

Housing Condition, Livelihood Status and Socio-cultural Life of Rural Santal, Savar and Bedia Indigenous Migrant Households in Purulia District, West Bengal: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

The Santal, Bedia, and Savar communities are important tribal groups in Purulia district, West Bengal. This article presents the housing conditions, livelihood status, and socio-cultural life of the rural migrant households comparatively among the Santal, Savar, and Bedia communities. Total 552 out-migrant household's surveys were conducted using a schedule and observation for gathering information. The study finds socio-economic differences among them. Santal migrant households are more developed than those of Savar and Bedia in terms of housing conditions, social status, economic conditions and the use of household items. The deplorable livelihood status, lack of household amenities and their use, low literacy levels, child marriage, and the subordinate position of women in society are the major features currently prevalent among them.

Keywords: Out-migration, House type, Illiteracy, Sex ratio, Child marriage, Inequality

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Introduction:

Migration outcomes impact individual, societal, economic and demographic changes in the places of origin and destination. For a large country like India, a large number of indigenous peoples are migrating out to search for job opportunities. An indigenous community is a collection of families or a group of families bearing a common name, members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession, or occupation and have developed a well-assessed system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligations (Majumdar 1961). Indigenous communities remain among the most socio-economically vulnerable, making them excessively dependent on migration for survival (Bagchi, 2018; Paul 2022). India has nearly 455 million migrants, with 31.39 million indigenous migrants (Census of India 2011). Historically, most tribal people depended on primary activities such as shifting cultivation, collecting forest products, hunting and catching fish because they lived in forest, hilly and plateau regions, using indigenous knowledge and low-level technology (Sharma & Damodaran, 2020). Their livelihood patterns are gradually shifting toward non-agricultural activities due to environmental degradation, forest restrictions, land alienation and wage differentials (Bose 2021). In the colonial period, due to British forest laws, land revenue systems and the commercial extraction of natural resources, tribal livelihoods were disorganized, leading to the extensive displacement of some tribes (Guha 2016). These disturbances are from long-term dependency on plantation labor, mining and seasonal wage work (Radhakrishna 2000; Paul 2022). During post-colonial periods, liberalization, mining expansion, decline of forest-based livelihoods and wage inequalities accelerated out-migration (Baviskar 2020). In the decolonial perspective, migration has increasingly become seen as a process of negotiation, adaptation and survival rather than simply as displacement. They are moving due to economic pressures, maintaining integrity and ensuring household security in a rapidly changing socio-economic context (Mohanty 2022). The Santal, Savar and Bedia are the major out-migrated indigenous communities in West Bengal. Santal households are economically more prosperous than smaller tribes like the Savar and Bedia, while comprehensive comparative analyses of these societies remain seldom (Chaudhuri 2018). A report “*Living World Of The Adivasis Of West Bengal An Ethnographic Exploration* (2020)” finds that out-migration is higher among the Savar community, followed by the Bedia (Rana et al., 2020). The main deficiency in the research lies in understanding how migration influences housing conditions, livelihood patterns and socio-cultural dynamics variably among the Santal, Savar, and Bedia groups. Previous studies categorize tribal migrants as a uniform group, neglecting intra-community variations and the socio-cultural changes occurring within homes after migration. In Purulia district, one of the major tribal living district and historically affected by land dispossession, forest loss, drought-prone agro-ecology and colonial economic policies (Chakraborty 2016). In post-independence periods, the district continues to face high poverty levels, chronic agricultural underemployment and low levels of industrialization, compelling tribal households to engage in seasonal and long-term out-migration (Ghosh & Hasan 2020). The present study undertakes a comparative analysis of the housing conditions and access to household amenities, livelihood status and socio-cultural practices, gender norms and post-migration changes. It also highlights how migration reinforces or alters inter-community disparities among the Santal, Savar, and Bedia indigenous migrant households in Purulia district, West Bengal. This study offers insights that can inform inclusive development and policy interventions in an indigenous dominated area.

Data sources and methodology:

Study Area

Jungle Mahal is the most significant tribal concentrated (38 percent) and out-migrant area (40 percent) of West Bengal. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, and Paschim Medinipur (including Jhargram) are the districts under Jungle Mahal. According to the Census of India 2011, Purulia district has the highest rate of tribal out-migration (4.82 percent) and the largest population among the other districts of the Jungle Mahal (Debnath 2016). According to NFHS-5 data from 2021-22, the Scheduled Tribe population is 26.91%, the highest in West Bengal (NFHS-5 2021-22). The district is the most backward, economically deprived and underdeveloped district in India (Daripa 2019). It is located in the western part of West Bengal under the Chhota Nagpur plateau region (Figure-1). Purulia is predominantly rural, characterized by undulating terrain, drought-prone, lateritic soil and a substantial tribal population. Out of all tribal communities, Santal, Savar and Bedia are major indigenous groups that have experienced significant out-migration in recent decades due to economic constraints and limited livelihood opportunities.

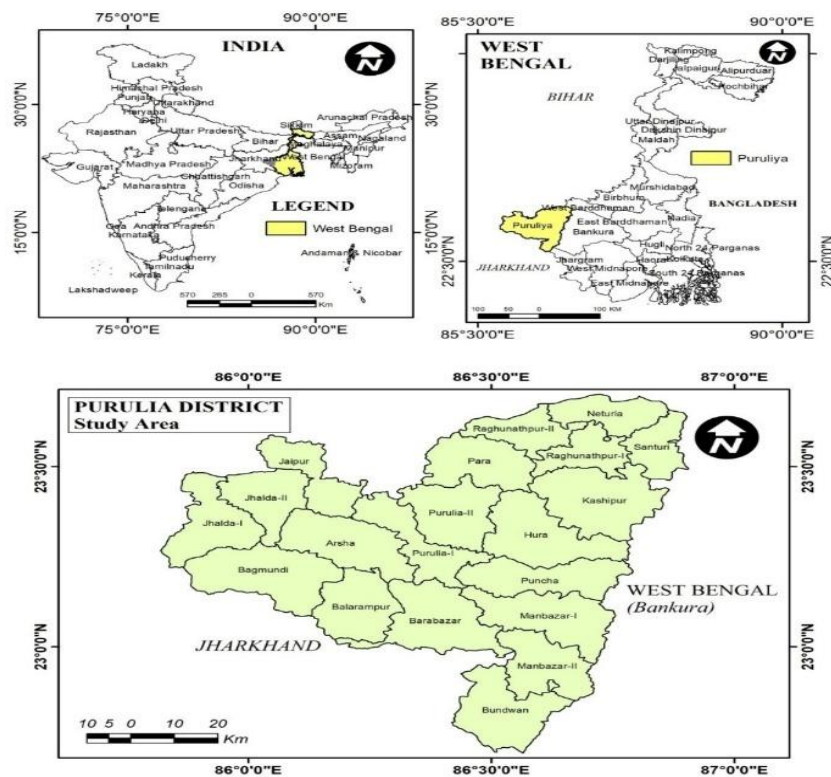


Figure 1. Location map of the study area of Purulia district

Source: The author's own computation

Data sources:

The study was done using both primary and secondary data. Secondary data have been collected from the Census of India, 2011 (D series data), Theses, journals and Reports for any information regarding out-migrant communities. Most of the research study was done using primary data. Primary data was collected from a door-to-door household survey. The sample for primary data collection comprises out-migrant households of three indigenous communities: Santal, Savar and Bedia. The household survey was conducted using an interview schedule. Observation techniques also played a crucial role in gathering primary data. Direct observation and key informant interviews were conducted with the panchayet Pradhan, panchayet member, and local villagers. Data were collected from 45 villages across 13 Community development blocks (Purulia-I, Purulia-II, Hura, Balarampur, Jhalda-I, Pancha, Para, Raghunathpur-II, Kashipur, Barabazar, Manbazar-I, Manbazar-II, and Burdwan) in the study area from March 2024 to July 2025. Surveys were conducted during different festivals like Durga Puja, Poush Sankranti, Kalipuja, Saharai, Manasha Puja, Baha, etc., when the out-migrants usually have the opportunities to return to their homelands to spend time with their families.

