

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

District Report

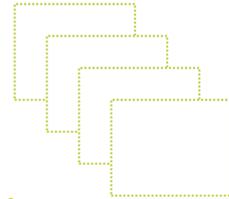
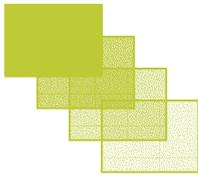
EAST KAMENG

Study Commissioned by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Study Conducted by



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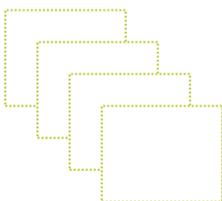


Commissioned by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, this Baseline Survey was planned for 90 minority concentrated districts (MCDs) identified by the Government of India across the country, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi coordinates the entire survey.

Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati has been assigned to carry out the Survey for four states of the Northeast, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur.

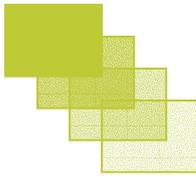
This report contains the results of the survey for East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The help and support received at various stages from the villagers, government officials and all other individuals are most gratefully acknowledged. ■



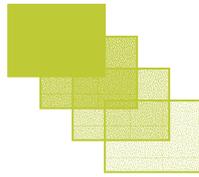
Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development is an autonomous research institute of the ICSSR, New delhi and Government of Assam.





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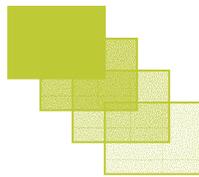
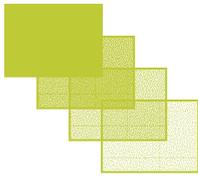


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BACKGROUND

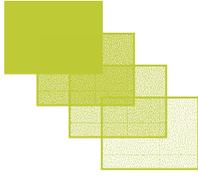
Issues relating to disparities across socio-religious communities have attracted much attention of the government of India of late. There is a growing realization about the relative backwardness of the religious minorities more particularly the Muslim as a religious community in India. The Sachar Committee, which was instituted specifically to look into the relative deprivations of Muslims vis-à-vis other socio religious categories in various dimensions of development, in its report on “Social Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India”, exhibited deficits and deprivations of Muslims in all dimensions of development.

In order to ensure that the benefits of schemes and programmes of government reach the relatively disadvantaged segments of society districts having a substantial minority population on the basis of backwardness parameters were identified. Based on 2001 Census, using two backwardness parameters, viz., (1) religion specific socio-economic indicators at the district level in terms of literacy rate; female literacy rate; work participation rate; and female work participation rate and (2) basic amenities indicators at the district level in terms of percentage of households with pucca walls, safe drinking water, electricity and w/c latrines, the Ministry of Minority Affairs identified 90 Minority Concentration Districts throughout the country which are falling behind the national average in these parameters. Of these 90 districts, 53 districts have both socio-economic and basic amenities below national average, 21 districts have socio-economic parameters below national average and 16 have basic amenities below national average. The basic idea is to formulate a multi-sectoral programme for the 90 MCDs which envisage for providing beneficiary oriented schemes to minorities and infrastructure development for the entire community in the districts.

Against this backdrop the baseline survey in MCDs was conceived to

- (a) identify how existing programmes are currently targeting these districts and on the basis of the assessment to develop special programmes to provide these facilities and ensure accessibility to them in the most backward areas in a faster way; and
- (b) create socio-economic profiles of the targeted districts, and receive inputs that would help improve literacy rate, especially female literacy rate, and overall work participation rate, especially female work participation rate that have a significant impact on economic development.

The survey would more specifically try to identify the gaps in (1) availability of infrastructure like schools, health centers, ICDE centers and drinking water supply (2) housing and sanitation (3) critical linkages like rural road, ITIs, banking facilities, markets etc. and also (4) identification of artisanal income generating activities in which villagers have comparative advantage.



METHODOLOGY

The present survey has been confined to rural areas. Considering the availability of data Tehsil level information has been used for stratification purpose.

Villages are taken as the first stage units (FSU) for the survey. However, before selection of sample villages, each district under the coverage was stratified first. All tehsils in a district were grouped into three strata in terms of minority population after arranging them in descending order of minority population. The grouping/stratification has been done in such a way so that the first stratum constitutes top 20% of tehsils, the second stratum constitutes middle 50% and the third/last stratum constitutes bottom 30% of tehsils in the arranged frame. The ranges vary in accordance with degree of concentration of minority population in respective districts.

Depending upon the size of the district, 25 or 30 villages were selected from each district. 25 villages were chosen if the rural population of the district is below 5 lacs; otherwise 30 villages were chosen.

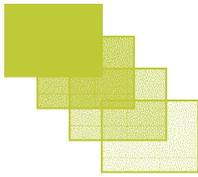
The number of villages surveyed in each stratum was directly proportional to the share of each stratum/group of tehsils (according to population) to the district population, subject to a minimum allocation of 6 villages to each stratum.

Required number of sample villages from each stratum have been selected as per the probability proportion to size (PPS) with replacement, size being total population of the village as per Census 2001.

In case of household selection, complete listing of all households (by door to door visit) has been done in case of sample villages with less than 1200 population. However, in case of those villages with population 1200 or more, three or more hamlet-groups (hg's) were formed in the village as per the practice followed by NSSO¹. From among them, a sample of 2 hg's was selected for listing of households. The hg having maximum concentration of minority population was selected with probability 1. From among the remaining hg's, one more hg were selected at random. The listing and sampling of households were independent for each selected hg.

In each selected hg, the listed households were grouped into strata as per the minority status of the household. In other words, all Muslim households formed one second-stage stratum (SSS), all Christian households another SSS, and so on.

About 30 households were selected in all from each sample village for detailed enquiry. These 30 households were allocated over 2 selected hg's (if hg's formed) and among the respective SSS in proportion to total number of households listed in the respective frames. A minimum of 2 households were allocated to an ultimate SSS. The required number of sample households from each SSS were selected by systematic random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR). In case of village having less than 30 households all the households were surveyed.



The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is

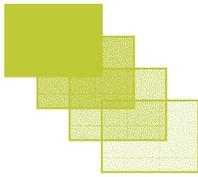
Approximate present population of the village	no. of hamlet- group to be formed
1200 to 1799	3
1800 to 2399	4
2400 to 2999	5
3000 to 3599	6
..... and so on	

Following the above methodology, total 25 villages of the district East Kameng were identified, and 30 households from each village was selected for the sample survey. The present report is based on the data gathered from the total 900 sample households of the district.

TOOLS USED

Relevant data were collected with the help of (1) Rural Household Schedule and (2) Village Schedule. The rural household schedule tries to capture different dimensions of socio-economic and situational variables like employment, migration and occupation details, land and other assets, ownership of productive and other assets, livestock details, housing status, rural indebtedness, family income and expenditure, current educational status and skill training, aspiration of parents of current students, awareness and participation, local conflicts and loss of life and property, access to media and communication and general aspirations of the people.

The village schedule tries to garner authentic data regarding the village. Information such as basic population data, facilities, village organizations, land use and land transfers, credit facilities, commuting and migration data, job and wage related information, information on individual beneficiary oriented programmes, data on education including physical facilities, health, different development programmes, common property resources, and the public distribution system prevailing in the rural areas. ■



A BRIEF PROFILE OF EAST KAMENG

2.1 Brief History

Till 1914, East Kameng was part of Darang District of Assam. By Government of India's notification of 1914, the area covered by this district became part of the western section of the North East Frontier Tract. This tract was renamed in 1919 as Balipara Tract with its' headquarter at Charduar in Assam. In 1946, the area covered by Balipara Tract was divided into Sela Agency and Subansiri Area and the headquarters continued to be at Charduar. In 1954, Sela Agency was renamed as the Kameng Frontier Division with its' headquarter at Bomdila. In 1965, Kameng Frontier was renamed as Kameng District. In 1980, the district was bifurcated into two districts namely East Kameng (Formerly known as Sapla Subdivision) and West Kameng (formerly known as Bomdila subdivision). Now it has become an independent district with headquarter at Seppa (Till 1975, Seppa was Sapla meaning marshy land in local dialect).

