

Executive Summary: Bijnor District of Uttar Pradesh

Introduction

Minority constitutes one-fifth of the total India population. They are yet to join mainstream of the Indian developmental path. Majority of them are at the bottom of socio-economic stratification. A survey conducted by the central government highlighted the fact that 90 districts of the country, having minority concentration, are backward. Out of these, 21 districts are in Uttar Pradesh alone. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, government of India, aims at developing suitable measures for the development of these 90 districts in the eleventh five-year plan. The main aim of this baseline survey is to identify the developmental deficit in these districts and identify areas for intervention. Giri institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, has been entrusted to conduct baseline survey in 19 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Top Five Major Development Deficit in Bijnor

- ⌞ Electricity
- ⌞ Pucca Houses
- ⌞ Female Work Participation Rate
- ⌞ Work Participation Rate
- ⌞ Sanitation Facility

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the survey is to identify the gaps-

- In infrastructure such as schools, health and drinking water,
- In housing and sanitary facilities,
- In other infrastructure like roads, banking and marketing facilities, etc.,
- To Point out income generating activities e.g. artisan/handicrafts, in which villagers have a comparative advantage.

Methodology, Sample design and Tools

The tehsils of each district are classified into three strata by arranging them in descending order of Minority population in the 2001 census. Then 30 villages selected from each district. A door-to-door survey conducted to do the house listing in each village with a population up to 1200. Two hamlets selected in the case of larger villages. The first was the one with highest minority population and the second any other hamlets of the villages. Then from each village 30 households selected in proportion to the religious categories of people living in the village. Thus, 900 households have been identified and surveyed from each district.

The study has undertaken at three levels:

1. District profile using secondary information,
2. Village level profile using secondary information,
3. Household level profile using data from the field survey.

Indicators

In order to identify the development deficit and identification of priority areas for policy intervention, the expert committee of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi, identified eight indicators. Following are these indicators:

(A) Socio-Economic Indicators:

1. Literacy Rate
2. Female Literacy Rate
3. Work Participation Rate
4. Female Work Participation Rate

(B) Basic Amenities Indicators:

5. Percentage of Households with Pucca Houses
6. Percentage of Households with Safe Drinking Water
7. Percentage of Households with Electricity
8. Percentage of Households with W/C Latrines

Beside the above indicators, two additional indicators also selected for assessing health status in the district. These are:

(C) Health Indicators:

9. Percentage of Fully Vaccinated Children
10. Percentage of Institutional Deliveries

The purpose of this baseline survey is to identify the infrastructural gaps, which could be filled through Multi-Sector District Development Plan (MSDP). Effort will be made through MSDP to reduce these developmental deficits and take it at least to the national Level/state level.

Taking deficit as weight, the indicators representing specific sectors are ranked on 8-point score scale, in which rank 1 will indicate highest deficit and highest priority. Thus, an indicator is given highest rank, if the value of deficit between survey result and the estimate for India is higher. The other indicators are ranked in decreasing order according to their value of deficit. In case, the

deficit comes positive (survey result higher than the estimate of India) lower rank is assigned to the indicator. The developmental deficit of Bijnor district has been presented in the following table:

Development Deficit of Bijnor District

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Result of District (2008)	Estimate for India (2005)	Gap between India and District	Priority Ranking
		1	2	3 = 1 - 2	
Socio-Economic Indicators					
1	Literacy Rate	67.29	67.30	-0.01	7
2	Female Literacy Rate	56.82	57.10	-0.28	6
3	Work Participation Rate	24.65	38.00	-13.35	4
4	Female Work Participation Rate	1.76	21.50	-19.74	3
Basic Amenities Indicators					
5	Percentage of Households with Pucca Houses	31.89	59.40	-27.51	2
6	Percentage of Households with Safe Drinking Water	99.22	87.90	11.32	8
7	Percentage of Households with Electricity	28.56	67.90	-39.34	1
8	Percentage of Households with Water Close set Latrines	32.22	39.20	-6.98	5
Health Indicators					
9	Percentage of Fully Vaccinated Children	71.11	43.50	27.61	-
10	Percentage of Institutional Deliveries	9.30	38.70	-29.40	-

Note- (1) Survey data of the district (col. 1) pertains to rural areas only, but data (col.2) pertains to total.

