

# Dry Days of Bundelkhand



*A field report on the status of  
Social Welfare Schemes in  
Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh*

Submitted by

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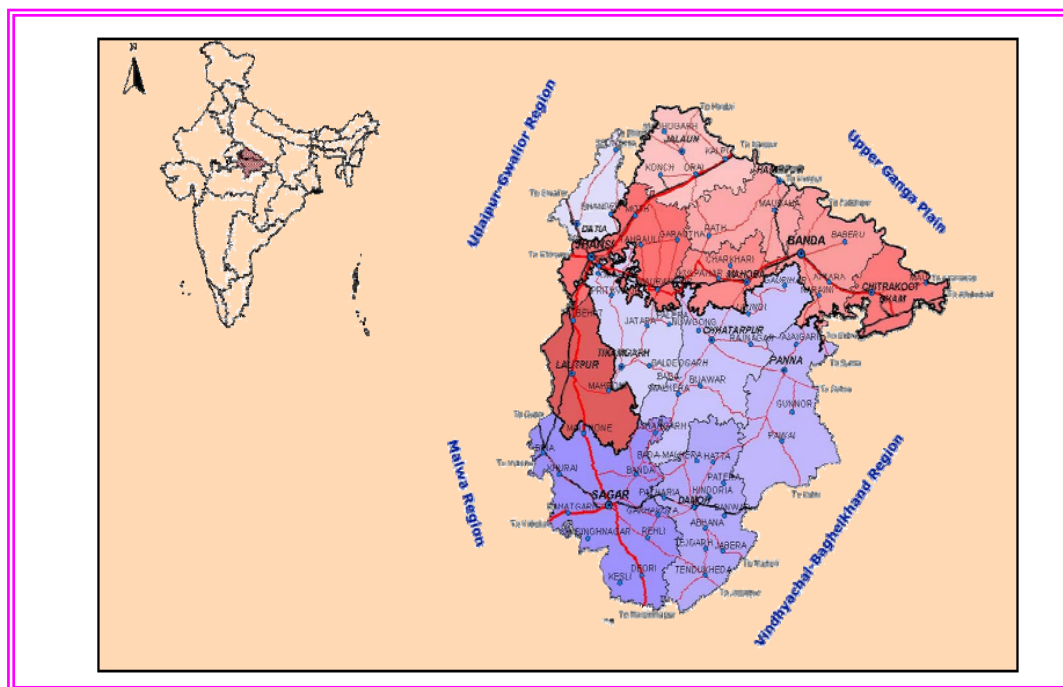
## Index

What?	Where?
1. Background and Profile of the area	2
2. Status of Water Resources in Tik'garh, Ch'pur and Panna	6
3. Food Security	10
4. Social Security	12
5. Health and nutrition	14
6. Livelihood Status, Migration and Debt	16
7. NREGA - A distant dream	19
8. Globalisation and Market Forces	20
9. Status of welfare schemes	21
10. Major Observations and PLEA	36

# 1. Background and Profile of the area

Historically and culturally Bundelkhand has a very rich past. Situated in central India, it is often referred to as the heartland of our country. The whole of Bundelkhand is covered with ancient forts, monuments, places of religious and historical importance. The Bundelas of the region under the leadership of Rani Laxmi Bai left no stone unturned in an attempt to drive away the British from their motherland during the freedom struggle of 1857. Bundelkhand is also famous all over the world for its fairs, festivals, folk dances and songs. It is also the birth place of eminent literary like Maithilisharan Gupt, Keshav Das and Vrindavan Lal Verma among others. Legendary hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand was also born here.

## Map of Bundelkhand



The whole of Bundelkhand comprises of 13 contiguous districts. 6 of these districts lie in Madhya Pradesh (Chhatarpur, Panna, Tikamgarh, Sagar, Damoh and Datia) and 7 in Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Banda, Mahoba and Chitrakoot). The once prosperous Bundelkhand is now identified as one of the most backward and poorest regions of the country. Though many plans have been chalked out for the region and millions spent; the desired result in the form of food, livelihood, health and water security has not been achieved for the population. The reasons for this being low agricultural yield, lack of other sustainable source of livelihood, depletion of natural resources, government apathy and recurring natural calamity in the form of drought due to environmental degradation and global warming.

# District Profiles of Tik'garh, Ch'tarpur and Panna

The above mentioned three districts are situated under the territorial boundaries of Madhya Pradesh. To take a first hand stock of the prevailing drought conditions, field visits of these districts was conducted by separate teams comprising of representatives from Right to Food Campaign, Civil Society members, journalists and Actionaid.

## 1. Tikamgarh District

The district derived its present name after Raja Vikramjit shifted his headquarters from Orcha to Tehri and renamed it Tikamgarh in the year 1783. Tikamgarh is located in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. It lies on the Bundelkhand Plateau between the Jamni, a tributary of Betwa and Dhasan rivers. It extends between the latitude 24 degree 26 minute and 25 degree 34 minute N and between 78 degree 26 minute and 79 degree 21 minute Longitudes. The shape of district is triangular. The northern margin is very irregular. The maximum length of the district is about 119 Km. From North to South and width about 80 Km. Tikamgarh District is bounded by Chhatarpur district to east, Lalitpur district Uttar Pradesh to West, Jhansi to North and Sagar to South. The western and Eastern boundaries are formed by two big rivers.

Demographically, the total population of the district is 1202998. Out of the total population 17.68% live in urban area and 82.32 live in 963 inhabited villages in the rural area. It is administratively divided in six blocks namely Niwari, Jatara, Tikamgarh, Prithvipur, Baldeogarh and Palera. The concentration of SC and ST in the total population is 24.2% and 4.3% respectively. The sex ratio of the district is 886 and IMR being 117 per 1000 births. The literacy rate of the district is 55.80%.

**Tehsil Wise Area and Population (2001 Census)**

S.No.	Name Of Tehsil	Area In Sq. Km.	Population		
			Urban	Rural	Total
1	Niwari	606.00	35655	149027	184682
2	Jatara	1008.60	26761	213799	240560
3	Tikamgarh	867.60	84838	164361	249199
4	Prithvipur	958.62	30833	128143	158976
5	Baldeogarh	858.96	20014	173156	193170
6	Palera	748.22	14632	161779	176411
Total		5048.00	212733	990265	1202998

There are three main river basins in the district which are Betwa basin, Jamni basin and Ur-Dhasan basin. Out of the total land usage 56 % comes under the net sown area. Only about 6% of the land area is covered by forest, in which 70.5% is termed as degraded forest. 21.99% of the total land area is classified as wasteland. According to the settlement records, there were 962 tanks constructed during the Chandela period. Out of these tanks 125 tanks were used for tank-bed cultivation. The number of tanks over the years has now been reduced to

421. There are 49,555 wells in the district out of which 43,806 are irrigation wells and 2,356 are abandoned wells.

## 2. Chhatarpur District

Chhatarpur was named after the great warrior king Raja Chhatrasal. The district was erstwhile part of Vindhya Pradesh and included in Madhya Pradesh on 1st November 1956. The District is situated at North East border of Madhya Pradesh. This District is spread over an Area of 8687 Square Kms. with longitudes and latitudes of 24 degree 06 minutes & 25 degree and 20 minutes on North 78 degree 59 minutes – 80 degree 26 minutes on East respectively. The District is touched by Mohoba District (Uttar Pradesh) in the East, Tikamgarh (M.P.) in West and Sagar (M.P.) in South East.

As per the 2001 census, the total population of the district was 14, 74,723 out of which 7, 88,933 was male population & 6, 85,790 is female. Out of total population 3, 42,990 are scheduled caste and 51,593 are scheduled tribes. The sex ratio of the district is 869. The infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate per 1000 births is 108 and 8.72 respectively. Total Literates in the District are 3, 22,757 of which 2, 33,500 are males and 89,257 females. The district literacy as per census 2001 is 53.44 % which is 11% below than national literacy rate which is 64.11%. A brief profile of the district is given in the table below.

### Literacy Rate of Chhatarpur District (2001 Census)

	Literacy Rate 1991	Literacy Rate 2001
Male	46.87	65.50
Female	21.32	39.38
Total	5.20	53.44

Administratively, Chhatarpur District has been divided into 7 Tehsils, 8 Development Blocks and 558 Gram Panchayats. Total villages in the district are 1,192 of which 116 are deserted. There are 5 Assembly Constituencies and one Lok-Sabha Constituency.

### General Administration and PRIs

S No	Details	Number
01	Habitations	2010
02	Revenue Villages	1069
03	Tehsils	06
04	Blocks	08
05	PTAs	2493
06	Gram Panchayats	558
07	Gram Sabhas	1046
08	Janpad Panchayats	08
09	Nagar Panchayats	12
10	Nagar Palikas	02

There are 90 ponds and pools, 9 dams and 8 big and small rivers flow through it. Total sown area of the District is 4, 48,078 hectares and net irrigated area is 1, 46,217 hectares. Total forest area of the district is 659.52 Sq.Kms. The annual average rainfall of the district is 1000-1200 mm.