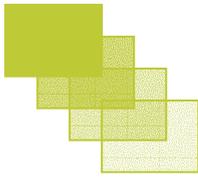
2.2 Area and location

East Kameng district is situated in the western part of Arunachal Pradesh surrounded by West Kameng in the west, Papumpare in the East, Part of Lower Subansiri and Macmohan (International Boundary) line in the North and Sonitpur District of Assam in the South covering an area of 4134 sq kms. The entire district barring a small area on the southernmost tip of Assam is mountainous. The deep gorges and narrow valleys frequently open into wide valleys. The district lies between 92° 36" E to 93° 24" E longitudes and 26° 56" to 27° 59" Latitudes. The District headquarters Seppa lies on the bank of river Kameng. Important tributaries of river Kameng which are turbulent and high speed rivers are Para, Pachi, Pachok, Pakoti, Keya Bichom, Pacha, Pakke, Papu, Passa, Narmorah and Dikalmukh.

The rugged terrains of the district make transport and communication extremely difficult. There are few surface roads, which remain cutoff during summer seasons due to flood and landslide.

2.3 Climate

The climatic condition of this district varies largely with topography and altitude. The altitude of different administrative centres varies ranging from 362 m to 1906 m. The foothill zone is subtropical and has hot and humid climate. Average temperature decreases as elevations increase in the mountains. The district experiences heavy rainfall mostly between June and October. The winter in this district is extremely cold. As a result of heavy rainfall during monsoon season, most of the rivers and streams are highly inflated and disrupt normal transport system and communication. Heavy monsoon is also responsible for speedy soil erosion and landslides which makes the maintenance of roads quite costly. Many developing activities are held up during the monsoons.



2.4 The People

The Major tribes inhabiting this district are Bangnis, Akas, Mijis and Puroiks (Sulung). Each tribe has their own dialects, customs, and religion. Social and cultural events are very much associated with their life, environment and other relevant activities. The Bangnis also called Nishi, Nishang, Nissi and Sullungs inhabit the area contiguous to the North Eastern Kameng extending up to Lower Subansiri District. The Akas inhabit the Bana Area and Mijis inhabit the area up to the eastern region of West Kameng District i.e. Lada Circle. The Sulungs (Puroiks) are a very scattered tribe.

2.5 Administrative Division

East Kameng District is comprised of two sub-divisions- Seppa and Chayangtajo for administrative purposes. Administrative responsibility of Seppa Sub-Division lies with the Deputy Commissioner, East Kameng District who is also the overall in-charge of the district. The Chayangtajo Sub-Division is under the charge of Sub-Divisional Officer. These sub-divisions are further divided into 13 circles which are treated as the lower administrative division, looked after by the respective Circle Officers. A circle consists of a few or more villages and not as territorial unit. There are seven administrative blocks and 310 inhabited villages in the district.

2.6 Resource Base

2.6.1 Population

Total population of East Kameng district is 57179 as per the 2001 census. The density of population is 14 per square km. During the period 1991-2001 growth rate of population in the district was 17.9 percent. However, rural population in the district had shown a negative growth of 16.5 percent during 1991-2001. Altogether 86.7 percent population of the district belongs to the scheduled tribe communities. About 26.2 percent population of the district lives in the lone urban center of Seppa.

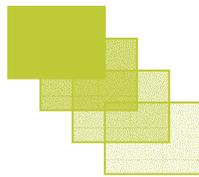
Around 14 percent population in the district is below 5 years and 29.1 percent between 5 to 14 years. Altogether 53 percent population belongs to the age group of 15 to 59 years and 3.9 percent are above the age of 60 years. This reveals that the district has high fertility as well as mortality rates.

Housing information reveal that about 11 percent families in this district live in permanent houses, 26 percent live in semi-permanent houses and more than 63 percent families live in katcha houses (Statistical Abstract of Arunachal, 2006).

Altogether 25.4 percent population in this district belongs to Christian faith and 17.4 percent are of Dony Polo faith. More than half of the population (55.2 percent) in this district belongs to other faiths or religion not stated.

2.6.2 Sex- Ratio

East Kameng district has a favourable sex ratio of 985. The overall sex ratio of Arunachal is 893. There is scope to explain that this underdeveloped district has less male centric immigration compared to some other districts of the state.



2.6.3 Literacy Rate

Literacy rate of the district is just 40.8 percent. Moreover, there is high disparity in male female literacy. Male literacy rate of the district is 52.7 percent whereas female literacy is just 28.9 percent. Rural literacy rate in this district is further low at 31.5 percent and rural female literacy is even lower with about 21 percent. Educational attainment level in this district is low with just 15.2 percent literates have passed high school examination and 4.3 percent have completed graduation.

Enrolment of students in the age group of 5-14 in this district is high at 93.3 percent (Child Census, 2006, Aruanachal).

2.6.4 Distribution of work force

Altogether 45.4 percent people in this district are engaged in some form of work. Among them work status of 4.2 percent is marginal workers. The proportion of workers engaged in agriculture in this district is about 71 percent. This figure is higher than the state figure of 58.4 percent.

Table 2.1 Distribution of workforce in East Kameng

Total Population			Total Workers (main & marginal)			Percentage to total workers			
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Cultivators	Agri-labourer	HH industry workers	Other workers
57179	28802	28377	25917	13976	11941	70.95	2.74	0.33	25.98

2.7 Natural Resource Base

2.7.1 Land, its quality and used

Out of the total land areas 26.7 percent are put to agricultural practice. Altogether 5.2 percent lands are cultivable waste land. In this mountainous district other lands are permanent pastures, fallow or economically prohibitive to put into agriculture practices.

Table 2.2: Land use pattern in East Kameng (in hectare)

Operational Area	Net area sown	Current fallow	Uncultivated land	Fallow land	Cultivable waste	Land not available for cultivation	Net irrigated area
19081	10563	530	1117	5600	892	289	1563
Percentage	55.35	2.77	5.85	29.34	4.67	1.51	14.80

2.7.2 Forestry

More than 60 percent of total geographical area of the district is under forest cover. The areas under different types of forest in the district are as follows-

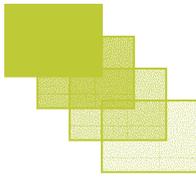


Table 2.3: Types of forest cover in East Kameng District (in square km)

Reserved	Protected	Wildlife sanctuary	Proposed	Unclassified state forest
1063.86	0.27	861.95	17.70	537.74

The figures on the value of exploited forest released by the forest department of the state of Arunachal reveal that negligible proportion of the forest resources of the district is presently being utilised (Statistical Abstract of Arunachal, 2006).

2.8 Economy

As per the BPL census of 2002 altogether 66 percent families (65.8 percent in the state as a whole) of the East Kameng district fall under poverty category, spending less than Rs. 20,000 per family per annum (Statistical Abstract of Arunachal, 2006). However, as per the planning commission estimates for the period 2004-05 about 18 percent population in Arunachal live under poverty.

