

# A STUDY ON HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO MIGRATION: BUILDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FOR TRIBAL YOUTH IN SOUTH RAJASTHAN

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# OVERVIEW

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# INTRODUCTION

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- Migration, driven by "push" and "pull" factors, significantly influences global and internal movements. Urban centers attract individuals from economically stagnant regions due to employment and better living conditions, while stable democracies offer educational and professional opportunities, especially for youth.
- In India, internal migration is primarily motivated by employment and marriage, with migrants often working in sectors like construction and agriculture.
- The tribal communities in southern Rajasthan, particularly the Bhil and Garasia, face challenges despite their rich cultural heritage.
- Government initiatives aim to empower these communities. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of interstate migrant workers, emphasizing the need for better social security.
- Regenerative farming and self-organized community institutions are emerging as sustainable solutions for these communities. Regenerative farming practices and reviving HAAT bazaar, help increase income and ultimately reduce migration.
- This study examines the awareness and socio-economic status of interstate migrant workers, particularly those practicing regenerative farming and participating in community institutions.



# PROBLEM

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## First Problem

The lack of adequate support mechanisms like no proper identification, securities, policies etc. at the grassroots level poses a significant barrier to accessing and benefiting from Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services among migrant communities.

## Second Problem

Temporary migration laborers face socio-economic vulnerabilities exacerbated by the absence of resilient livelihood options, highlighting the need to explore the potential of regenerative farming and traditional Haat-market systems as avenues for bolstering their resilience.

## Third Problem

The absence of self-organized community institutions advocating for the rights of migrant workers contributes to their continued exploitation and marginalization, necessitating an exploration of strategies to facilitate their creation and effectiveness.

# AIM OF THE RESEARCH

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- The aim of this study is to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of legal and regulatory frameworks, particularly the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act, for migrant workers at the community level. By creating support systems that ensure migrant workers are aware of their rights, can easily access necessary services, and receive adequate protection under existing laws, the study seeks to improve their legal standing and socio-economic conditions.
- Additionally, the study aims to provide alternative livelihoods and income sources through regenerative farming, promoting food security and economic independence. Building solidarity and collective action among migrant workers is also a key focus, enabling them to negotiate for fair treatment, improved working conditions, and greater representation in policy-making processes.
- Ultimately, the study aims to create a comprehensive support system for migrant workers, ensuring their legal protection, economic stability, and empowerment to fight for their rights.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

| S.No. | Author and Year  | Title/ Objectives of the study                                           | Study           | Key Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | VAAGDHARA (2021) | Awareness, access, challenges in entitlements under 3labour legislation. | Cross-sectional | <div><div>1.</div>About 24.40% of people are aware that they're entitled to receive a minimum wage from their employers.</div> <div><div>2.</div>53.49% report the challenge of lacking the requisite documents to register.</div> <div><div>3.</div>44.28% of respondents say they don't receive enough help from institutions to access what they're entitled to.</div> <div><div>4.</div>Out of the total, 5.27% of people have the One Nation One Ration Card, and 6.36% have the Shramik Passbook.</div> |

# LITERATURE REVIEW

| S.No. | Author and Year                         | Title/ Objectives of the study                                                     | Study           | Key Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4.    | Aanchal Pundir and Sujata Tanwar (2023) | The many faces of women’s migration from Rajasthan                                 | Cross-sectional | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recently married women from Udaipur’s Gogunda Block move with their husbands to Gujarat and Maharashtra, where they find employment in hotel and hostel kitchens.</li> <li>2. Women failed to recognize themselves as workers.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5.    | Hemant Trivedi (March 2018)             | Reasons of migration from rural, urban regions of Rajasthan: a gender-based study. | Cross-sectional | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Rajasthan, most men migrate to find work, whether in rural or urban areas, while women primarily migrate for marriage.</li> <li>2. There were notably more men migrating from rural areas in search of employment compared to those from urban areas.</li> <li>3. Conversely, female migration for employment was notably higher in urban areas than in rural areas.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                  |
| 6.    | Rajiv Khandelwal (2014)                 | Their own country a profile of labour migration from Rajasthan                     | Cross-sectional | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over half of the participants mentioned they work anywhere from 12 to 14 hours per day, with the shortest workday being nine hours, according to Bhushan (2008). Additionally, more than 40 percent stated they don't take a single week off.</li> <li>2. A significant 28% of workers reported enduring chronic health issues, including skin ailments, workplace injuries, and ongoing back and joint discomfort, as per the RSMP primary survey, also reported not taking a week off.</li> </ol> |

# OBJECTIVES

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## ● Objective 1

To assess the awareness level of migrant workers at the grassroots level regarding improved access and provisions of ISMW acts, regulations, and services.

## ● Objective 2

To build socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers through regenerative farming practices and the revival traditional Haat-market system.

## ● Objective 3

To assess the awareness status in community of self-organized community institutions fighting for the rights of migrant workers.

## Research Question:

Q1. Are tribal people aware of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) acts, regulations, and services and they are getting minimum wages or not?

Q2. To what extent can the socio-economic resilience of temporary migration laborers be bolstered through the implementation of regenerative farming practices coupled with the revitalization of traditional Haat-market systems?

Q3. Are tribal people aware of the creation of self-organized community institutions and if they are willing to participate in self-organized community institutions.





