

Executive Summary

Government of India identified minority concentrated 90 districts, which were relatively backward in terms of socio-economic indicators and basic amenities with respect to national average. In order to address the development needs of those districts it was decided at the level of Central Government to work out and implement a multi-sectoral development programme. For this purpose a base line survey in identified 90 backward districts was conducted. Balrampur was identified as one of such districts of Uttar Pradesh from which 900 sample households spread over 30 villages were covered for this study.

General Features

- According to census 2001, population of the district was 16.8 lakh with a density of 576, nearly double to all India figure (Table 2.1). About 92 per cent of the population of this district was living in rural areas against 72 per cent of the total population of the country.
- Household survey data suggested that about 63 per cent households were Hindu and 37 per cent were Muslim (Table 4.1). Average size of the households was 7.15 (Table 4.4) and in case of Muslim it was higher (7.86) than that of Hindu (6.73).
- Over 21 per cent households were land less whereas landless Muslim households were over 28 per cent and Hindu counterpart was about 17 per cent. About 56 per cent of the total households were in the category of marginal farmers and 16 per cent small farmers.
- Per capita livestock was higher in case of Muslims but in terms of milch, draught and young cattle Hindu scored higher. Higher score of goat, sheep and poultry was found with Muslims (Table 4.20). However, livestock census data revealed depleting livestock in the district.
- Average value of productive and other assets per household was only Rs. 19694 in general (Table 4.22). In case of Muslim it was still lower (Rs. 17322) than that of Hindu (Rs.21094).

- Per capita income of the total households at current prices was Rs.6221, which was much higher than that of Muslim community (Rs.5260). Hindu community still enjoyed much higher value (Rs.6885) than the per capita income for total households.

Development Gaps and Priorities

On the basis of survey results of sample area four broad dimensions i.e., literacy, work participation, select basic amenities and health indicators, were identified and compared with eight development indicators at all India level average data for multi sectoral planning of the Balrampur district. Although, there was time lag of three years between the two sets of data and therefore, these gaps were merely indicative and not strictly comparable. However, these indicators were considered crucial for deciding priorities for multi sectoral development planning of backward districts. Gaps in select development indicators in survey with regard to national average were displayed in table for identifying development priority.

Table: Development Gaps and Priorities for Multi - Sectoral Plan for Balrampur

Indicators	All India (2005)	Survey Result (2008)	Gaps	Ranks
1	2	3	4 =(3-2)	5
Rate of Literacy	67.3	50.5	-16.8	7
Rate of Female Literacy	57.1	17.9	-39.2	2
Work Participation Rate	38.0	30.82	-7.18	8
Female Work Participation Rate	21.5	2.15	-19.35	6
Basic Amenities Indicators				
Percentage of Pucca House	59.4	29.4	-30.0	4
Percentage of House with Safe Drinking Water	87.9	98.5	10.6	9
Percentage of Households with Sanitation facilities	39.2	11.7	-27.5	5
Percentage of Electrified Households	67.9	21.0	-46.9	1
Health Indicators				
Percentage of Fully Vaccinated Children (NFHS-3)	43.5	99.0	55.5	10
Percentage of Institutional Deliveries (NFHS-3)	38.7	5.8	-32.9	3

- Highest gap was identified in terms of percentage electrified households compared with national average. Balrampur lagged far behind even if compared with state average. Electricity is a pre requisite infrastructure for the development of any region and household, be it the question of creating enabling environment

for education in general for skill development and activities for employment and income generation. Therefore, effective electrification in terms of ensured supply fell in the category of topmost priority.

