GLOBAL FUND TO END MODERN SLAVERY

SEEFAR

MY CHOICES FOUNDATION

BASELINE ASSESSMENT:

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES RELATED TO CHILD TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN WEST BENGAL

Objectives of presentation

Introduce research background, objectives, questions and methodology

Understand Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) & internalisation among key stakeholders and across risk domains

Benchmark at-risk households

Explain hierarchical factors influencing children's KAP

Outline key recommendations for prevention campaigns

Background

Seefar and **My Choices Foundation** (MCF) are testing interventions that can help reduce the prevalence of Child Trafficking (CT) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) among 12–18-year-olds in 3 targeted districts of West Bengal.

The project aims to find the combination of complementary community interventions that can address gaps in knowledge and internalization of risks associated with CT and CSEC; these gaps are some of the key drivers for continued exploitation of children in West Bengal, India.

As part of the evidence-generation phase of this project, Seefar undertook a representative baseline survey of households and community leaders in Bankura, Bardhaman and Birbhum, from 15 January 2021 to 15 February 2021.

Research objectives

1 **Identify and understand knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to CT/CSEC, specifically among 3 target stakeholder groups:**

- 12-18 year-old boys and girls
- their parents
- community leaders

2 **Assess KAP across specific domains of risk (based on pathways to CT/CSEC):**

- Dropping out of/ non-enrolment in school
- Pursuing child labour and related unsafe migration
- Pursuing child marriage and related unsafe migration
- Running-away due to neglect and abuse in the household
- Unsupervised exposure to internet-enabled platforms that may lead to online commercial sexual exploitation of children

3 **Measure the proportion of households within targeted communities that are most at risk of CT/CSEC.**

4 **Establish if, and which, social and economic characteristics, at the individual, household and community level, place children at a higher risk of CT/CSEC (as measured by children's KAP).**

Research questions

What are the key stakeholder groups' knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to CT/CSEC?

How do these vary across demographics and risk domains?
How well do stakeholder groups internalise the risks of CT/CSEC?

What proportion of households in the target area are at risk of CT/CSEC?
What socio-economic factors are likely to put these households at risk?

What socio-demographic characteristics at the Household- and Community-level explain vulnerability among children?

Sampling strategy

1 Multi-stage sampling technique used to identify survey participants

Primary sampling unit: **Village**

Secondary unit: **Household**

Lowest sampling unit: **Individual**

2 Village selection and household sample size

Village selection using a Village Vulnerability Index (VVI) developed during the Market Research Phase of the project

71 high-risk villages were shortlisted for having the highest VVI (26 in Bankura, 20 in Bardhaman and 25 in Birbhum)

Population frame : 40 were shortlisted using random selection (14 in Bankura, 12 in Bardhaman and 14 in Birbhum)

Number of households selected calculated using PPS (95% CI and 5.7% margin of error)

Household size from each district came to approx 300

3 Targeting households

Systematic targeting of households - nth item selection

Transect walk approach: starting from the centre of the villages to every nth household in all four directions

4 Respondents

Random selection of 1 child and 1 caregiver/parent (names in a hat method) from the same household

Village selection

Total villages 8248

Bankura 3587	Bardhaman 2418	Birbhum 2243

Top 300 villages (vulnerability score) 100 from each district

Total villages - villages without secondary school and/or pop size < 500 = 71 High risk villages

Bankura 26	Bardhaman 20	Birbhum 25

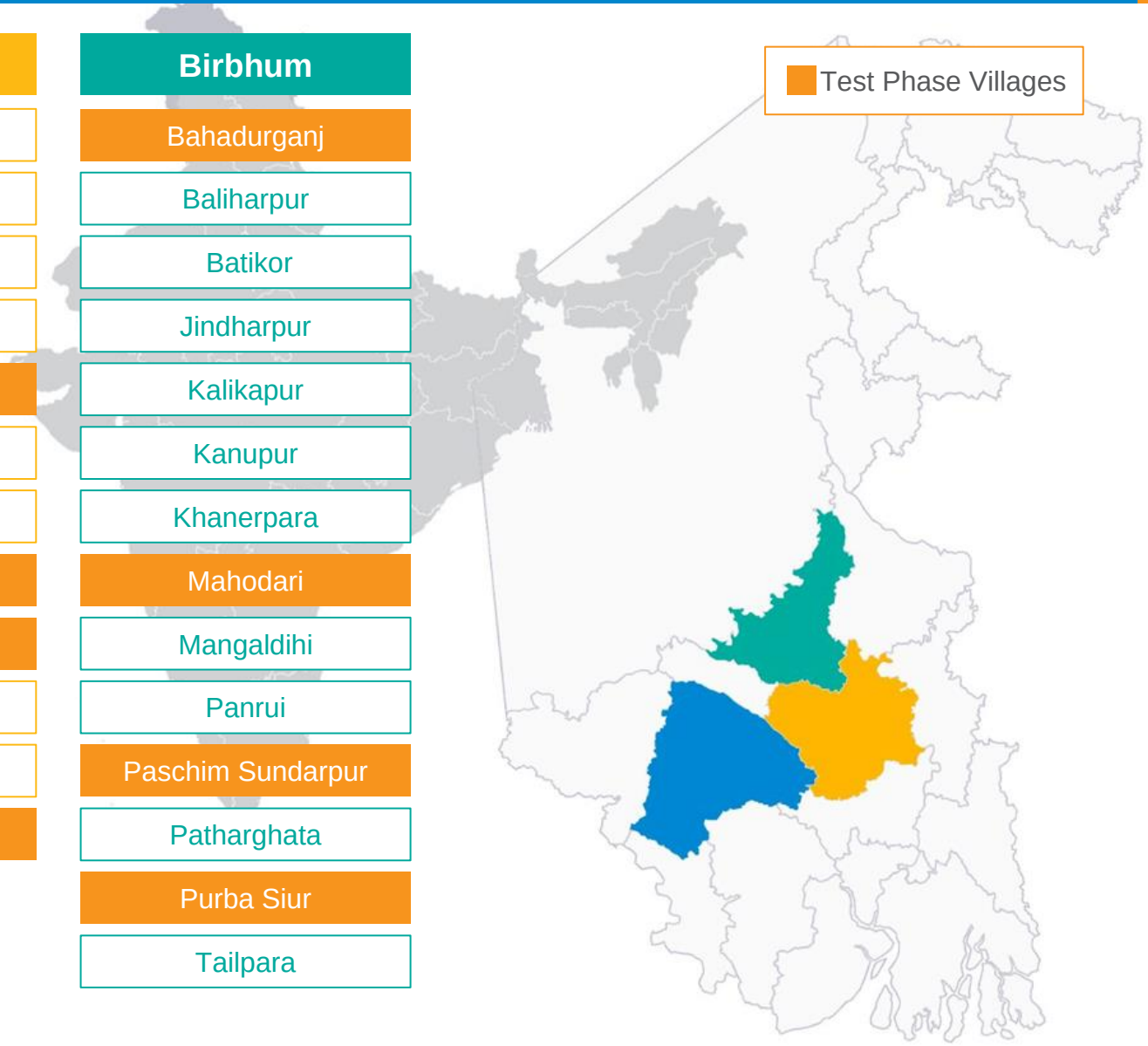
56% of 71 villages random selection: 40 villages

Bankura 14 (+ 5 RV) Surveyed: 14 villages; 300 HH	Bardhaman (12 + 5 RV) Surveyed: 12 villages; 300 HH	Birbhum (14 + 5 RV) Surveyed: 14 villages; 300 HH

RV: Replacement Villages

Study area & baseline villages

Bankura	Bardhaman	Birbhum
Barragara	Adampur	Bahadurganj
Barapaya	Deasa	Baliharpur
Barikul	Dihipalashan	Batikor
Dhadkidihi	Gopalbera	Jindharpur
Dhenga-Am	Jadabganj	Kalikapur
Jaynagar	Kirtanshala	Kanupur
Jiarda	Nurkona	Khanerpara
Khaerpahari	Nutangram	Mahodari
Majgerya	Rajkusum	Mangaldihi
Malcharar	Rakshitpur	Panrui
Mayna	Ram-Krishnapur	Paschim Sundarpur
Panchur	Shrirampur	Patharghata
Satnala		Purba Siur
		Tailpara



Selection of respondents

12-18-year-old boys

12-18-year-old girls

Girl or Boy randomly selected in household

Total households sampled 909

Total individuals sampled 909; 424 Boys & 485 Girls

Caregivers (Mothers & Fathers) of 12-18-year-old children

Mother or Father randomly selected in household

317 Fathers

592 Mothers

Community Leaders (Teachers/panchayat leaders/livelihood/political group/public services)

Randomly selected off census list created with Panchayat leader

97 Males

135 Females

Characteristics of sampled respondents

Districts

Bankura	33.2%
Bardhaman	32.9%
Birbhum	33.9%

Social category

General	17.2%
OBC	13.2%
SC/ST	69.6%

Household size

2	3.9%
3	36.0%
4	49.4%
4+	10.7%

Children - Age group

12-14	51.9%
15-17	48.1%

Parents - Age group

18-30	17%
31-45	68.2%
>45	14.8%

Community leaders

Male	41.8%
Female	58.2%

Characteristics of sampled respondents

Children - Gender

Boys	46.7%
Girls	53.3%

Parents - Gender

Fathers	34.9%
Mothers	65.1%

Children - Education

Never enrolled	0.4%
Primary education	19.1%
Secondary and above	80.5%

Parents - Education

Never enrolled	22.9%
Primary education	64.5%
Secondary and above	12.6%

Parents - Occupation Status

Not employed	6%
Employed - HH activities	48.3%
Permanent/salaried employee	2.9%
Seasonal/temporary employee	35.4%
Informal employee	7.4%

Survey tools

Structured questionnaire administered to 12-18-year-old children, their parents and community leaders. Each questionnaire used quantitative agree/disagree questions to collect data on the following 3 areas:

Knowledge

Risks of non-enrolment

- Inclined towards temporary jobs, substance abuse
- Risk of early marriage, running away

Risks of child labour

- Forced to work long hours
- Fall victim to physical/substance abuse, sexual exploitation

Risks of child marriage

- False pretence marriage
- Risks of phy/mental/sexual abuse

Effects of violence/abuse

- Negative impact on health
- Prompts aggression
- Drop-out/skip school

Knowledge of online CT/CSEC

- Online bullying
- Lured to jobs, sexual encounters
- Share personal information

Survey tools

Attitudes/Practices

Accepting offers of work for children

- Close/far to the village
- Known/unknown agent

Accepting offers of (girl) child marriage

- Near/far from the village
- Known/ unknown agent

Online CT/CSEC

- Job opportunities and social network – gaming
- Unknowingly misuse search platforms, privacy settings, disclosure of private information
- Lured to meet/chat with strangers
- Coerced into disclosure private information about and recruit other children

Neglect and substance abuse (alcohol/drugs)

- Children/adult substance abuse
- Children/adult domestic violence
- Sought assistance for substance abuse and domestic violence

Internalisation

I can unknowingly become a victim/ an enabler of trafficking, if I am /my child /a child in my community is:

- not enrolled in school
- married before the age of 18
- pursuing job outside the village
- subjected to domestic violence
- witnessing domestic violence
- mis-using drugs/alcohol
- exposed to unsafe social media/job platforms/gaming

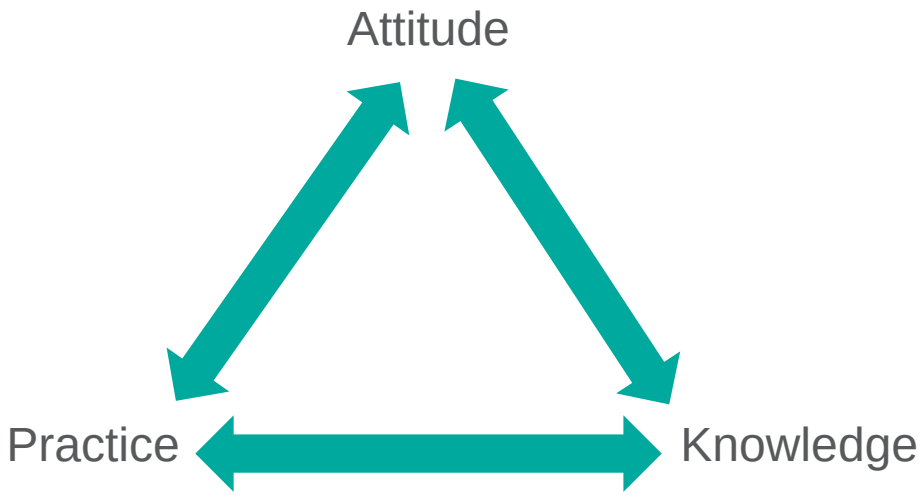
I realise that children in my community are at increasing threat of CT/CSEC, because

- I understand how certain practices/behaviors can pur children in my community at risk
- I/ a child can be at harm's way due to the increasing threat of child trafficking in my village
- In my village, children my age who pursue jobs outside the village could be in harm's way

Scoring of knowledge, attitudes & practices (KAP)

Calculation & significance

This study followed the KAP approach which is a representative tool used to rank the level of knowledge, attitude and practices towards child trafficking in specific communities.



Scoring method (KAP - raw scores)

KAP scores for each respondent were obtained from their responses on KAP questions.

The responses to questions are ‘agree’ or ‘disagree’.

The number of ‘desirable answers’ on KAP questions yielded the raw scores of the respective categories.

