Labour Migration from Rural Odisha

Daringbadi Block, Kandhamal

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Profiling Labour Migration from Daringbadi Block,
Kandhamal District

Gram Vikas

Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development

Foreword

Migration for better lives and livelihoods is an age-old commonly practiced phenomena world over. It is a journey filled with hope and uncertainty. Migration is a very personal experience, and its impact is felt by people who migrate, their families and the community at large. For many it's a planned and prepared choice, for majority it's the only choice, often undertaken as an immediate step to address a financial crisis or the only livelihood option. Presently, migrants comprise of a large number of people who originate from rural parts of the country. They are the main supply of human capital from rural India to meet demands from urban development or thriving farming clusters. Therefore, any approach to rural and urban development must consider migrant workers as a key constituent.
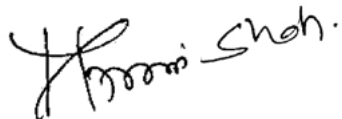
Axis Bank Foundation's Sustainable Livelihood Programme (SLP) aims to improve lives and livelihoods in rural India. The programme partners with NGOs that have fostered close association with communities. The primary goal of SLP is to improve income from farm and allied activities for small, marginal and landless farmers. The aspiration is to create a basket of livelihoods to generate cashflows through the year. Our efforts include improving irrigation access, promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices, and diversifying income sources for farmers. Strengthening local institutions like Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) provides stability and longevity to the initiatives. The impact varies from household to household and to an extent impacts choices on migration.

Odisha is one of the states that has over the years been contributing significant human capital to other parts of the country through migration. It has become a way of life with prominent migrants' corridors emerging along popular source and destination locations. With majority of people migrating belonging to rural farming communities, migration also impacts farming, the sole source of food security. This also burdens women and the elderly who then become responsible for managing the farms and their families.

Our association with Gram Vikas began in July 2022. This association got us to closely see the importance and impact of migration on communities supported through the programme. The programme was designed to factor in the migration as an important element of community support and rural development. Without which the desire to support the community in improving their lives and livelihoods would have been incomplete. One of the biggest changes for us was to acknowledge that while enhancing and strengthening rural income, influence of income from migration and seasonal presence or total absence of family members and most importantly, wellbeing of the one that migrates are important considerations.

Besides support for income enhancement locally, the programme provided support through migrant centres such as Sramik Bandhu Seva Kendra at the source and Bandhu Sramik Seva Kendra at the destination to ensure safe and dignified migration. These centres offer counseling, a helpline number, and financial literacy to migrants, helping them lead better and more dignified lives. Focus on occupational security, financial security, and social and emotional security is helping create informed and dignified migration opportunities.

This report is an attempt to develop a deeper understanding of migration and its impact on lives of people, giving the much-needed direction to community development programmes on both sides - rural and urban. Mainstreaming migration discourse can become that missing link between urban and rural development strategies.

Dhruvi Shah
Executive Trustee & Chief Executive Officer
Axis Bank Foundation

Foreword

Gram Vikas has been working with the village communities in Odisha since 1979, helping to build a sustainable and dignified quality of life. 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 Zone, two agro-climatic regions of Odisha, where most of Gram Vikas' work is focused, are characterised by a mixture of moist and deciduous forests and rainfed agricultural economy. Reduced access to forest resources, 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. These challenges are now exacerbated by climate change, affecting these communities pointedly through increasing incidences of heat waves and unpredictable monsoon patterns.

On the other hand, 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 society completely based on primary sector to a more diversified one. Increasingly, migration is also being seen as a mechanism to cope with the changes in climate patterns. 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, many of which came into sharp relief during the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns.

At Gram Vikas, 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 be able to enjoy occupational, emotional, financial and social security, and should have the capabilities to cope with uncertainties caused by pandemics and other disasters. The Safe and Dignified Migration Programme was launched in partnership with the Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID) in the year 2019, to work towards these.

CMID and Gram Vikas have been working together to understand and address the issues faced by migrant workers and their families. We have taken up detailed studies to understand the socioeconomic context and profile of migration at the block level. During 2020-2022, we prepared migration profiles of four blocks — Thuamul Rampur in Kalahandi district, 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 migration profile of Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district and Surada block in Ganjam district are additions to this repertoire, that provides grounded insights to understand the issues in greater depth and support the development of appropriate programme elements. The profile will also serve as a baseline to measure the changes that may 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
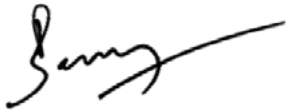**Executive Director**
Gram Vikas

Acknowledgements

Migrant workers have been an indispensable part of India's economy and the backbone of the bustling cities. 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 overcome their crises, adapt to changes in the climate, cope with conflicts, break free of the caste discriminations or move up the social ladder, it currently 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 evolving climate change impacting agriculture, I am afraid food security in rural areas could be eventually at stake, intensifying distress migration. While rural Odisha offers very low wages, with regular 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 be a powerful vehicle for social change. Our collaborative inquiries from 2018 onwards endorsed and reinforced this vision which motivated us to profile migration from Daringbadi block.

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Executive Summary

Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Kandhamal district since 2003. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from its programme areas, including Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district. In order to understand the migration from Daringbadi in depth, Gram Vikas conducted a profiling of the migration from the block in partnership with CMID. The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario of Daringbadi, to facilitate appropriate interventions to promote safe migration, and to revive the household and the village economies, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. A sample survey of 418 households was conducted during the period from June 2023 to November 2023, randomly selecting 22 villages/NACs and 20 households from each selected village/NAC.

Findings revealed that socially and economically disadvantaged communities comprise almost the entire population of Daringbadi. Although landlessness is not widely prevalent, it varied by ethnic groups. Small size of the landholdings, exclusive dependence on natural water sources for irrigation and changes in climatic conditions have made agriculture less profitable in Daringbadi. However, most households engaged in agriculture continue to do so. Although agriculture/agricultural labour continues to be the major source of local income, there is significant variation across ethnic groups. The majority of the households in Daringbadi have NREGS cards and most of such households have received some work. However, they have only marginally benefited from the scheme. Irrespective of the source of livelihood, the income generated locally by the households is meagre.

Two out of every five households in the block have a history of labour migration. At the time of the survey, 31.6 per cent of the households had a member who had migrated outside the district for work. Most migrants moved out of the state for work. Migrants constituted about eight per cent of the population of Daringbadi. The total estimated number of migrant workers from Daringbadi in 2023 was 8953. Southern states, primarily Kerala, were the major destinations of workers from Daringbadi. Although most migrants were men, women constituted about 15 per cent of the total migrants. Most workers from Daringbadi were unskilled or semi-skilled and worked in shops, establishments or factories. Most of them were informally employed with an average monthly wage of about ₹10750.

Labour migration from Daringbadi is of recent origin and is still evolving. Seasonal migration, which has been the predominant form of labour migration from Daringbadi, has given way to more aspirational migration with the youth increasingly moving out of the state for work leveraging their social ties. Migrants from Daringbadi seem to be well aware that there are not many opportunities locally to earn a steady income which they currently are able to secure through migration. Migration brings nearly ₹347 million (35 crore) to Daringbadi block annually as remittances, reviving the economy of the block and improving the resilience of households.

Introduction

Context

Migration for work has been a major means of survival for millions from the socially disadvantaged communities of rural India. Such migration remains unabated as the continuous investment in development is yet to transform the lives of people living in poverty in rural India. A host of factors have been fuelling their migration, the latest addition being the changing climatic conditions. A deeper enquiry into the dynamics of rural households is key to understanding the context of labour migration in India.

The state of Odisha, with a historically high poverty ratio, is one of the major sending states in the context of temporary labour migration. The Labour Directorate of Odisha has identified 14 migration- prone districts in the State.[i] 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.[ii] The state witnessed remarkable progress in addressing the deprivation as the proportion of the multidimensionally poor fell from 29.34 per cent in 2015-16 to 15.68 per cent in 2019-2021.[iii] While Odisha was among the top ten states with a significant share of the population living under poverty in 2015-16, it also ranked sixth in terms of the number of people who escaped multidimensional poverty.

Kandhamal, one of the most disadvantaged districts of Odisha with dismal human development, has been increasingly witnessing labour migration. This centrally located district has a hilly terrain and is home to 29 of the 62 tribes notified as the Scheduled Tribes in the state.[iv] However, the district has recorded a significant fall in the proportion of the multidimensionally poor, from 44.75 per cent in 2015-16 to 25.30 per cent in 2019-21.[v] A modest estimate reveals that the district received an estimated ₹16 crore every month as remittances prior to the national lockdown in March 2020.[vi] Daringbadi is one of the blocks in Kandhamal that substantially depends on labour migration.

Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Kandhamal since 2003. 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. Given the context, a detailed profiling of the migration from Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district 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 Daringbadi block to facilitate appropriate interventions to ensure safe migration and revive the household and the village economies, 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 the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies.

The specific objectives of the study were:

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

Methodology

In order to obtain a good one-time estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming a ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages in Daringbadi, 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 the survey, 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 Daringbadi were listed based on the number of households extracted from the Primary Census Abstract (PCA) from Census 2011 and villages with less than 40 households were merged with adjacent villages to obtain a minimum of 40 households per primary sampling unit (PSU). The list of PSUs thus prepared was then sorted by panchayat and within panchayat by the percentage of the Scheduled Tribe 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 interdistrict migrants and number of interstate migrants in each household were collected under the house listing. From each selected PSU, 20 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 the survey 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. The definition of a return migrant excludes ever migrants present at the household at the time of the household interview who have an intention to go for work outside the district later/ again to the same place or a different place, but currently not on a short visit for leave/ festivals/ other familial purpose.

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

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 a two-day training for the house listing. The investigators were provided a six-day residential training. The house listing was carried out in two phases. In rural areas, the house listing was conducted during the period from January 27, 2023 to March 21, 2023, while the house listing for the urban block was conducted during August 22 to September 18, 2023. Based on the house listing, the sample households were selected, and a household survey was conducted during the period from June 18, 2023 to August 09, 2023 for rural households and during October 17 to November 17, 2023 for urban households. 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 during the period from June 18 to August 31, 2023. A total of 2826 households were covered under the house listing. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 418 and the sample size for the migrant survey was 112. The response rate for the household survey was 95 per cent and the response rate for the migrant interviews was 85 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 trends and patterns among the households of Daringbadi. Percentages have been calculated only for frequencies 30 or above. The study does not cover households that have migrated as an entire unit. It also does not cover the migration for work within Kandhamal district (intradistrict migration). Migration for periods less than 30 days is also excluded.

Socioeconomic Profile

The study explored the distribution of households in Daringbadi by characteristics such as religion, caste, household size, education, type of ration card, employment under NREGS and household income. Almost all the households were in rural areas. Except a quarter of the total households that reported Hinduism as their religion, all the households followed Christianity. Almost the entire population of the block belonged to socially disadvantaged communities, with over 70 per cent of the households belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (Figure.1.2).

Figure.1.1: Percentage distribution of households by religion, N:418

Christianity, 75.6%   Hinduism, 24.4%

Socially disadvantaged communities constituted almost the entire population of Daringbadi

In the subsequent analysis, characteristics of the households are analysed separately for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities. Since there were only a few households from communities other than the Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities, the category is not separately analysed but included in the column 'Total' in the tables in the first two sections of this report.

Figure.1.2: Percentage distribution of households by ethnicity, N:418

Other Backward Caste/Community, 14.1%

Scheduled Tribe, 71.8%

Scheduled Caste, 13.6%

Household Size

Information on the number of members in a household, number of usual residents, those who were above 15 years of age, and total earning members in the household was obtained (Table.1.1). It was found that except among the Other Backward Castes/Communities, the average household size was five across the ethnic groups. Overall, more than one-third of the households had three to four members, and a similar proportion of households had five to six members. Over four-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes had three to six members. Nearly one-fifth of the households from the Scheduled Tribes reported having seven or more members.

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	8.8	11.7	22.0	12.7
3 to 4	36.8	34.3	30.5	34.4
5 to 6	43.9	35.3	32.2	35.9
7 and above	10.5	18.7	15.3	17.0
Median	5	5	4	5
Total number of usual residents				
1 to 2	21.1	22.0	23.7	22.0
3 to 4	38.6	39.7	50.8	41.4
5 and above	40.4	38.3	25.4	36.6
Median	4	4	4	4
Total number of members in the household aged 15 years and above				
1 to 2	26.3	39.7	40.7	38.0
3 to 4	49.1	34.7	37.3	37.1
5 and above	24.6	25.7	22.0	24.9
Median	3	3	3	3
Number of members above 15 years who earn				
None	0.0	1.3	5.1	1.7
1	43.9	33.0	39.0	35.4
2	31.6	41.7	28.8	38.5
3 and above	24.6	24.0	27.1	24.4
Median	2	2	2	2
Highest education level attained by any member of the household				
No education	0.0	6.3	5.1	5.3
Lower primary	8.8	5.7	1.7	5.5
Upper primary	12.3	13.0	13.6	13.2
High school	38.6	41.0	47.5	41.4
Higher secondary	28.1	19.3	15.3	19.9
Graduation and higher	12.3	14.7	16.9	14.8
Median educational attainment (years)	10	10	10	10
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	57	300	59	418

The median number of usual residents was four, irrespective of ethnicity. Two in every five households in Daringbadi had only one or two members who usually stayed in the household. Half of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported having three to four usual residents. While two-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes had five or more usual residents, a quarter of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported the same. On average, there were three persons in the households aged 15 years. The average number of earning members in the household was two, irrespective of the ethnic background.

Education

The average educational attainment of any member in the household was ten years. While two-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes had members with higher secondary education and above, nearly one-third of the households from the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes/Communities had members with similar educational attainment. Only about five per cent of the households reported that there was no one from the household who had undergone a formal schooling.

Household Income

Information regarding household income was also collected. Both monthly income from usual residents and total monthly income of the household in the month preceding the survey from all sources were explored (Table.1.2). The findings indicated that except the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities, the median monthly income of the households from usual residents in Daringbadi was ₹3000. In the case of the Other Backward Castes/Communities, the average income from usual residents was ₹5000. One in every twelve households, each from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities, reported that they did not have any income from the usual residents. Over one-third of all the households reported a monthly income not exceeding ₹2000 from the usual residents. Overall, 35 per cent of the households reported a monthly income of more than ₹5000 from the usual members of the households. This proportion varied from 26 per cent among the households from the Scheduled Castes to 42 per cent among the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities.

About 40 per cent of households earned a maximum local income of ₹2000

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Monthly income from usual residents				
No income	8.8	4.0	8.5	5.3
2000 or less	36.8	37.3	18.6	34.4
2001 to 5000	28.1	23.7	30.5	25.1
5001 to 8000	8.8	15.3	13.6	14.4
Above 8000	17.5	19.7	28.8	20.8
Median	3000	3000	5000	3000
Total monthly income in the last month from all sources				
5000 or less	35.1	43.0	33.9	40.4
5001 to 10000	21.1	22.7	15.3	21.5
Above 10000	43.9	34.3	50.8	38.0
Median	10000	7000	10500	7750
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**57**	**300**	**59**	**418**

During the month preceding the survey, average income of the households in Daringbadi from all sources was found to be ₹7750. It ranged from ₹7000 for the households from Scheduled Tribes to ₹10500 for households belonging to the Other Backward Castes/Communities. Over two-fifths of the total households, with a slightly higher proportion of households from the Scheduled Tribes, reported having a maximum income of up to ₹5000. While one-third of the households from the Scheduled Tribes reported having a total income of more than ₹10000 in the month preceding the survey, half of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported the same.

Housing and Living Conditions

This section describes the existing housing conditions in Daringbadi block. In addition to the type of housing, the study also 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 the respondents lived in their own houses. Seven in every ten households in Daringbadi had kachha dwelling units. Four in every five households from the Scheduled Castes resided in kachha houses.

Remittances have not played a major role in the construction/renovation of 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	21.1	33.7	30.5	31.3
Kachha	78.9	66.3	69.5	68.7
House ownership				
Own	100.0	99.7	96.6	99.3
Rented	0.0	0.3	3.4	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	57	300	59	418

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 55 per cent of the households undertook construction/renovation using household income other than remittances. This proportion varied from 47 per cent among the households from the Scheduled Castes to 71 per cent among households belonging to the Other Backward Castes/ Communities (Table.1.4). Only about 15 per cent of the total households cited government/non-government schemes to construct/renovate their houses. Remittances from the migrant members were not substantially used for this purpose in the block.

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

Source of Financing	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Government scheme	14.0	14.3	11.9	14.1
NGO scheme	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.2
Household income other than remittances	45.6	56.3	71.2	56.7
Remittances of migrant member	8.8	3.0	6.8	4.5
Do not know/cannot say	28.1	25.7	8.5	23.4
Other	3.5	0.7	0.0	1.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**57**	**300**	**59**	**418**

The households were subsequently asked about their access to water, toilets, kitchen facilities, cooking fuel and electricity, as it is crucial to determine the standard of living (Table.1.5). In Daringbadi, hand pumps were reported as the major sources of drinking water by over two in every five households. However, this proportion varied significantly, ranging from 17 per cent among households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities to 63 per cent among those from the Scheduled Castes. Households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported public taps or standpipes and dug wells, located within/more than 100 metres of their houses, as their major source of drinking water. Access to piped water supply into the dwelling, yard or plot was available to less than ten per cent of the households in the block. Twelve per cent of all households, with a higher proportion of those from the Scheduled Tribes, reported protected/unprotected streams as their main source of drinking water.

Over half of all households did not have a separate kitchen facility within the house. Households from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities in Daringbadi were better in this compared to the households from the Scheduled Castes. Firewood emerged as the main cooking fuel for over 95 per cent of the total households. The use of LPG/natural gas was relatively low in Daringbadi, with a disproportionately lower share of households from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes using it. Nearly 17 per cent households from the Other Backward Castes/ Communities reported using mainly LPG as cooking fuel. Most of the households had an electricity connection. Five out of every six households got electricity from a personal connection from the grid for lighting. One in every ten households reported sharing electricity from the grid through another household. Nearly one-fifth of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported doing so.

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	1.8	0.0	3.4	0.7
Piped into yard or plot	8.8	6.3	5.1	6.5
Public tap or standpipe	8.8	18.3	40.7	20.1
Hand pump within 100m of house	29.8	29.0	13.6	27.3
Hand pump more than 100m away from house	33.3	14.3	3.4	15.3
Dug well within 100m of house	5.3	10.3	25.4	11.7
Dug well more than 100m of house	5.3	4.7	5.1	4.8
Protected/unprotected spring	5.3	15.3	3.4	12.2
Surface water	1.8	1.7	0.0	1.4
Separate kitchen facility				
Available	31.6	45.3	67.8	46.7
Not available	68.4	54.7	32.2	53.3
Source of fuel				
LPG/natural gas	1.8	2.0	16.9	4.3
Biogas	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Wood	96.5	98.0	81.4	95.2
Other	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.2
Source of lighting				
Electricity from grid	87.7	84.3	78.0	84.0
Sharing electricity from grid through another household	10.5	9.0	18.6	10.5
Kerosene	1.8	4.7	1.7	3.8
Other	0.0	2.0	1.7	1.7
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**57**	**300**	**59**	**418**

Overall, less than two-fifths of the households had access to a functional toilet (Figure.1.3). Availability of functional toilets varied significantly across ethnic groups. While about two-fifths the households from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes reported having a functional toilet, only less than a quarter of the households from the Other Backward Caste/Communities reported so.