2.8.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of East Kameng District. *Jhum* cultivation is prevalent in the district, although it is being slowly replaced by permanent cultivation. The main crops of the district are Paddy, Maize, Millet, Sweet-Potato, Chilly and Vegetables. About 5.3 percent of net sown areas are brought under fertilizer use in this district. Food grain productivity (632 kg per hectare) particularly of paddy (367 kg per hectare) is very low in this district. However, maize shows better productivity with 1389 kg per hectare (1411 in the state) in the district. Productivity of potato is 5852 kg (7200 kg is the state average), ginger 4127 kg (5900 kg in the state) and chili is 1417 kg per hectare (1485 kg in the state) in East Kameng. All these indicate that efforts are required to raise the yield.

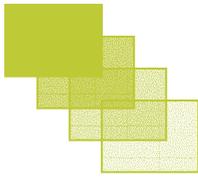
The climatic condition of East Kameng district is conducive for Horticulture. Diversity of land, topography and agro-climatic conditions are suitable for both temperate and sub-tropical Horticultural crops. The main horticultural crops of the district are Orange, Pine-apple, Banana and Guava. The department provides seeds, fruits plant and barbed wires to the farmers free of cost.

2.8.2 Handloom and Handicraft

There are eight craft training and weaving centers in the district located in Seppa, Pipu, Chayagtajo, Pakke-Kessang, Khenewa, Bameng, Lada and Bana. The value of turnover from these training centers was less than Rs. 2 lakh during 2000-01. There were just two SSI units in the district during 2000-01. One was printing press and the other was cane and bamboo industry employing altogether 9 person.

2.8.3 Livestock and Poultry

As per the livestock census of 2003 East Kameng district had 8.4 percent of the total 13.55 lakh livestock of the state of Arunachal. The district had 29.4 thousand cattle (6.4 percent



of the state's total), 22 thousand goats (9.5 percent of the state's total), 31.2 thousand pigs (6.4 percent of the state's total) and 20.4 thousand Mithun (11.1 percent of the state's total). The district also had 82.3 thousand poultry which was 6.3 percent of the state's total.

There are seven veterinary dispensaries, seven veterinary aid centers, 12 cattle grading centers, one diagnostic laboratory, one cattle breeding farm and one poultry breeding farm in this district.

2.9 Infrastructure

2.9.1 *Transport and Telecommunication*

The main reason behind slow development of the district is absence of road communication. Only Seppa, Chayang-Tajo, Bameng and Seijosa circles headquarters are connected by road, whereas the remaining six circle headquarters have not yet connected by road and one has to walk up to two days to reach the remotest circle headquarter i.e. Lada. Three circle HQs namely Pipu-Dipu, Lada and Pakke-Kessang are being air fed through AN-32 Sorties. Most of the villages are conveyed by porter tracts.

There are 123 km black topped, 181 km water bound macadam and 131 km un-surfaced road in this district. Altogether there is just 10.5 km road length per 100 square km area in this district. Still this figure is better than the state's figure of 8 km of road length per 100 square km of land area.

2.9.2 *Power and Energy*

There is no permanent power generation unit except a small hydel project of 100 KW capacities in this district. The increasing demands of power are somehow managed by running DG sets. A 400 KW capacity DG Set is installed in the district to provide power to consumers at the head quarter in the evening hours. Electricity is available only in 154 villages (49.6 percent of the total inhabited villages) of this district as on March 2006. In Arunachal during 2006 only 48 percent villages were electrified.

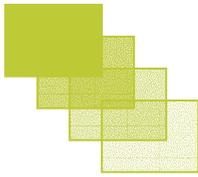
Under the solar photovoltaic programme some connections (about 600 solar lanterns, 75 solar home system and 50 solar lights) were provided in the district. Altogether 5 villages are electrified in the district under solar photovoltaic programme. There are altogether 69 such villages in the state of Arunachal.

2.9.3 *Banking*

There are two branches of SBI and one branch of state cooperative apex bank in this district.

2.4 Education and Health

There are altogether 174 government and 11 private educational institutions in the district. Among them there are 137 primary schools (131 government and six private), 35 middle level school (34 government and one private), 10 secondary schools (seven



government and three private) and three higher secondary schools (two government and one private). The district also has a District Institute of Educational Training. There are no institutions of higher education in the district. Teacher student ratio at primary school level in this district is 1:34. This figure for the Arunachal as a whole is 1: 33.

There is one district hospital with 65 beds at Seppa, six PHC and 18 sub centers in the district. There are altogether 78 beds available in the PHC and sub centers. There are altogether 19 registered doctors and paramedical personnel in the district as on March 2006.

The District Hospital Seppa is functioning as a branch unit of District Tuberculosis Centre Bomdila under Banner of National Tuberculosis control programme. A total of 10 indoor beds are attached to this hospital. Under the Leprosy control society Bomdila, at a peripheral unit is functioning since May 1995. The district hospital, Seppa and at Seijosa PHC family welfare centre and MCH service respectively are rendering services of child and maternity health.

The District Hospital at Seppa and Primary Health Centre at Seijosa and Bameng are functioning more or less smoothly. The other Health Centres located at Khenewa, Pipu, Pake Kessang, Bana Camp and Veo are functioning without medical officers. These health centres are functioning by pharmacist or Health Assistant or ANM. The community health centre, Tajo is functioning with only one medical officer. Rest of sub-centres are functioning in the peripheral areas by senior nursing Assistant male only. Out of 19 sub-centres 15 are without buildings.

Efforts are made from existing staff from the District Hospitals, Seppa to cover the outreached arrears of the District for rendering medical aids to the need villagers from time to time with limited resources. The difficult terrain of the district makes the tasks more difficult.

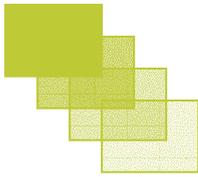
The responses of the people in prevention of communicable diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, TB, Malaria have been virtually dismal. However, every effort were undertaken to put for augmentation towards this goal through continual health education by the health workers.

The supply of medicines is done through two channels. The major portion is centrally procured by the Directorate of Health Services. Local purchase is made for emergency purposes.

2.10 Overall Amenities in the district

There are altogether 301 Anganwadi centers in the district. Altogether 189 beneficiaries (state 1355) have received old age pensions as on 2004-05 in this district.

Post, telegraph and telephone supply is available only in 11 villages of the district. There are just three telephone exchanges with 1929 telephone connections. There are 13 post offices in this district. Only 40 villages are connected by bus services and paved approach road is available only in 137 villages. Provision of safe drinking water supply is available in 310 villages in this district.



There are six co-operative Societies and nine branch co-operatives in the district for procurement and distribution of essential commodities including PDS items and other Consumer goods. Out of 81 Fair Price Shops in the district 24 are under co-operative sectors and 57 are run by private individuals. There are 11915 ration card holders (out of 12018 households as on 2001) in the district. Among these 41.4 percent are BPL card holders, 46.1 percent are APL card holders, 10.1 percent are card holders under Antyodaya Yojana and 2 percent card holders are under Annapurna Yojana.

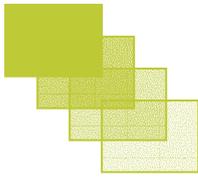
A project of connecting the blocks of the District through ICT was launched in 2000 and accordingly four community information centres were also setup in East Kameng District. Under Phase-1 project, Chayangtajo Block was selected and then in Phase-II, Bameng, Pakke-Kessang and Seppa Blocks were subsequently chosen for the sites. The Community Information Centers (CICs) can play major role by providing the internet and email services in the mountainous terrain where making provision of telephone service is in general difficult. The internet provision now has helped the students of Bameng, Pakke-Kessang and Chayangtajo to access their CBSE results from their schools or block headquarters. Prior to setting up the facility students and parents were compelled to make long journey to Seppa the district head quarters or wait for more than a month to know the results. Another benefit has been confirming train reservation status.

