

Nudge EIP Process Evaluation: HH Selection Preliminary Analysis

February 2025

About the note

This document summarises the results of the preliminary analysis of the process evaluation of the household selection process of the EIP in Assam and Tripura.

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Section 1: Overview of the survey

IDinsight is working with The/Nudge Institute (TNI) to conduct a process evaluation of the EIP in five implementation states, viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura, and West Bengal. In a process evaluation, we systematically and empirically describe what happens during the program implementation and then carefully compare this description to ex-ante expectations in the implementation plan and theory of change.

Section 1.1: Key objectives

1. Assessing critical aspects of program design (such as targeting, grant disbursements, etc.) for efficacy to help refine the program design, and
2. Identifying contextual factors to inform design choices and help plug implementation gaps by the state-level stakeholders.

Section 1.2: Methodology

1. We adopt a mixed-methods approach to collecting data through quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews.
2. In addition, IDi uses programmatic data (such as PAT scores, baseline survey, etc.) generated from TNI's data systems (SARATHI Application) to supplement the analysis.

As part of the first round of data collection, we collected data from Assam and Tripura. This preliminary analysis outlines the statistics and insights from the quantitative and qualitative survey data collected on the implementation of the **household selection process** in the two states.

Table 1 - Target sample details

Stakeholder	Type of survey	Total sample per state	Sample description
Participant didi	Quantitative survey	200 for Assam 320 for Tripura	Assam: - 20 VOs - 10 respondents per VO Tripura - 20 VOs - 15 respondents per VO
Participant didi	Semi-structured interview	9	Purposively chosen from the sampled VOs
Non-participant didi	Quantitative survey	~100	13 VOs 8 respondents per VO
VO office bearers	Quantitative survey	11	11 VOs 1 respondent per VO
VO office bearers	Semi-structured interview	9	9 VOs 1 respondent per VO
CRPs	Semi-structured interview	9	9 VOs 1 respondent per VO
Changemakers	Semi-structured interview	9	9 VOs 1 respondent per VO
BPM	Semi-structured interview	- 4 in Assam - 3 in Tripura	1 per block
BPC	Semi-structured interview	- 4 in Assam - 3 in Tripura	1 per block

Table 2 - Data collection summary by state

Stakeholder	Type of survey	Total respondents	Respondents: Assam	Respondents: Tripura
Participant didi	Quantitative	522	202	320
Non-Participant didi	Quantitative	206	95	111
VO committee members	Quantitative	22	11	11
Participant didi	Qualitative	18	9	9
VO committee members	Qualitative	18	9	9
CRPs	Qualitative	18	9	9

UPCMs	Qualitative	18	9	9
BPM	Qualitative	7	4	3
BPC	Qualitative	7	4	3

Section 1.3: Data analysis

After data collection, the IDinsight cleaned and transformed the data sets in preparation for analysis. We use the statistical software STATA to perform the required data cleaning and transformations.

After data cleaning, we adjusted for the data collection design (e.g. clustering, weights) and analysed the data using descriptive statistics (e.g. frequency, means, median, proportions, etc.). For the population that we analysed, we used weights to account for our sampling strategy and to make it representative for the study population.

In this document, we will present information using tables and charts (e.g., histograms) with descriptive sub-group analysis where relevant. Where appropriate, parameter estimates will be presented along with 95% confidence intervals to reflect the amount of uncertainty around a survey estimate.

We will be able to achieve a margin of error of +/- 15 percentage points (pp) for binary indicators with a proportion of 60% at the state level and +/- 5 pp at the aggregate level of the five states for the program participants and non-participants.

Section 2: Analysis of TNI's PAT data

Section 2.1: Who are TNI's program participants?

2.1.1 Summary of household selection in the two states

Household selection exercise was conducted in both Assam and Tripura in November/December of 2023. The table below summarizes the number of participant households selected into the program.

State	District	Block	Total no. of VOs	Total no. of program HHs	Total no. of HHs surveyed for PAT
Assam	Total		109	4,057	11,463
	Bongaigaon	Total	67	2,025	5,856
		Boitamari	36	1,004	3,194
		Dangtol	31	1,021	2,662
	Chirang	Total	41	2,032	5,607
		Borobazar	26	1,016	2,720

		Sidli-Chirang	15	1,016	2,887
Tripura	Total		69	4,688	10,117
	Dhalai	Total	43	2,255	4,734
		Ambassa	22	1,231	2,616
		Ganganagar	21	1,024	2,118
	North Tripura	Dasda	26	2,433	5,383

Section 2.2: TNI's household selection summary statistics

2.2.1 Social wealth ranking assigned to households

At the start of the selection process, all households are assigned a wealth ranking from the options rich, medium and poor. According to the guidelines, only the households ranked as "poor" proceed for the PAT survey.

Table 3 - Wealth ranking status of households

	Assam		Tripura	
Wealth Ranking	Participants	Non-participant	Participants	Non-participant
Rich	3	25	0	25
Medium	3	99	1	74
Poor	4,043	6,013	4,658	4,593
Others (data errors etc.)	1	68	1	40
Total	4,050	6,205	4,660	4,732

- In Assam, 6 non-poor households have been selected into the program.
- In Tripura, 1 non-poor household has been selected into the program.

2.2.2 PAT scores, collected by TNI

After PRA and social wealth ranking, the PAT survey is conducted for households classified as "poor". The PAT scores determine whether a particular household is eligible for the program or not.

Assam

- From the table and the distribution graph below of PAT scores in the state of Assam, we can say that participant households had a higher average PAT score than the households who were not selected into the program.
- 24.8% of the households that were not selected satisfied at least one of the exclusion criteria of the PAT survey.

Table 4 - Mean PAT score of households in Assam

State	Household type	Mean	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N
Assam	Participants	10	9.9	10.1	10	4057
	Non-participants	5.1	4.9	5.2	5	4694

Figure 1 - Distribution of PAT scores of participant HHs in Assam, collected by TNI

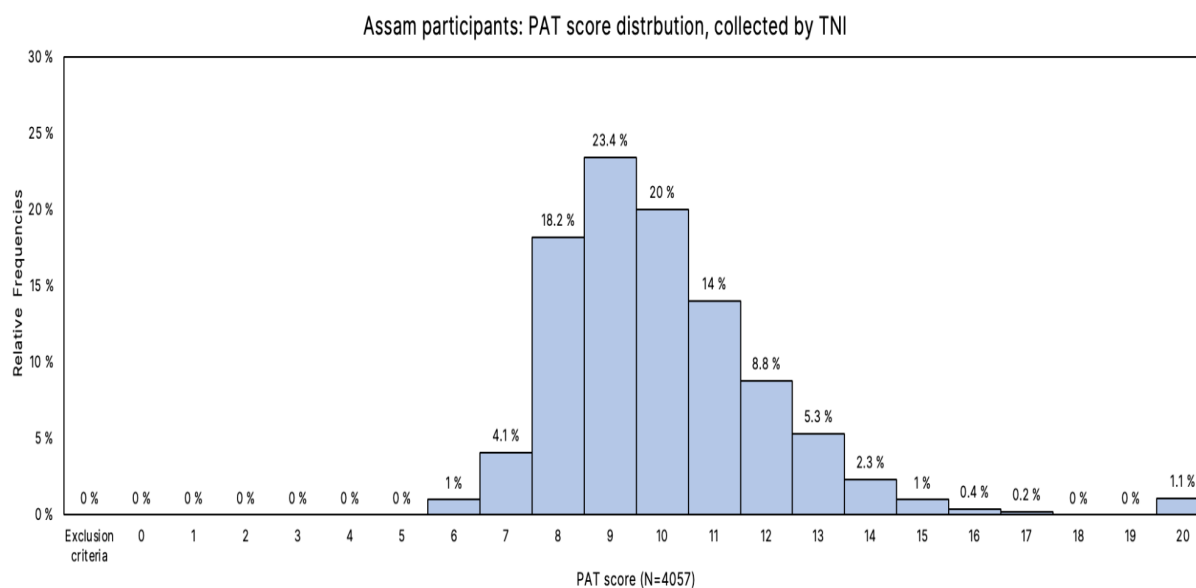
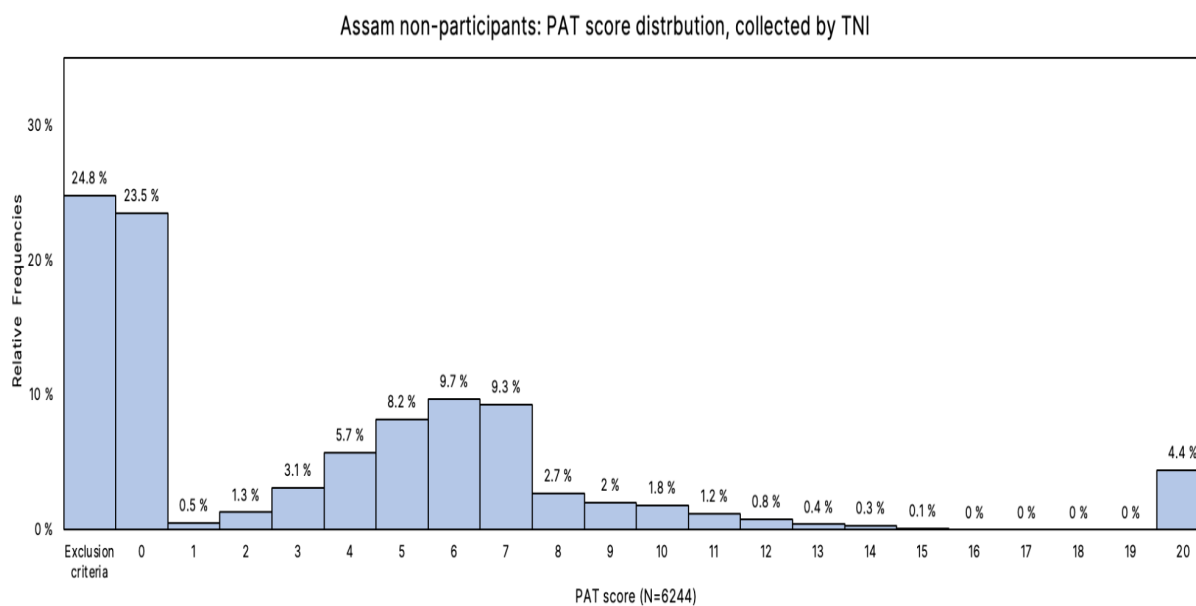


Figure 2 - Distribution of PAT scores of non-participant HHs in Assam, collected by TNI



Tripura

- From the table and the distribution graph below of PAT scores in Tripura, we can once again say that participant households had a higher average PAT score than the households who were not selected into the program.
- 22.6% of the households that were not selected satisfied at least one of the exclusion criteria of the PAT survey, and were therefore excluded.
- However, a very small percentage (0.3%, n=14) of participant households also satisfied the exclusion criteria, but were still selected into the program.