**Study Design:** This is a community-based Cross-sectional study.

**Type of study:** Primary Research

**Study Setting:** This study was conducted with the coordination and support of the VAAGDHARA organization which is currently working in 6 Tribal districts of the state of Rajasthan (Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh), M.P. (Ratlam, and Jhabua) and Gujarat (Dahod). The study participants included individuals who are currently migrating and those who have ceased migration by reviving regenerative and traditional practices. These participants were selected from the identified villages where youth have revived HAAT practices across all three states

# METHODOLOGY

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## Research Procedures/Approach:

- To address our three objectives, we divided the form into two sections: one focusing on migration and the other on youth engagement in Haat activities.
- The study covered the entire operational area of VAAGDHARA, employing a cluster sampling approach to select 250 respondents from nine blocks across four districts in three states.
- Villages were chosen based on random sampling, targeting those with VAAGDHARA-facilitated Haat bazaars, totaling 80 villages. From these, 120 youths expressed interest in Haat activities and regenerative farming.
- Additionally, the survey included 130 respondents from families that had migrated from these villages, excluding those unwilling to participate.

# METHODOLOGY

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**Study Populations:** All the 120 identified youth and 130 migrated people in 80 villages who have been practicing Haat practices and migrating almost 2-3 years back from 3 states.

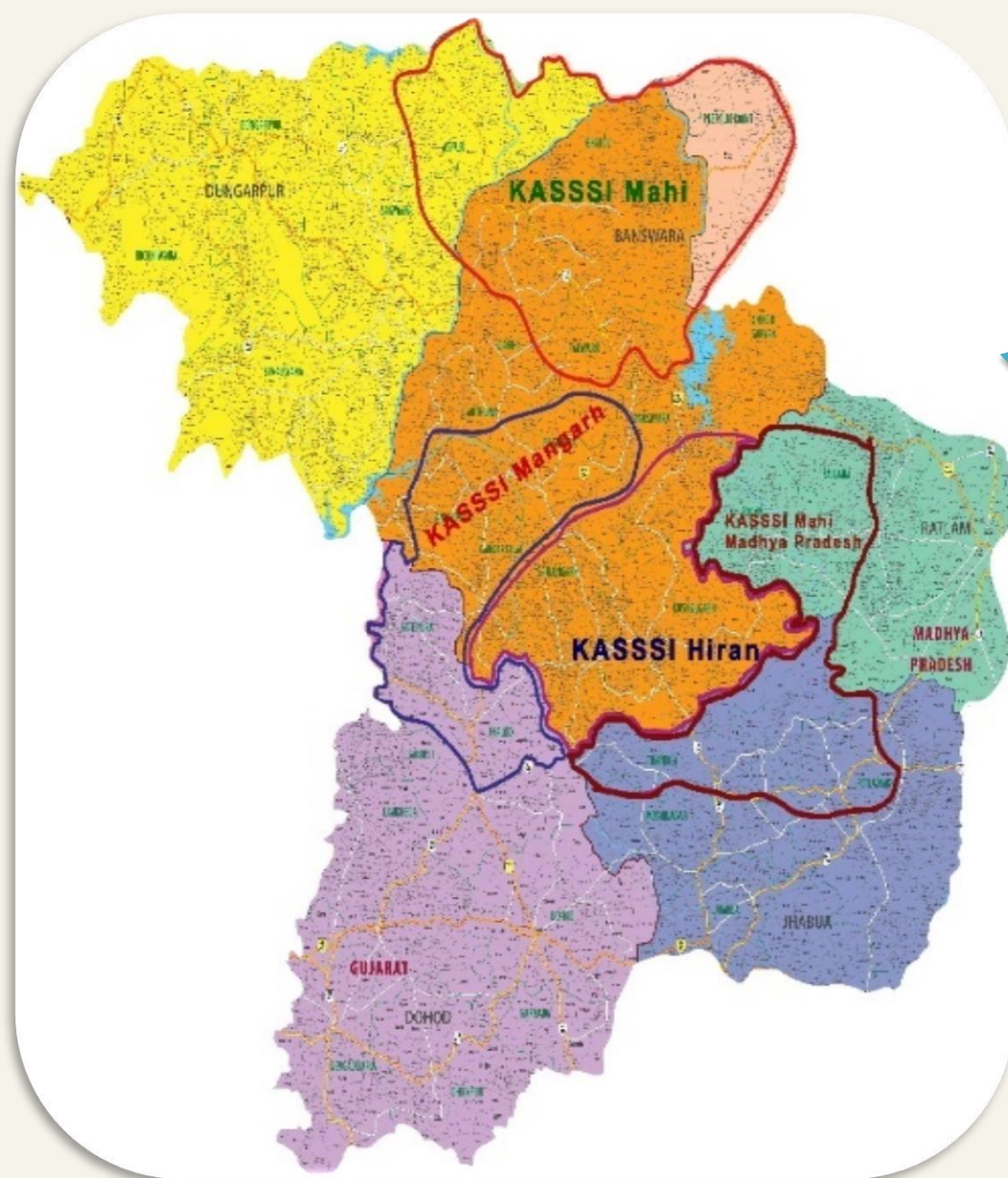
**Sample Size:** 250 migrant populations and youth who practice Haat (Villages= 80, population size=104835, C.I. =95%, Population Proportion =76%) were determined based on feasibility considering the limited period of study.

