

SNAPSHOT OF  
VULNERABLE & EXCLUDED  
URBAN POPULATION  
GROUPS AND SDGs IN INDIA







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# Introduction and Acknowledgement

**T**his pilot study is the outcome of the joint effort of Islamic Relief, OFFER and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan. This study aims to focus attention on the communities living on the fringes of developed and urbanised areas who continue to be excluded out of the developmental debate. This is part of Islamic Relief's urban poverty programming in India and the study provides a snapshot to assess defined sub-groups within the larger urban poor communities vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals.

The study looked at five urban poor groups namely: Domestic Workers, Sewage Workers, Construction Workers, Slum Dwellers and Homeless. The study will serve as an advocacy research to support urban poor communities and civil society organisations working with these groups. It provides insights into disparities faced by these communities and the subsequent challenges India will face in attainments of SDGs for all, if these disparities are not addressed.

We hope to uphold the principle of 'Leave No One Behind' by documenting the developmental needs of the urban poor and paving the way for more comprehensive and inclusive urban policies.

We acknowledge the efforts of People's Right and Social Research, YUVA, and Labour Education and Development Society and their field supporters in Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur who contributed greatly to the making of this report.



# Abbreviations

<b>AMRUT</b>	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
<b>BPL</b>	Below Poverty Line
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organisations
<b>CLO</b>	Community-Led Organisations
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>GCAP</b>	Global Call for Action against Poverty
<b>GoI</b>	Government of India
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NSSO</b>	National Sample Survey Office
<b>OOPE</b>	Out Of Pocket Expenditure
<b>PDS</b>	Public Distribution System
<b>PRI</b>	Panchayati Raj Institutions
<b>SC</b>	Scheduled Castes
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>ST</b>	Scheduled Tribes
<b>ULB</b>	Urban Local Bodies
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>VEUP</b>	Vulnerable and Excluded Urban Population
<b>WNTA</b>	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan



# Abstract

India is key to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals with a population of 1.3 billion and a large section of them struggling address poverty and deprivation. The destitution across the country can be observed in varied forms and conditions. Rural conditions and their access to Government schemes are well-researched, however, the condition of urban poor and their access to schemes related to health, education and livelihood is less researched. The urban poor is often left out of the narrative as they do contribute much less in terms of votes.

Cities in India differ from the European concept as there is heterogeneity in terms of the socio-economic conditions of the residents. The gulf in the socio-economic conditions in urban groups is very wide. With the trends in migration growing by the year, the urban population plays a key role in India's ability to fulfil the sustainable development goals for all. To understand the socio-economic conditions of Vulnerable and Excluded Urban Groups and their access to various governmental provisions, five urban groups – Domestic Workers, Sewage Workers, Construction Workers, Slum Dwellers and Homeless – were studied in 3 states to map their development on 9 SDGs and 27 indicators.

The analysed data shows that living in urban areas has not automatically translated into diverse or even sustainable socio-economic conditions for any of these groups located in three capital cities. The data also reveals a stark need for innovative service delivery and schemes from the government due to the prevalent lack of access to many benefits seen across the 450 households surveyed for this study.



# SECTION

# 1





## 1.1 Introduction

Urbanization has emerged as one of the most significant realities in India in recent decades. The country's urban system, which consists of 7,935<sup>1</sup> urban centers has a population of 377.16 million and accounts for 31 per cent of the country's total population<sup>2</sup>. Urban areas witnessed extraordinary growth over the last decade, from 286 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011.<sup>3</sup> Most of the population increase between 2015 and 2030 will take place in urban areas, and the country's urban population would reach 583 million by 2030 and 814 million by 2050.<sup>4</sup> This extraordinary scale of urban growth poses a huge challenge for ensuring that Indian cities are safe, sustainable, inclusive and resilient which corresponds to the targets laid out within Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the spirit of 'Leave No One Behind' that is behind all SDGs. Further, ensuring that the needs of the currently excluded and marginalized population groups can be addressed and "No one is left behind" while planning and managing urban centers is

a daunting task.

While megacities<sup>5</sup> are notable for their size and concentration of economic activity, these large urban centers are home to only 13 per cent of India's urban population.<sup>6</sup> Close to half of the country's urban population lives in relatively small urban settlements (with a population of fewer than 500,000 residents).<sup>7</sup> Small and medium-sized urban centres face distinct challenges, including lower levels of access to resources (financial and technical) as well as limited local government capacities for ensuring effective service delivery and improved governance. These settlements often also have a higher concentration of people in poverty. Further, research using geo-spatial data shows the presence of dense and continuous built-up urban extensions on the peripheries of India's major cities, where congestion pressures have encouraged sprawl and growth beyond municipal boundaries.<sup>8</sup> These settlements display urban characteristics but are governed as rural areas. At present, most of Government of India's (GoI's) urban development programmes

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<sup>1</sup>Including 4,041 statutory towns and 3,894 census towns

<sup>2</sup>Census 2011

<sup>3</sup>Was 27.29 percent according to the Census 2001

<sup>4</sup>Source: UN World Urbanisation Prospects, 2014

<sup>5</sup>Cities with population of more than 10 million inhabitants

<sup>6</sup>Source: Census 2011

<sup>7</sup>Ibid

<sup>8</sup>Source: Ellis, Peter, and Mark Roberts. 2016. *Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Liveability*. South Asia Development Matters. Washington, DC: World Bank.

and schemes are focused on larger urban centers. There is an urgent need to bring the small and medium towns as well as the peri-urban areas into the policy and programmatic focus to ensure that India meets the targets set under SDG 11.

Government of India recognises urbanisation as a key driver of India's economic growth and places emphasis on the need for "inclusion". To promote equity in urbanization, GoI has passed laws, developed missions, policies and programmes to address the needs of the marginalised. State and local governments have supported this vision by implementing various schemes. However, there remains a stark gap in mainstreaming the excluded and marginalised sections, including people from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) and religious minority communities, urban poor, homeless, slum dwellers, construction workers, domestic workers, street hawkers, women, children, aged and differently-abled. Recent research studies show that urban centres are becoming increasingly gentrified, catering exclusively to the aspirations and needs of India's elite and its burgeoning middle class.<sup>9</sup>

## 1.2 Urban Vulnerabilities and SDGs in India

The world recognises India as the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 1.3 billion people (17.7% of the world population)<sup>10</sup> and large numbers of people living below \$1.25/day. Based on national data (68th round, NSSO 2011-12)<sup>11</sup>, the World Bank calculated that one in every five Indian

in urban areas lives below the poverty line.<sup>12</sup> However, the picture of achieving SDGs in India is made complex with inequalities across geographical regions and communities, which also give rise to some Vulnerable & Excluded Urban Population (VEUP) groups.

The dimensions of urban vulnerabilities are into the following categories<sup>13</sup>:

- Residential vulnerability (access to land, shelter, essential services, etc.)
- Social vulnerability (deprivations related to factors like gender, age, caste and social stratification, lack of social protection, inadequate voice and participation in Governance structures, etc.)
- Occupational vulnerability (precarious livelihoods, dependence on the informal sector for employment and earnings, lack of job security, poor working conditions, etc.)
- Domicile-related Vulnerabilities (In the absence of a domicile/residence certificate the migrants are deprived of welfare entitlements by the state)

These vulnerabilities are inter-related. Amongst the Slum Dwellers, there are sections subject to higher vulnerability in terms of the above classification; these include women, children, aged, SCs, STs, minorities, mentally challenged and differently-abled persons who deserve attention on a priority basis.

As the urban population is on the increase with unbalanced migration flows, the demand for every key service will increase several folds

<sup>9</sup>Kavita Ramakrishnan, "City Futures: Aspirations and Urban Imaginaries in Delhi", Kaleidoscope Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Journal of Durham University's Institute of Advanced Studies, January 2013

<sup>10</sup>India Population Live;www.worldometers.info/world-population/india-population/ downloaded on 28.2.2018; Population of India is 13,48,945,567 - 17.7% of the world population (one in 5.6 persons) is Indian.

<sup>11</sup>68th round, NSSO 2011-12 -

<sup>12</sup>India's Poverty Profile: Based on snapshot 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2016/05/27/india-s-poverty-profile>, downloaded on 27.2.2018

<sup>13</sup>Report of The Expert Group to Recommend the Detailed Methodology for Identification of Families Living Below Poverty Line in the Urban Areas 2012, [http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep\\_hasim1701.pdf](http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_hasim1701.pdf), downloaded on 10.12.2019

Recent research studies show that urban centres are becoming increasingly gentrified, catering exclusively to the aspirations and needs of India's elite and its burgeoning middle class.

in the cities. Given this scenario, if India keeps following the current path of governance, it will be difficult to ensure sustainable and inclusive cities (SDG-Goal 11). India needs to effectively manage its urbanization process by creating inclusive cities, functional urban local governance, low-income housing and outreach of basic services and for this equitable planning must be followed by effective implementation.

Missions and schemes are working to address the challenge of improving urban space. For example, Government of India's Smart Cities Mission, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the prime minister's Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana which aims to achieve housing for all by 2022, the ambitious goals of some of the programs such as providing "housing for all", or ending "open defecation" across India.

At the same time, we have the SDG targets in Goal 11, to be achieved by 2030, which is to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums; and

- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with a particular attention given to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, and children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.
- Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to the global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

However, a rapidly urbanizing country like India the SDGs, particularly SDG 11, becomes very crucial. Ensuring that cities are not only safe, sustainable and resilient but also mainstream the currently excluded and marginalised sections including women, children, SC/ST population

The “Hotspots” evolved as a mechanism to give voice to the VEUP Groups and empower them to examine their development inequalities on a real-time basis, network and advocate for necessary policies and provisions.



and religious minorities is challenging.

The SDGs tracking and reporting by the government is metadata and aggregations which do not reflect the status of the VEUP Groups. Currently, there are no disaggregated data or adequate insights on the barriers these groups face in accessing the development provisions or enjoying mandated rights. Further, there are no systematised mechanisms to ensure their participation in the decision-making processes in the governance systems. The “Hotspots” evolved as a mechanism to give voice to the VEUP Groups and empower them to examine their development inequalities on a real-time basis, network and advocate for necessary policies and provisions. Capacity building, networking and supporting the communities to take up advocacy with the government and other stakeholders to promote SDGs achievement are also central to the Hotspots.

