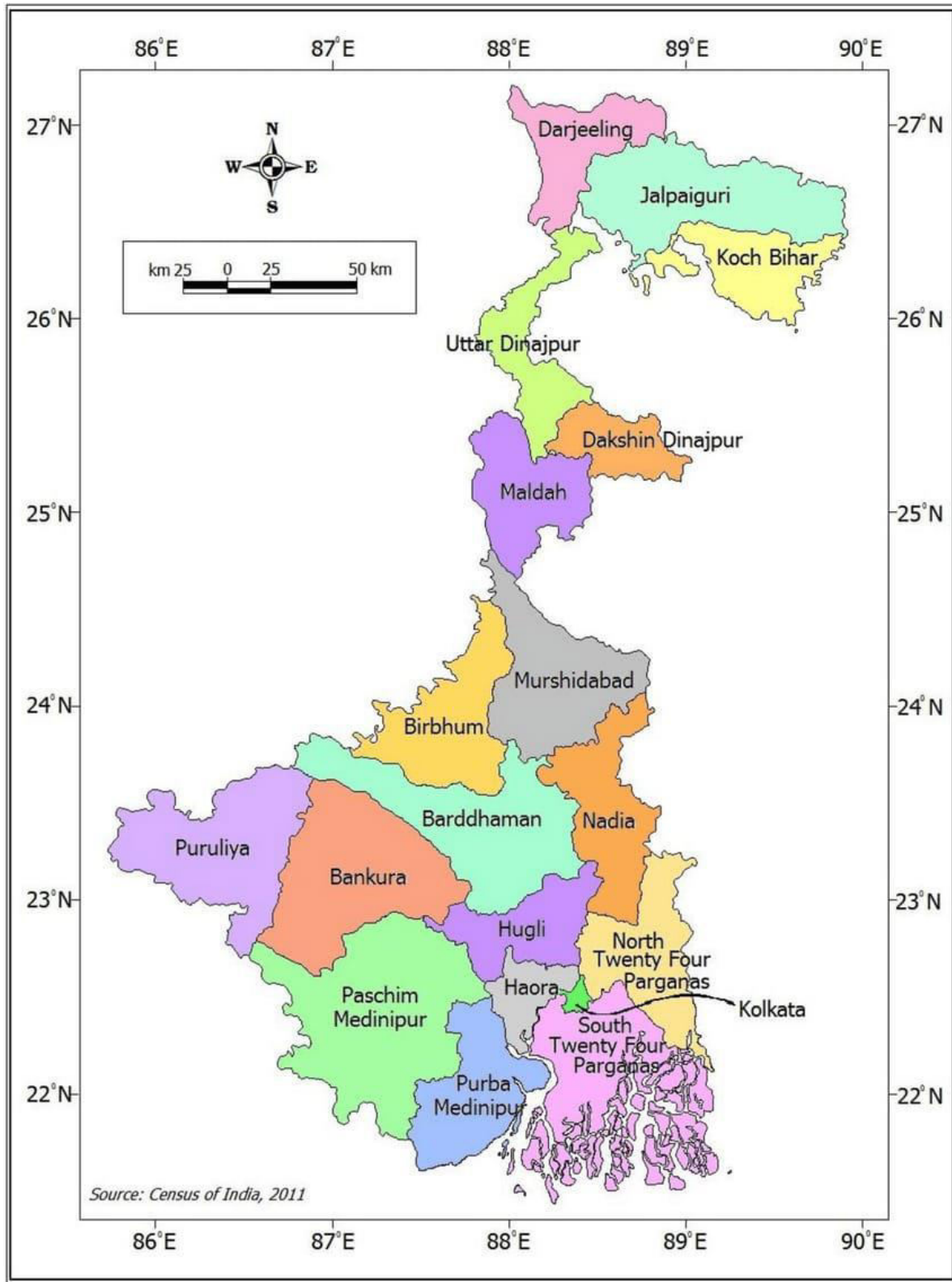


1. Introduction

Teesta, Mahananda and Jaldhaka are the snow-fed rivers of the Himalayas that flow through the region. These rivers are characterized by erratic changes in their courses and flooding. The hills and adjacent areas are covered with temperate and tropical forests composed of Pine, Fir and other evergreen trees. Sal is also quite abundant in the forest. About 18 percent of the region is covered by forest area, much of which is concentrated in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. There is further scope for improvement concerning the three main civic amenities i.e., electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in North Bengal. Being predominantly rural, access to the infrastructure is even more limited. A similar situation exists when we consider the region in terms of human development indicators. Districts under North Bengal are characterized by lower literacy levels compared to the rest of Bengal. But the Darjeeling district records a comparatively high literacy rate. In addition to low levels of literacy, there is also marked gender disparity. The educational composition of main workers in the districts of North Bengal reveals the availability of a bulk of unskilled and illiterate workers in comparison to the State as a whole. The relative proportion of educated (matriculate and above) people in the districts of North Bengal (excluding Darjeeling) is far below the State average. Though not much heavy industry was set up in the area, North Bengal consists of many Small and Medium Enterprises. The services sector is gradually picking up, whereas, in the Darjeeling district, it has already taken root. As per the income estimates available, the per-capita income in all the districts of North Bengal is far below the State average. However, in Darjeeling, it is just below the State average. North Bengal's economy is predominantly farm-based, although many tertiary activities are carried out in the region. Recent years have witnessed a rapid growth of manufacturing industries in North Bengal whose geographical location makes the region a potential candidate for a vibrant economic centre with both agriculture and non-agricultural activities. Traditionally, tea plantation remains one of the core areas of its economic strengths accounting for more than one-fifth of tea produced in the entire country and adding to foreign exchange reserves through export. Manufacturing industries that can streamline the economy of the North Bengal region would have to come up with private investments. It is thus required to create an environment that can attract private investors to North Bengal.

We have selected Jalpaiguri district from North Bengal for our research study on socio-economic profile and food consumption pattern of the households at Mangalbari Basti.

UTLINE OF STUDY AREA IN WEST BENGAL MAP:



An overview of Jalpaiguri

Located in the Indian state of West Bengal, on the banks of the Teesta river, the 2nd largest river in West Bengal after the Ganges, on the foothills of the Himalayas is the city of Jalpaiguri. The city shares international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the northeast and south respectively.

Jalpaiguri city covers an area of 6,227 square kilometres making it the largest district of North Bengal. 367.30 square kilometres comes under urban area whereas 5,859.70 square kilometres come under rural area. 45.97% of the total geographical area is attributed to the forest area. 35 kilometres to the east of Jalpaiguri lies Siliguri, its twin city. The merging of the two cities makes the largest metropolis in that region.

Demography:

According to the 2011 census, Jalpaiguri is home to 38,72,846 people of which 18,89,782 are females and the remaining 19,83,064 is attributed to males the population. The child population of age 0-6 years stood at 4,61,700 of which 11.91% were boys and 11.94% were girls. As of 2022, the Jalpaiguri population has risen to an estimated value of 41,24,464 (estimates as per Aadharuidai.gov.in December 2020). Out of the total population, 10,60,351 live in urban areas and 28,12,495 live in rural areas. There are 13 blocks in the district, 39 towns and 733 villages. There are 3 municipalities, 6 police stations and 14-gram panchayats in the district.

Literacy and Education

There are 24,98,780 literate people in the city with the average literacy rate amounting to 73.25%. Among this, 13,96,622 (79.95%) are literate males whereas 11,02,158 (66.23%) are literate females. As per the 2001 census, the number of primary schools in Jalpaiguri was 1,968, the number of high schools was 197 and the number of colleges was 11.

Transport System

Rail

Jalpaiguri has a well-connected transport system. New Jalpaiguri junction is the largest as well as busiest railway junction of the Northeast frontier zone which serves as the lifeline of Northeastern states.

Roads

NH31, NH31D, NH31C, and NH31A are major highways that connect the city with the rest of the country.

Economy

Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) contributed by Jalpaiguri as of 2013-14 at constant 2004-05 prices accounted for INR 14240.17 crores (equivalent to INR 340 billion or US\$ 5.3 billion in 2017) and the GDDP per capita as of 2013-14 at constant 2004-05 prices stood to INR 29,692.58 (equivalent to INR 72,000 or US\$ 1,100 in 2017).

The Jalpaiguri economy is chiefly agrarian, though, there is a notable gradual expansion of the industrial belt in recent years. Tourism also contributes a great source of income in the area. Jalpaiguri hosts multiple skills for making a living. A total of 15,12,910 workers reside in the city out of which 10,91,361 are men and 4,21,549 are women. A total of 1,81,104 cultivators are dependent on agriculture farming out of which 1,67,234 are men and 13,870 are women.

The tea gardens of Dooars serves as a major part of the district's asset. Forest resources and agrarian products such as jute, paddy, and potatoes also form a significant part of Jalpaiguri's revenue pool.

TOPIC OF SURVEY

We have chosen a sample population from the village of Mangalbari Basti, under block Matiali located in the town of Chalsa for conducting our research project entitled on **patterns of household, food consumption and socio-economic profile of Mangalbari Basti of Jalpaiguri.** The village falls under the jurisdiction of Matiali Batabari-1 gram panchayat.

OUTLINE OF STUDY AREA IN JALPAIGURI MAP



The area in green represents Matiali where resides the village Mangalbari Basti, our chosen area of survey

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

We have got various information after a thorough study of a few articles and books recommended by our teachers. The reference has been taken and used for stating various facts.

