

A Study on

**Status of Implementation of Schemes for Urban
Poor Especially Children in Kolkata**



BY

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&

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I. Background

Social exclusion is a multidimensional process of progressive social rupture, detaching groups and individuals from social relations and institutions and preventing them from full participation in the normal, normatively prescribed activities of the society in which they live. It is the outcome of multiple deprivations that prevent individuals or groups from participating fully in the economic, social, and political life of the society in which they live. Social exclusion is evident in deprived communities.

There is no single criterion that describes social exclusion. Denial and deprivation on all the parameters that ensures human rights, safe and a healthy life of dignity leads to social exclusion. It has an adverse impact on human rights and influences the child rights largely.

Social Exclusion is.....

- Denial of ownership, access and control over resources.
- Denial of rights over one's labour and rights over one's reproductive resources.
- Denial of opportunities for education, healthcare, housing, public amenities, recreational facilities and spaces, basic needs, etc.
- Denial of social interaction and denial of access to social spaces.
- Denial of rights to representation and participation in social, economic, political and cultural aspects of society and polity.
- Deprivation of the right to mobility, right to practice one's religion and the right to organize and mobilize.
- Denial of human dignity.
- Denial of constitutional and human rights.

Accelerated economic growth teamed with complex set of social, economic, and cultural practices that comprise social exclusion, have been able to systematically exclude from benefits, certain section of the society, especially children. India is the second most populous country in the world and home to the largest number of children. Every third malnourished child in the world lives in India and owing to their vulnerable age, children often suffer the most within the socially excluded groups, because they are discriminated in many forms. They are further vulnerable to abuse, exploitations and exclusion from Govt. policies and schemes in an adult dominated society.

Kolkata is home to several migrant families from the neighboring districts and states for ages, who came in search of better livelihood and have resided in cramped slums and squatter colonies in the city, as also in *Dhapa* and its adjoining areas. Dhapa being the dumping ground of the city for several years' rag pickers form a sizeable proportion of the community of the region. Denial of basic amenities, accessing health services, educational support and other privileges for a life of dignity is a distant factor for the people of this region and above all the children.

II. Rationale

The objective of the project is to ensure that the socially excluded children benefit from the development programmes, policies and schemes of Government, donors and NGOs. In order to analyse, understand and capture the status of implementation of various government schemes targeting to urban poor, DAS and Kolkata Konsultants a unit of Community Action Society jointly undertook an exploratory study on the “Status of implementation of schemes for urban poor especially children in Kolkata”. The study had tried to consolidate the nature and dimension of ‘exclusion linked with deprivation of socially disadvantage groups particularly the children.

III. Objectives

- To take a stock of the schemes / programmes implemented by the government for urban poor especially children in Kolkata
- To review the extent of implementation of the schemes against the target set out under different schemes
- To understand the level of awareness of the community members about the government schemes and the process to access them
- To analyse the process of identification of recipients by the Government
- To capture the gaps in implementation of the schemes with regard to coverage, specific target groups, people’s participation, transparency and impact

IV. Research Methodology

4.1 Study design

A qualitative study was undertaken in the targeted area through focus group discussions (FGDs) with children of the community and structured personal interviews (PI) with parents and teachers to understand the vulnerability factor and the extent of exclusion of the community people and the children. The PI questionnaires and the FGD checklist were prepared in consultation with representative of DAS.

4.2 Target Area

The study was conducted in the six urban locations of Anatabadal (No. of HH -145), Dhapa Durgapur (No. of HH- 240), Mathpukur (No. of HH- 500), Uchupota (No. of HH- 111), Khanaberia (No. of HH- 402) and Chhainavi (No. of HH-220). Whilst five areas fall under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Ward - 58, Chhainavi falls under Bidhanagar Municipality (currently Ward No17).

4.3 Sample size

Child respondents: 50

Adult respondents including parents, child protection committee members: 107

Teachers: 4

4.4 Orientation of the Surveyors

On finalization of the survey tools the surveyors were trained on use of the questionnaires, ways of probing an issue and participatory way of conducting focus group discussion.

4.5 Data Collection and Analysis

The qualitative data collected was verified and entered for statistical representation and analysis for achieving findings based on the objective of the study.

4.6 Documentation

The report was compiled based on the analysis of the data collected through personal interviews and focus group discussions designed for the study. It helped in identifying the gaps and the existing services received by the community and the children and further provided recommendations for its future implementation of the programme.

