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## PUNJAB-HARYANA REGION: HOUSING QUALITY-I

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### Introduction

The type of material used in housing structures, especially for flooring and roof, determines the quality of housing as bricks are commonly used as wall material in all types of houses both in rural and urban areas. Census of India at its recently compiled census of the

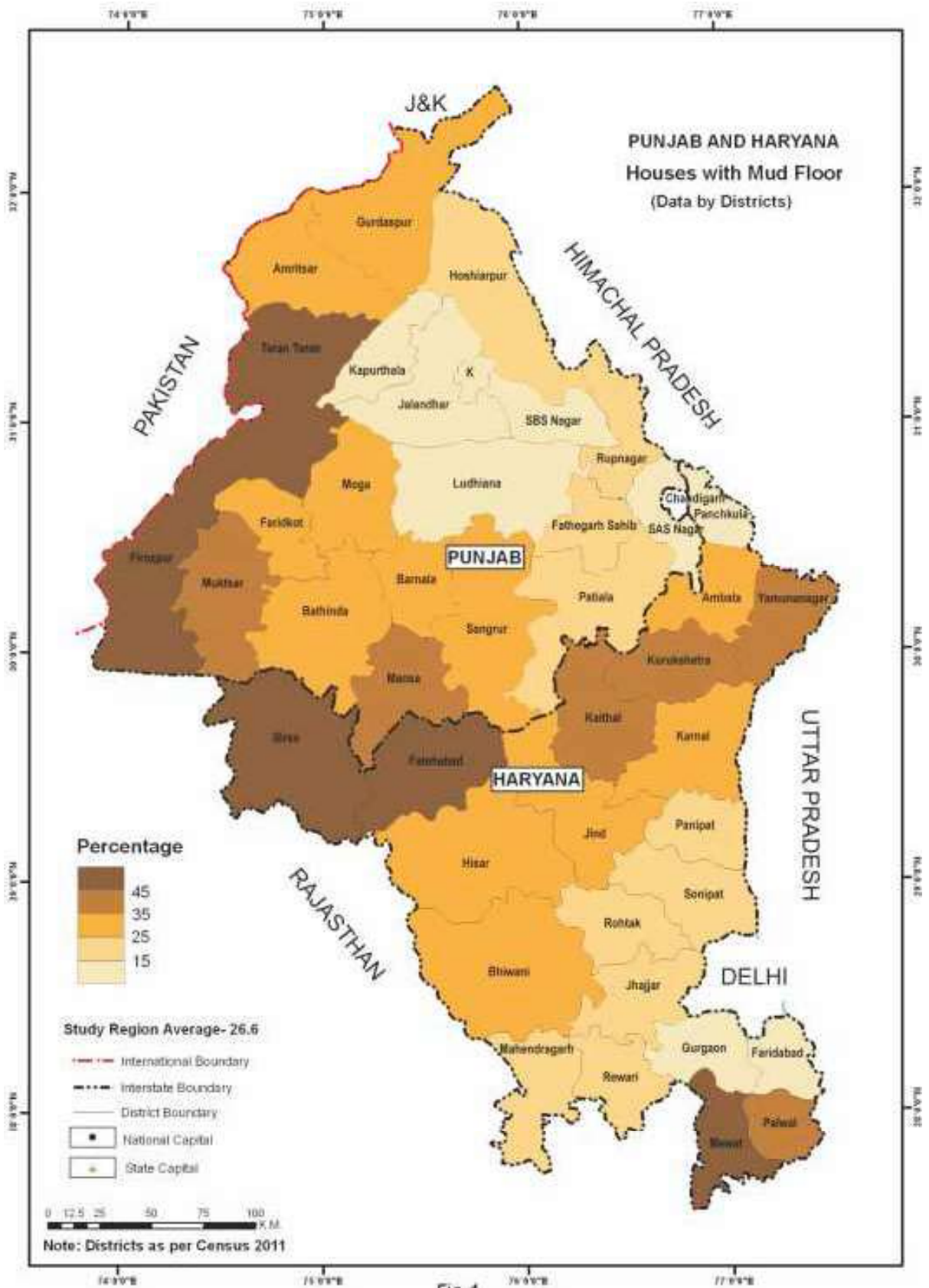
country in 2011 has for the first time published detailed data on material used in constructing residential dwellings. The census of India has classified the residential houses into three categories on the basis of quality, namely, good, livable and dilapidated. Accordingly, in Punjab-Haryana region, which can genuinely

