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**STATE OF LIVELIHOODS OF KONDAREDDY TRIBES - A FIELD STUDY IN
EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**

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Abstract

As a single livelihood activity does not yield adequate income to meet the entire household requirements, it is obvious that the poor depend on multiple livelihood activities. The poor tend to establish their livelihoods as a diversified portfolio of subsistence activities rather than a single or just a couple or more of economic activities that fetch higher returns (Datta, Kandarpa, & Mahajan, 2014). The Kondareddy tribes are a part of the larger Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) who live along the banks of river Godavari. The current study was carried out in six kondareddy tribal villages in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh and exploratory research design has been adopted for this study. Household survey using a schedule, focus group discussions and semi structured stakeholder interactions are the major tools used for collection of primary data. The study revealed that Kondareddies are involved in multiple livelihood activities including rain-fed agriculture, slash and burn (podu) cultivation, collection of forest produces, bamboo basket-making, goat rearing and unskilled wage work to be meaningfully employed all through the year and also to earn their household income. The study observed that the natural resources such as land and forest constitute the basis for the livelihoods of Kondareddies. Barter system is still under practice among Kondareddies which earns about 15 to 20 per cent of the non-cash household income in the form of rice, oil, onions etc. by exchange of forest produce and bamboo articles. The current research article analyses the various livelihood practices adopted by kondareddies and key constraints faced by them while carrying out such livelihood activities.

Key words: Kondareddy tribes, Tribal livelihoods, agriculture practices of tribes,

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