

Chapter 6

Access to Public Resources

In understanding the gender dimensions of poverty, so far our attention has been on the household. The cultural constructs determining the gender endowment disfavour women in terms of intra-household food allocations and in accessing other resources within and outside the homes. We have also seen that gender discrimination extends to labour market segmentation. In this chapter, women's access to different public resources such as institutions related to education, health, water resources is analysed. An attempt is also made to see how gender discriminations in accessing these institutions have inflated the hardships of women.

Access to Educational Institutions

Table 6.1 presents the educational facilities available in the villages. In none of the twelve villages there exists an exclusive primary school for girls although within each village at least one primary school for boys/co-educational exists. Middle school for boys/co-educational can be availed within a distance of five kilometres but middle school for girls is accessible only in two of twelve villages. However, girl students can access high school for girls in one-third of surveyed villages within a distance of 5 km. whereas boys of all villages can access them within the same distance.

Table 6.1: Number of Villages with Educational Facilities in 12 Sample Villages

Distance	Primary School (Co-Ed.)	Primary School (girls)	Middle School (CO-Ed.)	Middle School (Girls)	High/Higher Secun. (boys)	High/Higher Secun. (girls)	Religious School	Non -formal Education Centre
Inside village	12		3		1			2
less than 2km., easy access			1					
less than 2km., access problem			2		3			
2 km. But less than 5 km.,easy access			3	1	5	2	1	
2 km. But less than 5 km., access problem			3	1	3	2	1	
5 km. But less than 10 km., easy access						1		
5 km. But less than 10 km., access problem								
10 km. Or more easy access								
10 km. Or more some access problem						1		

Although there is provision of opening of *Angadwadi* in every village, it is functioning in two villages

None of the sample village has any school exclusively for girls. The schools within the village are meant for boys of which many are converted into co-educational institutions because of increasing intensity of girls students. However, it becomes extremely difficult for girl students to attend schools of middle and higher levels, as there is no girl's school of that level available within or in the vicinity of their villages. The non-availability of middle or higher level schools within or in nearby villages is seen as one of the most important discouraging factors for non-schooling of girls in these villages.

The availability of middle or high schools within or in the nearby villages has a direct and positive impact on the educational levels of girls. It can be seen from Table 6.2 that the villages with such facilities have lower levels of illiteracy and substantially higher proportion of girls attending middle or high schools.

Table 6.2: Percentage of Girls with Levels of Education

Villages	Illiterate or just literate	Middle and above
with middle or high schools	71.69	17.92
Without middle or high school	81.48	9.92
All	78.71	12.19

The villages that do not have middle or high school facilities within or in nearby villages have substantially higher level of illiteracy and lower proportion of women's middle or higher level education.

In view of the continuously deteriorating quality of education in government schools there has been increasing trends of enrolment in private schools in recent years. However, the access to private schools also is highly biased in favour of boys with great deal of regional variations. In fact the access to private school depends on the availability of these types of school in the villages or in the nearby villages. The proliferation of private schools in the rural areas also is more visible in districts such as Madhubani, Gopalganj, Rohtas, and Nalanda. In these villages the enrolment to the private school is more common. Again the enrolment of boys and girls shows very high

variations even in these villages. The proportion of boys attending private schools in these villages is much higher than that of the girls.

Table 6.3: Percentage Distribution of School Attending Children by Types of School

DISTRICT		Types of School		
		Non-formal	Government	Private
Gaya	Boys		98.63	1.37
	Girls		100.00	
	All		99.11	0.89
Gopalganj	Boys		74.63	25.37
	Girls		84.78	15.22
	All		78.76	21.24
Madhubani	Boys	3.23	63.44	33.33
	Girls	1.32	71.05	27.63
	All	2.37	66.86	30.77
Nalanda	Boys		87.04	12.96
	Girls		92.31	7.69
	All		89.25	10.75
Purnea	Boys		100.00	
	Girls	1.89	98.11	
	All	0.68	99.32	
Rohtas	Boys	1.28	85.90	12.82
	Girls		87.50	12.50
	All	0.75	86.57	12.69
Total	Boys	0.87	84.75	14.38
	Girls	0.65	87.06	12.30
	All	0.78	85.68	13.54

Since enrolment in private school involves direct costs, parents prefer their sons to attend these schools.

Access to Medical Institutions, Family Planning, and Health

Table 6.4 presents the existence of difficult health facilities like primary health centre/sub-centre, hospital/dispensary, qualified private doctors, maternity & child care centre, family planning clinic, chemist/medical shops in different villages. Primary health centre/sub-centre is most easily accessible, followed by chemist and medical shops. But maternity & child care centre and family planning clinic in one-third of the villages is available at a distance more than 10 km. and that too in many cases access to

them is not easy. Even private qualified doctors are also not with easy reach in half of the surveyed villages (distance more than 2 km. and access is not easy).

Table 6.4: Health Facilities in 12 Sample Villages

Distance	Primary Health Centre/ Sub-centre	Hospital/ Dispensary	Private Qualified Allopathic Doctor	Maternity child Care Centre	Family Plan- ning Clinic	Chemist/ Medical Shop
Inside village	1					
less than 2km., easy access	3	1	1	1	1	1
less than 2km., access problem	3	1	1	1	1	
2 km. but less than 5 Km easy access	3	2	4	2	3	6
2 km. but less than 5 km., access problem	2	3	2	2	1	3
5 km. but less than 10 km easy access		1	1	1	2	1
5 km. but less than 10 km access problem		1	1	1	1	1
10 km. Or more easy access		1		1		
10 km. or more difficulty in access		2	2	3	3	

The reach of health and family planning facilities is found to have direct bearing on occurrence of miscarriages, place of delivery of childbirth, on the nature of assistance during childbirth, visit by family planning workers etc.

