

To
The Director
Health Department, Bihar

Seva Setu,
Patna, Bihar
+91-8294-633-403
sevasetu.org



22 June, 2016

Subject: Status of the Health Sub Centers (HSC) in Phulwari block, Patna, Bihar

Dear Sir

This is to bring to your notice that our field volunteers at Seva Setu, a social organization which aims at ensuring that people are able to make the best use of various government facilities, have found discrepancies in the working of Health Sub Centers (HSCs) of villages in the **Phulwari block in Patna, Bihar**.

Health sub centers are supposed to be the first point of contact for a community member to be seeking medical attention. It is supposed to be manned by an Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM) and a Male Health Worker (MHP). The ANM can prescribe medical advice and prescriptions. In cases of an escalation, the HSC is required to refer cases to the Primary Health Center (PHC).

What we observed in our field audit was the HSC system is totally non-functional. For any medical assistance, a community member is required to go to his/her respective PHC, thereby increasing the load of the PHC to attend to cases. **We have tabulated below a detailed report of our observations along with photographs for evidence.** We summarize our finding here -

Key observations:

- HSCs in 15 villages were visited.
- **13 out of the 15 HSCs were closed** and seemed to have been unused for a long while.
- One of the two HSCs that was open (Sorampur) did not look like it was regularly used either. **Expired tablets were found in its stock.** The other (Hasanpura), the most utilized and functional of the 15 HSCs that were visited, did not have all the facilities needed.
- **6 out of the 13 HSCs (Suitha, Dhibra, Alampur Gonpura, Parsa, Chilbili, Pashi) were in a deplorable condition** – there was cow fodder lying around, was very ill maintained with broken doors and infrastructure and had people playing cards in the premises.
- **One of the HSCs (Visnapur) runs inside a temple.** In some other communities, people did not know what an HSC was.

Please refer to the details tabulated below. We hope this data is taken in the light to improve existing conditions.

Yours sincerely
Nishant Ojha
Director, Seva Setu

Detailed review of the visits made to HSCs between 12 May and 28 May 2016:

Date of visit	Time of visit	HSC Centre name	Found Open/ Closed?	Building Rented or Owned	Other observations
12.05.2016	12:30 PM	Suitha	Closed	On Rent (Rs. 1000/ p.m) (as told by AWC Sevika)	When our team spoke to the Sevika of a nearby AWC (Anganwadi Centre), we were told that the HSC doesn't have any medicine (even basic ones like ORS/Paracetamol/IFA etc). When we spoke to some locals from the community, most of them didn't know what an HSC is and what basic facilities it ought to have. It looked like all of them visit the block PHC or the nearest 'quack' for basic medicines or treatment. Basis our observations and interviews, we believe this HSC is rarely opened and doesn't seem to be functional
12.05.2016	2:00 PM	Dhibra	Closed	On Rent (Rs. 50/ p.m)	The landlord says the ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wife-who is in-charge of the HSC) comes once a week but we believe the HSC has been lying closed for long. Doesn't at all look like a functional HSC. The building was in a very bad shape. Seemed like the roof would fall down any moment.
14.05.2016	11:30AM	Alampur Gompura	Closed	Govt.'s own	Doesn't look like a regularly functioning HSC. Sevika of the nearby AWC told us that the concerned ANM visits the HSC only once a month-on the first Wednesday of every month.
14.05.2016	1:00 PM	Sorampur	Open	Govt.'s own	There was a govt. functionary sitting in the HSC but the ANM was not there. The functionary told us that the concerned ANM seldom comes but he can't do anything about it. He also said that while there are medicines kept here, he doesn't have the authority to give it to anyone. Only the ANM is authorised to do so but she is seldom present. There were many tablets kept in a box but many of them had already crossed their expiry date. While there were several chairs and tables in the HSC, they were kept in a very dis-organised manner. Overall, though the HSC was open it didn't look like a regularly functional one.
14.05.2016	2:00 PM	Hasanpura	Open	On rent (running in ASHA's home at Rs 500/ p.m, as told by the concerned ASHA)	The HSC is running in an ASHA's home. She told us that the HSC was open but the ANM has gone to a nearby house for some checkup. The ANM came back in a little while and told us that she had gone for a child's checkup. She further said that she doesn't get the required support from PHC. The HSC has only one table and 2 chairs, doesn't have enough medicines (as told by the ANM). When we spoke to some locals in the neighborhood, we were told that the ANM comes regularly and the HSC is regularly functional but doesn't have all the required facilities.
14.05.2016	2:50 PM	Kurkuri	Closed	Govt.'s own	The building looked newly constructed but the HSC didn't seem to be functional. The place looked completely deserted. Nobody was present there so, we couldn't speak to anybody for more details
23.05.2016	12:45 PM	Kurthol	Closed	On Rent	People in the neighborhood didn't even know there was an HSC in their locality.
23.05.2016	1:45 PM	Parsa	Closed	Govt.'s own	The HSC has three rooms, of which 2 don't have doors and the third one was locked. There were some people playing cards just outside one of the rooms. Some people had kept their bundles of grass outside another room. Locals, when enquired, told us that the ANM occasionally comes, once every month or so.

23.05.2016	2:45 PM	Chilbilli	Closed	Govt.'s own	Closed. Also, didn't look functional. The HSC has 3 rooms, of which two were found open and one room was locked. The locked room had a table and chair inside. The whole HSC was very dirty. There were some people playing cards just outside one of the rooms.
26.05.2016	11:40AM	Tarva	Closed	On Rent	People in the neighborhood didn't even know there was an HSC in their locality.
26.05.2016	1:00 PM	Visnapur	Closed	On Rent (It runs inside a temple, rented at Rs 500/ p.m)	The HSC runs inside a temple and holds 2 VHNDs per week. It seemed like a better functioning HSC but was found closed at the time of our visit.
26.05.2016	2:15 PM	Dharsartha	Closed	On Rent	Some people in the neighbourhood knew that there was an HSC in their locality but didn't know what it was for.
28.05.16	11:20AM	Pashi	Closed	Govt.'s own	The HSC has 3 rooms, of which two were found open and one room was locked. The locked room was full of Fodder. There was nothing else in the HSC. The HSC was very dirty.
28.05.16	12:30 PM	Korji	Closed	On Rent	Only one room in the HSC. Some people in the neighbourhood told us that the HSC is opened only on VHNDs and not on any other day. No facilities, no medicines etc
28.05.16	2:00 PM	Koriyawan	Closed	Govt.'s own	The building looked newly constructed but the HSC didn't seem to be regularly functional. Some locals, when enquired, told us that they had never seen the HSC open

Attachments enclosed