According to,

LIFE OF A WORKER IN TEA GARDENS OF NORTH BENGAL: A STUDY ON FOOD SECURITY ISSUE-By Shreya Mitra

We get the issues related to food security and the history of the Teagarden. Moreover, we got detailed information about the social security scheme about food security in the tea garden. In fact, we got to know about various schemes for the Targeted Public Distribution System'; The enactment of The national food security

act 2013 in West Bengal was a measure breakthrough or milestone in the food security mission in the country.

PROBLEM OF TEA GARDEN OF DOOARSE: BY Amrita Roy Chowdhury

Here, we got the discussion on the overall situation in India about India's status in global tea production where they mentioned that declining global prices were affecting the sustainability of tea. Here the article various natural calamities faced by Teagarden workers which affect the lifestyle of Teagarden workers atrociously.

A STUDY ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITION OF TEAGARDEN LABOURS IN JALPAIGURI DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA: **Biswajit Pal and Arunasis Goswami**

We got important and valuable data on the socioeconomic condition of Teagarden workers that help us to understand the overall socio-economic situation in the Jalpaiguri district

Livelihood Dilemmas among the Tea of Dooarse, West Bengal: By Bipul Chhetri and Dr Nuruzzaman Kasemi write about the problem of increasing human trafficking after the closure of Tea Estates in Dooars. The failure of managing authority and unavailability of funds in the tea industry has led to the rise of such activities due to which the children have often become the victim of it. Also, emphasized over crises of the tea industries and their sudden closure has been detailed in his works

Status of Household Food Security in the Tea Gardens of Jalpaiguri District in West Bengal, India: By Abhijit Dutta and Ranjan Basu depicted the poor healthcare facilities they face and the status of the food security of tea garden workers.

3. OBJECTIVE OF OUR STUDY

We have organized this survey to get a detailed account and witness the socio-economic conditions and food consumption patterns of the households at Mangalbari Basti.

4. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Our sample size is in the Dooars area of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. We have chosen Mangalbari Basti of Matiali block. This village is an economically poor region compared to the other region in the Dooars area. We have used a multi-stage stratified purposive sampling method for the collection of primary data. We used a face-to-face, questionnaire-based survey and collected 98 numbers of samples from the Mangalbari Basti in the Jalpaiguri district.

We have used a simple bar chart, column diagram and pie chart for analyzing the socio-economic condition of the households. But in the case of food consumption patterns, we have used the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) for the measurement of food security in this village under the Jalpaiguri district.

5. SOCIAL ECONOMIC PROFILE

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and an individual's or family's economic access to resources and social position concerning others. When analyzing a family's SES, the household income, earners' [education](#), and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, whereas for an individual's SES only their attributes are assessed. Recently, research has revealed a lesser recognized attribute of SES as perceived financial stress, as it defines the "balance between income and necessary expenses". Perceived financial stress can be tested by deciphering whether a person at the end of each month has more than enough, just enough, or not enough money or resources. However, SES is more commonly used to depict an economic difference in society as a whole.

We, the student of the Economics Department of HERAMBA CHANDRA COLLEGE, surveyed the socio-economic condition of the people of Mangalbari Basti. In this survey, we covered many topics. Among them, one was about the economic condition of the families. 98 families responded to our survey.

5.1. Economic Condition

Firstly, we consider the economic conditions of the households in the villages in the district.

The poverty line is the level of income to meet the minimum living condition. It is the amount of money needed for a person to meet his basic needs. It is defined as the monetary value of the goods and services needed for basic welfare to an individual. It differs from one country to another, depending upon the idea of poverty. It changes from one country to another.

The poverty line is the level of income needed to meet the minimum standard of living. People who have an income less than this are considered below the poverty line i.e., BPL and the people who have an income above this are considered above the poverty line i.e., APL. The concept of minimum consumption standards and consumption levels were changed based on recommendations of the various expert groups/task force. From our survey, we observed that only 33.33 percent of people are lies in APL category but the rest of the people lie in the category of BPL in the village.

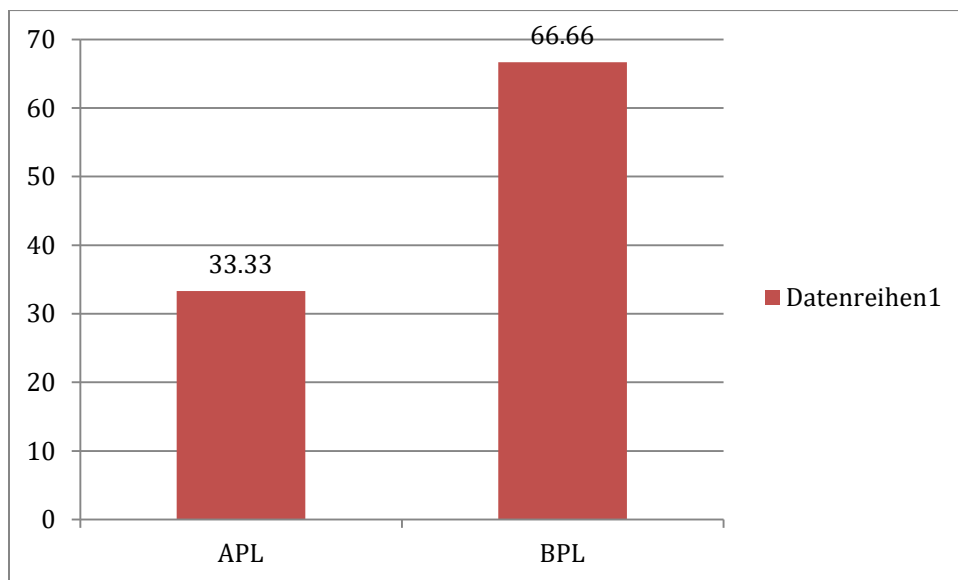


Fig-1.1

5.2. Condition of Houses

Along with food and clothing, housing is one of the necessities of mankind. Adequate housing is an important component in the overall growth and development of an individual wherewith he can enjoy both mental and physical health and live in a state of security, peace and dignity. Rural areas of India in general are in great distress today because of continued apathy and neglect from the policymakers and scholars. The farm sector, non-farm sector, basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water, irrigation facilities; development of agro-processing industries etc. have been left lurching for prioritization. The lack of public funds during the early planning era compelled the policymakers to adopt

the overarching philosophy of the growth pole theory. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. Not only the physical infrastructure but also social infrastructures such as education and health have remained ignored. Thus, the rural areas have been bypassed by the successive economic revolutions that have made India a vibrant economic superpower. The overall result is immensely debilitating. This general neglect of the rural areas also has its bearing on the rural housing sector. Currently, the housing shortage in rural areas is more than 43 million houses

- As the survey has been done at mangalbari basti in the year 2022. An important analysis of the Condition of houses is being considered for human welfare in West Bengal.
- The condition of houses has been observed for the 2 classes of people i.e., APL and BPL.

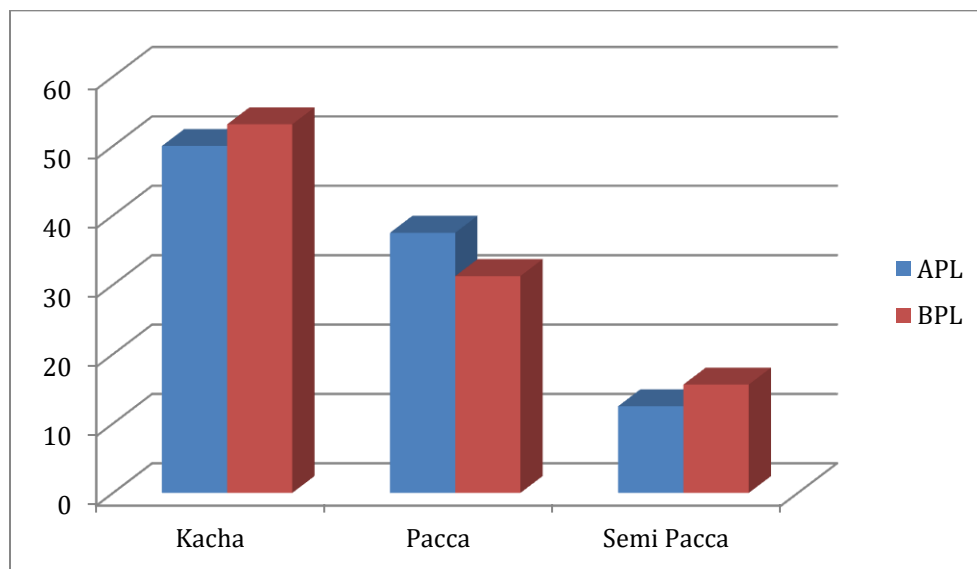


Fig-1.2

- The APL people are having 12.5% of pacca houses whereas 37.5% are having semi pacca and 50% of Kacha houses in the village.
- Now when we are considering the BPL class, the percentage of kacha house is greater than that of semi pacca and pacca houses. The survey shows that 53.12% of BPL-class families are having kacha houses and 31.25% are having semi-pacca and rest of 15.62% have pacca houses.

