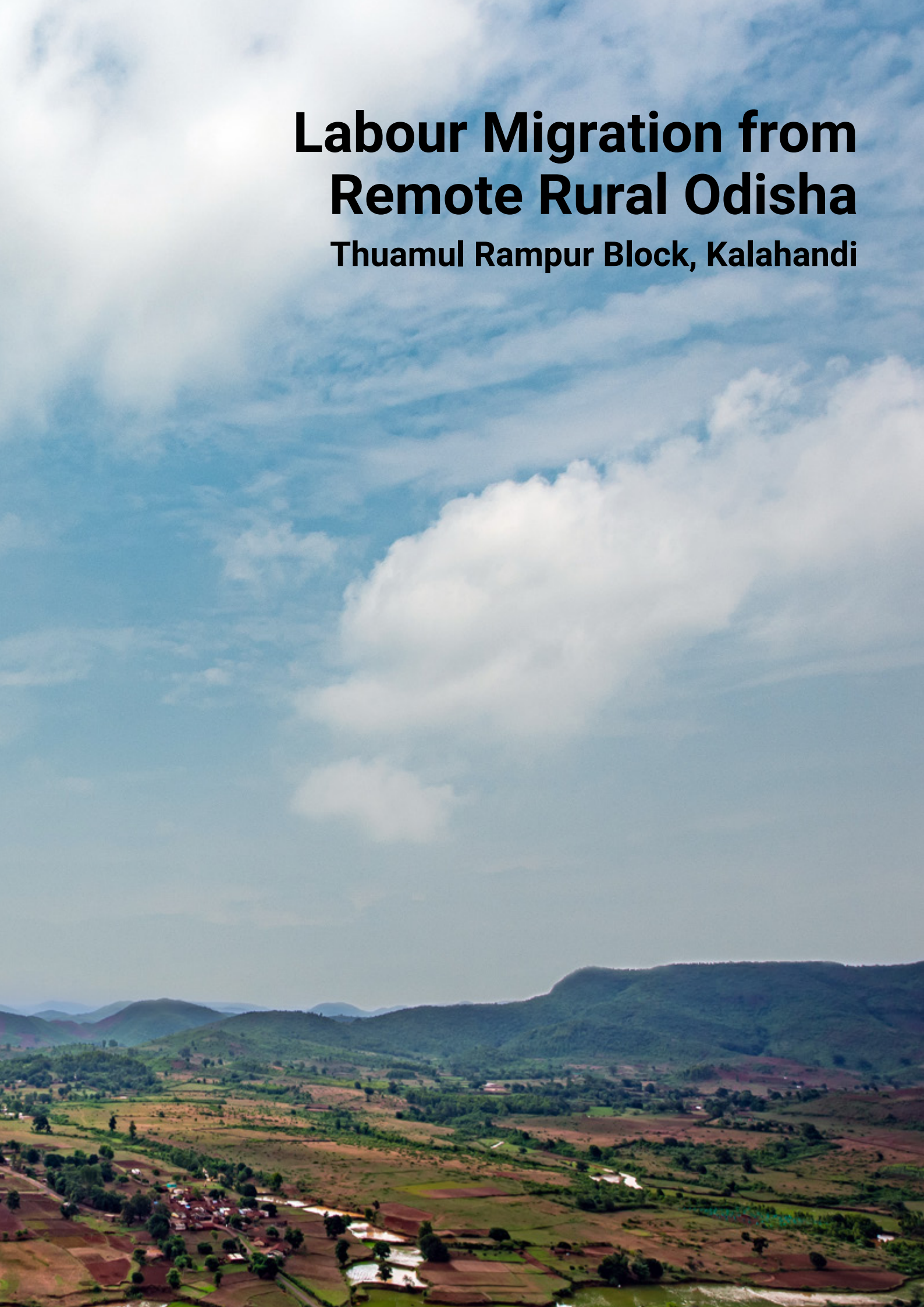
Labour Migration from Remote Rural Odisha

Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi



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Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi

November 2020

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Labour Migration from Remote Rural Odisha

Profiling Labour Migration from

Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi

CMID
Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

Gram Vikas



Foreword

The opportunities for secure and sustainable livelihoods in the villages of Odisha are limited by a variety of resource constraints. The North-Eastern Ghats and Western Undulating Lands agro-climatic zone regions, where most of Gram Vikas' work is focused, are characterised by a mixture of moist and deciduous forests and rain-fed agricultural economy. Gram Vikas has been working with the village communities in Odisha since 1979, helping to build a sustainable and dignified quality of life. The high dependence on scarce and low-quality land and dwindling forest resources cannot sustain a dignified quality of life. Changes in monsoon patterns, over-exploitation of available land, and limited access to irrigation have resulted in widespread food and nutrition insecurity in the area. Industrial activity in the region is largely mining and provides little in terms of employment opportunities, while adversely impacting the natural environment. Non-agricultural wage labour is hard to come by, except through public employment generation schemes. Farm labour is available for limited periods and provides very low wages.

At the same time, increased access to education and exposure to new technologies are transforming the aspirations of the younger generation. Under these circumstances, migration for work is seen as an intermediate livelihood option, aiding the transition from a completely primary-sector-based society to a more diversified one. Across Odisha, we find that many communities that Gram Vikas works with have learned how to make the most of migration. It is a choice fraught with many emotional, social and cultural challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown have brought the challenges faced by migration-dependent communities to national level attention and efforts are being made to address many of these issues.

The need for a programme for safe and dignified migration becomes pertinent in this context. It is our position that whether or not to migrate for work is an individual's decision as it is the right of every citizen of India to do so. We believe that no one should be without a choice as to be forced to undertake distress migration. We want to ensure that everyone has adequate and appropriate opportunities within his/her native place and the decision to migrate is a conscious and informed decision for the benefit of the person and his/her family. Besides, at the destination, the person should be able to pursue his/her job with dignity and social protection. Every migrant worker and his/her family should enjoy occupational, emotional, financial and social security.

Thuamul Rampur block in Kalahandi district represents the overall situation summarized above. A qualitative exploration carried out by Gram Vikas and CMID in May 2019 in the block alerted us to the diverse opportunities and challenges related to migration as a livelihood option. This report captures the various facets of the migration of people from Thuamul Rampur in their pursuit to build better lives for themselves and families. The information from the study will help understand the issues in greater depth and support the development of appropriate programme elements. It will also serve as a baseline to measure the changes that will take place over the next few years. I hope the report is found useful by all those interested in the issues of rural poverty in general and migration in particular.



Liby Johnson
Executive Director
Gram Vikas



Acknowledgements

Migrant workers have been an indispensable part of India's economy and the backbone of the bustling cities. However, their plight remained invisible till the national lockdown. People from disadvantaged communities form the bulk of the temporary migrants in India. Engaged at lower wages than locals, with limited or no social security, these workers generally are deprived of access to public services and entitlements. The barriers to access get complicated as one crosses the state borders or takes the family along. While the precarious jobs these workers take up thousands of kilometres away from home help their families tide over their crises, alleviate poverty, pay off debts, adapt to changes in the climate, cope with conflicts, break free of the caste discriminations or move up in the social ladder, it comes at the cost of the toxic exposure of the worker, impacting his/her health as well as longevity of life.

Migration has played a transformative role in the lives of millions of Indians including most us. I agree with Liby Johnson, that being home with family and earning a monthly income of ₹10000 locally will remain quite a distant dream for the youth in India's rural hinterlands. With the COVID-19 pandemic looming large compounding rural distress, I am afraid hunger has emerged as a bigger killer, intensifying distress migration. While Thuamul Rampur offers a meagre daily wage of around ₹100, with employment hard to come by, safe migration offers a world of opportunities. It is this shared vision that brought CMID and Gram Vikas to jointly explore avenues to revive and transform rural economies to be resilient and adaptive. Not only the remittances, the diffusion of social development from destinations to source villages can be a powerful vehicle of social change. Our collaborative inquiry in 2018 endorsed and reinforced this vision which culminated in this research.

I congratulate and thank Gram Vikas for embracing migration as a development agenda and taking a road less travelled to promote safe migration. My heartfelt gratitude to Liby Johnson, Executive Director, Gram Vikas, and an avid development practitioner, for the trust he has placed in CMID and his genuine interest in exploring the dynamics of migration from rural Odisha. Sincere thanks to Joseph Kalassery and Jobin Chacko of Gram Vikas who led the whole fieldwork, ensuring rigour and process quality. I am grateful to the entire team of research investigators who participated in the laborious process of house listing and conducting interviews. I also acknowledge the contributions of the dedicated staff of Gram Vikas in Thuamul Rampur and Bhubaneswar who ensured every support to CMID.

Sincere thanks to Vidya S. Chandran, Government College Mananthavady, Kerala, for her pro bono but meticulous support in copy editing this report and to Bijoy Jacob for his remote but outstanding support in the design and layout of the document. I thank my colleagues Shachi Sanghvi who led the entire research and Vishnu Narendran for his valuable inputs in the design. Finally, on behalf of Gram Vikas and CMID, I thank all our respondents, village heads, panchayat representatives, Key Informants and government officials for the warm hospitality and genuine inputs for the successful completion of this important research.



Benoy Peter, PhD
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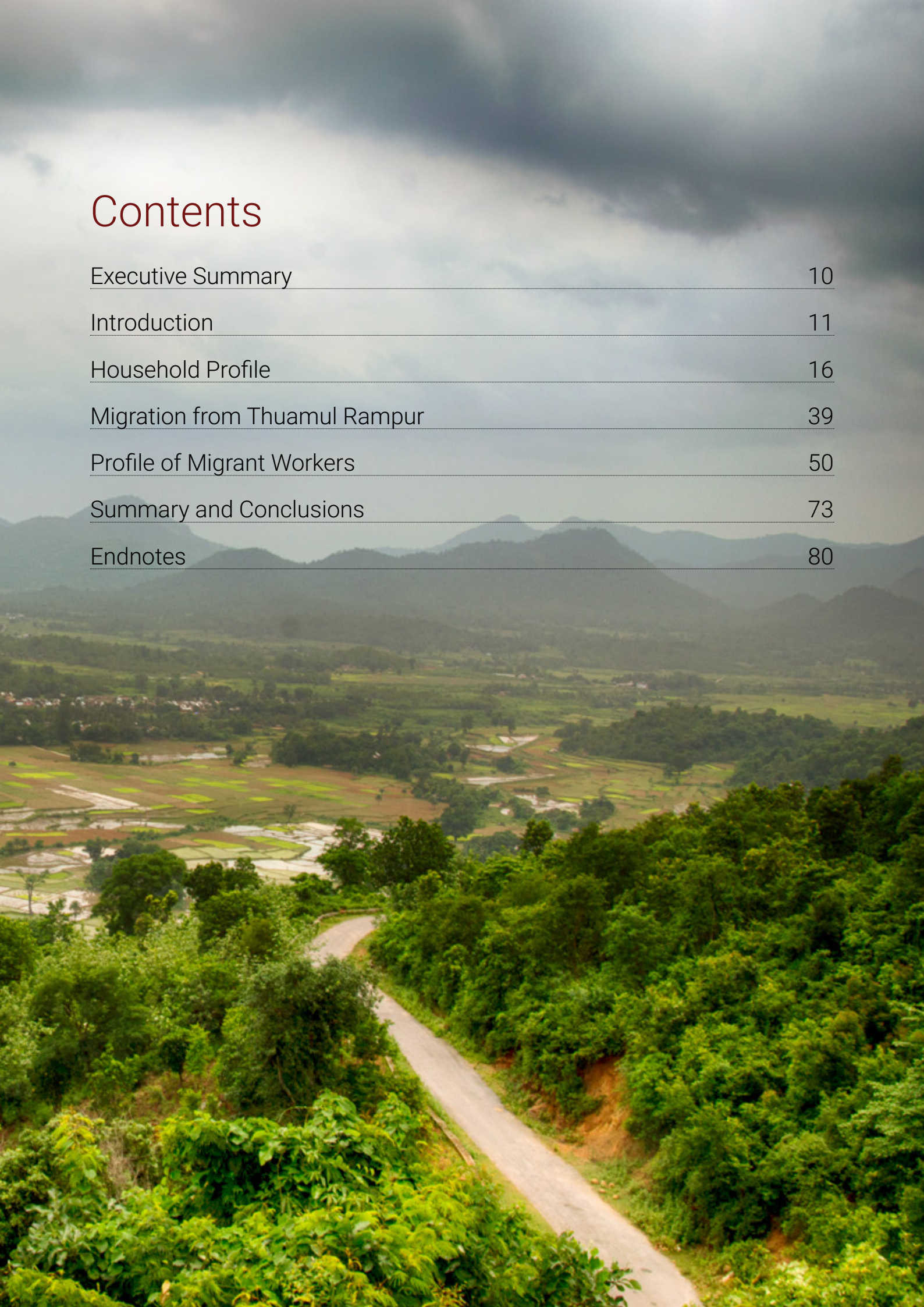
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Executive summary

With four in every five households below poverty line, Thuamul Rampur has the highest incidence of poverty among the community development blocks of Kalahandi district of Odisha. The block, which also has the largest proportion of Scheduled Tribes among the community development blocks in Kalahandi, has been witnessing substantial migration of young men for work, particularly to the southern Indian states. With its presence in Thuamul Rampur since 1984, Gram Vikas has been closely observing the ever-increasing migration from the block. Verifying the insights gathered from a qualitative exploration conducted in 2018, Gram Vikas, in partnership with Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID), undertook a comprehensive study of the labour migration from Thuamul Rampur during 2019-2020. A sample survey of 440 households in the block was conducted during the period December 23, 2019 to January 15, 2020, randomly selecting 22 villages and 20 households from each selected village.

It was found that 41 per cent of households in Thuamul Rampur had at least one person who had worked for 30 days or more outside Kalahandi district ever. One in every three households had at least one person who had migrated for work in the ten years preceding the survey. Nearly one-fifth of the households had members working outside the district at the time of the survey. A quarter of all current migrants were seasonal migrant workers. Overall, about six per cent of the population of Thuamul Rampur earned a living as migrant workers. Most people who migrated, had moved out of the state, particularly to Kerala and worked either in construction or in the hotel industry, earning an average monthly wage of ₹12000. Migration propensities varied by ethnicity, debt status, ownership of assets and a host of other factors. There were also a significant proportion of households with members who aspired to migrate for work but were unable to do so due to a host of constraints. Migration has been a coping strategy without which the majority of the households with migrants would not have been able to tide over their various crises. It was also a major means to pay off the debts and secure assets. Migration has helped households in Thuamul Rampur to improve their savings and diversify income sources. A moderate estimate reveals that the community development block receives about ₹600 million annually as wages to workers who have migrated. The estimated monthly remittances to Thuamul Rampur from its migrants were about ₹23 million. Most migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur expressed that they preferred to stay back if there were local opportunities to earn a minimum monthly income of about ₹10000.

Findings reveal that the households of Thuamul Rampur continue to be on the margins of the society without much advancement in human development. The remoteness of the location, topography and poor bargaining power appear to have constrained the social development in the block. Migration for work is increasingly a sought-after livelihood strategy among the youth. While it has helped the households to cope with poverty and indebtedness, augment savings, improve agriculture, invest in the education of children, improve connectivity, secure assets and enhance housing, it has adversely impacted the access to healthcare of the members who stay behind. Although for households of Thuamul Rampur, migration is an avenue towards empowerment, currently it is unsafe and informal given their limited agency, poor access to public services and lack of social security at the destination. This calls for concerted efforts of the state and non-state actors to promote migration as a safe and informed choice for improving the resilience of the households and reviving the village economies. At the same time, diverse opportunities need to be created locally to prevent distress migration.

Introduction





Thuamul Rampur has the highest incidence of poverty among the community development blocks of Kalahandi district

Context

India's rising inequalities are noticeable not just in the squalor and poverty of urban slum settlements but also in the continuous economic, social and political seclusion of the remote, rural regions of the country. The continuous investment in development is yet to transform the lives of those living in abject poverty in rural India. However, these skewed investments have augmented the migration of the rural poor to urban India, an exodus which was 'invisible' till the Government of India announced a nationwide lockdown from March 25, 2020.

It took a pandemic to expose the precarious lives of the migrant workers in the country to the mainstream India. Images of migrants waiting in serpentine queues to board trains and buses to return home, several others walking hundreds of kilometres homewards, struggling to communicate and reach out to their family members in the villages or stories of workers who have forgone months of wages to rush back to their villages are harsh realities that so far never made it to the forefront.

A deeper enquiry into the dynamics of rural households is key to understanding the context of migration in India. Temporary migration for work has been a key survival strategy for millions of rural poor from the Indian state of Odisha, with a poverty ratio of 32.6 per cent in 2011.[1,2] A host of factors such as fluctuating agricultural production, extreme poverty, low level of literacy and recurrent natural disasters result in distress migration from several regions of the state.[3]

The districts of Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput in Odisha, commonly referred to as the KBK districts, which are among the most backward districts of the country, contribute significantly to the labour migration from the state.[4] Known as one of the severely food insecure districts in Odisha, Kalahandi is highly susceptible to natural disasters. With nearly four in every five households below poverty line in 2011, Thuamul Rampur has the highest incidence of poverty among the community development blocks of Kalahandi district.[5,6] Thuamul Rampur, which also has the largest proportion of Scheduled Tribes and the lowest level of literacy among the community development blocks in Kalahandi district, has been witnessing large-scale, long-distance migration of young men for work, particularly to the southern Indian states.[7,8]

Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Thuamul Rampur since 1984. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from Thuamul Rampur. Exploratory research by Gram Vikas, independently and later in partnership with the Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID), revealed that almost one in every five households had a migrant worker. In order to confirm this and understand the migration from Thuamul Rampur in depth, a detailed profiling of the migration from the block was done by Gram Vikas, in partnership with CMID, by conducting a sample survey. This report summarises the context, methodology and key findings of the study.

Objectives of the Study

The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario in Thuamul Rampur so that appropriate interventions to ensure safe migration could be promoted and the household and the village economies are revived, leveraging migration as a solution than a problem. For Gram Vikas, which is exploring innovative solutions for the development of remote rural areas of Odisha and Jharkhand, this is also a deep dive to understand the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies.

The specific objectives of the study were:

- To profile labour migration from Thuamul Rampur
- To estimate the household migration rates from the community development block
- To understand the socio-demographic profile of households in Thuamul Rampur

Methodology

In order to obtain a one-time good estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages in Thuamul Rampur, 22 villages were randomly selected by probability proportionate to size (PPS) and from each selected village, 20 households were selected by systematic sampling. In addition to the household survey which aimed to understand the household characteristics and estimate household migration rates, a survey of current migrant workers was also carried out. From the current migrants in the household sample, the person with the longest duration of current migration was selected for the survey of migrant workers.

In order to select 22 sample villages, villages in Thuamul Rampur were listed based on the number of households extracted from the Primacy Census Abstract (PCA) from Census 2011 and villages with less than 40 households were merged with adjacent villages to obtain a minimum of 40 households per primary sampling unit (PSU). The list of PSUs thus prepared was then sorted by panchayat and within panchayat by the percentage of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in the village. PSUs with a population of 300 or above were segmented into clusters of around 100 households by merging adjacent paras within the PSU. Two such segments were then randomly selected from all segments. In the selected PSUs, a house listing was carried out to obtain the sampling frame for the selection of households. Details on caste, total number of household members, number of inter-district migrants and number of inter-state migrants in each household were collected under the house listing. From each selected PSU, 22 households were selected for the sample survey through systematic random sampling.





A migrant was operationally defined for the study as a member of the household who has been working outside the district (could be outside the state or country also) and staying there for a continuous period of 30 days or more. S/he may or may not have visited the household during this period or could be currently at the household for a short visit after which s/he will return to worksite. A return migrant was defined as a person who had migrated and stayed outside the district for work for a continuous period of 30 days or more, but not a migrant at the time of the house listing.

A semi-structured interview schedule in Odia, digitised using mWater survey platform, was used for data collection. Data regarding the socio-economic profile, agriculture, land use, access to public services, state of financial inclusion, and also data relevant to migration including seasonal migration was collected from the households. Data about return migrants was also collected. The migrant survey covered areas such as the socio-demographic profile of the migrant workers, current destination, factors that influenced migration, work profile, wages, living arrangements, income, expenditure, savings and remittances, access to services and social protection.

A team of 12 investigators with a minimum educational attainment of higher secondary was recruited and provided two-day training for the house listing. In order to conduct the survey, Gram Vikas recruited a team of 10 investigators with a minimum educational qualification of higher secondary and above who were conversant in the local language. The investigators were provided a four-day residential training at the Kumudabahal facility of Gram Vikas, jointly by CMID and Gram Vikas. The house listing was carried out during the period September 27, 2019 to October 17, 2019. Based on the house listing, the sample households were selected and a household survey was conducted from December 23, 2019 to January 15, 2020. Household interviews were conducted early in the morning before the members of the households left for work and this sometimes required the investigators to reach the village on the previous day and stay overnight. Each household interview took twenty to thirty minutes.

During the household survey, if the migrant respondent was available at the household, face to face interviews were undertaken. All respondents who were at the destination were interviewed telephonically at their convenience. The survey of migrant workers took place from January 30, 2020 to February 20, 2020. A total of 2689 households were covered under the house listing. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 440 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 84. All sample households responded to the survey whereas the response rate for the migrant interviews was 98.9 per cent. The data collected from both the surveys was analysed by the CMID research team. Bivariate analyses were undertaken on the basis of ethnicity in order to understand the differences and patterns among the households of Thuamul Rampur. Percentages have been calculated only for frequencies 30 or above. The study does not cover households that have migrated as an entire unit. It also does not cover the migration for work within Kalahandi district (intra-district migration). Migration for periods less than 30 days is also excluded.





Household Profile





Socio-Economic Profile

The study explored the distribution of households in Thuamul Rampur by characteristics such as religion, caste, household size, education, type of ration card, employment under NREGS and household income. Except about less than one per cent of the households that reported Christianity as their religion, all the households followed Hinduism. Examining their ethnic background, about three-fifths of the households belonged to the Scheduled Tribes (ST). Slightly above a quarter of the households belonged to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Communities (OBC) constituted about 14 per cent of the Thuamul Rampur households (Figure:1.1). The findings from the study are in sync with the 2011 Census findings about Thuamul Rampur block.

