

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Rayagada Block, Gajapati



**Gram
Vikas** 




UK Government

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Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

**Profiling Labour Migration from Rayagada Block,
Gajapati 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.

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Sincerely



Benoy Peter, PhD

Executive Director

Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

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Executive Summary

Gajapati district of Odisha has been carved out of Ganjam district, historically known for its out-migration. Due to lack of sustainable income sources within the block, seasonal migration has been a coping strategy for the landless and marginal farmers of Rayagada block in Gajapati. Gram Vikas joined hands with UNDP and CMID to conduct a detailed profiling of migration from Rayagada block. The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario in Rayagada 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 households in the block and exploring the migration scenario including the estimation of the household migration rates. A sample survey of 440 households was conducted during the period November 09, 2020 to December 15, 2020, randomly selecting 22 villages and 20 households from each selected village.

Findings reveal that socially and economically disadvantaged populations, predominantly Scheduled Tribe communities, comprise the majority of the households in Rayagada. Other than the tribal communities, not many in Rayagada were historically engaged in agriculture. High prevalence of landlessness, small size of landholdings, excessive reliance on rainfed agriculture and changes in climatic conditions have reduced the dependence on agriculture as a major source of income. Households in Rayagada substantially depend on migration as a livelihood strategy. Almost 45 per cent of the households reported having at least one member who had migrated out of the district for work in the past ten years. Rayagada demonstrated significant intra-state migration in addition to inter-state movements. At the time of announcement of the lockdown, over one-third of the households had an inter-district migrant worker. At the time of the lockdown, migrant workers constituted about nine per cent of the population of Rayagada. The total estimated number of migrant workers from Rayagada at the time of announcement of the lockdown was 6605. They were engaged in informal jobs with an average income of about ₹10000 from work. A moderate estimate reveals that Rayagada receives about ₹440 million annually as wages to migrant workers.

The majority of the migrants from Rayagada were at their respective workplaces at the time of announcement of the lockdown. Less than half of the workers reported a loss of employment due to the lockdown. While over a quarter of the workers returned to their native places during or after the lockdown, nearly 43 per cent did not return at all to the native place during or after the lockdown. Only about nine per cent of the workers who had returned to their native places benefited from the MGNREGS interventions of the government. Most of the migrants who had returned to native places were yet to go back to their workplaces in December 2020. The majority of the migrant workers from Rayagada expressed that they preferred to stay back if there were local opportunities to earn a minimum income of about ₹10000.

Migration from Rayagada seems to be of relatively recent origin compared to the neighbouring district of Ganjam. Most people who migrated for work were single men who made inter-state moves to southern Indian states, particularly to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh which share border with the district. There is a predominance of seasonal migration. Workers primarily relied on their social ties for migration decision-making as well as securing accommodation and jobs at the destination. Migration contributes approximately ₹180 million to the block as annual remittances from the workers. These remittances, coupled with fairly good access to banking and SHGs have substantially prevented households in Rayagada from falling into debt traps. Migration has contributed significantly to reducing the poverty of the households.

Introduction





Rayagada block in Gajapati district is known for seasonal migration

Context

The recipient of the largest international remittances in the world, migration has been a major means of coping, accumulation and adaptation for people of India. While 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 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 labour migration in India.

Temporary migration for work has been a key survival strategy for millions of rural poor from the Indian state of Odisha, with a poverty ratio of 32.6 per cent in 2011.^{1,2} A host of factors such as fluctuating agricultural production, extreme poverty, low level of literacy and recurrent natural disasters result in distress migration from several regions of the state.³ The lockdown and the subsequent measures to arrest the COVID-19 pandemic have catastrophically impacted rural Odisha which substantially depends on labour migration. Gajapati district of Odisha has been carved out of Ganjam district, historically known for its migration to the rest of India and beyond.⁴ Gajapati has a significant presence of Christian households, a religious minority community. Rayagada block of Gajapati district is a mix of highland, midland and lowland terrains. The block is known for the seasonal migration of the landless and marginal farmers due to lack of sustainable income sources within the block.⁵ Forest degradation, drying up of natural sources of water, soil degradation, erratic rainfall, erosion, etc. are some of the reasons cited for the lack of employment opportunities in Rayagada.

Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Gajapati since 1979. 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 the migration from Rayagada 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 purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario in Rayagada block 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 is 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 Rayagada block
- ◆ To estimate the household migration rates from the community development block
- ◆ To understand the sociodemographic profile of households in Rayagada

Methodology

In order to obtain a good one-time estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages in Rayagada, 22 villages were randomly selected by probability proportionate to size (PPS) and from each selected village, 20 households were selected by systematic sampling. In addition to the household survey which aimed to understand the household characteristics and estimate household migration rates, a survey of current migrant workers was also carried out. From 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 villages, villages in Rayagada were listed based on the number of households extracted from the Primacy Census Abstract (PCA) from Census 2011 and villages with less than 40 households were merged with adjacent villages to obtain a minimum of 40 households per primary sampling unit (PSU). The list of PSUs thus prepared was then sorted by panchayat and within panchayat by the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population and then by the percentage of male marginal workers to total male workers in the village. PSUs with a population of 300 or above were segmented into clusters of around 100 households by merging adjacent paras within the PSU. Two such segments were then randomly selected from all segments. In the selected PSUs, a house listing was carried out to obtain the sampling frame for the selection of households. Details on caste, total number of household members, number of inter-district migrants and number of inter-state migrants in each household were collected under the house listing. From each selected PSU, 22 households were selected for the sample survey through systematic random sampling.

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

A semi-structured interview schedule in Odia, digitised using mWater survey platform, was used for data collection. Data regarding the socio-economic profile, agriculture, land use, access to public services, state of financial inclusion, 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,

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 28, 2020 to October 23, 2020. Based on the house listing, the sample households were selected and a household survey was conducted from November 09, 2020 to December 10, 2020. 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 November 09, 2020 to December 15, 2020. A total of 2750 households were covered under the house listing. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 440 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 139. The response rate for the household survey was 100 per cent and the response rate for the migrant interviews was 99.2 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 Rayagada. 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 Gajapati 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 Rayagada by characteristics such as religion, caste, household size, education, type of ration card, employment under MGNREGS and household income. Almost 97 per cent of the households lived in rural areas of the block. Over one-fourth of the households reported Christianity as their religion while the rest followed Hinduism. Almost the entire population of the block belonged to socially marginalised communities, with an overwhelming share of Scheduled Tribes. Other Backward Communities (OBC) and Scheduled Castes (SC) constituted about 13 per cent and seven per cent respectively of the households in Rayagada (Figure 1.1). In the subsequent analysis, characteristics of the households are analysed separately for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. Since the households from communities other than Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities were small in number (seven only) the category is not separately analysed but included in the column 'Total' in the tables in the Household Profile and Migration from Rayagada sections of this report.

Figure 1.1. Percentage distribution of households by ethnicity, N:440



Household Size

Information on the number of members in a household, number of usual residents, those who are above 15 years of age, and total earning members in the household was obtained (Table.1.1). Overall, the average household size was five. While more than half of the households had five or more members, over one-third of the households had three to four members. About one-fifth of the households from Scheduled Castes, 12 per cent from the Scheduled Tribes and nine per cent from the Other Backward Communities had a total of only one to two members. Except in the case of households from Scheduled Castes, median number of usual residents excluding those who were away for education/work or other purposes for 30 days or more was four across all ethnic groups. While about one-fifth each of the tribal households and households from Other Backward Communities had less than three usual residents, nearly one-third of the households from Scheduled Castes were in this category. On average, there were three persons in the households aged 15 years and above. Three-fourths of all households had one to two earning members above the age of 15 years. Only four per cent of the households each from tribal communities and Other Backward Communities had five or more earning members above 15 years of age.

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	21.9	12.4	9.1	13.2
3 to 4	37.5	33.8	41.8	35.0
5 and above	40.6	53.8	49.1	51.8
Median	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.0
Total Number of Members in the Household Aged 15 Years and above				
1 to 2	34.4	32.9	29.1	33.0
3 to 4	40.6	43.6	45.5	43.2
5 and above	25.0	23.4	25.5	23.9
Median	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
Number of Members in the Household Aged above 15 Years Who Earn				
1 to 2	84.4	75.1	69.1	75.2
3 to 4	15.6	20.8	27.3	21.1
5 and above	0.0	4.0	3.6	3.6
Median	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Number of Usual Residents				
2 or Less	31.2	17.9	21.8	20.0
3 to 4	37.5	35.3	47.3	36.8
5 and above	31.2	46.8	30.9	43.2
Median	3	4.0	4.0	4.0
Highest Education Attained by Member of the Household				
No Education	6.3	11.3	3.6	10.0
Primary	12.5	22.8	12.7	20.9
High School	25.0	31.2	38.2	31.6
Higher Secondary	31.3	13.6	20.0	15.7
Graduation	21.9	18.5	23.6	19.3
Other	3.1	2.6	1.8	2.5
Median Educational Attainment (Years)	12.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

The highest educational attainment of any member in the household, on average, was ten years taking all households. The median of maximum educational attainment of households belonging to Scheduled Castes in Rayagada was two years higher compared to that of all other ethnic groups. One in every ten tribal households in the community development block had no one who had ever gone to school. This was least in the case of households from Other Backward Communities. Over half of the households from Scheduled Castes had persons who were educated up to higher secondary or graduation. While about 32 per cent of

the tribal households had at least one member who had attained educational level of higher secondary or graduation, this was over 40 per cent in the case of households from Other Backward Communities.

Household Income

Information about household income was also collected although it is generally not reported realistically. Along with total monthly income of the household before and after the lockdown, monthly income from usual residents was also explored (Table.1.2). The findings indicated that the median monthly income of households in Rayagada before the lockdown was ₹5000 which ranged from ₹5000 for tribal households to ₹8000 for households from Other Backward Communities. The median monthly income from usual residents before the lockdown was found to be ₹2000, indicating the critical importance of the remittances from migrant members of the family to manage the household economy in Rayagada. About 28 per cent of the households had a monthly income of ₹2000 or less prior to the lockdown. This proportion ranged from 15 per cent in the case of households belonging to Other Backward Communities to 31 per cent in the case of households from Scheduled Tribes. Only about one-fourth of the households in Rayagada reported a monthly income of above ₹10000. Two-fifths of the households from Other Backward Communities reported a monthly income greater than ₹10000 prior to the lockdown but only 16 per cent households from Scheduled Castes/community had such income. There has been a substantial dip in the monthly family income of households in Rayagada after the lockdown. Almost one in every two households reported an income below ₹2000 at the time of the survey. A detailed analysis of the impact of the lockdown on the households is provided later in this chapter.



After the lockdown, the average monthly income of households dropped from ₹5000 to ₹2100

Table.1.2: Percentage distribution of households by self-reported monthly income from all sources and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Total Monthly Income before Lockdown				
2000 or Less	21.9	31.2	14.5	28.4
2001 to 4000	18.8	16.5	12.7	16.1
4001 to 6000	15.6	9.5	9.1	9.8
6001 to 8000	6.3	9.2	14.5	9.5
8001 to 10000	21.9	9.0	9.1	9.8
Above 10000	15.6	24.6	40.0	26.4
Median	5250.0	5000.0	8000.0	5000.0
Monthly Income before Lockdown from Usual Residents				
No Income	12.5	6.6	12.7	7.7
2000 or Less	28.1	46.0	27.3	42.5
2001 to 4000	18.8	19.7	12.7	18.6
4001 to 6000	15.6	9.0	9.1	9.3
6001 to 8000	3.1	4.9	14.5	6.1
8001 to 10000	15.6	4.9	5.5	5.7
Above 10000	6.3	9.0	18.2	10.0
Median	3500.0	2000.0	3000.0	2000.0
Total Monthly Income in the Last Month after Lockdown				
No Income	0	1.2	1.8	1.1
2000 or Less	43.8	53.8	21.8	48.9
2001 to 4000	21.9	14.5	12.7	14.5
4001 to 6000	15.6	5.5	12.7	7.3
6001 to 8000	3.1	5.5	7.3	5.5
8001 to 10000	9.4	8.4	21.8	10.5
Above 10000	6.3	11.3	21.8	12.3
Median	3000.0	2000.0	6500.0	2100.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

Housing and Living Conditions

This section describes the existing housing conditions in Rayagada block. In addition to the type of housing, the study examined access to basic services such as water supply, sanitation and electricity, and also sources of finance for improving housing and living conditions. As evident from Table.1.3, almost all respondents lived in their own houses. Nearly one-third of the households in Rayagada had kachha dwelling units. Made of mostly non-durable materials, these structures are highly vulnerable to damage, especially by unfavourable climatic conditions, and require frequent repairs. One in every three households from Scheduled Tribes resided in kachha houses.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of House				
Pukka	81.3	63.6	85.5	67.7
Kachha	18.8	36.4	14.5	32.3
House Ownership				
Own	93.8	99.4	100.0	99.1
Rented	6.3	0.6	0.0	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

In order to understand whether the remittances have impacted the construction/renovation of the houses, data regarding the source of income for construction/ last renovation were collected. Over half of the households that undertook construction/renovation of the house did it with financial support from government schemes (Table 1.4). Remittances of migrant members had a minimal role in such construction/renovation. Only nearly two per cent of all households that constructed/renovated houses used remittances.

Table.1.4: Percentage distribution of households that constructed/renovated the house in the past five years by source of financing and ethnicity

Source of Financing	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Government Scheme	-	56.6	48.8	57.3
NGO Scheme	-	1.1	2.4	1.2
Household Income other than Remittances	-	40.1	46.3	39.5
Remittances of Migrant Member	-	1.8	2.4	1.8
Other	-	0.4	0.0	0.3
Total	-	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	23	272	41	342

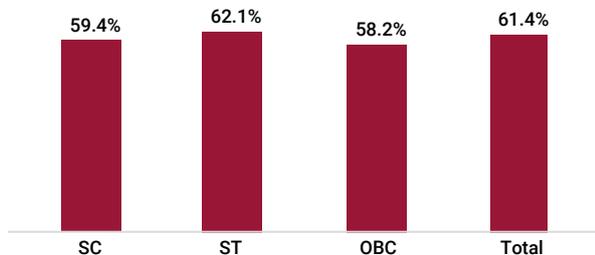
The households were then enquired about the availability of water, toilet, kitchen facilities, cooking fuel and electricity, as access to these services is crucial to determine the standard of living. Piped water supply into the dwelling was available to only six per cent of all the households (Table.1.5). However, three in every ten households reported access to piped water in their yard or plot. Over half of the households from Other Backward Communities and two-fifths of the households from Scheduled Castes reported availability of piped water in their yard or plot. Only about 30 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported having access to some form of piped water. Over one-third of the tribal households depended on public taps or standpipes as their main source of drinking water. Dug wells were also reported as the major source of drinking water by 30 per cent of all households.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Main Source of Drinking Water				
Piped into the Dwelling	9.4	6.1	5.5	6.1
Piped into Yard or Plot	40.6	25.1	52.7	29.8
Public Tap or Standpipe	9.4	34.1	20.0	30.0
Hand Pump within 100 m of House	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5
Hand Pump more than 100 m away from House	3.1	0.6	1.8	0.9
Dug Well within 100 m of House	12.5	14.2	14.5	15.0
Dug Well more than 100 m away from House	21.9	17.1	5.5	15.7
Protected Spring	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.8
Unprotected Spring	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Separate Kitchen Facility				
Available	65.6	45.1	40.0	46.1
Not Available	34.4	54.9	60.0	53.9
Source of Fuel				
LPG/Natural Gas	12.5	3.2	18.2	6.1
Biogas	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.1
Wood	87.5	95.4	81.8	92.7
Source of Lighting				
Electricity from Grid	90.6	86.1	83.6	85.0
Sharing Electricity from Grid through Another Household	9.4	12.7	14.5	13.9
Kerosene	0.0	1.2	1.8	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

A little more than half of all the households did not have a separate kitchen facility within the house. Scheduled Caste households in Rayagada were more likely to report having separate kitchen in their housing premises compared to their counterparts among tribal and Other Backward Communities. Further, firewood emerged as the main cooking fuel for over four-fifths of the households, irrespective of their ethnicities. Overall, more than nine out of every ten households were dependent on firewood as their main source of fuel for cooking. Use of LPG/natural gas was remarkably low in the community development block, with disproportionately lower share of households from Scheduled Tribes using LPG as cooking fuel. Most of the households had an electricity connection. Over four-fifths of all the households got electricity from a personal connection from the grid for lighting. Another 14 per cent households shared electricity from the grid of another household and one per cent of all households used kerosene. Over three-fifths of the households had access to a functional toilet (Figure 1.2). Availability of a functional toilet did not vary significantly across ethnic groups.

Figure.1.2: Percentage of households in Rayagada with a functional toilet, N:440



About 60 per cent of the households in Rayagada had access to a functional toilet and most households with such toilets used them regularly

The households which had a functional toilet were asked how regularly it was used and if water supply was available inside the toilet. The source of finance for the construction of toilets was also enquired to understand if remittances from migrant workers had resulted in an improvement in the sanitation conditions of the families in Rayagada. Water was available in about seventy per cent of the functional toilets. A large majority of the households, irrespective of their ethnic status, reported regular use of the toilets by the members. Most of these toilets were constructed with funding either from a government or NGO scheme. The remittances from migrant members had not contributed substantially to the construction of the toilets as evident from Table.1.6.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Availability of Water Supply in the Toilet			
Available	69.8	68.6	68.9
Not Available	30.2	31.4	31.1
Regular Use of the Toilet by Members of the Household			
Use	87.0	92.2	88.1
Do Not Use	13.0	7.8	11.9
Source of Finance for Construction of Toilet			
Government Scheme	37.2	49.0	40.0
NGO Scheme	54.0	31.4	48.9
Household Income other than Remittances	8.8	17.6	10.7
Remittances of Migrant Member	0.0	2.0	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	215	51	270

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 of Rayagada. The households belonging to Other Backward Communities had a visible advantage as far as ownership of assets and amenities such as furniture, electric and electronic appliances, mobile phones, motorcycles etc.

was concerned. Ownership of most of the assets was found to be lower among the tribal households. A basic mobile phone was one of the most common assets across the household categories. About three-fourths of the households reported having a basic mobile phone. While over seventy per cent each of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households had a basic mobile phone, 93 per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities possessed the same.

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

Asset	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Basic Mobile Phone	71.9	71.4	92.7	73.6
Chair	75.0	62.7	83.6	66.6
Electric Fan	65.6	57.8	83.6	61.8
Watch/Clock	56.3	59.0	78.2	61.4
Pressure Cooker	53.1	29.8	61.8	35.7
Smartphone	50.0	28.6	47.3	32.5
Television	28.1	21.4	50.9	26.1
Wooden Cot/Bed	31.3	21.4	40.0	25.2
Table	18.8	22.3	30.9	23.9
DTH Connection	25.0	19.9	38.2	22.5
Motorcycle/Scooter	15.6	10.1	20.0	11.8
Mattress	6.3	8.4	23.6	10.7
Bicycle	3.1	8.7	5.5	8.0
Refrigerator	3.1	3.8	14.5	5.2
Sewing Machine	3.1	2.9	7.3	3.4
Steel Cot/Bed	3.1	2.6	3.6	2.7
Any Other Telephone	0.0	2.3	3.6	2.3
Radio/Transistor	3.1	2.3	0.0	2.0
Computer/Laptop Computer	0.0	1.7	1.8	1.6
Car	3.1	1.2	1.8	1.4
Tractor	3.1	1.2	1.8	1.4
Autorickshaw	0.0	1.2	1.8	1.1
Thresher	0.0	0.9	1.8	0.9
Animal-Drawn Cart	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.7
Other Four-Wheeled Vehicles	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.2
Number	32	346	55	440

Overall, nearly one-third of the households in Rayagada had a smartphone. Possession of smartphones was found to be highest among Scheduled Caste households, followed closely by those in Other Backward Communities. About 20 per cent of households from Other Backward Communities had motorcycles or scooters whereas this was only 11 per cent in the case of tribal households. Ownership of assets which have an income-generating potential such as sewing machines, autorickshaw or cars was very low across all ethnic groups and in turn has an impact on household productivity and income diversification.

Land and Agriculture

Agriculture has traditionally been one of the main sources of livelihood among rural households. However, there has been a gradual shift in rural economies because of the reduction and fragmentation of landholdings, changing climatic conditions, employment in non-agrarian rural markets and migration to urban centres. Landownership and agricultural practice also play a role in determining the nature of migration. Households with land may have seasonal migrant members who return to the village during the farming season to assist family members in agriculture. This section examines landownership and agricultural practices of the households in Rayagada block. The households were asked details about their current family occupation, landownership and their engagement in agriculture (Table 1.8).

Non-agricultural daily wage labour was reported as the primary occupation of about 60 per cent of all households. Agriculture as the primary family occupation was reported by less than one-fifth of the households. A few households were also engaged in the service sector or had their own small-scale business. While over one-fifth of the households from Scheduled Tribes reported agriculture as their family occupation, only three per cent households from Scheduled Castes and none of the families from Other Backward Communities reported so. Engagement in farming was historically low among households other than those from Scheduled Tribes, as evident from Table 1.8. Over nine out of every ten households, each from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities, were never engaged in agricultural activities.

Table.1.8: Percentage distribution of households by engagement in agriculture and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Current Family Occupation				
Agriculture	3.1	22.0	0	17.5
Agricultural Labour	0	7.2	1.8	5.9
Other Daily Wage Labour	56.3	58.1	63.6	58.6
Business	28.1	1.4	23.6	6.4
Government Employment	6.3	7.2	9.1	7.3
Other Service	0	0.9	0	0.9
None	0	0.6	0	0.5
Other	6.3	2.6	1.8	3.0
Whether Ever Engaged in Agriculture				
Engaged in Agriculture	3.1	52.0	7.3	42.0
Not Engaged in Agriculture	96.9	48.0	92.7	58.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

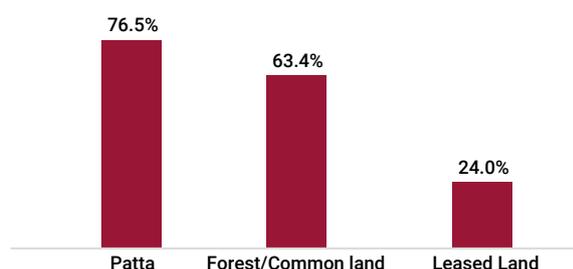
Out of 185 households that were ever engaged in agriculture, a total of 183 households were still practicing farming in Rayagada. However, the current engagement in agricultural activities was universal among tribal households (Table 1.9). Only one household from the Scheduled Castes and four from Other Backward Communities were practicing farming in Rayagada. Out of 180 tribal households ever involved in farming, two had currently discontinued the same as agriculture was no longer profitable for the households. Besides, insufficient number of family members to engage in agriculture and lack of financial resources to engage hired labourers were also cited as reasons for discontinuing farming.

