



FINANCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES AMONG TRIBES : A CASE STUDY ON ODISHA

Rupak Kumar Tung¹, Tanuja Mohanty², Brahmananda Barik³

1,2 & 3 - Ph.D. Research Scholar, Dept. of Economics, MSCB University, Takatpur, Odisha, India

Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to determine access to formal financial services (in this case banking services) in the Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts of Odisha, India. Targeted sampling and multistage sampling methods were used for district or village selection. Both primary and secondary data has been used in this study. Primary data are collected through face-to-face interviews with householders using the design of structured interviews. The provision of banking infrastructure in Sample Districts, especially Sample Panchayat in Kendujhar District, is not sufficient. 94.8% of respondents in both districts have access to banking services, including 98% in Mayurbhanj district and 88.5% in Kendujhar district. The majority of respondents opened an account during the Financial Inclusion Initiative. A respondent's income level and literacy rate are the most important determinants of access to a bank account. Financial awareness in both districts is very low and households do not have access to relevant features of bank accounts such as debit cards, credit cards, loan accounts, checking facilities and overdraft facilities. The main reasons for not having a bank account are lack of regular and sufficient income and lack of financial awareness. This study examines accessibility and its determinants at the grassroots level by examining village households. It would be helpful for policy makers to design appropriate systems and programs to improve accessibility and use of banking services, especially in rural and tribal areas.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Accessibility, Banking Services, Rural and Tribal households

1. Introduction:

The Rangarajan Financial Inclusion Board defines it as “the process of ensuring affordable access to the financial services and timely and appropriate credit needed by vulnerable groups such as the vulnerable class and low-income population”.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:	RESEARCH ARTICLE
Rupak Kumar Tung Ph.D. Research Scholar, Dept. of Economics, MSCB University, Takatpur, Odisha, India Email: tungrupakkumar@gmail.com	

Financial inclusion and socioeconomic growth indicators are positively correlated. A comprehensive financial system that connects unbanked households to the formal financial system facilitates participation in mainstream economic life and improves economic conditions and living standards. "Access to finance for a large segment of the population is important not only for expanding opportunities beyond the wealthy and connected, but also for thriving democracies and market economies. Promote people's well-being by enabling them to create financial assets, generate income and build resilience to survive macroeconomic and livelihood shocks.

Financial inclusion is an economic state in which individuals and businesses are not denied access to basic financial services. It is a multifaceted concept that encompasses many dimensions, from economic participation to economic well-being, literacy and productivity. "Financial inclusion is defined as easy access, availability and use of the formal financial system by all members of the economy."

While definitions of financial inclusion vary around the world, it is generally of paramount importance that all population groups, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, have access to financial products and services such as credit, savings, insurance, payments and remittances. We all agree. The importance of financial inclusion. Financial services should be provided by formal financial institutions in an affordable, convenient, flexible and transparent manner, and policy initiatives should minimize all price and non-price barriers related to access to and use of facilities. The aim should be to limit Formal financial services are uneven across the country, posing challenges to achieving financial inclusion. Despite several initiatives, a net 41% of all households in the country are not connected to the banking system. In connection with Orissa, the situation is even worse. Only 4.70 million households, or 45% of all households in the state, have banking facilities, 42% in rural areas and 66% in urban areas. Exclusion is mostly found in tribal and rural areas of the state. Therefore, this paper seeks to examine the financial access situation in her two districts of Orissa, where tribal and rural populations are more concentrated.

1.2.Objectives of the study:

1. To determine access to formal financial services (in this case banking services) in the Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts of Odisha.

1.3. Hypothesis of the study:

H0: Unfavourable formal financial services by the banking system to the tribes of Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar district.

H1: Favourable formal financial services accessed the tribes of Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar district.

2. Review of Literature:

- 2.1.** Salma, Mandira. Financial Inclusion Index. 2008. Promoting an inclusive financial system is seen as a policy priority in many countries, it said. Although the importance of financial inclusion is widely recognized, the literature lacks a comprehensive measure that can be

used to measure the degree of financial inclusion across the economy. This white paper attempts to fill this gap by proposing the Financial Inclusion Index (IFI).

