

# THE 100 hotSPOTS

SNAPSHOT OF SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND VULNERABLE  
POPULATION GROUPS & SDGs IN INDIA  
JUNE 2019



Coordinated by:  
**WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report has been prepared by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA). It has benefitted from various experts in its conceptualisation, development and grounding of this study. The steering group members and larger WNTA members made it possible to take up this study. Ms Yamini Mishra of Amnesty immediately connected to the idea, Ms Meenakshi Kathel and Ms Radhika Kaul Batra from the UN Regional Coordinator's office in India supported in the conceptualisation, Dr. S Venkatraman during preparation of research methodology and tools for the study; Mr Ingo Ritz and Mr Pradeep Baisakh for linking us up with the global forums. Ms Snehal M Shah helped in preparing the quantitative household survey tool. Ms R. Revathy and Mr Naresh Kumar helped in financial and administrative coordination of the study. Ms Sowmya Karun and Mr Gopal Singh from Social Cops helped in digitalizing the research tools.

The study is a collaborative effort with 10 community led/civil society organisations across 10 states in India- i) Bihar Ambedkar Students Forum (BASF), ii) Ekal Nari Shakti Sanghatan (ENSS) iii) Kolkota Rishta, iv) Life Education and Development Support (LEADS), v) Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Swayamsevi va Shaikshanic Sanstha (MJPSSS), vi) People's Action for Rural Awakening (PARA), vii) People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), viii) Prantha Katha, ix) Sight Savers, x) Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA). Of special mention is that each of these organisations has specific and sustained engagement with the particular vulnerable population group and is a champion on their rights and development. Their long-standing work with the communities, their personal experiences of the issues, their knowledge and rapport has enriched this study and given it depth. The field investigators identified in the study did commendable work in gathering quantitative and qualitative data from the communities and have become community SDG champions for the most vulnerable population groups in the country. Such effort undoubtedly is the framework to leave no one behind and a life of dignity for every individual in our country.

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# FOREWORD

I would like to congratulate Wada Na Todo Abhiyan for conceptualising the '100 Hotspots: Snapshot of Socially Excluded and Vulnerable Groups in India' as a means of grounding the 'leave no one behind and life with dignity' principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Transforming our world happens when the most vulnerable population groups enjoy their life with dignity. It is not an impossible dream and one hopes that more people will have the courage to contribute and participate.

While India recognises various disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in the Constitution and through legislations and policy statements, there is little information or insights into their particular development status which gets masked under larger community and national averages. This pilot study of 10 vulnerable population groups provides ample evidence of the development inequalities between them and the national development. As seen, the aggregated metadata does not hold true for these groups and cannot provide policy or strategy directions for ensuring their inclusion.

I would like to congratulate the many stakeholders who have come together to undertake this study, in particular the community led/civil society organisations who have gathered the data and brought inputs from the communities. Their experiences and insights enrich this report and also paved the way for SDG champions from the most vulnerable population groups. Their engagement in the larger SDGs processes will be the way forward for India to achieve SDGs. My best wishes as the

study is taken forward to include more and more vulnerable population groups.

2019 is an important milestone in the SDGs framework, completing four years and also slated to review the SDGs partnerships, implementation and monitoring framework. There are serious concerns globally that the transformative agenda of the SDGs will get sidestepped as countries report on their SDGs implementation. Civil society organisations, with traditional and in-depth engagement with vulnerable population groups can contribute to the methodology and citizen-led data for articulating their issues and advocating for them. Agenda 2030 is an ambitious agenda and requires all possible stakeholders to participate and contribute to its achievement. I am sure reports like this are compelling evidence and provides a road map for multi-stakeholder partnership in achieving SDGs nationally and globally.

Thomas Pallithanam  
**Convener, WNTA**



# THE 100 hotSPOTS SNAPSHOT OF SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS & SDGs IN INDIA

‘100 Hotspots: Snapshot of Socially Excluded and Vulnerable Population Groups and SDGs in India’ is a first of its kind study on SDGs status among the less recognised, invisible, excluded population groups in India. The purpose of the study is to highlight that the most vulnerable population groups across India access and benefit from the SDGs targets and indicators in the true sense of ‘leave no one behind and a life with dignity’, and thereby pave the way for India to achieve SDGs and global achievement.



# CONTENT

	ABSTRACT	02
	1. INTRODUCTION	04
	2. SOCIALLY EXCLUDED VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS	08
	3. SDGS TARGETS AND INDICATORS COVERED	12
	4. WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN	16
	5. METHODS OF PRIMARY RESEARCH	18
	6. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY	22
	7. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION	24
		26-44
	8. STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH	46
	9. INCLUSION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE STUDY	47
	10. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH THE GOVERNMENT	48
	11. ACHIEVING SDGS FOR THE SEVP GROUPS	50
	12. SCALING UP ACROSS 2030	53

## ABSTRACT

'100 Hotspots: Snapshot of Excluded Communities and SDGs in India' is a first of its kind study on SDGs status among the less recognised, invisible, excluded population groups in India. The purpose of the study is to highlight that the most vulnerable population groups across India access and benefit from the SDGs targets and indicators in the true sense of 'leave no one behind and a life with dignity', and thereby pave the way for India to achieve SDGs and global achievement. The government of India at the highest levels have welcomed the SDGs, and there are positive efforts to align the national and state development plans and schemes with the SDGs.

Currently there exists the complex challenge of tracking development disadvantages of hundreds of excluded population groups across the country and ensuring equitable entitlements are directed towards them. The present government's method of implementing and reporting on the SDGs are based on metadata and aggregations that gloss over significant disparities. This study is aimed to generate incontrovertible evidence of deprivation of communities using the SDG framework so that a) The 'left behind' and the 'last' are identified and b) the extent and intensity of deprivation is measured so that c) appropriate policy and implementation interventions can be made.

As an advocacy research, the study is directed at empowering the excluded communities and their civil society organisations. The study is participatory, and is co-created and implemented with the members of the said population groups. This report covers 1000 households from 10 excluded population groups in 10 hotspots across 10 states on a set of SDG indicators. A mobile application was developed and applied to gather quantitative

data, further strengthened with focused group discussions and institutional observations. The field investigators were identified from the same communities by local civil society organisations, trained and closely supported in gathering the data. They have in the process become SDG champions and resource persons for their communities in these excluded and far-flung communities.

The report shows considerable disparity on indicators between these population groups and the national SDG averages, underlining barriers and challenges. It recognises the need to develop specific provisions to address the disadvantages experienced by these groups in achieving the SDGs. Having developed the tools and methodology through this pilot, the research will be expanded to study 50,000 households during the period of the 2030 agenda. The real time data so gathered will be used to impress upon the state to build necessary equity measures and ensure disaggregated monitoring. The project period will also focus on networking across population groups, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and advocating with the state.

This study is part of a larger collective process supported by international civil society organisations, national civil society organisations, community based organisations and community led organisations towards making SDGs more inclusive and accountable to those who are furthest behind. In 2018-19 similar studies on SDGs achievements among the vulnerable population groups were undertaken in Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya and Vietnam contributing to a cross country research series on the vulnerable population groups. The International Civil Society Centre (ICSC) in Berlin anchored the cross country research.

# 1

## INTRODUCTION

“ The picture of achieving SDGs in India is made complex with inequalities across geographical regions and communities ”

It is globally acknowledged that India is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 1.3 billion people (17.7% of the world population)<sup>1</sup> and large numbers of people living below \$1.25/day. Based on national data (68th round, NSSO 2011-12)<sup>2</sup>, the World Bank calculated that one in every five Indian lives below poverty line.<sup>3</sup> However, the picture of achieving SDGs in India is made complex with inequalities across geographical regions and communities. Seven low income States with 45% of the national population holds 62% of the people below poverty line (BPL). The poverty and development indicators of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, religious minorities and other marginalised communities are poor compared to national averages and development indicators for the dominant sections of the population. 43% of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) fall below the poverty line 29% of the Scheduled Castes (SCs); 21% among the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 12% among 'others'.<sup>4</sup> The picture is further complicated by hundreds of distinct socially excluded vulnerable population groups<sup>5</sup> (henceforth SEVP Groups) who report



unequal access and development inequalities between them within the broader scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, and other vulnerable groups. The scheduled caste category has over 1200 identified population groups and the scheduled tribes over 700 population groups.

The society in India is structured along various social exclusion fault lines with caste, ethnicity, religion and gender being the major ones. Additional exclusion vectors include disability, sexual orientation, age, occupation, life-style, language and many others. The exclusion vectors justify discrimination and violence against the SEVP Groups and perpetuate development disadvantages and rights violations. The multiple and inter-sectional nature of these disadvantages add further complexity to SEVP Groups achieving the SDGs. Hence all efforts to achieve SDGs in India needs to necessarily understand and address the poor SDGs indicators of the socially excluded communities, the SEVP Groups.

The SDGs tracking and reporting by the government is based on metadata and aggregations and they do not reflect the status of the SEVP 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” is evolved as a mechanism to give voice to the SEVP Groups and empower them to examine their development inequalities on 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 pilot study included 10 hotspots covering 1000 households and will be expanded to 100 hotspots in 2019-20. It will be further expanded to cover 500 hotspots till 2030 to highlight the spread and depth of the challenges that India faces and the necessary equity measures in achieving the SDGs.

- 1 India Population Live; [www.worldometers.info/world-population/india-population/](http://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.
- 2 68th round, NSSO 2011-12-
- 3 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}
- 4 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
- 5 The term population groups (SEVP Groups) is used to refer to small communities within larger excluded social groups like the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, nomadic communities, de-notified communities etc.

**The project approach will:**

- **Examine:** Gather development data on the smaller, hitherto less visible population/vulnerable groups (SEVP 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.
- **Engage:** Engage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Led Organisations (CLOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local governance to highlight the specific vulnerabilities of the SEVP Groups and ensure government programmes and provisions reach them.
- **Empower:** Build capacities of the SEVP Groups so that they can articulate their issues and participate in governance and development processes.