Household Size

Information on the number of members in a household, number of usual residents, those who are above 15 years of age, and total earning members in the household was obtained (Table.1.1). It was found that the average household size was four across the ethnic groups. While more than three-fourths of the households had three or more members, about a quarter of the households had just one or two members. One-third of the households from SC community had a total of only one or two members. Median number of usual residents excluding those who were away for education/work or other purposes for 30 days or more was three.

Figure.1.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Ethnicity, N:440

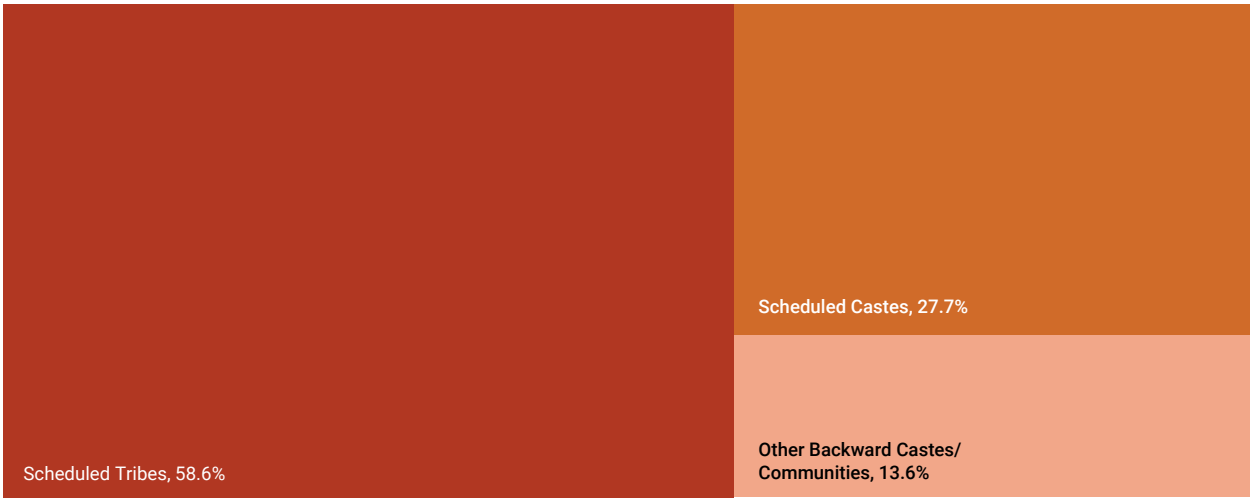


Table.1.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Select Background Characteristics and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Total Number of Members in the Household				
1 to 2	32.8	23.3	25.0	26.1
3 to 4	32.0	35.7	40.0	35.2
5 and above	35.2	41.1	35.0	38.6
Median	4	4	4	4
Total Number of Usual Residents				
1 to 2	40.2	27.5	28.3	31.1
3 to 4	32.8	41.5	46.7	39.8
5 and above	27.0	31.0	25.0	29.1
Median	3	4	4	3
Total Number of Members in the Household Aged 15 Years and above				
1 to 2	58.2	54.7	50.0	55.0
3 to 4	31.1	33.7	35.0	33.2
5 and above	10.7	11.6	15.0	11.8
Median	2	2	2.5	2
Number of Members above 15 Years Who Earn				
None	0.0	.4	0.0	.2
1	44.3	31.4	25.0	34.1
2	36.9	41.5	40.0	40.0
3 and above	18.9	26.7	35.0	25.7
Median	2	2	2	2
Highest Education Level Attained by Any Member of the Household				
No Education	18.9	32.9	26.7	28.2
Lower Primary	4.9	8.1	6.7	7.0
Upper Primary	23.8	37.2	45.0	34.5
High School	32.0	16.7	21.7	21.6
Higher Secondary	13.9	4.7	0.0	6.6
Graduation and Higher	6.6	.4	0.0	2.0
Median Educational Attainment (Years)	9.0	5.0	6.5	5.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

The median number of the usual residents was three in the case of SC communities. It was four in the case of both the ST and OBC groups. While about 40 per cent of the SC households had less than three usual residents, this proportion was slightly less than 30 in the case of other ethnic groups. On an average, there were two persons in the households aged 15 years and above. About 40 per cent of all households had two earning members above the age of 15 years. While over two-fifths of the households from SC communities had only one earning member above 15 years of age, this was 31 per cent for ST and about a quarter in the case of OBC households.

The highest educational attainment of any member in the household on an average was five years taking all households. In the case of SC households, it was nine years and for OBC households it was 6.5 years. The median of maximum educational attainment of ST households in Thuamul Rampur was only five years. One in every three ST households in the community development block had no one who had ever gone to school. This was 27 per cent in the case of OBC households and 19 per cent in the case of SC households. None of the OBC households had persons who were educated above high school. While about 20 per cent of the SC households had at least one member who had attained an educational level of higher secondary or above, this was only five per cent in the case of ST households.

Data on the type of ration card of the households was elicited to examine the extent of food security and socio-economic conditions in Thuamul Rampur. About four per cent of households in Thuamul Rampur did not have a ration card at all. This ranged from about eight per cent in the case of SC communities to nearly three per cent in the case of ST households. Overall, about seven per cent of the households in Thuamul Rampur had Antoydaya Anna Yojana cards for the ultra-poor. Overall, 85 per cent of the households had PHH (Priority Households) ration cards. Nearly 90 per cent of the ST households had such a card and in the case of SC households it was 78 per cent.

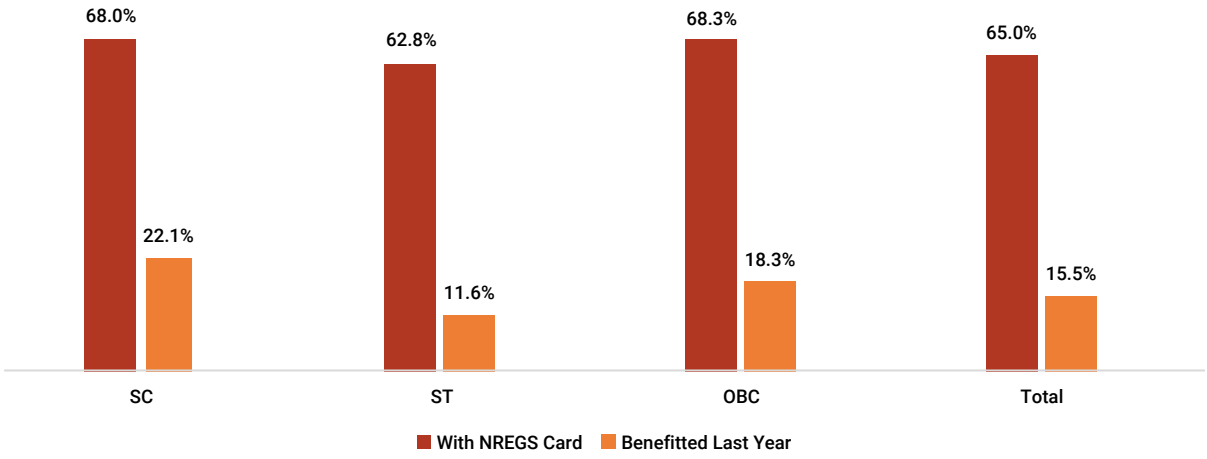
Table.1.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Ration Card and Ethnicity

Type of Ration Card	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No Ration Card	8.3	2.7	3.3	4.3
PHH Card	77.7	88.0	86.7	85.0
AAY Card	6.6	7.4	8.3	7.3
Do Not Know	6.6	1.9	1.7	3.2
Annapurna Card	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

Participation in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was introduced to ensure a minimum of 100 days of employment to the vulnerable households in rural areas. During the survey, the households were

Figure.1.2: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur with Benefits from NREGS in the Past 12 Months, N:440



asked whether they had a job card which would entitle them to work under the scheme. About two-thirds of the households in Thuamul Rampur had an NREGS card. About 68 per cent of households from SC and OBC communities had NREGS cards whereas it was 63 per cent in the case of ST households (Figure.1.2). Overall, only about 15 per cent of the households of Thuamul Rampur reported having obtained work from NREGS. This ranged from 22 per cent of the SC households to about 12 per cent of the ST households.

Among the households that have a job card, more than three-fourths did not get any work in the past twelve months. About two-thirds of SC households with an NREGS card did not get any work. Four-fifths of the households from ST community also reported that they did not get any work in the past 12 months under NREGS. About 73 per cent of the OBC households which had NREGS cards did not get any work in the past 12 months preceding the survey. Around 20 per cent of the households got work for a period of up to 30 days. Only less than one per cent of the households in Thuamul Rampur received more than 60 days of work under NREGS in the past 12 months as evident from Table 1.3.

Table.1.3: Percentage Distribution of Households with NREGS Cards by Number of Workdays Gained in the Past 12 Months Preceding the Survey and Ethnicity

Days of NREGS Work Obtained	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No Work	67.5	81.5	73.2	76.2
1 to 30	24.1	16.0	24.4	19.6
31 to 60	7.2	1.9	2.4	3.5
61 to 90	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.7
Median Workdays	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**83**	**162**	**41**	**286**

Household Income

Data about household income was also collected although it is generally not reported realistically. Overall, around two-thirds of the households reported a total monthly income up to ₹5000. The proportion of households that earn ₹10000 or above was 17 per cent as reported. Among the ST households about 70 per cent reported a monthly income of ₹5000 or below. The median monthly income reported was ₹3000 which ranged from ₹3000 for ST households to ₹4500 for SC households.

Table.1.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Self-Reported Monthly Income from All Sources and Ethnicity

Income (₹)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Up to 5000	55.7	70.9	58.3	65.0
5001 to 10000	19.7	17.4	16.7	18.0
10001 to 15000	14.8	8.9	13.3	11.1
Above 15000	9.8	2.7	11.7	5.9
Median Income	4500	3000	4250	3000
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

Housing and Living Conditions

This section describes the existing housing conditions in Thuamul Rampur. In addition to the type of housing, the study examined access to basic services such as water supply, sanitation and electricity, and also sources of finance for improving housing and living conditions. As evident from Table.1.5, almost all respondents lived in their own houses. A little below two-thirds of the households in Thuamul Rampur have kachha dwelling units. Made of mostly non-durable materials, these structures are highly vulnerable to damage, especially by unfavourable climatic conditions, and require frequent repairs. The proportion of ST and OBC households living in kachha houses was higher than SC households. The median number of rooms used for sleeping was only one.

Table.1.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Select Housing Characteristics and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of House				
Pucca	47.5	33.3	33.3	37.3
Kachha	52.5	66.7	66.7	62.7
House Ownership				
Own	99.2	98.8	96.7	98.6
Rented	0.8	1.2	3.3	1.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

In order to understand whether the remittances have impacted the construction/renovation of the houses, it was explored if the houses were constructed/renovated in the past five years and if so, the source of income for such work. About 25 per cent of the houses were constructed/renovated in the in the past five years. The major source of income for construction or renovation work was household income other than remittances.

Table.1.6: Percentage Distribution of Households that Constructed/Renovated the House in the Past Five Years by Source of Financing and Ethnicity

Source of Financing	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Government Scheme	35.8	38.4	12.8	34.1
NGO Scheme	1.1	1.9	2.6	1.7
Household Income Other than Remittances	58.9	58.5	84.6	62.1
Remittances of Migrant Members	4.2	1.3	0.0	2.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**95**	**159**	**39**	**293**

Over one third of the households that undertook construction/renovation of the house did it with financial support from government schemes. Remittances of migrant members had a minimal role in such construction/renovation. While two per cent of all households that constructed/renovated houses used remittances, four per cent of SC households reported remittances as source of finance.

The households were then enquired about the availability of water, toilet, kitchen facilities, cooking fuel and electricity, as access to these services is crucial to determine the standard of living. Half of the households were dependent on hand pumps as their main source of water supply across all ethnic groups (Table.1.7). Piped water supply was available to less than 15 per cent of the households. The access of SC population was slightly better compared to other groups in terms of piped water supply. About 15 per cent of the households depended on dug wells for water supply. Spring, surface water and public taps were other sources used by some households to avail water in the villages.

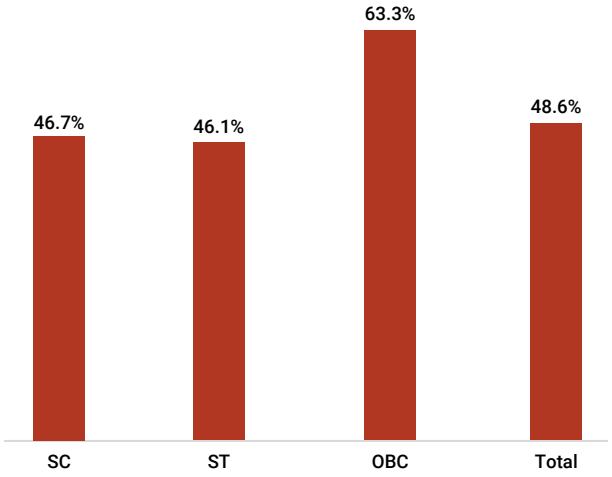
Table.1.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Select Amenities at the Current Residence and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Main Source of Drinking Water				
Piped Water Supply	18.0	12.0	15.0	14.1
Public Tap/Stand Pipe	2.5	7.4	8.3	6.1
Hand Pump	50.8	50.0	45.0	49.5
Dug Well	13.9	15.1	18.3	15.2
Others	14.8	15.5	13.3	15.0
Separate Kitchen Facility				
Available	46.7	29.5	40.0	35.7
Not Available	53.3	70.5	58.3	64.1
Do Not Know/Cannot Say	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.2
Source of Fuel				
LPG/Natural Gas	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.7
Biogas	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Charcoal	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Wood	96.7	99.6	100.0	98.9
Source of Lighting				
Electricity from Grid	78.7	83.7	78.3	81.6
Sharing Electricity from Grid through Another Household	7.4	5.0	6.7	5.9
Electricity from Solar or Grid and Solar Combined	9.0	7.8	15.0	9.1
Others	4.9	3.5	0.0	3.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

Approximately two-thirds of the households did not have a separate kitchen facility within the house. It was the lowest in the case of ST households where a little less than three-fourths of the households did not have a separate kitchen. Further, except 2.5 per cent of the SC households, all the households were dependent on firewood as their main source for cooking. This indicates the households in Thuamul Rampur are yet to benefit from the government announced subsidies and schemes for safe fuel.

Most of the households had an electricity connection. About four-fifths of the households got electricity from a personal connection from the grid for lighting. About nine percent of households used either solar electricity or a combination of electricity from solar and the grid. Other households shared electricity from

Figure.1.3: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur with a Functional Toilet, N:440



The majority of the households lived in Kachha houses. Nearly half of them had functional toilets. However, members of nearly two-thirds of such households did not use the toilets regularly

the grid of another household or used kerosene. More than half of the households did not have access to a functional toilet (Figure.1.3). Availability of a functional toilet was slightly better in the case of OBCs with a little less than two-thirds of the households having a functional toilet.

The households which had a functional toilet were asked how regularly it was used and if water supply was available inside the toilet. The source of finance for the construction of toilets was also enquired to understand if remittances from migrant workers had resulted in an improvement in the sanitation conditions in Thuamul Rampur. Water was available in only about one-third of the functional toilets. A majority of these toilets were constructed with funding either from a government or NGO scheme. Members of nearly two-thirds of the households did not use the toilet regularly. Open defecation was practiced in spite of having a functional toilet by three-fourths of the ST households and over half of the SC and OBC households. The remittances from migrant members had not contributed substantially in the construction of the toilets as evident from Table.1.8. Three-fifths of the households constructed a toilet with the aid from a government scheme.

Table.1.8: Percentage Distribution of Households with Functional Toilets by Select Characteristics and Ethnicity.

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Water Supply Inside Toilet				
Available	33.3	30.3	34.2	31.8
Not Available	66.7	69.7	65.8	68.2
Whether the Majority of the Members Regularly Use Toilet				
Use	49.1	25.2	44.7	35.0
Do Not Use	50.9	74.8	55.3	65.0
Source of Finance for Toilet Construction				
Government Scheme	66.7	63.0	44.7	60.7
NGO Scheme	33.3	36.1	55.3	38.8
Remittances of Migrant Member	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**57**	**119**	**38**	**214**

Ownership of Select Assets

Ownership of select assets was explored among the households to understand the standard of living. Assets owned, provided in Table.1.9, indicate the consumption patterns among the households of Thuamul Rampur. There is a visible difference between the consumption patterns of SC, ST and OBC households. The SC households had a larger proportion of assets and amenities such as furniture, mobile phones and motorcycles whereas the proportion of ownership of most of the assets was lowest among the ST households. A basic mobile phone was one of the most common assets across the household categories. About two-fifths of the households reported having a basic mobile phone. Over half of the SC households had basic mobile phones whereas only about one-third of the ST households possessed the same.

Table.1.9: Percentage of Households by Ownership of Select Assets and Ethnicity

Asset	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Basic Mobile Phone	54.9	34.5	40.0	40.9
Chair	55.7	27.1	36.7	36.4
Watch or Clock	38.5	31.8	20.0	32.0
Smartphone	36.1	16.7	33.3	24.3
Bicycle	17.2	24.4	25.0	22.5
Wooden Cot or Bed	27.0	15.1	16.7	18.6
Pressure Cooker	23.0	9.7	10.0	13.4
Television	18.0	3.9	11.7	8.9
Mattress	20.5	3.1	8.3	8.6
Electric Fan	14.8	5.4	6.7	8.2
Motorcycle or Scooter	16.4	3.5	8.3	7.7
DTH Connection	13.1	1.9	8.3	5.9
Table	10.7	1.6	3.3	4.3
Radio or Transistor	2.5	2.3	0.0	2.0
Sewing Machine	2.5	1.2	5.0	2.0
Any Other Telephone	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.4
Computer or Laptop	1.6	.8	3.3	1.4
Refrigerator	0.0	1.2	1.7	.9
Tractor	1.6	.8	0.0	.9
Steel Cot or Bed	1.6	.4	0.0	.7
Car	0.8	.4	0.0	.5
Other Four-Wheeled Vehicle	1.6	0.0	0.0	.5
Autorickshaw	0.8	0.0	0.0	.2
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

Overall, slightly less than a quarter of the households in Thuamul Rampur had a smartphone. The proportion of ST households with smartphones was about 17 per cent whereas one-third of the SC and OBC households had such phones. About nine per cent of the households had televisions and only two per cent households had a radio, indicating limited exposure to mass media. About 16 per cent of SC households had motorcycles or scooters whereas this was only 3.5 per cent in the case of ST households.

Ownership of assets which have an income earning potential such as sewing machines or autorickshaws is also very low and in turn has an impact on household productivity and income diversification.

Land and Agriculture

Agriculture has traditionally been one of the main sources of livelihood among rural households. However, there has been a gradual shift in rural economies because of the reduction and fragmentation of landholdings, changing climatic conditions, employment in non-agrarian rural markets and migration to urban centres. Landownership and agricultural practice also play a role in determining the nature of migration. Households with land may have seasonal migrant members who return to the village during the farming season to assist family members in agriculture. This section examines landownership and agricultural practices of the households in Thuamul Rampur. The households were asked details about their current family occupation, landownership and their engagement in agriculture (Table.1.10). Three-fifths of the households shared that their primary occupation was non-agricultural daily wage labour. Agriculture as the primary family occupation was reported by a little less than one-third of the households. A few households were also engaged in the service sector or had their own small-scale business. While about one-third of the ST and OBC households reported agriculture as their family occupation, only about one-fifth of the SC families reported so.

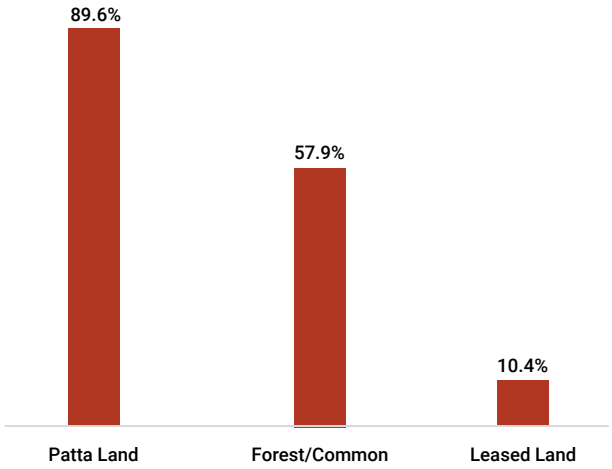
Table1.10: Percentage Distribution of Households by Engagement in Agriculture and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Current Family Occupation				
Agriculture	20.5	33.3	33.3	29.8
Agricultural Labour	0.8	7.4	1.7	4.8
Other Daily Wage Labour	65.6	56.6	65.0	60.2
None	1.6	1.6	0.00	1.4
Other	11.5	1.2	0.00	3.9
Whether Currently Engaged in Agriculture				
Engaged in Agriculture	32.0	52.3	46.7	45.9
Not Engaged in Agriculture	68.0	47.7	53.3	54.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

While a majority of households have non-farm income, agriculture plays an important role in complementing their finances, by producing sufficient grains for domestic consumption. Most small-scale landowners are subsistence farmers. Hence, the households were also asked if they are cur-rently engaged in agriculture. More than half of the households in Thuamul Rampur currently do not practice agriculture. Nearly half of the SC and OBC households were engaged in agriculture whereas only about one-third of the SC households were engaged in it. Most of the households cit-ed lack of money or land required to cultivate as the reason. In some cases, households also re-ported that there were not enough family members to engage in agriculture or that agriculture was simply not profitable for the household. Poor quality of land was also cited by a few house-holds as a reason for not practicing agriculture. About 15 percent of the households had given up agriculture in the past five years which indicates a gradual shift in the livelihood patterns of the block from an agrarian economy.

In Thuamul Rampur, households use patta land, forest/common land and leased land for cultivation. Among those who were currently engaged in agriculture, almost 90 per cent reported that they cultivated

Figure.1.4: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur Currently Engaged in Agriculture by Typology of Land Use, N:202



More than half of the households currently do not practice agriculture. The majority engaged in agriculture had only one crop cycle per year and more than 90 per cent of them used the produce exclusively for household consumption

patta land (Figure.1.4). Nearly 60 per cent used forest/common land and about ten per cent households cultivated leased land.

