

Report on
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR COMPENSATORY
AFFORESTATION IN LIEU OF FOREST LAND AT MUALHOI
VILLAGE MEGHALAYA



Conducted by



STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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SUMMARY

The East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya is located in the eastern most part of the State with Khliehriat as it's headquarter. The total area of the district is 2115 km². The district comprises of 2 Community and Rural Development (C&RD) Blocks viz. Khliehriat C&RD Block, and Saipung C&RD Block, the district is surrounded from the North by Assam and West Jaintia Hills District, South by Bangladesh and Assam, East by Assam and West by West Jaintia Hills District. East Jaintia Hills has a population of 1, 22,436 and the literacy rate as per 2011 census is 53%. Majority of the inhabitants of this district are economically poor though some portion of the population are very wealthy and live a life much above the Poverty Line owing to the presence of mineral wealth like coal and limestone and other agricultural produce. Pnar language is the common language spoken by the people of the district. In term of agriculture, people cultivate rice as the major crop. Besides rice they also cultivate betel-nuts (kwai) and betel-leaves (pathi/tympew), potato, sweet potato, maize, turmeric, ginger, black pepper, etc. This District is endowed with rich deposits of limestone thereby paving way for the establishment of ten Cement Plants.

Mualhoi village is located in Saipung Block of East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya, and is 67 Km towards the East from District head quarter Khliehriat and 148 Km from the state capital Shillong. The proposed Land Acquisition site is situated at Pat khui Mual in Mualhoi village covering an area of 154.888 hectares. This site is about 3.491 km from Mualhoi Village Church and surrounded by Wah Khyndriam towards the East, Fiang Inren towards the West, Pat Khui Dung towards the North and Lung Par towards the South.

Pertaining to acquisition of the above said land, the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Meghalaya was assigned to conduct the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for Acquisition of Land for Compensatory Afforestation. The location of the land in question is at Mualhoi village, near Saipung Reserved Forest in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. M/s Adhunik Cements Limited has submitted a proposal for diversion of deemed forest land for mining of limestone at Thangskai village and for this purpose M/s Adhunik Cements Limited has identified the land of Mr. Phon Syih, measuring about 154.888 hectares which is situated at Mualhoi village, which is to be mutated to the Forest & Environment Department for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The methodology for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study was to prepare a complete inventory of affected families and persons, and to identify the impacts that may take place to the inhabitants of the area in the event the said plot of land is

acquired for the purpose of afforestation. In order to capture data for the present exercise, both secondary and primary data are collected and questionnaire exercise was carried out. As a part of SIA, attempts for land acquisition survey, village and baseline survey and public hearing was conducted to identify the affected families/persons and list out the advantage and adverse impacts of the project on the society in general and the inhabitants of the area in particular.

The proposed Land Acquisition site belongs to Mr. Phon Syih, who is the sole absolute, lawful and exclusive owner and is proposed to hand over the physical possession of land to the State Forest Department of Government of Meghalaya, as per terms and conditions of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding final approval for forest clearance for diversion of forest land in favour of M/s Adhunik Cement Limited for mining of limestone lease. At present the said land is non-arable where few people from the village collect grass for house roofing purposes and majority of the inhabitants from the village do not use this land for any other purposes.

Mualhoi village has 47 households and a total population of 288 persons. Infrastructure like primary, upper primary and middle schools are located in the village itself, and the Secondary school is situated in a nearby Mualsoi village. Other infrastructure like Bus stop is present at Lung Mai cham village and Railway station is at Haflong (Assam). Higher Secondary School/+2, Primary Health Centre, Kisan Seva Kendra Bank, Common Service Centre and Veterinary Care Centre, Post Office are present at Saipung and Milk Cooperative/Collection Centre, Community Health Centre (CHC), ATM, are found in Sutnga (Cement). Health Sub Centre is present in Thuruk and ITI/Polytechnic Centre, Agro Service Centre, Library Ayurveda Centre and E-Seva Kendra are present in Jowai.

The village itself is deprived of proper road connection, piped drinking water supply, waste management system, electricity, sports facilities and Public Distribution System (PDS) facilities. With regard to land use pattern, it is observed that the villagers of Mualhoi use most of the land for cultivation, irrigation and Forest/Plantation. There are 47 numbers of households having active MGNREGA job cards and only 7 households fall under the category of deprived households as per SECC 2011. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are not formed till date in the village and there is no volunteers of Bharat Nirman in the village.

From the sample of 47 household surveyed, majority of the households are male headed households and the average family size is 6 person per household. Adults constitute the majority of the population followed by children between the age group

of 6 to 18 years old, very few children in the village are under 6 years old. The average number of persons over 18 years old in a household is 3.1 persons, 6 to 18 years old is 2.8 persons per household and children under 6 years old is 1.5 persons per household.

There are 45% illiterates in the village. Children between 6 to 18 years and below 6 years were 88.11% in children 6 to 18 years and 30.76% of children below 6 years are going to school or colleges whereas 11.88% and 69.23% children are not going to school.

Majority of the children are fully immunised whereas it is vice versa in case for deworming. Most of the people in the village wash their hands with soaps after toilet and before eating. Almost all household use mosquito nets for both the children and adult as well. Consumption of tobacco is prevalent in majority of the adults and physical exercises is not regularly practiced by both the age groups i.e., adult and children, however, most of the children play various types of games and no people in the village practice yoga.

All the people in the village own a house mostly kutcha houses. Two and three room houses are more prevalent in the village. Almost every household in the village have toilet facilities, however, there is no proper waste collection and compost pit, open type of drainage is present in most of the households. The main Sources of water in the village is open wells which is found within the village itself, kerosene is the main source of lighting in all the household. Farming is the principal occupation of most of the residents and the majority in the household do not migrate for work outside the village with the exception that migration take place only seasonal. Majority of the farmers do not use chemical fertilizers and insecticides in their farmland, irrigation to their farmland is usually supplied through tank reservoirs.

Paddy is the main crop of all the farmers in the village followed by maize and other seasonal fruits and vegetables. Poultry is the major livestock reared in most of the household in the village and only a few residents rear cows and pigs.

It is found that very few inhabitants own land near the land of Mr. Phon Syih and the people of the village are not deprived of any traditional right, nor are they affected by the said land acquisition since the said land is not important for their livelihood support. All the people of this village are well aware of this land acquisition and they all have adequate knowledge about land acquisition and all consented in favour of the proposed transfer of the said land to the Govt. of Meghalaya for Compensatory Afforestation. The sources of information that the inhabitants of the village get about

the proposed land acquisition are mainly through the headman, the village Dorbar and Govt. Officials. People's opinion on the proposed land acquisition is positive since they expect some development will happen in the village like employment opportunities, better basic amenities, etc.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) interview was carried out during the survey, and the participants who include both males and females were asked about the problems they have been facing in their village and their expectation from the proposed land acquisition. All the participants expressed similar views about the problems faced the villagers, like lack of electricity connection in all the household, no all weather roads, no proper supply of drinking water, etc.

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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya is located in the eastern most part of the State and its headquarter at Khliehriat is situated at a distance of 95.3 km from the state capital Shillong. The district was carved out of Jaintia Hills District on 31 July 2012 and has a total area of 2115 km². Khliehriat was created as an administrative unit on August 14, 1976 and was upgraded to a civil sub division on May 27, 1982 before finally becoming the district headquarter. The total area of the district is 2115 km². It stand at an altitude of 1200 meters above sea level and located between 25°17'30" N 25°22'40" N Latitude and 92°15'20" E 92°23'30" E Longitude. The district comprises of 2 Community and Rural Development (C&RD) Blocks viz. Khliehriat C&RD Block, and Saipung C&RD Block. The district is surrounded in the North by Assam and West Jaintia Hills District, in the South by Bangladesh and Assam, in the East by Assam and in the West by West Jaintia Hills District.

East Jaintia Hills has a population of 1, 22,436 residing in 206 villages. The district literacy rate as per 2011 census stands at 53%. Majority of the inhabitants of this district are economically poor though some portion of the population are very wealthy and live a life much above the Poverty Line that they have derived from the mineral wealth like coal and limestone and other agricultural produce. Pnar tribe constitutes one of the main tribes residing in the district. Other tribes who live in different parts of the district include Biate, Hmar, Garo, Khasi and War. Pnar language is the common language spoken by the people of the district.

The district is rich in mineral resources like coal and limestone. Besides these two main natural resources, the area is also rich in forest produce. In term of agriculture, people cultivate rice as the major crop. Besides rice they also cultivate betel-nuts (kwai) and betel-leaf (pathi/tympew), potato, sweet potato, maize, turmeric, ginger, black pepper, etc. Most of the farmers in the area depend on seasonal rainfall as only a small area is covered under irrigation. The rich deposit of limestone has encouraged the establishment of 10 Cement Plants in the district.

1.2 Site Description

Mualhoi village is located in Saipung Block of East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya (Fig. 1), at a distance of 67 km East from the district headquarter Khliehriat and 148 km from the state capital Shillong. Mualhoi is surrounded by Laskien Block towards North, Thadlaskien block towards West, Haflong district of Assam towards the East and Narpuh Reserved Forest to the South.

