

**CHAPTER VI****Development scenario – emerging from Villages.****INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES:**

Study of 36 villages gives an image of infrastructural facilities available in rural areas of Bihar during five decades of plan process. The emerging results are as follows:-

(Fig. in Km)

Items	Distance of a village in south Bihar from (average of 12 villages in South Bihar).	Distance of a village in North Bihar from (average of 24 villages in North Bihar).
Metal Road	2.52	1.69
Railway Station	20.17	11.83
Bus Stand	5.83	3.46
Post Office	1.58	1.92
Bank	4.44	3.38
Police Station	10.50	5.83
Police Town Outpost	5.30	4.63
Fair Price Shop	0.67	0.54
Public Call Office	7.79	3.06
Primary Health Centre	6.17	3.15
Govt. Primary School	0.42	0.04
Govt. Middle School	2.92	1.67
High School	4.92	3.81
College	16.75	15.71
Hat/Market	4.87	2.69
Electric Office	9.33	5.96
Telephone Office	10.83	7.58
Govt. Veterinary Hospital	7.33	5.42

Above data indicate that availability of infrastructural facilities is comparatively better in villages of North Bihar than in South Bihar.

Except Government Primary school, other infrastructural facilities are still scarce in villages. Villages of North Bihar have better accessibility of primary schools as compared to South Bihar. Primary Health Care in villages is still inaccessible. In some villages private Hakims, Vaidya and Doctors are reported to be looking after the public health require went of villagers. Villagers of North Bihar have better accessibility to metal roads than those of South Bihar. Villagers still have to traverse some distance to reach Hat and Markets to sell their produce and buy their requirements. Naturally middlemen have a role in marketing of village produce and they visit village to purchase grains at a price lower than market rate. Distance between village and market helps meddle men at the cost of the producer as well as the consumer. Availability of a Fair Price Shop in a village remains to fulfilled. This has put genuine consumer at the mercy of the unscrupulous dealer who not only infrequently opens the shop but who even to red card holders supplies grains lower than the fixed quantity at varying costs. The consumers often get frustrated when after traversing a few kilometres find the shop closed. Cooperatives have been found to be defunct and not doing banking business. Commercial Bank and Regional Rural Banks therefore, are only hope for the financing of the agricultural operations. Long distance of banks further aggravator the difficulties of the villagers. Police town out post are not within 2-3 kilometres of the villages. Villagers are, therefore, still at the mercy of the traditional system of age-old mutual goodwill expected to prevail in villages.

Data have revealed that most of villages have kutchra roads which are not in good condition. Villagers still have katcha Nali system for drainage

purpose. 33% of villages have not been electrified and those getting electric connection are paying bills on a fixed charge. Most of villagers are stealthily using electricity even though the electric sub-station is at a short distance say about one kilometre e.g. at village Akania of Mansi Block (Khagaria District). The Electricity Board is suffering revenue loss. Villagers have poor accessibility of post offices. These have been revealed by following figures derived as average of 12 villages of South Bihar and 24 villages of North Bihar.

	<u>Figures in Percentage</u>	
	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
1. Connection with main pucca road	33	39
2. Condition of main pucca road.		
(i) Bad	50	42
(ii) Not good	50	37
(iii) Good	00	21
3. Nature of village road		
(i) Kutcha road	83	58
(ii) Brick soling	17	42
4. Village Drainage system		
(i) Kutcha drain	100	100
(ii) Pucca drain	00	00
5. Post office in village	50	25
6. Post Bag facility	50	50
7. Electricity in village	33	58
8. Theft of Electric wire in villages	42	10
9. Payment of Electric Bill	25	50 (Fixed amount)
10. Use of Pumping set for irrigation through diesel.	83	100
11. Telephone facility	25	33
12. Public Call Office	17	17

Use of diesel to operate pump sets for irrigation reflects the irregular and inadequate supply of electricity in villages. Besides it enhances the cost of the agricultural production.

**Primary Education, Literacy Programme and Women's Literacy.**

At the village level, the survey indicates that except Government Primary School no private institution exists educate children. Also by and large only government institutions up to primary Schools have their own buildings. These Schools buildings are in dilapidated condition, roofs leak and plaster's fall, making class-rooms unfit for teaching students who are, therefore, taught both in open and in class-rooms. New buildings have come up in some villages besides old fallen buildings. In South Bihar, 75 percent villages have government primary schools as against its cent percent availability for the villages of North Bihar. The results also indicated that 75 percent villages in South Bihar have buildings of Primary schools whereas 92 percent villages in North Bihar have primary school buildings. Of these buildings only 25 percent school buildings in South Bihar in good condition as against 50 percent in North Bihar. Teaching in class room and also out side classroom is conducted in 75 percent of schools in both South and North Bihar. On an average Primary Schools of South Bihar have one male teacher and have practically no female teacher. On the other hand, primary schools of North Bihar on an average have nearly 3 male and one female teacher. In both regions children go to school. But their attendance is higher in North Bihar. On an average 63 boys and 43 girls go to primary schools in South Bihar as against 117 boys and 63 girls in North Bihar. This is because of higher density of population in North Bihar as compared to South Bihar. Quality of teaching in only 50 percent schools of South Bihar appear to be

satisfactory, on the other hand such position is reported for the 75 percent of Schools in North Bihar. Hardly 15 percent teachers stay in the villages of the schools in South Bihar. But for North Bihar it is reportedly even less than 5 percent. Obviously for most of the primary schools lying in villages of Bihar, the teachers do attend schools as daily commuters instead of residing in the villages this position adversely affects the teaching and other associated discipline of the primary schools. The following data establishes aforesaid conclusion:-

(Figures in percentage except items 5 and 6)

