ANNUAL BIDS CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) 2023

WOMEN ON THE MOVE: THE ROLE OF CLIMATE RISK IN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, VOICE, AGENCY AND GENDER INEQUALITY

by

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December 9, 2023

Outline

- Introduction
- Objective
- Definition and Conceptualization
- Data and Methodology
- Empirical Results
- Conclusion & Policy Agenda

Objective

01

To understand the current state of climate change-internal migration-gender nexus issues in the Coastal belt of Bangladesh in the rural, urban and semi-urban setting.

02

To investigate the patterns of climate-induced internally migrated and non-migrated households' socio-economic profiles and intersectionality indicators in the rural, urban and semi-urban context.

03

To examine the patterns of economic opportunities and livelihood strategies in migrated regions and explore gender-specific economic diversification choices.

04

To examine the gender gaps in empowerment, women's voice, and agency within and beyond the household i.e., in community leadership roles.

05

To understand the current risk profiles of gender-based violence of women and girls among the migrated and non-migrated households.

Climate Migration: Definition and Issues

- Human Migration, by definition, refers to the movement of people due to various reasons.
- The types of this movement vary based upon people's choices towards moving to inward and outward directions. These directions could be inside a country, from one country to another and could be seasonal and singular; temporary and permanent. In general, the definition surrounds to the shift with respect to the birthplace.
- Historically, these reasons are found to vary based upon socio-economic aspects, people's choices to live in better places, livelihood, infrastructure and more recently, the changing nature of the climatic environment.
- Recent literatures: however, attempt to justify the term 'climate migrants' with respect to disaster displacement (internal and external) which we, therefore, refer to **'climate-induced disaster migrants'** in this paper.
- We tend to identify several factors in this identification process i.e., voluntary or forced migration, changing nature of this movement in the longer term, resettlement after displacement, compensation etc.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- The primary focus of our conceptual framework is to consider climate risk as a function of the following factors:

$$\textit{Climate Risk} = f\,(\textit{Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability}_g, \textit{Adaptation}_m)$$

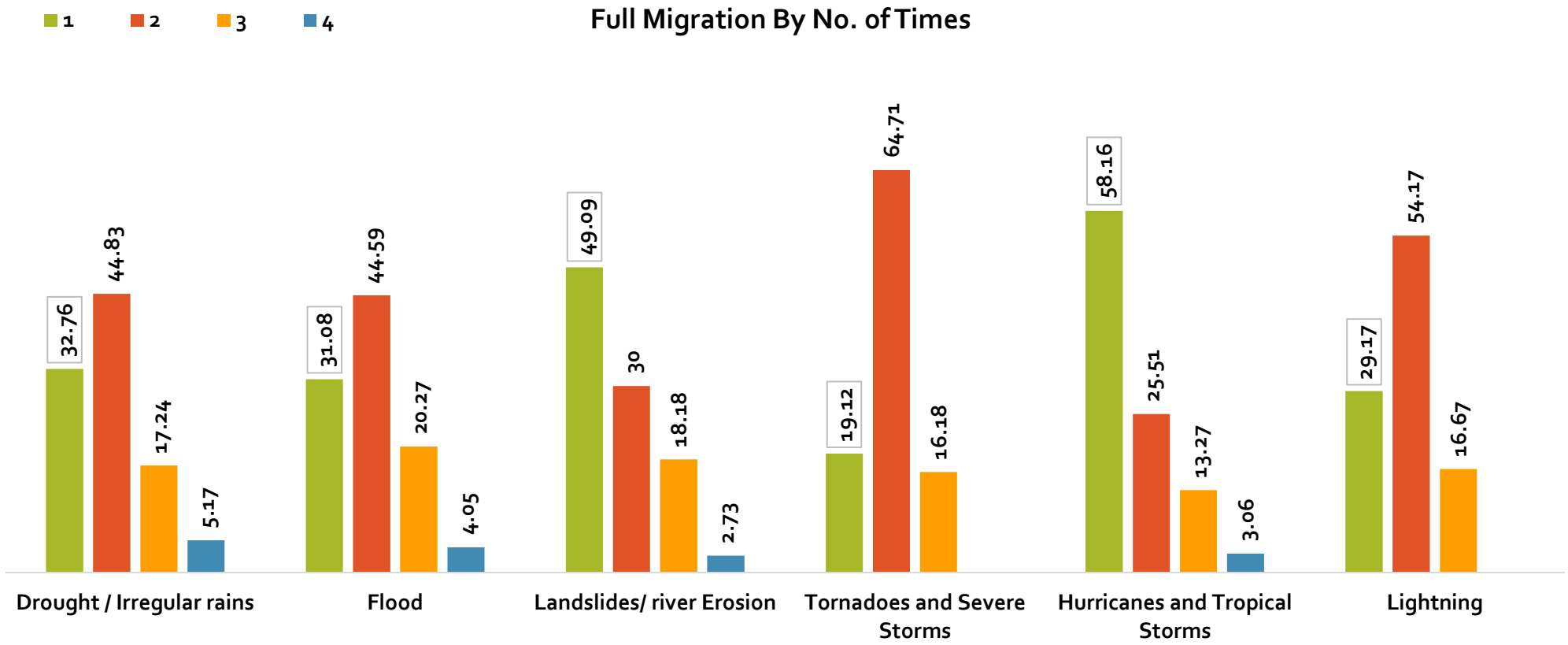
- Here, we define risk as climatic risk and our primary approach to understand the climate-migration-gender relationship is through vulnerability to livelihoods.

- **McLeman & Smit (2006)** presents a conceptual model to investigate population migration as a possible adaptive response to risks associated with climate change and is based upon the concepts of vulnerability, exposure to risk and adaptive capacity, as developed in the climate change research community.

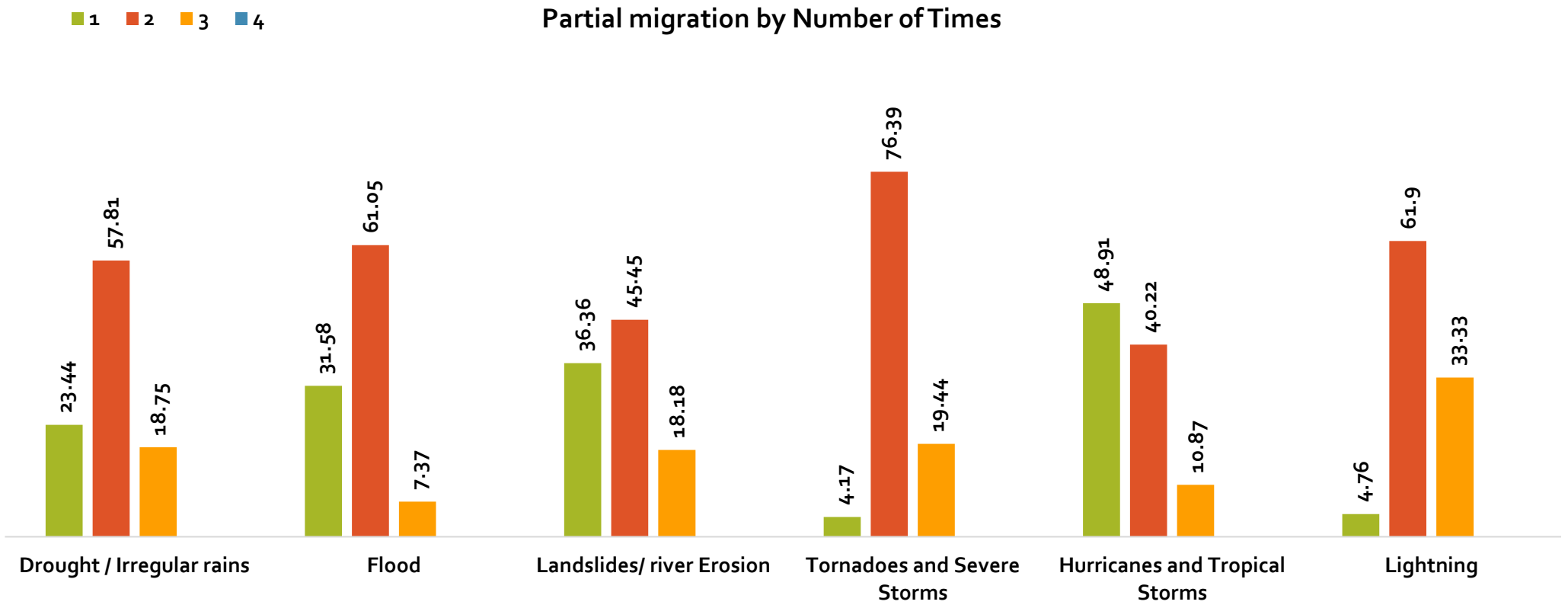
- ***In this study, we intend to expand this hypothesis in the risk-vulnerability-gender literature and argue that multiple times of internal climate migration could generate poverty traps, increase household and gender vulnerability and inequality without targeted and effective policy intervention.***

- Moreover, because of vulnerability's multi-faceted and dynamic nature and considering climate-induced disaster risks not as an equal opportunity threat; our added focus in this study is to understand the gendered impacts of climate-induced disasters, particularly on women.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:
Disasters and Full Migration



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:
Disasters and Partial Migration



DATA AND METHODOLOGY

- We employ a mixed method approach i.e., Qualitative and Quantitative tools to collect data in order to understand various facets of the nexus between climate change, migration and gender in Bangladesh.

