

Leave No Child Behind

Children of Vulnerable Communities and their rights



Save the Children

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We humbly recognize the efforts put in by all our field workers, for many of whom conducting such research was a first. Working with community researchers does come with its challenges, but their belief, dedication and contribution to the study and its findings have made this report more valuable than what it was set out to be. We would like to thank them for putting their faith in us to use their efforts to build something that initiates a positive impact on their respective communities.

We thank conveners and steering group members and the thousands of civil society organizations connected with us for the immense knowledge of ground reality and rapport with the communities which has enabled us to anchor this project successfully.

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This study was focused on amplifying the most vulnerable population group of children in communities that don't receive adequate focus in the development dialogue. We believe that the findings of these report are more nuanced than any available information available on the children from these communities. We hope that they can be used to further the policy discourse and *uphold 'Leave No One Behind' to ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals for all.*

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
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Introduction

Background
100 Hotspots
Methodology
Recommendations

Background

'Leave no child behind: Snapshots of children of vulnerable communities and their rights' is a first of its kind study on the status of children from socially and economically vulnerable (SEV) communities in India using the sustainable development goals (SDG) framework. The government of India, at the highest levels, has welcomed the SDG and made efforts to align the national and state development plans and schemes with the SDG. Even as the goals and targets in the SDG align with our national development goals and targets, the SDG provides a time-bound global framework for progress. The global framework adds value and support through partnerships, peer learning and comparative monitoring to collectively pursue the '2030 Agenda: Transforming our world'. It lays emphasis on the most vulnerable sections under the 'leave no one behind (LNOB)' principle. This study is aimed to map the access of children from the SEV communities who are at the risk of being left behind, to services and benefits essential for their development, rights enjoyment and inclusion under the SDG.

India is central to the world achieving the SDG and there is considerable focus on the progress made in India. Given that children constitute 40% of India's population their SDG achievements is central to India's SDG achievement. The protection, development and well-being of all children in India is mandated in the Constitution and further strengthened through various legislations and policies. The Constitution recognizes the vulnerabilities of children and lays special emphasis that the tender age of children should not be abused; that all children should be protected and given opportunities to develop in a healthy manner. The Constitution also recognizes the added disadvantages of socially and economically vulnerable communities. Bringing the two together, it would be right to say, the Constitution acknowledges the additional disadvantages of children from SEV communities. While children from the SEV communities, share in the disadvantages faced by all children, they also face additional disadvantages owing to the vulnerable contexts of their families and communities. The interplay of these vulnerabilities is complex and create much more than the sum of the impact of isolated individual disadvantages.

Currently the data and information on the situation and progress of children are drawn from different sources - government data and surveys, civil society organisations, academic studies to name some. Many of the data and information also focus on vulnerable children as - girl children, child labour, out of school children, children with disability and others. As seen, they focus primarily on the situation of the children per se. However, children's situation is highly dependent on the conditions of their families and communities. Currently, there is little understanding of the complexity of the families and communities which drive and impact the disadvantages of their children. This study is a preliminary exploration into the development status of children from nine SEV communities.

100 Hotspots

'Leave No Child Behind: Snapshots of children of vulnerable communities and their rights' is drawn from a larger study '100 Hotspots: Snapshots of socially excluded vulnerable population groups and SDG in India (100 Hotspots, henceforth)'. The 100 Hotspots maps SEV communities on select SDG targets and indicators and compares their status with the national progress and global standards. The goals, targets and indicators covered in the 100 Hotspots are listed below:

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	Average monthly earnings of the household
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular, the poor, and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Access to food grains through the Public Distribution System Percent of families having BPL cards.
03	Ensure healthy lives, and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	Access to Public Health Services. Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable, good quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. By 2030, increase by per cent the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	Access to School Education – Public/ Private institutions. Access to Scholarship. Access to technical education. Out of Pocket expenditure on education.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. By 2030, achieve access to adequate	Source of drinking water. Availability of bathroom facilities in housing premises.

		and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation.	Percentage of HHs who have to purchase drinking water. The weekly cost of purchasing drinking water.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	Access to electricity as the main source of lighting. Usage of LPG/Clean fuel as cooking fuel.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and people with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	No. of months of employment in the past year. No. of days of paid work in the past month. Regularity of work.
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums.	Proportion of households living in Slums/notified slums. Percentage of HHs living in rented premises. Percentage of HHs living in a house without separate Kitchen/ Bathroom. Percentage of HHs residing in a single room house.
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	Significantly reduce all forms of violence Substantially Reduce Corruption and Bribery in all their Forms. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	Percentage of HHs with a family member who has faced Physical Violence. Percentage of HHs who has ever been demanded a bribe by a public official. Percentage of population with any legal identity. Percentage of population with birth registration.

The Study: Leave No Child Behind

India as a country has deep inequalities in terms of access to resources and essential services. Although India has made progress in terms of provisioning of basic services like elementary education and healthcare in recent years however a sizeable proportion of people, especially belonging to vulnerable communities, are still living in poverty and struggle to access basic services. Children from these communities perform low in terms of status of attainment of their rights. Even among the marginalized communities there exist varying levels of deprivation and exclusion. Within the broad categories of vulnerable communities there exist groups which are further left behind. Although greater number of children are accessing basic services today than ever in past, yet children from socially and economically vulnerable groups struggle to have access to basic services like education, health and protection. One of the barriers in reaching out to these children and improving their access to schemes and programs is absence of tracking of delivery of services to these children. Lack of community specific, disaggregated data on children from these groups makes tracking all the more difficult. Underlying complexities, intersectionality and disparities are overlooked and specific vulnerabilities of children of these groups become invisible.

Nine communities from the 100 Hotspots were selected to do the preliminary study of children from SEV communities; taking a mix of children from Dalit, Tribal, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and Urban poor communities. The nine communities mapped in this study include i) Children of Bonded Labour (Dalit), ii) Children of Musahar community (Dalit), iii) Children of Pahari Korwas (PVTG), iv) Children of Construction workers (urban poor), v) Children of Domestic workers (urban poor), vi) Children of sewage workers (urban poor), vii) Children of Street hawkers (urban poor), viii) Children of slum dwellers (urban poor) and ix) Children of Single women (gender).

The study reviewed the children's status from the four child-rights dimensions of i) survival, ii) development, iii) protection and iv) participation. It also reviewed the aspirations of the children and the challenges they faced in pursuing their aspirations. Discrimination as a reality in their lives and gender discrimination cut across all dimensions of study. The indicators studied under each dimension are given below:

- **Survival and development:** i) Access to anganwadi services, ii) mid-day meals, iii) health care, iv) access to sexual and reproductive health care for adolescents and v) family access to rations under the public distribution services.
- **Development:** i) access to elementary schooling, ii) access to secondary schooling, iii) access to skills training.
- **Protection:** i) incidences of child labour, ii) child marriage, iii) perceptions of safety.
- **Participation:** i) Participation in decision making of the families, ii) family control on one's mobility, iii) family control on key decisions of education, work or marriage.
- **Aspirations:** i) desired professions and careers ii) challenges in pursuing them.

- **Gender differentials** were reviewed across all indicators and how girls and boys accessed, participated and enjoyed the different dimensions.
- **Discrimination** was mapped and reviewed in all dimensions both of the children themselves and also of the community members.

The report shows considerable disparity on development indicators between children from the SEV communities and the national SDG averages, underlining barriers and challenges. The study draws upon real time community generated data in the absence of disaggregated data on these communities and children in the national data sets. The data is further strengthened through focus group discussions to understand the complex drivers and impact.

The study seeks to:

- Initiate dialogue on the vulnerabilities and disadvantages of children from socially and economically vulnerable communities.
- Highlight the specificity of the contexts of children from the socially and economically vulnerable communities and inequalities on diverse indicators.
- Support communities to generate real-time data at the micro-level to understand their status and inequalities vis-à-vis national progress and global standards.
- Bring together multi-stakeholders to support in achieving SDG and leave no one behind.
- Policy engagement with the government to recognise children from SEV communities under the LNOB principle and evolve necessary policies for their progress under the SDG.

Methodology

The development of methodology and tools followed the participatory research approach. The study was undertaken by community led organisations with long term rapport and work with the said communities. Two to four field investigators were identified and oriented in an intense two-day workshop on the study framework and tools. The field investigators were closely supported to gather community data with the help of a mobile application. The central team reviewed the data on real time basis and provided hands-on support to the field investigators. They have today turned out to be 'community champions on SDG'.

The study used mixed research methods, i.e. quantitative and qualitative. Collection of primary data was done through a household survey. This included an analysis of the household access to key welfare and development institutions and policies/programmes.

WNTA took the support of Social Cops/Atlan (a data intelligence company) and designed a Mobile App based questionnaire, for error and hassle-free data collection. Quantitative data was gathered from 100 households in each of the Groups, except street hawkers where only 50 households could be included, making

a total of 850 households. The data was further strengthened with 18 focused group discussions (FGDs) and observations across the nine communities. The primary quantitative data is stored on the web data platform of Atlan and is downloadable in Excel or CSV format. The data was cleaned and analysed using simple statistical analysis through MS Excel.

The following steps were undertaken to gather data and information in the study:

- The Household surveys conducted for 100 houses within these hotspots were filtered by age to arrive at children's data in the communities.
- Background research on each SEV community and possible issues for children.
- Community specific Focus Group Discussion (FGD) tools.
- FGDs with i) with male children, ii) FGDs with female children, iii) Interviews with key informants.
- Analysis, report review and finalization.

SEV communities and processes used in the study

S. No	SEV Community	Anchor Organisation	Location	Household survey (no of families)	Qualitative Processes
01	Construction Workers	Labour education development society (LEDS)	Jaipur, Rajasthan	100	FGD with male children, FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
02	Bonded Labour	People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights – (PVCHR)	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	100	FGD with male children, FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
03	Domestic Workers	Centre for Social Equity & Inclusion (CSEI) and People's Rights and Social Research Centre (PRASAR)	Badarpur, Delhi	100	FGD with male children, FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
04	Musahar community	Bihar Ambedkar Students Forum (BASF)	Patna, Bihar	100	FGD with male children, FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews

05	Pahari Korwas	Gyan Sagar	Balrampur, Chattisgarh	100	FGD with male children; FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
06	Sewage Workers	Centre for Social Equity & Inclusion (CSEI) and People's Rights and Social Research Centre (PRASAR)	Chattarpur Delhi	100	FGD with male children; FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
07	Single Women	Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan (ENSS)	Solan, Himachal Pradesh	100	FGD with male children; FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
08	Street Hawkers	National Hawkers Federation	Salt lake city, West Bengal	100	FGD with male children; FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews
09	Urban Poor	Youth for unity and voluntary action (YUVA)	Jogeshwari colony, Mumbai	100	FGD with male children; FGD with female children, Activities with children, Key informants' interviews

Challenges in the study

The study team consisted of more than eighteen field investigators, spread across 9 geographic locations in 8 different states (Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal) of India, speaking different languages/dialects. The geographical distances, community diversity, language diversity made the study very challenging. The core team located in Delhi was on hands-on support to the field team. They also made visits to the study locations for consultations and FGDs. The web-based project management platform facilitated real-time monitoring and support to the team in the field.

Recommendations and Way forward: Achieving SDG for All Children

India is key to the world achieving the SDG; children who constitute 40% of the Indian population is central to India achieving SDG. Of particular importance is the vast majority of children from socially and economically vulnerable communities achieving SDG. This study highlights the specificity of their vulnerabilities, disadvantages and inequalities as well as their aspirations. Recognising the challenges in achieving the SDG, the UN and the world leaders have agreed to accelerate the process designating 2020-2030 as the 'decade of action to deliver the goals'. It becomes imperative for India to ensure all children achieve the SDG indicators, and children from socially and economically vulnerable communities do so. Below are a few building blocks that emerge from this study in this regard:

- Recognise children from SEV communities under the LNOB principle.
- Build sensitivity among duty bearers and create safe peer spaces for interface across children from SEV communities and other children.
- Develop and implement norms and practices to address discrimination and promote inclusion in all institutions where children engage and participate—anganwadi, schools, health centres, play grounds, community spaces and others.
- Promote children's agency and leadership in discussions, dialogue, decision making; ensuring children from SEV communities play an active role.

Actions by community and society

- Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships at various levels of society to support SDG actions for children.
- Strengthen civil society organisations, specially those formed by the SEV communities to reach the children at the last mile.
- Build a robust system to facilitate civil society organisations and SEV communities generate community data and use it for evidence-based planning and monitoring.

Actions by community and society

- Promulgate 'anti-discrimination' law to address all forms of discrimination and exclusions in both public and private spheres in society.
- Empower the local governance under 73rd and 74th amendments to identify and track children from SEV communities and implement equity measures to overcome the disadvantages faced.
- Create a collaborative system for producing high quality disaggregated data at subnational and community levels and use them in policy planning and monitoring
- Allocate, utilize and report on targeted budgets for addressing disadvantages and promoting social equity for children from SEV communities.
- Set up cells in all institutions and bodies concerned with children to identify, track, support and ensure equity-inclusion principles and measures in favour of all vulnerable children including those from SEV communities.

Scaling up across 2030

There are hundreds of socially and economically vulnerable communities in India and require specific targeted policies and provisions to participate and benefit from the national growth and development. The study evidences the struggles of children from the SEV communities in accessing development and enjoying their rights. The communities are keen to be part of the mainstream development in the country and have the potential to participate and contribute to the same. There is technology and methodology that can facilitate understanding the communities and their contexts. There are civil society organisations and community led organisations that have the reach to these communities and can provide the last mile connectivity to their development.

The SDG and the UN decade of accelerated action provides apt opportunity to make visible the hitherto less visible vulnerable communities and build targeted strategies to ensure their progress along with other communities under the SDG. SDG provide global networking with different societal institutions including civil society organisations, science and technology institutions, data development and tracking and the commitment of the member countries.

This study provides a glimpse into the context of the children from nine socially and economically vulnerable communities. We hope this study becomes an impetus for further policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnership to ensure that all children in our country have the opportunity and support to achieve their full potential.

01

Children of SEV Communities

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Conclusion

Only 78 percent children in the age group of 6-14 years have been attending school.

Among children from Pahari Korwa community 45 percent of the children in the age group of 6-14 years have already dropped out.

Bonded labourers and Musahars families reported discrimination in schools based on their caste status and poor socio-economic conditions.

Only 4 out of 368 children in the 15-18 years age group had accessed vocational/ skills training, one being a girl and three being boys.

Despite being extremely vulnerable, there is hardly any awareness about child protection laws, policies or services among these communities. Children had no awareness whatsoever. Even the helpline number 1098 is not familiar to them.

1.1 Introduction and Background

This chapter presents the combined findings for all children of all the individual groups covered in this report. It looks at the aggregate picture of rights of children of these vulnerable groups. It also attempts to bring out the challenges faced by the children and their families in accessing their entitlements and important services provided by government.

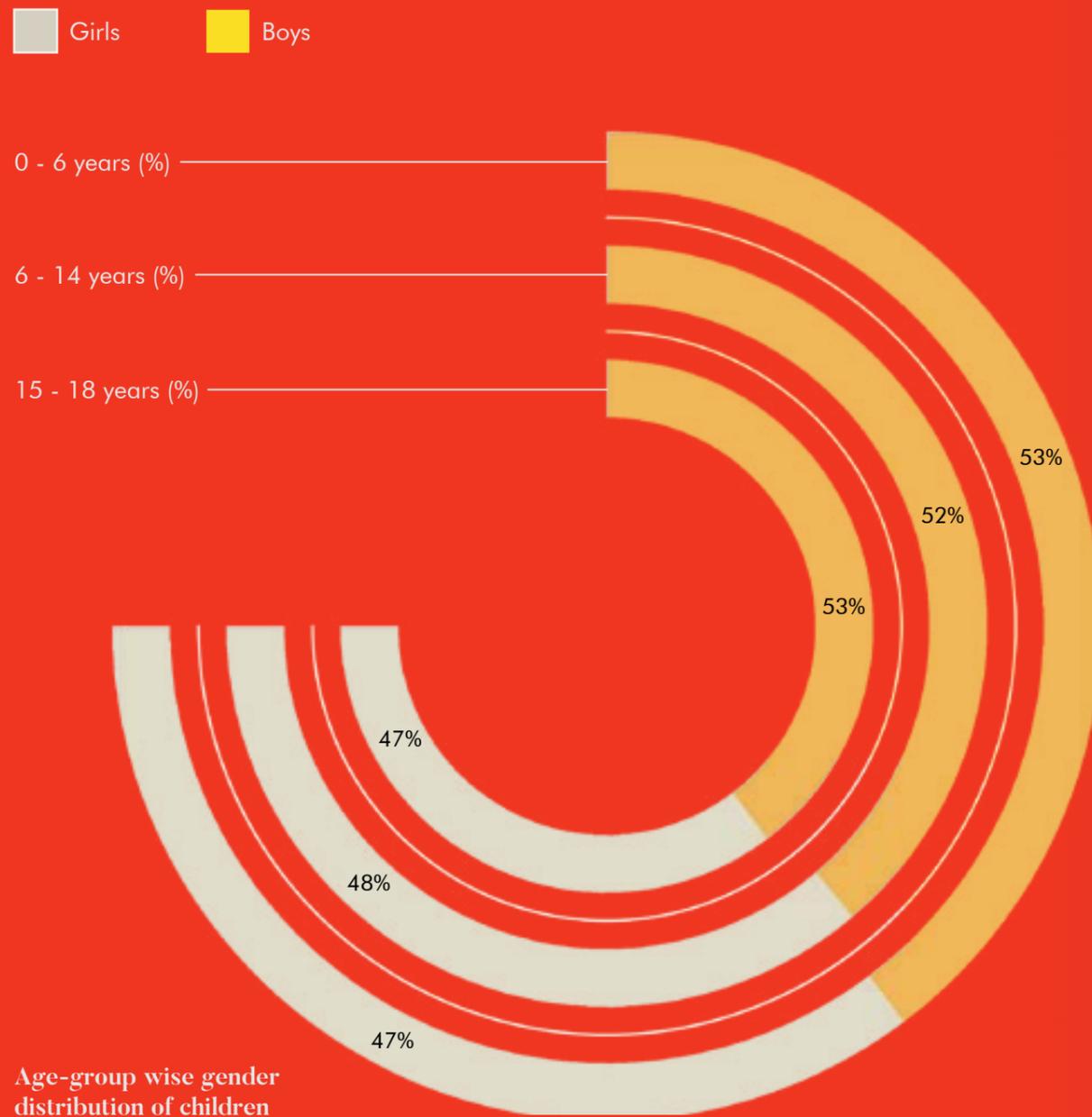
1.2 Data collection for the Nine hotspots

Data has been collected from 850 Households spread across 9 hotspots. These households had 1547 children. Children from socially and economically vulnerable (SEV) communities who perform low socio-economic indicators have been considered in this study. These hotspots were located across 8 states. Quantitative data has been collected from 100 Households from each of the 9 communities except Street hawkers where data could be collected from 50 households only. Community-led Organizations (CLOs) that are working with these communities collected the data. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this report. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). A total of 18 FGDs were conducted with 9 communities. One FGD was conducted with children and one with the mothers in the community. Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.



1.3 Findings

Demographic Profile of children



Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Gender Disaggregation of Children:

- Out of a total of 1547 children in these households:
- 53 percent are Boys
 - 47 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 27percent (424) are below 6 years of age.
- 49 percent (755) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 24 percent (368) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 1: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	47 (353)	48 (175)	47 (199)	727
Boys	53 (402)	52 (193)	53 (225)	820
Total (N)	424	755	368	1547



Access to Services by Children: Impacting survival and development Rights

Access to PDS and ration cards

India was ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018. According to the report, prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have “serious levels of hunger”ⁱⁱ. Access to food through Targeted public distribution system is an important component of social security policies. A number of households do not have ration cards. Given that access to government services is crucial for providing much-needed support to these families, lack of a ration card is a fundamental loophole that creates barriers in accessing services. Absence of ration card forces them to procure grains and essential food items from open market. It jeopardizes a household’s capacity to ensure dietary diversity and nutrition to children.

Access to SRHR services

Adolescent girls in these communities are generally not having access to information and services related to sexual and productive health. In some of the communities, as shared in the focus group discussions (FGDs), girls do get some information on sexual and reproductive rights through the discussions held by local organisations. However boys have not had any such opportunity of having structured sessions with trained people and they mostly rely on friends and peers for support and information.

Access of children to Anganwadi Services

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is India’s flagship program for children in the 0-6 years age group, providing access to care and development services. Program also focuses on education component of children who are in the age group of 3-6 years. Despite a four-fold increase in the number of women and children receiving supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme in the 10 years upto 20¹⁶, a large proportion of the SEV households are still left out. The large number of children (age group of 3-6 years) of vulnerable communities who are not accessing services under ICDS miss out on the opportunity to get pre-primary education as well. As it is reflected in the figure given below, only 34 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services. Among boys only 37 percent are accessing the Anganwadi services while this figure is only 30 percent among girls. This is really an alarming situation with regards to the access of children to Anganwadi services. Details are given in **Table No.2**.

Group-wise Access to Anganwadi Services

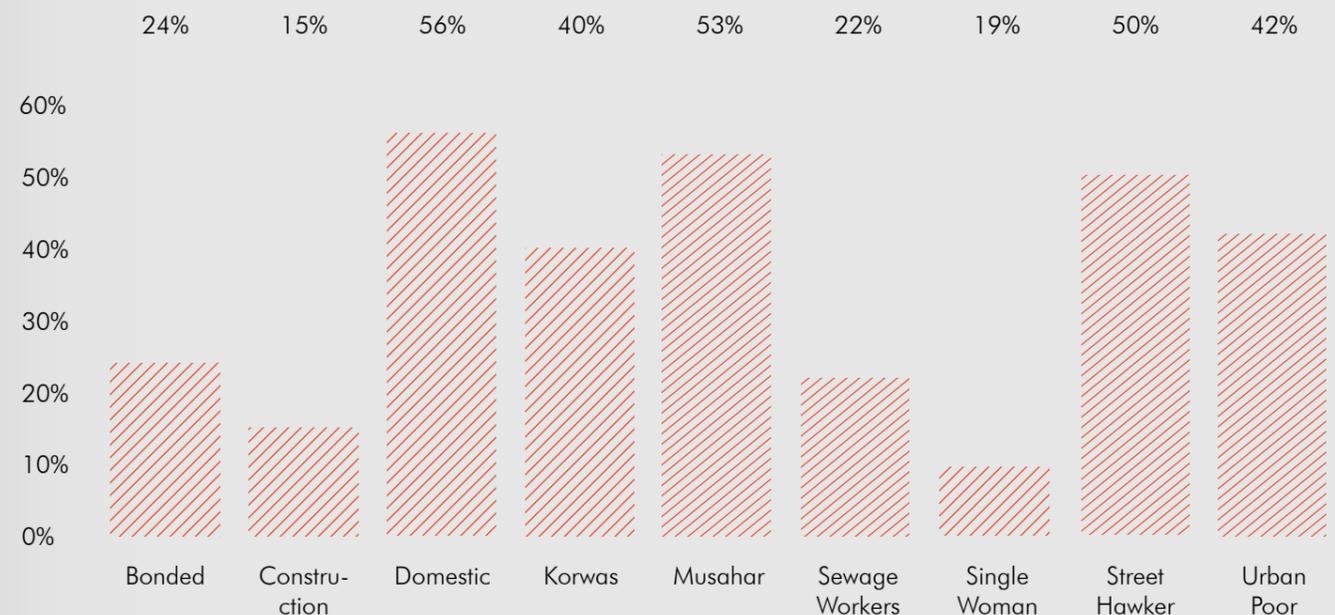
Lowest uptake is among the children of Construction workers, with only 15 percent accessing services. It is disheartening to see that a major proportion, 85 percent of

eligible children are left out of services related to childhood care and education. Even among the children of Bonded labourers only 24 percent children are accessing Anganwadi centres. Discussions with community brought out discriminatory attitude and prejudices of AWC staff towards the children from these communities as one of the reasons behind poor uptake of services. Children of sewage workers also reported poor access (22 percent). Parents blamed poor services and quality of food to be the reason which discourage them to send their children to AWC. ICDS has multiple objectives of promoting nutrition, health care, child care and readiness for school. Considering the situation, it is clear that children from these vulnerable households are falling behind other children due to poor provisioning of services which will heighten their vulnerabilities in future. Children from only 3 SEV communities (domestic workers, street hawkers and Musahar community) show uptake between 50 and 56 percent as shown in **Figure No.1**.