V. Major Findings

The major findings of the study largely cover the vulnerability of the area and the community and the findings from the primary data collections and analysis of the respondents covered through FGDs.

5.1 Area vulnerability

The six project areas of **Mathpukur, Khanaberia, Uchupota, Anantabatal, Chhainavi and Dhapa Durgapur**, are all situated close to the Dhapa Dumping ground which naturally leads to rag picking as livelihood option for the community of that area. Children as an obvious factor get absorbed in to the trade at an early age as it is an easy source of money flow to the family. They are very easily absorbed into the vicious circle of different types of abuse. The child rag pickers take to chewing and smoking tobacco from a very young age and are often alcohol addicts. They are also vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by adult rag pickers. Some of the adults are also ragpickers, or work as scavengers for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation or as daily wage earners. The communities are characterized by alcoholism and other addictions. There are a large number of broken or single parent families. Most children in the area are vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual abuse. The inhabitants of the six areas lack access to entitlement documents like Birth Certificate, Ration Card, Voters Card, SC/ST certificate, access to safe drinking water or proper sanitation facilities. Most settlements are extremely congested with houses arranged in rows facing each other. Living conditions are poor. Most houses are *kutcha* structures made with bamboo mats for walls and tiled roofs. There are just a few brick cement homes with tiled tali roofs. The area is clumsy and untidy with hardly any proper approach roads to each hutment. The garbage dumped in the area is biodegradable in nature. Consequently, sunlight and the waste combine to produce methane and hydrogen gas, both of which are

highly combustible and inflammable in nature, often causing undetectable fires on a regular basis. The area lacks playgrounds or other recreational facilities. Girls marry early. Broken and single parent families make the children insecure; making them seek security through financial independence and some means of livelihood.

5.2 Respondent Profile

5.2.1 Child respondents:

The key respondents of the study were the children and the parents of the children of whom some are members of the child protection committee. As the study tried to look at the extent of social exclusion especially among the children of the area detailed and indepth discussions were held with them within their community in all the six different project areas separately. 85 children (table 1) from all the study areas within the age group of 10-18 years were part of the focus group discussions. The participation of the children project areas wise is given in the following table. Gender segregation reveals that 64 percent were girls and 36 percent (figure 1) were boys.

Figure 1

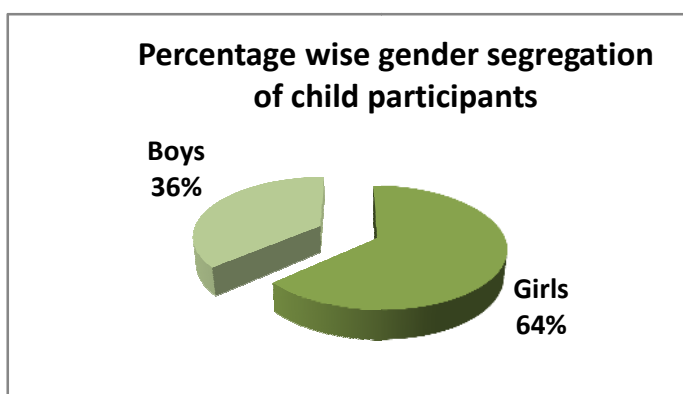


Table 1 Area wise distribution of child respondents

Sl.No	Area	No. of children
1	Anantabadal	13
2	Chhainavi	17
3	Dhapa Durgapur	17
4	Khanaberia	10
5	Uchupota	11
6	Mathpukur	17
Total		85

Figure 2

5.2.2 Adult respondents:

Objective of the study was also to understand the level of awareness of the community members about the government schemes and the process to access them. The adult community members were basically the parents of the children. Among them some (29 percent) are representatives of the child protection committee (figure 2). Figure 3 reveals that 71.03 percent of the total respondents are female and 28.97 percent are males, it also provides area wise gender segregation of adult respondents. The reason might be credited to the fact that when the data was collected during the day most of the male members were out for wage earning purpose.