Methods:

The study is based on a descriptive frame of nature with a mixed method approach, involving both quantitative and qualitative techniques to examine the housing condition, livelihood status, and socio-cultural life of indigenous migrant households. While the Santal migrant households were found in all the Community Development Blocks (CDBs), the Savar and Bedia households were concentrated in specific blocks. Hence, the blocks are selected where at least two of the major migrant communities are present, as this allows for meaningful comparisons between them. Stratified random sampling has been used to select the study communities and Purposive sampling has been used to select the Study blocks. Snowball sampling was used to identify and select the out-migrant households of the villages. A total of 552 migrant households were surveyed, comprising 184 households each for the three study communities. The total survey population comprised 2861 individuals, 937 Santal, 1005 Savar and 920 Bedia communities. Sample selection for this research was carried out using the Cochran formula (1977) based on the total tribal migration rate out of the total migrants. The mixed-method data collection was chosen to ensure inclusivity of diverse tribal experiences and to overcome the challenges of identifying dispersed migrant populations. Distracting statistics have been used in the analysis, ANOVA has been applied to measure the inter-community differences, and a composite index has also been made with the help of some specific variables that measure the quality of life among the three migrant communities. The main formula of the Composite Index is used:

$$\text{Composite Index for Quality of Life} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N X_{ij}}{N}$$

Where, X_{ij} = Score value of i th element

N = number of elements

STATA and QGIS software were employed for statistical analysis and mapping.

Result and Discussion:

Housing Condition

Housing conditions provide information on the economic condition of the family or household (Table-1). Based on economic conditions, people decide whether to migrate or not. It also significantly impacts the quality of life of the household members. This study aims to find out the housing conditions on the following basis:

House type

Three types of houses have been found on the study migrant households which are kachha (a houses built with mud, bamboo, grass, thatch and no concrete materials), pucca (all the part of the houses build by the concrete material) and semi-pucca (a house that walls and floors made by the bricks, and cement and roof made of tin or asbestos) (Table-1). In Santal migrant households, the most common type is kachha followed by semi-pucca and pucca. In Savar migrant households, 50 percent are under kachha houses, 46.20 percent are under semi-pucca and only 3.80 percent are under pucca houses. In Bedia migrant households, the predominant type is semi-pucca (51.63 %) followed by kachha (40.79 %) and pucca (7.61%). The higher prevalence of semi-pucca houses in Bedia households is due to many households benefiting from the Indra Awaas Yojana (IAS) or other social organizations that provided houses. In the personal observations, almost all houses constructed under the IAY in the study area are semi-pucca. Among the three tribes, Santal migrant households have the highest percentage of kachha and pucca houses, while Bedia migrant households have the largest share of semi-pucca houses. The proportions of kachha and semi-pucca houses found near about the same percentage. The lowest percentages of kachha and pucca houses are found in Bedia and Savar migrant households.

House building material

Table 1 shows that the house-building materials reflect the household's economic status. Mud is the most common wall material across all three communities. In Savar and Bedia households, bricks with cement are used most frequently, since semi-pucca houses are more common than Kachha houses compared to the Santal migrant households. Most households have benefited from the Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY) or other social organizations. In Santal migrant households, the most common wall material is mud, followed by bricks with cement, bricks with mud and wood or bamboo. In Savar migrant households, mud is also the most used wall material, followed by bricks with cement, bricks with mud, wood or bamboo and grass. In Bedia migrant households, mud remains the primary wall material, with bricks with cement, bricks with mud and wood or bamboo as other options. The highest proportions of flooring materials across the three communities are mud, clay and sand. In the Santal community, 73.37 percent of floors are made of mud, clay and sand, followed by cement at 26.09 percent, and marble or tiles at only 0.5 percent. In Savar households, 59.78 percent have floors of mud/clay/sand, 35.33 percent have cement, 4.35 percent have bricks, and just 0.54 percent have marble or tiles. Among Bedia households, 51.09 percent have floors made of mud/clay/sand, while 39.13 percent have cement, 7.61 percent have bricks and only 2.17 percent have stone. Common materials used for house construction across the three groups include mud, bricks and cement for walls. Mud tali, tin, or asbestos (cement roofing sheets) for roofs and mud or clay for floors.

Table 1: Housing type and Building material of the Sample Households

Parameters	Characteristics	Level	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
House type	House type	Kachha	59.24	50.00	40.76
		Pucca	9.78	3.80	7.61
		Semi-Pucca	30.98	46.20	51.63
House Building Material	Wall	Wood/Bamboo	2.17	5.43	2.17
		Mud	59.78	39.67	30.98
		Grass	0.00	0.54	0.00
		Bricks with Mud	4.35	9.24	16.30
		Bricks with Cement	33.70	45.11	50.54
		No roof	1.09	0.00	0.00
	Roof	Tin/ asbestos	32.61	49.46	53.80
		Mud Tali	56.52	31.52	34.24
		Grass/strings	1.09	9.24	5.43
		Plastic (Tripal)	0.00	1.63	0.54
		Cement	8.70	8.15	5.98
		Mud/Clay/Sand	73.37	59.78	51.09
	Floor	Stone	0.00	0.00	2.17
		Brick	0.00	4.35	7.61
		Cement	26.09	35.33	39.13
		Marble/Tails	0.54	0.54	0.00

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Although the number of mud houses among Santal migrant families is much higher than in Bedia and Savar, but their houses are generally better in terms of structure, size and building materials. The walls, floors and roofs of Santal households are well-constructed and the walls are decorated with elaborate wall art. These houses typically have more rooms, along with adequate lighting and ventilation. In contrast, most Bedia and Savar dwellings are semi-pucca and poorly built. Their walls and roofs are very weak, with holes in asbestos (cement roofing sheets) or tin, which restricts the passage of light and air. Only a few households in these groups have well-constructed houses. It is very important to increase funding for the IAY and provide annual grants for house repairs.

Housing infrastructure:

Number of rooms

Houses with multiple rooms and bedrooms are more common among Santal migrant households compared to those in Savar and Bedia (Table-2). Not only the number of rooms but also the household infrastructure has improved in Santal migrant households. Houses with one room are most prevalent among Bedia migrant households, followed by Savar and Santal. Both Savar and Bedia migrant households have an equal percentage (60.87 percent) of two-room houses. Houses with three rooms are most common among Santal migrant households, followed by Bedia and Savar.

Houses with four rooms are most frequent in Santal migrant households (25.00 percent), while only 8.70 percent and 4.89 percent are found in Savar and Bedia migrant households. Houses with more than five rooms are rare and found only in Santal and Savar migrant households in the study area.

