

Field Insights on

# Functionality of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) for achieving goals under Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan

By BARC Trust

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With support of UNICEF Rajasthan

# Introduction


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The Jal Jeevan Mission is the Government of India's flagship effort aiming at supplying safe and drinkable drinking water to every rural home in the country. The campaign began in 2019 with the goal of achieving "Har Ghar Jal" (Water to Every Home) by 2024. Rajasthan, as one of India's largest states with wide rural areas, has been a major focus of this project.

**Universal Coverage:** The major goal of Rajasthan's Jal Jeevan Mission is to ensuring that every rural home in the state has access to safe and sufficient drinking water. This includes laying piped water lines to households and establishing community water supply systems.

**Source Sustainability:** Another important goal of the mission is to ensure the long-term viability of water supplies. Water conservation methods, rainwater collection, groundwater recharge, and effective water management practises are used to achieve this.

**Water Quality:** The mission emphasises the importance of delivering water that fulfils the mandated quality criteria. Water safety and purity are critical for preventing waterborne infections and improving the rural population's overall health and well-being.




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**Community Participation:** Community involvement and participation are crucial for the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Local communities are encouraged to take ownership of the water supply schemes, which fosters a sense of responsibility and helps in the sustainability of the projects.

**Convergence:** The mission aims to promote convergence with other government schemes, such as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and the Swachh Bharat Mission, to ensure optimal utilization of resources and efficient implementation.

Because the programme is decentralized, demand-driven, and aims to create community-managed water delivery systems, it is managed by Gram Panchayats and/or its sub-committees or user groups, i.e. Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) or Pani Samitis.

**VWSC** is a committee in the village formed by the panchayat in which there should be at 10-15 members and half of them should be women, 25% of them should be from the SC/ST communities. Panchayat elected representatives can be up to 25% of the total members.




# Progress in Rajasthan

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Since the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission, Rajasthan has made significant strides in achieving its objectives. The state government has been actively working on identifying water sources, implementing water supply schemes, and providing household tap connections to rural homes.

The mission's emphasis on community participation has led to the involvement of local communities in planning and decision-making processes, making the program more effective and sustainable.



# Challenges in Rajasthan

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Rajasthan faces several challenges in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission, such as:

**Geographical and Climate Factors:** Rajasthan's arid and semi-arid climate makes access to water a major challenge, and the state experiences water scarcity in many regions.

**Infrastructure Development:** The mission requires extensive infrastructural development, including laying pipelines and setting up water treatment facilities, which can be challenging in remote and sparsely populated areas.

**Financial Constraints:** Funding the massive scale of the mission can be a hurdle, but the government's commitment and support have been instrumental in driving progress.

Despite these challenges, the Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan has shown positive results, and with continued efforts and innovative solutions, it aims to bring about a transformative change in the lives of millions by providing them with access to safe drinking water, fostering better health, and contributing to overall development in the region.



# The Field Insight

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BARC Trust with support of UNICEF Rajasthan conducted an exercise to collect field insights, which intended to understand the views and perceptions of the community itself and particularly of the members of the VWSCs on implementation of JJM in general and the role and functioning of VWSCs in particular. The field insight exercise has been conducted with following objectives:

- To understand the roles being played by the Village Water and Sanitation Committees members (VWSCs) for achieving intended outcomes of JJM and benchmark it with the roles described in the JJM guideline
- To collate the understanding and integration of aspects of equity, gender and environmental sustainability by the VWSCs members
- To collate the capacity gaps felt by the members of the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) or Pani Samitis. –
  1. in implementation of the VWSs , as per VAP
  2. in operation and maintenance of the VWSs
  3. in Water Quality Surveillance through 5 women group
- To provide policy insights to the state government on further strengthening and VWSCs or Pani Samitis and collaborate with the state and district administration for more effective implementation of the JJM.

# Methodology


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Quantitative as well as Qualitative data has been collected by BARC trust team. For quantitative data google form questionnaire format has been used. The quantitative data has been collected from the members of VWSC from each selected village. Generally 4–8 members of the VWSC were present during the interview and provided a collective answer to each question of the questionnaire.

And for qualitative data Interviews of the residents of the village, ward panch and sarpanch, as well as ISA coordinators has been conducted and FGDs have been conducted with the men and women in the some of the selected villages. The Field Insight was conducted in three districts – Jaipur, Karauli and Pratapgarh. As per the JJM Dashboard following is the number of the reported and certified FHTC villages in these districts.

Help of ISAs was taken in reaching the villages and committees and block coordinators of the ISA accompanied the data collection team in most cases.

**Sample:** Both certified and reported villages having achieved 100% FHTC have been taken from the JJM dashboard from the Jaipur, Karauli and Pratapgarh districts of the state. Beside 10 villages where the JJM work is going on but have not achieved 100% FHTC were also included in the study.



# Sample: Selected villages from three districts and number of IDIs and FGDs

District	Reported and	Certified	On going	Total Villages
Jaipur	21	14	5	40
Karauli	9	1	3	13
Pratapgarh	0	2	2	4
Total (3 districts)	30	17	10	57

District	FGDs	IDIs
Jaipur	8	10
Karauli		2
Pratapgarh	2	3
Total	10	15

te: There were five (5) reported and certified villages in Pratapgarh district according to JJM dashboard. But it was found that 3 of the five villages were uninhibited and no one was living there for years. So we could interview only two certified villages and two villages where JJM work was going on.



# Limitations of the Field Insights

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The data about formation and functioning of the VWSC has been collected from the members of VWSC, who were available in the village on the day of surveys.

The WVSC members, in many cases, were changed by then and may not be aware of the activities done in the beginning.

The ISAs conducted their activities in 2021 (from March in Pratapgarh and from September in Jaipur) and most of the activities, according the two district coordinators were conducted in 2021 and 2022. So some members may not recall it properly.

In most cases, the Sarpanch and Secretary took most decisions and in some cases, only ward panch and FLW participated actively in some of the activities. So the common village resident members of the VWSCs may not be fully aware.

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# Major Findings from the Field Insights



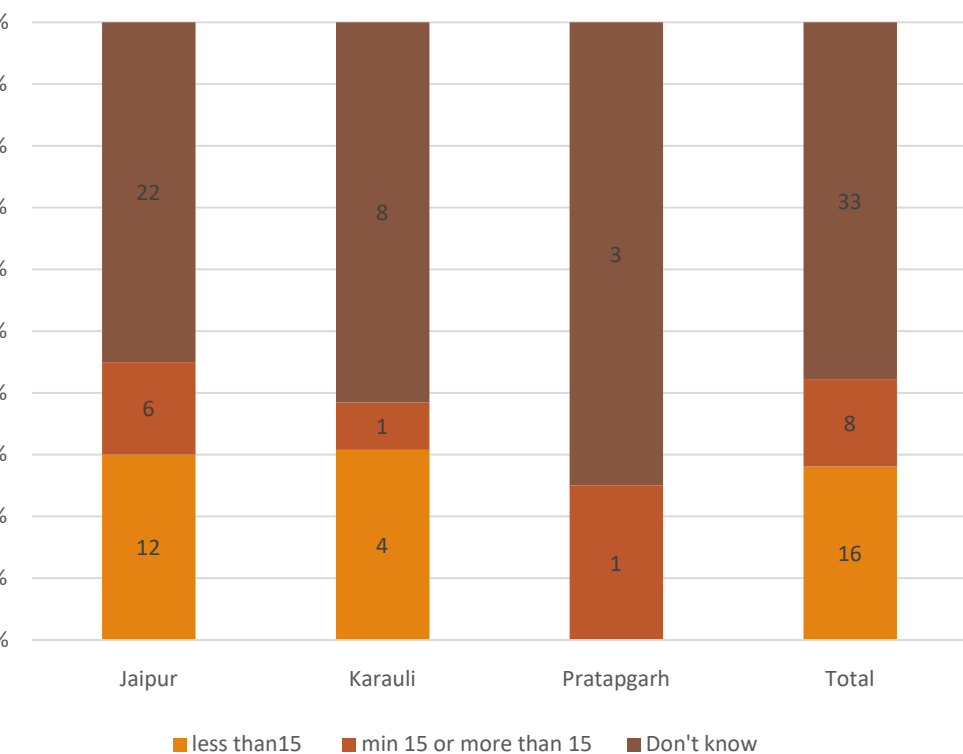
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# Formation and Composition of the VWSCs and Training of the VWSC members

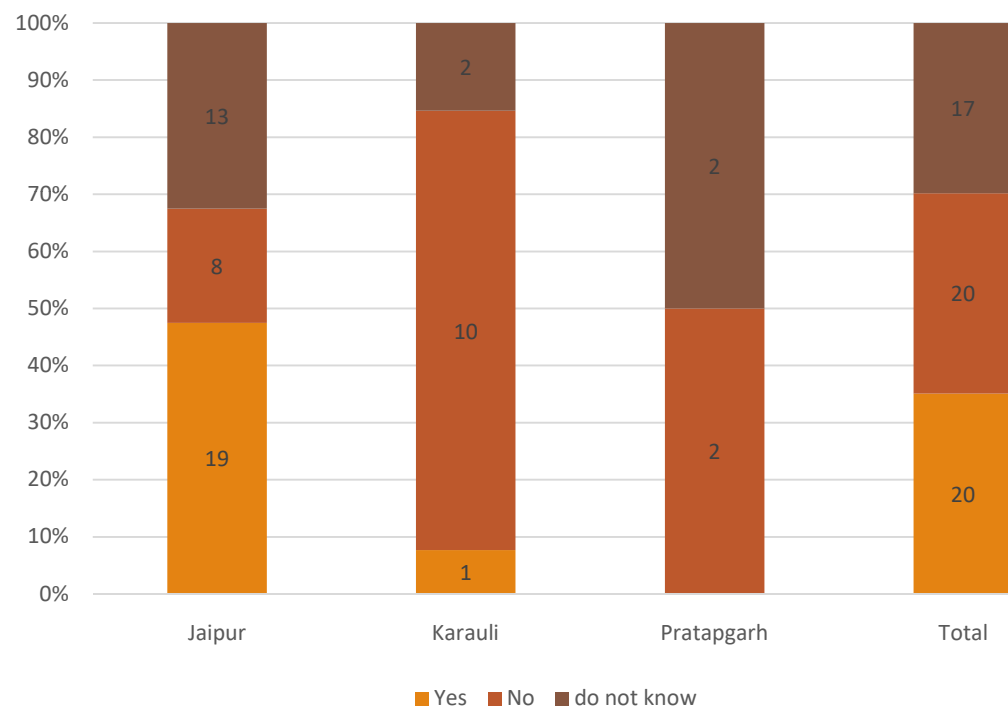


# Formation and members of VWSCs

Number of members in VWSC

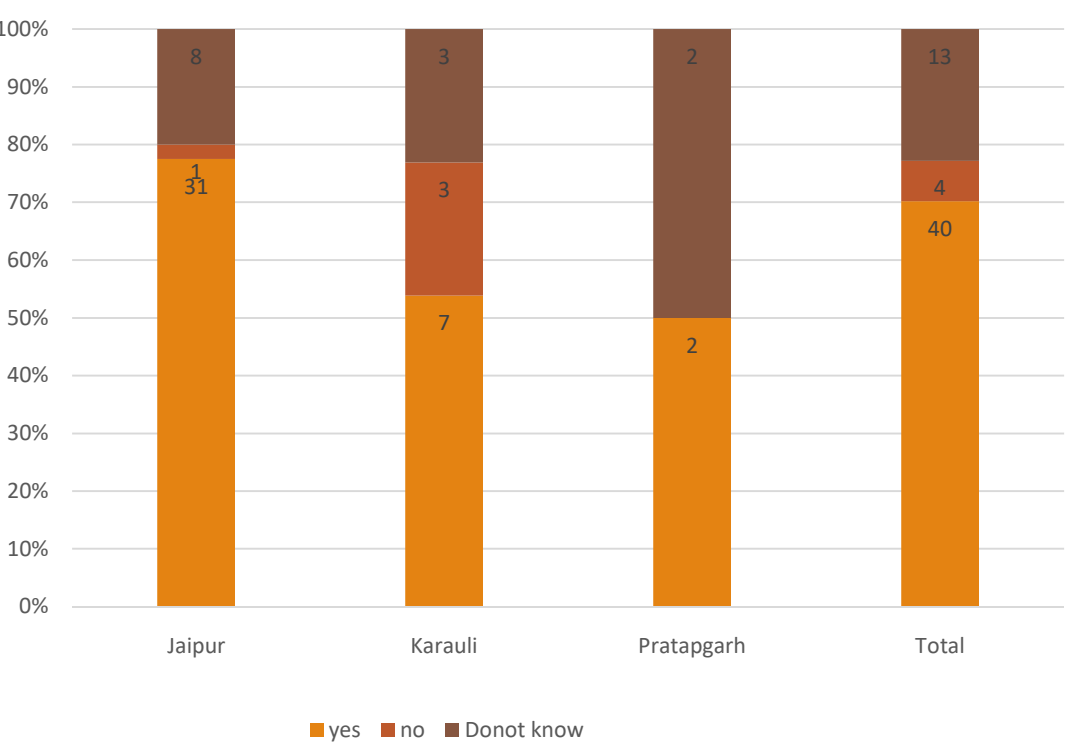


Members in VWSCs from the farthest Dhani

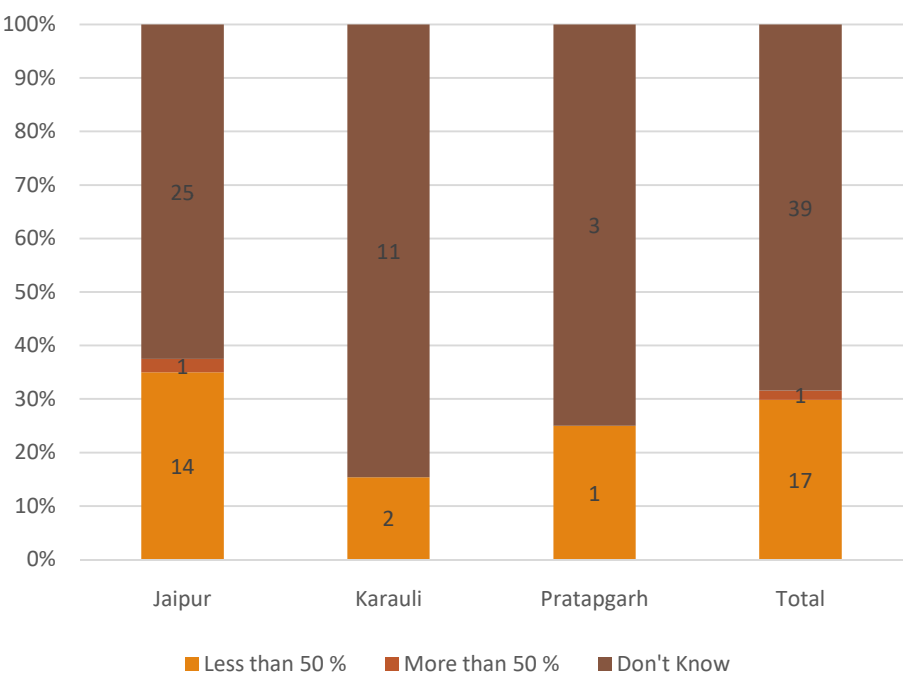


# Inclusivity of members in VWSCs

Presence of SC/ST members in VWSCs



Ratio of women in VWSCs



# Formation and composition of VWSC

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In all the selected villages a VWSC has been formed, but in more than half villages (33 out of 57) the VWSC members do not know the total number of the members.

Only in 20 villages (out of 57) members informed that there is a member in VWSC from the farthest dhani of the villages and in same number of the villages VWSC members informed that there is no member in VWSC from the farthest dhani of the villages. In rest of villages (17) members answers were 'do not know'.