The pattern of land use for cultivation was similar in the case of those who used patta land and those who used forest/common land. Almost 70 per cent of such households used one to five acres of land for cultivation and nearly a quarter each used less than one acre of land. About four per cent of households each used over five acres of patta or forest/common land for cultivation. The landholding size of patta land used for cultivation was larger in the case of ST households compared to others. This was true in the case of forest/common land also.

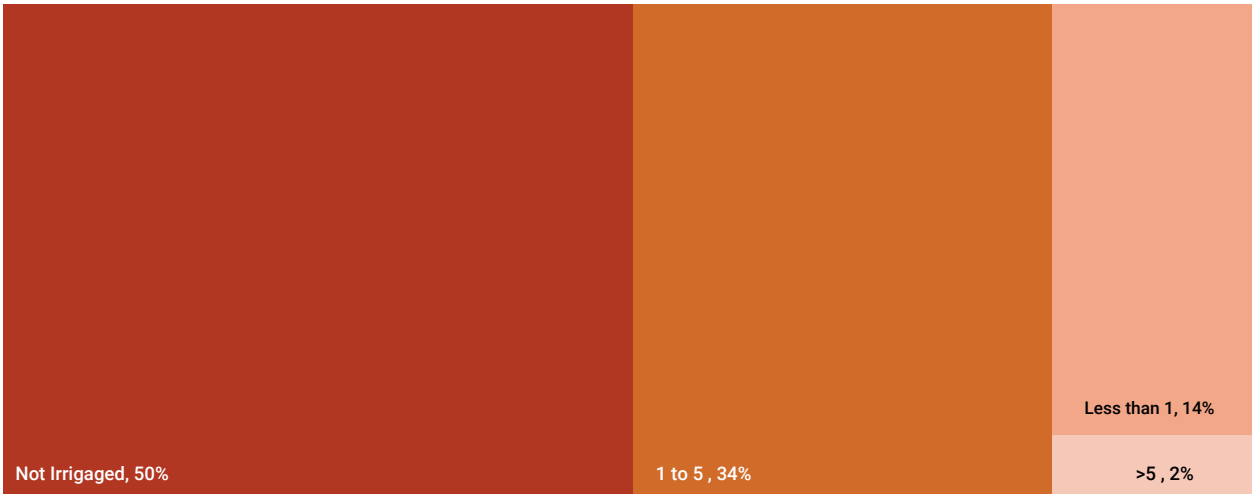
Land Characteristics

The households were enquired about the quantum of patta land they owned and out of that how much was irrigated. The mode of irrigation was also explored (Table.1.11). About two-fifths of the households did not own any patta land and over one-third of all the households owned between one to five acres of patta land. The proportion of households from ST and OBC categories who had more than one acre of patta land was more compared to SC households. The proportion of landless households was least among the OBC category compared to the rest.

Table.1.11: Percentage Distribution of Households by Ownership of Patta Land and Ethnicity

Land Owned (Acres)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No Land	47.5	41.5	28.3	41.4
Less than 1	19.7	15.9	26.7	18.4
1 to 5	29.5	37.2	43.3	35.9
More than 5	3.3	5.4	1.7	4.3
Median Land Owned	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

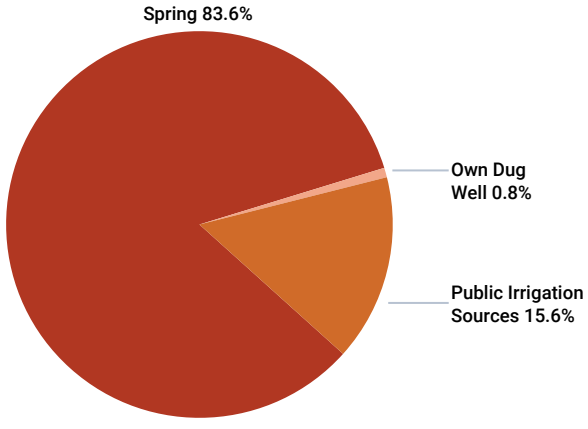
Figure.1.5: Percentage Distribution of Households with Patta Land (Acres) by Irrigation Status, N:258



One in every two households which owned patta land reported that their land was not irrigated (Figure1.5). About one-third of the households shared that about one to five acres of their patta land was irrigated. Nearly 15 per cent of the households informed that only less than one acre of their land was irrigated. Only about two per cent of households had more than five acres of irrigated land.

The households with irrigated patta land were asked about their mode of irrigation. The findings are summarised in Figure.1.6. Over four-fifths of the households with irrigated land were relying on streams for irrigation. Public sources were cited by about 15 per cent and only less than one per cent of the households with irrigated land had their own dug well used for irrigating the land.

Figure.1.6: Percentage Distribution of Households with Irrigated Land by Mode of Irrigaton, N:128



Half of the households that owned patta land reported that their land was not irrigated. Households with irrigated land predominantly depended on streams for irrigation

Cultivation Practices

The cultivation practices of the households in Thuamul Rampur engaged in agriculture were explored to understand how many crop cycles are undertaken in a year, whether they sell the produce or use it for household consumption and if they engage labourers other than household members, etc. The percentages were calculated only for the SC and ST categories as only 28 OBC households in the sample were engaged in agriculture (Table.1.12). A little more than half of the 202 households practicing agriculture were engaged in only one crop cycle in the previous year. Half of the ST households engaged in agriculture had two crop cycles in the previous year compared to 36 per cent of the SC households.

Table.1.12: Percentage Distribution of Households by Select Practices Related to Agriculture and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Number of Crop Cycles in the Previous Year				
One	61.5	49.6	-	55.0
Two	35.9	49.6	-	44.1
None	2.6	0.7	-	1.0
Use of Agricultural Produce				
Only for Household Consumption	87.2	97.0	-	94.6
Sold during Financial Crisis	7.7	0.0	-	2.0
Sold Surplus Produce	5.1	3.0	-	3.5
Employment of Labour for Agriculture in the Past 12 Months				
Only Household Members	56.4	60.0	-	58.9
Only Labourers	2.6	0.0	-	.5
Household Members and Labourers	41.0	40.0	-	40.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**-**	**100.0**
Number	**39**	**135**	**28**	**202**

Over nine in every ten households engaged in agriculture in Thuamul Rampur used the agricultural produce exclusively for household consumption. Only a minority of five per cent households in Thuamul Rampur sold their agricultural produce, either on a regular basis or during a financial crisis. The proportion of households who sold agricultural produce was larger in the case of the SC households compared to others. About five per cent of the SC households had the practice of selling agricultural produce whereas about eight per cent SC households sold the agricultural produce only when there was a financial crisis. About three-fifths of the households depended only on household members for agriculture labour. About 40 per cent of the households engaged labourers in addition to household members.

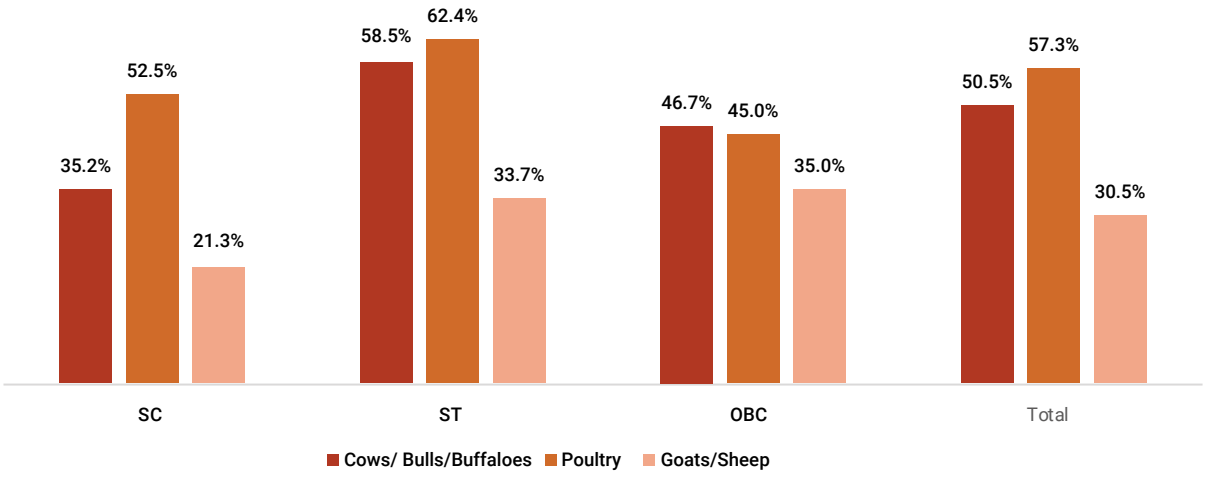


Livestock

Rearing of livestock can have a significant impact on reducing poverty in rural areas. It has the potential to fill the income gaps especially during seasonal fluctuations in agriculture, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Overall, more than half of the households had cows/buffalos/bulls and also poultry (Figure.1.7). About 30 per cent households reared goats/sheep. The ST households were more engaged in livestock rearing compared to the other ethnic groups. Nearly 60 per cent of the ST households reported that they had cows/buffalos/bulls. A similar proportion of ST households also raised poultry.

The majority of the households did not earn any income from livestock in the past three months preceding the survey. The proportion of households that earned income from livestock varied from 42 per cent in the case of OBC households compared to about 28 per cent in the case of SC/ST households.

Figure.1.7: Percentage of Households with Select Livestock, N:440



Financial Inclusion and Social Security

Access to banking services is increasingly significant for rural households. Besides access to safer and more reliable sources of savings and credit, the state also transfers NREGS wages and other cash subsidies directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries in order to reduce leakages and corruption. Access of households in Thuamul Rampur to financial services was explored in the survey. As evident from Figure.1.8, about 90 per cent of the households in Thuamul Rampur had at least one usual resident with a bank account.

Figure. 1.8: Percentage of Households with Access to Select Financial Services, N:440

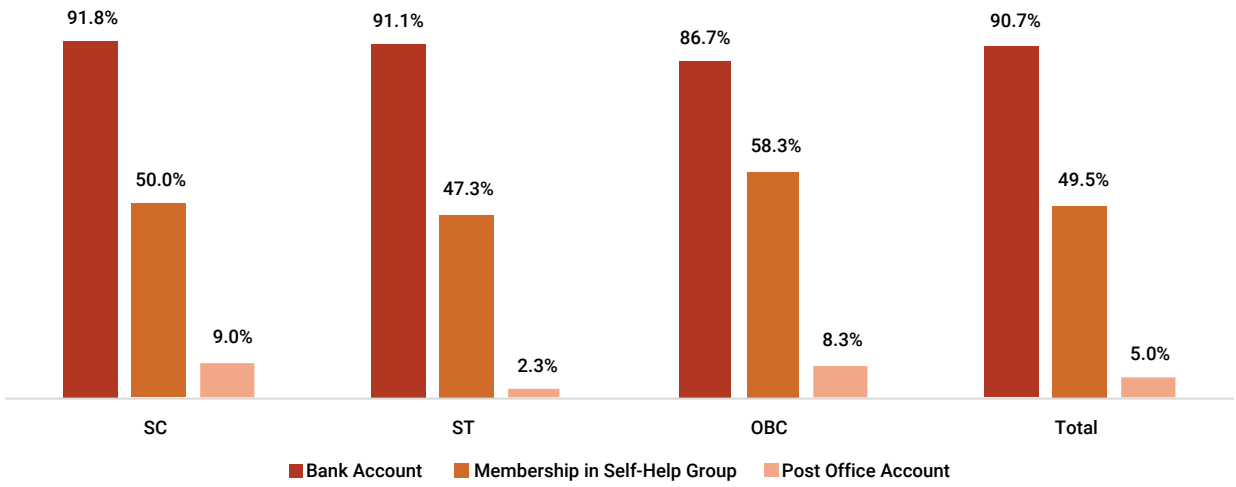
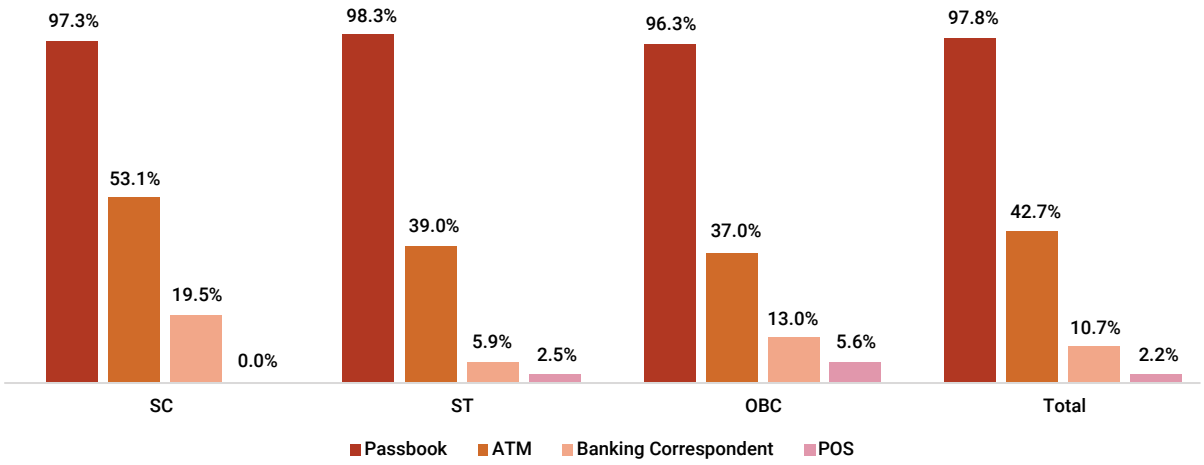


Figure.1.9: Percentage of Households with Members Having Bank/Post Office Accounts by Select Means of Withdrawal of Money , N:403



Five per cent of all the households had accounts in the post office. About nine per cent SC and OBC households had members with post office accounts. One in every two households had membership in self-help groups. The proportion of households with membership in SHGs was highest among the OBC households.

The respondents were asked about the methods used by household members with bank or post office accounts to withdraw money. Almost 98 per cent of the households used passbooks to withdraw money from bank or post office. More than two-fifths of the households withdrew money from ATMs. Overall, about 11 per cent of the households used Banking Correspondents. Except about six per cent of the OBC households, not many depended Points of Sale (POS) for withdrawing money.

The average distance to the point from where money can be withdrawn was also explored. The median distance to the nearest point from where they can withdraw money was 12 km. Households with bank accounts were asked generally how many visits it takes to complete a transaction at the bank or post office. The median number of visits to complete one transaction was three visits. On an average a visit to the bank/post office for a transaction took eight hours.

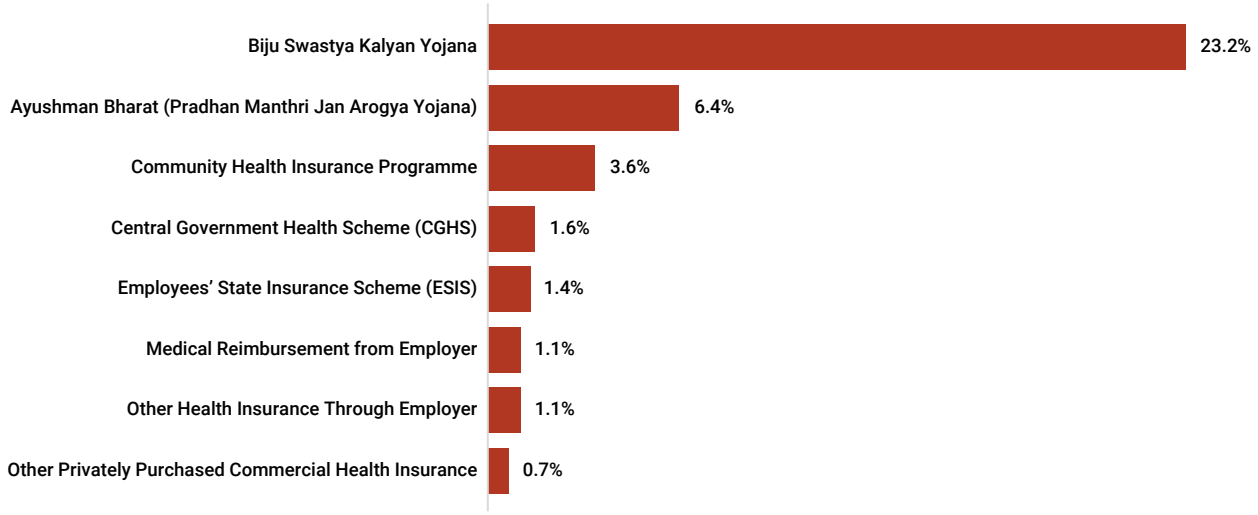


Health Insurance

To understand the potential out of pocket expenditure of the households in the case of catastrophic health expenditure, the enrolment of households in various health insurance schemes was explored. The households were asked if at least one person in the household was a member of any of the health insurance schemes, by probing each medical insurance scheme. Findings from the study are provided in Figure.1.10.

A little less than one-fourth of the households were enrolled in the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana which is the universal free healthcare scheme of the Government of Odisha. Only about six per cent of the households reported that they were enrolled in the Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana). Very few households had enrolled in other insurance schemes.

Figure.1.10: Percentage of Households with at Least One Member Enrolled in Select Health Insurance Schemes, N:440





Access to Services

The Table.1.13 documents the distance travelled by households to avail essential services such as banks and public hospitals as well as distance to transport facilities. Almost 70 per cent of the households had to travel more than ten kilometres to reach a bank where they have an account. The median distance travelled by households to reach a bank is 12 km and for OBC households this is 20 km. Almost 90 per cent of the households have to travel for six kilometres or more to the nearest health facility. The median distance for ST and SC households was 12 km and for OBC households it was 20 km.

Table.1.13: Percentage Distribution of Households by Distance Travelled to Avail Select Basic Services and Ethnicity

Distance (km)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Distance to the Nearest Bank				
5 or Less	14.3	6.8	15.4	10.0
6 to 10	9.8	24.7	17.3	19.5
More than 10	75.0	68.5	65.4	69.9
Do Not Know	0.9	0.00	1.9	.5
Median Distance	12	12	20	12
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**112**	**235**	**52**	**399**
Distance to the Nearest Health Facility or Hospital				
5 or Less	18.9	6.6	13.3	10.9
6 to 10	10.7	24.8	13.3	19.3
More than 10	70.5	68.6	71.7	69.5
Do Not Know	0.00	0.00	1.7	0.2
Median Distance	12	12	20	12
Distance to the Nearest High School Where Free Education Is Available				
5 or Less	49.2	50.4	58.3	51.1
6 to 10	46.7	40.7	38.3	42.0
More than 10	4.1	8.9	3.3	6.8
Median Distance	5.0	4.0	3.5	4.0
Distance to the Nearest Available Public Transport				
Less than 5	59.0	45.0	60.0	50.9
5 and above	41.0	55.0	38.3	48.9
Do Not Know	0.00	0.00	1.7	0.2
Median Distance	3	5	3.5	4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

In Thuamul Rampur, more than two-fifths of the households reported that the distance to the nearest high school where free education was available was between six to ten kilometres. For about seven percent of the households it was ten or more kilometres away. Half the households interviewed said that public transport facilities were available only at a distance of five kilometres or more. The median distance to the point where public transport was available was four kilometres. Median distance to the nearest railway station was 80 km.

Mobile Connectivity

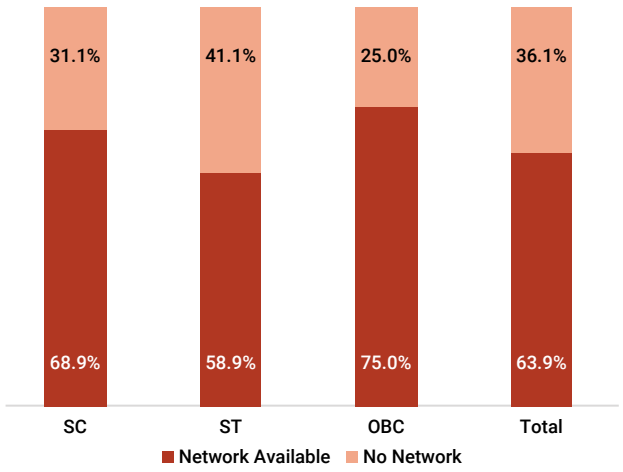
Mobile connectivity is poor in several parts of Thuamul Rampur given the remoteness of villages and the undulating terrain. Gram Vikas has been engaged in resolving the challenges in mobile connectivity. Figure 1.11 explores the mobile connectivity of households in Thuamul Rampur. More than one-third of the households reported that there was no mobile network in their village. Among the ST households, two-fifths did not have mobile connectivity in their villages.

A little less than three-fifths of the households shared that they had access to mobile network within a one-kilometre radius from their village (Table.1.14). The others had to travel a couple of kilometres to access mobile network to make a phone call or to send a message. More than ten per cent of the ST and SC households reported that they had to travel more than five kilometres for connectivity. The median distance travelled by households for mobile connectivity was one kilometre.

Table.1.14: Percentage Distribution of Households by Distance to Be Travelled to Access Mobile Network and Ethnicity

Distance (Km)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
1 or Less	63.2	54.7	-	57.9
2 to 5	23.7	34.9	-	31.4
More than 5	13.2	10.4	-	10.7
Median Distance	1	1	1	1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**38**	**106**	**15**	**159**

Figure.1.11: Percentage Distribution of Households by Status of Mobile Connectivity in the Village and Ethnicity, N:440



Mobile phone connectivity was poor in several parts of Thuamul Rampur given the remoteness of the villages and the undulating terrain. Over one-third of the households had no connectivity at their residences

Education of Children

In order to understand the state of education of children in Thuamul Rampur, the sample households were enquired if any child in the age group of 5 to 15 years from the household is currently not regularly attending school for more than 14 days at the time of interview (Table.1.15). It was found that nearly ten per cent of the households in Thuamul Rampur had children in the age group 5 to 15 years who were out of school. About 17 per cent of OBC households had children out of school whereas this was more than nine per cent in the case of ST households. Only about seven per cent of SC households had out of school children in the age group of 5 to 15 years. A negligible proportion of households had children who were currently temporarily absent from school for a period of 14 days or more.