- Desirable answer: If someone rejects (responds ‘disagree’) a job offer from an unknown agent far away from their village
- Desirable answer: If someone ‘agrees’ that children are likely to take on temporary jobs if they drop out from school

Scoring of knowledge, attitudes & practices (KAP)

Calculation & significance

High KAP (Respondent is at low risk of CT/CSEC)	**High levels of knowledge and practices**	**> 80% desirable responses**
Moderate KAP (Respondent is at moderate risk of CT/CSEC)	**Moderate levels of knowledge and practices**	**60-79% desirable responses**
Low KAP (Respondent is at high risk of CT/CSEC)	**Low levels of knowledge and practices**	**<60% desirable responses**

Categorisation of KAP Raw Scores: 'Share of positives' using Bloom's cut-off criteria (Walakira, E.J., et al. 2015)

Scores range from 0 to any positive value (0 when all responses are non-desirable indicating poor knowledge and practices; higher scores indicate respondent demonstrates desired knowledge and practices)

Calculating Risk Scores: capturing nuances of degree of risk exposure based on weighted KAP scores

- Respondent who indicated they would accept a job offer outside the village are exposed to a higher degree of risk (question weighted high risk) than someone who are willing to accept only if the job is within the village (question weighted as low risk). 'Don't know' or 'do not want to answer' indicate a lack of awareness and so such responses were classified moderate risk. Aggregating the responses from the respondents in this way leads to a calculated risk score.
- The risk scores can range from 0 to any positive value (0 refers low risk – desirable knowledge and practices).
- Higher the score, higher is the vulnerability.

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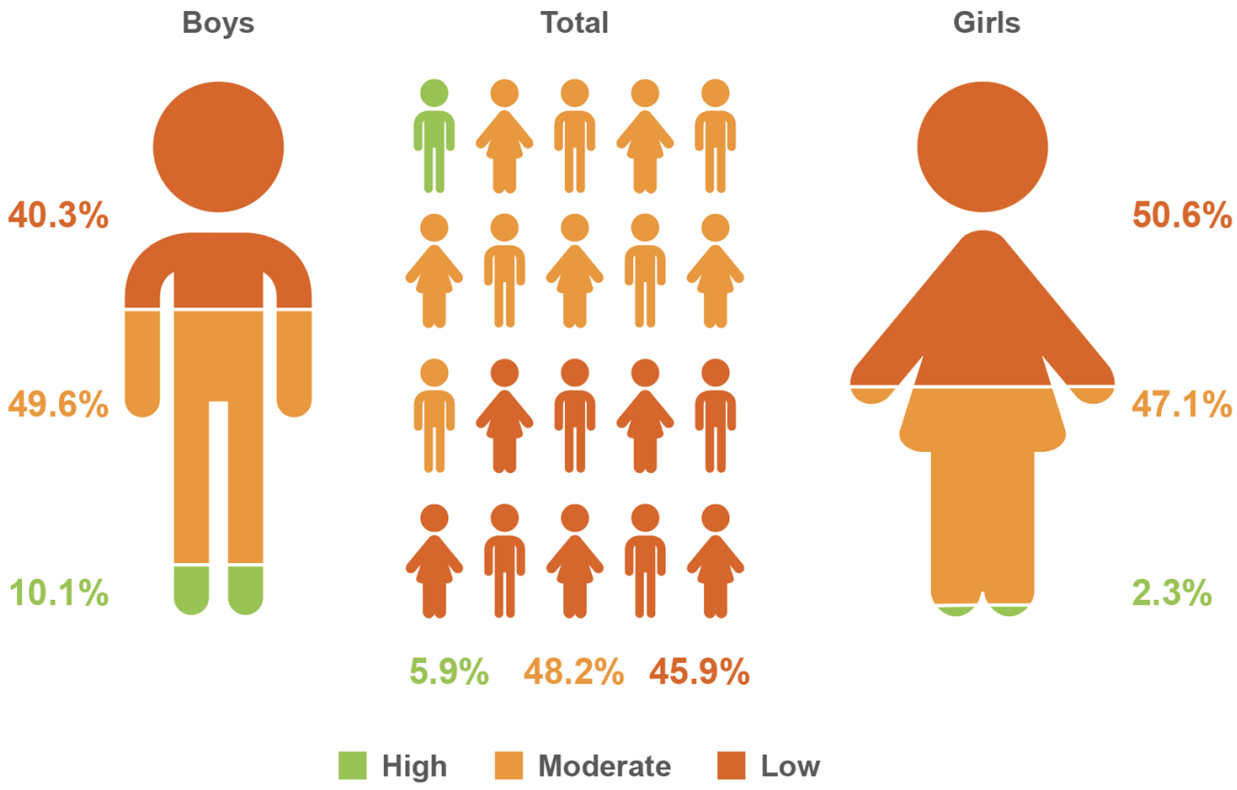
- Explain hierarchical factors influencing children's KAP
- Outline key recommendations for prevention campaigns

Children

Knowledge, attitudes and practices related to CT/CSEC

Children, especially girls, have low knowledge, attitudes and practices related to CT/CSEC



Overall, only 5.9% of children have high KAP.

Children, on average, do not have high levels of KAP related to CT and CSEC.

Boys have higher levels of desired KAP than girls.

More than 50% of girls have low levels of knowledge and attitudes/practices related to risks of CT/CSEC.

Bardhaman has the highest level of desired KAP followed by Birbhum and Bankura.

In Bardhaman and Birbhum, mean KAP score among boys is significantly higher than that among girls. In Bankura, boys and girls have similar levels of KAP.

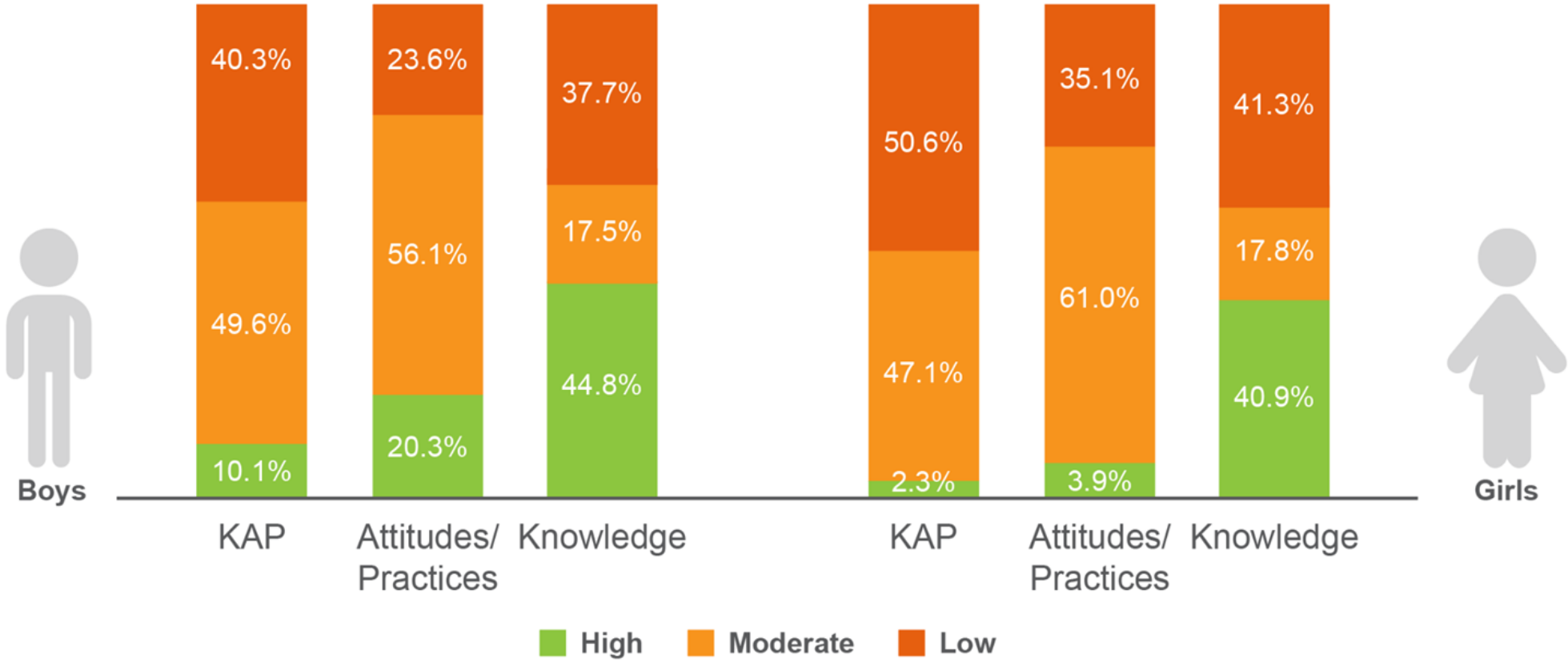
Children's KAP and socio-demographic highlights

	GIRLS			BOYS			Key Messages
	Low	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	High	
Younger vs Older							
12-14	56.0	42.8	1.2	45.0	50.9	4.1	Older boys have substantially higher KAP than younger boys and, in general, than girls
15-17	44.9	51.7	3.4	35.5	47.8	**16.7**	
Studying vs Not-studying							
Currently working	49.2	48.9	1.8	38.2	50.0	7.8	Early entry to labour force limits children's potential to understand the risks of trafficking
Currently studying	52.0	44.7	3.3	40.0	48.6	11.4	
Wants to study vs financial difficulties in family							
Intend to enroll: finances certain	47.5	48.8	3.8	45.7	46.9	7.4	A household's poor economic condition is likely to place children at higher risks of CT/CSEC
Intend to enroll: finances uncertain	53.1	45.5	1.4	42.1	55.3	2.6	
Small vs large households							
0-4	51.8	46.0	2.2	41.2	48.5	10.4	A larger household size is likely to place boys at higher risks of CT/CSEC - perhaps owing to the need to participate in income generation to support the household
5-9	43.5	53.6	2.9	28.6	64.3	7.1	
Forward vs Backward Groups							
General	41.7	47.6	10.7	33.3	52.8	16.9	Children belonging to general and OBC caste categories are at lower risk to CT/CSEC; this effect is more significant among boys than girls
OBC	39.4	51.5	9.1	40.7	48.1	11.1	
SC/ST	48.2	46.1	5.7	41.8	49.2	7.1	

Breaking down knowledge and practices among children

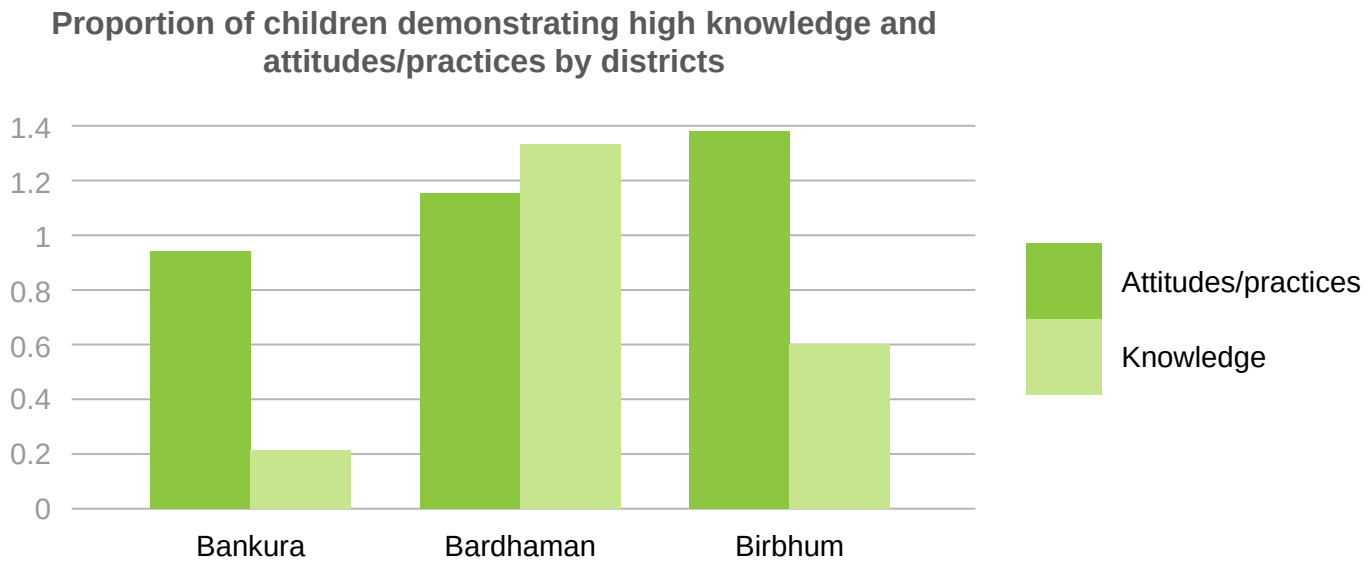
While overall levels of KAP were found to be low among children, a significant proportion of children demonstrated high levels of knowledge on the risks of CT/CSEC. However this does not translate into a high proportion of boys/girls demonstrating desired attitudes and practices in the same population.

Children demonstrate higher levels of knowledge than practices. Boys are more likely than girls to practice desired behaviour related to risks of CT/CSEC.