Table 6.5.1: Districtwise Distribution of Miscarriages

District	Miscarriage					
	No	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Gaya	89.22	6.86	3.92			100.00
Gopalganj	86.84	9.21	1.32	1.32	1.32	100.00
Madhubani	95.59	2.64	0.88	0.88		100.00
Nalanda	96.97	2.02	1.01			100.00
Purnia	90.34	6.76	2.42	0.48		100.00
Rohtas	97.25	2.75				100.00
Group Total	93.05	4.76	1.59	0.49	0.12	100.00

Table 6.5.2: Castetwise Distribution of Miscarriages

Caste	Miscarriage					Total
	No	One	Two	Three	Four	
Brahmin	91.08	6.37	2.55			100.00
Bhumihar	96.55	2.30	1.15			100.00
Backward I	94.29	4.29	0.71	0.71		100.00
Yadav	85.71	10.71	3.57			100.00
Koiri	94.12	3.92	1.96			100.00
Kurmi	88.46	11.54				100.00
OBC II	92.31	4.62	1.54	1.54		100.00
SC	96.67	1.67	1.11	0.56		100.00
Muslim	87.21	8.14	2.33	1.16	1.16	100.00
Total	93.05	4.76	1.59	0.49	0.12	100.00

Table 6.5.3: Districtwise Distribution of Miscarriages

DISTRICT	Number of Miscarriages					Total
	Zero	One	Two	Three	Not Specified	
Gaya	89.80	6.12	2.04	2.04		100.00
Gopalganj	94.29	5.71				100.00
Madhubani	96.05	2.63			1.32	100.00
Nalanda	92.73	3.64	1.82	1.82		100.00
Purnea	95.35	2.33	2.33			100.00
Rohtas	94.55	3.64	1.82			100.00
Total	94.10	3.65	1.40	0.56	0.28	100.00

Table 6.5.4: Castewise Distribution of Miscarriages

CASTE	Number of Miscarriages					Total
	Zero	One	Two	Three	Not Specified	
Brahmin	95.92		4.08			100.00
Bhumihar	83.33	11.90	2.38	2.38		100.00
Backwrdr I	95.31	3.13	1.56			100.00
Yadav	100.00					100.00
Koiri	100.00					100.00
Kurmi	93.75			6.25		100.00
OBC II	96.97	3.03				100.00
S.C.	92.59	4.94	1.23		1.23	100.00
Muslim	97.06	2.94				100.00
Total	94.10	3.65	1.40	0.56	0.28	100.00

Table 6.5 series present occurrence of miscarriages. Only six per cent of women reported miscarriages in present survey, a marginal fall from seven per cent in the earlier survey. But districtwise, North Bihar districts of Gopalganj and Purnea recorded some noticeable fall. Across the social groups, only Muslim community shows some fall in the intermittent period of two surveys. It shows pre-natal care for women have hardly changed over nearly two decades.

Table 6.6.1: Districtwise Distribution of place of Delivery for most recent birth

District	Own Home	Govt. Clinic /Hospital	Pvt. Clinic/Hospital	Other	Total
Gaya	81.37	7.84	3.92	6.86	100.00
Gopalganj	78.95	5.26	5.26	10.53	100.00
Madhubani	89.43	4.41	1.76	4.41	100.00
Nalanda	78.79	8.08	7.07	6.06	100.00
Purnia	86.47	2.90	0.97	9.66	100.00
Rohtas	71.56	3.67	15.60	9.17	100.00
Total	83.05	4.88	4.63	7.44	100.00

Table 6.6.2: Caste-wise Distribution of Place of Delivery for most recent birth

CASTE	Own Home	Govt. Clinic /Hospital	Pvt. Clinic/Hospital	Other	Total
Brahmin+Kayastha	83.13	4.53	5.35	7.00	100
Bhumihar+Rajput	87.86	2.86	2.14	7.14	100
Backward I	53.85	19.23	19.23	7.69	100
Kurmi	72.55	7.84	5.88	13.73	100
Yadav	70.37	7.41	14.81	7.41	100
Koiri	83.08	4.62	7.69	4.62	100
Other Backward-II	86.81	4.40	2.20	6.59	100
SC	86.05	3.49	1.16	9.30	100
Group Total	83.05	4.88	4.63	7.44	100

Table 6.6.3: Districtwise Distribution of Place of Delivery for most Recent Birth

DISTRICT	Own Home	Others Home	Govt. Clinic/Hospital	Pvt. Clinic/Hospital	Others	Total
Gaya	76.60	12.77	2.13		8.51	100.00
Gopalganj	91.89	5.41	2.70			100.00
Madhubani	83.50	8.74	3.88		3.88	100.00
Nalanda	84.00	12.00	4.00			100.00
Purnea	84.62	5.13			10.26	100.00
Rohtas	71.43	10.20	14.29	2.04	2.04	100.00
Total	82.14	8.79	4.12	0.27	4.67	100.00

Table 6.6.4: Castewise Distribution of Place of Delivery for most Recent Birth

CASTE	Own Home	Others Home	Govt. Clinic/Hospital	Pvt. Clinic/Hospital	Others	Total
Brahmin	66.67	14.04	10.53		8.77	100.00
Bhumihar	82.05		12.82		5.13	100.00
Backwrdr I	86.89	9.84			3.28	100.00
Yadav	86.36	9.09			4.55	100.00
Koiri	71.43	14.29	4.76	4.76	4.76	100.00
Kurmi	87.50	12.50				100.00
OBC II	90.32	6.45			3.23	100.00
S.C.	88.31	5.19	2.60		3.90	100.00
Muslim	82.05	12.82			5.13	100.00
Total	82.14	8.79	4.12	0.27	4.67	100.00

Data on place of delivery of the most recent birth shows some interesting changes. Occurrence of childbirth in government hospitals is determined by the facilities and in this regard private clinics seem to be better disposed. Moreover, the reach of government health facilities has remained few and far between as in the previous survey. Occurrence of childbirth in private clinics however is substantial only in prosperous Rohtas district and among the Backward caste group I and Yadav castes. In the earlier survey, childbirth in private clinics were few in Rohtas and that too only among Kurmi caste respondents (see table 6.6 series).