Table 2: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	70%	30%	47%	63%	37%	53%	66%	34%	100%
Number	89	38	127	89	52	141	178	90	268

Figure 1: Proportion of Children Accessing Anganwadi Services (3-6years)^{iv}



Access to mid-day meals

Mid-day meal scheme was specifically designed to address school hunger and malnourishment among children. Those who are attending government schools have been receiving mid-day meals. However children are not happy with the quantity and quality of mid-day meals that are being served in the schools. Children shared during focus group discussions that they do not get eggs or milk. People also shared that many a times mothers are left with little time to prepare breakfast or pack lunch boxes for school going children as they get involved in work. Considering these circumstances, a nutritious mid-day meal becomes very important.

Access to health services and entitlements

On the whole, people are not happy with the health services that are available to them. Many of them are preferring to go to private service providers. Wastage of time due to long queues, lack of attention by the health staff and non-availability of free medicines and tests emerged as some of the key concerns. In some groups, people shared their preference for private healthcare as they believe that they do not receive attention and care from crowded government facilities. According to them attending government health services also results in loss of income as one has to devote almost three-fourth of the day even for a minor health issue while it takes a short while to visit a private doctor in their locality. People from marginalized communities like Musahars and Pahari korwas also feel that they are meted out differential treatment. Vulnerability to diseases also results from unhygienic living conditions and poor working conditions in these communities. Children of Street Hawkers face specific challenges to their health, as shared by community during focus group discussions (FGDs) as they stay on streets all the time. Children get ill frequently by exposure to unhygienic conditions.

Access to Services by Children: Impacting development rights

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Children are aspirational and they want to get into higher education. However not many are able to reach colleges or professional courses. Unfortunately they even lack awareness about the opportunities of any kind of skill enhancement training. Out of the 368 children in the age group of 15-18 years only 4 of them are getting any kind of vocational training. Out of these 4 only one is a girl while rest three are boys.

Access to scholarships

Out of the total 368 children in the age group of 15-18 years only 275 (75 percent) are attending school. Out of these children who are attending school very few children

are receiving scholarships. Out of the 275 only 33 are receiving scholarships which amounts to only 12 percent. Among girls this proportion is only 10 percent while among boys this is 14 percent.

Access to schooling

Access to inclusive and equitable quality education is one of the most important constituents of human development. Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009, was enacted to provide free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 to 14 years. India has witnessed a rise in the enrolment rate at various levels of school education. However even after 10 years of enactment of the Act, access to schooling still remains a challenge for many children, especially to those who are from socially and economically vulnerable households.

Children from the SEV communities have a much higher dropout rate when compared to national figures. As is reflected in the table given below more than one out of every five children has not been accessing elementary schooling. This translates into a large number of children 'out of school' from these communities. Gender disaggregated figures stand at 78 percent for both girls and boys. The fact that only 78% children from these population groups have been attending school as compared to the national figure of 96.9% (gross enrolment rate in elementary education) 94.5% male, 99.6% female is worrisome. It should also be noted that the average figures for Scheduled Castes children and Scheduled Tribes children are much higher than the figures emerging from the study. It highlights the importance of collecting disaggregated data on these groups for making effective policy recommendations. Details are given in **Table No.3**.

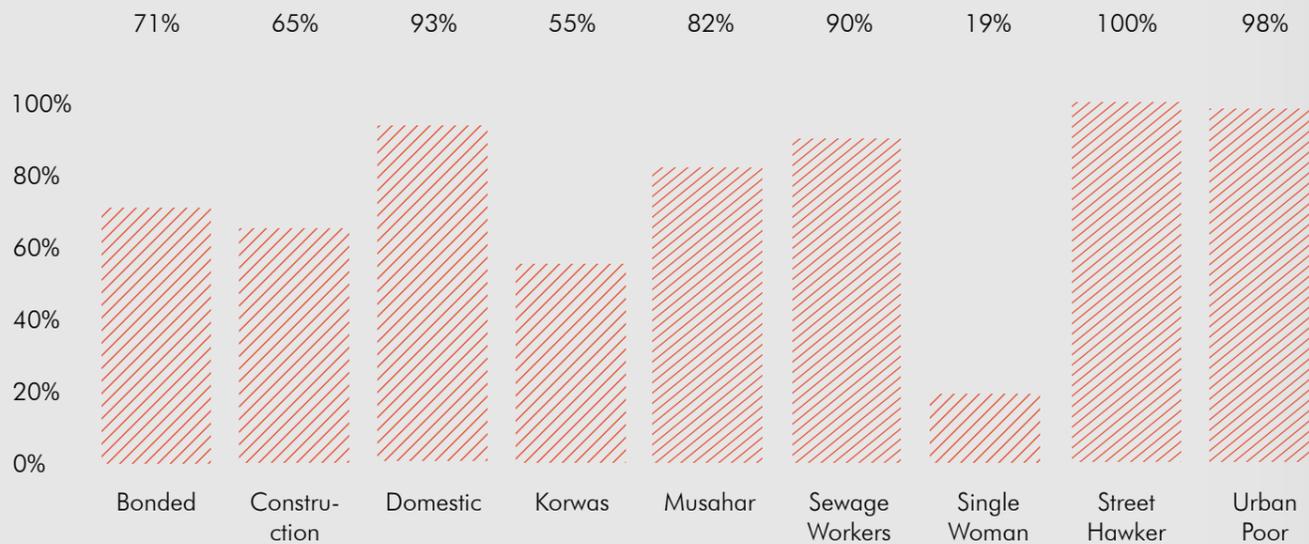
Again one can see in the figure given below that access to schooling varies across the groups. In some groups all the children are accessing schools while situation is alarming in others. Among the children of Pahari Korwas community only 55 percent children have been attending schools while rest are not attending which is a sizeable number. Among the children of Construction workers more than one-third (35 percent) of all children in the age-group of six to fourteen years have not been attending schools. Among bonded labourers in Varanasi 29% of children are not attending schools. Details are given in **Figure No.2**.

Focus Group Discussions with the groups suggest that children from these groups face distinct forms of challenges in accessing school education. Families of single women reported high level of poverty and consequent inability to ensure that children attend schools. Children here are under pressure to support the family by working. Pahari Korwa community reported geographical inaccessibility, language barriers and teachers' insensitivity as major hindrances. Bonded labourers and Musahars families reported discrimination based on their caste status and poor socio-economic conditions in the schools, discouraging their participation. Those in urban areas also reported migration cycles and absence of documents as the reason for some children staying out of school. Lack of money with the families to spend on education of children also emerged as one of the key concerns. Community people shared in focus group discussions about their inability to take money out of their already meagre incomes for any expenses on schooling of their children.

Table 3: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	22%	78%	47%	22%	78%	53%	22%	78%	100%
Number	79	274	353	88	314	402	167	588	755

Figure 2: Proportion of Children Accessing Elementary Education (6-14years)



Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

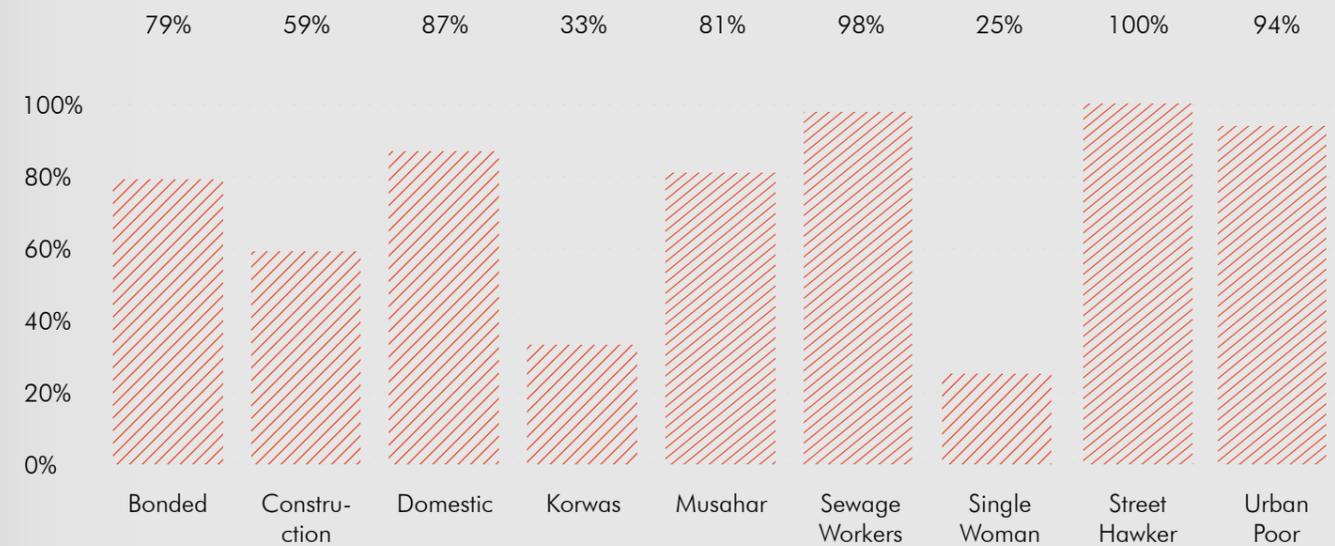
As it is reflected in the figure given below, 3 out of every four children in the age group of 15-18 years have been attending school. Drop out rate is higher among girls as it is 28 percent among them while among boys it is 23 percent. Details are given in **Table No.4.**

All the children of Street Hawkers have been attending school. Access to education is about 100 percent among children of Sewage workers as well. More than 90 percent children of urban poor families have also been accessing school. It is alarming that only one-third of the children of Pahari Korwa families have been attending schools. The fact that two-thirds of them have already dropped out is an issue of concern. Even among the children of Construction workers four out of every ten children have already dropped out from the school. Details are given in **Figure No.3**

Table 4: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	28%	72%	48%	23%	77%	52%	25%	75%	100%
Number	49	126	175	44	149	193	93	275	368

Figure 3: Proportion of Children Accessing Secondary Education (15-18years)



Movement towards Private Schooling

There exists a strong aspiration for better quality education among parents. This is one of the reasons why parents are enrolling their children in private schools. Many in these communities believe that private schools provide better quality education as compared to government schools. It is reflected in the fact that some proportion of children are attending private schools from each of the groups covered in the study. Private schooling is being accessed more by urban communities as compared to rural communities. Among Bonded labour and Pahari Korwa communities, which are settled in rural areas, only 3 to 4 percent children are attending private schools while this figure is higher for groups settled in urban areas. Lack of a regulatory framework for the rapidly expanding private sector also raises matters of concern around quality and equity in education.

Concerns related to Child Protection

Child Labour

As emerged with the help of discussion with communities and children, practice of involving children in labour is more prominent in some of the communities as compared to others. Children from bonded labour households work in agricultural fields, brick kilns and some of them also render domestic services at land owner's house. Children are involved in both paid and unpaid work.

In case of Pahadi korwa households, the economic vulnerability of families poses serious challenges towards children's access to education. Dropout rates are higher and primary data has identified that about one-fourth of children are working to support their families. Child labour is also common among families that are involved in construction work. Children from Musahar community were also found to be vulnerable to child labour. These children generally drop out before reaching grade 10. Parents often encourage children to engage in paid work in peak agricultural season. They also go to nearby towns to work along with the adult male members in the community. Children shared that having money in their hands makes them interested in paid work. Community members also shared that the prospect of earning money attracts children which slowly erodes their interest in studies. Girls are mostly engaged in domestic work. Burden of care of siblings also falls on their shoulders. In agricultural work a child usually gets half of the adult wage. Boys earn as much as Rs.150/day when they take up non-agricultural work.

Lack of access to protection services

Although there exist a number of concerns in these communities about the protection of children however awareness about child protection services is negligible. Children are hardly aware of child protection services. They are not even aware about the helpline number 1098. There is hardly any awareness in these communities about laws or policies for child protection. Parents have not heard about Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)

Child Marriage

As one can see in the **Table No.5** that child marriage is being practised among Bonded Labourers, Construction workers, Domestic workers, Pahadi Korwas and Musahar families. Very high figures are emerging for Construction workers where 40 percent of the girls in the age group of 15-18 years are married. Among boys this figure is highest among the children of Pahari Korwas where 13 percent of children in age group of 15-18 years got married. Out of the total 368 children in the age group of 15-18 years 38 children were married which is 10 percent. This figure is 17 percent for girls and 4 percent for boys which shows that greater number of girls are getting married before turning 18 as compared to boys.

In Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) a number of reasons were cited behind the phenomenon of child marriage in the communities. One of the reasons that emerged was the concern for safety and security of girls in the communities especially from the male members of dominant communities. These communities get their girls married early to save them from sexual crimes including rape. This was also cited as one of the reasons behind high dropout rate among girls especially at secondary stage of schooling.

Table 5: Child Marriage

	Girls (15-18 years)			Boys (15-18 years)			Both Girls and Boys (15-18 years)		
	Married	Total	% Married	Married	Total	% Married	Married	Total	% Married
Bonded Labourers	3	11	27%	2	23	9%	5	34	15%
Construction	8	20	40%	2	26	8%	10	46	22%
Domestic	2	28	7%		34	0%	2	62	3%
Pahadi Korwas	7	26	27%	2	16	13%	9	42	21%
Musahar	10	43	23%	2	27	7%	12	70	17%
Total	30	175	17%	8	193	4%	38	368	10%

Concern for Safety of Girls

In many communities people are concerned for the safety of their girls especially in public spaces. Focus group discussions (FGDs) with children bring out extreme concern for safety of children of street hawkers. According to them, safety of children, especially girls, is more at risk when both the parents go out to work and they are left alone at home. Even in cases when children accompany their parents, their health and safety is at risk because of many factors such as exposure to extreme heat or cold on the roads, hostility by administration or police or threats from goons. Children also shared that they are aware of harassment which their parents face from police, administration and goons while selling items on the roads. This has implications for their mental and emotional well-being. In other communities as well, people shared that girls are at risk when both the parents go out to work.

Access to opportunities of Participation challenges by children

Children's right to participate and express their opinion is not getting due recognition in their families. Even schools are not very open in respecting voices of children. As compared to boys, participation of girls is even more limited in decision making. As shared by them, girls are expected to seek permission from their parents and in case parents are not at home then from their male siblings even for small activities like going out to play.

Aspirations of children and challenges in realising them

Children across the communities do have aspirations however they are not aware about the steps that they need to follow to achieve them. For instance children across the groups shared that they want to grow up to become doctor, scientist, etc. however they are not aware about what subjects they should choose in future or what kind of competitive examinations they should prepare for in order to get into these professions. Their aspirations are also driven by their environment and socio-economic circumstances. For instance, Children, especially boys, of Street Hawker families shared in focus group discussions (FGDs) that they look at law enforcement as a profession with power. Consequently most of them aspire to become policemen. The fact that many a times their parents are harassed by policemen while vending on streets could also be a reason behind their aspiration to become policemen. Many girls shared that they would like to become teachers.

1.4 Conclusion

This chapter presents the combined findings for all children of all the individual groups covered in this report. It looks at the aggregate picture of rights of children of these vulnerable groups. It also attempts to bring out the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the children of the socially and economically vulnerable communities. They are falling behind other children in their access to services. They are performing low not only vis-à-vis national averages but also vis-à-vis average figures for marginalized communities taken together. There do exist variations in terms of access to rights of children among different groups covered in the report. There is a need to generate disaggregated data on specific SEV communities to design policies that respond to their needs. This data will also help in monitoring the outcomes of these groups on different child-related indicators. There is a need to focus on monitoring of schemes and their evaluations to identify the factors behind poor access of these communities to formulate and adapt child-focused schemes and programs including their families in accessing their entitlements and important services provided by government.

02

Children of Families in Bonded Labour

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

Only 24 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services.

3 out of every 10 children in the age group of 6-14 years are not attending school.

Fear of safety and security of girls especially that of sexual violence by male members of dominant communities is one of the main reported reasons behind early marriage of girls.

Children, especially young boys are often sent to cities for work by their parents on payment of advance by the agents. Some community members expressed apprehensions about the vulnerabilities of these children to trafficking.

2.1 Introduction and Background

The 1976 Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act defines 'bonded labour system' as "the system of forced labour under which a debtor enters into an agreement with the creditor that he would render service to him either by himself or through any member of his family or any person dependent on him, for a specified or unspecified period, either without wages or for nominal wages, in consideration of loan or any other economic consideration obtained by him or any of his ascendants, or in pursuance of any social obligation, or in pursuance of any obligation devolving on him by succession," The agreement has other consequences too, such as, forfeiting the debtor the freedom of employment, denial of freedom of movement in any part of the country, and denial of the right to sell at market value any of his property or product of his labour.

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 provides for punishment for compelling a person to engage in bonded labour. The Act also writes off all pre-enactment debts and liabilities that had resulted in forced labour. However, as of today, the practice of bonded labour still continues in several parts of India. The Global Slavery Index estimates that on any given day in 2016 there were nearly 8 million people living in modern slavery in India. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery in India, there were 6.1 victims for every thousand people.⁹

The act has faced challenges in its implementation owing to heavy dependence on local police to initiate actions against the perpetrator of a crime. It is for the local police to register a case, investigate it and submit it to the court for prosecution. However, in most cases where the victims are from the marginalised communities the local police takes no action.

2.2 Data Collection

Hotspot for data collection were in the blocks of Pandaara and Badhgaon in Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh. Data was collected from a total of 100 households. Out of these 100 households 93 households had children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions (FGDs). Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

2.3 Findings

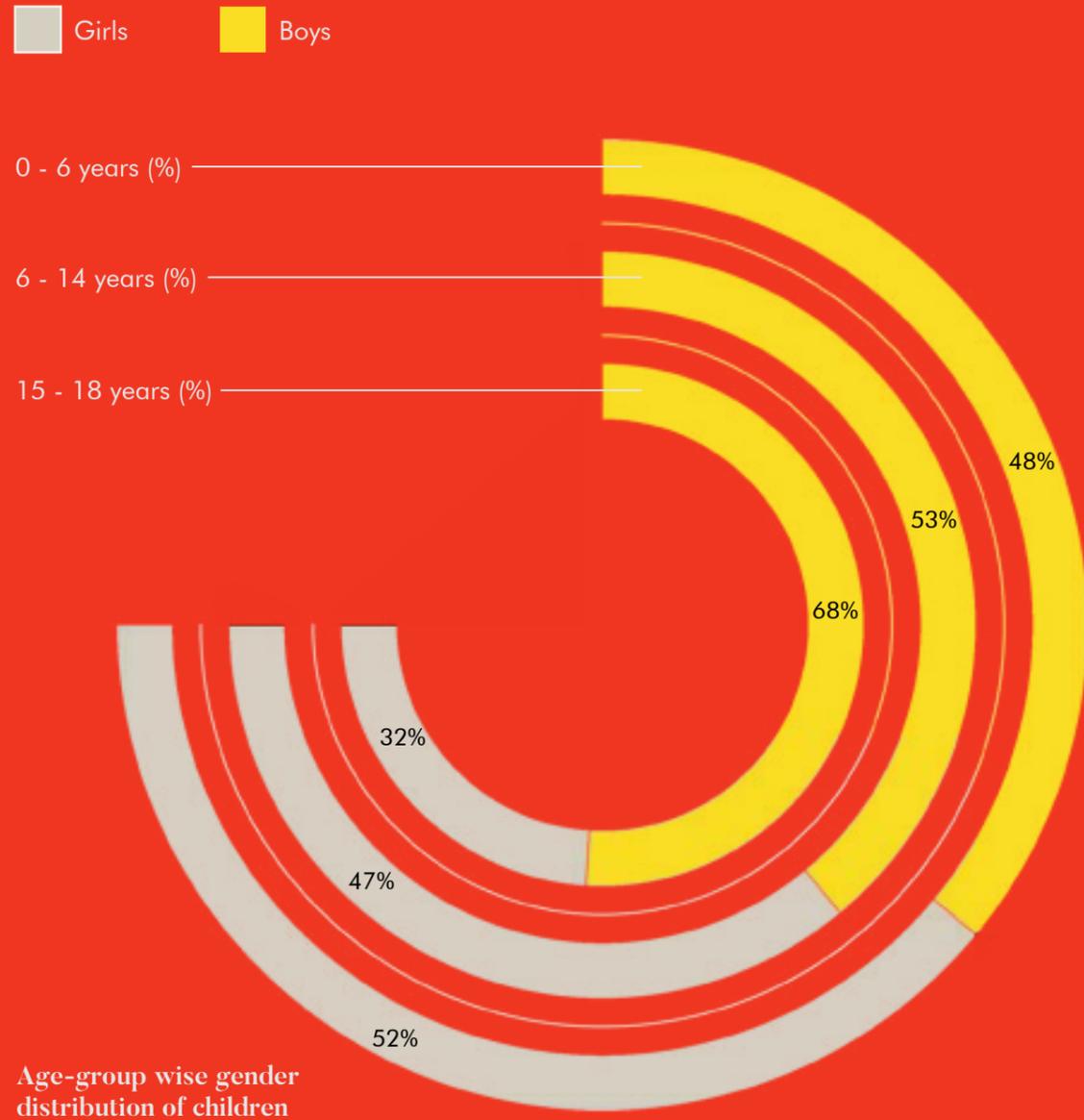
Children in families trapped in bonded labour experience the denial of their rights and lack opportunities for their growth and development. The family social, economic, employment conditions and their lack of access to basic services negatively impact them. A brief review of the family conditions from the primary survey is presented below:

Table 1: Manifestation of Vulnerability in Construction Workers Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	Average monthly earnings of the household of a bonded labour was Rs.3882/ being less than half (43.46%) that of the average agricultural household.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Only 75 percent of the households had Below poverty line (BPL) ration cards.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The family annual Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on health was reported Rs.6965/-
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The primary data from the household survey reported only 33 percent of men and women had attended any formal schooling. The average annual out of pocket expenditure on education by a family was reported Rs.2610/ while the national average is Rs. 26860.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including tracking and sexual and other types of exploitation Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	9 percent of boys and 27 percent of girls of 15-18 years of age were reported married.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	No access to safe drinking water inside their premises. 93 percent of the families are dependent on hand pumps and rest on covered well or tube wells.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	Only 66 percent of the households were electrified. Access to clean fuel is as low as 6 percent among Bonded Labor households. Majority were dependent on firewood and cow dung cakes as fuel source.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Bonded labour has been prohibited and is a punishable crime. Had only 7 months of employment in the last 12 months period. Only 4 percent had worked under MGNREGA 54 % of the HH reported irregular earnings from the employment
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	80 per cent of Bonded Laborers, households tracked in the study were living in a Kutchha house against the national average of 42 percent.

