

BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT

Executive Summary of Bidar District (Karnataka)

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on 2001 census data with a purpose to improve the socio economic conditions and bring them to the all India level through a multi-sector development plan under the eleventh five year plan. Since, it is expected that there must be changes in those indicators after 2001; a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Bidar district in Karnataka state is one of the most backward districts in the State and occupies a lower position in economic as well as human development. The position of the district in Human development is 21st among 27 districts in the state. The district is a draught prone area which also adds to the vulnerability of the poor people. The poor are the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and the minorities living in the district.

District profile (2001 census based)

- Bidar district is primarily a rural district. As per 2001 census 77 percent of the total population lives in rural areas in 621 villages. In Aurad Taluka of the district 93.5 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Urban population is mainly concentrated in Bidar Taluka. (Census 2001).
- There is substantial concentration of minority population in the district. Muslim population constitutes 19.69 percent of total rural population as against the state average of 12.23 percent. Minorities form 22.64 percent of population (State Average 10.3 percent) and Scheduled Caste Population constitutes 19.89 percent and scheduled tribe constitute 12.13 percent of the total population (state average 16.2 and 6.55 percent respectively).
- The rural literacy rate is 56.7 percent, much below the state average of 59.3 percent. The female literacy rate is also very low, i.e., 43.6. This indicates that more than half of the rural women are deprived of access to knowledge, information and education.
- The overall work participation rate is 37.11 percent. It is only 31 percent in case of female workers. It is as low as 26.9 percent in Bidar Taluka. The proportion of main workers is only 28.3 percent and the marginal workers are 8.8 percent of

the total population. 62.4 percent of main workers are engaged in agriculture and 37.5 percent of them are working as casual labourers. Though the work participation rate is high, the availability of employment in dry land agriculture is very less. Further majority of these workers work as casual agricultural Labourers and workers in informal sector where the wages are low and the availability of employment is also not regular. This indicates the low levels of livelihoods of the people in the district.

- There are basic deficiencies in infrastructure at village level as observed from the sample Village profiles. This has been a major detrimental factor for slow growth in rural areas throughout the period. There is acute shortage of Health, housing and drinking water facilities in rural areas. In the survey villages, only 20 percent of the villages have PHC and the mean distance for travel is 9.27 kms. Only 50 percent of the villages have a sub center which meets the day today requirements of the people. There is also shortage of drinking water facilities. State average is the minimum benchmark that needs to be reached on priority basis.
- There is also shortage of higher level educational institutions and the average distance of travel is 13.37 kms. even for an intermediate education. There is also shortage of credit and financial institutions within a distance of 7 kms. A significant gap is also observed in a availability of the infrastructure for providing modern agricultural inputs to the farmers.

Socio-economic Conditions and other Amenities in 2008– Major findings of the survey

- In 2008 (based on survey findings), Bidar district lagged behind the all India average in four (50 percent) out of eight indicators and also lagged behind the all India level in terms of two more health related indicators. The table below shows the gap between all India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritizes the development intervention vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and all India figures are for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06. Therefore, the distance from the all India figures may be still higher at present.

Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Plan

Sl. No.	Indicators	Bidar 2008	All India 2005	Development Gaps Between All India and District	Development Priority of the District
		(1)	(2)	(3=1-2)	
1	Rate of literacy	55.9	67.3	-11.38	3
2	Rate of female literacy	45.8	57.1	-11.27	4
3	Work participation rate	42.0	38.0	4.01	6
4	Female work participation	29.3	21.5	7.83	7

	rate				
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	45.1	59.4	-14.34	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	88.24	87.9	0.34	5
7	Percentage of households with electricity	88.4	67.9	20.45	8
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	9.4	39.2	-29.84	1
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	23.0	43.5	-20.46	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	32.7	38.7	-6.02	-

Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators:

1. Sanitation

The toilet facilities are seriously lacking in rural households in the district. Only 9.4 percent of the households in rural areas have this facility. Others practice open defecation. There is no significant difference across the Hindu and Muslim Households which indicates poor level of sanitation in rural areas. Sanitation is an important requirement of better health conditions of the people. This situation prevails in the district despite of the implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign programme which aims at universalisation of sanitation facilities by 2009; the district is nowhere near the target. The gap between the district and the Nation is 29.8percent. Drainage facilities are also not available in rural areas. The multi sectoral plan should bridge this basic development gap in the district.

