

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Baliguda Block, Kandhamal



Gram
Vikas 



UK Government

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Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

**Profiling Labour Migration from Baliguda Block,
Kandhamal District**

Gram Vikas

Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

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 the 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. Reduced access to forest resources, changes in monsoon patterns, over-exploitation of available land, and limited access to irrigation have resulted in widespread food and nutrition insecurity in these areas. 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 two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns have made life more difficult for the rural populations everywhere. Migration-dependent households face the double whammy of uncertain incomes and higher risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

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 one 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, and should have the capabilities to cope with uncertainties caused by pandemics and other disasters.

CMID and Gram Vikas have been working together to understand and address the issues faced by migrant workers and their families. Subsequent to profiling migration from Thuamul Rampur in Kalahandi in 2020, we have now with the support of UNDP and the UK Government profiled migration from three blocks, viz. Jagannathprasad in Ganjam district, Rayagada in Gajapati district and Baliguda in Kandhamal district. These reports capture the various facets of the migration of people from these areas, in their pursuit to build better lives for themselves and families. The insights 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 that 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 of 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 second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic compounding rural distress, I am afraid hunger has emerged as a bigger killer, intensifying distress migration. While rural Odisha offers very low wages, with employment hard to come by, safe migration offers a world of opportunities. It is this shared vision that prompted CMID and Gram Vikas to jointly explore the 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 also be a powerful vehicle of social change. Our collaborative inquiries from 2018, including the profiling of migration from Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi endorsed and reinforced this vision which motivated us to take up the profiling of migration from one block each in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts.

Gram Vikas and CMID thankfully acknowledge the financial support of the UK Government through UNDP for conducting these studies. We are grateful to Sushil Chaudhary at UNDP for the guidance provided in exploring the issues. 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, Nirmal Mohanty, Jobin Chacko, Varun Namineni, Jaison Jose Thomas and Aravind A.R of Gram Vikas who led the 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 Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts 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 series of reports and to Bijoy Jacob for his remote but outstanding support in the design and layout of the document. I thank my colleagues Shachi Sanghvi for leading the research and Baishali Goswami for her support in data analysis, estimations and the preparation/review of the reports. I also thank Vishnu Narendran for his valuable inputs in the research design. Finally, on behalf of Gram Vikas and CMID, I thank all our respondents, village heads, panchayat representatives, Key Informants and government officials at the block, district and state levels for the warm hospitality and genuine inputs for the successful completion of this important series of studies that unravel the migration from Jagannathprasad, Rayagada and Baliguda blocks in Odisha.

Sincerely



Benoy Peter, PhD

Executive Director

Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

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Executive Summary

Kandhamal is one among the bottom five districts of Odisha in terms of human development. Baliguda block in Kandhamal has a significant proportion of indigenous communities who depend on migration as a livelihood strategy. As part of its response to the first wave of COVID-19 and migration, Gram Vikas joined hands with UNDP and CMID to conduct a detailed profiling of migration from Baliguda block. The overall purpose was to gather evidence on the migration scenario of Baliguda so that appropriate interventions to ensure safe migration could be promoted and the household and the village economies be revived, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. A sample survey of 417 households was conducted during the period December 01, 2020 to March 03, 2021, randomly selecting 22 villages/NACs and 20 households from each selected village/NAC.

Findings reveal that socially and economically disadvantaged communities comprise almost the entire population of Baliguda. Small size of the landholdings, excessive reliance on natural water sources for irrigation and changes in climatic conditions have reduced the dependence on agriculture as a major source of income. One in every three households in Baliguda had a person who had migrated for work in the past ten years. At the time of announcement of the lockdown, 21 per cent of the households in Baliguda had a migrant worker. Migrant workers constituted about five per cent of the population of Baliguda at the time of announcement of the national lockdown. The total estimated number of migrant workers from Baliguda was 3979. Most people from Baliguda moved out to southern Indian states, particularly to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. They were engaged in informal jobs with an average monthly wage of about ₹10000. A moderate estimate reveals that Baliguda receives about ₹398 million annually as wages to migrant workers.

Most migrants from Baliguda were at their workplaces at the time of announcement of the lockdown. While the lockdown did not result in massive loss of employment, a majority of the workers returned to native places owing to various reasons. Those who returned by and large did not benefit from the Shramik train services. Nor did they substantially benefit from the MGNREGS interventions. The majority of the migrant workers who had returned during/after the national lockdown were yet to go back to their workplaces in March 2021. Most migrants from Baliguda expressed that they preferred to stay back if there were local opportunities to earn a minimum monthly income of ₹10000.

Although migration for work appears to have picked up only in the past ten years in Baliguda, it has evolved as a key livelihood strategy for the households in the block. Most people who migrate for work are single men, typical of the long-distance internal migration in India. They primarily rely on their social ties for migration decision-making. Migration is a key contributing factor to the economy of Baliguda, with approximately ₹170 million flowing to the block annually as remittances from the workers, improving the resilience of the households. These remittances, coupled with fairly good access to banking and SHGs have substantially prevented households in Baliguda from falling into debt traps. The network-driven migration from Baliguda, which has already established specific inter-state corridors, is likely to increase substantially in the coming years and has the potential to improve the adaptation strategies of the households in Baliguda in the context of the changing climatic conditions.

Introduction





Baliguda has a significant presence of indigenous communities who depend on migration as a livelihood strategy

Context

The recipient of the largest international remittances in the world, migration has been a major coping, accumulation and adaptation strategy for people of India. While the international migration from India has been substantial, migration for work within the country has been manifold. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant national lockdown in March 2020 have exposed the precarious nature of the work and life of migrant workers in India's urban centres. Labour migration is primarily a means of survival for millions from the socially disadvantaged communities of rural India. The pandemic has not only negatively impacted the livelihoods of migrant workers but also compounded rural distress. This, coupled with the unfolding climate change is likely to substantially augment migration from rural 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 lockdown in March 2020 and the subsequent measures to arrest the COVID-19 pandemic have catastrophically impacted rural Odisha which substantially depends on labour migration. Kandhamal district is one among the bottom five districts of Odisha in terms of human development.⁴ The entire district is in high altitude zone with inaccessible terrains of hill ranges that shape the social development scenario also.⁵ Poverty and food insecurity are some of the pressing development concerns of the district that also falls behind on various other socio-economic indicators. Baliguda block in Kandhamal has a significant proportion of indigenous communities who depend on migration as a livelihood strategy.

Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Kandhamal since 2014. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from its programme areas in Odisha. Research by Gram Vikas in collaboration with CMID, revealed that migration contributes substantially to promoting the resilience of its partner communities. As part of its response to the first wave of COVID-19 and migration, Gram Vikas joined hands with UNDP and CMID to create awareness and enable access to social protection schemes in selected 18 blocks in six districts of Odisha. Along with this,

a detailed profiling of migration from Baliguda block was done 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 Baliguda so that appropriate interventions to ensure safe migration could be promoted and the household and the village economies be revived, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. For Gram Vikas, which has been exploring innovative solutions for the development of remote rural areas of Odisha and Jharkhand, this is also a deep dive into understanding the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies.

The specific objectives of the study were:

- ◆ To profile labour migration from Baliguda
- ◆ To estimate the household migration rates from the community development block
- ◆ To understand the sociodemographic profile of households in Baliguda

Methodology

In order to obtain a good one-time estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming a ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. Baliguda has both rural and urban areas. From the villages and Census Towns in Baliguda, 22 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were randomly selected by probability proportionate to size (PPS) and from each selected PSU, 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 among the members in the household sample who were migrants at the time of announcement of the lockdown, the person who made the largest contribution to the income of the household was selected for the survey of migrant workers.

In order to select 22 sample PSUs, villages and Census Towns in Baliguda were listed based on the number of households extracted from the Primacy Census Abstract (PCA) from Census 2011 and villages/CTs with less than 40 households were merged with adjacent villages to obtain a minimum of 40 households per PSU. The list of PSUs thus prepared was then sorted by panchayat/Notified Area Councils (NACs) and within panchayat/NAC by the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population to total population. PSUs with a population of 300 or above were segmented into clusters of around 100 households by merging adjacent paras. 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, impact of the lockdown and also data relevant to migration, including seasonal migration, were collected from the households. Data about return migrants were also collected. The migrant survey covered areas such as the sociodemographic profile of the migrant workers, current destination,

► Introduction

factors that influenced migration, work profile, wages, living arrangements, income, expenditure, savings and remittances, access to services, social protection and the impact of the lockdown on migrant workers.

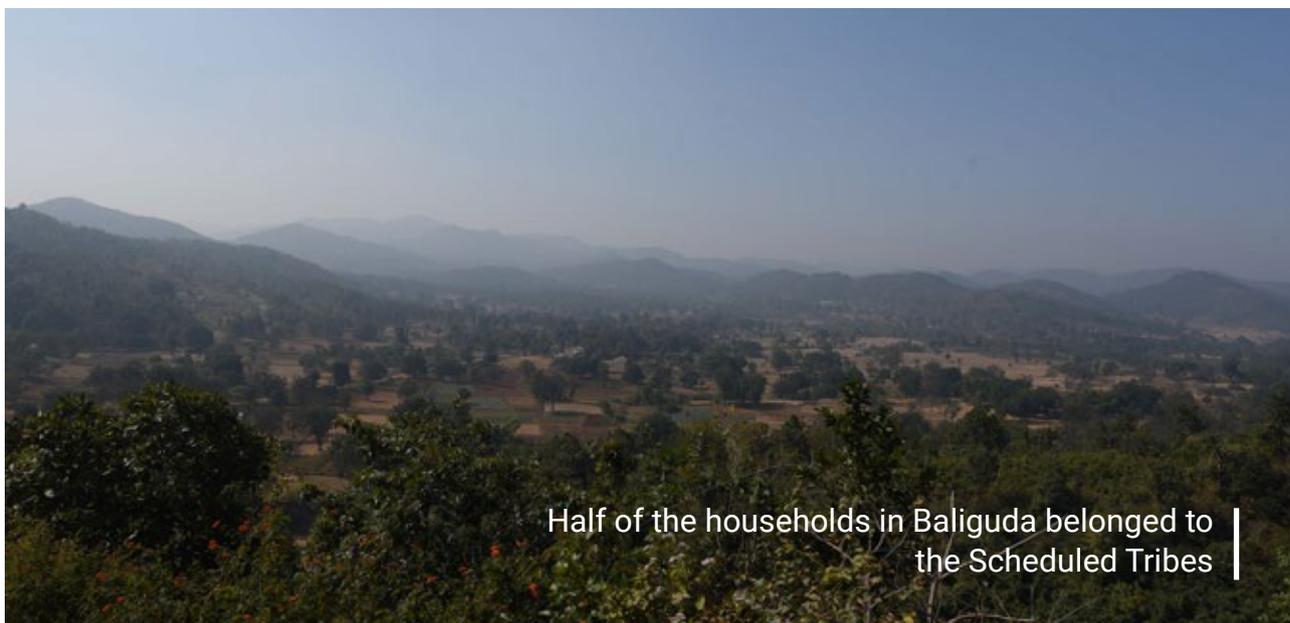
A team of eight investigators with a minimum educational qualification of higher secondary and above who were conversant in the local language were recruited and provided one-day training for the house listing. The investigators were provided a five-day residential training at the Rudhapadar facility of Gram Vikas. The house listing was carried out during the period September 23, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Based on the house listing, the sample households were selected and a household survey was conducted from December 01, 2020 to March 03, 2021. 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 05, 2021 to March 03, 2021. A total of 3547 households were covered under the house listing. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 417 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 94. The response rate for the household survey was 94.8 per cent and the response rate for the migrant interviews was 95.9 per cent. The data collected from both the surveys were 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 Baliguda. 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 Kandhamal district (intra-district migration). Migration for periods less than 30 days is also excluded.



Household Profile

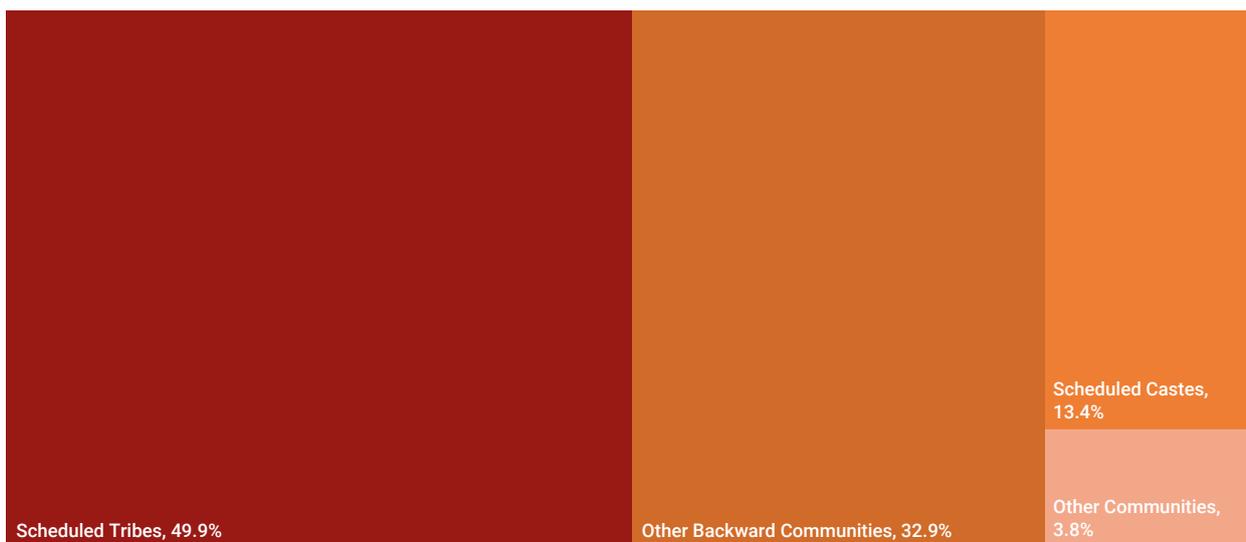




Socio-Economic Profile

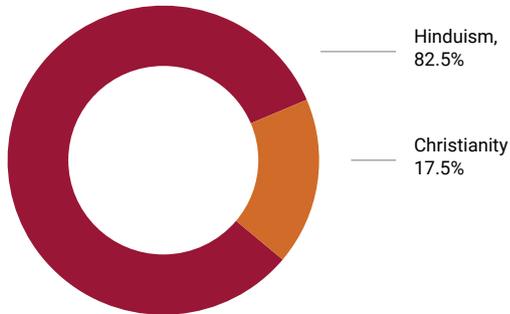
The study explored the distribution of households in Baliguda by characteristics such as religion, caste, household size, education, type of ration card, employment under NREGS and household income. Examining the ethnic background, it was found that half of the households belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. Around one-third of the households belonged to Other Backward Castes (Figure.1.1). Less than fifteen per cent of the households belonged to Scheduled Castes while only about four per cent of the households belonged to Other Communities.

Figure.1.1: Percentage distribution of households by ethnicity, N:417



Over four-fifths of the households in Baliguda reported Hinduism as their religion while slightly less than twenty per cent of the households followed Christianity (Figure.1.2). For the subsequent sections, a detailed analysis is presented by ethnicity. Due to the relatively small sample size of households belonging to Other Communities, a separate analysis is not presented. However, the 'Total' column in the tables also includes the households from Other Communities.

Figure.1.2: Distribution of households by religion, N: 417



The average household size in Baliguda was five. In a typical household, there were two members above 15 years of age engaged in income-generating activities

Household Size

Information on the total number of members in the household, number of household members above the age of fifteen, number of household members engaged in income-generating activities and the number of usual residents in the household was sought (Table. 1.1). More than half of the households reported that there were five or more family members in the household. A little over one-third of the households reported that there were three to four members in the household. About eleven per cent of the households had one to two members. Among the households from Scheduled Tribes, almost two-thirds reported having five or more members. A little over 40 per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities had three to four members. The median number of members in the household was five for households from all communities except Other Backward Communities. The median number of household members in Other Backward Communities was four.

Over two-fifths of the households reported that there were three to four members in the household aged fifteen years and above. More than one-third of the households had one to two family members aged fifteen or above while only around twenty per cent of the households had five or more household members aged fifteen or above. Around a quarter of the households from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes each had five or more family members aged fifteen and above. The median number of household members aged fifteen and above was three for all the communities except for households from Scheduled Castes. The median number of household members aged fifteen and above for households from Scheduled Castes was four.

Further, less than two-fifths of the households had two earning members in the household aged fifteen years and above. Slightly below one-third of the households had three or more household members engaged in income-generating activities. Less than a quarter of the households from Other Backward Communities had three or more household members engaged in income-generating activities. The median number of household members engaged in income-generating activities across all the communities was found to be two.

Slightly less than half of the households reported having five or more usual residents in the household. Over one-third of the households had three to four household members who were usual residents while over fifteen per cent had one or two usual residents in the household. Nearly three-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes had five or more usual residents in the household. The median number of usual residents of households from all communities except Scheduled Tribes was four. For those from the Scheduled Tribes, the median number of usual residents in the household was five.

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	10.7	10.1	12.4	10.8
3 to 4	37.5	25.5	44.5	35.3
5 and above	51.8	64.4	43.1	54.0
Median	5	5	4	5
Total Number of Household Members above the Age of Fifteen Years				
1 to 2	26.8	34.1	40.1	35.3
3 to 4	48.2	41.3	43.1	43.6
5 and above	25.0	24.5	16.8	21.1
Median	4	3	3	3
Total Number of Earning Members in the Household above Fifteen Years				
1	26.8	22.6	41.6	30.5
2	42.9	37.0	35.0	37.2
3 and above	30.4	40.4	23.4	32.4
Median	2	2	2	2
Total Number of Usual Residents in the Household				
2 or Less	19.6	13.9	17.5	16.1
3 to 4	42.9	28.8	40.9	36.0
5 and above	37.5	57.2	41.6	48.0
Median	4	5	4	4
Highest Education Attained by Any Member in the Household				
No Formal Education	5.4	7.2	5.1	6.0
Lower Primary	7.1	5.8	9.5	7.0
Upper Primary	19.6	18.3	14.6	16.8
High School	30.4	39.4	36.5	36.7
Higher Secondary	19.6	18.3	13.9	17.3
Graduation	16.1	10.1	18.2	13.7
Postgraduation	1.8	0.5	2.2	2.4
ITI	0	0.5	0	0.2
Median	9	9	10	10
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Education

The median number of years of education attained by any member of the household was ten. For households from the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, the median number of years of education was nine. A little less than two-fifths of all households had a member who had studied up to high school. It was found that members of six per cent of all households had not received any kind of formal education. Around fifteen per cent of the households had a family member who had either completed graduation or postgraduation. Around twenty per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities had a family member who had either completed graduation or postgraduation.

Household Income

Data on household income were collected under three categories such as total monthly income from all sources before lockdown, total monthly income contributed by usual residents of the household and the income generated in the month prior to the survey as presented in Table. 1.2. The data collected reveal that a little less than two-fifths of the households had a total monthly income up to ₹5000 before the national lockdown was announced. Around thirty per cent of the households earned an income between ₹5001 and ₹10000. Over a quarter of the households from Scheduled Castes earned an income above ₹15000 before the lockdown was announced while the percentage of households from Scheduled Tribes in the same income bracket was less than thirteen per cent. The median income earned by the households in Baliguda before the announcement of the lockdown was ₹7000. The median income for households from Scheduled Castes was found to be slightly higher at ₹8250. The median income of households from Scheduled Tribes was ₹6000.



Table.1.2: Percentage distribution of households by various income characteristics and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Monthly Household Income before Lockdown				
Up to 5000	32.1	40.9	34.3	36.7
5001 to 10000	21.4	31.7	33.6	30.2
10001 to 15000	19.6	14.9	12.4	14.4
Above 15000	26.8	12.5	19.7	18.7
Median	8250	6000	7500	7000
Monthly Income from Usual Residents of Household before Lockdown				
Up to 5000	55.4	58.2	40.1	50.6
5001 to 10000	25.0	31.3	32.8	30.2
10001 to 15000	7.1	5.8	9.5	7.2
Above 15000	12.5	4.8	17.5	12.0
Median	5000	5000	7000	5000
Monthly Income from All Sources after Lockdown				
Up to 5000	75.0	86.1	70.8	77.2
5001 to 10000	14.3	8.2	13.9	11.3
10001 to 15000	3.6	3.4	6.6	4.6
Above 15000	7.1	2.4	8.8	7.0
Median	3000	2000	2500	2500
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Half of the households responded that the income generated by usual residents of the household prior to the lockdown was up to ₹5000. Around thirty per cent of the households reported that the usual residents contributed between ₹5001 to ₹10000 to the household income while less than twenty per cent of the households reported that the usual residents earned above ₹10000. Nearly three-fifths of the households belonging to the Scheduled Tribes reported that the usual residents contributed up to ₹5000. A little less than twenty per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported that the usual residents earned above ₹15000. A quarter of the households from Scheduled Castes reported that the usual residents earned between ₹5001 to ₹10000. The median total income from usual residents of all households except households from Other Backward Castes was ₹5000.

Over three-fourths of the households reported a monthly income up to ₹5000. Slightly above ten per cent of the households reported earnings between ₹5001 to ₹10000. Over four-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported earning an income of ₹5000 or less after the lockdown. A significant drop in income was evident among households across all the communities after the lockdown was announced. The median income earned by all the households after the lockdown was announced was ₹2500. The median income after the lockdown was ₹3000 for households from Scheduled Castes and ₹2000 for households from Scheduled Tribes.

Housing and Living Conditions

This section describes the existing housing conditions in Baliguda block. In addition to the type of housing, the study examined access to basic services such as water supply, sanitation and electricity and also the sources of finance for improving housing conditions. As seen in Table. 1.3, a little less than half of the households in Baliguda lived in kachha or temporary dwelling structures. Nearly two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes lived in kachha houses. More than half of the households from Scheduled Tribes also lived in kachha dwelling units. Only around three per cent of the households in Baliguda lived in rented houses while the rest owned the dwelling units in which they lived. The median number of years since the house was constructed or renovated was 13.

Table.1.3: Percentage distribution of households by select housing characteristics and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of House				
Pukka	58.9	46.2	59.9	54.0
Kachha	41.1	53.8	40.1	46.0
House Ownership				
Own	96.4	98.6	96.4	96.9
Rented	3.6	1.4	3.6	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Nearly two-thirds of the households reported household income other than remittances as the chief source of finance for the construction or renovation of their dwelling units (Table. 1.4). Around one-third of the households availed of a government scheme for the construction or renovation the houses. The use of remittances of a migrant member of the household for the construction or renovation of the dwelling unit was two per cent. A little less than three-fourths of the households from Other Backward Communities reported that they used household income other than remittances for the construction or renovation of houses. Two-fifths of the households belonging to the Scheduled Castes availed of a government scheme for the construction or renovation of their houses.

