



Executive Summary

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

Karimganj District Assam



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Karimganj 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 Karimganj district, Assam. The national estimates of the selected indicators are estimated on the basis of NSS 2004 -2005 rounds and 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	77.01	67.30	9.71	8
2	Rate of female literacy	71.98	57.10	14.88	9
3	Work participation rate	31.83	38.00	-6.17	7
4	Female work participation rate	3.99	21.50	-17.51	5
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	8.44	59.40	-50.96	2
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	20.33	87.90	-67.57	1
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	22.40	39.20	-16.80	6
8	Percentage of electrified households	23.88	67.90	-44.02	3
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	64.60	43.50	21.1	10
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	9.69	38.70	-29.01	4

Analysis overall reveal that Karimganj is a non-performing district in most of the facets of development. Except for immunization coverage of children and attainment of literacy, the district has performed miserably in all other development sectors. The success of immunization coverage of children and literacy could be explained by the programme based approaches on immunization drives and the total literacy campaigns. Work participation rates of both men and women reveal that employment sector of this district is severely constrained to accommodate additional people. A relatively high level of income revealed from household survey fails to interpret the poor provisioning of other basic services in the district. The baseline survey points out some areas of development deficits requiring effective attentions.

- There is need for institutional reforms in certain sectors of the district to usher the development process. The district is plagued by poor infrastructure facilities- particularly of power and road communication to initiate any sustainable self employment initiatives. Being closer to the international boundary this district has bright prospects for trade under the open policy regime. There is need to stress more on self-employment initiatives, particularly in households as well as non-households industries, which could lead to growth process of the district.

- There are space constraints for agriculture activities in this densely populated district. Probably the agriculture sector needs promotion of high value crops and modernization to derive higher income. This however, will require hosts of institutional supports to the peasantry. The household survey reveals poor level of agriculture modernization in the district.

- Drinking water and sanitation facilities are in bad shape in the villages of the district. There is need for making more provisioning of basic infrastructure, water and sanitation services through state interventions in the villages.

- Decent housing for the poor is another important aspect needing attention. Pucca houses are in very few proportions in the sample villages. Moreover, meagre percentage of households having electricity connections reveals poor purchasing power even when the electricity supply is available in the villages.

- The survey reveals missing access to government health facilities in most of the sample households. Poor presence and infrequent visits of health personnel in the villages costs the villagers dear. This is also found that awareness level of people is poor in health and sanitation programmes than other government programmes of education or employment.

- Reproductive health requires serious attention in the villages of the district. In most of the cases child delivery takes place at home. Similarly very few women are found receiving pre and post natal care.

- Literacy though shows a reasonably good rate, what concerns more is the level of educational attainment more particularly among the religious minority community. Information also reveals that the basic infrastructure and provisioning in the schools, such as teachers, other physical and sanitary facilities are limited and constrained. Economic reason is the major cause of school dropout of students in the district.



■ In terms of relative deprivation, common perceptions of people point at road communications, water supply and health, which are lacking in the villages of the district. Land, employment, skill formation for livelihood sustainability, health and housing are some of the significant deprivations faced at the household level as revealed by the survey.