Table 2.4: Distribution of amenities in inhabited villages in the district

Amenities	Numbers
Total inhabited villages	310
Total households	12018
Drinking water facilities	310
Safe drinking water facilities	310
Electricity(power supply)	154 villages
Primary school	137
Middle school	35
Secondary/Sr. secondary school	13
Colleges	Nil
Medical facilities	1 District hospital
Primary health centre	6
Primary health sub- centre	18
Post, telegraph & telephone facilities	13
Paved approach road	123.5
Mud approach road	326.4

Source: census of India, 2001.

Overall it is revealed that difficult terrain and inaccessibility is the main hurdle in development of the district. Educational infrastructure though seems to be adequate there is deficit in provisioning of health and power and communication infrastructures. ■



PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

3.1 Demographic profile

The district of East Kameng has population of just over 57 thousand. The villages in the district are scattered and thinly populated. In our sample of 25 villages, altogether 462 households are captured with an average of 18 households per village. The rural population of the district is 42100 and there are 310 inhabited villages in the district. The average size of households in sample villages is estimated at 4.7 persons. Two religious communities are captured in the sample households. There are 198 households (42.9 percent) belonging to worshipers of Dony (Sun) and Polo (Moon) - and 264 households (57.1 percent) belonging to Christian faith in the sample. The households in the sample are mainly of scheduled tribe communities (96.3 percent).

3.2 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio in the sample villages has been estimated at 1035. However the figure varies across the villages. The high sex ratio to certain extent could be explained by in migration of male population in the thinly populated villages. The district profile also reveals that East Kameng has a favourable sex ratio.

3.3. Literacy Rate

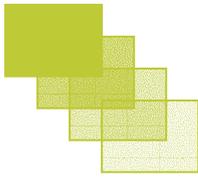
Literacy rate in the sample villages is estimated at 46.6 percent which is more than the district average of 40.6 percent. The estimated literacy rate among the Dony Polo community (50.84 percent) found to be less than the Christian community (55.3 percent). The literacy rate for Dony Polo female is estimated at 43.6 percent, which is lower than the literacy rate of Christian women (46.4 percent).

3.4 Facilities

A definitive way to measure the quality of life in a state, region or dwelling place, whether rural or urban, is to ascertain the presence, accessibility and utility of the social and physical infrastructure by the residents of these spaces. Lack of access can emerge either due to the absence of social and/or physical infrastructure, or through inaccessibility to such facilities even when they are present.

3.4.1 Electricity

Proportion of households using electricity for domestic lighting in rural areas is indicative of economic status of the households. As per the information of Chief Engineer, Power, altogether 49.6 percent of the villages in East Kameng district has power supply. The figure of the sample village survey however to an extent corroborates the official data. It is revealed that in 11 villages (44 percent) of the sample of 25 villages electricity supply is available (Table 3.3). The village survey data shows that of about 37



percent households in the sample villages have electricity connection (Table 3.1). Most of the connections in the villages are domestic connections. However, one village in the sample found with electricity connections to be used for agricultural purpose (Table 3.1). First electrification among the sample villages was made during 1985. Subsequently nine villages were given connections during 1980s and one during late 1990s.

The figures of electrification in many villages of district at present are only in figures. Many villages of the sample got de-electrified in flood. Non-restoration of the power supply is the major deficiency found in the sampled villages. It is found that altogether 11 villages of the sample got de-electrified in the past due to various reasons – ranging from natural calamities, non-functional supplies and theft and destruction of the infrastructure. In some villages infrastructures for power was developed decade back but the villages never got the electricity connections. The sampled villages with electricity on an average get electricity supply for about 14 hours in a day and the quality of supply has not improved over the years.

3.4.2 Drinking water

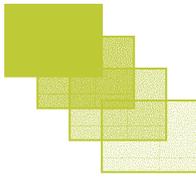
Availability and access to safe drinking water has been the most crucial factor involving serious health concerns in rural areas. The survey revealed that altogether 16 sampled villages have common sources of drinking water supply. Altogether 80 public stand-posts are available in these 16 sampled villages (Table 3.3). However, non-functional public stand-posts are common in many villages. On the other hand households in the sampled villages revealed that tap water inside their home and tank and river in some other villages are the household sources of drinking water. However some villages reported that stream water is their only source of drinking water.

3.4.3 Toilet facility

The sanitation status of the sample villages shows that in only two villages there is presence of sanitary toilets. Moreover, though some villages have shown presence of insanitary toilets the common practice of most of the villagers from both Dony Poloand Christian communities are to visit the open field for defecation (Table 3.6 and 3.7). It is found that in some villages government has initiated some sanitary toilets. However, the villagers are yet to develop the habit of using them.

3.4.4 Education

All the villages in the sample have access to schools for the children. Altogether 13 villages of the 25 in the sample have primary schools within the villages. Apart from the primary schools four villages have middle schools within the villages. However, it is found that students of the villages require travelling a considerable distance to pursue high school level education in the district (Table 3.9). Communication of the students of the sample villages to schools, particularly to high schools is difficult. A good proportion of students are compelled to stay at hostels and a good numbers communicate to school on foot. This has some affect on sending the girls to schools in the sample villages.



3.4.5 Health Facilities

Information on the sample villages revealed that altogether 9 sample villages have access to primary health centers and the rest 16 access district hospital for treatment. All the 25 sample villages have access to medicine shops (Table 3.11). Only two villages in the sample have sub center facility within the villages. Most of the health facilities from the villages are located at a distance of more than 5 km and in most cases they can be accessed only on foot (Table 3.12 and 3.13).

3.4.6 Other facilities

The availability of facilities in the villages of the district reveals that, block head quarter, the nearest town and facilities of bus stops, regular market, post office, banks in most cases are located at a distance of more than 5 km. Block head quarters are at a distance of more than 10 km in case of 19 sampled villages, nearest town is at a distance of more than 10 km in case of 21 sample villages and in case of 8 villages people are required to walk more than 10 km to catch a bus. Among the sampled villages only 7 villages have bus stop near the village, 12 have shops and 5 have fair priced shops within the villages (Table 3.15, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.18).

3.5 Village organizations

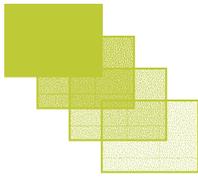
The organizational activity within the village is an important determinant of overall socio-economic development. Information reveals that among the sample villages there exists a religious and political organisation in all sampled villages. However, certain important organizations like producers' cooperatives such as dairy and agriculture, cultural organisation, youth organisation, women organisation exist only in few villages (Table 3.19). Although the religious and political organizations are found to be very active, the other organizations, which are very few in numbers, are not very active in most cases. Presence of SHG is found in altogether 10 villages. Non-formal panchayats are found in 24 sample villages.

3.6 Artisan and Handicraft Activities

Handicraft or artisan activities are not found to be primary engagement of people in any of the sample villages.

3.7 Crop productivity status

The economy of East Kameng is agrarian, with paddy and maize as the major cultivated crops. The survey results of the sample villages indicate that paddy is the major crop produced in all the villages. However, productivity is very low in the villages mostly confining to shifting cultivation. Reported average production in the sample villages in some cases are about 800 kg per acre, the lowest reported being 140 kg per acre (Table 3.20). The average productivity of paddy in the district however is about 367 kg. The maximum market price fetched by paddy in the year prior to the date of survey as reported was Rs. 700 per quintal while the minimum price was Rs. 450.