Nature of assistance in childbirth also shows a similar picture. Untrained Dai still assists in childbirth in more than four-fifth of cases as in the previous survey. But relatively more occurrence of child birth in private clinic in recent survey has led to assistance of doctor in one-tenth of child birth now as opposed to hardly any presence on old survey.

Table 6.7.1: Distribution of Nature of Assistance at most recent child Birth Districtwise

District	Family/Friend	Untrained Dai	Trained Nurse	Doctor	Other	Total
Gaya	9.80	78.43	0.00	11.76	0.00	100.00
Gopalganj	7.89	80.26	0.00	10.53	1.32	100.00
Madhubani	2.64	88.99	1.32	7.05	0.00	100.00
Nalanda	4.04	71.72	4.04	20.20	0.00	100.00
Purnia	0.00	93.72	1.45	4.35	0.48	100.00
Rohtas	8.26	64.22	7.34	19.27	0.92	100.00
Total	4.27	82.68	2.20	10.49	0.37	100.00

Table 6.7.2: Distribution of Nature of Assistance at Most Recent Child Birth Castewise

CASTE	Family/Friend	Untrained Dai	Trained nurse	Doctor	Other	Total
Brahmin+Kayastha	0.82	85.60	2.47	10.70	0.41	100.00
Bhumihar+Rajput	3.57	90.00	0.71	5.00	0.71	100.00
Backward I	0.00	57.69	0.00	42.31		100.00
Kurmi	1.96	78.43	5.88	13.73		100.00
Yadav	11.11	66.67	0.00	22.22		100.00
Koiri	1.54	84.62	1.54	12.31		100.00
Other Backward-II	10.99	76.37	2.75	9.34	0.55	100.00
SC	3.49	89.53	2.33	4.65		100.00
Total	4.27	82.68	2.20	10.49	0.37	100.00

Table 6.7.3: Distribution of Nature of Assistance at Most Recent Childbirth Districtwise

DISTRICT	None	Family/Friends	Untrained Dai	Trained Dai	Doctor	Other	Total
Gaya	2.13	6.38	82.98	6.38		2.13	100.00
Gopalganj		2.70	94.59	2.70			100.00
Madhubani	0.97	2.91	93.20	0.97	1.94		100.00
Nalanda			94.00	6.00			100.00
Purnea	1.28	2.56	87.18	7.69		1.28	100.00
Rohtas		4.08	75.51	18.37	2.04		100.00
Total	0.82	3.02	88.46	6.32	0.82	0.55	100.00

Table 6.7.4: Distribution of Nature of Assistance at Most Recent Childbirth Castewise

CASTE	None	Family/Friends	Untrained Dai	Trained Dai	Doctor	Other	Total
Brahmin	1.75	1.75	82.46	10.53	1.75	1.75	100.00
Bhumihar		5.13	79.49	10.26	5.13		100.00
Backwrdr I		1.64	96.72	1.64			100.00
Yadav			100.00				100.00
Koiri	4.76		85.71	9.52			100.00
Kurmi			100.00				100.00
OBC II			96.77	3.23			100.00
S.C.	1.30	9.09	83.12	5.19		1.30	100.00
Muslim			89.74	10.26			100.00
Total	0.82	3.02	88.46	6.32	0.82	0.55	100.00

The non-popularity of family planning and poor facilities for it are quite apparent when both the survey results are compared. Hardly 4 per cent of surveyed women report visit by family planning worker as opposed to nearly 2 per cent in the earlier survey.

Table 6.8: Whether Ever contacted by Family Planning Worker Districtwise

District	Yes	No	Total
Gaya	4.90	95.10	100.00
Gopalganj		100.00	100.00
Madhubani	3.52	96.48	100.00
Nalanda	4.04	95.96	100.00
Purnia	4.83	95.17	100.00
Rohtas	8.26	91.74	100.00
Total	4.39	95.61	100.00

Women's awareness and practice of family planning and other birth control methods assumes importance in the context of gender relations and also poverty. An important aspect of women's empowerment can be seen through their control over reproductive rights. In practical terms, it would mean awareness of family planning method and control over their fertility.

Table 6.9.1 deals with awareness of family planning method district and castewise. Nearly nine-tenth of respondents are aware of family planning method, a substantial rise from little over seven-tenth in the earlier survey. Districtwise, Madhubani remains at lowest rank with hardly any increase in awareness since the previous survey. Rohtas has made considerable strides in this regard and ranks the top position from the lowest rank in the previous survey. Castewise forward castes and Kurmi caste occupies highest positions regarding awareness in the present survey from lowest awareness level in the previous survey. In contrast, Yadav, highest ranked in awareness in the earlier survey, holds lowest position in present survey in spite of increase in their awareness level.

