

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the report of the Baseline Survey (BLS) of Minority Concentration District (MCD) Meerut, Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). It is one of the 90 identified MCDs of the country. The Survey has been sponsored by Ministry of Minority Affairs (MMA), Government of India for exploring development deficit in the availability of educational and health infrastructure; basic amenities such as housing, safe drinking water, sanitary toilets etc. and critical linkages like rural roads, ITIs, banking facility, markets etc. It also intends to identify artisanal income generating activities.

A sample of 900 households from 30 selected villages of the district (30 households from each village), has been taken for detail enquiry. The Report contains five chapters including Introduction and Conclusion. Profiles of the district and sample villages are presented in chapter-2 and 3 while chapter-4 analyses multi-dimensional status of sample households. Hence explanation and analysis of the data moves from macro to micro level i.e. from the district through villages to households and religious communities.

It is a multi-dimensional Survey. Nonetheless development deficit, presented below, relates with 10 critical indicators of development i.e. Rate of Literacy, Rate of Female Literacy, Work Participation Rate (WPR), Female Work Participation Rate, percentage of households with *Pucca* house, percentage of households with safe drinking water, percentage of households with water closet latrine, percentage of households with electricity, percentage of fully vaccinated children and percentage of institutional deliveries. Results of household's survey are judged against latest available national estimates in order to identify developmental gaps. Development deficit rank of 10 indicators is measured on 10-point score-scale. While point one represents highest rank of deficit, point ten indicates lowest rank.

S.No	Indicators	Survey Result	National Estimate	Development Gaps	Development Deficit Ranking
A	Socio-economic				
1	Rate of Literacy	64.11	67.3	-3.17	7
2	Rate of Female Literacy	54.81	57.1	-2.27	8
3	WPR	26.12	38	-11.9	6
4	Female WPR	5.08	21.5	-16.45	3
B	Basic Amenities				
5	Percentage of households with Pucca House	28.54	59.4	-30.86	1
6	Percentage of Households with safe drinking water	100	87.9	12.1	10
7	Percentage of Households with Water Closet Latrine	38.46	39.2	-0.74	9
8	Percentage of Households with Electricity	52.51	67.9	-15.39	4
C	Health				
9	Percentage of Fully vaccinated children	30.53	44	-13.47	5
10	Percentage of Institutional Delivery	29.80	48.7	-17.7	2

Note: Survey data of the district (Col.1) pertains to rural area, whereas data in Col.2 represent average estimate of the Country.
Data in Col. 2 from Sl. No. 6 to 9 pertain to year 2005-06 from NFHS-3 and the rest of the data in Col.2 pertains to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

- The district lags behind national average on all indicators of development, shown in the above Table, except safe drinking water as per the findings of the survey.
- Top five areas of development deficit, emerge from the survey, pertain to Basic Amenities [*Pucca* house (rank-1) and Electricity (Rank-4)], Health [Institutional Deliveries (Rank-2) and Fully Vaccinated Children (Rank-5)] and Socio-Economic Status [Female WPR (Rank-3)]
- The survey reveals that all sample villages have been electrified but many sample households do not have electricity connection. Hence electricity is available but not accessible to all. Furthermore, electricity is a problem due to its insufficient and irregular supply in villages of district Meerut.
- Though maximum deficit exists in the availability of *Pucca* house, many sample households are found having semi-*pucca* house. Minimum deficit exists in the availability of Water Closet Latrine.
- It is a matter of high concern that areas of Health exhibit development deficit despite availability of 'ASHA' and '*Anganwadi*' in each sample village.
- Undoubtedly, low WPR of female is a challenging problem since it is caused by multiple economic and cultural factors.
- Although scenario of literacy does not appear shocking as it ranks on lower side of development deficit score-scale (i.e. Average Literacy 7th and Female Literacy 8th)

- What is problematic is the educational attainment. Educational attainment of the people consistently declines as the level of education goes up. Gender gap enlarges with the increase in the level of education and minorities emerge most educationally backward communities. There are significant problems related with availability of educational infrastructure in the district. First, availability of educational infrastructure in the district is lower than state average. In 2004-05 the availability of educational institutions like Primary schools, Secondary schools, Higher Secondary schools and Degree colleges is 78 per cent, 22 per cent, 8.0 per cent and 0.86 per cent respectively in U.P. On the contrary the district has 63.1 per cent Primary schools, 8.0 per cent Secondary schools, 8.0 per cent Senior Sec. Schools and 0.1 per cent Degree colleges per lakh population.