Demographic Profile of children



Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 271 children in these households:

- 53 percent are Boys
- 47 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 42 percent (113) are below 6 years of age.
- 46 percent (124) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 13 percent (34) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	52	47	32	100
Boys	48	53	68	143
Total (N)	113	124	34	271



Access to Services by Children - Survival and Nutrition Specific

Access to Mid-Day Meals

The Mid-day meal scheme was started to address hunger and also to attract children to schools. Only children who are attending schools receive midday meals; the large numbers who were out of schools are thus, denied of this important provision to address hunger and nutrition among children. During FGDs, children raised their concerns about quantity of the meal as they are often left hungry even after the consumption of meals. The children confirmed receiving egg and fruits only once or twice in a month. According to them the quality of milk that they receive is poor as it's often diluted with too much water. The children informed that they are usually asked to make separate queues and bring their own utensils. This is indicative of discrimination which these children face at schools because of their social identity.

Access to health services and entitlements

There exists a functional PHC, however, community members prefer private doctors over government facilities. According to the community the facilities at PHC are poor and they usually avail services from private practitioners or from civil society organizations that organize medical camps. Since private doctors charge fees and many people are poor they go to doctors only in the event of extreme illness and emergencies. Another implication of private healthcare is discontinuation of medicines as soon as condition slightly improves which at times leads to recurring pattern of illnesses which many a times degenerates into chronic diseases.

Access to PDS

During the discussions community people expressed that PDS provision should include legumes and pulses. As emerged during the discussions a number of families in the community do not have enough income to be able to provide the nutritious food to their children.

Access to SRHR Services

As emerged from the discussions girls in the community are aware about sexual and reproductive health issues. One of the main reasons behind this positive development in the community is that local organisations have been working with adolescent girls and women in the community. However adolescent boys are largely left out from the discourse and they lack the awareness and understanding on these issues.

Access of Children to Anganwadi Services

As it is reflected in the figure given below only 24 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services, which means over three-fourths of the children in the community have been deprived of this systemic care. Access of girls is little less than boys with 21 percent of girls accessing these services while the number for boys in 3-6 years age group have been accessing the Anganwadi services is 27 percent. Details are given in **Table No.3**.

The community has limited access to health and nutrition services. FGDs with women and children highlighted that the ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) never visits the households of their community. According to them, ANMs usually sits either in the localities of the dominant communities or in temples, panchayat buildings, schools, etc., all of which are outside easy access to them. Due to this reason many a times children from their community get deprived of as basic a service as vaccination of children.

As shared by the children during FGDs, the services at Anganwadi centre were below the minimum mandated. The Anganwadi centre did not have its own building and is run in open space under a tree. The children also shared that the Anganwadi worker comes only once in a month. Instead of the hot cooked meal, for nutrition, they usually receive a packet of "sattu" which they don't like.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	79%	21%	48%	73%	27%	52%	76%	24%	100%
Number	27	7	34	27	10	37	54	17	71



Access to Services by Children Education Specific

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, 29 percent children are not attending school. Percentage of drop outs is not very different for boys and girls. 28 percent girls are not attending schools while the same figure for boys is 30 percent. Details are given in **Table No.4.**

Children shared during the Focus Group Discussions that they face discrimination in accessing school education owing to their social identity. The community members also shared that their children experience discrimination in the schools due to their caste status. They cited it one of the reasons for high number of drop outs from schools. Following statements made by children during FGDs highlight the biases and discrimination which they have to face in schools:

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 21 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. Among girls 18 percent are not attending while among boys 22 percent are not attending school. Details are given in **Table No.5.**

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Not a single child from the age group 15-18 years is receiving any vocational training. They have not even heard of the availability of these trainings.

Access to scholarships

Government of India has institutionalized scholarships for children from disadvantaged communities and other categories of economically weaker sections to address the economic vulnerabilities of these families and promote education. During focus group discussions people shared that some of the children do receive scholarships.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	28%	72%	47%	30%	70%	53%	29%	71%	100%
Number	16	42	58	20	46	66	36	88	124

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	18%	82%	32%	22%	78%	68%	21%	79%	100%
Number	2	9	11	5	18	23	7	27	34

“I left school as I don’t like the teacher. The teacher does not like children from our basti and they often scold me for being dirty and coming to school without taking bath.”

A child from the community shared during a FGD

“The teachers never take me in any school program and ask us to sweep the classrooms. Only teachers use the girls’ toilet as it’s locked and they keep the keys with them.”

A girl child from the community.

“My teacher used to pull my cheeks and ears even at smallest of mistakes. I used to feel very bad and stopped going to school. When my teachers come to basti I hide myself as I don’t want to go back to school. My parents want me to go back but I am scared as the teacher might punish me again.”

A boy from the community.



Concerns related to Child Protection

Child Labour

As families are involved in working on brick kilns as well as agricultural fields children not only engage in providing domestic services at the landowners' houses but they also accompany their parents to work sites. They provide support to families in brick kilns, agricultural fields as well as at landlord's houses. Both brick kilns as well as agricultural fields are at quite a distance from the schools. This is one of the reasons why children drop out from the schools as many a times it becomes difficult for them to manage both. The work can be paid or unpaid in nature. Children shared during FGDs that some of the children are earning in the range of INR 1000 to INR 10000 annually. During discussions children also shared that young boys are often sent to cities for work by their parents through agents on payment of advance to families. Some community members expressed the apprehensions about the vulnerabilities of these children to trafficking. Community members cited the factors of poverty, illiteracy, lack of livelihood options in the villages to be the reasons why parents are forced to send their children for work. These children are sent to cities for economic exploitation in the form of domestic labour or for working in various small- and large-scale industries, amounting to an inter-generational perpetration of the system.

Early marriage

Women and girls in India face gender disadvantages on multiple dimensions ranging from education, health, employment to political participation and mobility. Girls from vulnerable communities like families engaged in bonded labour face further discrimination and disadvantages on account of the vulnerability of their families due to poverty, social identity and other factors. The primary data shows that 9 percent of boys (2 out of 23) in the age group of 15-18 years are married however this figure is 27 percent (3 out of 11) in case of girls. The high rate of early marriage among girls emerged during the FGDs as well. People shared that fear of safety and security of girls especially that of sexual violence including rape by male members of dominant communities is one of the main reasons behind early marriage of girls.

“To save the girl child from such crimes and atrocities the families from the community marry their girl child before the age of 18 years”

A community member shared during a FGD

Access to Opportunities of Participation by Children

Children shared during the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) that they do not have equal say as adults do in various household related decisions - For instance, decisions about household purchase, education of children, decisions about their health or planning for future. Boys, especially elder ones do have some amount of tokenistic participation however decisions related to girl children are only taken by their parents whether it is related to decision about continuing their education, their engagement in domestic work at land owner's house, or getting them married. Children's right to participation especially that of girls is not being realised in these families.



2.4 Recommendations

Strict Implementation of Laws on Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking:

While Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, recognises many forms of debt-bondage and customary bondage, and Section 370 of Indian Penal Code specifically recognises slavery and practices similar to slavery and servitude, nevertheless most state governments flatly deny the existence of bonded labour within the state and characterize it as a rare and low prevalence issue. Therefore, it is recommended that there must be adequate budget made available by both Centre and State Governments towards sensitization and strengthening of the district and block level of vigilance Committee, police, S/DMs, Anti-human trafficking units (AHTUs), child welfare committees (CWCs), prosecutors, and judges on bonded labour.

Comprehensive and child friendly law to address Human Trafficking

In keeping with the contextual realities of the country and changing trends of the crime, there is need for a comprehensive law, which shall encompass and address violations arising out of all forms of trafficking including labour trafficking, various forms of forced and bonded labour, child trafficking through adoption or by placement agencies for domestic servitude. The new law must prescribe time bound procedures for rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims of trafficking and prosecution of offences for all trafficking cases. Adequate funding and resources should be provided by the government for the enforcement of the new law on trafficking.

Disaggregated data and need based assessment:

The families of bonded labours are constrained in multiple ways. As landless labourers they are completely dependent on the dominant communities for all resources. The outreach of development programs has been limited so far. A base line survey on mapping the vulnerabilities of bonded labour households and ground level is recommended prior to the designing of policies and programmes to address chronic poverty and promoting livelihoods among them.

An inclusive and equitable education framework:

The community has a large number of children who have dropped out from the school. Important reasons of children dropping out of school are the discriminatory behaviour of teachers and children, regular migration and their need to support families economically. Considering this, an inclusive framework of imparting education is important. This should focus on following dimension of learning and development:

- Physical Dimension: Equitable non-discriminatory and barrier free proximal access to required infrastructure in schools for all.
- Culture Dimension: Inclusive culture and equitable practices in class rooms/schools.
- Rights and Entitlements: Ensuring rights and dignified disbursement of entitlements for all.
- Inclusive Teaching and Learning: Classroom participation, absence of favouritism, respect by teachers and equal learning opportunities for all.
- Safety: Fear free and safe environment for all.
- Participation and leadership: Equitable and equal opportunities to participate and lead.

Broaden Policy Framework to Include children of bonded labour and Households

- ICDS and Asha services to reach out to children and their families
- School Management Committees (SMCs) and local teachers to promote a welcoming attitude and environment for children to register and attend schools regularly.
- Child labour prohibition Act needs to be implemented so that even those who drop out of schools can be identified and re-enrolled into schools.
- Special programmes like Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrition Mission), Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Care schemes, Maternal Health Care schemes and Health Insurance schemes to adopt a more open and need based framework to include children and households trapped in the bondage.

Using SDG Framework in Monitoring Children of bonded labours:

Given the SDG framework has time stipulation, it will add value to track the progress within the SDG framework. Recognise children of bonded labours and their households as vulnerable population groups that need to be covered under the Leave No One Principle of the SDG is important. The perspective should also ensure focused disaggregated data collection and analysis to address specific issues of the children and communities.

Full and effective implementation of the Rehabilitation of the bonded labour scheme (2016)

The government should take more serious and stringent measures against bonded/forced labour of children, girls and women and orphans, in addition to other vulnerable categories. It also includes district level surveys on bonded labour and better rehabilitation measures.

03

Children of Construction Workers

Introduction and Background
Data collection
Findings
Recommendations

More than 8 out of every ten children in the age group of 3-6 years are not accessing Anganwadi services.

Little less than half of all the girls in the age group of 15-18 years have dropped out from the school.

Four out of every ten girls in the age group of 15-18 years get married before attaining 18 years of age.

The families move from one place to another in search of work making it difficult for children to continue in a school for a long time. Being unfamiliar with the new places and having no social contacts, parents also find it hard to seek out these services in new places. Lack of documents like Aadhar and ration cards deprives them from having ready access to these facilities.

Even though documents are not required to seek admission till Grade 8, yet school authorities demand documents at times. Children also shared that they do not get the transfer certificates from their original schools to join new ones, and when they go back to their native places, they find that their names have already been removed from their old schools.

3.1 Introduction and Background

The Construction Industry in India accounts for 11 per cent of the country's GDP, and is the second-largest industry after the agriculture sector, with an estimated workforce of 32.4 million people.^{vi} Many rural poor migrating to cities get absorbed in this industry. The employment opportunities in this industry are characterized by low wages, irregular employment, and absence of social security measures; poor housing, and exploitative working conditions. A vast majority of workers from the industry are un-skilled and can be categorized as vulnerable population groups at the risk of being left behind under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Children in families with construction labor as the primary source of income face enormous vulnerabilities. Not only do they have to deal with vulnerabilities related to continuous migration, lack of daycare/crèche facilities, poor housing, poor sanitation and hygiene, limited access to education and health services, but also vulnerabilities related to lack of safety and protection at construction sites. This chapter aims to draw attention to the vulnerabilities of the children of construction workers, which will also highlight the status of their access to services and schemes of the government.

3.2 Data Collection

Data has been collected from the hotspot located in various construction sites in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). Out of the 100 families in the study, 89 percent of them shared that they migrate continuously and keep changing their place of residence in search of better work opportunities. More than half of the families (56 percent) came from Bihar, followed by Madhya Pradesh (33 percent), a small percentage came from rural Rajasthan and one each from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. 93 of the families had children. Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

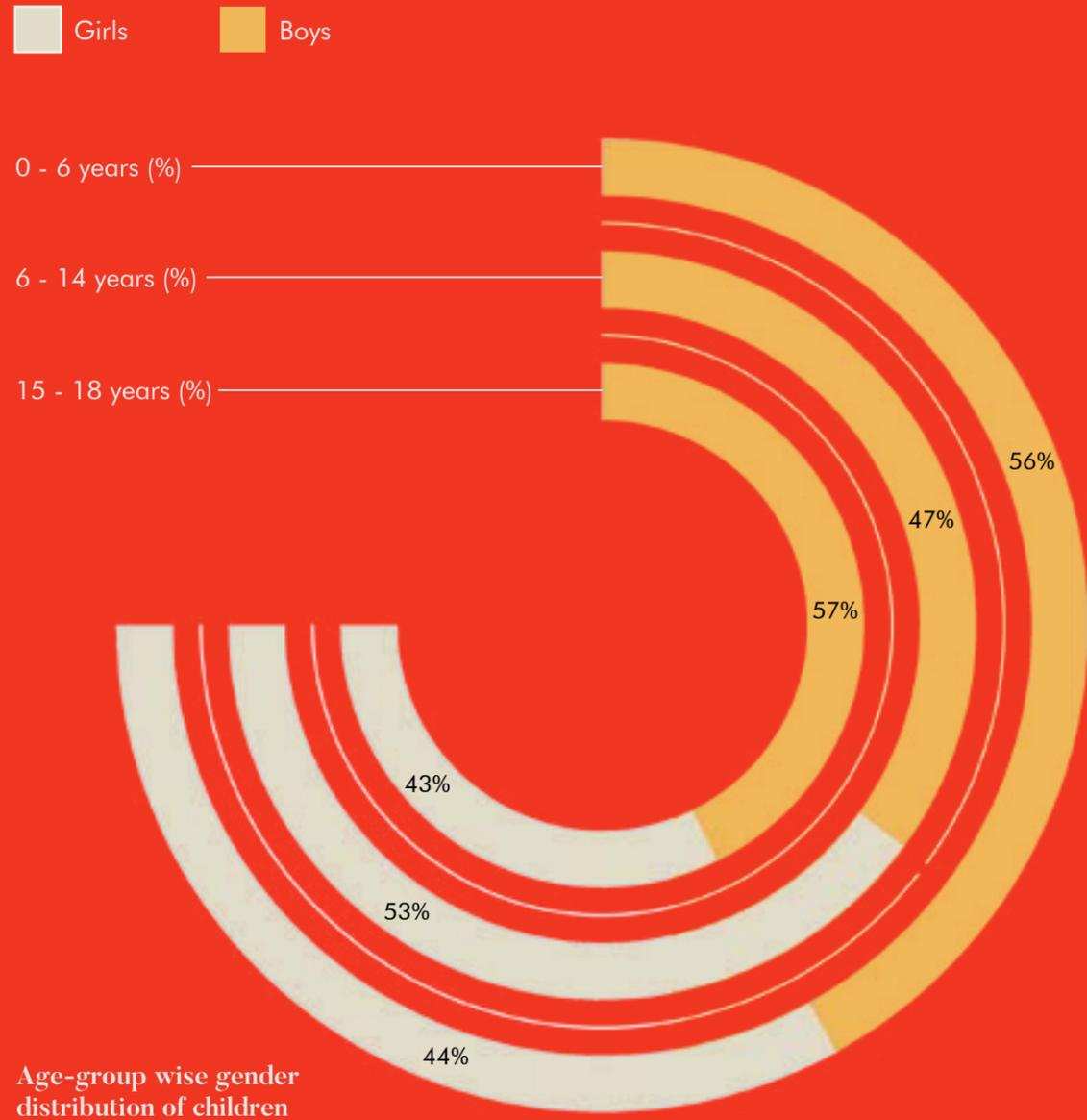
3.3 Findings

Table 1: Manifestation of Vulnerability in Construction Workers Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	Average monthly earning of the construction worker was reported at Rs. 3498; calculating to an annual income of Rs. 41,976/-. Further, the construction industry does not employ round the year.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Only 8 out of 53 children in the 3-6 years age group accessed Anganwadi services, thereby missing out on vital nutrition and development services. More than half the families did not have ration cards and had to purchase essential food items from the open market at higher rates.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The family annual out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health was calculated at Rs. 12,440, which is higher than the national average of Rs. 11,971 at the all India level.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The primary data from the household survey reports that 66% of adult women and men in the community did not have any formal schooling. The average annual out of pocket expenditure on education by a family was reported Rs.2610/ reflecting education was not free as mandated, and family inability to invest in the education of the children.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	Only 34% of adult women and men had some form of formal schooling. Disaggregated gender-wise, 27% women and 40% of men had attended some kind of education. Child marriage was prevalent and perceived to be for the safety and protection of girl children. More than half the women expressed they did not feel safe in their neighbourhoods.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	54% of families accessed drinking water from local tube/bore-wells. 34% of families purchased drinking water from tankers or drums. The focus group discussions reported frequent issues of water-borne diseases. 29% of the families used community toilets while the others used shared toilet facilities located outside their homes.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	The focus group discussions reported there is no concept of a kitchen. Cooking is done outside the home in temporary make-shift facilities. The majority were dependent on firewood and cow dung cakes as a fuel source.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Households reported that they did not have a steady income through the year as they migrated back and forth throughout the year. Women and even children contributed to the household income.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and essential services and upgrade slums.	Majority of the families lived in single rooms taken on rent in the compound provided by the contractor. The quality of housing is sub-standard, yet costs them anywhere between Rs.3000-3500/month. Young men used shared accommodation in the locality.

Demographic Profile of children



Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 233 children 93 families:

- 52 percent are Boys
- 48 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 41 percent (95) are below 6 years of age.
- 39 percent (92) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 20 percent (46) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	44	53	43	111
Boys	56	47	57	122
Total (N)	95	92	46	233



Access to Services by Children - Survival and Nutrition Specific

Access to Mid-Day Meals

As a large number of children are not attending schools and they are deprived of mid-day meals as well.

Access to PDS and ration cards

A BPL ration card makes the household eligible for various government subsidies and special provisions under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Several families do not have a ration card, and hence they are not able to access food items from the Public Distribution System. They have no option but to rely on the market to buy food.

Access to SRHR Services

Girls were not aware of sexual and reproductive health care. They have never been approached by any Asha worker or any other health care staff to spread awareness on sexual and reproductive health.

Access to health services and entitlements

These families live in single-room houses, and there is no concept of a kitchen. Health and hygiene of people is at risk since cooking is done outside the home in temporary make-shift facilities.

The focus group discussion with the women and children brought out that by and large, they do not have access to the government health care services. In the absence of quality health care services, the community is forced to access health services from local private doctors and spending out of their own pockets for health care. Some of them also reported rude behaviour by the government health care providers and instances of discrimination and prejudice. Non-availability of free medicines from government facilities was also cited as a barrier to access public health services.

“The staff are very rude, and the lines are very long. We have to miss out on a day’s work/wage for a single visit. Further, we often have to buy medicines from the outside and diagnostic tests also have to be done from outside. So we prefer to avoid them”

A women from the community

Access of Children to Anganwadi Services

As it is reflected in the figure given below, only 15 per cent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years, have been accessing Anganwadi services. The access of girls and boys are comparable and almost the same. Details are given in **Table-3**.

Being urban migrant workers, construction workers can claim child care services under the Rajiv Gandhi crèche facilities. However, very few children are accessing any form of early childhood care and education. Absence of Anganwadi centres is one of the primary reasons behind poor access. During the focus group discussions, women from these families reported that there are no Anganwadi centres in the compound where they live, and these are located at a distance which makes it difficult for their children to access their services. They also do not have any transportation facility to send children to Anganwadi centres. According to them, the Anganwadi or even Asha workers do not visit them, and neither do they encourage them to send their children to the centres. Given the fact that both parents are almost always working to make both ends meet, children are left in the care of elder siblings, often young girls themselves. These children, hence, are deprived of early childhood care and education, therefore missing an essential foundation for further growth and development.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	86%	14%	53%	84%	16%	47%	85%	15%	100%
Number	24	4	28	21	4	25	45	8	53



Access to Services by Children - Education Specific

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, 35 per cent of children are not attending school. Percentage of dropouts is not very different for boys and girls. Thirty-three per cent of girls are not attending schools while the figure for boys is 37 per cent. Details are given in the **Table No.4.**

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 41 per cent of children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. The situation for girls is more alarming, and almost half of all the girls in the age group of 15-18 years have dropped out. Among boys, 38 per cent are not attending school. Details are given in the **Table No.5.**

This shows that a considerable number of children are not attending schools. Without education, these children will continue to be trapped in inter-generational poverty.

Different factors explain the lack of access to education services with migration being an important one. These Families move from one place to another in search of work, making it difficult for children to continue in a school for a long time. Being unfamiliar with the new homes and having no social contacts, parents also find it hard to seek out these services in new places. The lack of documents like Aadhar and ration cards also deprives them of having ready access to these facilities. Even though no documents are required to seek admission until Grade 8, yet school authorities do demand documents at times. Children also shared that they do not get the transfer certificates from their primary schools to join new ones, and when they go back to their native places, they find that their names have already been removed from their old schools. Thus, they fall between the cracks in the system and miss out on mandatory schooling, a fundamental right.

Access to skill enhancement/vocational training

None of the girls in the age group of 15-18 years has received professional or skill enhancement training. One boy had received skills training out of the total 26 boys.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	33%	67%	53%	37%	63%	47%	35%	65%	100%
Number	16	33	49	16	27	43	32	60	92

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	45%	53%	43%	38%	62%	57%	41%	59%	100%
Number	9	11	20	10	16	26	19	27	46



Case Study

Barriers in Accessing Schooling

Gudiya, a 10-year-old girl from Vaishali, Jaipur, had to discontinue her education, as her name has been struck from the rolls in her school. Her father works at a construction site and her mother works as a domestic help in a nearby residential colony. During her last summer vacations, she went to Madhubani, Bihar along with her parents, who take an annual trip to their native place during the harvest season. Due to circumstances unknown to her, they stayed there for a month longer than expected this time. When she went back to school her teacher informed that her name has been removed from the school rolls. It broke her heart and she decided to take her parents to the school next day. Despite her parents' request, the teachers refused to readmit her. Now she helps her mother at home and at work place as well. She also mops the staircases and helps with domestic chores in nearby houses.

