A Comparative Study On Performance Of Anganwadi Centres Of Tribal and Non-Tribal Area Of Sabarkantha District Of Gujarat

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Contents

Introduction

- ICDS is the only scheme in the country which focuses on early childhood nutrition and care, pregnant and lactating women through Anganwadi Workers.
- Even after 40 years of implementation, the success of ICDS program in tackling maternal and childhood problems still remains a matter of concern specially in tribal areas.

- According to NFHS-3, countrywide 81.1% children under age six years were covered by Anganwadi Centres (AWC), children who received any service from an AWC were only 28.4%.
- Sabarkantha district has 9.99% moderately underweight children and 0.38% severely underweight children.

Research Question

What is the performance of Anganwadi Centers and quality of Maternal and Child Health services in tribal and non-tribal areas of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat?

Objectives

1. To know the socio-demographic characteristics of Anganwadi workers.
2. To assess the infrastructure of Anganwadi Centres.
3. To identify the gaps regarding performance of Anganwadi Centres
4. To know the quality of Maternal and Child services.

Methodology

- **Study Type:** Quantitative as well as Qualitative
- **Study Design:** Cross-sectional descriptive study
- **Study Unit**: 20 Anganwandi Centres of each Tribal and Non-Tribal Area.
- **Study Area**: Himmatnagar, Prantij (Non-Tribal), Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar (Tribal) blocks of Sabarkantha District.

Data Collection Technique:

- **For Quantitative data:** Semi-Structured Interviews with AWWs, Review of the Registers at Anganwadi Centres, Observation of infrastructure, registration of beneficiaries and preschool education.

Tool: Questionnaire, Checklist

- **For Qualitative data:** Focal Group Discussion with mothers of children of age group 6 months to 3 years.

Data Analysis

- Microsoft Excel 2007
- SPSS
- Chi-squared was applied to find associations

Results

Table:1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of AWW

S.No	Characteristics	Non-Tribal	Tribal
		Percentage of respondent (N=20)	**Percentage of respondent (N=20)**
1	**Age of AWW**		
	18-29 years	5	0
	30-39 years	35	30
	40-49 years	50	40
	50-59 years	10	30
2	**Educational Qualification of AWW**		
	Upto 10th Std	25	60
	11-12 Std	35	30
	Graduate or above	40	10
3	**Years AWW working in same AWC**		
	Upto 10 years	70	55
	11-20 years	20	30
	21-30 years	10	15
	31-40 years	0	0
4	**AWW attended any training in last one year**		
		100	100

Infrastructure

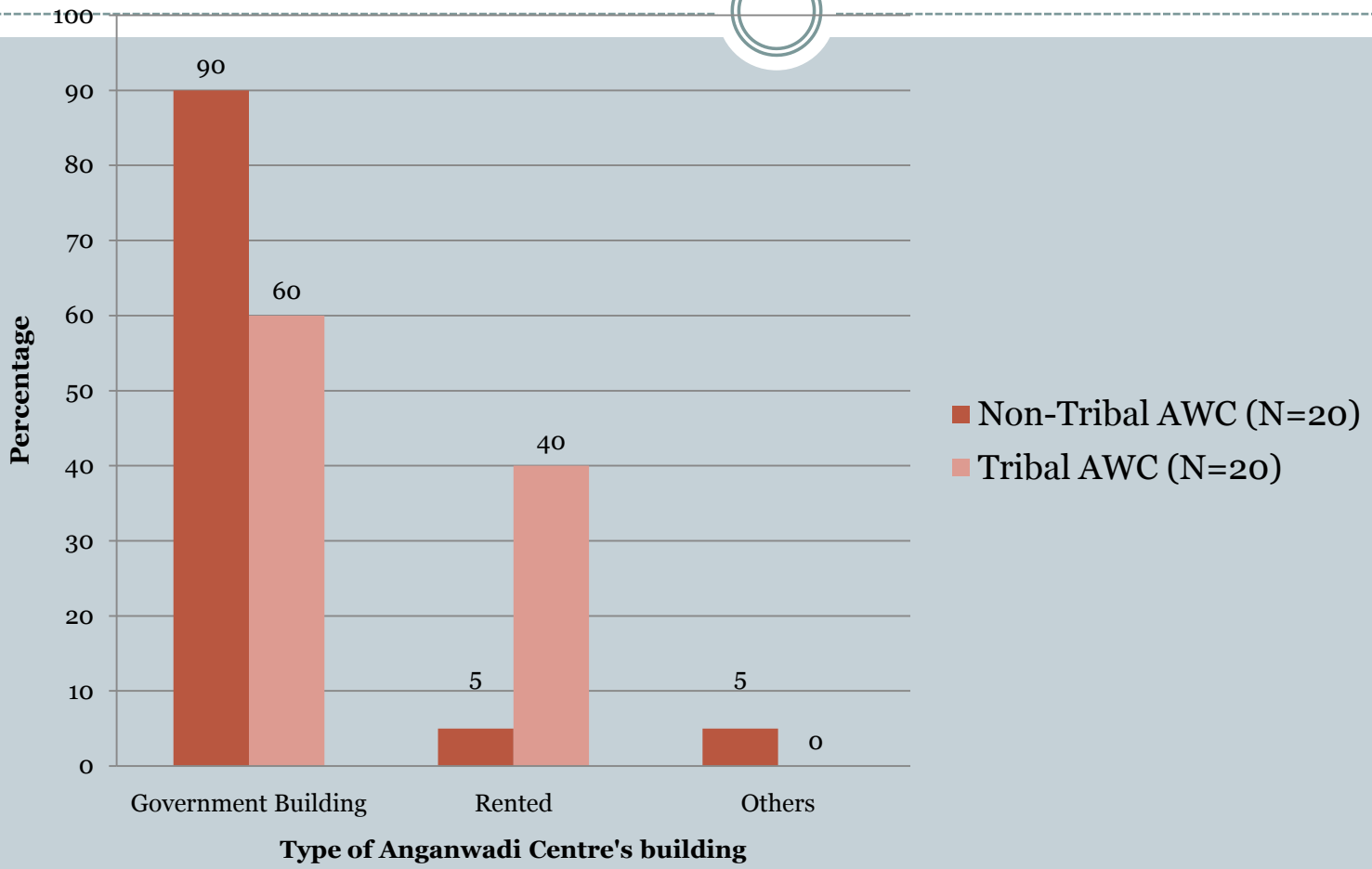

Fig.1 Percentage of type of Anganwadi Centre's building in Non-Tribal and Tribal area