**The expected Outcomes of the study are:**

- Robust mechanism and baseline data is available for replication and adoption to track SDGs progress and inequalities for the SEVP Groups.
- SEVP Groups voice their demands on development and rights measures and better access and benefit from the SDGs framework.
- Civil society organisations adopt the hotspot framework and track and monitor the SDGs access of SEVP Groups.
- Concerned Government officials acknowledge the development inequalities and build mechanisms for better access of the SDGs targets and schemes by the SEVP Groups.
- 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.





MUSAHAR HABITATION IN PATNA DISTRICT OF BIHAR, INDIA

## 2

## SOCIALLY EXCLUDED VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS (SEVP GROUPS)



“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 Constitution of India recognises scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) communities being historically excluded. Additionally, various legislations and policies of the Government of India recognise many other population groups who face one or the other form of exclusion. Here, the study makes distinction between “socioeconomically vulnerable population groups” and “socially excluded vulnerable population groups”. The latter groups face social exclusion and discrimination while the former may not necessarily face discrimination and exclusion.

The study is focused on “socially excluded vulnerable population groups (SEVP Groups)” recognising that social exclusion lays the foundations for and legitimises 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. Systemic mechanisms of social equity and inclusion are essential to address these vulnerabilities.

The study recognises that these broad socially excluded communities are not homogenous and include hundreds of smaller less visible population groups with high levels of development inequalities between them.<sup>6</sup> There is limited attention or data on these population 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 identified 20 SEVP Groups across diverse exclusion vectors for study and advocacy in the first phase (2018-20):

- Schedule castes (SCs)
- Scheduled tribes (STs)
- Nomadic communities (ND)
- De-notified (DNT) communities
- Particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG)
- Religious minority communities
- Persons with disabilities (PwD)
- Bonded labour
- Vulnerable women
- Persons in sex work
- LGBTQI communities

- Urban poor
- Fisher communities
- Vulnerable children
- Vulnerable youth
- Vulnerable elderly
- People in conflict areas
- Migrant workers
- Salt-pan workers
- Nomadic pastoralists.

These exclusions are over-lapping and inter-related. The 10 SEVP Groups tracked in this report faced multiple disadvantages at the inter-sections of caste, gender, religion, occupation, disability, life style and age to name some. The study is open to the possibility that the list may expand over the years through the field engagement and better understanding.

The study covered ten SEVP Groups listed below in the pilot phase in 2018-19, with data being gathered during February-March 2019. Civil society and community led organisations conducted the study in the specific locations to incorporate the experiential knowledge of these communities. In majority of cases, the field investigators were drawn from the SEVP Groups themselves who emerged as SDG resource persons and advocacy champions.

<sup>6</sup> As an example, the scheduled caste (SC) category includes over 1200 population groups and the scheduled tribes (ST) over 800.



S.NO	SEVP GROUPS	STATE	CSO/CLO
01	Musahar (SC-Scheduled Caste community)	Bihar	BASF
02	Munda (ST-Scheduled Tribe community)	Jharkhand	LEADS
03	Konda Reddy/ Koya Dhora (PVTG-Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)	Andhra Pradesh	PARA India
04	Gosava & Ramoshi (DNT-NT- De-notified Tribes/Nomadic Tribes)	Maharashtra	MJPSSS
05	Youth (Affected by Gender based Violence)	West Bengal	Prantha Katha
06	Trans-gender (LGBTQI+)	West Bengal, Bihar	Kolkata RISHTA
07	Bonded Labourers (Scheduled Caste)	Uttar Pradesh	PVCHR
08	Urban Poor (mix of poor communities)	Maharashtra	YUVA
09	People with Disabilities (PwD-Hearing, Loco-Motor and Visual disabilities)	Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh	Sight Savers
10	Single Women (Widowed/Abandoned)	Himachal Pradesh	ENSS





*CHILDREN FROM PVTGS COMMUNITY IN EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA*

## 3

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 22 sets of data across 14 indicators for Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 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. Additional data analysis will be taken up subsequently. The study is currently weak on some indicators, particularly climate, peace and justice related indicators and will be strengthened in subsequent rounds.



S.NO.	SDG GOALS	INDICATORS	PRIMARY DATA COLLECTED
<p><b>1</b></p> 	END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE	1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1. Average monthly earnings of the household
<p><b>2</b></p> 	END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	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.	2. Access to food grains through Public Distribution System 3. Access to Mid-Day Meal Scheme by school going students.
<p><b>3</b></p> 	ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELLBEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES	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 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	4. Access to Public Health Services 5. Access to safe menstrual hygiene practices 6. Access to modern family planning methods 7. Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health 8. Access to health insurance
<p><b>4</b></p> 	ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL	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 6. By 2030, increase by per cent the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and v skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	9. Access to School Education – Public/ Private institutions 10. Access to Scholarship and Mid-Day Meal 11. Out of Pocket expenditure on education

S.NO.	SDG GOALS	INDICATORS	PRIMARY DATA COLLECTED
	ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS	<p>7. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> <p>8. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p>	<p>12. Women facing Sexual and Physical Violence</p> <p>13. Incidences of Child Marriage</p> <p>14. Gender inequalities across various indicators</p>
	ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL	<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>15. Source of drinking water</p> <p>16. Time taken in fetching drinking water</p> <p>17. Availability of toilet facilities in housing premises</p>
	ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL	<p>11. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services</p>	<p>18. Access to electricity as main source of lighting</p> <p>19. Usage of LPG/Clean fuel as cooking fuel</p>
	PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	<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>20. Principle Source of Employment</p> <p>21. Percentage of Population out of work</p> <p>22. Access to MGNREGA</p>
	MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE	<p>13. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>	<p>23. Percentage of population living in Slums</p>

S.NO.	SDG GOALS	INDICATORS	PRIMARY DATA COLLECTED
<p><b>16</b></p> 	<p>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>24. Physical and Sexual Violence faced by women</p>



*BONDED LABORER FAMILY WORKING AS FAMILY LABOUR IN A FARM IN VARANASI, INDIA*

## 4

WADA NA TODO  
ABHIYAN  
(WNTA)

“ The WNTA platform aims to ‘monitor governance accountability to eliminate poverty and social exclusion in India’ ”

The 100 Hotspots (Hotspots henceforth) is undertaken under the auspice of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a national civil society platform initiated in 2004 following the World Social Forum in Mumbai. The WNTA platform aims to ‘monitor governance accountability to eliminate poverty and social exclusion in India’. Over 3000 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.

WNTA has three central pillars to its work

- Brings out annually a review report of the union government on their performance based on the electoral promises and constitutional mandates;
- Brings out annually a review report of the MDG/SDG progress in the country and
- Articulates people’s demands and aspirations

to the political parties before elections through a 'People's Manifesto'. WNTA is the national partner of the Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP) and other global SDG platforms and processes.

Being a broad-based membership body, WNTA members are spread across the country and are part of and work closely with vulnerable population groups. The steering group members provided valuable inputs to the framework and agreed to be part of the study. The study identified the Hotspots in consultation with the member organisations of which 10 members took part in the pilot study from November 2018 to March 2019.

The study is strengthened through its collaboration with the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC, Berlin) and the researches in Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya and Vietnam. Further, it seeks to build a series of cross country knowledge and advocacy to promote greater accountability to those left furthest behind. WNTA has a long history of engaging with the UN agencies and concerned government authorities in the annual SDG reviews and other processes at the national and state levels. The engagement has provided the space to share the objectives and methodology of the study with them and we look forward to more focused engagement in expanding the study. The study provides important data and insights to the government to promote SDGs among the SEVP Groups, an essential step for India achieving SDGs.



## 5

METHODS  
OF PRIMARY  
RESEARCH

“ The study is based on Participatory Research approach. The methodology and tools were developed in a participatory manner. ”

The study is based on Participatory Research approach. The methodology and tools were developed in a participatory manner. The tools were pre-tested across two groups in the rural and urban areas and finalised before taking up the study in 10 Hotspots. The pilot stage (2018-19) identified 10 SEVP Groups and respective thematic field level organisations to undertake the study. Two to four field investigators from the vulnerable groups were identified and trained on various research tools. The field investigators participated in an intensive two-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 SEVP Groups and promote advocacy and champions within them.



## THE KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY WERE:

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



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

- Collection of primary data through household survey, FGDs, Key Informants on the current situation of the SEVP Groups
- Analysis of the access to the key welfare and development institutions and policies/ programmes by the SEVP communities.

Secondary data (from the Census of India, National Family Health Surveys, various Ministries MIS, etc.) has been used to calculate the gap between the situation of the identified vulnerable groups and the National/State/Community average. The methodology has been customised for specific SEVP Groups to bring out the exclusion process and better capture the data depending on the specific needs and circumstances of the groups especially for people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, bonded labour, etc.

The Primary Quantitative Data has been collected through 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 in each of the SEVP Groups, making a total of 1000 households. Randomization was ensured by listing 300 households in each Hotspot and every third household was selected for primary data collection.

Specific FGD tools were developed for women, children and young people to bring out the exclusion and discrimination faced by them in accessing various government schemes. The primary quantitative data has been stored on the web data platform of Social Cops which can further be downloaded in excel or CSV format. The data was cleaned and analysed using simple statistical analysis through MS Excel.

