

## State Context<sup>1</sup>

### Health:

- As per prescribed population norms of central government, state government has shortages of 77 referral hospitals, 18 PHC, 682 APHC and 2138 health sub centers. People are generally unaware about the rights under various government programme and whom to approach to enforce them. Corruption at various level and increasing number of unskilled and illegal health service provider in the rural areas are became source of exploitation.
- Status of health related development indicator is very poor and below than the national average. 56% of the children suffer from moderate to sever anemia, more then 20% Children suffer from diarrhea and acute respiratory functions. Only 10 % of the children of the age between 12 months to 23 are fully immunized. About 33 % of the children do not receive any immunization at all.
- There is also significant incidence of Diarrhea; Malaria .The prevalence of these diseases may be partly due to malnutrition caused by poverty and due to lack of safe drinking water and environment.

### Education:

- Overall literacy rate is 53.6%. Male literacy rate is 67.3 % and female literacy rate is 38.9 %. There is gender gap 28.4 % The literacy rate is much below than the national literacy rate, the literacy rate among the female population in the some areas even below than 10 %.
- There is an average availability of one school for every two villages. One high school covers 61.65 sq kms geographical area and 17687 population. At many places education has become a mere tokenism. Only people with little surplus money prefer to send their children to private schools. Education that students do receive is so basic that they are ill – equipped to face competition.

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<sup>1</sup> Source- Jahrkhand Inside, Jharkhand Land and People, Journal of State Tribal Research institute, State Gazette, Project proposals, New Papers

- Total enrollment in the primary schools is 3873212. Out of which 504912 are SC and 1178582 are ST. Number of girl students is 360117.

## Natural Resources:

- Agriculture dominates the economic scene .The average land holding per family varies from 2.5 to 5 Acres. Due to small land holding, mono-cropping, and un-scientific agriculture practices, poor agriculture base prevails in the state, which leads to subsistence economy. Though 70 % of the population is depending up on the agriculture it is unable to provide steady source for income.
- State receives an average rainfall of 1200 mm, but due to its land topography, most of the rainwater is flown / waste. Ground water is the main source of drinking water in rural areas but the level of underground water is going down and water crisis is emerging as a serious problem.
- According to National forest policy of 1986 there should be 60% of forest coverage of the total land for a healthy environment. Till 1950s Jharkhand was known as a "Land of Forest" but situation is very grim to day as there is only 29% area under forest cover.
- Illegal and indiscriminate exploitation of resources like forest, minerals etc, pollution due to mining operational and industries are degrading quality of environment and hence creating major health problems.
- Deforestation at large scale has decreased the water holding capacity of land on the one hand and has increased the soil erosion on the other hand.
- With diminishing forest at very fast rate and MFP is also reduced which is a major source of earning particularly for tribal population. Forrest laws are restricting opportunities for communities to use forest resources as source of livelihood.
- Article 46 of the Indian constitution entrusted responsibilities on state to promote interest of SC and ST and protect them from social injustice and all form of exploitation the spirit of the same *Jharkhand* made necessary amendments in *Chotanagpur Tenancy Act* in 1969 which prohibits the transfer of land from tribal to non-tribal and for restoration of alienated land to them. In case of un-lawful transfer of land in contravention to section 46 of the act, person can apply against the revenue court. In 2003-04 4263 cases of tribal land alienation were registered.

- Government has acquired land from persons for various industrial and other projects. In most of the cases land was belong to tribal. For example 1073775-acre land was acquire for 7 project displacing more than 400 villages<sup>2</sup>. No proper livelihood options could be provided to all. Still many has not received compensation. Today many of the industries are getting closed. The Land acquired from the tribal is being sold to private industries or for personal use.
- Jharkand is experiencing drought conditions for the past four years. In the year 2000-01 all the 211 blocks were drought hit. In next year 56 blocks were under severe drought while in 2003, 500 Panchayat did not receive any rains. Again in 2004 the entire state was declared drought hit. Moreover the districts of *Santhal Pargana, Koderma* and *Palamu* were perpetually hit by severe dry conditions.
- Due to continued drought situation production of paddy and maize was going down every year. In the first year the production was 22 lakh- tonne, in the second and third years it was 27 and 20 lakh-tonne, a sharp decrease of 7 lakh-tonnes.
- Paddy productivity in the year 1956-57 was 70 kg per hectare that was less than the national average but this is almost 900 kg per hectare today. The same potential exists for other crops also but perhaps barrier is mindset, which has developed in the last 50 years that development of mineral and forest oriented sector, is good for growth and not the agriculture.