Toilet facility

Most migrant households lack toilet facilities and practice open-air defecation. Half of households in the Santal community have a toilet in their home, compared to 19.02 percent in Savar and 39.13 percent in the Bedia community. More than 98 percent of toilets built by the government under the Nirmal Bangla Schemes (NBS) are located in their own dwellings or yards (Table-2). A significant issue is that many of these government-constructed toilets are broken and unusable because of water shortages and low-quality building materials. Some NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and social organizations help ensure a few percent of toilets in the Bedia and Savar migrant households.

Kitchen facility

Table 2 finds that the highest percentage of separate kitchens is found in Santal migrants households (58.15 percent), followed by Savar (23.37 percent) and Bedia (18.48 percent). Food is cooked in the bedrooms, semi-permanent rooms (constructed from mud, plastic, straw, leaves, bamboo, etc.) and in the open courtyard of the house among the Bedia and Savar migrant households. Among these communities, food is cooked in separate kitchens without ventilation systems. A small number of Santal households cook their food in separate kitchens with proper ventilation. Two main types of fuel are commonly used for cooking, wood/dry leaf/Grass/shrubs and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). About 98.91 percent of Santal and 91.30 percent of Bedia migrant households use wood/dry leaves/grass/shrubs for cooking. All migrant households of the Savar community area use wood/dry leaves/grass/shrubs for cooking. Only two Santal and sixteen Bedia migrant households use LPG for cooking.

Source of lighting

Table 2 reveals that electricity is the primary source of light in the migrant households of the study communities. In Santal migrant households, about 90.22 percent use electricity as their light source followed by 4.35 percent with candles, 1.09 percent with batteries/inverters and 0.54 percent have no lighting in their homes. In the Savar migrant households, 83.70 percent rely on electricity followed by 2.72 percent with candles, 1.09 percent with charger lights and 9.24 percent have no lighting facilities. About 84.78 percent and 6.52 percent of the households use electricity and candles, while only 0.54 percent use charger lights to illuminate the Bedia migrant households.

Table 2: Showing the Housing Infrastructure of the Sample Households

Characteristics	Level	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
Number of rooms	1	0.54	5.98	10.87
	2	20.11	60.87	60.87
	3	47.83	21.2	23.37
	4	25.00	8.70	4.89
	> 5	6.52	3.26	0.00

Toilet facility		48.91	19.02	39.13
Separate kitchen		58.15	23.37	18.48
	Kerosene/oil lamp	3.80	3.26	6.52
	Electricity	90.22	83.70	84.78
Source of lighting	Battery/inverter	1.09	0.00	0.00
	Candle	4.35	2.72	6.52
	No lighting	0.54	9.24	1.63
	Charger light	0.00	1.09	0.54

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Housing necessities:

Sources of drinking water

Collection of drinking water is a significant challenge due to the dryness and limited water availability in the physiographic conditions of this study area (Table-3). The maximum number of migrant households in the three study communities mostly depends on public tube wells for their drinking water. Among the three communities, Savar has the highest use of drinking water from public tube wells, followed by Bedia and Santal. In Santal migrant households, public wells are the primary source of drinking water, followed by public taps/standpipes. Smaller proportions depend on own tube wells, private wells, the traditional ‘*Dari*’ system (It is a semi-permanents hole dug for the purpose of collecting potable water, is usually dug in riverbanks or where groundwater is very close to the earth’s surface), solar wells, rivers, and ponds. In Savar migrant households, public wells and public taps are the main sources, with limited access to private tube wells, solar wells, and personal taps. In Bedia migrant households, reliance is mainly on public taps and public wells, while access to private tube wells and other sources remains very limited. It is necessary to arrange for the piping lines for drinking water so that every household can collect clean and safe drinking water.

Table 3: showing Sources of drinking water and Fuel use for cooking of the Sample Households

Characteristics	Level	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
	Private well	2.72	2.72	1.09
	Public well	21.20	11.96	10.33
	Own tap/standpipe	0.00	2.17	0.54
	Public tap/standpipe	9.78	8.15	13.04
	Own tube well	4.35	3.80	7.61
Sources of drinking water	Public tube well	57.61	66.30	61.41
	River	1.09	0.00	0.00
	Pond	0.54	1.09	0.54
	Dari	1.63	0.00	0.00
	Solar Well	1.09	3.26	0.00
	Time call	0.00	0.54	5.43
	LPG	1.09	0.00	8.70
Fuel use for cooking	Wood or part of tree	98.91	100.00	91.30

Source: Primary Household survey, 2024-25

Cooking Fuel

Most migrant households have used wood or parts of trees as cooking fuel (Table-3). All the migrant households in Savar use only wood or parts of trees for cooking. In Santal migrant households, about 98.91 percent have used wood or part of a tree as fuel for cooking and only 1.09 percent use LPG. Whereas in 91.30 percent of Bedia households, wood or parts of a tree have been used as cooking fuel, only 8.70 percent use LPG.

Household Items

Household items provide insight into a household economic condition (Table-4). In Santal communities, the use of household items is more prevalent compared to the other two migrant communities. In Santal migrant households, various possessions are present in different percentages: over 50 percent have electricity, telephone/mobile phones and cycles. Cars and motorcycles/scooters are found in 20 to 49 percent of households. Pressure cookers, tables, clocks and color televisions are present in 5 to 20 percent of households. Items such as gas stoves, solar lights, sofa sets, refrigerators, computers or laptops, car/vans, tractors and pumping set are found in less than 5 percent of the Santal migrant households. In Savar migrant households, some possessions are also common, with electricity and telephone/mobile phones found in more than half of the households. Electric fans and cycles are present in 49 to 20 percent of households. Color televisions and chairs are found in 20 to 5 percent of households. Items like gas stoves, pressure cookers, tables, solar lights, clocks, motorcycle/scooters and irrigation pumping sets are found in less than 5 percent of households. In Bedia migrant households, certain possessions are more common with electricity, telephone/mobile phones and cycles present in over 50 percent of households. Chairs and electric fans are found in 49 to 20 percent of households. A variety of items such as tables, clocks, gas stoves, solar lights, sofa sets, refrigerators and motorcycles or scooters are present in 20 to 5 percent of households. Among the three migrant groups, Santals have the highest proportion use of households possessing.

Table 4: Showing the Households items of migrant households of three migrant communities

Household Items	Migrant communities		
	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
Electricity	89.67	77.72	86.96
Gas stove	1.09	1.09	2.72
Pressure cooker	6.01	1.63	0.00
Chair	25.54	14.67	26.09
Table	8.15	2.72	10.87
Solar light	1.09	0.54	1.09
Electric Fan	46.74	29.89	43.48
Sofa set	0.54	0.00	0.54
Telephone/Mobile	91.30	94.02	94.57
Refrigerator	1.09	0.00	0.54
Clock	16.30	3.80	11.96
Computer/Laptop	1.63	0.00	0.00
Cycle	90.22	46.74	72.83

Motorcycle/Scooter	22.28	3.80	1.63
Car/Van	0.54	0.00	0.00
Tractor	0.54	0.00	0.00
Pumping set for irrigation	2.17	0.54	0.00
Colour television	13.59	8.15	7.61

Source: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Size of landholding

The size of landholding has provided an idea about the economic condition of the households. Out-migration is higher among households that are landless and marginal landholders compared to small and large landholders (Debnath, 2020; Bauri et al., 2025). (Table 5) shows that the major percentage of landholders of Santal migrant households belongs to under small land size (53.26 percent), only 13.04 and 5.43 percent have under large and very large landholding households of this migrant community. About 14.67 and 13.59 percent of migrant households of the Santal community are under the marginal and landless category. In Savar migrant households, the maximum belongs to the under-landless and marginal holders' categories, about 16.30 percent of households belong to the small land category. Under the large and very large landholder categories are only 5.43 and 1.63 percent of this migrant community. The status of landholding size among Bedia migrant households is very pathetic. The majority of households belong to the landless category (96.74 percent). Only 2.17% and 1.09% of migrant households have small and marginal landholders. The Santal migrant households have good conditions of landholding compared to Savar and Bedia. The present study finds that landless and small landholding migrant communities like Savar and Bedia are more likely to migrate compared to the Santal community due to employment purposes.