**Study Tools:** Structured questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys.

**Duration of study:** 3 months

**Sampling Technique:** Simple random sampling was done for both the migrant respondents and the practicing youth.

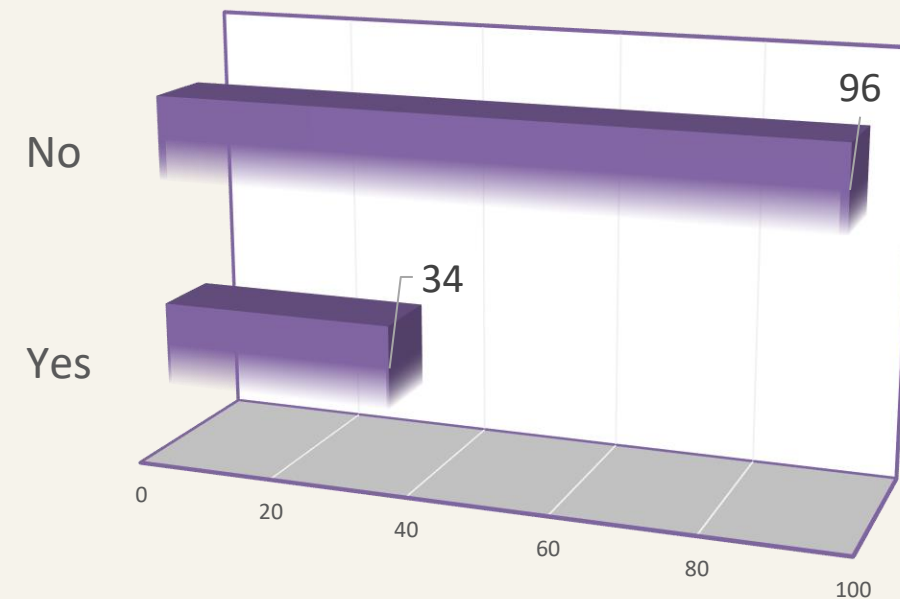
# STUDY MAP



# RESULT

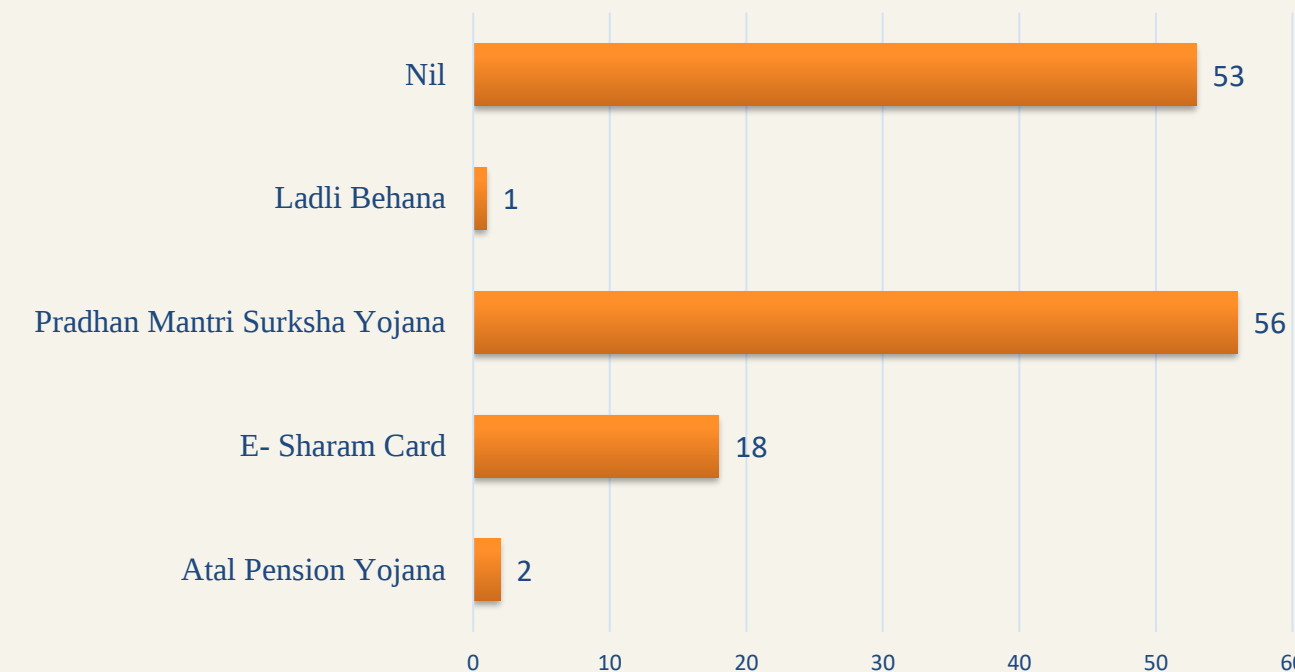
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AWARENESS OF MINIMUM WAGES



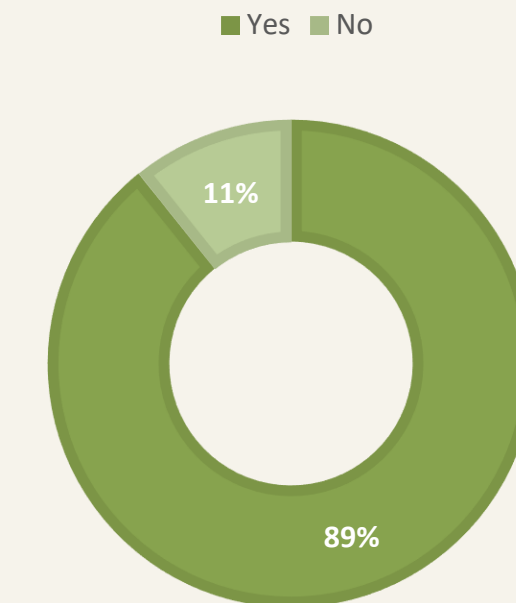
This graph shows that 74% of respondents are unaware of their minimum wage rights under the ISMW Act, while only 26% are aware.