The study aims to:

1. **Examine:** Gather development data on the smaller, hitherto less visible vulnerable & excluded urban population groups (VEUP Groups) within disadvantaged and marginalised social groups to identify who is on the risk of being left behind, and to share best practices to include them in the development process.
2. **Engage:** Engage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Led Organizations (CLOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local governance to highlight the specific vulnerabilities of the VEUP Groups and ensure government programmes and provisions reach them.
3. **Empower:** Build capacities of the VEUP Groups so that they can articulate their issues and participate in governance and development processes.

The expected outcomes of the study are:

1. Robust mechanism and baseline data are available for replication and adoption to

track SDGs progress and inequalities for the VEUP Groups.

2. VEUP Groups voice their demands on development and rights measures and better access and benefit from the SDGs framework.
3. Civil society organizations adopt the hotspot framework and track and monitor the SDGs access of VEUP Groups.
4. Concerned Government officials acknowledge the development inequalities and build mechanisms for better access of the SDGs targets and schemes by the VEUP Groups.
5. Contribute to the global mechanism and data framework on the SDGs spirit of ‘leave no one behind and life of dignity’ for the most vulnerable sections.

### **1.3: Islamic Relief Worldwide**

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) is an international and independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in the United Kingdom in 1984 with its international head office in Birmingham, UK. IRW is an independent humanitarian and development organisation with a network of national offices, affiliated partners, registered branches and field offices spanning 50 countries. The organisation aims to eradicate poverty and make the world a better and fairer place for the three billion people living in poverty. As part of its commitment towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the world, Islamic Relief in India promotes work with urban poor to ensure access to services and to provide sustainable economic and social development.

### **1.4: OFFER**

OFFER is a non-political, non-religious and not-for-profit organisation established in 1998 under the Societies’ Registration Act. OFFER started with the vision to work for the upliftment and betterment of the orphan children and their caregivers. Since 2013, it has re-defined its vision and aims to work on integrated development of rural and urban poor with focus to improve their quality of life. At present, OFFER is working across India on sustainable livelihoods, promoting quality education, social protection, urban poverty reduction, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and disaster risk reduction. As part of its mandate, OFFER has developed itself as a humanitarian organisation providing life-saving support to the communities affected by disasters across India.

### **1.5: WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN**

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a national civil society platform initiated in 2004 following the World Social Forum in Mumbai. WNTA anchors the Urban Hotspots Study (Hotspots henceforth). The WNTA platform aims 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 along with other development partners and experts. WNTA has a democratic structure with the leadership of three conveners and steering group members elected every two years, with an additional term for two years. The steering group includes NGOs and INGOs. WNTA works through anchor organisations and civil society leaders in the states and closely associates with experts’ civil society networks and forums.



SECTION

2



## 2.1 The Vulnerable and Excluded Urban Population Groups in the study

The study focuses on “Vulnerable and Excluded and Urban Population Groups (VEUP Groups)” recognizing that different tiers of urban vulnerabilities lay the foundations for discrimination, exploitation, violence, prohibitions and various other forms of rights violations against these communities. They further add complex and multiple layers of disadvantages and development inequalities.

The study recognizes that there is limited attention or data on the VEUP groups; their context and challenges get masked within the larger averages. The study uses the SDGs framework to identify and highlight the status of these smaller, less visible population

groups within the broad vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The purpose is to tease out the challenges in as much detail as possible and build the agencies of the specific groups to ensure that they are not left out in the process of the SDGs achievement.

The study has covered VEUP groups listed below with data gathered during August-September 2019. Civil Society and Community-led organizations conducted the study in specific urban locations to incorporate the experiential knowledge of these communities. In the majority of these cases, the field investigators were drawn from VEUP groups themselves who underwent three-day training and were closely supported through the process of data gathering and have emerged as local SDG resource persons and advocacy champions.

S. No	VEUP Groups	Total Households Covered	Location
1	Domestic Workers	100	Delhi
2	Sewage Workers	100	Delhi
3	Construction Workers	100	Jaipur
4	Slum Dwellers	100	Mumbai
5	Homeless	50	Mumbai
Total		450	

Field investigators carried out a survey for Domestic workers and Sewage Workers in the suburbs of New Delhi. This was resettlement colony for mining workers. Currently the majority of the male residents work as sewage workers, and the females work as domestic workers in the households. The children also help them in work. The sewage workers consistently showed polarised income patterns, either too low or high. Those employed directly by the Government had better and regular salaries. Others working on contracts do not have the bargaining capacity and continue to work on meagre wages. Prevalence of diseases like tuberculosis and skin allergies was peculiarly high as this resettlement space was a mining site. Domestic workers found it easier to find work and reported better bargaining powers with their employers. However, alcoholism among men was prevalent leading to constant financial and emotional stress on the women. Domestic violence was also reported.

The survey carried out with Construction Workers was on the active construction sites in Jaipur. These workers do not have a permanent address as they move from one construction site to the other, which makes their access to Government schemes and subsidies difficult. The houses that they lived in were temporary structure such that it can be dismantled easily on completion of the project. Majority of the men in these households spend their day working at the construction site, and the women find domestic work in the nearby areas. The children are the worst sufferers as continuous migration restricts them from getting admitted to schools. Access to basic government facilities such as Anganwadis and Dispensaries is also close to negligible due to no familiarity with the location. Skin diseases are common with the Construction workers, but their access to health schemes is inversely proportional.

The survey of Slum Dwellers household conducted in around five *bastis* in Jogeshwari

East in Mumbai -namely Bandra Plot, Pratap Nagar, Ramwadi, Meghwadi and Janta Colony. These *bastis* are recognised by the local government authorities and hence provided some basic amenities. Respondents from Bandra Plot, Pratap Nagar and Janta Colony, belong to the Muslim community. Respondents from Pratap Nagar, Ramwadi and Meghwadi, are primarily the migrants from rural Maharashtra. Most people are living here for generations and working the informal sector and belong to the low economic background.

The field investigators conducted the homeless survey in areas of Matunga, Dadar and Wadala area in the central part of Mumbai. The locations are near Markets, railway stations and major temples and around 2,500 homeless reside in this area. Homeless have adapted to work as waste pickers, domestic work and street vending along with catering. Some tribes sell Flowers and artistic and decorative pieces created out of flowers and leaves of Coconut Trees. There are single women and some elderly also live in this area. There are very few shelters for the homeless. Families live on roads and pavements in the areas mentioned above. The access to water is strictly limited and exclusive, which makes securing water an arduous task.

## 2.2: SDGs Targets and Indicators Covered

The SDG goals, targets and indicators covered in the primary data collection are listed below. The study gathered primary data and analysed 30 sets of data across 15 indicators for Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16. Goal 10, on inequalities, is elicited from all the other goals and targets comparing primary research data with the national averages. The study is currently weak on some indicators, particularly climate-related indicators which will change in subsequent rounds.

Sl. No.	SD Goals	Indicators	Primary Data Collected
<p>1</p> 	<p>1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	<p>1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day</p>	<p>1. Average monthly earnings of the household</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p>2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>2. Access to food grains through the Public Distribution System</p> <p>3. Per cent of families having BPL cards</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages</p>	<p>3. By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes</p> <p>4. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all</p>	<p>4. Access to Public Health Services</p> <p>5. Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health</p>

Sl. No.	SD Goals	Indicators	Primary Data Collected
<p>4</p> 	<p>4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>5. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes</p> <p>6. 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</p>	<p>6. Access to School Education – Public/ Private institutions</p> <p>7. Access to Scholarship</p> <p>8. Access to technical education</p> <p>9. Out of Pocket expenditure on education</p>
<p>6</p> 	<p>6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>9. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p> <p>10. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation</p>	<p>11. Source of drinking water</p> <p>12. Availability of bathroom facilities in housing premises</p> <p>13. Percentage of HHs who have to purchase drinking water</p> <p>14. The weekly cost of purchasing drinking water</p>
<p>7</p> 	<p>7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>11. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services</p>	<p>15. Access to electricity as the main source of lighting</p> <p>16. Usage of LPG/ Clean fuel as cooking fuel</p>

Sl. No.	SD Goals	Indicators	Primary Data Collected
<p><b>8</b></p> 	<p>7. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>12. 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</p>	<p>17. No of months of employment in the past year</p> <p>18. No of days of paid work in the past month</p> <p>19. Regularity of work</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> 	<p>11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>13. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>	<p>20. Percentage of population living in Slums</p> <p>21. Percentage of population living in Notified Slums</p> <p>21. Percentage of HH living in rented premises</p> <p>22. Percentage of HH living in a house without separate Kitchen/ Bathroom</p> <p>23. Percentage of HHs residing in a single room house.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> 	<p>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</p>	<p>14. Significantly reduce all forms of violence</p> <p>15. Substantially Reduce Corruption and Bribery in all their Forms</p> <p>15. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>	<p>24. Percentage of HHs with a family member who has faced Physical Violence</p> <p>25. Percentage of HHs who has ever been demanded a bribe by a public official.</p> <p>26. Percentage of population with any legal identity</p> <p>27. Percentage of population with birth registration</p>

## 2.3 Methods of primary research

The development of methodology and tools followed Participatory Research approach. Two to four field investigators from the Vulnerable and Excluded Urban groups got training on various research tools. The field investigators participated in an intensive three-day workshop on the study framework and tools. In the truest sense, the study used the SDGs framework and gathered citizen-led data to analyse the context of the VEUP Groups and promote advocacy and champions within them. The key research questions of the study were:

- Which are the Vulnerable and Excluded Urban communities in India?
- What is the current status of SDG achievement among Vulnerable and Excluded Urban communities in India and the gap with national achievement (national averages)?
- What is the access of Vulnerable and Excluded Urban to development schemes and entitlements essential to achieve SDG targets?
- What policy and provision measures are necessary to support SDG achievements among VEUP groups in India?
- What are the good practices and recommendations to equalise SDG targets achievements by Vulnerable and Excluded Urban communities in India?

The study used mixed research methods, i.e. Quantitative, as well as Qualitative.

- Collection of primary data done through a household survey
- Analysis of the access to the key welfare and development institutions and policies/ programmes

Secondary data (from the Census of India, National Family Health Surveys, various Ministries MIS, etc.) was used to calculate the gap between the situation of the identified vulnera-

ble groups and the National/State/Community average. The methodology has been customised for specific VEUP Groups to bring out the exclusion process and better capture the data depending on the specific needs and circumstances of the groups.

The Primary Quantitative Data has been collected through the Household Survey using digital technology. WNTA collaborated with Social Cops (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 among domestic workers, sewage workers, construction workers and slum population making a total of 400 households. Randomization was ensured by listing 300 households in each Hotspot, and every third household selected for primary data collection. Only 50 households was studied from the homeless community owing to time constraints and organisational limitations.