### 3. Panna District

Panna is the only diamond city in India. Panna district of today has been carved mainly out of former princely states of Panna and Ajaigarh. Originally a Gond settlement up to the thirteenth century, it was raised to importance by Raja Chhatrasal Bundela who made it his capital. The district was the part of the vast empires of Mauryas, Shungas and Imperial Guptas.

Panna district is located in the north-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh. It forms the northern district of Sagar Commissionerate Division. The district extends from 23o45" N to 25o10" N and from 79 degree 45 minutes E to 80 degree 40 minutes E. The shape of district is roughly triangular. The District is a part of Sagar division of Madhya Pradesh and the District is spread in an area of a 7135 sq.km. ; 5,10,156 hectares.

District Panna has five developments block namely Ajaigrh, Gunour, Panna, Pawai and Shahnagar, 395 Panchayats and 955 Villages. 42 Percent Families live below poverty line. According to 2001 census district population is 8.56 lakhs out of which 87 % lives in the rural areas and only 13 percent lives in urban areas. There are 20 percent scheduled caste and 15.38 percent scheduled tribe population in the district the distribution of the population is as under :-

S.No	Block Name	Total Population all community			SC% of total Population	ST% of total Population	Density of Population	Sex Ratio
		Male	female	Total				
1	Ajaigarh	77451	67718	145169	20.5%	8.3%	118	874
2	Gounor	93481	85463	178944	23.7%	8.9%	122	914
3	Panna	114881	103128	218009	17.5%	17.6%	121	898
4	Pawai	87456	78527	165983	22.4%	14.2%	122	898
5	Shahnagar	77281	71173	148453	16.1%	26.3%	117	921
	TOTAL	450549	406009	856558	20%	15.4%	120	901

The literacy rate of the district is 61.61% out of which male and female literacy rates are 74.1% and 48.4%. The sex ratio for the district is 907.

## 2. Status of Water Resources in Tik'garh, Ch'pur and Panna

Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna have been declared as drought prone districts and with low rainfall. The area is witnessing low rainfall for consecutive three years. Being landlocked areas, for all these three districts the major source is in the form of precipitation in the watershed areas of the respective districts. But all the precipitation cannot be used as much of it is lost as run-off or evaporation. Water sources are available in the form of groundwater, surface storage, perennial and seasonal river streams.

### 2.1 Demand of Water

While analyzing the demand of water one has to consider the cumulative demand for household consumption, agricultural and allied activities and for industrial usage. The factors affecting the demand are seasonality, different demands of water by households, procurement cost, quality of drinking water etc. However, details of these could not be found at the state level as no elaborate study was done on the subject. However, it is clear that 99% of the drinking water and 64% of the irrigation needs are being fulfilled by the groundwater.

### 2.2 Rainfall and rain fed cultivation

#### (a) Rainfall during monsoon

Based on the statistical record from 1999 to 2003, it has been observed that the annual normal rainfalls in the districts of Chhatarpur, Panna and Tikamgarh are between 700 mm to 1400 mm and the average annual rainfall is around 950 mm in Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh districts. As per the same statistics, the numbers of rainy days in monsoon are 40 in case of both the districts. Maximum rainfall occurs in the month of July during monsoon, which is of the order of 400 mm and the minimum rainfall in the month of June is of the order of 50 mm. It could be easily observed from the data available that both the number of rainy days and average annual precipitation has gone down over the years as a consequence of global warming. The impact could be easily visualized in the form of decrease in the net sown area, downfall in agricultural yield and scarcity of drinking water. It seems that many years of predictable performance has stripped the monsoon of its mystique.

**Number of Rainy Days during the Year**

District	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Chhatarpur	52	39	NA	36
Tikamgarh	44	28	NA	25
Panna				
STATE	52	32	NA	35

### (b) Rainfall during non-monsoon

Very little rainfall occurs during the period from November to May in the districts of Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh. The average monthly rainfall during the non monsoon period is about 20 mm.

Average Rainfall (in mm.)

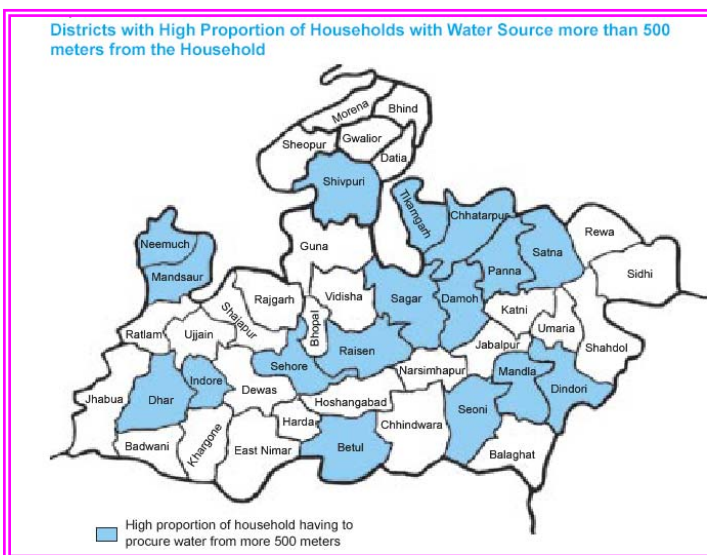
District	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Chhatarpur	1489.7	857	NA	1074
Tikamgarh	1108	794	NA	1068
Panna				
<b>STATE</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>702.9</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1068</b>

### (c) Area under rain fed cultivation

As per the agricultural statistics for the years 1987 to 1992, the average areas under rain fed cultivation in the districts of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna are 27,500 ha, 20,500 ha and 52,500 ha respectively. It becomes almost impossible for small and marginalized farmers to harvest a single crop in such adverse drought condition.

## 2.3 Groundwater Resources

The total ground water available for the whole state of Madhya Pradesh in the year 1998 was estimated 31093575.60 hectare metres. The availability of groundwater for the districts of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna are 61888 hectare metres, 86267 hectare metres and 47773.2 hectare metres respectively. There is over exploitation of ground water in four blocks of Tikamgarh. In the Baldevgarh and Palera block the situation is critical and in Tikamgarh and Niwadi block the situation is termed as semi critical. In Chhatarpur the situation of three blocks namely Chhatarpur, Rajnagar and Nowgaon is termed as semi critical.



In all the three districts household have to move to a distance of more than 500 meters on an average to fetch water. While analyzing this factor we must also keep in mind the number of times and energy devoted by a female to fulfill the needs of the household. Moreover, the government has formulated a rule that only the villages where people have to fetch water from over a distance of 1 km. will be entitled for supply of water through tankers.



### Distribution of Household by Source of Drinking Water

District	No. of HH	%Tap	%Hand Pump	%Tube well	%Well	%Tank, Pond, Lake	%River Canal	% Spring	% Any Other
Tikamgarh	213744	7	26	1	65	0	0	0	0
Chhatarpur	263817	8	28	2	61	0	1	0	0
Panna	173228	9	39	0	44	0	5	1	0

The above figures clearly quote the dependence of a majority of the population on the wells as a source of drinking water. The consecutive years of droughts have dried up most of the wells. The situation becomes graver when the administration fails to supply water in the remote areas through tankers. Whatever sources of water available lies mostly with the feudal and upper-caste people of the area? Mere quenching of thirst becomes almost impossible for a poor and marginalized community.

## 2.4 Surface Water

### District wise Surface Water Bodies (Area in Hectare)

S. No.	District	Lakes	Reservoirs	Tanks	Ash Ponds	Others
1	Tikamgarh	-	4866	723	-	5589
2	Chhatarpur	-	5943	1127	-	7070
3	Panna	-	130	-	-	130

Surface water bodies have traditionally been the source of drinking and domestic use for the people of Bundelkhand. In Tikamgarh alone there are 24 reservoirs which cumulative water holding capacity is around 163047 mcm. The catchments area is around 565 square kilometers. In addition to these about 962 Chandel era tanks reported in the district. But only 421 such tanks exist right now. 49 of these tanks have an area of more than 40 hectares. These tanks were initially ment for religious and recreational purposes, but with time need prompted to use the water for irrigation. The ownership of these tanks also rests with different departments. The major point noticeable is that about half of these tanks are no longer in use due to various reasons. The tradition of desilting these reservoirs during summer season is no longer in practice. As a result there is depletion in recharge of the water table.

## 2.5 Accessibility of Water Resources

With the advent of consecutive dry years and failure of monsoon, the population of Bundelkhand is now facing scarcity of water for any said purpose. In the urban areas of Bundelkhand municipal supply of water is done now only once in 3-4 days. The cost of procuring water has also gone up.