Despite her hardships, Gudiya is hopeful to go back to school again. With immense pride she showed us her old notebooks and report card. During the FGD, she went to each house and collected all children who are not going to school. Children shared that no teacher from the nearby government school has ever come to their habitation and helped them in securing admission to school.

Gudiya
Books
Chores

10y

Education



Concerns Related to Child Protection

Lack of access to protection services

Child Marriage

These families have a high incidence of early marriage, especially among girls. Eight out of the 20 girls, which means 40 per cent of the girls in the age group of 15 to 18 years were married, reporting high incidences of child marriages. Among boys, 8 per cent of them (2 out of 26) are already married.

People in the community are not aware of the child protection services. Children are not aware of the Child Helpline number 1098.

Perception of Safety

People in the community also shared that, at times, they do not feel safe while walking in their neighbourhood. A continuous threat of eviction and accompanying sense of uncertainty has also been felt by many in the community. It also emerged in focus group discussions that community spaces are not found safe by children and specifically girls.

Child Labour

A large number of girls in the community are engaged in household responsibilities. Majority of them contribute to do household work like child care, domestic work and also duties like fetching water and other household necessities for families. Boys shared in Focus group discussion that they were either working or seeking employment. Many of them start working once they become teenagers.

Access to Opportunities of Participation by Children

Children do not have many opportunities to participate in decision-making. Absence of children from participation in the decisions affecting their lives is reflected at all levels; including family and community. Girls are hardly provided with an opportunity to exercise their agency and choice.

“No one asks us about what we want to do in life. We are only ordered by the parents as well as relatives and people in the community”

A 15 year girl from the community



Case Study

Child Bride

Rani

16y

Girl
Bride
Mother
PHC

Rani, a 16 years old girl, was married off six months back by her parents who hail from Bhagalpur, Bihar, and had migrated to Jaipur some time back. They stay in the construction worker colony. A quiet and shy young girl, Rani was sitting with other children in the discussion. While discussing reproductive health issues and awareness about them, a girl pointed out that Rani is expecting her first child and has come to her parents' house for her delivery. Rani hardly spoke as all the questions and concerns addressed to her were responded to by her mother who replied on her behalf. She informed us that they went to the Primary health center once but it was too crowded and very far for them. Rani shared that she felt discomfort because of the arduous journey.

Rani seemed underweight and weak but was not taking any IFA tablet or any other nutritional supplements. There was no immunisation record. Her mother shared that they would go to a private doctor soon.



3.4 Recommendations

Building Child Rights Perspective into the BOCW Act and complete utilization of collected Cess

A model welfare scheme under the BOCW Act emphasizes easy registration of workers, life and disability cover, health and maternity cover, education, housing, skills development, pensions, awareness building etc. All these provisions will have direct implications on children in terms of education, skills development, disability and necessary facilities. Child rights organizations need to review the Acts, and the model schemes from the child rights required perspective and pilot action plans.

Using SDG Framework in Monitoring Children of Construction Workers

Given the SDG framework has a time stipulation, it will add value to track the progress within the SDG framework. SDG perspective should ensure focussed disaggregated data and monitoring of their status. With ten years to achieve the SDG, families working in the construction industry undoubtedly need special policy provisions to achieve SDG both nationally and globally.

Building Host-Migrant Children/Community Interface

The local governance at the Panchayat and Municipal level does not include these families into their development plans. Civil society engagement can play an essential role in promoting interface between children from the communities of the construction workers and that of the local communities to promote a healthy and inclusive environment for all. Schools, local festivals etc. can become sites and spaces for interactive interfaces for children.

Broaden Policy Framework to Include Construction Workers' Children and Households

- ICDS and Asha services to reach out to migrant children and their families.
- School Management Committees (SMCs) and local teachers to promote a welcoming attitude and environment for migrant children to register and attend schools regularly.
- Child labour prohibition Act needs to be implemented so that even those who drop out of schools can be identified and re-enrolled into schools.
- Special programmes like Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrition Mission), Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Care schemes, Maternal Health Care schemes and Health Insurance schemes to adopt a more open and need-based framework to include children and households from the construction industry.

Mandatory registration of children and workers

They need identity cards to access benefits under the BOCW Act and other legislations. Children need to be registered by the Anganwadi, school and primary health care systems which are mandated to monitor and ensure that people within their catchment areas are not left out. Proper documentation and systematic follow up of the children and the households with regards to their access to rights and development schemes will go a long way in ensuring that these children and their families are not left behind.



04

Children of Domestic Workers

Introduction and Background
Data collection
Findings
Recommendations

13 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years have dropped out from schools.

There is absence of crèche/day care services in the community which puts burden on the domestic workers. It also compromises the care and development needs of children.

Male siblings are very controlling and do not allow their sisters to move around in community. Girls complained that their brothers do not even allow them to wear western clothes.

4.1 Introduction and Background

Domestic workers, working in private households, comprise a significant part of the workforce in informal employment and are among the most vulnerable groups of workers globally. They often work without any contract and are unregistered and excluded from the scope of legislation. Domestic work in India is characterized by a high number of female workers.

Domestic work includes issues such as minimum wages not being paid, unspecified working hours, absence/lack of paid leave, no job security, absence of maternity and other work benefits (such as child care, pensions, medical insurance). In the absence of any national policy on their needs, domestic workers are regularly exploited. They are mainly unorganized and have low socio-economic status.

4.2 Data Collection

Hotspot for data collection was a colony in Lal Kuan Badarpur which is located at the outskirts of Delhi. Data was collected from a total of 100 households. Out of these 100 households, only 79 per cent had children.

Socio-economic status of Households

Lal Kuan, Badarpur is an unauthorized colony on the peripheries of an affluent neighbourhood. The term “unauthorized colonies” refers to residential areas that have mushroomed in Delhi; which are mainly inhabited by the poor and migrants and lack authorization by civic authorities. The houses lack basic amenities like drainage, sewerage and disposal of garbage. Majority of the residing families belong to lower-income groups.

The primary data reported 23% of the households were rented, and the rest were owned. The houses were one or two-room settlements. Seventy-four per cent of the households have separate toilets and rest 26 per cent rely on community toilets. Seventy-three per cent of the Domestic workers belonged to scheduled castes, 20 per cent from general categories and the rest are from Other Backward classes.

4.3 Findings

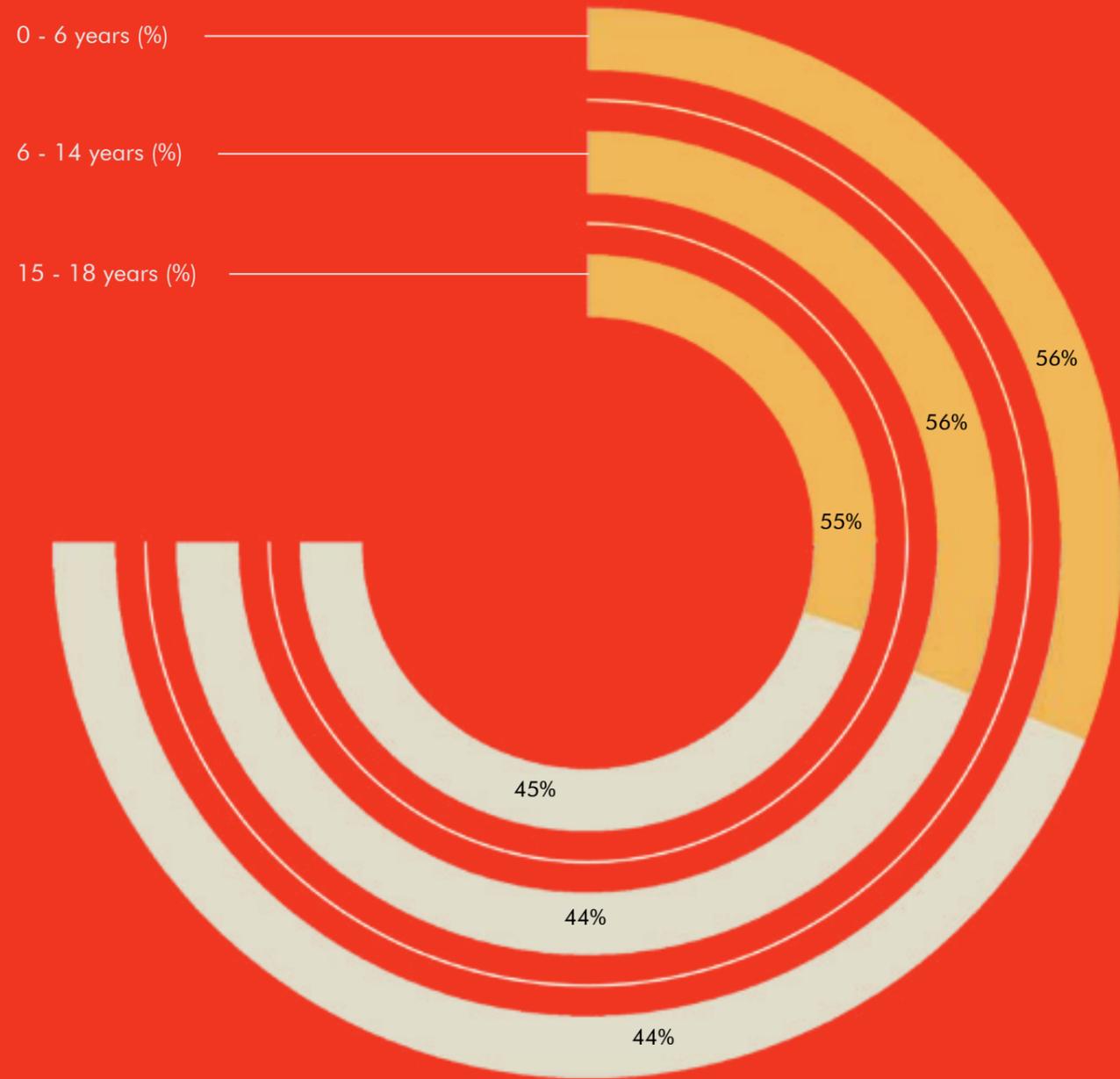
Table 1: Manifestation of Vulnerability in Domestic workers Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	Average monthly earning of a domestic worker is as low as Rs. 7,528, often working 28-30 days a month.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	<p>The primary data reported that only 49 per cent of the families had BPL ration cards; most of the community procure ration from the open market at higher rates.</p> <p>The needs of crèche/daycare for younger children remain unaddressed for the large numbers of domestic workers.</p> <p>69% of children in the 3-6 years age accessed Anganwadi services. The FGDs with community confirmed availability of Anganwadi centres near the community.</p>
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	<p>The average annual OOPe on health care among families is as high as Rs.34, 417, which is almost three times higher than the national average of Rs. 11,971.</p> <p>A very high annual health expenditure is also indicative of the poor health conditions of the families.</p>
04	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	Only 65 % of the families reported that adult members had attended some form of formal schooling. 35% of the families did not have adult members with any formal education.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	<p>Disaggregated gender-wise 76% males and 53% of females attended some form of schooling.</p> <p>The primary data has indicated that three fourth of the households don't feel safe walking in their neighbourhood.</p> <p>57% of the households reported fear of violence from dominant caste members in the community. 43% of the household shared that they fear violence from non-state actors like local gangs and goons. 5% of the families reported facing threats of eviction.</p>
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	<p>The primary data from the group reported that 75% of the households had piped tap connection inside the house and 15 % of the families depends on piped tap water located in the community. 6 % have reported other sources of drinking water. 30 % of the families are buying drinking water and on an average spending Rs 70 per week.</p> <p>74 % of the house-holds had individual toilets in the homes and 26 per cent relied on community toilets.</p>
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	Domestic workers if compared to other SEVP groups in rural areas have improved access to necessary facilities like piped water, toilets, clean fuel usage etc.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Only 8% of the household members had salaried jobs. The male members are either employed as a domestic worker, sweeper/sanitation worker, Gardner, driver, rickshaw puller, mason work, painter, plumber, security guard, electrician, mechanic etc.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	The primary data reported 23% of the HH lived in rented houses and rest owned their small homes. The houses were one or two-room settlement.

Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Girls Boys



Gender Disaggregation of Children:

- Out of a total of 191 children 79 families:
- 55 percent(106) are Boys
 - 45 percent(85) are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 13 percent (25) are below 6 years of age.
- 54 percent (104) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 32 percent (62) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	44	44	45	85
Boys	56	56	55	106
Total (N)	25	104	62	191



Access to Services by Children - Impacting survival and development Rights

Access of Children to Anganwadi and Crèche Services

Needs of a large section of women domestic workers for crèche/daycare service that can take care of infants and small children remain unaddressed. A daycare which could address concerns of long working hours of these mothers and provide quality care and also supplement the existing Anganwadi centres. In the absence of these services, elder siblings and elderly look after the young children when their mothers are away at work. Many times elder female siblings are entrusted with the responsibility of child care which often forces them to drop out early from schools.

As it is reflected in **Table No.3**, only 44 per cent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services. There is not much difference in the access of girls and boys as while 43 per cent of the girls in 3-6 years age group have not been accessing the Anganwadi services the proportion of boys who are not accessing the services is 45 per cent.

Access to mid-day meals

The quality of mid-day meal is a matter of concern for children and parents. Hence some of them avoid consuming it at school altogether.

Access to health services and entitlements

Stone quarrying and crushing are recognized as highly hazardous work with severe occupational health hazards. Lal Kuan, Badarpur is home of former mine workers and stone crushers ailing from silicosis. Silicosis is an occupational disease caused by the inhalation of particles of silica, mostly from quartz in rocks, sand and similar substances. Several lives were lost in the past from silicosis, tuberculosis and other breathing ailments in the area. Mostly migrant workers were engaged in this highly unorganized and hazardous industry. The 100 households covered for the study had families of these workers as well. These mines were closed after a Supreme Court order. People lost their employment and income, while also having to spend on their ailments and health-related issues which puts an additional financial burden on the family further lessening economic resources that can be spent on children's well-being. Access to health services is limited and people are not happy with government services. They complained about not getting free medicines, as per mandate.

Access to PDS

Most of the community is procuring ration from the open market at higher rates. As reported during community discussions, the government runs a fair price shop which opens only once in a month, and there is no prior information about the date of its functioning. The families reported that they often miss out buying ration from ration shop as they are away at work most of the times. The families generally buy ration at a higher price from the local shops. Low access to state-run subsidized services limits a household's capacity to provide basic necessary dietary diverse nutrition to children.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	43%	57%	39%	45%	55%	61%	44%	56%	100%
Number	3	4	7	5	6	11	8	10	18



Access to Services by Children - Impacting development rights

Access to schooling

Access to schooling in the age group of 6-14 years

The Rights of Children to free and compulsory education act (RTE) mandates the state to provide school and education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Community recognition of the importance of education and their intent to educate children in this group is high and reflects in overall utilization of educational services by the families. As it is indicated in the figure given below, 7 per cent of children are not attending school. Percentage of dropouts is the same for boys and girls that is 7 per cent. As compared to other socially excluded groups covered in the study, access to schooling among children of domestic workers is relatively better. Details are given in **Table No.4.**

Preference for private schooling and English medium school is evident among children of domestic workers. Many children are attending private schools. These are low-fee paying private schools situated in the localities where they live. People consider them to be better than their government counterparts. It shows that increasingly people do not trust the quality of education in government schools.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 13 per cent of children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. There is not much difference in terms of access to schooling among boys and girls. Details are given in **Table No.5.**

As shared by the community in focus group discussion, several boys usually drop out after 8th standard, especially after they fail to qualify their exams. The no-detention policy under RTE Act mandated that no student between Class I and Class 8 could be detained. However, with the recent scrapping of no-detention policy, the number of out of school children in these marginalized communities can further increase.

Access to skill enhancement/vocational training

Among all the 62 children in the age group of 15-18 years, none has received any type of vocational or skill enhancement training. Access to higher education is almost negligible. Children shared in FGDs that only highly motivated students are continuing their education through open/distance learning.

Access to scholarships

The scholarships are aimed at providing additional support to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and address the economic limitations these families may face while educating their children. The access to scholarship by children from the group is shallow. Private schooling and lack of documents are some of the reasons behind this poor access.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	7%	93%	44%	7%	93%	56%	7%	93%	100%
Number	3	43	46	4	54	58	7	97	104

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	14%	86%	45%	12%	88%	55%	13%	87%	100%
Number	4	24	28	4	30	34	8	54	62



Concerns Related to Child Protection

Lack of Safety

The FGDs with children highlighted that many female students prefer to opt for distance education/open learning after elementary school due to concerns of safety during the commute. Girls are even scared to walk alone during the daytime as they find it very unsafe due to incidents of sexual harassment by the men in the locality.

Access to opportunities for participation by children

Children shared their participation in small decisions like the choice of clothes, food etc. at home. The FGDs with girls reported that male siblings are very controlling and do not allow them to move around in the neighbourhood or even wear western clothes.



4.4 Recommendations

Comprehensive legislation on domestic work in India

Bring domestic work under comprehensive law providing labour protection and other social services to people in domestic work, which has become the most prominent employment opportunity for poor women today. Ensure child related services are included within the legislation.

Affordable and safe daycare facilities for children of domestic workers

The community women have expressed the need for safe and secure daycare facilities for children.

Remedial education to support their learning

Many children have reported that they need extra support in their studies. Their parents are not able to provide them with tuitions or coaching. The classrooms are crowded, and teachers often fail to support children in understanding concepts.

Awareness about the available opportunities for skill training and advancement

Various skills training are offered under the National Skills Development Mission initiated by the government. These skills training can connect young people to varied livelihood opportunities. However, the community of domestic workers lacks awareness about these opportunities. There is a need for organizing a campaign to make the community aware of these services.

05

Children of Musahar Families

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

Children from Musahar families face discrimination in accessing services at school as well as Anganwadi centres. Prejudices of service providers towards the caste of Musahar children affects their access to rights.

Children shared that alcohol consumption by parents and others in the community has been a source of stress and anxiety for them as it leads to fights and quarrels between their parents and also to fights with outsiders. They also reported that these fights disturb the home environment and leave them with little space or mental peace to study at home in the evenings.

About half of the children in the age group of 3-6 years are not accessing Anganwadi services.

18 percent children have dropped out from the school before completing elementary schooling.

5.1 Introduction and Background

According to 2011 census, nearly 201.4 million persons in India were enumerated as scheduled caste, of which 3 million (about 1.5 per cent) were enumerated as belonging to the Musahar caste. Musahars are mainly found in four states^{vii}. Bihar (89.2%), Jharkhand (1.7%), Uttar Pradesh (8.4%) and West Bengal (0.7%). The twenty-seven lakh plus^{viii} Musahar community in Bihar is third largest among Dalit communities in the State and constitutes one of the poorest communities at the State as well as at the national level. The Musahars face exclusion and discrimination from both general caste communities as well as from other Dalit communities leading to their current situation of chronic poverty, landlessness, lack of assets, illiteracy and unemployment. The community is predominantly rural with 96 per cent of them living in rural areas and 4 per cent in urban areas^{ix}. Only about 2.7 per cent Musahars own land while 92.5 per cent are reported as landless agricultural workers, 4.0 per cent as other workers, and 0.8 per cent as working in household industries. 97 per cent of them are employed in the informal unorganized sector. Considering these challenges children of musahar community are vulnerable to miss out on realization of their rights. This chapter aims to bring out an overview of the Musahar children's access to their rights and entitlements.

5.2 Data collection

Hotspot for data collection were Musahar tolas of two blocks Dhanurua and Masauri, Patna district. Data was collected from a total of 100 households of Musahar families. Out of these 100 households, 97 households had children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.



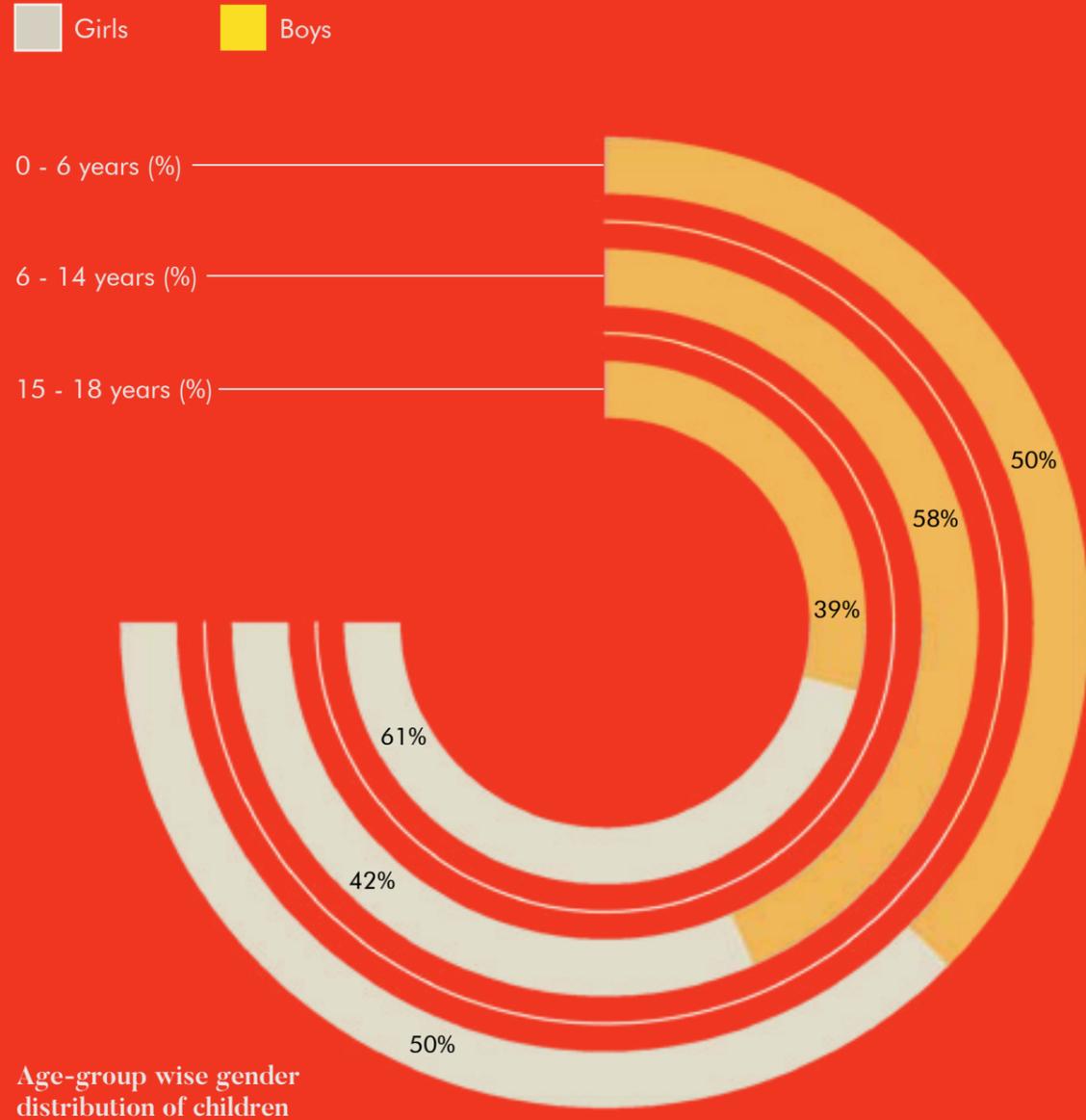
5.3 Findings

Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Musahar Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The average monthly income of a musahar household is Rs 6784. 55 percent of the families have reported irregular earnings. The primary data has also corroborated the fact that the land ownership among musahar is low and only 3 percent of the households owned land.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	78% of families possessed ration cards; with 69 percent having BPL cards.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3)	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The primary data reported the households spend Rs 28,101 Out of Pocket Expenses (OOPE) annually on health, about double the national average. This reflects the poor health status and a dependence on private health care providers.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The level and quality of literacy among Musahar is quite low. Nearly 78 per cent of Musahar populations were reported illiterate in 2011 census. Less than 1% of the community is educated above higher/senior secondary school. The primary survey reported that a household makes an average annual Out of pocket expenditure of Rs 1416 on education.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	Literacy rate among Musahar women continue to be very poor. Being landless, they often face threat of eviction and violence by the dominant castes. Brewing alcohol continues to be an important livelihood for the community. Even as women too are involved in brewing alcohol, they also face violence both within the family and also from customers who come to the habitation for alcohol purchase and consumption.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	98 percent of the households are dependent on handpumps for drinking water, fetching water is mostly assigned to children.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	As per primary data, 96 percent of the Musahar households were electrified. Only 6 percent of the Musahar households studied had LPG connections, even as Ujjwala scheme is a flagship scheme.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Members reported irregular employment and only for less than six months in a year. 92.5 per cent are reported landless agricultural workers and others are casual workers. All these are characterized by lack of any labour protection.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. (SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	The proportion of Musahars residing in kutchha houses is 69 percent according to primary data which is considerably higher than the national average of 42 per cent households residing in a Kutchha houses.

