

SATNA



Realising India Series (2017-2018)

District Satna

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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SATNA

History

Satna derives its name from the river Sutna or Satna. Satna belongs to the Baghelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, which was ruled by the treaty state of Rewa. The Kalchuri or Chedi tribe ruled the region till the 12th century. However, it was the Baghels who gave their name to the region, a branch of the Solanki Rajputs by displacing the Kalachuris, in the 13th century. The region of Satna was created by the East India Company in 1865 primarily for its strategic access through the Railway Line that further led to other settlements. (Satna Smart City Development Limited, 2017)

In the 1901 census, Satna's population was recorded at 280; 138 females and 142 males. Ten years later, in the 1911 census, 392 people were counted. Satna municipality was established on 31st May, 1921 with Devi Shankar Khandelwal as its first chairman, who later became the President of the Vindhya Chamber of Commerce and Industries. (VCCI Satna, 2017) This change led to the beginning of the industrial period in Satna that laid significant foundation for the district. However, in 2017 the district was one of the most backward districts of India.

Geography

Satna is located in the mineral-rich belt of the Vindhyan Plateau surrounded by Banda district (Uttar Pradesh) in the north, Rewa in the east, Shahdol in the southwest, Umaria and Katni districts in the south and Panna in the west. It covers 2.4 per cent of the total area of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated about 305 meters above the mean sea level. The rivers flowing through the district are Son, Tons and Paisuni. All the three rivers then join in Ganga and drain into the Bay of Bengal. These rivers are ephemeral. (Ministry of Water Resources, 2013)

The seasons can be broadly classified into- the hot season, extending roughly from mid-February to mid-June, the rainy season from mid-June to September, and the winter from November to mid-February. The change of season from monsoon to winter takes place in October. The temperature in Satna ranges from 8.7 to 42 degrees Celsius and the annual rainfall is about 1092 mm. (Ministry of Water Resources, 2013)

The heartlands of Central India also see an accumulation of diverse soil types ranging from Red to Light Black, Alluvium to Hilly. These are also the predominant soil types available in the district. Satna is home to many minerals which include limestone, sandstone, ochre, bauxite, granite, gneiss, white clay, laterite etc. The cement and mining industries make for a highly profitable albeit non-sustainable source of living. From the agricultural aspect, the land is fertile for rice and wheat crops. It is also beneficial for soya bean, gram, maize and jowar. (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011)

Satna is roughly 1/4th of forest-covered area, most of which are moderate dense forests and almost 88% of it is protected while the remaining 12% is reserved. (Forest Survey of India, 2011)

Its forests are included in the Rewa forest division covering 900 square miles. These forests are mixed type with mainly Teak, Bamboo, Tendu, Saja (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Salai (*Boswellia serrata*), Woodfordia floribunda, Khair (*Acacia catechu*), etc. covering them. Satna, like the rest of Madhya Pradesh, is also home to rich wildlife. It's mainly populated with tigers (*Felis tigris*), panthers (*Felis pardus*), sambhar deers (*Rusa unicolor*), chital deers (*Axis deer*), wild bears (*Melursus ursinus*) etc. (Ministry of Water Resources, 2013)

Contaminated Ground Water: Various research studies indicate that drinking water and river water is polluted in Satna due to frequent dumping of pollutants from industries. (Mishra, 2017)

Groundwater was found with critical concentration of fluoride (more than 1.5 mg/l) and arsenic (more than 0.5 microgram/l). Due to this, the general population of Satna are at a higher risk of waterborne and/or sanitation related diseases. (Tiwari, et al., 2014)

The cement plants in Satna district already receive inadequate supply of water. Further exploitation of resources through industrial water requirement is leading to adverse effect in ground water regime of the area and depletion of water table. (Ministry of Water Resources, 2013)

Demographic profile of the district:

Population	2,228,935
Urban	474,418
Rural	1,754,517
Density per square kilometre	297
Decadal growth rate	19.17 %
Literacy rate Total	72.3%
Female (15-49 years)	62.5 %
Male (15-49 years)	81 %
Sex ratio: (Number of females per 1000 males)	
Total	927
Urban	901
Rural	932

Source: (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011), (NFHS-4 2015-16)

District Highlights: (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011)

- The district occupies the 6th place in the state according to its population.
- The district occupies the 11th rank in the state in terms of area. The total area is 7,502 sq.km. which is 2.43 percent of the total area of state.
- Ranking of the district according to sex-ratio is 30th in the state.
- Female work participation of the district is 29.9 percent of total female population.
- Rank of the district according to female work participation is 35th.
- Population wise largest village is Deomau Daldal of Kotar tahsil with 8589 population and there are 7 villages Pati, Dobha, Mukundpur jangal, Gidhaulapahad, Gahwara, Majhtolwa and Chatkaula from Maihar with population of 1 person.
- Population wise the largest town is Satna with a population of 2,82,977 and smallest is Madhawgdha (CT) with 5249 population.
- Economy of the district is mainly dependent on agriculture.

Administrative structure of Satna

According to Census Report of 2011, District Satna has 10 Tahsils and eight community development blocks. They are: -

Tahsils	Amarpatan, Maihar, Nagod, Unchehara, Birsinghpur, Kotar, Majhgawan, Ramnagar, Rampur-Baghelan & Sohawal.
Community development blocks:	Amarpatan, Maihar, Nagod, Unchehara, Majhgawan, Ramnagar, Rampur-Baghelan and Sihawa.

The total number of villages in the district are 1984, out of which 1799 are inhabited and 185 villages are uninhabited. There are 13 (11 plus two census towns) towns in the district. Satna (Municipal Corporation), Maihar, Chitrakoot, Birsinghpur, Kothi, Jaitwara, Nagod, Unchehara, Rampur-Baghelan, Kotar and Amarpattan are Nagar Panchayats, Madhawgdha and Majhgawan are Census Towns (CT). In all the Community Development blocks headquarters there are 8 Janpad Panchayats.