Table.1.9: Percentage distribution of households by engagement in agriculture and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Engaged in Agriculture	-	99.0	-	99.0
Not Engaged in Agriculture	-	1.0	-	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1	180	4	185

In Rayagada, households use patta land, forest/common land and leased land for cultivation. Among those who were currently engaged in agriculture, over three-fourths reported that they cultivated patta land (Figure 1.3). Over 60 per cent of the households used forest/common land and 24 per cent households cultivated leased land. Sixty per cent of the households who cultivated patta land used up to one acre of land for cultivation and 16 per cent used less than one acre of land to do so.

Figure.1.3: Percentage of households in Rayagada currently engaged in agriculture by typology of land use, N:183



Over three-fifths of the households in Rayagada did not own any patta land. Only 12 per cent of the households owned more than one acre of patta land

Land Characteristics

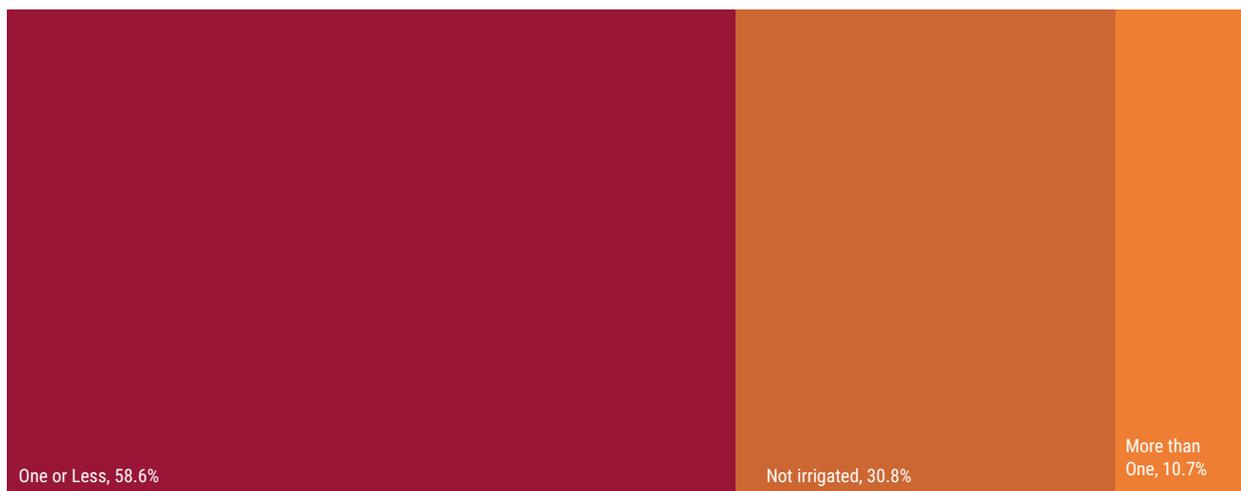
The households were enquired about the quantum of patta land they owned (Table.1.10) and how much of the patta land was irrigated (Figure 1.4). The mode of irrigation was also explored (Figure 1.5). Over three-fifths of all the households did not own any patta land and over a quarter of them owned less than one acre of patta land. Nine out of every ten households, each from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities had no patta land. About 14 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes had more than one acre of patta land, the highest across all ethnic groups.

Table.1.10: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of patta land and ethnicity

Land Owned (Acres)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No Land	90.6	53.8	89.1	61.6
1 or Less	6.3	32.4	7.3	26.8
More than 1	3.1	13.9	3.6	11.6
Median Land Owned	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

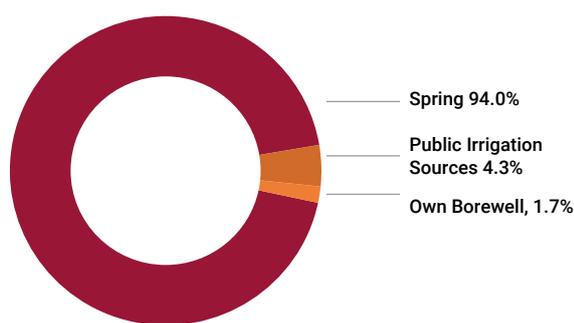
Above 30 per cent of households which owned patta land reported that their land was not at all irrigated (Figure 1.4). Slightly less than three-fifths of the households shared that maximum one acre of their patta land was irrigated. About ten per cent of the households with patta land had over one acre of their land irrigated.

Figure. 1.4: Percentage distribution of households with patta land (acres) by irrigation status, N:169



The households with irrigated patta land were asked about their mode of irrigation. The findings are summarised in Figure 1.5. About 95 per cent of the households with irrigated land were relying on springs for irrigation. Public sources were cited by about four per cent of the households and two per cent of the households had their own borewell used for irrigating the land.

Figure.1.5: Percentage distribution of households with irrigated land by mode of irrigation, N:116

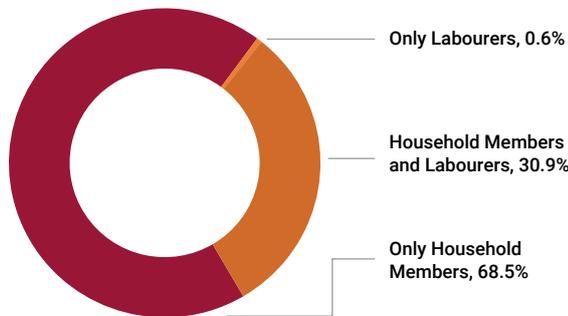


Most of the households with irrigated land relied on springs for irrigation. They were engaged in only one crop cycle per year

Cultivation Practices

The cultivation practices of the households engaged in agriculture were explored to understand how many crop cycles were undertaken in a year and if they engaged labourers other than household members (Figure 1.6). The practice related to the sale of the agricultural produce was also explored separately for the period before and after the lockdown to examine whether the lockdown had triggered any change in the selling practices (Table.1.11). Only the aggregate percentages are depicted here as separate analysis across ethnic groups was not possible following very limited number of households across ethnic categories that were currently engaged in farming activities. Almost all households practicing agriculture, predominantly from tribal communities, were engaged in only one crop cycle in the previous year.

Figure.1.6: Percentage distribution of households currently engaged in agriculture by employment of labourers in the previous year, N:183



Nine in every ten households engaged in agriculture in Rayagada used the produce exclusively for household consumption

Slightly less than 70 per cent of the households depended only on household members for agricultural labour (Figure 1.6). Over three in every ten households engaged labourers in addition to household members. Almost nine in every ten households engaged in agriculture in Rayagada, used the agricultural produce exclusively for household consumption both before and after the lockdown (Table 1.11). Post lockdown, a marginal increment in the percentage of households that sold their agricultural produce during a financial crisis was observed in Rayagada. By and large, the lockdown did not alter the practice of selling the agricultural produce to a great extent. This also reaffirms the subsistence nature of the farming activities in Rayagada implying that nothing much is actually left for selling after self-consumption.

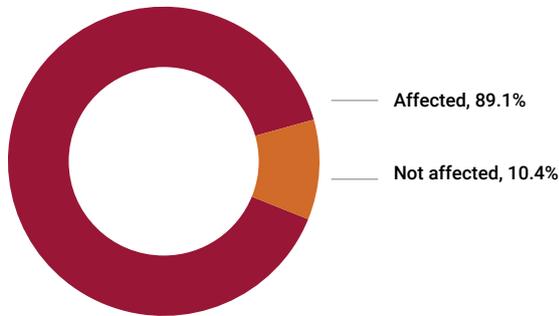
Table.1.11: Percentage distribution of households by sale of agricultural produce before and after lockdown

Sale of Agricultural Produce	Before Lockdown	After Lockdown
Used Only for Consumption	90.2	89.6
Sold during Financial Crisis	7.1	8.2
Sold Surplus Produce	2.7	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Number	183	183

Impact of Climate on Agricultural Practices

Climate change is one of the major deterrents in continuing profitable agriculture. It is often found to be responsible for pushing people out of the primary sector in rural areas and in the absence of any other decent livelihood opportunities at source, people are forced to migrate to the urban areas. An exploration was made to understand whether any change in weather over time negatively affected the ability of the households in Rayagada to engage in profitable agriculture.

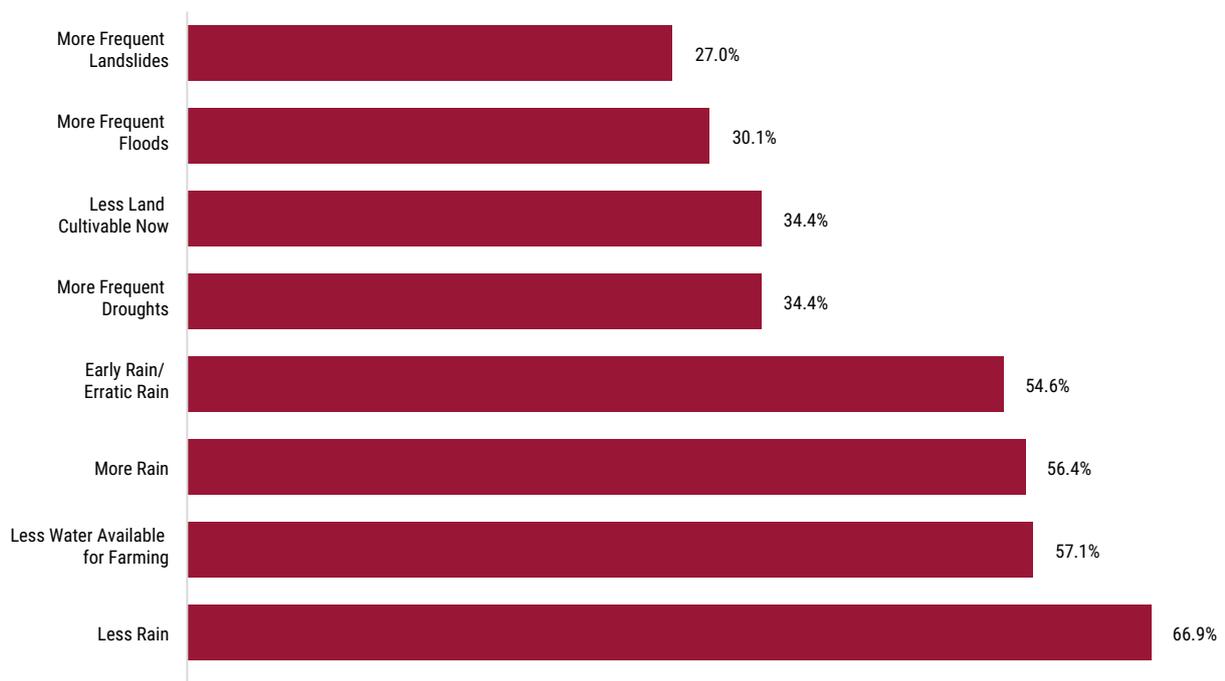
Figure.1.7: Percentage distribution of households currently engaged in agriculture by negative impact of weather, N:183



Nine in every ten households currently engaged in agriculture reported that changes in climate have negatively impacted profitable farming

Nearly nine in every ten households currently engaged in agriculture reported negative impact of changing climate to continue profitable farming (Figure 1.7). Over two-thirds of the households reported less rain as the prime factor affecting farming negatively. Erratic rains and excessive rains were also reported by a majority of the households currently engaged in agriculture (Figure 1.8).

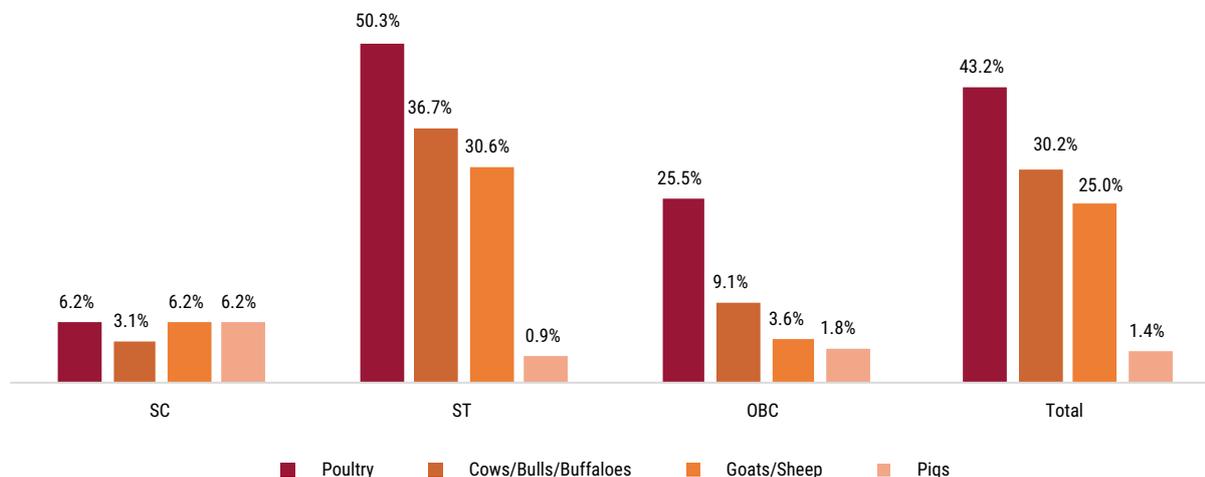
Figure.1.8 : Percentage of households currently engaged in agriculture by select negative impacts of climate, N:163



Livestock

Rearing of livestock has the potential to fill the income gaps of rural households especially during seasonal fluctuations in agriculture, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Overall, more than two-fifths of the households had poultry (Figure 1.9). About 30 per cent households reared cows/buffalos/bulls and a quarter of all households were engaged in goat/sheep rearing. The tribal households were more engaged in rearing livestock compared to the other ethnic groups. Over half of the households from the tribal communities raised poultry and nearly one-third each reported having cows/buffalos/bulls as well as goats/sheep.

Figure.1.9: Percentage of households with select livestock, N:440



The majority of the households did not earn any income from livestock in the past three months prior to the lockdown. Overall, only five households earned income from livestock in the past three months before the lockdown.

Social Security

The state of social security of the households in Rayagada block 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 under this section.

Ration Card and BPL Card

Data on the type of ration card of the households were elicited to examine the extent of food security and socio-economic conditions in Rayagada. About four per cent of households in Rayagada did not have a ration card at all (Table 1.12). This ranged from about seven per cent in the case of households from Other Backward Communities to three per cent each in the case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households. Overall, less than one per cent of the households in Rayagada had Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards for the ultra-poor. On average, 93 per cent of the households had Priority Households (PHH) ration cards, without much ethnic difference. Over four-fifths of the households in the community development block had ration cards signifying their Below Poverty Line (BPL) status. The share of BPL households was relatively lesser among households from Scheduled Castes.

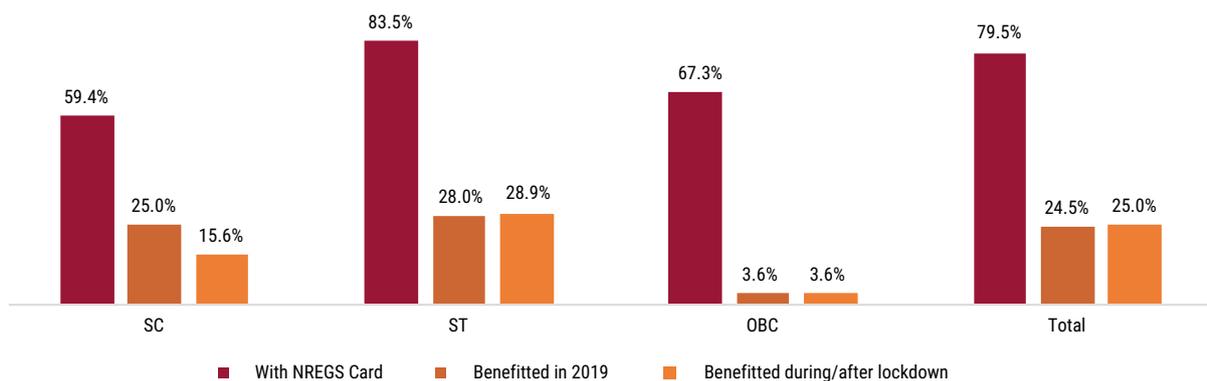
Table.1.12: Percentage distribution of households by type of ration card and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of Ration Card				
No Ration Card	3.1	3.2	7.3	3.6
AAY Card	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.7
PHH Card	96.9	92.5	92.7	93.0
Other Cards	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Do Not Know	0.0	3.2	0.0	2.5
BPL Status				
BPL	68.8	83.5	83.6	82.5
Other	31.3	16.2	16.4	17.3
Do Not Know	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

Participation in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was introduced to ensure a minimum of 100 days of employment to the vulnerable households in rural areas. During the survey, the households were asked whether they had a job card which would entitle them to work under the scheme. About four-fifths of the households in Rayagada reported that they had an MGNREGS card (Figure 1.10). While over four-fifths of the tribal households had MGNREGS jobs cards, nearly seventy per cent of the households from Other Backward Communities and 60 per cent households from Scheduled Castes had job cards. Overall, one in every four households of Rayagada reported having obtained work from MGNREGS during 2019. Families belonging to Other Backward Communities had only marginally benefited from MGNREGS work during 2019 while nearly 30 per cent tribal households and one-fourth of the households from Scheduled Castes had benefited from MGNREGS during 2019. The overall proportion of households benefitting from MGNREGS did not change much during/after the lockdown. Trends were similar for households from Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities whereas there was a dip by ten per cent points in the case of households from Scheduled Castes.

Figure.1.10: Percentage of households in Rayagada with benefits from NREGS in 2019 and during/after lockdown, N:440



Nearly seven out of every ten households that had a job card, did not get any work in 2019 (Table 1.13). Two-thirds of tribal households and over four-fifths of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities (ODCs) with an MGNREGS card, did not get any work in the past 12 months. Slightly over one-fifth of the households in Rayagada reported that they got work up to 20 days. Only less than one per cent of the households in Rayagada had received more than 40 days of work under MGNREGS in 2019 as evident from Table 1.13.

During the nationwide lockdown to arrest the spread of the COVID-19, there were conscious efforts from the government to enhance opportunities for work under MGNREGS. However, in Rayagada 65 per cent of the tribal households and 88 per cent of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities did not get any work under the scheme since the national lockdown. Though crucial for reviving the household economic base, only one-fourth of all the households received work up to 20 days since the lockdown. While 27 per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes with a job card received work between one to twenty days, this proportion was 12.5 for those from Other Backward Communities. The median number of days of work in 2019 and during/after the lockdown was zero.

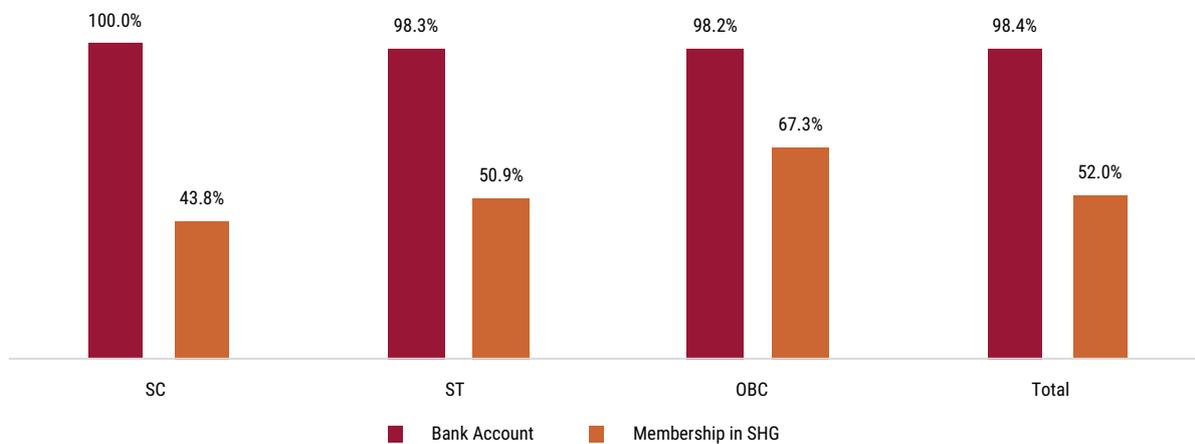
Table.1.13: Percentage distribution of households with NREGS cards by number of workdays gained in 2019 and during/after lockdown and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Days of MGNREGS Work Obtained in 2019			
No Work	66.4	82.1	69.1
1 to 20	22.5	16.1	21.4
21 to 40	10.4	1.8	8.9
41 and above	0.7	0.0	0.6
Median Workdays	0.0	0.0	0.0
Days of MGNREGS Work Obtained since Lockdown			
No Work	65.4	87.5	68.6
1 to 20	27.0	12.5	25.1
21 to 40	6.6	0.0	5.4
41 and above	1.0	0.0	0.9
Median Workdays	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	289	56	350

State of Financial Inclusion and Access to Services

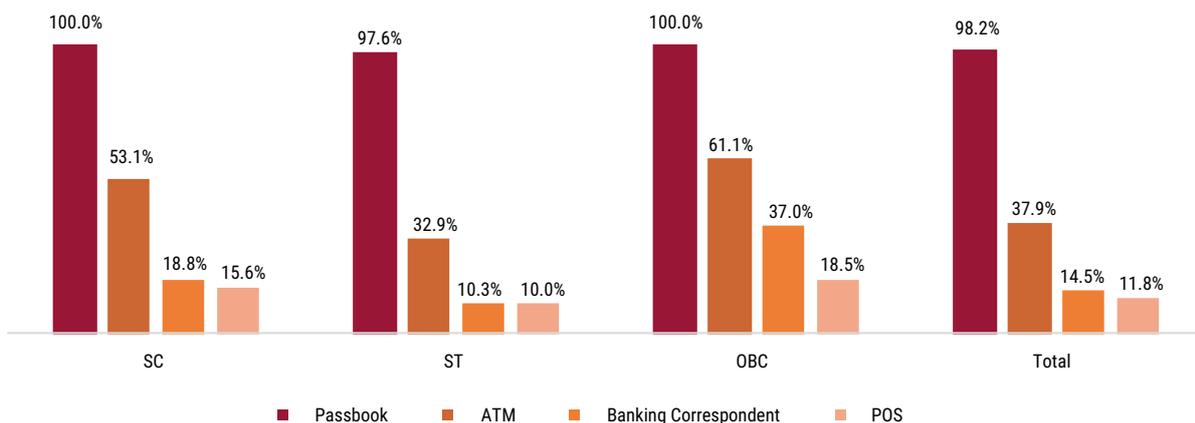
Access to banking services is increasingly significant for rural households to avail safer and more reliable sources of savings and credit. The state also transfers NREGS wages and other cash subsidies directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries in order to reduce leakages and corruption. Access of households in Rayagada to financial services was explored in the survey. As evident from Figure 1.11, about 98 per cent of the households in Rayagada had at least one usual resident with a bank account indicating universal access to banking services. One in every two households had membership in self-help groups. The proportion of households with membership in SHGs was highest among the households from Other Backward Communities.