The primary quantitative data 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.

## 2.4: Challenges and limitations of the study

Due to geographical and group diversity, managing the VEUP Groups study was a challenging task. The study team consisted of more than ten field investigators spread across 04 geographic locations in three different states (Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) in India speaking different languages/dialects. WNTA, in association with Atlan, developed a web-based project management platform to track the progress of data collection from different VEUP Groups. Through this platform, the core project team based at WNTA secretariat in New Delhi was able to monitor the data collected by various data collectors and intervened promptly in case of need for handholding support.



SECTION

# 3



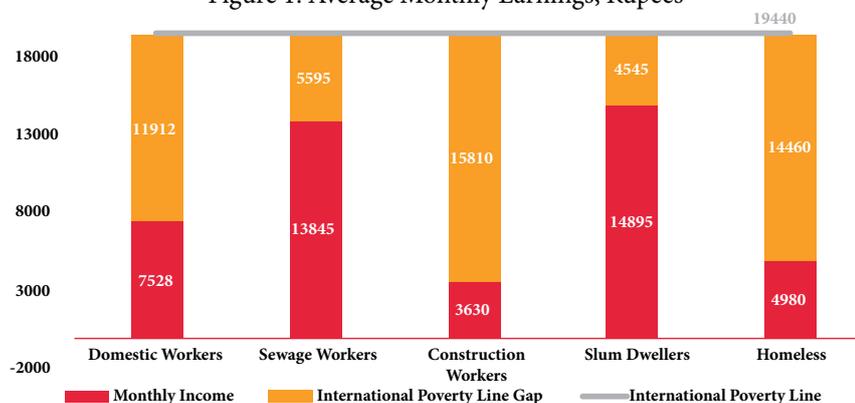
## FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the status of the four VEUP Groups tracked during the study for the national averages on various development indicators. The data from the household survey indicates stark gaps between the VEUP group and national averages.



An important indicator to monitor SDG 1 is the proportion of people living below the international poverty line at less than \$1.9/person/day which translates currently to INR 135/person/day ( $1\$ = 71.1^{14}$ ). The average household size in India is calculated as 4.8<sup>15</sup>. Hence a household earning below INR 19,440/month ( $135 \times 4.8 \times 30 = 19,440$ ), is poor under the SDGs.

Figure 1: Average Monthly Earnings, Rupees



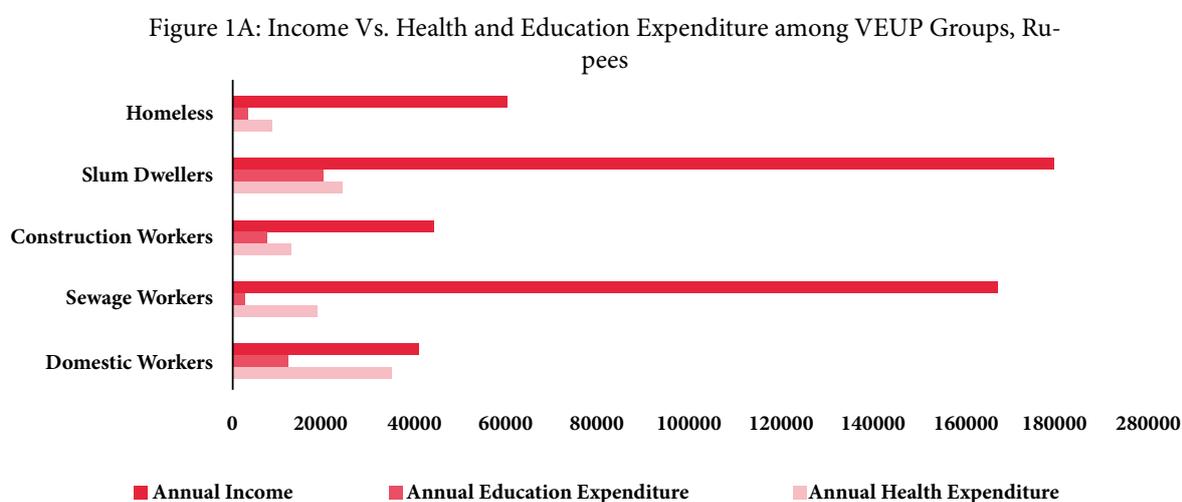
<sup>14</sup> Exchange rate as on January 10, 2020

<sup>15</sup> Census of India 2011

(Source: Primary Data through HH survey)

The primary data (*figure: 1*) from the 05 VEUP Groups tracked in the study reports them below the international poverty line of \$1.9 day/person. The household income of the Domestic Workers, Construction Workers and the Homeless in the study is less than a quarter that of the International Poverty line. The household income of the Sewage Workers in the study is the highest among the VEUP Groups tracked at INR14,895/- which is INR4,545/- below the International Poverty Line or 75% of the International Poverty Line. As explained earlier, sewage workers directly employed by the government are salaried and earn better.

India has moved to become a middle-income country and at the World Bank's revised poverty line<sup>16</sup> for the middle-income country at \$3.20/person/day, the monthly household income of the family calculates to INR 33,445. One also notes that urban households spend much more on basic needs like housing, water, toilets to name some. The absolute poverty of the VEUP Groups and the increased cost to meet basic needs puts achieving SDGs in jeopardy.



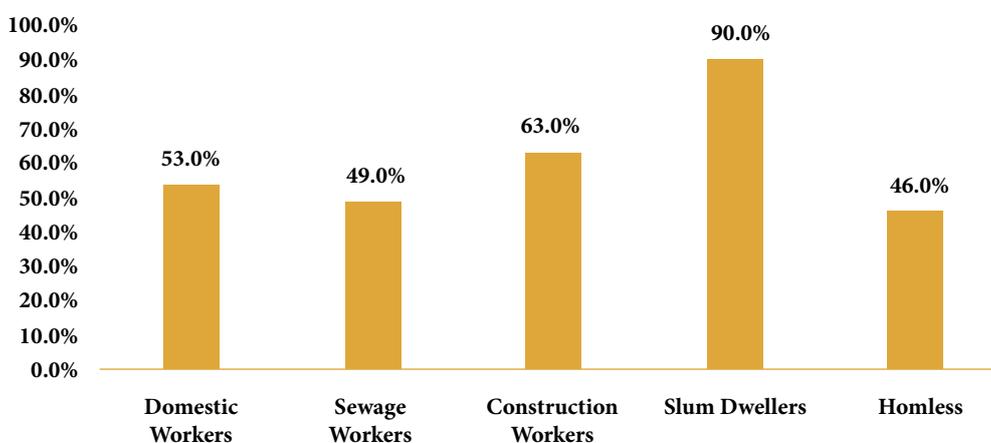
(Source: VEUP Groups-Primary Data through HH survey)

## 2 END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



India’s rank on the Global Hunger Index 2019 was 102nd position among 117 countries. According to the report, prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have “serious levels of hunger”<sup>17</sup>. India has a set of welfare policies in place to address the issue of hunger and nutrition. The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.<sup>18</sup> Households are given ration cards, categorised as households below poverty line (BPL households) and above poverty line (APL households) to get their entitlements under the NFSA.

Figure 2: Percentage of HHs Having Ration Card



(Source: Primary Data through HH survey)

The primary data from the VEUP Groups (*figure 2*) reports that even as these population groups are among the most vulnerable, they are only partially covered under the PDS system. Less than half the sewage worker families and homeless families in the study possessed a ration card; 53.6 per cent of the Domestic Workers families had ration cards. Pertinent to mention, lack of identity among the homeless renders them more vulnerable in terms of accessing government schemes and entitlements.

Ration card is an identity card and as a basic document to access other government welfare

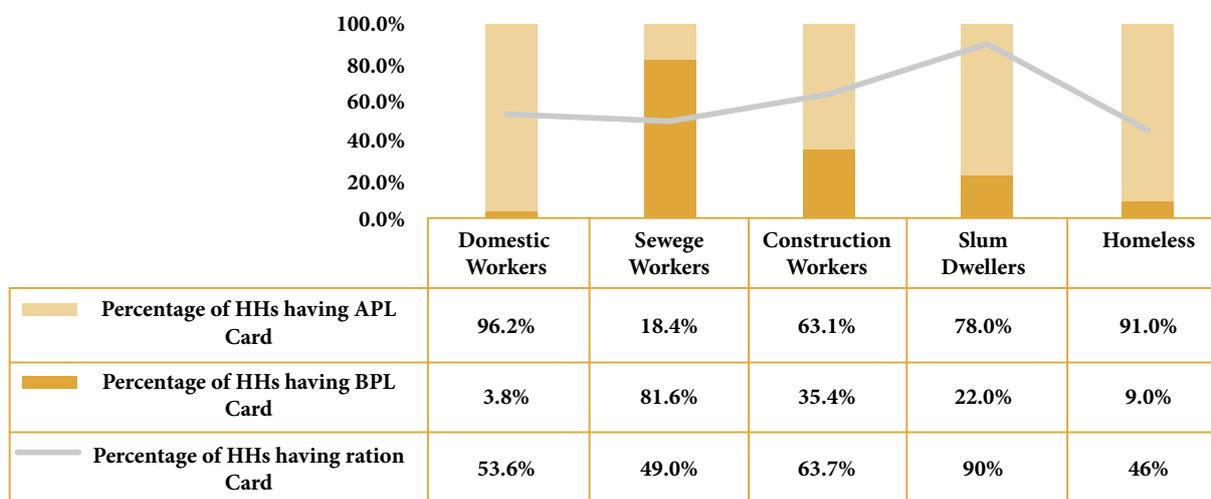
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html>

<sup>18</sup> <http://nfsa.ap.gov.in/content/nfsaact.jsp>, Accessed on October 10, 2019

scheme is essential. Not having a ration card makes them ineligible for various government provisions and services. Ration card acts as an identity and residence proof for getting loans from banks, electricity connection, and health care in public health facilities, etc. Given that state services are central to lifting these communities and households out of poverty and achieve the SDGs, the lack of a ration card is a fundamental loophole that creates a barrier to achieving the SDGs.

As seen in *figure 1*, all the VEUP households in the study fall below the international poverty line and hence require special equitable state support to get out of their poverty and disadvantages cycle. One would assume that having a BPL (Below Poverty Line) ration card that makes the household eligible for various additional government subsidies and special provisions would be a natural corollary.