Table 5: Size of Landholding of the Sample Households

Size of Landholding	Santal		Savar		Bedia	
	Sample	%	Sample	%	Sample	%
Marginal Land (Below 2 bigha)	27	14.67	38	20.65	2	1.09
Small Land (2 to 4 bigha)	98	53.26	30	16.30	4	2.17
Large (4 to 6 bigha)	24	13.04	10	5.43	0	0.00
Very Large (Above 6 bigha)	10	5.43	3	1.63	0	0.00
Landless	25.00	13.59	103.00	55.98	178.00	96.74
Total	184.00	100.00	184.00	100.00	184.00	100.00

Source: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Irrigation facility

Table 6 shows that despite, Irrigation facilities are poorer, the larger share among Savar (24.69 percent) and Santal (9.43percent) migrant households. The primary irrigation sources are dams, rivers, and other sources (canals, taps, and solar pumps, etc.). In Bedia migrant households, 6 households have agricultural land out of 184 households, but no irrigation facilities.

Table 6: Showing the Sources of irrigation of the Sample Households

Irrigation facility	Santal		Savar		Bedia	
	Sample	%	Sample	%	Sample	%
Yes	15	9.43	20	24.69	0	0.00
No	144	90.57	61	75.61	6	100.00
Total	159	100.00	81	100.00	6	100.00
Sources of irrigation						
Rain fed	1	6.25	0	0.00	0	0.00
well	0	0.00	1	5.00	0	0.00
Pond	5	33.33	0	0.00	0	0.00
River	1	6.67	4	20.00	0	0.00
Dam	8	53.33	12	60.00	0	0.00
Others	0	0.00	3	15.00	0	0.00
Total	15	100.00	20	100.00	0	0.00

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Livestock

Livestock is a significant source of income in tribal society. Table 7 highlighted that about 70.11 percent of Santal migrant households have any kind of livestock. The most common livestock among them are cows followed by chickens/ducks, goats, sheep, buffalo, and pigs. In the Savar migrant community, 53.83 percent of households have at least one livestock animal. The most prevalent animals in Savar households are chickens and ducks followed by goats, cows, pigs, sheep, and buffalo. In the Bedia migrant community, about 41.85 percent of households have any kind of livestock; the most common animals are chickens/ducks, followed by goats, cows, and sheep. Cows, buffalo, and goats are most common in Santal migrant households, while chickens and ducks are most common in Bedia and Savar households. Cows and buffalo are higher in Santal migrant households is due to their role in agricultural activities, and there have a higher percentage of agricultural land compared to others communities' households.

Table 7: Livestock animals of the migrant households

Livestock	Migrant communities (%)		
	Santal	Savar	Bedia
Yes	70.11	41.85	53.8
No	29.89	58.15	46.2
Total	100	100	100
Livestock Animals			
Cow	51.09	11.96	5.43
Buffalo	3.26	2.17	0.00
Goat	40.22	21.2	25.00
Sheep	5.98	2.72	0.55
Chicken/Duck	42.93	35.87	50.54
Pig	1.09	3.80	0.00

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Ration Card

The maximum number of households in the three study communities have ration cards (Table-8). SPHH (76.80 percent) ration cardholder households are higher in the Santal migrant community, and the AAY card is most commonly found in Bedia (75.28 percent) and Savar (51.67 percent) migrant households. In the Santal community, only 17.13 percent of families have an AAY-type ration card, and 3.31 and 2.76 percent have RKSYS-I and RKSYS-II type cards. In the Savar community, 46.11% and 2.22% of families have PHH/SPHH and RKSYS-I types of cards, respectively. On the other hand, the Bedia community accounts for 22.47 and 2.25 percent of families with PHH/SPHH and RKSYS-II types of cards. Actually, the AAY card, provided by the government to low-income families, indicates that Savar and Bedia migrant households are economically weaker than Santal migrant households.

Table 8: Showing the status of the Ration Card of the Sample Households

Ration card	Santal		Savar		Bedia	
	Sample	%	Sample	%	Sample	%
Yes	181	98.37	180	97.83	178	96.74
No	2	1.09	4	2.17	6	3.26
Don't Know	1	0.54	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	184	100	184	100	184	100
Types of Ration card						
AAY	31	17.13	93	51.67	134	75.28
PHH/SPHH	139	76.8	83	46.11	40	22.47
RKSYS-I	6	3.31	4	2.22	0	0
RKSYS-II	5	2.76	0	0	4	2.25
Total	181	100	180	100	178	100

AAY: Antyodaya Anna Yojana; PHH/SPHH: Priority Household/State Priority Household; RKSYS-I: Rashtriya Khady Suraksha Yojana-I; RKSYS-II: Rashtriya Khady Suraksha Yojana-II.

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Livelihood Scenario & Economic Activities:

Occupational Status

Table 9 shows the occupational activities of the three study communities. In total, 37.9 percent of the population engaged in economic activity. The highest percentage of the working population has been found in the Savar community (41.30 percent), followed by Santal (38.72 percent) and Bedia (33.35 percent). Among all the communities, construction work emerges as the dominant occupation, indicating the predominance of casual and unskilled labor among migrant households. In Santal migrant households, the maximum engagement is in construction work (17.43 percent) followed by cultivation, agricultural labor, manufacturing, and other informal activities. In Savar migrant households, the maximum engaged in construction work (13.43 percent) and followed by agricultural labor are the main sources of employment, with smaller proportions involved in artisanal work, manufacturing and others. In Bedia migrant households, the most engaged were construction workers (17.07 percent) followed by artisan work/livestock/fishing/forestry, manufacturing workers, agricultural labor, cultivators, and private sector workers. On

the other hand, the highest proportions of non-workers have been found in the Bedia community, followed by Santal and Savar. In non-economic categories, women/housewives are primarily engaged in household work. Unemployment levels are relatively low (around 3 percent) and employment in the private and government sectors is minimal or absent.