Benefited from migration schemes



The graph shows that 43% of migrants benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana, 14% have E-Shram cards, and only 2% are registered in the Atal Pension Yojana.

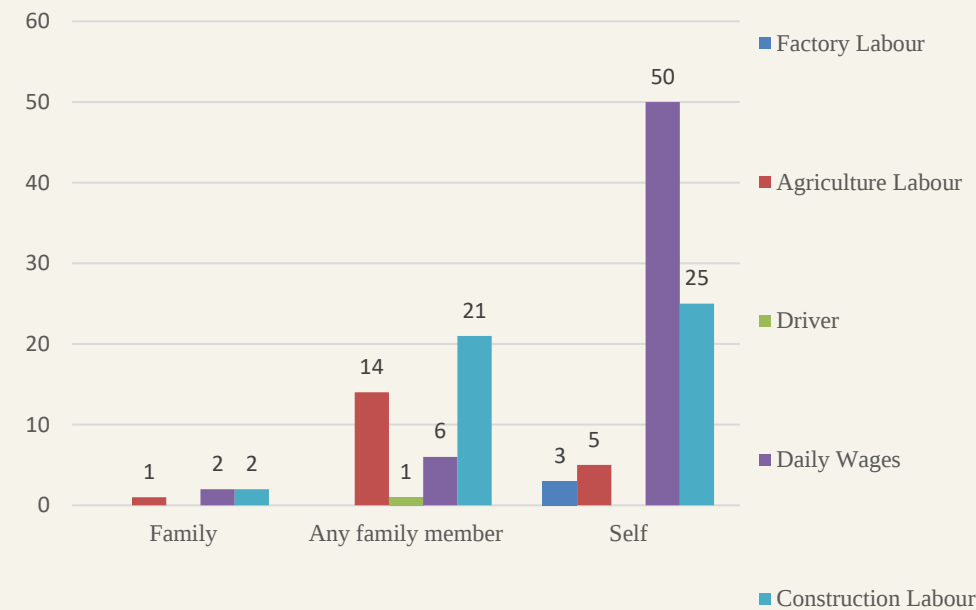
JOB CARD AVAILABILITY



The graph shows that 89% of respondents have MGNREGA job cards, linked to employment schemes, while 11% do not possess these cards.

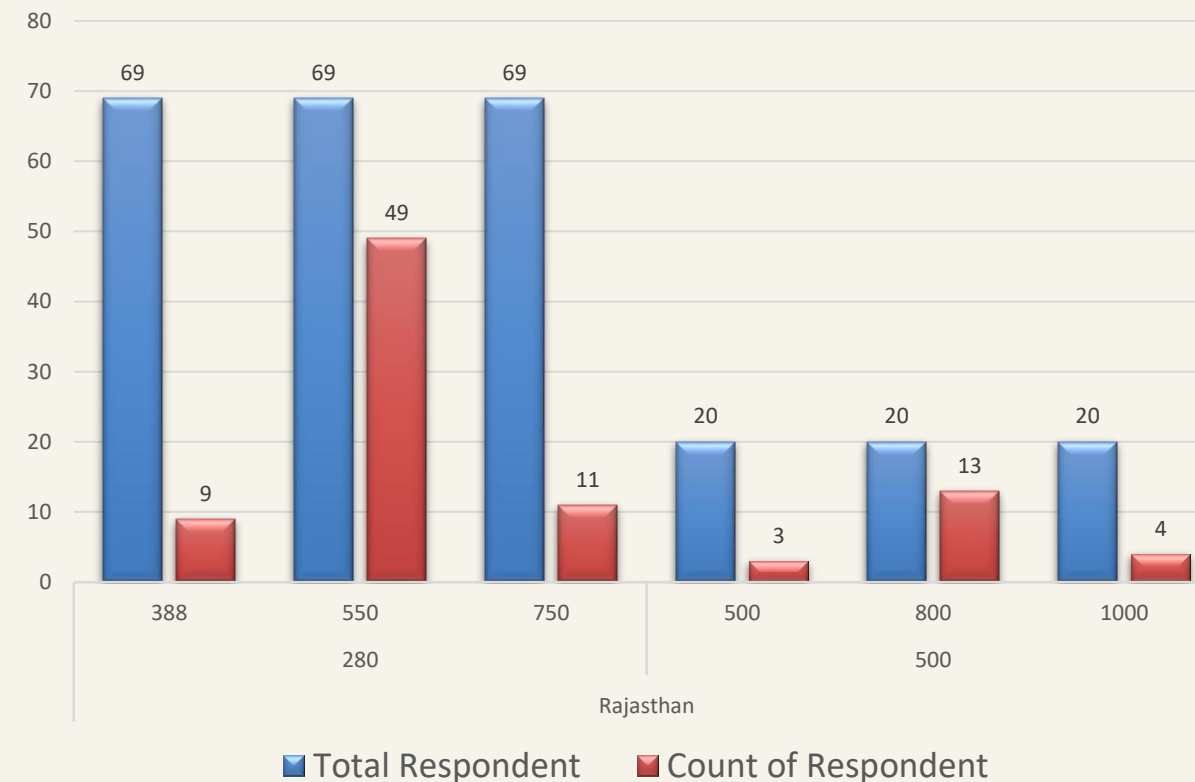
# RESULT

Individual and Family migration pattern with type of work they do.