Figure 2A: Distribution of VEUP HHs With a Ration Card According to BPL & APL Ration Card Category



(Source: Primary Data through HH survey)

*Figure 2A* shows only 22 per cent of Slum Dwellers, 35.4 per cent of Construction Workers, and 3.8 per cent of Domestic Workers households possessed a BPL card. The majority (81.6%) of the sewage worker families who possessed a ration card (which is less than half of the families studied 49%) had BPL card. The lowest number of ration cards were found to be for the homeless group, where only 46% of the HHs covered had access to any ration card. Their access to BPL card was negligible. The VEUP groups often face difficulty in proving their residential status due to their migration from the original place of residence and hence lose out on critical welfare provisions.

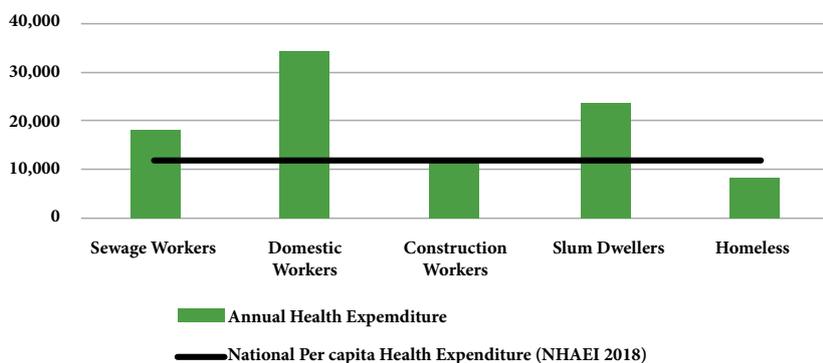
# 3 ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELLBEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



Access to universal quality health services, including financial risk protection, is a vital indicator to monitor progress under this goal. A comprehensive public health system is indispensable to promote wellbeing for all at all stages. At the country level, the government of India monitors this goal by assessing out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health and access to quality health services (e.g. affordable medicines, pathological services, specialist doctors, etc.). The primary data collected for this study suggests that VEUP Groups are furthest behind in terms of access to quality public health services and spends much more on health as compared to the national average.

Figure 3 reflects that out of pocket expenditure on health is higher than the national average in the households of all the 5 VEUP Groups. Annually, the households from the Domestic Workers' Group spend around INR 22,000/- more as an Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on health as compared to the national average (Per capita OOPE on Health = Rs 2494; Average HH size = 4.8; Average HH OOPE calculated as Rs 11971.2). Similarly, the Slum Dwellers' group spends around INR 12,000/- on as OOPE on health as compared to the national average. The fact that these households are below the international poverty line (figure 1) makes it clear that they are in all probability diverting badly needed funds to meet health care needs. The high OOPE on health further forces them into a poverty trap.

Figure 3: Out of Pocket Expenditure on health by VEUP Groups, Rupees



(Source: VEUP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey; All India Data- National Health Accounts 2017)<sup>19</sup>

According to a study by Public Health Foundation of India, OOPE on health expenses drove 55 million Indians--more than the population of South Korea, Spain or Kenya--into poverty in 2011-12. Of these, 38 million (69%) were forced into impoverishment by expenditure on medicines alone (Sakthivel Selvaraj, 2018).

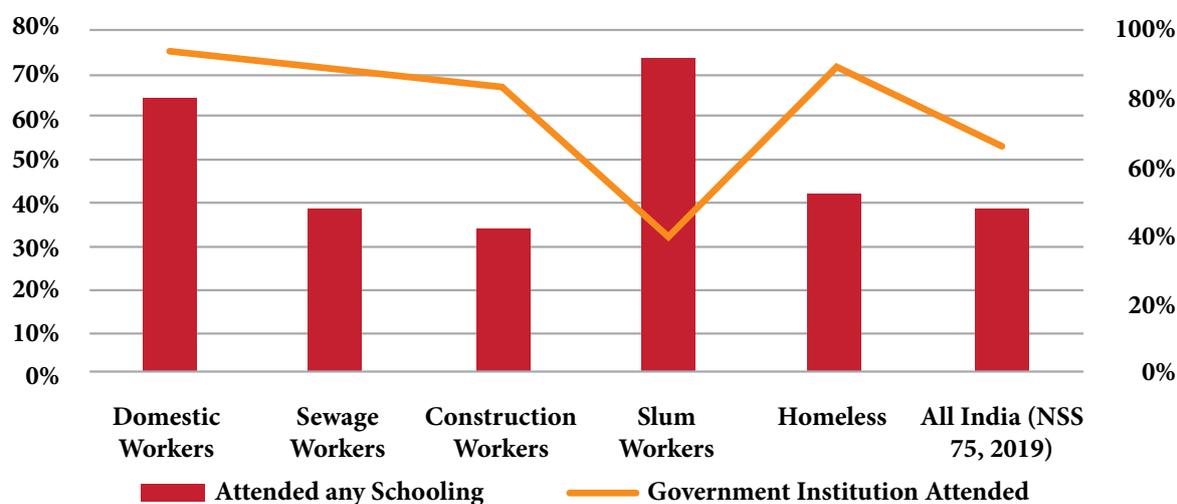
<sup>19</sup> National Health Accounts Estimates for India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/National%20Health%20Accounts%20Estimates%20Report%202014-15.pdf>)



## ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Access to inclusive and equitable quality education is one of the most important constituents of human development. In India, the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009, guarantees free and compulsory education as a fundamental right to children between the age of 6 to 14 years under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution.<sup>20</sup> After the enactment of the RTE Act, India witnessed a rise in the enrolment rate at various levels of school education. However, even after ten years of enactment of the Act, the national data reports 60.64 lakh children in this age group are out-of-school, among them greater numbers are from the socially excluded communities (SC-32.4% and ST-16.6%).<sup>21</sup> Figure 4 reports a dismal situation of schooling of children (aged 5-18 year) from the VEUP households tracked in the study.

Figure 4: Access to School Education, Government School Education



Source: Primary data through HH Survey)

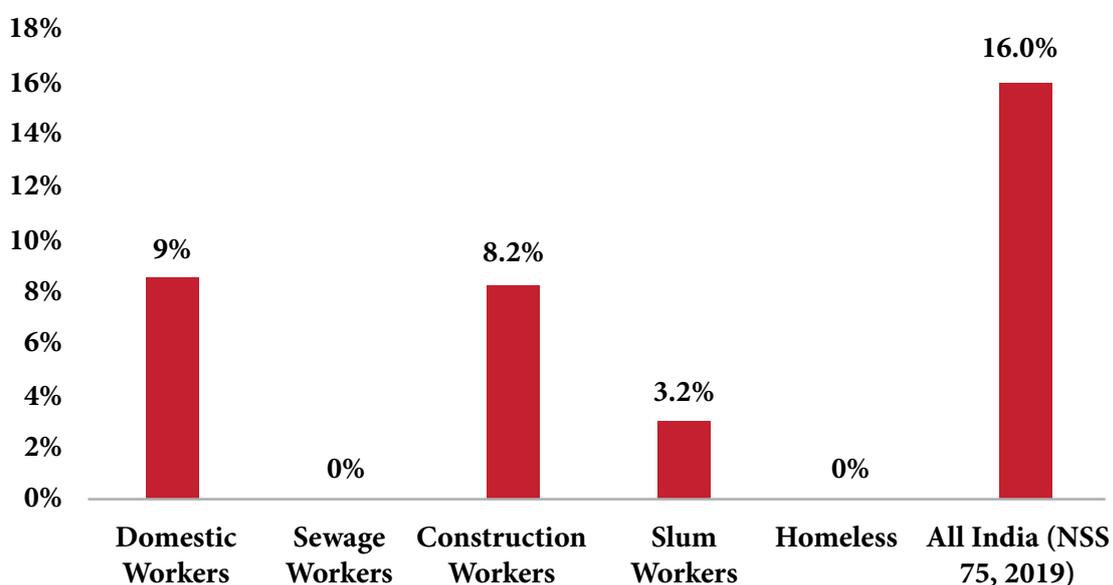
At the outset, an unacceptable number of children from the VEUP households tracked in the study, are out of school and do not attend any school. From the bottom, only 33.9% of children from the Construction workers' households, 39% of children from the Sewage Workers' Households, 42% of children from the Homeless. The prognosis for these communities to achieve SDGs in the next 10-11 years is by far herculean. The slum dwellers reported the highest numbers of children in schools at 74%.

<sup>20</sup>Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, (<https://mhrd.gov.in/rte>)

<sup>21</sup>Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 2014

Similar to the perception of public health care facilities being of poor quality, public education is also perceived to be of poor quality. Private schooling is also associated with the English language which is sought after, as the means for career, social and economic mobility. Hence, even poor households aspire to send their children to private schools. At the national level, around 40% of children are in private schools and 60% of children in government schools. There has also been a steady increase in the proportion of children moving to private education – Contrarily, the large majority of children in VEUP households in the study attended government schools. More than 80 per cent of the children who attended any school from the households of Construction Workers, Sewage Workers, Homeless and Domestic Workers attended government schools. Negligible numbers of children attended any private school.

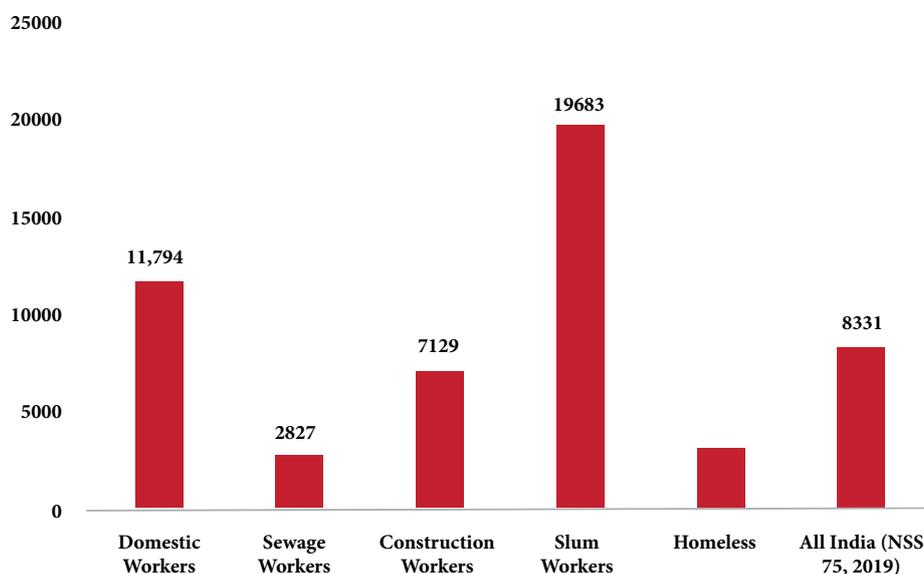
Figure 4A: Access to Scholarship, Percent



