Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Profiles of Four Blocks

Background

- **Gram Vikas** is a community development organization working in Odisha and Jharkhand since 1979. It works with rural poor and tribal communities to help them lead a dignified life by building capacities, strengthening community institutions and mobilising resources.

- **Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID)** is a non-government organisation devoted to migration and inclusive development, advocating for and promoting the social inclusion of migrants and other socially disadvantaged populations in India. If stresses on innovations and resources to address the challenges faced by migrant populations.

- The two organisations have come together to understand the issues around migration and the migrant workers, their dependent families and their communities, and to develop meaningful and impactful interventions to make migration safe and dignified.

- A rigorous, intensive exercise was undertaken to study the various aspects of migration in four Blocks in four Districts of Odisha to understand migration from these locations and the impact of COVID pandemic on communities and to help evolve evidence informed strategies to promote resilience of partner communities
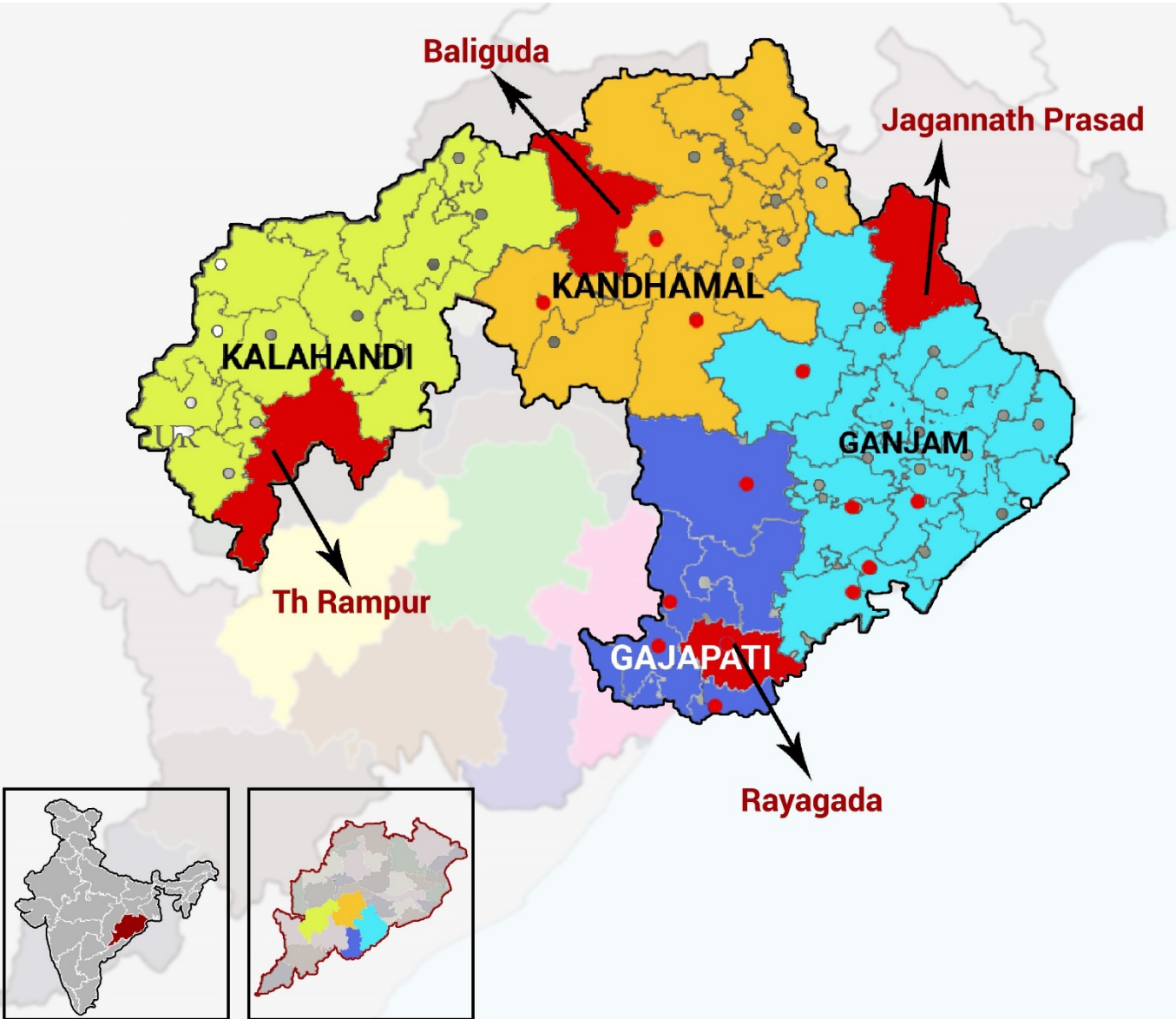
Context of labour migration from rural Odisha

Low education and skills levels → Recurrent natural disasters → Fluctuating agricultural production → Poverty in multiple dimensions → Migration as a coping strategy

Scope of the profiling exercise

- Estimate the household migration rates for the Block
- Understand the impact of migration on the households
- Understand the socio-demographic profile of households and migrants
- Explore the impact of COVID-19 lockdown (except for Thuamul Rampur)

Migration Profiles of Four Blocks in Four Districts

Map showing Baliguda, Jagannath Prasad, KANDHAMAL, KALAHANDI, GANJAM, Th Rampur, GAJAPATI, Rayagada

Labour Migration from Remote Rural Odisha
Thuamul Rampur Block, Kalahandi
Click to Read Report

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Baliguda Block, Kandhamal
Click to Read Report

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Rayagada Block, Gajapati
Click to Read Report

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Jagannathprasad Block, Ganjam
Click to Read Report

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Profiles of Four Blocks

Contents

1. Incidence of Migration

2. Effects of Migration

3. Profile of Households

4. Profile of Migrant Workers

5. Study Methodology
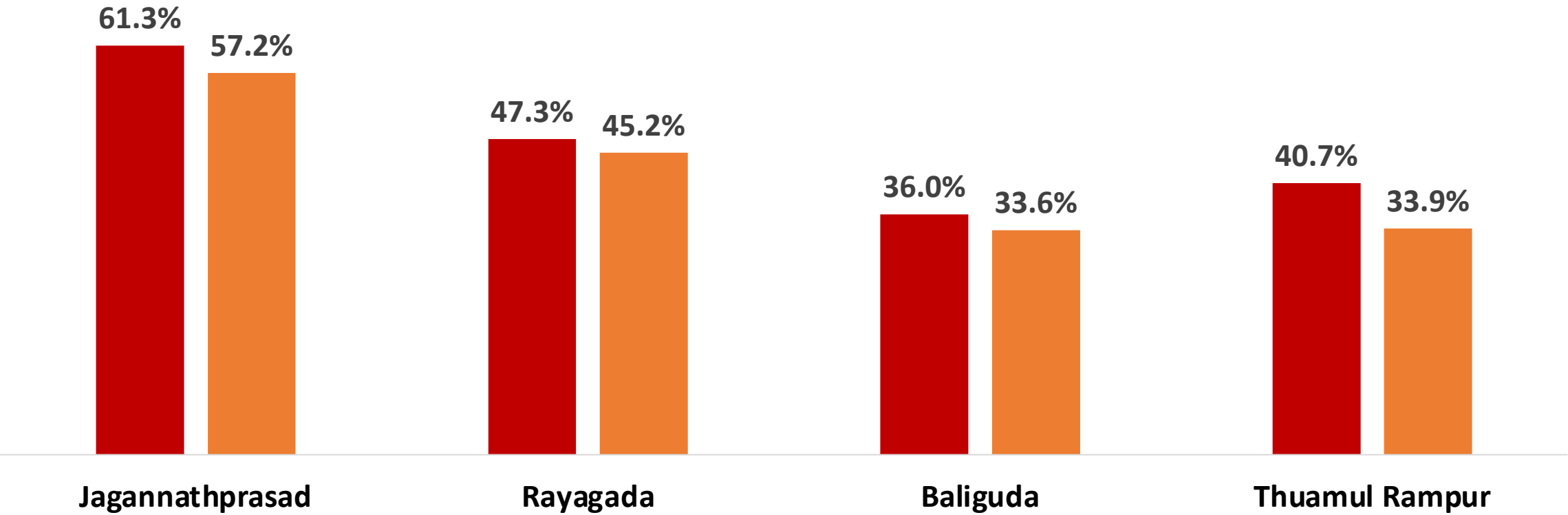
Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Profiles of Four Blocks

Incidence of Migration

History of labour migration

Proportion of households whose members, currently alive of dead, had stayed continuously for a period of 30 or more days for work outside the district, ever and during the past 10 years
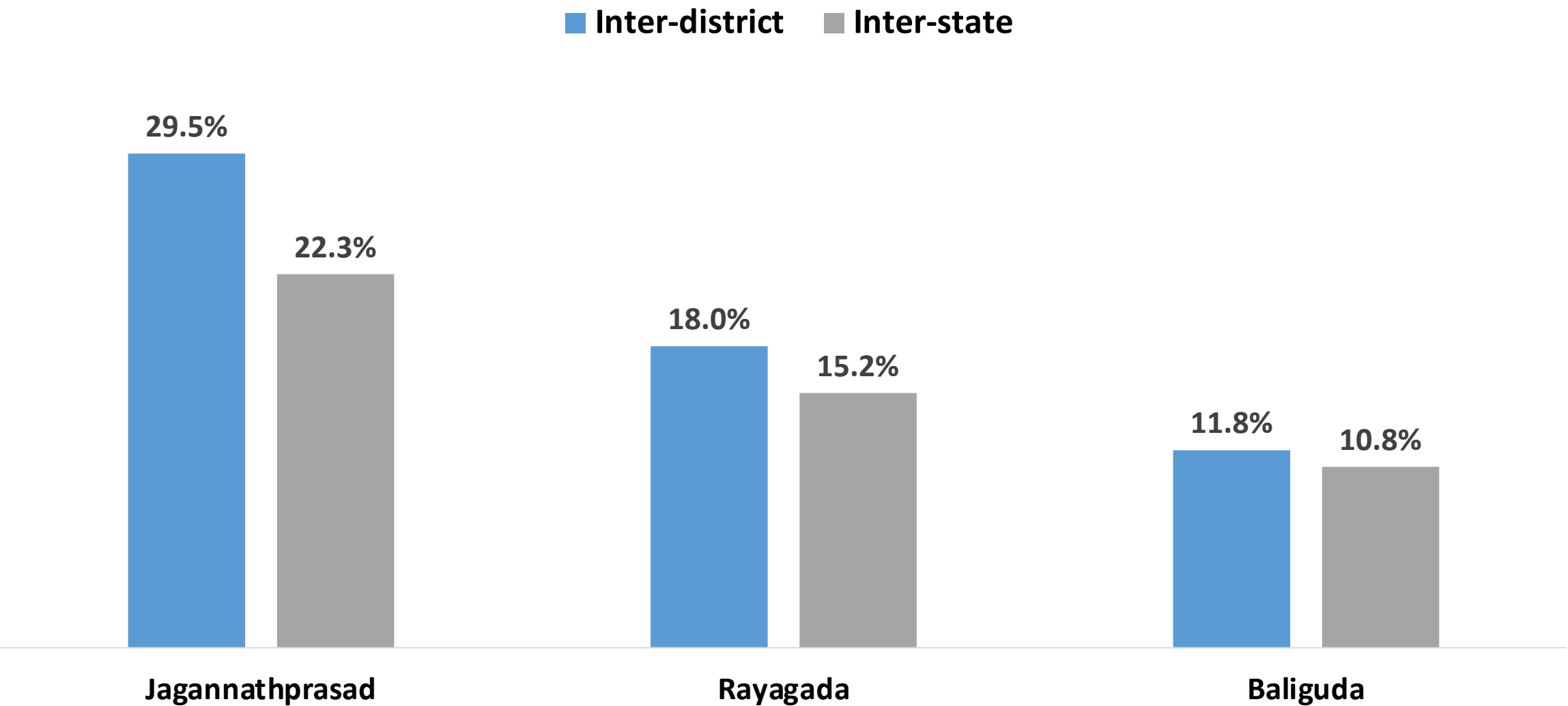
Household migration rates – pre-COVID

Proportion of households who had at least one person migrated for work outside the District or State (October 2019 for Thuamul Rampur and March 2020 for the other Blocks)
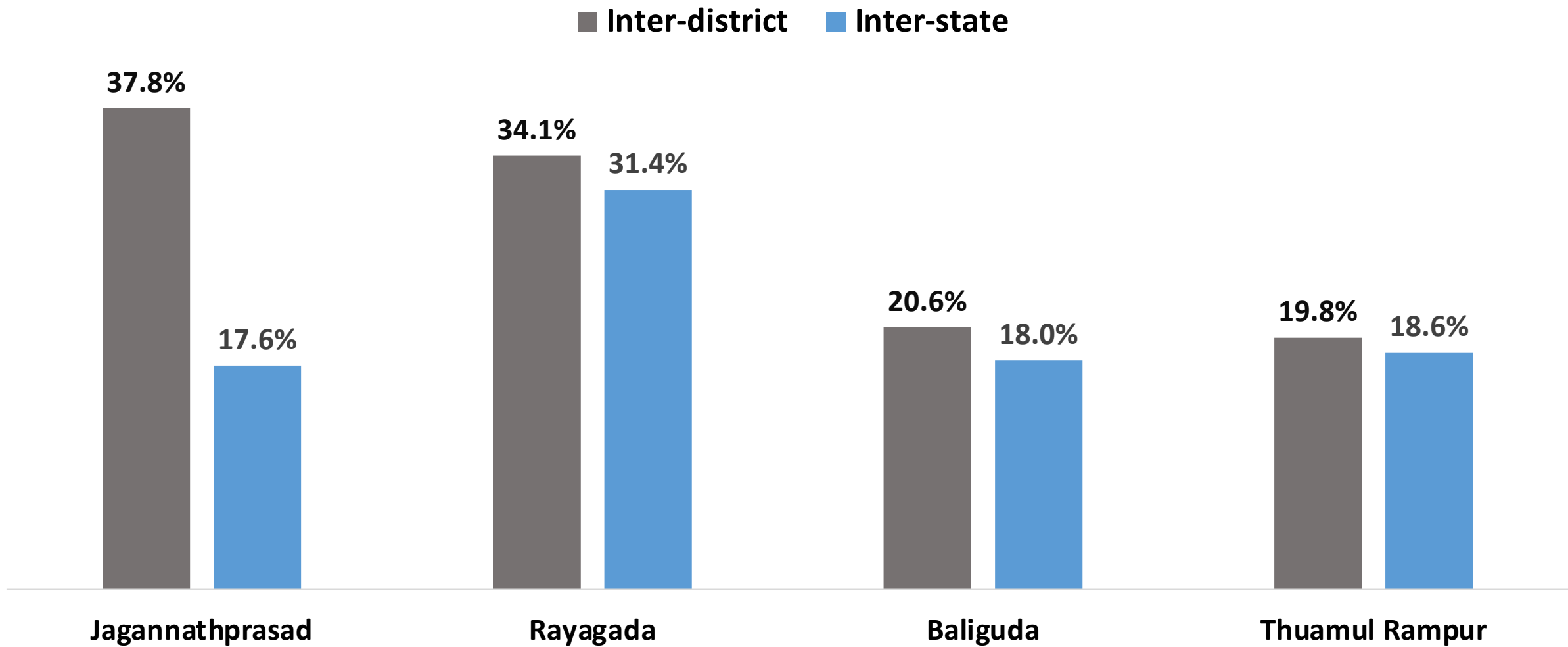
Household migration rates – post COVID

Proportion of households who had at least one person migrated for work outside the District or State (September-October 2020 for three Blocks, not done for Thuamul Rampur)

■ Inter-district ■ Inter-state

|	Inter-district	Inter-state
Jagannathprasad	29.5%	22.3%
Rayagada	18.0%	15.2%
Baliguda	11.8%	10.8%

Seasonal Migration

Proportion of households who had at least one person migrated for work outside the District or State for a period of six months or less and work rest of the year at native place (October 2019 for Thuamul Rampur and March 2020 for the other Blocks)
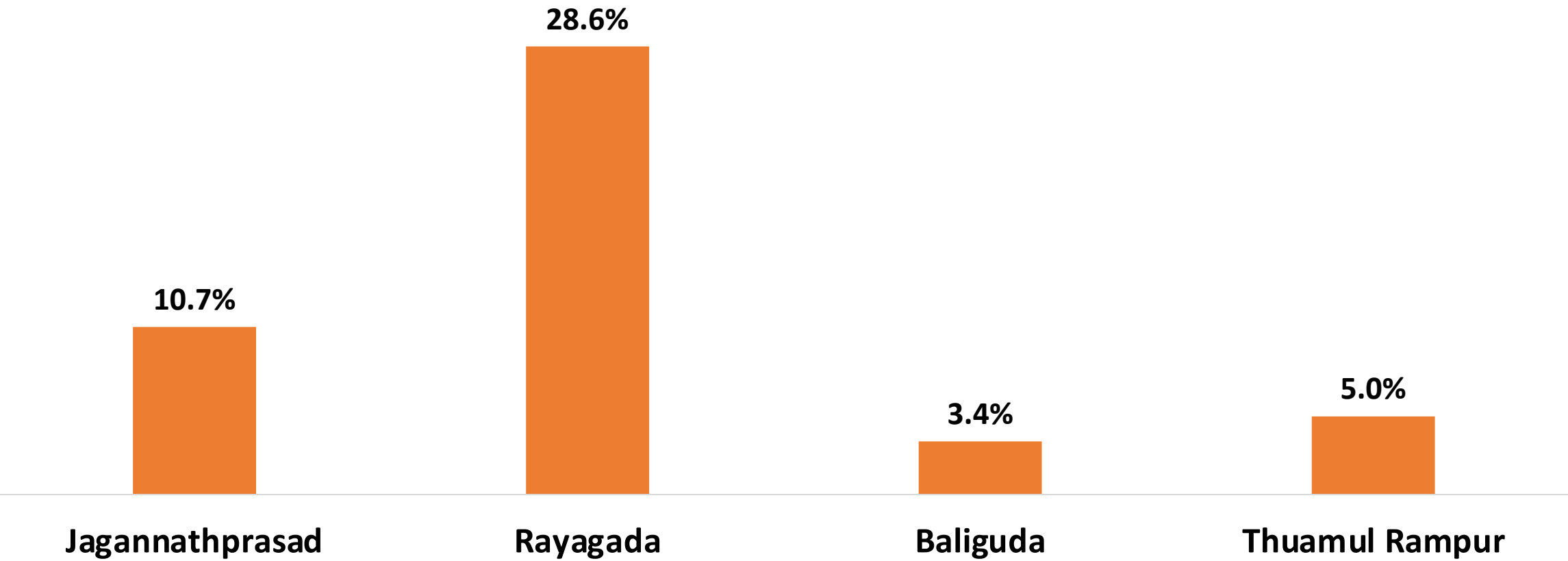
Distribution of migrant workers by sex