Figure. 1.11: Percentage of households with access to select financial services, N:440



The respondents were asked about the methods used by household members with bank or post office accounts to withdraw money. Almost 98 per cent of the households used passbooks to withdraw money from the bank or post office (Figure 1.12). More than one-third of the households withdrew money from ATMs. Use of ATMs for withdrawing money was more common among households in Other Backward Communities, followed by households from Scheduled Castes.

Figure.1.12: Percentage of households with members having bank/post office accounts by select means of withdrawal of money, N:433



Overall, about 15 per cent of the households used Banking Correspondents. One in every three of the households from Other Backward Communities and 19 per cent from Scheduled Castes mentioned leveraging Banking Correspondents for withdrawing money. About 12 per cent of all households, with relatively higher shares of households from Other Backward Communities and Scheduled Castes, depended on Points of Sale (POS) for withdrawing money.

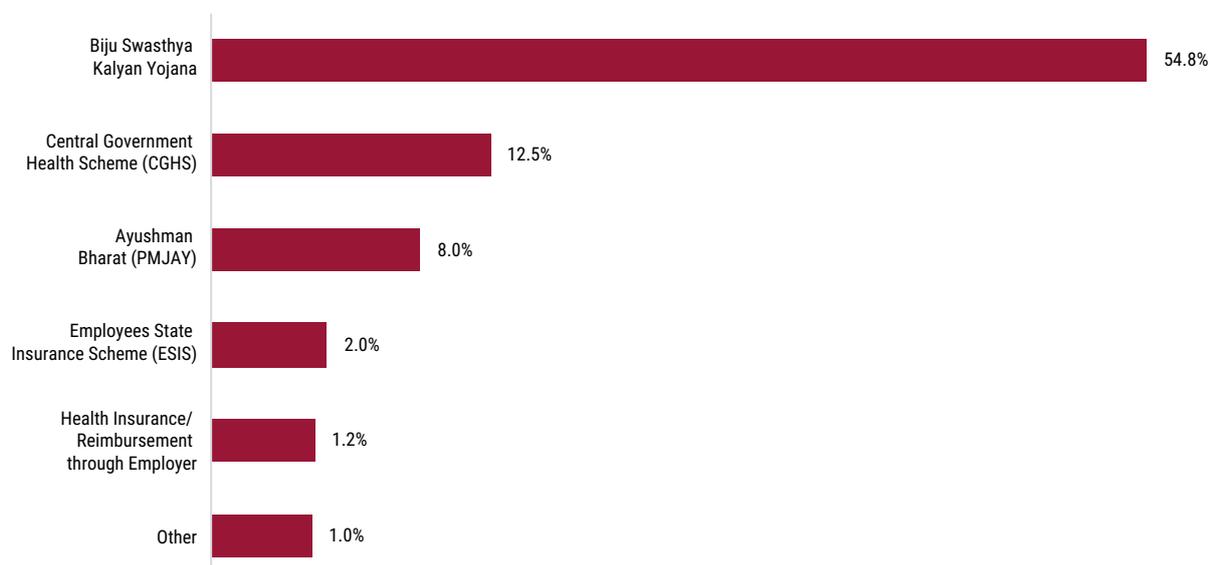
Households with bank accounts were asked generally how much time they took to fetch money or update the passbook from the bank/post office if the usual mode of commuting was followed. On average, it took six hours for a household member in Rayagada for completing one visit to the bank or post office from

where they generally withdraw money. The time taken for a visit to bank/post office was found to be lowest (three hours) for households from Scheduled Castes and highest (seven hours) for tribal households. It took five hours for a household member in Other Backward Communities to do so in Rayagada.

Health Insurance

To understand the potential out-of-pocket expenditure of the households in the case of catastrophic health expenditure, the enrolment of households in various health insurance schemes was explored. The households were asked if at least one person in the household was a member of any of the health insurance schemes, by probing each medical insurance scheme. Findings from the study are provided in Figure 1.13

Figure.1.13: Percentage of households with at least one member enrolled in select health insurance schemes, N:440



Around 55 per cent of the households were enrolled in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana which is the universal free healthcare scheme of the Government of Odisha. About 13 per cent of the households reported that they were enrolled in the Central Government Health Scheme. The enrolment in PMJAY was about eight per cent. Very few households had enrolled in other insurance schemes.

Access to Services

Table.1.14 documents the distance travelled by households to avail essential services such as bank and hospital as well as time taken to reach the nearest public transport on foot. Almost 36 per cent of the households had access to a bank where they had an account within ten kilometres of their residence. Nearly one in every three households reported that the distance to the bank was 25 km and above. The median distance travelled by households to reach a bank where they had an account was 13 km. Only less than one-fifth of the households in Rayagada reported existence of a health facility within five kilometres. Over half of the households had to travel 10 km or more to reach the nearest functional health facility. The median distance to the nearest functional health facility was 10 km for Scheduled Caste households and tribal households. For households from Other Backward Communities it was seven kilometres.

Table.1.14: Percentage distribution of households by proximity to select services and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Distance to the Nearest Bank				
Less than 5	65.6	12.9	25.9	18.7
5 to 9.9	3.1	17.6	22.2	17.6
10 to 14.9	12.5	17.6	7.4	15.7
15 to 19.9	3.1	9.4	11.1	9.2
20 to 24.9	6.3	7.1	9.3	7.2
25 and above	9.4	35.3	24.1	31.6
Median	0.0	15.0	10.0	13.0
Distance to the Nearest Functional Health Facility				
Less than 5	34.4	13.6	32.7	17.7
5 to 9.9	12.5	28.6	41.8	29.8
10 to 14.9	53.1	38.7	16.4	36.4
15 and above	0.0	19.1	9.1	16.1
Median	10.0	10.0	7.0	10.0
Distance to the Nearest High School Where Free Education Is Available				
Less than 3	96.9	43.1	72.7	50.7
3 to 6	0.0	20.2	1.8	16.1
Above 6	3.1	36.7	25.5	33.2
Median	0.0	5.0	0.0	2.0
Time Taken to Reach the Nearest Public Transit Point on Foot				
Less than 10 Minutes	100.0	46.2	70.9	53.9
10 to 19 Minutes	0.0	13.6	23.6	13.9
20 Minutes and above	0.0	40.2	5.5	32.3
Median	2.0	10.0	5.0	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	346	55	440

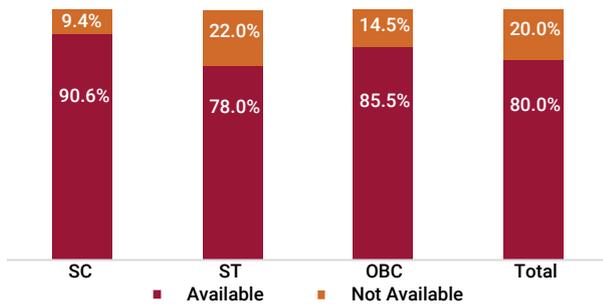
In Rayagada, over half of all households reported that the distance to the nearest high school where free education was available was within three kilometres. The access to free high school education was tougher for the tribal households compared to others. For one-third of all households the nearest high school where free education was available was more than six kilometres away. While for households from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities median distance to high school where free education was available was found to be less than one kilometre, it was five kilometres for tribal households.

Over half of the households interviewed mentioned that the nearest point from where they have access to public transport, can be reached on foot in less than 10 minutes. None of the households from Scheduled Castes reported a duration of 10 minutes or above to walk to the nearest transit point while well above half of the households from Scheduled Tribes had to walk for more than ten minutes. The median time taken to reach the point from where public transport was available was two minutes for households from Scheduled Castes, five minutes for households among Other Backward Communities and ten minutes for tribal households. The findings indicate that accessibility of basic services, in terms of distance travelled or time taken to reach these, is more challenging for households from Scheduled Tribe communities.

Mobile Phone Connectivity

Mobile connectivity is poor in several parts of Odisha given the remoteness of villages and the undulating terrain. Gram Vikas has been engaged in resolving the challenges in mobile connectivity. Figure 1.14 explores the mobile connectivity of households in Rayagada. Four-fifths of the households in Rayagada had access to mobile phone network in their village. Non-availability of network was more common among households from tribal communities. Over nine out of every ten households from Scheduled Castes reported having mobile connectivity in the village.

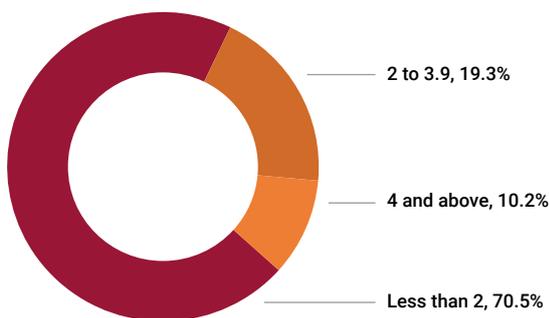
Figure.1.14: Percentage distribution of households by status of mobile connectivity in the village and ethnicity, N:440



Four-fifths of the households in Rayagada had access to mobile phone network in their village

In Rayagada, the households that reported non-availability of mobile network in the village were probed further to report the distance to be travelled to access mobile network. About 70 per cent of them shared that they had access to mobile network within a radius of less than two kilometres from their village (Figure 1.15). About 20 per cent had to travel two to four kilometres to access mobile phone network and ten per cent of the remaining households had to travel four kilometres or more to access mobile network. Households from the tribal communities were disproportionately affected by the inaccessibility of the mobile network among all ethnic groups. The median distance travelled by households for mobile connectivity was one kilometre.

Figure.1.15: Percentage distribution of households by distance (km.) travelled to access mobile network, N:88

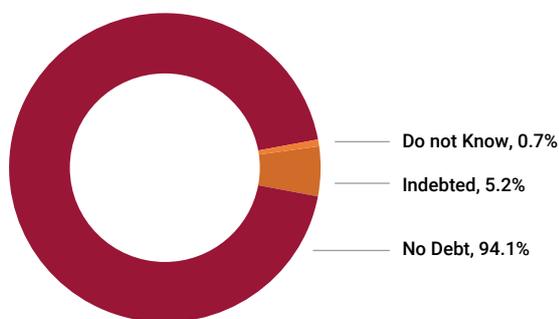


Households from the tribal communities were disproportionately affected by the inaccessibility of the mobile phone network

Indebtedness

Information on outstanding loans or advances taken by the households in the past twelve months prior to the nationwide lockdown was sought. About five per cent of the households in Rayagada were indebted on 24 March, 2020, the day when the lockdown was announced (Figure 1.16). Of the indebted households, 13 were from tribal communities and eight were from Other Backward Communities. The amount of outstanding debt ranged from ₹5000 to ₹300000. On average, the amount of outstanding debt on the indebted household was ₹20000. The respondents were then asked about the reasons for which loans or advances were taken and the sources of such loans as well. In Rayagada expenditure on hospitalization of family members and construction/ renovation of houses were the major reasons for taking loans/ advances.

Figure.1.16: Percentage distribution of households by indebtedness at the time of announcement of the lockdown, N:440



About five per cent of the households in Rayagada were indebted on 24 March, 2020, the day when the lockdown was announced. The average outstanding debt was ₹20000

The indebted households depended both on informal and formal sources for credit. While seven of them had borrowed money from relatives and friends, eight took loans through SHGs. Formal sources like banks in the public and private sectors were also mentioned as sources of credit by different households in Rayagada. The households currently in debt were explored about their current major source of repayment of the loans/advances. For the majority of them income of usual residents of the households was the prominent source for repaying their outstanding debts.

Rural Misery

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

1. 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.1.15 records the responses where the respondents agreed with the above statements. Over nine out of every ten households reported that they did not have any savings since their income was too meagre.

► Household Profile

The proportion of households without any savings was highest among the tribal households and lowest among the households from Other Backward Communities. A large majority of the households reported that they were unable to seek quality treatment in the case of any illness because of insufficient income. Over four-fifths of the households across the ethnic groups shared this status. The shortage of money to invest in agriculture was also experienced by more than two-fifths of the households. Twelve per cent of the households had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months. While none of the households from Other Backward Communities sold/mortgaged property in the past twelve months, nearly one-fifth of the households among Scheduled Castes reported doing so.

Table.1.15: Percentage of households by select indicators of misery and ethnicity.

Indicator	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Difficult to practice agriculture here because we have no money	43.8	53.8	3.6	45.9
This household had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months	18.8	13.9	0.0	12.3
If someone from this household falls ill, we are unable to seek quality treatment because our income is not sufficient for that.	84.4	89.9	85.5	88.4
We currently do not have any savings as our income is too meagre	90.6	93.9	87.3	92.3
Number	32	346	55	440



Migration from Rayagada



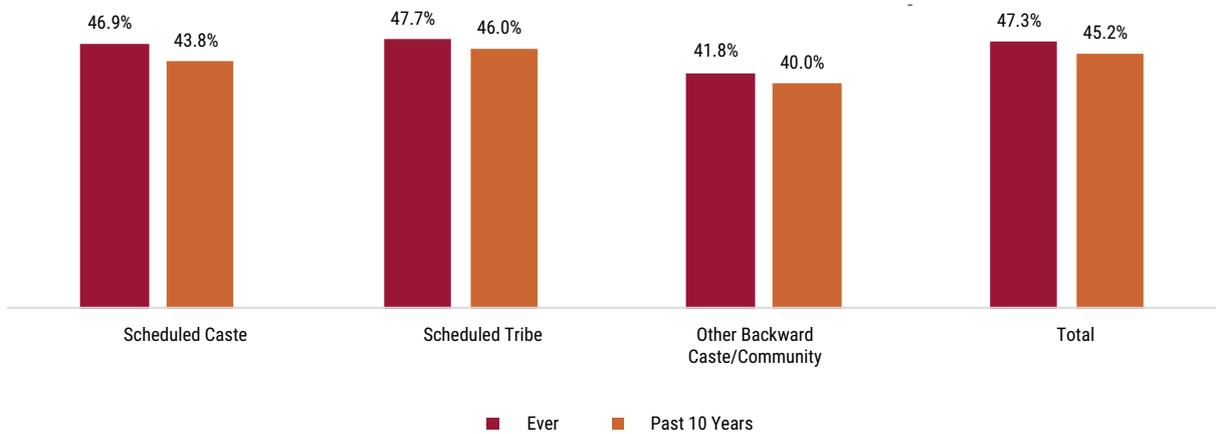


Nearly half of the households in Rayagada had a history of labour migration

Migration History

In order to understand the migration profile of Rayagada, 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, 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 Gajapati district.

Figure. 2.1: Percentage of households in Rayagada with a history of inter-district labour migration, N:440

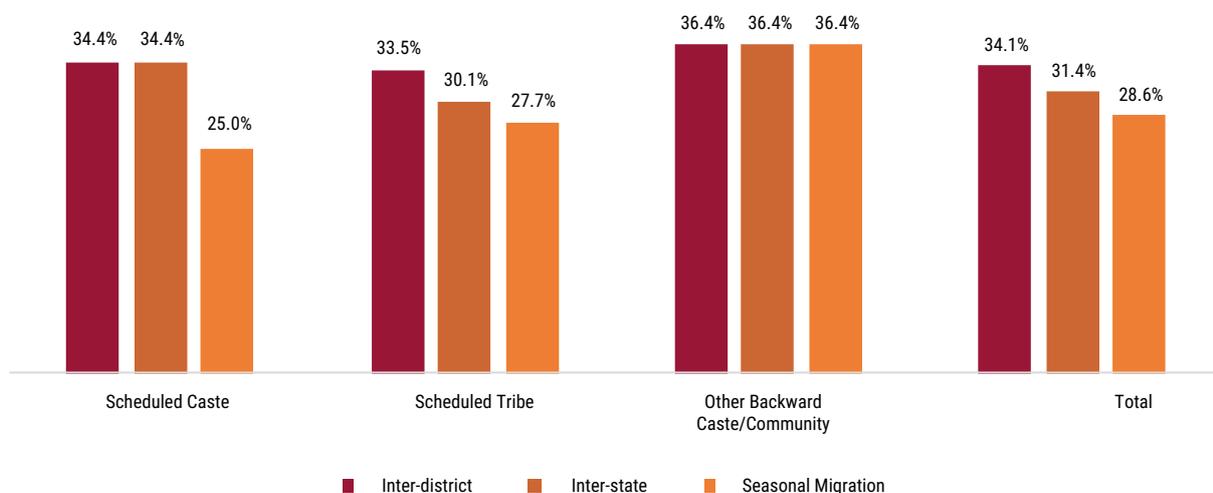


It was found that nearly half of the households in Rayagada had at least one person who had ever worked for 30 days or more outside Gajapati district. Percentage of households with a history of inter-district migration was almost similar across ethnic groups, albeit with a slightly lower share of households among Other Backward Communities. Forty-five per cent households in Rayagada had at least one person who had migrated outside the district for work in the past ten years. Migration history of the households in the recent past was also almost similar across all ethnic groups.

Migration at the Time of Lockdown

Households in the sample were asked to report if they had inter-district, inter-state or seasonal migrants when the nationwide lockdown was announced. Migration profile of households during the lockdown did not differ widely across the ethnic groups in Rayagada. One in every three households in Rayagada reported having inter-district migrant workers at the time of announcement of the lockdown (Figure 2.2). Three out of every ten households in Rayagada had inter-state migrants. Seasonal migrant workers were present in 28.6 per cent of the households. Migration from households from Other Backward Communities was primarily inter-state seasonal migration as the rates revealed. The proportions of all three categories of migrant workers were highest among households from Other Backward Communities.

Figure. 2.2: Percentage of households with migrants at the time of lockdown, N:440



Household migration rates were also calculated by select background characteristics such as BPL status, family occupation, access to MGNREGS, access to public transport etc. to understand the variations in the rates if any (Table 2.1). The household migration rates at the time of announcement of the lockdown were substantially higher for households without MGNREGS cards compared to those who possessed such cards. Similarly, rates were higher for households engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour compared to those engaged in agriculture/agricultural labour. Seasonal migration was more prominent in the case of households with land compared to those without land. The household migration rates at the time of announcement of the lockdown did not vary much by access to public transport. Fewer persons from the households without MGNREGS cards, those from BPL households, those with kachha houses and those not engaged in agriculture returned during /after the lockdown compared to their counterparts.

Table. 2.1: Household labour migration rates (households with labour migrants per 100 households), Rayagada block, March 2020

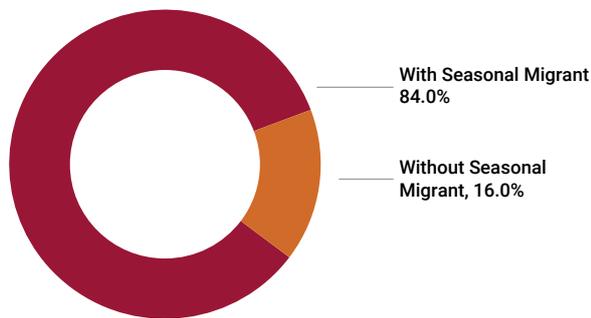
Variable/Category	Migration in Past 10 Years	Migration at the Time of Announcement of Lockdown			Sample Households
		Inter-District Migration	Inter-State Migration	Seasonal Migration	
Ethnicity					
Scheduled Castes	43.8	34.4	34.4	25.0	32
Scheduled Tribes	46.0	33.5	30.1	27.7	346
Other Backward Communities	40.0	36.4	36.4	36.4	55
NREGS Job Card					
Possess NREGS Card	44.6	32.0	29.7	27.7	350
Do Not Possess NREGS Card	48.8	43.0	38.4	33.7	86
House Type					
Pukka	46.6	34.6	31.5	29.5	298
Kachha	42.3	33.1	31.0	26.8	142
Current Family Occupation					
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	35.0	29.1	25.2	22.3	103
Other Daily Wage Labour	53.5	38.8	37.6	32.9	258
Landownership					
Own Land	43.8	35.5	33.1	32.0	169
Do Not Own Land	46.1	33.2	30.3	26.6	271
Current Engagement in Agriculture					
Engaged in Agriculture	40.4	31.1	26.2	24.0	183
Not Engaged in Agriculture	48.6	36.2	35.0	31.9	257
Ration Card					
PHH Card	46.2	35.2	32.5	29.6	409
BPL Status					
Yes	45.7	33.6	31.1	28.1	363
No	43.4	36.8	32.9	31.6	76
Access to Public Transport					
Less than 10 minutes	48.9	35.4	32.9	29.5	237
10 to 19 minutes	32.8	29.5	27.9	23.0	61
20 minutes and above	44.4	33.8	30.3	29.6	142
Total	45.2	34.1	31.4	28.6	440

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

► Migration from Rayagada

The extent of seasonality of migration at the time of the lockdown was also explored. The households were enquired if they had migrant members at the time of the announcement of lockdown who generally worked outside the district for not more than six months and worked in the village the rest of the year. Seasonal migration, which is one major form of distress migration in India, was rampant in the community development block of Rayagada with 84 per cent of the households having seasonal migrants at the time of the lockdown (Figure 2.3).

