

# Study on Bundelkhand

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## Preface

Madhya Pradesh is one of the front-runner states of India by publishing State Human Development Report analysing district level data on many pertinent parameters of development.

Madhya Pradesh touches boundaries of 7 states therefore reflects excentuated regional tendencies of different socio-cultural and linguistic patterns. The analysis of Human Development of M.P. needs to be taken down upto the regional level. There is a dearth of studies reflecting status of development and disparities within the regions to promote micro level initiatives and people centred development.

Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh is one of the underdeveloped regions which requires attention and efforts of development. The report is a attempt to desegregate data available from secondary sources at the regional, district and block level in Bundelkhand to analyse patterns, potential and challenges of the region. Considering the limitations of data of the secondary sources, experiences, case studies and reflections as primary data have been blended to provide development view from the perspective of the people of the region.

The study has been conducted by Samarthan team where Rakesh Nath Tiwary has taken a lead role in conducting the study. We are thankful to the Oxfam(I)Trust, Regional Office, Lucknow for extending support and commitment for development interventions in the region promoting voluntary initiatives. We hope that the report will be helpful in identification of priority areas for issues of interventions and advocacy for the Government, donors, voluntary organisation, other interested agencies and actors of the civil society.

Yogesh Kumar

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- Rakesh Nath Tiwary

## Abbreviations Used :

SC	Scheduled Caste
ST	Scheduled Tribe
BC	Backward Caste
MP	Madhya Pradesh
UP	Uttar Pradesh
BJP	Bhartiya Janata Party
BSP	Bahujan Samaj Party
PHC	Primary Health Centre
CHC	Community Health Centre
SHC	Sub- Health Centre
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
DPEP	District Primary Education Programme
TLC	Total Literacy Campaign
NYK	Nehru Yuva Kendra
NTFP	Non-Tempered Forest Products
NGO	Non- Government Organisation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
DWCRA	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
JFM	Joint - Forest Management
AD	Anna Dominie
BC	Before Christ
CDR	Crude Death Rate
VEC	Village Education Committee

## Glossary Of Terms :

Awas --	Home
Ashwamedh Yagna--	Horse - Sacrifice in ancient India to extend the territories of an Emperor.
Aushadhalaya--	Medical Centre/Medicine Centre
Anganwari--	Pre- School Centre
Bidi	A local form of cigarette made out of tendu leaves
Block --	A development administrative unit comprising of roughly 100- 150 villages.
Chandeli--	Created by Chandela rulers.
Gram--	Village
Gramodyog--	Village - industry
Hamelets--	Smaller unit of the village; Also called Tola or Purwa.
Jwar--	A kind of Millet, grown during Nov. -March of the year.
Janapad--	Block; A middle level administration
Kharif-	A range of foodgrains grown during the season of July-Nov. of the year.
Khadan-	Mining - area.
Khadi--	handmade, Charkha- Spun cloth
Kendra-	centre (of activity)
Kshetriya--	Regional
Mela--	Fare
Mandir--	Temple
Madarasa--	School for muslims children run by religious teacher
Mahila -	Women
Mandal --	Group
Mungfali	Grounud
Mitti	Soil
Mahuwa	A tree whose flower is used for food.
Mausam--	Weather
Ojha/Gunia--	Traditional village doctors who use tanric ways for treatment of patients.
Panchayat--	Elected local self -government body at the village -level
Pariwar--	Family
Rabi--	A range foodgrains grown during the season of Oct.- May of the year
Rojgar--	Employment
Siksha -	Education
Sarvodaya--	Development of each and everybody.
Sahukar	Local trader
Samiti--	committee
Srawan/Bhadon/kwar-	Name of months in India equivalent to August/Sept./Oct.
Sarpanch-	Village Panchayat Chief
Tehsil--	Unit of administration comprision of several Blocks
Thakur--	A higher caste, Supposed to be dominating in feudal society
Vaidya--	A local doctor, Knowledgeable in herbal medicines.
Vikas --	Development
Vigyan-	Science
Vidhansabha -	Legislative Assembly of elected member at the state - level.
Yojna--	Programme
Yuva--	Youth
Zilla	District

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

This study presents the situational analysis of five districts of northern Madhya Pradesh, namely Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Satna and Tikamgarh. Conducted in mid-1998, it aims to assess the geographical, political, economic and socio-cultural climate of the selected districts apart from identifying the existing base of Non-Government Organisations, potential groups and credible individuals in the region.

Samarthan and OXFAM, have collaborated in the process of strengthening the capacities of small and medium organisations in northern region of Madhya Pradesh. This study has been visualised as the one which would be helpful to identify issues of the region, understand voluntary groups and their capacity building needs and explore various civil society actors, who may be meaningfully associated with, to strengthen a strong base of voluntary efforts.

## Methodology

This situation analysis was done mainly through secondary sources. It was substantiated by the primary data collected during field visits of the districts. The study of this kind required the mix of both the primary and secondary data. While the statistical informations on the subjects of demography, education, health and economy were available through secondary sources, the primary informations on the voluntary efforts in the region, issues in development and case notes on living conditions in rural areas were collected through field visits. The primary data collection was not done in any prescribed format rather it was gathered through observations and informal discussions with individuals and communities. A good number of heads of the voluntary organisations were contacted and information on the capacity building needs and development issues were collected through them.

## Major Findings

Madhya Pradesh is an underdeveloped state. Certain regions of M.P. are further underdeveloped. Northern M.P. in general and Bundelkhand in particular are noted among them. Some of its districts represent the lowest position on development index. The region has rich culture and history. The beauty of Khajuraho and Orchha attracts many. Famous Chhatrashal ruled the region in medieval period. But society is highly caste based and feudal relations rule the society and politics.

## Demography

Among the districts which have been studied, Satna has the largest population, followed by Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Datia respectively. Datia is the smallest district of MP, both in terms of area and population.

District Chhatarpur shows the highest decadal increase in the population, followed by Tikamgarh. Districts adjoining Chhatarpur, like Tikamgarh in the west and Panna in the east, have shown higher decadal growth rate than the farther districts, like Datia and Satna. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) also shows the similar trend.

Sex ratio of all the districts is lower than the state average. This hints at the status of women in the region. Satna has the highest sex-ratio (918) while Datia has the lowest (847). It is more favourable to women towards the east, that is in the districts of Panna and Satna than towards the west, near Chambal region which is close to Datia.

## Health

In the state of MP, public health centers like Primary Health Centres (PHC) are not in the required number to serve the total population. Generally a PHC is supposed to serve the population of around thirty thousands. But in district Tikamgarh, Panna and Datia each PHC serves the average population of around forty-one thousand, thirty seven thousands and thirty-six thousand respectively. In Satna and Chhatarpur it serves the average population of nearly

25,000 and 23,000 respectively which is relatively a better situation. People depend on local vaidyas (village doctors) for their treatment.

The nutritional status of children in MP is very poor, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Undernutrition is very high in the state. Fifty seven percent of all children under four are underweight for their age, and 22% are severely under-weight. The situation reflects the same for backward districts of MP which include the concerned districts.

So far as the external care and assistance at delivery is concerned, according to NFHS, only 52% of mothers received antenatal care in MP. Most babies (82%) are delivered at home, 12% are delivered with public health facilities and 4% with private health facilities. Thirty percent of deliveries are assisted by a doctor or nurse/midwife, another 30% by a traditional birth attendant, and 39% by a relative or other person. Thus, a sizable proportion of deliveries are conducted by untrained persons, resulting in higher neonatal mortality rates.

## **Education**

Though the government has taken various steps for universalisation of primary education, the region still lags behind on educational parameters. A large number of students either do not enter into the school system or drop out before reaching to class five. The region has a large proportion of people who migrate to other states along with their families for livelihood. So their children remain out of school.

Most of the people of weaker section have a feeling into their mind that education is of no use to their children. They are not interested to send their children to schools. Observation in various villages of Tikamgarh, Satna, Chhatarpur, Panna and Datia has shown that most of the children attending primary schools are from rich families of Thakurs, Brahmins and upper castes. Lot needs to be done for the awareness generation towards utility of education.

## **Economy**

All the concerned districts of Bundelkhand have their economy predominantly based on agriculture. But the infertility of land, low productivity, improper land distribution in which a few medium and large farmers have major share in land holdings, lack of irrigation facilities and unscientific cultivation in terms of non-use of modern methods in agriculture have kept the agriculture-based economy on the verge of subsistence only.

In Bundelkhand, Panna is the only district which has the percentage of forest area over 50% with respect to its geographical area. Satna and Chhatarpur have the forest cover between 20-30%, while Datia and Tikamgarh have it less than 20%. Bundelkhand, devoid of forest cover, looks like a barren land with naked mounds of hills. The problem of soil erosion, soil filling into the ponds making them useless, direct flow of rain-water into the rivers, depleting ground water resources and unproductivity of the land, all these are the emerging issues in Bundelkhand which have roots into the depletion of forest cover.

Forests in Bundelkhand have been a major source of livelihood for poor people. Though, tribes have been dependent on forests for everything in their life, other caste people, particularly that of Scheduled Caste, have also been dependent on it for food. Mahuwa has been one of the major sources of food for poor community living in the rural areas of these concerned districts. Bidi making provides livelihood to a large number of poor families in the region.

What is worth observing is that Bundelkhand is rich in some important minerals and stones but mining and quarrying involves exploitation of wage labour and the issue of health hazard is also involved in it. Stone cutting and quarrying is under the total control of contractors, coming mostly from the upper caste and carrying the feudal relations into this business. It is hazardous and a large number of TB cases and other such respiratory diseases can be noticed among the workers involved in this business.

Tikamgarh has poverty rate of 58.3% closely followed by district Satna with 55.5. Districts Datia and Panna also have the poverty rate indicating nearly half of its population below poverty line. Only Chhatarpur is relatively better in Bundelkhand, with the poverty rate of only 29.8% which

may be attributed to comparatively loose feudal control and prevalent economic activities like bidi making.

### **Voluntary Efforts**

Bundelkhand in M.P. is hardly on the NGO- map, given the present scenario. It is not that this region has never had voluntarism in its society. Voluntarism was there in it since the beginning and existing traditional water resource management systems, including that of Chandeli ponds, are the testimony of it.

In Bundelkhand there is no dearth of registered NGOs, for the name sake, but those who are involved in some activities and are functional to some extent can be placed under small, fluid and evolving NGOs/ associations/ groups. They have started their work with relatively high degree of enthusiasm and commitments, but with only a little idea of organisational, programme and financial management.

#### **Key Recommendations**

Northern Madhya Pradesh has a socio- economic condition which invites for the strategic intervention of government and non-government agencies including the funding and support - organisations. The high structural inequalities in the villages based on caste , religion and land holdings can not be tackled without creating examples of alternative models of development in the area of livelihood , particularly involving the women.

On all the issues of development , Say education, economy and environment, intervention is required. Non-government organisation and groups can come up as the major actors in the regard. There might be specific development issues in each of the district if the region, certain major issue are clear. they related to the need of people's management of non-timber forest products which are plenty; organisation of the labourers and workers against exploitative wage labour and inhuman working conditions in mines; organisation of women-groups on gender-specific issues and for livelihood ; conservation of natural resources and depleting chandeli ponds of Bundelkhand which were the life - line of rural agricultural ; economy and finally to reach out to the weaker section of the population living in remote villages. These issues are open for the development agencies to act upon as quickly as possible in the light of the fact that there has hardly been any voluntary efforts in this direction.

There is a need to probe further into the specific development issues of the region. The present study is generic in nature and based majorly on secondary data provides the baseline for the district concerned . But to act upon certain specific issues , more in-depth information is required . Such studies may include the issues like working conditions of bidi workers/mine workers, factors affecting the degradation of natural resources and traditional irrigation - system and so on. A long term strategy can be worked out by the collaborating development agencies to find out such issues on which specific study and research is required in the light of the possibilities of intervention on those issues.

The existing base of the voluntary organisations and community based group is sparsely scattered over a large area on different development issues . Samarthan-Oxfam, have jointly planned the strategic interventions for strengthening capacities of small and medium organisations in the region . Though both the intensive and extensive support needs of these organisation are required to be met with and collaborating agencies have planned in this direction, there is a need to identify more and more such voluntary organisation and groups in unexplored areas of the districts so that they can be included in the process of strengthening the base of civil society in the region.

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Origin of the state

Madhya Pradesh is the heartland of the country. It came into existence on November 1, 1956, during the reorganisation of states in India on the linguistic basis. It is made up of five regions namely, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal, Sironj sub division of Vidisha district and Mahakoshal. Before independence, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal were separate states while Sironj sub division of Vidisha district was the part of former Rajasthan. Mahakoshal consisted of 17 districts of pre-1956 MP.

The merger of the Vindhya Pradesh (VP) into Madhya Pradesh (MP) is noteworthy. VP consisted of the principalities and districts forming the present day districts of Datia, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna, Satna, Damoh and Rewa. Formed as a category "C" state, it commercially faced problems of food scarcity and lack of resources even to run the state administration. Thus, it was finally merged into MP. The fate of VP was a compelling force behind the merger of the principalities of Surguja (Surguja, Korea and Chhang Bhakor) and Raigarh (Raigarh, Sakti, Jashpur and Udaipur), which also contained relatively more prosperous Chhatisgarh region, into the state of M.P.

## 1.2 Geographic Features.

### 1.2.1 Physical Characteristics.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) is the largest state in the country with a geographical area of 4,43,446 Sq.Kms. It is a hill-locked state between the latitudes  $17^{\circ} 46'56''$  and  $26^{\circ} 52'40''$  North and the longitudes  $74^{\circ} 0'55''$  and  $84^{\circ} 23'54''$  East of Greenwich. It is situated in the middle of the country and is bordered by seven states namely UP, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. What is peculiar about MP is that it is one of three interior states of India, the boundaries of which neither touch sea nor any international border. It is the state which divides the fertile Gangetic plains of UP in the north from the broad tableland of Deccan Plateau. MP is the state of low hills, narrow valleys, plateaus and plains. Geographically, MP can be divided into four regions:

1. Northern mid-high regions which is a large triangular mountainous area averaging 300-400 metres above sea level and comprises of Vindhya, Malwa and Bundelkhand hilly area.
2. Narmada valley which has the extent upto Son river valley in the northeast and the Gujarat border in the west and is very fertile.
3. Satpura mountains which extend 600 km between the Narmada and Tapti rivers and
4. Eastern hilly region which comprises of the hills of Baghelkhand, the Chhattisgarh plains, Dandakaranya and the high altitude hills of Bastar.

MP contains high altitude Satpura mountains (1350 metres) on one hand and the low-level ravines of Chambal valley (150 Mt.) on the other. The major rivers of MP are Narmada, Mahanadi, Chambal, Ken, Son and Betwa. The rivers Narmada and Tapti have the peculiarity in the sense that they drain the water of Satpura and Vindhya mountains westward towards the Arabian sea.

The Western part of MP is fertile with black soil. Eastern MP is a less fertile area with red and yellow soil. The northern part of the state has the mixture of both of these soils. The mountainous high altitude region contain laterite soil.

MP has the second largest forest area in the country, next to Orissa. Almost one-third of the State is forest area, compared to one-fifth for all India.

The districts which are the part of the present study, mostly fall within the Bundelkhand hilly areas which is the part of the northern mid high regions of MP. The district Santa is the part of Baghelkhand region which is also a hilly area, bordering the Bundelkhand.

The Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions of MP are rocky and has a high percentage of barren and uncultivable land. The soil form is the mixture of black and red-yellow which is not considered very fertile. Rainfall is sparse and the agricultural production is low. Poverty level is significantly high .

Though, MP is rich in forest, Bundelkhand has lost its forest cover to a large extent. So, the forest as a means of livelihood is becoming extinct day by day. Mining of minerals and stone-quarrying has emerged as a major non-form activity but is based on exploitative wage labour.

### **1.2.2 Location/boundaries :**

Location of the districts Datia, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna and Satna together forms a half-circle in the northern-MP. Among all these districts Datia forms the north-west part while Satna is in the east. Datia is little cut-off by a trench of UP while other four are locked together.

District Datia, the smallest of all in MP, is the part of Gwalior division and is surrounded on the north and east by Bhind, on the west by Gwalior and on the south by Shivpuri and district Jhansi of UP

Tikamgarh, situated towards the west to the centre of plateau of Bundelkhand is surrounded by district Jhansi of UP in the north and Lalitpur(UP) in the west and south. So Tikamgarh is covered more by the parts of UP than that of MP. Towards its east, district Chhatarpur is situated. People of Tikamgarh have constant and regular interaction with the cities of UP namely Jhansi and Lalitpur for their daily affairs.

For Chhatarpur, rivers Ken and Dhasan form the physical boundaries on the east and west respectively. This district is surrounded on the north by district Hamirpur (UP), on the south by Damoh, on the east by Panna and on the west by Tikamgarh. The rivers Ken and Dhasan separate the districts, respectively from Panna in the east and Tikamgarh in the west.

Panna, a district with a high concentration of forest, is surrounded in its north by Banda (UP) and some parts of Satna district, in its west by Chhatarpur and Damoh, in its south by Jabalpur and in its east by Satna district.

District Satna, a part of the Rewa division, has its northern boundaries completely covered by the districts of UP. On its west, Panna is situated while its east is covered by Rewa and Sidhi. Its southern boundaries are touching the districts of Jabalpur and Shahdol.

### **Table 1.1**

## Districts under study

District	Longitude(East)	Latitude(North)	Geographical Region	Area (Sq.KM)	Population (1991)	No.of blocks	No.of tehsils	No.of villages	No.of towns	No.of household
Chhatarpur	78°59'80°26'	24°06'25°20'	Bundelkhand	8690	1158076	8	6	1076	14	196015
Datia	78°10'78°45'	25°28'26°20'	-do-	2034	396317	2	2	402	3	62942
Panna	79°45'80°40'	23°45'25°10'	-do-	7122	687945	5	5	939	6	128349
Satna	80°21'81°23'	23°58'25°12'	Baghelkhand	7495	1465384	8	5	1784	11	258818
Tikamgarh	78°26'79°26'	24°26'25°40'	Bundelkhand	5047	940829	6	5	863	12	155009

### 1.2.3 Climate, rainfall and seasons.

It is a varied climate in MP. The northern districts of Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, in particular and the whole of Bundelkhand is very hot during the summer. Winter in these areas is severe in general. The south-eastern districts- Raipur, Bastar, Bilaspur and Chhindwara - are also very hot. The climate of the western part of the state is moderate.

The monsoon comes from the southwest in mid-June and ends in mid-October. The average rainfall of the state is about 900 mm. The districts normally Raigarh, Bilaspur, Surguja, Shahdol, Raipur, Mandla and Balaghat receive high rainfall.. Winter rainfall is infrequent but important for rabi crops such as wheat, gram, barley and oil-seeds which are the backbone of agricultural economy of the state.

### 1.3 History.

As MP constitutes the central part of the country, it has witnessed the influences of history from both, northern and southern part of the nation. Vindhya divides the country in north and south.

**Table 1.2**

#### Districts - Rainfall and Temperature.

District	Average rainfall(mm)(1995-96)	Temperature Average minimum	(°C(1994) Maximum recorded	Height from sea-level(in meter)
Chhatarpur	798.2	11.6	48	182
Datia	826.5	18.0	47.0	218
Panna	992.3	13.1	47.3	355
Satna	920.0	8.0	48.0	317
Tikamgarh	820.4	11.6	47.0	426

(Source : Kshetriya Mausam Vigyan Kendra of Districts)

During the Ramayana period, King Dashrath of Ayodhya had married the princess Kaushalya of Dakshin Koshal, which is the present day Chhatisgarh of MP. Lord Rama

spent a good part of his life at Dandakaranya, present Bastar. It is interesting to note that many stories of the life of Lord Rama and his efforts to construct a dam near Rameshwaram, are depicted at a historic site, Nachna, in Panna district.

In Mahabharata, there is the mention of Chedi state, whose boundaries were touching river Betwa in the west and river Yamuna in the north. The description of this state resembles present day Bundelkhand. Shishupal was the ruler with its capital at Chanderi.

During 6th century BC, the state of Awanti was resembling present Malwa region. Other parts of the MP were either under Vatsa or under Chedi rulers. Later on, the state of Magadha emerged victorious and occupied Awanti and other states.

During Mauryan period, Prince Ashoka was the governor of the state of Awanti with its seat at Ujjain. He got married to Devi, the daughter of a trader of Vidisha. The Ashoka's inscriptions found at Sanchi, Rupnath in Jabalpur and Gujra in Datia confirm the Mauryan administration in these areas.

After the Mauryan period, a large part of MP was ruled by Shunga Kanva, Satvahanas and Kshatrapas. During third-fourth Century AD, after the fall of Kushanas, the dynasty of Nagas emerged in the regions of Gwalior, Muraina and Mathura districts. Bharshiva or Nagas were the rulers of Padmavati (Padma Pawaya in Gwalior district). They were the residents of Bundelkhand and from here only they moved towards the Gangetic plains. They performed ten Ashwamedh-Yagna to celebrate their victory over Kushanas. The Nagas of Padmavati has a special relevance in the history of India, due to their successful fight against the Kushanas who were considered the outsiders and foreigners.

Vakatakas were also important rulers and had their origin in Bundelkhand, most probably at the place called Vakata, which now resembles with Vagat region of District Tikamgarh. They had the control over Panna and Satna till 4th century AD.

From 4th century AD onwards, the mighty Guptas were having the control over whole of Central India. Under the Guptas, the Parivrajaka and Uchhalakas were ruling the different parts of Bundelkhand, till 6th century AD.

King Harshavardhan had the kingdom from Himalayas to Narmada. The south of Narmada was ruled by Chalukyas. During the 2nd half of 7th CAD, the dynasty of Gurjar- Pratihars was prominent in Malwa, from where they expanded their control. At one time, their rule was as large as that of Harsha.

With the fall of Pratihars, there emerged three major dynasties- Kalchuris of Tripuri, Parmars of Malwa and Chandelas of Bundelkhand. In the beginning of 9th CAD, Chandela dynasty was established by Nannuk. His grandson, Jejjak provided a new name to the state Jejjakbhukti. King Dhang (950-1033 AD) the son of Yashovarman Chandela, was the greatest ruler of the dynasty. His triangular state constituted Gwalior in the north, Vidisha in the south and Allahabad in the north-east. Hammirvarman (1288-1310 AD) was the last of the Chandela kings. The Chandelas created the famous Khajuraho temples.

During the first half of the 14th CAD when Chandelas were on the fall, Bundelas got the chance to take over. Bundelas claim to be the descendants of king Panchar of Kashi. Sahanpal Bundela captured Garhkundar from Khangar king and his successors ruled the areas around it till 1531 AD. In this year itself, Rudrapratap Bundela made Orchha his new capital. Rudrapratap and his son Bharatichand (1531-1544) took advantage of the political turmoil after the invasion of Babar and extended the boundaries of their kingdom across river Yamuna. Different kingdoms of Bundelkhand claim their origin from the twelve sons of

Rudrapratap Bundela. In 1545, Shershah Suri, the ruler of Delhi. This paved the way for the mughals to re-emerge. attacked on Bundelkhand and captured the fort of Kalinzar but died while entering into it.

During the reign of Madhukarshah Bundela (1554-1592) the clashes between Mughals and Bundelas started. In 1607, Birsinghdeo Bundela killed Abul Fazal, one of the nav-ratnas of Akbar, in order to win the favour of Prince Saleem (Jahangir). Birsinghdeo became the king of Orchha and was a great architect. Jujharsingh (1627-1636) was the successor of Birsinghdeo. He became the target of the anger of Shahjahan and was killed by the army of the Mughal emperor. Orchha state was annexed by Mughals but Champat Ray, one of the descendants of Raja Rudrapratap, revolted against Mughals.

Chhatrashal Bundela, the fourth son of Champat Ray, was one of the greatest Bundelas who fought for the freedom of Bundelkhand. He started his struggle in 1671, and first captured Naugaon region of Chhatarpur district. He fought for 50 years against Mughals and captured a large part of Bundelkhand with his seat of power at Panna. Bajirao Peshwa helped Chhatrashal against the Mughals.

Baghelkhand of MP came under Baghel Rajputs during 14th century AD Baghels claim their descent from Chalukyas or Solanki of Gujarat. Important Baghel kings were Arnoraj, Karna, Biramdeo (1470-1495), Virsingh (1500-1540) and Ramchandra (1556-1592). Before Independence, Maharaj Martand Singh was the ruler of Rewa. Rewa state became the part of Indian state at Independence.