5.3. NUMBER OF ROOMS

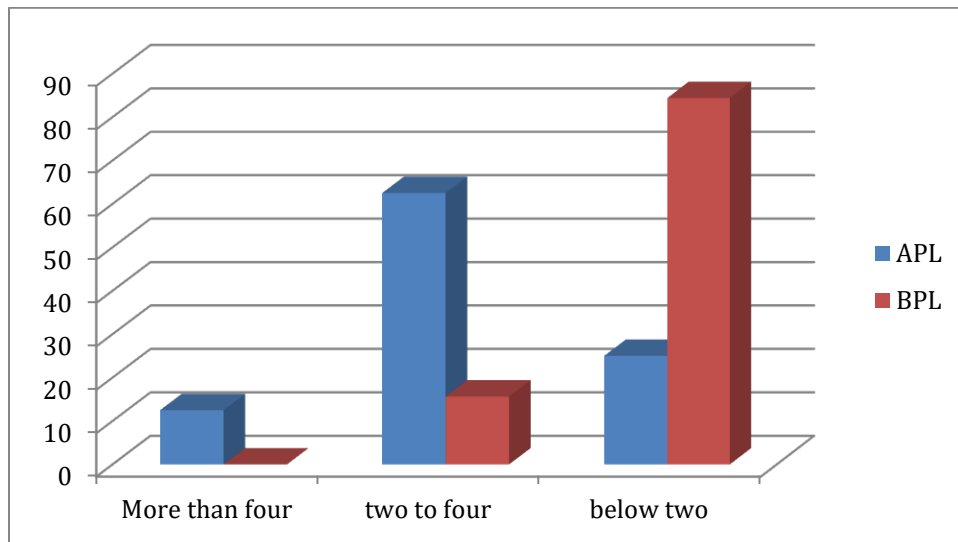


Fig-1.3

In the above diagram, we have considered the number of rooms. We have classified the total population into two categories i.e., APL and BPL.

It is quite clear from the above diagram that the number of rooms for APL class is greater than the BPL class at the village of Jalpaiguri. Almost all the BPL families in Mangalbari area have single rooms in average, whereas APL category have average of two rooms in the village in the district.



5.4. Toilet Availability

Access of households to the toilet is one of the most important parameters to judge their awareness of sanitation and health. It is also the issue of the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) as it is necessary to eliminate open defecation and promote cleanliness. Access to a toilet indicates access to their toilet for their sanitation.

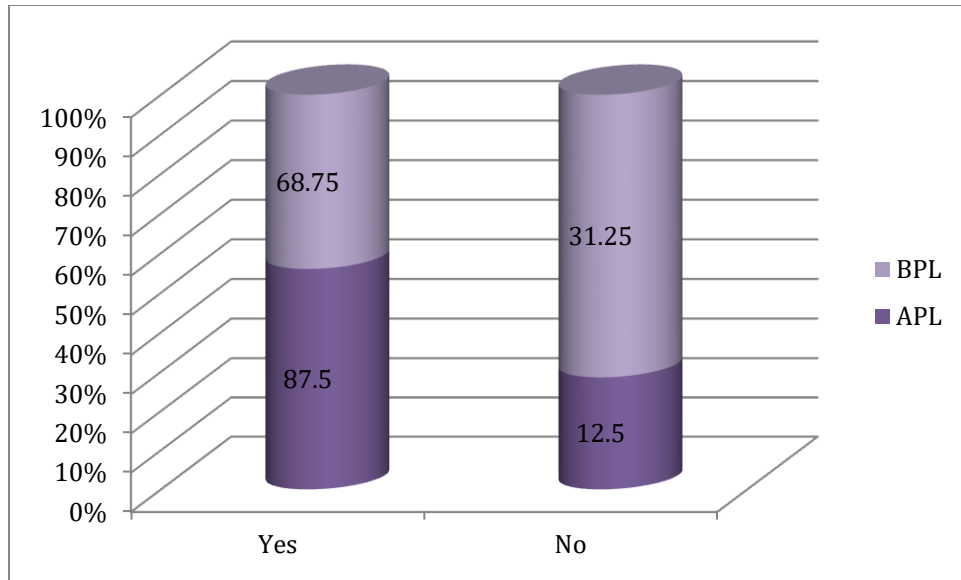


Fig-1.4

From the above diagram, we observe that the populations of rural areas are also aware of the use of toilets for their sanitation. From the field survey, we see that around 87.5% of APL families and 68.75% of BPL families have access to and used their toilets.



5.5. Toilet Type

Most of the people of this village mainly used kacha types of toilets. From the figure-1.5, we observe that 42.85% of APL category has used kacha toilets, whereas most of the BPL category of the village has used semi pacca types of the toilet at this village. It is observed because most of the BPL families have benefited and getting toilets from the government under the MGNREGS programme.

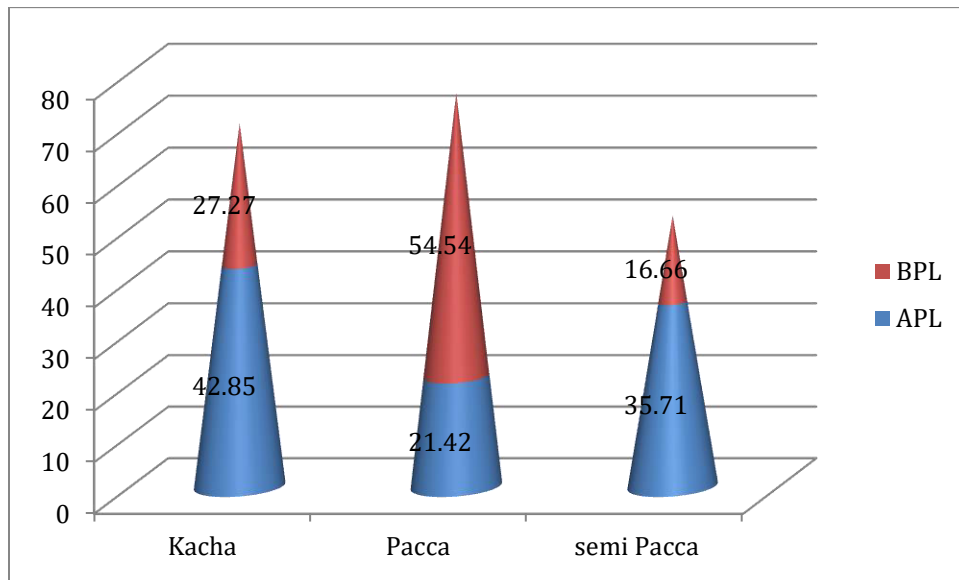


Fig-1.5

5.6. Source of Drinking Water

There a high percentage of people i.e., 62.5% have been using government taps as a source of drinking water among the APL category. But in the case of BPL categories, we observe that 37.5 percent of people have used government tap as a source of drinking water, while around 50 percent of people of this village have been using well as a source of drinking water.

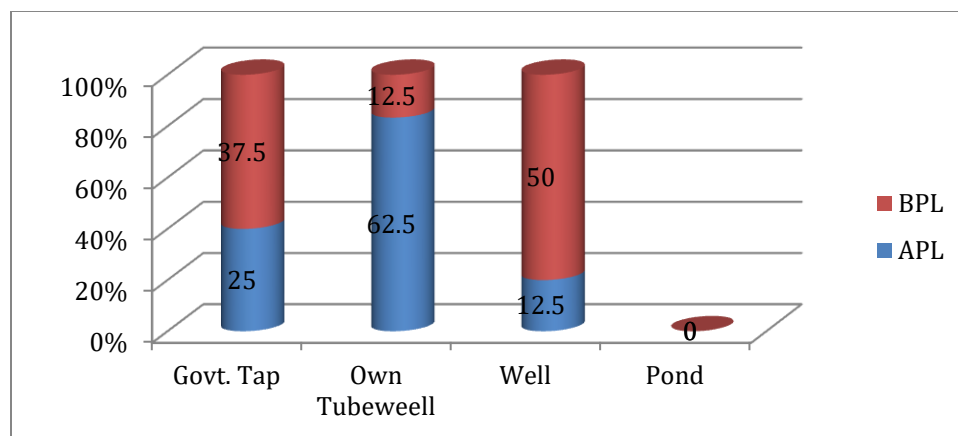


Fig-1.6

5.7. Sources of Fuel

In the household sector, Fuels are consumed for cooking, lighting, heating water for bathing and washing clothes. The major fuels consumed are commercial fuels like kerosene, LPG, Coal, Electricity and non-commercial fuels like fuel wood (firewood, twigs, sawdust and wood shavings), dung cakes, crop waste, and charcoal and goober gas. The ancient time, human beings are using different types of fuels for domestic purposes but at that time most preferable fuel type is wood. Now a day's human beings have a wider choice and greater accessibility to modern commercial fuels, electricity, and solar equipment and therefore they have greater potential for fuel switching. But this picture is not the same in a whole part of a country like India, where the almost rural population is 68.70% in 2011, according to the World Bank. To understand the change in the consumption pattern of domestic fuels by Indian households it is necessary to conduct National Survey.

In rural areas, many households still depend on wood as a primary fuel for domestic purposes because their choices are constrained by a lack of access to more commercial fuels and markets for energy-using equipment and appliances. Often, the choice of fuel is determined more by local availability and transaction and opportunity costs involved in gathering the fuel (mostly wood) rather than by household budget constraints, prices and costs.

