



ROLE OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE IN THE LIVELIHOOD OF GOND: A TRIBAL COMMUNITY OF NORTH BASTAR KANKER, CHHATTISGARH

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Overview

Introduction

Review of literature

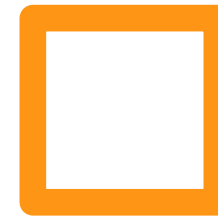
Methodology

Result and discussion

Recommendation

Introduction

Minor forest produce takes as a most important part of rural livelihood in India. Especially in the tribal dominated forest regions. We can say that forests and tribal are culturally and traditionally linked to each other. Tribal people worship the trees, animals and water bodies, which lives in the forest, as they believe that their gods and ancestors' spirits reside in the forest. They never want to diminish it.



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- Chhattisgarh state came into existence in the year 2000 as a 26 State of India, covering an area of 1, 35,191 sq. km.
- the state includes 27 districts, after 10 February 2020 number of district has increased to 28 districts.
- Chhattisgarh state has total population of 28.57million, as per the census 2011 total 30% scheduled tribe are residing in the state.
- there are mainly three tribal communities are there which are Gond, Halba and Dhurwa.

What is minor forest produce?

- Generally, Products from the forest are categorized into two classes: Main Forest Products and Minor Forest Products.
- Pulpwood, Sandalwood, and Social Forestry, which includes Fuel and Timber, are the main forest products.
- The Minor Forest Products also known as soap nut, tamarind, gallnut, Tendu Patta, Cane, tree moss, curry leaf and now Bamboo are among the non-timber forest products.
- Minor forest produce has valuable social and economic importance in tribal communities.



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Who owns minor forest produce?

We are much aware about that Indian Government has given the proprietorship or ownership to the society, Non-Timber forest products Via national legislation The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006.

It is a statute that acknowledges the rights of who live around forests for the purpose of gathering, the technique, selling, as well as marketing. This helps a lot the people who depends on forest to improve their socio-economic condition.



Review of Literature

- **T. Sudhakar Johnson, R. K. Agarwal and Amit Agarwal, (February 2013)** In this paper try to give any idea about the NTFPs (Non timber forest products) and its significant role in benefiting people as well as industries. It is a well-established fact that most tribal and villagers who live in forest regions depend on NTFPs as the Source of their livelihood. And, about the various stakeholders which is present there in the society like government and non-government organization their response to solving or eradicate the problem the poverty and providing them better opportunities of their livelihood development.
- **A.K. Pandey, Y.C. Tripathi and Ashwani kumar (February 2016)** The goal of this research is to describe the scope, reliance, and economic NTFPs' Value for Forest-Dependent Communities as well as to propose for their tactics long-term growth and development use. The problems and solutions for managing NTFPs that will contribute to sustainable resource production and provide prospects for a living for the poorest members societal problems have been debated.
- **Srabni Sanyal and Ramyash (June 2020)** This research is focused on personal observations, interviews, and data collection about the Gond community's livelihood sources, as well as how much they receive and gain from them. Most of them rely on traditional sources of income, such as the forest and forest-based goods.
- **Madhusudan bandi (June 2015)** visited Chhattisgarh and Gujarat and prepare his field observation report. During his visit in these states, he critically examines the implementation process of the Forest Rights Act. In these areas there were no government agencies or NGOs were active to create awareness on FRA. The study reveals that the communities are in acute need of understanding the importance of community claims of forest land. community claim have also an importance for their livelihood needs.

- **General Objective:** To examine awareness level among Gond tribe considering FRA 2006, in context of Chhattisgarh.
- **Specific Objective:**
 - To collect the actual status of CFR and IFR title from forest dwellers of selected communities.
 - To examine the Gond tribe women awareness regarding Forest rights among selected communities.
 - To identify the efforts if any, made by any authorities and institutions to regulate, collection or promote cultivation of MFPs of the area.



Forest Right Act 2006

- In this Act people claim rights on forest. Schedule tribe and other traditional forest dwellers who residing in forest can claim for it.
- According to this act, it allows to provide forest right to people for their individual and community rights. Who so ever residing in forest they want to claim their rights for agriculture, shelter, and livelihood being an individual right holder and as a community they can use forest land and also, they can collect NTFPs within the community or under the traditional boundary.
- Responsibilities of forest right holders –
- Protection of Wildlife, forest and biodiversity
- It must be ensured that water bodies and other ecological sensitive area is sufficiently protected
- The decision taken by the gram Sabha should be followed to control access to community forest resources and to curb the activities that harm forest, wildlife and biodiversity.

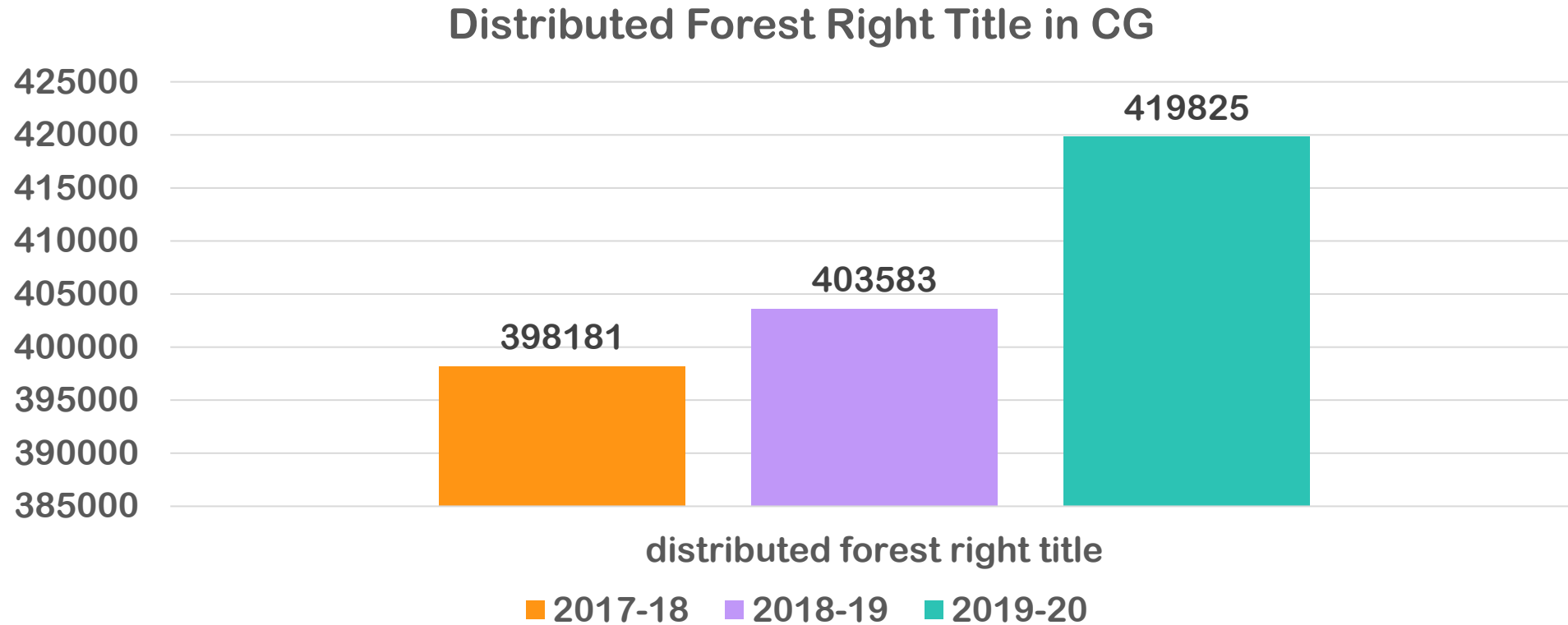
IFR and CFR

- **IFR**-Chhattisgarh is one of the states where large number of tribal and other traditional forest dwellers depends on forest and NTFPs for their livelihood. If we see the data of Ministry of Tribal Affairs state has received 8,58,682 Individual claims till 31.03.2019 out of which state accepted 4,01,251 claims and rejected 4,57,431
- According to data of Kanker, district has received 34,369 IFR claim and provided 27831 IFR claims latest by till 2021. Whereas 6,538 claims have been rejected. Since my study area is charama block, so far total 1790 number of claims have been received in this block till 2015. Kasawahi village have claimed IFR of 49 right holders.

CFR

- Chhattisgarh is in the second position of Community forest right distribution amongst 20 states of India. During a talk with the head clerk of the Tribal department Kanker, it was found that so far 5,823 CFR claims have been provided by March 2021. Out of that, 381 villages had claimed for CFRR till 2020 and out of which 281 claims have been given to them. The total claimed land for CFRR is 1,36,250 hectares.
- District administration of Kanker found that people more concentrate on IFR claims rather than CFR, and that is probably because this process takes longer time, as well as permission from adjacent village is also necessary. Boundary disputes have been seen in many cases of Community forest right.