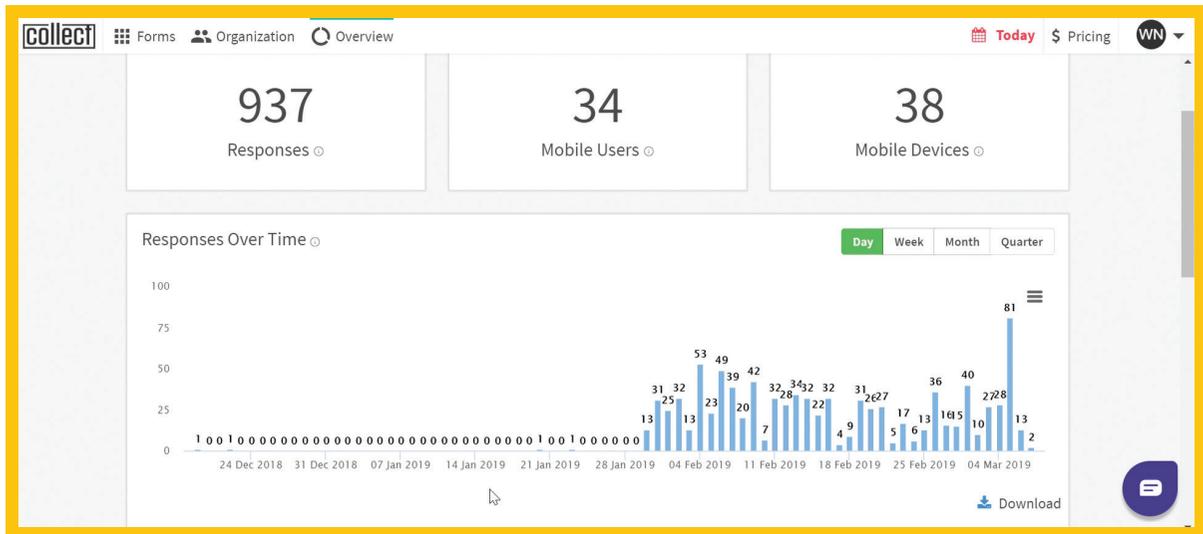


# 6

## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY



Due to the geographical and group diversity, managing the SEVP Groups study was a challenging task. The study team consisted of more than 30 field investigators spread across 10 states in India speaking different languages/dialects. WNTA in association with Social Cops developed a web-based project management platform to monitor the progress of data collection from different SEVP Groups. Through this platform the core project team based at WNTA secretariat in New Delhi was able to monitor the data collection by different data collectors and intervened in a timely manner, if any hand holding support was required for completion of the data collection.



The qualitative data (FGDs and institutional observation) were collected in the written format in the pilot phase currently and will need improved management tools while scaling up.

# 7

## FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the status of the 10 SEVP Groups tracked during the pilot study with respect to the national averages on various development indicators. The data from the household survey and FGDs indicates gaps between the SEVP group and national averages. The FGDs were held with children, youth and women in the communities to draw further insights into the perspectives of the community and explore the strategies and recommendations from the communities.



BONDED  
LABOURERS

MUSAHAR

URBAN POOR

PARTICULARLY  
VULNERABLE  
TRIBAL GROUPS

DE-NOTIFIED  
TRIBES &  
NOMADIC TRIBE

SINGLE  
WOMEN

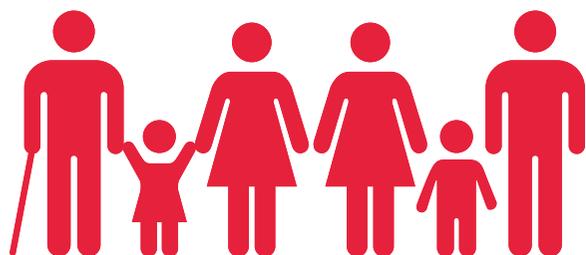
YOUTH

MUNDA  
(SCHEDULED  
TRIBE)

PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITY

TRANSPERSONS

## 1



## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

An important indicator to monitor SDG 1 is the proportion of people living below the international poverty line at less than \$1.25/person/day which translates<sup>8</sup> currently to INR 86.5/person/day. The average household size in India is calculated as 4.9<sup>9</sup> person. Hence a household earning below INR 12718/month ( $86.5 \times 4.9 \times 30 = 12718$ ), is poor under the SDGs.

The primary data (figure 1) from the 10 SEVP Groups tracked in the study reports them below the international poverty line of \$1.25day/person. The household income of the urban poor is the highest among the 10 groups, which too falls below the international poverty line. India has moved to become a middle-income country, and at the World Bank's revised poverty line<sup>11</sup> for middle income country at \$3.20/person/day, the household monthly income of the family calculates

to INR 33246. The household income of the SEVP Groups is way too below the middle income country poverty line. It is also important to note that of the 10 SEVP Groups tracked, 9 groups fall below the average household income of the agricultural households in the country. The household income of the bonded labour family in the study is less than half (43.46%) that of the average agricultural household; followed by the PVTG household (56.88%), followed by NT-DNT households (64.0%). These households earn about INR 5000+/- in a month, with the bonded labour household earning a mere INR3882/-. The household income of the urban poor is the highest among the SEVP Groups tracked at INR11765/- which is above the average agricultural household income. One also notes that urban households spend much more on basic needs like housing, water, toilets to name some. The absolute poverty of the SEVP Groups without the ability to meet basic needs puts all other SDGs in jeopardy.

<sup>8</sup> Exchange rate as on April 12, 2019

<sup>9</sup> Census of India 2011

<sup>10</sup> <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=113796>

<sup>11</sup> Poverty and Equity Data Portal, World Bank (<http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/IND>)

FIGURE 1: AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS, RUPEES

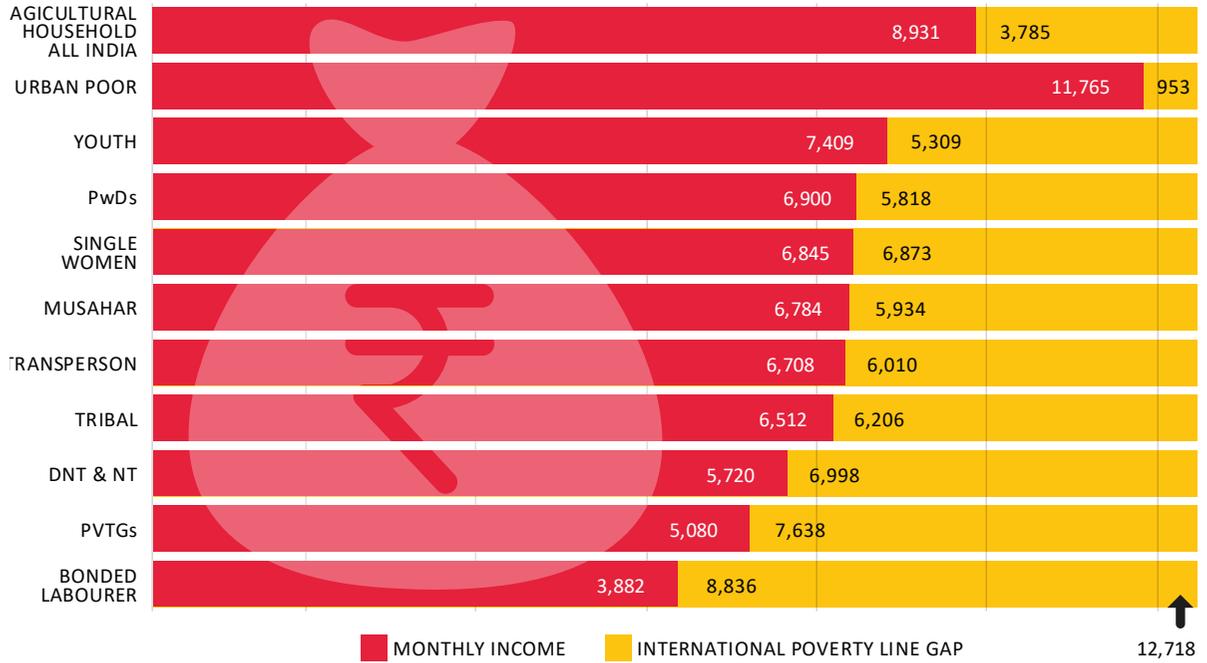
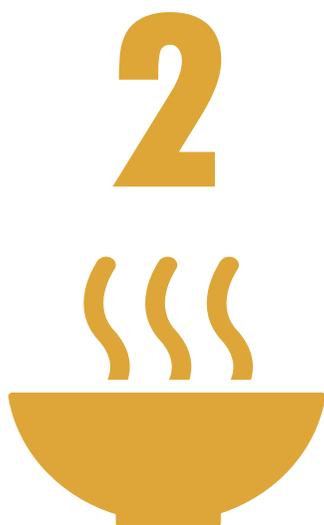


FIGURE 1A: INCOME VS HEALTH AND EDUCATION EXPENDITURES AMONG SEVP GROUPS, RUPEES



Source: SEVP Groups-Primary Data through HH survey; AG HH- NSS~70th Round <sup>10</sup>



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

India was ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018. According to the report, prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have “serious levels of hunger”<sup>12</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 Targeted Public Distribution System.<sup>13</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.

The primary data from the SEVP Groups (figure 2) reports that 80% of the households possessed any type of a ration card while 20% of the households

did not have a ration card. Among four SEVP Groups LGBTQI households (49%), bonded labour households (75%), NT-DNT households (78%), Musahar (78%) possessed ration card of any type. Ration card as an identity card is extremely important and these vulnerable groups are denied this basic document. 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, 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 barrier to achieving the SDGs.

As seen in figure 1 all the SEVP households in the study fall below the international poverty line and

<sup>12</sup> <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-ranks-103-on-global-hunger-index/articleshow/66226877.cms> Accessed on May 23, 2019

<sup>13</sup> <http://nfsa.ap.gov.in/content/nfsaact.jsp>, Accessed on May 23, 2019.

hence require special equitable state support to get out of their poverty and disadvantages cycle. One would assume that having a BPL ration card that makes the household eligible for various government subsidies and special provisions would be a natural corollary. However, only 47.3% of the total households possessed a BPL card. Further only small numbers of households from single women (26%), families with PWD members (21%), NT-DNT households (24%), urban poor (23%) possessed BPL cards.

The FGDs with the SEVP Groups highlighted the fact that the process of issuing the BPL ration cards was not transparent or fair in many situations. Often the concerned authorities at the local level (Panchayati Raj Institutions-PRIs) favoured and granted BPL cards to their acquaintances and relatives.

In many FGDs people demanded that the PDS also provide legumes and pulses should also be given on the ration card. Malnutrition is a major problem in the country, being 35.7 % of children malnourished. The FGDs with children from the SEVP Groups reported that families did not have access to and did not provide the basic necessary dietary diverse nutrition to children<sup>14</sup>.