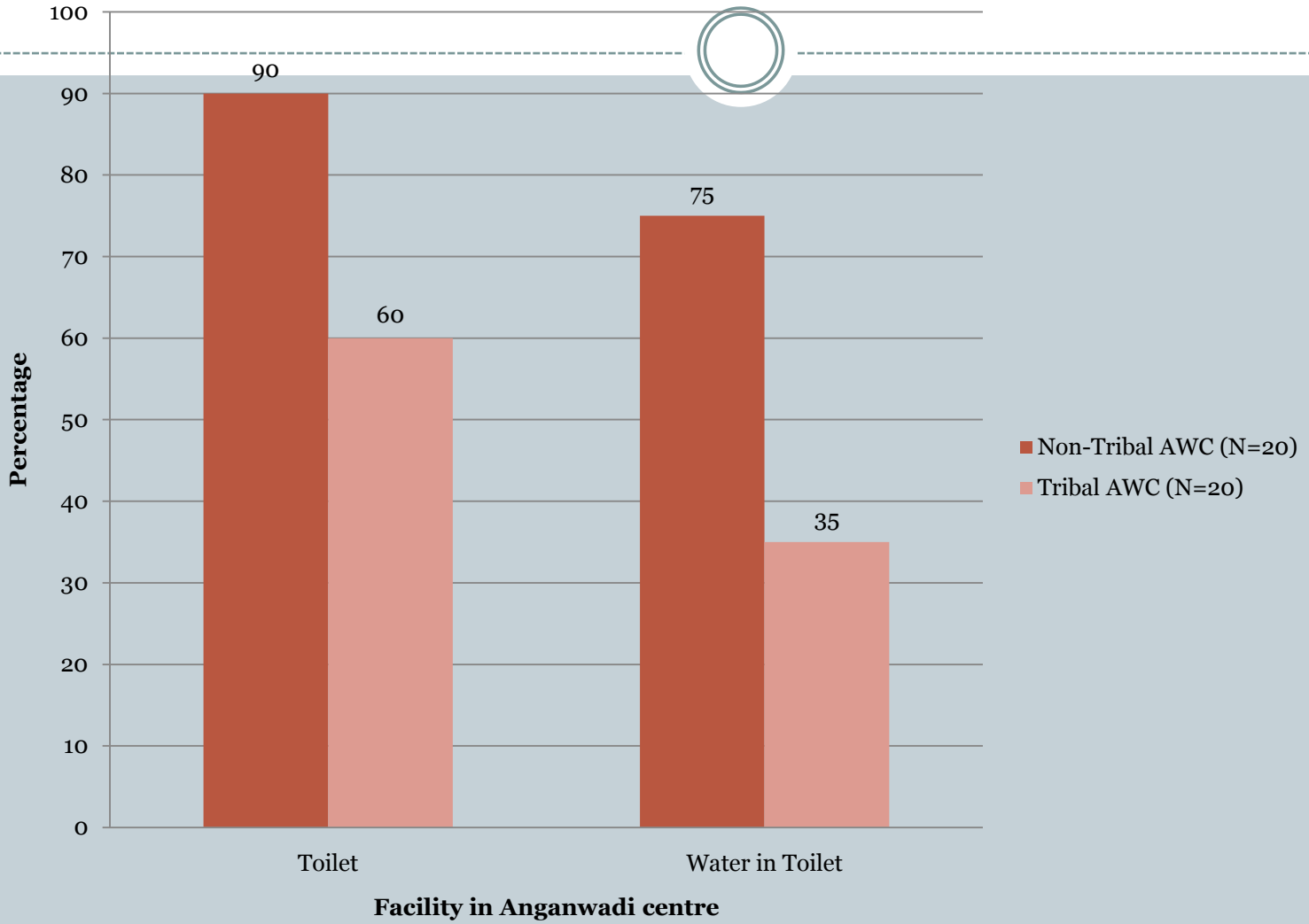

Fig.2 Percentage of Anganwadi centres having toilet and water facility in toilet.