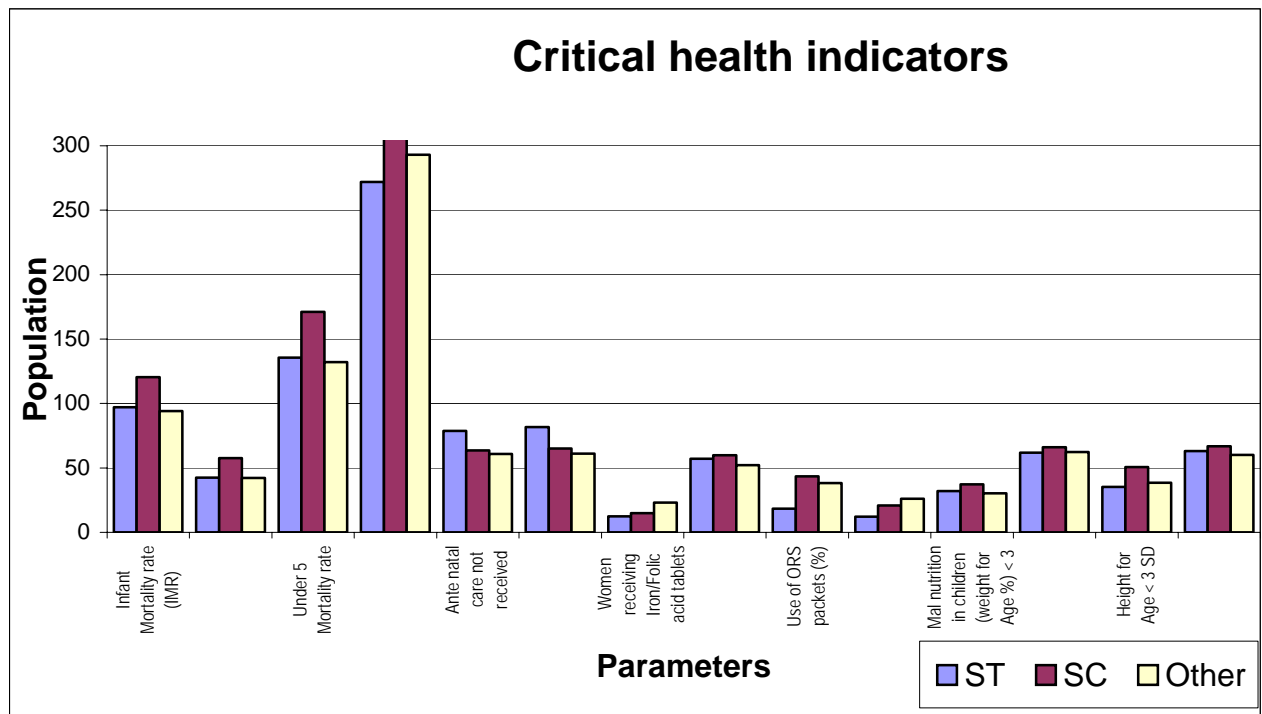
Land Use pattern-Degrading Natural Resources <sup>3</sup>		
Classification	% Of Total Area-1997-98	% Of Total Area-1955-56
Net Sown Area	22.68	23.5
Forest	29.27	40
Uncultivable Waste Land	7.19	5
Non-Agricultural Use	9.89	4.8
Orchards	1.38	1.8
Pasture	1.10	
Culturable waste Land	3.48	5.8
Current & other fallow	25.01	15.5
Total	100.00	100

<sup>2</sup> Source- Book-Jharkand inside

<sup>3</sup> Source-Statistical office Bihar- Published in Jharkahnd-Land and People-Rajesh Publication

## Tribal Population:

- There are 30 different tribal communities reside in the state and their population 27.66 % of the state. More than 60% of the tribe living below the poverty line. The average literacy rate is 54.13% in *Jharkhand*, but among the some tribal, particularly among the female, literacy rate is as lower as 10%.
- The sex ratio in the tribal groups is 812, which are far below than the national average of 940 females.
- ST literacy rate (1991 census) for male is 26.8 and for female is 14.8. Gross enrollment ratio (1997-98) Class 1-5 is 81.7 and Class for 5-8 is 30.4. Drop out rates (1993) Class-1-8 is 85.5.
- Health related developmental indicators in the tribal population are very low<sup>4</sup>.