Table 5 - Mean PAT score of households in Tripura

State	Household type	Mean	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	N
Tripura	Participants	8.7	8.7	8.8	9	4672
	Non-participants	3.5	3.4	3.6	4	3664

Figure 3 - Distribution of PAT scores of participant HHs in Tripura, collected by TNI

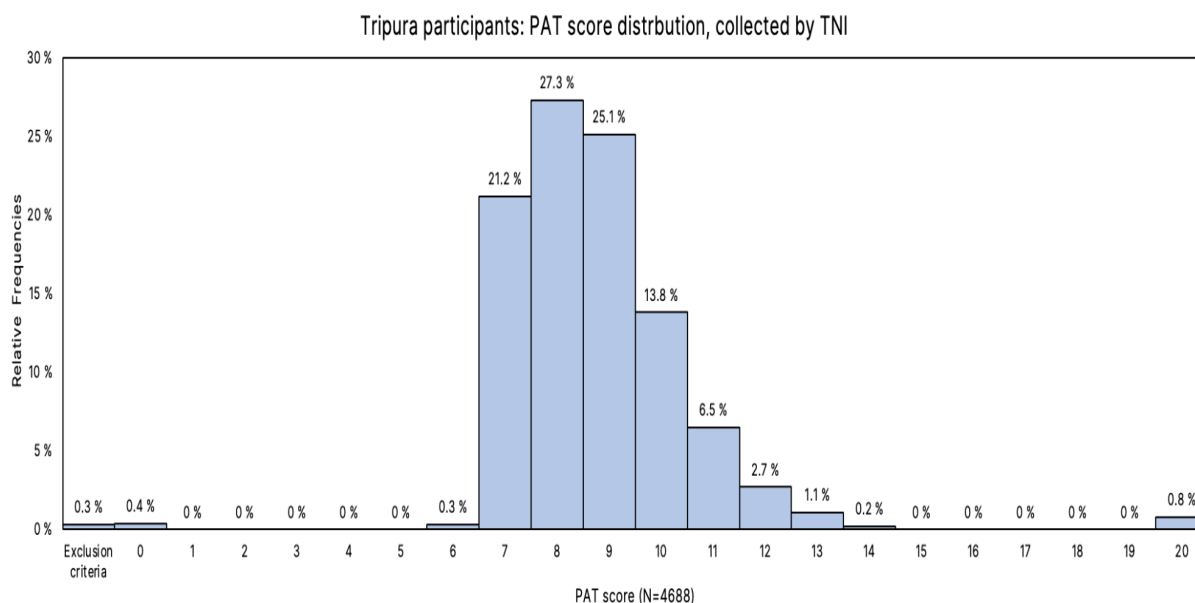
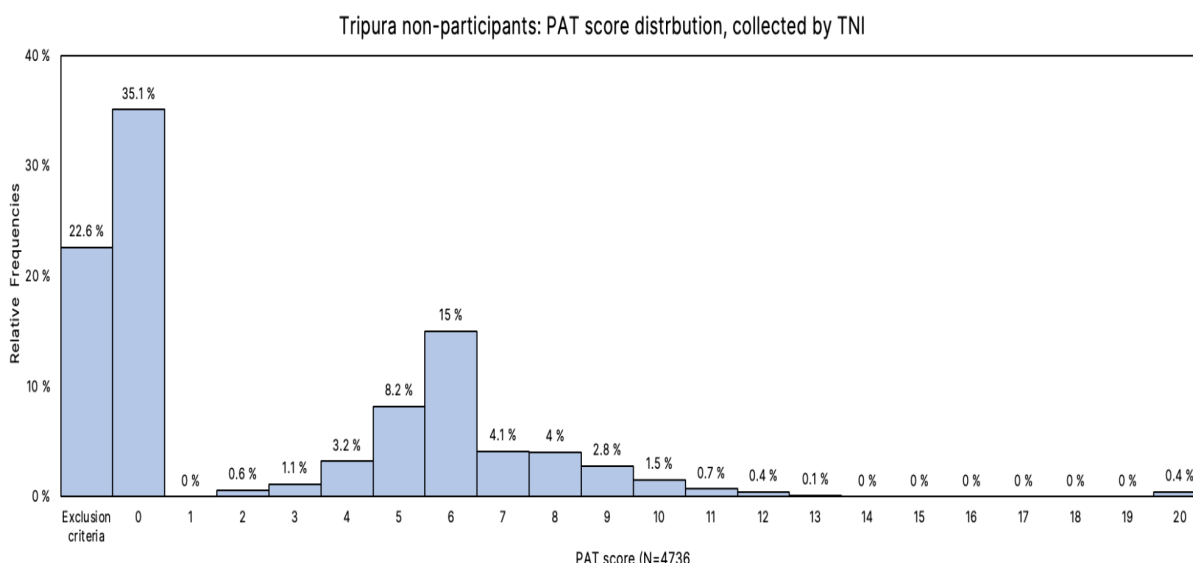


Figure 4 - Distribution of PAT scores of non-participant HHs in Tripura, collected by TNI



2.2.3 PAT score threshold

According to the household selection guidelines, households that have a score greater than equal to the threshold are eligible for selection into the program. For Tripura, this score threshold is 7, and 8 for Assam.

Table 6 - Proportion of households above the PAT score threshold

State	PAT score type	Proportion	Lower CI	Upper CI	N
Assam	Participants	95	94	95	4057
	Non-participants	18	17	19	4694
Tripura	Participants	99	99	99	4672
	Non-participants	18	17	20	3664

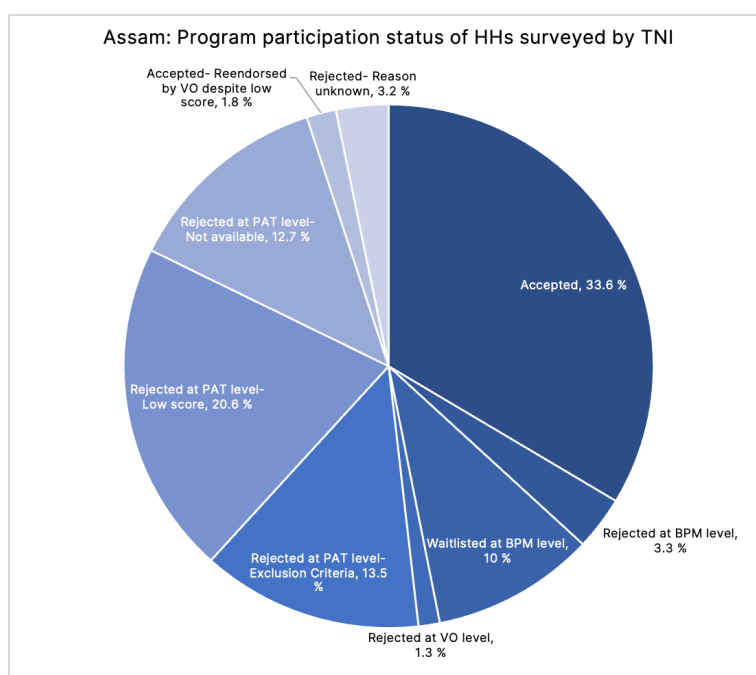
- Inclusion into the program:** Proportion of participant households with a score equal to or greater than the threshold.
 - For both Assam and Tripura, this proportion is high, 95% and 99% of the selected program households are above the threshold respectively.
- Exclusion from the program:** Proportion of non-participant households not selected into the program with a score equal to or greater than the threshold
 - For both Assam and Tripura, this proportion is low; only 18% of the rejected households are above the threshold.
 - The table below further breaks down the reasons why these households with scores above the threshold were not selected.