**Table 1**  
**Punjab-Haryana Region: Percentage of Houses with Mud Floor**

State/District	Percentage	State/District	Percentage
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>27.6</b>
Jalandhar	9.1	Gurgaon	9.2
Ludhiana	11.3	Faridabad	10.5
SBS Nagar	12.4	Panchkula	15.3
SAS Nagar	13.6	Rohtak	15.7
Kapurthala	14.8	Sonipat	16.5
Rupnagar	15.9	Rewari	18.5
Hoshiarpur	17.4	Jhajjar	18.6
Fatehgarh Sahib	19.2	Panipat	20.4
Patiala	23.1	Mahendragarh	21.1
Sangrur	26.6	Jind	26.7
Amritsar	27.3	Ambala	28.5
Bathinda	30.4	Bhiwani	28.9
Barnala	31.2	Hisar	32.1
Gurdaspur	34.5	Karnal	34.1
Moga	34.8	Kaithal	35.9
Faridkot	35.1	Kurukshetra	36.5
Mansa	43.0	Palwal	39.2
Muktsar	43.1	Yamunanagar	40.1
Ferozpur	48.2	Fatehabad	46.6
TaranTaran	53.3	Sirsa	50.4
		Mewat	54.0

Regional Average 26.6

Source: Census of India, 2011



**Table 2**  
**Punjab-Haryana Region: Percentage of Houses with Burnt Bricks Floor**

State/ District	Percentage	State/ District	Percentage
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Rupnagar	3.0	Mahendragarh	0.9
Gurdaspur	3.3	Panchkula	1.3
SAS Nagar	3.3	Rewari	2.0
Hoshiarpur	5.7	Gurgaon	2.6
Tatan Taran	7.0	Mewat	3.1
Fatehgarh Sahib	7.1	Yamunanagar	3.9
Patiala	7.3	Ambala	4.3
Amritsar	7.5	Faridabad	4.3
Kapurthala	8.3	Palwal	4.7
Jalandhar	10.2	Kurukshetra	5.0
SBS Nagar	11.9	Bhiwani	8.0
Ludhiana	13.9	Karnal	9.7
Ferozpur	14.4	Jhajjar	15.3
Sangrur	20.8	Fatehabad	16.2
Muktsar	22.1	Sirsa	17.8
Moga	22.9	Kaithal	18.4
Faridkot	24.0	Panipat	18.5
Mansa	25.3	Rohtak	18.7
Barnala	27.0	Hisar	19.1
Bathanda	28.5	Sonipat	22.7
		Jind	27.6