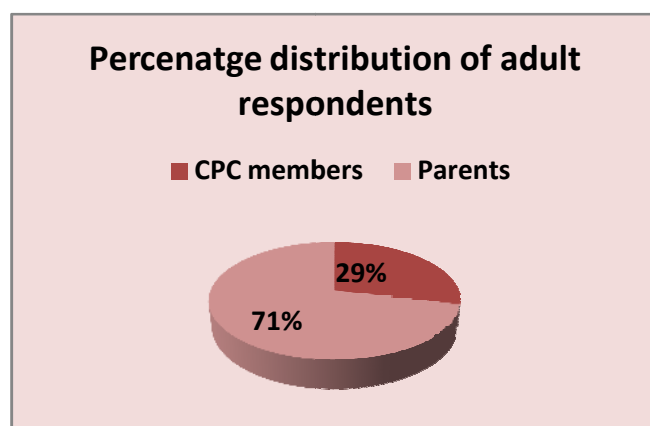
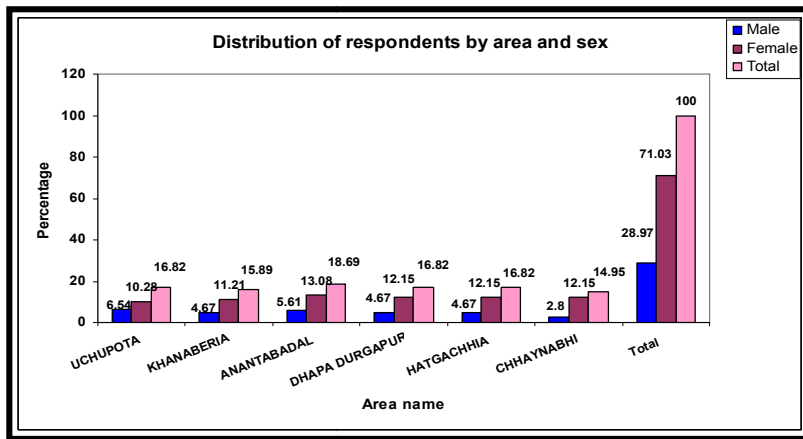
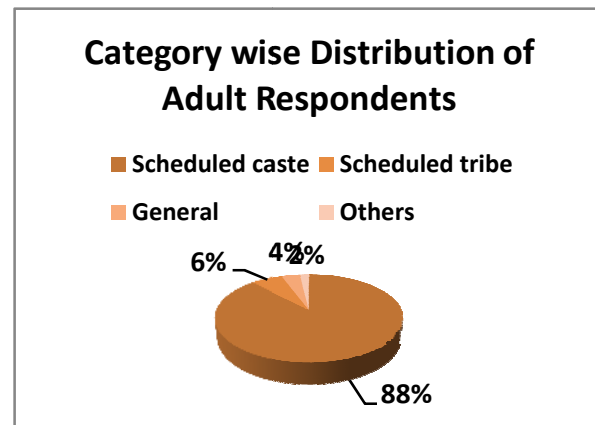


Figure 3



5.2.3 Category & Religion: The communities of all the project areas are predominantly Hindus. 40.18 percent of the adult respondents are between the age group of 30-35 years and 18.68 percent are between the age group of 36- 40 years. The study revealed that 88 percent of the adult respondents belonged to Scheduled Caste category, 6 percent are schedule tribes (Figure 4).

Figure 4



5.2.4 Livelihood: It has been observed that the male members of the community are engaged into different types of livelihood ranging from daily labor, agricultural labour, van rickshaw pullers, petty business. A portionable section of the men also work in the *veries* (6.54 percent) (tanks or ponds for fish cultivation). 35.51 percent women are home makers and are not involved in any income generation (table 2).

Table 2 **Distribution of respondents by occupation and sex**

Livelihood	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Agricultural labour	1	0.93	10	9.35	11	10.28
Asha worker	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
Business	5	4.67	2	1.87	7	6.54
Bus helper	1	0.93	0	0.00	1	0.93
Corporation worker	3	2.80	0	0.00	3	2.80
Daily Labour	6	5.61	3	2.80	9	8.41
Driver	1	0.93	0	0.00	1	0.93
Farmer	0	0.00	2	1.87	2	1.87
Fishing	2	1.87	0	0.00	2	1.87
House maker	0	0.00	38	35.51	38	35.51
Maid	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
Nursing aid	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
Rag picker	1	0.93	13	12.15	14	13.08
Service	1	0.93	1	0.93	2	1.87
Self Help Group	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
Tailor	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
Unemployed	1	0.93	0	0.00	1	0.93
Van rickshaw puller	1	0.93	0	0.00	1	0.93
Working for fish cultivation (in veries)	7	6.54	2	1.87	9	8.41
Others	1	0.93	0	0.00	1	0.93
Total	31	28.97	76	71.03	107	100.00

5.2.5 Education: The study revealed that the literacy rate among the adults respondents are considerably low and it is significantly low for female respondents. 41.12 percent of the adult respondents are illiterate and only 16.82 percent can only sign their names (table 3). It can be concluded that most of the children are first generation learners and the female literacy rate is very less.

