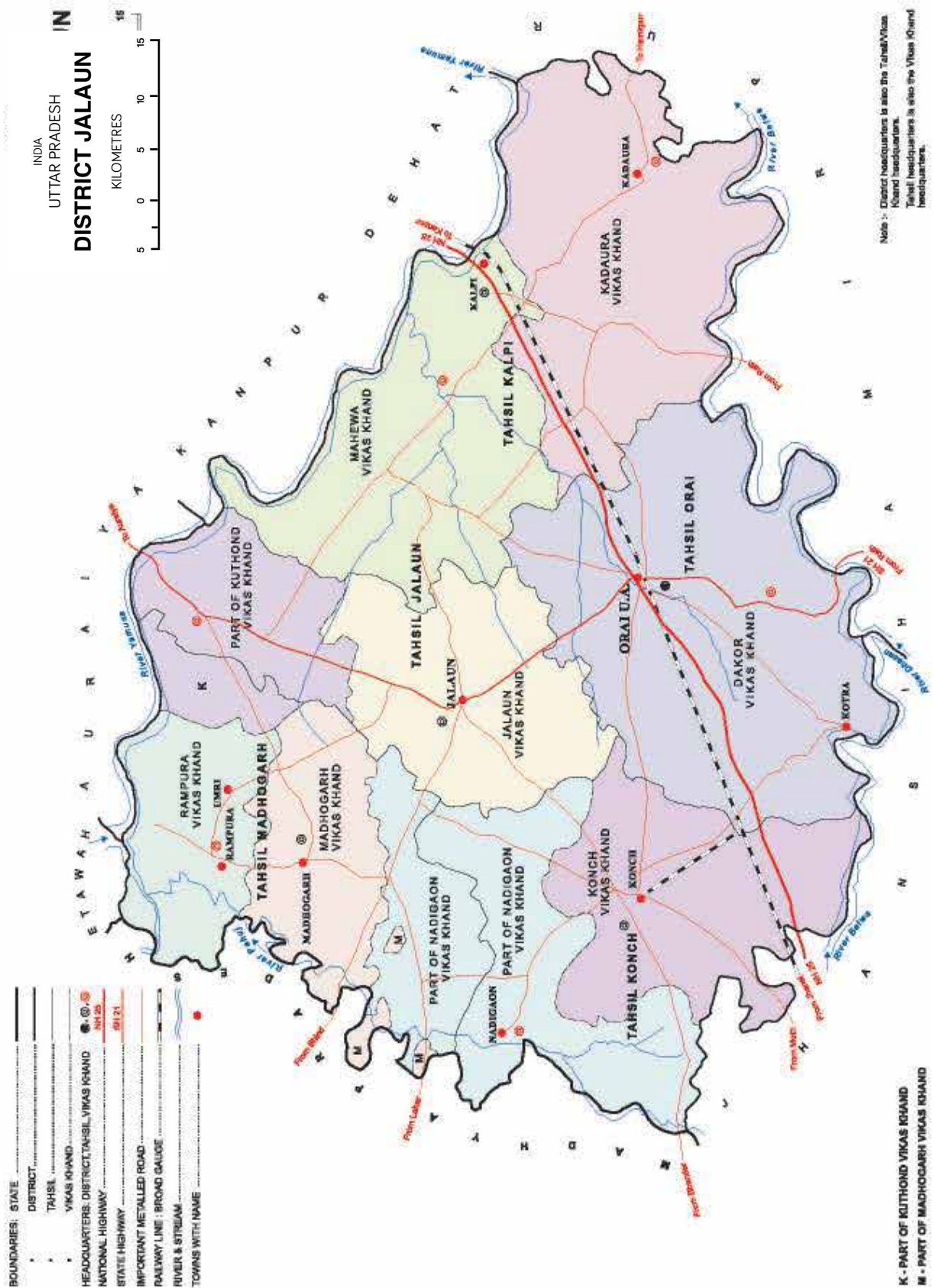


JALAUN





Source: India Administrative Atlases, Census of India

Realising India Series (2018-2019)

District Jalaun

This Realising India report is a part of the series compiled by the ISDM Knowledge and Research Centre to disseminate the secondary research put together by the students of the PGP-DL programme at ISDM along with their reflections from the field as an output of their Rural Immersion.

Each part of this series contains findings from secondary research on the district in the first section and individual reflective pieces written by the students in the group while in the specific district. Some of these pieces have also been published in blogs and/or other web portals.

**Names have been changed to protect identities and privacy of persons students interacted with.*

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Citation: Indian School of Development Management. (2019). ISDM Realising India Series 2018-2019 - Jalaun. Noida.

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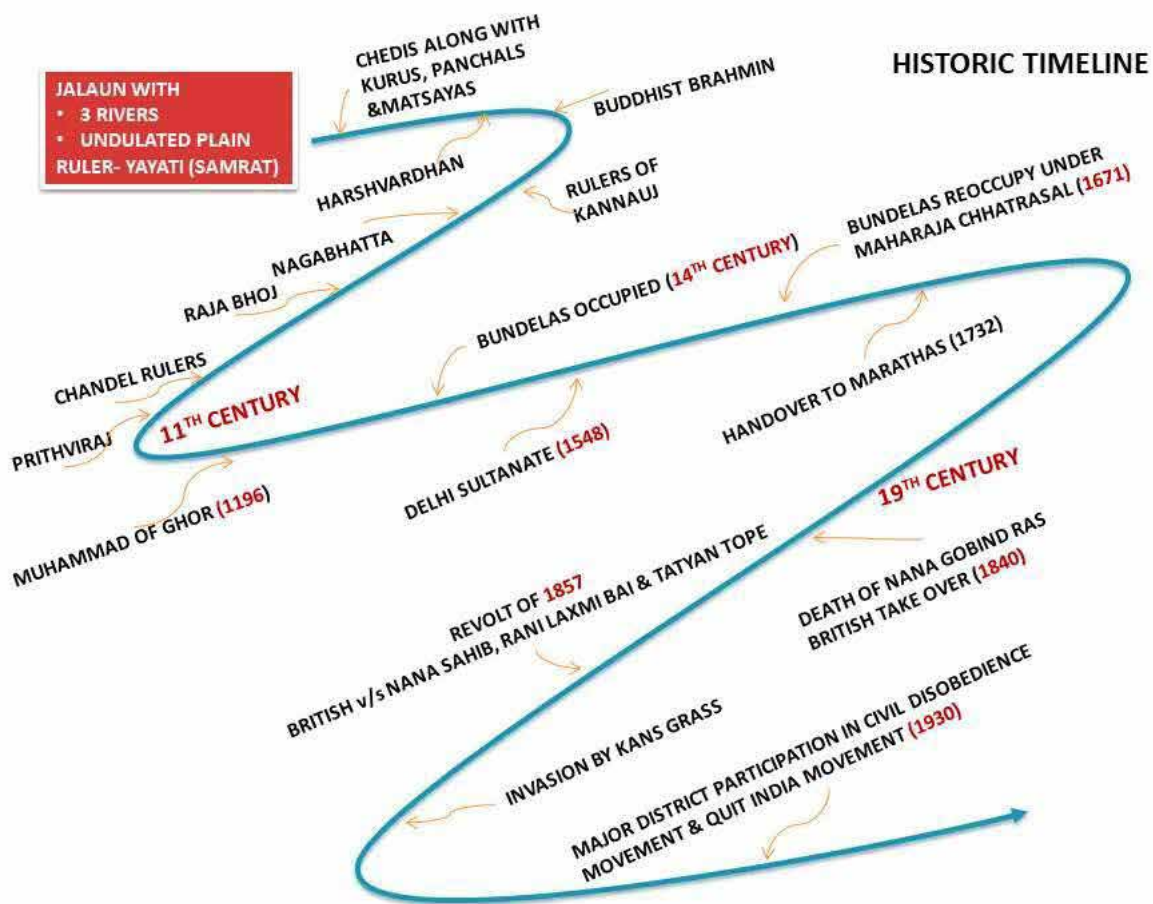
JALAUN