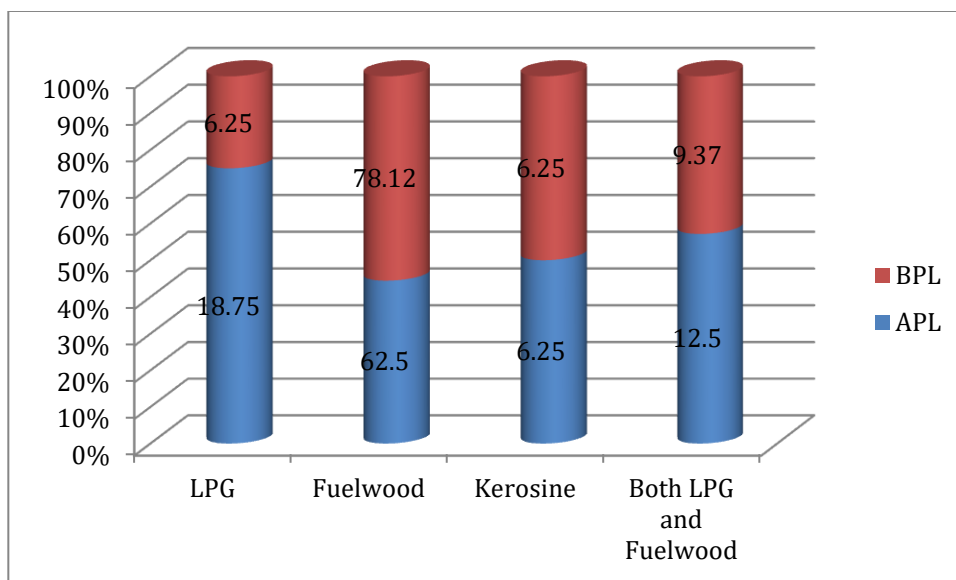


Fig-1.7

In our socio-economic survey. We get mainly four types of fuel that are fuel wood, kerosene, LPG, and both LPG and fuel wood etc. of the village of Jalpaiguri district. From the diagram, we observed that most of the APL and BPL families used fuel wood as a source of fuel.

The use of cooking fuel is sharply dictated by class — the use of firewood drops steadily with rising incomes in rural and urban areas, and LPG use is highest among the richest classes.

In Mangalbari Basti, Chalsa, West Bengal most households prefer to use wood as a domestic fuel for cooking and boiling water. From our survey, we observe that 62.5% of APL and 78.12% of BPL families have used fuel wood as a main source of energy for domestic purposes in the village. Hence there is an impact on the environment due to deforestation.

The use of Kerosene as a main source of energy in the village is 6.25% for both APL and BPL families. The scheme of distribution of Kerosene by the Govt. provides 3lit/per month to households is also supported by this study.

The use of both LPG and fuel wood in the village is 9.37 of BPL and 12.5% of APL families.

5.8. Sources of Light

Lighting in the rural areas of developing countries is generally provided by candles or kerosene lamps, while torches (or flash-lights) powered by expensive, throw-away dry cells are used as a portable source of light for intermittent use. All combustion lamps pose a real fire risk. Kerosene and butane are also becoming increasingly expensive and are sometimes in short supply in developing countries. Therefore the rest of the technical brief addressee since electric light is normally needed on demand, the only way of ensuring this is to provide electrical storage in the form of a battery. It is possible to use primary batteries (i.e., dry cells) which are charged when bought and thrown away when exhausted. These are convenient but extremely expensive in terms of electrical energy costs and are particularly expensive in the tropics since transport and distribution costs are incurred in moving them to rural areas.

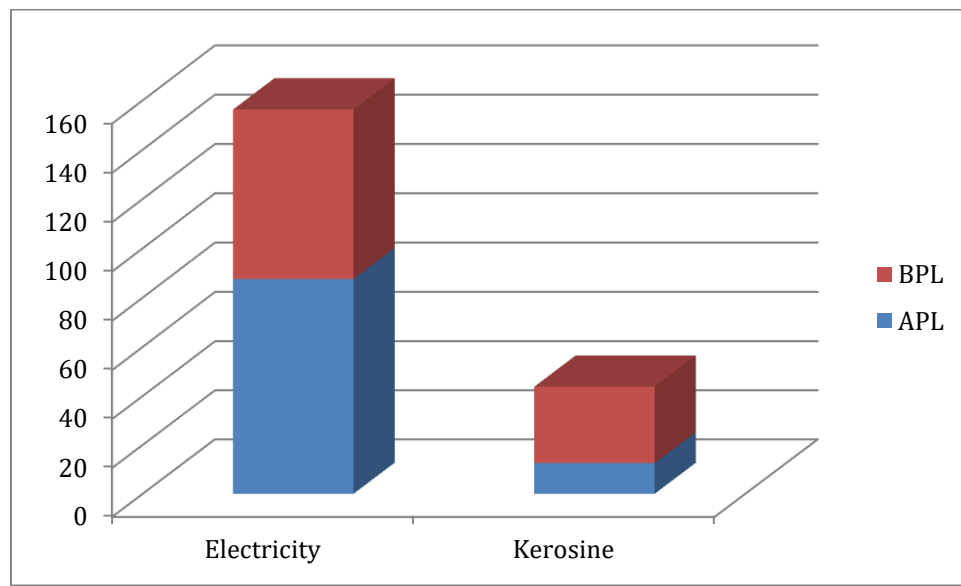


Fig-1.8

From the above diagram, we observed that the rural areas are mostly developing with the help of the different government schemes that provide families with electricity. We see that 87.5% of APL families and 68.75 % of BPL families have

used electricity as a source of light in the village. Around 12.4 % of APL families and 31.24% of BPL families have used kerosene as the source of light and 6% do not have any access to light.



5.9. Loan Taken

The loan is an advance of a specified sum of money to a person or business by another person or business or more particularly by a specialist financial institution which makes its profit from the interest charged on loans. A loan entails the reallocation of the subject asset for some time, between the lender and borrower.

According to our village survey report, we calculate the total loan taken by different types of households by the following table and diagram. We see that BPL families are noted as maximum loan takers i.e., 84.37 % and then APL families as minimum loan takers i.e., 56.25 % in the village.

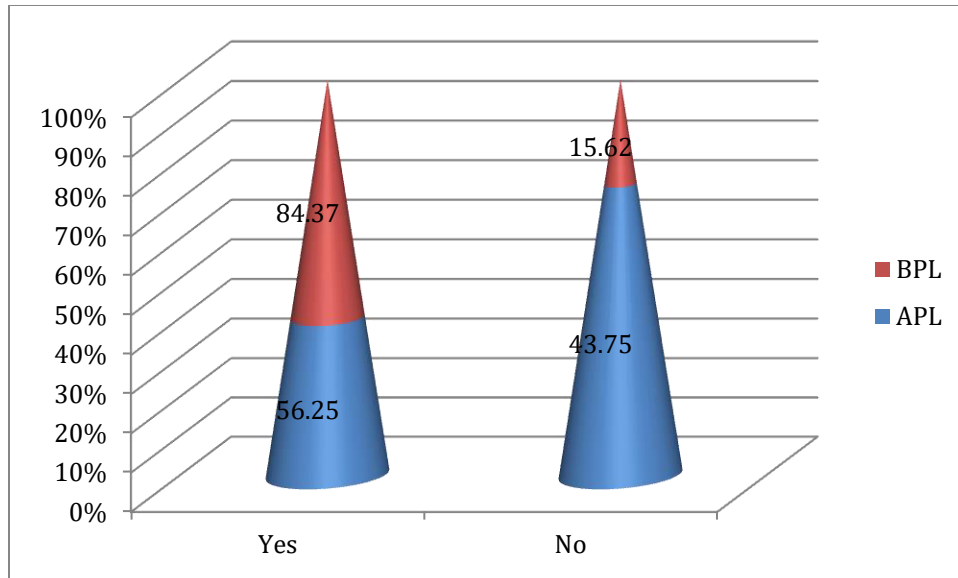


Fig-1.9

5.10. Types of Institution

The loan is a composition of two sources-institutional and non-institutional. Institutional loans are availed from RRBs, co-operative bank i.e., the banking sector and non-institutional loans are availed from sources such as moneylenders, chit funds and other financial institutions.

We see that from fig-1.10, around 66.66% of APL households and 25.92% of BPL households have taken loans from banking sectors. These results indicate that most APL families have taken loans from banking sectors. But in the case of BPL families, we observe that they have taken loans mostly from moneylenders (44.44%) and other chit-fund sources (29.62%) at Mangalbari Basti.