Proportion of men and women among migrant workers as reported by their households (not available for Thuamul Rampur)
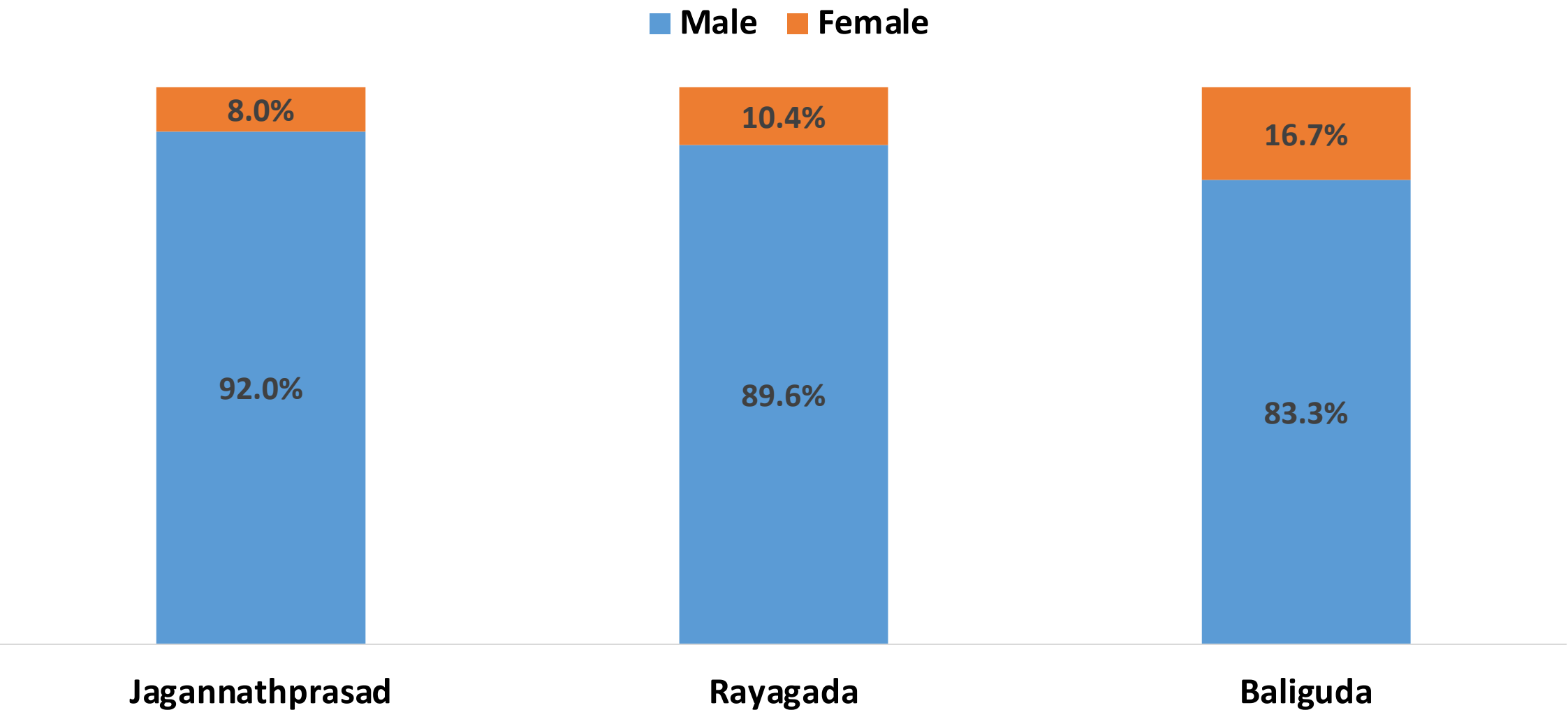
Percentage of migrant workers to the total population of the Block

Proportion of the population of the Block who was outside the District for work (October 2019 for Thuamul Rampur and March 2020 for the other Blocks)


Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
12.4%	9.3%	5.3%	5.8%
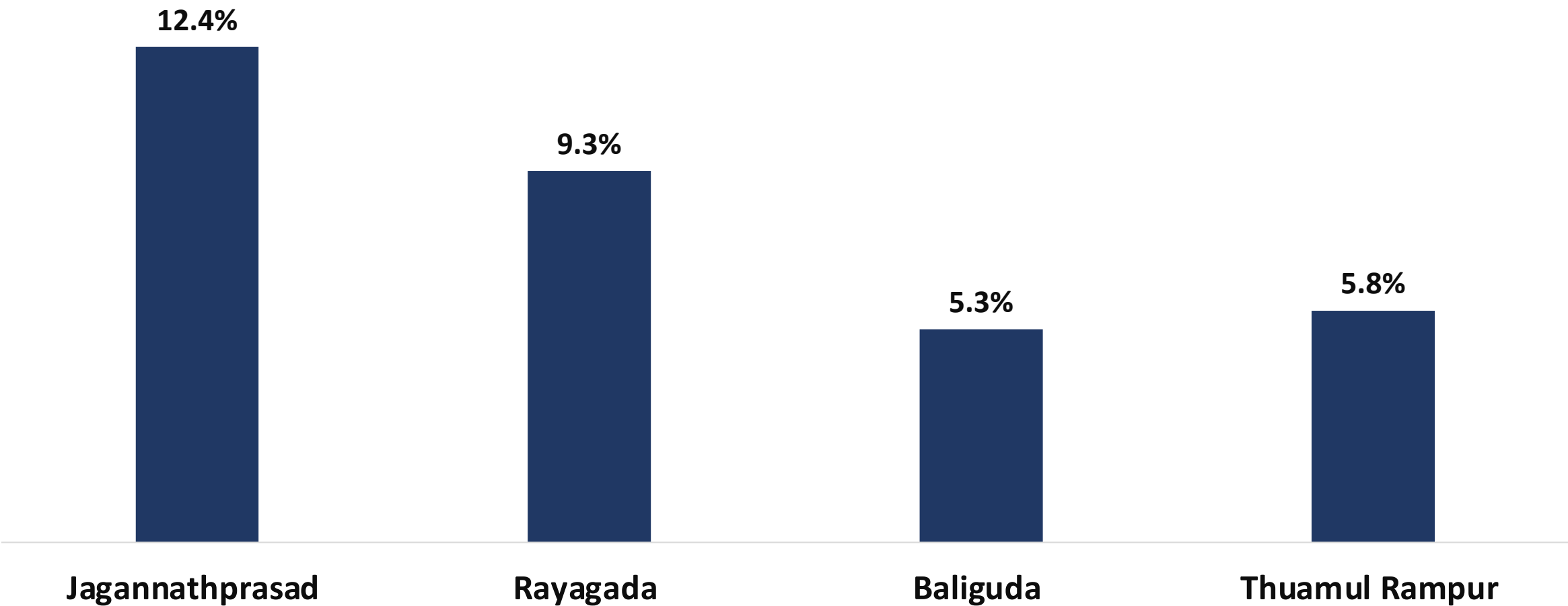
Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Profiles of Four Blocks

Effects of Migration

Impact of migration on the household – coming out of poverty

Proportion of households reporting that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income from the migrant member/s of the household

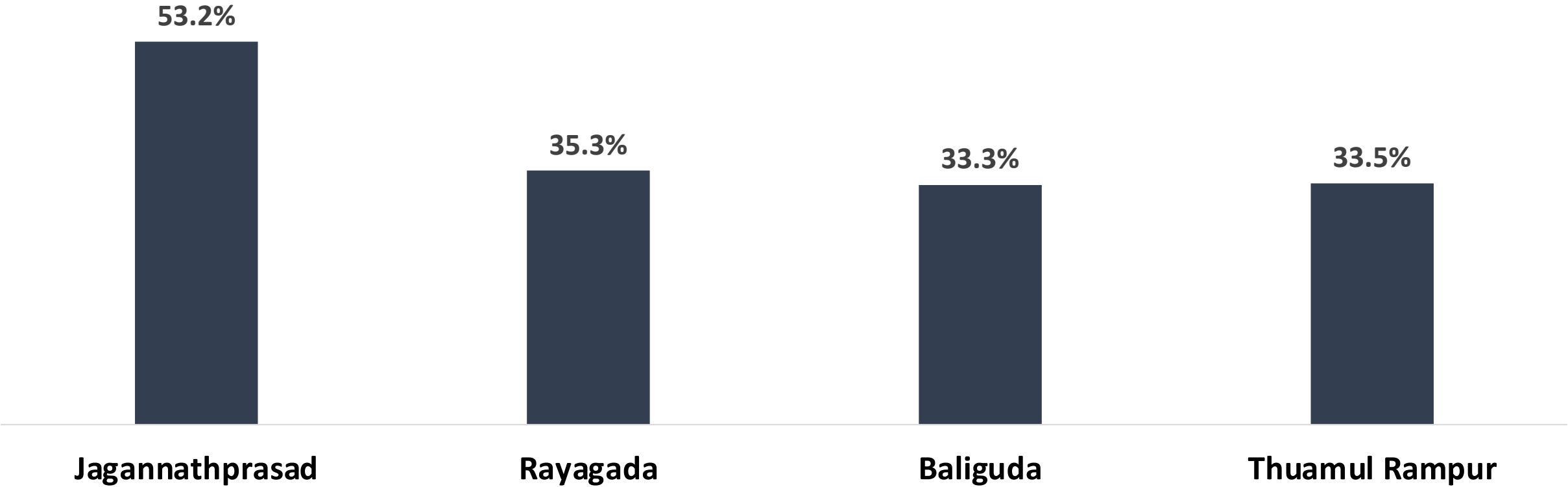| Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
78.2%	79.2%	62.9%	69.8%
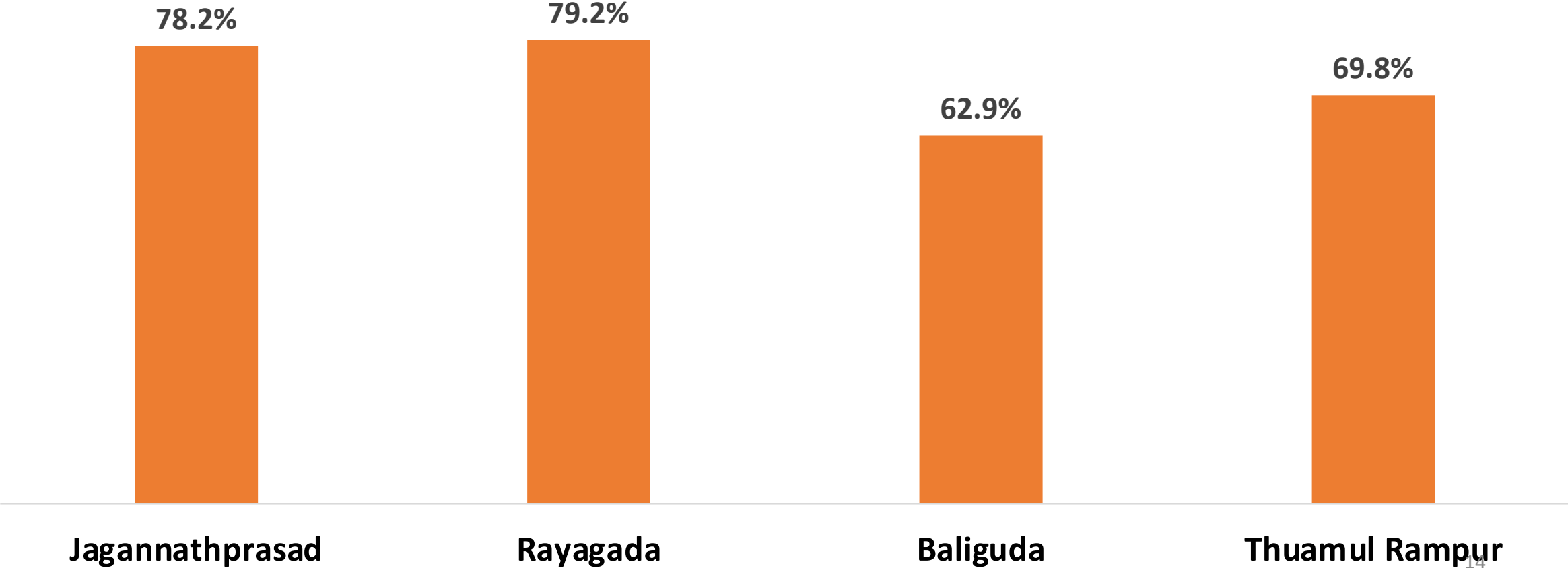
Impact of migration on the household – repayment of debt

Proportion of households reporting that they would not have been able to replay debt without the income from the migrant member/s of the household

Impact of migration on the household – increased savings

Proportion of households reporting that their savings have increased due to income from the migrant member/s of the household

Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
64.3%	68.1%	46.4%	58.1%
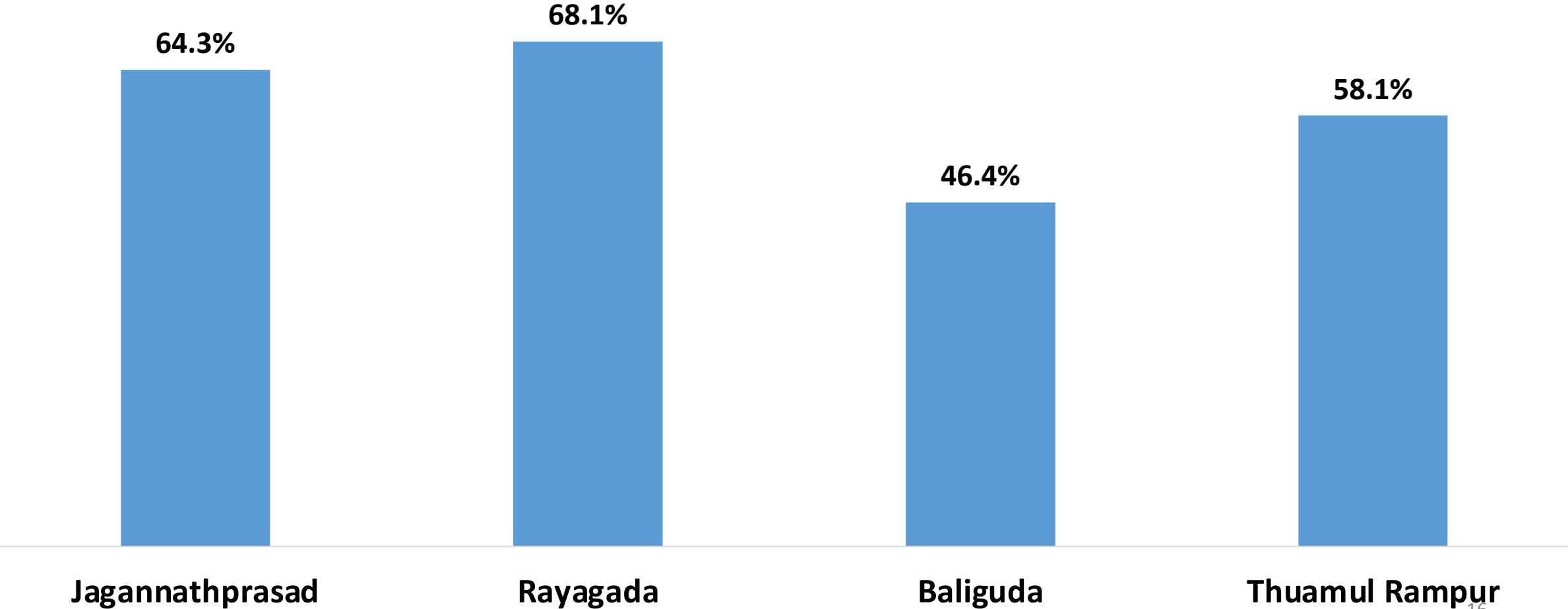
Impact of migration on the household – diversified income

Proportion of households reporting that they have been able to diversify household income sources
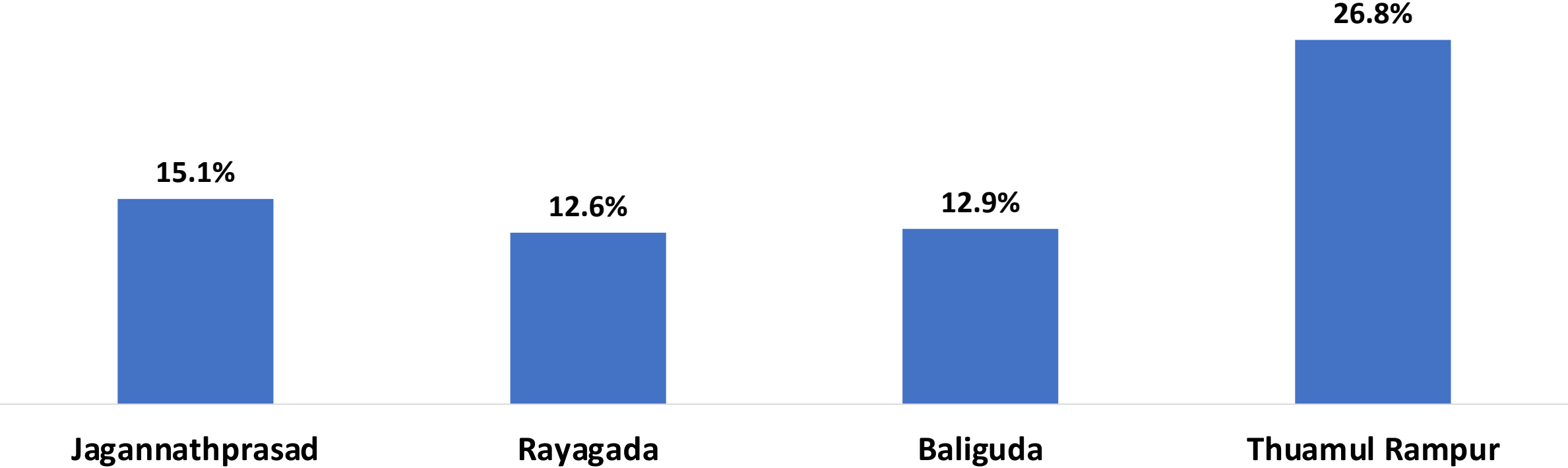
Impact of migration on the household – improved agriculture

Proportion of households reporting that they were able to improve agriculture using income from the migrant member/s of the household

50.0%	33.3%	34.3%	42.5%
Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
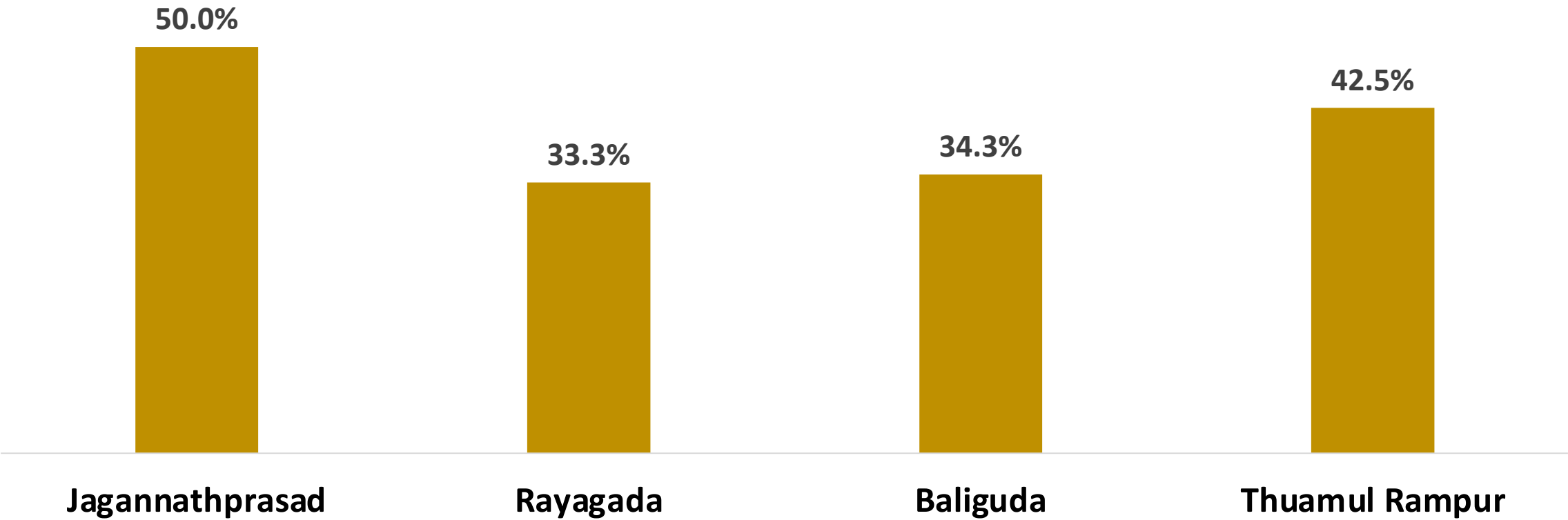
Impact of migration on the household – stopped agriculture

Proportion of households reporting that they had to completely stop farming activities due to migration

13.1%	17.9%	19.3%	15.1%
Jagannathprasad	**Rayagada**	**Baliguda**	**Thuamul Rampur**
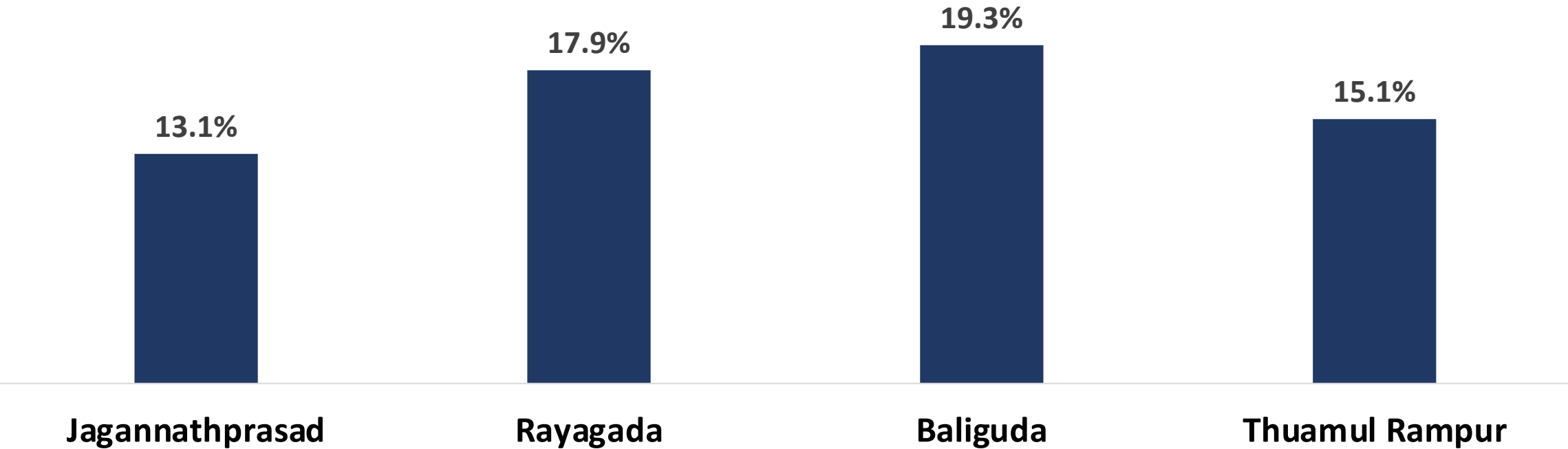
Impact of migration on the household – New house built