Table 3 Distribution of respondents by education and sex

Educational qualification	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Illiterate	3	2.80	41	38.32	44	41.12
Can sign only	6	5.61	12	11.21	18	16.82
Class I	1	0.93	0	0	1	0.93
Class III	1	0.93	5	4.67	6	5.61
Class IV	5	4.67	9	8.41	14	13.08
Class V	0	0	3	2.80	3	2.80
Class VI	5	4.67	3	2.80	8	7.48
Class VIII	2	1.87	1	0.93	3	2.80
Class IX	3	2.80	2	1.87	5	4.67
Class X	2	1.87	0	0	2	1.87
Class XII	2	1.87	0	0	2	1.87
Graduate	1	0.93	0	0	1	0.93
Total	31	28.97	76	71.03	107	100.00

Table 4 Distribution of respondents by total monthly family income

5.2.6 Monthly Income: The monthly income range of women are less than that of the men. 10.28 percent of the women earn below Rs1000 and 11.21 percent earn between Rs 1000-Rs1999, whereas only 4.67 percent men are in this range. 11.21 percent men earn between Rs 2000- 3000. The table below gives an overview of the income range of the adult respondents.

The total family income of 58.88 percent of the total respondents does not exceed

Total monthly family Income	Total	
	n	%
Rs. 2000 and below	13	12.15
Rs. 2001-Rs. 4000	63	58.88
Rs. 4001-Rs. 6000	12	11.21
Rs. 6001-Rs. 8000	5	4.67
Rs. 8000-Rs.10000	4	3.74
Rs. 10001 and above	10	9.35
Total	107	100.00

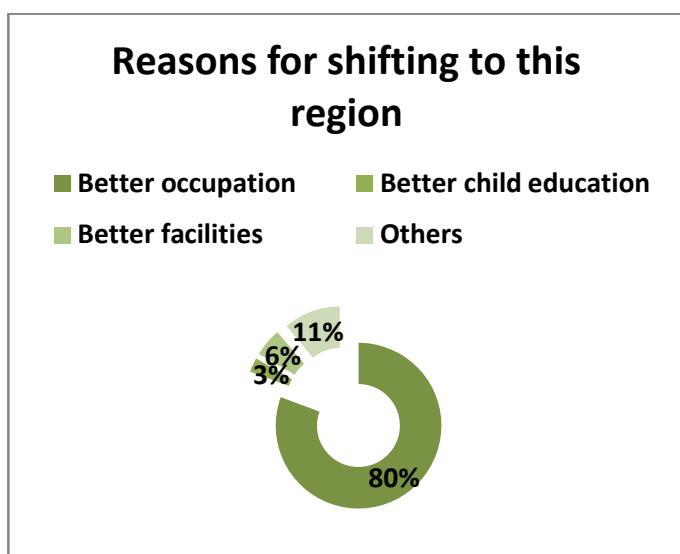
Rs4000; family income of 12.15 percent respondents is below Rs 2000 (table 4).

Limited livelihood options, that generate insufficient income for the families makes it difficult to support the families. It has been reported that there are about 35. 51 percent families with size of 6 to 7 member whose monthly income ranges between Rs 2001-4000 (table 5).