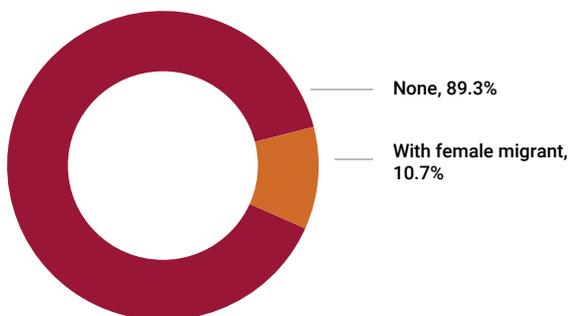
Figure.2.3: Percentage distribution of households with migrants at the time of lockdown by seasonality of migration, N:150



Female Migration for Work

The extent of migration of women and girls from the households in Rayagada at the time of announcement of the lockdown was also explored. One in every ten households with migrant members had women/girls who had migrated out of Gajapati district for work (Figure 2.4). Recruitment of the female migrant labourers from Rayagada was done mostly by leveraging their personal networks.

Figure.2.4: Percentage distribution of households with current migrant by presence of female migrants, N:150



Distribution of Migrants in the Population

In order to understand the magnitude of migration from Rayagada 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 Rayagada working elsewhere outside the district at the time of announcement of the lockdown was estimated. Figure 2.5 provides the percentage of migrant workers in the sample population by ethnicity.

Figure.2.5: Percentage of migrant workers in the total population and ethnicity, Rayagada, N:2069

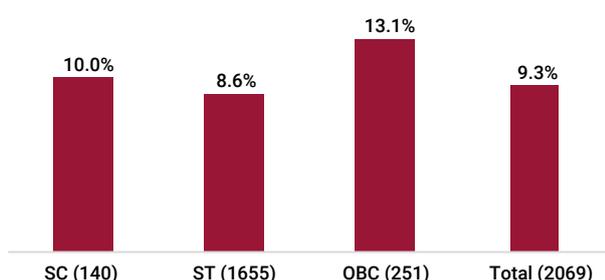
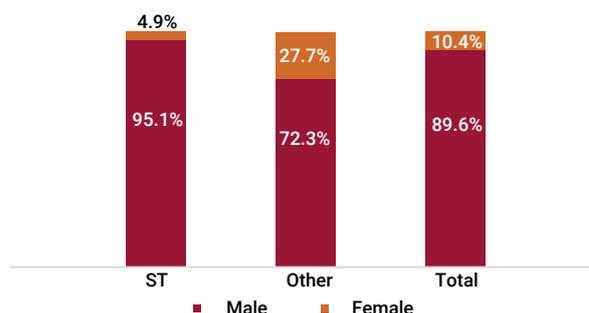


Figure. 2.6: Percentage distribution of migrant workers in Rayagada by sex and ethnicity, N:193



It was found that at the time of the lockdown, migrant workers constituted about nine per cent of the population of Rayagada. This proportion was fairly consistent in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while in the case of Other Backward Castes/Communities it was estimated to be 13 per cent. The proportion of female migrants among total migrants was also calculated based on the household survey. It was found that overall, about ten per cent of the migrant workers were women and this proportion varied widely from five per cent among the Scheduled Tribes to 28 per cent among others that included Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities (Figure 2.6).

Estimate of Migrant Workers

Based on the sample proportions the number of inter-district migrant labourers from Rayagada was estimated. A total of 6605 inter-district migrants from Rayagada worked in various parts of India. Among them 5920 persons were males. Out of the total migrant workers, 4919 workers belonged to Scheduled Tribes. Over 1600 workers belonged to communities including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Communities and other communities.

Table. 2.2: Estimate of migrant workers in Rayagada block by sex and ethnicity

Sex	Ethnicity		Total
	Scheduled Tribes	Others	
Male	4676	1244	5920
Female	242	442	684
Total	4919	1686	6605

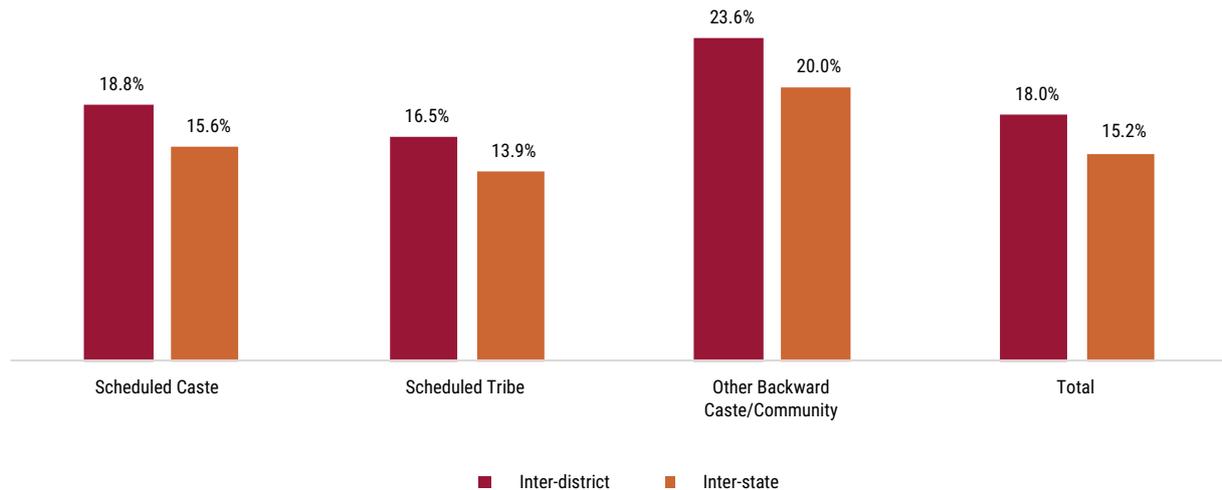
Migration at the Time of the Survey

Household members in Rayagada were also asked to report the details of the members who stayed outside the district for thirty days or more for work on the date of the survey. This included persons who had been staying outside the district for 30 days or more for work but returned for some time to the village before, during or after the lockdown but had already gone back at the time of the survey. This also included those who were temporarily home for the festivals but expressed the intention to eventually go back to the workplace. At the time of the survey, 18 per cent households had at least one member of the household

► Migration from Rayagada

working outside the district and 15 per cent of the households had at least one member working outside the state for a period of more than 30 days (Figure 2.7). Current household migration rates were highest among the Other Backward Communities. Almost one in every four households from Other Backward Communities in Rayagada had at least one member who had migrated out of the district for work.

Figure. 2.7: Percentage of households in Rayagada with current migrants, N:440



The current household migration rates by select attributes of the households are provided in Table 2.3 below. Higher migration rates were observed in the case of households from Other Backward Communities, those without MGNREGS cards, those who were engaged in non-agricultural jobs, those without land and those who had better access to public transport.



Table. 2.3: Household migration rates at the time of the survey by select household characteristics (November-December 2020)

Variable/Category	Current Migration		Sample Households
	Inter-District Migration	Inter-State Migration	
Ethnicity			
Scheduled Castes	18.8	15.6	32
Scheduled Tribes	16.5	13.9	346
Other Backward Communities	23.6	20.0	55
MGNREGS Job Card			
Possess NREGS Card	16.3	14.3	350
Do Not Possess NREGS Card	25.6	19.8	86
House Type			
Pukka	18.1	15.1	298
Kachha	17.6	15.5	142
Current Family Occupation			
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	13.6	10.7	103
Other Daily Wage Labour	19.8	19.0	258
Landownership			
Own Land	15.4	13.0	169
Do Not Own Land	19.6	16.6	271
Current Engagement in Agriculture			
Engaged in Agriculture	13.1	9.8	183
Not Engaged in Agriculture	21.4	19.1	257
Ration Card			
PHH Card	18.6	15.6	409
Access to Public Transport			
Less than 10 Minutes	21.5	19.0	237
10 to 19 Minutes	18.0	14.8	61
20 Minutes and above	12.0	9.2	142
Total	18.0	15.2	440

Return Migration

To understand the history of return migration, the households were also asked if any of the current usual residents had ever worked 30 days or more outside Gajapati district but did not have an intention to return to the same place or another place outside the district for work at the time of the survey. To understand the impact of COVID-19 on migration, household members were specifically asked to report if they had any member who returned during or after the lockdown and currently had no intention to go back to the same place or any other place. This section summarises the findings. One-fifth of the households had at least one current usual resident of the household who had ever worked 30 days or more outside Gajapati 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 2.8). One in every five households in Rayagada had at least one member who used to work elsewhere outside the district in the past. Six per cent of the households had migrants who had returned during the lockdown and currently expressed no intention to go back to the previous workplace or any other new place.

Figure. 2.8: Percentage of households in Rayagada with return migrants, N:440

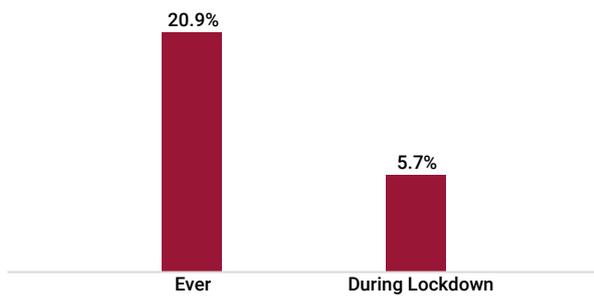
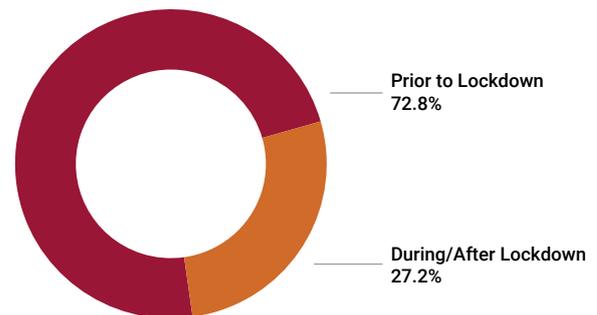


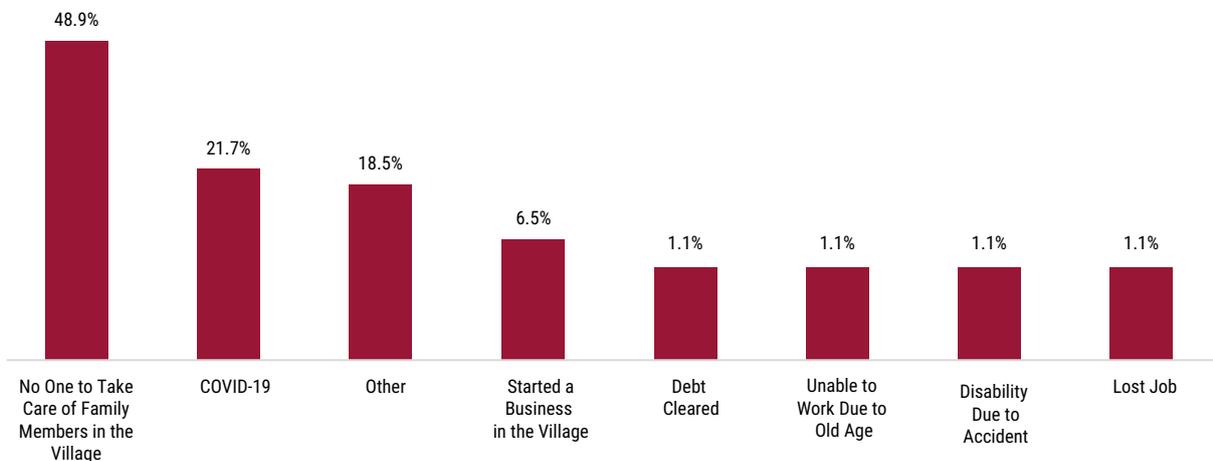
Figure.2.9: Percentage distribution of households with return migrants by period of return to native place, N:92



Among 92 households with return migrants, nearly three-fourths had returned prior to the lockdown. (Figure 2.9). Over a quarter of the households had members who had returned during or after the lockdown with no intention to go back to the workplace or any other place for work outside the district. More than two-thirds of the return migrants used to work in southern Indian states. Over half of them were engaged in the construction sector and 14 per cent were engaged in domestic work when they used to work outside the district.

Almost half of the return migration was on account of no one to take care of the family members in the village (Figure 2.10). Nearly one-fourth of the return migration was attributed to COVID-19 and the resulting loss of job/work. About seven per cent of those who had returned started a business in the village. Another two per cent had returned as they were unable to work due to disability or old age.

Figure.2.10: Percentage distribution of households by reason for the return of the person who returned last, N:92



One-third of the return migrants had worked outside Gajapati district for less than a year and more than two-fifths had worked for a period of one to three years. The median duration of stay outside the district for return migrants was two years. Nearly two-thirds of the households with return migrants reported that currently the return migrants were engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour. Agricultural activities were reported as the current source of livelihood by nearly a quarter of return migrants.

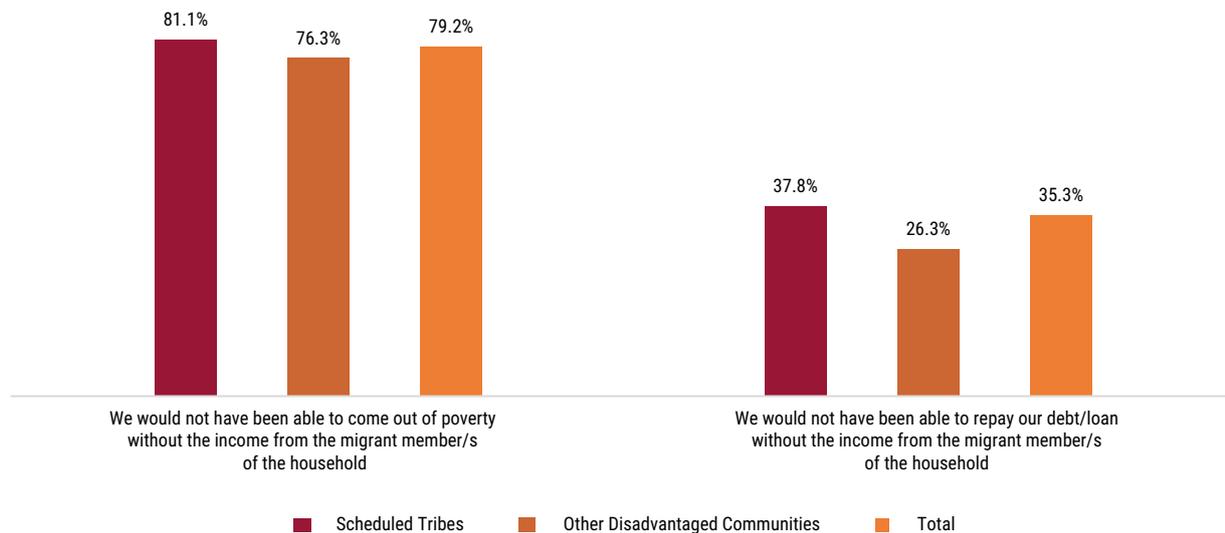
Impact of Labour Migration

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

Indebtedness

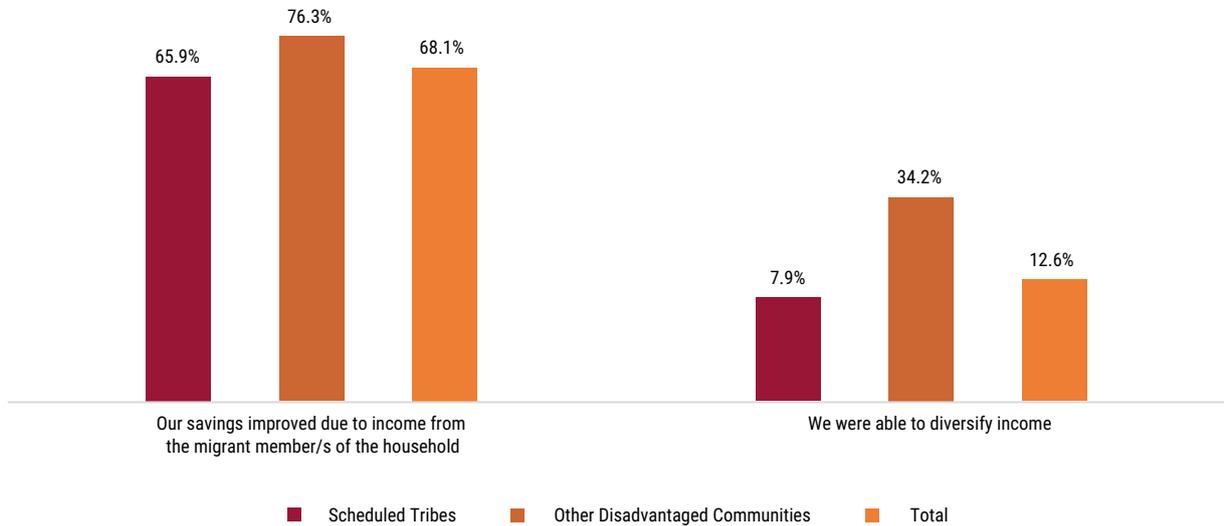
Nearly eight in every ten households in Rayagada with a history of migration reported that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income of the migrant members of the households (Figure 2.11). This proportion was slightly higher for tribal households as against households of Other Disadvantaged Communities. Over one-third of all the households with migration history reported that they would not have been able to repay their debts/loans without the income of the migrant member/s in the household. While over a quarter of the households with migrants from Other Disadvantaged Communities shared that they would not have been able to repay their debts/loans without migration, the corresponding proportion was nearly two-fifths in the case of households from Scheduled Tribes.

Figure.2.11: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on poverty/indebtedness, N: 207



About two-thirds of all households with a history of migration reported that their savings improved due to the income contributed by the migrant members (Figure 2.12). Over three-fourths of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities confirmed this. Thirteen per cent of the households reported that they were able to initiate an income-generating activity using the remittances from the migrant members of the households. Around eight per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes and over one-third of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities were able to diversify income sources through earnings from migration.

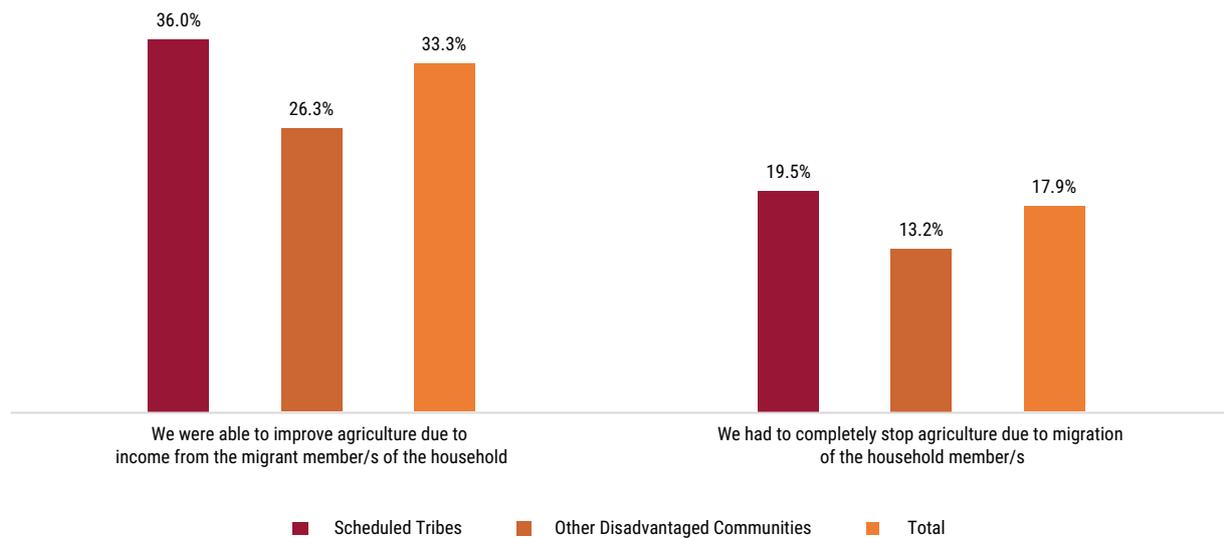
Figure.2.12: Percentage of households with migration history that were able to improve savings and diversify income by ethnicity, N:207



Agriculture

One-third of all households with a history of labour migration reported that they were able to improve agriculture with the income of the migrant members. While over one-third of the households from the tribal communities benefited by improving agriculture with the income from migration, slightly over a quarter of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported so. At the same time about 18 per cent of the households with a history of migration reported that they had to completely give up agriculture due to the migration of household members (Figure 2.13).