- 71 Primitive tribal groups are identified in 14 states. There 9 PTG in *Jharkhand*. In the tribal sub plan areas 70 % population is BPL. There are a number of families who do not eat even a proper meal a day and were surviving on *gethi* and *chokkad*.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Health related data of tribal of *Jharkhand* (Ref; Bulletin of JTWRI-Source: IIPS-1995)

- The basic land reforms and the *Santhalpargana* tenancy act had been in place perhaps before any other land reforms in the country. The *Santhals* also had evolved a judicial system<sup>5</sup> of their own based on definite principles of punishments to uphold the truth, may also have been quite a contribution to the judicial history of the country. The '*Santhal* Penal System' and the '*Santhal* Personal Law' had been imbued with strong *Santhal* values, which among other things ensured strong social cohesion within their community.

### **Status of Women:**

- Sex ratio is 941(urban 870 and rural 962). Declination in sex ratio, female infanticide, foeticide and fatal neglect of the newly born girl infant is directly linked to a socio-cultural environment that is explicitly hostile to women and female children.
- Literacy rate is 53.6. Male literacy rate is 67.3 % whereas female literacy rate is 38.9 %. There is gender gap 28.4 %.
- Witchcraft is another source of women's exploitation in Jharkhand as its victims are always women. This has been also banned by formulation of special law against witchcraft but practically it is running as usual.
- Tribal society here is popularly recognized as not being very gender iniquitous Tribal society is traditionally not iniquitous in certain aspects. Women freely visit markets to sell and carry out the agricultural work but there is a taboo on women raising nurseries.
- Women of the tribal region find themselves doubly disadvantaged, as their secondary status in the society makes them more vulnerable to deprivation, thus making them more food and nutrition insecure. The lack of land entitlement and rights has further jeopardized the food & nutrition security of the tribal woman.
- Though the traditional tribal culture gives more freedom and liberty to the women folk but the economic power still lies in the hands of male. Women have no rights to inherit ancestral property or any part of it.

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<sup>5</sup> Source –Project proposal Document- NEEDs

## **Livelihood and Food Security:**

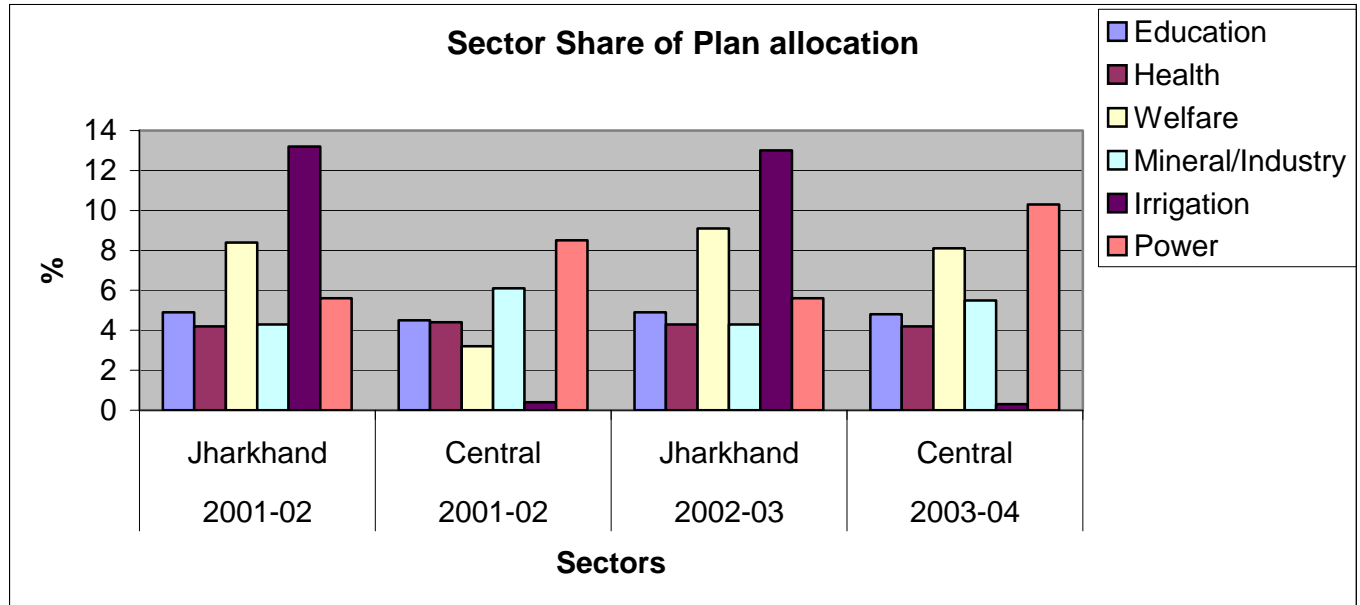
- The main source of earning of the population is labour work as 37.64% of the state population is fall under labor (work) force. Most of them are depended on agriculture system.
- State is responsible for distribution of food grains and other essential commodities, under various government sponsor schemes. Government has opened 14395 PDS outlets and 2027500 (*and in Antyodaya Yojana* 366500 families) BPL families have provided card for. Irregularity and corruption are major hurdles in reaching the benefits to the needy people.
- Food insecurity leading to malnutrition and hunger deaths in the state. Despite several rulings of the Supreme Court and constitutional provisions of ensuring peoples right to live. State governments have failed to rise up to the occasion. According to a National Sample Survey 2 percent people suffered from pangs of acute and chronic hunger which accounted for almost six lakh people.  
According to the same survey 10 percent people also suffered from seasonal food insecurity, which accounted for 30-lakh people.
- Food grains allotted by the state for poor people under various schemes to state for various schemes, but due to inefficient system it not reaching to poor people in adequate quantity.