KAP among children - by district

While the levels of knowledge among children vary across geographies, practices towards trafficking are uniformly low

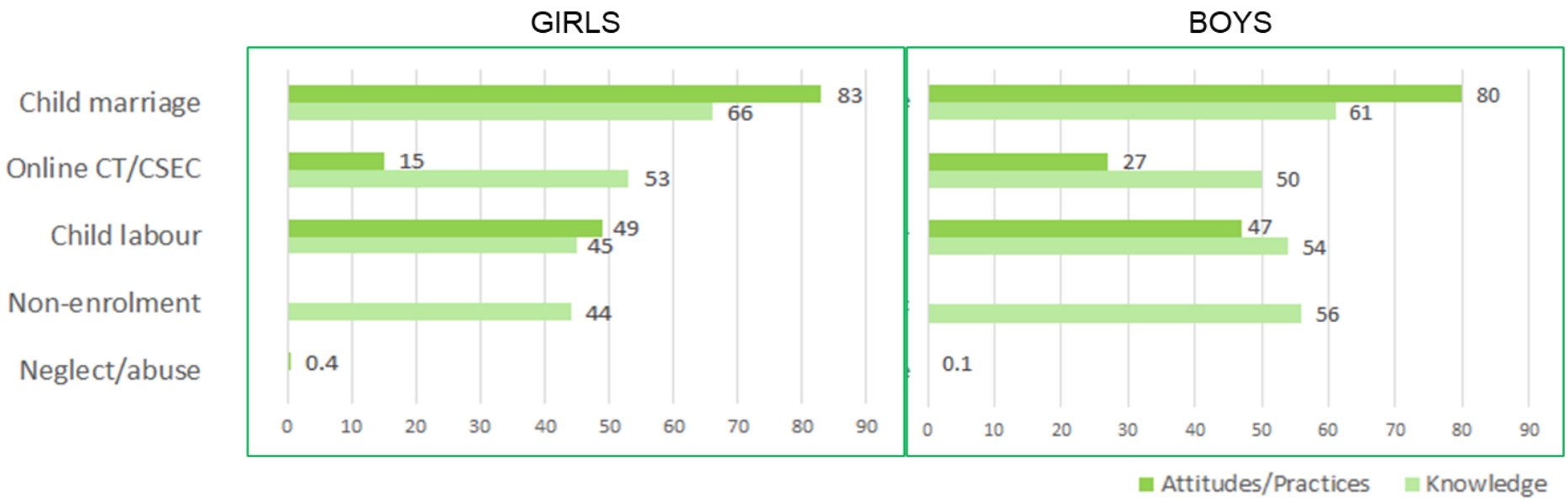


Children demonstrate higher levels of knowledge than practices. However, boys are more likely than girls to practice desired behaviour related to risks of CT/CSEC.

Bankura is an exception, with very low levels of knowledge - this may result from various socio-demographic factors specific to the district. These factors are explored in later sections, to drawn conclusions for the target region.

Boys in Bardhaman are eight times more likely than those in Bankura to demonstrate high levels of knowledge.

Comparing KAP across risk domains: Children



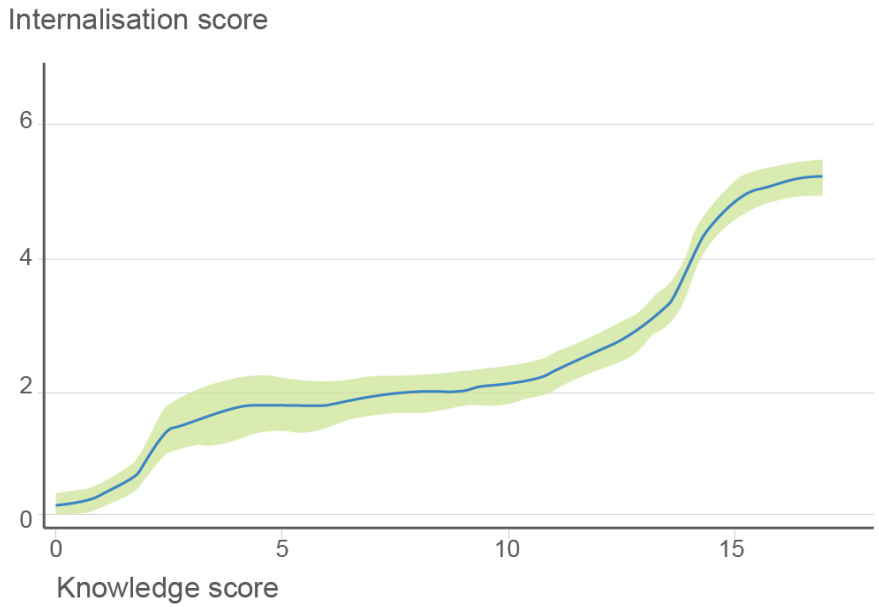
Children demonstrating high levels of KAP - comparison across different domains of risks of CT/CSEC

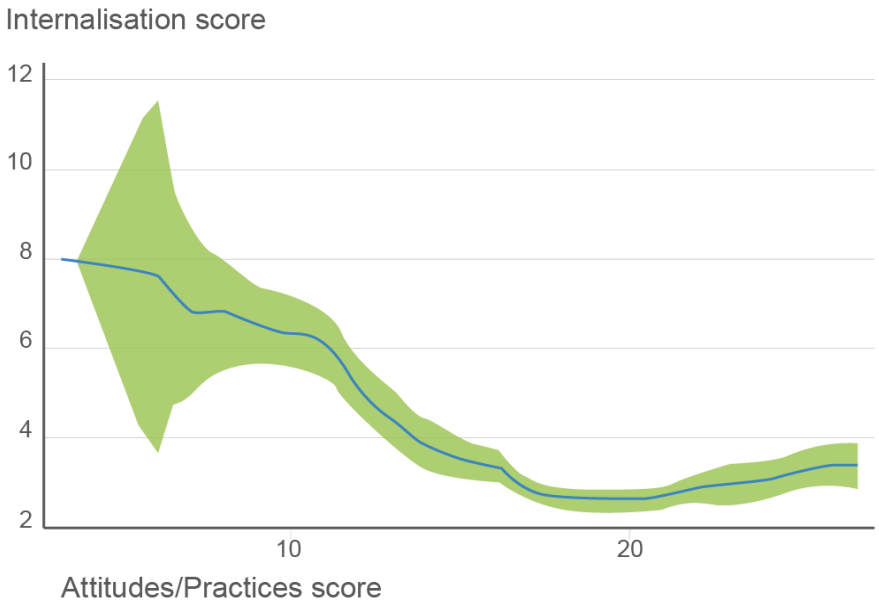
Online CT/CSEC - Children know the risks of unsafe/unsupervised online practices but are unlikely to practice safe behavior.

Neglect/Abuse - Children do not understand how experiencing or witnessing harm within the household can put them at risk to CT/CSEC.

Prevailing social norms and resultant adherence to peer pressure, may negatively influence children's practices.

Linkages between knowledge, internalisation & practices are not always linear among children





Only 9% of children, at baseline, were found to internalise all the risks of trafficking (*slide 13 presents the agree/disagree questions asked to measure internalization; A child is recorded as having internalized a particular risk if they 'agree' that they themselves or a child in their community could be unknowingly at-risk of CT/CSEC if they were to forced/coerced into that risky behaviour*)

Children who have high levels of knowledge also have greater risk internalisation. However, high risk internalisation does not always translate into good practices.

51% of children have high levels of knowledge about the risks of online CT/CSEC, approximately 49% of these children internalise the risk, but only 23% demonstrate positive practices.

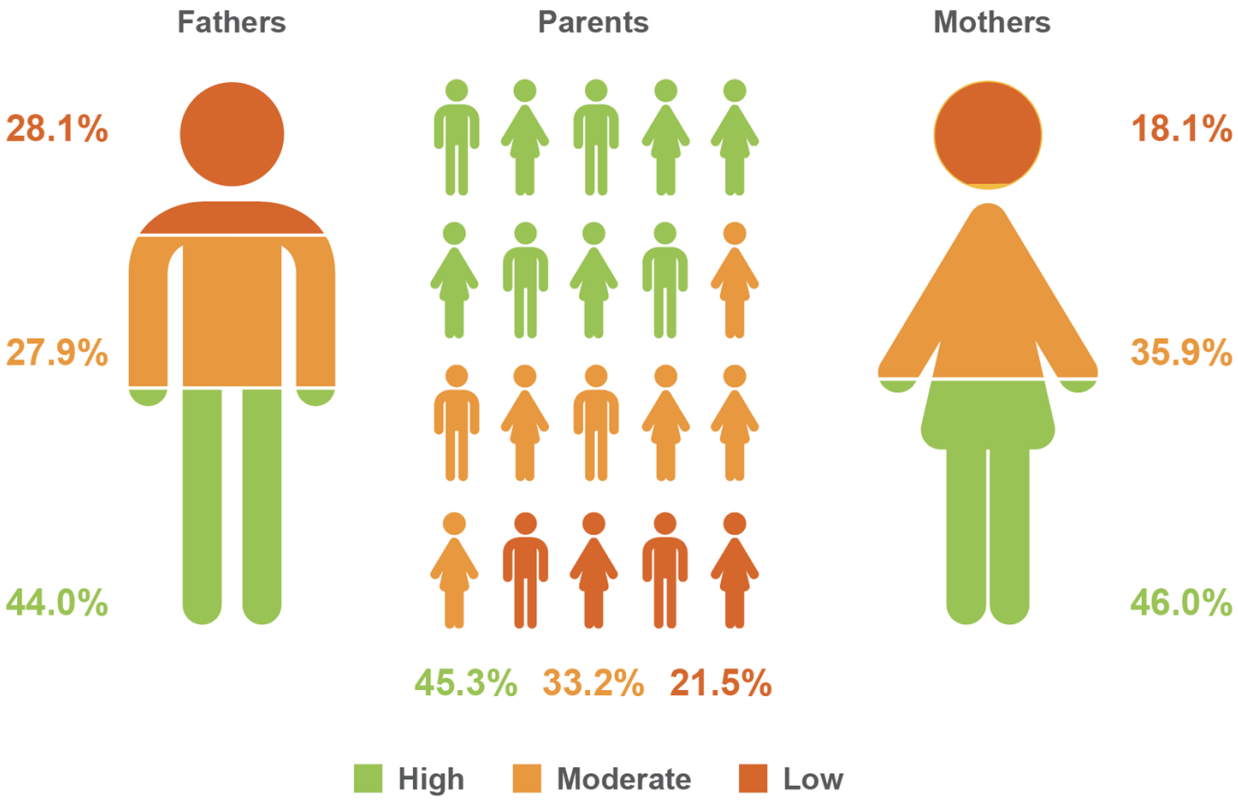
Similarly, the level of knowledge and internalisation of risks related to discontinuing education do not add up to the level of practices. It is widely acceptable for girls to drop out to attend to caregiving responsibilities or marry early; and boys are expected to contribute to income generation.

In some cases, children are more cautious with certain practices, such as refusing a job offer outside a village but underestimate that they themselves could be the victim of child labour.

Parents

Knowledge, attitudes and practices related to CT/CSEC

Parents have greater awareness than children about how risky behaviour can lead to child trafficking



Less than half of all parents surveyed have high levels of KAP related to risks of CT/CSEC.

Mothers have marginally higher KAP levels than fathers.

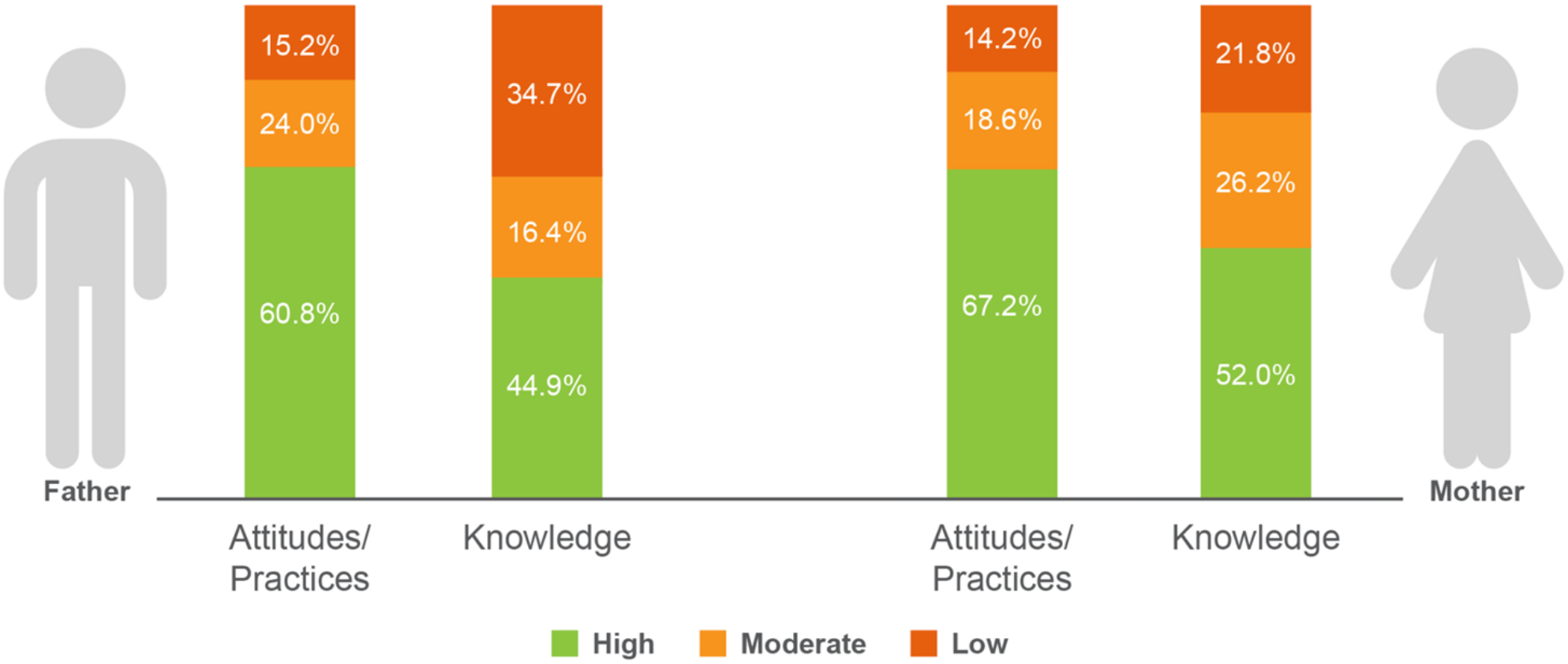
Though the overall level of KAP of mothers is better than fathers, there are variations across districts. Mothers in Bankura have higher levels of KAP than fathers.
Whereas, Bardhaman has reportedly higher levels of KAP for fathers.

