

Executive Summary of Bulandshahr District

1. Introduction

Since the Minorities comprise almost one-fifth of the total population in India, they have to be adequately taken care of. A survey conducted by the Centre highlighted the fact that as many as 90 districts, having minority concentration, are backward and of these as many as 21 are from U.P. alone. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi, therefore, aims at developing suitable measures during the Eleventh Plan to develop these districts. In order to identify the gaps in the development, a baseline survey was conducted in 19 districts of U.P. by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow and the Executive Summary of Bulandshahr District is being presented below.

2. Objectives of the Study

To identify gaps:

- in infrastructure such as schools, health and drinking water;
- in housing and sanitary facilities;
- which exist in other infrastructure, e.g., roads, banking and marketing facilities, etc.; and,
- point out income generating activities, e.g., artisan/handicrafts in which villagers have a comparative advantage.

3. Methodology, Sample Design and Tools

The Tehsils of each district were first classified into 3 strata by arranging them in descending order of Minority population in the 2001 Census. Then 30 villages were selected from each district. A door-to-door survey conducted to do the house listing in each village with a population upto 1200. In larger sized villages two hamlets were selected. The first was the one with highest minority population and the second any other hamlet of the village. Then from each village 30 households were selected in proportion to the religious categories of people living in the village. Thus, a total of 900 households were identified and surveyed form each district.

The study was undertaken at 3 levels:

- District Profile using secondary information
- Village level using secondary information
- Household level using data generated from the field survey.

4. Brief Profile of Bulandshahr District

Bulandshahr district is situated between Ganga and Jamuna rivers. Its geographical area is 4322 sq.kms. and constitutes 1.47 per cent of the total area of the U.P. State. The district has 7 Tehsils, 16 blocks and 1175 inhabited villages and have a total population of 30.09 lakh as per the 2001 census. The soil is very fertile and irrigation facilities are well developed. The main crops are wheat and sugarcane. Dairy is the main subsidiary occupation. Non-farm sector also occupies an important role in the district. Khurja and Sikandrabad are the industrial areas of the district. Pottery, ceramic products and handicrafts (zari work) are the main activities which play an important role in the district's economy.

According to the Census 2001 some important indicators were as follows:

Table 1: **Some Selected Indicators of the District**

Features	Figure
Total Population	3009860
Sex Ratio	881
Percentage of SC Population	20.30
Percentage of Minority Population	21.07
Percentage of Urban Population	22.63
Percentage of Households having permanent houses	71.82
Percentage of Households having electricity	28.70
Percentage of Households having tap/hand pump/tubewell water	98.37
Percentage of Households having latrines	41.80

Source: Census of India, 2001 AND Sankyakiya Patrika, Bulandshahr, 2006.

The total population of the district is 30.10 lakh. The percentage of SC population is 20.30 which is below the state average. The population residing in urban areas is 22.63 per cent. The sex ratio which was 881 was below the state average. The total literacy level is 56.46 per cent is higher than the state average. The minority population

constitutes 21.07 per cent to total population. The literacy rate among Muslim is 45 per cent lowest among all religious categories. A shift has been seen from cultivation and agricultural labourers towards household industries.

With respect to industrial sector, the district has a good potential. There were 246 registered factories out of which only around 48 per cent are working. Under DIC 10609 units were registered out of which 48 per cent are working. Besides this 650 units are producing pottery. Handloom is another area where rural families are engaged in manufacturing khas, durries/lohies, etc. and providing employment to 7198 persons. Small scale units accounted for 2025 units and provided employment to 10124 persons.

It is also important to highlight that regarding the health services only 61 PHCs and 8 CHCs are providing medical care facilities to rural people which is below the prescribed norms. There were 2329 primary and 784 upper primary schools running in the district during 2005-06.

Bulandshahr district is well connected by roads but the roads are poorly maintained. The district is also directly or indirectly linked with other cities by rail but there is a single line so district is facing problems with respect to rail connectivity. It should now be converted to double lines for developing the district and its industries. The average population served by a Bank branch is 16800 in the district compared to U.P. where it is 20,000.

5. Main Findings of the Field Survey

A close look at the survey findings highlights the fact that the minority community clearly emerges as a disadvantaged group in comparison to the other religious communities. A look at Table 2 reveals the fact that the condition of Muslims is far from satisfactory, whether we look at literacy rates, size of land holdings, monthly income and expenditure as well as work participation rates. Added to this is the fact that they also have a relatively larger size of household. Since our survey had very few Sikh, Christian and other religious group, this comparison mainly boils down to a comparison between Hindu and Muslim households.

Therefore, it is essential that some concrete and effective policy measures are introduced if all round development is to take place in Bulandshahr as a result of which even the living condition of the Muslims can improve. Moreover some special schemes will also have to be designed to provide direct benefits to this community.

Table 2: Results of the Household Survey

Indicators	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Christian	Other	Total
Number of total households surveyed	693	204	1	1	1	900
Percentage distribution by caste	77.00	22.67	0.11	0.11	0.11	100.00
Average size of the household	6.47	7.20	7.00	5.00	6.00	6.63
Percentage of illiterates	24.69	33.65	14.69	80.00	0	26.93
Average size of land holdings (in acres)	1.66	0.75	6.00	00	11.50	1.47
Average size of assets per household (in Rs.)	4779	22813	5200	1100	152350	38184
Average yearly income of households (in Rs.)	52985	35482	24500	18700	89260	49020
Average monthly expenditure of households (in Rs.)	49650	43709	23600	16900	102300	48505
Average indebtedness per household (in Rs.)	16457	11330	0	2000	50000	15298
Work participation rate (percentage)	39.47	37.38	40.00	42.86	33.33	39.06
Percentage of households living in pucca houses	75.47	59.31	0	100.00	100.00	71.78
Percentage of electrified households	42.71	58.33	100.00	100.00	0	46.33
Percentage of households having own hand pump/tube-well or tap	98.41	97.55	100.00	100.00	100.00	98.22
Percentage of households having toilet facilities	19.77	24.02	0	0	100.00	20.78

It is equally important to compare some socio-economic indicators between the district and all India average. This will enable us to find out the extent to which Bulandshahr lags behind the national average. This comparison is being presented with the help of Table 3.