	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
1. Village having Govt. Primary Schools	75	100
2. Buildings of primary schools	75	92
3. Condition of school Building-good	25	50
4. Teaching is held both inside and outside classroom	75	75
5. Average number of teachers in Primary School.		
(a) Male	1.00	2.50
(b) Female	0.08	0.96
6. Average no, of children attending Primary Schools.		
(a) Boys	63	117
(b) Girls	43	63
7. Quality of teaching in Primary Schools- good	50	75
8. Teacher's residing in village of schools.	17	4

**Midday meals:**

Supply of Midday meals in Primary School is uniformly not applicable in the State. In some villages it is given in shape of 3 kg. of wheat per child

per month. Even this quantity is not regularly supplied and guardians are not uniformly satisfied with this arrangement. The guardians of both South Bihar and North Bihar have denied that they send their children to schools only to receive midday meals. That some send their children to school. However, the economic difficulty is so acute in rural areas that children per force are made to leave education and to work as child labour. Following data indicate the level of response from sampled households in the sampled villages on the availability of midday meals.

Items	<u>Figs. in percentage</u>	
	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
1. Supply of midday meal.	75	92
2. Type of supply		
(a) Grains	58	92
(b) Meal	17	Nil
3. Satisfaction with the arrangement	75	67

It means that in 9 out of 12 sample villages of South Bihar and in 22 out of 24 villages in North Bihar midday meal scheme is in vogue in schools. In 22 villages in north Bihar, it is in shape of 3 kg. Wheat per month but villagers of only 16 villages are satisfied with this arrangement.

### **School Dropouts**

Economic pressure compel parents to send their children to do some job. This prevalence of child labours at the cost of educational.

advancement still continues both in South Bihar and North Bihar of this state. This is established by following figures:-

<u>Figs. in percentage</u>	
<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>

1. Village where child labour exists.	83	75
2. Average number of child labour in village.	57	73

If also establishes that North Bihar is major source of supply of household child labour as compared to South Bihar and that drop outs in schools of North Bihar out weigh those of South Bihar.

### **Village Education Committee.**

For attracting villagers towards literacy and education, village education committee has been established. It exists only 42 percent of villages in South Bihar as against 33 percent of villages in North Bihar. However, only 17% of Education Committees are functional in Bihar.

Non formal education programme is functioning in only 8 percent of villages of South Bihar as against 4 percent of villages in North Bihar. Similarly literacy mission programme is functioning in hardly 43 % of villages in South Bihar as against 29% of villages in North Bihar.

Poor functioning and lower coverage of programme like literacy mission, non formal education and village education committee in villages of North Bihar might be also contributing factors towards larger number of dropouts among students of North Bihar.

### **Educated Women in Villages.**

Of the 12 sampled villages in South Bihar, three villages have reported that post graduate degrees holding women reside in village. Four villages Graduate women reside in four villages and 9 villages have women matriculates (C.B.S.E – Class Course). Also one village has a qualified lady doctor, and two women college teachers, reside in two sampled villages. Similarly two women are social workers among residents of two villages.

In North Bihar 5 villages out of 24 have women M.A. or M.Sc., similarly graduate women reside in 13 villages, 18 villages have women matriculates.

In 3 villages technically qualified female reside. Among villagers one village is reported to have a woman college teacher. Seven out of 24 villages of North Bihar have resident woman teachers. One woman in village is in a high government service. 3 villages have women in government service, 5 villages have female social workers whereas 1 village has a women political leader also. This clearly indicates those women residing in villages are not only getting literate but are in jobs. Percentage wise the picture of villages having educationally qualified women in South Bihar and North Bihar is as follows:-

Figs. in percentage

Women (educationally qualified and Service holders residing in villages of

	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
Post graduate	25	21
Graduate	33	54
Matriculate	75	75
Technically Qualified	00	13
Doctor (M.B.B.S)	08	00
Advocate (B.L./L.L.B.)	00	00
College teachers	17	04
Engineer	00	00
School Teacher	00	29
High Government Service	00	04
Government Service	00	13
Social worker	17	21
Political worker	00	04

During last fifty years, the status of females in villages has improved. Earlier it was difficult even to find out educationally qualified males in villages, but with the rise in literacy, educationally qualified women are now found in villages.



**Public Health System:**

Public Health System in villages of Bihar is marred by utter negligence both by the concerned doctors as well as by the State Government. In South Bihar, only 3 out of 12 sampled villages have reported availability of public health system. Of these three villages, where Health Sub Centre is located, one cannot find presence of doctors even for fixed days in a week nor can one find presence of supporting medical staff in either of the three villages. These health centres are in deplorable condition because non availability of any medicine and/or medical staff. The health centre of Bagwan (Garhani Block) in South Bihar located on main State Highway Arrah- Sasaram road having good building gives a deserted look. Not a trace of any used bandage or of any semblance of dispensary could be seen when one visited the place. Similarly at Akania (Mansi Block) in North Bihar the building of its Health Sub-Centre was coming up and the attached A.N.M. was reported to be residing elsewhere. Only 5 out of 24 sampled villages have reported presence of health centre in the village. While 4 villages have health sub-centres and one village of Saharsa has reported presence of a referral hospital. All these villages are reported to be suffering because of absence of doctor and medical staff. Villagers appear to be highly critical of the apathy of the Government to manage these institutions. Still most of them have hope that health system could be improved.

Private practitioners and vaidyas help the villagers. Even this assistance is available in only 2 out of 12 sampled villages of south Bihar. But the position is good in North Bihar where in 16 out of 24 sampled villages service of private medical practitioners, vaidyas and Hakims is available.