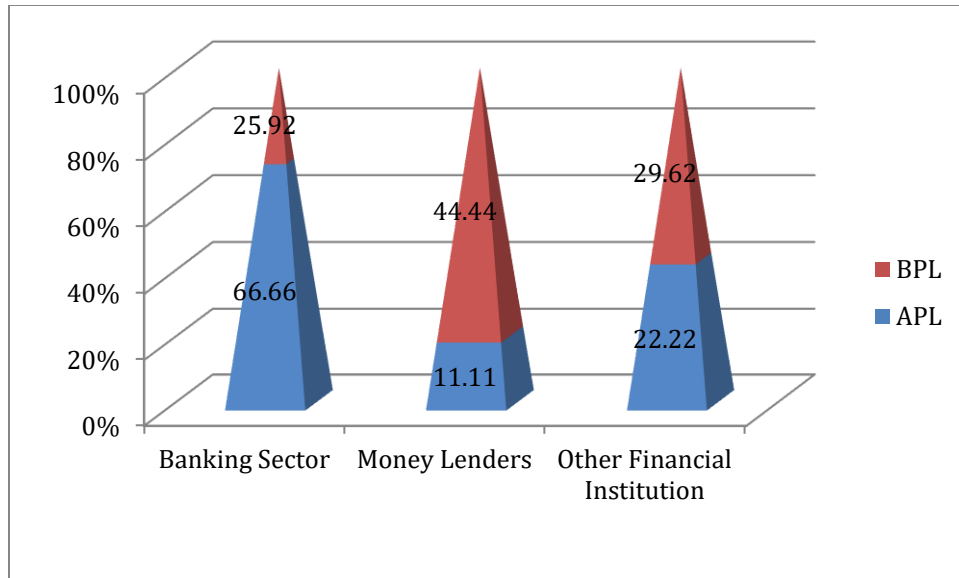


Fig-1.10

5.11. Migration

Migration is defined as the movement of people over some distance (or at least from one "migration-defining area" to another) and from one "usual place of residence" to another. At the other end of the spectrum, the definition of migration discards the requirements that migration must involve a change of residence and a move across some distance.

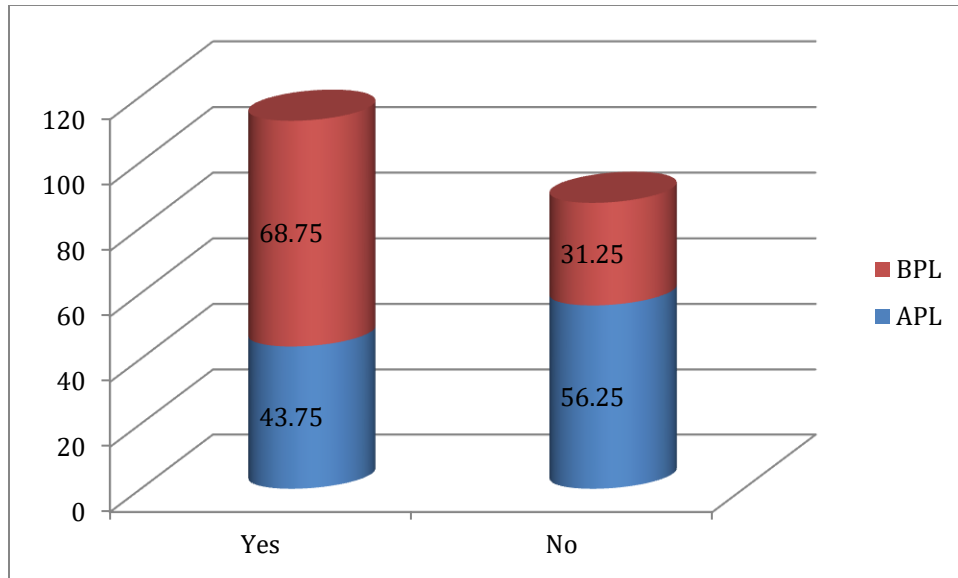


Fig-1.11

We have considered the economic status-wise rate of migration; we see that the persons belonging to the BPL category have the highest migration rate. This is primarily because the landless labourers and the marginal farmers and daily wage earners generally belong to this class and they have few livelihood opportunities in their village. Hence they migrate to urban and semi-urban areas to find jobs. The migration rates of the BPL category are 43.75 percent. However, the people belonging to the APL category have the lowest migration rates. Given their extremely lower social status and insecurity and their instinct to reside in their ancestral locality, they seldom migrate for jobs outside their village and hence they have the lowest migration rates.

5.12. Place of Migration

From figure-1.12, we observed that most of the APL (42.85 percent) and BPL (10.9 percent) families migrated within the district. We also observed that from our analysis almost the same amount of people i.e., 28 percent migrated outside of the state.

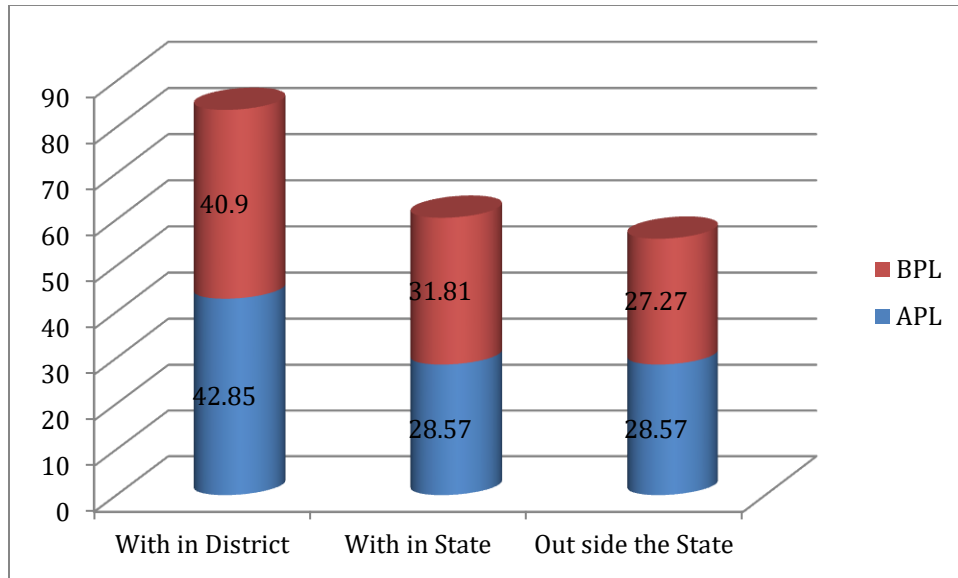


Fig-1.12

6. Food Consumption Pattern

Food consumption or dietary pattern is defined as the quantity, variety, and combination of different foods and beverages in a diet and the frequency with which they are habitually consumed. This pattern if studied vividly, it is showing that there are numerous factors which affect an individual's daily consumption habits. Some of the major factors are the economic condition of the household, availability of basic food items, climatic conditions of that area and even transportation and communication facilities. We have studied the food consumption pattern of the households at Mangalbari Basti. The primary data was collected from a rural area and highlighted the contrast between rural and urban food consumption patterns.

In urban areas, we have seen that people are consuming more fast food consisting of mainly fats, oils, butter, sugar, carbohydrates, etc. and very less of vegetables, fruits, etc. However, in rural areas, people consume more vegetables, fruits, milk and dairy products, and mostly homegrown nuts, peas, beans, lentils, etc. for their daily life.

Here, we have used the household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) method for the estimation of the food consumption pattern of the households. The food items include under HDDS are:--

- Rice/Noodles/Biscuit • Potatoes/Yams/Manioc • Vegetables
- Fruits • Meat • Eggs • Fish • Beans/Peas, Lentils/Nuts • Milk/Dairy Products
- Oil/Butter/Fat • Sugar/Honey • Tea or coffee.

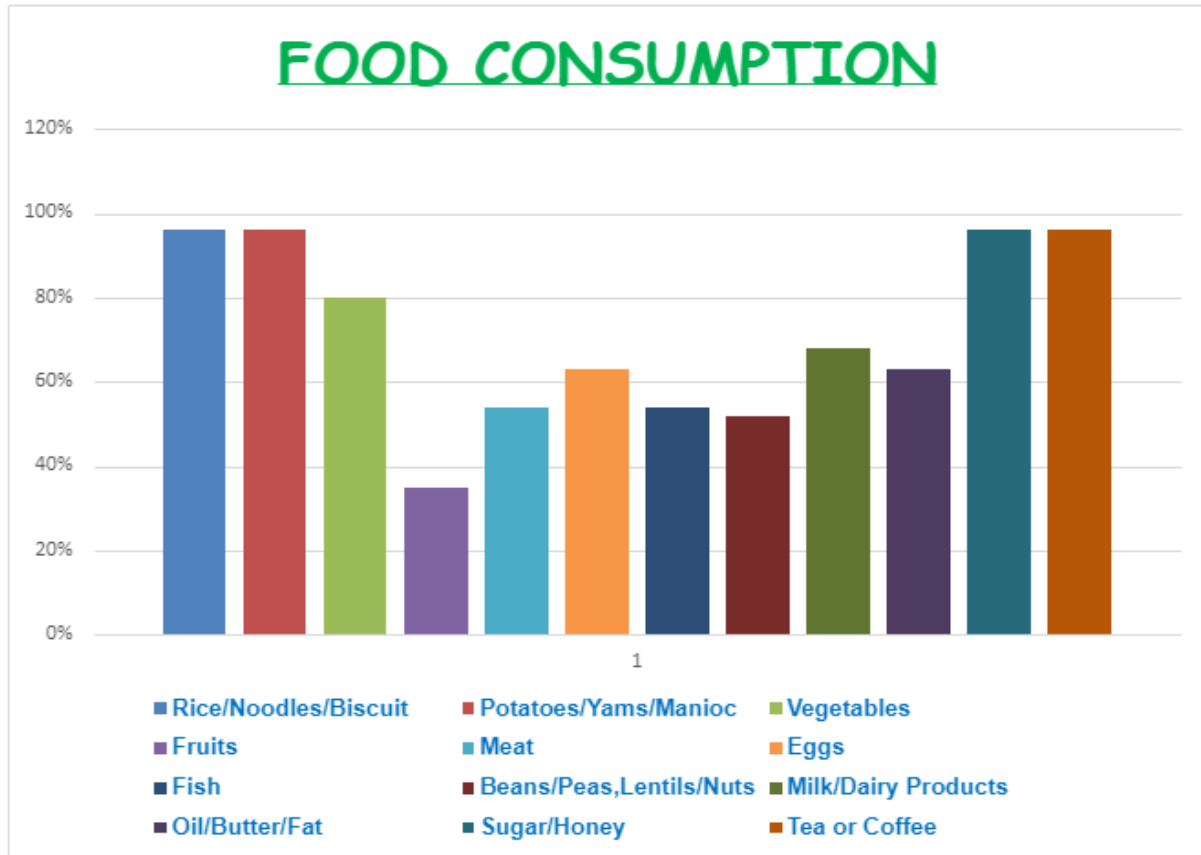


Fig-1.13

CHART ANALYSIS

Here, in the above column graph showing the food consumption pattern of Mangalbari Basti Village, we have seen that from the diagram all the households of the village have consumed rice or noodles, potatoes and vegetables. This is showing that agricultural activity is mainly prevalent in rural areas. Since Chalsa is a hilly region, there are numerous cottage industries producing tea, and hence given the high consumption of tea by the people daily. Since tea is highly consumed, sugar or honey is also a huge part of daily consumption, and is treated as complementary to tea. Fish is consumed the lowest and is not quite popular in