In terms of overall KAP score of parents, Bankura has the lowest level of desired KAP, Birbhum takes the intermediary position, while Bardhaman shows the highest level.

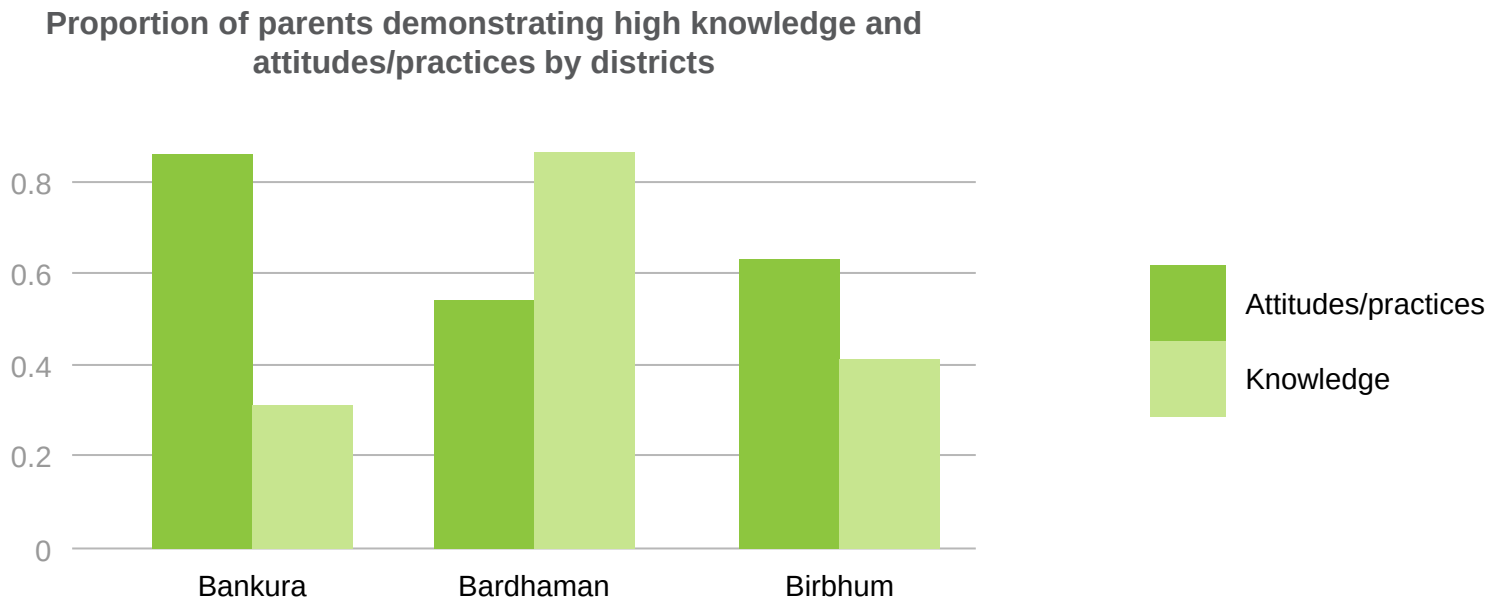
Parent's KAP and socio-demographic highlights

	MOTHERS			FATHERS			Key Messages
	Low	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	High	
Younger vs Older							
18-30	20.4	49.6	29.9	55.9	38.9	5.6	Younger parents have significantly higher KAP than its older counterpart
31-45	23.1	47.2	29.6	30.4	32.8	**36.8**	
45+	43.5	41	15.5	42.1	42.1	15.8	
No education vs any education							
Never enrolled	28.1	57.5	14.4	40	43.8	16.2	Primary and secondary education are likely to result in higher levels of knowledge about trafficking
Primary	21.3	51.8	26.9	38.2	36.9	33.6	
Secondary and above	24.4	30.9	44.6	21.8	29.2	32.0	
Formal vs informal employment							
Unemployed	42.9	57.1	0	100	0	0	Regular and stable job holders accrue a positive advantage when compared to job-seekers or temporary employees
HH activity	23.1	40.5	36.4	3.6	32.1	64.3	
Permanent/Regular salaried	50	16.7	33.3	15	30	55	
Seasonal/Informal	27.1	70.1	2.8	39.1	40	20.9	
Forward vs Backward Groups							
General	35	40	25	32	30	38	General caste fathers stand at lower risk to CT/CSEC of their own children
OBC	39.3	42.9	17.8	36.2	30.8	33	
SC/ST	42.2	33.3	24.4	34.2	32.1	33.7	

Parents do not necessarily demonstrate risky behaviour, but lack knowledge of specific consequences of these practices



Parents: Linking knowledge and practices

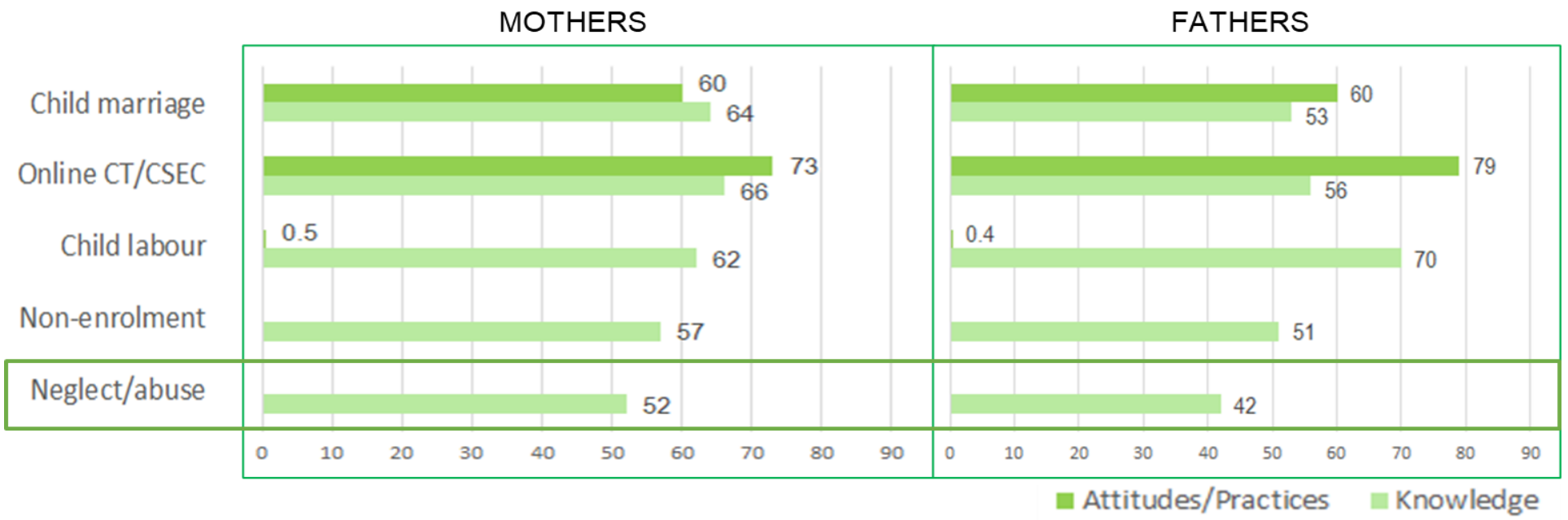


While Bardhaman has a higher level of knowledge than Bankura, parents in Bankura are twice as more likely to demonstrate desired practices.

Both mothers and fathers have moderate levels of knowledge of the risks of trafficking, however, mothers are more likely to have desired practices.

Practices among parents were found to be disconnected from their existing levels of knowledge (specifically evidenced by Bankura).

Parents lack understanding of how neglect and abuse towards children can put them at risk of CT/CSEC

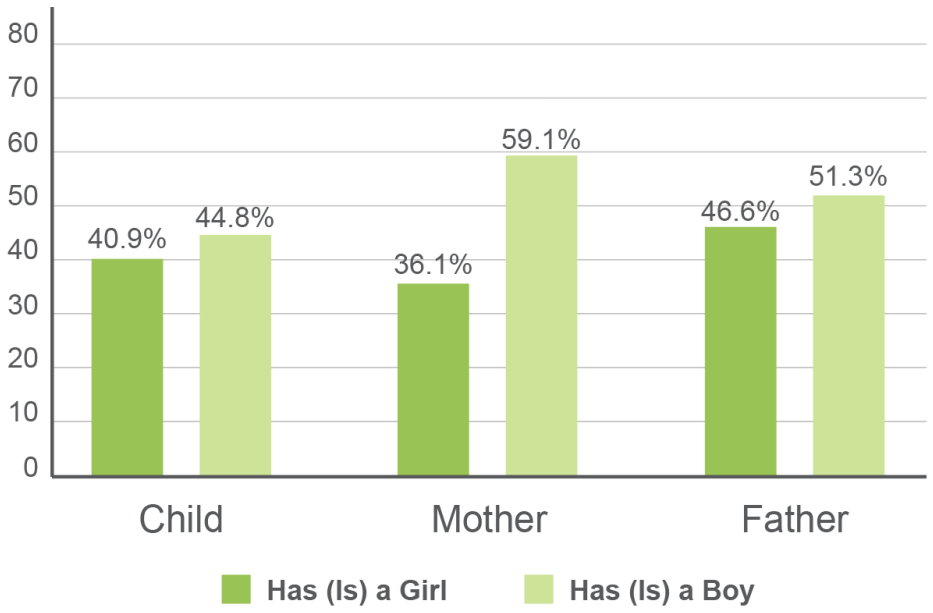


Percent of parents who have high levels of KAP, comparison across different domains of risks of CT/CSEC

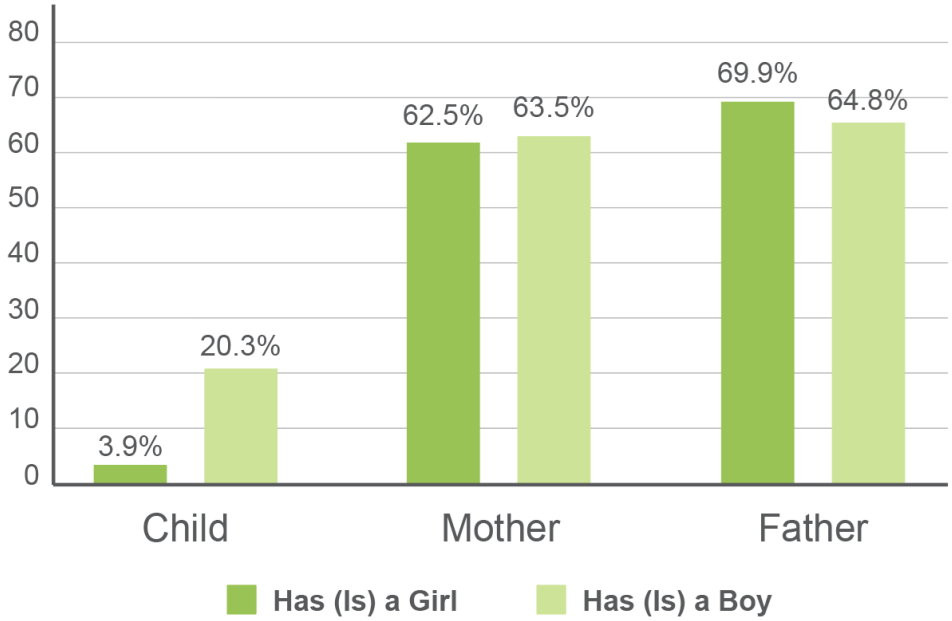
It is possible that some parents are extremely vigilant with avoiding practices which put their child at-risk. However, they may be doing so without possessing complete understanding of how those practices could specifically lead to their child becoming a victim of CT/CSEC.

KAP: Children vs parents

Percentage of individuals who demonstrate high levels of **knowledge** related to risks of CT/CSEC



Percentage of individuals who demonstrate high levels of **attitudes/practices** related to risks of CT/CSEC



There exists a striking knowledge gap between mothers of girls and mothers of boys.
Parents who have daughters: Mothers have lower knowledge levels than fathers.
Parents who have sons: Mothers have better knowledge levels than fathers.
Girls are much more vulnerable than boys.

Parents' knowledge and practices differ based on the gender of their child

	Knowledge	Attitudes & Practices
Mothers with daughters	Low levels of knowledge especially about how early marriage of girls can lead to commercial sexual exploitation.	Relatively low level of desired practices, specifically related to the risks of child marriage.
Mothers with sons	Higher level of knowledge of CT/CSEC risks than mothers with daughters (yet not at desirable levels). Social acceptance and recognition of having sons may grant such mothers higher agency. High attachment of boys with their mothers may be leading to diffusion of knowledge from the boys (who have higher knowledge) to their mothers.	Undesirable practices related to abuse and neglect.
Fathers with daughters	Although higher knowledge than mothers, yet poor consciousness of early marriage and neglect enabled running away of children.	Risky practices of sending child to work outside the village.
Fathers with sons	Typically lack desired knowledge about misuse of internet, boys recruiting other children through online platforms and neglect enabled running away of children.	Risky practices of sending child to work outside the village.