Tuberculosis, Jaundice, Kalazar and heart ailments generally account for deaths in the villages of both North and South Bihar. Maternity welfare programme is neglected. Delivery is performed by village of South Bihar, one trained birth attendant was available. This position is no better in North Bihar. Such apathetic medical system coupled with lower literacy rate account for persistence of high fertility rate and rise in population of this state. There is some acceptance of family planning methods in villages of Bihar but certain situations run counter to the approach of small family norm. One Dalit Leader of North Bihar argued that he lost his panchayat election largely because in that village OBCs out numbered the Dalits. In a South Bihar village the argument was that in times of crisis like village disputes only his relations and children would come forward to fight for him and therefore even though this gentleman was an elected Mukhiya of a panchayat, small family norm carried little sense. Neglect of destitutes, apparent discrimination in grant of old age pension etc. are also mitigating against small family norm. An old couple, husband crippled and lying on bed for years due to an accident complained that absence of assistance either in cash (old age pension) or kind (Antyodaya grains) have made their lives as those of beggars and argued that had they not practised family planning norms in younger age, children would have helped them in their old age. Such instances go against small family norms.

**Family Planning Method:**

However, the lure of incentive have urged villagers to undergo family planning operations, even though they are not inclined for smaller family. Thus distress driven vasectomy and tubeligation, operations have been made in Bihar. In south Bihar, 6 out of 12 villages have reported availability of family planning method whereas in 8 villages, the aptitude was found high

for acceptance of family planning norm. but in villages of North Bihar the position is not that encouraging. Villagers have reported implementation of National Maternity Welfare Schemes. This is more in South Bihar than in North Bihar.

Implementation of Public Health System, diseases causing death in villages and acceptance of Family Planning methods are given in following table:

(Figs. in percentage)

Items	Facilities of Public Health System In Villages	
	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
1. Presence of Govt. Health System	25	21
2. Public Health Centre/Sub Centre	17	17
3. Presence of Doctors in Centre	17	00
4. Presence of Nurse	17	17
5. Presence of Compounder	00	13
6. Condition of Health Centre: Not good	17	21
7. Reasons for Bad condition of health Centre.		
A) Absence of Doctor	00	00
B) Absence of Medicine	25	75
8. Presence of Private practioners (Unqualified Doctors, Vaidyas & hakims)	17	67
9. Trained Birth attendant	08	08
10. Implementation of Family Welfare Plan	50	29
11. Awareness of Family Planning Methods		
(i) High	67	42
(ii) Low	33	58
12. Average number of Family Planning Operations in Villages.		

	(i) Vasectomy	11.6	9.5
	(ii) Tube ligation	27.0	53.7
13	Implementation of National Maternity Benefit Scheme	67	33
14	Diseases causing death	Tuberculosis, Jaundice, Kalazar, Cancer, Delivery of Child, Typhoid, Malaria	Tuberculosis, Kalazar, Cholera, Jaundice, Malaria.
15	Health problem in villages due to	Poor sanitation Absence of Doctors	Sanitation Absence of Doctors.

### **Integrated Child Development Scheme:**

Nutritional guidance, for expectant mothers does not exist. In certain villages where Anganbari exists, either the Anganbari Sevika remains continuously absent or her presence if any, does not carry any impact. Only 33 percent of sampled villages in South Bihar reported presence of Anganbari facility, but villagers insisted that sevika remain absent. The position is not different in sampled villes of North Bihar. Hardly 17% sample villages reported existence of Anganbari facility, but only two villages-one in Saharsa and other in Sheohar reported their performance as satisfactory. The reason for poor performance of ICDS programme is absence of monitoring and supervision. Even though vehicles have been supplied but CDPOs generally do not visit villages. Only one C.D.P.O. goes round in villages, this is in Sheohar district, where ICDS functioning is reportedly satisfactory.

### **Animal Husbandary Programme:**

This programme has almost disappeared. Only in one village Dularpur (Garhani Block), a veterinary Hospital functionas satisfactorily. It has facility of artificial insemination centre also. The veterinary hospital in the adjoining village Bagwan is non functional. This explain why Bagwan experienced

death of 20 cattle in last one year against death of only one in Dularpur. Only in one village of Panchmah (Gaya) villagers had the sad experience of losing 50 cattles in one year because of foot and mouth disease. Facilities of treatment of diseased cattle in villages is not much different in North Bihar. Only 2 villages out of 24 sampled villages have veterinary hospitals. The condition of only one Hospital is reported good. Veterinary doctors visit only 6 out of 24 villages in North Bihar. Artificial insemination centre exists only in 3 out of 24 villages. In certain villages like Batwa (Gopalganj), Nandani Persuram (Samastipur) as many as 100 cattles dies in one year in absence of proper treatment.

### **Agricultural Inputs:**

#### **(a) Land :**

We had interviewed 10 house holds selected on random sample basis from the house lists in each of the 12 villages in South Bihar and 24 villages in North Bihar.

Results indicate that in South Bihar amongs persons interviewed only 72 percent possessed land whereas 28 percent had no land. Similarly in North Bihar only 68 percent of villagers possessed land and 32 percent had no land.

Interviews of 12 villagers in South Bihar has revealed that the percentage of villagers possessing land in various areas are as follows :-

	(Percentage)
Upto 1 acre	31
Between 1 to 2 acres	25
Between 2 to 4 acres	22
Between 4 to 8 acres	10

And above 8 acres	12
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Similarly in North Bihar extent of land possessed by villagers are as follows :-

Up to 1 acre	17
Between 1 to 2 acres	36
Between 2 to 4 acres	29
Between 4 to 8 acres	7
And above 8 acres	11

This indicates that villagers possessing land between 1 to 4 acres are more in North Bihar (55 percent) than in South Bihar (47 percent). However villagers possessing land above 8 acres is more or less same both in North Bihar as well as in South Bihar, rather villages of South have an edge over North in possessing land exceeding 4 acres.