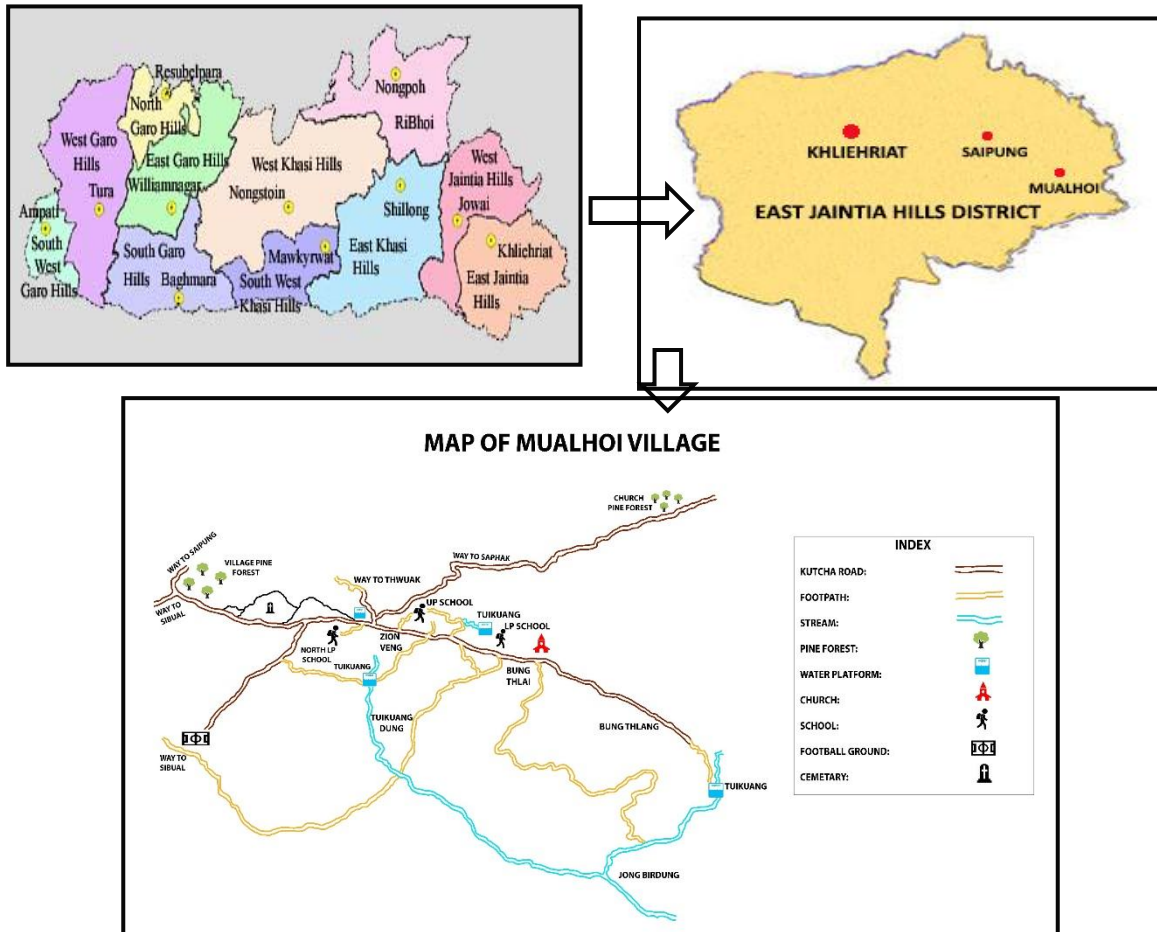


Fig. 1: Location map of Mualhoi village

The proposed Land Acquisition site is situated at Patkhui Mual (Fig. 2) in Mualhoi village, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya and measuring an area of 154.888 hectares. The site is about 3.491 km from Mualhoi Village Church and it is located at 25°17'42.281" N Latitude and 92°43'24.56" E Longitude and surrounded by Wah Khyriam (Sini river) and Saipung Reserved Forest towards the East, Fiang Inren towards the West, Pat Khui Dung towards the North and Lung Par (Sini river) and Saipung Reserved Forest towards the South.

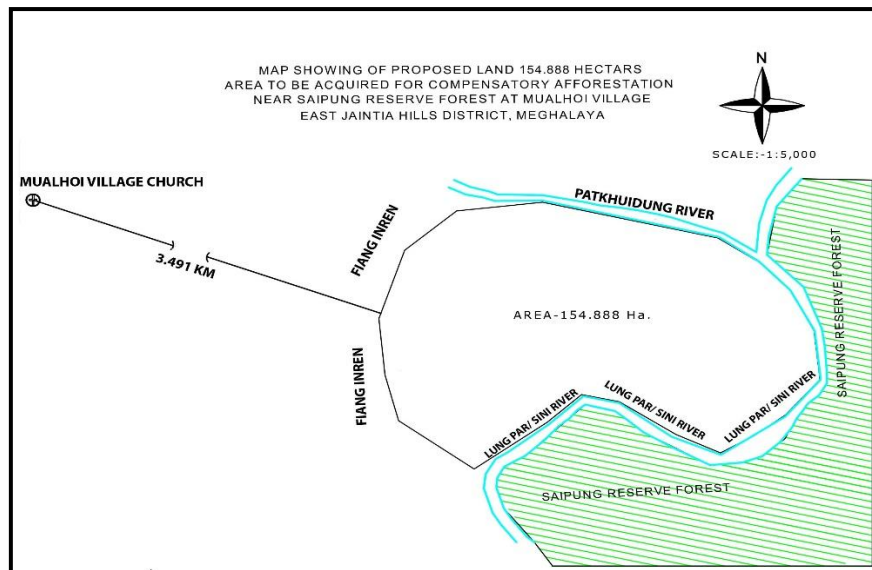


Fig. 2: Proposed land to be acquired for Compensatory Afforestation at Mualhoi village

1.3 Land Acquisition

For the purpose of land acquisition, the Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Government of Meghalaya has notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit for conducting Social Impact Assessment Study in Meghalaya.

MIG has, in turn, assigned the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Meghalaya to conduct the SIA for Acquisition of Land for Compensatory Afforestation in Lieu of Forest Land at Mualhoi village, near Saipung Reserved Forest in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya whereby M/s Adhunik Cements Limited has submitted a proposal for diversion of 4.90 hectares each in Blocks I, II, III and IV and 147.82 hectares in Block V of deemed forest land for mining of limestone at Thangskai village and for the purpose the Company is to make available, land for mutation to the Forest & Environment Department for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation.

The company, M/s Adhunik Cements Limited has identified the land of Mr. Phon Syih, measuring about 154.888 hectares which is situated at village Mualhoi, near Saipung Reserve Forest in East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya for acquisition, which is to be mutated to the Forest & Environment Department for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The objective of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the proposed acquisition of the land situated at Mualhoi village is:-

- (a) To ascertain and to identify the social impacts arising out of the land acquisition.
- (b) To prepare a complete inventory of affected families and persons.
- (c) To test the opinion of the inhabitants of the area and other interested persons, on the proposed acquisition of the said land.

1.5 Methodology

- a) Study and survey the land to be acquired by the Govt. of Meghalaya.
- b) Conduct a detailed Village survey.
- c) Conduct a detailed Baseline survey of the people in the village.
- d) Study people's activities in and near the land to be acquired by the Govt. of Meghalaya and people's knowledge about land acquisition.
- e) Recommend if there is any mitigation measures to be taken due to the impact of the land acquisition on the people of the village.

Chapter 2

APPROACH

2.1 Data from secondary sources

Secondary sources information was collected from concerned departments and a host of other literatures. Thus, the secondary sources information complemented the primary data shall be elicited through field survey from the affected people and other stakeholders. Understanding was created about the physical, social, economic, and cultural set-up of the project area before undertaking detailed field investigations.

2.2 Land acquisition survey

A land acquisition survey provides detailed information on who and how many will be affected through the land acquisition. This survey was largely based on government land records, existing legislation and administrative practices, etc. with respect to land acquisition. The land acquisition survey gives us the location of the land, tenure status, procedure for land acquisition, etc. by interviewing with the person who is the legal title to the land.

2.3 Village survey

Village survey was done in order to know the demographic information of the village like number of households, total population, number of males and females in the village, access of the villagers to facilities or services, land categories, etc. through a detailed questionnaire. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted to identify important landmarks, resources, etc. in the village.

2.4 Baseline survey

The Baseline survey of the village was carried out with the help of a “Household Survey Questionnaire”. The aspects covered in the questionnaire were identification particulars of social profile, family details, social category, poverty status, principal occupation of the family, sources of lighting and power, agriculture inputs and produce per year, livestock number, etc.

2.5 People’s knowledge and activities in the land acquisition site

The survey was conducted to assess the impacts of the proposed land acquisition on the villagers. Questionnaires were prepared so as to know people’s opinions and views of land acquisition, sources of information about the land acquisition, livelihood supports, benefits accrued, etc.

2.6 Focus group discussion

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted on selected male and female groups and allowing group members discuss the topic among themselves. The discussion was on the opinion of the group members on Land Acquisition in their villages, problems faced in the villages, effect of land acquisition in their village, etc.

2.7 Public hearing

A Public Hearing that was open to all affected persons in the village and also interested institutions and individuals was conducted. The SIA team first describes the project and its likely impacts, both positive and negative, and then allowed free discussion on all issues. The proceedings of public hearing meeting were recorded by both audio and visual methods.

Chapter 3
FINDINGS

3.1 Land acquisition survey

The proposed Land Acquisition site belongs to Mr. Phon Syih, who is by profession, a businessman and a resident of village Thangskai of Elaka Narpuh, East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. He is the sole absolute, lawful and exclusive owner and in actual possession with all the rights and appurtenances and is handing over the physical possession of land to the State Forest and Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, as per the terms and conditions of Letter No. 8-58/2012-FC dated 11th March, 2015 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding final approval for forest clearance for diversion of 147.85 hectares of forest land (including the 9.736 hectares of forest land located in the safety zone area) in favour of M/s Adhunik Cement Limited for mining of limestone in Block-V for mining lease located in Thangskai Village, East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.

The purpose of land acquisition is for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of 'Forest Land' and the area to be acquired is about 154.888 hectares. This proposed land to be acquired is limited to the area and it is absolutely necessary for afforestation of this land. The present condition or utilization of the land is for non-agriculture purposes where only a few people from the village collect grasses for house roofing purposes and majority of the inhabitants from the village do not use this land for any other purposes. As this land is far from the settlements of the villagers the proposed land acquisition to be acquired will not disturb or displace the population structure in the area. The land which is owned by one sole person, there is no disturbance to the right way/access of the local population in the area and provision of extra civic amenities in the proposed acquisition land is not involved. There is no objection either on religious grounds or from the general public on the proposed land acquisition by the Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya.

3.2 Village Survey

Mualhoi village has 47 households with a total population of 288 persons where 145 are male and 143 are female. All the inhabitants of this village belong to Scheduled Tribe category.

Table 1 shows access to infrastructure, facilities and services of people residing in Mualhoi village. Infrastructure like primary, upper primary and middle schools are located in the village itself and the secondary school was found in Mualsoi village which is about 9 km from Mualhoi. Other infrastructure like bus stop and railway station are not present in the village where the nearest bus stop is at Lung Maicham village and railway station is at Haflong (Assam) which is 4 km and 130 km from the village respectively.

Table 1: Access to infrastructure/facilities/services of Mualhoi village

Sl. No.	Access to infrastructure/facilities/services	Located in the village Yes/No	If No, distance in km from the village
1.	Primary School	Yes	-
2.	Upper Primary School	Yes	-
3.	Middle School	Yes	-
4.	Secondary School	No	9
5.	Higher Secondary School/+2	No	18
6.	Graduate College	No	67
7.	ITI/Polytechnic centre	No	103
8.	Kisan Seva Kendra	No	18
9.	Agriculture Credit Cooperative Society	No	67
10.	Agro Service Centre	No	103
11.	Milk cooperative/collection Centre	No	45
12.	Health Sub Centre	No	2
13.	Primary Health Centre (PHC)	No	18
14.	Community Health Centre (CHC)	No	48
14.	Bank	No	18
15.	Bank with CBS Facility	No	67
16.	ATM	No	48
17.	Bus stop	No	4
18.	Railway station	No	130
19.	Library	No	103
20.	Common Service Centre	No	18
21.	Veterinary Care Centre	No	18
22.	Ayurveda Centre	No	103
23.	E-Seva Kendra	No	103
24.	Post Office	No	18

Facilities and Services like Kisan Seva Kendra, Milk Cooperative/Collection Centre, Health Sub Centre, Bank, ATM, Library, Common Service Centre and Veterinary Care Centre are not available within the village. Higher Secondary School/+2, Primary Health Centre, Kisan Seva Kendra Bank, Common Service Centre and Veterinary Care Centre, Post Office are present at Saipung which is 18 km from the village and similarly Milk Cooperative/Collection Centre, Community Health Centre (CHC), ATM, are located at Sutnga (Cement) which is approximately 45-48 km from

the village. Health Sub Centre is present in Thuruk which is 2 km from Mualhoi, and ITI/Polytechnic Centre, Agro Service Centre, Library Ayurveda Centre and E-Seva Kendra are located 103 km from the village in Jowai.

Mualhoi village is not connected by an all weathered road and there is no piped drinking water supply or hand pump coverage for the habitations of the village. Waste management system is poor and there is no doorstep waste collection method. There is an absence of a proper drainage system. The household of the village do not have electricity connection and there are no street lights in the whole village. There is only 1 (one) playground found in the village having an area of more than 200 square meters.