Sample Selection Methodology

Research Methodology

Research Tools Design

Sample Selection Methodology

- We employ criteria-based multi-stage sample selection techniques to select the following representative samples:

Upazila selection method

Household selection method

Research Methodology

Quantitative framework	• Household Questionnaire Survey • Modular/Data Analyses
Qualitative framework	• Focus Group Discussion (FGD) • Case Studies

Climate-affected Household Sample

Division	District	Upazila	Location	Number	Total
Barishal	BARGUNA	Pathorghata	Rural	21	34
			Urban	6	
			Semi-Urban	7	
		Taltoli	Rural	39	66
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	27	
Khulna	BAGERHAT	Mongla	Rural	28	28
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	0	
		Shoronkhola	Rural	50	72
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	22	
	KHULNA	Dacope	Rural	22	39
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	17	
		Koyra	Rural	47	64
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	17	
	SATKHIRA	Assasuni	Rural	30	36
			Urban	0	
			Semi-Urban	6	
		Shyamnagar	Rural	29	64
			Urban	10	
			Semi-Urban	25	
N=2	N=4	N=8			403

Source: BIDS Climate Change and Gender Survey 2023.

EMPIRICAL RESULTS

Socio-Economic Status of Climate-migrated and Non-migrated Households: Basic HH Information

HOUSEHOLD INDICATOR(S)	Full Migration % (N)	Partial Migration % (N)	No Migration % (N)	Total % (N)
Female Headed Households	47.37 (9)	42.11 (8)	10.53 (2)	100 (19)
Average Household Size	4.40 (138)	5.36 (144)	4.50 (121)	4.77 (403)
House Ownership	29.35 (91)	39.03 (121)	31.61 (98)	100 (310)
Land Ownership	32.26 (100)	37.1 (115)	30.65 (95)	100 (310)
Highest Educational Qualification of HH Head (up to Primary level)	30.83 (82)	36.84 (98)	32.33 (86)	100 (266)
Highest Educational Qualification of HH Head (up to Secondary level)	39.2 (49)	34.4 (43)	26.4 (33)	100 (125)
Highest Educational Qualification of HH Head (up to Tertiary level)	58.33 (7)	25 (3)	16.67 (2)	100 (12)
Access to Electricity	33.61 (122)	38.29 (139)	28.1 (102)	100 (363)
Access to Safe Drinking Water	26.7 (59)	37.1 (82)	36.2 (80)	100 (221)
Access to Drinking Water (safe/unsafe)	31.75 (107)	36.5 (123)	31.75 (107)	100 (337)
Quality of safe drinking water	35.29 (138)	35.29 (138)	29.41 (115)	100 (391)
Access to Sanitation Facilities	35.81 (130)	36.36 (132)	27.82 (101)	100 (363)
Access to modern / Improve cooking facilities	34.24 (138)	35.73 (144)	30.02 (121)	100 (403)
Access to Mobile Phone	32.81 (126)	35.94 (138)	31.25 (120)	100 (384)
Other assets	34.25 (137)	35.75 (143)	30 (120)	100 (403)

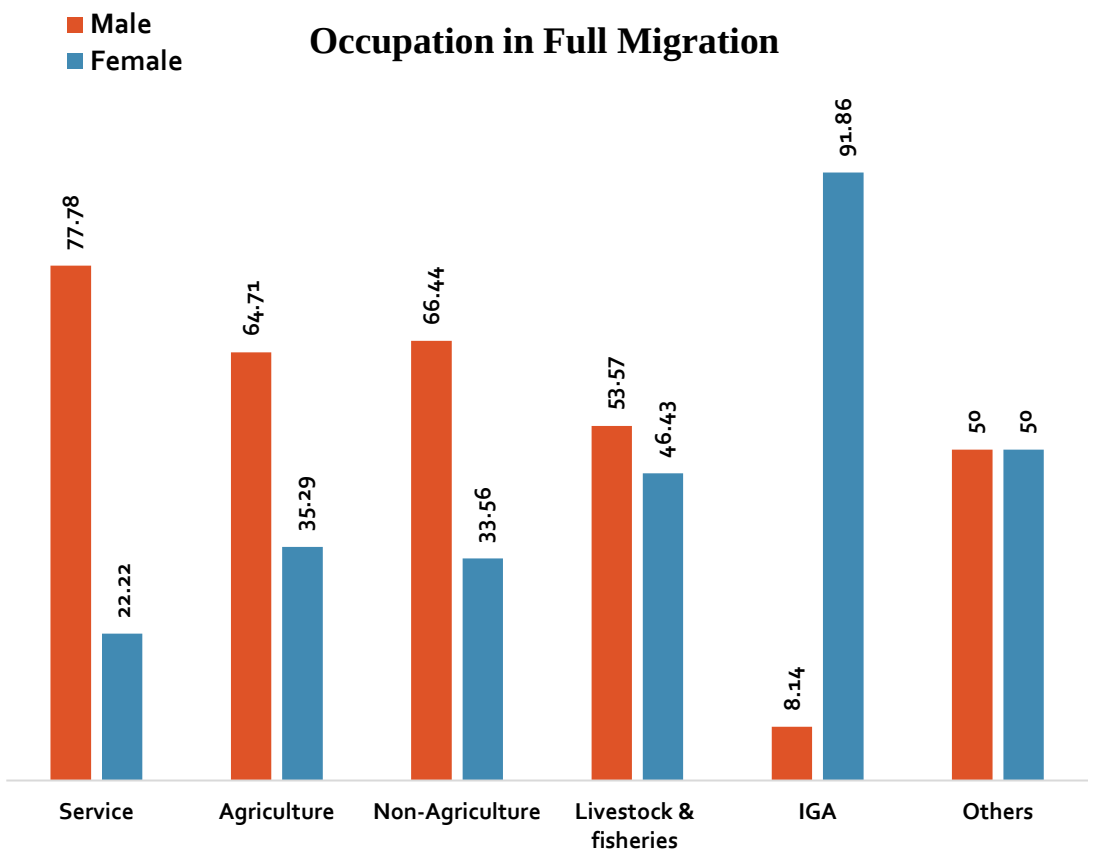
EMPIRICAL RESULTS: Educational Status

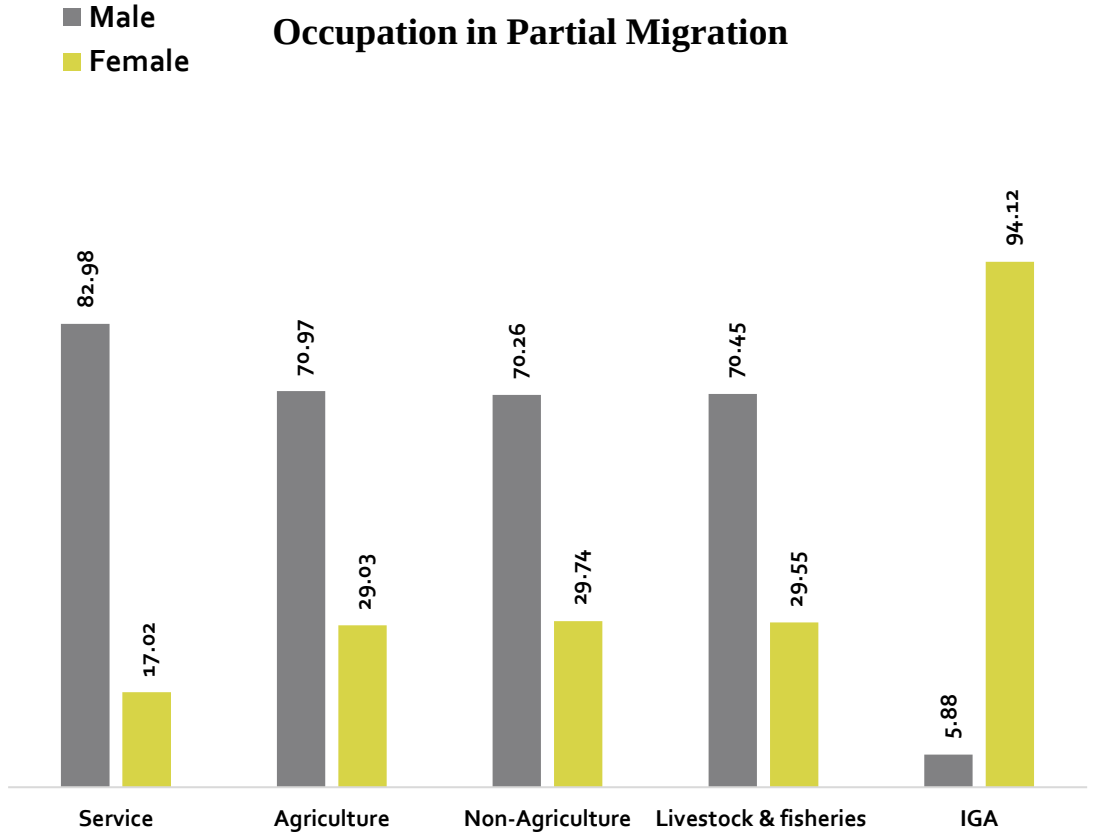
EDUCATION LEVEL	RURAL											
	Full Migration % (N)			Partial Migration % (N)			No Migration % (N)			Total % (N)		
	Male	Female	Child	Male	Female	Child	Male	Female	Child	Male	Female	Child
Primary education	33.15 (61)	31.52 (58)	35.33 (65)	30.65 (103)	32.44 (109)	36.9 (124)	33.89 (101)	32.21 (96)	33.89 (101)	32.4 (265)	32.15 (263)	35.45 (290)
Secondary education	49.35 (38)	36.36 (28)	14.29 (11)	49.21 (93)	42.86 (81)	7.94 (15)	48.82 (62)	40.16 (51)	11.02 (14)	49.11 (193)	40.71 (160)	10.18 (40)
Tertiary education	66.67 (4)	33.33 (2)	0	68.18 (15)	31.82 (7)	0	81.82 (9)	18.18 (2)	0	71.79 (28)	28.21 (11)	0
Others	100 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 (2)	33.33 (1)	0	66.67 (2)
	URBAN											
Primary education	22.58 (7)	29.03 (8)	48.39 (15)	33.33 (1)	33.33 (1)	33.33 (1)	0	0	0	23.53 (8)	29.41 (10)	47.06 (16)
Secondary education	48.39 (15)	45.16 (14)	6.45 (2)	33.33 (2)	50 (3)	16.67 (1)	0	0	0	45.95 (17)	45.95 (17)	8.11 (3)
Tertiary education	100 (4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 (4)	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	100 (1)
	SEMI-URBAN											
Primary education	29.09 (48)	24.24 (40)	46.67 (77)	28.68 (39)	36.76 (50)	34.56 (47)	24.59 (15)	32.79 (20)	42.62 (26)	28.18 (102)	30.39 (110)	41.44 (150)
Secondary education	41.24 (40)	46.39 (45)	12.37 (12)	50 (34)	38.24 (26)	11.76 (8)	50 (20)	37.5 (15)	12.5 (5)	45.85 (94)	41.95 (86)	12.2 (25)
Tertiary education	75 (6)	25 (2)	0	63.64 (7)	36.36 (4)	0	100 (3)	0	0	72.73 (16)	27.27 (6)	0
Others	50 (1)	0	50 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	100 ()	33.33 (1)	0	66.67 (2)

