



## Executive Summary

# Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

## Kokrajhar District Assam



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## Kokrajhar 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 Kokrajhar 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	62.79	67.30	-4.51	7
2	Rate of female literacy	55.41	57.10	-1.69	8
3	Work participation rate	46.05	38.00	8.05	9
4	Female work participation rate	14.57	21.50	-6.93	6
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	6.89	59.40	-52.51	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	70.67	87.90	-17.23	4
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	22.89	39.20	-16.31	5
8	Percentage of electrified households	20.44	67.90	-47.46	2
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	60.43	43.50	16.93	10
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	19.15	38.70	-19.55	3

Overall analysis reveals that Kokrajhar is not a performing district in many facets of development. This was also reflected by the state human development report (2003), which places the district at 15<sup>th</sup> rank in the state and the indices found to be lower than the state averages. The baseline survey points out many areas of development deficits requiring effective attentions.

- High fertility and mortality rates in the district, particularly among the Muslim community reflect that benefits of development yet to reach the community. This is mainly responsible for poor human capital formation. Poor school enrolments, high dropout and poor level of educational attainment are explained by not only poor economic conditions of the families but primarily by motivational factor. This need to be addressed why students in this minority concentrated district lack incentive to carry forwards their study. The baseline provides some explanations on this by pointing out poor physical infrastructure in educational institutions and on quality of teachers in the village schools.

- Since landlessness factor is more prominent among the Muslim community, this requires more attention. Emphasis should be on generation of non-farm avenues. There is high prevalence of underemployment in the district and these needs to be addressed by effective job generation programme. This is true that as per records of the government this district has generated more man days of jobs under the employment guarantee programmes, the effectiveness needs to be evaluated. Preference for self-employment among the underemployed or unemployed is more prevalent than salaried jobs in the sample villages. This means that government needs to create more facilities for skill development training and make provisions of real services to keep the enthusiasm level high for the people in self-employment endeavour, which is grossly missing in most of the state departments in the state.

- There is also need of making provisions of institutionalising finance as a large section of people are relying on borrowing from professional moneylenders. This is true that in many households the land factor and absence of permanent salaried job prohibit to obtain a loan from formal institutions.

- In Agricultural sector people in the district seems to be responsive with relatively high use of HYV seeds and fertilisers. However, with support in farm mechanisation process and irrigation through improvements of the natural streams and existing canals (location of the district in Himalayan foothills has made it advantageous) could be more cost effective in agrarian transformation in the district.

- The overall condition of the housing in this district found to be quite unsatisfactory. 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 particularly in the Muslim community. 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.



- The baseline survey indicates meagre proportion of households having access to sanitary toilets. There is need of providing drive for universal provisioning of low cost sanitation facilities in the district.
- The state need to address the issue of access to electricity more effectively. Electricity is though available in most of the villages what concerns more is the access of individual households. This is true that installation cost often prohibits the poor households to get the access. The need is to look at the issue of raising access to electricity in the households and of an effective electricity pricing mechanism for poor households and measure the cost of benefits of electricity provisioning in the poor households.
- The present baseline survey indicates that percentage of children fully immunised 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 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.
- Insecurity feeling among the communities in this conflict ridden district is widely prevalent. This has affect in accessing livelihood and ensuring decent living of the community members.

In terms of relative deprivation, common perception of the people across the religion is that that electricity, road communication, drinking water and agriculture services now require more attentions in the district. Along with these, education, housing and livelihood assurance are also major concerns. ■