

## Palanpur Survey 2022

Palanpur surveys are a unique example of the inter-disciplinary nature of social sciences at the CSH. Palanpur is a small village in Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh and has been surveyed every decade since independence starting from 1950s. The last two surveys of the village in 2008-10 and 2015 were organised with CSH as the base. Both research projects were funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and hosted jointly with London School of Economics. It was a collaborative research project with research scholars from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Statistical Institute and Ambedkar University, Delhi. Since 2007, CSH has been the physical and intellectual base of the surveys with another survey organised in 2022.

As part of the larger project on 'Extreme poverty-building evidence for effective action', a small resurvey of Palanpur village was included to understand the impact of the COVID pandemic on rural India. This project is in collaboration with University of Copenhagen with close involvement of Professor Finn Tarp and Professor Peter Lanjouw. The village holds the unique distinction of a village with in-depth surveys of the village in every decade since independence. The idea of using this village as an observatory for the present 2022 study stems from the existence of longitudinal data on the village which can be utilised for understanding the changes in the village, particularly on occupation, incomes and assets to understand the impact of the COVID pandemic in rural livelihoods. The findings from the village survey will be triangulated with available secondary data to develop a better understanding of the impact of COVID pandemic and the response of households to the pandemic.

Although primarily concerned with understanding the changes in the economy, a vibrant close collaboration with multi-disciplinary intellectual team allows this unique longitudinal village survey to extend the analysis of changes in the society, politics and economics of the village. For the purpose of the survey, two field visits of the village were organised in August 2021 and again in November 2021. However, given the beginning of the third wave of the pandemic in December 2021 which resulted in lockdowns and curfews in several parts of India delayed the survey. Finally, the survey could be started only in February-March 2022. However, despite the limitations of time considerable progress has been made in data collection. With a view to speed up the process of data collection as well as to take advantage of the existing database of households, the present survey is being conducted on hand-held tablets.

The questionnaire has been developed taking into account the need to maintain continuity with the existing longitudinal data base but also has been expanded to incorporate several aspects of response of the households to the COVID pandemic. The questionnaire development has been a collaborative effort with previous investigators of the village, our own field visits in 2021 and also taking into account the need to have comparability with similar data from other surveys. The questionnaire has also tried to maintain consistency with a survey in a village in Karnataka in Southern India. While the two villages are not comparable given the difference in local context, state government administration and livelihood options, attempt has been made to have as many overlapping questions as possible.

We hope to have a good quality data by the end of the survey. Since data for earlier rounds is already available, it will be merged with the earlier data to generate the data over a longer period of time. Our preliminary observations as well as preliminary data analysis suggests that the village has seen prosperity over the last decade. However, a large part of this prosperity seems to emerge from increasing diversification away from agriculture. The analysis will try and situate the observations from the village in the larger context of changes in India. To whatever extent possible, attempt will be made to identify the gainers and losers and some preliminary understandings of what factors are responsible for these changes.