Status of forest right title

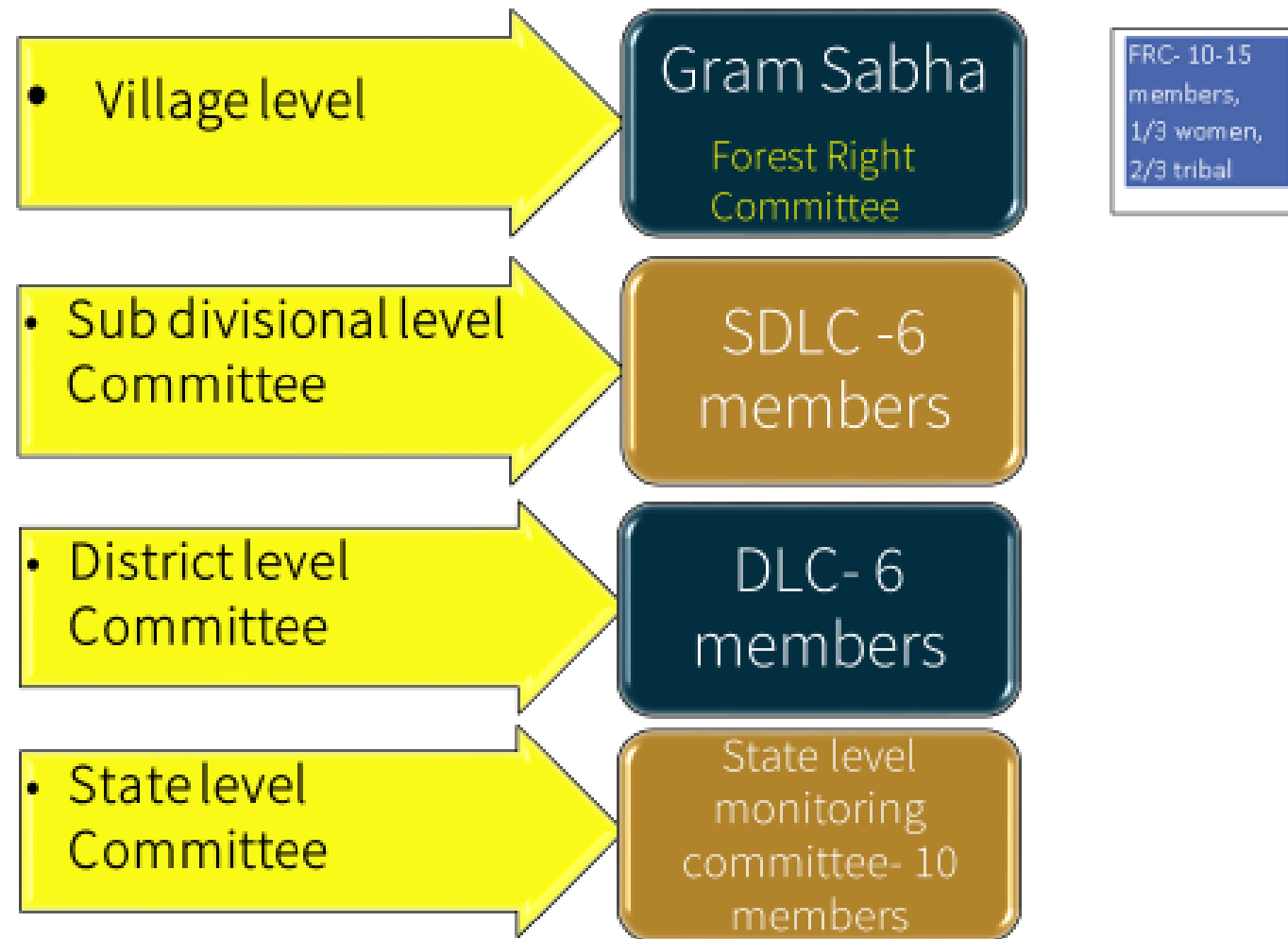


Schemes and programs

- **INDIRA VAN MITAN Scheme** As in the year 2019, the whole world started battling the COVID-19 epidemic, the government also started worrying about migration. This is a new scheme of Chhattisgarh State government launched in 9 of August 2020 (international Tribal day) with the aim to make forest dwellers self-reliant. objective of this scheme is to restore the forest-based livelihood for rural poor, income enhancement of rural poor, employment opportunity for youth, restoration of natural resources, to provide forest ownership for rural.
- **Van Dhan Yojana**- On April 14th, 2018 Honorable Prime Minister of India has announced Van Dhan Yojana in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. Van Dhan, an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal by exploiting forest wealth. Combining the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal with modern technology and targeting tribal knowledge into a behavioral economic activity.

- **PRADAN**- "Tribal society has been the biggest protector of nature and natural resources" with this thought Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) Chhattisgarh has taken unique step to helping forest dwellers.
- Together with OMIDYAR Network, PRADAN has started a project called "Introducing technology-based solutions to expedite FRA implementation, protect property rights and promote sustainable livelihood".
- For this project Chhattisgarh govt. and PRADAN signed a MOU with aim to implement Forest Right Act 2006, in expedite way on Chhattisgarh state.
- This project starts from 1st of January 2021 and will end to 31 December 2024.
- Goal of this project is to ensure secure land right and enhance local livelihoods of the forest dwellers by accessing Forest Right Act (FRA, 2006) in using technology-based solutions.

Institutional arrangements of Forest right Implementation





Methodology

Area of the Study

- Kasawahi is situated in Charama block and located in Uttar Bastar Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. It is one of 97 villages in Charama block. The total population of Kasawahi is 925 (according to census 2011) in which male population is 452 and female population is 473. Total number of households is 190

Research Design

- For this study descriptive cum analytical research designed has been used.

Sample Size

- The study was carried out on a sample of Gond Tribe belonging to different socio-economic status 50 tribal populations were selected by purposive sampling method.

Source of Data

- In the proposed study, Primary data have been collected from the field through the selected respondents while,
- Secondary data has been derived from different texts, books, govt data, journals and social media etc.

Plan of Analysis

- Quantitative data have been analyzed through SPSS and excel.

