

Jharkhand, one of the youngest of Indian states, over the years, has become one of the fastest growing state in India. However, to make the growth process inclusive for women, the state needs to create an appropriate socio-economic environment for women by making different interventions like, expansion of livelihood generation activities to include women, ending violence against women and ensuring access to basic services like health and education. To support these activities, strengthening gender budgeting is the prerequisite and it could be complemented by strict implementation of laws namely, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT), Witch Craft Prevention Act.

Jharkhand which came into being on November 15, 2000 as the 28th state of India, largely comprises of forest tracks of 'Chhotanagpur' plateau and 'Santhal Pargana' and has distinct cultural traditions. According to the Census 2011, the total population of the state is 32.9 million, of which, 8.6 million (26.2 percent) are tribal. Jharkhand has made impressive progress on economic and human development indicators since its formation. In the year 2001-02, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices of Jharkhand was 1.68 percent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Since, the growth rate of the state, in most of the years, has been better than the growth rate of the country, its share in country's GDP has improved to 1.84 percent in the year 2015-16.¹ At current prices, Jharkhand's GSDP was about US\$ 39.35 billion in 2016-17. With 6.7 percent of GSDP growth rate, in 2017-18, Jharkhand has surpassed the growth rate of Indian economy (6.5 percent) as a whole (see Table 1). Despite some higher revenue and fiscal deficits, Government of Jharkhand has put adequate attention to the development sector. It is reflected in Jharkhand's much higher development expenditure (17.2 percent of GSDP) compared to the national average of development expenditure (12.5 percent). Higher priority to the development sector, in turn, reflected in commendable progress in most of the development indicators, related to health, education, gender, etc. As a result, the gap between Jharkhand and all India, in terms of most of the development indicators, have narrowed down. Some of the highlights and lowlights have been discussed in the subsequent sections.

RECOMMENDATIONS



THE GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND MUST TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE DETERIORATING CHILD SEX RATIO IN THE STATE AND STRICTLY IMPLEMENT PCPNDT ACT AND PENALIZE THE PERPETRATORS OF SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION.



THE GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND SHOULD APPROPRIATELY INCREASE THE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION TOWARDS THE BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME ON A PRIORITY BASIS.



PWDVA MUST BE IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY AND BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO SCHEMES LIKE ONE-STOP CENTRE AND STATE WOMEN COMMISSION SHOULD BE INCREASED ON A PRIORITY BASIS TO CHECK AND CURB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.



FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND SHOULD EXPAND THE OPERATIONS OF JHARKHAND STATE LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION SOCIETY (JSLPS) TO THE ENTIRE STATE CATERING TO THE POOR WOMEN IN THE DEPRIVED BLOCKS IN AN INCLUSIVE MANNER. APPROPRIATE POLICY MEASURES SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN WORKERS IN MGNREGA TO AN EQUITABLE LEVEL AS MALE WORKERS.



THE GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND SHOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE WORSENING MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE STATE AND APPROPRIATELY INVEST IN CREATING REQUIRED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND INFRASTRUCTURES.



THE GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND SHOULD AMEND THE WITCHCRAFT PREVENTION ACT, 2001 TO INTRODUCE STRICTER PUNISHMENTS FOR WITCH HUNTING AND ENSURE THAT THE LAW IS PROPERLY ENFORCED BY THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE SUCH HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. THE STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ORGANIZE A COMPREHENSIVE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE THE SUPERSTITIONS SURROUNDING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN THE STATE.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The percentage of women and children suffering from undernutrition in Jharkhand has reduced by 11.4 percentage points and 8.7 percentage points respectively in the period between 2005-06 and 2015-16. The Government of Jharkhand has introduced an innovative community-based care model named Dular for the improvement of the health and nutritional status of women and children in the state. The Dular Strategy has been implemented in all the Integrated child development scheme (ICDS) projects of 5 districts, namely, Ranchi, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Saraikela Kharsawan and Khunti covering a total of 9094 Anganwadi centers. A total population of more than 5 lakh women and children are being benefited by the programme.²
- The state witnessed an overwhelming increase of 43.6 percentage points in total institutional births as compared to 40.6 percentage points at all India level in the period 2005-06 to 2015-16. Similarly, the percentage of mothers who received financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) for births delivered in a health facility was 41.6 percent in the state as compared to 36.4 percent at all India level.³
- The Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society functioning under the Rural Development Department of the state has achieved a remarkable result in empowering the underprivileged women as well as the members of vulnerable communities/groups in the state by organizing and capacitating their groups and creating sustainable livelihoods.⁴