40 (70%) VWSCs included SC/ST representatives, 4 (7%) did not include them while in rest 13 (23%) villages members were not aware if VWSCs had SC/ST members.

VWSC members in 39 out of 57 (68%) villages, had no information about total number of women members in the committee, while in 17 villages (about 30%) there were less than half women members. Only in one village (in Jaipur) the members said that there were more than 50% women members in the VWSC.

Though no question was asked about the gram sabha for formation of VWSC but the question was asked about gram sabha for the preparation of village action plan (VAP), which included VWSC members as well. And as per the data, in 32 (56 %) villages, members did not know if the VAP is approved by the gram sabha, in rest 25 (44 %) villages members reported that VAP was not prepared or approved in/by gram sabha (chart shown on a slide below under VAP section).

**Training:** Only in two villages (Gomana village from Karauli and one from Pratapgarh) VWSC members had received some training on JJM and in two other villages members were not aware of any training, while in rest of the 52 villages members said that no training was organized yet.

**Awareness about the role of VWSCs:** Still members in few villages were aware of the main components of the JJM. Like members in few villages agreed that FHTC - Functional Tap Connection in the courtyard of the house (4), community participation (3), community contribution (8), Complete operation and maintenance of drinking water management by the community (2), Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Testing Process (4) were main components of the JJM. Awareness about the role of VWSC was higher in Hirapura (Jaipur) and Gomana (Pratapgarh). However, in most other villages members were aware about only one component i.e. household contribution.

### **Observations and insights form IDIs and FGDs**

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In most cases the members, were not aware that they are members of the VWSC, except for the sarpanch, panchayat secretary and the frontline workers. Only exceptions were Gomana village in Pratapgarh, where even the common men and women, whose names were in the committee were aware of it and Sairapura village in Sambhar block of Jaipur district where men members were aware of formation and composition of the committee. Even the frontline workers knew about being a member of the committee because they were given responsibility to collect the household contributions.

In the villages where there is SC/ST population, they have representation in the committee.

In most cases the list of the VWSC members available on the JJM dashboard did not match with the list provided by the panchayat (usually gathered by the ISA members).

**In some villages it was said that the VWSC members changed recently, which it seems has not been updated on dashboard yet. In those villages, members of the new list were interviewed for the data collection.**

In most cases the phone number of the members not found to be correct, with some exception in each VWSC. In some villages same phone number was mentioned for all or most members of the VWSC in the list taken from the JJM dashboard.

Also in some cases the many names of the VWSC were common in more than one VWSC. Though there could be persons of same name in two villages.

Generally the 1-2 men members of the VWSCs were aware and active in most cases. Women members were not aware or active in any villages, except in Gomana village in Pratapgarh.

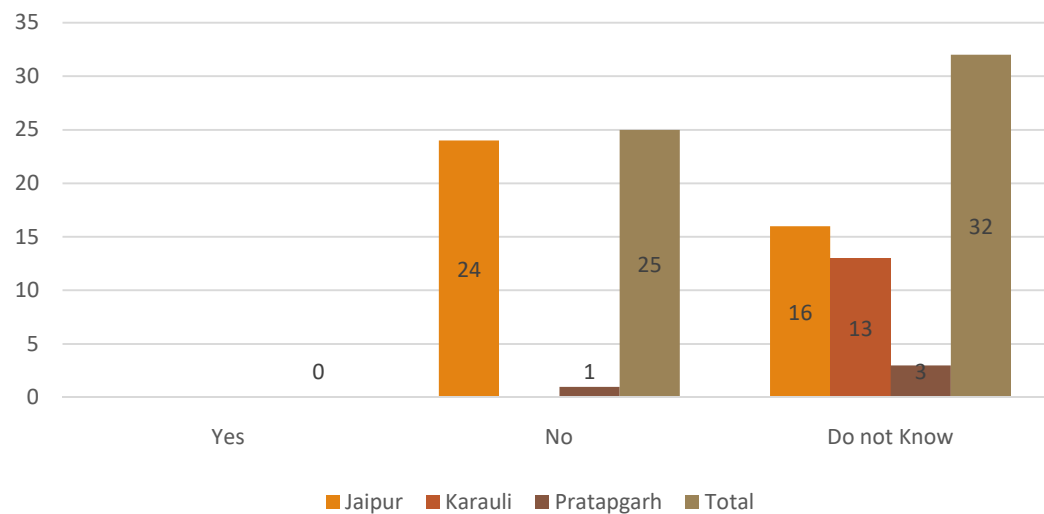
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# Village Action Plan and Role Played by VWSC

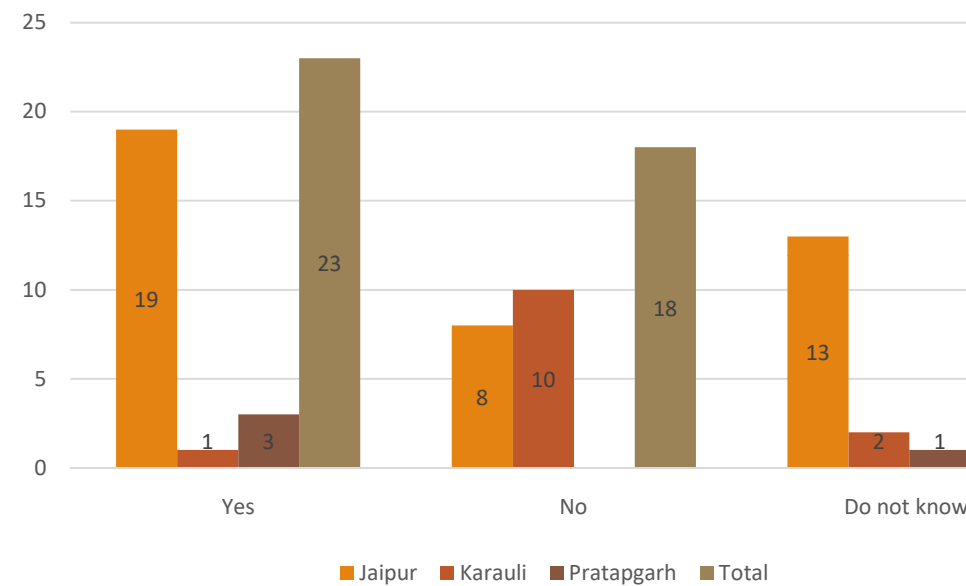


# Village Action Plan (VAP)

No of approved village action plan by gram sabha



All dhanis included in organizing internal drinking water



In no village any VWSC member reported to have played any role in preparation of the Village Action Plan (VAP)

# Village Action Plan and Role Played by VWSC

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In none of the selected villages, VWSC members said that VAP was approved in the gram sabha. As mentioned above, in 32 (56 %) villages, members did not know if the VAP is approved by the gram sabha, in rest 25 (44 %) villages members reported that VAP was not prepared or approved in/by gram sabha.

No VWSC played any role in preparing the VAP.

23 (40%) VWSCs members informed that water supply system has reached all the dhanis of the village, in 18 (about 32%) villages members that it has not reached all the dhanis, and in rest 16 (28%) villages members did not know about it.

## **Observations and insights form IDIs and FGDs**

In some cases the complaints were made about water supply not being done everyday and in some cases its being done not for complete one hour.

In some villages the farther dhanis or the dhanis on upper part of the villages water could not reach in all families of the dhanis.

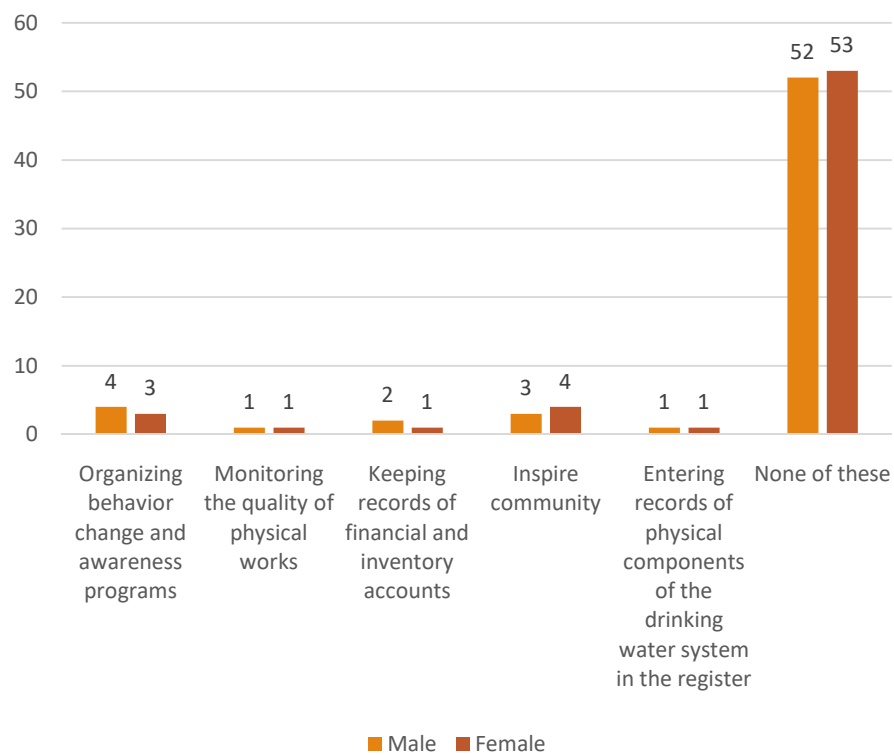
One major complain was that the resourceful persons are using electric motors to collect more water in their houses when the water is being supplied and this results in less or no water being supplied to the other households, especially the farther ones and on upper levels.

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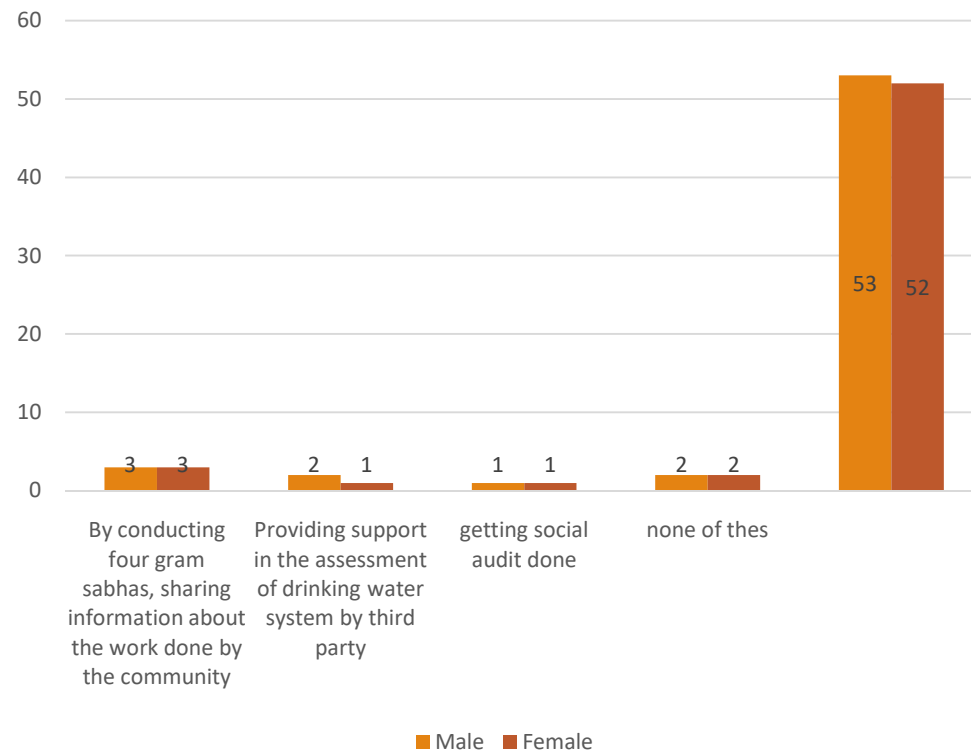
# Role played by the VWSC members in JJM



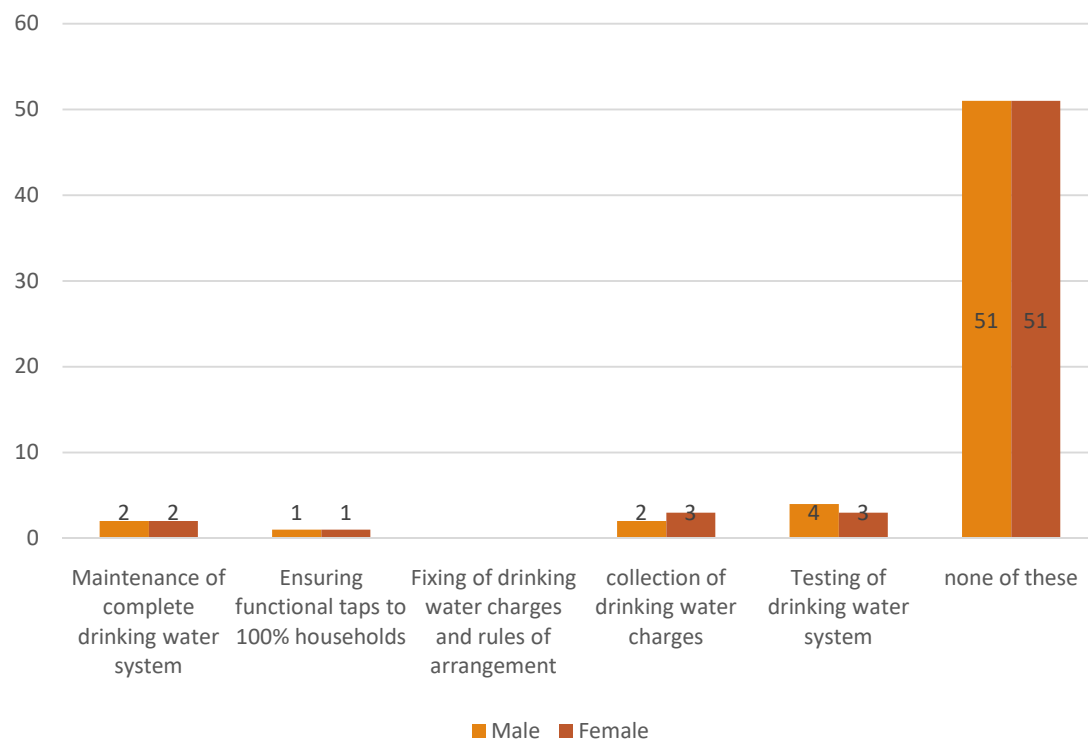
### Role played by VWSC in implementation



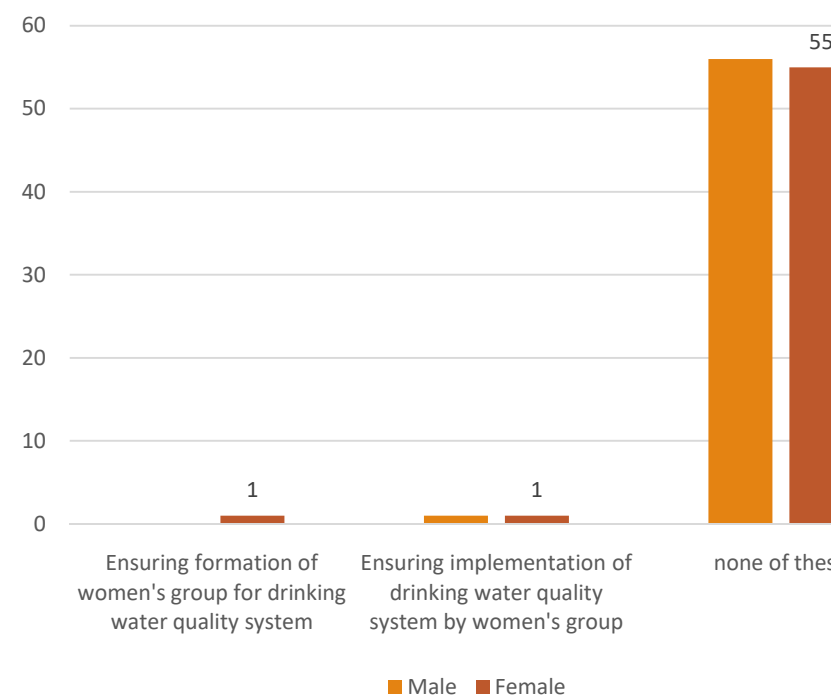
### Role played by VWSC in the review of JJM work



role played by vwsc in operation and maintenance



Role played by vwsc in ensuring drinking quality water



# Role played by the VWSC members in JJM

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As the charts above show, in most cases the VWSC members did not play any roles in any aspects of the JJM. Only in 1 to 4 villages women or men members reported to have played any roles.

