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Educational Attainment, Nutrition and Health among Children of Migrant Construction Workers in Indian Cities



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Introduction

- A large number of poor households in India undertake temporary rural to urban migration along with their children to find work in urban areas especially in informal sectors such as construction.
- Migrant workers are compelled to travel from one construction site to another and live in temporary settlements.
- The working conditions and facilities provided at the site are far removed from any basic desirable level.
- Most migrant laborers are employed in the unorganized sector, where the lack of regulation compounds their vulnerability.
- While for many, migration is an empowering experience, others endure human rights violations, abuse and discrimination.
- Their living conditions are no better than the working conditions. Their children often suffer from undernourishment and innumerable health problems.
- The consequences of migration on these children remain largely understudied.

Need of the Study

- Literature has highlighted that migrant laborers at construction sites and their children are a vulnerable group in need of public policy attention.
- However, there has been little research to shed light on the particular ways in which these children are vulnerable.
- There is a need to assess the condition of migrant children at construction sites; to examine areas in which relevant existing policies can be invoked or enhanced to protect and enhance the wellbeing of such children; and to suggest practical ways in which government, public and private organizations can intervene to help this population.

Objectives, Data and Methods

The main objective of this research is to examine the educational status, nutrition and wellbeing among adolescent children (10-17 years of age) of migrant construction workers in six Indian cities.

The specific objectives of this study are:

- To examine the educational status of adolescent children of migrant construction workers in India.
- To access the nutritional wellbeing of adolescent children of migrant construction workers in India.
- To understand the perceived health status of adolescent children of migrant construction workers in India.

Data:

The study used data from the survey 'Vulnerable Children: A Study of Children of Migrant Construction Workers' conducted by Don Bosco Research Centre in the year 2015-16.

