

Socio – Economic Conditions of Dalits

A study of 15 Global Program Villages in
Munger District, Bihar



Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti, Patna
2023



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**A study of 15 Global Program Villages in
Munger District, Bihar**

Study done as part of the BMZ Global Programme.

by

Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti, Patna

**Supported by Caritas Germany
Guided by Caritas India, Bihar**

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Preface and Acknowledgements

BDVS is glad to present the findings of a brief study titled as "**Socio-economic Conditions of Dalits: A Study of 15 Global Program villages in Munger District**". Caritas Germany is supporting implementation of a development program in 15 villages in Munger District through Caritas India and its implementing partner, BDVS. This study although based on a small sample highlights the extreme socio-economic backwardness of the dalit population in these villages. The findings of the study would help the project team to effectively implement the envisaged activities for the development of the beneficiaries of the Global Program. Moreover, the findings are useful for others as well for the reason that they reveal certain hard facts on the socio-economic conditions faced by dalits in rural Bihar.

I express my deep gratitude to Caritas Germany and the entire Caritas national and state teams who accompanied us in multiple ways to complete this study. I thank the respondents of the study interview and the participants of the FGDs without whose help this study would not have been complete.

I express my deep gratitude to Mr. Babu Thomas and his team who organized this study - collected the data, processed the data in SPSS, and prepared a very good analytical report. I express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Anto Joseph for guiding the study at all the stages. I am grateful to all the others, especially Anuj Kumar and Raghav Nayak for assisting in data processing and in other works of the study.

The findings of this study will surely help us in the next phase of BMZ program in Munger District.

Fr. Jose Kariakattil SJ
Director, BDVS

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Abstract...

This study on the socio-economic conditions of dalits in 15 villages in Munger district of Bihar shows extreme socio-economic backwardness among the dalits. The dalits are mostly daily wage labourers and they suffer high unemployment. The poor economic conditions and unemployment force them to migrate to other states to earn a subsistence income. The study also notes the existence of exploitative informal credit market. The welfare schemes that enormously help the dalit households to meet the shortfalls in their subsistence income are not implemented effectively as a result of which a substantial percentage of population are excluded from crucial welfare schemes such as PDS, ICDS, Awas Yojana, etc. MANREGA/NANREGA which is crucially important for the dalit households is almost nonfunctional. The study recommends some steps to enhance the economic condition of the dalits. Sex ratio lower than that of the state, landlessness, absence of toilet facilities at home, lack of space at home to accommodate all the members make crucial deprivations that affect the wellbeing of dalit households in the study villages

Introduction: The Objective and Methodology

1. Introduction:

Bihar Dalit VikasSamiti (BDVS), established in 1982 by Fr. Dr. Jose Kananaikil at Barh, Patna is a non-government organization working in Bihar. BDVS works for the empowerment of Dalits in Bihar, particularly among children, youth and women. BDVS has a regional office in Munger district and implements dalit development program among children, youth, and women in two development blocks in this district. Being part of a Global Program initiated by Caritas, Germany, BDVS implements it in 15 villages: 9 villages in Tetiabambar Block and 6 villages in Tarapur Block. Table 1.1 gives an approximate caste wise population in the 15 villages of the Global Program

Table 1.1: Approximate CASTE wise Number of Households and Total Dalit Population of 15 survey villages							
SL NO	Village	Ravidas	Manjhi	Bind	Tonti	Paswan	Total Population
1	Jagtapura	90	20	250	0	0	1750
2	majlishpur	0	40	0	0	0	250
3	Baradghata	0	25	26	0	0	357
4	Jitwarpur	0	35	18	15	0	481
5	Lohra	20	90	0	0	0	910
6	Dhapra	150	50	0	0	0	924
7	Manikpur	90	0	0	0	10	500
8	Milki	50	0	0	0	0	300
9	Devgaw	5	50	0	20	0	420
10	Satehara	4	200	100	25	0	488
11	ShahpurBelbihama	0	56	20	0	0	400
12	Gokhulchak	0	35	250	14	0	300
13	Bichchhichanchar	40	15	0	0	0	300
14	Jhikatiyatand	0	45	175	0	0	270
15	Gauravadih	0	100	0	0	0	650
		449	761	839	74	10	8300

This brief study is done midway through the implementation of the Global Program. It aims to assess the socio - economic conditions of the people in the Global Program villages to enable the implementing team to analyze and understand the impact of the Global Program in these villages.

2. Rationale of the study

The rationale of the study is the following:

1. To know the impact of Global Programme India intervention on knowledge and awareness of rights and entitlements in the 15 villages.
2. Has the Global Programme India brought in any behavioral changes in the beneficiaries for last 2 years?
3. To know the social, economic and political empowerment situation of Mahadalit community.
4. To know whether Global Programme India strategies have worked or not, & if not, see what exactly went wrong, & correct the course. (Include community and related stakeholders' perspective)

3. Objectives of the study:

The objectives of this brief study are to find out the socio-economic conditions of Dalits in relation to the inclusive policies run for the welfare of Dalits in the 15 operational villages of BDVS in Munger district where the Global Program is being implemented in the last two years.

The specific objectives of the study are: -

1. To find socio-economic status among the Dalits of the 15 villages.
2. To analyze the socio-economic conditions of Dalits in relation to government services (education, health, housing, food Security, employment, land etc.)
3. To analyze social exclusion indicators (caste etc.)
4. To analyze the gender related issues.
5. To discuss and disseminate the findings and suggest solutions to the people and policy makers.

4. Methodology:

The methodology of the study includes both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data is collected based on a structured interview schedule prepared for the purpose. FGDs with PRI members, TolaSewak, ICDS staff, etc. are used for the collection of qualitative data. The results of the quantitative data shall be analyzed in the light of the qualitative data.

Five households from each program villages were selected by using the random sampling method. The 75 households selected through random sampling method constitute the sample households of the study. Structured interviews were held with the sample household respondents to collect the quantitative data. The following schedule of the methodology had been followed:

1. Preparation of questionnaires for the filed survey.
2. Training volunteers.
3. Data Collection:
 - From 75 sample families
 - 5 Focus Group Discussions (Includes PRI members, TolaSewak, VikasMitra, ICDS Staffs and Mixed group community)
 - Key Informant interview (CDPOs, BDO, CO, BEO)
4. Data Analysis and Report Writing.

Chapter 1: The Sample and the Socio-educational situation

1. Introduction

The population of the 15 Global Program Villages consists of about 3147 dalit households in Tetiabambar block and 1598 dalit households in Tarapur Block. This chapter briefly highlights certain basic characteristics of the sample population.

2. The sample Size

The sample, as shown in Table 1.1 consisted of 75 households from 15 villages from two blocks.

Table 1. 1: The Sample

<i>No of Blocks</i>	<i>02</i>
<i>No of Villages</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>No of Households</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Mean Household Size</i>	<i>06</i>

Table 2 shows that the sample households have a population of 440 people. Of these, 113 are children below 6 years, 97 are children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, 67 are youth in the age group of 15 to 24 years; 130 are in the age group of 25 to 49 years, and the rest 33 are above 50 years.

The sample population consisted of 239 male members 201 female members. The male - female ratio of the population suggests that the sex ratio of the given population is 841, which indicates an extremely skewed sex ratio. Comparing the sex ratio in the sample population with the relevant data from 2011 census report, it is found that the ratio suggested by the sample is much smaller than the state sex ratio (918) and that of the country (940).

Table 1. 2: Age and Gender Wise Distribution of the Sample Population

<i>Village</i>	<i>0-6 Years</i>		<i>6-14 years</i>		<i>14-24 Years</i>		<i>25-49 Years</i>		<i>50 Years & Above</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>
<i>Jagatpura</i>	6	4	4	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	15	10
<i>Lohra</i>	2	3	8	0	2	1	3	4	1	1	16	09
<i>Dhapra</i>	6	4	3	0	0	1	5	3	0	0	14	08
<i>Gauravadih</i>	4	2	3	0	3	1	4	3	2	2	16	08
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	3	5	4	2	1	2	4	4	0	0	12	13
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	5	0	2	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	15	09
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	5	3	1	6	2	2	4	4	0	2	12	17
<i>Shahpur Belbihama</i>	9	6	5	4	2	2	8	8	0	1	24	21
<i>Satehara</i>	2	5	3	7	1	1	5	5	1	4	12	22
<i>Devgaw</i>	2	3	0	3	3	2	5	3	2	1	12	12
<i>Milki</i>	2	3	6	5	1	1	4	5	2	1	15	15
<i>Manikpur</i>	1	2	3	2	3	1	4	4	1	2	12	11

<i>Majalispur</i>	9	6	4	3	6	1	5	6	1	1	25	17
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	7	1	6	5	2	5	5	6	2	1	22	18
<i>Baradghata</i>	2	1	5	1	5	4	5	5	0	0	17	11
	65	48	57	40	35	32	68	62	14	19	239	201

3. Educational Attainment in the sample

The educational scenario of the sample population is given in table 1.3. The table gives a few valuable information. Firstly, the table shows that there is decreasing illiteracy from one generation to generation. Illiteracy rate is 67 per cent for male and 76.5 per cent for female among the population above 25 years; it is 20.6 per cent for male and 34.4 percent for female among the age group of 15 to 25 years; and zero illiteracy among 6 -14 years. Secondly, there is some increase in the educational attainment from one to another generation. The percentage of those who completed up to class 8 is highest among the age group of 6 -14 years and in the age group of 15 - 25 years, it is higher than the age group above 25 years. This trend is also seen regarding educational attainment up to class X and class XII. The table indicates that the educational attainment up to class 12 is higher among 15 -25 years than the age group of above 25 years. Thirdly, there is no discernable change between different generations regarding higher education.

