

Village Report: Purni Palheya village (Banduwa Gram Panchayat)

The team began its work in Purni Palheya village on 12th and 15th June 2013. Below are a summary of findings from the survey.

ICDS

- Take Home Ration (THR) is distributed to lactating mothers and pregnant women once a month through the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) but many complain that the amount is insufficient. They get Rice (1 kg.), pulses, soya bean, sugar and oil.
- The AWC in this village is open every day for 3 hours. Unlike the rest of the villages we visited, the infrastructure in this AWC was in a good state.
- A woman we met in the Kheerajharia tola (Sarita Devi) complained that the AWC is too far and that she will not be able to send her child to the AWC unless one opens in her tola.
- The mother of a child, who visits the AWC regularly, complained that her child is not taught at the centre and that health check up and referral services are not provided.

MDM

- The only scheme that we surveyed that is running relatively well. Food is served regularly.
- However, food is not served according to the menu (children get rice, pulses and potatoes everyday) and eggs are never served.
- One complaint from a parent (Parvati Devi Masomat) regarding the quality of the food served saying that her child found insects in the food on multiple occasions.

PDS

- Met many people who applied for ration cards multiple times, still have not received them.
- The dealer gives 30-32kgs of rice each month and charges them Rs.40, instead of distributing 35 kg at Rs. 35 per month.
- Ration distribution is irregular. None of the people interviewed had received their ration in every month.
- The rule regarding the date of ration distribution in Jharkhand (i.e., distribution on the 15th and 25th of each month) is not followed according to some respondents.
- Ration distribution to the additional B.P.L. card holders has not happened in 3 months (last received ration in march, 2013).

NREGA

The team was only able to complete half the number of household interviews and job card verification over two days. There were three major irregularities. One, fake entries where the respondent's answers did not match the entries in the job cards, two mismatch of names in the job card and three, people who were not in the village/could not be identified.

Fake entries and siphoning of funds

The list below gives details of families who have never done any NREGA work although payment has been made in their name.

Name	Job card number	Days worked (2011-12)	Days worked (2011-12)	Total payment	Other issues
Umesh Singh	JH-06-004-011-001/57538	84	60	17,400	2 names listed on the job card have no relationship to the household
Maheshar Singh	JH-06-004-011-001/56960	36	12	5,760	Adult members of the household have not been in the village for over a year. They have migrated to Gujarat. 15 year old daughter was interviewed
Basdeo Mahto	JH-06-004-011-001/130416	96	60	18840	The household did not know there a job card in their name. Son listed on the e-job card does lives separately
Lalmuni Devi	JH-06-004-011-001/57507	100	0	12,000	Members of the family migrate regularly because of lack of work in the village
Tutu Choudhary	JH-06-004-011-001/57553	24	0	4320	Tutu Choudhary was not aware that a job card in his name existed. There is another job card in the household which is in the name of the father. Two member, Sabitri Devi and Upendra Choudhary listed in the job card are not related to the household although payment has been made against Sabitri Devi's name.
Samjit Ram	JH-06-004-011-001/127831		101	12,322	All family members listed in this job card died 15 years ago

Below is a list of job card holders that the survey team unable to interview. These cases need to be further investigated in order to confirm their employment and payment under NREGA.

Name	Job card number	Details
Sukan Ram	JH-06-004-011-001/57417	No one in the village knew this person. No job card entries.
Indradip Yadav	JH-06-004-011-001/44610	House locked. The family has been living in Ranchi for the last 4-5 months. Neighbours told the team that the