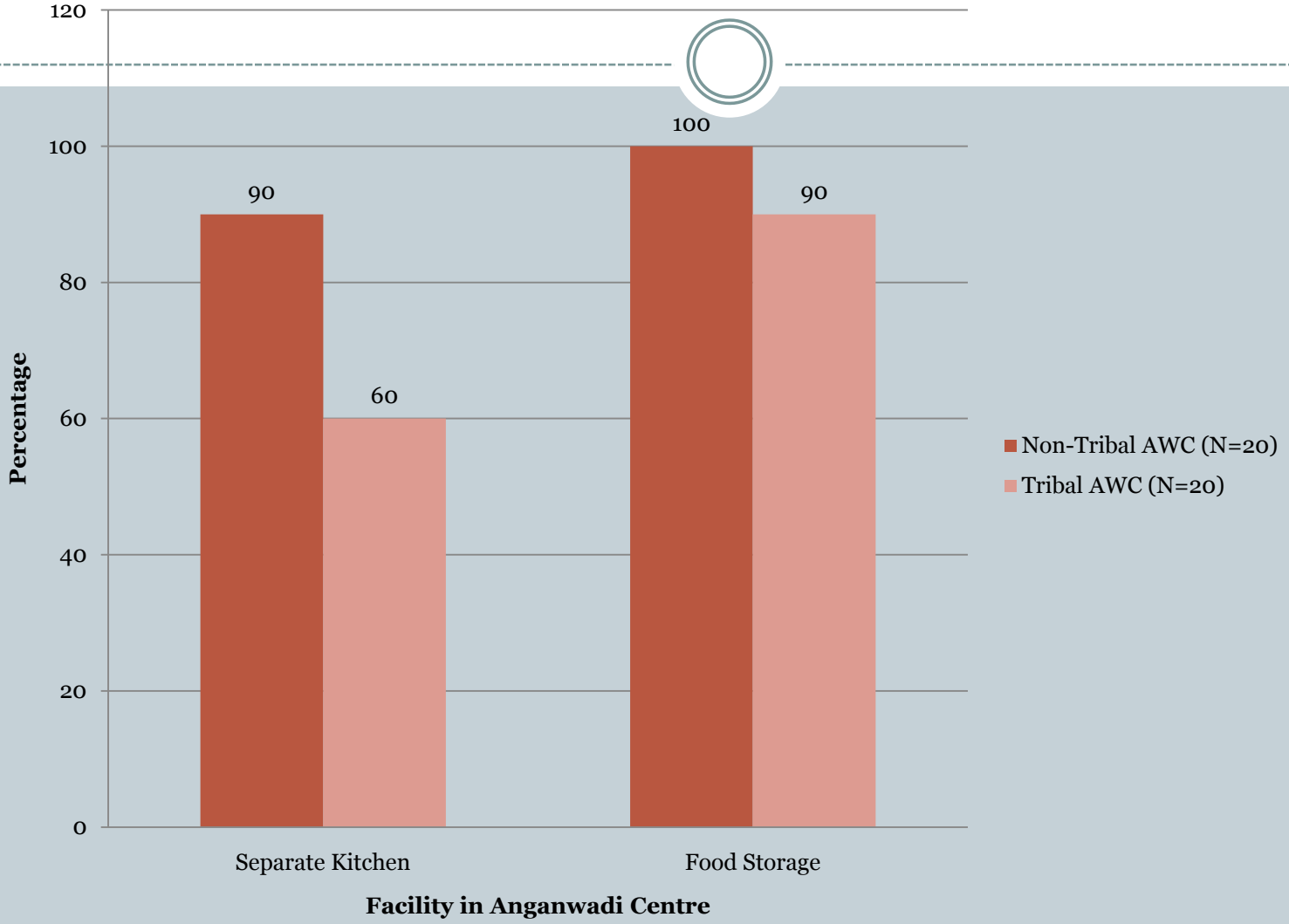

Fig.3 Percentage of Anganwadi centres having separate kitchen and food storage facility.

