

Changing Livelihood Scenario: Village insight from Bihar state

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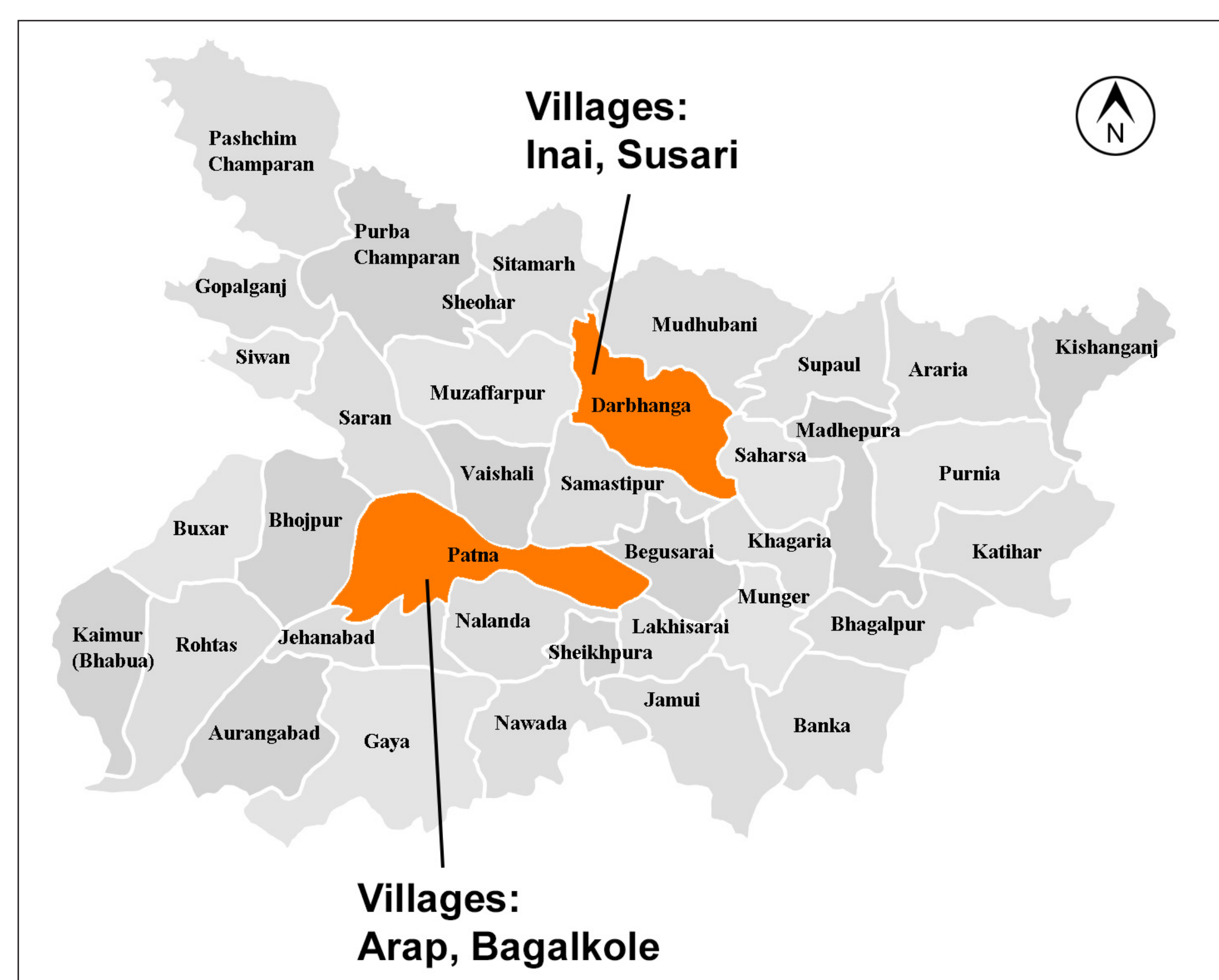
Introduction

- Livelihood includes people, their capabilities and their means of living- food, income and assets.
- Each village in the state unique in social structure, resource base and livelihood pattern
- Rural households augment their income from non-farm sources; however, varies across different categories of households.
- Very poor and well off households have more diversity in income

Objectives

- To assess the possession of assets on poor and non- poor households
- To study the changes in income and income sources of households

Study area



Assets accumulation by poor and non-poor

- Residential houses and household durables- major assets
- Investment in livestock among poor- Positive change
- Agricultural land- Dividing lines

Table 1: Asset value in VDSA villages, Bihar (000'Rs./hh)

Particulars	Poor				Non-poor			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013
Residential house	169	238	292	282	322	379	394	408
Livestock	14	12	15	18	30	18	19	19
Agri-land	23	32	35	30	71	73	70	68
Transport means	5	6	9	7	37	28	37	39
Durables	54	60	93	98	169	278	269	263