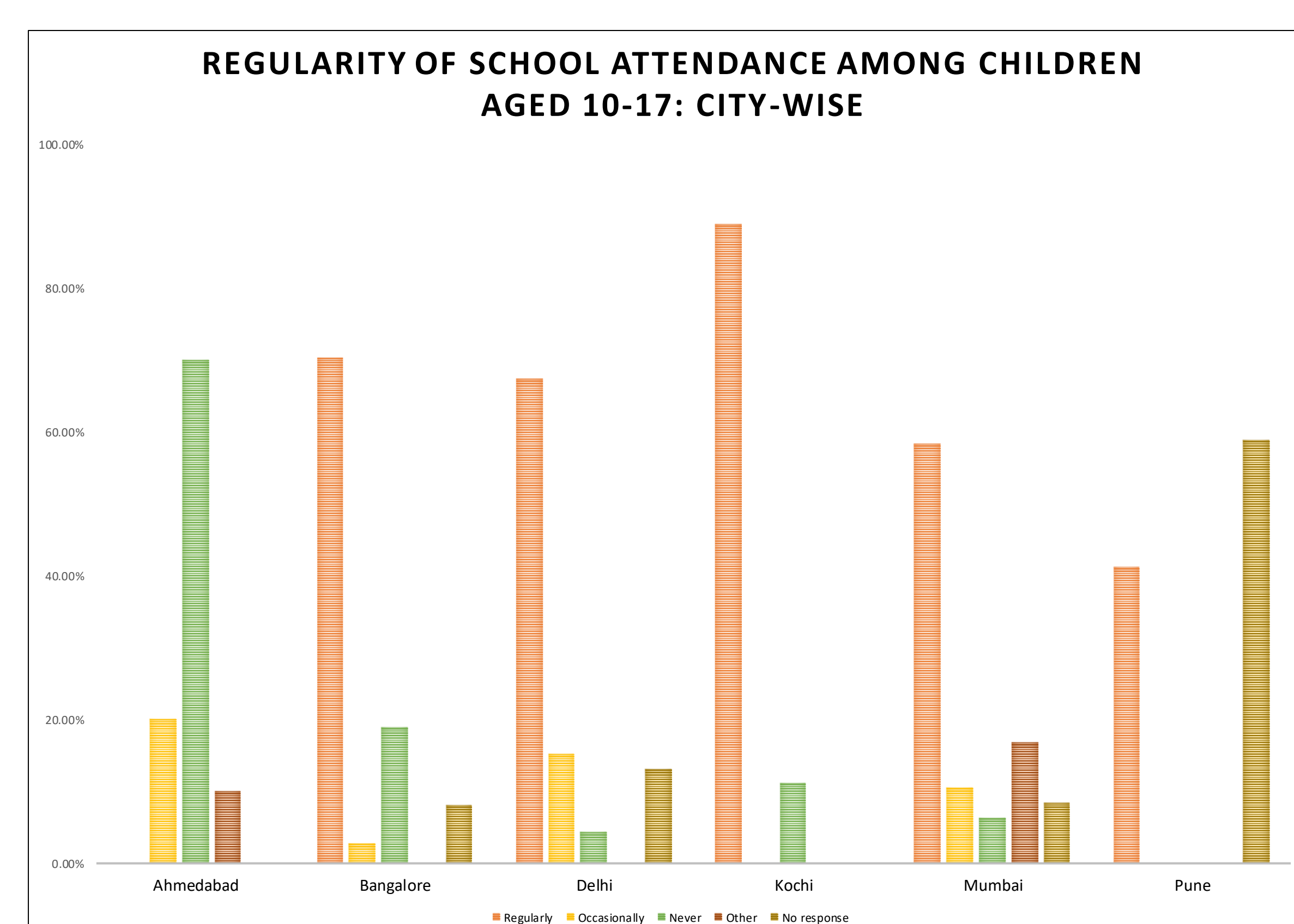
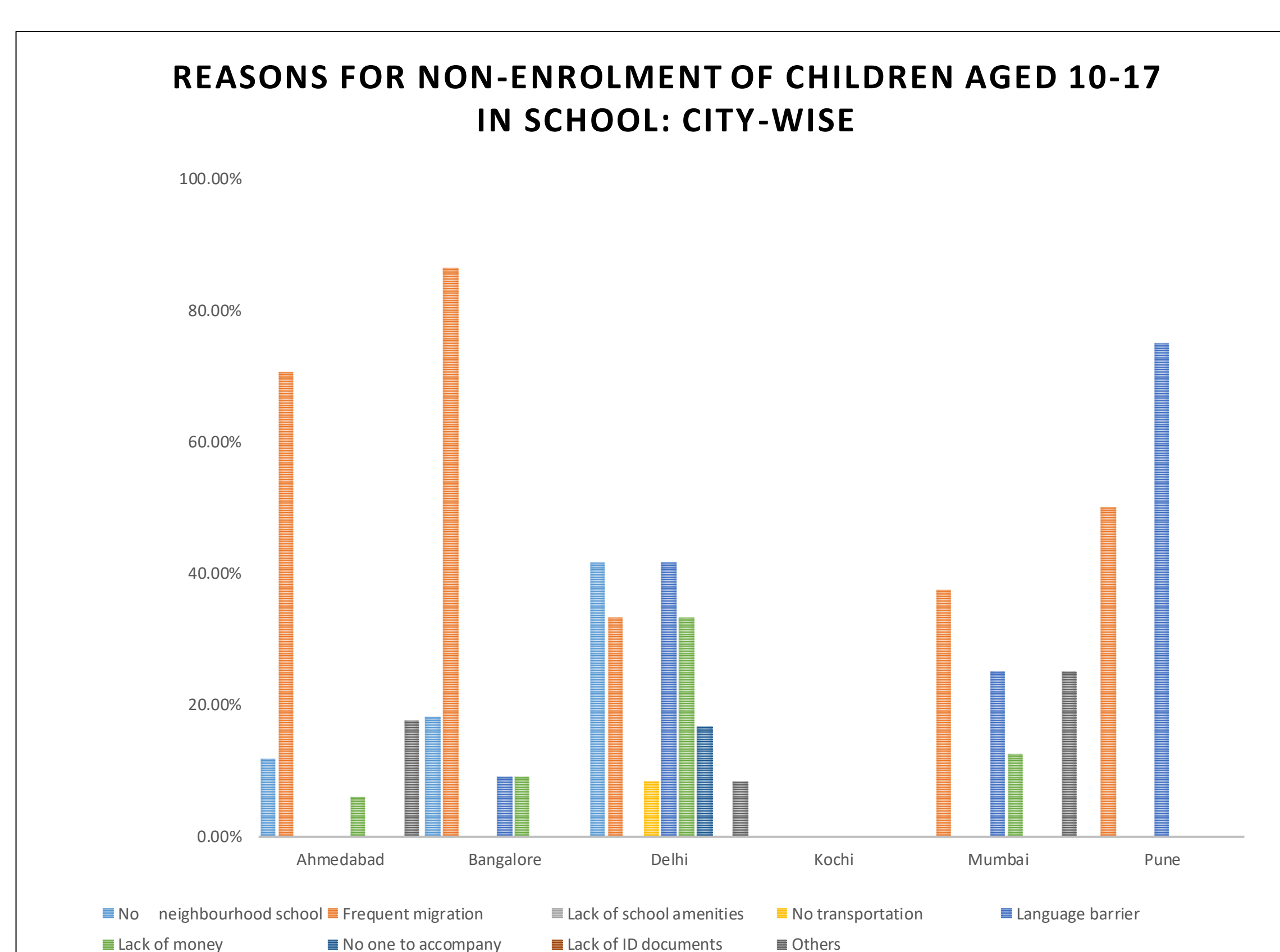