Table.1.4: Percentage distribution of households that constructed or renovated their house by chief source of financing and ethnicity

Source of Income	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Government Scheme	44.0	35.8	25.8	32.8
NGO Scheme	0	0.5	0	0.3
Household Income other than Remittances	54.0	62.0	72.6	65.3
Remittances of Migrant Member	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	50	187	124	375



The households in Baliguda were then enquired about the availability of drinking water, toilet and kitchen facilities, cooking fuel and electricity as access to these is crucial to determine the standard of living (Table.1.5). One-third of the households had a dug well within 100 meters of their house which was their main source of drinking water. Another fourteen percent of the households also depended on dug wells more than 100 meters away from the house. Piped water supply was available to fourteen per cent of the households. Around seven per cent of the households had piped water available in the dwelling unit while seven per cent had piped water supply available in their yard or plot. The use of a public tap or standpipe was reported by ten per cent of all households.

The use of hand pumps was also reported by slightly less than twenty per cent of the households. Other sources of drinking water reported by the households were protected springs, unprotected springs and surface water sources such as streams, rivers, lakes, ponds etc. Almost seven per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes used surface water while nearly twelve per cent used water from either protected or unprotected springs. Nearly eleven per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities had piped water supply in their dwelling units.

Two-thirds of the households also reported that they did not have separate room or building which could exclusively be used as a kitchen facility. Only over a quarter of the households from Scheduled Tribes had a separate room or building as a kitchen. Over two-fifths of the households from Other Backward Communities had separate kitchen premises for cooking.

Over ninety per cent of the households reported that their main source of lighting was electricity from the grid. The use of kerosene was reported by around five per cent of the households. Solar power as a source of lighting was found to be marginal.

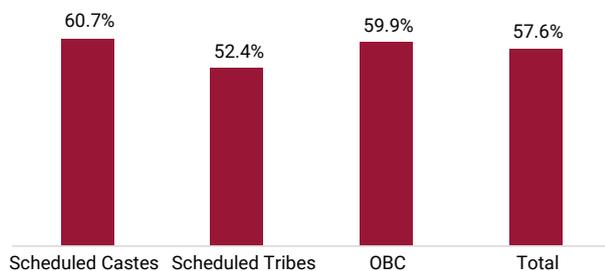
Table.1.5: Percentage distribution of households by select amenities at current residence and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Main Source of Drinking Water				
Piped into the Dwelling	1.8	2.4	10.9	6.7
Piped into Yard or Plot	3.6	6.3	8.0	6.5
Public Tap or Standpipe	12.5	9.6	8.0	9.8
Hand Pump within 100 m of House	10.7	9.1	12.4	10.1
Hand Pump more than 100 m away from House	10.7	7.2	10.9	8.6
Dug Well within 100 m of House	37.5	32.2	35.0	32.9
Dug Well more than 100 m away from the House	19.6	14.4	9.5	13.9
Protected Spring	0	7.7	2.2	4.6
Unprotected Spring	3.6	4.3	2.9	3.6
Surface Water (Stream/River/Lake/Pond, etc.)	0	6.7	0	3.4
Availability of a Separate Room or Building Used Exclusively as a Kitchen				
Available	35.7	26.9	41.6	34.3
Not Available	64.3	73.1	58.4	65.7
Main Source of Lighting				
Electricity from Grid	92.9	87.0	94.9	90.9
Sharing Electricity from Grid through Another Household	3.6	1.4	1.5	1.7
Electricity from Solar	0	0.5	0	0.2
Electricity from Grid and Solar	0	1.0	0	0.5
Solar Home Lighting	0	3.8	0.7	2.2
Kerosene	3.6	6.3	2.9	4.6
Fuel Used for Cooking				
LPG/Natural Gas	8.9	4.3	20.4	12.9
Biogas	3.6	1.0	13.1	5.5
Coal/Lignite	0	0	0.7	0.2
Wood	87.5	94.7	65.7	81.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Over four-fifths of the households reported that they used wood as fuel for cooking. The use of LPG or natural gas was reported by 13 per cent of the households. Around 20 per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported using LPG or natural gas while thirteen per cent of the households from the same community used biogas. The use of wood for cooking was reported by ninety-five per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes.

It was found that over two-fifths of the households in Baliguda did not have access to a functional toilet (Figure.1.3). Only half of the households from Scheduled Tribes had access to a functional toilet while three-fifths of the households each from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities had access to the same.

Figure.1.3: Percentage of households in Baliguda with a functional toilet, N:417



Nearly 60 per cent of the households in Baliguda had a functional toilet. Most of such toilets were constructed with the government support. Only a little more than half of the households with toilets used them regularly

A little less than two-thirds of the households who had a functional toilet did not have water supply inside (Table.1.6). Nearly three-fourths of the households from Scheduled Tribes did not have water supply inside the toilet. Water supply inside the toilet was available to slightly less than half of the households from Other Backward Communities.

Nearly three-fourths of the households with toilets reported that they availed of a government scheme to fund the construction of the toilets. Around a quarter of the households used household income other than remittances to fund the construction of the toilets. Over one-third of the households from Other Backward Communities used household income other than remittances to fund the construction of the toilets. Nine in every ten households from Scheduled Tribes with toilets reported that they availed of a government scheme to fund the construction. The use of funding from an NGO scheme was reported by around six per cent of the households from Scheduled Castes. The median number of years since the construction of the toilet for all the households who had access to a functional toilet was three.

Table.1.6: Percentage distribution of households with functional toilets by select characteristics and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Availability of Water Supply inside the Toilet				
Water Available	32.4	25.7	47.6	37.1
Water Not Available	67.6	74.3	52.4	62.9
Source of Finance for the Construction of the Toilet				
Government Scheme	70.6	90.8	63.4	74.2
NGO Scheme	5.9	0.9	2.4	2.5
Household Income other than Remittances	23.5	8.3	34.1	22.9
Other	0	0	0	0.4
Regular Use of Toilet by Household Members				
Toilet Regularly Used	61.8	31.2	70.7	52.5
Toilet Not Used	38.2	68.8	29.3	47.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	34	109	82	240

Slightly less than half of the households with a functional toilet reported that the toilet was not regularly used by members of the household. Over two-thirds of the Scheduled Tribe households did not use the toilet regularly. The toilet was regularly used by seventy per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities. Nearly two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes did not regularly use their toilet.

Ownership of Select Assets

Ownership of select assets was explored among the households to understand the standard of living. Assets owned, provided in Table.1.7, indicate the consumption patterns among the households in Baliguda. It can be seen that there is a difference in the ownership of household and electrical appliances between the different communities. Households from the Scheduled Tribes had fewer assets and amenities compared to households from the other communities. A basic phone was the major asset owned by most of the households from the list of items explored. Only about 30 per cent of the households had a television. A quarter of the households reported owning a motorcycle or scooter.

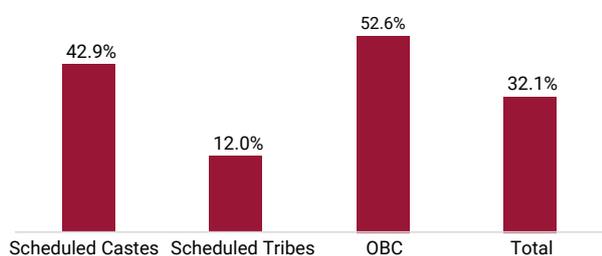
Table.1.7: Percentage of households by ownership of select assets and ethnicity

Asset	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Basic Mobile Phone	75.0	63.5	66.4	67.1
Chair	67.9	45.2	57.7	54.4
Watch or Clock	66.1	44.2	60.6	54.2
Electric Fan	55.4	33.2	54.7	45.1
Smartphone	55.4	33.2	51.8	43.9
Bicycle	44.6	41.8	43.8	42.7
Wooden Cot or Bed	44.6	35.1	46.0	41.5
Television	33.9	19.2	41.6	30.2
DTH Connection	33.9	19.7	40.9	30.2
Motorcycle or Scooter	30.4	16.8	32.1	24.9
Pressure Cooker	21.4	8.7	38.0	23.0
Table	17.9	11.5	23.4	18.0
Mattress	10.7	3.8	21.2	12.2
Refrigerator	10.7	4.8	16.1	10.3
Computer or Laptop	5.4	4.3	5.8	6.0
Sewing Machine	7.1	2.9	5.8	4.6
Steel Cot or Bed	1.8	1.4	5.1	4.1
Radio or Transistor	1.8	1.0	5.8	2.6
Any Other Telephone	5.4	0.5	2.2	2.2
Autorickshaw	3.6	1.4	2.2	1.9
Tractor	5.4	1.0	2.2	1.9
Car	3.6	0.5	2.9	1.7
Other Four-Wheeled Vehicles	1.8	1.4	2.2	1.7
Thresher	0	1.4	2.9	1.7
Number	56	208	137	417

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 Baliguda.

Figure.1.4: Percentage of landless households in Baliguda, N:417



Two in every three households in Baliguda owned patta land. Only about 60 per cent of the households had patta land which was irrigated

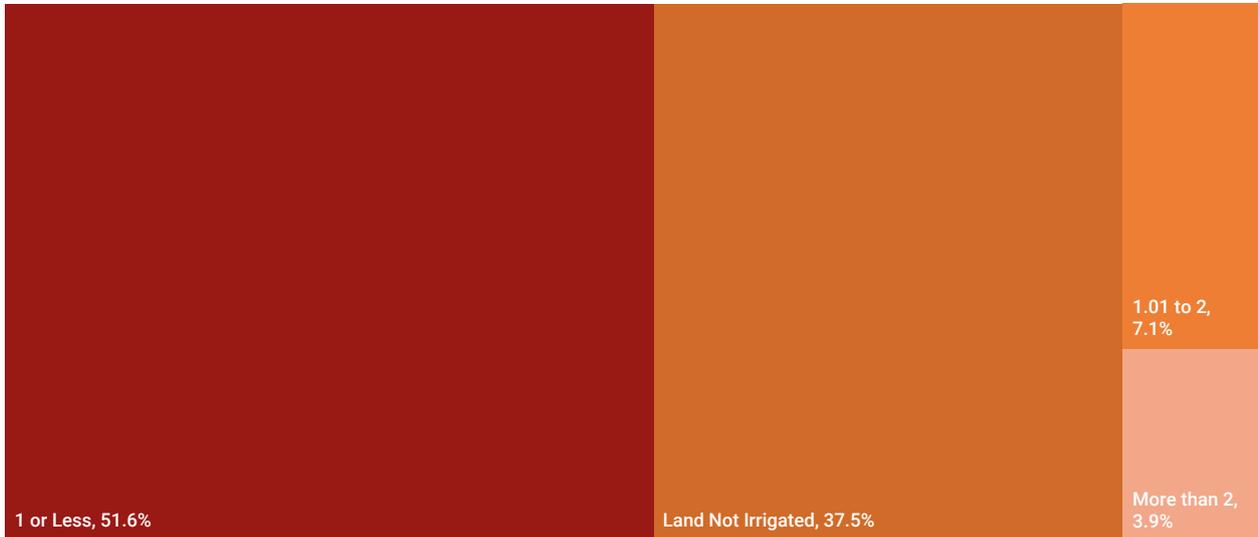
Nearly one-third of all households in Baliguda did not own any patta land for agriculture (Figure.1.4). More than half of the households belonging to Other Backward Communities and over two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes were found to be landless. Only 12 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe households did not own patta land.

Table.1.8: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of patta land and ethnicity

Land Owned (In Acres)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Landless	42.9	12.0	52.6	32.1
1 or Less	39.3	45.7	26.3	36.9
1.01 to 2	14.3	28.8	14.6	21.6
More than 2	3.6	13.5	6.6	9.4
Median	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

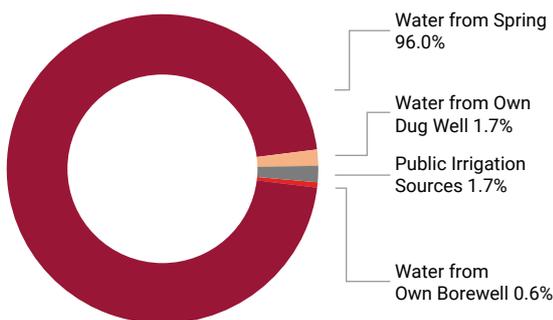
The households were enquired about the quantum of patta land they owned (Table.1.8). They were also enquired about the area of the land with irrigation facilities. The mode of irrigation was also explored. A little less than two-fifths of the households owned up to one acre of irrigated land (Figure.1.5). Over twenty per cent of the households owned between 1.01 to 2 acres of land while less than ten per cent of the households owned more than two acres of land. Nearly fourteen per cent of the Scheduled Tribe households owned more than two acres of land. A little over a quarter of the households from Other Backward Communities and 46 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes owned up to one acre of land.

Figure.1.5: Percentage distribution of households with patta land (acres) by irrigation status, N:283



The median area of irrigated land owned by households in Baliguda was one acre. Nearly two-fifths of the households that owned patta land reported that the land was not irrigated. Half of the households reported that up to one acre of their patta land was irrigated. Only about 11 per cent of the households owned over one acre of irrigated land. Almost all the households reported that spring water was used as the main source of irrigation (Figure.1.6). Only a marginal number of the households used other means of irrigation such as water from a dug well, borewell or public irrigation sources.

Figure.1.6: Percentage distribution of households with irrigated land by mode of irrigation, N:177



Households currently engaged in agriculture primarily depended on natural springs for irrigation

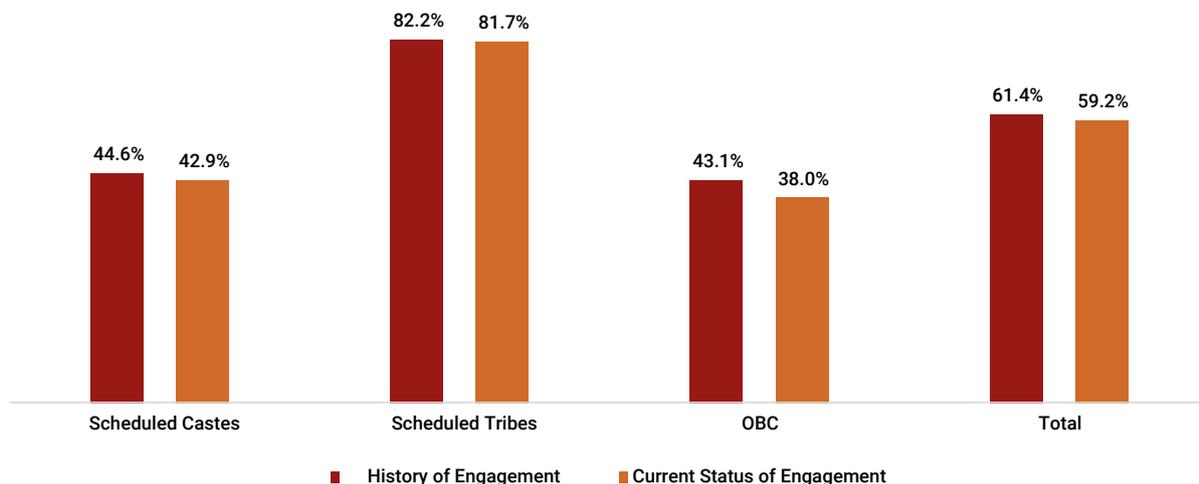
To understand how agriculture fared as a source of income in Baliguda, an enquiry was made about the source of income of each rural household. The sample households were enquired about the source from which more than half of their local income was obtained (Table.1.9). Over two-fifths of the households shared that their primary source of income was non-agricultural daily wage labour. Agriculture was a major source of income for two-fifths of the households in Baliguda. Less than ten per cent of the households each reported business and government employment as the major source of household income. Nearly three-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported that agriculture was the main source of household income. This proportion was a little over 20 per cent for households from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. Nearly three-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes reported that non-agricultural daily wage labour was the major source of income for their household. A little less than fifteen per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported business as the major source of income for the household.

Table.1.9: Percentage distribution of households by chief source of income and ethnicity

Major Source of Income	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Agriculture	21.4	59.1	22.6	40.0
Other Daily Wage Labour	57.1	30.8	52.6	41.0
Business	8.9	1.9	13.9	8.2
Government Employment	3.6	5.3	8.0	7.2
None	3.6	0.5	0.7	1.0
Other	5.4	2.4	2.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

The households were asked whether they had a history of engaging in agricultural activity. The current status of their involvement in agriculture was also explored. Figure.1.7 below reveals that there has only been a marginal reduction in household engagement in agriculture over time. Overall, around three-fifths of the households had a history of engagement in agriculture and most of them were currently engaged in agriculture. It was found that over four-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes had a history of engagement in agriculture and a similar percentage were currently engaged in agricultural activities. Nearly 40 per cent of the households from other communities were engaged in agriculture.

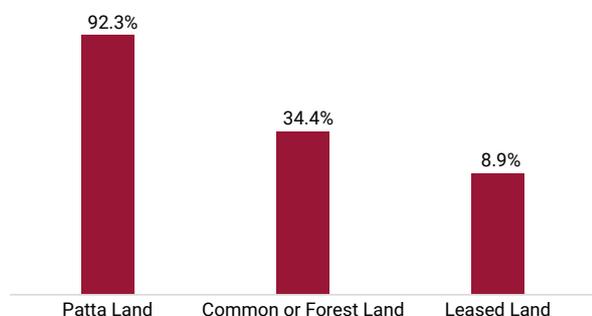
Figure.1.7: Percentage of households in Baliguda engaged in agriculture, N:417



Cultivation Practices

The cultivation practices of the households currently engaged in agriculture were explored. Areas of enquiry included the type of land used for agriculture, the number of crop cycles in a year, the employment of agricultural labour in the past twelve months as well as the practice of sale of agricultural produce before and after the lockdown. In Baliguda, households use patta land, common land, forest land or leased land for cultivation. Among those engaged in agriculture, more than 90 per cent reported that they cultivated patta land. Over one-third of the households engaged in agriculture reported using common or forest land for agriculture while less than ten per cent of the households cultivated land which was leased.

Figure.1.8: Percentage of households in Baliguda currently engaged in agriculture by typology of land use, N: 247



While over 90 per cent of the households engaged in agriculture in Baliguda cultivated patta land, about one-third of the households cultivated forest land

As evident from Table.1.10, almost all the households who engaged in agriculture cultivated only one crop in the year prior to the survey. Less than three per cent of the households reported two crop cycles. Nearly 90 per cent of the households engaged in agriculture reported that they did not employ any labourer and all the cultivation work was carried out solely by household members. Around nine per cent of the households cultivated their land using the labour of both the household members as well as hired labour. Only three per cent of the households cultivated the land solely through hired labour.

Table.1.10: Percentage distribution of households by select practices related to agriculture and ethnicity

Income Earned from Livestock before Lockdown	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Number of Crop Cycles in the Previous Year				
One	-	98.2	96.2	97.6
Two	-	1.8	3.8	2.4
Employment of Labour for Agriculture				
Only Household Members	-	88.8	86.5	88.3
Only Labourers	-	1.2	7.7	2.8
Household Members and Labourers	-	10.0	5.8	8.9
Sale of Agricultural Produce before Lockdown				
Used Only for Consumption	-	93.5	84.6	91.5
Sold during Financial Crisis	-	5.9	7.7	6.1
Sold Surplus Produce	-	0.6	7.7	2.4
Sale of Agricultural Produce during or after Lockdown				
Used Only for Consumption	-	95.3	88.5	93.5
Sold during Financial Crisis	-	4.1	5.8	4.5
Sold Surplus Produce	-	0.6	5.8	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	24	170	52	247

Before the lockdown was announced, over ninety per cent of the households in Baliguda used agricultural produce solely for household consumption. This practice continued even during and after the lockdown. Before the lockdown, around two per cent of the households sold their produce on a regular basis while six

per cent of the households sold produce during a financial crisis. The percentage of households that sold surplus produce was two per cent during/after the lockdown.

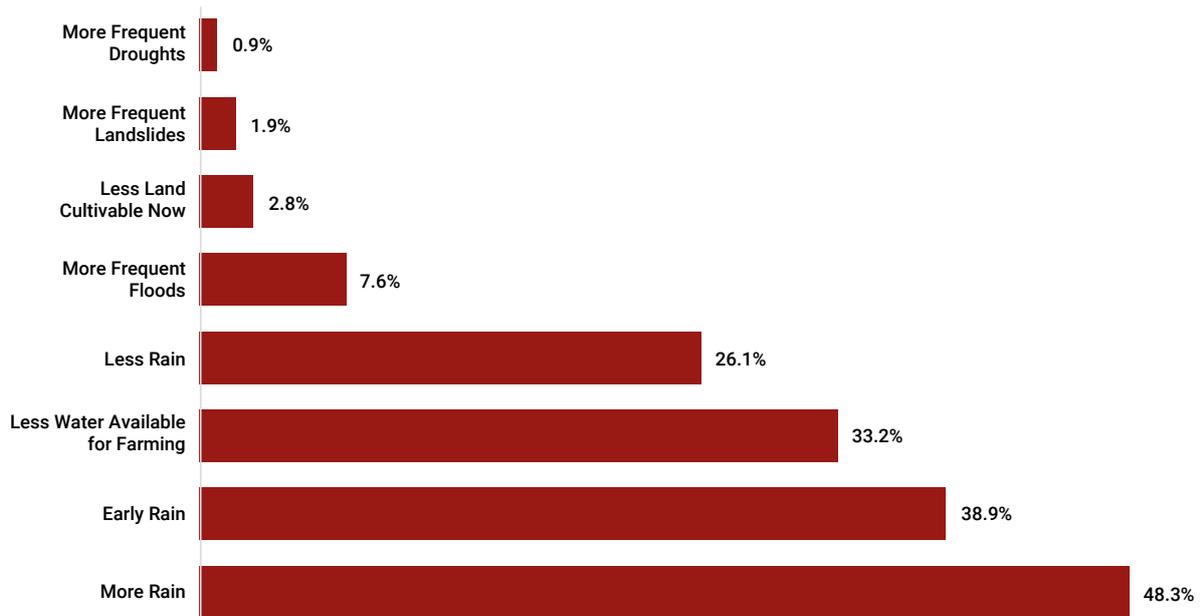
Climate change has had a significant impact on agriculture in rural areas. It has been argued that decline in agricultural activity as a result of climate change has led to an increase in migration for the rural poor to seek alternative sources of employment. The households in Baliguda who were engaged in agriculture were asked whether agriculture in their area was negatively impacted by changes in weather conditions (Table.1.11). About 85 per cent of the households engaged in agriculture reported that changes in weather over a period of time had a negative impact on the agricultural practices.