Table.1.15: Percentage Distribution of Households by Schooling of Children in the Age Group 5 to 15 Years and Ethnicity

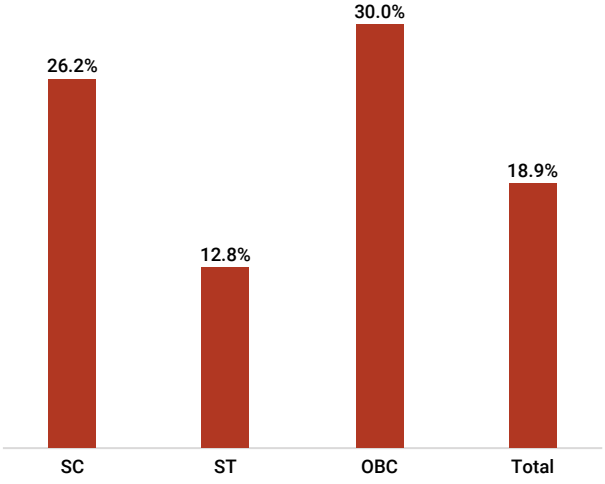
Status of Schooling	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Out of School	6.6	9.3	16.7	9.5
Currently Absent	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5
Going to School/No Child in the Household	93.4	89.9	83.3	90.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**

Indebtedness

Information on outstanding loans or advances taken by the households in the past twelve months was sought. About one-fifth of the households in Thuamul Rampur had taken loans or advances which are to be repaid. A little less than one-third of the OBC households and one-fourth of SC households were currently in debt (Figure.1.12). The respondents were then asked about the reasons for which loans or advances were taken and the sources of such loans (Table.1.16). Among the 79 households that responded to this, more than one-third had taken a loan towards the expenditure on hospitalization of a family member. More than two-fifths of the SC and OBC households had taken a loan towards this purpose.

Marriage, construction/renovation of the house or education were also important reasons for indebtedness among the households of Thuamul Rampur. Other reasons included purchase of land and assets, investment in business, labour migration of a household member and expenditure related to death of a person in the household.

Figure.1.12: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur Currently in Debt by Ethnicity, N:440



Nearly one-fifth of the households had loans or advances to be repaid. The households depended on informal sources for credit. About 25 per cent of the indebted households had an outstanding loan of more than ₹10000

Table.1.16: Percentage of Households by Reason for Taking a Loan and Ethnicity

Reasons for Taking a Loan	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Hospitalization Expenditure	43.3	21.9	-	35.4
Marriage Expenditure	20.0	18.8	-	20.3
Construction or Renovation of House	6.7	12.5	-	15.2
Loan for Education	20.0	12.5	-	13.9
Purchase of an Asset	6.7	15.6	-	11.4
Purchase of Land	10.0	6.3	-	7.6
Death Related Expenditure	6.7	6.3	-	6.3
Loan for Labour Migration of a Member	6.7	9.4	-	6.3
Loan for Business Investment	10.0	3.1	-	5.1
Crop Failure	3.3	3.1	-	2.5
Agricultural Loan	6.7	0.00	-	2.5
Number	**30**	**32**	**17**	**79**

Figure.1.13 highlights the dependence of households on informal sources for credit. Almost three-fifths of the indebted households reported that they borrowed money from a friend or a relative. Around one-fifth of all the households had taken a loan from a local money lender. A little more than 15 per cent of the households got credit from self-help groups as well. The number of households that had taken loans from public or private banks (institutional sources) was insignificant.

When asked about the outstanding amount of debt, more than two-fifths of the households reported that they had an amount less than ₹5000 to be repaid (Table.1.17). One in every three households which were indebted, had a current outstanding amount between ₹5000 and ₹10000. One-fourth of the households had to repay more than ₹10,000. However, among the ST households, less than ten percent have debts of this amount. More than half of the ST households have to repay an amount which is less than ₹5000. The median amount of outstanding debt ranged from ₹3000 in the case of ST households to ₹7000 in the case of SC households.

Figure.1.13: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur with Outstanding Debt by All Sources of Outstanding Loans, N:79

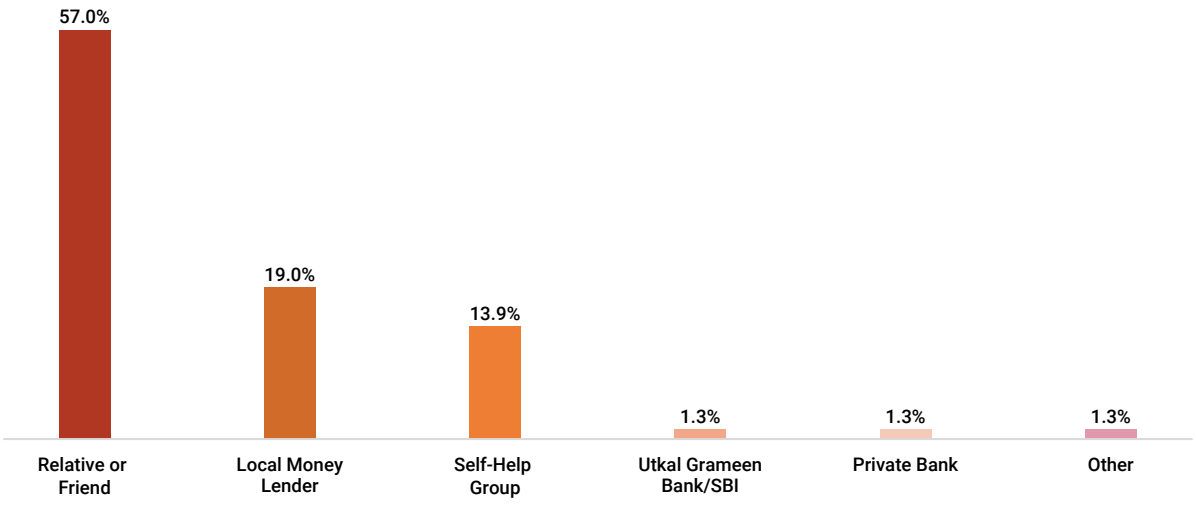


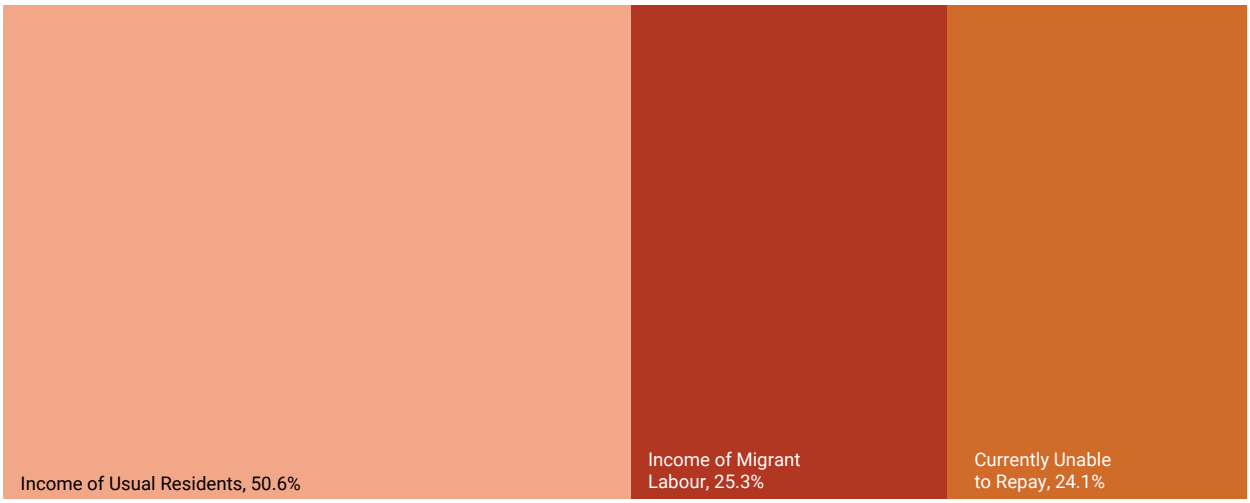


Table.1.17: Percentage Distribution of Indebted Households by Outstanding Debt and Ethnicity

Total Outstanding Debt (₹)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Less than 5000	31.3	54.5	-	42.2
5000 to 10000	34.4	36.4	-	32.5
More than 10000	34.4	9.1	-	25.3
Median	7000	3000	6000	5000
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**32**	**33**	**18**	**83**

The households currently in debt were explored about their current major source of repayment of the loans/advances (Figure.1.14). One in every four indebted households reported that they were currently unable to repay the debts and another one-fourth were repaying their debts with the income of migrant workers. Half of the households were repaying their debts from the income of usual residents.

Figure.1.14: Percentage Distribution of Indebted Households by Current Major Source of Repayment, N:79



Rural Misery

In order to understand the extent of rural misery in Thuamul Rampur, a set of statements were read out to the respondents and they were requested to respond if they agree, disagree or do not wish to respond to them/cannot say. The investigators presented it in the manner given here: "I was talking to members of various households in villages here about their circumstances. Different people said different things. I am reading out some of the statements they made. Please let me know if you agree, disagree, do not know or if you cannot answer this". They were also asked to respond if a statement was not applicable to them. The statements read out are provided below:

1. "We currently do not have any saving as our income is too meagre".
2. "If someone from this household falls ill, we are unable to seek quality treatment because our income is not sufficient for that".
3. "It is very difficult to practice agriculture here because we have no money".
4. "Some of this household members had to skip at least one regular meal for more than one day in the past seven days because there was no food stock or there was no money to buy food".
5. "This household had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months".

The Table.1.18 records the responses where the respondents agreed with the above statements. About 70 per cent of the households did not have any savings since their income was too meagre. The proportion of households without any savings was highest among the ST households and lowest among the SC households. The majority of the households reported that they were unable to seek quality treatment in the case of any illness because of insufficient income. Almost three-fifths of the households across the ethnic groups shared this status. The shortage of money to invest in agriculture was also experienced by more than two-fifths of the households. About 13 per cent of the households reported that they had to skip at least one regular meal for more than one day in the past seven days preceding the survey because there was no food stock or there was no money to buy food. The proportion of households that had to skip meals was similar across ethnic groups. Also, about five per cent of the households had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months.

Table.1.18: Percentage of Households by Select Indicators of Misery and Ethnicity.

Indicator	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No Savings Since Income Is Too Meagre	63.9	74.8	70.0	71.1
Unable to Seek Quality Treatment in Case of Illness because of Insufficient Income	58.2	64.3	61.7	62.3
Difficult to Practice Agriculture	36.9	44.6	46.7	42.7
Members Had to Skip Multiple Meals in the Past Seven Days	13.9	12.8	11.7	13.0
Mortgaged or Sold Land in the Past 12 Months	4.9	4.7	6.7	5.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Number	**122**	**258**	**60**	**440**



One in every ten households reported that members had to skip at least one regular meal for more than one day in the past seven days because there was no food/money

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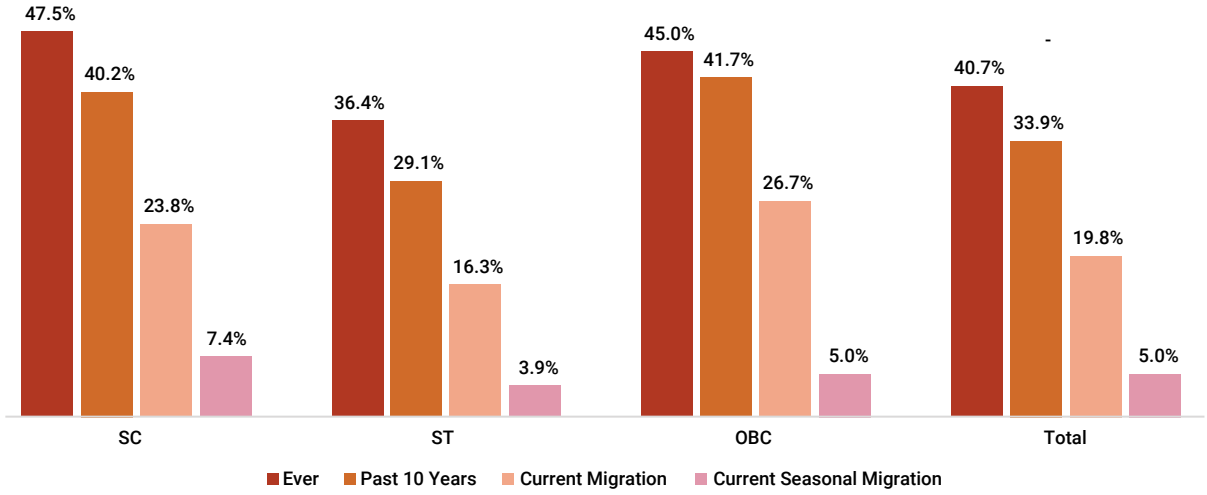
Migration from Thuamul Rampur



Migration History

In order to understand the migration profile of Thuamul Rampur, the sample households were enquired whether any member of the household, currently alive of dead, had ever stayed continuously for a period of 30 or more days for work outside the district. Further, to gather insights about recent migration, history of labour migration from the households in the past 10 years was explored. To understand the return migration, the households were also asked if any of the current usual residents had ever worked 30 days or more outside Kalahandi district but did not have an intention to return to the same place or another place outside the district for work at the time of the survey. Further, the current labour migration details were also collected from the households. This section summarises the findings about the migration from households in Thuamul Rampur. Figure.2.1 summarises the labour migration from the households to places outside Kalahandi district. Household migration rates calculated by select variables are provided in Table 2.2.

Figure 2.1: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur with a History of Inter-district Labour Migraiton , N:440



It was found that two in every five households in Thuamul Rampur had a history of labour migration. About 41 per cent of households had at least one person who had ever worked for 30 days or more outside Kalahandi district. While nearly half of the SC households and 45 per cent of the OBC households reported that at least one person from the household had ever migrated out of the district for work, only about one-third of the ST households had a history of inter-district migration.

One in every three households in Thuamul Rampur had at least one person who had migrated outside the district for work in the past ten years. While this was about 40 per cent in the case of SC and OBC households, only about 30 per cent of the ST households had at least one person migrated outside the district for work.

Current Migration

Examining current migration, one in every five households had at least one member of the household working outside the district for a period of more than 30 days at the time of the survey. Current household migration rates were highest among the OBC households. While 27 per cent of the OBC households had at least one migrant worker currently, nearly a quarter of SC households had migrants working elsewhere outside the district. About 16 per cent of ST households had members working elsewhere outside the district at the time of the survey. Only less than one per cent households currently had women/girls who had migrated out of the district for work.

The extent of seasonal migration was also explored. The households were enquired if they had current migrants who generally work outside the district for not more than six months and work in the village the rest of the year. Only about five per cent of the OBC households had current migrants who were seasonal migrants. With about seven per cent of the households having current seasonal migrants, the SC households had the highest seasonal migration rates at the time of the survey. One-fourth of all the households with migrants had seasonal migrants (Figure.2.2). The majority of the seasonal migrants also went to the destinations preferred by other migrant workers. Over four-fifths of them went to Kerala and worked in hotels/restaurants or in the construction sector.

Estimates of Migrant Workers

In order to understand the magnitude of migration from Thuamul Rampur block, the percentage of migrant workers to the total population was calculated from the sample. Based on the sample proportions, the number of workers from Thuamul Rampur working elsewhere outside the district at the time of the survey was estimated. Figure.2.3 provides the percentage of migrant workers in the sample population by ethnicity.

Figure.2.2: Percentage Distribution of Households with Current Migrants by Seasonality of Migration, N:87

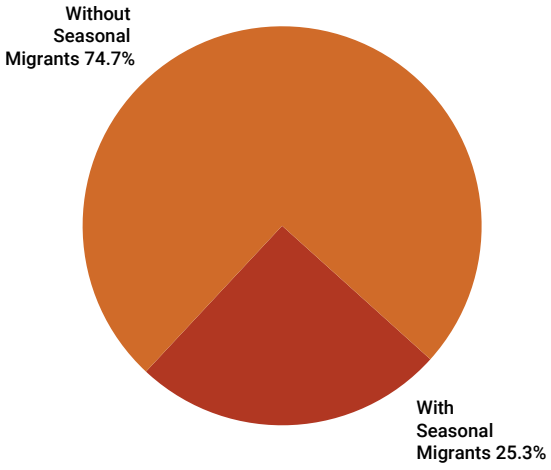
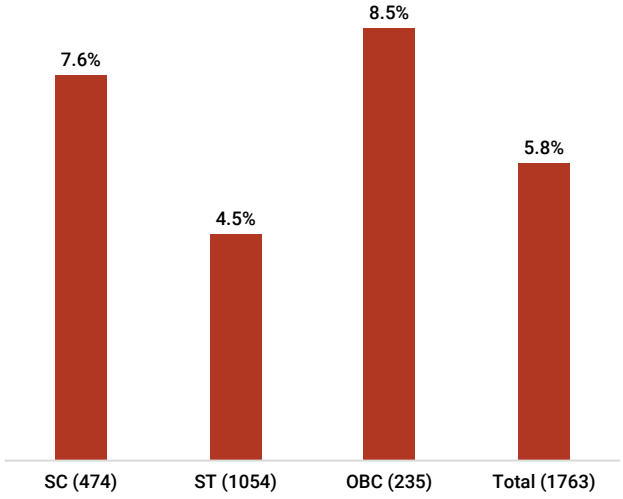


Figure.2.3: Percentage of Migrant Workers to the Total Population and Ethnicity, Thuamul Rampur, N:1763



Migrant workers constitute about six per cent of Thuamul Rampur's population. About nine per cent of the OBC population and eight per cent of the SC population in Thuamul Rampur worked elsewhere outside the district. Out of all migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur, only about three per cent were female. Among the ST population in the block, about four per cent worked outside the district. Table.2.1 provides the estimate of migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur.

Table.2.1: Estimated Number of Persons from Thuamul Rampur Who Work Elsewhere Outside Kalahandi District by Ethnicity.

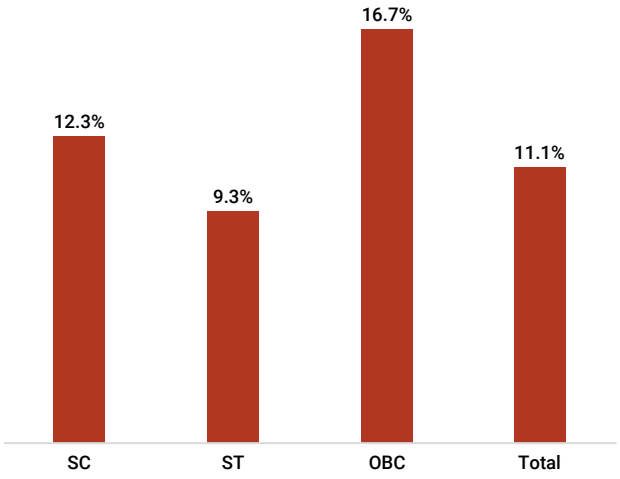
Migrants by Sex	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Male	1416	1976	1029	4415
Female	83	43	0	132
Total	**1499**	**2019**	**1029**	**4548**

Source: Estimated from survey findings

Return Migration

One in every ten households had at least one current usual resident of the household who had worked 30 days or more outside Kalahandi district but did not have an intention to go back to the same place or another place outside the district for work at the time of the survey (Figure.2.4). The proportion of households with return migrants ranged from 17 per cent in the case of OBC households to nine per cent in the case of ST households.

Figure.2.4: Percentage of Households in Thuamul Rampur with Return Migrants and Ethnicity, N:440

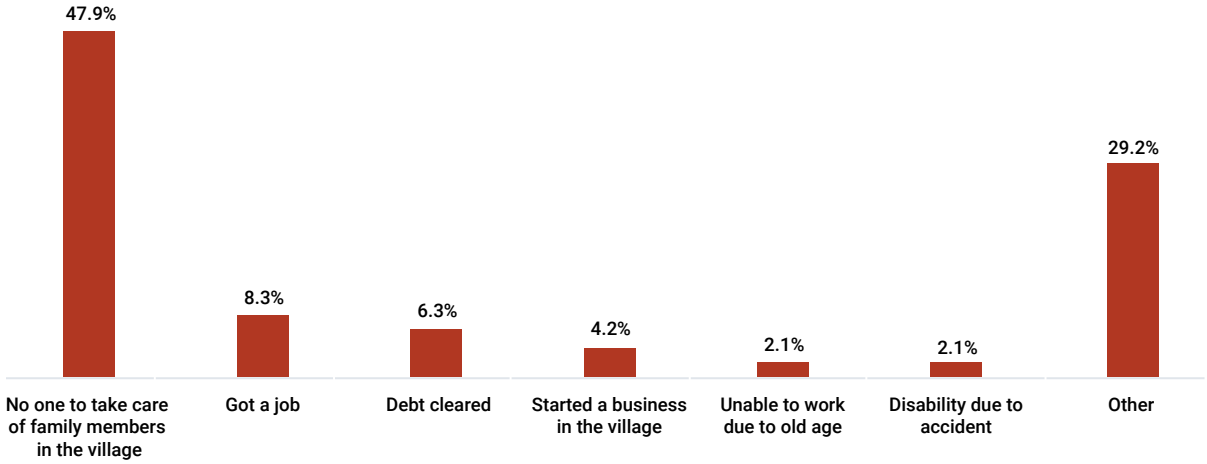


One in every ten households had at least one usual resident who had worked 30 days or more outside Kalahandi district. Almost half of the return migration was on account of no one to take care of the family members in the village

Almost half of the return migration was on account of no one to take care of family members in the village (Figure.2.5). About eight per cent of them returned as they got employment at the native place. Clearance of debts was cited as the reason by about six per cent of the households with return migrants. About four per cent of those who had returned had started a business in the village and about two per cent cited disability due to accident as a reason for their return. Another two per cent had returned as they were unable to work due to old age.

About two-fifths of the return migrants had worked as hotel employees while one-fifth had worked as construction labourers. More than two-thirds of the return migrants had worked in Kerala and more than

Figure.2.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Reason for the Return of the Person Who Returned Last, N:49



two-fifths had worked outside Kalahandi for less than two years. About 70 per cent of those who had returned used to work in Kerala and another ten per cent had worked in Telangana state. About 80 per cent had returned to native place within the last two years preceding the survey.