The village has 1 (one) Lower Primary school, 2 (two) Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) schools. The 2 (two) Integrated Child Development Services i.e., Anganwadi Centres are situated in Thuruk village.

The Land use in Mualhoi village (Fig. 3) is of the following categories- cultivable land (78.48 %), irrigated land (10.84%) and Forest/Plantation (10.68%). The major crops grown are paddy, maize, broom, calocasia, chilli, vegetables etc. Irrigation facilities are only available for paddy cultivation. Both deciduous forest and pine forest are found in the village. Orchards and fruit plantations are also present.

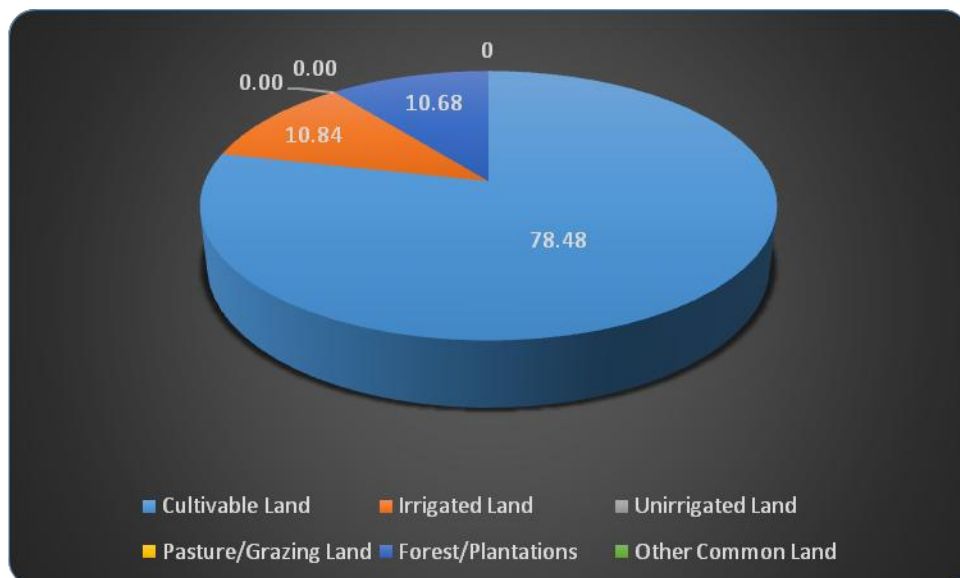


Fig 3: Land used pattern (in %) in Mualhoi village

There are 47 households having an active MGNREGA job card and 7 households and only 7 households fall under the category of deprived households as per SECC 2011. Self Help Groups (SHGs) were yet not formed in this village and no inhabitants of the village are Bharat Nirman Volunteers. There are three women headed

households and 1 household is headed by physically handicapped person. There are 2 persons with disability in the village. A public distribution system (PDS) facility was is located 2 km away at Thuruk village.

3.3 Baseline survey

From the sample of 47 households surveyed, the families headed by males were 87.23% and by females were 12.76% (Fig. 4). The average family size in Mualhoi village was 6 persons per household and the maximum and minimum number of persons in a household were 15 and 1 persons per household. The people living in this village belonged to Scheduled Tribe category.

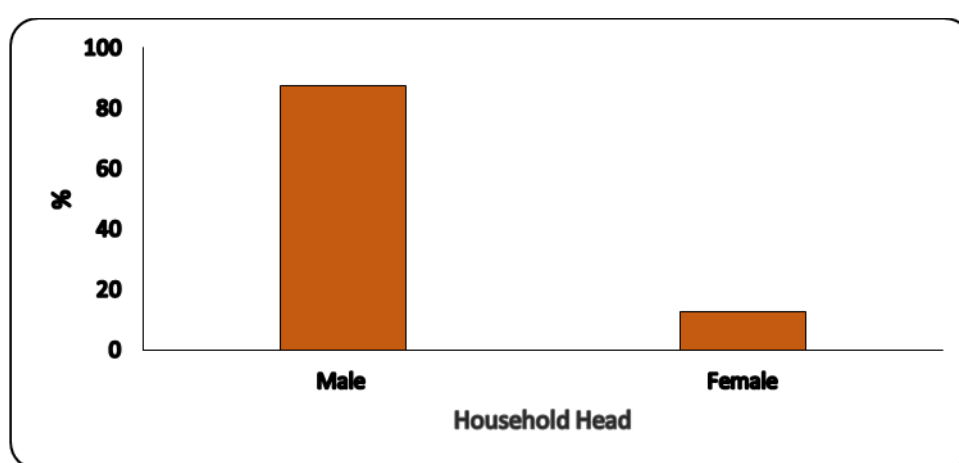


Fig. 4: Household head

The population size in the village was categorized into person over 18 years old, children 6 to 18 years old and children under 6 years old. The population of person over 18 years old constitute about 50.69% of the total population, whereas children 6 to 18 years old at 35.41% and children under 6 years old about 13.89% of the total population (Fig. 5). The average size of person over 18 years old in a household was 3.1 persons per household, 6 to 18 years old was 2.8 persons per household and children under 6 years old was 1.5 persons per household. The maximum number of person in a household was 7 persons for persons over 18 years old, 5 persons for children 6 to 18 years old, 4 persons for children under 6 years old and the minimum number of person in a household is 1 in the entire three categories.

Except for one or two adults that have a life insurance policy, the rest of the population do not have any Life Insurance, Health Insurance, Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) or Kisan Credit Card. Of the total household surveyed, it was found that 45 household in this village are Below Poverty Line (BPL) and 2 household are Above Poverty Line (APL). A total of 95 persons in

this village are enlisted in the 47 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) job cards.

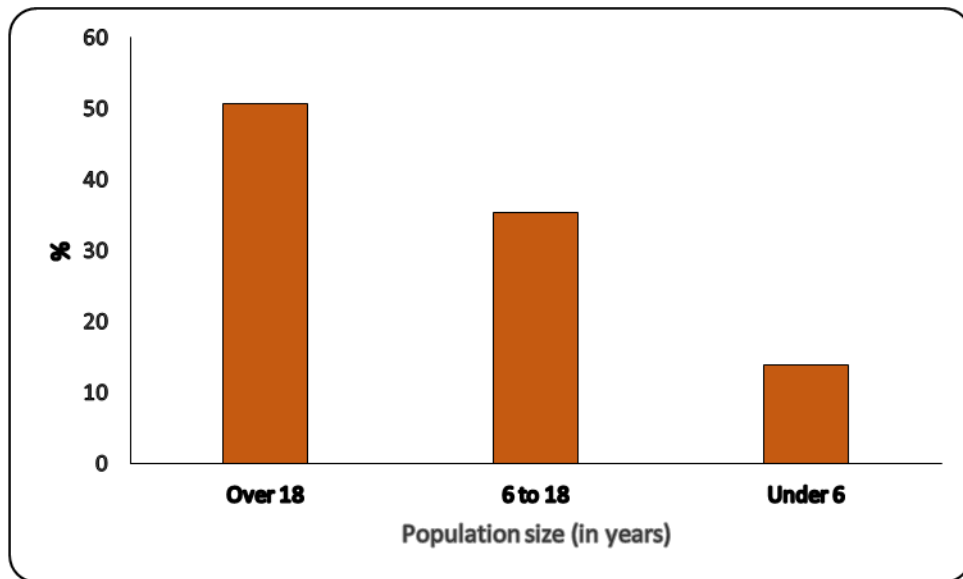


Fig 5: Population size in a household

Of the total population in the village, Adults (above 18 years) constitute of 26% males and 25% females, children from 6 to 18 years have equal percentage (18%) of males and females and children below 6 years consists of 6% males and 7% females respectively (Fig 6).

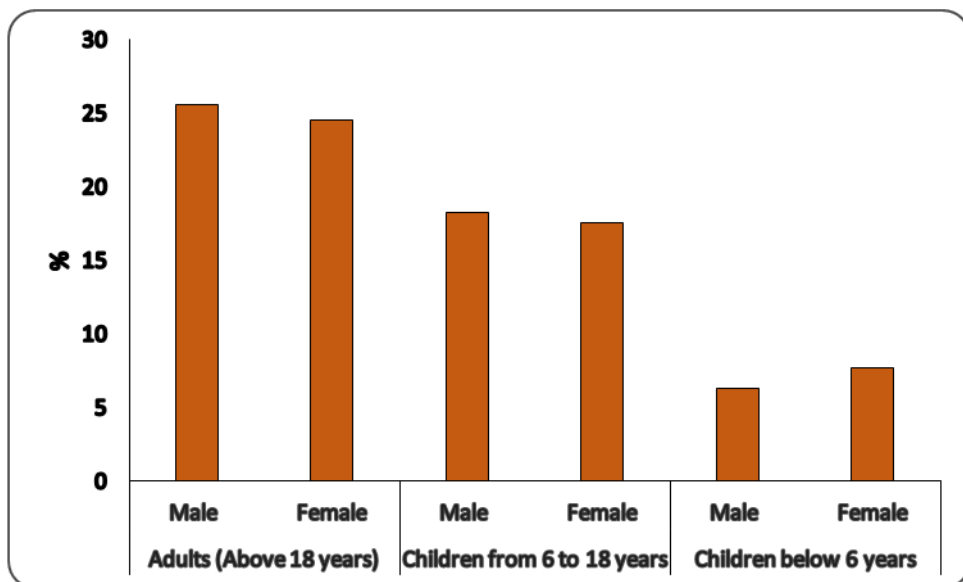


Fig. 6: Males and females population at different age groups

The marital status of Adults (above 18 years) population in the village constitute of 21.98% unmarried persons, 73.75% married persons and 4.25% widowed (Fig. 7).

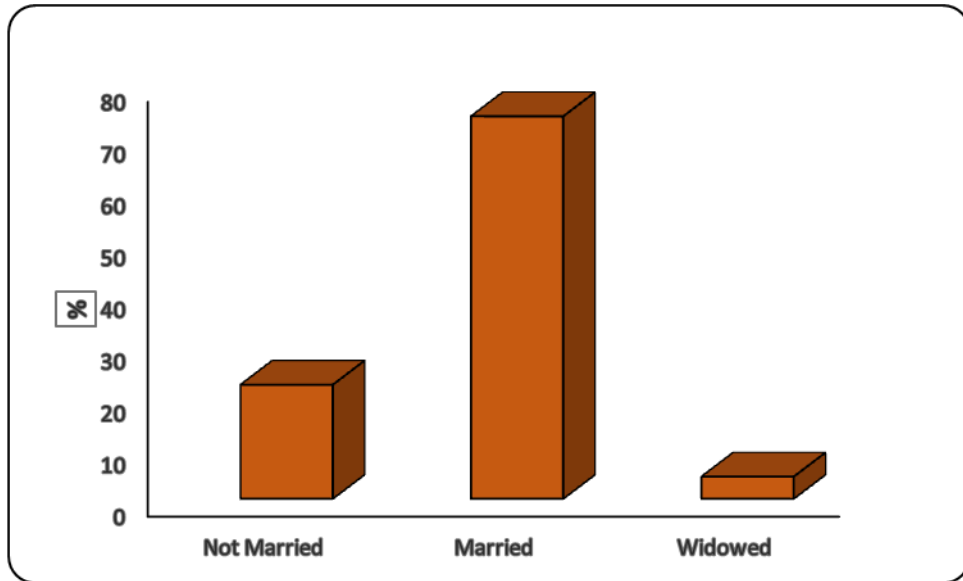


Fig. 7: Marital status of Adults (above 18 years)

With regards to the educational status of Adults, 45% are not literate and 55 % are literate. The different levels of literacy is 14% studied till class 10, 11% till class 8, 5% completed class 5, 4% have completed class 12 and graduation, 1% have completed Post graduation or Professional courses and ITI Diploma (Fig 8). 24.42% of the Adults population have Bank Account Number whereas 75.57% does not have any Bank account number.