Mustard cultivation also takes a significant place in one sample village. The average productivity of mustard in the village is around 2 quintal per acre. It is reported that in certain season prices of mustard go up to Rs. 1800 per quintal and in certain season slumps to Rs. 1200 per quintal.

It is reported in many villages that apart from natural calamities of flood, destruction by wild elephant is also a factor in resultant poor paddy yield.

3.8 Input status for cultivation

3.8.1. Current inputs

Very few villages are found using modern capital inputs in agriculture in the villages. Tractor was found in two villages of the sample. The traditional agriculture equipments, some with improvisation are available in most of the cultivating households (Table 3.21).

3.9 Credit

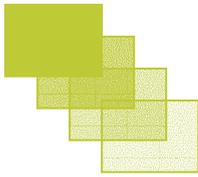
Village level information reveals that credits are mostly required to meet the sudden expenses and to meet the cost of cultivation. Moneylenders are the source of credit in the case of labour class (Table 3.22). However, in the case of small and medium farmers along with money lenders institutional finance is also one of the sources (Table 3.23 and 3.24). For the people engaged in sundry businesses institutional credit is reportedly the main source (Table 3.25).

3.10 Migration and employment and wage income earning

Village level information reveals that from all the sample villages about 275 people daily commute to work in neighbouring areas (Table 3.26). It is also reported that from some villages people commute to block and district head quarters for work. Commuting for work helps to fetch on an average Rs. 1800 to each worker every month. In some villages it is reported that commuters earn even more.

It is reported that the wages of male casual labourers have increased in recent times in most of the sample villages (22 out of the 25 villages). The average wage for land preparation, weeding and interculture, transplanting, harvesting and threshing is the same for all activities but varies across the sample villages from Rs. 50 to 100 per day. However, in most cases the agriculture wages in the villages center around Rs. 50. It is also revealed that the unskilled in non-agriculture sector earn little more than the agriculture labour. The information on wages in government is available for few villages and it is in no cases more than Rs. 55/. Information on wage of skilled labour is available for few villages and the maximum rate found to be Rs. 200/ (Table 3.30).

The wage of the unskilled male workers is the same as the wages in the agriculture sector but there is some variation in few sample villages. The skilled male workforce on the other hand fetches Rs. 200 to 250 on an average in the sample villages.



One could see that in the sample villages there is no discrepancy as such of wages between male and female wage earners in agricultural and unskilled activities (Table 3.32) so far as the government programmes are concerned implement either by contractor or by any government agency. However, paying the workers to these wage rates in the district of East Kameng is not the common practice in the case rural labourers engaged by the fellow villagers or in community works. The normal way in this regard is *Howri* system where every household helps each other in agriculture practice and there is system of paying in kinds. Pigs and Methun are given as kind in most cases and monetary wage system is not practice in general.

It is found that people from 5 sample villages are working outside the villages and some even outside the state. Their number however in these five villages is limited to about 40 only. Friends and relatives have created the passage of people in most of the cases (Table 3.29).

In the sample villages altogether 68 persons are found with government jobs. Among them 29 are Dony Poloand 39 are Christians. Considering the number of households from these two religious communities in the sample the proportion of jobs availed in the two communities are found to be identical (Table 3.35).

3.11 Rural Development programmes and beneficiaries assisted

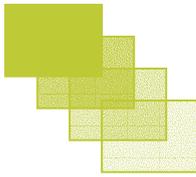
People in 12 sample villages have got assistance under the rural development programmes. SGSY is operational in nine sample villages and PMGSY in one village (Table 3.37). Altogether 180 beneficiaries got benefited under the SGSY and another 40 under PMGSY. IAY was operational in one village and there were two beneficiaries in the village.

At present certain developmental programmes are going on in the sample villages. There are targeted programme of education in 15 sample villages, targeted health and nutrition programme in two villages (Table 3.48). Apart from these, one village each in the sample has programme on agriculture, irrigation, forestry and MLALAD programme. It is found that altogether 138.4 lakh money has been allotted for different development programmes in nine villages of the sample (Table 3.49). In certain villages with just 25 households, lakhs of Rupees (55 lakhs) are pumped into watershed development project. However the fate of the project is not known.

In altogether 14 villages 56 person have received old age pensions (Table 3.38). There is no recipient of the widow pension in any of the villages.

3.12 Common resource and facility uses

There are altogether 19 schools within the sampled villages, of which 12 are of semi-pucca structure and five pucca structure. Flooring materials found to be of mud in four schools and rest have cement and stone flooring (Table 3.39). All the schools are found with multiple rooms- four having 2 class rooms, 6 having 3 rooms, 1 having 4 rooms, four having 5 rooms and four having more than 5 rooms (Table 3.40). In certain village (Lorrah) there is no school and teachers are conducting classes in relatives home.



It is found that desks and benches are available for all students only in two schools, for some students in 16 schools and furniture are not available in case of two schools (Table 3.41). It is found that 10 village schools out of the 19 are running with just one teacher (Table 3.42). Villagers in most of the villages perceive that the quality of teachers in their village schools is just average (Table 3.43) and regularity of teachers' attendance is good only at four village schools (Table 3.44). It is found that mid day meal is available in the 13 primary schools located within the sample villages and the meal scheme is regular only in 7 village schools (Table 3.45).

Medical officer is found to be visiting only one sample village and lady health visitor in two villages (Table 3.46). ANM are found to be visiting in 12 sample villages and malaria inspector in eight sample villages. Their visits however are not frequent. They make just 2 to 4 visits in a year. Vaccinators are found to be visiting all the sample villages. Their visits are also found to be on an average four times in a year with some exception of monthly visits in few villages. ASHA is reportedly available just in one village.

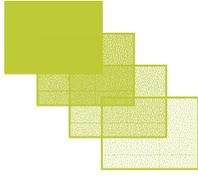
Government health facilities are reported to be the most preferred option for treatment in 10 sample villages. However, in 15 villages people prefer to stick to the traditional healing system for treatment (Table 3.47). It is a common practice that people offer puja and prayer at temples and churches in cases of ailments.

Presence of ICDS programme is found in 12 villages in the sample. In 11 villages the programme is operational from government building. However, in one village the programme is being run from a private building. As observed from the field the physical conditions of ICDS centers in eight villages are bad (Table 3.50). It is estimated that about 400 children from 18 sample villages are using the ICDS centers located in their own or nearby villages. It is reported by the villagers of 13 villages that the level of satisfaction from ICDS centers is bad (Table 3.51). However, it is also reported that ICDS centers have been helping the village women in gaining some basic knowledge of reproductive and general health care.

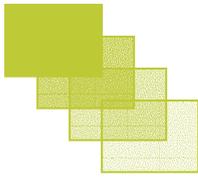
Fair priced shops are found to be available in five villages of the sample. In case of the rest of the sample villages facilities are located at a distance of more than 5 km in 10 villages (Table 3.52). There were 81 antyodaya, 183 BPL and 53 APL cards were reported in the sample villages. To this information about 69 percent households in the sample villages possess the PDS cards. It is reported that altogether 254 households (80 percent) avail PDS rations among the 317 card holders (Table 3.53). The villagers in most cases reported their dissatisfaction over the supply of PDS goods. Poor Availability of goods (reported in 14 sample villages), not receiving of full quota of goods (in 13 villages), irregular supply (in 11 villages) are some of the grievances reported in the sample villages. However, there was not much complains on quality of goods, honesty in price and measurement (Table 3.54 to 3.56).