(b) Method of Ploughing Land:

Our interview to villagers in 10 households of each of 36 sample villagers has revealed that in South Bihar ploughing of land is practised with the help of bullocks by 60 percent of villagers and only 40 percent use tractors for preparing land for sowing. But in North Bihar 70 percent villagers use tractors to plough their land whereas 40 percent depend upon bullocks to plough the land. Amongst those farmers of South Bihar who use tractors for ploughing field, only 16 percent have their own tractor and 84 percent use them by hiring. In North Bihar as large as 95 percent farmers plough their land through hired tractors. The rates of hiring of tractors also differ. Nearly 85 percent of farmers using tractors to plough their land have said

that the hiring charge of tractors is above Rs. 75/- per hour. This rate prevails both in South Bihar and North Bihar.

Those ploughing land with bullocks use only 2 ploughs in South Bihar whereas in North Bihar only 87 percent farmers use 2 plough and rest 13 percent use more than 2 ploughs. 94 percent of farmers in South Bihar use only 2 bullocks for ploughing whereas in North Bihar only 82 percent farmers use 2 bullocks for ploughing.

c) **Irrigation:**

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of villagers in Bihar. Agricultural production depends upon irrigation facilities. Surplus production creates happiness in cultivator's families and failure of crops yields despair and agony. The joy and anxiety of agriculturists are nurtured by availability of irrigation facilities. Presence of canal, Ahar, Pyne, Bandh, Borings and Pumpsets, Wells hand-pumps. Tube-wells in villages determine availability of irrigation. Canals are the most important source of irrigation facility only 3 sample villages out of 24 in North Bihar have canals as source of irrigation. In Bihar Sone, Kosi, Gandak and Badua canal systems exist.

Source of Irrigation	(Figs. in percentage)	
	<u>South Bihar</u>	<u>North Bihar</u>
Canal	33	13
Pyne	00	00
Ahar	50	21
Bundh	42	63
Borings	50	58
Average no. of wells	11.7	10
Govt. Tube well	17	17

Tube wells	33	46
Pump sets	92	100
Use of Diesel	100	100

The problem of under-utilisation of irrigation potential by canals and necessity for their maintenance has led to evolution of Participatory Management System (PIM). This system emphasises on creating outlet based water user organisations and later on an equitable distribution of water among the irrigators, maintenance of water conveyance, micro structure and resolution of conflicts amongst the water users. In Bihar the state Government has already announced an irrigation Policy in 1993 which provides for farmers organisations to take over management of irrigation system. So far only one PIM in Bihar has been set up in Paliganj for users of Sone Canal Water, as against 10,000 PIMs in West Bengal. PIM system of paliganj covers an area of 12.20 hectares only.

Our survey indicates that five beneficiaries groups have been formed in Banka (3), and Bhojpur (2) districts. But these groups are different from PIMs. Water rates for use of canal water are, however, collected by Government. Department of minor Irrigation, Government of Bihar through resolution no. 3/MIY-0164/2000 Part 4767 dated 24.9.2001 has empowered Panchayats to control all Government Tube Wells and lift irrigation schemes in respect of their maintenance and supervision. Panchayats have been empowered for selection and formation of beneficiaries groups for the tube wells and lift irrigation schemes. Panchayats, however, have not yet taken control of these units.

Only in one village (Saharsa) out of 36 villages, use of spray sprinklers for irrigation has been reported.



(d) **Other Inputs:**

Agriculture operations are getting mechanised through use of tractors for ploughing of land and for carriage of the agricultural produce after harvest. Thrashers and Harvester's are also being taken help of for decreasing cost and time in agriculture. Enhancement of yield is ensured through proper dose of fertiliser after soil testing and through use of insecticides and pesticides. Proper storage of agricultural produce helps in stoppage of distress sale as well as ensures higher return from agricultural produce. Availability of pucca godown also helps agriculturists in getting better price for their produce.

These inputs for higher physical as well as monetary yield from agriculture production are however not yet available in all villages of Bihar. Their absence enhances the economic deprivation of the agriculturists in Bihar. Following figures show the availability of these facilities in the villages of Bihar :

(Figs. in percentage)

	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
	<u>Bihar</u>	<u>Bihar</u>
Availability of facilities of soil testing	17	04
Fertiliser	17	00
Insecticide	00	00
Public Godown	17	13
Nature of godown :		
(a) Government	17	13
(b) Supply Department	00	00
(c) Hire	00	00

Tractor	50	54
Thrasher	75	54
Boring	50	58
Harvester	00	08
Spray Sprinkler	00	04

Obviously implementation of centrally sponsored schemes which subsidise purchaser of agricultural implements and agricultural inputs have not been faithfully done. Farmers have been left to take their own initiative, discretion and use money for inputs to enhance productivity. It is no wonder that cost of agricultural activities in Bihar is high and value of agricultural produce is comparatively low. Agriculturists often make distress sale of their produce in the absence of proper storage facilities.