## **Observations and insights form IDIs and FGDs**

Though the JJM guideline emphasizes on community participation and greater role of the VWSC in its planning and implementation, the implementation on the ground seems to be done by the PHED and contractors, taking the elected panchayat representatives help only in collecting the HH contributions.

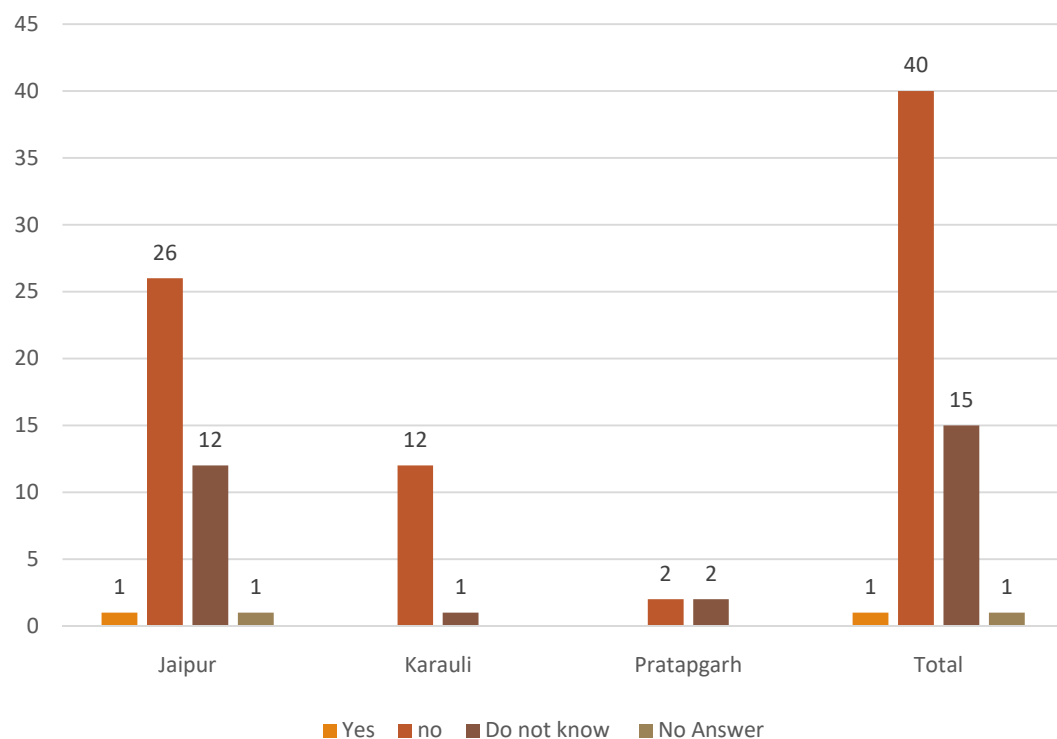
So, even the panchayat does not seem to have played major roles, except where the sarpanch was active and took personal interest in implementation of JJM.

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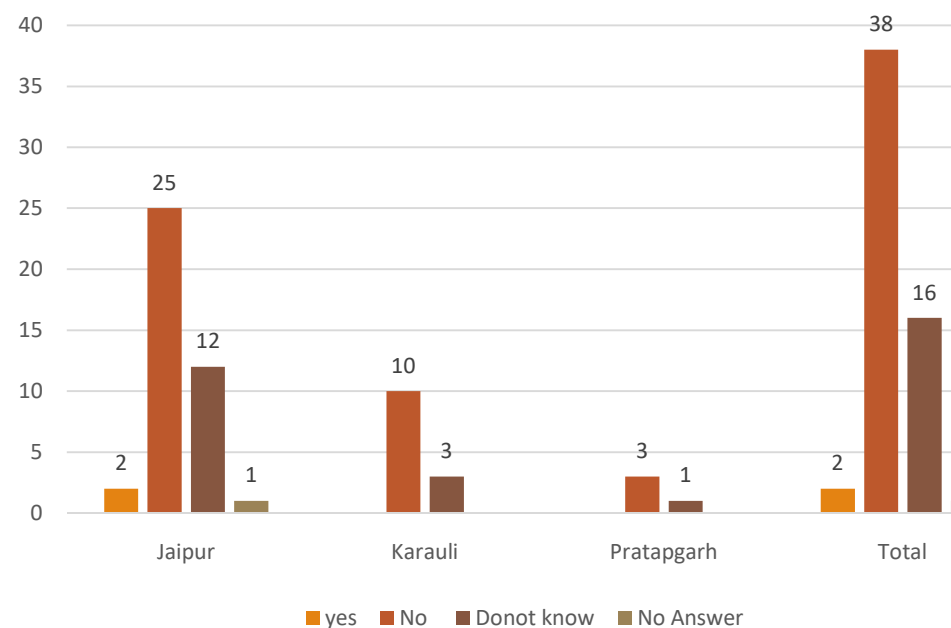
# Processes and Activities done by VWSC



VWSCs hold special meeting in the last one month to increase participation in the mission with women

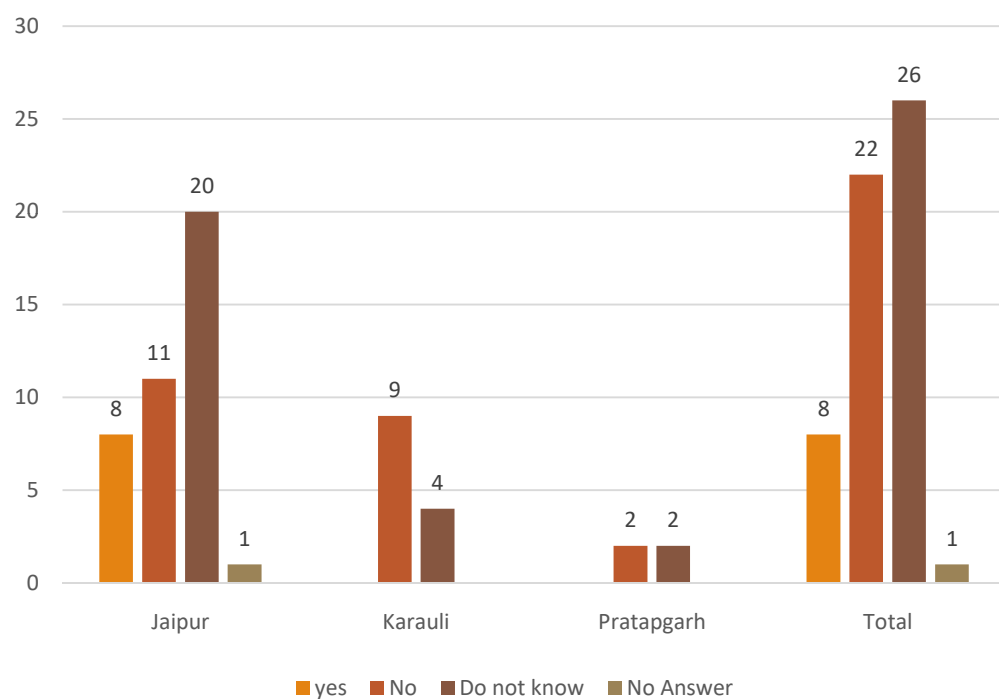


VWSCs conducted meeting with youth groups, self-help groups, various community organizations located in the village to increase community participation in last one month

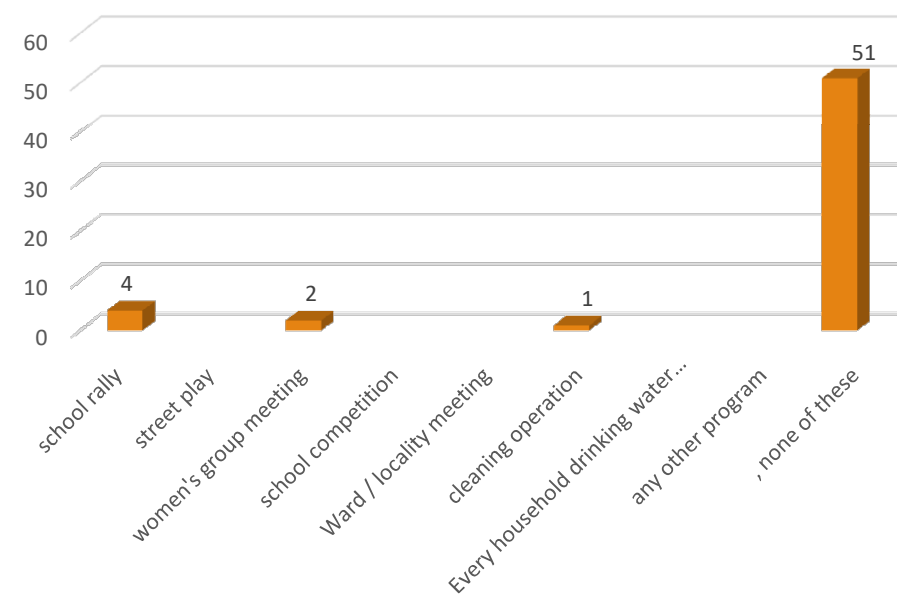




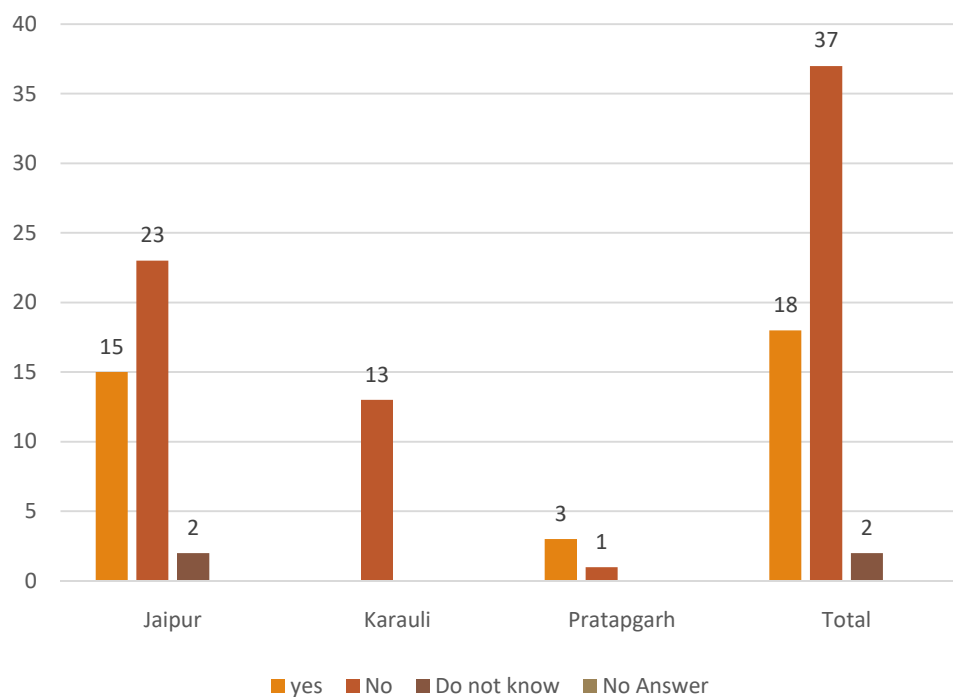
Influential people of the village in the preparation of village plan



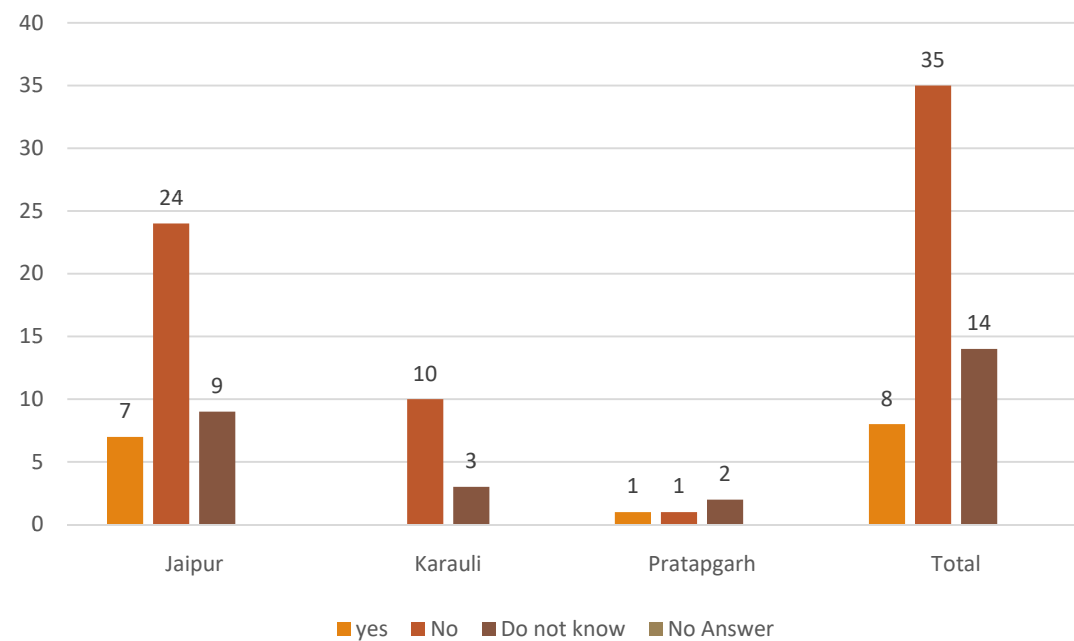
Programmes organized by the committee at the village level for behavior change and public awareness.



