

An In-depth Analysis of the Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Caste Communities in Gaya District: A Primary Survey Approach

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Abstract:

This research aims to conduct a comprehensive primary survey to delve into the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste populations in Gaya District. By employing rigorous methodologies, including interviews, questionnaires, and field observations, the study seeks to provide an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the challenges and opportunities faced by these communities. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the nuanced socio-economic dynamics within the district, informing targeted interventions and policy recommendations for socio-economic upliftment. This study aims to fill existing gaps in the understanding of the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste populations in Gaya District. The findings will contribute valuable insights to both academic scholarship and policy formulation, guiding efforts towards sustainable development and social equity.

Keywords: Scheduled Caste, Socio economic, Bihar, Primary survey

Introduction

The well-being of our lives is dependent on the quality of our socio-economic conditions. If these conditions are inadequate, it is impossible to live a happy and prosperous life. Therefore, it is essential to have favorable socio-economic conditions that make our lives worth living and enjoyable. Unfortunately, the scheduled castes have faced abysmal social conditions since ancient times, and there has been no significant improvement in their circumstances to date. The purpose of this study in this chapter is to trace the progress of the scheduled castes in Gaya district from ancient times to the present day. Despite the persistence of traditional caste hierarchy and its associated functionalism in modern Indian society, untouchability has largely been eliminated. However, untouchability has largely been eradicated from Indian society. The caste system in India has proven to be enduring due to its integration with the country's political, economic, and social welfare systems. Therefore, it is crucial to examine how the social status of scheduled castes has evolved in terms of employment, education, and societal norms. The process of urbanization has enabled the scheduled caste community to take advantage of the educational system, enabling them to overcome social discrimination and achieve upward mobility. However, it is

important to acknowledge that a significant proportion of the scheduled caste population is still engaged in low-paying, unskilled labor and lacks adequate housing. Indian culture has largely moved away from traditional caste-based discrimination, but the practice of endogamy remains a significant factor in preserving the status quo. According to the census data of 2001, the scheduled caste population accounted for 16.2% of the total population, and it slightly increased to around 16.6% in Census 2011. The majority of people belonging to scheduled caste communities reside in rural areas, with approximately 80% of them residing in such areas throughout the country. Approximately half of the Scheduled Caste population is concentrated in five states, namely Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. During the British colonial period in the Indian subcontinent, they were referred to as the oppressed class. Scheduled Caste individuals, also referred to as Dalits, experience social exclusion in India and encounter prejudice due to their position at the bottom of the Indian caste hierarchy. The Scheduled Castes are those communities that are scheduled in accordance with clause (1) of article 341 of the Constitution. Scheduled Castes are relatively disadvantaged in various areas such as occupational, educational, social, cultural, religious, and political aspects. As per the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Caste population in India accounts for 16.63% (201,378,372) of the total Indian population (1,210,854,977), with 51.41% being male and 48.59% being female. In Bihar, the Scheduled Caste population makes up 15.91% (165,673,325) of the total population of Bihar (1,040,994,452), with 51.95% being male and 48.05% being female. The Gaya district is divided into four sub-divisions: Gaya Sadar, Sherghati, Nimchak Bathani, and Tekari. The district has 24 Community Development Blocks. They have a total population of more than 4 million and a total 2682 number of villages in the Gaya district. According to the 2011 census, 13.24% of the total population in the Gaya district lives in urban areas, while 86.76% of the population lives in rural areas. The scheduled caste population of Gaya district is 32.91% (1,334,351) of total population (4,391,418) of Gaya district. The total number of Scheduled Castes in Gaya district as per the census of 2011 is 1.33 million, which is nearly 33 percent population of the district. For urban and rural areas, the respective proportion of scheduled castes to the district's total population comes out to be 11.99 and 33.19 percent, respectively.

Objectives of the study:

1. To assess the current socio-economic status of Scheduled Caste communities in Gaya District.
2. To identify the key determinants influencing their economic well-being, and educational status.