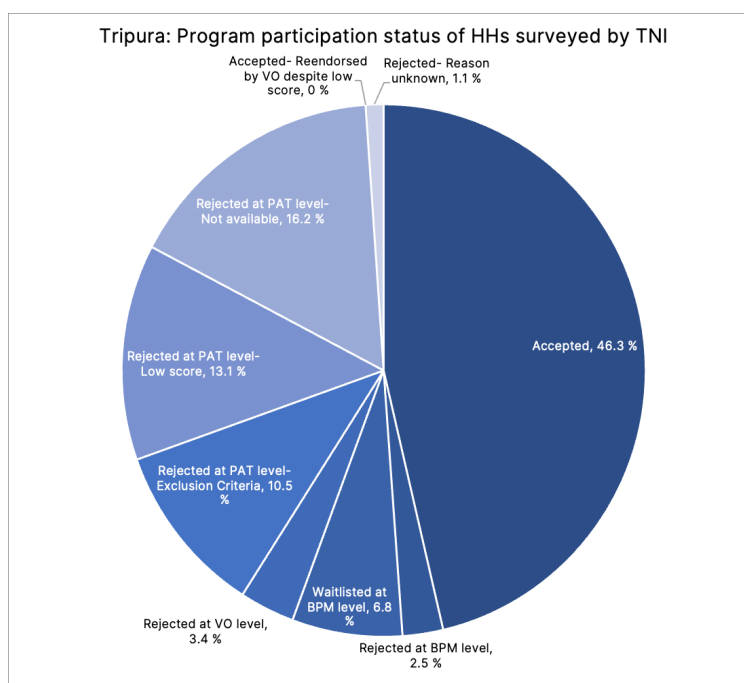
Table 7 - Reasons for rejection for households above the PAT score threshold

Reason	Assam	Tripura
Rejected at the BPM level	373	231
Rejected at the VO level	144	325
Rejected, reason unclear from the data	344	113
Total	861	669

2.2.4 Reasons for rejection from the program

Figure 5 - Reasons for accepting/rejecting households into the program in Assam and Tripura





2.2.5 PAT- rejected due to unavailability

14.4% households were rejected at PAT survey level because they were unavailable for the survey. The percentage is, on average, higher for Tripura. This could be because of Jhum cultivation and associated migration patterns.

Table 8 - Percentage of households rejected from the program due to unavailability during PAT

Name of the state and block	% of HHs rejected due to unavailability
Assam	12.7%
Boitamari	16.6%
Dangtol	10%
Borobazar	15.9%
Sidli-Chirang	7.8%
Tripura	16.2%
Ambassa	23.9%
Dasda	12.5%
Ganganagar	16.2%

This exclusion is highlighted by the VO committee members as well.

- 66.6% of VO members felt that apart from the selected participants for the program, there should have been more households who deserved to be part of this program.
- When asked about the reasons why such households could not be selected into the program, 37.2% (of the 66.6%) of the VO members said that this was because the households were not available at the time of PAT surveys.

2.2.6 PAT- rejected due to exclusion criteria

- In Assam, 13.5% of households were rejected due to atleast one of the exclusion criteria according to the reasons mentioned in TNI's PAT dataset.
- In Tripura, 10.5% of households were rejected because of atleast one of the exclusion criteria according to the reasons mentioned in TNI's PAT dataset.

2.2.7 PAT- rejected due to low scores

- In Assam, 20.6% households were rejected due to low PAT scores in TNI's dataset.
- In Tripura, 13.1% households were rejected due to low PAT scores in TNI's dataset.

Figure 6 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected due to low scores in Assam

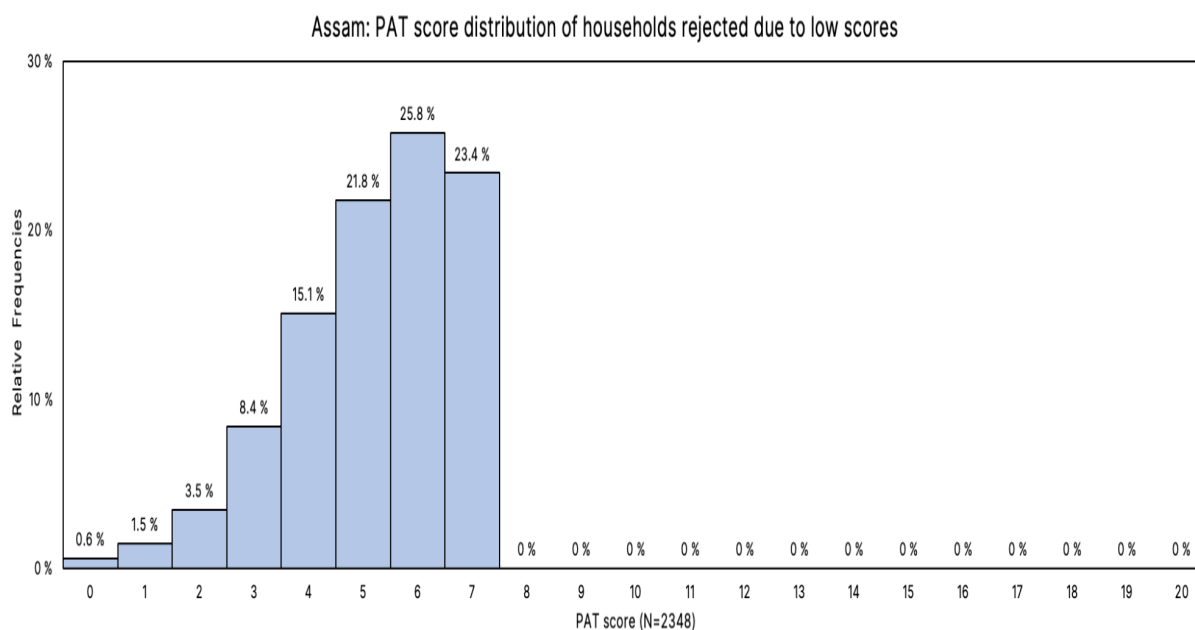
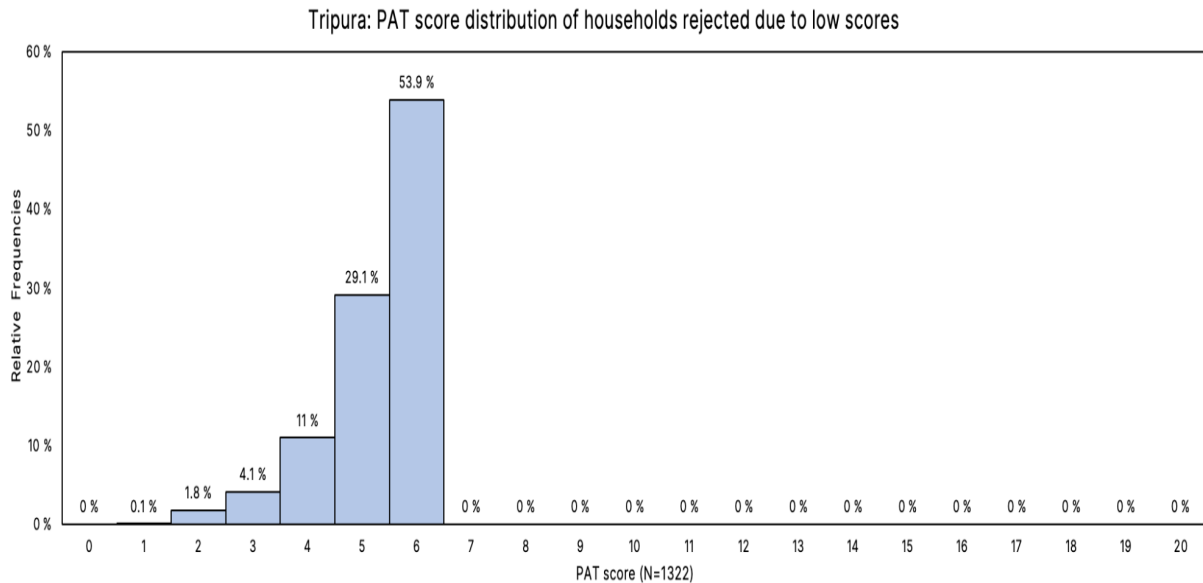


Figure 7 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected due to low scores in Tripura



2.2.7 Rejected at the VO level

- In Assam, only 1.3% households were rejected at the VO level in TNI's dataset.
- In Tripura, only 3.4% households were rejected at the VO level in TNI's dataset.

Figure 8 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected at the VO level in Assam

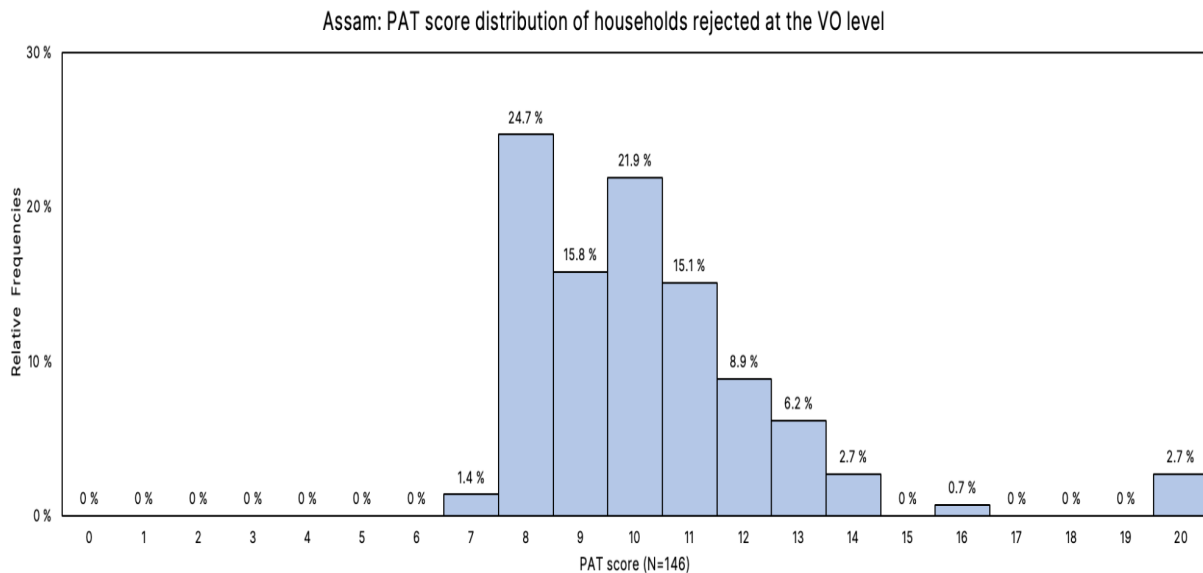
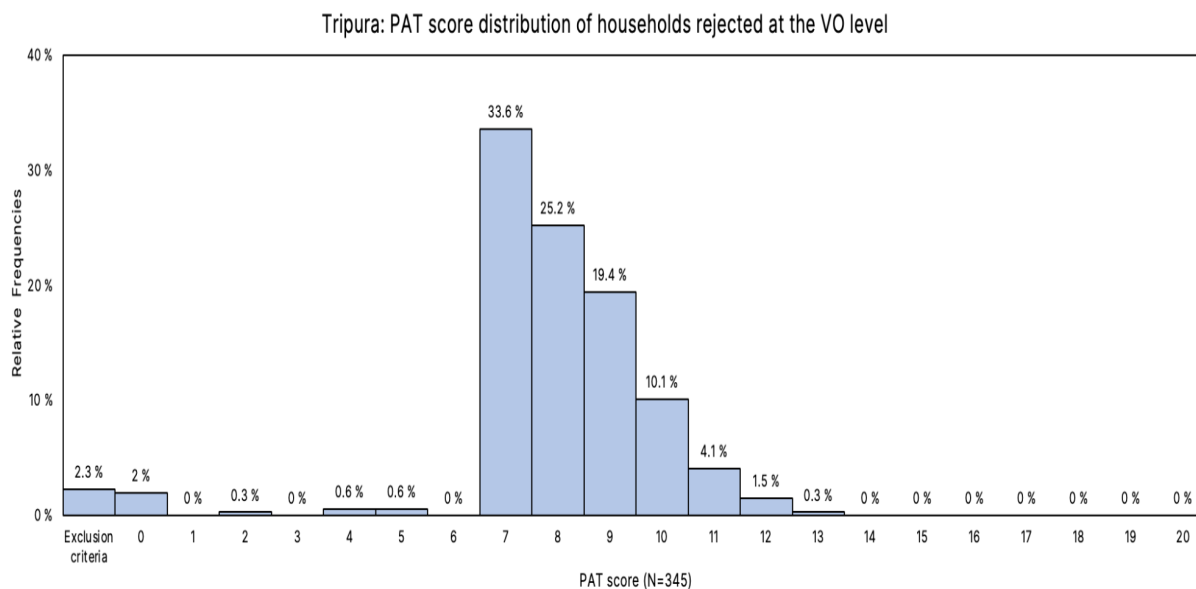