- Second in the list of development gaps was female literacy, which was abysmally low with second largest gaps. Literacy of female is one of the important indicators of enabling environment of the households in particular and society at large. Female literacy in the survey area of Balrampur district was found below 18 per cent. National average in 2005 was about three times higher than that of the survey results. Miserable literacy rate of female was grounded in unfavourable environment of education in the survey area. About 10 per cent of villages were still waiting for a primary school (Table 3.6) and there was no centre for non-formal education within panchayat. Primary schools were generally accessible through kutchha road in most of the villages. Therefore, focus on improving female literacy attracts second top most priority area, which needed initiatives of strengthening infrastructure, sensitizing delivery system and effective monitoring and evaluation.
- Third highest gap was identified in terms of percentage institutional delivery of child. Third round of NFHS data suggested that percentage institutional delivery at the national level was only about 39 per cent, which was itself far below from satisfactory level. But in the survey area it was still worse. Data on delivery status for last baby suggest that 94 per cent of the delivery was in home with the help of untrained local helps (Table 4.35), i.e., only about 6 per cent enjoyed institutional delivery status. This gap is needed to be addressed on priority basis in terms of strengthening infrastructure, training, agencies and institutions at the village level.
- Next to institutional delivery it was percentage of pucca house, where survey results brought significant gaps from the national average. Over 95.22 per cent of the households had own house and 4.78 got housing either from Indira Awas or other schemes of the government (Table 4.24). About 22.56 per cent had thatched house and 12.56 per cent had kutchha and khaprail. Altogether 35.12 per cent were found with kutchha houses. About 35.4 per cent was with semi- pucca and 29.4

per cent with pucca houses. Majority of the households had two to three rooms. Over 62 per cent of the household reported having no drainage facility.

- Lack of sanitation facilities emerged with significant gaps. National average for this facility with households was 39 per cent and in the district it was merely about 12 per cent despite complete sanitation drive in the state. More than 88 per cent of the households did not have toilet facility. Proper initiatives are required through district level planning to address this gap.
- Female work participation at the national level itself was quite low. But it was still miserably low and almost negligible in the survey area. Merely 2.14 per cent of female participated in the workforce of the survey area. Manual labour scored highest percentage (Table 4.8). However, female participation in manual labour from Muslim community was at the lower pace. Reasons for low level of participation could be backward agriculture compounded with weak infrastructure support, depleting livestock and lack of non agricultural activities in absence of enabling environment, abysmally low level of literacy among females, etc., which further restricted the avenues to participate in workforce. Therefore, district planning needs to focus on expanding support base of enabling environment to improve female participation in work force.
- Literacy rate in the survey area was found significantly lower than that of national average. In view of time lag real gap would be even wider than what appeared from the table. As survey revealed, illiteracy among Muslims was as high as 54 per cent (Table 4.8). There was significant gap between enrolments and regularity. Reasons for drop out were: compulsions to work for earning, domestic help, distance of school, unable to pay fees, and indifference for education, etc. Therefore, it appears cogent to initiate enabling environment for general education on priority basis as complementary to bridge the gaps of female literacy rates.
- Total work participation rate was found lower than that of state and national averages. Since female work participation rate was very low, it depressed average figure of participation rate also. Hence solution lies in improving female

participation besides providing additional employment opportunities through innovative strategies and initiatives.

- Survey results suggested comfortable position in terms of percentage of households with safe drinking water. Access to drinking water was found to every household. About 74 per cent households reported their own hand pump and 1.33 per cent had their own protected dug well. Remaining households had access to drinking water from public hand pump, dug well and taps within 250 meters.
- Performance regarding vaccination in terms of fully vaccinated children was quite satisfactory and above national average. On an average one child below 5 years was vaccinated from every household (Table 4.34). Vaccination related to Polio, Diphtheria, and BCG was administered above 80 per cent of the children covered. However, vaccination regarding Small Pox and Jaundice was administered on 18 to 20 per cent children. Maximum vaccination was administered by Midwife and Asha. There was critical gap in infrastructure. Only 20 per cent villages were having health sub-centre and 16.67 per cent villages had health sub-centre in panchayats (Table 3.10).

