

# Child Wellbeing, Schooling and Living Standards

REPORT ON THREE VILLAGES  
OF  
RAJASTHAN

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FAS-UNICEF COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON CHILD WELLBEING, SCHOOLING AND LIVING STANDARDS

In recent years, two prominent though disparate trends have been observed in India: impressive economic growth and wealth creation; and stagnation in key social indicators, particularly among disadvantaged populations, across geographical areas, castes and gender.

While there have been positive trends in respect of certain social indicators, e.g., a significant increase in literacy rates and the enrolment of both boys and girls in primary school, however, progress has been slow in areas requiring systemic changes, such as in the provision of good quality services. In this context, the design of better strategies requires an understanding of the social and economic constraints faced by children and their families, particularly in rural India, where deprivation is more severe than in urban India. To take the case of education and child labour, the persistence of class and caste differences is recognized as an important factor in ensuring equal opportunities to education. While the macro data make overall patterns clear, micro data can actually address the question of identifying specific class and caste constraints.

Since its inception in 2003, the Foundation for Agrarian Studies has been engaged in multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical study of the rural economy and society of India. A defining feature of the Foundation's work is that it is conducted in association with social and political activists and members of mass organizations. From 2005, the Foundation has initiated a Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) in order to study village economy and society in depth (see BOX). In every selected State, our practice is to survey two or three villages in different agro-ecological regions. To date, as part of the project, village surveys have been completed in 18 villages in seven States in India.

It is well established that children in India continue to suffer multiple deprivations, in terms of schooling and education, in terms of health and nutrition, and also in terms of basic household amenities (such as sanitation and water). The FAS UNICEF collaborative programme attempts to complement existing analyses based on large-scale survey and Census data with village level data obtained from the FAS-PARI. An important function of small-scale village-level surveys is to identify emerging relationships and trends that need to be then tested on larger data sets. While the broad patterns of deprivation can be established with large-scale data such as from the Census and the NFHS, village level data allow us to examine inter-relationships between

household and individual variables that affect a child. For example, we can examine the relation between low incomes and child deprivation or between caste status and deprivation.

### **About FAS PARI (Project on Agrarian Relations in India)**

*The objectives of the Foundation's Project on Agrarian Relation in India (PARI) are*

- *to analyse village-level production, production systems and livelihoods and the socio-economic characteristics of different strata of the rural population;*
- *to conduct specific studies of sectional deprivation in rural India, particularly with regard to the Dalit and Scheduled Tribe populations, women, specific minorities and the income-poor;*
- *and to report on the state of basic village amenities and the access of the rural people to the facilities of modern life.*

*The study is being conducted over a period of about six years (it began in 2006). In every selected State, our practice is to survey two or three villages in different agro-ecological regions. The villages studied will ultimately represent a wide range of different agro-ecological regions in the country.*

*Our team conducts a census-type survey that covers every household and individual in each village. A village-level questionnaire is also canvassed in each village. In addition, a village profile, based on the existing sources of secondary data, is constructed.*

UNICEF entered into a partnership with the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) as part of its social policy programme (part of the ongoing Country Programme 2008-12) in September 2010. In the partnership programme, FAS will provide cross-sectional and micro-level data on the status of children from a variety of agro-ecological settings. The unique FAS-PARI data base of village data, from 14 villages across six States will be used to examine and discuss various types of deprivation among children, and the factors associated with such deprivations.

Specifically, an attempt is being made to link deprivations among children in respect of schooling and access to basic amenities, to household incomes, assets and occupations, and to the particularity of the agro-ecological and socio-economic structure of each village. Together, the Foundation and UNICEF will use this micro-level analysis to detail macro-level trends data on improvements in child well-being, providing nuance and depth towards understanding the main drivers of change for children.

The output of this collaboration will be a series of publications, detailed reports for six States and one overview report, dealing with aspects of deprivation and living standards among women and children in rural areas.

Each report (for a State) will cover the following features of the survey villages

- Document and examine the pattern of schooling and educational attainment among children of different social groups
- Relate the observed deprivations/attainments to household socio-economic factors such as incomes, assets, occupations, to household living conditions and to individual factors such as mother's occupation and education.
- Examine the incidence of child labour and identify factors at the household level and village level associated with the persistence of child labour
- Examine deprivations suffered by children on account of lack of basic civic amenities within a household, including access to safe water, electricity, toilets and quality housing.
- Identify the types of government benefits obtained by children (e..g scholarships, participation in ICDS).

These reports can help propose areas in which social protection policies need strengthening in order to end deprivations suffered by rural children and will complement UNICEF's work on analysis of child poverty and vulnerability in the economic and social development domains.

This Report gives a detailed account of child well-being in three villages of Rajasthan. In 2007, a census survey was completed in two villages: Dungariya, a tribal village in Udaipur district and 25 F Gulabewala, an irrigated village in Ganganagar district. The third village, Rewasi in Sikar district, was surveyed in 2010.

Rajasthan: 25 F Gulabewala Village

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## 1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

25 F Gulabewala is a village in Karanpur tehsil of Sri Ganganagar district. The village is about 25 km from Sri Ganganagar town and is connected by an all-weather road. The nearest town and railhead is at Kesarisinghpur, 9 km away. The village has two primary schools and one secondary school, an anganwadi centre, a PHC, and also a branch of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur.

In 2007 a census survey of the village was undertaken by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) as Part of its Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI<sup>1</sup>). In 2007, 204 households lived in 25 F Gulabewala. The main castes in the village were Jat Sikh, Mazhabi (Dalit) Sikh, and Nayak (Dalit).

The village is irrigated by the Gang Canal project, and as shown in Table 1.3, the entire cultivable area is irrigated. The main crops cultivated in Gulabewala were wheat, rapeseed, cotton, cluster beans, and fodder crops. In recent years, a decline in the availability of water has resulted in a decline in the cultivation of cotton. In particular, a substantial part of the agricultural land in the village is left fallow in the kharif season because of poor irrigation.

Table 1.1 *Location of the village, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Village	25 F Gulabewala
District	Sri Ganganagar
Block/Tehsil	Karanpur
Nearest town	Kesarisinghpur
Distance from nearest town	9 Km.
Nearest railway station	Kesarisinghpur
Distance from nearest railway station	9 Km.
Bus stop within the village	No
Metalled approach road	Yes

The FAS survey in 2007 found that land distribution in the village was extremely unequal. About 65 per cent of all households in the village were landless. At the other end of the distribution, the largest landowning household had about 287 acres of land. In all, 31 households had more than 30 acres of land each. Agricultural land was owned primarily by

<sup>1</sup> For details of the project, see [www.fas.org.in](http://www.fas.org.in)

Jat Sikh households; only three Dalit households, out of a total of 123 Dalit households resident in the village, owned any agricultural land.

Table 1.2 *Description of village infrastructure and amenities, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Item	Number/ description
Number of anganwadi centre within village	1
Number of primary schools (Std I-V) within village	2
Number of middle schools (up to Std VIII) within village	0
Number of secondary schools (up to Std X) within village	1
Number of higher secondary schools (up to Std XII) within village	0
Distance from nearest PHC	Within village
Post office within the village	Yes
Bank within the village	Yes (State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur)

Table 1.3 *Land use and population, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Village	Area (in hectares)	As % of geographical area
Geographical area	340	100.0
Land use (as % of geographical area)		
Forest	0.00	0.0
Area under cultivation		
Irrigated	300.59	88.4
Unirrigated	0.00	0.0
Cultivable waste	0.00	0.0
Area not available for cultivation	39.41	11.6

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 1.4 *Agro-economic features of the village, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Agro-ecological region (NARP classification)	
Major crops grown (by crop seasons)	Kharif: Cotton, Cluster beans Rabi: Rapeseed, Wheat Annual crops: Fodder crops
Major source of irrigation	Gang Canal Project

## 2. DEMOGRAPHY

### 2.1 Population, social composition, sex ratios and children per household

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 provide data on the number of households and on the population of Gulabewala, disaggregated by social group, as per the FAS survey of 2007. Leaving aside the three Other Caste Hindu households, the caste divide in the village is essentially between the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Scheduled Castes form around 60 per cent of all households and have a somewhat smaller share in the population. Other Backward Classes constitute a little less than two-fifths of households, but account for more than two-fifths of the population.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	123	60.3
OBC	78	38.2
Other Caste Hindu	3	1.5
All	204	100.0

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by caste and sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			Percentage		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	316	313	629	56.6	54.6	55.6
OBC	233	251	484	41.8	43.8	42.8
Other Caste Hindu	9	9	18	1.6	1.6	1.6
All	558	573	1131	100.0	100.0	100.0

The population of the village in 2007 was 1131 persons. The population of the village in 2001 as per the Census of India was 1358, with 658 females and 700 males.

Table 2.3 shows the distribution of the population of the village by age group and sex.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of population by age and sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Population			As percentage of corresponding total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	20	29	49	3.6	5.1	4.3
3 years to 6 years	32	37	69	5.7	6.5	6.1
7 years to 9 years	22	32	54	3.9	5.6	4.8
10 years to 14 years	63	63	126	11.3	11.0	11.1
15 years to 17 years	40	47	87	7.2	8.2	7.7
18 years to 24 years	82	82	164	14.7	14.3	14.5
25 years to 34 years	94	83	177	16.8	14.5	15.6
35 years to 49 years	97	101	198	17.4	17.6	17.5
50 years to 59 years	45	38	83	8.1	6.6	7.3
60 years to 69 years	34	31	65	6.1	5.4	5.7
≥ 70 years	29	30	59	5.2	5.2	5.2
All	558	573	1131	100.0	100.0	100.0

The population sex ratio was 970 females per 1000 males. This is considerably higher than the figure for the Ganganagar district at 887 in 2011 and that for rural Rajasthan at 932, also in 2011.<sup>2</sup> The child sex ratio for the age group of 0 to 6 years was, however, much lower at 788 as against 854 and 883 respectively for Ganganagar and Rajasthan in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

Turning to the question of household size, Table 2.4 presents the distribution of households by size in Gulabewala. Nearly half of all households - 45.6 per cent to be precise –have six or more members. This is in line with what one finds in much of northern and western India where fertility rates have so far been significantly higher than in the southern States, and where joint families may also be a more frequent occurrence. The average size of household at 5.5 persons is much higher than is the norm in southern States, but lower than in the villages in U.P surveyed by FAS.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The population sex ratio in 2001 was 940 for 25 F Gulabewala and 930 for rural Rajasthan, but much lower at 873 for the district of Sri Ganganagar.

<sup>3</sup> In 2001, the child sex ratio was 849 for Ganganagar district and 914 for rural Rajasthan.

<sup>4</sup> In the two villages in Uttar Pradesh surveyed by the FAS in 2006, the average household size was 7.2 in Mahatwar and 6.0 in Harevli. The two villages surveyed by FAS in Maharashtra – Nimshirgaon and Warwat Khanderao – both had an average household size of 5.2, marginally smaller than Gulabewala. The three villages that FAS surveyed in Andhra Pradesh in 2005 had much lower household sizes on the average.

Table 2.4 *Distribution of households by household size, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Household size	Number of households	As percentage of all households	Average size of the household	Cumulative number of persons	Cumulative percentage of population
1	2	1.0	1	2	0.2
2	17	8.3	2	36	3.2
3	23	11.3	3	105	9.3
4	32	15.7	4	233	20.6
5	44	21.6	5	453	40.1
6	27	13.2	6	615	54.4
7	21	10.3	7	762	67.4
≥ 8	38	18.6	9.7	1131	100.0
All	204	100.0	5.5	1131	100.0

NOTE 1: Children (in all references in this document) are defined as persons in the age group 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise specified.

Though the average household size of 5.5 is not low, there are quite a few households in Gulabewala that do not have any member below 18 years of age. Table 2.5 presents the distribution of households without children by social group while Table 2.6 shows the average number of children by household size.

The overall proportion of households without children is close to one-fifth in Gulabewala.<sup>5</sup> It is more or less the same for both the major caste groups-Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes. The average number of children per household is 1.9 when all households are considered and 2.35 when only households with children are considered. These numbers are distinctly lower than the corresponding numbers for Mahatwar and Harevli in U.P., but higher than those for the villages of Andhra Pradesh surveyed by FAS. The numbers are higher than those for Nimshirgaon, but lower than those for Warwat Khanderao, both being villages in Maharashtra surveyed by the FAS in 2007.

<sup>5</sup> This proportion compares with close to half in Ananthavaram, around a third in Bukkacherla, Kothapalle and Nimshirgaon and a very low one-twentieth in Mahatwar. Harveli in U.P. and Warwat in Maharashtra show more or less the same proportion of households without children as 25 F Gulabewala.

Table 2.5 *Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Caste	23	123	18.7
OBC	15	78	19.2
Other Caste Hindu	1	3	33.3
All	39	204	19.1

Table 2.6 *Average number of children per household by household size, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Household size	Number of households	Average number of children
1	2	0.0
2	17	0.1
3	23	0.8
4	32	1.3
5	44	1.9
6	27	2.0
7	21	2.7
≥ 8	38	3.4
All	204	1.9
HHs with children	165	2.35

We turn now to the question of whether children live with their parents as is generally assumed or live elsewhere, on account of various factors including the non-residence of one or both of the parents on account of migration, divorce or separation, death of one or both of the parents and so on. Table 2.7 provides the relevant information.

Predictably, most children live in a household where both parents are present. However, in about ten per cent of the cases in respect of both boys and girls, this was not the case. Among male children, 15 of them live with the mother, but not the father. In the case of ten of them, the father is no more. In the case of three other boys, the father lives in a location away from the village on work. In the remaining two cases, the parents are separated. Ten of the boys belong to Scheduled Caste and the other five to Other Backward Class households. The boys are more or less equally distributed over the first, second, fourth and top asset quintiles.

Table 2.7 *In whose home do children live? 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Children living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	159	187	346	89.8	89.9	89.9
Mother, not father	9	15	24	5.1	7.2	6.2
Father, not mother	4	4	8	2.3	1.9	2.1
Neither parents but with other family members	2	2	4	1.1	1.0	1.0
No relative	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Spouse/ spouse's parents	3	0	3	1.7	0.0	0.8
All	177	208	385	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of nine girls living with the mother and not the father, eight of them have lost the father, and in the case of the remaining girl, the parents are separated. Seven of the girls are from the bottom two asset quintiles and two from the top. The former belong to Scheduled Caste and the latter to Other Backward Class households. There are four boys and four girls living with the father and not the mother. In all the cases, the mother was dead. These four boys and girls are from Scheduled Caste households and from the bottom two quintiles. There are three girls living not with their parents but with the parents of their respective spouses.

## 2.2 Activity Status of Children

In India, there is a legal provision that children below the age of 14 completed years are not to be engaged in paid or unpaid work. Ideally, they should be enrolled in and attending an educational institution in order to acquire formal education and the skills thereof. However, in reality, not all children aged 14 years or younger are in school. This is true even in relatively more 'developed' states such as Tamil Nadu. What is the picture in 25 F Gulabewala in this regard? The relevant information is brought together in Tables 2.8 to 2.10.<sup>6</sup>

A rather high proportion of children aged between 6 and 14 years – nearly one-fifth – are working children. Most of them -more than a fifth of all girls and over one-tenth of all boys - are in fact working for an employer outside the household, while a relatively small percentage are working on the household operational holding.

<sup>6</sup> 'Work', for the purposes of this Report, refers to activities that include paid or unpaid work outside the household for an employer, work on household operational holding and work in any household enterprise other than that relating to animal resources. Children engaged in any of these activities are working children.

Table 2.8 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in the age group		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	21	11	32	22.6	10.5	16.2
Work on household operational holding	1	3	4	1.1	2.9	2.0
Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	22	14	36	23.7	13.3	18.2

Tables 2.9 and 2.10 bring out a striking fact. *Of the 32 children working for an employer outside the household, all the girls and all but one of the boys belong to the Scheduled Castes.*

Table 2.9 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			As percentage of all boys in the age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Scheduled Caste	10	0	0	17.5	0.0	0.0
OBC	1	3	0	2.2	6.5	0.0
Other Caste	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hindu						
All	11	3	0	10.5	2.9	0.0

## CHILD WORKERS

We give below a brief description of four households with regular child workers.

1. Kuldeep, aged 12 years, is a long term worker for a big landlord. He comes from a Scheduled Caste family. His father met with a road accident some years ago and is unable to work. His mother is engaged as a domestic worker, and his younger brother is at school. The family has no land, and even the house they live in has been given to them by the landlord.

Kuldeep began working at the age of 10. He works from 7 am to 7 pm everyday at various tasks related to animal husbanding and housework in the landlord's house. Last year, his earnings were Rs 6,667 in cash; he was given two meals and tea at the landlord's house every day.

2. Dinar is a 70 year old man and his two sons and two daughters live with him. The eldest daughter was married but now separated and living with her three children in her father's household. She worked as a domestic worker for a big landowning family, and also participated in agricultural labour. Her three children were in school. Both Dinar's sons, aged 16 and 14, were long term workers at the time of the survey. His fourth child, a daughter, also worked as a domestic employee and participated in agricultural and non-agricultural employment. The family was landless, belonged to the Meghwal (Scheduled Caste) caste and had migrated to Gulabewala in 1965.

Both boys worked year-round for big landlord families. Their tasks pertain mainly to animal husbandry and domestic work. The elder boy, K, earned Rs 10,000 last year. His original contract was for 12,000 but as he was ill and did not work for two months, he was paid less. K works for 9-10 hours a day and performs the following tasks: cleaning the house, washing clothes, cleaning utensils, clearing the dung, feeding the animals, cutting fodder, and carrying food for the workers in the field.

The younger boy, S, was due to receive Rs 6000, but was paid Rs 4500, as he too fell ill for a few days. His wage was lower as he was younger, the father said. Although he performs the same tasks as his elder brother, he was said to be "less efficient" by his employer.

The family has taken loans from both landlords, and thus remain tied to the employers.

3. Sarati, a widow, lives with four children, aged 7 to 15. Her husband was an alcoholic and committed suicide a few months prior to the survey. The family has no land and belongs to the Meghwal caste (Dalit). The eldest son, aged 15, and mentally challenged, spent his days grazing animals. Two daughters, aged 13 and 14, were both domestic employees in the same household where the mother worked. All three (mother and daughters) worked for a rich peasant (owning 48 acres) and their tasks covered all household work as well as care of the animals. The combined wage received by mother and two daughters was Rs 500 last year. In addition, all three were given rotis and a glass of milk once a day. Originally, they were to be paid Rs 2000 in cash, but as the family took some wheat and old clothes, the cash payment was lessened.

4. A young couple, working as agricultural labourers, live with four daughters (aged 10 to 14) and a younger son (aged 8). The son and one daughter attend school, but the other three girls were all working. All three girls worked at a variety of agricultural tasks such as cotton picking, harvesting wheat and moong, and also helped with household chores.

Comment: The experiences of these four households where girls and boys are working at hard manual labour from a young age reflect the extreme poverty and vulnerability of landless Scheduled Caste families of Gulabewala. As the last case study, indicated, even with both parents working as full time agricultural labourers, the children have been drawn in to the work force. In the other three cases, the death or disability of an adult male worker was a further factor in forcing young children to work.

These case studies demonstrate that the availability of a government school in the neighbourhood is far from adequate to ensure that all children attend school. Free books, uniforms, shoes and generous scholarships are needed to ensure universal school attendance.

Table 2.10 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			As percentage of all girls in the age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Scheduled Caste	21	0	0	26.6	0.0	0.0
OBC	0	1	0	0.0	7.1	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
All	21	1	0	22.6	1.1	0.0

More than one-sixth of boys and more than one-fourth of girls aged 6 to 14 years from Scheduled Caste households in Gulabewala are working children, all of them as wage labourers. While this highlights the social dimension of the deprivation that some children experience, it is also important to examine the economic correlates of deprivation of various kinds. With this end

in view, we have classified the households into five equal quintiles by their levels of asset holding.<sup>7</sup>

The maximum, minimum, median and mean asset values of each asset quintile are presented in Table 2.11.

Table 2.11 *Details of asset quintile (in Rupees), 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean
Q1	550	25250	11990	12407
Q2	25720	42620	33650	33185
Q3	42780	105100	60440	65389
Q4	120000	5089900	1395440	1762168
Q5	5129598	34282934	8237950	10588966

Table 2.11 brings out the enormous inequality that characterizes 25 F Gulabewala village.<sup>8</sup> While the poorest household had assets worth a mere 550 rupees, the richest has three crore forty-two lakh eighty-two thousand nine hundred and thirty-four rupees worth of assets! The ratio works out to 62,633! It is also clear from the Table that most households in Gulabewala were not rich. The maximum asset value in the third quintile has just over one lakh rupees. Even at a generous ten per cent per annum return on wealth, this will give a household just 10, 000 rupees as annual income-which is barely equal to the daily per capita expenditure figure for the official poverty line of 26 rupees per day. A single person household in the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile will still be barely crossing the poverty line. On the other hand the upper segments of Q4 and all of Q5 were wealthier than the rest.<sup>9</sup>

How does wealth status correlate with social group status? Table 2.12 shows the distribution of households by social group and asset quintile. The bottom three asset quintiles are heavily - almost to the point of being solely – populated by Scheduled Caste households. Out of 121 households belonging to the quintiles Q1 to Q3, 115 belong to the Scheduled Castes. By

<sup>7</sup> Assets include land and water bodies, houses and buildings, trees, animals, other means of production, means of transport, domestic durable goods, and other assets such as grain stock and inventories. Assets do not include financial assets and gold. Assets are valued at present value, reported by households.

<sup>8</sup> On income inequality in Gulabewala, see Madhura Swaminathan and Vikas Rawal, "Is India Really a Country of Low Income Inequality? Observations from Eight Villages, *Review of Agrarian Studies*, vol 1, no 1, 2011.

<sup>9</sup> Obviously, the asset status of a household is an important factor in determining its economic status in structural terms, but not the sole or even primary determinant in contingent terms, given the variation in performance of assets in terms of income generation.

contrast, Scheduled Castes do not at all figure in Q5, which consists solely of Other Backward Class households. While Scheduled Castes form a little over 60 per cent of all households in Gulabewala, they account for only 8 out of 83 households in Q4 and Q5. On the other hand, less than 8 per cent of Other Backward Class households are to be found in the bottom three asset quintiles as against nearly 93 per cent of all Scheduled Caste households. One can almost say that the bottom three quintiles consist of Scheduled Castes and the top two of Other Backward Classes, ignoring the few other caste Hindu households and a handful of Scheduled Caste households in Q4. There is thus a clear correlation between social group status and wealth status as measured by asset holding.

Table 2.12 *Distribution of households by social group and asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households (as percentage of all households in the asset quintile)						As percentage of all households in the social group					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All
Scheduled Caste	38 (95.0)	39 (97.5)	38 (92.7)	8 (19.6)	0 (0.0)	123 (60.3)	30.9	31.7	30.9	6.5	0.0	100.0
OBC	2 (5.0)	1 (2.5)	3 (7.3)	30 (73.1)	42 (100.0)	78 (38.2)	2.6	1.3	3.8	38.5	53.8	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (7.3)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
All	40 (100.0)	40 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	42 (100.0)	204 (100.0)	19.6	19.6	20.1	20.1	20.6	100.0

Now, let us look at the incidence of working children by asset quintiles. Tables 2.13 and 2.14 provide the data in this regard for boys and girls respectively.

Table 2.13 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of all boys in the age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Q1	3	0	0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	5	0	0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Q3	3	0	0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q5	0	3	0	0.0	10.0	0.0
All	11	3	0	10.5	2.9	0.0

All children working for an employer outside the household belong to households from the bottom three asset quintiles. As earlier noted, all but one of them are Scheduled Castes. Of the four children working on household operational holding, three belong to Q5 and one to Q4, and all are from Other Backward Class households. Caste and wealth have a lot to do with children working, as does the peasant character of even some rich households in so far as their children work on own operational holding<sup>10</sup>

Table 2.14 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of all girls in the age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Q1	6	0	0	23.1	0.0	0.0
Q2	3	0	0	11.1	0.0	0.0
Q3	12	0	0	54.5	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	1	0	0.0	9.1	0.0
Q5	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	21	1	0	22.6	1.1	0.0

### 2.3 Age at Marriage

Before we conclude this section on demography and turn to the picture in 25 F Gulabewala in respect of education, let us take a brief look at how the village fares in respect of the issue of age at marriage. The legal age at marriage in India is 21 years for males and 18 years for females. There is a general perception that girls, in particular, continue to get married before reaching the legal minimum age in rural India. However, it is also recognized that the frequency of occurrence of this phenomenon has been declining.

The data for Gulabewala in this regard are presented in Table 2.15.

<sup>10</sup> See, also Swaminathan and Rawal (2011b) on the role of caste in income inequality in 25 F Gulabewala village.

Table 2.15 *Persons currently married in the age group below 18 years for women and below 21 years for men, by sex and social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of married Females below 18 years of age	As percentage of all females below 18 years in social group	Number married males below 21 years of age	As percentage of all males below 21 years in social group
Scheduled Caste	4	3.0	3	2.0
OBC	0	0.0	1	1.0
All	4	2.3	4	1.6

Four females aged less than 18 years, all belonging to the Scheduled Castes, were married. Similarly, four boys –one from an Other Backward Class household and the other three from Scheduled Caste households – were married. There seems to be a marginally higher incidence of marriage below the legal minimum age in Gulabewala than in some other villages surveyed by FAS.

We wish to make it clear that we have not investigated the age at marriage of all the married members of the population in Gulabewala, and cannot say anything about the larger issue of how widespread the practice of marriage before attainment of the legal minimum age may be.

### 3. EDUCATION

#### 3.1 School Attendance

All three aspects of the challenge of universal school education- enrolment, retention and achievement with regard to learning outcomes- continue to remain unmet in India. In the more backward parts of the country, universal enrolment and attendance constitute the primary challenges. The data on school attendance presented in Table 3.1 and that on gross enrolment ratios presented in Table 3.2 shows that 25 F Gulabewala has quite some distance to go to achieve universal school enrolment and attendance.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 10 years	38	50	88	82.6	89.3	86.3
11 to 14 years	27	40	67	57.4	81.6	69.8
15 to 16 years	14	20	34	56.0	62.5	59.6
17 to 18 years	12	11	23	34.3	35.5	34.8
6 to 18 years	91	121	212	59.5	72.0	66.0

Figure 3.1 *Proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

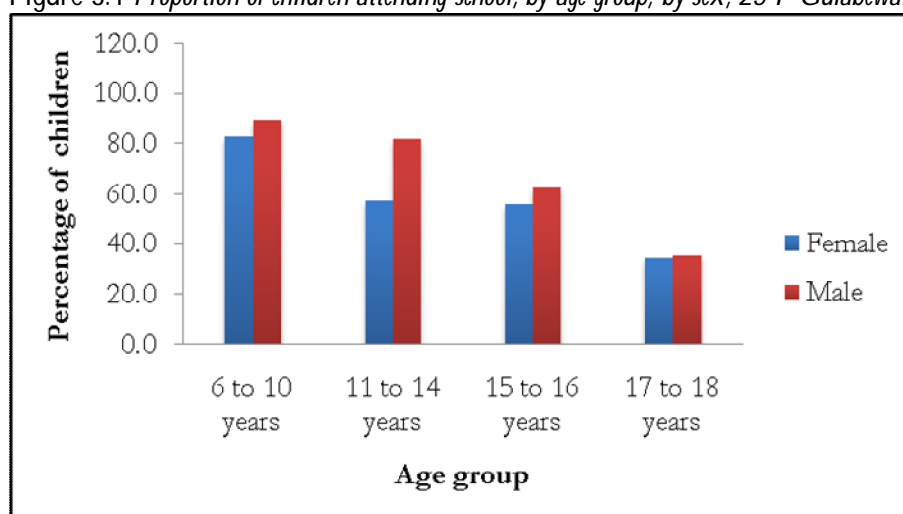


Table 3.2 *Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Standard I to V	52	65	117	102.0	94.2	97.5
Standard VI to VIII	23	33	56	48.9	67.4	58.3
Standard IX to X	14	12	26	35.9	25.5	30.2
Standard XI to XII	4	11	15	8.9	23.9	16.5

NOTE 2: Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in give school-year.

The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development, India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:

Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years

Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years

Standard IX to XII: 14 to 18 years

In Table 3.2 we have divided Standard IX to XII further in two categories:

Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years

Standard XI to XII: 16 to 18 years

### 3.2 School Attendance by Social Group and Asset Quintile

Overall attendance ratios are well below 100 per cent even in the age group of 6 to 10 years and significantly lower for girls as compared to boys in the age group of 6 to 14 years. Gross enrolment ratios are also unimpressive. Attendance and enrolment ratios decline sharply for girls beyond primary school and for boys after the age of 14 years. Only around a third of boys and girls in the age group of 17-18 years are attending school.