Table 6.9.1: Whether Aware of Any Family Planning Method, 1999

District	Aware of any FP Methods		
	Yes	No	Total
Gaya	86.27	13.73	100.00
Gopalganj	92.11	7.89	100.00
Madhubani	74.45	25.55	100.00
Nalanda	90.91	9.09	100.00
Purnia	95.65	4.35	100.00
Rohtas	97.25	2.75	100.00
Total	87.93	12.07	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	91.72	8.28	100.00
Bhumihar	90.80	9.20	100.00
Backward I	90.00	10.00	100.00
Yadav	67.86	32.14	100.00
Koiri	84.31	15.69	100.00
Kurmi	96.15	3.85	100.00
OBC II	89.23	10.77	100.00
SC	88.33	11.67	100.00
Muslim	79.07	20.93	100.00
Total	87.93	12.07	100.00

Table 6.9.2: Whether Aware of Any Family Planning Method, 1982

District	Aware of any FP Methods			Total
Gaya	28.85	71.15		100.00
Gopalganj	19.51	80.49		100.00
Madhubani	25.86	73.28	0.86	100.00
Nalanda	21.43	78.57		100.00
Purnea	27.78	72.22		100.00
Rohtas	35.71	64.29		100.00
Total	26.76	72.99	0.24	100.00
Caste				
Brahmin	12.70	87.30		100.00
Bhumihar	13.95	86.05		100.00
Backwrdr I	36.23	63.77		100.00
Yadav	41.67	54.17	4.17	100.00
Koiri	22.73	77.27		100.00
Kurmi	11.11	88.89		100.00
OBC II	27.78	72.22		100.00
S.C.	31.52	68.48		100.00
Muslim	34.88	65.12		100.00
Total	26.76	72.99	0.24	100.00

Awareness level was found to be more for Tubectomy (see table 6.10.1) in the previous survey and use of contraceptive pills occupied a distant second position. Other methods were of negligible proportion. In present survey (see table 6.10.2) as well, the order remains the same but use of pill is relatively closer to female sterilisation in awareness level. Caste and districtwise, not much variation is observed.

Table 6.10.1: Family Planning Method Most Commonly Heard

Caste	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Condom	Female Sterilisation	Male Sterilisation	Rhythm	Abstinence	Total
Brahmin	18.18		5.45	76.36				100.00
Bhumihar	18.92	2.70	8.11	67.57			2.70	100.00
Backwrdr I	20.45			79.55				100.00
Yadav	7.69			92.31				100.00
Koiri	29.41	11.76		58.82				100.00
Kurmi	12.50			87.50				100.00
OBC II	15.38		7.69	73.08	3.85			100.00
S.C.	15.87		6.35	76.19		1.59		100.00
Muslim	10.71			78.57	10.71			100.00
District								
Gaya	16.22	8.11	8.11	59.46	2.70	2.70	2.70	100.00
Gopalganj	15.15		6.06	78.79				100.00
Madhubani	11.76		2.35	85.88				100.00
Nalanda	22.73		6.82	70.45				100.00
Purnea	21.54		3.08	70.77	4.62			100.00
Rohtas	16.67			83.33				100.00
Total	17.00	1.00	4.00	76.00	1.33	0.33	0.33	100.00

Table 6.10.2: Family Planning Method Most Commonly Heard

District	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Female Sterilisation	Condom	Male sterilisation	Others	Total
Gaya	27.17	1.09	69.57		2.17		100.00
Gopalganj	41.67	2.78	55.56				100.00
Madhubani	23.43	1.14	71.43	0.57	2.29	1.14	100.00
Nalanda	42.39	1.09	55.43	1.09			100.00
Purnia	41.29	2.49	50.25	1.00	4.98		100.00
Rohtas	66.36		33.64				100.00
Caste							
Brahmin	39.46	2.72	52.38	1.36	3.40	0.68	100.00
Bhumihar	32.91	2.53	62.03		1.27	1.27	100.00
Backward I	34.88		62.02		3.10		100.00
Yadav	45.45		54.55				100.00
Koiri	40.00		60.00				100.00
Kurmi	48.00		52.00				100.00
OBC II	35.59	5.08	55.93		3.39		100.00
SC	40.37	0.62	56.52	0.62	1.86		100.00
Muslim	47.22	1.39	48.61	1.39	1.39		100.00
Total	39.11	1.49	56.43	0.54	2.17	0.27	100.00

Family planning method ever used is presented in table 6.11. Ever used family planning method shows that one-fourth of respondents have ever used family planning. However, it is a substantial rise from one-eighth from old survey. Districtwise, Purnea continues to occupy the top slot. But inter-district disparities in the use of family planning method have come down since the earlier survey -- geographical spread has become more uniform now. Across the social groups, Muslim community continues to languish at the bottom. Groups belonging to S.C. and backward caste I show substantial rise from low level in old survey. The use of family planning method is very high among Brahmins -- nearly half of the respondents are adopting it. However, these findings need to be contextualised in the overall development of these communities.

Table 6.11.1: Family planning method ever used

District	Yes	No	Total
Gaya	18.63	81.37	100.00
Gopalganj	23.68	76.32	100.00
Madhubani	23.01	76.99	100.00
Nalanda	12.12	87.88	100.00
Purnia	40.10	59.90	100.00
Rohtas	20.18	79.82	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	46.50	53.50	100.00

Bhumihar	22.99	77.01	100.00
Backward I	30.71	69.29	100.00
Yadav	14.29	85.71	100.00
Koiri	19.61	80.39	100.00
Kurmi	23.08	76.92	100.00
OBC II	16.92	83.08	100.00
SC	17.88	82.12	100.00
Muslim	8.14	91.86	100.00
Total	25.15	74.85	100.00