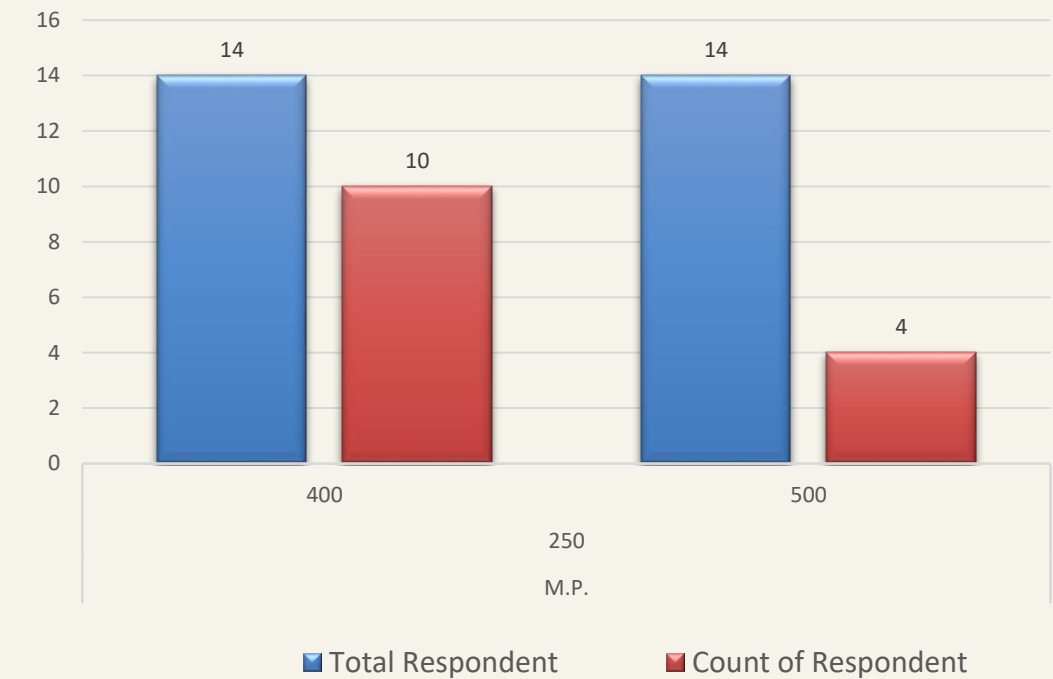
Among 130 participants: 64% are self-migrants (60% daily wage, 30% construction, 6% agricultural, 3% factory laborers), and 32% have migrating family members (50% construction, 33% agricultural, 14% daily wage).

Income in Migrated area compared to residential area (per day) (Rajasthan)



Out of 89 respondents from Rajasthan, 69 earned ₹280 locally. After migration, 9 experienced a 28% pay increase, most saw a 50% increase, and 11 achieved a maximum 63% increase. Among 20 skilled laborers earning ₹500 daily, 3 saw no raise post-migration, 13 had a 38% increase, and the remainder received a 50% hike.

Income in Migrated Area compared to residential area (per day) (M.P.)



This graph shows migration patterns within Madhya Pradesh, with respondents moving both within the state and to other states, as noted. Minimum wage in Madhya Pradesh is 350/- per day. Out of 14 respondents, 10 (38%) reported higher pay, while 4 saw a 50% increase after moving to Gujarat or other developed areas.