Marathas ruled in MP during the medieval period. Malwa was distributed among Sindhia, Holkar and three Pawar chiefs in 1732. In the beginning, Ujjain was the seat of power for Sindhias for many years. Later on, Daulatrao Sindhia, the successor of Mahadji Sindhia, shifted its capital to Gwalior in 1810. It was a great empire with its extent in north from the boundaries of Agra to Mandsaur and in south upto Vidisha. It came under the Indian State at the time of Independence and became part of Madhya Bharat.

In MP throughout its history, different cultures, integrated. It is the land of tribes also. The concentration of various tribes along the southern boundaries of MP suggests that they were pushed down the south due to the pressure and attack from the north. Anyway, MP is the land of cultural assimilation.

#### **1.4 People and administration.**

The state has the population of 66.18 million in 1991 and land size of 443446 sq.kms. Thus the state has 8% of the country's population and 14% of the country's land area. MP is the largest state of India in terms of its area and sixth in terms of population. The literacy average is 44.20% with female literacy being as low as 28.85%. The decadal population growth rate of the state is 26.8% which is almost 2.9% higher than the national average.

Bhopal, almost in the middle of the Central and Western parts of the state, is the capital of MP. The districts, under study, namely Datia, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Satna have their headquarters of the same name. The state is divided into 12 administrative divisions 45 districts, 317 tehsils and 459 development blocks. The 12 administrative divisions of the state are - Chambal, Gwalior, Sagar, Rewa, Ujjain, Indore, Bhopal, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Bilaspur, Raipur and Bastar. While district Datia forms the part of Gwalior division, districts Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna are the parts of Sagar division. District Satna is the part of Rewa division. The administrative details are in table 1.3.

#### **1.5 Caste, Religion and Language**

As per the 1991 census, 23.27% of the state's population are Scheduled Tribes(STs) and 14.55% of the population are Scheduled Castes (SC.). MP has the largest population of Tribes in India. Most of the tribal population is concentrated towards the southern half of the state. Northern MP of which Bundelkhand and Bagelkhand are the parts, constitutes of a very small proportion of tribal population but still district Panna has 14.90% tribal population while district Satna has 13.81% of it.

**Table 1.3**

**Administrative Details.**

District	Administrative Division	Name of Blocks	Details of the blocks			
			Area (sq.km.)	Population (1991)	Village (No.)	Panchayats (No.)
1.Chhatarpur	Sagar	1.Chhatarpur	1042.32	144080	141	81
		2. Londi	787.99	113453	147	65
		3. Baxwaha	785.02	45183	112	39
		4. Naugaon	800.83	130676	115	73
		5. Rajnagar	1373.83	169373	138	84
		6.Badamalhara	1080.85	121669	152	79
		7. Bijawar	1535.22	95094	140	60
		8.Gaurihar	888.47	124335	131	73
2. Datia	Gwalior	1. Sewda	926.0	169756	194	86
		2. Datia	1108.8	226561	208	102
3. Panna	Sagar	1. Shahnagar	1646.82	123896	216	83
		2. Panna	1350.45	114740	185	73
		3. Pawai	1277.82	127353	200	80
		4. Gunnaur	967.58	132925	221	81
		5. Ajaygarh	603.20	103901	117	60
4. Satna	Rewa	1.Ramnagar	601	116488	225	72
		2.Rampur-Baghelan	874	162618	209	95
		3 Sohawal	772	135774	213	86
		4.Uchehra	897	111917	202	66
		5. Nagod	916	143449	240	93
		6. Amar Patan	652	133192	165	72
		7. Maihar	1125	202832	238	121
		8. Majhgawan	1584	169950	292	89
Tikamgarh	Sagar	1.Newari	606	126378	131	66
		2. Prithivipur	958.62	102885	126	62
		3. Tikamgarh	867.60	121735	154	74
		4. Palera	748.22	127298	135	70
		5. Jatara	1008.60	166313	166	90
		6. Baldeogarh	858.96	136183	151	77

Scheduled Caste population is considerable in all the districts, namely Datia, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Satna. It is above the national and state percentage for each of these districts. In district Datia, where the tribal population is negligible (1.71%) scheduled caste population is 24.67% of its population. It is the highest percentage of SC population in any of the districts in MP. The detail is shown in table 1.4

In the state, around 93% of the population is Hindu, 5% is Muslim and 2% follow other religions. Districtwise detail is given in Table 1.4

So far as the languages of the state are concerned, the major language is Hindi which is spoken by 84% of the population. Marathi is spoken by 2% and Urdu by 2%. Urdu is spoken mostly by Muslims.

<b>Major Tribes in Bundelkhand/Northern MP</b>		
S.No	Name of the District tribe	
1	Biar, Biyar	Tikamgarh
2	Saur, Sawur	Tikamgarh/Chhatapur
3	Sonta	Tikamgarh/Chhatapur
4	Soner	Tikamgarh
5	Kol	Panna/Satna
6	Manjhasi	Panna/Satna
7	Mawasi	Panna
8	Agaria	Panna
9	Bhaini	Satna
10	Dhanuk	Datia/Satna
11	Saharia	Datia
12	Bedia caste	Panna/Chhatapur

**Major Backward castes (BC)/Scheduled Castes(SC) in Northern MP**

Dhimar (BC), Ahirwar (SC) Nai(BC), Dhobi (BC), Basorh(SC), Gadaria (BC), Mehtar (SC), Sondhia (SC), Chadar (SC), Bunkar (BC), Banskar (SC), Kumhar (SC), Jogi(BC), Kori (SC), Chipri (BC), Raikwar (BC), Manjhi(BC), Kewat (BC), Lodhi(BC), Yadav (BC), Jatav (SC), Bhoi(BC), Teli (BC), Kalar(SC), Lohar (BC), Barhai (BC), Khatik(SC), Bedia (BC).

### 1.6 Cultural Heritage.

MP, a land of ancient culture and traditional, is famous for its archaeological monuments and places of pilgrimage for all the religions, Hindu, Muslims, Jains and Buddhists. While Ujjain city, on the bank of river Kshipra is famous for Kumbha Mela, the famous Sanchi stupa near Vidisha, is a place of pilgrimage for Buddhists from all over the world. Bhopal has one of the largest mosques in Asia, while Jain temples are scattered all over MP.

Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand have a rich cultural background. Chandelas and Bundelas rulers of Bundelkhand were great builders and created numerous forts, palaces and temples. The region is full of temples, particularly that of Lord Shiva. Chandelas created a large number of ponds now known as Chandeli-ponds in this region for irrigation and drinking water supply.

A famous place of tourist and religious attraction, Orchha, is situated in the district of Tikamgarh. It was the capital of Bundelas before it got shifted to Tikamgarh due to vulnerable strategic position of Orchha in later days. In the background of river Betwa, the fort and numerous temples of Orchha provide

a picturesque view. The buildings of Orchha and Datia are magnificent and tell the tales of the creativity of Bundela rulers. Tikamgarh is also religiously famous for its temples of Lord Rama in the Orchha, and the one named Kundeshwar Mahadeo Mandir, near Tikamgarh township.

Datia is known for its buildings and palaces built by Bundelas, particularly that of Virsinghdeo. Some of them are unique. Datia also has a famous 'Saktipeeth' which attracts a lot of people for religious worship. It also has a famous Jain Temple. Datia has always strived for preserving the original Bundela culture, its language and traditions. At present, there are numerous theatrical and literacy groups in Datia, which are trying to preserve and propagate its cultural heritage.

Panna, too, has a rich cultural base. The famous Bundela chief, Chhatrashal, had made Panna his capital. District Chhatarpur is named after him. Panna, is known as 'town of temples'. There is a mythical story telling that Saint Prabhunath told to his disciple, Chhatrashal that on one particular night whatever area will be covered by him sitting on the back of his horse, will find the mine of diamond beneath the earth. So are the diamond mines in Panna. As a reverence to Saint Prabhunath, Chhatrashal constructed numerous temples, mostly attributed to Lord Shiva. It is said that there are as many as eleven-hundred ancient temples in the district.

Khajuraho, the famous tourist attraction in India, is situated in the district of Chhatarpur. Khajuraho has a range of temples with erotic love-making stone-carved scenes on the outer walls. They were created by the Chandela kings who ruled Bundelkhand, before the rise of Bundela in the region.

Satna has a ancient temple of Goddess Bhawani at a place called Maihar. During Durgapuja, thousands of pilgrims from all over the country gather there for worshipping the Goddess.

**Table:1.4**

**Caste/Religion(%ge)**

District	Scheduled caste	Scheduled Tribe	Religion		
			Hindu	Muslims	Jains
1.Chhatarpur	23.70	3.75	95.35	3.70	0.79
2. Datia	24.67	1.71	95.77	3.63	0.10
3. Panna	20.40	14.90	96.00	3.30	0.61
4. Satna	17.85	13.81	97.05	2.59	0.21
5.Tikamgarh	22.75	4.13	95.51	2.96	1.49
M P	14.55	23.27	93.00	5	-

Source:1981 census.

**1.7 Political Scenario.**

In Bundelkhand, at the top of the social, hierarchy are the castes like Rajputs Brahmins, Kayesthas, Jains and Banias, who have the control either over the major chunk of land holdings or on the trade and business. Naturally, they have been influencing the politics

of the region from the beginning. The middle castes like Lodhi and Yadavs are now emerging on the political scene after the 'mandalisation' of politics. The Scheduled Castes are getting organised now under the banner of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and have shown their political strength in Satna Parliamentary Constituency in last election (1996) which BSP won. But still the 'unholy trinity' of landlord, money lender and trader continues to hold the centre stage of politics and money and muscle power rules the politics.

The concerned districts of northern MP don't fall under a single parliamentary constituency (see table 1.5). They are divided into Bhind, Khajuraho, Damoh and Satna constituencies. In all these constituencies, most of the times the member of parliament has been from the upper caste. Partywise the fight has been most between Congress and Jansangh/BJP. But in the beginning of Parliamentary democracy, and in early elections, Samajwadi/Socialists leaders, under the banner of Praja Socialists Party, Samyukta Socialist Party or Socialist Party, have made their serious presence felt in the region. Even today, a large number of leaders in this region owe their birth under the socialist parties. Socialist present was felt till 1971 parliamentary election and later on it merged with Janata Party. Jansangh made its clear influence from the very beginning in this area. In Bhind, Jansangh won the parliamentary elections as early as in 1967 and 71 and continuously from 1989 onwards under the banner of BJP. In Damoh also BJP has taken over the Congress from 1989 elections onwards. What is interesting in Khajuraho parliamentary constituency is that from 1980 onwards, it is being represented by one or the other female member in parliament. Initially it was represented by congress member Mrs Vidyawati Chaturvedi and now (1989 onwards) by Ms Uma Bharati of BJP. Satna represents the emergence of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) which won it in 1996 elections. BSP became a third power centre (apart from BJP and congress) from 1991 elections onwards. Not only in Satna, but in all the constituencies of the Bundelkhand and Vindhya, BSP is becoming a major political force.

Vidhansabha (Legislative Assembly) elections represent the true picture of local power relations. Among all the districts, Sewda in Datia, Khargapur in Tikamgarh, Maharajpur in Chhatarpur, Amanaganj in Panna and Raigaon in Satna, are the reserved Vidhansabha constituencies for SC. Interestingly, all these reserved seats except that of Amanganj in Panna, are presently being represented by BJP. But congress is still the largest party in terms of representation of legislative seats of these districts, put together. In Datia, though, BSP has made its presence felt from 1990 elections onwards, it has not been able to win the seats. In Tikamgarh, Newari has interesting record. It has never elected a Jansangh/BJP representative and was the witness of socialist influence in early days of democratic elections. It has the tendency to go against ruling party and is the only constituency in the region which is being represented by Brahmin, except once by a Yadav and a Thakur. Similarly, Tikamgarh legislative constituency has almost always been represented by a Thakur, mostly under congress party. Jatara had the influence of socialist in the beginning but they never came to the mainstream politics. At present, it is being represented by Congress defected BSP member. BSP is trying to organise scheduled castes/backward castes/muslims/tribes into a political force.

Chhatarpur district has four legislative constituencies and three of these are being represented by Congress. The major power blocks are Congress and BJP. Socialists (Samajwadis) lost ground after 1970s and BSP is trying to make a stronghold. So at present only existing two major parties are fighting with each other. Bijawar constituency and Chandla, as well, has seen most of the time a Thakur or a Brahmin getting elected to the legislative.

In Panna, all the three seats are being represented by the Congress. Jansangh/BJP has been active in the district since early 60s. In 1962 election they won the Pawai seat. Samajwadis, though present, never posed a threat to congress.

In district Satna, there are 7 legislative constituencies. Three are being represented by BJP, two by Congress and two by BSP. In the early years, a party named Ram Rajya Parishad was very active in the district, particularly in Maihar and Chitrakoot constituencies. Jansangh and Socialists were also active. Now the Congress and BJP are trying to balance the politics of the region. Thakurs still have the hold in the politics, particularly in Maihar, Nagod and Rampur Baghelan.

**Table : 1.5**

**Legislative-constituencies & Parliamentary constituency**

District	Legislative-constituencies	Parliamentary constituency
Datia	1 Sewda(SC) 2. Datia	Bhind
Tikamgarh	1. Jatara 2. Newari 3. Tikamgarh 4. Khargapur(SC)	Khajuraho
Chhatarpur	1.Bijawar 2.Chandla 3.Chhatarpur 4.Maharajpur(SC)	Khajuraho
Panna	1.Panna, 2.Amanganj, 3.Pawai (SC)	Damoh
Satna	1. Maihar 2. Nagod 3. Raigarh(SC) 4. Chitrakoot 5. Satna 6. Ramapur-Baghelan 7. Amarpatan	Satna

Overall, politics in Bundelkhand and northern MP is presently centred around higher caste and higher ups among backward castes. The tassel is between Congress and BJP with BSP fast emerging as a third force. The congress and the BJP have almost the same vote banks. Most of the time it is the caste of the candidates and the ground work done by the party workers, that makes one victorious. Muscle and money power have always played a role in politics. The feudal nature of Bundelkhand makes it more severe. Politics in this region is highly criminalised. Social issues, concerning the mass, is always marginalised and election are fought only to represent the region, not the people in true sense.

## Chapter - 2 Demography

### 2.1 Demographic - Characteristics.

Madhya Pradesh, the largest state of India in terms of its area, is the sixth largest in terms of population. Out of the total population of state, women contribute 48.22% as per census of 1991 resulting in the sex ratio of 931 females per 1000 males which has considerably decreased from 941 in 1981. But it is still better than the national average of 927 for 1000 males. The population growth rate of MP is little higher than the national growth rate. In fact mortality rate in MP is much higher than that of the corresponding figure of the country. For the year 1991, infant mortality rate was 104 per 1000 birth in MP which is higher than the national average of 79 in India.

The total fertility rate (TFR) of 4.6 children is also much higher than the national average of 3.6 children per women. The couple protection rate (CPR), as estimated by Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Govt of MP in 1996 is 53.45 while it was 38.8 in 1991 for MP as compared to 43.5 for India in 1991.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Crude Death Rate (CDR), both were higher than the national average. While CBR (1992, provisional) for MP was 34.4 per 1000 population, it was considerably higher than the figure of 29.0 for India. Similarly CDR (1992, provisional) for MP was 12.7 per 1000 population, while it was 10.0 for India. It is worth noting that total fertility rate has shown downward trend over a period of 21 years.

Though, infant mortality rate (IMR) in MP has declined considerably but its trend from 1971 to 1991 has not shown uniform decline. In 1981, it had gone up to 142 as compared to 135 in 1971.

Life expectancy for MP (1986-91) has shown the gap between the male and female. While for male it was 56.2 yrs as compared to 58.1 for India, for female it was 54.7 only as compared to national figure of 59.1 yrs.

Couple Protection Rate (CPR) is increasing rapidly as per the recent survey done by the Govt of MP while the figure for 1991 is only 38.8, though it has gone up in 1996. (Table 2.1).

### 2.2 Inter-District Analysis:

If we analyse the inter-district variations on the basic demographic indicators of MP, we will come across various interesting deviations (table 2.2). Datia is the smallest district of MP and is smallest in the population size also. Its population comprises of 0.59% of the total population of the state Raipur district of MP has ten times bigger population than that of Datia. Out of the five districts, under study, Satna has the largest population, followed by Chhatarpur.

As far as the population growth rate is concerned for the last census decade, Chhatarpur showed the highest growth of 30.61% followed by Tikamgarh with 27.66%. It is interesting to note that Chhatarpur occupies the central place on the Bundelkhand plateau and is typical of the regional culture. It is also worth noting that districts adjoining Chhatarpur, like Panna in the east and Tikamgarh on the west have also shown higher decadal growth rate than the farther districts, like Datia and Satna. The total fertility rate (TFR) has also shown exactly the similar trend with Chhatarpur showing the highest of 6.6 per women, followed by Tikamgarh and Panna with 6.1 and 5.9 children per woman respectively. Satna registered the lowest growth and TFR, from among these five districts.

Density of population shows the reverse trend. Satna which registered the lowest decadal growth rate of the five districts, has the highest density of 195, followed by Datia and Tikamgarh. Chhatarpur has shown one of the least density with only 133/km<sup>2</sup>. Panna has a special case with the lowest density of 96 because of its large forest cover where population is very scarce. Only Chhatarpur and Panna has the density which is lower than the average of MP. Others have much higher densities than the state average.

All these districts have a lower urban population in comparison to state average. Among the districts, Datia has the highest percentage of urban population which is 22.45%, followed by Satna with 19.73%. Panna has the lowest urban population, that is only 13.02%.

So far as the sex ratio is concerned, all the districts have it much lower than the state average. Satna has the highest of 918 females per 1000 males. Datia has the lowest of 847, followed by Chhatarpur with 856 females per 1000 males. There might be reasons behind Datia having the lowest sex-ratio among these districts. One of them is that Datia is the part of Gwalior-Chambal division which records the lowest average sex-ratio in the country due to various socio-historical reasons. It has been a Rajput dominated, Decoit-infested region where girl-child is very much neglected, at times to the extent of infanticide.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is highest in the district of Chhatarpur with 42.6 child birth per 1000 population, followed by Panna with 42.2 and Tikamgarh with 42.1. These rates are very high in comparison to the state average of 34.4 child births per 1000 population. So all the above trends show the backwardness of the districts.

Infant mortality rate in northern MP districts is much higher than the state average. The highest among these districts has been recorded at Tikamgarh with 195 per 1000. It has been followed by Panna and Chhatarpur with respective figures of 185 and 182 per 1000. Datia has the lowest amongst these with the figure of 156, which in itself is a high rate.

**Table 2.1**  
**Trends in Basic Demographic Indicators : MP and India.**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>MP 1971</b>	<b>MP 1981</b>	<b>MP 1991</b>	<b>India 1991</b>
1. Population	41,654,119	52,178,844	66,181,170	846,302,688
2. Percent population increase (Previous decade)	28.7	25.3	26.8	23.9
3. Density(population/km <sup>2</sup> )	94	118	149	273
4. Percent Urban	16.3	20.3	23.2	26.1
5. Sex ratio	941	941	931	927
6. Percent 0-14 yrs old	43.7	41.2	38.1	36.3
7. Percent 65 + yrs old	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.8
8. Percent S.C	13.1	14.1	14.5	16.48
9. Percent S T	20.1	23.0	23.3	8.08
10. Percent Literate				
· Male	32.7	39.7	58.4	64.1
· Female	10.9	15.5	28.8	39.3
Total	22.1	27.9	44.2	52.2
11. Exponential growth rate	2.52	2.25	2.38	2.14
12. Total fertility rate	5.6	5.2	4.6	3.6
13. Infant mortality rate	135	142	104	79
14. Couple Protection Rate	9.9	21.5	38.8	43.5

### **2.3 Nuptiality & Couple Protection Rate**

MP has one of the lowest mean age at marriage for both males and females, in the country. Though there has been substantial increase in it through last four decades, it is still low, particularly in rural areas and further low in backward districts of the state. Table 2.3 presents Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) computed from the 1961, 1971 and 1981 censuses the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), for both males and females. Female values of SMAM from the NFHS are 19.7 years in urban areas, 16.7 in rural areas and 17.4 overall. The values of SMAM in backward districts resemble the values of

**Table 2.2**  
**Inter district comparisons on Basic Demographic Indicators (1991)**

Indicators	MP	Districts				
		Chhatarpur Tikamgarh	Datia	Panna	Satna	
1. Population						
· Male	34267293	623878	214529	362727	763983	502822
· Female	31913877	534198	181788	325218	701401	438007
Total	66181170	1158076	396317	687945	1465384	940829
2. Population increase(%)	26.8	30.61	27.07	27.40	27.05	27.66
3. Density(Pop/km <sup>2</sup> )	149	133	194	96	195	186
4.% Urban	23.2	19.30	22.45	13.02	19.73	16.90
5. Sex ratio	931	856	847	897	918	871
6*% 0-14 yrs old	38.1	42.45	41.36	42.52	41.80	42.51
7*.% 65+ yrs old	3.8	3.98	3.30	3.95	3.72	3.65
8.% SC	14.55	23.70	24.67	20.40	17.85	22.75
9. % ST	23.27	3.75	1.71	14.90	13.81	4.13
10.Literate: ** (%)						
· Male	58.42	37.43	48.54	39.02	47.83	37.95
· Female	28.85	16.71	18.82	15.26	22.02	15.72
Total	44.20	27.87	34.91	26.68	35.48	27.60
11.Total fertility rate(84.9)	4.6	6.6	5.8	5.9	5.7	6.1
12.Crude Birth Rate(84.9)	34.4	42.6	39.5	42.2	40.7	42.1
13.Infant Mortality Rate	104	182	156	185	181	195
14.Couple Protection Rate (1996)	53.45	39.98	59.38	50.14	42.51	60.33
15.Life Ex pectency	NA	41.6	44.3	41.3	44.5	40.8

\* The data available on these indicators for districts are from 1981 census.

\*\* The literacy-rate for districts in rural literacy -rate (1991)

SMAM in the state as a whole. On average, male marry 5 yrs later than females. Marriage ages are consistently higher in urban areas, with urban men marrying about 4 years later than rural man, and urban women marrying 3 years later than rural women.

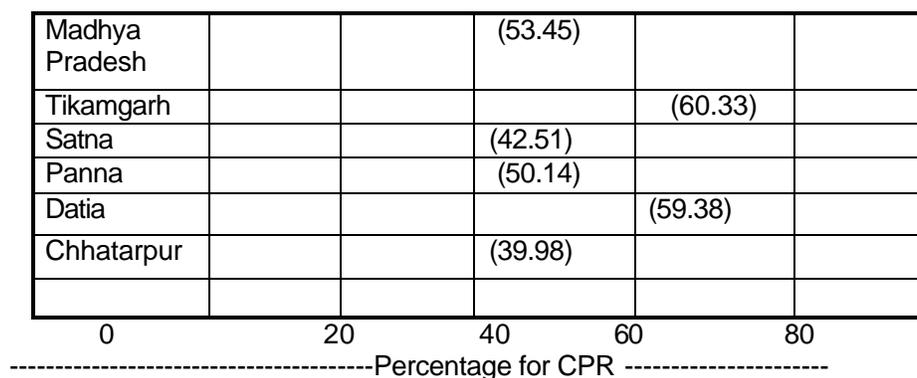
**Table 2.3**  
**Singulate mean age at marriage from selected sources, MP (1961-92)**

Source	Singulate mean age at marriage		
<b>1961 Census</b>	18.7	13.9	4.8
<b>1971 Census</b>	19.5	15.0	4.5
<b>1981 Census</b>	20.8	16.6	4.2
<b>1992 NFHS</b>			
<b>Urban</b>	24.9	19.7	5.2
<b>Rural</b>	21.0	16.7	4.3
<b>Total</b>	22.0	17.4	4.6
<b>Backward Districts</b>	21.7	17.4	4.3

Source :National Family Health Survey, Madhya Pradesh 1992

Couple Protection Rate (CPR) is giving a positive picture for the state of MP. While in 1991, it was 38.8.% for MP, it went up to 53.45 % according to a target couple survey conducted by Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of MP, 1996.

#### Couple Protection Rate, 1996.



Among the concerned districts, Tikamgarh is well ahead of state average with CPR at the 60.33 % while Datia follows with 59.38% of eligible couples effectively protected against pregnancy. All other three districts have CPR well below the state average. It is worth noting that Chhatarpur district has the lowest CPR in the state with only 39.98% eligible couples protected against pregnancy.