However, despite being a resource-rich state and witnessing higher growth rate in the recent years, around 37 percent (12.62 million) of the population in Jharkhand still lives below poverty line and approximately 68 percent of the population suffers from some form of deprivation.⁵ The state still lags behind the national average on many significant development indicators, especially on gender empowerment indicators.

LOWLIGHTS:

A. DECLINING SEX RATIO

The sex ratio in Jharkhand at 948 females per thousand males is comparatively better than 943 at all India level. However, the Child Sex Ratio in the state has steadily declined in the last three decades (see Figure 1). The declining Child Sex Ratio in the state is also reflected in the data on the preference of son as compared to daughters collected by National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4). As shown in Table 2, the preference for son is significantly higher in Jharkhand as compared to all India level. Approximately every third woman in Jharkhand prefers a son than a daughter.

Some of the major reasons for son preference are based first, on beliefs that only a son can perform the last rites, that lineage and inheritance runs through the male line, sons will look after parents in old age, and that men are the sole breadwinners. Exorbitant dowry demand is another reason for female foeticides/infanticides. Small family norm coupled with easy availability of sex determination tests may be a catalyst in the declining

TABLE 1: FISCAL SITUATION OF JHARKHAND

INDICATOR	JHARKHAND	ALL STATE'S AVERAGE
REVENUE DEFICITS AS % GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	-0.77	-0.1
GROSS FISCAL DEFICIT AS % GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	4.02	3.0
DEVELOPMENT EXP. AS % GSDP/GDP IN 2016-17	17.2	12.5
THE GROWTH RATE OF GSDP / GDP (%) IN 2017-18, AT CONSTANT PRICES	6.7	6.5
PER CAPITA STATE & NATIONAL INCOME (INR) IN 2015-16, AT CONSTANT PRICES	54140	77435

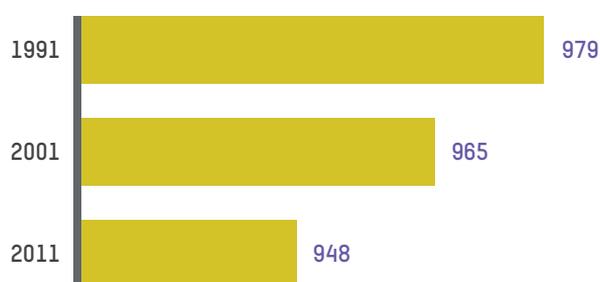
Source: State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2016-17, RBI

TABLE 2: JHARKHAND ON SOME GENDER EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

INDICATOR	JHARKHAND	INDIA
SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER 1000 MALES), 2011	948	943
CHILD SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER 1000 MALES), 2011	948	919
PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 15-49 YEARS WHO WANT MORE SONS THAN DAUGHTERS, 2015-16	27.1	18.8
PERCENTAGE OF MEN AGED 15-49 YEARS WHO WANT MORE SONS THAN DAUGHTERS, 2015-16	22.5	18.7
WOMEN AGED 20-24 YEARS MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18 YEARS (%), 2015-16	38.0	26.8
AVERAGE AGE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS), 2015-16	19.8	21.1
PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IN PERCENTAGE), 2015-16	30.6	28.8
THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IN PERCENTAGE POINTS) BETWEEN 2005-06 AND 2015-16	4.2	8.4
WOMEN OWNING A HOUSE AND/ OR LAND (ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH OTHERS) (%), 2015-16	49.7	38.4
WOMEN HAVING A BANK OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT THAT THEY THEMSELVES USE (%), 2015-16	45.1	53.0
FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, RURAL, 2011-12	20.4	25.3

Source: Census 2011, NFHS 4, Economic Survey of India & Jharkhand, World Bank

FIGURE 1: CHILD SEX RATIO IS DETERIORATING IN JHARKHAND



Source: SRS Bulletin

child sex ratio, further facilitated by the easy availability of pre-conception sex selection facilities.