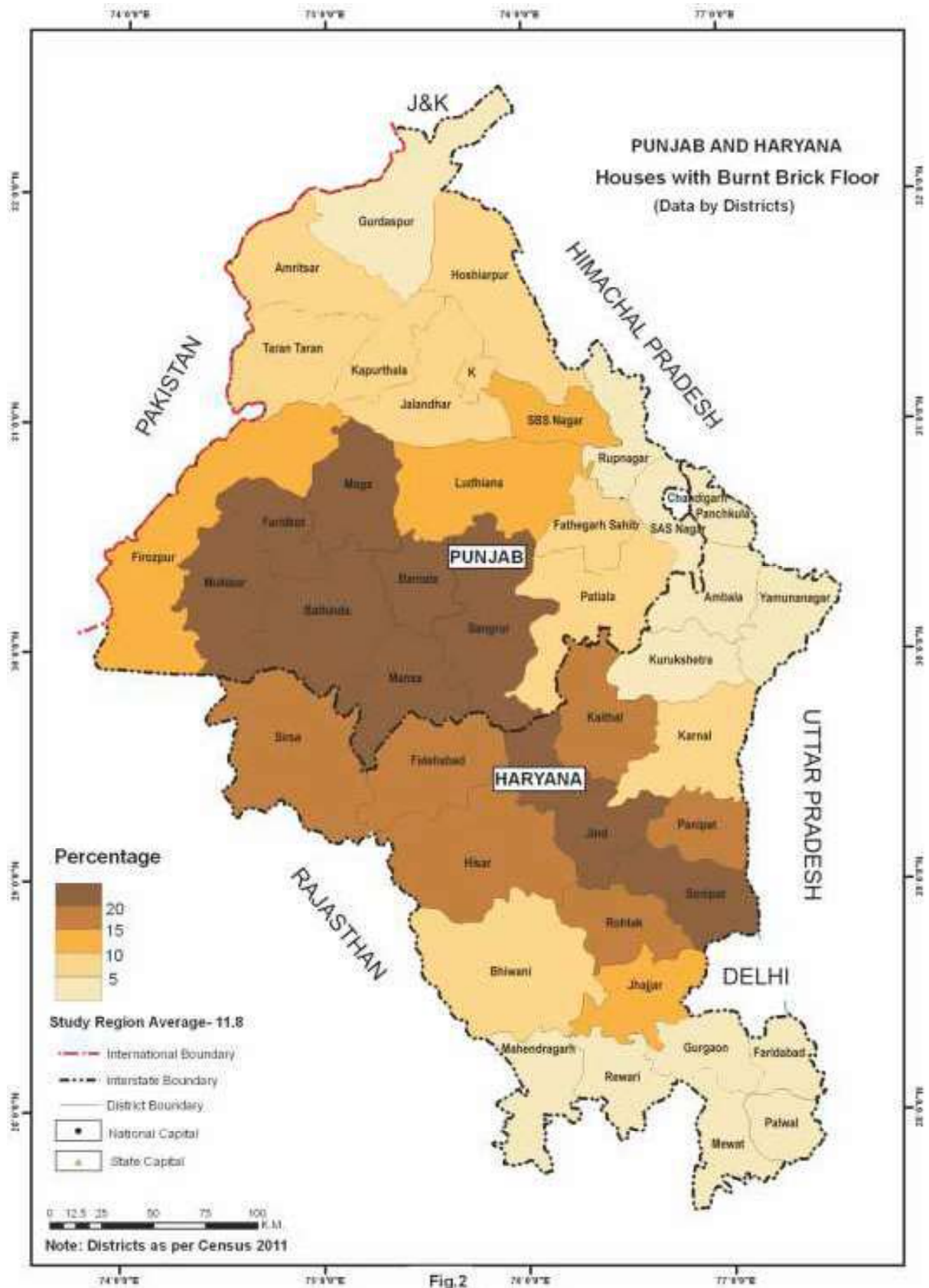
*Regional Average 11.8*

*Source: Census of India, 2011*

boast of high quality of life because of its income bracket in comparison to other states, only half (51.66 per cent) the residential dwellings could be classified as good quality houses, while 42 per cent were barely livable. However, the only solace was that only 5.61 per cent of the residential houses in the study region were in dilapidated category. Interestingly, the urban-rural scenario in the region does not display much difference in this regard. While in urban areas 59.9 per cent residential dwellings were of good quality, in rural areas the corresponding figure was 46.61 per cent. It implies that Punjab-Haryana constitutes one of those areas of the country where the quality of

rural housing has improved significantly during the last 2-3 decades so as to match its urban counterparts fairly well. It speaks of improving living conditions in rural areas of the study region. Only 6.34 per cent of houses in rural areas and 4.39 in urban areas have been classified as dilapidated houses in Punjab-Haryana belt in 2011.

The scope of present map series has been confined only to the type of material used for flooring. Four maps and four Tables have been prepared to display the regional variations in the flooring material used within Punjab-Haryana belt. Income levels, literacy and education, external contacts, climatic



**Table 3**  
**Punjab-Haryana Region: Percentage of Houses with Cement Floor**

State/District	Percentage	State/District	Percentage
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>43.9</b>
Mansa	16.7	Sirsa	22.3
Barnala	18.1	Fatehabad	23.5
Moga	18.8	Kaithal	27.7
Muktsar	20.2	Jind	34.1
Faridkot	21.9	Hisar	36.2
Ferozpur	22.1	Karnal	37.7
Bathinda	22.4	Mewat	39.4
Taran Taran	27.5	Kurukshetra	40.1
Sangrur	29.2	Yamunanagar	41.4
Amritsar	37.8	Panipat	43.6
Patiala	40.9	Sonipat	44.8
Gurdaspur	46.9	Jhajjar	45.0
Ludhiana	47.5	Rohtak	46.2
Fatehgarh Sahib	49.6	Palwal	46.5
Kapurthala	52.2	Ambala	46.8
SAS Nagar	52.3	Gurgaon	50.8
Jalandhar	53.5	Bhiwani	51.1
SBS Nagar	60.4	Panchkula	54.6
Hoshiarpur	60.9	Faridabad	61.2
Rupnagar	67.6	Rewari	61.4
		Mahendragarh	67.2