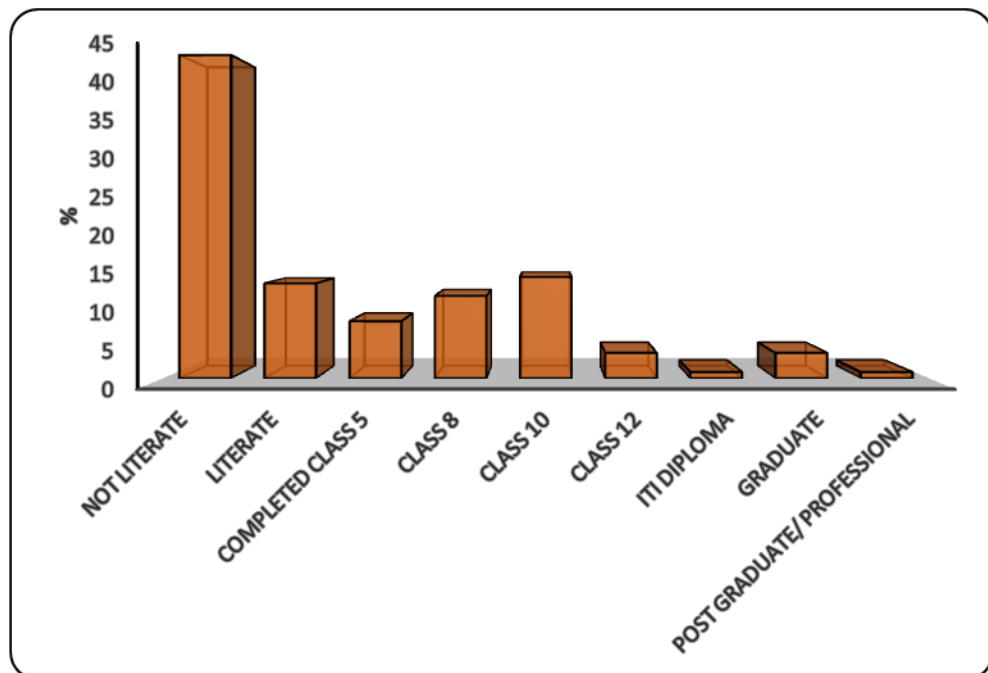


Fig. 8: Educational status of Adults (above 18 years) population

88.11% of the children of the age group 6 to 18 years are either going to school or college, while 30.76% of children below 6 years are going to school. 11.88% (6-18 years) and 69.23% (below 6 years) children are not attending school (Fig 9). 93.15% of children in the 6 to 18 years category have no knowledge of computers and only 6.84% are computer literate.

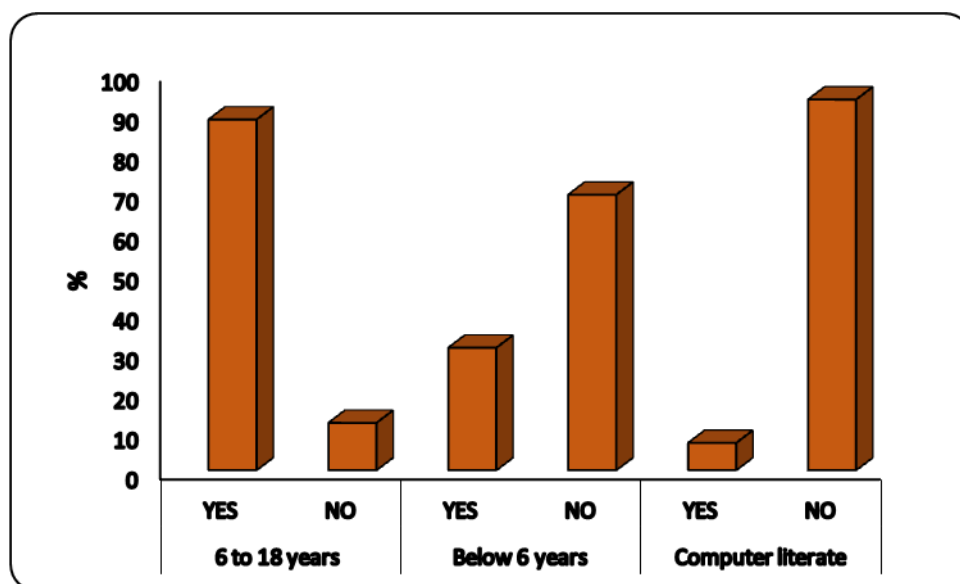


Fig. 9: Educational status of children 6 to 18 years and below 6 years

It is found that 77.77% of children below 6 years have not been administered deworming medicine, while only 22.22% have been administered the same. 79.41% of children below 6 years have been fully immunised and only 20.58% are not yet immunised (Table 2).

Table 2: Percentage (%) of children below 6 years being given deworming and immunised

Deworming		Fully immunised	
Yes	No	Yes	No
22.22 %	77.77 %	79.41 %	20.58 %

It is revealed that 91.66% of the respondents wash their hands with soap and water and 6.25 % used only water after toilet whereas 2.08% never wash hands with soap or water after toilet. 93.75% of the respondents wash their hands with soap before eating and 4.16% wash with only water and 2.08% never wash their hand before eating (Fig. 10).

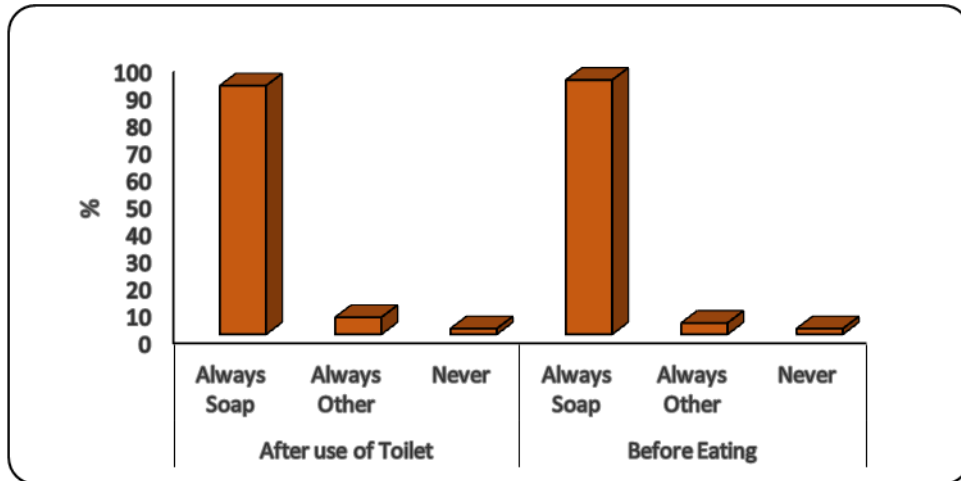


Fig. 10: Hand washing after use of toilet and before eating

It is found that 71.5% children and 81.39% adults use mosquito nets and only 22.5% Children and 20.45% adults do not use mosquito net (Fig. 11).

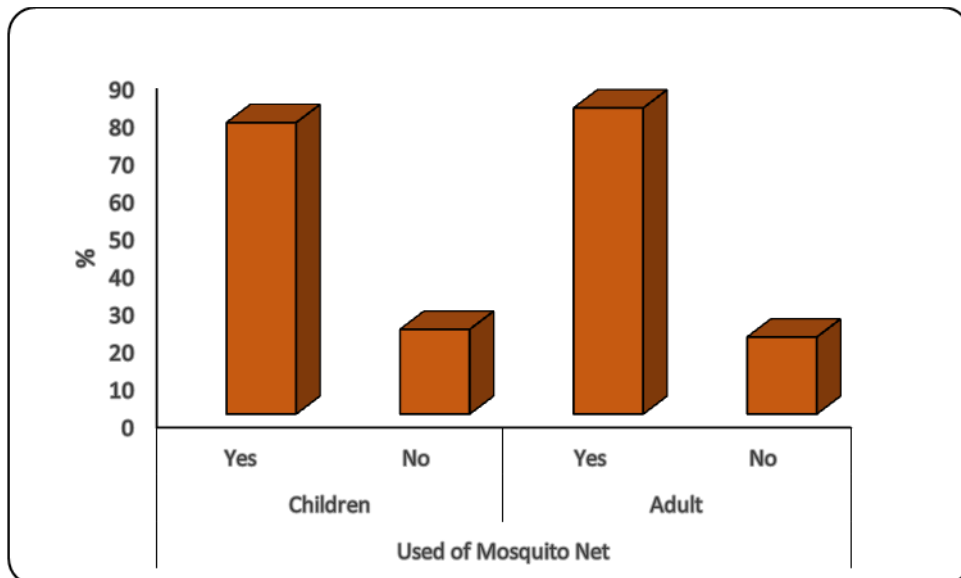


Fig. 11: Usage of mosquito net by the respondent

Regular physical exercise like yoga, games and other exercise is not practiced by the adults and children of this village except games like football and children's games. Majority of the respondents from both adult (75.86%) and children (62.50%) do not exercise regularly (Fig. 12). The games that children play in the village are mostly football, kabaddi, run and other traditional games. The musical instrument that children play is guitar.

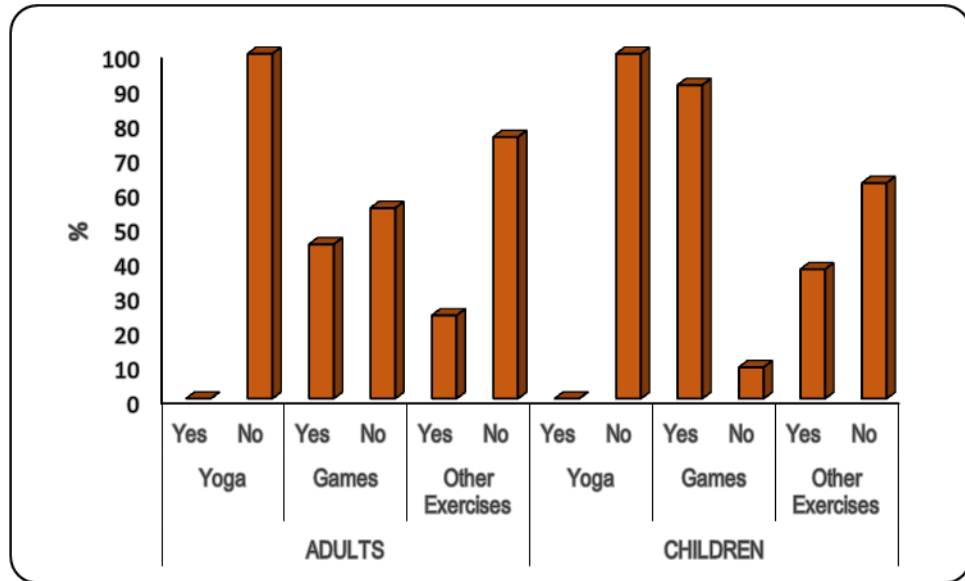


Fig. 12: Regular physical exercise performed by the adults and children

Consumption of tobacco is common amongst the inhabitants of the village. It is found that a higher percentage of adults smoke (76.08%) while (70.45%) chew tobacco and 4.34% of children are having smoking habit (Fig. 13).