## 2.4 Districtwise analysis

### 2.4.1 District Chhatarpur :

District Chhatarpur with its population of 11,58,076, has 6 tehsils and 8 blocks. The name of six tehsils are- Gaurihar, Loundi, Naugaon, Chhatarpur, Rajnagar and Bijawar. While all the tehsils have blocks of the same names, only Bijawar tehsil have two more blocks, namely Bada Malhara & Bakswah apart from Bijawar itself. While the blocks deal with only rural

population, say the villages, tehsils deal in with both rural and urban populace, which means villages as well as towns (Municipalities and town areas).

The comparison between the blocks of Chhatarpur on basic demographic indicators provides interesting picture. Women contribute 46.12% of the total population of the district Chhatarpur. While the decadal population increased for district has been 30.61%, in most of the blocks it has been lower than the district average, except block Rajnagar where it was recorded as 31.73%. It is interesting to note that block Bakswah has registered a negative decadal population increase. The causes for that need to be explored. Bakswah has also the least population in the district and the lowest density with just 58 people residing in one sq.km area. Bakswah has the highest sex ratio (871) in the district and one of the largest population of Scheduled Tribe i.e. 11.97 % next to the 13.52% of Bijawar block(see table 2.4)

It is noteworthy that all the three blocks of Bijawar tehsil, namely Bada Malhara, Bakswah and Bijawar have registered relatively low population increase and are scarcely populated. They have the large concentration of scheduled tribe population with Bijawar block having the highest percentage at 13.52. So far as the literacy rate is concerned, it is comparatively lower in these three blocks, the lowest being in block Bijawar with 18.32%.

Blocks Gaurihar and Loundi have highest concentration of SC population in the district. Both of these are among the most literate blocks of the district but what it contrasting in the case of block Gaurihar is that it being the most literate with 34.11% has the least Couple Protection Rate (CPR) in the whole state of MP with just 22.85% of its eligible couples effectively protected against pregnancy.

**Table 2.4**

**Inter block comparisons on Basic Demographic Indicators:District Chhatarpur 1991)**

Indicators	Chhatarpur	B l o c k s							
		Gaurihar Badamalhara	Loundi Bakswah	Naugaon Bijawar	Chhatarpur	Rajnagar			
1.Population:									
Male	6,23,878	67,588	61459	70654	75605	87377	65735		
Female	5,34,198	56,747	24149	51278					
Total	1158,066	124,335	51994	60022	65705	75455	55934		
			21034	43816					
			113453	130676	141310		162832		
			121669	45183	5094				
2.% Population increase (81-91)	30.61	23.91	27.01	29.59	30.05	31.73	21.05	-7.15	24.11
3.Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )	133	140	144	163	136	119	113	58	62
4.Sex ratio	856	840	846	850	869	864	851	871	854
5. % SC	23.70	28.55	29.27	26.31	24.78	21.10	26.78	18.27	22.47
6. % ST	3.75	0.18	1.01	0.40	2.66	5.76	6.85	11.97	13.52

7.	%									
Literate		37.43	39.08	35.15	36.82	29.15	30.81	27.62	32.99	25.88
Male		16.71	12.74	11.95	13.30	10.55	11.72	8.84	11.03	9.46
Female		27.87	27.06	24.51	26.01	20.51	21.97	18.99	22.77	18.32
Total										
8.	Couple Protection Rate(1996)	39.98	22.85	47.59	40.02	47.65	39.43	39.07	45.32	35.19

**Table: 2.5**  
**Population, sex-ratio and CPR in Towns: District Chhatarpur (1991)**

Sl.No	Town	Population		%Population Increase('81-'91)	Sex ratio	Couple Protection Rate (1996)
		Male	Female			
1.	Chhatarpur	40885 34709		45.09	849	45.91
2.	Naugaon	11532 9989		29.19	866	68.71
3.	Kajuraho	3528 3013		39.76	854	41.62
4.	Harpalpur	5681 4844		42.46	853	36.16
5.	Maharajpur	10063 8875		22.87	882	29.66
6.	Garhimalhara	7193 6405		36.70	890	42.39
7.	Loundi	6755 5700		41.99	844	49.60
8.	Chandla	4354 3572		41.76	820	56.98
9.	Barigarh	3987 3222		26.05	808	29.90
10.	Bijawar	8304 7466		31.92	899	27.30
11.	Bara Malhara	5913 5232		NA	885	37.80
12.	Baxwaha	3976 3471		NA	873	46.38
13.	Ghuwara	4306 3863		NA	897	39.40
14.	Satai	3556 3130		NA	880	48.45

NA = Not available.

#### 2.4.2 District Datia

Datia is the smallest district of MP, in terms of both the area and the population. The two rural blocks, Sewda and Datia are the part of the two tehsils of the same names. These two blocks have shown the percent population increase lower than the district average. Density

in block Datia is higher than Sewda. Sex ratio of Datia block is better than sewda. Both the blocks have almost similar percentage (see table 2.6) of Scheduled Caste while block Sewda has a negligible percentage of ST. Literacy rate in block Sewda is slightly better than block Datia and this perhaps is the cause behind a high couple protection rate in block Sewda in comparison to block Datia.

District Datia has three towns (see table 2.7), the biggest being Datia itself. Indergarh the smallest town in district, has registered a high percentage of Couple Protection Rate, the exact figure being 75.73 % which is very high in comparison to other towns of the district.

**Table : 2.6**  
**Inter Block comparisons on Basic Demographic Indicators District Datia (1991).**

Indicators	Datia	Blcok:Sewda	Block:Datia
1. Population: Male	2,14,529	79,262	87,770
Female	1,81,788	66,006	74,314
Total	3,96,317	1,45,268	1,62,084
2. % population in crease ('81-'91)	27.07	18.98	25.83
3. Density	194	183	204
4. Sex ratio	847	831	860
5. % Scheduled Caste	24.67	25.11	24.35
6. % Scheduled Tribe	1.71	0.24	2.81
7. % Literate:			
· Male	48.54	45.67	44.42
· Female	18.82	12.62	12.82
Total	34.91	30.75	29.93
8. Couple Protection Rate(1996)	59.38	64.80	58.27

### 2.4.3 District Panna.

District Panna has five tehsils and five blocks. Each tehsil has one block of the same name. Among the blocks, Ajaigarh has shown the highest decadal population increase with 28.32 %, followed by Shahnagar with 27.36 %. Ajaigarh is also the most densely populated block of the district with its density at 172 persons per sq.kilometer. Block Shahnagar has the lowest density i.e. 75, and has the highest percentage (28.70) of ST population in the district. Ajaigarh has the lowest percentage of ST in the district (see table 2.8), lowest sex ratio (866) alongwith blocks Shahnagar, lowest percentage of literacy (20.97) followed by block Shahnagar (22.62%) and the lowest percentage of couple protection rate with only 40.09 % of eligible couples protected against pregnancy.

**Table: 2.7**  
**Population, Sex-ratio and CPR in towns : District Datia (1991)**

S.No	Town	Population Female	Male	Increase in population	Sex ratio	CPR(1996)
1.	Datia	34045	30432	30.56	894	48.47
2.	Sewda	8436	6937	32.47	822	45.42
3.	Indergarh	5016	4099	NA	817	75.73

**Table2.8**  
**Inter-block comparisons on Basic Demographic Indicators District:Panna(1991)**

Indicators	Panna	Blocks				
		Panna	Pawai	Shahnagar	Gunaur	Ajaigarh
1. Population:						
· Male	3,62,727	60,695	67,105	64,421	69,401	55,676
· Female	3,25,218	54,045	60,338	59,475	93,524	48,225
Total	6,87,945	114,740	127,353	123,896	132,925	103901
2. % Population increase (81-91)	27.40	16.62	17.82	27.36	13.60	28.32
3. Density (population/km <sup>2</sup> )	96	82	99	75	137	172
4. Sex ratio	897	892	900	866	915	866
5. %SC	20.40	19.88	22.76	16.71	24.48	20.73
6. % ST	14.90	21.69	13.88	28.70	9.07	856
7. % Literate						
· Male	39.92	34.09	32.69	33.25	35.77	31.45
· Female	15.26	13.69	11.74	11.10	12.87	8.86
Total	26.68	24.48	22.76	22.62	24.83	20.97
8. Couple Protection Rate(1996)	50.14	57.40	47.38	61.38	45.20	40.09

**Table :2.9**  
**Population, increase, Sex-ratio and CPR in towns: Distt Panna (1991)**

S.No.	Town	Population Male Female	Decadal Increase (81-91)	Sex ratio	CPR (1996)
1	Panna	22795 19715	27	863	46.95
2	Devendra Nagar	5829 5263	130	903	60.86
3	Ajaigarh	6639 5637	17	852	50.59
4	Kakarhati	3140 2735	45	871	49.61
5	Amanganj	4403 3845	67	873	49.50
6	Pawai	5075 4400	45	867	35.44

Blocks Shahnagar, Panna and Pawai have large concentration of Scheduled Tribe population while block Gunaur has the highest percentage of SC population, i.e. 24.48%. Block Shahnagar has interestingly registered the highest couple protection rate with 61.38% followed by block Panna with 57.40%.

District Panna has six towns (see table 2.9). Among these, Devendranagar has shown the highest population increase with 130%. It has also the best sex-ratio in comparison to other towns of the district. It is worth noting here that this town is growing as a centre of sex-workers. Devendranagar has also registered the highest couple protection rate with 60.86% of its eligible couples protected against pregnancy.

#### **2.4.4 District-Satna.**

District Satna has five tehsils and eight blocks. Tehsil Raghurajnagar comprises of blocks Majhgawa and Sohawal, tehsil Rampur Baghelan comprises of only one block of the same name, tehsil Nagod comprises of two blocks namely Nagod and Uchhehara, tehsil Amarpatan also has two blocks namely Amarpatan and Ramnagar and tehsil Maihar comprises of only one block of the same name.

Population-wise, block Maihar is the largest block of the district, followed by Majhgawa and Rampur Baghelan. Decadal population increase has also been the highest (28.48%) in block Maihar, followed by block Nagod and Uchehara (see table 2.10). Density of population is highest (204) in block Amar Patan, closely followed by block Ramnagar with 194. These two densely populated blocks also have the best sex-ratio in the district. Block Majhgawa has the least density (107) and the lowest sex ratio (895) in the district.

The percentage of SC is highest (26.29) in block Sohawal, closely followed by block Nagod with 24.51%. Block Ramnagar has the lowest percentage of SC (13.28%), but the highest percentage of ST (24.80%) in the district. Blocks Maihar, Uchehara and Majghawa have considerable population of ST in the district.

Among all the Blocks of district Satna, literacy percentage of block Maihar is lowest with overall 26.62%, followed by blocks Majghawa and Ramnagar with their respective figures of 28.11 and 28.31%. Block Sohawal has the highest literacy rate with 36.30%, which is little higher than the district average.

Couple Protection Rate (CPR) is highest in block Ramnagar, where 55.22% of eligible couples are protected against the pregnancy. Block Rampur Baghelan closely follows with the figures of 52.24% coverage. CPR is the lowest in block Majhgawa with 29.97 % coverage, followed by both Maihar with 35.64% coverage.

District Satna has eleven towns. Among them, towns Satna and Madhavgarh are growing fast in comparison to other towns. Kothi has the most favourable sex-ratio with figure 927 while town Satna has the least with figure 850. The town Jaitwara, which has registered the least decadal increase in population, i.e. 22.70%, has also shown logically highest couple protection rate with the figure of 73.86%.(see table 2.11). Madhavgarh, which is growing fast, has the lowest couple protection rate with just 25% of eligible couples protected effectively against pregnancy.

**Table:2.10**

**Inter-Block Comparison as Basic Demographic Indicator District Satna (1991).**

Indicators	Satna	Blocks							
		Majhgawa	Sohawal	Rampur Baghelan	Nagod	Uchehara	AmarPatan	Ramnagar	Maihar
1. Population									
Male	763983	89689	70830	83392	74927	58200	68147	59575	104996
Female	702401	80261	64942	79226	68522	53717	65045	56913	97836
Total	1465384	169950	1356774	162618	143449	111917	133192	116488	202832
2. % Population Increase (81-91)	27.05	14.09	17.24	20.74	26.55	25.84	23.15	19.59	28.48
3. Density	195	107	176	186	156	125	204	194	180
4. sex ratio	918	895	917	950	915	923	954	955	932
5. % S C	17.85	17.99	26.29	16.42	24.51	17.73	13.66	13.28	16.18
6. % ST	13.81	18.88	10.46	11.20	8.95	19.73	13.28	24.,80	21.09
7. %Literate									
Male	47.83	40.89	48.76	48.29	43.84	41.90	46..58	41.11	41.80
Female	22.02	13.82	22.66	21.80	19.00	16.55	18.65	14.91	14.47
Total	35.48	28.11	36.30	35.38	31.98	29.73	32.94	28.31	26.62
8. Couple Protection Rate(1996)	42.51	29,97	46.63	52.24	44.68	45.41	42.79	55.22	35.64

**Table 2.11**

**Population, Sex ratio and CPR in Towns: Distt. Satna (1991)**

S.No.	Town	Population		% Increase in population(81-91)	Sex ratio	CPR(1996)
		Male	Female			
1	Satna	86744	73756	66.03	850	66.80
2	Maihar	13720	12490	29.39	910	34.17
3	Nagod	7717	6719	33.28	871	44.32
4	Uchehara	7766	6991	23.19	900	32.17
5	Amar Patan	7847	7183	31.23	915	35.32
6	Virsinghpur	5235	4649	30.85	888	33.30
7	Jaitwara	5925	5414	22.70	914	73.86
8	Madhavgarh	1988	1787	57.32	899	25.00
9	RampurBaghelan	6371	5852	23.38	919	38.39
10	Kotar	5101	4713	25.58	924	30.86
11	Kothi	5807	5383	28,95	927	46.35

## 2.4.5 District Tikamgarh.

District Tikamgarh is divided into five tehsils and six blocks. Tehsils Tikamgarh, Baldeogarh, Jatara, Newari and Prithivipur have the blocks of the same names while another block named Palera is the part of Jatara tehsil. Population-wise, block Jatara is the largest and Prithivipur is the smallest block in the district (see table 2.12). But Prithivipur has shown the highest percentage of population increase during 1981-1992, closely followed by block Palera. Block Newari had the lowest percentage of population increase during the last centres decade. But Newari is the most densely populated block with 208 persons residing in one sq.km area. Prithivipur has the lowest density (107) of population, but has the most favourable sex ratio (907) in comparison to other blocks. Palera has the least favourable sex ratio (855) in the district.

Block Palera has the highest concentration of SC population i.e. 27.07% of the total population of the block. Newari also has a high concentration (26.02%) of SC.

Block Newari has the highest percentage of literacy i.e. 32.60%, from among all the blocks of the district. The lowest is in Baldeogarh. Block with just 20.93% of its population literate. The overall literacy rate in all the blocks of Tikamgarh is relatively poor.

Couple Protection Rate (CPR) is highest in Newari Block, where 66.35% of eligible couples are effectively protected against pregnancy. Newari is the block which has close linkages with the areas of Uttarpradesh and has progressive farming of cash crops and vegetables. So, the block is comparatively better literacy rate as well as CPR shows that the block's progressive. Prithivipur, too has a high CPR i.e. 63.15%. Baldeogarh and Jatara are lagging behind in CPR in comparison to other blocks.

**Table : 2.12**  
**Inter-Block comparison on Basic Demographic Indicators,**  
**Distt. Tikamgarh (1991)**

Indicators	Tikamgarh	Block					
		Tikamgarh Newari	Baldeogarh Prithivipur	Jatara	Palera		
1. Population:							
Male	502,822	64,948	72,551	89,454	68,442	67,733	54869
Female	438,007	56,787	63,632	76,859	58,856	58,645	48016
Total	940,829	121,735	136,183	166,313	127,298	126378	102885
2. Percent population increase(81-91)	27.66	15.77	19.76	18.90	27.50	14.60	30.60
3. Density	186	140	158	164	170	208	107
4. Sex ratio	871	874	877	859	855	885	907
5. % SC	22.75	22.61	19.65	23.41	27.97	26.02	20.61
6. % ST	4.13	4.84	4.86	4.57	4.14	3.64	5.62
7. % Literate							
Male	37.95	30.92	29.01	33.85	35.16	45.92	33.87
Female	15.72	10.01	10.01	12.34	11.54	17.21	11.30
Total	27.60	21.17	20.13	23.91	24.24	32.60	23.34
8. Couple Protection Rate(1996)	60.33	62.12	54.58	56.31	60.78	66.35	63.15

**Table: 2.13**  
**Population, sex ratio and CPR in towns: Distt.Tikamgarh (1991)**

S.no.	Town	Population		Percentage Increase in Population (81-91)	Sex ratio	CPR (1991)
		Male	Female			
1	Tikamgarh	28637	25536	27.80	892	70.97
2	Baragaon	3683	3428	-	930	51.92
3	Kari	3522	3127	-	888	44.57
4	Baldeogarh	3114	2846	-	814	68.44
5	Khargapur	5234	4609	41.14	881	58.76
6	Jatara	6473	5027	28.98	900	57.77
7	Lidhaura	4534	3956	-	872	47.19
8	Newari	8025	7019	43.76	874	65.96
9	Taricharkala	2487	2115	-	876	65.86
10	Palera	5673	4820	32.22	850	53.52
11	Prithivipur	9016	8004	39.93	888	46.08
12	Jiron Khalsa	3586	3143	-	876	46.03

District Tikamgarh has twelve towns. Five of them have been given the status of town after 1981. They are Baragaon, Kari, Baldeogarh, Lidhaura and Jiron Khalsa. Towns of Tikamgarh district have comparatively unfavourable sex ratio, the highest being 930 in Baragaon town, followed by 900 in Jatara. (see table 2.13). Couple protection rate (CPR) is high in towns Tikamgarh (70.97%), Baldeogarh (68.44%), Newari (64.96%) and Taricharkala (65.86%). The lowest CPR is in town Kari where only 44.57% of eligible couples are effectively protected against pregnancy.

**The major findings emerging from the demographic analysis are:**

- Out of the total population in the state of MP in 1991, women constitute around 48.22 % with a sex-ratio of 931, which has decreased from the figure in 1981, but is still better than the national average of 927 in 1991.
- Exponential Growth Rate, Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, Total Fertility Rate and Infant Mortality Rate of MP are all higher than that of national average.
- The Couple Protection Rate(CPR) of the state(1991) is lower than the Indian average.
- Satna has the largest population, followed by Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Datia respectively. Datia is the smallest district of MP, both in terms of area and population.
- District Chhatarpur shows the highest decadal increase in the population, followed by Tikamgarh. Districts adjoining Chhatarpur, like Tikamgarh in the west and Panna in the east, have shown higher decadal growth rate than the farther districts, like Datia and Satna. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) also shows the similar trend.

- District Satna is most densely populated (195), followed by Datia and Tikamgarh. Panna has the lowest density (96). Only Panna and Chhatarpur have the density which is lower than the state average.
- All the districts have a lower percentage of urban population in comparison to state average. The highest (22.45%) is that of District Datia and the lowest (13.02%) of district Panna.
- Sex ratio of all the districts is lower than the state average. This hints at the status of women in the region. Satna has the highest sex-ratio (918) while Datia has the lowest (847). It is more favourable to women towards the east, that is in the districts of Panna and Satna than towards the west, near Chambal region which is close to Datia.
- Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is very much high for each district in comparison to the state average. It is higher in Chhatarpur, Panna and Tikamgarh than Satna and Datia.
- Infant Mortality Rate in all the districts is much higher than the state average. It is highest in Tikamgarh (195) followed by Panna (185) and Chhatarpur (182).
- Percentage of population of age-group 0-14 yrs is 38.1 for MP, while it is higher in the case of all the concerned districts, in which it varies between 41.36 to 42.52 percent. This shows that quite a considerable population is dependent upon the other half of working population.
- Couple Protection Rate (CPR) for the state is 53.45 % (calculated in 1996). Districts Tikamgarh (60.33%) and Datia (59.38) have CPR which is well ahead of state-average while other districts have it well below state-average. District Chhatarpur has the lowest CPR (39.989%) in the state of MP
- In the district of Chhatarpur, three blocks of Bijawar Tehsil, namely, Bada Malhara, Bakswah and Bijawar, have registered relatively low population increase and are scarcely populated. Block Bakswah has shown even negative decadal population increase. These block have the large concentration of scheduled tribe population with Bijawar having the highest (13.52%). Literacy rate is comparatively low in these three blocks, the lowest in Bijawar (18.32%).
- In district Chhatarpur, blocks Gaurihar and Loundi have highest concentration of scheduled caste population. What is interesting with block Gaurihar is that it is most literate block (34.11%) of the district but has the least couple protection rate (22.85%) in the state of MP.
- In district Panna, block Ajaigarh singularly stands out as the most backward block. Ajaigarh has the highest decadal population increase (28.32%), most dense population (172 persons per s.km), lowest sex ratio (866), lowest literacy rate (20.97%), lowest %ge of ST (8.56%) and the lowest %ge of couple protection rate (40.09%).
- In district Panna, blocks Shahnagar, Panna and Pawai have large concentration of ST population while block Gunaur has the highest percentage of SC population (24.48%).
- In district Satna, block Majhgawa has lowest decadal population increase (14.09%) and lowest density of population (107) while it also has lowest sex ratio (895), one of the

lowest literacy rate (28.11) and the lowest couple protection rate (29.97). Majhgawa has almost equal percentage of SC and ST population in the block.

- In district Satna, Maihar block has shown highest decadal population increase (28.48%), has a high concentration of ST population(21.09%) lowest literacy rate (26.62%) in the district and very low couple protection rate (35.64)

**In district Tikamgarh, block Prithvipur and Palera have registered high population growth during the last census-decade. Palera has the lowest sex ratio (855) and the highest percentage of SC population in the block. Block Newari is a relatively developed block of the district, based on the demographic indicators.**

## Chapter - 3 Health

MP is one of the most backward states of India. It follows the same with respect to health. The state with one of the poorest literacy rates, lowest school enrollments, highest number of drop outs and lowest per capita income will have repercussions on health of the masses living within the boundaries of the state. Sample Registration System indicates that in 1993, while the birth rate of India was 28.5 per thousand population, it was 34.4 for MP. Similarly death rate in MP was 12.6 per thousand, much ahead of national average of 9.2. Infant mortality rate of MP with 106 is also high in comparison to 74 of India.

Within MP, the districts like Tikamgarh, Panna, Chhatarpur and Satna are among the most backward districts of the state, based on its development index. Datia is little better than those above mentioned districts. Health data also proves the same. There are variations within the districts of MP but the districts of northern MP are always on the worst side. In terms of life expectancy, while the best rate is that of district Indore (58.0 yrs), the worst three are of districts Tikamgarh (40.8), Panna (41.3) and Chhatarpur (41.6) respectively. Datia (44.3) and Satna (44.5) are little better.

In terms of crude birth rates, district Indore again has the minimum and the best rate with 29.6 while Chhatarpur (42.6), Panna (42.2) and Tikamgarh (42.1) respectively, have the third, fifth and sixth highest rates in the state. Satna (41.1) and Datia (39.5) are also high.

The fertility rate in MP is the best for the district Indore which shows the minimum and the best with 3.6 children per women. On the worst side Chhatarpur (6.6), Tikamgarh (6.1), Panna (5.9), Datia (5.8) and Satna (5.7), respectively have third, fifth, eighth, tenth and fifteenth highest rates in the state.

The case of infant mortality rate is no better for Bundelkhand districts. While the district Indore with rate being only 84, the highest and the worst is the case with district Tikamgarh (195), followed neck to neck by Panna (185), Chhatarpur (182) and Satna (181) districts. Datia is little better with the figure of 156 infant deaths.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 1992 for MP has not collected district specific data collection but it has studied the nature of backward districts of the state and concluded that the backward districts closely parallel the situation in MP, as a whole, on every measure included in the survey. According to it, though the fertility has started to decline in MP but fertility rates continue to be high. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for government designated backward districts (4.4) is slightly higher than the TFR for the whole state (3.9). Child bearing is highly concentrated in the age group 15-29, which accounts for 77% of the total fertility. In age group 15-19, 64% of the women in MP are married but marriage at very young age has been declining over time. Seventy nine percentage of currently married women wanted to either postpone their next birth or stop having children. Interestingly, the desire for spacing children is very strong for women who have fewer than three children. Thirty six percent of women with no children say that they would like to wait at least two years before having their first child. All these would have future bearings on the fertility rate of MP.