Figure 9 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected at the VO level in Tripura



Special case: Re-endorsed households

- There are 203 cases in Assam (1.8% of total households surveyed in Assam) where households with a PAT score lower than the threshold were re-endorsed by the VOs and accepted into the program after BPM approval, while other households with a much higher PAT score were rejected by the VOs.
- Of these 203 re-endorsed and accepted households, 18.72% had a PAT score of 6 and the remaining 81.28% had a PAT score of 7, which is below the threshold.
- 83 of these cases are in Boitamari block, and the rest of them are from Dangtol block in Bongaigaon.

2.2.8 Rejected at the BPM level

- In Assam, 3.3% households were rejected from the program at the BPM level.
- In Tripura, 2.5% households were rejected from the program at the BPM level.
- The most cited reason by the BPMs in their qualitative interviews on why they rejected certain households was that there was no **able-bodied** adult female member in the household to participate in the program. They mentioned that they referred to participant photographs or spoke with CLFs to investigate the same.
 - Out of all households surveyed as part of PAT, 18.5% of the didis were marked as not able-bodied by the CRPs in Assam, and 28.1% in Tripura.

Figure 10 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected at the BPM level in Assam

Assam: PAT score distribution of households rejected at the BPM level

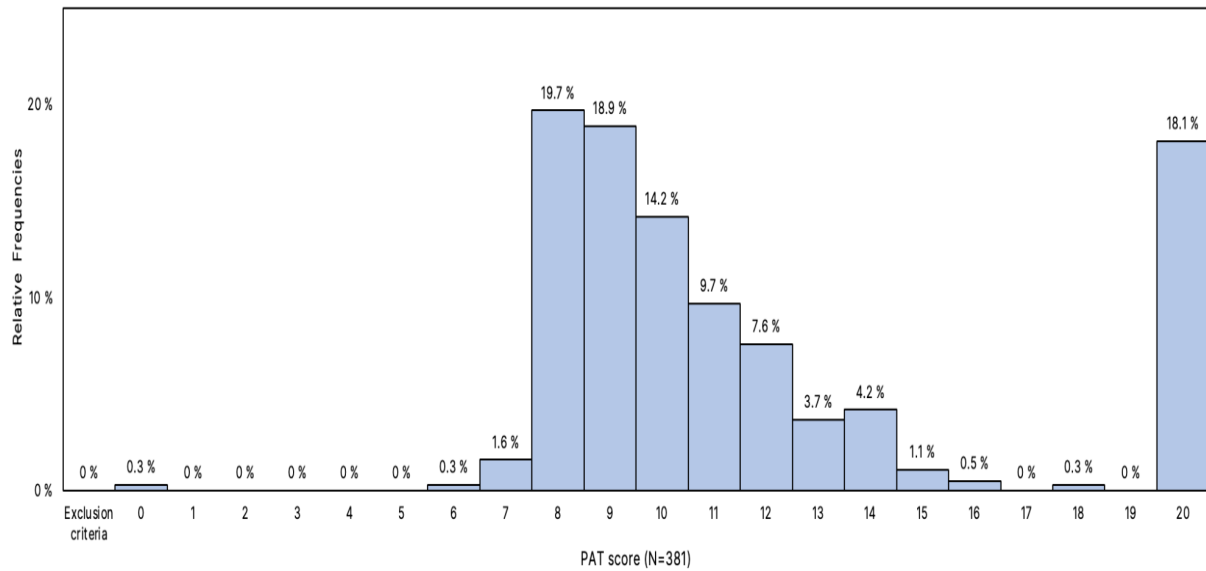
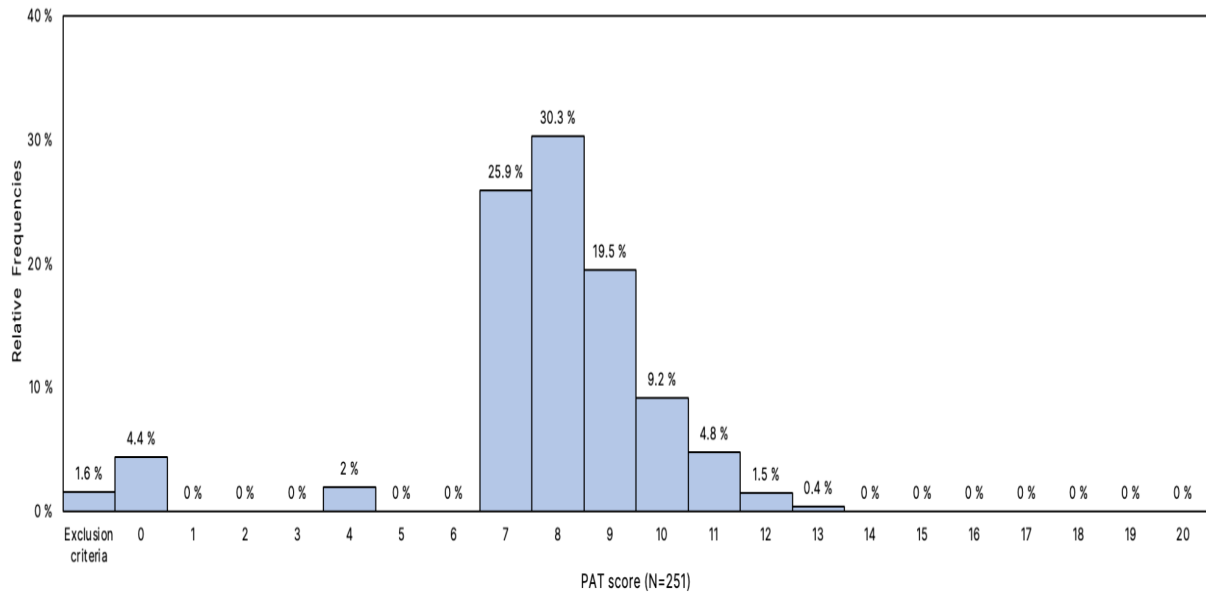


Figure 11 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs rejected at the BPM level in Tripura

Tripura: PAT score distribution of households rejected at the BPM level



2.2.9 BPC verification of PAT surveys

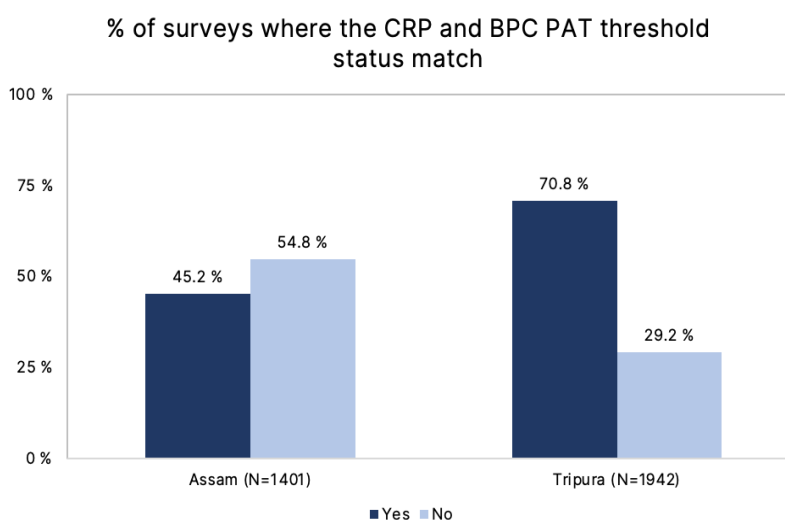
Table 9 - Percentage of households verified by the BPC during PAT

Name of the state and block	% of HHs verified by the BPC	No. of VOs covered
Assam	12.2%	38/128
Boitamari	13.7%	13/39
Dangtol	12.5%	11/40
Borobazar	6.3%	9/31
Sidli-Chirang	15.8%	5/18
Tripura	19.2%	55/73
Ambassa	18.3%	15/22
Dasda	18%	27/30
Ganganagar	23.2%	13/21

The graph below highlights whether the PAT scores collected by the CRPs and the BPCs were consistent in the same direction, that is, whether a household was above/below the score threshold or not according to both the scores collected by the CRP and the BPC.