Demographic Profile of children



Gender Disaggregation of Children:

- Out of a total of 272 children in these households:
- 51 percent are Boys
- 49 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 26 percent (70) are below 6 years of age.
- 49 percent (132) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 26 percent (70) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	50	42	61	134
Boys	50	58	39	138
Total (N)	70	132	70	272



Access to Services by Children - Impacting Survival and Development Rights

Access of Children to Anganwadi Services

Child malnutrition is an important public health problem in Bihar. According to the National Family Health Survey 2015–2016, 48.3% of children are stunted, 20.8% are wasted, and 43.9% are underweight. The prevalence of anemia among children 6 months to 5 years of age is still at 63.5 percent.^x The Maha Dalit mission^{xi} found evidence of high poverty, food insecurity and chronic undernutrition among Musahars, often bordering on starvation. Combined impact of low incomes and low spending on food among Musahars has resulted in high cases of malnutrition and high morbidity. Despite endemic undernutrition among the community, the primary data is indicating towards only 53 percent utilization of anganwadi services by children in the age group of 3-6 years which means 47 percent are not accessing Anganwadi services.

As it is reflected in **Table No.3** access of girls is little less than boys as 50 percent of them are accessing these services while 56 percent of boys in 3-6 years age group have been accessing the Anganwadi services. The proportion of boys who are not accessing the services is 44 percent.

“We have no option but to send our children to the main village as Centre is located there. But our children are not cared the way children from other castes are cared in the Centre.”

A mother from the community.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	50%	50%	49%	44%	56%	51%	47%	53%	100%
Number	13	13	26	12	15	27	25	28	53

Access to mid-day meals

FGDs at Sonachak village reported that children are not happy with the quantity of food provided.

“The quantity of kichidi served in school is very less and I remain hungry. After cycling for so long to reach school I feel hungry even after eating Khichidi.”

A 12 year boy from the community.

“We leave our houses in the morning without proper food and stay in in the school till 3 pm. Our houses are far from the school and we cannot go in between. The mid-day meal is very important for us as we feel hungry otherwise. But we should get more quantity”

A 14 year boy from the community.

“Teachers at our school say that Musahars send their children only to receive mid-day meals.”

A 14 year boy from the community.



Access to health services and entitlements

As reported during FGDs, the community often lacks faith in ASHA workers. The ASHAs are mostly from dominant communities who often shy away from visiting the musaheri tolas. The alcohol consumption and brewing by musahars are some of the reasons cited by ASHAs to not visit the tolas. This behaviour by ASHA denies health entitlements, especially, to musahar women and children. The health sub-centres at Panchayat level are largely nonfunctional. The PHC faces shortage of resources and poor coverage. For example, it was reported during FGDs that there are only 2 ambulances to cover entire block. Only 50 percent of the deliveries are institutionalised^{xii}. The rest still depend on home deliveries or private facilities.

As shared by community, doctors do not come regularly in public health care facilities; pathology tests and medicines are also not available. In this situation they have no option but to rely on private services which has direct implications on children's health in these poor households.

Access to PDS

Ration card is an extremely important document when it comes to having access to ration at subsidised rates. Not having a ration card can make people ineligible for receiving food grains at subsidised rates. The FGDs reported that families from Gosaimath village have to buy ration from open market as the Fair price shop is located at a distance of 10 km. It was reported that the stock arrives only once in 2-3 months. Women have also reported ill-treatment from the FPS dealers. The lack of access to subsidised food grains has large implications on the health and nutritional status of children. The poor household income often leaves little scope for a Musahar household to prioritize the nutritional needs of a growing child and make expenditure on same.

Access to SRHR services

Access to sexual and reproductive health services is very low in the community. Adolescent girls hardly have any avenues to access knowledge and information about the importance of sexual and reproductive health.

Access to Services by Children - Impacting Development rights

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, 18 percent children are not attending school. Percentage of drop outs is same for boys and girls. 18 percent is a huge number considering the fact that national average of drop out rate is very low as compared to 18 percent. It shows that children from Musahar community are falling behind the children from other communities. Details are given in **Table No.4**. As shared by the people in the community access to schools has increased in last few years as earlier very few Musahar families would send their children to school. An increased emphasis on infrastructure improvement under SSA making primary

schools available within 1 km of habitation and secondary schools within 3 km has also played a role in improving the access as now primary school is located within the Musahar tola. Local Civil society organisations have also played important role. They have appointed volunteers to provide additional habitation level educational support to children to ensure their regular attendance in schools and also to motivate the community towards educating their children. However, still there 18 percent children who have dropped out before completing Grade 8.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 19 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. Unfortunately more number of girls are dropping out in this age group as compared to boys. Details are given in **Table No.5**. The daily routine of a school going Musahar child includes at least 2-3 hours of work at home. For boys it is grazing animals and gathering fodder etc. For girls it includes preparing and serving breakfast for all at home. They also have to make the evening meal for the family. Responsibilities of girls increase manifold if there are young children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, sick people, elderly or guests at home. The FGDs with boys and girls unequivocally bring out the fact that more children drop out of school after 8th standard. The FGDs were also able to highlight long absence of boys from schools due to engaging in temporary wage work during harvest season in the months of August to October. Some families in these villages make a living by alcohol brewing, which also puts children at risk of missing school as they support their families by fetching water, collecting firewood and washing utensils etc.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	18%	82%	42%	18%	82%	58%	18%	82%	100%
Number	10	46	56	14	62	76	24	108	132

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	21%	79%	61%	15%	85%	39%	19%	81%	100%
Number	9	34	43	4	23	27	13	57	70

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Only 3 percent (2 out of 70) of children in the age group of 15-18 years have received any kind of vocational training.

Access to scholarships

Many children do not receive scholarships as they are not regular or on time at school. As reported in previous section many children are supporting their parents in domestic or wage work and that is why they go absent from school for weeks at stretch.

Concerns Related to Child Protection

Child labour

Child labour is prevalent among Musahar children. Parents often encourage children to do wage work in peak agricultural seasons. They also expect them to accompany them to nearby towns for work. Children reported that these practices get them engaged and interested in wage work, slowly taking away their interest from school and studies. A child may usually earn half of adult wage. Girls are mostly engaged in domestic work. Boys earn as much as Rs.150/day when they take up non-agriculture casual work. However, this type of work was available only for about 10 days a month. Many children are engaged in wage work. Few of them are earning wages between INR 3000 to INR 7000.

Early marriage

It was reported that early marriages are still prevalent in the community. Young girls with very little or almost no knowledge are married off at an early age. Primary data has indicated the same as 23 percent of girls in the age group of 15-18 years got married. This proportion is very low among boys. Details are given in **Table No.6.**

Table 6: Marital status of children in the 15-18 years age group

Marital Status	Male (15-18 years)		Female (15-18 years)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Married	2	7%	10	23%
Unmarried	25	93%	33	77%
Total	27	100%	33	100%

Alcohol brewing and anxiety experienced by children

Alcohol consumption has been a big issue in the community, with some families brewing and selling alcohol for income. There is demand and even support for brewing by dominant castes. Children are often assigned tasks related to alcohol brewing like collecting water and firewood, washing glasses and utensils etc. Children in FGDs reported their concern about this practice. This, in their opinion leads to fights and quarrels between their parents and also to fights with other families in the tola. They also reported how these fights disturbs the home environment and leave them with little space or mental peace to study at home in the evenings. This evidently has been a source of stress and anxiety for children in the community.

Access to opportunities of participation by children

Children reported that they do not have equal say in various household decision-making processes especially in decisions related to major household purchases, their education and health etc. Decisions pertaining to female children are taken by their parents only. This includes decisions with regards to continuation of education, marriage or undertaking work.

Aspirations of Children and Challenges in Realising Them

Many girls want to become teachers when they grow up. One reason could be that teachers are likely to be the highest in the employment ladder among the people who they come across in their daily lives. The boys were little more aspirational and ambitious as some of them wanted to be IAS, IPS officers, doctor, movie star etc. Children were also aware about existing caste based discrimination and wanted to abolish it completely in future.



5.4 Recommendations

Improve and promote existing provisions to improve educational access among Musahar children

There are a number of Government run residential schools for Scheduled castes in Bihar. Each school is provided with infrastructure for boarding and teaching learning facilities for an average of 200 children. Besides it there are around 400 KGBVs in Bihar, However Musahar children's access to these schools is limited. There is a need to make Musahar families aware about these schools.

Promote inclusive and equitable educational opportunities by recognising Musahar community as a specific sub group

There is enough evidence to show that the wider society including administration practices untouchability, discrimination and social exclusion against Musahars. Special focus is important to sensitize the service providers and make development programmes work for Musahar children.

Track disaggregated data for Musahar children and communities

It is critical to generate the disaggregated data on Musahar children and their access to services. This data should be utilised for planning and improving the delivery of development programmes for the community with a focus on children and youth.

Livelihood promotion

It is critical to generate the disaggregated data on Musahar children and their access to services. This data should be utilised for planning and improving the delivery of development programmes for the community with a focus on children and youth.

06

Children of Pahari Korwa Community

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

3 out of 4 children in the age group of 3-6 years have not been accessing services at Aaganwadi centre.

7 out of 10 girls in the age group of 15-18 years have dropped out from the school.

There has been a practice of early marriage among Pahari Korwas. As shared by the community members they generally get their girls married by the age of 15-16 years. Primary data has indicated the same as 7 out of the 26 girls in the age-group of 15 to 18 are already married which amounts to 27%.

Poor physical connectivity puts children, especially girls at risk while on their way to school. This is specifically the case in accessing secondary level schooling. Female students have to cross streams, forests to reach secondary school which could be as far as 5-10 km away from their habitation.

6.1 Introduction and Background

A total of 75 tribal groups have been categorised by the Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)^{xiii}. Pahari Korwa is among them. PVTGs reside in 18 States as well as in the Union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands^{xiv}. The study covered Pahari Korwa staying in Balrampur District in Chhattisgarh state. According to government records, there are 12,555 Pahari Korwa families in District Balrampur and 37,472 in Chhattisgarh state^{xv}. Some Korwa people are found in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. Pahari Korwa community faces a number of challenges and shrinking demography is key among them. This community performs very low on health and education parameters. Economically as well, Pahari Korwa live in poverty.

Pahari Korwa families make their living from traditional cropping. They also sell items for daily use made from the forest produce. Their livelihoods are challenged due to conflict between left wing extremism and state authorities. Pahari Korwa live in areas that are physically hard to reach, and hence face the challenge of not being able to access government services.

States and union territories build their annual plans for the development of the PVTGs, which are appraised by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and approved. These plans include development activities in Education, Health, Livelihood & Skill Development, Agricultural Development, Housing & Habitat, and Conservation of Culture etc.

6.2 Data collection

Data was collected from 100 households in six villages in the district of Balrampur, Chhattisgarh. 69 of these 100 households have children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted with children and mothers. Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

6.3 Findings

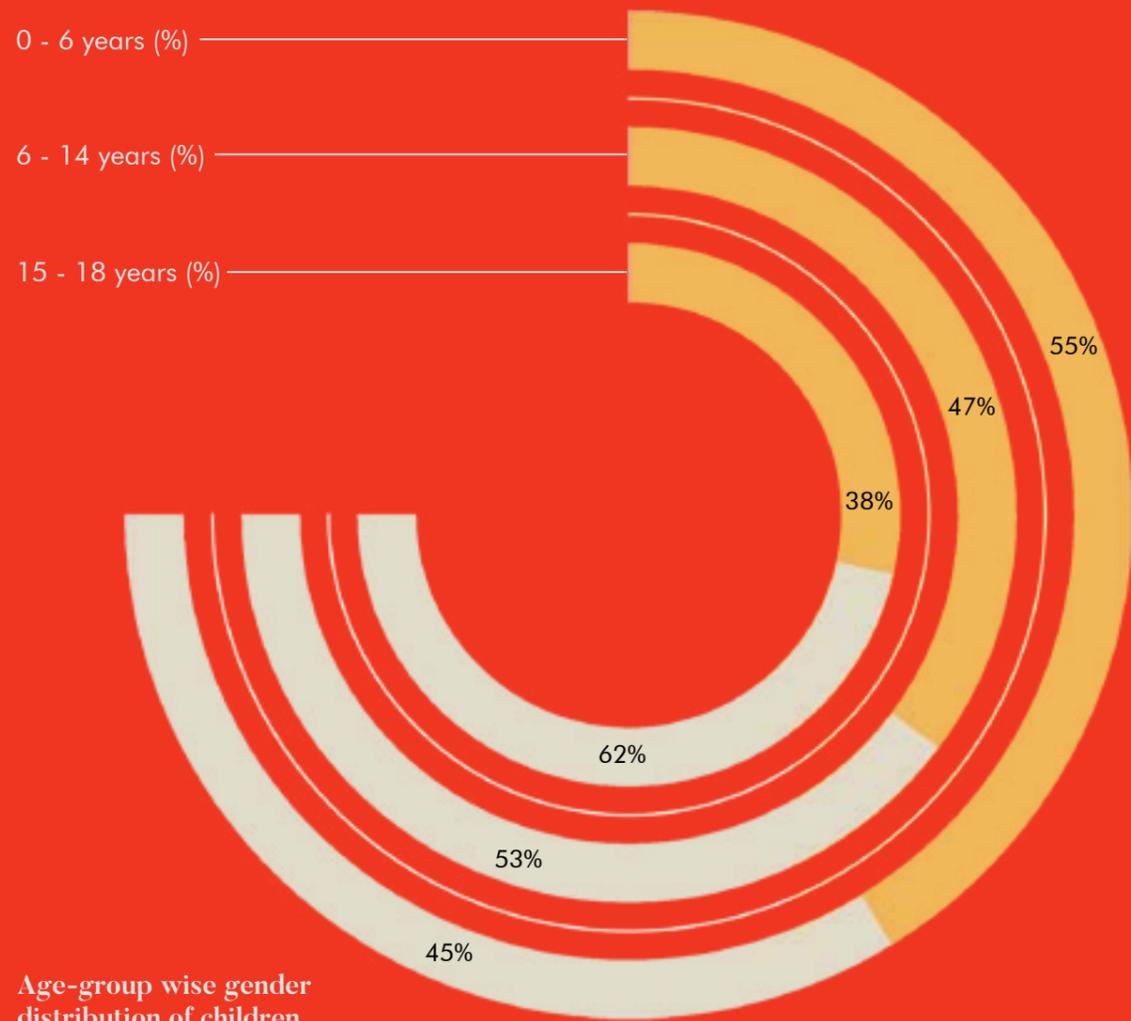
Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Pahari Korwa Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The monthly household income, calculated through the primary survey was reported to be Rs. 2,962/month. The annual household income was calculated at Rs.35,544/- in the same survey.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Only 19% of the children went to the Anganwadi.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3)	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	The annual OÖPE on health is very low among Pahari Korwa at Rs. 1160.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The primary data from the household survey reported that about 26% of men and women had had some level of formal schooling. Literacy levels are poor, more so for girls. The physical connectivity to these areas is poor and schools are often far away. Having to cross streams, forests etc to reach secondary school which could be as far as 5-10 km away from their habitation, girls more often drop out.
05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	FGDs confirmed the prevalence of early marriage among Pahari Korwas. The average age of marriage for males and females were found to be 15 and 13 years respectively. A female child is usually responsible for collecting firewood from the for-

			est which is the main source of fuel for Pahari Korwas households. Open defecation poses threats for safety, health and hygiene, especially for women. In the primary survey, it was reported that 74% of the households shared that they don't feel safe walking in their neighborhood. 39% feared threat of armed violence in the neighborhood as the surveyed districts have a history of left-wing extremism.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	56% of the households depend on hand-pumps for drinking water and 15% on covered wells. There is no piped water available in their area of habitation or their homes. Only 11% of the households had private toilets within the premises of their homes. Around 89 households used open fields for defecation.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	While electricity was available, a large number tapped electricity from the main lines. Only 34.62% of the households had a registered connection. The primary data from this study suggests that less than 2% of the households have an LPG connection. 98% of the households still rely on firewood for fuel and cooking purposes.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	In addition to selling their crops, they also sell everyday items such as "Supas", (rice cleaners made of bamboo) and other forest generated produce for their livelihood. Land ownership is in the name of males, co-ownership of land jointly in the names of women and men is not practiced.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. (SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	29% houses had a single room, 61% had two room and only 10% of the houses have three rooms. Only 10% of the houses have separate bathrooms. The kitchen is usually located outside the house. The utilisation of Indira Awaas Yojnaa is as low as 4% for the community.

Demographic Profile of children

Girls Boys



Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 196 children in these households:

- 47 percent are Boys
- 53 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 29 percent (56) are below 6 years of age.
- 50 percent (98) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 21 percent (42) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	45	53	62	103
Boys	55	47	38	93
Total (N)	56	98	42	196



Access to Services by Children : Survival and Nutrition Specific

Access to Mid-day meals

All the children who have been to school have got Mid-Day Meals. Those who are not attending schools lose out on the opportunity to get a free meal that can play an important role in their nutrition.

Access to SRHR Services

Adolescents denied having any discussion in families with regards to their sexual and reproductive health. Their schools also do not organize any programme where they can seek information.

Access of Children to Anganwadi services

As it is reflected in the figure given below, only 24 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services. Access of girls is little less than boys as only 21 percent of them are accessing these services while 27 percent of boys have been accessing the Anganwadi services. The proportion of girls who are not accessing the services is 79 percent. Details are given in **Table-3**.

Mothers in the community shared that the anganwadis do not open regularly. Women also shared that staff is generally hostile to them and their children. According to them staff criticizes the children of Pahari Korwas for being lazy, unhygienic and superstitious which does affect their access to services. Inadequate supply of food items was also cited as a limiting factor of the Anganwadi centre.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	79%	21%	48%	73%	27%	52%	76%	24%	100%
Number	27	7	34	27	10	37	54	17	71

Access to Services by Children : Education Specific

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, 45 percent children are not attending school. Percentage of drop outs is not very different for boys and girls. The fact that about half of all the children in the age group of 6-14 years have dropped out is worrying. While among girls 44% (23) are not attending school, the same figure for boys is 46% (21). Considering that so many children are not attending school the promise of free and compulsory education to every child will remain unfulfilled even after 10 years of the enactment of Right to Education Act (RTE, 2009). It shows that children from Pahari Korwa community are falling behind the children from other communities. Details are given in **Table-4**.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

About 67 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. Almost 70% girls are not attending school. Unfortunately more number of girls are dropping out in this age group as compared to boys. Details are given in **Table-5**.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	44%	56%	53%	46%	54%	47%	45%	55%	100%
Number	23	29	52	21	25	46	44	54	98

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	69%	31%	62%	63%	38%	38%	67%	33%	100%
Number	18	8	26	10	6	16	28	14	42

Following reasons have emerged from the Focus Group Discussions with regards to why more girls in the age group of 15 to 18 years drop out from the schools.

- **Adverse gender norms:** Girls are not expected to be educated by their parents or even community members.
- **Burden of Household chores and Sibling care on the Girl child:** Children shared that girls are usually responsible for collecting firewood from the forest which is the main source of fuel for Pahari Korwas households. Besides this girls also share other household responsibilities as well including taking care of siblings which puts additional burden on them. They do not get time to focus on their homework.
- **Untouchability and Discrimination at school:** During the Focus Group Discussions people shared that the Pahadi Korwa children face discrimination at school. Discussions also brought out the fact that since the Pahari Korwas have a distinct life style, they often find it difficult to interact with children from other communities and thus face barriers in making friends.
- **Medium of Instruction:** Medium of instruction in school is also a problematic issue with most of the children as it is different from what they speak in their homes.

“If we will not share the burden of taking care of younger siblings then who will. Many times both father and mother have to go out to work.”

A girl in community

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Children shared that they do not have any access to vocational training or any other government supported skill development program.

Access to scholarships

Access to scholarship is extremely restricted and hardly any child is availing scholarship.

Concerns Related to Protection Rights of Children

Children as well as community members are not aware about child protection services. Mothers of children are not aware about Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in their District. They, including children, do not know about Child Helpline Number 1098.

Some of the protection concerns that emerge are as follows:

Safety Concerns of Girls while accessing Secondary School

Poor physical connectivity puts children, especially girls at risk while on their way to school. This is specifically the case in accessing secondary level schooling. Female students have to cross streams, forests to reach secondary school which could be as far as 5-10 km away from their habitation.

Perception of Safety in Community

Even though the Pahari Korwas have always lived in the forest area and have made it their home, they no longer feel themselves safe in their natural environment. A large number of them, especially, women and girls do not feel safe while walking in their neighborhood. Many fear threat of armed violence in the neighborhood as these districts are in conflict areas. Some community members expressed that they live under the threat of being evicted from their houses by the forest administration.