Other Areas of Development Considerations

- Agriculture remained major source of employment (Table 4.13) and income (Table 4.25) as their primary occupation. Majority of the family members of households reported as cultivator followed by manual labour, non agriculture wages and services supplemented by trade, agricultural wages, animal husbandry and artisan. Agricultural implement, transport and financial assets dominated over non agricultural implements and household's assets.
- Per worker person days employment in primary occupation varied from six to ten months. Cultivators got on an average six months employment and manual worker got eight to nine months, whereas, person engaged in service sector, sales/business and caste occupation got up to ten months of employment
- About 34 per cent households opted for business as their first preference, followed by dairy, poultry and services. In case of Muslims, as high as 32 per cent opted for poultry followed by business, dairy and sheep/goat rearing. In second preference again business was the choice for about 25 per cent in general

followed by poultry and sheep/goat rearing. However, in case of Muslim, poultry remained major attraction for even in second list of preference followed sheep/goat and business. Third list of preference of activities in general remained unchanged. However, in case of Muslim, business, sheep/goat and fishery remained major attraction.

- Taking all the households together irrespective of religion, vocation training was aspired by over 42 per cent followed by animal husbandry, and mechanic. Preferred place of training for majority was near by centre followed by district head quarter. Majority of them reported willingness to pay for the training but over 24 per cent was not willing to pay for this training.
- On an average more than one person was reported suffering from various forms of illness such as, seasonal diseases, prolong fever, stomach, ENT and eye related illness, chronic diseases, accident and other problems. Out of which about 42 per cent reported seasonal diseases followed by stomach related disease (19.81 per cent) and prolong fever (9.82 per cent). Majority of them visited to private hospital (59 per cent) followed by government hospital (20.16 per cent) and quacks (11.46 per cent) for treatment. However, more than 4.65 percent depended on home treatment only. On an average health related expenditure per household per annum was estimated to the tune of Rs.2149. In case of Muslim it was higher (Rs. 2415) than that of Hindu (Rs.1992).
- About 52 per cent of the surveyed households were identified under BPL category. In case of Muslim community percentage of BPL households was higher by 4 per cent. However, only 27 per cent of the total households have BPL cards. Data also suggest that over 89 per cent of the households got facility of PDS provisions. About 51 per cent reported capability of getting their share of provisioning under PDS. However, they faced problems of underweight, non-timely, insufficient quantity and bad quality.
- About 31 per cent of the households reported non-accessibility to PDS because of the lack of purchasing power, discriminatory behavior of PDS dealer, and some times due to lack of supply in PDS when they had money.

- In terms of awareness out of seven select development programmes, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Widow Pension Scheme (WPS) could reach the highest proportion (above 94 per cent) of the sample households (Table 4.37) followed by National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGS, 68 per cent), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) 49 per cent and Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) only about 25 per cent of the households. Most of the other programmes operative in the districts were at the lower key so far awareness about the development programmes was concerned. Maximum percentage of beneficiaries was found in case of SSA. However, percentage beneficiary of Muslim was significantly lower than that of Hindu.
- Maximum number of households (56.2 per cent) considered SSA followed by NREGS (43 per cent), IAY (38.67 per cent), Widow Pension scheme, and SGSY beneficial.
- Participation in democratic process at the level of grassroot democracy and assembly was almost universal. However, in case of Lok Sabha participation was confined to 60 per cent. Surprisingly, participation in self help group (SHG) was absent in sample households of the district.
- Mobile occupancy was the highest (24.67 per cent) followed by radio (9.56 per cent), news paper (6.78 per cent). Television was found only with 3.22 per cent and telephone was below one per cent of the household. Thus, media exposure was found at very low key.
- Road emerged in their list of the highest priority among items of first preference for development need followed by health facilities, and electricity, water and education. Among the Muslims, road and health facility was followed by sanitation (Table 4.40).
- Irrespective of all the three preferences of total households, employment remained at the highest score. Besides employment, second highest score was of housing followed by land and education in first preference. Among the communities, highest number of Hindu opted for employment but Muslims went with housing followed by land and employment. In the second preference employment was followed by land, education and house. Among the Muslims, education topped the

percentage of aspirants over employment, house, land, skills and health. However, among Hindus, land remained at the top in the second preference followed by employment, education, house, skills and health. Thus, in second preference, two different sets of strategies emerged from the data. Hindu aspired resource base (i.e., land) for employment to earn livelihood and secure education for skills upgrading and health facilities, whereas, Muslims preferred education for employment, and basic amenities