Proportion of households reporting that they built a new house from the income earned by migrant member/s
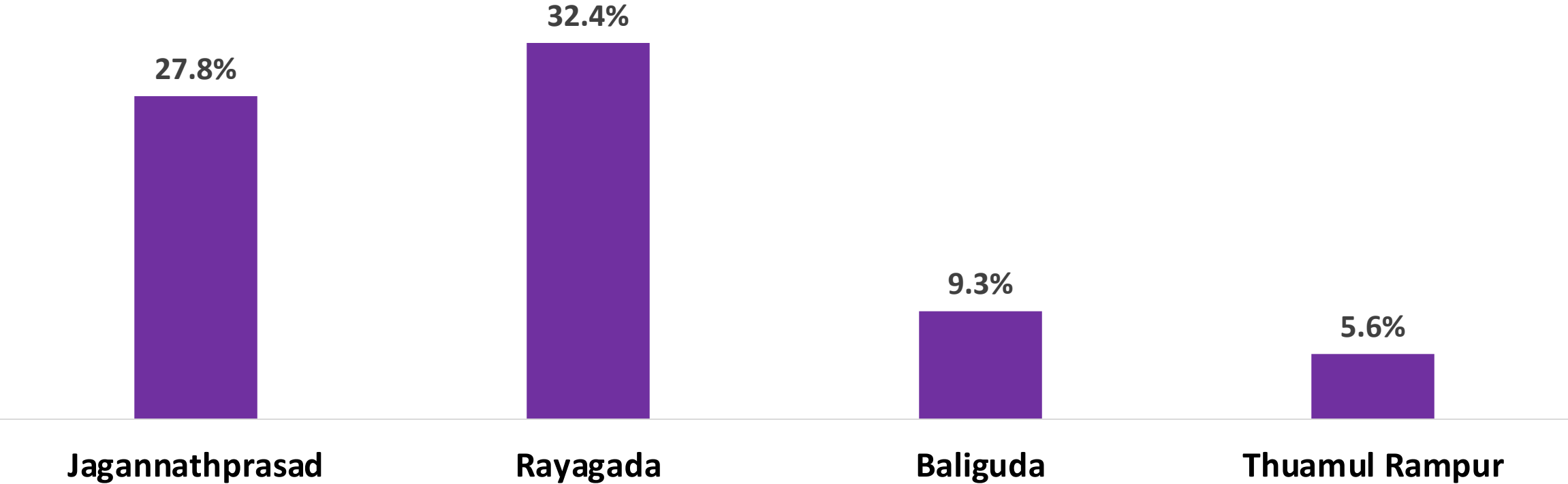
Impact of migration on the household - better education

Proportion of households reporting that they were able to provide better education for children from the income of the migrant member/s

48.8%	52.2%	28.6%	35.2%
Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
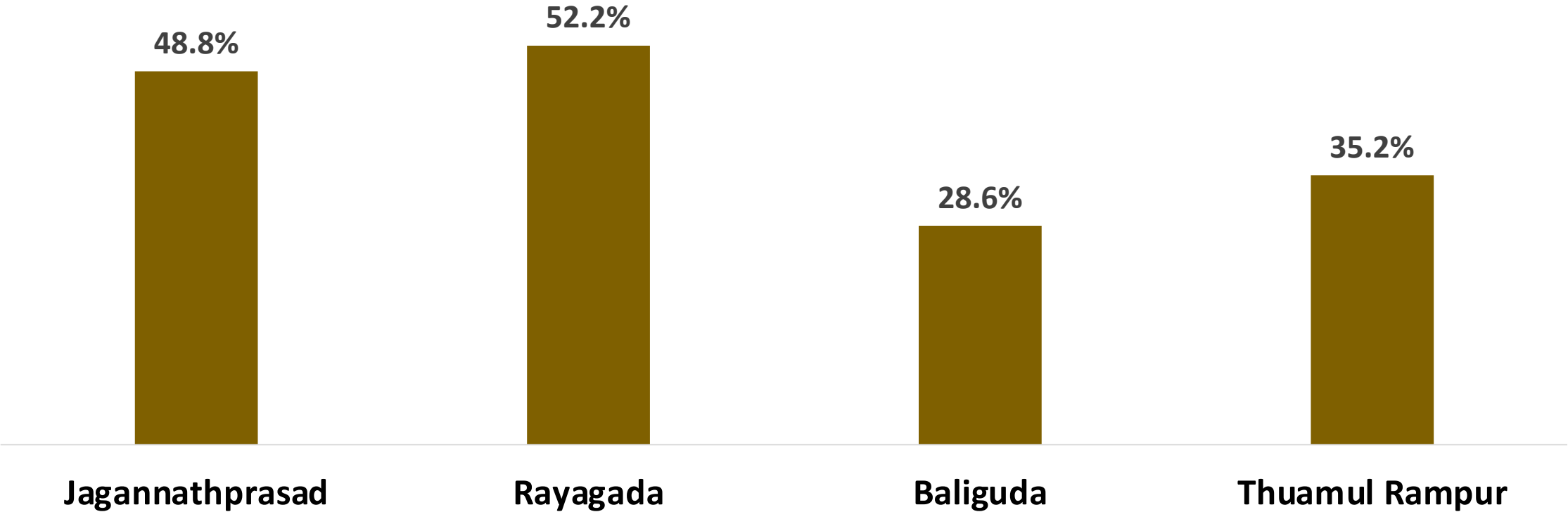
Impact of migration on the household – difficulty in obtaining healthcare

Proportion of households reporting difficulties in obtaining healthcare due to absence of adult members of the household
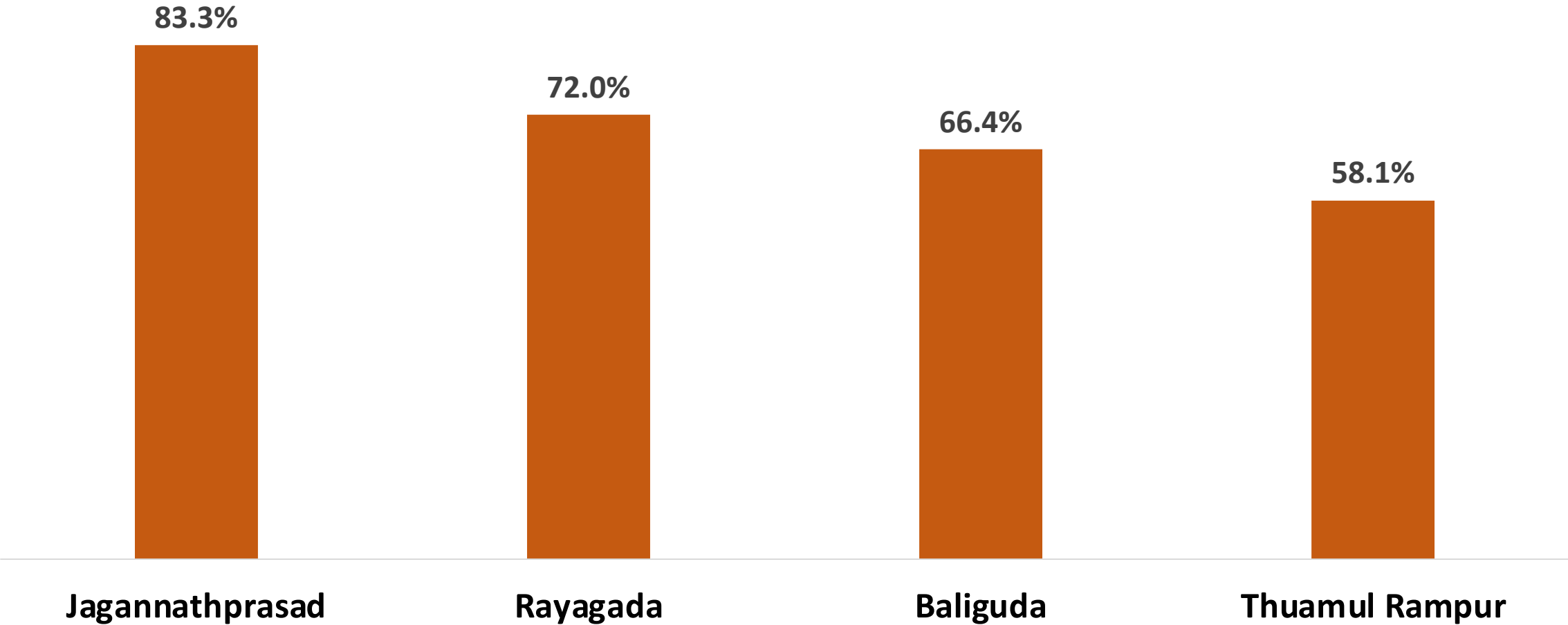
Estimated monthly remittances received by households in the Block

Amount in Rupees that migrant workers remit to their native villages every month, estimated for the Blocks based on incidence of migration and reported remittances by workers

Jagannathprasad	Rayagada	Baliguda	Thuamul Rampur
₹ 5.3 crore	₹ 1.8 crore	₹ 1.8 crore	₹ 2.3 crore
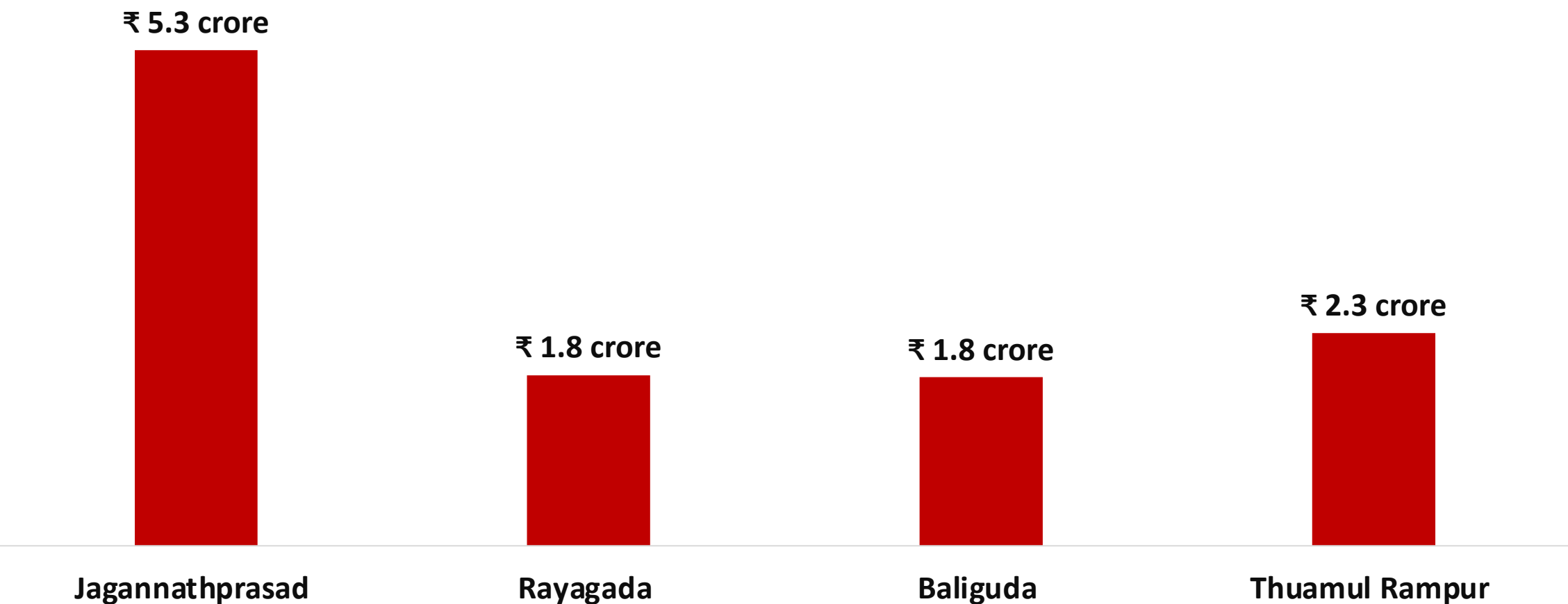
Estimated monthly remittances received by households in the District

Amount in Rupees that migrant workers remit to their native villages every month, estimated for the Districts based on the sample data

₹ 124 crore — Ganjam

₹ 15 crore — Gajapati

₹ 16 crore — Kandhamal

₹ 37 crore — Kalahandi

Key takeaways

- Migration contributes substantially to promoting the resilience of Gram Vikas's partner communities
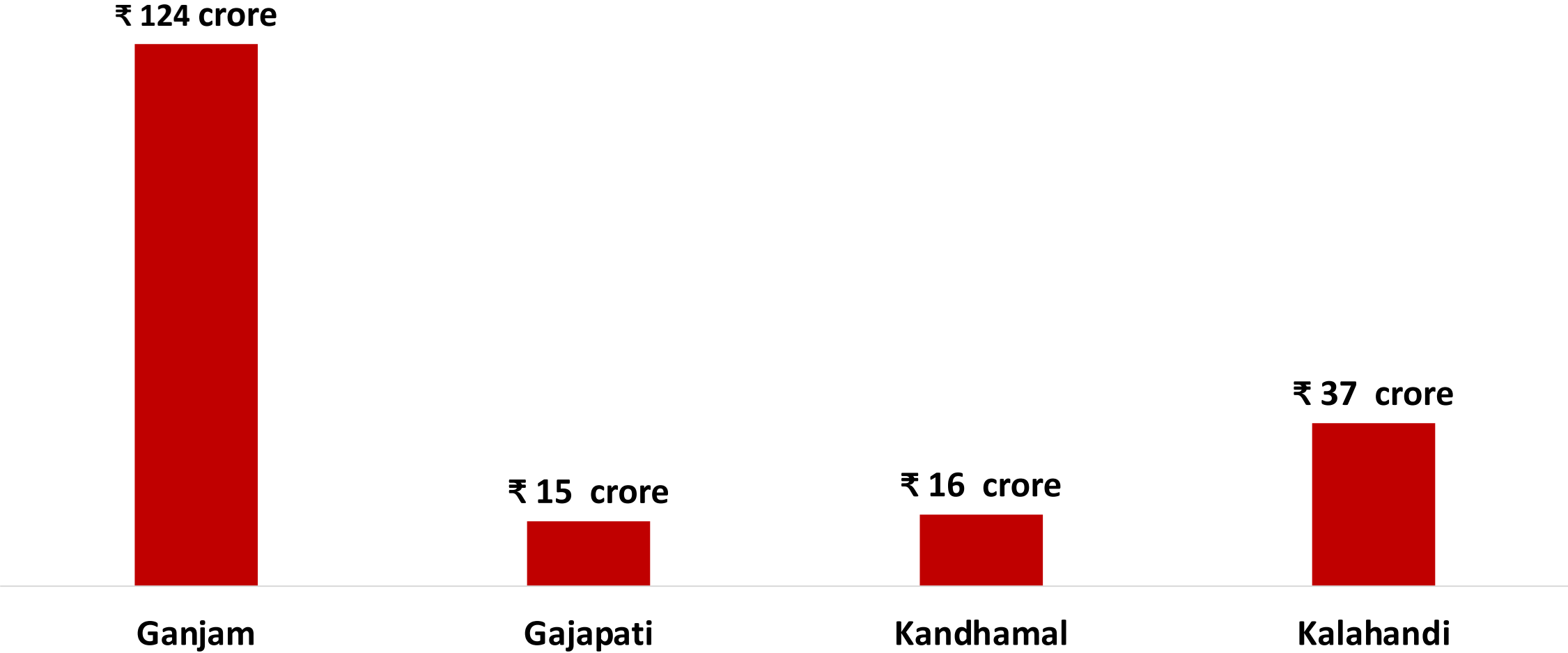
- Migration plays a pivotal role in the economy of rural Odisha

- It has substantially helped individuals, households and communities in Odisha to become more resilient to the adversities they confront

- If made safe, migration for work has the potential to significantly accelerate human development in rural Odisha

- Safe and dignified migration can substantially contribute to empowerment of individuals, households and communities in rural Odisha

- Most migrants prefer to stay back and work at their native place if they have a regular monthly income of ₹10,000- ₹ 12,000

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Profiles of Four Blocks

Profile of Households

Distribution of households by social groups

Proportion of sample households belonging to different social groups

Legend: ■ Scheduled Caste ■ Scheduled Tribe ■ Other Backward Communities ■ Other Communities

Social Group	Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)	Thuamul Rampur (440)
Other Communities	9.70%	1.60%	3.80%	
Other Backward Communities	56.80%	12.50%	32.90%	13.60%
Scheduled Tribe	3.60%	78.60%	49.90%	58.60%
Scheduled Caste	29.90%	7.30%	13.40%	27.70%
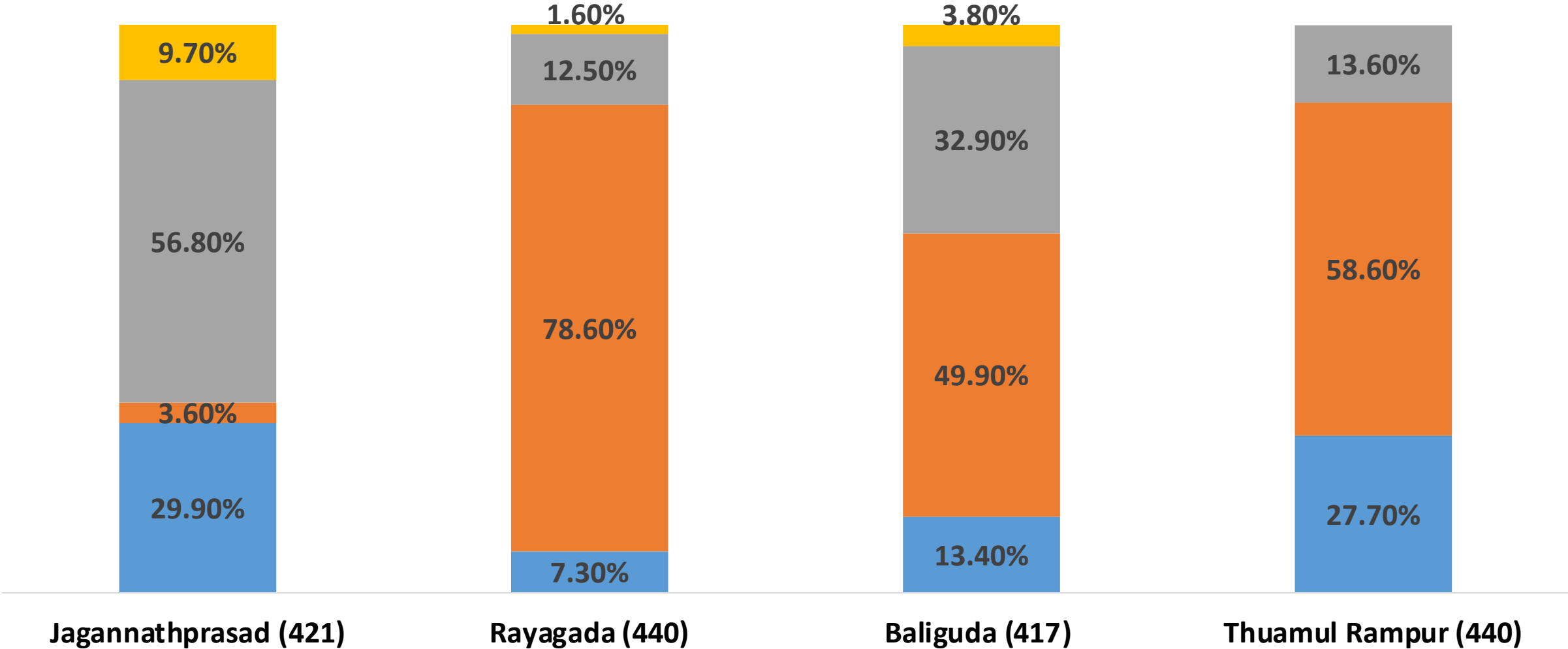
Educational status of households