Table 9: Types Of Economic Activity of the Sample Households

Economic activity	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)	Total (%)
Cultivator*	5.67	1.19	0.54	2.45
Agricultural labor*	4.28	12.74	1.52	6.36
Artesian work, Livestock, Fishing, Forestry*	0.43	4.48	5.98	3.64
Manufacturing worker**	3.85	1.59	1.85	2.41
Construction worker**	17.43	13.43	17.07	15.91
Trade & commerce ^{1***}	0.53	0.70	0.00	0.42
Transport & Communication ^{2***}	0.43	0.50	0.00	0.31
Govt. Job***	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.14
Private Sector ^{3***}	0.64	0.00	0.22	0.28
House wife	25.88	17.01	25.33	22.59
Unemployed	3.10	3.98	2.28	3.15
Student	16.04	15.92	15.98	15.98
Dependent	7.49	5.97	9.02	7.45
Now here child	8.77	15.82	14.02	12.98
Others ⁴	5.03	6.67	6.17	5.98

¹Persons who were engaged as shopkeepers, hotel workers, etc. ²Persons who were engaged as a car driver, delivery boy etc. ³Persons who were engaged as company, night guard, security guard etc. ⁴Persons who were engaged as daily wage labor, brick killing industry, domestic worker, etc. [*Primary Activity **Secondary Activity *** Tertiary Activity] **Sources:** *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25.*

Income & Expenditure (Rs. Annual)

Income & expenditure provide information on the economic condition of households and it directly involved in the out-migration of family members. Table 10 shows the inter-community variations in the annual income and expenditure of migrant households across the Bedia, Savar, and Santal communities. The substantial proportion of Bedia (42.39 percent) and Savar (29.89 percent) migrant households belong to the low-income group (annual income below Rs. 72,000), but only 11.41 percent of Santal migrant households fall into this category. The mean annual income is highest among Santal migrant households (Rs. 154,390.20) followed by Savar (Rs. 106,857.60) and Bedia (Rs. 106,857.60), which indicates relatively better economic conditions among the Santals. The largest share of Santal households is concentrated in the lower-middle (Rs. 72,001-108,000) and upper-middle (Rs. 144,001-200,000) income groups (25 percent). The majority of Savar and Bedia households are clustered in the low and lower-middle income categories, reflecting higher economic vulnerability. No one Bedia migrant household falls into the highest income group.

Table 10: Annual Income of The Sample Households

Annual income of migrant households (Rs.)	Migrant Community		
	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
Less than 72000	11.41	29.89	42.39
72001 - 108000	25.00	36.41	34.24
108001 - 144000	17.93	16.30	13.04
144001 - 200000	25.00	10.33	9.78
200001 - 300000	15.76	6.52	0.54
More than 300001	4.89	0.54	0.00
Arithmetic mean	154390.20	106857.60	92157.61

Sources: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Expenditure patterns further reflect these income disparities. Table 11 shows that the average annual expenditure is highest among the Savar migrant households (Rs. 74,777.20) followed by Santal (Rs. 74,760.90), and Bedia households (Rs. 70,318.5). All three communities, the majority of households spend between Rs. 48,001 and Rs. 72,000 annually. Higher expenditure levels are more prevalent among Santal households, followed by Savar and Bedia households, indicating comparatively better living standards among the Santals.

Table 11: Annual Expenditure of The Sample Households

Annual expenditure of migrant Households (Rs.)	Migrant Community		
	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)
Less than 48000	16.30	9.78	14.67
48001-72000	35.33	45.11	51.63
72001-96000	30.43	31.52	26.09
96001-120000	14.13	10.33	5.98
More than 120001	3.80	3.26	1.63
Arithmetic mean	74760.9	74777.2	70318.5

Sources: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Socio-Cultural Life:

Cast & Religion

All the study communities belong to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. The Santal migrant household belongs to a specific religious community, 'Seri Dharam'. All the members of the Savar and Bedia migrant households are traditionally animists, but their religious life has been influenced by Hinduism. The Snake Goddess' Manasa' is the main worshiper of the Bedia community.

Family Type

Family type influences fertility, mortality, migration patterns and economic implications of the households. Family reunification needs or the support of a family member who made the decision on the migration. Joint families have more support for the migrant compared to nuclear families. A joint family is not just an emotional bond but also an economic unit that increases the chances of success by reducing the risks associated with migration. In this study (Table-12), joint families accounted for 51.81 percent and nuclear families accounted for 48.19 percent. The highest percentage of joint families was found among Santals (60.87 percent), followed by Savar (54.35 percent) and Bedia (40.22 percent) out-migrant households. Only in Bedia migrant households, the nuclear family is higher than the joint family (60 percent).

Table 12: Showing the Family Types of the migrant households

Type of family	Santal		Savar		Bedia		Total	
	<i>Sample</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>%</i>
Joint family	112	60.87	100	54.35	74	40.22	286	51.81
Nuclear	72	39.13	84	45.65	110	59.78	266	48.19
Total	184	100	184	100	184	100	552	100

Sources: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Household size

Household size is an important variable in demographic studies. (Table-13) shows that migrant households of the Santal community have an average number of family members of 5.20, whereas 5.46 in Savar and 5.00 in Bedia. The highest household size was found in Savar migrant households and the lowest was in Bedia. Medium-sized households are the largest found among the three communities. Family size affects the migration rate, if more family members than the greater likelihood of migration. Large family size has been shown in Santal migrant households (7.8 percent) compared to Savar (5.4 percent) and Bedia (3.3 percent) households. Whereas the average population size is maximum in the Savar community, followed by the Santal and the Bedia.

Table 13: Showing the Household Size in the Sample Households

Household size	Santal	Savar	Bedia
	<i>(N=184)</i>	<i>(N=184)</i>	<i>(N=184)</i>
Below 4 (Low size)	43.3	31.5	42.4
5 to 8 (<i>Medium size</i>)	48.9	63	54.3
Above 9 (Large size)	7.8	5.4	3.3
mean*	5.2	5.46	5.00

Source: *Primary Household Survey, 2024-25*

Sex Structure

Sex structure (Table-14) provides information on the sex ratio and percentages of the male and female populations. The percentages of male populations are higher compared to female populations among the migrant households of three research migrant communities. Savar migrant households have a good position in terms of the gap between the male and female populations compared to the other two communities. Among these out-migrant communities, the highest sex ratio was found in Savar (946) followed by Santal (897) and Bedia (866) migrant households. Only among Savar migrant households is the sex ratio higher than the national (India) average (940 female/1000 male), but lower than the state (West Bengal) average (947 female/1000 male).

Table 14: Showing the Sex Structure of the Sample Household

Sex Structure	Santal	Savar	Bedia
Male	52.72	51.34	53.59
Female	47.28	48.66	46.41
Sex ratio	897female / 1000 male	946 female /1000 male	866 female/1000 male

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Educational Status

Literacy plays an important role in the development of society. The number of illiterate populations is higher, which is not a good sign for the development of society. The average literacy rate in India is 74.04 percent, while the tribal literacy rate is 59.00 percent. The present study finds that (Table 15), 47.14 percent of people in the three migrant households are literate, which is much lower than the national average and the tribal literacy rate. The highest literacy rate was found in Santal (55.81 percent) followed by Bedia (45 percent) and Savar (40.99 percent) migrant households. The level of education shows that 20.51 percent have primary education, 11.18 percent have upper primary, 9.47 percent have Madhyamika, 4.30 percent have higher secondary, 1.64 percent have B. A., B.Com., or B. Sc, and 0.03 percent have postgraduate & above. The level of education shows a different picture in Santal migrant households, 11.21 percent have primary education, 13.11 percent have upper primary, 16.22 percent have Madhyamik, 10.67 percent have higher secondary, 4.06 percent have accounts for B.A, B.Com., or B. Sc., and only 0.11 percent have found postgraduate & above. The educational level of Savar migrant households is 26.67 percent are under primary education, 8.26 percent have upper primary, 5.37 percent have Madhyamika, 4.30 percent have higher secondary and 0.3 percent hold B.A., B.Com., or B. Sc. The educational levels of Bedia migrant households are: 23.26 percent under primary education, 11.96 percent under upper primary, 7.07 percent with Madhyamik, 2.07 percent with higher secondary and 0.65 percent with B.A., B.Com., or B. Sc. degrees. No postgraduate or higher degrees are found in Savar and Bedia migrant households. In terms of educational status, Santal migrant households are in a better position, followed by Bedia and Savar households in the study region. Drop-out is an important barrier to poor educational status due to migration.