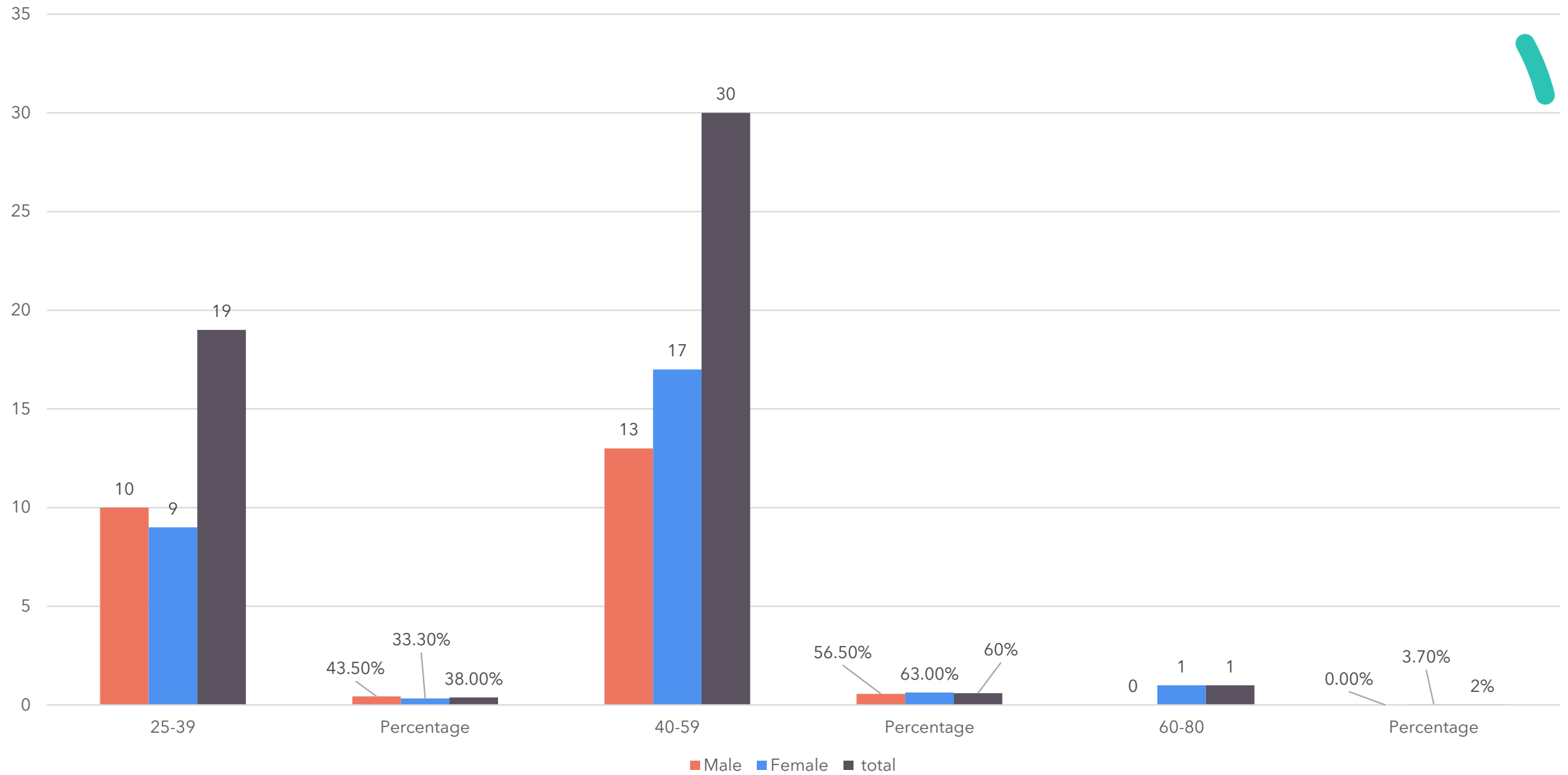




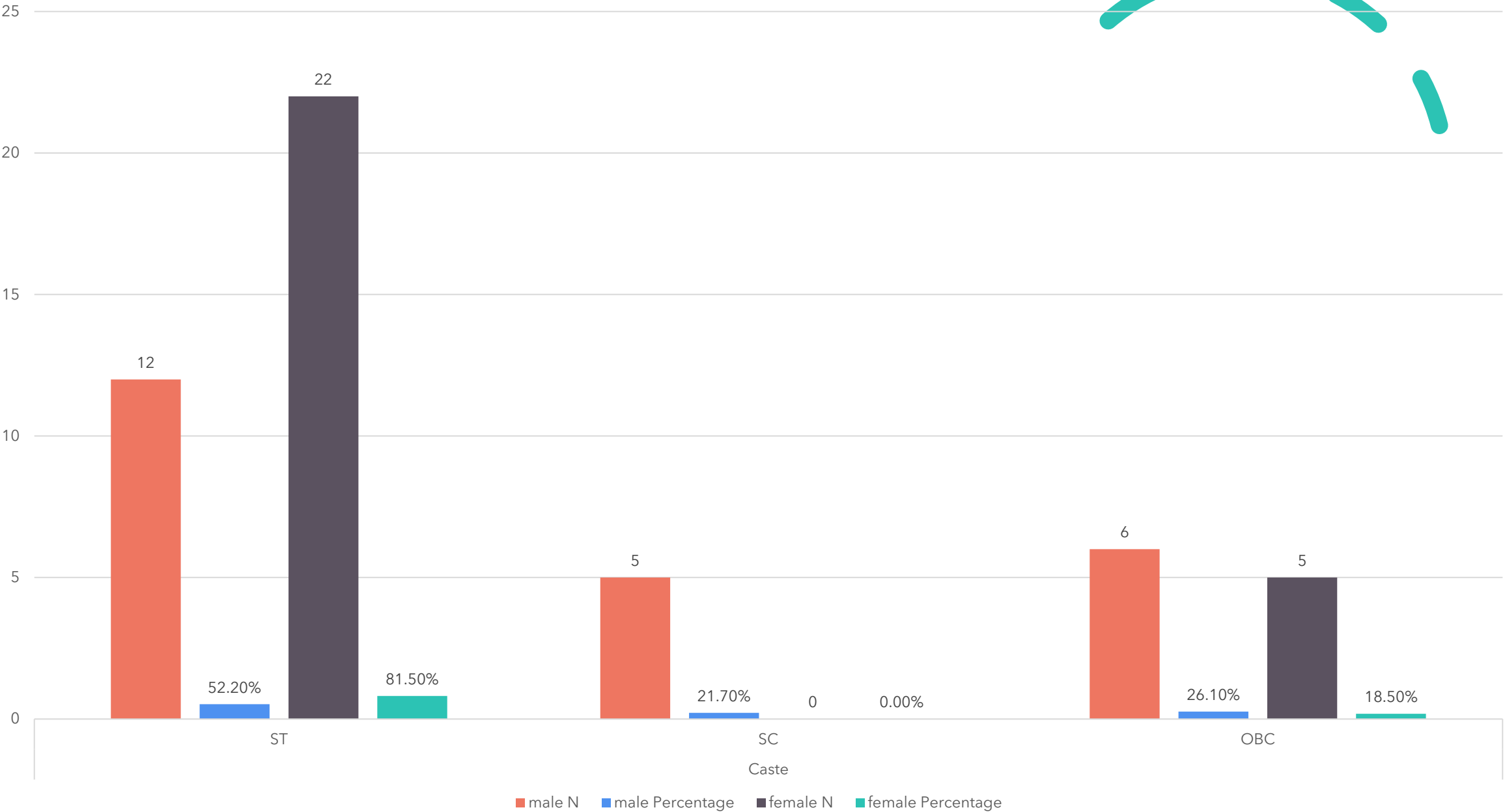
Result and Discussion

This includes study results and presented all data in organized way with graph and charts. It includes demographic profile of the respondents and their knowledge about IFR, CFR. also focused on to examine the MFPs role in tribal life of Kasawahi village in Uttar Bastar Kanker