In the rural areas the consumers themselves have to fetch water. During FGD with the villagers it was analyzed that in 70% of the families the responsibility of fetching water rests with the women, in 20% families with the girls and in 10% families males fetch the water. The above figures show that it is the women who bear the burden of reduced accessibility of water primarily. It was also reported from Tikamgarh that a pot of 15 liters of water is now being sold for one rupee.

The reduced accessibility hampers the poor as much time and energy is lost in it and sometimes also results in loss of wages. The condition is much worse for small and marginal farmers who now are no longer in a position to irrigate their fields as wells have dried up nor are they in a position to pay exorbitant rates for purchasing water from others.

### 3. Food Security

India proclaims itself as a welfare state. There are certain legal and constitutional provisions to guarantee the poor a right to dignified living. Right to food is one such major issue. Certain schemes were framed by the government to benefit the poor and serve the marginalized communities.

**3.1 PDS:** Most of the families in the rural Bundelkhand live below the poverty line with very few options of livelihood. Out of these, many do not have ration cards; those who have don't get their fair share. There is only one Ration Shop in each Gram Panchayat of the three districts which usually covers three villages. Violating the SC guidelines, they open only for a day or two in a month which is also not fixed. There was no example where the public can procure food grains in installments. Apart from poor quality of grains, cases of over pricing and under distribution also came forward. Like in Bangaon GP of Chhatarpur district, Antodaya card holders received 1 kg rice and 24 kg wheat and Annapurna card holders received 3 kg rice and 15 kg wheat @ Rs. 7/- and Rs. 5/- respectively. It is obvious that a single ration shop will never be able to supply grains to all the 786 families under its distribution list if opened once in a month without prior information to all the three villages.

The PDS shop of Tila village in Niwadi block of Tikamgarh is being allotted 10q of food grain whereas the total number of BPL and Antodaya beneficiaries is 86. Therefore each family can get only 12 kg of food grains. In a dialogue with a PDS dealer at Nunagarh of Panna district it was learnt that government is now intending to supply Bajra (red wheat) instead of white wheat at the PDS shops. People complained that bajra is unsuitable for consumption during the summer season and people will not be able to digest it properly. The excuse given by the CEO of Shahnagar was that as the number of antodaya and BPL families has risen considerably in the block during the past few years, it was not possible for the government to provide adequate amount of food grains to all the poor families. The most interesting narration was that of the PDS dealer of Karmora village in Tikamgarh district who distributes the ration 15 kms away from the village. According to him as situation of starvation prevails in the village, the people will loot the stock if food grain is distributed at Karmora itself. Failure of the PDS will only buttress the already grave situation of food insecurity.

**3.2 Mid Day Meal:** MDM is now being prepared by the SHG groups in all the schools of the three districts. Though in every school the menu of MDM for each day of the week is written in bold letters, it is rarely followed. The quantity and quality of food provided to each child was also found to be insufficient to fill their stomach or provide adequate nutrition. It was also observed that the meals were not being provided at some villages during holidays. The reason being late allotment of funds to the SHGs and demand of bribe

by the government officials. At Bijakheda village of the Shahnagar block MDM was not being distributed anymore since 9th of March.

**3.3 Anganwadi / ICDS:** The question is why anganwadi is so important in the growth of a child? The reason is that 80% of child's mental health develops within 6 years of its age. And to provide all the favorable growth opportunities is the responsibility of the government. But due to the corruption and negligence in the government machinery, the women and children are on the suffering side. In most of the villages Anganwadis are not set up according to the order of SC, where it has prescribed an anganwadi for every cluster of 40 children. Where there are centres, they are not functioning properly.

It was also found that the ANM usually visits twice in a month. Most of the anganwadis were not receiving the funds in time. As a result the distribution of supplementary food was improper and not according to the menu during the weekdays in any of the villages. The workers also complained about the harassment they face from the government officers who during their visits find faults in them against which they demand bribe. It goes up to Rs. 1500/- which is 50% of their salary. Mangal Diwas had paid Rs. 600/- out of her salary of Rs. 1200/-. This was the reason she could not procure new grain allotment and thus food was not available in the anganwadi.

According to Anganwadi workers most of the families have migrated, thus very few children come to the centre. When the migrated families return to the villages most of the women and children are found to be malnourished.

## 4. Social Security

**4.1 Old Age Pension:** There are many old people in the villages who are separated from their family members due to drought as their children leave them have migrated. Few of them work as casual labour in and around the village and others beg for food after their stock finishes. In Karmaura village of Tikamgarh 128 such people are eligible for Old Age Pension but only 9 people get the benefit.

**4.2 Disability Pension:** Persons with disability remain more vulnerable during drought as they are left with very limited employment opportunity and social security. They are usually left in the villages along with old people while the other family members migrate. Only few of them have the disability certificate through which they can get concession in government facilities. Those having the certificate get disability pension of Rs. 275/- per month. But to avail this grant they are often harassed by the concerned government department.

Lachu Ahirwar, a 37 year old visually disabled man of Majhora village of Bakswaha block of Chhatarpur district receives disability pension, for which he had to travel 15 km to Bakswaha every month. But due to irregularity of payment he had to often return empty handed although spending at least Rs. 30 - 50/- each time for his travel. The government officers have asked him to come once in three. He now gets the lumpsum amount his due pension once in three to four months. As being blind he always needs someone to accompany him to the block headquarter. During drought, as most of the family members migrate, it becomes very difficult for him to visit the block or get employment in and around the village.

**4.3 Widow Pension:** In rural India, males are considered as the bread earner of the family, although women are equal participant of the family livelihood like engagement in agricultural activities along with continuing domestic works at home. There were many widows in the visited villages who are now head of their family. During drought, they are left with very less opportunity to earn for the living. They can not migrate alone or take their children along if they are small, so they are compelled to work as casual labour in and around the village at a very less wage rate. Very few of such women get widow pension. Those who get the pension, complained of being harassed by the government officers who asks them to come next month or ask for bribe.

**4.4 National Family Benefit Scheme:** After the death of the bread earner of the BPL family, the government has the provision of providing Rs. 10,000/- to the family of the desised. But most of the people interviewed were ignorant of such provisions. These government schemes were mostly accessible to those living in the Panchayat villages or

having good relationship with the panchayat members. Others who try to avail such benefit end up running from pillar to post in the government office and meeting monetary demands of the officers. They end up losing confidence in the government and head for seeking opportunity elsewhere in the unorganized sector where they are exploited even more.

**4.5 Agriculture:** Due to very less rainfall in the last 4 years, most of the farmers in the three districts could only cultivate Kharif crop partially during these years. Out of 400 hectares of land only 10% has been cultivated in the Tikamgarh over this period. According to Jalam Vishvakarma, well was the main source of irrigation, but due to continuous drying up of these structures for the past few years, most of the fields remain barren. The main crops of the area being: Jowar, wheat, urad, til etc. The farmers of Nunagarh of Panna district told the team that the average yield of the village was around 2000 quintals of rice before the drought, but in the present year no farmer has harvested more than one quintal of rice. Chatri a variety of rice, which is famous for its taste, was not sown for the past 3 years. The villagers narrated that they never imagined that they will have to purchase rice from the market at such exorbitant price ever. The CEO of the block also admitted that malnutrition has increased during the last few years due to scarcity of food grains.

## 5. Health and nutrition

**5.1 Health:** After returning from migration people often suffer from weakness, dehydration, malaria and TB. The state of the villages is such that in every 4 – 6 months a person dies of TB. Most of the people don't prefer to get services from the government hospitals. They prefer the private doctors who charge at least Rs 50/-.

It was also alleged that the doctors remain absent from PHC and CHC. To provide health security for the marginalized, the government has rolled out Dindayal Antodaya Upchar Scheme for all the Antodaya card holding families. This facility provides upto Rs.20,000/- per family for free checkup over a year. But it was found during the visit that Health cards have not been distributed to the Antodaya families and people were ignorant of any such scheme. It was also learnt that nurses and doctors demand money from the patients for having institutional delivery under Jananni Surakhya Yojana. If not given in advance they are referred to private hospitals.

In all the villages the visit of ANM was found irregular. In Anganwadi the lactating and pregnant women are not given proper nourishment. In MP 49.2% of such women suffer from malnutrition and 70% are anemic. The iron and vitamin tablets provided in Anganwadi of Rajapur village of Chhatarpur during January'08 had expiry date of May'08. The Anganwadi worker however was ignorant about it.

In all the four villages the team received complains that vaccination was not being carried out on time as health workers rarely visit the villages. Many children and their parents complained of diarrhoea in the absence of clean drinking water.

**5.2 Nutrition:** In the state 40% children are underweight and 70% of those aged between 6 – 59 months are anemic. Only 27.8% of the children suffering from Diarrhoea receive health facilities in rural area and get ORS. IMR is 70 per 1000.