Tables 3.3 to 3.5 show attendance ratios by social group for various age groups, both overall and by sex.

Table 3.3 *Children attending school, by age group, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Scheduled Caste		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	61	81.3	25	100.0	2	100.0
11 to 14 years	34	55.7	33	94.3	0	NA
15 to 16 years	14	37.8	20	100.0	0	NA
17 to 18 years	5	12.2	18	72.0	0	NA
6 to 18 years	114	53.3	96	91.4	2	100.0

The ratios are substantially lower for Scheduled Castes than for Other Backward Classes in all age groups, and for both boys and girls.

Table 3.4 *Boys attending school, by age group, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Scheduled Caste		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	30	83.3	18	100.0	2	100.0
11 to 14 years	13	61.9	27	96.4	0	NA
15 to 16 years	9	42.9	11	100.0	0	NA
17 to 18 years	1	5.6	10	76.9	0	NA
6 to 18 years	53	55.2	66	94.3	2	100.0

Table 3.5 *Girls attending school, by age group, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Scheduled Caste		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	31	79.5	7	100.0	0	NA
11 to 14 years	21	52.5	6	85.7	0	NA
15 to 16 years	5	31.3	9	100.0	0	NA
17 to 18 years	4	17.4	8	66.7	0	NA
6 to 18 years	61	51.7	30	85.7	0	NA

Figure 3.2 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

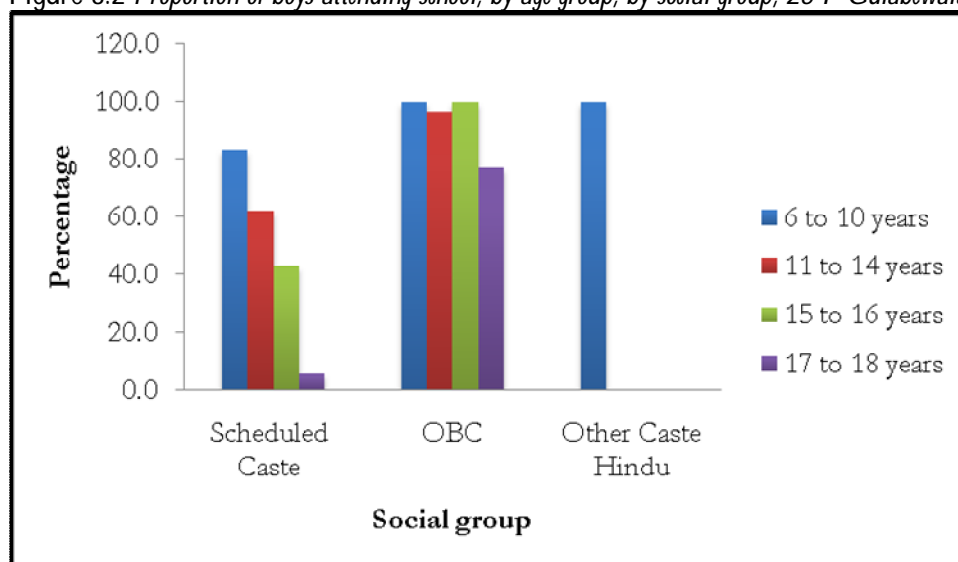
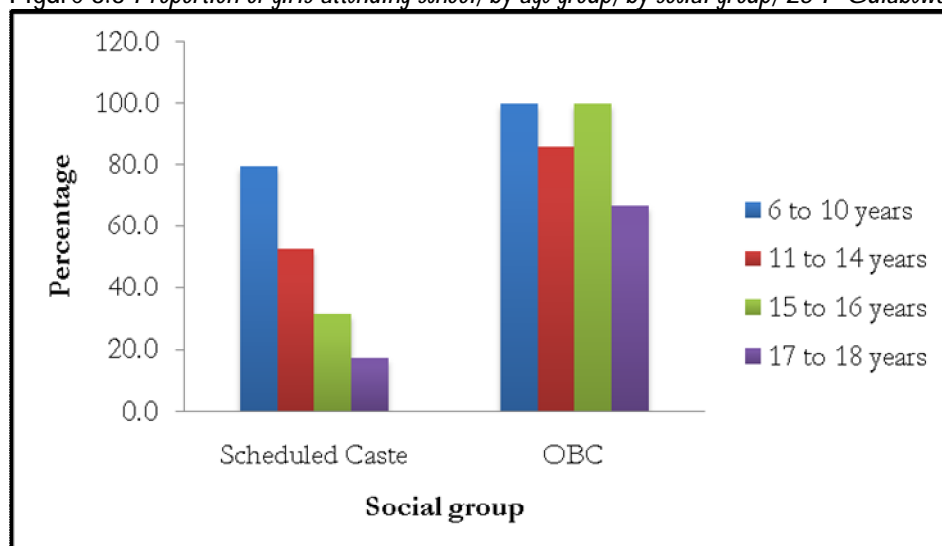


Figure 3.3 Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007



Only around half of all girls and a slightly larger percentage of boys in the age group of 6 to 18 years are in school as against nearly 95 per cent for boys and 86 per cent of girls from Other Backward Class households. However, the fact that even among Other Backward Classes, quite a few girls and boys are out of school is worth noting.

Let us now examine the variation in school attendance ratios across asset quintiles. The data are shown in Tables 3.6 to 3.8, overall and separately for boys and girls.

Table 3.6 Children attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	30	81.1	13	76.5	15	88.2	18	94.7	12	100.0
11 to 14 years	11	57.9	10	50.0	12	60.0	9	75.0	25	100.0
15 to 16 years	3	42.9	7	46.7	3	25.0	8	80.0	13	100.0
17 to 18 years	2	28.6	0	0.0	2	12.5	8	57.1	11	73.3
6 to 18 years	46	65.7	30	45.5	32	49.2	43	78.2	61	93.8

Table 3.7 Boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	18	81.8	3	60.0	8	100.0	12	100.0	9	100.0
11 to 14 years	6	75.0	2	40.0	4	57.1	7	87.5	21	100.0
15 to 16 years	2	33.3	4	66.7	2	33.3	3	60.0	9	100.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	2	33.3	8	88.9
6 to 18 years	26	70.3	9	36.0	15	55.6	24	77.4	47	97.9

In general, the bottom three quintiles have distinctly lower attendance ratios than the top two quintiles. The highest asset quintile records 100 per cent attendance ratio for both boys and girls in the age groups of 6 to 10, 11 to 14 and 15 to 16 years, and is clearly a class apart. Interestingly, the attendance percentage for Q1 is higher than those for Q2 and Q3 in respect of both boys and girls.

It is also interesting to note that in Q2, the school attendance ratio for girls is higher than that for boys in the age group of 6 to 18 years. In Q1, Q3 and Q5, the opposite is the case while in Q4 the attendance ratio for girls is marginally higher than that for boys.

Table 3.8 *Girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	12	80.0	10	83.3	7	77.8	6	85.7	3	100.0
11 to 14 years	5	45.5	8	53.3	8	61.5	2	50.0	4	100.0
15 to 16 years	1	100.0	3	33.3	1	16.7	5	100.0	4	100.0
17 to 18 years	2	33.3	0	0.0	1	10.0	6	75.0	3	50.0
6 to 18 years	20	60.6	21	51.2	17	44.7	19	79.2	14	82.4

Figure 3.4 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

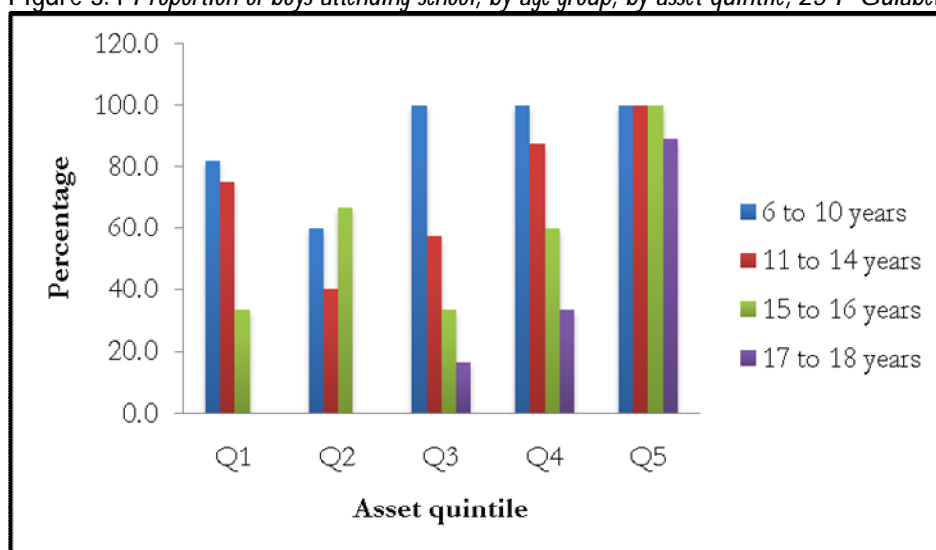
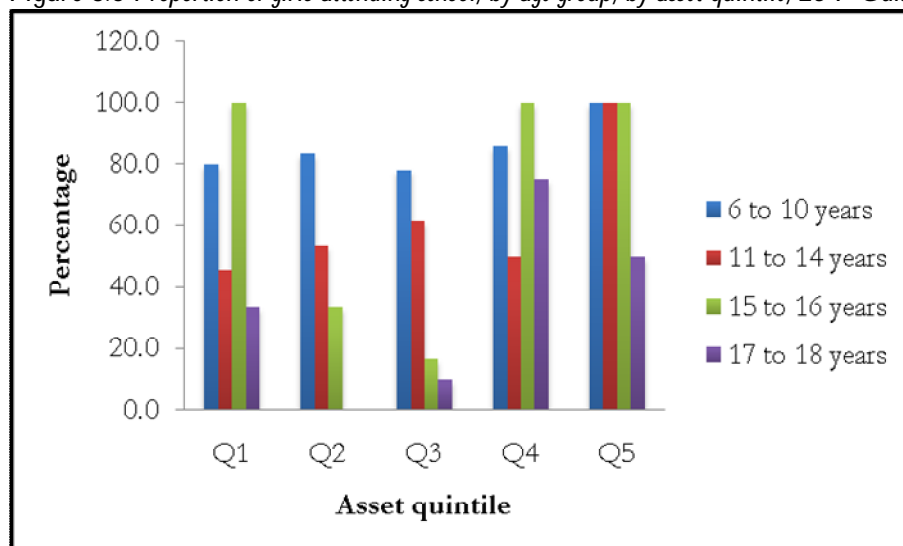


Figure 3.5 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*



Not surprisingly, two mentally challenged boys were not in school; there is no special school available to them.

It is also of note that of 204 households, only four households (and six children altogether) reported receiving scholarships. The scholarship reported from Rs. 160 to Rs. 300 per annum.

### 3.3 *School Attendance and Work*

In our earlier discussion in section 2.2 on the activity status of children aged 6 to 14 years in Gulabewala, we had noted that 22 girls and 14 boys in this age group were engaged in specified activities that constitute child labour. What is the picture in the age group of 6 to 18 years? How does the fact of children working impact on school attendance? Table 3.9 presents the data on school attendance among those aged 6 to 18 years by sex and work status in 25 F Gulabewala village.

Table 3.9 *School attendance among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007 (number and percent)*

Children	Not attending school				Attending school			
	Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Girls	24	38.7	38	61.3	81	89.0	10	11.0
Boys	10	21.3	37	78.7	113	93.4	8	6.6
All	34	31.2	75	68.8	194	91.5	18	8.5

NOTE 3: Work (in all references in this document) is defined as three specific types of activities:  
a. Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)  
b. Work on household operational holding  
c. Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources.  
Any person 18 years or below engaged in any of the three activities above is considered to be "working".

Of 321 children aged 6 to 18 years, 93 children - close to 30 per cent - are working. The percentage for girls is 31.4 per cent and that for boys is 26.8 per cent. More than two-fifths (61 out of 153) of the girls and 28 per cent (47 out of 128) of the boys are out of school. As many as 24 girls and 10 boys out of school are reported as not working as per the definition of work adopted in this Report. Twenty of the girls and all the ten boys belong to Scheduled Caste households while the remaining are four Other Backward Class girls, three from Q5 and one from Q4. 18 of the 24 girls not listed as working are reported to be doing housework, with two of them also involved in livestock tending. In addition, one boy is a goat-herd. If we add these 19 children, the percentage of working children goes up to nearly 35 per cent overall and 38 per cent for girls.

In terms of the work activities that the working children are engaged in, except for a few Other Backward Class children working on household operational holding, the bulk of the children work as agricultural labourers, including in cotton picking, and quite a few work as long-term workers of particular landlord households. Seven girls and three boys are engaged in animal tending, which has not been counted as 'work' in this Report.

Of the 75 children out of school and working, 70 are from the Scheduled Castes and the remaining five are from Other Backward Class households, four of them being boys and one a girl. In other words, the set of out-of-school and working children in Gulabewala consists almost entirely of Scheduled Caste children, there being 37 girls and 33 boys from Scheduled Caste households in this category. Scheduled Castes account for 30 of the 34 children out of school

and not working. Essentially then, almost the entire out-of-school child population -100 out of 109 - consists of Scheduled Castes in Gulabewala. In terms of asset quintiles, only 6 of the 75 out-of-school working children – are from Q4 and Q5. Of the 34 out of school and not working, 11 are from Q4 and Q5. In all, 92 of the 109 out-of-school children are from the bottom three asset quintiles. Clearly, it is the poor children of Gulabewala who are triply deprived. They miss out on schooling, they toil for others at a very young age and they are socially oppressed. The girls in this category are subject to gender exploitation as well.

Figure 3.6 *Distribution of boys (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

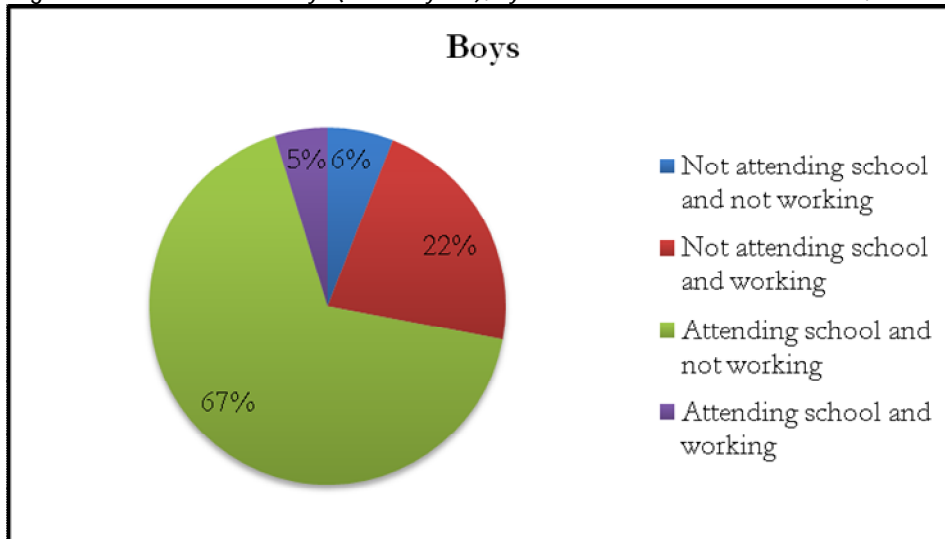
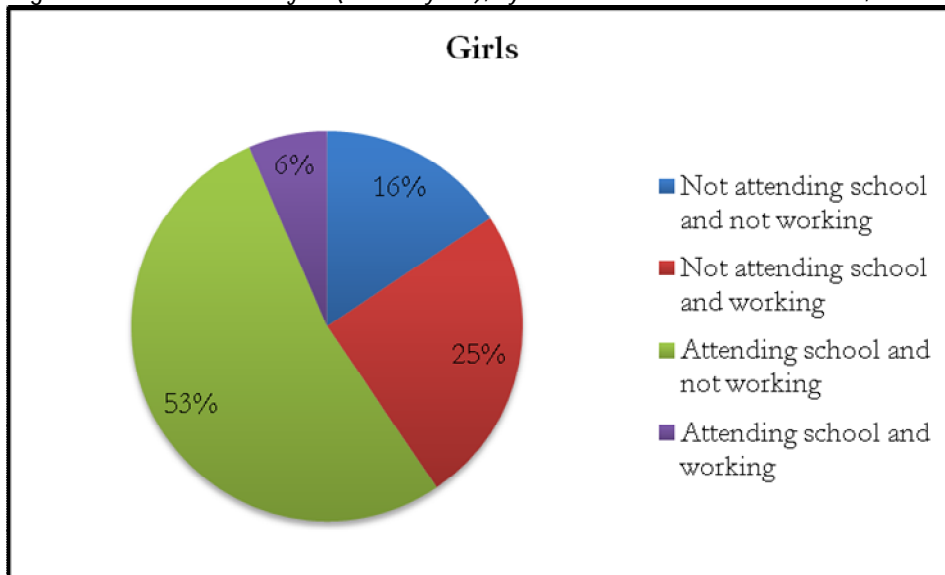


Figure 3.7 *Distribution of girls (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*



### 3.4 Anganwadi

The importance of pre-school education and supplementary nutrition is widely recognized in official policy documents in India. Since 1975, one of the major schemes intended to address these and other issues related to child care, maternal nutrition and pregnancy-related care has been the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. As part of ICDS, anganwadi centres have been set up across the country. However, the provision of anganwadi facilities is far from universal. Even where they exist, it does not follow that the personnel required to operate these centres are in place. It is also observed that, even where they have been set up, for a variety of reasons, not many children are found to be enrolled in them.<sup>11</sup> How does Gulabewala fare in this regard? Table 3.10 presents the proportion of children aged less than 6 completed years attending an anganwadi, by social group and sex.

Table 3.10 *Proportion of children 6 years and below going to Anganwadi centres, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Less than 3 years						3 to 6 years					
	Female		Male		Persons		Female		Male		Persons	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Scheduled Caste	0	0.0	1	5.0	1	3.1	5	20.0	2	8.0	7	14.0
OBC	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	NA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
All	0	0.0	1	3.4	1	2.0	5	15.6	2	5.4	7	10.1

Only Scheduled Caste children attend the anganwadis. But even among them, not many do. While non-attendance in the age group of 0-3 years is understandable, given prevalent cultural norms about caring for the very young, the poor utilization in the age group of 3 to 6 years need further analysis. That is, however, beyond the scope of this Report. Nonetheless, it is clear that, with 20 per cent of Scheduled Caste girls aged 3 to 6 years and one-seventh of Scheduled Caste boys in that age group attending, the *anganwadi* serves a felt need for the Scheduled Castes, especially in terms of day care and pre-school for the girls.

### 3.5 Literacy

Having examined school attendance and child labour at some length, let us turn now to the issue of literacy. In the FAS survey, respondents were categorised in terms of literacy, not in a binary

<sup>11</sup> In recent years, so-called 'nursery' schools have been mushrooming in both urban and rural areas. These are mostly privately owned and run, and there is no regulation, quality control mechanism or monitoring of these institutions. These schools have found takers, even among some of the non-rich households. But we did not find any in Gulabewala.

manner as literate/non-literate but into four categories-‘cannot read or write’, ‘can only sign name’, ‘can read but not write’, ‘can read and write’- and it is only the last category we treat as literate in the discussion that follows.

Table 3.11 presents the distribution of the population of Gulabewala aged 7 years and above by sex and level in 2007.

Table 3.11 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Literacy rate	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	234	46.2	147	29.0	381	37.6
Can only sign name	27	5.3	54	10.7	81	8.0
Can read but cannot write	3	0.6	2	0.4	5	0.5
Can read and write	242	47.8	304	60.0	546	53.9
All	506	100.0	507	100.0	1013	100.0

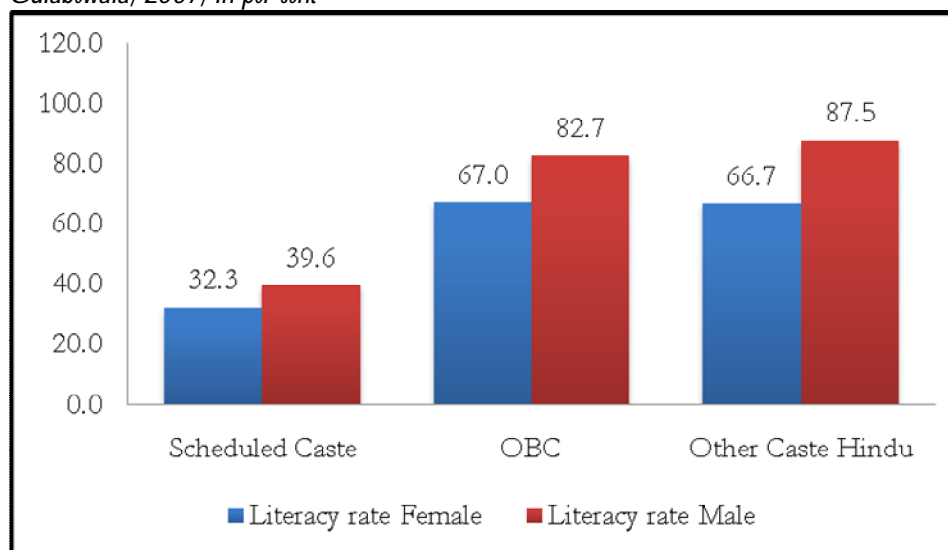
The overall literacy rate is a rather low 53.9 per cent, with female literacy rate even lower at 47.8 per cent. The literacy rate for rural Rajasthan as per the 2011 Census is 62.34 per cent (Male 77.49 per cent, Female 46.25 per cent) while the rural literacy rate for Sri Ganganagar district is 76.70 per cent for males and 55.65 per cent for females. Even allowing for the fact that Census literacy rates might be overestimates because of the binary option given to respondents, Gulabewala seems to be a laggard in literacy.

Tables 3.12 and 3.13 present the distribution of male and female literacy rates by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 3.12 *Population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	90	106	196	32.3	39.6	35.8
OBC	146	191	337	67.0	82.7	75.1
Other Caste Hindu	6	7	13	66.7	87.5	76.5
All	242	304	546	47.8	60.0	53.9

Figure 3.8 Literacy rate of the population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007, in per cent

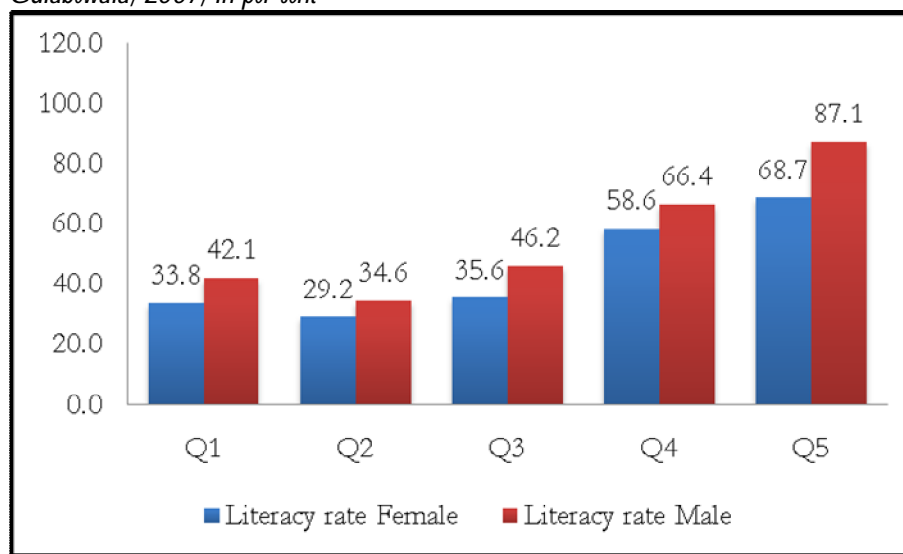


The literacy rates are particularly low among the Scheduled Castes for both females and males. These rates are not even half of the rates for Other Backward Classes.

Table 3.13 Population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007

Asset quintile	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	25	32	57	33.8	42.1	38
Q2	26	27	53	29.2	34.6	31.7
Q3	36	42	78	35.6	46.2	40.6
Q4	65	81	146	58.6	66.4	62.7
Q5	90	122	212	68.7	87.1	78.2
All	242	304	546	47.8	60	53.9

Figure 3.9 Literacy rate of the population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007, in per cent



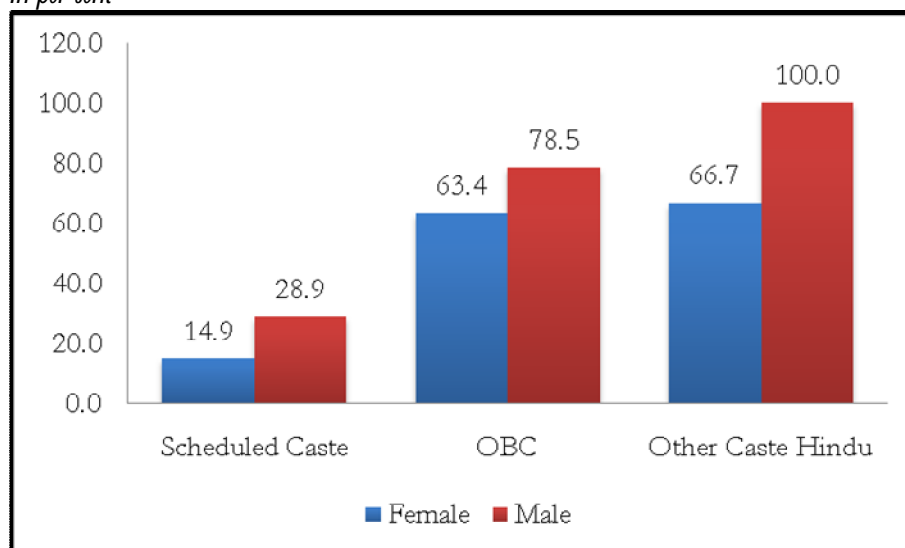
There is also a clear asset divide with respect to literacy. The bottom three asset quintiles record low literacy rates while the top two do much better. The top quintile does significantly better than Q4 as well. Besides the social group and asset divides, female literacy rates are distinctly lower than the corresponding male literacy rates across all social groups and asset quintiles.

Let us now turn to the issue of adult literacy. Tables 3.14 and 3.15 present the sex-specific numbers and proportions of population in Gulabewala aged 18 years and above that can read and write by social group and asset quintile respectively. In fact, the largest gender gap is in Q5.

Table 3.14 Population (18 years and above), who can read and write, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	27	54	81	14.9	28.9	22.0
OBC	121	135	256	63.4	78.5	70.5
Other Caste Hindu	6	6	12	66.7	100.0	80.0
All	154	195	349	40.4	53.4	46.8

Figure 3.10 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007, in per cent*



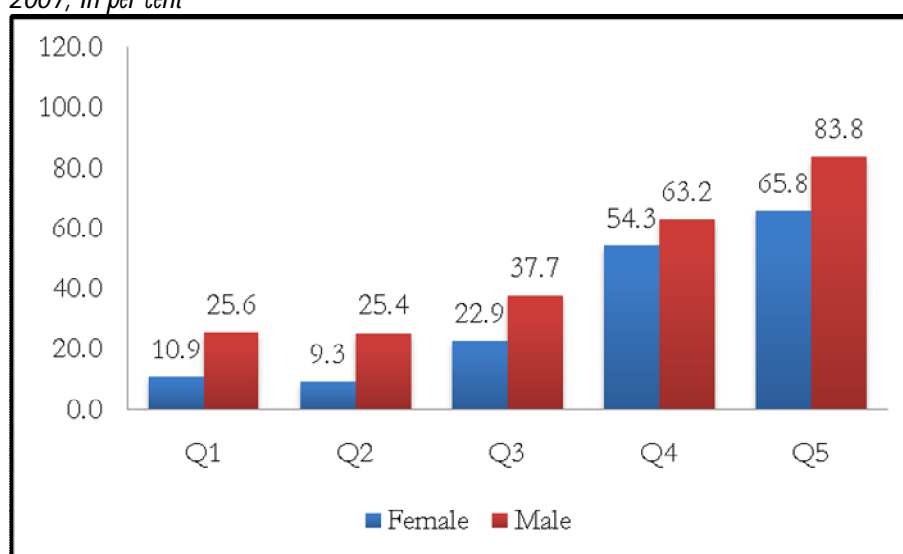
In terms of the differences between Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes in respect of adult literacy rates, the pattern is the same as with literacy rates for persons aged 7 years and above. The interesting thing to note, however, is that the gap in respect of adult literacy rates between Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes is much higher than with 7 plus literacy rates. This reflects the recent spurt in school attendance and literacy levels among Scheduled Castes while the Other Backward Classes had already achieved better school attendance rates and literacy levels a generation earlier. Therefore, among the Other Backward Classes, the adult literacy rates are not very different from the 7 plus literacy rates.

