

# **BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT**

## *Executive Summary of Darbhanga District (Bihar)*

### **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 all these indicators 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 inform the multi-sectoral development plan (MSDP) with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Darbhanga, one of the most backward districts of Bihar, stands at the bottom of the 90 minority-concentration districts.

### **District Profile:**

- As per the 2001 India Census, Darbhanga district had a population of 30 lakhs. Of this 22% is minority population which consists mainly of Muslims. Near 16% of the district population consists of Scheduled Castes as well.
- Darbhanga has an average literacy rate of 74%, which is higher than the national average; male literacy is 87% and female literacy is 60%.
- In Darbhanga, 15% of the population is under 6 years of age. The population of Hindus is 77.6% and of Muslim is 22.35 %.
- Thus overall population of Muslims in the district is higher than the state average of 16.17%.
- The population of Muslims is concentrated in a few blocks where they have a substantial population, like Jale (32%), Singhwara (31%), Kiotiranway (34%), Kiratpur and Gora Bauram, 30% each. In other blocks, their population is above 15%, with the lowest being in Purbi (7.4%)

### **Development Priorities as per indicator:**

**Table 1: Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Plan**

Sl. No.	Indicators	Darbangha 2008	All India 2005	Development Gaps Between All India & District	Development Priority of the District
		(1)	(2)	(3=1-2)	(4)
1	Rate of literacy	55.2	67.3	-12.11	6
2	Rate of female literacy	43.0	57.1	-14.13	5
3	Work participation rate	37.9	38.0	-0.08	7
4	Female work participation rate	24.0	21.5	2.50	8
5	% of households with <i>puccaw</i> alls	31.8	59.4	-27.62	3
6	% of households with safe drinking water	89.56	87.9	1.66	4
7	% of households with electricity	11.4	67.9	-56.46	1
8	% of households with water closet latrines	6.6	39.2	-32.64	2
9	% of fully vaccinated children	40.4	43.5	-3.10	-
10	% of child delivery in a health facility	10.7	38.7	-28.00	-

- 1. Electricity (Rank 1):** The condition of electricity is worse if one compares it with the all- India level scenario, as only one in ten households are electrified in the district (11.44 %). This is a universal phenomenon, without any community differences, as the survey findings hardly reflect any difference between Hindu and Muslim households. Those houses where there is no electricity are 99% dependent upon oil lamps. The lack of electricity further reduces the scope for improvement of micro-enterprise activities in the districts. These development gaps need to be addressed first under the MSDP.
- 2. Closet toilets (Rank 2):** The availability of closet toilets is an indicator of the sanitation and health status of the district. The present study indicates that very few households are reported to have latrines within the houses. Specifically, only 6.78% households have in-house toilet facilities, and the remaining 93.22% go outside for their toilet needs. The difference is large once the condition of the district is compared with the all-India level. Various levels of intervention are required, to create awareness about the need to have a toilet facility as well financial support for constructing it.
- 3. Housing (Rank 3):** Near 90% of those reported to have houses mentioned that they were on their own land, whereas only 32% mentioned them to be semi-*pucca* or *pucca* houses, indicating the existing gap in housing. The MSDP has to earmark some funds to promote housing in the district.

- 4. Safe drinking water (Rank 4):** Though, in general, the status of the safe drinking water in the district is better than the national average, it still requires attention as a significant number i.e., 46% households depend on public sources for water. It is essential to improve the distribution of the public sources and ensure the quality of the private sources as well.
  
- 5. Education (Rank 5 and 6):** The rate of literacy is low as compared to the all-India level. There is an even bigger gap in the female literacy. 42% of the household members are illiterate and another 22% are having only below primary level education. Near 25% of the children belonging to the age group of 6-14 are not attending school. It is essential to look at this issue and the gender aspects of enrollment also need to be reviewed critically. It is necessary to develop programmes to ensure the enrolment of all children and to retain them in school with scholarships, mid-day meals, etc.
  
- 6. Employment (Rank 7 and 8):** The work participation rate (both over all and female) is at par with the all-India rate. However, it is not an acceptable rate and a lot needs to be done in this regard to improve it. Another issue that was noticed was the significant number of people involved in the low income-generating activities. In this regard, the MSDP has to promote employment by developing programmes and schemes that can provide an extra activity and extra income, and also absorb some people into the work force.

**Other issues:**

**Health:** The situation regarding vaccination of children is not as critical as may be expected. At the all-India level 43.5% of the children under 14 years are fully vaccinated, and for Darbhanga district the figure is 40.0%. But there is difference as far as child delivery health facilities are concerned. At the all-India level, 38.7% of child deliveries are institutional, but for the district the figure is 10.7%. Here there is a big development gap of 28 points. Though government institutions have rapidly penetrated the district, private medical practitioners and quacks are a major source of medical service in the district and are easily available in most of the villages.