- In Tripura, 70.8% of the surveys verified by the BPC matched the score threshold status of the score collected by the CRP.
- However, in Assam, only 45.2% of the surveys verified by the BPC matched the threshold status according to the CRP score.

Figure 12 - Percentage of surveys where the CRP and BPC PAT threshold status match



The table below compares the proportion of households that are above the PAT score threshold according to the scores collected by CRPs and BPCs, differentiated for participants and non-participants. This table only includes the subset of surveys that were verified by the BPC.

Assam

- According to scores collected by the CRPs, 99.9% of the households that are currently part of the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compare this to the PAT scores collected by the BPCs, only 53.6% of the participant households meet this threshold.
- According to scores collected by the CRPs, 99.5% of the households that were not selected into the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compare this to the PAT scores collected by the BPCs, only 17.5% of the non-participant households meet this threshold, indicating **a high error rate**.

Tripura

- According to scores collected by the CRPs, 99.7% of the households that are currently part of the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compare this to the PAT scores collected by the BPCs, 79.9% of the participant households meet this threshold.
- According to scores collected by the CRPs, 99.5% of the households that were not selected into the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compare this to the PAT scores collected by the BPCs, only 4.3% of the non-participant households meet this threshold, indicating **a high error rate**.

Table 10 - Proportion of households that are above the PAT score threshold, according to the scores collected by the CRP and the BPC

State	PAT score type	Participants		Non-Participants	
		Proportion	N	Proportion	N
Assam	Collected by CRP	99.9	951	99.5	212
	Collected by BPC	53.6	951	17.5	212
Tripura	Collected by CRP	99.7	1502	99.5	207
	Collected by BPC	79.9	1511	4.3	211

2.2.10 Waitlisted households

- In Assam, 10% households are waitlisted for the program at the BPM level.
- In Tripura, 6.8% households are waitlisted for the program at the BPM level.

Table 11 - Percentage of households waitlisted at the BPM level

Name of the state and block	% of HHs waitlisted
Assam	10%
Boitamari	3.7%
Dangtol	5.3%

Borobazar	12.3%
Sidli-Chirang	19.3%
Tripura	6.8%
Ambassa	0.3%
Dasda	12.6%
Ganganagar	0.3%

Figure 13 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs waitlisted at the BPM level in Assam

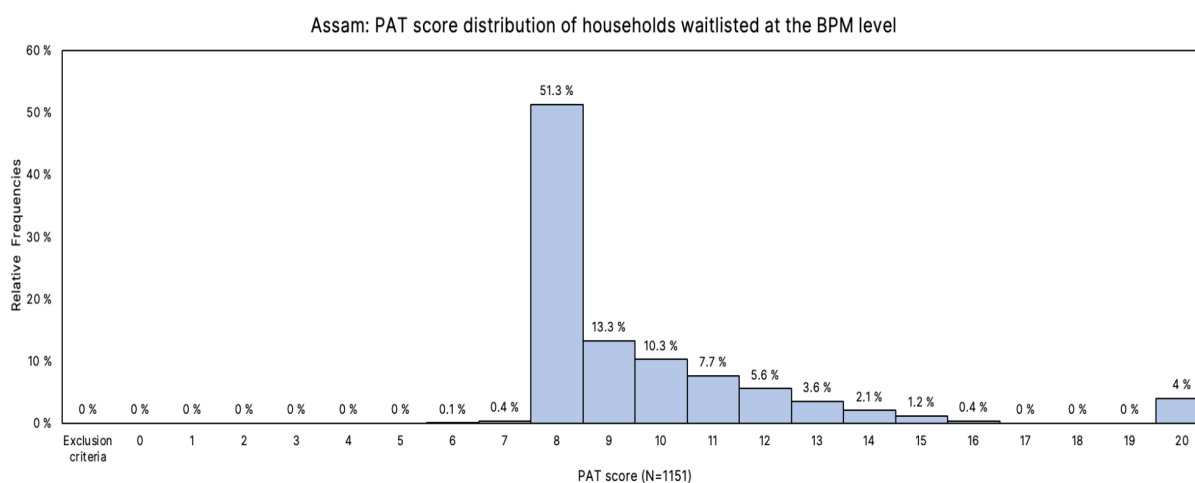
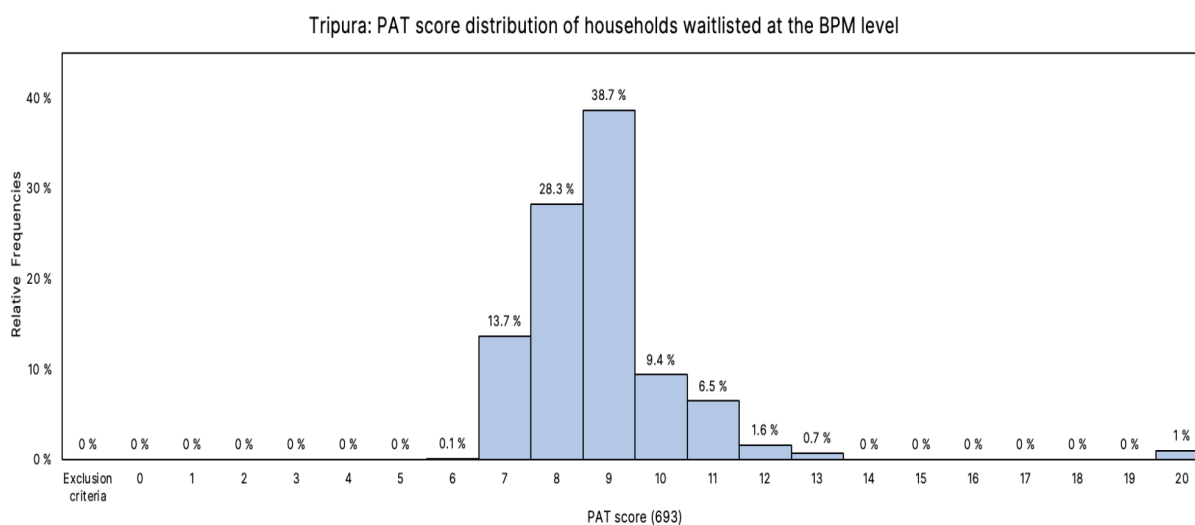


Figure 14 - Distribution of PAT scores of HHs waitlisted at the BPM level in Tripura



Section 3: Analysis of household survey results

Section 3.1: Who were our household survey respondents?

Age

- The average age of program participants is ~40 years, and it is similar for non-participant didis as well.

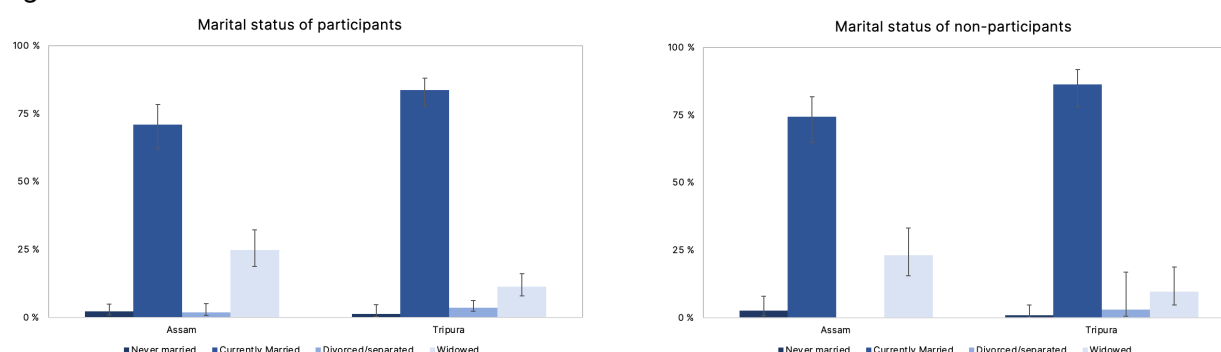
Table 12 - Average age

	Participants				Non-participants			
State	Mean age	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	Mean age	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median
Assam	41.3	39.1	43.5	40	39.4	36.6	42.1	37
Tripura	38	36.5	39.4	36	40.4	37.5	43.3	37

Marital Status

- Majority of the program participants are currently married. The second most common marital status for participants is widowed.
- Majority of the non-participants are currently married. The second most common marital status is widowed.