History of Jalaun District

There are two theories around the origin of the name 'Jalaun':

1. Rishi Jalwan, who used to live in the region in the ancient times
2. Some local people have ascribed its name to Jalim, (a Sanadhya Brahmin) who is considered to be the founder of the first settlement. (History, 2016)

"District Jalaun is surrounded by the three rivers, Yamuna, Betwa and Pahuj. The land being an undulated plain has been suitable for human inhabitation. The ancient history of this district has been closely linked with the history of the entire Bundelkhand region. It has a history of ascendancy and dethronement for many of the rulers" (History, 2016)



Timeline of administrators of Jalaun

Kalpi situated at the bank of the river Yamuna, is considered to be the largest and most ancient township of the district. (History, 2016) There were multiple annexations of the region before 1100 AD. In 1196, the town of Kalpi on the Yamuna was conquered by the armies of Muhammad of Ghor. From the start of the 13th century the district from its most prominent place Kalpi, has been associated with its Muslims rulers (History, 2016). The Muslim hold over the Bundelkhand, however, remained very nominal even after its inquisitive occupation in 1202. Shahabuddin was the very first ruler to invade the territory in the late 12th century. (History, 2016) It was annexed later by the founder of the Bundela regime. Thereafter, the Pathans and Mughal rulers also reigned in Jalaun. Early in the 14th century, the Bundelas occupied the greater part of Jalaun, and even succeeded in holding the fortified post of Kalpi. In 1583 AD emperor Akbar visited

Kalpi, where he was the guest of its Jagirdar Abdul Matlub Khan. Quli Khan and Abdur Rahim Khan-Khana governed this place during the Mughal period. (History, 2016)

“Akbar’s governors at Kalpi maintained nominal authority over the surrounding districts, and the Bundela chiefs were also in a state of chronic revolt, which then further culminated in the war of independence under Maharaja Chhatrasal. On the first outbreak of his rebellion in the year 1671 he occupied a fairly large province to the south of the Yamuna River. Then setting out from this base, and assisted by the Marathas, he further conquered the whole of Bundelkhand” (Yadav, 2002).

On his death in the year 1732 Chhatrasal bequeathed almost one-third of his dominions to his very own Maratha allies, who before long succeeded in annexing the whole of the Bundelkhand region. “The Marathas then dominated the scene for more than a hundred years. Under the Maratha rule, the country was a prey to constant anarchy. In 1806, Kalpi was handed over to the British, and in 1840, on the death of the Nana Gobind Ras, his possessions lapsed to them as well. Various interchanges of territory took place, and in the year 1856 the boundaries of the British district were colonised and substantially settled, with an area of 1477 square miles. Jalaun witnessed violence during the Revolt of 1857.” (History, 2016)

When the news of the rising at Kanpur reached Kalpi, the men of the 53rd Native Infantry quietly deserted their officers, and in June the Jhansi rebels reached the district and began the murder of Europeans. It was not until September 1858, that the rebels were finally defeated. During the first struggle for freedom in 1857, fierce armed conflict took place between the British forces and Freedom Fighters led by Nana Sahib of Bithoor, Rani Laxmi Bai of the Jhansi and Tatyasaheb Tope. These events happened at Orai, Kalpi, Jalaun, Konch and places like Kachchwahagarh. (History, 2016)

Jalaun was treated as ‘non-regulation’ up to 1891, when it was made subject to the ordinary laws that came into force in the United Provinces, some of which had already been introduced earlier. A few carved pillars and stones which may possibly be of the Chandela period have been found at Orai. Kalpi, the most celebrated historical place in the District, contains a number of Muhammadan tombs. (History, 2016)

In the late 19th century, the district suffered from the invasive kans grass (*Saccharum spontaneum*), owing to the spread of which many of the villages were abandoned and their land thrown out of cultivation. “The population of the district was 3,99,726 in 1901, and the two largest towns were Kunch and Kalpi. The district was also traversed by the Indian Midland Railway from Jhansi to Kanpur. A small part of it is watered by the Betwa canal. Grain, oil-seeds, cotton and ghee were exported from the region. The start of the twentieth century heralded a new wave of nationalism throughout India and Jalaun did not remain unaffected. (History, 2016)

The Congress, which was already the mouthpiece of people’s aspiration at the national level, was now becoming increasingly popular in this district and a branch of it was setup in the district. The people of Jalaun participated in all the national level movements to oust the British government, including Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement. (History, 2016)

Geography

Location and Size:

“The district is situated between parallels of 25° 46 and 26° 27’ north latitude and 78° 56’ and 79° 52’ east longitude and forms a compact tract of territory of rectangular shape. On the west a boundary is formed by



the Pahuj River, beyond the district the Bhind region of Madhya Pradesh begins. In the north the Yamuna divides it from the districts of Etawah and Kanpur Dehat. On the southwest Jalaun adjoins Samthar in Jhansi district. To the south east Betwa divides it first from Jhansi and then from Hamirpur. The district stretches 93 kms from east to west and 68 kms from north to south. Total area of the district is 4,565 kms” (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (1), 2018).

Physiography

Pahuj Ravines Tract: The region comprises of alluvium and Dun gravel of recent age and is situated along the Pahuj river in a longitudinal direction and well known for its ravines. Topography is rugged and unsuitable for agricultural activities (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (1), 2018)

Jalaun Plain: This region is comparatively a flat plain. It is situated in the western part of the district.

Orai Tract: The Orai region lies in south of Jalaun plain in the east-west direction. It is wider in the south-west region but narrower towards the north-east. The geology of the region consists of Alluvium and Dun gravel of recent age.

Yamuna Ravines Tract: The region extends in a north-west and south-east direction along the Yamuna River covering the northern part of Kalpi and Jalaun tahsils formed of Alluvium and Dun gravel. (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (1), 2018)

Betwa Ravines Tract: This region is a narrow strip formed of Alluvium and Dun. The Betwa River covers the southernmost part of Konch, Orai and Kalpi tahsils from this region. Compared to Pahuj and Yamuna, the ravines of this tract are less extensive. Its surface is not suitable for agriculture. Most of area along Betwa is covered with reserved forest.