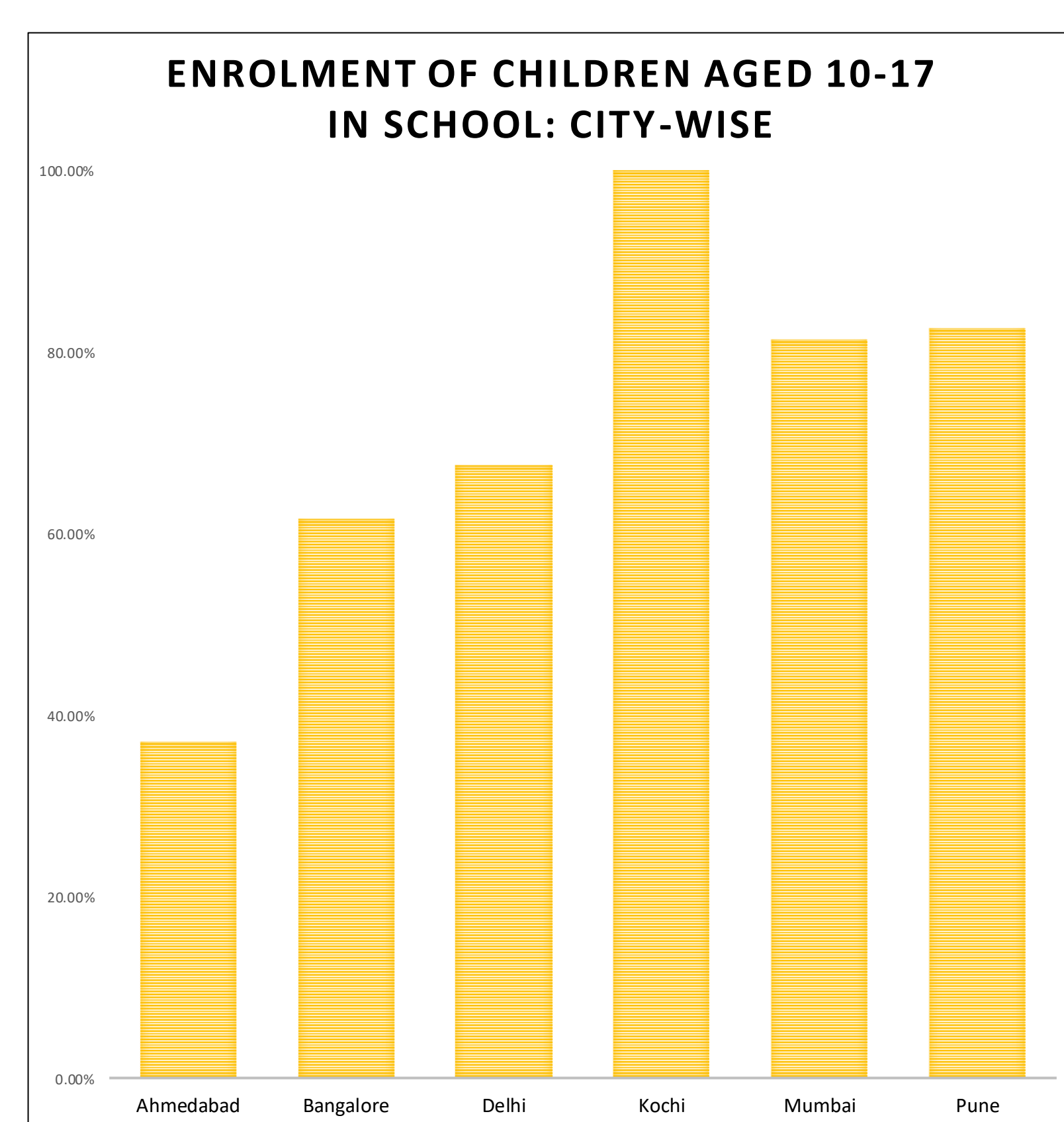
Variables used:

Educational Status: School enrolment, Reasons for non-enrolment, School attendance.

Nutrition: Composition of meals, Skipping of meals, Reasons for skipping meals.

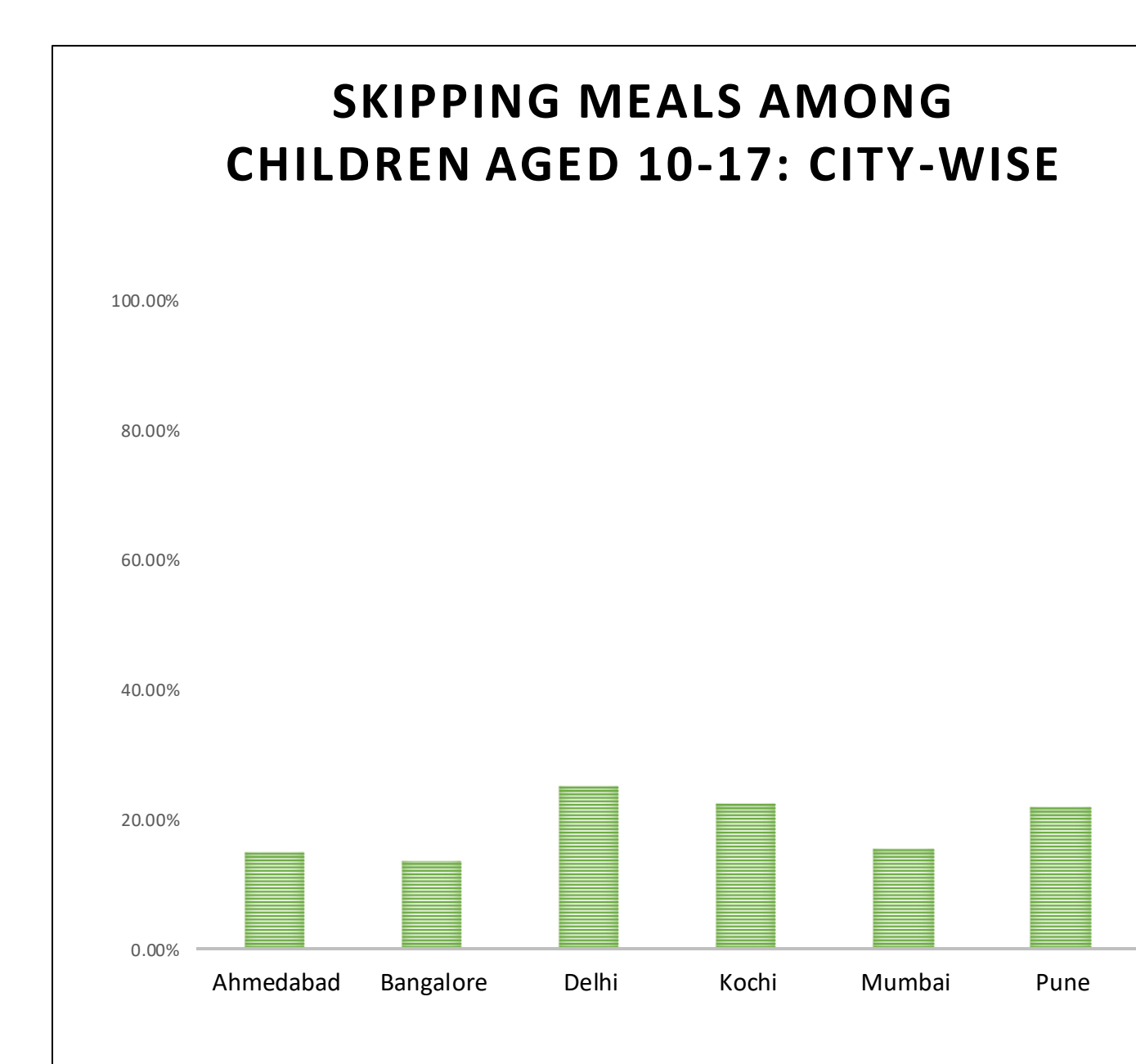