FIGURE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF SEVP HHS ACCORDING TO RATION CARD TYPE

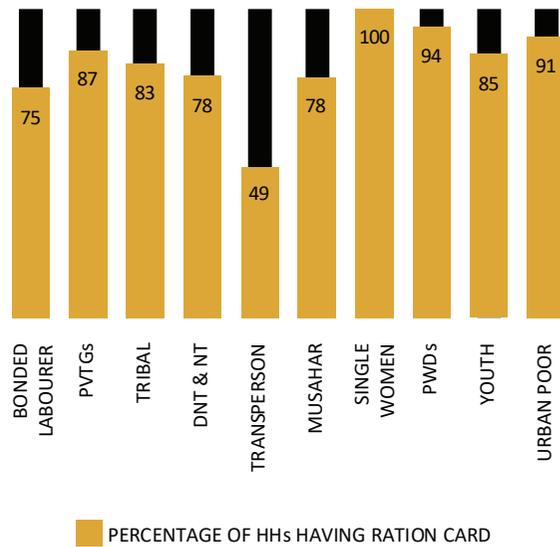
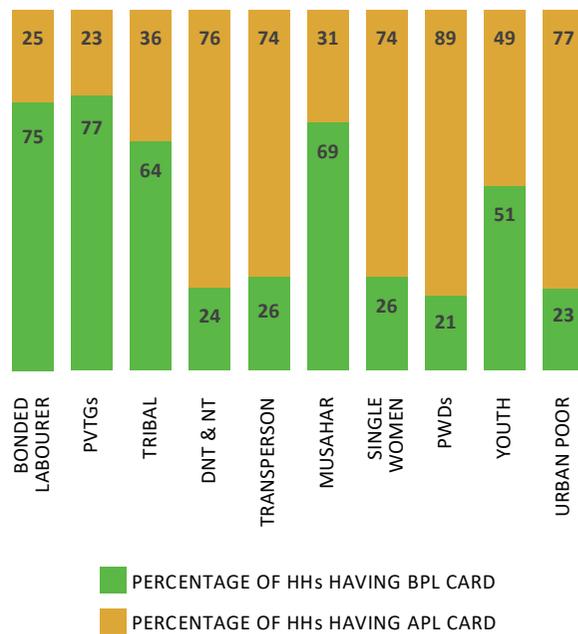


FIGURE 2A: DISTRIBUTION OF SEVP HOUSEHOLDS WITH A RATION CARD ACCORDING TO BPL & APL RATION CARD CATEGORY



Source: Primary Data through HH survey

14 Children receive foods from four or more of the following food groups: a. infant formula, milk other than breastmilk, cheese or yogurt or other milk products; b. foods made from grains or roots, including porridge or gruel, fortified baby food; c. vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables; d. other fruits and vegetables; e. eggs; f. meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, or organ meats; g. beans, peas, lentils, or nuts; h. foods made with oil, fat, ghee, or butter

## 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 SEVP 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.

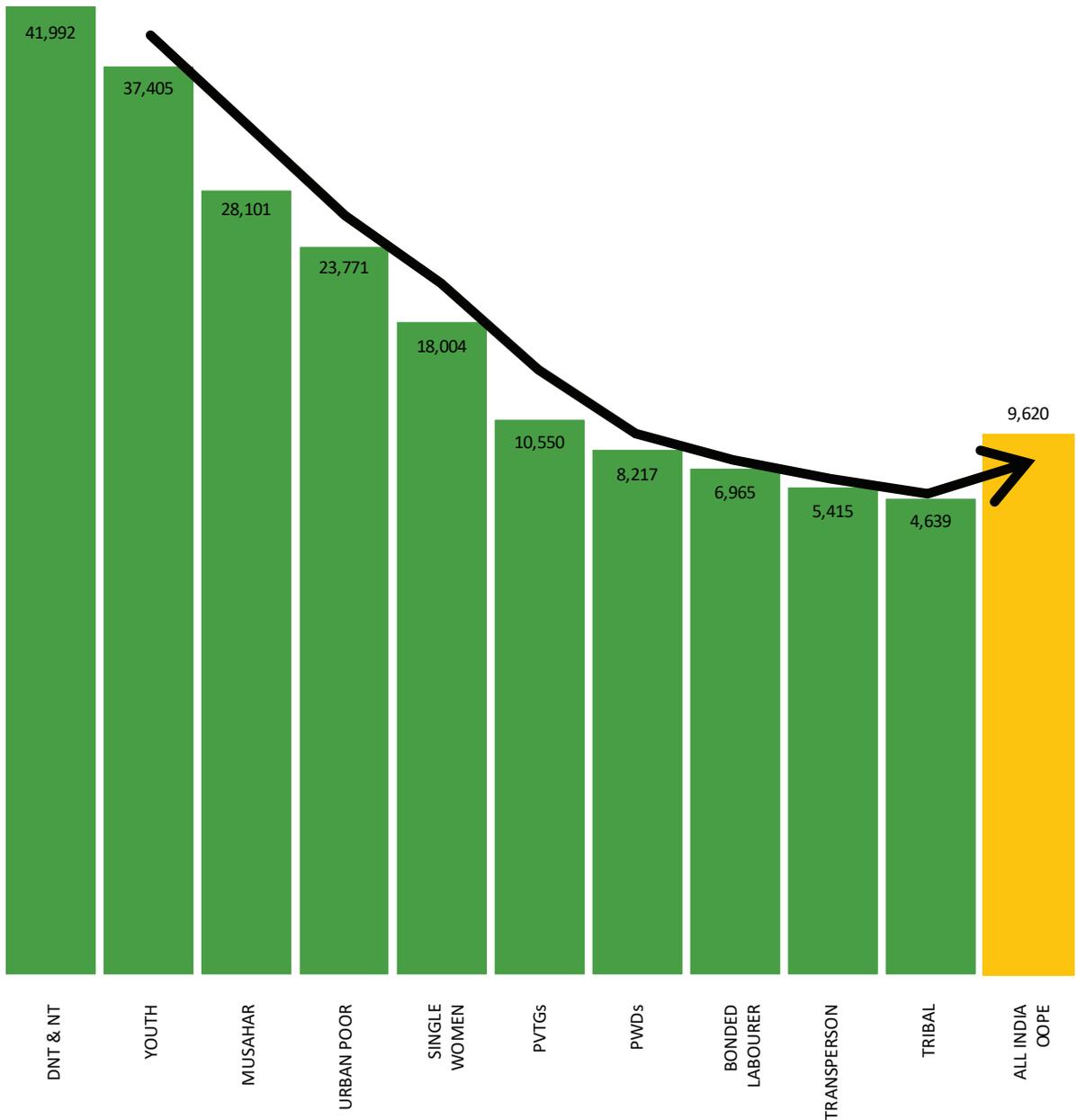
Figure 3 reflects that out of pocket expenditure on health is higher than the national average in the households of 7 of the 10 SEVP Groups. Annually, the households from the - De-notified tribes, Youth exposed to violence, Musahar, Urban poor and Single Women spends more than twice

Out of Pocket Expenses (OOPE) on health as compared to the national average. The fact that these households are all 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 in to poverty trap. 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, and of these, 38 million (69%) were impoverished by expenditure on medicines alone (Sakthivel Selvaraj, 2018). The FGDs also reported the higher health expenditure owing to mix of factors – illnesses, money at hand, availability of health facilities, gender, violence and many more.

During the FGDs SEVP Groups reported that they prefer private health facilities as the public health facilities even though free/less expensive was not

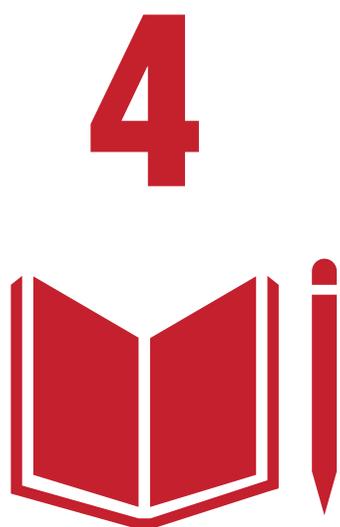
satisfactory. In the public health care facilities, as their experiences, doctors did not come regularly, pathology tests and medicines were not available. Women in Himachal Pradesh from the ‘Single Women Group’ reported they had to travel a distance of 60 kilometres to visit the nearest private health facility as there is no gynaecologist posted in the public health facility in their area.

FIGURE 3: ANNUAL OUT OF POCKET EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH, RUPEES



Source: SEVP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey; All India Data- National Health Accounts 2017 <sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</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. After enactment of the RTE Act, India witnessed a rise in the enrolment rate at various levels of school education. However even after 10 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%). Figure 4 reports a dismal situation of schooling of children (aged 5-18 year) from the SEVP households tracked in the study. At the outset, an unacceptable number of children from the SEVP households tracked in the study, are out of school and do not attend any school. From the bottom only 1% children from the LGBTQI households, 22% children from the PVTG households, 30% children from the single women households and 33% children from bonded labour

households, 34% children from NT-DNT households, 40% children in Musahar households, 47% children with disabilities attended any type of school. Less than 50% of children from 7 out of 10 SEVP Groups tracked in this study attended any school. FGDs with the groups suggested children from these groups face distinct forms of discrimination and exclusion in accessing school education. Transpersons reported sexual and physical harassment in schools. PVTGs and Tribal community reported geographical inaccessibility and language as the major hindrances in accessing school education. Bonded labourers and Musahars reported discrimination based on their caste status as the reason for their low enrolment in school education. The prognosis for these communities to achieve SDGs in the next 10-11 years is by far herculean. The urban poor reported the highest numbers of children in schools at 75%. 66% of children in the households where youth experienced sexual and physical violence and 50% of children in the tribal households were in a school.

Similar to the perception about public health care facilities being of poor quality, public education is also perceived to be of poor quality. Private schooling is also associated with 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 40% of children are in the private schools and 60% of children in the public schools. There has also been steady increase of the proportion of children moving to the private education - . However, the large majority of children in the SEVP households in the study attended the government schools. All children who attended any school from the households of PVTG, NT-DNT, LGBTQI, Single Women, Children with Disabilities attended government schools. Negligible numbers of children attended any private school. FGDs reported that even though they were desirable to send their children to private schools, there were negligible private schools in/near their habitations. This once again reflects the fact that even as private schooling is growing rapidly in the country, they do not reach out or cater to the poorest and most vulnerable population groups. Private providers may not be keen to set up schools in locations which cannot meet the cost of the schools or bring profits. The role of the government to run quality, equitable and inclusive schools is paramount to the SEVP Groups achieving the SDGs.