Figure.2.13: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on agriculture, N:207

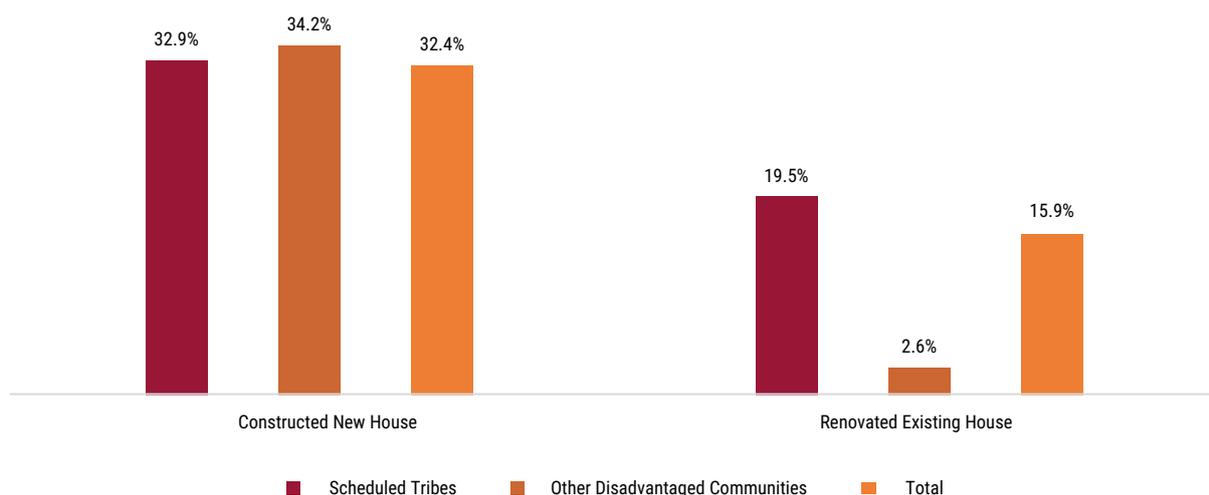


The households were also asked if they had purchased land with the income of the migrant members. A total of ten households, nine from Scheduled Tribes and one from Other Disadvantaged Communities, responded that they had purchased land in the past ten years from such income. Only very few households had utilised the remittances of the migrants to dig wells.

Housing

The households were enquired if they were able to build new houses or renovate their houses with the income from migration. Nearly one-third of the households with migrant members built a new house in the past ten years exclusively from the income of the migrant members. The pattern was almost similar across all ethnic groups (Figure 2.14). About 16 per cent of the households with migration history had utilised the income of the migrant members in the household to renovate the house. While about 20 per cent of the tribal households had renovated their houses, only nearly three per cent of the households from Other Disadvantaged Communities had leveraged the income of the migrant members to renovate the houses.

Figure.2.14: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on housing in the past 10 years from the exclusive income of migrant members, N:207

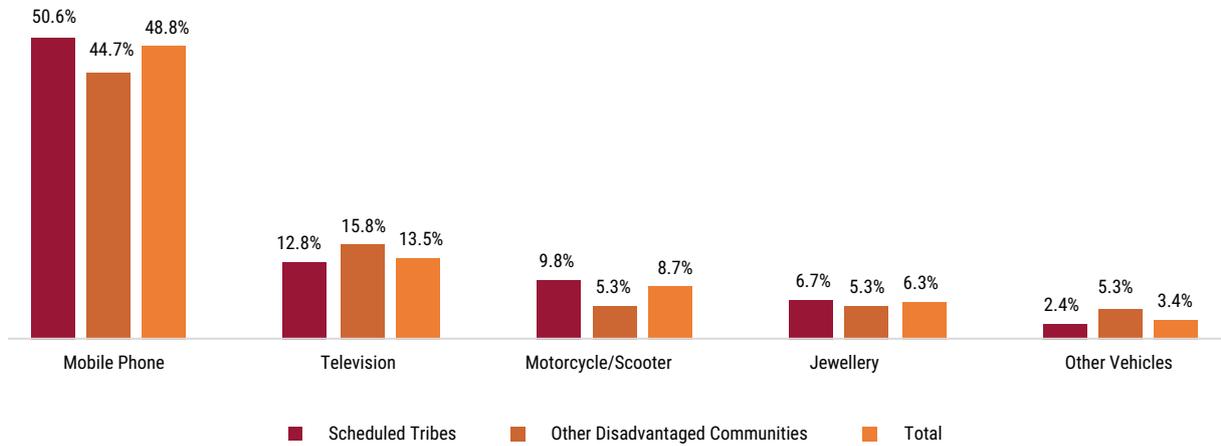


Ownership of Assets

A little less than half of the households with a history of migration had purchased a mobile phone (Figure 2.15). The trends were similar across the ethnic groups. About 14 per cent of the households with migration history reported that they had purchased a television in the past ten years from the income of the migrant members and in this case also ethnic groups did not differ significantly.

About nine per cent of the households with migration history reported that they were able to purchase a motorcycle or scooter from the income of a migrant member in the household. Nearly ten per cent of the households from Scheduled Tribes with migration history reported purchasing a motorcycle or scooter from the income of the migrant members. This was five per cent in the case of households from Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Figure.2.15: Percentage of households with current migrants by select assets created/purchased in the past 10 years from the exclusive income of migrant members, N:207

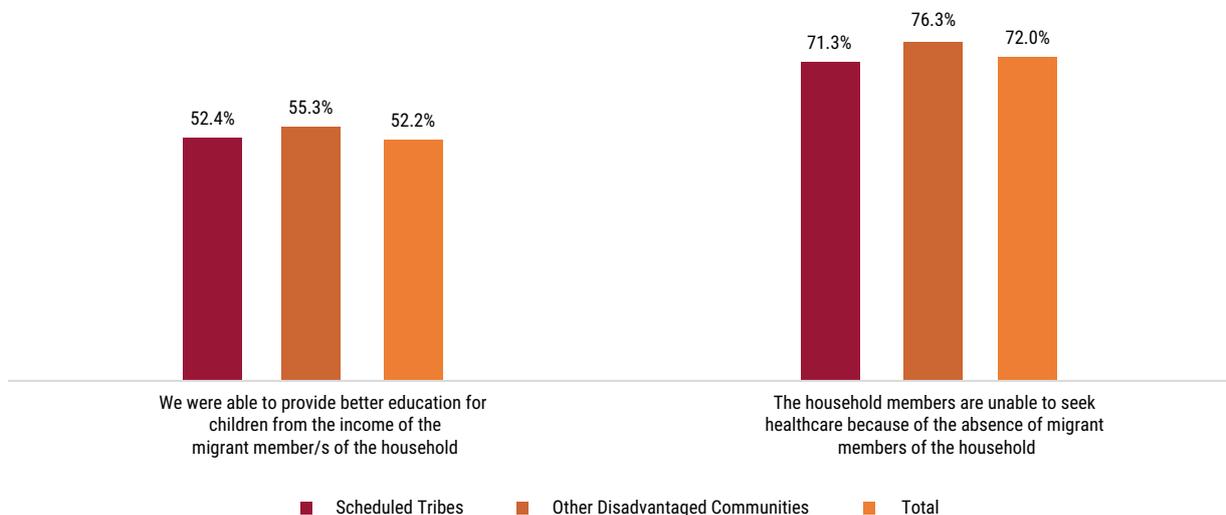


Six per cent of the households in Rayagada had purchased jewellery from the income of the migrants. This was almost similar across different ethnic groups. About three per cent of the households reported having bought vehicles of three or more wheels from the income through migration in the past ten years.

Education and Health

The impact of migration on education and health of the members of the household was also explored. A little over half of the households with a history of migration acknowledged that migration has positively impacted the education of the children of the households (Figure 2.16). The impact was similar across the ethnic groups. There were also negative impacts of the migration of members from the households. Over seven out of every ten households with migration history reported that they were unable to seek healthcare because of the absence of the members due to migration. The situation, though almost similar across ethnic groups, was relatively severe for households from Other Disadvantaged Communities where over three-fourths of the households with a history of labour migration shared this constraint.

Figure.2.16: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on education and health, N:207



Status in the Village

The households were enquired to rate the changes in their status in the village due to income from migration. The findings are presented in Figure 2.17. Nearly about three-fifths of the households with a migration history reported that their status in the village had improved due to the income of member/s who worked elsewhere outside the district.

Figure.2.17: Percentage of households with migration history that reported improvement in status in the village due to income from migrant member and ethnicity, N:207

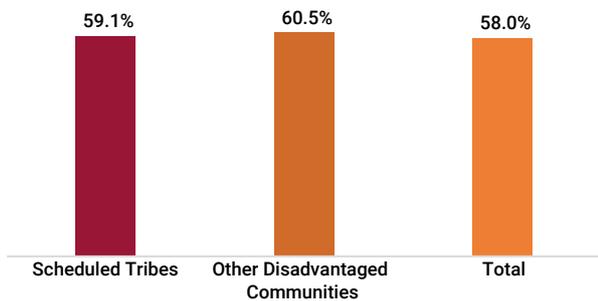
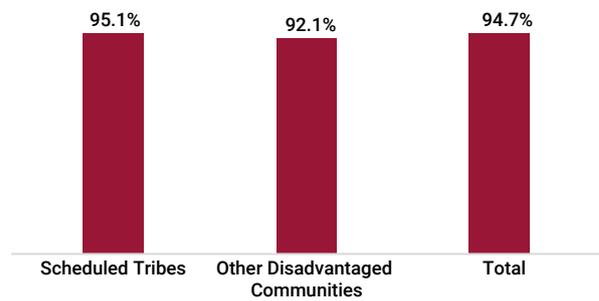


Figure.2.18: Percentage of households with migration history reporting that they would not have allowed any member to migrate for work if they had a family income of ₹10000 in the village by ethnicity, N:207



The households with a migration history were also asked to agree/disagree with the statement “If we had a monthly family income of at least ₹10000, we would not have allowed any member of this household to go out of the district for work”. Over ninety per cent of the households with a history of labour migration shared that if they earned at least ₹10000 in the village they would not allow any family member to go out of the district to work elsewhere (Figure 2.18).

Barriers to Migration

Overall, about 47 per cent of the households in Rayagada had the history of labour migration (Figure 2.19). Households without a history of labour migration were asked the reason why members of the particular household did not migrate for work. Among households without any history of labour migration, nearly one-fifth had members who wanted to migrate but were unable to do so.

Figure.2.19: Distribution of households in Rayagada by migration status, N:440

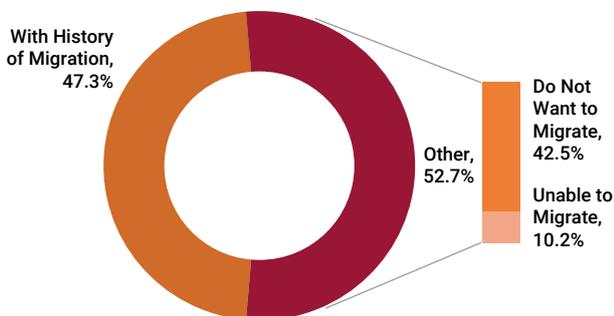
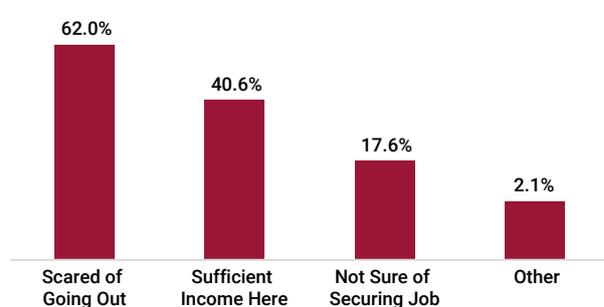


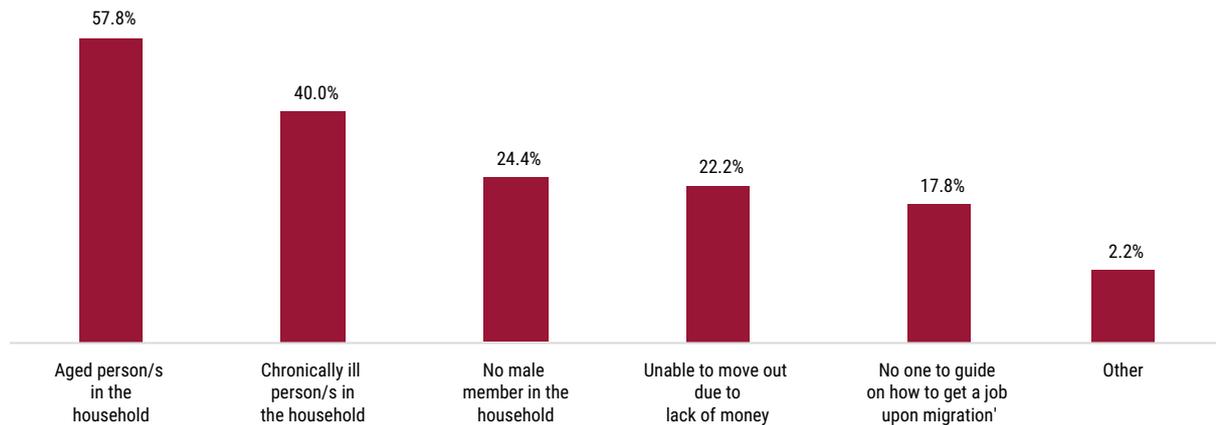
Figure.2.20: Percentage of households with members who do not want to migrate by reason, N:187



Four-fifths of the households without migrants informed that members in their households did not want to migrate. About 83 per cent of the tribal households and 76 per cent of households among Other Disadvantaged Communities without a history of migration shared that their members did not want to migrate. In the case of such households the reasons were explored. The findings are presented in Figure 2.20.

A little over three-fifths of the households that reported that the members did not wish to migrate, shared that they were scared of going out of the district for work. Two-fifths of them cited that their income in the village was sufficient and there was no need to go to other places searching for work. Slightly less than one-fifth of the households mentioned that they were unsure of securing a job if they migrated.

Figure.2.21: Percentage of households with members who are unable to migrate by select reasons, N:45

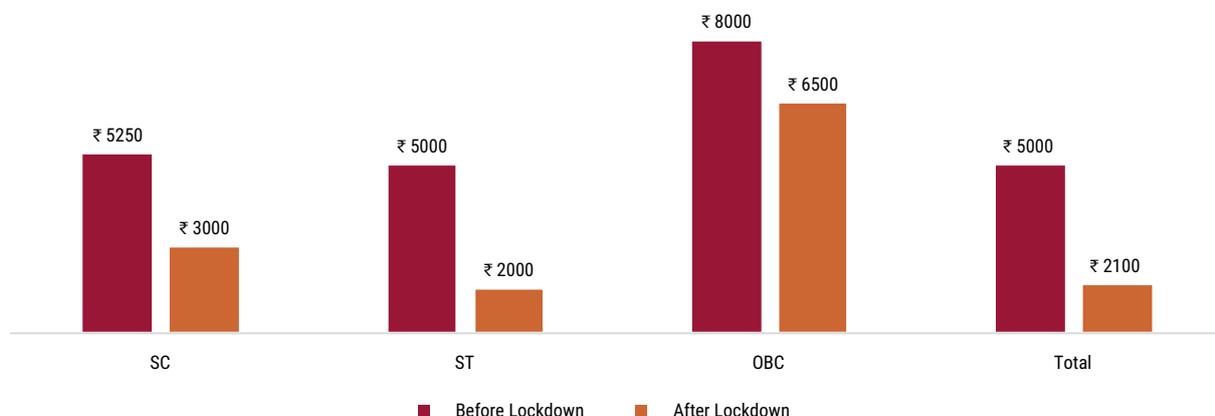


Reasons for being not able to migrate despite aspiring to do so were also explored. As evident from Figure 2.21, a little less than 60 per cent of the households whose members could not migrate despite aspiring to do so, cited the presence of aged persons in the household as the reason. Presence of a chronically ill person in the household was one of the reasons cited by two-fifths of the households for the inability of their members to migrate. Nearly a quarter of the households highlighted the absence of male members in the household as a reason for inability to migrate. Lack of financial resources or lack of guidance in obtaining a job also came up as reasons for the inability of the household members to migrate for work.

Impact of Lockdown on Households

The nationwide lockdown to arrest the spread of COVID-19 had strong repercussions on the economy, and the rural areas of the country could not escape its ripple effect. In order to explore the impact of the lockdown on the households in Rayagada block, households were enquired about the changes in income, experiences with regard to their food intake, indebtedness, coping strategies and the social security measures availed. The total monthly income of the households in Rayagada declined drastically after the lockdown. There was almost a 60 per cent reduction in the reported income of the households after the lockdown. The median income of the households in the month prior to the survey was ₹2100. Median income in the month prior to the survey across ethnic groups ranged from ₹2000 for tribal households to ₹6500 for households from Other Backward Communities. Figure 2.22 provides the monthly income of households in Rayagada before and after the lockdown.

Figure. 2.22: Median self-reported monthly income of households in Rayagada before and after lockdown by ethnicity, N:440

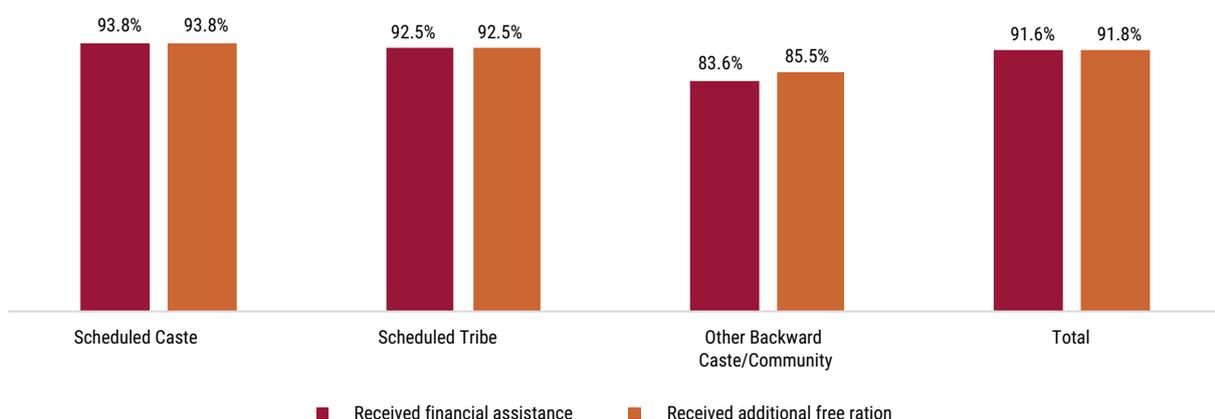


Household members in Rayagada were enquired whether one or more members of the households had to skip at least one regular meal in the past seven days preceding the survey due to lack of food or money. Out of 440 households only one household had such an experience. About one per cent of the households shared that they had taken loans during the lockdown. An exploration was made to understand the strategies of the household, other than borrowings, to cope with the reduction in income to meet the daily expenses during the lockdown. Almost all the households in Rayagada depleted their savings to cope with the decline in their income. Only two households reported to have pledged their land during the lockdown to meet the daily expenditure. The household members were also enquired if the family had any member under 15 years of age who used to go to school before the lockdown but currently started working for money to supplement the declining family income. Around four per cent households had such members.

Support from the Government

The government had announced certain measures for the rural households to alleviate distress during and after the lockdown. In order to understand if the households in Rayagada block had benefited from such measures, the sample households were enquired if they had received any such support. Nine out of every ten households in Rayagada reported that they had received free ration as well as financial assistance from the government (Figure 2.23). Proportion of households receiving such benefits from the government during the lockdown was about 84 per cent for households from Other Backward Communities whereas for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households it was over 90 per cent.

Figure.2.23: Percentage of households that received financial assistance and free ration from the government by ethnicity, N:440



Profile of Migrant Workers



Sociodemographic Profile

From the sample households with migration history in Rayagada block, the members who were migrant workers at the time when the lockdown was announced were listed during the household interviews. From among the migrant workers in each sample household, the person who had made the largest financial contribution to the household income was interviewed for this section of the report. In case this migrant was at the village at the time of the survey, direct interviews were conducted. In other cases, telephonic interviews were conducted. This section summarises the findings from the interviews with 139 such migrant workers from the sample households. In order to understand the profile of migrant workers from Rayagada, information such as ethnic background, age, educational attainment and marital status was elicited.

It was found that nearly four-fifths of the migrant workers from Rayagada belonged to Scheduled Tribes (Figure 3.1). Seventeen per cent of all migrant workers were from Other Backward Communities (OBC) and nearly six per cent of the workers were from Scheduled Caste households. There was one worker from households other than Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes/Communities.

Figure.3.1: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by ethnicity, N:139



While the population proportion of the Scheduled Castes in the block according to 2011 data is 25 per cent, one in every three migrant workers from Rayagada belonged to Scheduled Castes. 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. Since there was only one worker from communities other than Scheduled Tribes and Other Disadvantaged Communities, it was included in the column 'Total' in the analysis.

Overall, almost one in every ten persons was in the age group of 15 to 19 years (Table.3.1). While over 20 per cent of the migrants from tribal communities were in the age group of 20 to 24 years, less than 10 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities belonged to the category. A little over 60 per cent of the migrant workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were aged 30 years or more and 44 per cent of the workers from the tribal communities also belonged to this age group. The average migrant from tribal communities was two years younger compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. The majority of the migrant workers who made the major economic contribution to the household were male while about seven per cent were female. The share of female migrants was found to be slightly higher in the case of workers from 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	10.3	6.3	9.4
20 to 24	20.6	9.4	18.0
25 to 29	25.2	21.9	24.5
30 and above	43.9	62.5	48.2
Median Age (Years)	28.0	30.0	29.0
Sex			
Male	93.5	90.6	92.8
Female	6.5	9.4	7.2
Literacy			
Literate	84.1	81.3	83.5
Illiterate	15.9	18.8	16.5
Educational Attainment			
No Formal Education	25.2	28.1	25.9
Lower Primary	4.7	3.1	4.3
Upper Primary	5.6	6.3	5.8
Secondary (High School)	34.6	15.6	30.2
Senior Secondary (Higher Secondary)	11.2	28.1	15.1
Above Senior Secondary	18.7	18.8	18.7
Median Years of Education	9.0	10.0	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	107	32	139

Seventeen per cent of all migrant workers were illiterate and 26 per cent of the workers in the sample had no formal education. Less than 20 per cent of the migrant workers from Rayagada had an educational attainment above the senior secondary level. Around 30 per cent of the workers from tribal communities reported an educational attainment of senior secondary and around 47 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities also reported so. On average, the educational attainment of workers was ten years. The average education of the workers from Scheduled Tribes from Rayagada was one year less than that of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities.

The migrants were enquired about their marital status, the details of which are provided in Table.3.2. About two-fifths of them were unmarried. Slightly more than one-third of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities and over two-fifths of the workers from tribal communities reported that they were unmarried.