- 2.2.**Beck, Thorsten, Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Maria Soledad Martinez Peria. " Reaching out: Access to and use of banking services across countries. (2007). This paper is the first attempt to measure the scope of the financial sector and examine its determinants. First, we present a new indicator of banking sector coverage for 99 countries, created from aggregated data from banking regulators. Second, our indicator accurately predicts hard-to-collect, micro-level statistics about household and corporate banking service use, and links them in the expected way to measures of corporate funding constraints. indicates that
- 2.3.**Ozili, Peterson K. Financial inclusion research around the world: A review. 2021. This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the latest evidence on financial inclusion from all regions of the world. We identify emerging themes in the financial inclusion literature and some controversies in policy circles related to financial inclusion. In particular, how optimal financial inclusion, extreme financial inclusion, and financial inclusion can transfer systemic risk to the formal financial sector, and whether financial inclusion and financial exclusion are procyclical to changes in the business cycle. Focus on one issue. The key findings of this review are that financial inclusion influences and is influenced by levels of financial innovation, poverty levels, financial sector stability, economic health, financial literacy, and regulatory frameworks. is showing. These vary by country.
- 2.4.**Demirgüç-Kunt, Asli, and Leora F. Klapper. Financial inclusion in Africa: an overview.(2012). This paper summarizes financial inclusion across Africa. First, a brief overview of the situation in the financial sector in Africa. We then use the Global Financial Inclusion Index (GlobalFINdex) database to characterize African adults using formal and informal financial services and identify barriers to formal account ownership. We then use data from the World Bank Business Survey to find that the use of financial services by SMEs in Africa compares with SMEs in other developing regions in terms of account ownership and available credit lines. to find out how it is. The authors found that less than a quarter of her African adults had accounts with formal financial institutions, and many African adults save and borrow informally. Did. Similarly, most SMEs in Africa do not have bank accounts, making access to finance a major barrier. Compared with other developing countries, high-growth SMEs in Africa are less likely to use formal finance, suggesting that the formal financial system does not meet the needs of firms with growth opportunities. .

3. Sampling and methodology:

3.1.Sampling:

In this study, targeted random sampling and multistage random sampling procedures were used to select districts and households. Two districts were selected as sample districts using the targeted sampling method. Financial inclusion inherently includes vulnerable groups such as the rural poor and planned tribes, as they are largely excluded from the formal financial system. The proportion of rural population in Odisha is 82.4% . Of the 30 districts,

23 have rural populations above the national average. From these 23 districts, one district was chosen by lottery, i.e. Mayurbhanj. Likewise, another one district was selected from among the districts in which the designated tribes were densely populated. That is, Kendujhar . A multistage sampling procedure was used to select the final sampling unit.

Table 1: *Sample units and allocation of sample size*

Sl. No	Districts Selected	Sample Blocks	Sample Panchayats	Sample Villages	Total Household	Sample Size (Number of Households)
1	mayurbhanj	Baripada	baripada	Laxmiposi	730	122
		samakhunta	chulkana	chulkana	515	86
2	kendujhar	joda	Deojhar	Gobaradhanpur	810	134
		Patna	Ankura	Ankura	343	58
Total					2398	n=400

3.2. Sample size:

The sample size is proportionally determined by each village. A total of 400 households (17% of each village) will be selected for the study. A detailed description of sampling units and sample sizes is provided in Table 1.

3.3. Sources of data:

This study used both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data has been collected from household heads through a structured interview plan to determine the factors that determine reachability status and access at the household level. Secondary data was used to analyze the status of banking infrastructure in the study area, data collected from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State Level Banking Commission (SLBC), Odisha, Census website .

3.4. Analysis of data:

Data analysis is done in SPSS. Analyze collected data using descriptive statistical tools such as means, percentages and crosstabs.