Table 15: Educational Level of the Sample Households Members

General Education Level	Migrant Community	Total
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	Santal		Savar		Bedia			
	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%
Illiterate	414	44.19	593	59.01	506	55	1,513	52.86
Primary (5 Years of schooling)	105	11.21	268	26.67	214	23.26	587	20.51
Upper Primary (6 to 8 years of schooling)	127	13.55	83	8.26	110	11.96	320	11.18
Madhyamik (9 to 10 Year Schooling)	152	16.22	54	5.37	65	7.07	271	9.47
Higher secondary (11 to 12 years of Schooling)	100	10.67	4	0.4	19	2.07	123	4.3
B.A, B.com, B.Sc.	38	4.06	3	0.3	6	0.65	47	1.64
P.G, (M.A, M.S.C, M. Com) & above	1	0.11	0	0	0	0	1	0.03
Total	937	100	1005	100	920	100	2862	100

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Marital Status

Within the household of three migrant communities married category accounts for the highest percentage (Table-16). In these three tribal migrant communities, the married population is highest in the Santal community (58.48 percent), followed by Bedia (51.63 percent) and Savar (49.25 percent). The highest percentage of the unmarried population is found in Bedia (46.09 percent) migrant community, followed by Savar (44.98 percent) and Santal (36.82 percent). The highest widow was found in the households of the Savar migrant community, followed by Santal and Bedia. The widower population is largest in the households of the Savar migrant community (2.19 percent), followed by the Santal (1.39 percent) and Bedia (0.54 percent) migrant communities. Divorced cases have not been found in the Savar and Bedia migrant households, but only one case has been found in the Santal migrant household. Separated cases seen only in the Santal and Bedia households, that is, negligible (only one case in the Santal and two cases in the Savar migrant households).

Table 16: Marital Status of the Sample Household Members

Marital Status	Santal		Savar		Bedia	
	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%	<i>Sample(n)</i>	%
Unmarried	345	36.82	452	44.98	424	46.09
Married	548	58.48	495	49.25	475	51.63
Widow	29	3.09	34	3.38	16	1.74
Divorced	1	0.11	0	0.00	0	0.00
Separated	1	0.11	2	0.20	0	0.00

Widower	13	1.39	22	2.19	5	0.54
Total	937	100	1005	100	920	100

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Age of Marriage

Table 17 reveals that early marriage is rare in developed societies, but in the present study, a large percentage of the population marries before age 18 years old (34.58). People in Bedia migrant households had the highest early marriage rate (45.51 percent) followed by Savar (35.27 percent) and Santal (24.41 percent). It is necessary to organize awareness camps on the effects of early marriage and the need for women's education. The maximum number of family members have married in the 19-25 age group. Members of Santal (54.1 percent) migrant households were mostly married in the 19-25 years age group, compared to Savar (52.91 percent) and Bedia (45.51 percent). Age of marriage under 26-30 years: Santal migrant households have the highest followed by Savar and Bedia. Late marriage (i.e., marriage after age 31 years) has been seen among the three groups of migrant communities, which is only 1.83 percent. It was highest among the members of the Santal migrant household followed by the members of the Bedia and Savar communities, but it is very negligible.

Table 17: Age of Marriage of the Sample Household Members

Age of Marriage	Community			
	Santal (%)	Savar (%)	Bedia (%)	Total (%)
Below 18	24.41	35.27	45.51	34.58
19-25	54.10	52.91	45.51	51.02
26-30	19.31	10.42	7.10	12.57
Above 31	2.19	1.40	1.88	1.83
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

Health Status

The health status of households significantly influences productivity, well-being and quality of life. In this case, analyze the health conditions, health facilities, and consultancy for the treatment of three migrant households of the study area. These are discussed below:

Health Condition

The table 18 shows that the percentage of occurrences of chronic and acute disease is not high among the three migrant household communities. Only 4.02 and 1.96 percent of households suffer from any kind of chronic and acute disease in the study area. A higher percentage of chronic disease was found in Santal (4.91 percent) migrant households, followed by Bedia (4.67 percent) and Savar (2.59 percent). In the conditions of chronic disease, arthritis/back problems/body pain is the most common chronic disease among the three migrant households, especially in Santal

(39.13 percent) and Bedia migrant households (25.22 percent). In terms of total chronic disease cases, about arthritis/back problems/body pain, nerve problem, high blood pressure, liver problem, diabetes mellitus, and cardiovascular/heart diseases have been found above 5 percent households and asthma, kidney disease, mental illness, thyroid, thalassemia, tumor, paralysis, filaria and others have been found less than 5 percent households of the total three study community. In santal migrant household suffer some major chronic illness that's are arthritis/back problems/body pain (39.13 percent), nerve problem (17.39 percent), high blood pressure (10.87 percent), kidney disease (8.70 percent), cardiovascular/heart diseases (6.52 percent), and some minor chronic illness that's are diabetes mellitus (2.17 percent), tuberculosis (2.17 percent), liver problem (2.17 percent), tumor, paralysis (2.17 percent), and filaria (2.17 percent). In Savar migrant households nerve problem (26.92 percent), tuberculosis (19.23 percent), diabetes mellitus (15.38 percent) and high blood pressure (7.69 percent) are the major chronic illness and arthritis/back problems/body pain, asthma, kidney disease, mental illness, liver problem, tumor, paralysis and some others (each are 3.85 percent) diseases are minor chronic illness have been found. In Bedia migrant households arthritis/back problems/body pain (23.25 percent), liver problem (13.95 percent), cardiovascular/heart diseases (9.30 percent), mental illness (9.30 percent), diabetes mellitus, high blood pressure, thalassemia, tumor (each 6.98 percent) are the major chronic illness and nerve problem, others, asthma, thyroid, and paralysis are the minor chronic illness have been found. Nerve problems, diabetes, and tuberculosis are significantly high among the Savar migrant households. Bedia community shows higher cases of arthritis/back problems/body pain, liver problems, mental illness, and thalassemia compared to the other groups. Arthritis/back problems/body pain, asthma, kidney disease, and high blood pressure are significantly high among the Santal migrant households.

Table 18: Showing the status of Chronic disease to faces out-migrant households' members

Chronic disease	Out-Migrant communities (%)			Total
	Santal	Savar	Bedia	
Yes	4.91	2.59	4.67	4.02
No	95.09	97.41	95.33	95.98
Total	100	100	100	100
Types of chronic disease				
Cardiovascular and Heart diseases	6.52	0.00	9.30	6.09
Diabetes mellitus	2.17	15.38	6.98	6.96
Tuberculosis	2.17	19.23	0.00	5.22
Arthritis/Back problems/body pain	39.13	3.85	23.25	25.22
Asthma	4.35	3.85	2.33	3.48
Kidney disease	8.70	3.85	0.00	4.35
Mental illness	0.00	3.85	9.30	4.35
Thyroid	0.00	0.00	2.33	0.87
High blood pressure	10.87	7.69	6.98	8.70
Nerve Problem	17.39	26.92	4.65	14.78
Liver problem	2.17	3.85	13.95	6.96
Thalassemia	0.00	0.00	6.98	2.61