### **3.1 Government Infrastructure of Health Care Delivery:**

In all the districts of MP, Sub Health Centres (SHC) are the units catering health services at the village level. It is established for the population of 5000 in general areas and 3000 in tribal areas. On each sub centre one male and one female multipurpose health worker is posted. At the sector level Primary Health Centre (PHC) is established for the population of 30,000 in general areas and 20,000 in tribal areas. One medical officer, one male and one

female supervisors are placed in PHCs. Block level PHC is established with indoor facilities for 6 beds. To cater to the population of 120,000 in general areas and 80,000 in tribal areas, Community Health Centres (CHCs) are established with better medical facilities and act as primary level referral hospitals. Above it, District Hospital is established which functions as secondary level referral hospitals. The structure can be shown as follows:

District Hospital	_____	Secondary level	referral hospital
Population coverage	_____	Community Health Centre	better facility:
80000 - Tribal areas		(CHC)	Primary referral hospital
120000- General			
Population coverage		Primary Health Centre	One doctor, Supervisor
30000 - in general			(1 male, 1 female) Block level (facility for 6 beds)
20000- tribal areas			
Population coverage		Sub Health Centre	Multipurpose Health Workers
5000 - general		(SHC)	(MPW)-one
3000 - tribal areas			Female, one male

MP has not been able to establish the required number of health centres at each levels to serve the health needs of its populace. The condition is further worse in the underdeveloped districts of MP.

Community Health Centres (CHC) are much lesser in number than required as per the norms of the government to serve the total population. In MP 488 CHCs are required but together with the district and civil hospitals it comes to simply 309. In MP each CHC is catering the average population of nearly three and half lakh while a CHC is generally meant for almost half of this population. District Chhatarpur is one of the worst case where above 12 lacs population is served by a single CHC. Similarly the average population being served by a CHC in Panna, Satna and Tikamgarh is approximately seven lakh, five lakh and three and half lakh, respectively.

Similar is the case with Primary Health Centres (PHC). In the state of MP these centres are also not in the required number to serve the total population. Generally a PHC is supposed to serve the population of around thirty thousands. But in district Tikamgarh, Panna and Datia each PHC serves the average population of around forty-one thousand, thirty seven thousands and thirty-six thousand respectively. In Satna and Chhatarpur it serves the average population of nearly 25,000 and 23,000 respectively which is relatively a better situation. In Chhatarpur, the blocks namely Baxwaha, Badamalhara, Bijawar and Naugaon are worst served where each PHC has to cover approximately forty thousand population and that too when the sex ratio of these blocks is very low and requires special attention. In district Panna, the blocks namely Shahnagar, Pawai and Gunnaur have each PHC serving a population larger than forty thousands. In a less densely populated blocks like these, the service coverage is so wide that it is natural that most of the population would be out of the reach of these health centres. In district Satna, blocks Maihar and Nagod are poorly covered by health services. In Tikamgarh, except Newari which is relatively developed block and well connected with health services available in Jhansi (UP), all the other blocks are poorly served by PHCs, as the coverage of population is concerned. But as its linkages with the towns of Uttarpradesh is regular and well-connected, people are prone to use it for health

services also. In district Tikamgarh, the coverage by Sub Health Centres (SHC) is also similarly poor and ranks amongst the worst, Satna is relatively better in comparison to concerned districts.(see table 3.1)

Workforce in health in northern MP districts is also not large enough to reach to the masses. Blocks like Baxwaha in Chhatarpur district have only two allopathic doctors and no nurses. Badamalhara, Bijawar, Gaurihar and Londi blocks are no better. In Tikamgarh, blocks Palera, Jatara, Baldeogarh, Prithivipur all have insufficient staff and doctors. In Panna, blocks Shahnagar, Gunnaur, Ajaigarh all have small number of health workers. In Satna, blocks Ramnagar, Rampur Baghelan, Uchehara, Amarpatan and Maihar have small number of workforce to reach to the rural areas. (see table 3.2)

### 3.2. Health Care Aspects.

Though, the health indicators in MP in general and Bundelkhand in particular are showing a dismal picture a positive picture is also there in terms of improvements in health sector. Vaccine preventable diseases are on the decrease. But situation is still grim. According to National Family Health Survey (1992), 34% of young children have not received any vaccination against six preventable diseases in MP. The situation is almost the same in backward districts of MP. There are urban-rural variations also. While there were 43% of

**Table 3.1**

#### Health Infrastructure

State/district /blocks	Allopathic hospital/Aushad-halayas	PHC No.	SHC (No.)	Ayurvedic hospitals	Beds in allopathic hospitals
M.P.	309*	1841	11938	-	27800
<b>.Tikamgarh</b>	9	17	156	30	219
1. Newari	2	4	25	5	26
2. Prithivipur	1	2	21	4	6
3. Tikamgarh	3	2	24	7	143
4. Palera	-	3	25	5	8
5. Jatara	1	3	34	6	24
6. Baldeogarh	2	3	27	3	12
<b>Datia</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>175</b>
1. Sewda	1	3	31	5	39
2. Datia	5	4	33	7	136
<b>Panna</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>182</b>
1. Shahnagar	-	03	30	04	06
2. Panna	01	05	29	06	124
3. Pawai	-	03	28	03	12
4. Gunnaur	01	03	30	03	30
5. Ajaygarh	-	05	22	01	10
<b>Satna</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>440</b>
1. Ramnagar	1	4	21	5	36
2. Rampur Baghelan	2	6	29	6	30
3. Sohawal	5	6	34	8	11
4. Uchehra	-	4	31	4	30
5. Nagod	3	2	31	5	32
6. Amar Paton	1	4	29	12	30

7. Maihar	1	3	34	8	46
8. Majhgawa	3	5	37	8	225
<b>Chhatarpur</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>408</b>
1.Chhatarpur	2	3	26	4	154
2. Londi	1	4	22	5	18
3. Baxwaha	1	1	14	2	6
4. Nogaon	5	3	26	5	167
5. Rajnagar	3	6	33	3	17
6.Badamalhara	1	3	19	3	6
7. Bijawar	3	3	19	4	34
8. Gorihar	2	5	27	3	6

Source : District Statistical Booklets of Districts, 1996.

\* District Hospitals and Community Health Centre.

Children in urban areas fully vaccinated , only 26% of rural children were fully vaccinated. Boys are more likely to have got a vaccination than girls. Vaccination coverage is lowest among ST and only 19% of ST children are fully vaccinated.

Diarrhoea has been an important public health problem and one of the major causes of childhood mortality in India. UNICEF, Bhopal (1996) in its report “Community Awareness on Diarrhea Management in MP”, mentions that when baselines survey was conducted by the Rajiv Gandhi Mission in 1995, only 4% of the rural and 14% of the urban mothers were aware of Oral Rehydration Salts(ORS). UNICEF itself conducted a survey in 1996, almost one year after the baseline survey and communication/awareness compaign followed it. In this UNICEF survey, one village from each of these districts Datia, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna and Satna were also taken. The major observation was that a majority of the mothers perceived diarrhea to be an important illness and took steps to manage it. In the home management of diarrhea, the practice of Oral Rehydration Treatment (ORT) was found to be much higher in the urban areas, indicating the need to orient the rural masses on this aspect. Awareness of ORS was observed in 76% of the respondents but for rural areas it was 58% which indicates the need to sustain awareness generation activities.

The nutritional status of children in MP is very poor, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) .Undemutrition is very high in the state. Fifty seven percent of all children under four are underweight for their age, and 22% are severely under-weight. The situation reflects the same for backward districts of MP which include the concerned districts.

So far as the external care and assistance at delivery is concerned, according to NFHS, only 52% of mothers received antenatal care in MP. Most babies (82%)are delivered at home, 12% are delivered with public health facilities and 4% with private health facilities. Thirty percent of deliveries are assisted by a doctor or nurse/midwife, another 30% by a traditional birth attendant, and 39% by a relative or other person. Thus, a sizable proportion of deliveries are conducted by untrained persons, resulting in higher neonatal mortality rates.

### 3.2.1. Family planning.

Though it has been noted by NFHS that knowledge of family planning is very high in MP and 88% of currently married women know of at least one contraceptive method, it has also concluded that only 37% of currently married women practice family planning. A relatively

recent survey by the health deptt of MP has put this percentage at almost double but truth may be around the figure shown by NFHS in backward districts of MP.

A look at the family welfare programme (1995-96) in the districts of Tikamgarh, Datia, Panna, Satna and Chhatarpur approves of the poor facility and coverage by family welfare centres of these districts. In most of the blocks of these districts, each such centre has to cover more than one lakh population (see 3.3 table).

**Table 3.2**  
**Workforce in Health (1995-96)**

State/Districts/Blocks	Medical Officers (Allopathic)	Medical Officers (others)	Nurses	Compounders	Other health worker	Total
<b>M.P.</b>						
<b>Tikamgarh</b>	55	30	283	29	390	787
1. Newari	9	5	45	5	48	112
2. Prithivipur	7	4	34	3	37	85
3. Tikamgarh	25	7	74	10	160	276
4. Palera	3	5	35	3	47	93
5. Jatara	5	6	55	4	51	121
6. Baldeogarh	6	3	40	4	47	100
<b>Datia</b>	38	12	38	31	269	388
1. Sewda	10	5	16	11	99	141
2. Datia	28	7	22	20	170	247
<b>Panna</b>	41	17	186	27	642	913
1. Shahnagar	03	04	33	02	99	141
2. Panna	18	06	60	09	236	329
3. Pawai	06	03	31	04	117	161
4. Gunnaur	06	03	32	06	63	110
5. Ajaygarh	08	01	30	06	87	132
<b>Satna</b>	116	56	346	50	538	1106
1. Ramnagar	15	4	31	4	49	93
2. Rampur Baghelan	6	7	26	4	53	96
3. Sohawal	61	9	93	10	62	235
4. Uchehra	6	8	38	4	40	96
5. Nagod	11	11	42	8	43	115
6. Amar Paton	8	6	39	5	56	114
7. Maihar	10	8	35	3	62	110
8. Majhgawa	9	3	42	12	173	239
<b>Chhatarpur</b>	91	32	89	92	868	1172
1. Chhatarpur	32	7	44	18	219	320
2. Londi	5	5	4	9	96	119
3. Baxwaha	2	2	-	3	43	50
4. Nogaon	20	5	27	23	192	267
5. Rajnagar	11	3	4	12	91	121
6. Badamalhara	6	3	1	7	80	97
7. Bijawar	9	4	5	13	72	103
8. Gorihar	6	3	4	7	75	95

Sources: District Statistical Booklet of Districts, 1996.

**Table:3.3  
Family Planning  
Programme(1995-96)**

Districts/blocks	Family Welfare Centre	Population coverage by each centre	Vasectomy (male)	Family Planning (women)		
				Genl. operation	Leproscopic operation	Loop
<b>Tikamgarh</b>	7	140829	14	110	5719	12982
1. Newari	1	146961	-	-	876	1160
2. Prithivipur	1	126799	2	-	872	2275
3. Tikamgarh	2	189668	10	102	907	1971
4. Palera	1	137791	-	1	928	3534
5. Jatara	1	187624	-	13	1149	2825
6. Baldeogarh	1	151986	2	2	988	2213
<b>Datia</b>	5	69263	1	645	1802	3709
1. Sewda	2	84878	-	56	834	1475
2. Datia	3	75520	1	589	968	2234
<b>Panna</b>	6	114657	07	21	2516	5133
1. Shahnagar	01	123865	03	01	295	482
2. Panna	02	69771	02	19	639	1490
3. Pawai	01	134020	02	-	526	1449
4. Gunnaur	01	141102	-	1	580	672
5. Ajaygarh	1	116070	-	-	476	1040
<b>Satna</b>	9	162820	88	495	6522	20208
1. Ramnagar	1	-	18	01	574	2303
2. Rampur Baghelan	1	-	13	33	1038	2922
3. Sohawal	2	-	15	107	905	3417
4. Uchehra	1	-	2	108	626	2278
5. Nagod	1	-	6	41	851	2295
6. Amar Paton	1	-	13	17	768	2297
7. Maihar	1	-	18	132	817	1929
8. Majhgawa	1	-	3	56	943	2867
<b>Chhatarpur</b>	9	128675	46	217	4355	15487
1. Chhatarpur	2	70655	46	187	879	2759
2. Londi	1	113544	-	-	418	2330
3. Baxwaha	1	45183	-	-	219	254
4. Nogaon	1	130676	-	27	835	3156
5. Rajnagar	1	162832	-	2	625	2804
6. Badamalhara	1	121669	-	-	661	1691
7. Bijawar	1	95094	-	1	508	1530
8. Gorihar	1	124335	-	-	210	963
Source : District Statistical Booklet of Districts 1996						

Family planning programme centred towards the women while male population has hardly gone for permanent measures of family planning. In district Chhatarpur, no block except Chhatarpur has recorded male operation for family planning. Similarly in district Panna, blocks Gunnaur and Ajaygarh have not a single vasectomy case recorded. Similar is the case with block Sewda in Datia district and blocks Newari, Palera and Jatara in Tikamgarh district. So, women have been the major focus of family welfare programmes and menfolk have taken hardly any interest in permanent family planning methods. This has always been the area of concern.

### **3.2.2 Water and Health**

Water borne diseases have been one of the major killer in MP. A large number of villages in the state have no access to safe drinking water facilities. The condition is further worse in the districts of Chhatarpur, Datia, Tikamgarh, Satna and Panna.

Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Datia have been among a few districts of MP which had epidemics of cholera and gastroenteritis almost continuously from 1979 to 1988. There is further need to make the population aware on the preventive measures of these water borne diseases. Apart from these, Guinea worm affected villages were also existing in Tikamgarh, but they were one or two in number till the beginning of the decade and the government claim that they do not exist any more.

Non availability of potable drinking water is a major problem in the villages of Bundelkhand. Two to three hundred villages in each districts are still uncovered by the government programmes to provide safe drinking water and among these villages, a large number is that of difficult villages, where special effort is needed to provide potable water. (see table 3.4)

All the villages at least one handpump (India mark II) installed according to the district public Health Engineering- Department of the concerned districts but 1981 situation of the problem villages in terms of drinking water facilities is given below.(table : 3.4)

### **3.3 Government Programme on Health.**

Government has initiated various programmes to improve the health condition of the masses in rural areas of the state. On August 20, 1994, the govt. of MP had decided to convert selected programmes into a mission mode and marked the beginning of Rajiv Gandhi Mission in the state. These missions centred around three areas-health care, education and livelihood security in rural areas or rural employment.

#### **Missions for Health:**

##### **Rajiv Gandhi Mission on Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders:**

The mission had the target to universalise use of iodised salt to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders by 1996. It achieved its target 11 months ahead of schedule and thus was closed and a new Rajiv Gandhi Sanitation Mission was started.

**Table 3.4**  
**Problem-villages for drinking water facility**

State/ district	Household with safe drinking water		Problems-villages in terms of drinking water			
	All	Rural	Problem village	Villages covered	Partially covered	uncovered villages
M P	20.17	8.09	44792	26207	8914	15436
Chhatarpur	6.93	1.91	522	204	110	314
Datia	12.69	3.9	311	78	24	239
Panna	5.36	2.72	472	333	13	178
Satna	11.21	4.43	1353	957	217	195
Tikamgarh	4.93	0.86	421	124	136	196

**Rajiv Gandhi Sanitation Mission:**

The Mission was started in 1996 and aims to make sanitation a people's movement in the state. The effort is to create public awareness to motivate private household investment in sanitation. It also seek to promote action by elected local body leadership. The role of the govt. will be only as a facilitator and not as a provider.

**Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases:**

The mission is set up with the long term objective of reducing infant mortality in the state. Twenty eight percent child deaths in the state are attributed to diarrhea. The Mission initiated a series of steps to prevent diarrhoeal deaths.

All high risk villages have been identified. Of a total of 11086 such villages, the largest number in any particular district exists in Chhatarpur where 669 such high risk villages are existing. Panna, Satna, Tikamgarh and Datia have 241, 191, 66 and 42 such villages respectively. These villages were covered during the state wise ORT(Oral Rehydration Therapy) compaign and Safe Water and Health Campaign Conducted in 1995 and 1997, respectively.

**National Fileria Control Programme :**

The districts of Bundelkhand are prone to the disease of Fileria. That is why, the govt. has taken efforts to establish medical centres for the control and treatment of this disease. Out of the total 9 Fileria Control Units in the state, one such unit is set up in each of these districts, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Satna, Panna and Datia. Out of total 7 Fileria Treatment Centres, 4 are centred in the districts, Satna, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Panna. Panna also has a treatment cum-survey centre.

## Health - practices : A case of District Tikamgarh

While preparing the microplan for universalisation of elementary education in Block Tikamgarh of district Tikamgarh by Sanskar Shiksha Samiti, MP., certain interesting facts were noticed about the health scenario in the rural areas. It is representative of the whole of rural Bundelkhand and northern MP. As it is clear from the govt. statistics that government dispensaries are limited and a large number of them are located in such areas that they serve only urban population, it is worth notice that villagers depend on local Vaidyas (doctors by experience). In block Tikamgarh, where all the 152 villages were surveyed, there were 165 famous and established vaidyas in the block. Though they are very little educated or uneducated, villagers have strong faith in them. That is why they consult most of the time to their vaidyas for the treatment of their family members and also to the local veterinary experts for the treatment of their animals. As there are very few government dispensaries in this block, villagers have to depend on local vaidays.

Apart from these well established local health experts in the villages, many elderly persons also treat the patients on the basis of their self-experience. They are very many sayings and 'dohas' at the tip of villagers tongue such as -

Savanna byaru jab tab keejai,

Bhadon tako nam na leejai

Kwar mas ke do pakhware

Jatan Jatan se Chalio Pyare.

(During the month of Shravan, one should take the evening meals off and on, in the month of Bhadon, one must not take anything in the evening. In the month of kwar, one should be very careful while taking the evening meals)

Khake muntay, sobay bayen,

Ta ghar vaidya kabahu na jayen.

(If one urinates after meals and sleeps to the left side, he will never need any physician to attend him/her)

Sonth sonf aur kharak misri

khatan Khabar dast ki bisri.

(If one takes sonth, sonf, kharak and misri, he/she forgets that he/she was suffering from dysentery)

It also came out that in the villages of Tikamgarh block, 157 ojhas and gunias reside. These people give treatment to patients, both human and animals, by mantras and tantras. They not only treat illness but worship for various problems of business, court cases, curing birth of a son etc. for their clients. There are villages in the block (namely village Chhipon) where it is said that a heavenly spirit enters into the soul of a ojha and patients from far off places come to him on a particular day for treatment. It has been observed that uneducated as well as educated people still have faith in these local ojhas and gunias. It is common to see the huge crowd at the doors of such famous ojhas for the treatment of family members, animals and to enquire about the stolen property and their whereabouts. It is not a surprise that even now people have so much blind faith. It is because of mass illiteracy and lack of proper government health centres in this block and 50 to say, in the entire Bundelkhand.

### **Vatsalya Yojna.**

This programme aims at the proper care of pregnant women and to provide antenatal and postnatal services. Under this programme 500 rupees are given to rural landless labourer women during their first and second pregnancy, provided there is a gap of three years in these pregnancies and the women will opt for permanent family planning measures.

### **Ayushmati Yojna.**

This programme has been started by the government to help the rural women of landless families. Under this programme Rs400/are given in the first week for the in-house-treatment in the medical college hospitals for medicines and supplementary meal. The amount can be upto Rs.1000/ for further hospitalisation. Attendant of the patient is given free meal two times in a day.

Apart from these programmes, Family Welfare Programme, Maternal and Child Welfare Programme, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme and National Blindness Control Programme are also ongoing in the districts of the state. Though, considerable improvement has been noted in health sector, a lot more is to be done particularly in the backward districts like Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna, Satna and Datia.

## Chapter - 4 Education

Education is the pillar for the success of all the development activities and efforts undertaken by government and volunteers. MP has been educationally backward as its literacy rate (44.20%) and literacy among women confirm it. The situation among backward communities, scheduled castes and tribes is further alarming. The Bundelkhand region of MP is one of the most backward regions of the state and lag far behind on the development indicators. The concept of universalisation of education, even at the primary level is far beyond the reach in this region. The literacy percentage among the SC/ST, and particularly female literacy among them, shows a very dismal picture. (see table 4.1) The availability of educational facilities, schools and technical institutions are also not enough to cover the needs of the rural masses. Though each district has a District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), the technical and commercial institutions of learning are very few in the districts concerned. (see table 4.2). Educational scene is very pessimistic in the region. A very few students from Bundelkhand have been able to show any achievement in the field of science and technology and the competition of some repute. Government figures of the coverage of schools, educational facility, students enrollment and drop out rates always leave a concern about its validity when the actual situation in the villages of Bundelkhand is observed and surveyed by any independent agency.

As the region is economically backward and a large number of landless labourers are busy struggling with life to satisfy their hunger, education is not in the priority list of the masses. If the parents are not interested in the education of their children, there are causes behind it. Bundelkhand is a plateau with uneven surface of soil with no widespread plain. So the infertile land and the rainfed agricultural economy based on it, are unable to meet the both ends of its population. With no proper transportation and links within the districts and outside, internal mobility is very slow. As Bundelkhand receives average rain-fall once in 5 or 7 years, economic backwardness and low industrial growth rate leaves the labourers without work for most of the period in a year. In order to earn their livelihood, they are always to be on the move. Thousands of landless labourers of Bundelkhand go to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana alongwith their families during the month of 'chaitra' for harvesting 'Rabi' crops. Such labourers are known as 'chaitua'. With such kind of migration and struggle for livelihood, how can the parents think of the relevance of education for their children, who help them in their livelihood process.

The situation is grim. A large number of children in Bundelkhand are still out of schools. The case of block Tikamgarh of district Tikamgarh is representative of the region. In the survey conducted in 1993 by Sanskar Shiksha Samiti to prepare the micro-plan of the block it was revealed that out of 24,853 children of 6-14 age group, 14,244 children were not enrolled in any school which means that 57% of the children of this block were deprived of education. The situation might be further worst in other blocks of concerned districts because of their remoteness and distance from the district headquarters. People's

**Table 4.1**

**Blockwise percentage of literacy for total /SC/ST.**

SL.No. State/districts/blocks	Total % literacy	Scheduled Caste		Scheduled Tribes	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
M.P.	44.20	50.51	18.11	32.16	10.73
<b>Tikamgarh</b>	<b>27.60</b>	<b>32.50</b>	<b>9.35</b>	<b>14.69</b>	<b>4.82</b>
1. Newari	32.60	43.76	12.67	14.92	5.47
2. Prithivipur	23.34	30.59	8.69	14.09	4.26
3. Tikamgarh	21.17	23.29	5.35	12.09	3.91
4. Palera	24.24	31.18	6.84	15.90	5.34
5. Jatara	23.91	29.19	7.16	12.44	3.95
6. Baldeogarh	20.13	21.04	4.92	17.31	5.66
<b>Datia</b>	<b>34.91</b>	<b>41.10</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>14.23</b>	<b>4.92</b>
1. Sewda	30.65	39.75	6.90	17.84	4.35
2. Datia	29.93	39.46	6.60	11.34	3.79
<b>Panna</b>	<b>26.68</b>	<b>22.49</b>	<b>5.57</b>	<b>13.59</b>	<b>3.81</b>
1. Shahnagar	22.62	22.27	4.21	20.02	4.89
2. Panna	24.48	20.29	2.81	14.60	2.57
3. Pawai	22.76	17.01	3.67	13.22	3.38
4. Gunnaur	24.83	19.77	4.63	5.10	1.18
5. Ajaygarh	20.48	27.10	7.23	8.77	2.33
<b>Satna</b>	<b>35.48</b>	<b>31.41</b>	<b>7.57</b>	<b>16.62</b>	<b>3.00</b>
1. Ramnagar	28.31	28.79	4.09	17.02	2.53
2. Rampur Baghelan	35.38	29.91	5.70	13.16	1.71
3. Sohawal	36.30	33.35	8.42	18.27	5.04
4. Uchehra	29.73	33.65	9.34	13.18	1.53
5. Nagod	31.98	30.67	8.00	10.98	3.67
6. Amar Paton	32.94	29.02	5.14	14.73	1.86
7. Maihar	28.31	28.79	4.09	17.02	2.53
8. Majhgawa	28.11	26.39	4.10	16.14	2.21
<b>Chhatarpur</b>	<b>27.87</b>	<b>25.46</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>11.68</b>	<b>2.59</b>
1. Chhatarpur	20.51	19.33	3.21	9.58	1.02
2. Londi	24.51	25.96	5.94	19.08	2.22
3. Baxwaha	22.77	24.80	7.11	11.50	2.72
4. Nogaon	26.01	28.92	6.22	23.34	1.71
5. Rajnagar	21.97	20.41	4.22	11.96	2.92
6. Badamalhara	18.99	16.85	2.94	11.14	2.05
7. Bijawar	18.32	15.80	2.98	8.08	2.03
8. Gorihar	27.06	29.49	6.01	30.71	5.32

Source: Census, 1991.

indifference towards education has also been one of the reasons behind such a state of illiteracy in this region. People still think like this:-

"Thoda padhe so har se gaye  
Jyada padhe so ghar se gaye"

(Those who got some schooling, have gone out of agricultural activities and those who got more education have gone out of home, so education is not required.).