A similar pattern is evident with respect to the gap between the top asset quintiles Q4 and Q5 and the bottom three in respect of adult literacy rates as compared to the gap in respect of 7 plus literacy rates. The bottom three quintiles have made relatively greater literacy gains in recent years with improved school enrolment and attendance. This is true for both females and males. Thus, female adult literacy rates for Q1 to Q3 at 10.9 per cent, 9.3 per cent and 22.9 per cent are much lower than the corresponding 7 plus rates of 33.8 per cent, 29.2 per cent and 35.6 per cent. There is a similar jump in male 7 plus literacy rates in Q1 to Q3 as compared to adult literacy rates, though the jump is smaller than for females. The picture with Q4 and Q5 is quite different. The difference between 7 plus and adult literacy rates is quite small for the top two asset quintiles in respect of both females and males.

Table 3.15 *Population (18 years and above), who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	5	11	16	10.9	25.6	18.0
Q2	5	15	20	9.3	25.4	17.7
Q3	16	26	42	22.9	37.7	30.2
Q4	51	60	111	54.3	63.2	58.7
Q5	77	83	160	65.8	83.8	74.1
All	154	195	349	40.4	53.4	46.8

Figure 3.11 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007, in per cent*



Continuing with literacy, let us look at literacy rates for age groups specified in greater detail. Table 3.16 presents the literacy rates of females, males and persons in Gulabewala for five age groups in sequence. A steady rise in literacy rates can be discerned as we move toward the lower age groups.

Table 3.16 *Population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	89	109	198	66.9	71.7	69.5
18 to 34 years	105	109	214	59.7	66.1	62.8
35 to 49 years	37	50	87	38.1	49.5	43.9
50 to 65 years	10	27	37	13.3	40.9	26.2
> 65 years	2	9	11	6.1	27.3	16.7
All	243	304	547	47.3	58.8	53.1

Interestingly, the big jump in male literacy rates occurs between the age group of 35 to 49 years and that of 18 to 34 years. With female literacy rates, the increase is large both between the age groups of 50 to 65 years and 35 to 49 years and between the latter age group and the age group of 18 to 34 years. The differential in literacy rates between males and females has definitely come down considerably over the decades. Of course, both female and male literacy rates are far from satisfactory, and are in fact scandalous from the standpoint of contemporary norms and expectations, especially so when India's GDP growth rates of the last three decades are being widely advertised and hailed.

### 3.6 Years of Schooling

A useful measure of adult achievement with respect to school education is the average years of schooling in a group. The distributions of *median* and *mean* years of schooling for the population of Gulabewala aged above 16 years by social group are presented in Tables 3.17 and 3.18.

Table 3.17 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	0	0
OBC	6	9	8
Other Caste Hindu	8	9.5	8
All	0	5	2

Table 3.18 *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	1.2	1.9	1.6
OBC	5.7	7.5	6.5
Other Caste Hindu	6.7	9.3	7.7
All	3.5	4.7	4.1

The fact of educational exclusion of Scheduled Castes comes out clearly. At least half of all Scheduled Castes above 16 years of age, whether female or male, have not had even one year of schooling. The situation with respect to mean years of schooling among Scheduled Castes is also dismal both for males and for females. The median and mean years of schooling among Other Backward Class and other Caste Hindu males and females are distinctly higher, though far from serving as a bench mark. Among Other Backward Classes, females have lower mean and median

years of schooling than males. This is also the case with mean years of schooling among male Scheduled Castes.

Tables 3.19 and 3.20 present, respectively, the distribution of median and mean years of schooling for males and females aged above 16 years by asset quintile.

Table 3.19 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0
Q2	0	0	0
Q3	0	0	0
Q4	5	5.5	5
Q5	7	9	8
All	0	5	2

The divide across asset quintiles is clear and unambiguous. Among the males and females aged above 16 years and belonging to households in the bottom three asset quintiles, 50 per cent or more have not had even one completed year of schooling. Women and men from households in Q4 and Q5 fare relatively much better. The picture is the same with respect to the variation in the average number of years of schooling across asset quintiles. The top asset quintile is much better placed than all the other quintiles.

Table 3.20 *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	1.1	1.9	1.5
Q2	0.6	1.7	1.2
Q3	1.7	2.5	2.1
Q4	4.8	5.7	5.3
Q5	6.0	8.0	6.9
All	3.5	4.7	4.1

The overall situation is thus one of massive deprivation in access to formal schooling, practically across the board, and for both females and males, except for the males of the richest asset quintile. Even in their case, the achievements are modest in absolute terms.

### 3.7 Educational Achievements

Let us now turn to educational achievements of the population across various social groups and asset classes in 25 F Gulabewala. We begin with the number of persons who have obtained a degree, which requires, at a minimum, fifteen completed years of schooling. We confine ourselves to the population aged 25 years or older. Table 3.21 provides the distribution of the number and percentage of graduates in the population aged 25 years and older by social group. Table 3.22 provides corresponding data by asset quintile.

Table 3.21 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*<sup>12</sup>

Social group	Number of graduate			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	1	1	0.0	0.7	0.4
OBC	8	19	27	5.1	13.5	9.1
Other Caste Hindu	1	1	2	14.3	16.7	15.4
All	9	21	30	3.0	7.4	5.2

Out of 30 graduates in Gulabewala aged 25 years or older, 27 are from Other Backward Class households but only one is from a Scheduled Caste household. There is no female graduate in this age group from any Scheduled Caste household. Overall, only around 5 per cent of persons aged 25 years or older are graduates, the figure being even lower at 3 per cent for females.

Looking at the picture across asset quintiles, the bottom two quintiles do not have even one graduate. Even in the third quintile, there is only one graduate, a male. Out of the 30 graduates aged 25 years or older in Gulabewala, 29 persons including all the 9 female graduates belong to households from the top two asset quintiles. It must also be noted that even in the highest asset quintile, graduates constitute less than 10 percent of the persons in the age group, and just 5 per cent among females.

<sup>12</sup> Persons who have completed B.A./B.Com/B.Sc or equivalent degree are considered as graduates. Persons with diploma in various technical and vocational courses are not included.

Table 3.22 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number of graduate			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q3	0	1	1	0.0	2.2	1.1
Q4	4	9	13	5.6	12.2	8.9
Q5	5	11	16	5.0	13.1	8.7
All	9	21	30	3.0	7.4	5.2

Continuing our discussion of the variation in educational achievement by social group and asset status, let us take a look at the picture, across social groups and asset quintiles, of the achievement of completion of at least twelve years of formal education among those aged 25 years or older. The variation by social group is shown in Table 3.23 and that by asset quintile is presented in Table 3.24.

The picture in respect of Scheduled Castes is again dismal. Less than one per cent of Scheduled Castes aged 25 years or older have managed to complete 12 years of formal education. Not a single Scheduled Caste female in this age group has been able to complete 12 years of formal education. Even among the Other Backward Classes, only ten per cent of females have been able to do so. The percentage for Other Backward Class males is not much higher at 17. It is only among the 7 females and the 6 males belonging to the two households in the category of Other Caste Hindus that we have a higher proportion of those who have completed 12 years of formal education, with one female and three males having done so. One household head was a mill owner and the second household included a medical doctor and nurse.

Table 3.23 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	2	2	0.0	1.5	0.7
OBC	16	24	40	10.2	17.0	13.4
Other Caste Hindu	1	3	4	14.3	50.0	30.8
All	17	29	46	5.7	10.2	7.9

The variation across asset quintiles confirms the key role of wealth in determining educational achievement as measured here. There is none from Q1 who has completed 12 years of formal education. In both Q2 and Q3, there is only one male who has done so, but no female. All the

17 females and 27 out of 29 males in the village who have completed 12 years of formal education belong to the top two asset quintiles.

Table 3.24 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	0	1	1	0.0	2.3	1.1
Q3	0	1	1	0.0	2.2	1.1
Q4	5	13	18	6.9	17.6	12.3
Q5	12	14	26	12.0	16.7	14.1
All	17	29	46	5.7	10.2	7.9

Taking a weaker measure of educational achievement, let us look at the picture in terms of those who have completed ten years of formal education.

Table 3.25 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	4	4	0.0	2.9	1.5
OBC	31	49	80	19.7	34.8	26.8
Other Caste Hindu	1	3	4	14.3	50.0	30.8
All	32	56	88	10.7	19.8	15.1

It is distressing that there is no female from Scheduled Caste households who has completed ten years of formal education. Less than 3 per cent of the Scheduled Caste males in the age group 25 years and older have been able to do so. By contrast, over a third of Other Backward Class males and nearly one-fifth of Other Backward Class females have completed ten years of formal education in 25 F Gulabewala.

Table 3.26 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	1	1	0.0	2.8	1.4
Q2	0	2	2	0.0	4.7	2.3
Q3	0	1	1	0.0	2.2	1.1
Q4	7	20	27	9.7	27.0	18.5
Q5	25	32	57	25.0	38.1	31.0
All	32	56	88	10.7	19.8	15.1

Across asset quintiles, no female aged 25 years or older from households in the bottom three quintiles has completed ten years of formal education. Even among males in this age group from the bottom three asset quintiles, less than 4 per cent have managed to do so. In sharp contrast, over 38 per cent of males and one-fourth of females from Q5 have done so. The second highest quintile Q4 fares better than Q1 to Q3, but is far behind Q5. Less than 10 per cent of Q4 females and a little over one-fourth of Q4 males aged 25 years or older have completed ten years of formal education.

It is interesting to note that of the 25 females from Q5 who have passed the tenth class, only 12 have gone on to complete twelfth class, and only 7 have gone on to become graduates. Among Q5 males, out of 32 completing the tenth class, only 14 go on to the twelfth class, but the 'conversion rate' then increases sharply, with 11 males going on to become graduates. The corresponding numbers for Q4 males are 20, 13 and 9, suggesting that there is a greater propensity among both males and females in Q4 to go for higher studies on finishing the tenth, than there is for Q5 males and females. One is led to wonder whether large landed property, requiring local residence to maintain control over land and labour resources, may possibly act as a constraint on pursuit of post-tenth class education away from the village. The other sobering fact to note is that even among the richest households, only a minority – less than one-third, in fact - of those aged 25 years or older even complete ten years of formal education. For the dominant landed households of Gulabewala, formal education is not a great priority, even for males.

### 3. 8 *Households with Children*

The presence or absence of literate adults in a household may not only influence the decision to send children to school but the learning environment in the home as well. In this sub-section, we look at the distribution of *households with children* by the presence or absence of adults with

specified levels of education. Table 3.27 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults in 25 F Gulabewala by social group. Table 3.28 provides the same with respect to asset quintiles.

Table 3.27 *Distribution households with children by absence of literate adult, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Without any literate adult female		Without any literate adult male		Without any literate adult	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	80	80.0	67	67.0	62	62.0
OBC	7	11.1	6	9.5	2	3.2
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	87	52.7	73	44.2	64	38.9

An overwhelming majority of Scheduled Caste households with children have no adult literate. The percentage of Scheduled Caste households without a literate adult female is as high as 80 per cent. Two-thirds of Scheduled Caste households do not have a literate adult male. More than three-fifths have no literate adult at all. Even among Other Backward Classes, there are a few households without literate adults, but their proportion to all Other Backward Class households is closer to one-tenth with respect to the absence of either a literate female or a literate male adult. In 3 per cent of Other Backward Class households, there are no literate adults at all.

Table 3.28 *Distribution households with children by absence of adult literates, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Without any literate adult female		Without any literate adult male		Without any literate adult	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q1	28	87.5	23	71.9	22	68.8
Q2	27	84.4	22	68.8	21	65.6
Q3	22	68.8	19	59.4	15	46.9
Q4	9	27.3	9	27.3	6	18.2
Q5	1	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	87	52.7	73	44.2	64	38.9

The pattern across asset quintiles brings out the clear association between lack of wealth and incidence of households without literate adults. The percentage of such households is very high in the bottom three quintiles, with respect to the absence of literate adult males/females, with nearly two-thirds of Q1 and Q2 households having no literate adult, and nearly half of Q3 in the same situation. In the top asset quintile, there is only one household without a literate adult

female and none without a literate adult male. Q4 fares worse, but is still far better off than the bottom three quintiles. Children of poor households in 25 F Gulabewala, many of whom also face social oppression, are thus doubly deprived, both on account of poverty per se, and on account of a poor learning ambience at home.

Just as the absence of a literate adult in the household can be taken as a negative factor in the educational environment of children, the presence of adults with some level of educational achievement would be a positive factor. Let us explore this aspect. Tables 3.29 and 3.30 present data on the number and percentage of households with children in Gulabewala with at least one male graduate, by social group and asset quintile respectively.

*Table 3.29 Households with children at least one male graduate, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all the households with children within the social group
Scheduled Caste	1	1.0
OBC	16	25.4
Other Caste Hindu	1	50.0
All	18	10.9

There is only one Scheduled Caste household with children which has a graduate as its member. *This is just one per cent of Scheduled Caste households with children in Gulabewala.* About one-fourth of Other Backward Class households with children have at least one graduate as a member. Of the two households with children from the category of Other Caste Hindus, one has a graduate member.

The picture across asset quintiles confirms the extent of deprivation faced by poor households. The data are presented in Table 3. 30.

*Table 3.30 Households with children at least one male graduate, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the asset quintile
Q1	0	0.0
Q2	0	0.0
Q3	1	3.1
Q4	8	24.2
Q5	9	27.3
All	18	10.9

The bottom three quintiles have among them only one household with a male graduate. This accounts for about one per cent of all households with children in these three quintiles. The top

two quintiles have a graduate member in a little over one-fourth of all households with children in these two quintiles.

Finally, let us look at the picture in relation to a more modest requirement: the presence of at least one female who has passed the tenth class. The relevant information is presented for social groups in Table 3.31 and for asset quintiles in Table 3.32.

Table 3.31 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the social group
Scheduled Caste	2	2.0
OBC	33	52.4
Other Caste Hindu	2	100.0
All	37	22.4

Except for two households, children in Scheduled Caste households in the village do not have any female member who has passed the tenth class. Both the Other Caste Hindu households do have at least one female who has passed the tenth class as do slightly over half of the Other Backward Class households.

Table 3.32 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the asset quintile
Q1	1	3.1
Q2	0	0.0
Q3	1	3.1
Q4	13	39.4
Q5	22	66.7
All	37	22.4

The pattern across asset quintiles confirms the extreme level of deprivation of children from poor households in respect of their home educational environment. Households with children in the bottom three quintiles have among them only two females who have passed the tenth class. By contrast, Q4 and Q5 households with children boast of 37 females with a tenth class pass, the proportion being two-thirds for Q5 households and two-fifth for Q4 households with children. This brings to a close our analysis of the state of formal educational achievements and deprivation of the people of Gulabewala. Our analysis has covered school attendance, children

and work, literacy among the general population and among adults, educational achievements and some characteristics of households with children that have a bearing on the household environment for the education of children. The overall picture that emerges is one of massive deprivation in terms of access to and achievements in education. To begin with, not all children aged 6 to 18 years-or even 6 to 14 years-are attending school. Among children aged 6 to 18 years, 62 girls out of a total of 153 and 47 boys out of a total of 168 are out of school. Second, the literacy rates of the 7 plus population at 47.8 per cent for females and 60 per cent for males should be considered quite low overall and especially low for females. Third, the literacy rates among Scheduled Castes for both males and females are especially low. The same pattern generally holds with respect to most of the other indicators of educational achievement or deprivation. Fourth, there is a large gap between the social category of 'Other Backward Classes' and the Scheduled Castes in respect of educational achievement, both among males and among females, with Other Backward Classes much better off. Fifth, the bottom three asset quintiles face huge deprivation in respect of every measure of educational achievement and participation as compared to the top three quintiles. Generally, females do more poorly than males in respect of all the indicators.

There has clearly been improvement in literacy levels as shown by the much better literacy rates for the population aged 7 years or older as compared to those for the adult population. However, the overall levels of educational deprivation remain huge and need to be tackled urgently. The fact that very few children in the age group of 0 to 6 years attend the anganwadi is striking. The sizeable incidence of child labour in the village, with 48 out of 153 girls and 45 out of 168 boys aged 6 to 18 years working, even by the restricted definition of work, is a matter of serious concern.

We turn now to a discussion of the provision of amenities in the village.

## 4. AMENITIES

### 4.1 Housing

Our discussion of amenities relating to households with children will cover the conditions of housing, access to electricity for domestic consumption, access to drinking water and provisions relating to sanitation. We begin with a discussion of the state of shelter pertaining to households with children in 25F Gulabewala.

Table 4.1 presents the distribution of households with children in 25F Gulabewala by social group and type of housing. Table 4.2 presents the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

Table 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Katcha	Semi-pucca	Pucca	Unspecified	All
Scheduled Caste	58.2	22.4	19.4	0.0	100.0
OBC	1.6	9.7	87.1	1.6	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
All	35.8	17.3	46.3	0.6	100.0

NOTE 5: Pucca houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials. Katcha houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. Semi-pucca houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).

Figure 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

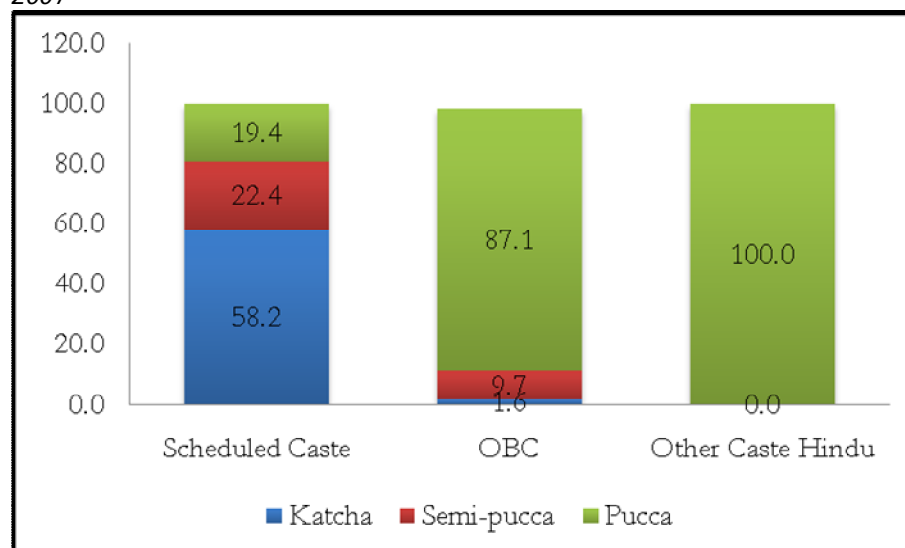
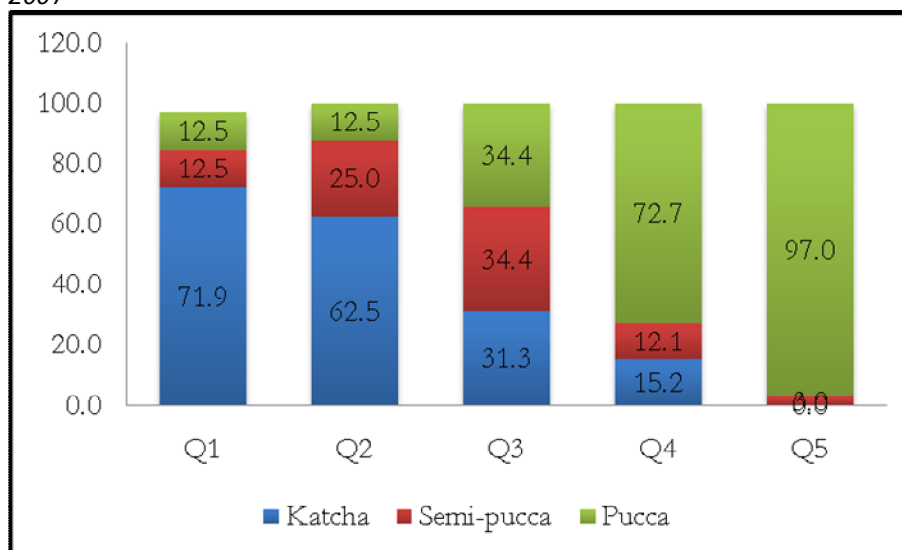


Table 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Katcha	Semi-pucca	Pucca	Unspecified	All
Q1	71.9	12.5	12.5	3.1	100.0
Q2	62.5	25.0	12.5	0.0	100.0
Q3	31.3	34.4	34.4	0.0	100.0
Q4	15.2	12.1	72.7	0.0	100.0
Q5	0.0	3.0	97.0	0.0	100.0
All	35.8	17.3	46.3	0.6	100.0

Figure 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*



Among households with children, the two other caste Hindu households and seven-eighths of the Other Backward Class households live in pucca houses, whereas just under one-fifth of Scheduled Caste households do so. The level of deprivation among Scheduled Castes in this regard is very high indeed. Looking at the variation in housing conditions of households with children by asset quintiles, among the bottom two quintiles, only one-eighth live in pucca houses. The proportion improves, but not by much, to around one-third for the third quintile. Even among households in the second highest quintile, more than one-fourth live in non-pucca houses. High proportions of Q1 and Q2 households with children – nearly three-fourths and five-eighths respectively – live in katcha houses, while the corresponding proportion for Q3 households at nearly a third is also not a low figure.

## HOUSING

A significant proportion of Dalit households in 25F Gulabewala did not own their dwelling place. As this case study illustrates, even with government assistance for house construction, long term workers do not have a house of their own. Most long term workers are landless and do not even have a small plot of land on which to construct a dwelling. They are dependent on their employers (landed households) for shelter. Several long term workers have constructed a one or two room shelter on a small plot of land provided by their landlord.

Take the example of Gajje Singh who is a long-term worker and works on the fields and in the home of a landlord family. Gajje Singh does not own any land (agricultural or homestead). He started working with this employer two years ago. The previous employer threw him out of his house, a shelter that had been built by him on the land of the previous employer.

Rendered homeless, the current employer provided Gajje Singh a 12X20 feet plot next to his cattle-shed on the condition that Gajje Singh would bring fodder for his cattle and that Gajje Singh's wife would remove the dung and clean the cattle-shed everyday. These tasks would be in lieu of for the plot of land provided as homestead land. Gajje Singh received Rs 20,000 from the Government, under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), to construct a house. After paying the Sarpanch a bribe of Rs 2000, the balance of Rs 18,000 was used to construct two katcha rooms. The walls and floor of both rooms are made of mud and the roof is thatched. Gajje Singh lives with his wife and four children in these two rooms. There is no electricity connection and a kerosene lamp is used for light. Drinking water is fetched from a tap that the landlord has installed in the cattle shed. (Tapped water is supplied by a Panchayat tank). For all other domestic uses, water has to be fetched from a neighbour's handpump, located at a distance of 200 meters. There is no toilet or bathing room and all the members of this family defecate in the open. The women bathe in the cattle-shed of the landlord.

Source: Shamsheer Singh

The type of housing as per the official definition is of course only one aspect of housing. Possibly a more important indicator is the proportion of households living in a single room shelter. The distribution in this regard by social group for households with children in 25F Gulabewala is presented in Table 4.3 while the same by asset quintiles is shown in Table 4.4.

It is only among Scheduled Caste households that a significant proportion – nearly one-fourth - lives in single room houses.

In terms of asset quintiles, close to half of all households with children in Q1 and one-fifth of those in Q2 live in single room houses. The proportions are much smaller for Q3 and Q4 households and zero for those in top quintile.

Overall, the proportion at close to one-sixth, is not insignificant, and points to the high levels of deprivation in this regard in 25 F Gulabewala.

Table 4.3 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	24	24.0
OBC	1	1.6
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0
All	25	15.2

Table 4.4 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	15	46.9
Q2	7	21.9
Q3	2	6.3
Q4	1	3.0
Q5	0	0.0
All	25	15.2

NOTE 6: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered *verandah* are not considered as rooms.

#### 4.2 *Access to Electricity for Domestic Use*

An amenity of obvious importance from the viewpoint of children pursuing formal education is access to electricity. Table 4.5 shows, for households with children in 25F Gulabewala, the variation in the proportion of households with electric connection for domestic use by social group while Table 4.6 shows the corresponding variation by asset quintile.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> One must keep in mind though, especially in these times of constant power cuts and 'outages', that access to an electric connection is no guarantee of access to electricity.

Table 4.5 *Households with children with electric connection for domestic use, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	66	66.0
OBC	61	96.8
Other Caste Hindu	2	100.0
All	129	78.2

Table 4.6 *Households with children with electric connection for domestic use, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	20	62.5
Q2	18	56.3
Q3	27	84.4
Q4	31	93.9
Q5	33	97.1
All	129	78.2

Overall, nearly four-fifths of the households with children in the village have access to an electric connection. However the proportion falls below two-third for Scheduled Caste households. Only two out of the 53 Other Backward Class households with children lack access to an electric connection. Across asset quintiles, taking the bottom two quintiles together, the proportion without access to an electric connection is more than two-fifths. Around 15 per cent of Q3 households with children lack access to an electric connection. The high level of socioeconomic inequality in the village gets reflected in this indicator as well.

#### 4.3 *Drinking Water*

Let us now look at the position in respect of the source of drinking water and access to it among households with children in 25F Gulabewala. Table 4.7 gives the distribution of these households by primary source of drinking water.

Table 4.7 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Tap/ tank*	149	90.3
Hand pump	1	0.6
Tubewell	1	0.6
Well	1	0.6
Pond/tank	13	7.9
All	165	100.0

\*Access to water from a tap, sourced from an overhead tank.

More than nine-tenths of all households with children have access to water from a tap, sourced by an overhead tank. Note, however, that this says nothing about the quantum of water available daily to a household which has such access. Nor can this figure be taken to mean that the water is necessarily 'safe' for drinking, though this is the official assumption.

Data is also available from the FAS survey on access to a covered source of drinking water, which may, with some justification, be taken to be a proxy for safe drinking water. Table 4.8 shows the percentage distribution of households with children in 25F Gulabewala with access to a covered source of drinking water by social group. Table 4.9 shows the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

Table 4.8 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	84	84.0
OBC	62	98.4
Other Caste Hindu	2	100.0
All	148	89.7

Table 4.9 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	31	96.9
Q2	23	71.9
Q3	30	93.8
Q4	31	93.9
Q5	33	100.0
All	148	89.7

The figure overall is almost the same as that for access to water from a tap. Among Scheduled Caste households with children, nearly one-sixth lack access to a covered source of drinking water. Across asset quintiles, the second quintile is more deprived for reasons which are not very clear.

An aspect of particular importance in the context of access to drinking water is the distance of the water source from the homestead. This has clear gender implications since it is mostly the women in rural households on whom the burden of ensuring water availability for domestic use falls. Table 4.10 shows the distribution of households with children in 25F Gulabewala by

distance of drinking water source from homestead. The corresponding distribution by asset quintile is shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.10 *Number of households with children by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Within homestead or just out side	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres
Scheduled Caste	40	58	2
OBC	63	0	0
Other Caste Hindu	2	0	0
All	105	58	2

Table 4.11 *Number of households with children by distance from source of drinking water, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Within homestead or just out side	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres
Q1	11	22	0
Q2	12	20	1
Q3	17	14	1
Q4	31	2	0
Q5	34	0	0
All	105	58	2

There is a clear divide, both across social groups and across asset quintiles. Only 40 per cent of Scheduled Caste households with children have access to a source of drinking water within the homestead or just outside. By contrast, all the Other Backward Class and the other caste Hindu households with children have such access. Similarly, two-thirds of Q1 and Q2 and nearly half of Q3 households with children lack access to a water source within or just outside the homestead. Only 2 out of 33 households in Q4 and none from Q5 are similarly placed.