Table.1.11: Percentage distribution of households practicing agriculture by impact of weather and ethnicity

Impact of Weather on Agriculture	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Negatively Impacted	-	85.9	84.6	85.4
No Impact	-	14.1	15.4	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	24	170	52	247

The households were further asked to list changes in weather conditions that had negatively impacted agricultural activity. Nearly half of the households reported that agriculture was impacted due to excessive rain. The onset of early rainfall had an impact on two-fifths of the households while one-third of the households reported that there was less water available for farming. Over a quarter of the households also reported that rainfall in the area was insufficient which had an impact on agriculture. Other negative factors reported by the households were frequent floods, landslides, droughts and less cultivable land.

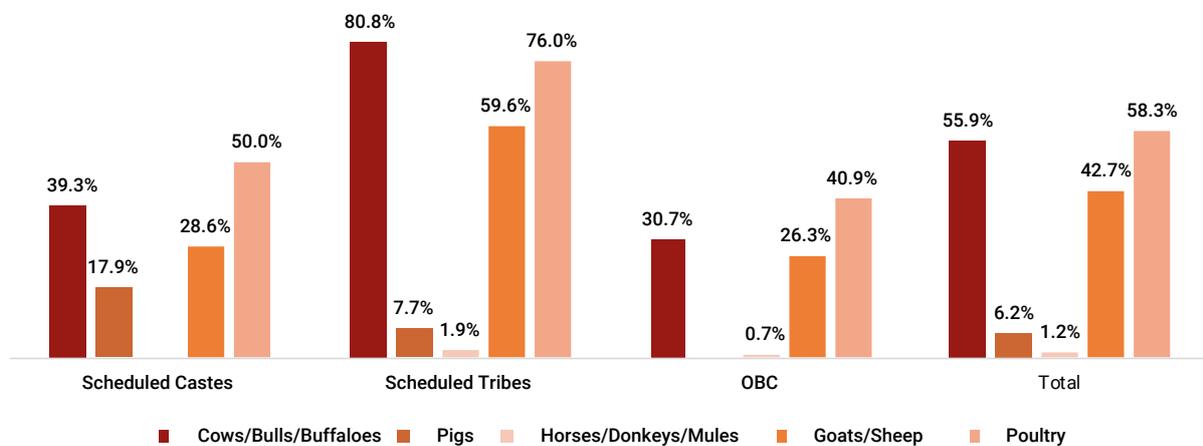
Figure.1.9: Percentage of households negatively impacted by change in weather conditions, N: 211



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. Figure.1.10 provides the ownership of select livestock among the households of Baliguda. Nearly three-fifths of all households owned poultry. More than half of the households also owned either cows, bulls or buffaloes. Over two-fifths of the households reported owning goats or sheep. Ownership of other livestock such as pigs, donkeys, mules or horses was found to be marginal. Four-fifths of the households belonging to Scheduled Tribes owned cows, buffaloes or bulls. Over three-fourths of the Scheduled Tribe households owned chicken or ducks. Two-fifths of the Scheduled Caste households owned cows, buffaloes or bulls while half of them reared chicken or ducks.

Figure.1.10: Percentage of households with livestock, N:417



The households were also asked if they earned any income from the livestock they owned in the three months before the lockdown (Table.1.12). Around 11 per cent of the households reported earning an income from their livestock. Nearly fifteen per cent of the Scheduled Caste households and six per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported that they earned an income from livestock before the lockdown.

Table.1.12: Percentage distribution of households by income earned from livestock before lockdown and ethnicity

Income from Livestock	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Income Earned	12.5	14.4	5.8	11.0
No Income Earned	73.2	83.2	76.6	77.5
Do Not Own Animals/Birds	14.3	2.4	17.5	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Social Security

The state of social security of the households in Baliguda was explored. Information about the availability of ration card, access to schemes such as MGNREGS, state of financial inclusion such as banking, insurance, etc. and access to select services was explored.

Ration Card and BPL Card

Data on the type of ration cards in the possession of the households were elicited to examine the extent of food security in Baliguda. Around fifteen per cent of all households reported that they did not have a ration card. Almost 80 per cent of the households in Baliguda had Priority Household ration cards (PHH). Five per cent of the households reported having an Antyodaya Anna Yojana card which is for the ultra-poor. Nearly 90 per cent of the households belonging to Scheduled Tribes had a PHH ration card. Almost 85 per cent of the households in Baliguda had BPL cards. This was 90 per cent in the case of Scheduled Tribes.

Table.1.13: Percentage distribution of households by type of ration card, possession of BPL card and ethnicity

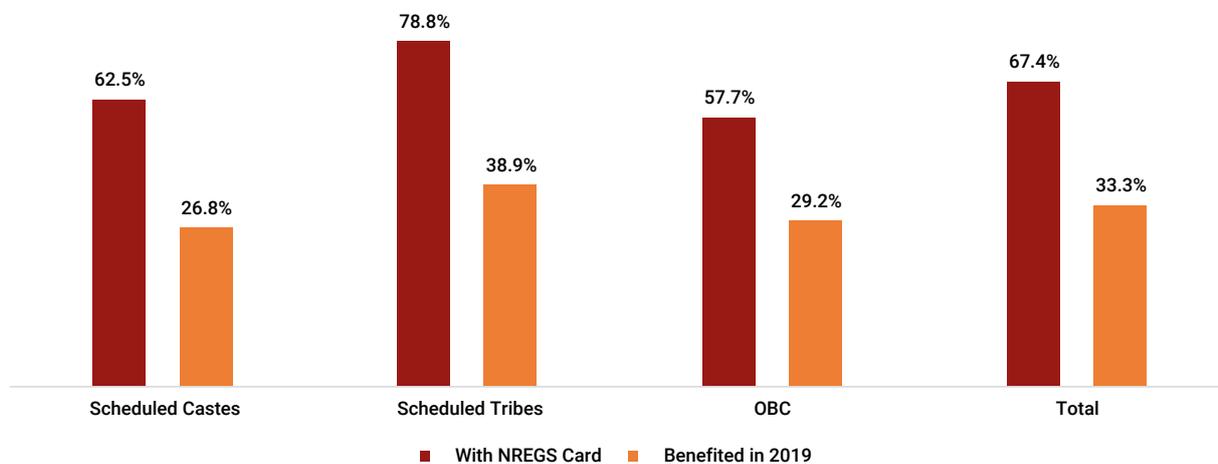
Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of Ration Card				
No Ration Card	12.5	10.1	17.5	15.1
AAY Card	7.1	2.4	6.6	4.6
PHH Card	78.6	87.5	73.7	79.4
Other Cards	1.8	0	0.7	0.5
Do Not Know	0	0	1.5	0.5
Possession of BPL Card				
BPL Card	83.9	90.4	79.6	83.9
No BPL Card/Don't Know	16.1	9.6	20.4	16.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Participation in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was introduced to ensure a minimum of 100 days of employment to vulnerable households residing in the rural areas of the country. During the survey, the households were asked whether they possessed a job card which would entitle them to work under this scheme. Over two-thirds of the households reported that they possessed the MGNREGS job card. Nearly four-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes possessed the job card. Nearly three-fifths of the households from Other Backward Communities also reported that they possessed a job card.

Further, the households having job cards were enquired about the number of days of employment received in 2019. The details about the number of workdays received after the lockdown was announced were also collected from the households with a job card as MGNREGS is considered to have provided livelihood to those who lost their income following the pandemic. It was found that only one-third of all households in Baliguda benefited from the MGNREGS scheme in 2019. Nearly two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes and over a quarter of the households from Scheduled Castes received employment under NREGS in 2019. About 30 per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities also received work under NREGS in 2019.

Figure.1.11: Percentage of households in Baliguda with benefits from NREGS in 2019, N:417



Half of the households who had job cards reported that they did not receive any work in 2019 (Table.1.14). Less than a quarter of the households received between one to twenty days of work while only ten per cent of the households received over forty days of employment under NREGS in 2019. Among the Scheduled Caste households with job cards, slightly less than three-fifths did not receive work in 2019. Around thirty per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities with a job card received between one to twenty days of work in 2019. The median number of days of work received by the households in Baliguda with job cards in 2019 was zero.

More than half of the households with a job card did not receive any employment after the lockdown was announced in 2020. Less than thirty per cent of the households received between one to twenty days of work while sixteen per cent of the households received above twenty days of work. Only about five per cent of the households with a job card received more than 40 days of work after the lockdown. Nearly two-thirds of the households from Scheduled Castes did not receive any employment after the lockdown. The median number of days of MGNREGS work received after the lockdown was announced was zero across all three categories.



More than half of the households with a job card did not receive any NREGS employment after the lockdown

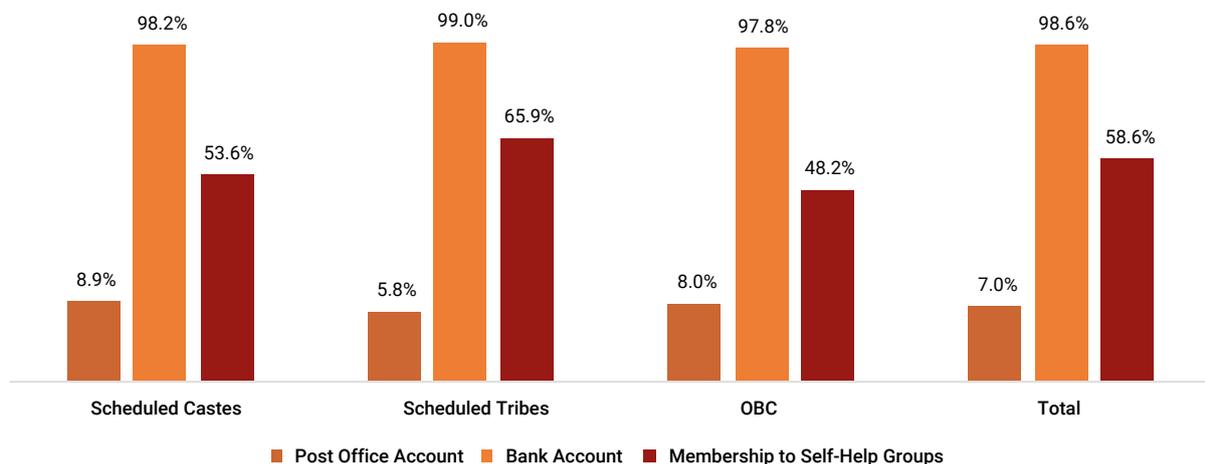
Table.1.14: Percentage distribution of households with job cards by NREGS workdays received in 2019 and after lockdown and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Number of NREGS Workdays in 2019				
No Work	57.1	50.6	49.4	50.5
1 to 20 Days	11.4	24.4	29.1	24.2
21 to 40 Days	14.3	17.1	10.1	14.9
41 Days and above	17.1	7.9	11.4	10.3
Median	0	0	0	0
Number of NREGS Workdays after Lockdown				
No Work	65.7	52.4	54.4	54.8
1 to 20 Days	22.9	29.3	31.6	29.2
21 to 40 Days	5.7	12.8	10.1	11.0
41 Days and above	5.7	5.5	3.8	5.0
Median	0	0	0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	35	164	79	281

State of Financial Inclusion and Access to Services

Access to banking services is increasingly significant for rural households to avail 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 Baliguda to financial services was explored in the survey. Nearly all the households in Baliguda had at least one usual resident with a bank account (Figure.1.12). Households with post office accounts were less than ten per cent. It was found that nearly three-fifths of all households had a member who was enrolled in a self-help group. Nearly two-thirds of the households from Scheduled Tribes were enrolled in self-help groups while enrolment among households belonging to Other Backward Communities was nearly 50 per cent.

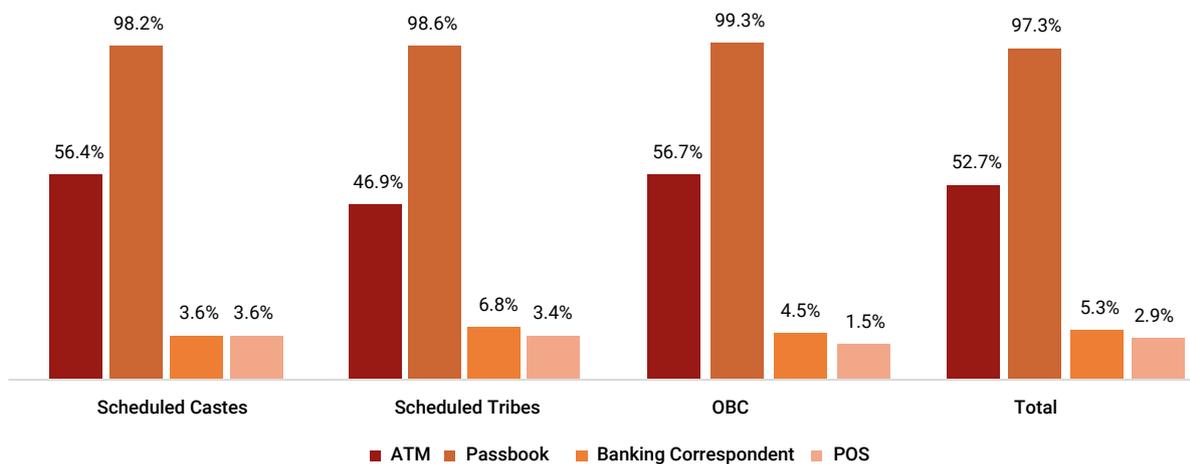
Figure.1.12: Percentage of households with access to select financial services, N:417





The households with bank/post office accounts were also enquired about the means used to withdraw money. Almost all the households used passbooks to withdraw money. The ATM was used by more than half of the households while the use of services of a banking correspondent or POS was rare. The households were also asked how much time it took to fetch money or update the passbook from the bank/post office if the usual mode of commuting was followed. The median number of hours taken by all the households to complete a financial transaction was six. It was eight hours in the case of households from Scheduled Tribes and four hours in the case of households from Other Backward Communities.

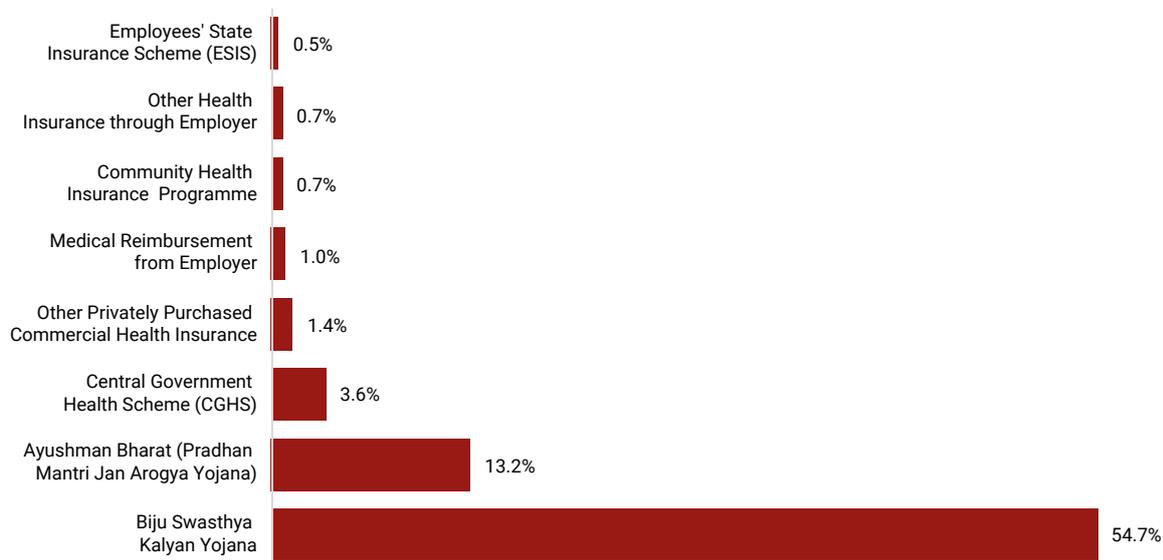
Figure.1.13: Percentage of households with members having bank/post office accounts by select means of withdrawal of money , N:412



Health Insurance

To understand the potential out-of-pocket expenditure of the households in Baliguda in 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. The findings are shown in Figure.1.14. More than half of the households had a member of the household enrolled under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana which is the universal free healthcare scheme of the government of Odisha. Enrolment in Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was less than fifteen per cent while enrolment in other insurance schemes, both public and private, was found to be marginal.

Figure.1.14: Percentage of households with at least one member enrolled in select health insurance schemes, N:417



Access to Services

Table.1.15 documents the distance travelled by households to avail essential services such as banks, health facilities or hospitals and schools as well as the time taken to walk to the nearest place from where public transport is available. Over two-fifths of all households with bank accounts reported that they had to travel a distance of over ten kilometres to reach a bank in which a household member had an account. Half of the households from Scheduled Tribes had to travel for more than ten kilometres to reach a bank. Nearly three-fifths of the households belonging to Other Backward Communities travelled a distance of up to five kilometres. The median distance travelled by households in Baliguda to reach the bank was eight kilometres. For households belonging to Other Backward Communities, the distance to the nearest bank was two kilometres. For households belonging to Scheduled Tribes, this distance was 10.5 kilometres while for households from Scheduled Castes, it was seven kilometres.

Over two-fifths of the households reported that the distance to the nearest functional health facility was up to five kilometres. Another two-fifths reported that the nearest health facility was over ten kilometres away. Almost half of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported that the nearest hospital or health facility was more than ten kilometres from their village. Three-fifths of the households from Other Backward Communities reported that the nearest functional health facility was at a distance of up to five kilometres. The median distance of all the households to the nearest health facility or hospital was seven kilometres. The median distance for households from Scheduled Tribes was ten kilometres while it was two kilometres for households from Other Backward Communities. The median distance to the nearest hospital or health facility was seven kilometres for households from Scheduled Castes.

Table.1.15: Percentage distribution of households by proximity to select services and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Distance to Nearest Bank (In Km)				
5 or Less	43.6	21.4	58.2	39.4
6 to 10	12.7	28.6	2.2	16.8
More than 10	43.6	50.0	39.6	43.8
Median	7.0	10.5	2.0	8.0
Distance to Nearest Hospital or Health Facility (In Km)				
5 or Less	44.6	26.0	60.6	42.7
6 to 10	14.3	25.0	2.2	15.1
More than 10	41.1	49.0	37.2	42.2
Median	7.0	10.0	2.0	7.0
Distance to Nearest School (In Km)				
Up to 3	89.9	68.3	87.6	78.7
4 to 6	3.6	15.4	9.5	11.3
More than 6	6.5	16.3	2.9	10
Median	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Time Taken to Walk to Nearest Available Mode of Public Transport (In Minutes)				
Up to 5	53.6	32.7	54.7	45.1
6 to 10	8.9	6.2	9.5	7.4
11 to 15	10.7	9.1	13.1	10.3
16 to 20	5.4	14.4	3.6	9.4
Above 20	21.4	37.5	19.0	27.8
Median	5.0	20.0	5.0	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

The households were also asked about the distance from the village to the nearest high school where education was available for free. Almost four-fifths of the households reported that the nearest school was at a distance of up to three kilometres. Ten per cent of the households reported that the nearest school was over six kilometres away. Almost 90 per cent of the households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities reported that the high school was at a distance of up to three kilometres. More than 15 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes had to travel a distance of over six kilometres to reach the nearest school. The median distance to reach the nearest school where education was available for free was two kilometres. The median distance to the nearest school was three in the case of households from Scheduled Tribes.

About 45 per cent of the households reported that it took them up to five minutes to walk to the nearest available place from where public transport was available. Almost thirty per cent of the households reported taking more than twenty minutes to walk to the place from where they got access to public transport. Nearly two-fifths of the households belonging to the Scheduled Tribes had to walk for more than twenty minutes to access public transport. More than half of the households from both Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities could access public transport within five minutes. The median time taken by all the households to walk to the nearest spot from where public transport could be availed was ten minutes. The median time was twenty minutes in the case of households from Scheduled Tribes and five minutes in the case of households from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities.

Mobile Connectivity

Mobile connectivity in Baliguda was also explored (Table.1.16). Around a quarter of all households did not have access to a mobile network in their village. Almost thirty per cent of the households belonging to the Scheduled Tribes did not have mobile connectivity in their village. About one-fifth of households each from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities also did not have mobile connectivity. It was found that the median distance travelled to make a phone call for households which did not have any mobile network was one kilometre.

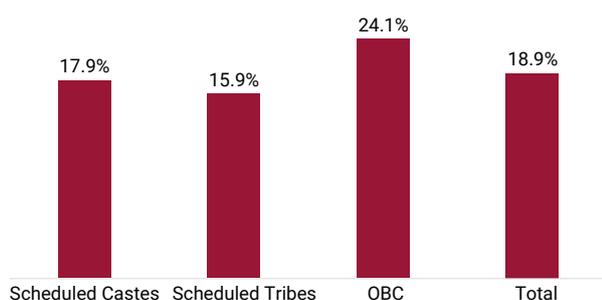
Table.1.16: Percentage distribution of households by availability of mobile network and ethnicity

Availability of Network	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Mobile Network Available	82.1	70.2	81.0	76.3
Mobile Network Not Available	17.9	29.8	19.0	23.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	208	137	417

Indebtedness

Information on the status of loans taken by the households in the 12 months prior to the national lockdown was sought. It was found that a little less than twenty per cent of all households in Baliguda had taken a loan or advance in the 12 months prior to the lockdown in March 2020. Nearly a quarter of the households belonging to Other Backward Communities were indebted compared to 16 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes and 18 per cent of the households from Scheduled Castes.

Figure.1.15: Percentage of households in Baliguda that have taken loans/advances in the 12 months preceding national lockdown by ethnicity, N:417



Almost one in every five households in Baliguda had taken a loan or advance in the 12 months prior to the national lockdown, primarily from a formal source. The average outstanding debt was ₹12000

The respondents were then asked about the various reasons for which loans or advances were taken (Table.1.17). The data were analysed separately only for the households from Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities due to an insufficient number of respondents in other categories for analysis. It was found that a little less than two-fifths of the households had taken a loan for agriculture. Over twenty per cent of the households had taken a loan related to the hospitalization of a family member. A similar proportion of households reported business investment as the reason. Over ten per cent of the households had also taken a loan to meet expenses related to marriage. Other reasons reported for taking a loan or advance included construction or renovation of houses, crop failure, purchase of assets, etc.