Most of the people of weaker section have a complex feeling into their mind that education is of no use to their children. They are not interested to send their children to schools. Observation in various villages of Tikamgarh, Satna, Chhatarpur, Panna and Datia has shown that most of the children attending primary schools are from rich families of Thakurs, Brahmins and upper castes. Lot needs to be done for the awareness generation towards utility of education.

Even after enrollment in the schools, a large number of children drop out before reaching class fifth. For example in district Tikamgarh itself 44.25% children dropped out from the schools in the period between 1982-83 to 1986-87. The situation might have improved during the next decade but little seems to have changed when viewed at the educational condition of women, scheduled caste and tribes in the region.

#### **4.1 Factors Behind School Drop-Outs/Non-Enrollment And Educational Backwardness.**

Why is it that districts of Bundelkhand are educationally backward? Why don't children go to schools? Why do they leave the schools before reaching to class fifth? The factors are very many. The condition of parents in very many cases are such that they can't afford to buy text materials for their children. Though it is told that government is providing free education in the country, there are other expenses involved in sending the children to schools. A large section of SC/ST and backward classes in rural areas can't afford it. Again when caste has been made the criterion of poverty, a large number of general category children who are poor and can't get free facilities are remaining out of schools.

Distance between school and home is also a contributory factor for non-enrollment to schools. In our country, villages are counted for providing any facility. We don't count the hamlets(basahats/tola/khirak/purwa) for such services. When the village is shown saturated, actually it doesn't serve the needs of its hamlets. So is the case with schools. For example, block Tikamgarh in District Tikamgarh has 152 villages but actually counting the hamlets, the number comes to 298 for the block. So if all the children are to be covered, the hamlets are to be looked into.

Free supply of books, slates and educational materials, meant for poor children, hardly reach to them on time and in adequate number. This causes a major hurdle for the children to continue their schooling in future.

**Table 4.2**  
**Educational Infrastructure (In No.)**

Districts/Block	Primary school	Middle school	High school	Higher secondary school	colleges	technical/ Commercial. Institutions
<b>.Tikamgarh</b>	988	213	48	57	6	4
1. Newari	162	42	66	20	01	2
2. Prithivipur	129	15	06	09	01	-
3. Tikamgarh	208	55	17	08	02	1
4. Palera	136	29	07	06	01	-
5. Jatara	185	45	07	10	01	-
6. Baldeogarh	168	27	05	04	-	1
<b>Datia</b>	486	142	13	34	3	1
1. Sewda	210	54	05	10	1	-
2. Datia	276	88	08	24	2	1
<b>Panna</b>	854	156	31	29	07	06
1. Shahnagar	146	27	04	03	01	01
2. Panna	215	42	10	11	03	05
3. Pawai	174	26	07	04	01	-
4. Gunnaur	181	30	04	05	01	-
5. Ajaygarh	138	32	06	01	01	-
<b>Satna</b>	1481	406	-	216*	12	22
1. Ramnagar	127	35	-	17	-	2
2. RampurBaghelan	197	59	-	18	-	2
3. Sohawal	263	120	-	70	5	6
4. Uchehra	120	24	-	10	-	2
5. Nagod	175	38	-	14	1	2
6. Amar Paton	165	42	-	31	2	2
7. Maihar	219	39	-	17	2	3
8. Majhgawa	215	49	-	38	2	3
<b>Chhatarpur</b>	1274	289	60	58	10	6
1. Chhatarpur	207	80	15	9	3	4
2. Londi	161	33	9	6	1	-
3. Baxwaha	96	12	4	2	-	-
4. Nogaon	195	46	10	20	4	2
5. Rajnagar	191	40	6	7	-	-
6. Badamalhara	150	23	3	4	1	-
7. Bijawar	144	23	5	5	1	-
8. Gorihar	130	32	8	5	-	-
*Including high schools.						
Source : District Statistical Booklet, all districts.						

In the region like Bundelkhand there are certain physical hurdles in the form of rivers, nalas and forest which prevent the children to attend the schools. Sanskar Siksha Samiti had noted in block Tikamgarh that 56 children of school going age of Bhadara village were out of school because of dense forest which prevented them to go to nearby (2km) village, Sunauni for schooling. Such cases are many in other districts of the region also.

It has also been observed that irregular functioning of the schools also create the condition in which parents don't send their children to schools. Parents complain that schools do not run on time and teachers don't come regularly. So at times, they stop sending their children. This is also the factor why private schools are mushrooming in the area and doing good business.

In Bundelkhand, elite group or feudal forces have created terror into the mind of many poorer sections who fear to send their children to schools to study with the children of privileged group. In certain cases even the teachers are threatened by the village chiefs that they should not enroll the children of downtrodden in schools. It was observed that there are many villages in the concerned districts where people of backward classes are not allowed to take water from the local public wells. If such is the terror of feudal forces in the villages, how can these backward classes think of sending their children to schools to learn with the children of privileged groups.

Indifferent attitude of teachers towards their profession is also the cause for drop out of children. If teachers are not dutiful and treat children like animals, so that they are not able to learn even alphabets after 23 years of schooling, how can parents allow the children to continue in schools?

The parents in rural area, particularly in the social set up of Bundelkhand, don't like their daughters to be taught by male teachers. Non-availability of female teachers in schools also hinders the education of girl child in this region.

Location of the school, particularly in the building and area of elite groups, hinders the backward class children to attend such schools. Proper attention should be given to locate the school at such a place that it is easily accessible to the backward class children.

Time of the school does not suit to the poor class children. It is always decided keeping in view the daily routine of the elite class children. The examination in the schools are held during the months and the time when children of the landless labourers are busy in reaping and harvesting of wheat or in gathering Mahuwa, which is the source of livelihood for such families for at least three months. Naturally, such children either leave the examination or fail in it.

Lack of basic facilities in the school is another major cause for the children to not to attend the schools. Lack of facility of drinking water and non-existence of urinals cause embarrassment to guardians of children.

What is the use of education to children ? Are they going to get job after some education? Or they are going to loose their time in schooling? These are the questions asked by the people in rural areas when asked to send their children to schools. Parents prefer to send their children to generate some money in various activities, rather to send them to schools.

Feeling of inferiority complex in the child also accounts for the non enrollment or drop out from the school. The child, particularly the girls of weaker sections, scheduled castes and tribes are left to remain half clad and wear torn clothes over their bodies. They subsist with under-nourished food and suffer with a feeling of inferiority. Even if enrolled in the schools, they feel like leaving it as soon as possible due to the complex within them.

A large number of children of weaker sections are engaged in direct or indirect earning for the livelihood of the family. Children have to take animals (a large number in Bundelkhand)for grazing or to work as a child labour in bidi-making or stone-crushers. Girls have to look after younger brothers and sisters or to remain busy in the household work.

Even if children are not visibly busy in earning they are busy somewhere else. One interesting example is that of tribal children in Bundelkhand region. When parents go to the forests for collecting wood to sell it in the market, children follow them in the jungle. Though children hardly help in the collection of wood and making bundles, they hunt for the squirrels and hares, bake them and eat. They get gulguch, umar, and other such things as their food in the forest. Parents of such children accept that their own earnings are not sufficient to feed these children, so the children get it in forests. The issue is, if such children are to be educated, their food-problem is to be solved first.

In Bundelkhand, society is still at the stage where elders don't want their girls to be educated, particularly in the well off families where aged persons are the household heads. In certain cases, girls are allowed to study till class V and not further because this much education is considered sufficient for them.

There are still certain sections in the villages who consider school education as futile, useless and unwanted for their children. There is a say in the villages :-

"Madarsa bhejbau jae main,  
Mauda Patak Bau Khaee Main."

(Sending a boy to school is as bad as throwing him in a ditch)

Most important necessity of a man is the bread and this necessity is more acute in Bundelkhand. In the Tikamgarh block of district Tikamgarh, for example, there were 69% families who had an income of less than Rs.4000 yearly. When these families were struggling for their bread day and night, education was no concern for them.

In Bundelkhand, migration of the labourers is another factor behind the non-enrollment of their children. Though the nomad tribes like Loha Pitas or Gadilohars are not in large number in the region, the number of migrating families is quite large. In one block of Tikamgarh district, for example, 2124 families were identified who were migrating for almost half of the year to other towns in UP, Punjab or Haryana. Two-third of them go with their families. So children don't get enrolled or miss their examination, if enrolled.

There is the problem of education for the children of 'criminal tribes' belonging to Nat/Kabutara/Kanjar/Bedia Communities. To enroll the children of these communities in the schools is a major problem. Only special efforts can help in this situation. In some places, such efforts like opening a school in their own settlement has helped. For example the children of Nat Community of village Raniki Bavari in Hiranagar Panchayat of block Tikamgarh, had the school in their own hamlet and that is why 78% of their children got enrolled in it. Similar efforts can be done and special schools should be opened in such communities.

In Bundelkhand, the transport services are not regular, quick and timely. Most of the teachers travel by bus to reach to their schools. It has been observed and told by the villagers that teachers generally reach the school late and close it earlier than the fixed time. There are only limited buses on some of the routes, on some only one bus operates to and fro. Children know when the teachers would be reaching to school by which bus and when they would be closing the school. Children learn, in a way, how to evade the government rules from their teachers.

So, the overall analysis gives a picture as to how the educational system in Bundelkhand is operating and why most of the children are still out of the reach of the schools even after 50 years of Independence of India.

## 4.2 Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission: State Effort In Education.

This is a mission to universalise primary education and promote literacy. Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (RGSM) is conceived of as a convergence modality that brings together the two programmes of universalising primary education through externally aided District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Total Literacy Campaigns of the National Literacy Mission. Under DPEP, a total of 34 educationally backward districts of MP would be covered in two phases. In phase I, 19 such districts, including Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna and Satna are undertaken while in phase II, 15 additional districts, including Datia would be covered. The time frame for DPEP is between 1994 to 2001.

The programme (DPEP) quite unlike previous centrally sponsored initiatives, has evolved an integrated approach to primary education with programme assistance being channeled through state projects office to district level implementing agencies. A special attempt has been made to target educationally backward districts (defined especially by low female literacy) with strategies to ensure educational needs of women, SC. and STs and other weaker sections of the population. These features have earned DPEP the distinction of being the first experiment of its kind in the social development sector of the country, where decentralisation and community participation are being put into practice on a very large scale.

The mission in the last three years has contributed substantially to increase the reach and quality of primary education in the state. It has also sought to work through community structures so that education becomes a mass movement in the state.

In 1994, when DPEP began in 19 districts there were 12476 unserved habitations. DPEP has provided schooling facilities in 10065 of these habitations.

### 4.2.1 Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) :

Under Rajiv Gandhi Mission, Govt. of M.P. took a pioneering initiative in the country to provide an educational centre on demand by people. Under the scheme whenever there is a demand from a tribal area from 25 children for a facility to learn and from 40 children for non-tribal area and there is no school within one km., the govt. guarantees to provide a trained teacher within 90 days. The space for learning is provided by the community. Since the launching of the scheme on 1 January, 97, over 11579 centres have come up in the state. The progress in the concerned districts is as follows:(see Table 4.3)

**Table: 4.3**  
**Status of EGS centres (1997)**

Sl.No	District	Trained Guruji(teachers)	No.of functional EGS
1	Chhatarpur	140	140
2	Panna	164	164
3	Datia	36	36
4	Satna	261	261
5	Tikamgarh	184	184

#### 4.2.2 Alternative schools(AS):

For those children who are unable to participate in formal schooling, special schooling facilities designated as Alternative Schools have been opened. These schools have flexibility of time and space using an innovative learning method adapted to learner pace.

#### 4.2.3 Shishu Shiksha Kendra (SSK).

A nursery service was introduced as pre-school education to rural schools through which attention is given to 3-5 age group of children to inculcate in them appropriate habits of learning. It provides the opportunity to girls engaged in sibling care to attend regular primary school.

DPEP aims at strengthening the educational infrastructure. School buildings are constructed through community participation. Block Resource Centres (BRC) are constructed to facilitate teacher training at the block level. It also aims at improving the quality of primary education through developing a new competency-based curriculum, developing new teaching learning materials and empowering teachers through appropriate training. All these academic intervention aim at making learning a joyful process, motivating children to stay in schools and so minimise dropout. As a result of these initiatives, enrollment is supposed to step up in the schools. Overall work done in the concerned districts are as follows:(see table: 4.4)

**Table 4.4 :**  
**Work done till July 97**

District*	Achievement							Teachers trained.
	BRC building VEC	School building CRC	NPS	AS	SSK			
Chhatarpur	8	149	123	190	309	3767	986	226
Panna	5	85	50	130	80	2423	830	220
Satna	8	142	178	151	117	5176	1435	224
Tikamgarh	6	121	118	154	184	4481	618	234

\*Data is not taken in DSPEP, Phase I

BRC= Block Resource Centre

AS = Alternative school

SSK= Shishu Shiksha Kendra

VEC= Village Education Committee

CRC= Cluster Resource Centre

NPS= New Primary Schools.

Given the social, cultural and economic diversity of the state, promoting community participation and mobilisation in primary education is a major challenge. To meet the challenge, the programme has concentrated in setting up an elaborate management structure extending from the state office to the Village Education Committee(VEC) at the village level. Mobilisation strategies to spread awareness about the programme, its objective and the importance of primary education in general have been devised and to a large extent a participatory approach has been initiated whereby local people have started playing an active role in enrollment, retention, learning environment and school improvements. The programme design of DPEP emphasises building and sustaining community support to

promote awareness generation campaigns, microplanning and village surveys through village institutions like VECs.

The study undertaken by Samarthan-Centre for Development Support- on the status of VECs in representative districts under DPEP, has found that though, VECs have a great role to play in the programme, they have not been constituted in the villages properly and participation of women is near absent except for a few cases. They need to be activated for desired results.

#### **4.2.4 Total Literacy Campaigns (TLC):**

Total Literacy Campaign projects are prepared by district level Zilla Saksharata Samiti's and approved/sanctioned by the National Literacy Mission of the Govt. of India. These projects were sanctioned for all 45 districts of the state and govt. claims that around 35.40 lakh people, including 20 lakh women, have been made literate. The observation in the field might not approve of it but it seems true that Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission has energised TLC in MP. Out of 45 districts, 13 districts have gone for Post-Literacy Campaign Projects. From Bundelkhand region, Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur have got it sanctioned.

In Tikamgarh 2.19 lakh illiterates of age group 15-45 were to be covered under TLC, through its 22,000 literacy centres. According to Mr Gurbachan Singh, person incharge of TLC in Tikamgarh, the campaign in the district started late but it picked up well and results have been encouraging. In Aug 97, when internal evaluation took place, 58,000 neo-literates participated and 50000 passed it. During the campaign, various cultural groups and a large number of volunteers participated throughout the district. This has made it to qualify for post-literacy phase, alongwith district Chhatarpur.

#### **4.3 Government - Non-government Collaboration in DPEP/TLC:**

There are two missions or programmes in MP in which the possibilities and opportunities for NGO involvement are maximum. These are- Shiksha Mission and Mission for Watershed Development. Shiksha Mission through its programmes of DPEP and TLC, has kept the room for NGO Collaboration. At a broader level, while the non-government organisation like Eklavya is playing a major role in curriculum development for the primary schools and the training of teachers under DPEP, at the district level a few organisations are involved in running the Alternative Schools, training the teachers selected by panchayats under education- guarantee schemes and developing the teaching and learning materials for such schools. It was observed that in district Tikamgarh, State Resource Centre, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) and Eklavya were collaborating in running five Alternative Schools, spread in three blocks of the district, namely, Tikamgarh, Jatara and Palera. They were at villages, Kanchanpur (Tikamgarh Block), Baragaon (Tikamgarh), Karmaura (Jatara), Gor(Jatara) and Palera (Palera). It was interesting to watch the training process of the teachers involved in Alternative Schools. They were being trained by the trainers of BGVS and Eklavya at Tikamgarh in a participatory way to use innovative methods for making the children learn easily.

Total Literacy Campaign was based on the volunteers of the districts particularly that of NYKs of the districts. In Tikamgarh, organisation like Bundelkhand Kala Evam Sanskritik Manch took part in awareness generation programmes. Ashutosh Bal Vikas Samiti and other organisations like this, alongwith their volunteers took part in literacy classes. In Chhatarpur, the chief functionary of Vivekanand Gram Vikas Samiti visited all the villages of district Chhatarpur to identify volunteers for the total literacy. But this Samiti, after taking part actively in the campaign, don't visualise its any other role in the future for the development activities in the area and its volunteers are not with it now. In other districts also a number of

organisations took part in it or were rather created for it and got lost after the campaign lost its temperament.

So, the overall analysis establishes the fact that the concerned districts of Bundelkhand are educationally backward. A large number of private institutions/schools are emerging to cater to the educational needs of the upper and middle class people but backward/ST/SC class children are still out of schools in rural areas. A campaign like TLC and DPEP would not be much help to them unless their economic requirements are met with through various other programmes.

## **Chapter -5 Aspects of Economy**

Bundelkhand and adjoining areas have vast resources in terms of land, forests and minerals. But the area is far behind others in agriculture, industry and human resource development even after a number of development projects launched since 50 years of Independence. It is considered to be one of the backward regions of the state.

### **5.1 Agriculture**

All the concerned districts of Bundelkhand have their economy predominantly based on agriculture. But the infertility of land, low productivity, improper land distribution in which a few medium and large farmers have major share in land holdings, lack of irrigation facilities and unscientific cultivation in terms of non-use of modern methods in agriculture have kept the agriculture-based economy on the verge of subsistence only.

In district Tikamgarh, out of the total area of 4,64,499 hectares, only 3,68,217 hectares are under cultivation. A very small percentage of its area is such in which two crops are sown. When we analyse the land holdings, it approves of the feudal nature of the area. Out of the total number of 1,49,041 land-holdings, 1,00,103(67.16%) holdings belong to small and marginal farmers who have less than two hectares of land. In total these small and marginal farmers control only 32% (90471 hectares) of the total area of 2,81,046 hectares of land holdings. So nearly 67.16% farmers are controlling only 32% of the land holdings which shows that remaining medium & large farmers (about 33%) are controlling the major chunk of land holdings. Naturally, small land holdings are not very productive and useful for scientific cultivation. That is why, the major population is living with subsistence agricultural production. Such population is that of backward classes/SC/ST.

Tikamgarh, alongwith Datia and Chhatarpur, falls in the Jwar-Wheat producing areas of MP. Apart from wheat, the other major crops grown in the area are rice, jwar, maize, bajra, kodo, kutki, gram, tuar, mung, urad, soyabean, alsin, til, mungfali, jute and vegetables. Soyabean is also a major crop in the area which has attracted farmers towards it due to its cash value in the market. But with the net area under soyabean growing, the cultivation and productivity of other pulses and oilseeds is getting badly affected day by day. Soyabean is also affecting the labour-landowner relationship because soyabean, not being a food grain, does not provide direct material to eat to the labourer, particularly in the context when there was a system to give the crop as a wage to the labour. Soyabean gives high return to the large cultivators.

In certain areas of Tikamgarh, particularly in Newari block adjoining the markets in Jhansi town in UP, cropping of vegetables and spices is also on large scale. Perhaps, this is one of the major factors why Newari is considered more developed block than others in the district. This has also affected the water-table of the area. Newari has one of the lowest water-table in the country while the river like Betwa flows along it.

Overall productivity of crops in Tikamgarh is not upto the national standards. The productivity of wheat is 2258 kgs/hactare in irrigated areas and 1932 kgs/hactare in un-irrigated area, which is below the national average. Similar is the case with rice whose productivity (1312kg/ha) in irrigated areas is far below the national average of 1760 kg/ha.

The whole of Bundelkhand is dependent on the rains for irrigation. Though the major sources of irrigation in Bundelkhand are wells, the water in the wells depends on the rain. The second major sources are ponds. In Tikamgarh, the famous Chanderi Ponds are well scattered in the district and serve as a major source for drinking water as well as irrigation. Actually the water-table in the region as well as in the wells is maintained by these traditionally existing ponds. But their condition is depleting and if not taken care of, they will lose their importance.

Among all the Bundelkhand districts, Tikamgarh is rated high in terms of the coverage of its irrigation facilities. According to 1995-96 records, as mentioned in District Statistical Booklet of the district, 76.36% of the net sown area of the district is under irrigation. There are 67,362 wells, 243 ponds (under official/govt.control), 215 tubewells and 175 canals for irrigation. But still the rains affect it because wells and ponds are not independent of monsoon rains. It is to be noted that Bundelkhand receives average rainfall only in 6-7 years. With ground water decreasing, the problem of irrigation is ahead. The block Palera of Tikamgarh lags behind in irrigation facilities in comparison to Prithivipur and Newari.

Like Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur also has the large land holdings concentrated in the hands of a few large and medium farmers. Out of the total area of 8,63,010 hactares of Chhatarpur, only 4,48,078 hactares are under cultivation, in which 2,54,006 hactares are under Rabi and rest are under Kharif cultivation. Out of the total number of 1,86,285 landholdings, 58.33% (1,08,670 holdings) are that of small and marginal farmers who control only 26% (1,08,670 ha) of the total area of landholdings. So, a small number of medium and large farmers control the major area of land-holdings.

Unlike Tikamgarh, area under irrigation in Chhatarpur district is very small. Only 39.86% of the total sown area in the district is under irrigation. So the agriculture is largely rain-fed. The poor facilities of irrigation hits the blocks Gaurihar, Londi, Baxwaha and Bijawar badly because these are least irrigated blocks. Around 54,885 wells, 143 officially controlled ponds, 5 tubewells and only 30 canals don't serve the purpose of irrigation of district Chhatarpur. The productivity of the crops itself show the scene in agriculture. The productivity of wheat is 1960kg/ha in irrigated area, which is lower than the productivity in Tikamgarh. Productivity of rice is only 455 kg/ha. While the productivity of Soyabean in Tikamgarh is 1248 kg/ha, it is only 588 kg/ha in Chhatarpur. So, the agriculture is at a very poor state in Chhatarpur.

### **Poverty and quality of life in Bundelkhand**

#### **Case Note:1 - Village : Jharia, Gram Panchayat- Jharia, Distt: Datia**

Village Jharia, is situated on Datia-Sewda road, some 8 kms away from Datia town, in block Datia of the same district. There are around 70 families forming the population of around 650.

The village is inhabited by the casts namely Thakur, Ahirwar, Kushwah, Vishwakarma, Valmiki, Pal, Parihar and a few others. Thakur's control the major decisions for the village. The practice of untouchability is prevalent. Apart from Thakur, a few Ahirwar (Harijan) families are also well off due to the govt. job of their family members. Rest of the families of all

other castes are dependent on others' land for livelihood, mostly as labourers, because around 25 families of Valmikis and Parihars are almost landless.

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood. Cultivators grow soyabean, arhar, mungfali and sugarcane during kharif and wheat, mustard, masur, urad and mung during rabi. All those who have no land work as labourers. When there is no employment in agricultural activities, they go to Datia to work as unskilled labour. Villagers get fuel wood from the nearby forests area. Some of the families sell fuel wood in Datia, to add to their income.

When discussing about the problems in the villages, villagers had the first concern for health. They were telling that malaria and diarrhoea/dysentery were the major killers in their villages. Children were the worst hit and were dying in the number of at least 5-6 per year. Though the hospital in Datia is not far off but their economic condition does not allow them to visit such hospitals.

Poor villages have the concern about their low wage rate. There are two types of wages - agricultural and non-agricultural. They have to work up to 12 hours a day as agricultural labour and get Rs.25 for men and Rs.20 for women. Non-agricultural labour generates Rs.25-30 for men and Rs.20-25 for women in a day.

The irrigation of the village land is done through 40 wells out of which 10 wells provide water throughout the year while others get dry. About 15% of cultivable land is irrigated through these wells.