#### 4.4 Lavatories

A critical requirement from the standpoint of the health of children is decent sanitation. Access to a toilet is one of the most important means of ensuring some degree of improvement in the sanitation situation of rural (and urban) households. How does 25F Gulabewala perform in this regard? Table 4.12 shows the distribution of households with children in the village by social group and lack of access to lavatories. Table 4.13 provides the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

There is some variation in access to toilets, both across social groups and across asset quintiles, in 25F Gulabewala. Thus, over a fifth of Scheduled Caste households with children lack access to a toilet, while the corresponding figure for Other Backward Classes is only 3.2 per cent. Similarly, the bottom two asset quintiles fare much more poorly than the rest in this regard. However, the overall percentage of households with children without access to a toilet is, at 14 per cent or one-seventh, is rather low for rural India.

Table 4.12 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	21	21.0
OBC	2	3.2
All	23	14.0

Figure 4.3 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

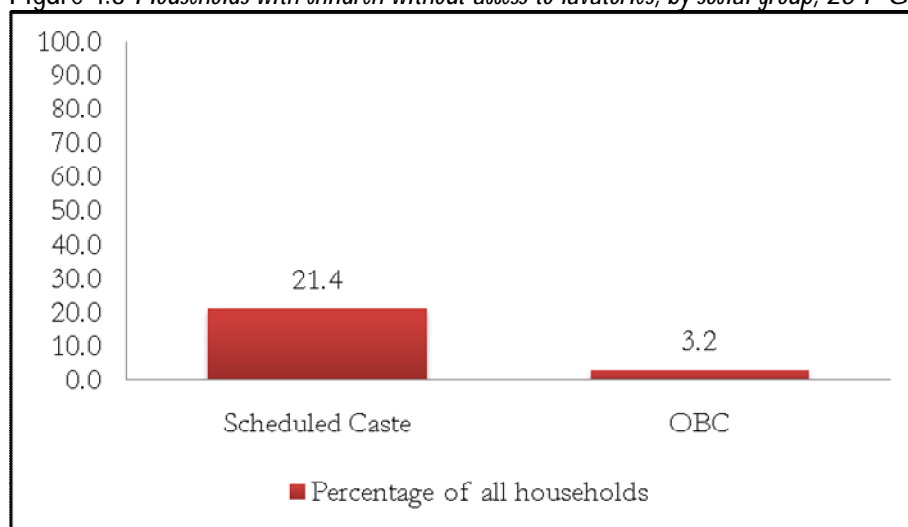
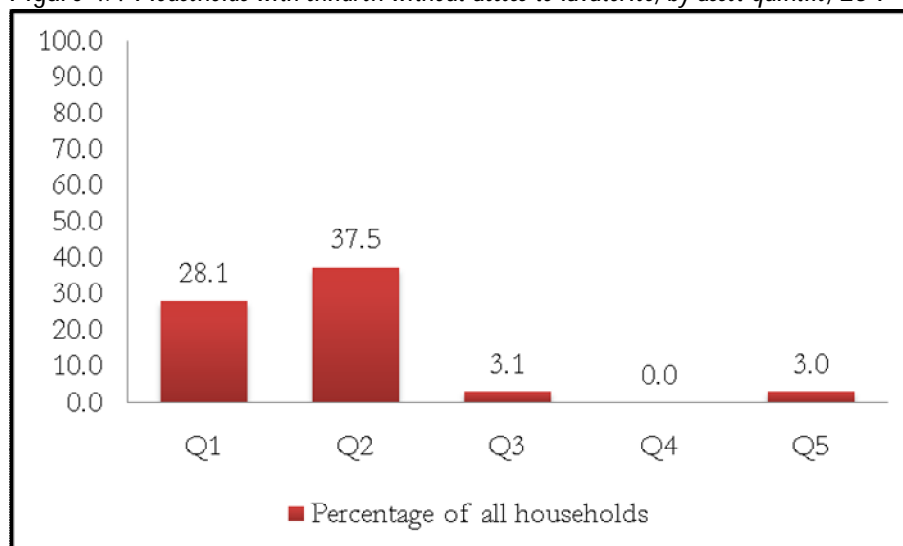


Table 4.13 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	9	28.1
Q2	12	37.5
Q3	1	3.1
Q4	0	0.0
Q5	1	3.0
All	23	14.0

Figure 4.4 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*



On the face of it, it would appear that the population of 25F Gulabewala is much better placed in respect of access to lavatories than practically all the other villages surveyed by FAS across several states. Thus, 61.3 per cent of households with children in Rewasi and *all* the households in Dungariya, the other two villages in Rajasthan surveyed by FAS had no access to a lavatory. In Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra, the figure was just over 30 per cent. In Warwat Khanderao, also in Maharashtra, it was 46.5 per cent. In Uttar Pradesh, among households with children, 92 per cent in Mahatwar and 65.5 per cent in Harevli had no access to toilets. The corresponding figures for Ananthavaram, Bukkacharla and Kothapalle, all in Andhra Pradesh, were, respectively, 57.1 per cent, 84.3 per cent and 58.2 per cent. But the figures relating to access to toilets in 25F Gulabewala are, in an important sense, rather misleading. The figures are lower than elsewhere, because a significant number of 'attached sharecroppers' live on the land provided in the estate of the landlord and use makeshift pit toilets, as explained in detail in Box.

## TOILETS

The data on the proportion of households with access to a toilet indicate that more than 70 per cent Dalit households in Gulabewala village have access to toilet. This statistic is somewhat misleading and the situation does not look that good when we examine the condition of the toilets. Take, for example, the family of Satpal Singh, a Majhabi Sikh. The household has reported one toilet in their compound. The toilet is a katcha roofless structure with three mud walls and no proper door. The household rarely uses this toilet for defecating as it has only a pit and no provision for water or flushing. Females from the household use this structure as a bathing place, and hang a cloth curtain on the door of the toilet when bathing.

Source: Shamsheer Singh

Summing up the situation with regard to shelter and amenities, we find a high degree of inequality in respect of shelter in 25F Gulabewala, with over four-fifth of Scheduled Caste households with children and seven-eighths of those in Q1 and Q2 living in non-pucca shelters. Close to one-fourth of Scheduled Caste households with children lives in single room shelters, as do nearly half the households in Q1. Over a third of Scheduled Caste households and around two-fifths of households in the bottom two asset quintiles lack access to electricity for domestic consumption. Three-fifths of Scheduled Caste households and two-thirds of those in Q1 and Q2 do not have access to drinking water within the homestead or just outside. While the village does better than other villages surveyed by FAS with respect to access to toilets for households with children, the apparently better quantitative provision masks the reality of very poor quality of such provision.

We now turn to the final section that provides a brief description of the position of women in this village in respect of a few key characteristics.

## 5. ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN

### 5.1 Marital Status

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in the village of 25F Gulabewala as per the FAS survey of 2007. Table 5.2 provides the age distribution of widows in the village.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by marital status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Marital status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	34	8.9
Currently married	288	75.6
Widowed	55	14.4
Separated/divorced	4	1.0
All	381	100.0

Table 5.2 *Age distribution of widowed women (18 years and above), 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Number	As percentage of all women within the age group
18 years to 24 years	0	0.0
25 years to 34 years	3	3.2
35 years to 49 years	10	10.3
50 years to 59 years	11	24.4
60 years to 69 years	10	29.4
≥ 70 years	21	71.4
All	55	14.2

The overall percentage of 14.4 for widows among the female population aged 18 years and above is higher than that for Rewasi at under 10 per cent. It is also higher than those for Mahatwar and Harevli, villages surveyed by FAS in Uttar Pradesh, as well as that for Warwat Khanderao in Maharashtra. However, it is lower than the percentages for Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra, and Ananthavaram, Bukkacherla and Kothapalle in Andhra Pradesh, all of which report figures close to 20 per cent. The percentage of widows among females aged 70 years or older is not too far from what has been observed in many of the villages surveyed by FAS.<sup>14</sup> One can say that the age distribution of widows shown in Table 5.2 is not inconsistent with the proportions of widows in the specified age groups as available for the country as a whole from large scale data sources such as the Census and the NFHS.

<sup>14</sup> To put the numbers in perspective, as per the Census of India 1981, 64 per cent of women aged 60 years or older and 80 per cent of those 70 years or older were widows. The NFHS -2, relating to reference year 1998-99, gives a figure of 58 per cent for the percentage of widows among women aged 60 years and above.

## 5.2 Women in the Workforce

Table 5.3 shows the proportion of the working population to the total population, separately for women, men and persons among those 18 years or older, by social group, in 25F Gulabewala.

Table 5.3 *Working population (18 years and above), by sex and social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	127	70.2	162	86.6	289	78.5
OBC	55	28.8	139	80.8	194	53.4
Other Caste Hindu	1	11.1	6	100.0	7	46.7
All	183	47.9	307	84.2	490	65.7

The picture, observed in most of rural India, of a much higher rate of workforce participation among women of the Scheduled Castes compared to Other Backward Classes, obtains in this village as well.<sup>15</sup>

Table 5.4 shows the variation in work participation rate (WPR) of women aged 18 years and above by marital status in 25F Gulabewala. Leaving out of reckoning the small number of separated/divorced women, the WPR is the highest for married women. The overall rate is close to 50 per cent. The low rate among widows reflects the age composition of this group, as more than half of them are over 60 years of age.

Table 5.4 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Marital status	Number	WPR
Never married	14	41.2
Currently married	151	52.4
Widowed	15	25.9
Separated/divorced	3	75.0
All	183	47.9

Table 5.5 shows the activity profile of women aged 18 years or older.

Wage employment in agriculture is the most frequently reported activity among adult women in 25F Gulabewala, followed at some distance by engagement in own cultivation. A few women report being engaged in animal husbandry and a similar number report being engaged in non-agricultural wage employment. There are three women engaged in non agricultural self employment and seven in salaried employment. The picture is fairly typical of rural India.

<sup>15</sup> Among the villages surveyed by FAS, Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra remains an exception to this general picture.

Table 5.5 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity		As percentage of all women
Cultivation	48		12.6
Agricultural wage employment	120		31.5
Animal husbandry	21		5.5
Non-agricultural wage employment	17		4.5
Non-agricultural self employment	3		0.8
Salaried employment	7		1.8
Other	1		0.3

### 5.3 Women as Heads of Households

Is there any systematic variation in the percentage of female heads of households across either social groups or asset quintiles or both? Tables 5.6 and 5.7 present the picture in this regard by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 5.6 *Distribution of heads of household, by sex, by social group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Scheduled Caste	12	111	8.9	91.1
OBC	7	71	9.0	91.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	3	0.0	100.0
All	19	185	8.8	91.2

Leaving aside the three Other Caste Hindu households, there is hardly any difference between Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class households in this regard. Nor is there any systematic variation across asset quintiles. Females heading households remain a highly infrequent event across all castes and asset quintiles.

Table 5.7 *Distribution of heads of household, by sex, by asset quintile, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Asset quintile	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Q1	4	36	10.0	90.0
Q2	5	35	10.0	90.0
Q3	3	38	7.3	92.7
Q4	2	39	4.9	95.1
Q5	5	37	11.9	88.1
All	19	185	8.8	91.2

Does the fact of a female heading household have a systematic relationship to her marital status? Table 5.8 provides the data for 25 F Gulabewala in this regard. It turns out, unsurprisingly, that widows account for the overwhelming proportion of females headed households. Of the 19 female heads of households, 16 are widows and the remaining three are currently married women. None of the 34 adult women who have not married and none of the four women separated/divorced head a household. Of the 288 currently married adult women, only three are household heads. Out of 55 widows, 16 are heads of households.

Table 5.8 *Distribution of female heads of households, by marital status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Marital status	Number	Percentage
Never married	0	0.0
Currently married	3	15.8
Widowed	16	84.2
Separated/divorced	0	0.0
All	19	100.0

Often, many of the female headed households also turn out to be single person ones. In other words, in many cases, females are heads by default rather than by conscious designation. However, in 25F Gulabewala, there are only two single person households, both of which are headed by default, as shown in Table 5.9 below, by widows.

Table 5.9 *Number of single person households, by sex, by marital status, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Marital status	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Never married	0	0	NA	NA
Currently married	0	0	0	NA
Widowed	2	0	13.3	NA
Separated/divorced	0	0	NA	NA
All	2	0	11.1	NA

As is easy to infer, females become heads of households only under 'unusual' circumstances, very often having to do with the death of the male head, along with the absence of an adult male member in a position to assume that role. It is, therefore, often the case that the age distribution of female heads of households will be skewed towards the older age groups. Tables 5.10 and 5.11 showing, respectively, the distribution of heads of households by age group separately for women and men in 25F Gulabewala, confirm this for the village.

Table 5.10 *Distribution of female heads of households, by age group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	2	10.5
35 to 49 years	6	31.6
50 to 60 years	3	15.8
Above 60 years	8	42.1
All	19	100.0

Table 5.11 *Distribution of male heads of households, by age group, 25 F Gulabewala, 2007*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	35	18.9
35 to 49 years	71	38.4
50 to 60 years	47	25.4
Above 60 years	32	17.3
All	185	100.0

While nearly three-fifth of the male heads of households are aged below 50 years, about the same proportion of female heads are above 50 years of age, and two-fifths are over 60 years of age.

To conclude this section, our brief examination of some aspects of the situation of women in 25F Gulabewala, demonstrate the enormous gender inequality that exists in this village (as in most Indian villages) not only in terms of access to or achievements in education but also in terms of work participation and diversification and relations of power within the household.

## Rajasthan: Rewasi Village

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## 1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The village of Rewasi in Sikar district of Rajasthan, surveyed by the FAS in 2010, is 31 km from Sikar town. The railway station nearest to Rewasi is in Sikar. A pucca road connects the main habitation of the village with the Sikar-Salasar road. The nearest market is in Sewad Badi, 6 kilometers away on the Sikar-Salasar road. There is a health sub-centre in the village. It provides only first-aid facilities. People need to travel to the Primary Health Centre in Phagalwa (9 km) or to the Block/District hospital in Sikar (31 km) for other medical services. There is one primary school, one upper primary school and a high school (privately owned) in the village. Students from Rewasi also study in schools in neighbouring villages.

Rewasi is a multi-caste village. Jats are economically and politically the dominant caste. Jat households, once tenants of Rajput jagirdars, obtained ownership rights over land as a result of the abolition of different forms of statutory landlordism. In contrast, the Rajputs no longer hold the same position of dominance in the village that they once did. There are also Brahman, Meena (Scheduled Tribe) and Meghwal (Dalit) households in Rewasi.

Most households in Rewasi own land, although there is substantial inequality in the extent of ownership of land across social groups and classes.

Pearl millet is the most important crop of the kharif season. In the rabi season, land irrigated by tubewells is sown with wheat, mustard, onions and fenugreek. In a village characterised by sandy soils and low rainfall, access to irrigation is critical, though limited. There are about 75 tubewells in the village. These irrigate about 41 per cent of the net sown area in the village. Tubewells are used mainly in the rabi season. The kharif crop is mainly rainfed, even where land holdings are in the command area of tubewells. Unirrigated land is dependent entirely on scanty and uncertain rainfall for cultivation in the kharif season and is not cultivated in the rabi season at all.

Animal resources — the people tend cattle, camels and goats — are an important source of household incomes.

The maintenance of animals depends crucially on fodder from field crops and the leaves of the khejuri (*Prosopis cineraria*) tree.

Another important aspect of the village economy is the high rate of migration to other cities in India and to countries of the Persian Gulf. Remittances from these migrants are an important source of income for many households.

Table 1.1 *Location of the village, Rewasi, 2010*

Village	Rewasi
District	Sikar
Block/Tehsil	Sikar
Nearest town	Sihot Badi
Distance from nearest town	3 Km.
Nearest railway station	Sikar
Distance from nearest railway station	31 Km.
Bus stop within the village	Yes
Metalled approach road	Yes

Table 1.2 *Description of village infrastructure and amenities, Rewasi, 2010*

Item	Number/ description
Number of anganwadi centre within village	-
Number of primary schools (Std I-V) within village	1
Number of middle schools (up to Std VIII) within village	1
Number of secondary schools (up to Std X) within village*	0
Number of higher secondary schools (up to Std XII) within village*	0
Distance from nearest PHC	Phagalwa (9 Km.)
Distance from nearest health sub center	Within village
Post office within the village	No
Bank within the village	No

\* The nearest secondary as well as the higher secondary school is at Sihot Badi, 3 Km. away from the village.

Table 1.3 *Land use and population, Rewasi, 2001*

Village		Area (in hectares)	As % of geographical area	
Geographical area		616.0	100.0	
Land use (as % of geographical area)	Forest	0.0	0.0	
	Area under cultivation	Irrigated	244.6	39.7
		Unirrigated	275.7	44.8
	Cultivable waste	46.9	7.6	
	Area not available for cultivation	48.8	7.9	

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 1.4 *Agro-economic features of the village, Rewasi, 2010*

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Agro-ecological region (NARP classification)	
Major crops grown (by crop seasons)	Kharif: Pearl millet Rabi: Wheat, Mustard, Fenugreek, Onion.
Major sources of irrigation	Tubewell (only in rabi season)

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## 2. DEMOGRAPHY

### 2.1 Population, social composition, sex ratios and children per household

Table 2.1 and 2.2 provide data on the number of households and on the population of Rewasi, disaggregated by social group, as per the FAS survey of 2010.

There were, in all, 220 households. Other caste Hindus and the Other Backward Classes were the numerically dominant groups in the village, together accounting for 80 per cent of all households. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 9.5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. In terms of shares in the population, the Scheduled Tribes accounted for 7.5 per cent, the Scheduled Castes for 9.8 per cent, the Other Backward Classes for 39.7 per cent and the Other Caste Hindus for the rest.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	21	9.5
Scheduled Tribe	22	10.0
OBC	84	38.2
Other Caste Hindu	93	42.3
All	220	100.0

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by caste and sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number			Percentage		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	74	52	126	10.8	8.6	9.8
Scheduled Tribe	46	51	97	6.7	8.4	7.5
OBC	265	248	513	38.7	40.9	39.7
Other Caste Hindu	300	256	556	43.8	42.2	43.0
All	685	607	1292	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of the resident village population by age group and sex.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of population by age and sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Population			As percentage of total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	34	42	76	5.0	6.9	5.9
3 years to 6 years	52	61	113	7.6	10.0	8.7
7 years to 9 years	46	52	98	6.7	8.6	7.6
10 years to 14 years	100	82	182	14.6	13.5	14.1
15 years to 17 years	45	51	96	6.6	8.4	7.4
18 years to 24 years	78	63	141	11.4	10.4	10.9
25 years to 34 years	121	67	188	17.7	11.0	14.6
35 years to 49 years	100	85	185	14.6	14.0	14.3
50 years to 59 years	43	46	89	6.3	7.6	6.9
60 years to 69 years	35	33	68	5.1	5.4	5.3
≥ 70 years	31	25	56	4.5	4.1	4.3
All	685	607	1292	100.0	100.0	100.0

Males outnumber females in the age group of 0 to 6 years, with the result that the child sex ratio (CSR) is 835 females per 1000 males.<sup>16</sup> However, females strongly outnumber males in the age group of 18 to 49 years. This is because a large number of adult males -145 in all-belonging to the families in this village reside outside the village as migrant workers and are not therefore resident members of the households of the village. As a result, the population sex ratio (PSR) for the village is 1183 females per 1000 males.<sup>17</sup>

Let us turn now to the size distribution of households in Rewasi. Table 2.4 shows the distribution.

<sup>16</sup> The rural CSR for the district of Sikar in 2011 was 836, almost the same figure as that for Rewasi in 2010. The figure for rural Rajasthan was higher at 886 as per the 2011 Census, itself a steep decline from 914 in 2001.

<sup>17</sup> The PSR for rural Rajasthan was 930 in 2001 and rose marginally to 932 in 2011. Rural PSR for the district of Sikar in 2011 was 948. If the 145 non-resident adult males are included as part of the male population of Rewasi, its PSR in 2010 becomes 910, lower than that for rural Sikar as well as rural Rajasthan.

Table 2.4 *Distribution of households by household size, Rewasi, 2010*

Household size	Number of households	As percentage of all households	Average size of the household	Cumulative number of the persons	Cumulative percentage of the population
1	2	0.9	1	2	0.2
2	18	8.2	2	38	2.9
3	22	10.0	3	104	8.0
4	40	18.2	4	264	20.4
5	41	18.6	5	469	36.3
6	32	14.5	6	661	51.2
7	22	10.0	7	815	63.1
≥ 8	43	19.5	11.1	1292	100.0
All	220	100.0	5.9	1292	100.0

NOTE: Children (in all references in this document) are defined as persons in the age group 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise specified.

The average household size at 5.9 in Rewasi is somewhat higher than that for 25F Gulabewala, also in Rajasthan, at 5.5.<sup>18</sup>

Among the 220 households of Rewasi, there are 26 households that do not have any child as a member.<sup>19</sup> The variation in the percentage of such households without children to the total across social groups is shown in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 *Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Caste	2	21	9.5
Scheduled Tribe	3	22	13.6
OBC	13	84	15.5
Other Caste Hindu	8	93	8.6
All	26	220	11.8

Overall, around 12 per cent of all households are without children. The Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes have a higher percentage of such households as compared to Scheduled Castes and Other Caste Hindus.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> This compares with 6.0 in Harevli and 7.2 in Mahatwar (both villages in Uttar Pradesh surveyed by FAS in 2006) and 5.2 each in Nimshirgaon and Warwat Kanderao (both villages in Maharashtra surveyed by FAS in 2007). The figure for Rewasi is much higher than is the case in the three villages surveyed by the FAS in Andhra Pradesh. These figures were 3.6 in Ananthavaram, 3.9 in Kothapalle and 4.2 in Bukkacharla, all relating to 2005-06.

<sup>19</sup> Any person who has not completed 18 years of age is considered a child in this *Report*.

The distribution of the average number of children per household by size of household is shown in

Table 2.6. The average for the village is 2.6 children per household.<sup>21</sup>

Table 2.6 *Average number of children per household by household size, Rewasi, 2010*

Household size	Number of households	Average number of children	Number of households without children
1	2	0.0	2
2	18	0.3	12
3	22	1.0	5
4	40	1.8	2
5	41	2.1	3
6	32	2.8	2
7	22	3.0	0
≥ 8	43	5.2	0
All	220	2.6	26

It is generally presumed that children in rural India live with their parents. While this is generally true, there are situations where this does not hold. Table 2.7 presents the picture in this respect in the village of Rewasi.

Table 2.7 *In whose home do children live? Rewasi, 2010*

Living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	162	191	353	58.5	66.3	62.5
Father, not mother	1	4	5	0.4	1.4	0.9
Mother, not father	103	86	189	37.2	29.9	33.5
Neither parents but with other family members	10	7	17	3.6	2.4	3.0
Spouse/ spouse's parents	1	0	1	0.4	0.0	0.2
All	277	288	565	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>20</sup> This proportion varies across villages. Among the villages surveyed by FAS between 2005-06 and 2010, the percentages vary from a high of 55.6 per cent in Ananthavaram in Andhra Pradesh to a low of 4.5 per cent in Mahatwar in Uttar Pradesh. The proportion is around one-fifth in the villages of Harevli in U.P., Warwat Khanderao in Maharashtra and 25F Gulabewala in Rajasthan. It is between one-third and three-eighths in Bukkachera and Kothapalle in Andhra Pradesh and Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra. It seems to be linked to the stage of demographic transition and extent of mobility in search of urban education for children.

<sup>21</sup> This is much higher than for Ananthavaram, Bukkachera, Kothapalle and Nimshirgaon, but not very different from the figures for 25F Gulabewala, Warwat Khanderao and Harevli. It is much lower than for Mahatwar.

A surprisingly large percentage of children – both boys and girls –live with the mother but not the father. There are only a handful of instances of the converse. This is because of what has already been referred to in this *Report*, namely the fact that 145 adult males belonging to families resident in the village live, not in the village, but elsewhere on account of their employment situation.

There are 86 instances of boys living with the mother and not the father. In five of these cases, the father is no more. In all the other 81 instances, the father is living elsewhere on account of his employment. The places of employment of these 81 adult males cover a wide region, including the countries of the Persian gulf and many cities and big towns in India. In terms of social group, 34 out of the 86 children belong to the category of Other Caste Hindus, 32 to Other Backward Class, 12 to Scheduled Caste and 8 to Scheduled Tribe. As for distribution across asset quintiles, there are 20 boys each from Q2, Q3 and Q5, 11 from Q1 and 15 from Q4, which implies a pretty even spread across the quintiles.

Of the 103 girl children living with the mother and not the father, the father was no more in four cases. In all other cases, the father was working elsewhere. The places of employment of these persons included both places in India and places abroad. In terms of social group, 47 were from the category of Other Caste Hindus, 37 from Other Backward Classes, 14 from Scheduled Castes and the remaining 5 from Scheduled Tribes. In terms of asset quintiles, the distribution was somewhat uneven, with 8 from Q1, 17 each from Q2 and Q5, 37 from Q3 and 24 from Q4. While the distribution is uneven, there is no clear pattern, and the variation seems a random occurrence rather than being related to any socioeconomic characteristic.

There are four boys living with the father and not the mother. In all these cases, the mother is no more. Three of the boys are from Scheduled Tribe households belonging to Q1, and the fourth is from a household belonging to Q4 and the category of Other Caste Hindus. There is only one girl living with the father and not the mother. She belongs to a Scheduled Tribe household from Q4. Her mother is no more.

Seven boys and seven girls live with their grandparents as both their parents are not in the village. Three girls live with their uncles. All these children are distributed over several social groups and asset quintiles.

We turn now to an analysis of the activity status of children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

## 2.2 Activity Status of Children

In India, there is a legal provision that children below the age of 14 completed years should be enrolled in and attending an educational institution in order to acquire formal education and the skills thereof. However, in reality, not all children aged 14 years or younger are in school. This is true even in relatively more 'developed' states such as Tamil Nadu. What is the picture in Rewasi in this regard? The relevant information is brought together in Tables 2.8 to 2.10.<sup>22</sup>

In all, 20 children aged between 6 and 14 years, consisting of 9 girls and 11 boys, are working. Except for two girls and one boy who work for an employer outside the household, these children work on household operational holdings. Interestingly, none of the Scheduled Caste children and only one Scheduled Tribe girl is reported to be working. This has to do with the fact that the Scheduled Caste households are mostly landless. All three children working for an employer outside the household come from Other Caste Hindu households. Among the ten boys working on household operational holdings, 7 belong to the category of Other Caste Hindus and three to Other Backward Classes. Five girls from Other Backward Class households, one tribal girl and one girl from the category of 'Other Caste Hindu' work on household operational holdings.

Table 2.8 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in the age group		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	2	1	3	1.2	0.7	1.0
Work on household operational holding	7	10	17	4.3	6.6	5.4
Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	9	11	20	5.6	7.2	6.4

<sup>22</sup> 'Work', for the purposes of this Report, refers to activities that include paid or unpaid work outside the household for an employer, work on household operational holding and work in any household enterprise other than that relating to animal resources. Children engaged in any of these activities are working children.

Table 2.9 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number		As percentage of all children in age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Scheduled Caste	0	0	0.0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0.0	0.0
OBC	0	3	0.0	4.9
Other Caste Hindu	1	7	1.6	11.3
All	1	10	0.7	6.6

Table 2.10 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number		percentage of children in age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Scheduled Caste	0	0	0.0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	1	0.0	8.3
OBC	0	5	0.0	8.6
Other Caste Hindu	2	1	2.8	1.4
All	2	7	1.2	4.3

While the incidence of working children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in Rewasi at about one-sixteenth of the population in this age group is smaller than in 25F Gulabewala, where 23.7 per cent of girls and 13.3 per cent of boys in this age group were working, it is still the case that child labour has not been done away with.<sup>23</sup>

In the analysis of deprivation in rural India, besides looking at the social correlates such as caste/tribe/gender/disability, it is also important to examine the economic correlates of various kinds. With this end in view, we have classified the households of Rewasi into five equal quintiles

<sup>23</sup> This is what the FAS surveys are bringing out, in village after village across India, even as GDP has been growing at over 6 per cent per annum compound for three decades now, since 1980. Working children in the age group of 6 to 14 years constitute a part of the sordid reality of deprivation in Ananthavaram, Bukkacherla, Kothapalle, Nimshirgaon, Warwat Khanderao, Harevli, Mahatwar, 25F Gulabewala, Dungariya and Rewasi, as they do in hundreds of thousands of villages in the country. Available research makes it clear that urban areas are not free of child labour either.

by their levels of asset holding.<sup>24</sup> The details of the minimum, maximum, median and mean values in rupees defining each of the quintiles in Rewasi is shown in Table 2.11

Table 2.11 *Details of asset quintile (in Rupees), Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean
Q1	0	419930	238025	233017
Q2	422360	671420	534341	540948
Q3	674000	978175	824337	824597
Q4	983325	1821716	1183450	1275124
Q5	1855725	27409733	3114352	3823749

Table 2.11 brings out the enormous inequality in the distribution of assets in Rewasi.<sup>25</sup> In a sense, though, Rewasi is different from several other villages in Rajasthan and India. The upper limit for the first quintile at 4, 19, 930 rupees is considerably higher than in many other villages. For instance, in 25F Gulabewala, also in Rajasthan, the maximum asset value for Q1 was a mere 25,250 rupees. Even the maximum for Q3 was only Rs 1, 05,100, a value less than half of both the mean and the median for Q1 in Rewasi.<sup>26</sup> There is some significant investment in machinery and modern equipments in agriculture in Rewasi, and land values are also higher. These explain, in part, the higher limits for the asset quintiles compared to many other villages. Nevertheless, there is considerable asset inequality across households in the village.