FIGURE 4: ACCESS TO SCHOOL EDUCATION, PERCENT

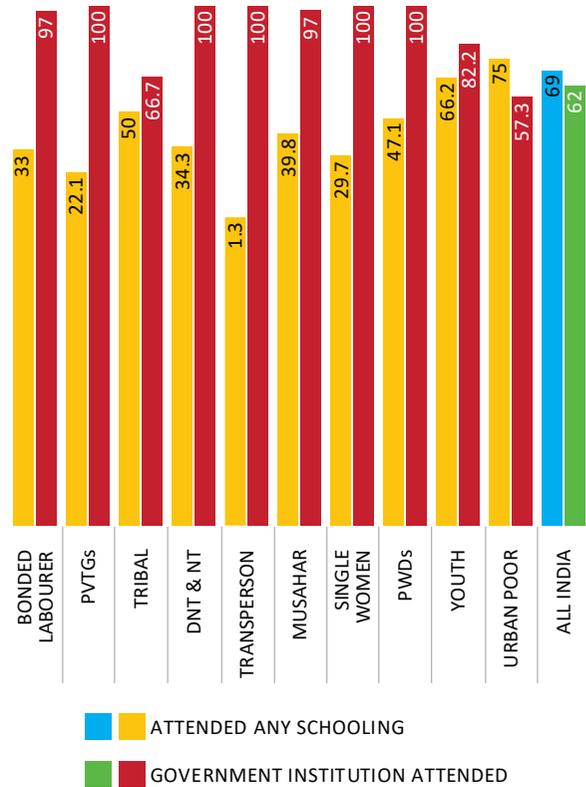
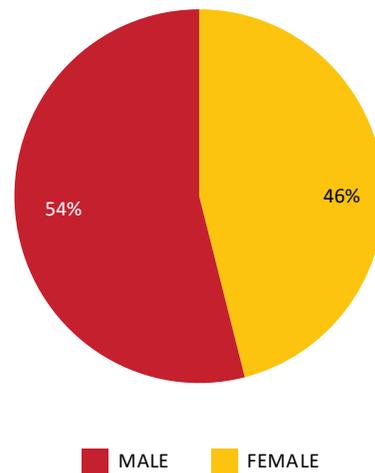


FIGURE 4A: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY GENDER

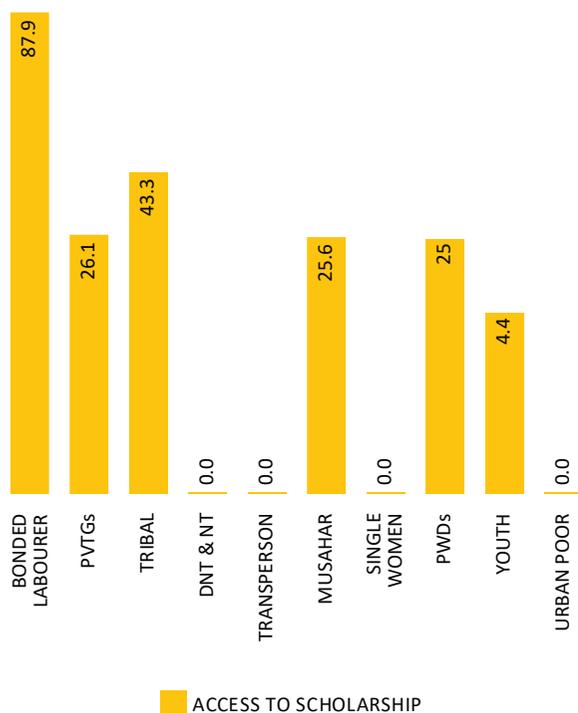


Source: SEVP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey; All India- NFHS 4

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

17 Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 2014

FIGURE 5: ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL ENTITLEMENTS, PERCENT



The government of India has institutionalised 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. Similarly the mid day meals was institutionalised to address school hunger and also attract children to schools. Figure 4 showed that as large as 50% of children from the SEVP households tracked in the study did not attend schools. Figure 5 further shows that many of these children did not access the scholarships or mid-day meals. Happy to note that of the 33% children who attended schools from the bonded labour households, 88% accessed their scholarships. Access to these entitlements were reported to be highly challenging.

FIGURE 5A: ACCESS TO MID DAY MEAL BY GENDER

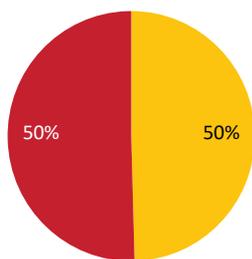
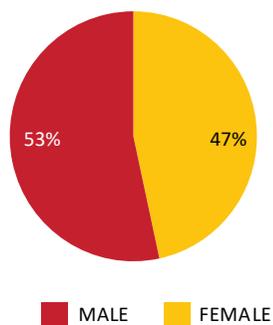


FIGURE 5B: ACCESS TO SCHOLARSHIP BY GENDER



Families spend money out of their pockets on books, tuitions, transportation, extra curricular activities, etc even when they study in government schools. Figure 6 on out of pocket school expenses is a complex picture. While the annual national average of out of pocket expenses for schools is INR 20609, the SEVP PVTG households spent INR 1158. Households from other SEVP Groups (Musahar, PWD, Tribal, LGBTQI, bonded labour and NT-DNT) do not spend much higher too. Children from the youth group, urban poor and single women made out of pocket expenditure on the schooling of their children, with only the youth group going above the national average. The FGDs with the SEVP Groups also reported their inability to take money out of their poor incomes for any expenses on schooling of their children.

Source: Primary Data from HH Survey

The huge inequalities reflected in the above data calls the bluff on national average data, particularly when it comes to the very vulnerable population groups. The national averages data cannot hold true about the situation of the 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 6: ANNUAL OUT OF POCKET EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, RUPEES

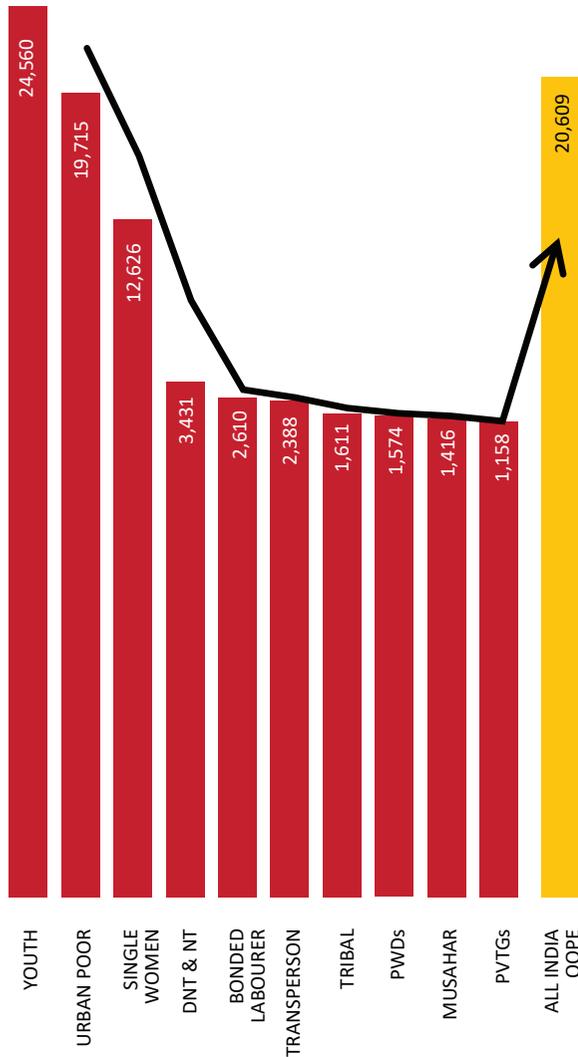
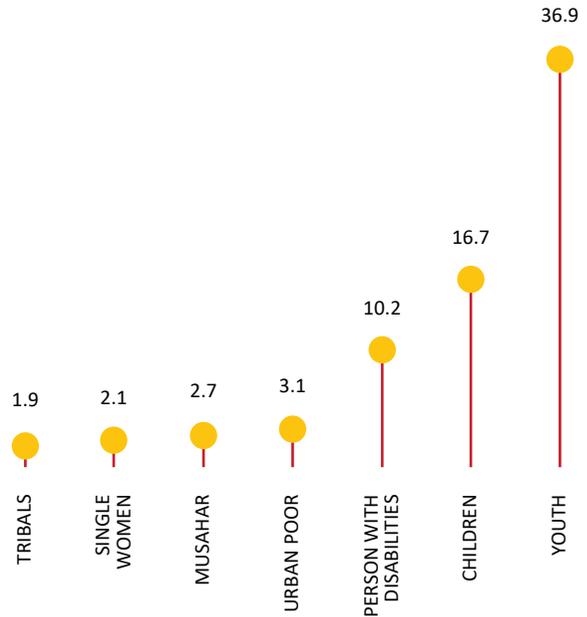
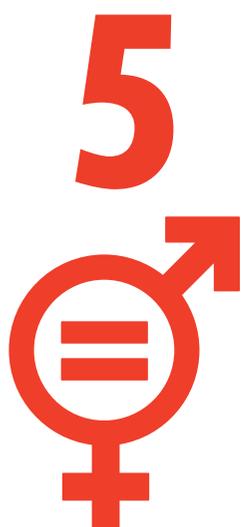


FIGURE 6B: PERCENTAGE AMONG SEVP GROUPS WHO RECEIVED ANY VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL TRAINING



Source: SEVP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey<sup>18</sup>

18 Education in India, MOSPI, GOI ([http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_reports/nss\\_rep\\_575.pdf](http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/nss_rep_575.pdf))



## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

India ranked 130 out of 189 countries on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index 2017.<sup>19</sup> Women and girls in India face gender disadvantages on multiple dimensions -education, employment and health to politics and freedom of movement. These are also reflected in the gender inequalities between girls/women and boys/men on various development indicators.

Further, it needs to be noted that women from the SEVP Groups face further discrimination and disadvantages on account of their identity, poverty, inaccessible geographic locations, disability, migration and various other factors. Their gender discrimination and disadvantages are further multiplied owing to these additional identity factors in complex and exponential ways.