4. Result and Analysis:

4.1. Availability of banking infrastructure in the study area:

The availability of banking infrastructure in the form of bank branches, ATMs, and business correspondents (BCs) is key to determining accessibility. In the first phase (2010-2013), the RBI advised banks to provide banking services in all unbanked villages with a population of 2000 or more through a combination of “Business Telecommunications and Branches” and issued guidelines has been set. In the second phase (2013-2016), the population was expanded in villages

with less than 2000 inhabitants in her bank. Despite these guidelines, progress in Odisha's banking infrastructure has been unsatisfactory. As of June 30, 2017, there are a total of 5,041 bank branches and 6,237 ATMs in the state. 62.55% of all GPs in the state are unbanked and only 30.4% have commercial and credit union branches within a 5 km radius. The state has an initiative to provide banking services to non-banked GPs through BCs. However, as of March 2019, only 16.71% of unbanked GPs are covered by the BC scheme. This shows that the state's banking infrastructure is far behind in progress. Detailed state bank profiles are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Banking profile of Odisha

S.N.	Details	GP Position
1	Total number of unbanked GPs till 31 March 2017	4253
2	GPs having Brick and Mortar commercial bank branch (PSB, Pvt banks, RRB) with in 5 KM	2000
3	GP having Brick and mortar Rural Co-Operative bank branch or UCB within 5KM	68
4	GPs not having bank branch within a radius of 5KM	2185
5	GPS not having bank branch but having BC	711
6	GPs having neither bank branch nor BC within 5KM	1474

Source: Proceedings of 148 SLBC Meeting, SLBC Odisha

The banking infrastructure scenario in the example district is also unsatisfactory. Although Kendujhar district is the second largest district by area (9712 km²), the total number of bank branches is only about 5% (258) of the total number of bank branches in the state (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of bank branches and ATMs

	Number of bank Branches	Number of ATMs	Number of villages covered under BCs
Kendujhar District	258	329	1267
Mayurbhanj District	133	158	796
Odisha	5041	6237	37646

Source: Banking Network in Odisha, RBI

This corresponds to 63.7% of all general practitioners (167 general practitioners) and 67.6% of all unbanked district villages (1203 villages). In the example of Mayurbhanj District, banking infrastructure is also poor, with only 133 bank branches and 158 ATMs, distributed among 230 general practitioners and 1547 villages. As a result, 52% of general practitioners and 48% of villages in the district are unbanked.

Geographical and demographic penetration analysis of banking infrastructure shows that Kendujhar district has lower geographic penetration of bank branches and ATMs compared to Mayurbhanj district with only 26.5 bank branches and 33.87 ATMs per 1000 km². It has been.

However, in terms of population penetration, Mayurbhanj district is in a worse position than Kendujhar with only 1.25 bank branches and 1.49 ATMs per 10,000 adult residents (Table 4).

Table 4. Geographic and demographic penetration of bank branches and ATMs

Districts and State	Geographical Penetration of Bank Branches (Branches per 1000 square km)	Geographical Penetration of ATMs (ATMs per 1000 square km)	Demographic Penetration of Bank Branches (Bank Branches per 10,000 adult population)	Demographic Penetration of ATMs (ATMs per 10,000 adult population)
Kendujhar	26.5	33.87	1.68	2.14
Mayurbhanj	50.30	59.75	1.25	1.49
Odisha	32.37	40.45	1.65	2.04

Source: Authors' Own Calculation

4.2. Findings from the households:

4.2.1. Characteristics of Households:

The household characteristics shown in Table 5 indicate that the majority of households in both districts fall into the BPL category, with 83% in Mayurbhanj district and 96% in Kendujhar district. Regarding the social category, the Mayurbhanj district sample households are predominantly in his OBC category (50.5%), whereas the Kendujhar district sample households are predominantly in the ST category (85%). Households in Mayurbhanj area have better housing conditions than those in Kendujhar area. 60% of households in Kendujhar district live in mud and kucha houses. The average family size in Mayurbhanj is 4.65 with 1.56 breadwinners and the average family size in Kendujhar district is 4.85 with 1.55 bread winners. Around 21% of households in both districts are landless, with the highest percentage of landless households (25.7) belonging to Laxmiposi village in Mayurbhanj district, followed by Ankura village in Kendujhar district (22%). . The average land tenure in Mayurbhanj district is 1.84 acres and in Kendujhar it is 1.62 acres. The average monthly household income is Rs 7,328 in Mayurbhanj district and Rs 6,050 in Kendujhar district.