Table.1.17: Percentage of households taken loans or advances in the 12 months preceding national lockdown by reason for taking loan/advance and ethnicity

Reason for Taking a Loan	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Hospitalization Expenditure	-	21.2	21.2	21.5
Marriage Expenses	-	15.2	12.1	11.4
Construction/Renovation of House	-	6.1	6.1	8.9
Loan for Business Investment	-	15.2	27.3	21.5
Purchase of an Asset	-	3.0	0	2.5
Natural Disaster	-	3.0	0	1.3
Crop Failure	-	9.1	0	6.3
Agricultural Loan	-	36.4	39.4	36.7
Purchase of Land	-	3.0	0	1.3
Purchase of Other Assets	-	3.0	0	1.3
Other	-	0	0	1.3
Number	10	33	33	79

One in every two indebted households had an outstanding debt up to ₹10000 on the day of the national lockdown. A little less than a quarter of the households were in debt of an amount over ₹30000. Three-fifths of the Scheduled Tribe households had taken a loan up to ₹10000. The median amount of outstanding debt for all the households was ₹12000. The median amount of outstanding debt for households from Scheduled Castes was ₹28000 while it was ₹10,000 for households from Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities.



Table.1.18: Percentage distribution of indebted households by amount of loan on the day of national lockdown and ethnicity

Outstanding Debt	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Up to 10000	-	60.6	51.5	49.4
10001 to 20000	-	15.2	21.2	16.5
20001 to 30000	-	9.1	9.1	12.7
Above 30000	-	15.2	18.2	21.5
Median	28500	10000	10000	12000
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10	33	33	79

One in every three indebted households had taken a loan from a self-help group. A little less than one-third of the households had taken loans from Utkal Grameen Bank or SBI. Loans from private banks were reported by seventeen per cent of the indebted households. Other sources from which the households sought loans included relatives or friends, local money lenders and cooperative societies.

The status of repayment of the loan by the households was also explored. Over four-fifths of the indebted households reported that they were repaying their debt from the income of the usual residents of the household. Nearly thirteen per cent of the households were unable to repay their debt while five per cent of the households were repaying their debt from the income of the migrant members of the household.

Figure.1.17: 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 Baliguda, 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 the 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. It is very difficult to practice agriculture here because we have no money.
2. This household had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months.
3. If someone from this household falls ill, we are unable to seek quality treatment because our income is not sufficient for that.
4. We currently do not have any savings as our income is too meagre.

Table.1.19 records the responses where the respondents agreed with the statements given above. Over ninety per cent of the households, irrespective of their ethnicity, could not seek quality treatment for a member of the household who was unwell because of insufficient income. Nine in every ten households also responded that they could not accumulate any savings due to the meagre income earned. Four out of every five households found it difficult to practice agriculture due to their financial constraints. Around ten per cent of the households had to sell or mortgage their land in the past 12 months. For households from Scheduled Tribes, this was fourteen per cent.

Table.1.19: Percentage of households with select indicators of misery and ethnicity

Indicator	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Difficult to practice agriculture here because we have no money	82.1	90.9	67.9	79.9
This household had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months	7.1	13.5	6.6	9.8
If someone from this household falls ill, we are unable to seek quality treatment because our income is not sufficient for that.	92.9	94.2	92.0	91.1
We currently do not have any savings as our income is too meagre	94.6	92.8	92.0	90.9
Number	56	208	137	417

Impact of the Lockdown

The sudden announcement of the national lockdown on March 24, 2021 and its aftermath had unfavourable consequences for most rural households. Since this study was conducted after the lockdown, information was elicited on the impact of the lockdown on households in Baliguda by examining whether the lockdown augmented poverty. It was also examined if the households had benefitted from the welfare measures announced by the government. Figure.1.16 provides the self-reported monthly income of the households in Baliguda before and after the lockdown.

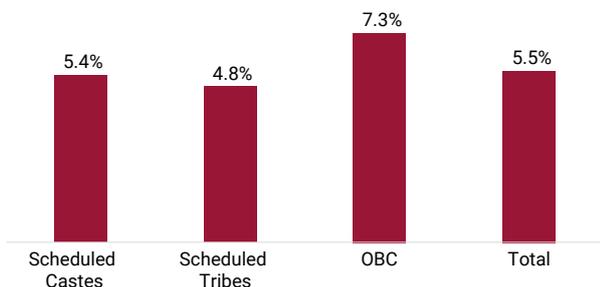
It was found that the monthly income of the households in Baliguda dropped by almost 65 per cent. The median monthly income of the households in Baliguda dropped from ₹7000 to ₹2500. In the case of Other Backward Communities, it dropped from ₹7500 to ₹2500 and for Scheduled Tribes it came down from ₹6000 to ₹2000. In the case of Scheduled Castes there was a reduction from ₹8250 to ₹3000.

Figure. 1.18: Median self-reported monthly income of households in Baliguda before and after the lockdown by ethnicity, N: 417



In order to understand the extent of starvation, if any, the households were enquired to recollect the number of times in the week prior to the survey, where one or more members of the household had to skip at least one regular meal because there was no food stock or money to buy food. As indicated in Figure.1.19, almost six per cent of the households had one or more members who had to skip a meal in the past seven days prior to the survey. More than seven per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported having done so while five per cent of the households from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reported this situation.

Figure.1.19: Percentage of households in Baliguda where a member of the household had to skip a meal in the past seven days prior to the survey, N: 417



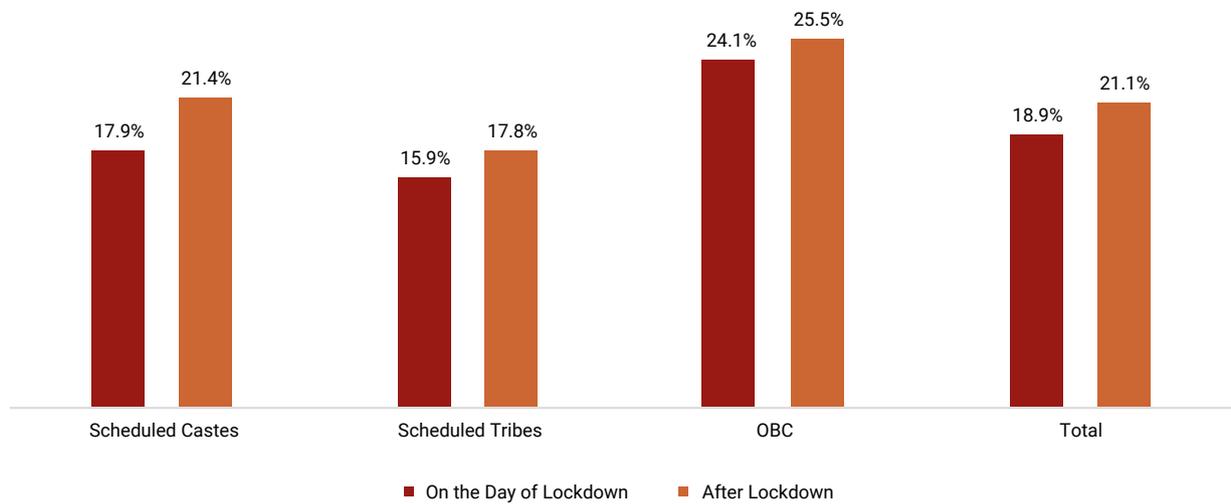
The lockdown did not substantially increase the indebtedness of the households in Baliguda. The proportion of indebted households increased only marginally from 18.9 per cent on the day of the national lockdown to 21.1 per cent on the day of the survey

Indebtedness after the Lockdown

The households were enquired if they had taken loans/advances after the lockdown that they were liable to repay at the time of the survey. Around seven per cent of all households were found to have taken a loan/advance after the lockdown. Almost eleven per cent of the households from Scheduled Castes and five per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported having taken a loan or an advance. Overall, the proportion of indebted households in Baliguda increased marginally from 18.9 per cent on the day of the national lockdown to 21.1 per cent on the day of the survey (Figure 1.20). The largest increase was among the households from Scheduled Castes where the level of indebtedness increased from 17.9 per cent to 21.4 per cent.

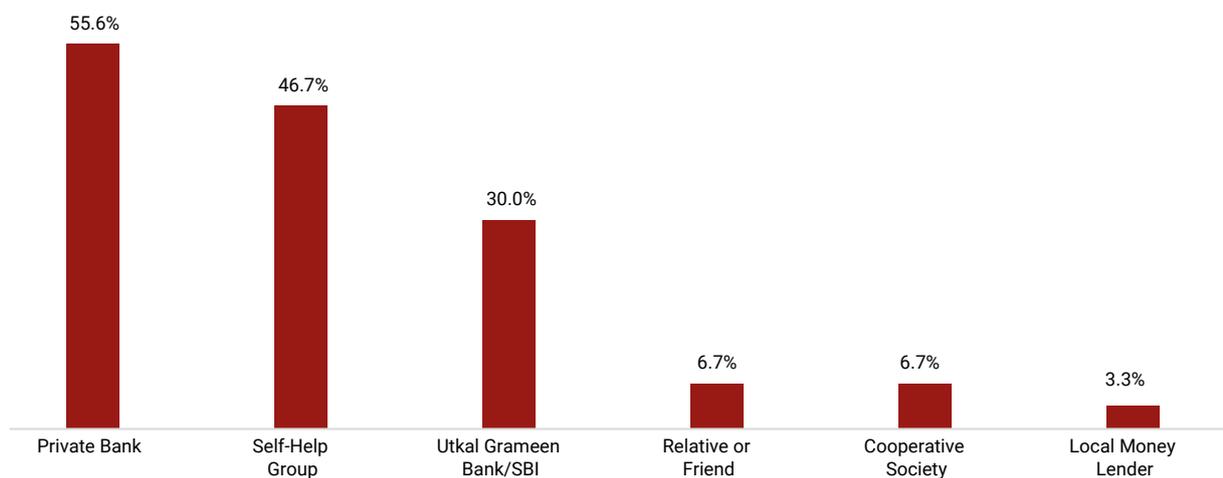


Figure 1.20: Percentage of households in Baliguda by status of indebtedness before and after the lockdown, N: 417



The multiple sources of loan of all the thirty households who had taken a loan or advance after the lockdown were explored. The majority of the households reported that they had taken a loan from a private bank. A little less than half of the indebted households received credit from a self-help group while thirty per cent mentioned receiving a loan from the Utkal Grameen Bank or SBI. Other sources included relatives or friends, local money lenders or cooperative societies.

Figure.1.21: Percentage of indebted households after the lockdown by all sources of loan, N:30



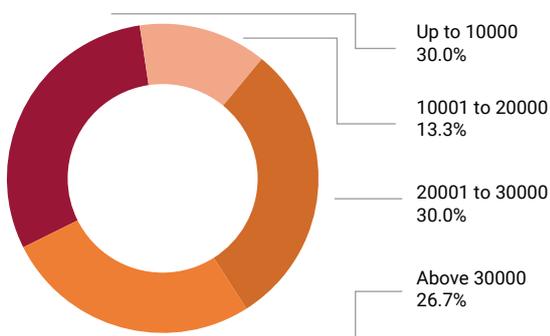
The households were enquired about the status of repayment of the loan they had taken after the lockdown. Almost ninety per cent of the indebted households were repaying the loans from the income generated by the usual residents of the households (Figure.1.22). Almost seven per cent of the households were currently unable to repay their loans or advances while another seven per cent were repaying the amount from the income of the migrant members of the household.

Figure.1.22: Percentage distribution of indebted households after the lockdown by current major source of repayment, N:30



The indebted households were asked about the amount of credit taken by them. Around thirty per cent of the households had taken loans between ₹20001 to ₹30000 while another thirty per cent had taken loans up to ₹10000. Over a quarter of the indebted households had taken loans or advances over ₹30000. The median amount of loan or advance taken from the time of the lockdown was ₹25000.

Figure.1.23: Percentage distribution of indebted households after the lockdown by amount of loan taken, N:30



Most of the households that took loans/ advances during/after the lockdown depended on formal sources such as SHGs or banks for credit. The average amount of loan taken was ₹25000

All the households were also inquired about select coping strategies used to deal with the reduction in income to meet day-to-day expenditure after the lockdown, besides taking loans. Almost all the households reported that they used family savings to meet the expenses during or after the lockdown. The number of households that pledged or sold assets such as land or jewellery was found to be negligible. Seven households reported that a member of the household under the age of 15, who had been going to school before the lockdown, had dropped out and started working to support the family because of the financial crisis.

Government Support

The government had announced certain support measures for the rural households to alleviate distress during and after the lockdown. In order to understand to what extent these measures have been helpful for the households in Baliguda, the respondents were enquired if they had received any financial assistance or additional free ration from the government (Table.1.20). Most of the households, irrespective of their ethnicity, reported having received the financial assistance/additional free ration from the government.

Table.1.20: Percentage of households by assistance received from government after the lockdown and ethnicity

Type of Government Support Received	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Financial Assistance	92.9	91.3	83.2	86.6
Additional Free Ration	92.9	92.8	81.0	86.3
Number	56	208	137	417



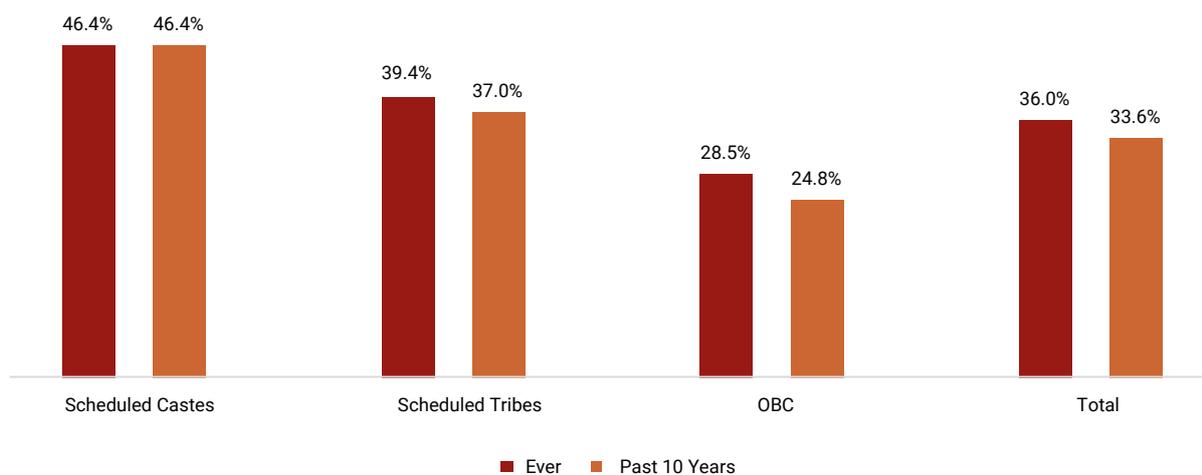
Migration from Baliguda



Migration History

In order to understand the migration profile of Baliguda, the sample households were enquired whether any member of the household, currently alive or 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, the history of labour migration from the households in the past 10 years was explored. Figure.2.1 summarises the labour migration from the households to places outside Kandhamal district.

Figure. 2.1: Percentage of households in Baliguda with migration history, N:417



Examining the migration history of Baliguda, it was found that 36 per cent of the households in the block had at least one person ever migrating for work outside the district (Figure.2.1). In the past ten years over one-third of the households had at least one person migrating for work outside the district. The household migration rates were the highest for the households from Scheduled Castes with nearly half of the households with a history of migration. Nearly two in every five households from Scheduled Tribes had a history of labour migration. A similar proportion reported migration of household members in the past ten years. While three out of every ten households from Other Backward Communities had a history of labour migration, nearly a quarter of them had at least one member migrating for work outside the district in the past ten years.

Migration at the Time of Lockdown

The survey also collected information about the extent of inter-district, inter-state and seasonal migration from the households in Baliguda at the time of announcement of the national lockdown in March 2020. The findings from the study are presented in Figure 2.2. Overall, one in every five households in Baliguda had a member who had migrated out of the district for work at the time of announcement of the lockdown. Inter-district migration rate at the time of the lockdown was highest in the case of households from Scheduled Castes. Almost one out of every three Scheduled Caste households had a migrant member in March 2020. About 18 per cent of the households had inter-state migrant workers at the time of the lockdown. About three per cent of the households in Baliguda had one member who was a seasonal migrant at the time of lockdown. The seasonal migration rates did not vary significantly across the ethnic groups.

Figure. 2.2: Percentage of households with migrant workers in Baliguda at the time of lockdown, N: 417

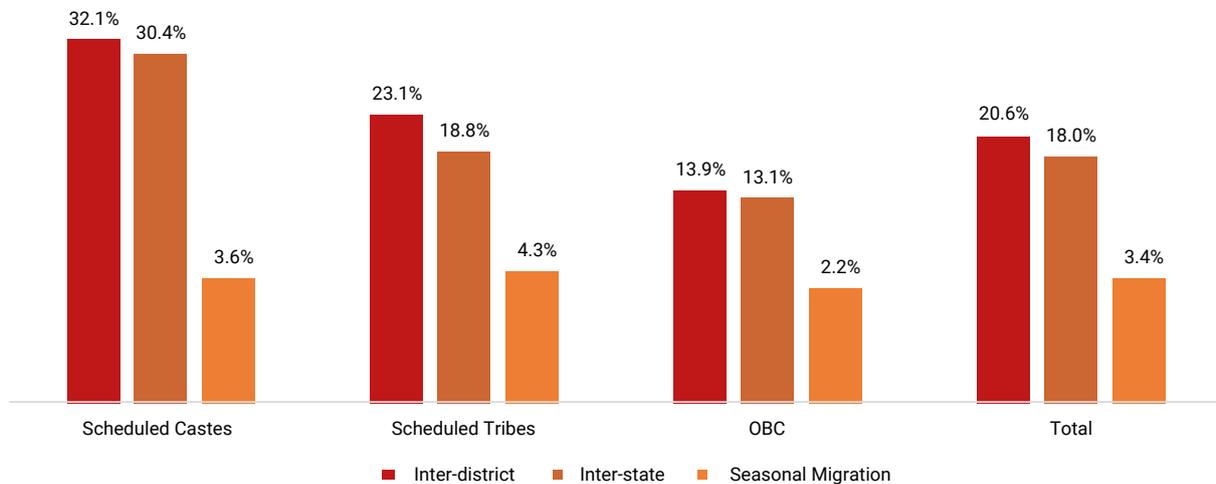
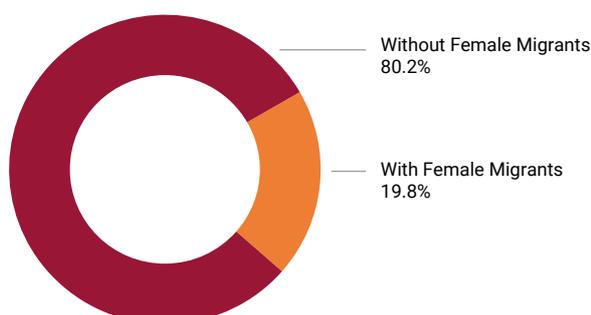


Table 2.1 provides the household migration rates in Baliguda at the time of the national lockdown in India which took place in March 2020. The households from Scheduled Castes had the highest inter-district and inter-state migration rates at the time of the lockdown. However, seasonal migration rates were slightly higher than others for households from Scheduled Tribes. Migration rates were higher for households with MGNREGS cards compared to those who did not have the cards. Those who lived in kachha houses had higher migration rates compared to those who lived in pukka houses. Households that owned land had higher migration rates compared to those who did not own land. There was not much difference in the migration rates by the current family occupation in the case of inter-district migration. However, those who were engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour had higher migration rates compared to those who were engaged in agricultural labour. Households that were currently engaged in agriculture had higher migration rates compared to those who were not engaged in agriculture. BPL households were more prone to migration compared to those who were not in the BPL category. Seasonal migration from Baliguda was primarily from the BPL households. There was not much difference in the current migration rates among the households by debt status.

Female Migration

Households in Baliguda with migrant workers at the time of the lockdown were enquired if any of the migrant workers were female. Figure.2.3 provides the details of the same. One in every five households with migrant workers at the time of the national lockdown had female migrants who had moved out of the district for work. Overall, four per cent of the households in Baliguda had female migrants at the time of announcement of the national lockdown.

Figure.2.3: Percentage distribution of households with migrant workers at the time of lockdown by presence of female migrants, N:86



One in every five households in Baliguda had a migrant worker at the time of the national lockdown. Most of such workers were males who had moved to a destination outside Odisha

Table 2.1: Household labour migration rates¹ (households with labour migrants per 100 households), Baliguda block, March 24, 2020

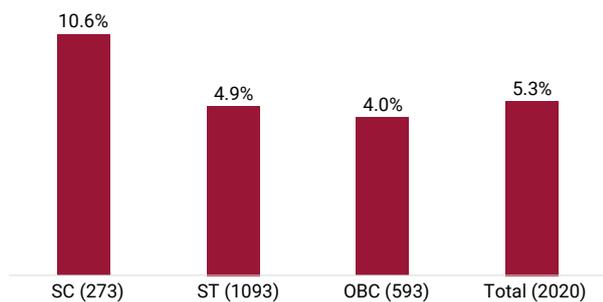
Variable/Category	Migration in Past 10 Years	Migration during Lockdown			Sample Households
		Inter-District Migration	Inter-State Migration	Seasonal Migration	
Ethnicity					
Scheduled Castes	46.4	32.1	30.4	3.6	56
Scheduled Tribes	37.0	23.1	18.8	4.3	208
Other Backward Communities	24.8	13.9	13.1	2.2	137
NREGS Job Card					
Possess NREGS Card	35.6	22.8	18.9	3.6	281
Do Not Possess NREGS Card	28.9	16.3	16.3	3.0	135
House Type					
Pukka	30.7	17.3	14.7	3.6	225
Kachha	37.0	24.5	21.9	3.1	192
Current Family Occupation					
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	37.1	24.1	18.8	1.8	170
Other Daily Wage Labour	36.8	24.0	22.8	6.4	171
Landownership					
Own Land	37.8	23.7	20.1	4.2	283
Do Not Own Land	24.6	14.2	13.4	1.5	134
Current Engagement in Agriculture					
Engaged in Agriculture	37.7	23.9	19.8	4.5	247
Not Engaged in Agriculture	27.6	15.9	15.3	1.8	170
BPL Status					
Yes	36.3	22.1	20.3	4.0	350
No	19.4	7.5	6.0	0.0	67
Current Debt Status					
In Debt	39.2	19.0	17.7	2.5	79
No Debt	32.0	20.8	17.8	3.6	337
Access to Public Transport					
Less than 15 minutes	34.7	19.1	17.8	4.9	225
15 to 30 minutes	34.1	24.4	18.5	0.7	135
Above 30 minutes	28.1	17.5	17.5	3.5	57
Total	33.6	20.6	18.0	3.4	417

1 Inter-district migration also includes inter-state migration

Distribution of Migrants in the Population

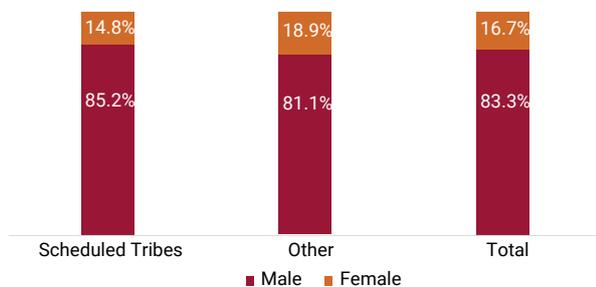
In order to understand the magnitude of migration from Baliguda block, the percentage of migrant workers in the total population was calculated from the sample. Based on the sample proportions, the number of workers from Baliguda working elsewhere outside the district at the time of announcement of the lockdown was estimated. Figure 2.4 provides the percentage of migrant workers in the sample population by ethnicity.