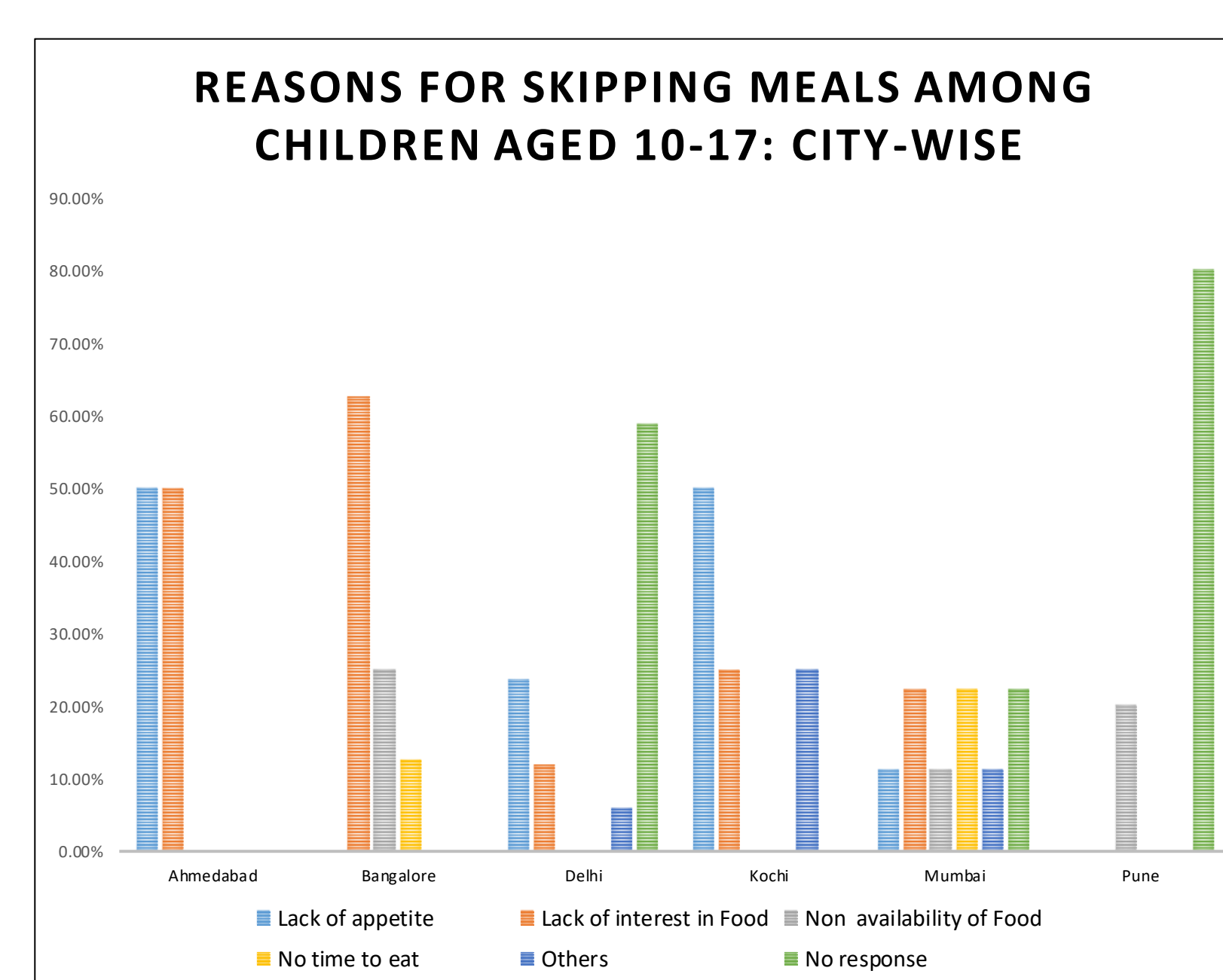
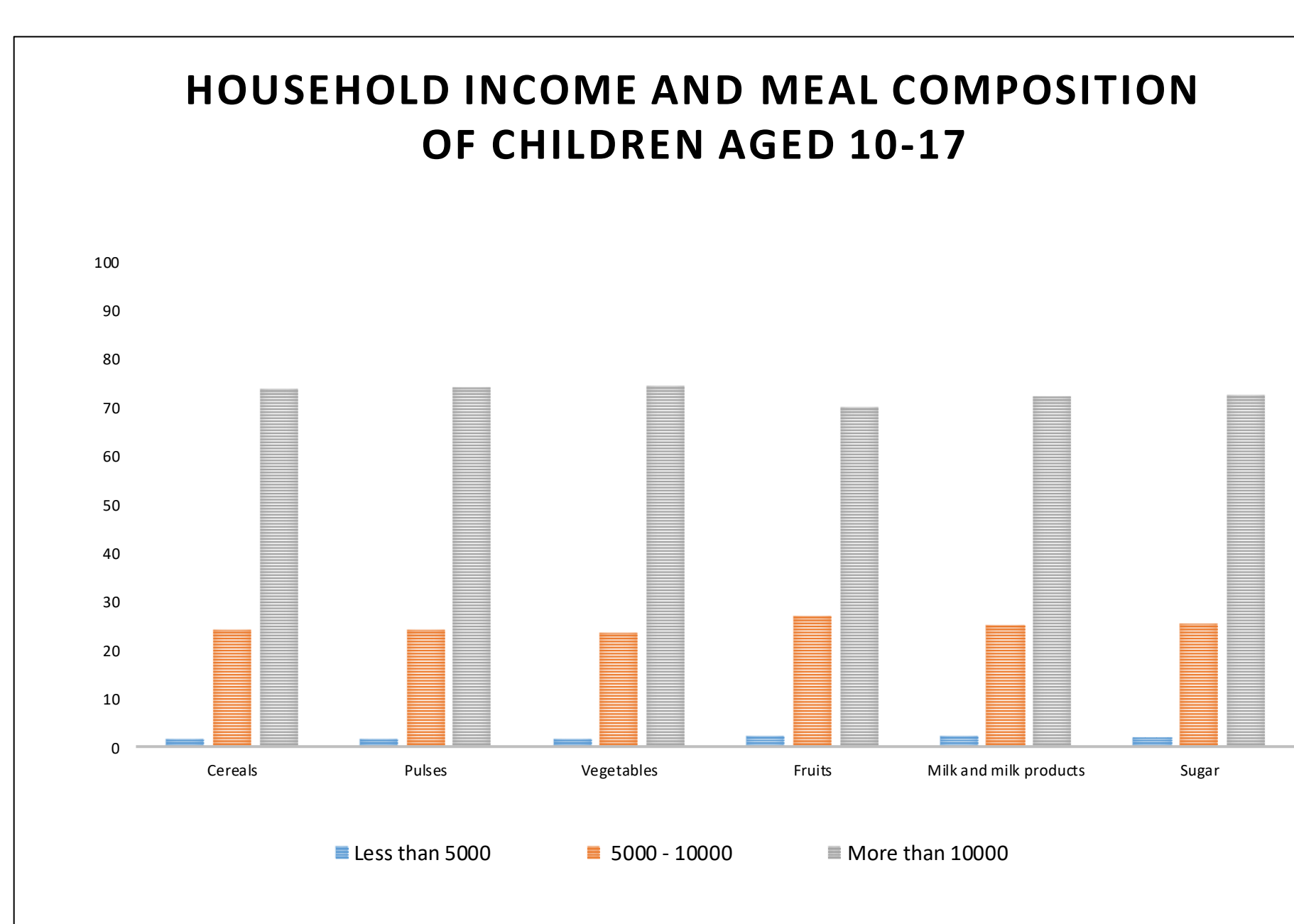
Health: Perceived health status.