Satna district consists of 6 Sub-divisions, 10 Tehsils, 438 Patwari Circle, 703 *Panchayat Samities*, 1 Nagar Nigam, 1 Nagar Palika, 9 Nagar Panchayat, 703 Gram Panchayats, 1816 Revenue villages and 7 assembly constituencies. (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011)

Education in Satna

Key Facts:

- Out of school children (age 6-14) has increased between 2014 and 2016 for Madhya Pradesh from 3.4% to 4.4% however, the proportion of girls out of school remains at 8.5% in Madhya Pradesh (ASER, 2016)
- Literacy rate of Satna district is 72.3 percent, and it occupies the 14th rank out of 51. (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011)
- The female literacy rate of the district is 62.5 per cent while the male literacy rate stands much higher at 81 per cent. This gap increases as we go up from primary to higher secondary education. (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011)

Currently, in Satna, there are Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya schools run by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, along with Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and the majority of State Government schools. (JNV Satna, n.d.) There are around seven colleges in Satna with the Mahatma Gandhi Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya in Chitrakoot being more popular. Right to Education is being implemented in Madhya Pradesh since 2011, which led to the setting up of many private schools as well.

Education Schemes: The district implements multiple schemes in tandem with state and the central government for the betterment of the female education. The schemes in the area include:

- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:** Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) was launched in 2004, in Upper Primary Schools with 75 per cent reservation for girls under OBC, SC, ST categories and minority community. (KGBV, n.d.)
- **Balika Shiksha Protsahan Yojana (BSPY):** Government schools have a grant for the education of girls in schools in standard IX under the National Girl Education Incentive Scheme. This scheme is not applicable to non-government schools. (BSPY, n.d.)
- **Shiksha Initiative** and **Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan** have also been implemented in the district.
- **Contributory Pension Plan (CPP)** for Adhyapak Cadre Teachers is a new Scheme has been introduced by the Department of School Education and the Department of Tribal Welfare. (Contributory Pension Plan for Adhyapak Cadre Teachers , n.d.)

Health in Satna

World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” (WHO, 2017) It is important to understand the impact of health and service coverage from physical, mental and social well-being frames of references. Assessing the impact of health leads to an understanding of a particular place or group of people.

Health Impact and Service Coverage: Health Impact is assessed using indicators such as Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Neo-natal Mortality Rate (NMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and expenditure on health. These are also monitored among the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) targets. There has been a constant reduction of all mortality indicators in India as a whole, however, Madhya Pradesh has been consistently performing poorly than the rest of the country in Infant Mortality

Rate and had the highest IMR in 2011-12. (Niti Ayog, n.d.). Satna is one of the poorest performing districts in Madhya Pradesh with respect to IMR. The infant mortality rate was 87(per 1000 births) as compared to 65 in Madhya Pradesh. (MP Annual Health Survey, 2012) The maternal mortality rate of REWA division in which Satna lies was 320 in 2011-12. Satna had a neonatal mortality rate of 59 per 1000 birth with 63 in rural and 45 in urban areas. The under-five mortality rate was 126/1000 birth with a huge difference between rural and urban at 143 and 75 respectively. It is generally seen that the mortality rates are higher among females in all the 3 categories. (MP Annual Health Survey, 2012)

Quantitative Health Indicators

- **Infrastructure of health facilities** - The total number of sub-centres (SC) in Satna are 41 and Primary Health Centres (PHC) are 16. Further, there are total of 9 community centres, 2 sub-district hospital and one district hospital. (DLHFS - 2012-13)

Population served by different health services in Satna:

	Satna	NRHM recommendations
Sub-centres	7302	5000
PHCs	27252	30000
CHCs	209718	120000

Satna has 100 % Sub Health Centres with Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANMs) positions. This is true for 8 other districts (out of 51) in Madhya Pradesh (MP). However, almost 68.7 percent of the Primary Health Centres in Satna were functioning without a doctor whereas availability of at least one medical officer is absolutely essential in a PHC. Similarly, availability of at least one gynaecologist/obstetrician was nil in Community Health Centres of Satna according to the District Level Household and Facility Survey of MP in 2012-2013.

- Remarkable use of institutional public health services - Use of public health facilities were much higher than private health facilities as indicated in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) IV report. To elaborate, in case of immunisation of a child, the use of public health facility was 94.6 percent and cases of institutional births that occurred in public health facility were 80 percent in Satna. Total births assisted by nurse/doctor or any other health personnel were 82.9 percent. (NFHS-4 2015-16)

Qualitative Health Indicators -

1. Nutrition (NFHS IV)

- **Women** - NFHS 2015-16 data suggests that 48.8 per cent of women who fall between 15-49 years are anaemic in Satna. Of these, 61 per cent women between 15-49 years are from rural areas, and 54 per cent of the total women in Satna district are anaemic while they are pregnant.
- **Men** - Anaemia in men is much less than women, but it still exists. Anaemic men aged between 15-49 years are 24.3 per cent in Satna.
- **Children** - Percentage of children aged between 6-59 months with anaemia are 70.3 per cent for urban and 73.3 per cent in rural Satna.

2. **Care during pregnancy** - In Satna as 36 per cent of females are married before 18 years of age most of them lack healthcare and the total percentage of mothers who received full antenatal care is only 7.6 %. (NFHS IV)

3. **Access to family planning services to women-** NFHS indicates, out of women who did not use any kind of family planning measure, only 15.3 per cent of them were reached by a health worker for raising awareness. Amongst the aware women population aged between 15-49 years, only 49 per cent used modern contraceptives. Female sterilisation is the most used method in females and approxi-

mately 42 per cent of women population aged between 15-49 years use it. In comparison, only 1.6 % of the male population use it. Further, the condom usage is 3.3 % in total Satna. (NFHS-4 2015-16)

- 4. Immunization of Children** – In Satna only 52.4 percent of children falling below the age of 2 are fully immunized. Children between 9-59 months, in age and have received Vitamin A dose in the last six months are only 60 percent of total population of children in Satna and 58 percent in rural Satna. (NFHS IV)

The government has several programmes for vitamin A supplementation, and the following three are among the top featured ones:

1. The National Vitamin A Prophylaxis Programme Against Nutritional Blindness,
2. Reproductive and Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
3. Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS).