(Source: Primary Data through the HH Survey)

The government of India has instituted scholarships for children from disadvantaged communities and other categories of economically weaker sections, under affirmative action, to address the economic limitations these families may face. *Figure 4* showed that as large as 50% of children from the VEUP households tracked in the study did not attend schools. *Figure 4A* further shows that many of these children did not access the scholarships. None of the children from the Sewage Workers and Homeless Households has access to scholarship. Also, only 9 per cent of the Domestic Workers, 8.2 per cent of the Construction Worker and 3 per cent Slum Dwellers' households accessed scholarship

Figure 4B: Annual OOPE on Education, Rupee

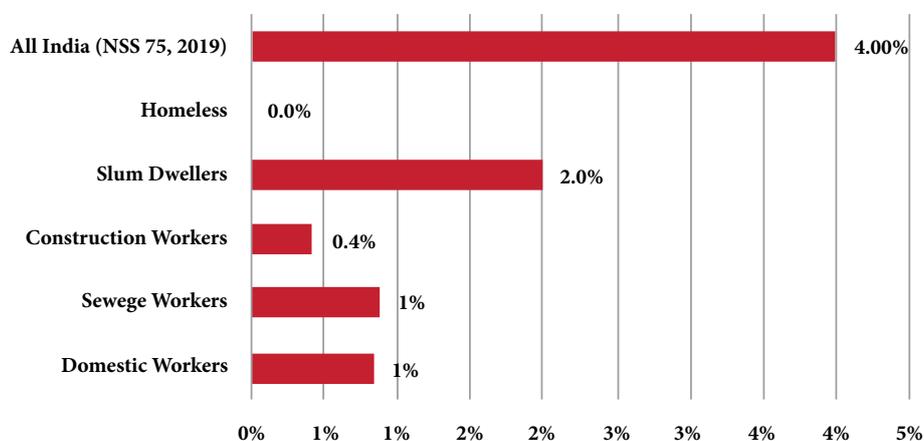


(Source: VEUP Groups – Primary Data through HH Survey; All India Data- NSS 75th Round-2019)

Families spend money out of their pockets on books, tuitions, transportation, extra-curricular activities, etc. even when they study in government schools. *Figure 4B* on out of pocket school expenses is a complex picture. While the annual national average of out of pocket expenses for schools is INR 8,331, the VEUP households from Homeless, Sewage Workers and Construction workers group spent less than half of the All India average.

The vast inequalities reflected in the above data makes it clear that national averages do not hold for the situation of the more vulnerable population groups. Disaggregated data of these population groups is extremely critical to identify their challenges and build policies and provisions to address them.

Figure 4C: Percentage among VEUP Groups Who Received Any Vocational/Technical Training, Percent



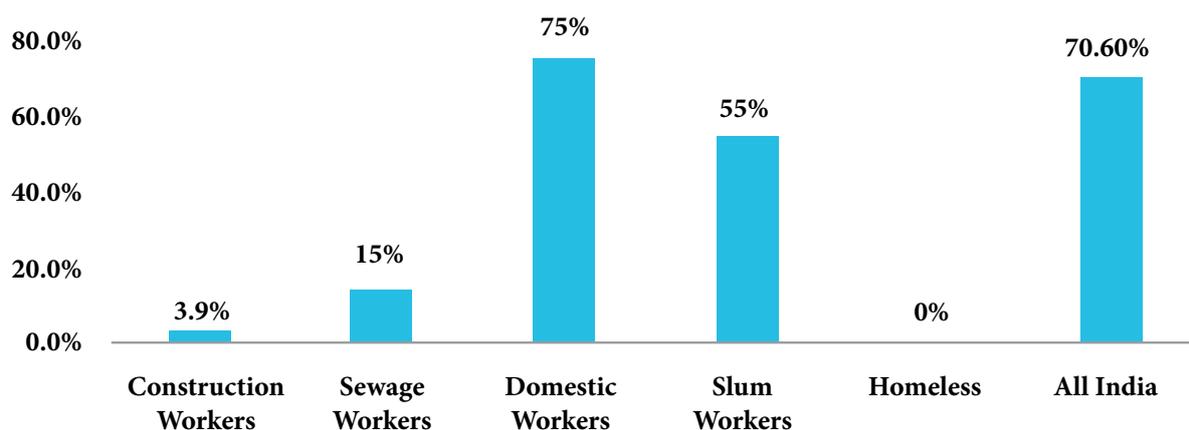
(Source: Primary Data through the Household Survey)

# 6 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



The Government is implementing its National Rural Drinking Water Programme through the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for ensuring drinking water to people in rural areas. The Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Water Resources are mandated to ensure water availability and accessibility to people in urban locations. Despite all this, there are still 76 million people not having access to safe drinking water in India today. The situation of the VEUP groups is even worse.

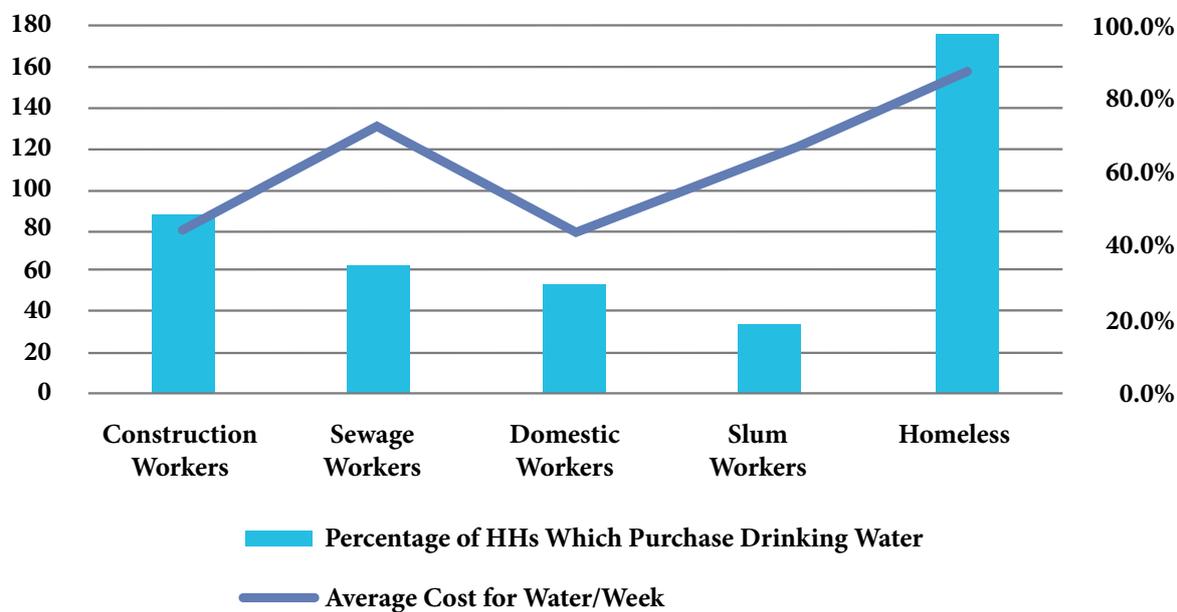
Figure 5: VEUP HHs with Piped Drinking Water Within Their Premises, Percent



(Source: VEUP Households- Primary Data through HH Survey, All India-Census of India 2011)

Figure 5 highlights that access to piped drinking water within the household premises is much lower among VEUP groups as compared to the national average of 70.6 per cent. Mere 3.9 per cent of the Construction Workers and 15 per cent of the Sewage workers households have piped drinking water within their Household premises. Homeless by conceptual definition do not have any access to piped water within their temporary settlements, this was observed in the survey as well.

Figure 5A: VEUP Households purchasing drinking watert



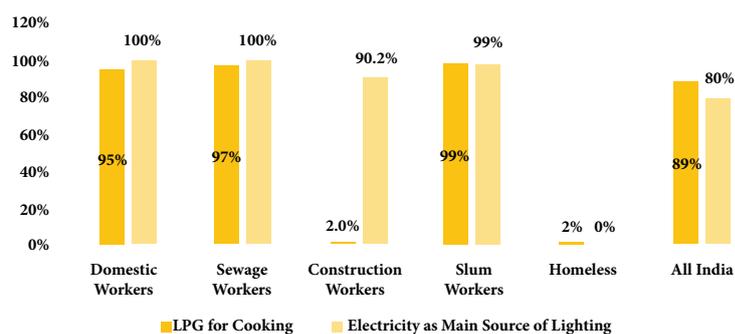
Source: Primary Data through HH Survey

Figure 5A shows that around half of the households from the Construction Workers and Sewage Workers Group in the study have to purchase drinking water. Similarly, a considerable percentage of the Domestic Workers and Slum Dwellers groups purchases drinking water. Almost all of the Homeless purchase their water. The average weekly cost paid by each household in these groups for drinking water is more than INR 80 with the Homeless paying the most for it. The situation of access to water is alarming among the VEUP groups, given the fact that most of them fall way below the International Poverty line. In all the groups, more than 80 per cent of time an adult woman or a girl fetched drinking water/water for the household.

# 7 ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Access to modern energy sources is an important indicator to monitor goal seven internationally. At the country level, the government of India monitors this goal by assessing the main source of lighting and cooking fuel used by the household. The Census of India enumerates Electricity, Kerosene, Solar, Other Oil, Wood, Coal, Gas, and Biogas as sources of lighting and fuel. Of these, electricity and solar energy are considered a reliable, sustainable, clean and modern source of energy.

Figure 6: Access to Clean Energy, Percent



(Source: VEUP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey; All India Electricity-Ministry of Power ; All India LPG- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas )

It is evident in *figure 6* that all of the VEUP Groups in the study have access to electricity, similar to the national average. However, even as they used electricity as the main source of lighting, more than 60 per cent of the households from all the VEUP groups reported that they do not have an electricity connection in their name. They get a private electricity connection illegally from

neighbouring families or the mainline connection. Often, they do not own a house of their own and hence cannot get electricity connection in their name. Further, not having these documents in their names, is a barrier for them when they need other identity documents for admission to schools, access to state subsidies, opening bank accounts or loans, etc., which thus stand in the way of their achieving SDGs on many counts. The Census of India considers (LPG, Biogas and Solar energy) as clean sources of cooking fuel. LPG is the most widely available and used clean source of cooking fuel. Government of India launched ‘Ujjwala’ scheme in 2015 to provide LPG cylinders to beneficiary households at subsidized rates. The government data suggests that approximately 89 per cent of the households at all India level has been provided with and uses LPG as main cooking fuel. Primary data from this study suggests that Sewage Workers, Domestic Workers and Slum Dwellers have almost universal access to LPG as cooking fuel. However, Construction workers and the Homeless have almost negligible access to LPG cylinders. Those who have access to LPG cylinders find it difficult to procure a refill cylinder. The high cost of refilling the LPG cylinder is also deterrent. The homeless have no access to either of these provisions.