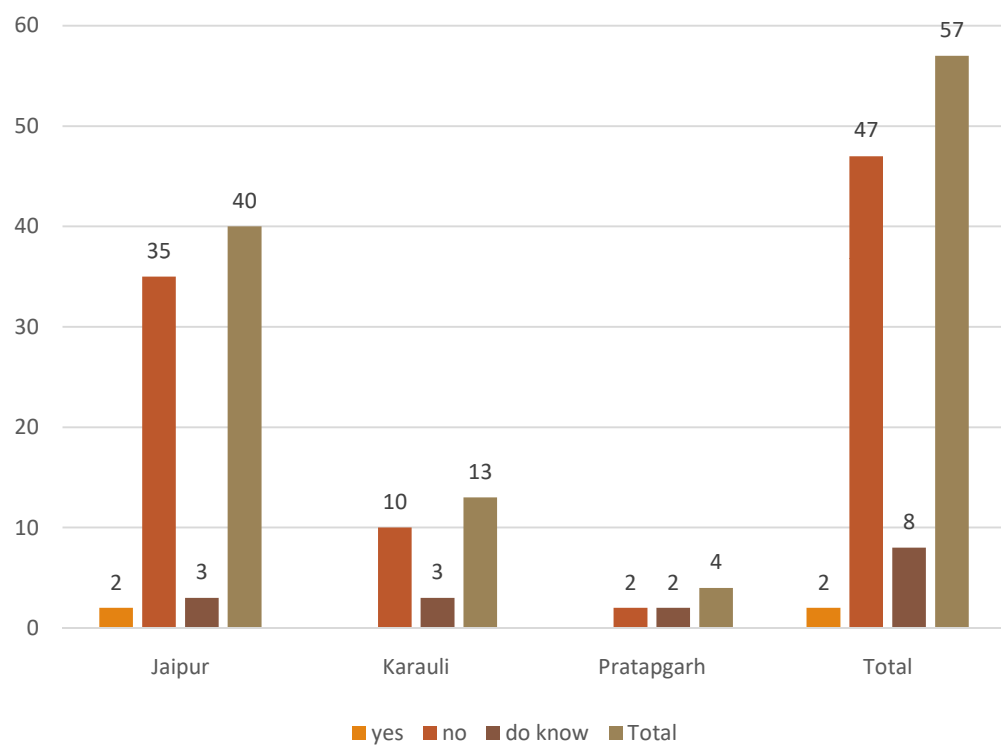
VWSCs discuss the community contribution amount  
in the Gram Sabha / General Assembly



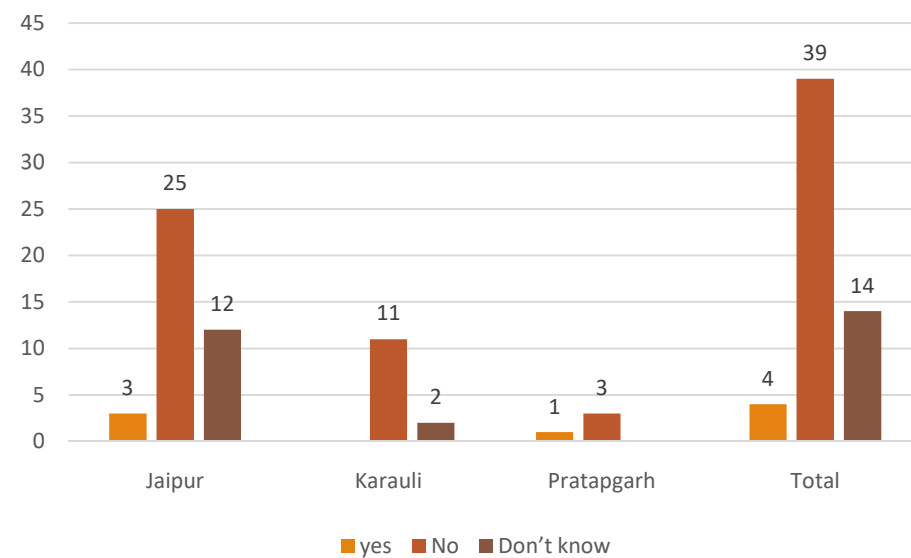
Gram sabha/general assembly deciding amount to be  
taken from each household



Arrangement for water waste



VWSC included any kind of water resource improvement activities in the village action plan



# Processes and Activities done by VWSC

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Obviously the VWSC members generally have not been active in other processes like organizing meetings with youth and other groups, with women, organizing any programme for behaviour change, holding any special meeting, or organizing any waste water management or water resource improvement in the VAP.

There has been some exceptions as well, and in few villages the VWSC or some members of the VWSCs have organized some of the above processes and activities.

In some villages, VWSC tried to get on board some influential people from the villages for preparing the VAP (8 villages) and discussed community contribution in a gram sabha meeting (15 villages).

## **Observations and insights from IDIs and FGDs**

In Gomana (Pratapgarh), public awareness activity was organised in which a man told the villager about the programme using loudspeaker, moving in entire village.

Waste water management was created in village Hirapura (Jaipur) where 30 farm ponds (in total, old and new) have been created in which waste water is collected and the collected water is being used for irrigation.

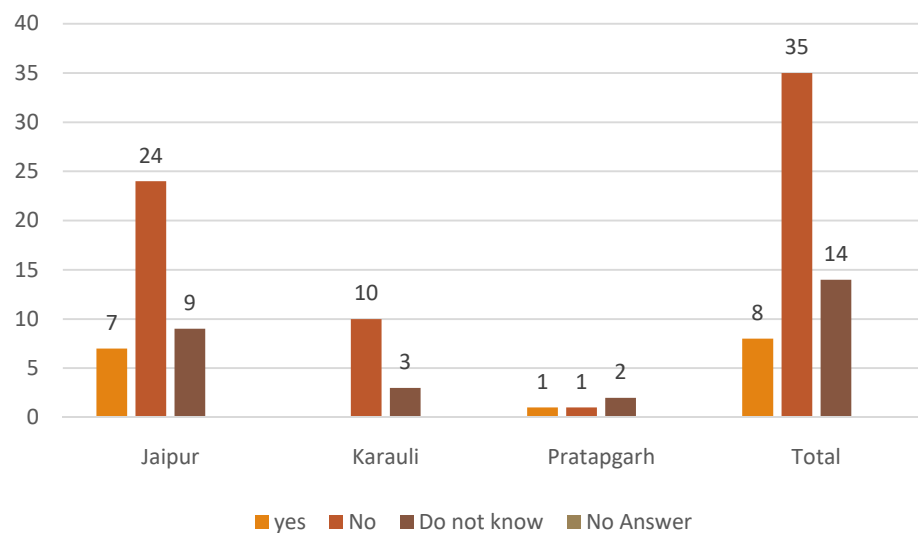


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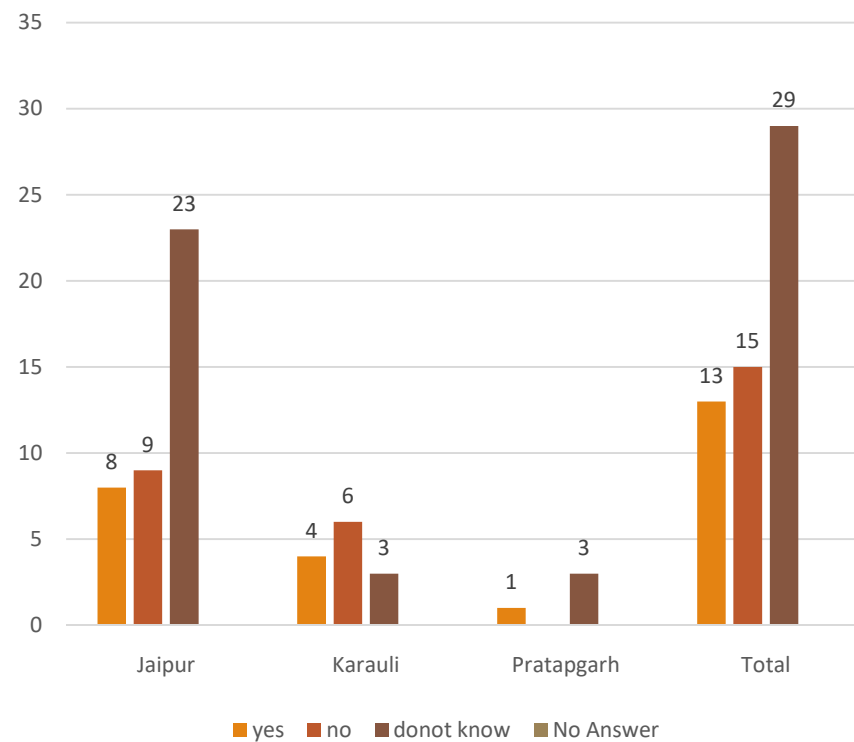
# Community contribution collection and management



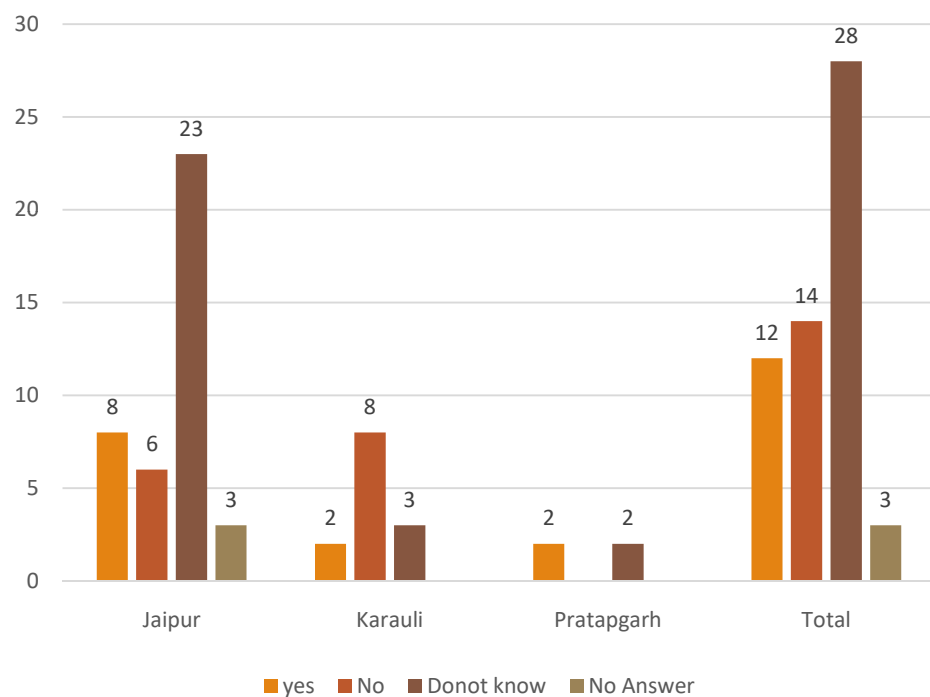
Gram sabha/general assembly deciding amount to be taken from each household



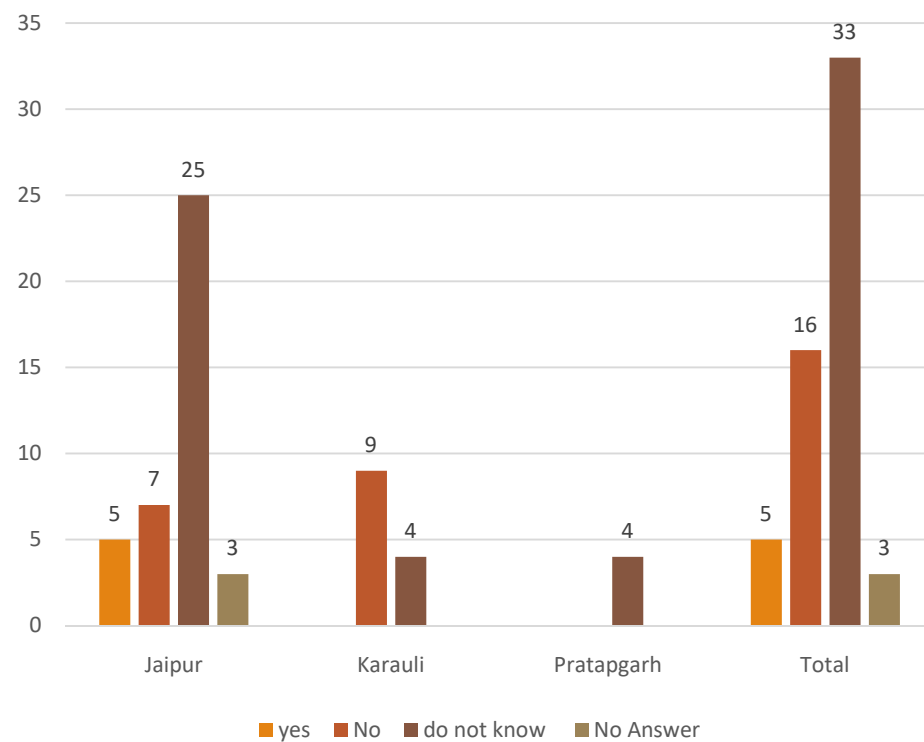
VWSC opened a bank account



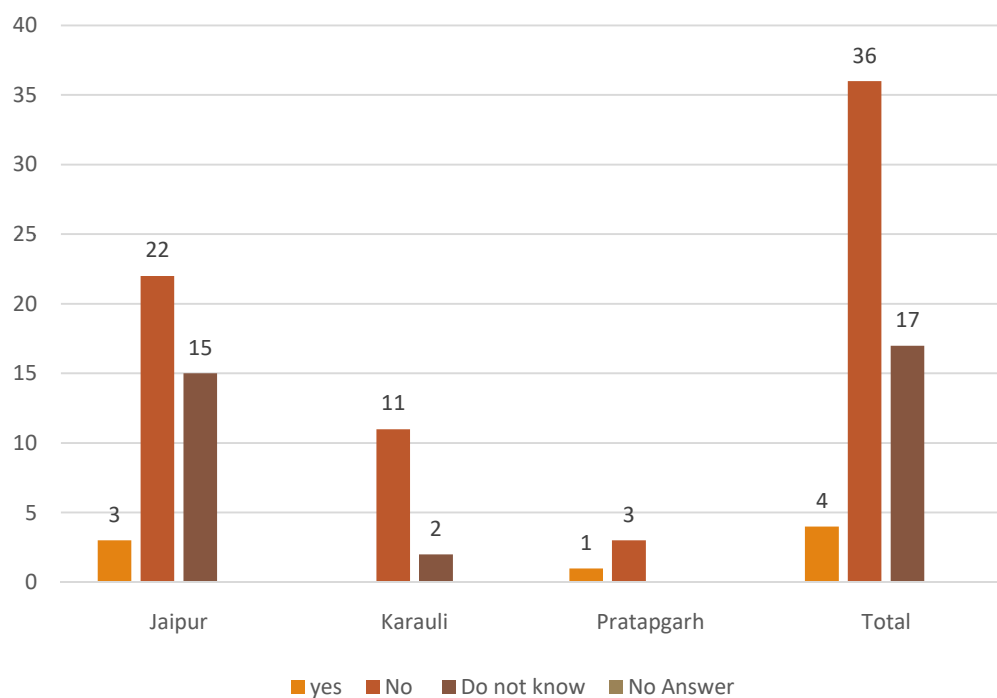
Community contribution deposited in the bank account



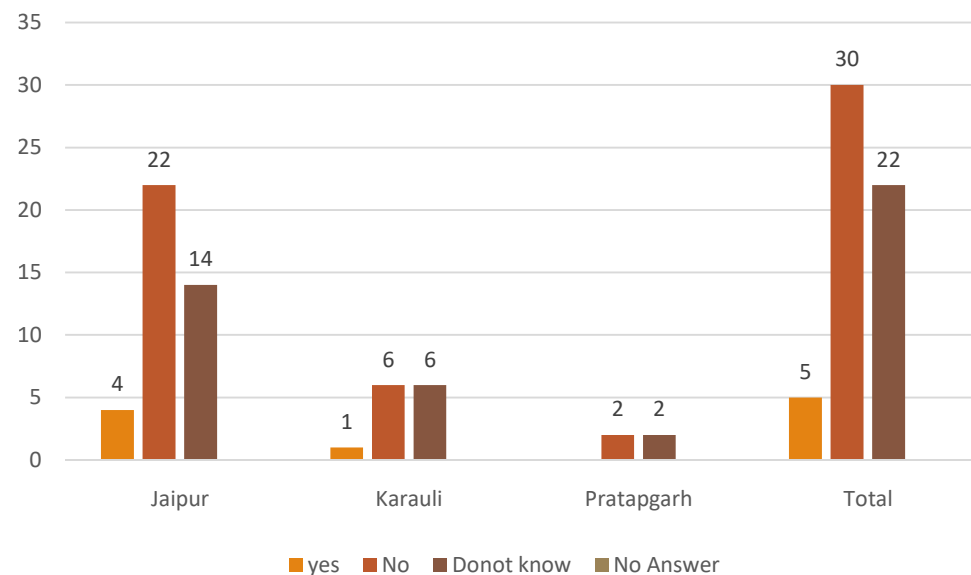
VWSC updated passbook till last month



Any strategies made by the VWSCs for collecting contribution amount not collected so far



No. of villages where community were informed about the contribution amount of previous month





# Community contribution collection and management

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According to the VWSC members of the selected villages, only in 8 villages, the community contribution was discussed/decided in the gram sabha, in 39 villages it was not discussed / decided in the gram sabha, and in rest of 14 villages, VWSC members did not know about it.