Table 5. Profile of the households

	Mayurbhanj			Kendujhar		
	Pentha	Laxmiposi	Total	Gyanpal i	Ankura	Total
% of BPL Households	78.5	90.0	82.5	95.0	96.4	96.0
Social Category (%)						
SC	13.0	15.7	14.0	13.3	5.7	8.0
ST	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.4	85.7	85.0

Financial inclusion through access to banking services among Tribes...

OBC	55.4	41.4	50.5	3.3	8.6	7.0
General & Other	31.5	42.9	35.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Housing Type (%)						
-Pucca	30.8	38.6	33.5	8.3	5.7	6.5
-Semi Pucca	27.7	28.6	28.0	26.7	34.3	32.0
-Brick and Mud Wall (Tile/asbestos and Thatched roof)	37.7	24.3	33.0	0.0	2.1	1.4
-Mud Floor and Wall with thatched/ khaper/ tile Roof	3.8	8.6	5.5	56.7	50.0	52.0
-Stone wall & Mud floor with thatched/ khaper/ tile roof	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	7.9	8.0
Land Ownership						
Households own Ag. land (In %)	81.5	74.3	79.0	83.3	77.9	79.5
Average land holding (in acre)	1.91	1.58	1.84	1.49	1.68	1.62
Average family Size	4.52	4.87	4.65	4.55	4.97	4.85
Average Earning Members	1.48	1.70	1.56	1.37	1.62	1.55
Monthly Average Income of the Households (In Rs.)	6963	8056	7328	5034	6547	6050

4.2.2. Characteristics of respondents:

The profile of respondents, shown in Table 6, indicates that household heads are predominantly male, with approximately 94.5% of male respondents in both circles. Data on religious categories are skewed towards Hinduism at 88% in Mayurbhanj district and Christianity at 70% in Kendujhar district. Twelve percent of Muslim respondents live in Laxmiposi village in Mayurbhanj district. The success of financial inclusion initiatives relies heavily on literacy in general and financial literacy in particular. The educational profile paints a bad picture of the Kendujhar district. About 24% of those surveyed are illiterate and have never been to school. The highest level of education attained by her 1.5% of respondents in this district is a high school diploma. Mayurbhanj district, on the other hand, has a better educational profile. Only 4.5% of respondents were illiterate and the highest level of education attended by 1% of respondents was a graduate degree.

Table 6. Characteristics of the respondents

District	Village	No. of HH	Sex of the respondents		Religion of the Respondents			Respondents ever attended School (Literate)
			Male	Female	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	
Mayurbhanj	Chulkana	130	91.5	8.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	96.2
	Laxmiposi	70	95.7	4.3	65.7	34.3	0.0	94.3
	Total	200	93.0	7.0	88.0	12.0	0.0	95.5

Financial inclusion through access to banking services among Tribes...

Kendujhar	Gabaradhan apur	60	91.7	8.3	50.0	0.0	50.0	70.0
	Ankura	140	95.7	4.3	21.4	0.0	78.6	79.3
	Total	200	94.5	5.5	30.0	0.0	70.0	76.5

4.2.3. Income and Occupational profile of respondents:

Agriculture has emerged as a major source of employment, with approximately 56% of the total number of respondents in both counties relying on cultivation and agricultural work. Mayurbhanj, coastal cultivation, remains the main occupation at 35%, followed by agricultural labor at 27.5%. Another 19% of the respondents are mostly self-employed, such as self-employed/small shops/family industries/rajamistry/traditional family work. On the other hand, in Kendujhar district, it is non-agricultural work (contract and daily wage basis). Twenty-eight percent of respondents depended on their primary job, followed by agricultural work at 26% and cultivating at 24%. The average monthly income of respondents is Rs 5,785 in Mayurbhanj district and Rs 4,708 in Kendujhar district. Respondents in Mayurbhanj have higher income levels, but the distribution is highly skewed compared to Kendujhar district (Table 7).