<sup>21</sup>All India Electricity- Ministry of Power <https://data.gov.in/resources/state-wise-details-rural-households-electrification-15012018-ministry-power>

<sup>22</sup>All India LPG-Ministry of Petroleum and Gas <https://data.gov.in/resources/state-wise-details-lpg-connections-released-during-2017-18-and-2018-19-ministry>



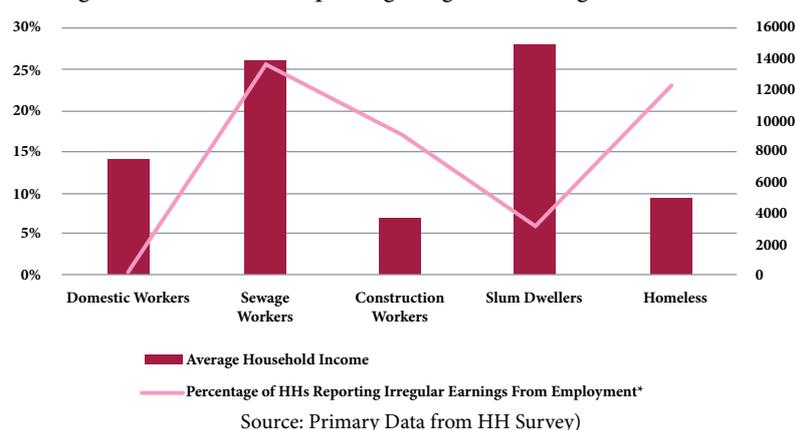
## PROMOTE FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

More than 90 per cent of the Indian workforce is located in the unorganized sector and deprived of various aspects of decent work. More than half of the rural households in India derive their earnings from manual casual labour, and around 30 per cent of them derive their income from cultivation.<sup>24</sup> The recently leaked government report on employment suggests that the unemployment rate in India is on an all-time high in the last 45 years.<sup>25</sup>

As do the majority of the workforce in India, the VEUP households are primarily employed in the casual work in the unorganised sector which does not provide employment or occupation related protection. The primary household data from the VEUP Groups suggest that they suffer from a high degree of unemployment. Our data suggest that the VEUP Groups do not get employment round the year. The availability of employment varied from 6 to 9 months a year in the preceding 12 months. Sewage Workers and Construction Workers group also reported poor availability of employment to about seven months in the preceding year. The Domestic Worker groups reported the highest access to employment in the preceding year.

The data further suggests that even in those months where employment is available, they are unemployed on all days of the month. The number of days where they earned wages in the previous month varied from 15 to 23 days. Taking the two data together, the number of days where they are employed and earn wages may vary from as low as 66 days to 207 days a year.

Figure 7: Percentage of VEUHP HHs Reporting Irregular Earnings vis-à-vis their Monthly income



The primary data suggests that employment situation among the VEUP Groups characterized by irregular earnings/wage payments for all the groups except the Slum Dwellers and Domestic Workers (See figure 7).

<sup>24</sup>Socio Economic Caste Census 2011, <https://secc.gov.in/categorywiseIncomeSourceReport?reportType=All%20Category#>

<sup>25</sup>Unemployment rate at four-decade high of 6.1% in 2017-18: NSSO survey, Business Standard, Accessed on April 15, 2019 ([https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/unemployment-rate-at-five-decade-high-of-6-1-in-2017-18-nssso-survey-119013100053\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/unemployment-rate-at-five-decade-high-of-6-1-in-2017-18-nssso-survey-119013100053_1.html))

# 11

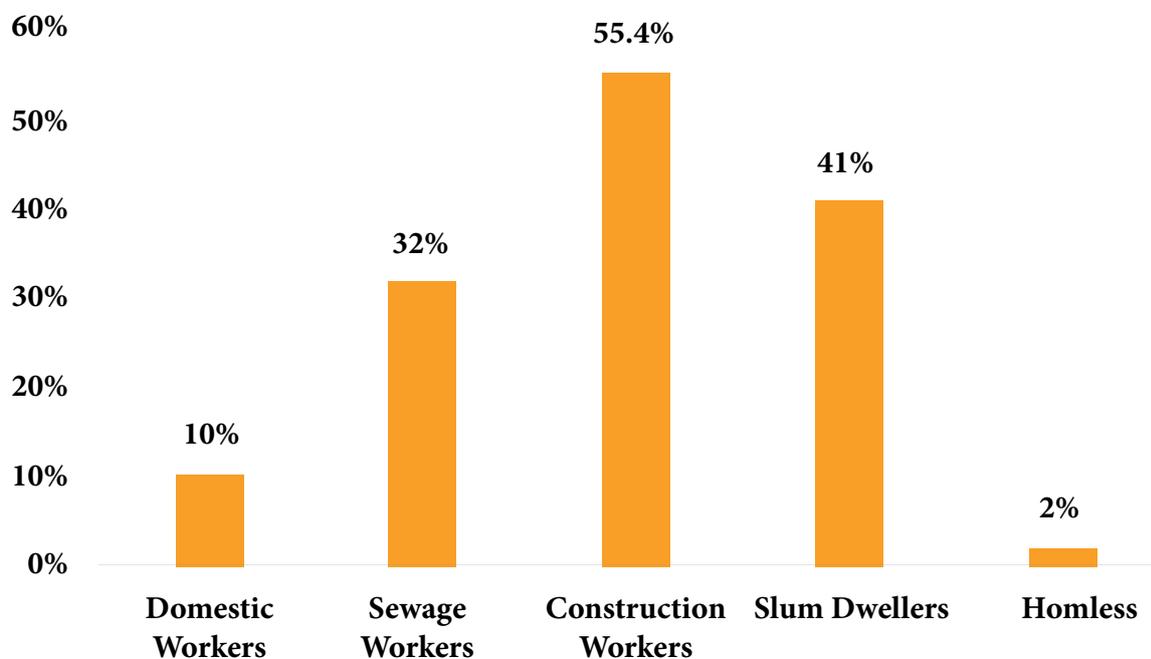


## MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Access to safe and sustainable housing is vital to a humane way of life. In the absence of affordable housing options, forcing millions of urban residents to live in under-served and low-quality housing in settlements called “slums”.<sup>26</sup> The SDG 11 mandates to ensure access for all adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums. The government of India has a set of very comprehensive housing welfare schemes to provide affordable housing to people living below the poverty line. The proportion of households living in Kutchha houses and Slum dwellings are an important indicator to monitor the success and progress of these policies.

It is evident from *figure 8* that a significant proportion of the VEUP groups except domestic workers reside in Slums. The proportion of households living in a slum from the Construction Workers and Slum Dwellers community is more than 40 per cent.

Figure 8: Percentage of VEUHP Located in Slum

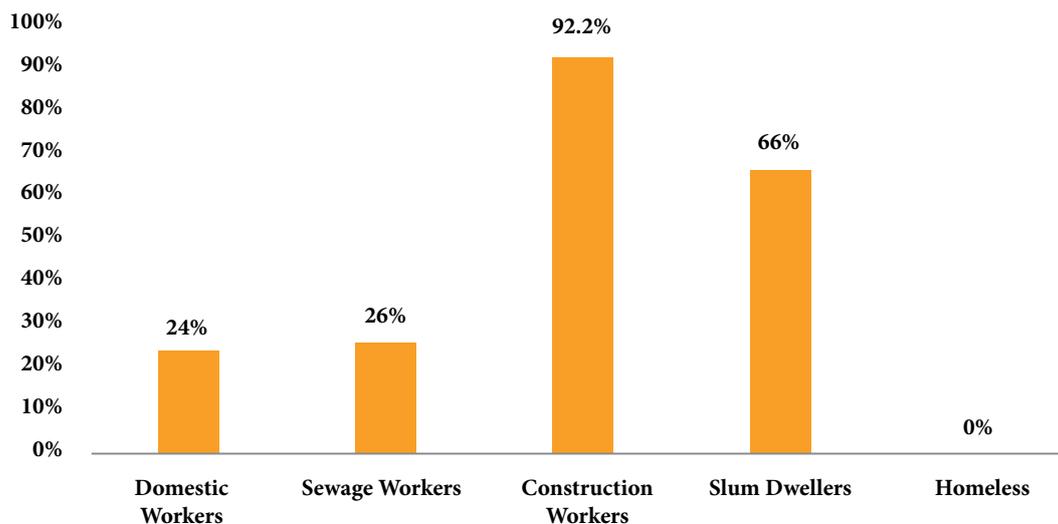


(Source: Primary Data from HH Survey)

<sup>26</sup>Census of India defines a slum as a compact area with a population of at least 300 or 60–70 households of poorly built congested tenements in an unhygienic environment, usually built with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities

Even though India has a package of housing welfare policies in place like Indira Awaas Yojna, Prime Minister Housing Scheme, Chief Minister Housing Scheme. 66 per cent of the Slum Dwellers households and almost all the Construction workers households live in rented premises. Similarly, around 30 per cent of the Domestic Workers and Sewage workers households live in rented accommodation (See Figure 8A). The homeless comprise of mostly those who with their low monthly income are pushed out of the rental market as well.

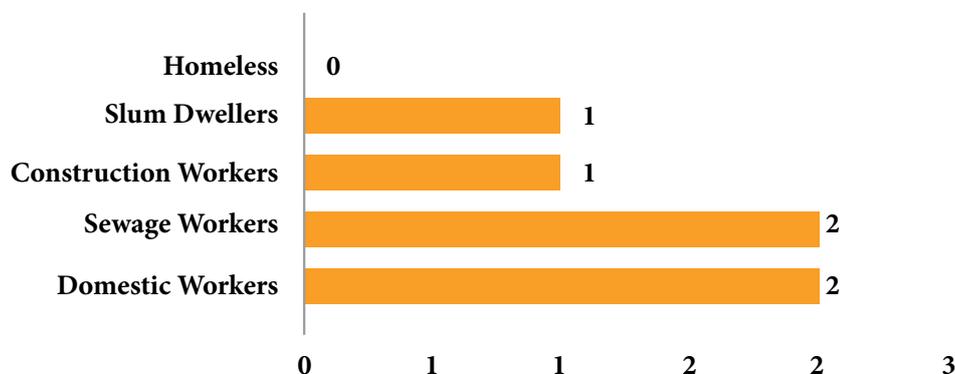
Figure 8A: Percentage of VEUHP HHs Living in Rented House



Source: Primary Data from the HH Survey

One of the major reasons behind this policy failure is that the communities are not aware of these schemes in general. Those who are aware of the schemes are not adequately informed about the application procedure and documents required to get benefits under these schemes. The meagre proportion of the households which have benefitted from such schemes reported that they paid a bribe to the concerned authorities to benefit under the scheme.