Early marriage

There has been a practice of early marriage among Pahari Korwas. As shared by the community members they generally get their girls married by the age of 15-16 years. Primary data has indicated the same as out of the 26 girls in the age-group of 15 to 18 years 7 are already married which amounts to 27%.

“Early marriage of girls has always been a practice in the community and there is nothing new. It still happens in many families”

A female community member

Table 6: Marital status of children in the 15-18 years age group

Marital Status	Male (15-18 years)		Female (15-18 years)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Married	2	13%	7	27%
Unmarried	14	87%	19	73%
Total	16	100%	26	100%

Case Study

Fear of Sexual Harassment in Community

Phoolo (name changed) lives in Ghatipara village. She went to school with two other girls in her village. They had to travel 5 kilometres from their village to the secondary school. Her two friends got admission in the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), a residential school for girls. Unfortunately, she could not manage to get admission in KGBV. Despite having to travel all alone, she continued going to school as she wanted to become a teacher and promote education in her community.

The route she had to take to her school was isolated and had dense foliage. Unfortunately, on a particular day, as she was walking, she encountered 3-4 boys, who were not from her area. They started following her, and started whistling and making comments. She was frightened and ran for her life and somehow escaped the situation. However, it rattled her so much that she refused to go to school any longer. She dropped out of school and now stays at home looking after her younger siblings. Even encouragement from her parents has not given her confidence to go back to school. She has not just lost the opportunity of getting education, but her confidence has also been affected considerably. Now she feels fearful even in going out of her house on her own.

Fear
Home
Chores

School

Confidence



Access to Opportunities for Participation by Children

Children's right to participation, especially of girls, is not being realised in these families. The discussions with children confirm that girls are not able to participate in any form of decision making in their families as decisions pertaining to them are only taken by their parents. For instance, decision about their schooling is taken by the families. Girls also do not have any say with regards to their marriage.



6.4 Recommendations

Access to education

The survey provided a clear recognition of the low literacy levels of the community. Given the remoteness of the habitations and difficult conditions of access, there is need to provide residential schooling. Community demanded adequate and quality residential schooling for girls.

Residential school facility for boys

Community demanded opportunities for residential schooling for boys on the lines of KGBV. There is also a need to make sure enhanced coverage of Eklavya Modal Residential schools (EMRS). EMRS, Balrampur currently has a capacity of 60 students. The community demanded increased number of seats in the school.

Quality residential Institutions and care

It must be however reiterated that the experiences and learning curve of marginalised children in residential facilities has not presented a positive and healthy picture. The institutional mechanisms are poor: poor hostels, poor food, lack of basic facilities in hostels, poor health care, neglect in teaching and learning. Many cases of physical and sexual violence are reported periodically, sometimes even ending in suicide and murders. In this context, the duty and responsibility of the government multiplies manifold in making residential schooling a healthy and happy opportunity for the boys and girls in this community.

Medium of instruction

Another demand expressed by the community was that medium of instruction in the initial years of schooling should be in the Korwa language as their children are not familiar with the state language.

Addressing child-labour and drop-out, particularly of girls

Two primary tasks the girls were engaged in were fetching water and fetching fuel for the family. The government is focusing on the access to clean water and clean fuel. However Pahari Korwa community is still not able to access government provisions. The budget should have a specific component to reach the PVTG communities like Pahari Korwas. Their access should be the first mile-stone to declare any district to have achieved the targets. District officials and elected representatives at the district and also the panchayat levels, as well as forest department should be made responsible to ensure that Pahari Korwas are accessing clean fuel and clean water. This would help in reducing burden on girls.

Promoting livelihood to address chronic poverty

The Pahari Korwas are constrained in multiple ways and continue to live marginally. Government has designed and implemented special programmes for them. However the outreach of development programs fails to percolate down to the most marginalised among the community. A base line survey along with a need assessment exercise is recommended.

Skill development through better convergence of programmes

There is a need for Skill Development Programmes to be designed to improve the community's self-employability and wage employment, in collaboration with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporations of India Limited.

Awareness of Importance of education for girls

There is a need to organize campaigns in the community on the importance of education for girls.

07

Children of Sewage Workers/ Safai Karmacharis

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

According to them their experiences make them realise that that they belong to a lower caste. They also develop a feeling that they and their families are not considered equal by other people due to their caste and work that they do. According to them this feeling erodes their confidence and belief in their own abilities. They also shared that they have heard different kind of taunts and statements which tell them that they are not considered equal.

Children drop out beyond grade 8 as they fail to qualify exams after 8th standard. Children often find it difficult to cope with pressure of studies in advanced classes and their parents who are generally not educated are not able to support in their lessons.

Children are full of aspirations and want to break free from the occupation of their previous generations. Many of them want to pursue unconventional professions like becoming makeup artist, singer, dancer, model, body builder, fashion designer etc. Unfortunately they lack knowledge about how to pursue these professions. They are not aware about what kind of training or education is needed to pursue these professions.

7.1 Introduction and Background

Delhi produces around 10,000 metric tons of waste daily and the burden of disposing it off is borne by the sewage workers of the capital, who are predominantly from the Valmiki community.^{xvi} Manual cleaning of sewage and excreta has historically been a caste-based occupation assigned to the Dalit community in India. Post-independence, the union government formed multiple committees to examine the plight of these workers. Time and again, these committees recommended reforms to improve the working condition of sewage workers. But for nearly fifty years, their findings did not translate into concrete legislation. There is even a 'national commission for safai karmachari'. Practice of manual cleaning is still prevalent across the country as most of India does not have a proper sewage system. Even in areas with a functional sewage system, people are forced to enter toxic sewers and septic tanks for construction or cleaning purposes, thereby risking their lives.

Sewage workers receive media coverage and larger societal and political attention only during the unfortunate episodes of deaths during sewer or septic tank cleaning. These tragic and untimely deaths however are just one of the occupational hazards for this group besides many other potent risks. The vulnerabilities of various types of sewage workers and their dependents, during their day-to-day lives and work, largely go unnoticed.

The Safai Karmacharis have been one of the first to become casual and contract workers when the governments began cutting down on government employment. While earlier, they had a secure tenure of employment with labour protection, currently they are among the most exploited and poorly paid workers. The government list has a small token number of employees and leave it to the contractors to employ the large majority. They get no training or protective equipments to engage in this dangerous work. They are not covered by any labour protection laws. Even as the amount of waste, effluents and sewage increases, the official numbers of safai karmacharis keeps dropping!

7.2 Data collection

Hotspot for data collection was Sewage workers settlement in Fatehpur village located at the outskirts of Delhi. Data was collected from a total of 100 households. Out of these 100 households only 72 households have children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). Primary data shows that land ownership among the community is as low as four percent. The fact that they have largely been landless and hence confined to cleaning and sanitation work is one of the main reasons why sanitation work as a livelihood option remains an inter-generational phenomenon for them.

In India sewage work is discriminatory and exploitative. Unfortunately, only a particular community is assigned to carry out the menial occupation which is mostly generational. Primary data reported that 98 percent of the households belonged to 'valmikis'. 'Valmikis' are Scheduled Castes who have been forced into sewage work and denied equal opportunities and dignity. Secondly, the sewage cleaning work is mostly executed in absence of protective gears and safety equipment. The existing caste hierarchies remain to be the key determinant of the fate of sewage workers. They are compelled to perform these tasks which are not just hazardous and stigmatising but also highly underpaid. Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

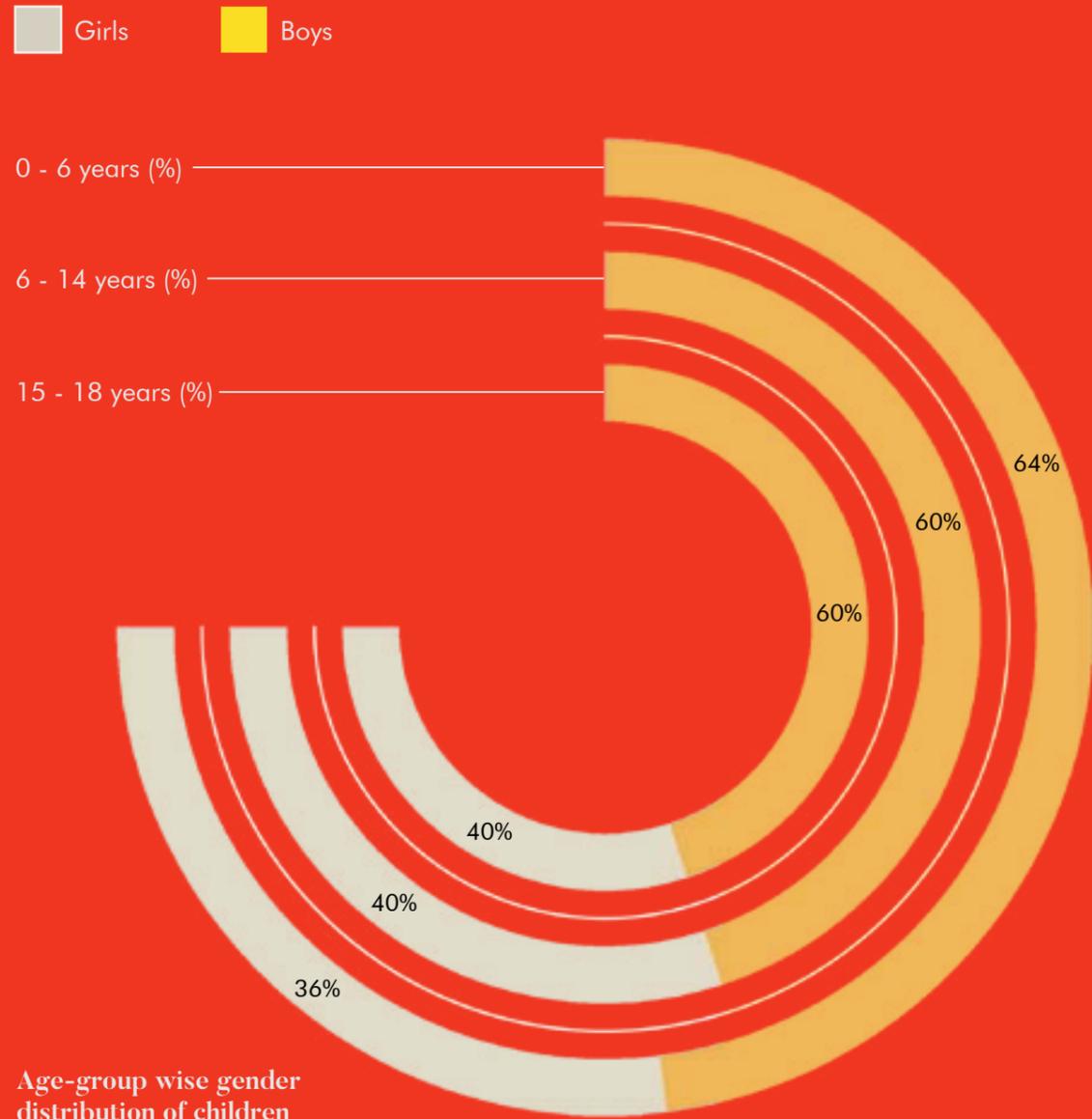
7.3 Findings

Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Sewage Worker Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The average monthly HH income of a sewage worker in the study was reported as INR 13,845.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	The primary data reported that only 49 percent of the families possessed ration cards. The children during FGD reported that they don't get milk, eggs and fruits but they confirmed of receiving regular meals at school. The FGDs reported that there is state run functional AWC and 42 percent of children in age group 3-6 years attending it and using the services.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3)	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The primary data has reported a high OOPE annual expenditure on health at INR 18,635/-.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality	The primary data reported low literacy level among sewage workers.

	promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	A total of 39 percent of the families had members with some form of formal schooling. The annual OOPE on education is INR 19715/-
05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	FGD reported family expectations of getting girls married and maintaining a home. They are not encouraged to aspire anything else.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	The primary data reported that 70 percent of the households are purchasing drinking water. Water borne infections are common health concerns of the community. 99 percent of the households have toilets in their houses.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	The primary data indicates that all houses have electricity connections however only 59 percent have legal connections. 97 percent of the families reported having LPG connections while rest 3 percent depended on firewood for cooking.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	The FGDs reported that its very rarely sewage workers continue work till retirement age. They either discontinue owing to ill-health or even die before retirement. In cutting down government employment, the safai karmacharis have been the first to be axed. They are now recruited and employed by contractors taking up tenders from the urban local bodies. There is little regulation on the jobs. The actual the data on number of people engaged in sanitation work or manual scavenging largely remains under/unreported.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. (SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	The Houses are all pucca and mostly have two or three rooms as reported by primary Data.

Demographic Profile of children



Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 156 children in these households:

- 61 percent are Boys
- 39 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 14 percent (22) are below 6 years of age.
- 55 percent (86) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 31 percent (48) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	36	40	40	61
Boys	64	60	60	95
Total (N)	22	86	48	156



Access to Services by Children - Impacting Survival and Development Rights

Access to Mid-day meals

Children shared that they do get mid-day meal in their school however they do not get nutritious food items like milk, eggs or fruits. Children denied having faced any form of discrimination in school however they also mentioned that reason behind absence of discrimination is that school is located in community and all the children who study in the school are from Valmiki community.

Access to SRHR Services

Adolescent girls shared during focus group discussions (FGDs) that they do not receive information about puberty or related issues such as menstruation hygiene etc. They neither get such information from their schools and nor from the family members. They did confirm receiving free sanitary napkins from schools. Boys also lack the sources of information on sexual and reproductive health and they appeared to be visibly uncomfortable during the discussions. Boys, as they shared, mostly rely on informal sources like peers etc. for this information.

Access of children to Anganwadi services

As it is reflected in the figure given below, only 22 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services. None of the girls in this age group has been accessing these services. 36 percent of boys are accessing these services. It shows that girls are completely at disadvantage Details are given in **Table-3**.

There exists a functional Anganwadi center in the community however uptake of services from the center is quite low.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	100%	0%	39%	64%	36%	61%	78%	22%	100%
Number	7	0	7	7	4	11	14	4	18

Access to health services

Ironically enough, people responsible for making sure that Delhi and nearby cities like Gurgaon are clean, live in habitations where drains overflow and faeces lie scattered openly on the streets. Huge puddles of waste and water can be spotted every few meters in the localities. There is a large uncovered drain flowing through the locality. Repeated complaints from the residents have failed to get the drain 'nalla' covered. In light of this situation one can say that health of children is at risk from various diseases due to poor sanitation and drainage conditions in the community.

Health of sewage workers has been a major area of concern. Inhaling of toxic gases while cleaning sewers result in poor health of sewage workers. Many a times their skin comes in contact with waste and feces. Poor health of a sewage worker impacts the family and especially children.

It was reported that there is a dispensary and Mohalla clinic in the community while in case of serious illness referrals are made to Safdarjung hospital. However community members shared that they do not get enough attention in the health facilities and they have no option but to resort to private doctors who may not be very qualified.

“Our father is the main bread earner of family. When he gets ill income of family gets affected and this affects the education of children as well as availability of food for them.”

A community member

Access to PDS

People shared during the focus group discussions (FGDs) that most of the families are procuring food grains from open market at higher rates. According to them there does exist a fair price shop in the community but it opens only once in month. The community reported that despite stock availability they are not able to buy rice and sugar from the ration depot. Again procuring food grains from open market stresses the already poor households and further jeopardises the family's ability to provide a nutrient rich diet to their children.

Access to Services by Children - Impacting Development Rights

Access to schooling

Education is vital for overall development of a child. Many times good education is the only way for children from vulnerable communities to move socially upward. In urban contexts enrolments have improved considerably in last few years and same is reflected in the case of children from sewage workers. As it is reflected in the figure given below, 10 percent children are not attending school. Percentage of drop outs is not very different for boys and girls. Details are given in **Table-4**.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 98 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years are attending school. Details are given in **Table-5**. However people shared that a number of girls drop out before completing their higher secondary education. Focus group discussions (FGDs) further show that one of the reasons behind this phenomenon is that they fail to qualify exams after 8th standard. Children often find it difficult to cope with pressure of studies in advanced classes as they have to take care of household responsibilities.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	11%	89%	40%	10%	90%	60%	10%	90%	100%
Number	4	30	34	5	47	52	9	77	86

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	0%	100%	40%	3%	97%	60%	2%	98%	100%
Number		19	19	1	28	29	1	47	48

“Girls from our community are simply getting married and they are destined to be homemakers just like their mothers. They are not working like other girls from Dalit or non-Dalit communities. I dream of a day when our girl goes to work in office or in a bank .”

A sewage worker from Fatehpur, Delhi

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

None of the children in the age group of 15-18 years has access to vocational training or skill enhancement training. However it was heartening to note that the children and youth are keen to take up new professions, and challenge the hierarchy. Despite their aspirations one cannot fail to notice the general lack of awareness about the opportunities of skill enhancement available to them. Following statement during a FGD highlights the dismal picture of opportunities available for children from families of sewage workers.

“We want to do something in our free time. We need professional courses, like I want to be a makeup artist but we have no such opportunities. It seems as if we are simply wasting our time and just waiting to get married.”

A 17 year old girl from Fatehpur Beri

Access to scholarships

‘Pre-Matric Scholarships to the Children of those engaged in occupations involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards’ is a central scheme. The scheme has not expanded its reach to other occupations which are equally menial, degrading and hazardous such as sewer and septic tank workers, sweepers and toilet cleaners who are in dire need of state assistance, especially to empower their children to achieve social and economic mobility.

Concerns Related to Protection Rights of Children

Children do face discrimination. According to them their experiences make them realise that they belong to a lower caste. They also develop a feeling that they and their families are not considered equal by other people due to their caste and work that their families do. According to them this feeling does erode their confidence and belief in their own abilities. They also shared that they have heard different kind of taunts and statements which tell them that they are not considered equal.

Access to Opportunities for Participation by Children

Children are confident and keen to bring in the change. They participate in small decisions of their lives for example decisions regarding their clothes, food etc. However, children's right to participation is denied when it comes to major decisions such about career choices and marriage.

Aspirations of Children and Challenges in Realising them

Children are full of aspirations and want to break free from the occupation of their previous generations. Many of the children want to pursue unconventional professions like becoming a makeup artist, singer, dancer, model, body builder, fashion designer, entrepreneur etc. the list is endless. Since they are exposed to media and other mediums they are aware of these professions. Unfortunately they lack the knowledge about how to pursue these professions. They are not aware about what kind of training or education is needed to succeed in these professions. Girls shared that they are keen to continue studies but in absence of choices and lack of connectivity most of them have no choice but to stay at home once they complete their schooling.

“I want to be a model and work in fashion industry, I hate to even imagine that I will have to work in municipality and cleaning drains like my father and uncles.”

A 18 year old boy from Fatehpur village, Delhi

7.4 Recommendations

Use of modern technology

Through necessary technological changes, the occupation can be made more humane and just. There is a need to make sure that no human shall come in contact with human waste and excreta. The occupation should be humane, dignified and safe like any other occupation.

Protection of human rights

Sewage workers carry out hazardous work by entering into sewage lines and drains and face a very specific form of violation of their human rights. Their human dignity needs to be protected and this could be ensured by inclusion of sewage workers in existing rehabilitation programs meant for manual scavengers.

Recognising the vulnerability of children of sewage workers

There should be specific programs and targeted schemes to address the specific vulnerabilities that children of sewage workers face. Setting up residential schools, pre and post matric scholarships, coaching facilities and providing vocational trainings can be some of the ways to uplift children of these communities.

Career guidance and enhancement

Existing schooling system is often found to be deficient in providing career guidance to children from poor communities. There is a need to expose the children to opportunities. There is a need to provide guidance to these children. Civil society organisations should be roped in to generate awareness about the availability of skilling opportunities and career options.

08

Children of Single Women

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

During discussions, the members shared that single woman often face social stigma and discrimination from the family as well as in the wider community which leaves a negative emotional impact on their children

Social stigma is extreme in case of widows as traditional biases in the community hold widows responsible for their partner's death. They are considered a sign of misfortune or bad luck by the community. They are usually not invited to marriage, religious ceremonies or other functions as it is widely believed that their presence can be inauspicious. This kind of attitude towards single women also results in discriminatory attitude towards their children from the peers at school and neighborhood.

Out of the total 36 children in the age group of 6-18 years only 8 have been attending school.

8.1 Introduction and Background

According to the 2011 census, 71.4 million or 12 per cent of the female population of India is 'single'. This population group has increased from 51.2 million in 2001 to 71.4 million in 2011, as per the census data^{xvii}. This includes widows, divorcees and unmarried women, and those deserted by husbands. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of single women, 12 million; the majority has never been married, followed by Maharashtra at 6.2 million and erstwhile Andhra Pradesh at 4.7 million^{xviii}.

Single women and their dependents are an extremely vulnerable group of people in India. The conventional dictionary has a restrictive definition of 'single women' as an unmarried adult woman. However, organisations and movements are using a wider definition of single women includes widow, separated, divorced, or unmarried women above the age of 35.^{xix}

One of the categories of women covered as part of larger category of 'Single Women' are widows. Widows and their children face many challenges in their day to day lives. Their deprivation also results from negative social attitudes and social restrictions that are placed upon them and their activities. They encounter patriarchy, religious sanctions and widespread denial of property rights. Abuse and exploitation at the hands of family members, often in the context of property disputes is fairly common. Remarriages are often forbidden by local communities. Widows are often perceived as "unlucky" and they are subjected to various kinds of discrimination, resulting in even ostracism in some of the areas. Unfortunately children of Single women and especially of widows face a number of challenges. They not only experience violations of their rights due to economic challenges but they are also likely to experience challenges to their social and emotional well-being.

