



Sarita Devi, a woman we met in Vishnubandh, Latehar along with one of her seven children. Her eldest son and husband are migrant workers and were in Banaras at the time the team interviewed her. Her youngest children don't go to anganwadi because it is located too far. The family is on the BPL list but does not have a ration card so do not receive grain, except for a few months when the state introduced a drought relief scheme. Sarita Devi's household presents a strong case for strengthening public entitlement programmes in the country to provide critical social safety through the life cycle for families like Sarita Devi's.



Bineshwari Monghi, a pensioner we met in Purni Palheya village, Latehar. He fell off a jeep 15 years ago and has been paralysed ever since.

Bineshwari Monghi receives Rs.400/- as old age pension. He has an account with the Grameen bank located in Manika which is about 8 km away from the village. Since he is unable to walk to the bank, he must reserve a tempo which costs him Rs.200/-, half his pension amount. His son has to carry him on his back while waiting at the bank. Sometimes he even has to make multiple trips to the bank.



Hopanmay Tudu, widow pensioner in Dhundhapahari, Dumka. While her son and his family live in the same village, she lives and cooks for herself separately. She also suffers from TB. The pension she receives is an important source of support for her and helps her to meet her own medical expenses instead of being entirely dependent on her son.