Figure.2.4: Percentage of migrant workers in the total population and ethnicity, Baliguda, N:2020



It was found that at the time of the lockdown, migrant workers constituted about five per cent of the total population of Baliguda block. This proportion was in similar range in the case of Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities. In the case of Scheduled Castes, one in every ten persons was a migrant worker. The proportion of the female migrants among the total migrants was also calculated based on the household survey. It was found that about 17 per cent of the migrant workers from Baliguda were women and this proportion was slightly lower among Scheduled Tribes and nearly one-fifth in the case of households from other categories (Figure 2.5).

Figure.2.5: Percentage distribution of migrant workers in Baliguda by sex and ethnicity, N:108



Estimates of Migrant Workers

Based on the sample proportions, the number of inter-district migrant workers from Baliguda was estimated. A total of 3979 migrants from Baliguda worked outside the district elsewhere in India at the time of the national lockdown. Among them over 3300 persons were males. Out of the total migrant workers, about 1800 workers belonged to Scheduled Tribes. Over 2000 workers belonged to other communities.

Table 2.2: Estimate of migrant workers in Baliguda by gender and ethnicity

Sex	Ethnicity		Total
	Scheduled Tribes	Others	
Male	1577	1739	3315
Female	274	389	663
Total	1851	2128	3979

Migration at the Time of the Survey

Information was also elicited from the households on members of the households, who were staying outside the district for work at the time of the survey, to understand the migration rates after the lockdown. Table 2.3 provides the details of inter-district and inter-state migration rates at the time of the survey. Overall, one in every ten households in Baliguda had at least one migrant worker at the time of the survey. Almost one in every five households from Scheduled Castes had a migrant worker at the time of the survey. The trends were similar among the Scheduled Caste population irrespective of the stream of migration.

Inter-district migration rates were slightly higher for Scheduled Tribes and Schedule Caste Communities. Current migration rates were higher for those who possessed NREGS cards compared to those who did not have cards. Households with kachha houses had slightly higher migration rates compared to those who had pukka houses. Current migration rates were higher for those engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour compared to households that were engaged in agriculture/agricultural labour. BPL households had higher migration rates at the time of the survey compared to others. Households did not differ much by debt status at the time of the survey.

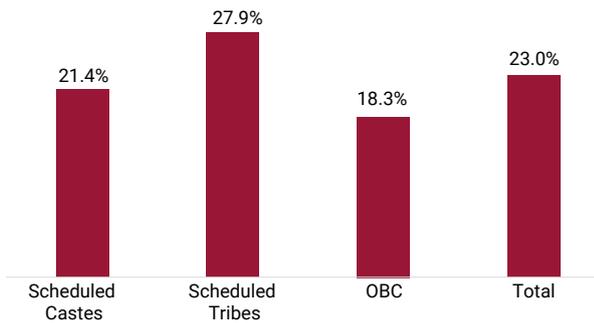
Table 2.3: Household migration rates at the time of the survey, March 2021

Variable/Category	Current Migration		Sample Households
	Inter-District Migration	Inter-State Migration	
Ethnicity			
Scheduled Castes	19.6	19.6	56
Scheduled Tribes	12.5	10.1	208
Other Backward Communities	9.5	8.8	137
NREGS Job Card			
Possess NREGS Card	13.5	12.5	281
Do Not Possess NREGS Card	8.1	7.4	135
House Type			
Pukka	10.2	9.8	225
Kachha	13.5	12.0	192
Current Family Occupation			
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	11.8	8.8	170
Other Daily Wage Labour	14.6	13.5	171
Landownership			
Own Land	13.1	12.0	283
Do Not Own Land	9.0	8.2	134
Current Engagement in Agriculture			
Engaged in Agriculture	13.4	12.1	247
Not Engaged in Agriculture	9.4	8.8	170
BPL Status			
Yes	13.1	12.3	350
No	4.5	3.0	67
Current Debt Status			
In Debt	10.1	10.1	79
No Debt	11.9	10.7	337
Access to Public Transport			
Less than 15 minutes	11.1	10.7	225
15 to 30 minutes	14.8	11.1	135
Above 30 minutes	12.3	10.5	57
Overall	11.8	10.8	417

Return Migration

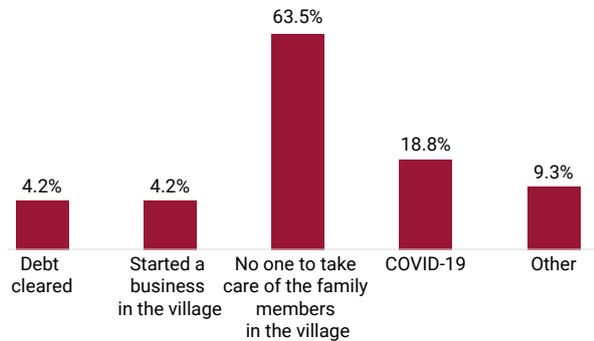
A little less than a quarter of the households from Baliguda had at least one current usual resident who had worked for thirty days or more outside the district but did not have an intention to go back to the same place or another place outside the district for work at the time of the survey (Figure.2.6). Nearly thirty per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes and less than twenty per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities had return migrants.

Figure.2.6: Percentage of households in Baliguda with return migrants and ethnicity, N:417



The households with return migrants were asked about the reason for the return of the migrant who had returned last. Nearly two-thirds of the households with return migrants reported that there was no one to take care of the family members in the village. A little less than twenty per cent of the households also reported the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for their return. Other reasons include clearance of debt by the households, starting a new business in the village and inability to work due to old age.

Figure.2.7: Percentage distribution of households in Baliguda with return migrants by reason for return and ethnicity, N: 96



The absence of other persons to take care of the family members was the prime reason for the return in the case of the returnee migrant workers



Almost half of the households with return migrants reported Kerala as the last destination state. Over fifteen per cent of the return migrants had worked in Tamil Nadu. Over eight per cent of the return migrants had worked in Odisha while around five per cent had worked in Telangana and Maharashtra each.

Table.2.4: Percentage distribution of households with return migrants by last destination state and nature of employment

Variable/Category	Total
State of Employment	
Odisha	8.4
Kerala	49.0
Tamil Nadu	16.6
Telangana	5.2
Maharashtra	5.2
Other	15.6
Nature of Employment	
Construction Worker	44.2
Factory Worker	24.2
Garment Worker	8.4
Hotel Employee	5.3
Worker in Shop or Establishment	6.3
Other	11.6
Total	100
Number	96

It was found that nearly 45 per cent of the return migrants were employed as construction workers before they returned to native places. Nearly a quarter of the workers were engaged in factories. A little less than ten per cent of the return migrants were employed in garment units. Information on the current source of livelihood of the return migrants was also sought. Nearly half of them were engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour within the district. Over one-third of the return migrants were engaged in agriculture while almost thirteen per cent of the return migrants were self-employed after their return. The median duration of work or employment of the return migrant in the destination state was found to be 12 years.

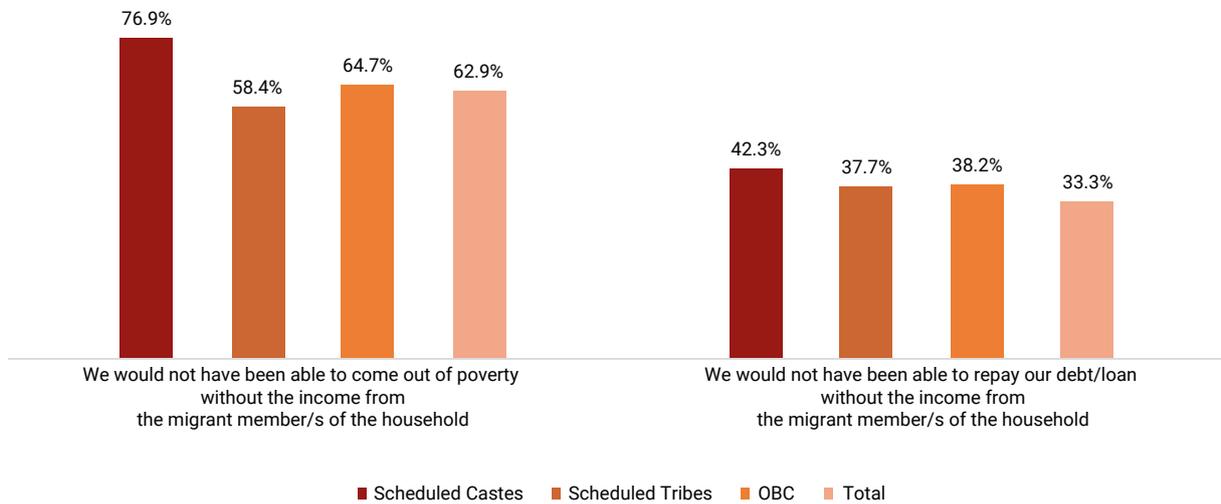
Impact of Labour Migration

The households with a history of labour migration were enquired how the migration of the members impacted them. There were 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.

Indebtedness

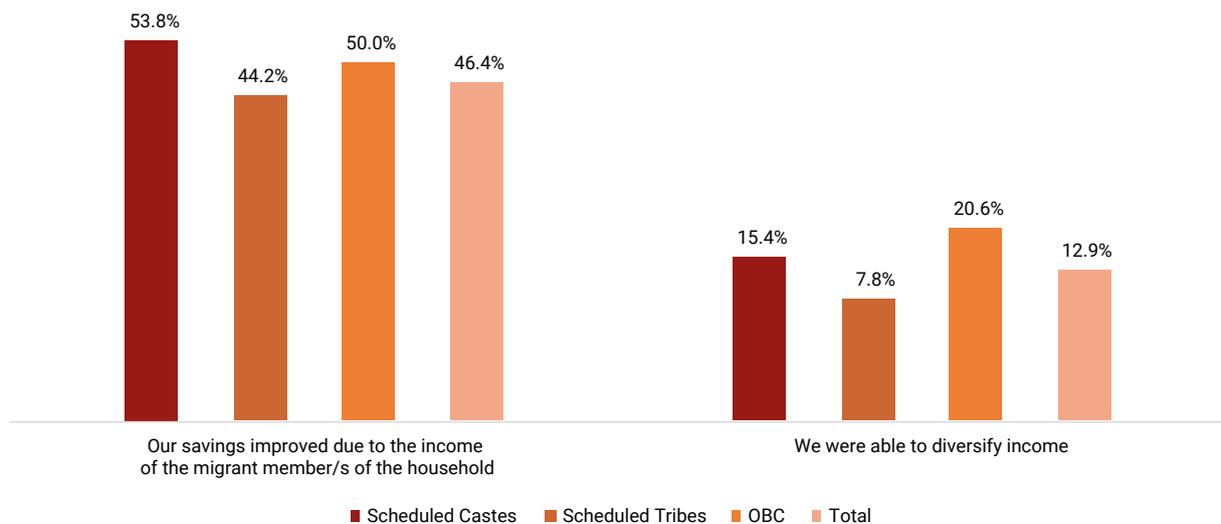
More than three-fifths of the households with migration history reported that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income of the migrant members of the household (Figure.2.8). More than three-fourths of the households from Scheduled Castes mentioned this. One-third of the households also reported that they would not have been able to repay their debts or loans without the income of the migrant members of the household. Over two-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes reported that they would not have been able to repay their debts or loans without the income of the migrant members of the household.

Figure.2.8: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on poverty/indebtedness and ethnicity, N:140



A little less than half of the households with migration history experienced an improvement in their savings due to the income of the migrant members. Over two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported an improvement in savings due to the income of the migrant members. Over ten per cent of the households with a history of migration also reported that they were able to diversify their income and set up a new business with the income of the migrant members. Over twenty per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities reported having diversified their income after the migration of household members. A little over seven per cent of the Scheduled Tribe households also diversified their income.

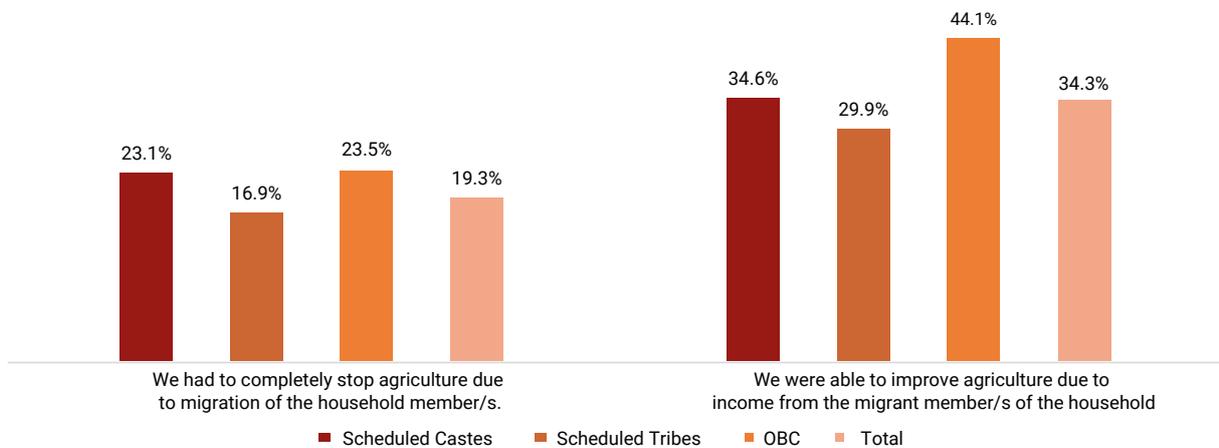
Figure.2.9: Percentage of households with migration history that were able to improve savings and diversify income by ethnicity, N:140



Agriculture

A little less than twenty per cent of the households with a history of migration had to completely give up agriculture because of the absence of members of the household due to migration (Figure.2.10). Nearly a quarter of the households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes also had to completely give up agriculture. However, over one-third of the households were able to improve their agricultural practice due to the additional income from migrant members. Over two-fifths of the households from Other Backward Communities also reported that they could improve agriculture using the migrant remittances. Two per cent of the households purchased land with the income of the migrant members. Also, none of the households had constructed borewells or dug wells for irrigation with the income of the migrant members.

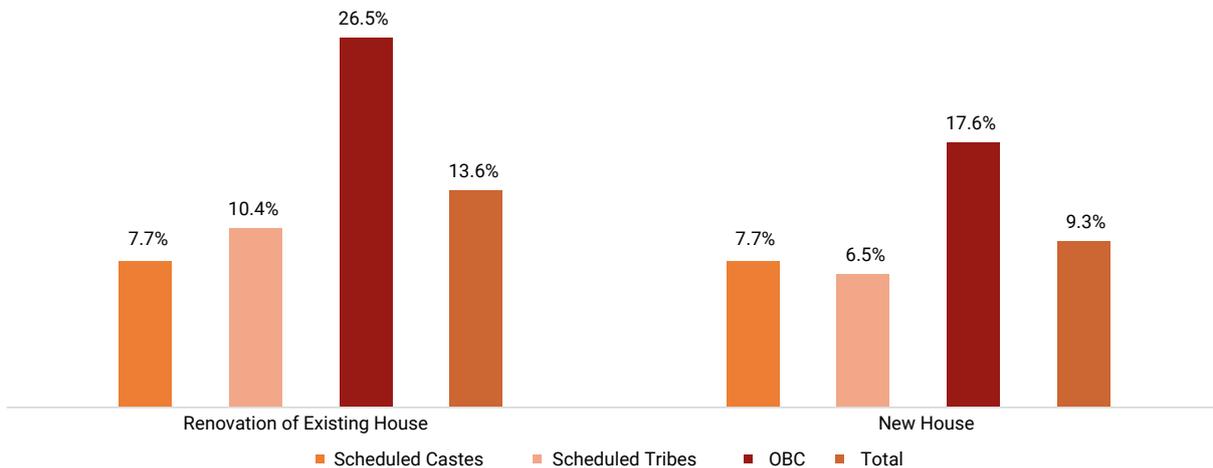
Figure.2.10: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on agriculture by ethnicity, N:140



Housing

Around fourteen per cent of the households with a history of migration reported that they had renovated their existing dwelling units from the exclusive income of the migrant members. Over a quarter of the households from Other Backward Communities and around eight per cent of households from Scheduled Castes undertook renovation of their houses with the help of the income of the migrant members. Nearly ten per cent of the households with a history of migration were able to purchase new houses. This proportion was slightly less than twenty per cent for households from Other Backward Communities.

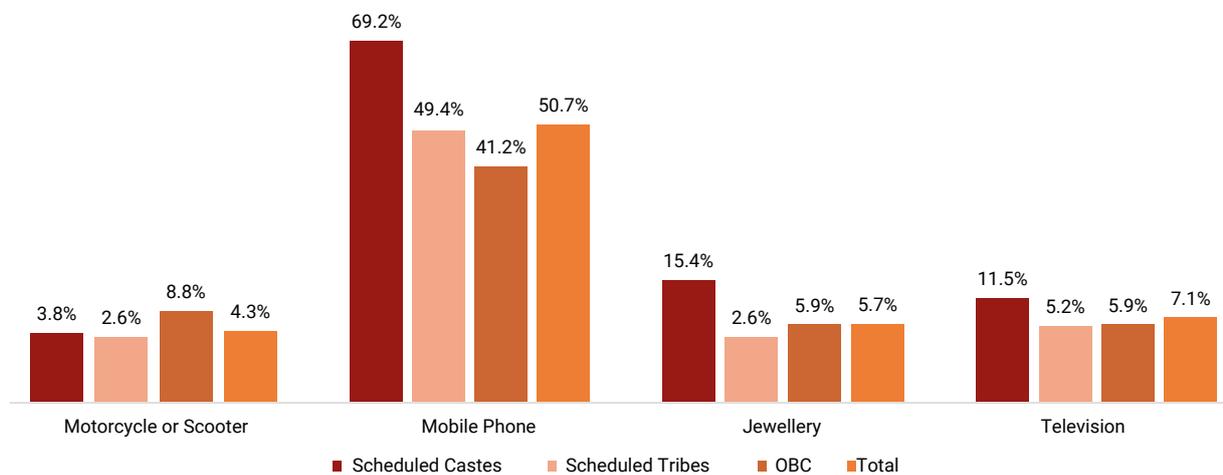
Figure.2.11: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on housing in the past 10 years from the exclusive income of migrant members and ethnicity, N:140



Ownership of Assets

The ability of households to purchase select assets from the exclusive income of migrant members was explored. As indicated in Figure.2.12, less than five per cent of the households were able to purchase a motorcycle or a scooter. Nearly nine per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities purchased a motorcycle or scooter with the income of the migrant members. Mobile phones were purchased by more than half of the households with a history of migration while the percentage of households that purchased land phones were negligible. Over two-thirds of the households belonging to Scheduled Castes purchased a mobile phone. The purchase of other assets like jewellery, television or DTH connections was also reported. Over fifteen per cent of the households from Scheduled Castes purchased jewellery from the exclusive income of the migrant members of the household.

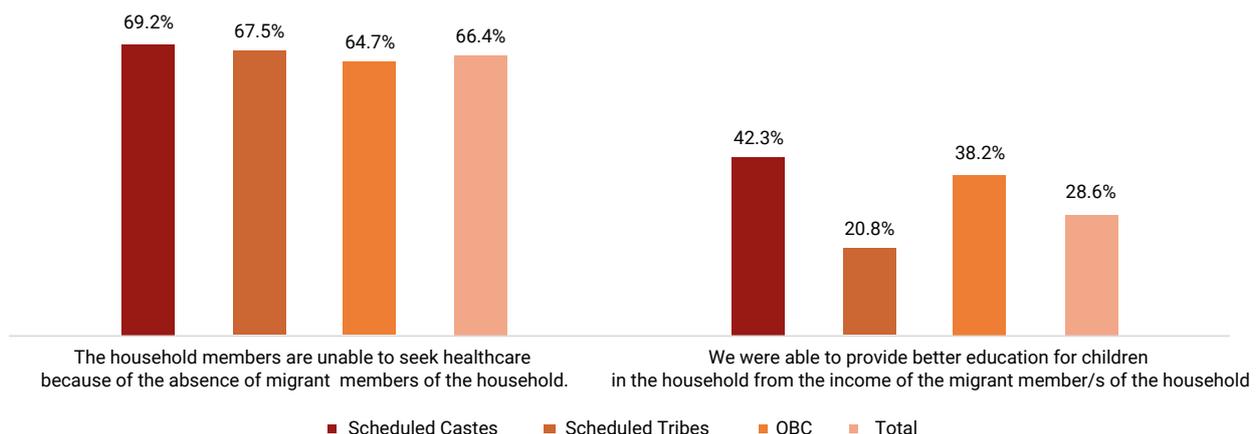
Figure.2.12: Percentage of households with migrants by select assets created/purchased in the past 10 years from the exclusive income of migrant members and ethnicity, N:140



Education and Health

Two out of every three households with a history of migration reported that the household members were unable to seek healthcare due to the absence of migrant members. Almost thirty per cent of the households were able to provide better education for children in the household with the income from migration. Over two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes with a history of migration were able to provide better education for children. This proportion was around twenty per cent for households from Scheduled Tribes.