Thakurs control most of the land, the holdings being 50 to 250 acres. Ahirwars also have got land, in the range of 10-15 acres. But other castes have got very little land and 25 families of Valmikis and Parihars are almost landless, adding to the labour force.

On the agricultural credit, poor farmers have to pay one and half times interest. If not paid on time, it increases till it covers the cost of the land and land goes to the rich land-lords. Villagers take credit/loans for marriages and illness of their family members. For every 100 rupees, 15-20% interest is to be paid monthly. If not paid, they have to become almost bonded labour for the landlords.

For drinking water, 3 wells and 3 handpumps are there in the village. They are meant actually for the poor community, because landlords have their private resources. Handpumps are out of order for most of the time and that makes them dependent on the wells, which are not taken care of properly by the Gram Panchayat because they are situated in the Harijan areas.

Women of the lower castes work in the homes as well as outside as agricultural and non agricultural labour. During summer, they make 'pattals'

Around 25% of males are literate while only 5% of women are literate. There is one primary school in the village but teachers mostly sit in the houses of landlords, thus school is not properly functioning. Drinking water arrangements are separate for upper and lower castes. Village panchayat is headed by a Thakur sarpanch. Panchayat meeting takes place at his house. Due to untouchability, a scheduled caste panchayat member is told to collect the signature of all his caste people in attendance register of Panchayat general body meeting. Poor villagers complain about the functioning of panchayat and do not see it beneficial for them to sell in the market. A good number of women work in the houses of the landlords, where at times, they are sexually abused but report is not written in the police station due to the influence of landlords. Besides it, the families of such abused women are also tortured, if they try to go to police stations.

Around 25% of the village are literate of which only 5% of women are literate. There is one primary school in the village but teachers mostly sit in the houses of landlords, thus school is not properly functioning. Drinking water arrangement are separate for upper and lower castes. Village panchayat is headed by a Thakur sarpanch. Panchayat meeting takes place at his house. Due to untouchability, a scheduled caste panchayat member is told to collect the signature of all his caste people in attendance register of panchayat general body meeting. Poor villagers complain about the functioning of panchayat general and do not see it beneficial for the betterment of the village.

District Datia, also falls within the Jwar-Wheat zone of cultivation. Out of its total area of 2,03,481 hectares, only 1,39,676 hectares are under cultivation. Small and marginal landholders constitute 55% (28,439) of the total of 51,536. But they control only 18% (26,574 ha) of land. In Datia, it was noted in field that big landlords are practicing all ways to snatch the lands of the poor masses. This is very common practice in the rural areas of Bundelkhand.

In Datia, Rabi crop is grown in 1,09,716 hectares while Kharif is grown only in 29,960 hectares. Irrigation facilities are better than Chhatarpur but far behind Tikamgarh. Only 44.46% of the total sown area is under irrigation which is provided by two canals, 67 tubewells, 17,723 wells and 2 ponds. In block Sewda, irrigation facilities are better distributed than block Datia, where only 36.28% land is irrigated. The productivity of wheat in Datia is comparatively better with 2103 kg/hectare production.

Districts Satna and Panna are the zones of Rice-Wheat production in MP. The land-holding in Satna is also primarily concentrated in the hand of large and medium farmers. Out of its total area of 7,42,432 hectares, only 4,69,194 hectares are under cultivation. But only 24.92% area is under irrigation in Satna. The blocks which are not properly irrigated include, Amarpatan, Ramnagar, Maihar, Nagod, Uchehara and Majhgawa. Only Rampur Baghelan is relatively well irrigated due to the concentration of canals and tubewells in the block. The number of tubewells (5410) in Satna district is high in comparison to other concerned districts.

Panna has the total area of 7,02,924 hectares in which only 2,75,873 hectares are under cultivation. Kharif is grown in 9,52,49 hectares while Rabi is grown in 1,80,624 hectares. In Panna, again, small and marginal farmers control only a small proportion of the total land holdings. Out of the total holdings of 1,19,465 in Panna district, 60% is that of small and marginal farmers who hold only 19% of the total area. This indicates who controls the major area of the land. They are the rich and higher classes who control most of the cultivable area. The irrigation facilities are least in Panna in comparison to other districts in Bundelkhand. Till 1995-96, only 18.97% cultivable land of Panna was under irrigation. Out of all the blocks of Panna, the irrigation facilities are least in block Pawai (8.52%), Sahnagar (12.13%) and Gunnaur (12.85%). The productivity of crops is also very low, even if compared within the districts of Bundelkhand. Productivity of rice is only 1052 kg/ha in irrigated area while it is only 681 kg/ha in un-irrigated area. Similarly, the wheat is produced at the rate of 1931 kg/ha in irrigated area and only 1134 kg/ha in unirrigated area.

So, the overall scene in agriculture sector in Bundelkhand is not encouraging. Bundelkhand is not able to produce sufficient food for its population. The production is largely concentrated into the hands of quite a few landlords belonging to higher caste and classes. Livelihood from other sources, like forest and traditional crafts and occupation is also edging out. Lower caste and classes are able to generate foodgrains through their meagre cultivation and agriculture-labour only for a period of 3-4 months on an average in a year. So, a large number of labourers are forced to migrate to other regions of the country.

Agriculture sector can't hold them back, unless steps are taken for proper land-distribution, irrigation facilities and raising the productivity in the region.

**Poverty and quality of life in Bundelkhand**

**Case note :2 Village Marhi Khurd, Panchayat-Mahauri, Distt:Satna.**

Village Marhi Khurd, a part of the panchayat Mahauri, is situated in block Nagaud on Nagaud-Satna road, at some 5 kms from Nagaud. There are around 55 households in the village, with the population of about 350.

The village is inhabited by castes Bagari, Bunkar, Rajak, Khuswah, Kahar and Dahit. The other village of Panchayat, Akauna is inhabited by Thakurs who have control and say in the affairs of Marhi Khurd. In this village, Bagari community, through belonging to SC, are relatively rich. Actually, block Nagaud is dominated by Thakurs, Brahmins and Bagari castes. Bagari community is so dominant and influential that there is a demand in the region that they should be put out of the list of SC and put under OBC(Other Backward Classes).The social as well economic status of Bagari caste is well ahead of other constituents of SC. Bagari community have most of the modern resources like tractors, thrashers for agriculture in the village. Some families of other castes have very little land (1-1/2ha) in the village. Almost 50% of the families in the village are landless. Almost half of the village's land is under the control of Bagari caste who have holdings upto 50 acres to some families. All those who have tractors, rent it to the small farmers for ploughing at the rate of Rs.140/- per hour.

The economy of the village is based on agriculture and bidi making. In Kharif, Soyabean, Urad and Jwar is grown while in Rabi season, Wheat, Gram, Moong etc. are grown. Apart from agriculture, bidi making is the main occupation which is done mostly by women and children. Forests are at distance, so it is time-taking job to collect tendu leaves from there.

Health is again a major problem in the village. People complain that they have never seen any health worker of the Government visiting their village. Malaria is the biggest killer disease, which takes the form of an epidemic at times. A good number of children below 5 are killed by this disease. Diarrhoea/ Dysentery and Cough are also prevalent in the village.

Poor people also complaint about exploitative wage labour. In agriculture, male labour is paid Rs 20/per day and women are paid Rs15/. In bidi making, the problem is universal. Bidi workers are given 700 grams tendu leaves by contractors from which only 500 bidis can be made while the workers have to provide 1000 bidi rather 1200 bidis to get Rs20/ as wage.

The villagers take loan mostly from the rich people of Bagari community for agriculture, marriage and treatment of illness of their family members at the interest rate of 10% per month. . If not paid, they have to become bonded labour for the landlords.

Most of the irrigated land belongs to Bagari and Thakur community of the nearby village. For drinking water new people are dependent on 3 handpumps while wells are getting neglected.

Women, of the lower caste, work day and night to support their families. During the harvesting of wheat, they get one bundle as wage for 20 bundles they harvest. Rest of their time, they give for bidi making.

Schooling is a big problem for the children. There is no primary school in the village. It is around 2 Kms away, in another village. Only the children of Bagari community go to school while others do not. There is literacy of 10-12% among men and 4-5% among women.

## 5.2 Forest and Animal Resources.

One fourth of the total forests of the country falls in MP. Within MP, 34.94% of its total area is forested. But these forests are not equally distributed throughout the state. There might have been time in medieval ages when Bundelkhand was heavily forested, as we came across stories that it was safest hideout for the fugitive and defeated armies of warring kings and feudatories. But now the forests of Bundelkhand are dwindling. It is causing concern because it has been a major source of livelihood for poor people. People living in and around forests have been using it for shelter, fuel food, drinks and smoke, medicinal plants, crafts and cottage industries. But the control of forests by government through its forest department and the nexus between feudal and officials forces has left the poor people, particularly that of ST/SC, relatively out of the benefits of the forests.

In Bundelkhand, Panna is the only district which has the percentage of forest area over 50% with respect to its geographical area. Satna and Chhatarpur have the forest cover between 20-30%, while Datia and Tikamgarh have it less than 20%.(see table 5.1)

**Table 5.1:  
District Area under Forest.**

District	Geographical Area(sq.km)	Forest Area(Sq.Km)	%ge w.r.f.Geographical Area	per capita forest area (in hactares)
Panna	7122	4031	56.60%	0.62
Chhatarpur	8690	2000	23.01%	0.19
Tikamgarh	5047	781	15.47%	0.09
Datia	2034	268	13.18%	0.07
Satna	7502	2230	29.72%	-

The forests of Datia and Tikamgarh are northern sub-type of thorn-forests while that of Chhatarpur, Panna and Satna are of eastern sal, a sub-type of Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests. On the basis of the recorded forest area, Panna is the only district in Bundelkhand, which is self-sufficient in forest resources. Chhatarpur and Satna are having deficit in fuelwood but surplus in timber. Datia and Tikamgarh are among those districts, which are showing deficit in both, timber and fuelwood. This might have been due to the excessive cutting of forests in these districts.

Bundelkhand, devoid of forest cover, looks like a barren land with naked moulds of hills. The problem of soil erosion, soil filling into the ponds making them useless, direct flow of rain-water into the rivers, depleting ground water resources and unproductivity of the land, all these are the emerging issues in Bundelkhand which have roots into the depletion of forest cover.

Forests in Bundelkhand have been a major source of livelihood for poor people. Though, tribes have been dependent on forests for everything in their life, other caste people, particularly that of Scheduled Caste, have also been dependent on it for food. Mahuwa has been one of the major sources of food for poor community living in the rural areas of these concerned districts. If one passes across Bundelkhand district during March -April, one can observe the importance of Mahuwa in the life of people. One can sense the smell of it all around during those a few months. Mahuwa's flower, fruit and seed, all are useful for the livelihood of poor people. Mahuwa flower is most important because it provides almost ready food for them. It has been observed and estimated that Mahuwa fulfills at least three

months' food requirements of poor community. It is considered to be a poor man's food while it is a food for the animals of rich people. Such is the importance of Mahuwa in this region that there is a saying which means that, "if one does not like the smell of Mahuwa, he should not send his daughters in marriage to Bundelkhand." During March-April of every year, all the members of the families living below poverty line would be seen collecting Mahuwa flowers in the forests. Children won't go to schools, would leave their examinations even and their parents wouldn't go for any other kind of wage labour because from Mahuwa they don't only get food for their family but also get cash after selling it in the market. In the process of selling the dried-up Mahuwa flowers, the role of middlemen emerges. Poor people, who collect it from forests, can't keep it for long in their houses due to non-availability of space and non-durability of it. As it has its sell value and poor people require cash money for their other needs, they sell it into the hands of middlemen at very cheap prices, who in turn earn profits in the market. So the aspect of exploitation gets involved because people don't get expected benefit after giving so much of their time and labour in collecting and drying the Mahuwa flower. NGOs and community based organisations can play a major role here by organising the Mahuwa collecting people into cooperative form and providing them space for collecting Mahuwa for a long time to increase its self-value without middlemen.

Apart from Mahuwa, the forests of Bundelkhand also provide various other non-timber forest products (NTFP) which are economically beneficial for poor masses. Such products are Tendu-leaves, Palash-leaves, Amla, Harra, gond, imli, khair, chiraunji, babul, anjan, salbeaj and other medicinal plants. A large number of people are involved in collecting the NTFP and earn out of it but again the real profit goes into the hands of middlemen. Making *bidi* out of tendu leaves and exploitative processes involved in it, actually raise a major issue in Bundelkhand.

Tribal families collect firewood from the forests, make bundles of it and sell it out in the markets of local towns or local markets of rural areas. But here again, they don't get the real price of their labour and product. They have no options but to sell it at cheaper prices because of their urgency to sell it out to meet their other needs at home.

Bundelkhand has a major national park, named Panna National Park, covering the area of 543 sq.km, mostly in district Panna and a little in Chhatarpur. It has quite a large number of wild life, in terms of tigers (22), panthers(50), nilgai(951), chinkara(908),chausingha (131), black buck (31) and barking deer (33). There are habitations of tribals in the forest area, completely dependent on it. With Project Tiger, at least 10 villages of tribals are to be displaced in district Panna and this is a major developmental issue and concern because people are not willing to be out of their original habitation.

### **Poverty and quality of life in Bundelkhand**

#### **Case Note 3. Village - Sakaria, Panchayat-Sakaria, Distt:Panna.**

Village Sakaria is the part of block Panna, in district Panna and is situated on Panna- Satna road, some 15 kms away from Panna. The village is constituted of 200 households with the population of around 1500. The population is constituted of Thakur, Brahmins, Yadav, Ghosi, Nai and Gond (Adivasi) community. Thakurs, locally called zamindars, are well off because of their land holdings and their family members being in government jobs. Yadavs and Ghosi are involved in agriculture and livestock business and are also better off socially and economically. Thakurs, Brahmins, Yadav and Ghosi families take pattas in Diamond mines and earn financially. But the Gonds, who are the largest community in the village, are mostly poor. Only 4-5 families of them have a little land, which is mostly wasteland, completely nonviable for agriculture. Almost all of them are labour. Though sarpanch of the panchayat is

an adivasi but it does not make difference to the control mechanism of the traditional power-centres, the landlords. It seems that development has not reached to these poor people. Feudal forces hold the reign of rural life and not the government administration.

Poorest section is involved either in agriculture as labour or in selling fuelwood in the market. In cultivation, main crops are rice and mungfali during kharif and wheat, gram, masur during rabi. The village, due to its nearness to diamond-mines, has got forest nearby and several miner products from forest are available. These are goose berries (amla), chiranji, harra, trifala, mahuwa, gond etc. Panna is exporting goose berries (amla) outside the district but the whole trade is controlled by feudal forces. In the diamond mines the lease is mostly with rich people. There are stone mines also where all the tribal families are labourers.

The health concerns are there because apart from malaria, TB is also prevalent in the village. Malnutrition is visible particularly among the children of tribes.

As a agricultural wage labour, male gets Rs25/per day while females get Rs20/per day. Women working in the household of landlords are open to various kinds of exploitations, including sexual abuse. In non-agricultural labour, diamond mines provide the employment during the four months of rains, when they are given the work to cut soil on contract, in which males get Rs40/.per day and females get Rs30/per day. But labour gets the work for three days a week on an average. In such mines, the labour is treated badly. The

interest rate on the loan taken from land owners is high. Those who have taken loans, have to work on the land of landlords simply on the wage of Rs10/per day from which they have to pay the loan also. If somebody has taken the loan of Rs.200/ he has to work as labour for 7 to 9 years for the landlord.

Drinking water is major problem because out of 4 handpumps, only one is working and others are completely out of order.

Women are over burdened. Women of poor families, after getting up early in the morning ,go to Panna, 15 km away to sell fuelwood bundles and return back by 4 pm to go again to far off forest area to collect fuelwood. Each bundle of fuelwood earns them 10 to 15 Rs.

There is a primary school in the village in which 75 students are studying. There are 35 girls in the school. Most of these girls are from the families of Thakur, Brahmin, Yadav and Ghosi. There is no girl from the tribal family. Only 5% of males and around one percent of females are literate in the village.

Sarpanch is from the tribal community but he tells that he is not listen to by the block officials. He has stopped visiting blocks. Whenever any block official visits the village, he/she goes to Thakur sahib's place and sarpanch is asked to reach there to answer a few things required. Hardly any work has been done by the Panchayat.

Chhatarpur has Ken Ghariyal Sanctuary, covering the area of 45 sq. kms, to preserve the alligators.

Apart from forest resources, livestock is also a major source of livelihood for the people of Bundelkhand. The region is famous for its livestock population which provides milk and other animal products, apart from oxen for cultivation.

District Tikamgarh has the animal count of 8,19,557 in which the largest share is that of cow family with its number being 4,63,806. Buffalo family constitutes 1,29,848 while

sheep/goats/pigs constitute 2,25,903. This shows the importance given to livestock by the people of Bundelkhand because, these animals serve the livelihood purposes of the people. The population of hens etc. is also considerable who are 78,486 in Tikamgarh district, counted in 1995-96.

The similar pattern, like that of Tikamgarh, follows in other districts in terms of the population and importance given to animals and livestock. Satna has the count of 10,54,314 livestock, Panna has 7,58,874, Chhatarpur has 13,65,019 and Datia has 3,14,786. These animals serve mostly through milk, manure and cowdung, apart from being used in cultivation, carriage and transport.

### **5.3 Mining, Quarrying and Industries.**

MP is rich in mineral wealth, second after Bihar. But in the production of certain minerals it holds first position. These minerals are Lime Stone(Chuna Pathar), Diasphore, Piarophilyte and copper ore. The first three of it are produced in northern districts of MP.

Lime stone is predominantly found in district Satna, whose production is largest in MP. It is also available in Panna and Chhatarpur. Its different forms like lime-kankar and calf-tufa are found in Tikamgarh and Panna. Lime-stone is used for cement, steel and lime industry.

Piarophilyte and diasphore are found together and are used for refractory ceramics, stoneware industry and insecticide industry. It is also used as a substitute of marble. These minerals are available in abundance in Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh.

Rock-phosphate which is used in chemical fertilizers is being mined in Chhatarpur. Bauxite is available in Satna. Berites, which is used in paint, rubber, paper, and chemical industry is mined in Tikamgarh. Clay is available in Datia, Panna, Satna and Tikamgarh. Diamond is found only in Panna.

In Satna lime-stone mining and mineral based activities are taking place at places like Naina, Madanpur, Dengarhat, Karman, Badhai, Kirhi-Argat, Hinauti, Chhibaura, Gaharwar, Sejhata, Jinne-Setpura etc. In Panna, at a place named Katan, mini cement industry is proposed. Bauxite is being mined at a place called Nato in Satna.

In Panna, diamond mining is taking place at places called Ramkhiriya, Majhgaon, Itawa and Sejdhan. Piarophilyte in Tikamgarh is being mined at places called Kari, Bari and Kheda, while at places named Garhi and Malhar in Chhatarpur. Granite is also being mined at Tikamgarh. Mining and quarrying of the stone for building materials can be widely seen in the districts of Bundelkhand.

What is worth observing is that Bundelkhand is rich in some important minerals and stones but mining and quarrying involves exploitation of wage labour and the issue of health hazard is also involved in it. Stone cutting and quarrying is under the total control of contractors, coming mostly from the upper caste and carrying the feudal relations into this business. It is hazardous and a large number of TB cases and other such respiratory diseases can be noticed among the workers involved in this business.

Large scale and organised industries are only a few in this region. In Datia, at places like Datia and Sunari, some industries of Vanaspati oil, cotton processing and graphite cutting are established. In Panna, perhaps Puraina is the only place where some relatively large industries are emerging for producing calcium carbide, oxygen gas etc. In Satna some large industries are there, mostly for manufacturing cement and power cables, at places like Satna, Gurdang, Maihar and Sajjanpur. In Tikamgarh, the places like Horsemau, Pratappur

and Tikamgarh itself have industries for granite cutting and polishing refractories etc. So, in the region, large industries are almost absent, except for a few at Satna. Even these industries are based on the mining of the available ores and minerals in the region. So, mining and quarrying are primary activities in the region. In Tikamgarh there are 27 mines (Khadans) for Diasphore/Piarophyllite and 34 for stone-cutting. Datia has it for Kharia mitti and quartz, while Panna has it for diamaond, building stone and fire clay. Chhatarpur has it for Diasphore/Piarophyllite, rock-phosphate, quartz granite etc. Satna has 153 mines for lime-stone, 56 for bauxite, 69 for onkar and other 28 for ghutti. A large number of skilled and non-skilled labour is involved in the exploitative business of mining and quarrying.

It has been observed that entrepreneurship for the establishment of cottage and village industries is very much missing in the districts of the region. In Tikamgarh during 1995-96, District Industry Centre and Khadi Gramodyog Department could motivate only 319 persons to start some sort of small /cottage industry. In Datia, only 101 such persons could start some activities. In Panna, 309 persons were supported by these institutions to start something for their livelihood. In Satna and Chhatarpur, 537 and 148 such people, respectively, could start their own business through the institutional support. Given the population and requirements, such a number for so large districts is very small.

At some place, traditional cottage and small industries are dying slowly and slowly. For example, utensil-industry of Uchhehara in Satna district is on the verge of extinction. The utensils made up of bronze (or kansa) at Uchhehara were famous throughout MP, UP and Bihar but due to the growing use of steel utensils, importance of traditional utensils is waning. So, it would be no strange that Uchhehara would be out of the utensil manufacturing map, if no protection is given.

Overall industrial picture in Bundelkhand is not encouraging at all. Bundelkhand is rich of minerals and building stones, but people are poor because of exploitative nature of mining and hazardous nature of work involved in stone cutting and quarrying. Feudal forces are operating here again in mining. The benefits are not for poor, but for a few rich.

#### **5.4 Poverty, Income and Quality of Life.**

Poverty is rampant in the districts of Bundelkhand. Low productivity in agriculture and industrial backwardness, together with the dying traditional household/cottage industries have kept the region as one of the most poverty stricken. Employment and income generation programmes run by government, hardly reach to the poor in the feudal set up of the society, widely prevalent in the area. Migration to other states doesn't always solve the

#### **Poverty and quality of life in Bundelkhand**

##### **Case Note No.4 Village- Khairi, Panchayat-Khairi ,Distt:Chhatarpur.**

Village- Khari is situated in block Chhatarpur on Chhatarpur-Khajuraho road, some 20 km away from Chhattarpur. There are about 450 household with apopulation of around 2000.

The village is inhabited by Brahmins, Thakurs, Dhobi and Harijans. Brahmins are dominant here due to their social, economic and political status. Nothing can be done in the village without their influence. About 70% of the land is in the hand of Brahmins. Some land, given by the govt., is also with the Harijans, but due to lack of resources they give their land to landlords for some money, which covers their travel expenses to go to other cities or states for livelihood. 30 families are almost landless. Dhobi community has around 30 families but their traditional work is almost closed. They now act as labourers and keep goats for

livelihood. Some harijans are involved in pigary.

In agriculture, the major crops are mungfali, jute, urad,til, wheat, barley, gram, matar etc. Though there are 200 wells for irrigation but hardly 10 of them can supply water for 8-10 hours in a day. Together they irrigate around 15% of the total sown area. For drinking water, the village is dependent on 4 handpumps (which are working among total 11 handpumps) and openwells. In summers, animals face the problem of drinking water while people manage anyhow.

Among the forest products, Mahuwa is available but in very small quantity. Even this is sold to the local sahukar (trader) on very cheap rate. These sahukars also buy the agricultural produce from the villagers on relatively cheap rate and villagers are bound to sell it because they can't afford to reach to market and sahukars give them ready cash immediately.

Labourers try to migrate to other states for getting proper wage. There are external agents involved in sending the labourers from here to places like Ghaziabad, Delhi and Sirsa (Haryana).

There are two sources of loan/credit for the villages. One of them is from banks, but its lengthy processes discourage poor villagers to take advantage of it, while rich farmers are well able to avail it. Poor people take loans from feudal rich to whom the interest upto 25% is to be paid for agricultural loans. On the loans for marriage, and sickness one has to pay the interest upto 5% monthly.

Women here are as open to exploitation as in any other villages of Bundelkhand region. Girls have little opportunity to attend schools. Most of the girls in the primary school are from rich families.

When discussing about the role of sarpanch in village development, people noted that in the whole region, illiterate sarpanchs are under the control of the local MLA who runs the affairs as he wishes.

problem of everybody, when the population living below poverty line is very large. That is why there are reports in the local newspapers as well as national news magazines that a large number of poor people are silently dying out of hunger in Bundelkhand.