Figure.1.3: Percentage of households in Daringbadi with a functional toilet, N:418
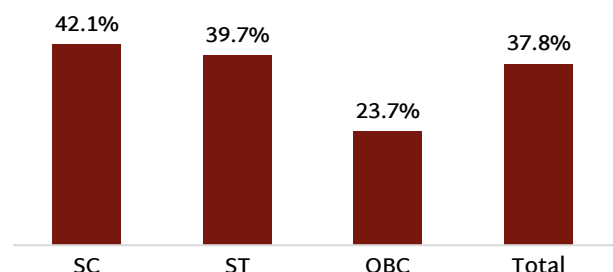
The households which had a functional toilet were asked how regularly it was used and if water supply was available inside the toilet. The sources of finance for the construction of toilets were also examined to understand if remittances from migrant workers had resulted in an improvement in the sanitation conditions of the households in Daringbadi. In the case of nine out of every ten households with functional toilets, water was not available in the toilet (Table.1.6). Overall, only a quarter of the households reported regular use of the toilets by the members. The proportion of households with functional toilets and regular usage was significantly lower among the Scheduled Tribes. Most of the toilets were constructed with funding from a government scheme. The contribution of remittances from migrant members in the construction of the toilets was negligible, 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
	SC/OBC	ST	
Availability of water supply in the toilet			
Available	18.4	4.2	7.6
Not available	81.6	95.8	92.4
Regular use of the toilet by members of the household			
Use	44.7	19.3	25.9
Do not use	55.3	80.7	74.1
Source of finance for construction of toilet			
Government scheme	92.1	93.3	93.0
Household income other than remittances	5.3	5.9	5.7
Remittances of migrant member	2.6	0.0	0.6
Other	0.0	0.8	0.6
Total	100	100	100
Number	38	119	158

Ownership of Select Assets

Ownership of select assets was explored among the households to understand their standard of living. Assets owned, provided in Table.1.7, indicate the consumption patterns among the households Daringbadi. The households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities had an overall advantage as far as ownership of relatively expensive assets was concerned. Households from the Scheduled Tribes topped in the ownership of select assets such as smartphones and bicycles. Ownership of most assets was found to be lower among the households from the Scheduled Castes.

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

Asset	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Smartphone	52.6	64.3	62.7	62.4
Basic mobile phone	66.7	59.0	55.9	59.3
Chair	61.4	55.7	49.2	55.7
Watch or clock	24.6	37.0	44.1	36.4
Electric fan	33.3	36.3	35.6	36.1
Wooden cot or bed	24.6	34.3	39.0	33.7
Motorcycle or scooter	8.8	16.3	25.4	16.5
Bicycle	8.8	17.7	15.3	16.0
Television	17.5	12.3	23.7	14.8
Steel cot or bed	7.0	11.0	1.7	9.1
Table	10.5	7.7	13.6	9.1
Pressure cooker	5.3	7.0	16.9	8.4
Mattress	5.3	6.7	13.6	7.4
Sewing machine	3.5	1.3	5.1	2.2
Any other telephone	1.8	2.0	3.4	2.2
Autorickshaw	3.5	1.3	3.4	1.9
Computer or laptop	0.0	1.7	1.7	1.4
Refrigerator	0.0	0.3	8.5	1.4
Radio or transistor	0.0	1.0	1.7	1.0
Thresher	1.8	1.0	0.0	1.0
Car	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	**57**	**300**	**59**	**418**

Overall, three-fifths of the households reported having smartphones. Less than one-fifth of the total households had motorcycles or scooters. Ownership of assets such as sewing machines, autorickshaw or other four-wheeled vehicles, which have an income-generating potential, was found to be low across all ethnic groups.

Land and Agriculture

This section examines landownership and agricultural practices of the households in Daringbadi block. The households were asked details about their landownership pattern, their engagement in agriculture and current family occupation. An attempt was also made to understand the impact of climate change on agricultural practices in the region. Landlessness was relatively less in Daringbadi. Only about 15 per cent of the households in Daringbadi did not own any agricultural land (Figure.1.4). The proportion of landless households was highest among the Other Backward Castes/Communities. Two-fifths of them reported that they did not have agricultural land.

Figure.1.4: Percentage of landless households in Daringbadi, N:418

> Most households owned land and were engaged in agriculture
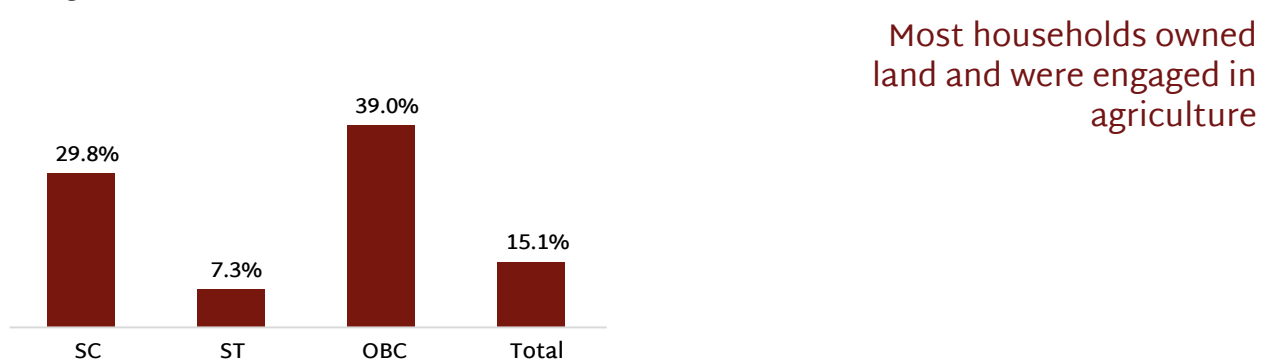
The households were asked about the quantum of patta land they owned (Table.1.8). About three-fifths of all households owned a minimum of one acre of patta land. Seven out of every ten households from the Scheduled Tribes and over one-third of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported having a minimum of one acre of patta land.

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

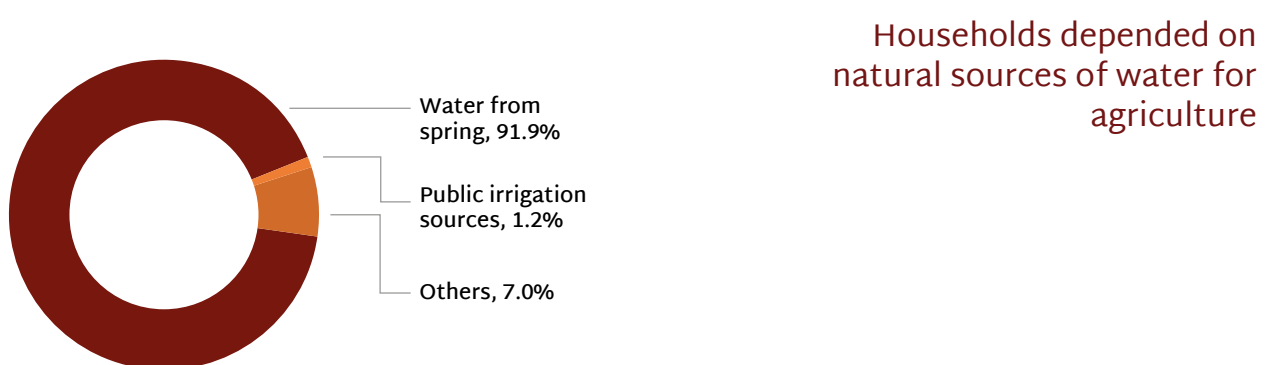| Land Owned (in Acres)	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Landless	29.8	7.3	39.0	15.1
Less than one	33.3	20.3	23.7	22.7
One	29.8	38.0	22.0	34.4
More than one	7.0	34.3	15.3	27.8
Median	0.05	1.00	0.04	1.00
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	57	300	59	418

Overall, the median area of patta land owned by the households was one acre. The size of patta landholding was considerably lower in the case of households from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities compared to the households from the Scheduled Tribes.

Figure 1.5: Percentage distribution of households with patta land (acres) by irrigation status, N:355

Less than 1 acre, 17.5%

Not irrigated, 75.8%

1 acre and above, 6.8%

Information on the area of irrigated patta land (Figure.1.5) and the mode of irrigation (Figure.1.6) was obtained from the households which reported ownership of such land. Over three-fourths of the total households which owned patta land reported that their land was not at all irrigated. Slightly less than one-fifth of the households shared that less than one acre of their patta land was irrigated. About seven per cent of the households with patta land had a minimum of one acre of their land irrigated. Nine out of every ten households with irrigated land cited water from springs as their source of irrigation. Reliance on public irrigation was negligible in the block.

Figure.1.6: Percentage distribution of households with irrigated land by source of irrigaton, N:86

Water from spring, 91.9%

Public irrigation sources, 1.2%

Others, 7.0%

Households depended on natural sources of water for agriculture

Data on the major source of income of the households (Table.1.9) were also collected. Nearly three-fifths of all households reported agriculture or agricultural labour as the primary source of income. Three in every ten households cited daily wage labour in sectors other than agriculture as their major source of income. While seven out of every ten households from the Scheduled Tribes relied on agriculture /agricultural labour as the major source of their local income, six out of every ten households from the Scheduled Castes reported non-agricultural daily wage labour as the main source of income. Nine per cent households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities mentioned that they did not have a source of local income. But 15 per cent of them were into business.

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

Major source of household income	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Agriculture/agricultural labour	29.8	70.3	23.7	57.9
Other daily wage labour	61.4	20.7	47.5	30.1
Business	0.0	1.7	15.3	3.6
Government/other services	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6
Other	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.5
None	5.3	3.3	8.5	4.3
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	57	300	59	418

The households were asked whether they had a history of engaging in agricultural activity and if they were engaged in agriculture at the time of the survey. As evident from Figure.1.7, the majority of households had a history of engagement in agricultural activities and most of them were found continuing the practice at the time of the survey. Engagement in farming was historically lower among households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities compared to other groups. Over four-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Tribes reported that they were currently engaged in agricultural activities. One in every ten households from the Scheduled Castes had discontinued the practice.

Figure.1.7: Percentage of households by their engagement in agriculture, N:418
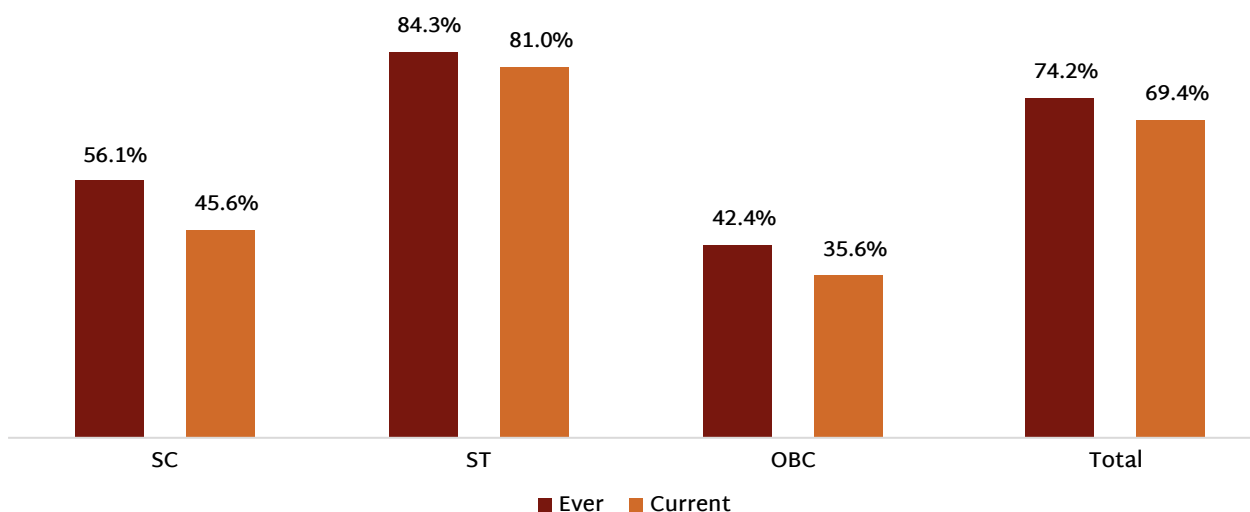
Out of 310 households that were ever engaged in agricultural practices, 20 reported that they had discontinued the practice at the time of the survey. They mentioned that agriculture was no longer profitable, and they hardly had anyone in the household to carry it on. Financial constraints were also highlighted as a major reason for discontinuing agriculture. Additionally, environmental factors, such as changes in weather, were mentioned as contributing to the decision to discontinue farming, though to a limited extent.

Cultivation Practices

Data on the cultivation practices, such as the type of land used for agriculture, the number of crop cycles in a year, the employment of agricultural labourers in the past 12 months as well as the sale of agricultural produce of the households, were collected.

Figure.1.8: Percentage of households by typology of land use, N:290
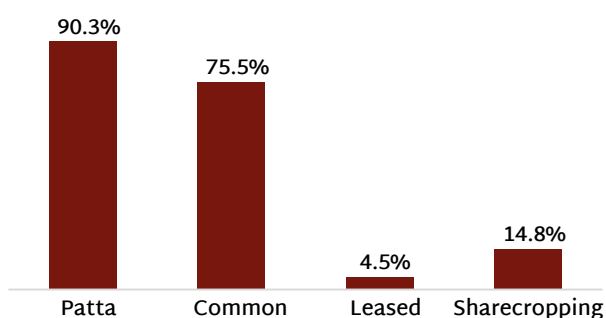
Households cultivated patta/ common land, grew a single crop per year and used the produce for household consumption

In Daringbadi, households predominantly used patta land for cultivation (Figure.1.8). Given the large forest cover of the block, the practice of using forest/common/encroached land for cultivation was common. Among those who were currently engaged in agriculture, over 90 per cent of the households cultivated patta land and three-quarters of the households used forest/common/encroached land. Sharecropping was adopted by 15 per cent of all households. Overall, 36 per cent of the households cultivating patta land used up to one acre for cultivation whereas a quarter of the households used more than one acre.

As evident from Table.1.10, 85 per cent of all households practicing agriculture were engaged in only one crop cycle in the year prior to the survey. Over three-fifths of the households did not employ any labourer other than the household members. However, this proportion was comparatively lower among households other than the tribal households. Nearly one-third of the households employed agricultural labourers along with family members. Nearly two-thirds of the households engaged in agriculture in Daringbadi used the agricultural produce exclusively for household consumption and only six per cent of them sold the surplus produce. The pattern of consumption and selling the surplus produce did not vary significantly across ethnic groups. Three in every ten households currently engaged in agriculture reported that they sold the surplus produce during financial crises. These findings reaffirm the subsistence nature of the farming in Daringbadi.

Table.1.10: Percentage distribution of households currently engaged in agriculture by select cultivation practices and ethnicity

| Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	SC/OBC	ST	
Number of crop cycles in the previous year			
One	85.1	85.6	85.5
Two	10.6	9.5	9.7
Three	4.3	4.9	4.8
Employment of labourers in the past 12 months			
Only household members	44.7	65.8	62.4
Only labourers	10.6	3.7	4.8
Household members and labourers	44.7	30.5	32.8
Sale of agricultural produce			
Used only for consumption	61.7	66.3	65.5
Sold during financial crisis	29.8	28.4	28.6
Sold surplus produce	8.5	5.3	5.9
Total	47	243	290
Number	100	100	100

Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Practices

Climate change is one of the major deterrents in continuing profitable agriculture. It was examined whether any change in weather over time had affected the ability of the households in Daringbadi to engage in profitable agriculture. Almost all the households currently engaged in agriculture, irrespective of their ethnic background, reported that climate change had negatively impacted their ability to engage in profitable agriculture (Table.1.11). Seven in every ten households in the block reported erratic rains, and over three-fifths of the households reported excessive rainfall as factors negatively affecting farming. Over 55 per cent of the households cited insufficient rainfall as a deterrent to profitable farming. Less availability of water for farming was reported by about 15 per cent of the households currently practising agriculture (Figure.1.9).

Table.1.11: Percentage distribution of households currently engaged in agriculture by reported impact of climate change on farming

| Impact of climate change	Ethnicity		Total
	SC/OBC	ST	
Negatively impacted	97.9	98.4	98.3
No impact	2.1	1.6	1.7
Total	47	243	290
Number	100	100	100

Figure.1.9 : Percentage of households negatively impacted by climate by select negative impacts, N:285
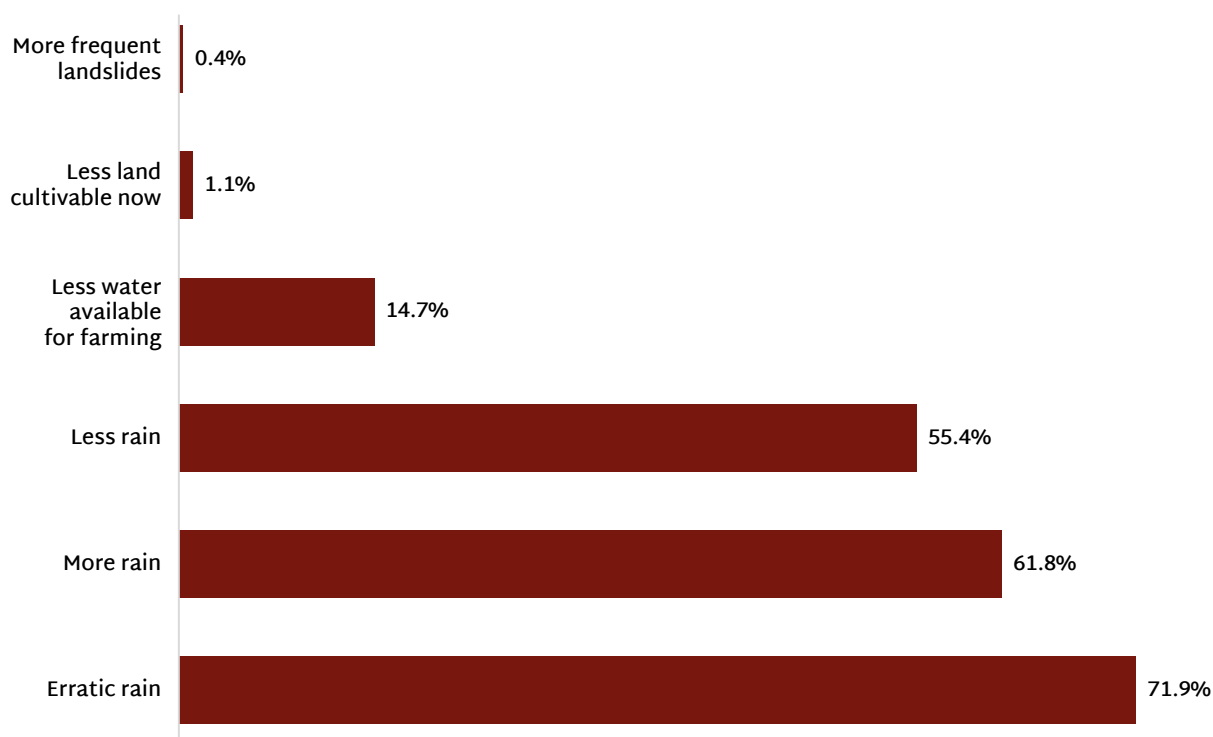
Livestock

Livestock plays a significant role in rural economy. It has the potential to fill the income gaps of rural households especially during seasonal fluctuations in agriculture, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Overall, about two-thirds of the households kept cows/buffalos/bulls. Around 63 per cent of all households kept poultry while 35 per cent were engaged in goat/sheep rearing (Figure.1.10). The households from the Scheduled Tribes were more involved in rearing livestock compared to those from other ethnic groups. Nearly four-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Tribes raised cows/buffalos/bulls and seven out of every ten tribal households kept poultry at the time of the survey.

Figure.1.10: Percentage of households with select livestock, N:418
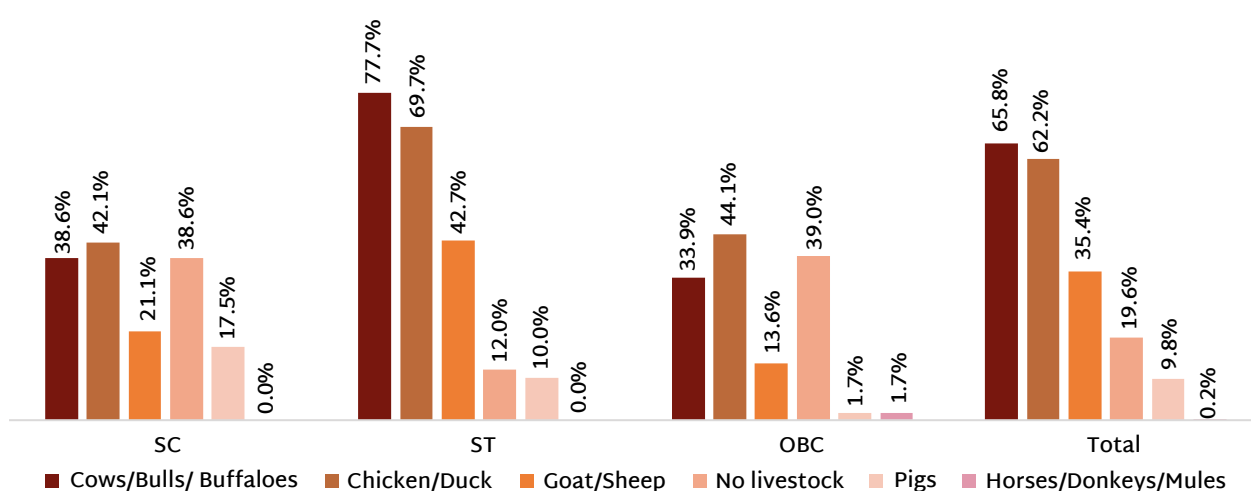
Most of the households did not earn any income from livestock in the past three months prior to the survey. But one in every ten households reported earning income from livestock in the past three months preceding the survey.