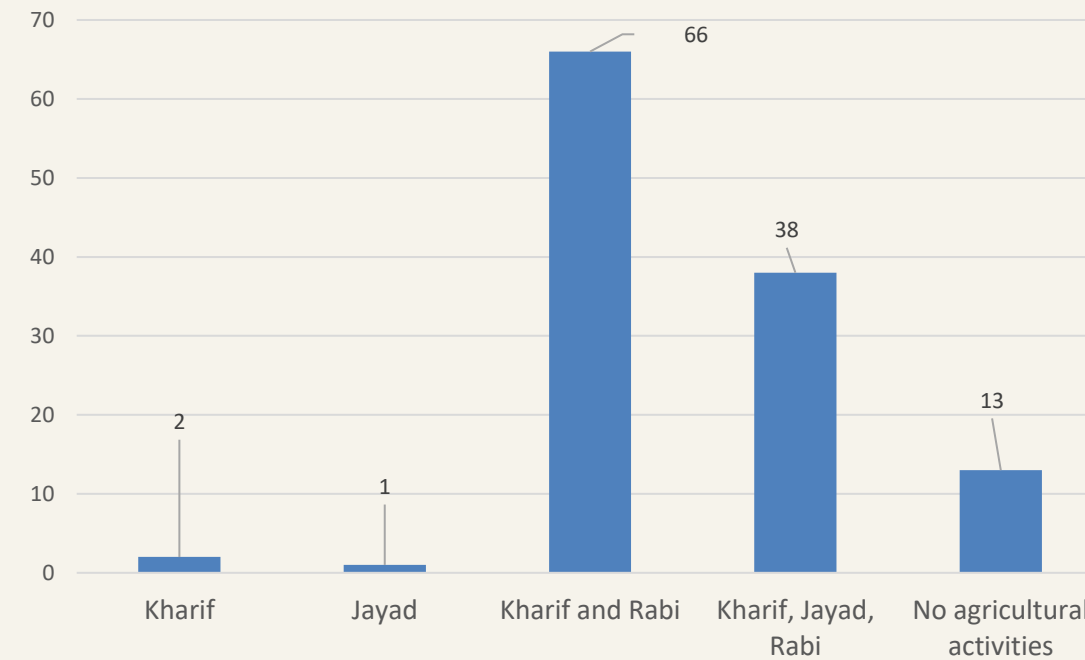
# RESULT

PRIMARY OCCUPATION



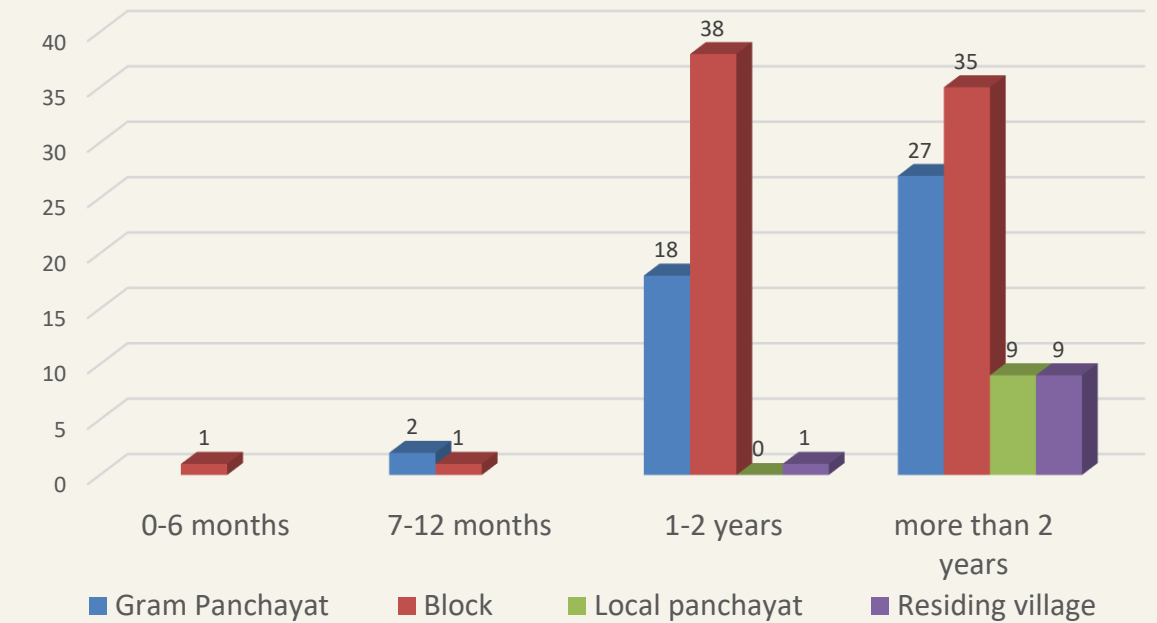
The graph illustrates the main occupations of Haat practitioners. A significant majority, 89%, are farmers. Business engages 8%, laborers 2%, and only 1% hold non-agricultural, business, or labor jobs.

Agricultural activities season wise of HAAT



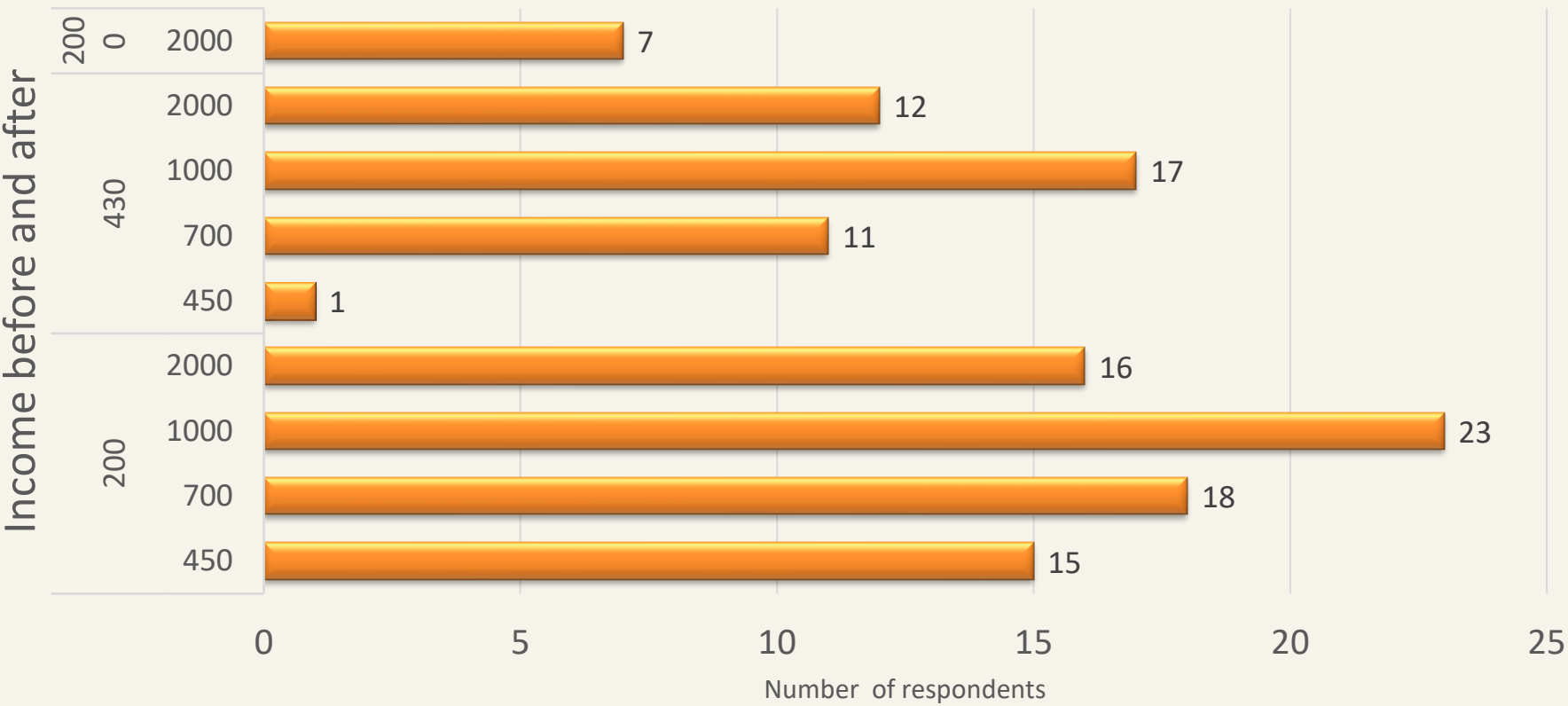
The graph illustrates that most youth, 55%, farm during both kharif and rabi seasons. 32% are active in all three seasons, with 2% in kharif only and 1% in Jayad exclusively.