Proportion of sample households having at least one person with education of Higher Secondary or above

26.6%	37.5%	33.6%	8.6%
Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)	Thuamul Rampur (440)
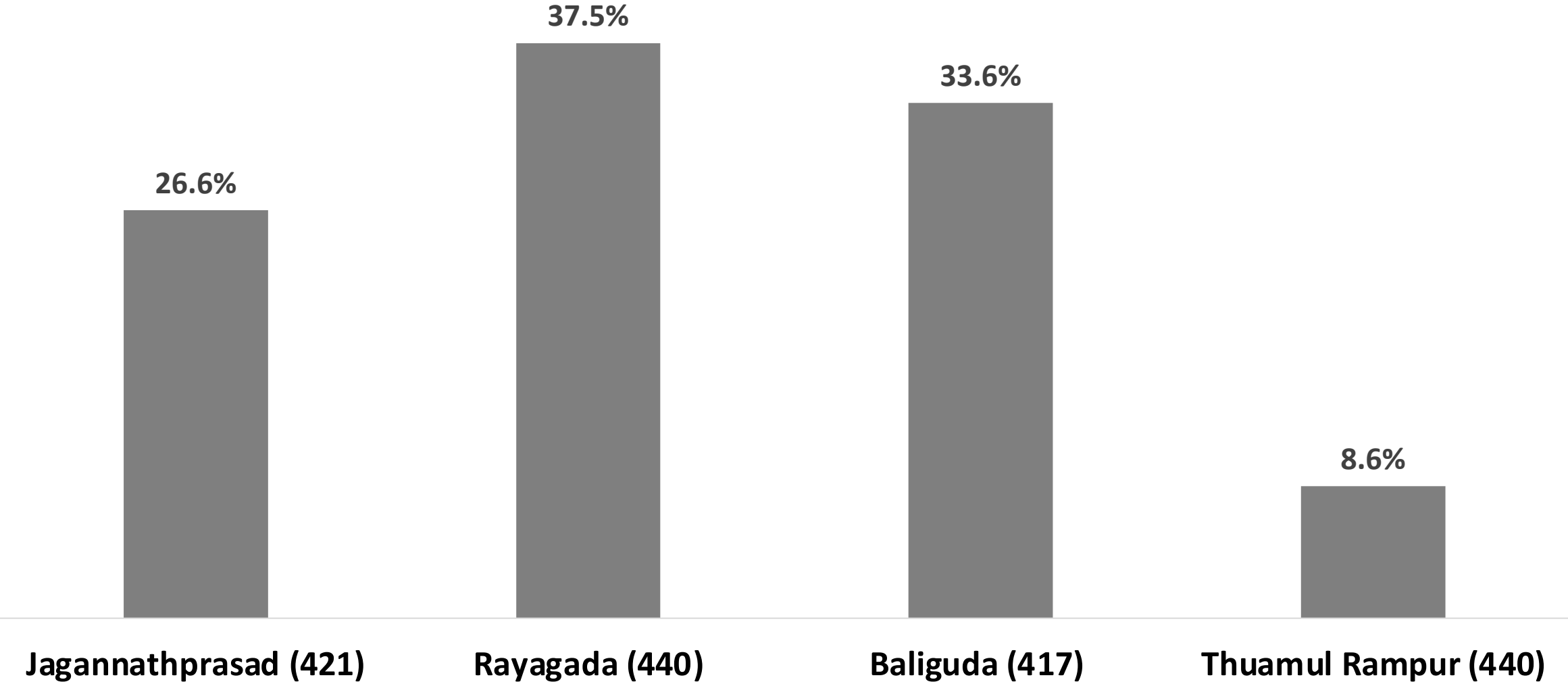
Status of housing

Proportion of sample households living in *kaccha* (non-permanent) houses

22.80%	32.20%	46%	62.70%
Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)	Thuamul Rampur (440)
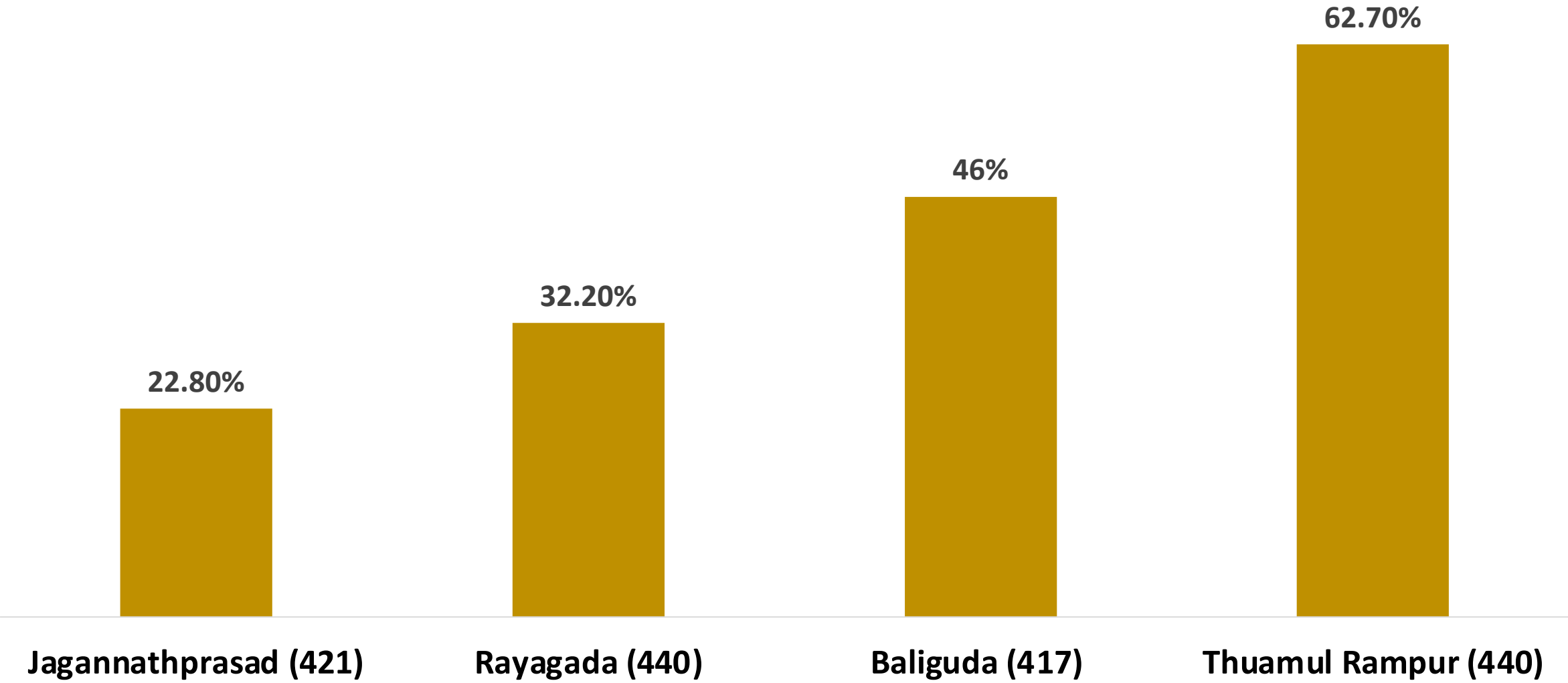
Access to MGNREGS

Proportion of sample households with MGNREGS job cards and obtaining work during 2019

■ **Wth MGNREGS Job Card**　　■ **Benefited in 2019**

	Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)	Thuamul Rampur (440)
Wth MGNREGS Job Card	40.9%	79.5%	67.4%	65.0%
Benefited in 2019	18.8%	24.5%	33.3%	15.5%
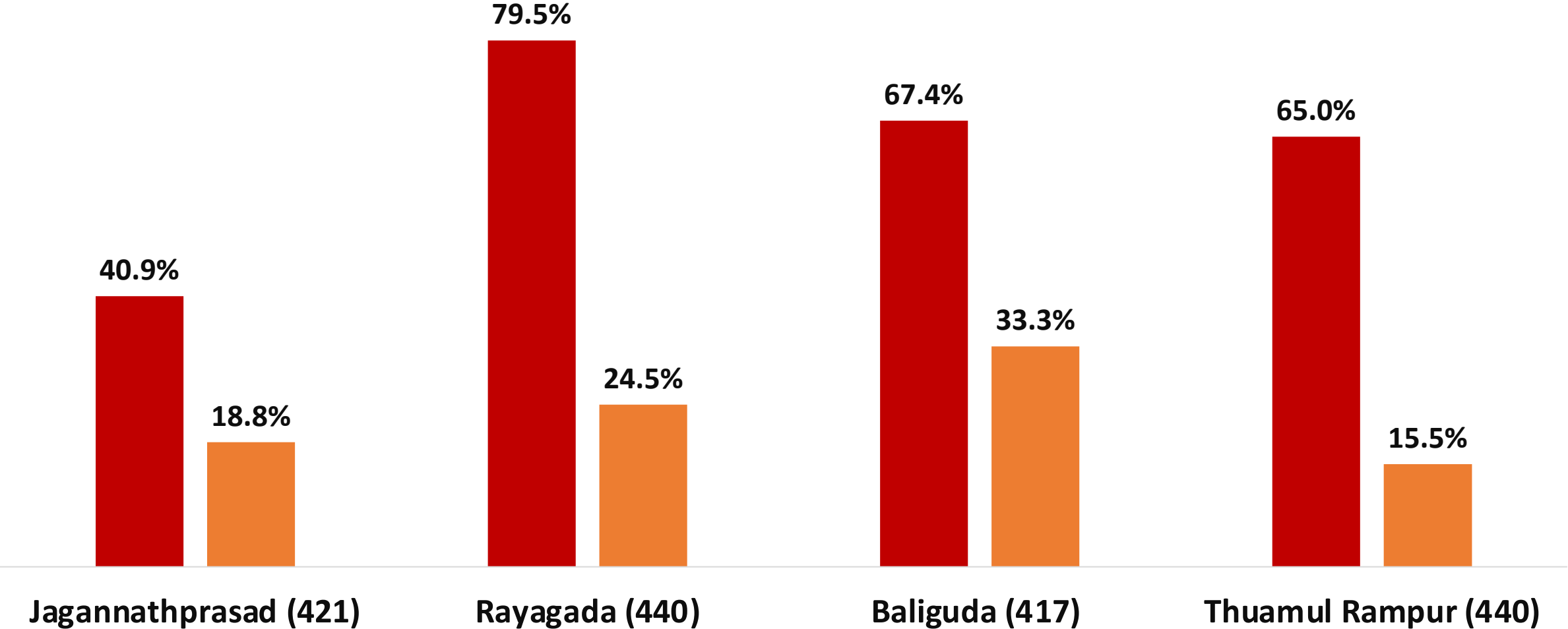
Landlessness

Proportion of sample households reporting having no land of their own

40.6%	**61.6%**	**32.1%**	**41.4%**
Jagannathprasad (421)	**Rayagada (440)**	**Baliguda (417)**	**Thuamul Rampur (440)**
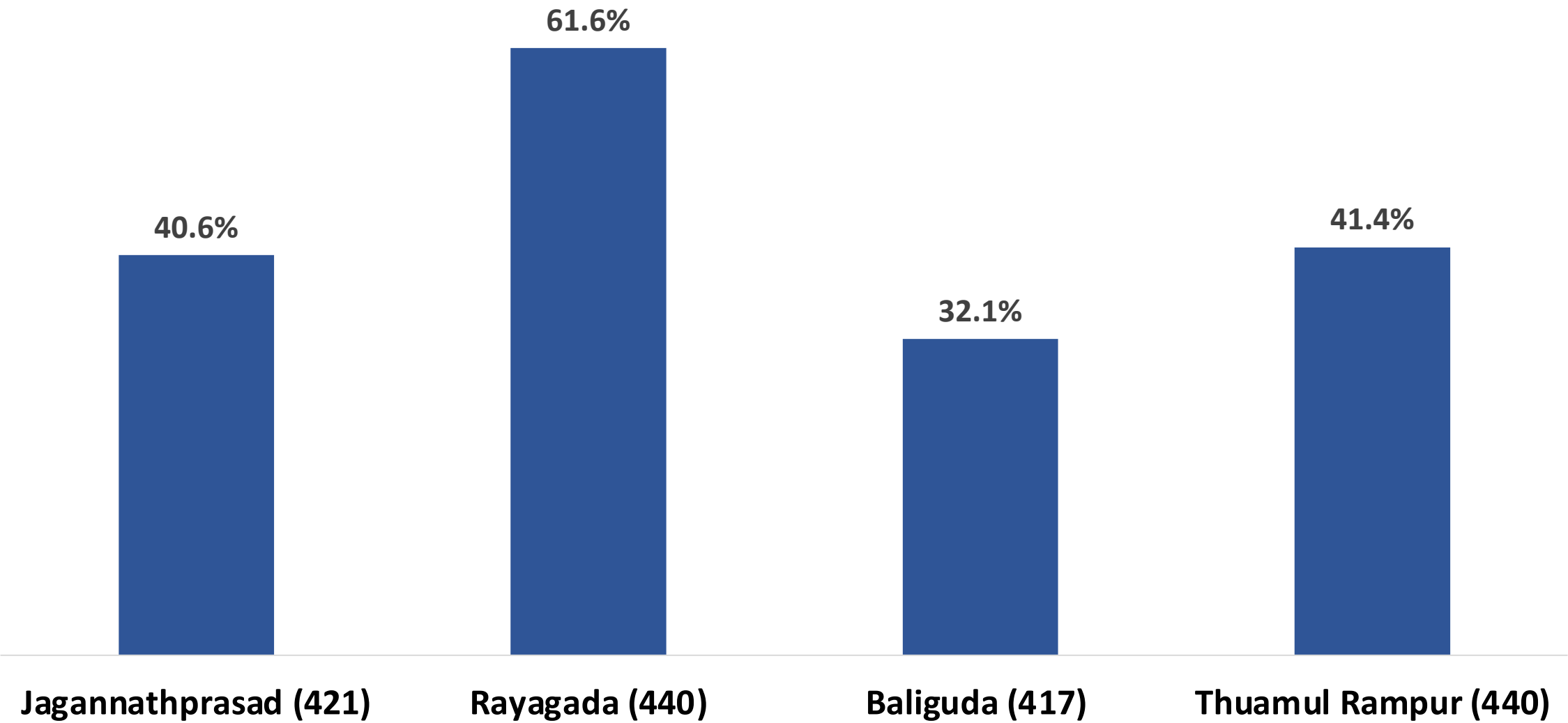
Dependence on agriculture

Proportion of sample households reporting agriculture as the primary occupation
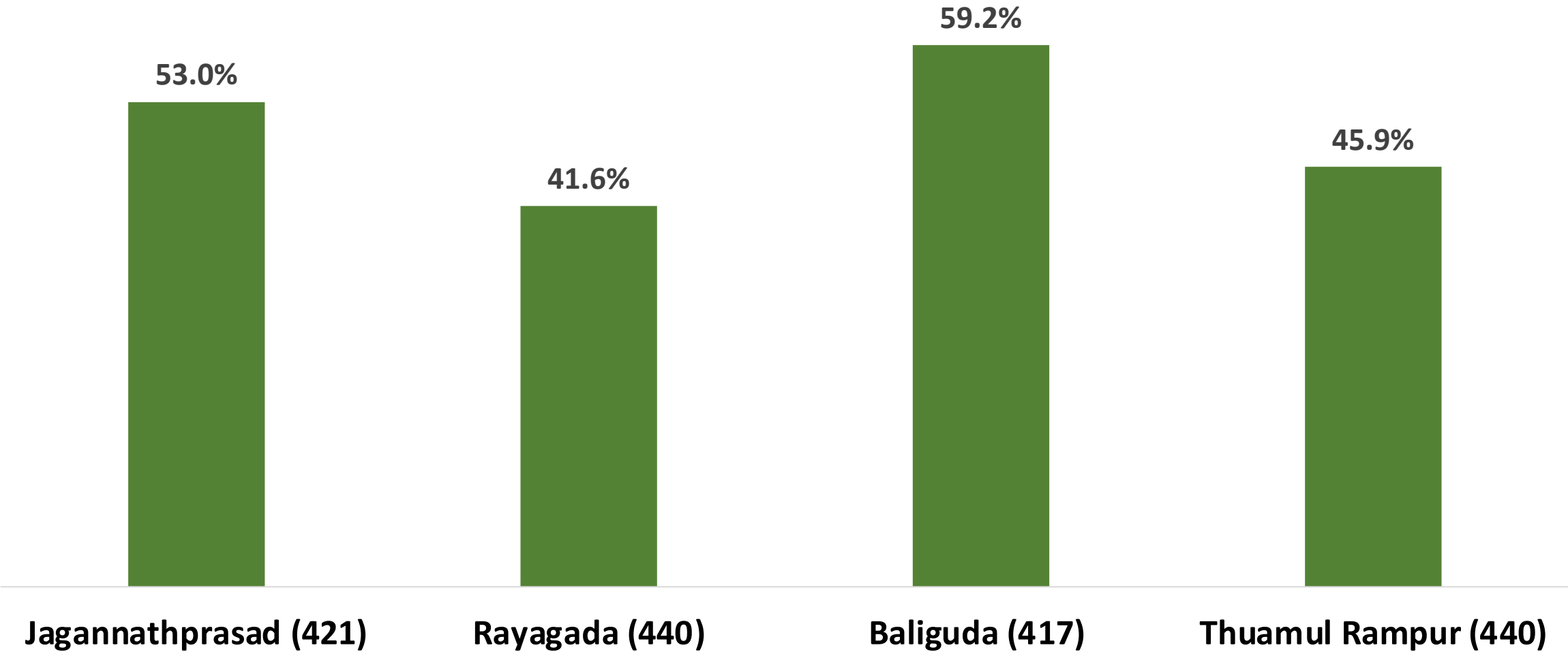
Impact of climate change on agriculture livelihoods

Proportion of sample households currently engaged in agriculture that reported having negatively impacted by changes in the weather (not enumerated in Thuamul Rampur block)