Methodology:

The research will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. A stratified random sampling technique will be used to ensure representation across various sub-groups within the Scheduled Caste communities. The primary data collected will be complemented by a thorough review of existing literature on similar topics, providing a comprehensive foundation for the analysis

Result and Discussion

The data provided (table 1) indicates the gender distribution of respondents, with 320 males and 80 females. This information is essential for understanding the demographic composition of the surveyed or studied population. In this context, the majority of respondents are male, constituting 80% of the total, while females make up the remaining 20%. Analyzing gender-specific responses can offer valuable insights into potential variations in perspectives, experiences, or preferences between males and females within the surveyed group.

Fig. 1: Gender wise Respondent in the Household Sample Collection

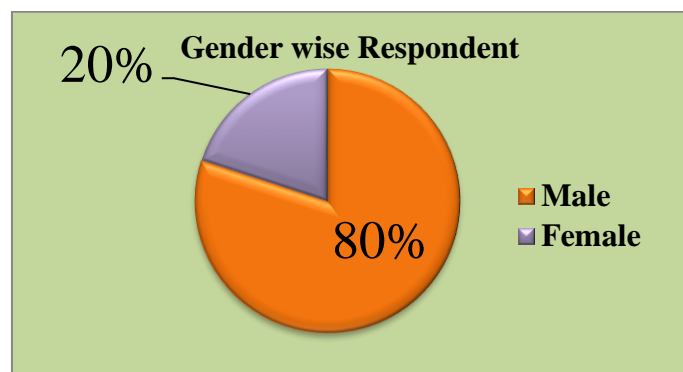


Table 1: Gender-wise education level of the respondent

Gender	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduate	Post Graduate	Total
Male	2	57	62	54	63	59	23	320
Female	0	12	11	19	15	14	9	80
Total	2	69	73	73	78	73	32	400

The table 4.9 provides a detailed breakdown of the education levels of respondents based on gender. The education levels include Illiterate, Primary, Middle, Secondary, Higher Secondary, Graduate, and Post Graduate. The data is separated into two categories: Male and Female, with a total count provided at the end. For males, there are 2 illiterate respondents, 57 with primary education, 62 with middle school education, 54 with secondary education, 63 with higher secondary education, 59 graduates, and 23 with postgraduate qualifications, making a total of 320 individuals. On the other hand, among females, there

are no illiterate respondents. There are 12 with primary education, 11 with middle school education, 19 with secondary education, 15 with higher secondary education, 14 graduates, and 9 with postgraduate qualifications, totaling 80 individuals.

In both genders, there are a total of 2 illiterate respondents, 69 with primary education, 73 with middle school education, 73 with secondary education, 78 with higher secondary education, 73 graduates, and 32 with postgraduate qualifications, making a grand total of 400 individuals. This data provides a comprehensive overview of the education levels of respondents, allowing for insights into the educational distribution among males and females.

Table 2: Education level of the head of the household

	Education level of the head of the household							
Head of the Household	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduate	Post Graduate	Total
Grand father	1	2	9	11	10	6	3	42
Father	7	19	26	19	17	9	9	106
Self	15	19	53	56	56	30	23	252
Total	23	40	88	86	83	45	35	400

The table 2 provides a breakdown of the educational qualifications of the heads of households based on different levels of education. The categories include Illiterate, Primary, Middle, Secondary, Higher Secondary, Graduate, and Post Graduate. The data is segmented into three roles: Grandfather, Father, and Self, with a total count provided at the end. For the Grandfather category, there is one illiterate, two with primary education, nine with a middle school education, eleven with secondary education, ten with higher secondary education, six graduates, and three with postgraduate qualifications, totaling 42 individuals.

In the Father category, there are seven illiterate, 19 with primary education, 26 with middle school education, 19 with secondary education, 17 with higher secondary education, nine graduates, and nine with postgraduate qualifications, making a total of 106 individuals. For the self-category, there are 15 illiterate, 19 with primary education, 53 with middle school education, 56 with secondary education, 56 with higher secondary education, 30 graduates, and 23 with postgraduate qualifications, totaling 252 individuals.

The overall distribution across all categories indicates that there are 23 illiterate heads of households, 40 with primary education, 88 with middle school education, 86 with secondary education, 83 with higher secondary education, 45 graduates, and 35 with postgraduate qualifications, with a grand total of 400

individuals. This data provides a comprehensive overview of the educational qualifications of heads of households in different roles.