EMPIRICAL RESULTS: Other Intersectionality

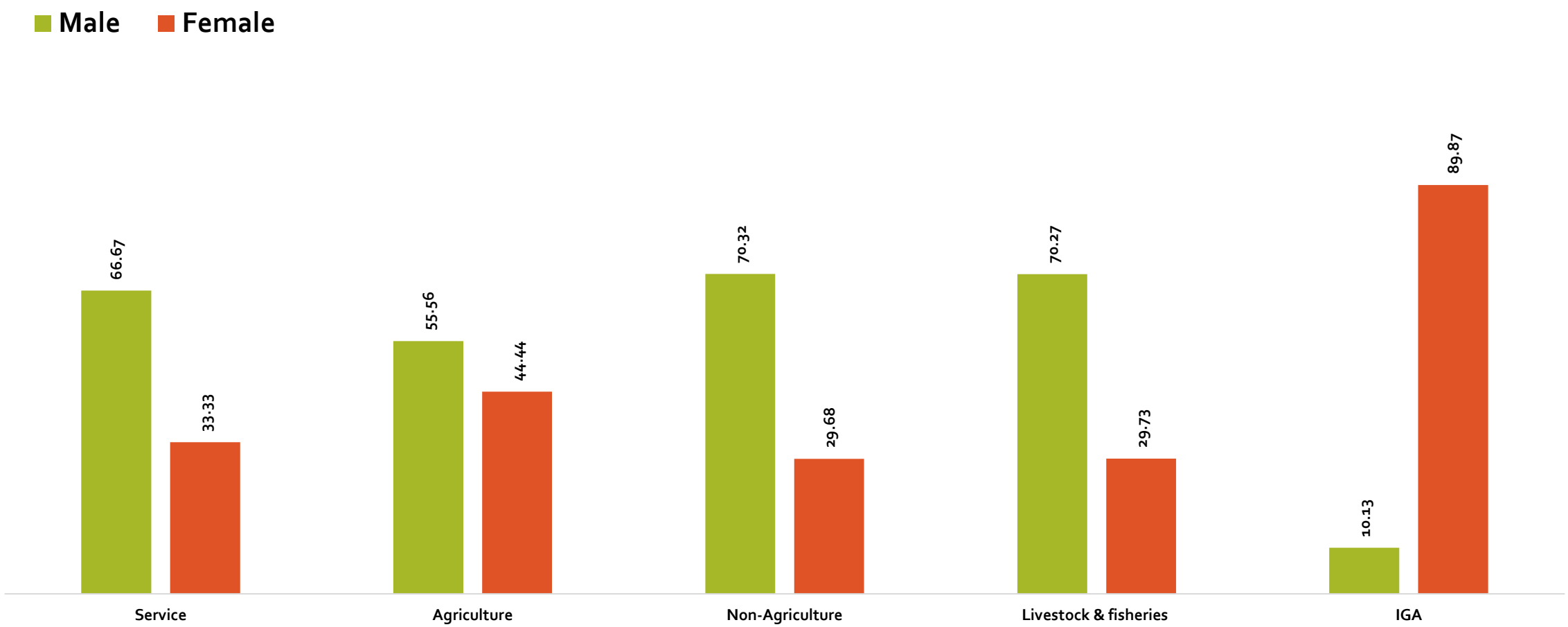
INTERSECTIONALITY INDICATORS	RURAL							
	Full Migration % (N)		Partial Migration % (N)		No Migration % (N)		Total % (N)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Average Age (HH Members)	29.848921	29.730769	30.010949	29.106227	30.362869	31.123762	30.104615	29.91405
Age group (0-14)	45.45 (35)	54.55 (42)	45.32 (63)	54.68 (76)	55.08 (65)	44.92 (53)	48.8 (163)	51.2 (171)
Age group (15-60)	54.34 (94)	45.66 (79)	52.2 (190)	47.8 (174)	52.31 (147)	47.69 (134)	52.69 (431)	47.31 (387)
Age group (60+)	52.63 (10)	47.37 (9)	47.73 (21)	52.27 (23)	62.5 (25)	37.5 (15)	54.37 (56)	45.63 (47)
Islam	44.64 (25)	55.36 (31)	24.05 (19)	75.95 (60)	43.06 (31)	56.94 (41)	36.23 (75)	63.77 (132)
Hinduism	11.11 (1)	88.89 (8)	12 (3)	88 (22)	28 (7)	72 (18)	18.64 (11)	81.36 (48)
Unmarried	0	100 (2)	20 (1)	80 (4)	33.33 (2)	66.67 (4)	23.08 (3)	76.92 (10)
Married	41.27 (26)	58.73 (37)	22.58 (21)	77.42 (72)	39.56 (36)	60.44 (55)	33.6 (83)	66.4 (164)
Divorced	0	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	100 (1)
Widow/Widower	0	0	0	100 (5)	0	0	0	100 (5)
Separated (Not Divorced)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	URBAN							
Average Age (HH Members)	26.939394	27.939394	23.4	24	0	0	26.473684	27.421053
Age group (0-14)	41.18 (7)	58.82 (10)	66.67 (2)	33.33 (1)	0	0	45 (9)	55 (11)
Age group (15-60)	53.06 (26)	46.94 (23)	42.86 (3)	57.14 (4)	0	0	51.79 (29)	48.21 (27)
Age group (60+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islam	14.29 (2)	85.71 (12)	100 (2)	0	0	0	25 (4)	75 (12)
Hinduism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unmarried	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	100 (1)	0
Married	14.29 (2)	85.71 (12)	100 (1)	0	0	0	20 (3)	80 (12)
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Widow/Widower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Separated (Not Divorced)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SEMI-URBAN							
Average Age (HH Members)	26.547297	27.306452	29	32.574257	29.215686	25.222222	27.875399	28.810036
Age group (0-14)	58.89 (53)	41.11 (37)	61.82 (34)	38.18 (21)	40.63 (13)	59.38 (19)	56.5 (100)	43.5 (77)
Age group (15-60)	51.5 (86)	48.5 (81)	51.77 (73)	48.23 (68)	51.43 (36)	48.57 (34)	51.59 (195)	48.41 (183)
Age group (60+)	60 (9)	40 (6)	36.84 (7)	63.16 (12)	66.67 (2)	33.33 (1)	48.65 (18)	51.35 (19)
Islam	31.58 (18)	68.42 (39)	28.57 (10)	71.43 (25)	27.78 (5)	72.22 (13)	30 (33)	70 (77)
Hinduism	50 (1)	50 (1)	66.67 (2)	33.33 (1)	33.33 (2)	66.67 (4)	45.45 (5)	54.55 (6)
Unmarried	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (1)	50 (1)	0	0	50 (3)	50 (3)
Married	31.48 (17)	68.52 (37)	32.35 (11)	67.65 (23)	29.17 (7)	70.83 (17)	31.25 (35)	68.75 (77)
Divorced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Widow/Widower	0	100 (1)	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	100 (2)
Separated (Not Divorced)	0	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	100 (1)

Primary Occupation/Work (Before Migration)