- 5. Disability** – According to census of India, the percentage of disabled people in movement (disabilities restricting movements and locomotor functions) in Madhya Pradesh (MP) is 26.08% which is higher than the national average of 20.28%. In MP, Satna ranks first in movement related disability amongst all other districts. It also has an increasingly high number of persons with mental health issues. (Santoshi, 2015)

Poor condition of badly maintained PHCs push people towards deprivation - Out of Pocket expenditure for health is high in Madhya Pradesh despite a nearly equal balance between public and private facilities. 96 per cent of Primary Health Centres are without doctors, 75 per cent don't have electricity and gynaecologists. Community health centres are overburdened because people bypass the primary health centres. (ACCESS Health India, 2016)

Maternal health and maternity care - Antenatal care is an essential service to be provided to pregnant women by the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). In Satna, only half the population of pregnant women received antenatal check up in the first trimester. Antenatal care is still a grossly neglected area in maternal health care. (NFHS-4 2015-16)

Financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana – NFHS IV report shows that in Satna, each family had to bear Rs. 4337 average out of pocket expenditure per delivery in public health facility by way of purchase of drugs, user charges, diagnostic tests, diet, caesarean- section etc. This is despite provision of complete free and cashless childbirth (delivery) under the Janani Suraksha Yojana which offers free and cashless delivery. (NFHS IV)

Prevalence of anaemia in rural women - Women between the age of 15-49 years who are pregnant and anaemic are 62 percent. But only 15 percent of rural pregnant women consumed iron folic acid for 100 days or more when they were pregnant. (NFHS-4 2015-16)

Children immunisation service – NFHS IV suggests that a very low percentage of children are fully immunized with Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG), measles and 3 doses each of Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DPT) and Polio. Further, the children in Satna receiving immunisation is only 60 per cent of the population.

Institutional deliveries have increased in the district. It may also be highlighted that proportionate women who have institutional deliveries covered under Janani Suraksha Yojana beneficiary scheme has also gone up substantially. Thus, after analysing the NFHS IV and Census 2011 data, we feel that socio-demographic factors like literacy rate of women and other few factors like ignorance, fear, perceived quality of service has been found to influence the treatment seeking behaviour. Thus, to increase health seeking behaviour there is dire need to increase awareness among women about availability of government schemes and facilities present in health sector. (Directorate of Census Operations - MP, 2011), (NFHS-4 2015-16)

LIVELIHOOD IN SATNA

Agriculture in Satna

Satna has an agriculture-based economy. In Satna, major crops are wheat, paddy, gram, soya bean, garlic and coriander. Satna gets on an average annual rainfall of 1077mm with 950 mm in the monsoon season. Nevertheless, it is drought prone in the first half of the year. Satna also faced flash floods in 2016, once in the decade. Out of total geographical area of 7,42,400 hectare (ha), 34,1,300 ha is cultivable. 53.4% of the district has deep soils and the cropping intensity is 134% with 1,14,900 ha land sown more than once. 2,16,100 ha land is rainfed while 1,27,200 ha is gross irrigated area. There is one major river, so the cultivators are mostly dependent on groundwater (borewells and tube wells) for irrigation. (NICRA)

i. Average landholding size - The total population having land holdings has increased from 73.59 lakh to 88.73 lakh while the area under these holding found to be decreased from 163.69 thousand ha to 158.36 thousand ha in the year 2010-11 as compared to 2001-02. The percentage of marginal and small holdings increased from 38.57 to 43.85 percent, 26.51 to 27.60 percent, while semi medium, medium and large holding were found had decreased by 20.22 to 18.65 percent, 12.45 to 8.89 percent and 2.26 to 1.00 percent to total number of holding respectively from 2001-02 to 2010-11. Wages of agriculture labour varied from Rs. 100 (2010) to Rs. 135. After the implementation of MNREGA in 2006 the availability of agricultural labour had reduced considerably at the time of peak operation period of crop cultivation. The commercial banks (61.25 per cent) followed by district cooperative banks (25.08 per cent) and regional rural banks (13.50 per cent) played an important role in disbursement of total agricultural credit from different institutional sources in Madhya Pradesh. (Sharma, Rathi, Chouhan, & Meena, 2013)

ii. Estimated average crop yield per acre - The food grain yield of Satna is one of the lowest in Madhya Pradesh. The productivity of all the crops has increased except paddy (-8.50%), maize (-13.68%), pea (-4.48%) and lentil (-7.61%) in the year 2009-10 as compared 1999-2000. The maximum increase in productivity of crops was noticed in sesame (80.87%) followed by cotton (59.28%), sunflower (54.20%), jowar (53.44%) bajra (37.50%), urad (21.47%), barley (12.58%), linseed (2.99%) and sugarcane (1.28%) during this period. The average crop yield is paddy (969 Kg/ha), Wheat (1895 Kg/ha), Gram (980 Kg/ha) and Soybean (1120 Kg/ha). Net area sown has decreased to 149.72 thousand ha from 150.70 thousand ha. Area sown more than once has increased. Thus, the Gross Cropped Area has increased to 214.11 thousand ha from 204.10 thousand ha. The cropping intensity has also increased to 143% from 122%. (Sharma, Rathi, Chouhan, & Meena, 2013)

iii. Fertilizer: The consumption of fertilizer has increased by 81.43 percent in the year 2009-10 (84 kg/ha) as compared to 1999-2000 (46.30 kg/ha) but it is still found less than the national average (156.30 kg/ha). (Sharma, Rathi, Chouhan, & Meena, 2013)

iv. Marketing arrangements: The Madhya Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board (MPSAMB) came into existence in 1973 under the provisions of the M.P. Krishi Upaj Mandi Adhinyam in 1972. At present, the state has 516 regulated markets out of which 246 are main wholesale markets having elaborate infrastructure also known as Krishi Upaj Mandi and the balance 270 have lower level of infrastructure known as Sub Mandi. (Sharma, Rathi, Chouhan, & Meena, 2013)