Table 3: Household sending children in government and private school

Area	Type of School		
	Government	Private	Total
Rural	163	37	200
Urban	148	52	200
Total	311	89	400

The table 3 illustrates the distribution of household sending children in government and private school area wise, categorizing them as Rural and Urban. The types of schools are further classified as Government and Private. The data is presented in terms of the number of household sending their children in Government schools is 163 and 37 Private schools in rural area, resulting in a total of 200 schools. In Urban areas, there are 148 household sending to Government schools and 52 to Private schools, also totaling 200 schools. Combining both Rural and Urban areas, there are 311 household children going to Government schools and 89 household children going to Private schools, making a grand total of 400 schools. This data provides an overview of the educational landscape in terms of the types of schools and their distribution across rural and urban settings. It offers insights into the prevalence of government and private educational institutions in different areas, which is crucial for understanding the education infrastructure and access to educational opportunities in the given region.

The table 4 presents the highest education level attained by male members of households, categorized by sub-caste. The education levels include Illiterate, Primary, Middle, Secondary, Higher Secondary, Graduate, and Post Graduate.

In the Paswan (Dushad) sub-caste category, there are 7 individuals who are illiterate, 15 with primary education, 25 with middle school education, 21 with secondary education, 33 with higher secondary education, 18 graduates, and 8 postgraduates, totaling 127 individuals. For the Passi (Chaudhary) sub-caste category, there are 3 individuals who are illiterate, 8 with primary education, 13 with middle school education, 21 with secondary education, 4 with higher secondary education, 10 graduates, and 6 postgraduates, making a total of 65 individuals. In the Ravidas (Chamar) sub-caste category, there are 3 individuals who are illiterate, 7 with primary education, 26 with middle school education, 14 with secondary education, 21 with higher secondary education, 11 graduates, and 8 postgraduates, totaling 90 individuals. For the Dhobi (Rajak) sub-caste category, there is 1 individual who is illiterate, and no individuals with primary education. However, there are 2 with middle school education, 1 with secondary

education, and 2 with higher secondary education, making a total of 7 individuals. In the Mushar (Manjhi/Bhuiya) sub-caste category, there are 9 individuals who are illiterate, 10 with primary education, 21 with middle school education, 29 with secondary education, 23 with higher secondary education, 7 graduates, and 12 postgraduates, resulting in a total of 111 individuals.

Table 4: Highest education level of the male member of the household with sub caste category

	Sub Caste Category					
Education	Paswan (Dushad)	Passi (Chaudhary)	Ravidas (Chamar)	Dhobi (Rajak)	Mushar (Manjhi/Bhuiya)	Total
Illiterate	7	3	3	1	9	23
Primary	15	8	7	0	10	40
Middle	25	13	26	2	21	87
Secondary	21	21	14	1	29	86
Higher Secondary	33	4	21	2	23	83
Graduate	18	10	11	0	7	46
Post Graduate	8	6	8	1	12	35
Total	127	65	90	7	111	400

In summary, across all sub-caste categories, there are a total of 23 illiterate individuals, 40 with primary education, 87 with middle school education, 86 with secondary education, 83 with higher secondary education, 46 graduates, and 35 postgraduates, making a grand total of 400 male members of households. This data offers a detailed breakdown of the educational attainment of male members within specific sub-caste categories.

Table 5: Highest education level of the female member of the household with sub caste category wise

	Sub Caste Category					
Education	Paswan (Dushad)	Passi (Chaudhary)	Ravidas (Chamar)	Dhobi (Rajak)	Mushar (Manjhi/Bhuiya)	Total
Illiterate	16	7	8	1	12	44
Primary	25	13	26	2	21	87
Middle	6	4	2	0	8	20
Secondary	33	4	21	2	23	83
Higher Secondary	22	22	14	1	28	87
Graduate	25	15	19	1	19	79
Total	127	65	90	7	111	400