According to the VWSC members of the selected villages, a bank account has been opened only in 13 villages (23%) and it has not been opened in 15 villages (26%), while in rest of the 29 villages (51%) VWSC members did not know whether a bank account was opened or not.

Only in 12 (21%) villages VWSC members said yes the amount has been deposited in the bank account, while in 14 (24%) villages members reported that amount was not deposited in the bank account and in 28 (49%) members didn't know if the money is deposited in the bank account (in 3 (6%) villages there was no answer).

Regarding the update of bank passbook VWSC members in only 8% villages said that it was updated last month.

Only in one village the data collection team could see the passbook. In all other villages it was with the panchayat secretary and could not be made available at the time of visit.

And, only in 5 villages, the community was informed about the collection made so far.



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## Observations and insights form IDIs and FGDs

In most cases, amount for the community contribution was decided by the PHED officials in consultations with the Sarpanch and Secretary.

In most villages community contribution was collected by Anagnbadi workers, ward panch, or the pump operator with help of ISA Block coordinators. In one village in Jaipur it was done by the PDS dealer. The collected amount by these persons was handed to the panchayat secretary.

ISA Block coordinators facilitated the opening of the bank accounts of VWSC.

In Khora village (Pratapgarh), the community contribution was collected in instalments. In Gomana village community contribution was taken from the school also.

**In Karuali district the community contribution was not collected from all the households as it was stopped after the state government announced in the state budget 2023-24 that the community contribution would be paid by the state government. In Dhoreta village (Madrail block) community contribution was even returned to the households after the budget announcement.**

Bank passbook of the account opened to deposited the community contribution was showed to the data collection team only in one village (Sewapura, Jaipur).

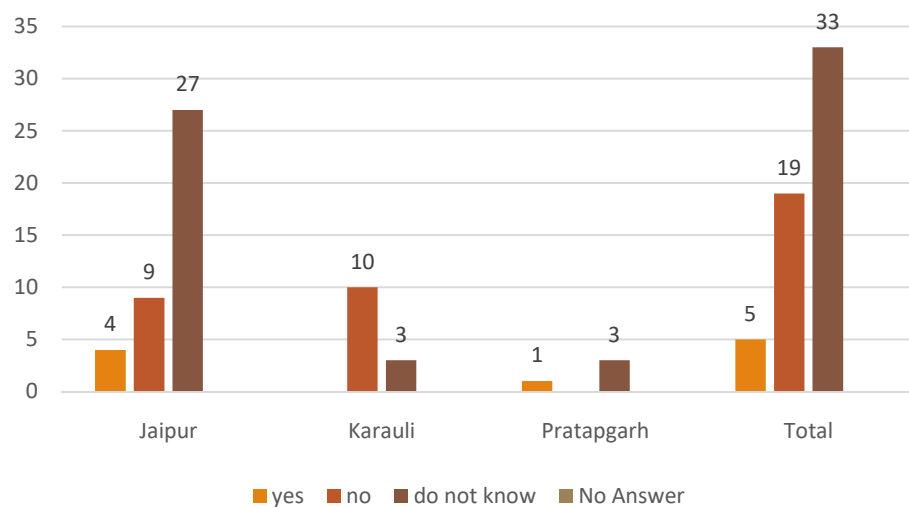
**Major issue about the community contribution is that the VWSC or even the panchayats (sarpanch and secretary) had no idea about on what to spend and how to utilize the collected amount. There does not seem to be any clear guideline in this regard. In some villages panchayats are using their own money to maintain the water supply system.**

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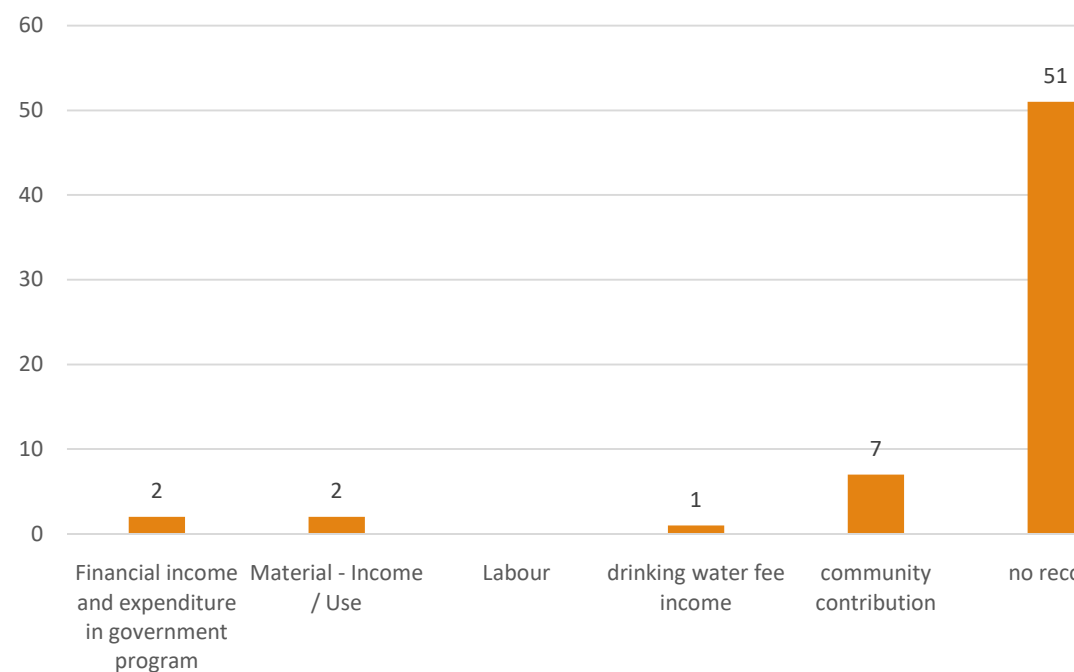
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# Record maintenance

Separate accounts for contribution, physical activities, maintenance of the scheme are maintained by the committee?



Kind of records kept by VWSCs



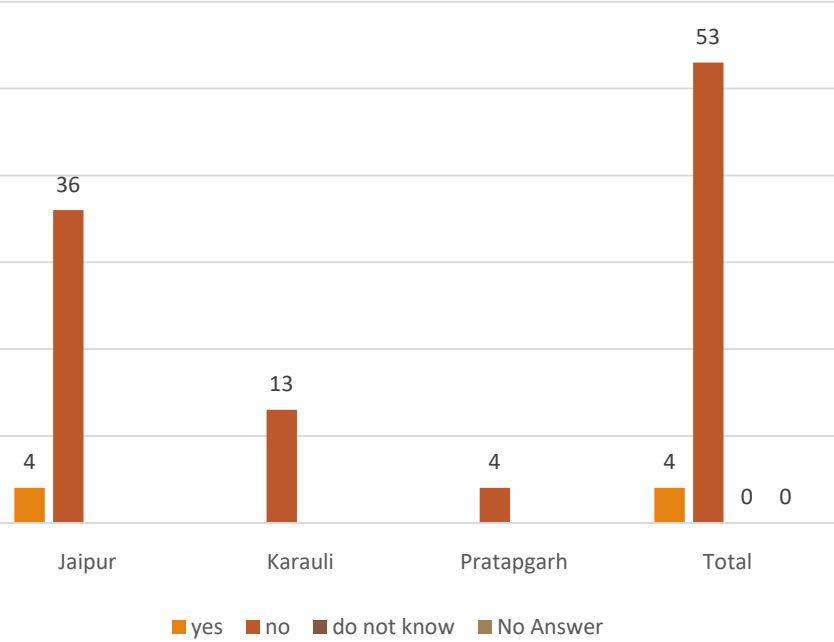
No committee collected financial assistance from any other source in any of the selected villages.

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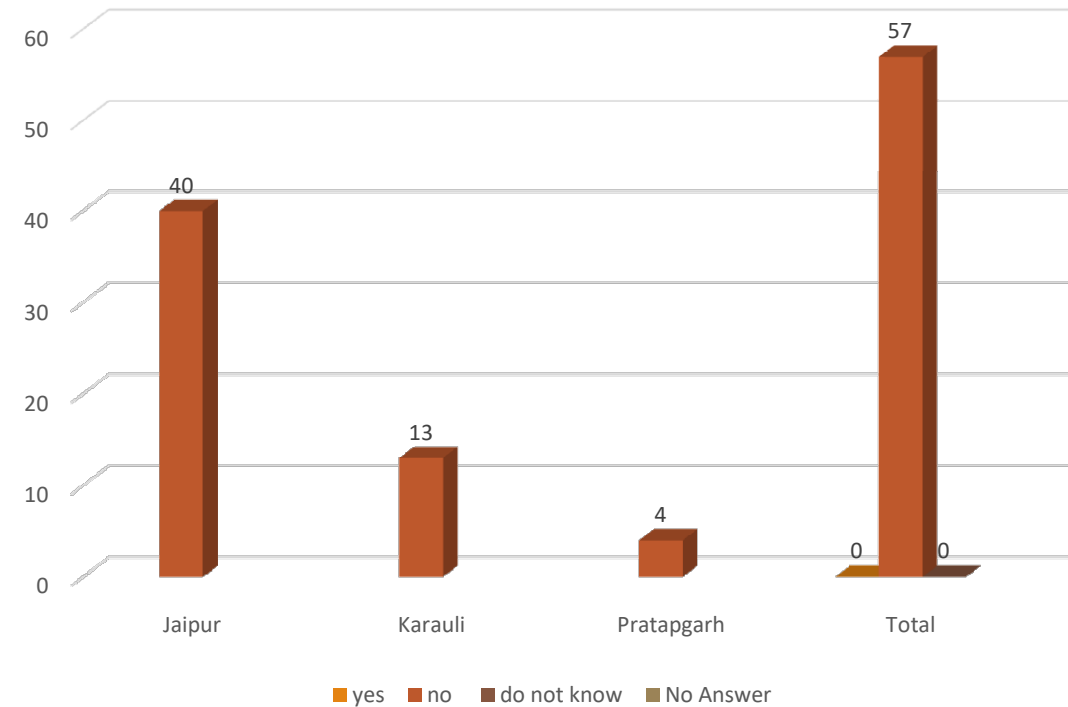
# Interface with community and Accountability of the VWSC



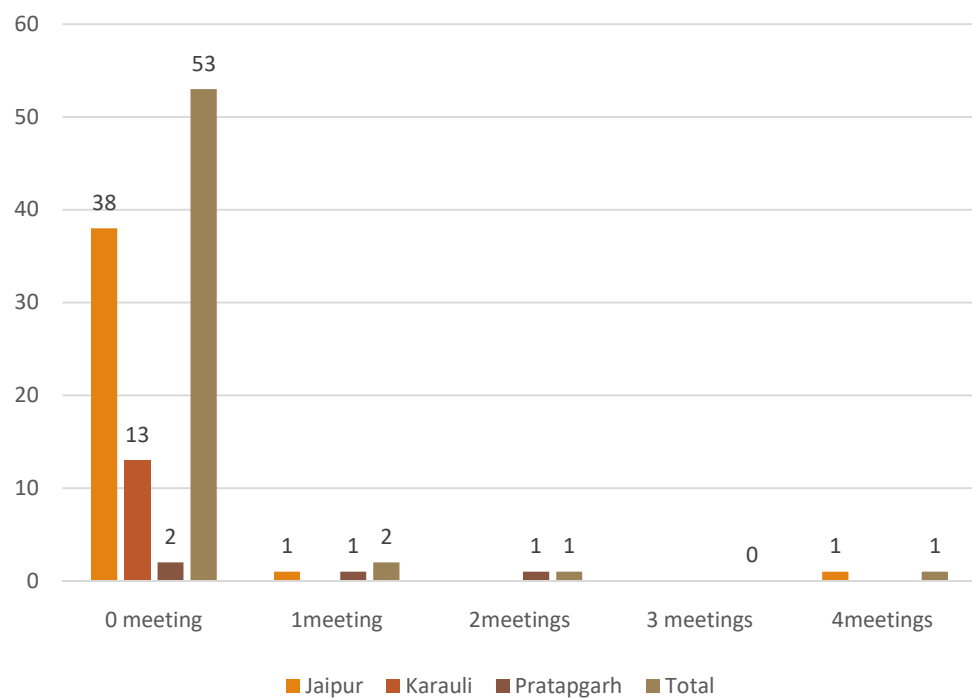
VWSC did review of the physical works on the spot in last 3 months



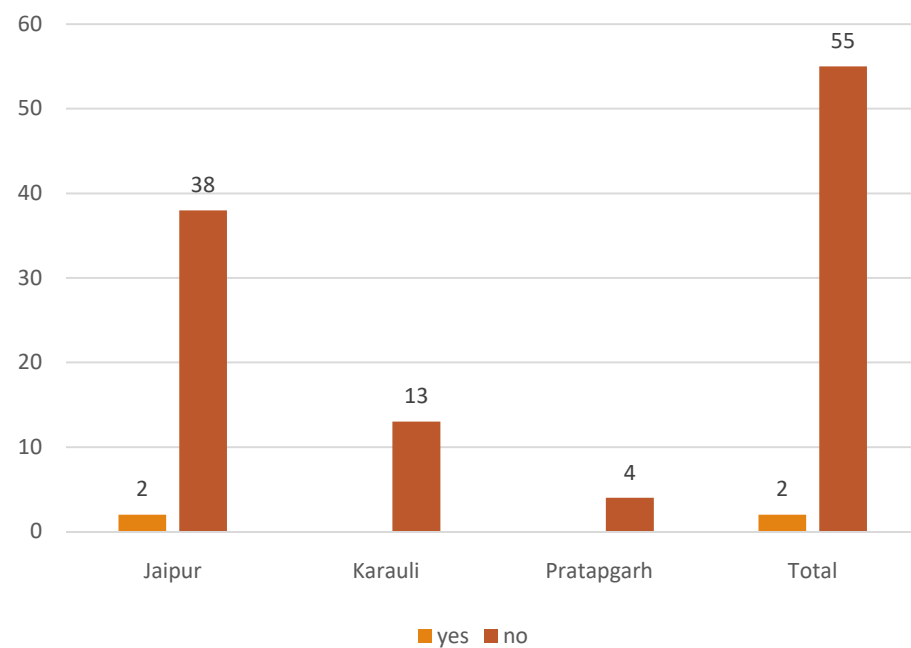
Informing community about the progress in the work of the mission in last 3 months