(2) Data in col. 2 from sl.no. 5 to 8 pertains to year 2005-2006 from NFHS-3 and rest data in col.2 pertains to the year 2004-2005 from NSSO.

The above table shows major development deficit of Bijnor district, which needs argent attention:

1. Rural household connections and availability of power supply is the first priority area. Although, all sample villages are electrified, but number of connections and availability of power supply is discouraging in the district. Out of total household (7805), only 2384 households have electric connection and on an average less than 7.36 hours per day power supply is available. Among Muslim and ST households, electric connections are almost negligible.
2. The condition of houses is unsatisfactory and it receives second priority place. Besides having a large number of kuccha houses, the living space for an average family is insufficient. The survey indicates that expenditure on house repairing at its maintenance is

the major cause of indebtedness of rural poor. This increases distress to the lower section of the society.

3. Female work participation rate has been extremely low as compare to the national level. Serious effort is important in the MSDP to increase work participation rate in general and for female in particular.
4. The baseline survey result indicates that the percentage of work participation is lower than that of national average.
5. Insufficient toilet facilities received 5th place in development deficit table, only 16.67 per cent villages having toilet facilities. Most of villages are devoid of this facility (83.33 per cent). Only 40 private toilets are available in five villages, the condition of existing toilets is in bad shape.

Other Findings of Survey:

1. The condition of infrastructure in surveyed villages is very discouraging. Roads, toilets, drinking water, sanitation etc. are in bad shape. Even the existing infrastructure facilities are very poorly maintained.
2. It has been observed during survey that drainage system in almost all the villages is very bad. Polluted water flows in the open drainage, which is the source of mosquitoes and related diseases in the area.
3. Out of total surveyed villages, only five villages having all weather Pucca roads. In rest of the villages, condition of road is very poor, which is full of garbage in both the sides. Heap of garbage is the cause of many diseases in the area.
4. Health facilities are very inadequate in the rural areas. No primary health centres (PHCs) or sub-centres are located within the village or nearby villages. People have to go to block headquarters for treatment. The number of beds in allopathic hospital per lakh population is 22.1, which is very less as compare to the state i.e. 38.0. The situation is more alarming for pregnant women, children and aged people.
5. The frequency of visit of medical officer, lady health visitor and malaria inspector is less in almost all villages in the district. The problem of medicine is acute.
6. Veterinary hospitals are practically none existent in the surveyed villages, except two villages.
7. Muslim illiterates constitute maximum i.e. 33.52 per cent than that of other communities.

8. Government schools are poorly maintained and drop out cases are alarming. It becomes even serious as we move from primary level to the higher levels. Children have been sent to the schools only to receive scholarship and mid-day-meal (MDM). Most of the children are forced to earn money by their parents largely due to poverty. Quite often, children's scholarship and their earned money are being misused for drinking and gambling by their father.
9. Maximum girls in the surveyed villages have left the schools after upper primary due to unavailability of higher secondary schools in the village or nearby villages. Higher secondary schools are far away from villages (average 5 km.). Due to social reasons, girls are forced to stay back in their houses and learn the traditional domestic chores.
10. Dropout cases are matter of serious concern for school managements and government in the district and the state as well. The main reason of dropout is the parents' attitude; they view their children as additional source of income. Maximum dropout cases have found in Muslim community, i.e. 43.33 per cent, then in Hindu community, which constitutes 36.36 per cent. Acute poverty is one of the major reasons.
11. Out of total migration in the surveyed households, percentage of Muslim migrants is higher (63 or 2.95 per cent) than that of Hindus (28 or 0.98 per cent). Maximum migrants are 20-40 years of age group. According to the field survey below 20 years age group migrants are mostly dropout students. In this age group, the number of Muslim migrants is three times higher than that of Hindus.
12. The survey shows that the living condition of rural people is very bad. They have very little assets. Muslims having lesser agricultural implements, transport facilities and financial assets as compare to Hindus.
13. There is unfavourable employment–unemployment ratio. Most of the poor people are landless labourers without even a piece of land. 62.67 per cent surveyed household are landless in the district. In case of Hindu and Muslim, 78.55 per cent Muslim households are landless as compare to 53.51 per cent Hindus.
14. Landless and marginal farmers have been pushed in the background, and they are depending on agricultural labour and rudimentary village industries with no surety of regular employment.