Forestry: There is no forest belt in the district, but small patches of forest are found here and there, especially along the rivers of the district, namely the Yamuna, the Betwa and the Pahuj. Forest are Evergreen Forests which are abundant in Neem, Mango, Mauha, Saal, Sagaun, Babool, Kher and Kail trees. 6.2% of the total area constitutes the forest cover area in the district. (Govt., 2016)

Minerals and Mining: No mineral of value is found in the district. Geological formations of the district consists of alluvium, which consists of kankar, sand, maurang and brick earths. A lot of illegal mining is carried out on the banks of Yamuna and Betwa for Mourang sand which is used in construction of buildings. (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority(1), 2018)

Agriculture and Crop Pattern: Jalaun like other parts of Bundelkhand region is poor in agriculture. The whole district is precarious, owing to its extreme sensitivity to droughts. Kharif and Rabi are the main harvests. The Rabi is most important. Due to lack of irrigation facilities, double cropped or ‘*dofasli*’ areas are negligible. The chief Kharif staples are jua, bajra and paddy whereas chief Rabi crops are wheat, barley and gram. The pulses include masoor, arhar and urad. Warehousing facilities are available with limited storage capacity (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (2), 2018)

Climate: The Tropic of the Capricorn passes close to the area making the climate drier than other districts to the north of the river Yamuna. After February the temperature begins to increase rapidly. May and early part of June are the hottest parts of the year. Temperatures come down to a minimum in January and reaches a maximum in the hottest period of May and June. The rainfall in the region is less than the other areas of the State.

Famine and Drought: Drought and blight are the two great scourges of Jalaun, and famines occurred in 1783, in 1833, in 1837, and 1848. There have been 13 severe droughts in last 15 years. (History, 2016).

Demography, Administrative and Political set up of Jalaun District



Source: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner.

Demography of Jalaun District in comparison with State: (Directorate of census Operations, U.P., 2011).

Particulars	Jalaun District			State		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Population	16,89,974	12,71,074	4,18,900	199,812,341	155,317,278	44,495,063
Male (%)	100	75.5	24.5	100.0	77.5	22.5
Female (%)	100.0	74.9	25.1	100.0	78.0	22.0
Decadal Growth	16.2	14.1	23.0	20.2	18.0	28.8
Males (%)	15.2	13.1	22.0	19.3	17.1	27.6
Females (%)	17.4	15.3	24.2	21.2	18.9	30.2
Child Sex Ratio	881	882	877	902	906	885
Adult Sex Ratio	865	859	883	912	918	894
Literacy Rate (%)	73.7	72.4	77.6	67.7	65.5	75.1
Males	83.5	83.2	84.2	77.3	76.3	80.4
Females	62.5	59.8	70.1	57.2	53.7	69.2
SC Population (%)	27.7	29.5	22.2	20.7	23.0	12.7
SC Literacy (%)	68.5	67.6	71.9	60.9	59.8	67.5
Total Workers of (%Total population)	36.7	38.9	30.2	32.9	33.4	31.2
Males	52.0	53.1	48.5	47.7	47.4	48.9
Females	19.1	22.4	9.4	16.7	18.3	11.3
Non-Workers of (% Total population)	63.3	61.1	69.8	67.1	66.6	68.8
Males	48.0	46.9	51.5	52.3	52.6	51.1
Females	80.9	77.6	90.6	83.3	81.7	88.7
Main Workers (% Total Workers)	67.7	65.7	75.5	67.8	64.6	80.0
Males	76.4	75.9	78.3	75.1	72.5	83.6
Females	40.2	37.6	58.7	45.2	42.1	62.8
Marginal Workers (% of Total Workers)	32.3	34.3	24.5	32.2	35.4	20.0
Males	23.6	24.1	21.7	24.9	27.5	16.4
Females	59.8	62.4	41.3	54.8	57.9	37.2

Administrative Setup (Administrative Setup, 2016)

Tehsils	Blocks	Towns	Nyaya Panchayats	Village Panchayats	Villages	Abandoned Villages
5	9	10	81	575	1151	209

Orai is the Administrative Headquarter of the district.

Tehsils and Blocks of the District:

Tehsils	Community Development Blocks
Orai	Rampura
Kalpi	Kuthaund
Jalaun	Madhogarh
Madhukar	Nadigaon
Konch	Jalaun
	Mahewa
	Kadaura
	Dakore
	Konch

HEALTH

Healthcare is divided into three levels that include Primary, Secondary and Tertiary.

Infrastructure

1. District Level Hospital - 2 (District Male & Women's Hospital Orai)
2. CHC- 7
3. PHC- 35
4. District Level Other TB Control Unit-1
5. District level leprosy control unit-1 (Chief Medical Officer, 2018)

Primary Healthcare

Primary Healthcare includes Sub Centre and Primary Health Centre (Administration, 2016). There are 277 sub centres in the district which caters to an average population of 4520 per unit. (National Health Mission, 2017)

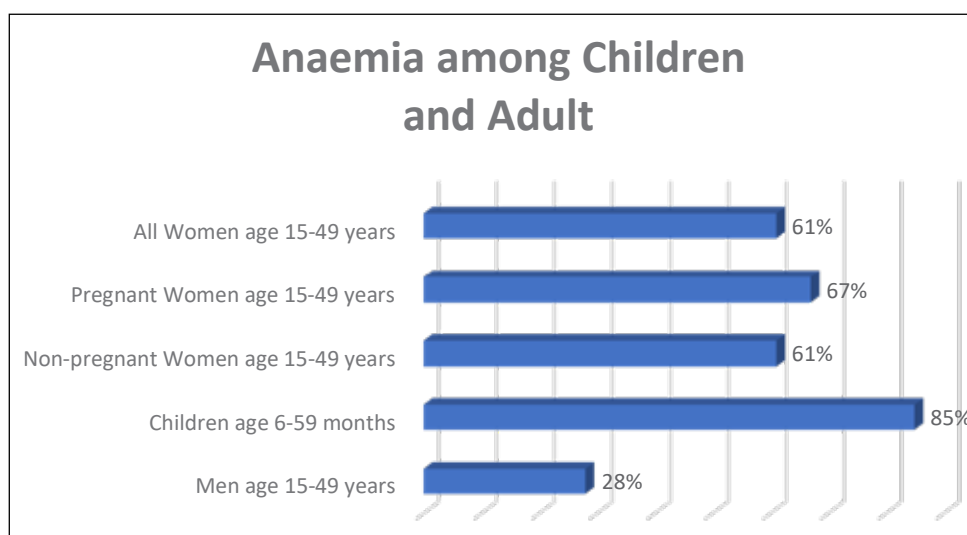
The total funds released for the district under NRHM (2012-2016) was 82.11 crores out of which 70.84 crores were utilised. Similarly, the total funds released for the state under NUHM (2013-2016) was 2.37 crores out of which 1.33 crores were utilised. (National Health Mission, 2017)

As recorded under the progress report of 'health systems strengthening' of the National Health Mission, only 5 PHCs out of 35 function round the clock and only 1 facility is functioning as a First Referral Unit (FRU) in Orai whereas 2 FRUs are being built in Konch and Kalpi. 1080 ASHAs have been engaged with the system and all the 575 villages established Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNC). The VHSNCs function as sub-committees of Gram Panchayats. (National Health Mission, 2017) The Health Sanitation and Nutrition committee works at community level and household level by involving ANM, ASHA, AWW and ICDS officers.