Tumar	2.17	3.85	6.98	4.35
Paralysis	2.17	3.85	2.33	2.61
Filaria	2.17	0.00	0.00	0.87
Others	0.00	3.85	4.65	2.61
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

In the case of acute disease (Table-19), a higher percentage of acute disease was found in the Bedia migrant household (3.48 percent), followed by Santal (1.28 percent) and Savar (1.19 percent). Various types of illness have been recorded during the field survey of migrant households among three communities. Flu/fever, weakness, eye problems, broken bones and liver problems are more acute illnesses that are found in more than 5 percent of households and some other illness like bronchitis, diarrhea, urinal problem, injury, anemia, rash, headache and appendicitis are less acute illnesses that are found in below 5 percent of households in the study area. Flu/Fever is a much more common acute illness in the three study migrant households. In Santal migrant households, three main acute illnesses are flu/fever (25 percent), weakness (25 percent) and liver problems (16.67 percent), and some minor acute illnesses are appendicitis, eye problems, headaches and anemia (each 8.33 percent). In the Savar migrant household, many more suffer from two acute diseases: flu/fever (41.67 percent), diarrhea (16.67 percent), and other minor diseases: rash/skin problem, eye problems, liver problems, injuries, and anemia (each 8.33 percent). In Bedia migrant households, many more suffer from flu/fever (59.38 percent) and broken bones (12.50 percent), and other minor diseases, such as bronchitis, eye problems, weakness, urinal problems (each 6.25 percent), and injuries (3.13 percent). Broken bone, bronchitis, diarrhea, rash, urinal problem, and injury were not found in any cases of the Santal migrant households. Broken bones, bronchitis, appendicitis, headaches, weakness, and urinary problems are not found in the Savar migrant households. Appendicitis, diarrhea, headache, rash and liver problems were not found in any cases in the Bedia migrant households in the study area.

Table 19: Showing the status of acute disease among out-migrant households' members

Acute disease	Out-Migrant communities (%)			
	Santal	Savar	Bedia	Total
Yes	1.28	1.19	3.48	1.96
No	98.72	98.81	96.52	98.04
Total	100	100	100	100
Types of acute disease				
Broken bone	0.00	0.00	12.50	7.14
Bronchitis	0.00	0.00	6.25	3.57
Flu/Fever	25.00	41.67	59.38	48.21
Appendicitis	8.33	0.00	0.00	1.79
Diarrhea	0.00	16.67	0.00	3.57
Headache	8.33	0.00	0.00	1.79
Rash	0.00	8.33	0.00	1.79

Eye problem	8.33	8.33	6.25	7.14
Liver problem	16.67	8.33	0.00	5.36
Weakness	25.00	0.00	6.25	8.93
Urinal problem	0.00	0.00	6.25	3.57
Injury	0.00	8.33	3.13	3.57
Anemia	8.33	8.33	0.00	3.57
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

One-way ANOVA test

One-way ANOVA test determines the socio-economic variations influencing out-migration among Santal, Savar, and Bedia migrant households in the study area. The test examined differences across selected socio-economic variables (such as marital status, educational level, age at marriage, dropout, economic activity, livestock, amount of agricultural land, annual income, and annual expenditure) using descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation), F-values and a post hoc Tukey test (Table-20). The ANOVA results indicate that there exist statistically significant differences among the three tribal migrant communities for most of the socio-economic indicators (except for annual expenditure), which showed no significant variation. Specifically, marital status, education level, age at marriage, dropout rate, economic activity, livestock ownership, agricultural land holding, and annual income showed highly significant variations at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels of significance. Post-hoc (Tukey) comparisons that, Santal migrant household (G1) exhibited higher levels in variables such as marital status, educational level, age at marriage, agricultural land holding and annual income compared to Savar (G2) and Bedia (G3) migrant households. The Savar migrant household (G2) showed relatively higher dropout rates, more participation in economic activity and livestock ownership than the Santal and Bedia groups. The Bedia migrant household (G3) generally reported lower socio-economic indicators compared to the other two groups, except for certain cases where their values were close to the Savar households. The mean value of marital status is higher in the Santal community (mean= 1.72) compare to Savar (mean=1.68) and Bedia (mean= 1.58), ANOVA result ($F = 8.978$, $p < 0.001$) also suggested that there are significant statistical differences. The post-hoc (Tukey) analysis suggests that Santal households have significantly more married members compared to Savar and Bedia communities. The mean value of education level is higher in the Santal community (2.75) than Savar (2.09) and Bedia (2.35). The ANOVA result ($F = 12.440$, $p < 0.001$) indicates that the differences are statistically significant. The post-hoc (Tukey) analysis suggests that Santal households have significantly more educated members than the other two communities. The age of marriage of the Santal community has a higher mean value (22.11 years) compared to Savar (20.56 years) and Bedia (19.71 years). The ANOVA result ($F = 37.489$, $p < 0.001$) confirms that age at marriage also significantly differs among the groups. Post-hoc (Tukey) test identifies that relatively earlier marriage is higher among Bedia households. In terms of the age of school drop-out, Savar households have higher mean value in drop-out level (2.32) followed by Bedia (2.24) and Santal (2.04). The ANOVA result ($F = 26.898$, $p < 0.001$) indicates the statistically significant differences among the communities. In the case of economic activity, the mean value is higher among the Santal community (10.92) compared to Savar (9.45) and Bedia (9.79). The ANOVA result ($F = 5.547$, $p < 0.001$) confirms that there is a statistically significant difference. For livestock ownership, Savar

migrant households possess slightly more livestock per household (1.58) compared to Bedia (1.46) and Santal (1.30). The ANOVA result ($F = 15.750$, $p < 0.001$) indicates that there are significant statistical differences among the three study communities. The largest differences were observed in agricultural land ownership. The Santal households own considerably more land (1.82 bigha per household) compared to Savar (0.76 bigha) and Bedia households (0.05 bigha). The ANOVA result ($F = 203.662$, $p < 0.001$) indicates that the agricultural land ownership shows significant statistical differences among the three study communities, and Santal is in the better position among them. In the case of annual household income, Santal households have the highest annual mean income (Rs. 154,390), followed by Bedia (Rs. 92,157) and Bedia (Rs. 86,982). The ANOVA result ($F = 49.686$, $p < 0.001$) indicates there are significant statistical differences. The annual household expenditure does not show a statistically significant difference ($F = 2.168$). These findings suggest that the Santal migrant households are socio-economically better positioned, followed by Savar and Bedia households. The significant differences across groups highlight the heterogeneity among tribal communities in terms of education, occupation, income and landholding patterns, which in turn influence their migration behavior.