#### **Village Marketing and Storage:**

Hat and Bazars are still far away from the villages. As a result, cultivators have to travel some distance to sell their products. Quite often the traders visit the villages during harvest or immediately after harvesting of crops. In absence of proper storage facilities agriculturists have to sell their produce to these unscrupulous traders on their quoted price. This price is lower than the market price. Such cultivators who store grains in Kothi (earthen cylindrical 4 to 5ft. height) and jute bags run the risk of losing the produce because of rats and other insects. Thus the distance of market from village and non-availability of proper storage compel the agriculturist to sell their products at unremunerative price. Agriculturists, therefore, desire that Food Corporation of India should purchase their products at the government support price. They also desire that suitable pucca Godowns should be made available in villages. In Saharsa, the sample villages of Birvar and Bishanpur annually market 2500

quintals of wheat, 800 quintals of Rice and 100 quintals of Pulse. Similarly other two villages of Saharsa, Kundah and Bela also market 500 quintals and 100 quintal wheat respectively 700 quintals and 500 quintals rice and 50 quintals and 100 quintals pulse. None of the sample village in South Bihar has hat in the village and only 3 out of 24 sample villages of North Bihar have hats in the villages themselves. The following table indicates the availability of marketing and storage facilities in the villages of Bihar.

(Figs. in percentage)

	<u>South</u> <u>Bihar</u>	<u>North</u> <u>Bihar</u>
Holding of Hats in Villages	00	29
Hat day in a week	04	02
Average Approximate distance from Hat/Bazar (KM)	4.5	2.8
Marketing of		
(a) Vegetables		
(b) Wheat	08	29
(c) Rice	33	83
(d) Pulse	50	54
(e) Maize	25	58
(f) Sugar Cane	17	33
(g) Mustard	00	13
	00	08
Problem in Marketing	50	04
(i) Low Price, uncertainty, travel problems	00	67
(ii) Absence of Market		
Choice of Marketing :		
(i) Sale to F.C.I.	25	00

(ii) Establishment of Govt. market

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Establishment of functional cooperatives can help the cultivators in marketing of their produce. Cooperatives should construct Godowns and may act as traders for purchasing the agricultural product. The functioning of Cooperatives in Bihar is also not satisfactory. Its existing Godowns require renovation and staff require trading skill for helping the cultivators.

**Public Distribution System :**

Six villages out of 12 sample villages have Fair price shops in the villages. The remaining 6, these are located else where, the average distance of which is 1.33 km. Similarly 11 out of 24 villages in North Bihar have fair price shops in the villages. The remaining 13 villages have their Fair price shops located else where, the average distance of which is 1 km. FPS opens daily only in 17 percent of villages of South Bihar and in 13 percent of villages in North Bihar. The quantity of grains supplied to a ration card holder is not uniform. It differs from village to village. It ranges between 4 kg. to 10kg. Per unit in South Bihar. It varies from 2kg. to 5kg. in North Bihar. Even Antyoday beneficiaries are charged Rs. 0.50 per kg. more than the scheduled price on which it is to be sold. On an average 75 percent of villages in South Bihar find the functioning of the P.D.S. unsatisfactory as against 83% in North Bihar. Sale of Kerosine Oil also varies from villages to village. The rate varies from Rs.9/- per litre to Rs. 10/- litres per card holder in South Bihar whereas in North Bihar the rate varies between Rs. 8/- per litre to 10.50/- per litre. In case of non-supply from P.D.S. villagers are compelled to purchase K.Oil @ Rs. 15-16 per litre from village shopkeeper or from Hat. The existing identified families living below poverty line add up on

an average 48 persons per village in South Bihar and 134 persons per village in North Bihar. Even such families are not getting scheduled quantity of grains of their fixed prices.

**Women Empowerment in Villages :**

During last year Panchayat election females in 7 out of 12 villages had contested election. Some of them did their electioneering themselves. In South Bihar 3 woman from 3 sampled of villages had been elected. In North Bihar women of 19 villages out of 24 sample villages had contested election and contestants from 13 villages had won the election. A women's group has been constituted in 2 villages of South Bihar whereas in North Bihar 3 villages out of 24 have women's group. All the 12 sampled villages of South Bihar have reported non-existence of Mahila Samkhya but only one village out of 24 sample villages of North Bihar have reported existence of Mahila Samakhya in the villages.

In South Bihar, on an average 9 women per village have landed property in their names, whereas in North Bihar the corresponding figure is 12. On an average 1.75 women per village are head of their families in South Bihar against 10 in North Bihar. Women in 25 percent of villages of South Bihar attend their gram sabhas as against 71 percent in North Bihar. Only 8 percent village have women members of cooperative in South Bihar whereas such percentage is 13 for North Bihar. In the tribal village of Jagalpura ( Baunsi Block) as much as 20 girls/females do cycling whereas 2 girls of another village Gerua know cycling. In North Bihar 24 percent of villages on an average have reported that cycling is know by some women of those villages. Two villages of North Bihar have reported women as knowing driving of Scooters. 58 percent of sampled villages in South Bihar have responded that status of women have improved in last decade. Such

improvement has been reported by 83 percent of sampled villages of North Bihar. The average minimum age of marriage of girls in sampled villages of South Bihar is 16 years whereas in 24 sampled villages of North Bihar it is 16.6 years. 75 percent of sampled villages of South Bihar have reported that for sake of dowry no girl has remained unmarried. Similarly 96 percent of sampled villages of North Bihar have reported that no girl has remained unmarried because of dowry.

### **Payment of Wages:**

The tribal village of jangalpura has reported that minimum wages fixed by Government for unskilled labour is not being paid to either male or female labourers. The wages for both male and female are Rs. 25/- only per day in cash. This is much below the minimum wage of Rs.58.64 per day fixed by State Government for unskilled workers. Like Jangalpura in South Bihar, three other villages Bagwan, Dularpur and Bhikhanpur have reported uniform wages both cash and kind for male or female. Thus in 4 out of 12 villages of South Bihar, there is no discrimination in payment of wages between men and women. In North Bihar only 5 villages out of 24 have reported payment of uniform wage to both male and female workers.