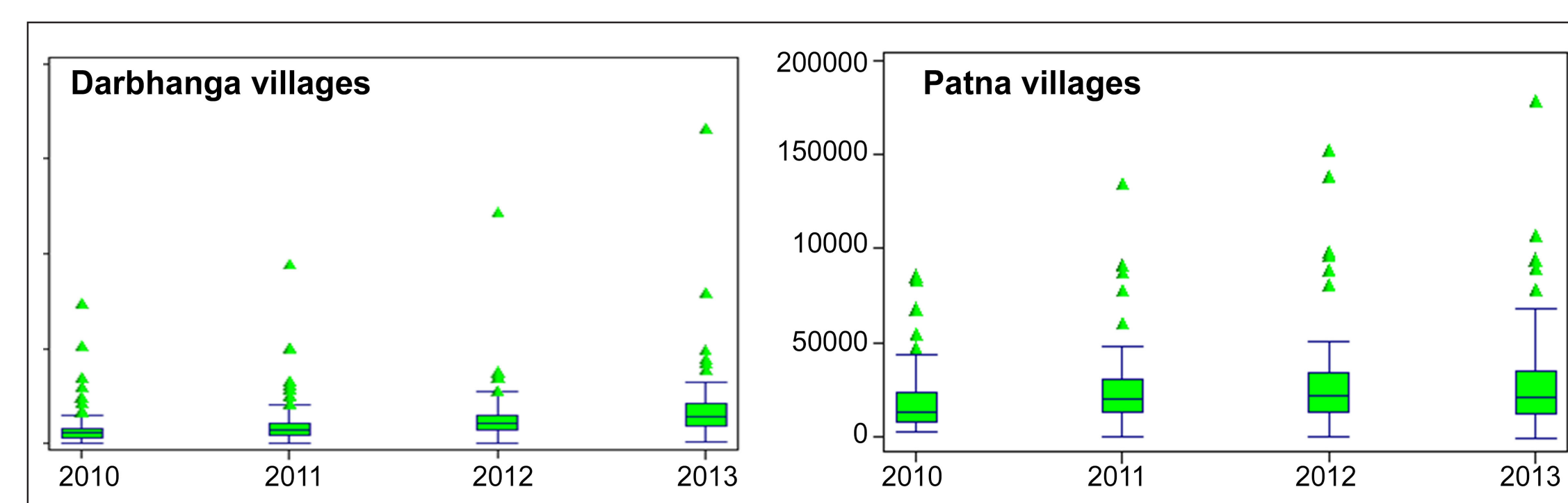


Figure 1. Per capita annual income (INR).

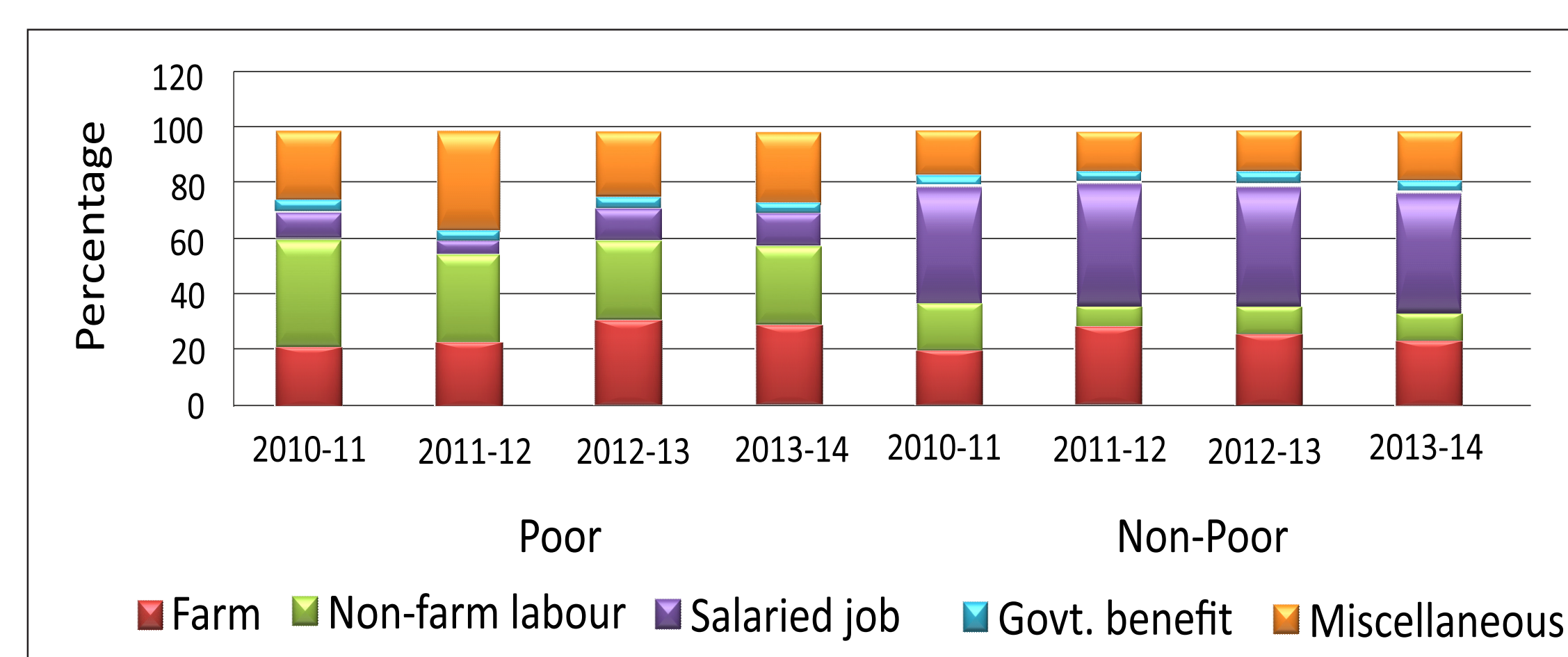


Figure 2. Distribution of income in VDSA villages, Bihar (%).