Second available educational institutions in the district are not equally distributed in proportion to population size of sample villages in 2001. For example 30 sample villages have a total population of 1,86,917 in 2001. Five of these villages namely Khiwai, Shahjahanpur, Harra, Rasulpur Dhaulri, and Ajrara constitute 64,203 (35.39%) population of sample villages and are mostly inhabited by Muslims. Availability of educational institutions per lakh population in thirty sample villages is as follows: Primary Schools 31.56, Middle Schools 15.51, Sec. Schools 4.81, Sen. Sec. Schools 3.74, College 0.00, Industrial School 0.00, Training school 0.00, Adult Literacy Centre 4.81 and Other Centres 3.74. On the contrary five top minority concentration villages have 10 Primary Schools, 6 Middle Schools, 2 Secondary Schools, 2 Senior Sec. Schools, College 0.00, Industrial School 0.00, Training school 0.00, Adult Literacy Centre 0.00 and Other Centres 0.00 per lakh population as per Census of India 2001.

Strategies for Intervention

Although literacy does not figure in the top five areas of development deficit, we propose that education and health should be given priority in the Multi-sectoral District Development Plan. For education and health are valuable in their own right and have strong linkages with broad based development and growth. Indeed, greater education level facilitates public discussion of social needs and encourages, inform collective demands e.g. health care, basic amenities and social securities. Neither life chances of disadvantaged groups like women and minorities in

market situation can be improved nor their active participation in civil society can be ensured without educating them. Condition of education and health may be improved in the district if following measures are taken:

- Opening of schools upto Senior Secondary level for both male and female in every village having population of 10,000.
- Establishment of ITIs at block level.
- Intensive social mobilization like that of UNICEF social mobilization network, is needed to motivate people for education and health care. This is more important for minorities as they are found having lowest motivation for education.
- Awareness campaign is to be launched for making people aware about Government schemes for their benefit.
- Effective implementation of Government schemes and monitoring of educational and health services are urgently required as many people complain about corruption and deficiencies in this area.
- Providing health and educational facilities to villages in proportion to size of population.

Many of the sample households are found deficient in basic amenities like *pucca* house, electricity and sanitary toilets. Hence government assistance for construction of *pucca* house and sanitary toilet is to be provided not only to BPL households but also to every household of SCs, OBCs and minorities which does not own agricultural land. If BPL remains criterion for providing Government assistance, a systematic and scientific survey for the identification of BPL families is to be conducted immediately. Since many Informants and Respondents complain irregularities and disparities in the identification of BPL families in villages.

Many measures can be taken for improving WPR and generating employment opportunities in the district. Some of these measures are as follows:

- Training of modern technology in food processing may be provided at Tehsil level.
- Loan for the purchase of milch animal be provided without any hassle.
- Extension facilities in dairy development with special emphasis on procurement and collection of milk through establishment of dairy cooperatives.
- Creating marketing facility to push up agro based industry should be given priority.
- Meerut is known for many of its artisanal industries such as handloom, beads, embroidery, carpet weaving, dyeing etc. Many

- employment opportunities can be generated through development of these industries. This may be achieved through providing, easy credit to artisans, creating market facilities for their products and promoting awareness among them about government schemes.
- Self Help Groups (SHGs) virtually do not function in district Meerut. Therefore, active campaign through local NGOs should immediately be launched for motivation and encouragement to form SHGs.
 - Lack of banking facilities and insufficient supply of electricity are problems, which have been, underscore invariably by every villager.

Last but not least priority should be given to minority concentration villages for schemes to be formulated under Multi-sectoral District Development Plan as they are found most illiterate, economically backward, demotivated and deprived.