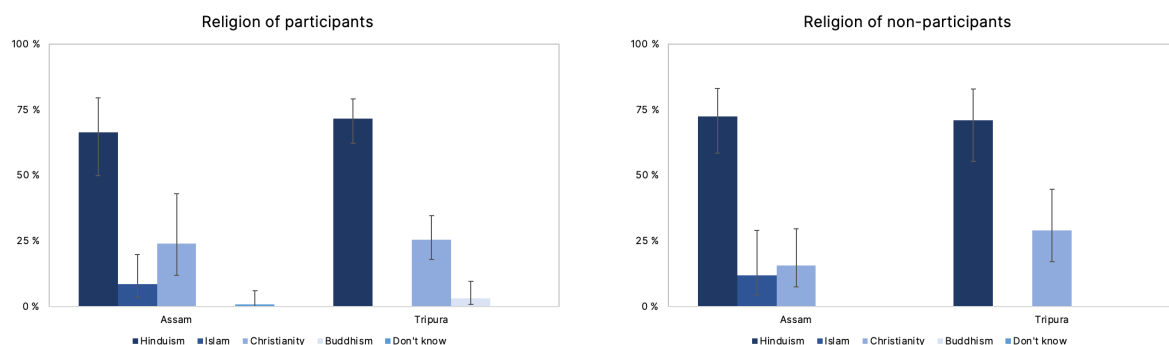
Figure 15 - Marital status



Religion

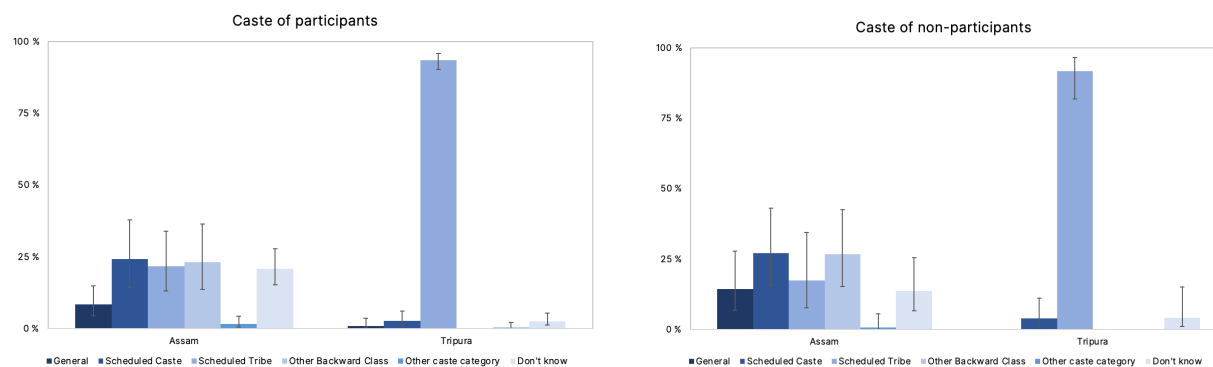
- Most of the participants followed Hinduism, followed by Christianity. This trend is seen both in Assam and Tripura. Islam is the third most followed religion among the respondents in Assam, whereas for Tripura, it is Buddhism.
- Most of the non-participants followed Hinduism, followed by Christianity. This trend is seen both in Assam and Tripura.

Figure 16 - Religion

**Caste category**

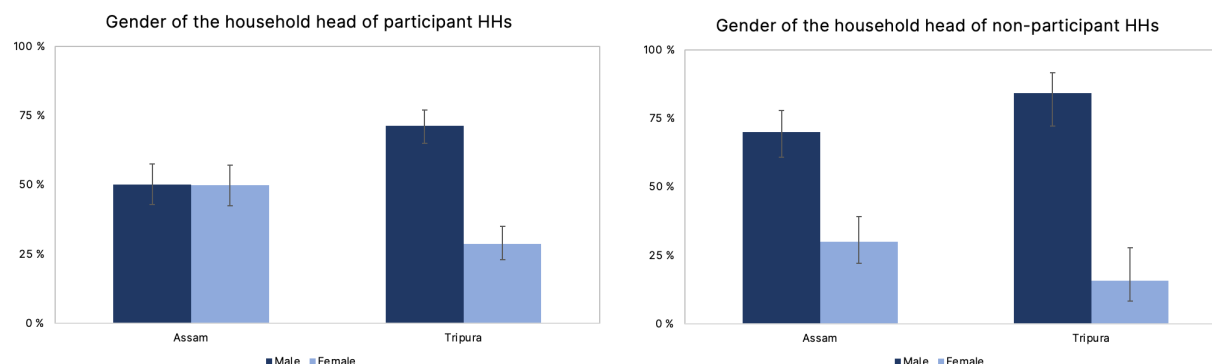
- Overall, most of the participants belonged to the Scheduled Tribes, followed by Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes.
- Most of the non-participants belonged to the Scheduled Tribes, followed by Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes.

Figure 17 - Caste

**Gender of the household head**

- Majority of participant households have a male household head.
- This is also the case for non-participant households.

Figure 18 - Gender of the household head



Household Size

The average household size of both participant and non-participant households was ~4 members.

Table 13 - Household size

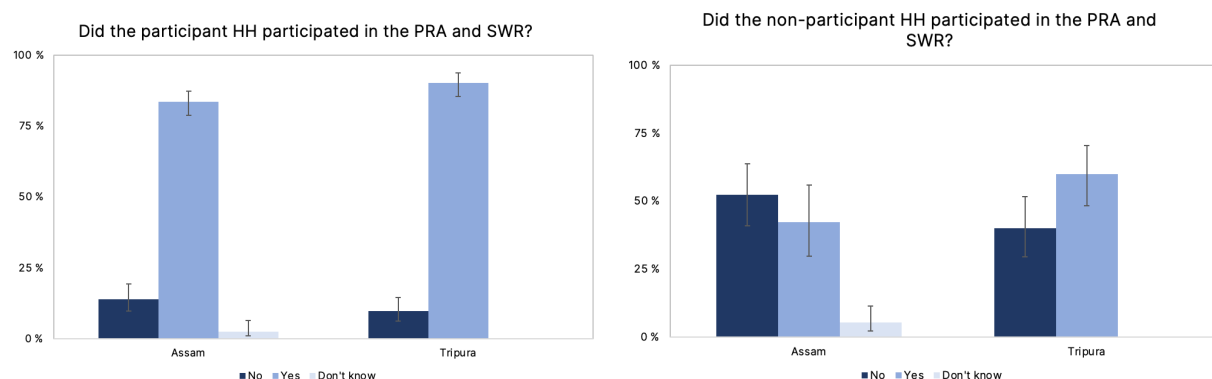
	Participants				Non-participants			
State	Mean HH size	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median	Mean HH size	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median
Assam	3.6	3.4	3.8	4	3.9	3.6	4.2	4
Tripura	4.4	4.2	4.7	4	4.5	4.2	4.9	4

Section 3.2: Household selection summary statistics

3.2.1 Participation in PRA and Social Wealth Ranking

- 85.7% of participant households across the 2 states reported participating in the PRA and social wealth ranking exercise as part of household selection.
- Comparing this with non-participant households, only 48% of them reported attending the PRA and wealth ranking exercise.
 - In Tripura, 59.9% of the non-participant households reported attending, where in Assam, this percentage was only 42.3%

Figure 19 - Reported participation in PRA and social wealth ranking (SWR)



Additional qualitative insights from Assam

- In Assam, most of our qualitative respondents reported participating in the PRA/SWR exercise. Even though they could not speak, they reported feeling comfortable and understood what happened in the meeting.
- All the respondents participated in the PAT surveys, and most understood what was asked and felt comfortable during the surveys. All respondents mentioned answering the questions themselves (with no interference from neighbours or family members).

Additional qualitative insights from Tripura

- From the qualitative surveys with participants, we learned that most women reported participating in the PRA/SWR exercise. Those who could not participate were because they 1) were sick, 2) went to the market, 3) did not know.
- From those who participated, women mentioned being unable to speak due to shyness and did not understand much about the process.
- In Tripura, most qualitative respondents mentioned participating in the PAT survey, while a few could not recall participating in it. Those who participated most felt comfortable and understood what was being asked, and a few said the survey was done on paper and not on mobile phones.

3.2.2 PAT scores, collected through IDi surveys

Figure 20 - Distribution of PAT scores of participant HHs in Assam

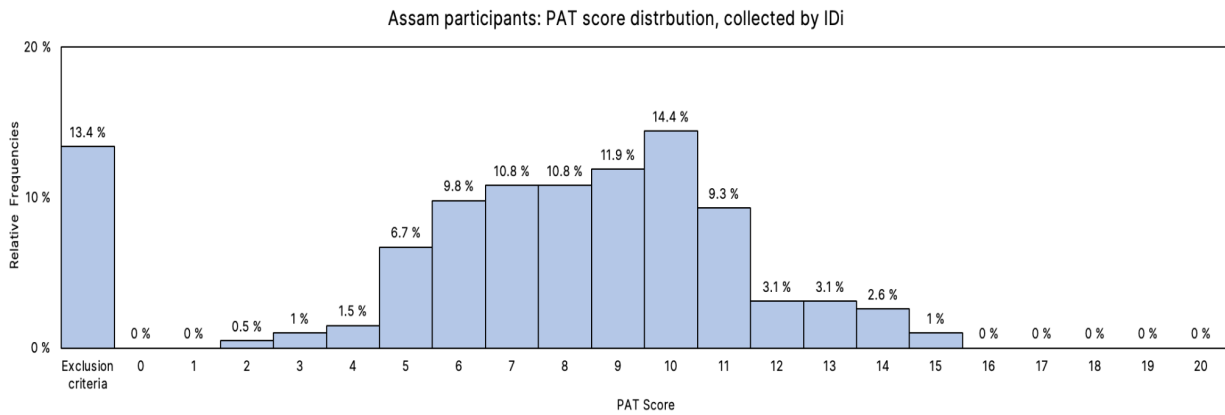


Figure 21 - Distribution of PAT scores of non-participant HHs in Assam

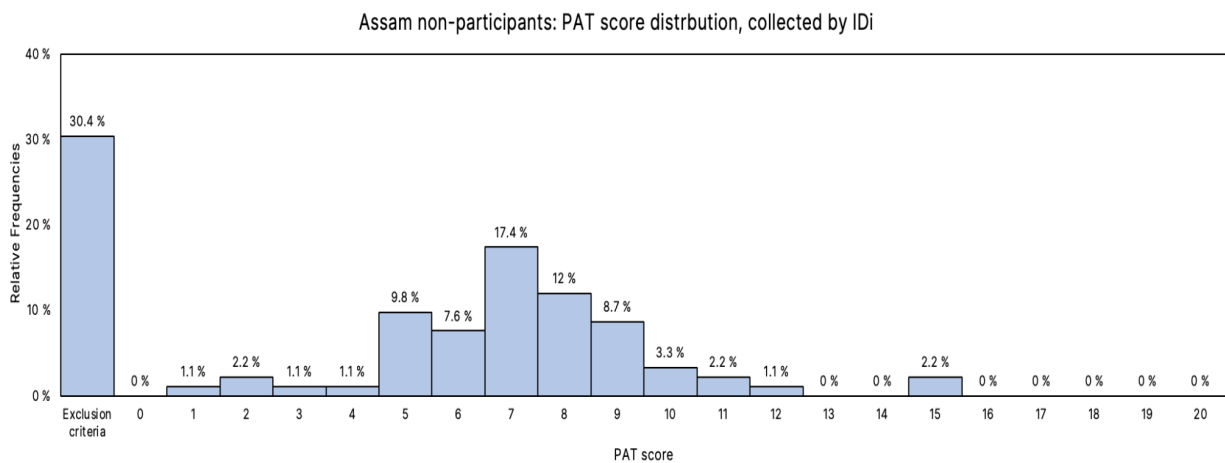


Figure 22 - Distribution of PAT scores of participant HHs in Tripura, collected by IDi

