

CHAPTER 6

Assessment of Physical Services provided by the PRIs

6.1. In the past decade Chhattisgarh focused attention on areas where it had historically lagged behind. These areas are related with development of physical and social infrastructure, administrative reorganisation to bring decentralised governance closer to people, strengthening and expanding its Local Bodies to ensure provision of basic services to all, and improving service delivery by targeting key flagship programmes.

6.2. In the process of development of physical and social infrastructure, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have played a key role for rural areas. In the tribal and hilly areas like Bastar and Surguja, these institutions have shouldered the responsibility of providing basic services like drinking water supply, sanitation, road connectivity and electricity supply to the villages.

6.3. On the other hand, development challenges faced by the state are ranging from low social and human development, high incidence of poverty- especially amongs schedule cast and schedule tribes, inequality in access to resources and services, poor social and physical infrastructure, and the constraints imposed by widespread Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

6.4. As per the report of State Planning Commission (year 2012-17) half the state's population, nearly 12.2 million lives below the poverty line. The combined Scheduled Tribe and Schedule Caste population is 43.37 percent and the difference among them and other social groups in terms of assets, attainment and access to entitlements is stark.

6.5. As per assessments on human development, the state ranked the lowest on Human Development Index 0.358 among 23 states (India HDR 2011) indicating unequal access and high exclusion. Geographical isolation and social exclusion compound the problems in mainstreaming the vulnerable communities-ST, SC and Women.

Status of Physical and Social Services in Chhattisgarh

6.6. The status of physical and social services in Chhattisgarh from the year 2011-12 to year 2016-17 shows that physical services provided by the State Government and PRIs in rural areas have been quantitatively improved over the period of time.

6.7. The condition of key physical services like Drinking Water Supply, Sanitation, Health, Education, Road Connectivity, Electricity Supply and Rural Housing in rural areas improved during last five years.

6.8. Status of Drinking Water Supply in the state shows that there is continued improvement despite the fact that many villages located in southern and northern parts of the state are not

connected with protected water supply programme. Although the state has abundant ground water resources, it lacks the necessary infrastructure to use them efficiently.

The Commission recommends that an incentive should be given to the tune of 50% of the cost of water purification plant installed by the Gram Panchayats during award period of Third State Finance Commission for the community. Guidelines including payment procedure in this regard should be finalized by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department.

6.9. Table 6.1 shows district wise status of Ground Water Supply Projects in the state.

Table 6.1: District wise status of Ground Water Supply Projects in Chhattisgarh (As on March, 2017)

Sl.No.	District	Status of Projects				
		Sanctioned	Completed	Under Progress	Continuing	Closed
Raipur Division						
1	Raipur	59	59	0	56	3
2	Balodabazar-Bhatapara	148	148	0	136	12
3	Gariaband	85	85	0	81	4
4	Dhamtari	206	206	0	206	0
5	Mahasamund	206	206	0	193	13
	Total	704	704	0	672	32
Durg Division						
6	Durg	42	42	0	41	1
7	Balod	92	92	0	90	2
8	Bemetara	59	59	0	40	19
9	Rajnandgaon	620	615	5	571	44
10	Kabirdham	225	222	3	213	9
	Total	1038	1030	8	955	75
Bilaspur Division						
11	Bilaspur	108	108	0	102	6
12	Mungeli	39	39	0	37	2
13	Korba	91	91	0	53	38
14	Janjgir-Champa	178	178	0	169	9
15	Raigarh	145	145	0	143	2
	Total	561	561	0	504	57
Surguja Division						
16	Surguja	77	77	0	61	16
17	Balrampur	39	39	0	39	0
18	Surajpur	27	27	0	26	1
19	Korea	74	74	0	73	1
20	Jashpur	77	77	0	74	3

Total		294	294	0	273	21
Bastar Division						
21	Bastar	145	145	0	138	7
22	Dantewada	31	31	0	25	6
23	Bijapur	0	0	0	0	0
24	Sukma	7	7	0	7	0
25	Kondagaon	58	53	5	51	2
26	Kanker	83	83	0	82	1
27	Narayanpur	14	14	0	14	0
Total		338	333	5	317	16
Grand Total		2935	2922	13	2721	201

Source: PHE Department, Chhattisgarh, 2017

Table 6.2 shows the status of piped water supply and hand pumps in the various districts of the state.