Table 3: Comparative Picture of Bulandshahr with Some Key All India Indicators

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Results	Estimates for India 2005	Deviation from National Average	Priority Ranking
1.	<u>Socio-Economic Indicators</u>				
	Literacy Rate Total	73.10	67.3	+5.8	7
	Literacy Rate Female	52.82	57.1	-4.3	3
	Work Participation Rate Total	37.79	38.0	-0.2	4
	Work Participation Rate Female	26.87	21.5	+5.4	6
2.	<u>Basic Amenities</u>				
	Percentage of pucca houses	71.78	59.4	+12.4	9
	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	96.69	87.9	+8.8	8
	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	22.67	66.9	-44.2	1
	Percentage of electrified households	46.33	39.2	+17.1	10

3.	Indicators of Health				
	Percentage of Fully Vaccinated children	45.54	43.5	+2.0	5
	Percentage of Institutional Deliveries	32.24	38.7	-6.5	2

Points to be Considered While Preparing Multi-Sectoral District Development Plan: Bulandshahr District

Keeping in mind the priority areas in Table 3 and some major findings of the survey highlighted in Table 2, the following aspects need to be accorded priority when a plan for the development of the district is being formulated. To sum up, therefore, the areas to be prioritized by the planners and policy makers are as follows:

- The number of household having toilets is extremely low. In fact the picture which emerges is very poor in comparison to National average. Keeping in mind hygiene and sanitation as well as convenience availability of latrines is essential. The total sanitation campaign provides some subsidy for the construction of toilets but the amount is small. Since the subsidy amount cannot be increased provision can be made for giving loan to willing households at subsidized rate of interest.
- Although efforts are being made to ensure that deliveries in rural areas are done in government hospitals, the level of achievement is still not very satisfactory therefore the National Rural Health Mission needs to be strengthened in the district and the ASHA should become more active to achieve the desired results.
- Since lack of health services has been indicated by the villagers, it is necessary that the sub-centres and PHC be upgraded and revamped so that they can provide services effectively. This will not only reduce the dependence of rural people on unqualified doctors but will also ease their level of expenditures on medical and health.
- The Indira Awas Yojana needs to be extended to Minorities families which come under the BPL category.
- In Bulandshahr the literacy rate among females particularly among Muslims is again below the National average. Therefore adequate attention needs to be given towards in general and women in particular.

- The Minority Welfare Department can initiate a medical insurance scheme for weaker section in the minority group in collaboration with some insurance company. This will further prove beneficial in meeting the cost of medical services.
- In case of Bulandshahr the work participation rate was marginally lower than the National average. Moreover, it was also observed that awareness regarding various government schemes was also low. This proves that if the levels of awareness can be enhanced this target can be achieved at no extra cost since funds for various schemes of employment are already in operation.
- Our survey have revealed that a fairly high percentage of respondents wish to receive vocational training of different types. In fact almost half of them are also willing to pay the expenditure which will be incurred at least partially. The government can provide such training quite easily either through the DICs or by identifying suitable NGOs for this job. In fact, training should be compulsory before any individual is sanctioned term loan to start an enterprise from the fund allocated by the Minority Welfare Department.
- It is generally observed that the commercial banks and other financial institutions are not very cooperative when it comes to extending loan to the poorer sections. Therefore, some efforts need to be made in this direction by the Central and State Governments. For example, the people engaged in handicrafts and other artisan activities can be provided credit cards on the lines of Kisan Credit Cards.
- In the case of Minorities the problem of loaning can be tackled effectively by allocating larger funds under the term loan scheme for Minorities. Even the amount provided per person may be raised suitably.
- District Bulandshahr is in an advantageous position by virtue of various small and large scale industries which are already present in the district. Some of them include pottery, ceramic, food processing, carpet industry and hand pump manufacturing, zari work and handlooms. The need is to identify clusters of villages where a specific activity is concentrated and a cluster development approach be formulated for the promotion of the activity.

- Bulandshahr enjoys an advantage in milk production. Since Delhi is close to the district it possesses a high potential for selling the marketable surplus in Delhi. Thus, banks may consider Dairy projects and finance them so that the people engaged in the activity can keep larger number of animals, afford better quality animals and give them proper feed. All this will further the marketable surplus and the earning levels of the individuals. It will also be ideal if milk processing plants are established for producing various milk produces. This will make value addition and enhance the economy of the district further.
- Finally, it is the Minority Welfare Department which will play a very significant role in the development of minorities in the given circumstances. Therefore, it is essential that the department should be fully equipped for gearing itself to meet this challenge. For this it is mandatory that Minority Welfare Department should have proper office accommodation, adequate staff and infrastructure, such as, computer with internet services, etc. Moreover, since officials of the Department have to tour all over the district to look into problems of minorities the Department must have at least one vehicle at the state headquarter.