How does wealth status correlate with social group status? Table 2.12 shows the distribution of households by social group and asset quintile.

<sup>24</sup> Assets include land and water bodies, houses and buildings, trees, animals, other means of production, means of transport, domestic durable goods, and other assets such as grain stock and inventories. Assets do not include financial assets and gold. Assets are valued at present value, as reported by households.

<sup>25</sup> This is of course far from being atypical of rural India, a comment that bears repetition if only for the fact that this enormous inequality across the land does not seem to inform policy at all in the manner it should: namely, addressing the issue of how to reduce it to less obscene levels!

<sup>26</sup> This should be seen as only a relative statement. Even in Rewasi, the annuity that the wealthiest Q3 household can get at 10 per cent rate of interest is less than a lakh of rupees per year.

Table 2.12 *Distribution of households by social group and asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households (as percentage of all households in the asset quintile)						As percentage of all households within the social group					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All
Scheduled Caste	8 (18.2)	6 (13.6)	4 (9.1)	1 (2.3)	2 (4.5)	21 (9.5)	38.1	28.6	19.0	4.8	9.5	100
Scheduled Tribe	5 (11.4)	10 (22.7)	4 (9.1)	3 (6.8)	0 (0.0)	22 (10.0)	22.7	45.5	18.2	13.6	0.0	100
OBC	13 (29.5)	16 (36.4)	15 (34.1)	14 (31.8)	26 (59.1)	84 (38.2)	15.5	19.0	17.9	16.7	31.0	100
Other Caste Hindu	18 (40.9)	12 (27.3)	21 (47.7)	26 (59.1)	16 (36.4)	93 (42.3)	19.4	12.9	22.6	28.0	17.2	100
All	44 (100)	44 (100)	44 (100)	44 (100)	44 (100)	220 (100)	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100

The correlation between social group and asset quintile is evident from Table 2.12. In the case of both the Other Backward Classes and the Other Caste Hindus, nearly half of their households are to be found in Q4 and Q5, the top two asset quintiles. By contrast, in the case of both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, over two-thirds of the households are found in Q1 and Q2. In the case of both these groups, only one-seventh make it to Q4 and Q5. Put in a different way, more than 95 per cent of Q5 households and 90 per cent of those in Q4 are drawn from the Other Backward Classes and Other Caste Hindus.

Let us now look at variations in the percentage of working children across asset quintiles. The data are presented in Table 2.13 for boys and 2.14 for girls.

None of the boys from households in Q5 work either for an employer outside the household or on household operational holding. Only one boy works for an employer outside the household and he is from a Q3 household. Eight of the ten boys working on household operational holding are from the bottom three quintiles.

Table 2.13 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number		As percentage of all boys in the age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Q1	0	4	0.0	10.3
Q2	0	3	0.0	10.7
Q3	1	1	3.7	3.7
Q4	0	2	0.0	11.1
Q5	0	0	0.0	0.0
All	1	10	0.7	6.6

Table 2.14 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number		As percentage of all boys in the age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Q1	1	2	3.8	7.7
Q2	0	0	0.0	0.0
Q3	0	0	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	1	0.0	3.1
Q5	1	4	2.6	10.3
All	2	7	1.2	4.3

When it comes to girls, however, 5 out of nine girls at work are from Q5. No girls from Q2 and Q3 are reported as working.

However, since the numbers of working children are small for both boys and girls, one cannot read too much into the data. It would appear that even rich households in Rewasi do not refrain totally from putting their children to work.

### 2.3 Age at Marriage

Before we conclude this section on demography and turn to the picture in Rewasi in respect of education, let us take a brief look at how the village fares in respect of the issue of age at marriage. The legal age at marriage in India is 21 years for males and 18 years for females. There is a general perception that girls, in particular, continue to get married before reaching the legal

minimum age in rural India. However, it is also recognized that the frequency of occurrence of this phenomenon has been declining.

The data for Rewasi in this regard are presented in Table 2.15. There is one female below 18 years of age at the time of the FAS survey who is reported as married. Likewise, there is one male below 21 years of age at the time of the FAS survey reported as being married. The female belongs to a Scheduled Caste household and the male to an Other Backward Class household. It is evident that the practice of marriage below the legal age is not a frequent occurrence.

Table 2.15 *Persons currently married in the age group below 18 years for women and below 21 years for men, by sex and social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Female		Male	
	Number married	As percentage of all females below 18 years in social group	Number married	As percentage of all males below 21 years in social group
Scheduled Caste	1	2.8	0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0	0	0.0
OBC	0	0.0	1	0.7
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	1	0.4	1	0.3

It must be made clear that the FAS survey did not investigate the age at marriage of all the married members of the population in Rewasi. It therefore cannot say anything about the larger issue of how widespread the practice of marriage before attainment of the legal minimum age may be in the entire population of the village.

### 3. EDUCATION

#### 3.1 School Attendance

All three aspects of the challenge of universal school education- enrolment, retention and achievement with regard to learning outcomes- continue to remain unmet in India. In the more backward parts of the country, universal enrolment and attendance constitute the primary challenges. How does Rewasi fare in this regard?

The data on school attendance and that on gross enrolment ratios for Rewasi are presented in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 respectively.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 10 years	74	84	158	93.7	96.6	95.2
11 to 14 years	68	65	133	82.9	100.0	90.5
15 to 16 years	25	31	56	64.1	96.9	78.9
17 to 18 years	12	30	42	54.5	75.0	67.7
All	179	210	389	80.6	93.8	87.2

Figure 3.1 *Proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

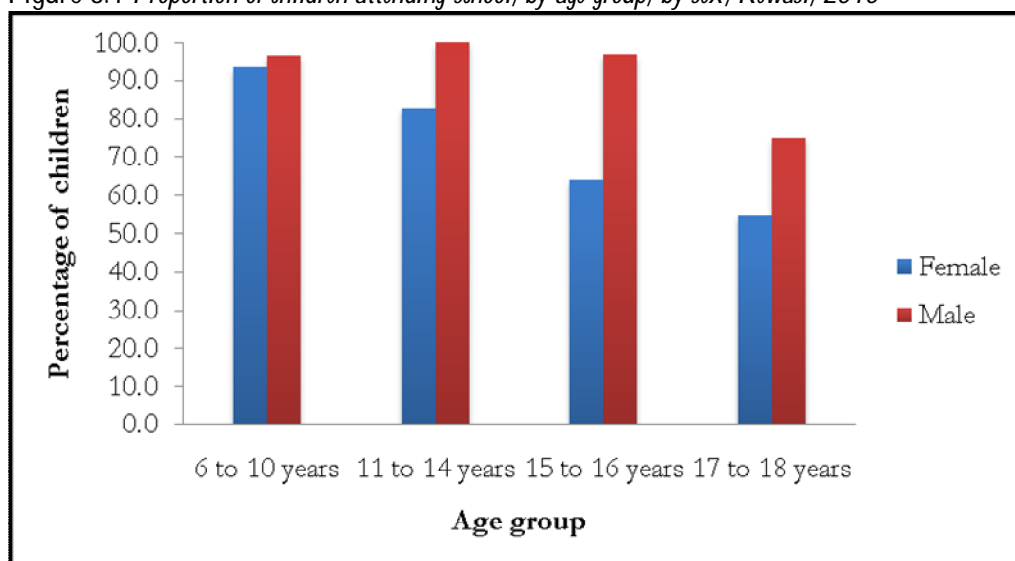


Table 3.2 Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, Rewasi, 2010

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Standard I to V	84	92	176	88.4	90.2	89.3
Standard VI to VIII	50	55	105	61.0	84.6	71.4
Standard IX to X	28	36	64	50.0	80.0	63.4
Standard XI to XII	12	30	42	33.3	58.8	48.3

Note: Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in a given school-year.

The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD), India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:

Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years

Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years

Standard IX to XII: 14 to 18 years

In Table 3.2 we have divided Standard IX to XII further in two categories:

Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years

### 3.2 School Attendance by Social Group and Asset Quintile

School attendance ratios in Rewasi between the ages of 6 and 14 years in 2010 reflect the failure to achieve 100 per cent attendance, though the village fares better than some others surveyed by FAS since 2005, such as, for instance, 25F Gulabewala in Rajasthan. Attendance ratios for girls are lower than those for boys in all the age groups. The ratio declines sharply for girls when they complete 14 years of age, which is when they would 'normally' complete eight years of schooling. The ratio for boys declines significantly when they complete 16 years of age, possibly reflecting significant drop-out on completion of the tenth class.

Tables 3.3 to 3.5 show attendance ratios for children aged 6 to 18 years by social group and sex.

Table 3.3 Children attending school, by age group, by social group, Rewasi, 2010

Age group	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	13	100.0	12	92.3	64	94.1	69	95.8
11 to 14 years	16	88.9	16	100.0	48	94.1	53	85.5
15 to 16 years	3	50.0	5	71.4	23	92.0	25	75.8
17 to 18 years	6	66.7	2	66.7	20	80.0	14	56.0
6 to 18 years	38	82.6	35	89.7	155	91.7	161	83.9

In the age group of 6-14 years, there is not much variation across social groups. In fact, the attendance ratio for the Other Caste Hindus appears marginally lower than for the other social

groups. Beyond the age of 14 years, however, attendance ratios among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are much lower than those for Other Backward Classes. The attendance ratios for Other Caste Hindus are significantly lower than those for Other Backward Classes, except in the age group of 6 to 10 years where they are marginally higher.

Table 3.4 *Boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	8	100.0	9	100.0	34	94.4	33	97.1
11 to 14 years	4	100.0	8	100.0	25	100.0	28	100.0
15 to 16 years	1	50.0	3	100.0	12	100.0	15	100.0
17 to 18 years	4	80.0	2	100.0	15	93.8	9	52.9
6 to 18 years	17	89.5	22	100.0	86	96.6	85	90.4

Among boys, there is nearly universal attendance in the age group of 6 to 14 years. Thereafter, the numbers involved become very small for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and there is not much one can say by way of generalization.<sup>27</sup> It is, however, noteworthy, that the Other Backward Classes report a high rate of attendance in the age group of 15 to 18 years as well, in contrast to the Other Caste Hindus among whom the attendance percentage falls to 53 per cent in the age group of 17 to 18 years.

Table 3.5 *Girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribe		OBC		Other Caste Hindu	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	5	100.0	3	75.0	30	93.8	36	94.7
11 to 14 years	12	85.7	8	100.0	23	88.5	25	73.5
15 to 16 years	2	50.0	2	50.0	11	84.6	10	55.6
17 to 18 years	2	50.0	0	0.0	5	55.6	5	62.5
6 to 18 years	21	77.8	13	76.5	69	86.3	76	77.6

<sup>27</sup> One may note that the attendance percentage for Scheduled Tribes is 100 throughout. The Scheduled Tribe category here refers to the Meenas, known to be generally much better off than other Scheduled Tribe groups.

Figure 3.2 Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Rewasi, 2010

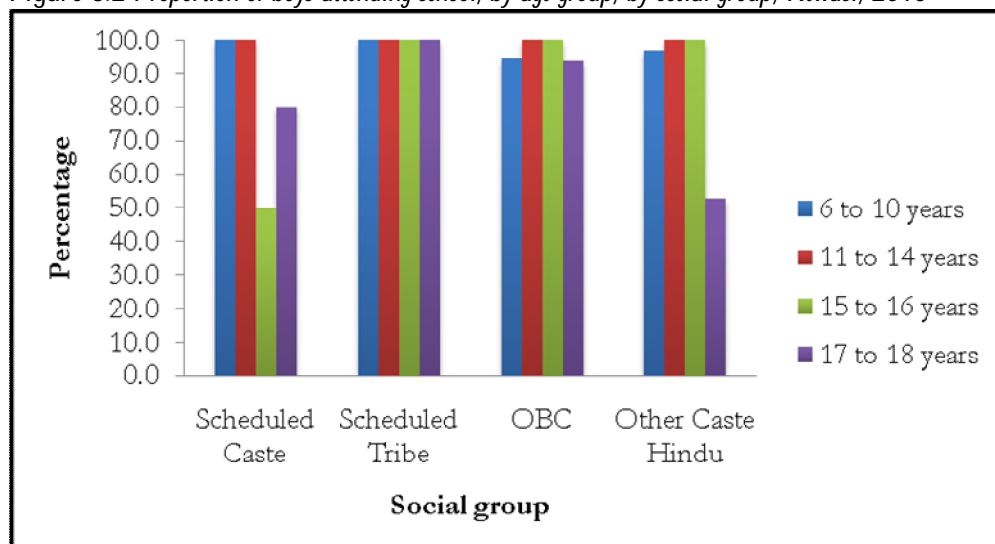
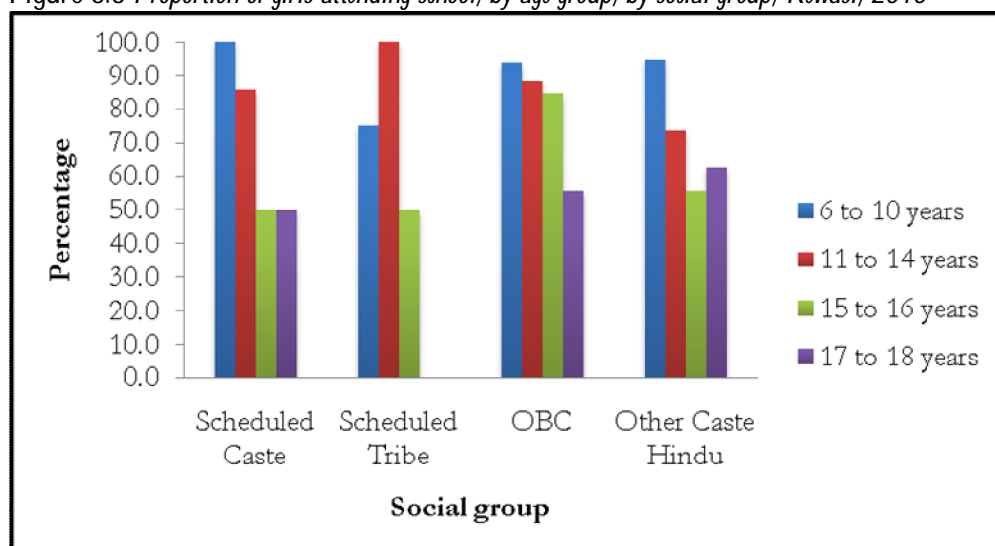


Figure 3.3 Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Rewasi, 2010



Among girls, the overall attendance ratio for the age group of 6 to 18 years is similar across Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Caste Hindus. The ratio is higher among Other Backward Classes. For all the social groups, the overall attendance ratio for girls is distinctly lower than that for boys. In the age group of 15 to 18 years, Other Backward Classes report higher attendance ratios than Other Caste Hindus, for girls as well as boys.

The variation in attendance ratios of children across the asset quintiles is brought out in Tables 3.6 to 3.8.

Table 3.6 *Children attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	23	88.5	29	96.7	37	92.5	24	96.0	45	100.0
11 to 14 years	34	87.2	22	100.0	23	85.2	22	88.0	32	94.1
15 to 16 years	10	62.5	12	80.0	9	75.0	12	85.7	13	92.9
17 to 18 years	10	83.3	6	66.7	8	61.5	10	71.4	8	57.1
All	77	82.8	69	90.8	77	83.7	68	87.2	98	91.6

It would appear that the divide across asset quintiles in respect of school attendance is not as sharp in Rewasi as it is elsewhere. Overall, while Q5 has a marginally higher percentage of attendance, the differences across asset quintiles are relatively small.

Table 3.7 *Boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	15	88.2	15	100.0	18	100.0	11	91.7	25	100.0
11 to 14 years	22	100.0	13	100.0	9	100.0	6	100.0	15	100.0
15 to 16 years	5	83.3	4	100.0	7	100.0	8	100.0	7	100.0
17 to 18 years	7	87.5	5	100.0	7	70.0	6	66.7	5	62.5
All	49	92.5	37	100.0	41	93.2	31	88.6	52	94.5

Among the boys, there is again not much of a divide across asset quintiles with regard to attendance ratios. Interestingly, the bottom three quintiles do better than the top two in the age group of 17 to 18 years!

Table 3.8 *Girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	8	88.9	14	93.3	19	86.4	13	100.0	20	100.0
11 to 14 years	12	70.6	9	100.0	14	77.8	16	84.2	17	89.5
15 to 16 years	5	50.0	8	72.7	2	40.0	4	66.7	6	85.7
17 to 18 years	3	75.0	1	25.0	1	33.3	4	80.0	3	50.0
6 to 18 years	28	70.0	32	82.1	36	75.0	37	86.0	46	88.5

The variation across asset quintiles in respect of the attendance ratios of girls does suggest that the top two quintiles perform better, but not by a big margin. In fact, in the age group of 6 to 14 years, Q2 has the highest attendance ratio for girls at 95.8 per cent, marginally higher than that for Q5!

Figure 3.4 Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010

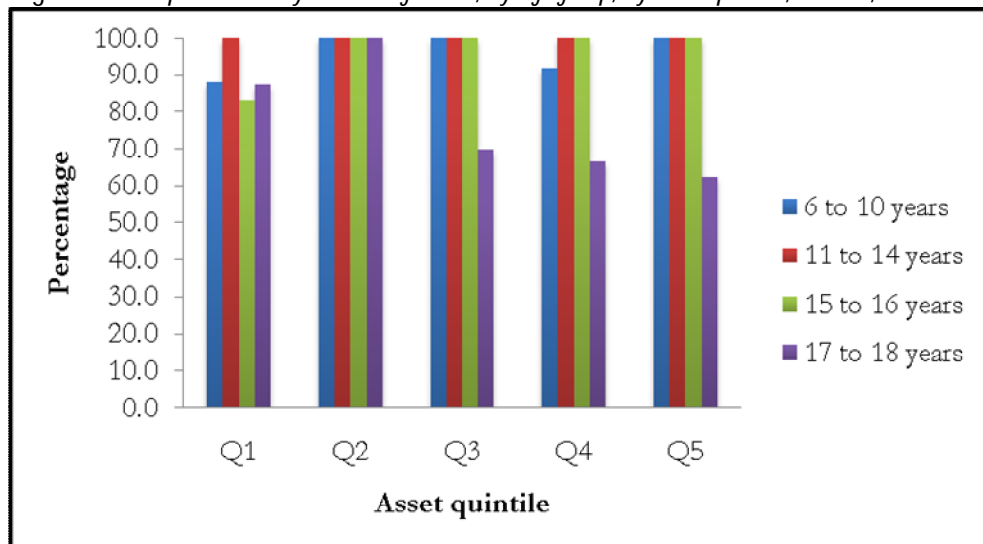
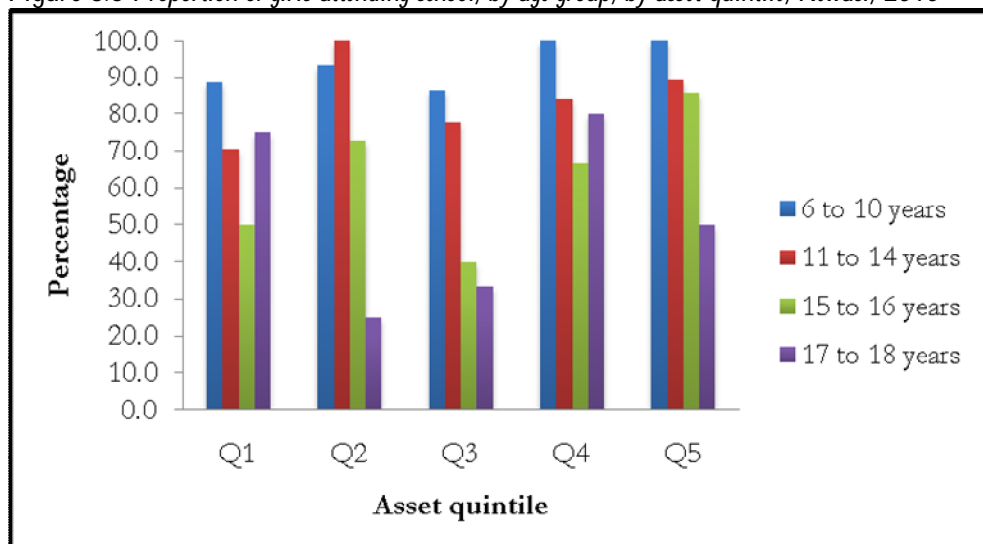


Figure 3.5 Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010



Rewasi does seem different from many of the other villages surveyed by FAS with regard to the variations in attendance ratios across asset quintiles. Thus, in 25F Gulabewala, the bottom three asset quintiles report much lower attendance ratios than the top two. This is also the case in most other villages surveyed by FAS in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

### 3.3 School Attendance and Work

In our earlier discussion in section 2.2 on the activity status of children aged 6 to 14 years in Rewasi, we had noted that 9 girls and 11 boys in this age group were engaged in specified

activities that constitute child labour. What is the picture in the age group of 6 to 18 years? How does the fact of children working impact on school attendance?

The data on attendance ratios for boys and girls in the age group of 6 to 18 years has shown us that even in rich households, school attendance is not certain. We may now look at a four-fold classification of children in the age group of 6 to 18 years: *working and attending school; working and not attending school; attending school and not working; and, finally, not attending school and not working*. The data for Rewasi in this regard, disaggregated by sex, is presented in Table 3.9

Table 3.9 *School attendance among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, Rewasi, 2010 (number and percent)*

Children	Total	Not attending school				Attending school			
		Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Girls	222	27	12.2	16	7.2	166	74.8	13	5.8
Boys	224	4	1.8	10	4.5	162	72.3	48	21.4
All	446	31	7.0	26	5.8	328	73.5	61	13.7

Note: Work (in all references in this document) is defined as three specific types of activities:  
a. Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)  
b. Work on household operational holding  
c. Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources.  
Any person 18 years or below engaged in any of the three activities above is considered to be "working".

Over one-fifth of the children aged 6 to 18 years in Rewasi are *working children*. In fact, this is an undercount, since many girls listed as not working by our definition are engaged in household chores and care functions. 18 percent of girls and 23.2 per cent of boys are working, even in terms of the narrow definition adopted here. Nearly one-fifth of the girls and 6.3 percent of boys are not attending school.

Of the 61 children in the category '*attending school and working*', 26 are from Other Backward Class households and 25 from Other Caste Hindu households. The rest are from Scheduled Caste households. In all, 23 children from Q4 and Q5 households - 7 girls and 16 boys - figure in this category.

Girls from the lower asset quintiles dominate the category '*not working and not attending*'. There are 8 children from Q4 and Q5 (Q4 - 7, Q5 - 1), consisting of 7 girls and one boy, in this category with a total of 31 children. In terms of social group, this category is dominated by the Other Caste Hindus with 19 children. Five are Other Backward Classes and seven are Scheduled

Castes. Of the 26 children in the category 'working and not attending school', four –all girls, and two from Q5 - are 14 years or younger. Ten of the 26 belong to Q4 and Q5 households, and six of these are boys aged 17 to 18 years. In terms of social group, nine are Other Backward Classes, twelve are Other Caste Hindus and five are Scheduled Castes.

Of the 27 girls listed as 'not attending school and not working', all but 5 report being engaged in housework. Of these 22 girls, 9 are also engaged in animal husbandry. Of the five girls not reporting any activity, two are 6 years old and the other three are respectively 7, 8 and 9 years of age.

Of the four boys listed in this category, one is 15 years of age and engaged in animal husbandry. Of the remaining three, one is 7 years old and the other two 6 years of age.

It is clear, from this detailed description, that working children in Rewasi are drawn from all social groups and asset quintiles, with the exception of the *Meenas*, who are classified as Scheduled Tribes, but are much better off than the general Scheduled Tribe population in India. Not a single child from among the *Meenas* is working

Figure 3.6 Distribution of boys (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Rewasi, 2010

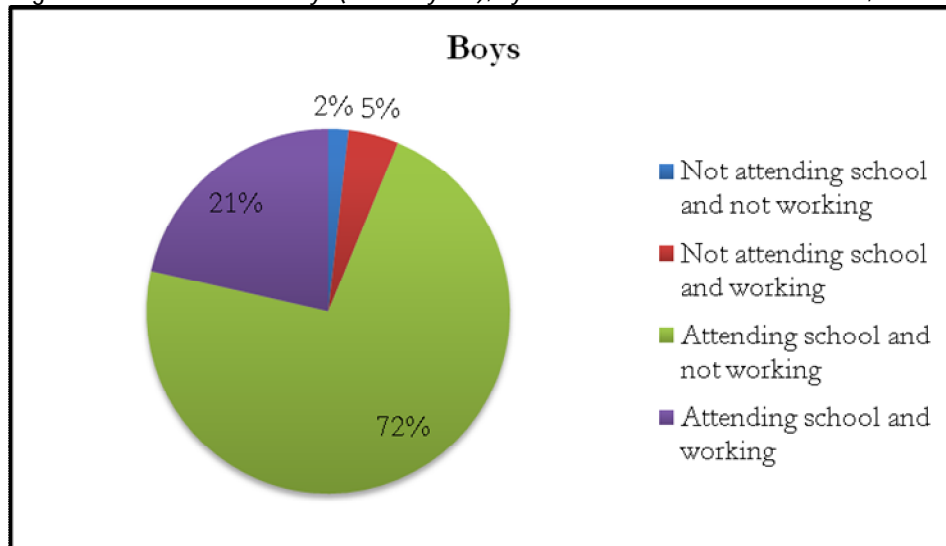
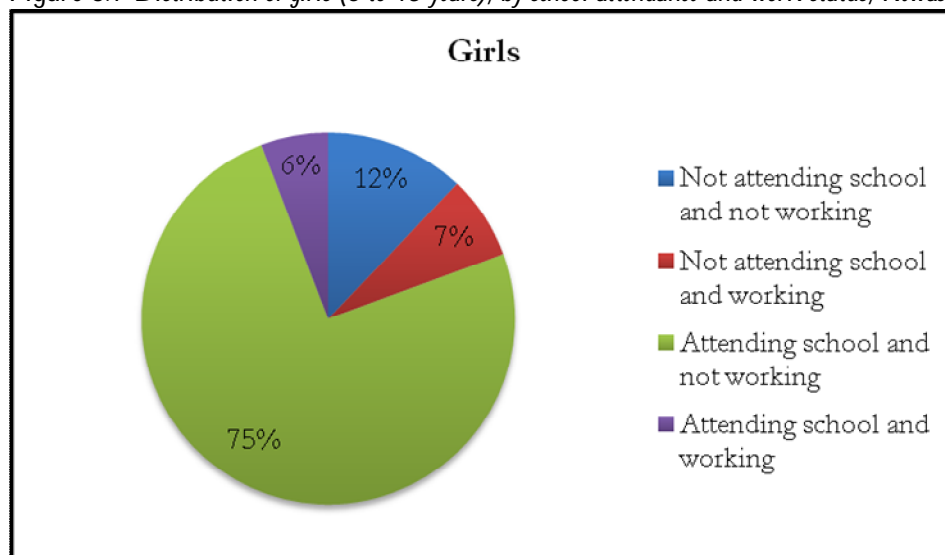


Figure 3.7 *Distribution of girls (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Rewasi, 2010*



### 3.4 Anganwadi

The importance of pre- school education and supplementary nutrition is widely recognized in official policy documents in India. Since 1975, one of the major schemes intended to address these and other issues related to child care, maternal nutrition and pregnancy-related care has been the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. As part of ICDS, anganwadi centres have been set up across the country. However, the provision of anganwadi facilities is far from universal. Even where they exist, it does not follow that the personnel required to operate these centres are in place. It is also observed that, even where they have been set up, for a variety of reasons, not many children are found to be enrolled in them.<sup>28</sup>

How does Rewasi fare in this regard? It turns out that *not one child aged 6 years or less* attends the anganwadi centre in the village.<sup>29</sup> Though the centre exists and a designated anganwadi worker has been posted, in our survey, no child was reported to be attending the Anganwadi. At the time of a follow-up visit in 2011, we found 20 children at the Anganwadi centre on the day of the visit (or less than 20 per cent of the children in the age group 3 to 6 years).