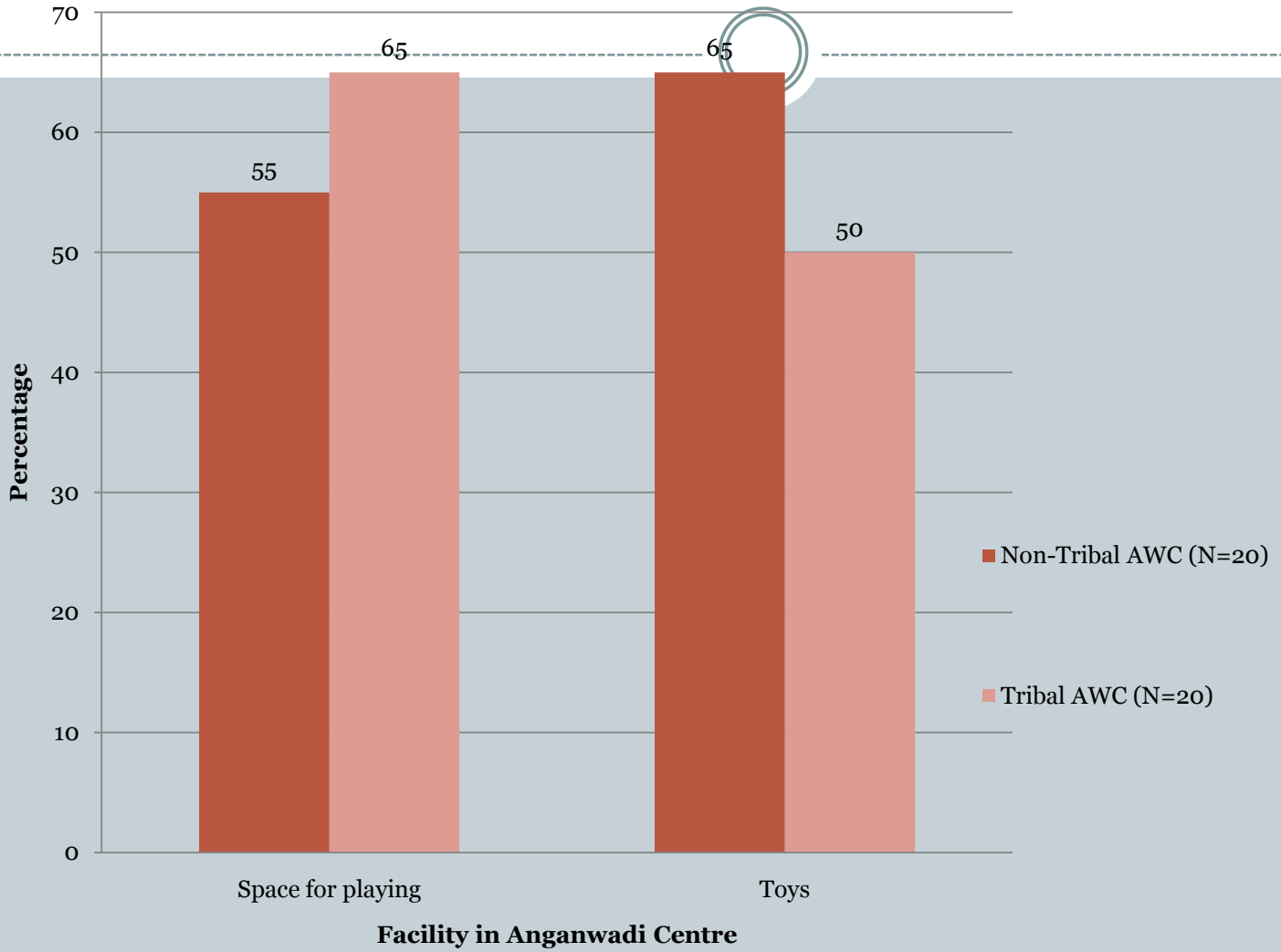

Fig.4 Percentage of Anganwadi centres having space for playing and Toys

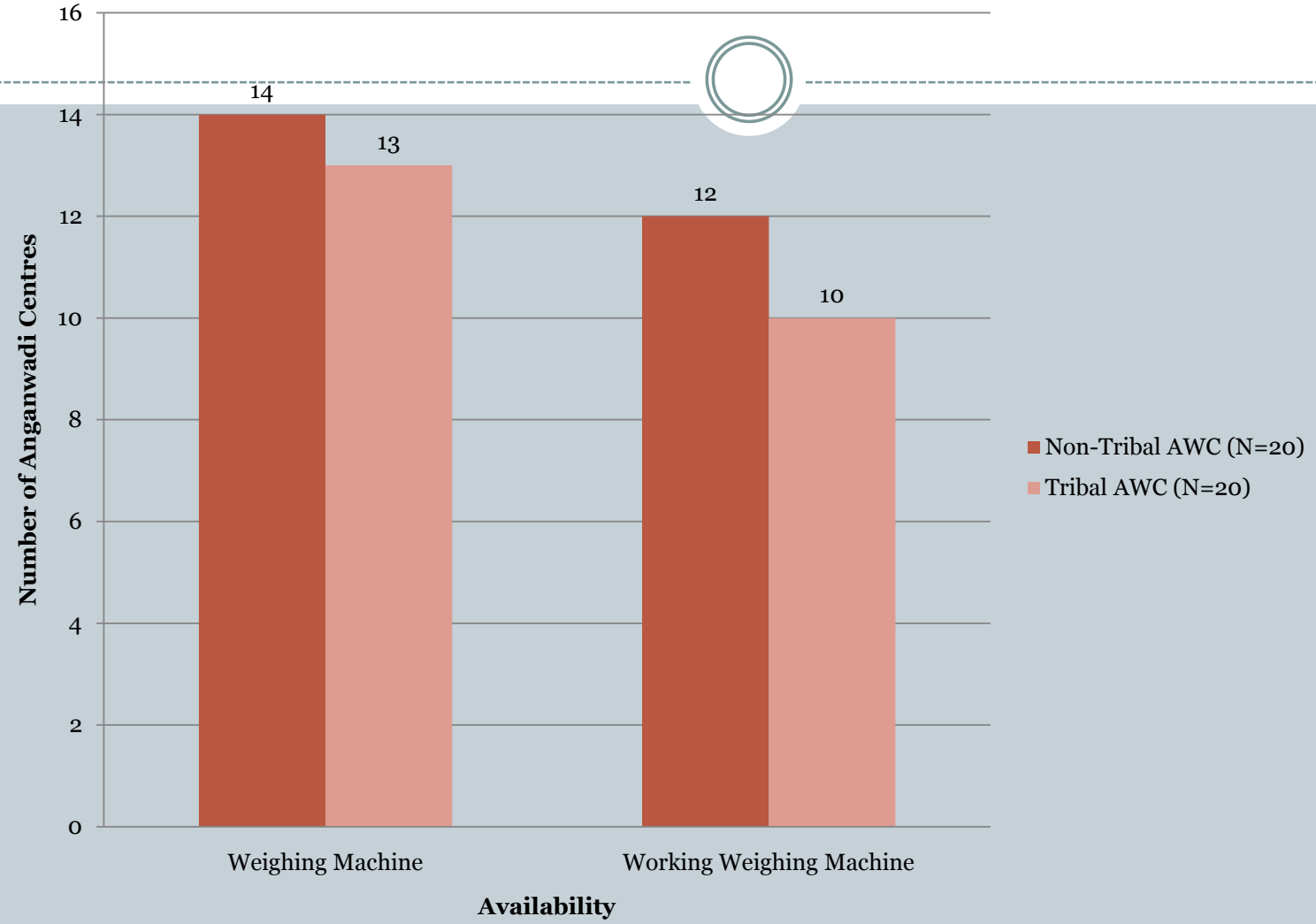

Fig.5 Number of Anganwadi centres with weighing machine and their working condition

Other facilities

S.No	Facility	Percentage of AWC having facility in Non-Tribal Area (N=20)	Percentage of AWC having facility in Tribal Area (N=20)
1	Drinking Water	100	100
2	Electricity	100	100
3	Gas Connection	100	100