Social Security

The state of social security among the households in Daringbadi 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 possessed by the households were collected to examine the extent of food security and socioeconomic conditions in Daringbadi. About one in ten households in the block did not have a ration card at all (Table.1.12). This ranged from about eight per cent in the case of households from the Scheduled Tribes to 12 per cent in the case of households from the other two ethnic groups. Overall, 13 per cent of the households in Daringbadi had Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards for the ultra-poor and this proportion was highest among the households belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Nearly 80 per cent of the households had Priority Households (PHH) ration cards, without stark ethnic difference. Almost half of the households in the community development block had cards signifying their Below Poverty Line (BPL) status. While over two-fifths of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities had BPL cards, nearly half of the households among the Scheduled Castes reported the same.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
Type of ration card				
No ration card	12.3	8.3	11.9	9.3
AAY card	15.8	13.7	10.2	13.4
PHH card	71.9	78.0	78.0	77.3
Possession of BPL card				
Yes	49.1	46.0	40.7	45.7
No	47.4	52.3	59.3	52.6
Do not know	3.5	1.7	0.0	1.7
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	57	300	59	418

Participation in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was introduced to ensure a minimum of 100 days of employment to the vulnerable households in rural areas. During the survey, the households were asked whether they had an NREGS job card which would entitle them to work under the scheme. Nearly 70 per cent of the households in Daringbadi reported that they had an NREGS card (Figure.1.11). Three-fourths of the households belonging to the Scheduled Tribes had NREGS job cards compared to two-thirds of those from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities.

Figure.1.11: Percentage of households with NREGS card and those benefited from it in the past 12 months, N:418
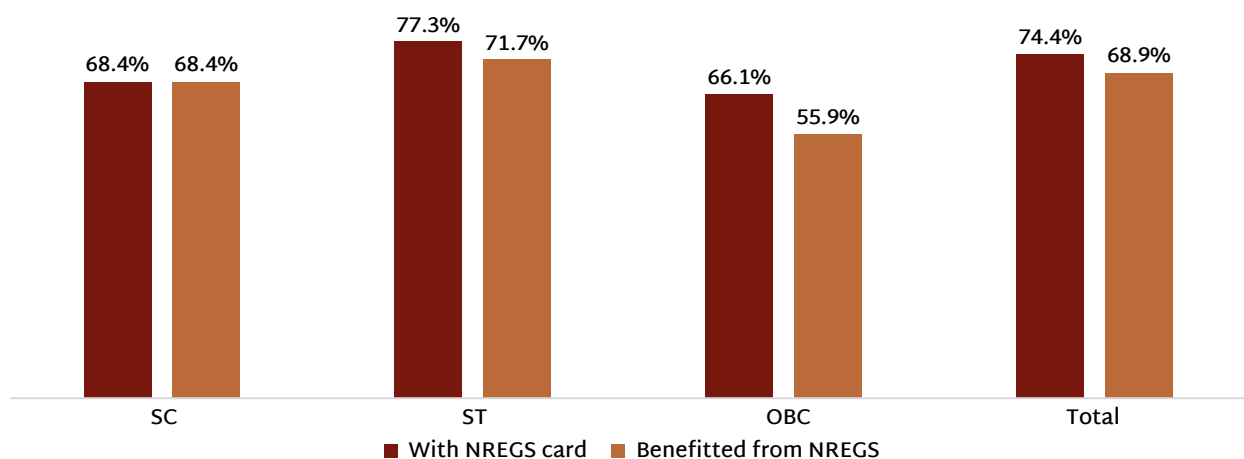
Overall, seven in every ten households of Daringbadi reported having obtained work through NREGS during the past 12 months preceding the survey. Most households with job cards have benefited from the scheme. Seven per cent of the households that had a job card did not get any work in the past 12 months preceding the survey and the corresponding proportion was 15 per cent among households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities (Table.1.13). At least a quarter of the households from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reported having received more than 60 days of work under NREGS. The median number of days of NREGS work received by the households with job cards was 30 days. Despite a greater coverage of the scheme in terms of the possession of NREGS cards, the households did not benefit significantly in terms of securing sufficient number of workdays.

Table.1.13: Percentage distribution of households with NREGS cards by number of workdays gained in the past 12 months and ethnicity

Days of NREGS work in the past 12 months	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
No work	0.0	7.3	15.4	7.4
1 to 29	35.9	29.7	28.2	30.2
30 to 60	38.5	37.1	38.5	37.6
Above 60	25.6	25.9	17.9	24.8
Median workdays	30	30	30	30
Total	100	100	100	100
Number	39	232	39	311

State of Financial Inclusion and Access to Services

Access to banking services is increasingly significant for rural households as it provides safer and more reliable resources of savings and credit. Besides, the state also transfers NREGS wages and other cash subsidies directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in order to reduce leakages and corruption. Access to financial services among households in Daringbadi was explored in the survey. It was explored whether at least one member of the household had a functional bank/post office account. A functional bank account was defined as an account with at least one transaction, either a deposit or a withdrawal, in the six months preceding the survey. The findings indicated that in Daringbadi, all households, irrespective of their ethnic association, had at least one member with a functional bank account at the time of the survey and about 12 per cent of all households had a functional post office account as well.

The respondents were asked about the methods used by household members with bank or post office accounts to withdraw money. Over nine out of every ten households, except those from the Other Backward Castes/Communities, used passbooks to withdraw money (Figure.1.12). Around 57 per cent of the households withdrew money from ATMs, the proportion being slightly lower among the households from the Scheduled Castes.

Figure.1.12: Percentage of households with members having bank/post office acounts by select means of withdrawal of money, N:418
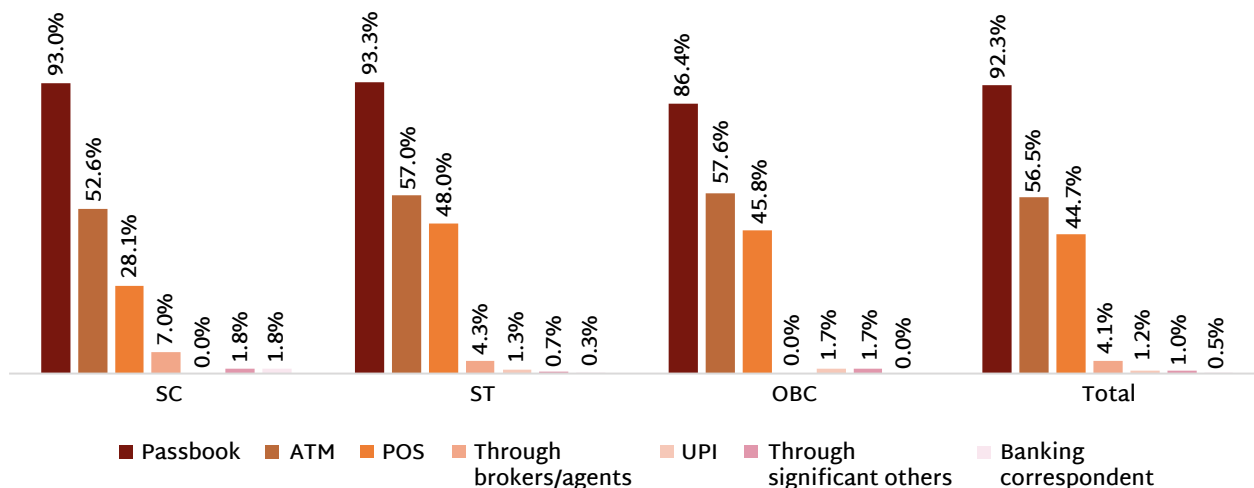

Overall, 45 percent of the households made use of POS for cash withdrawals. Slightly less than half of the households from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities relied on POS. Less than 30 per cent of the households from the Scheduled Castes also depended on POS. Reliance on brokers/agents or Banking Correspondents for withdrawing money was limited.

Households with bank accounts were asked generally how much time they took to go and withdraw money or update the passbook from the bank/post office if their usual mode of commuting was followed. Regardless of ethnicity, it took an average of five hours for a household member in Daringbadi to complete a visit to the bank or post office where they generally withdrew money.

The respondents were asked whether any of the usual members of the household had used UPI such for transactions. As evident from Figure.1.13, slightly less than 20 per cent of the households in Daringbadi had members at the time of the survey who used such channels for carrying out economic activities.

Figure.1.13: Percentage distribution of households by use of UPI, N:418

Do not use, 82.1%

Do not know, 1.0%

Use, 17.0%
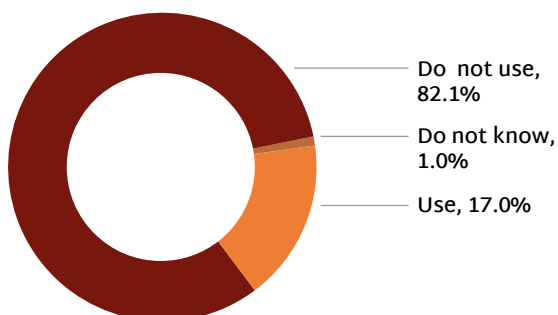
> People used passbooks to withdraw money. It generally took five hours to visit a bank and complete one transaction

Among the users, over four-fifths used UPI for purchases. A similar proportion utilised it for sending money to others. Nearly three-fifths of the households reported using UPI for receiving remittances (Figure.1.14). Use of UPI not only promotes inclusion but also saves a lot of money that would otherwise go to the intermediaries or financial agents.

Figure.1.14 : Percentage of households by purposes of using UPI, N:71

Category	Percentage
Purchase/ Payments	83.0%
Sending money to others	78.9%
Receiving remittances	57.7%
Sales	22.5%
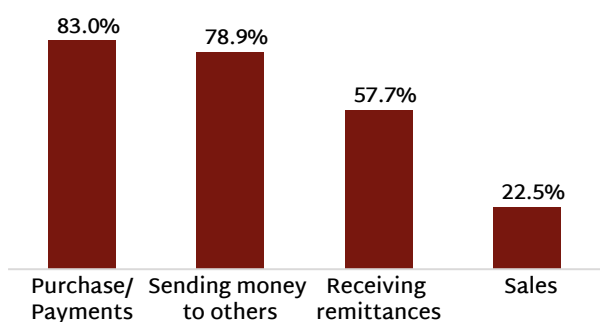
Figure.1.15: Percentage distribution of households by membership in SHG, N:418

No, 37.6%

Do not know, 1.2%

Yes, 61.2%
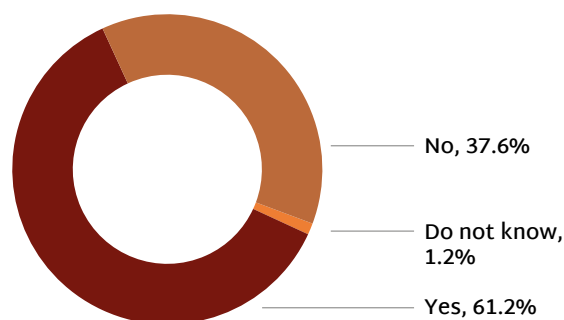
Membership of household members in SHGs, another major channel to access formal credit at the community level, was explored. Three in every five households had membership in self-help groups (Figure.1.15). The proportion of households with membership in SHGs was highest among the Scheduled Tribes and lowest among the households from the Scheduled Castes.

Health Insurance

The study explored the enrolment of households in various health insurance schemes. The households were asked if at least one member had enrolled in any of the health insurance schemes, by probing each health insurance scheme. Five out of every six households in Daringbadi had a member enrolled in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, the universal free health care scheme of the Government of Odisha. One in every ten households had members enrolled in community health insurance programmes (Figure.1.16). Enrolment in Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the national public health insurance scheme of the Government of India or Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) was not reported.

Figure.1.16 : Percentage of households with at least one member enrolled in select health insurance scheme, N:418

CHGS — 0.2%
Community health insurance — 9.3%
Don't know — 9.6%
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana — 83.5%

Access to Services

Table.1.14 documents the distance travelled by households to access essential services, such as banks where the members had at least one functional account, the nearest functional public health facility, or the nearest school where free education is available. The time required to walk to the nearest point for accessing public transport was also explored. Nearly two-fifths of the households had access to a bank where they had an account within five kilometres of their residence. One in every five households reported that the distance to the bank was between five to 10 km. The median distance travelled by household members to reach a bank where they had an account was eight km. For a quarter of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities, the distance to the bank was more than 15 km. The median distance the household members from the Scheduled Tribes needed to travel to access banking services was nine km compared to five km for households from the Scheduled Castes and three km for those from the Other Backward Castes/Communities.

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 (km)				
Less than one	5.4	1.7	18.6	4.8
1.0 to 5.0	48.2	30.8	39.0	34.1
5.1 to 10.0	23.2	22.7	10.2	20.9
10.1 to 15.0	17.9	32.8	6.8	26.9
Above 15.0	5.4	12.0	25.4	13.2
Median	5	9	3	8
Distance to the nearest functional health facility (km)				
Less than 5	40.4	23.7	55.9	30.6
5 to 10	38.6	33.0	11.9	30.6
10.1 to 15.0	17.5	36.3	6.8	29.4
Above 15	3.5	7.0	25.4	9.3
Median	7	9	3	8
Distance to the nearest high school where free education is available (km)				
Less than one	12.3	14.7	23.7	15.8
1 to 2	42.1	33.7	39.0	35.4
2.1 to 5.0	33.3	38.0	35.6	37.1
Above 5	12.3	13.7	1.7	11.7
Median	2	3	2	2
Time taken to reach the nearest public transit point on foot (minutes)				
Less than one	36.8	23.7	18.6	25.1
Up to 10	31.6	33.0	45.8	34.4
11 to 20	12.3	22.0	25.4	21.1
Above 20	19.3	21.3	10.2	19.4
Median	5	10	10	10
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**57**	**300**	**59**	**418**

Three in every ten households in Daringbadi reported the existence of a health facility within five kilometres of their residence. Two-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes and slightly less than three-fifths of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities also reported the same. One in every ten households had to travel more than 15 km to reach the nearest functional health facility and this proportion was largest among the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities where over a quarter of the households reported so. The median distance to the nearest functional health facility was eight km for all households and it ranged from three km for households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities to nine km for households among the Scheduled Tribes.
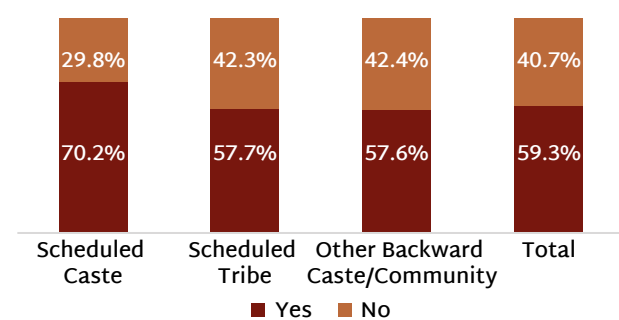
In Daringbadi, over half of all households reported that the nearest high school where free education was available was within two kilometres. For the households from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities the median distance to a high school where free education was available was found to be two kilometres. This was three km for households from the Scheduled Tribes.

Nearly a quarter of the households interviewed mentioned that the nearest point where they could access public transport was reachable on foot in less than a minute. Over one-third of the households reported that it took up to 10 minutes. Nearly one-fifth of the households, except those from the Other Backward Castes/Communities, had to walk for more than 20 minutes to reach a point where public transport was available. The median time taken to reach the point where public transport was available was 10 minutes, both for households from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities, while it was five minutes for households belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

Mobile Phone Connectivity

Mobile connectivity is poor in several parts of Odisha given the remoteness of villages and the undulating terrain. Figure.1.17 explores the mobile connectivity of households in Daringbadi. Overall, three-fifths of the households reported that they had access to mobile phone networks in their village. Households belonging to the Scheduled Castes reported better access to mobile phone networks compared to others.

**Figure.1.17: Percentage distribution of households by status of mobile connectivity in the village and ethnicity, N:418**

	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Other Backward Caste/Community	Total
No	29.8%	42.3%	42.4%	40.7%
Yes	70.2%	57.7%	57.6%	59.3%

■ Yes ■ No

Two-fifths of the households did not have mobile connectivity in their villages

The households without mobile connectivity in their village were further probed about the distance they had to travel to access a mobile network. Slightly less than two-fifths of such households travelled less than one km to access the network while nearly one-third of the households travelled more than one km (Figure.1.18). The median distance travelled by the households without mobile connectivity for accessing the network was one km.

Figure.1.18: Percentage distribution of households by distance travelled (km) to access mobile network, N:170

Less than one, 38.8%

More than one, 31.8%

One, 29.4%
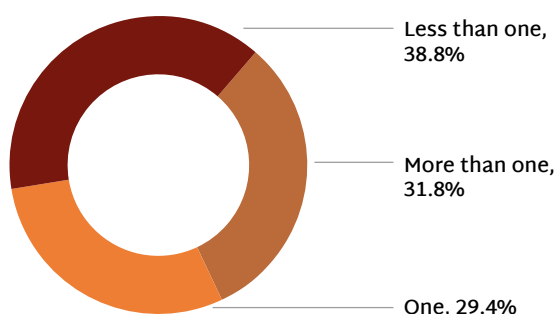
Three in every ten households were indebted at the time of the survey. The average outstanding debt was ₹20000

Indebtedness

Information on outstanding loans or advances taken by the households in the past twelve months was sought. Three in every ten households in Daringbadi were indebted at the time of the survey (Figure.1.19). The proportion of indebted households ranged from 26 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes to 46 per cent among the Scheduled Castes.

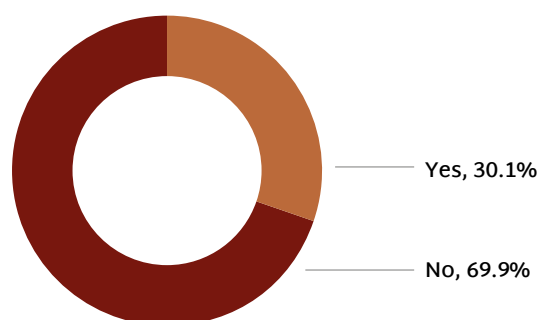Figure.1.19: Percentage distribution of households by indebtedness, N:418

Yes, 30.1%

No, 69.9%

Figure.1.20: Percentage distribution of households by the amount of outstanding debt, N:126

20001 to 30000, 13.5%

Above 30000, 31.0%

10001 to 20000, 20.6%
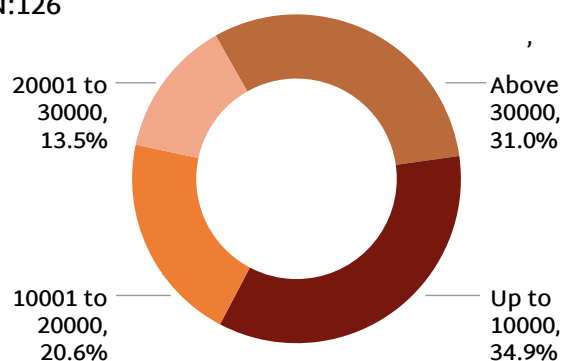
Up to 10000, 34.9%

Over one-third of the households were liable to pay up to ₹10000 and for one-fifth of the households the amount of outstanding debt ranged from ₹10001 to ₹20000. Three in every ten indebted households reported an outstanding debt of more than ₹30000 (Figure.1.20). On average, the outstanding debt of the indebted household was ₹20000.

The respondents were then requested to share the major reasons for taking such loans or advances and the sources of those loans. In Daringbadi, loans and advances were primarily taken to cover hospitalisation expenses and to construct or renovate houses. (Figure.1.21).