(ANM – Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, ASHA – Accredited Social Health Activist, AWW – Anganwadi worker, ICDS – Integrated Child Development Scheme)

The electricity supply at the sub centres is irregular. There are 8 Mobile Medical Units. There are no Mother & Child Health centres in Jalaun and no drug warehouses. Jalaun has the highest number of ASHA workers (1080) in Uttar Pradesh out of which only 890 are trained. There have been protests by ASHA workers demanding fixed pay of INR 10,000. However, according to the state, only 50% of ASHA workers are active. (Singh, 2017)

Figure 1 - State of Anaemia in the District



In Figure 1, 61% of all women of age 15-49 years, 67% pregnant women aged 15-49 years and 61% non-pregnant women age 15-49 years are anaemic. On the other hand, 85% children aged 6-59 months and only 28% men age 15-49 years are anaemic. The figure suggests that Children and Pregnant Women are more anaemic, pointing towards poor intergenerational health outcomes. (National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) 2015-16)

Maternal and Delivery Care

Figure 2 - Antenatal Care in the District

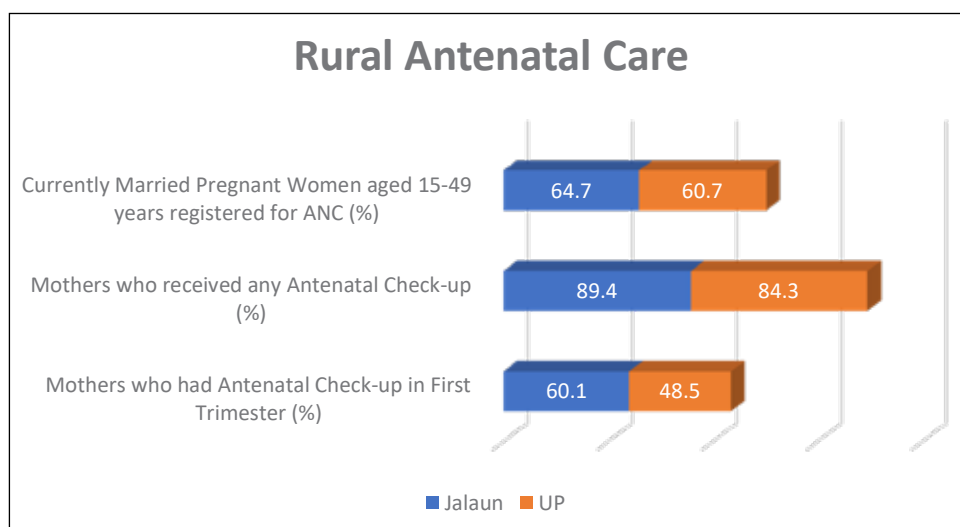
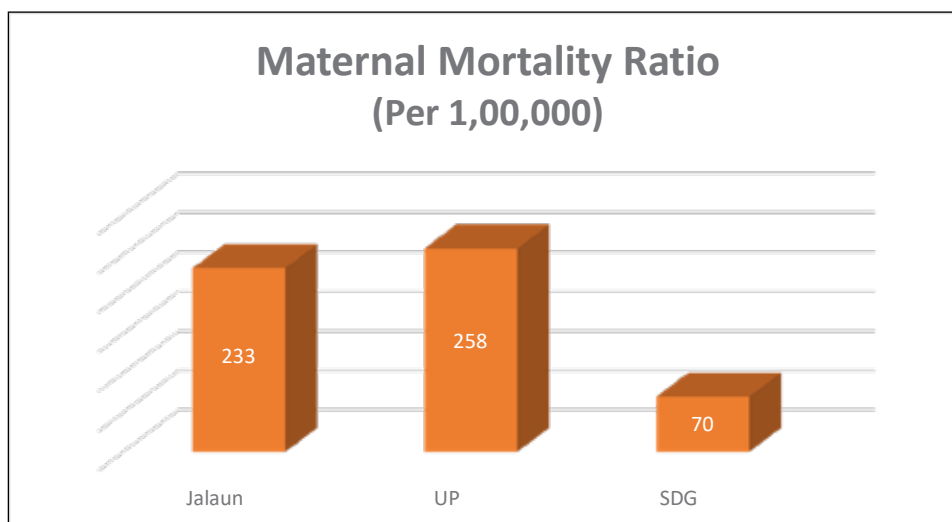


Figure 2 depicts that 60.1% mothers have had antenatal check-ups in first trimester and 64.7% married pregnant women aged 15-49 were registered for antenatal check-ups (ANCs) in Jalaun. In UP, 48.5% mothers had antenatal check-up in first trimester and 60.7% married pregnant women aged 15-49 years registered for ANCs. This suggests that women in Jalaun receive antenatal check-up more than the state average. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 3 - Maternal Mortality Ratio and Rate in the District and State:



In Figure 3, the Maternal Mortality Ratio of Jalaun is 233 which is less than the state's rate which is 258. (NFHS-4, 2015-16) However, SDG Goal 3 underlines that by 2030, we need to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. (WHO, 2015).

Figure 4 - Delivery Care in the District

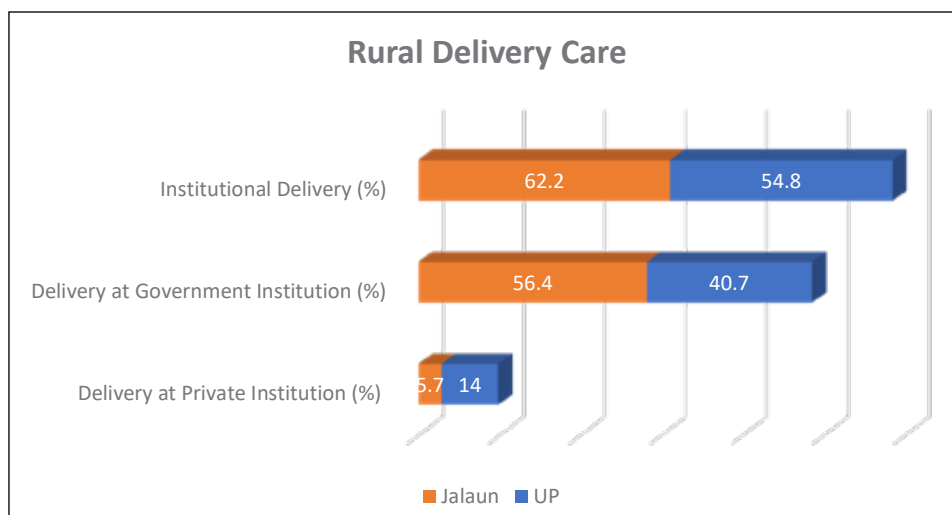


Figure 4 suggests that delivery at private institution in Jalaun is 5.7% which is lower than the state's rate of 14%. Also, delivery at government institution and institutional delivery in Jalaun is 56.4% and 62.2% respectively which is better than UP that is 40.7% and 54.8%. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 5 - Delivery Care in Jalaun:

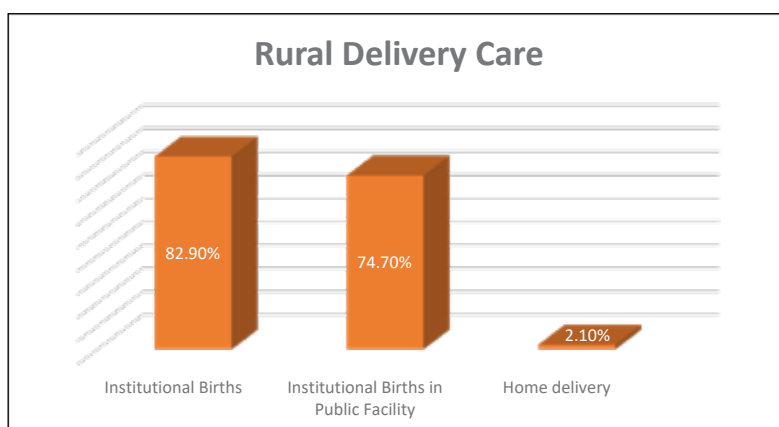
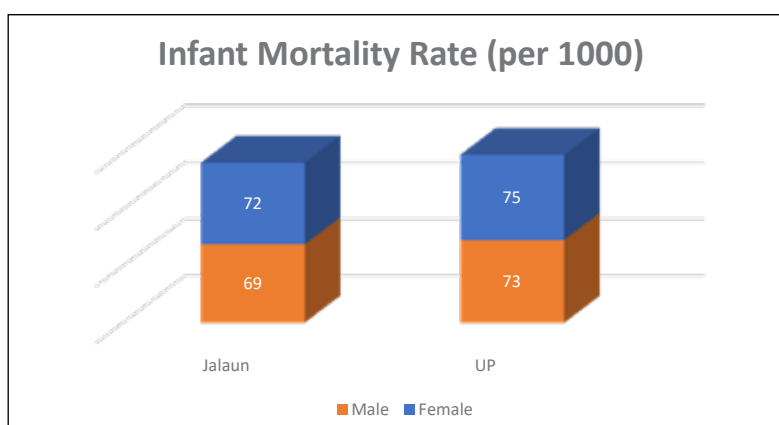


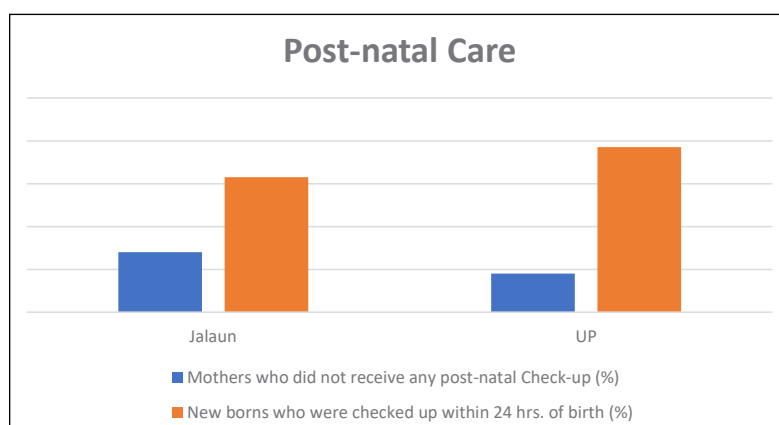
Figure 5 depicts that there are 82.90% institutional deliveries, 74.70% institutional births in public facilities and only 2.10% home deliveries in rural areas. Also, caesarean section births in the district were reported to be 2%. Additionally, only 3.2% children born at home were taken to a health facility for check-up within 24 hours of birth and 4.3% children received a health check after birth from a doctor/nurse/Lady Health Visitor (LHV)/Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)/other health personnel within 2 days. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 6 - Infant Mortality Rate



According to Figure 6, Infant mortality rate in Jalaun is 69 for males which is lower than the state average which is 73. IMR for females in Jalaun stands at 72 for which is lower than 75 for UP. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 7 - Post Natal Mortality Rate in Jalaun and Uttar Pradesh



From Figure 7, we can see that in Jalaun, 28% mothers did not receive any post-natal check-ups. On the

other hand, 63% new borns received check-ups within 24 hours of birth in the district. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 8 - Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

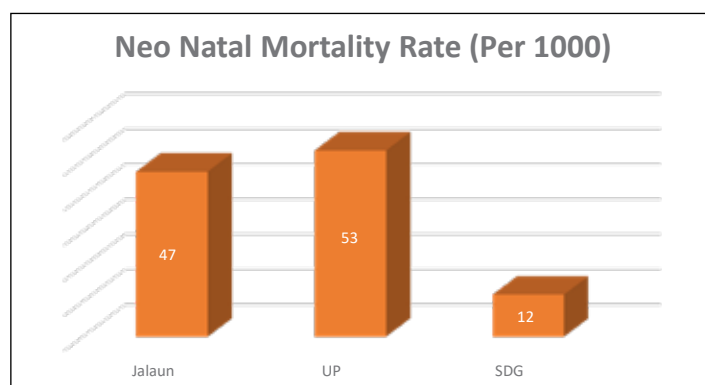


Figure 8 indicates that Neo Natal Mortality Rate in Jalaun is 47 which is lower than that for UP at 53. However, the present rate doesn't meet the criteria set by the SDGs which state that by 2030, we must end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 9 - Janani Suraksha Yojana

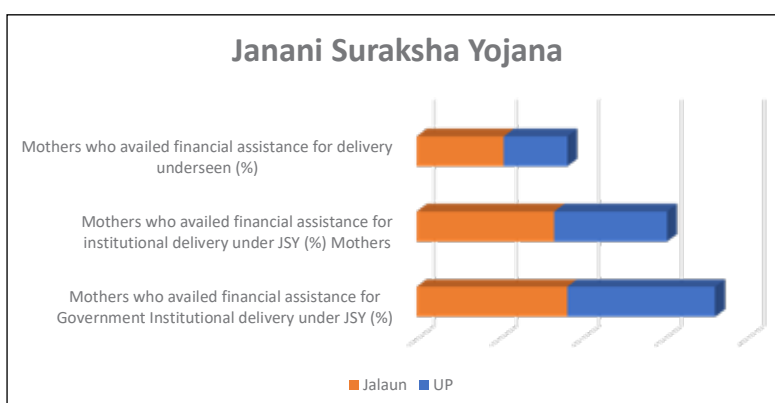
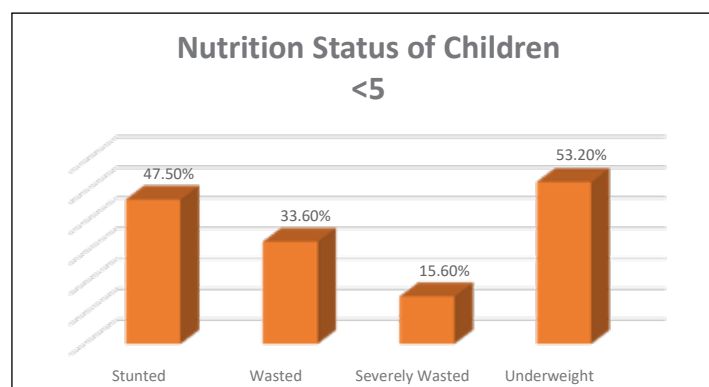


Figure 9 denotes that in Jalaun, 91.2% mothers availed financial assistance for institutional delivery in government facilities, 83.4% for institutional delivery and 52.8% for delivery under *Janani Suraksha Yojana*. The scheme is under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

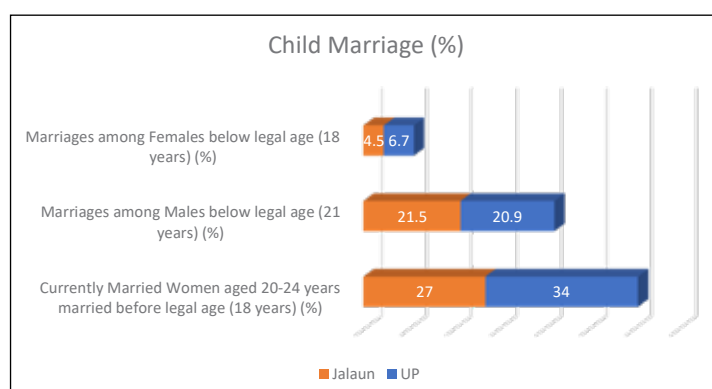
Figure 10 - Nutrition Status of Children less than 5 years