Table 2: Percentage of AWC having facilities in Non-Tribal and Tribal Area

Attendence of Beneficiaries

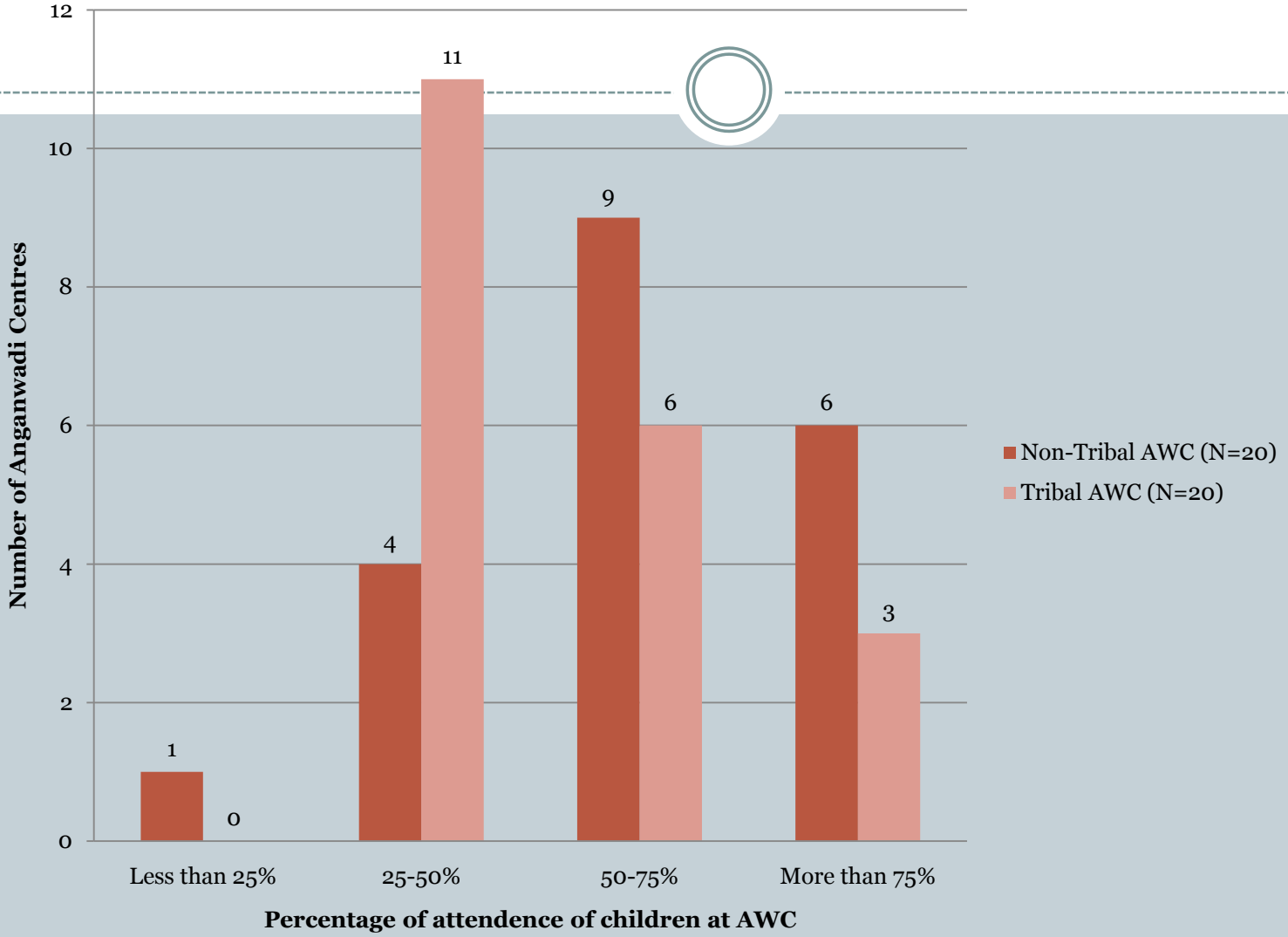

Fig.6 Attendance of children of age group 3-6 years at Anganwadi Centre

Malnutrition

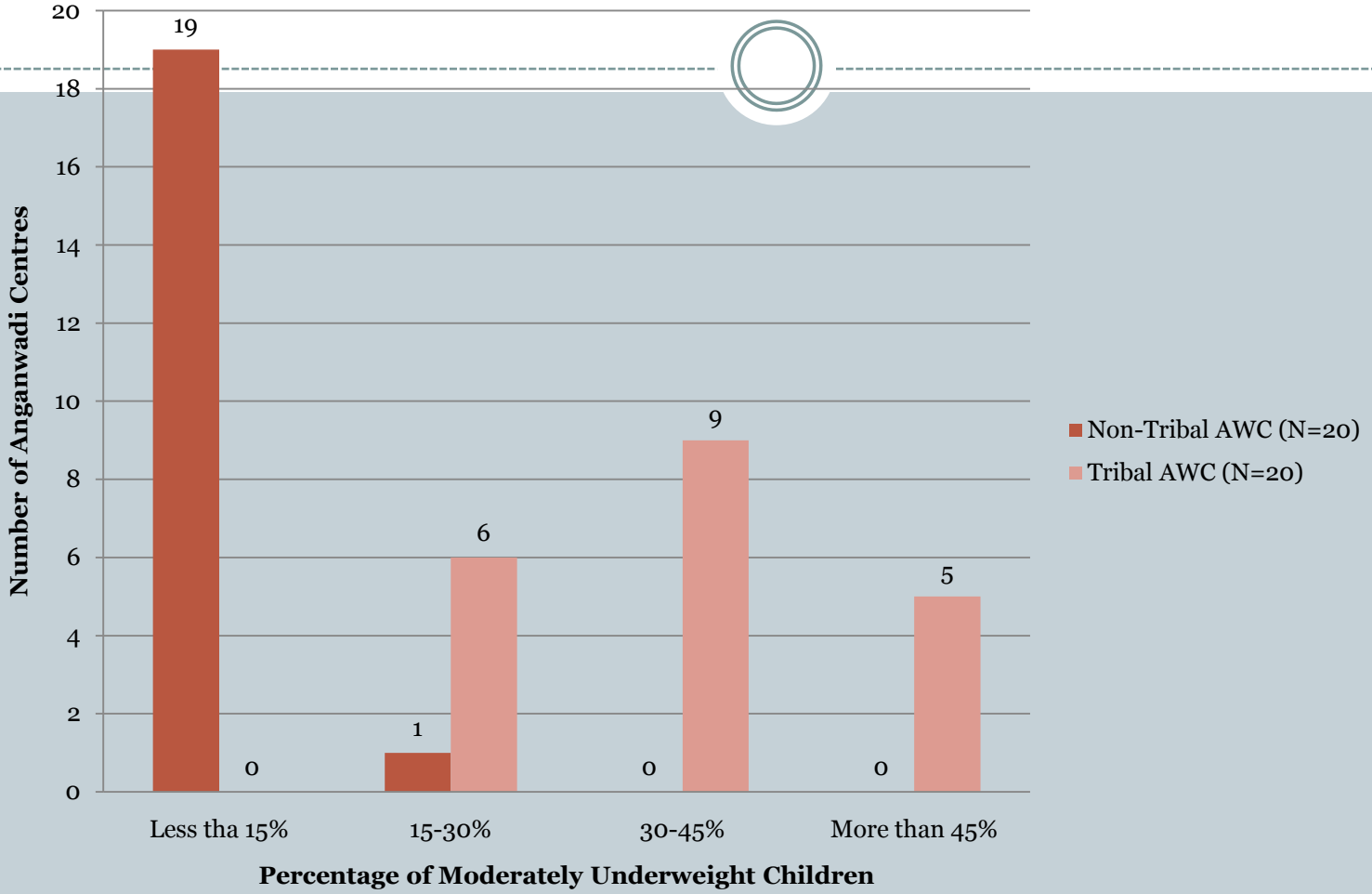

Fig.7 Distribution of Anganwadi centre according to the presence of moderately underweight children

An association in between education qualification of the AWW and the number of moderately underweight children was found to be statistically significant. (p=0.048).