State Policy Interventions for Improving Agriculture

Madhya Pradesh received an honour for the best agriculture state of the India in the year 2013 for highest agricultural growth of 18 per cent per annum. Madhya Pradesh also leads in India as the state producing the highest quantity of pulses and oilseeds in the year 2013 and also for record production and procurement of wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the year 2011-12. (Sharma, Rathi, Chouhan, & Meena, 2013)

The state had also received the “*Krishi Karmath Award*” of 2012 for development and extension of newer modern technology of agriculture in the country. The implementation of *National Food Security Mission and National Horticulture Mission* has also emerged as a path of intervention which helps in agriculture diversification towards cash crops in the state. (Navbharat Times, 2017) The area and production of cereals, pulses, total food grains and oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants have increased significantly in the state due to effective implementation of the National Health Mission.

The growth of agriculture depends on infrastructure facility created in the state viz. roads, power, agro-based industries. The construction of roads in the state is supervised by the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited which implements projects taken up under public private partnership and those funded by the Asian Development Bank. The state government has waived off electricity bill for Rs. 1800 crores for its agriculture consumers. (Sengupta, 2014)

A subsidy of Rs. 1623 crores has been given by the State Government to the Madhya Pradesh state electricity companies through Niyaman Aayog for providing electricity in reduced rates to Agriculture consumers 2013. Mukhya Mantri Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana is a price deficit finance scheme launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh where the state government provides compensation for agriculture products whenever prices fall below the announced minimum support prices (MSP). (PM Jan Dhan Yojana, n.d.)

Employment in Satna

Key Indicators: (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2017), (Analytic report on primary census, 2011), (NSDC, 2013)

Sr. No.	Indicator	MP	Satna
	Population Density Per Sq.km(2011)	236	297
	Level of Urbanization(2011)	27.6%	21.3%
	Gender Composition-Female Per 1000 Male Population(2011)	930	927
	Proportion of ST Population(2001)	20.3%	14.3%
	Literacy Rate(2011)	70.6%	73.8%
	Male-Female Literacy Rate Gap (2011)	20.5%	20.0%
	Number of Literates(2011)	43,827,193	1,407,024
	Enrolments in Primary & Upper Primary Schools (2010)	15,356,399	537,732
	Number of Primary & Secondary Healthcare Centres per 1000 Population(2011)	0.14	0.13
	Contribution to State Economy(2008-09)	-	2.48%
	Per Capita Income(INR), Current Prices(2008-09)	24,709	19,397
	Contribution of Primary Sector to Economy(2008-09)	31.5%	20.5%
	Contribution of Secondary Sector (Industries and Enterprises) to Economy(2008-09)	22.9%	28.2%
	Contribution of Tertiary Sector(Service Industry) to Economy(2008-09)	45.6%	51.3%
	Work Participation rate	43.5%	40.9%
	Percentage of Main workers in total workers	71.9%	67.2%
	Percentage of Cultivators	31.2%	25%
	Percentage of workers in house hold industry	3%	5.1%

Economy

The economy of the district has been growing at a compound annual growth rate of 12.25% from 2003 to 2009. The growth in agriculture was only 3.7% while secondary sector showed a growth of 19.6% and tertiary sector showed a growth of 12.96%. Nevertheless 52% of its Gross Domestic Product Contribution to the district's economy comes from the tertiary sector including IT, Tourism, Hospitality, Education, Logistics, Transportation, Retail, Banking, Financial services and Healthcare. (NSDC, 2013)

Industrial Sector:

Satna is one of the most industrialised districts of Madhya Pradesh, still a very small population is employed in industries. The manufacturing sector contributed INR 62,073 lakhs and mining and quarrying contributed INR 14,302 lakhs to Satna's economy in 2011. Satna is known as the cement city of India and produces about 9 percent of India's cement. Industries in Satna include cement manufacturing, handloom weaving, flour, oilseed milling, and distribution of agricultural and fabric products via road and rail. Asia's biggest cement factory known as "Prism Cement" is in Satna. Conversely, small-scale industries in the have shown declining trends in investment and employment. (Analytic report on primary census, 2011)

Service Sector

Tertiary sector has dominated the district's economy with over 50% GDP contribution. Hotels and restaurants, which are mostly unorganised, account for 32.20 percent of the GDDP. Also, between 2006-07 to 2010-11 bank branches in the district have increased from 113 to 141, also recording a 14.76 percent compounded growth in deposits to Rs. 3,258 Crores. This shows a scope of growth in the financial services space as a high growth rate in bank deposits helps in the growth of NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Company) in the district. (NSDC, 2013)

Buses connects Satna with different cities of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. National Highway-7 the longest National Highway passes through Satna and connects it to cities of Panna and Rewa. Also train route connecting Mumbai and Howrah - Satna junction is located on Howrah-Allahabad-Mumbai line, and offers a diesel loco shed to the Western Central Railway.