Table 2.2: Household Labour Migration Rates (Households with Labour Migrants per 100 Households), Thuamul Rampur Block: January, 2020

Variable/Category	Migration in Past 10 Years	Current Migration				Sample Households
		Inter-district Migration	Inter-state Migration	Seasonal Migration	Return Migration	
Ethnicity						
Scheduled Castes	40.2	23.8	20.5	7.4	12.3	122
Scheduled Tribes	29.1	16.3	16.3	3.9	9.3	258
Other Backward Communities	41.7	26.7	25.0	5.0	16.7	60
NREGS Job Card						
Possess NREGS Card	33.2	20.3	18.9	5.2	13.3	286
Do Not Possess NREGS Card	34.9	18.4	17.8	3.9	7.2	152
House Type						
Pucca	39.6	28.0	26.8	8.5	15.9	164
Kachha	30.4	14.9	13.8	2.9	8.3	276
Current Family Occupation						
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	30.3	20.4	19.7	5.3	13.8	152
Other Daily Wage Labour	38.1	21.1	19.6	5.3	10.2	265
Land Ownership						
Own Land	29.1	20.9	24.7	7.1	6.6	182
Do Not Own Land	37.2	19.0	14.3	3.5	14.3	258
Current Engagement in Agriculture						
Engaged in Agriculture	33.2	20.3	19.3	4.5	15.8	202
Not Engaged in Agriculture	34.5	19.3	18.1	5.5	7.1	238
Ration Card						
AAY Card	21.9	18.8	15.6	3.1	6.3	32
PHH Card	34.9	19.8	19.0	4.8	11.3	373
Current Debt Status						
In Debt	42.2	30.1	30.1	7.2	20.5	83
No Debt	31.9	17.4	16.0	4.5	9.0	357
Access to Public Transport						
Less than Five km	33.5	19.2	18.3	3.6	10.3	224
Five km and above	34.4	20.5	19.1	6.5	12.1	215
Overall	**33.9**	**19.8**	**18.6**	**5.0**	**11.1**	**440**

Note: Inter-district migration also includes inter-state migration

Figure.2.6: Distribution of Households in Thuamul Rampur by Migration Status, N:440

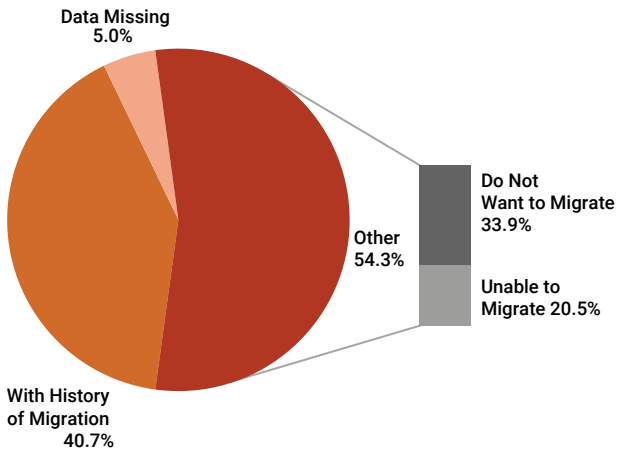
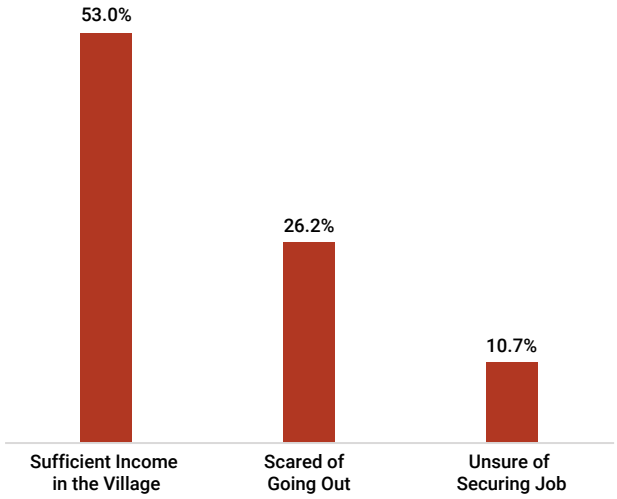


Figure.2.7: Percentage of Households with Members Who Do Not Want to Migrate by Reason, N:149



Barriers to Migration

Overall, about 41 per cent of the households in Thuamul Rampur had the history of labour migration (Figure.2.6). Households without a history of labour migration were asked the reason why members of the particular household did not migrate for work. Data was available for 239 households without migrants. Among them, over one-third had members who wanted to migrate but were unable to do so.

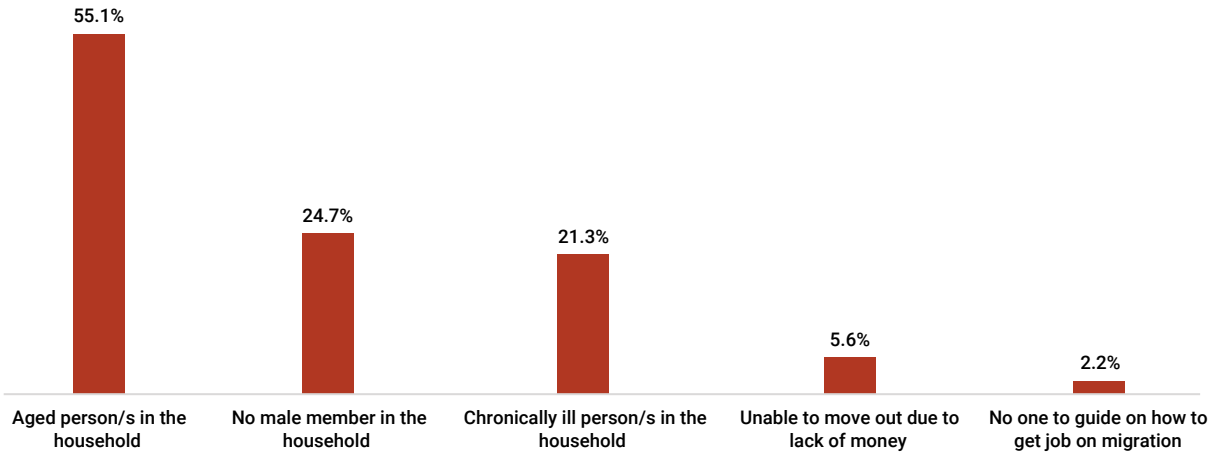
While 38 per cent of the households without migrants shared that they were unable to migrate, three-fifths of them did not want to migrate. About 70 per cent of the ST households and half of the SC/OBC households did not want to migrate. About half of the SC/ST households without migrants were unable to migrate due to various reasons although they wanted to migrate. In the case of the households without migrants that reported that the members did not wish to migrate or were unable to migrate, the reasons were explored. The findings are presented in Figure.2.7 and Figure.2.8.

A little over half of the households that reported that the members do not wish to migrate, cited that their income in the village was sufficient and there was no need to go to other places searching for work. A quarter of them also shared that they were scared of going out of the district for work and one in every ten households mentioned that they were unsure of securing a job if they migrated.

More than half of the households whose members could not migrate despite aspiring to do so, cited the presence of aged persons in the household as the reason. Nearly a quarter of the households highlighted that there were no other male members in the household. Presence of a chronically ill person in the household was one of the reasons cited by about one-fifth of the households for the inability of their members to migrate. Lack of financial resources or lack of guidance in obtaining a job also came up as reasons for the inability of the household members to migrate for work.



Figure.2.8: Percentage of Households With Members Who Are Unable to Migrate by Select Reasons, N:89



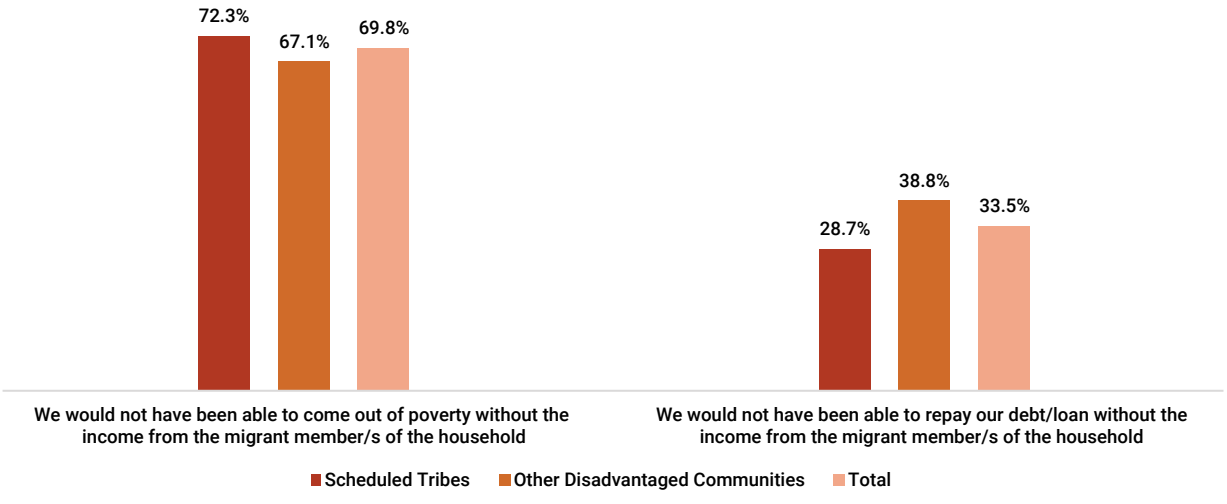
Impact of Labour Migration

The households with a history of labour migration were enquired how the migration of the member/s has impacted the households. There have been both positive and negative impacts of the migration as reported. The impact on indebtedness, agriculture, housing, ownership of assets and status in the village was explored. The households from the Scheduled Tribe communities were compared with the Other Disadvantaged Communities (ODC) combining SC and OBC groups.

Indebtedness

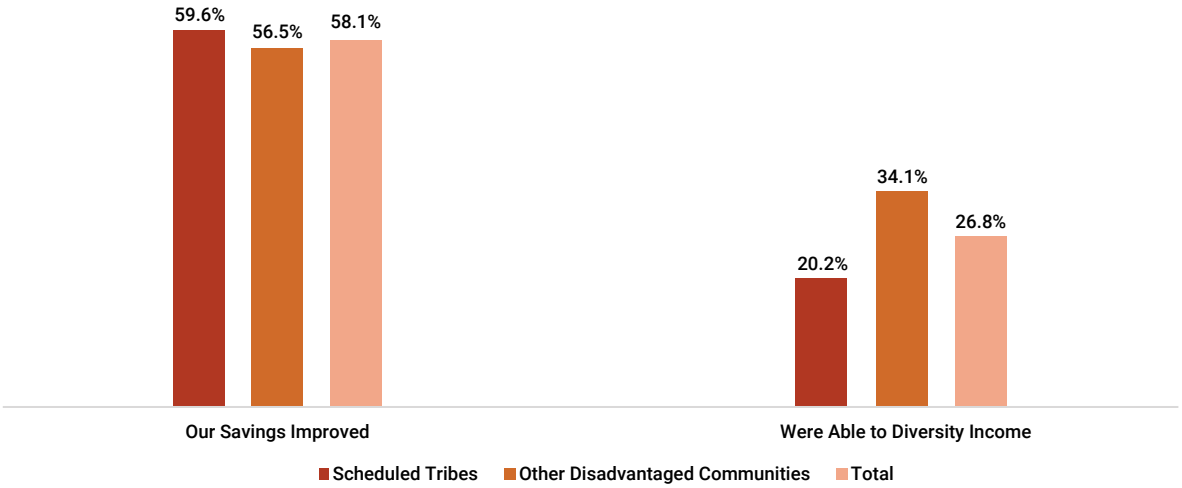
Seven in every ten households with a history of migration reported that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income of the migrant members of the households (Figure.2.9). This was more or less similar across the ethnic groups. About one-third of all the households reported that they would not have been able to repay their debts/loans without the income of the migrant member/s in the household. While nearly about 40 per cent of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities shared that they would not have been able to repay their debts/loans without migration, this proportion was slightly less than 30 per cent in the case of ST households.

Figure.2.9: Percentage of Households with Migration History by Impact on Poverty/Indebtedness, N:179



Nearly 60 per cent of the households reported that their savings improved due to the income contributed by the migrant members (Figure.2.10). The trends were similar in the case of ST households and others. About one in every four households reported that they were able to initiate an income generating activity using the remittances from the migrant members of the households. While one in every five ST households was able to diversify income, one-third of the SC/OBC households were able to accomplish this through income from migration.

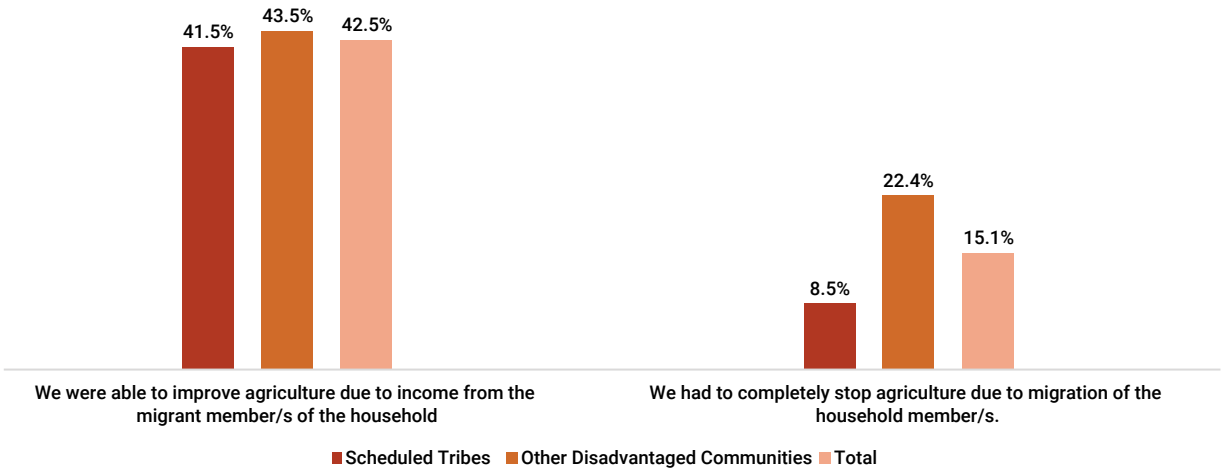
Figure.2.10: Percentage of Households with Migration History that were Able to Improve Savings and and Diversify Income by Ethnicity, N:179



Agriculture

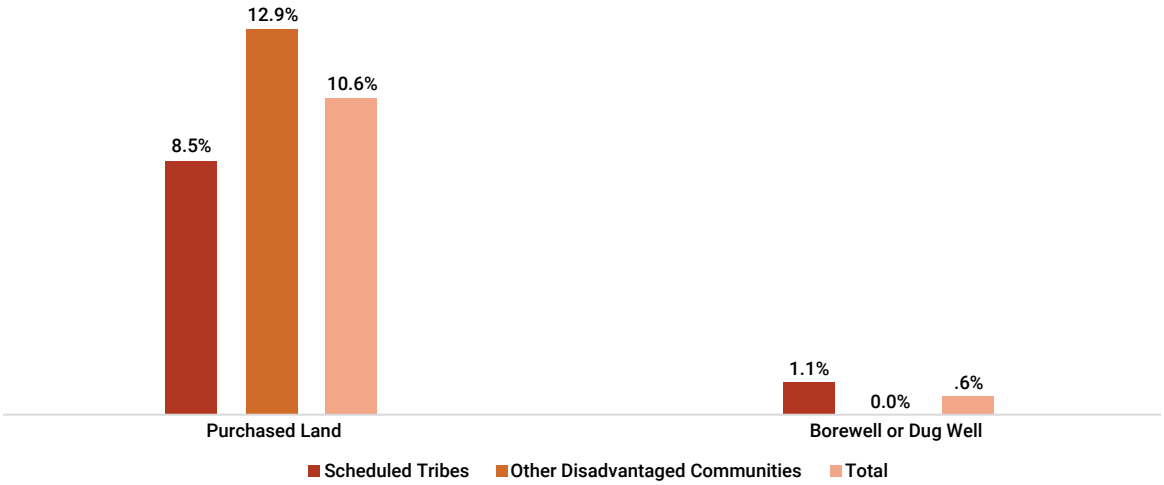
Slightly over 40 per cent of the households reported that they were able to improve agriculture with the income of the migrant members. The households from the ST community and others equally benefited by improving agriculture with the income from migration. At the same time about 15 per cent of the households reported that they had to completely give up agriculture due to the migration of household members (Figure.2.11).

Figure.2.11: Percentage of Households with Migration History by Impact on Agriculture, N:179



The households with a migration history were also asked if they had purchased land with the income of the migrant members (Figure.2.12). About ten per cent of the households responded that they had purchased land in the past ten years from such income. While about 13 per cent of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities had purchased land, about eight per cent of the ST households also reported having purchased land. Only a few households had utilised the income of the migrants to dig wells.

Figure.2.12: Percentage of Households with Migration History by Purchase of Land and Digging wells in the Past 10 Years from the Exclusive Income of Migrant Members, N:179

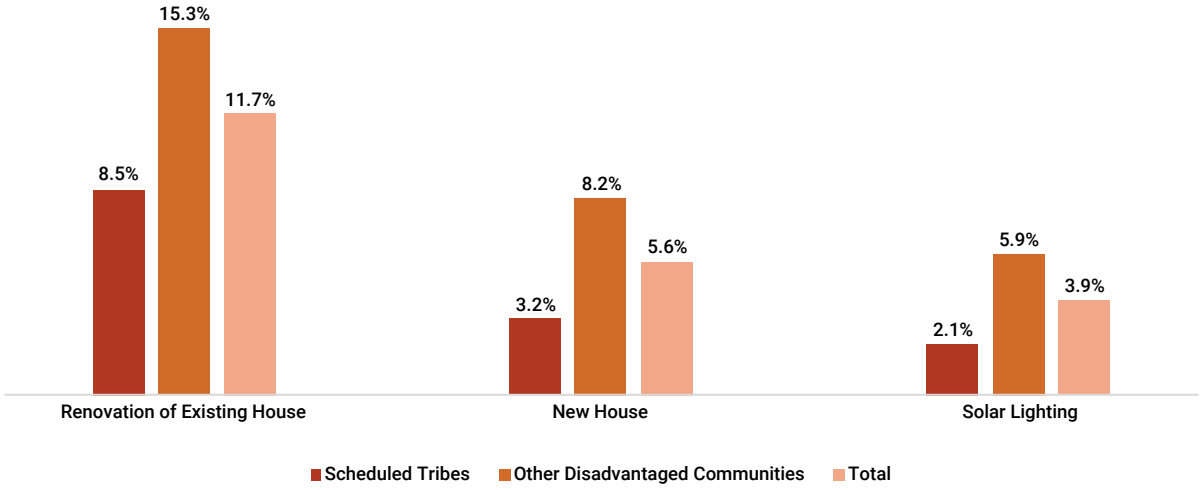


Housing

About 12 per cent of the households with migration history had utilised the income of migrant members in the household to renovate the house. When about eight per cent of the ST households had renovated their houses, 15 per cent of the SC/OBC households had leveraged the income of the migrant members of the household to renovate the house. The households were also enquired if they were able to build a new house with the income from migration. About six per cent of the households with a history of migration reported that they had built a new house from the income through migration (Figure.2.13).

The proportion of ST households that built new houses exclusively from the income of the migrant members of the family was almost three times lower compared to the Other Disadvantaged Communities. About eight per cent of households from Other Disadvantaged Communities with migration history had constructed new houses from the income through migration. Nearly about four per cent of the households had installed solar lighting from the revenue exclusively from migrant workers in the family. A larger proportion of households from Other Disadvantaged Communities had obtained solar lighting in this manner compared to about two per cent of ST households.

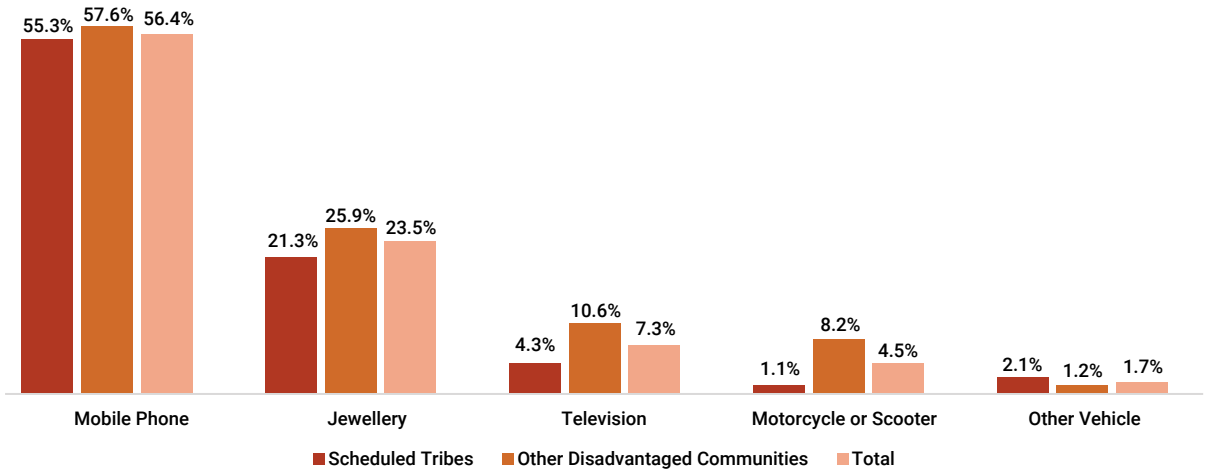
Figure.2.13: Percentage of Households with Migration History by Impact on Housing in the Past 10 Years from the Exclusive Income of Migrant Members, N:179



Ownership of Assets

A little less than three-fifths of the households had purchased a mobile phone (Figure.2.14). Similar trends were observed across ethnic groups. Nearly one-fourth of the households had purchased jewellery from the income of migrant members. In this case also there was no significant difference among ethnic groups. While about seven per cent of the households with migration history reported that they had purchased a television in the past ten years from the income of members who had migrated for work, this was 12 per cent in the case of households from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Only about four per cent of the ST households bought a television from such income.