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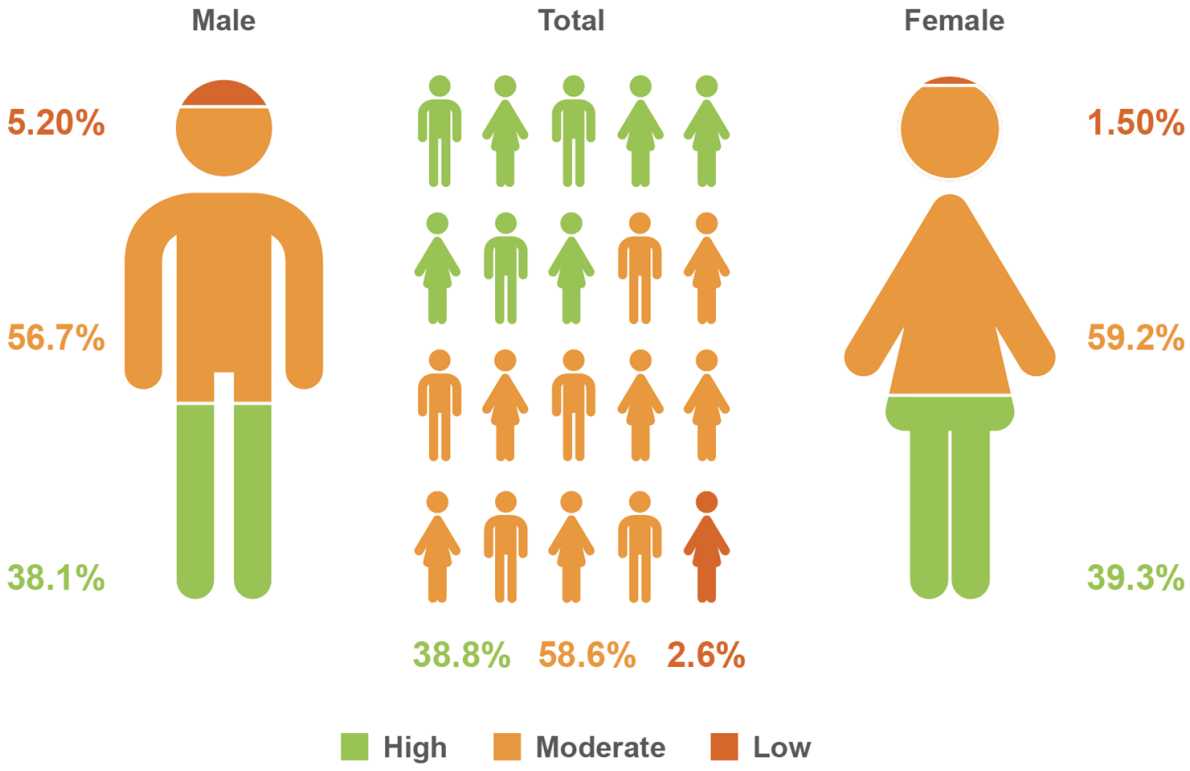
Community Leaders

Knowledge, attitudes and practices related to CT/CSEC

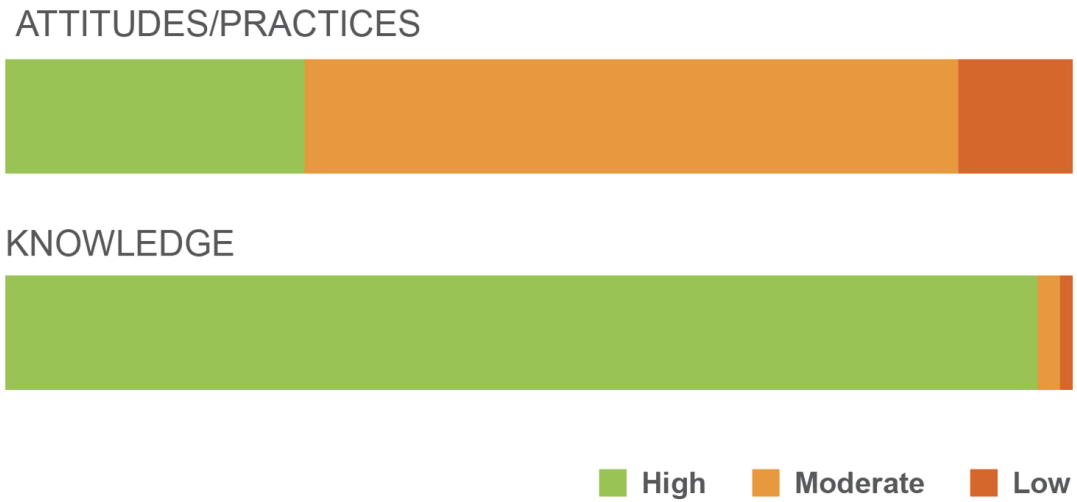
KAP: Community leaders



Community leaders have moderate to high levels of KAP. Very few community leaders have low levels of KAP unlike children and parents.

Both male and female community leaders have similar levels of KAP. However, knowledge levels vary by region/village.

Significant gap between knowledge and practices among community leaders

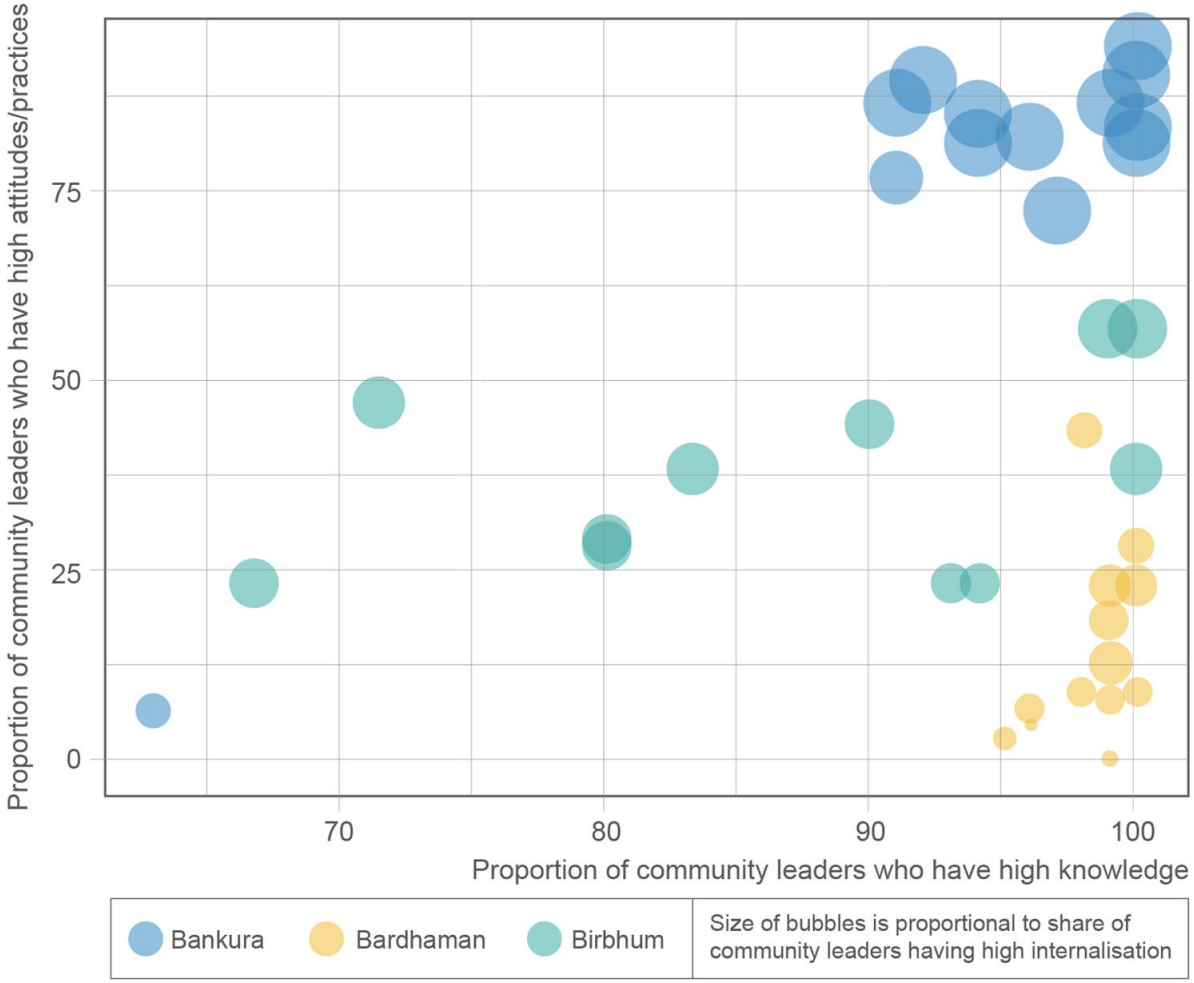


Community leaders may have high levels of knowledge, but do not have high levels of desired practises.

Bankura is an exception, 77% of community leaders demonstrate high levels of desired practices related to risks of CT/CSEC. On the other hand, the difference in knowledge and attitudes/practices is similar between male and female community leaders.

Attitudes and practices among community leaders are strongly influenced by geography

Proportion of community leaders who have high levels of knowledge, attitudes/practices or internalisation by villages of Bankura, Bardhaman and Birbhum



95% of community leaders have high levels of knowledge of risks associated to CT/CSEC, but only 28% have high levels of attitudes/practices.

Bankura is the sole district to have community leaders that demonstrate desired levels of knowledge as well as desired practices. It also has the highest share of community leaders having high levels of internalisation (77%).

Bardhaman has the highest proportion of community leaders with desirable knowledge but it performs poorly in attitudes/practices and internalisation.

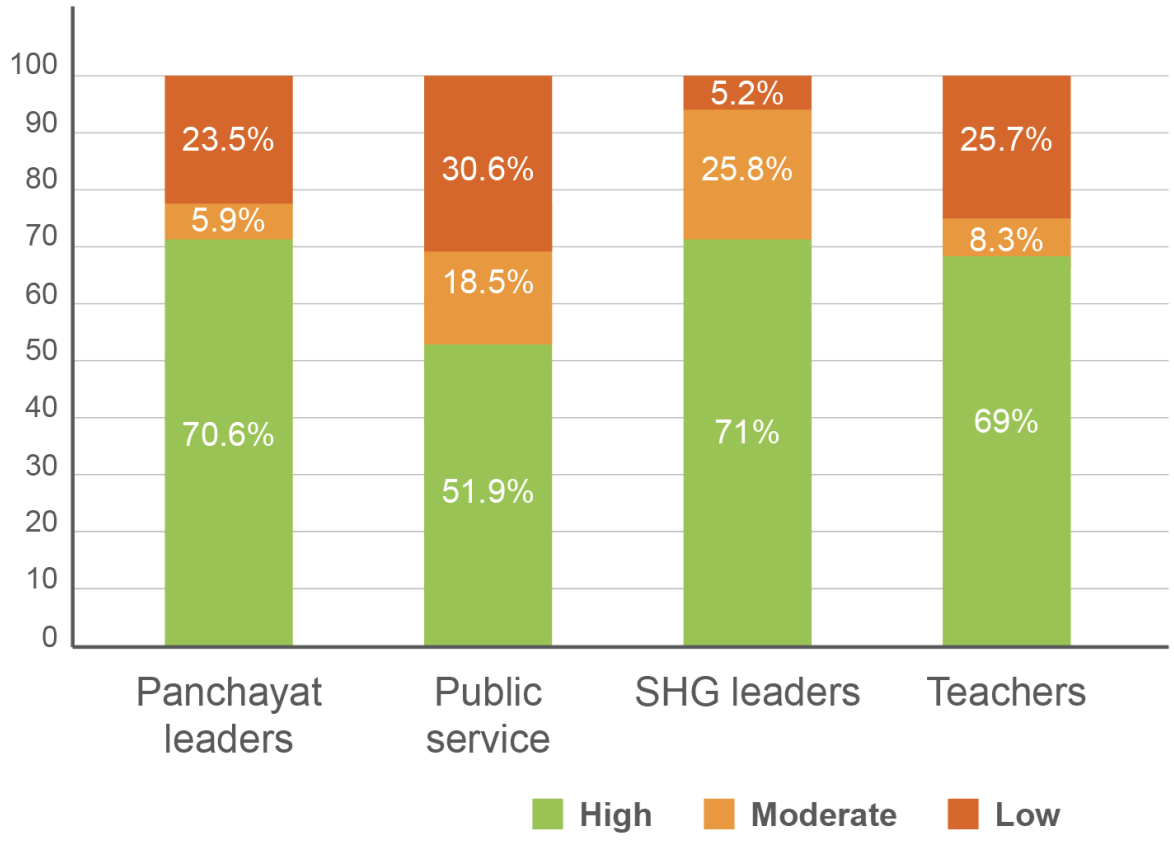
The benefits of knowledge appear to be accompanied by desired internalisation and practices among community leaders of Bankura, but the same is not true for Bardhaman and Birbhum.