The government of Jharkhand following the directives of union government adopted the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme to check declining child sex ratio and educate girls. However, the allocation by the state government for the scheme reduced from INR 1.05 crores in 2016-17 to INR 50 lakhs in 2017-18 reducing by more than 50 percent in just one year.⁶

It is recommended that Government of Jharkhand takes the cognizance of the deteriorating child sex ratio in the state and strictly implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and penalize the perpetrators of sex-selective abortion. The government should also appropriately increase the financial allocation towards the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme on a priority basis.

B. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets. Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth.

i. Access to money and credit: In Jharkhand, just 40 percent of the women in the age group of 15-49 years have money that they can decide how to use as compared to 58.1 percent in the neighboring state of West Bengal. Similarly, merely 45 percent of women in the same age group have a bank or savings account that they themselves can use as compared to the corresponding all India figure of 53 percent. According to NFHS 4, just 41 percent of the women in the state have heard about any microcredit programme (like Rastriya Mahila Kosh) and a mere 5.2 percent of women who have taken any loan from a microcredit programme.⁷

The Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) functioning under the Rural Development Department of the state is mandated for financial inclusion of the rural poor women in the state through its different microcredit programmes. JSLPS has achieved some encouraging results since its inception and has supported 0.46 million families until the end of the financial year 2016-17. However, this is way below the total population living below the poverty line in Jharkhand i.e. 1.33 million. Also, JSLPS is currently operational

in only 80 out of the total 260 blocks of Jharkhand.⁸

It is recommended that government of Jharkhand should expand the operations of JSLPS to all over the state for catering to the poor families in the left out blocks in an inclusive manner.

ii. Ownership of land: Ownership of land plays an important role in strengthening women's agency and giving them the opportunities to assert themselves. There is ample evidence that women's land rights lead to positive outcomes for the well-being of the women and their families.⁹ In Jharkhand, just 40.8 percent of women own land alone or jointly whereas in the neighboring states like Bihar and Odisha, 49.6 percent and 46.5 percent of women respectively own land alone or jointly. This situation is worrying due to the fact that 84 percent women in rural Jharkhand are engaged in on-farm employment.¹⁰

Since land is a valuable and critical resource, the resistance towards women's land ownership rights is equally strong in the patriarchal system that governs Indian society. In Jharkhand, the prevailing laws and tribal customs do not favour women owning land. According to a survey conducted by Landesa (a land rights advocacy group) in Jharkhand in 2016, women who make claims to land are often subjected to violence, with families even hiring militants to evict them. Also, single women who own land may be branded as "witches" and ostracized by communities. The same survey noted that only 20 percent of the women agreed to the fact that daughters should receive a share of parental land. The tribal communities in Jharkhand believe that if the land is given to women, it may be lost, so the women are denied equal inheritance rights.¹¹ The lack of financial resources and economic independence is one of the prime reasons why women are subject to physical, sexual and emotional violence.¹²

In the backdrop of the above discussion the above discussion, Oxfam India strongly advocates for:

- Organizing a comprehensive campaign which includes awareness raising, educating community members on legal rights, enforcing strict laws and penalties for denying women access to land and eradicating the superstitions surrounding the issue of women's land rights in the state.
- The Jharkhand Government should raise awareness and facilitate implementation of Hindu Succession Act 2005 and Forest Rights Act 2006 equally for men and women so that women get their fair share from ancestral property.

iii. Low participation in employment activities: The female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in India has declined drastically in the last one decade and is currently at 25.4 percent in rural areas and 15.5 percent in urban areas. The female LFPR is even lower in Jharkhand at 20.4 percent in urban areas and 7.4 percent in rural areas. Even in the state-led employment opportunities like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the participation of women workers is abysmally low. The person-days generated by women workers under MGNREGA in Jharkhand was just 35.7 percent in 2016-17.¹³

It is recommended that government of Jharkhand should invest in livelihood generation activities for women and ensure that the participation of women workers under MGNREGA be increased in a just manner.