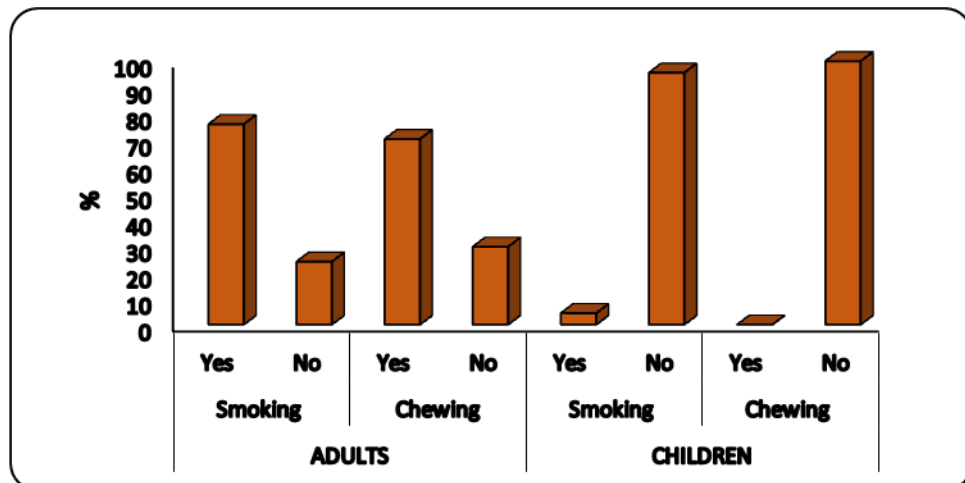


Fig. 13: Consumption of Tobacco by adults and children

It was found that 100% of the respondent has their own house and 59.57% live in kutcha houses, 36.17% live in semi pucca houses and 4.25% have pucca house. None of the respondents in the village have a homestead. Of the total 47 households in the village, majority of the household have two room house (34.04%) followed by three room house (29.78%), one room house (21.27%), 4 room house (10.63%) and 5 room house (4.25%) respectively (Fig. 14).

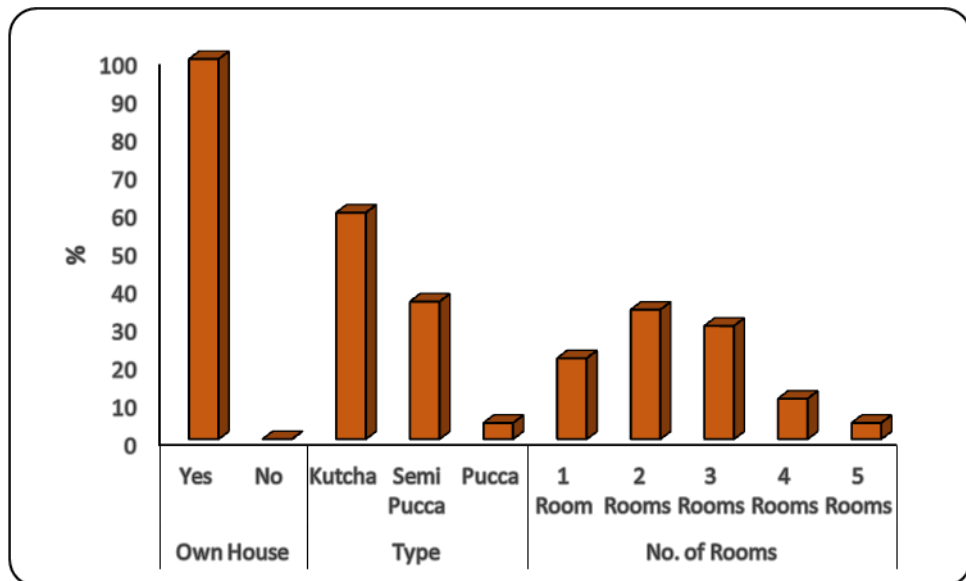


Fig. 14: House, type of house and number of rooms owned by the respondent

There are toilets in almost every household (95.74%) and only few of the respondents (4.25%) do not have toilets and practice open defecation. With respect to the drainage system it is observed that open drainage (55.31%) is more prevalent in every household followed by 42.55% households that do not have any drainage system and only a few household (2.12%) have covered drainage system. There is no waste collection system in the village and the waste from the households is usually dumped in the backyard. Kitchen garden is commonly found in almost every household (78.72%) and biomass composting not practiced by many households (94.59%) (Fig. 15).

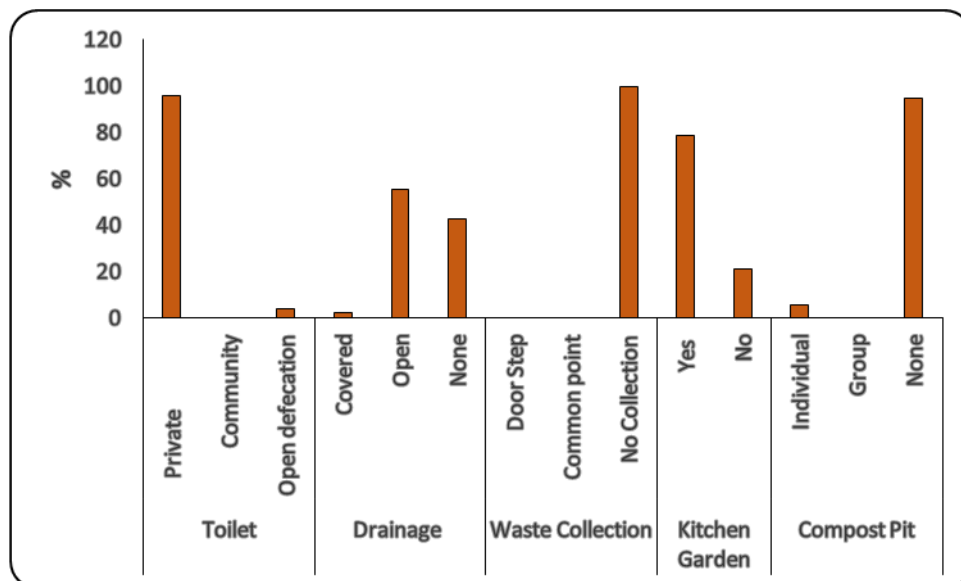


Fig. 15: Presence of toilets, drainage system, waste collection, kitchen garden and compost pit in the village

The source of water is mainly through open well which is found in the village itself and the average distance of this open well from the household is hardly 83.35 metres. The farthest water source in the village is 600 metres away and the nearest is 6 metres. During the period of the survey it is found that all households in the village do not have any electricity connection and the main source of lighting in the household is kerosene lamps. Firewood in the traditional cooking chullah is the common cooking means (Fig. 16).

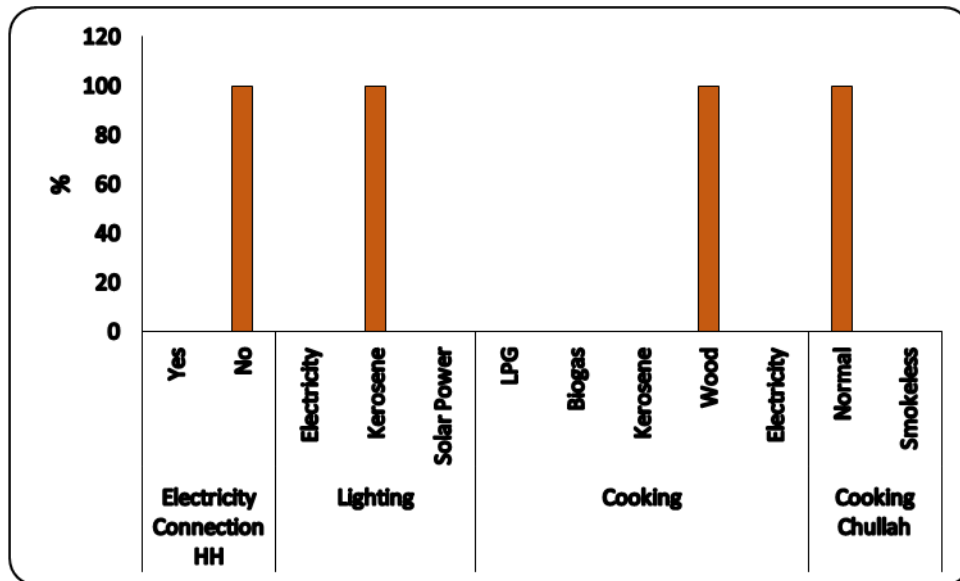


Fig. 16: Sources of lighting and power in the village

Every household in the village have their own land that is mainly used for cultivation, plantation, orchard, irrigation purposes, etc. The total landholding in the village is 254.76 acres where the area under cultivation constitute of 85.59% of the total area followed by irrigated area (10.40%) and uncultivable area (6.35%) (Fig 17).

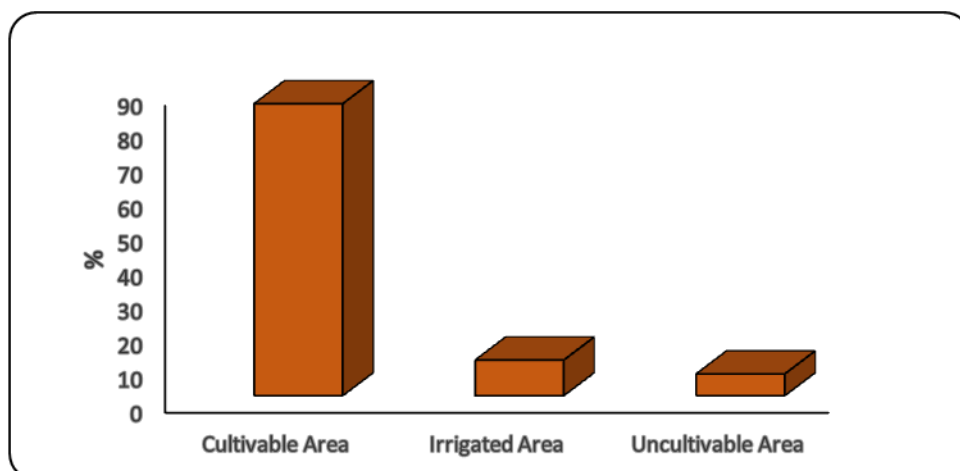


Fig. 17: Landholding system in the village

The principal occupation of the household is agriculture (63.63%) followed by unskilled workers (12.72%), skilled workers (7.27%), salaried government servant (5.45%), animal husbandry and other trades (3.63%), while those who are engaged in farming on village forest and sharecropping is 1.81% (Fig. 18).