Payment of wages in all the sampled villages both in South Bihar and North Bihar is lower than the minimum wages fixed by the Government. In payment of wages there is sex bias against women in some rural areas of Bihar. The minimum wages for unskilled workers is Rs. 58/64 per day. Agricultural worker has to be paid Rs. 41/- per day for all kinds of job except katni (harvest). As harvest labour, one has to be paid one Bojha (Bundle for every 10 Bhojhas of harvested grain. As tractor driver and as pump operator one has to be paid Rs. 1479.80 per month. The minimum wages fixed for a

Tractor Khalasi, Pump Khalasi (assistant) Chowkidar/Sipahi is Rs. 1152.30 per month. Interviews with agricultural workers doing harvest work has revealed that they are paid one bundle @ 12 bundles harvested by them. Gender discrimination in payment of wages exists in some villages. The amount varies from place to place. Even in payment of wages in kind i.e. food grains such gender discrimination is maintained. In the highly Naxalite influence Block, Konch (one of sample block) of Gaya District payment to agricultural labourers. Are made without any sex bias i.e. 4 kg. food grains and Rs.30/- cash to both males and females. Sandesh Block is under naxal influence in Bhojpur. Bagwan village was earlier in this block, but now it is in Garhani Block (Sample Block). Here also payment of wages to labours in construction work is Rs. 50/- to per day to either male or female. But payment of harvest workers is one bundle per 12 bundles of harvest.

The exploitation of agricultural labour still continues in the villages as has been found in our examination of Bataidari system in Bihar.

### **Bataidari System:**

Bhojpur is a rich paddy growing area. Its per hectare yield is highest in the State and is higher than the national average. Big cultivators, landlords get their cultivation done through Nagadi (Cash) or Mani (Kind) system. In Nagadi system, a share cropper is required to pay Rs.1800/- to 2400/- per bigha and the share cropper is required to invest per bigha Rs. 500/- on fertiliser, Rs. 100/- on seeds Rs. 300/- on tractor i.e. Rs. 900/- per bigha. These additional expenditure is borne by the share cropper only. As canal rate is generally not paid, the land owner bears the cost of canal water. In case the yield is 20 mounds per bigha and paddy is sold @Rs. 200 per maund, the cost of production comes to Rs. 4,000/- per bigha. This does not include expenditure on diesel, pump sets if canal water is not available. The

share cropper has to sustain his family with just Rs.1300/-[4000-(1800+900)]per bigha per paddy season and the landlord for no investment either monetary or physical gets Rs.1800/- as income from possessing one bigha land. The income ratio between owner and labour is thus 18:13. The share cropper gets some additional income in case government agency purchases paddy, wheat etc. at the minimum support price fixed by Government of India.

In the mani system i.e. payment kink, (mani is derived from the work man i.e. maund less than 40 kg.). The share cropper is required to pay 14 maunds of agricultural produce to the land owner who again does not incur any expenditure on cost of ploughing (Tractor), seed and fertiliser etc. in the village of Bagwan of Bhojpur, about 200 families are engaged in Bataidari on the basis of these two systems. The tenants of Bataidari system differs from village to village, region to region and within one district there can be two types of Bataidari system.

In Saharsa village the share cropping system means division of produce between lan owner and a Bataidar in ratio of 50:50 with cost of cultivation to be borne by the Bataidar. However in Bishanpur village it is in the ratio of 1:2 i.e. Bataidar gets two-third of the produce. In Samastipur, Gaya and Gopalganj the 50:50 system prevails. In tribal village of Jagalpura only the cost of seed is borne by the landlord who gets 50 percent of produce, whereas in Gerua and Kurthia villages of Banka, both Bataidar and landlord equally share the cost of production as well as the produce. In Rani village of Banka, paddy is shared on 50 percent to landlord, Sugarcane is cultivated on the basis of 40 percent of produce to landlord and wheat and Maize at 25 percent to the landlord. It means the Bataidar keeps 50 percent of paddy, 60 percent of Sugarcane and 75 percent of wheat and Maize. This



system is heavily tilted in favour of the Bataidars. In Khagaria and Katihar both Bataidar and landlord equally share the cost of production and the produce. However, in banana producing village named Nawabganj of Sameli Block (Katihar District) Bataidars pay Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 7000/- per acre per annum for Banana cultivation and for food grains pay Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2500/- per acre per annum to landlords, the cost of cultivation of both being borne by the Bataidars. As Bataidars largely operate in villages, such system which keeps them in adverse position either due to prevailing system or fluctuation in market or physical condition of the soil or natural calamity largely determine the economic situation of the villages. Bataidari system is continuing since ages. Modifications in system helpful to agricultural labourers would therefore, determine the economic improvement of the villages.

### **Land Reform :**

Of the twelve sample villages in South Bihar, only 2 villages have witnessed implementation of land ceiling law. In Milki village (Koilar), villagers were aware of its implementation but could not indicate the extent of land having been obtained under the Act for distribution among weaker section. In the Naxalite influenced Konch Block of Gaya district, under land ceiling Act 27 Kuttahs have been recovered and this has been distributed among Scheduled Castes. In North Bihar also land under ceiling laws have been obtained in only two villages.

In Bela village of Sattar Kataiyya Block of Saharsa district only 8 kathas of land i.e. one-fourth of an acre had been recovered and the same had been distributed to the S.Ts. In Majhaura village of Piprahi Block

(Sheohar District) some land has been recovered and distributed among members of S.Cs.

Kursela and Sameli Blocks of Katihar districts are regions where land ceiling act has not been effectively implemented. Some big cultivators of this state reside in kursela. Had the Ceiling Act been implemented truthfully more land could have been retrieved. Survey has revealed that three big cultivators, each one of whom cultivates about 300 bighas of land in a village, but land ceiling laws could not recover even one decimal of land from them. The implementation of this Act has prevented members of S.C. and of other weaker sections to get land for habitation and cultivation.