8.2 Data collection

Data was collected from the households with single women (widows, divorced, abandoned, with missing husband) in two districts, namely, Sirmour and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. The blocks covered were Paonta Sahib, Dharamsala, Rait and Shillai. Out of these 100 households only 24 had children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

8.3 Findings

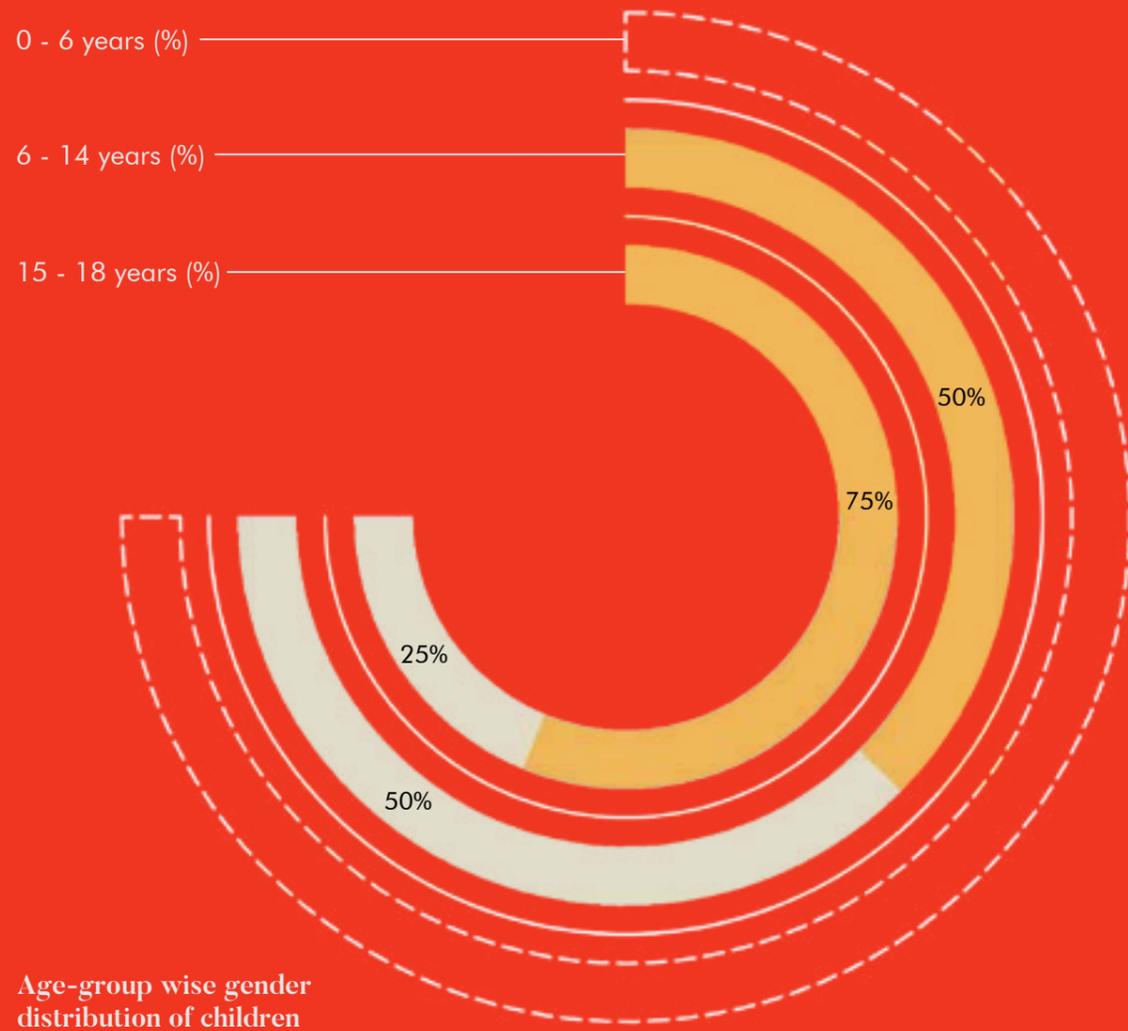
Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Single Women Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The primary data has pointed that the single women HH have a monthly income of an average of Rs.6845/-
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	The primary data indicates that only 26 percent of households have BPL ration card and rest 74 percent have APL ration cards. The primary data is indicating of 33 percent utilization of Anganwadi services by the children.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3)	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The average annual amount of Rs. 18,004 on health services is higher than national average at Rs. 11,971.2
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The primary data indicates that only 30% of the respondents have attended any schooling. A high annual out of pocket expenditure on education reported through primary survey at Rs 12,626 by single women household.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	The discourse on larger sexual and reproductive right is missing so far. The boys lack any knowledge on issues of their sexual and reproductive health.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	48 percent of the households have piped water connection and rest 52 percent depends on community taps for collecting drinking water.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	73 percent of the households have access to clean fuel form of LPG connections. A total of 90 percent households had electricity connections.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	The primary data reported poor availability of employment to about 4-5 months in the preceding year.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.(SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	79% of single women household tracked in the study were living in a Kutchha house. None of the household has availed Indira Awas Yojana and there is a lack of awareness among community on general.

Demographic Profile of children

Girls Boys



Age-group wise gender distribution of children

Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 36 children in these households:

- 64 percent are Boys
- 36 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- No children below 6 years of age.
- 44 percent (16) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 56 percent (20) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	-	50	25	13
Boys	-	50	75	23
Total (N)	0	16	20	36



Access to Services by Children - Impacting Survival and Development Rights

Access of children to Anganwadi services

Children shared in focus group discussion that there is an Anganwadi center for the community which is at a distance of about 5 km from their habitation. Some of these children have attended this Anganwadi centre earlier when they were young. None of the women is pregnant.

Access to Mid-day meals

Children shared that they do get mid-day meal in their school however they do not get nutritious food items like milk, eggs or fruits. Children denied having faced any form of discrimination in school however they also mentioned that reason behind absence of discrimination is that school is located in community and all the children who study in the school are from Valmiki community.

Access to health services and entitlements

Women shared in focus group discussion that they have no option but to travel a distance of about 60 kilometers to visit the nearest private health facility as there is no gynecologist posted in the public health facility in their area. Medical expenses on private health facilities also result in undue financial burden on these women which affects the household economy. According to them expenditure on health does leave them with less money that they can spend on the needs of their children.

Access to PDS

Given that state services play a central role in lifting vulnerable households out of poverty, lack of a ration card is a fundamental loophole that creates barriers for poor and vulnerable people in accessing their entitlements. Almost all of the single women possess ration cards however majority of them have APL cards and not the BPL ones. They shared that considering their economic vulnerabilities they deserve BPL cards however they have been able to manage APL cards only. They also shared that having a BPL ration card would make them eligible for various government subsidies and special provisions which are important for them to meet the needs of their children. Children in these households are at an extra risk of malnutrition and other related developmental concerns as families are unable to provide a nutritious diet to their children.

Access to SRHR services

Focus group discussions brought out that adolescent girls do have some basic knowledge on menstrual hygiene. The school going girls shared that if they need sanitary napkins at school they can get the same by paying Rs. 5. ASHA worker provides them with sanitary napkins for free. The discourse on larger sexual and reproductive rights is missing. Boys lack any knowledge on issues of their sexual and reproductive health.

Access to Services by Children - Impacting Development Rights

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, more than 80 percent children are not attending school. Percentage of drop outs is about 90 percent for girls while it is 75 percent for boys. This is really alarming and brings out the vulnerabilities of children of single women. Details are given in **Table-3**.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, none of the 5 girls in the age group of 15-18 years has been attending school which means that all of them have dropped out. Among boys 67 percent of them have dropped out which is 10 boys out the total 15 boys. Details are given in **Table-4**.

After enactment of the RTE Act, India has witnessed a rise in the enrolment rate at various levels of school education. However, as data in the tables show, even after 10 years of enactment of the Act, there is an unacceptable number of children of single women who are dropping out of school.

Table 3: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	88%	13%	50%	75%	25%	50%	81%	19%	100%
Number	7	1	8	6	2	8	13	3	16

Table 4: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	100%	0%	25%	67%	33%	75%	75%	25%	100%
Number	5	0	5	10	5	15	15	5	20

One of the major reasons that emerged behind such a huge dropout rate among girls is the responsibility of girls to manage household chores as mothers generally go out to work.

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Only one boy out of the total 20 children in age group 15-18 years has received vocational training. Rest of the children including 5 girls denied receiving any type of vocational or skill enhancement training.

Access to scholarships

Scholarships are aimed at supporting children from vulnerable families to address the financial challenges faced by them in educating their children. Out of the 8 children in the age group of 6-18 years who have been attending school only two have been receiving scholarships.



Access to Opportunities for Participation by Children

Children do provide their opinion in their families. However they do not participate much in decision making in school or in community. They feel that they are excluded and even discriminated at the level of school.

Aspirations of Children and Challenges in Realising them

Teaching remains the most aspired profession for children. They want to grow up to become teachers. Some also want to join army when they grow up. It was heartening to know that some of the children shared that they would like to be as strong as their mothers when they grow up

Concerns Related to Protection Rights of Children

Child Labour

Unfortunately school is not considered to be an attractive option by many of these children as many children reported in discussions that they would like to work, earn money and support their mother rather than attend school. Complexities of being raised by single mother often result in children's poor academic performance and lack of interest in studies as they are always under pressure to financially support their families. Once they start earning they start using money to realise their own aspirations as well. Focus group discussions also bring out the fact that some of the children are aware of the violence that their mothers have faced in their lives.

“I have been fancying to have sports shoes since I saw them at a shop near my home. I wanted to own them immediately. They were priced at Rs 600 and no way can my mother will buy them for me. So I worked at a construction site for 3-4 days and happily bought them.”

A 13 year old boy

Case Study

Vulnerability of Children of Single women to abuse

Mother
Fear
Pain

Alone

Sita (Name Changed) is a single woman and mother of two young girls. She works as a peon and earns Rs 3000 per month. It has been five years since her husband went to Kolkata searching for work. He never come back. She made lot of efforts to locate her husband. Finally, she has come to terms with the fact that she has to raise her children alone. About four years ago she got an opportunity to attend a two-day training program organised by a single women collective in her area. She had no option but to leave her daughters (age 12 and 14 years) at her maternal home. She left them there and attended the training. While she was out for training a close family member entered the house with wrong intention. The girl raised alarm and people came to her rescue. However, this left both the mother and daughters in deep shock and pain. She had to succumb to the pressure from the extended family to not take any action against the accused.

Vulnerability



8.4 Recommendations

Enhanced social security support to single woman families

Thoughtful and adequate social security support for single women becomes imperative to enable single women and their children to live a life with dignity. It is critical that the current provisions of widow pension should also extend to those whose husbands have gone missing or who have been deserted by their husbands. It would be important to provide income support to the single women. This is important to address their economic vulnerabilities. Greater and regular income support in the form of cash transfers can play an important role that children of single women can access to basic services like health and education.

Sensitizing implementing agencies

There is a need for sensitizing the implementing agencies/ officials to recognise single women as independent heads. This is important for ensuring access of single women to entitlements under PDS, ICDS, and Pension schemes.

Disaggregated data on single women and their children

The availability of disaggregated, reliable and real time data is critical to design policy measures, plans budgets, schemes as well as their implementation. There is a need to identify single women as a separate category to map their participation in the workforce. Conducting a need assessment is also important to assess their particular vulnerabilities and design appropriate policies.

09

Children of Street Vendors

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

Children shared that they are aware of the harassment which their parents face from police, administration and goons while selling items on the roads. This has implications on their mental and emotional well-being.

Children, especially boys look at law enforcement as a profession with power. Consequently, many of them aspire to become policemen. The fact that many a times their parents are harassed by policemen while vending on streets could also be a reason behind their aspiration to become policemen.

Girls are at risk both when their parents go out to work and they are left behind at home. According to them, even in cases when children accompany their parents, their health and safety is at risk because of factors such as exposure to extreme heat or cold, traffick on the roads, hostility by administration or police or threats from goons.

9.1 Introduction and Background

Unemployment, landlessness, caste discrimination, poverty and other vulnerabilities force many people to move from rural areas to cities in quest for better socio-economic conditions. Many of these migrants lack skills or education that can enable them to find better paid and secure employment in formal sector and consequently they settle down to work in informal sector. Street vending is one of the options chosen as it requires relatively small financial investment and little or no formal educational qualifications or skills.

Street Vending was considered illegal till as late as 2014, when the Street vendors (Protection of livelihood and regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, legalised the street vending activity.^{xx} The Act aims to protect the livelihood of street vendors and provides them with a legal framework for carrying out their business. It includes diverse types of street vending as and defines the terms like 'mobile vendor', 'stationary vendor' and 'street vendor'. The Act provides protection to street vendors and at the same time imposes regulations on them.^{xxi} At a time when formal sector's capacity to generate employment is shrinking^{xxii}, the poor turns to informal sector to earn their livelihoods and street vending remains a feasible choice for many. Street vending is not only livelihood option for many, it also contributes in many ways to the lives of a large number of underprivileged and vulnerable people in India. It supports a larger informal economy of production, marketing and consumption which is hardly recognized by the urban planners or the Indian economy.

Despite the fact that street vending as an occupation has gained legitimacy, urban locations have remained hostile for many street vendors. There exists a general resentment against street vendors in administration and police. Street vendors are perceived as encroachers of public spaces. Confiscation of their goods and carts by municipality or police are everyday phenomenon. The level of income of street vendors is generally low. Their livelihoods are unstable and they lack financial security.

9.2 Data collection

Hotspot for data collection was 24 Parganas district in Kolkata, West Bengal. Data was collected from 50 households of street vendors. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.

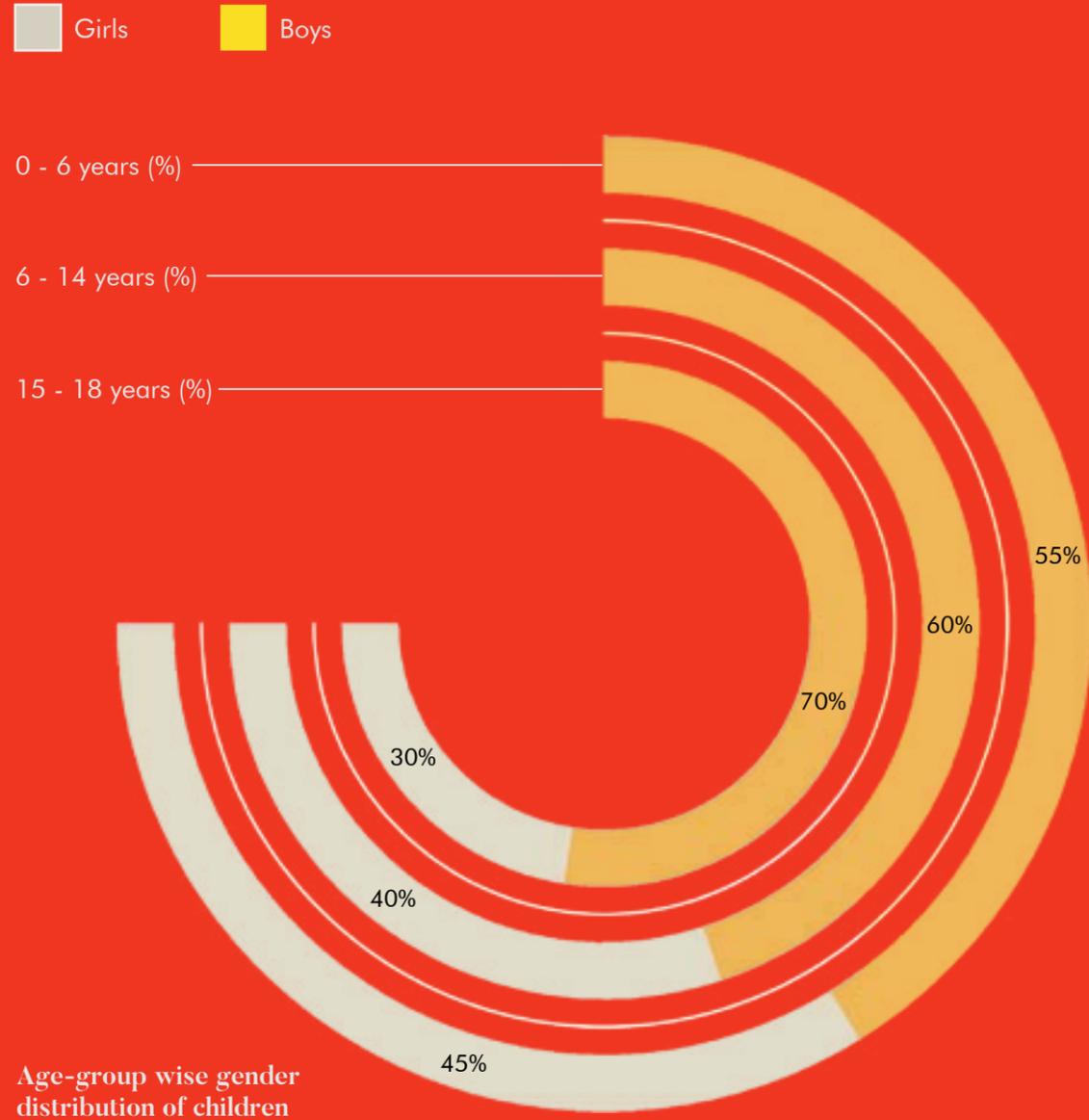
9.3 Findings

Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Street Vendor Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The average monthly income of a household was reported INR 13,870. However, it falls below the international poverty line.
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	The primary data from the group reported that 16 percent of the households does not have ration cards, 38 percent have not applied and 62 percent have applied but have not received ration cards. The primary data has reported only 21 percent utilization of MDM scheme by children. The FGDs with children have confirmed receiving meals at school but denied getting eggs or milk being served.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3).	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	The group has reported one of highest OOPE on health at INR 33,840/ against national average at INR 11971.2/-
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	The primary data reported that educational level among street vendors is generally low at 28 %. The annual OOPE on education is at INR 2294/.

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including tracking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	Children from the community have many safety concerns. They are aware of the challenges and harassment their parents face from police administration and goons The children reported their parents have to pay "hafta" or protection money for their safety.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	The primary data reported that only 18 percent of the families have access to piped water inside their premises. 46 percent of the households also reported buying drinking water at approx. INR 55-60 per week.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	The primary data reported 92 percent of the households of street vendors have electricity connection. However, only 50 percent have private electricity connection illegally from neighboring families or the main line connection.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	16% of the households reported having consistent paid work in last 12 months.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. (SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	More than 88 per cent of street vendors households in the study lived in Kutcha house, which is double the national average. Only 6 percent of the families have benefitted from available housing schemes.

Demographic Profile of children



Gender Disaggregation of Children:

Out of a total of 41 children in 50 households:

- 61 percent are Boys
- 39 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 42 percent (11) are below 6 years of age.
- 46 percent (20) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 13 percent (10) are between 15-18 years of age.



Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	45 (5)	40 (8)	30 (3)	16
Boys	55 (6)	60 (12)	70 (7)	25
Total (N)	11	20	10	41

Access to Services by Children: Impacting Survival and Development Rights

Access to mid-day meals

Mid-day meal scheme was specifically designed to address school hunger and malnourishment among children. Those who are attending government schools have been receiving mid-day meals. Children shared during focus group discussions that in their mid-day meal they do not get eggs or milk. People also shared that many a times mothers are left with little time to prepare breakfast or pack lunch boxes for school going children as whole family gets involved in packing, preparing and sorting of items that are sold by the family in street. Considering these circumstances, a nutritious mid-day meal becomes very important.

Access of children to Anganwadi services

Nutritional status of children in slums is worst amongst all urban groups and is even poorer than the rural average. In many cases migration to urban areas has also failed to provide relief from poverty and undernutrition.^{xxiii}

As it is reflected in the figure given below, only 50 percent of the children in the age group of 3-6 years have been accessing Anganwadi services. None of the girls is accessing these services. Among boys the uptake of services is still high as 75 percent of them are accessing these services. This is really an alarming situation with regards to the access of services by girls. Details are given in **Table-3**.

As emerged during focus group discussions (FGDs) there exists a functional Anganwadi center in the community. Community members shared that either children accompany parents to streets or are left alone at home. Consequent absence of care giver may also have serious implications on young children and it may also result in neglect or abuse in worst of cases. In cases where children are accompanying their parents on street, it further puts them at additional health risk. This is a huge concern especially for children in the age group of 3-6 years. The community members reported they need daycare and crèche facility for their children which can take care of children while parents are away.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	100%	0%	33%	25%	75%	67%	50%	50%	100%
Number	2	0	2	1	3	4	3	3	6

Access to health services and entitlements

Access to quality health services including financial risk protection is a vital indicator to monitor progress under SDG. As shared by community during focus group discussions (FGDs) the group faces risks to their health as they stay on streets all day long. Even children get ill frequently due to exposure to unhygienic conditions. Vulnerability to diseases and poor health results from undesirable and unhygienic living conditions as well as poor working conditions. They are also affected by violence and abuse on the streets. They often resorted to private healthcare as they believe that they do not receive attention and care from crowded government facilities. According to them attending government health services also results in loss of income as one has to devote almost three-fourth of the day for a minor health issue. The private doctors in their locality are easily available.

Access to PDS

India was ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018. According to the report, prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have “serious levels of hunger” . Access to food through Targeted public distribution system is an important component of social security policies. A number of households did not have ration cards. Given that access to government services is crucial for providing much-needed support to these families, lack of a ration card is a fundamental loophole that creates barriers in accessing services. Absence of ration card forces them to procure grains and essential food items from open market. It jeopardises a household’s capacity to ensure dietary diversity and nutrition to children.

Access to SRHR services

Adolescent girls shared in focus group discussions (FGDs) that they have some information on sexual and reproductive rights through the awareness campaigns of local organisations in the area as they have also been part of the discussions.^{xxiv} However boys have not had any such opportunity of having structured sessions with trained people and they mostly rely on friends and peers for support and information.

Access to Services by Children: Impacting Development Rights

Access to schooling

Primary data shows that all the children (20 children) in the age group of 6-14 years are attending school. As it is reflected in the figure given below, all the children in the age group of 6-14 years are attending school which is a positive sign. Details are given in **Table-4**.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, all the children in the age group of 15-18 years are attending school. Details are given in **Table-5**.

It emerged in focus group discussions that there exists a willingness in community to educate their children which is appreciable. However as shared by children, boys do join their parents in street vending work in later part of the day. People are not happy with the quality of education that their children receive in government schools. They associate private schooling with quality as according to them if medium of instruction is English then quality is good. 35 percent of children in age group of 6-14 years are accessing private schools while 65 percent are accessing government schools. Private schools are low fee schools. People consider English to be the means of social and economic mobility. Hence even poor households aspire to send their children to private schools. However, the large majority of children are attending government schools only since they cannot afford private schools.

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Children from these poor households are aspirational and they want to get into higher education. However not many are able to reach colleges or professional courses. Unfortunately they even lack awareness about the opportunities of any kind of skill enhancement training.

Access to scholarships

Very few children are receiving scholarships.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	0%	100%	40%	0%	100%	60%	0%	100%	100%
Number	0	8	8	0	12	12	0	20	20

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	0%	100%	30%	0%	100%	70%	0%	100%	100%
Number	0	3	3	0	7	7	0	10	10



Concerns Related to Protection Rights of Children

Focus group discussions (FGDs) with children bring out extreme concern for safety of children of street vendors. According to them, safety of children, especially girls, is more at risk when both the parents go out to work and they are left alone at home. Even in cases when children accompany their parents, their health and safety is at risk because of many factors such as exposure to extreme heat or cold on the roads, hostility by administration or police or threats from goons. Children also shared that they are aware of harassment which their parents face from police, administration and goons while selling items on the roads. This has implications on their mental and emotional well-being.

None of the children has been married.

Access to Opportunities for Participation by Children

Children are not able to participate in any form of decision making in their families. Their right to participation seems difficult to be realised in practice owing to the social norms in their families as well as communities. Girls shared that their voice and opinion is not respected.

Aspirations of Children and Challenges in Realising them

Children, especially boys, shared in focus group discussions (FGDs) that they look at law enforcement as a profession with power. Consequently, most of them aspire to become policemen. The fact that many a times their parents are harassed by policemen while vending on streets could also be a reason behind their aspiration to become policemen. Other professionals, that children want to grow up to be, are becoming doctor, scientist, dancer, singer, actor etc. They have huge aspirations however they are not aware about what subjects they should choose in future or what kind of competitive examinations they should prepare for in order to get into these professions.