Table 1.3: Sample Educational Status

<i>Education</i> \ <i>Age</i>	<i>6-14 years</i>		<i>15-25 years</i>		<i>26 Years & above</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>FM</i>
<i>Illiterate</i>	0	0	07 (20.6)	11 (34.4)	55 (67.1)	62 (76.5)
<i>1 - V</i>	43 (75)	30 (75)	12 (35.3)	8 (25.0)	11 (13.4)	10 (12.3)
<i>VI-VIII</i>	14 (25)	10 (25)	08 (23.5)	5 (15.6)	08 (09.8)	01 (01.2)
<i>IX-X</i>	0	0	06 (17.6)	6 (18.8)	04 (04.9)	05 (06.2)
<i>XI-XII</i>	0	0	02 (05.9)	2 (06.2)	02 (02.4)	02 (02.4)
<i>Graduation</i>	0	0	00	0	02 (02.4)	01 (01.2)
<i>PostGraduation</i>	0	0	00	0	00	00
<i>Total</i>	57	40	34	32	82	81

In conclusion, we note that there is a definite change in the educational scenario. It is clearly noted in the case of attainment of primary education. There is a clear suggestion that educational attainment up to class 12 is higher among the present generation than the earlier generations. In the case of higher education, the change is abysmally low.

4. Access to Basic Amenities

The study inquired if the households have access to basic amenities for a decent and dignified life. All the 15 villages have paved or concrete roads and are well connected to the main road. The population has access to primary and secondary schools and to market within a reasonable distance.

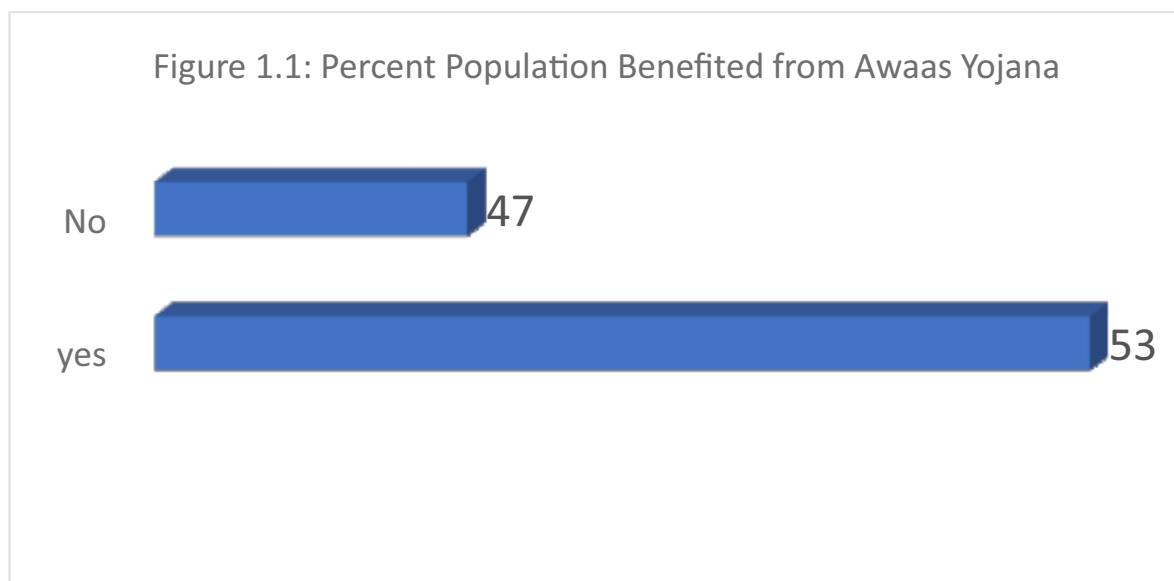
4.1. Access to House

Table 1.4 contains information on accessibility of households to house, electricity, and safe drinking water. Nearly 65 percent households have concrete house. Within the sample population, nearly 53 percent households have built houses under government Awas Scheme (Fig. 1.1). This implies that the

vast majority of those with concrete houses have built the concrete houses under the government scheme. It needs to be emphasized that although 65 percent sample households have concrete houses, most households with average household size of 6 do not have enough space within the house for a decent life. Nearly 35 percent households do not have concrete houses. In three villages under the study, none of the households have concrete houses. Their houses are still madhouses with thatched roof.

Table 1.4: Access to Basic Amenities

<i>Villages</i>	<i>Concrete House</i>		<i>Electric Connection</i>		<i>Safe Water</i>	<i>Drinking</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Jagatpura</i>	0 (0)	5 (100)	1(20)	4(80)	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Lohra</i>	4 (80)	1(20)	4(80)	1(200)	4 (80)	1(20)
<i>Dhapra</i>	5 (100)	0 (0)	5 (50)	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Gauravadih</i>	3 (60)	2 (40)	4 (80)	1(20)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	0(0)	5(100)	5 (100)	0(0)	3(60)	2(40)
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	4(80)	1(20)	5(100)	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	1(20)	4(80)	5 (100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Shahpur Belbihama</i>	3(60)	2(40)	4 (80)	1 (20)	3(60)	2(40)
<i>Satehara</i>	4(80)	1(20)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Devgaw</i>	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	2 (40)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Milki</i>	5(100)	0(0)	4(80)	1(20)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Manikpur</i>	5(100)	0(0)	2 (40)	3 (60)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Majalispur</i>	3 (60)	2(40)	5 (100)	0 (0)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	4(80)	1(20)	5(100)	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)
<i>Baradghata</i>	3(60)	2(40)	5(100)	0(0)	5(0)	0 (0)
<i>TOTAL</i>	49 (65)	26 (35)	62 (83)	13(17)	67 (89)	8 (11)



4.2. Access to Electricity

Table 1.4 and figure 1.2 further reveal that nearly 83 percent households have electric connection and 89 percent of households with electric connection receive electricity for 12 hours a day. This a remarkable achievement of the state government in the recent times.

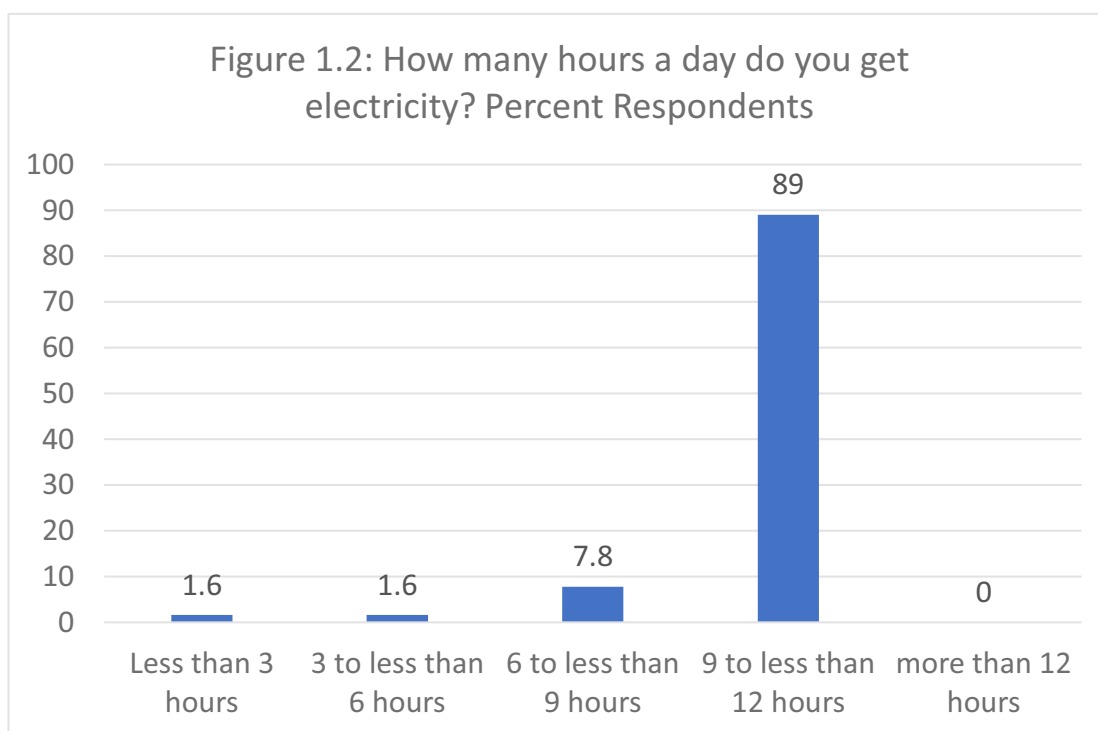


Table 4 further reveals that in the same population there are still about 11 percent households not having access to safe drinking water. Safe drinking water is available only to 89 percent of the sample population. With the present stage of development, having about 11 percent households without access to safe drinking water should be seen as a serious matter.

4.3. Toilet Facility

Swachh Bharat is a flag ship program of the central government and under this program, every household is expected to have toilet facility that is usable. The sample survey suggests that open defecation continues to be a common practice in the villages. It is found as given in table 1.5 that 73 percent households do not have access to toilet facility and open defecation is the practice. A majority of Dalits are landless and there is hardly any space where they can built toilet at home.