Community leaders: KAP across domains of risk

	Knowledge	Attitudes/Practices
Child labour	Adequate awareness of being forced to work long hours, falling victim to physical and substance abuse, engaged into sexually exploitative work	For child labour, CL have provided mix of responses: Some recognizes risk/perceives no influence; some supports risk exposure (advice parents to find jobs within the village or get married early); while others doesn't recognise risk
Child marriage	Adequate awareness of girls married under false pretense, engaged into sexually exploitative work, physical/mental abuse	Supports risk exposure (Support the parents to get the child married because it will help the HH financially); Doesn't recognise risk
Neglect/abuse	Informed knowledge of negative effects of violence affects child health, prompts substance abuse/aggression, drop out early	Doesn't recognise risk; Discourage risk exposure (Talk to the parent to counsel them on how to help the situation)
Online CT/CSEC	Good knowledge about children bullied online, threatened for personal content, lured to exploitative relationship, lured to accept job offers placing other children at risk	Doesn't recognise risk
Non-enrolment	Desirable knowledge of taking temporary employment, run-away from home, early marriage, substance abuse	Supports risk exposure (Support family as children at that age should be helping their parents); Doesn't recognise risk
Run-away		Doesn't recognise risk; Discourage risk exposure (Talk to the parent to counsel them on how to help the situation)

Community leaders: Internalisation of risks

Levels of internalisation by type of community leaders



About 60% of community leaders have high levels of internalisation of risks related to CT/CSEC.

The duration of service (as a community leader) doesn't have an effect on the level of internalisation among the community leaders. Both experienced and young leaders have shown equal levels of internalisation.

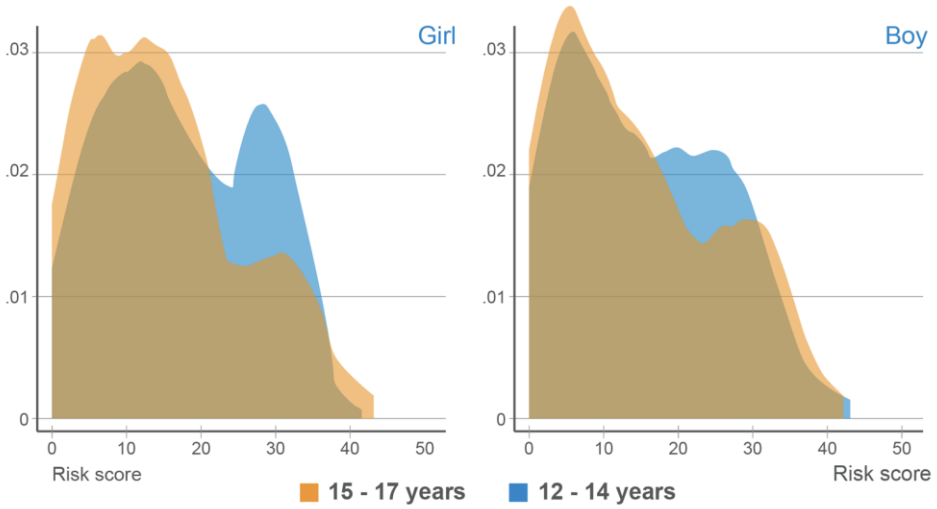
Panchayat leaders, SHG (self-help group) leaders and teachers have moderate to high levels of internalisation. Notably, more SHG leaders were found to have high or moderate levels of internalisation.

Key Stakeholders

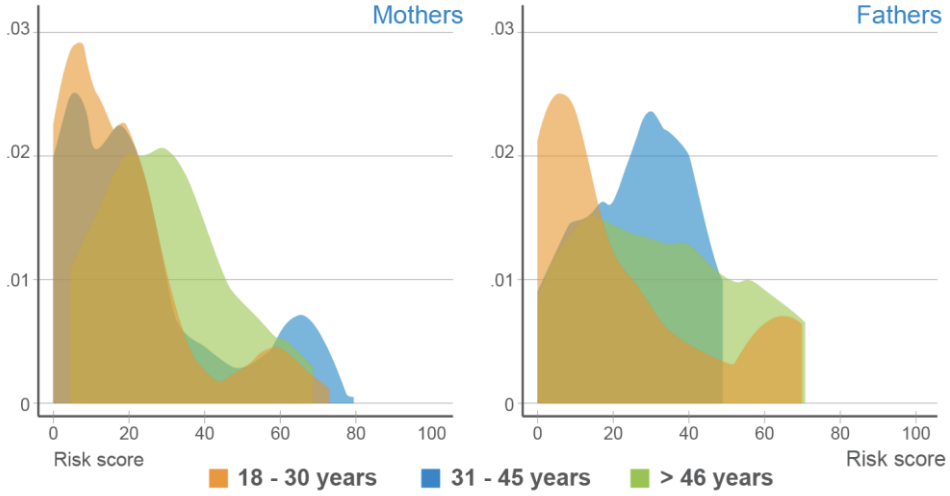
Risk exposure to CT/CSEC

Vulnerability to CT/CSEC can vary by age

Younger children, especially young girls, are at higher risk of trafficking

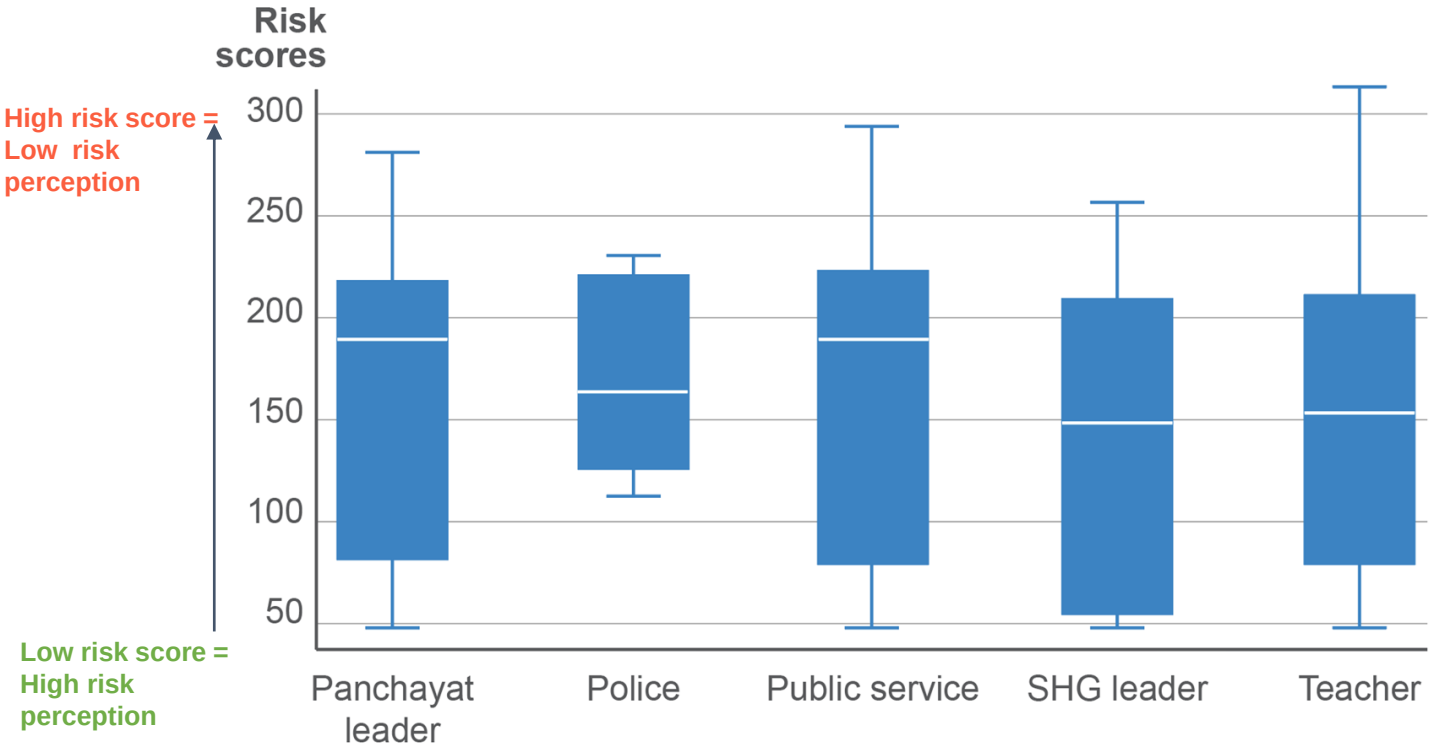


Younger fathers are at higher risk (enabling trafficking) than younger mothers



Note: *Higher risk scores indicate higher risk of trafficking. When density curves towards the right, it indicates that the respondent group represented is at greater risk of trafficking. The density curves of 12-14-year-olds are situated more towards the right (higher risk scores) than the 15-17-year-olds placing, meaning 12-14-year-olds are comparatively at higher risk of CT/CSEC.*

Community leaders: Risk of becoming an enabler by type of role served



Grassroots community leaders and organisations who have stronger connections with their communities have higher risk perceptions of trafficking.

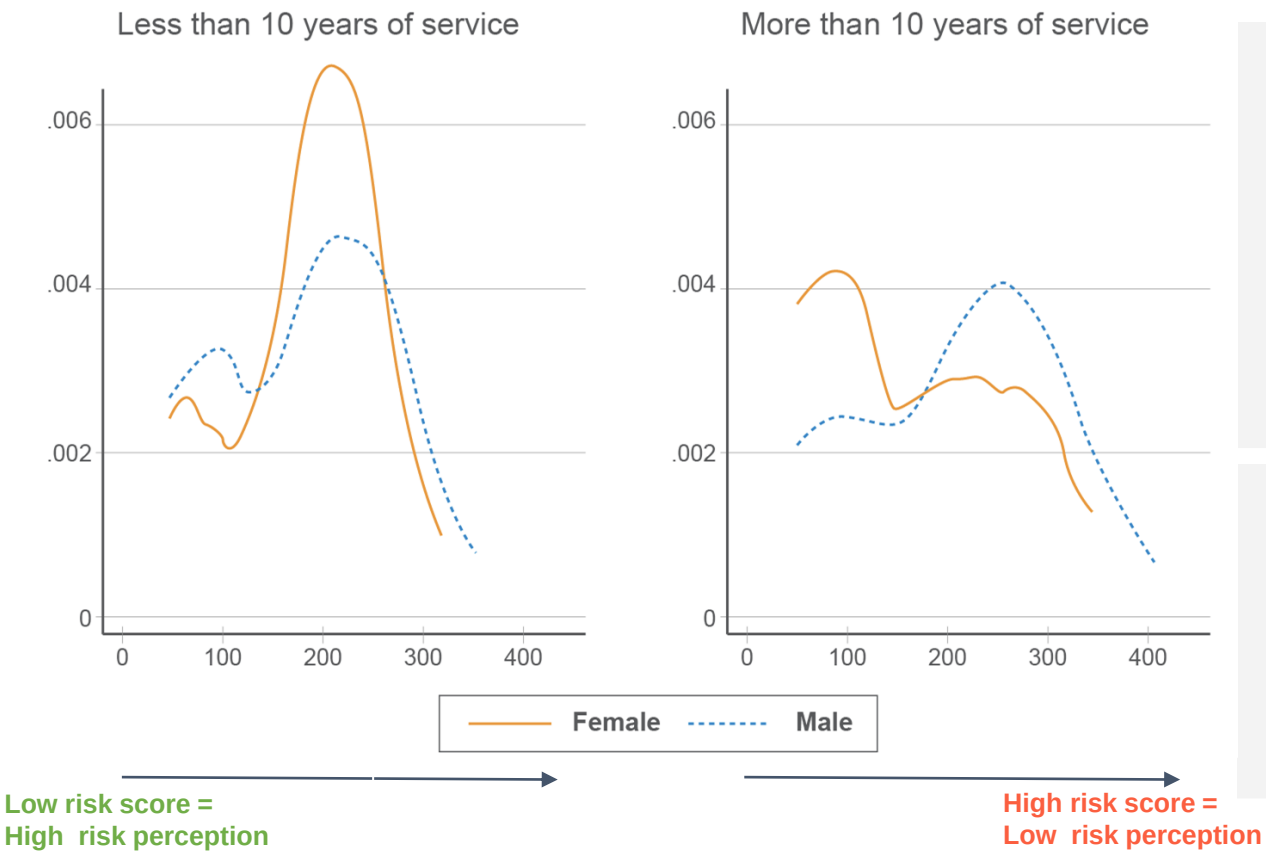
Police have a higher and consistent risk perception due to their direct engagement with events and crimes related to child trafficking.

Those who hold membership to public and administrative services have typically lower risk perceptions.

High risk score = Low risk perception = Leader is unable to recognize risks related to CT/CSEC

Low risk score = High risk perception = Leader is able to recognize risks related to CT/CSEC

Mitigating CT/CSEC: Investing in young, female community leaders



More experienced community leaders have low risk perceptions and more likely to becoming an enabler of CT/CSEC. This could be a proxy of low educational attainment among older members. Seasoned leaders may also have pre-existing, conservative views and stow away intentions.

Female politicians and leaders may be more willing to invest time and energy discussing the risks of trafficking, and drive change within their communities. Hence serving as crucial entry points for CT/CSEC prevention campaigning.