Current Employment Scenario in Satna

The worker's participation rate in Satna is 43.5% which is relatively higher than the state average of 42.7%. Among workers, employment share of cultivators is 53.9% and that of agricultural labourers is 20.3%. 5.1% of the workers are employed by household industries which indicates a low employment engagement through the secondary and tertiary sector considering the GDP contribution of both the sectors in the district. Amongst youth, migration occurs because education opportunities are limited in Satna and therefore the youth venture out of the district for better prospects. The migration of labour force also exists majorly to areas such as Bhopal, Rewa, Sidhi and Jabalpur. Availability of passenger trains at regular intervals facilitates employment of people of Satna in other districts while not shifting base completely. Satna also sees a lot of inward migration from districts like Damoh, Panna, Rewa, Katni, Chattarpur and also from some parts of southern Uttar Pradesh. This is usually to gain employment in the cement industry of Satna. (Analytic report on primary census, 2011)

Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) discriminated for public resources - In SC/ST dominated villages, schooling facilities dwindle as one goes from primary to middle to secondary school levels. Hence, children of the communities face barriers to education owing to factors like laborious travel to access schools and lack of educational institutions. There is also a history of discrimination against SC/STs within the Public Distribution System (PDS). (Gupta, 2009)

CRIME IN SATNA

As per NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), 6232 crimes were reported in Satna in 2013. It had a higher crime rate of 280 as compared to the national crime rate of 218. The highest crime in Satna was dacoity while lowest was theft. The number of violent crimes was 334 and property crimes was 909. There was an increase in 12% to 22% in different types of crime. (Crime Statistics of Satna District, n.d.)

Crime Statistics of Satna for the year 2013

Sr. No.	Crime Type	No. of Crime	Crime Rate	
			District	National
1.	Violent Crime	334	14.98	19.53
2.	Murder	69	3.1	2.74
3.	Rape	124	5.56	2.78
4.	Robbery	124	2.24	2.64
5.	Kidnapping	41	1.84	5.41
6.	Riots	50	2.24	5.96
7.	Property	909	40.78	40.17
8.	Theft	497	22.3	30.77
9.	Dacoity	4	0.18	0.37
10.	Burglary	393	17.63	8.62
11.	Total Crime	6232	279.6	218.67

Source: Crime Statistics of India, n.d.

The Samarth Sangini Yojana will soon be launched in Madhya Pradesh. The state police department is implementing the scheme across the state for the safety of women. The state government would form a network by combining anganwadi workers and helpers, NGOs and members of counselling agencies to check crimes against women. (Kumar, 2017)

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Stories from the Field

When images convey more than words

When you are so sure about the problem, its type and intensity, you also think that you know what the solution for the problem can be and then, out of nowhere much bigger issues arise that always existed but somehow you never looked at it. A similar incident happened with me in Satna. We happened to visit a slum, for the first time I went inside slums, those two hours seemed like two decades, I did not ask anything from the people in the slum. Their faces, their homes, their walls, were speaking endlessly, without uttering a word. I had seen this several times but from a distance, this time it seemed like another world to me. We live in such a segregated society, untouched even from the shadows of people in slums. What is development for them? Development certainly has different definitions for everyone.

From distance they looked happy, enjoying their daily chores, playing and giggling with their friends and relatives. Have they accepted their reality, what have we done to them? All these questions were making me feel so guilty, that I felt like a criminal while talking to them or even while smiling.

I feel working in a sector will not really solve the problem, we all have to come together and a revolution alone can change the face of this issue, if we want change sometime soon.

—Swati Singh

Strength without Power

I sit with a personal dilemma. In my mind, I am sure about the committed request I am about to make to a friend. I am sure about where it is going to lead me. While I do this, I can't help but think about human nature which is almost convinced of what it wants. You see, how emotions are meant to connect us, but how underrated emotional intelligence is. Multiple things can be frowned upon in life, but that's a privilege. To be able to think for oneself and then be able to act upon changing the status quo of your life is also a human privilege, and I am probably the last to deny not having exercised such privilege. Bartoli village, in block Maihar, in the district of Satna was unfolding in my mind, the arguments of development like never before. Like most things, I still see work from a very personal lens, and I think I will choose to do so till the opportunity arrives for me.

The three of us were greeted with cold vibes (and cement dust) from people who seemed absolutely unaware and unsure of our presence. In the two hours that we spent there, we saw development from one stakeholders' perspective but that also meant it happened at the cost of hundreds of those who were residents of the place and did not subscribe to the dominant idea of development. This village, before Reliance Industries had set up a cement factory here, was a flourishing site for a wholesale tomato Mandi. "It was capable of catering to an entire block's vegetable

consumption during a season”, said one of the old farmers who was now forced to serve at a construction shop right outside the factory. Reliance, as we were told had encroached three family plots in the area by illegal means back in 2006. To say that ‘development’ hadn’t taken a participatory approach would be an understatement.

We were told that collectives and revolts against this nexus were suppressed and the remaining pieces of land were compensated since Reliance wanted to be ‘fair’. Cement factories sure produce enough cement to build roads, flyovers and houses of millions, but for none who reside in the vicinity. What is development worth if it takes from the less fortunate? What is development worth if it robs off from people their livelihoods, lands, quality of life and happiness? Isn’t that what development must aim to achieve for people instead? Is it fair if development presumes people as means and commodities as ends?

This Reliance village, as it’s called now, is marred in a reality that you and I won’t be a part of. Is indifference a valid emotion? Does lack of empathy amount to a big concern?

Here the fields of the women farmers were covered with cement, and that became more and more evident as they harvested the rice crops in front of our eyes. What came to the surface was flying dust of cement which was settled in the nostrils of these women. As the villagers told us, they were forced to give up their plots of land for a compensation of merely 1 lakh rupees. They weren’t allowed to form labor unions in the factory, they weren’t allowed to enter the factory premises, they were left to deal with the consequences of round the clock noise pollution and critical levels of air pollution which made most of them extremely vulnerable to Tuberculosis.

We came across two young school going boys who mistook us to be students of agriculture. They were aware and opinionated, like everybody else in the village. But they, unlike others had not accepted this as their fate. They were aspirational and vocal about changing their reality from what it was that day. They envisioned the factory shut out and their fields producing food again.

At that moment, in this story, I decided to not let my inaction paralyze my narration, because that is the biggest fear stopping me.