Table 1.5: Toilet uses

Village	Toilet facility at home		If toilet not at home	
	Yes	No	Public toilet	Open field
Jagatpura	1(20)	4(80)	0 (0)	4 (80)
Lohra	0(0)	5(100)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Dhapra	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)	2 (100)
Gauravadih	1 (20)	4(80)	1(25)	3 (75)
Jhikatiyatand	0(0)	5(100)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Bichchhichanchar	2 (40)	3 (60)	0(0)	3 (100)
Gokhulchak	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	3 (100)
ShahpurBelbihama	0(0)	5(100)	1 (20)	4 (80)
Satehara	1(20)	4(80)	0 (0)	4 (100)
Devgaw	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	3 (100)
Milki	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	3 (100)
Manikpur	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	3 (100)
Majalispur	0(0)	5(100)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Jitwarpur	4(80)	1(20)	0 (0)	1 (100)
Baradghata	0(0)	5(100)	0 (0)	5 (100)
TOTAL	20 (27)	55 (73)	02 (4)	53 (96)

4.4. Health

According to the data given in Table 1.6 as well as in the figure 1.3, the study finds that 41 per cent of the 15 villages have Sub Primary Health Centre in their panchayat and about 59 percent villages do not have this facility. From the available data given in the Table, it is learnt that the sub primary health centre at the panchayat level is opened on all working days only in a couple of panchayats and in the others, the subcentre either does not exist or does not open on all working days. In general, it can be concluded that the people in these panchayats do not have access to free health services.

Figure 1. 3: IS there Sub Centre of Primary Health Centre at the panchayat level?

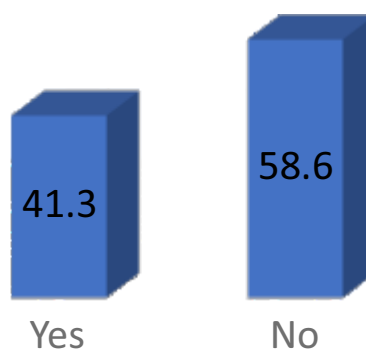


Table 1.6: Primary Health Facility

Village	How often does Sub PHC open?		Do you get free medicine from Sub PHC?	
	All Working days	Occasionally	YES	NO
Jagatpura	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Lohra	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Dhapra	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Gauravadih	5(100)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Jhikatiyatand	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Bichchhichanchar	5(100)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Gokhulchak	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
ShahpurBelbihama	0(00)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Satehara	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Devgaw	0(0)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Milki	5(100)	0(00)	5(100)	0(0)
Manikpur	0(00)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Majalispur	1(20)	1(20)	1(20)	0(0)
Jitwarpur	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Baradghata	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre	No Sub Centre
Total			31	6

The study finds that the backbone of rural health is the village practitioners. According to the data in Table1.7, nearly 87 percent respondents said that they first go to the village practitioners when someone falls ill. Only 10.7 percent respondents suggested that they first go to the government primary health centre or the subcenter. It is observed that the village practitioners play a vital role in the health service in rural areas in Bihar. It has been noted that the village practitioners saved many lives during the Covid - 19 Pandemic.

Table1.7: When someone falls ill, where do you first go for treatment

Village	When someone falls ill, where do you first go for treatment?
---------	--

	<i>Ojha</i>	<i>Village practitioner</i>	<i>Hospital</i>
<i>Jagatpura</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Lohra</i>	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
<i>Dhapra</i>	0(0)	4(80)	1(20)
<i>Gauravadih</i>	1(20)	2(40)	2(40)
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	0(0)	4(80)	1(20)
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	0(0)	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>ShahpurBelbihama</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Satehara</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Devgaw</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Milki</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Manikpur</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Majalispur</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Baradghata</i>	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Total</i>	2 (2.7)	65 (86.7)	8 (10.7)

Out of 75 sample households, 6 respondents said that there is someone with long diseases at home. As a general observation, it has been noted that a large part of household budget is spent on medication. Ordinary fever and loose motion are common in the villages. The village practitioners are approached for medication. If the Sub Primary Health Centre is operational and have facility to attend to the ordinary medication of the villagers, not only that their general health would improve, but also enable them save a large part of their expenses spent on medicines. Table 1.8 suggests that there are a few people who suffer from disease for a long period.

Table1.8: Does anyone in the family with long diseases

Village	Yes	No
<i>Jagatpura</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Lohra</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Dhapra</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Gauravadih</i>	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>ShahpurBelbihama</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Satehara</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Devgaw</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Milki</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Manikpur</i>	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Majalispur</i>	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Baradghata</i>	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Total</i>	6 (08)	69 (92)

4.5. Anganwadi services

Table 1.9a and 1.9b together give information on the accessibility of households to services envisaged to be delivered under ICDS. The information contained in these tables do not communicate clearly the extent of services under ICDS received by the households. The study finds that 13 out of the 15 villages have Angawadi centre. Majority of the respondents suggested that the children get free meal as per the provisions of the scheme. Immunization service is also available to the villagers through anganwadis. The other services such as pre-school education, providing necessary health tips health check up are not available on a regular basis.

Table 1.9a: Access to Anganwadi Services

VILLAGE	Is there anganwadikendra in your village?		Do you get Supplimentary food from anganwadi in your village		Do you get pre school seva from Anganwadi in your village?		Do you get health tips from Anganwadi in your village	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Jagatpura	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Lohra	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	5(100)	0(0)
Dhapra	3(60)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Gauravadih	3(60)	0(0)	4(80)	1 (20)	5(100)	0(0)	4(80)	1 (20)
Jhikatiyatand	4(80)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	5(100)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	4(40)	3(60)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Gokhulchak	3(60)	1 (20)	3(60)	4(40)	4(80)	1 (20)	3(60)	4(40)
ShahpurBelbihama	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	0(0)	3(60)	0(0)	3(60)	0(0)
Satehara	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	1 (20)	3(60)	1 (20)	3(60)	1 (20)
Devgaw	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Milki	4(80)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Manikpur	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Majalisipur	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	4(80)
Jitwarpur	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Baradghata	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
Total	54	13	44	27	46	25	51	20

Table 1.9 b: Access to Anganwadi Services

VILLAGE	Do you get health check up through anganwadi in your village		Do you get referral service from anganwadi in your village		Do you get immunization service from anganwadi in your village?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Jagatpura	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Lohra	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Dhapra	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Gauravadih	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	2(40)	5(100)	0(0)
Jhikatiyatand	5(100)	0(0)	3(60)	2(40)	5(100)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	3(60)	4(40)	4(40)	3(60)	3(60)	4(40)
Gokhulchak	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	4(40)
ShahpurBelbihama	3(60)	0(0)	4(80)	1 (20)	3(60)	0(0)
Satehara	3(60)	1 (20)	3(60)	1 (20)	3(60)	1 (20)
Devgaw	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	4(40)

<i>Milki</i>	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	4(40)
<i>Manikpur</i>	3(60)	4(40)	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	4(40)
<i>Majalispur</i>	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	4(80)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	3(60)	4(40)	2(40)	3(60)	3(60)	4(40)
<i>Baradghata</i>	3(60)	4(40)	2(40)	3(60)	3(60)	4(40)
<i>Total</i>	52	19	44	27	52	19

The Focussed Group Discussion held in the villages revealed that there are a large number of eligible children excluded from ICDS. The information gathered through FGDs is compiled in Table 1.10. The table shows that in the 15 villages under the study, there are a total of about 166 children excluded from the benefits. In some villages the number of children thus excluded is more than 20. This finding is consistent with our observations in other villages too. The reasons for this exclusion are many. One of the most prevalent reason is the distance of anganwadi centre from the tola. If the distance is more and if the centre is not located within the same tola / village, the children do not go to anganwadis and thereby they are deprived of the benefits of the scheme. Insufficient number of anganwadis is also another often found reason.

Table 1.10: Children Excluded from ICDS services

Village	Children not registered in AWC	Children not registered in School	drop out from the school
Jagtapura	10	17	5
majlishpur	0	0	10
Baradghata	8	15	15
Jitwarpur	25	0	10
Lohra	15	7	6
Dhapra	11	13	5
Manikpur	10	0	0
Milki	10	7	7
Devgaw	40	4	8
Satehara	0	16	16
ShahpurBelbihama	22	20	20
Gokhulchak	10	5	5
Bichchhichanchar	18	22	22
Jhikatiyatand	7	11	7
Gauravadih	20	15	15
Total	166	152	151

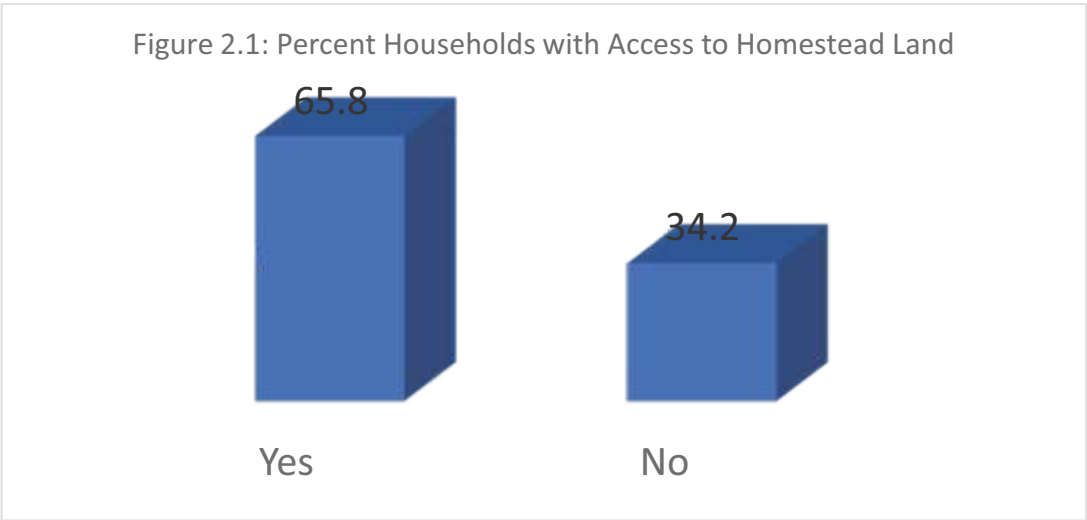
Chapter 2: Economic conditions of the sample house holds