The children at schools complained that the quality of food provided under MDM is poor. They only get 2 chapatias to eat and remain hungry. Moreover, in none of the villages the school had a kitchen to cook food. Cooking is done in open and often in unhygienic conditions.

*The PHC is at a distance of 2 km from Karmora village of Tikamgarh. But neither doctor nor nurses are ever present there. Medicines also remain unavailable. The people fear that they may die if treated in government hospitals as they are not attended properly. Doctors generally prescribe expensive medicines which has to be purchased from outside. The ANM also comes once in 4 – 5 months. There is a private doctor in the village itself who charges Rs. 50/- for consultation. People prefer his services than that of government doctors.*

*The anganwadi worker of the same village had taken her pregnant daughter-in-law to Government hospital in Jatara for delivery, where the nurse demanded money for admitting her. After a long discussion and request she was admitted, but the doctor and the nurse kept on demanding money for delivery under Jananni Surakhya Yojana. On not fulfilling their demand they gave an injection to prevent pain during delivery. But for the next 3 days the women suffered extreme pain and was left unattended by the hospital staffs. She delivered her child on the vehicle while she was being brought back to the village.*

*This is not an isolated case; money is demanded from all the women who go to the government hospital for delivery under Jananni Surakhya Yojana. Above this they have to run from pillar to post to get number of receipts. Laxmi Vishvakarma got Rs. 350/- instead of Rs.800/-. Out of this amount Rs. 100/- was taken by the person who provided her the cheque. In this state of drought Jananni Surakhsha Yojana could be an advantage for the pregnant women but due to the corruption in the government machineris the lives of such women are at stake.*



## 6. Livelihood Status, Migration and Debt

### 6.1 Agriculture and allied sector

The population of Bundelkhand is primarily dependent on agriculture and farm sector for employment. This sector was the worst hit and there were recurrent crop failure. As a result the net sown area decreased to only about 40% for the rabi crop of 2007. The farmers and agricultural labours were the worst hit. In this semi arid region drought is becoming longer and more frequent. With a higher decadal growth rate than the rest of the country there is an increasing pressure on scarce resources such as land, water and grazing land. There is also a lack of access to animal health services and agri-extension services. The much hyped fodder centres for farm animals could only be visualized on paper and no practical evidence could be traced in any of the three districts. Hakim Singh Yadav of Wignpur village of Chhatarpur says that 4 years ago his family had about 37 cattle heads but now he has only 7 cows.

#### Rural Sectoral Employment (2001)

District	Total Employment In Farm Sector %	Total Employment In Non-Farm Sector %	Agriculture Labour
Tikamgarh	81.53	12.1	16.8
Chhatarpur	75.34	15.4	20.4
Panna	78.94	15.8	31.0

### 6.2 Vegetable Cultivation

Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh were once famous for vegetable cultivation. It was a profitable occupation as vegetables were sent to distant places such as Agra, Meerut and Jhansi in UP. The occupation supplemented the farmer's income well as there were ready buyers in the local mandi. The mandi still exist sans buyers and sellers. The prevailing drought has hit the production hard.

#### Block wise area under vegetable cultivation in Chhatarpur

S. No.	Block	Area (Ha)
1	Nowgaon	1,400
2	Chhatarpur	1,413
3	Rajnagar	1,658
4	Laundi	517
5	Barigarh	713
6	Badamalhera	432
7	Bijawar	657
8	Buxwaha	195

### 6.3 Migration

The streets of Andhiyariwari village of Chhatarpur district envelop a deserted look. On enquiring one comes to know that almost all the youths numbering around 300, have migrated to distant places in search of livelihood. This was not the scenario a few years back. Things changed dramatically with the wells, hand pumps and ponds drying up due to failure of monsoon. As agriculture failed to sustain the needs of the people, migration in search of livelihood was the only way out. The elderly people left behind have a worse time, waiting tirelessly for relief to trickle in either from the government or their migrated sons. But till now neither have responded. The village which once employed all its able bodied inhabitants in the agriculture sector alone has now no job to offer. The compensation promised by government for crop failure was yet to reach the beneficiaries

Out of the migrated population there are people like Sitaram of Dhimarpura village Tikamgarh who worked tirelessly for months to earn Rs 18000 but was paid only Rs. 2000 by the contractor. But, Sitaram was better off than 22 year old Dinesh of the same village who had to sell his belongings to return home. The migrants have similar harrowing tales to narrate. But as employment opportunities in their native place dries up, migration seems to be the best survival strategy.

### 6.4 Debt trap

More than 75 % people in the districts of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna are dependent on agriculture and about 80% of them are small and marginal farmers. These small owners of land holdings are dependent on institutional or non-institutional credit, more on the latter for purchasing agricultural inputs during the sowing season. The pay back of loan is solely dependent on the fact that whether they reap a good harvest or not.

Nandram Patel, once a prosperous farmer of Bigpur village of Chhatarpur district purchased a pump set for Rs. 18000 in the year 2003-04. He already had a loan from SBI of about Rs 2,36,000. Now, he laments his fate at the slightest provocation and prays to god for a good monsoon. He avers, "If the coming monsoon fails I will not survive the debt trap". The loan waiver announced by the Central government does not mean much to him.

Chhatarpur has been traditionally famous for its beetle leaf plantation. Once a profitable occupation for the Chourasia community, it has now become a victim of global warming. Chedilal, an elderly person of the community narrates the golden years when he used to make more than Rs. 50,000 from his small plot of 60 decimal. But the rising temperature and consecutive droughts altered the equations. Beetle leaf requires a temperature of around 30 degree Celsius for the initial three months of plantation. It further requires sprinkling of water thrice on a daily basis for the same period. With the soaring sun above and a dry pond

in the background, he says “my sons were forced to migrate to Delhi for the first time this year. The drought has left us in penury.” The family is now under a debt of Rs 25,000. Certainly an addition to the ever growing vicious cycle of poverty!

Most of the farmers have availed loans from the private money lenders who charge exorbitant interest rates as high as 36% pa. : According to the 2008 budget of the finance minister, the entire loan taken by marginal and small farmer through institutional sources was absolved. This will benefit 57% farmers who have taken loan from banks but still 43% farmers will remain in debt from the private money lenders. The main requirements of loan are agricultural inputs, marriage and to meet traveling cost during migration. In the visited villages, about 80% people have taken loan from money lenders who charge Rs. 3 per Rs.100. Those with good past record of repayment, often get loan without mortgage. Those who have been defaulters, often have to mortgage land or jewelry.

The continuous drop in crop production, rise in price of agricultural and consumer commodity with no increase in wage rate in private unorganized sector has left the farmers in debt trap which often lead them to part with the land and other assets.

## 7. NREGA - A distant dream

NREGA, an act aimed to guarantee 100 days of unskilled labour to each family living in rural area is a victim of corruption and administrative apathy. The act has tremendous potential to curb the mass seasonal exodus of people in search of livelihood.

Most of the people know very little about the provisions of the act. In Dhimarpura village of Tikamgarh one can see infrastructure worth lakhs of rupees constructed within the village under NREGA. At first everything seems fine. But, slowly the facts begin to unfold as the villagers narrate how the construction was done with the help of machines and very little manual labour used. For example, a road worth Rs 4, 91,000 was constructed in about 10 days with the help of tractors.

On further investigation one can find that most of the job cards lie with the sarpanch. As the sarpanch Ramnaresh and secretary Surendra of the village are from the same family, there is no one to stop them from carrying on financial misappropriation. Irrespective of the entries in their job cards, people did not receive employment of more than a fortnight in a whole year. Even the wages of work done were not paid on time. Moreover there was no provision for shade, first aid and drinking water at the work sites. Often there was conflict between the sarpanch and villagers on these issues.

People allege that the sarpanch and his goons often resort to manhandling them if any voice is raised against injustice. This is not a case in isolation. At village Andhiyariwari of Chhatarpur or Mahgawa Chakka of Panna district one can have similar experience. Sitaram Ahirwar of Andhiyariwari worked for only two days in construction of a small bridge in the village but his job card entry shows 48 days. In Mahgawa Chakka, on complaint of the villagers the SDM evaluated the cost of construction of a pond at Rs. 80,000 but the bills worth Rs 1,90,000 was booked for it.

In the village Andhiyariwari of Chhatarpur 15 wells have been dug under Kapildhara scheme. The wells are approximately 30 feet deep whereas the water level has gone down drastically. As a result only 3 of the wells have little water in them. Any other sub schemes like Vanya, Resham, Seshra Dhara and Nandan Falodhyan were non existent as there prevalence of irrigation source is pre requisite for implementation of these schemes. An act designed to generate livelihood and create infrastructure seems to be in shambles!