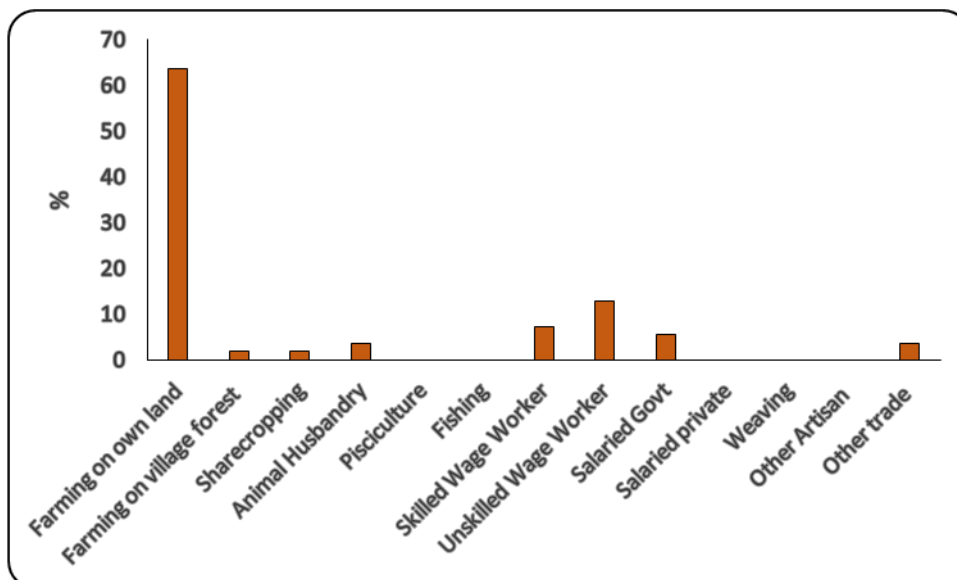


Fig. 18: Principal occupation in the household

It is observed that 27.65% of the family members in the household migrate for work outside the village whereas 72.34% do not migrate for work. The migration pattern is seasonal in nature (76.92%) and 23.07% migrate outside the village throughout the year. Migration by children below 18 years is 9.03% whereas 91.48% of children stay in the village (Fig. 19).

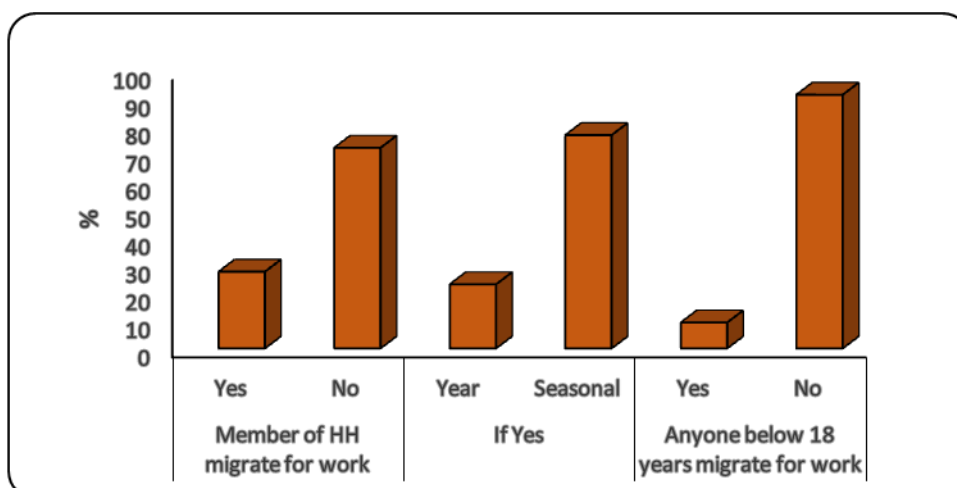


Fig. 19: Migration for work by member of the HH and children below 18 years

Only 7.14% of the farmers apply chemical fertilizers and chemical insecticides to the crops in their farm land whereas 92.85% do not use any chemical fertilizers and

insecticides in their fields. Irrigation of farm land is done mainly through water stored in tanks (77.27%), followed by irrigation through canals (18.18%) and others (4.54%) like rainwater, etc. Manual watering of crops is commonly practiced by the farmers (89.47%) and 10.52% of the farms do not have any irrigation facilities (Fig. 20).

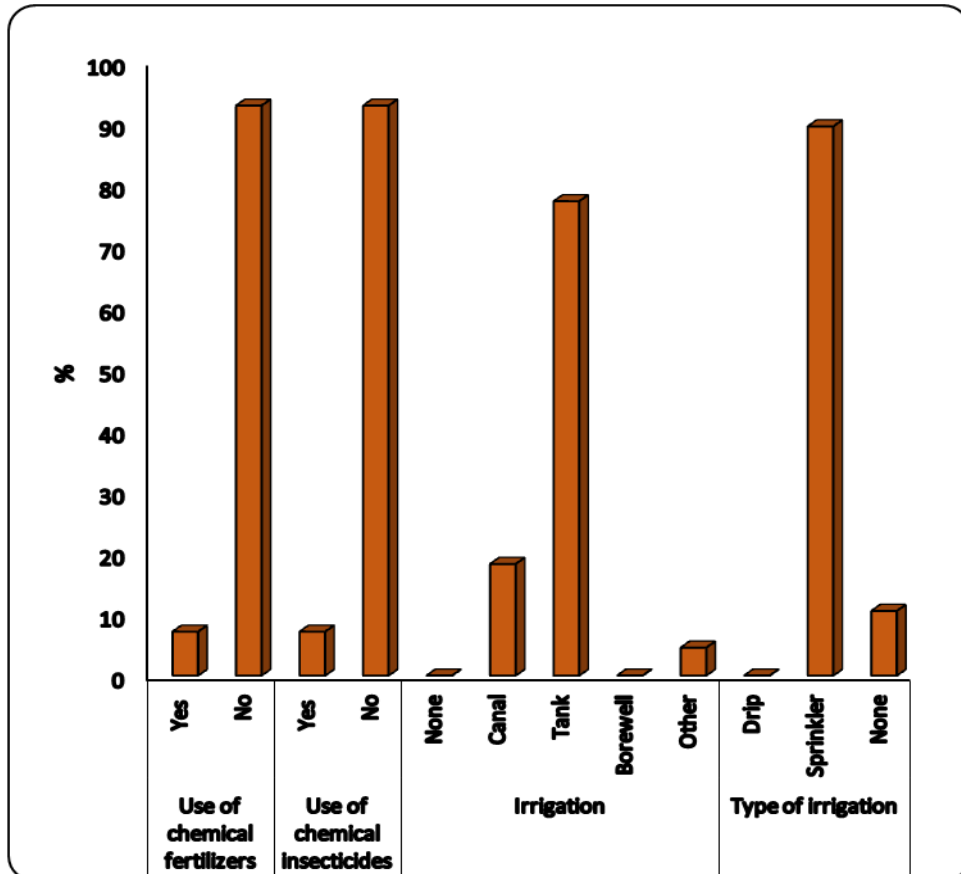


Fig. 20: Agriculture inputs of household in their farmland

Paddy (87.7%) is the main agriculture crop of Mualhoi village. Maize (7.7%) is the second main crop followed by fruits like lemon and oranges (1.4%), broom and calocasia (1.0%), ginger (0.8%), vegetables (0.3%) and potato (0.2%) (Fig. 21).

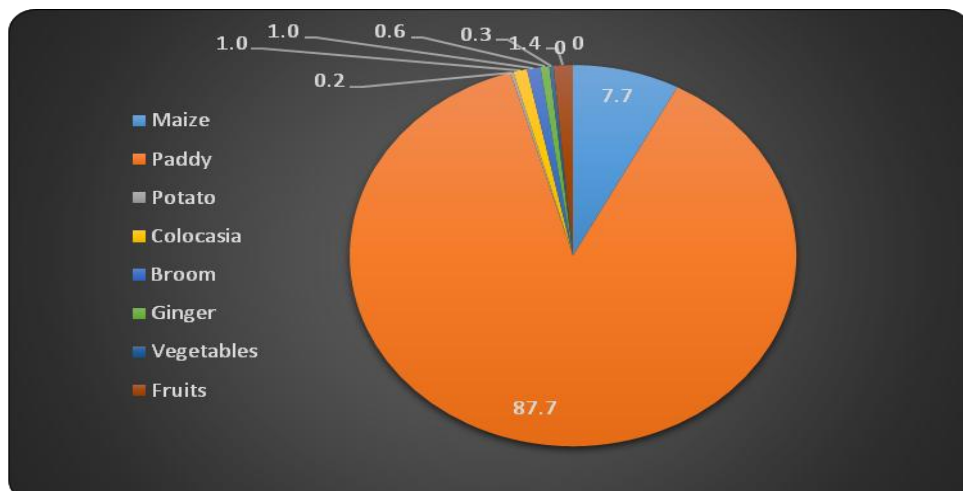


Fig. 21: Agriculture produce in a normal year (in %)

Livestock rearing is another important source of income for the households in the village where it is found that poultry rearing is one of the major activities for the household numbering 325 numbers of poultry birds and 87 cows. Pig farming is not a common activity in the village (Fig. 22).

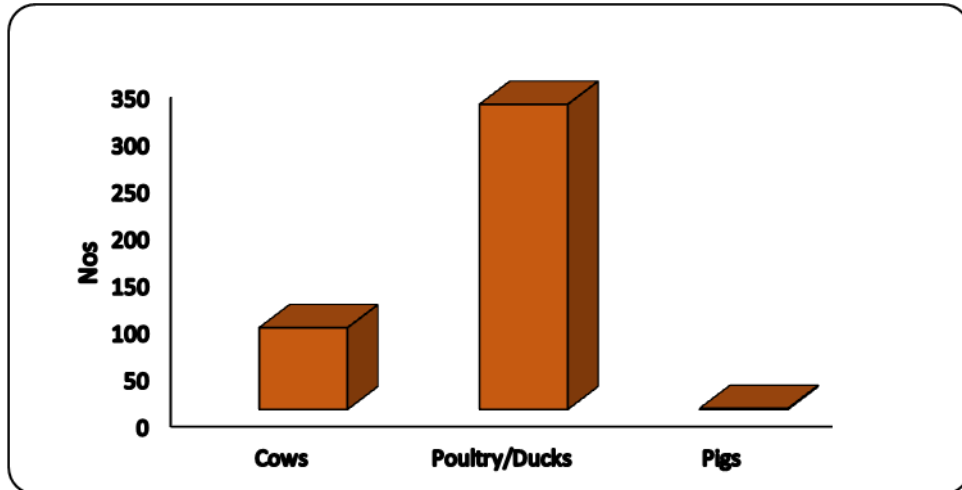


Fig. 22: Livestock's numbers in the village

3.4 People's activities and knowledge of the Land Acquisition site

People's activities near the land proposed to be acquired were minimal as only 6.38% of the respondent own land near the site whereas 93.61% of the inhabitants do not own land near the site. 100% of the respondents interviewed during the survey stated that there will be no deprivation of any traditional right by the said land acquisition and that the land in question is not important for their livelihood support etc. (Fig. 23).