Figure.2.14: Percentage of Households with Current Migrants by Select Assets Created/Purchased in the Past 10 Years from the Exclusive Income of Migrant Members, N:179



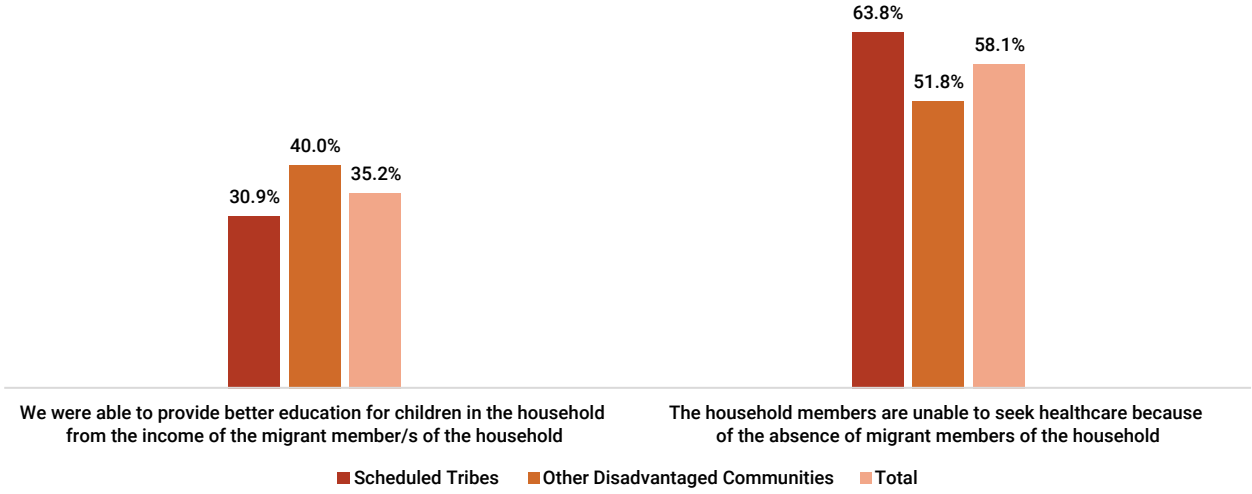
About four per cent of the households with migration history reported that they were able to purchase a motorcycle or scooter from the income of a migrant member in the household. While only one per cent of the households with migration history reported purchasing a motorcycle or scooter from the income of migrants in the household, eight per cent households from Other Disadvantaged Communities had done so. About two per cent of the households with migration history reported having bought other vehicles from the income through migration.

Education and Health

A little over one-third of the households acknowledged that migration has positively impacted the education of the children of the households (Figure.2.15). The SC/OBC households had benefited more in this case compared to about 30 per cent of the ST households. There were also negative impacts of the migration of members from the households.

Nearly 60 percent of the households with migration history reported that they were unable to seek healthcare because of the absence of the members due to migration. The situation was severe in the case of the ST households where almost two-thirds of the households with a history of labour migration shared this constraint whereas about half of the SC/OBC households also reported this.

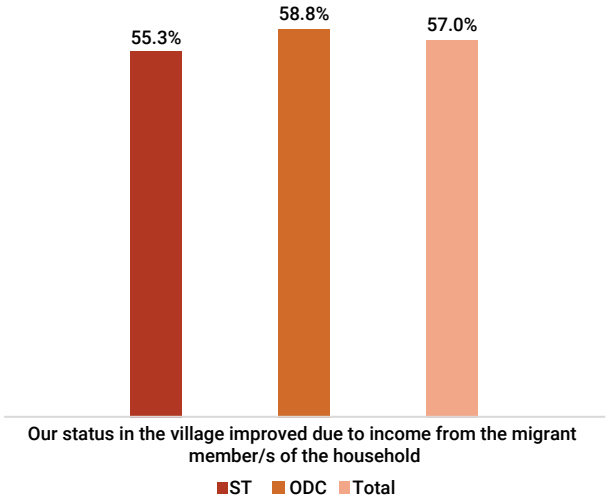
Figure.2.15: Percentage of Households with Migration History by Impact on Education and Health, N:179



Status in the Village

The households were also enquired to rate the changes in their status in the village due to income from migration. The findings are presented in Figure.2.16. Nearly about 60 per cent of the households reported that their status in the village had improved due to the income of member/s who worked elsewhere outside the district.

Figure.2.16: Percentage of Households with Migration History that Reported Improvement in Status in the Village Due to Income from Migrant Member and Ethnicity, N:179



Almost 70 per cent of the households with a history of migration reported that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income from migration. Migration has helped the households to repay debts, improve savings, invest in the education of children and diversify income sources

Profile of Migrant Workers



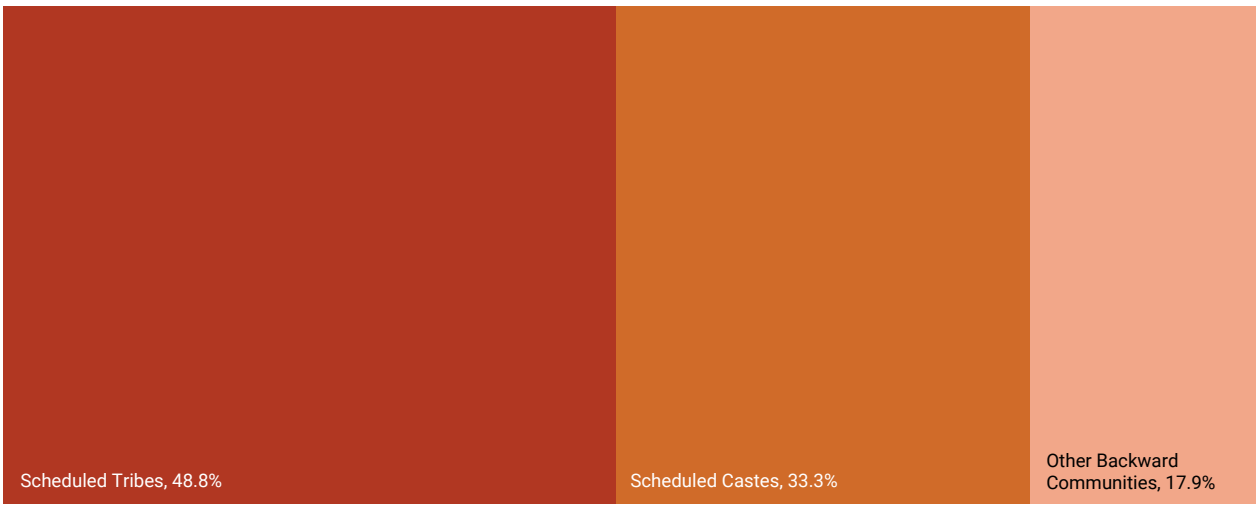


Socio-Demographic Profile

All the current migrants from the sample households were listed during the household interviews and from the current migrant workers in each sample household, the person with the longest duration of migration was interviewed. If he/she was available at the household on short visits, direct interviews were done. In other cases, telephonic interviews were conducted. This section summarises the findings from the interviews with 84 such migrant workers from the sample households.

In order to understand the profile of migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur, information was elicited about their ethnic background, age, educational attainment, marital status, etc. It was found that nearly half of the migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur belonged to Scheduled Tribes (Figure.3.1). A third of all migrant workers were from Scheduled Castes and the rest of the workers were from Other Backward Communities (OBC). While the population proportion of the SCs in the block according to 2011 data is 25 per cent, one in every three migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur belonged to SC communities. Since the

Figure.3.1:Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Ethnicity, N:84



ethnic background is a key variable that determines various attributes of the migration of people, further analysis was carried out by examining the profile of the migrant workers by stratifying them into those from Scheduled Tribes and Other Disadvantaged Communities (ODCs), consisting of workers from SC and OBC communities. The SCs and Other Backward Communities (OBCs) exhibited similar characteristics compared to STs and the number of cases under SC and OBC did not permit separate analysis.

Overall, three in every five workers were aged between 20 to 29 years and one in every four persons was in the age group of 15 to 19 years (Table.3.1). While over 30 per cent of the migrants from tribal communities were in the age group of 15 to 19 years, less than 20 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities belonged to the category. The average migrant from tribal communities was five years younger compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. The majority of the migrant workers with longest duration of migration were male while about one per cent were female. All the female migrants belonged to the Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Table.3.1: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Select Background Characteristics and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age in Years			
15 to 19	31.7	18.6	25.0
20 to 24	36.6	30.2	33.3
25 to 29	22.0	32.6	27.4
30 and above	9.8	18.6	14.3
Median Age (Years)	20.0	25.0	22.0
Sex			
Male	100.0	97.7	98.8
Female	0.0	2.3	1.2
Literacy			
Literate	78.0	81.4	79.8
Illiterate	22.0	18.6	20.2
Educational Attainment			
No Formal Education	19.5	18.6	19.0
Lower Primary	19.5	23.3	21.4
Upper Primary	26.8	25.6	26.2
Secondary (High School)	34.1	27.9	31.0
Senior Secondary (Higher Secondary)	0.0	4.7	2.4
Median Years of Education	7	7	7
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

One-fifth of all migrant workers were illiterate. The highest educational attainment reported by any migrant worker was senior secondary. However, less than three per cent of the workers had attained a level of senior secondary. Nearly five per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were educated up to senior secondary while none of the workers from tribal communities reported an educational attainment above secondary. On an average, the educational attainment of workers across the ethnic groups was seven years.

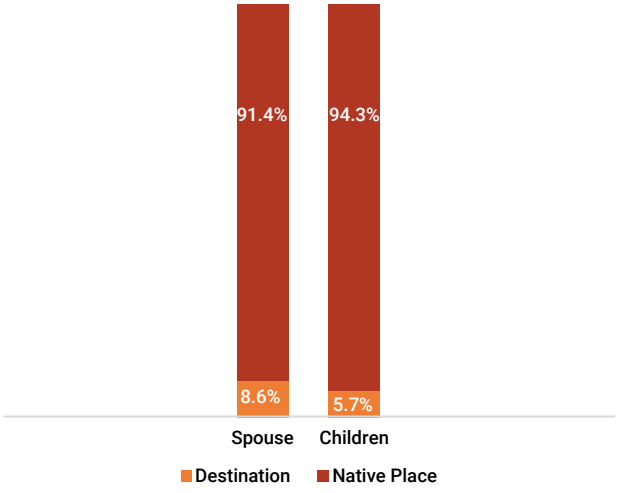
The migrants were enquired about their marital status, the details of which are provided in Table.3.2. Nearly 60 per cent of them were unmarried. Slightly more than half of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities and two-thirds of the workers from tribal communities reported that they were unmarried.

Table.3.2: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Marital Status and Ethnicity

Marital Status	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Never Married	65.9	51.2	58.3
Currently Married	34.1	48.8	41.7
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

The migrants who reported that they were currently married, were enquired about the current location of residence of their spouses and children (Figure.3.2). Except nearly nine per cent of the migrants, most of them reported that their spouses stayed in their villages. Most of them also reported that the children also stayed behind in the villages, indicating that the majority of migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur travel to their workplaces without families. None of the workers from tribal communities who were currently married had taken their families to the workplaces.

Figure.3.2: Distribution of Currently Married Migrants by Current Location of Spouse and Children, N:35



Most of the migrant workers were young single men who had moved out of the state, particularly to Kerala, while the rest of the family members, including spouses and children stayed back in the village

Migration History

The migration history of the workers was explored to gather insights into the factors that influenced their migration. Information was gathered on their age at migration, occupation prior to migration, previous history of migration within and outside the country and important factors that pushed them to seek work elsewhere. Table.3.3 provides the distribution of workers by select characteristics related to migration. Almost half of all the workers first moved out for work at the age of 19 years or below. Nearly five percent of migrants from Other Disadvantaged Communities had moved out at ages younger than 15. This proportion was less than three in the case of workers from tribal communities.

Table.3.3: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Migration History and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age at First Migration			
14 or Below	2.4	4.7	3.6
15 to 19	51.2	48.8	50.0
20 to 24	17.1	16.3	16.7
25 to 29	14.6	11.6	13.1
30 and above	7.3	7.0	7.1
Age Not Specified	7.3	11.6	9.5
Median Age (Years)	19.0	19.0	19.0
Occupation Prior to Migration			
Student	22.0	23.3	22.6
Unemployed	34.1	46.5	40.5
Agricultural Labourer	36.6	23.3	29.8
Labourer, Service Sector	2.4	2.3	2.4
Self-Employed	2.4	0.0	1.2
Other	2.4	4.7	3.6
Number of Prior Inter-State Movements for Work			
0	65.9	62.8	64.3
1	24.4	14.0	19.0
2	4.9	14.0	9.5
3 or More	4.9	9.3	7.1
Reason for Moving Out			
Low Wage	65.9	65.1	65.5
Lack of Employment	31.7	30.2	31.0
Other	2.4	4.7	3.6
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

The median age at first migration was 19 years irrespective of the categories. Almost 70 per cent of the migrant workers irrespective of the categories had been either unemployed or engaged in agricultural labour before they first moved out of native place for work. Slightly over one-fifth were students before they first migrated for work. Unemployment was more prominent among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to workers from tribal communities. Most workers reported that they had not worked outside the country. About one-third of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic background, had worked in one or more of the other Indian states before moving to the current destination. Low wage was reported as the most important reason for moving out by two-thirds of all workers and about 30 per cent mentioned lack of employment as the primary reason for moving out of their native place.

Current Destination

In order to understand the pull factors of migration, all the migrants were asked about their current destination state and district. The reason for choosing the particular destination, type of destination and their intended duration of stay at the current destination from the time of the interview were also explored. The details are presented in Table.3.4.

Table.3.4: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Select Characteristics Related to Current Destination and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current Destination State			
Odisha	7.3	4.7	6.0
Kerala	58.5	76.7	67.9
Tamil Nadu	9.8	11.6	10.7
Telangana	9.8	2.3	6.0
Karnataka	2.4	4.7	3.6
Goa	9.8	0.0	4.8
Others	2.4	0.0	1.2
Current Destination District			
Thrissur (Kerala)	22.0	34.9	28.6
Ernakulam (Kerala)	14.6	11.6	13.1
Kannur (Kerala)	12.2	4.7	8.3
Pathanamthitta (Kerala)	2.4	4.7	3.6
Hyderabad (Telangana)	7.3	2.3	4.8
Khordha (Odisha)	2.4	2.3	2.4
Bangalore (Karnataka)	2.4	0.0	1.2
Mumbai City (Maharashtra)	2.4	0.0	1.2
Do Not Know	9.8	9.3	9.5
Other	24.4	30.2	27.4
Category of Destination			
City	80.5	65.1	72.6
Village	19.5	34.9	27.4
Reason for Choosing This Destination			
High Wage Rates	78.0	72.1	75.0
Continuous Employment	19.5	25.6	22.6
Better Work Environment	2.4	2.3	2.4
Planned Duration of Stay from Now (Years)			
Less than One	2.4	9.3	6.0
1 to 2	14.6	9.3	11.9
Not Decided	82.9	79.1	81.0
For Ever	0.0	2.3	1.2
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Nearly 95 per cent of the current migrants reported their destinations outside Odisha. Two-thirds of all the workers reported Kerala as their current destination and about 10 per cent of workers were in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 60 per cent of the workers from tribal communities and over three-fourths of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported Kerala as their current destination. Tamil Nadu was the next prime destination for all categories of workers after Kerala. Goa and Telangana were other important destinations for workers from tribal communities.

Analysing the destination districts, 30 per cent of all the workers from Thuamul Rampur had gone to Thrissur district in Kerala. Slightly over one-fifth of the workers from tribal communities and 35 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities worked in Thrissur district of Kerala. All the workers who had gone to Kerala were in one of the four districts: Thrissur, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta or Kannur. Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Khordha (Bhubaneswar) were the other major destinations for workers from Thuamul Rampur.

Networking at Current Destination

The workers were asked about the presence of their 'significant others' at the current destination in order to understand their social network. Language is often a barrier for migrant workers in accessing basic services such as health and education at the destination and hence the fluency of the migrants in the local language of their destination was also explored. Findings from the analysis are presented in Table.3.5.

Table.3.5: Percentage of Migrant Workers by Presence of Significant Others at Current Destination before Their Arrival, Ability to Speak Local Language and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Presence of Significant Others at Current Destination before Arrival			
Friends	78.0	74.4	76.2
Villagers Other than Friends	58.5	41.9	50.0
Family Members	12.2	11.6	11.9
Other Relatives	14.6	18.6	16.7
Fluency in Local Language (Destination)			
Comprehend	82.9	95.3	89.3
Read	12.2	9.3	10.7
Write	9.8	4.7	7.1
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Irrespective of ethnic group, three-fourths of the workers reported that their friends were present at the current destination before their first arrival. Half of the migrants had people from their village at their current location and nearly 17 per cent of the migrants had relatives other than family members at the destination prior to arrival. About 12 per cent of the migrants shared that they had their family members at the respective destinations prior to their arrival. The clustering of significant others was more prominent among the workers from the tribal communities than others. Overall, nine in every ten workers revealed that they could comprehend the local language and roughly ten per cent reported that they could read the local language of the place where they worked. About seven per cent workers were confident that they could also write in the local language.

Work Profile

The duration of residence at the current state, district and place was explored (Table.3.6). A little over half of all the workers had only been working in the current state for less than one year. Nearly one-fifth of the workers had been working in the current destination state for more than three years. One-fourth of the workers had been in the state for one to three years. The average duration of stay was about eight months. Examining the groups by ethnicity, the workers from tribal communities were of recent arrival compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. While over one-fourth of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were at the destination for more than three years, less than 10 per cent of the workers from tribal communities reported the duration of work at the current destination state as more than three years.

Table.3.6: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Duration of Residence at Current Destination (Years) and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current State			
Less than One	58.5	53.5	56.0
1 to 3	31.7	20.9	26.2
Over 3	9.8	25.6	17.9
Median Duration	0.7	0.8	0.7
Current District			
Less than One	61.0	60.5	60.7
1 to 3	29.3	16.3	22.6
Over 3	9.8	23.3	16.7
Median Duration	0.7	0.7	0.7
Current Place			
Less than One	75.6	67.4	71.4
1 to 3	14.6	16.3	15.5
Over 3	9.8	16.3	13.1
Median Duration	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

The median duration of work at the current destination district was about eight months at the current district and six months at the current place of work. Over 70 per cent of all workers revealed that they had been continuously working at the destination for less than one year.



The workers were enquired about the category of their work, duration of such arrangement of work, the sector of employment and their skill levels (Table.3.7). Nearly three-fourths of all workers were engaged in a shop, establishment or a factory. About 17 per cent moved with a contractor and another eight per cent were footloose labourers. The proportion of footloose labourers and those who moved with a contractor was larger in the case of workers from tribal communities compared to others. On an average they had been in the current arrangement for the past seven months. Nearly ninety per cent of all workers were unskilled or semi-skilled whereas a little over ten per cent were skilled workers. The proportion of skilled workers was lesser among the migrants from tribal communities compared to others.

Table.3.7: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Select Characteristics Related to Their Current Work and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Category of Work			
Employee at Shop/Establishment/Factory	68.3	79.1	73.8
Moves with Contractor	19.5	14.0	16.7
Naka Worker	12.2	4.7	8.3
Other	0.0	2.3	1.2
How Long in Such Work? (Months)			
Less than 6	34.1	39.5	36.9
6 to 12	41.5	34.9	38.1
Over a Year	24.4	25.6	25.0
Median Duration	7.0	7.0	7.0
Sector of Employment			
Hotel/Restaurant	29.3	34.9	32.1
Construction	34.1	25.6	29.8
Mining	4.9	0.0	2.4
Iron and Steel	2.4	2.3	2.4
Plywood/Timber	2.4	0.0	1.2
Other	26.8	37.2	32.1
Skill Levels			
Unskilled/Semi-Skilled Worker	90.2	86.0	88.1
Skilled Worker	9.8	14.0	11.9
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

About three-fifths of all workers were engaged either in the hotel industry or in the construction sector. While hotels/restaurants absorbed the largest proportion of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, construction sector engaged the largest proportion of workers from tribal communities. Mining, iron and steel industry and plywood/timber industry were the other prominent sectors which employed migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur.

Work Duration and Overtime Allowances

The migrants were enquired about the average hours they worked in a single shift and if they got overtime allowances (Table.3.8). The median duration of work in a single shift was nine hours for the workers irrespective of the ethnic group. The proportion of migrants who worked for longer durations was more among the Other Disadvantaged communities. About one-fourth of the migrants from Other Disadvantaged communities worked for twelve hours a day. Nearly 45 per cent of the migrants reported that their single shift was only eight hours.

Table.3.8: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Duration of Work, Overtime Allowances and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Number of Hours of Work in Single Shift			
8	48.8	44.2	46.4
9 to 11	31.7	30.2	31.0
12	19.5	25.6	22.6
Median Hours	9.0	9.0	9.0
Whether Getting Overtime Allowance			
Yes	56.1	65.1	60.7
No	43.9	34.9	39.3
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Over three-fifths of the workers reported that they get overtime allowances. The proportion of workers who received overtime allowances was lesser among the workers from tribal communities compared to Other Disadvantaged Communities. Almost two out of every three workers from Other Disadvantaged communities received overtime allowances whereas it was 56 per cent in the case of workers from tribal communities.

Wages and Benefits

The workers were enquired about the wage arrangements, who paid their wages, mode of payment and average monthly income from wages (Table.3.9). On an average the workers received a monthly income of ₹12000 from the wages at the destination. The average wage of workers from Other Disadvantaged communities was ₹3000 more compared to the workers from tribal communities. Overall, about 40 per cent of the workers gained a monthly income above ₹15000 from their wages. It was also noted that one in every four migrant workers received a monthly income of less than ₹10000. A larger proportion of workers from tribal communities drew a monthly income of less than ₹10000 compared to workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Over one-fourth of the workers from Other Disadvantaged communities had monthly income levels above ₹20000. The majority of the workers, seven in every ten, received their wages in cash. Only around 14 per cent workers received their wages through bank payments. About 17 per cent of the workers from tribal communities reported that their payments were deducted from the advances already paid.