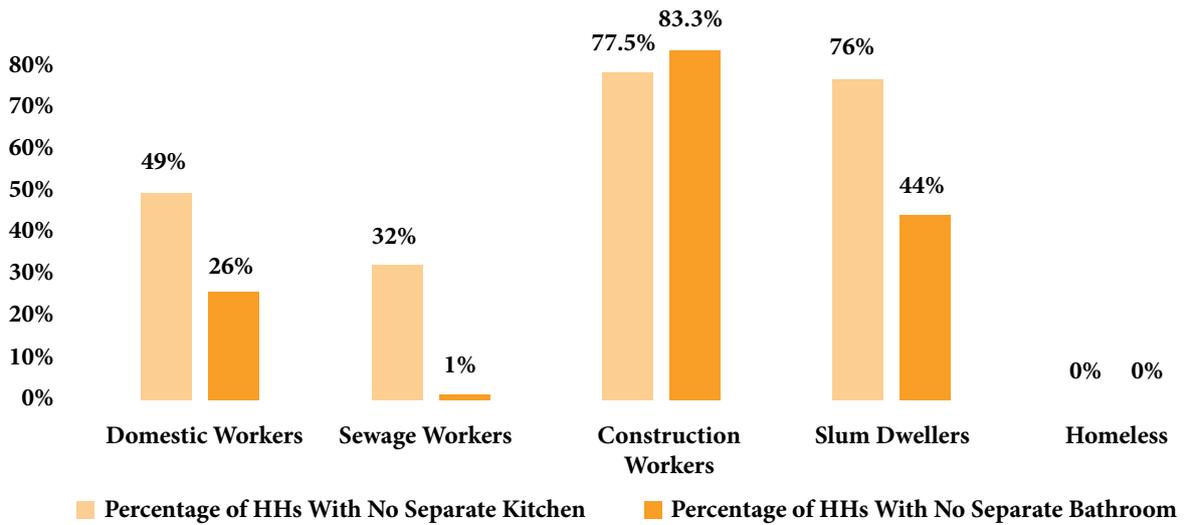
Figure 8B: Number of Rooms in VEUP Households



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey

The average family size of the VEUP households in this study was 5. It is clear from *Figure 8B* that the accommodation premises where the Slum Dwellers and Construction Workers live consist of just one room. Similarly, the housing premises of the Sewage Workers and Domestic Workers household consisted of just two rooms. This barely leaves a space for a separate for Kitchen and Bathroom in the housing premises, which is crucial for maintaining basic sanitation and health (See *Figure 8C*).

Figure 8C: VEUP HHs Without Any Separate Kitchen & Bathroom Within Their Housing Premises, Percent



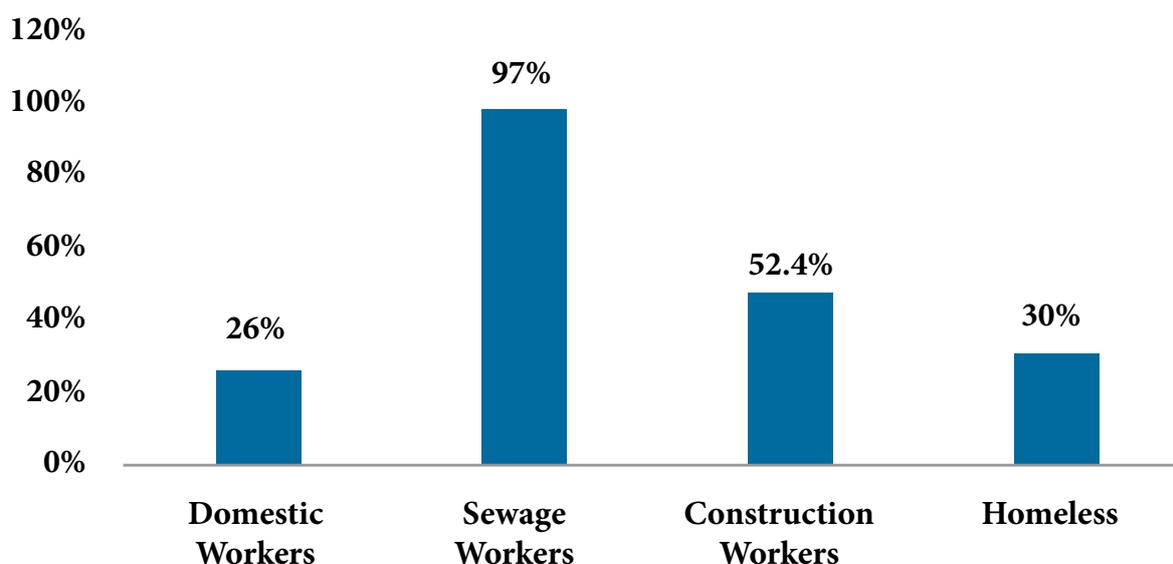
Source: Primary Data from the HH Survey



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

According to the Global Peace Index 2015, India was ranked at 143 out of the 162 countries assessed. The largest group subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence is of women. In 2015, NCRB recorded 130,195 cases of sexually related violence against women. Although there is no national data collection aimed at analyzing perceived safety, there have been independent efforts by civil society groups to monitor and understand how safe people feel.

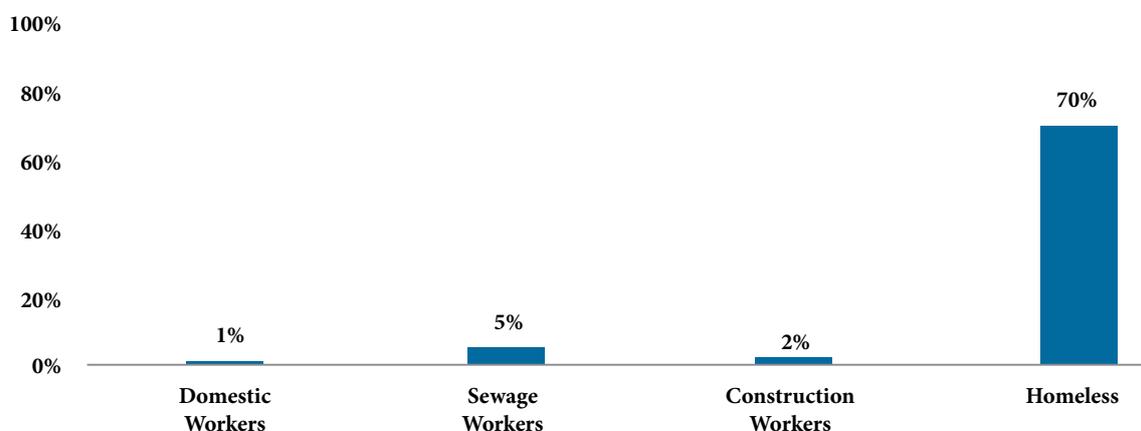
Figure 9: Percentage of VEUP HHs in which respondents reported that they Feel Safe Walking Alone in Their Neighbourhood/Locality



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey

The primary data from the study suggest that less than 1/3rd people from the Domestic Worker and Homeless group feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood/locality. Similarly, just 52.4 and 97 per cent people from the Construction Worker group and Sewage Workers' group reported feeling safe walking alone in their locality. Only 30% among the Homeless group reported that they feel safe in their neighbourhood, which when seen with their existing vulnerability of not having the shelter of a home, puts them at added risk.

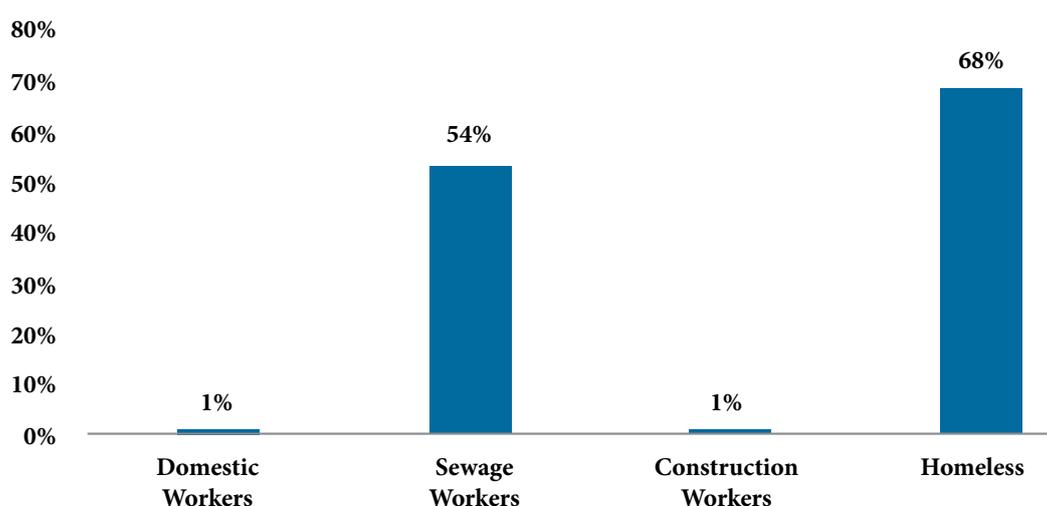
Figure 9A: Percentage of VEUP HHs with a Family Member who have faced Physical Violence



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey

In the survey, instances of VEUP groups facing physical violence in their life from either the police, upper caste people or anti-social elements was recorded. Among all the VEUP groups, the Homeless have reported the highest incidences of physical violence being faced by a family member (see *figure 9A*), which corroborates with the earlier analysis done of the extreme risk that these people are living in. The highest percentage of people feeling discriminated against also are the homeless, which would make accessing any benefit even more difficult. Sewage Workers who also reported high discrimination against the community, also struggle to get access to benefits due to the prejudice and stigma attached to their profession.