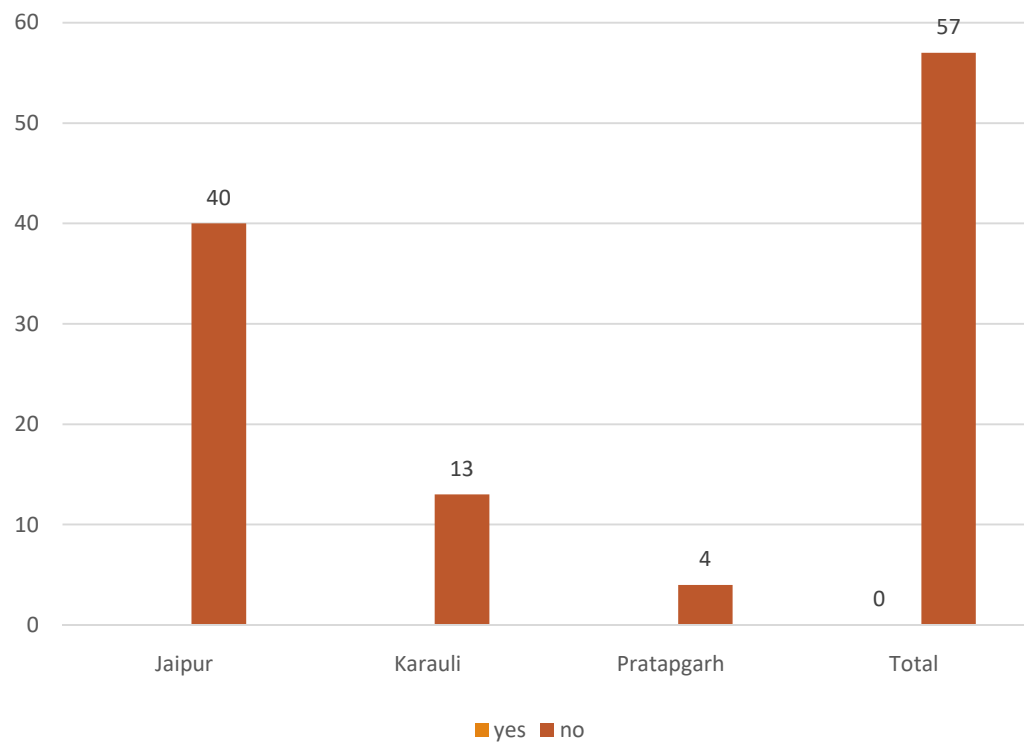
No of meetings called for vwsc through gram panchayat in 2021-22



Internal drinking water system/progress discussed in the last general meeting



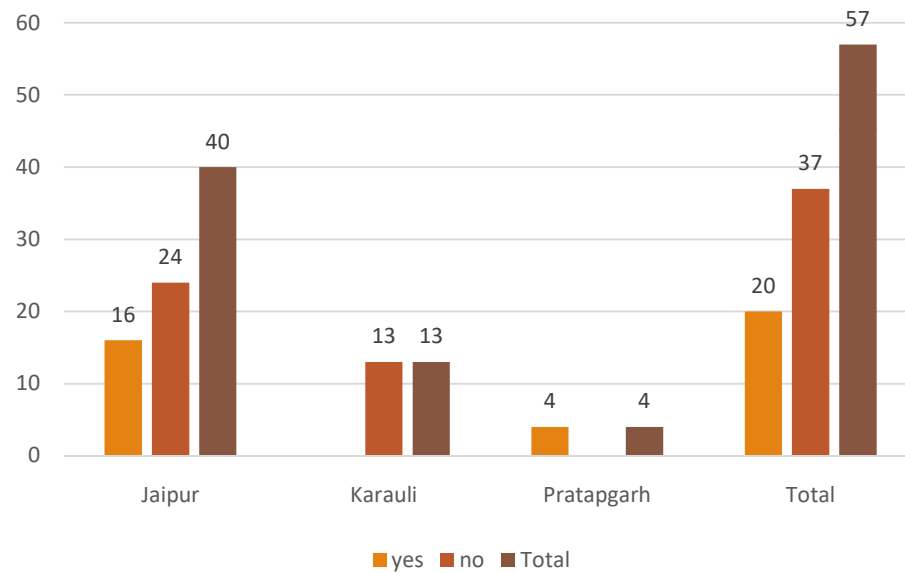
Social audit done by the VWSCs



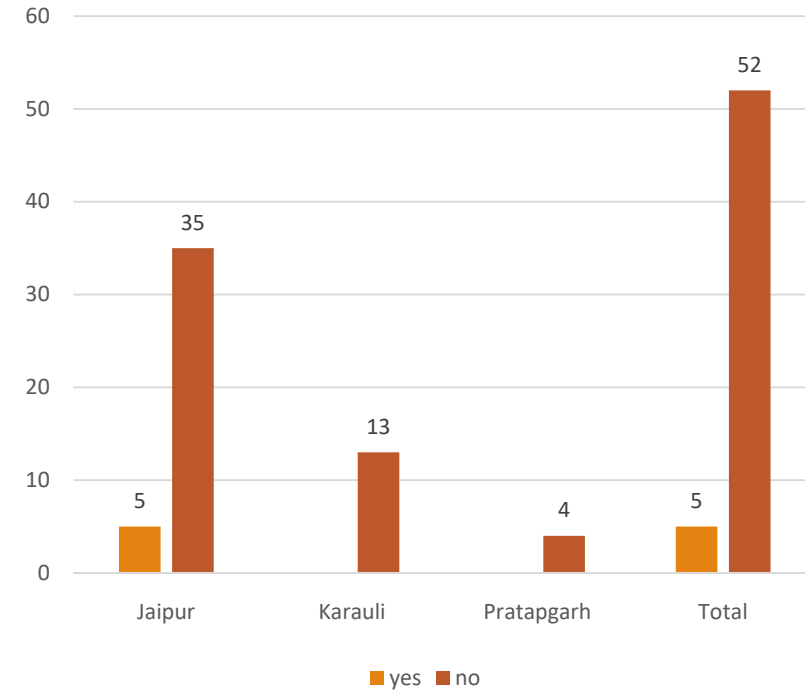


# Awareness of the community

The community is aware that the community is responsible for operation and maintenance of the drinking water system of the village



VWSC fixed the charges to be taken from community members



# Interface with community and Accountability of the VWSC

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Only in 4 villages VWSC had reviewed the progress of the physical work done in the village under JJM and even in those villages, the community was not informed of the progress.

Social audit has not been conducted in any of the selected villages

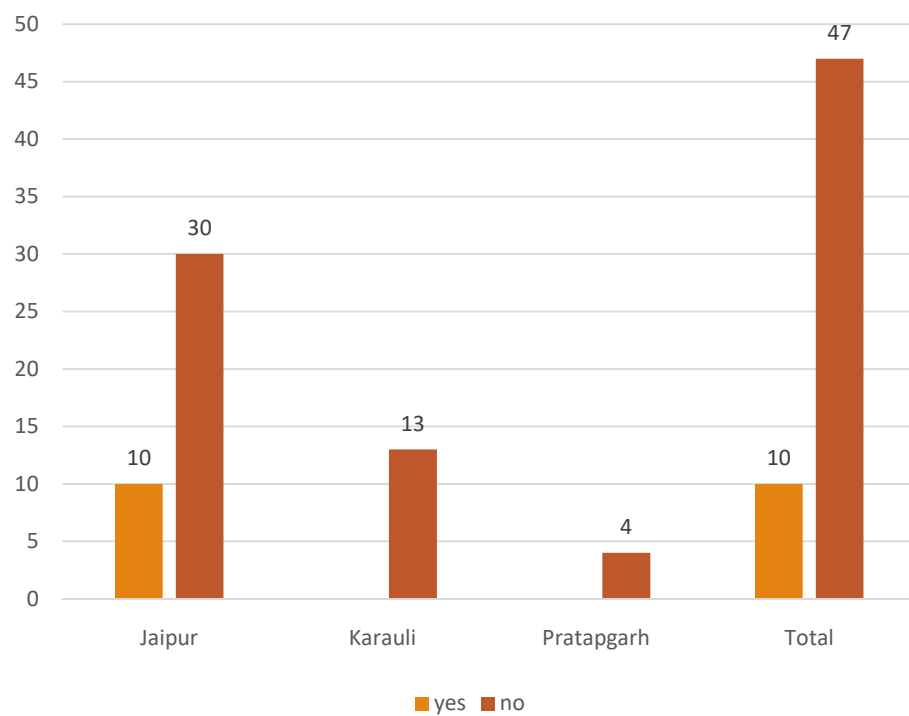
Only in 20 villages (35%), VWSC members felt that the community was aware that it was the responsibility of the community to run and maintain water supply system developed in the village. In rest of the villages (65%), community was not aware of this responsibly according to the VWSC members.

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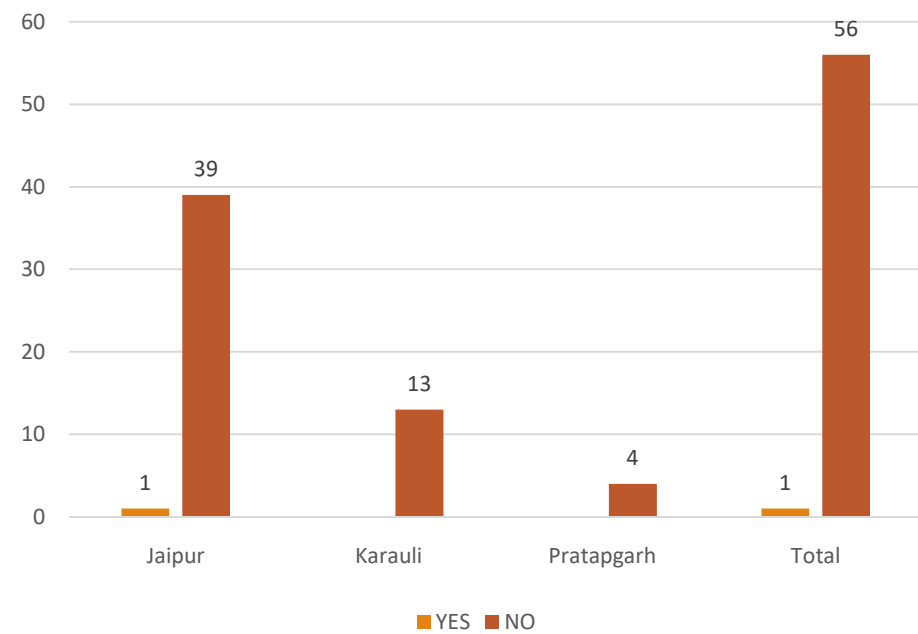
# Operation and Maintenance



Person identified for the operation and maintenance of village drinking water system



Rule made by the VWSC for maintenance of village drinking water




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Only in 10 villages (all in Jaipur district), the VWSC has identified a person responsible for the Operation and Maintenance of the village water supply system; all of them are males.

In most cases the pump operators have been identified and appointed by the contractors of PHED officials without consulting the Committee.

In the villages where the pump operator has not been identified the pump is being operated by the contractor's men if they are still there or by some villagers.

Only in one village, some rule has been made by the VWSC to run and maintain the village water supply system.

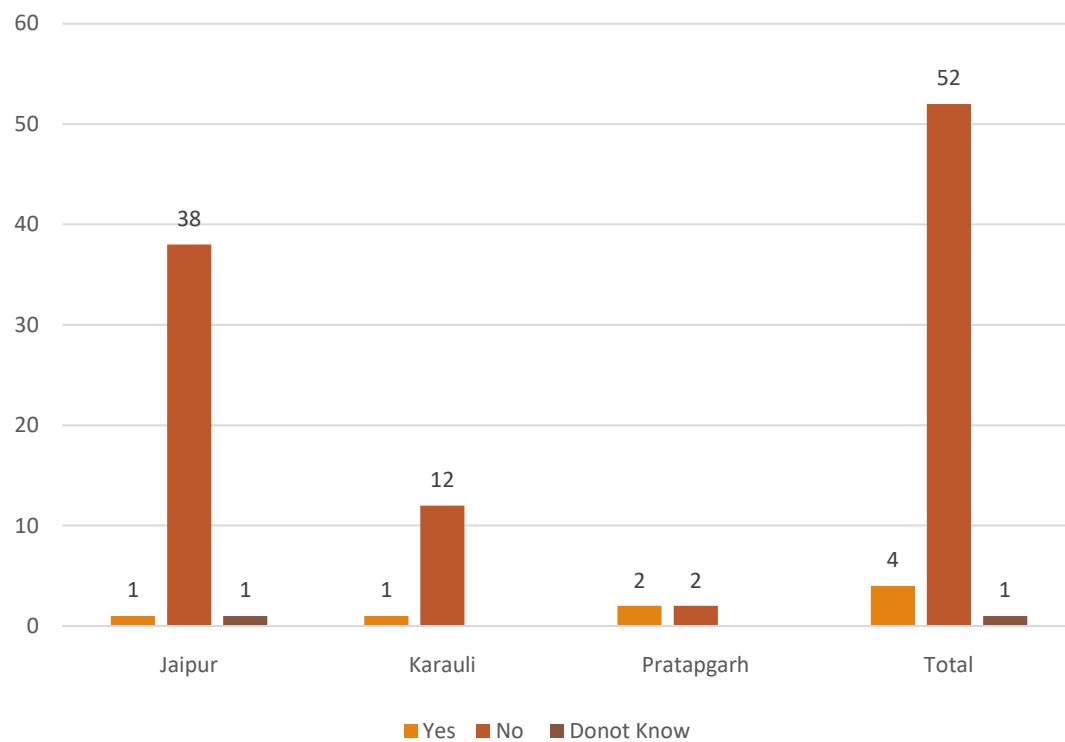


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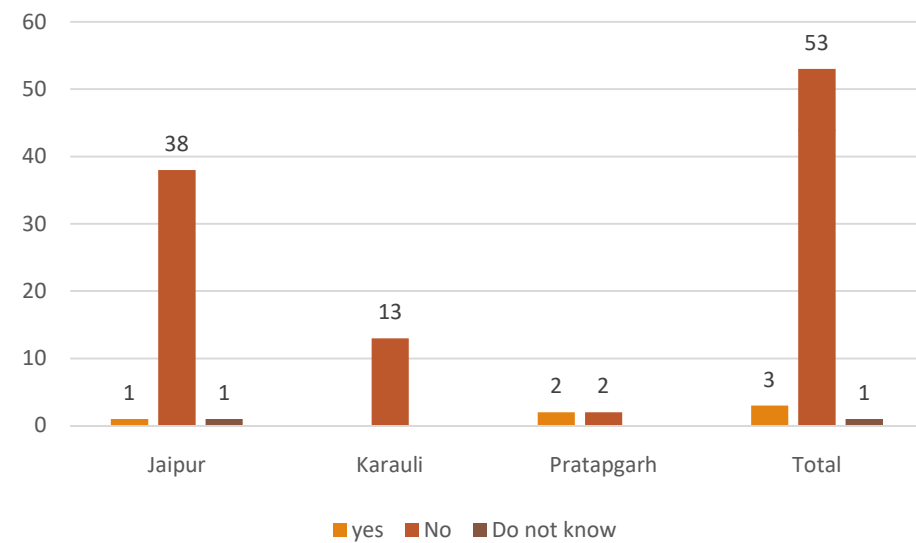
# Monitoring and Evaluation



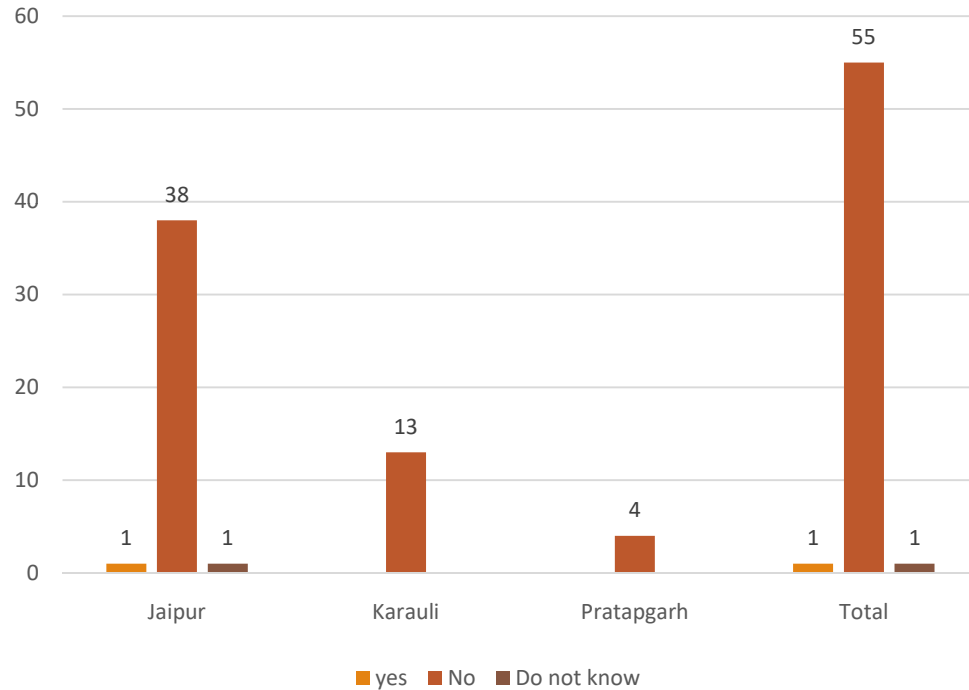
Plan being examined (tested) by department officials