Table.3.9: Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers by Wage Characteristics and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Monthly Income from Wages (₹)			
Less than 10000	29.3	20.9	25.0
10000 to 14999	41.5	23.3	32.1
15000 to 19999	22.0	27.9	25.0
20000 and above	7.3	27.9	17.9
Median Income (₹)	12000	15000	12000
Mode of Payment			
Cash	70.7	72.1	71.4
Bank Account	12.2	16.3	14.3
Deducted from Advance	17.1	9.3	13.1
Other	0.0	2.3	1.2
Person in Charge of Payment of Wages			
Employer	65.9	72.1	69.0
Contractor	34.1	27.9	31.0
Wage Arrangements			
Daily Wage	29.3	37.2	33.3
Monthly Salary	63.4	53.5	58.3
Piece Rate	2.4	2.3	2.4
Weekly	4.9	7.0	6.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Nearly 70 per cent of the workers reported that they were paid by their respective employers whereas in the case of the rest, contractors were responsible for the payment of wages. One in every three workers from tribal communities was being paid by the contractors. Nearly 60 per cent of the workers received the wages as monthly salary and one-third of the workers were paid on a daily wage basis. The proportion of workers who received daily wages was larger among the Other Disadvantaged communities compared to workers from the tribal communities. A moderate estimate reveals that Thuamul Rampur receives about ₹600 million annually as wages to migrant workers.

Employment Related Benefits

The workers were enquired about the social security benefits at the respective destinations. The results are presented in Table.3.10. The status of enrolment in Employees' State Insurance (ESI), Provident Fund, Gratuity and Pension was explored. Employment related benefits were almost non-existent among the migrant workers interviewed.

Table.3.10: Percentage of Migrant Workers Who Enjoy Select Employment Related Benefits and Ethnicity

Employment Benefit	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
ESI	2.4	0.0	1.2
Provident Fund	2.4	2.3	2.4
Gratuity	2.4	0.0	1.2
Pension	4.9	0.0	2.4
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Living Arrangements

The living arrangements of the workers were examined (Table.3.11). Details about accommodation arrangements, type of accommodation, sharing the room, rent, access to basic services at the place of stay and average monthly expenditure at the destination were sought from the migrant workers. Nine out of every ten workers reported that they stayed with other workers. Such arrangements were more prominent in the case of workers from tribal communities. Nearly half of all workers stayed with their family or friends. A greater proportion of workers from tribal communities were found to share accommodation with their family and friends compared to the other communities.



Table.3.11: Percentage Distribution of Workers by Select Attributes Related to Living Arrangements and Ethnicity

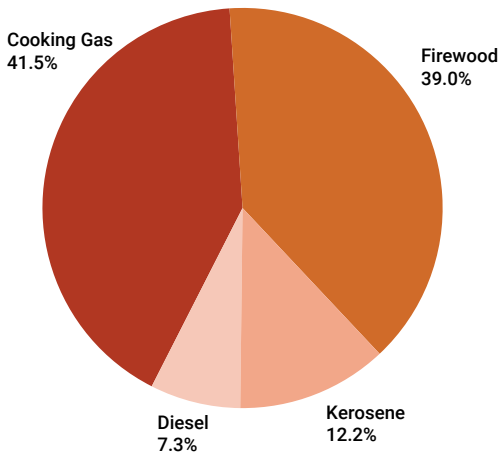
Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Accommodation Arrangement (Percentage)			
Other Workers	95.1	86.0	90.5
Family or Friends	51.2	44.2	47.6
Alone	0.0	4.7	2.4
Type of Accommodation			
Workers' Quarters by Employer	68.3	74.4	71.4
Own House	12.2	9.3	10.7
Worksite	9.8	4.7	7.1
Rented Room	4.9	7.0	6.0
Independent Rented House	2.4	4.7	3.6
Other	2.4	0.0	1.2
Number of Persons Sleeping in the Same Room			
4 or Less	29.3	34.9	32.1
5 to 8	48.8	39.5	44.0
9 and above	22.0	25.6	23.8
Median	6.0	6.0	6.0
Availability of Select Facilities at Place of Accommodation (Percentage)			
Electricity	97.6	93.0	95.2
At Least One Functional Toilet	85.4	93.0	89.3
Drinking Water	92.7	95.3	94.0
Average Monthly Expenditure (₹)			
Less than 2000	53.7	41.9	47.6
2001 to 4000	26.8	41.9	34.5
Above 4000	19.5	16.3	17.9
Median Expenditure	2000.0	3000.0	2750.0
Practice of Cooking			
Yes	53.7	44.2	48.8
No	46.3	55.8	51.2
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

About 70 per cent of the workers stayed in workers' quarters provided by the employers. About ten per cent of the workers reported that they lived in their own houses at the destination. Nearly ten per cent of the workers from tribal communities stayed at the worksites whereas the overall proportion of those who stayed at workplaces was seven per cent. On an average, six people shared a single room to sleep. Two in every three persons reported that over five people shared the room where they slept. Most of the workers reported that their residence had electricity, drinking water and at least one functional toilet.



The median monthly expenditure of the migrant workers at their respective destination was ₹2750. The average expenditure of workers from tribal communities was lesser than those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Nearly half of all workers incurred an expenditure below ₹2000 per month and another one third had a monthly expenditure of ₹2000 to ₹4000. While slightly above a quarter of the workers from tribal communities had an expenditure between ₹2000 to ₹4000 per month, the proportion of workers who incurred such expenditure was 42 per cent in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities. It was found that overall, more than half of the workers did not practice cooking. While the majority of the workers from tribal communities cooked their food on their own, the majority of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities avoided cooking on their own. Among those who cooked, over two-fifths used cooking gas as fuel (Figure.3.3). A similar proportion used firewood and about 20 per cent of the workers used either diesel or kerosene for cooking.

Figure.3.3: Distribution of Workers Who Cook, by Fuel Used, N:41



At the destination, the majority of the migrants lived with other workers, at the accommodation provided by the employer where six people on an average shared a room. The average monthly expenditure at the destination was ₹2750

Bank Accounts

The study examined if the workers have bank/post office accounts of their own and the type of the account. Results are presented in Figure.3.4. It was found that only about three-fifths of the migrant workers had a bank/post office account of their own. Only less than half of the migrant workers from tribal communities had a bank/post office account whereas 70 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported having bank/post office accounts.

The workers who reported that they had bank/post office accounts were further requested to provide information about the type of accounts they have. Figure.3.5 presents the findings from the same. The distribution of the migrant workers who have bank/post office accounts is provided in Figure.3.4. It was found that only about one-fourth of the workers had Jan Dhan accounts whereas the rest had other savings accounts.

Figure.3.4: Percentage of Workers with Own Bank/ Post Office Accounts, N:84

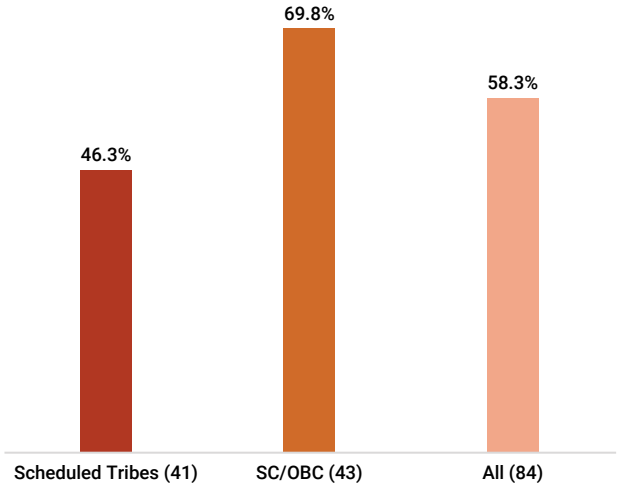
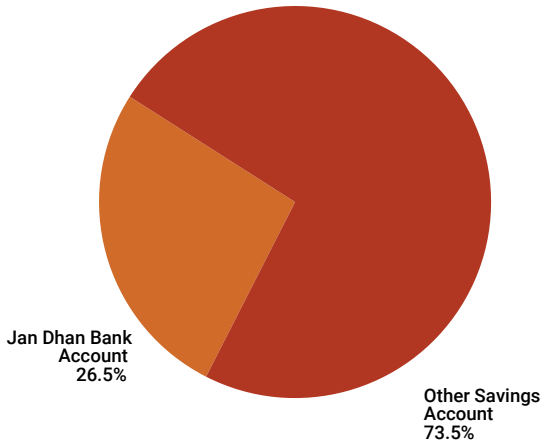


Figure.3.5: Distribution of Workers with Bank/Post Office Account by Type of Account, N:49



Remittances

The study explored the remittance behaviour of the workers from Thuamul Rampur. Workers were enquired about the frequency of sending money home, mode of transferring remittances, and the average remittance sent in the three months preceding the survey. Details on their average monthly savings were also sought. (Table.3.12). Except about six per cent, all the migrant workers reported that they sent money home. While nearly a quarter of all of them sent money on a monthly basis, nearly two-thirds mentioned they did not send periodically, but rather sent money as and when required at home. Three quarters of the workers form tribal communities and a little over half of the other workers reported that they sent money as and when required. The proportion of workers who sent money home on a monthly basis among the Other Disadvantaged Communities was three times more when compared to the workers from tribal communities.

Table.3.12: Percentage Distribution of Workers by Remittance, Saving Habits and Ethnicity

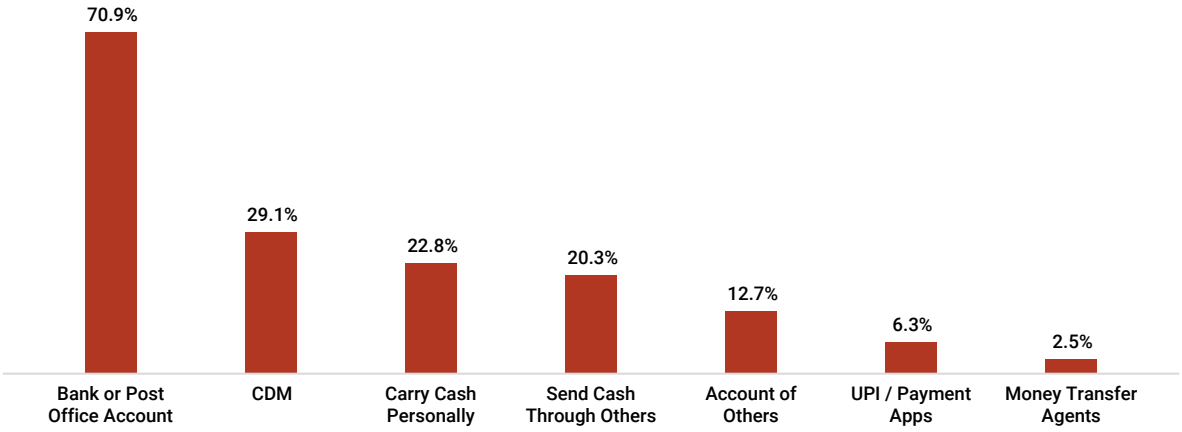
Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Frequency of Sending Money Home			
Never	4.9	7.0	6.0
Weekly	7.3	2.3	4.8
Monthly	12.2	37.2	25.0
As and When Required	75.6	53.5	64.3
Average Remittances in the Last Three Months (₹)			
Did Not Send Money	12.2	11.6	11.9
10000 or Below	51.2	27.9	39.3
10001 to 20000	12.2	25.6	19.0
20001 to 30000	9.8	18.6	14.3
Above 30000	14.6	16.3	15.5
Median Remittances	10000.0	20000.0	15000.0
Average Monthly Savings (₹)			
No Savings	12.2	11.6	11.9
Up to 3000	48.8	37.2	42.9
3001 to 6000	14.6	27.9	21.4
6001 to 9000	9.8	0.0	4.8
9001 to 12000	9.8	11.6	10.7
Above 12000	4.9	11.6	8.3
Median Savings	2500.0	4000.0	3000.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

The median remittance made by the workers in the past three months was ₹15000. For workers from tribal communities it was ₹10000 whereas the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported a median remittance of ₹20000 in the past three months. Overall, nearly 60 per cent of the workers had sent ₹10000 to ₹20000 home in the past three months and about 30 per cent workers had sent over ₹20000 during the same period. One in every two workers from the tribal communities sent home less than ₹10000 in the past three months. The estimated monthly remittances to Thuamul Rampur block from the migrant workers are about ₹22.7 million.

Seven out of every ten workers who sent money reported having used bank or post office account and nearly 30 per cent deposited money using cash deposit machines (Figure.3.6). A little over one-fifth carried cash home when they travelled and a similar proportion sent cash through others also. Only a very small proportion of the workers used payment apps or relied on money transfer agents. Nearly 13 per cent used others' accounts also for remittance.

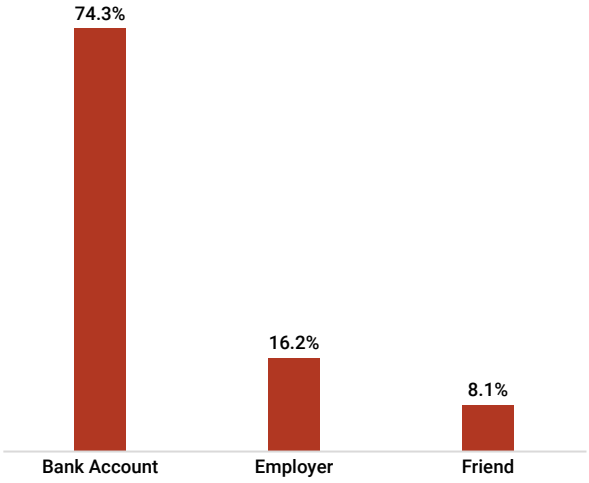
While most of them had savings, the quantum of savings was lesser in the case of workers from tribal communities. On an average, the workers saved ₹3000 per month besides what they sent home and it varied from ₹2500 in the case of workers from the tribal communities to ₹4000 in the case of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. About 12 per cent of workers from across the categories reported that they did not have any monthly savings.

Figure.3.6: Percentage of Workers Who Remit Money by Mode of Remittances, N: 79



Three-fourths of those who saved money deposited money in bank accounts. There were also people who had entrusted it with employers or friends (Figure 3.7).

Figure.3.7: Percentage of Workers Who Save Money by Mode of Saving, N: 74



A moderate estimate reveals that Thuamul Rampur receives about ₹600 million annually as wages to migrant workers. The estimated annual remittances to the block are about ₹250 million from which the entire village economy benefits



Communicating with Family

Since several villages in Thuamul Rampur do not have mobile phone network, Gram Vikas has been exploring innovative strategies to connect the villagers with their family members who are away from home. Hence, the means of communication between migrant members and their family members at the native place were explored. More than 95 per cent of the workers made regular audio calls while over two-fourths of them made WhatsApp audio calls too (Table.3.13). Slightly below one-fifth reported that they also communicated with their families over WhatsApp video calls. The proportion of workers from tribal communities who made WhatsApp audio calls was 22 per cent whereas one in every three workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported making WhatsApp audio calls home. The proportion of those who made WhatsApp video calls was slightly higher among the workers from tribal communities compared to those from Other Disadvantaged communities.

Table.3.13: Percentage Distribution of Workers by Means of Communication with Family, Access to Mobile Phone and Ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Type of Calls (Percentage)			
Regular Audio Call	95.1	97.7	96.4
WhatsApp Audio Call	22.0	32.6	27.4
WhatsApp Video Call	19.5	16.3	17.9
Audio/Video through Other Applications	2.4	4.7	3.6
Access to Phone			
Smartphone	58.5	67.4	63.1
Basic Phone	34.1	30.2	32.1
No Mobile Phone	7.3	2.3	4.8
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

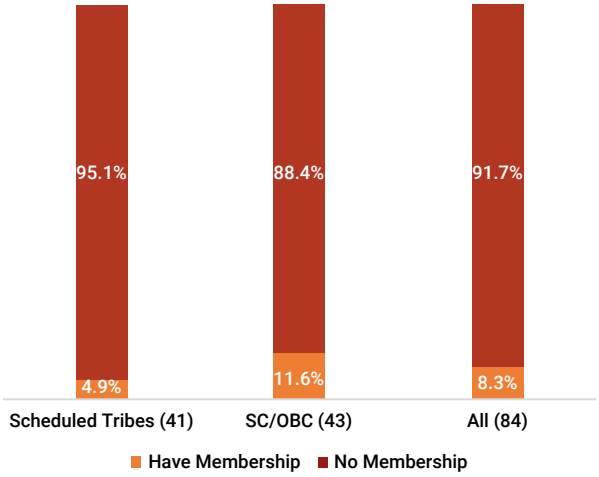
The ownership of phone also was explored in the survey. Only about five per cent of the workers reported that they did not have mobile phones. The proportion of workers who reported not having mobile phones was larger in the case of workers from tribal communities compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Over three-fifths of the workers had smartphones across the categories while one-third had a basic phone.



Collectivisation and Social Security

In order to understand how empowered the workers from Thuamul Rampur are at the respective destinations to bargain for their rights, each one of them was asked if he/she was a member of any trade union at the destination. Findings revealed that (Figure.3.8) only about eight per cent of the workers were part of any trade unions in their respective destinations. About five per cent of the workers from tribal communities and over ten per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities had membership in the trade unions.

Figure.3.8: Distribution of Migrant Workers by Membership in Trade Unions at the Destination, N:84



The majority of the migrant workers were not part of any trade union. They also did not benefit from the welfare funds or social security measures such as accident/health insurance

The workers were enquired if they had select entitlement documents that would help them avail benefits such as voting rights or subsidised food. They were also asked if they had a labour card, health insurance, accident insurance or life insurance which they can benefit from at the destination. Membership in welfare funds, if any, was also explored. The percentage of workers who have select documents or membership in select schemes is provided in Table.3.14 provided below.

Table.3.14: Percentage of Workers by Access to Select Entitlements at the Destination and Ethnicity

Scheme/Entitlement	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Ration Card at Destination	2.4	7.0	4.8
Voter ID at Destination	2.4	7.0	4.8
Labour Card at Destination	0.0	9.3	4.8
Health Insurance Scheme	2.4	2.3	2.4
Accident Insurance Scheme	0.0	4.7	2.4
Life Insurance	0.0	2.3	1.2
Welfare Fund	0.0	4.7	2.4
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**

Except a few, no worker, irrespective of the ethnic group, had any relevant entitlement documents that they could leverage at the destination. Overall, about five per cent of the workers reported having a ration card and a similar proportion also mentioned having a voter identity card and labour card at the destination. The proportion of workers who had any of these documents was larger in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from tribal communities. None of the workers from the tribal communities reported having an accident insurance, life insurance or membership in any welfare fund at the destination.

Health Issues and Access to Healthcare

Migrant workers, given their highly vulnerable living and working environments at the destination, are likely to experience several health issues. Hence health issues experienced by the workers in the past 30 days prior to the survey were explored. They were also enquired if they had sought treatment for the health issues they experienced and if they did, who did they approach for treatment. Figure.3.9 provides the major health issues experienced by the workers in the past 30 days. Slightly above one-third of the workers had suffered from fever in the past 30 days. Allergy or skin rashes were experienced by about 17 per cent of them. One in every ten workers revealed experiencing sleeplessness in the past one month. Nearly ten per cent workers mentioned that they had chronic cough for more than two weeks. Loose motion, vomiting and sudden weight loss were other health problems experienced by about five per cent each.

The treatment-seeking behaviour of the workers who experienced any of the above symptoms was also explored (Figure.3.10). Two in every three workers who experienced any of the health issues mentioned above purchased medicines from a pharmacy. Nearly half of the workers reported that they had sought treatment from a government doctor. While 30 per cent of the workers reported consulting a doctor at a private health facility, about 15 per cent received medicines from the employer. One person reported having consulted a faith healer and another returned to the native place due to the health issue.

In order to understand the prevalence of select diseases among the migrant workers, they were enquired if they had suffered or were diagnosed with malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid/cholera, dengue fever, leptospirosis, chickenpox, diphtheria, hypertension or diabetes in the past 12 months preceding the survey (Figure.3.11). About 13 per cent of the workers reported that they had suffered from malaria. Typhoid/cholera were reported by seven per cent of the workers. Two persons had experienced dengue fever and one person had chickenpox. None of them had suffered from TB, jaundice, leptospirosis, diphtheria or diabetes in the past 12 months.