1. Introduction

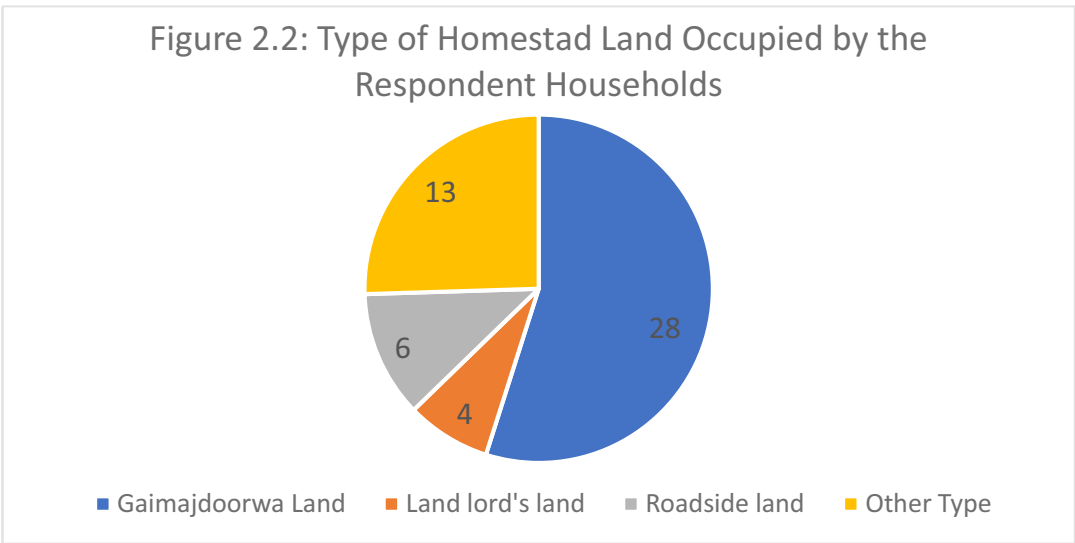
This chapter examines the economic condition of the people in the 15 villages. The chapter examines accessibility to land, primary occupation, employment opportunities, informal credit and migration.

2. Access to Homestead Land

A vast majority of the Musaharsis found to be landless. They live on what we can refer to as the 'peripheries'. They are found to live on land provided by the landlord, or on government land found along the canals, roads, or railway tracks. In our sample, this well-known fact is found correct.

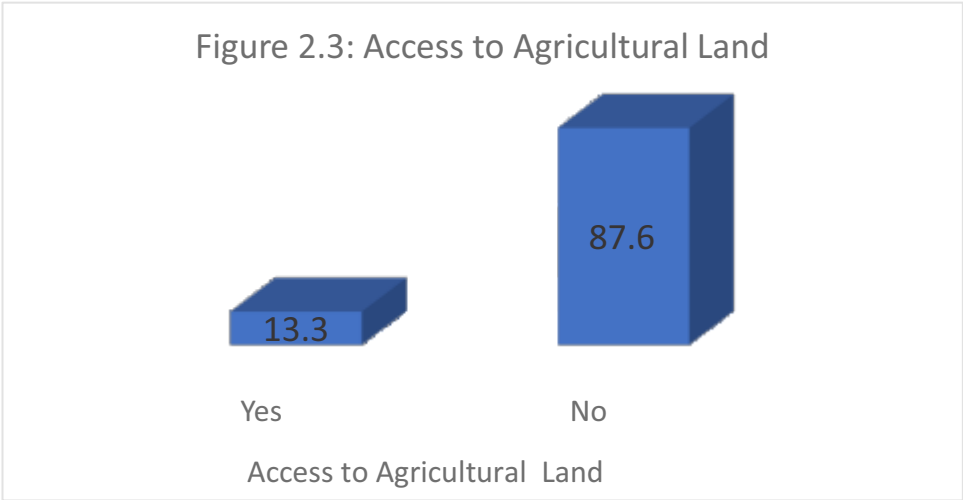


In the sample survey, figure 2.1 reveals that nearly 48 respondents (66 percent) said that they have access to homestead land and 25 (34 percent) said that they do not have access to homestead land. While inquiring further, figure 2.2 reveals that it is found that only 24 respondent households (32 percent) have their house built on land owned by them. All the rest have their houses built not on land owned by them.



The figure above informs that 28 respondent households (37.3) have their houses built on gairmajdoorwa land, 6 households (8 per cent) on land along the road, 4 households (5.3 percent) on land provided by the landlord, and 13 households (27.3 percent) on other type of land. Nearly 68 per cent (51) households not having ownership of homestead land is a serious situation of deprivation.

3. Access to Agricultural Land



Access to agricultural land is also nearly absent. Nearly 65 respondent households, 86.7 per cent, said that they do not have agricultural land (Figure 2.3). Even those 10 respondent households, 13.3 percent, mostly have access only to a few khattas of agricultural land (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Access to Agricultural Land

Access toAgricultural Land	
No	Yes
65 (86.7)	10 (15.3)
5 households	Less than 5 khattas
3 households	5 – less than 10 khattas
2 households	10 – less than an acre

Being landless, wage labour is the primary source of income for the vast majority of 88 percent of the sample households. Table 5 suggests that only 3 percent of the total population have one or the other government or private jobs with regular payment. Out of 10 households which have some agricultural land 5 households have less than 5 khattas of agricultural land; 3 households have more than 5 khattas and less than 10 khattas and 2 households have more than 10 khattas and less than an acre.

4. Primary Occupation

The majority of agricultural labourers in Bihar are Musahars. The sample study of the 15 villages also suggest in Table 2.2 that the primary occupation of a vast majority of the population is agricultural labour. When asked to choose their primary occupation, 66 households (88 per cent) chose wage labour (agricultural and non-agricultural) as their primary occupation. The 6 households (8 percent) which chose migration as the primary source of their income are also daily wage labourers, taking wage labour as the primary occupation of 96 per cent

of the population. Only 2 households (3 percent) have a government employment such as shikshamitra or as tolasevak or as aganwadi teacher, etc.

Table 2.2: Primary source of Income

Villages	Wage labourer	Government Job	Migration	Others
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jagatpura	4 (80)	1 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lohra	4 (80)	0 (0)	1 (20)	0 (0)
Dhapra	1 (200)	0 (0)	4 (80)	0 (0)
Gauravadih	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jhikatiyatand	4 (80)	0 (0)	1 (20)	0 (0)
Bichchhichanchar	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Gokhulchak	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
ShahpurBelbihama	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Satehara	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Devgaw	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Milki	4 (80)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (20)
Manikpur	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Majalispur	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jitwarpur	4 (80)	1 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Baradghata	5 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
TOTAL	66 (88)	2 (3)	6 (8)	1 (1)

(Percentages in parenthesis)

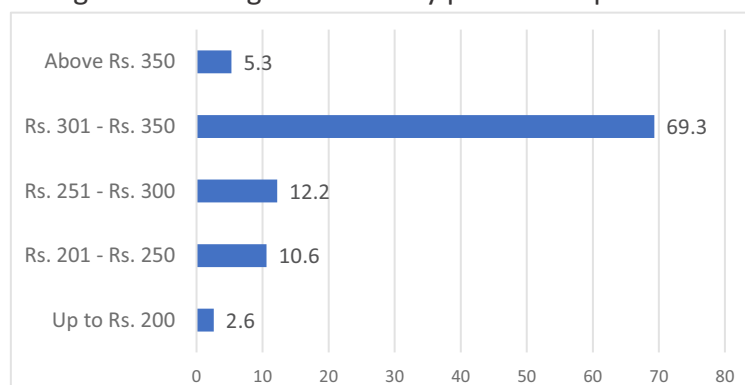
5. Salient Features of Wage Labour

This section intends to highlight two important characteristics of wage labour which has been found to be the primary source of livelihood for a vast majority of 96 percent of the sample households. First of all it be noted that the wage labour mostly available in the 15 villages are farm labour. There is hardly any other form of wage labour available to the sample households except that of farm labour. The two crucial characteristics of the wage labour are (1) low wage and (2) un (under) employment. This section explores these two characteristics in some details.