Table 7. Occupation and income profile of the respondents

District	Village	No. of HH	Occupation (Percent)							Average Monthly Income (Rs.)
			Cultivation	Ag. labour	Business / Self Employed	Non-Ag. Wage Labour	Govt. Salaried	Private Salaried	Non working	
Mayurbhanj	Chulkana	130	47.7	21.5	16.2	2.3	6.9	5.4	0.8	5439.23
	Laxmiposi	70	11.4	38.6	24.3	2.9	2.9	17.1	2.9	6398.57
	Total	200	35.0	27.5	19.0	2.5	5.5	9.5	1.5	5785.00
Kendujhar	Gabaradha napur	60	21.7	33.3	8.3	23.3	3.3	8.3	1.7	4003.33
	Ankura	140	25.0	22.9	11.4	30.0	1.4	9.3	0.0	5010.00
	Total	200	24.0	26.0	10.5	28.0	2.0	9.0	0.5	4708.00

4.2.4. Assess to formal financial services:

Access to bank accounts is just the first step in achieving the broader goal of financial inclusion. According to the 2011 census, only 59% and 57% of households in Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts had bank accounts, respectively. This is due to several financial inclusion initiatives implemented by the government. The numbers have improved significantly, including the Swabhimaan program in 2011 and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojanain in 2014. Sample data show that 98% or at least one adult member of her had a bank account, thus improving household financial access. Comparing the average family members with a bank account with the average family size, we find that on average about 50% of the sample households have a bank account (Table 8).

Table 8. Ownership of bank account

District Name	Village Name	Any adult member in family has a formal account.	Average Family Size	Average family members own a bank account
Mayurbhanj	Chulkana	97.7	4.52	2.46
	Laxmiposi	95.7	4.87	2.04
	Total	97.0	4.65	2.31
Kendujhar	Gabardhanapur	88.3	4.55	2.23
	Ankura	90.0	4.97	2.41
	Total	89.5	4.85	2.36
Grand total		94.8	93.3	2.34

5. Description of opened account:

5.1.Purpose:

The primary reason for opening a bank account in both counties is to receive government benefits, which was cited as the primary reason for opening a bank account by approximately 39% of county respondents. Looking at the individual districts, government profit transfer remains the main reason in Mayurbhanj District, with 49% of accounts opened for this purpose. When asked about the type of benefits, the overwhelming majority of respondents would receive compensation related to flood damage. Other types of profit transfers include Indira Awas Yojana (now Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen) and money transfers for toilet construction. His second most common reason given by about 15% of respondents in Mayurbhanj district is receiving NREGS payments. 16.4%. To receive payments (other than NREGS)/salaries or remittances.

Table 9. purpose for opening account

Reasons for Opening account	Mayurbhanj			Kendujhar			Total
	Pentha	Patkura	Total	Gyanpali	Kukuda	Total	
To receive government benefits transfer	55.1	37.3	49.0	26.4	29.4	28.5	39.1
To receive NREGS payment	11.0	20.9	14.4	32.1	38.9	36.9	25.2
Money Transfer (Salary/remittances/Other, except NREGS Job)	8.7	16.4	11.3	11.3	8.7	9.5	10.5
Saving/To keep money in a safe place	11.0	6.0	9.3	7.5	7.1	7.3	8.3
To apply for a loan	8.7	13.4	10.3	7.5	9.5	8.9	9.7
To get access to insurance	4.7	4.5	4.6	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

In contrast, in Kendujhar district, 37% of respondents received NREGS payments, followed by 28.5% who received payments from the government. Profit transfer and fund transfer account for 10.5% (Table 9). As such, the reasons cited by respondents indicate an urge to receive bank account registration. Various types of benefits and receiving payment for work under NREGS encouraged respondents to open bank accounts. Respondents lack self-motivation to take advantage of savings, credit and insurance offers from banks.