## 8. Globalisation and Market Forces

In Kena village of Tikamgarh the sarpanch and secretary show the list of 165 families whose nomination has been forwarded to the Zila Panchayat out of whom at least 90 families who deserve to be included in the Antodaya list. But, no communication has been received from the department till date. The reason for their non inclusion is simple– decreasing government expenditure on public welfare. At Nunagarh the poor people are forced to purchase food grain from the open market as the PDS is not supplying 35kg. of wheat as per provision due to lower allotment. The whole of Bundelkhand is marred with such cases of willful exclusion of the marginalised community from the welfare schemes of the government.

Though every welfare scheme of the government seems erratic in Bundelkhand, one can be surprised to find newly constructed RCC and pitched roads connecting far away villages to the nearest town. Was it done for the welfare of the villagers or making it easier for the market forces to access the villages?

With the opening up of the market, the farmers become mesmerized by the advertising and publicity techniques of the MNCs and have given up use of traditional fertilizers and pesticides. The cost of agricultural input has grown manifold as the dependency on these companies has increased. Many farmers have given up cultivation of food grains and have resorted to cultivation of BT cotton putting a question mark on the issue of food security in an already hungry Bundelkhand. The area under BT cultivation has increased from 12,000 hectares to 1, 20,000 hectares in recent years.

Bundelkhand is also going to become the experimental ground for interlinking of rivers. The Ken-Betwa link project is proposed in Panna and Chhatarpur district of Bundelkhand. According to estimates it will roughly displace 900 families and a population of approximately 8550 from 10 villages. The feasibility report itself admits that most of the families being affected are dependent on forest resources as 74% of the submergence area is covered mostly by forest. 45 square kilometers of the national park will be under submergence once the project is over. 60.4% of the area en route command is the gross cropped area of the region.

## 9. Status of welfare schemes

### 9.1 District - TIKAMGARH

Failure of agriculture and government schemes forced the people to migration. The food security schemes will however be helpful for the people to fight from this situation but unfortunately all the schemes were not implementing in the ground.

1. The families took their children with them which left the children from the benefit of Anganwadi and MDM.
2. Under Public Distribution system BPL families is getting only 18-20 kgs of food grains.
3. The People were also not getting the employment under NREGS. Most of their job cards were empty. And those who work didn't get the payment of the wages.
4. The families which go for migration leave behind the aged members and sometime send some amount for their survival. But there is no one to take care of these elderly members of the family. Some of these people are so old that they cannot do any manual labour to earn any livelihood.
5. Many People who should be in the BPL list their names has been strucked form the BPL List.

### Block - Jatara

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#### Z Village Karmaura

***Social security*** – The families which go for migration leave behind the aged members and sometime send some amount for their survival. But there is no one to take care of these elderly members of the family. Some of these people are so old that they cannot do any manual labour to earn any livelihood. In karmaura village there are 128 persons who are eligible for social security scheme but out of them only 9 people are getting benefited now.

***Public distribution system*** – In karmaura village there are 132 Antyoday cards. Although these families get 35 kgs of ration but when they individually weigh them it only comes out to 30 kgs. BPL families get only 12 kgs of food grains in ration .Ration is distributed only once in two months. The quality of food grains being distributed under PDS is very bad. There is a sub-society in the village only but the ration is never distributed through it. Instead it is distributed 15 km away from the said village. The reason for this provide by the PDS dealer was “as the people of the village are starving they will loot the ration once brought inside the village.”

**Anganwari-** There is 2 Anganwari in the village .The supplementary food is not distributed regularly through these Anganwari. Anganwari worker says that government officials regularly demand bribe for any mistake found in the records. On refusal of paying the bribe they threaten to dismiss her. She further says that the supervisor also demand bribe form her for this reason she didn't go for withdrawing the amount for nutritious food for two months. She further adds "as most of the families of the village are on the seasonal migration and have taken their children with them so very few children are coming to the Anganwari on date.

**NREGS-** All the wells dug under Kapildhara scheme have failed as the water level has fallen down by 20ft in the village. Other sub schemes like Nandan faloudyan, shastra dhaara, vanya etc have not been sanctioned for the village as no source of irrigation is available locally. All the job cards of the village are kept with sarpanch .Villagers alleged that sarpanch says that as the villagers will not be able to do the work properly it will be done through contractors. Five wells have been dug under NREGS but only one is successful. Kuwarlal Yadav, the resident of the village works for 6 days but didn't get any wages. Another village Shyamlal works for one month but got only 1000 Rs.

**Health** – PHC is situated 2km from the village but the nurse and doctor remain absent regularly. Medicines are not available in PHC most of the villagers don't avail the service of PHC and go to the private practitioners. After returning from migration most of the people suffer from diarrhea, vomiting and malaria .Sometimes ANM visits the village but do not treat the villagers properly Vaccination of children is not done on time and the AW does not have any medicine for children and pregnant women .

**Janani Suraksha Yojana** -All the women who opted for institutional delivery claim that doctor and nurse demand money for their service. On non payment they are referred to the district hospitals Laxmi Viswakarma (Asha worker) said that she received 350Rs out of which 100 Rs is taken away by the person who hands over checks in the hospital.

**Migration-** Out of 700 family 400 have been migrated .Most of the dalit family of the village have gone for migration. The people present in the village say that every year the number of family going for migration is constantly increasing. Earlier people used to migrate for 2-4 months in a year. But in the absence of livelihood and irrigation for agriculture the number of months has increased to 6-8.

**Cattle-** In the absence of fodder and water people have abandoned their cattle. In the last four year almost half of their cattle died .Some people have sold them at very less price. The milching capacity of cows and buffaloes has decreased.

**Debt-** almost 80% villages have taken loan from money lenders. In this area people belonging to Jain, Sahu, Thakur and Baniya community lend money to the villagers. The rate of interest is about 3% per month. But people going for migration have to pay higher interest rate 5% per month. On the non timely payment installment they are often threatened by these moneylenders. Many people have mortgaged their land holding to these money lenders.

**Farm-** Earlier village used to cultivate jowar, urad, wheat, til etc. But for the last 4 year in absence of monsoon most of the people have not sown their fields. Out of about 400 hectare of the cultivable land in the village only 10% was sown.

## **Block - Niwadi**

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### **Z Village Dhimarpur**

**Anganwari** – There are about 300 children aged 0-6 years but the AW is situated in another ‘Mohalla’. The Anganwari worker abuses the children when they go for taking the supplementary nutritious food. The AW doesn’t inside the food to pregnant and lactating women. (**Annexure-1**)

**Public Distribution System**-The ration is being distributed from the school building. The sarpanch and his relatives abuse the villagers while distributing the ration and threatened them with dire consequences. Satish a boy aged about 12 years was bitten by a relative of the sarpanch for asking to return the extra amount after purchasing kerosene. Only 13 kgs of ration is provided under BPL cards whereas Supreme Court has ordered for distribution of 35 kgs under PDS.

**NREGS-** In Dhimarpura Job cards have not been distributed to all the villagers even after 3 years of implementation of the act and are still with the sarpanch. People are not able to demand work for this simple reason. Therefore most of the villagers were forced to migration. (**Annexure-2**)

**Social security** – There are many eligible old age, handicapped person in a village who must be provided pension under the scheme, but have been left out. Some of their names are under- (**Annexure-3**)

1. Nima bai
2. Kasturi bai
3. Rajak raikwar
4. Jashoda raikwar
5. Sheel bai
6. Beti bai
7. Jamuna bai
8. Gomti bai

**Health-** The ANM never visit the village. One M.P.W occasionally comes but never provides medicine to them. The hospital is situated at the distance of 6-7 km from the village. But the doctor prescribed costly medicines and ask the villagers to purchase from outside.

**Migration-**At least member from 60% families have gone for migration Sitaram a resident of village with 12 members of family gone to Balagarh district of Haryana. He worked worth Rs 18000 but only got Rs 2000. Also one of the villager named Dinesh



22year old gone to Baroda .He worked as unskilled labour for 4 month. After few days he has to sell their belongings to come back to home as he has no earning in his hands.

**Debt**-Most of the family of the village have taken loan from Nauta village of U.P @5%per month. Ratanlal with 10 members of family came back after 8 days from Delhi after not finding any job. There he lost 4000 Rs in transportation and after returning home he took loan from the money lender of Nauta village a@5% per month.

**Water Scarcity**- There is 3 handpumps in the village but only 1 is in working condition. The whole village is dependent on this handpump for water. Women have to wait for hours to get a pitcher of water. There is a government well in the village but has dried up. There is no facility of tanker in the village.

**Mid day meal** - there is a primary school in the village where during MDM only 2 small chapaties are provided with dal and vegetables. As a result the children remain hungry. There are no utensils for eating in the school.

**Cattle**-In the absence of fodder and water most of the cattle have dies or have been sold by the villagers. Though the government has provided to supply fodder on paper but no evidence was found in the village.