Table 5 Distribution of the respondents by household size and total monthly family income

House hold size	Total monthly family income														
	Rs. 2000 and below		Rs. 2001- Rs. 4000		Rs. 4001- Rs. 6000		Rs 6001- Rs. 8000		Rs. 8000- Rs.10000		Rs. 10001 and above		Total		
	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
2	1	0.93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.93
3	0	0	1	0.93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.93
4	2	1.87	6	5.61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7.48
5	7	6.54	17	15.89	1	0.93	2	1.87	3	2.80	2	1.87	32	29.91	
6	1	0.93	29	27.10	3	2.80	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	30.84	
7	1	0.93	9	8.41	2	1.87	2	1.87	0	0	3	2.80	17	15.89	
8	0	0	0	0	3	2.80	1	0.93	0	0	3	2.80	7	6.54	
9	0	0	1	0.93	2	1.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.80	
10	1	0.93	0	0	1	0.93	0	0	0	0	2	1.87	4	3.74	
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.93	0	0	1	0.93	
Total	13	12.15	63	58.88	12	11.21	5	4.67	4	3.74	10	9.35	107	100.00	

5.2.7 Duration of living in the area: Among the 6 settlements there are people who have



inhabited the place for generations and have lived over 100 to 200 years. However, analysis of the data reveals that most of the families have lived in this area for about 50 to 70 years. 80 percent of

Figure 5

the respondents reported that the reason for their forefathers to shift to this area was in search of better livelihood (figure 5).

5.3 Government Infrastructure Availability

The study tried to look in to the services received by the community members of this region and also their level of awareness in seeking these services and also availability of government infrastructures to provide support to the community.

5.3.1 Schools: There are four primary schools within the locality of the project area and one high secondary school (Chowbaga High School) in the vicinity which the children access. While some are within the community, mostly the primary schools, but in most cases the high schools are quite far away. The following table 6 describes about the different schools children access or can access from each of the project area.

Table 6 Schools in the project area

Sl.No.	Name of the Project Area	Name of the Primary School	Name of the Secondary/ High Secondary school	NGO run School
1.	Anantabadal	Sabedabad FP School	Chowbaga High School	-
2.	Chhainavi	Chhainavi FP School	Bamanghata High School	NGO run school (from class II – VII)
3.	Dhapa Durgapur	-	Chowbaga High School Bamanghata High School	Notun Alo School
4.	Khanaberia	Khanaberia FP School	Chowbaga High School Bamanghata High School	-
5.	Uchupota	Khanaberia FP School Chowbaga Primary school	Chowbaga High School Bamanghata High School	-
6.	Mathpukur/ Hatgachia	Janakalyan Siksha Mandir Primary School Dhapa Kacharipara KMCP School, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Primary school	Janakalyan Siksha Mandir High School	NGO run School

The adult respondents are aware of the number of schools in the area however they lack information on the rights and entitlements their children are suppose to receive from the educational system and that all children should be brought under the formal education system.

However, the children with whom the FGDs were conducted revealed that though maximum of them go to school, yet there is a considerable size of children population those are out of school or are very irregular in attending schools (they can be the potential drop outs). When asked about the **possible reasons for them to drop out** the following reasons were cited by them:

- Lack of support from the family to continue studies both economically and back up support in studies
- Parents lack motivation to ensure their children goes to school and they take them to Dhapa for rag picking to contribute to the family income
- Schools are located far away from the project area
- Children, especially girls get engaged into domestic works
- Like to play and spend time with peers
- Corporal punishment in schools
- Teachers are irregular and make the children do their personal errands
- Children get into rag picking which a very easy source of earning money with which they can easily buy things of their liking
- Early marriage for girls

It has been found that many schools have **inadequate infrastructure** preventing children from accessing a child friendly educational environment. Inadequacy in terms of – toilet facilities, no separate toilets for boys and girls, insufficient water in the toilets, toilets are locked, insufficient drinking water facility, lack of teaching learning materials as like blackboards, inadequate sitting arrangements, overcrowded classrooms no play grounds, leaking roofs, etc.

Some of the other factors that attributes to dropping out of children and irregular attendance that were highlighted during the FGDs with children and teachers are as follows:

- Often, children were utilised for odd jobs, such as sweeping floors, cleaning of rice for midday meals, fetching water or purchasing food items for teachers from adjoining shops.
- School Development Committees (SDCs) were generally not present to look into the problems facing the schools.
- Safety and security was a major issue in many schools, with the absence of boundary walls serving as an excuse for trespassing by outsiders during the day, and the presence of anti-socials within the premises during the night.
- Lack of public transport and water-logging in the vicinity deterred children from attending during the monsoon months
- Parents-teachers associations (PTAs) in the schools were either non-functional or non-existent. This prevented adequate sensitization of the parents towards educating their wards
- The teachers are unaware of the various government schemes meant to facilitate education for children among the urban poor. As a consequence, the schemes have never been put into operation in these areas which would have otherwise motivated the children to continue studies.
- More frequent inspections by the Inspector of Schools would have helped in close and effective monitoring
- Mid-day meal Operational in Khanaberia, Sabedabad & Chowbaga primary schools and Chowbaga High Schools

5.3.2 Health Services: There are no government infrastructure providing health services in all of the 6 project areas and this has been reported by the respondents during the personal interview (table 7).