The table 5 depicts the highest education level attained by female members of households, categorized by sub-caste. The education levels include Illiterate, Primary, Middle, Secondary, Higher Secondary, and Graduate. In the Paswan (Dushad) sub-caste category, there are 16 individuals who are illiterate, 25 with primary education, 6 with middle school education, 33 with secondary education, 22 with higher secondary education, and 25 graduates, totaling 127 individuals. For the Passi (Chaudhary) sub-caste category, there are 7 individuals who are illiterate, 13 with primary education, 4 with middle school education, 4 with secondary education, 22 with higher secondary education, and 15 graduates, making a total of 65 individuals. In the Ravidas (Chamar) sub-caste category, there are 8 individuals who are illiterate, 26 with primary education, 2 with middle school education, 21 with secondary education, 14 with higher secondary education, and 19 graduates, resulting in a total of 90 individuals. For the Dhobi (Rajak) sub-caste category, there is 1 individual who is illiterate, 2 with primary education, and no individuals with middle school education. However, there is 1 with secondary education, making a total of 7 individuals. In the Mushar (Manjhi/Bhuiya) sub-caste category, there are 12 individuals who are illiterate, 21 with primary education, 8 with middle school education, 23 with secondary education, 28 with higher secondary education, and 19 graduates, making a total of 111 individuals.

In all sub-caste categories, there are a total of 44 illiterate individuals, 87 with primary education, 20 with middle school education, 83 with secondary education, 87 with higher secondary education, and 79 graduates, resulting in a grand total of 400 female members of households. This data provides a detailed breakdown of the educational attainment of female members within specific sub-caste categories.

Table 6: Family Type with Size of the Household

Family Type	Size of the Household			
	1-5	6-10	11-15	Total
Nuclear	246	0	0	246
Joint	0	88	66	154
Total	246	88	66	400

The table 6 presents data on family types categorized by the size of the household. The household sizes are further divided into three groups: 1-5 members, 6-10 members, and 11-15 members. For Nuclear families with 1-5 members, there are a total of 246 households. In this category, there are no households with sizes ranging from 6-10 or 11-15 members, resulting in a total of 246 households. For Joint families, there are no households with 1-5 members. However, there are 88 households with 6-10 members and 66 households with 11-15 members, making a total of 154 joint family households. Across all family types, there are a total of 246 households with 1-5 members, 88 households with 6-10 members, and 66 households with 11-15 members, resulting in a grand total of 400 households. This data provides an understanding of the distribution of family types based on household size, emphasizing the prevalence of nuclear families with 1-5 members and joint families with larger household sizes.

Table 7: Block wise type of employment of household head

Type of Employment	Block Name				
	Konch	Tekari	Gaya Town	Manpur	Total
Temporary	76	77	62	76	291
Seasonal	4	6	12	6	28
Regular	20	17	26	18	81
Total	100	100	100	100	400

The table 7 provides a breakdown of the type of employment for household heads categorized by different blocks, including Konch, Tekari, Gaya Town, and Manpur. The types of employment are classified as Temporary, Seasonal, and Regular. In the Konch block, 76 household heads are engaged in temporary employment, 4 in seasonal employment, and 20 in regular employment, making a total of 100 households. In the Tekari block, 77 household heads are in temporary employment, 6 in seasonal employment, and 17 in regular employment, also totaling 100 households. For Gaya Town, 62 household

heads are in temporary employment, 12 in seasonal employment, and 26 in regular employment, resulting in 100 households. In the Manpur block, 76 household heads are in temporary employment, 6 in seasonal employment, and 18 in regular employment, summing up to 100 households. In blocks, there are a total of 291 household heads engaged in temporary employment, 28 in seasonal employment, and 81 in regular employment, making a grand total of 400 households. This data provides insights into the distribution of types of employment among household heads in different blocks, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local economic landscape.

The table 8 provides a detailed breakdown of the occupation of household heads categorized by different blocks, including Konch, Tekari, Gaya Town, and Manpur. The occupations are classified into various categories such as Agriculture Labour, Non-Agriculture Labour, Vegetable/Street Vendor, Private Job, Government Job, and Unemployed.