## Z Village Sindur Sagar

**NREGS**- Under NREGA for the last 3 years maximum 17 days work has been provided to the villagers. On many of the cards wrong entries have been made and even wages were not paid on time. Umedi aged 57 years worked for 5 day (25.8.06 to 29.8.06) didn't get any payment for work. Nor did the family get any work in the last 2 years due to this all her three sons gone were forced to migration. There are many people who have not got any employment in last year

1. Rajju dhimar – job card empty
2. Rampal dhimar- job card empty
3. Kallu/puk Khan- job card empty
4. Ramesh/mulla- job card empty
5. Chotelal/ramcharan- job card empty
6. Ramkishno- job card empty
7. Kashiram/pushpa- job card empty
8. Santram/kurana-17 days work
9. Daulati/durga- job card empty
10. Jeeven - job card empty
11. Puniya- job card empty
12. Ditiya - job card empty
13. Rajendra/parvati- job card empty
14. Shyamlal- 10 days work
15. Manish/urmila -8 dyas work
16. Ramsharan- job card empty

**Livelihood-** the main occupation of the villager is agriculture and pisciculture. But for the last four years in the absence of monsoon both the sources of livelihood were badly affected.

**Migration-** the rate of migration is about 50% around 300 people have already migrated but people says that earning 69Rs in village is better than earning 100 Rs per day in a distant town.

**BPL-** for addition of name in the BPL list 200 Rs is being demanded.

## Z Village Asati

**Anganwari-** there are 2 Anganwaris in the village. On inspection of 1 AWC it was found that 40 children aged 0-6 years are registered but for the last one and half month no allotment was made for supplementary nutrition. The Anganwari worker had taken a debt of 4500/-for meeting the day to day needs. The Anganwari worker Vimla devi Kushwaha has not also received salary for last 2 months.

It is clearly seen that supplementary nutrition is not provided to the pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, as supply is not regular to the centers. Even as per the policy statements, AWW have been instructed to provide nutrition to only 2 adolescent girls in the village and other are left out from the scheme.

**NREGS -** Very few people are getting employment under the act. Many families don't have even job cards. An amount of Rupees 500 is being demanded by the sarpanch/secretary/patwari for providing job cards. This is also caste based discrimination in providing jobs. Dalits are not getting the jobs under act. **(Annexure-4)**

**Mid day meal** – the food provided is insufficient for the children they only get 2 chapaties and dal, which keep them feeling hungry.

**Water scarcity-** There is 4 handpumps in the village out of which only 1 is working. There are also 7 government wells all of which have dried out. Water is being made available through tanker but only half of the village is benefited through it. The dalits are not getting the benefit of the tanker.

## Z Village Kena

**Agriculture-** Almost every family has farmland but in the absence of monsoon for last 4 years there was no yield.

**BPL-** many families of the village qualify for being included in the BPL list. The sarpanch /secretary shows the list of about 160 people application for inclusion of whose name have been submitted to the janpad CEO. But no communication has been received till date .out of the application about 92 qualifies for antyoday status. **(Annexure-5)**

### **Present list of AAY Families**

1. Rajanan/parikshit pal
2. Ghnashyam das/moti kushwaha.
3. Ramkishor/gajai kushwaha
4. Munnalal /masalti dhimar
5. Ramesh Prasad /gotiram joshi
6. Jagdish/gotiram
7. Sukan/nandlal kumhar
8. Jamila/w/o ismail khan
9. Santosh/dayaram
10. Achheelal/asharam gadediya
11. Shankar/chandi kushwaha
12. Jawahar raja/mangal singh
13. Naturam/bhagole kushwaha
14. Guddo/balram kumhar

### **Still to be included in AAY**

#### **From the proposed list of BPL new list-**

15. Malkhan/makundi kumhar
16. Rahish/harbansh kumhar
17. Bhagirath/ramprasad kumhar
18. Anish/tulsi kumhar
19. Balmukund/bhaiyalal kumhar
20. Ramdid/gangadhar
21. Siyaram / Ramdin Kamdhar
22. Brijkishore / Ratiram
23. Ramdas / Bhaiyalal
24. Norpat / Bhaiyalal
25. Sabuddin / Rehman Khan
26. Asger Khan / Abdul Khan
27. Praksh dayal / Bansi Vishwakarma
28. kadir / Rahman
29. Damru / Ajuddi Kushwaha
30. Kishorilal / Motilal Kushwaha
31. Deepak / Ramkishore
32. Indrapal / Bhagwandas
33. Ramsaran / Bhagwandas
34. Kriparam / Damru
35. Doulat / Durjan
36. Shivdayal / Durjan
37. Rambai / Govindas
38. Bhuwanbai / Bhagwat
39. Bhijju / Nanhe Kushwaha

40. Lalaram / Gajai
41. Tulsidar / Hardas
42. Shobharam / Sarju
43. Pravendrapal Singh / Mangal Singh
44. Lakhpal Singh / Bilasi Kushwaha
45. Udaynarayan / Nandi
46. Mahadev / Udaynarayan
47. Dilip / Prabhudayal
48. Khubchand / Nandlal
49. kailash / Dhaniram Pal
50. Manmohan / Prabhudayal
51. Ramsing / Prabhudayal
52. Shyamlal / Ramdin
53. Seetaram / Ashram
54. Chidami / Shuru
55. Harsh Chandra / Shankar
56. Shanti Bai / Noti Bai Kushwaha
57. Dayaram / Lakhani
58. Nathuram / Parmanand
59. Kamlesh / Ram Pyare
60. Chaturbay / Harprasad
61. Suresh / Gotiram
62. Santosh / Gotiram
63. Deval / Param
64. Mahesh / Deval
65. Dharmdas / Ramdin Kumhar
66. Rajendra / Maan
67. Kaptan Singh / Mangal
68. Sona / Hire
69. Kamliya / Nagen
70. Benibewa / Ganu
71. Munni / Damru
72. Dille / Chandni
73. Parbati / Late Shri Suraj
74. Ginna / Kishori
75. Manohar / Deendayal
76. Hira / D/o Ratan
77. Deshraj / Bharose
78. Bhagole / Ghurke
79. Rajaram / Lakhani
80. Shivcharan / Udaya Narayan
81. Dasai / Bhagga
82. Dharmendra / Gyasi
83. Rati / Param
84. Gangaram / Hardas
85. Ganpat / Gangu

86. Ramprakash / Ramcharan
87. Sanat Kumar / Tulsidas
88. Beeran / Motilal
89. Sarman / Summer
90. Gajral / Ramdeen
91. Ghanshyam / Ramdeen Kumhar
92. Manchand / Kanhaiyalal

**Migration-** 10 families of the village have completely migrated in search of livelihood from other families. One or two persons have migrated in all more than 100 persons migrated to Delhi, Jhansi, Faridabad etc.

**NREGS-** People has lost their belief on the NREGA. Also they don't know the intricacies of the act. The people claim that no work is being provided under the act and whatever work they get is for very short period. (**Annexure-6**)

**Water scarcity-** there are 13-14 handpumps of which only 1 is in working condition. There are 3 government wells all of which have dried up .here is a tanker but its services are insufficient for the whole village.

**Agriculture-** vegetable production of the village was most affected. Here people used to grow brinjal, ladysfinger, guard, tomato, spinach etc. But now people have to purchase from the market.

**Electricity-**Though the village has not electricity supply for last many months but electricity bills are being regularly posted in name of villagers.

1. Ratiram-22572/ and 19570/-
2. Shankarlal -14200/-
3. Halke Karanj-11037/-
4. Kailash Ramprasad-15244/-
5. Saligram sharma- 19468/-
6. Ramesh Prasad balu- 15621/-

**Anganwari-** there are 2 Anganwari in the village which are not functioning properly. Children only get panjiri in the name of nutritious food. Cooked food is not being distributed and also the pregnant and lactating women are not getting any supplementary nutrition food .The Anganwari worker doesn't strive for treating the malnourished kids of village. (**Annexure-7**)

## Z Village Tila

**Health-** ANM visit is quiet irregular and proper treatment is not provided to children and women of the village .Swami Prasad Doderiya who was suffering from serious health problem had a certified copy of application in which the then district collector (Manish

Shrivastav ) has sanctioned Rs 10000 for treatment didn't get any benefit of it form the health department .

**Agriculture-** due to lack of monsoon the production of food grain has gone down drastically the village which are used to grow sugarcane is now unable to grow wheat. This village is famous for its vegetable production but right now the production has decreased by 80%.

**PDS-** under the PDS scheme the total allotment made to the village is 10 quintals wheras the number of beneficiaries under BPL and AAY are 86.This clearly shows that only 12 Kgs of food grains could be provided to them.

**NREGS** - Under the NREGS the dalit and OBCs of the village did have very less days of employment hence they were forced to migration.

**Water scarcity** - As per the provision of the government Rs 600 has been allotted per day for supply of water through tankers in the village but the amount is quite insufficient for quenching the thirst of the entire population. he sarpanch told that Rs 50 is being paid for drawing one tanker water from a private well .so only 6 tankers of water could be purchased through it .The rest amount of Rs 300/- is paid to the tractor owner.

