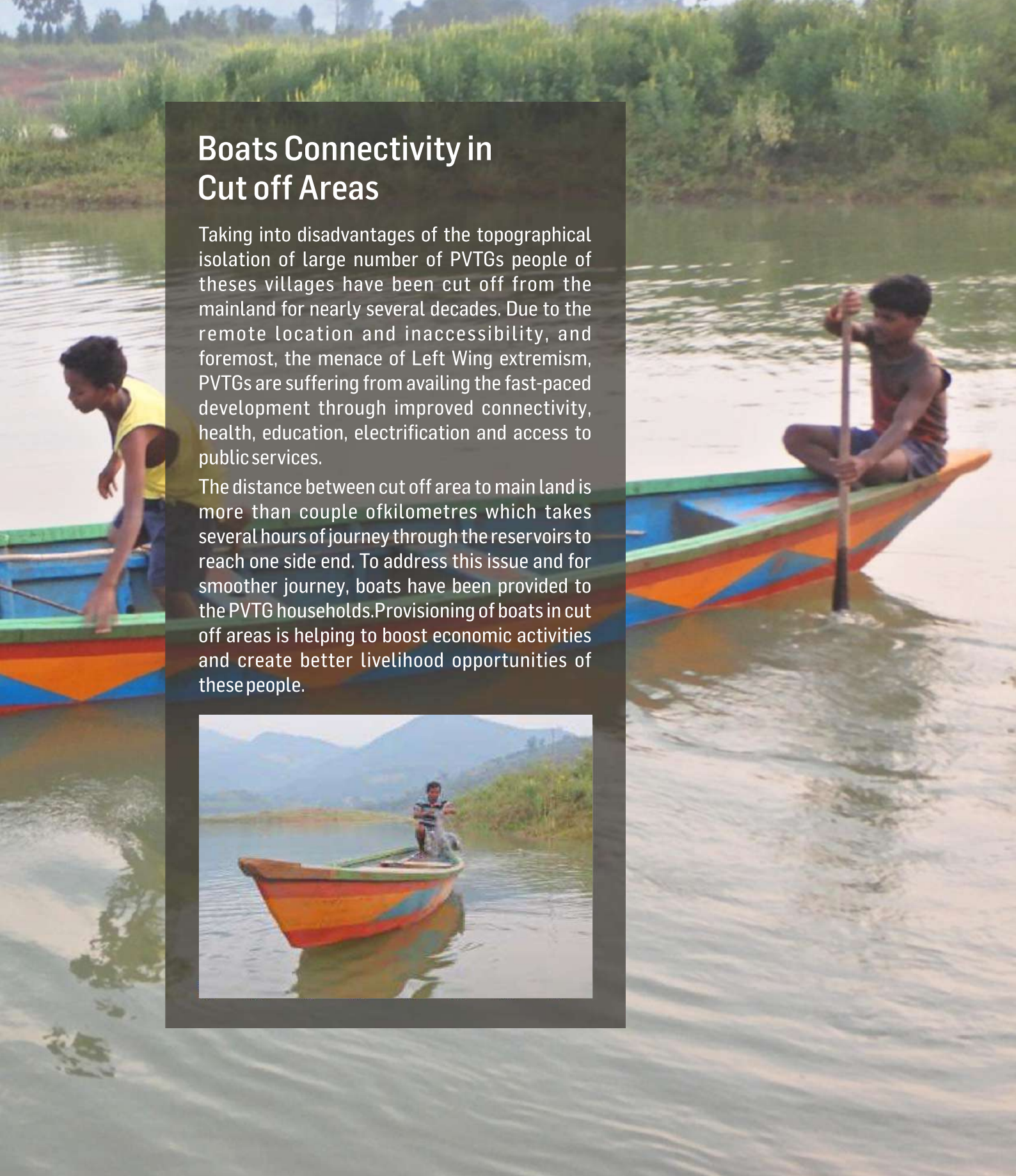


Boats Connectivity in Cut off Areas

Taking into disadvantages of the topographical isolation of large number of PVTGs people of these villages have been cut off from the mainland for nearly several decades. Due to the remote location and inaccessibility, and foremost, the menace of Left Wing extremism, PVTGs are suffering from availing the fast-paced development through improved connectivity, health, education, electrification and access to public services.

The distance between cut off area to main land is more than couple of kilometres which takes several hours of journey through the reservoirs to reach one side end. To address this issue and for smoother journey, boats have been provided to the PVTG households. Provisioning of boats in cut off areas is helping to boost economic activities and create better livelihood opportunities of these people.



Connecting Lifeline with Mainstream & Supporting Livelihoods

Tuseipada, Sindhiguda, Patraput, Khalaguda, and Bhaliapadar are PVTG villages Andrahal GP under MPA Mudulipada of Khairput Block of Malkangiri district. These PVTG villages are situated in remote area of Bonda Hills adjacent to Chitrakonda River and high terrain and mostly inaccessible difficult areas affected with by left wing. The problem of communication, sustainable livelihood, migration, and accessing health care facility are not addressed since long due to geographical barriers and also due to left wing prone situation from 20 years. Fishing and cultivation in a small un-irrigated land is the major livelihood of these people. Their livelihood majorly depend with boat with river whether it fishing and ferrying. Basically, these people are of traditional fisherman doing ferrying in Machakundriver. They had old small boat on which they were ferrying people; caught fish from the river and sold in local haat. In the meantime, their boats were getting damaged and which is not repairable. As a result, their income level went down and was difficult to manage their house. For this reason, these families were in difficult condition. Day by day their living condition was deteriorating.

After intervention of OPELIP project, the villagers requested the VDC, to get new boat for ferry as well as fishing for livelihood support. The VDC members realized that the boat was becoming old and not suitable for ferry as well as fishing as far as safety is concern. After discussion in the VDC meeting, the committee finalized the proposals and agreed to provide financial support for purchase of new boat.

Field experts of OPELIP at BDA Mudulipada were examined the ground realities and assess the situation. Steps are taken for provide support-Fishing Boat unit to enhance the daily engagement and income by nature gift of Chitrakonda River. It was thought of that provisioning of Boats in cut off areas of Malkangiri (Extremities Dominated Areas) will boost economic activities and create better livelihood opportunities for the people. Basing on this, during FY 2019-20, support for 5 nos. of fishing boat was provided to the beneficiaries with an expenditure of Rs.3 lakhs from SHG

improvement activity. Since the programme is boost up by the involvement of community of above five villages, further an amount of Rs.13,20,000/- was sent for five villages under IFAD CBM to drive the chain of sustainable livelihood among the residing PVTG of above said villages. Total 22 boats with fishing nets were provided to villages like Tuseipada, Sindhiguda, Patraput, Khalaguda, and Bhaliapadar whereas unit cost of each boat & net is Rs.60,000/-. In this way support of 22 of boats which is coming around Rs.13,20,000/- were provided.

The beneficiaries are maintaining daily records to know and ascertain the earning from Boat. At present they are financially independent and able to manage their small family in a dignified manner and educate their children as it is complementing the objective of projects that was implemented in remote area which created an example for other villages for implementation.

People are also feeling happy as the issue of their connectivity with main land is smoother now. Because the distance between cut off area to main land is more than couple of kilometres which takes several hours of journey through the reservoirs to reach one-side end. Now this issue has been addressed for smoother journey, boats have been provided to the PVTG households. Provisioning of boats in cut off areas is helping to boost economic activities and create better livelihood opportunities of these people. It is helping to reduce their poverty, to check migration, unemployment, effective utilization of natural resources and a path connectivity in River through multipurpose use of Fishing Boat to nearby village, market (Haat).