GENDER BUDGETING IN JHARKHAND

The state has initiated the process of gender budgeting since the last two years where in all the schemes which have women component have been marked out for targeted implementation or coverage. In light of this, the gross budgetary allocation to schemes focusing on women has increased from INR 5908.9 crores in 2016-17 to INR 7684.5 crores in 2017-18. However, the budgetary allocations to some significant schemes of women empowerment like Women Commission of Jharkhand, One Stop Centre in the state have been reduced considerably.

In the year 2017-18, INR 1.8 crores were allocated to the State Women's Commission of Jharkhand while in the year 2018-19, no allocation has been made for the State Women's Commission in the budget. Similarly, there has been no increase in the budgetary allocation towards 'One Stop Centre' in 2018-19 over 2017-18 and it remains at INR 1.34 crores.

C. DOMESTICS VIOLENCE AND CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a violation of basic human rights and one of the most persistent forms of gender inequality and discrimination. The cases of VAWG¹⁴ at 30.5 percent is on a higher side in Jharkhand as compared to 28.8 percent at all India level. Even the decline in cases of VAWG has been at just 4.2 percentage points in the state as compared to 8.4 percentage points at all India level in the period 2005-06 to 2015-16. A stark difference in the incidence of domestic violence is observed between rural (38.8 percent) and urban (19.7 percent) areas in Jharkhand.

As per the Census 2011, there were a total of 8 million women in the age group of 15-49 years in Jharkhand. That implies, in absolute terms, in 2015-16, there were at least 2.7 million women who faced domestic violence in their lifetime. However, as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)¹⁵ records, number of registered cases against domestic violence in 2011

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO SUFFERED FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Source: NFHS 4

was just 9452 in Jharkhand. It is evident thus, that there is gross underreporting of cases of domestic violence because of prevalent social stigma where a woman reporting a case of domestic violence is considered to bring disrepute to the family name. Consequently, only a nominal fraction of women are getting legal protection against domestic violence from the state. More importantly, as per NFHS-4, in Jharkhand, only 16 percent of women who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence by anyone have sought help and only 1 percent of abused women who sought help for the violence inflicted on them, sought help from the police.

The government of Jharkhand is implementing a wide range of programmes/schemes/initiatives to address domestic violence including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA). Along with PWDVA, a 24-hour Women's Helpline number (10921) is now available in Jharkhand that provides rescue information, first point contact counselling, and referral services to any woman in distress across the state. One Stop Centre to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence is also operational in the state.¹⁶ However, until February 2016, just two one-stop centers were functional in Jharkhand one in Ranchi and the other in Sakchi.¹⁷

Further, if we look at the budgetary support to these schemes, on the one hand, there has been very meager allocation as compared to the incidences of domestic violence in the state and on the other hand, there has been a considerable reduction in the allocation to these schemes over the last few years. In the year 2017-18, INR 1.8 crores were allocated to the State Women's Commission in Jharkhand while in the year 2018-19, no allocation has been made for the State Women's Commission in the budget. Similarly, there has been no increase in the budgetary allocation towards 'One Stop Centre' in 2018-19 over 2017-18 and it remains at INR 1.34 crores.¹⁸

GIVEN THE OVERALL SCENARIO, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- A coherent database on domestic violence cases should be maintained in the state as it will help in the proper assessment of the problem and taking proper policy measures.
- To tackle the problem of gross under-reporting of domestic violence cases, a monitoring committee should be formed at village/habitat level consisting of Anganwadi workers, teachers, local bodies, organizations, NGOs and women from the community who could provide necessary help to the victims in reporting the case to appropriate authorities.
- For effective implementation of the laws related to violence against women and women's protection against domestic violence, the women and child development department should release appropriate protocol and guidelines; especially containing strategies for convergence of different departments.
- The budgetary support to schemes like One-Stop Centre and State Women's Commission, which are in place to check and curb domestic violence in the state should be increased on a priority basis.