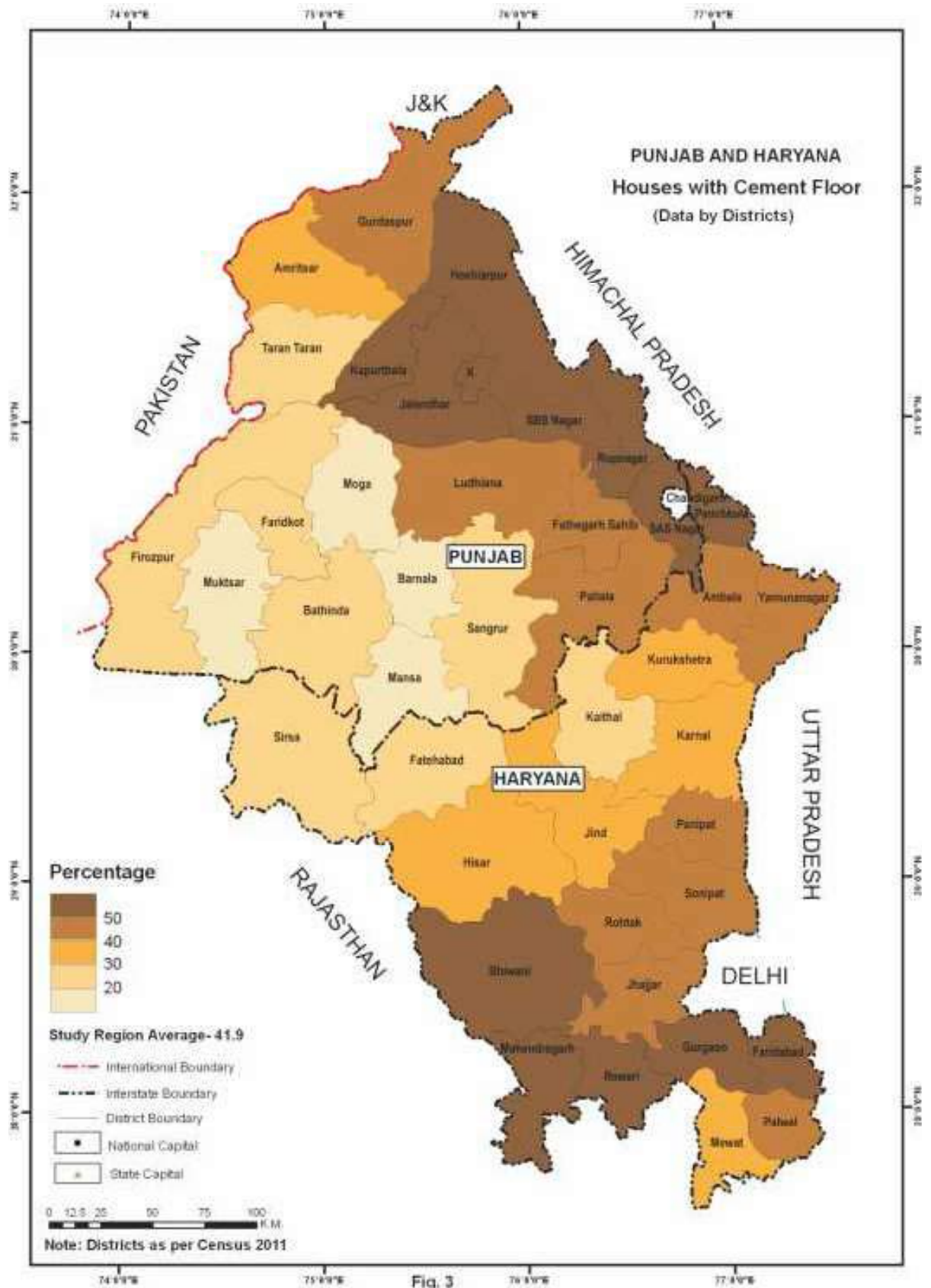
*Regional Average 41.9*

*Source: Census of India, 2011*

requirement, proportion of population below poverty line and government policy in terms of financial aid or rehabilitation schemes are some of the factors that seem to have been at work as for as the housing quality is concerned.