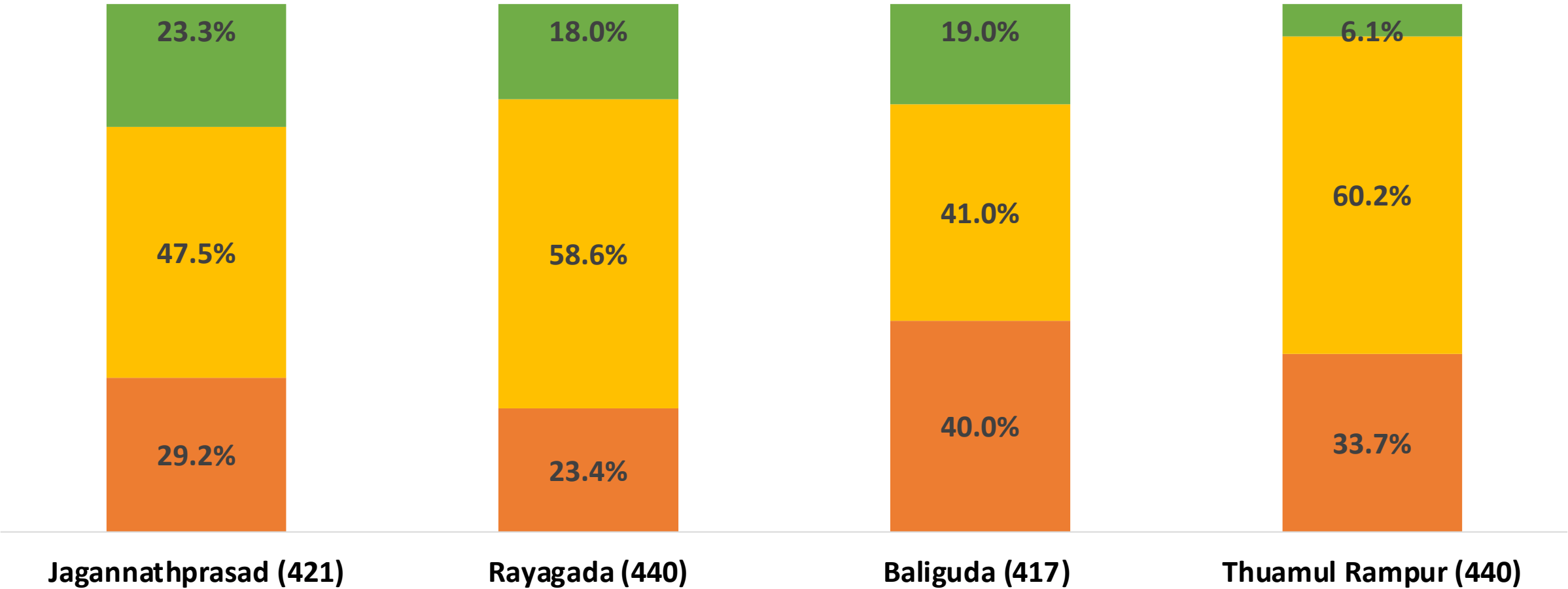| Jagannathprasad (223)	Rayagada (183)	Baliguda (247)
92.8%	89.1%	85.4%
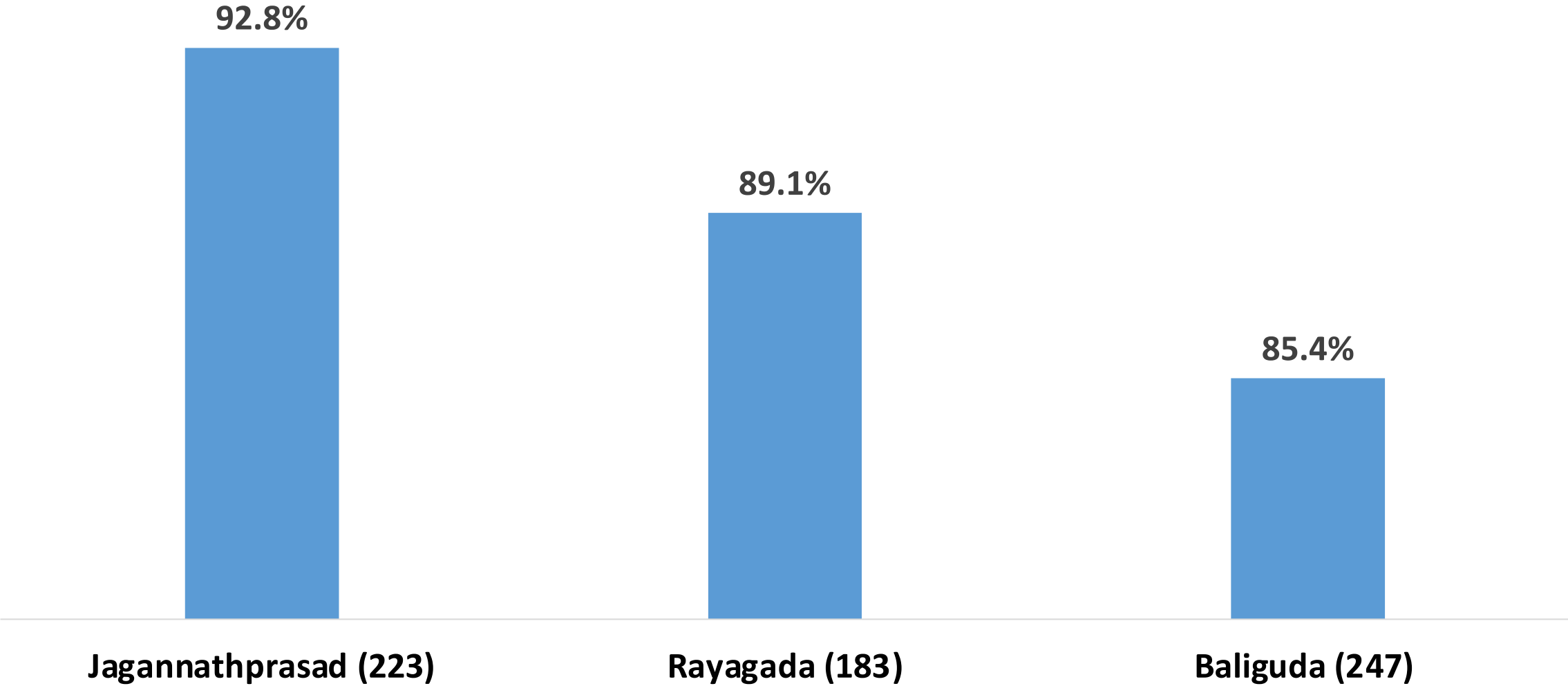
Sources of household income

Proportion of sample households distributed according to the primary source of income

■ **Agriculture/Agricultural Labour**   ■ **Non-agricultural Daily Wage Labour**   ■ **Other**

	Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)	Thuamul Rampur (440)
Other	23.3%	18.0%	19.0%	6.1%
Non-agricultural Daily Wage Labour	47.5%	58.6%	41.0%	60.2%
Agriculture/Agricultural Labour	29.2%	23.4%	40.0%	33.7%

Status of household indebtedness

Proportion of sample households reporting outstanding, unpaid borrowings
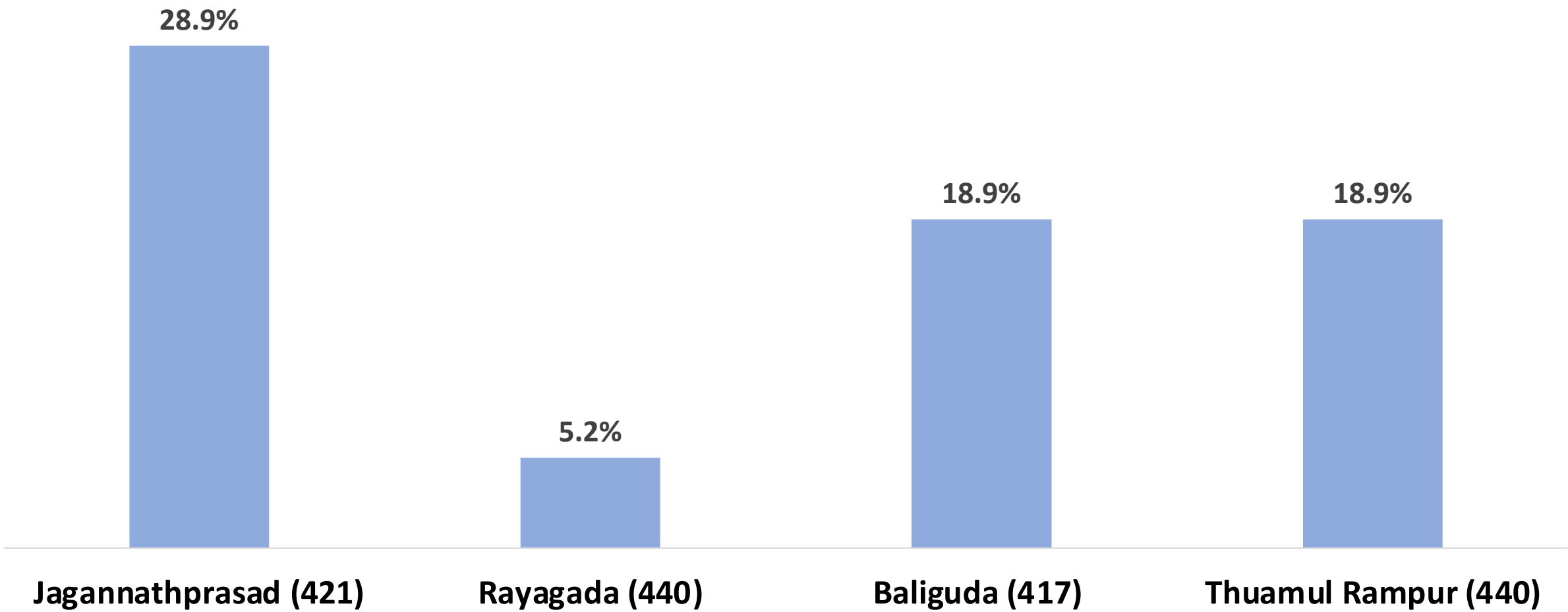
Impact of COVID-19 on household incomes

Average household income reported by sample households before and after the COVID-19 lockdown (not done in Thuamul Rampur)

■ Before Lockdown   ■ After Lockdown

	₹ 8,500	₹ 5,000	₹ 7,000
	₹ 5,000	₹ 2,100	₹ 2,500
	Jagannathprasad (421)	Rayagada (440)	Baliguda (417)

Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Profiles of Four Blocks

Profile of Migrant Workers

Distribution of migrant workers by social groups

Proportion of migrant workers covered in the survey, according to different social groups
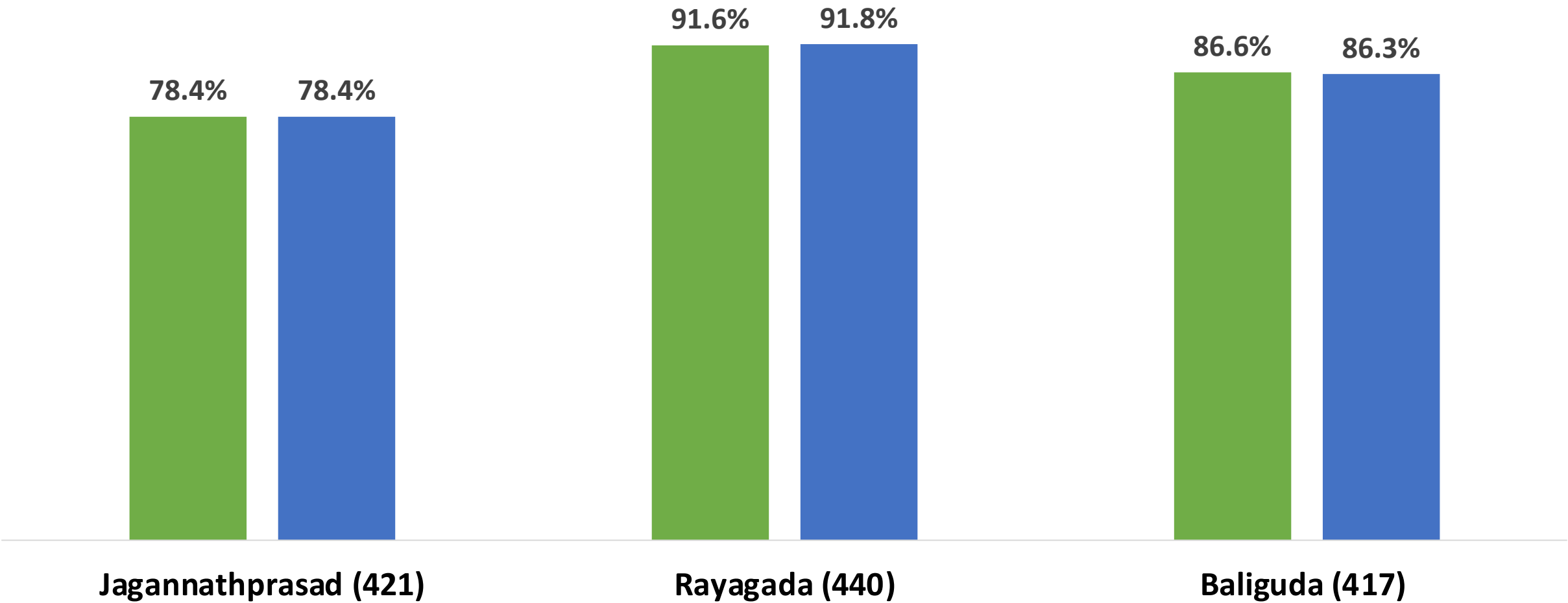
- ■ Scheduled Caste
- ■ Scheduled Tribe
- ■ Other Backward Communities
- ■ Other Communities

	Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)
Other Communities	11.0%	0.7%		
Other Backward Communities	59.0%	16.5%	20.2%	17.9%
Scheduled Tribe	2.0%	77.0%	56.4%	48.8%
Scheduled Caste	28.0%	5.8%	23.4%	33.3%
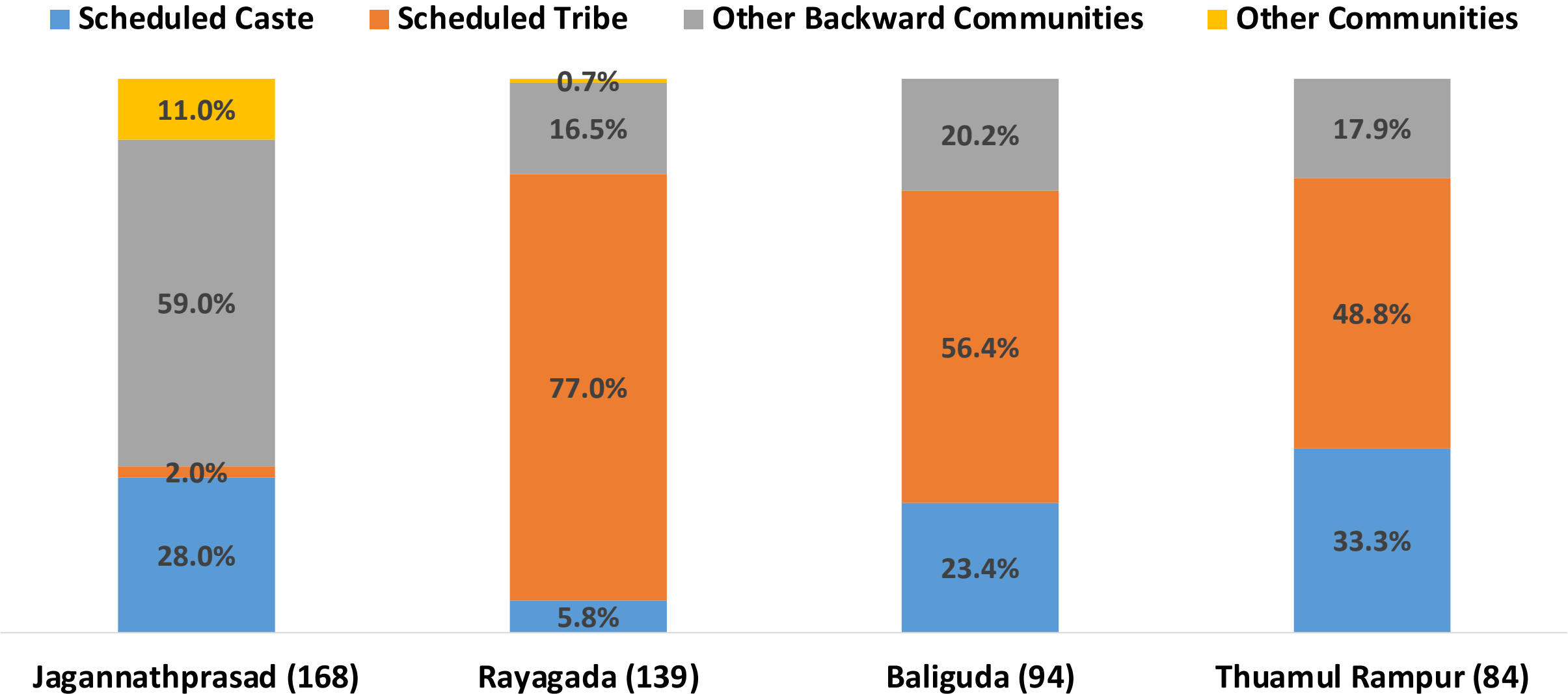
Distribution of migrant workers by sex

Proportion of men women and others among the migrant workers who responded to the survey

Legend: Male, Female, Other

	Male	Female	Other
Jagannathprasad (168)	96.4%	3.6%	
Rayagada (139)	92.8%	7.2%	
Baliguda (94)	88.3%	10.6%	1.1%
Thuamul Rampur (84)	98.9%	1.2%	
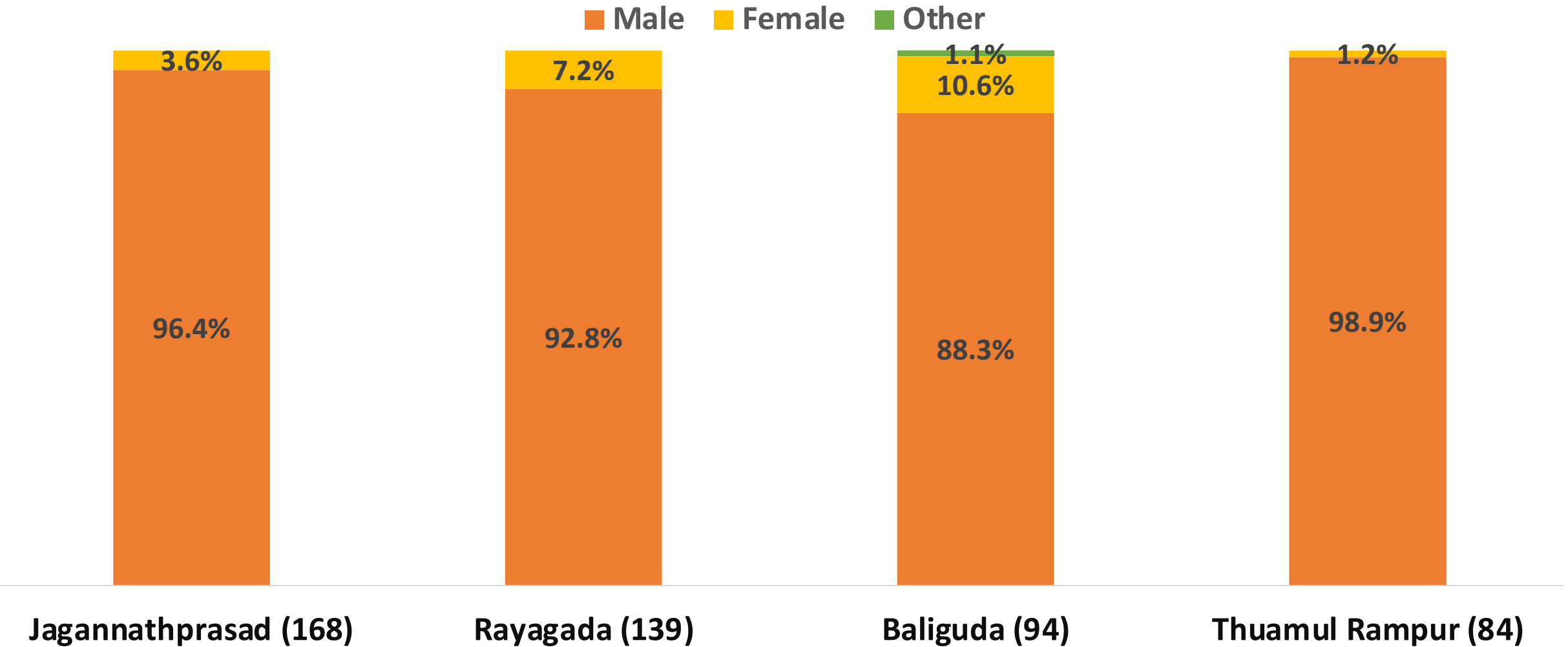
Median age of migrant workers
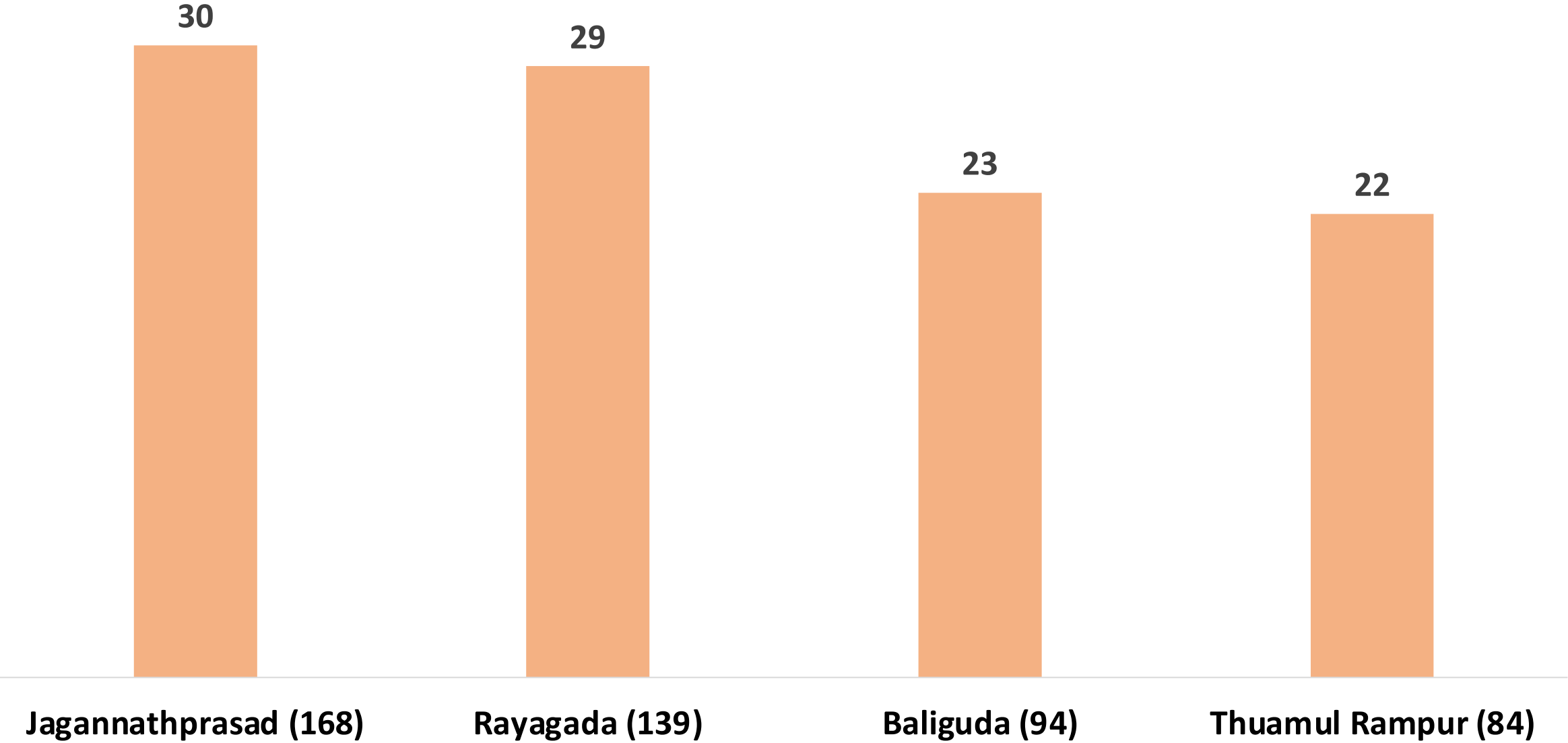
Educational status of migrant workers