<sup>28</sup> In recent years, so-called 'nursery' schools have been mushrooming in both urban and rural areas. These are mostly privately owned and run, and there is no regulation, quality control mechanism or monitoring of these institutions. These schools have found takers, even among some of the non-rich households.

<sup>29</sup> Even as no child goes to the anganwadi centre, three girls and one boy in the age group of 0 to 6 years were enrolled in a nursery school.

### 3.5 Literacy

Having examined school attendance and child labour at some length, let us turn now to the issue of literacy. In the FAS survey, respondents were categorized in terms of literacy, not in a binary manner as literate/non-literate but into four categories-'cannot read or write', 'can only sign name', 'can read but not write', 'can read and write'- and it is only the last category we treat as literate in the discussion that follows.

Table 3.10 presents the distribution of the population of Rewasi aged 7 years and above by sex and level in 2007. The literacy rate in Rewasi for the population seven years and older is 59.8 per cent. This overall rate masks a huge difference in the literacy rates as between men and women. The female literacy rate at 46.1 per cent is 30.1 percentage points lower than the male rate at 76.2 per cent. The literacy rate for rural Rajasthan as per the 2011 Census is 62.34 per cent (Male 77.49 per cent, Female 46.25 per cent) while the rural literacy rate for Sikar district is 86.44 per cent for males and 56.75 per cent for females. On the face of it, it would appear that Rewasi's performance is close to the state average and well below that of rural Sikar. However, one must keep in mind that census literacy rate numbers tend to be over-estimates because of the binary option that respondents are given.

Table 3.10 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Literacy rate	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	243	40.6	79	15.7	322	29.2
Can only sign name	78	13.0	35	6.9	113	10.2
Can read but cannot write	2	0.3	6	1.2	8	0.7
Can read and write	276	46.1	384	76.2	660	59.8
All	599	100.0	504	100.0	1103	100.0

The variation in literacy rates among the 7 plus population by sex and social group is presented in Table 3.11. The same across asset quintiles is shown in Table 3.12.

There is some variation across social groups, but not a great deal, in male literacy rates and even less variation in female literacy rates. Other Backward Classes among males and the Scheduled Tribes (Meenas) among females have the highest literacy rate. The sex differential in literacy rate is high for all social groups, and is largest among Other Backward Classes.

Table 3.11 *Population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	28	32	60	45.2	74.4	57.1
Scheduled Tribe	21	33	54	50.0	76.7	63.5
OBC	110	165	275	46.8	82.1	63.1
Other Caste Hindu	117	154	271	45.0	71.0	56.8
All	276	384	660	46.1	76.2	59.8

Figure 3.8 *Literacy rate of the population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by social group, Rewasi, 2010, in per cent*

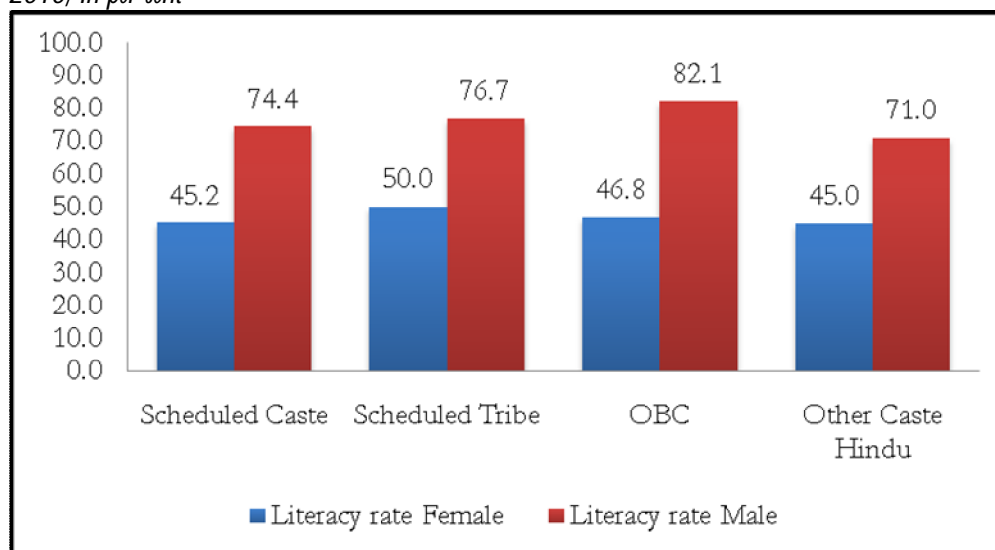
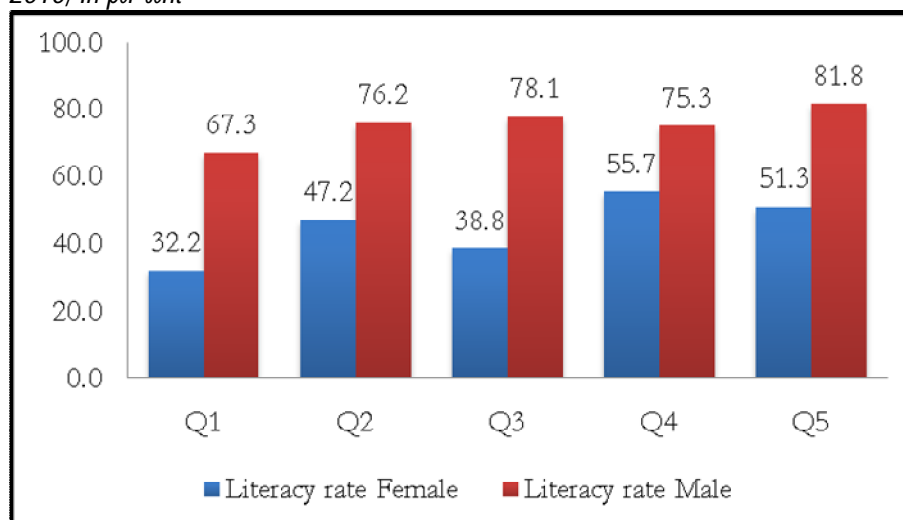


Table 3.12 *Population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	29	66	95	32.2	67.3	50.5
Q2	50	64	114	47.2	76.2	60.0
Q3	47	75	122	38.8	78.1	56.2
Q4	68	67	135	55.7	75.3	64.0
Q5	82	112	194	51.3	81.8	65.3
All	276	384	660	46.1	76.2	59.8

Figure 3.9 Literacy rate of the population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010, in per cent



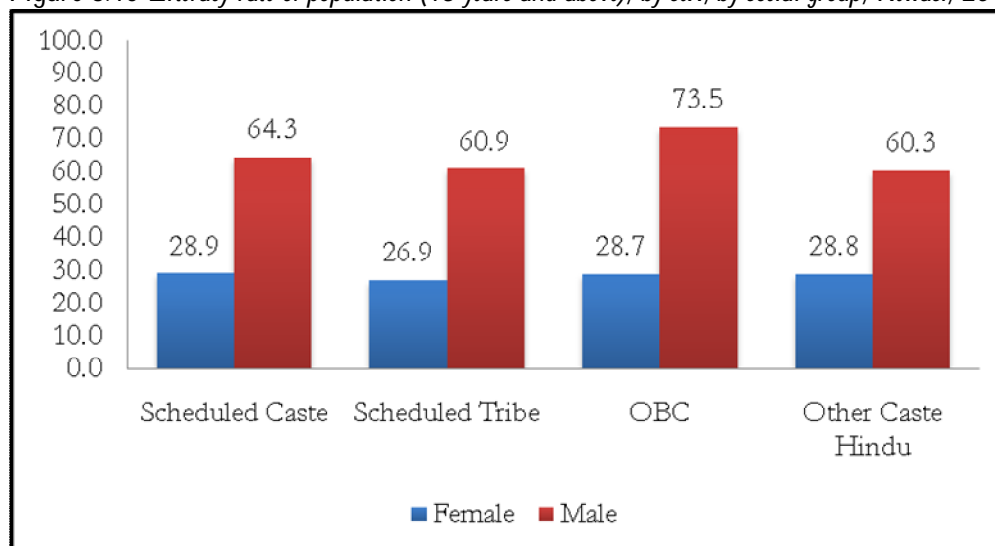
There is greater variation across asset quintiles than across social groups in both male and female literacy rates among those aged 7 years and above. The highest asset quintiles Q4 and Q5 taken together have a higher literacy rate for both females and males than the bottom three asset quintiles. But the variation across asset quintiles is neither dramatic nor linear. For instance, Q3 and Q2 report higher male literacy rates compared to Q4. Similarly, Q2 outperforms Q3 with respect to the female literacy rate, as does Q4 in relation to Q5. Unlike in several other villages surveyed by FAS, and unlike what one would generally expect, there is not a very strong association between asset status and literacy achievement in Rewasi.

Let us now turn to literacy rates of the adult population. One would expect these to be generally lower than 7 plus rates, since a large majority of persons between the ages of 7 and 18 years would be currently in school and be literate. Table 3.13 presents the data in this regard by social group.

Table 3.13 Population (18 years and above), who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	11	18	29	28.9	64.3	43.9
Scheduled Tribe	7	14	21	26.9	60.9	42.9
OBC	48	97	145	28.7	73.5	48.5
Other Caste Hindu	51	82	133	28.8	60.3	42.5
All	117	211	328	28.7	66.1	45.1

Figure 3.10 Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Rewasi, 2010, in per cent



Adult literacy rates are, indeed, consistently much lower than 7 plus rates for both males and females, across all social groups. The gap between 7 plus and adult literacy rates is much higher for females, suggesting a more rapid rise in female literacy in the recent period, consequent upon a sharper rise in school attendance ratios for females than for males in recent years. The largest difference between 7 plus and 18 plus literacy rates, in the case of both males and females, occurs among the Scheduled Tribes.

Table 3.14 shows the variation in adult literacy rates across asset quintiles in Rewasi.

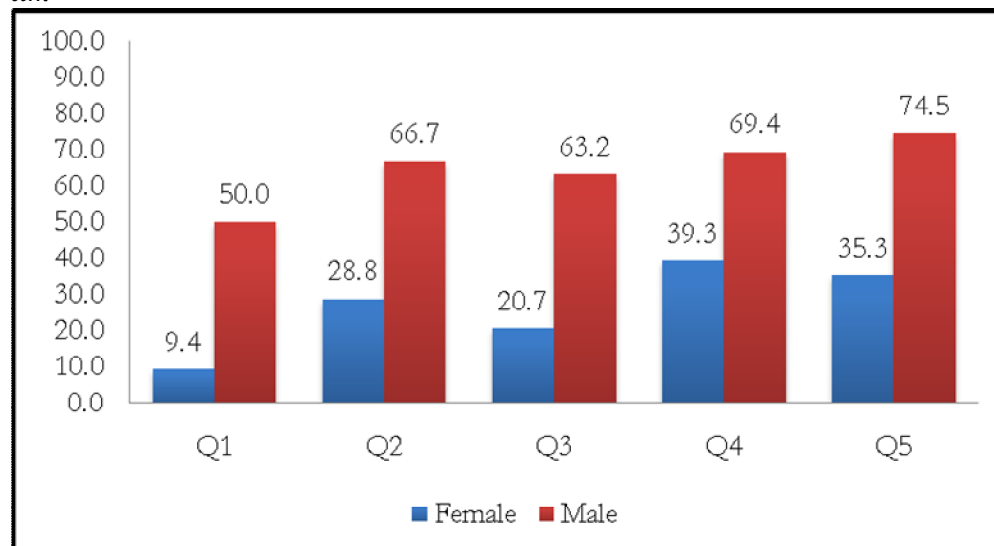
Table 3.14 Population (18 years and above), who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010

Asset quintile	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	5	26	31	9.4	50.0	29.5
Q2	21	36	57	28.8	66.7	44.9
Q3	17	36	53	20.7	63.2	38.1
Q4	33	43	76	39.3	69.4	52.1
Q5	41	70	111	35.3	74.5	52.9
All	117	211	328	28.7	66.1	45.1

The poorest asset quintile shows the largest difference between 7 plus and adult literacy rates among both males and females. Likewise, the differences between 7 plus and adult literacy rates are much higher for females as compared to males in every asset quintile. Q1 is the poorest

performer in terms of adult literacy rates followed by Q3 rather than Q2. For some reason, Q4 does better than Q5 in respect of both 7 plus and adult literacy rates.

Figure 3.11 Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010, in per cent



Finally, in our discussion of literacy rates, we take a look at literacy rates by age cohorts in Table 3.15

Table 3.15 Population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, Rewasi, 2010

Age group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	160	180	340	77.7	88.7	83.1
18 to 34 years	106	116	222	53.3	89.2	67.5
35 to 49 years	8	52	60	8.0	61.2	32.4
50 to 65 years	3	30	33	5.0	47.6	26.8
> 65 years	0	13	13	0.0	31.7	14.4
All	277	391	668	45.1	74.9	58.8

The numbers bring out the fact that the big gains in female literacy are of much more recent origin than is the case with male literacy. The female literacy rates in the population 35 years or older are in single digit. The big jump in female school attendance rates seems to have happened about twenty-five years ago. This also seems to be the case for males. Although male literacy rates were consistently higher than those for females, the big jump in literacy rates occurs when one moves from the age group of 35 to 49 years to the age group of 18 to 34 years for both

males and females. While male literacy rates show hardly any difference between the age group of 18 to 34 years and that of 6 to 17 years, the female literacy rate for the age group of 6 to 17 years is much higher than for the age group of 18 to 34 years.

### 3.6 Years of Schooling

A useful measure of adult achievement with respect to school education is the average years of schooling in a group. The distributions of *median* and *mean* years of schooling for the population of Rewasi aged above 16 years by social group are presented in Tables 3.16 and 3.17.

Table 3.16 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	8	0
Scheduled Tribe	0	5	0
OBC	0	8	3
Other Caste Hindu	0	5	0
All	0	7	0

Table 3.17 *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
OBC	2.7	6.9	4.6
Other Caste Hindu	2.2	4.9	3.4
Scheduled Caste	1.9	6.8	4.0
Scheduled Tribe	1.9	5.0	3.4
All	2.3	5.9	3.9

Differences as between males and females are much larger than differences across social groups when it comes to median or mean years of formal education. In every social group, half or more of women over 16 years of age have not had a single year of formal schooling. The value of mean years of education for females does not exceed even three in any social group. Nor is the picture among males especially impressive. More than half the male population of Rewasi aged over 16 years has not even had 8 years of formal schooling. With respect to the duration of schooling among females, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are most poorly off, while the same is true of Other Caste Hindus and Scheduled Tribes in respect of males. The overall picture is quite dismal.

Tables 3.18 and 3.19 present the data on mean and median years of schooling by asset quintiles.

Table 3.18 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	3	0
Q2	0	7	0
Q3	0	7	0
Q4	0	6	4
Q5	0	8	5
All	0	7	0

Table 3.19 *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	1.0	4.4	2.7
Q2	2.1	5.8	3.7
Q3	1.5	6.0	3.4
Q4	3.2	5.7	4.3
Q5	3.1	7.0	4.9
All	2.3	5.9	3.9

There is a correlation between asset status and mean/median years of schooling, but it is not very strong or uniform. One can say that the top asset quintile is well ahead of the rest and that the bottom asset quintile is the poorest performer. There is little difference across the three intervening quintiles when it comes to males, but Q4 does better in terms of mean years of schooling for females.

### 3.7 Educational Achievements

Let us now turn to educational achievements of the population across various social groups and asset quintiles in Rewasi. We begin with the number of persons who have obtained a degree, which requires, at a minimum, fifteen completed years of schooling. We confine ourselves to the population aged 25 years or older. Table 3.20 provides the distribution of the number and percentage of graduates in the population aged 25 years and older by social group. Table 3.21 provides corresponding data by asset quintile.

Table 3.20 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population 25 years and older		
	Females	Males	Persons	Females	Males	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	4	4	0.0	20.0	8.3
Scheduled Tribe	0	1	1	0.0	5.0	2.5
OBC	1	7	8	0.7	7.0	3.4
Other Caste Hindu	0	2	2	0.0	1.7	0.8
All	1	14	15	0.3	5.5	2.6

NOTE: Graduates are persons who have completed B.A./B.Com/B.Sc or equivalent degree. Persons with diploma in various technical and vocational courses are not included.

Table 3.21 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population 25 years and older		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	2	2	0.0	4.3	2.1
Q2	0	3	3	0.0	6.8	2.9
Q3	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	3	3	0.0	6.3	2.8
Q5	1	6	7	1.1	8.2	4.2
All	1	14	15	0.3	5.5	2.6

There is only one female graduate in the population of Rewasi that is aged 25 years and above. In this age group, there were 330 females in Rewasi in 2010. Among the 256 males in this age group, there were only 14 graduates. Clearly, for the people of Rewasi, getting a college degree is close to being a rare event. Within this picture of little achievement, it is interesting that 4 of the 14 male graduates are Scheduled Castes. Unlike in many other villages surveyed by FAS, the Other Caste Hindus perform rather poorly in Rewasi in this regard.

Looking at the picture across asset quintiles, the sole female graduate aged 25 years or older is from the top asset quintile while 9 of the 14 male graduates are from Q4 and Q5. Q3 is the worst performer, with not a single female or male graduate.

Continuing our discussion of the variation in educational achievement by social group and asset status, let us take a look at the picture, across social groups and asset quintiles, of the achievement of completion of at least twelve years of formal education among those aged 25 years or older. The variation by social group is shown in Table 3.22 and that by asset quintile is presented in Table 3.23.

Table 3.22 *Population in the age group 25 years and older who have completed 12 years of formal education, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Numbers			As percentage of total population 25 years and older		
	Females	Males	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	5	5	0.0	25.0	10.4
Scheduled Tribe	0	1	1	0.0	5.0	2.5
OBC	2	13	15	1.4	13.0	6.3
Other Caste Hindu	0	4	4	0.0	3.4	1.5
All	2	23	25	0.6	9.0	4.3

Table 3.23 *Population in the age group 25 years and older who have completed 12 years of formal education, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	2	2	0.0	4.3	2.1
Q2	1	4	5	1.7	9.1	4.8
Q3	0	3	3	0.0	6.7	2.7
Q4	0	3	3	0.0	6.3	2.8
Q5	1	11	12	1.1	15.1	7.3
All	2	23	25	0.6	9.0	4.3

There are only two females out of 330 in this age group in Rewasi who have completed twelve years of schooling, both from the Other Backward Class category. Of the two, one had gone on to become a graduate, as we saw earlier. Among the 256 males aged 25 years or older in Rewasi, only 23 persons, 13 of whom are from among the Other Backward Classes, have completed twelve years of formal schooling. Of these, 14 had gone on to become graduates. Interestingly, four of the five Scheduled Caste males who had passed class 12, had gone on to become graduates, while the 'conversion ratio' was only 7 out of 13 for the Other Backward Class males. The top asset quintile accounts for nearly half of all those who have completed twelve years of schooling. The overall picture in terms of even this more modest measure of educational achievement is dismal, and especially so in respect of females.

Let us consider a still more modest measure of educational achievement. Table 3.24 presents the number and percentage of males, females and persons aged 25 years or older in Rewasi who have completed ten years of schooling. Table 3.25 presents the corresponding data by asset quintiles.

Table 3.24 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	7	7	0.0	35.0	14.6
Scheduled Tribe	0	4	4	0.0	20.0	10.0
OBC	5	25	30	3.6	25.0	12.6
Other Caste Hindu	0	12	12	0.0	10.3	4.6
All	5	48	53	1.5	18.8	9.0

Table 3.25 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	3	3	0.0	6.5	3.2
Q2	1	8	9	1.7	18.2	8.7
Q3	0	8	8	0.0	17.8	7.1
Q4	0	6	6	0.0	12.5	5.5
Q5	4	23	27	4.3	31.5	16.4
All	5	48	53	1.5	18.8	9.0

Only 5 out of 330 females aged 25 years or older in Rewasi had completed ten years of formal schooling. The corresponding figure of 48 out of 256 for males in the same age group or less than 20 per cent is not something to write home about either. All five females and more than half of the 48 males came from Other Backward Class households. Again, half of all those with ten years of completed schooling came from the top asset quintile. The proportion is four-fifths in the case of females. The bottom quintile was almost completely excluded. The overall level of educational achievement, even by such a modest measure as ten years of completed formal education, is indeed abysmal. Equally striking, the proportion of males with ten or more years of completed schooling does not reach one-third even among the wealthiest asset quintile. The corresponding figure for females is less than 5 per cent. It is indeed evidence of massive educational deprivation and non-fulfillment of constitutional promises.

### 3.8 *Households with Children*

The presence or absence of literate adults in a household may not only influence the decision to send children to school but the learning environment in the home as well. In this sub-section, we look at the distribution of *households with children* by the presence or absence of adults with

specified levels of education. Table 3.26 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults in Rewasi by social group. Table 3.27 provides the same with respect to asset quintiles.

Table 3.26 *Distribution households with children by absence of adult literates, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Without any adult female literate		Without any adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	14	73.7	6	31.6	6	31.6
Scheduled Tribe	13	68.4	8	42.1	5	26.3
OBC	41	57.7	18	25.4	13	18.3
Other Caste	54	63.5	32	37.6	28	32.9
Hindu						
All	122	62.9	64	33.0	52	26.8

Overall, slightly more than one-fourth of all households with children have no literate adult at all. The proportion of such households without a literate adult female is very high at 63 per cent overall, going up to nearly three-quarters for Scheduled Castes.

Unlike in many other villages surveyed by FAS, the category of Other Caste Hindus does very poorly in Rewasi in this regard, with practically a third of these households with children being without any literate adult and more than five-eighths being without a literate female adult.

Table 3.27 *Distribution households with children by absence of adult literates, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Without any adult female literate		Without any adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q1	36	90.0	18	45.0	18	45.0
Q2	24	63.2	14	36.8	10	26.3
Q3	27	69.2	15	38.5	11	28.2
Q4	21	53.8	11	28.2	10	25.6
Q5	14	36.8	6	15.8	3	7.9
All	122	62.9	64	33.0	52	26.8

As for variation across asset quintiles, the bottom quintile is the most deprived in this regard. Children of poor households in Rewasi, a good proportion of whom also face social oppression as Scheduled Castes, are especially deprived, both on account of poverty per se, and on account of a poor learning ambience at home.

However, even among the upper quintiles, a significant percentage of households with children are poorly off in this regard. More than half of households with children in Q4 do not have a single literate female adult. Even in the highest asset quintile, the proportion of such households is nearly 37 per cent.

Just as the absence of a literate adult in the household can be taken as a negative factor in the educational environment of children, the presence of adults with some level of educational achievement would be a positive factor. Let us explore this aspect. Tables 3.28 and 3.29 present data on the number and percentage of households with children in Gulabewala with at least one male graduate, by social group and asset quintile respectively.

*Table 3.28 Households with children at least one male graduate, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the social group
Scheduled Caste	4	21.1
Scheduled Tribe	1	5.3
OBC	7	9.9
Other Caste Hindu	1	1.2
All	13	6.7

Overall, only one out of sixteen households with children has a male graduate as a member. Interestingly, the proportion is highest for Scheduled Castes at over one-fifth, followed by Other Backward Classes at one-tenth. Among Other Caste Hindu and tribal households with children, there is only one household in each category with a graduate male as a member. Across asset quintiles, the top two quintiles account for 9 of the 13 households with children with at least one male graduate, the third quintile draws a blank and the bottom two quintiles account for the remaining four.

*Table 3.29 Households with children at least one male graduate, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the asset quintile
Q1	2	5.0
Q2	2	5.3
Q3	0	0.0
Q4	3	7.7
Q5	6	15.8
All	13	6.7

Finally, let us look at the picture in relation to a more modest requirement: the presence of at least one female who has passed the tenth class. The relevant information for Rewasi is presented for social groups in Table 3.30 and for asset quintiles in Table 3.31.

*Table 3.30 Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the social group
Scheduled Caste	3	15.8
Scheduled Tribe	1	5.3
OBC	17	23.9
Other Caste Hindu	14	16.5
All	35	18.0

The proportion of households with children that have at least one adult female with ten completed years of schooling was a little less than one-fifth overall, with Other Backward Classes having the highest proportion of nearly one-fourth. There was not much variation across the bottom three asset quintiles with the proportion being around one-tenth. The top asset quintile had highest proportion of three-eighths and Q4 of one-fifth.

*Table 3.31 Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households with children within the social group
Q1	4	10.0
Q2	4	10.5
Q3	5	12.8
Q4	8	20.5
Q5	14	36.8
All	35	18.0

This brings to a close our analysis of the state of formal educational achievements and deprivation of the people of Rewasi. Our analysis has covered school attendance, children and work, literacy among the general population and among adults, educational achievements and some characteristics of households with children that have a bearing on the household environment for the education of children. The overall picture that emerges is one of massive deprivation in terms of access to and achievements in education. To begin with, not all children aged 6 to 18 years-or even 6 to 14 years-are attending school. Among children aged 6 to 18 years, 43 girls out of a total of 222 and 14 boys out of a total of 224, are out of school. Second, the female literacy rate of the 7 plus population at 46.1 per cent should be considered unacceptably

low. The male literacy rate for the 7 plus population at 76.2 per cent is also not a great achievement. Third, the literacy rates for females are uniformly low across all social groups. Even among the top two asset quintiles, female literacy rates barely cross 50 per cent. The same pattern generally holds with respect to most of the other indicators of educational achievement or deprivation. Females do more poorly than males in respect of all the indicators.

Fifth, there is substantial incidence of child labour. For all practical purposes, as many as 51 girls out of 222 or nearly one-fourth, fall in the category of working children. Among boys, 58 out of 224, or slightly more than one-fourth, are working. This is clearly a matter of concern for social policy. The fact that no child in the age group of 0 to 6 years attends the anganwadi is striking and demands urgent attention. A high percentage of households with children report the absence of a literate adult female, while a smaller but still significant proportion does not have a literate adult male. Graduates are very few in number even among males and both mean and median years of schooling remain abysmal for both males and females.

There has been improvement in literacy levels as shown by the much better literacy rates for the population aged 7 years or older as compared to those for the adult population. However, the overall levels of educational deprivation remain huge and need to be tackled urgently.

We turn now to a discussion of the provision of amenities in Rewasi, focusing on households with children.

## 4. AMENITIES

### 4.1 Housing

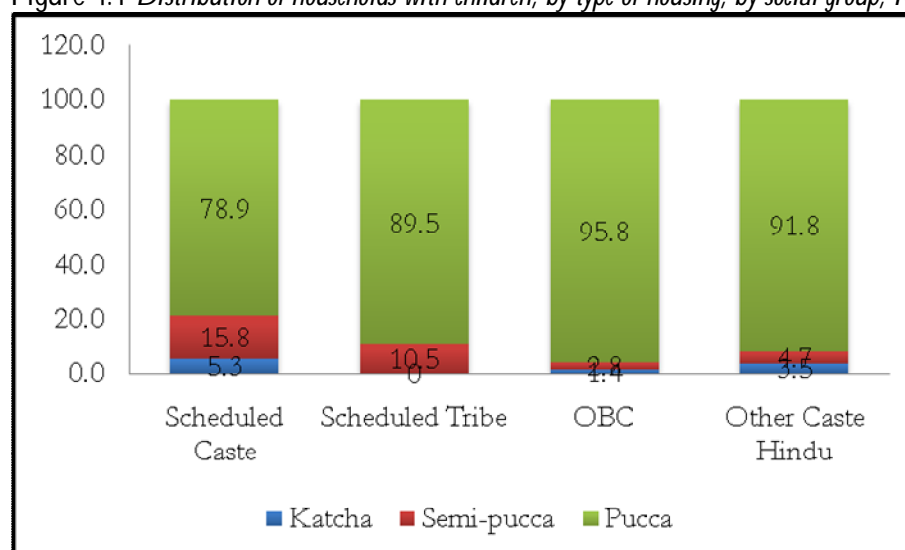
Our discussion of amenities relating to households with children will cover the conditions of housing, access to electricity for domestic consumption, access to drinking water and provisions relating to sanitation. We begin with a discussion of the state of shelter pertaining to households with children in Rewasi. Table 4.1 presents the distribution of households with children in Rewasi by social group and type of housing.