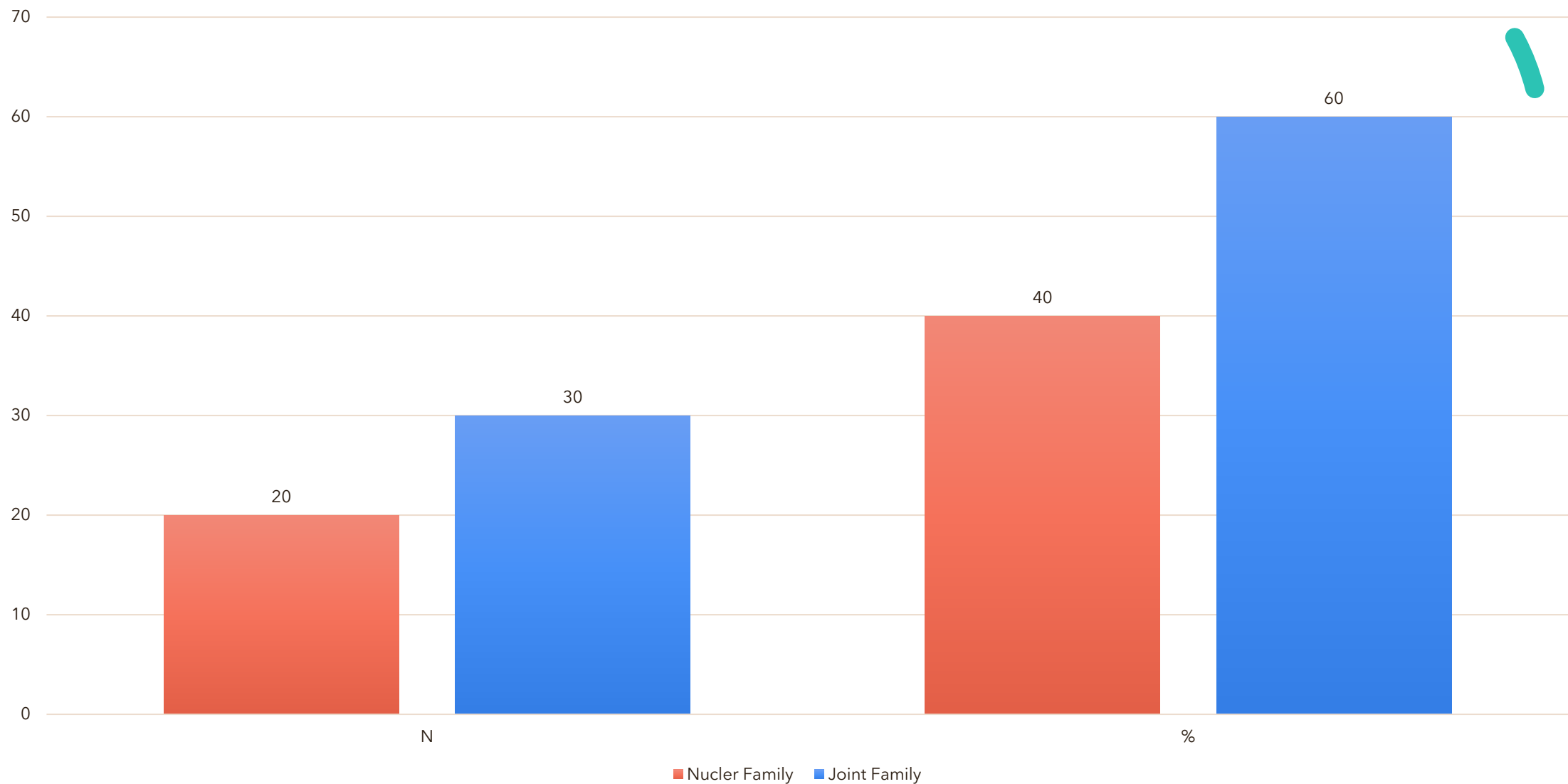
Age and Gender Crosstabulation



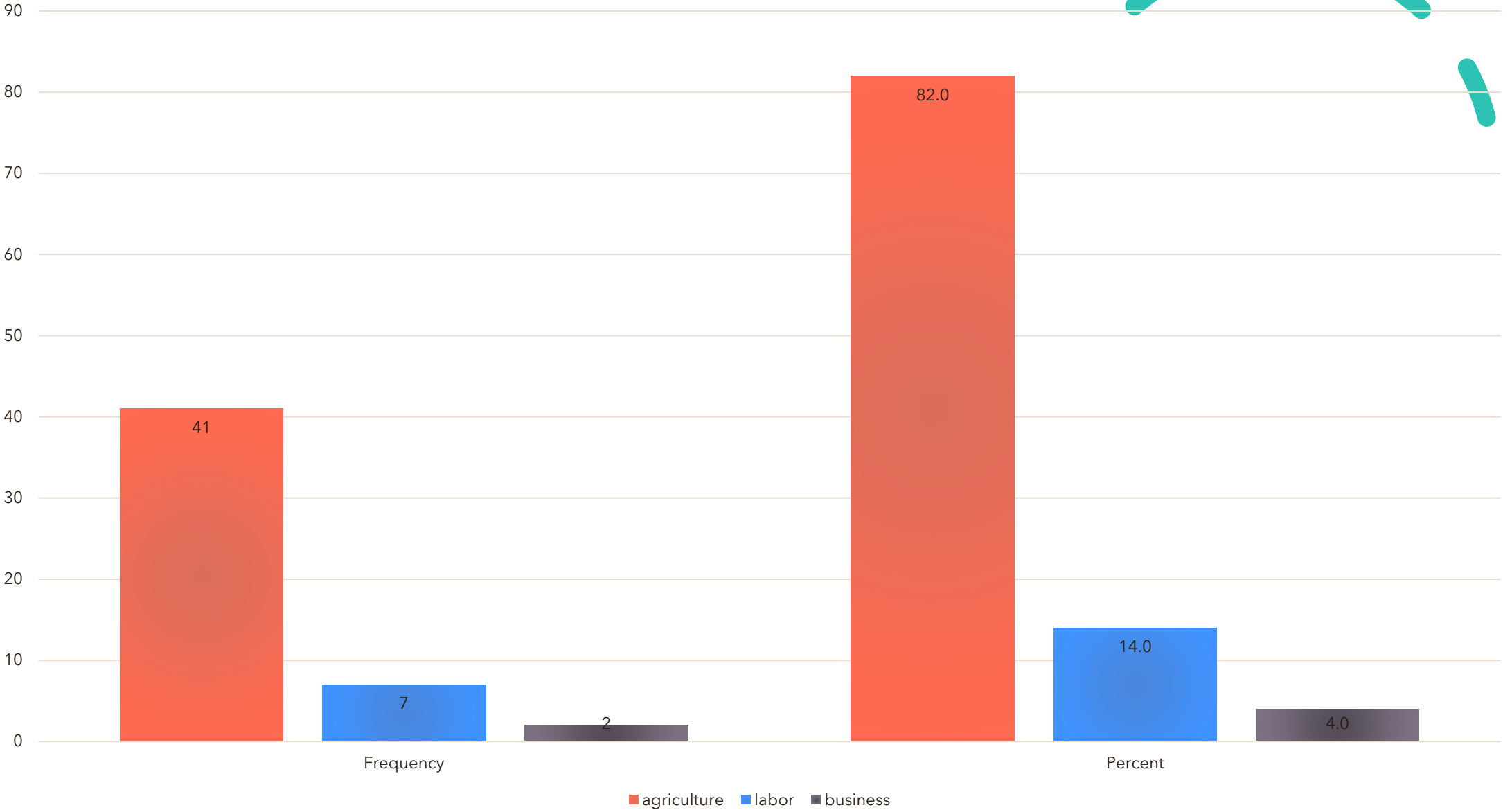
Caste and Gender Crosstabulation



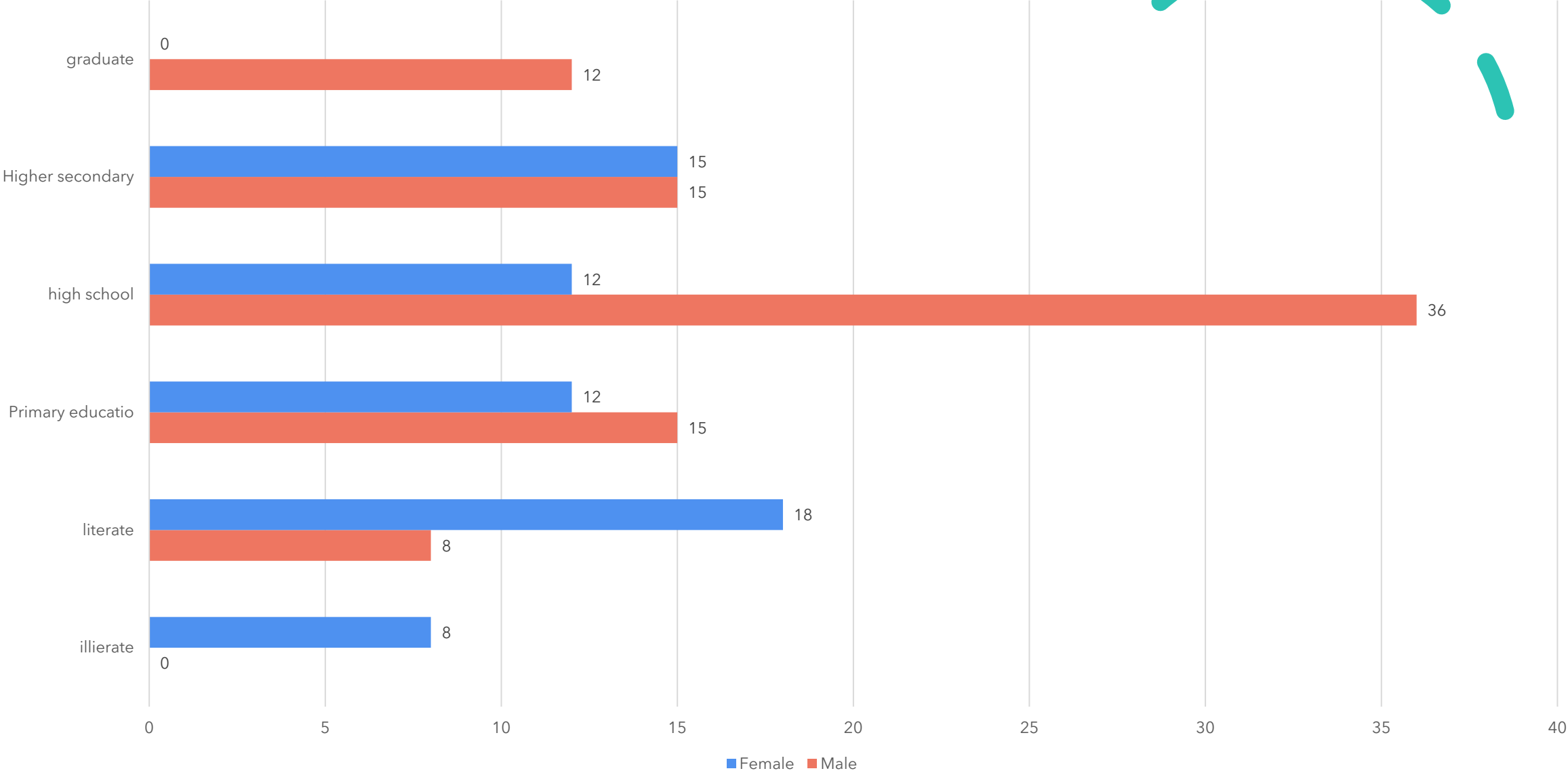