**Mid Day Meal-** under the MDM 2 spoon full of rice and vegetables is being distributed. This diet is not only insufficient but also badly cooked. The children bring the utensils from their home for eating MDM. There is no kitchen in the school and food is cooked in the open and unhygienic conditions. (**Annexure-8**)

## 9.2 District - PANNA

The families took their children with them which left the children from the benefit of Anganwadi and MDM. Mid day meal is irregular and also there is no kitchen. Safe drinking water is also not available in the school. The distribution in Anganwadi is also irregular. Adolescent girls, Pregnant and lactating mother are not being provided the nutritious food. Under Public Distribution system BPL families is getting only 18-20 kgs of food grains.

The People were also not getting the employment under NREGS. Most of their job cards were empty. And those who work didn't get the payment of the wages.

The families which go for migration leave behind the aged members and sometime send some amount for their survival. But there is no one to take care of these elderly members of the family. Some of these people are so old that they cannot do any manual labour to earn any livelihood. All the people who are eligible have applied through the secretary of panchayat for pension but no communication was made with them. Many People who should be in the BPL list their names has been strucked form the BPL List.

## Block- Shahnagar

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### Z Village Bijakheda

**Public distribution system**-the shop opens for only 2-3 days in a month. Under the AAY scheme only 30 kgs of total food grain is being provided 18kgs under BPL families. (Annexure-9)

**Anganwari**- the distribution of supplementary nutrition is irregular about 75% are registered but the distribution is made at school building where small kids do not kid.

**NREGS**- people got 6-7 work under the act. People didn't get work after verbally demanding for it .Even it they give written application no receipt is being provided. The payment of wages is very irregular .some villagers who work in November 07 got payments on Jan 08. Handicapped and aged persons don't work according to the provisions of the act because only hard physical labour has been provided.

**Water scarcity** – there are 7 handpumps in the village but only 4 are in working condition as the water level have gone down .Insufficient quantity of water comes out from the handpump .Their is also scarcity of water for cattle.

**Social security**- there are many Dalit villagers who are eligible for pension their names are Kapsi bai, puthariya, faguniya sakhi bai, siniya bai, chuliya bai and bakhtiya bai. All these women have applied through the secretary of panchayat for pension about year back but no communication was made with them. (Annexure-10)

**Mid day meal**- MDM is irregular there was no allocation for MDM in the month of march it is not been provided from the 9<sup>th</sup> march 08 according to the Rohan Singh teacher of the school .The teacher of the school provided MDM for the last 2 month but had to close it in absence of funds. (Annexure-11)

### Z Village Nunagarh

**Mid day meal** – there is no kitchen for MDM .Safe drinking water is also not available for it. Water from Ken River is used for it. There is no toilet facility in the school. The government land of school has been encroached by Sitaram, Kandan singh and Ramkishen. (Annexure-12)

**Anganwari**- there are 40 children aged 3-6 years registered in the Anganwari centers. But only 10-15 children come for nutritious food only 2 children are registered as malnourish adolescent girls and pregnant women are not being provide any nutritious food.

**Water scarcity** – there is very much scarcity of drinking water in the village and people depend upon the river water. The river is almost dried up and in the shape of shallow pond .cattle and village used the same water .the water of the handpump is salty.

**Migration-** About 50% families report migration of their members. Sonelal a resident of village work in Delhi and earn 75/- per day .According to him irregular payment under NREGS and non availability of work is major cause of migration. **(Annexure-13)**

## **Z Village Mohgaon chakka**

**Water scarcity** - There is scarcity of drinking water in the village most of the handpumps is dried out.

**NREGA-** In Mahgawa Chakka, on complaint of the villagers the SDM evaluated the cost of construction of a pond at Rs. 80,000 but the bills worth Rs 1,90,000 was booked for it.. Their were large scale misappropriation of funds under NREGS. **(Annexure-14)**

## **9.3 District- CHATTERPUR**

The families took their children with them which left the children from the benefit of Anganwadi and MDM. The distribution in Anganwadi is also irregular. Adolescent girls, Pregnant and lactating mother are not being provided the nutritious food.

Mid day meal is irregular and also there is no kitchen. Safe drinking water is also not available in the school under the MDM 2 spoon full of rice and vegetables are being distributed. This diet is not only insufficient but also badly cooked. The children bring the utensils from their home for eating MDM. There is no kitchen in the school and food is cooked in the open and unhygienic conditions.

Under Public Distribution system BPL families is getting only 18-20 kgs of food grains. All the people who were in the village didn't get the wages and there is not entry in their job cards .some people had entries in the job card in which the number of days filled was more than the number of days for which they actually work.

The families which go for migration leave behind the aged members and sometime send some amount for their survival. But there is no one to take care of these elderly members of the family. Some of these people are so old that they cannot do any manual labour to earn any livelihood. All the people who are eligible have applied through the secretary of panchayat for pension but no communication was made with them. Many People who should be in the BPL list their names has been strucked form the BPL List.

ANM does not come to the village. MPW visit the village fortnightly but didn't provide proper medication to the villagers.



## Block- Baxwaha

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### Z Village Manjhora

**Water scarcity** – there are 4 handpumps 2 of which have completely dried and the rest have very little water. There is a government well but it is also dried up. People claimed that water of the village pond will end only till the month of April .their is a 300 years old water reservoir in the village people have to go down about 100 ft to fetch the water from it. It involve the lot of time and energy .sometime people even loose their wages as they have to dedicate much time only for the purpose of fetching the water. Many insects and pests where also seen in the reservoir .A well dug under the kapildhara scheme of NREGS has shallow water in it being used for bathing purpose .But the people complaint of skin diseases after using the water of well. (**Annexure-15**)

**Agriculture** – Earlier people used to cultivate tili, wheat, alsi .but for the last 10 year people have now cultivating Soyabean which too was destroyed in lack of irrigation and monsoon for last 4 years .their is around 2000 hectare of agricultural land in the village. Kishore Singh a resident of the village had sown 14 quintal of soyabean on his 80 acre of land but nothing comes out of it. This year he had sown 10 quintal but the crop failed again.

**MFP**- people of village were also dependent on MFP for livelihood .but this year yield of mahua, char, tendu was very low which affected their livelihood.

**Cattle**- as most of the resident were from the Yadav community which traditionally rear cattle for livelihood. But in the absence of fodder and water an\bout 90% cattle of village have either died or sold by the villagers.

**Public distribution system**- There is 59 AAY and 62 BPL families in the panchayat out of which 39 Antyoday and 19 BPL families are in Manjhora. The BPL card holder gets 12 kgs of ration only. The tehsildar has declared that only people above the age of 60 years will benefit under the AAY scheme. (**Annexure-16**)

**Anganwari**- There is only one Anganwari for the whole panchayat .But there are about 359 children aged 0-6 years .the Anganwari worker lives 10 km away in a village named Sidhai. The centre opens only once or twice in a month. The children of the village adolescent girl, pregnant women rarely get any benefit from the centre. (**Annexure-17**)

**Social security** – Only 19 people get benefit of pension from the whole panchayat whereas 26 applications were filed at Janpad level but no further communication was made.

**Health-** ANM does not come to the village. MPW visit the village fortnightly but didn't provide proper medication to the villagers. The CHC is situated 15 km far away at Baxwaha. Women have to travel in private vehicle for institutional delivery for which they have to pay Rs 400 on an average.

**NREGS-** the status of NREGA in village is very poor. All the people who were in the village didn't get the wages and there is not entry in their job cards .some people had entries in the job card in which the number of days filled was more than the number of days for which they actually work. secretary of the village said that muster roll is not provided on time and each time for bringing the muster roll from the block ha has to pay Rs 50/-. In Govinda's job card workdays are filled in the name of his father who has died about 16 years ago. (**Annexure-18**)

## **Block- Chattarpur**

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### **Z Village Rajapur-**

**Water scarcity** – there are 3 handpumps 2 are in the working condition but the water output is very low .Their are three different habitation in the village but all the handpump are in only one of them. The government wells have dried up. There are 20 private wells but the water level has gone down too low as there is no rains form last 2 years .the water transportation through tanker have been made for from only for Vangay.

**Livelihood-** almost every family of the village has small plots of agricultural land This year only about 10% of the agriculture land were sown out of which the seeds dried up in 60% area. The 40% yield was almost equal to the seed sown.

**Migration** – about 30% the population has migrated to Delhi, Bombay and Jammu, because employment is not available under any scheme. Categorically low and task based payment process is violating the guarantee of employment.

**NREGA-** According to the villages the resident of Aamkhera and vangay have got livelihood for few days but people of Rajapur receive very little employment under the act, they need work.