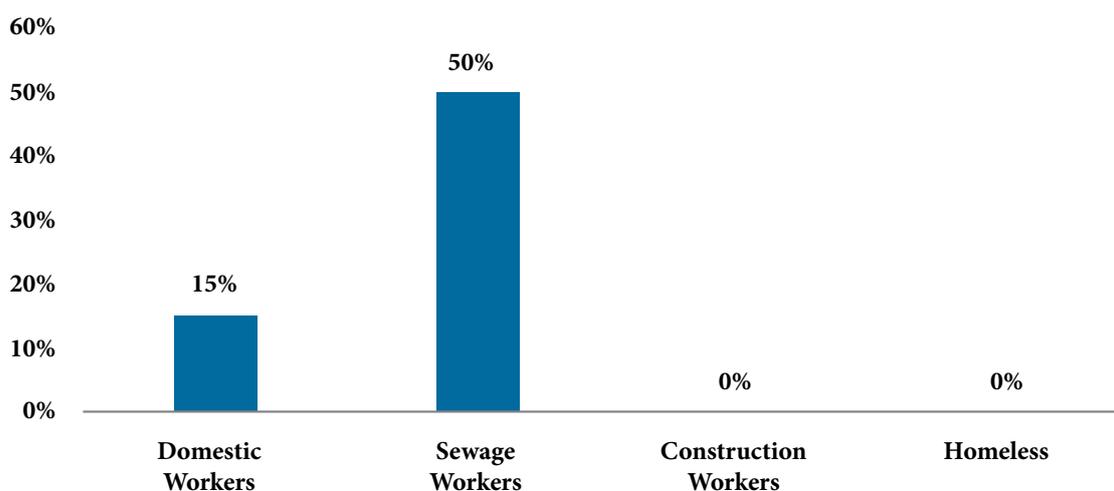
Figure 9Aa: Percentage of VEUP HHs with a Family Member who have faced Discrimination



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey

Internationally, the proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or asked to pay a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months is an important indicator to assess Goal 16. As it is clear from *figure 9B* that a considerable proportion of the VEUP households have been asked for a bribe by a public official in return of access to basic essential services. Fifty per cent of the Sewage workers, around 15 per cent of the Domestic Workers' Groups reported incidences when they were asked for a bribe by a public official.

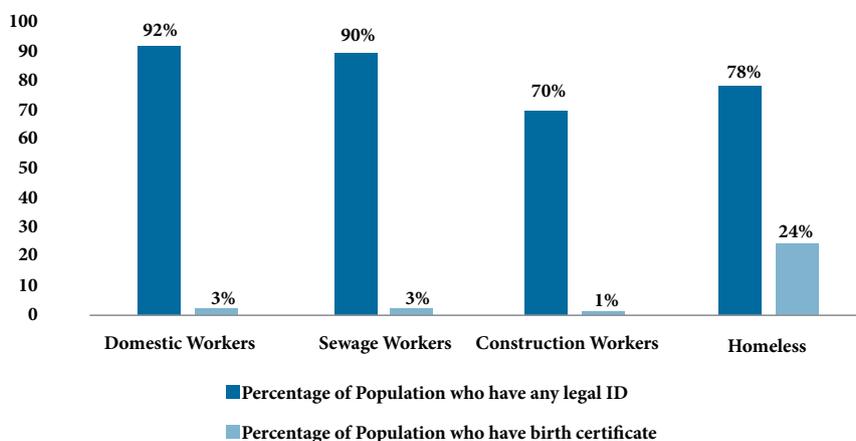
Figure 9B: Percentage of VEUP HHs From Whom any Public Officials Have Asked for Bribe to Access Basic Essential Services



Source: Primary data from HH Survey

According to Goal 16 targets, all residents need to have a legal identity, including birth registration. Data was collected to see how many people have any legal ID, including Aadhar card, Birth Registration, Voter Card or MGNREGS Job Card. As can be seen in *Figure 9C*, while groups apart from Sewage Workers largely seem to have some form of legal id all of them seem to be missing birth certificates entirely or at least significantly.

Figure 9C: Percentage of VEUP HHs with Legal Identities







SECTION

4



The study intends to positively influence political and decision-making processes by involving the communities in the various advocacy strategies.

#### 4.1 Strengths and Limitations of the Research

The research approach used in the study is successful in filling the existing knowledge gaps on the various drivers and outcomes of marginalisation and vulnerability at the community level, and in producing accurate and timely data adding value to existing relevant indicators.

The comparison between primary data collected from the VEUP Groups households and secondary data available through government sources like Census and NFHS for national/state averages highlighted the gap between the VEUP Groups and national average on most of the development indicators. The gap analysis on various development indices will help the concerned stakeholders in devising a targeted policy approach to achieve inclusive and equitable development, ensuring ‘no one is left behind’ in the process.

Another important aspect of the study is that it emphasizes gathering community-driven policy prescriptions to solve various development issues. This approach has the potential to transform the policy formulation process into a more inclusive, equitable, participatory and sustainable exercise.

The study used participatory research approach in India involving the concerned VEUP

Groups in various research processes like sampling, preparation of research tools, collecting data at the household level, etc. These processes resulted in capacitating and creating resource persons within the VEUP Groups' communities on various SDG processes. In the future, these resource persons will act as change agents at the community level with knowledge of the SDG framework.

Apart from these successes, the research approach faced some limitations also. For example, due to the small sample size, the study was not able to monitor some important indicators like Maternal Mortality Ratio, Child Mortality rates, etc. Given the geographical diversity which the study covered, it was logistically and financially very challenging to reach out to all the states and constituencies for providing handholding support.

However, these challenges may be overcome by:

- a). Connecting thematic research experts to the country research team to help in the research tool preparation
- b). Arranging finances and logistics for fieldwork to support the grass-root research team.

## 4.2 Inclusion/community engagement in the study

As mentioned in previous sections, the VEUP Groups based on a Community Centric research approach where the data to monitor different SDGs is collected by the community, for the community and from the community. This exercise has resulted in creating a pool of human resource among the VEUP Groups who can raise and advocate for the various development issues faced by their community. These resource persons are now aware of the different governance processes and institutions that are responsible for human development work.

The study intends to positively influence political and decision-making processes by involving the communities in the various advocacy strategies. The advocacy will be based on the evidence and knowledge generated through the study and shall make the VEUP Groups aware of their development w.r.t other groups. The VEUP Groups shall be able to strategize, mobilize and unionize to get their various rights and entitlements. Finally, the study processes shall ensure that the VEUP Groups are empowered and make their voices heard on different platforms.

## 4.3 Achieving SDGs for the VEUP Groups

As already mentioned, attaining SDGs in India and globally is dependent on achieving SDGs for the socially excluded vulnerable population groups across India. Their informed and active participation, as well as specific equity measures, are essential in this regard. The following section identifies several measures across various dimensions of the same.

### i) Key improvements/solutions needed in terms of a successful service delivery

1. Formulation of anti-discrimination legislation and help understand the consequence.
2. Evolve social inclusion skills and perspectives – build sensitivity.
3. Create spaces for interface with the socially excluded communities within the official work framework.
4. Develop an effective and additional framework for equity and inclusion measures in schemes.

5. Adequate resource allocation and monitoring of utilization and reporting.
6. The transparent and accountable means of providing the entitlements and access to the basic services and existing schemes meant for the marginalized communities.
7. Rights-based education and awareness to the communities.

## **ii) Collaboration between government and CSOs to achieve a successful service delivery to marginalised groups:**

1. Strengthen the partnerships between CSOs and Government instead of working in silos; to identify the marginalised groups across the country, flag the gaps, and address those gaps in the local context thereof.
2. Disaggregated and real-time data on the VEUP Groups in India.
3. Developing strategic messages and content around each community.
4. Carrying community-led advocacy and campaigning with the help of media, academia, CSO partners and community members.
5. Effective campaigning on SDGs by mass mobilisation.

## **National level – Governance and accountability:**

1. Collect and use disaggregated data to the level of VEUP Groups to frame policies, provisions and government planning.
2. Promote research - Deep dive into VEUP Groups within the socially excluded communities to capture current development gaps, multiple barriers and constraints in accessing development provisions and rights enjoyment.
3. Legislate 'anti-discrimination' bill and orient duty bearers on the consequences of discrimination – build perspectives and skills to ensure social inclusion
4. Governance - Build capacities and resources of the local governments to identify socially excluded sub-population groups within their jurisdiction, develop strategies to promote social equity and inclusion through policies and provisions.
5. Implement effectively targeted affirmative action and entitlements along with SDG indicators for socially excluded to address current forms of disadvantages and deprivations and develop new ones were needed to address development inequalities.
6. Ensure strict implementation of legislations and mechanisms to prevent violence, protect life, livelihood and property, and ensure access to timely redress and justice.

## **iii) National level – Policy positions and mechanisms:**

- a) Goals and targets addressed in the context of VEUP Groups.
- b) A dedicated space for VEUP Groups in the Agenda 2030 plans of Niti Ayog and state plans.
- c) A dedicated team on VEUP Groups in the SDG unit of Niti Ayog, and nodal officers in states.
- d) Identification of decision-makers and departments at Local and National level:
  - i. PRIs/ULBs
  - ii. Planning departments of State Government

- iii. Concerned ministries
- iv. Niti Aayog
- v. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

#### **iv) Regional and international level**

1. Build civil society platforms at the regional and global level to understand, articulate and advocate for LNOB-RFBF (leave no one behind-reaching the furthest behind first) in the SDG framework.
2. Create space for citizen-led data – enhance systems to gather and analyse, disseminate, acknowledge and accept the citizen led data.
3. Advocate for countries to report on VEUP Groups and their SDG achievements as a section in all country VNRs.
4. Bring out a civil society-led global report on VEUP Groups annually for the HLPF where civil society in countries can contribute.
5. Inclusion of CSO members and LNOB stakeholders, with a particular focus on community members of the marginalised groups to participate in voicing their concerns and in decision making around LNOB at the international level at HLPF in UNGA.
6. Representation and effective participation of the LNOB stakeholders at the national, regional and global monitoring processes of the SDGs.

#### **v) Scaling UP across 2030**

Our experience in the VEUP study and even within civil society engagement confirms the capacities and commitment of the VEUP Groups to take up the study. In terms of technology, there are available models in the country we can engage. The study and process will enhance by linking with global civil society processes, global UN processes, and global data processes. Creating an eco-system to recognise the Leave No-one Behind agenda (LNOB) as the heart of the SDGs in implementation will be an important agenda through these global processes. Civil society has an important role in articulating the LNOB agenda in particular as states may want to gloss over them within the overall state reports and averages and meta-data.