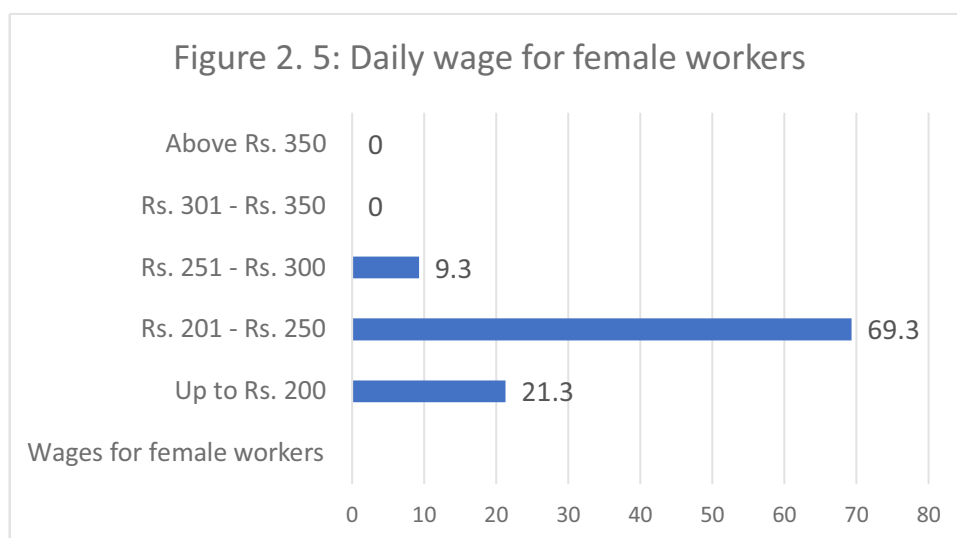
5.1. Low wage

It is found in the study as given in figure 2.4, that the wages received for wage labourers is very low. It is reported by 69.3 percent respondents that the male laborers receive Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 as the wage for a day's work. Nearly 25 per cent respondents said that the male laborers receive even less than Rs. 250 for a day's work while about 5 percent respondents said that the laborers receive more than Rs. 300 as wage for a day's work. (Unskilled) is around Rs. 395.

Figure: 2.4: Wage Received by percent respondents



Daily wage for women workers is still lower. Nearly 69 percent respondents said that female workers receive wage in the range of Rs. 150 to 200 for a day's work. It is shocking to note that nearly 21 percent respondents said that female labourers receive wages in the range of Rs. 100 to 150 only for a day's work (figure 2.5).



5.2. Unemployment and Under Employment

It is found that there is very high unemployment. When asked how many days work the respondents get every month on an average, 67.6 percent respondents responded that they get less than 11 days a month (Table 2.3). That is: a person who seek to work do not get work for about 20 days a month. This suggest that a wage labourer in these villages get work only for about 4 months a year. For the rest of the time during the year, the respondents do not find employment. Only about 5 percent respondents suggested that they get more than 20 days work in a month.

Table 2.3: How many days work do you get in a month

Village	Below-11 Days	11- 15 Days	16-20 Days	Above 20 Days
Jagatpura	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Lohra	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Dhapra	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)
Gauravadih	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)	0(0)
Jhikatiyatand	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Gokhulchak	3(60)	1(20)	1(20)	0(0)
ShahpurBelbihama	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Satehara	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Devgaw	0(0)	1(20)	2(40)	2(40)
Milki	2(40)	0(0)	2(40)	1(20)
Manikpur	1(20)	2(40)	1(20)	1(20)
Majalispur	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)
Jitwarpur	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)
Baradghata	4(80)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Total	50 (67.6)	13 (17.6)	7 (9.5)	4 (5.3)

The sample survey reveals that the primary source of livelihood for households in the 15 villages where the study is conducted is wage labor. These households receives low wage on one hand and on the other victims of unemployment and underemployment. These findings cumulatively suggest that the economic condition of the population in these villages is very precarious. The poor economic condition of the households create exploitative informal credit market and the following section briefly discusses the existence of informal credit market in the villages.

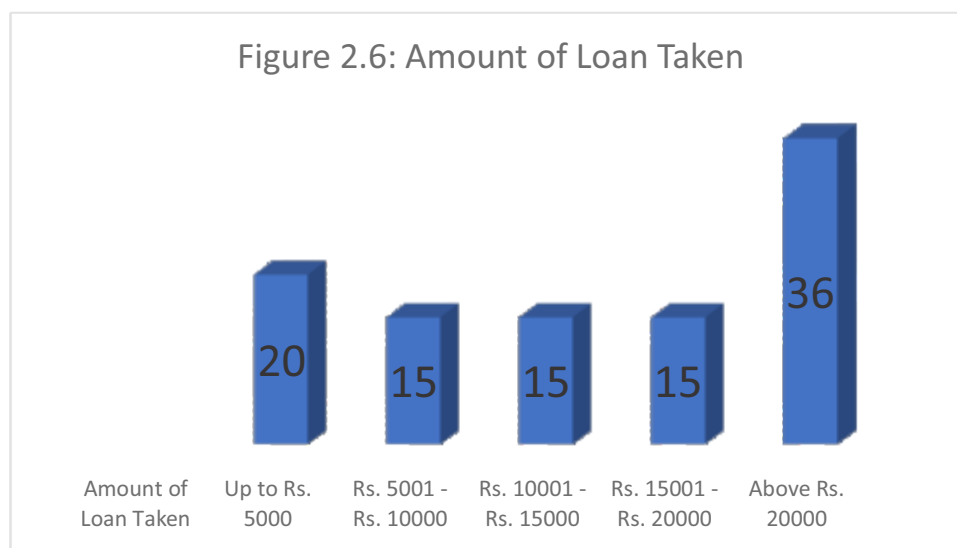
6. Exploitative Informal Credit Market

The households face many types of emergencies and vulnerabilities such as death in the family, marriage of a household member, sickness at home, etc. With their poor economic condition to tide over the emergencies and vulnerabilities, they are forced to borrow from money lenders at usurious interest rates. It is found in the study, as in Table 2.4 that households are often pushed to a situation to taken loan at usurious interest rates. In our sample it is found that nearly 55 percent households reportedly had taken loan from the informal credit market controlled by the landlord / money lenders. Earlier studies have shown the role played by the informal credit market in controlling the labor market. Households take small amounts as loan to meet the shortfalls in subsistence income and to tide over the emergencies such as sickness, death, marriage, house repair, etc.

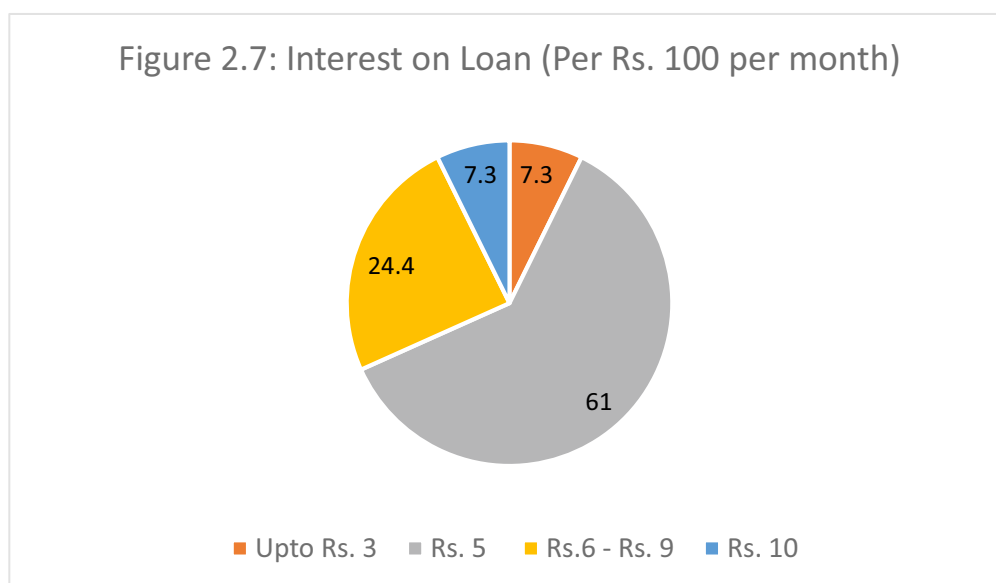
Table 2.4: Have you taken loan from others

Village	Yes	No
<i>Jagatpura</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Lohra</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Dhapra</i>	1(20)	4(80)
<i>Gauravadih</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	0(0)	5(100)
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	4(80)	1(20)
<i>ShahpurBelbihama</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Satehara</i>	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Devgaw</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Milki</i>	2(40)	3(60)
<i>Manikpur</i>	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Majalispur</i>	5(100)	0(0)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	4(80)	1(20)
<i>Baradghata</i>	5(100)	0(0)
Total	41 (54.7)	34 (45.3)

In our sample, it is found in Figure 2.6 that 20 percent of those taking loan have taken loan up to Rs. 5000; 15 percent each have taken loan amounts Rs. 5000 - 10000, Rs. 10000 - 15000; Rs. 15000 - 20000; and 36 percent have taken loan above Rs. 20000.



It is found as shown in the pie diagram, Figure 2.7 that the majority of loan had been taken by households at an interest of Rs. 5 for every hundred rupees for a period of one month. Households take loan from Jivika groups too. In in that case, they have to pay interest pay lower interest rate.



A substantial percentage of loan instances, 24.4 percent, suggests that loan was taken at an interest rate of more than Rs. 5. Such exploitative situation was found existing in rural Bihar decades ago and was subject of much inquiry. Though the study is not conclusive, the suggestion that households are forced to incur loan at usurious interest rate indicate to an exploitative situation comparable to the situation many decades ago.

Landlessness, high rate of unemployment as well as underemployment along with extremely low wage makes the economic condition of the majority of the households very precarious. It is in this context that the study examines the nature of distress out migration within the study villages.