Figure.1.21: Percentage of households by reasons for indebtedness, N:126

Reason	Percentage
Death related expenditure	1.6%
Purchase of land	2.4%
Purchase of assets	2.4%
Loan for labour migration of a member	2.4%
Crop failure	6.3%
Marriage expenditure	8.7%
Loan for business investment	10.3%
Other	15.9%
Agricultural loan	20.6%
Construction/ Renovation of house	25.4%
Hospitalisation expenditure	33.3%
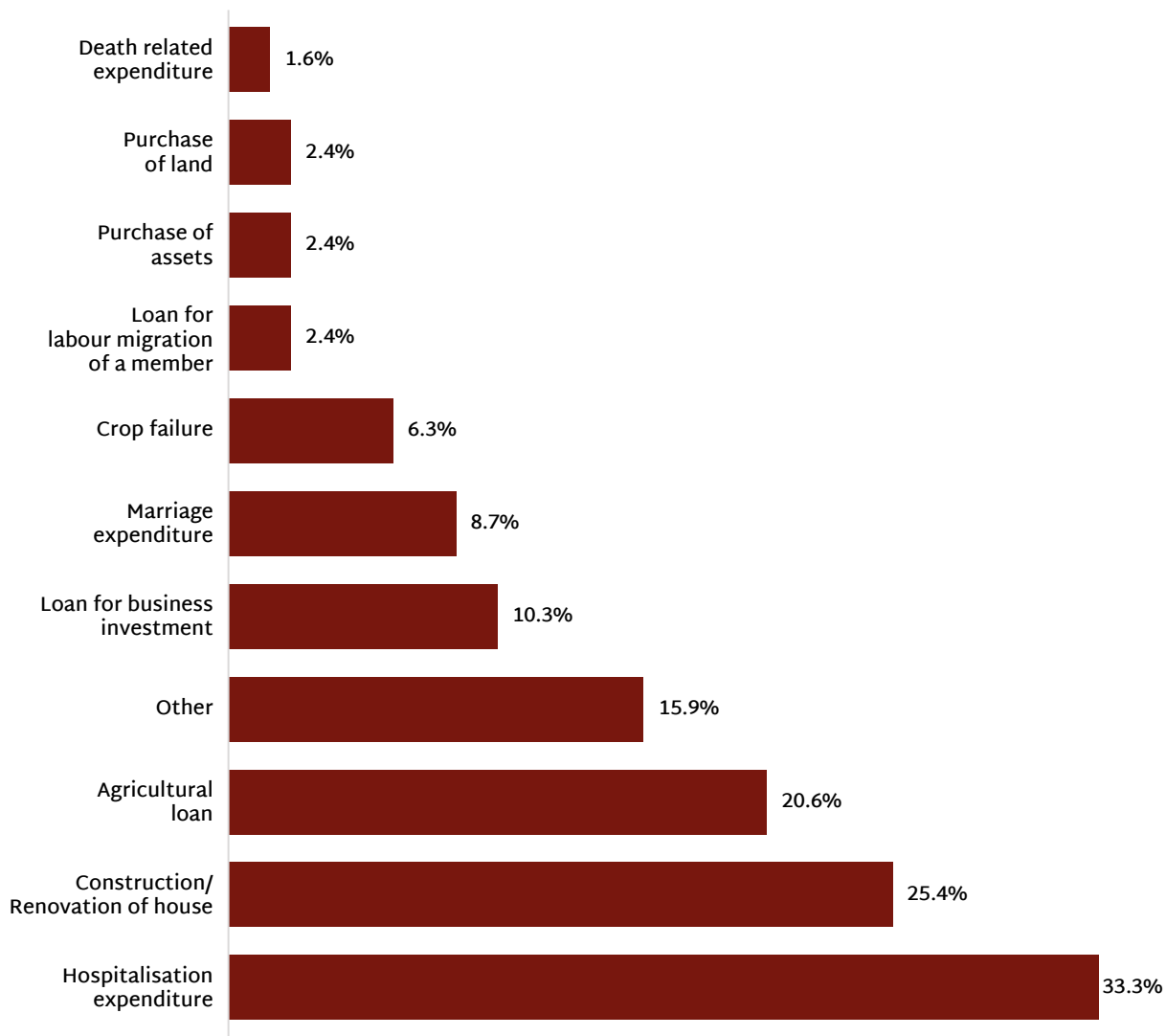
The indebted households depended both on informal and formal sources for credit (Figure.1.22). Two-fifths of the households borrowed money from private banks. A quarter of the households borrowed from SHGs while 16 per cent of them took loans from Utkal Grameen Bank/SBI. One in every ten households borrowed money from relatives or friends and an almost similar proportion relied on local moneylenders.

Figure.1.22 : Percentage of households by source of the loan, N:126
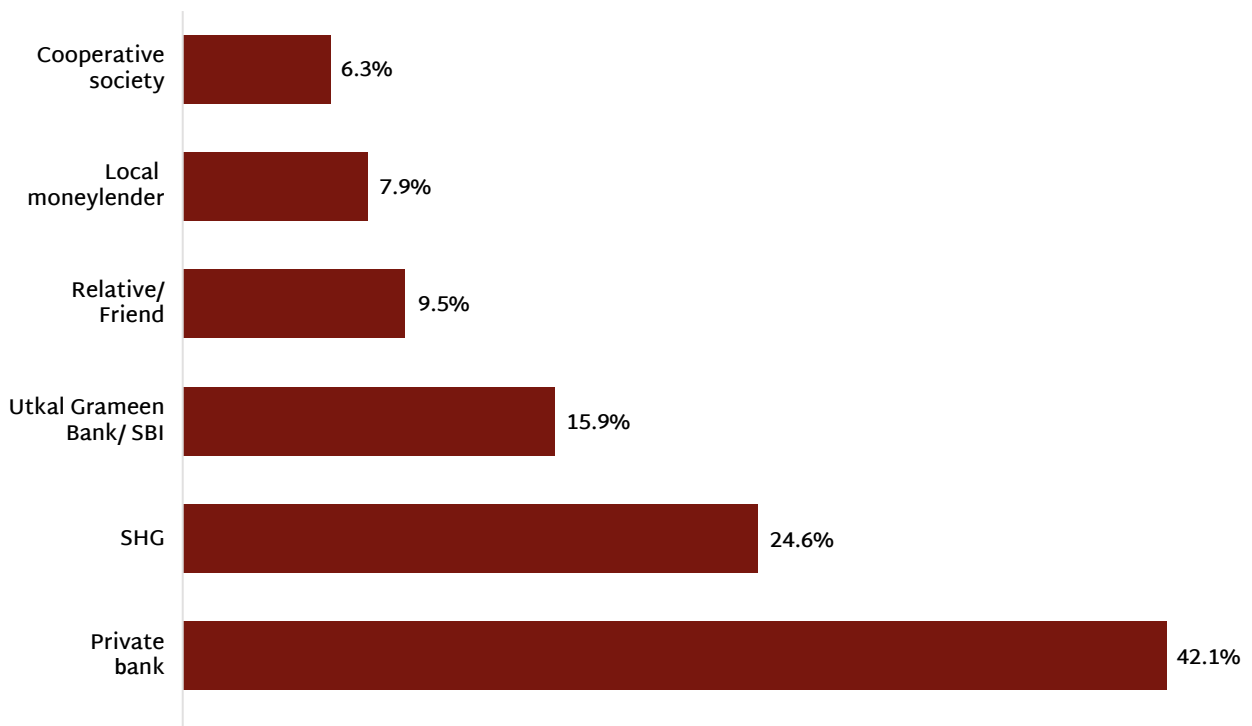
The households currently in debt were explored about their current major source of repayment of the loans/advances. Over four-fifths of the households reported that they depended on the income of the usual residents for repaying their outstanding debts (Figure.1.23). One in every seven households depended on the remittances of the migrant members of the household for this purpose.

Figure.1.23: Percentage distribution of households by the major means of repayment of outstanding debt, N:126

From income of usual residents, 84.0%

From income of migrant labourer, 15.2%

Currently unable to repay, 0.8%
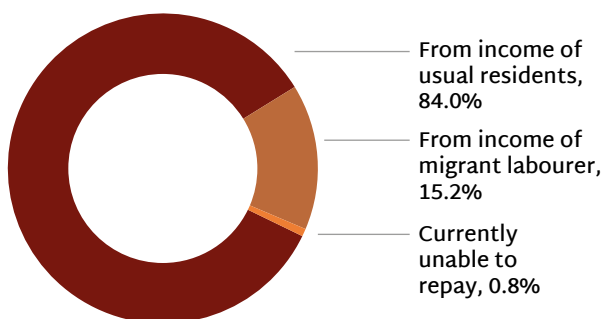
Remittances did not contribute significantly to the repayment of loans

Rural Misery

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

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

Table.1.15 records the responses where the respondents agreed with the above statements. Overall, nearly 85 per cent of all households reported their inability to invest in agriculture owing to financial constraints. Over half of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities and nine out of every ten households from the Scheduled Tribes agreed with the statement. With the exception of five per cent, all the households indicated that they were unable to seek quality treatment in the event of any illness because of insufficient income. More than 90 per cent of the households across the ethnic groups shared this status. Nearly 90 per cent of the households, irrespective of ethnicity, confirmed that they did not have any savings since their income was too meagre. About five per cent of the households had to sell/mortgage their land in the past 12 months. This was seven per cent in the case of households from the Scheduled Castes. About three per cent of the households had members who had to skip at least one regular meal for more than one day in the past seven days because there was no food stock or there was no money to buy food. This was five per cent in the case of households from the Scheduled Castes.

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	84.2	90.7	52.5	84.4
This household had to sell/mortgage land in the past 12 months	7.0	5.3	3.4	5.3
If someone from this household falls ill, we are unable to seek quality treatment because our income is not sufficient for that	100.0	95.0	91.5	95.0
We currently do not have any savings as our income is too meagre	89.5	87.3	89.8	88.0
Some of this household members had to skip at least one regular meal for more than one day in the past seven days because there was no food stock or there was no money to buy food	5.3	2.7	3.4	3.3
Number	57	300	59	418

Most households did not have any savings as their income was meagre

Migration from Daringbadi

Migration History

In order to understand the migration profile of Daringbadi, the sample households were asked whether any member of the household, currently alive of dead, had ever stayed continuously for a period of 30 or more days for work outside the district. Further, to gain insights into recent migration, the history of labour migration from the households in the past 10 years was explored. Figure.2.1 summarises the labour migration from the households to places outside Kandhamal district.

Figure.2.1: History of labour migration from households in Daringbadi, N:418
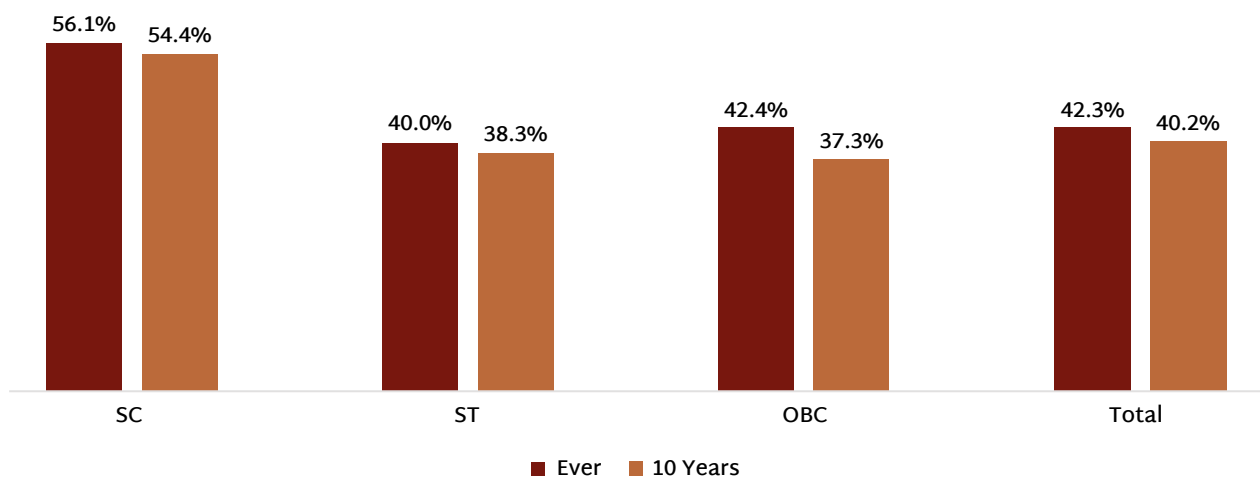
More than two-fifths of the households in Daringbadi had at least one person who had ever worked 30 days or more outside the district. Almost a similar proportion of households had a history of migration in the past of 10 years. The history of interdistrict migration was almost similar in the case of households from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities. However, the households from the Scheduled Castes had higher levels of migration rates. While one in every two households from the Scheduled Castes had a history of migration in the past ten years, two out of every five households from other ethnic groups reported a history of migration in the past ten years preceding the survey.

Nearly one-third of the households in Daringbadi had at least one migrant worker

Migration at the Time of the Survey

Households in the sample were requested to provide the details of the members who stayed outside the district for thirty days or more for work at the time of the survey. This also included those who were temporarily at home for the festivals/other purposes. The data gathered provides insights into interdistrict, interstate and seasonal migration at the time of the survey.

Nearly one-third of the households in Daringbadi had at least one member working outside Kandhamal district at the time of the survey (Figure.2.2). One in every four households in Daringbadi had members working outside Odisha. The rates of both interdistrict and interstate migration were relatively higher among the households from the Scheduled Castes compared to the others. Migration rates were lowest for the households from the Scheduled Tribes. Most of the labour migration from the block was to destinations outside the state. One in every three households from Other Backward Castes/Communities had a migrant worker and most of such migration was interstate. About 30 per cent of the households from the Scheduled Tribes had migrant workers at the time of the survey and with the exception of about five per cent, most of the migration was interstate. Nearly half of the households from the Scheduled Castes also had migrant workers at the time of the survey. The majority of the households from the Scheduled Castes had members who migrated out of Odisha for work, with only about seven per cent undertaking intrastate migration.

Seasonal migrant workers were present in one-fifth of the households at the time of the survey. Presence of seasonal migrant members was found to be more common among the households from the Scheduled Castes compared to other ethnic groups. Three in every ten households from the Scheduled Castes had seasonal migrants at the time of the survey. Seasonal migration was lowest among the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities. One-fifth of the households from the Scheduled Tribes also reported having seasonal migrants.

Figure.2.2: Current migration rates, Daringbadi, N:418
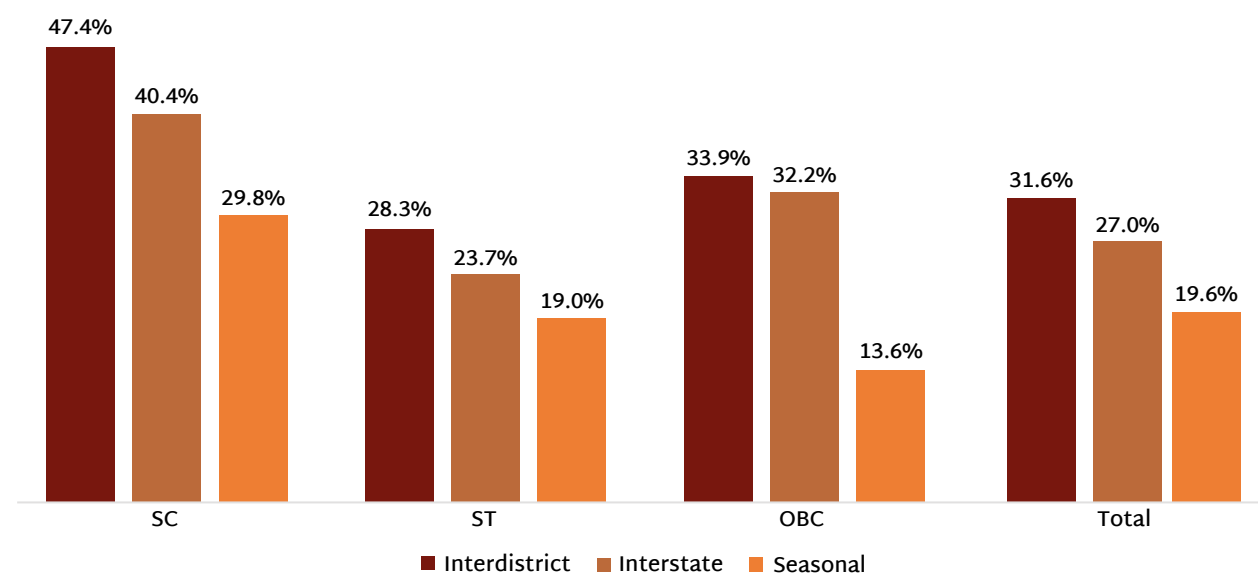
Household migration rates were also calculated by select background characteristics such as BPL status, family occupation, access to NREGS, access to public transport etc. to understand the variations, if any (Table.2.1). Christians had higher migration rates compared to Hindus. The household migration rates were substantially higher for households engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour compared to those engaged in agriculture/agricultural labour. Landless households were found more prone to migrate compared to those who had land. The AAY households had the highest migration rates compared to those with PHH cards or no ration cards. The migration rates were higher for those who possessed NREGS cards compared to those who did not have NREGS cards. The household migration rates were higher from areas with better accessibility to public transport compared to other areas. The current migration rates except seasonal migration did not vary much by type of house, status of engagement of the households in agriculture or access to public transport.

Seasonal migration was more prominent among the households belonging to the Scheduled Castes, those engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour, households with AAY cards or BPL cards, those with land, households with pukka houses and those who had easy access to public transport. Seasonal migration rates did not vary much by the access to NREGS work or engagement of the household in agriculture.

Table.2.1: Household labour migration rates (households with labour migrants per 100 households), Daringbadi block, 2023

Variable/Category	Migration in Past 10 Years	Interdistrict Migration	Interstate Migration	Seasonal Migration	Sample Households
Religion					
Hinduism	30.4	25.5	21.6	17.6	102
Christianity	43.4	33.5	28.8	20.3	316
Ethnicity					
Scheduled Castes	54.4	47.4	40.4	29.8	57
Scheduled Tribes	38.3	28.3	23.7	19.0	300
Other Backward Castes/Communities	37.3	33.9	32.2	13.6	59
NREGS job card					
Possess NREGS card	42.1	32.8	27.7	19.3	311
Do not possess NREGS card	34.6	28.0	25.2	20.6	107
House type					
Pukka	37.4	32.1	26.0	22.9	131
Kachha	41.5	31.4	27.5	18.1	287
Current family occupation					
Agriculture/Agricultural labour	41.7	30.2	26.0	17.8	242
Other daily wage labour	46.0	39.7	34.1	26.2	126
Land ownership					
Own land	38.9	30.4	25.4	20.3	355
Do not own land	47.6	38.1	36.5	15.9	63
Current engagement in agriculture					
Engaged in agriculture	40.3	31.0	26.6	19.0	290
Not engaged in agriculture	39.8	32.8	28.1	21.1	128
Ration card					
No Ration card	35.9	28.2	23.1	20.5	39
AAY card	48.2	35.7	30.4	26.8	56
PHH card	39.3	31.3	26.9	18.3	323
BPL status					
Yes	40.3	34.0	28.8	26.2	191
No	40.1	29.5	25.6	14.1	227
Access to public transport					
Less than 10 minutes	41.8	32.7	28.1	24.5	196
10 minutes and above	38.7	30.6	26.3	15.3	222
Total	**40.2**	**31.6**	**27.0**	**19.6**	**418**

Note: Interdistrict migration also includes interstate migration

Seasonal migration is a major form of distress migration in India. Hence, the extent of seasonality of migration of the current migrants was explored. The households were asked if they had migrant members at the time of the survey who generally worked outside the district for not more than six months and spent the rest of the year working in the village. At the time of the survey, over three-fifths of the households with migrant members confirmed that they had such members (Figure.2.3).

Figure.2.3: Percentage distribution of households with migrants by seasonality of migration, N:132

Without seasonal migrant, 37.9%

With seasonal migrant, 62.1%
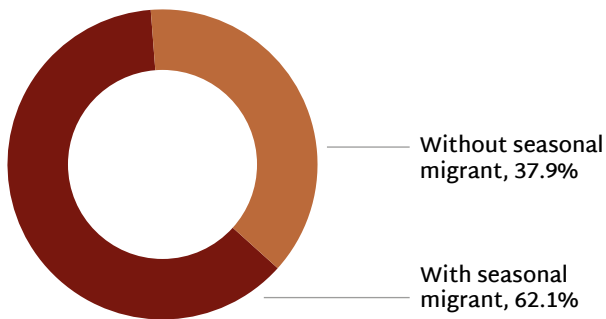
> Over three-fifths of the households with migrant members had seasonal migrants

Three in every five households with seasonal migrants reported that such migrants worked as daily wage labourers in sectors other than agriculture while in Daringbadi. One-third of the households with seasonal migrants were involved in agricultural activity either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers while in Daringbadi (Figure.2.4).

