

Executive Summary: Saharanpur District Uttar Pradesh

The purpose of the Base-line Survey was to identify the development deficit in the district and identification of priority areas for policy intervention in the district. For this purpose, basically 8 indicators were identified by the expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi. The idea was to identify those districts which have a minority concentration and are also relatively backward. The indicators selected for identification of these districts were as follows:

(a) Religion-Specific Socio-Economic Indicators

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

(b) Indicators of Basic Amenities

- i. Percentage of Households with pucca houses
- ii. Percentage of Households with safe drinking water
- iii. Percentage of Households with electricity
- iv. Percentage of Households with W/C latrines

Besides the above, 2 additional indicators for assessing health status have been used.

These are:

- i. Percentage of fully-vaccinated children
- ii. Percentage of institutional deliveries

Since the purpose of the Baseline Survey was to identify the infrastructural gaps which could be filled up through the Multi-Sector District Development Plan (MsDP) for the Minority Concentrated Districts (MCDs) which are characterized by relative backwardness. By the Multi-Sectoral District Development Plan, the relative backwardness of such districts could be reduced at least to the National/State level. For this purpose, we have taken most recent National level official estimates for finding the development deficits in terms of 10 selected indicators. Taking deficit as weight, the indicators representing specific sectors are ranked on a 10 point score scale in which rank

Five Top Development Priorities of Saharanpur District

- Housing
- Sanitation
- Employment generation
- Literacy
- Safe drinking water facilities

1 indicates highest deficit. Thus, an indicator is given highest rank if the value of deficit between the survey result and the estimate for the India is highest. The other indicators are ranked in descending order according to their value of deficit. In case, the deficit comes positive (survey result higher than the estimate of the India), the lower rank is assigned to that indicator which has lower positive value and higher rank is given if the positive value is higher. Accordingly, all the ten indicators are ranked to find out that how the priority should be accorded to different ten indicators in planning the Multi-Sector District Development Plan of Saharanpur district. The selected indicators have been taken from the NSSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Ministry of Labour and Employment and National Family and Health Survey. The development deficit, thus, worked in case of Saharanpur district has been presented in the following table:

Development Deficit in key Socio-economic, Basic amenities and Health indicators: Saharanpur District

S.No	Indicators	Survey Result (2008) (1)	All India (2005) (2)	Gap between All India and District (3=1-2)	Priority Ranking (4)
	<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>				
1.	Rate of literacy	71.64	67.30	4.34	5
2.	Rate of female literacy	62.81	57.10	5.71	6
3.	Work participation rate	25.84	38.00	-12.16	4
4.	Female work participation rate	1.74	21.50	-19.76	3
	<i>Basic Amenities indicators</i>				
5.	Percentage of pucca houses	37.44	59.40	-21.96	1
6.	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	100.00	87.90	12.10	7
7.	Percentage of electrified households	70.44	39.20	31.24	8
8.	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	46.67	67.90	-21.23	2
	<i>Health indicators</i>				
9.	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	47.74	43.50	4.24	-
10.	Percentage of institutional delivery	15.14	38.70	-23.56	-

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col.1) pertains to rural area only, but other data (Col.2) pertains to total. (2) Data in Col 2 from SI.No.5 to 8 pertain to year 2005-06 from NFHS-3 and the rest of the data in Col.2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

Though, Saharanpur district is part of the Western region of Uttar Pradesh, which is considered to be the most developed part of the Uttar Pradesh, yet striking development gaps have emerged in the district when compared with National and State

level situations. The followings are gaps which require proper planning in the Multi-sector Development Plan of the district in order to alleviate the district at the national and state level:

- ❖ The overall housing condition has been found to be quite unsatisfactory and receives top priority in the rural parts of the Saharanpur district. It has been found in our survey that only 37.44 per cent of households own pucca houses as compared to 59.40 per cent at the National level. Besides having a large number of Kuchha houses the living space for a sizeable section of the households has also been found to be insufficient. Although Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) has contributed to certain extent, the larger section of the people living below the poverty line has not yet been covered by any housing programme. So more families should be selected to avail the benefits of IAY.
- ❖ The present status of households with sanitation facilities in rural areas of Saharanpur district is relatively poor, when compared with all India estimates. The Baseline survey has shown that only 46.67 per cent of the rural households are provided with sanitation facilities as compared to 67.90 per cent at the National level. Therefore extension of sanitation facilities is to be accorded top priority in the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan of the district.
- ❖ The work participation rate in general and of females in particular is low in the district as compared to the National level. The proper strategies need to be devised in the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan of the district. In this context various rural non-farm activities being undertaken in the rural areas of the district need to be promoted and the participation of female worker in the development work of the rural area should be assured.
- ❖ Though the literacy level is high in the district, the situation of higher education especially among the Muslims is deplorable. It is found in our survey that more than 28 per cent of the rural population of Saharanpur district is still illiterate. Further, the proportion of population decreases as the level of education rises. Drop out rate has been found remarkably high among Muslims. Government intervention such as scholarship and other educational aids, especially for the girls of the religious

minority communities may lead to a breakthrough. In regard to this, effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is needed in the district.