Table 6.2: District wise status of Hand Pumps in Chhattisgarh (March 2016)

Sl. No	Districts	Total Hand Pumps Installed	Hand Pumps in Operation	Defunct Hand Pumps	Reasons of Defunct		
					Depletion of Ground Water Level	For Repairing/ Renovation	Other
1	Raipur	7940	7605	335	302	33	0
2	Balodabazar- Bhatapara	9859	9552	307	225	82	0
3	Gariaband	8620	8309	311	276	35	0
4	Dhamtari	9280	8903	377	336	41	0
5	Mahasamund	11412	10369	1043	926	117	0
6	Durg	5041	4771	270	243	27	0
7	Bemetara	4936	3476	1460	1379	81	0
8	Balod	6235	5787	448	369	115	0
9	Rajnandgaon	17647	16945	702	587	115	0
10	Kabirdham	10643	10286	357	252	105	0
11	Bastar	11118	11046	72	0	72	0
12	Bijapur	6574	6488	86	0	12	74
13	Dantewada	6111	6038	73	0	73	0
14	Kanker	11178	11174	4	0	4	0
15	Kondagaon	8481	8422	59	0	40	0
16	Narayanpur	2382	2358	24	0	24	0
17	Sukma	5129	5033	96	0	96	0
18	Bilaspur	11926	11546	380	210	170	0
19	Mungeli	6244	5974	270	65	205	0
20	Korba	12375	12228	147	0	147	0

21	Janjgir-Champa	12396	11838	558	275	283	0
22	Raigarh	14521	12298	2223	1878	345	0
23	Jashpur	15618	15443	175	0	175	0
24	Surguja	11316	11174	142	55	87	0
25	Balarampur	10325	10107	218	0	218	0
26	Surajpur	11832	11770	62	0	62	0
27	Korea	11264	11230	34	10	24	0
Total		260403	250170	10233	7388	2752	93

Source: PHE Department Chhattisgarh.

The Second State Finance Commission recommended revising grants being provided by the PHED for Nal Jal Yojana once in every two years keeping in view the rise in the costs of manpower and material. These grants may be provided twice in a year, in the months of April and October. The recommendation was accepted by the State Government but PHE Department did not take any action in compliance of the recommendation.

The Third State Finance Commission again recommends revising the grant once in every two years and providing it twice in a year for Nal Jal Yojana of PHE Department. The State Government should ensure the compliance of the recommendation.

6.10. In rural areas with involvement of the PRIs for implementation of Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM) has enhanced the number of households with having Toilets inside the premise. Total 32,77,227 individual household toilets were constructed so far under SBM, that resulted sanitation coverage is 100%. The incentive of Rs. 12,000 is given for individual toilet under SBM. (Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin))

6.11. Over the last 10 years the state has taken several steps to improve the delivery of *health services* and has been able to achieve some progress in bringing down its adverse health indicators. As a result of these initiatives, MMR has reduced from 379 in the year 2001 to 221 in 2015. Anemia among women has been came down from 68.7 percent in the year 1999 to 47 in 2015, IMR from 79 in the year 2000 to 54 in 2016, and malnutrition among children from 61 percent in the year 2000 to 52 percent in 2009. (NFHS 3 & NFHS 4)

6.12. Since the last few years, the State Government has given much attention on improvement of health infrastructure to increase coverage and access to better health facilities by all people of the state. As a result, health infrastructure have seen a quantum increase in numbers from 6 District Hospitals to 26, Community Health Center (CHCs) from 114 to 169, Primary Health Center (PHC) from 512 to 785 and Sub-Health Center from 3,818 to 5186 in the last few years.

6.13. Health infrastructure has improved; it is the basic responsibility of the government to provide both basic and specialised health care to a vast majority of the population. While the state has already achieved the national norms in establishing sub health centers, primary health centers, and community health centres, it is awfully deficient in providing quality healthcare

facilities in rural areas. Current involvement of the PRIs in health services is weak. Though Panchayat Health Committees are supposed to perform this oversight, at present it is more in terms of tracking financial progress and quantitative indicators rather than the quality.

6.14. Status of *Education* in particular elementary education indicates that the state after 18 years of formation still lagging behind providing educational infrastructure in the rural areas, in particular tribal areas.

Improving School Infrastructure like classrooms, drinking water, kitchen-sheds, toilets, appointing teachers and providing basic facilities to the students in all schools has become a challenge for the State Government.

6.15. Providing elementary education in tribal and backward areas has been a big challenge for the state. It is more important to get students from weaker sections of the society, especially girls, in the mainstream of education.

6.16. With regard to availability of school infrastructure in the state, it is observed that total 9,842 new primary schools and 7,815 new middle schools were sanctioned during the year 2002-03 to 2017-18 as part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan to provide equitable access to education for all in the state.