Figure.2.4: Percentage distribution of households with seasonal migrants by their occupation at source, N:82

Other wage labour, 61.0%

Other, 2.4%

Agriculture, 30.5%

Agricultural labour, 6.1%
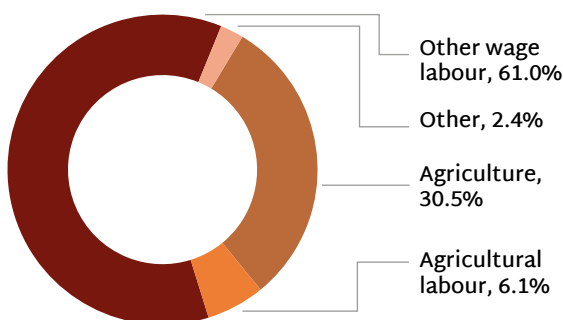
> Daily wage labour outside agriculture was the major means of livelihood for seasonal migrants while in Daringbadi

About two-fifths of the current migrants from Daringbadi were single male workers (Figure.2.5). Three-fifths of the current migrants from Daringbadi did not take their spouses and children with them to the destination and two-fifths of the current migrants were unmarried.

Figure.2.5: Percentage distribution of households by whether migrant accompanied by spouse and children, N:132

Unmarried, 40.9%

Spouse only, 3.8%

Spouse and all/ some children, 3.8%

None of them, 51.6%
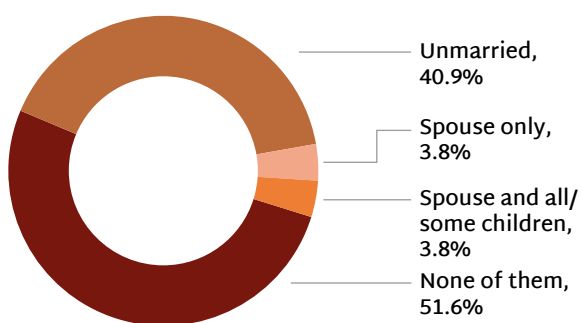
Figure.2.6: Percentage distribution of households by occupation of migrant at destination, N:132

Worker in shop/ Establishment, 31.8%

Hotel employee, 16.7%

Factory worker, 13.6%

Other, 8.3%

Domestic worker, 6.1%

Construction worker, 23.5%

One in every three migrants from Daringbadi worked in shops/establishments/factories at the destination. Nearly a quarter of the migrants worked in the construction sector (Figure.2.6). About 17 per cent were hotel employees and 14 per cent were factory workers. There were also about six per cent of migrants employed as domestic workers.

Female Migration for Work

The extent of migration of women and girls from the households in Daringbadi at the time of the survey was also explored. Almost one out of every five households with migrants had women/girls who had migrated out of Kandhamal district for work (Figure.2.7). The median age of female migrant workers who had moved last from the household was 21.5 years. Recruitment of the female migrant labourers, who primarily moved to cities in southern India, was done mostly by leveraging their personal networks.
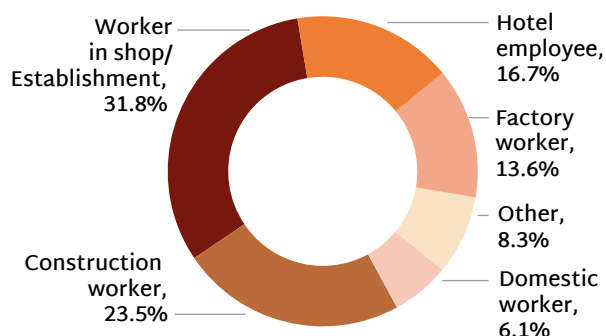

Nearly one-fifth of the households with migrants had female migrants

Figure.2.7: Percentage distribution of households
with migrants by presence of female migrants,N:132

None,
81.8%

With female
migrant, 18.2%
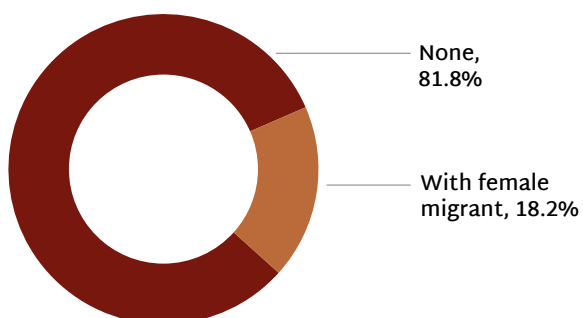
Most female migrants moved
to cities in southern India
leveraging their personal
networks

Distribution of Migrants in the Population

In order to understand the magnitude of migration from Daringbadi block, the percentage of
migrant workers to the total population was calculated from the sample. Figure.2.8 provides the
percentage of migrant workers in the sample population by ethnicity. It was found that at the time
of the survey, migrant workers constituted eight per cent of the total population of Daringbadi.
This proportion varied from seven per cent in the case of the Scheduled Tribes to 12 per cent among
workers from the Other Backward Castes/Communities.

Figure.2.8: Percentage of migrant workers to the
total population and ethnicity, Daringbadi, N:1977

11.2%   11.5%

7.1%   8.2%

SC (267)   ST (1450)   OBC (253)   Total (1977)
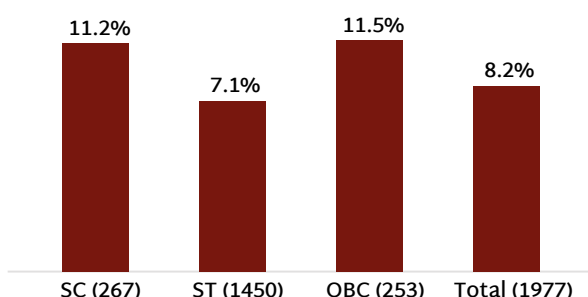
Migrant workers constituted
around eight per cent of the
population in Daringbadi

The proportion of female migrants among the total migrant population was also calculated based
on the household survey (Figure.2.9). It was found that about fifteen per cent of the migrant workers
were females and this proportion varied from 14 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes to 20 per cent
among the workers from the Scheduled Castes.

Figure.2.9: Percentage distribution of migrant workers in Daringbadi by sex and ethnicity, N:162
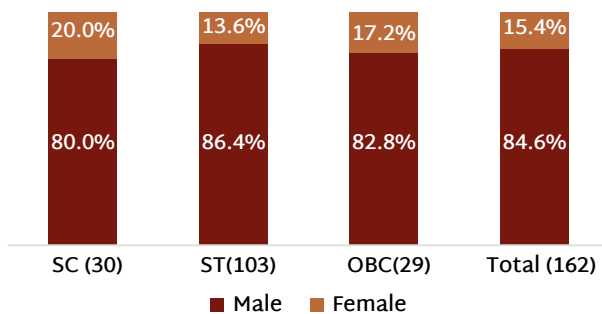
In 2023, about 9000 migrants from Daringbadi were working outside Kandhamal district

Estimate of Migrant Workers

Based on the sample proportions the number of interdistrict migrant labourers from Daringbadi was estimated. In 2023, a total of 8953 migrants from Daringbadi worked in various parts of India. Among them, 7571 were males. Out of the total migrant workers, nearly 5000 were from the Scheduled Tribes.

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

Sex	Ethnicity			Total
	SC	ST	Other	
Male	682	4229	2660	7571
Female	171	665	546	1382
Total	853	4894	3206	8953

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 Kandhamal 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. Nearly 30 per cent of the households with a history of migration had at least one current usual resident who had ever worked 30 days or more outside the district but did not have an intention to go back to the same place or another place outside the district for work at the time of the survey (Figure.2.10). .

Figure.2.10: Percentage distribution of households with return migrants, N:177

No return migrant, 72.3%

With return migrant, 27.7%
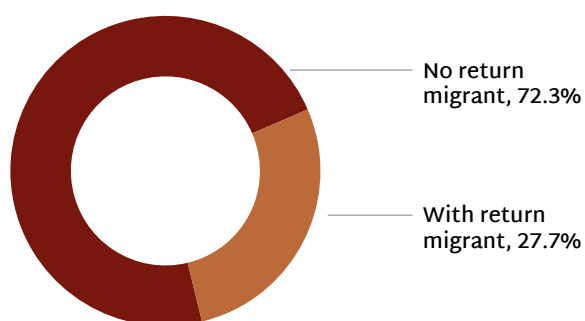
> Nearly 30 per cent of the households with a history of migration had at least one return migrant

Four-fifths of the return migrants used to work in the southern state of Kerala and about one-fifth mentioned Chennai in Tamil Nadu as the destination where they had last worked. The return migrants worked in various sectors such as construction, shops/establishments etc. On average, the return migrants worked for 16 months outside Kandhamal before returning to their village. Migrant workers returned from their respective destinations due to the absence of others to care for their family members in the village or when the outstanding debt was cleared. Four-fifths of return migrants were primarily engaged in non-agricultural daily wage labour. Agricultural activities as well as agricultural labour were reported as the current source of livelihood by one-fifth of the households with return migrants.

Impact of Labour Migration

The households with a history of labour migration were asked how the migration of member/s had impacted them. Both the positive and negative impacts of migration were shared by the households. The impact on indebtedness, agriculture, housing, ownership of assets and status in the village was further explored.

Indebtedness

Nine out of every ten households in Daringbadi with a history of migration reported that they would not have been able to come out of poverty without the income from the migrant members of the households (Figure.2.11). This was most prominent in the case of households from the Scheduled Castes. Nearly two-fifths of all households with a history of migration shared that they would not have been able to repay their debts/loans without the income of the migrant member/s in the household. Nearly half of the households from Scheduled Castes endorsed this.

Figure.2.11: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on poverty/indebtedness, N:177
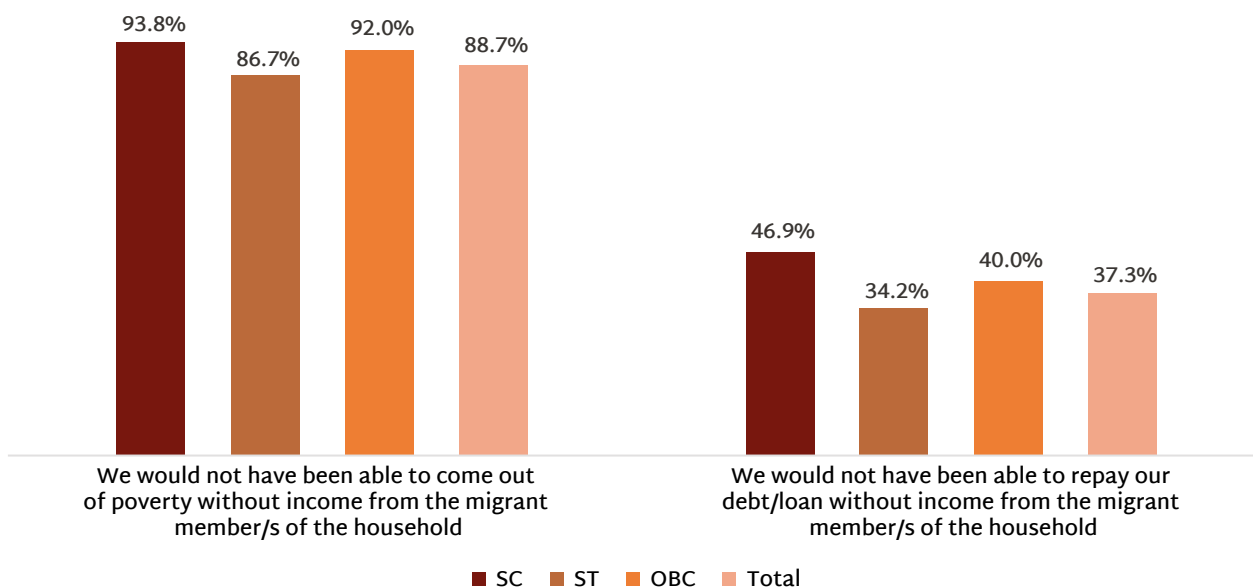
More than half of all households with a history of migration reported that their savings improved due to the income contributed by the migrant members (Figure.2.12). However, this varied by ethnicity. When asked about diversification of income, 17 per cent of the households mentioned that they were able to initiate an income-generating activity using the remittances. While a quarter of the households from the Scheduled Castes were able to diversify their income through earnings from migration, only eight per cent of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities managed to do so.

Figure.2.12: Percentage of households with migration history that were able to improve savings and and diversify income by ethnicity, N:177
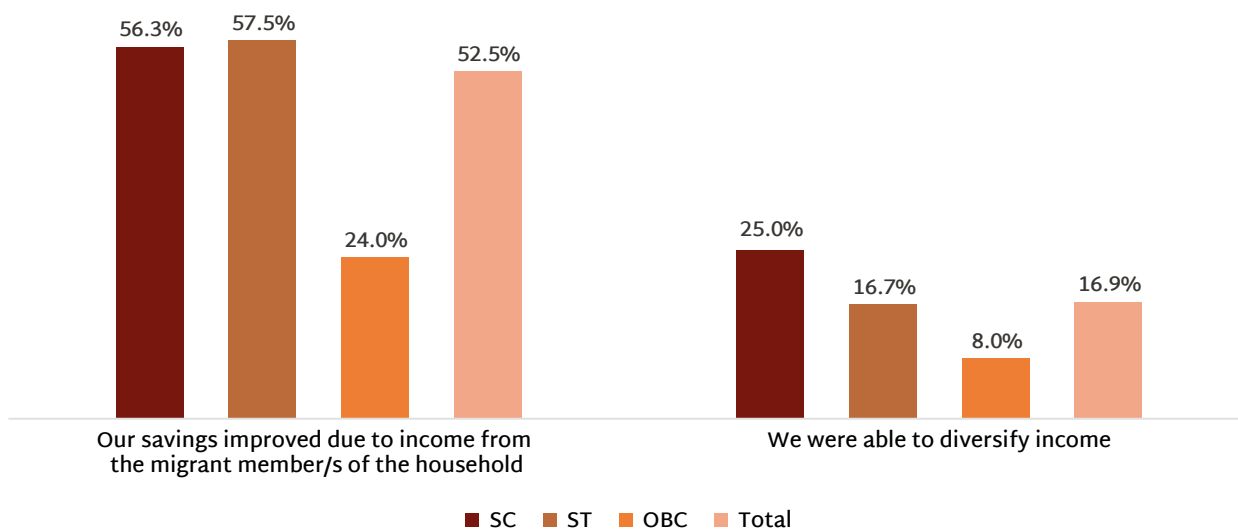
Agriculture

About three-fifths of all households with a history of labour migration reported that they were able to improve agriculture 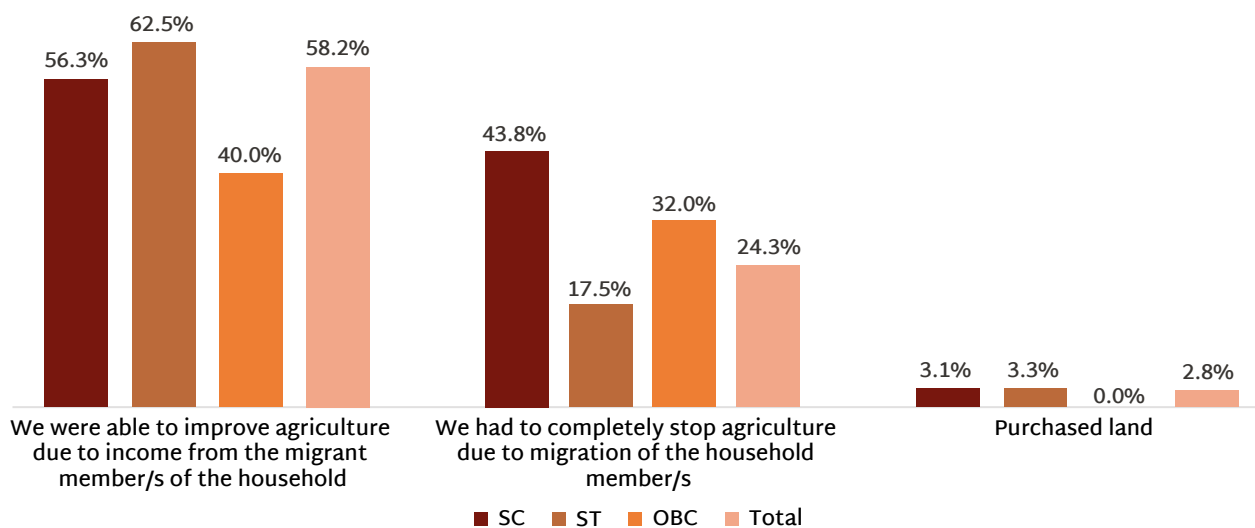with the income of the migrant members. While over three-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Tribes benefited by improving their agricultural practices with the income from migration, only two-fifths of the households from the Other Backward Castes/ Communities reported so. At the same time, about a quarter of the households with a history of migration reported that they had to completely give up agriculture due to the migration of household members. This was almost 44 per cent in the case of households from the Scheduled Castes (Figure.2.13).

Figure.2.13: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on agriculture, N:177

The households with a history of labour migration were also asked if they had purchased land with the income from the migrant members. A total of five households, predominantly from the Scheduled Tribes, had purchased land in the past ten years from such income.

Housing

The households with a history of migration were asked if they were able to build new houses or renovate their houses with the income from migration. One in every 20 households with a history of migration had built a new house in the past ten years, exclusively from the income of the migrant members (Figure.2.14). One in every five households with migration history had leveraged the income from the migrant members for renovating their house. The proportion of such households ranged from 21 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes to 28 per cent among the Other Backward Castes/Communities.

Figure.2.14: Percentage of households with migration history by impact on housing from the exclusive income of migrant members, N:177

Construction of new house — SC 3.1%, ST 5.0%, OBC 8.0%, Total 5.1%
Renovation of existing house — SC 25.0%, ST 20.8%, OBC 28.0%, Total 22.6%

Legend: SC   ST   OBC   Total
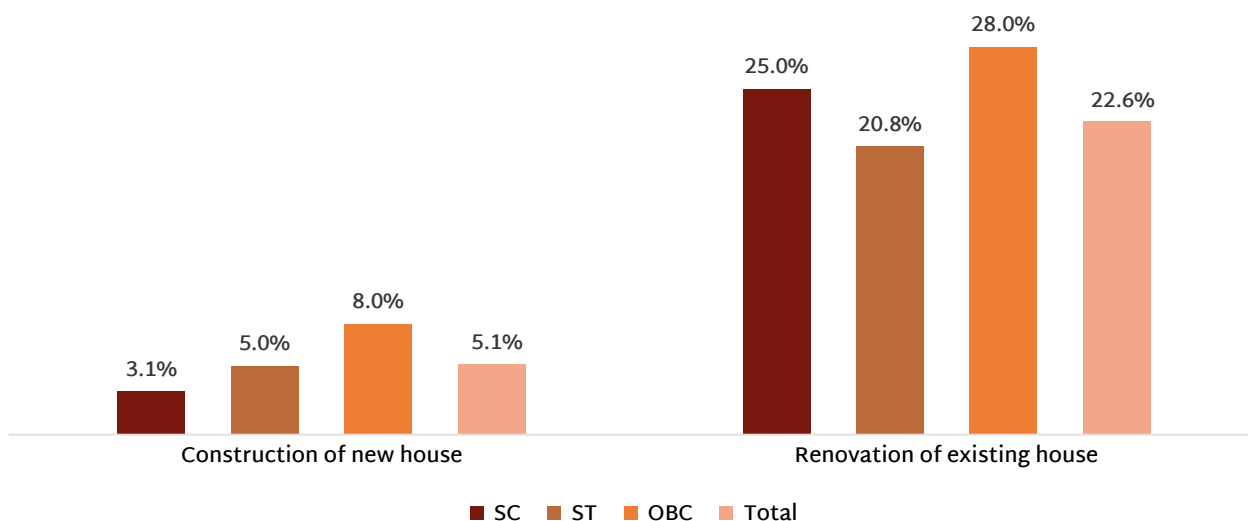
Ownership of Assets

Half of the households with a history of migration had purchased a mobile phone with the income from migration (Figure.2.15). While two-fifths of the households from the Scheduled Castes bought a mobile phone using the income of the migrant workers, slightly less than two-thirds of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported doing so. Only two per cent of the households in Daringbadi had purchased jewellery with the income from the migrant members. But one in every ten households from the Scheduled Castes reported purchasing jewellery from the income of migrant workers. About three per cent of the households with a history of migration reported that they were able to purchase a motorcycle or scooter with the income from a migrant member in the household. About three per cent of the households reported purchasing land with the money from migrants.