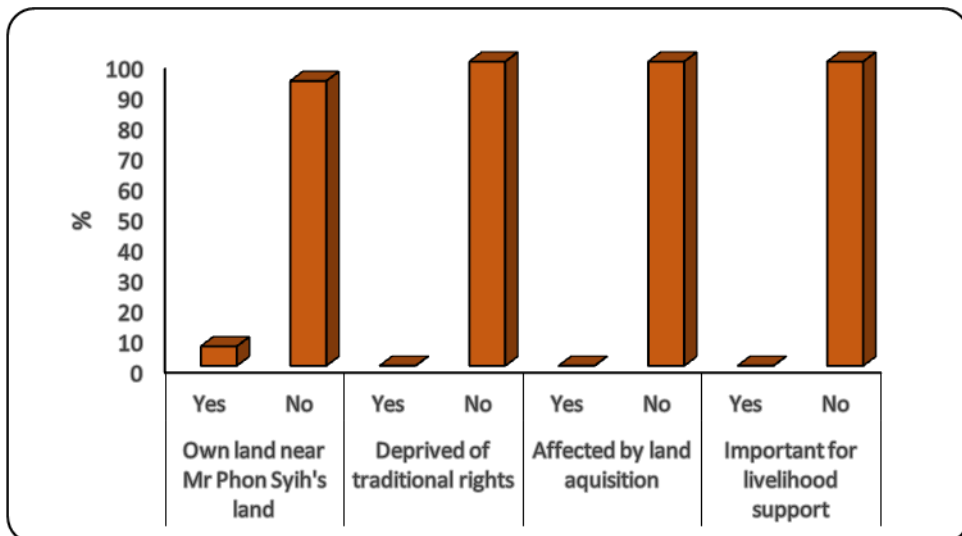


Fig. 23: People's activities in the land acquisition site

The land is accessible to all the villagers and only 2.12 % of the respondents derive some benefits from the said land to be acquired and 97.87 % of the respondents do not depend on the said land for their livelihood etc. (Fig. 24). The only resource that the residents obtain from this land is thatch grass for roofing purposes.

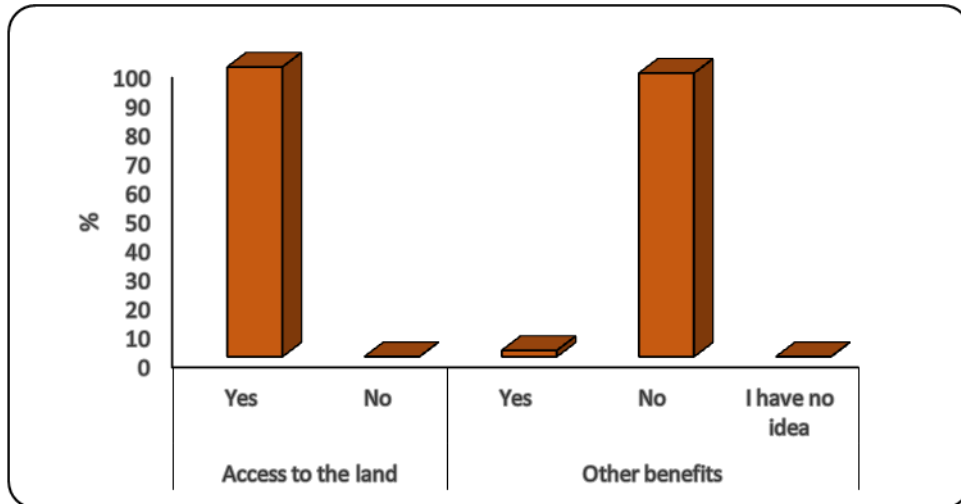


Fig. 24: Access to livelihood support and other benefits obtained from the land to be acquired

People's knowledge study was conducted to know whether the residents of the village have any knowledge and awareness about the proposed land acquisition of the said piece of land, the finding shows that 100% of the inhabitants are aware of the land acquisition and have knowledge about what is land acquisition (Fig. 25). There are different views expressed by the respondents about the proposed land acquisition, such as, (i) land acquisition is the exchange of land between the village and the Government, (ii) the acquisition of land by Government, (iii) Forest Department to plant trees, (iv) mutation of land, (v) land will be taken by the Forest Department, etc.

When asked about whether they agree to the land acquisition by the Govt. of Meghalaya, 100% of the respondents are of the opinion that they agreed with this land acquisition and there is no objection to the proposed acquisition of land in the village by the Govt. of Meghalaya (Fig. 25). The information about acquisition of the land by the Govt. of Meghalaya was known to the people of the village since 2011.

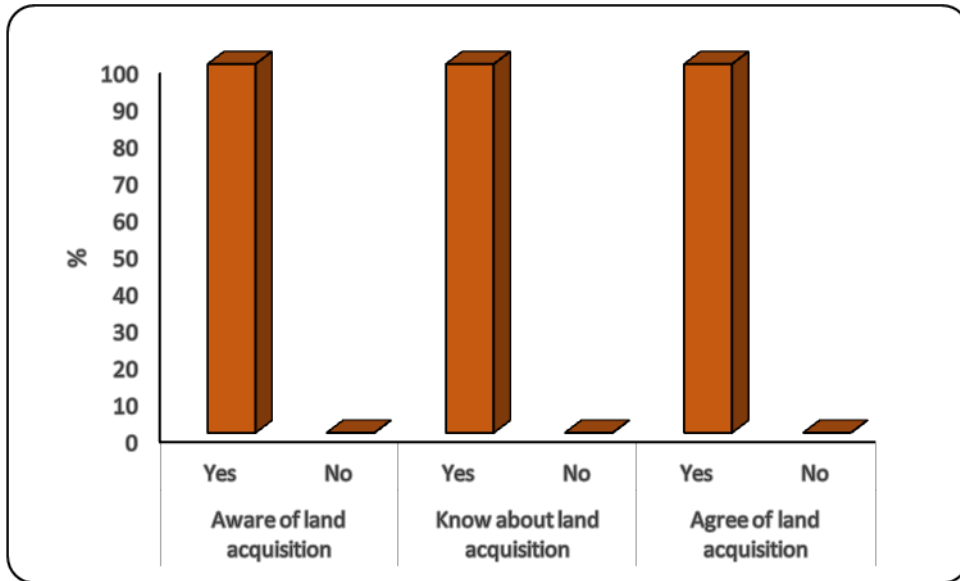


Fig. 25: Respondent's (%) knowledge, awareness about land acquisition and agree of land acquisition

The sources of information where the residents of this village got their information on the land acquisition are mostly from the Local Dorbar (70.21%) especially from the village headman, Dorbar meeting, etc. followed by combinations of Local Administration and Govt. Officials (19.15%), only from Govt. Officials (6.38%) and others (4.26%) (Fig. 26).

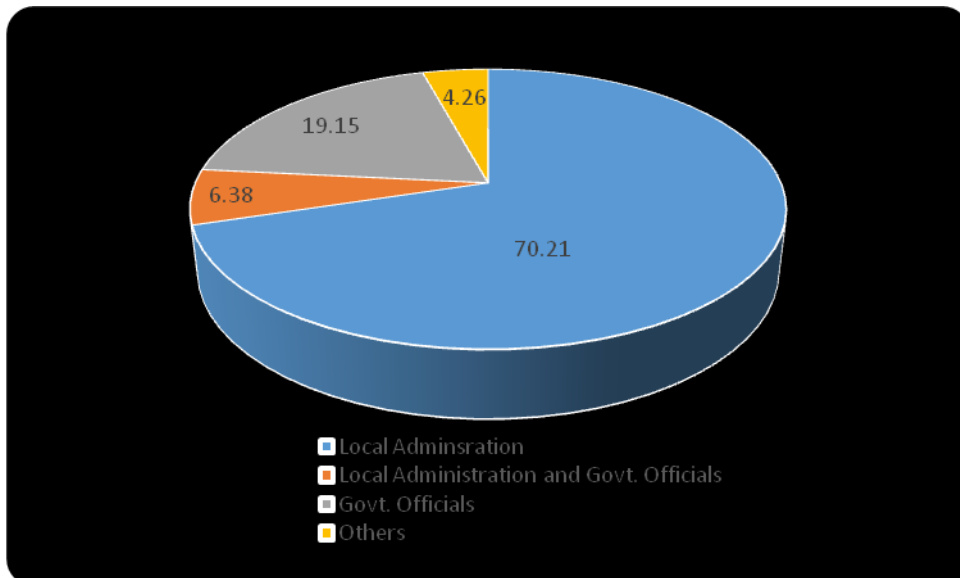


Fig. 26: Sources of information

With regard to the question on how this land acquisition will impact the individuals residing in this village, the response from 53.31% of the individuals is that this land acquisition by the Govt. of Meghalaya will have a direct positive impact whereas 44.68% of the individuals have no opinion. It is observed that there will be no

negative impact to the inhabitants of the village in case of the said land is acquired by the government for the purpose of afforestation (Fig. 27).

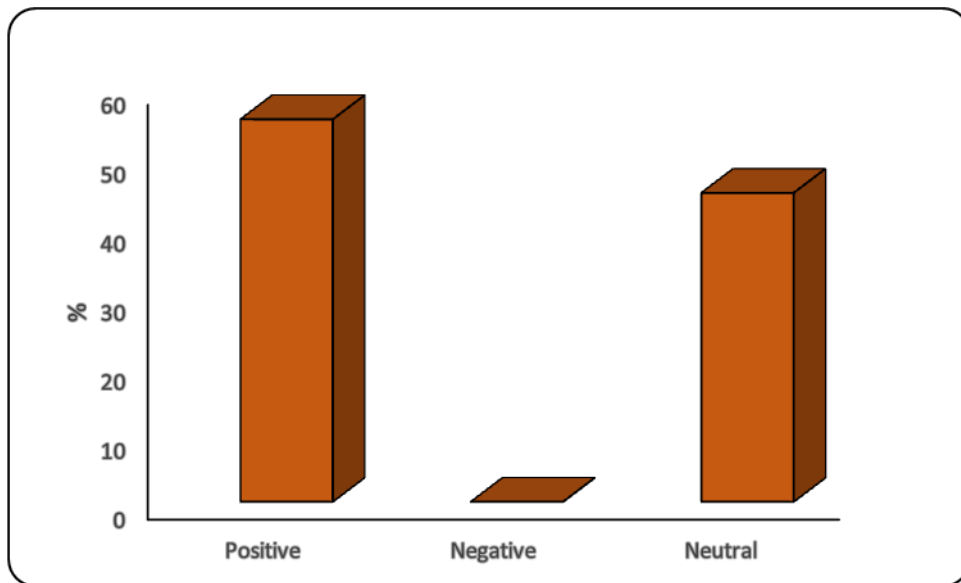


Fig. 27: People's opinion about the land acquisition

The maximum feedback received from the local residents during the survey is that the people are expecting to benefit from the acquiring authority in terms of services and through various development interventions that will be taken up immediately after the acquisition of the said land. These services may be in the form of wage employment during plantation, fire watch guard, nursery caretaker, etc. that will provide extra income to the families of the village.

3.5 Focus Group Discussion

A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is a small-group discussion guided by a trained leader. It is used to learn about opinions on a designated topic, and to guide future action. Focus Group Discussion is a qualitative data collection method, meaning that the data is qualitative in nature that cannot be measured numerically. In this study, FGD was held with representatives of the village both men and women within the village. A total of 9 participants each from the men and women population in the village were randomly selected for FGD (Annexure I). A group representing men and women with different backgrounds were asked about their opinion on the problems in their village and the effect that may arise out of the proposed land acquisition in their village and the expected change in the future due to this land acquisition. During the FGD, the problems faced by both the men and women groups are that the village does not have any electricity connection in almost all the households, non availability of all weather road connection, no proper drinking

water supply etc. The two groups are well aware of the land acquisition and all provided positive feedback and expressed no objection against the said land acquisition.

Through FGD it is observed that farming is the main occupation of the people in the village and that the proposed land acquisition by the Govt. of Meghalaya will open up opportunities to further enhance the livelihood and income of the families.

3.6 Public Hearing and Proceedings

In pursuance to the letter No RDA.7/2015/43 dated 18th February 2016, issued by the Revenue Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, requiring the SIRD to conduct the Public Hearing, a Public Notice was issued through the media vide letter no SIRD/Megh/SIA/2015-16/366/82 dated 22nd March 2016 and individual letters were also issued to the concerned institutions and individuals and fixing the 26th April 2016 as the date for the Public Hearing at Mualhoi village and also inviting all interested person to participate in the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was duly conducted at Mualhoi village and the list of participants who attended the hearing is enclosed in Annexure II.