Tikamgarh has poverty rate of 58.3% closely followed by district Satna with 55.5. Districts Datia and Panna also have the poverty rate indicating nearly half of its population below poverty line. Only Chhatarpur is relatively better in Bundelkhand, with the poverty rate of only 29.8% which may be attributed to comparatively loose feudal control and prevalent economic activities like bidi making. (see table 5.2 and 5.3).

Per capita income of the concerned districts is also very low. Human Development Report of MP, 1995, indicates that it is difficult to calculate the income at the district level and it would not be adequate indicator for judging the backwardness of the district, but its calculations have some meaning. Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Satna have the per capita income less than Rs3000 per annum. Datia has the per capita income of Rs3238 which is the best among the concerned districts.

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**Case Note 5: Village- Bauri, Panchayat- Bauri, Distt:Tikamgarh.**

Village Bauri is situated in block Tikamgarh, some 4 kms away from the district headquarters. The closeness with the town doesn't change the living condition of the villagers too much. The village is inhabited by around 690 people belonging mostly to Harijan, Yadav and Kadi castes. Most of the people, particularly of Yadav castes, are involved in agriculture or selling milk to the town areas. Other have got either no land or very little, which is economically not viable due to lack of irrigation facilities. The sarpanch of the village is a Harijan but he is under the influence of powerful people at district headquarters.

So close to the town, rather district headquarters, the village is not properly linked in terms of road and transport. If such is the condition of this village, what to tell of far off villages of far off blocks.

For drinking water, villagers have to depend on the open wells and three handpumps, which are mostly non functional at intervals. There is a primary school in the village. After primary, girls are not sent to higher schools. Villagers told that for last 5 years, no girl has reached to class 8 in the village. For literacy programme, no female volunteer was available in the village, because no one was so literate to act as volunteer. Poor women are involved mostly in farm or non-farm wage labour.

The practice like child marriage was widely prevalent in the village. Most of the girls are sent into marriage before reaching the age of 15. Boys are also married at a very young age. For fully adult girl or boy, it is difficult to get a match for marriage because most of them are married at a young age.

The interest rate on the loans/credit taken from the landlord is as equally exploitative as in the other districts of Bundelkhand. Efforts are needed to make people aware of the exploitation involved in money lending business and give them suitable options in the form of banks, cooperatives and self-help-groups with easy processes to operate with.

**Table 5.2  
Families Living Below Poverty Line (BPL) (for the Eighth Plan 1992-97)**

District	Rural population(1991)	Total No.of rural families BPL	Poverty rate	No.of Rural Families Below Poverty Line Income Groups				Average BPL income
				0-4000	4001-6000	6001-8500	8500-11000	
Tikamgarh	781650	82885	58.3%	23565	24055	19180	16085	5590
Satna	1173570	118363	55.5%	52209	37456	18676	10022	4434
Datia	307751	27424	49.0%	7413	8080	6067	5864	5703
Panna	595245	52001	48.0%	17483	19017	10012	5489	4926
Chhatarpur	935471	50607	29.8%	16939	16059	11177	6432	5096
Madhya Pradesh	50787815	5550757	60.1%	2226195	1806366	983580	534616	4653

Sources: The MP Human Devt. Report (1995)

**Table 5.3**  
**Classification of Families (Nos.) Living Below Poverty Line**  
**(for the Eighth Plan 1992-97).**

District	Small farmers	Marginal farmers	Agri.lab our	Non-Artisan -lture labour	Rural	Others	Totalagricu
Tikamgarh	26136	28090	11730	13045	2844	1040	82885
Satna	14905	20329	33205	34335	7781	7808	118363
Datia	7858	8903	3820	3733	1097	2013	27424
Panna	8848	11279	16976	12015	1454	1429	52001
Chhatarpur	6390	6830	9277	14712	12785	613	50607
Madhya radesh	1200558	1435235	1791974	821081	197340	194569	5550757

Source: MP Human Devt Report 1995

Quality of life in Bundelkhand is reflected by the prevalence of diseases, high mortality rate, atrocities against women, poor linkages by roads and lack of sanitation at the household level.. Though Datia, Tikamgargh and Chhatarpur have almost all of its villages connected with electricity but its actual benefits are for a rich few. Poor and marginalised households hardly have electricity connections. Availability of electricity for rural areas is also a big question. Panna and Satna districts have not been able to electrificate all of its villages, where only 68.78 and 73.23 percent of villages, respectively, have got connected. Roads to the rural areas are also in bad conditions. Rural areas are unapproachable for quite a considerable period of time during the year. Poor connection through roads to service centres like Primary Health Centres and lack of transport facilities cause a number of losses in terms of deaths, particularly that of pregnant women and children. The general usual living-patterns of villages of the districts of Bundelkhand are given in the form of a few cases (see case notes).

### **5.5 Government Programmes For Rural Development/Self Employment .**

There are various programmes launched by the state government in assistance with the Central Government, bilateral aid and loans from the agencies like World Bank and other financial institutions. The major development programmes for rural development, particularly to generate self employment among youth below poverty line, are :

- a) Jawahar Rojgar Yojna
- b) Integrated Rural Development Programme(IRDP)
- c) Indira Awas Yojna
- d) Development of Women and children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
- e) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM)
- f) Drought Prone Area Programme.

Most of these programmes aim at generating opportunities for self employment to rural youth and women, IRDP is credit based programme for the rural unemployed living below

poverty line. Similarly DWCRA is specially meant for the group of women willing to generate income on their own after getting trained by the government agencies. Government involves non-government agencies also for trainings of traders under DWCDAs programmes. Indira Awas Yojna is for rural housing for those who are living in poverty. (For the details of all these programmes, kindly refer to Chapter-6)

MP has three missions for rural employment. They are Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Watershed Management; Gramodyog Mission and Fisheries Development Mission.

### **5.5.1 Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Watershed Management**

Started in 1994, the Watershed Management Mission, is one of the most ambitious programmes of the government of MP in the recent years. Govt. visualises it as economically most viable in the long run, in comparison to other development programmes. According to Mr S Jain, who has been involved in conceptualising this programme in MP and presently holds the position of Chairman in Pollution Control Board, MP, this programme is like the universalisation of the work done by noted social worker Mr Anna Hazare in Ralegaon Sidhi in Maharashtra. According to him, there might be practical problems in implementation of the programme, but conceptually it is most profitable in terms of employment generation, livelihood security and environmental rehabilitation.

The Mission aims at improving land and water resources and thereby productivity of 28 lakh hectares of degraded land in MP. It is a conscious effort to address the problem of employment generation during its development phase and then the problem of livelihood security faced by the people in these areas. It is based on the strategy of people's participation to aim at livelihood security and environmental rehabilitation.

The mission is generating financial resources from the earlier ongoing programmes of Employment Assurance Scheme/JRY and Drought Prone Areas Programmes. The mission operates through people's watershed development committees that are elected. Technical and financial support is provided by the government. In each block, a milli-watershed of 5000-10000 hectares is identified. In each milli-watershed there are several micro watersheds which are directly managed by elected watershed development committees. (See table 5.4) Within the micro watersheds, people are further organised into User Groups (land owners), self-help Groups (non-land holding people who come together to get some benefit from the watershed) and Women's Thrift and Credit Groups for income generation activities. These participatory structures and their vibrancy is critical to the successful implementation of the Mission. Funds are placed directly with watershed committees and it is a significant departure from previous practice. People's watershed committees now control the funds of the programme.

It is India's largest watershed development programme. Economic benefits have started flowing in the areas that have been treated. Fodder production has gone up. Employment generation in MP has been estimated as 140 lakh mandays.

A large number of non-government organisations (NGOs) are also operating in the programme along with the government agencies. By May 97, 61 watersheds were being operated by NGOs in MP. In Bundelkhand region also, the efforts are on to find out able NGOs and involve them in watershed management programme. In Tikamgarh it was observed that DWCRA groups and the organised groups of neo-literates, through their respective government departments were getting involved in watershed development programme. NGOs with the capacity to handle the programme on their own are had to locate in Bundelkhand districts. But Nehru Yuva Kendras of all the concerned districts of Bundelkhand are actively involved in this programme, through their Youth groups active in

the micro watershed areas. It seems that only the groups, formal and informal, created by the government departments are involved in this programme, in place of NGOs. It has been the major criticism of this programme, that government has not taken efforts to involve and identify capable NGOs and is working with only adhoc groups.

Watershed development has importance for the region like that of Bundelkhand, which has traditionally been dependent on rain fed ponds and wells for irrigation as well as drinking water facilities. With the system getting damaged and catchment areas blocked during the past years, it is important that efforts are being taken to develop watershed areas so that earth gets filled with ground water and soil erosion is controlled. This programme has far reaching consequences for Bundelkhand.

**Table 5.4  
Status of Watersheds Projects in Districts (As on May 97)**

S.No.	District*	No.of Milli watersheds selected	No.of micro WS selected	No. of villages selected	Financial Exp. (Rs.in lakh)
1	Panna	14	48	113	135.41
2	Satna	10	70	120	150.70
3	Chhatarpur	16	60	68	45.67
4	Tikamgarh	6	30	35	1.96
5	MP	651	4194	6605	10804.20

\*Datia is not having watershed programme at present.

### **5.5.2 Rajiv Gandhi Gramyudyog Mission**

Rajiv Gandhi Gramyudyog Mission aims at increasing employment in the non-farm sector especially in the areas of sericulture, leather, handicrafts, handlooms and village industries. The mission seeks to protect artisan groups from deskilling by constant efforts at improving their skills levels and through value addition for their products.

Sericulture is a major possibility the river belt villages in district Panna. In district Tikamgarh, leather work and the improvement in it is the possibilities in Block Jatara where the villages around Lidhaura village are engaged in it.

The Handloom sector and the khadi and village industries sector continues to be a major provider of rural non- farm employment. Training for design upgradation has been the focus of activity under mission. A large number of people are engaged in khadi-industry in block Newari and Prithivipur in district Tikamgarh. Tikamgarh has been also identified as one of the craft pockets in MP and a new craft development centre has come up.

### **5.5.3 Rajiv Gandhi Fisheries Development Mission.**

This Mission is targeted towards increasing employment opportunities for fishermen as well as for increasing fish production in the state. The mission claims to have made significant improvements in this direction in the last three years.

Panchayats have been given powers of auction for all ponds belonging to them. The mission has also introduced several innovative measures in the sector like duck cum fish farms, paddy cum fish farms, fisheries development in abandoned mining quarries, development of models fish farming villages etc.

Bundelkhand has a caste named Dhimar, widely spread across all the districts in the region, particularly in Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Panna and Satna. They are traditional fishermen, whose life has been dependent on the ponds and rivers of the region. Their life is getting badly affected due to depleting condition of traditional ponds and its encroachments. They are devoid of employment in their traditional business. Mission can come forward to help them in their livelihood through innovative techniques in fisheries.

Though, the government has taken numerous efforts in rural development through its various programmes, its fruits are hardly visible in the rural areas. The mechanism of implementation of such programmes has always been found complex and gets circumvented into feudal relations in the society. There is a long way to go in rural development.

## Chapter -6 Government - Programmes for Rural Development

In the earlier chapters on Health, Education and Economy, some of the government programmes have been briefly discussed in their respective contexts. But the government has a very wide range of programmes in different sectors with various kinds of target-groups. A publication of Public - Relations Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, namely 'Aage Ayen Labh Uthayen' ( Come Forward , Get Benefits ) mentions as many as 412 government - programmes in detail, in 38 sectors of development. These sectors include, Panchayat and Rural Development, Agriculture, Cooperatives, Forest, Cottage- Industry, Industry, Dairy, Fisheries, Primary Education, Public Health, Energy, Animal Husbandry, SC/ST Development, Entrepreneurship, Labour, Mother and Child Development, Social Welfare and Environment among others. There are as many as 31 kinds of beneficiaries in government programmes, the important ones being- SC/ST, OBC, Minorities, Farmers, Youth, Women, Unemployed, Homeless, Weavers, Slum-dwellers, Students, Labourers, Tendu-leaf collectors, Artisans , Aged, Fishermen, Diseased, Consumer and Handicapped.

It is difficult to cover all the government - programmes in the given space here but some major programmes with wide implications can be mentioned as follows:

### 1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P)

The objective of this programme is to provide bank loans and government subsidy to those families which are living below poverty - line in rural areas, so that they can engage themselves in some self - employment activities. The programme is operating throughout the Madhya Pradesh.

**Eligibility:** Families living below poverty - line, that is those having the annual income of less than 11,000 Rs.

**Selection Process:** Beneficiary - family is selected by the Gram-Panchayat through the Gram - Sabha. Among the selected families 50% should be from ST/SC, 40% Women and 3% Physically handicapped.

**Implementation - Process** The list of beneficiaries is sent by Panchayat to Block Office which prepares the loans - proposals and send it to the bank. Banks provide cash amount to the beneficiary.

**Contact:** Gram -Panchayat /Sarpanch/Block-office/ District Rural Development Agency (DRDA).

### 2. Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (J.R.Y.)

The objective of this programme is to provide gainful employment to unemployed or marginally - employed male and female in rural areas .It also aims at creating community infrastructure in the rural areas for continuous use.

**Selection - Process:** The list of the people living below poverty-line is prepared by the

**Eligibility:** People living below poverty-line.

Gram - Panchayat with the consent of the Gram-Sabha. From among the beneficiaries, the priority would be given to ST/SC and the needy at the time of employment. Among them 30% should be women. The kind of work in which employment would be generated is decided by the Gram-Panchayat.

**Implementation- Process :** The employment is generated through the construction-work of school-building, Anganari-centre, Primary health centre and village roads.

**Role of Panchayats** Village - Panchayat can utilise 80% of the programme amount on construction - work generating employment to the poor. Panchayats are responsible for making proposal and plans and keeping the records of expenditure.

**Contact:** Sarpanch/Gram-panchayat.

### **3. Employment Assurance Scheme(E.A.S.)**

The objective of the scheme is to provide assured employment of at least 100 days to poor people in the age- group of 18-60 years during non-farming seasons.

**Beneficiary:** All those living below the poverty - line and in the age group of 18-60 years. Maximum two persons from one poor family would be included. The Scheme is operative in 340 blocks of 37 districts.

**Selection-Process :** The poor needy persons would register their names in Gram-Panchayat. If 20 such persons have applied, the work would be planned and implemented to engage them.

**Implementation-Process:** Work would be done only by the labourers. The payment to them would be partly in cash and partly in the form of 2 kg. foodgrains.

**Role of Panchayat:** If Gram- Panchayat is made the work- agency, it would implement it and keep the records of expenditure.

**Contact:** Collector/District Rural Development Agency.

### **4. Training of Rural Youth for Self- Employment(TRYSEM):**

The objective of TRYSEM is to provide Self-employment opportunity through training to the youth of age - group 18-35 years, living below the poverty-line.

**Beneficiary** Youth of age-group 18-35, living in a poor family. Out of the total number of beneficiaries, 50% should be from SC/ST and 3% physically handicapped. 30% of the total should be women.

**Selection-Process:** The list of identified Youth is prepared by the Gram-Panchayat through the consent of the Gram-Sabha.

**Implementation-Process:** The list of identified Youth is sent to Janapad - Panchayat which gives the final consent. The Youth is given training for a particular occupation, from among the many such occupations. The trainees are given stipend during the training -period. The stipend varies from 200 to 500 Rs.

**Role of Panchayat:** Gram-Panchayat have been given the sole responsibility to identify the beneficiaries.

**Contact:** Gram-Panchayat /Janapad - Panchayat/ Block office/ District Rural Development Agency.

### **5. Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)**

The objective of this programme is to provide Self-employment opportunities to the group of poor rural women by giving them training and making the seed- money and market available to their products so that their social status and the condition of their children in terms of health, education and nutrition is improved.

**Beneficiaries:** All women-groups in rural areas with preference to those living below the poverty - line . This programme is operating in all the 45 districts of M.P.

**Implementation-Process:** The groups of 10-15 rural women are formed through the Gram-Sevika ( female- functionary of govt. at the block-level) and trained in the trade chosen by the group. The seed - amount of Rs. 15000=00 is given to the group to start the business. The market is provided for the sell of the product. The group is also oriented on the issues of health, nutrition, education and legal rights of the women.

**Contact:** Gram-panchayat/District Women & Child Development office/ Block office/Commissioner, Women and Child development.

### **6. Indira Awas Yojna**

The objective of this programme is to provide financial assistance to homeless families, living below poverty-line in rural areas, to construct houses for themselves.

**Beneficiaries:** Families living below the poverty -line in rural areas.

**Selection-Process:** Beneficiaries are identified by the Gram-Panchayat with the consent of the Gram-Sabha and the list is send to Janapad Panchayat for finalisation.

**Implementation-Process:** The Beneficiary is provided with the sum of Rs. 14,000 for constructing his/her house. Out of this amount , 9,000/- is supposed to be used for the construction of the main building and 5000/- for sanitary latrine and smokeless chulha.

The beneficiary is taken as the main builder of his/her own house under the supervision of the Panchayat. He/She is supposed to take full advantage of the village artisans and resources available in rural areas for construction work.

**Role of Panchayat:** In the selection of the beneficiaries and the supervision of the construction-work.

**Contact:** Sarpanch/Village - Panchayat.

### **7. Group Insurance Scheme for Bidi- Workers:**

This scheme for Bidi-workers is operating since April 1,1992, in M.P. It operates through Bharatiya Jeevan Bima Nigam. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support in case of the death of a bidi -worker.

***Important Element :***

1. The age of the worker should be between 18 to 60 years.
2. The worker should have the identity - card . Such identity-cards are provided by regional welfare commissioner.
3. If the worker is not the member of the Provident Fund , the age mentioned in the identity-card would be applicable.
4. Under this scheme, every bidi - worker is insured for one year, for the value of the sum of Rs. 3000/-.
5. Insured bidi-worker has not to pay any premium.

***Payable Amount:***

If the worker dies in any accident , his/her nearest legal relative would get the amount of Rs. 6000/-.

***Process:***The nearest relative of the deceased would send the application to the welfare commissioner, who, after inspection would send it to Bhartiya Jeevan Bima Nigam( Life Insurance cooperation in India). The Insurance cooperation would send the money to the applicant through welfare commissioner.

**8. Group Insurance Scheme for Social- Security of Tendu- leaf collectors:**

The scheme is implemented by M.P. State Minor Forest Product Cooperative Union Limited with the involvement of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

***Eligibility:*** All such collectors of Tendu-leaf , who are the member of Primary Forest Product Cooperative Committee and are of age -group 18-60 years.

***Important Element:*** Member has not to pay any kind of premium.

***Insured Amount:*** The amount of Rs. 4000/- will be payable in case of the normal death of the member, while the amount would be Rs. 6000/- in case of death by accident.

***Process of Claim:***The nearest or nominated relative of the deceased would apply on plain paper with the death-certificate of the member to the Cooperative Union office at the district through the Primary Cooperative Committee.At the qualification of the Union office, the cheque of the insured amount is given to the nominated/ nearest relation by Life Insurance Corporation.

**9. Joint Forest Management(J.F.M.):**

The objective of the programme is to involve the community in the conservation and protection of the forest, so that local people can get more and more benefits along with the development of the forest.

Under this programme, in the areas and villages around the dense-forest, Forest Protection Committees( Van Suraksha Samiti) are formed. In the village around deforested land or

sparse forests, Village Forest Committees(Gram Van Samiti)are formed. Around national - park and sanctuaries, Eco Development Committees of villagers are formed.

In all kind of such committees, the general-body is formed out of one female and one male member from each family living in the village. The executive body of such committees include panchayat-representatives and others nominated by the Gram-Sabha.

The villages which are either inside the forest or at the periphery of it , can form such committees . If the village decides to have such committee, with the simple majority, it is constituted by the regional forest authority.

Forest Protection Committees are given royalty-free extension service in the forests. Village Forest Committees, around the sparse-forests, can get access to all the interim production from the reforested land and 30% of the final production i.e. on maturation of the trees. Eco-Development Committee can get similar kinds of benefits depending upon the dense and sparse forests around them.

In the areas of such committee , Forest Department will function in coordination with such committees. Such Committees can take up the work on water, irrigation, agriculture land-development and other such programmes in the areas where World-Bank Supported Madhya-Pradesh Forestry Programme is operating.

**Contact:** Divisional staff of Forest Department.

#### **10. Dairy-Development:**

Dairy-Development and milk-production is the area, for which there are several projects.Operation Flood-2 programme is operating in 29 district of the state through Milk-Federation. It aims at providing proper price and benefits to milk-producers and also the safe milk to the consumers.

The other programmes of dairy- development include the support to the milk- producers from ST/SC classes for proper feed to the cattle. In scheduled- areas of the state, the support is given for the formation of Milk-Producer Cooperative Committees. There are programmes for the reproduction of new breeds of cow and buffaloes for increasing the production of milk. Special efforts are taken for the health-care of such milching animals.

In some of the scheduled - areas of the state, Integrated Adiwasi Dairy-Development Project is operating for the economic benefit of such deprived classes.

So, the overall scenario in development sector is such where numerous programmes and projects are operating for rural areas. There is no dearth of programmes. The problem is in reach - out. The attitudinal and operational problems, from both the government and beneficiaries side, are creating barriers in development . The efforts are required to work upon it.

## Chapter -7 Voluntary Efforts in Bundelkhand Region

The voluntary sector in India has a rich history. Traditionally, the construction of temples, schools, hospitals, roads, tanks, minor-irrigation works were done either by richer sections of society or by collective efforts of the community. There were social reform movements in late 19th and early 20th centuries against social evils like child marriages, purdah, sati - system, caste discrimination and untouchability. Gandhian and Sarvodaya activities drew inspiration from these tendencies in Indian society from time immemorial.

In the early years of Independence, the state got so much primacy that voluntary sector either got diluted into it or saw a decline. National movement activists joined the government and sarvodaya or khadi institution developed the tendency to depend on the government. The State gave the impression that it would solve all developmental problems in the country. This never happened and in late sixties, voluntary sector witnessed a new awakening, disillusioned with the developmental failures of the state and political leaders. International donors and developmental agencies also visualised the role of NGOs in the fight against poverty and other such issues. The period after Emergency ( '75-'77) saw the mushrooming of new organisations and new activities when it came out clearly that the state alone can not solve the developmental problems and the market is iniquitous.

There are various kinds of NGOs in the country, given their activities and orientation. There are organisations who are working for relief, welfare and charity often under religious and humanitarian inspirations. Then there are organisations which are involved in development activities with the approach to improve the condition of the poor. They undertake activities to mobilise and organise communities for income generation activities, and around the issues of health, education, agriculture and women. Then there are organisations called support - organisations which are involved in training, research, documentation, evaluation, networking and advocacy.

Besides small and big NGOs, working in field, there are community based organisations (CBOs) which are activity or identity based groups of the community, viz mahila mandals, youth groups, credit groups, forest management groups, watershed development groups etc.

Madhya Pradesh has no history of any social reform movement in the state, except that in the medieval period, Saint Kabir had extensively visited the state and attacked on religious malpractices and blind faiths. During freedom struggle and after, some Gandhian institutions, mostly under Kasturba Gandhi Trust, were initiated in M.P., particularly in areas adjoining Gujarat boarder.

Recently, when Samarthan-Centre for Development Support, conducted a survey and undertook the situational analysis of the NGOs in M.P., it concluded that there were broadly three kinds of NGOs in M.P., widely spread in the state. On one hand, there were big and established NGOs with clear perspective and considerable resources. They were mostly centred in big cities of the state. Secondly, in certain regions like Chhattisgarh, activist NGOs and labour-unions have been active. But the largest number is that of small emerging new NGOs which are struggling to establish themselves, organisationally, financially and at programme level.

Bundelkhand in M.P. is hardly on the NGO- map, given the present scenario. It is not that this region has never had voluntarism in its society. Voluntarism was there in it since the beginning and existing traditional water resource management systems, including that of Chandeli ponds, are the testimony of it because it was not possible to have such systems

without voluntary contribution of the community . Bundelkhand played significant role in the freedom struggle through human and material contribution. Bhoodan and khadi movements got numerous dedicated volunteers from this region, particularly from Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur. But present scene is bleak, There is not a single established NGO with wider implications and coverage, in terms of issues and area, except Ekta Parishad which has tried to build upon the Gandhian and Sarvodaya remains.