Chapter 3: Poor Economic Condition and Distress Migration

Large scale distress out migration is found among the Musahars across the state. With their extremely poor economic condition due to landlessness, unemployment, and low wages, mainly the male members are forced to migrate to the cities. The chapter highlights certain important features of distress migration found in the villages of the study.

1. Incidence of Migration

Table 3.1 informs us that with the exception of one or two villages, large scale migration of at least one adult member of the households is a reality in all the villages. Nearly 72 per cent of the respondents said that there is at least one adult member in their respective households have migrated during the last two years.

Table 3.1: Did anyone in the household migrate in the last two years

Village	Yes	No
Jagatpura	0(0)	5(100)
Lohra	5(100)	0(0)
Dhapra	5(100)	0(0)
Gauravadih	3(60)	2(40)
Jhikatiyatand	5(100)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	4(80)	1(20)
Gokhulchak	4(80)	1(20)
ShahpurBelbihama	5(100)	0(0)
Satehara	3(60)	2(40)
Devgaw	4(80)	1(20)
Milki	2(40)	3(60)
Manikpur	4(80)	1(20)
Majalispur	4(80)	1(20)
Jitwarpur	1(20)	4(80)
Baradghata	5(100)	0(0)
Total	54 (72)	21 (28)

The findings of FGDs on the number of people migrated in the last two years is given in Table 3.2. It is quite shocking. From the 15 villages of our study, about 190 adults have migrated in the last two years either seasonally or for a long period. Of these 151 incidence of migration is out of state migration and the rest within the state. Within the state migration found in these villages is usually to brick factories,

Table 3.2: Number of Those Migrated in the Last Two Years

Village	Incidence of Adult Migration in 2 Years	Migration to other state
Jagtapura	35	35
majlishpur	10	10
Baradghata	15	15
Jitwarpur	10	10

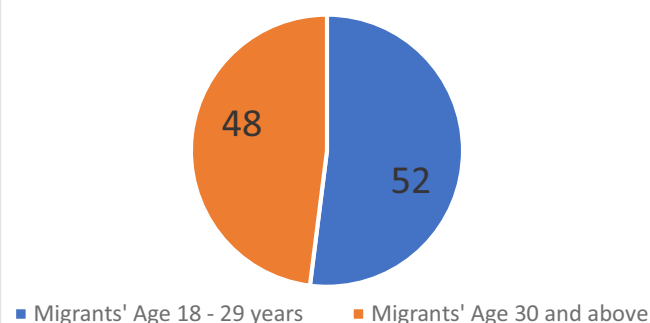
Lohra	35	35
Dhapra	17	17
Manikpur	3*	3
Milki	5	5
Devgaw	3	3
Satehara	5	5
ShahpurBelbihama	10	0
Gokhulchak	5	0
Bichchhichanchar	12	0
Jhikatiyatand	13	13
Gauravadih	15	0
Total	190	151

(Information collated from FGDS)

2. Age of the Migrants

It is found that migration largely takes place when they are young. It is found in Figure 3.1 that nearly 52 percent of the migrants have their age below 30 years and 42 percent above 30 years. In another field study too, it is found that the vast majority of the migrants are in the age group of 16 to 40 years. This implies that the most productive years of a person from these and other villages are invested in the production process in the cities where their cheap labour is exploited.

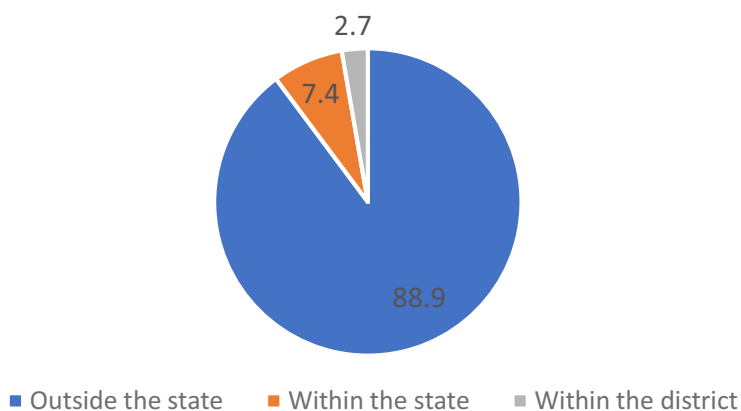
Figure 3.1: The Age of Migrants



3. Place of Migration

Most of migration is found to be outmigration to outside the state of Bihar. Nearly 89 per cent of migration is to other states, namely, Mumbai, Gujarat, Kolkata, Punjab, Delhi, and so on. Nearly 7 percent migration is to other districts and 3 percent within the same district (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Place of Migration



4. Migrants' Wages

The migrants receive better wages in the place of migration than in the villages. The response of respondents on wages received by those migrated from their respective households is given in Table 3.3. Nearl 52 percent respondents suggested that ad adult migrant receive anything between Rs. 400 and Rs. 500. However, there is a substantial percentage of respondents who said that the wage received by the adult member in their household who had migrated ranges from Rs, 300 to Rs. 400. Of course, this is higher than the wages received back in their villages. However, this wage received by the migrants is just around the government stipulated minimum wage they should have received in their villages.

Table3.3: Wage received by the migrant

Village	<i>Up to 300</i>	<i>Rs. 301- 400</i>	<i>Rs. 401- 500</i>	<i>Rs. 501- 600</i>	<i>Above Rs. 600</i>
<i>Jagatpura</i>	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Lohra</i>	0(0)	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Dhapra</i>	0(0)	1(20)	1(20)	2(400)	1(20)
<i>Gauravadih</i>	0(0)	0(0)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Jhikatiyatand</i>	0(0)	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Bichchhichanchar</i>	0(0)	0(0)	5(80)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Gokhulchak</i>	2(40)	1(20)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Shahpur Belbihama</i>	2(40)	2(40)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Satehara</i>	2(40)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Devgaw</i>	0(0)	0(0)	5(80)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Milki</i>	0(0)	1(20)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Manikpur</i>	0(0)	1(20)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Majalisipur</i>	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Jitwarpur</i>	0(0)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Baradghata</i>	0(0)	5 (100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
<i>Total</i>	6 (11)	17 (31.5)	28 (51.9)	2 (3.7)	1 (1.9)

Chapter 4: Accessibility to Social Security Schemes

This chapter examines the accessibility of people in the study villages to welfare schemes. The study has already highlighted that the economic condition of households in the study villages is very precarious. They are not even able to earn a subsistence income due to high unemployment and low wage. Hence the welfare schemes are important for the households to meet even their subsistence needs. This chapter briefly examines the accessibility of people in these villages to the benefits of government welfare schemes.

1. Food Security under PDS

Table 4.1 enquires if the households have access to ration under the Public Distribution System. It is found that about 81 percent households have registered ration card. The table further informs that nearly 97 percent households with ration card stated that the ration card is kept with the household. Who keeps ration card is asked for the reason that there are complaints from certain quarters that the ration card is kept with the dealer or the Mukhiya. In our sample, it is found that the households themselves keep the ration card.

Table4.1: Do you have ration card & who keeps ration card

Village	Do you have Ration card		Who keeps the ration card?	
	Yes	No	With person	With Dealer
Jagatpura	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Lohra	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Dhapra	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)
Gauravadih	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Jhikatiyatand	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Gokhulchak	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
ShahpurBelbihama	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Satehara	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Devgaw	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Milki	5(100)	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)
Manikpur	2(40)	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)
Majalispur	5(100)	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)
Jitwarpur	4(80)	1(20)	2(40)	2(40)
Baradghata	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Total	61 (81.3)	14(18.7)	58 (96.7)	2 (3.3)

2. Shortfalls in Implementation of Food Security under PDS

Every eligible person is entitled for 5 kgs of grain every month. However, in line with observations in other places, it is found in Table 4.2 that households receive less than 5 kgs of grains per person per month. Nearly 63 percent households said that they receive only 4 kgs per person in a month; 17 percent said that they receive around 4.5 kgs of rice per person in a month, and 20 per cent households stated that they receive the full measure of 5 kgs of grain per person in a month.

The FGDs also revealed that it is Public Distribution System from which they have benefited the most among all the welfare schemes. Nearly 87 percent of FGDs identified PDS as a welfare schemes benefitting the households

Table4.2: How many KG s of ration do you get in a month

Village	4kgs	4.5 kgs	5 kgs
Jagatpura	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Lohra	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Dhapra	3(60)	0(0)	2(40)
Gauravadih	3(60)	1(20)	1(20)
Jhikatiyatand	0(0)	3(60)	2(40)
Bichchhichanchar	0(0)	4(80)	1(20)
Gokhulchak	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)
ShahpurBelbihama	3(60)	1(20)	1(20)
Satehara	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)
Devgaw	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)
Milki	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)
Manikpur	2(40)	0(0)	3(60)
Majalispur	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Jitwarpur	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Baradghata	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Total	47 (63)	13 (17)	15 (20)

3. Employment under NANREGA

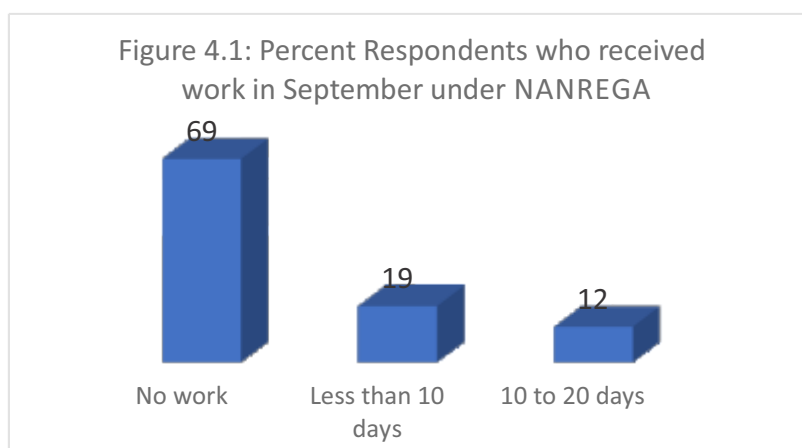
Employment under NANREGA is an entitlement given to the rural households to ensure a minimum level of wellbeing. Many studies conducted by Jean Dreaze and others have shown how important this employment guarantee scheme is to the rural households. It has also been observed that the employment guarantee scheme ridden with corruption.