3.13 Summary

Overall it was reported in 12 sample villages that their villages in recent times have lagged behind, to be precise are worse off in certain aspects. The overall conditions of some villages have remained the same in eight villages. Poor agriculture productivity,



non-availability of jobs, poor drinking water and health facilities and access to electricity are cited as the reasons for deteriorating conditions of the villages. However, in certain villages, it has reported that agriculture productivity and access to educational facilities have increased in recent times (Table 3.36). It is further reported that political and social conditions, road connectivity, public irrigation have deteriorated in some sample villages. Overall serious deficits in the development process have been revealed in this very thinly populated district. The most glaring missing factor in the sample villages is the infrastructures to usher the development process. Although some are initiated only in recent times and gains are yet to be measured. ■



RESULT OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

4.1 Religion and Caste Composition

Altogether 462 households are surveyed in 25 villages in East Kameng district of Arunachal. Among the surveyed households 198 households (42.9 percent) belong to Dony Polo community and 264 households (57.1 percent) belong to Christian community (Table 4.1). The households in the sample are mainly belonging to the scheduled tribe communities (96.3 percent).

4.2 Mother Tongue

Mother tongue wise, all the households in the sample reported local languages – like Nishi, Challung etc as their mother tongue. Except in five households, where Hindi was reported as the second language.

4.3 Age and Sex

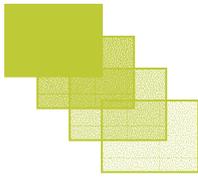
The total population in the 462 sample households of the district is 2182; of them 49.1 per cent is male and 50.9 per cent is female. The details of age group and sex wise distribution of the sample population are shown in Table 4.43. As the table indicates, 14.7 per cent and 26.3 per cent of the sample population are constituted by the children up to the age of 5 and 6-14 years of age group respectively. The proportion of children below 6 years however, is found to be more in the case of Christian households (15.3 percent) than in the Dony Polo households (13.9 percent). Gender wise lesser proportion of female child (6.8 percent) than male child (7.1 percent) in the age group of below 6 years is found in Dony Polo households. However, the proportion in the age group of below 6 years shows the girl child prominently (8 percent in the total population) than the male child (7.3 percent). About 1.8 percent of the total population is of more than 60 years of age in the district. Notwithstanding a small data base, the data indicate relatively a higher fertility and higher mortality rate among the people in the sample villages (Table 4.4).

4.4 Household Size

It is found that 68.3 per cent of the sample households are with up to five members and 31 percent with six to ten members (Table 4.5). It is also found that the size of the households is larger in the case of Christian families than the Dony Polo families. In the sample 33 percent Christian families have 6 to 10 persons in their households, the figure in the Dony Polo households being 28.3 percent.

4.5 Marital Status

Household survey reveals that about 9 percent Dony Polo population in the age group of 15 to 18 years are married. This figure in the Christian households is 4.5 percent. Among the Dony Polo households no one beyond age 30 are found to be unmarried. Whereas, in the Christian households, 1.3 percent of the population with more than 30 years of age



are is found to be unmarried. Religion wise this reflects to an extent higher priority on marriage put by the people from Dony Polo community in the district (Table 4.6).

4.6 Educational Status

The average estimated literacy rate of the population in the sample villages is 67.3 percent. This proportion among the females is 58.5 percent. Religion wise it is seen that literacy rate is higher in the Christian households (70.1 percent) than the Dony Polo households (63.6 percent). One could also see high male female disparity in education. Among the members in the Dony Polo households male literacy is estimated at 72.6 percent against 55.2 percent in the case of female. In the Christian households male literacy is estimated at 79.5 percent and female at 61.8 percent (Table 4.7). The table also reveals that educational attainment level beyond high school is negligible for both religious communities and gender.

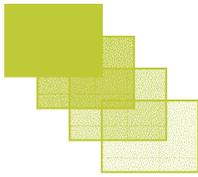
4.7 Occupation and Employment

4.7.1 Occupation and Industry

Farming is the main occupation for 77.9 percent workforce in the Dony Polo sample households and 79.6 percent in the Christian households of the district. Data reveals that relatively large proportion of women workers are engaged in farming than their male counterpart. This figure is 88.5 percent for Dony Polo women and 89.8 percent for Christian working women. This reveals that occupations of women are less diversified in this underdeveloped district. It can be mentioned that unlike many states of India the women in hill districts of north eastern region work full time in the agriculture field apart from looking after the domestic chores. Apart from farming, services in government sector are the most important primary activity of the population in sampled villages. Services and professional works are found to be important sources of livelihood in both Dony Polo (8.2 percent) and Christian households (8.9 percent). However, in all cases the opportunities of women are much less than the male counterpart (Table 4.8). It is revealed that more proportion of Dony Polo workers (4.1 percent and male only) is engaged in production related work in this district than the Christian workers (3.4 percent). As reflected from table 4.8, a certain unspecified activities are also principle activities of people in the district.

Coming to the context of secondary occupation women constitute 66.5 percent of workforce in Dony Polo families and 61.4 percent in Christian families. It is found that more than 80 percent of them in both communities are involved in farming and rest are engaged mostly in activities not adequately defined (Table 4.9).

Industry wise distribution of the people with main occupation (Table 4.10) shows that among the male workers 81 percent Dony Polo and 81.4 percent Christian are engaged in cultivation, 4.9 percent Dony Polo and 7.4 percent Christian are in community social and personnel services and 0.5 percent Dony Polo and 1.7 percent Christian are in wholesale and retail trade. People's involvement in other activities like manufacturing etc. are found to be insignificant in this district. However, one could see that for a significant section of people from both the communities activities are not adequately defined.



Underemployment status of workers is reflected significantly from the household data. It is found that 22.7 percent main workers from Christian households and 17.9 percent from the Dony Polo households are engaged in work for less than 180 days in a year (Table 4.11). The same trend is seen in the Dony Polo households as relatively a larger proportion of main workers (13.6 percent) compared to workers in the Christian households (11.3 percent) work for more than 260 days in a year.

The data on engagement of secondary occupation reveal that about 33.5 percent workers in Dony Polo families and 24.4 percent in Christian families work for more than 181 days during a year. All these reveal that community wise members of Dony Polo families have access to more jobs (Table 4.12).

4.7.2 Self-Employment Scenario

Leaving aside cultivation, in East Kameng district very few households (nine in all) from the sample are involved in self-employed entrepreneurship ventures. As reported they are not facing any constraints in their venture.

4.7.3 Additional Employment and Preference

It was found that members in 74 percent of the total 462 sample households are looking for new or additional employment opportunities. This proportion among the Dony Polo community is 71.7 percent and in the Christian community is 75.8 percent. Preference for certain kind of jobs overall in both the communities is found to be same. It is found that more than 63 percent of families in both the communities prefer self-employment opportunities. However, preference for salaried jobs is found to be marginally more in the Christian households (31.5 percent), than the Dony Polo households (28.2 percent) (Table 4.13).

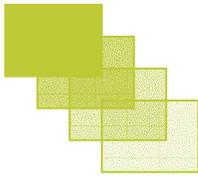
4.7.4 Migrant Workers

Not many workers have migrated out for work from the sample villages. It is found that altogether 43 Dony Polo and 56 Christians have migrated out from the villages. Most of the migrations are to urban areas within the district or the state. However, it is found that more proportions of Hindus (93.1 percent) have migrated to urban areas than the Christians (78.6 percent). It is also found that most of the migrations are short term and there are more Dony Polo families (83.7 percent) than the Christian families (73.2 percent) in this category (Tables 4.14 to 4.16).

4.8 Land and other Assets

4.8.1 Cultivated Land: Ownership and Operational Holding

It is found that the sample households have no cultivated land of their own. It may be mentioned that the most of the households in Arunachal thrive on CPR for their livelihood.