5.3.3 ICDS Center: There are no ICDS centers within the project area and the services provided under the ICDS

schemes are not known to the common people of the community. The area is in dearth need of such centers that will carter to 0-5 years aged children and pregnant and lactating mothers of the community thus providing immediate attention on mother and child health care as there are no government centers in the area.

Table 7 Mean number of health centers in the locality as reported by the adult respondents

Type of health centers	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
Government Health centre	0	1	0.19	0.39
Health clinics (private)	0	9	1.09	2.29
Others (Quack or NG)	0	1	0.35	0.48
Total	0	10	1.61	2.53

Table 8 Number of ration shops in the area as reported by the respondents

Number of Ration shop	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	16	14.95	38	35.51	54	50.47
2	15	14.02	38	35.51	53	49.53
Total	31	28.97	76	71.03	107	100.00

5.3.4 MR dealer: The awareness level of the community is low regarding their entitlements under the public delivery system. It is not even monitored by the local elected representatives whether the common people receive proper measures under the scheme. The awareness

level of the community members is limited to only the number of ration shops (table 8).

5.3.5 Electricity Connection: About 87.85 percent of the total respondents have electricity connection in their houses, of which 71.28 percent are reported to be legal connections and 28.72 percent have illegal connections (table 9).

The respondents reported that there is sufficient street lighting in their locality (81.31 percent), however some reported about inadequacy and non-functional street lights (table 10).

Table 10 Availability and effectiveness of lamp posts in the locality

Enough lamp posts in the locality	Total	
	n	%
Yes	87	81.31
No	20	18.69
Total	107	100.00
Effective lamp posts		
Yes	81	75.70
No	26	24.30
Total	107	100.00

Table 9 Availability of electricity in maximum houses in the locality

Electricity in most of the houses	Total	
	n	%
Yes	94	87.85
No	13	12.15
Total	107	100.00
If yes, legal or illegal		
Legal	67	71.28
Illegal	27	28.72
Total	94	100.00

5.3.6 Drinking water facility in the project areas have been reported to be insufficient. Certain part of the project area has tap water supply, however most of the people of the project area use water from handpumps for drinking purpose and daily use. The hand pump water are not tested or certified for drinking purpose. Therefore, it can be concluded that large section of the community people are deprived of safe drinking water.

5. 4 Citizenship Entitlements

It has been observed that community is aware about their entitlements to be received pertaining to their citizenship. But lack of awareness relating to utility of the documents and its uses had prevented them from accessing it. 73.47 percent of the respondents have said that **birth certificates** were not made as it was not a common practice earlier and few people understood its utility. But parents of this generation have started getting it for their children. Also earlier home delivery prevented them from getting birth certificates. Yet 19.39 percent still donot have the concept of getting this certificate. 91.58 percent of the total adult respondents have cited different reasons for not having birth certificates. 8.4 percent have stated that their children have birth certificates.

Applying for **ration card** is common and people go about the process also; however, few have knowledge about regular follow ups. They are also been asked to pay bribe so that the cards are issued promptly which these poor people often fail. It is also the economic crisis (14.29 percent) and the red tapism that prevents them from regular follow-ups. It is reported

that 21.43 percent of the citizen have not applied for the card 38.57 are yet to receive the ration cards. It implies that a section of the community is yet to access their benefits under food security program. 55 percent of the total adult respondents (N=107) mentioned that they have ration cards while 44.85 percent do not have ration cards.

35.71 percent of the respondents could not apply for **voter card** as they do not have proper documents. 39 percent of the total adults interviewed donot have voter card, while 61 percent have it. Although the communities predominantly belongs to Schedule caste category very few (13 percent) of them have **SC/ST certificates** – primarily because 44 percent do not have the concept of it and 31.18 percent does not know the process to get this certificate. Very few respondents have heard about **disability certificate** and hardly have any idea that benefits can be received by the challenged person. 66.67 percent of the total respondents does not know the process to get the disability certificate and 33. 33 percent has no concept on the issue and its utility. It has been felt that the community members and also the members of the child protection committee need to be fully versed with all the schemes and entitlements which would then help them in accessing it. Details given in table 11.