## **Migration:**

- Most of the poor are agricultural laborers or landless. Reasons like excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, and depleting ground water, etc damage to the region's eco-stability. This with combination of other factors increasing migration of the youth and the physically fit from the villages in search of better prospects is a typical feature of the villages in the state. This situation is creating new type of social problems particularly for old age people and women.
- The survivals of the tribal people are centered towards the locally available natural resources, but deforestation and large scale depletion of such resources has left the people with minimum option for survival. As consequence people migrate to various part of the country for employment.

- During the migration villager are exposed to all sort of exploitation like fewer wage, inhuman conditions and restricted mobility. As they remain away for the families for long duration they are also prone to attract towards high-risk behavior (AIDS). Despite government policy to provide safeguard to them government system is responding to their needs is issue of debate and concern.
- Jharkhand is highly resourceful state, but more than 50% of the people are still below poverty line. Indigenous people of Jharkhand have less access over employment opportunities in different service sectors, because they are not organized and empowered to raise voices for restoration of such rights.
- The Government has failed to provide employment to the rural people due to various reasons and it is adopting such policies, which are not in favour of new employment generation. Problem of unemployment is not being responded adequately, and the issue of unemployment has been intensified in manifold.
- The crisis of opportunities and resources in the villages, due to lack of proper development plan and implementation by the Government is affecting the people's survival in *Jharkhand*. Such crisis at the village level encourages the rural youths to join the *Naxalite* groups and involve in unsocial works.
- The tribal welfare schemes are yet to benefit the people at large because of the dominance of the vested interests. The Government officers, politicians, contractors, middleman other opportunist people etc are the major and the only beneficiary of the welfare schemes.
- The old age group and women are the victims of the social food insecurity.

## Finance:



Though the figure show that government expenditures on development are increasing but government could not spend amount on certain crucial heads like drought, disability etc as per media reports. Funds tune to 800 crore could not be spend earmarked for various schemes in the year 2003-04<sup>6</sup>.

## Local Self-Governance:

Panchayate raj (PRI) is total defunct as no panchates elections are held for last 27 years. As In want of functional LSG the development fund is spends without participation of local people. As per study conducted by Manthan in 2003, approx 2000 crore were spend without people participation in decision making during the period of 29 months<sup>7</sup>. This leaves a space for misappropriation and wrong priorities. People are not getting their right to participating democratic process.

<sup>6</sup> Source-Magazine -Hame Hamara Hak De Do-Jharkahnd Sandharbh Kendra-Priya

<sup>7</sup> Source-Magazine -Hame Hamara Hak De Do-Jharkahnd Sandharbh Kendra-Priya