

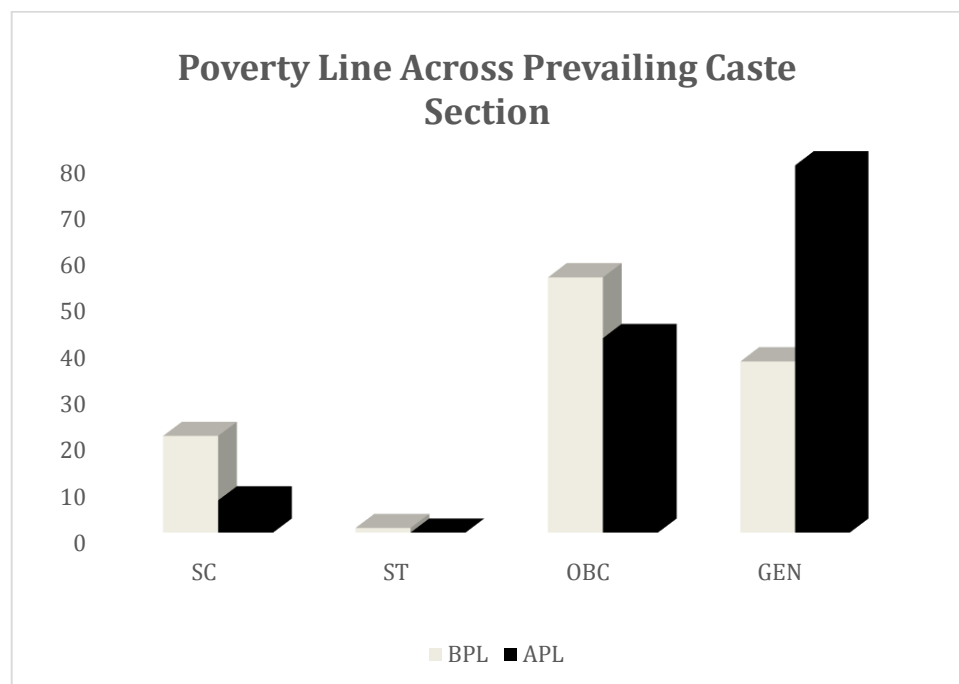
# Grama Panchayat Development Plan for Arpookara: First Draft

## INTRODUCTION

Arpookara is a village in Kottayam categorized under 'hardly developing'. The village has a surface area of 24.53 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the population census of 2001 around 23,538 people reside here and majority of the population are males. The average percentage of literate people is 95% of the total population.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Though majority of the population resides under the poverty line in the selected wards according to the socio economic survey carried out by National Service Scheme of Baselius College, Kottayam in 2019



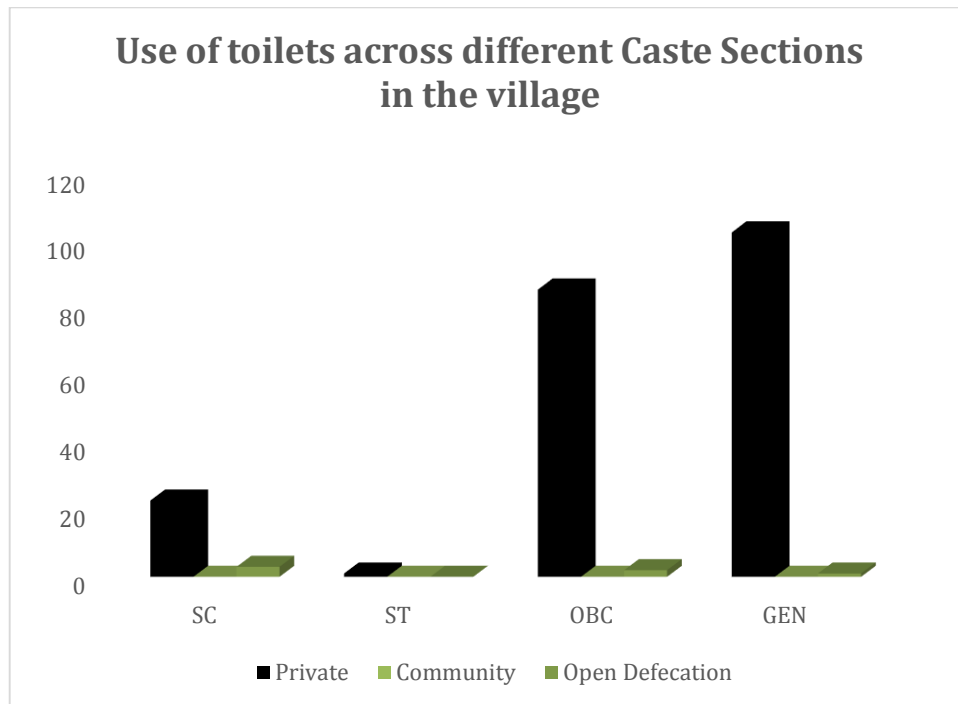
*(Source: UBA village survey by Baselius College at Arppookara Village, 2019)*