Figure.3.9: Percentage of Workers Who Experienced Select Health Issues in the Past 30 Days, N: 84

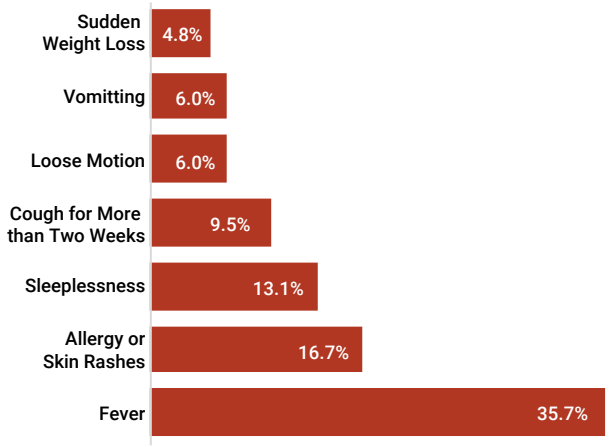


Figure.3.10: Percentage of Workers Who Experienced Select Health Issues by Treatment-Seeking Behaviour, N: 40

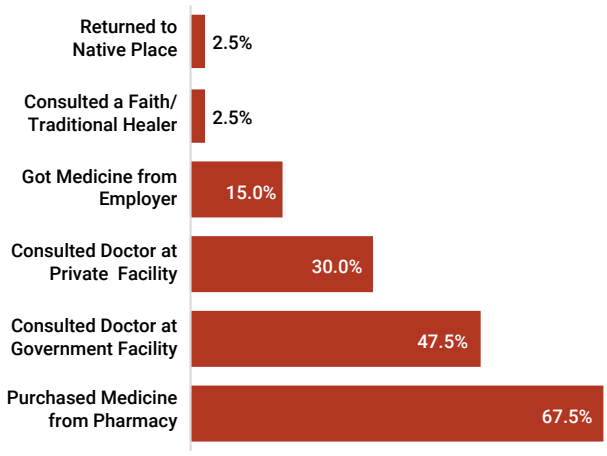


Figure.3.11: Percentage of Workers Who Suffered from Select Diseases/Health Conditions in the Past 12 Months, N: 84

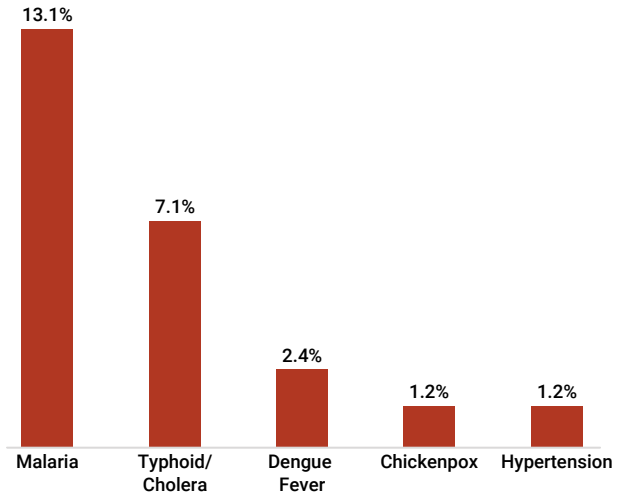
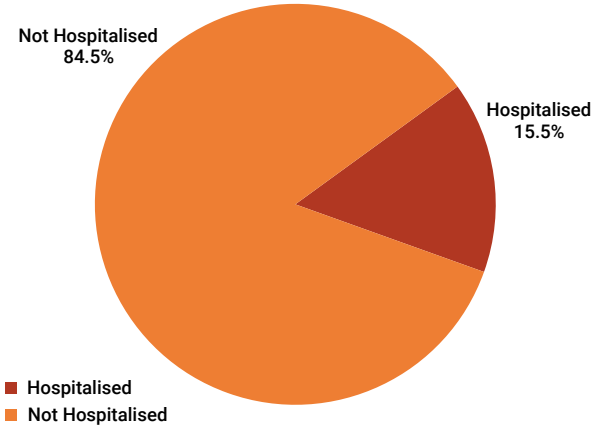


Figure.3.12: Distribution of Workers Who Had at Least One Hospitalisation in the Past 12 Months, N:84



Hospitalisation

To estimate the rate of hospitalisation of the migrant workers, they were asked if they were hospitalised at least once in the current destination state where they worked. About 15 per cent of the workers reported that they were hospitalised in the state they worked at least once in the past one year (Figure.3.12). Out of the 13 workers who were hospitalised, except one who had met with an accident, all informed that they had a disease or infection.

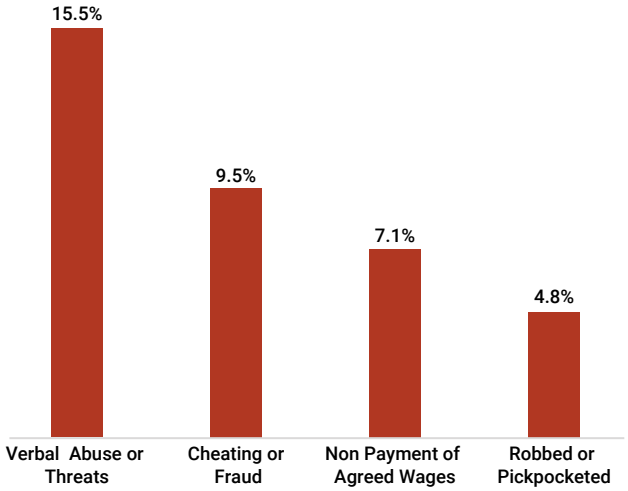
More than half of the workers sought treatment from a private hospital and except one, all had to spend money from their pocket for treatment. None of them reported having benefited from any health insurance. While the hospitalisation expenditure ranged from ₹50 to ₹300000, the median expenditure incurred was ₹6000.



Experience at the Destination

The migrants were enquired about certain violent or unfavourable situations, if any, which they experienced at the destination over the past twelve months and whether they took any action thereafter. They were asked if they were cheated by someone, if there were issues of non-payment of agreed wages, beating or physical abuse, verbal abuse or threats, whether they were robbed or pickpocketed and if they were dismissed from work. None of the migrants was dismissed from work or encountered beating or physical abuse. However, 27 per cent of the workers had experienced one or more of the other issues. About 15 per cent workers reported having experienced verbal abuse or threats. About ten per cent of them were subjected to cheating or fraud. About seven per cent of the workers experienced non-payment of agreed wages while five per cent reported that they were robbed or pickpocketed (Figure.3.13). Most of them who had such experiences did not take any action or register a formal complaint about the incident.

Figure.3.13: Percentage of Workers by Select Experiences at the Destination in the Past 12 Months, N: 84



A monthly income of ₹10000 at native place will prevent workers from migrating to other areas from Thuamul Rampur



Income That Prevents Migration

In order to understand the kind of interventions that could limit distress migration, the workers were asked about the minimum monthly wages they expected if they were to return to native place and work there. The responses are presented in Table.3.15. About half of the workers responded that if they got a minimum monthly income between ₹7500 and ₹12500, they would stay back and work in the village. The median monthly income that would prevent migration from Thuamul Rampur was ₹10,000.

Table.3.15: Percentage Distribution of Workers by Expected Average Monthly Income at Native Place That Prevents Their Migration and Ethnicity

Monthly Income	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Less than 7500	27.5	27.9	27.7
7500 to 10000	35.0	41.9	38.6
10001 to 12500	17.5	4.7	10.8
12501 to 15000	17.5	20.9	19.3
Above 15000	2.5	4.7	3.6
Median Income	9500	10000	10000
Percentage	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**41**	**43**	**84**



Narendra Naik used to work as a cook in a restaurant in Kerala till 2015. Coming back, he bought a light transport vehicle from his savings and drives on his own connecting the villages. Naik does not need to be away from home anymore

Gokul Govind

Summary and Conclusions



Introduction

With nearly four in every five households below poverty line in 2011, Thuamul Rampur has the highest incidence of poverty among the community development blocks of Kalahandi district. The block, which also has the largest proportion of Scheduled Tribes and the lowest level of literacy among the community development blocks in Kalahandi district, has been witnessing large-scale, long-distance migration of young men for work, particularly to the southern Indian states. Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of communities in Thuamul Rampur since 1984. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from Thuamul Rampur. In order to understand the migration from Thuamul Rampur in depth, Gram Vikas conducted a profiling of the migration from the block in partnership with Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID). The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario of Thuamul Rampur so that appropriate interventions can be made to promote safe migration and the household and village economies are revived, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. For Gram Vikas, which is exploring innovative solutions for the development of remote rural areas of Odisha and Jharkhand, this is also a deep dive to understand the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies. The objectives of the study included understanding the socio-demographic profile of the households in the block, and exploring the migration scenario, including the estimation of the household migration rates.

Methodology

A sample survey of 440 households in the block was conducted by randomly selecting 22 villages from all the villages in the block. From each selected village, 20 households were further selected randomly. The investigators interviewed a household representative to understand the household characteristics. From each sample household with members working outside the district, the migrant worker with the longest duration of migration was interviewed either in person if he/she was available at the household during the survey or through a telephonic interview. A migrant was operationally defined in the study as a member of the household who has been working outside the district, staying there for a continuous period of 30 days or more. A semi-structured interview schedule in Odia which was digitised using mWater survey platform was used for data collection. Data was collected by a team of 10 investigators with a minimum educational attainment of higher secondary. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 440 and the achieved sample size for the survey of migrant workers was 84.





Key Findings

The majority of the households belonged to Scheduled Tribes followed by Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. The average household size was four. Except a few who followed Christianity, all households followed Hinduism. The highest educational attainment of a member of the household was five years and the SC households had members substantially better educated compared to the rest, with a median attainment of nine years. Most of them had the Priority Household (PHH) ration cards. While the majority of the households had NREGS cards, only a small proportion of the households benefited from it. The plight of the Scheduled Tribes was worse compared to others. The average reported monthly household income was ₹3000. The majority lived in kachha houses and depended on hand pumps or dug wells for drinking water. Most houses were electrified and nearly all used firewood for cooking. Only less than half of the households had a functional toilet and the majority of such toilets did not have water supply inside. Besides, the majority of the households did not use the toilets regularly. Most of the toilets were constructed either under government schemes or with the help of NGOs. The exposure of the households to mass media including television and radio was limited. The majority of the households depended on non-agricultural labour and not agriculture. Only less than half of the households were actively engaged in agriculture. The case of Scheduled Tribe households was also not drastically different. Those who cultivated, mostly used patta land or forest land. Nearly half of all patta land was not irrigated. And those who had irrigated land, depended on springs or public irrigation sources. Most people who practiced agriculture did only one crop cycle in a year and used the agricultural produce by and large for household consumption.

Nearly 90 per cent of the households had at least one person with a bank account and most people used their passbooks for withdrawing money. About 50 per cent of the households had membership in SHGs and nearly a quarter of the households were enrolled in the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. Only about six per cent of the households were enrolled in the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. The average distance to bank or hospital was 12 km and public transport was available only at a median distance of four kilometres. Nearly one-third of the households did not have mobile connectivity and had to travel one kilometre on an average to use the mobile phone. About ten per cent of the households had children in the age group of 5 to 15 years who were out of school. Saving money was difficult due to the meagre income. The households had difficulty in accessing quality healthcare in the absence of sufficient resources. More than ten per cent of the households had members who had to skip many meals in the past seven days preceding the survey because there was no money to buy food. A little less than one-fifth of the households were indebted. The average outstanding loan for the indebted households was ₹5000.



Migration from Thuamul Rampur

Nearly half of the SC and OBC households had a history of labour migration compared to 36 per cent of the ST households. About two-fifths of the SC and OBC households had members who had migrated for work outside the district in the past ten years. Overall, nearly one-fifth of the households currently had migrant workers. The current household migration rates for SC and OBC households were slightly higher than ST households by eight to ten per cent points. Five per cent of the households had seasonal migrants at the time of the survey. One in every four current migrants was a seasonal migrant. Overall, about six per cent of the population of Thuamul Rampur earned a living as migrant workers outside the district. Among the SC and OBC populations, this was about eight per cent whereas in the case of the ST population this was 4.5 per cent. Only about three per cent of the migrant workers were female. Most people, who migrated, had moved out of the state. The estimated total number of migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur at the time of the survey was around 4500. One in every ten households had usual residents who had the experience of migration for work in the past ten years, but currently with no intention to migrate. Migration propensities varied by ethnicity, debt status, ownership of land, and type of house. There was not much variation by the NREGS enrolment, family occupation and access to public transport. There were also a significant proportion of households with members who wished to migrate for work but were unable to do so.

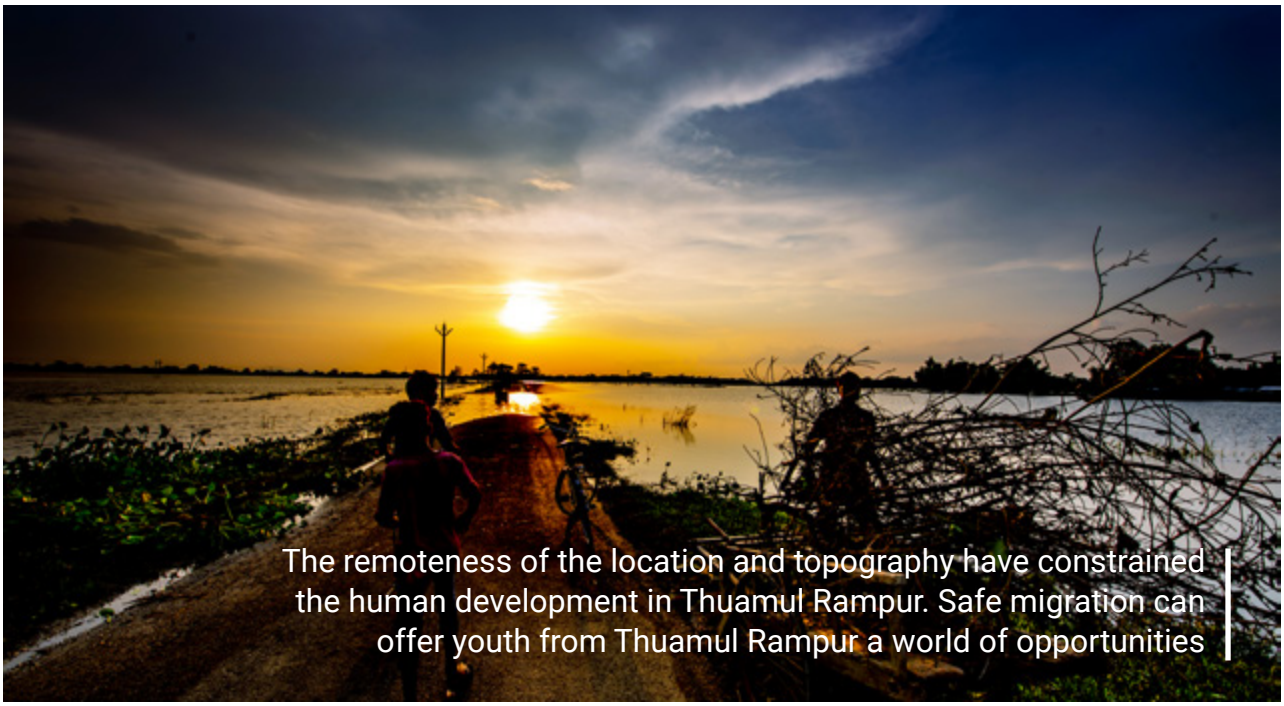
Migration has been a coping strategy without which the majority of the households with migrants would not have been able to tide over their poverty crisis. It was also a major means to repay the debts. It has helped migrant households to improve their savings, and in the case of about a quarter, in diversifying income sources. While about two-fifths of the households with migrants were able to improve their agriculture with the income from migration, there were also households, particularly OBC households which had to give up agriculture due to the migration of members. While about ten per cent households purchased land with the income from migration, there was not much investment made in improving the irrigation facilities. Only a minority were able to renovate their houses or construct a new house with the income from labour migration. Mobile phone and jewellery were the two major assets acquired by households from the income of the migrant workers. Households have also bought bikes or scooters and a handful of households were able to buy other vehicles. Revenue from migration has helped the households with migrants in improving the education of the children. However, the access to health services for the majority of the households with migrants has been crippled by the absence of members.

Migrant Workers

While almost half of the migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur were from the Scheduled Tribe community, the migration rates of the OBC and SC communities were higher compared to the ST population. Most of the migrant labourers were literate men with an average schooling of seven years. The majority were unmarried and the median age of the worker was 22 years. Most of the married workers migrated alone while their spouses and children stayed behind in the villages. Before migrating, most of the workers were either students or were unemployed and the average age at first migration was 19 years. Low wages and lack of regular employment were the major reasons for the people to seek work outside Kalahandi. About 95 per cent of them made inter-state movements, and in the case of most of them, the current destination was their first inter-state work destination. The majority of them moved to cities. Almost 70 per cent of the workers moved to Kerala. Tamil Nadu and Telangana were the other two major destinations. One in every two migrant workers from Thuamul Rampur moved to any one of the three districts: Thrissur, Ernakulam or Kannur in Kerala. High wage rate was the major reason for the selection of the current destination. Most of the migrants have not decided on how long they would like to stay at the current destination. The workers reported that if they get an average monthly income of ₹10000 in Thuamul Rampur, they do not wish to migrate for work. The majority of the workers reported that their friends/fellow villagers/relatives or family members were present at the current destination. Most workers were conversant in the local language where they worked.

Most workers had migrated in the past three years and workers from the ST population were of recent origin compared to others. At the destination, the workers generally moved within the district even if they changed jobs. The majority were engaged as unskilled/semi-skilled employees at shops/establishments/factories. About three-fifths of them worked either in the hotels/restaurants or in the construction sector. They worked nine hours on an average with overtime allowances for extra hours. The average monthly income from wages was ₹12000, with the workers from ST communities earning lower monthly incomes compared to others on an average. A moderate estimate reveals that Thuamul Rampur receives about ₹600 million annually as wages to migrant workers. Most of them were paid on a monthly basis, mostly in cash by the employer. Only a few workers from Thuamul Rampur enjoyed the employment-related social security measures such as ESI, PF, etc. Most of them lived with other workers in the workers' quarters provided by the employers. On an average, six persons shared the room where he/she slept. They incurred a monthly expense of ₹2000 to ₹3000 at the destination. While the majority of the workers from SC/OBC communities had bank accounts, only less than half of the workers from the tribal communities possessed bank accounts. Only a quarter of such bank accounts were Jan Dhan accounts. Workers sent money home as and when required, the average amount being ₹5000 per month. Most of them sent money through banks. The estimated monthly remittances to Thuamul Rampur from the migrant workers were about ₹23 million. The average savings per month other than expenditure and remittances was ₹3000. Most of them were in touch with home through traditional voice calls using mobile phones.

Most of the workers were not members of any trade union at the destination. Nor did the majority have a ration card/labour card/voter identity card at the destination. Also, the majority did not have membership in any of the welfare funds at the destination. Most of them also did not have a health/accident/life insurance policy that they could avail at the destination. Fever, skin rashes/allergy, sleeplessness and cough for more than two weeks were the major health problems they had suffered from in the past 30 days. Most of them had purchased medicine from a pharmacy when they had health issues. Malaria was a major disease the workers had suffered from in the past 12 months preceding the survey. About 15 per cent of the workers were hospitalised at the destination in the past 12 months preceding the survey and the last time they were hospitalised, they had consulted a private doctor and most of them had spent the money from their own pocket. Most workers did not have any bitter experience such as physical or verbal abuse, cheating or fraud, non-payment of agreed wages or being robbed/pickpocketed.



The remoteness of the location and topography have constrained the human development in Thuamul Rampur. Safe migration can offer youth from Thuamul Rampur a world of opportunities

Conclusions

- Households of Thuamul Rampur continue to be on the margins of the society without much advancement in human development. The remoteness of the location and topography of the block appear to have constrained the development given its position between a reservoir and a wildlife sanctuary away from major highways or cities. Another major reason could be the absence of substantial proportion of the communities whose political participation and negotiation powers are much stronger than the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities that constitute almost 100 per cent of the population of the community development block.
- Even in 2020, the highest educational attainment of the households is by and large up to the level of high school, indicating that the barriers to education continue to be a major hindrance in local development. The members of over half of the households have to travel five kilometres or more for free high school education. The undulating terrain with poor connectivity and minimal public transport facilities further cripple the access to education.
- Agriculture, beyond household consumption, does not contribute as a livelihood opportunity or as family occupation for the majority of the households in this region. Primitive cultivation methods, low capitalisation and the absence of agricultural extension could be some of the determinants. Natural sources continue to be the major source of irrigation even now. Given the disadvantages with regard to location and access, there is no incentive to improve agriculture. However, within Thuamul Rampur, there aren't many avenues beyond agriculture that the households could so far leverage.
- The households in Thuamul Rampur have only marginally benefited from the NREGS, a major government intervention to revive the livelihood opportunities of the rural poor. People continue to live at subsistence level with marginal income which substantially impacts their well-being
- Although the majority of the households have bank accounts, banking has been difficult as they depend on cash withdrawal using passbooks and accessing bank was a challenge given the distance that ranged from 10 km to 35 km for the majority of the households.
- Expenditure on healthcare was one of the major causes of indebtedness in Thuamul Rampur. Constraints of the public health system and the absence of private healthcare facilities due to the remoteness of the block result in substantial out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) on healthcare. Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat to reduce the OOPE on healthcare have not made any impact in terms of reducing the miseries of the households in Thuamul Rampur. People continue to rely on informal sources for credit.

- Households in Thuamul Rampur substantially depend on labour migration to cope with their distress. While about half of the households had a history of such migration in the past, there have also been a significant number of households with members who are unable to migrate although they wish to do so. Migration brings about ₹600 million to Thuamul Rampur annually as wages which not only impacts the households with migrants but the entire village economies.
- Migration for work is becoming a sought-after livelihood strategy among the youth of Thuamul Rampur. Most of the migration is single-male, long-distance migration to Kerala or Tamil Nadu. The SC and OBC households have benefitted more compared to the ST households as they were the first to move out and probably also because they were able to make better negotiations with employers/contractors.
- Migration for work has helped the households to have better savings, make improvements in agriculture, invest in the education of children, improve connectivity, secure assets, enhance housing, and cope with poverty and indebtedness. However, it has adversely impacted the access to healthcare for households with migrants due to the absence of the male members. Also, some households had to give up agriculture due to the migration of members.
- Migration from Thuamul Rampur is by and large driven by the social network of potential migrants whose friends/relatives/villagers were already at the destination, helping migration decision making, planning travel, and arranging accommodation at the destination and rescuing newcomers from being much homesick.
- Most migrants from Thuamul Rampur work either in the construction industry or hotels/restaurants, taking up jobs that do not require high levels of skills, as informal employees without access to measures of employee welfare. They, by and large, remain excluded from the social protection measures such as welfare funds or insurance schemes. They also do not benefit from the collective bargaining abilities of the trade unions in the absence of memberships.
- Just like most of the other source areas from where people migrate to work in the urban centres of India, migration from Thuamul Rampur is also driven by distress given the disparities in regional development. Most persons who currently migrate from Thuamul Rampur prefer to stay back if there are opportunities within the block to earn an average monthly income of ₹10000. While migration is an avenue towards empowerment for the households of Thuamul Rampur, currently it is unsafe and informal.



Endnotes

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Gram Vikas

Gram Vikas is a community development organization working in Odisha and Jharkhand since 1979. Gram Vikas works with rural poor and tribal communities to help them lead a dignified life, by building capacities, strengthening community institutions and mobilising resources. We focus on issues around water, livelihoods, sanitation and hygiene, habitat and technologies, education, and mitigating the effects of natural disasters. Lives of more than 600,000 people in 1700 villages have benefitted from the partnership with Gram Vikas. The Safe and Dignified Migration Programme was launched in 2019 as part of the Gram Vikas Decade Five programmatic framework.

CMID
Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

The Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development is an independent non-profit that advocates for and promotes social inclusion of migrants in India. Established in 2016, CMID's priorities include designing, piloting and implementing programmes for mainstreaming as well as improving the quality of life of migrants. CMID also provides technical support in the formulation, refinement and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes that promote inclusive and sustainable development, in collaboration with diverse state and non-state actors.