Educational Status of Children of Migrant Construction Workers

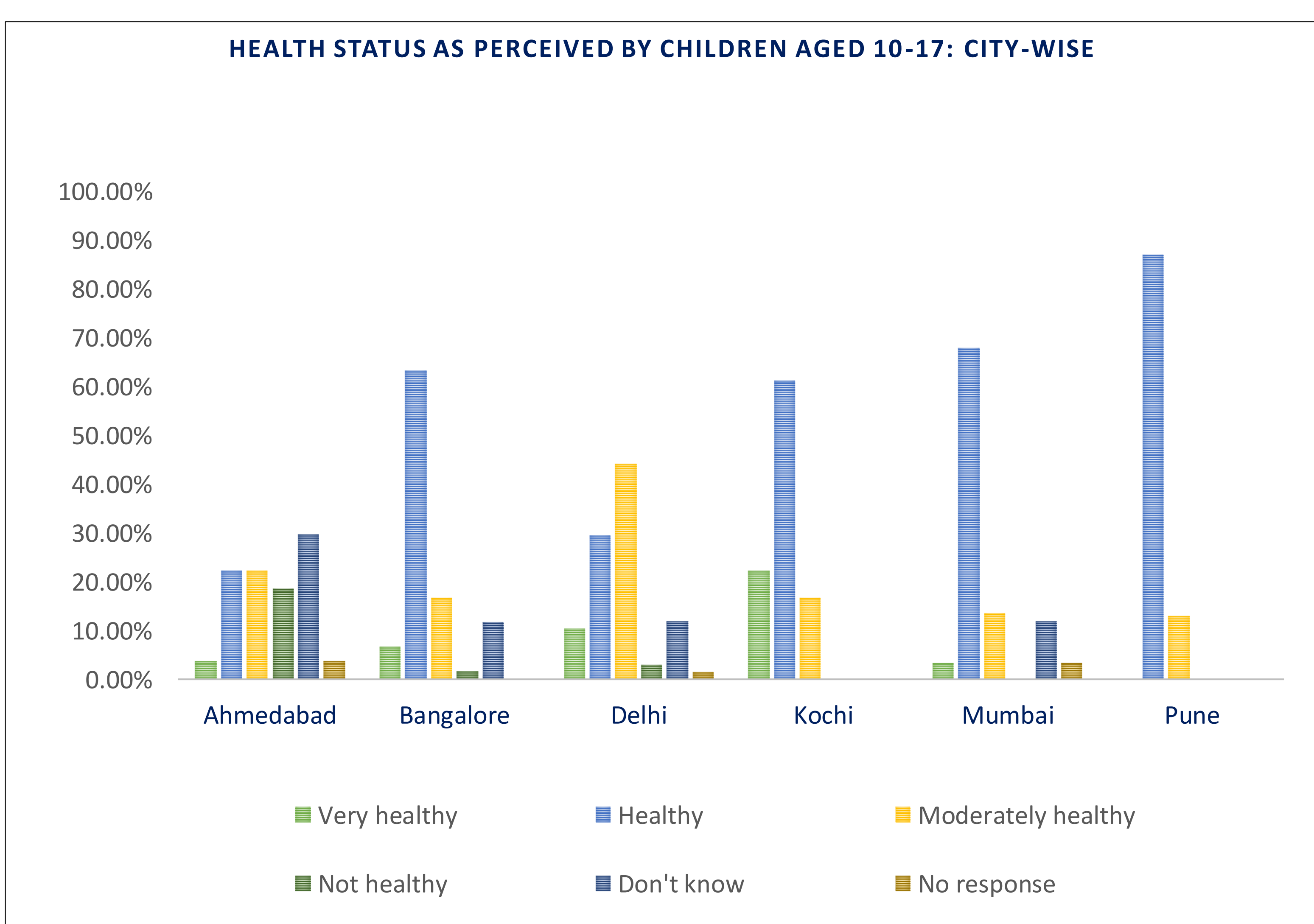


Food Consumption and Nutritional Status of Children of Migrant Construction Workers

Composition of meals of children (10-17)	Ahmedabad	Bangalore	Delhi	Kochi	Mumbai	Pune
Cereals	100	93.3	100	100	98.2	100
Pulses	92.6	93.3	98.5	100	98.2	100
Vegetables	100	93.3	98.5	94.4	98.2	100
Fruits	0	31.7	58.8	100	68.4	91.3
Milk/milk products	22.2	66.7	76.5	72.2	64.9	91.3
Sugar	55.6	85	98.5	72.2	93	95.7



Perceived Health Status



Conclusion

- The paper focussed on the educational and nutritional profile of the adolescents living with their parents at the construction site.
- Results show that frequent migration, lack of amenities in schools, poor transport facilities to school, instruction in mediums different from that of the children's mother tongue and poor financial status of households were cited as key factors for non-enrolment and irregular attendance of children in school.
- Contrary to findings of some earlier studies, adolescents were found to have satisfactory nutritional diets.
- This could be due to the combined earnings of members of the households.
- Provisions made by NGOs or children's access to government sponsored mid-day meal schemes may have also played a part in improving their nutritional status.
- In the light of complex conditions facing this highly mobile population, it is necessary that policy makers, corporations and the civil society work together to develop initiatives to implement and enforce the rights of migrant workers and their children with respect to health, safety, education and overall development.