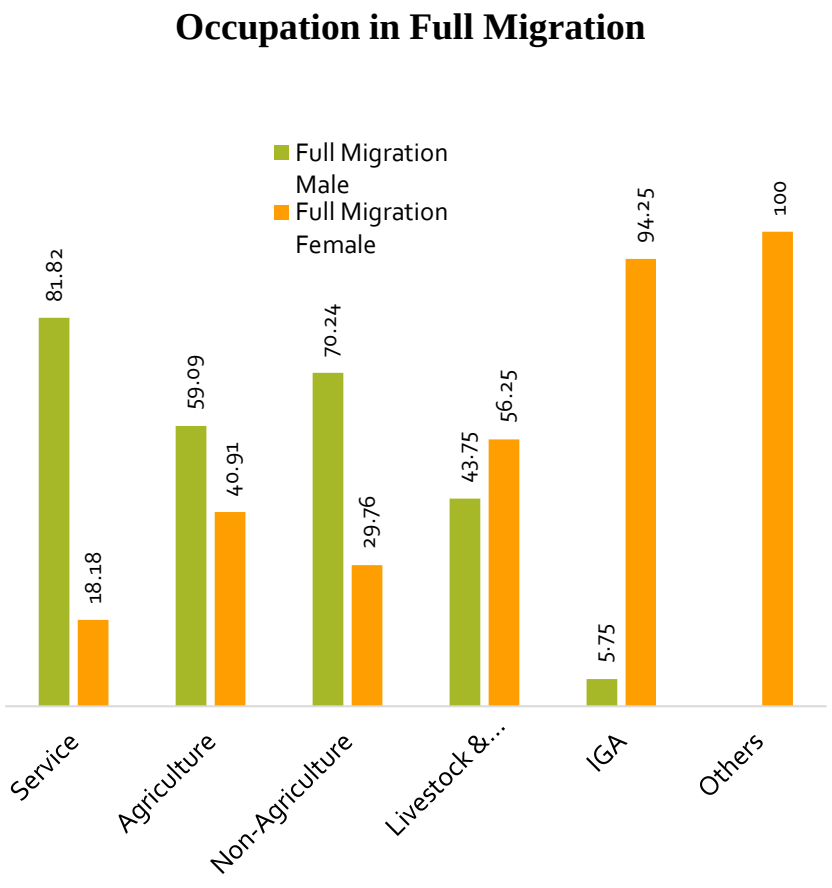


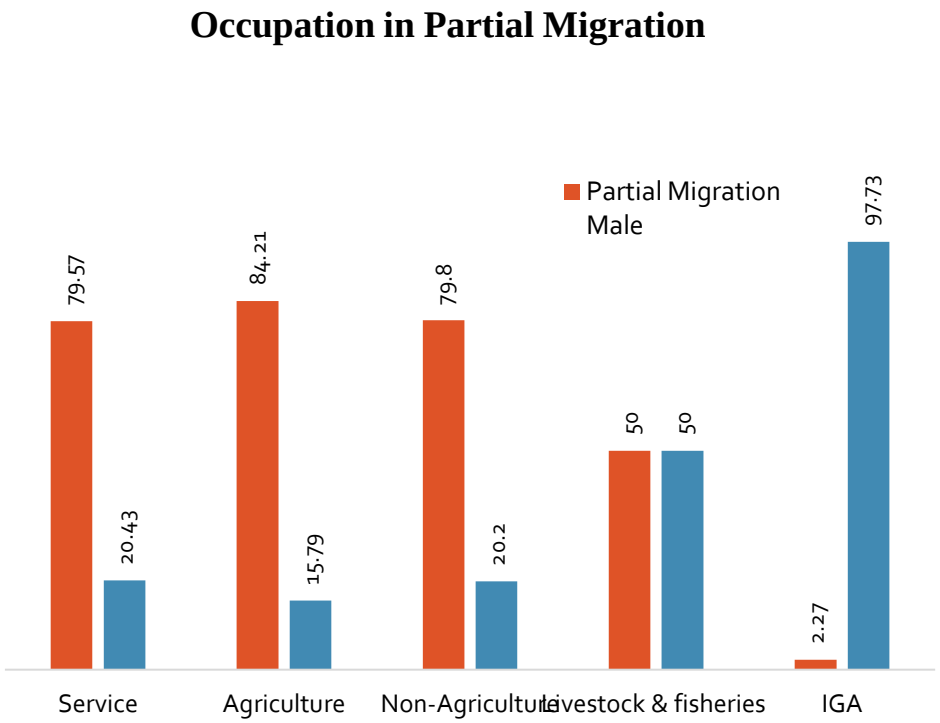


Primary Occupation/Work (Non-Migration)



Primary Occupation/Work (After Migration)





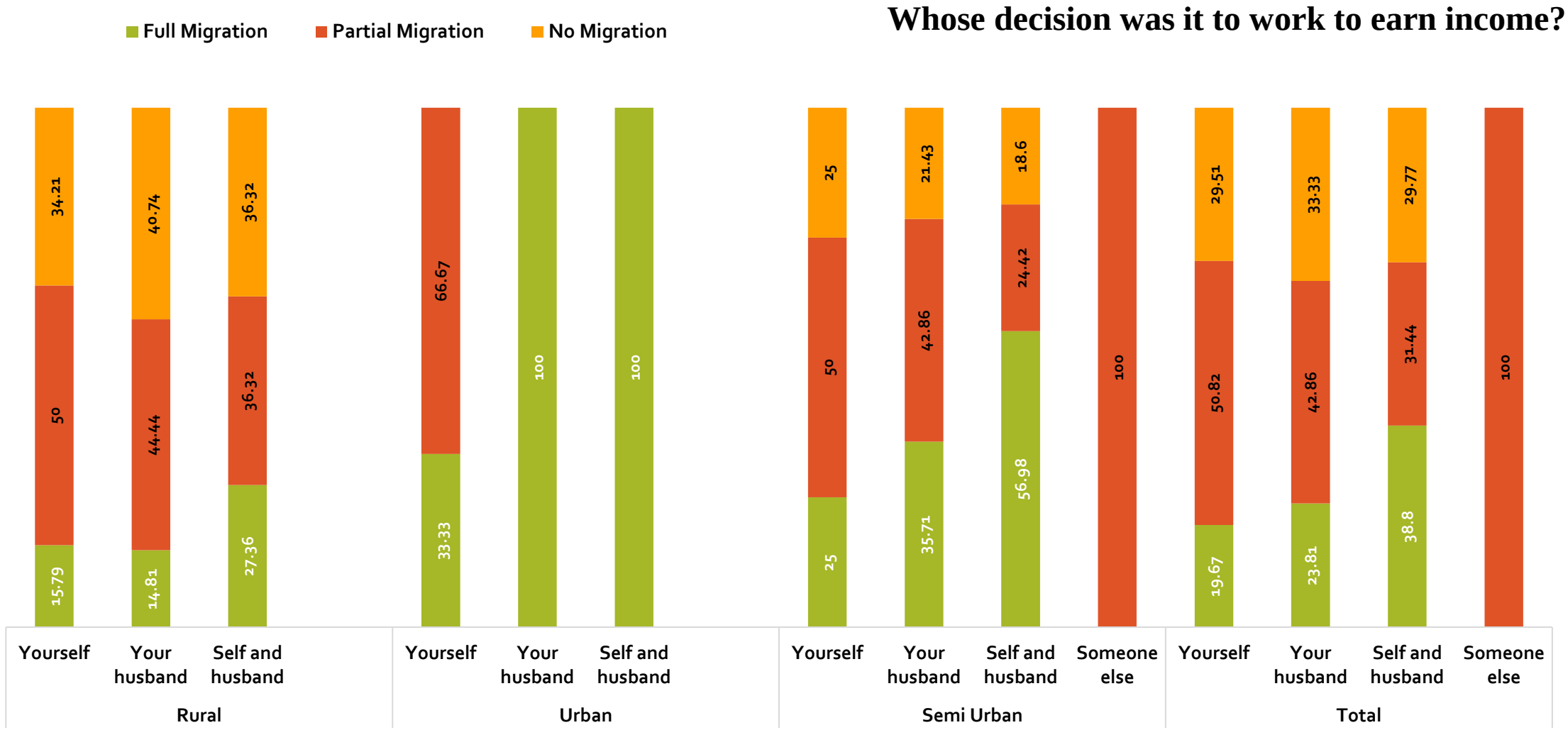
EMPIRICAL RESULTS: Household Income

	RURAL			URBAN			SEMI-URBAN		
INCOME INDICATORS	**Full Migration**	**Partial Migration**	**No Migration**	**Full Migration**	**Partial Migration**	**No Migration**	**Full Migration**	**Partial Migration**	**No Migration**
Household Monthly Income	21134.359	27271.779	21482.045	21434.524	32916.666	0	20784.605	27203.728	18771.181
Household Monthly Per capita income (Regular + IGA + others)	5456.4282	5312.7115	4926.1389	4900.3968	6583.333	0	4562.1405	4880.5942	4763.5918
Household Monthly Per capita income (Regular + IGA)	4838.2417	5024.5063	4651.2371	4300.9354	6400	0	4182.0944	4473.8168	4605.162
Household Monthly Per capita income (Regular)	4240.4359	4528.9366	4035.2614	3724.915	6000	0	3680.2623	3988.8576	4186.0417
Household Monthly Male Member Per capita income (Regular)	6671.7949	7930.3686	6307.3024	7431.5476	12750	0	5857.2316	6172.5877	6915.9722
Household Monthly Female Member per capita income (regular)	2177.4359	1623.6418	1871.4948	1318.4524	916.66667	0	1778.5876	1588.5965	2245.4861
Household Monthly Female Member per capita income (IGA)	1336.4103	1101.9872	1513.3333	1255.9524	916.66667	0	1214.7458	1116.2281	890.27778
Household Monthly Female Member per capita income (regular + IGA)	3513.8462	2725.629	3384.8282	2574.4048	1833.3333	0	2993.3333	2704.8246	3135.7639
Average Female member who involve in regular income	1.0923077	1.4423077	1.2268041	1.4285714	1.5	0	1.2711864	1.5	1.2083333
Average Female member who involve in IGA	1.0923077	1.5096154	1.257732	1.4285714	1.5	0	1.3389831	1.5263158	1.375
Average female who involve both regular + IGA income	1.1230769	1.5865385	1.2989691	1.4285714	1.5	0	1.3559322	1.6315789	1.375