the neighbourhood, since fish is very **hardly available in hilly areas and is also very costly which the poor villagers mostly cannot afford.** More specifically,

We have seen that from our survey, 95.9 percent of the households who have consumed Rice/Noodles/Biscuit in the last 24 hours, in the case of Potatoes/Yams/Manioc consumed by 95.9 percent a household which is almost 96% of the total samples. Vegetables are consumed by almost 80 percent of households and Fruits were consumed by around 35 percent of the households in the last 24 hours in the village. Non-vegetarian products are averagely consumed; Meat is consumed by around 54 percent, Eggs consumed by almost 63 percent and Fish consumed by near about 54% of the households in the last 24 hours of the village in the district. Beans/Peas, Lentils/Nuts are also consumed daily by almost 52% of households. Oil/Butter/Fat is consumed by 63% of households. In a hilly area like Chalsa, as mentioned before, there are a lot of cottage industries making tea on a large scale and is also highly consumed, almost by 96% households of the total, since Sugar/Honey and Tea or coffee are complementary to a considerable extent, Sugar/Honey is also consumed by 96% of the total households. Milk or Dairy Products are consumed by almost 68% of the total households in the village.

From our survey, we can finally conclude that the consumption of Rice, Vegetables, Potatoes, tea, coffee and sugar is very high but in the case of fat or fat-related consumption and also protein-related consumption are significantly poor i.e., the households of the village are facing nutritional deficiency in the district.

7. Expenditure on Different Items

Expenditure is defined as total income – total saving. We know that income earned is generally expended on food, education, health, cloth, addiction, fuel and other like a festival, marriage etc. we do not spend our whole income, rather we save something. Expenditure depends on income thus our expenditure is very much limited i.e., we always have to cut our clothes according to our cloth. But in the case of dwellers of Mangalbari Basti, their expenditure is very high concerning their income. Economic status wise we have divided families of Mangalbari Bati into 2 categories respectively APL and BPL.

Estimated monthly average expenditure on different items

Items	APL	BPL
Cereals and pulses	2826.66	1536.20
Vegetables, milk, meat, spices, sugar, etc	4250	1920.37
Clothes, footwear, beddings	5211.53	2800
Education	2595.45	1903.33
Electricity, Gas & Fuel wood	900	613.77
Medical	1150	314
Beedi, cigarette and intoxicants	456.25	351.25
Purchase New Assets	5000	1000
Telephone	313.61	278.19
Payment of loans and interest	3207.14	4099.07

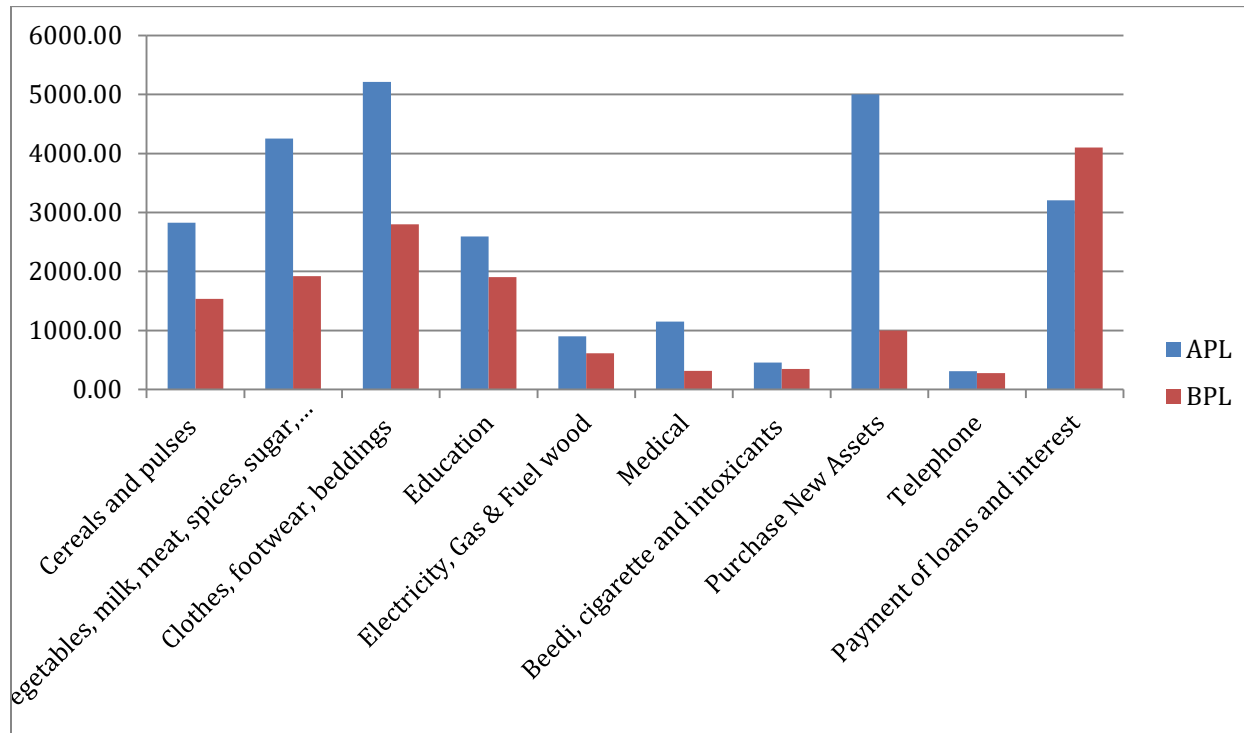


Fig-1.14

Analyzing the survey data economic status-wise, we get the following figure:

From the above figure, we get an amazing result. The expenditure on the food of APL family at Mangalbari Basti is higher than the BPL family. Where the APL family's monthly expenditure on food is Rs. 2826, while the expenditure on the food of the BPL family is very low i.e., Rs. 1536. If we see the result of the expenditure on education, again we get the same result as above. The expenditure on education of APL family is Rs. 2595 whereas BPL family is much low i.e., Rs. 1903 per month. We also observe that the expenditure on the health of APL families is very high compared to the BPL families in the village. The expenditure on clothes is very much higher in the case of APL families compared to the BPL families in the village. The monthly average cloth expenditure of APL family is Rs. 5211.53 whereas the BPL family is almost half i.e., Rs. 2800. The other expenditure is on addictive materials. The exp on addictive materials of both APL and BPL families are almost the same. The energy expenditure i.e., fuelwood, electricity and gas of APL family are Rs. 900 where as the BPL family is Rs. 613.

From the above diagram and explanation, we observe that the APL family expends high on all the items except payments of loan and interest compared to the BPL families in the village. BPL families paid a high amount of interest on loans compared to APL families. From this, we can say that the expenditure of the APL family is very high concerning their income.

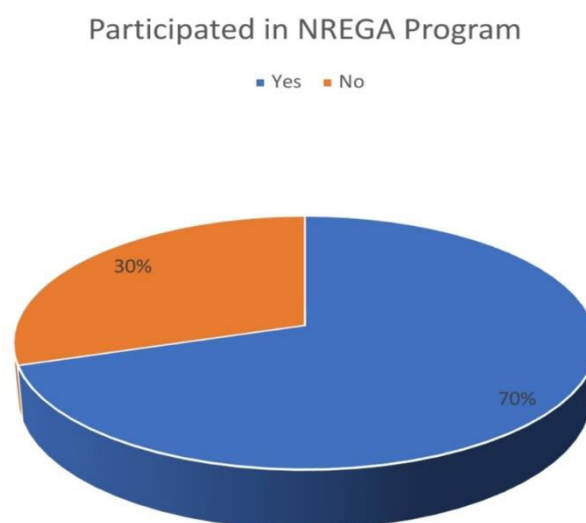
8. Government Scheme

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 or MNREGA, earlier known as the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** or NREGA, is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. This act was passed on 23 August 2005 under the UPA government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh following the tabling of the bill in parliament by the Minister for Rural Development Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year

to at least one member of every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Women are guaranteed one-third of the jobs made available under the MGNREGA. Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells). Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. That is, if the government fails to provide employment, it has to provide certain unemployment allowances to those people. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, other things said to promote NREGA are that it can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others."