5.2. Obstacles of opening account:

Only 10% of respondents in both counties reported difficulty opening a bank account due to the bank's simplification of the bank account opening process. A relatively high proportion (13%) of respondents from Kendujhar district had difficulty opening an account compared to his 6% of respondents from Mayurbhanj district (Table 10). The main problem faced by respondents in both districts is the time-consuming process. Other issues faced by respondents in both districts were administrative difficulties and lack of adequate information and documentation requirements. Banking distance remains a problem in Kendujhar district as he had to travel a distance of 4 km to reach the bank branch. On the other hand, corruption and demands for money to open bank accounts remained problems in Mayurbhanj district. This was especially true among respondents who opened accounts to receive benefits.

Table 10. Types of difficulties

Difficulties in Account Opening	Mayurbhanj		Kendujhar		Total Count
	Count	% within District	Count	% within District	
Time Taking	10	34.5	18	32.7	28
Difficult official procedure	5	17.2	14	25.5	19
Lack of information	4	13.8	8	14.5	12
More document requirement	3	10.3	8	14.5	11
Distance of the bank	0	0.0	7	12.7	7
Corruption/ demand for bribe	4	13.8	0	0.0	4
Non-cooperation of bank staff	3	10.3	0	0.0	3
	29		55		84

5.3. Distance & transportation:

The time and expense involved in arriving and waiting at a bank branch influences the frequency and regularity of visits to bank branches and ATMs. Respondents in Mayurbhanj district traveled an average distance of 1.5 km to reach bank branches and ATMs, while in Kendujhar district they traveled three times as far as her in Mayurbhanj district, with an average distance of of 4.5 km. In Gabardhanapur village, the shortest distance for households to reach a bank branch or ATM is 4 km, longer than any other village. Therefore,

the responses (12.7%) in Table 10 reflect distance as a difficulty in opening a bank account. Bicycles are the most popular mode of transportation for households in both districts. The average distance to a bank branch is only 1.5 km, with 23% of respondents in Mayurbhanj district reaching the bank branch on foot and 16.5% traveling by private motorbike. In contrast, in the Kendujhar district, public transport is the most used, with 32% of respondents using public transport after biking. About 3% of respondents walk an average of 4.5 km to a bank branch.

An analysis of the transportation costs associated with respondents' spending shows that about 70% of respondents in both districts combined said they did not spend money to go to bank branches or ATMs by bike or on foot. A person traveling by motorbike or public transport will spend an average of ₹10 in the Mayurbhanj area, but at least ₹10, max ₹40. On the other hand, in the Kendujhar district, he spends a little more, ₹15 (one side), paying ₹10 minimum and ₹30 maximum to go to a bank branch. Calculating the average of her ₹20 and her ₹30 spent on visits to a bank branch by respondents in Mayurbhanj and her Kendujhar districts, households who need to visit at short intervals are somewhat financially burdened. Suggested to be a large financial transaction. Table 11.

Table 11. Transportation cost and time to reach bank branch

District	Cost to reach bank branch (One Side, in Rs)				Time to reach bank branch (One Side, in min)			
	Median	N	Minimum	Maximum	Median	N	Minimum	Maximum
Mayurbhanj	10.00	36	10	40	10.00	194	5	40
Kendujhar	15.00	74	10	30	20.00	179	10	45
Total	15.0	110	10	40	15.00	373	5	45