In figure 10, the percentage of children under 5 years who are stunted is 47.55%, 33.6% are wasted, 15.6%

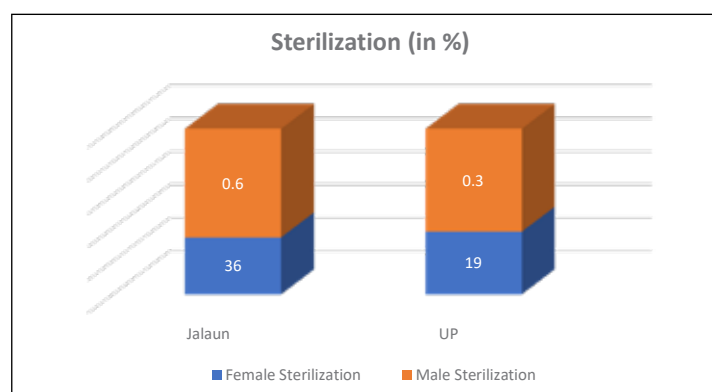
are severely wasted and 53.6% are underweight in rural areas of Jalaun. The high rates of malnutrition depict the dismal state of access to nutritious food. The National Child Health Program attempts to ensure that “all children aged 0-19 years in rural areas are covered with free regular health check, treatment and referrals. To implement this scheme, a dedicated medical team (two medical officers, one paramedical and one nursing staff) are present in all the schools and the Anganwadi centres. According to the micro plan, the school conducts medical examination of the children at the prescribed date. After this, children that are severely ill or have congenital defects are referred to higher reference units for treatment. In all the high reference units on every Saturday of the week, the therapeutic team takes the children to the treatment/surgery. Also, children from 0 to 5 years get free immunization for diseases like Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Hepatitis and 8 other diseases. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Figure 11 - Child Marriage in Jalaun and Uttar Pradesh:



In Figure 11 we see that 27% of women between 20-24 years were married before the legal age of 18 years. For the state of Uttar Pradesh, this rate is 34% for this specific age group. 21.5% men were married before the legal age of 21 years. (MIS Division, 2016-17)

Figure 12 - Sterilization in Jalaun and Uttar Pradesh



In figure 12. we can see that the rate of female sterilization is 36% in Jalaun which is more than the rate for the state which is 19%. Rates of male sterilisation stand at 0.6% for Jalaun and 0.3% for the state of Uttar Pradesh. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

Moreover, to stabilise population, family welfare programmes are run in the district. Under this program women receive Rs. 3000 while men receive Rs 2000 for a Non-Scalpel Vasectomy. Condoms, contraceptive pill, caps, shadow (weekly pills), intra (injectable radical) are available free of charge at all government hospitals under modern contraception methods. The family welfare program is aligned to the SDG Health Goal 3 which states that by 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. (NFHS-4, 2015-16)

LIVELIHOOD

A) Industries

With reference to the exiting status of Industrial Areas in the District, the number of production units are highest in Konch (27) followed by Kalpi (12), Orai (09) and Mini Industrial Estate in Madhogar (07). With regard to medium and small-scale industries, there are 121 artisan units in the district, 89 hosiery and garment units and 37 food production units. (Singh AK, 2017)



Types of Industries: -

The major industry in the districts are handmade paper and soap and the major industrial actors are Hindustan Lever Ltd., Industrial Area, Orai (Main Produce: Detergent Cake) and Maa Shree Papers in district Jalaun. The department of MSME and Export has launched a scheme called, 'One District One Product' with the aim to promote and encourage such indigenous and specialized products and crafts. Hand paper is the product that has been selected because of its traditional history in the district. Before independence, Kalpi was among the few centres in the country where the art of creating paper from waste material was popular. (UP Department of MSME, District Jalaun, 2017)

The craft of making handmade paper from waste-paper and cloth strings has been done in Kalpinagar, situated on the banks of Yamuna River in the district. This paper is used to make a variety of products such as office files, carry bags, absorption papers, visiting cards and more. The quality of production can be improved by using modern technology and methods. Jalaun is known for its specialization in providing handmade Paper with different designs and patterns in different thicknesses and sizes which are suitable for a variety of decorative purposes. (UP Department of MSME, District Jalaun, 2017)

Sr. No	Industries	No of units	Investment	Employment
1	Food Products	37	4.09 Cr	153
2	Hosiery& Garment	89	1.14 Cr	160
3	Repair & Service	141	1.69 Cr	362
4	Artisans	121	3.78 Cr	381

Source – Brief Industrial Profile of Jalaun District, 2016-17

Although handmade paper is produced in Kalpi, it is not exported because of the lack of coordination between state and individual enterprises. Apart from this issue, the other recurring problems are irregular

power supply and inadequate drainage system, non-availability of skilled manpower lack of awareness about MSME Schemes, lack of technological & financial support, problems of raw material availability and access to markets.

UN Sustainable Development Goals and Jalaun: -

- According to “SDG no 8 which addresses of economic productivity, higher levels of productivity can be achieved through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors”. Industries like handmade paper should encompass technological innovation to reduce the use of water and create more units for more job opportunities. In terms of diversification Jalaun can focus more on exporting forest products. (UNCTAD, 2016)
- The same goal also talks about promotion of development-oriented policies that support “productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”. (UNCTAD, 2016) But in case of Jalaun owing to lack of government support for supply chain infrastructure to the existing industries, fewer jobs are being created in the district and people from the area are migrating in search of livelihoods.

B) Agriculture: -

Farmers in Jalaun prefer the mono cropping farming system. “Mixed farming in the combination of agriculture and livestock is also quite common in all the areas. jowar-wheat, bajra-wheat, fallow-wheat, fallow-chickpea, fallow-field pea, fallow-lentil, soybean-wheat are the important crop rotations followed in different areas. Mixed cropping with sorghum + arhar, barley gram + mustard is also common. Tomato, onion, vegetable pea and chilies are important vegetables that are cultivated in this area. Both resource rich and resource poor farmers cultivate vegetable crops. Jalaun mainly consists of four types of soil. Top produced crops in Jalaun are rice, wheat, peas etc”. (KVK, 2015).

Land use pattern of the district: - (area in lakh hectares)

Total Geographical area- 454.4

- Cultivable area- 377.3
- Land under non-agricultural use- 39
- Cultivable wasteland- 1.5

Agricultural land use: - 2013 (KVK, 2015).

- Net sown area- 346.7
- Gross cropped area- 409.5
- Net irrigation area- 225.7
- Gross irrigated area- 242.4
- Rain fed area- 121.1

In the year 2001 Net irrigation area was 229.4 but in 2013 it reduced to 225.7.

C) Livestock

“Bhadawari buffaloes are found in ravines of Yamuna and Pahuj. As the name indicates Jamuna pari goat is found in the villages located in the ravines of Yamuna. High resource farmers keep one graded buffalo and one or two cows, whereas low resource farmers commonly have one or two buffalo and 3-4 goats. Both high and low resource farmers keep milch animals for home consumption and also for sale. The sharecroppers also keep one or two native buffaloes and 5-6 goats”. (KVK, 2015).