—Akshay Kumar

3 The case of one in millions

There was filth and dirt everywhere. There were open sewage lanes just outside the door of their house. In fact, their homes were made next to those smelly drains. The drains were 4-5 meter deep. There was a foul smell, and it was difficult to breathe. There were scores of pigs running around and entering their rooms. Little children were subject to abuses from their parents, they were being beaten up for no reasons in front of our eyes. There were small kutchra rooms with iron/plastic sheet on the roofs, each room accommodated a family of 8 to 10 people, which seemed something next to unimaginable. However, for the dwellers, it was a part of their daily life. They sleep there, each and every day.

Water facilities were available, but they had to walk for kilometres to fetch it. The quality of water was poor. There was a toilet, but it had an accumulation of foul matter because it had not been cleaned for the last 8 years.

Almost no child in that slum attended Anganwadi or a school. When I asked parents why they didn't send their children to Anganwadis they said, "the food they get in Anganwadi is dismal. If my children will eat that food they'll be dead (the) next day." People have been living in that slum for the last 60 years, but the condition of the slum has been deteriorating with every passing year. Contrary to this, while I was talking to the officials in municipality office, they mentioned that the area has been illegally occupied by the slum dwellers. Each day is a difficult day for them, and the rainy season is no less than a curse in their lives. Their homes fill up with water, drains overflow and the situations become worse. There have often been epidemics of malaria and other diseases in that community.

Though the slum dwellers had been aware of their rights and had information about the Chief Minister's Helpline and other government schemes, they mentioned that whenever they approached any government official, they were ill-treated and were never provided with any help or solution. This was the condition of only one slum of Satna city but there are millions of such slums in India. The question to ponder is until when will urban slum dwellers be the victim of indifference. In the coming years, their numbers are going to increase due to the increasing urbanisation, but will the dwellers ever live a dignified life?

—Sunakshi Chaudhary

There is no development here

Poverty is an issue that is very close to my heart. I visited a slum in Satna city called Bajraha Tola which was one of the most difficult places that I have had to enter. It was far worse than any slum seen in a big city. Majority of the children didn't go to school and were malnourished. The women didn't work nor were they allowed to. The people lived in "katcha" houses made from mud and cow dung. They did not have access to clean water, proper sanitation, electricity supply or safe cooking fuel. They all belonged to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and either felt no inclination to work and improve their situation or were unable to find decent enough work to get them out of this misery. It was a breeding ground for deadly infections and diseases. It was also a breeding ground for social inequalities that we see today. The families were large, and the income was small. Infants grew up with alcoholic and abusive fathers and mothers that were oppressed under patriarchy. What would such a child grow up to be? "There is no development here", they said to us.

All the while though, there were government schemes in place to help them. Despite the loopholes in policy and corruption in the system, there were provisions made. And the goal was development. It wasn't perfect but something is at least better than nothing. There were public schools where children could be educated. There was MNREGA to provide employment. There were district hospitals to provide free healthcare. There were canteens to provide a good meal for Rs 5. There was the Prime Ministers Awas Yojna (PM's Housing Programme) to provide housing. There was Swachh Bharat to provide sanitation. And even though people had awareness about all this, they did little to access it and even less did they trust it. Why would they trust politicians that only showed up when it was time to collect votes? "There is no development here", they said.

My greatest fear as a development professional is to work and yet to be able to make an impact. At the end of my career “there is no development here”, to be said about me and what I have done. That is my great fear.

I believe that all Governments have the desire to make a change. Even the governments that we claim as the most corrupt, will have leaders in it with a vision that they want to see come to pass. Why else would anyone take the effort to pass competitive exams to enter administration or win an election to enter politics? No one would sacrifice their life to the service of their country if it was only for the benefits. There are easier ways to get money and power.

During our time spent, we got the chance to meet Zila Panchayat representatives who spoke about the immense work that they do towards development in Satna. We met the Block Development Officers of different areas that oversaw more development schemes that you could count on both hands. We met panchayat heads that spoke about their efforts to improve the quality of life in the villages. We met the Mayor who had plans to transform Satna into a smart city. The multiple NGOs and CSR organisations that were working to develop Satna. And yet, “There is no development here” resounded in my mind again and again. What is true in this?

The leaders blamed the people for their backward mentality. The people blamed the leaders for their greed and corruption. No wonder there was no development here. How can there be development when there is no good faith?

Here is what I learned: Development must come from within. If our work is only to meet needs, then we will never gain ground and move ahead. It is like giving a poor man money to buy his next meal only to be hungry again. As development leaders we must be people of integrity and work intentionally at empowering people.

—David Menezes

Story of Tribals in Satna

What’s the best thing offered to you to eat, as a gesture of welcome when you visited someone’s home?

For me it was ‘CLOVE’! Yes, clove, which is a spice, grown in India.

I don’t know why a clove was offered instead of anything else. But I got to know that it was not something locally grown or collected, rather was purchased by the family from the market. Also, I know that it is one of the more expensive spices but money is not the thing what I’m writing about here.

Why we were offered cloves can have many reasons. May be one of the most expensive things available in the house to offer, it may have been the most special thing to offer, it may have been a part of their culture to offer such things to the guests, or may be something else which I am unable to think of owing to my context.

Surprisingly, the East India company brought clove from its native home in Indonesia to the company’s spices gardens in Tamil Nadu in 1800 AD. Then how offering did offering cloves become a part of a tribal family’s hospitality? Agree that it is a good spice and there is a probability of it being used for a long time in India due to our efficient see trade.

Previously, I used to think that I have been raised up in a poor family and I have been to many villages, so I know poverty. But this village was different for many reasons. It was not just poverty. First thing was tribal population, second was displaced people for 'development' and of course poverty at last.

This village was called 'Kakra' and it is in the Maihar block of Satna District. The people displaced because of the Ban Sagar Dam settled in the outskirts. However, owing to construction of the highway and some cement factories, the land price had increased, and the people are being made to relocate from this location again. Still, 70 families have held their position for many years. They have made their huts, kachcha houses and farms here. People moved here with whatever they could, 20 years ago and now again you want to displace them for development!