**Cattle-** Each family in the village had about 4 to 8 cattle heads, but now almost half of them have died in absence of fodder and water. Some of them have been sold by the villagers. Some cows were sold for only a sum of 50-100/-

**Anganwari-**there is an Anganwari in village where there is no building for it. As a result it is being implemented from the panchayat bhawan. According to Kaushalya Pathak an Anganwari worker there are more than 160 children in the village but only 120 children have been registered in the center. The reasons being the instruction from the supervisor Madhu Pandey and Vimla Thakur that only limited number of children should be registered in the AW. There are no criteria for selection of these children. There are 7

pregnant women registered in the centre but no adolescent girls are getting any benefit from the center. Many malnourished children have migrated with their parents.

**Mid day meal-** under the MDM 2 spoon full of rice and vegetables is being distributed. This diet is not only insufficient but also badly cooked. The children bring the utensils from their home for eating MDM. There is no kitchen in the school and food is cooked in the open and unhygienic conditions.

**Consolidated annexure is attached - (Annexure-19)**

## **Block – Laudi**

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### **Z Village Andhyariwari**

**Anganwari -** There are 55 children between 3-6 years and 20 children between 6 month to 1 year. Only 2 adolescent girls are registered whereas there are around 30 in the village. Only panjiri is being distributed for the last two months to the children .The AW worker claimed that said instruction form WCD officer for non distribution of panjiri to pregnant and lactating women .There are 20 pregnant and lactating women but nothing have been provide of the last 2 months.

**Public distribution system** –PDS open for two days only BPL families are getting 13 kgs of food grains is being provided 55 applications for ration card have been filed two month back but allotment has not been made even after 1 and half year.

**BPL-** Quite ironically where there are many families who have been either left out form the BPL last year or their earlier BPL number cancelled .their are people like Bhurelal Dixit whose family owns about 100 bhiga of land .But has his name included in the BPL list But there are people like Suraj Ahirwar whose name is in APL list but lives on a very meager income .Who should be availing the benefit under the BPL list Chanda pandey whose name was earlier in the BPL list and used to get the old age pension has also been strucked out it.

**NREGS-** Sitaram Ahirwar who works only for 2 days in construction of puliya (small bridge) but entry in his job card amount to 48 days .Their are also entries in the name of his son Nathu who sitaram claims is out of village for the last 3 years.14 wells are dug under Kapildhara but only 2 of them were successful .Other have little or no water .their were around 100 people who were willing to work under NREGS but were getting none. No one knows that application need to be filed for getting job.

**Pension-**Most of the aged persons name were struck out of the BPL list as a result their old age pension was stopped. A widow of the same village belonging to OBC and has two kids aged 10 and 15 years is not being provided the widow pension. Though she has 8 bhiga of agricultural land there is no one to cultivate it.

**Water scarcity-**Though there are around 300 wells for irrigation but only few of them have water. Well is the only source of irrigation present in the village. The hand pump in front of the school has not been repaired from last 6 months. Out of the hand pump of the 5 hand pump in the village only 2 is in working condition.

**Land distribution-** about 5 years ago some land was distributed to the landless of the village through ceiling, regularization and distribution of grazing land among them .Suraj Ahirwar a widow claims that Ram Swaraj Yadav accepted her land after allotment. But there are certain cases in which people still suffer from land alienation.

**Fodder-** Almost 50% of the cattle have been sold by the villagers or have left free in absence of fodder. Through the government has ordered for providing fodder nothing has still reached in the village.

**Migration-** Migration is being reported from almost all the SC-ST –OBC families. In an initial count the villagers claimed about 200 youths were out of the village.

**Consolidated annexure is attached - (Annexure-20)**

## **Z Village WIGPUR**

**NREGS** –People claimed that work is not been provided under NREGS. Very little work was provided in the last three years .Most of the cards were empty and people have no knowledge that work is to be demanded under the act. There were 5 wells dug under the kapildhara scheme but name had water in them .In absence of which people has migrated to Delhi, Haryana, & U.P. About 40 people have migrated to Jammu. The gram sabha demanded works were Rs 10 lakh under the drought mitigation scheme but nothing was provided.

**Rural indebtness-** Villagers of the Wigpur village have to borrow money form money lender as institutional credit is not being provided easily. The money lender charge a high interest of 36% per year Nadram patel took a loan worth Rs 18000 from land development bank in year 2003 for pumpset and also for a tractor from SBI. But due to crop failure he was unable to repay any of them. Chotelal patel took a loan of 30000, from kisan credit card three years ago for agriculture purpose. But was not able to repay any amount as a result of crop failure.

## 10. Major Observations and PLEA

### 1. BPL

**Issue** - Quite ironically where there are many families in these districts who have been either left out from the BPL last year or their earlier BPL number cancelled. Many families of the village qualify for being included in the BPL list. The applications for inclusion of whose name have been submitted to the Janpad CEO from last many months. But no communication has been received till date.

**Plea**- To ensure that the applications which are pending for inclusion in BPL should be immediately included. And please check about the accountability of the person and why these applications are pending in the Janpad. And why these people were denied for getting the entitlement of BPL.

### 2. Migration

**Issue** – A large number of Migration have been reported from all these districts due to lack of employment. The families which go for migration leave behind the aged members. But there is no one to take care of these elderly members of the family. According to Anganwadi workers most of the families have migrated, thus very few children come to the centre. When the migrated families return to the villages most of the women and children are found to be malnourished.

**Plea**- There is no mechanism for checking the migration neither in Panchayat nor in block. No one knows about the actual number of migrated families. We request you to please ask the government to maintain a system at Panchayat and block level to check the migration and also to make some mechanism to stop the migration.

### 3. ICDS

**Issue** - In most of the villages Anganwadis are not set up according to the order of SC, where it has prescribed an anganwadi for every cluster of 40 children. Where there are centre, it is not functioning properly. Most of the anganwadis were not receiving the funds in time. As a result the distribution of supplementary food was improper and not according to the menu during the weekdays in any of the villages. The workers also complained about the harassment they face from the government officers who during their visits find faults in them against which they demand bribe.

**Plea-** We request to ask the government about why there is uncertainty in funds and supplementary nutrition? And who is accountable for this uncertainty .Please ensures that in these districts funds reached regularly and children should get the supplementary nutrition according to the prescribed menu.

#### **4. Social Security**

**Issue –** In almost all the villages of districts old age people who are eligible for the pension were excluded from the BPL list. Now according to the new guidelines of Old age pension the persons name should be in the BPL list. Thus many people of the village are left out from the benefit of pension. In karmaura village of tikamgarh there are 128 persons who are eligible for social security scheme but out of them only 9 people are getting benefited now. Also in Manjhora village of Chatarpur only 19 people get benefit of pension from the whole panchayat whereas 26 applications were filed at Janpad level but no further communication was made.

**Plea –** To ensure that all old age persons who are eligible for the pension should be included in the BPL list. Applications pending in the janpad should be immediately addressed and please check why these applications were pending in the Janpad and who is responsible for this?

#### **5. Public Distribution System**

**Issue -** Most of the families in the rural Bundelkhand live below the poverty line with very few options of livelihood. Out of these, many do not have ration cards; those who have don't get their fair share. There is only one Ration Shop in each Gram Panchayat of the three districts which usually covers three villages. Violating the SC guidelines, they open only for a day or two in a month which is also not fixed. Apart from poor quality of grains, cases of over pricing and under distribution also came forward. BPL families are getting 15-18 kgs of food grains whereas the Antyoday families were getting 29-30 Kgs of grains.

**Plea-** It was found that the allocation of food grains in PDS shops is not according to the Supreme Court order of 35 kgs. Please ask the government to supply the food grains according to the number of BPL families by keeping in mind the SC directives of PDS.

## **6. Mid Day Meal**

**Issue** -The quantity and quality of food provided to each child was also found to be insufficient to fill their stomach or provide adequate nutrition. It was also observed that the meals were not being provided at some villages during summer, the reason being late allotment of funds to the SHGs. In almost all the villages there is no facility of drinking water found in the school.

**Plea**- To ensure that all the SHGs should get funds regularly for preparing the MDM. Immediately safe drinking water facility should be arranged in the school. Also it should be checked that the children should be given the full meal according to the menu. The places where the meal is not being provided in summer should be checked immediately so that children might not go for migration with their parents.

## **7. NREGS**

**Issue**- Job cards have not been distributed in some of the village even after 3 years of implementation of the act and are still with the sarpanch. There is large scale discrimination with dalits and Minorities in giving the work under NREGS. Almost in every village job cards have a fake entry which means that there is no truth is governmental claim for work to every hand and appropriate wages for every work? In some of the village low and late payment was found. The job cards are also in the hold of sarpanch.

**Plea**-It should be checked that the each and every people of the village including the disable and old age get the work under NREGS. To ensure that verbal application of the person should be recorded in written and a receipt should be given to them. Please direct the janpad to enquire about the fake entries in the job cards. To ask the responsible persons why the people is not getting the work and why the people are migrating due to non availability of work in the village?