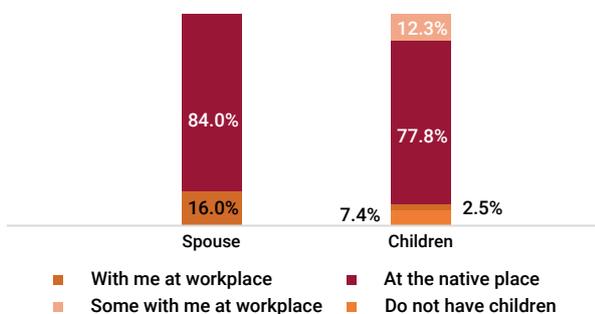
Table.3.2: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by marital status and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Marital Status			
Never Married	43.0	34.4	41.0
Currently Married	56.1	65.6	58.3
Separated/Divorced/Widower	0.9	0	0.7
Number of Dependents			
None	18.7	28.1	20.9
1 to 2	22.4	28.1	23.7
3 to 4	33.6	37.5	34.5
5 and above	25.2	6.3	20.9
Median	3	2	3
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Overall, two-fifths of the migrant workers had no one exclusively dependent on their income. While over a quarter of the workers from Scheduled Tribes had five or more dependents in their families, the proportion was found to be much lower for labourers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Median number of dependents of migrant workers was three.

The migrant workers who reported that they were currently married were enquired about the location of residence of their spouses and children at the time of announcement of the lockdown (Figure 3.2). All, except 16 per cent of the migrants, reported that their spouses stayed in their villages. Most of them also reported that the children also stayed behind in the villages, indicating that the majority of migrant workers from Rayagada travel to their workplaces without families.

Figure.3.2: Percentage distribution of married migrant workers by location of spouse and children at the time of announcement of lockdown, N: 81



The majority of the married migrant workers reported that their spouse/ children stayed behind in Rayagada

Migration History

The migration history of the workers was explored to gather insights into the factors that influenced their migration. Information was gathered on their age at first 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 little over a quarter of all the workers first moved out of Rayagada for work at the age of 19 years or below. This proportion was over one-fifth for workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities and almost three in every ten workers in the case of workers from tribal communities. A quarter of all the workers from Rayagada made their first move out of the district for work at the age 30 or above. The median age at first migration was 24 years.

Table.3.3: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by migration history and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age at First Migration			
15 to 19	29.0	21.9	27.3
20 to 24	28.0	25.0	27.3
25 to 29	16.8	31.3	20.1
30 to 34	13.1	18.8	14.4
35 and above	13.1	3.1	10.8
Median Age (Years)	24.0	25.0	24.0
Occupation Prior to Migration			
Student	26.2	21.9	25.2
Unemployed	62.6	75.0	65.5
Agricultural Labourer	10.3	3.1	8.6
Other	0.9	0.0	0.7
Number of Prior Inter-State Movements for Work			
0	91.6	84.4	89.9
1	3.7	6.3	4.3
More than 1	4.7	9.4	5.8
Reason for Moving Out			
Low Wage	43.0	34.4	41.0
Lack of Employment	40.2	56.3	43.9
Irregular Employment	13.1	3.1	10.8
Other	3.7	6.3	4.3
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

► Profile of Migrant Workers

Well above 70 per cent of the migrant workers, irrespective of the categories, had been either unemployed or engaged in agricultural labour before they first moved out of native place for work. Unemployment was more prominent among workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to workers from tribal communities at the time of their maiden move out of the district for work. Three-fourths of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, as against over three-fifths of workers from Scheduled Tribes, reported being unemployed before their migration. Slightly over a quarter of the workers were students before they first migrated for work. None of the workers reported to have worked outside the country. Over four-fifths of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic background, had not worked in other Indian states before moving to the current destination. Low wages and lack of employment were reported as important reasons for moving out by over two-fifths of all workers.

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 the type of destination were also explored. The details are presented in Table.3.4. Over 80 per cent of the current migrants reported their destinations outside Odisha. Seven out of every ten workers had moved to states in southern India. Thirty per cent of all the workers reported Telangana as their current destination, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Nearly one-third of the workers from tribal communities and over one-fifth of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported Telangana as their current destination.



Table.3.4: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by select characteristics related to current destination and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current Destination State			
Odisha	15.9	18.8	16.5
Kerala	6.5	9.4	7.2
Tamil Nadu	11.2	15.6	12.2
Telangana	31.8	21.9	29.5
Andhra Pradesh	15.9	9.4	14.4
Karnataka	7.5	12.5	8.6
Maharashtra	6.5	3.1	5.8
Others	4.7	9.4	5.8
Current Destination District			
Khordha (Odisha)	7.5	18.8	10.1
Bengaluru Urban (Karnataka)	4.7	9.4	5.8
Hyderabad (Telangana)	31.8	28.1	30.9
Mumbai City (Maharashtra)	5.6	0	4.3
Thrissur (Kerala)	1.9	6.3	2.9
Ernakulam (Kerala)	2.8	3.1	2.9
Kannur (Kerala)	1.9	0	1.4
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	8.4	12.5	9.4
Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	10.3	0	7.9
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	0.9	0	0.7
Surat (Gujarat)	0	3.1	0.7
Kolkata (West Bengal)	0	3.1	0.7
Do Not Know	1.9	0	1.4
Other	22.4	15.6	20.9
Category of Destination			
City	86.0	87.5	86.3
Village	11.2	9.4	10.8
Do Not Know	2.8	3.1	2.9
Reason for Choosing This Destination			
High Wage Rates	48.6	68.8	53.2
Continuous Employment	40.2	28.1	37.4
Better Work Environment	10.3	3.1	8.6
Other	0.9	0	0.7
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Analysing the destination districts, around 30 per cent of all the workers from Rayagada, with a slightly higher share of workers from the tribal communities, had gone to the city of Hyderabad in Telangana. While Chennai in Tamil Nadu was increasingly preferred by workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was a preferred destination for ten per cent of workers from the tribal communities of Rayagada. All the workers who had gone to Kerala were in one of the three districts: Thrissur, Ernakulam, or Kannur. Mumbai, Bengaluru and Khordha (Bhubaneswar) were the other major destinations for workers from Rayagada. Over half of the workers reported high wage rates and 37 per cent shared availability of employment opportunities as the reasons for selecting their respective destinations.

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. Overall, over two-fifths 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 from Other Disadvantaged Communities. A quarter of the migrants had friends and nearly 12 per cent of the migrants had family members, or relatives other than family members at the destination prior to their arrival. The clustering of significant others was more prominent among the workers from the tribal communities than others.

Table.3.5: Percentage of migrant workers by presence of significant others at current destination before their arrival, fluency in local language and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Presence of Significant Others at Current Destination before Arrival			
Family Members	4.7	9.4	5.8
Relatives other than Family Members	8.4	0.0	6.5
Friends	24.3	28.1	25.2
Villagers other than Friends	46.7	28.1	42.4
No one	21.5	37.5	25.2
Fluency in Local Language (Destination)			
Speak	72.0	68.8	71.2
Comprehend	87.9	84.4	87.1
Read	17.8	21.9	18.7
Write	18.7	18.8	18.7
No Knowledge of Local Language	16.8	0.0	12.9
Number	107	32	139

Nearly about 90 per cent of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic background, revealed that they could comprehend the local language and over seven out of every ten workers, with a slightly lower percentage of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported their ability to speak the local language. Roughly one-fifth of the workers could read or write the local language of the place where they worked. Thirteen per cent of all workers reported that they have no knowledge of the local language.

Work Profile

The duration of residence at the current state, district and place was explored (Table.3.6). About 30 per cent of all migrants had been working in the current destination state for less than a year. Over a quarter of the workers 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 at the time of announcement of the lockdown. The median duration of work was about one year both at the current district and at the current place of work. Nearly two-thirds of all workers revealed that they had been working at the current place of work for less than one year.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current State			
Less than a Year	30.8	31.3	30.9
1 to 1.9	18.7	25.0	20.1
2 to 2.9	25.2	6.3	20.9
3 and above	25.2	37.5	28.1
Median Duration	3.0	2.0	2.0
Current District			
Less than a Year	59.8	71.9	62.6
1 to 1.9	16.8	18.8	17.3
2 to 2.9	10.3	3.1	8.6
3 and above	13.1	6.3	11.5
Median Duration	1.0	1.0	1.0
Current Place			
Less than a Year	63.6	71.9	65.5
1 to 1.9	15.9	18.8	16.5
2 to 2.9	9.3	3.1	7.9
3 and above	11.2	6.3	10.1
Median Duration	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	107	32	139

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). Nearly two-fifths of the workers were footloose labourers who sought work on a daily basis. A similar proportion of workers were engaged in a shop, establishment or a factory. About seven per cent workers moved with a contractor. While the percentage of those who moved with a contractor was larger in the case of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, a larger proportion of workers from Scheduled Tribes depended on Naka based labour. On average, the workers had been in the current arrangement for the past five 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	42.1	25.0	38.1
Employee at Shop/Establishment/Factory	36.4	43.8	38.1
Moves with Contractor	5.6	12.5	7.2
Domestic Worker	3.7	12.5	5.8
Other	12.1	6.3	10.8
How Long in Such Work? (Months)			
Less than 6	57.0	43.8	54.0
6 to 12	19.6	40.6	24.5
Over a Year	23.4	15.6	21.6
Median Duration	5.0	7.5	5.0
Sector of Employment			
Construction	49.5	37.5	46.8
Hotel/Restaurant	8.4	3.1	7.2
Worker in Shop/Establishment	9.3	9.4	9.4
Factory Worker	13.1	18.8	14.4
Garment Worker	2.8	12.5	5.0
Domestic Worker	4.7	12.5	6.5
Other	12.1	6.3	10.8
Skill Levels			
Unskilled/Semi-Skilled Worker	78.5	84.4	79.9
Skilled Worker	21.5	15.6	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	107	32	139

About half of the workers were engaged in construction work. Nearly 15 per cent of the migrants worked in factories. About six per cent were domestic workers. One in every ten migrants from Other Disadvantaged Communities worked as domestic workers while only about five per cent migrants from Scheduled Tribes were engaged in it. Nearly 80 per cent of all workers were unskilled or semi-skilled workers. The proportion of skilled workers was slightly higher among the migrants from Scheduled Tribes compared to others.

Work Duration and Overtime Allowances

The migrants were enquired about the average number of hours they worked in a single shift and if they got overtime allowances (Table.3.8). The median duration of work in a single shift was eight hours for the workers irrespective of the ethnic group. Over seven out of every ten migrants reported that their single shift was of eight hours. The proportion of migrants who worked for longer durations was more among

► Profile of Migrant Workers

the Other Disadvantaged Communities. Over one-third of the migrant workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities worked for nine to twelve hours a day.

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	73.8	65.6	71.9
9 to 11	14.0	18.8	15.1
12	12.1	15.6	12.9
Median Hours	8.0	8.0	8.0
Whether Getting Overtime Allowance			
Yes	53.3	65.6	56.1
No	46.7	34.4	43.9
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Over half of the workers reported that they received overtime allowances. The proportion of workers who received overtime allowances was lesser among the workers from tribal communities compared to those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Almost two-thirds of the migrant workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities received overtime allowances whereas it was 54 per cent in the case of workers from tribal communities.

Wages and Benefits

The workers were enquired about the wage arrangements, who paid their wages, mode of payment and the average monthly income from wages (Table.3.9). Nearly one in every two migrant workers received a monthly income of less than ₹10000. On average the workers received a monthly income of ₹10000, irrespective of their ethnic status. Overall, about 12 per cent of the workers gained a monthly income ₹15000 and above from their wages. Over ten per cent of the workers from Scheduled Tribes had a monthly income of above ₹20000 from wages. The majority of the workers received their wages in cash.



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	49.5	46.9	48.9
10000 to 14999	36.4	46.9	38.8
15000 to 19999	2.8	0.0	2.2
20000 and above	11.2	6.3	10.1
Median Income (₹)	10000	10000	10000
Mode of Payment			
Cash	56.1	56.3	56.1
Bank Account	43.9	43.8	43.9
Person in Charge of Payment of Wages			
Employer	52.3	53.1	52.5
Contractor	43.9	46.9	44.6
Not Applicable	3.7	0.0	2.9
Wage Arrangements			
Daily	25.2	31.3	26.6
Weekly	74.8	68.8	73.4
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Nearly half of the workers reported that they were paid by their respective employers whereas in the case of most of the others, contractors were responsible for the payment of wages. Over 70 per cent of the workers received the wages on a weekly basis and the others were paid on a daily basis. The proportion of workers who received daily wages was larger among the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Castes. A moderate estimate reveals that Rayagada receives about ₹440 million annually as wages to migrant workers.

Employment-Related Benefits

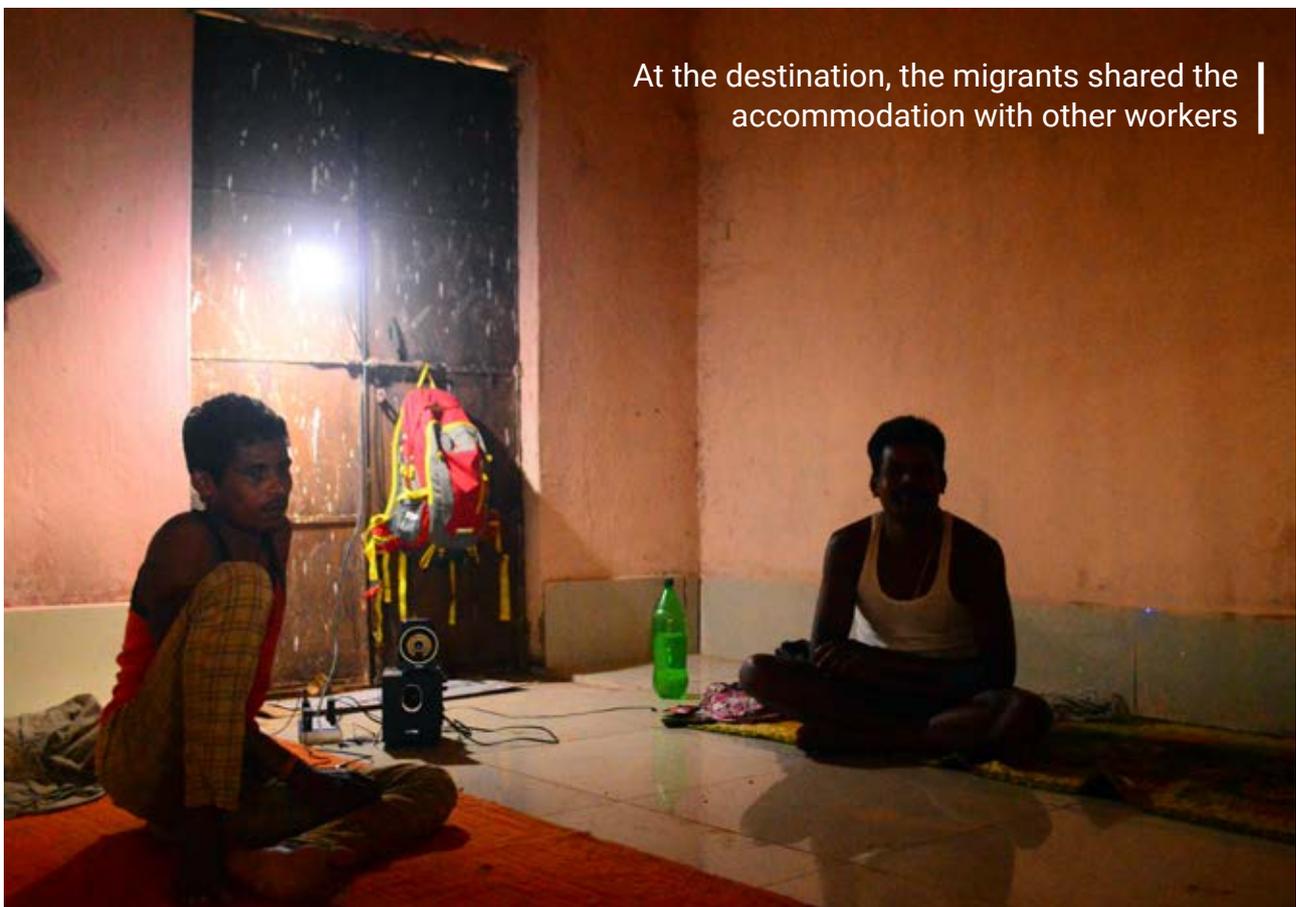
The workers were enquired about their social security benefits at the respective destinations. The results are presented in Table.3.10. The status of enrolment under Employees' State Insurance (ESI), Provident Fund, gratuity and pension was explored. Over four-fifths of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic status, had no access to employment-related benefits. Nearly 14 per cent of all workers, with a slightly higher percentage of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, reported that they were enrolled under Provident Fund. None of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported having gratuity and pension.

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

Benefit	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
No Benefits	86.0	84.4	85.6
ESI	7.5	3.1	6.5
Provident Fund	13.1	15.6	13.7
Gratuity	4.7	0.0	3.6
Pension	1.9	0.0	1.4
Number	107	32	139

Living Arrangements

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 (Table.3.11). Seven out of every ten workers reported that they stayed with other workers. Such arrangements were more prominent in the case of workers from Scheduled Caste households. Nearly 15 per cent of all workers stayed with their family or friends. A larger proportion of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were found sharing accommodation with their family or friends compared to the tribal communities. Over one-fifth of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported that they stayed alone in the destination while only less than 10 per cent of the workers from Scheduled Tribes reported having such living arrangements.



At the destination, the migrants shared the accommodation with other workers

Table.3.11: Percentage distribution of workers by select attributes related to living arrangements and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Accommodation Arrangement (Percentage)			
Other Workers	78.5	50.0	71.9
Family or Friends	11.2	28.1	15.1
Alone	9.3	21.9	12.2
Type of Accommodation			
Workers' Quarters by Employer	44.9	21.9	39.6
Worksite	29.9	31.3	30.2
Rented Room	13.1	15.6	13.7
Independent Rented House	12.1	31.3	16.5
Monthly Rent			
No Rent	72.9	53.1	68.3
2000 or Less	16.8	31.3	20.1
Above 2000	10.3	15.6	11.5
Median	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of Persons Sleeping in the Same Room			
3 or Less	41.1	46.9	42.4
4 to 6	46.7	46.9	46.8
7 and above	12.1	6.3	10.8
Median	4	4	4
Availability of Select Facilities at Place of Accommodation (Percentage)			
Electricity	97.2	93.8	96.4
At Least One Functional Toilet	86.9	96.9	89.2
Drinking Water	95.3	96.9	95.7
Average Monthly Expenditure (₹)			
Less than 2000	47.7	62.5	51.1
2000 to 4000	34.6	21.9	31.7
Above 4000	17.8	15.6	17.3
Median Expenditure	3000	2000	2000
Practice of Cooking			
Yes	79.4	87.5	81.3
No	20.6	12.5	18.7
Number	107	32	139

► Profile of Migrant Workers

About two-fifths of the workers stayed in workers' quarters provided by the employers. Nearly thirty per cent of the workers cutting across the ethnic backgrounds stayed at the worksites. Over 30 per cent of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities stayed in independent rented rooms, while the overall proportion of labourers reporting such arrangements was 17 per cent. Overall, 68 per cent of the workers were not required to pay any rent for their accommodation. While 73 per cent of the workers from tribal communities had free accommodation, 53 per cent workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported to have such arrangement. One-fifth of the labourers, with a relatively higher proportion of labourers from Other Disadvantaged Communities paid ₹2000 or less per month towards rent. On average, four people shared a single room to sleep. Ten per cent of the migrant labourers reported that seven or more people shared the room where they slept. Most of the workers reported that their residence had electricity, drinking water and at least one functional toilet.

The median monthly expenditure of the migrant workers at their respective destination was ₹2000. The average expenditure of workers from Scheduled Tribes was higher than those from Other Disadvantaged Communities. Nearly half of all workers incurred an expenditure below ₹2000 per month and nearly one-third of the workers had a monthly expenditure of ₹2000 to ₹4000. While slightly above one-third of the workers from Scheduled Tribes had an expenditure between ₹2000 to ₹4000 per month, the proportion of workers who incurred such expenditure was over one-fifth in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities.

It was found that overall, more than four-fifths of the workers practiced cooking, the proportion being much larger for workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities. On the other hand, over one-fifth of the tribal workers avoided cooking on their own. Among those who cooked, slightly less than two-thirds reported the availability of a separate kitchen in their respective place of accommodation (Figure 3.3). Nearly half of them used cooking gas as fuel. Another 37 per cent used firewood and about 13 per cent of the workers used either diesel or kerosene for cooking.

Figure.3.3: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who cook by availability of separate kitchen, N:113

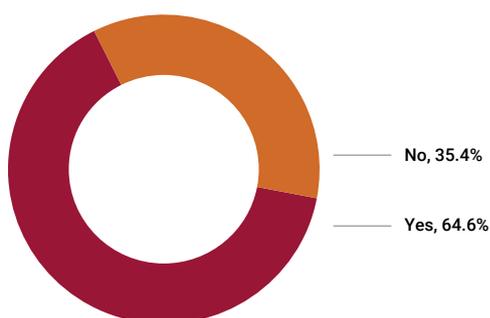
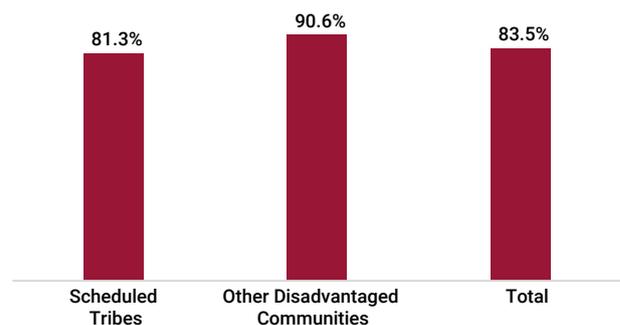


Figure.3.4: Percentage of workers with own bank/post office account, N:139



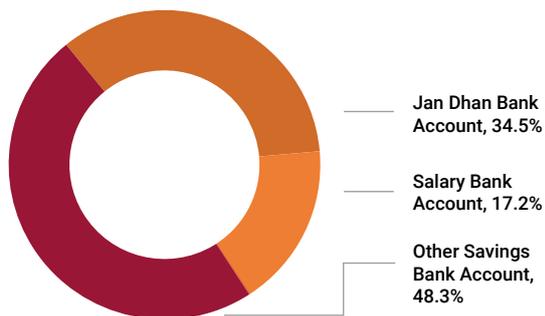
Bank Accounts

The study examined if the workers had bank/post office accounts of their own. The type of the accounts they possessed was also probed. Results are presented in Figure 3.4. It was found that over four-fifths of the migrant workers had a bank/post office account of their own irrespective of the ethnic background. Nine out of every ten workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported having bank/post office accounts.