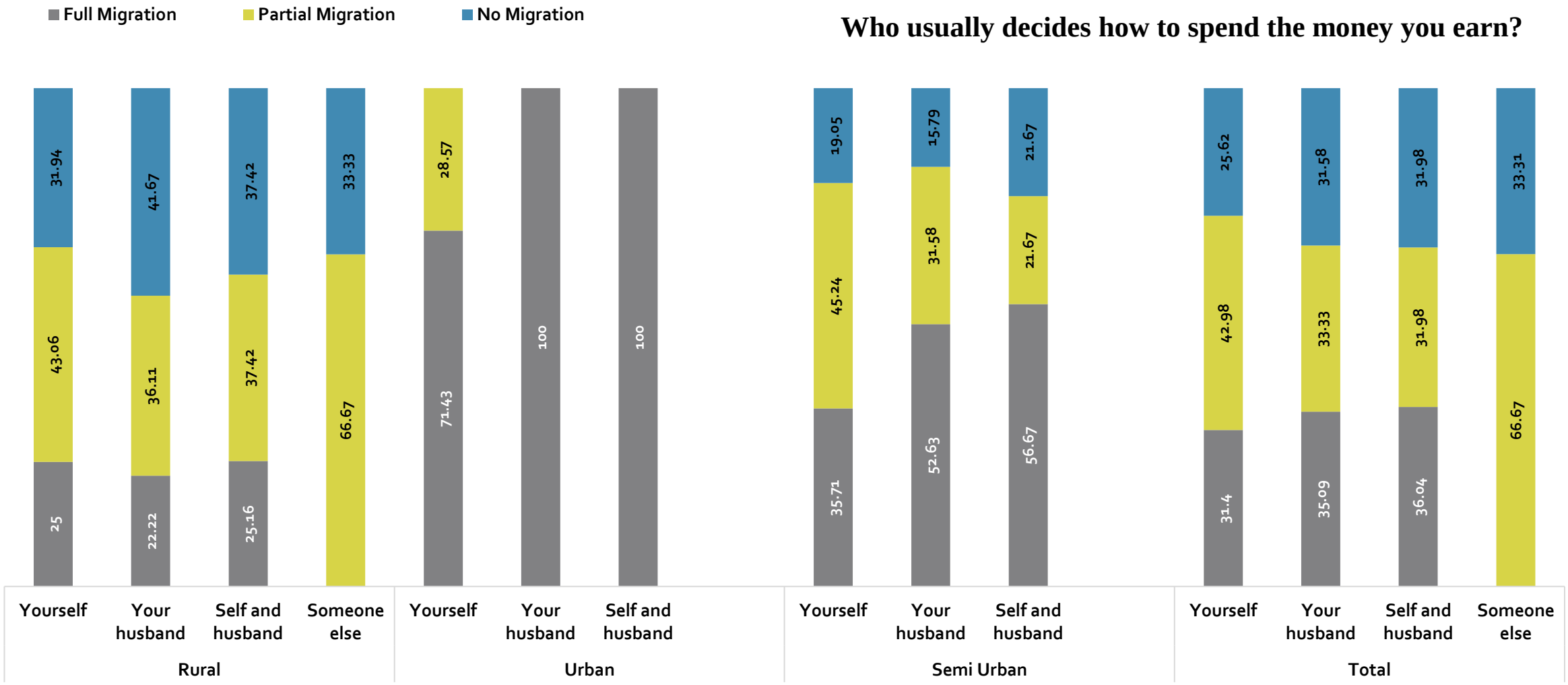
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, VOICE & AGENCY

(Within the Household)

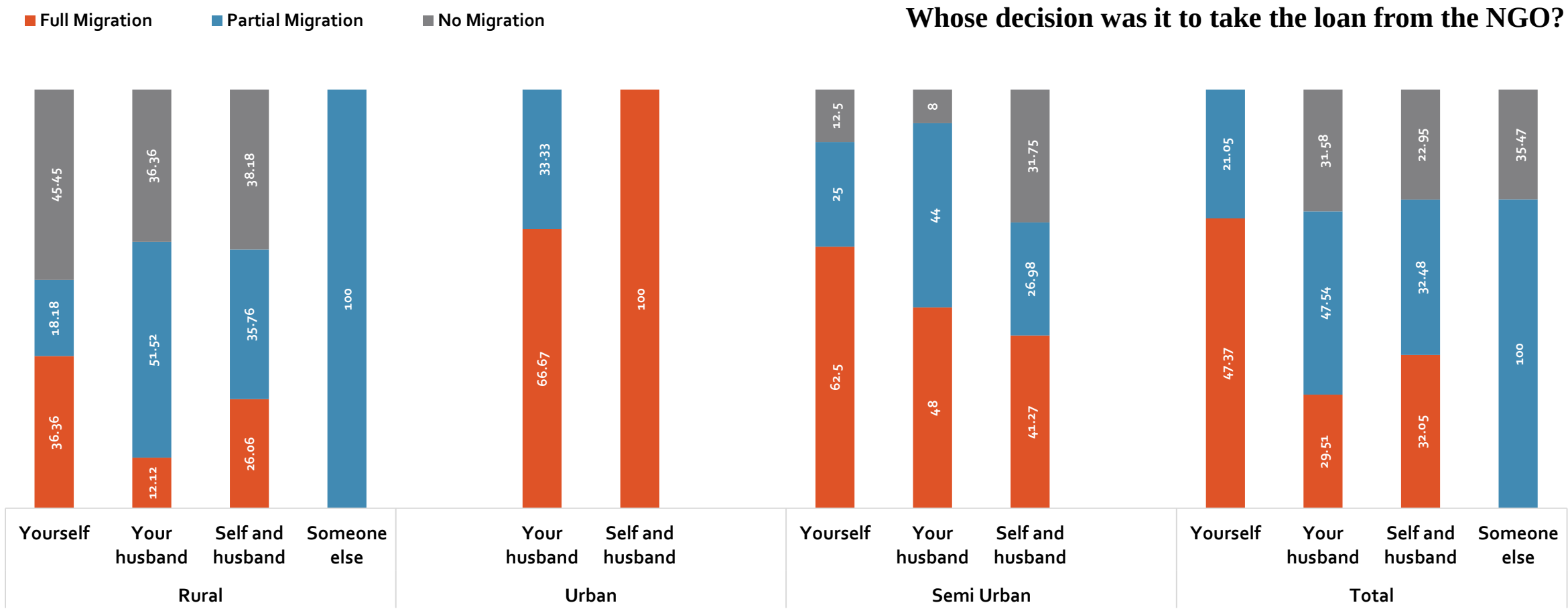
Whose decision was it to work to earn income?



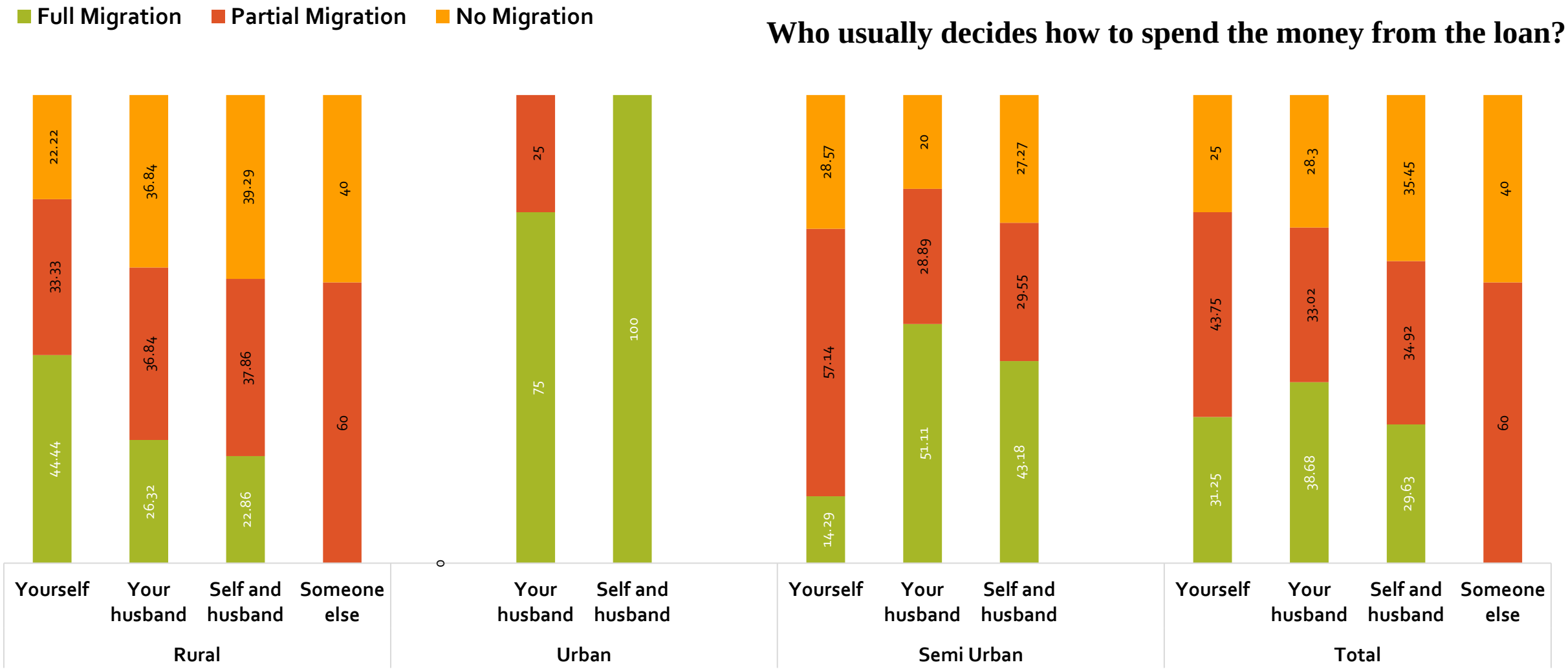
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, VOICE & AGENCY