The survey report showed that 75 percent, 100 percent and 56 percent of the underprivileged communities, SC, ST and OBC respectively are living under poverty line. The most striking situation is the poor financial status of the population in spite of an impressive literacy rate of 94 percentage in the village

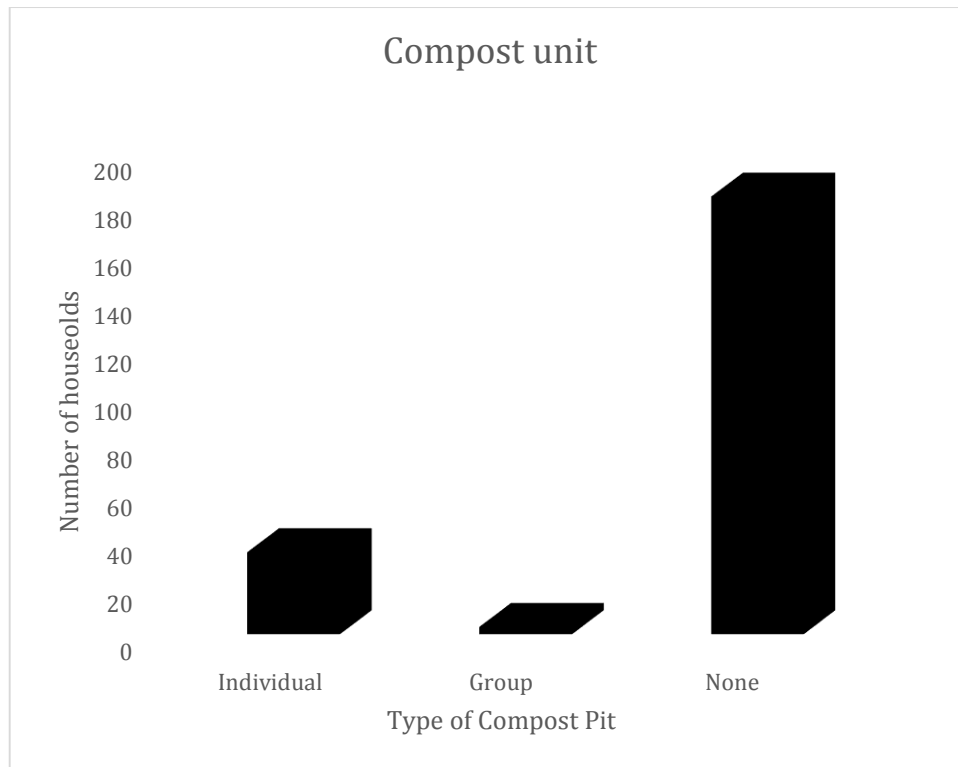
The population is aware of the necessity of having a bank account is strengthened by the fact that around 91 percent of the total population as their own bank accounts.