Table 11 Citizenship Entitlements

Reasons for not having basic citizenship entitlement certificates		ADULT MALE		ADULT FEMALE		Total	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
		Birth certificate	It was not a common practice earlier	16	16.33	56	57.14
Home delivery	3		3.06	0	0	3	3.06
Applied but not received yet	0		0	1	1.02	1	1.02
No concept	8		8.16	11	11.22	19	19.39
Lost	0		0	1	1.02	1	1.02
Lack of awareness	1		1.02	1	1.02	2	2.04
Total	28		28.57	70	71.43	98	100.00
Ration Card	Has not applied for it yet	2	4.17	4	8.33	6	12.50
	Applied but not received yet	3	6.25	18	37.50	21	43.75
	Does not know the procedure how to get	0	0	2	4.17	2	4.17
	No documents	0	0	3	6.25	3	6.25
	Not taking it seriously	0	0	1	2.08	1	2.08

	Economic crisis	2	4.17	5	10.42	7	14.58
	Lost	0	0	6	12.50	6	12.50
	Lack of awareness	0	0	2	4.17	2	4.17
	Total	7	14.58	41	85.42	48	100.00
Voter Card	It was not a common practice earlier	1	2.38	0	0	1	2.38
	Has not applied for it yet	5	11.90	2	4.76	7	16.67
	Applied but not received yet	4	9.52	12	28.57	16	38.10
	No concept	0	0	1	2.38	1	2.38
	No documents	4	9.52	11	26.19	15	35.71
	Lack of awareness	1	2.38	1	2.38	2	4.76
	Total	15	35.71	27	64.29	42	100.00
SC/ST certificate	Has not applied for it yet	1	1.08	2	2.15	3	3.23
	Applied but not received yet	4	4.30	1	1.08	5	5.38
	No concept	12	12.90	29	31.18	41	44.09
	Does not know the procedure how to get	4	4.30	25	26.88	29	31.18
	No documents	4	4.30	6	6.45	10	10.75
	Not taking it seriously	0	0	1	1.08	1	1.08
	Lost	0	0	1	1.08	1	1.08
	Lack of awareness	1	1.08	2	2.15	3	3.23
	Total	26	27.96	67	72.04	93	100.00
Disability certificate	Has not applied for it yet			1	25.00	1	25.00
	No concept			1	25.00	1	25.00
	Does not know the procedure how to get			1	25.00	1	25.00
	Not taking it seriously	1	25.00			1	25.00
	Total	1	25.00	3	75.00	4	100.00

5.5 Schemes for Children

The analysis of the data collected from the adult respondents revealed that they are aware about two schemes basically – Mid-day meal and Free books/ Book grants scheme. As figure 6 illustrates that a minimum section of the community is aware about the other schemes though they lack detailed information of the same.

Further analysis (table 12) on the awareness level of the schemes with the respondent type revealed that even the

Figure 6

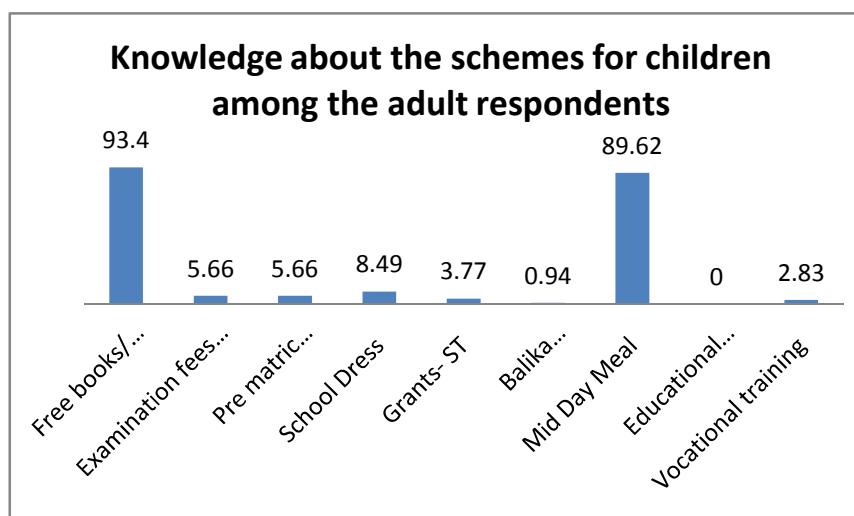


Table 12 Knowledge about schemes for children among the adult respondents based on the segregation