Type of Family



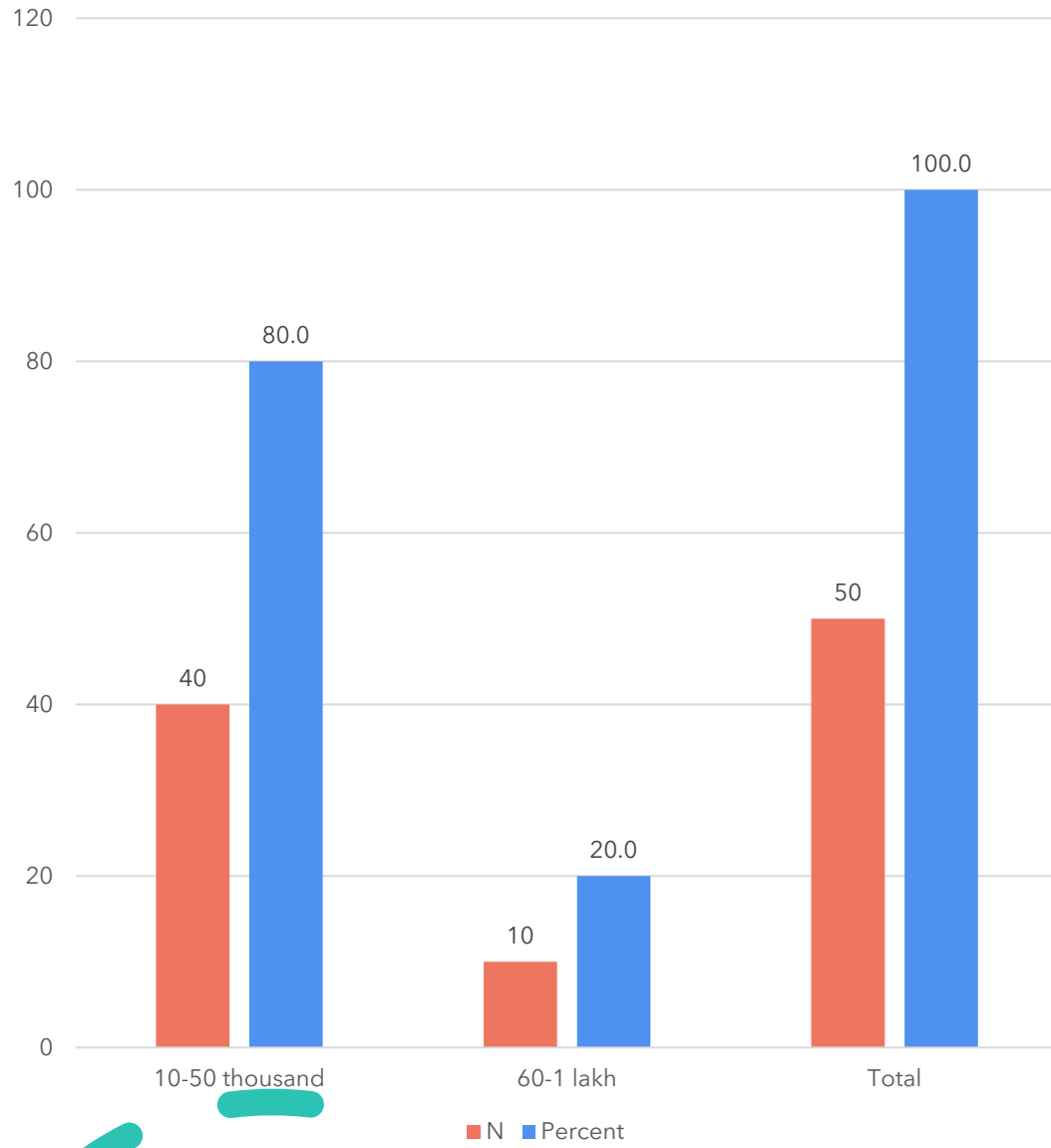
Occupation



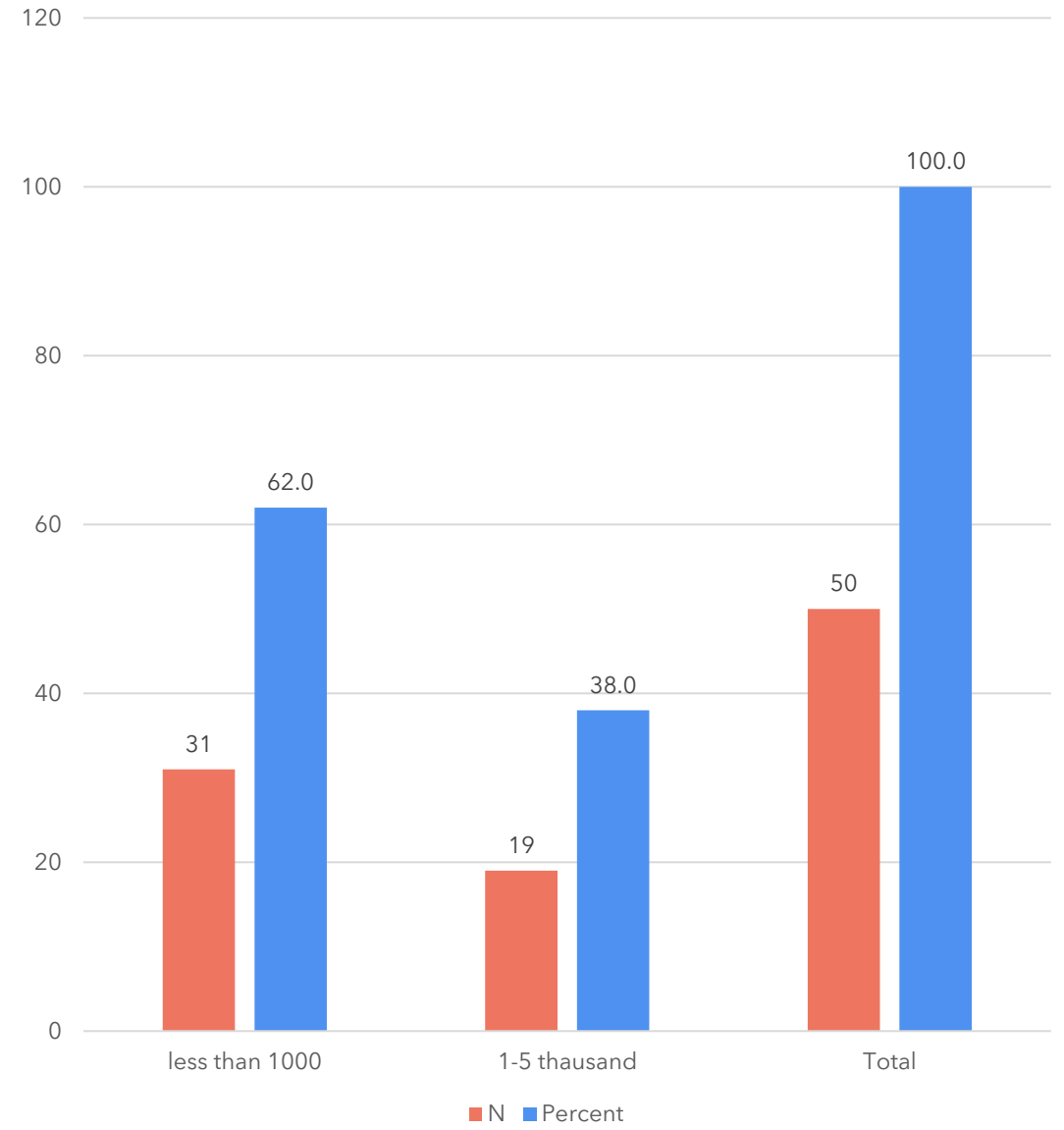
Gender and qualification



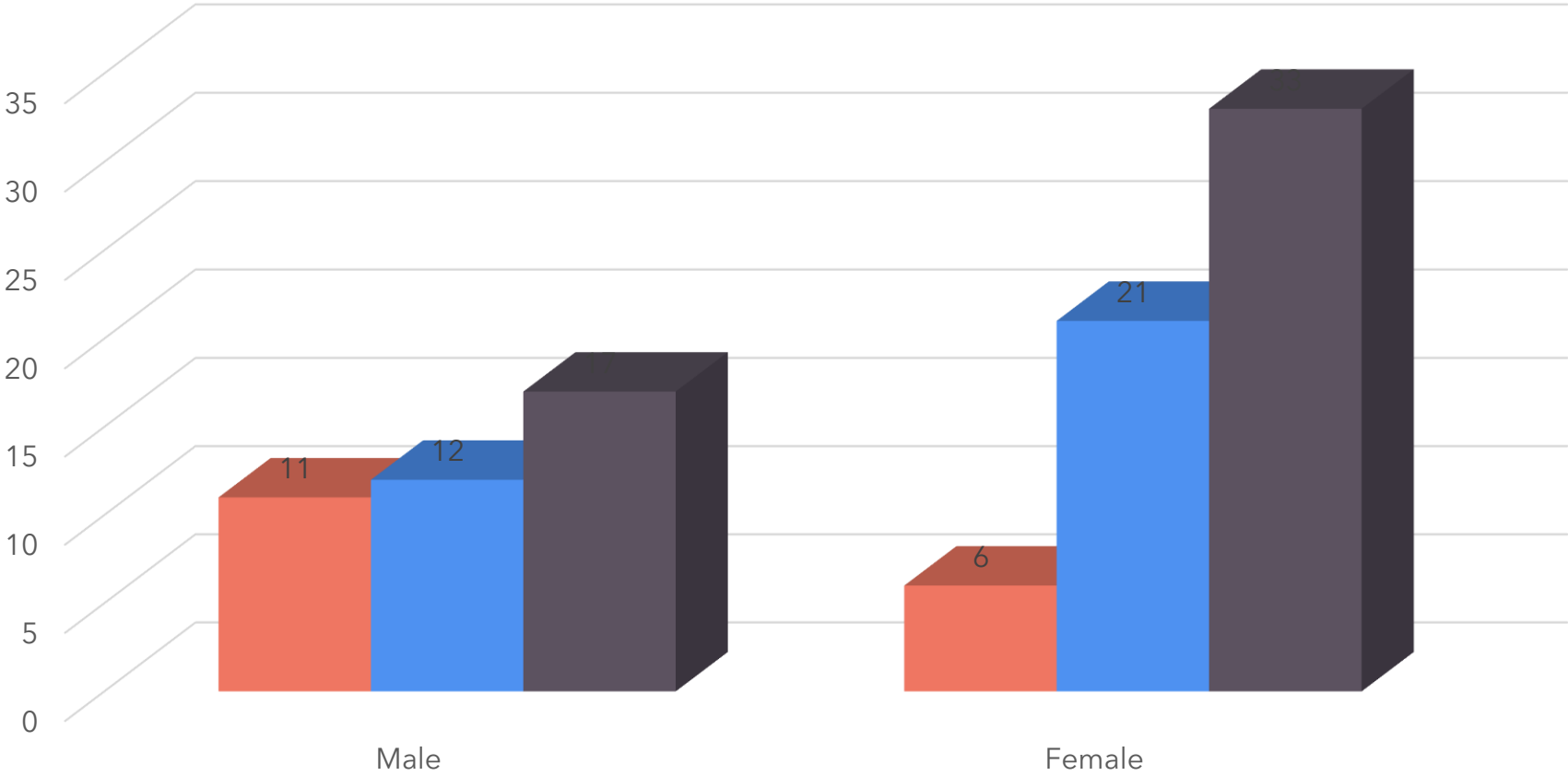
Annual Income through Agriculture