Table 8: Block wise occupation of the head household

Occupation	Konch	Tekari	Gaya Town	Manpur	Total
Agriculture Labour	18	20	18	19	75
Non -Agriculture Labour	50	50	37	50	187
Vegetable/Street Vendor	10	9	8	8	35
Private Job	12	6	21	15	54
Government Job	8	11	12	4	35
Unemployed	2	4	4	4	14
Total	100	100	100	100	400

In the Konch block, 18 household heads are engaged in Agriculture Labour, 50 in Non-Agriculture Labour, 10 in Vegetable/Street Vendor activities, 12 in Private Jobs, 8 in Government Jobs, and 2 are unemployed, making a total of 100 households. In the Tekari block, there are 20 household heads engaged in Agriculture Labour, 50 in Non-Agriculture Labour, 9 in Vegetable/Street Vendor activities, 6 in Private Jobs, 11 in Government Jobs, and 4 are unemployed, also totaling 100 households. For Gaya Town, 18 household heads are engaged in Agriculture Labour, 37 in Non-Agriculture Labour, 8 in Vegetable/Street Vendor activities, 21 in Private Jobs, 12 in Government Jobs, and 4 are unemployed, resulting in 100 households. In the Manpur block, 19 household heads are engaged in Agriculture Labour, 50 in Non-Agriculture Labour, 8 in Vegetable/Street Vendor activities, 15 in Private Jobs, 4 in Government Jobs, and 4 are unemployed, making a total of 100 households. In summary, across all

blocks, there are a total of 75 household heads engaged in Agriculture Labour, 187 in Non-Agriculture Labour, 35 in Vegetable/Street Vendor activities, 54 in Private Jobs, 35 in Government Jobs, and 14 unemployed individuals, making a grand total of 400 households. This data provides insights into the diverse occupational distribution among household heads in different blocks, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local economy.

Table 9: Land holding of the household block wise (in bigha)

Measure (Bigha)	Block Name				
	Konch	Tekari	Gaya Town	Manpur	Total
Landless	77	77	62	76	292
1-2	7	2	7	8	24
3--4	8	11	12	4	35
5-6	4	4	7	6	21
6-8	0	0	7	1	8
8-10	4	6	5	5	20
Total	100	100	100	100	400

The table 9 presents the landholding status categorized by different blocks, including Konch, Tekari, Gaya Town, and Manpur. The landholding is measured in Bighas, and the categories include Landless, 1-2 Bighas, 3-4 Bighas, 5-6 Bighas, 6-8 Bighas, and 8-10 Bighas. In the Konch block, 77 households are landless, 7 have 1-2 Bighas, 8 have 3-4 Bighas, 4 have 5-6 Bighas, and 4 have 8-10 Bighas, resulting in a total of 100 households. In the Tekari block, 77 households are landless, 2 have 1-2 Bighas, 11 have 3-4 Bighas, 4 have 5-6 Bighas, and 6 have 6-8 Bighas, totaling 100 households. For Gaya Town, 62 households are landless, 7 have 1-2 Bighas, 12 have 3-4 Bighas, 7 have 5-6 Bighas, and 5 have 8-10 Bighas, making a total of 100 households. In the Manpur block, 76 households are landless, 8 have 1-2 Bighas, 4 have 3-4 Bighas, 6 have 5-6 Bighas, and 1 has 6-8 Bighas, summing up to 100 households.

In summary, across all blocks, there are a total of 292 landless households, 24 with 1-2 Bighas, 35 with 3-4 Bighas, 21 with 5-6 Bighas, 8 with 6-8 Bighas, and 20 with 8-10 Bighas, making a grand total of 400 households. This data provides insights into the distribution of landholding sizes among households in different blocks, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local land ownership patterns.

The table 10 provides information on the types of houses based on frequency and percentages. The types of houses are classified into Kutchha, Pucca, and Semi-pucca. Kutchha houses have a frequency of 65, representing 15.3% of the total. The valid percent is 16.3%, and this category contributes to the

cumulative percent at the same rate. Pucca houses have a frequency of 88, constituting 20.7% of the total. The valid percent is 22.0%, contributing to a cumulative percent of 38.3%.

Table 10: Distribution of households by type of house

S.No.	Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Kutchha	65	16.3	16.3
2	Pucca	88	22.0	38.3
3	Semi-pucca	247	61.8	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	

Semi-pucca houses have the highest frequency at 247, making up 58.1% of the total. The majority of houses fall under the Semi-pucca category, with 58.1%, followed by Pucca houses at 20.7% and Kutchha houses at 15.3%. This data provides insights into the distribution of housing types in the surveyed area, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local housing infrastructure.