Majority of women participants from Musahar, PVTGs, Tribals, DnTs, Bonded labourers reported high rates of child marriages within their communities. Upon enquiry they reported the fear of safety and security for girls and sexual violence including rape by male members of dominant communities as prime reason for the incidence of child marriages. To save the girl child from such crimes and atrocities the families from these communities marry their girl child before they reach puberty. This also leads to poor enrolment of girl children in school education.

Almost all the women participants in the FGDs reported that they have to solely bear the burden of care work in the household which leaves negligible leisure time for them or time to rest or learn. Women from Musahar, Bonded Laborers,

<sup>19</sup> Human Development Report 2017, UNDP, Accessed on May 22, 2019 from (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>)

Tribals, PVTGs and Single Women groups reported that they don't enjoy freedom of movement. They have to take permission from in laws or husband to visit even a market, hospital or a relative. They also reported that they don't have equal say in various household decision-making process related to major household purchase, children's education and health and in some instances their own health decisions like family planning.

Physical and sexual violence is a vital indicator to measure the progress towards SDG 5 and SDG 16. The National Family Health Survey (4)<sup>20</sup> shows that 5 per cent of women between the age of 15-49 years reported they were forced by their spouse to perform sexual intercourse or a sexual act even when they said no to it; 34 percent of the women in the age group reported that they have faced some form of physical violence by their family/spouse in their life time.

During FGDs women from the SEVP Groups reported physical violence committed by their husband. Slapping, kicking and punching were common forms of physical violence. They also reported instances of sexual violence by spouses. As often found, they often discounted violence against them, least of all violence as an act of crime. Unfortunately, the FGDs also reported that they had little contact or support from women activist or advocacy groups or legal aid bodies to take up their cases of violence.

FIGURE 6A: PAID EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER

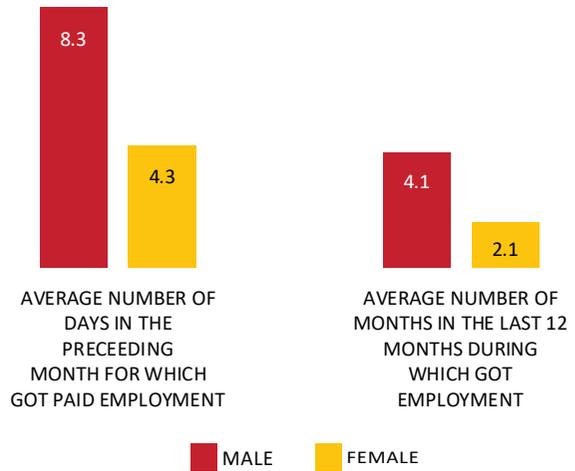
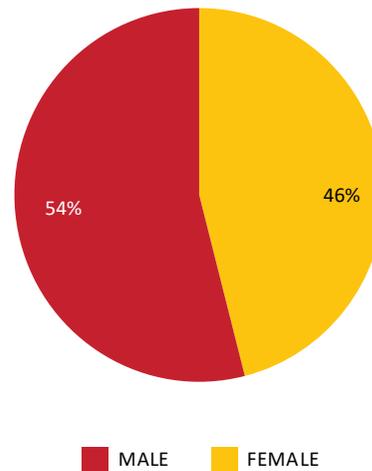


FIGURE 4A: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY GENDER



Source: SEVP Groups – Primary Data from HH Survey; All India-NFHS 4

## 7



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

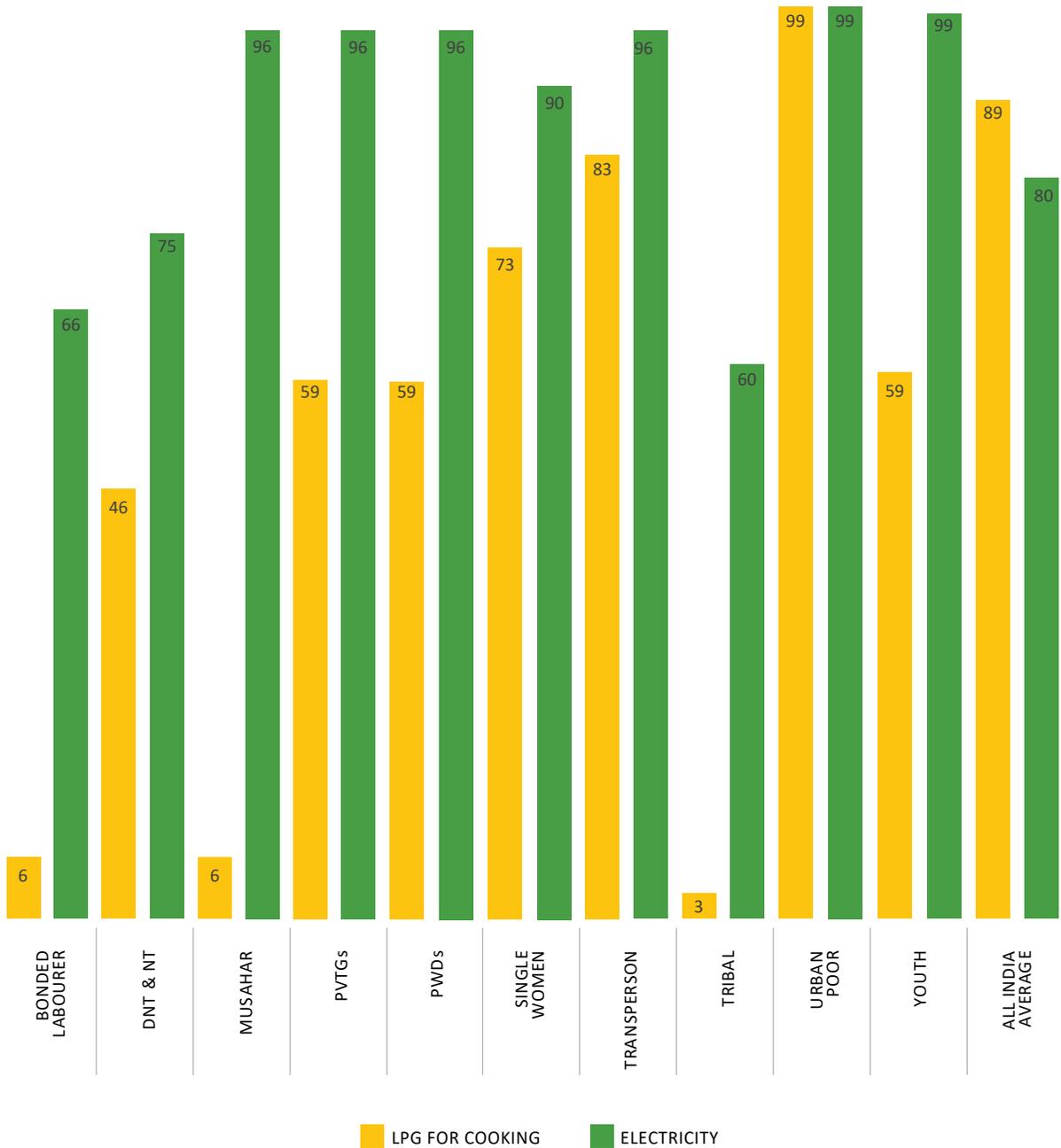
The access to modern energy sources is an important indicator to monitor goal 7 internationally. At the country level, the government of India monitors this goal by assessing the main source of lighting and cooking fuel used by the household. The census of India enumerates Electricity, Kerosene, Solar, Other Oil, Wood, Coal, Gas, Biogas as sources of lighting and fuel. Of these, electricity and solar energy are considered reliable, sustainable, clean and modern source of energy.

It is clearly reflected in figure 7 that many of the SEVP Groups in the study have access to electricity similar to the national average, the study reported gaps in the pockets of DnT & NT, Bonded Labourers and Tribals. Even as they used electricity as main source of lighting, some households from Urban poor, Youth, DnT & NTs, PvTGs and Bonded labourers reported in the FGDs that they do not have electricity connection in their own name. They get a private electricity connection illegally from

neighbouring families or the main line connection. Often they do not own a house of their own and hence cannot get electricity connection in their own name. Further, not having these documents in their own 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 percent of the households at all India level has been provided with and uses LPG as main cooking fuel. However, primary data from this study suggests that less than 10 per cent of the households from the SEVP Groups - Bonded Laborers, Musahars and Tribals have access to LPG cylinders. Those who

have access to LPG cylinders find it difficult to procure a refill cylinder. The cost of refilling the LPG cylinder is also deterrent. The SEVP Groups univocally demanded that the subsidy on the LPG cylinder should be increased by the government.

FIGURE 7: ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY, PERCENT



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

22 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>

8



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

More than 90 per cent of Indian workforce is located in the unorganized sector and are 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 derives their income from cultivation<sup>23</sup>. The recently leaked government report on employment suggests that unemployment rate in India is on all-time high in the last 45 years.<sup>24</sup>

As do the majority of the workforce in India, the SEVP households are primarily employed in agriculture and other casual work in the unorganised sector which do not provide employment or occupation related protection. The primary household data from the SEVP Groups suggest that they suffer from a high degree of unemployment. Figure 8 shows that the SEVP Groups do not get employment round the

year. The availability of employment varied from 2 to 8 months a year in the preceding 12 months. The Tribal community in Jharkhand reported the lowest availability of employment, being a little more than two months in a year. Single women also reported poor availability of employment to about 4-5 months in the preceding year. A majority of the SEVP Groups get employment across five to six months a year (NT-DNT, Musahar, Bonded labour, Youth and People with Disabilities). The urban poor and PVTGs reported more than six months in a year where they can access employment. The LGBTQI households reported availability of work throughout the year.