This woman who offered us cloves was crying, because the local person along with us was a known landless tribal rights activist and she was overwhelmed to see her after a long time. She wanted her husband to be present at the time to meet us but there was no means to connect to him.

There are strange incidents weaved to this perspective of deprivation of rights. In a village, even after she was elected as the Gram Pradhan a woman from the Scheduled Tribe community was not allowed to hoist the national flag on Independence Day owing to concerns raised by persons from the upper castes. The struggle is not only to empower people, have them contest elections and win them. Struggles do not end even after elections are won.

In the words of Santosh ji, "They are confused what their religion is. They read in a Hindu school run by a Hindu majoritarian government, taught sometimes by communists and Marxists, approached by Christian missionaries and then at home they are tribals. They don't know what they are now and what religion and philosophy to follow. They are trained in many things but not in keeping our culture alive. There is no political unity for them. The Gondwana Samiti was active until a few years ago, however, only national parties are the showmen."

Our constitution allows for the freedom of worship and following religion and cultures but what if the minority is being influenced by the religion and culture of the majority, in an unprotected environment for them. It might not sound like atrocious crimes, but it is slow, systematic and unnoticed death of diverse cultures.

When I stand for equality and contentment for myself and for others, this is completely unacceptable. Let me tell you what I did with the single Clove which I picked from the plate. I kept in the pocket of my shirt, close to my heart. I was overwhelmed, really!

—Mridul Upadhyay

Realising India

Gram Khaana, an NGO in Satna city runs a centralised kitchen to cook Mid-Day meals. They serve 90 schools in the city where they start the cooking process early morning at 3 AM and hot meals are transported to schools around 12:30 PM. The

NGO works on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model where government has funded for the place and equipment. In terms of raw materials for cooking, government provides rice, and funds for vegetables and other produce are procured through donations. Gram Khaana hardly receives any donation in the city of Satna, which makes it difficult for them to produce quality food. Even in terms of quantity they're only able to produce the minimum prescribed quantity of meals to be delivered in schools.

Our secondary research says that the state is home to most malnourished children. It is sad to know that there is an issue in providing quality and adequate nutritious food through the Mid-Day meal scheme. Lack of support has made them compromise on quality of food for the kids. The NGO because of its work in certain other metropolitan cities, is able to direct funds from those cities to support this project currently, but they are not sure of how long they can continue this way. Moreover, here, the Mid-day meal doesn't include eggs and so it is even more important to ensure that children get quality and adequate nutrition. The indifference of community and government towards malnutrition is appalling to see.

—Naveen Varshan

Story of an Ex Woman Dalit Sarpanch

Kamala Bai (name changed) is a Dalit Sarpanch in the village of Magneri in a district of Madhya Pradesh. Since the seats in Gram Panchayats have a reservation of 50% for women, she won the elections by 100 votes. Her husband has studied till the XII standard and she calls herself uneducated. An NGO helped her accessing information on the finances and the working of the panchayat. Once she began work, she wanted the women in the village to participate in the Gram Sabha. She wanted them to speak up and have an equal opportunity in stating their views on matters related to the village. She said, "The Gram Panchayat should take care of the village like it is their own child. When people have issues, they come to the Sarpanch to resolve their problems". She questioned phenomenon and norms which didn't seem right and got the administration to take note of it. She also fought with lawyers who asked for bribes. Her husband supported her every step of the way.

Despite all of the amazing work which Kamala Bai did for the village, she was still powerless. How you ask? When she travels for training to different cities, she had to be accompanied by her aunt because people in the village make comments on her character and integrity and shame her husband. She has had to fight to get the decision-making power as the men in the panchayat thought what a Dalit woman could even do.

I'm sure you're thinking that this is the same old story of every woman. They suffer. They resist. They fight. They give in or in some cases, demand for equality. They speak up, they drive campaigns for the world to see the complete picture, they stand up.

As human beings we have been conditioned to not question. To be accepted, we conform to the existing societal construct because otherwise everything will require additional effort. The effort to have that conversation with your mother on how

happy she is about giving up her career for her family; the discussion with your wife on why she is willing to take care of all your needs; feeling the pain and discomfort your sister goes through during menstruation every month; the consciousness of your girlfriend about her body and the mental exhaustion they all feel being unheard and powerless in most situations of life. We talk, we nod, we judge, we move on. Are we doing the right thing? Is it fair? Are we even asking ‘Why?’

Why are Women doing this?

Why do They need to do this?

Why do We need to address it now?

When Kamala Bai can realise that God created us all the same; that the blood which runs in all our veins is red; that the entire dichotomy of gender and caste began in our societies. Why are we unable to recognise each other as a human first? As individuals, communities and a nation why are we providing a breeding ground for indifference, discrimination and adversity?

I’m aware that I haven’t given any answers, instead have asked the same old questions. Those who know me well will know the rebel in me and my struggle growing up in an orthodox and patriarchal society that put me down at every step. From family, friends and teachers to every aunty in the colony who had no business interfering in my life played a crucial role in perpetuating the power dynamics that exists between men and women. I have shouted and fought and questioned till I cried “Why me?” And believe me, I still haven’t asked enough. But today I choose to stop. Stop asking the questions to expect any answers from others. Kamala Bai knows the answers. I know the answers. We all do. And no matter what the answer or the action, none of it will ever be enough. But I want to start now and will urge each of you to do the same. Start accepting yourself, finding your own answers, supporting others in finding theirs, providing clarity to the confused minds and raising our voices together in support of humanity.

“When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change” ~ Wayne Dyer. No development will ever happen if we are not redefining success of a country considering the other half of its population too and changing conversations on gender issues.