Figure.2.15: Percentage of households with migration history by select assets created/purchased in the past 10 years N:177
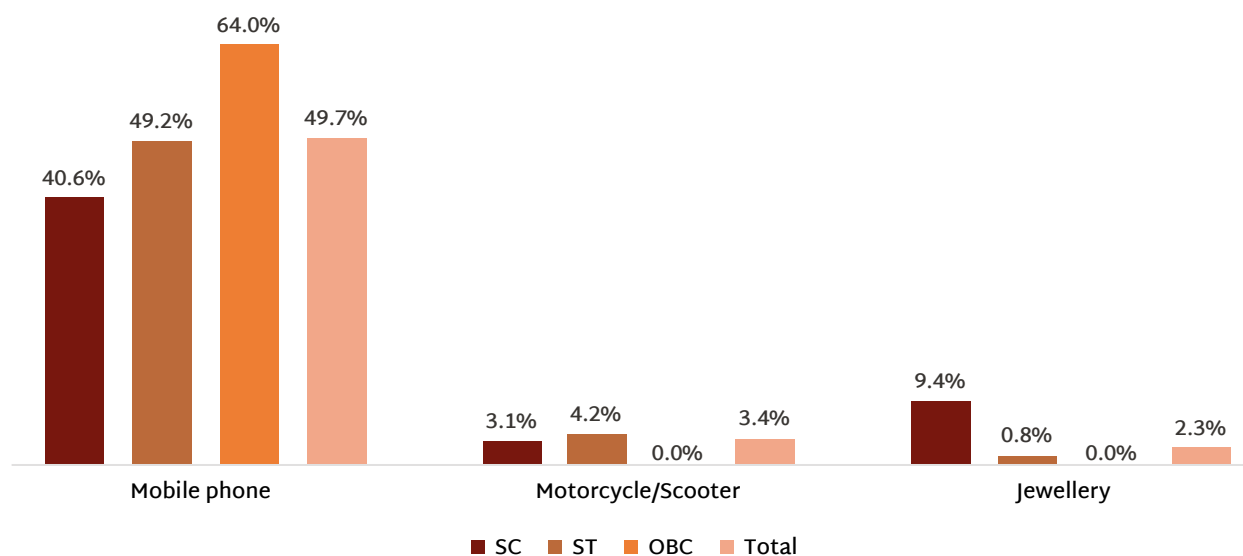
Education and Health

The impact of migration on education and health of the members of the household was also explored. Seven out of every ten households with a history of migration acknowledged that migration had positively impacted the education of the children of the households (Figure.2.16). The migration of members from the households also had negative impacts. Over two-thirds of the households with a history of migration reported that they were unable to seek healthcare because of the absence of the members due to migration. The situation was stark for households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities. Over 90 per cent 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:177
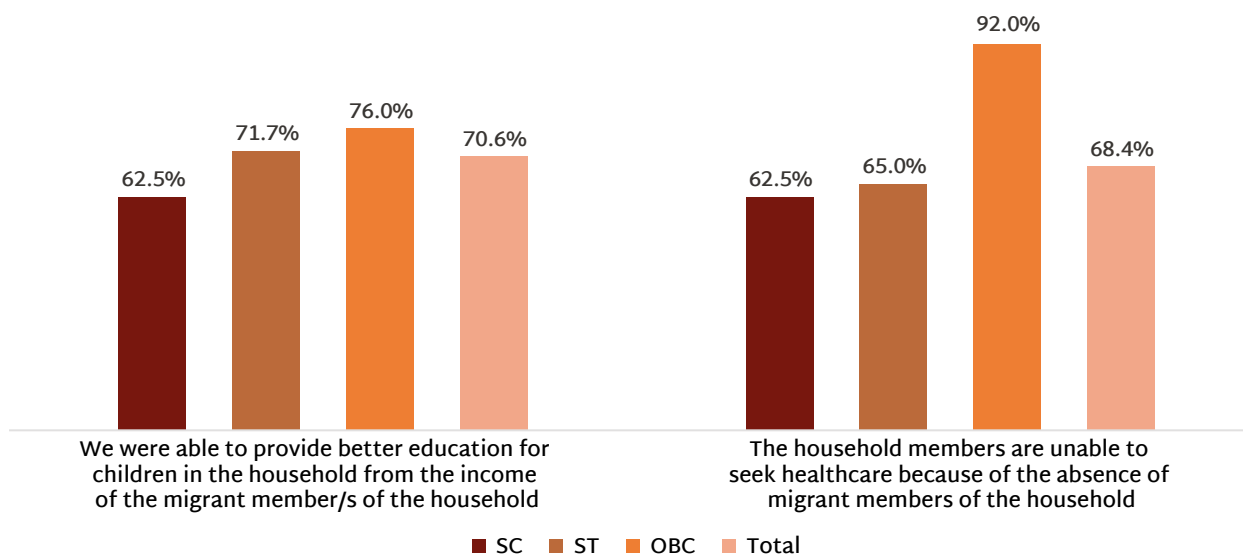
Status in the Village

The households were asked to rate the changes in their status in the village due to the income from migration. The findings are presented in Figure.2.17. Two out of every five households with a history of migration reported that their status in the village improved due to the income from the migrant members. More than one-third of the households among the Scheduled Tribes, a similar proportion from the Scheduled Castes and over half of the households from the Other Backward Castes/Communities reported so.

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:177
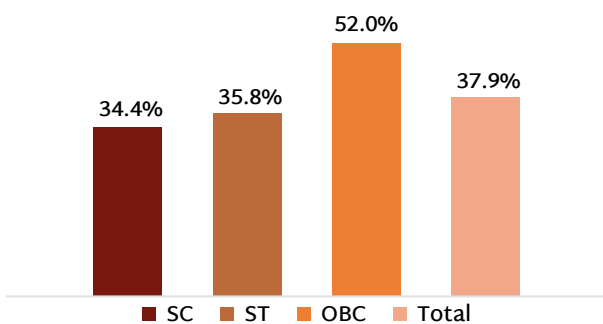
Two out of every five households with a history of migration reported that their status in the village improved due to the income from the migrant members

Barriers to Migration

Overall, about 42 per cent of the households in Daringbadi had a history of labour migration (Figure.2.18) The households without a history of labour migration were asked why the members had not migrated for work. Among the households without any history of labour migration, 88 per cent had members who did not want to migrate.

Figure.2.18: Distribution of households in Daringbadi by migration status, N:418

With migrant, 42.3%

Without migrant, 57.7%

Do not want to migrate, 51.0%

Unable to migrate, 6.7%
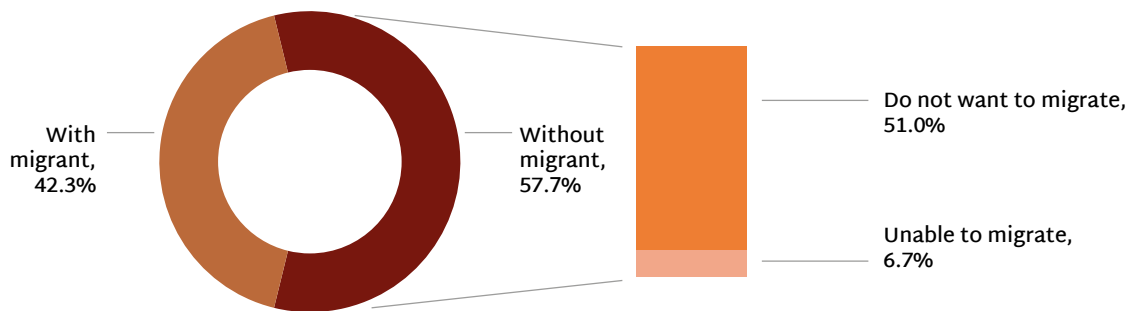
Irrespective of their ethnic association, at least four-fifths of the households without a history of migration shared that their members did not want to migrate. The family responsibilities at native place were cited as the major reasons. There were 28 households without any history of labour migration whose members could not migrate despite aspiring to do so. Presence of aged persons and absence of other male members in the household were cited as the reasons.

Profile of Migrant Workers

Sociodemographic Profile

From the sample households with the history of labour migration in Daringbadi block, the members who were migrant workers at the time of the survey 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 112 such migrant workers from the sample households. In order to understand the profile of migrant workers from Daringbadi, information such as ethnic background, age, educational attainment and marital status was elicited. It was found that nearly three-fifths of the migrant workers from Daringbadi belonged to the tribal communities (Figure.3.1). Nearly one-fifth of the workers were from the Scheduled Castes. Persons from the Other Backward Castes/ Communities constituted another 20 per cent.

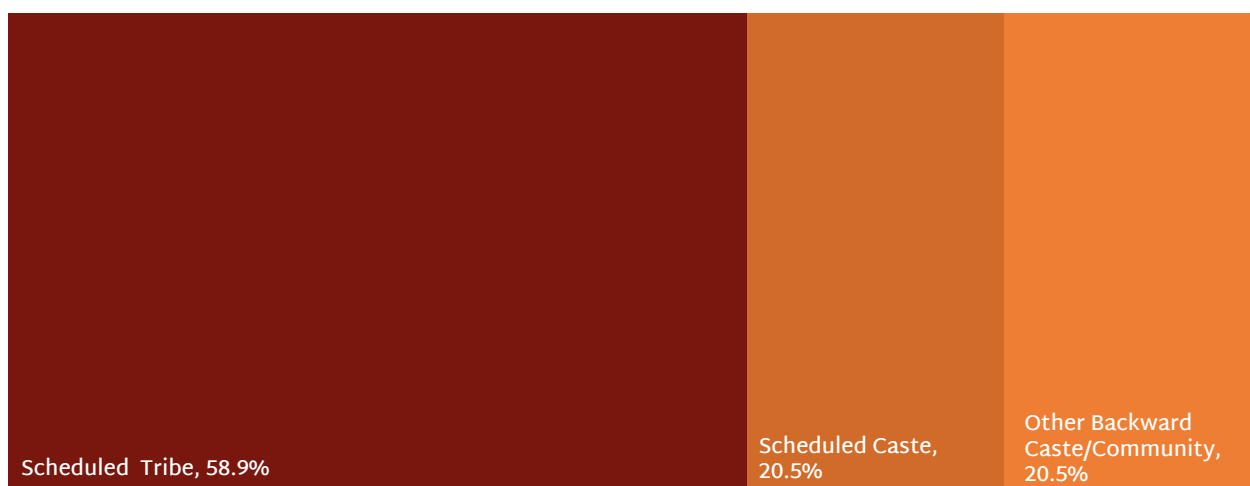**Figure.3.1: Percentage distribution of households by ethnicity, N:112**

Scheduled Tribe, 58.9%	Scheduled Caste, 20.5%	Other Backward Caste/Community, 20.5%

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 across the ethnic groups. As there were only 23 workers each from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities which did not permit a separate analysis, further analysis was carried out by examining the profile of the migrant workers by stratifying them into those from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Disadvantaged Communities (ODC), consisting of workers from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities.[1]

Overall, almost one in every four persons was aged 20 years or less (Table.3.1) and the share of such workers was larger among the Scheduled Tribes. On average, slightly less than half of the migrant workers were aged between 20 to 30 years. About three in every ten migrant workers were aged above 30 years. The proportion of workers aged above 30 was found to be slightly higher in the case of workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities. The median age of a migrant was

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1   There is marked difference between the characteristics of migrants from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities. When merged, this gets masked which is a limitation of the analysis in this chapter.

25 years and a migrant worker from the Scheduled Tribes was four years younger compared to those from the Other Disadvantaged Communities. A majority of the migrant workers who made a major economic contribution to the household were men. However, the proportion of women/girls varied widely across the ethnic groups. While nearly one fourth of the migrant workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities making significant contribution to the sustenance of the household were women, the corresponding proportion was six per cent among the workers from the Scheduled Tribes.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age in years			
Up to 20	28.8	17.4	24.1
20 to 30	48.5	45.7	47.3
Above 30	22.7	37.0	28.6
Median age (years)	23	27	25
Gender			
Men	93.9	76.1	86.6
Women	6.1	23.9	13.4
Literacy			
Literate	93.9	87.0	91.1
Illiterate	6.1	13.0	8.9
Educational attainment			
No formal education	4.5	13.0	8.0
Lower primary	4.5	6.5	5.4
Upper primary	13.6	17.4	15.2
Secondary (high school)	48.5	50.0	49.1
Senior secondary (higher secondary)	16.7	8.7	13.4
Graduation and above	12.1	4.3	8.9
Median years of education	10	8	9
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

About one in every ten migrant workers was illiterate and eight per cent of the workers had no formal education. Two-fifths of the migrant workers from Daringbadi had a maximum educational attainment of up to upper primary level. Nearly half of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic background, had completed high school. While 13 per cent of the migrant workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities attained the senior secondary level and more, the corresponding proportion was 29 per cent for the workers from the Scheduled Tribes. The average educational

attainment of migrant workers was nine years. However, the average educational attainment of the migrant workers from the Scheduled Tribes was ten years, two years more than the Other Disadvantaged Communities.

The marital status of migrant workers was explored, the details of which are provided in Table.3.2. Half of them were unmarried. This proportion ranged from over one-fifth among the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities to three in every five workers from the Scheduled Tribes.

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

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Marital status			
Currently married	37.9	60.9	47.3
Never married	60.6	39.1	51.8
Separated/Divorced/Widower	1.5	0.0	0.9
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

The migrant workers who reported that they were currently married were asked about the location of residence of their spouses and children at the time of the survey. A majority of the migrants reported that their spouses as well as most of their children stayed in their villages, indicating that most labour migrants from Daringbadi were single males, the most typical form of labour migration across the country.

Most labour migrants were single males, the typical form of long-distance labour migration

Figure.3.2: Percentage distribution of married migrant workers by location of spouse and children at the time of survey, N:53

- At destination
- At native place
- No children
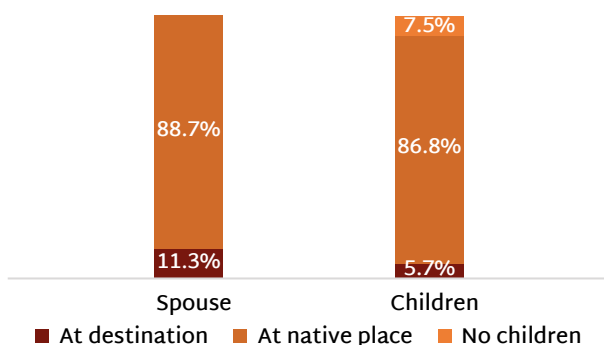
Out of 53 migrants who reported taking all or some of his/her children with them at the destination, only three had children in the school-going age group of 6-14 years. The prospects of educating these children at destination were also elicited from them and language barriers were cited as the major obstacle to educating them at the destination.

To understand the importance of their economic contribution, the migrant workers were requested to share the number of persons from the native household who were exclusively dependent on their income. As evident from Table.3.3, all the migrant workers had household members at source who were exclusively dependent on their income. About three quarters of migrants had more than three members dependent on them at the native place. The median number of dependents of migrant workers, regardless of the ethnic background, was three.

Table.3.3: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by number of dependent members at native household and ethnicity

Persons exclusively dependent on income of migrants	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
None	4.5	2.2	3.6
1 to 2	19.7	28.3	23.2
3 to 4	47.0	45.7	46.4
5 and above	28.8	23.9	26.8
Median	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

Migration History

The migration history of the workers was explored to gain insights into the factors that influenced their migration. Details about their age at first migration, occupation prior to migration, previous history of migration and the most important factors that pushed them to seek work elsewhere were gathered.

Table.3.4 provides the distribution of workers by select characteristics related to migration. It is evident from the findings that the stream of workers from this block consisted of young individuals who were in their twenties. Two out of every three workers first moved out from Daringbadi for work when they were below 22 years. The median age at first migration was 20 years. While 42 per cent of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes moved out for the first time for work when they were in the 19 to 22 years age group, 30 per cent of the workers in the Other Disadvantaged Communities in the same age group reported so.

Table.3.4: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by migration history and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Age at first migration			
Up to 18	25.8	32.6	28.6
19 to 22	42.4	30.4	37.5
23 and above	31.8	37.0	33.9
Median age (years)	20.0	21.0	20.0
Occupation prior to migration			
Student	45.5	39.1	42.9
Unemployed	9.1	15.2	11.6
Farmer	22.7	17.4	20.5
Agricultural labourers	21.2	21.7	21.4
Other	1.5	6.5	3.6
Number of prior interstate movements for work			
None	74.2	84.8	78.6
One and more	25.8	15.2	21.4
Reason for moving out			
Low wage	74.2	82.6	77.7
Lack of employment	22.7	17.4	20.5
Other	3.0	0.0	1.8
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

Over two-fifths of the migrant workers were students before they first moved out of native place for work. This proportion varied from 39 per cent among the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities to 46 per cent among the workers from the Scheduled Tribes. About two-fifths of the workers, across the ethnic groups, were involved in agricultural activities, either as farmers or as agricultural labourers prior to their migration. Overall, 12 per cent of all workers were unemployed at the time of their maiden move out of the district for work and the extent of unemployment was more prevalent among the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to those from the Scheduled Tribes. For most of them, it was their first interstate migration for work. Low wages were cited as the major reason for moving out by at least three-fourths of the workers, irrespective of their ethnic association.

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 destination and the type of destination were also explored. The details are presented in Table.3.5. Most of the current migrants reported their destinations outside Odisha. However, nearly 20 per cent of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes had moved to destinations within Odisha. Workers from Daringbadi had primarily moved to states in southern India, primarily to Kerala. More than half of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes and two-thirds of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities had moved to Kerala.

Table.3.5: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by select characteristics related to current destination and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current destination state			
Odisha	18.2	6.5	13.4
Kerala	51.5	67.4	58.0
Other southern states	18.2	21.7	19.6
Other	12.1	4.3	8.9
Current destination district			
Khordha Odisha	13.6	4.3	9.8
Rest of Odisha	3.0	2.2	2.7
Thrissur/ Kannur/ Pathanamthitta	12.1	28.3	18.8
Ernakulam Kerala	31.8	37.0	33.9
Other southern districts	18.2	17.4	17.9
Western districts	6.1	4.3	5.4
Other	15.2	6.5	11.6
Category of destination			
City	81.8	91.3	85.7
Village	18.2	8.7	14.3
Reason for choosing this destination			
High wage rates	60.6	71.7	65.2
Continuous employment	39.4	26.1	33.9
Presence of friends/relatives/villagers	0.0	2.2	0.9
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

Analysing the destination districts, it was found that over one-third of all workers from Daringbadi had gone to Ernakulam district of Kerala another one-fifth of the workers had moved to other districts like Thrissur, Kannur or Pathanamthitta in Kerala. Most of the workers had moved to cities. However, nearly 20 per cent of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes had moved to rural destinations. Two-thirds of the workers reported high wage rates and the remaining reported availability of continuous employment opportunities as the major 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 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.3.6. More than half of the workers reported that they had their friends at the current destination and this proportion ranged from about 50 per cent among workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities to 61 per cent among the workers from the Scheduled Tribes. About one-fifth of the workers mentioned that their relatives were present at the current destination prior to their first arrival. A similar proportion of workers also reported the presence of their family members at the current destination. About 60 per cent of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes and half of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities had friends working at their current destinations prior to their arrival.

Table.3.6: Percentage of migrant workers by presence of significant others at current destination before their arrival, ability to speak local language and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Presence of significant others at current destination before arrival			
Family members	16.7	19.6	17.9
Relatives other than family members	16.7	21.7	18.8
Friends	60.6	50.0	56.3
Villagers other than friends	6.1	6.5	6.3
Fluency in local language (destination)			
Speak	69.7	69.6	69.6
Comprehend	93.9	95.7	94.6
Write	18.2	6.5	13.4
No knowledge of local language	4.5	4.3	4.5
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

Over a quarter of the workers mentioned that they were recruited by someone at the destination. However, only one of them reported receiving an advance. About 95 per cent of the workers revealed that they could comprehend the local language and 70 per cent could speak as well. There was no significant variation across the ethnic groups. A little less than 15 per cent of the workers reported their ability to write the local language. Nearly four per cent of all workers had no knowledge of the local language.

Work Profile

The duration of residence in the current state, district and place was explored (Table.3.7). Nearly half of all migrants had been working in the current destination state for less than a year. More than half of the workers had been working in the current state for one year or more. The average duration of stay in the current state was one year. The majority of the workers had been in the current district for more than six months. The median duration of residence both at the current district and at the current place of work was 8.5 months. The workers from the Scheduled Tribes had been staying at the destination for longer durations compared to others.