No. of cows- 237083 No. of Buffaloes- 239162 No. of goats- 257589 (Census India, 2011)

D) Forest Products: -

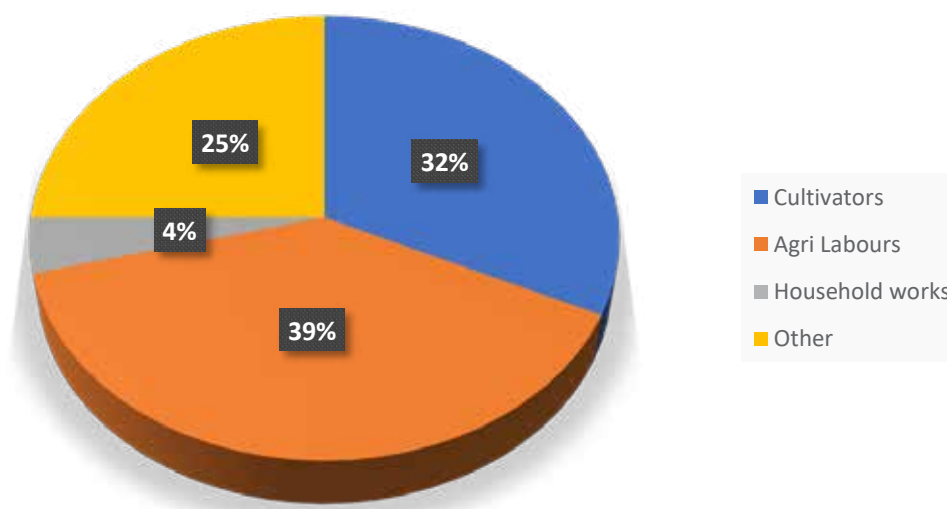
The total forest covered area of Jalaun is 257 sq. kms, out of the total area of district which is 4569 Sq. Kms. The forest availability of Jalaun district is of evergreen forest. Neem, mango, mahua, saal, sagaun, babool, kher and kail are main trees found in the district. (KVK, 2015).

E) MNREGA Scheme: - Execution (Singh AK, 2017)

No	Items	Year 2014-15	Year 2015-16
1	Total job cards issued (in lakh)	187088	198575
2	Employment provided to households	67542	83563
3	Person day in lakh	2675320	3610445
4	SC's	1102266	1456048
5	ST's	6625	4488
6	Women	787543	1163286
7	Other	1566429	2149909
8	No of HH complete 100 days	3023	7507

The MNREGS endeavour in the district has created many assets for water conservation, water harvesting and rural connectivity, however other projects have been ignored. This district affected by flood and droughts, and assets that prevent floods and secure against droughts are important. Participation of Women in MNREGS has been increasing every year. (Singh AK, 2017)

Labour Division- Total work population (6,20,764)



Out of the total population of the district, 32% are cultivators, 39% are agricultural labours, 4% of work force are involved in household related work and others constitute 25% of the total pie. Out of total working population of 6, 20,764 main workers constitute 25%, 12% are marginal workers and 63% non-workers. (Lohani, 2010).

Government Schemes: -



Since the district faces droughts frequently, the government has been focussing on water conservation and schemes to recharge ground water. The Rainfed Area Development scheme was initiated by the central government for the Bundelkhand region specifically. Under this scheme a provision of maximum of Rs. 1.00 Lakh is made to one farmer family in the whole project period for land up to two hectares. (UP-Govt, 2010)

Another important scheme by state government is the instalment of rainwater harvesting mechanisms and distribution of sprinkler sets. As part of this scheme, the government provides up to 90% grant for the marginal farmers. (UP-Govt, 2010)

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Stories from the Field

❧ An Inspiring Woman in Jalaun

Realising India has been one of the turning points in my life. If I look deeply into what changed, I can see myself transforming greatly. A lot of stereotypes or perspectives which I held earlier about village life, people, government, politics, administration, NGOs have been shattered and I have started seeing things from a whole new perspective which is purely unbiased and free of my own interpretations to a particular observation. I have started discerning, practising deep listening and delving into effective inquiry which has further helped me connect with people, understand them, their contexts without applying my biased urban mindset. There are many inspiring stories that have touched me and shaped my worldview, one amongst those that stays very close to my heart is of a senior member of the police force in Orai, Jalaun.

We had quite an easy time interacting with government officials and the police force in the district, which further enhanced our learning in the field. Devika Kumari, a senior member of the police force in Orai was one of the most inspiring figures that we met in our journey of Realising India. She is an iron lady, reflective systems thinker and a true feminist at heart. In our conversation with her and the other community members we got to know how efficiently she works on ground to reduce crime. She has launched some amazing projects in the district for both girls and boys in order to build an understanding around gender and its complexity. She carries out gender sensitization sessions in schools and colleges and approaches girls to teach them self-defence and trains them personally. We were in awe while listening to people about the way she works and functions and how hardworking she is in all aspects. The rapport she has with the community is unlike any other- everyone calls her Didi (sister) and they come to her with immense confidence and respect believing that she will definitely do justice to them.

The way she tackles crime is also remarkable. She doesn't lodge First Information Reports (FIRs) immediately but counsels for 2-3 sessions and makes the victim and the family aware about issues, how they can be resolved without the police getting involved.

Devika Kumari's first efforts are to counsel- how registration of FIRs can be avoided, and conflicts be solved through amicable resolutions. She says that women need to be aware of ways to protect themselves. Women need to know their entitlements and assert their independence and be cautious of danger around.

We observed a lot while we were with this inspiring police officer. We realised that each of us nurse very negative stereotypes about the police and judge their actions with a biased mindset. The truth really is that there are a lot of very inspiring police persons around us working tirelessly.

—Shreya Verma

Ray of Hope

Our team went to Bijapur Village in Jalaun District, Uttar Pradesh with Megha (name changed), a resident of the village and Program Manager at the Bundelkhand Dalit Adhikhar Manch (BDAM). BDAM is a Civil Society Organisation that works for Dalit rights and justice in the district. I went to the school in the village and met an Anganwadi worker and found out about her role, family and aspirations in life. She had graduated high school and wanted to pursue higher studies but couldn't do so because she was made to get married while she was young. After her marriage, she was occupied with domestic responsibilities. This made me wonder how societal norms affect girls and pose as barriers in the way of her aspirations, curtailing freedom, a fundamental right of each citizen. As the conversation continued, she mentioned that she has three daughters and a son. One of the daughters is pursuing her graduation, one daughter is in the X standard and the other daughter and son are preparing to take exams to become teachers in primary schools. When I asked her about her aspirations in life, she told me that she is applying for a higher position as a superintendent at Anganwadis.

She also mentioned that there was no Anganwadi Centre in the village for the last 10 years, however, it is now under construction. As a result of the lack of a centre, she had to take care of infants in the same classroom where students from classes I to V study. Moreover, there is no *Sahayikas* (helpers) to help her which increases her workload since she had to do home visits to bring children when their parents don't send them to school. This includes persuading family members which sometimes results in delay of the assigned schedule. These points made me wonder about the ineffective institutional capacity to hire a *Sahaiyaka* which could also ensure employment opportunity to women living in the village. Initially, I was talking to her according to the questions that I had framed but then I realised, that the conversation was getting very formal. I then began to ask her about her aspirations and problem she faced on the personal level.