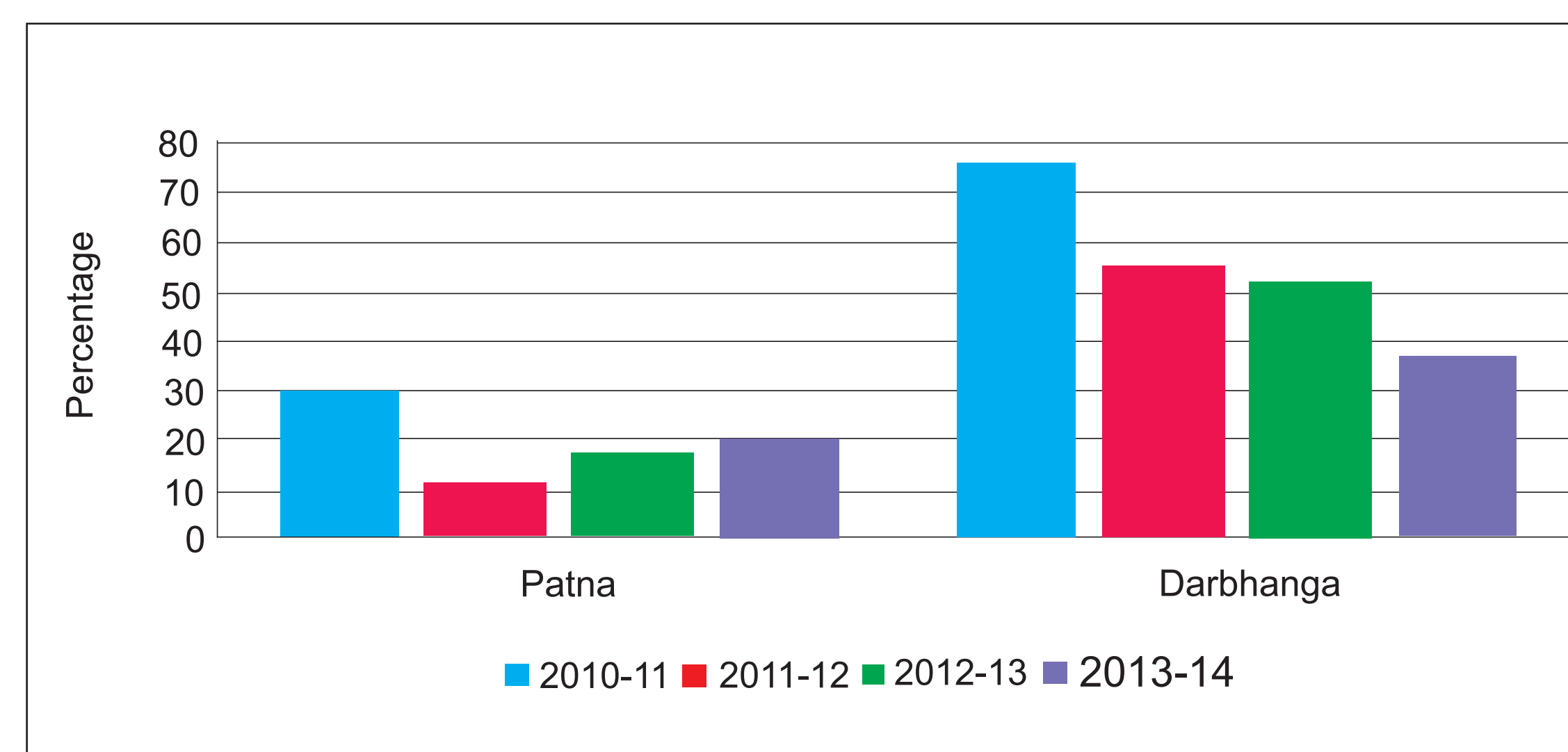


Figure 3. Population below poverty line in VDSA villages, Bihar (%).

Income rising more in villages near urban centre

- Income from salaried job and business consistently outpaced other sources
- Non- farm wages- most important source of livelihood for poor households
- Salary & contractual job- important source of livelihood of non-poor households
- Despite of a no. of social development programmes targeted towards poor, poverty still high in remote villages

Conclusions

- Households escape poverty, if income augmented from non-farm sources
- Income increases faster near urban centre due to diversified non-farm activities
- Weaker section of society have poor access to welfare programmes due to their weak linkages with government and Panchayat officials
- Long-term panel study will provide more credible evidences of changing livelihood perspectives