- ❖ The Base-line data has revealed that the percentage of households with access to safe drinking water facilities is higher in rural areas of the district when compared with all India estimates. It has been found that more than 83 per cent have source of drinking water within the house and the rest have to travel up to 100 meters or more to get safe drinking water. Thus, the government intervention is needed to ensure easy accessibility of safe drinking water facilities at the household level.
- ❖ The present status of electrification in households of Saharanpur district is far better (70.44 per cent) when compared to the National average (39.20 per cent). According to the household survey, we found that more than 72 per cent of the Hindu houses have electricity as compared to only 62.83 per cent of the Muslim households. Thus 29 per cent of rural households still need to be electrified which requires government efforts for topping up the existing schemes of rural electrification and at the same time there is a need of taking up fresh schemes for rural electrification.
- ❖ Improvement of Health care facilities is the next priority area which requires immediate intervention in Saharanpur district. The percentage of fully vaccinated children is better placed (47.74 per cent) at the district level when compared with the National average (43.50 per cent) of vaccinated children. Similarly the percentage of institutional deliveries in rural areas of the district is quite low (15.14 per cent) to 38.70 per cent at the National level. Both these health indicators need to be given priority in Multi-Sectoral Development Plan of the district.
- ❖ Further witnessing poor social security measure, a sizeable section of the BPL families has been found not having the BPL card. Although the Public Distribution System (PDS) is weak, its importance can be judged from the fact that a good number of the sample households are getting their essential commodities through the PDS. The major problem with the PDS, however, is inadequate supply of the essential commodities in time.

- ❖ Lack of awareness, especially among the Muslims, about the available government schemes has been found to be a matter of serious concern. It prevents a sizeable section of the people from getting the necessary support.

Suggested components of Multi-Sector District Development Plan: Saharanpur District

On the basis of above identified development priorities in Saharanpur district, it is suggested that the Multi-sector District Development Plan of the district should have the following major components:

- The condition of housing is generally poor in rural areas of Saharanpur district. The baseline survey has revealed that only 2.78 per cent of rural households benefited under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). In the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan, some minority families who are below the poverty line may be identified across all the four tehsils of the district and may be provided housing units on the lines of Indira Awas Yojana.
- The extension of sanitation facilities at the household level is to be accorded next priority in the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan of the district. In this context, initiative should be taken by government authorities to effectively implement Total Sanitation Campaign and create awareness relating to hygiene and cleanliness among the rural households.
- It has been found that employment generation is the critical problem in the district. In regard to this, ongoing programme to improve the productivity and diversification in agriculture need to be revitalized. Various non-farm activities are also carried out in the rural areas of the district. The number of homogenous Self-help-groups (SHGs) in the rural areas of Saharanpur district should be increased and care should be taken by DRDA that each self-help-group must involve in some economic activity. There is a need to identify such activities and plan for their development in the Multi-Sectoral Plan of the district.
- It has been observed that a sizeable section of people currently being unemployed and under employed is seeking opportunities for livelihood generation through self-employment instead of looking for salaried job. Undoubtedly, this indicates a positive trend. This section of probable entrepreneurs needs encouragement and required support. The present survey has pointed out the preferences of the employment seekers. Appropriate skill building training and credit at lower rate of interest are two critical gaps, which deserve immediate attention.

- The enhancement of literacy level among the rural population in general and among minorities in particular needs to be accorded due priority in the Multi-sector Development Plan of the district. It has been found through the baseline survey that around 40 per cent of the Muslim population is still illiterate. It was also evident that 12.24 per cent of Muslim children falling in the age group of 5-15 years were never enrolled in schools. The aspiration of Muslim parents for the education of their children was also relatively lower. The infrastructure in terms of school buildings and the location of higher-secondary schools was found to be poor. To mitigate this problem, due convergence with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan needs to be established in the district. There is also need to carry out a campaign to arouse the feelings of importance of education among the rural masses of the district. The NGOs may also be involved to launch an awareness campaign for this purpose.
- Provision of health care facilities is the next important priority identified through the baseline survey in the district. It has been found that the number of allopathic hospitals, number of primary health centers (PHCs) and number of child/women welfare centers per lakh of population are comparatively lower in the district. At the Tehsil level accessibility of these health care facilities should be reassessed and planning for the addition of such facilities may be made in the Multi-Sectoral Plan of the district. Besides, immunization of children in general and of Minorities in particular, may be planned as a campaign. The involvement of NGOs may also be thought of. Immunization therefore, should be adequately emphasized through existing programme of National Rural Health Mission. In most of the cases child delivery takes place at home. Similarly very few women are found receiving pre and post natal care. The benefits of the ICDS scheme are also found utterly significant. The training should also be given to untrained dais in rural areas of the district in order to ensure greater number of safe deliveries. Immunization therefore, should be adequately emphasized through existing programme of National Rural Health Mission.
- Three major infrastructures; namely the road network and its condition, electricity expansion and its supplies, and the number of bank branches need to be increased

at the district level. In the context of electrification, alternative sources of energy may also be considered. Road connectivity must be given due emphasis in the Multi-sector District Development Plan of the district.