On the basis of flooring material used in residential dwellings the census of India has classified flooring into four types, namely mud flooring (Table 1, Fig. 1), burnt bricks flooring (Table 2, Fig. 2), cement flooring (Table 3, Fig. 3), and stone flooring (Table 4, Fig. 4). On an average, about 42 per cent of the residential houses in the study region have cement flooring, 15 per cent houses have stone flooring, 11.8 per cent houses had burnt brick

flooring, while 26.6 per cent houses still had mud-flooring, implying that one in every four houses in the region still had mud floor. A perusal of four Tables reveals that, on an average, the situation in both Punjab and Haryana components of the region was similar in this respect. However, inter-district variations were alarming. For instance, the proportion of mud-floored houses both in Punjab and Haryana varies from one in ten houses in Jalandhar and Gurgaon districts to one in every two houses in Taran Taran and Mewat districts. Similarly, the proportion of cement floored houses varied from about 16 per cent in Mansa district to over 67 per cent in



**Table 4**  
**Punjab-Haryana Region: Percentage of Houses with Stone Floor**

State/ District	Percentage	State/ District	Percentage
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Rupnagar	8.4	Mewat	1.9
Taran Taran	10.5	Mahendragarh	3.7
Gurdaspur	11.5	Bhiwani	5.7
Hoshiarpur	12.0	Palwal	6.2
SBS Nagar	12.1	Rewari	6.8
Muktsar	13.0	Sirsa	7.5
Mansa	13.5	Jind	8.7
Ferozpur	13.6	Hisar	9.3
Bathinda	16.6	Yamunanagar	10.8
Faridkot	16.7	Sonapat	11.1
Sangrur	20.7	Fatehabad	11.3
Fatehgarh Sahib	20.9	Rohtak	11.3
Kapurthala	21.2	Jhajjar	11.3
Moga	21.3	Panipat	14.0
Barnala	21.5	Faridabad	14.6
Jalandhar	22.5	Ambala	14.9
Ludhiana	22.8	Kurukshetra	14.9
SAS Nagar	23.5	Karnal	15.4
Amritsar	24.4	Kaithal	15.8
Patiala	25.3	Panchkula	17.1
		Gurgaon	21.6