Annual Income through MFPIs

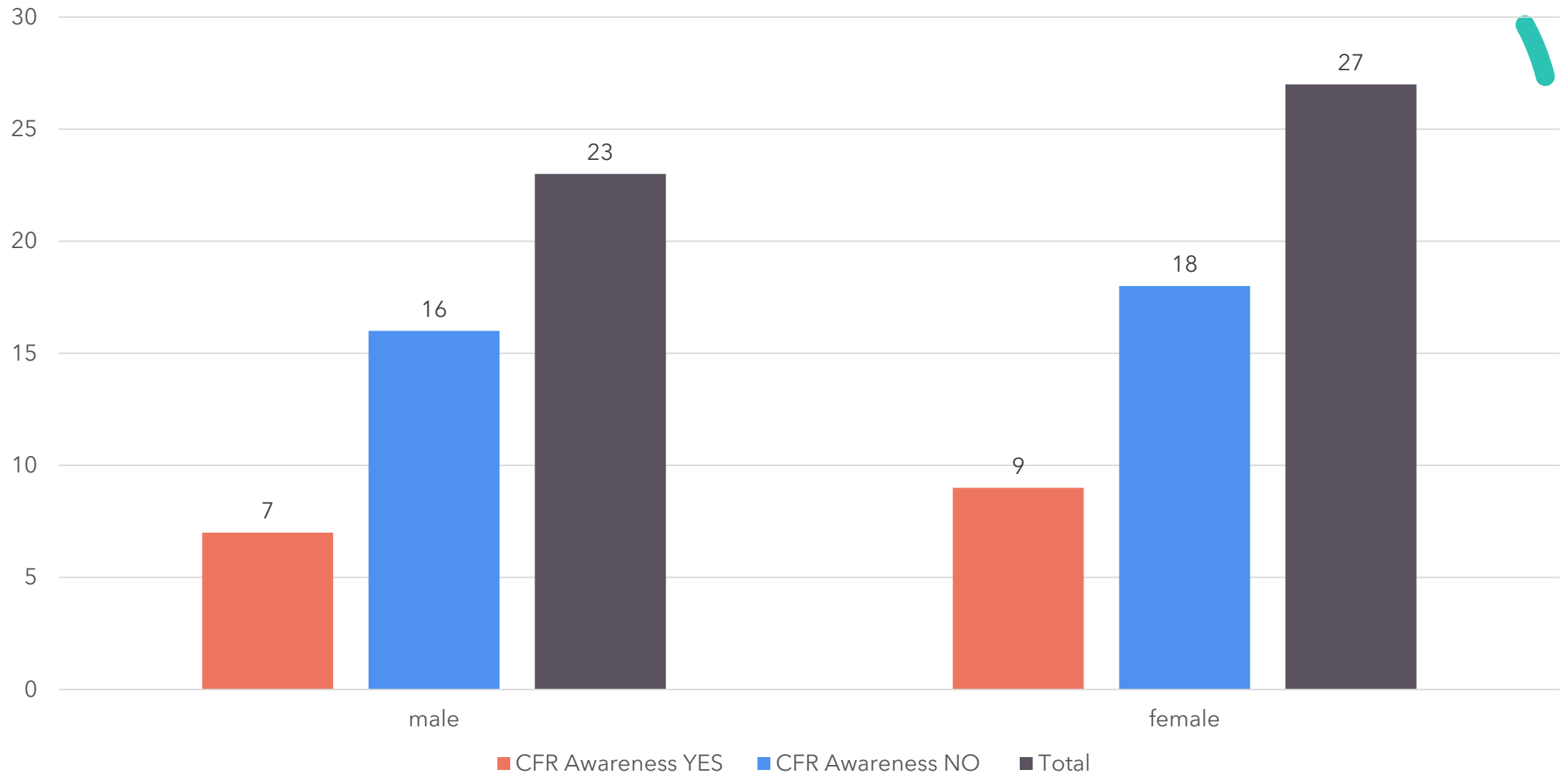


Awareness of IFR Crosstabulation



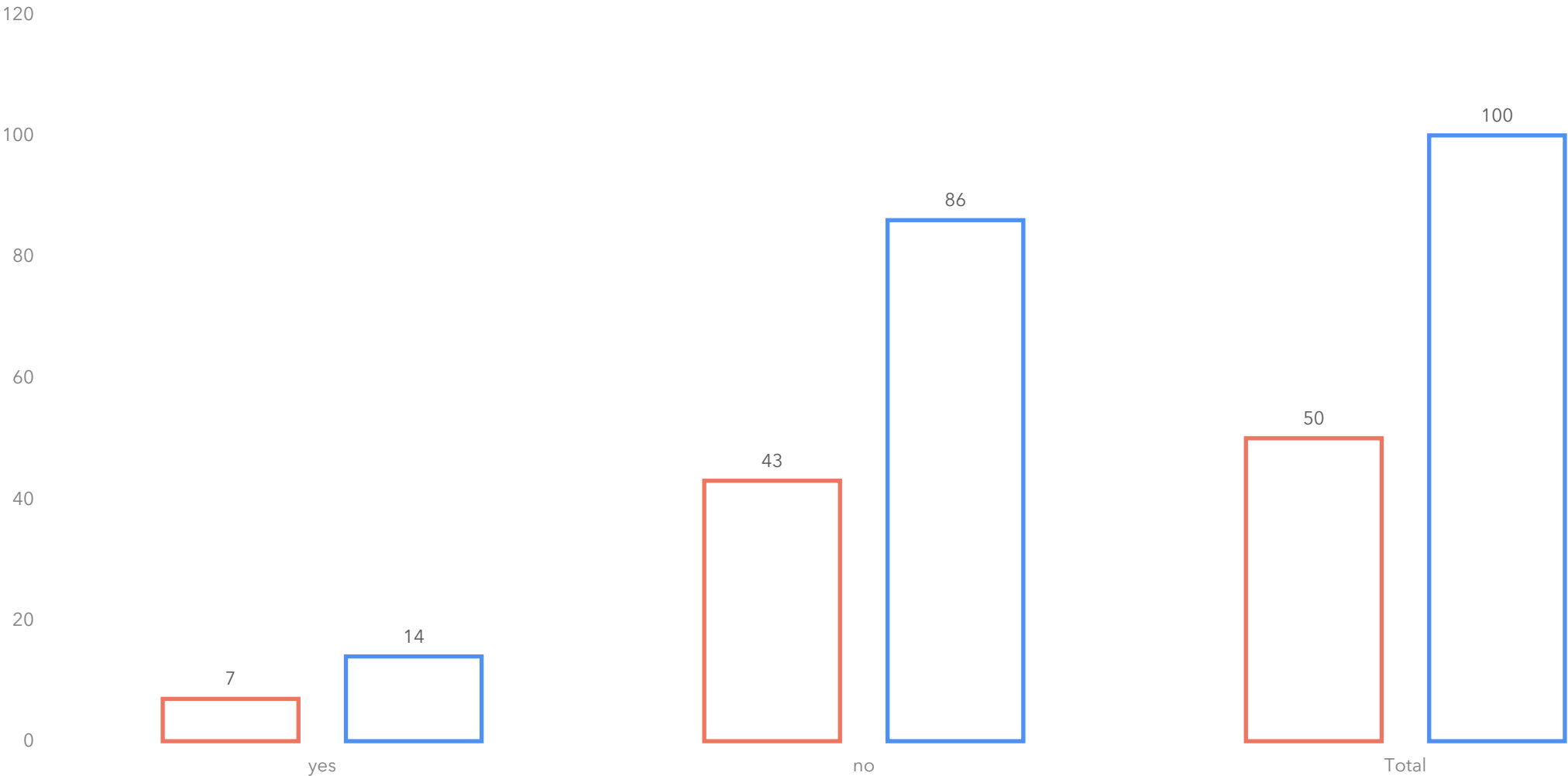
IFR Awareness yes IFR Awareness NO Total