Table 4.2 presents the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

Table 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, Rewasi, 2010 (in percent)*

Social group	Katcha	Semi-pucca	Pucca <sup>30</sup>	All
Scheduled Caste	5.3	15.8	78.9	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	0.0	10.5	89.5	100.0
OBC	1.4	2.8	95.8	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	3.5	4.7	91.8	100.0
All	2.6	5.7	91.8	100.0

Figure 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

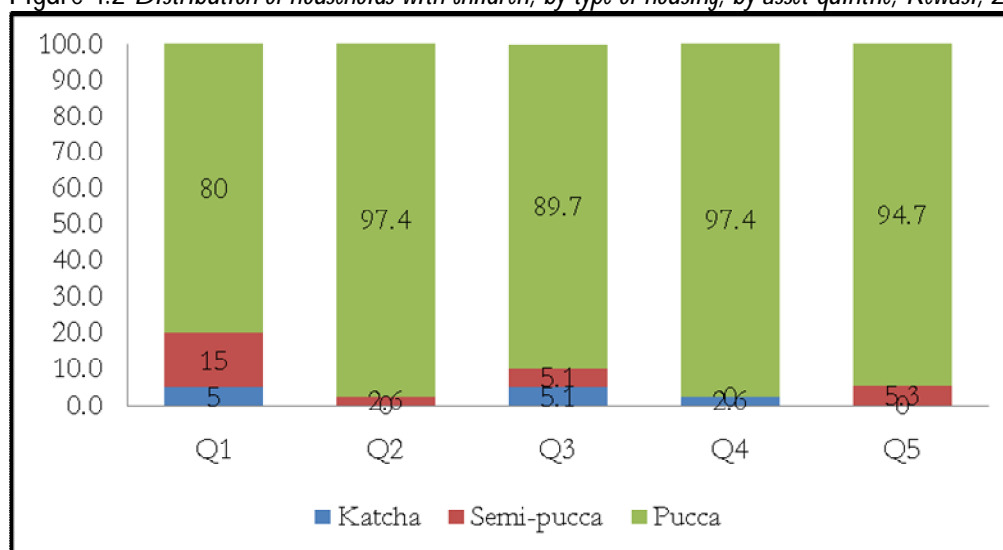


<sup>30</sup>*Pucca* houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials. *Katcha* houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. *Semi-pucca* houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).

Table 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010 (in per cent)*

Asset quintile	Katcha	Semi-pucca	Pucca	All
Q1	5.0	15.0	80.0	100.0
Q2	0.0	2.6	97.4	100.0
Q3	5.1	5.1	89.7	100.0
Q4	2.6	0.0	97.4	100.0
Q5	0.0	5.3	94.7	100.0
All	2.6	5.7	91.8	100.0

Figure 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*



Overall, more than nine tenths of the dwellings in Rewasi are pucca by the official reckoning. There is not much variation across social groups except that the Scheduled Castes have a slightly smaller proportion of pucca houses at 79 per cent while in the case of the other groups, 90 per cent or more are pucca houses. The same is the case with regard to variation across asset quintiles, with the share of pucca houses being 90 per cent or higher in all quintiles except Q1 where it is only 80 per cent.

The type of housing as per the official definition is of course only one aspect of housing. Possibly a more important indicator is the proportion of households living in a single room shelter. The distribution in this regard by social group for households with children in Rewasi is presented in Table 4.3 while the same by asset quintiles is shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.3 *Number of households with children living in single room house by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	2	10.5
Scheduled Tribe	4	21.1
OBC	5	7.0
Other Caste Hindu	8	9.4
All	19	9.8

Table 4.4 *Number of households with children living in single room house by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	13	32.5
Q2	2	5.3
Q3	1	2.6
Q4	2	5.1
Q5	1	2.6
All	19	9.8

Note: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered verandah are not considered as rooms.

Overall, around one tenth of households with children in Rewasi live in single room shelters. The proportion is highest for Scheduled Tribes at 21.1 per cent and lowest for Other Backward Classes at 7 per cent. The percentages for Scheduled Castes and Other Caste Hindus are close to the overall percentage. When it comes to variation by asset quintile, there is a clear demarcation, with nearly one-third of households with children in the poorest asset quintile living in one-room shelters, while in all other quintiles, the share is around 5 per cent or less. There is a clear connection between poverty and the quality of shelter as measured by the number of rooms.

#### 4.2 *Access to Electricity for Domestic Use*

An amenity of obvious importance from the viewpoint of children pursuing formal education is access to electricity. <sup>31</sup>Table 4.5 shows, for households with children in Rewasi, the variation in the proportion of households with electric connection for domestic use by social group while Table 4.6 shows the corresponding variation by asset quintile.

<sup>31</sup> One must keep in mind though, especially in these times of constant power cuts and 'outages', that access to an electricity connection is no guarantee of access to electricity.

Table 4.5 *Household with children with electric connection for domestic use, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	10	52.6
Scheduled Tribe	5	26.3
OBC	47	66.2
Other Caste Hindu	41	48.2
All	103	53.1

Table 4.6 *Household with children with electric connection for domestic use, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	13	32.5
Q2	20	52.6
Q3	17	43.6
Q4	25	64.1
Q5	28	73.7
All	103	53.1

Overall, around half of all households with children in Rewasi have access to an electricity connection. The position of Scheduled Castes and Other Caste Hindus in this regard is close to the overall average. The Other Backward Classes are best off, with two-thirds having an electricity connection while the Scheduled Tribes are most poorly off with only about a fourth having such a connection. The variation across asset quintiles is not linear, with Q2 doing better than Q3. However, the top two asset quintiles fare much better than the bottom three while the lowest asset quintile has the lowest proportion of households with electricity connections.

#### 4.3 Drinking Water

Let us look at the position in respect of the source of drinking water and access to it among households with children in Rewasi. Table 4.7 gives the distribution of these households by primary source of drinking water.

Table 4.7 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, Rewasi, 2010*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Tap/tank	119	61.3
Tubewell/borewell	51	26.3
Well	18	9.3
Pond/open tank	6	3.1
All	194	100.0

Only around three-fifths of all households with children in Rewasi have access to tap water. Around one-fourth get water primarily from borewells or tubewells while the rest depend on ordinary wells, ponds and open tanks. Note, however, that access to water from a tap, sourced from an overhead tank, says nothing about the quantum of water available daily to a household which has such access. Nor can this figure be taken to mean that the water is necessarily 'safe' for drinking, though this is the official assumption.

Data is also available from the FAS survey on access to a covered source of drinking water, which may, with some justification, be taken to be a proxy for safe drinking water. Table 4.8 shows the percentage distribution of households with children in Rewasi with access to a covered source of drinking water by social group. Table 4.9 shows the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

Table 4.8 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	17	89.5
Scheduled Tribe	11	57.9
OBC	65	91.5
Other Caste Hindu	77	90.6
All	170	87.6

Table 4.9 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	32	80.0
Q2	32	84.2
Q3	35	89.7
Q4	38	97.4
Q5	33	86.8
All	170	87.6

Overall, and in the case of all social groups except the Scheduled Tribes, nine-tenths of the households have access to a covered source of drinking water. The provision for Scheduled Tribes is rather poorer, with only 57 per cent of them having such access. The variation across asset quintiles is fairly small, with Q2, Q3 and Q5 clustered around the overall average of 87.6 per cent. While only 80 per cent of households with children in Q1 have access to a covered source of drinking water, 97.4 per cent of those in Q4 do. Overall, the figures look impressive in

comparison with many other villages surveyed by the FAS, though absence of universal provision in this day and age is not deserving of approbation of any kind. One must also keep in mind that these data say nothing about the adequacy of supply nor much about the quality and safety of the water supplied.

An aspect of particular importance in the context of access to drinking water is the distance of the water source from the homestead. This has clear gender implications since it is mostly the women in rural households on whom the burden of ensuring water availability for domestic use falls. Table 4.10 shows the distribution of households with children in Rewasi by distance of drinking water source from homestead. The corresponding distribution by asset quintile is shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.10 *Number of households with children by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Within homestead or just outside	≤ 200 metres	> 200-500 metres
OBC	58	11	2
Other Caste Hindu	68	14	3
Scheduled Caste	16	3	0
Scheduled Tribe	12	7	0
All	154	35	5

Overall, around one-fifth of the households with children need to travel some distance outside their homesteads to access drinking water. More or less the same proportion holds for all social groups except the Scheduled Tribes. Among Scheduled Tribe households with children, nearly two-fifths lack access to drinking water within or just outside the homestead.

Table 4.11 *Number of households with children by distance from source of drinking water, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Within homestead or just outside	≤ 200 metres	> 200-500 metres
Q1	29	9	2
Q2	30	7	1
Q3	32	7	
Q4	29	9	1
Q5	34	3	1
All	154	35	5

Across asset quintiles, the top quintile is relatively well placed, with only a small proportion not able to access drinking water within the homestead or just outside. In the case of all the other quintiles, one-fifth or more lack such access.

#### 4.4 Lavatories

A critical requirement from the standpoint of the health of children is decent sanitation. Access to a toilet is one of the most important means of ensuring some degree of improvement in the sanitation situation of rural (and urban) households. How does Rewasi fare in this regard? Table 4.12 shows the distribution of households with children in the village by social group and lack of access to lavatories. Table 4.13 provides the corresponding distribution by asset quintile.

Table 4.12 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	11	57.9
Scheduled Tribe	12	63.2
OBC	44	62.0
Other Caste Hindu	52	61.2
All	119	61.3

Figure 4.3 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

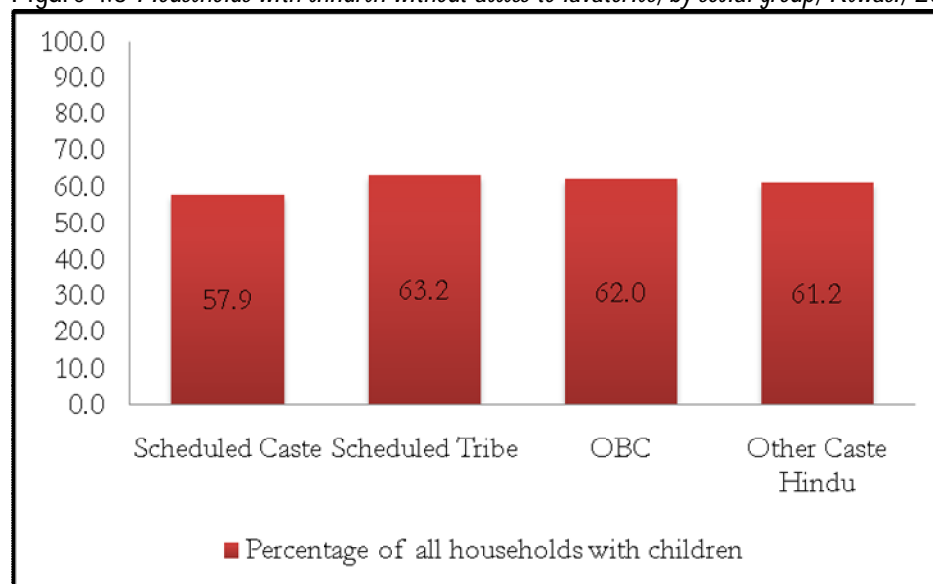
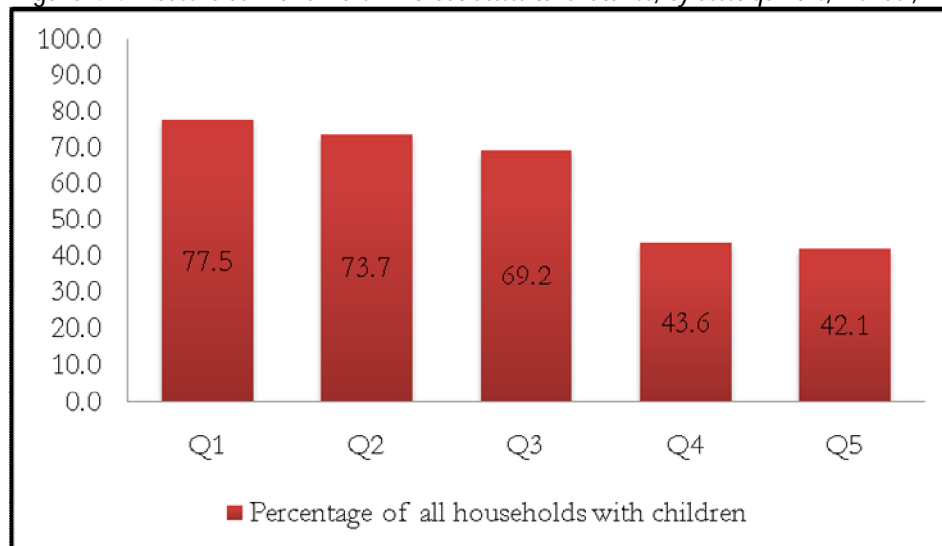


Table 4.13 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number of all households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	31	77.5
Q2	28	73.7
Q3	27	69.2
Q4	17	43.6
Q5	16	42.1
All	119	61.3

Figure 4.4 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*



Overall, a little more than three-fifth of the households with children in Rewasi lack access to a lavatory. This proportion does not vary much across social groups. There is some variation across asset quintiles, but the proportions lacking access to a lavatory remain high even in the top two asset quintiles. Thus, when it comes to sanitation, Rewasi is no different from most of the villages surveyed by FAS across several states. The picture is truly dismal, and remains so across all social groups and asset quintiles.

Summing up the situation with regard to shelter and amenities, though we find a relatively smaller degree of inequality in respect of shelter, access to electricity and access to drinking water in Rewasi than in most of the villages surveyed by FAS in several states, there is still considerable deprivation in absolute terms. Around a tenth of all households with children live in non-pucca shelters, with the proportion going up to a fifth in the case of Scheduled Castes and for households in the poorest asset quintile. Close to one-tenth of all households with children lives in single room shelters. The proportion does not vary much across social groups or asset

quintiles, except that it is over one-fifth in the case of Scheduled Tribe households and nearly a third in the case of households in Q1. Close to half of all households with children in Rewasi lack access to electricity for domestic consumption. This proportion is two-thirds for the lowest asset quintile and three-fourths for Scheduled Tribes. Over two-fifths of Scheduled Tribe households with children do not have access to a covered source of drinking water, with a slightly smaller proportion not having access to drinking water within the homestead or just outside. The situation with respect to sanitation is very poor across social groups and asset quintiles. Even among the rich households of Q4 and Q5, more than two-fifths lack access to a lavatory.

We now turn to the final section that provides a brief description of the position of women in Rewasi in respect of a few key characteristics.

## 5. ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN

### 5.1 Marital Status

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in the village of Rewasi as per the FAS survey of 2010. Table 5.2 provides the age distribution of widows in the village.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by marital status, Rewasi, 2010*

Marital status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	17	4.2
Currently married	352	86.3
Widowed	39	9.6
Divorced/separated	0	0.0
All	408	100.0

Among the villages surveyed by FAS, the overall figure of 9.6 per cent for widows among the female population aged 18 years and above in Rewasi is lower than that for 25F Gulabewala at 14.4 per cent. It is also lower than the figure of 12.0 per cent for Mahatwar Uttar Pradesh and 12.6 per cent for Warwat Khanderao in Maharashtra. It is much lower than the percentages for Ananthavaram, Bukkacherla and Kothapalle in Andhra Pradesh and Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra, all of which report figures close to 20 per cent. It is, however, marginally higher than the figure for Harevli in Uttar Pradesh at 7.5 per cent. There is one village with a much lower percentage of widows in the adult female population, namely the tribal village of Dungariya in Rajasthan with a figure of 1.7 per cent.<sup>32</sup>

Table 5.2 *Age distribution of widowed women (18 years and above), Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Number	As percentage of all women within the age group
18 years to 24 years	0	0.0
25 years to 34 years	3	2.5
35 years to 49 years	5	5.0
50 years to 59 years	2	4.7
60 years to 69 years	9	25.7
≥ 70 years	20	64.5
All	39	9.6

<sup>32</sup> A perusal of all these figures across the villages surveyed by FAS suggests that villages that are more 'modernised' in terms of access to modern health facilities and some degree of 'urbanization/urban connectivity' enhance the life span of women rather more effectively than the more 'backward' villages, resulting in a higher proportion of widows in the Andhra Pradesh villages and Nimshirgaon in Maharashtra as against lower proportions in such villages as Dungariya, Harevli and Rewasi.

The distribution of widows by age group in Rewasi suggests that the percentage of widows in the older age groups in this village is well below the average for India.<sup>33</sup>

## 5.2 Women in the Workforce

Table 5.3 shows the proportion of the working population to the total population, separately for women, men and persons among those 18 years or older, by social group, in Rewasi.

Table 5.3 *Proportion of working population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	23	60.5	17	60.7	40	60.6
Scheduled Tribe	17	65.4	21	91.3	38	77.6
OBC	122	73.1	121	91.7	243	81.3
Other Caste Hindu	50	28.2	120	88.2	170	54.3
All	212	52.0	279	87.5	491	67.5

The proportion of working population to total is the lowest among women from other Hindu castes. In all social groups except Scheduled Castes, the proportion for males is much higher than for females, except in the case of Scheduled Castes where there is little difference between the two proportions. The proportion of males in the working population is high and similar across social groups, except for Scheduled Castes, among whom it is much lower. The rate of female participation in the work force among Other Backward Classes is much higher than the Other Caste Hindus, as is usually the case. The surprise in Rewasi is the much lower female participation in the work force among Scheduled Castes.

Table 5.4 shows the work force participation rates of adult women in Rewasi by marital status.

Table 5.4 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, Rewasi, 2010*

Marital status	Number	WPR
Never married	6	35.3
Currently married	192	54.5
Widowed	14	35.9
Divorced/separated	0	NA
All	212	52.0

<sup>33</sup> To put the numbers in perspective, as per the Census of India 1981, 64 per cent of women aged 60 years or older and 80 per cent of those 70 years or older were widows. The NFHS -2, relating to reference year 1998-99, gives a figure of 58 per cent for the percentage of widows among women aged 60 years and above.

As has been the case in other villages surveyed by FAS, the work participation rate is the highest among married women. The WPR among widows in Rewasi is 36 per cent, even though slightly over half the widows are 70 years of age or older. This may partly be the result of the absence of any social welfare provision for the elderly.

Table 5.5 shows the activity profile of women aged 18 years or older.

Table 5.5 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), Rewasi, 2010*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity	As percentage of all women
Cultivation	186	45.6
Agricultural wage employment	24	5.9
Animal husbandry	159	39.0
Non agricultural wage employment	34	8.3
Non agricultural self employment	13	3.2
Salaried employment	4	1.0
Other	1	0.2

Cultivation and animal husbandry are the activities most frequently reported by the women. Much smaller proportions of adult women report being engaged in wage employment, either in agriculture or in other activity. This pattern is quite different from the one in 25F Gulabewala and in some of the other villages surveyed by FAS. It possibly reflects the nature of the agrarian regime characterized by widespread though unequal land ownership and cultivation in Rewasi, which involves a great deal of family labour and relatively less of hiring in of labour than is the case elsewhere.

### 5.3 *Women as Heads of Households*

Is there any systematic variation in the percentage of female heads of households across either social groups or asset quintiles or both? Tables 5.6 and 5.7 present the picture in Rewasi in this regard by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 5.6 *Distribution of heads of household, by sex, by social group, Rewasi, 2010*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Scheduled Caste	4	17	19.0	81.0
Scheduled Tribe	5	17	22.7	77.3
OBC	13	71	15.5	84.5
Other Caste Hindu	17	76	18.3	81.7
All	39	181	17.7	82.3

Table 5.7 *Distribution of heads of household, by sex, by asset quintile, Rewasi, 2010*

Asset quintile	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Q1	8	36	18.2	81.8
Q2	9	35	20.5	79.5
Q3	10	34	22.7	77.3
Q4	10	34	22.7	77.3
Q5	2	42	4.5	95.5
All	39	181	17.7	82.3

Overall, slightly under one-sixth of all households in Rewasi are female-headed. There is not much variation across social groups in this regard. There is not much variation across asset quintiles either except in the case of the top quintile. In the top asset quintile, there are only two female headed households among the 44 households in the quintile.

The proportion of female headed households to total is distinctly higher for Rewasi than for most of the other villages surveyed by FAS.<sup>34</sup> An important reason for this is the fact that as many as 145 adult males belonging to households in Rewasi are working and residing elsewhere, and are not reckoned as residents of the households or of Rewasi. In quite a few of households with such non-resident family members, a female is the head.

Does the fact of a female heading household have a systematic relationship to her marital status?

Table 5.8 provides the data for Rewasi in this regard.

<sup>34</sup> The proportion is less than one-tenth for all other non-Andhra villages, just about one-tenth for Bukkacharla and Kothapalle and one-seventh for Ananthavaram.

Table 5.8 *Distribution of female head of households, by marital status, Rewasi, 2010*

Marital status	Number	Percentage
Never married	0	0.0
Currently married	29	74.4
Widowed	10	25.6
Divorced/separated	0	0.0
All	39	100.0

Here again, Rewasi is different from other villages. In most villages, widowhood almost serves as a necessary (though not sufficient) condition for a female to head a household. Not so in Rewasi. Here, three-fourths of the female heads of households are currently married women while the remaining are widows.

Often, many of the female headed households also turn out to be single person ones. In other words, in many cases, females are heads by default rather than by conscious designation. However, this is not the case in Rewasi. In fact, as Table 5.9 shows, there are only two single person households in Rewasi and both are headed by males.

Table 5.9 *Number of single person households, by sex, by marital status, Rewasi, 2010*

Marital status	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Never married	0	1	0.0	50.0
Currently married	0	0	0.0	0.0
Widowed	0	0	0.0	0.0
Divorced/separated	0	0	0.0	0.0
Unspecified	0	1	0.0	50.0
All	0	2	0.0	100.0

In most Indian villages, females become heads of households only under 'unusual' circumstances, very often having to do with the death of the male head, along with the absence of an adult male member in a position to assume that role. It is, therefore, often the case that the age distribution of female heads of households will be skewed towards the older age groups. This, however, is not the case in Rewasi. Tables 5.10 and 5.11 show, respectively, the distribution of heads of households by age group separately for women and men in Rewasi.

Table 5.10 *Distribution of female head of households, by age group, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	10	25.6
35 to 49 years	23	59.0
50 to 60 years	2	5.1
Above 60 years	4	10.3
All	39	100.0

Table 5.11 *Distribution of male head of households, by age group, Rewasi, 2010*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	23	12.7
35 to 49 years	63	34.8
50 to 60 years	59	32.6
Above 60 years	36	19.9
All	181	100.0

The age composition of female heads of households in Rewasi is very different from the more common pattern of being skewed towards the older age groups because of the specific feature of adult male migration for employment. There are as many as ten female heads of households in the age group of 18 to 34 years. In fact, 85 per cent of the female heads of households are under 50 years of age, much higher than in any of the other villages surveyed by FAS. This percentage is also much higher than the corresponding percentage for male heads of households in Rewasi at 47.5 per cent.

To conclude this section, our brief examination of some aspects of the situation of women in Rewasi brings out the peculiar feature of this village in terms of a much higher proportion of households being female-headed than is usually the case. This is largely a consequence of adult male emigration for employment. But Rewasi is not very different from other villages in terms of the activity profile of women in the workforce. Cultivation and animal care remain the most frequently reported activities for women. However, there is a smaller presence of wage employment among women in Rewasi than is the case elsewhere.

## Rajasthan: Dungariya Village

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## 1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Dungariya is a village in Kotra tehsil, Udaipur district. In 2007 a census survey of the village was undertaken by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) as part of its project on agrarian relations in India (PARI).<sup>35</sup> A detailed study of the economy of the village can be found in Ramachandran (2010). As he notes, “Dungariya is an underdeveloped village located in Kotra, one of the most underdeveloped tehsils of Udaipur district. It is a village in which people live in the depths of poverty, a village that is technologically stagnant, barely irrigated, and endowed with difficult, stony soil. It is a forest-fringe village” (ibid.).

An all-weather road connecting Kotra to Udaipur passes through the village. However, one settlement of the village, Dungariya thala, was about 4 kilometres in the forest and accessible only by foot.

Dungariya is a small tribal village. At the time of the survey, 111 households lived in Dungariya. Of these, 107 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes (the majority were Bhil). Survey data is available for 110 out of the 111 households.

Dungariya is a village where irrigation covers less than five per cent of net sown area, and subsistence agriculture is practised. Its households are also dependent on forest products for subsistence. The main crops grown in the village were maize, red gram, black gram, wheat and cowpea. Most households cultivated forest land that had been cleared, and for which they did not have formal legal titles. Households collected firewood, mahua and other products from the forest. Very little wage employment was available in the village. Public works programmes, including the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (which had just begun in 2007), were an important source of employment. Many persons from the village also migrated seasonally to Gujarat in search of employment. Agriculture was mainly based on family labour, and additional labour power was primarily mobilised through labour exchange rather than by hiring in labour power.

Access to basic amenities in the village was very poor. There was no electricity in the village, no household had a water connection, and only one household had a lavatory.

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<sup>35</sup> For details of the project, see [www.fas.org.in](http://www.fas.org.in)

## 2. DEMOGRAPHY

### 2.1 Population, Social Composition, Sex Ratios And Children Per Household

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 provide data on the number of households and on the population of Dungariya, as per the FAS survey of 2007, disaggregated by social group. Almost all households in Dungariya belong to the Scheduled Tribes. There were only three non-tribal households, two of whom were Muslim and the remaining a Jain. The population of the village in 2007 was 698 persons.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Tribe	107	97.3
Other	3	2.7
All	110	100.0

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by caste and sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number			As percentage of all households		
	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
Scheduled Tribe	330	354	684	99.1	97.0	98.0
Other	3	11	14	0.9	3.0	2.0
All	333	365	698	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of the population of Dungariya by specified age groups.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of population by age and sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Age group	Population			As percentage of total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	28	42	70	8.4	11.5	10.0
3 years to 6 years	61	63	124	18.3	17.3	17.8
7 years to 9 years	27	29	56	8.1	7.9	8.0
10 years to 14 years	49	45	94	14.7	12.3	13.5
15 years to 17 years	14	20	34	4.2	5.5	4.9
18 years to 24 years	44	39	83	13.2	10.7	11.9
25 years to 34 years	49	53	102	14.7	14.5	14.6
35 years to 49 years	37	40	77	11.1	11.0	11.0
50 years to 59 years	14	16	30	4.2	4.4	4.3
60 years to 69 years	9	14	23	2.7	3.8	3.3
≥ 70 years	1	4	5	0.3	1.1	0.7
All	333	365	698	100.0	100.0	100.0

While the overall population sex ratio at 912 is lower than for rural Rajasthan at 932 in 2011, the child sex ratio is much lower at 848 girls per 1000 boys among children aged 6 years or less. This ratio is also much lower than for Rajasthan at 887 in 2011.

Table 2.4 presents the distribution of households in Dungariya by size. The average household size at 6.3 is higher than in most other villages surveyed by the FAS between 2005 and 2010, the only exception being Mahatwar in Uttar Pradesh with an average household size of 7. Nearly three-fifth of the population lives in households with 6 or more members.

*Table 2.4 Distribution of households by household size, Dungariya, 2007*

Household size	Number of household	As percentage of all household	Average size of the household	Cumulative number of person	Cumulative percentage of population
2	9	8.2	2	18	2.6
3	4	3.6	3	30	4.3
4	8	7.3	4	62	8.9
5	18	16.4	5	152	21.8
6	25	22.7	6	302	43.3
7	17	15.5	7	421	60.3
≥ 8	29	26.4	9.6	698	100.0
All	110	100.0	6.3	698	100.0

Table 2.5 provides information on the number of households without children in Dungariya. The proportion of such households to total is less than one-tenth, much lower than in most other villages surveyed by FAS, with the exception again of Mahatwar in Uttar Pradesh where the proportion is close to one-twentieth.

*Table 2.5 Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Tribe	9	107	8.4
Other	1	3	33.3
All	10	110	9.1

The average number of children per household in Dungariya is 3.4, much higher than in most other villages surveyed by FAS. One considers only households with children; the average is even higher at 3.8.

One of the features of rural life that emerges from the surveys of the FAS over the last six or seven years is that in some village, especially ones characterized by sex-selective migration, there

are quite a few children who do not get to live with both their parents in the same household. How does Dungariya fare in this regard? Table 2.6 provides the data.