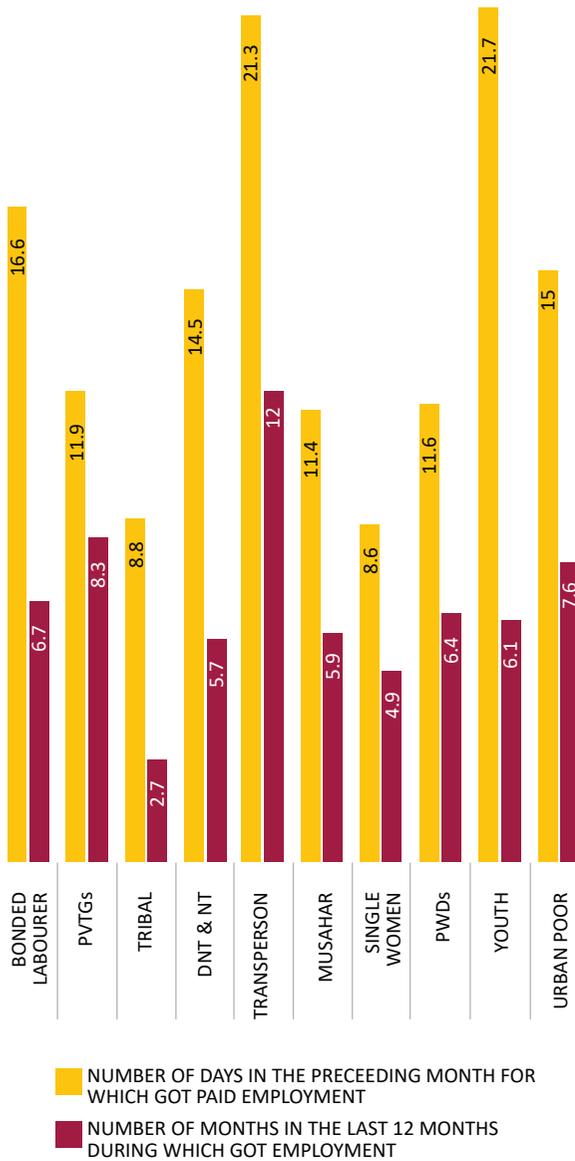
Exploring further, the data suggests that even in those months where employment is available, they are not employed on all days of the month. The

<sup>23</sup> Socio Economic Caste Census 2011, <https://secc.gov.in/categorywiseIncomeSourceReport?reportType=All%20Category#>

<sup>24</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))

number of days where they earned wages in the previous month varied from eight to fifteen days. Taking the two data together, the number of days where they are employed and earn wages may vary from as low as 40 days to 90 days a year. Only youth and members of LGBTQI groups reported more than 20 days of wage work in the previous month.

FIGURE 8: SITUATION OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG THE SEVP GROUPS, PERCENT

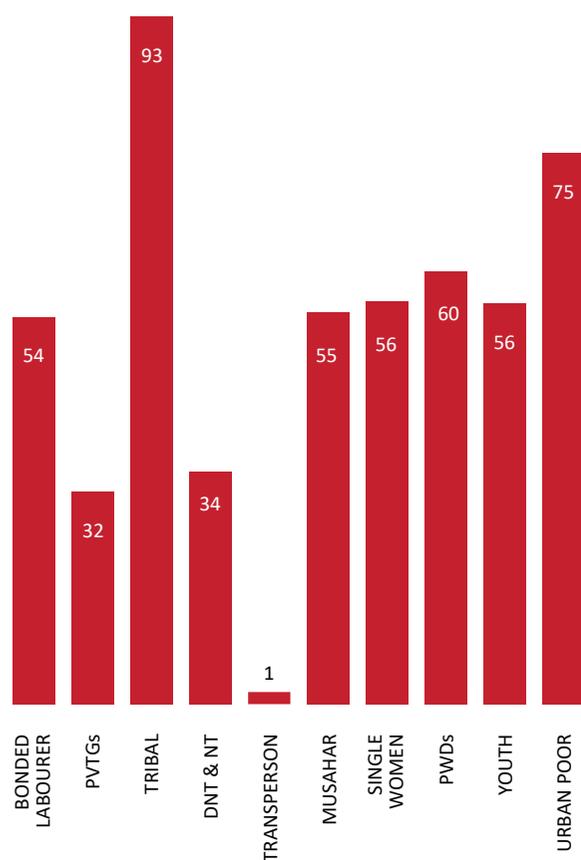


Source: Primary Data from HH Survey



The primary data suggests that employment situation among the SEVP Groups is also characterized by irregular earnings/wage payments for all the groups except the Trans-Persons (See figure 9). During the FGDs, the SEVP Groups reported that the payment of their wages gets delayed by around 1-6 months and in some case by more than one year.

FIGURE 9: PERCENTAGE OF HHS REPORTING IRREGULAR EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT

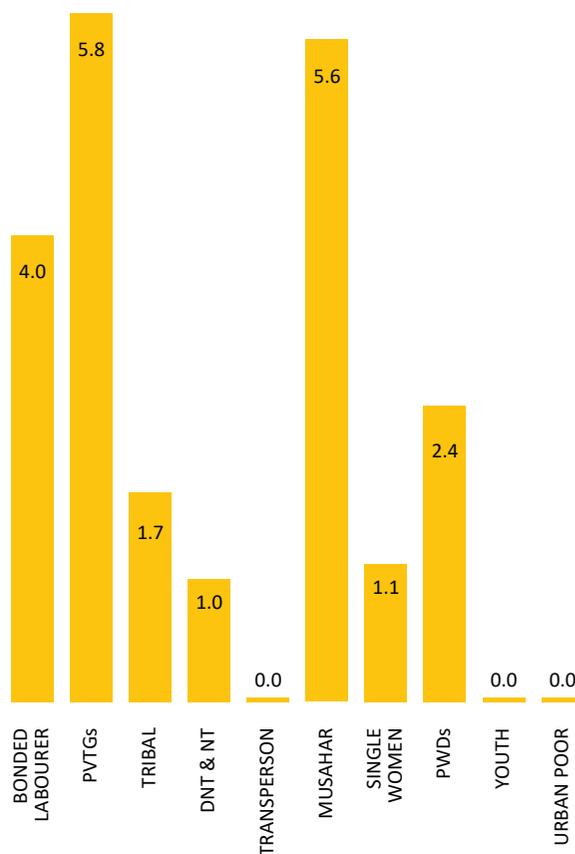


Source: Primary Data from the HH Survey

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the flagship programmes of government of India to address rural unemployment and distress. As per the norms employment must be provided by the authorities on demand, in practice funds are allocated to the

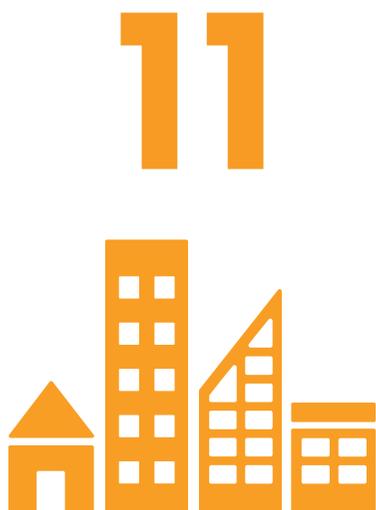
local administration and the panchayats identify works to be taken up. Innovative and need based works can be demanded and carried out to meet distress situations like drought or take up land development, reforestation, restoration of water bodies, build roads and the like. Figure 10 reports that even though the SEVP Groups have high degree of unemployment, the proportion of SEVP households who worked under MGNREGA is low. In the case of transpersons and urban poor, MGNREGA is not available in the urban areas. As can be anticipated, the persons with disabilities find it difficult to take up MGNREGA work which are not disabled friendly in their access or nature of work.

FIGURE 10: PERCENTAGE OF SEVP HHS WORKED UNDER MGNREGA



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey





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

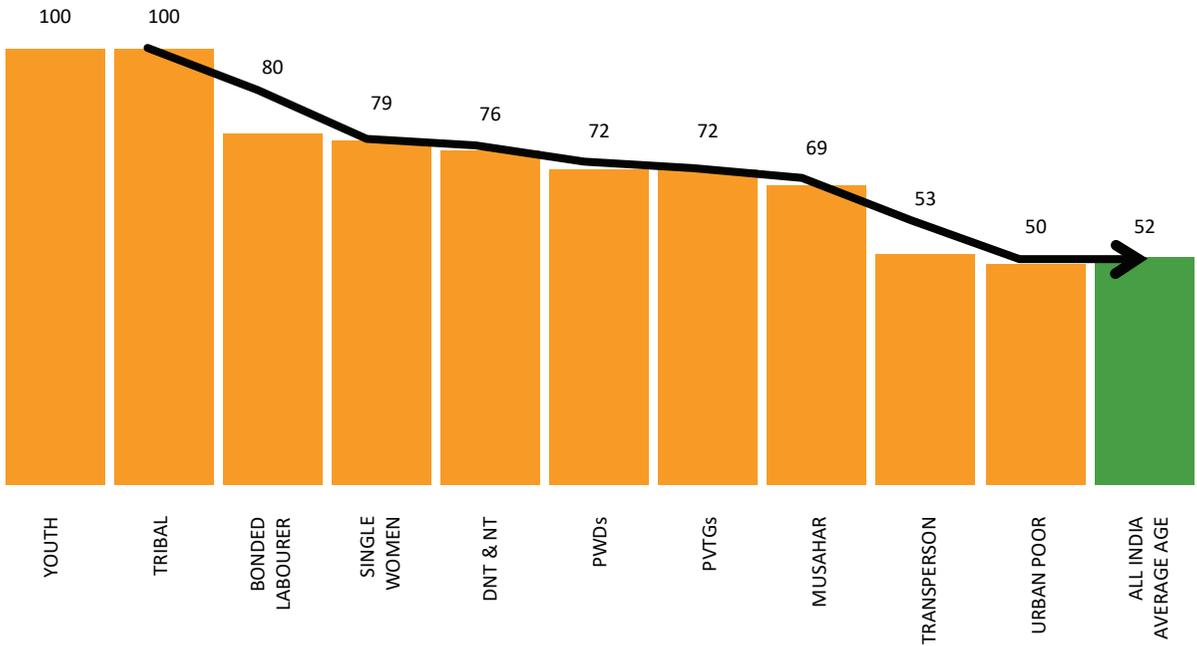
Access to safe and sustainable housing is vital to humane way of life. The SDG 11 mandates to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums. The government of India has a set of very comprehensive housing welfare schemes to provide affordable housing to people living below the poverty line. Proportion of households living in Kutcha<sup>25</sup> houses and Slum dwellings are an important indicator to monitor the success and progress of these policies.

It is evident from figure 11 that at all India level, around 42 per cent of the households resides in a Kutcha house. The proportion of households residing in kutcha houses is considerably higher than the national average in all the SEVP Groups except Youth. Half of the urban poor community tracked in the study lives in a slum.