After the transect walk in the village, we went to Rekha's house, a teacher volunteer at BDAM. Her mother cooked delicious food for us and after finishing the food, I went to the kitchen to thank aunty. While I was talking to her, I saw Vidhi and started talking to her. She is a meticulous student and because of her merit, she secured admissions in a good government college. She shared a story that ignited her interest to become a teacher. One day, the lecturer requested her to teach children mathematics after college classes since she performs well in the subject. Initially, she was hesitant, but her mother motivated her, and she now teaches remedial tuition classes and earns INR 4000 per month. When I asked her what she wants to become in future, she said, "*I want to become independent, be educated and then get a job.*"

This story inspired me as to how family and teachers can play an important role in infusing confidence which might change the future of not only their child/student but also of the community. Moreover, through this nudge, it gave a sense of agency and financial independence to Vidhi.

It grew darker and I heard the auto driver's honk, a signal that it was time to go back. I quickly asked Anna, one of the team members to take a picture of Rekha and Vidhi with me. I bid goodbye to the whole family with a hug and my heart was filled with gratitude and love.

—Sakshi Sharma

Conversation with Devika Kumari, senior Police officer in Jalaun

During our field immersion in Jalaun, there were more than one occasions when I had noticed a female police officer with short hair sit on the front seat of the police van riding across the city. Back then it was the aura of a strong personality that caught my attention. Later in our conversation with the Superintendent of Police, he had mentioned about Devika Kumari, a senior police officer in Jalaun and that he would arrange a meeting for us with her. Little did I know that my conversation with the police officer would be a life altering experience.

Our conversation began by sharing each other's context from which I learnt that the officer despite having been born and brought up in Delhi chose to serve in a not-so-affluent district. Her commitment to her work made her come here. She later went on to explain the major crimes that take place in her jurisdiction and from her seven years of experience in the district, she has been trying to understand the root cause of these crimes.

She pointed out that as a society, we have interpreted freedom to be equivalent to a free bird that wants no strings attached. This liberal narrative of freedom is something that I have confronted a lot while in college and later with family. She later spoke about women's safety in the society and used anecdotes from her personal life to support her argument that sexual crimes against women are rising in society because of the increasing role of the entertainment media in making sexual acts explicit. She also mentioned that while it is important to change the attitude of men in the society, it is a time consuming and a long-term process. In the meanwhile, women also share equal onus in reducing crimes against themselves by being wise and responding to situations rather than reacting to them. In every anecdote and insight that the officer shared I could visualise the officer to be a realistic and reflective systems thinker.

—Manu Pius Panjikaran

First day with volunteers of Bundelkhand Dalit Adhikar Manch

Our observations and insights began from the moment we reached Jalaun on a Saturday morning. Much of the credit goes to the representative from the Community Based Organisation (CBO), Kuldeep Baudh. He met us at our hotel for introductions and planned with us the itinerary for the following days. During that conversation, he told us about himself and the purpose behind his work. Kuldeep founded Bundelkhand Dalit Adhikar Manch (BDMA) which is an association to strengthen and give a voice to the lower castes through advocacy and education. Bundelkhand region is inflicted with high levels of caste discrimination which even Kuldeep was a victim of, being a Dalit.

He shared an incident from his childhood when his teacher tore his birth certificate in half because his father added Singh to his name. Unaware of the reason for this action, Kuldeep asked his uncle who introduced him to the teachings of Dr BR Ambedkar. This put him on a path to live by the teachings of Dr Ambedkar, pursue law and social work, and engage with the society in whatever capacity he could. He

invited us to a volunteer meeting of Bundelkhand Dalit Adhikar Manch at his house on the very same day. I was personally quite motivated to start work and meet the volunteers because I was inspired by Kuldeep's stories, conviction and purpose.

As we walked on the main road to go to Kuldeep's house, I could sense the contradictions in my mind. Being the administrative headquarters of Jalaun, Orai seemed to be a small town that is home to people who are economically vulnerable. I observed dusty roads, many shabby vehicle repair and cement shops, stray animals, simply dressed people staring at us because we looked like outsiders. As we entered a more luxurious hotel where we ate, the multi coloured lighting and sofa seating spoke to me about people's taste. I could hear my background conversations reminding me of my privilege. Kuldeep's younger brother, who was pursuing law and is a co-founder of BDAM, came to take us to their house where the volunteer meeting was taking place. Their house was in a separate colony where only Dalit families lived. It was a house which was built by Kuldeep's father and there was a pool of stagnant water in front of their house.

As we entered, we observed middle aged men and women sitting on the floor with their notebooks and pen ready. There were equal number of women and men. Somewhere I had assumed that volunteers would be young individuals in their college rather than working adults. Their faces aglow, they were eager to talk to us. As we started our introductions and purpose, I saw all of them taking notes. They started their introduction with 'Jai Bheem' and talked about the work they were doing in their villages.

One volunteer spoke about how he mobilised everyone in his village to not give votes or support any political parties, as none did anything for their villages in the past. He restricted political rallies after submitting an application at the District Magistrate's office. This ban continued till the time the village was connected by pucca roads. They shared how people of Jalaun district have become complacent about their realities. They have normalised discrimination and still somewhere believe in superstitions.

I was moved by the passion and clarity with which the volunteers spoke about these cases and their progressive thought process. I felt that they are somewhere fulfilling their responsibility as citizens by earning their daily bread and are also taking out time to help others fight for their rights. They advocate and inquire and hold the authorities accountable for their promises. They make sure that their community is well represented. When I met the volunteers of Bundelkhand Dalit Adhikar Manch I realised that money is not their primary motivation. The organisation has 700 volunteers within the district. A strong leadership within all individuals and clear purpose is a great start.

(Original names in this story have not been changed)

—Devashish Takret

Bundelkhand: From water rich to water deficient

Due to its geographical location, the Bundelkhand region always faced water crises, but the two dynasties that ruled the region, Chandela and Bundela were wise enough to solve this issue. They built a series of interlinked water tanks to conserve water

so that they could provide water for agriculture and other purposes. Along with this, the region also developed a technique to increase the ground water level known as Medha system as Bundelkhand naturally receives scanty rainfall. Sadly, humans have a tendency to forget or neglect the traditional and historical knowledge and that is what happened here as a result of which the region faces severe water scarcity.

Today many activities are depleting ground water. The first of which is sand mining. Paradoxically sand mining is one of the biggest revenue sources for the government. However, sand is being mined beyond allowed limits which is causing Yamuna river basin to shrink rapidly and not leaving any room for ground water to recharge. The second one is as an effect of climate change. Every farmer we talked to accepted that climatic changes in the last four or five years have influenced the rainfall pattern and their cropping pattern and matters have been worse due to abrupt changes in seasons.

Thus, despite efforts by the government, water availability is becoming a major concern in the region and it is time to go back to history and apply traditional techniques with modern updates.

—Chetan Patil

Being a 'Man'

In a place where patriarchy is still a dominating factor, there exists a father and a husband who has been passionate about the job that his wife did. He was just like other men in the village, but he cared about his wife more than his male ego. It was in 2006 when his wife became an Auxiliary Nurse and Mid-wife. As an ANM she had to visit four villages and guide women in those villages. Due to her health concerns, travelling became a problem for her and hence her husband, who was a farmer, started accompanying her. He works in his field in the morning and in the afternoon goes with his wife to places where she performs regular check-ups for women and children. He helps her out in the check-ups as well. He slowly learnt a lot from his wife and supports her where required. It was not easy for him to be a part of this work, there were men in villages that were against him, but as time went by, the people became more supportive and now he is one of the most respected people in all the villages his wife works.

—Anna Mathew

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