The Public Hearing was chaired and conducted by Mr. B. S. Rumnong, Deputy Director, SIRD and was attended by Mr. B. Wahlang, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Dr. G. H. Chyrmang, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Mr. Phon Syih, landowner, Mr. L. N. Mishra, Manager , M/S Adhunik Cements Ltd, S. Das, Sr. Manager, M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd and D. Ngaite, Headman of Mualhoi village, staffs from Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG), other staffs of the Forest Department and residents of Mualhoi village.

In the introductory speech, the Chairman gave a brief introduction about the acquisition of land for compensatory afforestation, whereby any individual or company that mine any natural resource like limestone, etc. in a forested area, has to compensate for the same by identifying and handing over another plot of land to the Forest Department for afforestation.

The Public Hearing was held in order to obtain the views of the local people and general public on the said land acquisition. It is for this reason the Public Hearing was held so that all the resident of Mualhoi village and general public be informed on the said acquisition of land by the State Government and to ensure smooth handing over of the said land without any encumbrances.

B. Wahlang, Deputy Conservator of Forest, in his speech thanks the Chairman, headman of the village and also the residents of Mualhoi village who have attended the Public Hearing. He highlighted that one of the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 was to enforce Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of any forest land that is being used for mining and creation of any infrastructure by an individual or a company. According to this Act, any individual or company that starts any project on a forest land has to compensate for the same by handing over another plot of land proportionate to the size of the project land and subsequently transfer the same to the Forest Department for compensatory afforestation.

Furthermore, he expressed his contentment that Mualhoi village is surrounded by the world renowned Saipung Reserved Forest measuring 158 sq km and the acquisition of another plot of land of 1.54 sq km for the purpose of afforestation will be an addition to the map of Saipung Reserved Forest. Through the proposed afforestation the environment of the area will be better which will prevent the village from natural calamities like cyclone or drought. Lastly, he requested the villagers to participate actively and extend their support to the Forest Department for successful implementation of all afforestation schemes.

Upon seeking the views of the residents of Mualhoi on the proposed land acquisition, S. Ngaite a senior resident of Mualhoi village, said that he is very thankful to all the Govt. Officials who have come to the village and requested the Forest Department to involve the people of this village during the implementation of various schemes.

D. Ngaite, the Headman of Mualhoi village rued that there is still no sign of development in the village as promised by M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd when the land was acquired by the company, represented by Mr. Phon Syih, since 2011. Since now that the land will be handed over to the Forest Department, he sought clarification from Adhunik Cement as to how they propose to bring in development to the village and whether the handing over of the land to the Forest Department for afforestation will benefit the village and its residents.

L. N. Mishra, Manager, M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd clarified that the land to be acquired will be handed over to the Forest Department; after which, development will take place through the implementation of various schemes by the department. He also stated that after due consultation with the Management of M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd on various development interventions will be taken up by the Company for the benefit of the village.

B. Wahlang, stated that in this regard there are certain activities that can be taken up by the Forest Department. However, with respect to afforestation an appeal will be made to the local Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) to consider involvement of the local people by providing them wage employment and to ensure that the local DFO should look into this matter seriously for smooth implementation of the works. He also mentioned that the Forest Department will work out ways and means to provide clean drinking water and other related works. In relation to proper road connection, the Department is not mandated for development of road connection to and within the village as it can take up development of roads that lead to the Forest land and within forest areas only.

After hearing the clarification from the Deputy Conservator of Forest and Manager of M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd, the Chairman requested the resident of the village to give a vote on this acquisition of land by raising their hands if they agreed or disagreed to the said acquisition. It was noted that all the villagers who were present in the Public Hearing agreed with this acquisition of land for compensatory afforestation by the Forest Department.

The Hearing concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Chapter 4:

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The recommendations listed here are based on how the proposed land acquisition by the Govt. of Meghalaya will impact the people of Mualhoi village. In general it is found that the proposed land acquisition will bring conducive ecosystem in the area and benefit the residents of the village positively through employment opportunities and livelihood.

1. During the afforestation of the acquired land, the Govt. of Meghalaya may provide employment preferably, to the people of this village.
2. The Government may engage the village people in the establishment, sustenance of nurseries and for the prevention of grazing and forest fires in the acquired land.
3. The Govt. of Meghalaya may continue to allow access to this land by the inhabitants of Mualhoi village.
4. Cutting or logging of trees for commercial purposes in the afforested land should be strictly prohibited.

Based on the survey conducted, it is found that the residents of Mualhoi village and others do not have any objection against the proposed acquisition of the said land by the Govt. of Meghalaya. In fact there is a sense of gratitude from the residents to the proposed acquisition as it is expected to provide them employment and livelihood besides other basic amenities that will improve their future.



Plate I: Interview with the headman of the village



Plate II: Interview with one the respondents



Plate III: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the men of the village



Plate IV: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the women of the village



Plate V: Vegetation cover of the Site



Plate VI: Site with Saipung Reserve Forest in the background



Plate VII: Public Hearing at Mualhoi Village



Plate VIII: A speech from Mr. B. Wahlang, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Meghalaya



Plate IX: A speech from Mr. L. N. Mishra, Manager, M/s Adhunik Cement Pvt. Ltd



Plate X: Mualhoi residents agreeing to the land acquisition in their village

Focus Group Discussion participants

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) interview no:

District: East Sancha HillsVillage: Mualhoi

Gram Panchayat/AEC:

Description of Group: MENTotal Number of people in the meeting: 9

Participants:

	Name	Sex	Age	Marital status	Education	Occupation
<u>1</u>	Driya Ngaiti	M	63	M	L(9)	Govt Service
<u>2</u>	Sonthaya Ngaiti	M	86	M	(7)	Farmer
<u>3</u>	Reothaya Shiciti	M	63	M	IL A	Farmer
<u>4</u>	Lura Shiciti	M	72	M	IL	-u-
<u>5</u>	Ngalla Shiciti	M	52	M	9	-u-
<u>6</u>	Loona Ngamtai	M	60	M	IL	-u-
<u>7</u>	Liano Shiciti	M	50	M	IL	-u-
<u>8</u>	Sandana Sandana	2 M	30	M	6	-u-
<u>9</u>	Sunga Thietz	M	45	M	8	-u-

Focus Group Discussion participants

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) interview no: 02

District: EAST JAMNIA HILLS

Village: MVALHAI

Gram Panchayat/AEC:

Description of Group: *Women's group*

Total Number of people in the meeting: 9







Participants:

Name	Sex	Age	Marital status	Education	Occupation
1 Tinkipi Thiante	F	35	M	CI-IV	Farmer
2, Nei Thiante	F	30	M	CI-V	farmer
3, Thlani Darnai	F	25	U	CI-VI	farmer
4, Sangi Ngaiti	F	30	M	CI-VI	farmer
5 Moii Thiante	F	33	M	CI-V	farmer
6 Felli Thiante	F	34	M	CI-IV	farmer
7 Luqremi Ngambai	F	31	M	CH-VI	farmer
8 Biaki Thiante	F	36	M	CI-VII	farmer
9 laltani Ngambai	F	34	M		







ANNEXURE II**Public Hearing attendance sheets****PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON 26-4-2016 AT MUALHOI VILLAGE**

Sl. No	Name (Kyrting)	Address (Jakasah)	Signature (Jingsoikyrting)
1.	B. S. Rummong		
2.	Ahan Lijon	Matonia	
3.	Dr. G.H. Chyngang, MFS	Ejawan	
4.	Sri B. Nahlang, ZFS	Sri B. Nahlang	
5.	Sri, Ng. Thial	M. Saipung	
6.	" M. Kyngabok	"	
7.	" Z. Suchay	"	
8.	" J. Ngalan	"	
9.	" Son. Damsi	"	
10.	" Obanless Lyngabok	Katichriat	

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON 26-4-2016 AT MUALHOI VILLAGE

Sl. No	Name (Kyrting)	Address (Jakasah)	Signature (Jingsoikyrting)
11	Dingya Ngaih	Mualhoi	
12	Somthunga Ngait	Mualhoi	
13	Lhanga Shait	Mualhoi	T. Thiaik
14	Lhanga Shait	Mualhoi	Shait
15	Sh. Khumo Thiaik	"	K. Thiaik
16	Lalchunga thiaik	Mualhoi	L. Thiaik
17	Lal Shait	Mualhoi	L. Shait
18	Rala - Ngambai	Mualhoi	R. Ngambai
19	Choniana Shait	Mualhoi	Chait
20	SIMONA THAGOLAI	Mualhoi	
21	Riata Ngait	Mualhoi	R. Ngait
22	LIRA NGAMBAI	MUALHOI	
23	Sin Loma Ngait	Mualhoi	
24	Abachana	Shait	













PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON 26-4-2016 AT MUALHOI VILLAGE

Sl. No	Name (Kyrteing)	Address (Jakasah)	Signature (Jingsoikyrteing)
25.	Shi Nyeka Thiach	Mualhoi	
26.	Shi Suya Thiach	Mualhoi	
27.	Liano Thiach	Mualhoi	L. Thiach
28.	Lima Ngandai	Mualhoi	
29.	Lachongai Mualhoi		
30.	Penya Thiach Mualhoi		
31.	Lura Thiach Mualhoi		
32.	Abachan or Thiach Mualhoi		B. Thiach
33.	Raitongai Ngandai	Mualhoi	R. Ngandai
34.	Lura Thiach Mualhoi		R. Thiach
35.	Soma Thiach	Mualhoi	S. Thiach
36.	Lachongai Thiach	Mualhoi	L.C. Thiach

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON 26-4-2016 AT MUALHOI VILLAGE

Sl. No	Name (Kyrteing)	Address (Jakasah)	Signature (Jingsoikyrteng)
37.	Ihatvoro Ngai	Mualhoi	Ihpüti
38.	Ringyokhot	Mualhoi	Khobog
39.	Sandana	Mualhoi	Thiaite
40.	Piaya	mualhoi	Longa
41.	Thiang	Mualhoi	Thiaite
42.	Lisa ngandee	Mualhoi	L. ngandee
43.	Sengin	Mualhoi	Seng

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE SHEET ON 26-4-2016 AT MUALHOI VILLAGE

Sl. No	Name (Kyrting)	Address (Jakasah)	Signature (Jingsoikyrting)
44.	LOKNATH NISHRA	ADHUNIKCEMENT	
45.	Dr. Donald B. Tyrwa	S.I.R. D. Nongsoa	
46.	Dr. Donboklong Harboing	SIRD Nongsoa	
47.	Naphesha Kharhoyor	MIG, Shillay	
48.	Spainlong dyngton	u	
49.	M. Mitean Nangas	G/S Saingy stoa	
50.	Wamaphok Syrentiek	MIG. Shg	
51.	Beautiqueen Shylla	MIG. Shg	
52.	Rahnam Khasbuli	MIS. Shg	
53.	Khraw Kupan Sujo	(A.E SIRD Nongsoa)	
54.	Sibot Das	Sr. Manager Adhunik Cement Ltd	
55.	Mekner chyrman	Latyrka	

A Report on Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for
Acquisition of Land for Compensatory Afforestation in
Lieu of Forest Land at Mualhoi village, Meghalaya

Study team

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