Table.3.7: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by duration of residence at current destination and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Current state			
Less than a year	47.0	45.7	46.4
One to two years	34.8	13.0	25.9
More than two years	18.2	41.3	27.7
Median duration (months)	12.0	13.0	12.0
Current district			
Up to six months	34.8	43.5	38.4
Seven months to one year	34.8	23.9	30.4
More than one year	30.3	32.6	31.3
Median duration (months)	12.0	7.5	8.5
Current Place			
Up to six months	34.8	45.7	39.3
Seven months to one year	34.8	21.7	29.5
More than one year	30.3	32.6	31.3
Median duration (months)	12.0	7.0	8.5
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

The workers were asked to describe the category of their work, duration of such work arrangement, the sector of employment and their skill levels (Table.3.8). About three-fifths of the workers were employed in shops, establishments or factories and this proportion was highest for the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities. One in every ten workers moved with a contractor and this was more prominent among the Other Disadvantaged Communities. The proportion of workers engaged in domestic work or self-employment varied significantly across the ethnic groups. While one in every ten workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities worked as footloose labourers who sought work on a daily basis, two out of every five workers from the Scheduled Tribes reported doing so. On average, the workers had been in the current arrangement for less than one

year. While the median duration of work in the current arrangement was one year in the case of workers from the Scheduled Tribes, it was seven months for workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Table.3.8: 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	19.7	10.9	16.1
Employee at shop/establishment/factory	56.1	60.9	58.0
Moves with contractor	6.1	13.0	8.9
Domestic worker	3.0	13.0	7.1
Self-employed	13.6	0.0	8.0
Other	1.5	2.2	1.8
How long in such work?			
Up to 6 months	34.8	45.7	39.3
7 to 12 months	36.4	21.7	30.4
Over 12 months	28.8	32.6	30.4
Median duration (months)	12.0	7.0	9.5
Sector of employment			
Construction labourer	24.2	23.9	24.1
Hotel employee	16.7	17.4	17.0
Worker in shop/establishment	39.4	28.3	34.8
Factory worker	7.6	15.2	10.7
Domestic worker	3.0	10.9	6.3
Other	9.1	4.3	7.1
Skill levels			
Unskilled/semi-skilled worker	83.3	76.1	80.4
Skilled worker	12.1	13.0	12.5
Labour/other contractor	3.0	8.7	5.4
Other self- employment	1.5	2.2	1.8
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

About a quarter of the total migrants worked in the construction sector while over one-third were employed in various shops/establishments. The proportion of migrants engaged as factory workers or as domestic workers was higher among the Other Disadvantaged Communities compared to the Scheduled Tribes. Nearly four-fifths of all workers were unskilled or semi-skilled workers.

Work Duration and Overtime Allowances

The migrant workers[2] were asked about the average number of hours they worked in a single shift and if they got overtime allowances (Table.3.9). The median duration of work in a single shift was eight hours for the workers, irrespective of the ethnic group. Over one-third of the migrant workers reported that they worked more than twelve hours. The proportion of migrants who worked for longer durations was more among the Other Disadvantaged Communities. Only half of the migrant workers reported receiving overtime allowances. The proportion of workers who received overtime allowances did not vary significantly across communities.

Table.3.9: 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			
Less than 8 hours	9.5	4.9	7.7
8 hours	47.6	48.8	48.1
9 to 11 hours	9.5	7.3	8.7
12 hours and more	33.3	39.0	35.6
Median hours	8.0	8.0	8.0
Whether getting overtime allowance			
Yes	50.8	52.5	51.5
No	49.2	47.5	48.5
Total	100	100	100
Number	63	41	104

Wages and Benefits

The workers were requested to share details about their wage arrangements and who paid the wages (Table.3.10). Eight out of every ten workers reported that they were paid by their respective employers, and contractors were responsible for the payment of wages for most of the remaining workers. Seven out of every ten workers received the wages monthly and another one-fifth of them were paid daily. Piece rate wage arrangements were more common among workers from the Scheduled Tribes, compared to others.

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2   Out of 112 migrants, eight were contractors and hence not included in Table.3.9 and Table.3.10.

Table.3.10: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by wage characteristics and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Person in charge of payment of wages			
Employer	84.1	80.5	82.7
Contractor	14.3	19.5	16.3
Other	1.6	0.0	1.0
Wage arrangements			
Daily wage	17.5	19.5	18.3
Monthly salary	71.4	75.6	73.1
Piece rate	9.5	2.4	6.7
Fortnightly	1.6	2.4	1.9
Total	100	100	100
Number	63	41	104

Information on the average monthly income from the wages/work at the destination and the mode of the wage payments was elicited and summarised in Table.3.11. Slightly less than one-fifth of the migrant workers received a monthly income of less than ₹10000. Half of the total workers received a monthly income of ₹10000 and above but below ₹15000. Overall, one-third of the workers gained a monthly income of ₹15000 and above from their wages. On average, the workers received a monthly income of ₹10750 which ranged from ₹10000 for workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities to ₹12000 for workers from the Scheduled Tribes. Workers in Daringbadi received their wages either in cash or through their bank accounts. While one-fifth of the workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities received their wages in bank accounts, the corresponding proportion was 45 per cent for the workers from the Scheduled Tribes.

The average monthly income of a migrant worker was ₹10750

Table.3.11: Percentage distribution of migrant workers by income characteristics and ethnicity

| Variable/Category | Ethnicity | | Total |
	ST	ODC	
Monthly income from wages (₹)			
Less than 10000	18.2	17.4	17.9
10000 to 14999	50.0	47.8	49.1
15000 and above	31.8	34.8	33.0
Median income (₹)	12000.0	10000.0	10750.0
Mode of payment			
Cash	54.5	80.4	65.2
Bank account	45.5	19.6	34.8
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

Employment-Related Benefits

The workers were requested to share details about their social security benefits at the respective destinations. As evident from Figure.3.3, over four-fifths of the workers in Daringbadi had no access to employment-related benefits such as Employees' State Insurance (ESI), Provident Fund, gratuity, pension etc. Only one in every five workers, predominantly from the Scheduled Tribes, reported having accident/other health insurance.

Figure.3.3: Percentage distribution of migrants with employment benefits, N:112

No benefit, 83.9%

With benefit, 16.1%
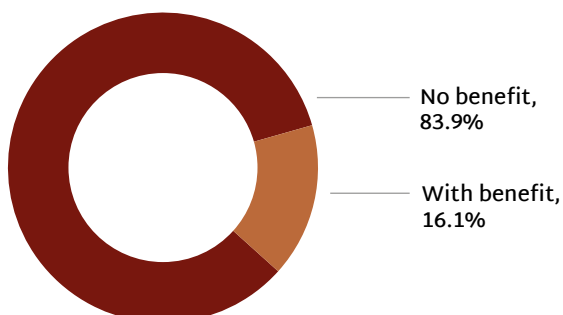
Most migrant workers did not enjoy any social security benefits at the destination

Living Arrangements

Details about accommodation arrangements, type of accommodation, sharing of the room, rent, and access to basic services at the place of stay were sought from the migrant workers (Table.3.12). Two-thirds of the workers reported that they stayed with other workers. While three-fourths of the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities stayed with other workers, three in every five workers from the Scheduled Tribes reported so. A larger proportion of workers from the Scheduled Tribes were found sharing accommodation with their family or friends compared to the Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Table.3.12: Percentage distribution of workers by select attributes related to living arrangements and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Accommodation arrangement (percentage)			
Other workers	62.1	73.9	67.0
Family or friends	36.4	26.1	32.1
None	4.5	4.3	4.5
Type of accommodation			
Workers' quarters by employer	51.5	37.0	45.5
Rented room	27.3	30.4	28.6
Independent rented house	7.6	4.3	6.3
Worksite	13.6	28.3	19.6
Monthly rent			
No rent	63.6	65.2	64.3
1000 or less	10.6	13.0	11.6
Above 1000	25.8	21.7	24.1
Median	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of persons sleeping in the same room			
3 or less	30.3	34.8	32.1
4 to 6	34.8	32.6	33.9
7 and above	34.8	32.6	33.9
Median	5.0	5.0	5.0
Availability of select facilities at the accommodation (percentage)			
Electricity	100.0	100.0	100.0
At least one functional toilet	98.5	100.0	99.1
Drinking water	97.0	97.8	97.3
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

Nearly half of the workers stayed in workers' quarters provided by the employers. Around two-thirds of the workers, from the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Disadvantaged Communities, stayed either in workers' quarters or at the worksites. About three in every ten workers stayed in rented rooms, without significant variation across the ethnic groups. Overall, 64 per cent of the workers were not required to pay any rent for their accommodation. Nearly a quarter of the labourers, with a relatively larger proportion of labourers from the Scheduled Tribes, paid more than ₹1000 per month towards rent. The median rent paid was zero. On average, five people shared a single room for sleeping. This did not vary much across the ethnic groups. Almost all the workers reported that their residence had electricity, drinking water and at least one functional toilet.

It was found that, overall, three quarters of the workers cooked their own food. (Figure.3.4). Among those who cooked, over three-fifths of the workers reported that their accommodation included a separate kitchen (Figure.3.5). About two-thirds of the workers used cooking gas for fuel. Another 23 per cent used firewood for cooking and about 12 per cent relied on diesel. (Figure.3.6).

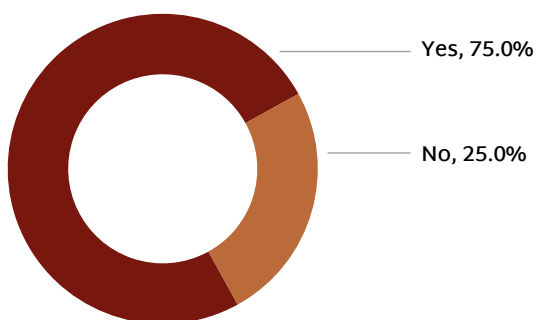Figure.3.4: Percentage distribution of migrants by practice of cooking, N:112

Yes, 75.0%

No, 25.0%

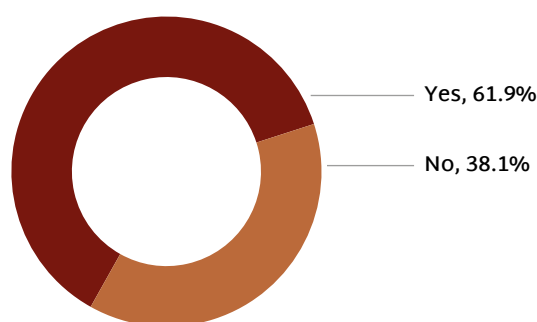Figure.3.5: Percentage distribution of migrants by availablity of separate kitchen, N:84

Yes, 61.9%

No, 38.1%

Figure.3.6: Percentage distribution of migrants by major fuel used for cooking, N:84

Cooking Gas, 65.5%

Diesel, 11.9%

Firewood, 22.6%
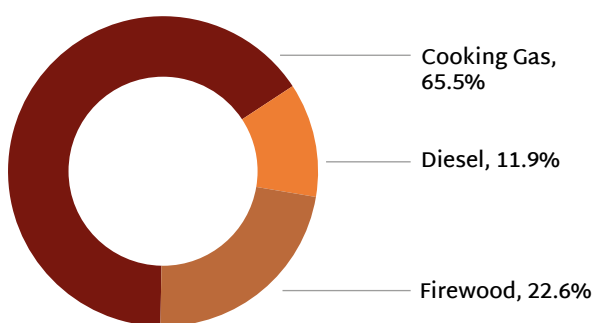
The majority of the migrants cooked their own food. At the place of stay, they had a separate kitchen and access to cooking gas

Bank Accounts

The study examined if the workers had bank/post office accounts of their own. Details about the type of accounts they possessed were also elicited. Results are presented in Figure.3.7 and Figure.3.8. It was found that nearly four-fifths of the migrant workers had a bank/post office account of their own. While 84 per cent of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes reported having bank accounts, the corresponding proportion was 72 per cent for workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities.

Figure.3.7: Percentage of workers with own bank/post office account, N:112
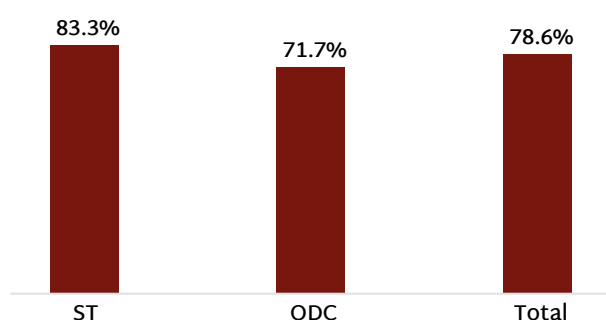
> About four-fifths of the migrant workers had bank/post office accounts. Nearly half of them were Jan Dhan accounts

The workers who reported having bank/post office accounts were further requested to provide information about the type of accounts they had. Figure.3.7 presents the findings. It was found that 47 per cent of them had Jan Dhan accounts and 55 per cent had other savings bank accounts (Figure.3.8).

Figure.3.8: Percentage of migrant workers with bank/post office account by type of account, N:88

Expenditure and Remittances

The study explored the spending and remitting behaviour of the workers from Daringbadi. The workers were requested to share details about their average monthly expenditure in the month preceding the survey, the frequency of sending money home and the average remittance sent in the last three months prior to the survey. The findings are summarised in Table.3.13. The median monthly expenditure of the migrant workers was ₹3000. Two-thirds of the workers had a monthly

expenditure of less than ₹3000. About two-fifths of the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities and one-third of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes reported having similar expenditure. Three in every ten workers had a monthly expenditure of more than ₹4000.

Table.3.13: Percentage distribution of workers by monthly expenditure, frequency and average amount of remittance and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Average monthly expenditure (₹)			
Less than 3000	33.3	39.1	35.7
3000 to 4000	34.8	34.8	34.8
Above 4000	31.8	26.1	29.5
Median expenditure	3000.0	3000.0	3000.0
Frequency of sending money home			
Never	9.1	8.7	8.9
Weekly	0.0	2.2	0.9
Monthly	18.2	39.1	26.8
As and when required	72.7	50.0	63.4
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112
Average remittances in the last three months (₹)			
10000 or below	45.9	27.9	38.5
10001 to 15000	23.0	27.9	25.0
Above 15000	31.1	44.2	36.5
Median remittances	12000	15000	15000
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**61**	**43**	**104**

Slightly less than two-thirds of all the migrant workers reported that they sent money home as and when required. Half of the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities and nearly three quarters of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes also reported doing so. Over a quarter of the migrant workers reported sending remittances on a monthly basis. Nearly one-fifth of the workers from the Scheduled Tribes and around two-fifths of the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities reported sending money home on a monthly basis.

The median remittance sent by the workers in the last three months prior to the survey was ₹15000. Nearly a quarter of all workers remitted ₹10001 to ₹15000 in the last three months prior to the survey. Over one-third of the workers remitted more than ₹15000 in the past three months preceding the survey. This proportion ranged from 32 per cent among the workers from the Scheduled Tribes to 44 per cent among the workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities. It is estimated that Daringbadi receives ₹41 million monthly as remittances from migrant workers.

Information on the mode of remittances was also elicited from the workers interviewed (Figure.3.9). Nearly half of the workers sent money using bank or post office accounts. A similar proportion also relied on money transfer agents. About 15 per cent of workers sent money using cash deposit machines and 13 per cent used UPI/payment apps.

Figure.3.9: Percentage of workers who remit by mode of transferring remittances, N:104

Account of other workers — 3.9%
UPI or payment apps — 12.6%
Cash deposit machine — 14.6%
Bank or post office account — 48.5%
Money transfer agents — 49.5%
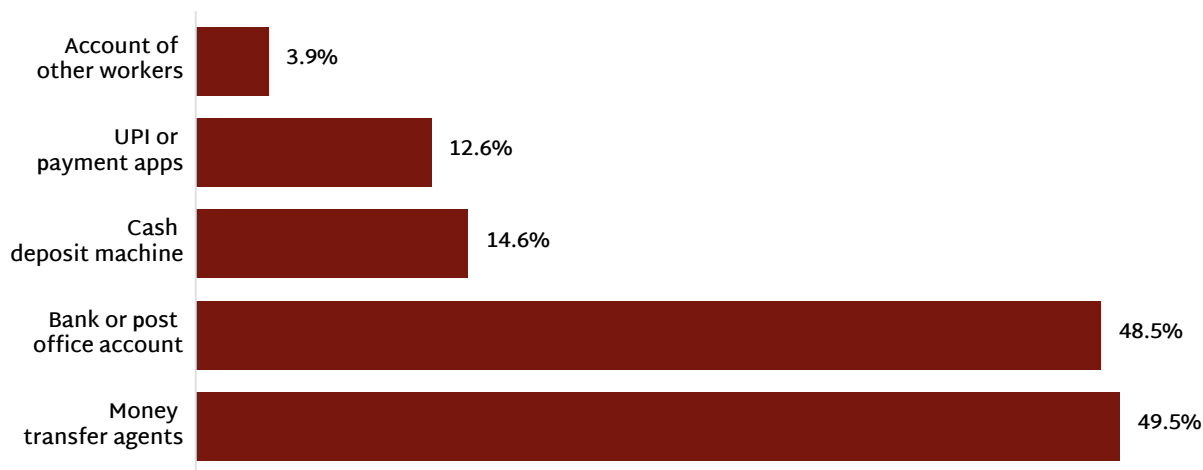
Savings

Savings of the workers were also explored during the survey. The workers were requested to share the average amount they saved every month other than remittances. On average, the workers from Daringbadi saved ₹2000 per month (Table.3.14). Nearly a quarter of the workers saved ₹2000 to ₹4000 per month. The proportion of such workers varied across ethnic groups, ranging from 20 per cent among workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities to 27 per cent among those from the Scheduled Tribes.

Table.3.14: Percentage distribution of workers by average monthly savings and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Average monthly savings (₹)			
No savings	12.1	13.0	12.5
Less than 2000	28.8	37.0	32.1
2000 to 4000	27.3	19.6	24.1
Above 4000	31.8	30.4	31.3
Median savings	2000.0	1500.0	2000.0
Total	100	100	100
Number	66	46	112

At least three in every ten workers in Daringbadi reported monthly savings exceeding ₹4000. Among those who saved, more than half deposited the money in bank accounts (Figure.3.10). Over one-third of the workers kept their savings with themselves or with the family. About 12 per cent of the workers were unable to save money at the time for the survey.

Figure.3.10: Percentage of workers who save money by mode of saving, N:98

Employer	3.1%
Friend	7.1%
Self/family	35.7%
Bank account	52.0%
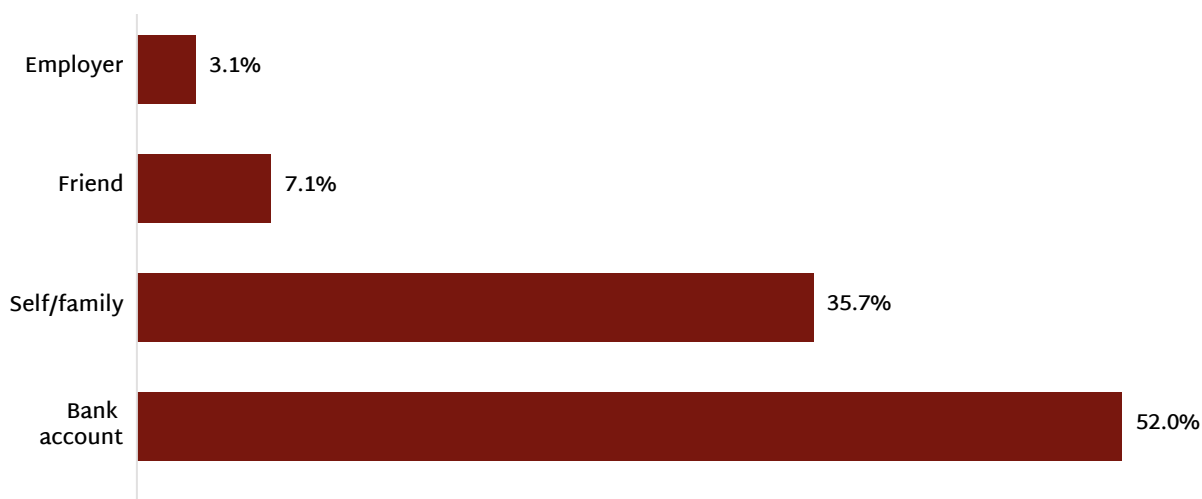
Indebtedness

The extent of indebtedness among the migrant workers in Daringbadi was explored. The workers were asked if they had any outstanding debt that they were solely responsible to repay. Information on the amount of the loan, reasons for taking the loan, major source of the loan as well as the major means of repayment was elicited from the workers. As evident from Figure.3.11, around one-fourth of the workers were indebted at the time of the survey. Among the indebted workers, fifteen per cent had an outstanding debt of ₹50000 and above. On average, the workers were liable to pay ₹25000 at the time of the survey.