Note: *X axis represents the risk score of community leaders. Higher the risk score, lower is the risk perception to child trafficking Curves positioned to the right hand side of the graph represent higher number of community leaders having low risk perception to trafficking, or in other words they are more likely to unknowingly become enablers of CT/CSEC.*

Objectives of presentation

- Introduce research background, objectives, questions and methodology
- Understand Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) & internalisation among key stakeholders and across risk domains
- **Benchmark at-risk households**
- Explain hierarchical factors influencing children's KAP
- Outline key recommendations for prevention campaigns

Assessing if households are at risk of CT/CSEC

A household is assessed to be AT RISK if:

(Sourced from Parent/Caregiver responses)

- Parents demonstrate moderate or low levels of Knowledge (K)
- Parents demonstrate moderate or low levels of Attitudes & Practices (A&P)
- Parent reports at least one child of the HHs has experienced harm at work, via marriage, or via online platforms

(Sourced from HH demo-matrix)

- HH reports at least one child (<18) member who may have experienced some form of OCSEC
- HH reports at least one child (<18) member who is already married and living far away from home
- HH reports at least one child (<18) member who is working and living far away from home

(Sourced from child's responses)

- Child demonstrates moderate or low levels of K
- Child demonstrates moderate or low levels of A&P
- Child reports (current or past) harm at work or via marriage to either self or any other child of the HH

About 89% of households in the target region are at risk of CT/CSEC

Mapping vulnerable households by socio-economic status

Household characteristics in various risk categories

High Risk *(Raw score 30-50 + child in harm/ lives far away)*	**71%**	**These households are characterised with relatively young children, middle aged parents, fewer parents with secondary education, more parents with temporary employment, a higher proportion of marginalised communities, and a relatively larger household size**
Moderate Risk *(Raw score 50-70 + child in harm/ lives far away)*	**17%**	**These households have more young parents, lesser proportion of unemployed parents, lesser proportion of marginalised communities, and relatively smaller household size in comparison to the above category.**
Low risk *(Raw score >70 + child in harm/ lives far away)*	**11%**	**These households have relatively higher number of older children, young parents, more parents with secondary education, lesser number of parents in temporary jobs, lesser marginalised communities and smaller household size compared to the above categories.**

What to watch out for?

Households with parents 30+ years are most vulnerable to the risks of trafficking characterised by high risks related to non-enrolment, child labour and online CT/CSEC. Younger children lack awareness about the risks of online modes of trafficking and risky practices of neglect and abuse.

Parents & children having less than secondary education has lower awareness of the social evils of trafficking and more likely to be manipulated and forced into the industry.

Parents engaged into seasonal jobs are largely unprotected from the risks of trafficking

Large-member households are more prone to trafficking.

There are no significant differences along caste lines but marginalised communities are slightly at higher risk.

Bardhaman is most vulnerable with 100% households being at risk. Bankura and Birbhum has 62% and 77% households at risk.

CASES - Sang to insert

Household characteristics in various risk categories

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HEAT MATRIX - Vulnerability across villages

BANKURA

	NE	CM	CL	N&A	OCSEC	Overall
Baragarra						
Barapaya						
Barikul						
Chura Pathar						
Dhadkidihi						
Dhenga-am						
Jaynagar						
Jiarda						
Khaerpahari						
Majgerya						
Malcharar						
Mayna						
Panchur						
Satnala						
Overall						

BARDHAMAN

	NE	CM	CL	N&A	OCSEC	Overall
Adampur						
Deasa						
Dihipalashan						
Gopalbera						
Jadabganj						
Kirtanshala						
Nurkona						
Nutangram						
Rajkusum						
Rakshitpur						
Ramkrishnapur						
Shrirampur						
Overall						

BIRBHUM

	NE	CM	CL	N&A	OCSEC	Overall
Bahadurganj						
Baliharpur						
Batikor						
Jindharpur						
Kalikapur						
Kanupur						
Khanerpara						
Mahodari						
Mangaldihi						
Panrui						
Paschim Sundarpur						
Patharghata						
Purba Siur						
Tailpara						
Overall						

Low — High

Methodology

- Mean of Child risk score and parent risk score = risk score for household
- Median risk score of all households in village = risk score for village
- Village risk score categorized as low - to - high and matrixed for comparison

Legend for risk-domains

NE: Non-Enrollment; ***CM:*** Child Marriage; ***CL:*** Child Labour; ***N&A:*** Neglect and Abuse; **OCSEC:** Online Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Objectives of presentation

- Introduce research background, objectives, questions and methodology
- Understand Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) & internalisation among key stakeholders and across risk domains
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- **Explain hierarchical factors influencing children's KAP**
- Outline key recommendations for prevention campaigns

Examining associations between children's KAP and explanatory factors

Since children are the primary targets of CT/CSEC and hence a prevention campaign, children's KAP was examined as the central variable.

The study built a multi-level modelling framework that demonstrates specific determining factors that influence a child's vulnerability to CT/CSEC.

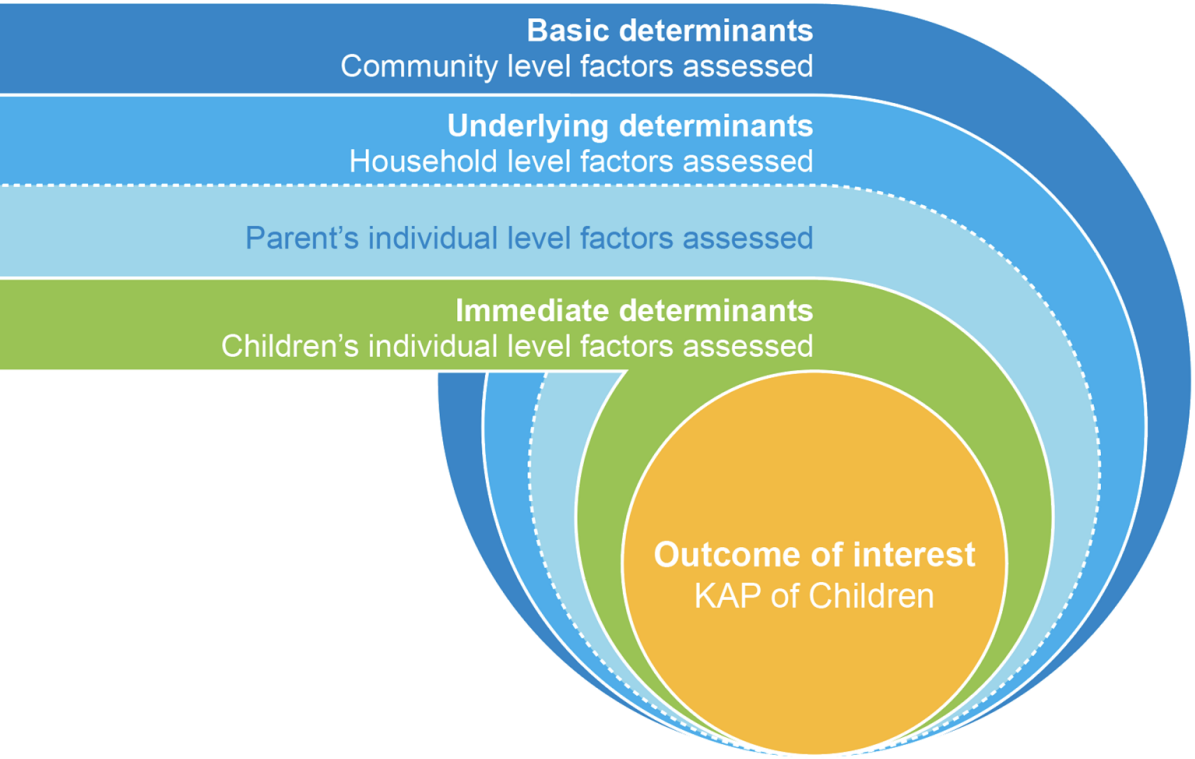
Building upon the family centric approach as an essential component of vulnerability, these analysis models attempt to systematically study the array of complex multi-level inter-relationships between individual characteristics, household attributes, community level factors, and socio-cultural factors.

Immediate determinants (child factors)	Underlying determinants (significance of parental influence and household factors on child development)	Basic determinants (community-level factors)
Children's age and gender *(rising incidence of CT/CSEC among both boys and girls)*	Parent's age, gender, educational attainment, occupation status, etc. (systemic and individual drivers of vulnerability)	Community leader's KAP (community leaders can work together to support child's development)
Children's intent to continue education (decreased exposure to CT/CSEC risks)	Household's membership in the SC/ST community (social drivers of vulnerability)	Role served as community leaders (sensitisation about the issue can vary depending upon roles served)
Occupation status of the child (increased exposure to trafficking via child labour)	Household size - child and its immediate caregivers	

Examining associations between children's KAP and explanatory factors

Model Limitations

Demographic information of individuals and households have been used to explain the variation in children's KAP scores. The study however did not collect comprehensive information on other risk factors influencing vulnerability, such as evidence of cyclical poverty, local/distant migration networks, etc.



Model 1
First influence: children's factors
Using children's age, gender, enrolment decision, occupation status

Model 2
Children + parental factors
Sequentially adding parent's age, gender, highest education, nature of employment

Model 3
Child + parental + household factors
Sequentially adding household size, caste identity

Model 4
Children + parental + household + community level factors
Sequentially adding Community leaders KAP, role served by CL

Results: Influence of demographics on children's KAP (Model 1)

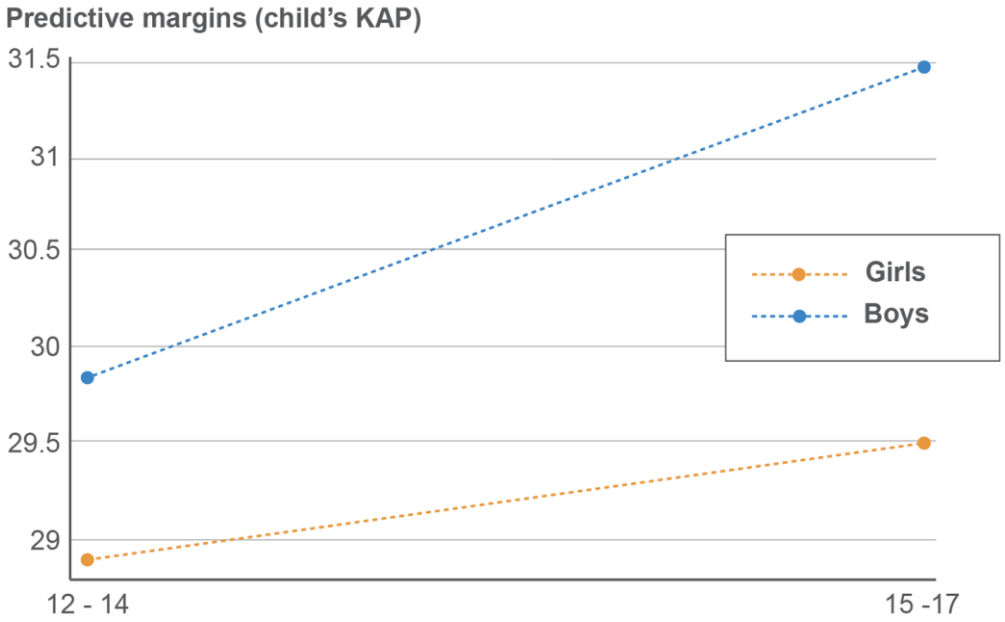
- Children's KAP is most significantly affected by age and gender characteristics of the child but there is a difference across the age groups.

- Boys are more likely to have a higher KAP than girls. Older children's KAP is higher than the younger children.

- Although the trend is for both girls and boys to develop higher/more desirable KAP with age, the marginal effect is stronger for boys.

- Boy's KAP rises more steeply with age - indicating that, when compared to girls, boys appear to be reporting a higher degree of access to knowledge and perhaps consequent translation into practice as they progress through adolescence.

- While girls' transition through adolescence brings them improvements in knowledge, it does not translate into desired attitudes/practices.



Results: Influence of poverty on children's KAP (Model 1)

Children who intend to enrol with finances stable demonstrate a higher KAP than the children who intend to enrol without financial stability. Although the differences in KAP scores are not significant, it is indicative of the impact of family poverty on discontinuing education or dropping out from school.

Occupation status of the child is a significant factor influencing children's KAP, but in different ways. While majority of the children are studying, some (20%) of the children are working while pursuing studies. Students who are part-time employees have a lower KAP; and KAP value even dips for children who are working full-time. Systematic education, i.e. the opportunity to engage with learning outcomes, emerges to be a determinant of children's awareness of the risks of CT/CSEC.

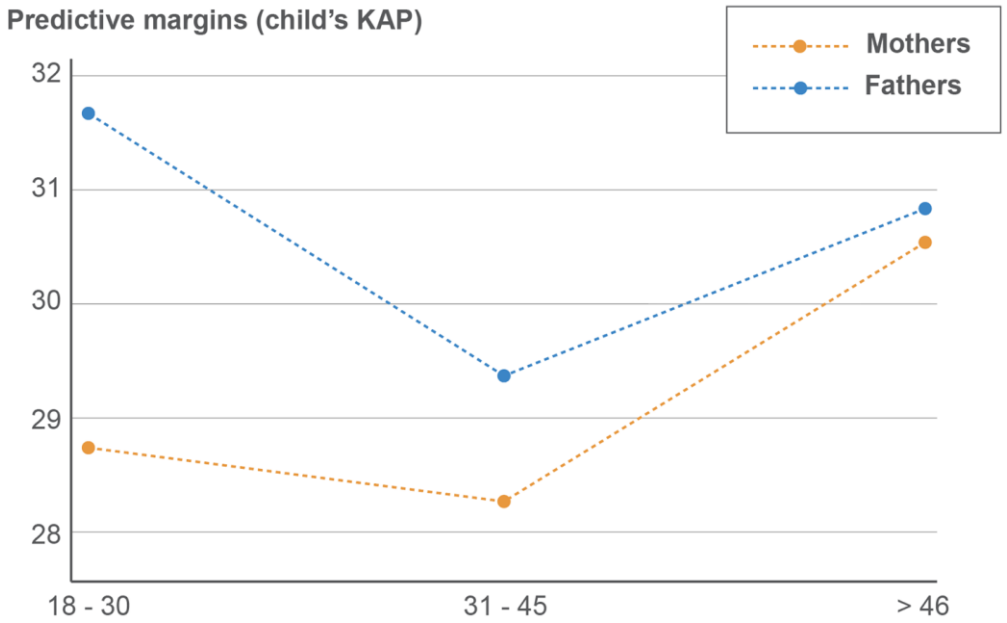
Child factors alone cannot sufficiently explain children's KAP, as 71% of variance in the outcome of interest cannot be accounted for. Hence, better modelling may be required to determine children's KAP. The next model explores children's KAP by exploring parent-centric determinants.