CFR Awareness crosstabulation

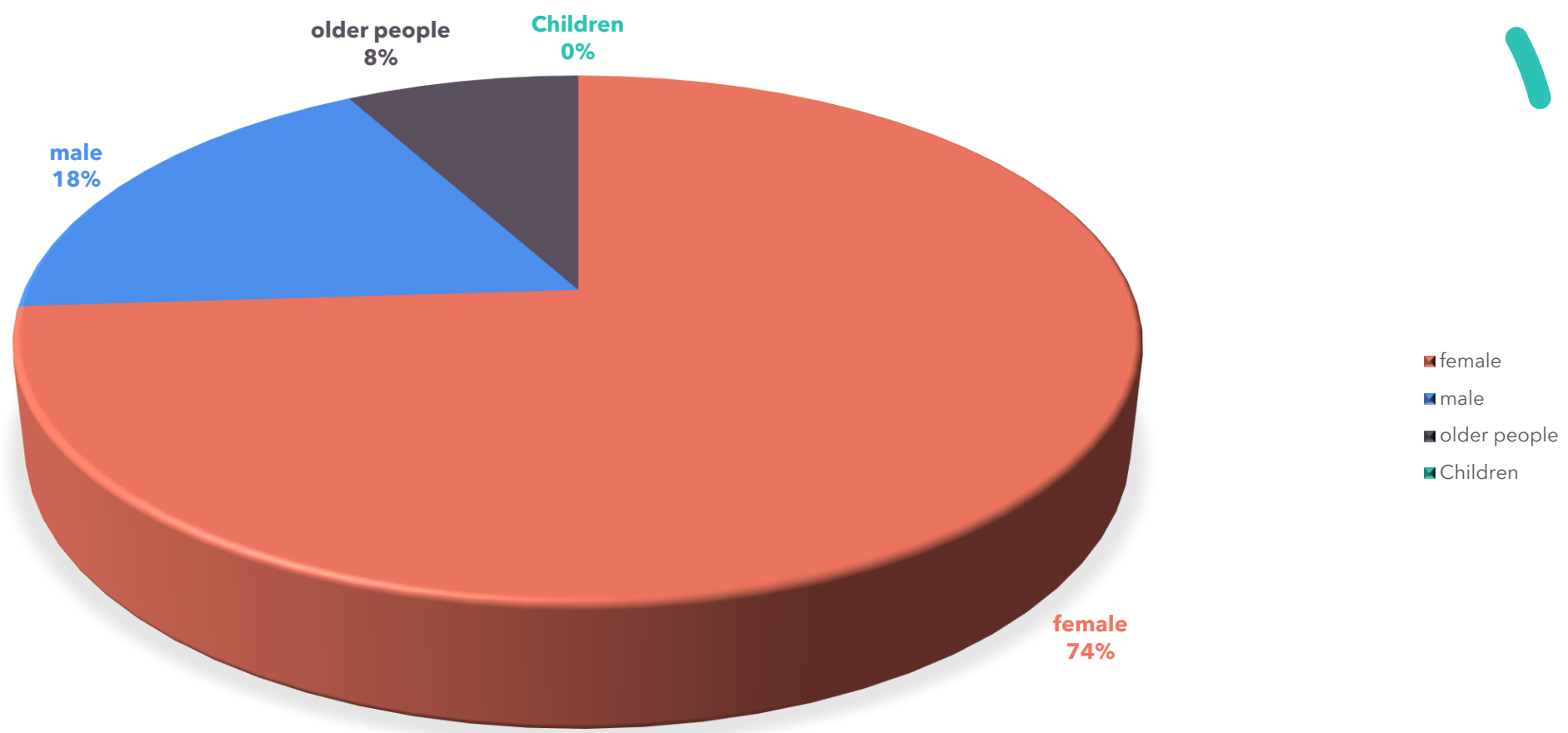


People Participation in Claim making

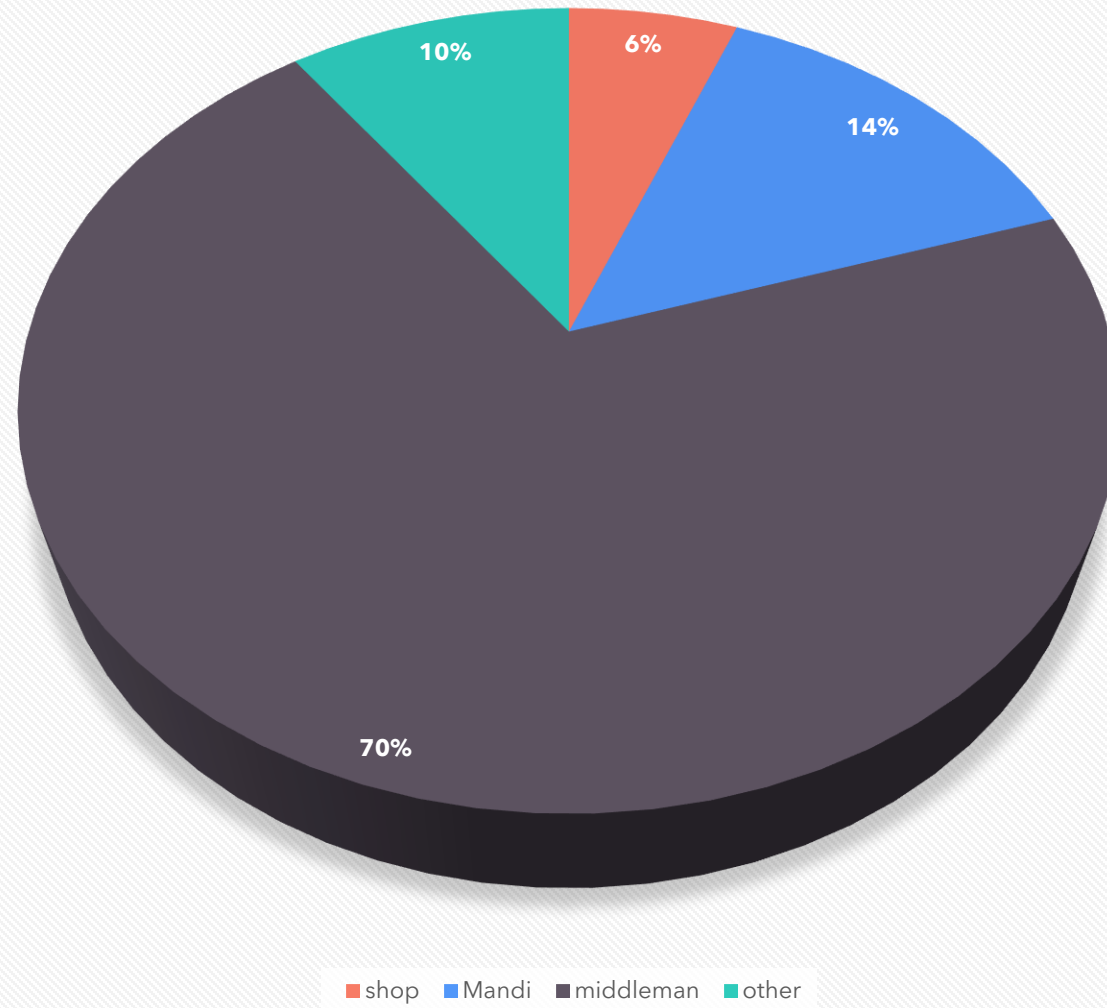
Frequency Percent



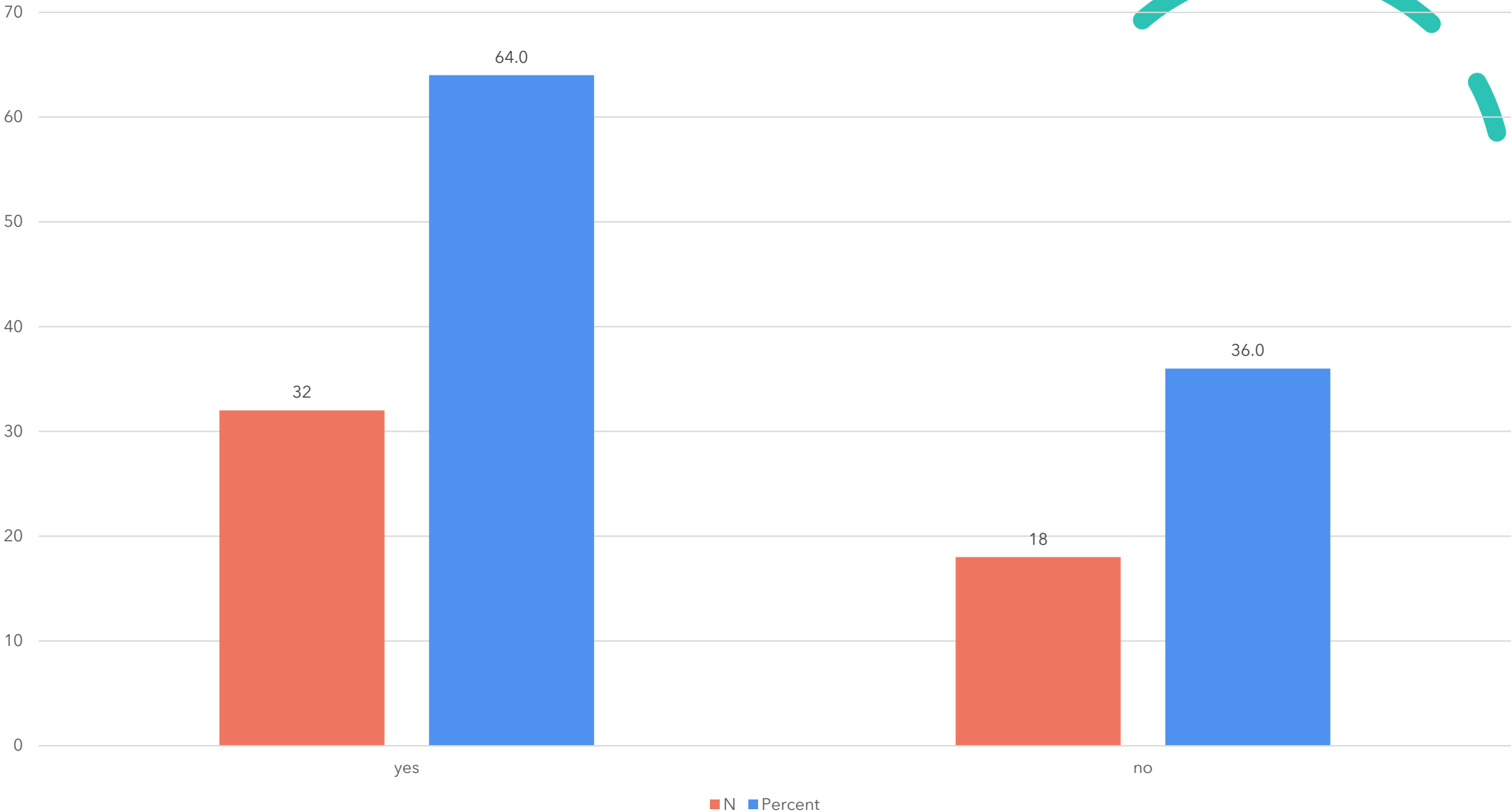
MFP COLLECTORS



Selling option of MFPs

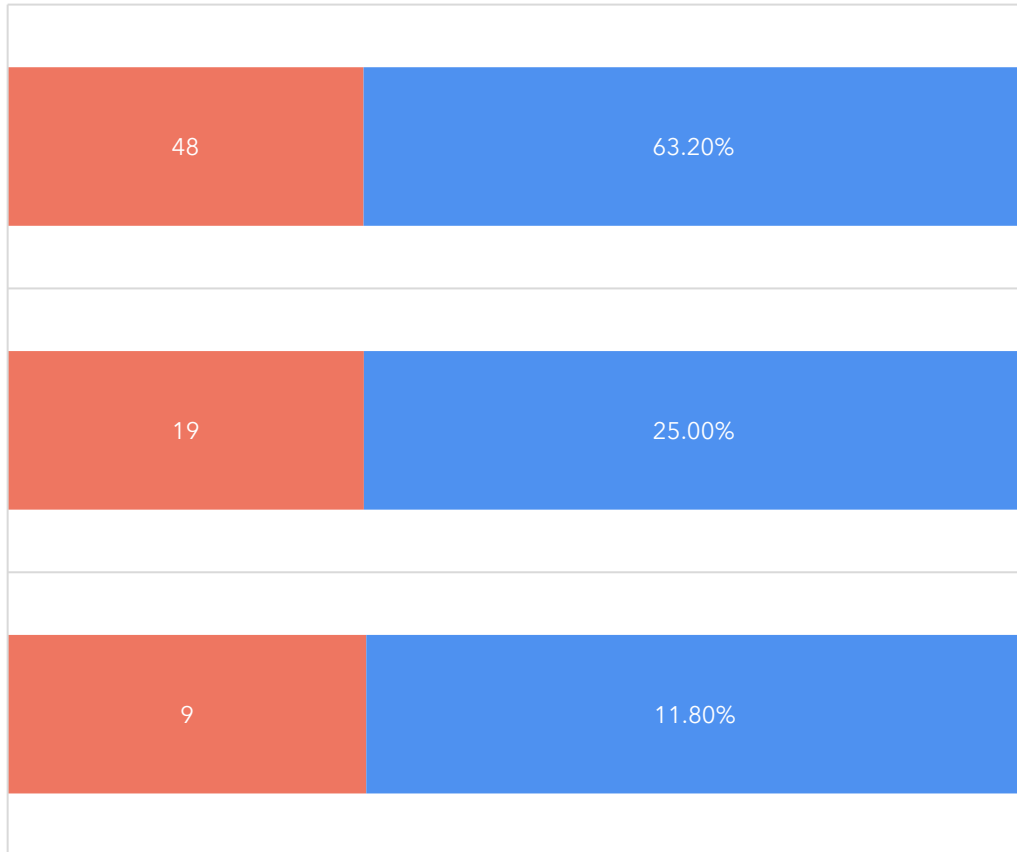


Group formed for collection of MFPs



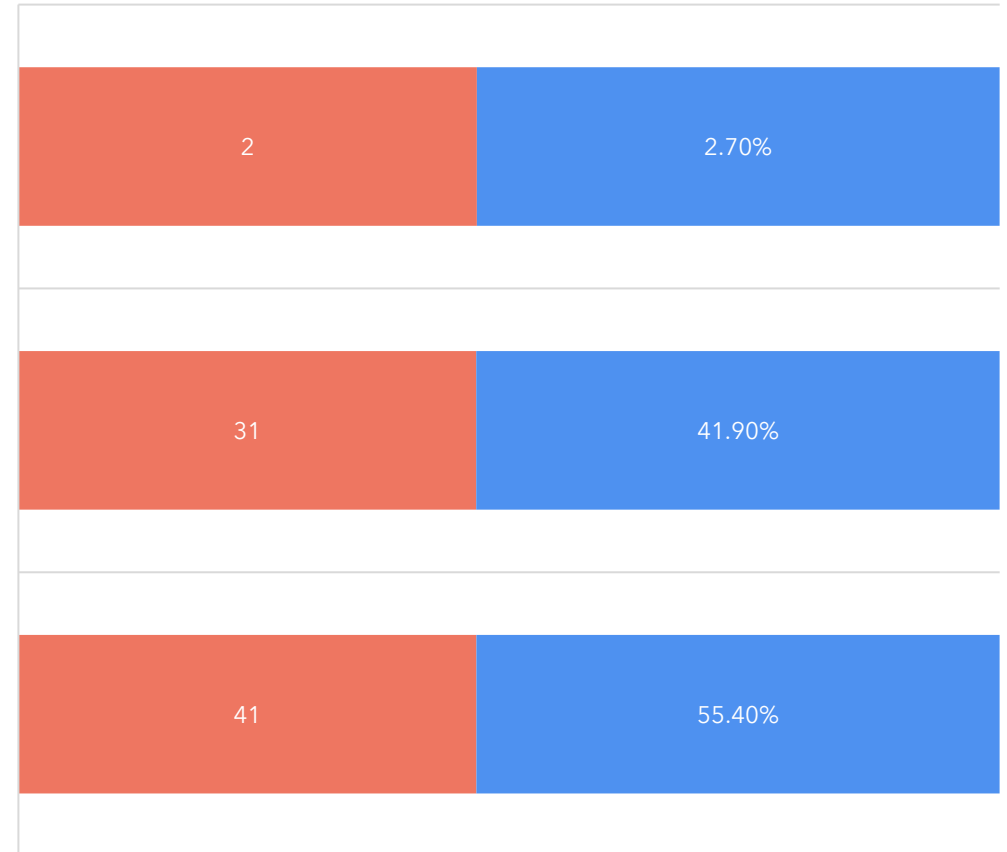
SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GOVT.