THE WORLD BANK AID IN FOCUS: ALTHOUGH INR 400 CORE MAY SEEM LIKE AN UNFATHOMABLE AMOUNT, IT CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD WHEN BROKEN DOWN.



* Currency values in INR and exchange rate accurate as of 18 August 2017

D. ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The female literacy rate has improved significantly in Jharkhand from 37.1 percent to 55.4 percent (up to 18.3 percentage points) in the period 2001-2011. Although the state outstripped the increase seen in the Indian average which went from 53.7 percent to 65.5 percent (up to 11.8 percentage points), the absolute female literacy rate in the state still remains one of the lowest in the country.¹⁹ The female literacy rate for tribals in Jharkhand is even lower at 46.2 percent as compared to 55.4 percent for the total women in the state. According to NFHS 4, four out of every ten women aged 6 years and above have never attended school in Jharkhand. Those who have attended school and are literate have completed just 2.3 years of schooling on an average.²⁰

The Government of Jharkhand, in partnership with the World Bank,²¹ has made an attempt to address these issues related to female education with the introduction of the Tejaswini Project for the Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women (AGYW) in June 2016.

- The Government of Jharkhand aims to support AGYW aged 14-24 years in completing their secondary education and attaining relevant job skills.
- It is going to be implemented in 17 districts of Jharkhand (chosen so as to not overlap with a similar Government of India scheme).
- For younger AGYW, it focuses on education and for older AGYW, it focuses more on access to vocational skills and training along with life skills.
- It expects to benefit about 680,000 adolescent girls and young women.
- The World Bank has approved an amount of USD 63 million (roughly INR 400 crore) for this project.

While 680,000 AGYW is a good starting point for a scheme like this, it is not enough. There are an estimated 2.1 million AGYW in the age group of 14-24 years in the 17 project districts, 38 percent of whom belong to either a Scheduled Tribe or Scheduled Caste. The Tejaswini Project covers just 32 percent of the AGYW spread across the selected 17 districts in the state. Given the abysmally bad state of female literacy in the state, it is imperative that there is still room for the Government of Jharkhand to expand

the coverage of Tejaswini Project and ensure that no AGYW who needs support is left out.

It is recommended that the Government of Jharkhand invest in and expand the coverage of the Tejaswini Project to allow every adolescent girl and young woman to fulfill her potential and contribute to the development of society by getting educated and acquiring essential life skills.

E. ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Although women's health has improved positively in Jharkhand especially over the last decade, the state still depicts some worst indicators related to women's health. The case of Maternal Mortality in Jharkhand at 208 is still much higher than the average for the country at 167 or at 113 for the neighbouring state of West Bengal. Even, the absolute proportion of institutional deliveries is significantly lower in Jharkhand at 61.9 percent as compared to 78.9 percent at all India level. As per NFHS 4, the incidence of malnutrition among women is still significantly higher in Jharkhand at 31.6 percent as compared to all India level at 22.9 percent respectively.

One of the most important reasons behind the deplorable health indicator of Jharkhand is its low expenditure on public health and the dearth of health infrastructure and personnel. The state has allocated just 4.8 percent of its total budget for expenditure on public health in the year 2016-17 while states like Chhattisgarh with similar demography has allocated 5.7 percent of its total budget on health in the same year. This has shifted the burden of health expenditure on the poor rural populace which is reflected in the high out-of-pocket expenditure spent on health in Jharkhand. The per capita health expenditure by the government of Jharkhand at INR 480 is one of the lowest in the country. This has resulted in shooting up the proportion of out-of-pocket expenditure made on health in the state at 71.7 percent of the total health expenditure as compared to 62.6 percent at all India level.²² This is an alarming situation as more than 1/3rd of the population in the state lives below poverty line.