Haat Area and time engaged in Haat

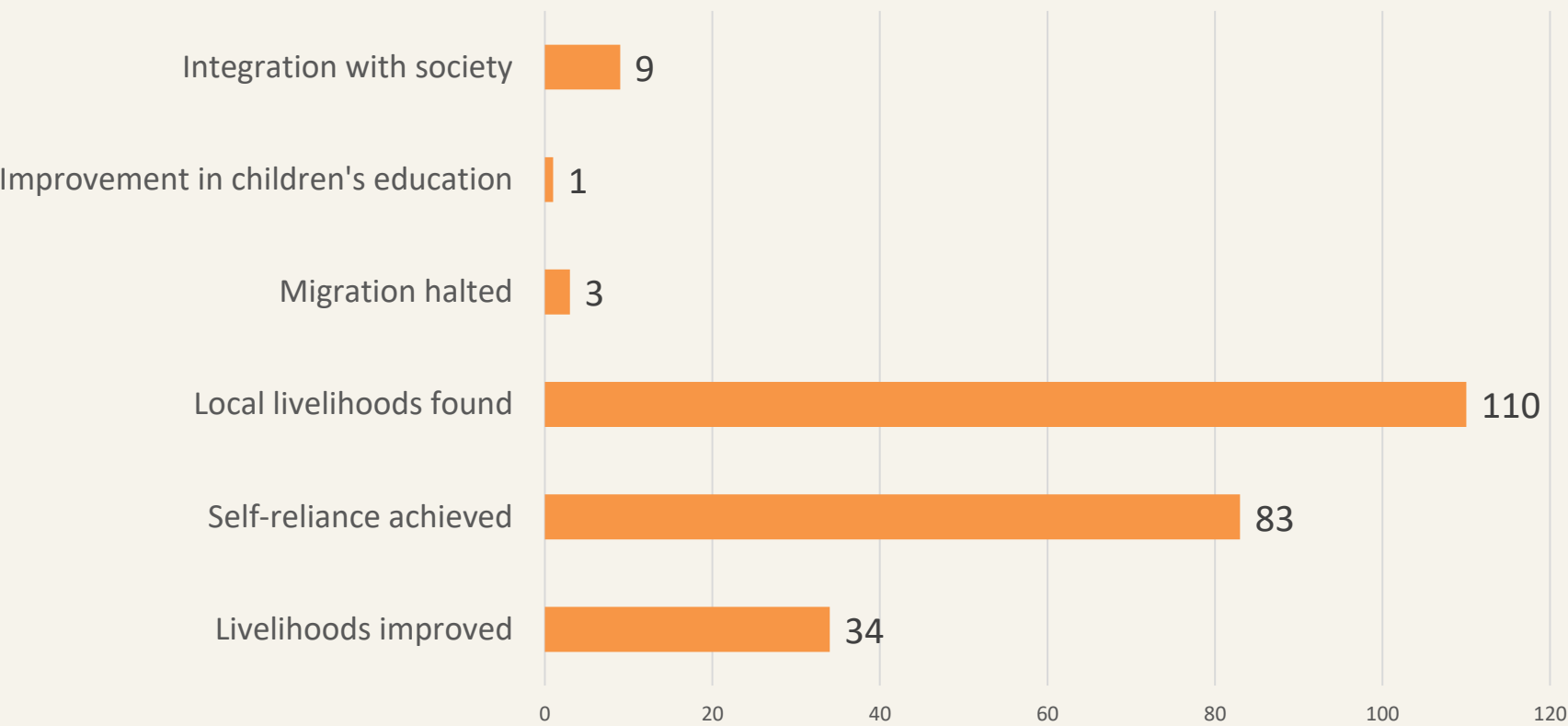


The graph illustrates youth involvement in Haat activities by duration and selling locations. 67% are experienced (over 2 years), with 44% selling at block-level Haats, 34% at gram panchayat Haats, and others at local levels.