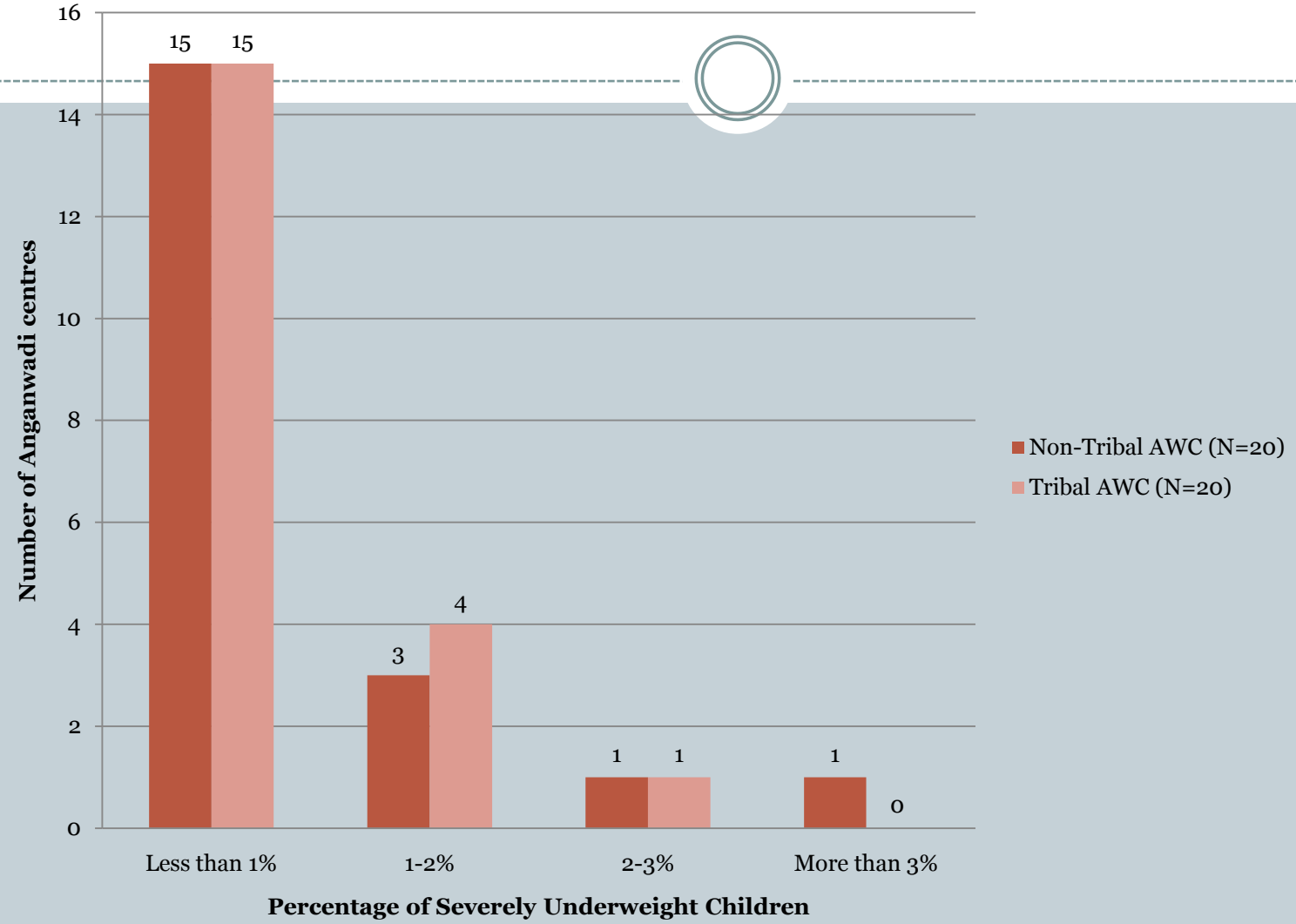

Fig.8 Distribution of Anganwadi Centre according to the number of severely underweight children