4.9 Livestock

It is found that more than 40 percent of the Dony Polo households possess Milch animal, draught animal, goats, poultry and pigs. The proportion of Christian households (50-60 percent) possessing livestock are found to be higher compared to Dony Polo households (Table 4.18).

4.10 Ownership of Productive and other Assets

It is found that very few households possess financial assets. The sample survey revealed that just 10 Dony Polo households and 21 Christian households in the sample have savings account in the bank (Table 4.19).

4.10.1 Agricultural Implements

The households in the rural areas of the district use rudimentary traditional equipments for agricultural operations.

4.11 Housing Status

4.11.1 House Type and availability of living space

Except few households all the households in the sample have their own living space. However, most of the houses, altogether 86.8 percent in case of Dony Polo and 90.2 percent in case of Christian families are found to be Katcha houses (Table 4.21). It is also found that 25.8 percent Dony Polo families and 2.3 percent Christian families live in one room house (Table 4.22).

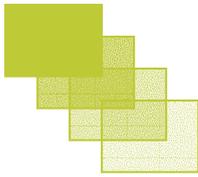
4.11.2 Domestic lighting and fuel use

Electricity connections are found to be available only in case of 24.2 percent Dony Polo households and 34.8 percent Christian households (Table 4.23). It is found that households having no electricity connections mostly use firewood for lighting as well as for cooking. This no doubt increases the indoor air pollution affecting the health of the villagers.

Wood, hay and leaves are the major sources of fuel in the sample households. This is found that about 8 percent Dony Polo households and 3 percent Christian households use LPG (Table 4.28).

4.11.3 Drinking water facilities

Taps in dwelling as well as public taps are found to be the major sources of drinking water in more than 83 percent Dony Polo and 84.5 percent Christian households (Table 4.25). It is found that more than 16 percent Dony Polo households in sample and about 15 percent Christian households drink water from river, stream or ponds. In most cases (more than 90 percent households in both communities) the households could fetch drinking water from sources within 50 meters (Table 4.26).



4.11.4 Sanitation and drainage facility

It is found that about 90 percent sample households in both the communities use open field for defecation. In just about 5 percent sample households in the district there are sanitary latrines in their homes (Table 4.27).

4.12 Indebtedness of rural households

Very few households in the sample (four Dony Polo and Christian households each) were found to be indebted (Table 4.29). Friends and relatives are the major sources of loan in the communities. The few households with loan took the loans for varied purposes ranging from medical expenses, education and to purchase livestock (Table 4.31).

4.13 Income and Expenditure

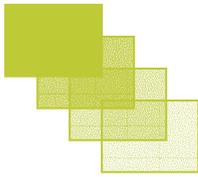
The baseline survey reveals that about two third of the sample rural households in East Kameng district live under poverty line with family income of less than Rs. 22800/ per annum. The proportion of Dony Polo households (65.6 percent) living below the poverty line are found to be more than the Christian households (62.9 percent) (Table 4.32).

The estimated family expenditure in the sample households reflects that about 45 percent Dony Polo households and 40 percent Christian households spend less than the Indian average family spending of Rs. 7200/ on cereal and pulses (Table 4.33). In the case of vegetables and protein foods it is found that almost the combined spending of all the sample families is less than what average rural India spends (Table 4.34). Spending on Education is more than the country average of Rs. 850 in the case of 26.3 percent Dony Polo households and 25.4 percent Christian households in the district (Table 4.36). On health care just about 2.5 percent Dony Polo and 4.5 percent Christian families are found to be spending more than Rs. 2100 which is approximately the average expenditure incurred by a family in rural India (Table 4.37). The expenditure on electricity and fuel in 81.8 percent Dony Polo sample households and 58.7 percent Christian households is in between Rs. 1000 to 5000 per annum, which to an extent corresponds to the country average of Rs. 3000/ per households (Table 4.39). It is found that majority of sample households (94 percent Dony Polo and about 97 percent Christian) are not spending on telephone (Table 4.40). However, most of the households need to keep aside a significant proportion of the budget for festival and ceremonies (Table 4.38).

4.14 Current Educational Status, Skill Training

Educational attainment by religion and gender

A general trend in the country is that illiteracy among the religious minorities is higher. It is more so in the case of women in all the communities. The data of current educational status of people in the age group of 5 to 25 years in the district of East Kameng reflects that, more than 14 percent members in the Dony Polo households and 13 percent in the Christian households were never enrolled in schools. The proportion of



never enrolled females is however higher than their male counterparts in case of both Dony Polo (18.2 percent) and Christian (15.8 percent) communities. However, dropout rates are found to be more in case of male in both the communities (Table 4.42). It is also found that almost the entire student populations in the sample households attend government schools.

Current Educational Status of Children

Looking at the level of educational attainment of people in the age group of 5 to 25 years in the villages of East Kameng district, one could observe that in case of relatively a large section women, educational attainment is confined to below primary level and religion wise we do not see any disparity. The level of educational attainment is largely confined till the level of secondary schooling (Table 4.43) and there are no variations in both the communities.

Access and facilities in education

Several reasons are cited for dropping out of school by a sizeable section of students in the age group of 5 to 25 years. Not interested in reading, failure in examination, work at home, marriage and distance to educational institutions are some of the cited causes. One however, does not notice any variations across religion and gender in the dropout scenario (Table 4.45).

Aspiration of Parents on their Children

The parents in case of 54.5 percent male students in Dony Polo families and 56.8 percent in Christian families aspire that their boys should attain education at least to graduation level. This figure in case of girl students is however, 43.4 percent in Dony Polo and 41.8 percent in Christian families (Table 4.46 and 4.47).

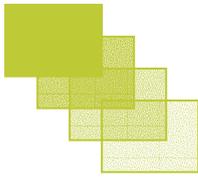
Attitude and Approaches in Skill development training

Interactions in the sample households reveal that family members in just 2 households each in the Dony Polo and Christian communities are interested to take up skill development training (Table 4.48).

4.15 Present Health Scenario

The survey reveals that about 16 percent population in the sample households reportedly suffered from some kind of diseases during past one year. Religion and Gender wise segregation reveals that more women are prone to diseases (Dony Polo 17.1 and Christian 18.4 percent) than their male counterparts. Malaria and Jaundice are found to be the most commonly reported diseases, more particularly in case of female members in the sample households. A good chunk of women also reported stomach pain and pregnancy related problems (Table 4.49).

It is found that more than 30 percent households (29.9 percent Dony Polo and 32.5 percent Christian) are not approaching formal medical service providers at all in case of



diseases (Table 4.50). While, 25.7 percent Dony Polo families and 34.5 percent Christian families exclusively visit government service providers, about 27 percent households in both the communities access both government and traditional treatment in case of ailments.

Religion wise higher proportion of Dony Polo households (14.6 percent) visit private practitioners for treatment than the Christian families (3 percent).

4.16 Maternal and Child Health

Complete coverage of immunization is found to be poor among the sampled households in East Kameng district. To be precise just 6 children in Dony Polo households and one in Christian households out of the total 292 children are found to be fully immunized. The table 4.51 reveals that except administration of OPV other vaccinations are often missed out in the immunization process. The reasons cited for non-immunisation of children reveal that unawareness and distance are not the factors of poor immunization coverage. It could be rather explained by the people's attitude towards immunization.

The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of child. Just few women in sampled households have used government or private facilities for delivery (Table 4.53). More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members (Table 4.54).