Table 6.11.2: Family planning method ever used

Caste	No	Yes	Total
Brahmin	78.18	21.82	100.00
Bhumihar	72.97	27.03	100.00
Backwrdr I	86.36	13.64	100.00
Yadav	100.00		100.00
Koiri	100.00		100.00
Kurmi	81.25	18.75	100.00
OBC II	88.46	11.54	100.00
S.C.	93.65	6.35	100.00
Muslim	89.29	10.71	100.00
DISTRICT			
Gaya	78.38	21.62	100.00
Gopalganj	96.97	3.03	100.00
Madhubani	83.53	16.47	100.00
Nalanda	93.18	6.82	100.00
Purnea	80.00	20.00	100.00
Rohtas	94.44	5.56	100.00
Total	86.33	13.67	100.00

Table 6.12 shows method 'ever used' by respondents across districts and castes. In present survey, 85 per cent of method ever used is female sterilisation and 8 percent is use of pill. Condom and male sterilisation use occur equally only in 3 percent of cases. So, the onus of family planning almost wholly lies on female. In contrast, in old survey only half of the method used was female sterilisation. Over one-third of all family planning method used were male sterilisation and another one-tenth family planning use were condom. It shows drastic reduction of male responsibility in family planning method ever used.

Districtwise in old survey, there was interesting contrast. In Gopalganj it was cent percent female sterilisation and in Rohtas it was accounted fully by condom use and male sterilisation. In present survey no such extreme contrast is observed. Castewise Yadav, OBC II and Muslim women bear the whole responsibility of family planning

method is present survey. But in old survey, Bhumihar and Muslim men bore the main responsibility of family planning method.

Table 6.12.1: Method ever used across district and caste

District	Pill	Loop(IUD)	Female Sterilisation	Condom	Male sterilisation	Total
Gaya	5.56		88.89	5.56		100.00
Gopalganj	22.22		72.22	5.56		100.00
Madhubani	1.92		92.31		5.77	100.00
Nalanda			70.00	30.00		100.00
Purnia	11.11	1.23	85.19		2.47	100.00
Rohtas	9.09		81.82	4.55	4.55	100.00
Caste						
Brahmin	8.22		83.56	2.74	5.48	100.00
Bhumihar			95.00	5.00		100.00
Backward I			95.24	2.38	2.38	100.00
Yadav			100.00			100.00
Koiri	10.00		80.00		10.00	100.00
Kurmi	25.00		50.00	25.00		100.00
OBC II	36.36	9.09	54.55			100.00
SC	12.50		84.38	3.13		100.00
Muslim	16.67		83.33			100.00
Total	8.46	0.50	85.07	2.99	2.99	100.00

Table 6.12.2: Method Ever Used in Old Survey

Caste	Condom (Nirodh)	Female Sterilisation	Male Sterilisation	Rhythm	Abstinence	Total
Brahmin	8.33	66.67	25.00			100.00
Bhumihar	20.00	10.00	60.00		10.00	100.00
Backwrdr I		83.33	16.67			100.00
Kurmi	33.33	66.67				100.00
OBC II		66.67	33.33			100.00
S.C.		50.00	25.00	25.00		100.00
Muslim		33.33	66.67			100.00
District						
Gaya	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50	12.50	100.00
Gopalganj		100.00				100.00
Madhubani		42.86	57.14			100.00
Nalanda	33.33	66.67				100.00
Purnea		76.92	23.08			100.00
Rohtas	50.00		50.00			100.00
Total	9.76	51.22	34.15	2.44	2.44	100.00

Table 6.13 presents the road, electricity and public drinking water facilities available in different villages. One surveyed village in each district is linked with pucca road and the other village in each district is either linked with kutchha road or semi-pucca road. Public tubewells does not exist in any of the villages. Public wells are

relatively more plentiful in Nalanda and Gaya districts of South Bihar whereas public handpumps are relatively more plentiful in North Bihar districts of Madhubani and Purnea. None of the surveyed villages has any public tubewells. Electricity connection is available in surveyed villages of Purnea but not in relatively better-off district Rohtas. As a whole, electricity has not reached in five out of twelve surveyed villages.

Access to Other Infrastructural Facilities

Table 6.13: Public Roads, Electricity and Public Drinking Water Facilities in 12 Sample Villages

Village	Type of Roads (Kutchha -1 Pucca -2 Semi Pucca -3)	Public Wells (nos.)	Public Handpump (nos.)	Public Tubewells (nos.)	Electricity (Yes -1; No -2)
Alalpur-Bishunpur	3	4	7		1
Rupaspur-Salempur	1	16	7		2
Paharpur Dayal	2	5	2		1
Dewanparsa	1	1	15		1
Mahisam	1	4	44		1
Khangaon	3		22		1
Chandrakura	1	2	15		1
Mohinddinpur	3	11	7		2
Jitwarpur	2	1	47		1
Belabandan	1	1	21		2
Samhuti Buzurg	1		7		2
Amarhi	2		8		2

Access to Water

Several studies have pointed out a close relationship between women's status and their access to drinking water. Time allocation studies have reported women spending considerable amount of time on fetching drinking water and it becomes an exclusive activity of women, with no participation of men. This also would lead to increase in women's drudgery and may inhibit them from engaging in any productive activity.

Table 6.14 series give distribution of availability of closed and open source of drinking water district and castewise in present and old surveys. Except for small section of surveyed households in Purnea district, in all other districts respondents have access to closed source of drinking water that is a relatively safe drinking water source. This is quite a dramatic change for old survey where little over two-fifth of all surveyed households had to use open source of drinking water.

Castewise in present survey only small section of OBC I and S.C still access open source of drinking water whereas in the previous survey it was widespread across different castes mostly in forward castes of Bhumihar and relatively better-off backward castes like Kurmi and Koiri.