Meanwhile, data on time to bank branch shows that households in Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar districts spend an average of 20 and 40 minutes to and from the bank branch, respectively. A similar analysis of access to ATMs reveals that ATMs are either adjacent to or slightly distant from bank branches, leading to significant differences in transportation time and costs to reach bank branches and ATMs in the study area. there is no. Calculating the average waiting time of respondents at the bank, we found that respondents in Mayurbhanj district had relatively shorter waiting times than those in Kendujhar district. At Mayurbhanj, the average wait is 30 minutes, minimum 15 minutes, maximum 1 hour. On the other hand, a respondent from Kendujhar district waits an average of 40 minutes to be served by the bank, with the shortest waiting time for him being 1 hour and 20 minutes and the longest waiting time for him being 2 hours. Adding travel time and waiting time at the

bank, the average time for one bank visit is 40 minutes in Mayurbhanj district and 1 hour in Kendujhar district.

The sample households in Kendujhar district are mostly working as hired workers, so finding one hour of overtime is described as difficult. In terms of maximum waiting time, about 4% of respondents spent about 3 hours on her one visit to the bank, forcing her to sacrifice an entire day's work.

5.4. Unbanked households:

Access to formal financial services through bank accounts is important not only from a financial inclusion perspective, but also for maintaining households' economic stability. The study found that although some measures have been taken, there is a lack of banking infrastructure in the sample districts, especially in the sample Panchayat in Kendujhar district, where households have to travel a minimum distance of 4.5 km to reach the bank branch. It turns out that the offer is not enough. ATMs. Financial Inclusion Program with Government. Transfer of benefits from various welfare schemes and natural disaster compensation have played an important role in providing access to bank accounts in the study area. However, the financial awareness situation in both districts is very poor, with households unable to access functions related to bank accounts such as debit card and credit account checking functions. Therefore, financial awareness programs and technology need to be disseminated along with banking infrastructure to facilitate effective use of accounts.

6. Conclusion:

Access to formal financial services through bank accounts is important not only from a financial inclusion perspective, but also for maintaining households' economic stability. The study found that the provision of banking infrastructure was not sufficient in the sample districts, especially in Sample Panchayat in Kendujhar district, although some measures have been taken. ATMs. Financial Inclusion Program with Government. Transfer of benefits from various welfare schemes and natural disaster compensation have played an important role in providing access to bank accounts in the study area. However, the financial awareness situation in both districts is very poor, with households unable to access functions related to bank accounts such as debit card and credit account checking functions. Therefore, financial awareness programs and technology need to be disseminated along with banking infrastructure to facilitate effective use of accounts.

Acknowledgments

There are no financial support or conflict to this research paper.

References:

1. M. Sarma. Index of financial inclusion. ICRIER Working Paper No.215. 2008; 1-26.
2. R. Khan Harun. Issues and challenges in financial inclusion: policies, partnerships, processes & products. *The Symposium on Financial Inclusion in Indian Economy*. Bhubaneswar: Indian Institute of Public Administration. 2012; 1-25.

3. T. Beck, A. Demirgüç-Kunt, M. Peria, S. Martinez. Reaching out: access to and use of banking services across countries. World Bank Policy Research Paper No. 3754. 2005; 1-26.
4. Ozili, Peterson K. "Financial inclusion research around the world: A review." *Forum for social economics*. Vol. 50. No. 4. Routledge, 2021.
5. Demirgüç-Kunt, Asli, and Leora F. Klapper. "Financial inclusion in Africa: an overview." *World Bank policy research working paper* 6088 (2012).
6. C. Rangarjan. Report of the committee on financial inclusion. Government of India. 2008; 1-207.
7. Village and Town wise Primary Census Abstract. <http://censusindia.gov.in>. Data accessed: 12/10/2018.
8. House listing and Housing data. <https://www.india.gov.in/house-listing-and-housing-census-data-2011>. Data accessed: 26/12/2012.
9. Proceedings of 148 SLBC Meeting. https://www.slbcorissa.com/proceedings_arc.html. Data accessed: 26/09/2018.
10. Banking Network in Odisha. <https://www.slbcorissa.com/BNS.html>. Data accessed: 2011.