Table 4.3 informs that only 48.6 households have Job Card and the remaining 41.4 percent households do not have a Job Card under the scheme. The table also informs that the Job Card is kept with the households in the case of nearly 79 percent of households which has secured a Job Card.

Table 4.3: Do you have JOB card & who keeps the JOB card?

Village	Do you have JOB card		Who keeps the JOB card?			
	Yes	No	Rojgaarsevak	Dalal	Others	Oneself
Jagatpura	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Lohra	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)	1(20)	0(0)	2(40)
Dhapra	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)	1(20)	3(60)
Gauravadih	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(40)
Jhikatiyatand	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	4(80)	1(20)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)	1(20)
Gokhulchak	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(80)
ShahpurBelbihama	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)	1(20)	1(20)	1(20)
Satehara	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(40)
Devgaw	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	3(60)
Milki	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(20)
Manikpur	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	2(40)
Majalispur	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	4(80)
Jitwarpur	4(80)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Baradghata	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Total	36 (48.6)	38 (51.4)	3 (7.9)	2(5.3)	2(5.3)	30(78.9)

It is found in the study as given in Figure 4.1 that 69 percent households with the Job Card had not received in any work the previous month. In fact, it is found that these households had not received any work so far during the financial year 2023 -24. Nearly 19 percent households with the Job Card has reported to have received employment for less than 10 days and another 12 percent households have reported to have received employment for 10 to 20 days.



Under NANREGA, wage is very low. The program is rampant with corruption. Those who reported to have received work during the previous month has reported that they have received Rs. 200 as their wage (Table 4.4). It is quite surprising that the FGDs did not identify, as can be noted from the Welfare Scheme Area Chart, NANREGA as one of the schemes that benefit them. NANREGA should have been identified by the households as a program benefitting them as the households are confronted with high rate of unemployment and poor economic condition. The fact that they did not identify it as a welfare scheme benefitting them is a definite indication that the scheme is not implemented properly.

Table 4.4: How much wage have you received for a day's work?

Village	Rs. 151– less than Rs. 200	Rs. 200	Not applicable
Jagatpura	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Lohra	0(0)	3(60)	2(40)
Dhapra	0(0)	2(40)	3(60)
Gauravadih	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Jhikatiyatand	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Bichchhichanchar	0(0)	4(80)	1(20)
Gokhulchak	0(0)	1(20)	4(80)
ShahpurBelbihama	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Satehara	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Devgaw	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Milki	1(20)	0(0)	4(80)
Manikpur	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Majalispur	0(0)	0(0)	5(100)
Jitwarpur	0(0)	1(20)	4(80)
Baradghata	0(0)	1(20)	4(80)
Total	1	12	62

4. Old Age Pension

Old age pension is a vital social security scheme for the elderly people of the Musahar Community. As wage labor is the primary source of livelihood, the elderly who do not get work and able to earn a living find difficult to take care of themselves. Their children too are wage laborers and do not earn enough to feed his/her own family members. As a result, the elders in the Musahar community do not get required nourishment and medication. For them the old age pension scheme is very important. To our pleasant surprise, Table 4.5 shows that out of 26 eligible persons, at least 22 of them receive old age pension. It is very assuring. As part of this study, it is good to point out that the amount the elderly receive as pension in their old age

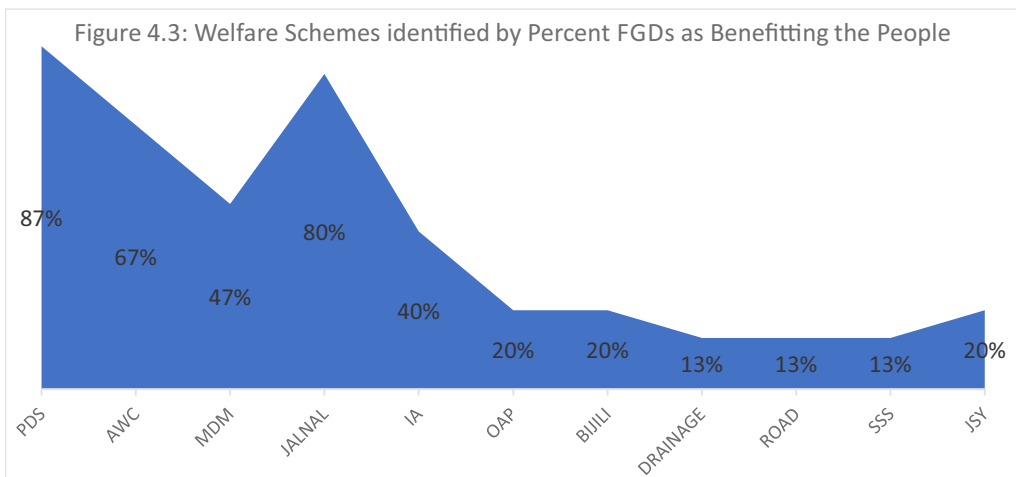
is very low. It should be substantially raised so that they can have a decent living in their old age.

Table 4.5: Old Age pension

Anyone in the household eligible for Old Age pension?			If yes, does he / she receive old age pension	
Village	Yes	No	Yes	No
Jagatpura	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
Lohra	1(20)	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)
Dhapra	2(40)	3(60)	1(20)	1(20)
Gauravadih	3(60)	2(40)	2(40)	1(20)
Jhikatiyatand	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)
Bichchhichanchar	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)
Gokhulchak	0(0)	4(80)	0(0)	1(20)
ShahpurBelbihama	1(20)	4(80)	1(20)	0(0)
Satehara	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)
Devgaw	2(40)	3(60)	2(40)	0(0)
Milki	4(80)	1(20)	4(80)	0(0)
Manikpur	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	0(0)
Majalispur	3(60)	2(40)	2(40)	0(0)
Jitwarpur	3(60)	2(40)	3(60)	0(0)
Baradghata	0(0)	5(100)	0(0)	1(20)
Total	26	48	22	5

5. People's Mapping of Welfare Schemes

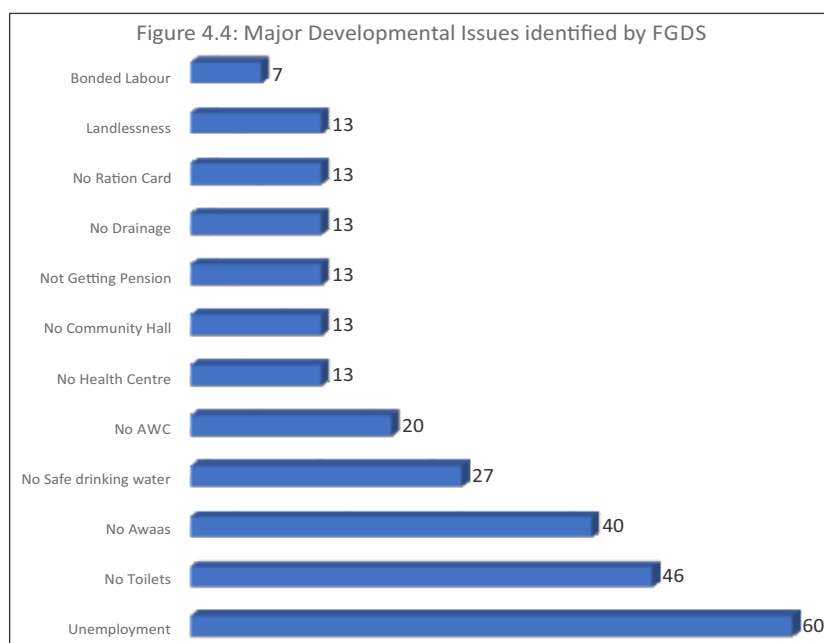
During the FGDs in all the villages we carried out an exercise to identify the major welfare schemes that they have benefitted from. The result is given in the area chart Figure 4.3 below. Public Distribution System is identified most FGD as one scheme that have benefitted almost all the people. Nearly 87 percent of FGD had identified PDS as a scheme that has benefitted the people. This was followed by NaljalYojana. Nearly 80 per cent FGDs identified this as a scheme that benefitted the people. ICDS through Anganwadicentres is identified by 67 percent of FGDs. This was followed by Mid-Day Meal in school. Nearly 40 percent FGDs have identified this as a welfare measure benefitting the people.



It should be noted here ICDS through AnganwadiCentres, and Mid-day Meal should have been identified by the FGDS in all or almost all FGDS. The fact that these schemes have not been identified by a good number of FGDS suggest that a large section of the population one way or the other are excluded from these schemes. Poor implementation and exclusion of eligible children, etc. as discussed elsewhere in this report are reasons why the benefits of these schemes do not reach a good number of people. Student Scholarship is identified only by a few FGDS.

