

Identifying differential vulnerabilities of rural communities in semi-arid region of Maharashtra through a Wellbeing approach.

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“Happiness is an allegory, unhappiness a story”- Leo Tolstoy

“Vulnerability is the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt” – IPCC, 2014:Annex II

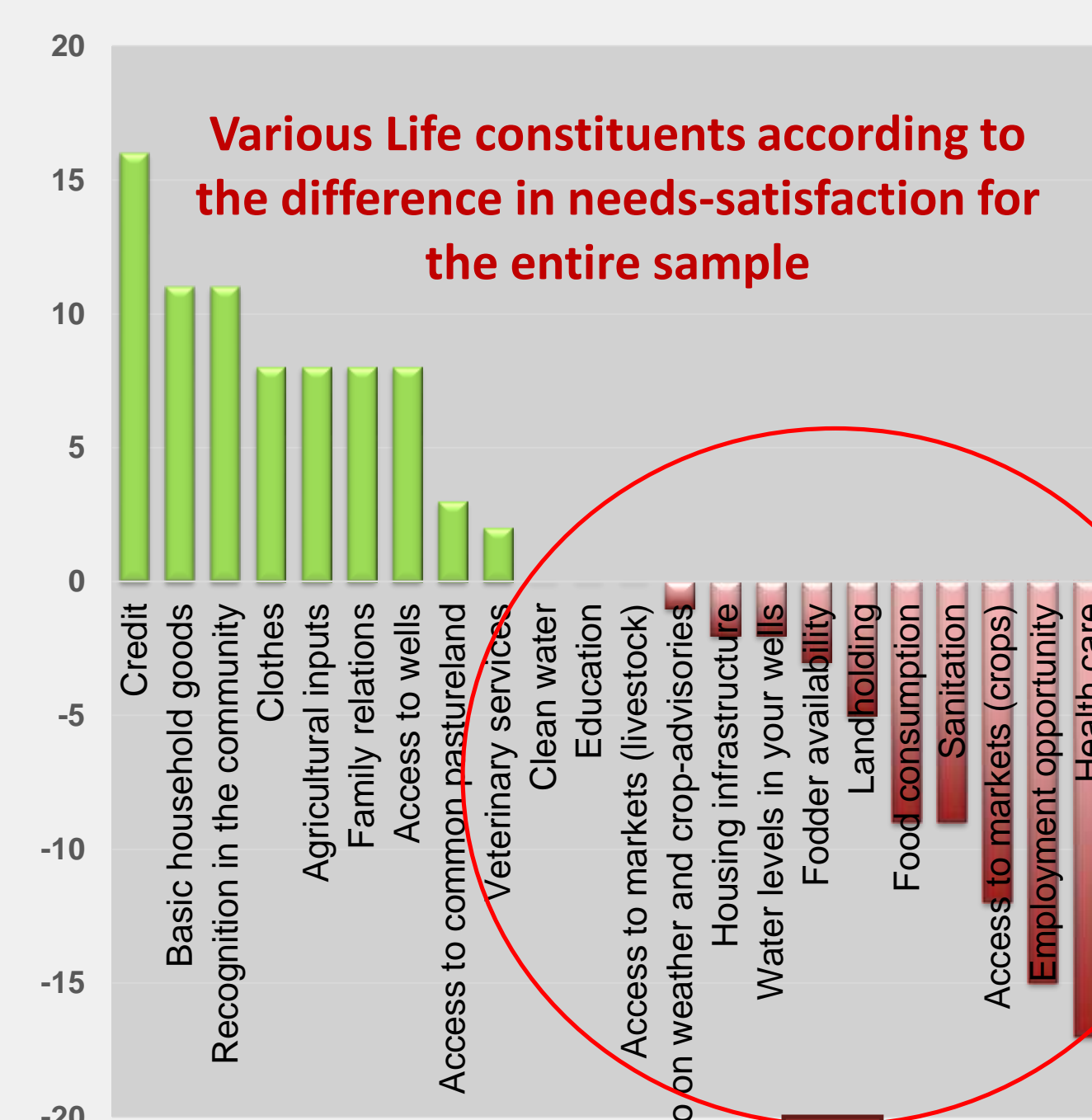
The Causes of Difference in Vulnerability within a society

- Different historical and social trajectories of different sub-categories in a society, like castes, gender etc.
- Different endowments of natural and material resources.
- Difference in the ability to process these resources.
- Different Functioning.
- Different Needs and Wants to be able to come up to the same level as the rest of the society.