The act was first proposed in 1991 by P.V. Narasimha Rao It was finally accepted in the parliament and commenced implementation in 625 districts of India. Based on this pilot experience, NREGA was scoped up to cover all the districts of India from 1 April 2008. The statute was praised by the government as "the largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world". In 2009 the World Bank chided the act along with others for hurting development through policy restrictions on internal movement. However, in its World Development Report 2014, the World Bank termed it a "stellar example of rural development".

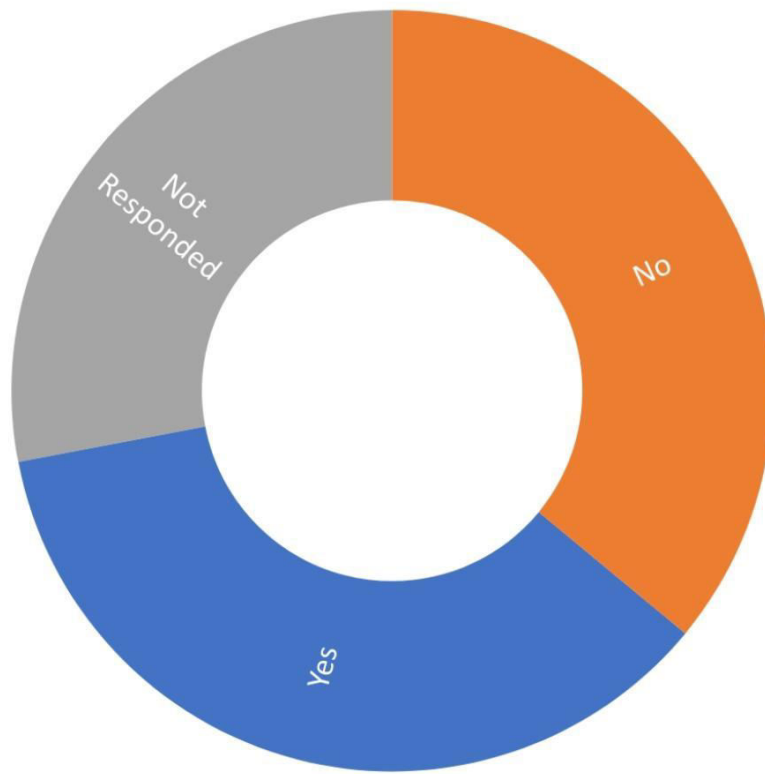


MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs). The law stated it provides many safeguards to promote its effective management and implementation. The act explicitly mentions the principles and agencies for implementation, a list of allowed works, financing patterns, monitoring and evaluation, and detailed measures to ensure transparency and accountability.

In our survey, we found that 70 percent of the people had participated in the NREGA program and 30 percent of the people group is those who didn't know about NREGA and didn't participate in that program. When they were asked if that program had increased their food security or not, nearly 36 percent of people said 'No' 34 percent of people said 'Yes' and 30 percent were unable to respond to the fact. People of that rural area also conveyed their views on the matter that if this

program had increased their overall standard of living or not. 36 percent of people gave a positive reply, 36 percent said no to that fact, and the rest 28 percent didn't respond to our question.

Standard of Living Increased

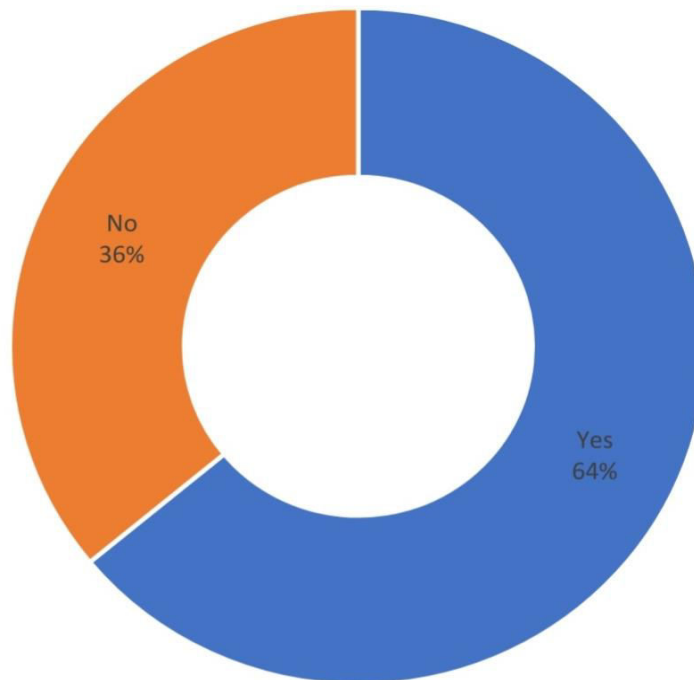


Indira Awas Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (lit. 'Prime Minister's Rural Housing Scheme'), previously **Indira Awas Yojana** ('Indira's Housing Scheme'), is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India. A similar scheme for the urban poor was launched in 2015 as Housing for All by 2022. Indira Awas Yojana was launched in 1985 by Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, as one of the major flagship programs of

the Ministry of Rural Development to construct houses for the Below Poverty Line population in the villages.

Benefitted from Indira Awas Yojana

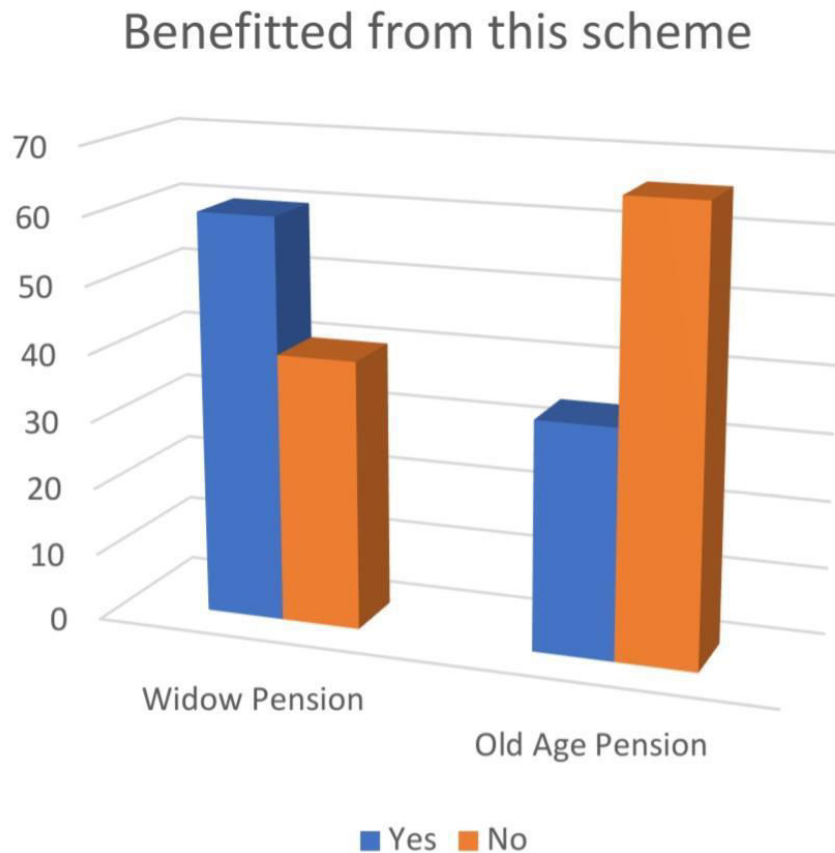


In the area where we conducted our survey, there were a large number of houses that were Kachcha or Semi Pakka. When they were asked if they had heard about Indira Awas Yojana and got benefits or not, 64 percent said they have heard and it was beneficial for them. 36 percent were those who gave negative feedback to us about that particular government scheme.

Old age / Widow Pension

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India that provides financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.

Article 41 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of 'unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development'.



SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN

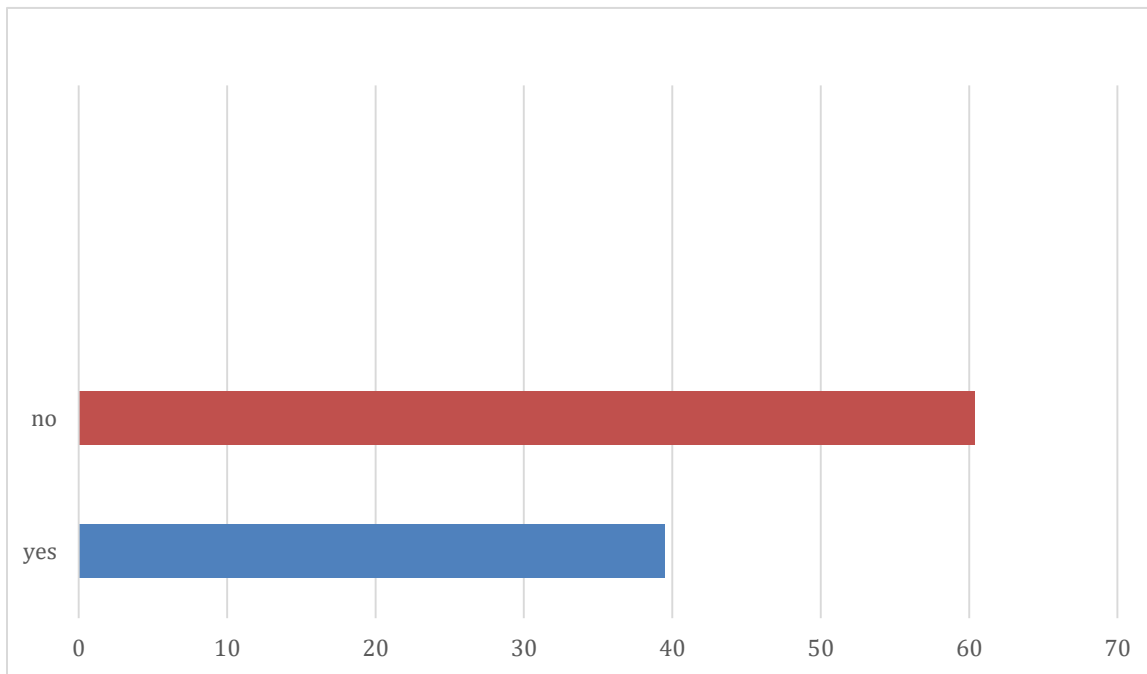
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or SSA is an Indian Government programme aimed at the universalisation of Elementary education "in a time-bound manner", the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India makes free and compulsory education to

children between the ages of 6 to 14 a fundamental right (Article- 21A). The programme was pioneered by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee. It aims to educate all children between the ages of 6 to 14 by 2010.

The Three Main Features Of SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN IS:

- 1) A programme with a clear time frame for universal elementary education.
- 2) A response to the demand for quality basic education all over the country.
- 3) An opportunity for promoting social justice through basic education.

The given chart shows the percentage of people who benefitted from it



From our survey, we observe that only 38 percent of people are benefitted from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in this village.

KANYASREE PRAKALPA

Kanyasree Prakalpa was initiated by the Government of West Bengal in 2013 to improve the life and status of girls, specifically belonging to all families. This scheme is a conditional cash transfer to their families so that they do not stop the schooling of the girl child and arrange their marriage before eighteen years due to financial problems.

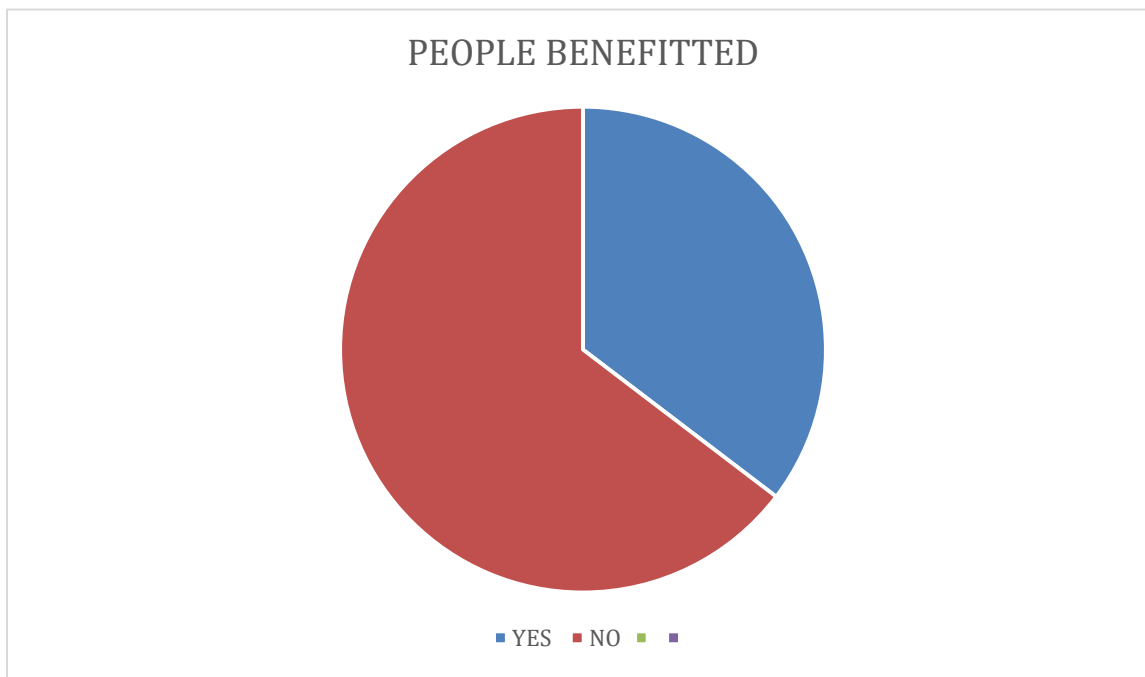
The scheme has two components:

1. An annual scholarship of Rs. 1000.00
2. A one-time grant of Rs. 25,000.00

The annual scholarship is for unmarried girls aged 13–18 years enrolled in class VIII-XII in government-recognized regular or equivalent open school or vocational/technical training courses.

It has been given international recognition by the United Nations Department of International Development and UNICEF.

The given graph explains how many have benefitted from the mentioned scheme



From the figure, we observe that around 40 percent people of in the district are benefitted

SELF-HELP GROUP:

Self-help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people who come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. They are generally self-governed and peer-controlled.

People of similar economic and social backgrounds associate generally with the help of any NGO or government agency and try to resolve their issues, and improve their living conditions.

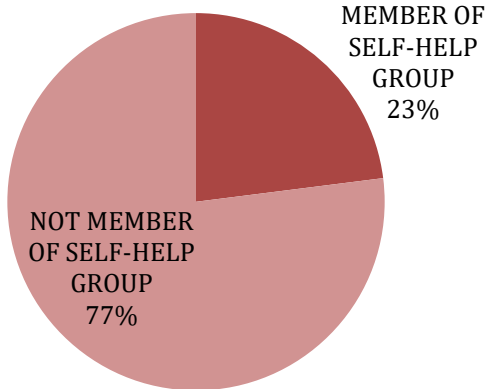
A self-help group is a financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10 to 25 local women between the ages of 18 and 40. Most self-help groups are in India, though they can be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Functions of Self-Help Groups:

- They try to build the functional capacity of poor and marginalized sections of society in the domain of employment and income-generating activities.
- They offer collateral-free loans to sections of people that generally find it hard to get loans from banks.
- They also resolve conflicts via mutual discussions and collective leadership.
- They are an important source of microfinance services for the poor.
- They act as a go-through for formal banking services to reach the poor, especially in rural areas.
- They also encourage the habit of saving among the poor.

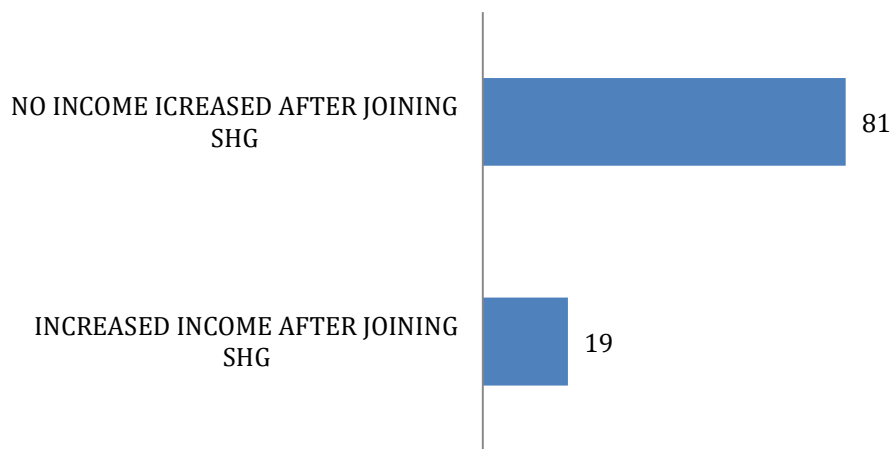
We, students of the economics department of Heramba Chandra College, surveyed the living conditions of the people of mangalbari basti village. In this survey, we covered many topics. Among them, one was about Self-Help groups, whether the women of the village are associated with these kinds of SHGs or not, and whether they are being benefitted from these or not. Below we see a graphical representation of how many women are associated with the SHG program. We can see that 23 percent of women are associated with the Self-Help Group.

DIAGRAMATIC PRESENTATION



Again in this given diagram, we see that after joining of Self-Help group, 19 percent of women argued that they have financially benefitted from this programme.

DIAGRAMATIC PRESENTATION



9. CONCLUSION

We visited the jalpaiguri district for the socio–economic survey in this year. This place is very beautiful. The people of the Jalpaiguri district are not financially strong compared to the other developed districts. They are always facing challenges. Here in this report, we have considered the socio-economic profile, food consumption pattern, migration, loans, expenditure on different items, government benefits and SHGs of Mangalbari Basti, Jalpaiguri District.

From the analysis, we observed that the housing condition of BPL families is not well compared to the APL families. The average room of BPL families is only one. It is also very low compared to the APL families. The availability of drinking water is also very poor for BPL families in the region. In all, they have to lead a very tough life.

We also observed that the consumption of Rice, Vegetables, potatoes, tea, coffee and sugar is very high but fat and protein-related consumption is significantly poor . Households of the village are facing chronic food insecurity and nutritional deficiency in the district. The average monthly expenditure of all the items for APL families is significantly high compared to the BPL families in that village .

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