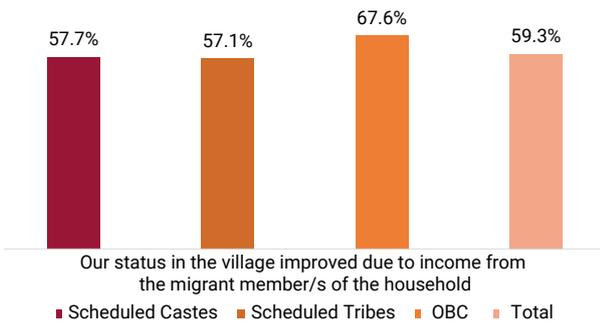
Figure.2.13: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on education and health by ethnicity, N:140



Status in the Village and Aspirations

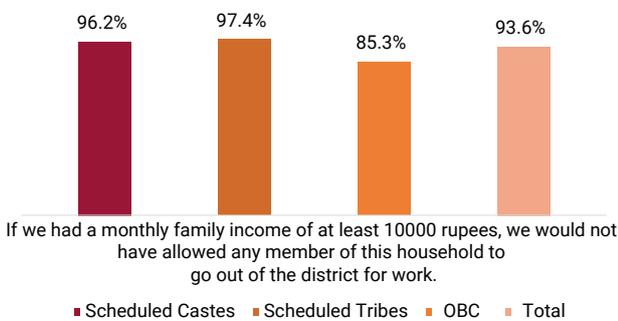
The study found that nearly three-fifths of all households with a history of migration believed that there was an improvement in their status in the village due to the income from migrant members (Figure.2.14). Over two-thirds of the households belonging to Other Backward Communities perceived this improvement.

Figure.2.14: Percentage of households with migration history that reported improvement in status in the village due to the income from migrant members and ethnicity, N:140



The households were also asked if an earning or income of ₹10000 in the village would prevent the migration of members for work. Over ninety per cent of the households reported that if they earned at least ₹10000 in the village then they would not allow any family member to go out of the district for work. This was the case amongst almost all the households from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Nearly 85 per cent of the households with a history of migration from Other Backward Communities reported that an income of ₹10000 in the village would prevent migration of the household members.

Figure.2.15: Percentage of households with migration history that reported choosing to work within the district if they could earn an income of ₹10000 and ethnicity, N:140



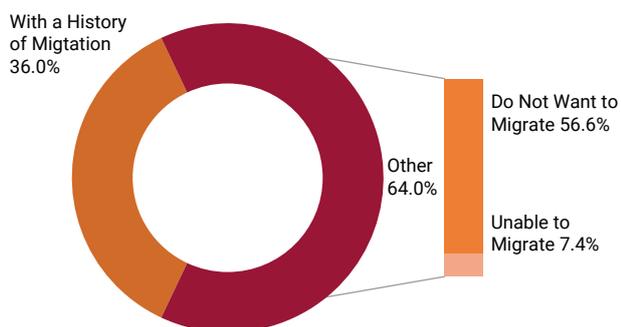
Over ninety per cent of the households in Baliguda reported that if they earned a monthly income of at least ₹10000 in the village, they will not allow any family member to go out of the district for work



Barriers to Migration

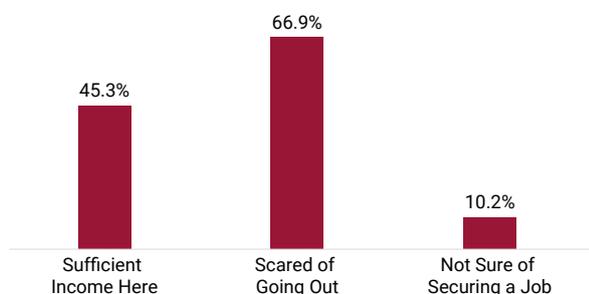
Over one-third of the households in Baliguda had a history of labour migration (Figure.2.16). The households without a history of labour migration were enquired whether they were unable to migrate or did not want to migrate. Most of them reported that they did not want to migrate while around seven per cent of the households were unable to migrate. Both the groups were enquired about the reason for their decision not to migrate.

Figure.2.16: Distribution of households in baliguda by migration status, N:417



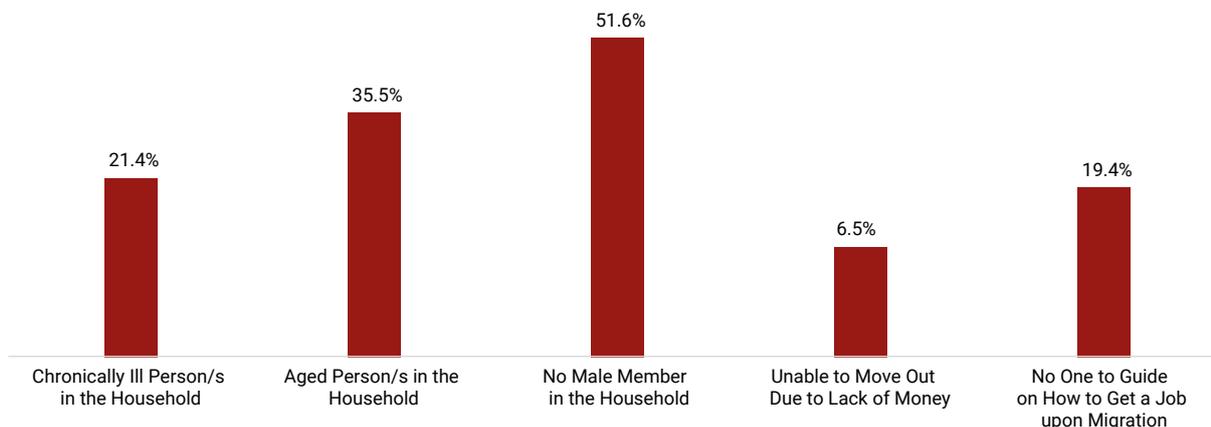
Among the households who reported that they did not wish to migrate by choice, two out of every three households reported that they were scared of going out (Figure.2.17). A little less than half of the households felt that they earned a sufficient income in Baliguda while ten per cent were unsure of securing a job if they were to migrate.

Figure.2.17: Percentage of households with members who do not want to migrate by reason, N: 236



There were 31 households who reported that they were unable to migrate due to various factors. More than half among them reported that they were unable to move out due to the absence of a male member in the household. Over one-third of the households reported that there were aged persons due to which migration was impossible. Around twenty per cent of the households reported that there were chronically ill persons in the household and another twenty per cent reported that there was no one to guide them on how to get a job if they were to migrate. Less than seven percent of the households reported that migration had not been possible due to the shortage of money.

Figure.2.18: Percentage of households with members who are unable to migrate by select reasons, N: 31



Profile of Migrant Workers



Sociodemographic Profile

All the migrant workers from the sample households were listed during the household interviews and from the current migrant workers in each sample household, the person who made the largest economic contribution 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 94 such migrant workers from the sample households.

In order to understand the profile of migrant workers from Baliguda, information was elicited about their ethnic background, age, educational attainment, marital status, etc. More than half of the migrant workers from Baliguda belonged to Scheduled Tribes (Figure.3.1). Slightly less than a quarter of all migrant workers were from Scheduled Castes and one-fifth of the workers were from Other Backward Communities (OBC). Since the 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 Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. The number of cases under Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities did not permit separate analysis.

Figure.3.1: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by ethnicity, N:94



Overall, one in every five workers was in the age group of 15 to 19 years (Table.3.1). While over one-third of the migrants from tribal communities were in the age group of 20 to 24 years, less than a quarter of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities belonged to this category. By and large, above one-fifth of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic status, were of age 30 years and above. The average migrant from tribal communities was three years younger compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. The majority of the migrant workers were male while about 11 per cent were female. The share of female migrants was almost three times higher among the tribal communities compared to Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Table.3.1: Distribution of migrant workers by select background characteristics and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age in Years			
15 to 19	24.5	19.5	22.3
20 to 24	34.0	24.4	29.8
25 to 29	20.8	34.1	26.6
30 and above	20.8	22.0	21.3
Median Age (Years)	22	25	23
Sex			
Male	84.9	92.7	88.3
Female	15.1	4.9	10.6
Other	0	2.4	1.1
Literacy			
Literate	96.2	100.0	97.9
Illiterate	3.8	0.0	2.1
Educational Attainment			
No Formal Education	7.5	2.4	5.3
Lower Primary	0.0	7.3	3.2
Upper Primary	18.9	19.5	19.1
Secondary (High School)	54.7	48.8	52.1
Senior Secondary (Higher Secondary)	9.4	12.2	10.6
Above Senior Secondary	9.4	9.8	9.6
Median Years of Education	9	9	9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53	41	94

Even with high levels of literacy rates among the migrant workers, highest educational attainment reported by any migrant worker was only up to secondary level irrespective of ethnic groups. Less than 10 percent of the workers reported an educational attainment beyond senior secondary. The median educational attainment of the workers was nine years.

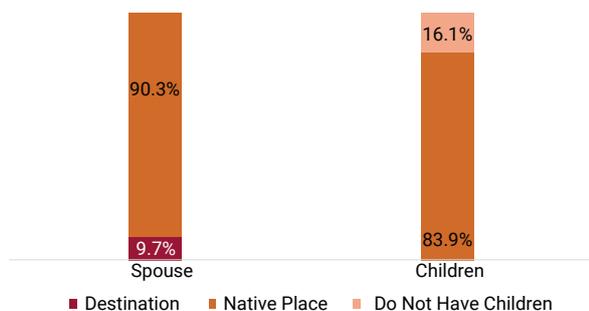
The workers were enquired about their marital status (Table.3.2). Nearly one-third of them, irrespective of their ethnicity, were unmarried. Overall, seven per cent of the migrant workers had no one exclusively dependent on their income. Over two-fifths of the workers, with a slightly lower share of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, had four to six dependents. Percentage of families with seven and more persons exclusively depending on the income of migrant workers was higher among the Scheduled Tribes. The average number of dependent members was four.

Table.3.2: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by marital status, number of dependents and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Marital Status			
Never Married	32.1	34.1	33.0
Currently Married	66.0	65.9	66.0
Separated/Divorced/Widower	1.9	0	1.1
Number of Dependents			
None	7.5	7.3	7.4
1 to 3	34.0	43.9	38.3
4 to 6	43.4	39.0	41.5
7 and above	15.1	9.8	12.8
Median	4.0	3.0	4.0
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

The migrants, who reported being currently married, were enquired about the location of residence of their spouses and children on the day of announcement of the lockdown (Figure.3.2). Except 10 per cent of the migrants, all reported that their spouses stayed in their native places. Most of them also reported that the children also stayed behind in their native places, indicating that the majority of the migrant workers from Baliguda move without families.

Figure.3.2: Percentage distribution of currently married migrants by location of spouse and children at the time of lockdown, N:31



Most married male migrants did not take their spouse/children to the destinations

Migration History

The migration history of the workers was explored to gather insights into the factors that influenced their migration. Information was gathered about their age at migration, occupation prior to migration, previous history of migration and important factors that pushed them to seek work elsewhere. Table.3.3 provides the distribution of workers by select characteristics related to migration. A large majority of nearly three-fifths of all workers, with a slightly lower share of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, first moved out of Baliguda for work at the age of 19 years or below. Over a quarter of all workers from Baliguda made their first migratory move at ages of 20 to 24 years. The median age at first migration was 19 years, irrespective of the ethnic status of the labourers.

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	7.5	7.3	7.4
15 to 19	54.7	48.8	52.1
20 to 24	28.3	26.8	27.7
25 and above	9.4	17.1	12.8
Median Age (Years)	19	19	19
Occupation Prior to Migration			
Student	15.1	14.6	14.9
Unemployed	54.7	61.0	57.4
Agricultural Labourer	26.4	19.5	23.4
Other	3.8	4.9	4.3
Number of Prior Inter-State Movements for Work			
None	67.9	58.5	63.8
One	22.6	29.3	25.5
More than One	9.4	12.2	10.6
Reason for Moving Out			
Low Wage	52.8	65.9	58.5
Lack of Employment	37.7	24.4	31.9
Irregular Employment	7.5	9.8	8.5
Other Reasons	1.9	0.0	1.1
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Around four-fifths of the migrant workers, irrespective of ethnicity, were either unemployed or engaged in agricultural labour before they first moved out of the native place for work. Unemployment was more prominent among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to workers from tribal communities. Nearly 15 per cent of them were students before they first migrated for work. None of the workers reported to have worked outside the country. While over three-fifths of all workers had not worked in other Indian states before moving to the current destination, over a quarter of them reported having worked in other states. Nearly three-fifths of the workers reported low wages and nearly one-third cited lack of employment as the important reasons for moving out of their villages.

Current Destination

In order to understand the pull factors of migration, all the migrants were asked about their current destination state and district. The reasons for choosing the particular destination and type of destination 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	
Destination State When Lockdown Was Announced			
Odisha	15.1	9.8	12.8
Kerala	45.3	39.0	42.6
Tamil Nadu	18.9	39.0	27.7
Andhra Pradesh	5.7	7.3	6.4
Karnataka	9.4	2.4	6.4
Gujarat	3.8	0	2.1
Maharashtra	1.9	2.4	2.1
Destination District When Lockdown Was Announced			
Khordha (Odisha)	15.1	7.3	11.7
Bengaluru Rural (Karnataka)	5.7	2.4	4.3
Bengaluru Urban (Karnataka)	3.8	2.4	3.2
Hyderabad (Telangana)	5.7	2.4	4.3
Mumbai Suburban (Maharashtra)	1.9	0	1.1
Thrissur (Kerala)	3.8	2.4	3.2
Ernakulam (Kerala)	22.6	24.4	23.4
Kannur (Kerala)	7.5	7.3	7.4
Pathanamthitta (Kerala)	1.9	0	1.1
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	11.3	17.1	13.8
Surat (Gujarat)	1.9	0	1.1
Do Not Know	0	2.4	1.1
Others	18.9	31.7	24.5
Category of Destination			
City	75.5	80.5	77.7
Village	24.5	19.5	22.3
Reason for Choosing This Destination			
High Wage Rates	56.6	68.3	61.7
Continuous Employment	43.4	31.7	38.3
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Over 85 per cent of the current migrants reported their destinations outside Odisha. Two-fifths of all workers, with a slightly larger share of workers from Scheduled Tribes, reported Kerala as their current destination. Tamil Nadu was the next prominent destination state where a little over a quarter of the migrants worked at the time of announcement of the national lockdown. Southern states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were other important destinations for workers from Baliguda.

Analysing the destination districts, Ernakulam and Chennai emerged as the most frequently reported destination districts. The other three districts reported from Kerala were Thrissur, Kannur and Pathanamthitta. The majority of the workers reported their destinations as urban centres. Over three-fifths of all workers reported high wage rates as the prime reason for choosing their respective destinations and the rest cited availability of employment opportunities.

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			
Family Members	1.9	7.3	4.3
Relatives other than Family Members	7.5	4.9	6.4
Friends	13.2	19.5	16.0
Villagers other than Friends	64.2	48.8	57.4
No one	17.0	29.3	22.3
Fluency in Local Language (Destination)			
Speak	37.7	51.2	43.6
Comprehend	64.2	87.8	74.5
Read	17.0	12.2	14.9
Write	20.8	12.2	17.0
No Knowledge of Local Language	11.3	9.8	10.6
Number	53	41	94

Overall, 57 per cent of the workers reported that people from their village were present at the current destination before their first arrival. Reliance on the network of villagers other than friends was more common for workers from tribal communities compared to their counterparts. Friends were present prior to their arrival in the case of 16 per cent of the migrants. Over 10 per cent of the migrants had family members or relatives at the destination before they migrated. The clustering of significant others was more prominent among the workers from the tribal communities than others. About 17 per cent of the workers from Scheduled Tribes had no acquaintances present at the destination. This was almost 30 per cent for workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Nearly three-fourths of the migrant workers revealed that they could comprehend the local language and over two-fifths were able to speak the local language. The proportion of workers reporting their ability to comprehend and speak the local language was found to be much higher among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. Roughly less than one-fifth of the workers each reported that they could read and write the local language of the place where they worked. One in every ten workers reported that they had no knowledge of the local language.

Work Profile

The work profile of the migrant workers in terms of the process of recruitment, duration of residence at the current state, district and place is provided in Table 3.6. Nearly 70 per cent of the migrant workers from Baliguda migrated to the destination state on their own. While 43 per cent of the workers from Scheduled Tribes were recruited by others, this was only 17 per cent for workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Slightly less than half of all migrants had been working in the current destination state for less than a year and over one-fifth of them had been working in the current destination state for more than three years. The average duration of stay in the current state was about two years. Examining the groups by ethnicity, the workers from tribal communities were of recent arrival compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Table.3.6: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by duration of residence at current destination (years) and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Nature of Recruitment to Destination			
Came on My Own	56.6	82.9	68.1
Was Recruited by Someone	43.4	17.1	31.9
Current State			
Less than a Year	54.7	41.5	48.9
1 to 1.9	24.5	24.4	24.5
2 to 2.9	1.9	9.8	5.3
3 and above	18.9	24.4	21.3
Median Duration (Year)	1	2	2
Current District			
Less than a Year	58.5	39.0	50.0
1 to 1.9	20.8	22.0	21.3
2 to 2.9	1.9	7.3	4.3
3 and above	18.9	31.7	24.5
Median Duration	1	2	1.5
Current Place			
Less than a Year	62.3	43.9	54.3
1 to 1.9	18.9	17.1	18.1
2 to 2.9	1.9	9.8	5.3
3 and above	17.0	29.3	22.3
Median Duration	1	2	1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53	41	94

► Profile of Migrant Workers

One in every two workers had been continuously working at the current place for less than one year. On the other hand, 22 per cent of all workers, with a relatively lower share of workers from the tribal communities, had been working in the current place for three years and more. The median duration of work was about one and a half years and one year respectively in the current district and at the current place of work.

The workers were enquired about the category of their work, duration of such work arrangement, the sector of employment and their skill levels (Table.3.7). Two-thirds of the workers worked in shops, establishments or factories. Slightly less than three-fifths of the workers from Scheduled Tribes and a little less than four-fifths of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities also worked in such establishments. Overall, 12 per cent of the migrant workers moved with a contractor and another 12 per cent were domestic workers. Nearly one-fifth of the workers from Scheduled Tribes moved with a contractor. The proportion of migrants engaged as domestic workers did not vary across ethnic background. On average, the workers were in the current arrangement for the past nine months.

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			
Naka Worker	11.3	4.9	8.5
Employee at Shop/Establishment/Factory	58.5	78.0	67.0
Move with Contractor	17.0	4.9	11.7
Domestic Worker	11.3	12.2	11.7
Others	1.9	0	1.1
How Long in Such Work? (Months)			
Less than 6	20.8	7.3	14.9
6 to 12	56.6	48.8	53.2
Over a Year	22.6	43.9	31.9
Median Duration	9	12	9
Sector of Employment			
Construction	28.3	9.8	20.2
Hotel/Restaurant	5.7	14.6	9.6
Mine/ Quarry Worker	7.5	2.4	5.3
Worker in Shop/Establishment	11.3	22.0	16.0
Factory Worker	28.3	31.7	29.8
Garment Worker	11.3	12.2	11.7
Domestic Worker	3.8	4.9	4.3
Other	3.8	2.4	3.2
Skill Levels			
Unskilled/Semi-Skilled Worker	64.2	73.2	68.1
Skilled Worker	34.0	24.4	29.8
Labour Contractor	1.9	2.4	2.1
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Migrants from Baliguda worked in diverse fields. Three out of every ten workers, across the ethnic categories, worked in factories. About one-fifth of all workers were engaged in the construction sector. Construction sector absorbed over a quarter of the migrant labourers from tribal communities and 10 per cent of the migrants from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Shops and establishment engaged 16 per cent of the workers. Hotel and restaurant, mining and quarrying, garments and domestic work were the other sectors which employed migrant workers from Baliguda. Two in every three migrant workers from Baliguda were unskilled/semi-skilled labourers. About 30 per cent were skilled workers. A larger proportion of migrants from Scheduled Tribes reported that they were skilled workers.

Work Duration and Overtime Allowances

The migrants were enquired about the average hours they worked in a single shift and whether they received overtime allowances (Table.3.8). The median duration of work in a single shift was eight hours for the workers, irrespective of the ethnic group. Nearly 70 per cent of the migrants, with a relatively larger share of workers from Scheduled Tribes, reported that their single shift was of eight hours. The proportion of migrant workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities who worked for more than eight hours was almost double compared to the proportion of workers from Scheduled Tribes who worked for more than 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	77.4	56.1	68.1
9 to 11	5.7	4.9	5.3
12	17.0	39.0	26.6
Median Hours	8	8	8
Whether Getting Overtime Allowance			
Yes	60.4	65.9	62.8
No	39.6	34.1	37.2
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Nearly two-thirds of the workers reported that they got overtime allowances. The proportion of workers who received overtime allowances was slightly lesser among the workers from Scheduled Tribes compared to those from Other Disadvantaged 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 average, the workers received a monthly income of ₹10000 from the wages at the destination. Overall, about 23 per cent of the workers gained a monthly income ₹15000 and above. It was also noted that over one-third of the migrant workers received a monthly income of less than ₹10000. Over half of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities had a monthly income between ₹10000 and ₹14999 at the time of announcement of the lockdown. The majority of the workers received their wages in cash. However, two-fifths of the workers received their wages in their bank accounts.

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	39.6	31.7	36.2
10000 to 14999	32.1	51.2	40.4
15000 and above	28.3	17.1	23.4
Median Income (₹)	10000	10000	10000
Mode of Payment			
Cash	54.7	61.0	57.4
Bank Account	45.3	39.0	42.6
Person in Charge of Payment of Wages			
Employer	71.7	82.9	76.6
Contractor	28.3	17.1	23.4
Wage Arrangements			
Daily Wage	20.8	9.8	16.0
Monthly Salary	54.7	61.0	57.4
Piece Rate	24.5	26.8	25.5
Other	0.0	2.4	1.1
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Over three-fourths of the workers received their wages from their employers whereas contractors were responsible for the payment of wages in the case of others. Nearly three-fifths of the workers received the wages on a monthly basis. Over a quarter of the workers were paid on a piece rate. The proportion of workers who received daily wages was larger among the workers from Scheduled Tribes compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. A moderate estimate reveals that Baliguda receives about ₹398 million annually as wages to migrant workers.