Registers

Fig.9 Percentage of Anganwadi Centres filling the registers regularly

Supplementary Nutrition Program

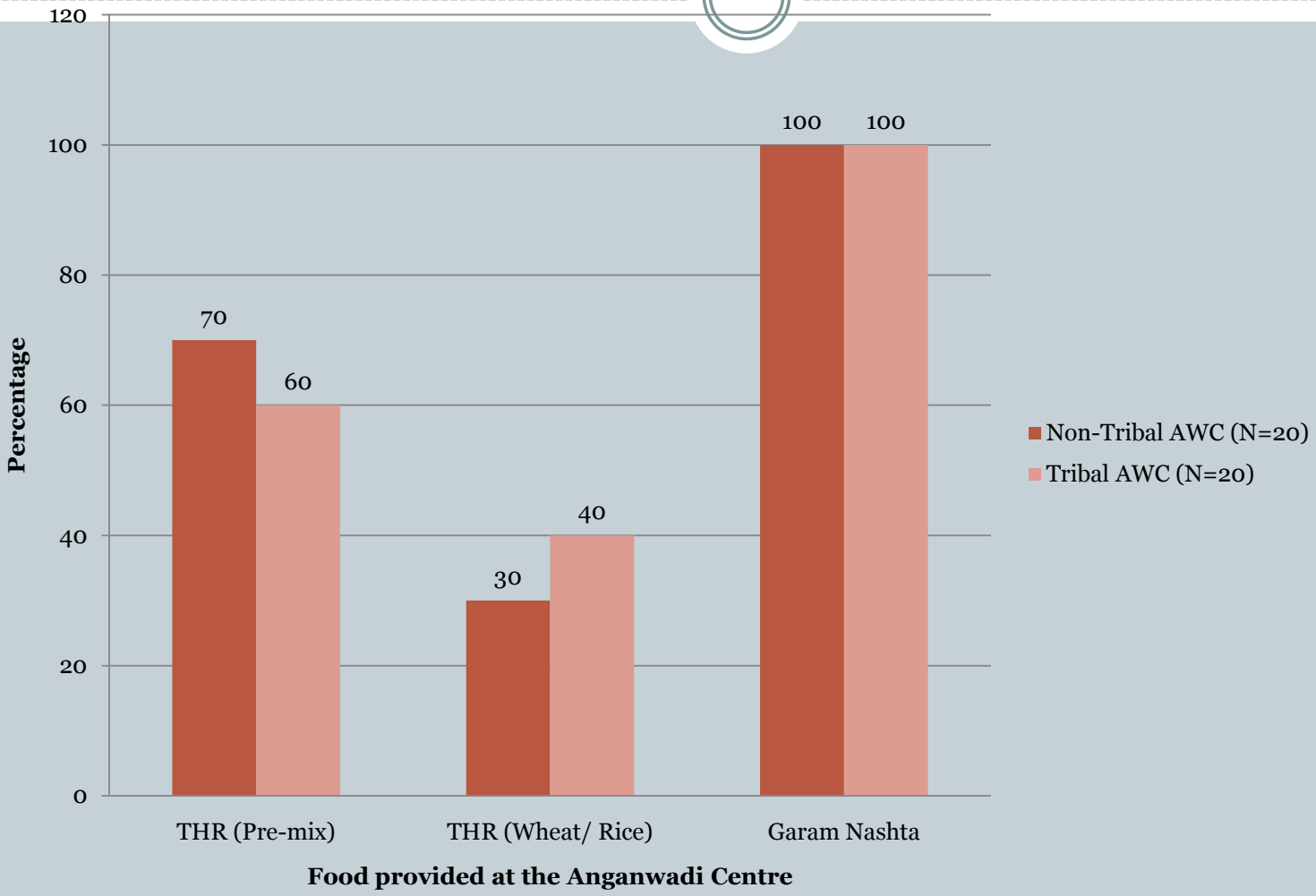

Fig.10 Percentage of Anganwadi Centres providing different type of food

Table:3 Percentage of beneficiaries given THR in non-tribal and tribal AWC

S.No.	Beneficiaries	Percentage of beneficiaries given THR in Non-Tribal AWC	Percentage of beneficiaries given THR in Tribal AWC
1	Children in age group 6 months to 3 years	100	100
2	Children in age group 6 months to 3 years	98	100
3	Pregnant and lactating women	100	100
4	Adolescent girls	97	100

Preschool Education

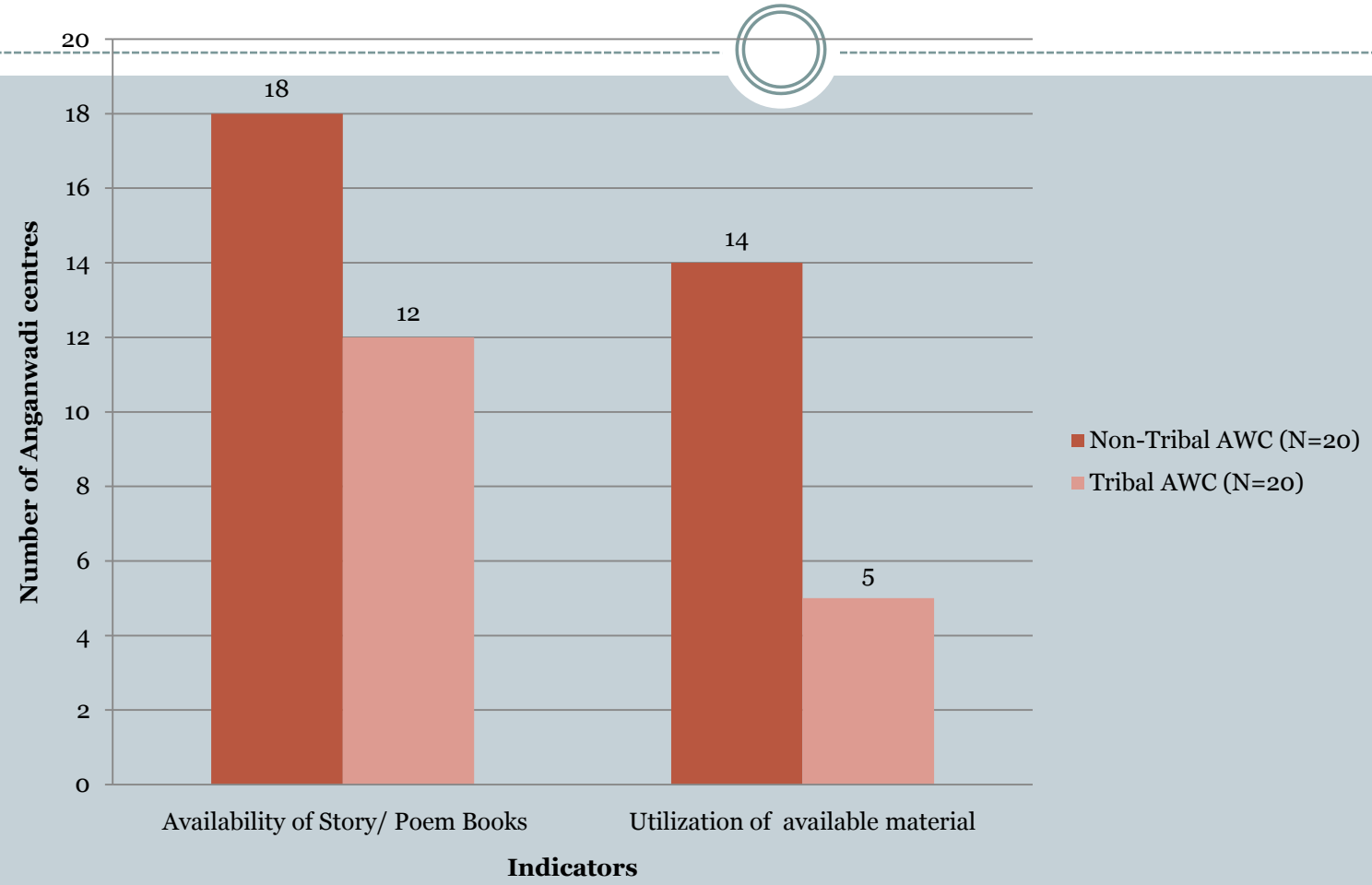

Fig.11 Number of Anganwadi Centres having Preschool Education Material

Association was found in between the education qualification of AWW and utilization of story/ poem books (p=0.001).