15. Irrigation by canal and government wells is almost negligible in the district. Most of the irrigation is done by private tube wells (67.26 per cent). Other sources like wells, ponds, etc. constitute 27.58 per cent.
16. Average family size of Muslims in surveyed villages is 7.01, which is higher than that of rest religious groups in the district. Their economic condition is pitiable.
17. Number of BPL cardholders in surveyed villages is very less. It has been found that BPL cards have not been issued to the needy persons but those, whose living condition is good have BPL Card.
18. It has been reported by most of the villagers that pradhan and village secretary demand commissions (about Rs.200 - Rs.1000) and unethical favour especially from poor women, for issuing BPL card.
19. Muslims having minimum average land holding (0.32 acres) than that of rest communities.
20. The main and secondary occupation of working members of the family is higher in manual work as compared to other occupational patterns.
21. Corruption is one of the most important causes for under development of the area. This has been reported during the survey that pradhan and village secretary did not maintain the records properly. They procrastinating the matter, when the survey team demanded the information.
22. Most of the rural people are not aware about the government developmental schemes. Even the pradhan and secretary are reluctant to circulate the information to the rural people.
23. The instalments of grants are insufficient for village development and it is not proportional to the population. Most of the rural people are not getting benefits of the developmental programmes.
24. There is no village level record of population and occupational activities, especially of minorities and weaker sections, at any level of district administration. This is a serious impediment for welfare measures for the poor section of the society.
25. For minority and other deprived sections of the society, there are no credit facilities, supply of raw materials and marketing of finished goods.

Suggestions:

1. Survey result indicates that 91.33 per cent rural people are searching additional employment opportunities, in which Muslim percentage is higher (91.62 per cent). Development of rural and cottage industry may be very helpful to reduce the poverty in the area. This will not only provide employment opportunities in the rural areas, but also arrest the migration process.
2. Effort should be made to improve the electricity supply in the rural areas, which is the most important need for rural development.
3. Due to lack of facilities, percentage of institutions delivery is much lower in the survey result (9.30 per cent) as compare to national estimate, which is 38.70 per cent. The deficit is -29.40 per cent. Therefore, more PHCs and sub-centres should be constructed within the cluster of villages to improve the health condition of the rural people, along with ambulance facilities.
4. People give first priority to the dairy related activities (55.60 per cent) Development of dairy cooperative in the area is the need of the hour.
5. Corruption can be minimized through people awareness and people's participation, transparency in utilisation of development funds and fixing accountancy at every level of administration and execution.
6. Credit facilities, supply of raw materials and marketing of finished goods should be ensured by the government. This will encourage handicraft and household industries, which is very important for minorities and weaker sections of the society.
7. Vocational training centres should be established in the villages. So that rural people can get training in various activities and generate self-employment.
8. More government tube wells should be built for irrigation and drinking water.
9. Serious effort should be made to minimize dropout cases of children especially the girl child. This area needs urgent attention because education is the dominant means of social mobility.

Top Five Development Priorities in Bijnor District

- ⊞ Employment
- ⊞ Electricity
- ⊞ Institutional Deliveries
- ⊞ Pucca Houses
- ⊞ Female Work Participation Rate