Table 20: Descriptive statistics for the Santal, Savar and Bedia migrant households used to socio-economic determination of out-migration

Variable	Santal migrant households		Savar migrant households		Bedia migrant households		F	Post-hoc (Tukey)
	Mean	Std.Dev	Mean	Std.Dev	Mean	Std.Dev		
X1	1.72	0.748	1.68	0.865	1.58	0.623	8.978** *	G1 > G3*, G1 > G2, G3 < G2*
X2	2.75	2.748	2.09	2.997	2.35	3.033	12.440**	G1 > G2*, G1 > G3*, G3 > G2*
X3	22.11	4.661	20.56	4.466	19.71	4.450	37.489**	G1 > G2*, G1 > G3*, G2 > G3*
X4	2.04	0.881	2.32	0.852	2.24	0.844	26.898**	G1 < G2*, G1 < G3*, G2 > G3*
X5	10.92	14.24	9.45	8.329	9.79	5.987	5.547** *	G1 < G2*, G1 < G3*, No difference between G2 and G3
X6	1.30	0.459	1.58	0.495	1.46	0.500	15.750**	G1 < G2*, G1 < G3*, G2 > G3*
X7	1.82	1.01	0.76	1.01	0.05	0.31	203.662***	G1 > G2*, G1 > G3*, G2 > G1*
X8	154390.220	86982.343	106857.610	55353.706	92157.610	33538.692	49.686**	G1 > G2*, G1 > G3*, G2 > G3*
X9	74760.870	25999.104	78690.220	58358.761	70318.480	19647.731	2.168	No significant difference

Source: Primary Household Survey, 2024-25

*, **, and *** indicate 10%, 5% and 1%, significant level, respectively. Following the One-way ANOVA test, the comparison indicates a significant difference between Santal, Savar, and Bedia migrant households with the corresponding selected variables. G1 = Santal, G2 = Savar, G3 = Bedia. X1: Marital status X2: Education level X3: Age of marriage (married person only) X4: Drop out X5: Economic activity X6: Livestock (per household) X7: Amount of agricultural land (Bigha per household) X8: Annual income (Rs. Per household) X9: Expenditure (Rs. Per household)

Quality of Life:

On the basis of some important socio-economic parameters, an estimate of the quality of life of the migrant households among the three research communities of the study area. Using thirteen variables for calculating the composite index, the result identified noticeable variations among the Santal, Savar and Bedia communities. Table 22 finds that the Santal migrant community recorded the highest composite value (37.65), followed by Savar (33.39) and the Bedia (32.60). The calculated average composite value index is 34.55. The Santal community performs at an above-average level, whereas the Savar and Bedia communities perform below average. The Z-score value reveals that the Santal community has shown a positive role (1.40), which means a relatively higher level of socio-economic development. On the other hand, the Savar (−0.52) and Bedia (−0.88) communities show negative Z-score values, indicating relatively lower levels of socio-economic development.

Table 22: Calculation of the Composite Index for measuring Quality of Life among Santal, Savar and Bedia out-migrant households

Variables	Santal	Savar	Bedia
X1	1.50	1.53	1.67
X2	4.96	4.74	4.45
X3	2.46	1.82	1.41
X4	3.17	2.43	2.23
X5	1.49	1.19	1.39
X6	4.92	4.66	4.87
X7	1.01	1.00	1.08
X8	7.10	6.72	6.52
X9	1.38	1.42	1.34
X10	2.50	1.62	1.80
X11	3.23	2.29	1.91
X12	1.95	1.98	1.96
X13	1.98	1.99	1.97
Total	37.650	33.390	32.600
(x-X)	3.103	-1.157	-1.947
Z Score	1.3992	-0.5215	-0.8777

Source: Computed by author

Variables: X1: Type of house; X2: House land; X3: Size of House; X4: Number of rooms; X5: Toilet Facility; X6: Source of lighting; X7: Source of energy for cooking; X8: Source of drinking water; X9: Employment status; X10: Literacy; X11: Annual income (in Rs.); X12 Occurrence of major illness (Chronic ailment); X13: Occurrence of minor illness (Acute ailment).

Santal share the highest percentage of their own house land, the highest number of house rooms, toilet facilities within the premises, use electricity, households in the highest income group, and occurrence of chronic ailments. Whereas, migrant households of the Savar community have the highest percentage in the working population, a higher illiteracy rate, poor lighting in the house, and the lowest percentage of pucca houses and own a tube well. On other hand, In Bedia migrant households share highest percentages of semi-pucca houses, low-income group, highest percentage homestead land provided by government, use of candle for lighting in house, use of LPG for cooking, source of drinking water on public tap/standpipe, occurrence of major illness (acute ailment), and lowest in working population, high income group, use of wood for cooking and big houses. The migrant households of three tribal communities, Santal, account for the highest quality of life, followed by Savar (moderate) and Bedia (low).

Conclusion

The overall socio-economic condition of the households of three tribal communities is deplorable. Their poverty is the main obstacle to economic and social development. The AAY card gives an idea about the poverty level. Bedia and Savar migrant households found that more than 50 percent of the families have AAY cards, meaning half of the households live below the poverty line. While the socio-economic condition of Santal migrant households is generally good in some cases, like household infrastructure, well-structured houses, economic setup, income level, personal agricultural land and educational level. The condition of Bedia and Savar migrant households is extremely deplorable. Most of these houses Bedia and Savar migrant households are dilapidated, without proper doors or windows, lack adequate ventilation and lighting. Multiple people often live together in one or two cramped rooms, creating unhygienic conditions. Around 40% of the Bedia families do not own land to build homes, exacerbating their housing issues. Most of the Savar and Bedia families do not have a separate kitchen, so they cook in the bedroom or in the yard. There was a considerable lack of awareness about the use of toilets among the three research communities. The presence of toilets was observed in 50 percent of Santal households and 40 percent of Bedia households, it was much lower among the Savar households at 20 percent. Most of the families got toilets under Nirmal Bangla schemes, but they broke down or became unusable within a very short time. Many families are not using the toilets due to a lack of water facilities. Geographically, Purulia district is facing water scarcity (Kar et al. 2023). The main sources of drinking water for the research communities are public tube-wells and wells. In the case of the use of household items, the Santal migrant family is more utilized compared to the other two communities. Land ownership is very deplorable in Bedia and Savar migrant families. Average annual income among the three tribal migrant families is lower than the national average (Rs. 169496 in 2022-23, MoSPI). Average annual income is higher in Santal migrant households compared to Bedia and Savar. Sex ratio is higher in Savar migrant households, it is also above the national level (943 females for every 1000 males), whereas Santal and Bedia migrants are lower than the national level. Low level of education is found among the three research migrant households, which is also below the national average (74.04 percent in 2011). In these cases, Santal is in a better position than the Bedia and Savar migrant communities. In Bedia migrant households, a large number of family members (both male and female) are getting married below 18 years old. Low levels of sex ratio, female education and age of marriage indicate a poor level of social status and are not good indicators for the social position of women. Above the observation, it can be suggested that there is a necessity to take some policy by the government regarding the development of housing conditions, livelihood status and socio-

cultural life of the out-migrant households of Santal, Savar and Bedia communities in the study area. Indian central and state governments have taken various important policies regarding out-migrant workers and socio-economic development of tribal communities. For the labour out-migrant workers, national measures such as One Nation One Card (ONORC), Inter-state Migrant Workmen Act (1997), MGNRGA, e-Shram portal and Ayushman Bharat health coverage provide the safeguard for socio-economic development among the out-migrant tribal communities. The Government of West Bengal has taken some initiatives through the Labour Welfare Department, Tribal Development & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and livelihood programmes of West Bengal Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation (WBTDDC), 'Karmashree' further supporting the welfare of households whose members migrate seasonally or permanently for work. The main limitations of the study are absence of secondary data on out-migration of individual tribal communities to determine sample size, limited sample size was limited due to time, Information on income, expenditure and amount of agricultural was self-reported and may contain recall bias and Low literacy levels affected the accuracy of responses. The study is cross-sectional it does not capture changes in socio-economic conditions over time. Although this study helps build interest in the researcher comparative analysis of socio-economic conditions of other tribal out-migrant communities. Future studies could adopt longitudinal designs to track changes in out-migrant livelihoods over time and assess the long-term impacts of out-migration on household well-being.

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