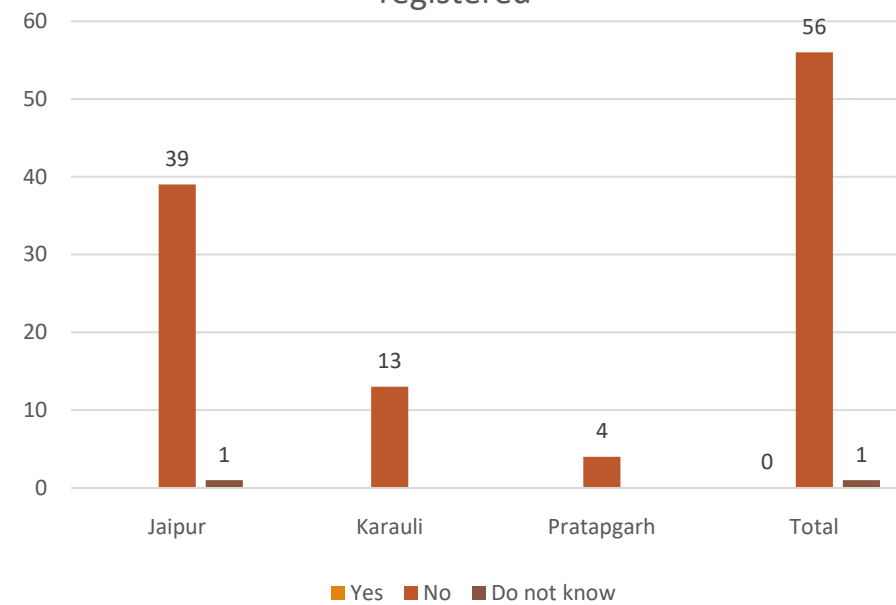
VWSCs present along with the officers of the department during the examining (testing) of the entire scheme



Committee know about the geo-tag of all the components of the village drinking water system



VWSCs registered all the components of the village drinking water system in the assest registered





# Monitoring and Evaluation

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According to the VWSC members, the entire water planning system was examined by the PHED officials only in 4 villages, and in 3 villages VWSC members were present while the officials examined the water supply system.

Only in one village in Jaipur, the committee members were aware of geo-tagging

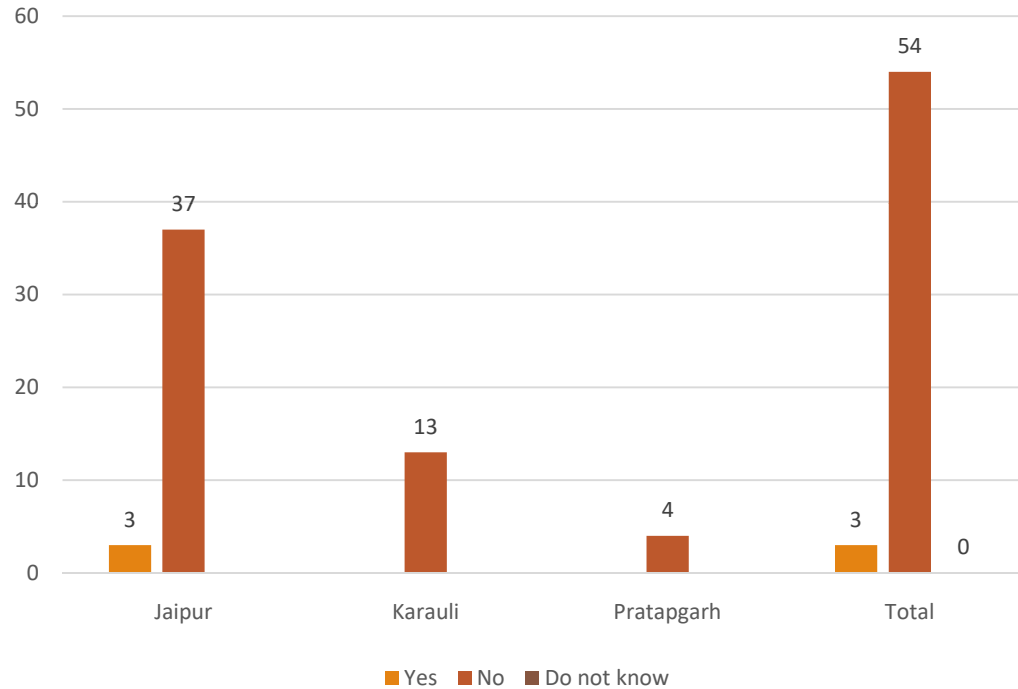
In no villages the VWSC maintains any asset register for various components of the water supply system created under JJM.

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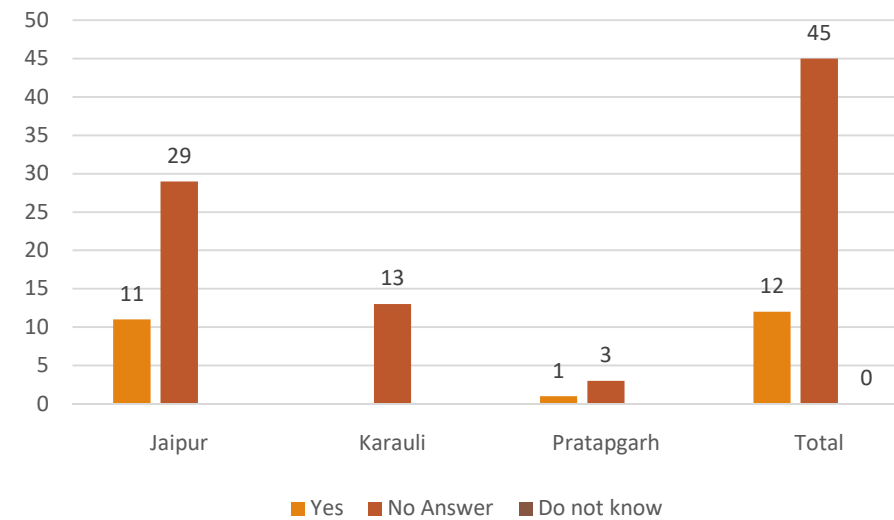
# Water Quality Testing



No of villages identified group of 5 women to test the quality of water



Gram Panchayat has been given FTK by the department



# Water quality testing

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Only in 3 villages (all in Jaipur), the VWSC has identified a group of 5 women to test the water quality.

Only in 12 villages, the VWSC members said that there is testing kit (FTK) available at the panchayat office for testing the water quality.

Only in one village (Dungri Kalan in Jaipur) water testing was done in last one month from 1 to 10 households and from 2 sources.

Though in 12 villages, VWSC members said that there was a testing kit (FTK) available at their Gram Panchayat. But we visited 10 panchayat offices (one in Pratapgarh and nine in Jaipur district) during the data collection none of the GPs had a testing kit (FTK).

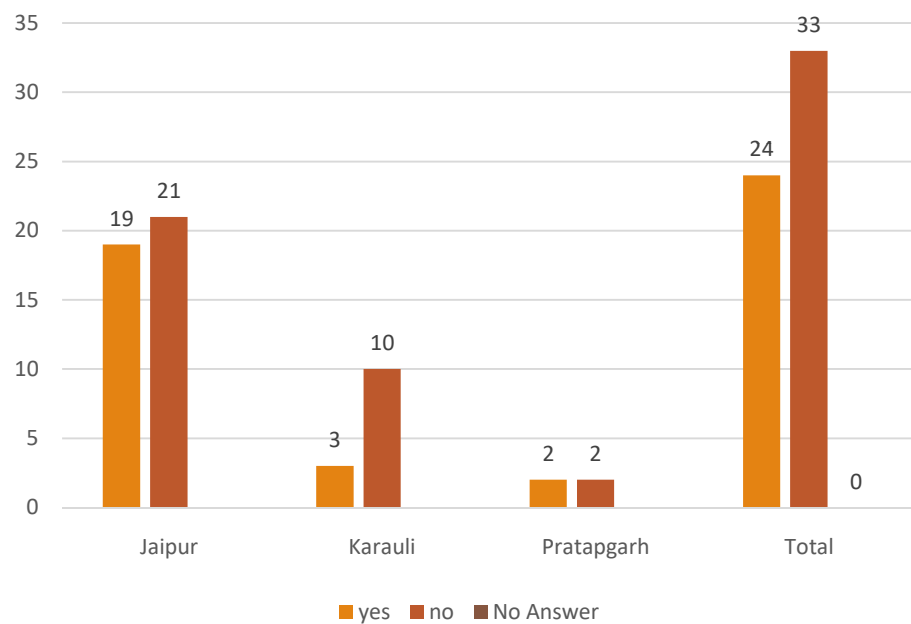
**Training for water testing has not been provided to the village women, but in many villages the Anganbadi workers/ANMs informed that they have been provided the water testing training.**



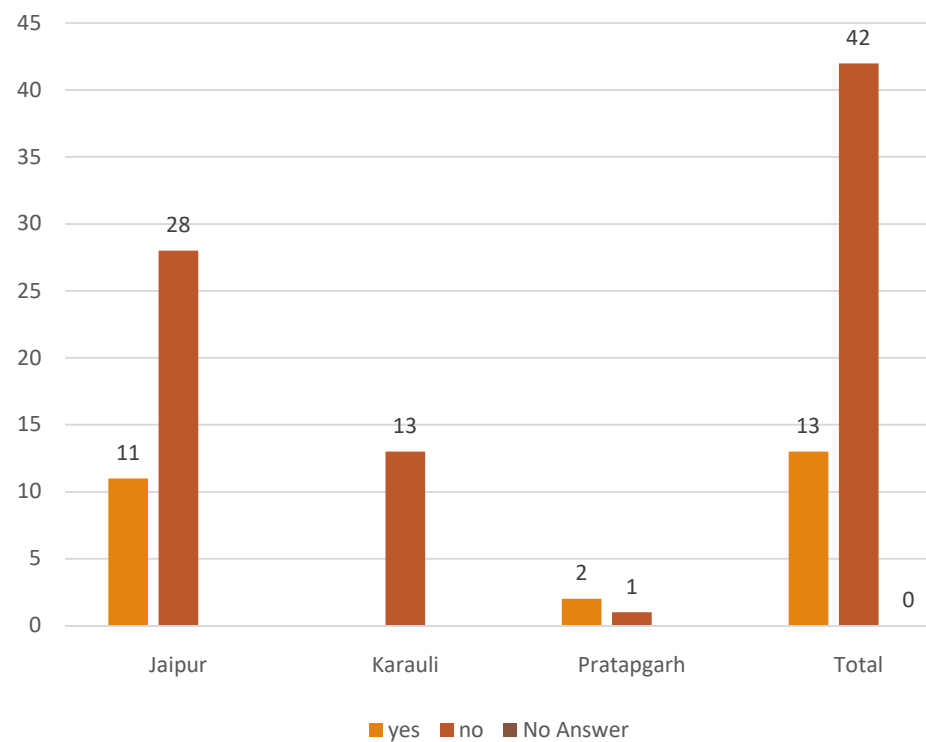
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# Grievance redressal

Complaints made related to physical work by  
VWSCs to departmental officials



Departmental officers redress complaints




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In 24 villages (42%), the VWSC members made complaints to the PHED officials, but only in half of them (13 villages) their complaint was addressed by the PHED officials.

In most cases the VWSC members had no idea whom to make a complaint.

In Jaipur district, in those villages which come under the Bisalpur project area, the PHED and the Bisalpur project authorities ask the villagers to go to the other on making any complaints, according to the VWSC members and other villagers.

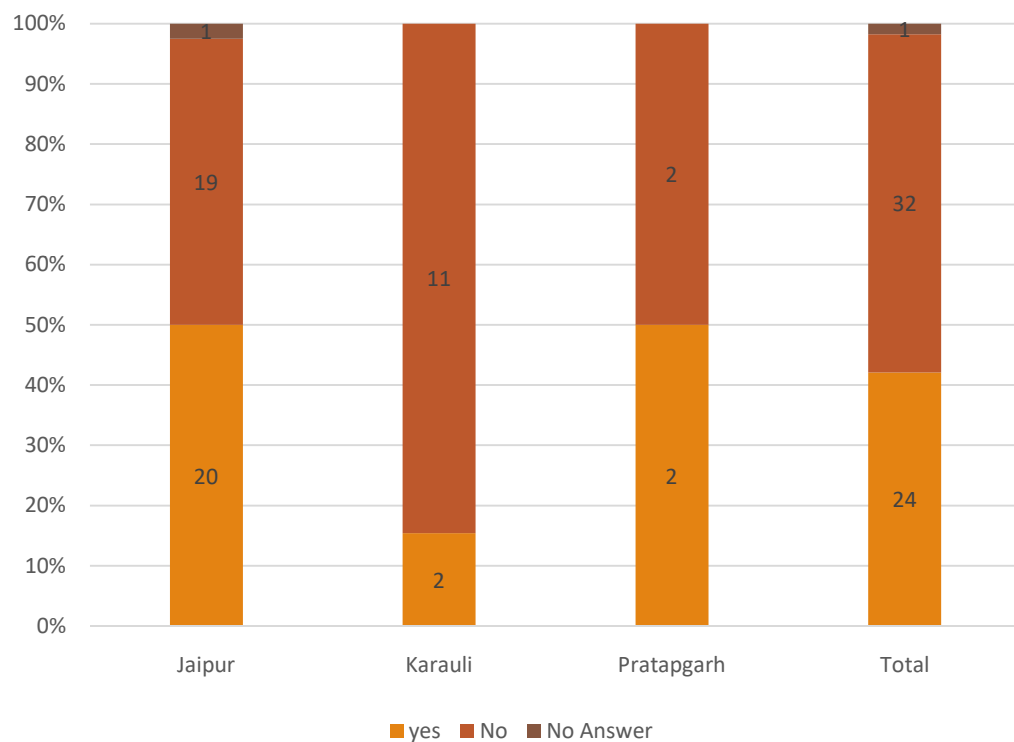


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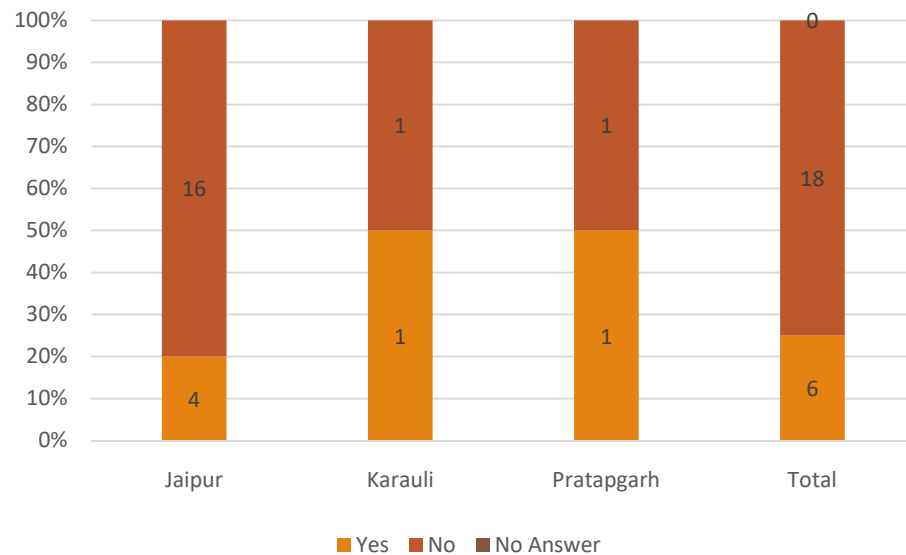
# Certification process