Table 11: Distribution of households by type of accommodation

Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Own	332	83	83.0
Rented	68	17.0	100.0
Total	400	100.0	

The table 11 presents information on the type of accommodation based on frequency and percentages. The types of accommodation are classified into Own and Rented. Own accommodation has a frequency of 332, representing 83% of the total. The corresponding percentage is 83.0%, contributing to the cumulative percent. Rented accommodation has a frequency of 68, constituting 17.0% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 100.0%. In summary, the majority of respondents, 83%, own their accommodation, while 17.0% rent their living space. The data provides insights into the housing tenure of the surveyed population, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local housing situation.

The table 12 presents data on whether households have a separate kitchen, indicating the frequency and percentages of responses. Yes, indicating that households have a separate kitchen, has a frequency of 206, constituting 51.5% of the total responses.

Table 12: Distribution of households having separate kitchen

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	206	51.5	51.5
No	194	48.5	100.0
Total	400	100	

This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 51.5%.No, indicating that households do not have a separate kitchen, has a frequency of 194, representing 48.5% of the total responses. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 100.0%.The 51.5% of the respondents have a separate kitchen, while 48.5% do not. This information provides insights into the housing infrastructure and kitchen arrangements within the surveyed households. The type of water facility in households are primarily Piped Water. All 400 respondents, representing 100% of the total, have access to piped water. The cumulative percent for this category reaches 100.0%. This data suggests that piped water is the predominant source of water supply for the surveyed households, providing a comprehensive understanding of the water infrastructure in the area.

Table 13: Distribution of households by kind of toilet facility

Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Own Toilet	258	64.5	64.5
Shared Toilet	29	7.25	71.8
Public Toilet	113	28.25	100.0
Total	400	100	

The table 13 presents information on the kind of toilet facilities in households, including the frequency and percentages of responses. Own Toilet has a frequency of 258, representing 60.7% of the total respondents. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 64.5%.Shared Toilet has a frequency of 29, constituting 6.8% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 71.8%.Public Toilet has a frequency of 113, representing 26.6% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 100.0%.The majority of respondents, 64.5%, have their own toilet facilities, while 7.25% share toilet facilities, and 28.25% rely on public toilets. This data provides insights into the sanitation infrastructure within the surveyed households, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of living conditions.

Table 14: Distribution of households by basic amenities

Group	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low income	311	77.8	77.8
Middle Income	46	11.5	89.3
Upper Income	43	10.75	100.0
Total	400	100	

The table 14 categorizes households based on their basic amenities into Low Income, Middle Income, and Upper Income, presenting the frequency and percentages of responses. Low Income households have a frequency of 311, constituting 73.2% of the total respondents. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 77.8%. Middle Income households have a frequency of 46, representing 10.8% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 89.3%. Upper Income households have a frequency of 43, making up 10.1% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 100.0%. The majority of respondents has 77.8%, are categorized as low income, followed by 11.5% as middle income, and 10.1% as upper income. This data provides insights into the economic categorization of households based on their access to basic amenities, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of income disparities within the surveyed population.

The table 15 presents information on whether households have an LPG gas connection, including the frequency and percentages of responses. Yes, indicating that households have an LPG gas connection has a frequency of 97, constituting 24.3% of the total respondents.

Table 15: Distribution of households by LPG gas connection

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	97	24.3	24.3
No	303	75.7	100.0
Total	400	100	

This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 24.3%. No, indicating that households do not have an LPG gas connection, has a frequency of 303, representing 75.7% of the total. This category contributes to the cumulative percent, reaching 100.0%. In summary, the majority of respondents, 75.7%, do not have an LPG gas connection, while 24.3% do. This information provides insights into the availability and usage of LPG gas among the surveyed households, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of energy sources.