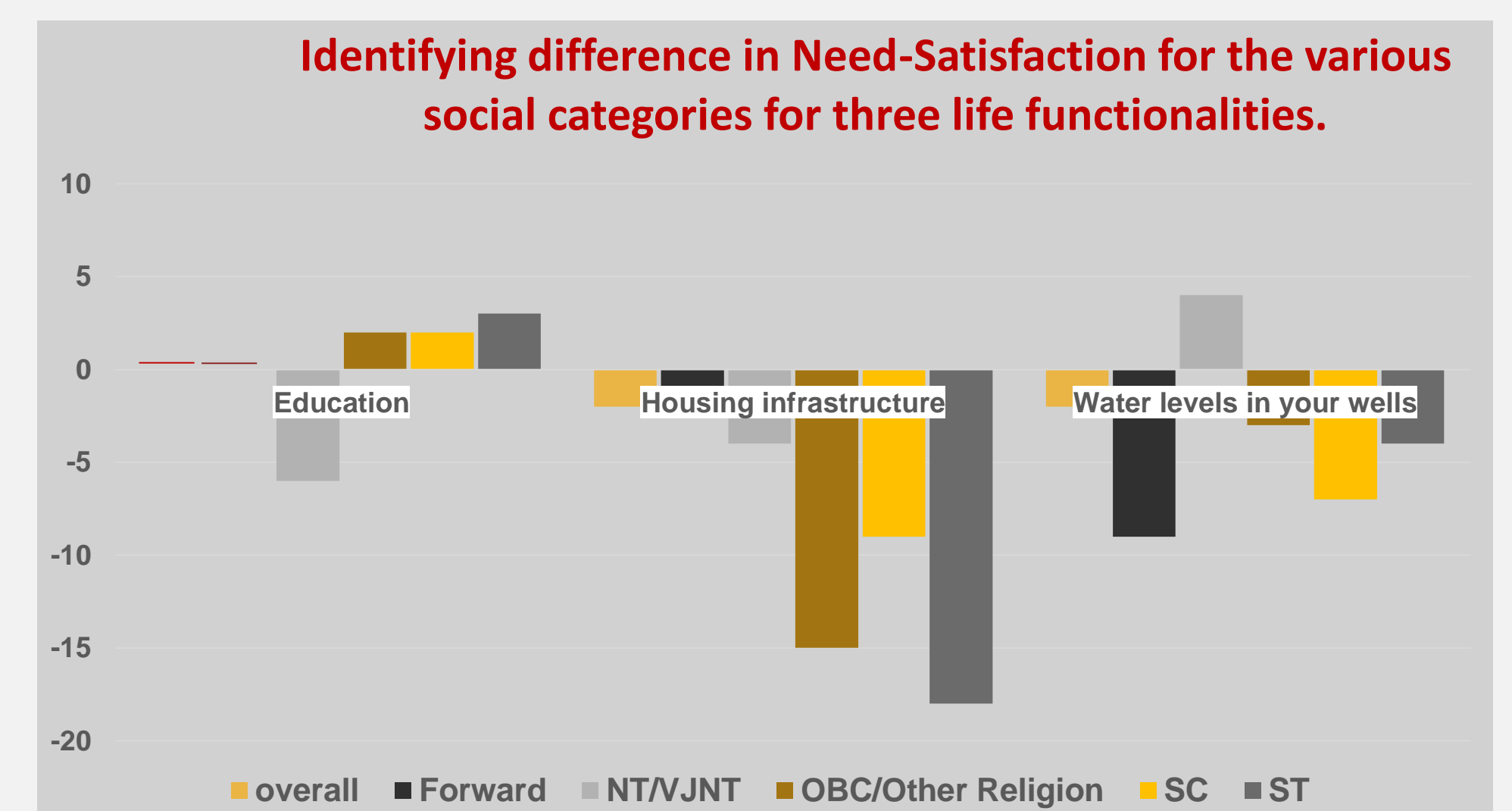
The Wellbeing Methodology

- The study area consist of 8 villages in the semi-arid belt of Maharashtra, India.
- 22 Life constituents have been identified for the study area for an Indian rural context using research and field inputs.
- Respondents were asked to assign their degree of need and satisfaction for these 22 life constituents.
- The response was analysed on the basis of various social categories (e.g., Forward Caste, Scheduled Caste etc.) and Gender and age categories like Young Adults, Adults and Elderly.
- Ranks for each of the life constituents, derived on their relative importance to the sub-sections were assigned, ranking their Needs and Satisfaction.
- The difference between the ranks of Needs and Satisfaction showed how much importance a certain factor holds and how much of the need has been satisfied.
- This Gap shows the vulnerability of each category for each life constituents by analysing and comparing their needs and their satisfaction for the same.

Overall Social Ranking of the Needs and corresponding Satisfaction levels of each Life Constituents.



Life Constituents where the Gap between ranks of Needs and Satisfaction Ranks indicate the relative dissatisfaction. A study for the analysis of the sub-category reveals the differences even within these overall perceptions.



Overall Pictures do not always show the difference in Needs-Satisfaction, as opinions can become biased in a pluralist setup with majority overriding or subduing the effects of minority.

The Top-5 needs in the age gender category

Female Young Adult	Male Young Adult	Female Adult	Male Adult	Female Elderly	Male Elderly
Sanitation	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food
Housing	Clean water	Sanitation	Sanitation	Health Care	Health Care
Food	Clothes	Clean Water	Health Care	Family relations	Sanitation
Health Care	Housing	Health Care	Employment, Clean Water	Employment, Clean Water	Housing
Clothes	Health Care, Education	Employment Opportunity	Housing	Housing	Employment

- Sanitation features as Number 1 need for the Female Young Adult as compared to the other categories, whose top need is Food.
- Clothes come up as a need for the young adults only, emphasizing the changing nature of more material comforts amongst the new generation.
- Education features as one of the top needs amongst the younger generation.
- Family Relations and Social Bonding mattered more to elderly females over Housing, Clean water and Employment Opportunity

Importance of the Study and the major Takeaway.

- **Identify Backlogs:** Studying difference in vulnerabilities help us identify the specific areas where a certain sub-section of the community are lagging.
- **Singular Policies not the Solution:** This indicates that one policy cannot create a blanket solution for all categories of people.
- **Targeting Development:** In order to achieve an egalitarian result and universal effect, the policies needs targeting for individual backlogs.

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