Similarly only one sampled village of South Bihar has reported implementation of Consolidation of Holdings Act. Jangalpura tribal village of Baunsi Block (banka District) has gained nothing after implementation of this revenue law. In North bihar, majhaura villae of Piprahi Block (Sheohar district) it was implemented but the village has gained nothing from it. Ramauli village Kalyanpur Block (Samastipur District) has admitted gains from the implementation of this scheme. Out of 36 sampled villages only three villages have reported the implementation of Consolidation of Holdings Act and that only one seems to have been benefited from it.

Karamchari (Revenue) collects land rent in 50 percent of the sampled villages of South Bihar. But only in 33 percent of villages of North Bihar Karamchari collects land rent. While jamabandi of land has been fixed in 58 percent of villages in South Bihar, only in 33 percent of villages in north bihar jamabandi has been fixed. Gair mazarua Aam land is available in 42 percent of villages of South Bihar and such land in 33 percent of villages is under forcible possession of important persons of the villages.

In North Bihar 50 percent of sample villages have reported existence of Gair Mazarua Aam land, 46 percent of sample villages has reported that these lands are in control of important persons of the villages. In Bishanpur village (Sattar kateya Block of Saharsa), about 20 important persons of that village are controlling the entire 50 acres of Gair Mazarua Aam land, depriving benefit of their distribution to the weaker sections of the village. In this village about 20 families are controlling more than 100 acre of Gair Mazarua khas land. Similarly in Kundah village of Mahishi block about 25 very important persons of the village are controlling more than 100 acres of Gair Mazarua Aam lands. In Akaniya village of Mansi Block (Khagaria) the Sarpanch is controlling the entire 60 acres of such land. In this village 100 acres of Gair Mazarua Khas land is also in the control of 10 persons through sheer muscle power. In Nandani Gopal village of Samastipur Gair mazarua Aam lan is in Possession of 10 persons residing nearby.

Thus Government land meant for distribution among S.Cs. and other weaker sections are not available largely because influential persons are in control of such land.

### **Implementation of Development Programme:**

Execution of development programme has not been done uniformly throughout the state. Certain districts have been neglected while others have been completely left out.

Of the 12 sampled villages in South Bihar, two villages in Baunsi Block (Banka District) and two villages in Garhani Block (Bhojpur District) have reported implementation of jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna. Similarly in North

Bihar only 7 out of 24 villages have reported implementation of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna.

Similarly Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna (S.G.S.Y.) which aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas building upon the potential of the rural poor seems to have been implemented even superficially in this state. In no village rural poor appears to have been benefited under the scheme. The survey indicates its non-implementation in all 12 sample villages of South Bihar. Only in 3 villages of North Bihar such as Akania, Nadani Parsuram and Simri Gopal it is visible. In Akaniya (Mansi Block) village cobblers, carpenters, potters, Blacksmiths and barbers reside. 8 persons of the village through Self Help Group have been advanced loan of Rs. 12,500/- from S.B.I. Mansi for their self employment. In Nandani Parsuram village (Mohiuddinagar block of Samastipur District) Carpenters, Barbers, Blacksmith and potters live. But no loan has been provided to any one of them. In Bishanpur village of Saharsa District (Sattar Katiya Block), handicrafts like thread-weaving, manufacture of Baskets and paper are thriving. These are marketed outside the village. This village has Carpenters, Potters, Blacksmiths, Cobblers and Barbers. No loan appears to have been given to them. Thus with practically non implementation of the scheme, the rural poor and such among them who could have enriched their income through the credit and supply component of this scheme has been forced to remain untouched in Bihar.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been implemented in 5 out of the 12 villages of South Bihar and 2 out of the 24 villages in North Bihar. Construction of Primary School under this scheme was found in two villages namely Bangawan (Garhani Block) and Akaniya (Mansi Block). The primary objective of the E.A.S. is creation of additional wage-employment

opportunities during the period of acute shortage of work (non-agricultural season). This scheme ensures employment through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. The second criterion of the E.A.S. is the creation of durable community assets for sustained employment and development. Fund has not been a constraint in this scheme. It is on 75:25 ratio sharing between Centre and State. Durable assets like Middle Schools, Pucca Drainage system, water Harvesting Ponds etc. could have been built to mitigate the economic hardship of rural poor, but no concrete effort appears to have been made to make full use of this scheme which is available for implementation in all Block of this State.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme started on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995, following three components are being implemented in the country.

- (i) National old Age Pension Scheme.
- (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme.
- (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme.

The survey has indicated that National Old Age pension scheme is being implemented in only 6 out of 12 sample villages of South Bihar and 22 out of 24 sample villages of North Bihar. Under this scheme destitute persons aged 65 years or above of both sexes are given pension of Rs.75/- per month. There are many infirm and handicapped aged persons who unfortunately have not been benefited from the pension. Non coverage is an index of callousness and irresponsibility of the delivery system associated with it. Now that panchayat Raj Institution has come into force, it is expected that all deserving aged persons would be brought under its umbrella. Mukhiyas have complained non-coverage of deserving persons, some of whom were personally interviewed by us.

**National maternity Benefit Scheme:**

Under this scheme benefit provided in the form of a lump sum cash assistance to pregnant women of house holds below the poverty line is subject to following condition:

- (i) Benefit upto two life births provided the claimant are of 19 years of age and above.
- (ii) The amount of benefit is Rs. 500/-
- (iii) Maternity benefit is disbursed in one instalment 12-8 weeks prior to the delivery.

In case of delay it can be disbursed to the beneficiary even after the birth of the child.