There is no instance in Dungariya of children living with neither parents nor relatives. There is also no instance of a child living with the father, but not the mother. Three girls below 18 years of age in 2007 were already married at the time of the survey and were living in the natal households of their spouses. In one household, three daughters and a son reside with their widowed mother. Twelve children -8 girls and 4 boys – live with neither parent, but other relatives, mostly grandparents.

Table 2.6 *In whose home do children live? Dungariya, 2007*

Children living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	165	194	359	92.1	97.5	95.0
Mother, not father	3	1	4	1.7	0.5	1.0
Neither parents but with other family members	8	4	12	4.5	2.0	3.2
Spouse/ spouse's parents	3	0	3	1.7	0.0	0.8
All	179	199	378	100.0	100.0	100.0

## 2.2 Activity Status of Children

In India, there is a legal provision that children below the age of 14 completed years are not to be engaged in paid or unpaid work. Ideally, they should be enrolled in and attending an educational institution in order to acquire formal education and the skills thereof. However, in reality, not all children aged 14 years or younger are in school. This is true even in relatively more 'developed' states such as Tamil Nadu. What is the picture in Dungariya in this regard? The relevant information is brought together in Tables 2.7 to 2.9.

Table 2.7 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific activities, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in the age group		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	5	5	10	5.6	5.7	5.7
Work on household operational holding	25	22	47	28.1	25.3	26.7
All	30	27	57	33.7	31.0	32.4

*Note:* There are no children engaged in "Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources".

Table 2.8 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number		As percentage of all children in age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Scheduled Tribe	5	21	5.7	24.4
Other	0	1	0.0	100.0
All	5	22	5.7	25.3

Nearly one-third of the children between the ages of 6 and 14 are engaged in some labour, either on the operational holding of the household or for an employer outside. Leaving put the one male child from a non-tribal household, we find that nearly one-fourth of boys and a somewhat higher proportion of girls are thus engaged. Out of 57 children thus engaged, more than four-fifths work on the household operational holding. We must note that these numbers exclude boys and girls working with household animal resources. If those were also included, the number and proportion of working children aged between 6 and 14 years would be even higher.

Table 2.9 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number		As percentage of all children in age group	
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work outside the household for an employer (paid or unpaid)	Work on household operational holding
Scheduled Tribe	5	25	5.6	28.1
Other	NA	NA	NA	NA
All	5	25	5.6	28.1

*Note:* There are no girls in that age group belonging to "Other" social group.

### 2.3 Age at Marriage

Before we conclude this section on demography and turn to the picture in Dungariya in respect of education, let us take a brief look at how the village fares in respect of the issue of age at marriage.

Table 2.10 *Persons currently married in the age group below 18 years for women and below 21 years for men, by sex and social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Female		Male	
	Number married	As percentage of all females below 18 years in social group	Number married	As percentage of all males below 21 years in social group
Scheduled Tribe	3	1.7	10	4.6
Other	NA	NA	0	0.0
All	3	1.7	10	4.5

The legal age at marriage in India is 21 years for males and 18 years for females. There is a general perception that girls, in particular, continue to get married before reaching the legal minimum age in rural India. However, it is also recognized that the frequency of occurrence of this phenomenon has been declining. The data for Dungariya in this regard are presented in Table 2.10

The practice of girls and boys getting married before attaining the legally eligible age is by no means frequent in Dungariya, which is otherwise an extremely 'backward' village. However, such marriages do occur, and have occurred with greater frequency in Dungariya than they have in the other villages surveyed by FAS in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

We wish to make it clear that we have not investigated the age at marriage of all the married members of the population in Dungariya, and cannot say anything about the larger issue of how widespread the practice of marriage before attainment of the legal minimum age may be.

### 3. EDUCATION

#### 3.1 School Attendance

All three aspects of the challenge of universal school education- enrolment, retention and achievement with regard to learning outcomes- continue to remain unmet in India. In the more backward parts of the country, universal enrolment and attendance constitute the primary challenges. The data on school attendance presented in Table 3.1 and that on gross enrolment ratios presented in Table 3.2 shows that Dungariya has a very long way to go to achieve universal school enrolment and attendance.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*<sup>36</sup>

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 10 years	14	21	35	23.0	36.2	29.4
11 to 14 years	6	17	23	21.4	58.6	40.4
15 to 16 years	0	7	7	0.0	41.2	24.1
17 to 18 years	1	2	3	7.7	16.7	12.0
6 to 18 years	21	47	68	18.4	40.5	29.6

Table 3.2 *Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*<sup>37</sup>

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Standard I to V	20	27	47	29.9	46.6	37.6
Standard VI to VIII	1	13	14	3.6	44.8	24.6
Standard IX to X	0	2	2	0.0	10.0	5.1
Standard XI to XII	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>36</sup> Since the population of Dungariya consists almost entirely of Scheduled Tribes, we have not gone into details of variation in attendance ratios or other education-related variables by social group. Similarly, with relatively limited economic differentiation among the tribal households, we have also not presented data on variation across asset quintiles. In these two respects, this Report differs from the ones for other villages surveyed by the FAS that have already been completed and made available on the FAS website.

<sup>37</sup> Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in give school-year. The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD), India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:

Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years

Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years

Standard IX to XII: 14 to 18 years

In Table 3.2 we have divided Standard IX to XII further in two categories:

Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years

Standard XI to XII: 16 to 18 years

Overall, less than three-tenths of children in the age group of 6 to 18 years are attending school. The proportion for girls is less than one-fifth, and that for boys hardly two-fifth. The overall attendance ratio crosses two-fifth only in the age group of 11-14 years. Though the ratio for boys peaks in this age group, it still does not reach three-fifth.

As noted by Ramachandran (2010), "Large numbers of children – skinny, with open sores and unhealthy hair – played naked in the houses we visited. As the data show, the primary school in the village has failed entirely to attract children to school or to keep enrolled children in school. The school has two teachers for five classes, and the people of the village have no confidence in either. There is no school in the Thala area".

#### SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND ACCESS TO SCHOOLING

The village settlement in Dungariya is scattered. There is no habitational cluster in Dungariya across the 1547 hectares that constitute the extent of the village in official records, or along the forests that abut the village. Houses are built on hillsides or along the bases of hillocks, and generally close, though not necessarily adjacent, to one of the fields cultivated by their owners. Each house has a fence made of the dried branches of bushes. The extension of the village settlement and the location of individual huts are closely related to the extension of agricultural land.

Although the village is nominally on the main road, the furthest settlements are about four kilometres distant, along undulating paths. Children from an entire section of the village – Dungariya Thala – are unable to come to school during the monsoon and after, because the streams and rainwater channels are too full for them to cross safely.

SOURCE: V. K. RAMACHANDRAN (2010), "Dungariya Village, Southern Rajasthan: A Field Report" *Critical Asian Studies*, 42, 2, May.

### 3.2 Child Labour and School Attendance

It is thus obvious that a large number of boys and girls in the age group of 6 to 18 years are not attending school. Besides, many of those attending school are also working on the household operational holdings or for employers outside the household. The details in this regard have been brought together in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 *School attendance among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, Dungariya, 2007<sup>38</sup>*

Children	Not attending school				Attending school			
	Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Girls	50	53.8	43	46.2	12	57.1	9	42.9
Boys	35	50.7	34	49.3	31	66.0	16	34.0
All	85	52.5	77	47.5	43	63.2	25	36.8

More than 80 per cent of girls aged 6 to 18 years are out of school. Nearly 46.5% of all girls in this age group are working, even by the restricted definition of 'work' adopted in this Report. Of the 50 girls listed as neither attending school nor working, 27 girls are in fact reported as involved in animal rearing, fetching water, taking care of younger siblings and carrying out various other tasks involving expenditure of some effort. Of the 23 girls reported as not doing any of the things listed here nor attending school, one is 12 years old, two are ten years of age and all the rest are younger. In fact, the majority of these 23 girls are between 6 and 8 years. Of the 35 boys listed as not attending school and not working, 15 are in fact engaged in animal rearing, three in housework and two in care of siblings. Only the remaining 15 do not report any activity that can be considered as work. Of these 15, three are ten years of age, and all the others are younger, mostly between 6 and 8 years. This village presents a picture of extreme child deprivation, in terms of both denial of access to formal schooling and the terrible burden of child labour, with children aged 7 and 8 condemned to animal tending, caring for siblings, fetching water and doing various household chores.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Work (in all references in this document) is defined as three specific types of activities:

- a. Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)
- b. Work on household operational holding
- c. Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources.

Any person 18 years or below engaged in any of the three activities above is considered to be "working".

<sup>39</sup> Sixteen girls and twenty boys are engaged in animal tending.

## CHILD LABOUR IN COTTON PICKING

Large numbers of workers migrate to Gujarat to work at construction sites or in cotton fields. Cotton-pickers received Rs 40 a day with a portion of cooked vegetable or Rs 35 if they opted to take dal and roti as well. It is quite extraordinary how young the children who go to Gujarat can be: Cheru Ram sent his two sons Kalyan and Chetan, aged 9 and 12, to Gujarat with a group from the village for 30 days to earn Rs 35 a day each. It was Kalyan's first trip and Chetan's second. They came back with Rs 800 each to give their parents. Reports in the press indicate that the migration of children from the area to the cotton fields of Gujarat continues, and that low wages and appalling conditions of work persist.

SOURCE: V. K. RAMACHANDRAN (2010), "Dungariya Village, Southern Rajasthan: A Field Report" *Critical Asian Studies*, 42, 2, May.

### 3.3 Literacy

Having examined school attendance and child labour at some length, let us turn now to the issue of literacy. In the FAS survey, respondents were categorized in terms of literacy, not in a binary manner as literate/non-literate but into four categories-'cannot read or write', 'can only sign name', 'can read but not write', 'can read and write'- and it is only the last category we treat as literate in the discussion that follows. Table 3.4 presents the distribution of the population of Dungariya aged 7 years and above by sex and level in 2007.

Table 3.4 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Literacy rate	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	204	83.6	152	58.5	356	70.6
Can only sign name	14	5.7	30	11.5	44	8.7
Can read but cannot write	2	0.8	3	1.2	5	1.0
Can read and write	24	9.8	75	28.8	99	19.6
All	244	100.0	260	100.0	504	100.0

The numbers bring out the dismal state of literacy achievement in Dungariya. Just under one-fifth of the population 7 years or older is literate. The figure is a little less than one-tenth for

females. If the 14 persons who are not tribals are excluded, the figures get marginally worse. If one looks at adult literacy, the data shown in Table 3.5 demonstrate that the numbers are naturally even more dismal, with hardly one per cent of adult women and less than 20 per cent of adult men being literate

Table 3.5 *Population (18 years and above), who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Tribe	2	29	31	1.3	18.4	10.0
Other	2	7	9	66.7	87.5	81.8
All	4	36	40	2.6	21.7	12.5

A look at literacy rates across age cohorts is provided in Table 3.6. Male literacy rates for the age group of 18 to 34 years show a big jump over the next older cohort, but there is not much of an increase when one moves to the age group of 6 to 17 years. This has partly to do with the fact that children in Dungariya enter school more frequently at the age of 7 or 8 rather than 6, and acquire literacy skills only a couple of years after entry into school. Among females, it is the youngest cohort that shows some degree of literacy achievement. But both among males and among females, literacy rates are very poor in all age cohorts.

Table 3.6 *Population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, Dungariya, 2007*

Age group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	21	40	61	20.4	37.4	29.0
18 to 34 years	3	30	33	3.2	32.6	17.8
35 to 49 years	1	5	6	2.7	12.5	7.8
50 to 65 years	0	1	1	0.0	3.4	2.0
> 65 years	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	25	76	101	9.7	27.8	19.1

What about other indicators of educational achievement? Leaving aside the few non-tribals, let us look at the situation among tribals who make up 98 per cent of the population of Dungariya. The median years of schooling was zero for males as well as females among the tribals. The mean years of schooling are 1.2 for males, 0.2 for females and 0.7 overall. Among tribals 25 years or older in Dungariya, there is not a single person – male or female – who has completed ten years of formal school. 97 per cent of tribal households with children have no literate adult

female member. Three-fourth of the tribal households with children do not have a literate adult male member.

The overall picture in respect of education in Dungariya is a damning indictment of the Indian State in the post-independence period, where the constitutional promise relating to free and compulsory education has been thrown to the winds, and the State has displayed an indifference (or worse) to tribal deprivation that is unforgivable.

We turn now to an examination of the provision of basic amenities in Dungariya.

## 4. AMENITIES

### 4.1 Housing

There are 100 households with children in Dungariya. Of these, 98 belong to the Scheduled Tribes. For all practical purposes, therefore, the data discussed relate to Scheduled Tribe households with children in Dungariya.

Table 4.1 shows the percentage distribution of households with children by type of shelter. Table 4.2 shows the percentage of households with children living in single room houses.

About a third of the households live in pucca houses, while a fifth lives in katcha houses. The rest are in semi pucca houses. Three out of ten households live in single room houses.

Table 4.1 *Percentage distribution of households with children, by type of housing, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Katcha	Semi-pucca	Pucca	All
Scheduled Tribe	20.4	44.9	34.7	100.0
Other	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
All	20.0	46.0	34.0	100.0

Note: Pucca houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials.

Katcha houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. Semi-pucca houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).

Table 4.2 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Tribe	31	31.6
Other	0	0.0
All	31	31.0

Note: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered verandah are not considered as rooms.

### 4.2 Drinking Water

An important amenity is drinking water. Table 4.3 shows the distribution of households with children in Dungariya by the primary source of drinking water. Table 4.4 shows the same in respect of access to a covered source of drinking water.

Table 4.3 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, Dungariya, 2007*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Handpump	28	28.0
Well	53	53.0
River, stream, canal	19	19.0
All	100	100.0

Table 4.4 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Tribe	28	28.6
Other	0	0.0
All	28	28.0

More than 70 per cent of the households have to rely on water from open wells or rivers, streams and canals for drinking water. The rest get water from a covered source, namely hand pumps. Obviously, this tells us nothing about the daily per capita quantum of water available for drinking nor about its quality, though the official presumption is that a covered source provides 'safe' drinking water.

Table 4.5 gives us the distribution of households with children in Dungariya by the distance from the source of drinking water. At least thirty percent of households have to fetch water from a distance exceeding half a kilometer. As we saw earlier in the discussion on children being set to work, a significant number of children are engaged in the task of fetching water. Denial of access to water within a homestead leads to denial of access to school for children.

Table 4.5 *Number of households with children by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Within homestead or just outside	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Scheduled Tribe	5	62	29	2
Other	1	0	1	0
All	6	62	30	2

### 4.3 Lavatories

Table 4.6 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Tribe	98	100.0
Other	1	50.0
All	99	99.0

Finally, Table 4.6 presents the distribution of households with children in Dungariya without access to a lavatory. Only one household – a non-tribal one – has access to a lavatory. One must note here that no household in Dungariya has access to electricity.

Whether one speaks of the quality of housing or of access to drinking water and sanitation or of access to electricity, the tribal people of Dungariya experience massive deprivation on a daily basis.

#### DEPRIVATION IN BASIC AMENITIES

Health, education and basic household amenities – can there be parts of India where things are worse than Dungariya in respect of these? There is no electricity in the village. There is no toilet in the village. There is no house with running water. Hand pumps for water can be more than half a kilometre away from places of residence; when they break down, it can be weeks before they are repaired. Water for all purposes other than drinking comes from the river, and when households have no access to drinking water through hand-pumps, they dig holes in the sand in the riverbed and filter out water to drink. There appears to be a kind of skin disease endemic in the village, in which the skin becomes dry and scaly, then sore, and finally covered with suppurating sores. Our Kisan Sabha organiser Ladu Ram Dungri says that this is because the water that is used most of the year in stagnant water that accumulates in pools along the riverbeds; others say that chemicals upstream pollute the river-water. There is no anganwadi centre or qualified doctor in the village. Children who are ill are not taken to Kotra because it is too expensive.

SOURCE: V. K. RAMACHANDRAN (2010), "Dungariya Village, Southern Rajasthan: A Field Report" *Critical Asian Studies*, 42, 2, May.

In the final section of this Report, we take a brief look at some aspects of the condition of women in Dungariya.

## 5. ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN

### 5.1 Marital Status

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in Dungariya as per the FAS survey of 2007. Table 5.1a provides the age distribution of widows in Dungariya. Of all the villages surveyed by FAS so far, Dungariya has the lowest proportion of widows among women aged 18 years and older. There are a total of three widows among women aged 18 years and older. Two of them are in the age group of 35 to 49 years and the other person is in the age group of 50 to 59 years.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by marital status, Dungariya, 2007*

Marital Status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	15	9.7
Currently married	131	85.1
Widowed	3	1.9
Separated/ divorced	3	1.9
Other	2	1.3
All	154	100.0

### 5.2 Women in the Workforce

Table 5.2 presents the proportions of adult women in Dungariya who are in the working population. Table 5.3 presents the distribution of work force participation rates by marital status of adult women.

Table 5.2 *Proportion of working population (18 years and above), Dungariya, 2007*

Social group	Female		Male		Persons	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Tribe	148	98.0	154	97.5	302	97.7
Other	2	66.7	8	100.0	10	90.9
All	150	97.4	162	97.6	312	97.5

Table 5.3 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, Dungariya, 2007*

Marital status	Number	WPR
Never married	15	100.0
Currently married	128	97.7
Widowed	3	100.0
Separated/ divorced	2	66.7
Other	2	100.0
All	150	97.4

Among the Scheduled Tribes, the proportion of women in the working population is close to 1, as is the case for adult men. Table 5.3 shows that there is little variation by marital status.<sup>40</sup>

Table 5.4 shows the number of women reporting participation in specified activities.

Table 5.4 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), Dungariya, 2007*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity	As percentage of all women
Cultivation	141	91.6
Agricultural wage employment	11	7.1
Animal husbandry	11	7.1
Non-agricultural wage employment	102	66.2
Non-agricultural self employment	2	1.3
Salaried employment	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

Since a woman in the working population may be engaged in more than one activity over the reference period, one cannot add down the columns! It is obvious that most tribal female adults are engaged in agriculture as cultivators. The other most frequently reported activity is wage employment outside of agriculture. This includes work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). It is reported that the wages are low and the work very hard.

Of the 110 households in Dungariya, 107 belong to the Scheduled Tribe. There is only one female-headed household in the village, and it is a tribal household. The head of this household is a widow in the age group of 35 to 49 years.

<sup>40</sup> There are three separated women, of whom one is not working. Except for this small category, the WPR is practically 100 per cent.

## Reflections on Survey Findings from Three Villages in Rajasthan

As we have seen, the three villages in Rajasthan surveyed by the FAS are very distinct from one another. Child deprivation in respect of education and access to amenities is prevalent in all three villages, though differing in degree, and there are significant differences across these villages in terms of infrastructure, agro-climatic conditions, caste structure and class composition. We offer some reflections on what the FAS surveys of these three villages of Rajasthan have brought out in respect of child well-being.

Dungariya is a village characterised by little irrigation, subsistence agriculture, dependence on forest produce, extremely poor infrastructure and very limited class differentiation. It is almost entirely a village of Scheduled Tribe households. It is the poorest of all the three villages and is characterised by the most severe deprivation. The village of 25F Gulabewala, while distinctly better off than Dungariya in terms of location and infrastructure such as a high percentage of irrigated land, presence of a bank branch and a post office within the village as well as a secondary school, two primary schools and an anganwadi centre, is a village of enormous inequality. For instance, while 65 per cent of households are landless, at the opposite pole, the biggest landlord owns nearly three hundred acres of land. Rewasi is a village with both irrigated and unirrigated cultivation in almost equal measure. It does possess a primary school and a middle school, but no high or higher secondary school, though these are available three kilometres from Rewasi. There is no bank branch or post office. Rewasi is characterised by the absence of classical landlordism though there is inequality in land ownership. Both high land values and the widespread use of machinery in agriculture render the asset structure of this village somewhat unique. While Dungariya is largely a tribal village, both Rewasi and 25F Gulabewala have more complex social compositions. In Gulabewala, Scheduled Castes comprise the majority of the population and the main divide is between a largely deprived Scheduled Caste population and a small and powerful landed Jat Sikhs community. In Rewasi, the two largest social groups are Jats (OBCs) and Rajputs (Other Caste Hindus), with Jats exercising greater economic power.

While these differences are important for understanding the social dynamics of these three villages, our concern here is the deprivation experienced by the majority of the population, among other things, in respect of asset ownership, access to and achievements in education, access to basic amenities and incidence of child labour.

### ***Working children***

In all three villages, a significant percentage of children aged between 6 and 18 years work. There is sizeable incidence of child labour in 25F Gulabewala, with 48 out of 153 girls and 45 out of 168 boys aged 6 to 18 years working, even by the restricted definition of work used in this Report. For all practical purposes, as many as 51 girls out of 222 or nearly one-fourth, fall in the category of working children in Rewasi. Among boys, 58 out of 224, or slightly more than one-fourth, are working. The highest incidence of child labour and non-attendance at school occur in Dungariya. Nearly 46 per cent of all girls in this age group are working, even by the restricted definition of 'work' adopted in this Report. Of the 50 girls listed as neither attending school nor working, 27 girls are in fact reported as involved in animal rearing, fetching water, taking care of younger siblings and carrying out various other tasks involving expenditure of some effort. Of the 35 boys listed as not attending school and not working, 15 are in fact engaged in animal rearing, three in housework and two in care of siblings. This village presents a picture of extreme child deprivation, in terms of both denial of access to formal schooling and the terrible burden of child labour, with children aged 7 and 8 condemned to animal tending, caring for siblings, fetching water and doing various household chores.

### ***Assets***

Both 25F Gulabewala and Rewasi are characterized by great inequality in the household ownership of assets. In Gulabewala, the maximum asset value of the third quintile is only 1.07 lakh rupees. On the other hand, the richest household possesses assets valued at Rs 3.43 crores. In terms of social groups, Scheduled Castes were most poorly off: 94 per cent of Scheduled Caste households were in the bottom three asset quintiles.

By contrast, more than 92 per cent of the households belonging to the Other Backward Class category were in the top two asset quintiles in this village. Things were somewhat different in Rewasi, with higher levels of asset holdings across the board, but the degree of inequality was still high. (Note that all data for Rewasi are at 2010 prices). The richest households in Rewasi had truly enormous wealth, attributable in large part to very high land values on account of contingent circumstances. The highest asset holding of Rs 27.41 crores of course contrasted dramatically with the lowest at zero, but inequality was indeed the norm, though less sharp in some respects in comparison with Gulabewala. In terms of social composition, Other Backward Classes and other caste Hindus were dominant in the top two asset quintiles. The main point is

that there is considerable social and economic inequality in both Gulabewala and Rewasi, which gets reflected in educational achievements, access to education and access to amenities.

For Dungariya, we have not discussed asset inequality mainly because almost all households are extremely poor, with very low asset holdings. It is in a different category altogether as a very poor tribal village, with deprivation being both severe and nearly universal.

### ***Education***

Pre-school education and attendance at anganwadi centres was practically non-existent in Rewasi at the time of the FAS survey. The Scheduled Castes were making some use of the anganwadi in Gulabewala, though attendance rates in relation to those entitled to avail the services were low. In Dungariya, there were no anganwadi centres.

A sizeable section of the children in the age group of 6 to 18 years were out of school in all three villages. In 25F Gulabewala, among children aged 6 to 18 years, 62 girls out of a total of 153 and 47 boys out of a total of 168 were out of school. In Rewasi, among children aged 6 to 18 years, 43 girls out of a total of 222 and 14 boys out of a total of 224 were out of school. More than 80 per cent of girls and nearly 60 per cent of boys aged 6 to 18 years were out of school in Dungariya.

Literacy rates for the 7 plus as well as the adult population for both males and females are far from impressive, with females across social groups reporting much lower literacy rates than males in both Gulabewala and Rewasi. Literacy rates for both males and females were much worse in Dungariya. Across the social divide, Scheduled Castes have much lower literacy rates than other groups in Gulabewala. The tribals of Dungariya are the most poorly off.

The educational achievement levels are very poor among the overwhelming majority of households in both Rewasi and Gulabewala. Even for Other Caste Hindus and for the highest asset quintile, the educational achievements are quite modest. They are of course much worse in Dungariya. The picture in terms of median years of education is unimpressive across social groups in both Rewasi and Gulabewala, especially for females. The picture for Dungariya is pathetic.

### ***Amenities***

Though we find a relatively smaller degree of inequality in respect of shelter, access to electricity and access to drinking water in Rewasi than in most of the villages surveyed by FAS in several states, there is still considerable deprivation in absolute terms. Around a tenth of all households with children live in non-pucca shelters, with the proportion going up to a fifth in the case of Scheduled Castes and for households in the poorest asset quintile. Close to one-tenth of all households with children lives in single room shelters. The proportion does not vary much across social groups or asset quintiles, except that it is over one-fifth in the case of Scheduled Tribe households and nearly a third in the case of households in Q1 (asset quintile 1). Close to half of all households with children in Rewasi lack access to electricity for domestic consumption. This proportion is two-thirds for the lowest asset quintile and three-fourths for Scheduled Tribes. Over two-fifths of Scheduled Tribe households with children do not have access to a covered source of drinking water, with a slightly smaller proportion not having access to drinking water within the homestead or just outside. The situation with respect to sanitation is very poor across social groups and asset quintiles. Even among the rich households of Q4 and Q5, more than two-fifths lack access to a lavatory.

There is a high degree of inequality in respect of shelter in 25F Gulabewala, with over four-fifth of Scheduled Caste households with children and seven-eighths of those in Q1 and Q2 living in non-pucca shelters.

Close to one-fourth of Scheduled Caste households with children lives in single room shelters, as do nearly half the households in Q1. Over a third of Scheduled Caste households and around two-fifths of households in the bottom two asset quintiles lack access to electricity for domestic consumption. Three-fifths of Scheduled Caste households and two-thirds of those in Q1 and Q2 do not have access to drinking water within the homestead or just outside. While the village does better than other villages surveyed by FAS with respect to access to toilets for households with children, the apparently better quantitative provision masks the reality of very poor quality of such provision.

Dungariya fares most poorly with regard to the provision of amenities. No household in Dungariya has access to electricity. Whether one speaks of the quality of housing or of access to drinking water and sanitation or of access to electricity, the tribal people of Dungariya experience massive deprivation on a daily basis.

## **Policy Implications**

While it would not be appropriate to generalize for all of Rajasthan, much less for India as a whole from the FAS surveys in three villages of Rajasthan, it is worthwhile flagging some issues.

An important lesson that emerges is that household economic status being higher in terms of asset ownership does not necessarily imply better outcomes for children. Even among relatively affluent households, we found childhood deprivations, such as children, especially girls, being engaged in labour as well as not being in school.

One implication of this is that policies for children, such as free schooling or scholarships or noon meals, should not be targeted narrowly in terms of income or asset criteria. A second and corollary policy implication is that cash transfers cannot solve the problem, where there are specific household constraints or constraints on the supply side. For instance, when a sibling is kept back to take care of a disabled child, a cash transfer is not a solution. An important imperative to ensure universal enrolment and attendance, especially of girls, is the provision of child and elderly care facilities. Social mobilization for gender equality, encouraging sharing of the tasks of caring and public provisioning of care facilities to enable women to earn income from work and also enable girl children to go to school, are important.

The distance of a secondary school from the village is also critical to girls going beyond the primary and elementary levels of schooling. More generally, there is a need for more schools and/or better and cheaper transport of children to and from school, for instance, using dedicated public transport.

The fact of massive educational deprivation in the adult population has important implications for the educational achievements of children. The fact that the majority of households with children do not have an adult female with even a tenth or twelfth class pass, let alone a graduate degree, has implications for the learning environment of children. While universal, free and compulsory education is absolutely necessary to eliminate educational deprivation, the issue of continuing or adult education is also relevant for the improvement of the learning environment that children face at home.

The issue of the special educational needs of children with disabilities is currently not on the policy radar. The creation of a cadre of professional special educators through massive expansion

in the required educational and training facilities and their recruitment into rural schools is an urgent necessity.

It is striking, in the context of the rhetoric of 'inclusive growth', how miserable and deprived rural Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste households continue to be, as seen from all the three villages surveyed in Rajasthan. Clearly, provision of child-friendly rural housing, and ensuring public provisioning of basic amenities with a focus on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Muslims, should command urgent and serious policy attention. Provision of financial support to labouring households - a substantial proportion of which are Scheduled Caste households - to enable them to send children to school instead of work should also be given urgent consideration. Special and immediate attention is imperative in respect of tribal villages like Dungariya, ensuring land rights, decent employment and provision of basic infrastructure for health and education.