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## ASHA: My Eight Tasks

### Knowing our village people

Improving health status of our people is a teamwork. You require participation of everyone—the people, the nurse, the anganwadi, the Dai, the schoolteachers and the village Panchayat. You also need the help of doctor. You will need to work with all of them so that people remain healthy.

Village people are not as rich as city people. They have to face many difficulties. They depend on land and farming. Some of them also work as wage labourers in nearby towns. In many villages, rearing cattle is a source of income. Most farmers depend upon rains. Many work as artisans. They work hard to live their life.

Some people are too poor. They are grouped as below poverty line (BPL) as per Government criteria. Often they come from scheduled castes, tribes and other marginalized groups. Families belonging to BPL are eligible for special benefits under government schemes. A village may have different settlements for different castes.

Everyone needs health care. Yet some groups of people are vulnerable to sickness. The poor people, the women, the children and adolescents and old people need health care more often. Their health needs are not adequately met. They have little or no money. At times they have to take loans at very high interest rates to