It is recommended that the Government of Jharkhand increase the budgetary allocation towards health and provide incentives to ensure more health professionals serve in rural and tribal areas in order to improve the health and productivity of the population in general and women in particular.

F. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN — WITCH-HUNTING

Violence against women accused of practicing witchcraft is widespread in the rural areas of Jharkhand, mainly dominated by the tribal communities. After being labelled as ‘witches’, women are often tortured and ostracized from society if not killed. In 2015 alone, The Jharkhand Police Records data show that 98 witch-hunting deaths and 1857 incidents of witch-hunt have occurred from 2014 to 2016 in the state.

The Government of Jharkhand had, in 2001, introduced The Witchcraft Prevention Act in an attempt to prevent witchcraft practices and the identification of women as witches.²³

As can be seen from Table 4, the punishments for such serious crimes are not at all commensurate with the evilness of the crime. Furthermore, these crimes are underreported because the whole community is normally in support of the actions and the victims are too afraid to speak out. This translates to an almost free reign for the people who abuse women (accused for practicing witchcraft) to supposedly ‘solve’ their own problems like their child death or some unfortunate incidence in their family.

While it is imperative that stricter punishments need to be introduced for crimes related to witch hunting, it is also clear that these punishments alone will not fully deter witch hunts. This is because the problem lies in the lack of education and access to good healthcare in the regions where witch hunting is rampant. The access to good healthcare could check the problem of child mortality, pregnancy miscarriages, which the tribal and other rural communities believe is an act of women practicing witchcraft. A deficiency of these essential services results in superstitious beliefs which are very difficult to eradicate. Therefore, a lasting solution can only come through proper education and improved healthcare in the affected regions. This will, in turn, have a knock-on positive effect on other aspects of society like domestic violence which Jharkhand grapples with.

It is recommended that the Government of Jharkhand amend The Witchcraft Prevention Act, 2001 to introduce stricter punishments for witch hunting and ensure that the law is properly enforced by the local law enforcement agencies in order to reduce these heinous crimes against women. Awareness campaigns to educate the rural/tribal people through media and social network should be held.

TABLE 3. SHORTAGES IN RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN JHARKHAND

TYPE OF HEALTH WORKER	REQUIRED	WORKING	SHORTAGE IN 2016 (%)
HEALTH WORKER (MALE) AT SCS	3953	454	88.5
HEALTH ASSISTANTS (FEMALE)/LHV AT PHCS	327	19	94.2
DOCTORS AT PHCS	327	271	17.1
TOTAL SPECIALISTS AT CHCS (SURGEONS, OBGY, PHYSICIANS, PEDIATRICIANS)	752	122	83.8
NURSING STAFF AT PHCS & CHCS	1643	1054	35.8

Source: Economic Survey 2016-17, Government of Jharkhand

TABLE 4: CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS UNDER THE WITCHCRAFT PREVENTION ACT, 2001

CRIME	PUNISHMENT
IDENTIFYING SOMEONE AS A WITCH	IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 3 MONTHS AND/OR A FINE OF INR 1,000
CAUSING HARM IN THE NAME OF WITCHCRAFT	IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 6 MONTHS AND/OR A FINE OF INR 2,000
‘OJHA’* FOUND PRACTICING SORCERY	IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 1 YEAR AND/OR A FINE OF INR 2,000

* a person who claims that he has got power or knowledge to identify witches and to have a capacity to attain control over them or who uses ‘Jhad Phoonk’, either to cure or protect from evil spirit or who causes damage, suffering or harm for the purposes of healing any disease by giving ‘Tabij’, Mantra or any substance claiming to have the power to heal from witchcraft sufferings and includes persons known as ‘Guni’, ‘Shekha’ or ‘Jan’ or by any other name²⁴

Source: Economic Survey 2016-17, Government of Jharkhand

NOTES

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AUTHOR: KUMAR RAJESH

INPUTS: YUVRAJ KHETAN, SAKTI GOLDR, DIYA DUTTA

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Oxfam India | 4th and 5th Floor, Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, 1, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi 110001

Tel: +91 (0) 11 46538000 | Web: www.oxfamindia.org

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