

## **Executive Summary; Pilibhit District**

The objective focus of the present study has been to find out the extent of deficit prevailing in different socio-economic indicators in the minority concentrated district of Pilibhit and to find out the possible priority areas for policy intervention. In this context the level of backwardness emerging in the socio-economic development at the district level has been examined with considering into account the relative position emerging at the national level in matter related to ten socio-economic indicators which were identified by the expert committee constituted by Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi. In this process the study has incorporated the household survey data for the district and the most recent data for the year 2005 for national level so as to derive the extent of differences are existing between the district Pilibhit and national level in relation to identified following ten socio-economic indicators which could be filled up through initiating Multi-Sector Development Plan in the district. The selected socio-economic indicators are as follows;

### **(I) Socio-economic Indicators**

- i.** Literacy Rate
- ii.** Female Literacy Rate
- iii.** Work Participation Rate
- iv.** Female Work Participation Rate

## **Basic Amenities Indicators**

- v. Percentage of Households with Pucca Houses
- vi. Percentage of Households with Safe Drinking Water
- vii. Percentage of Households with Electricity Connections
- viii. Percentage of Households with W/C Latrines

## **(II) Health Indicators**

- i. Percentage of Fully vaccinated children
- ii. Percentage of Institutional Deliveries.

The Pilibhit district has been possessing certain area specific comparative advantages over rest of the districts in the state in terms of having sufficient irrigation facility and a very fertile land providing a very high productivity per hectare, even more than the state average in growing of various food and non –food crops. But there existed a larger inequality in the distribution pattern of arable land for cultivation among different community households. There is a domination of Hindu and Muslim population but the arable land has been largely owned by Sikh communities which has been forcing other community households to get engaged in low paid occupations available largely in their farm level in the district. In real sense the economic condition of Sikhs was far better than the Hindus and Muslims. Other community people residing in the district were the followers of Christian, Buddhist and Jain which population together constituted only at 1 percent in the total population of the district. The details of other gaps emerging in terms of different indicators of socio- economic development at the district level have been further highlighted. The possible solutions to fill the respective gaps are also suggested accordingly through assessing the area specific development potentials in the district.

## **Extent of gaps in different development indicators in Pilibhit district**

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Results	All India (2005)	Gap between All India and District	Priority Ranking
<b>A</b>	<b>Socio- economic Indicators</b>				
<b>1</b>	Rate of literacy	66..5	67..3	-0.8	9
<b>2</b>	Rate of Female Literacy	56.6	57.1	-0.5	10
<b>3</b>	Work Participation Rate	29..2	38.0	-8.8	8
<b>4.</b>	Female Work Participation Rates	2.87	21..5	-18.63	<b>4</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Indicators of Basic Amenities</b>				
<b>1</b>	Percentage of Pucca Houses	41..3	59.4	-18.1	6
<b>2.</b>	Percentage of Houses with Access to Safe Drinking Water	99..9	87.9	+12.0	7
<b>3.</b>	Percentage of Houses with Sanitation Facility	24.6	67.9	-43.3	1
<b>4</b>	Percentage of Electrified Houses	19.9	39.2	-19.3	3
<b>c.</b>	<b>Heath Indicators</b>				
<b>1</b>	Percentage of Fully Vaccinated children	25.28	43.5	-18.22	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	Percentage of Institutional Deliveries	9.82	38.7	-28.8	<b>2</b>

### **Development Priorities;**

Access to in house facility of toilet is the most crucial gap emerging in the district. There is a very serious situation emerging in terms of the availability of toilet facility especially for women in almost the villages. In house toilet facility is available to only 25 per cent of the total households in rural areas of the district. Concerned facility is however better available in the houses of Sikhs followed by Muslims. In fact a very proportion of 75 percent family members, largely belonging to Muslims and Hindus are going on the open fields for toilet. In this light the focus of multi-sector development plan should centered around towards the properly implementation of TSC so as to reduce the existing gap.

Despite the fact that a very high proportion of 93 percent villages are electrified there is a very bad situation emerging in connecting the houses of different communities especially Muslims with the facility of electricity in the district. So far merely 20 percent houses are provided the facility of electricity. In fact the electricity is generally available only for four to 6 hours per day to the electrified houses.

The next priority area of intervention would be the expansion of various health facilities. The medical facilities are largely concentrated at district headquarter level

which a majority people are not in a position to avail due to their poor economic conditions. Most deliveries are happen to be at home in unsafe conditions. Diversification of different medical facilities through undertaking their expansion among the clusters of villages should be accorded a top priority in the Multi-Sectoral Development.

The housing condition has been found to be rather unsatisfactory as only a little over 41 percent houses are pucca which are largely owned by Sikh communities. Nearly 67 percent Muslim families are living in Kutcha houses. In fact a little over 57 percent Muslims are accommodating in one living room available in their houses. The contribution of IAY has also been noted very poor in allotting the houses to Minority communities. The exiting gap in the condition of housing can be topped up by properly implementation of the IAY.

The proportion of population actively employed in different economic activities constituted only a little over 29 percent which is almost similar in case of different community households. However the work participation rate of women is very low. In fact the quality of employment available in rural areas is very unsatisfactory which is indicated by increasing rate of marginal workers and high incidence of un-employment resulting increasing migration of labourforce. In this sense creation of additional employment and avenues of income generation through planning development of potential economic activities in specific to different villages should be provided an important priority in initiating for Multi-Sectoral Plan.

- The accessibility to safe drinking water facility is however well available in a majority of villages. A very high proportion of 76 percent households have been obtaining the supply of drinking water from the taps connected to their houses. However among them the proportion of Sikh households is highest at 83 percent followed by 76 per cent Hindu households and 74 percent Muslim households. Public hand pump/tube well are the another second most source of drinking water for 13 percent households.
- There has been a significant progress achieved in the expansion of elementary level of educational facilities under the SSA in the district. But the secondary, technical and higher educational

institutions are mainly concentrated at the district level. In spite of well accessibility to primary school facility over one third of the rural population in the district is still illiterate. Among them the proportion is as higher at 45 percent among the Muslims as against 31 percent Hindus and 19 percent Sikhs. Muslims are also indicated lagging behind both Sikhs and Hindus in terms of attaining higher/technical education in the district. In this sense the expansion of informal educations for minority children becomes more important to achieve equity. The expansion of higher educational facilities should be provided among the clusters of villages and in rural towns.

### **Summing Up**

The overall assessment is that there existed wider inequalities in the distribution of different productive assets and resources which enhance the generation of income among the different community households in the district. Even a large extent of disparities is emerging in distribution of arable land for cultivation among the different community households. The Muslim households are found in most disadvantages position in the availability of different income generation resources including the land for cultivation. The economic condition of Sikh community households is found quite strong by virtue of the availability of very large sizes of fertile land holdings in their possession. Creation of additional productive employment opportunities through initiating expansion of different potential off-farm and non-farm activities which possessing certain area specific development advantages in their expansion should be considered one of the major challenges by the district administration. Since the generation of income and creation of gainful employment for a majority of households especially for Muslims would be necessary for achieving desired development with equity in the district. The identified gaps in the availability of different amenities of life and its utilization pattern also needed to be sufficiently reduced in the perspective of overall development of the district in general and different disadvantaged community population in particular.