Table 16: Distribution of households by ration card

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	352	88	88.0
No	48	12	100.0
Total	400	100	

The table 16 provides valuable insights into the possession of ration cards among the surveyed households, with a total of 400 respondents participating in the study. Of this total, 352 households, or 88%, have indicated that they possess a ration card, highlighting the widespread prevalence of this essential document. On the contrary, 48 households, or 12%, reported not having a ration card. Ration cards are vital for accessing government welfare programs and essential commodities, serving as a key indicator of socio-economic status and eligibility for various benefits. This data underscores the importance of understanding the distribution of ration cards among the surveyed population, shedding light on the reach and effectiveness of government support systems in ensuring access to basic necessities for the community.

Table 17: Distribution of households by type of ration card

Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Antyoda card	263	65.8	65.8
PHH card	89	22.2	88.0
Do not have	48	12.0	100.0
Total	400	100.0	

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card and Priority Households (PHH) card are integral components of the government's public distribution system in India, designed to bolster food security among vulnerable segments of the population. The Antyodaya card is specifically issued to the most economically disadvantaged families, emphasizing inclusivity for the poorest of the poor. Beneficiaries of Antyodaya cards enjoy substantial subsidies on essential food grains such as rice and wheat, ensuring their access to nutritious meals through the public distribution system. The primary objective of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among the most marginalized communities by providing them with affordable and sufficient food supplies.

In parallel, the Priority Households (PHH) card is tailored for households falling within the lower-income bracket, extending support to those facing economic challenges. While PHH cardholders also receive subsidized food grains, the subsidy may be comparatively less than that offered to Antyodaya

cardholders. The PHH card plays a vital role in ensuring that a broader spectrum of economically vulnerable households has access to essential food items at reduced prices, contributing to their overall well-being. Both

The data on the type of ration cards among the surveyed households reveals distinct categories, providing valuable insights into the socio-economic distribution of beneficiaries. The majority, with a frequency of 263 households, possess Antyodaya cards. Antyodaya cards are specifically designed to cater to the most economically disadvantaged sections of society, ensuring that the neediest households receive essential food commodities at subsidized rates. Additionally, 89 households possess Priority Households (PHH) cards, which generally cover families falling into the lower-income bracket. On the other hand, 48 households reported not having any ration cards. Understanding the distribution of ration card types is crucial for assessing the targeted delivery of government welfare programs and subsidies. This data contributes significantly to our comprehension of the socio-economic landscape of the surveyed population, shedding light on the diverse levels of assistance provided to households based on their economic needs.

Table 18: Distribution of households by taking advantage of PDS

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	303	75.75	75.75
No	97	24.25	100.0
Total	400	100	

The provided table 18 offers insights into the perceptions of individuals regarding the advantages of the Public Distribution System (PDS) based on their responses. Among the total of 400 respondents, a notable majority, comprising 303 individuals or 75.75%, affirmed the positive impacts and advantages associated with the PDS. This suggests a widespread acknowledgment within the surveyed population regarding the benefits of the PDS, which typically involves the subsidized distribution of essential commodities to ensure food security for economically vulnerable segments of society.

Conversely, 97 respondents, constituting 24.25% of the total, expressed a perspective that did not perceive any advantages in the Public Distribution System. Understanding the diversity of opinions on the PDS is essential for policymakers, as it allows them to assess the system's effectiveness and address concerns raised by those who may not clearly see its advantages. This data underscores the importance of ongoing evaluations and communication strategies to enhance public awareness and trust in the Public Distribution System, ensuring its continued effectiveness in addressing food security challenges.

Table 19: Distribution of households by variety of ration distributed through PDS

Variety	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rice, Wheat	263	65.75	65.75
Rice, Wheat, Sugar	89	22.25	88.0
No	48	12	100.0
Total	400	100	

The provided table 19 offers insights into the composition of essential commodities distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS), detailing the frequency of different combinations among the surveyed individuals. Among the respondents, 263 households, the majority, receive a standard provision of rice and wheat, representing the foundational staples provided through the PDS. Additionally, 89 households receive an extended variety, including rice, wheat, and sugar, enriching their distributed food items.

Conversely, the responses of 48 households indicate that they do not receive any provisions through the PDS. This diversity in the distribution of essential commodities underscores the need for policymakers to tailor the system to accommodate the unique needs of different households. Understanding these variations is crucial for optimizing the PDS, ensuring its effectiveness in addressing food security challenges and meeting the diverse requirements of the surveyed population. By acknowledging the different combinations of provisions and the absence of assistance in some cases, policymakers can refine the distribution system to better align with the nutritional needs of households and contribute to broader food security objectives.