The village also has access to amenities like Primary and higher secondary Schools, Health Centres, Drinking water, Anganwadis and Technical training institutes. The infrastructure of the village was also found satisfactory.

Around 2 percentage of the population lacks toilet facility in their households and open defecation has been reported, in spite of a high literacy rate



**Source: UBA village survey by Baselius College at Arpookara Village, 2019**



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Besides the problem of Open Defecation approximately 83 percentage of the households lack provisions for efficient waste management

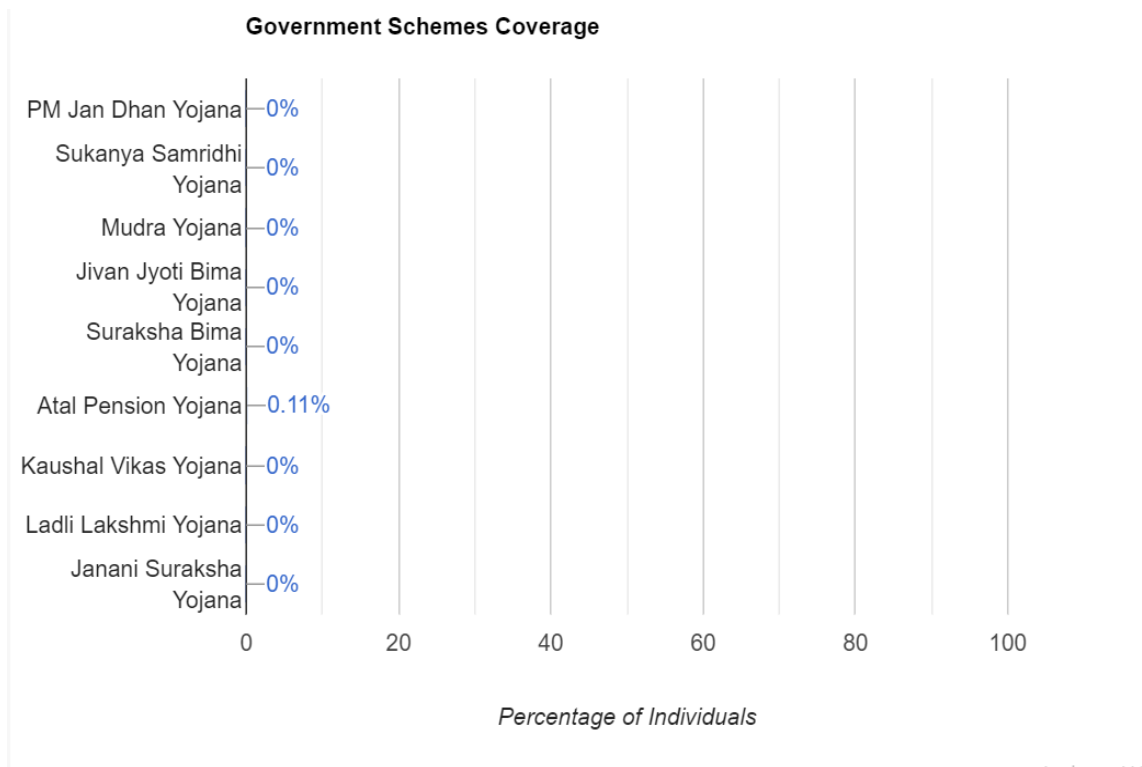
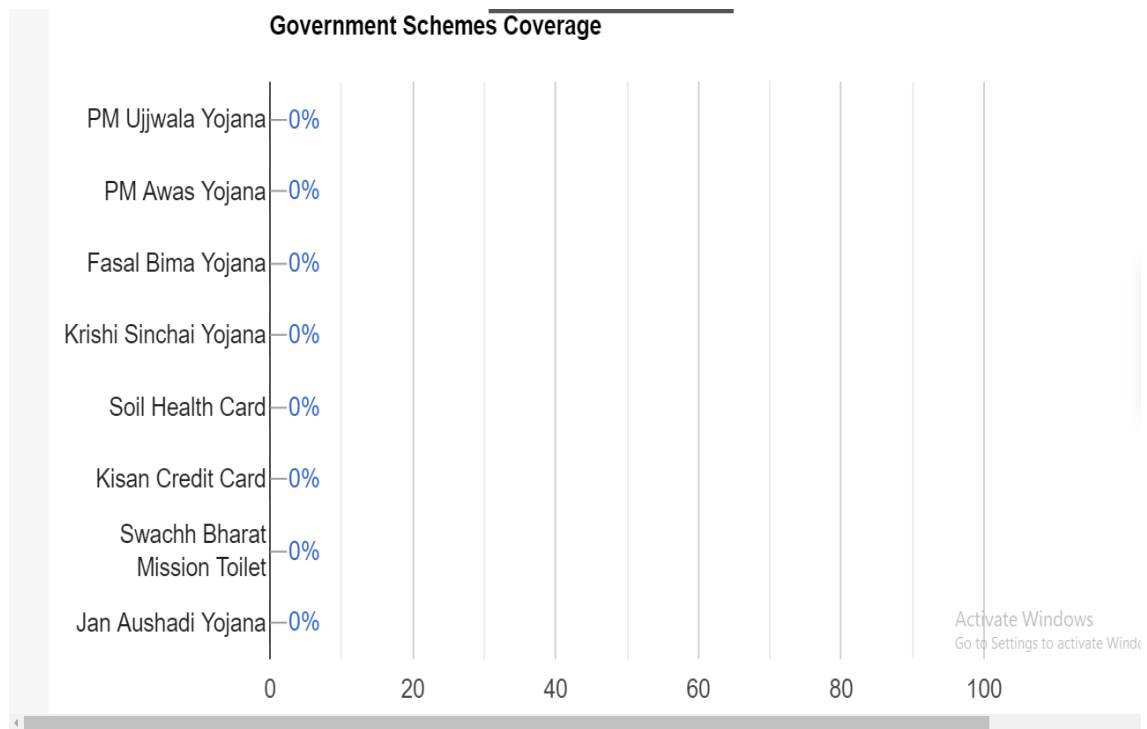
The livelihood pattern showed that most of the people belonged to unskilled daily wage earners. The salaried individuals in private and Government sector came second in the list