► Profile of Migrant Workers

The workers who reported having bank/post office accounts were further requested to provide information about the type of accounts they had. Figure 3.5 presents the findings from the same. It was found that over one-third of the workers had Jan Dhan accounts and slightly less than half of them had other savings accounts. Rest of the respondents had salary accounts.

Figure.3.5: Percentage distribution of migrant workers with bank/post office account by type of account, N:116



Most workers had bank accounts. One in every three such accounts was a Jan Dhan account

Remittances

The study explored the remittance behaviour of the workers from Rayagada. Workers were enquired about the frequency of sending money home, mode of transferring remittances, and the average remittance sent in the last three months prior to the announcement of the lockdown. Details on their average monthly savings prior to the lockdown were also sought. Over three-fourths of all the migrant workers reported that they sent money home as and when required (Table 3.12). A little less than one-fifth of the migrant workers never sent money home. The proportion of workers who never sent money home was almost double in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to the workers from Scheduled Tribes. None of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported sending money on a monthly basis.



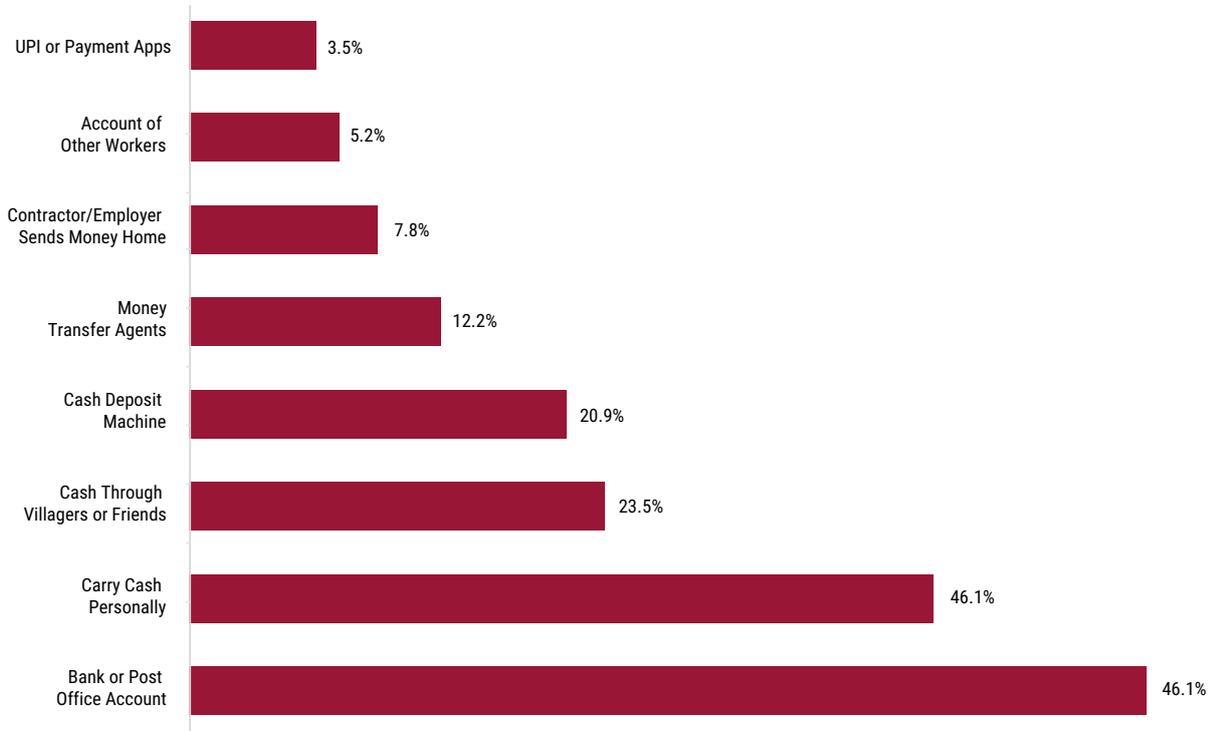


Table.3.12: Percentage distribution of workers by remittance, saving habits and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Frequency of Sending Money Home			
Never	14.0	28.1	17.3
Monthly	8.4	0.0	6.5
As and When Required	77.6	71.9	76.3
Average Remittances in the Last Three Months (₹) Prior to Lockdown			
Did Not Send Money	14.0	28.1	17.3
5000 or below	23.4	28.1	24.5
5001 to 10000	31.8	18.8	28.8
10001 to 15000	12.1	15.6	12.9
Above 15000	18.7	9.4	16.5
Median Remittances	10000	10000	10000
Average Monthly Savings (₹) Prior to Lockdown			
Up to 3000	26.2	31.3	27.3
3001 to 6000	32.7	28.1	31.7
6001 to 9000	27.1	28.1	27.3
Above 9000	14.0	12.5	13.7
Median Savings	5000	5000	5000
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

The median remittance sent by the workers in the last three months prior to the lockdown was ₹10000 across all ethnic groups. While over two-fifths of the workers from Scheduled Tribes remitted ₹5000 to ₹15000 home in the last three months prior to the lockdown, the corresponding proportion was found to be slightly over one-third for other workers. Seventeen per cent of all workers remitted over ₹15000 during the same time period. Based on the estimated number of migrant workers and the remittance behaviour of the migrants from the sample, the average monthly remittance to Rayagada was estimated. The estimated monthly remittances to Rayagada block from the migrant workers were about ₹18.2 million.

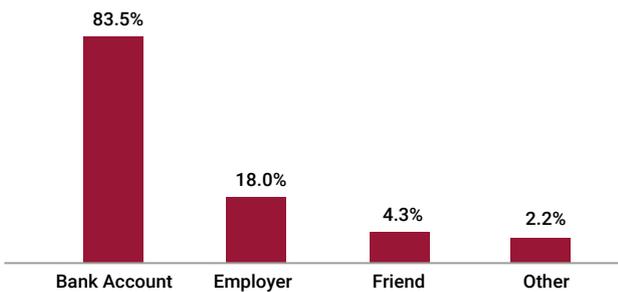
Figure.3.6: Percentage of workers who remit by mode of transferring remittances, N:115



Six out of every ten workers who sent money reported using bank or post office account for transferring remittances. Nearly half of the workers mentioned carrying cash home when they travelled (Figure 3.6). Nearly a quarter of the workers sent cash through others and over one-fifth of them deposited money using cash deposit machines. Only a small proportion of the workers used payment apps or relied on money transfer agents. Reliance on others' accounts or upon contractors/employers for sending remittance was also less among the workers from Rayagada block.

On average, the workers from Rayagada, irrespective of their ethnic background, saved ₹5000 per month besides what they sent home (Table 3.12). At least 55 per cent of the workers from all ethnic groups saved in the range of ₹3000 to ₹9000 in the month prior to the lockdown. Fourteen per cent of all workers reported savings above ₹9000 during the same time period. Over four-fifths of those who saved money deposited it in bank accounts. There were also people who had entrusted it with employers or friends (Figure 3.7).

Figure.3.7: Percentage of workers who save money by mode of saving, N:139



Workers transferred money mostly through formal channels. They also saved ₹5000, on average, in addition to what they sent home

Communicating with Family

Since several villages in Rayagada do not have mobile phone network, Gram Vikas has been exploring innovative strategies to connect the villagers with their family members who are away from home. Hence, the means of communication between migrant members and their family members at the native place were explored. Almost all the workers made regular audio phone calls while one-third of them made WhatsApp audio calls too (Table.3.13). Slightly below one-fourth of the migrants reported that they also communicated with their families over WhatsApp video calls.

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	100.0	90.6	97.8
WhatsApp Audio Call	35.5	25.0	33.1
WhatsApp Video Call	21.5	28.1	23.0
Audio/Video through Other Applications	3.7	9.4	5.0
Access to Phone			
Smartphone	57.9	62.5	59.0
Basic Phone	36.4	21.9	33.1
No Mobile Phone	5.6	15.6	7.9
Number	107	32	139

The ownership of mobile phone also was explored in the survey. Only about eight per cent of the workers reported that they did not have mobile phones. The proportion of workers without mobile phones was almost three times larger in the case of workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. About 60 per cent of the workers had smartphones while one-third had a basic phone. 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. Findings revealed that none of the workers from Rayagada were part of any trade union in their respective destinations. 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 specific documents or membership in select schemes is provided in Table.3.14.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Ration Card at Destination	1.9	3.1	2.2
Voter ID at Destination	0.0	3.1	0.7
Labour Card at Destination	0.0	3.1	0.7
Health Insurance Scheme	1.9	3.1	2.2
Accident Insurance Scheme	0.9	0.0	0.7
Life/Any Other Insurance	1.9	3.1	2.2
Welfare Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	107	32	139

Except a few, most workers, irrespective of the ethnic group, had no access to measures of social security that they could leverage at the destination. Overall, only two per cent of the workers reported having a ration card at the destination. A similar proportion of workers mentioned having access to a health insurance scheme at the destination. Possession of voter identity cards, labour cards or accident insurance was negligible among migrant workers from Rayagada. The proportion of workers who had any of these documents was larger in the case of Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from Scheduled Tribes. None of the workers reported having a membership in any welfare fund at the destination.

Impact of the 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 pending wages stuck with the employer/contractor. Their accommodation at the destination too was rendered uncertain in case it was arranged in the work premises or by their labour contractors. With no work, no money and eventually no food, workers were left with very little choice but to return to their native villages. Amidst non-availability 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 Rayagada were asked to share their experiences during the nationwide lockdown. Detailed information on how the lockdown impacted their employment was sought. Their travel experiences to the native places were also explored. This section summarises the findings.

Location at the Time of Announcement of the Lockdown

Nearly 70 per cent workers from Rayagada were at their workplace when the lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020 (Table 3.15). Two-thirds of the workers from Scheduled Tribes and 78 per cent workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities were at their respective workplaces. Around 30 per cent of the workers were already at the 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	31.8	21.9	29.5
At Workplace	66.4	78.1	69.1
On the Way to the Native Place	1.9	0	1.4
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Impact of the Lockdown on Employment

The migrant workers from Rayagada were asked to share the impact of the lockdown on their employment. The majority of the workers reported that their employment was not affected (Table 3.16). The impact of the lockdown on employment was similar across ethnic groups. Labourers were also asked to report their response following the announcement of nationwide lockdown. Overall, 43 per cent of the workers were at their respective workplaces on the date of the survey. While two-fifths of the workers from Scheduled Tribes continued to stay in their respective workplaces, over half of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities reported doing so. About eight per cent of the migrant workers from Rayagada reported returning to their native place during the lockdown and nearly 20 per cent of the workers returned after the lockdown.

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

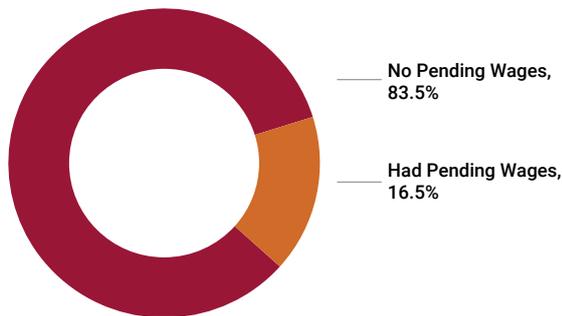
Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Impact on Employment			
Lost Employment	45.8	40.6	44.6
No Change in Employment	54.2	59.4	55.4
Action Taken by Migrant When Lockdown Was Announced			
Stayed Back till Now	40.2	53.1	43.2
Returned to Native Place during Lockdown	6.5	12.5	7.9
Returned to Native Place after Lockdown	20.6	12.5	18.7
Had Returned Prior to Lockdown	32.7	21.9	30.2
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139

Impact on Wages

The announcement of the lockdown was followed by a halt in economic activities, compelling the labourers to leave the destination for home. In this process many of them failed to collect their pending wages. Workers were enquired if they had any pending wages at the time of leaving the destination for home and if so, whether they had received it.

Out of 139 migrant workers from Rayagada, a total of 79 workers had returned to Rayagada prior, during and after the lockdown. Around 17 per cent of them had their wages pending at the destination (Figure 3.8) and the pending amount ranged from ₹1000 to ₹45000. Of them, seven workers had not received their wages till the date of the survey. Among those who had received the wages, the amount ranged from ₹5000 to ₹12000.

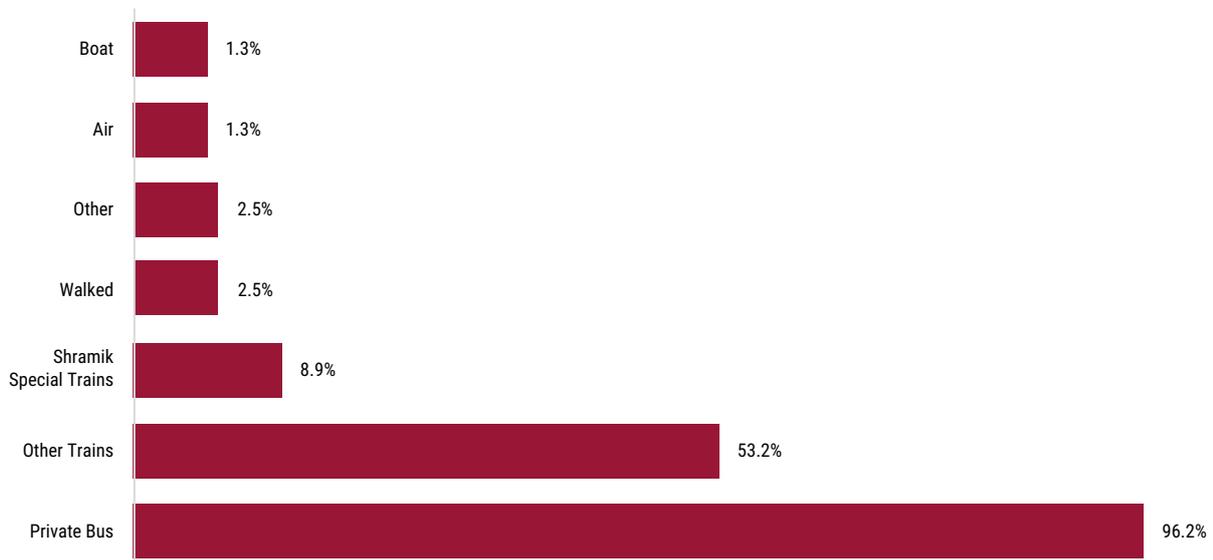
Figure.3.8: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by status of pending wages, N:79



Travel Experience during Lockdown

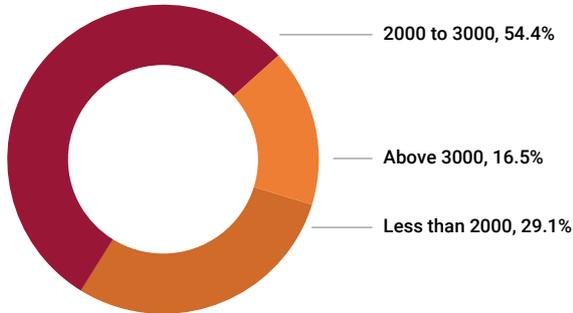
Amidst non-availability of public transport and restrictions on mobility, migrant workers were forced to explore other avenues to reach home. Many of them waited eagerly for the public transport services to be restored. Some of them booked air tickets as that was the only available option to them. Workers from nearby areas collectively arranging private transport was also a strategy for migrant workers who were desperate to reach their respective native places. Several workers incurred substantial expenditure on travel compared to their routine return trips.

Figure.3.9: Percentage of workers by modes of travel to native place during lockdown, N:79



Migrant workers from Rayagada who had returned home were asked to share their travel experiences including the modes of transport, expenditure incurred and the major source to finance the expenditure. The majority of the workers interviewed relied on private buses and trains other than the Shramik Special Trains arranged by the Government of India (Figure 3.9). Only about nine per cent of the workers returning to their native places benefited from the Shramik trains. Less than three per cent of the workers from Rayagada also mentioned that they had to walk certain distance during their journey to the native place. Nearly 55 per cent of them paid in the range of ₹2000 to ₹3000 for their return journey (Figure 3.10). About 16 per cent of the workers returning home incurred over ₹3000 for their journey. Almost all the workers financed their travel expenditure from their pockets.

Figure.3.10: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by travel expenditure, N:79

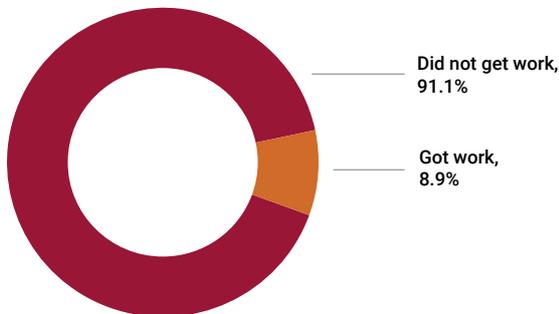


Most migrant workers who returned to Rayagada during/ after the lockdown did not benefit from NREGS

Sources of Livelihood after Returning from Destination

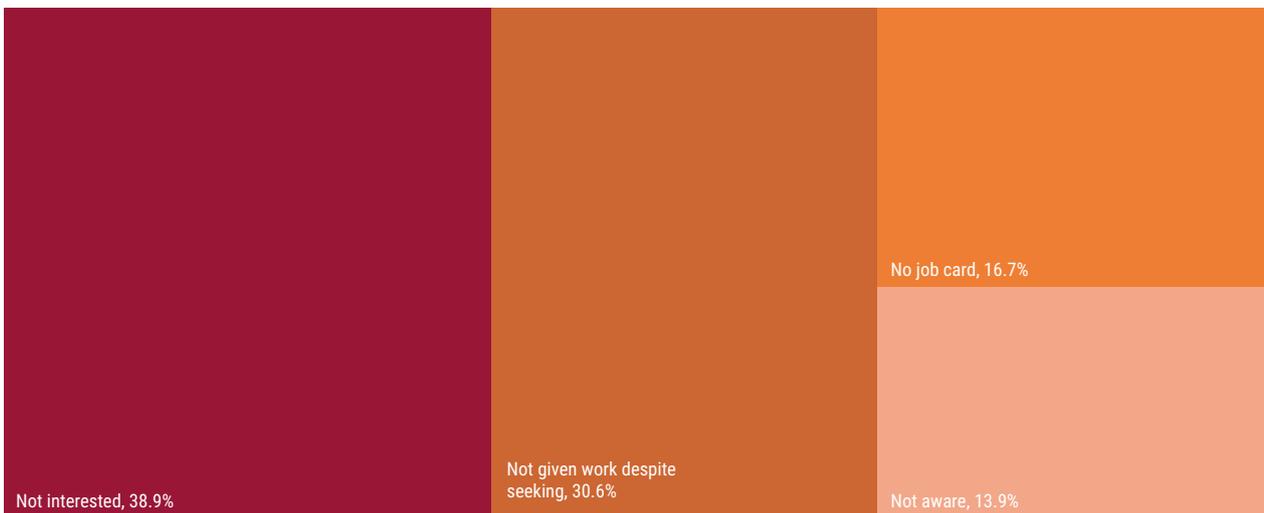
Sources of livelihood of the workers who had returned to Rayagada were explored. They were enquired if they were able to secure work through MGNREGS as the government had attempted to scale up opportunities for employment in the villages to those who had returned during the lockdown. This section summarises the findings. As evident from Figure 3.11, out of 79 migrant workers, only nine per cent could access work under MGNREGS after returning to their village and the maximum number of workdays reported was 18.

Figure. 3.11: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who returned, by status of access to work under MGNREGS, N:79



All of those who got work used their job cards to access the work. Only four persons reported that wages had been credited for work under MGNREGS at least for 10 days. Labourers who did not benefit from work under MGNREGS were enquired about the major reasons for the same. About 40 per cent of them were not interested in work under MGNREGS (Figure 3.12). About 30 per cent of the workers reported that they did not get any work despite their attempts to seek the same under MGNREGS. Nearly 14 per cent of them were not aware about MGNREGS opportunities and 17 per cent workers did not have the job card.

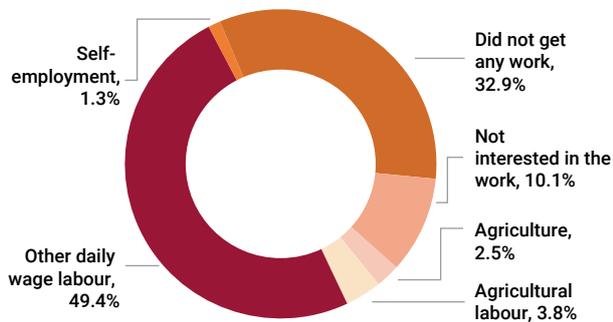
Figure.3.12: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who did not benefit from NREGS by reported reason, N:72



► Profile of Migrant Workers

Migrant workers were also asked to report their major source of income other than that from MGNREGS. Nearly half of the migrants worked as daily wage labourers in sectors other than agriculture (Figure 3.13). Around six per cent of them were engaged either in farming or as agricultural labourers. Around one-third of the migrants did not get any work after returning to Rayagada during the lockdown. Thirty eight per cent of the workers, who returned to their villages, currently had no income from any source, and slightly less than a quarter of the workers reported an income of at least ₹2000 after returning to village during the lockdown.

