



## Executive Summary

# Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

## Kamrup District Assam



**OMEO KUMAR DAS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT**

A Research Institute of Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and Government of Assam

VIP Road, Upper Hengrabari, Guwahati 781036  
www.okd.in, email: dkdsd@yahoo.co.in

## Kamrup District, Assam

The purpose of the Baseline Survey of the Minority Concentration Districts (MDCS) was to assess the development deficits in the district and identification of priority areas for policy interventions to be structured in the line of the Prime Minister's 15- Point Programme, which will be in the form of a Multi-sector Development Programme (MsDP) for the entire district. In order to do this, ten indicators - eight of which were identified and applied by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India for identifying the Minority Concentrated Districts across the country along with two additional indicators for assessing health status have been used. Since the basic purpose of the Baseline was specified as a pre-requisite for preparation of Multi-sector District Development Plan (MsDP) for the Minority Concentrated Districts (MCDs) characterised by relative backwardness and to bring those district at least to the national level, most recent national level official estimates were taken for finding the development deficits in terms of the ten selected indicators. Taking deficit so derived as weights, the indicators representing specific sectors are ranked on a ten point score-scale. The exercise results in following relative ranking for the Kamrup district, Assam. The national estimates of the selected indicators (1-8) are estimated on the basis of NSS 2004 -2005 rounds while (9-10) are from NFHS -3 with due approval from the Ministry.

SI No	Indicators	Survey Results	India	Deficit	Priority assigned
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	75.90	67.30	8.60	7
2	Rate of female literacy	68.82	57.10	11.72	9
3	Work participation rate	48.37	38.00	10.37	8
4	Female work participation rate	33.23	21.50	11.73	10
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	10.60	59.40	-48.80	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	76.40	87.90	-11.50	5
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	16.50	39.20	-22.70	4
8	Percentage of electrified households	33.60	67.90	-34.30	2
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	17.80	43.50	-25.70	3
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	34.80	38.70	-3.90	6

Notwithstanding the fact that Kamrup is one of the better performing districts in terms of



development in basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions, viz., a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living, as indicated by its HDI value, besides having a better position in terms of income, education and health, the rural scenario of the district has been marked by several development deficits. The striking deficits are pointed out below.

### HOUSING

The overall condition of the housing condition has been found to be quite unsatisfactory and receives top priority. 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 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. It has also been observed that indebtedness has frequently been caused by expenditure on house repairing and construction worsening the condition of the distressed rural poor.

### ELECTRIFICATION

Rural electrification is the next priority sector. There is an urgent need 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. Although majority of the households have access to safe drinking water, a sizeable proportion of the Muslim and the ST population use drinking water from unsafe sources. In order to ensure safe drinking water government intervention is needed.

### HEALTH CARE

The present baseline survey indicates that percentage of children fully immunized is marginal. The survey also indicates considerably lower rated vaccination for girls. The quality service delivery and administration of vaccination is found poor. In most of the cases the parents are not aware of the second and third doses of vaccines. Immunization therefore, should be adequately emphasised 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 insignificant.

### SANITATION AND DRINKING WATER

Sanitation and drinking water are two other priority areas as surfaced in the present Baseline. Pit latrine is found common among the sample households. Access to safe drinking water has been found to be low in the district.

### OTHER OBSERVATIONS

- Though the literacy level is high in the district, the situation of higher education especially among the girls is deplorable. Drop out rate has been found remarkably high. Governmental intervention such as scholarship and other educational aids, especially for the girls of the religious minority communities may lead to a breakthrough.
- Agricultural sector without any appreciable decline of the number of people dependent on it has been marked by all traditional practices besides decreasing size of operational holdings. In absence of adequate institutional reforms, the technological reforms initiated by the government have largely failed to render any support to the marginal farmers. For instance, the effort made by the government through the Farm Management Committee has not yielded the desired results. Consequently, agricultural



sector has neither been remunerative for the people presently depend on it nor can provide additional employment opportunity. Thus, modernisation of the sector through appropriate measures involving the actual producers in the process of implementation and monitoring may substantially contribute to the rural economy 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 in stead 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.

■ Further witnessing poor social security measure, a sizeable section of the BPL families has been found not having the BPL card. Although the 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.

■ 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.

To sum up, In terms of relative deprivation, common perception of the people is that they are deprived of land, housing, health, education and employment. The major aspirations of the people that have emerged through the survey are communication and connectivity, safe drinking water, better health care, education and employment facilities. ■