6. People's mapping of Developmental Concerns

The study inquired into the major developmental issues faced by people. In Focused Group Discussions, the participants were asked to identify the major developmental issues faced by them. The results of mapping of the developmental concerns is given in Figure 4.4. Expectedly, unemployment is identified by a large majority of FGDS as a major developmental concern of the people. Having no toilet facilities and not having a concrete house are also identified by many FGDS as the major developmental issues faced by them. Among the many issues, the entire list provides with a good list of major developmental issues faced by them which need to be remedied at the earliest.



Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Introduction

This study is a brief study. The population of the study is the 15 villages in Munger district spread across two developmental blocks where Caritas Germany in partnership with BDVS is implementing the Global Program. The study on the socio-economic condition of the population is based on a sample of 75 households consisting of 5 households from each village chosen randomly. This chapter pools together the major findings of the study as conclusions. The chapter then proceeds to highlight a few recommendations.

2. Conclusions of the Study

The following are the conclusions of the study:

- o The population under study suffers major socio- economic backwardness
- o The study finds that 41 per cent of the total 15 villages have Sub Primary Health Centre in their panchayat and about 59 percent villages do not have this facility.
- o It is the village medical practitioners who are the backbone of rural health as far as the poor are concerned. Unlike the common perception, it is not to Ojha that the people go first when they fall sick, but to the village practitioners.
- o There is still about 11 percent households which do not have safe drinking water
- o Nearly 45 per cent households still live in mud houses with thatched roof. It is found that even the concrete houses built out of AwassYojana or otherwise do not have enough space the needs of all the members of the households
- o Toilet facility is not available for 73 percent sample households. Open defecation is the only way out for them. Government scheme to build toilet facilities at home is not successful as it is already noted that a majority of the households do not have enough land to build their houses.
- o The study notes that the illiteracy rate is decreasing in a substantial way from generation to generation. While there is high illiteracy among the old generation, there is near cent present literacy among the new generation. However, higher educational attainment has not registered a significant change from generation to generation. As a whole, the educational data reveals that the educational attainment above class V still remains a major challenge.
- o Only 34 percent of the households own homestead land. The rest live on different types of land not owned by them
- o Near 87 percent households do not own any agricultural land. The rest have small land holdings ranging from a few khattas to less than an acre.
- o Livelihood options / income sources are extremely limited
- o For 88 percent households daily wage labor is the primary source of livelihood
- o Daily wage laborers face high unemployment. Majority find work for less than 11 days a month
- o The wage for a day's work is low. Nearly 70 percent male laborers receive wage within a range of Rs. 300 - Rs. 350 for a day
- o Existence of exploitative informal credit market is common. Nearly 55 percent households have taken loan from informal credit market at usurious interest rates. The loan taken vary from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 20000. Majority of them have taken loan at an interest of Rs. 5 per Rs. 100 per day.
- o Distress out-migration is common. Nearly 72 percent respondents had one or the other adult member of

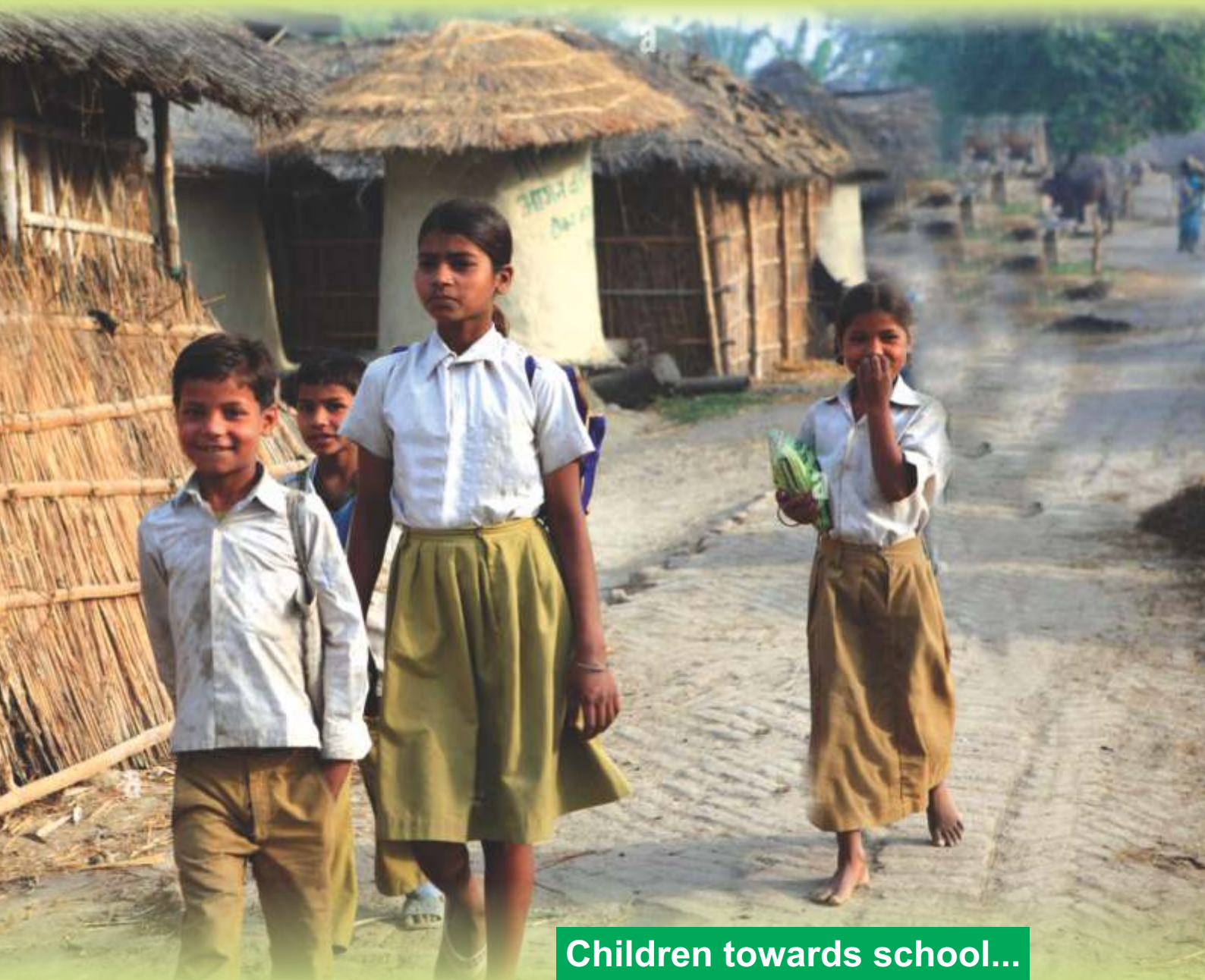
the family migrated in the last two years. It is reported that 190 adults from the 15 villages had migrated for work.

- o It is reported that for about 50 per cent, Rs. 400 - 500 is the normal wage that the migrants receive in the place of migration. Those receiving less than Rs. 400 is also quite substantial.
- o Welfare schemes are important for the people of this study to meet significant income shortfalls for ensuring a minimum level of wellbeing. While the majority have access to ration under the PDS system, nearly 19 per cent of the population is found to be excluded from the scheme.
- o Except for a small percentage of households, the rest receive ration less than the stipulated amount of 5 kgs. The dealer takes a part of the ration saying there is no provision to meet the expenses related to transportation of grains.
- o Similarly, there is a substantial number of eligible children excluded ICDS program. The exclusion is due to insufficient number of anganwadis proportionate to the number of children and also due to other reasons such as the agnwadicentre is run by the sewika from her tola / village far from the tola of the children.
- o NANREGA is found almost absent. A small percentage of the population have reported to have received work for about 10 days. The rest have not. A majority do not have job card. Employment is not provided as per the provisions of the scheme. The wage paid for a day's work is very low discouraging many to join work under NANREGA.
- o Except for a few, all the eligible persons are reportedly benefitting from old age pension.
- o Among the welfare schemes, PDS, NalJal, ICDS are identified by people as having benefitted them the most even while a substantial number of people are excluded from the benefits for one or the other reasons. The survey of welfare schemes benefitting the people makes no mention of NANREGA clearly indicating that people are not getting work under the scheme.
- o Unemployment is the most significant problem faced by the households. Having no toilet facility, concrete house, safe drinking water facility are also significant problems faced by a substantial number of people.

3. Recommendations

The following are the recommendations based on the study:

- o Provide homestead land to all households who do not have ownership of homestead land under state government's policy of providing 3 decimal land to all those who do not own homestead land
- o Provide at least an acre of cultivable land to all those who do not own agricultural land
- o Diversify sources of livelihood options of the rural poor by developing agriculture and allied activities and by encouraging cottage and small scale rural industries
- o Exclusion of eligible households from PDS and eligible children from ICDS program are urgently addressed so that all are able to avail the benefits of these crucially important schemes
- o NANREGA is strictly implemented so that entitlement to work is protected. Increase the minimum wage and ensure that minimum wage is provided under the scheme. Enhancing the scope of NANREGA to give more days of work to those who seek work would also be an important step to enhance the wellbeing of the rural poor.
- o Establish Sub Primary Health Centres in all the panchayats with the provision of trained nurse and free medicines.
- o Implement a special educational package for the communities under study so that the continuing educational backwardness can be addressed with urgency.



Children towards school...



Village women towards empowerment



Children : the hope of India