Proportion of migrant workers whose have studied up to the Higher Secondary level or above

13.1%	33.8%	20.2%	2.4%
Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)

Marital status of migrant workers

Proportion of migrant workers whose have studied up to the Higher Secondary level or above

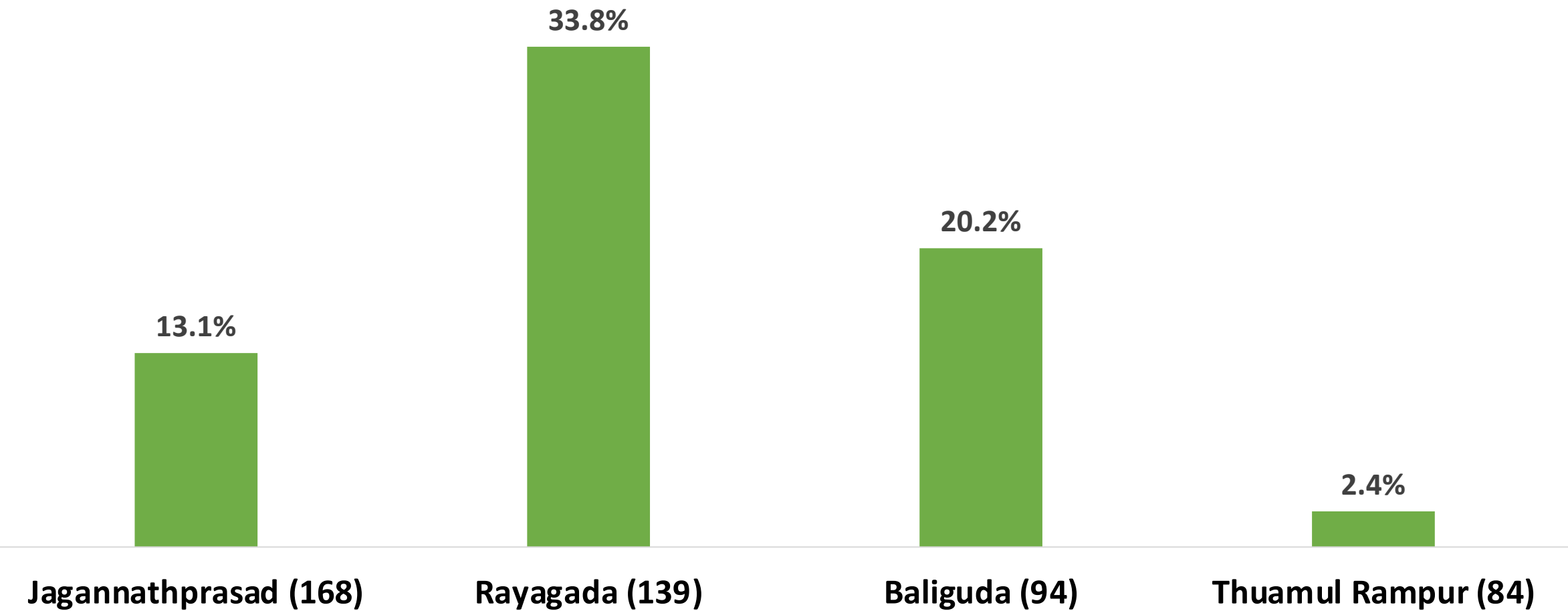- Never Married
- Currently Married
- Separated/ Widowed/ Divorced

	Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)
Separated/ Widowed/ Divorced	1.2%	0.7%	1.1%	0.0%
Currently Married	59.5%	58.3%	66.0%	41.7%
Never Married	39.30%	41%	33%	48.30%
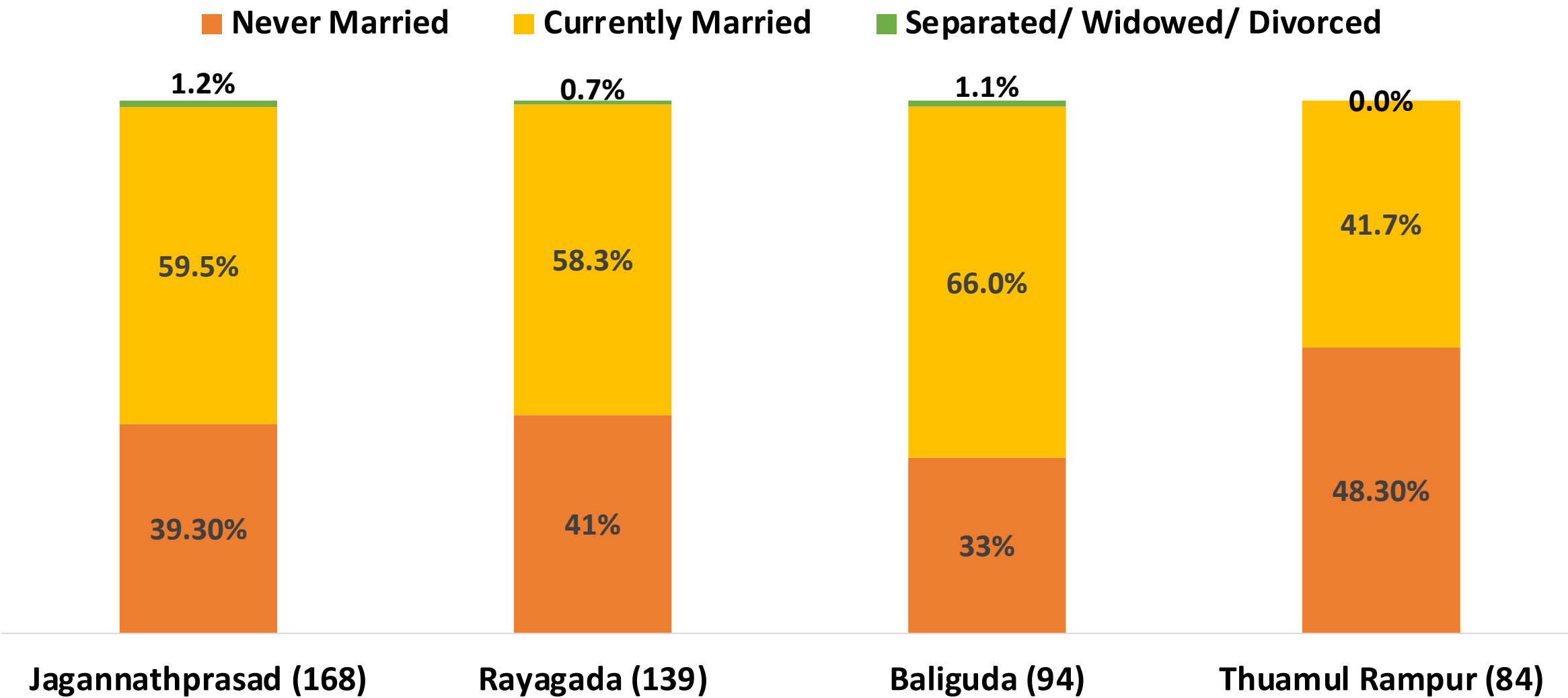
Location of family of migrant workers

Proportion of migrant workers whose families – spouse and children – continue to live in their native villages

Spouse **Children**

	Spouse	Children
Jagannathprasad (100)	86.0%	81.0%
Rayagada (81)	84.0%	77.8%
Baliguda (31)	90.3%	83.9%
Thuamul Rampur (35)	91.4%	94.3%
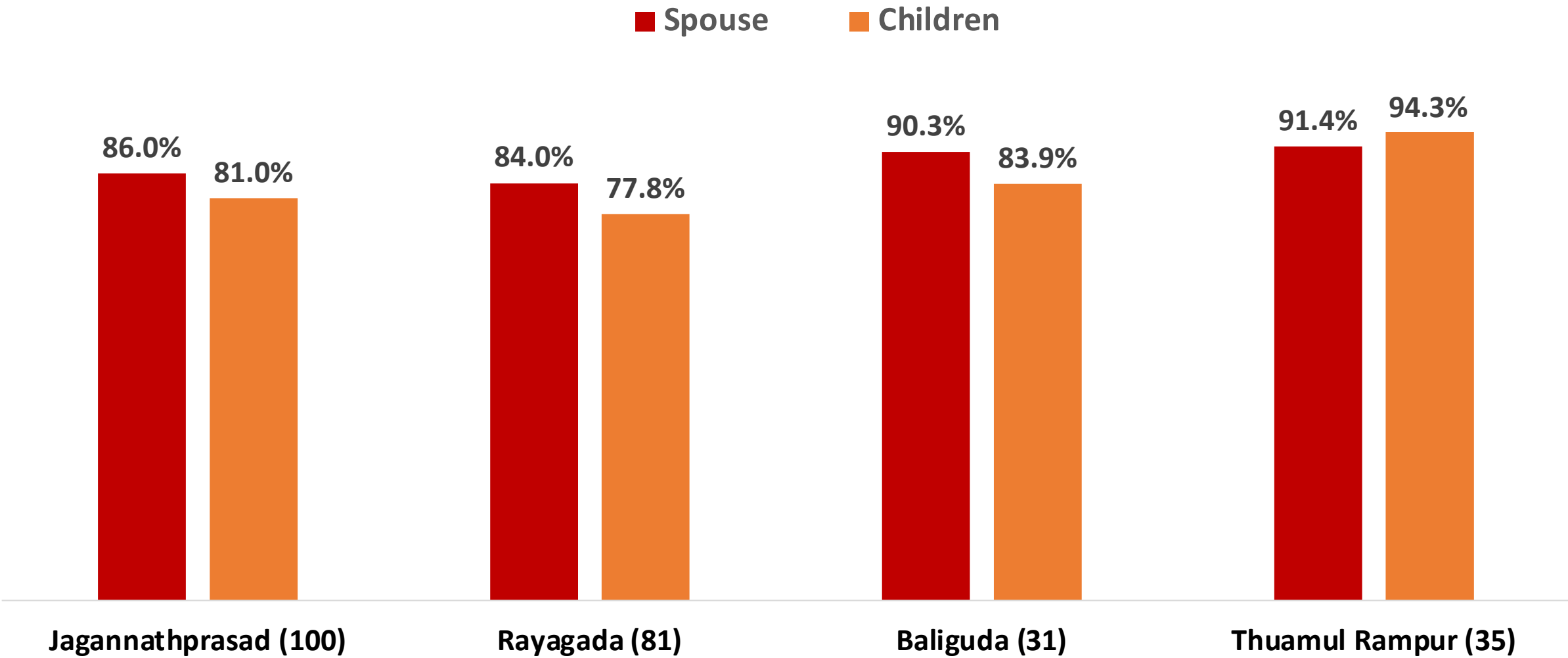
Reason for migrating
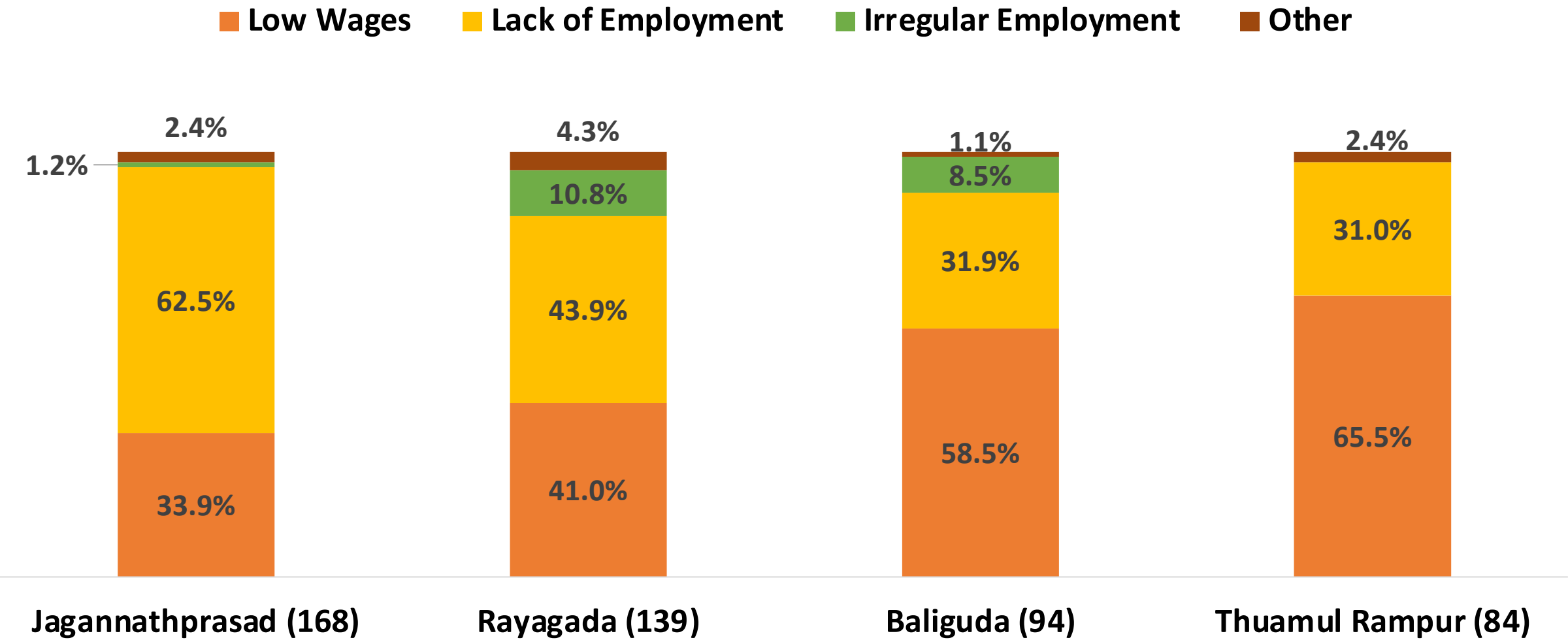
Distribution of migrant workers by different reasons for them migrating

Legend: Low Wages | Lack of Employment | Irregular Employment | Other

Jagannathprasad (168)
- 2.4%
- 1.2%
- 62.5%
- 33.9%

Rayagada (139)
- 4.3%
- 10.8%
- 43.9%
- 41.0%

Baliguda (94)
- 1.1%
- 8.5%
- 31.9%
- 58.5%

Thuamul Rampur (84)
- 2.4%
- 31.0%
- 65.5%

Skill levels

Proportion of migrant workers who reported to be semi-skilled or unskilled
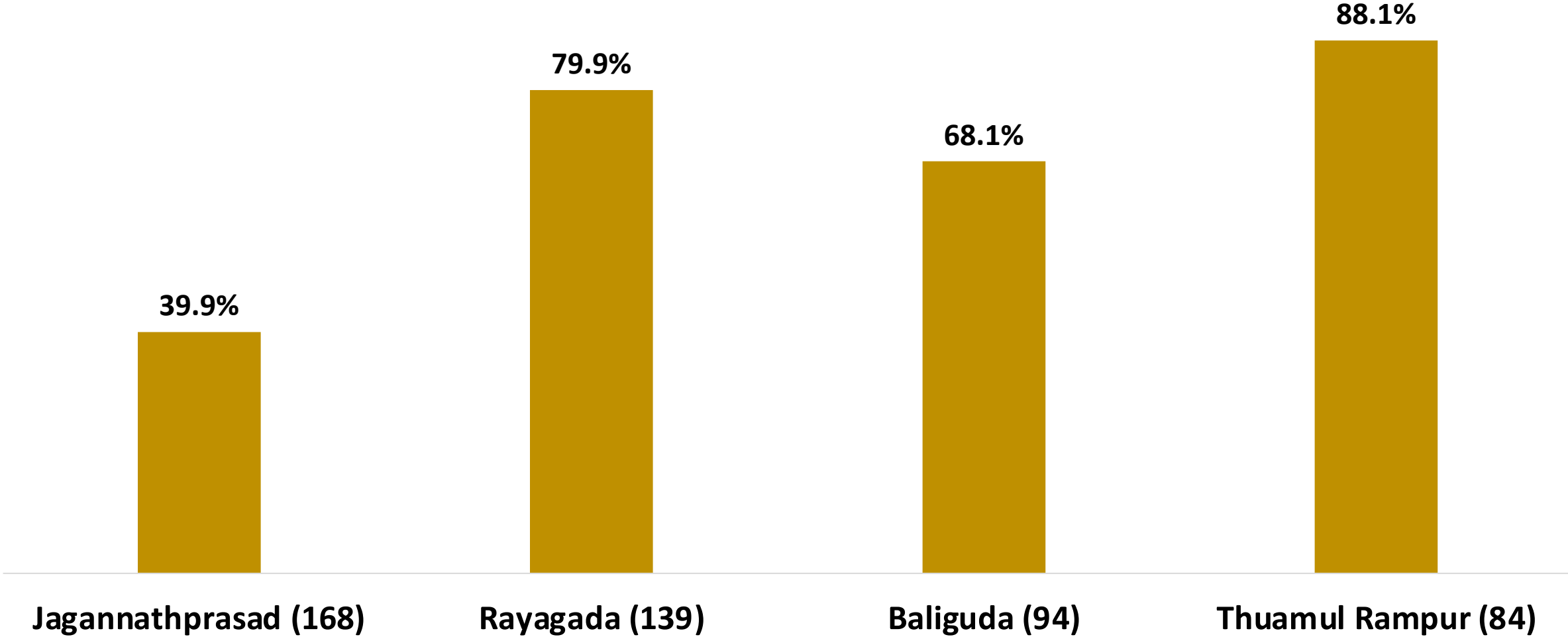
Accommodation at work place