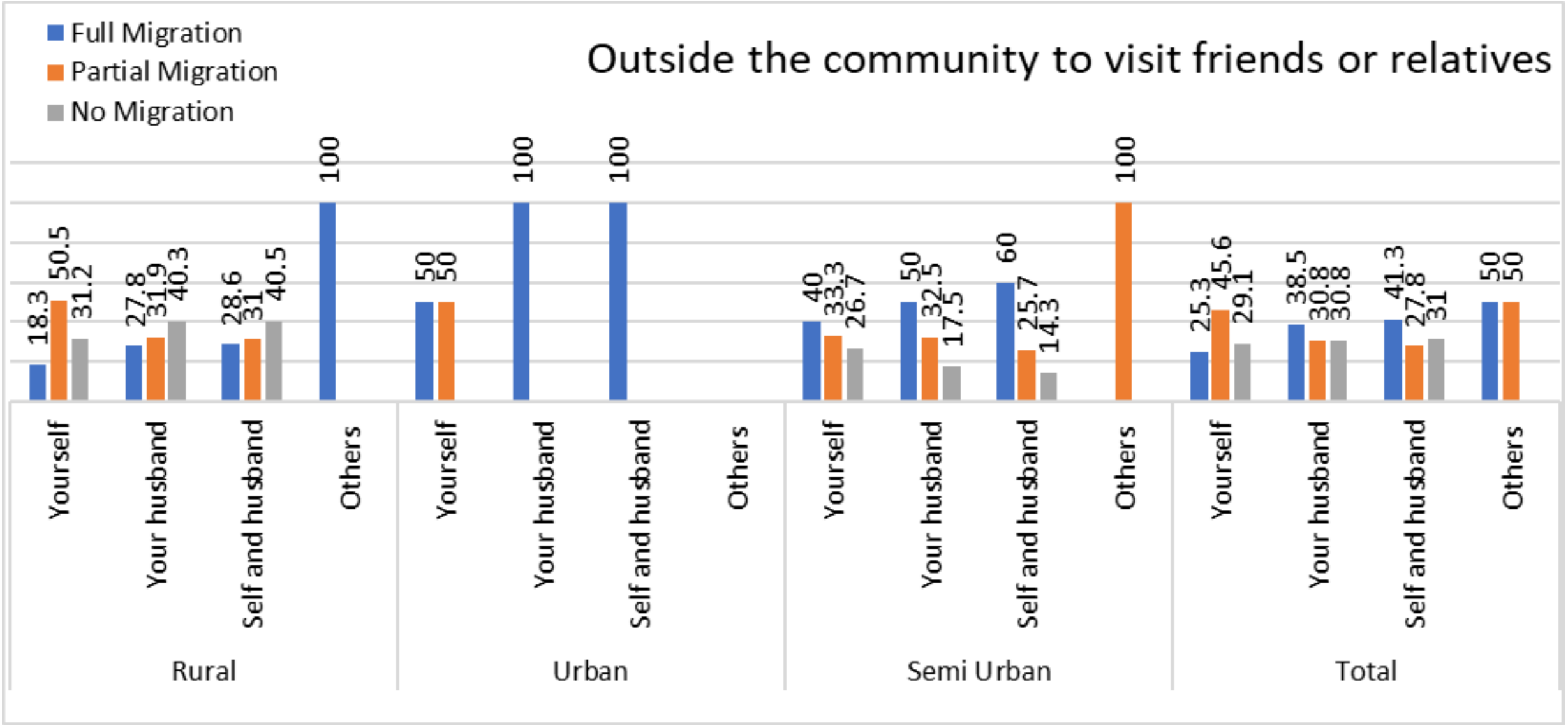
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, VOICE & AGENCY



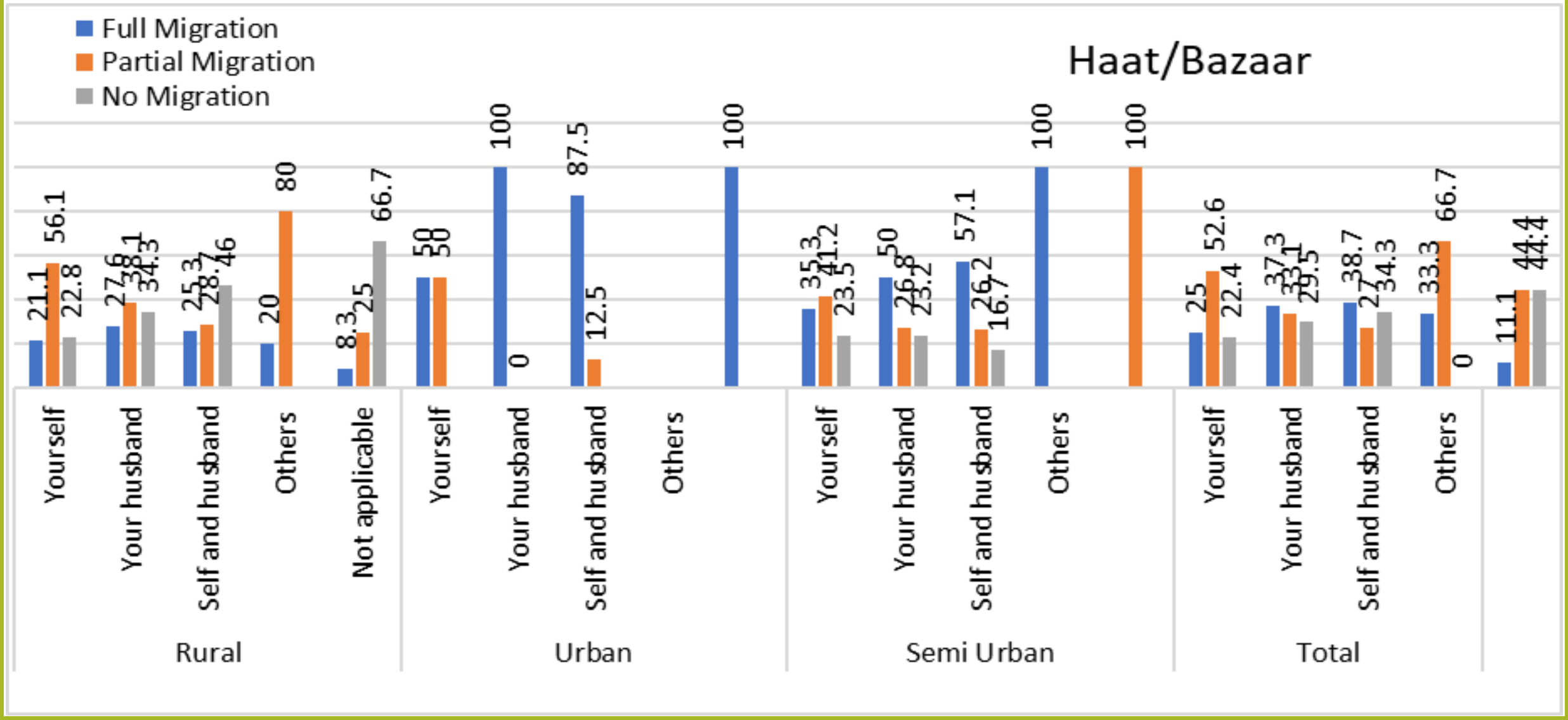
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, VOICE & AGENCY



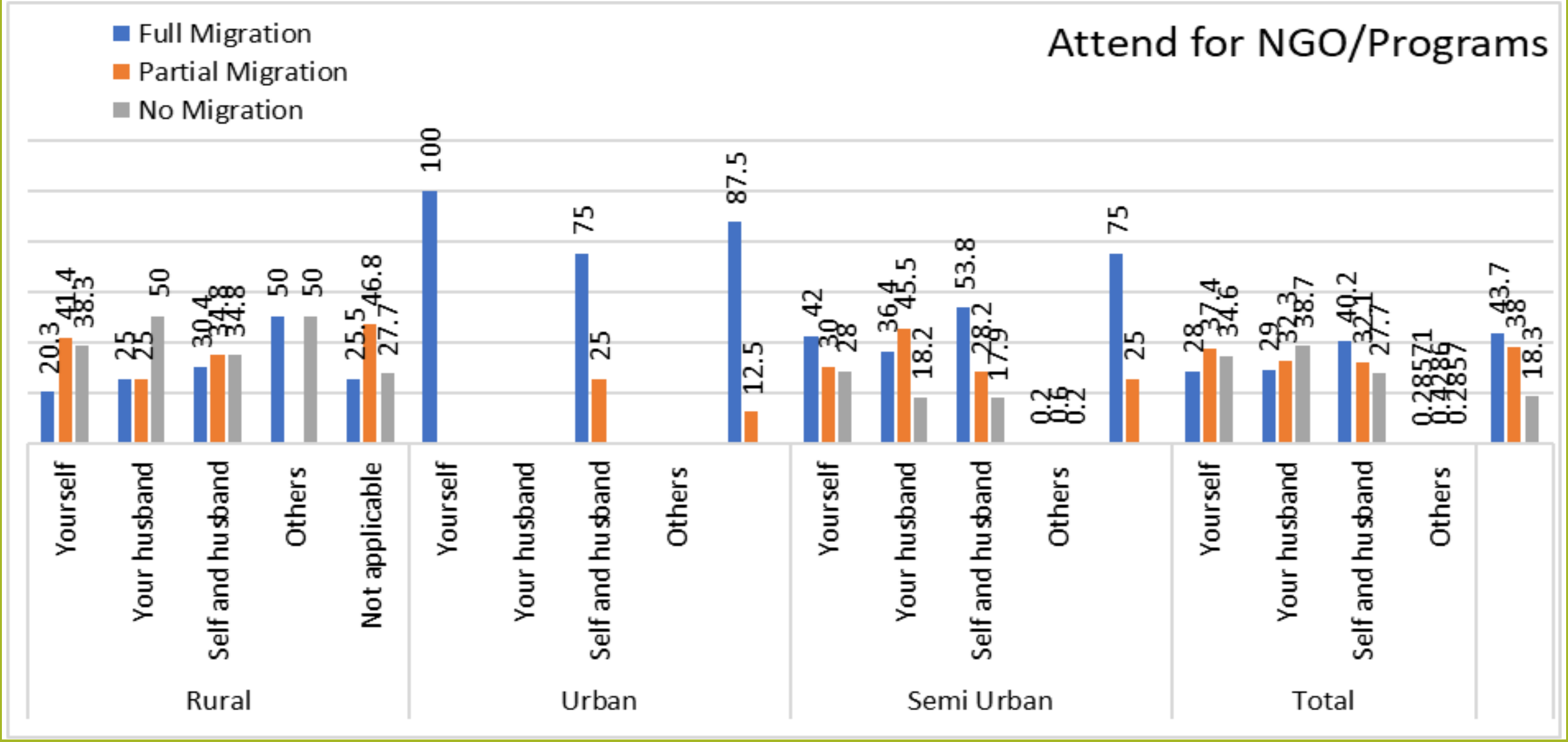
WOMEN'S SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: MOBILITY DECISIONS