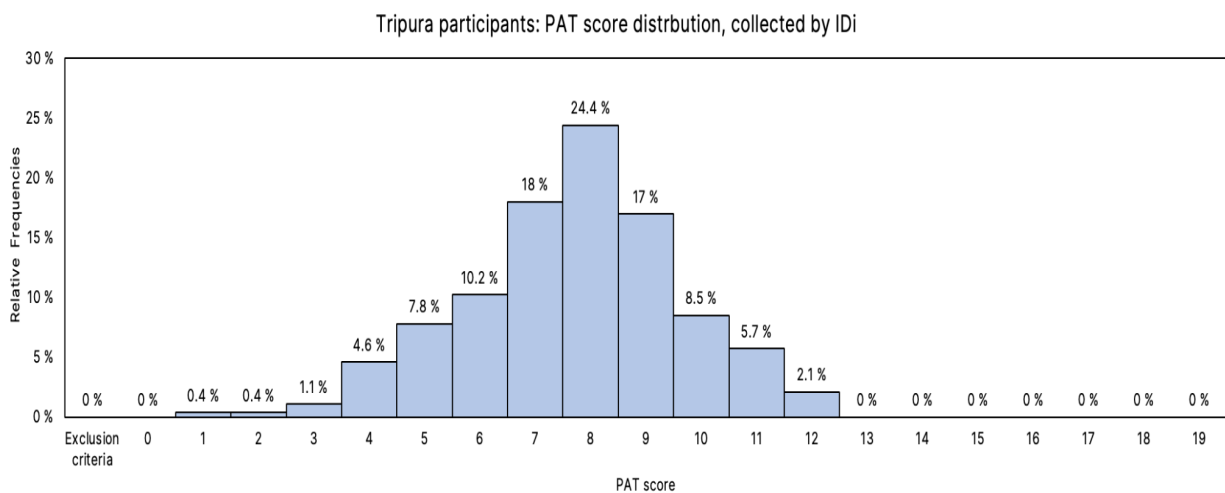


Figure 23 - Distribution of PAT scores of non-participant HHs in Tripura, collected by IDi

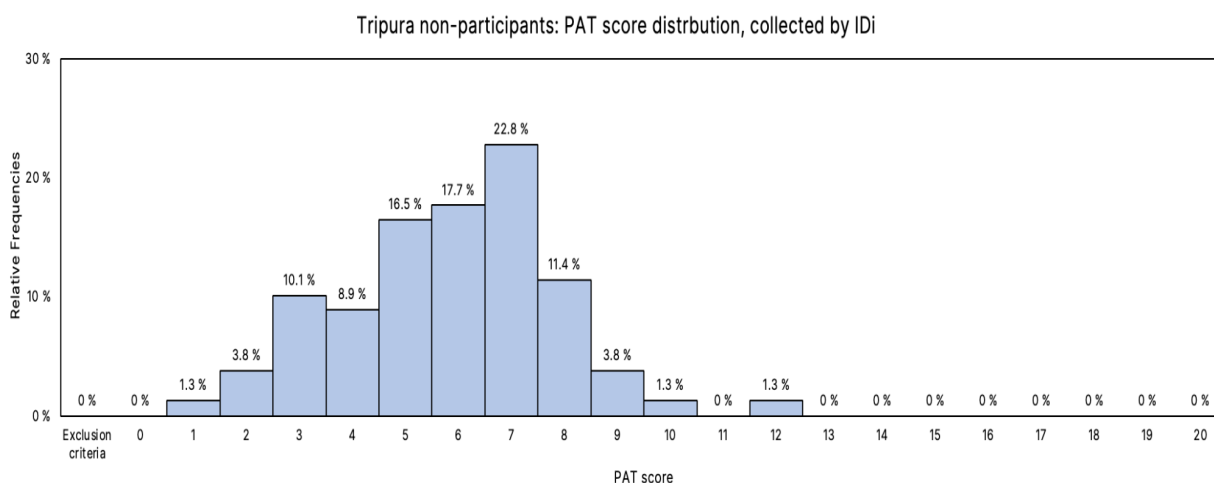


Table 14 - Average PAT score of households

State	Respondent type	Mean	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median
Assam	Participants	8.6	8.2	9	9
	Non-participants	7.3	6.6	7.9	7
Tripura	Participants	7.7	7.5	7.9	8
	Non-participants	6.8	6.3	7.2	7

The table above highlights that, on average, participants have a higher PAT score than non-participants.

On the exclusion criteria in Assam:

- Please note that we are not using data collected on 'active adult female' as an exclusion criteria. This is due to data quality issues which make the data for this variable unreliable. So, for now, the exclusion criteria we are using for Assam are whether the HH has any member who is a sarpanch, community cadre member, or has a private or government job with monthly income more than INR 5000.
- Most of the households that satisfy the exclusion criteria in our data do so because of the variable on stable monthly income of more than INR 5000 (N=24) and household member being Sarchpan etc (N=3)
- Please note that this change in exclusion criteria does not impact the calculation of PAT scores for the households.

3.2.3 Inclusion and exclusion by PAT threshold

According to the household selection guidelines, households that have a score greater than equal to the threshold are eligible for selection into the program. For Tripura, this score threshold is 7, and 8 for Assam.

Table 15 - Proportion of households that are above the PAT score threshold

State	PAT score type	Proportion	Lower CI	Upper CI
Assam	Participants	65	57	72
	Non-participants	42	31	55
Tripura	Participants	76	70	80
	Non-participants	58	47	69

1. **Inclusion into the program:** Proportion of selected participant households with a score equal to or greater than the threshold
 - a. *Assam:* According to scores collected by TNI, 95% of the households that are currently part of the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compared this to the PAT scores collected by IDi, only 65% of the participant households meet this threshold.
 - b. *Tripura:* According to scores collected by TNI, 99% of the households that are currently part of the program meet the threshold of the required PAT score. When we compared this to the PAT scores collected by IDi, only 76% of the participant households meet this threshold.
2. **Exclusion from the program:** Proportion of non-participant households not selected into the program with a score equal to or greater than the threshold
 - a. *Assam:* Only 18% non-participant households that were not selected into the program had a PAT score equal to or greater than the threshold when using TNI collected PAT scores. Comparing it with PAT scores collected by IDi, 42% of the non-participant households actually meet the score threshold.
 - b. *Tripura:* 18% of the households which were not selected into the program had a PAT score equal to or greater than the threshold when using TNI collected PAT scores. Comparing it with PAT scores collected by IDi, 58% of the non-participant households actually meet the score threshold.

It is important to note that these differences in PAT scores could be for the following reasons:

- Time-variant indicators, e.g. food availability based on harvest
- Non-random measurement error during data collection
- Other outcomes (for example: Able-bodied, operational reasons, corrected information) considered during household selection that are not captured by PAT

3.2.4 Poverty Probability Index

The Poverty Probability Index (PPI) is a tool designed to estimate the likelihood that a household falls below a given poverty line. It is useful for measuring poverty rates at a specific point in time, tracking changes over time, and identifying households that may need additional support.

The PPI uses 10 fixed questions that address key household characteristics such as **household size, the education level of the female head/spouse of the household, and asset ownership**. Each question is weighted according to its correlation with poverty levels, i.e. each answer option has a distinct number of points. The aggregated weight of these questions produces a score that ranges from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating a lower probability of the household being

below the poverty line. Once the scores from the PPI survey are collected, they are converted into the likelihood of a household being below the poverty line using a PPI lookup table. For the example of 100% of the National Rangarajan line,¹ scores of 20–24 have a poverty likelihood of 44.6%, and scores of 25–29 have a poverty likelihood of 37.5%. The statistics below use 100% of the National Rangarajan line for PPI percentage likelihood calculations.

Table 16 - Percentage likelihood of households being below the poverty line (Rangarajan 100%)

State	Respondent type	Mean (in percent)	Lower CI	Upper CI	Median
Assam	Participants	32.5	29.1	35.8	31.5
	Non-participants	24.9	21	28.8	22.9
Tripura	Participants	45	42.2	47.9	44.6
	Non-participants	41	37.2	44.9	37.5

The table above highlights that the households selected into the program (participants), on average, have a higher likelihood of being below the poverty line (Rangarajan 100%) than the households which were not selected into the program (non-participants).

Another interesting observation is that while Tripura households have higher PPI percentage likelihood of being below the poverty line than Assam households, Tripura's PAT scores are lower than Assam. This can be because of various reasons. We know that the PAT is contextualised for every state, while PPI is not. It might be the case that certain vulnerabilities or deprivations are not captured through PPI, but are captured through PAT due to its contextualised and state-specific nature.