Employment-Related Benefits

The workers were enquired about the social security benefits they enjoyed at the 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. Over four-fifths of the workers had no access to employment-related benefits. This proportion was 88 per cent among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities as against 79 per cent among the tribal communities. Nearly 17 per cent of all workers, with a slightly higher share of workers from tribal communities, reported to have Provident Fund. None of the workers received gratuity or pension benefits.

Table.3.10: Percentage of migrant workers who enjoy select employment related benefits and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
No Benefits	79.2	87.8	83.0
Provident Fund	20.8	12.2	17.0
Number	53	41	94

Living Arrangements

The living arrangements of the workers were examined (Table.3.11). Details about accommodation arrangements, type of accommodation, sharing of 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. Around four-fifths of the workers reported that they stayed with other workers. Such arrangements were more prominent in the case of workers from tribal communities. Nearly 15 per cent 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 Other Disadvantaged Communities. Twelve per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported staying alone at the destination while none of the workers from Scheduled Tribes mentioned such an arrangement.



Most migrants stayed with the other workers at the accommodation provided by employer

Table.3.11: Percentage distribution of workers by living arrangements and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Accommodation Arrangement (Percentage)			
Other Workers	83.0	75.6	79.8
Family or Friends	17.0	12.2	14.9
Alone	0.0	12.2	5.3
Others	1.9	0.0	1.1
Type of Accommodation			
Workers' Quarters by Employer	75.5	73.2	74.5
Rented Room	18.9	17.1	18.1
Independent Rented House	1.9	7.3	4.3
Own House	0.0	2.4	1.1
Worksite	3.8	0.0	2.1
Monthly Rent			
No Rent	77.4	73.2	75.5
2000 or Less	15.1	4.9	10.6
Above 2000	7.5	22.0	13.8
Median	0	0	0
Number of Persons Sleeping in the Same Room			
3 or Less	30.2	34.1	31.9
4 to 6	56.6	43.9	51.1
7 and above	13.2	22.0	17.0
Median	5	4	5
Availability of Select Facilities at Place of Accommodation (Percentage)			
Electricity	100.0	100.0	100.0
At Least One Functional Toilet	94.3	92.7	93.6
Drinking Water	98.1	97.6	97.9
Average Monthly Expenditure (₹)			
Less than 2000	47.2	26.8	38.3
2000 to 3000	39.6	39.0	39.4
Above 3000	13.2	34.1	22.3
Median Expenditure	2000	2400	2000
Practice of Cooking			
Yes	86.8	63.4	76.6
No	13.2	36.6	23.4
Number	53	41	94

► Profile of Migrant Workers

About three-fourths of the workers stayed in workers' quarters provided by the employers. Nearly one-fifth of the workers, across the ethnic backgrounds, stayed in independent rented rooms. Overall, three-fourths of the workers did not pay any rent for their accommodation. Labourers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were found to be paying higher rents for their accommodation at the destination. On average, five people shared a single room to sleep. Nearly one-third of the migrant labourers reported that up to three people shared the room where they slept. Over half of the workers shared the room with four to six people. Most of the workers reported that their place of accommodation had electricity, drinking water and at least one functional toilet.

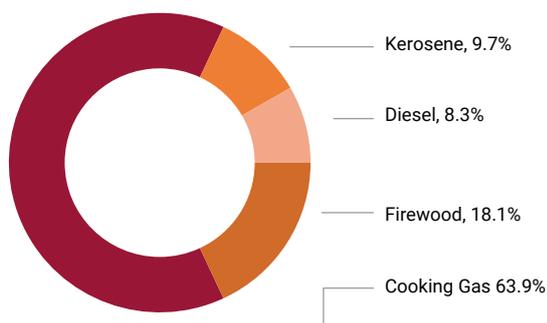
The median monthly expenditure of the migrant workers at their respective destination was ₹2000. The average expenditure of workers from tribal communities was lower than those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Nearly two-fifths of all workers incurred an expenditure below ₹2000 to ₹3000 per month and 22 per cent had a monthly expenditure of above ₹3000. The proportion of workers who incurred an expenditure above ₹3000 per month was 13 per cent in the case of workers from tribal communities. However, this was 34 per cent in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities. Three in every four workers cooked their food at the destination. A larger share of workers from tribal communities did this compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Figure.3.3: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who cook by availability of separate kitchen, N:72



Among those who cooked, slightly over a quarter of the workers reported the availability of a separate kitchen at the place of accommodation (Figure 3.3). Nearly two-thirds of the workers who cooked used cooking gas and about one-fifth of the workers used firewood as fuel (Figure.3.4).

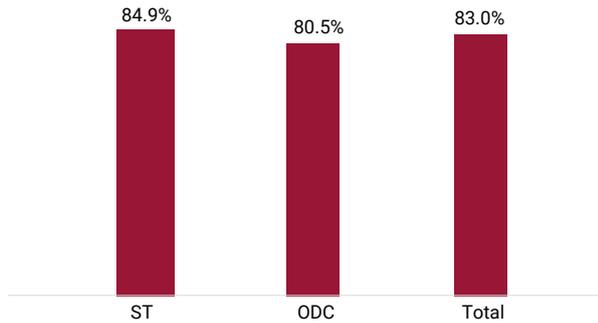
Figure.3.4: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who cook, by fuel used for cooking, N:72



Bank Accounts

The study examined if the workers had bank/post office accounts of their own and the type of their accounts. It was found that four in every five migrant workers had a bank/post office account of their own. In the case of migrant workers from tribal communities it was 85 per cent.

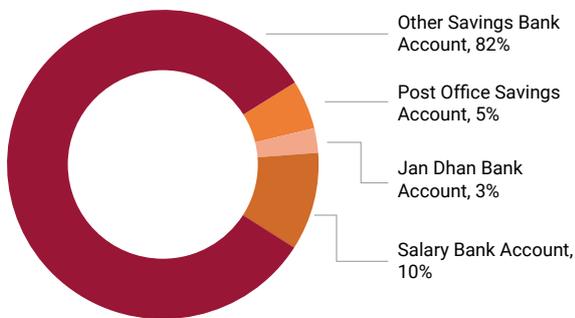
Figure.3.5: Percentage of workers with own bank/post office account, N:94



Four in every five migrant workers had a bank/post office account of their own. Only a few of them were Jan Dhan accounts

The workers who reported having bank/post office accounts were further requested to provide information about the type of accounts they had. Figure.3.6 presents the findings from the same. It was found that slightly over four-fifths of them had other savings accounts and only three per cent of the workers had Jan Dhan accounts. Ten per cent of the respondents had salary accounts.

Figure.3.6: Percentage distribution of migrant workers with bank/post office account by type of account, N:78



Remittances

The study explored the remittance behaviour of the workers from Baliguda. Workers were enquired about the frequency of sending money home, the mode of transferring remittances, and the average remittance made in the last three months prior to the national lockdown. Details on their average monthly savings prior to the lockdown were also sought. Overall, nearly two-thirds of the migrant workers reported that they sent money home as and when required (Table.3.12). One in every ten workers never sent money home and this proportion was over two times more among Other Disadvantaged Communities when compared to the workers from Scheduled Tribes. A quarter of the migrant workers sent money every month.



Table.3.12: Percentage distribution of workers by remittance, saving habits and ethnicity

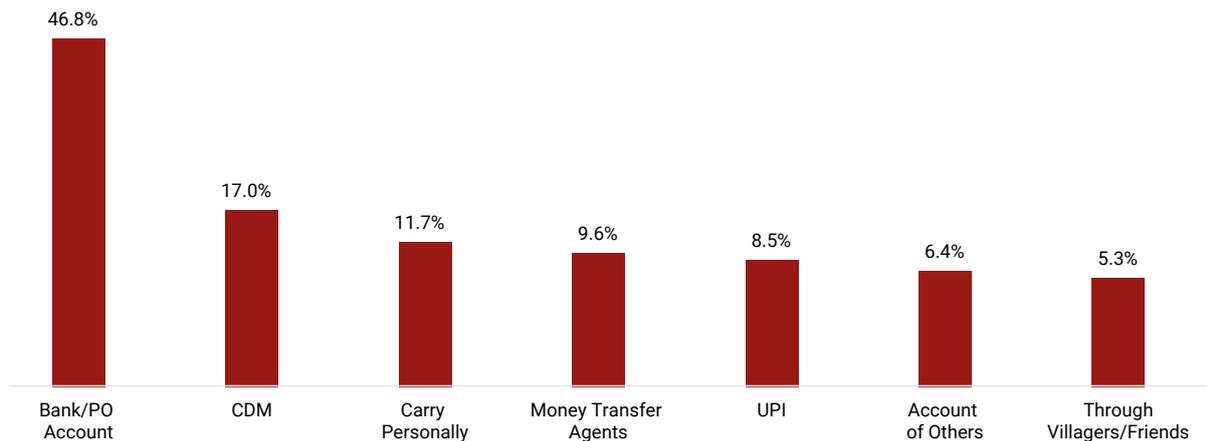
Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Frequency of Sending Money Home			
Never	5.7	14.6	9.6
Weekly	0	4.9	2.1
Monthly	28.3	19.5	24.5
As and When Required	66.0	61.0	63.8
Average Remittances in the Last Three Months (₹) Prior to Lockdown			
Did Not Send Money	13.2	19.5	16.0
10000 or below	20.8	29.3	24.5
10001 to 20000	58.5	34.1	47.9
Above 20000	7.5	17.1	11.7
Median Remittances	15000	12000	15000
Average Monthly Savings (₹) Prior to Lockdown			
No Savings	15.1	17.1	16.0
Less than 3000	32.1	29.3	30.9
3000 to 5000	34.0	36.6	35.1
Above 5000	18.9	17.1	18.1
Median Savings	3000	3000	3000
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Except 16 per cent, all workers reported sending money home in the three months prior to the lockdown. While a quarter of the workers managed to send up to ₹10000, slightly less than half of the workers remitted an amount between ₹10000 and ₹20000. The median remittance sent by the workers in the last three months prior to the lockdown was ₹15000. Workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities remitted ₹3000 less compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. The estimated monthly remittances to Baliguda block from the migrant workers were about ₹17 million.



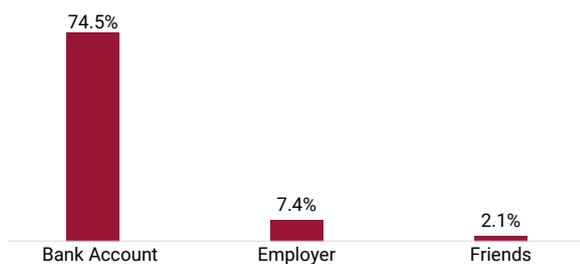
Nearly half of the workers who sent money reported using bank or post office accounts and 17 per cent used Cash Deposit Machines (Figure.3.7). About 12 per cent of the migrant workers carried cash home when they travelled. Only a small proportion of the workers relied on money transfer agents or used payment apps. About six per cent of the migrant workers sent money home through the accounts of others.

Figure.3.7: Percentage of workers who sent money by mode of remittance , N:94



Irrespective of their ethnic background the workers saved ₹3000 per month besides what they sent home (Table 3.12). Overall, 35 per cent of the workers saved in the range of ₹3000 to ₹5000 in the month prior to the lockdown. Nearly one-fifth of all workers reported saving above ₹5000 during the same time period. Three-fourths of those who saved money deposited it in bank accounts. There were also people who had entrusted it with employers or friends (Figure 3.8).

Figure.3.8: Percentage of workers who save money by mode of saving, N:94



The estimated monthly remittances to Baliguda block from the migrant workers were about ₹17 million at the time of the national lockdown

Communicating with Family

Since several villages in Baliguda do not have access to 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 workers and their family members at the native place were explored. Over 90 per cent of all workers made regular audio calls while one-fifth of them made WhatsApp audio calls too (Table.3.13). WhatsApp video calls were made by 15 per cent of the workers.

Table.3.13: Percentage distribution of workers by means of communication with family, access to mobile phone and ethnicity

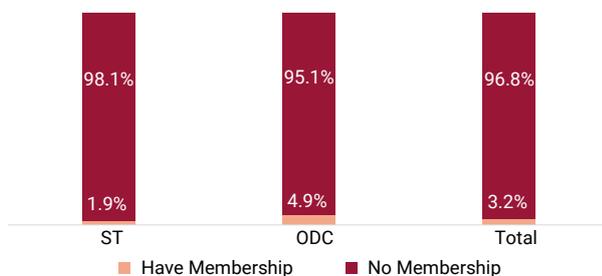
Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Type of Calls (Percentage)			
Regular Audio Call	96.2	90.2	93.6
WhatsApp Audio Call	13.2	29.3	20.2
WhatsApp Video Call	7.5	24.4	14.9
Audio/Video Calls through Other Applications	5.7	9.8	7.4
Access to Phone			
Smartphone	58.5	63.4	60.6
Basic Phone	39.6	31.7	36.2
No Mobile Phone	1.9	4.9	3.2
Number	53	41	94

The ownership of mobile phone also was explored in the survey. Only three per cent of the workers reported that they did not have mobile phones. The proportion of workers without mobile phones was slightly higher in the case of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. Three-fifths of the workers had smartphones while over one-third had basic phones. Access to smartphones was relatively better for workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes.

Collectivisation and Social Security

In order to understand how empowered the workers were 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. As evident from Figure.3.9, the majority of the workers from Baliguda were not part of any trade union at the destinations where they worked.

Figure.3.9: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by membership in trade unions at destination, N:94



The majority of the workers from Baliguda were not part of any trade union at the destinations where they worked. Nor did they benefit from the various social protection schemes/ programmes of the destination states

The workers were also enquired if they had specific entitlement documents that would help them avail benefits such as voting rights or subsidised food. In addition, possession of labour cards, health insurance, accident insurance or life insurance and membership in welfare funds that might ensure certain benefits at their respective destinations were also explored. The percentage of workers who have select documents or membership in select schemes is provided in Table.3.14.

Table.3.14: Percentage of workers by access to selected entitlements at the destination and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Ration Card at Destination	0	2.4	1.1
Voter ID at Destination	0	4.9	2.1
Labour Card at Destination	1.9	7.3	4.3
Health Insurance Scheme	0	2.4	1.1
Accident Insurance Scheme	3.8	2.4	3.2
Life/Any Other Insurance	1.9	2.4	2.1
Welfare Fund	0	4.9	2.1
Number	53	41	94

Only a few workers had any of the relevant entitlement documents that they could leverage at the destination. Overall, only two per cent of the workers reported having voter identity card at the destination and four per cent of the workers had labour cards. Percentage of workers with labour cards was higher among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. Only two per cent of the workers had membership in a welfare fund at the destination. None of the workers from Scheduled Tribes reported having a ration card, voter ID card, health insurance or membership in any welfare funds at the destination.

Impact of Lockdown on Migrant Labourers

In order to arrest the spread of COVID-19, a countrywide lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020 with a brief notice of only four hours under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005. This was a complete shocker, particularly to the migrant workers, as they lost their livelihood right in the middle of the work season (November-June). With no work and money, a lot of workers returned to their native places. In the absence of public transport and restrictions on mobility, an exodus of migrant workers on foot towards their native places became the defining image of the national lockdown. Migrant labourers from Baliguda were asked to share their experiences during the nationwide lockdown. Detailed information on how the lockdown impacted their employment was sought. Their travel experiences during their journey to the native places were also explored. This section summarises the findings.

Location at the Time of Announcement of the Lockdown

Two in every three workers from Baliguda reported that they were at their workplaces when the lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020. Two-thirds of the workers from Scheduled Tribes and 71 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were at their respective workplaces. Slightly less than 30 per cent of the workers, with almost similar proportions from the ethnic groups, were already at their native place on the date of announcement of the lockdown.

Table.3.15: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by their location at the time of announcement of the lockdown and ethnicity

Location at the Time of Lockdown	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
At Native Place	28.3	29.3	28.7
At Workplace	66.0	70.7	68.1
On the Way to the Native Place	5.7	0	3.2
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Impact of Lockdown on Employment

The migrant workers from Baliguda were asked to share the impact of the lockdown on their employment. (Table.3.16). The majority of the workers reported that their employment was not affected. However, the impact of the lockdown on employment was not similar across ethnic groups. Nearly 12 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities and 30 per cent of the workers from tribal communities lost their jobs following the lockdown.

Labourers were also asked to report their responses to the announcement of nationwide lockdown. Overall, nearly 30 per cent of the workers continued at their respective workplaces till the date of the survey. The proportion of workers who continued at the destination when the lockdown was announced was found to be higher among the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. One in every three workers from Baliguda reported returning to their native places during the lockdown. Another 21 per cent of the migrant workers returned after the lockdown. Nearly one-fifth of the workers from Scheduled Tribes and ten per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported returning to Baliguda prior to the announcement of the lockdown.

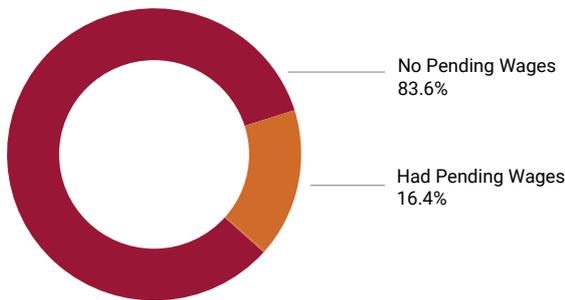
Table.3.16: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by impact of lockdown on employment, action taken and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Impact on Employment			
Lost Employment	30.2	12.2	22.3
No Change in Employment	69.8	87.8	77.7
Action Taken by the Migrant When the Lockdown Was Announced			
Stayed at Destination	22.6	36.6	28.7
Returned to Native Place during Lockdown	35.8	34.1	35.1
Returned after Lockdown	22.6	19.5	21.3
Returned Prior to Lockdown	18.9	9.8	14.9
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Impact on Wages

The announcement of the lockdown which was followed by a halt in economic activities, compelled the labourers to leave the destination for home. In this process many of them failed to collect their pending wages. To understand the impact on the wages, the migrant workers interviewed were asked to report if they had any pending wages at the time of leaving the destination for home and if so, whether they had received it.

Figure.3.10: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by status of pending wages, N:67



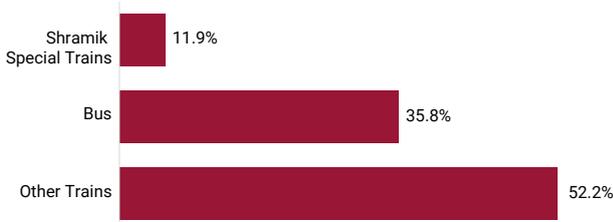
Although most of the workers did not lose their jobs, the majority of them returned to Baliguda during or after the lockdown due to a host of reasons

Out of 94 migrant workers from Baliguda, a total of 67 workers had returned to their native place prior to, during or after the lockdown. Around 16 percent reported that their wages were pending (Figure 3.10) and the pending amount ranged from ₹900 to ₹64000. Of them, seven workers had not received their wages till the date of the survey.

Travel Experience during the Lockdown

In the absence of public transport and restrictions on mobility, migrant workers had to explore other means of transport to reach home. Migrant workers from Baliguda who had returned home were asked to share their travel experiences including the mode of travel, expenditure incurred and the major source to finance the expenditure. Over half of the labours interviewed relied on trains other than the Shramik Special Trains arranged by Government of India (Figure 3.11). About 12 per cent of the migrant workers who returned to native places benefited from the Shramik trains. A total of 36 per cent of the workers relied on buses for their journey back home.

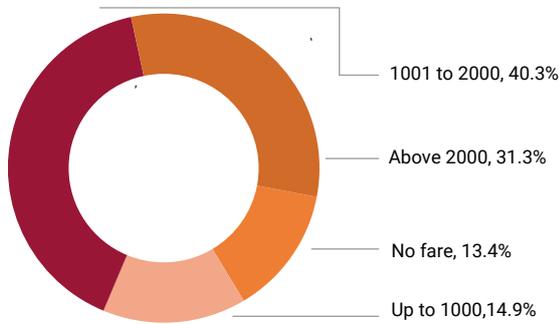
Figure.3.11: Percentage of workers by modes of travel to native place during lockdown, N: 67



One in every ten workers who returned did not incur any out-of-pocket expense for their travel home. Nearly two-fifths of them paid in the range of ₹1001 to ₹2000 (Figure 3.12). About 31 per cent of the workers incurred over ₹2000 for their return journey. The travel expenditure ranged from ₹300 to ₹9000 as reported by the workers.

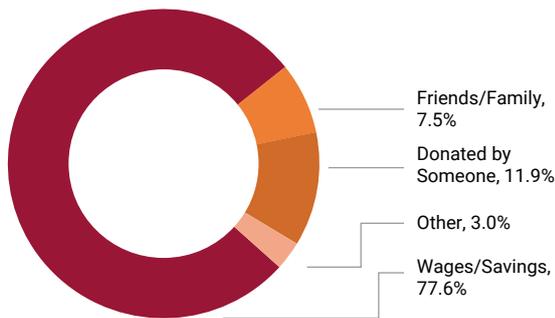
► Profile of Migrant Workers

Figure.3.12: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by travel expenditure N:67



The majority of the workers who returned, paid their travel expenditure from their wages/savings (Figure 3.13). Around 12 per cent of the migrant workers mentioned that their travel expenditure was donated by someone and another eight per cent depended on their friends and families.

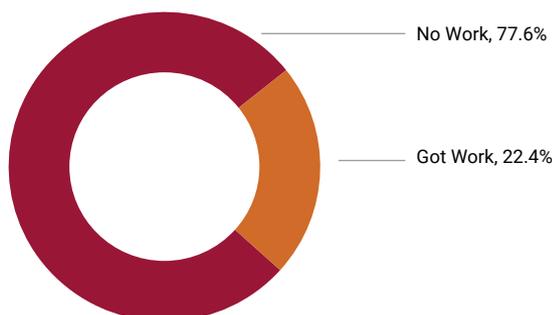
Figure.3.13: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by major source financing travel expenditure N:67



Source of Livelihood after Return from Destination

The migrants who returned to Baliguda were enquired if they were able to secure work through MGNREGS as the government had attempted to scale up opportunities for employment in the villages for such workers. This section summarises the findings. As evident from Figure.3.14, out of 67 workers who had returned, only 22 per cent could access work under MGNREGS and the number of workdays received varied between five to ninety-five days. The majority of those who got work used their job cards to access the work. Only six persons reported receiving work for more than 15 days.