Table 6.14.1: Source of Drinking water Districtwise

DISTRICT	Source of Drinking Water		
	Close	Open	Total
GAYA	100.00	0.00	100.00
GOPALGANJ	100.00	0.00	100.00
MADHUBANI	100.00	0.00	100.00
NALANDA	100.00	0.00	100.00
PURNEA	97.10	2.90	100.00
ROHTAS	100.00	0.00	100.00
TOTAL	99.27	0.73	100.00

Table 6.14.2: Source of Drinking water Castewise

Caste	Source of Drinking Water		
	Close	Open	Total
BRAH+KAYASTH	100.00	0.00	100.00
BHUMI+RAJPUT	100.00	0.00	100.00
OBC I	96.43	3.57	100.00
KURMI	100.00	0.00	100.00
YADAV	100.00	0.00	100.00
KOIRI	100.00	0.00	100.00
OBC II	100.00	0.00	100.00
SC	99.44	0.56	100.00
UP MUSLIM	100.00	0.00	100.00
BACK MUSLIM	100.00	0.00	100.00
TOTAL	99.27	0.73	100.00

Table 6.14.3: Source of Drinking Water Districtwise

District	Source of Drinking water		
	Close	Open	Total
Gaya	7.25	92.75	100.00
Gopalganj	54.39	45.61	100.00
Madhubani	80.95	19.05	100.00
Nalanda	22.89	77.11	100.00
Purnea	79.31	20.69	100.00
Rohtas	63.01	36.99	100.00
Total	57.25	42.75	100.00

Table 6.14.4: Source of Drinking Water Castewise

CASTE	Source of Drinking water		
	Close	Open	Total
Brahmin	68.83	31.17	100.00
Bhumihar	43.10	56.90	100.00
Backwrd I	58.59	41.41	100.00
Yadav	66.67	33.33	100.00
Koiri	37.04	62.96	100.00
Kurmi	34.62	65.38	100.00
OBC II	54.17	45.83	100.00
S.C.	57.14	42.86	100.00
Muslim	71.67	28.33	100.00
Total	57.25	42.75	100.00

Since most of the respondents household has access to closed source of drinking water it will be useful to examine in detail the closed source of drinking water (see series of **tables 6.15**). As a whole, nearly two-third of all households has own personal handpump but it varies widely across districts. In four districts (namely Gaya, Gopalganj, Purnea and Rohtas) more than two-third of all households have access to personal handpump. But in Madhubani and Nalanda districts more than half of thea househods rely either on others private handpump or on public handpump. In old survey, major source of closed drinking wate was public handpump followed by personal handpump. In Nalanda district, reliance on public handpump was total.

Castewise, except for S.C., in all other castes major source is personal handpump. In earlier survey, except for Bhumihar, Koiri and other backward caste II, all other castes mostly relied on public handpumps.

Table 6.15.1: Main Source of Drinking Water Districtwise

District	Drinking water			Total
	Personal Handpump	Other Pvt. Handpump	Public HP	
Gaya	66.15	15.38	18.46	100.00
Gopalganj	90.54	8.11	1.35	100.00
Madhubani	40.54	32.88	26.58	100.00
Nalanda	43.48	15.22	41.30	100.00
Purnia	71.43	21.69	6.88	100.00
Rohtas	85.42	9.38	5.21	100.00
Total	63.15	21.10	15.75	100.00

Table 6.15.2: Main Source of Drinking Water Classwise

Caste	drinking water			Total
	Personal Handpump	Other Pvt. Handpump	Public HP	
Brahmin	81.88	14.77	3.36	100.00
Bhumihar	60.53	32.89	6.58	100.00
Backward I	50.00	30.36	19.64	100.00
Yadav	96.00		4.00	100.00
Koiri	75.76	15.15	9.09	100.00
Kurmi	86.96	8.70	4.35	100.00
OBC II	69.64	12.50	17.86	100.00
SC	38.06	28.36	33.58	100.00
Muslim	64.29	15.48	20.24	100.00
Total	63.15	21.10	15.75	100.00

Table 6.15.3: Main Source of Drinking Water Districtwise

District	Main Source of Drinking water			Total
	Personal Handpump	Oth. Pvt. Handpump	Public Handpump	
Gaya	60.00	20.00	20.00	100.00
Gopalganj	61.29	29.03	9.68	100.00
Madhubani	21.85	15.97	62.18	100.00
Nalanda			100.00	100.00
Purnea	35.87	32.61	31.52	100.00
Rohtas	36.96	4.35	58.70	100.00
Total	31.41	19.55	49.04	100.00

Table 6.15.4: Main Source of Drinking Water Castewise

CASTE	Main Source of Drinking water			Total
	Personal Handpump	Oth. Pvt. Handpump	Public Handpump	
Brahmin	64.15	32.08	3.77	100.00
Bhumihar	36.00	20.00	44.00	100.00
Backwrdr I	12.07	6.90	81.03	100.00
Yadav	35.00	5.00	60.00	100.00
Koiri	90.00		10.00	100.00
Kurmi	22.22	11.11	66.67	100.00
OBC II	53.85	19.23	26.92	100.00
S.C.	5.88	7.35	86.76	100.00
Muslim	27.91	53.49	18.60	100.00
Total	31.41	19.55	49.04	100.00

Location of drinking water supply gives an idea about time spent in fetching drinking water. More than two-third of the households fetch water either from within home or close by home. However, in two south Bihar districts of Nalanda and Rohtas, household members have to fetch water from a distance within tola. This is quite in contrast to old survey, where four-fifth of all households could fetch water from either

within house or close by home. Accessing safe drinking water has somewhat increased the distance travelled in fetching drinking water.