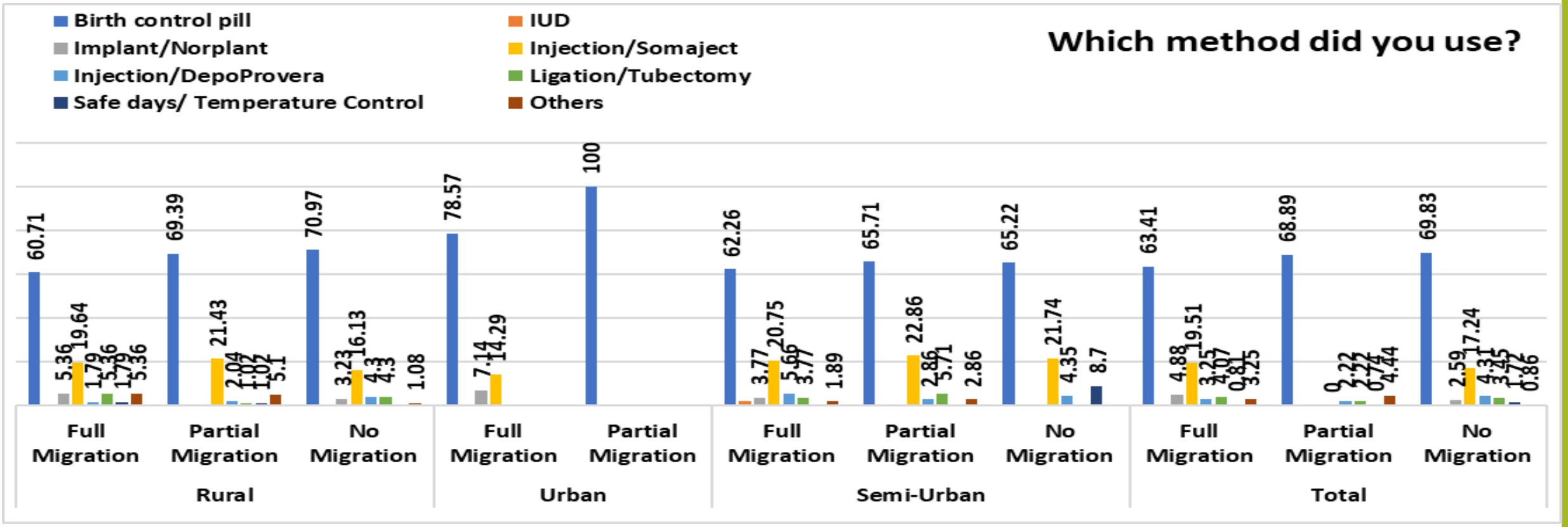
WOMEN'S SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: MOBILITY DECISIONS



WOMEN'S SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: MOBILITY DECISIONS



WOMEN'S SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT: REPRODUCTIVE DECISIONS



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

AGRICULTURE / LIVESTOCK/ FISHERIES

INDICATORS	RURAL						URBAN						SEMI-URBAN					
	Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Are you an active member of any [GROUP]?	100 (3)	0	30 (3)	70 (7)	76.92 (10)	23.08 (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.67 (2)	33.33 (1)	100 (2)	0	50 (1)	50 (1)
Do you have a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	100 (1)	0	50 (2)	50 (2)	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0
Out of the last 5 meetings, how many did you attend?	4	0	2	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	2

WATER USERS

	RURAL						URBAN						SEMI-URBAN					
	Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Are you an active member of any [GROUP]?	66.67 (4)	33.33 (2)	27.27 (3)	72.73 (8)	60 (6)	40 (4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.67 (4)	33.33 (2)	25 (1)	75 (3)	100 (1)	0
Do you have a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	0	0	0	0	100 (2)	0	50 (1)	50 (1)	100 (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 (1)	50 (1)	50 (1)
Out of the last 5 meetings, how many did you attend?	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

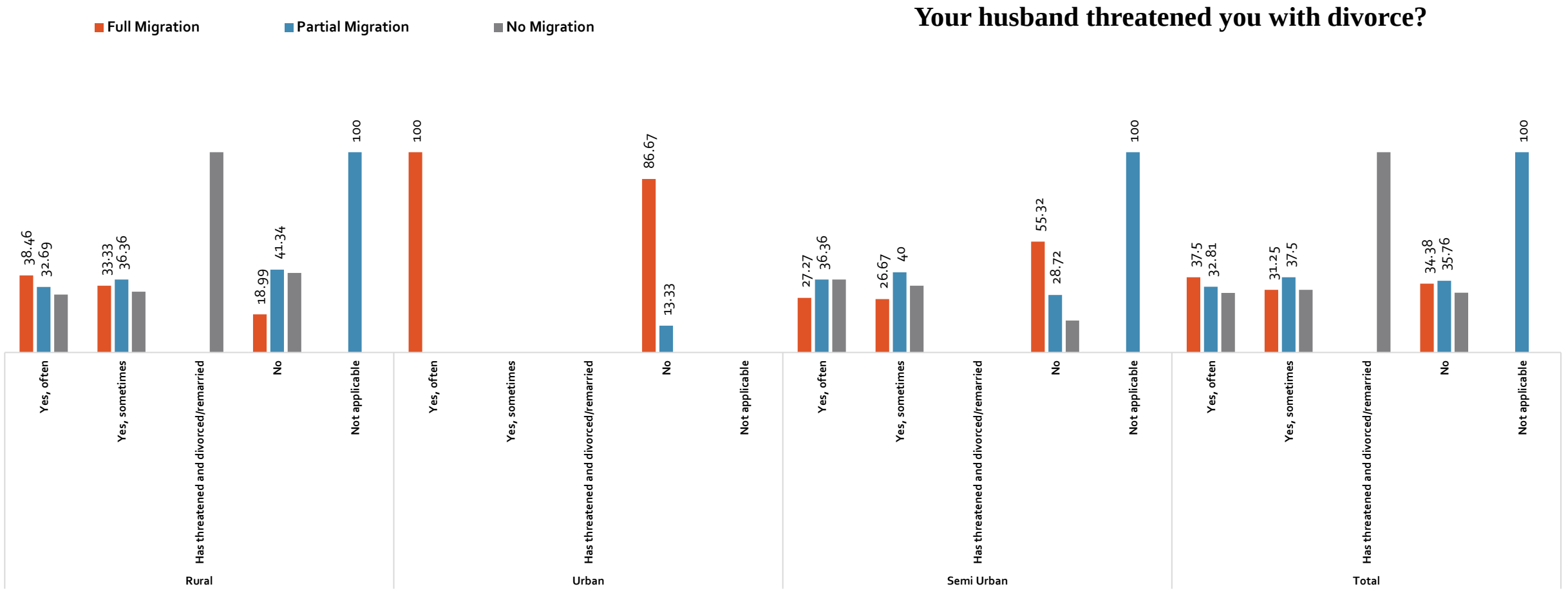
CREDIT OR MICROFINANCE GROUP (incl. ROS)

INDICATORS	RURAL						URBAN						SEMI-URBAN					
	Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Are you an active member of any [GROUP]?	38 (19)	62 (31)	18.92 (14)	81.08 (60)	34.72 (25)	65.28 (47)	16.67 (1)	83.33 (5)	100 (1)	0	0	0	38.24 (13)	61.76 (21)	28.13 (9)	71.88 (23)	30.43 (7)	69.57 (16)
Do you have a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	0	100 (2)	12.5 (1)	87.5 (7)	42.86 (3)	57.14 (4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	50 (1)	50(1)	50(2)	50(2)	100(1)	0
Out of the last 5 meetings, how many did you attend?	2	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3