Proportion of migrant workers who reported to be living in shared accommodation at their work location
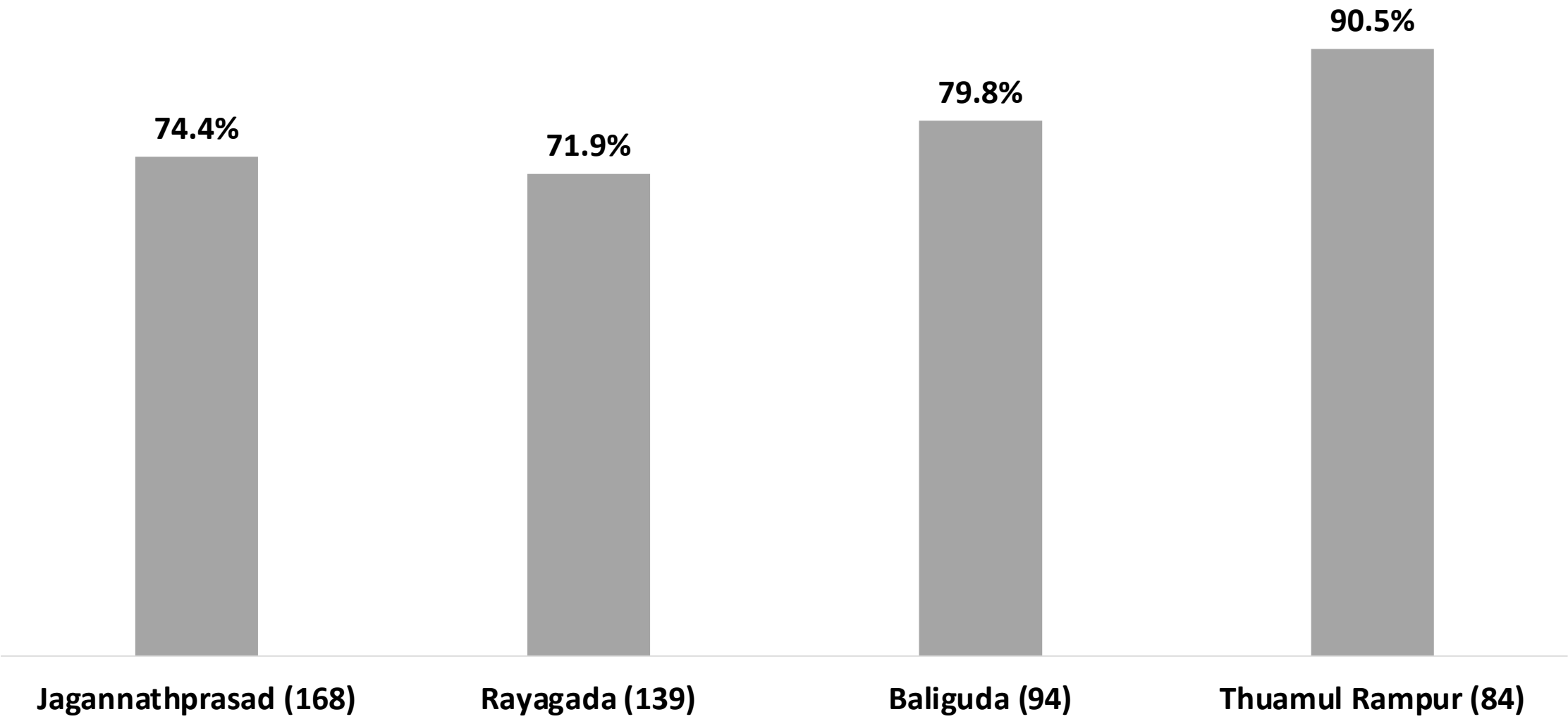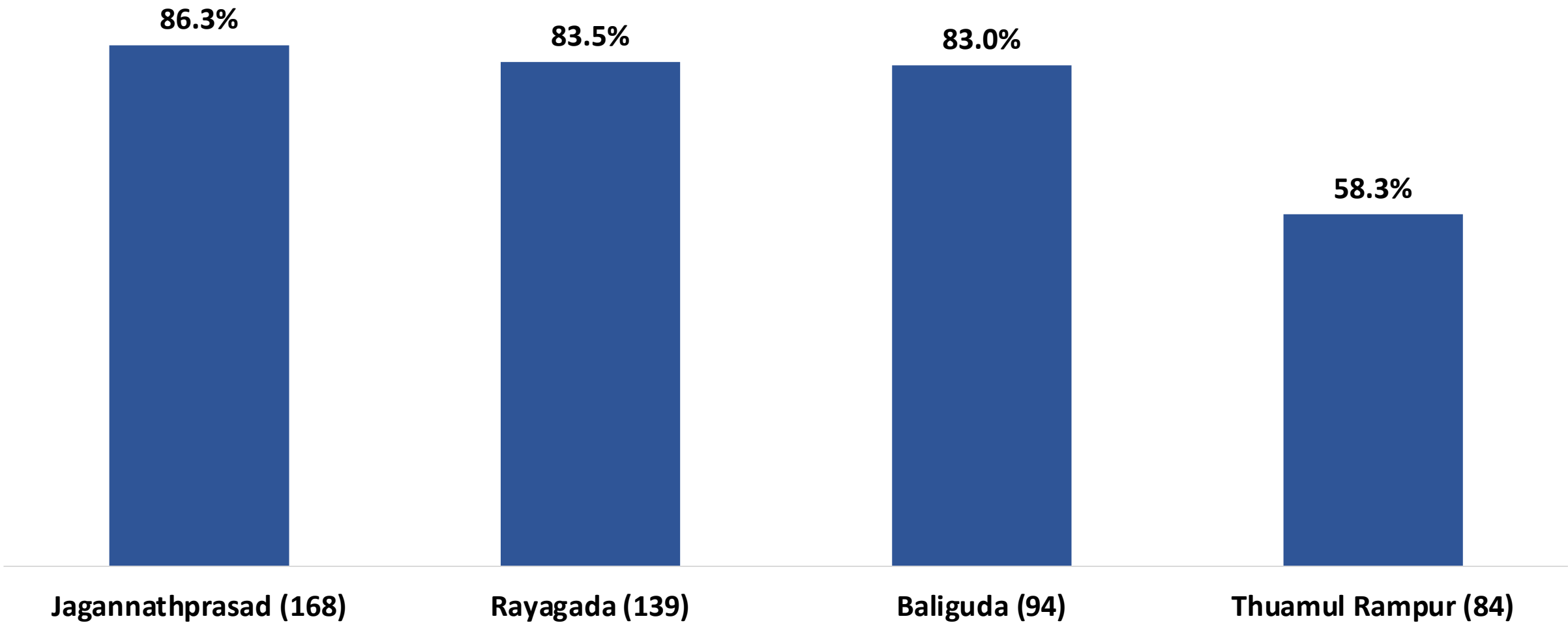
Status of Bank Accounts

Proportion of migrant workers who reported having a bank account

Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)
86.3%	83.5%	83.0%	58.3%

Destination States

Distribution of migrant workers by State in which they worked prior to lockdown

Legend: Odisha · Kerala · Tamil Nadu · Gujarat · Telangana · Andhra Pradesh · Others

Jagannathprasad (168)
- 28.6%
- 31.5%
- 18.5%
- 21.4%

Rayagada (139)
- 35.6%
- 14.4%
- 29.50%
- 16.5%

Baliguda (94)
- 16.9%
- 27.7%
- 42.6%
- 12.8%

Thuamul Rampur (84)
- 15.0%
- 10.7%
- 67.9%
- 6.0%
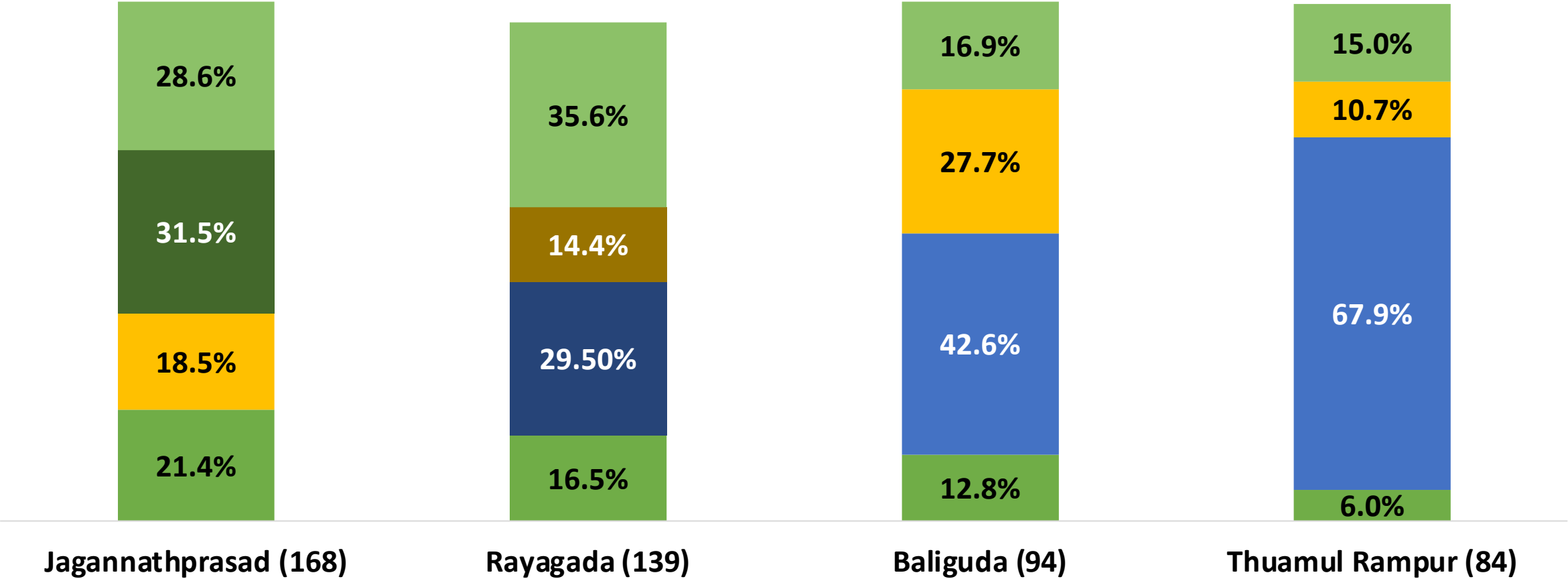
Category of employment

Distribution of migrant workers by nature of their work engagement prior to lockdown
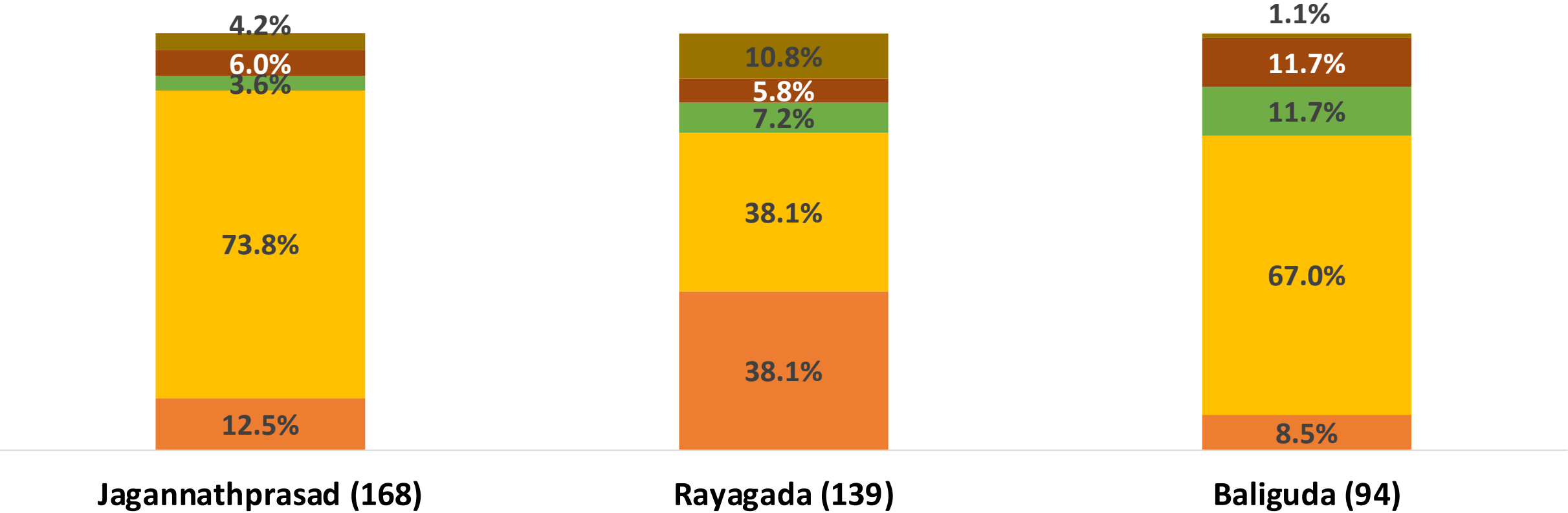(not asked in Thuamul Rampur)

- Naka Worker
- Moves with Contractor
- Other
- Employee at Shop/Factor or Establishment
- Domestic Worker

	Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)
Other	4.2%	10.8%	1.1%
Domestic Worker	6.0%	5.8%	11.7%
Moves with Contractor	3.6%	7.2%	11.7%
Employee at Shop/Factor or Establishment	73.8%	38.1%	67.0%
Naka Worker	12.5%	38.1%	8.5%

Wage arrangement

Distribution of migrant workers by how their wages are arranged prior to lockdown

Legend: Daily Wage, Monthly Salary, Piece Rate, Other

Jagannathprasad (168)
- 4.2%
- 33.3%
- 45.8%
- 16.7%

Rayagada (139)
- 73.4%
- 26.6%

Baliguda (94)
- 1.1%
- 25.5%
- 57.4%
- 16.0%

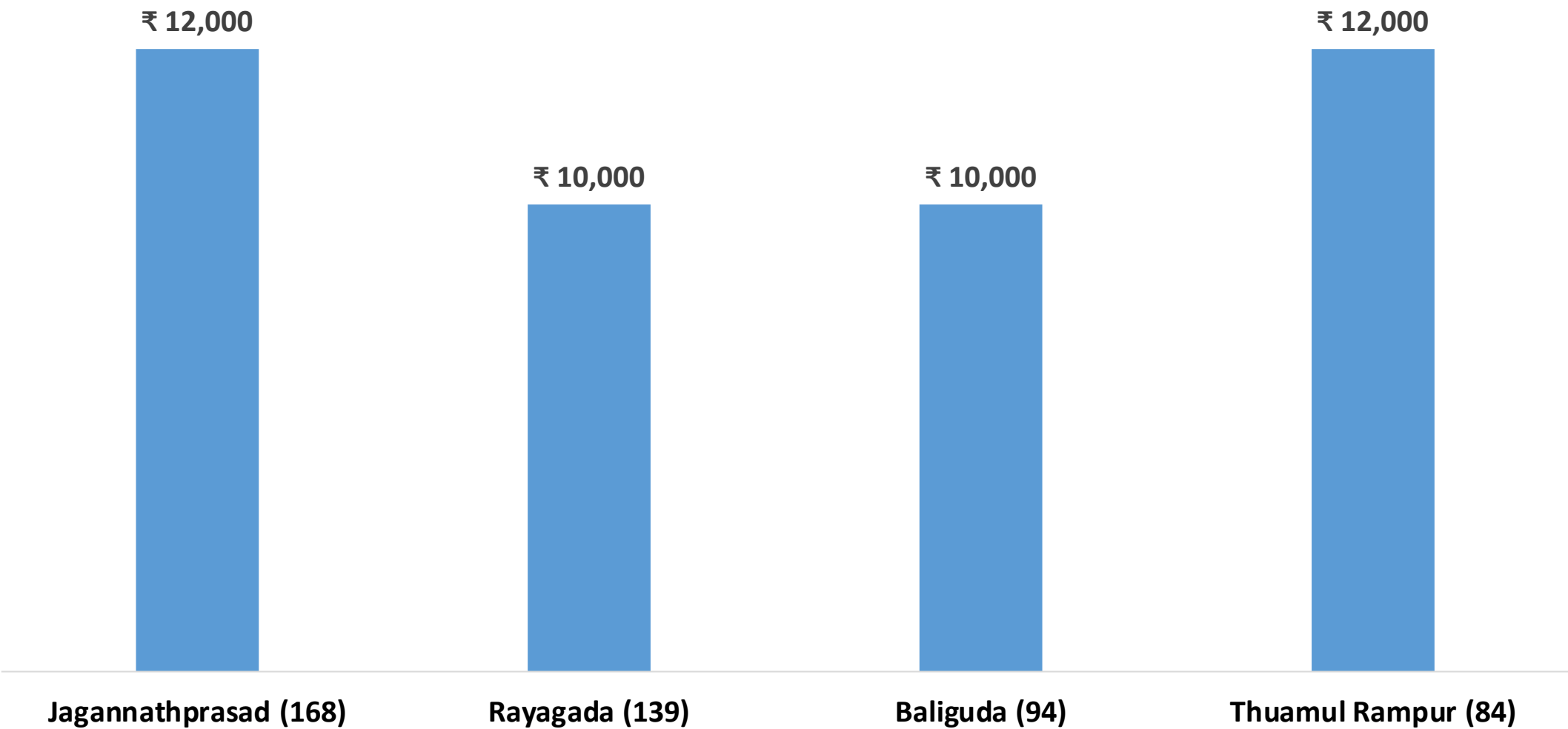**Thuamul Rampur (84)**
- 6.0%
- 2.4%
- 58.3%
- 33.3%
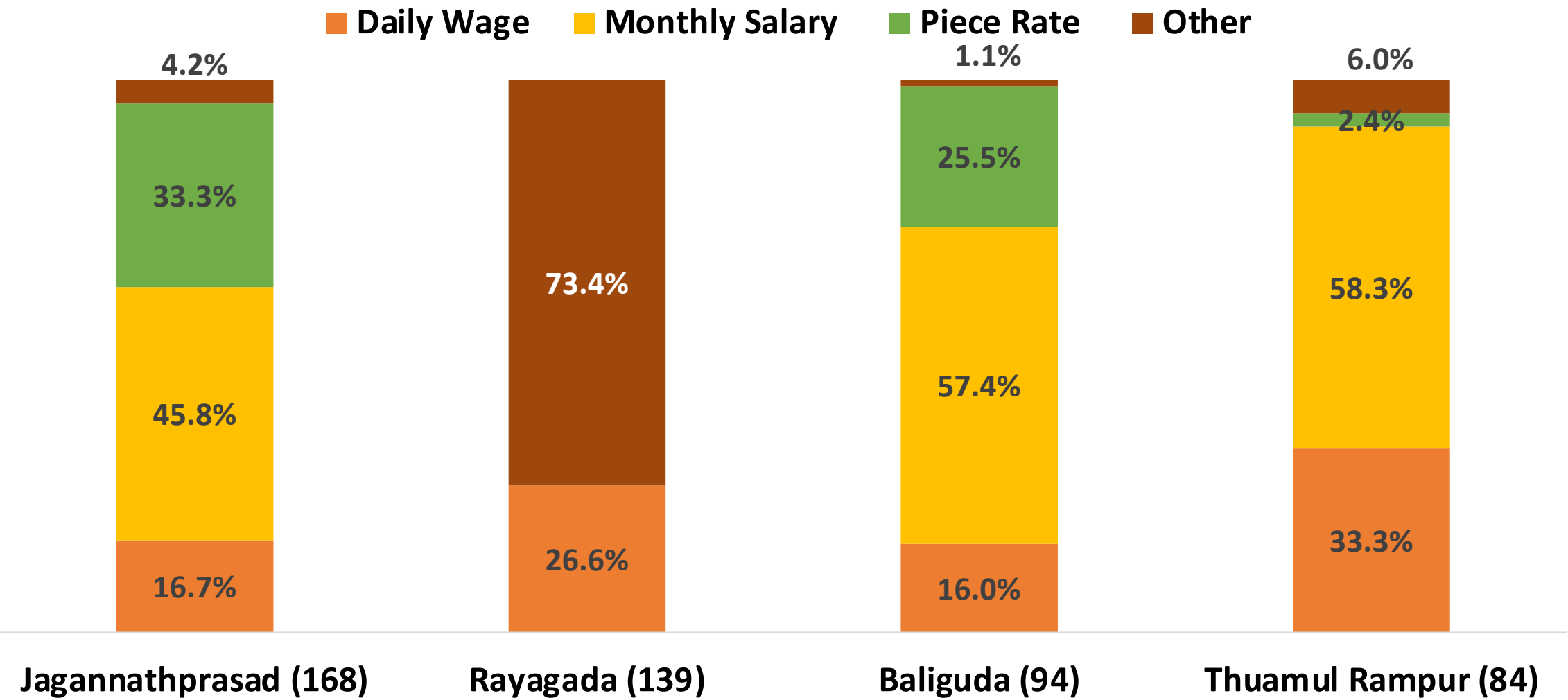
Workers in the construction sector