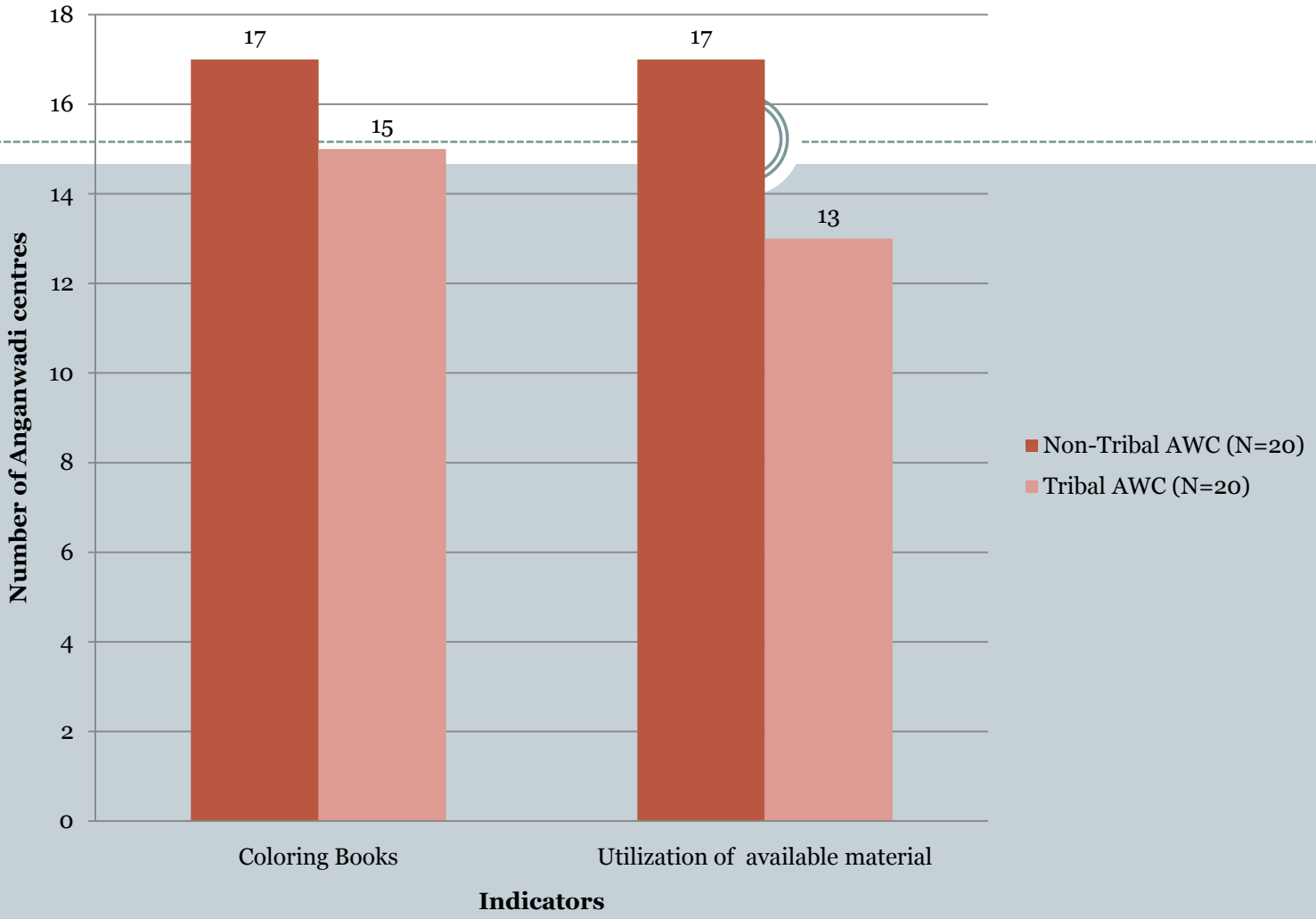

Fig.12 Number of Anganwadi Centres having coloring books and utilizing them

An association between experience of AWW and utilization of coloring books was found to be significant(p=0.003)

Qualitative findings: Tribal areas

Mothers mentioned various reasons for not sending their children in tribal anganwadis which include

- poor preparation of food at AWC,
- regular absence of AWW in AWC and
- poor sanitation at AWC premises.
- They mentioned that after the AWC is closed they have to come back from fields to take their child and then have to go back again.
- Another reason given was that AWH does not come to take children from home
- They mentioned that on mamta diwas they have to go to nearby AWC for Check-up.

Non-Tribal areas

- Mothers praised the quality of food and quality of child care in these centres.
- Mothers were concerned over lack of space and toys in AWCs.
- Some mothers also mentioned that the locality in which new AWC were constructed is not good so they donot want to send their children.
- They also praised the services provided on mamta diwas.

Conclusion

- Availability of infrastructure is less in tribal AWC as compared to non-tribal AWC.
- When any target for district comes, it is given to the non-tribal blocks and the AWC of these blocks keeps on improving and the condition of the AWC of tribal areas either remains the same or even deteriorates sometimes.
- Performance of AWCs and MCH services delivered by anganwadis are inadequate specially in tribal areas.

Suggestions

- Supervisors and CDPO should keep a check on the service delivery. The supervisors of the tribal areas should do more field work and counsel more people so that they can understand the importance of services provided by AWC for their children.
- AWW should be made aware regarding the importance of utilization of preschool education material.
- Weighing machines should be regularly checked by supervisors.
- Infrastructure should be made available to tribal AWC.
- AWC with issues in locality should be made adopted AWC and given to Police staff.

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THANK YOU