Table 6.16: Sex of the Person Fetching Water

District	Women	Men	Total
Gaya	89.04	10.96	100.00
Gopalganj	75.00	25.00	100.00
Madhubani	96.44	3.56	100.00
Nalanda	79.12	20.88	100.00
Purnia	72.46	27.54	100.00
Rohtas	96.43	3.57	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	77.50	22.50	100.00
Bhumihar	89.47	10.53	100.00
Backward I	89.58	10.42	100.00
Yadav	100.00		100.00
Koiri	100.00		100.00
Kurmi	83.33	16.67	100.00
OBC II	84.38	15.63	100.00
SC	90.32	9.68	100.00
Muslim	94.55	5.45	100.00
Total	89.07	10.93	100.00

It can be seen from table 6.16 that fetching drinking is mainly responsibility of women. In nine-tenth of all surveyed households it is woman who fetch water. In two north Bihar districts of Gopalganj and Purnea at least in one-fourth of households men fetch water. Castewise Brahmin men seem to fare best on this count.

It is to be noted that, most women traverse several hundreds of meters to fetch water especially during summer season. PRA exercises on this are quite interesting, as many women complain of problems encountered in fetching water during summer season.

Table 6.17.1: Distribution of Location of Drinking Water Districtwise

District	Distance from Home					Total
	Inside house	close by house	Within tola	Outside tola	Not Specified	
Gaya	27.78	38.89	5.56	5.56	22.22	100.00
Gopalganj	66.67	22.22			11.11	100.00
Madhubani	31.61	41.94	20.65	4.52	1.29	100.00
Nalanda	25.00	13.89	55.56	5.56		100.00
Purnia	28.38	28.38	24.32	5.41	13.51	100.00
Rohtas	16.67	16.67	66.67			100.00
Total	30.00	33.23	26.77	4.52	5.48	100.00

Table 6.17.2: Distribution of Location of Drinking Water Castewise

Caste	Distance from Home					Total
	Inside house	close by house	Within tola	Outside tola	Not Specified	
Brahmin	41.03	28.21	12.82	5.13	12.82	100.00
Bhumihar	46.15	46.15	7.69			100.00
Backward I	22.54	33.80	38.03	1.41	4.23	100.00
Yadav	25.00	25.00	50.00			100.00
Koiri	15.38	38.46	38.46		7.69	100.00
Kurmi	50.00		50.00			100.00
OBC II	36.36	18.18	27.27		18.18	100.00
SC	28.72	35.11	27.66	8.51		100.00
Muslim	25.64	35.90	25.64	7.69	5.13	100.00
Total	30.00	33.23	26.77	4.52	5.48	100.00

Table 6.17.3: Distribution of Location of Drinking Water Districtwise

District	Distance from Home				Total
	Inside House	Close by House	Within Tola	Outside Tola	
Gaya	31.88	49.28	13.04	5.80	100.00
Gopalganj	33.33	57.89	7.02	1.75	100.00
Madhubani	19.73	58.50	19.05	2.72	100.00
Nalanda	18.07	65.06	15.66	1.20	100.00
Purnea	28.45	43.97	19.83	7.76	100.00
Rohtas	41.10	54.79	4.11		100.00
Total	27.16	54.68	14.68	3.49	100.00

Table 6.17.4: Distribution of Location of Drinking Water Classwise

CASTE	Distance from Home				Total
	Inside House	Close by House	Within Tola	Outside Tola	
Brahmin	57.14	35.06	6.49	1.30	100.00
Bhumihar	48.28	43.10	6.90	1.72	100.00
Backwrdr I	8.08	70.71	16.16	5.05	100.00
Yadav	30.00	46.67	20.00	3.33	100.00
Koiri	40.74	51.85	3.70	3.70	100.00
Kurmi	34.62	46.15	19.23		100.00
OBC II	45.83	47.92	6.25		100.00
S.C.	4.20	72.27	18.49	5.04	100.00
Muslim	20.00	43.33	30.00	6.67	100.00
Total	27.16	54.68	14.68	3.49	100.00

Table 6.17* provides information on time taken in accessing drinking water.

On an average, it is reported that women spend 23 minutes to fetch water from any source for the household use. While the average is somewhat misleading here, it is to be noted that in places like Nalanda, it takes over 45 minutes to fetch water.

Table 6.17*: Average time spent per day on collecting water by district

DISTRICT	AVERAGE/DAY	NO.
GAYA	0.20	102
GOPALGANJ	0.16	76
MADHUBANI	0.34	227
NALANDA	0.47	99
PURNEA	0.08	207
ROHTAS	0.11	109
TOTAL	0.23	820

Access to Fuel

Along with water, another important basic amenity is access to fuel at household level for cooking and other purposes. Table 6.17 series provides information on type of fuel used in the earlier as well as in present survey. In the earlier survey, kerosene was not used as fuel at all but presently a very small proportion of household use this modern fuel. Another significant change that can be observed from the previous survey is substantial rise in use of wood as fuel in place of straw, leaf and cow dung. More than 30 percent of households now rely on wood as fuel in place of less than 10 percent in earlier survey. Still, cow dung continues to remain as largest source of fuel although its importance has fallen. Now, only half of the households rely on cow dung in place of two-third in old survey. Using wood as fuel has a grave implication on depleted forest resources in rural Bihar.

At district level, in Rohtas and Purnea districts, use of wood as fuel has shown marginal increase. But other four districts show substantial rise in use of wood as fuel. In two North Bihar district of Gopalganj and Madhubani, almost more than half of the households use it as main source of fuel. In old survey, forward castes (Brahmin and Bhumihar) and OBC II was the main user but now it has spread to all caste categories and that too in significant proportion. As can be seen in the following tables that fuel particularly wood in rural Bihar is largely collected, cut and dried and as this activity is largely borne by women, greater use of it adds to drudgery of women work.