Status of income



Benefits of practising Haat

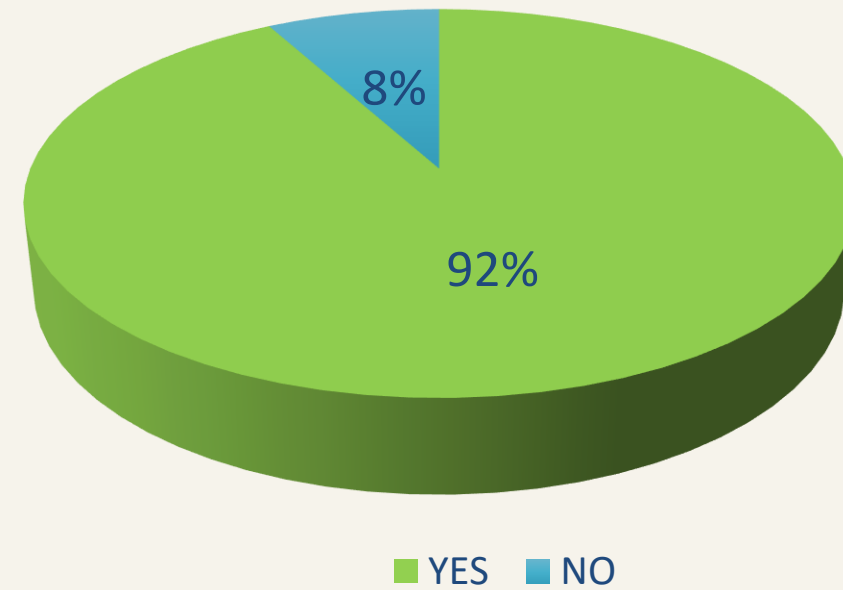


The graph depicts benefits of Haat participation: 92% found local livelihood, 69% increased self-reliance, 28% improved income/living standards, 7.5% reconnected with community, 3% reduced migration needs.

| Initial Income | Participants | Income increase Post Haat Participation                                    |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rs. 200        | 72           | 16 (90% increase), 23 (80% increase), 18 (71% increase), 15 (56% increase) |
| Rs. 430        | 41           | 12 (79% increase), 17 (57% increase), 11 (39% increase)                    |
| Rs. 2000       | 7            | Negligible income change post Haat participation                           |

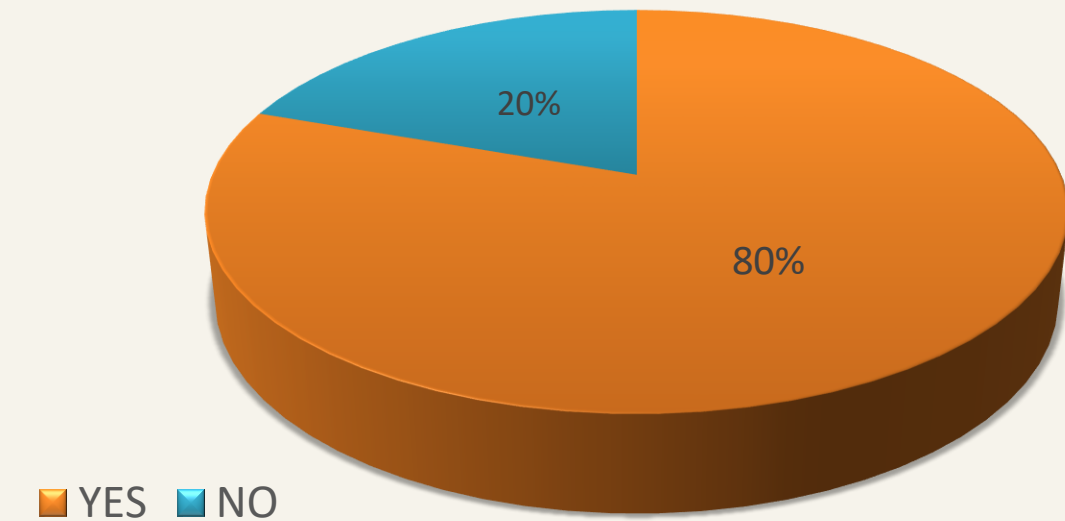
# RESULT

**Aware of self-organised community institutions**



The graph shows that 92% of participants are aware of self-organized institutions in their local area, indicating successful efforts in informing the community about these organizations.

**Participation self-organised community institutions**



The graph illustrates community interest in self-organized institutions promoting local farming to reduce migration and increase income. 80% showed willingness, with 20% hesitant, mainly migrant individuals with varied priorities or limitations.

# DISCUSSION

- 52% of sample population migrates to Gujarat for better income opportunities. Gujarat offers higher wages compared to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Gujarat, intra-state migration is significant. Migration patterns indicate short-term stays (1-3 months) and frequent cycles (4-5 times annually), suggesting a seasonal trend. There is awareness of minimum wages and some government schemes. Many participants are excluded from benefits under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act.
- Regenerative farming, embraced by 48% and including traditional Haat markets, sees practitioners report a 60% income increase, suggesting economic benefits and livelihood improvements.
- 92% are aware of community institutions, with 80% willing to engage, showing potential for community-led solutions addressing migration and promoting sustainable agriculture aligned with local traditions.



# CONCLUSION



- This comprehensive study provides an understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding temporary migration and the potential of regenerative farming combined with the Haat-market system to build socio-economic resilience.
- By addressing the identified challenges through a holistic approach involving capacity building, infrastructure development, policy reforms, and community empowerment, we can leverage the cultural roots, economic potential, and community engagement to create an enabling environment that promotes sustainable livelihoods, fosters self-sufficiency, and mitigates the vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers.



THANK YOU