Even this scheme has been implemented in only 5 out of 12 sample villages of South Bihar. In North Bihar, however this scheme has been implemented in 12 out of 24 villages i.e., the coverage is hardly 50 percent in North Bihar.

**National Family Benefit Scheme:**

This scheme has been implemented in 4 villages out of 12 villages of the South Bihar. Thus the coverage is 33 percent only. In North Bihar however 11 villages out of 24 villages have reported implementation of this scheme.

A lump sum benefit of Rs. 10,000/- is provided as family benefit for house holds below poverty line on the death of the primary bread winner of the bereaved family. The 'bread winner' can be of either sex between 18 years to 65 years. Only the families below poverty line qualify to receive the

amount of benefit of Rs. 10,000/- irrespective of the cause of death-natural or accidental of the primary bread winner.

These three schemes under national Social Assistance Programme (N.S.A.P.) are 100 percent Centrally sponsored Programme. These schemes attempt to provide basic needs of families living below poverty line. Non utilisation of full benefits from these three schemes indicate apparent dis-interest in providing social assistance to families living below poverty line (B.P.L.) governmental agencies involved in poverty alleviation and such other task of development.

**ICDS:**

Sample villages of South Bihar have reported nil implementation of I.C.D.S., while only two villages of North Bihar have reported implementation of the programme.

**Water Harvesting:**

Implementation of schemes of water harvesting through construction of Ahar, Pynes and Bandhs have been reported from 3 villages from both South Bihar and North Bihar.

**TRYSEM:**

Only 2 sample villages of South Bihar indicated implementation of TRYSEM. One of these villages is Jangalpura, the tribal village of Banka. Also only one village in North Bihar responded in affirmative about the implementation of this scheme.

**Million Well Scheme and SITRA:**

One Million well scheme and SITRA no village responded about their implementation either is South Bihar or North Bihar.

Under SITRA help is provided to rural artisans for improving the quality and quantity of their handicrafts.

**India Awaas Yojna:**

On implementation of Indira Awaas Yojna, only 2 villages of Garhani Block and 2 villages of Gaya District (one from dumaria and one from Konch Block) responded in affirmative. On an average 28 houses have been constructed under I.A.Y. in each of these villages. 99 percent of these houses have been allotted to SCs and only 1 house has been allotted to OBC in Bagwan Village (Garhani).

Mukhiya of Bagwan village informed that some of the old beneficiaries have been paid Rs. 10,000/- for upgradation of the old house. We were shown the houses, which are supposed to be upgraded. These houses built under IAY have mud walls, which are now in dilapidated condition. These walls cannot withstand a concrete roof. Obviously no upgradation of old IAY structure is possible. All these old units require repair and renovation. Thus if beneficiaries are insisted to show concrete roofs, any positive reply would be totally incorrect. Nor did any beneficiary appeared to be economically sound enough to invest his own money as supplement to the amount of Rs. 10,000/- obviously the poor people would be compelled to misappropriate this amount. Such upgradation grant given under IAY should not have been disbursed without personal verification by disbursing officer or should have been made on the report of the Mukhiya concerned. The entire upgradation amount (given under IAY ) which is to be utilised for construction of concrete roof in place of existing tiles is bound to be misappropriated. It appears the Mukhiya has been concerned about ungenue implementation of development grants. A scheme entitled Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for



Rural Housing was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999. the scheme targets rural families having annual income upto Rs. 32000. While subsidy is restricted to Rs. 10000, the maximum loan amount that can be availed of is Rs. 40,000. the subsidy amount is shared by Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25. the loan portion is to be disbursed by the Commercial Banks etc. Instead of upgradation grant under IAY, the above Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme could have served the beneficiary better.

The disbursement of upgradation grant of Rs. 10000 for converting kutcha house to a semi pucca/pucca condition could be properly utilised only if the Kutch house is fit for such upgradation.

Absence of knowledge of the condition of old structure of IAY at the level of the disbursing officer creates ground for misappropriation of grant both at the level of disbursing officer and at the level of the beneficiary.

Twenty two villages out of 24 villages of North Bihar have responded in affirmative about implementation of Indira Awaas Yojna. On an average 21 buildings per village has been built.

Teengharia is a village of Kursela Block of Katihar District. Construction of largest number of houses built under I.A.Y. has been reported from this village. 100 Houses are being built in Teengharia whereas in another village of this Block namely Katareah construction of only 30 houses have been taken up. Construction of largest number of houses in this village might be attributed to one Member of Parliament who belongs to this village. These houses are incomplete. Facilities of laterine or smokeless chelha have not been provided in any house.

In North Bihar out of 471 houses, only 37 have been allotted to females OBC, to the SCs and remaining to persons of other castes. No house has been allotted to freed bonded labour.

The constructions of houses under Indira Awaas Yojna give an impression of poor quality work.

**Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojna:**

Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojna does not appear to have been implemented in any of the sampled villages of either South Bihar or North Bihar.

**Pradhan Matri Gramin Sadak Yojana:**

This scheme does not appear to have been implemented in any sample village of this study.

**Jawahar Rojgar Yojna:**

Implementation of this scheme has been indicated by only one sample village of South Bihar. Only seven sample villages of North Bihar have given reply in affirmative about the implementation of this scheme in villages.

**Dwakra:**

Only two villages of South Bihar among all 36 villages have informed about implementation of this scheme in villages.

**Annapurna Scheme:**

Annapurna scheme has been implemented in only 3 sample villages of South Bihar and in 14 sample villages of North Bihar. Thus this scheme has been implemented in only 25 percent villages of South Bihar and in 58 percent villages of North Bihar. Under this scheme those indigent senior citizens (persons aged 65 years of age) who have not been given any pension under National Old age Pension Scheme are supplied 6 kg wheat and 4 kg rice free.