Different Schemes	Adult respondents N=76	CPC members N=31
Free books/ Book grants (class I-V)	70	29
Examination fees -SC/ST students	2	4
Pre matric Scholarship- Poor students (class I-X)	2	4
School Dress	7	2
Grants- ST students	2	2
Balika Sambridhhi Yojna	1	0
Mid Day Meal	68	27
Educational Development Scheme	0	0
Vocational training	3	0

members of child protection committee among the adult respondents have marginally less information on different state and central schemes available for the children. The group which would otherwise can take a leadership role in advocacy for children accessing

different schemes in the area has not been enough functional in this respect.

5.6 Child Rights

The organization has worked for establishing rights for the children in this region for quite

Table 13 Awareness on Child Rights

Different Rights	CPC		Adult	
	n	%	n	%
Right to Education	29	93.5	66	86.84
Right to Health and Care	29	93.5	65	85.5
Right to Nutrition	29	93.5	65	85.5
Right to Expression	28	90.3	46	60.5
Right to Information	26	83.9	42	55.2
Right to Protection from Abuse	24	77.4	43	56.5
Right to Protection from Exploitation	23	74.1	42	55.2
Right to Protection from Neglect	23	74.1	41	53.9
Right to recreation	23	74.1	41	53.9
Right to Name and Nationality	23	74.1	39	51.3
Right to survival	23	74.1	42	55.2

some time. This has been reflected in the data collected. The adult members of the community as well the CPC members are aware about the different rights of the children as reflected in table 13.

V. Recommendations

- The teachers and the community are badly hamstrung by the lack of information on the various schemes and how they operate. It is important for an awareness drive to be undertaken through community leaders and SHGs under the aegis of the project.
- Since children have no birth certificates- the first step to citizenship- and hence the other certificates which can enable them do away with social exclusion, it is important to have parents know how birth certificates can be applied for, and hence lay open the opportunities they are entitled to.
- It is important to sensitize teachers on the rights children are entitled to. This will also put a stop to corporal punishment in schools here.
- Since most children in these areas are first-generation learners, studies might prove a big hurdle for them. The difficulties they face subsequently result in them dropping out of school. Hence, it is imperative to arrange remedial coaching for the children as soon as possible to stem dropouts.
- It might also help in seeking out professional performers to communicate with the community and inform them about the various government schemes available for economically backward sections.
- Basic amenities like toilets and drinking water fountains must be strengthened.
- Regular inspections ought to be conducted with the help of the Inspector of School.
- Parents ought to be sensitized to take interest in their children's education and play a strong role in Parent Teachers Associations in schools their children attend.
- Care must be taken to ensure that School Development Committees are constituted in each of the schools in the area.
- At every stage, women must be better informed about the facilities available for the betterment of the community. Since the findings reveal their ignorance on every aspect, SHGs ought to be mobilized to take up the responsibility.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The best intentions do not always guarantee success. This is exactly what one sees here. The tables show that the project area is characterized by people primarily belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, subsisting on generally low income levels. These are socially excluded groups that must be brought into the national mainstream through better educational opportunities and the like.

Social exclusion has always kept these populations economically marginalized as well, and necessitated their migration from the neighbouring state of Bihar and other regions in the interior.

However, personal interviews and focus group discussions conducted under this project prove that there is very little awareness about the various government schemes available for the marginalized groups. In fact, the population in the project area even lacks citizenship certificates-which are a must for the basic rights for any individual. Neither do they have other documents –SC/ST and/or disability certificates, ration and voter cards -so essential to access the services provided by the government.

Since independence, the government of India has been extremely pro-active and far-sighted to strike at the very causes of social deprivation by enacting laws and devising schemes to bring the marginalized out of social exclusion and rehabilitate them into the mainstream. But in the absence of a concerted effort to inform the poor of their entitlements-in the project area under study- has apparently worked against delivering the desired results.