Distribution of migrant workers reported to be working in construction sector prior to lockdown
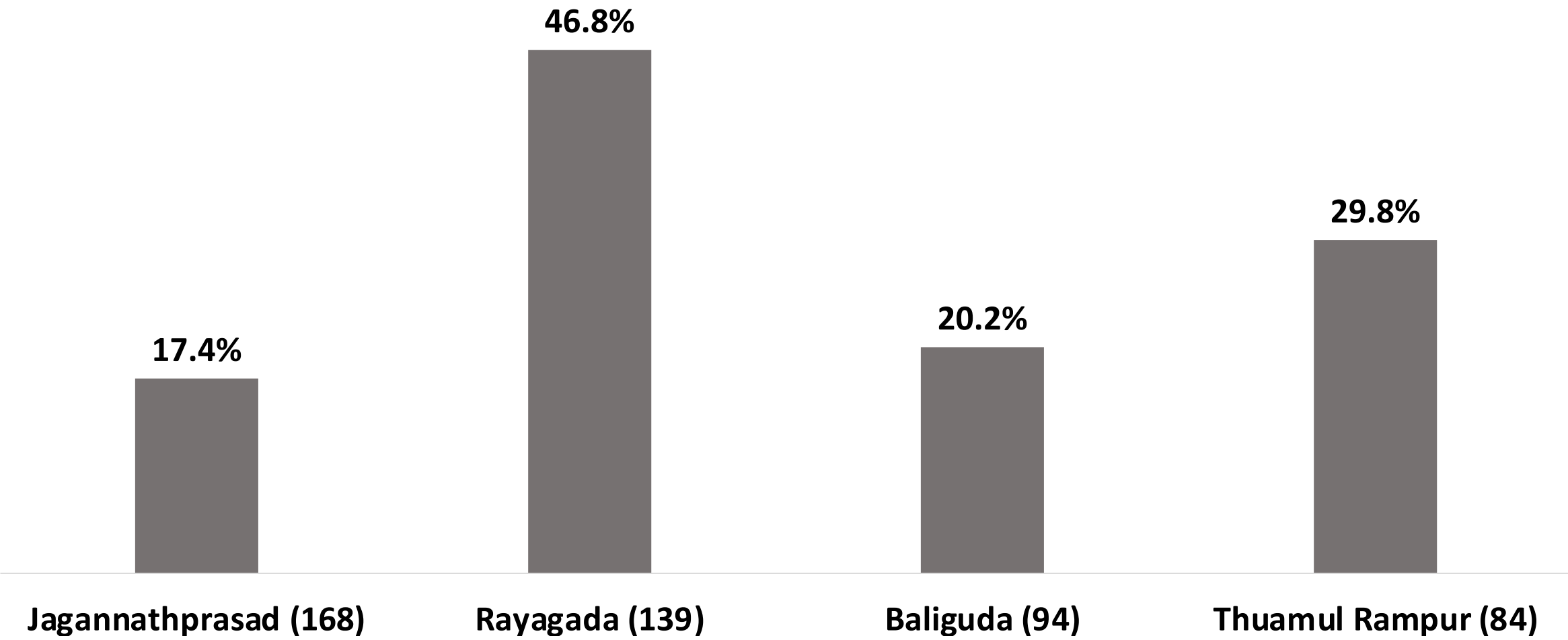
Median wage income

Median wage income reported by the workers

|			
₹ 12,000	₹ 10,000	₹ 10,000	₹ 12,000
Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)

Median of remittances made

Median amount of remittances reported by the workers during three months prior to March 2020
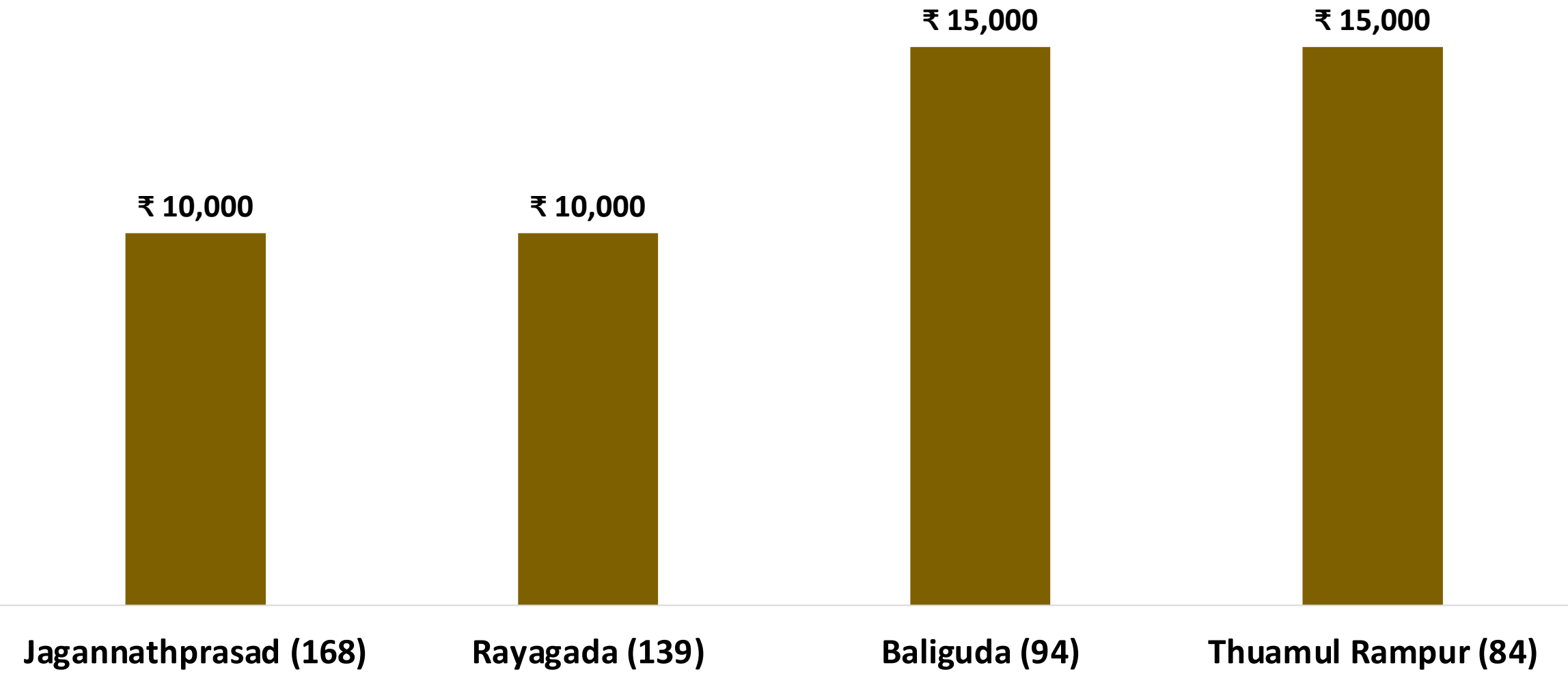
Loss of employment due to COVID-19

Proportion of migrant workers who reported losing their job due to COVID-19 lockdown (not done for Thuamul Rampur Block)
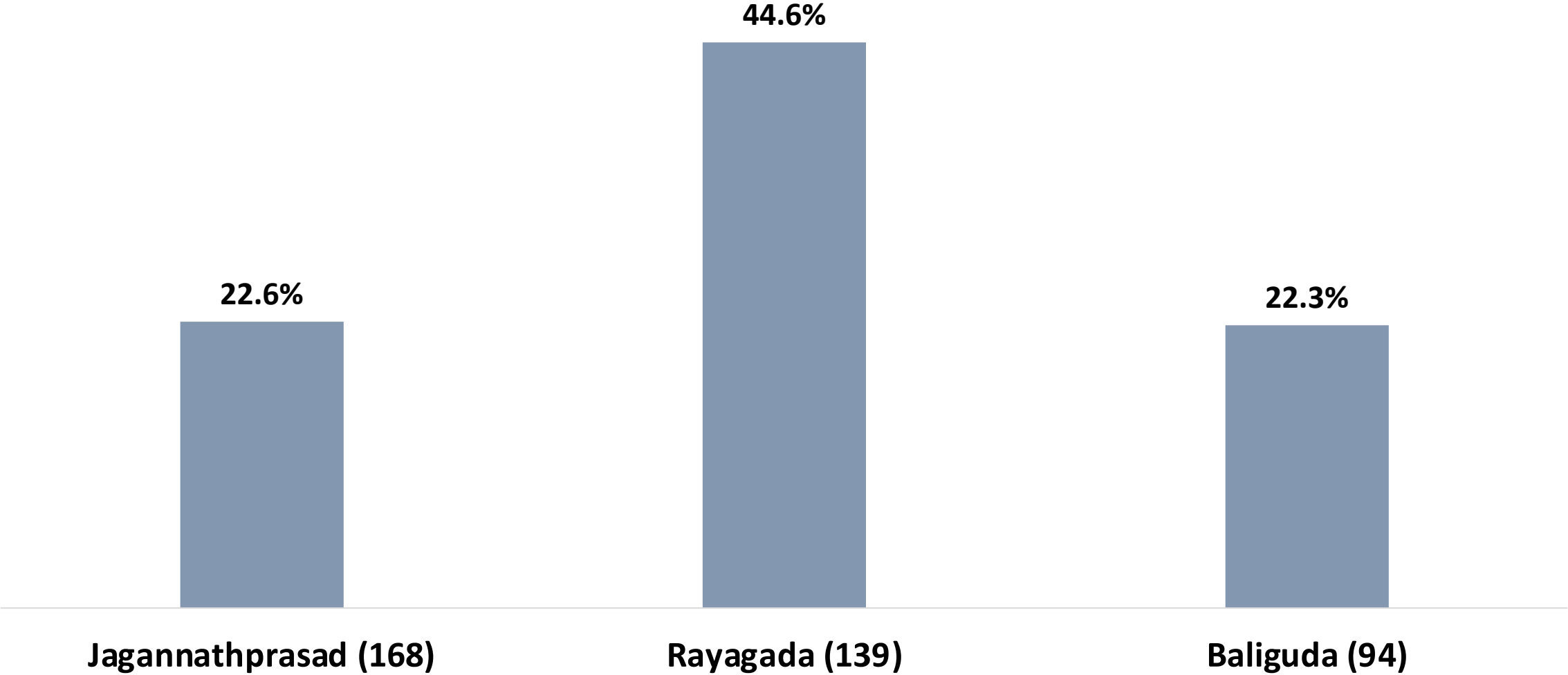
Response to COVID-19 – Stayed or returned

Distribution of migrant workers based on how they responded to COVID-19 lockdown (not done for Thuamul Rampur Block)

- Stayed at Destination
- Returned to Native Place during Lockdown
- Returned after Lockdown
- Returned Prior to Lockdown

|	Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)
Returned Prior to Lockdown	13.1%	30.2%	14.9%
Returned after Lockdown	19.0%	18.7%	21.3%
Returned to Native Place during Lockdown	29.2%	7.9%	35.1%
Stayed at Destination	38.7%	43.2%	28.7%
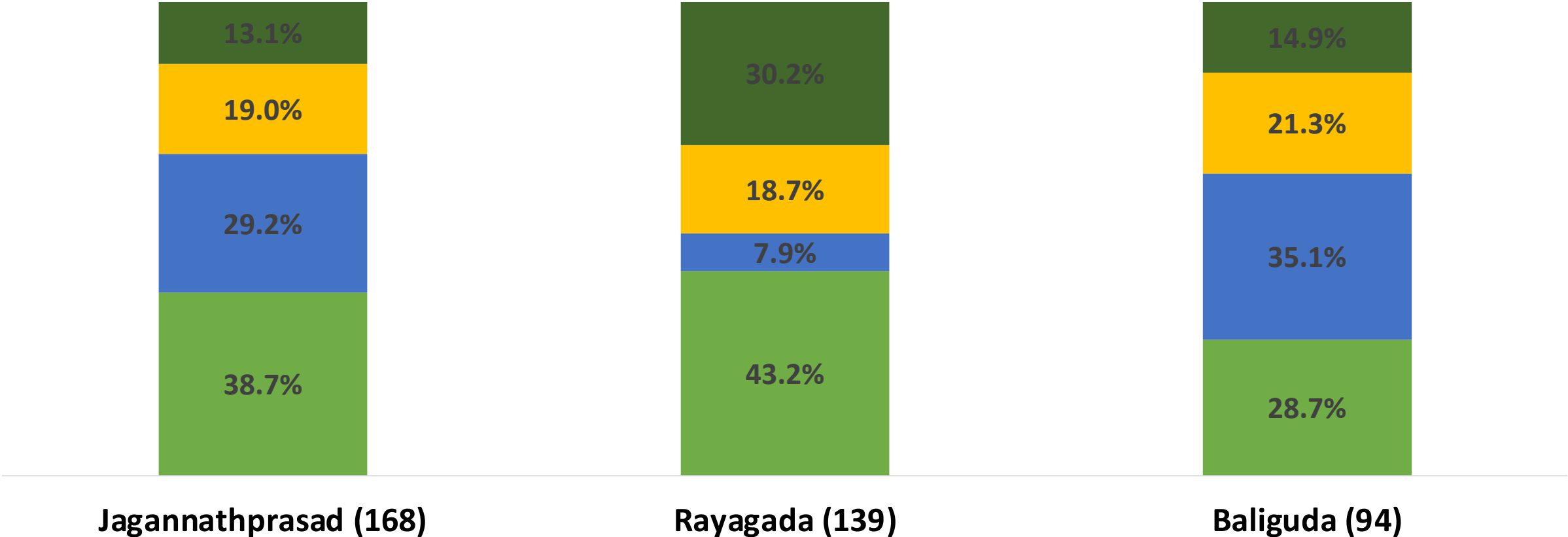
Work opportunities after returning

Proportion of migrant workers who returned during the lockdown who did not get any work (MGNREGS or others) in their native villages

Did not get NREGS work   **Did not get any work**

- Jagannathprasad (103): 96.1%, 56.3%
- Rayagada (79): 91.1%, 32.9%
- Baliguda (67): 77.6%, 10.4%
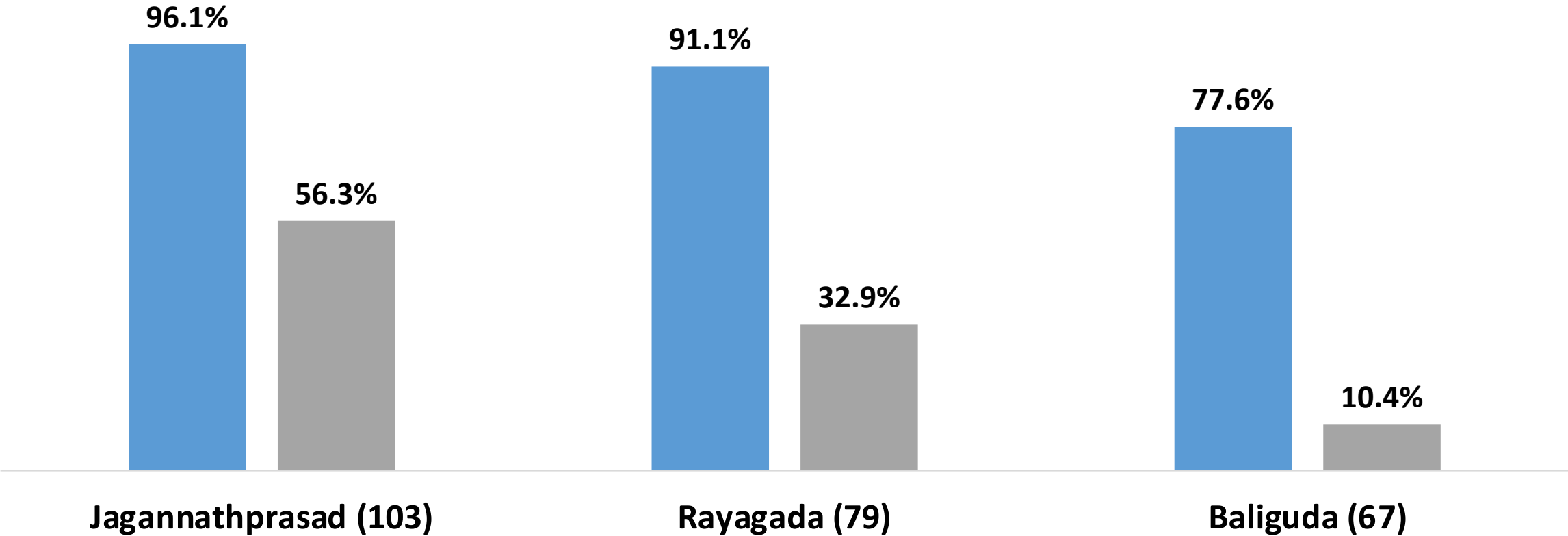
Income needed to prevent migration

Expected regular monthly income at native place that would prevent their migration as reported by the migrant workers

Jagannathprasad (168)	Rayagada (139)	Baliguda (94)	Thuamul Rampur (84)
₹ 12,000	₹ 10,000	₹ 10,000	₹ 10,000
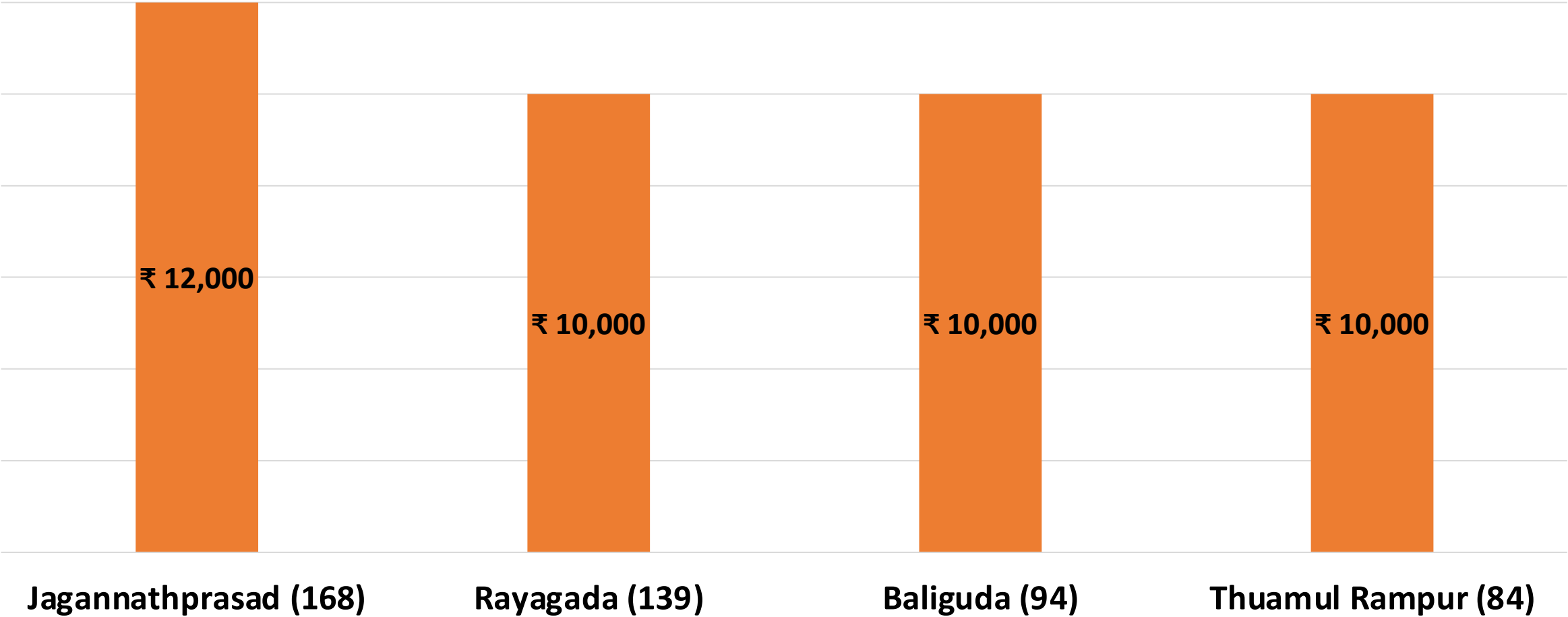
Labour Migration from Rural Odisha
Profiles of Four Blocks

Study Methodology

Sampling

```
[ House Listing ] → [ Household Survey ] → [ Survey of Migrants ]
```

- Self-weighted random sample for independent estimates for block
- Household Survey: 22 Primary Sampling Units (PSU) and 20 households per PSU per block
- Migrant Survey: Longest duration (T. Rampur), largest economic contribution to household (other blocks)

Sample size and data collection

Block	District	Sample Size : Household Survey (Period of Data Collection)	Sample Size : Migrant Survey (Period of Data Collection)
Thuamul Rampur	Kalahandi	440 (December 2019-January 2020)	84 (January 2020– February 2020)
Jagannathprasad	Ganjam	421 (November 2020 –December 2020)	168 (December 2020 - January 2021)
Rayagada	Gajapati	440 (November 2020-December, 2020)	139 (November 2020-December 2020)
Baliguda	Kandhamal	417 (December 2020 to March 2021)	94 (January 2021 to March 2021)

Contacts

Gram Vikas

sdm@gramvikas.org

🌐

www.gramvikas.org

📍

Plot No. 72/B, Forest Park,
Bhubaneshwar – 751009,
Odisha, India

Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development. CMID

benoy@cmid.org.in

🌐

www.cmid.org.in

📍

PMC.XX/1229, Near Town Hall,
Perumbavoor,
Kerala - 683542, India