—Nitisha Anju

🌀 Satna, MP, the cement capital of India

Satna, is the cement capital of India. My story is about my visit to different cement factories in Satna. Satna is in the limestone belt of India. As a result, it contributes around 8%–9% of India’s total cement production. There is an abundance of dolomite and limestone in the area and the city has ten cement factories producing and exporting cement to other parts of the country. All big corporate companies go hand in hand with government to get land from tribal villages to exploit the minerals and make the land not suitable for cultivation. These mining sites not only exploit the land but also exploit nature. Cement is everywhere from farm fields to farmer’s nostrils.

Usually cement factories are located in one place and the mining sites are far away

from the factory. So the company uses conveyor belts to shift the limestone from the mining site to the processing unit of the company. Sometimes the conveyor belts are as long as 10 kilometres. They operate these belts around the clock and the noise pollution which it produces, disturbs all the surrounding villages. People cannot sleep peacefully; students cannot study for their exams which in turn affects the normal life of people. The cable car which is used to transport minerals is engineered in such a bad way that small pieces of rocks keeps falling as the car moves along the rope. The new conveyor belt is covered with asbestos, but the old cable car doesn't even have a closure because of that the rocks falls on the road, which became danger to the villagers travelling.

On the other hand, most of the mining quarries are not closed and there have been repeated instances of cows falling into the pit and dying. Apart from that, anti-social elements also plays their part in illegal mining. One mining company says its spends more than a core in its CSR, but why can't they invest more and engineer a cable car in such a way that stones don't fall which will reduce the danger. Is it a moment of pride or shame to see the first Corporate Social Responsibility Act in the world to enforce social responsibility for companies to replace the damage they caused to the society with just 2% of their profit? Is it good to have the same slab of CSR for service-based companies as well as mining based companies were the damages caused are extremely harmful?

—Vishwanathan V

✧ Making Mid-Day Meals accessible

As most of us are aware, the Mid-day Meal scheme (MDM) is centrally sponsored and aims at serving freshly cooked hot meals to children attending classes I to VIII in certain categories of schools. The central government has provided detailed guidelines with regards to the age-wise calorie requirements of children, quality assurance of food, procedures for cooking and handling of the food, and so on. For instance, one of the recent amendments is as follows:

“Every school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner and the schools in urban areas and in identified rural areas which have good road connectivity and viable cluster of schools, for the purpose of leveraging efficiency gains, may use the facility of centralised kitchens for cooking meals wherever required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and the meal shall be served to children at respective school only.” (The Mid-day Meal (Amendment) Rules, 2017 vide G.S.R. 471(E) dated 16th May 2017)

However, merely making policies that translate into schemes that are well intended is not good enough. The effective implementation of the schemes, factoring in current realities and contextual issues is critical to effectuate positive change on the ground. In the absence of effective implementation across the board, and I am mindful in using the term “effective” and not “standardised”, what entails can best be described by the images below, both of which are MDM kitchens serving meals to school going children, one in a predominantly urban block, the other in a remote village of a tribal block.



By explicitly stating the need for building centralised kitchens in areas which have good road connectivity, the policy makers have unintentionally side-lined schools and communities that are situated in places having low road connectivity, thus pushing children belonging here into further marginalization and silent exclusion.

—Maya Narayan

❧ Anita - development starts from within

On 7th Nov I visited Unchehra block in Satna, Madhya Pradesh along with my team which included nine other people. We were accompanied by Mr Santosh from Ekta Parishad, a local organisation working on tribal rights in the region. Through him I met Vinita, a community mobiliser and a woman from the Gond tribal community. She works to address the problem of malnourishment in the mothers and children of the Gond community.

Before sharing the insight I had after meeting her, I will explain her current reality i.e the surroundings and cultures in which she has lived throughout. She lived in a village that was uphill which had few basic facilities and government services. Water was a limited resource, and villagers had to travel long distances to collect water for their daily needs. There were limited sources of food and, growing vegetables was not possible due to scarcity of water. Members of the village received rice and wheat

through the Public Distribution System, but pulses (rich source of protein) had to be procured from the market. However, other grains were grown in abundance like jowar, bajra etc, which the villagers used for their own consumption and even Vinita's family had adequate full grains to eat.

Another source of energy were products from milk, but the family used to sell them to earn some extra money. In the village, there was no school to protect tribal social capital and culture, but Vinita would attend classes and workshops conducted by Jan Abhiyaan Parishad. Ironically, this created confusions in her mind as to what is that one religion that should be dominant in her beliefs and practices. Further, as no one political party has been able to mobilise the community, it has led to less awareness and confidence about their history and cultures.

One party called the Gondwana Gantranta party started mobilisation the Gonds but the reach and the impact of the party couldn't last. Thus, the Gond tribal community has no political organisation to bring their aspirations together and as a consequence they have now started to associate themselves with Hinduism as it gives them a structure to follow and sustain their social cohesiveness.

Vinita was working as a community mobiliser under the Nutrition Mission funded and run by Action Aid, a Delhi based organization. After interacting with her, visiting a village with her and eating at her house, multiple thoughts and wishes emerged inside me. Thoughts around her effective knowledge, her power of agency, her balancing of various roles in her life with a wish to support her in her efforts. She knew about the nutrition intake required for mothers and also knew about the traditional methods to ensure optimal nutrition. She was working towards spreading awareness amongst pregnant women and mothers on traditional nutrition sources and ways to access or create them. She also worked towards reducing the rigidity of superstitious beliefs amongst women and their families so that they actively seek medical services to cure incidences of diseases in them or the child.

An insight which I got after meeting Vinita was that the process of development unfolds from within the individual. This means that if some kind of cultural shift occurs inside an individual, it leads to realising one's needs and finding ways to empower oneself. I was inspired by her after seeing how she could connect with women in the community and how she was self-motivated and consistent in her efforts towards helping them. I believe that the best kind of development that governments and civil society can do is to create a conducive environment and enabling conditions for individuals like Vinita to unfold themselves and realise the power of their agency.

—Saumya Tripathi

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