The average annual income of a family was very less in Scheduled Tribe community, though other backward castes and General category of the population have a better income.

The population is computer literate and they can definitely access information from print and online media.

#### PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

- 1) Open defecation still persists in about 2 percent of the total households owing to the absence of a proper toilet system
- 2) In spite of being literate, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line
- 3) 78 percent of the total population belong to the unskilled wage worker category
- 4) Though financial situation is poor the villagers are not aware of the several government financial schemes aimed at uplifting the economic situation of Indian villages
- 5) Lack of provisions for effective waste management in individual households as well as public



***(Source: UBA survey by Baselius College at Arpookara Village, 2019)***

## INTERVENTION

- A plan to disseminate financial literacy on the various central government schemes and provisions including e wallets and UPI payments by distributing leaflets containing brief accounts of various government financial schemes and encourage the villagers to effectively utilize such plans to improve the overall financial health of the population
- Training on specific life skills may improve the living standards of the population to an extent
- Construction of sanitary toilets for the 11 percent of the population resorting to open defecation may improve the overall hygiene of the community and can make the village 100 percent open defecation free
- Implementing suitable household composting units for proper waste management

## BIBLIOGRAPY

### **UBA village survey by Baselius College, Kottayam**

**Census of India: Villages with population 5000 & above". Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. Archived from the original on 8 December 2008. Retrieved 10 December 2008.**