Figure.3.14: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by opportunity to work under MGNREGS N:67

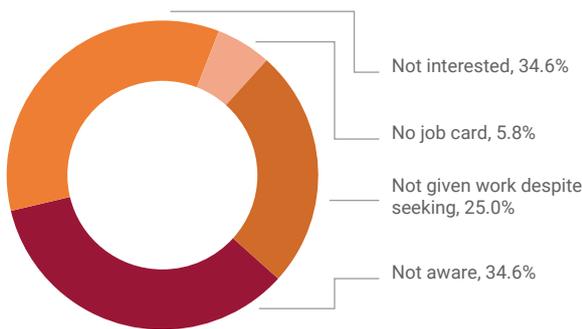


The majority of the workers who had returned to Baliguda did not benefit from the NREGS interventions of the government to promote livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers

► Profile of Migrant Workers

Labourers who did not benefit from work under MGNREGS were enquired about the major reasons for the same. About 35 per cent of them were not interested in the NREGS work (Figure 3.15). A quarter of the workers reported that they did not get work despite their attempts to seek the same. Over one-third of them were not aware of NREGS opportunities and six per cent of them did not have the job card.

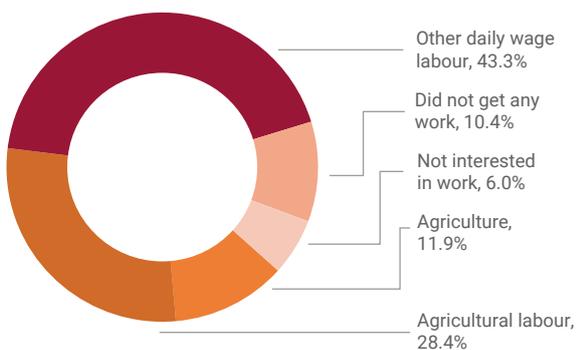
Figure.3.15: Percentage distribution of migrant workers without opportunity to work under MGNREGS by reasons for not getting work, N:52



Non-agricultural daily wage labour was the prime source of income for the migrant workers who had returned to Baliguda during or after the lockdown

Migrant workers were also asked to report their major source of income other than that from NREGS after their return to native place. Three out of every five workers who returned, worked as daily wage labourers in sectors other than agriculture (Figure 3.16). Around two-fifths of them were engaged either in farming or worked as agricultural labourers. About 10 per cent of the migrants did not get any work after returning to Baliguda during the lockdown. Slightly less than a quarter of the workers who had returned to their native places reported that they had no income from any source after their return. Nearly half of them reported an income of at least ₹2000 after returning to their villages.

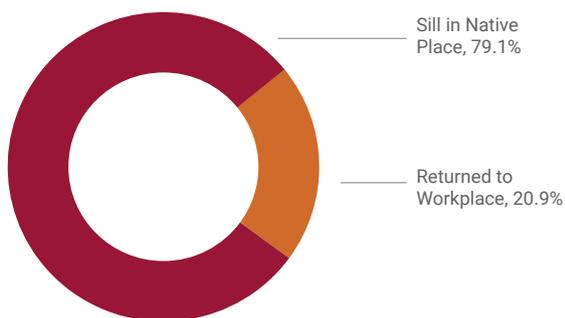
Figure.3.16: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by source of income other than MGNREGS at the native place, N:67



Current Location and Future Plans

In order to understand the migration status at the time of the survey, the workers who had returned were enquired about their location at the time of the survey. Out of 67 workers who had returned before/during or after lockdown, nearly 21 per cent went back to their workplaces (Figure 3.17). However, the majority of those who had returned during/after the lockdown were yet to return to their workplaces at the time of the survey.

Figure.3.17: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by their current location N:67



The majority of the migrant workers who had returned to Baliguda during/after the lockdown were yet to return to their workplaces at the time of the survey

Workers who were still in Baliguda at the time of the survey were enquired about their plan to return to their respective workplaces. Two-fifths of the workers were unsure of their future course of migration. Fifteen per cent of the workers had no plan to migrate any more. Others were planning to migrate again within a period of two months. Of the 14 workers who had gone back to their respective workplaces, all, except two, chose the same state where they had been working at the time of announcement of the lockdown.

Income That Prevents Migration

In order to understand the kind of interventions that could limit distress migration, the migrant workers were enquired about the minimum monthly wages they expected if they were to return to their native place and work there. The responses are presented in Table.3.17. One in every two migrant workers from Baliguda, irrespective of their ethnic background, responded that if they got a minimum monthly income of ₹10000, they preferred to stay back and work in their native place. A quarter of the migrants expressed that a minimum income between ₹10000 and ₹12000 would prevent their migration from Baliguda for work. Around 70 per cent of the workers from Scheduled Tribes and almost 90 per cent of the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities shared that they preferred to stay and work in their villages if they got a monthly income of ₹10000 to ₹12000. The median monthly income that would prevent migration from Baliguda was ₹10000.

Table.3.17: Percentage distribution of workers by expected average monthly income at native place that prevents their migration and ethnicity

Minimum Income to Prevent Migration	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Less than 10000	13.2	4.9	9.6
10000	50.9	56.1	53.2
10001 to 12000	20.8	31.7	25.5
Above 12000	15.1	7.3	11.7
Median	10000	10000	10000
Total	100	100	100
Number	53	41	94

Summary and Conclusions





Introduction

The lockdown and the subsequent measures to arrest the COVID-19 pandemic have catastrophically impacted rural Odisha which substantially depends on labour migration. Kandhamal district is one among the bottom five districts of Odisha in terms of human development. The entire district is in the high altitude zone with inaccessible terrains of hill ranges that shape the social development scenario also. Baliguda block in Kandhamal has a significant proportion of indigenous communities who depend on migration as a livelihood strategy. Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Kandhamal since 2014. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from its programme areas in Odisha. As part of its response to the first wave of COVID-19 and migration, Gram Vikas joined hands with UNDP and CMID to create awareness and enable access to social protection schemes in selected 18 blocks in six districts of Odisha. Along with this, a detailed profiling of migration from Baliguda block was done by conducting a sample survey. The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario in Baliguda so that appropriate interventions to ensure safe migration could be promoted and the household and the village economies be revived, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. For Gram Vikas, which has been exploring innovative solutions for the development of remote rural areas of Odisha and Jharkhand, this is also a deep dive into understanding the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies. The specific objectives of the study included understanding the sociodemographic profile of the households in the block and exploring the migration scenario including the estimation of the household migration rates.

Methodology

In order to obtain a good one-time estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming a ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages and Census Towns in Baliguda, 22 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) 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 among the members in the household sample who were migrants at the time of announcement of the

lockdown, the person who made the largest contribution to the income of the household was selected for the survey of migrant workers. 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. A semi-structured interview schedule in Odia, digitised using mWater survey platform, was used for data collection. A team of eight investigators with a minimum educational qualification of higher secondary and above who were conversant in the local language were engaged for data collection. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 417 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 94. The household survey was conducted from December 01, 2020 to March 03, 2021 and the survey of migrant workers took place from January 05, 2021 to March 03, 2021.

Key Findings

This section summarises the key findings from the study. A profile of the households is summarised in the first subsection which covers the sociodemographic profile, land and agriculture, livelihoods, social protection and the impact of the lockdown on the households. Migration from Baliguda is narrated in the second subsection and the third section summarises the profile of the migrant workers and the impact of the lockdown on their work and life.

Household Profile

One in every two households in Baliguda belonged to Scheduled Tribes and another one-third of the households belonged to Other Backward Communities. Households belonging to Scheduled Castes constituted around thirteen per cent of the total households while other communities comprised around four per cent. Other than eighteen per cent of the households which followed Christianity, all followed Hindu religion. The average size of a household in Baliguda was five members and there were two earning members above the age of fifteen in most households. The median number of usual residents in all the households was reported as four. The median number of years of education of the highest educated member of the household was ten.

A little less than half of the households in Baliguda still resided in kachha or temporary dwelling structures. Almost all the households owned the structures in which they resided. The chief source of finance for the construction or renovation of the dwelling units was household income other than remittances. Most households depended on dug wells, hand pumps and piped connections for drinking water. Most of the houses were electrified and depended on wood as cooking fuel. A little less than three-fifths of the households had access to a functional toilet and the access was poorer for households from Scheduled Tribes compared to others. The majority of the toilets were constructed with the support of government schemes. A little less than half of the households with toilets did not use them regularly and only about thirty per cent of the households belonging to Scheduled Tribes reported using their toilet regularly.

About one-third of the households did not own any land and landlessness was more prominent among the households from Other Backward Communities. Two-fifths of the households with land reported that their land was not irrigated and those who irrigated land primarily depended on natural springs. Over two-fifths of the households shared that their primary occupation was non-agricultural daily wage labour while agriculture was a major source of income for another two-fifths of the households. Nearly three-fifths of the households had a history of engaging in agriculture and the percentage of households currently engaged in agriculture was almost the same. Almost all the households practiced agriculture on patta land while a little over one third of the households engaged in agriculture also reported practicing agriculture on common or forest land. Most households engaged in agriculture did not employ any labourer and all the cultivation work was carried out solely by household members. Over 90 per cent of the total households used agricultural produce solely for household consumption before the lockdown was announced and the percentage remained almost the same after the lockdown. Almost 85 per cent of the households in

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Baliguda practicing agriculture reported being negatively impacted by changing weather conditions over the years. Erratic rainfall and the unavailability of water for farming were the two prominent weather challenges encountered by the households. Nearly three-fifths of the households in Baliguda owned poultry while a similar proportion of households owned cattle. More households from Scheduled Tribes owned livestock compared to others. Around 11 per cent of the households earned an income from their livestock in the three months prior to the national lockdown.

The majority of the households had Priority Household (PHH) ration cards. However, fifteen per cent of the households reported that they did not have ration cards. Four out of every five households possessed a Below Poverty Line (BPL) card. While two-thirds of the households in Baliguda had a job card which entitled them to employment under MGNREGS, only one-third of the households received workdays in 2019. More than half of the households with job cards did not receive any employment after the lockdown was announced. The average number of days of employment before and after the lockdown was zero for the households in the block that had NREGS job cards. The median income of the households at the time of the lockdown was ₹7000 and it witnessed a drastic decline to ₹2500 after the lockdown.

Nearly all households irrespective of ethnicity had at least one person with a bank account and for withdrawing money they mostly used passbooks. Three-fifths of the households had memberships in self-help groups and more than half of the households in Baliguda were enrolled in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, a social health insurance scheme of the state of Odisha. In terms of access to services, the median distance to the nearest bank where they had accounts was about eight km and the nearest functional health facility was approximately seven km away. People walked about ten minutes to reach the nearest place from where public transport was available. On average, the nearest high school where free education was available was about two km away for the households in Baliguda. Around three quarters of all households in Baliguda had mobile network in their village. Overall, Other Backward Communities had better access to services compared to others.



A little less than twenty per cent of all households in Baliguda were indebted at the time of the lockdown. Loans for agriculture and business investment, and catastrophic health expenditure were the common reasons for indebtedness. The average outstanding debt of the households was about ₹12000. Over one-third of such households had taken a loan from SHGs. Loans from the Utkal Grameen bank or SBI were also taken by a little less than one-third of the indebted households. Income from usual members of the households was a major means for loan repayment for over eighty per cent of the indebted households. Most households in Baliguda did not have any savings due to the low levels of income. Low income levels also prohibited most households from seeking quality healthcare in the case of illness of a household member. Most households in Baliguda found it difficult to engage in agriculture due to the shortage of money.

The sudden announcement of the lockdown and its aftermath had unfavourable consequences for the poorest of the households in Baliguda. Overall, about six per cent of the households had one or more members who had to skip at least one regular meal because there was no food stock or there was no money to buy food. Seven households in Baliguda had children under 15 years of age who had dropped out of school to join workforce and support their family. Almost all the households used family savings to meet expenses during or after the lockdown. Loans or advances had to be taken by over seven per cent of the households during or after the lockdown and most of these loans were either taken from a private bank or SHG. The median amount of loan or advance taken by such households from the time of the lockdown was ₹25000. Four out of every five households in Baliguda reported that they received free ration/financial assistance from the government after the national lockdown.

Migration from Baliguda

A little over one-third of the households in Baliguda had a history of labour migration. One in every three households in Baliguda had a person who had migrated for work in the past ten years. At the time of announcement of the lockdown, one in every five households in Baliguda had an inter-district migrant worker and 18 per cent of the households had a member who was an inter-state migrant worker. About three per cent of the households had seasonal migrant workers who usually spent not more than six months at the destination. About twenty per cent of the households with migrant workers had female migrants at the time of announcement of the national lockdown. Migrant workers constituted about five per cent of the population of Baliguda at the time of announcement of the national lockdown. In the case of Scheduled Castes, it was ten per cent. The total estimated number of migrant workers from Baliguda was 3979 and this was highly skewed towards males. In March 2021 about 12 per cent of the households in Baliguda had at least one member who had migrated for work outside the district. Most people had migrated outside the state.

A little less than a quarter of the households from Baliguda had usual residents who had worked elsewhere outside the district for more than 30 days but currently did not have an intention to go out of the district for work. The absence of other persons to take care of the family members and COVID-19 were the major reasons for such return migration. Nearly half of such returnees were engaged as non-agricultural daily wage labourers in Baliguda at the time of the survey. About 64 per cent of the households which did not have migrant workers were enquired about the reason. The majority of them did not want to migrate because they were scared of going out. There was also a small proportion of households in Baliguda where members wished to migrate but were unable to do so. Lack of other male members in the family, presence of the aged or chronically ill persons in the household, etc. were some of the reasons cited by the members of such households.

Examining the impact of labour migration from Baliguda, it was found that over three-fifths of the households with migrant workers would not have been able to cope with their poverty without migration. Migration also

helped nearly half of the households with migrants to improve their savings. One in every three households with migration history would not have been able to repay their loans without migration. About 13 per cent of the households in Baliguda with migrant workers were able to diversify their income as a result of migration. A little over one-third of the households with migrants were able to improve agriculture with the income of the migrant members of the households. More than a quarter of the households with migration history were able to renovate their houses and a little less than 20 per cent of the households with migrants were able to buy a new house with the income contributed by the migrant members of the households. Nearly 30 per cent of the households with a history of migration mentioned that they were able to improve the education of the children with the income of the migrant members of the household. About three-fifths of the households with a history of migration perceived an improvement in their status in the village due to the income from the migrant members of the family.

There were also negative impacts of migration. Around two-thirds of the households with migrants shared that they were unable to seek quality healthcare in the absence of the member/s who had migrated for work. Also, about 20 per cent the households had to give up agriculture due to migration of members from such households. More than 90 per cent of the households with a history of migration disclosed that no one from the household would have migrated if they had a monthly income of ₹10000 in Baliguda.

Profile of Migrant Workers

Overall, 56 per cent of the migrant workers from Baliguda belonged to Scheduled Tribes and nearly a quarter of them were from Scheduled Castes. Around one-fifth of the workers were from Other Backward Communities. Nearly 90 per cent of them were males with an average age of 25 years. Workers from Scheduled Tribes were three years younger compared to others. The median number of years of education was nine. Two-thirds of the workers were currently married. Most of those who were married, migrated without their spouses and children. The majority of the migrant workers had four or more dependents back home.

Examining their migration history, nearly three-fifths of the migrant workers from Baliguda were unemployed before they moved out of the district for work. A quarter of the migrants worked as agricultural labourers before they moved out first. The age at first migration was 19 years. Low wages and lack of employment opportunities were the two major reasons cited by the workers for moving out of the district for work.

At the time of announcement of the lockdown almost 90 per cent of the migrants were working outside the state. Most of them had moved to southern Indian states, primarily to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also emerged as important destination states for workers from Baliguda. About 12 per cent of the workers migrated within Odisha, particularly to Bhubaneswar. Over three-fourths of the workers from Baliguda had moved to urban destinations. A majority of the workers migrated on their own and not through contractors or recruiters. One in every three workers reported their destination at the time of the lockdown as Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kannur or Pathanamthitta district in Kerala.

Workers from Baliguda presented a diverse picture in terms of their sector of employment. On average, three out of every ten workers, cutting across the ethnic categories, worked as factory workers at the destination. Construction sector absorbed one-fifths of all migrant workers from Baliguda. Shops and establishments, hotel and restaurant, mining and quarrying, garments and domestic work were the other sectors of employment.

Migrants worked for eight hours, on average, drawing a monthly income of about ₹10000 and received the wages in cash. Slightly less than three-fifths of the workers received monthly salaries and a quarter of all workers were engaged on piece rates. A significant majority of 83 per cent workers did not enjoy any employment benefits. The majority of the labourers from Baliguda stayed with other workers, at the free accommodation provided by their employers. On average, each room was shared among five workers and

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most of them cooked their own food. They had access to electricity, drinking water and a functional toilet at the place of residence.

Over four-fifths of the workers had bank accounts and only three per cent of such accounts were Jan Dhan accounts. On average, the migrant workers sent about ₹15000 home in the past three months prior to the national lockdown. The estimated total monthly remittances received by households in Baliguda from migrant workers at the time of the national lockdown were about ₹17 million. Workers primarily used bank accounts or money transfer agents for remittances. Except about three per cent, all workers had mobile phones. The majority had smartphones and workers made regular audio calls to communicate with family members. WhatsApp video calls were also popular.

Only about three per cent of the migrant workers from Baliguda were part of any trade union at the destination. Possession of voter identity cards, labour cards and accident insurance was also negligible among them. Only two per cent of the migrant workers from Baliguda reported having memberships in welfare funds at the destinations. Most migrants reported that if they get a monthly income of ₹10000 at the native place they prefer not to migrate for work.

Most migrant workers from Baliguda were at their workplaces at the time of announcement of the lockdown. Over one-fifth of the workers reported a loss of employment due to the lockdown. While over 55 per cent of the workers returned to their native places during or after the lockdown, nearly 30 per cent did not return at all. Only about 12 per cent of the workers who returned reported that they benefitted from Shramik Trains organised by the government. Over two-fifths of the workers who returned incurred ₹1000 to ₹2000 towards their travel expenditure which they managed from their wages/savings.

Over one-fifth of the migrant workers from Baliguda who returned to their native places benefitted from the MGNREGS interventions of the government. One in every ten workers reported that they did not get any work at all at the native place after their return. Slightly less than a quarter of the workers had no income after returning to native places. Nearly 80 per cent of the migrant workers were yet to go back to their work destinations at the time of the survey. The workers, who returned to the destinations after the lockdown, preferred to go back to the same places and to the same employers where they had been working at the time of announcement of the lockdown.

Conclusions

- ♦ Socially and economically disadvantaged communities comprise almost the entire population of Baliguda. There is also a significant presence of Christians in the block. Agriculture continues to be the main source of income only for the tribal communities in Baliguda. Small size of the landholdings, excessive reliance on natural water sources for irrigation and changes in climatic conditions have reduced the dependence of even the indigenous populations in Baliguda on agriculture as a major source of income. However, most families have not given up agriculture altogether. While a majority of the households in Baliguda have non-farm income, small-scale and subsistence farming continue to play an important role in complementing their finances by taking care of the domestic consumption needs.
- ♦ Barring the indigenous populations, households in Baliguda primarily depend on non-farm daily wage labour as their chief source of income. The enrolment in MGNREGS, a major government intervention to revive the livelihood opportunities of the rural poor, is fairly high in the block. Substantial number of households in Baliguda (one in every three) benefitted from MGNREGS prior to the lockdown although marginally in terms of the number of days of work. While there has been a significant reduction in the income of the households in Baliguda after the lockdown, the measures to enhance the MGNREGS opportunities by the government have not transformed the state of access to MGNREGS work resulting in suboptimal utility of the scheme.

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- ◆ The access to public services varied by ethnicity for households in Baliguda, with the Scheduled Tribes having the poorest access given the remoteness of their habitats. However, in Baliguda, there is universal enrolment to banking services and the households rely on account passbooks for withdrawal of cash. The presence of self-help groups has also expanded the opportunities for access to formal credit. As an outcome of this, most households that have taken loans were able to leverage formal sources. However, the income of the households continues to be meagre, making savings difficult.
- ◆ Households in Baliguda have fairly good access to electricity, water and mobile phone network. Although more than half of the households have enrolled in the social health insurance scheme of the state government, catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure on health is one of the prime reasons for indebtedness. Access to quality and affordable healthcare services appears to be a challenge in Baliguda.
- ◆ Although migration for work appears to have picked up only in the past ten years in Baliguda, it has evolved as a key livelihood strategy for the households in the block. Most people who migrate for work are single men, typical of the long-distance internal migration in India. Most people made inter-state moves to southern Indian states, particularly to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. They primarily relied on their social ties for migration decision-making. This network-driven migration, which has already established specific inter-state corridors, is likely to increase substantially in the coming years and has the potential to improve the adaptation strategies of the households in Baliguda in the context of the changing climatic conditions.
- ◆ Migration is a key contributing factor to the economy of Baliguda, with approximately ₹170 million flowing to the block annually as remittances from the workers, improving the resilience of the households. These remittances, coupled with fairly good access to banking and SHGs have substantially prevented households in Baliguda from falling into debt traps. Migration has contributed significantly to reducing the poverty of the households with migrants in Baliguda, helping them pay off debts, save better, improve their housing and asset base, provide better access to education for children in the family and improve the household's status in the locality. However, the absence of members of the households due to migration has also considerably reduced access to healthcare for the members who stayed behind.
- ◆ The national lockdown catastrophically reduced the income of the households in Baliguda as their monthly income plunged by many folds after the lockdown. However, it did not significantly increase the debt levels of the households in Baliguda. This resilience perhaps could be a combined outcome of the subsistence agricultural practices that contributed to household consumption complemented by the interventions by the government. Most of the households in Baliguda benefitted from the post-lockdown interventions of the government such as free ration or financial support although they only suboptimally benefitted from MGNREGS.
- ◆ The lockdown did not result in loss of employment to majority of the migrant workers from Baliguda. However, a majority of them returned to native places owing to various reasons during or after the lockdown. Those who returned by and large did not benefit from the Shramik train services but had to shell out substantial amount of money from their own pockets. A large proportion of workers who had returned relied on non-agricultural daily wage employment at the native place. The majority of the workers who had returned to native places were yet to go back to workplaces even in January 2021.
- ◆ The migrants preferred to stay back and work in their native places if they had a steady monthly income of about ₹10000. The household members who stayed behind also did not want their family members to work outside the district if they had such an income. However, given the employment scenario in Baliguda, such a steady income does not seem to be feasible.

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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.



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's work also includes 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.

