

# Sounamankhi Ghat, Khagaria



One of the 96 villages located on the river side!

**People do live here...**



# Disturbing facts ...

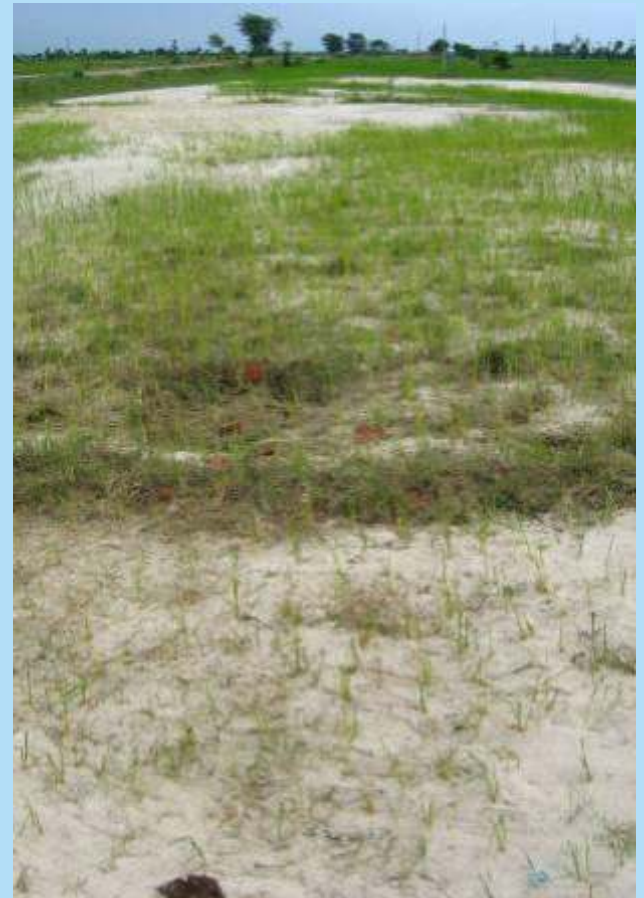


*I am Bhudhal Sada, panchayat member...*

The embankment has been largely responsible for converting my village from green to brown. Now the village appears to be located in western Rajasthan rather than in north Bihar.



# Harsh reality...



# What is their future?



# This is what they coexist with ...

- Earlier *dalhan* (pulses), *telhan* (oilseeds), paddy, chilies etc were grown here
- **Loans** from the local moneylender to meet their basic necessities like food, health care, and other social customs. The rate of interest is exorbitant
- **Bonded labour** in one form or the other still exists
- **Child trafficking and selling of daughters** in lieu of money to manage the day-to-day functions of a household is common

# Udhan Gharari, Khagaria



# Eroding assets...





# Multifaceted problems...



# Few more problems...

- Limited livelihood opportunities
- High rate of unemployment – low household income levels
- Inaccessible health facilities

# Mahishi North, Saharsa...



# Local situation...

The region was devastated due to the fatal breach of the eastern Kosi embankment on September 1984

196 villages from 8 blocks of Saharsa and Supaul districts were engulfed

River had dislodged nearly 0.47 million people from their homes

Destroyed 70,000 hectares of land

**Rajendra Jha, *Kosi Seva Sadan***





# Additional expenses...



To carry out *nikauni* in one bigha of land at least 40 women laborers are required @ Rs 12 (for four hours in a day) Approximately Rs 480 is spent on each cycle and it normally takes 2 –3 cycles to clear the field



# **Daiya Kharbar, Madhubani**



**The embankment at Daiya Kharbar  
breached last year**

# Senseless strategy...



Almost **2000-3000 acre of fertile land**  
was laden with sand to the height of 3-4 feet



Contd...



The village had **10 *pokhars*** and  
all of them were destroyed



# Khairi Dhuniya Tol, Madhubani



# Extent of recurring damage...



# Annual feature...



# Changing landscape...





# Salient features...

- Recurring disaster
- Annual displacement
- Inaccessibility to safe drinking water
- Total dependency on external sources
- Adhoc disaster management strategy – only short term relief oriented