Table 20: Distribution of households by holding of bank account

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	303	75.75	75.8
No	97	24.25	100.0
Total	400	100	

Table 21: Distribution of households by type of account household possessing

Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Jan Dhan Bank Account	303	75.75	75.8
Saving Bank Account	97	24.25	100.0
Total	400	100	

The table 20 data outlines the respondents' possession of bank accounts, indicating the frequency, percentages, and cumulative percentages. Out of the total 400 respondents, 303 individuals, or 75.75%, reported having a bank account. This suggests a substantial majority of the surveyed population is connected to formal banking channels, which is crucial for financial inclusion and economic participation. For those who responded affirmatively to having a bank account, the table 21 delves into the types of bank accounts held. Among the 303 individuals with bank accounts, all of them reported having Jan Dhan Bank Accounts, accounting for 75.75%. Jan Dhan Bank Accounts are geared towards financial inclusion, providing individuals with a gateway to various banking services. Additionally, 97 individuals, constituting 24.25%, reported having a Saving Bank Account. This data underscores the prevalence of Jan Dhan Bank Accounts among the surveyed population, indicating the success of financial inclusion initiatives in bringing individuals into the formal banking sector and providing them with access to essential financial services.

The table 22 provides insights into the types of livestock owned by the surveyed individuals, showcasing the frequency, valid percentage, and cumulative percentage for each category. Among the respondents, various types of livestock were reported, with Cow, Buffalo, Bullock, Goat, Sheep, and Hen being represented.

Table 22: Distribution of households by type of livestock owned

Type	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Cow	19	4.8	4.8
Buffalo	16	4.0	8.8
Bullock	17	4.3	13.0
Goat	15	3.8	16.8
Sheep	15	3.8	20.5
Hen	15	3.8	24.3
NA	303	75.8	100.0
Total	400	100.0	

However, a significant portion of the respondents, 303 individuals or 75.8%, indicated 'NA' (Not Applicable), suggesting that a majority of the surveyed population does not possess or engage in livestock ownership. For those who reported owning livestock, the distribution is diverse, with each category contributing to the cumulative percentage. Cows, Buffaloes, and Bullocks each represent around 4% of the total, while Goats, Sheep, and Hens account for approximately 3.8% each. This data sheds light on the

varied nature of livestock ownership among the surveyed individuals, reflecting different agricultural practices and economic activities within the community.

4.4 Conclusion

In summary, the provided data offers a comprehensive perspective on the socio-economic status of the surveyed population in Gaya District, with key findings across various domains. The gender distribution reveals that 80% of respondents are male, emphasizing a gender imbalance in the survey sample. Education levels exhibit a detailed breakdown, showcasing variations between males and females and covering categories from illiteracy to postgraduate qualifications. Insights into household characteristics highlight family types, sizes, and landholding patterns, emphasizing prevalent nuclear and joint family structures. The data on education infrastructure delves into the distribution of households sending children to government and private schools, shedding light on educational opportunities.

Further, the occupational structure provides a detailed overview of household heads' occupations, categorized by different blocks, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the local economy. Housing infrastructure details the types of houses, categorized as Kutchha, Pucca, and Semi-pucca, providing insights into the housing tenure of the surveyed population. The subsequent tables focus on various aspects related to housing, amenities, and socio-economic indicators among the surveyed households. These include insights into accommodation types, separate kitchen availability, toilet facilities, economic categorization based on basic amenities, LPG gas connection availability, possession of ration cards, types of ration cards, PDS advantages acknowledgment, variety of ration distributed through PDS, bank account holding, and types of livestock owned.

These findings collectively form a robust foundation for further analysis and policy recommendations, enabling researchers and policymakers to formulate evidence-based strategies for targeted interventions and inclusive growth in the region. It is important to note that additional analysis or interpretation may be necessary for a more in-depth understanding of the findings. Researchers and policymakers can leverage this information to develop evidence-based strategies for targeted interventions, fostering inclusive growth in Gaya District. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the potential need for additional analysis or interpretation to gain a more profound understanding of the findings.

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