Figure.3.11: Percentage distribution of workers by indebtedness, N:112

No, 75.0%

Do not know, 0.9%

Yes, 24.1%
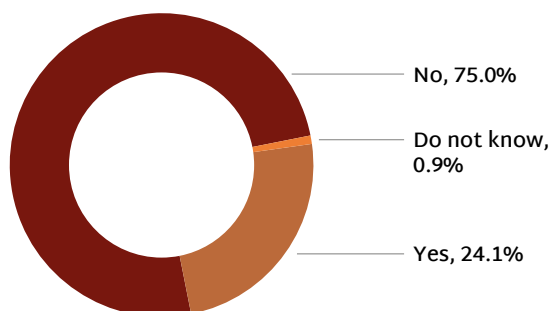
Hospitalisation expenses and construction/renovation of houses were the major reasons for indebtedness

Hospitalisation expenditure, and construction/renovation of house emerged as major reasons for indebtedness. Indebted workers had resorted to private banks as well as personal networks of friends and relatives for credit. For about four-fifths of the workers from Daringbadi, their income was the primary means of repaying the outstanding debt. About one-fifth of the workers mentioned that they had to borrow money from other sources to repay the debt.

Communicating with Family

The ownership of mobile phones and the means of communication between migrant members and their family members at the native place were explored. More than four-fifths of migrant workers had smartphones and nearly 12 per cent workers had basic phones (Table.3.15). The proportion of workers having smartphones did not vary much across the ethnic groups. Only three workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities reported that they did not have mobile phones.

All the workers made regular audio phone calls while slightly below 30 per cent of them made WhatsApp audio and/or video calls too. One in every three workers from the Scheduled Tribes used WhatsApp audio and/or video calls to communicate with family. One in every five workers from Other Disadvantaged Communities also made such calls.

Table.3.15: Percentage distribution of workers by selected indicators of communication with family and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Access to phone			
Smartphone	86.4	84.8	85.7
Basic phone	13.6	8.7	11.6
No mobile phone	0.0	6.5	2.7
Type of calls (percentage)			
Regular audio call	100.0	100.0	100.0
WhatsApp audio call	33.3	19.6	27.7
WhatsApp video call	34.8	19.6	28.6
Audio/Video through other applications	1.5	0.0	0.9
Number	66	46	112
Monthly expenditure on phone (₹)			
200 or less	28.8	9.3	21.1
201 to 250	45.5	72.1	56.0
Above 250	25.8	18.6	22.9
Median	249.5	250.0	250.0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**66**	**43**	**109**

One out of every five workers spent ₹200 or less in a typical month on their mobile phone. This proportion varied significantly, ranging from three in every ten workers from the Scheduled Tribes to one in every ten workers from the Other Disadvantaged Communities. Over half of the workers spent between ₹201 and ₹250 on this. On average, workers spent ₹250 in a month on mobile phone.

Most migrants were not members of any trade unions at the destination

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. The findings revealed that only about three per cent of the workers from Daringbadi were part of any trade union in their respective destinations (Table.3.16). The workers were also asked if they had specific entitlement documents that would help them avail benefits such as voting rights. In addition to this, possession of labour cards, health insurance, accident insurance or life insurance and membership in welfare funds were also explored. The percentage of workers who had specific documents or membership in select schemes is provided in Table.3.16.

Table.3.16: Percentage of workers by access to select entitlements at the destination and ethnicity

Variable/Category	Ethnicity		Total
	ST	ODC	
Membership in trade union	3.0	2.2	2.7
Voter ID at destination	0.0	0.0	0.0
Labour card at destination	1.5	2.2	1.8
Health insurance scheme	1.5	0.0	0.9
Accident insurance scheme	3.0	0.0	1.8
Life/Any other insurance	3.0	2.2	2.7
Welfare fund	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	**66**	**46**	**112**

Except a few, most workers, regardless of ethnic background, had no access to measures of social security that they could leverage at the destination. Only three per cent of the workers had membership in trade unions. None of the workers had voter identity card at the destination. Less than two per cent of the workers reported possessing labour cards at the destination. About five per cent of workers mentioned having access to an insurance scheme like the accident insurance and/or life/ any other insurance scheme at the destination. None of the workers had membership in any welfare fund at the destination.

To assess the workers' access to subsidised food grains, the possession of ration cards either at source or destination was examined. None of the workers reported possessing ration cards at the destination. At the source, 54 per cent of the workers had Priority Households (PHH) ration cards and 36 per cent had no ration cards (Figure.3.12).

Figure.3.12: Percentage distribution of workers by type of ration card, N:112

PHH, 53.6%

AAY, 6.3%

Other, 1.8%

Do not know, 2.7%

No ration card, 35.7%
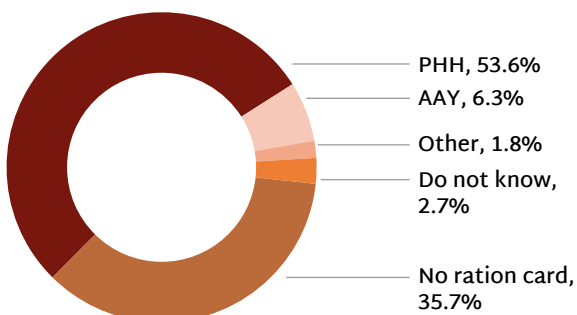
None of the workers had received the ration under ONORC at the destination

With the launch of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, can claim either full or partial quota of food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner. During the survey, the workers were asked whether they were able to obtain ration at least once in the past 12 months preceding the survey under the scheme. None of the workers from Daringbadi had received the ration at the destination.

Grievance Redressal

Though wage theft, physical or verbal abuse, and termination of migrant workers without any prior information were some of the common forms of exploitation and violation of the rights of the migrant workers at the destinations, around 95 per cent of the workers in the sample mentioned that they did not experience any such issues at the destination in the past 12 months. Among those who faced such issues, only three reported the most recent experience and one of them mentioned that it had been resolved.

Income That Prevents Migration

In order to understand the kind of interventions that could limit distress migration, the workers were encouraged to mention the factors at the source that could prevent them from migrating for work. Except about three per cent, all the workers mentioned that there was nothing at Daringbadi that could prevent their migration for work (Figure.3.13).

Figure.3.13: Percentage distribution of workers whose migration can be prevented, N:112

Yes, 2.7%

No, 97.3%
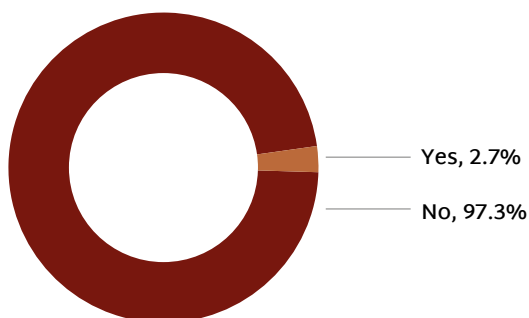
> Migrants seem to be well aware that there are not many opportunities in Daringbadi to earn a steady income

Only three workers acknowledged the existence of stressors in their lives that compelled them to migrate. They also expressed hope that resolving these issues might eliminate the need to migrate. These workers were further requested to report the three most important things/measures at the source that could prevent their migration. The responses were considered most important based on the order in which they were mentioned. Construction of houses, resolving the financial issues at home etc. were reported as some of the important factors that could prevent the migration of the workers from Daringbadi.

Summary and Conclusions

Introduction

Home to significant share of indigenous communities, Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district substantially depends on migration. Gram Vikas has been engaged in improving the lives of the communities in Kandhamal since 2003. The organisation has been closely observing the increasing migration for work from Daringbadi. In order to understand the migration from Daringbadi in depth, Gram Vikas conducted a profiling of the migration from the block in partnership with the Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID). The overall purpose of the study was to gather evidence on the migration scenario of Daringbadi so as to make appropriate interventions to promote safe migration and to revive the household and village economies, leveraging migration as a solution rather than a problem. For Gram Vikas, which is dedicated to finding innovative solutions for the development of remote rural areas of Odisha and Jharkhand, this is also a deep dive into the nuances of labour migration from its programme geographies. The objectives of the study included understanding the sociodemographic profile of the households in the block, and exploring the migration scenario, including the estimation of the household migration rates.

Methodology

In order to obtain a good one-time estimate of household migration rates, a sample size of 400 was determined. Assuming a ten per cent non-response, the sample was inflated to 440. From the villages and Census Towns in Daringbadi, 22 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were randomly selected by probability proportionate to size (PPS) and from each selected village, 20 households were selected by systematic sampling. In addition to the household survey which aimed to understand the household characteristics and estimate household migration rates, a survey of current migrant workers was also carried out. From the current migrant members in the household sample 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 and staying there for a continuous period of 30 days or more. A semi-structured interview schedule in Odia, digitised using mWater survey platform, was used for data collection. A team of eight investigators with a minimum educational qualification of higher secondary and above, who were conversant in the local language, were engaged for data collection. The final sample size achieved for the household survey was 418 and the achieved sample size for the migrant survey was 112. The surveys were conducted during the period from June 2023 to November 2023.

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, and social protection. Migration from Daringbadi is summarised in the second subsection and the third section summarises the profile of the migrant workers and the features of migration.

Household Profile

Except about one-fourth of the households that followed Hinduism, all the households in Daringbadi followed Christianity. The majority of the households belonged to the Scheduled Tribes and about 14 per cent each from the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities. The average household size was five. The median number of years of education of the highest educated member of the household was ten. The majority of the households had Priority Household (PHH) ration cards and nearly ten per cent of the households reported not having ration cards. Slightly less than half of the households in Daringbadi possessed Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards. Nearly three quarters of the households had NREGS job cards and nearly 70 per cent of the households in the block had benefited from NREGS employment in the past 12 months. Although a quarter of the households reported receiving more than 60 days of work under NREGS, the average number of days of employment in the past 12 months was 30 for the households with NREGS job cards. The median monthly income of the households from the usual residents was ₹3000 and ₹7750 from all sources.

Most of the households had their own kachha houses. Most households depended on public taps or hand pumps for drinking water. Most of the houses were electrified and relied on wood for cooking fuel. Nearly two-fifths of all households had functional toilets. The access to functional toilets was poorer for households from the Other Backward Caste/Communities. The majority of the toilets were constructed with the support of the government. Nine out of ten functional toilets in Daringbadi did not have water supply. Only about a quarter of the households with functional toilets regularly used them.

About 15 per cent of the households did not have any land and landlessness was most prominent among the households from the Other Backward Caste/Communities. Median size of landholding for those who had land was one acre. Over three-fourths of the households with land reported that their land was not irrigated and almost all who irrigated land primarily depended on natural sources such as streams.

About three-fifths of the households in Daringbadi reported agriculture/ agricultural labour as the major source of income. Nearly three-quarters of the households in the block were ever engaged in agriculture and most of them continued it. The majority of the households cultivated their patta land and three-fourths of households reported cultivating common land as well. Most of them had only one crop in the previous year and the majority used the produce for household consumption. Almost all the households engaged in agriculture reported that with changes in climate, agriculture had become less profitable. About two-thirds of the households raised cattle and three-fifths of the households kept poultry, primarily for domestic purposes.

Every household in Daringbadi had at least one person with a bank account who mostly used passbooks for withdrawing money. About 17 per cent of the households used UPI for transactions. Nearly three-fifths of the households reported having membership in SHGs and 84 per cent of the households were enrolled in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, a social health insurance scheme of the state of Odisha.

In terms of access to services, the median distance to the nearest bank and the nearest functional health facility was eight km. People walked an average of about 10 minutes to reach the nearest place from where public transport was available. In Daringbadi, the average distance to the nearest high school where free education was available was about two km.

Almost three-fifths of the households had mobile network coverage in their villages. In the case of most other households, network coverage was available within a distance of one km. Three in every ten households in Daringbadi were indebted at the time of the survey. The average outstanding debt of the indebted households was about ₹20000. Hospitalisation expenditure and construction/ renovation of houses were the two major reasons for such indebtedness. Private banks or SHGs were the major sources for loans. Income of the usual members of the households was a major means of repayment of loans. Absence of a sustained source of reasonable local income was evident in the case of the majority of the households in Daringbadi. As a result, most households found it difficult to practice agriculture and were also unable to save money. Inability to access quality healthcare when needed was another challenge faced by the households.

Migration from Daringbadi

Two-fifths of the households in Daringbadi had a history of labour migration and about one-third of the households reported having at least one member working outside Kandhamal district at the time of the survey. About one-fifth of the households had seasonal migrants who spent no more than six months at the destination. Three-fifths of the households in Daringbadi with migrants reported relying on seasonal migration.

Nearly one-fifth of the households with migrants had female migrants. Fifteen per cent of all migrants were women/girls. The estimated total number of migrant workers from Daringbadi in 2023 was 8953. About 28 per cent of the households in Daringbadi had usual residents who had worked

elsewhere outside the district for more than 30 days but currently did not have an intention to go out of the district for work. The absence of any one else to take care of the family members and the clearance of debts were the major reasons for such return migration. A majority of such returnees worked as non-agricultural daily wage labourers. About 58 per cent of the households did not have migrant members. The majority of them did not want to migrate and cited family responsibilities at the native place as the reason. But there were also a minority of people who wished to migrate but were unable to do so due to the presence of elderly family members, and the absence of other male members in the household.

Examining the impact of labour migration from Daringbadi, 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. More than 15 per cent of the households with migrants were able to diversify their income through remittances. Nearly three-fifths of the households with migrants reported that they were able to improve agriculture with the income of the migrant members. Among the households with a history of migration, about 23 per cent were able to renovate their houses with the remittances from the migrant members while about five per cent were able to build new houses. Seven out of every ten households with a history of migration mentioned that they were able to improve the education of the children with the income of the migrant members of the household. Around two-fifths of the households with a history of migration mentioned that their status in the village improved due to the income from the migrant members.

Migration also had negative impacts as shared by the households. Two-thirds of the households with migrants reported that they were not able to seek quality healthcare in the absence of the member/s who had migrated for work. Also, about a quarter of the households had to completely give up agriculture due to the migration of members from the household.

Profile of Migrant Workers

The Scheduled Tribes constituted three-fifths of the migrant workers from Daringbadi and one-fifth each belonged to the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities. The average age of the migrants was 25 years. One in every ten migrant workers was female. The median number of years of education of the workers was nine and a little less than half of the migrant workers were married. Among married individuals, most migrated without their spouse and children. On average, each migrant worker had three dependents back home. Most of the workers were either unemployed, or engaged in agriculture/agricultural labour prior to their migration. But two-fifths of the migrants were pursuing their studies before moving out for work. They made their first move out of the district for work at the age of 20 years. Low wages were the primary reason for moving out, followed by lack of employment opportunities.

At the time of the survey, 87 per cent of the migrant labourers from Daringbadi were working outside the state, primarily in Kerala and other southern Indian states. Those who moved within Odisha primarily went to Khordha district, where Bhubaneswar, the capital city is situated. Almost every worker from Daringbadi had moved to urban destinations. Most migrants had been working in the same state for an average of one year. They were primarily employed in shops, establishments or factories. The majority of the migrant workers from Daringbadi were unskilled/semi-skilled. Nearly half of the workers were employed by hotels/shops and other establishments while the construction sector absorbed about a quarter. On average, the migrants worked eight hours a day, drawing a monthly wage of about ₹10750 and received the wages primarily in cash. Over 70 per cent of the workers were paid on a monthly basis. Most workers did not enjoy employment benefits such as ESI or PF. Most of them lived in workers' quarters or in rented rooms, the majority sharing a room with four others and cooking their own food. Most of them had access to electricity, drinking water

and at least one functional toilet at the place of residence. About 80 per cent of the workers had bank accounts. Fifty-five per cent of such accounts were savings bank accounts and 47 per cent were Jan Dhan accounts. In the past three months prior to the survey, the migrant workers had sent home an average of ₹15000 as remittances. The estimated total monthly remittances received by households in Daringbadi from migrant workers were about ₹41 million. Workers primarily relied on money transfer agents or bank/post office accounts for remittances. About a quarter of the migrant workers were indebted at the time of the survey and the average outstanding debt was ₹25000. Construction/ renovation of houses and hospitalisation expenses were the major reasons for such indebtedness. Except for a few workers, everyone had mobile phones. The majority had smartphones and workers used regular audio calls to communicate with the family members. WhatsApp video and audio calls were also popular. Only three per cent of the workers had membership in trade unions. About five per cent of the workers mentioned having access to an accident insurance and/or life/ any other insurance scheme at the destination. Most workers had neither heard of nor availed the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. None of the workers were enrolled in any of the welfare funds for workers at the destination. Around 95 per cent of the workers mentioned that they did not experience any cheating, wage theft, or physical or verbal abuse at the destination in the past 12 months. When asked if their migration could be prevented, the majority mentioned that it was not possible.

Conclusions

- Socially and economically disadvantaged communities comprise almost the entire population of Daringbadi. Small size of the landholdings, exclusive dependence on natural water sources for irrigation and changes in climatic conditions have made agriculture less profitable. However, most households engaged in agriculture continue to do so and agriculture remains the chief source of local income.

- Although the majority of the households in Daringbadi have NREGS cards, and most of such households have received some work, they have only marginally benefited from the scheme. Irrespective of the source of livelihood, the income generated locally by the households in Daringbadi is meagre.

- The conditions of housing in Daringbadi remain precarious. Use of cleaner cooking fuels is minimal. There is substantial underutilisation of the functional toilets. But the households have good access to electricity and drinking water. Mobile connectivity in the villages is yet not optimal.

- There is universal access to banking services. Although the households still rely on passbooks for withdrawing money, new forms of transactions such as UPI have started picking up. Though suboptimal, households in Daringbadi have access to formal credit through SHGs and banks. The households primarily rely on private banks or SHGs for loans. Remittances currently play only a minimal role in the repayment of loans.

- Although the state social health insurance scheme has substantial enrolment in Daringbadi, it does not seem to have reduced the high out-of-pocket expenditure on health. Healthcare expenditure has been one of the key reasons for indebtedness in Daringbadi. Unlocking social health insurance and ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare services appear to be challenging in Daringbadi.

- Labour migration from Daringbadi is of recent origin and is still evolving. Seasonal migration which has been the predominant form of labour migration from Daringbadi has given way to more aspirational migration with the youth increasingly moving out of the state for work. Most of such movements are interstate migration to southern Indian states, primarily to Kerala.

- Men continue to constitute the majority of the migrant workers from Daringbadi. People from the Scheduled Castes have the highest propensity to migrate for work followed by the Other Backward Caste/Communities. However, a considerable proportion of women also move out for work, with the women from the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes/Communities having higher propensities compared to the Scheduled Tribes. Women from the Scheduled Tribes perhaps have more opportunities for work locally given the substantial engagement of tribal communities in agriculture.

- Migration brings nearly ₹347 million (35 crore) to Daringbadi block annually as remittances, reviving the economy of the block and improving the resilience of the households. It has contributed to reducing the poverty of the households with migrants, helping them repay loans, save more, improve their housing and asset base, provide better education for children, and elevate their status in the locality. In many households, migration of members has constrained the mobility of those who stay behind and limited their access to quality healthcare.

- Access to higher education continues to be a challenge for households in Daringbadi. Although proportion of households with members having education up to graduation and above is picking up, focussed long-term investments in education can substantially transform the migration trajectory of Daringbadi.

- As labour migration from Daringbadi is evolving, the youth during/after their secondary education, leave for work in southern Indian cities. They primarily leverage their social ties for such migration and take up unskilled/semi-skilled work in shops/establishments or factories. Migrants from Daringbadi seem to be well aware that there are not many opportunities locally to earn a steady income that they currently are able to secure through migration.

Endnotes

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vi Peter, Benoy and Liby Johnson. 2021. Inclusion of Migrant Workers in India: What Works at the Grassroots? Labour & Development, Vol. 28(2):108-123.

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.

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, working with diverse state and non-state actors.