Section 4: Analysis of VO member survey results

4.1 Who were our VO member survey respondents

We surveyed 22 VO committee members during data collection, 11 in Assam and 11 in Tripura. The average age of the VO committee members is ~36 years.

4.2 Household Selection Experience

VO orientation on household selection

1. All VO committee members surveyed reported attending the orientation for the household selection process.
2. More than half of the VO committee members (58.7%) said that they found the orientation to be helpful to a medium extent, while 28.5% said that they found it helpful to a high extent.

PRA and Social Wealth Ranking Participation

¹ The Rangarajan Committee was set up to look into the poverty line estimation in India which submitted its report in June 2014. It amended the calculation of the poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure per month or day given by the Tendulkar Committee. More details [here](#).

1. 82.6% of the VO committee members attended the PRA and wealth ranking exercise, and 93.5% of them reported that *all* VO members of that VO attended the exercise.
2. Almost half of them (49.2%) said that most of the villagers were in attendance of the PRA and wealth ranking exercise.
3. All VO committee members felt that there was sufficient representation from all communities and hamlets during this exercise.

VO endorsement

1. 62.6% of the VO committee members told us that some households were rejected from the program by their VO committee.
 - a. The reasons for rejection include having low PAT scores (53.9% of the above 62.6%) and not meeting the selection criteria (31.4% of the above 62.6%).
 - b. However, 23% (of the above 62.6%) of them said they did not know why certain households were rejected.
2. 88.2% of VO committee members said that their VO gave the final approval to the list of selected ultra-poor HHs.
3. 66.6% of the VO committee members felt that apart from the selected participants for the program, there should have been more households who deserved to be part of this program.
 - a. When asked about the reasons why such households could not be selected into the program, 37.2% (of the above 66.6%) of the VO committee members said that this was because the households were not available at the time of PAT surveys.
 - b. 20.7% (of the above 66.6%) said that these households were rejected at the block level.
 - c. Another reason mentioned was that they had a fixed target number of households that were to be selected from a VO (15.7% of the above 66.6%).
 - d. However, 23.2% (of the above 66.6%) of the VO committee members also said that they did not know/understand why such households were not included in the program.

Experience during the process

1. More than half of the VO committee members (57.8%) said that they felt supported by the CRPs to a medium extent.
2. Only 32.2% VO committee members said that they faced challenges during the selection process.
 - a. The main challenge faced was that there were disagreements regarding the inclusion/exclusion of certain households (44.7% of the 32.2% above).
 - b. Other reasons include lack of understanding of the VOs role in the process (27.7% of the 32.2% above) and lack of coordination with the CRPs in the form of lack of communication and support (17% of the 32.2% above).

Additional qualitative insights from Assam

- Most VO members reported participating in the PRA/SWR endorsement exercises. Many described their roles as limited to showing the houses for PAT surveys to the CRPs or checking the PAT survey responses to determine if people were being truthful.
- A few VO leaders mentioned that they participated in the orientation and found it helpful. They reported having a good relationship with the CRPs.
- However, most VO leaders and CRPs indicated that some individuals were excluded from the program. One of the main reasons for this exclusion was the unavailability of individuals during the survey period.

- A few VO members reported experiencing disagreements and disputes during the endorsement process. Households expressed complaints about not being selected for the program. VO leaders addressed these complaints by explaining the purpose of the program and the selection criteria, clarifying that the selection was not under their control: "We did not make the selections—the mobile phone did."

Section 5: Some qualitative insights

5.1 CRPs (Assam)

Process Overview

- The household selection drive involved Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Wealth Ranking, and a Poverty Assessment Test (PAT) Survey.
- The Sarathi application was used for final selection, which many CRPs felt helped reduce individual biases in decision-making.

Key Support and Participation

- Most CRPs reported strong support from Village Organization (VO) leaders, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, Anganwadi workers, and ASHA workers in mobilization and verification.
- A few CRPs noted that Panchayat members were present during selection, but many said they were uninvolved in the process.
- PRA participation varied widely—some CRPs mentioned high participation (100-200 people), while one CRP reported very low turnout (as few as 4-5 people) in a village. The PRA exercise was reconducted here the next day when more people participated.
- Many CRPs stated that villagers provided false information about their assets, but they were able to verify claims by cross-checking with neighbors and through direct observation (e.g., checking motor pumps, cows, pigs etc).

Challenges Faced

- Several CRPs raised concerns about exclusion errors, where some visibly poor households were left out by the mobile application.
 - Some CRPs pointed out that the selection coincided with the paddy harvesting season, making it difficult to meet households.
- One CRP noticed inclusion error, such as a non-poor household mistakenly added due to data entry errors or discrepancies in the PAT survey.
- Most CRPs reported that villagers underreported their assets, leading to a need for rigorous verification.
- A few CRPs faced resistance from local people who wanted non-poor households included, and in one case, CRPs were threatened, requiring intervention from Community Level Federation (CLF) leaders.
 - When CRPs faced opposition, they mentioned that they had no role to play in someone's selection, and it was done by the mobile application. It took things away from individual decision-making and helped them negotiate and explain the situation.
- A few CRPs highlighted logistical hardships, including food scarcity, long working hours, and difficult travel conditions. One CRP specifically mentioned challenges due to elephant attacks.

Training and Effectiveness

- Almost all CRPs found the 5-day training useful, helping them navigate challenges and follow selection guidelines effectively.
- However, some CRPs felt they were not trained to handle political pressure, though only a few reported experiencing such pressure.
- One recommendation that came from a CRP was that an awareness drive by VO members could have improved participation in PAT surveys.

Overall Observations

- All CRPs confirmed that caste, religion, or tribal identity did not influence the selection process.
- Many CRPs found the mobile application reliable, though some were surprised by unexplained exclusions.
- Most CRPs emphasized their role in ensuring fair selection, despite occasional opposition.
- Support from the block-level administration was acknowledged as helpful by many CRPs.

5.2 BPMs/BPCs (Assam)

Household Selection Process & Challenges

- **Exclusion Issues:** Some BPMs noted that flood-affected Gram Panchayats (GPs) and remote areas were missed. A few mentioned that very old women, households with grown-up sons, and those physically unable to work were excluded. Some also cited migration as a reason for exclusion.
- **Inclusion Errors:** A few BPMs observed errors such as multiple family members being included, pensioners being selected, and households with relatively higher income making it to the list. However, others stated there were no major inclusion errors.
 - When excluding someone, most BPMs looked at the presence of women physically able to work.
- **Use of Mobile Application:** Many BPMs and BPCs emphasized that selection was done via the mobile app, reducing human bias. However, some felt that the app's exclusion of obviously poor households was unclear.

Verification & Monitoring

- **BPM & BPC Oversight:** Most BPMs and BPCs actively monitored the selection process through field visits, geo-tagged photos, and WhatsApp updates. A few BPMs personally rejected households based on their own observations rather than solely relying on CRPs and VOs.
- **Verification Process:** Some BPCs conducted random verification, while others verified after the 1st and 5th drives. If the error rate exceeded 10%, a second verification was conducted.
- **Challenges in Verification:** Many BPCs and BPMs mentioned technical issues, such as poor network sync, affecting real-time data collection. A few also noted that villagers hid assets to appear eligible. Surprise visits helped in catching such cases.

Political pressure

- **Political Pressure & Community Influence:** Several BPMs and BPCs faced political and community pressure to include or exclude specific households. However, most claimed this did not impact final selection, as they upheld the project's guidelines. In a few instances, BPMs had to intervene and conduct meetings to resolve disputes.

CRP Training & Performance

- Training Adequacy: Some found the 5-day CRP training sufficient, while others felt it was overwhelming. A few suggested extending the duration and incorporating more practical exercises. Language barriers were noted as a challenge.
- CRP Performance & Challenges: Most BPMs and BPCs acknowledged that CRPs performed well, though some needed reorientation. A few CRPs faced discrimination in villages based on religion. Attrition was also a concern, leading to reshuffling of teams.

Overall Project Execution & Learnings

- Implementation Challenges: Seasonal factors like farming, cold weather, and household unavailability affected the process. Some areas remained unhappy with the selection, despite clear communication that this was a pilot project.
- Project Adaptations & Recommendations: Some suggested including CRPs from project villages to improve engagement. Others emphasized identifying key political and village-level influencers to ensure smoother execution.
- Fairness & Bias: Most BPMs and BPCs asserted that caste and religion did not influence selection. However, they acknowledged that context-specific factors, such as food availability and asset usage, made some selection decisions complex.
 - For example, having a pakka house but not having food to eat

Section 6: Limitations

1. This data collection was conducted almost one year after the household selection exercise concluded in the states. So, the respondents might have forgotten/misremembered some of the details due to the time gap.
2. The PAT scores collected by TNI and IDi are not directly comparable. It is important to note that differences in PAT scores could be for the following reasons:
 - a. Time-variant indicators, e.g. food availability based on harvest
 - b. Non-random measurement error during data collection
 - c. Other outcomes (for example: Able-bodied, operational reasons, corrected information) considered during household selection that are not captured by PAT
3. The households are aware of the PAT survey questions at the time of data collection, and are primed that it is linked to getting benefits from the state. Hence, this might create implicit bias in their responses.

Section 7: Discussion

1. Assam PAT Survey - witch hunting question
 - a. 10% of the respondents from our participant surveys said yes to the question (N=202)
 - b. ~7% of the respondents from our non-participant surveys said yes to the question (N=95)
 - c. Only 0.8% of the respondents from Nudge's PAT dataset said yes to the question (N=3,158)
- Qualitative insights - difficult to ask this question
 - How important is it from Assam's context? Could it be reconsidered?