Table 6.18.1: Distribution of Type of Cooking Fuel Used Districtwise

DISTRICT	Type of Fuel used						Total
	Cow-dung	Wood	Grass leaf	Kerosene	Coal	Other	
GAYA	65.69	28.43	3.92			1.96	100.00
GOPALGANJ	22.37	53.95	17.11		1.32	5.26	100.00
MADHUBANI	34.36	48.46	15.42	1.76			100.00
NALANDA	57.58	32.32	5.05	3.03		2.02	100.00
PURNEA	42.03	17.39	23.19	0.48		16.91	100.00
ROHTAS	91.74	3.67	1.83	1.83	0.92		100.00
TOTAL	49.51	30.73	13.05	1.22	0.24	5.24	100.00

Table 6.18.2: Distribution of Type of Cooking Fuel Used Castewise

CASTE	Type of Fuel used						Total
	Cow-dung	Wood	Grass leaf	Kerosene	Coal	Other	
Brahmin	51.59	34.39	8.28	1.27	0.64	3.82	100.00
Bhumihar	45.98	44.83	4.60	3.45		1.15	100.00
Backward I	50.71	22.86	17.86	0.71	0.71	7.14	100.00
Yadav	75.00	14.29	10.71				100.00
Koiri	82.35	15.69	1.96				100.00
Kurmi	65.38	23.08	3.85			7.69	100.00
OBC II	50.77	27.69	13.85	3.08		4.62	100.00
SC	46.67	29.44	16.67	0.56		6.67	100.00
Muslim	19.77	44.19	24.42	1.16		10.47	100.00
Total	49.51	30.73	13.05	1.22	0.24	5.24	100.00

Table 6.18.3: Distribution of Type of Cooking Fuel Used Districtwise

District	Type of Cooking Fuel Used					Total
	Cow Dung	Wood	Straw, leaves	Coal	Not Specified	
Gaya	78.26	4.35	14.49		2.90	100.00
Gopalganj	50.88	14.04	33.33		1.75	100.00
Madhubani	59.86	8.16	31.97			100.00
Nalanda	80.72	1.20	16.87	1.20		100.00
Purnea	50.86	18.10	29.31		1.72	100.00
Rohtas	91.78	1.37	6.85			100.00
Total	66.79	8.44	23.67	0.18	0.92	100.00

Table 6.18.4: Distribution of Type of Cooking Fuel Used Castewise

CASTE	Type of Cooking Fuel Used					Total
	Cow Dung	Wood	Straw, leaves	Coal	Not Specified	
Brahmin	76.62	14.29	7.79		1.30	100.00
Bhumihar	58.62	17.24	20.69		3.45	100.00
Backwrdr I	55.56	5.05	38.38		1.01	100.00
Yadav	93.33		6.67			100.00
Koiri	77.78	3.70	18.52			100.00
Kurmi	84.62	7.69	3.85	3.85		100.00
OBC II	68.75	18.75	10.42		2.08	100.00

S.C.	70.59	4.20	25.21			100.00
Muslim	45.00	5.00	50.00			100.00
Total	66.79	8.44	23.67	0.18	0.92	100.00

It can be observed from table 6.19 that in rural Bihar fuel is largely collected than a priced commodity. Three-fourth of all surveyed households collects them and another one-tenth partially procures them. Districtwise, households in Gaya purchase fuel most but that too only one-fourth of them. Castewise, expectedly forward caste and some better of backward castes like Kurmi and Yadav purchase fuel most. In contrast, poorest S.C. mostly procures them.

Table 6.19: Procurement of Fuel whether Purchased or Collected

District	Collect	Purchase	Partial purchase	Total
Gaya	60.44	27.47	12.09	100.00
Gopalganj	80.65	6.45	12.90	100.00
Madhubani	81.25	12.05	6.70	100.00
Nalanda	75.26	16.49	8.25	100.00
Purnia	73.01	12.27	14.72	100.00
Rohtas	88.75	10.00	1.25	100.00
Caste				
Brahmin	61.48	20.49	18.03	100.00
Bhumihar	67.90	20.99	11.11	100.00
Backward I	81.45	11.29	7.26	100.00
Yadav	57.14	23.81	19.05	100.00
Koiri	84.62	10.26	5.13	100.00
Kurmi	58.33	20.83	20.83	100.00
OBC II	71.43	19.64	8.93	100.00
SC	90.64	5.85	3.51	100.00
Muslim	82.28	11.39	6.33	100.00
Total	76.71	13.95	9.34	100.00

As in the case of fetching water, collecting fuel is mainly the responsibility of women. Households who collect fuel, in three-fourth of them it is the responsibility of women to do it. Districtwise, only in Gopalganj in more than one-third of households male members collect fuel. Castewise, again forward caste men fare the best. At least in half of households in these castes, male members collect fuel. Worst sufferers are S.C., Muslim and backward I caste. Women belonging to these groups, around nine-tenth of cases engages in this.

Table 6.20: Sex of the Person Collecting Fuel

District	Female	Male	Total
Gaya	77.78	22.22	100.00
Gopalganj	63.83	36.17	100.00
Madhubani	77.72	22.28	100.00
Nalanda	69.51	30.49	100.00
Purnia	78.26	21.74	100.00
Rohtas	75.29	24.71	100.00
Caste			
Brahmin	49.47	50.53	100.00
Bhumihar	50.88	49.12	100.00
Backward I	83.04	16.96	100.00
Yadav	76.47	23.53	100.00
Koiri	81.08	18.92	100.00
Kurmi	70.00	30.00	100.00
OBC II	71.43	28.57	100.00
SC	88.13	11.88	100.00
Muslim	89.71	10.29	100.00
Total	75.33	24.67	100.00