In August 1997, a situation analysis of Bundelkhand region was undertaken by Samarthan to assess the existing base of voluntary efforts in this region. The study which concentrated in four districts namely, Datia, Panna, Chhatarpur and Tikamgrah, all situated in the Bundelkhand region attempted to analyse the socio- economic scenario of the region vis a vis the voluntary efforts made. A number of organisations, groups, CBOs as well as individuals were met with during the study.

The study brought out some very interesting trends especially, the kind of organisations and groups present in this region. Some of the findings are given in the form of Table 7.1.

In Bundelkhand there is no dearth of registered NGOs, for the name sake, but those who are involved in some activities and are functional to some extent can be placed under small, fluid and evolving NGOs/ associations/ groups. They have started their work with relatively high degree of enthusiasm and commitments, but with an idea of organisational, programme and financial management. They are relatively clear on the issues in large context. A positive aspect with such NGOs/ groups is that they have been started by local people and leadership and hardly any outsider has tried to make it his business. This provides for better understanding of local issues with these organisations. But these organisations are almost working in isolation. Most of them have no idea about the development sector and the possibility of generating resources and finance from the sources other than the government departments. Largely depending on the government fund, entangled in the redtapist machinery and having lack of skills in programme management, these organisations/ associations/groups are struggling for their survival. These have the potential to work with the people for grassroots- level development but efforts are required on the part of support and funding organisations to help them out in their present situation.

Another type of organisations in Bundelkhand is that of government- promoted non-government organisations like Nehru Yuva kendras ( NYK) and cooperatives. NYKs are involved basically in the formation of youth- groups at village-level and involve them in constructive activities, cultural activities and awareness- generation about the government programmes. Such organisations, being almost the part of government system, are financially secure, have large network at the national and regional level, good knowledge base and experience of working with grassroots-level groups. But close functional linkages with the government makes them a bureaucratic setup themselves. They don't have

**Table: 7.1**  
**Types of Actors of the Civil Society**

Type of Actors /CBOs	Strengths	Weaknesses	Potentials
Small NGOs/ Associations/ groups with committed leadership	High degree of enthusiasm and ability to implement a programme Clarity on issues	Weak programme management/ skill/ networking and linkages Weak financial resources	Can demonstrate examples of grassroots development

Govt. promoted NGOs and cooperatives	Large coverage and network /young leadership Sufficient financial resources Good linkages /contacts and knowledge of local issues . Experience of working with people groups	Weak capacities of development No institutional mechanism to provide back-up support Too centralised. Decisions of the control of the coordinators only	Useful structure for advocacy on politically neutral issues. Useful for contacts and strengthening linkages. Can provide a base to initiate activities.
Committed and credible individuals/ old Satyagrahi or Bhoodan leaders.	Good experience of selected local issues High levels of interest and commitment Willing to work on various issues	Lack of clarity on development issues No clear plan or strategy to work Weak financial base.	Can be good resource persons/ provide voluntary services.

institutional mechanism to provide back-up support to their groups and have weak capacities of development management with decision-making powers concentrated in the coordinator's hand.

But such organisations have the potential to play a positive role in development, though they cannot take up the issues of the communities in which the Government will be confronted with. They are useful for advocacy on politically neutral issues due to their linkages and ability to mobilise youth groups quickly. The youth groups promoted by such organisations mostly act as CBOs but some of them show their potentiality to grow as community based NGOs, given the orientation and training in organisational and programme management. Such groups can take up local issues with better understanding of the situation and play a major role in rural development.

Though largely devoid of established and far sighted NGOs/associations, Bundelkhand enjoys a repository of committed and credible individuals who have considerable understanding of the local issues effecting the rural life, high levels of interest and commitment for the human causes and willingness to work on various issues. But again they do not possess clarity on development issues in the broader context, have no idea of planned development efforts and no financial base. However the study gauges that such individuals could act as capable resource persons who could provide voluntary services and can develop into organisations in the long run if capacity building support is provided to them in a phased manner. Bundelkhand was also closely involved in the Bhoodan and Khadi movement and there were a number of individuals who almost spent their lives for such movements particularly from the districts, Tikamgarh and Chattarpur. When these movements lost ground and individuals involved in it got disillusioned with the Government functioning, some persons within the groups began to initiate voluntary process in small measures through building collective efforts with like minded individuals in the various areas both rural and urban.

The study reflected that the capacities and vast experience of such individuals can be tapped for creating people based organisations as also movements.

Non Government organisations, although small and less resourceful are engaged in various kinds of activities around numerous issues in Bundelkhand. The only big organisation with a large network in MP, Ekta Parishad is active in almost all the districts of Bundelkhand particularly in Chattarpur, Tikamgarh and Satna, with its coordination office at Mohalla near Jabalpur. It functions on issues concerning land, water and forests through community mobilisation and group formation. It is considered to be a highly vocal group fighting for the causes of low caste and class communities. In its programmes, participation levels of community especially those belonging to the disadvantaged groups and categories is very high. The group at present is fighting for rights of forest land and water resources for the community. It also takes up the cause of other issues as long as they are raised by the community themselves. The network is very active in Palera Block in Tikamgarh District. It is also highly active in District Satna.

Among the small evolving NGOs/associations/individuals met with, some are working on secular, non confronting issues such as literacy, education, awareness generation of Government programmes. A large number of NGOs in the region are highly dependent on funds coming through Government sponsored schemes and programmes. In many cases, such groups have wound up after the withdrawal of the scheme/programme. Only a few groups are attempting to come up to the main stream of the development sector.

It was also observed that the voluntary efforts in this region have not catered or directed focus towards specialised area of activity. The Viklang Sansthan in Chattarpur is one such exception. The organisation is working on the issue of welfare to children suffering from physical disabilities.

A fair number of organisations mostly headed by women work for a number of issues pertaining to women such as legal counseling and employment generation. The activities are concentrated in Tikamgarh and Chattarpur districts. Such organisations are being supported by Central Social Welfare Board. However these organisations expressed that the funding source is very meager. One of the major demands of such institutions especially those working for women has been the need for welfare homes to provide shelter to abandoned women, a common problem in this area.

Another area of activity where voluntary groups are involved is the area of mine workers and those involved in *bidi* manufacture. Mention can be made of two organisations who are working on these issues respectively. The Sawashrayi Sewa Sangh, Chattarpur and Pathar Khadan Mazdoor Sangh in Panna District work for such causes. The objective of their activities is mainly to link the benefits of Governmental schemes and programmes to the mine and *bidi* workers. The study shows that in the past such groups have taken activists modes of functioning (calling for Dharnas and other pressure strategies) for pressurising the Government.

The other category of voluntary efforts include groups who are mainly involved in awareness generation of the community, youth group formation, capacity building of panchayat representatives etc. Such groups use strategies such as group meetings, building close relationship with the village community, door to door meetings etc. Thus the work activities of such groups mainly cater to spread social messages across community through day to day contacts with the community. Interestingly these groups, since the last few years have attempted to come into the main stream of development activities. Although very small and budding, much potential for development efforts could be envisaged in such groups.

Final, mention must be made of groups that have strong links with the fine arts and culture. Such groups undertake cultural and literary activities, holding sammelan, literary competitions, plays, religious gatherings, bhajan kirtan etc. It was observed that these groups are highly popular amongst the community both in the urban and rural areas. Such groups are existent in all the districts of the Bundelkhand region. However it has been observed that as compared to the other districts, the concentration of such cultural groups is high in District Datia. One of the reasons could be that Datia has, through the years, enjoyed a high degree of support from the erstwhile rulers and nawabs, during which such cultural groups were encouraged and supported by these rulers. Through time although many of these groups faded away, the cultural setting and psyche of the community as regards cultural activities is still fairly strong.

Given the types of organisations in the Bundelkhand region, it becomes clear that NGOs/associations/individuals with development perspectives are few and far between and major issues related to livelihood are still not taken up to a large extent by these organisations. A list of some NGOs/individuals met with during the study is appended in Annexure 1. At the state level, Government-Non government collaboration is taking place in certain programmes such as TLC (Total Literacy Campaign), DPEP, Joint Forest management (JFM), Public distribution system, the programme of development of women and children in rural areas (DWCRA) and Watershed development. This is being undertaken at the district level too. However the dependency of Government funds was observed to be so strong that most voluntary groups act as government contractors to undertake specified and given tasks. The target approach to development functioning, common in the Government set-up has infiltrated many of the NGOs undertaking such activities in this region. In many cases committees formed for governmental schemes such as TLC and DWCRA are also viewed as NGOs to be collaborated with. While this is appreciable, what is of concern is that other independent bodies are not encouraged to undertake any development efforts. All activities get concentrated within such groups only. Though attempts are being made for the development of civil society, the efforts in the Bundelkhand region are still far from satisfactory. There is a strong need for capacity building of voluntary groups especially small and budding bodies in various areas of programmed and so that organisational development issues of the region are actually and realistically addressed by such people based organisations.

## Chapter - 8 Concerns in Development : Issues for Action

Bundelkhand and the districts of northern MP are considered among the backward regions of MP. With no rail links, transportation is dependent on rough and broken roads linking only some to the major towns in the region. Even certain blocks headquarters are approachable only with much difficulty through irregularly running government buses. One can't think of reaching to villages during most of the rainy seasons. So, improper links with the outside world, keeps the region of Bundelkhand isolated, in its restricted sense.

Its poor literacy rate, high mortality of children, poor infrastructure in terms of roads, electricity, health care facilities, drinking water facilities, household sanitation measures and school building tells the story of its backwardness. The sectoral issues, related to health, education, economy and environmental degradation are mostly covered and discussed in earlier chapters. Lots needs to be done in these sectors. Other major concerns, specific to this region are as follows:

### **Feudalism:**

The social relations in Bundelkhand are still based on feudalism and its remains. Thakurs or zamindar and Brahmins dominate in the traditional power structure. The previous caste based hierarchical order prevails in the region. No poor can question the dominance of feudal lords. Feudal forces control land and mining and also the forests and forests products. The semi feudal production relations are characterised by the traditional socio economic dominance of the top peasantry over the middle and poor peasants and the agricultural labourers who were mostly landless. The top peasantry or big farmers are mostly from the upper castes namely Thakurs and Brahmins. The trade and business is controlled by Banias and Jains. The middle and lower middle peasants were essentially from the middle castes and backward castes. Agricultural labourers were mostly from the SC and ST.

Upper castes got educated first and thus control polity, bureaucracy and services. So caste relations are still dominating the social systems. Elements of untouchability are widely prevalent in the rural areas. 'Thakurshahi' rules the rural life. There are areas along the Dhasan river, starting from Prithivipur- Palara belt in Tikamgarh upto Chhatarpur in which its prevalence can be easily noticed. No scheduled caste /tribe person think of crossing the doors of Thakurs along the streets, without taking his shoes in his hands, and putting his head down looking towards the earth. In villages, if a Thakur's shoe is outside the home of a SC person and Thakur is inside the room with SC person's wife, the person can't dare to enter his own house and question the Thakur. Such things are still seen in Bundelkhand.

The officials visiting the villages go to zamindars' place first. Teachers of primary schools prefer to sit at landlords houses. Elected sarpanches of SC and STs are playing in the hands of such forces. If an independent surveyor visits a SC/ST house first and then to a Thakur's place, he/she may have to face consequences. A lower caste person can't sit at an elevated place in front of a upper caste person, mostly Brahmins and Thakurs. If such are the realities, long battle is to be fought against traditional power relations. Feudalism is all pervasive and needs to be broken if new egalitarian power-relation are to be established.

### **Concern for livelihood:**

SC/STs are mostly landless. Whatever land they possess, is either barren or has no irrigation facility. If they had to take loan from the landlords, that meant that their land would go out of their hands. So, manual labour is the only source of their income. Working on the farm and in rivers, cutting stones or involved in quarrying, everywhere they are exploited. No

proper wage is given. Forests resources are dwindling and they are mostly not allowed to get anything substantial from these forests.

Traditional caste occupations are unable to survive in open market competitions. There is hardly any traditional occupation surviving and economically viable.

Landless poor are forced to migrate to other parts of the country for their survivals. They migrate mostly with their families and live in pathetic conditions at their places of migration. Back home, they eat up what they had earned and then again migrate for earnings. Brokers are involved to supply cheap labour to other states.

Only employment generation activities, both through government and non-government efforts, can help out in this situation.

### **Water issue in Bundelkhand:**

In all the districts of Bundelkhand, the nonavailability of water for drinking purpose and irrigation is a major problem. The irony is that, there are a number of major rivers like Betwa, Dhasan, Ken flowing in the region but with the improper management of rain water, and degrading forests, these rivers serve the purpose of only draining the water of Bundelkhand into Yamuna.

The recharging of ground water resources through collecting the rain water in traditional ponds is not taking place due to degradation of such ponds, encroachment of forest lands, cutting of forests and blocking the catchment areas of watershed regions. The result is that wells being used for drinking water and irrigation are not providing enough water to serve the purpose for the whole year.

Water is so precious and important in the life of Bundelkhand that in certain regions there is a say, "Gagari na phoote, Chhahe Balam mar jaye", (The waterpot should not be broken even if husband dies).

Chandeli Ponds in the region of Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur have been able to provide drinking water and irrigation facilities from the medieval days. But the way they are being encroached for cultivation in villages and making buildings and houses in the townships, they are not going to survive for long. There are hundreds of such Chandeli ponds in Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur. They have been serving the most important purpose of collecting the rain-water and recharging the ground water so that the drinking water well remains filled with water throughout the year. The cycle is broken. Bundelkhand, with a rich tradition behind to show the judicious use and collection of water, is without sufficient water.

Chandeli ponds and other such ponds were serving the purpose of livelihood to many people, besides serving the irrigation purposes. They were used for fisheries and growing murar and kamalgata (lotus). But now these traditional occupations are in danger due to depletion of water in such ponds.

It is the need of the hour that catchment areas of such reservoirs, like ponds are looked after, encroachment is stopped, illegal lease of the pond's 'dub' area is stopped and such ponds are reconstructed with the help of the local community.

One of the largest Chandeli ponds, Nandanwara in Tikamgarh, is in danger due to uncontrolled mining in the area. Mining may damage the dam made over it. There is the

need to watch that mining in the area does not damage the traditional and useful resources of water.

**Specific issues: Tikamgarh.**

1. Migration of labour.
2. Non-timber forest products- Mahuwa, Palash, Gond (gum) and medicinal plants controlled by middlemen and feudal lords.
3. Feudalism in every sphere of activities (Region along Dhasan river, Prithivipur- Palara blocks most affected).
4. Depleting ponds/chandeli ponds.
5. Bidi workers and issues related to them.
6. Mining and quarrying- exploitation of labour.
7. Issue of environmental degradation- Nandanwara Dam in danger due to mining.
8. Leather work at village Lidhaura (Jatara Block)- issues of improvement.
9. Scavengers- still operating.(Tikamgarh Town)
10. Depleting water table particularly in Newari block.
11. Wastelands and its management.

**Mining and Quarrying - wage labour and health hazards:**

Mining and quarrying are the major non- farm activities in the region and provide employment to a large number of manual labour, mostly coming from scheduled castes and tribes. Semi feudal relations still hold the ground in these relation also. Bundelkhand is rich in mineral ores like limestone, diasphore and diamond (Panna) apart from building materials in the form of stones. Mining and cutting of stone involves hard working on the part of the labour. If feudal and exploitative relations prevail, the labour works for relatively long hours, gets relatively less wages, works hard and hard to complete the work and gets diseases like TB and respiratory problems in such kind of mining.

There is the need to organise the labour force and make them demand for the proper wage and working conditions, apart from making them aware on the health hazards and possible diseases.

**Specific issues : Chhatarpur.**

1. Issues of bidi workers.
2. Migration of labour.
3. Depleting ponds and related issues.
4. Atrocities against women.
5. Mining and quarrying related problems.
6. Production of jute- issue of its constructive use.
7. Handicaps and the use of khesar i (pulse)in rural areas.
8. Issue of Bedia caste - the traditional sex workers.
9. Alcoholism - growing space and its dangers.

**Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP):**

Minor forest products are very many in the region of Bundelkhand. Panna exports amla (goose berries). Other products like gond, harra, trifala, khair and other medicinal plants are widely available in the forests of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna and Satna. Mahuwa is also so important into the life of poor people that they collect it to serve their livelihood needs for at least 4 months in a year. But who ultimately controls it, is a big questions.Poor people get it anyhow from the forest and are forced to sell it to middlemen who get profits out of it.

Tendu and Palash leaves are important for the livelihood of people. Bidi making and the collection of tendu leaves are larger issues because of the state and business interest involved in it. Palash leaves are important in the cultivation of 'adarakh'(ginger) in the regions of Orchha and Niwari in Tikamgarh. But recently there were reports in the local newspaper telling that feudal forces were not allowing the poor people to enter in the forest areas and were selling the leaves to these people on higher rates after collecting it through their own means. Such relations are prevalent in almost every sphere of life in Bundelkhand. The nexus needs to be broken.

### **Bidi-making and issues involved:**

This is also a big issue in Bundelkhand, particularly in the districts of Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Satna where a very large work force is involved in this business. In all, there are 2 million bidi rollers in MP, all across tribal areas in Vindhya, Bundelkhand and others. Tendu leaf has always been in and around the centre of politics in MP.

### **Specific issues : Panna**

1. Exploitation of labour in stone cutting/Diamond mining.
2. Issue of Bedia community - the traditional sex workers.
3. Rehabilitation of Project Tigers- villages (10 villages).
4. Unapproachable villages/blocks - poor transport, roads.
5. Non-timber forest products- Amla, Harra, Trifala-control in the hands of feudal lords.
6. Degrading forests and related issues.
7. Bidi Making and related issues.

The kind of problems these bidi workers face in their life, includes respiratory and stomach ailments, malnutrition, stiff joints and poor eyesight. The diseases like tuberculosis, asthma, scabies, bronchitis, spondylitis and lumbago are common among the bidi rollers. As most of the rollers work at home, their children are also affected with such diseases. Untimely death is common among the bidi workers, mostly the women.

Most of the bidi rollers work for 12 hours a day rolling around 800 to 1000 bidis, early merely Rs15 to 20/ which comes to the amount of about Rs8100/yearly. There is a nexus of manufacturers and contractors against the bidi workers. Worker is handed 650 gram of tendu leaf and 250 gram of tobacco to roll 1000 bidis at the wage rate of Rs22.50 per 1000 bidis. Most of the time, the material is not enough, and the worker has to supply the material himself. The bidi workers collect themselves the tendu leaf, illegally from the forest and for which they are not paid by the contractors while making bidis. If the bidis are not rolled properly, as decided by the contractors (sattador), the workers have to bear it from their own pockets.

### **Specific Issues: Datia**

1. Issue of Saharia tribe.
2. Issue of denotified (so-called criminal) tribes.
3. Land grabbing of poor by feudal landlords.
4. Issue of survival of Bundeli art and culture.

When The Minimum Wages Act And Factories Act provide for better working conditions, the factory owners decided to close their workshops because of the bidi workers remained on the factory campus, they would have to be paid better. The entire bidi rolling work was shifted to domestic homes. To make matters worse, bidi barons introduced a sattador or a

middlemen who would collect the bidis from these workers' homes and ferry it to the manufacturers. These middlemen's word is like a law for the bidi rollers.

When the Bidi Cigar Workers Act, 1966, declared the home bred bidi workers as an employee and hence deemed it essential that he/she should get all the benefits, it did not work either. In MP, thirty two years later only eight lakh out of an estimated 22 lakh bidi workers, have been issued their identity cards. There are only 1.20 lakh workers who have a Provident Fund account. In the region of Bundelkhand, situation is further worst. Swashrayi Mahila Sewa Sangh (SEVA), Chhatarpur has been constantly trying to survey the number of women involved in bidi making and to get for them their identity cards and provident fund account, by acting as a pressure group on the government and labour department. In the districts like Tikamgarh and Satna, efforts are required to work among the bidi rollers, get them organised and avail the benefits given for them under various Acts.

### **Specific issues: Satna**

- Satna - one of the most polluted (air) towns , Maihar follows.
- Mining of limestone - wage labour and health hazards.
- Problems of bidi workers.
- Land-grabbing (of poors) by landowners and rich.
- Workers in cement factories- health and respiratory problems.
- Displacement due to Bansagar Dam- issue of rehabilitation

Recently, on the basis of the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Act Committee, the state govt. decided to fix a dearness allowance for bidi workers at the rate of 2 Ps per 1000 bidis rolled, in accordance with the price index. But bidi barons, who influence the politics of MP, pressurized the government to bring down the rate to one paise.

The issue of bidi workers is always alive in Bundelkhand. There is a large number of women and children involved in the process of bidi rolling. The exploitation of labour and health hazards are the major concern areas. Voluntary efforts can get involved in the process of organising the labour force and making them aware on the issues involved.

### **Women Atrocities:**

Women, particularly that of lower castes, are open to exploitation, assault and harassment, including sexual, in Bundelkhand region. In the semi feudal society, male dominance is clearly visible. It extends to the males of lower castes also where women are considered below men. To listen the abuses of feudal lords, outside and of the husbands at home, are common to lower caste women. Women, working in the houses of zamindars, are more prone to sexual harassment also. Such cases go unreported and if one tries to go to police station , either the report is not written or it invites more trouble to the family of harassed women.

Leaving one wife, and getting another, is also common among the lower castes. Wife beating is widely prevalent, particularly under the influence of alcohol, now becoming commonly available to men folks. Left out wives, are sometimes sold to another person or widower because poor parents can't look after them for long.

Mahila Samiti Parivar Paramarsh Kendra, in Chhatarpur, comes across various types of atrocities the women suffer, either in the hands of their husbands or landlords. It has gone up to recording a case in which a husband cuts the legs of his wife simply because she was trying to stop him taking a decision against the family interest. It is difficult for the women to fight back in such cases, if organised and institutionalised help is not provided to harassed women. Such helps and efforts in this direction on large scales are missing in the region of Bundelkhand.

There is a caste, named Bedia, living in this region, particularly around Narendra Nagar in Panna and Bijawar and adjoining areas of Chhatarpur, in which women are traditional sex workers. The males among them are considered criminal, but now this notion is getting diluted. When females become sex workers and remain unmarried, Bedia males get their wives from other communities. In certain section of Bedias, it is a rule that Bedia males can't marry their own caste females. Bedia girls hardly marry because they enter into their traditional business. Society attaches stigma around Bedias. It is difficult for their children to study in normal schools. There are other problems, once social stigma is attached with the community. Special efforts are needed to take this community out of the flesh trade.

#### **Issues of displacement and rehabilitation:**

In Panna and Satna, two cases of displacement and rehabilitation were noted. Though, not much probed into, the Project Tiger in Panna has to displace the tribals of at least 10 villages. Though they have not been officially rehabilitated, they are reportedly not satisfied with such efforts. People, used to live within the forests, found themselves homeless, out of their original places. Their whole cycle of livelihood is disturbed.

Similarly in district Satna, Bansagar dam is causing displacement to a number of villages in Amar Patan Block. People are complaining that they are being thrown out of their villages by the government because for the government, construction of Ban Sagar is important and not the people getting displaced. Further study is required to understand the issues involved in such displacements and rehabilitation efforts taken by the government. But the problem exists.

#### **Capacity Building for NGOs/CBOs:**

It has been noted that Bundelkhand has not witnesses organised voluntary efforts, to a large extent, for rural development and other development issues. Though, charity and voluntarism for the creation of cultural and literary groups has been traditionally there in the region, development work has been minimal by the institutions of civil society. There is not any big non-government organisation, except the groups of Ekta Parishad, with clear perspective and resources, which is working in the region of Bundelkhand. There are either government NGOs like Nehru Yuva Kendra, or government promoted NGOs for specific programmes like Total Literacy Campaigns and Watershed Development, who emerge and disappear after the programme is over. But there are certain voluntary efforts which are emerging and at present, are in the form of small, fluid NGOs/CBOs. They are scattered throughout Bundelkhand and dependent either on their own funds, generated through contribution or on government. They have no idea of larger voluntary and development sector. Apart from these, there are committed and credible individuals who have interests and potentiality to grow into organisations. Such small NGOs and committed individuals need to be strengthened so that they can take up burning issues of the region into their programmes and contribute in the development of poor and marginal people. Capacity Building effort for such NGOs CBOs individuals is required in the context of overall development of the region.

There might be many other issues in Bundelkhand but which are of primary concern are noted above. These issues do not stand in isolation but are inter-linked. There is an urgent need that efforts are taken by the development agencies, government institutions and concerned individuals to break the mechanism of feudalism, to develop programmes of development and to enable the community to take initiatives for its own development in Bundelkhand to come out of backwardness.