Influence of parental factors on children's KAP (Model 2)

- Compared to model 1, combining child and parent determinants increase the model's 'goodness of fit' from 29% to 51%, The large improvement of the explanatory power of the model is attributable to the adjusted effects of the parent variables alongside the independent effects of the child variables.

- Parent's knowledge, attitudes and practices significantly shapes children's KAP towards child trafficking. The findings suggest that parent's KAP plays positively on improving the children's KAP.

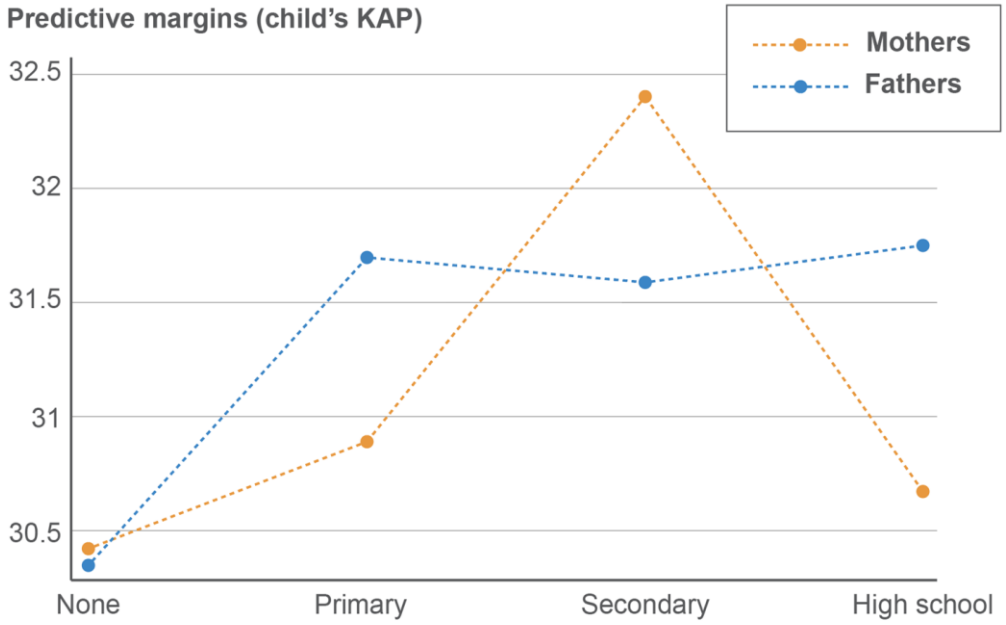
- There is a difference according to age. Younger and older parents have a positive relationship over children's KAP compared to those in the middle category.



- This may be due to different attitudes and behaviour, for example young parents may place more value on the importance of education and are more supportive of children's learning (which in turn reduces risk exposure) whereas the susceptibility of traditional norms is in general higher among the older aged parents.

Influence of parental factors on children's KAP (Model 2)

- High and intermediate-educated parents have a significantly higher positive relation with children's KAP compared to no education.
- There is a noticeable difference between relationship that education levels of mothers versus fathers have on children's KAP. Mothers with secondary education as opposed to primary education are found to have a stronger positive relation on a child's KAP.
- Fathers with no education have less significance than those with primary school education, beyond which the impact doesn't change significantly.
- Parent's employment is also found to be linked to children's KAP - parents engaged in permanent jobs are likely to have a higher positive relation on their child's KAP, while those employed in seasonal or informal jobs are likely to increase their child's vulnerability of CT/CSEC.



Influence of parental factors on children's KAP (Model 2)

Parents can help to reduce children's vulnerability to trafficking by enforcing positive values and improving their decision making skills.

Three results from the model justify this argument:

The negative impact of child labour have been found to be reduced after incorporating parental factors. The impact of child labour on children's vulnerability found in model 1 decreases in model 2 once parental factors are added. Parents can address the risk factor of children entering the labour force.

The initial advantage of boys demonstrating a higher KAP than girls also gets reduced when parental factors are taken into consideration. Parents can close the knowledge gap between boys and girls and ensure protection of children who are more susceptible to trafficking.

Model 1 found lower KAP among children who intend to enrol in education but face financial difficulties - this effect decreases when parental factors are incorporated in model 2.

Household and community level effect on children's KAP (Model 3 and Model 4)

- Household and community level factors' effect on children's KAP does not significantly improve the explanatory power of the model, in the presence of individual and parental factors. Instead factors added in Model 3 are found to play a complementary role in impacting children's KAP.

- The relationship of parents' KAP on children's KAP (model 2) does not significantly change once household and community-level factors are taken into account (model 3). Community leader's KAP does not significantly shape children's KAP; parents continue to hold a strong relation over children's KAP even after controlling for community level factors.

- However, the positive role of parents' occupation over children's KAP diminishes once household-level factors are incorporated. Small household size has a higher positive relation over children's KAP, while households belonging to higher castes (general and OBC) are likely to reduce children's risk exposure. Findings that linked parental occupation status to children's KAP in Model 2 change when variables such as household size, caste identity and community leaders' executed roles are added in Models 3 and 4.

- Meaning occupational stability may not guarantee a decreased vulnerability if the household is marginalised by its caste identity or its large household size. Further, there are no significant changes in KAP of children from marginalised communities upon inclusion of community level factors.

- Exploratory analysis also showed that the child-labour vulnerability (model 1) is reduced by parental factors (model 2) are re-emphasized by community-level factors (model 4). This may be because some community leaders support the need for children to work to reduce the financial burden on families.

Summary of independent effect of factors over children's KAP

Effect of a factor on children's KAP, keeping all other factors constant

Dimensions	Indicators	Effect on children's KAP
Immediate	Children's age	Older children likely to have significantly higher KAP
	Children's gender	Boys more likely to have significantly higher KAP
	Age x Gender	Boys become more aware with increasing age than girls
	Children's enrolment decision	Children who intend to enrol with no financial problem have significantly higher KAP
	Children's occupation status	Working children more likely to have low KAP
Underlying	Parents' KAP	Positive and significant association
	Parents' gender	Fathers more likely to influence positively than mothers
	Parents' age	Younger and older parents significantly influence positively than middle-aged parents
	Parents' education	Any education has a notable positive effect
	Gender x Education	Effect of secondary education among mothers impacts strongly than fathers
	Parents' occupation	More stable (permanent and HH) jobs has significantly positive influence
	Household size	Large household size negatively influences children's KAP
	Caste	Marginalised communities significantly likely to negatively influence child's KAP
Basic	Community leader's KAP	Negative and insignificant association
	Community leader's role	Teachers, SHG, Panchayat leaders positively impact

Summary of interactive effect of factors over children's KAP

Effect of a factor on children's KAP when other variables are added

Alterations	Type of change
How immediate factors (child-related factors) change when underlying factors (parental and household factors) are incorporated	Boy-girl difference in KAP reduces; Financial constraints on children's enrolment decision becomes less significant; Working children's KAP neutralises.
How immediate factors change when both underlying and basic factors (community factors) are incorporated	Boy-girl difference in KAP reduces; Financial constraints on children's enrolment decision further neutralises; KAP of children who are working and studying improves.
How underlying factors change when basic factors are incorporated	Relationship of parents' KAP with children's KAP doesn't change; No change in KAP along caste contours; Negative effect of working children's KAP reinforced; Positive influence of small households on children's KAP ceases to be important.

Key learnings from findings

The nature of vulnerability varies across the target groups because it's multilayered. The immediate determinants of children's KAP are the child-level factors such as child's age, gender, enrolment decision and occupation status.

Gender differences, education levels and working status are the three major determinants of children's KAP. Younger children, especially girls, who work while pursuing their studies are more vulnerable, while those with educated, employed parents are less at risk.Thus we can waive off the individual economic vulnerabilities of children if the parent is well-placed in the job.

Vulnerabilities can be best understood and addressed when considered in relation to each other and not in isolation.

Most vulnerable groups are outlined below:

Most insecure	Relatively less insecure	Insecure but not as much as the other categories
Younger children, especially girls, in economically fragile households.	Younger children, especially girls in better-off households	Children (irrespective of age and gender) in households which are economically better-off but lacking parental education (Mothers with secondary and fathers with primary)

Understanding vulnerability to CT/CSEC

Based on the above framework and empirical analysis, we can identify certain sub-groups that might need specific interventions, given the varying levels of family/community vulnerability.

Individual vulnerability	Family vulnerability	Community vulnerability	Attention
Children who are studying and employed part-time	Children from marginalised background	Do not have community support	Specific attention by age and gender
Children who are studying and employed part-time	Children from marginalised background	Have some sort of community support (Panchayat/SHG leaders)	Specific attention by age and gender
Children who are not working	Children from marginalised background	Have some sort of community support (Teachers)	Specific attention by age
Children who are studying	Better parental situation in terms of economic situation but lacks parental guidance (as parental education is deficient/parents are old)	Do not have community support	Specific attention by age
Children who are studying	Children from marginalised background and have older parents	Have some sort of community support	Specific attention by age and gender
Children who are studying	Children from marginalised background and have younger parents	Do not have community support	Specific attention by age

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Conclusion and recommendations

- The study validates the project ToC's focus on internalisation as a means to behavior change. Behavior change interventions targeting prevention of CT/CSEC will benefit from targeting varying levels of decision-making (individual, community, societal).
- Good practices include tailoring messaging to meet specific needs of vulnerable groups. This is an approach that has been central to Surokhito Gram Karyakrom's design and implementation; the data emphasizes how important beneficiary segmentation and tailored messaging and change strategies for each sub-group is to program success.
- Strengthen the program's approach of targeting both children and parents within the target villages to leverage baseline survey finding that children's KAP is impacted by household characteristics. Additionally, focus project monitoring and evidence systems to establish changes resulting from interventions over time.
- Counter existing social norms driving vulnerability to trafficking by conducting peer group discussions. Ensuring open discussion is expected to drive positive change within the target communities, since there are people with desirable KAP across targeted groups.
- Focus one-to-one counselling on emphasising the risks of non-enrolment in secondary education, and the importance of education in improving KAP levels, and hence decision-making, among key stakeholders.
- Build parents' knowledge of the risks of unsupervised use of social media among children, and the important role that parents can play in the prevention of online risky behaviour.
- Future projects should consider involving national and state level ecosystem actors to amplify awareness raising, and thereby contribute to the sustainability of the campaign. Correlations found between engagement of children (via education and employment) and their vulnerability to CT/CSEC emphasize that modern slavery programming is highly interconnected with education and livelihood initiatives.

Annex: Regression tables

Multivariate analysis of association between KAP of children and explanatory factors at individual, household and community levels

Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t
Child's gender (ref. female)								
Male	1.633	0	1.023	0.003	1.145	0.001	1.125	0.001
Child's age (ref. 12-14)								
15-17	1.685	0	1.601	0	1.564	0	1.582	0
Children Enrolment decision (ref. intend to enrol & finances certain)								
Intend to enrol & finances uncertain	-0.717	0.055	-0.222	0.041	-0.044	0.935	0.008	0.988
Do not intend to enrol & finances uncertain	-1.195	0.416	-1.263	0.308	-1.008	0.415	-0.939	0.448
Children occupation status (ref. student & working)								
Student & not working	0.823	0.144	0.324	0.513	-0.44	0.371	-0.416	0.402
Only working	-1.799	0.12	-0.854	0.094	-0.962	0.334	-1.285	0.28

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Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t
Parent's KAP			0.296	0	0.297	0	0.295	0
Parent's age (ref. 18-30)								
31-45			-0.563	0.052	-0.68	0.165	-0.747	0.029
>46			1.166	0.103	0.992	0.164	0.908	0.205
Parent's gender (ref. female)								
Male			0.417	0.094	0.578	0.239	0.616	0.212
Parent's marital status (not in marital union)								
Married			1.211	0.437	1.221	0.456	1.223	0.455
Parent's highest education (ref. no education)								
Primary			0.455	0.331	0.429	0.356	0.402	0.39
Secondary			1.384	0.01	1.227	0.023	1.249	0.022
High school & above			0.166	0.841	0.067	0.936	0.052	0.951
Parent's occupation (not employed)								
Employed - HH activities			1.279	0.016	-1.101	0.174	-1.119	0.17
Permanent/salaried employee			0.577	0.647	-0.644	0.608	-0.641	0.611
Seasonal/temporary employee			-1.978	0.011	-1.786	0.222	-1.835	0.019
Informal employee			-2.361	0.016	-2.173	0.028	-2.332	0.019

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Multivariate analysis of association between KAP of children and explanatory factors at individual, household and community levels

Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t	Coef.	P>t
Household size (ref. <4)								
4					0.133	0.75	0.079	0.851
>4					-0.349	0.038	0.333	0.041
Social Group (ref. General)								
OBC					1.509	0.047	1.554	0.041
SC/ST					-0.922	0.077	-0.888	0.059
Community leader's KAP							-0.055	0.109
Community leader's gender (ref. female)								
Male							-0.428	0.023
Community leader's role (ref. Teacher)								
SHG							1.05	0.956
Public service							-0.222	0.026
Police							1.239	0.065
Panchayat							0.978	0.364
District fixed effects adj.								
N	909		909		909		909	
Constant	23.531		12.512		12.825		21.126	
Adj R sq	0.291		0.511		0.546		0.518	