■ Responses in Yes N ■ Responses in Yes Percent

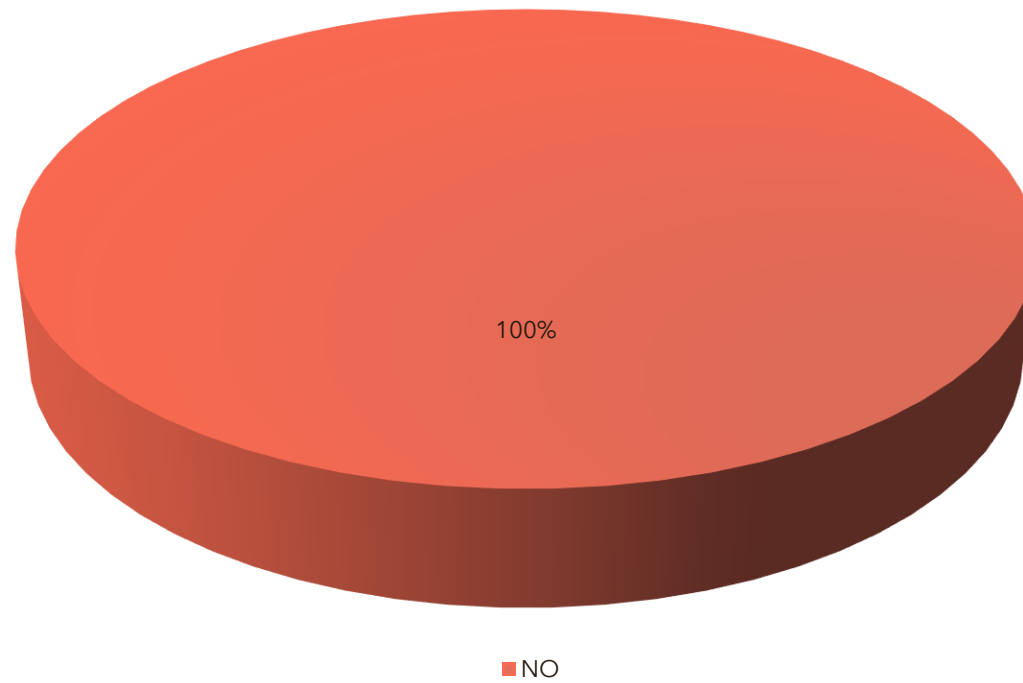


SUPPORT PROVIDED BY GOVT.

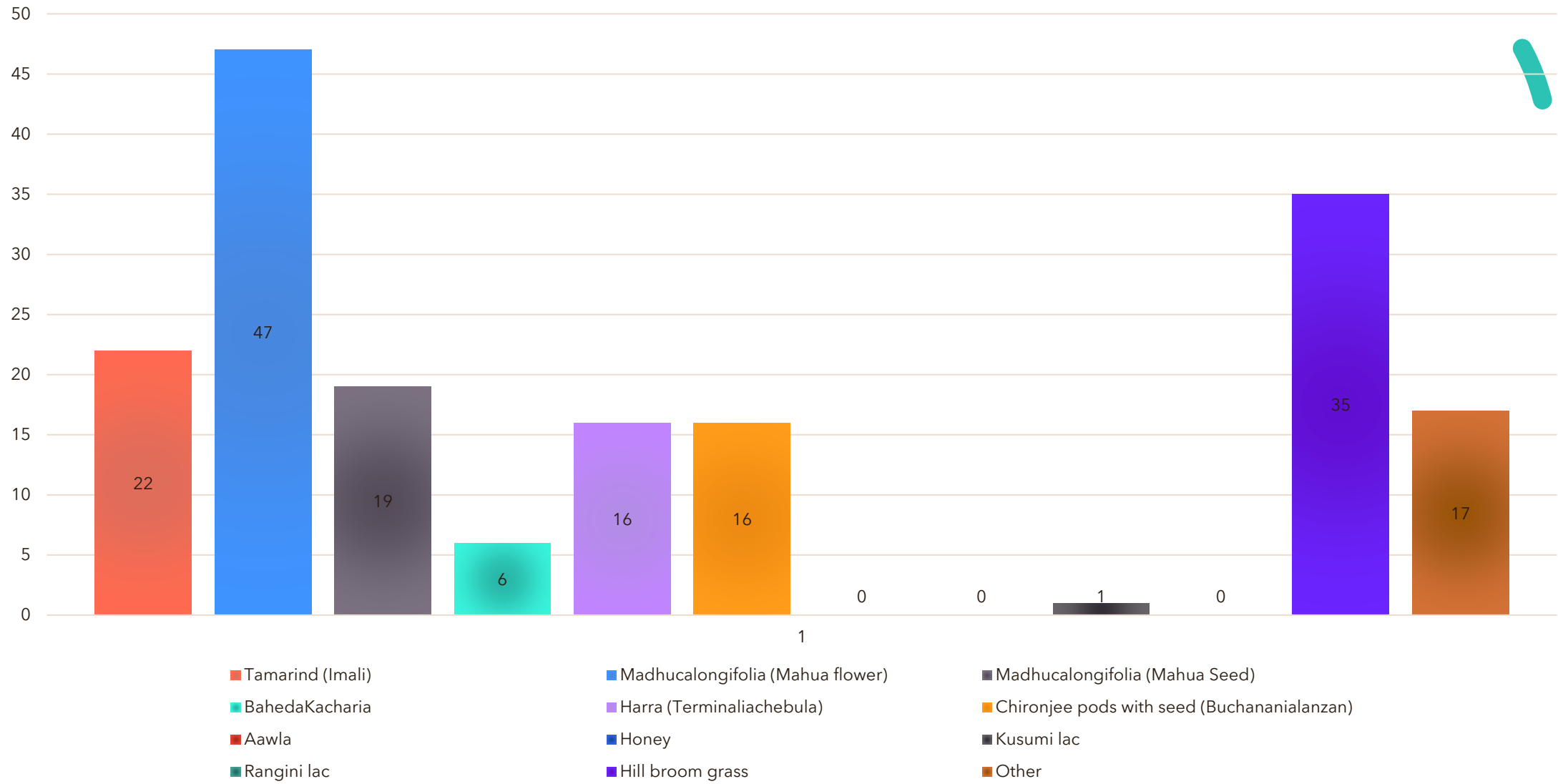
■ Responses in No N ■ Responses in No Percent



Member of Indira Van Mitan



Name of MFPs usually collected by villagers



Conclusion

- It has been concluded that awareness of IFR among male is high and among female it was less. It was observed that female have no idea about IFR.
- CFR awareness is high among female, about more than half female respondent know and heard about CFR. This analysis provides information about IFR, CFR and role of FRA in terms of promote forest-based livelihood, which plays an important role among the tribal population.
- Result shows lack of awareness about Act. Differences on knowledge among villagers was also found. People are more concerned regarding IFR as compared to CFR

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- This study also focusses to examine participation of tribal women. where study found that more female respondents are registered as a group member of any kind of income generating or saving group and among total 50 respondents 24 respondents are not registered in any group.
- Result shows that Most of females are registered as a SHG member. In the process of NTFP collection majority of female usually collect MFPs from forest which is very high in number as compared to male population.
- Women participation in claim making process of CFR is low. In CFR claim making process majority of respondent were not participated.

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- This study has been observed that efforts made by authorities and institutions to regulate, collection or promote cultivation of MFPs of the village, is found that some people are taking advantage of Van Dhan Yojana and one fourth people agreed that forest dept. and other institution provide information regarding buying and selling of MFPs. Data shows negative result it means intervention of various institution is less.
- Many of respondents worried about decreasing of minor forest produce and they really want to save and protect this produce. Lack of Training and awareness is also a factor which affect productivity.

Recommendation

- Concept seeding should be done regarding IFR, CFR and CRR and difference between these three must be clear
- Need to train FRCs, CFRMCs, Sarpanch, and Secretary of every community
- Strengthening government departments and institutions
- Convergence with different programs and schemes can be a strategy to enhance livelihood of tribal
- Van Dhan Yojana needs to implement in expedite way in all communities
- Tree Title (Vriksha Patta) will be a great step towards protection, restoration and management of forest
- Need to establish processing units in forest rich areas
- Forest department, Tribal welfare department and CSOs these three departments need to work together

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- Provide proper training to the MFP collector groups in terms of selling, buying, procurement, and marketing.
- Need to train SDLCS, DLCs members regarding FRA 2006 implementation.
- Transparency should be maintaining in each level



Thank you

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