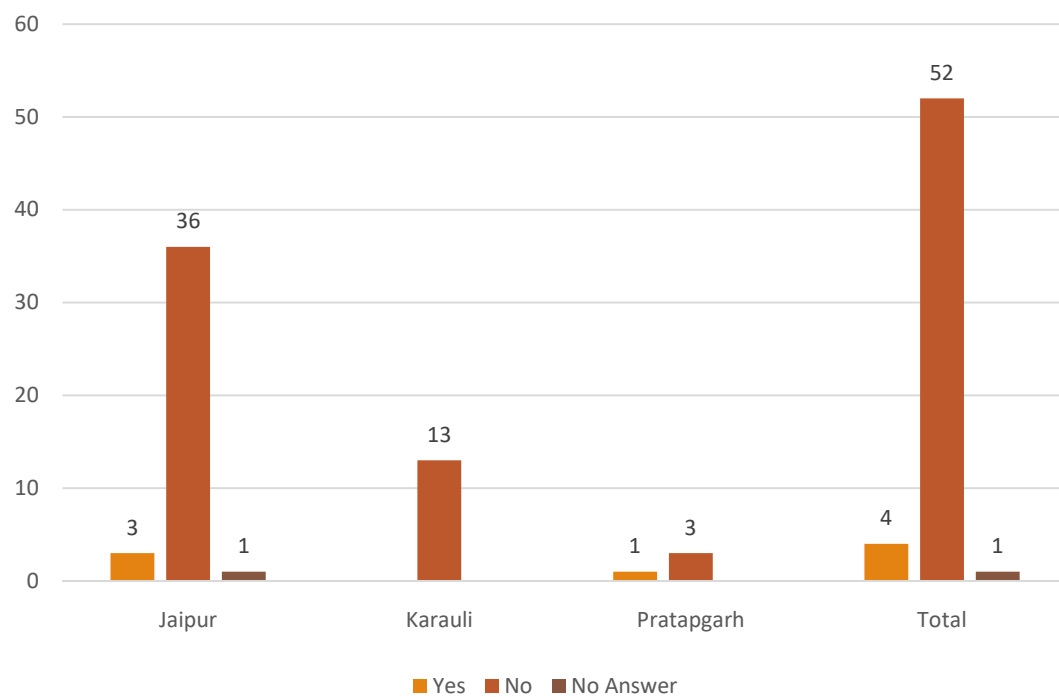
No. of villages having 100 % functional tap connection



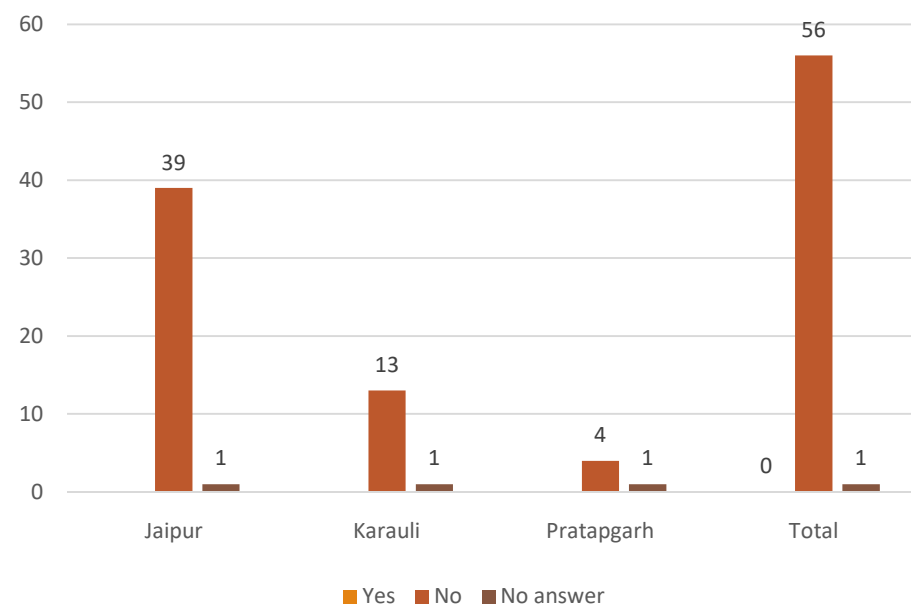
VWSC member verified/certified 100% reach of functional tap connection in HH.



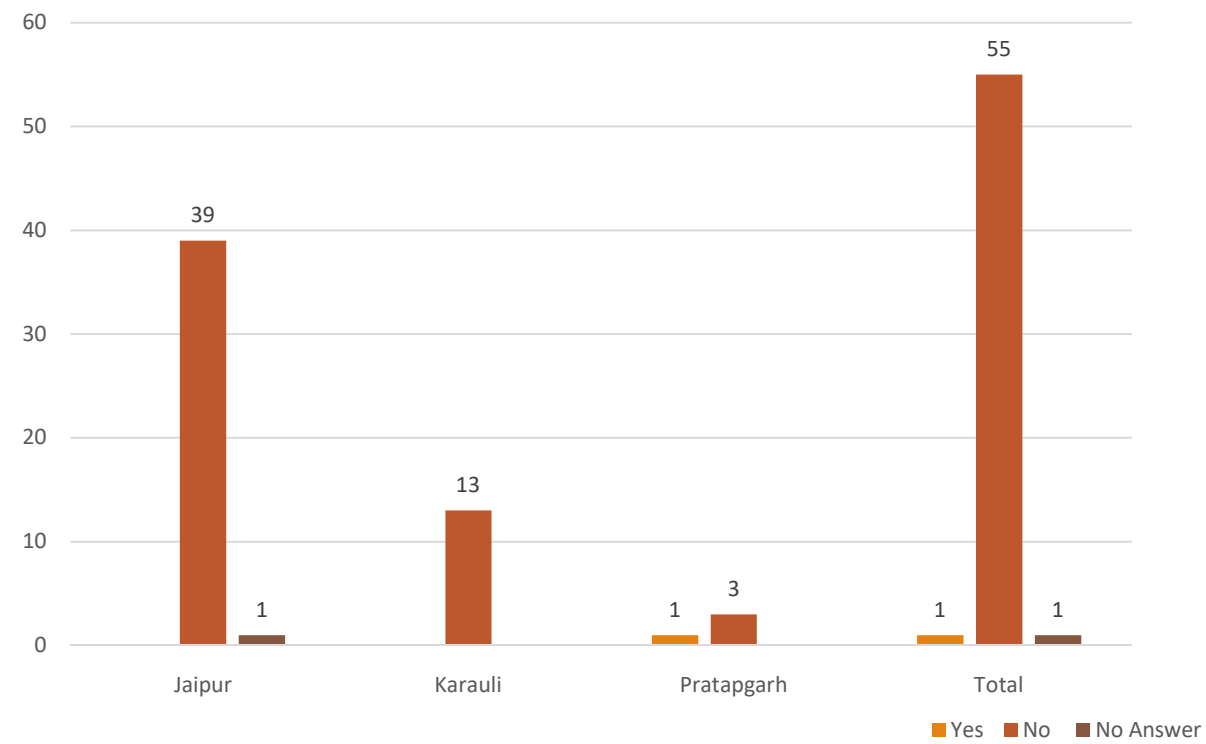
PHED department verified/certified 100% functional tap connection in each HH



Verified/certified status of functional tap approved by Gram sabha




VWSCs awarded at the district level



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As the charts above suggest, there has not been proper verification and certification in most of the villages. At least the VWSC members did not seem to be aware if it.



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# Major issues highlighted by the people

# Major issues highlighted by the people

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**The roads damaged due to the JJM work was not repaired by the JJM contractor, and roads either remained so or were repaired by the panchayats.**

**Contractor decides:** In most villages a common complaint was that the contractor works on his own without consulting the committee and in some cases even the gram panchayat.

**Source selection:** In Dungraikgurd village of the Jobner block (Jaipiur), there was an earlier well, still a new well was dug which was only 45 feet deep for supplying water under JJM. But this new well is not able to provide sufficient water and there is still water shortage in the village. If the old well is linked to the water supply system there will be sufficient water.

**Pipe Problems:** In some of the villages in Jaipur where water is being supplied from the Bisalpur project, the village well water is also being mixed and quality of the water from the village wells is not good.

In Sheyopura village (Jaipur district) people complained that contractor has used 2.5 inch diameter pipe while it should be of 6 inch diameter. And due to this water supply is very slow and little in the households.

In Mordi village (Sambhar block, Jaipur district), where the JJM work is still going on, the contractor fixed the length of the pipe which links the main pipe to the household and due to this in most cases the pipe did not reach the households.

In village Gopirapura village (Chaksu block, Jaipur) it was said that the contractor used an old pipeline, which was longer, to take water to a dhani named Shahid baba ki dhani, due to which there is no or very little water is being supplied there. Contractor ignored the VWSC members suggestion to lay a new pipeline of shorter length which would have ensured better water supply to that dhani.

**No taps:** In none of the villages, with one exception, the contractors provided a tap to the pipeline in the households. This results in unnecessary loss of water.

**Weak motor:** In KalaGudha village (Sapotra block) in Karauli district, people said that though there was no dearth of water there, the motor in boring to get underground water to the overhead tank is of less power and also due to erratic electricity supply water won't reach the tank and hence there was very little water supply in the village.

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**Inadequate water supply:** In most villages of the Jaipur district, it was said that the water supply was irregular, not done every day but on alternate day and even on a 3-5 days gap. Water supply being only for 10-20 mins, and water flow being very little.

No proper water supply was started yet in 8 of the 10 reported (including one certified) villages of Karauli as work of water supply system was not completed in most villages or there were some unaddressed technical issues. Two villages where water supply was there but not adequate were Kheriya (Masalpur block) and Nayagaon (Todabhim block)

Due to the irregular and inadequate water supply, women complain that they still have to fetch water from the well and other sources. In one case (Sheypura village, Jaipur, where pipes shorter width have been laid) women complain that water was not being supplied after last Deepawali (October 2022) and they still walked up to 5 km to fetch water.

In few villages, people said that they still had to get the water tanks from private water suppliers, which cost them Rs. 800-1000.

However, wherever the water supply is regular and adequate, women said that they now saved time and could do other things or take rest now. But it was case in few villages only.

**Misappropriation by some:** As mentioned earlier, one major complain was that the resourceful persons are using electric motors to collect more water in their houses when the water is being supplied and this results in less or no water being supplied to the other households, especially the farther ones and on upper levels.

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# Functioning of Implementation Support Agency (ISA)





# Functioning of Implementation Support Agency (ISA)

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There was one question about the functioning of the ISA in the questionnaire. The VWSC members were asked “Which planning activities were carried out by the committee in collaboration with the Implementation Support Agency (ISA)?” In all villages except one, VWSC members answered negative about any of the suggested activities (like PRA, Resource Mapping, Weather cycle, and assessment of drinking water availability). Just in one village one member recalled the PRA activity done by the ISA.

In general the VWSC members were not aware of the presence of the ISA team members. In some cases Sarpanch, Secretary, Ward panch, or front line workers knew about or had met the Block Coordinator of the ISA.

In some villages, the VWSC members, after being told about the ISA, said that they should have at least told us that we are the members of such a committee.

The ISA district and block coordinators were also interviewed and block coordinators accompanied the data collection team to the villages in most of the cases.

In Karauli, the ISA selected is Jaipur National University (JNU), Jaipur, but it has outsourced its work to some other NGO.



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## **Views of the District Coordinators of the ISA**

The District Coordinators of two districts (Jaipur and Pratapgarh) informed that the Baseline survey, PRA activities, and VWSC selection was done in all the villages in the years 2021 and 2022.

Though the Sarpanch and Panchayat Secretaries were not cooperating in the beginning of the project and it took lot of efforts on parts of the ISA and district administration to get them on board. In Pratapgarh District Collector held meetings with the Sarpanch Associations in the district to get them on board.

Even the nationalized banks were not willing to open the bank accounts in the beginning even after the letter from the District Collector. Then the VWSC accounts were opened in private banks and then government banks started chasing the ISA to open the VWSC accounts.

The VWSC members were selected by the Sarpanch and Secretary and were later approved by the Gram Sabha. Later the VWSC members were changed in may cases because of various reasons.

In Pratapgarh 5 women residents of the villages were selected for the Quality Testing but later inactive women members were replaced by ANM, ASHA, Anganbadi Workers and Helpers. In Jaipur the 5 members of Quality Testing included ASHA, Anganbadi Workers and Helpers and in some cases ANM since the beginning and only two common village women were made part of it.

According to the District Coordinators, trainings of the VWSC members have taken place in Jaipur, in which mostly the Sarpanch, Secretary and Ward Panch and FLWs participated. But in some cases common villagers who were members of VWSC also participated.

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A plumber, a fitter and an electrician were identified in each village of the Jaipur district by the Sarpanch and were trained also, according to the Jaipur, District Coordinator.

Pratapgarh District coordinator said that the ISAs work have almost been completed in the district now but the water supply systems have not been created in the villages yet, that's why its behind Jaipur.

One more issue, apart from small dhanis, arising form the fact that the families making their houses at their farm, who can't be linked with JMM as it can go to only those dhanis with 20 households.. In Pratapgarh, the survey done by ISA included all the families of the village but now the PHED is saying that survey should include only those who can

### **Sequence of activities by ISA in Jaipur:**

Baseline Survey ➡ VWSC formation ➡ PRA Activities (Nazri Naqsha) ➡ **Y DU Form** (details of population and households, social category wise) ➡ VAP

### **Sequence of activities by ISA in Pratapgarh:**

VWSC formation ➡ Baseline Survey ➡ PRA Activities (Nazri Naqsha) ➡ VAP

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## Views of the Block Coordinators of the ISAs

There does not seem to be clarity to the Block Coordinators about their roles. They were told about their work as and when the work was to be done. Mostly the focus was on collecting the Aadhar and the community contribution and getting the account opened. One Block Coordinator in Jaipur said that an one day orientation was organized in the ISA office in Jaipur. In Karauli, two Block Coordinators said that they worked in PHED office, feeding data on Aadhar etc. ISA Block coordinators facilitated the opening of the bank accounts of VWSC.

In Pratapgarh, the Block Coordinators said no separate meeting of the VWSC is conducted and in the Panchayat meeting, when the FLWs are also present, who are also members of VWSCs, the VWSC meeting is also considered done.

As for formation of the VWSC, the block coordinators said that in most cases the members were selected by the Sarpanch and Secretary and generally no process was followed.

The Block Coordinators felt that they were overburdened and underpaid, as one block coordinator was incharge of more than one block either due to vacancy in some blocks or the ISA asked them to take responsibility of two blocks. In Some cases they could not go back to the one village a second time before two months.

The Block Coordinators have not been paid since April 2023. In Pratapgarh, the Block Coordinators were told in March 2023, after the Aadhar and Community contribution collection was over, that your regular work is over. Now onwards you come only when called by the ISA. IN Pratapgarh, the Block Coordinators were paid either on task basis (target given) or per day basis.

Major challenge faced by the Block Coordinators of the ISAs was getting the bank accounts opened, as they tried to open bank accounts of 10-12 VWSCs at once and presence of both Sarpanch and Secretary was necessary to open the account, they faced problems and getting all concerned people at one place.