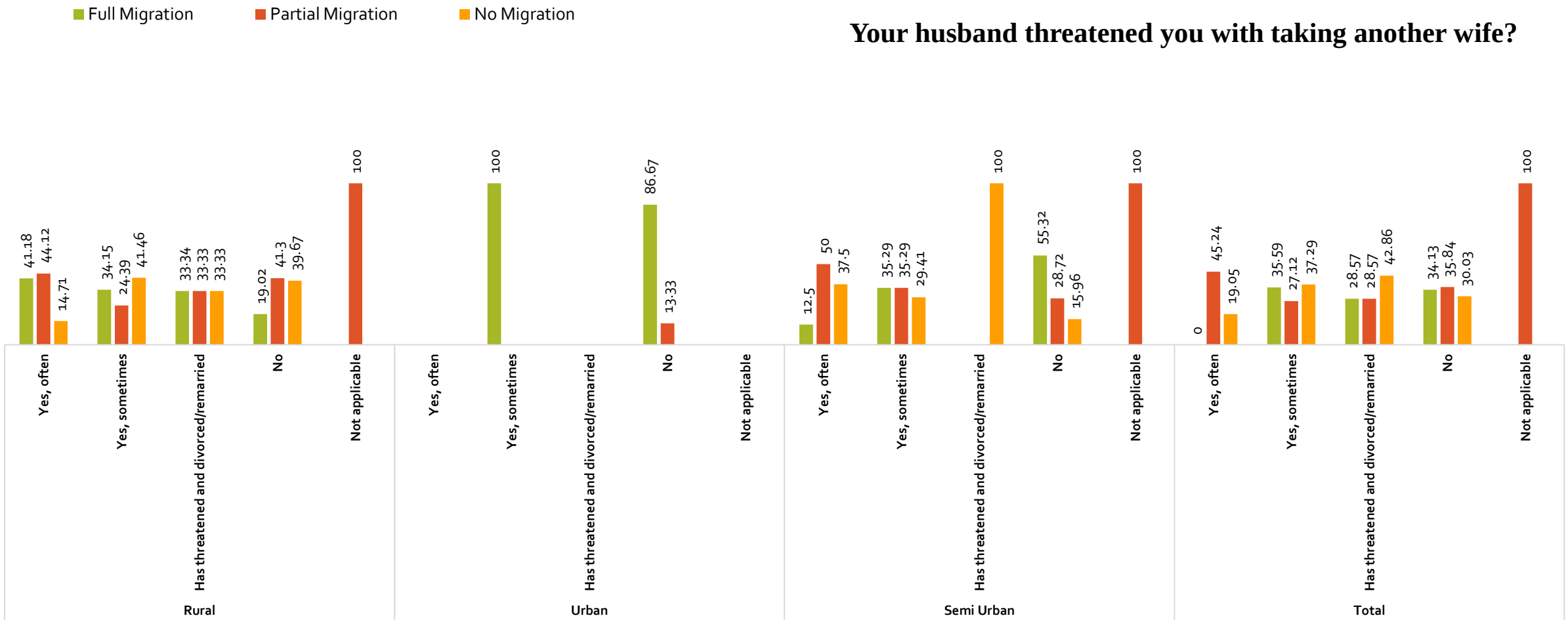
OTHER WOMEN GROUP

	RURAL						URBAN						SEMI-URBAN					
	Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration		Full Migration		Partial Migration		No Migration	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Are you an active member of any [GROUP]?	100 (2)	0	25 (1)	75 (3)	50 (3)	50 (3)	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Do you have a leadership position in this [GROUP]?	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	100 (1)	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Out of the last 5 meetings, how many did you attend?	5	0	5	1	4	3	0	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

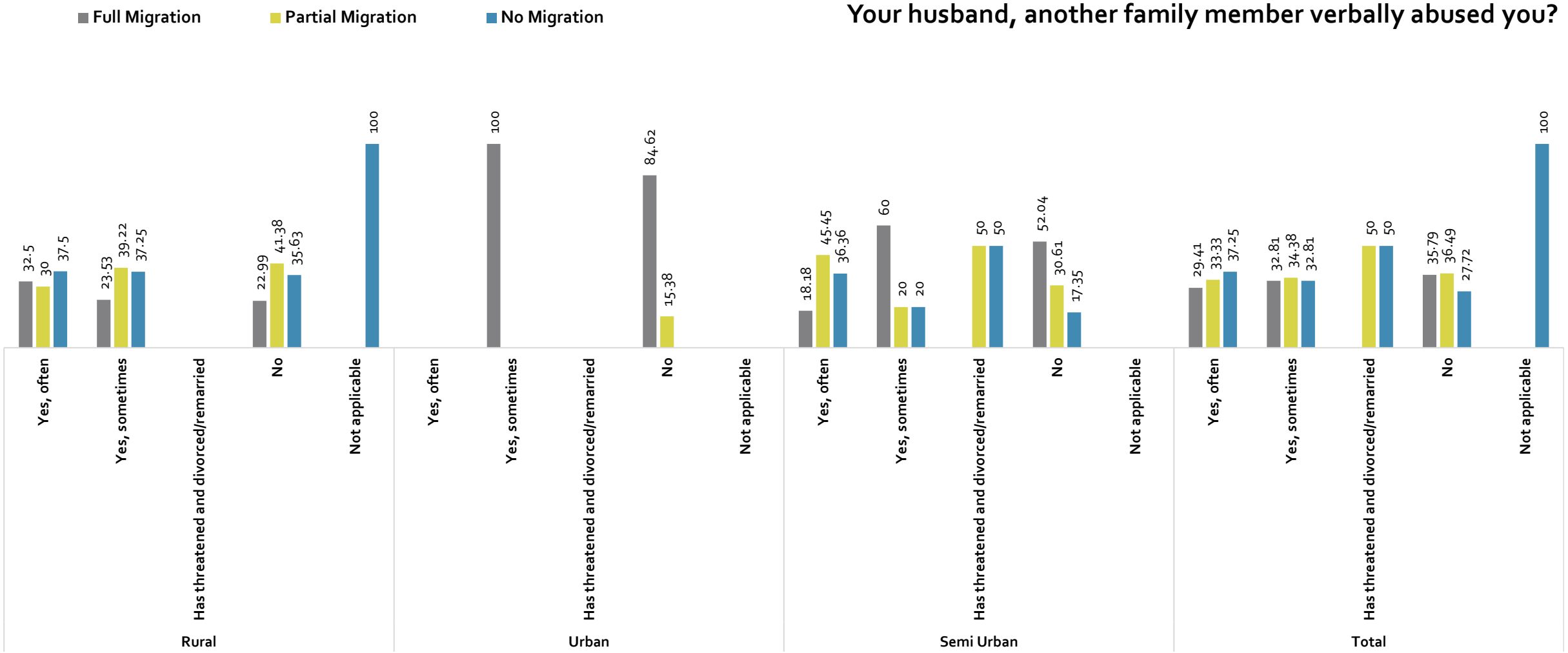
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



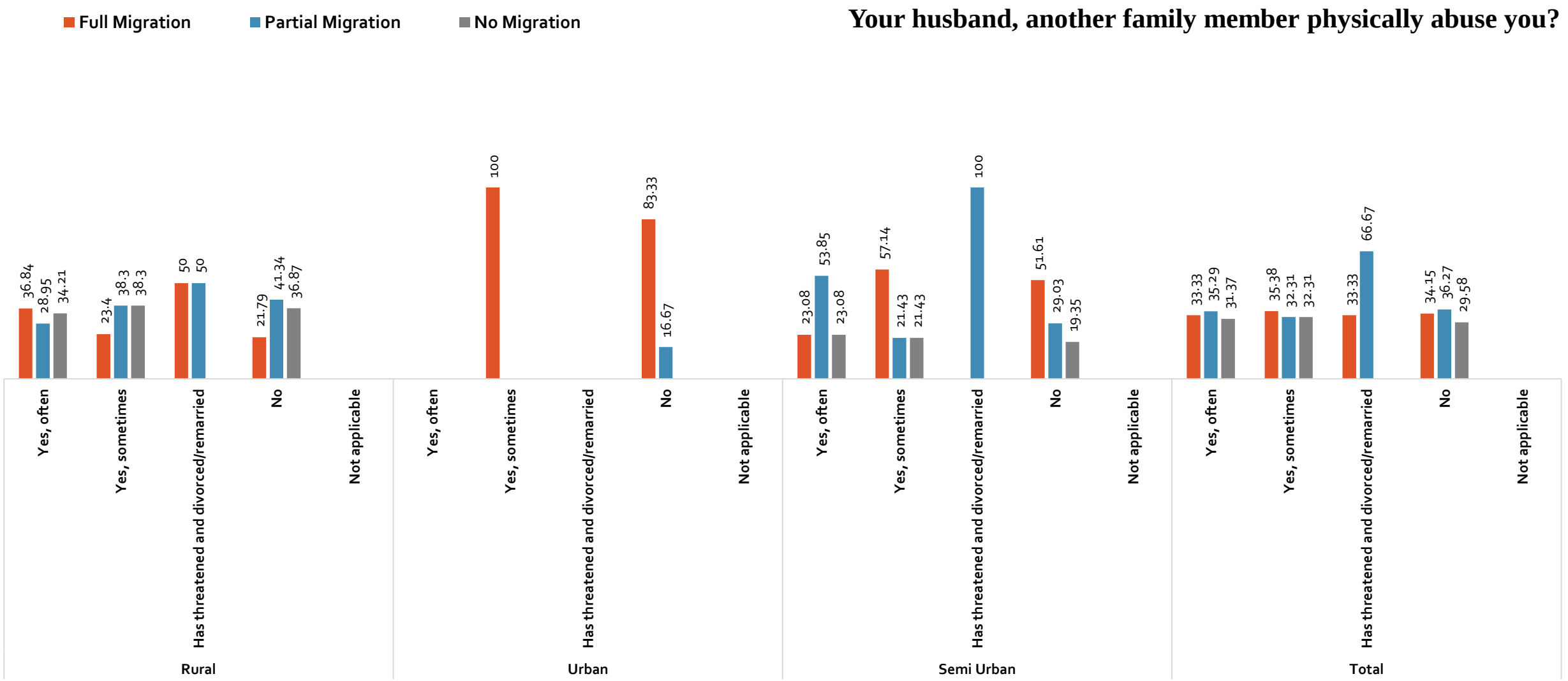
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



CONCLUSION AND POLICY AGENDA

- **Inclusiveness challenges** is a major issue in climate policy implementation to reduce vulnerability;
- **Access to credit (via kinship and institutions**) and **training facilities (e.g., public and private)** mostly matters as coping strategy for households and to shift towards sustainable jobs and employment for marginalized groups, particularly women;
- Gender differences in **economic and social empowerment indicators** needs more attention in all three regional settings (e.g., rural, urban and semi-urban) in the **Coastal belt**;
- Women's vulnerability could further deteriorate without **disaster-specific** and **gender-specific intervention programs** in the regional context;
- Both places of risk origin **(particularly the Sundarbans)** and internal climate migrant destination belts needs to be adequately taken care of in the relevant policy space to overcome **multiple migration challenges** (in terms of livelihood diversification, women's empowerment, voice and agency) and **generating poverty traps**;
- Special attention should be provided to increase **women's leadership, influence** and **participation** in the local community activities;
- ***It has been reassuring that achieving gender equality remains an important development policy goal in the context of addressing regional climate risk and gender-based challenges, particularly on women and girls for Bangladesh.***

Thank you for your kind attention!!

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