		family had never done any NREGA work. According to the job card this family has worked for 72 days in 2011-12 and 84 days in 2012-13
Kailash Oraon	JH-06-004-011-001/10350	Untraceable. People in the village felt that he may be a resident of Banduwa village. Worked 66 days in 2011-12
Birbal Oraon	JH-06-004-011-001/57568	Untraceable. People in the village felt that he may be a resident of Banduwa village. Worked in 2011-12 for 96 days
Ganga Devi	JH-06-004-011-001/130181	Budhi Singh lives in Ranchi, Guddi Singh lives in Aurangabad, Ganga Devi died. None of them are aware that a job card exists in their name. Money has possibly siphoned in their name.
Binod Oraon	JH-06-004-011-001/127895	Untraceable. People in the village felt that he may be a resident of Banduwa village.
Pankaj Lohra	JH-06-004-011-001/148276	No one in the village knew who he was. No job card entries.
Kundan Viswakarma	JH-06-004-011-001/57637	Not in the village. Kundan is a school student who is studying outside the village. Two other member listed on the job card, Pinki Devi and Kalindi Kumari could not be identified by anyone in the village. 90 days of work and payment of Rs 10,800 made in the job card.
Pintu Choudhary	JH-06-004-011-001/148339	Pintu Choudhary is Tutu Choudhary's brother. He is a student and studies outside the village. Sabita Devi also listed on the job card is not related to Pintu Choudhary. 60 days of work and Rs 5940 payment made against this job card.
Mahendra Saw	JH-06-004-011-001/57402	Wife denied that the husband was at home even though the survey team saw Mahendra lying at home. 54 days of work in 2012-13 and 72 days in 2011-12 and payment for Rs 6588 and Rs 8640 paid respectively.
Raghunath Viswakarma	JH-06-004-011-001/57387	Family not at home due to medical emergency of family member
Ajay Prasad	JH-06-004-011-001/148257	Not in village at the time of the survey

Hoarding of job cards

All the work in this village seems to have been contracted by Sanju Singh, who is a para teacher in the neighbouring village school. Sanju Singh and his family live in the Rajput tola in the village. The families in this tola are much more prosperous and have several of their family members working in Delhi. The family of Sanju Singh, Sunil Singh, Mukesh Singh, Umesh Singh also called the 'babusahebs' are influential, land owning families that hire farm labour during the monsoon. The team also interviewed his brother, Umesh Singh (see fake entries table above) who had not done any NREGA work but did not seem surprised that entries had been made in his job card. Three families we interviewed reported that their job cards were with Sanju Singh and his brother Sunil Singh and one respondent included Sanju Singh's brother. When the team interviewed Lalan Ram (JH-06-004-011-001/57522) for

example, we found that his job card was with Sanju Singh. When the team inspected his job card, it seemed that the names had been just entered with no authorising signature of the rozgar sevak.

No alternative to migration

5 out of 15 households have family members that migrate for 6-7 months every year because of the lack of employment opportunities in the village. In the case of Badri Ram and Dulwa Devi, their son migrated two years ago and never returned. Badri Ram died several years ago and Dulwa Devi who is about 70 years old live alone. His wife lives somewhere in Gujarat. Another case was that of Lalan Ram who works at a brick kiln in Benaras for 6-7 months in a year. His family travels with him and his children therefore have never been enrolled in school. He doesn't have a ration card nor does he get ration under the atirikt quota. He has no voter ID either. His job card was with Sanju Singh which he retrieved when the survey team reached his house. He has not done any NREGA work and continues to be dependent on farm employment on the land of the babusahebs for 4 months in a year. Lalan Ram's story makes a strong case for NREGA work to be opened in the village to prevent distress migration and provide some relief to the family.

Delayed payment

Nepal Ram (JH-06-004-011-001/57477) worked in 2010 on 'Banajari mein Chintaman Ram ke zameen mein talaab nirman' and 'minor irrigation band nirmaan on nim ahaar siratand on purni palheya' but is yet to receive payment of Rs 11,286.

Pensions

Pension beneficiaries (IGNOAPS and IGNWPS)

Alive and getting pension	Alive and not getting pension	Alive but not could meet beneficiary	Dead	Person could not be identified/unclear	Total
35	1	7	19	2	64

1. Irregularities in payments, in terms of lack of a fixed date of payment. In addition, payments are not happening on a monthly basis.
2. It takes the pensioners in this village anywhere between 3 to 8 hours to get their pension from the bank.
3. Passbooks are not regularly updated.
4. The bank is approximately 7 km from the village and so it costs the pensioners Rs. 20 to travel to and from the bank, in addition most have complained that they have to make more than one round of the bank to get their pension.
5. Some pension beneficiaires said they had to pay Rs.500/- to get their pension sanctioned.

6. Some pensioners have been told that now that they are getting pension they cannot get their ration.
7. Three pension beneficiaries were on both the IGNOAPS and IGNWPS lists i.e. Yatarva Devi (w/o Brichh Mochi), Tetari Devi (w/o Sudheshwar Bhuiya), Tula Devi (w/o Pyaari ram)
8. Three pension beneficiaries' names were repeated in the list although the account number against their name was the same. i.e. Devanti Devi (w/o Pachu Mochi), Kunwer Bhuiya (s/o Jhari Bhuiyan), Firangi Bhuiya (dead)