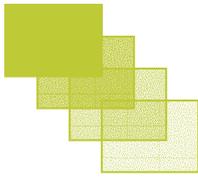
4.17 Poor and the PDS Support

Altogether 47 percent households in the sample (the proportion is same in both the communities) revealed that they belong to BPL category (Table 4.55). The income figures of the households also lend support to this. It is found that almost all the households from BPL category possess BPL ration cards. It is revealed that about 53 percent Dony Polo households and 54 percent Christian households in the sample avail ration from PDS. Among the households availing ration from PDS about one third households in both the communities reported that they are able to buy all eligible rations from PDS (Table 4.58). The households unable to procure the entire eligible supply from PDS cited lack of adequate supply and money to procure the items as reasons for inability to procure PDS rations (Table 4.59).

4.18 Awareness and Participation

4.18.1 Participation in government programmes

It has been argued for long that level of awareness and participation in political and socio-economic process are two important aspects of development approach. The Government of India has been initiating several specific programmes targeting the poor. The benefits of these programmes to a large extent depend on the level of awareness of the people about the programme. At the same time, any leakages in the process are to be properly identified for designing effective implementation.



The present baseline survey on East Kameng district indicates that peoples' awareness on various schemes is not uniform. It is found that awareness level is more in the case of ICDS (altogether 72.3 percent households were aware of this), Old age and widow pensions (50 percent households) and Sarvashiksha (49 percent). However, there are some differences in awareness among the two communities (Table 4.60). It is found that awareness about the employment programmes, housing, sanitation, water supply and maternity benefits programmes are remarkably poor among the sample households (Table 4.60). It is interesting that there is virtually no gap in between awareness and availing benefits in most of the development programmes (Table 4.60 and 4.61). The thin size of population of the district and subsequently less pressure for demand for certain provisions could be the factors for this.

4.18.2 Participation in the socio-political affairs

Recent development debates envisage a pro-active role from the people at the grassroots for successful democratic decentralisation, which in turn accelerates the process of growth and development. The 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution further the scope of democratic decentralisation in the country by bringing in local governance Institutions to the centre-stage. The process of democratic decentralisation can be most potent source of ushering development, particularly in rural areas, when people participate in the process.

The baseline survey shows that the level of political participation is high among the sample households at all layers of elections (Table 4.62). It was reported that more than 95 percent households have voted in the last panchayats, assembly and parliamentary election.

4.18.3 Conflict, insecurity and access to media and communication

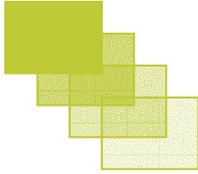
The baseline survey reveals that there is virtual absence of conflicts in this district.

As far as the access to media and communication is concerned, the baseline indicates poor access to media across the sampled households. It is found that less than 2 percent households read newspaper, about 27 percent households listen to radio and about 9 percent watch TV (Table 4.64).

4.19 Aspirations of the Communities as reflected from the Survey

Most important facilities lacking in the villages

The respondents of Christian community in East Kameng district feel that communication, electricity and health are the most important facilities lacking in their villages. However, in the case of Dony Polo community water supply is also an important facility missing in the sampled villages as perceived by the villagers (Table 4.65).

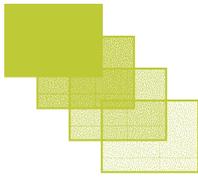


Most important deprivation in the families

Most of the Christian families perceive that Housing followed by education and employment are the most important deprivations in their families (Table 4.66). The households of Dony Polo community are also perceived in the same way.

Perceived priorities for the welfare of minority communities

The respondents feel that communication and education are the priority. However, in most cases the survey failed to capture response on this perspective in the sample households. ■



DEVELOPMENT DEFICITS

The analysis based on the sample survey reveals that East Kameng is a poor performer in overall development context in the country. The data of baseline survey indicate relatively higher fertility and higher mortality rate among the people in the sample villages. The survey also reveals that about two third of the sample rural households across all religion in East Kameng district live under poverty, the figure which is much higher than the Planning Commission estimates.

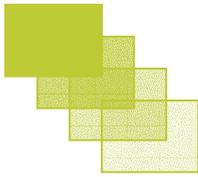
Development Deficits

Sl No	Indicators	Survey results	Estimates for India	Deficit	Priority assigned
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	67.3	67.30	0.0	9
2	Rate of female literacy	58.5	57.10	1.4	10
3	Work participation rate	33.1	38.00	-4.9	6
4	Female work participation rate	21.0	21.50	-0.5	8
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca house	2.8	59.40	-56.6	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	84.6	87.90	-3.3	7
7	Percentage of households with sanitary toilets	5.0	39.20	-34.2	4
8	Percentage of electrified houses	30.3	67.90	-37.6	3
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	2.4	43.50	-41.1	2
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	5.0	38.70	-33.7	5

■ This thinly populated district is primarily an agrarian one, but food grain productivity is awfully low even in the context of the state. Certain food and horticulture crops- maize, potato, ginger and chili show some prospects to the agro climatic conditions, but require institutional supports and people's efforts to raise the yield. The agriculture sector needs attention for high value crops and modernization with appropriate technology.

■ Literacy rate though shows some satisfactory picture what concerns more is the male female disparity in literacy. Distance to the educational institutions often has impact on poor educational attainment particularly of women. Paucity of teachers and significant proportions of never enrolled females are some of the concerns requiring attention.

■ The people's preparedness in prevention of communicable diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, TB, Malaria has been virtually absent. Health officials and functionaries



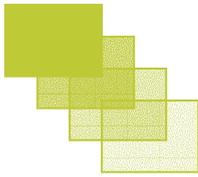
rarely visit the villages. The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of child. More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members.

- The baseline survey indicates poor performance of immunization coverage of children in the district. Unawareness about the vaccination doses, except the OPVs is the main reason that children are left un-immunized.

- The main reason behind slow development of the district is the absence of road communication. As many as six circle head quarters out of the 11 are not connected by road in this district. Some of the circle HQs are being air-fed and most of the villages are conveyed by porter tracts. It is true that terrain of the district is prohibitive for development of road infrastructure. However, constraints faced by the people for the absence of poor communication could to some extent be addressed by making adequate provisions of certain basic services – health and educational facilities, market etc. in certain feasible rural points.

- Electricity is virtually not available even in the villages, which are shown as connected on paper. Dispersed settlements and vagaries of natural calamities are often hindrances to supply of electricity. Under such circumstances, solar photovoltaic programme could be of important relevance. However, to encourage rural industrialization, which is virtually missing in this district, the option could be to generate power from localized micro plants.

- The survey provides some indication that money and development initiatives of the Union government are not the constraints in this thinly populated district. What requires is the sustainability and consolidation of the efforts undertaken. Unemployment is not an issue in the district. However, high incidences of underemployment of workers as reflected in the household data could be due to the fact that people are not required to work for greater part of the year to feed themselves in a relatively resource rich environment. Such an approach and mindset however, could stall the development initiatives and consolidation for overall wellbeing of the future generations. Lack of awareness and indifference to the government schemes as reflected from the survey reveals a similar scenario.



LIST OF SURVEYED VILLAGES

Sl. No.	VILLAGE
1	Jolly
2	A-2 Block
3	Mobuso - I
4	New Joli
5	Goloso
6	Lanka
7	Niti Darlong
8	Bali
9	Darlong
10	Lelung
11	Pachi Camp
12	Kotto
13	Tarang Yangsu
14	Wessang
15	Doni Gaon
16	Tata Tara
17	Riga Camp
18	Kawa
19	Lorrah
20	Tajeyen
21	Raje
22	18 Mile Camp
23	Londa
24	Sanchy
25	Tajo