6.17. During the year 2003-04 to 2017-18 nearly 2,244 High school and 1,137 Higher Secondary schools were opened. Thus, as on year 2017-18 total numbers of schools in the state is as follows:-

Table 6.3 Status of School in Chhattisgarh

Sl. No.	Schools	Number
1.	Primary schools	33145
2.	Middle Schools	16095
3.	High Schools	2636
4.	Higher Secondary Schools	3994
	Total No. of Schools	55870

Source: Administrative report 2017-18, School Education Department, Chhattisgarh

6.18. Free text books, free uniforms, mid day meal, computer education, students' accidental Insurance scheme and Saraswati bicycle scheme for girl students, have helped in improving the elementary education level. The initiative of opening of residential schools (Kasturba Gandhi Aawasiya Balika Vidyalay) in the tribal pockets has had tremendous impact in improving enrolment as well as retention.

6.19. The state has been facing *rural road connectivity* as a bottleneck for promoting speedy economic growth. Keeping this scenario in mind, efforts and resources have been channelised to

improve road infrastructure in every village. Nearly 8,828 habitations have been connected with rural roads in the state.

6.20 With the implementation of flagship rural roads programme like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Vikas Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Gram Gouravpath Yojana many villages of the state have come under the ambit of rural roads connectivity.

6.21. Further, under the implementation of MGNREGA in the state, focus has been given to connect the village with earthen roads. This scenario has been changed the status of rural road infrastructure in the state.

6.22. With regard to *Electricity Supply* to the rural areas, it is observed that 177 interior and distance villages are not connected with electricity either through grid or through off-grid in the state. As on 30.11.2017, 19,390 villages out of 19,567 villages are electrified. Status of Households electrified are given in table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Status of Households Electrified in Chhattisgarh (March, 2017)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number (in Lakhs)
1	Total Rural Households	45.09
2	Households Electrified	38.67

Source: Government of Chhattisgarh, 2017.

6.23. Rural electricity connection in the state has been improved since the implementation of major flagship programmes such as Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Mukhyamantri Mazara- Tola Vidyutikaran Yojana. The State Government has also launched its own rural electrification programme name as *Gaon Ke Galiyon Ka Aantarik Vidyutikaran* in which the PRIs are involved in the process of rural electrification in the state.

6.24. Centrally sponsored *rural housing scheme* (previously Indira Awaas Yojana), is a social welfare flagship programme, to provide housing for the rural poor. This programme has set a target of constructing 6,23,824 rural houses by the year 2019 in Chhattisgarh.

6.25. The implementation of *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* (PMAY), introduced in June, 2015 has also been improved the shelter need of the rural people in the state. It has been targeted to construct 6,88,235 houses in Chhattisgarh from the year 2016-17 to 2018-19, against which 3,52,106 houses have been constructed so far and 87,169 houses are under construction.

6.26. The PRIs are involved in the process of implementation of PMAY in the state. During the field study conducted by the Third SFC it is observed that though many poor people got houses under PMAY, the gaps between requirement and supply is quite high, particularly in the tribal areas.

Physical Services provided by the PRIs in the state

6.27. The PRIs are involved in providing a range of Physical and Social Services which are basically linked with Drinking Water Supply (Nal-Jal Yojna) and Sanitation (Swachha Bharat Mission), Road Construction (PMGSY), Health, Education, Housing Facility (PMAY) and Electricity supply to small hamlets/villages.

6.28. The GPs are in many cases directly involved in the implementation of various physical and social services and the JPs and the ZPs are providing monitoring and technical support to the GPs in this regard.

6.29. It was observed by the Third SFC that despite the implementation of the above mentioned schemes and programmes, some villages still do not have road connectivity, drinking water supply, and other physical services. Providing quality physical services has become a key challenge for many GPs.

6.30. Major reasons of deficient physical services are lack of adequate funds provision, insufficient functionaries and ambiguity in functional devolution process. In some cases, though the PRIs have developed various physical services/assets, the maintenance of these assets has become a difficult task for the PRIs. It is therefore necessary that apart from creating new assets, emphasis must be given for the maintenance of the existing assets. This can improve the quality of services.

(i) The Commission recommends that an annual grant-in-aid of Rupees 5 lakhs should be given to 5050 GPs in schedule V area over the award period to strengthen basic services.

(ii) The Commission recommends that annual grant-in-aid of Rupees 20 lakhs for award period should be given to all 146 Janpad Panchayats to develop infrastructure and local requirements. 75% grant should be for infrastructure works and 25% untied grant should be given for local requirements. State Government should issue proper guidelines for untied grants.

Challenges

6.31. Nearly Forty-four percent of state's geographical area comes under forests and hence its economic growth is handicapped by limited availability of land for improving physical infrastructure in rural areas.

6.32. Fourteen out of twenty seven districts of Chhattisgarh are threatened by Left Wing Extremist and therefore cost of development/infrastructure projects in affected areas increased.

6.33. Though the PRIs have taken a lead role in improving physical services in rural areas, they are also being faced many challenges for this purpose. So, it is important for the State Government to address these issues in an expeditious manner.