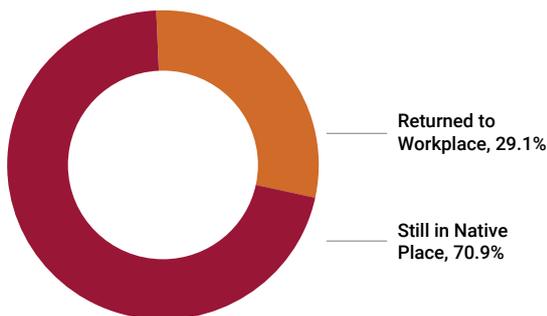
Figure.3.13: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by source of income other than NREGS at the native place, N:79



Current Location and Future Plans

In order to understand the current situation of migration in Rayagada, the workers who had returned were enquired about their location at the time of the survey. In Rayagada, out of 79 workers who had returned home before/during or after the lockdown, nearly 30 per cent went back to their workplaces (Figure 3.14). However, the majority of the workers who had returned to their native places during/after the lockdown were yet to go back to their workplaces from Rayagada.

Figure.3.14: Percentage distribution of migrant workers who had returned to native places by their location at the time of the survey, N:79



The workers who were still in Rayagada at the time of the survey were enquired about their plan to return to their respective workplaces. A majority of 63 per cent were unsure regarding their future course of migration. Nearly three out of every ten migrants had no plan to migrate any more. The rest were planning to migrate again within a maximum limit of two months. Of the 23 workers who went back to their respective workplaces, all, except one, returned to the same state where they had been working at the time of announcement of the lockdown. Three workers reported a change in workplace/employer after reaching the destination and the reasons cited for the change included the distance to the previous workplace and securing of a job at the new place.

Income That Prevents Migration

In order to understand the kind of interventions that could limit distress migration, the workers were enquired about the minimum monthly wages they expected if they were to return to native place and work there. The responses are presented in Table.3.17. Above 55 per cent of the workers cutting across the ethnic groups, responded that if they get a minimum monthly income between ₹10000 and ₹12000, they would stay back and work in the village. Over a quarter of all workers, with a slightly higher share of labourers from Other Disadvantaged Communities, reported a minimum income of over ₹12000 to stay back in their village. The median monthly income that would prevent migration from Rayagada 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	
No idea	6.5	3.1	5.8
Less than 10000	9.3	9.4	9.4
10000 to12000	57.9	56.3	57.6
Above 12000	26.2	31.3	27.3
Median	10000	11000	10000
Total	100	100	100
Number	107	32	139



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. Gajapati district of Odisha has been carved out of Ganjam district, historically known for its migration to the rest of India and beyond. Rayagada block is known for the seasonal migration of the landless and marginal farmers due to lack of sustainable income sources within the block. Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Gajapati since 1979. 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 Rayagada block was done by conducting a sample survey. The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario in Rayagada 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 is 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 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 canvassed. Assuming ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages in Rayagada block, 22 villages were randomly selected by probability proportionate to size (PPS) and from each selected village, 20 households were selected by systematic sampling. In addition to the household survey which aimed to understand the household characteristics and estimate household migration rates, a survey of current migrant workers was also carried out. From 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



► Summary and Conclusions



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 440 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 139.

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 Rayagada 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

Almost the entire population of households in Rayagada belonged to socially disadvantaged communities, with a significant share of Scheduled Tribes. Other Backward Communities (OBC) and Scheduled Castes (SC) constituted about 13 per cent and seven per cent respectively. Except over a quarter of the households that followed Christianity, all followed Hinduism. The average household size was five members. The median number of years of education of the highest educated member of the household was ten years. The majority of the households had Priority Household (PHH) ration cards and 83 per cent of the households possessed a Below Poverty Line (BPL) card. About four-fifths of the households in Rayagada had an MGNREGS card but on average, only 25 per cent of the households benefitted from the scheme, both before and after the lockdown. The median income of the households at the time of announcement of the lockdown was ₹5000 and it had declined to ₹2000 during the lockdown. Most of the households had their own pukka houses. The majority depended on piped water and dug wells for drinking water. Most of the houses were electrified and depended on wood as cooking fuel. Over three-fifths of the households had access to a functional toilet and the access did not vary much across ethnic groups. The majority of the toilets in Rayagada were constructed with the support of the government or NGOs and nine in every ten households with functional toilets regularly used it. A mobile phone was the major asset of the households irrespective of ethnicity.

► Summary and Conclusions



Over three-fifths of all the households did not own any patta land and landlessness was more prominent among the households from Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. About 30 per cent of the households with land reported that their land was not irrigated and those who irrigated land primarily depended on natural springs. Only one-fifth of the households in Rayagada reported agriculture as the major source of household income. The majority of the households depended on non-agriculture daily wage labour as the primary source of household income. Almost all households from Scheduled Tribes were engaged in agricultural activities at the time of the survey. While cultivation was predominantly on patta land, over 60 per cent of the households used forest/common land and 24 per cent households used leased land for cultivation. Almost all households practicing agriculture were engaged in only one crop cycle in a year and the produce was predominantly used for household consumption. Most households engaged in agriculture reported that with the changes in climate, agriculture has become less profitable. Overall, more than two-fifths of the households had poultry, about 30 per cent households reared cows/buffalos/bulls and a quarter of all households were engaged in goat/sheep rearing, primarily for domestic purposes. The households from Scheduled Tribes were more actively engaged in livestock rearing compared to other ethnic groups.

Nearly all households irrespective of ethnicity had at least one person with a bank account and mostly used passbooks for withdrawing money. Over half of the households had membership in self-help groups. Around 55 per cent of the households were enrolled in the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, a social health insurance scheme of Government of Odisha. In terms of access to services, the median distance to the nearest bank was about 13 km, and the nearest functional health facility was about ten km away. People, on average, walked about five minutes to reach the nearest place from where public transport was available. The nearest high school where free education was available was about two kilometres away. However, access to basic services was relatively poor among the tribal households in Rayagada. Four-fifths of the households in Rayagada had mobile phone connectivity in their respective villages.

Five per cent of all households in Rayagada block were indebted at the time of announcement of the lockdown and catastrophic health expenditure was one of the common reasons for such indebtedness. Income from usual members of the households was a major means for repayment for the indebted households. Absence of a sustained source of reasonable income was evident in the case of the majority of the households in Rayagada. As a result, most households were unable to pursue agriculture and were also unable to save money. Inability to access quality healthcare when needed was another challenge faced by the households due to their meagre income.

The lockdown had a catastrophic impact on the households in Rayagada. The average monthly income of the households fell by about 58 per cent post lockdown. About four per cent of the households in Rayagada had children under 15 years of age who had joined workforce, dropping out of school, to support their families. Over ninety per cent of the households in Rayagada had benefited from the government interventions after the lockdown to provide financial assistance/ration.

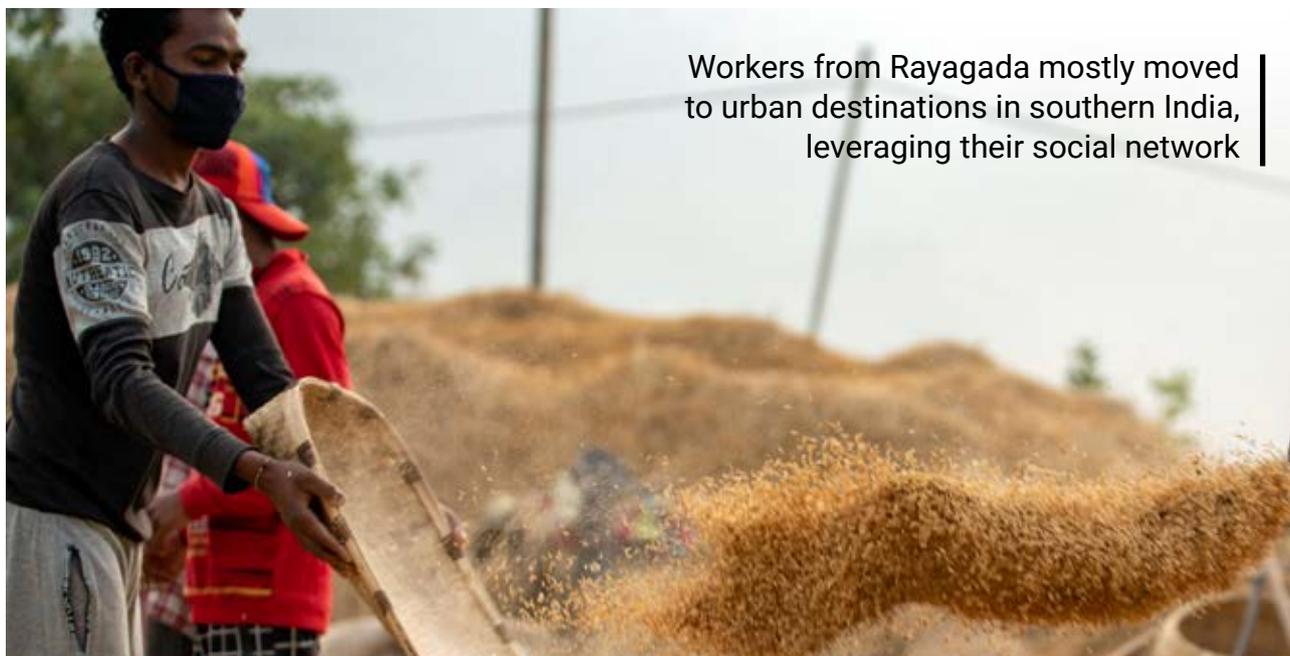
Migration from Rayagada

The majority of the households in Rayagada had a history of labour migration. Almost 45 per cent of the households reported having at least one member who had migrated out of the district for work in the past ten years. Rayagada demonstrated significant proportion of intra-state migration in addition to inter-state movements. At the time of announcement of the lockdown, over one-third of the households had an inter-district migrant worker. Thirty-one per cent of the households had a member who was an inter-state migrant labourer at the time of announcement of lockdown. About 29 per cent of the households had seasonal migrants who spent not more than six months at the destination. At the time of announcement of the lockdown about nine per cent of the population of Rayagada were working elsewhere outside the district. Over ten per cent of all migrants were women/girls. The total estimated number of migrant workers from Rayagada at the time of announcement of the lockdown was 6605.

At the time of the survey, about 18 per cent of the households had at least one member who had migrated for work outside the district. Inter-state migration at the time of the survey was about 15 per cent. One-fifth of the households had at least one current usual resident of the household who had ever worked 30 days or more outside Gajapati 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. The absence of others to take care of the family members and COVID-19 were the major reasons for such return migration. Most of such returnees were engaged as non-agricultural daily wage labourers in Rayagada. Of all households, 43 per cent had members who were not willing to migrate. Another 10 per cent households in Rayagada had members who wanted to migrate but were unable to do so. Presence of aged persons or chronically ill persons in the household, absence of other male members in the family etc. were some of the major reasons cited by the members of such households.

Examining the impact of labour migration from Rayagada, it was found that the majority of the households with migrant workers were able to cope with their poverty through labour migration. It also helped such households to improve their savings. One-third of the households with migrants reported that they were able to improve agriculture with the income of the migrant members of the households. Nearly one-third of the households with migration history were able to build a new house while about 16 per cent of the households were able to renovate their house with the income from migrant members of the households. Over half of the households with migration history mentioned that they were able to improve the education of the children with the income of the migrant members of the household.

About 58 per cent of the households with a history of migration mentioned that their status in the village improved due to the income of the migrant member of the family. There were also negative impacts of migration as mentioned by the households with migrants. Seventy-two per cent of the households with migrants shared that they were not able to seek quality healthcare in the absence of the member/s who had migrated for work. Also, about 20 per cent of households from Scheduled Tribes 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 shared that if they had a monthly income of ₹10000 in Rayagada they would not prefer members of the households to migrate for work.



Workers from Rayagada mostly moved to urban destinations in southern India, leveraging their social network

Profile of Migrant Workers

Overall, nearly 77 per cent of the migrant workers from Rayagada belonged to Scheduled Tribes; 17 per cent of all migrant workers were from Other Backward Communities (OBC) and the rest of the workers were from Scheduled Castes. About 93 per cent of the migrants were male with an average age of 29 years. The median number of years of education of the migrant worker was ten and 58 per cent of the workers were married. Among those who were married, most migrated without spouse and children. Over half of the migrant workers had three or more members back home who were dependent on their income.

Examining the migration history, it was found that most of the migrant workers from Rayagada block were either unemployed or were students before they migrated. They had made their first move out of the district for work at an average age of 24 years. Unemployment and low wages 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, over 80 per cent of the migrants from Rayagada were working outside the state, and Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were the most important inter-state destination states. About 20 per cent of the workers had migrated within Odisha, primarily to Bhubaneswar, the state capital.

Over four-fifths of the migrant workers from Rayagada had moved to urban destinations leveraging their social network and not through intermediaries such as contractors or recruiters. One in every three workers from Rayagada reported that they were working in Hyderabad at the time of announcement of the national lockdown. Most migrants had been working at the same destination, by and large with the same employer, on average for a year at the time of lockdown. They were primarily engaged in construction sector or as an employee in factories. Construction sector engaged nearly 47 per cent of the workers from Rayagada and half of the workers from Scheduled Tribes were absorbed by construction sector. Only one-fifth of the migrant workers were skilled workers. Migrants from Rayagada block worked for eight hours, on average, drawing a salary of about ₹10000 and received the wages primarily in cash. Over half of them reported receiving overtime allowances. Most workers were paid on a weekly basis.

Over four-fifths of the workers did not enjoy any employment related benefits such as ESI or PF. The majority of workers lived at the worksites or in the workers' quarters provided by the employer/contractor, sharing the room with three others and cooking their own food. Most of them had access to electricity,

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drinking water and at least one functional toilet at the place of residence. Over two-thirds of workers had free accommodation at the destination.

About 84 per cent of the migrant workers had bank accounts and 35 per cent of such accounts were Jan Dhan accounts. In the past three months prior to the lockdown, the migrant workers on average had sent about ₹10000 home. The estimated total monthly remittances received by households in Rayagada from migrant workers were about ₹18 million. For remittance, workers primarily used own bank accounts or carried cash personally when they travelled home.

Nine in every ten workers from Rayagada had a mobile phone. Around eight per cent of the workers reported that they did not have mobile phones. The majority had smartphones and workers made regular audio calls to communicate with family members. WhatsApp video calls were also popular. Only a negligible proportion of migrant workers from Rayagada possessed a voter identity card, labour card or accident insurance at the destination. None of the workers from Rayagada were part of any trade union in their respective destinations.

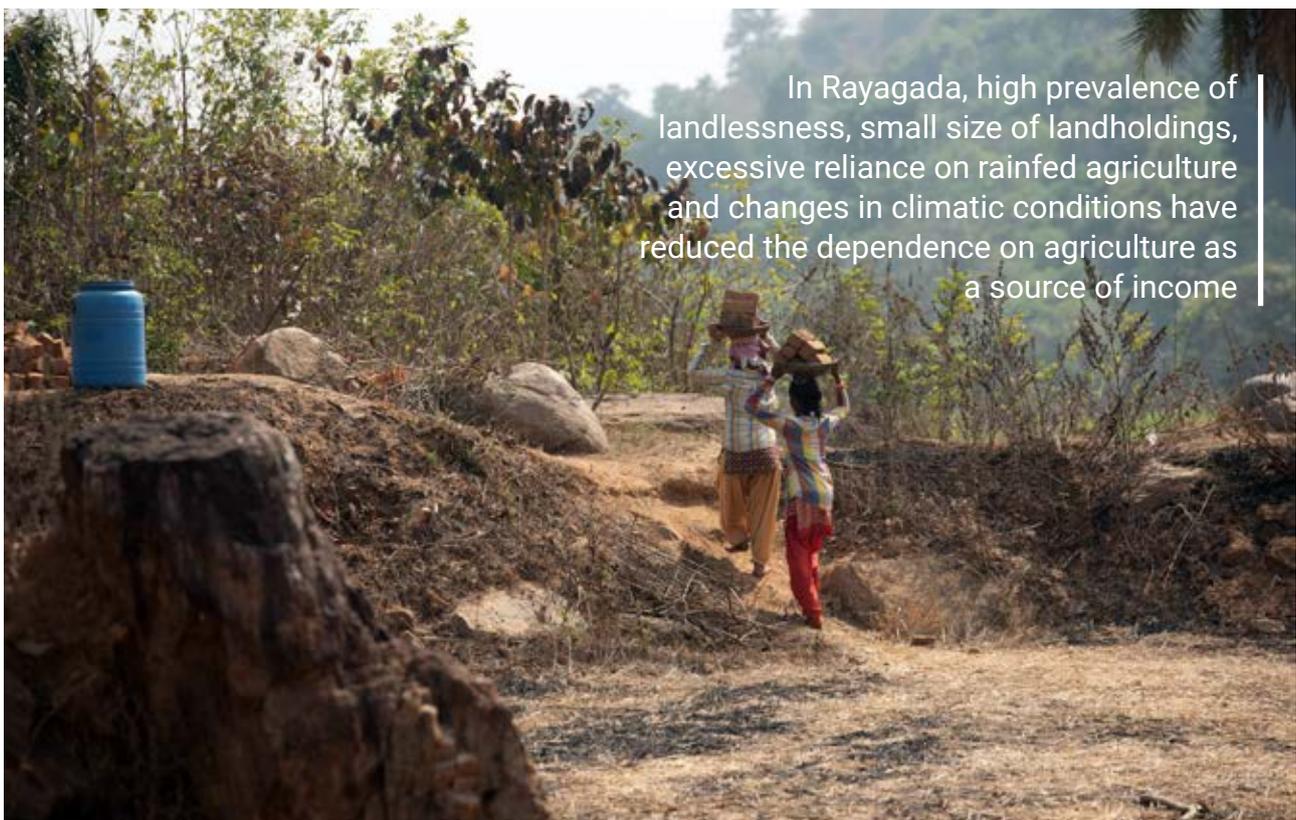
The majority of the migrants from Rayagada were at their respective workplaces at the time of the announcement of the lockdown. Less than half of the workers reported a loss of employment due to the lockdown. While over a quarter of the workers returned to their native places during or after the lockdown, nearly 43 per cent did not return at all to the native place during or after the lockdown. Only about nine per cent of workers who had returned reported that they benefited from Shramik Trains organised by the government. Over half of the workers who had returned incurred an expenditure of ₹2000 to ₹3000 for travel which they managed from their savings.

Only about nine per cent of the workers who had returned to their native places benefited from the MGNREGS interventions of the government. One-third of the workers who had returned during/after lockdown, reported that they did not get any work at all at the native place after their arrival in Rayagada. Over three-fourths of them had no or insufficient income after they had returned. Thirty per cent of the migrants were at their work destinations at the time of the survey. Most of them went back to the same places and to the same employers when they returned from Rayagada. Most migrants reported that if they get an average monthly income of ₹10000 at the native place, they prefer not to migrate for work.



Conclusions

- ◆ Socially and economically disadvantaged populations, predominantly Scheduled Tribe communities comprise the majority of the households in Rayagada. There is also a significant presence of people following Christianity. Other than the tribal communities, not many in Rayagada were historically engaged in agriculture. High prevalence of landlessness, small size of landholdings, excessive reliance on rainfed agriculture and changes in climatic conditions have reduced the dependence on agriculture as a major source of income. However, not many families have given up agriculture. A majority of households that have non-farm incomes continue with small-scale and subsistence farming that play an important role in taking care of domestic consumption needs.
- ◆ Daily wage labour contributes substantially to the income of households in Rayagada. The enrolment in MGNREGS, an important government intervention to guarantee employment opportunities for the rural poor, is fairly high in the block. One in four households in Rayagada benefited from MGNREGS prior to the lockdown, although for limited number of days of work. While there has been a significant reduction in the household income in Rayagada after the lockdown, measures to enhance MGNREGS opportunities by the government do not seem to have had any major impact.
- ◆ Households in Rayagada have fairly good access to services such as electricity, water and mobile phone network. The access to services such as banking, healthcare, public transport and free education is limited for households in Rayagada, particularly for the tribal population. However, there is universal enrolment to banking services although households still rely on passbooks for withdrawal of cash. There is also a fair penetration of women's self-help groups expanding the opportunities for access to formal credit. The substantially lower level of indebtedness in the development block could be because of the remittances and the access to self-help groups.
- ◆ More than half of the households are enrolled in the social health insurance scheme of the state government, but it has not reduced the high out-of-pocket expenditure incurred on healthcare. Access to quality and affordable healthcare services appears to be a challenge in Rayagada.



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- ◆ Households in Rayagada substantially depend on migration as a livelihood strategy. Migration from Rayagada seems to be of relatively recent origin compared to the neighbouring district of Ganjam which is historically known for migration. Most people made inter-state movements to southern Indian states, particularly to Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh which share border with the district. There is a predominance of seasonal migration.
- ◆ Most people who migrated for work were single men, typical of the long-distance internal migration in India. They primarily relied on their social ties for migration decision-making as well as securing accommodation and jobs at the destination. Nearly half of the workers were older than 30 years with three or more dependents. They had moved out in their twenties due to unemployment and a large number of them were engaged as footloose labour, indicating distress migration from Rayagada.
- ◆ Migration contributes approximately ₹180 million to the block as annual remittances from the workers. These remittances, coupled with fairly good access to banking and SHGs have substantially prevented households in Rayagada from falling into debt traps. Migration has contributed significantly to reducing the poverty of the households with migrants, helping them pay off debts and save more, improve housing and asset base, provide better access to education for children in the family and improve the household's status in the locality. At the same time, absence of the members of the households due to migration has also considerably reduced access to healthcare for other members.
- ◆ Most of the households in Rayagada benefitted from the post-lockdown interventions of the government such as free ration or financial support. The lockdown did not result in loss of employment to the majority of the migrant workers from Rayagada. However, a sizeable proportion of workers returned to native places owing to various reasons during or after the lockdown. Those who returned had to shell out substantial amounts of money from their own pocket towards travel. 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 their workplaces, at the time of the survey.
- ◆ The migrant workers 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 Rayagada, 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
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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.