Even though India has a package of housing welfare policies in place like Indira Awas Yojna, Prime Minister Housing Scheme, Chief Minister Housing Scheme, more than 70 per cent of Tribals, Bonded Labourers, Single Women, DnT and NT, PwDs and PVTGs households tracked in the study were living in a Kutcha house. One of the major reasons behind this policy failure is that the communities are not aware of these schemes in general. Those who were aware or have heard about the schemes were 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 were forced to pay bribe to the concerned authorities to benefit under the scheme.

<sup>25</sup> The walls and/or roof are made of material such as unburnt bricks, bamboos, mud, grass, reeds, thatch, loosely packed stones, etc. are treated as kutcha house.

FIGURE 11: KUTCHA/SEMI PUCCA HOUSE/SLUMS HOUSE, PERCENT



Source: Primary Data from HH Survey; All India- Census of India 2011



INSIDE VIEW OF A DNT HOUSEHOLD IN SATARA DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

## 8

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 community level, and in producing accurate and timely data adding value to existing relevant indicators.

The comparison between primary data collected from the SEVP Groups households and secondary data available through government sources like Census and NFHS for national/state averages clearly highlighted the gap between the SEVP 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 on gathering community driven policy prescriptions to solve various development issues. This approach has the potential to transform policy formulation process in to a more inclusive, equitable, participatory and sustainable exercise.

The study used participatory research approach in India involving the concerned SEVP 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 SEVP 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 a 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 hand holding support.

However, these challenges may be overcome by:

- Connecting thematic research experts to the country research team to help in the research tool preparation
- Arranging finances and logistics for field work to support the grass root research team.

# 9

## INCLUSION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE STUDY

As mentioned in previous sections, the SEVP Groups are 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. Even at the pilot stage, this exercise has resulted in creating a pool of human resource among the SEVP Groups who can raise and advocate for the various development issues being 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 SEVP Groups aware of their development

w.r.t other groups. The SEVP Groups shall be able to strategize, mobilize and unionize to get their various rights and entitlements. Finally, the study processes shall ensure that the SEVP Groups are empowered make their voices heard on different platforms.

# 10

## ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH THE GOVERNMENT

The study is in alignment with the constitutional framework and mandate of India in recognising socially excluded and marginalised communities, promoting affirmative action and encouraging their participation. Going a step further, it dives into the marginalised communities recognising further vulnerable sub-population groups within the broader marginalised groups. The study brings visibility to the more vulnerable sub-population groups with lower development indicators, gives them voice to articulate their issues and also evolve advocacy strategies.

The study has been shared with the NITI Aayog, the nodal body for SDGs and multiple discussions with the UN body in India. The NITI Aayog has requested for a sharing of the pilot information from them. We think further conversations are essential with both national and state governments to impress upon them the relevance of the study strategy for achieving SDGs. UN has recognised the study which is in keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Framework (2018-22) for India. UN is in dialogue with study and coming forward to link the study with state level plans and larger global processes.

The civil society engagement with the government hitherto has been multiple – i) working with the government to build government capacities to implement SDGs, ii) participate and collaborate in developing state and national strategies for SDG implementation, iii) review and report on government implementation of the SDGs. This study however, takes a different strategy of building awareness among the SEVP Groups and building their capacities to track their progress on SDGs, and evolve advocacy strategies with the government. Currently the mechanisms and systems to address these challenges are inadequate. Hence we are confident that even if it takes a little time, the state will recognise the relevance of the study and the process of building agency and advocacy from the SEVP Groups. That there are possible ways of taking it up with specific states initially and also at the national level. The efforts with both the government at various levels and the UN bodies will continue and be taken forward.



FGD IN PROGRESS WITH MUSAHAR COMMUNITY IN PATNA DISTRICT OF BIHAR

# 11

## ACHIEVING SDGS FOR THE SEVP GROUPS

As already mentioned, achieving 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 a number of measures across various dimensions towards the same.

### SERVICE DELIVERIES

- Key improvements/solutions needed in terms of a successful service delivery to the SEVP Groups on priority basis to achieve the SDGs for them.
- Formulation of anti-discrimination legislation and help understand consequence
- Evolve social inclusion skills and perspectives – build sensitivity
- Create spaces for interface with the socially excluded communities within the official work framework
- Develop effective and additional framework for equity and inclusion measures in schemes
- Adequate resource allocation and monitoring of utilisation and reporting
- The transparent and accountable means of providing the entitlements, and access to the basic services and existing schemes meant for the marginalised communities
- Rights based education and awareness to the communities

Collaboration between government and CSOs to achieve a successful service delivery to marginalised groups:

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

**National level – Governance and accountability:**

- Collect and use disaggregated data to the level of SEVP Groups to frame policies, provisions and government planning.
- Promote research - Deep dive into SEVP Groups within the socially excluded communities to capture current development gaps, multiple barriers and constraints in accessing development provisions and rights enjoyment.
- Legislate ‘anti-discrimination’ bill and orient duty bearers on the consequences of discrimination – build perspectives and skills to ensure social inclusion
- 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.

- Implement effectively targeted affirmative action and entitlements along SDG indicators for socially excluded to address current forms of disadvantages and deprivations and develop new ones where 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.

**National level – Policy positions and mechanisms:**

- Goals and targets to be addressed in the context of SEVP Groups.
- A dedicated space for SEVP Groups in the Agenda 2030 plans of Niti Aayog and state plans.
- A dedicated team on SEVP Groups in the SDG unit of Niti Aayog, and nodal officers in states.
- Identification of decision makers and departments at Local and National level:
  - a. PRIs/ULBs
  - b. Planning departments of State Government
  - c. Concerned ministries
  - d. Niti Aayog
  - e. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

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

# 12

## SCALING UP ACROSS 2030

As the title the study suggests, 100 Hotspots is envisaged to highlight the gaps and good practices to ensure that various vulnerable and excluded communities in India can achieve SDGs, paving the path for India to achieve SDGs and the world too. Given that there are large numbers of the socially excluded vulnerable population groups in India, it becomes important to expand and deepen this pilot. About 500 hotspots are planned in scaling up the project across 2030.

The pilot study has been immensely useful in highlighting the various gaps in the project in terms of data management (methodology, tools used, common platform, expertise/capacities, etc.). To address these gaps, at the country level a collaboration is required between the government data agencies, designated nodal agencies for SDG framework implementation (UNDP/NITI Aayog)

and WNTA to device research tools and processes which is in congruence with the government data system. It shall make the data collected through the study comparable with national/state level data collected by government bodies. A common public data platform should be developed to host the data collected in the study. All efforts will be made to protect the data and ensure the privacy of the information collected.

As already mentioned for the main study, a thorough and comprehensive consultation with different experts (thematic and research) is needed to zero down upon the most vital indicators and research tools for respective SDGs and SEVP Groups. The subject experts can also help in developing key and follow up research questions for the quantitative and qualitative data collection. Data expert support shall also be required to analyse the primary data through different dimension and intersectionality.

The study having completed the pilot of 10 SEVP Groups, will do the remaining 90 SEVP Groups by March 2020. We envisage four additional rounds of the study with 400 Hotspots during the SDGs period till 2030. This would take the total Hotspots to 500, covering 500 SEVP Groups across the country, gathering real time data from 50,000 households. In the process, we will attempt to have detailed and in-depth conversations with the communities to understand the complexity of the issues and possible good practices. These reports and documents will be of immense value to the SEVP Groups themselves and the government at all levels to achieve SDGs for in reality. The

process will also build linkages with other stakeholders be they business houses, experts, universities etc to enhance the methodology and impact of the study.

Our experience in the SEVP study and even within civil society engagement confirms the capacities and commitment of the SEVP Groups to take up the study. In terms of technology, there are available models in the country we can engage with. The study and process will be highly enhanced by linking with global civil society processes, global UN processes, global data processes. Creating an eco-system to recognise the SEVP agenda as the heart of the SDGs in implementation will be an important agenda through these global processes. Civil society has an important role to articulate the SEVP agenda in particular as states may want to gloss over them within the overall state reports and averages and metadata.

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A BONDED LABOUR FAMILY IN VARANASI, INDIA

# Abbreviation

<b>BASF</b>	Bihar Ambedkar Student Forum
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CLO</b>	Community Led Organization
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DnT &amp; NT</b>	De-notified Tribes & Nomadic Tribe
<b>ENSS</b>	Ekal Nari Sakti Sangathan
<b>ICSC</b>	International Civil Society Centre
<b>LEADS</b>	Life Education and Development Support
<b>LPG</b>	Liquified Petroleum Gas
<b>MGNREGA</b>	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
<b>MJPSSS</b>	Mahatma Jotiba Phule Swayamsevi Va Sahikshnik Sanstha
<b>NITI</b>	National Institution for Transforming India
<b>OBC</b>	Other Backward Caste
<b>PARA</b>	People's Action for Rural Awakening
<b>PVCHR</b>	People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights
<b>PVTG</b>	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
<b>PwD</b>	People with Disability
<b>SC</b>	Scheduled Caste
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEVP</b>	Socially Excluded Vulnerable Population
<b>ST</b>	Scheduled Tribe
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Program
<b>WNTA</b>	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
<b>YUVA</b>	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

## CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS



## SUPPORTED BY



# ABOUT WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign focused on Governance Accountability to hold the government accountable for its promise to end Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination.

WNTA emerged from the consensus among human rights activists and social action groups who were part of the World Social Forum 2004 (Mumbai). The purpose was to create an environment through focused and concerted effort and try to make a difference in India where one-fourth of the world's poor live and experience intense deprivation from opportunities to learn, live and work with dignity.

In this regard, WNTA highlights the aspirations and concerns of the most marginalized sections of the society – Dalits, Adivasis, Nomadic Tribes, Minorities, Women, Sexual Minorities, Children, Youth and the Person with disability to the government through People's Manifestoes before elections. Further, WNTA reviews and monitors the performance of the government on its promises and plans towards the marginalized sections on the framework of Constitutional mandates, National development goals and International commitments set in the UN Millennium Declaration (2000) / The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

We work to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of the marginalized sections are mainstreamed across programs, policies and development goals of the central and state governments.

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