*Regional Average 15.0*

*Source: Census of India, 2011*

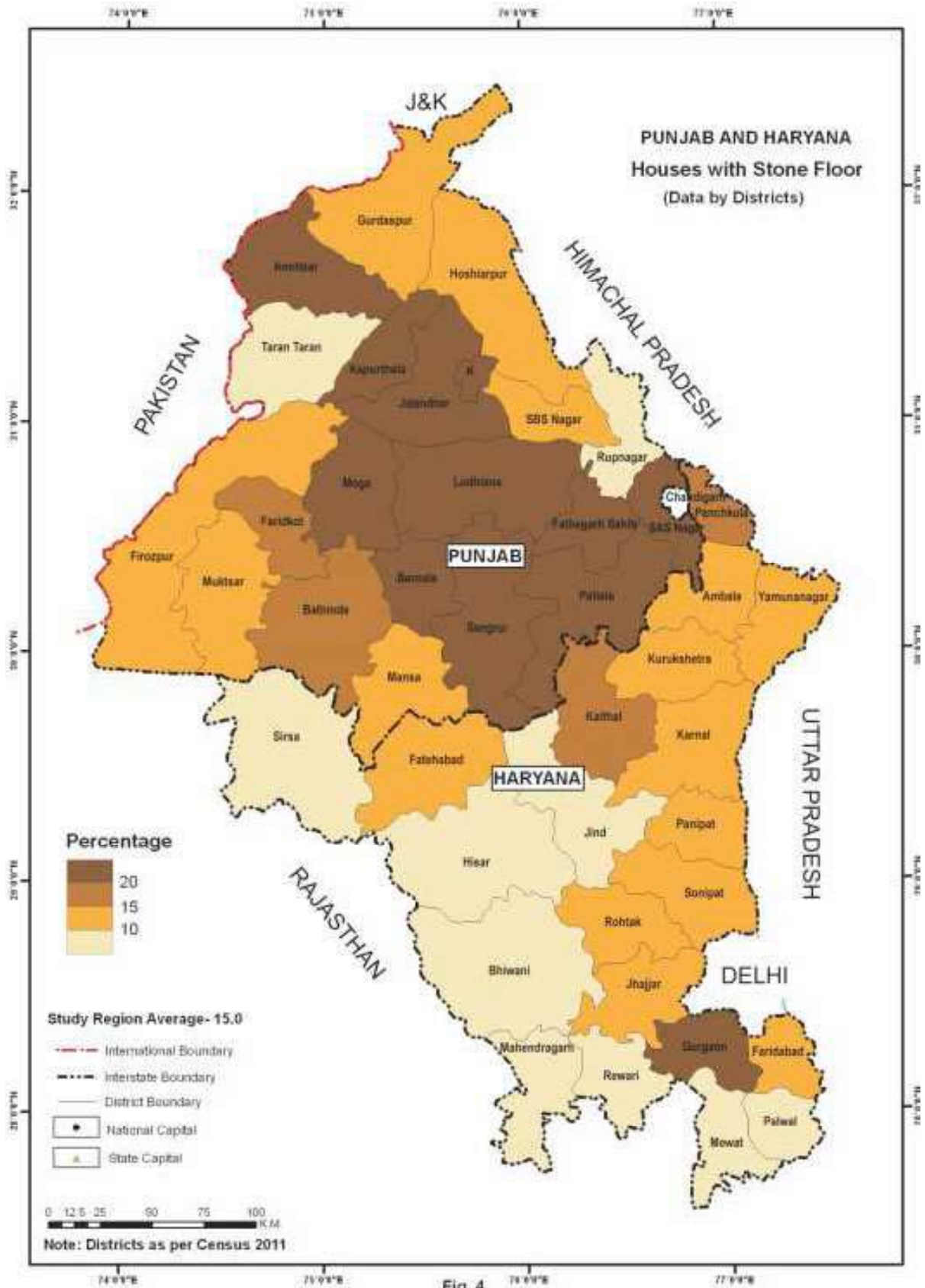
Rupnagar and Mahendragarh districts. The proportion of stone-floored houses varied from less than 2 per cent in Mewat district to 25.3 per cent in Patiala district. The share of burnt-brick floored houses varies from less than 1 per cent in Mahendragarh district to over 28 per cent in Bathinda and Jind districts.

It is interesting to note that such inter-district variations within the study region do bring out certain conspicuous belts with a concentration of a specific type of flooring material. For instance, districts peripheral to the capital city of Chandigarh (which itself was responsible for initiating new era both in terms of construction material and housing

architecture), emerge as a region with lowest proportion of mud flooring and highest proportion of houses with cement flooring. Same was true of the districts located on the periphery of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi reflecting similar impact of proximity to national capital of Delhi. In addition, large parts of Bist-Doab in Punjab along with its adjacent districts too fall in this group as for as the flooring material in residential dwellings is concerned.

In comparison, large parts of northeastern and northwestern Haryana and Mewat districts in southern Haryana emerged as a region with highest concentration of mud-





floored houses. Same was true of border districts of Punjab especially Ferozepur district. Malwa region of Punjab and central parts of Haryana, on the other hand, had highest proportion of residential dwellings where burnt bricks had been used as flooring material, while Bari-Doab in Punjab and much of southern Punjab displayed lowest proportion of houses with cement flooring. With regard to stone being used as flooring material, it has been observed that it was most popular in large parts of Punjab (Except foot-hill zone and adjacent districts) and was least popular in most parts of Haryana except Panchkula and Gurgaon districts.

In fine, the housing quality in the region in terms of material used for flooring seems to have been influenced by factors like (i) literacy and educational level of household; (ii) income bracket or power of the purse of the household; (iii) quantum of foreign remittance received;

(iv) proximity to regional /national capital city; (v) proximity to international border (insecurity/fear psychosis); and (vi) physiographic conditions especially sand-dunes infested landscape and foot-hill landscape. Broadly speaking, stone flooring is more popular in Punjab than in Haryana, while cement flooring is equally preferred both in Punjab (northeastern half) and Haryana (southern half). Burnt brick flooring is confined to Malwa region in Punjab and central parts of Haryana, while mud flooring has its concentration in border locations (Punjab) and socially and economically backward areas in Haryana,

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