelled after going through literature on tribal dropout rates (Joy & Srihari 2014) in the Wayanad district. This study states that there is a considerable increase in the tribal dropout rate each year with an average early dropout of 3.22% each year, which makes Wayanad on top among other districts in the state. Another report by the office of the Deputy Director of Education Wayanad (2013) stated that the Government of Kerala had spent Rs. 8,21,25,863 during the period of 2008-2013 over various projects to facilitate learning in Wayanad district alone. But the statistics show that Wayanad is on top of the tribal dropout rate during 2007-2012.

At this point in time, a team of researchers<sup>1</sup> from Pazhassiraja College visited three nearby tribal settlements namely, *Cheeyambam Colony, Devargadda Colony, and Yogimoola Colony*, and conducted a pilot study in July 2015 to identify various concerns they have regarding education. The respondents were identified based on a non-probability (judgmental) sampling, who were the actual dropouts during their school days. They represented the age group of 13 to 22.

**The objectives of the pilot study were:**

1. To identify the reasons for early dropout among tribal youth
2. To evaluate their attitude towards continuing education
3. To test their knowledge over various career opportunities

**Key findings**

The reasons for an early dropout can be summarised (Refer Table 1, & Figure 1) as an aversion to education, peer pressure, ancestral influence, unanticipated responsibility, and others.

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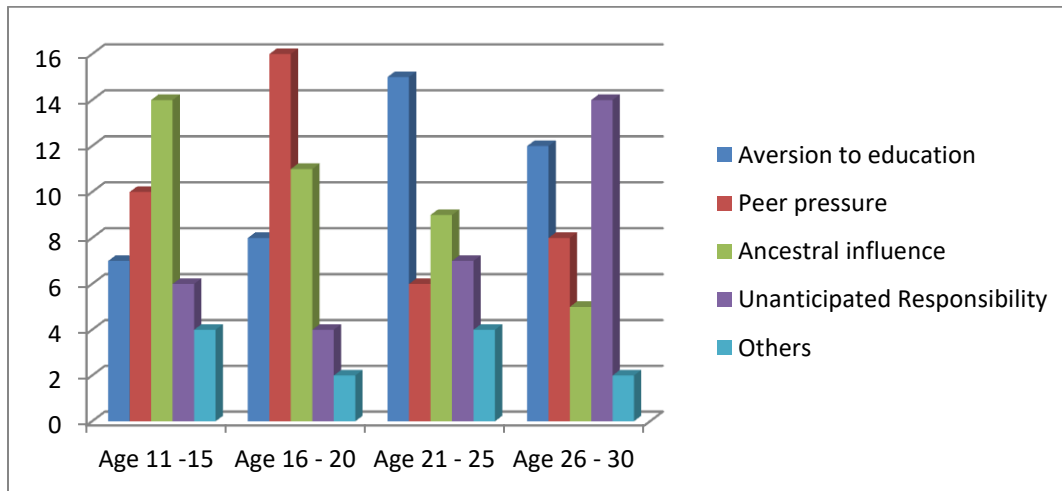
<sup>1</sup> Team of researchers: Shibin P James (HoD, Mass Communication), Swarga Varghese (Faculty), Alex MD, Jiffin Francis (Students)

Table 1: Reasons for dropout

Age group	Reasons for dropout				
	Aversion to education	Peer pressure	Ancestral influence	Unanticipated Responsibility	Others
Age 11 -15	7	10	14	6	4
Age 16 - 20	8	16	11	4	2
Age 21 - 25	15	6	9	7	4
Age 26 - 30	12	8	5	14	2

- Total Number of respondents 41

Figure 1: Reasons for dropout



## Findings

### The findings of the pilot survey as described in a nutshell.

#### 1. Reasons for Dropout

##### 1.1. *Aversion to education*

They are repugnant to education as few of them identify themselves as not fitting into the box of a regular academic routine.

##### 1.2. *Peer pressure*

Majority of the respondents have at least one friend who is also a dropout. Therefore many of them were unenthusiastic and reluctant to continue education in the absence of their friend.

### 1.3. *Ancestral influence*

Parents are unsure about the need of education; therefore they are least apprehensive about their wards going/not going to school. They prefer their kids going for menial jobs and earning rather than going to school.

### 1.4. *Unanticipated Responsibility*

Due to the death or unavailability of an elderly person, the school-going kid has to bear the responsibility of his/her family which makes them schooling inaccessible.

### 1.5. *Others*

1.5.1. Language – Difference between the language they speak and the language used in school as a medium of instruction.

1.5.2. Teacher related- Few of the students who stopped schooling as they disliked their teachers

1.5.3. Transportation- The distance to school and the lack of available commuting facility

## 2. Attitude to continuing their education

All the respondents prefer not to continue their schooling for various reasons. They are either settled with lifestyle and do not choose to disrupt it. They are also worried if their peers would humiliate or insult them from schools. Some are worried if their teachers would put them down. Therefore they prefer not to come back to school life.

## 3. Knowledge over career opportunities after education

The study also tested their knowledge of the career opportunities after completing their education. The result shows that they are not aware of the career prospects. Apparently few of them were slightly interested to learn more about job opportunities after completing education, but no such information was given to them to date.

At this outset, Pazhassiraja College has decided to initiate PRABHODHAN to support the tribal community in their education and career needs.

References:

1. Joy, j., & Srihari, M (2014). A case study on the School dropout Scheduled Tribal students of Wayanad District, Kerala. *Research Journal of Educational Sciences*, 2(3).
2. School dropouts 2007-2012, Office of the deputy Director of Education, Wayanad, Kerala, (2013)