9.4 Recommendations

Building child rights perspective into The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

The Act aims to protect the livelihood of street vendors and provide them with a conducive environment for carrying out their business. Implementation of provisions of act will have implications on the livelihoods of Street vendors which in turn will have implications for the rights of their children. In light of this it is crucial for the authorities to implement the provision of the Act in letter and spirit. Child rights organisations need to review the Act and schemes from the child rights perspective and pilot necessary action plans.

Using SDG framework in monitoring provisions for children of Street vendors

Recognise children of Street vendors and their households as vulnerable population groups that need to be covered under the 'Leave No One behind' principle of the SDG. This perspective should result in generating disaggregated data on these children and monitoring their status on SDG. This will also help in enhancing outreach of schemes.

Affordable and safe day care facilities for children of street vendors

The community has expressed the need for day care facilities. It is a critical service for ensuring care and development of children along with ensuring school preparedness.

10

Children of Urban Poor

Introduction and Background
Data Collection
Findings
Recommendations

Out of the total 36 children in the age group of 15-18 years none has received any type of vocational or skill enhancement training.

More than half of all children in the age group of 3-6 years have not been accessing Anganwadi services.

10 percent girls in the age group of 15-18 years have dropped out of schools.

Many young girls reported that they find spaces like community toilets, garbage dumping sites and even playground very unsafe. They shared that men/boys in the community pass lewd comments to them when they go out of their homes. General unsafe environment and incidents of harassments were cited the main reasons why many a times girls are forced to discontinue their studies.

10.1 Introduction and Background

One-half of the world's population lives in cities and towns; this is expected to increase to 70% by 2050. Increase in urbanization has also resulted in greater number of people who are forced to stay in unauthorized colonies and slums. Globally, one in three urban dwellers lives in slums. India has also witnessed increasing urbanisation in the past decades. Urbanisation increased substantively during 2001-2011 where addition in number of people in urban areas was higher than the addition of people in rural areas in India. According to the 2011 census, the urban population stands at 31% (377 million) of the total population in the country. It is likely that India's urban population will continue to increase in the next few decades due to twin factors of increase in population already staying in urban areas and growing number of people moving to urban areas from rural areas. 13.7 million slum households in India live amidst inadequate basic amenities and poor conditions (Census 2011). Slums are generally overcrowded, polluted, and without basic services. Poor sanitation, drainage and lack of clean water etc. results in poor health outcomes for children.

Out of a billion children living in urban areas globally, approximately 300 million are suffering from exclusion^{xxv} or are at risk of exclusion. Urban poor children are specifically vulnerable and many of them are likely to not realise their rights to survival, development, protection and participation. Of the 377 million urban Indians, 32% (120 million) are children below 18 years of age and around 10% (36.5 million) are children below six years.^{xxvi} In addition to many disadvantages, the lack of legal identity remains a barrier to access services and schemes by these children. Insufficient protection measures further make them vulnerable to harassment and abuse.^{xxvii}

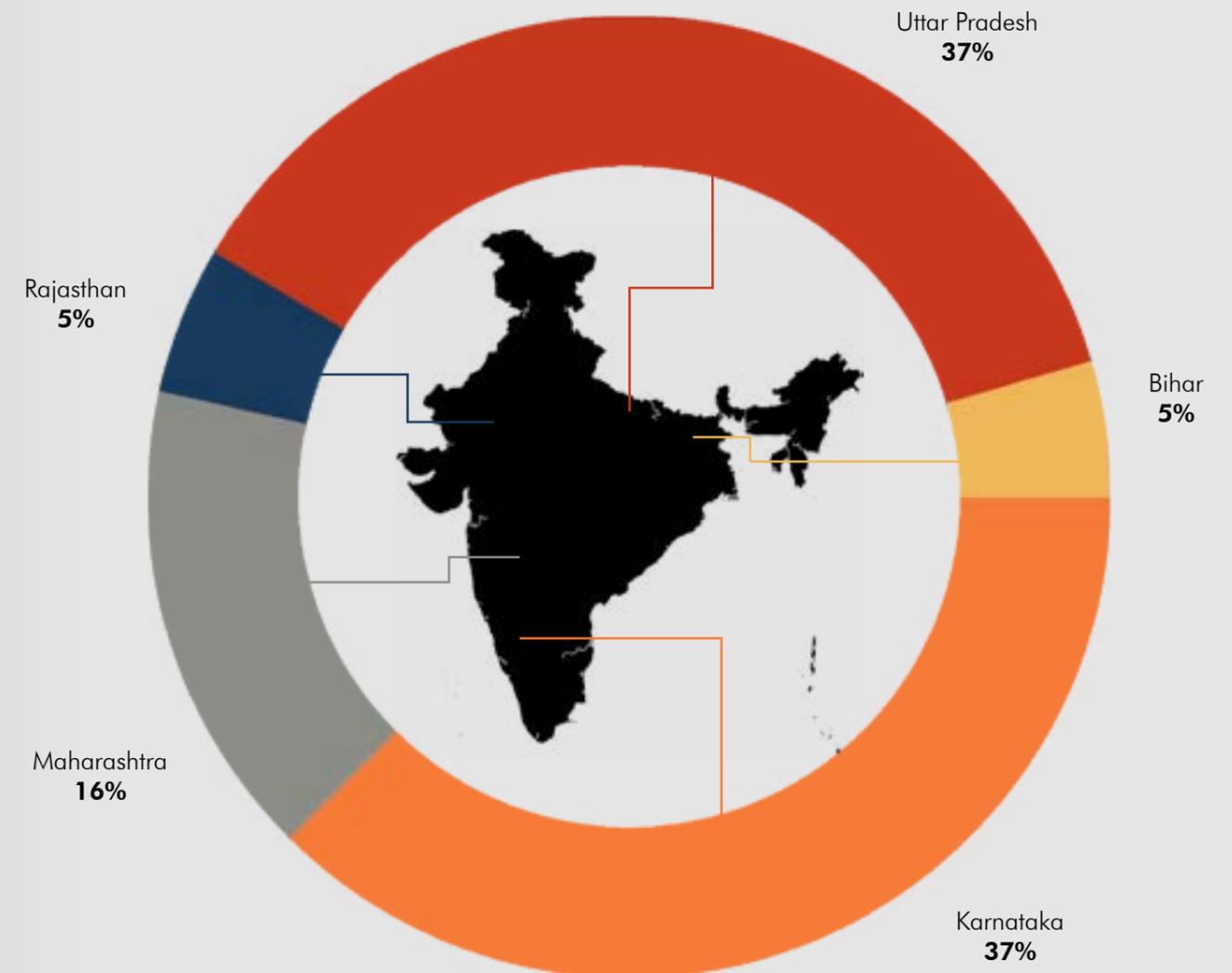


10.2 Data collection

Hotspot for data collection was Jogeshwari East Ward in Mumbai suburban district. Data was collected from a total of 100 households. 75 households had children. Child-related data has been analysed from these households for the purpose of this chapter. Qualitative data has been collected with the help of focus group discussions (FGDs). The 100 households studied, have migrated from 5 states. Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka were the biggest contributors with 37% of the households who have migrated from Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh each. 16% came from other parts of Maharashtra and 5% from Bihar and Rajasthan. It was also found that three-fourth of the migrants were second generation migrants, born and brought up in the same slum. Following are the findings on the basis of both quantitative data and qualitative data.



State of Origin of Households



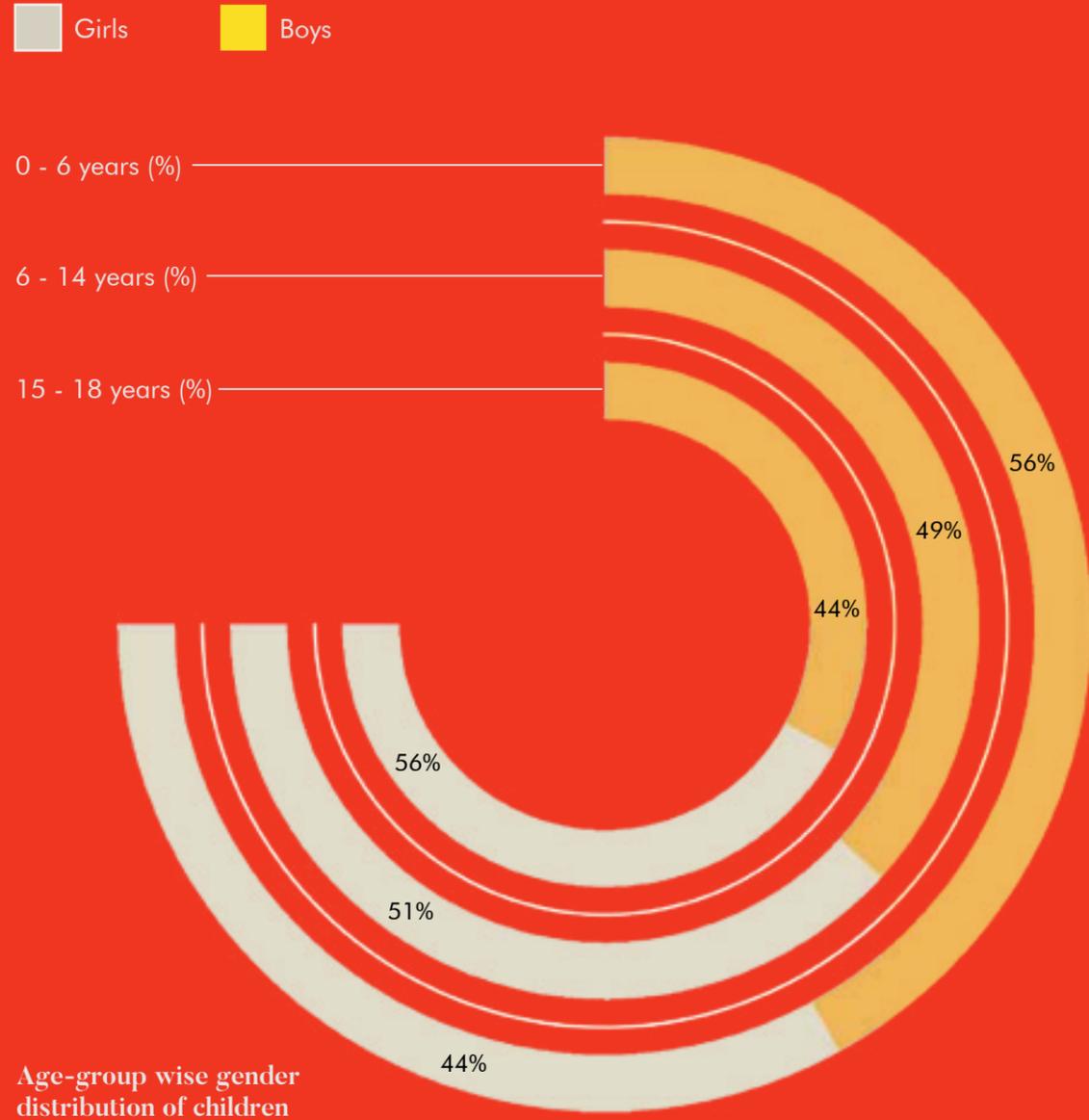
10.3 Findings

Table 1: Manifestations of Vulnerability in Street Vendor Households

S. No	SDG	Indicators	Findings from primary data
01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	The monthly HH income of the urban poor is tracked at INR 11765.- which is marginally above the average agriculture household income. .
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Only 23 percent of the households possessed BPL ration cards. The Primary data gathered reported to only 66 percent of children in age group 3-6 years utilizing Anganwadi services.
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3)	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,	The primary data reported the household spent INR 23,771 annually as out of pocket expenses on health care. This amounts to almost double the national average of OoPE on health care.
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	75 percent of the adult members in the households have attended some form of formal schooling. The primary data also reported families spending more from their own pockets on educating their children than other LNOB groups. The annual OoPE on education is INR 19715. Much of the OoPE was spent on private coaching and tuitions, stationary, learning, material etc

05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including tracking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.	Women and girl children reported heightened sense of insecurity, insufficient protection measures and being subject to various kinds of harassment and abuse. Public and common toilets were unequivocally reported as being threatening. Girls reported harassment by boys, while young boys reported fear of molestation from elder boys. Both discussed the need for increased investments in community mobilization to promote a secure environment.
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	According to the 2011 Census, around one in five households in urban areas do not have a household toilet and depend on shared facilities. Nearly 12% of urban households defecate in the open and another 8% use public toilets.
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7)	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	Even when electricity and modern energy sources were more available in urban areas, the slums faced discrimination in accessing electricity.
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8)	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Employment was irregular and at most available for about six months in a year.
09	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. (SDG 11)	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	50% of the houses were reported "kutcha". Jogeshwari East, surveyed in the study reported being far more accommodating towards the migrant population, creating dense space-starved neighborhoods

Demographic Profile of children



Gender Disaggregation of Children:

- Out of a total of 151 children in these households:
- 50 percent are Boys
- 50 percent are Girls.

Age Wise Disaggregation of Children:

- 21 percent (32) are below 6 years of age.
- 55 percent (83) are between 6-14 years of age.
- 24 percent (36) are between 15-18 years of age.

Table 2: Age-group wise gender distribution of children

	0 - 6 years (%)	6 - 14 years (%)	15 - 18 years (%)	Total Number of Children (N)
Girls	44	51	56	76
Boys	56	49	44	75
Total (N)	32	83	36	151



Access to Services by Children: Impacting survival and development Rights

Access to mid-day meals

Children who are accessing government schools are getting mid-day meals. However children who are attending private schools are not able to access mid-day meals provided by Mid-Day Meal scheme (MDMS) in government schools.

Access to PDS

A BPL ration card makes a household eligible for various government subsidies and special provisions under targeted public distribution system. The FGDs with the community highlighted the fact that many of them are not accessing food from ration system. According to them the process of issuing BPL ration cards was not transparent or fair in many situations. Non-availability of BPL cards forces them to buy food grains from open market at a much higher rate which adds to food insecurity in the families especially to the girl child.

Access of children to Anganwadi services

Undernutrition is a huge challenge in both rural and urban areas in the country. 32.7% of urban children under five years of age are underweight and 39.6% are stunted.^{xxviii} Rapid survey on children also shows that at national level, stunting and child malnourishment in urban areas at around 32.1%.^{xxix} As it is reflected in the figure given below, more than half of all children in the age group of 3-6 years studied have not been accessing Anganwadi services. Access of girls is little more than boys as 44 percent of them are accessing these services while only 40 percent of boys have been accessing the Anganwadi services. Details are given in figure given in **Table-3**.

Private Crèche facilities and daycare centers exist near the locality however these services are chargeable and not being afforded by the families.

Table 3: Access of Children (3-6 years) to Anganwadi Services

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	56%	44%	47%	60%	40%	53%	58%	42%	100%
Number	5	4	9	6	4	10	11	8	19

Access to health services and entitlements

One of the reasons for frequent illness among children in these families is poor living conditions in their locality. Lack of basic services like sanitation, drainage, clean water etc. increases the probability of children falling sick. Unfortunately, families cannot rely on public health services. They are accessing private health care facilities despite their limited capacity to spend on health care as there is a lack of provisioning from the government system. As shared by the community the government-run service near the locality is often overcrowded and may often require patient or attendant to miss out on one or more days of wages due to long wait. Avoiding long waiting queues and exhaustive follow ups, they often resort to unregistered, untrained and poorly qualified private doctors.

Access to SRHR Services

Adolescents denied having any discussion on puberty or related issues in schools or in their families. They shared that they have discussions with their friends only. There does not exist any formal mechanism in their community that can address the challenge related to lack of awareness. Girls shared that even their teachers skip through the science chapter on human body and reproductive system.



Access to Services by Children: Impacting Development Rights

Access to schooling

As it is reflected in the figure given below, all the girls in the age group of 6-14 years have been attending school. 5 percent boys in this age group have dropped out. Access to education of children from urban poor households is better than other groups covered in the report. This reflected the increased awareness of the parents and their aspiration for their children for better education and life standard. Details are given in **Table-4**.

As shared by the girls in Focus group discussions although girls are generally enrolled in the schools however many of them drop out after completion of 8th grade. Eve-teasing was cited as one of the main reasons for dropping out of schools. Girls themselves and their parents feared for their safety.

The primary data also reported that there is preference for private schools over government schools. One of the reasons behind this phenomenon could be the fact that out of the total four municipality schools around the neighborhood only two are functional. The community members cited the issues of high pupil teacher ratio and discrimination against their children as the reasons behind their decision to send their children to private schools.

Access to schooling in the age group of 15-18 years

As it is reflected in the figure given below, about 6 percent children in the age group of 15-18 years are not attending school. More girls drop out of school in this age group, with 10 percent girls having dropped out. Details are given in **Table-5**.

Access to skill enhancement/vocational trainings

Out of the total 36 children in the age group of 15-18 years none has received any type of vocational or skill enhancement training. Access to higher education is almost negligible. In FGDs, children shared that only a few students with high levels of motivation and support are able to continue their education through open/distance learning.

Access to scholarships

Very few children are accessing any kind of scholarships. Only 7 children out of 119 children are accessing scholarships.

Table 4: Access of Children (6-14 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	0%	100%	51%	5%	95%	49%	2%	98%	100%
Number	0	42	42	2	39	41	2	81	83

Table 5: Access of Children (15-18 years) to schooling

	Female			Male			Total		
	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total	Not Accessing	Accessing	Total
Percentage	10%	90%	56%	0%	100%	44%	6%	94%	100%
Number	2	18	20	0	16	16	2	34	36



Concerns Related to Protection Rights of Children

Children are not aware about child protection services. They have not heard about the child helpline number 1098.

Feeling unsafe in community spaces

Many young girls have reported that they find spaces like community toilets, garbage dumping sites and even playground etc. very unsafe. They shared that men/boys in the community pass lewd comments to them when they go out. General unsafe environment and incidents of harassments were cited as one of the main reasons why many a times girls are forced to discontinue their studies.

“We feel safe only inside our homes as boys are everywhere; outside our school, in the market, toilets, parks, almost everywhere. You can even find them standing in the community lanes. They pass lewd comments, whistle or follow us whenever we are crossing the road. Our parents fear for our safety as we keep hearing about such incidents”

A 12 year girl from the community

Children are not aware about drug de-addiction centers. Both quantitative survey and FGDs did not have any direct question on substance abuse among children from urban poor families. However, anecdotal reference was being made by activists and community volunteers on prevalence of substance abuse among children. FGDs have reported that often common spaces like parks/toilets are used by youths and children for engaging in substance abuse.

“I would like to play and go to the park near my house every evening after coming back from school. But I often see young boys and some men sitting in a corner. They appear strange and do strange things. My friend told me that they are ‘nase-hari’ (addicts) and we should not go near them.”

A 10-year-old boy from the community

Children shared during FGDs that they do participate in the decision making on issues like choice of clothes to wear etc. However, girls have limited participation in the decision making as compared to boys. As shared by them girls are expected to seek permission from the parents and in case parents are not at home then from their male siblings before going out to play.

Aspirations of Children and Challenges in Realising them

Children in urban locations are generally more aspirational as compared to their rural counterparts due to their greater exposure. Responses of girls with regards to what they would like to become once they grow up were quite diverse and eclectic. Some of the choices shared by children were: becoming a scientist, bank manager, doctor, football player, cricketer, policeman, chef, event manager, and teacher etc. to name a few.

While the aspirations of the children are high opportunities available to them for fulfilling their aspirations are not many. As shared by children in the discussion, there is a general lack of opportunity for pursuing higher education including the professional courses. Youth in the community have no other option but to engage in jobs like driving cars, auto rickshaws etc. This is also, to some extent, pushing considerable number of young boys in the community to take shortcuts and adopt unhealthy life choices like engaging in petty crimes. Meanwhile, parents get the girls married early after completion of their schooling in fear for safety and security of their girls.



10.4 Recommendations

Set up convergence mechanism for sharing of knowledge and resources

Convergence mechanism involving government, corporates and civil society organisations should be set up to share information, mobilize resources, skills and know-how. This will help in improving the reach as well as access of urban poor to government schemes and programs.

Enhance provision and access to basic services

Government authorities need to focus on provisioning of basic services like drainage, sanitation and drinking water in these localities.

Training to identify and track children at risk

There is need to train the municipal authorities and other officials in tracking and identifying the vulnerable children in wards. An effective strategy should be built for addressing child protection needs.

Community mobilization against sexual harassment

There is a need for substantial investment in community mobilisation to prevent gender-based violence and sexual harassment in public spaces in communities.

Abbreviations

WNTA	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
SEV	Socially and economically vulnerable communities
LNOB	Leave no one behind
SDG	Sustainable development goals
BPL	Below Poverty Line
PVTG	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
LEDS	Labour education development society
PVCHR	People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights
CSEI	Centre for Social Equity & Inclusion
PRASAR	People's Rights and Social Research Centre
BASF	Bihar Ambedkar Students Forum
ENSS	Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan
YUVA	Youth for unity and voluntary action
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
RTE	Right to Education Act
OOPE	Out of Pocket Expenditure
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
PDS	Public Distribution System
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
SMCs	School Management Committees
PHC	Public Health Center
BOCW	Building and other Construction Workers
SEVP	Socially Excluded and vulnerable Population Groups
FPS	Fair Price Shop

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Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), is a national civil society platform initiated in 2004, following the World Social Forum in Mumbai with the aim to 'monitor governance accountability to eliminate poverty and social exclusion in India'. Over 3,000 civil society organisations and network members are associated with WNTA. It works through anchor organisations and civil society leaders in the states and is closely associated with civil society networks and forums. WNTA has three central pillars to its work – a) brings out a review report of the union government on their performance annually, based on their electoral promises and constitutional mandates; b) brings out an annual review report of the MDG/SDG progress in the country and c) articulates people's demands and aspirations, to the political parties, before elections, through 'People's Manifesto'. WNTA is the national partner of the Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP) and other global SDG platforms and processes.

WNTA anchors the Hotspots Study, and "Leave No Child Behind: Snapshots of Children of vulnerable communities and their Rights" is an extension of the study specifically mapping SDGs of children in vulnerable communities in India. The methodology and tools for the study are developed in a participatory manner. The field investigators are selected from the vulnerable communities themselves and community-based organizations. At the national level, the WNTA secretariat provides hands-on support to the field team and manages and monitors the study. The study provides important data and insights to the government to promote SDGs among the communities, an essential step for India in achieving the SDGs by leaving no one behind. WNTA has received acknowledgement of the Hotspots from across civil society organisations and networks, including various members of the International Civil Society Centre in India like Amnesty International, Save the Children, World Vision, Voluntary Service Organisation and others who are also members of the WNTA platform. The engagement with the United Nations in the past has provided the space to share the objectives and methodology of the study with them, and we look forward to more focused engagement in expanding the study.

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Save The Children

Save the Children works in 120 countries globally and across 18 states in India for children's rights – To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. It is determined to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

Save the Children works for:

A world which respects and values each child.

A world which listens to children and learns.

A world where all children have hope and opportunity.

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