2. Housing

The housing conditions of the people require urgent attention of the development policy. Only 45 percent of the households live in safe houses. Shelter is a basic requirement of human life. A house not only gives privacy but also provides an identity and social status to the people. Though the schemes like Indira Awas Yojana and Ambedkar Housing programme are in implementation in the district, their focus is mainly on SC and St population. There is a need for separate Housing programme for minorities in the district.

3. Literacy and education – Focus on Female literacy

Literacy is another grey area that needs urgent attention. The literacy rate of the district 55.9 percent which is well below the state average of 66.6 percent (2001) and National average of 67.3 percent. The female literacy is only 45.8 percent much lower than the State (56.6 in 2001) as well as National average (57.1 percent). The rural female literacy rate in 2001 was 43.6 percent. The progress in literacy is very slow though the district is brought under District Primary Education Programme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Education is an important tool for empowerment of Marginalized groups therefore it should get required focus in Multi sectoral plan. The findings indicate that Muslim Households lack higher levels education and skills which is essential for higher level of earnings. Further the asset base of these households is very low; therefore, education and personal skills are only the powerful tools for their empowerment. High schools for girls with Hostel facilities are very essential to promote female literacy and empowerment. Scholarships and Education loans should be given with greater flexibility to enable the children from the poor families to get higher education.

Primary schools with free food, residential facilities and sports and games facilities should be started to promote interest in education among the children- especially for the Muslim Children. The schools should start with Urdu Medium and may be slowly converted into Kannada medium at higher primary level to help the children to get access to higher education. Many children from Muslim families drop out as there is no Urdu medium high school in the near place. **Where ever possible, the Kannada medium High schools should be attached with an Urdu section in the schools in rural areas.**

4. Safe Drinking Water

It is an issue of serious concern that 12.24 percent of the households in rural areas are denied access to safe drinking water. The conditions in some of the sample villages are very bad. The water supply schemes need to be implemented more effectively in near future. During the survey, it is observed that people do not have adequate knowledge about the water supply schemes. Further, many mini water supply schemes and Piped water supply schemes are not functioning regularly due to leakages and breakages. There is no adequate provision for maintenance in the budget. The repairs are also delayed causing lot of inconvenience and additional strain on rural women. The rural households are thus deprived of a basic requirement of human life. The plan should make provision for home connections and ensure adequate and regular supply of water.

5. Employment Opportunities

Though the work participation rate of the district is above the national average, the employment is mainly in dry land agriculture which is both insecure and less remunerative. The average wage rate for Male labour is Rs. 60-70 and for female labour it is Rs. 30. Therefore, employment needs to be given top priority. Employment is available for only 6-7 months in a year. These observations are made in other studies also. (Dhaba S H 1996).

There is a scope to generate employment in non farm sector. The district has better climate to produce fruits and horticulture crops. There is also scope for animal husbandry and development of Dairy Industry.

The service sector is growing in the district. There is a need to sustain its growth and increase the participation of these households in this sector through provision of credit, marketing and skills. Promotion of entrepreneurship among the Muslim community may help them to develop the small industries and trade. The focus of the plan should be on training and skill development in these specific areas.

Additional Areas of Intervention

1. Access to health facilities is another area of concern, as 80 % of the villages are without any medical facilities. The PHCs are also not functioning effectively due to shortage of Staff and medicines. As a result the poor households have to depend on private doctors to meet their health requirements. It is observed that many of the households have incurred heavy debts to meet medical expenditure. Institutional delivery of child is only 32.7 percent of the total cases. There is a need to increase the provision of health facilities. A provision for mobile health clinic should be made to reach the people living in remote villages, Tandas and small hamlets.
2. Expansion of irrigation facilities is essential to reduce insecurity of livelihood from dry land agriculture. The area under irrigatin is only 11.9 percent of the net area sown. Emphasis on watersheds and minor irrigation will help to attain this.
3. Roads and Transport facilities are inadequate in rural areas more so in remote and border villages.