

Executive Summary of Kheri District

1.1 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 Kheri District is being presented below.

1.2 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.

1.3 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 from 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.

1.4 Brief Profile of Kheri District

Kheri is the largest district of the U.P. in terms of geographical area and comprises of 6 Tehsils and 15 Blocks. According to the Census of 2001 the district had the following features.

Table 1: **Some Selected Indicators**

Sl. No.	Indicators	Figure
1.	Total Population	32.07 lakh
2.	Sex Ratio	871
3.	Percentage of SC Population	26.8
4.	Percentage of Minority Population	22.59
5.	Percentage of Urban Population	10.8
6.	Percentage of Households having permanent houses	39.40
7.	Percentage of Households having Electricity	18.10
8.	Percentage of Households having tap/handpump or Tubewell water	94.02
9.	Percentage of Households having latrines	23.66

Agriculture is the main occupation with 62.08 per cent reported areas under cultivation. The main crops are wheat, rice and sugarcane and average yield of each crop is higher than the State average. However, the district is adversely affected with floods and water logging and this damages the crops.

With respect to industries it has a poor industrial base. Out of the 157 registered factories approximately 2/3rd are not working. Kheri has 9 large sugar mills and yet there is scope to set up a few more units. The district also has around 5000 small scale and around 1750 units registered under Khadi Gram Udyog Industries. However, the exact number of functioning units is not known.

Looking at infrastructure it is observed that the district is poorly connected by rail and roads considering the size of the district. Roads are badly damaged as a result of floods and water logging.

The district is lagging behind in terms of higher education and even with respect to health services PHCs and CHCs are below the prescribed norm.

Although banks and other financial institutions are present the common man is not having easy access to cheap and timely institutional credit.

In a large number of locations water has a high arsenic content and causes stomach ailments among the people.

On the whole therefore, the district figures among the less developed districts of U.P. despite the fact that it has the potential to do much better.

1.5 Main Findings of the Field Survey

The main findings of the survey highlight the fact that among the Minority communities the conditions of Muslims is a cause of concern whether we look at their literacy rates; size of land holdings; monthly income and expenditure; or their living conditions. These details have been highlighted in Table 2. Even the economic condition of Hindu households is also only slightly better. It is only the Sikh community which is enjoying a better quality of life. Therefore, it is quite evident that some concerted efforts have to be made in the district to ensure that an all-round development takes place with the help of which the overall quality of life and living conditions of the masses in general can be improved (Table 2).

Table 2: Results of the Household Survey

Sl. No.	Indicators	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Total
1.	Total household surveyed (Nos.)	590	267	43	900
2.	% Distribution by Caste	65.56	29.67	4.78	100.00
3.	Average size of the Household	7.06	6.91	5.55	6.95
4.	% of Illiterates	31.20	38.93	22.18	33.14
5.	Average size of Land Holdings (Acres)	2.05	1.12	6.92	2.02
6.	Avg. size of all assets per household (Rs)	31,407	19,767	75,333	30,052
7.	Avg. Monthly income of household (Rs.)	30,970	24,730	49,119	30,332
8.	Avg. Monthly expenditure of households (Rs.)	26,914	23,978	46,913	27,408
9.	Avg. Indebtedness per household (Rs)	11,980	7,549	83,916	14,103
10.	Work Participation Rate (%)	28.63	28.00	33.05	28.61
11.	% of Households living in Pucca Houses	36.27	19.10	62.79	32.44
12.	% of Electrified Households	10.34	9.74	58.14	12.44
13.	% of Households having own Handpump/Tubewell or Tap	69.49	77.15	95.35	73.00
14.	% of Households having Toilet facility	9.66	16.10	27.91	12.44

It is equally important to compare some of these indicators with those obtained at the All India and the State average as this comparison will indicate the deviation from the national or state average as far as the survey results are concerned. Those indicators whose value is lower than the national average will be the ones which need to be given a priority because we will be making comparison between those indicators which had been selected by the National Commission in the identification of our 90 backward districts all over the country.

This comparison is being presented with the help of Table 3.

Table 3: A Comparative Picture of Kheri with some key All India and State Level Indicators

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Results	Estimate for India (2005)	Deviation From	Priority Ranking
				Nat. Avg.	From India
1.	Socio-Economic Indicators				
	Literacy Rate (Total)	78.38	67.3	+11.8	9
	Literacy Rate (Female)	68.83	57.1	+11.73	10
	Work Participation Rate (Total)	28.61	38.0	-9.39	7
	Work Participation Rate (Female)	5.33	21.5	-16.17	6
2.	Basic Amenities				
	% of Pucca Houses	32.44	59.4	-26.96	2
	% of HHs with safe drinking water	96.00*	87.9	+8.1	8
	% of HHs with sanitation facilities	13.11	66.9	-54.79	1
	% of Electrified Households	12.44	39.2	-26.76	3
3.	Indicators of Health				
	% of fully vaccinated children	21.85	43.5	-21.66	5
	% of institutional deliveries	16.67	38.7	-22.03	4

N.B.: * In various localities the water contains high arsenic content and there is no exact percentage of households with access to safe drinking water.

Keeping in mind some of the priority areas indicated in Table 3 and some major findings of the survey highlighted in Table 2 the following aspects need special attention whenever a plan for the development of the district is attempted.

To sum up, therefore, the areas which need to be given special attention by the planners and policy makers are:

- In the areas where water has high arsenic content the government agencies can opt for deep boring of tubewells and handpumps as the lower strata will be safe drinking water.
- The number of households having latrines is extremely low. Keeping in mind hygiene and sanitation as well as convenience, availability of latrines is essential.

- This can be achieved if the subsidy amount given under Total Sanitation Campaign is suitably increased. The existing amount is very small.
- The Indira Awas Yojana needs to be extended to minority families falling in the BPL category.
 - The sub-centres and PHCs need to be upgraded and revamped so that they can provide services effectively. This will reduce the dependence of the rural people on unqualified doctors as is the case presently.
 - The Minorities Welfare Department can initiate a Medical Insurance Scheme for workers in the Minority group in collaboration with some Insurance Company similar to the scheme being implemented for weavers by the Central Government jointly with ICICI Lombard.
 - All villages should be properly linked through all weather roads for improving road connectivity.
 - Funds provided by NABARD under RIDF should be properly utilized for embankment of Sharda and Ghaghra rivers. This will provide relief from floods.
 - The district is in need of schools and colleges beyond the elementary level especially for girls.
 - Since land holdings are small, the cultivators can be educated to diversify their activities where possible. Thus, depending on area, suitability and people's preference activities such as dairying, mushroom cultivation, pisciculture, sericulture, poultry farming and cultivation of fruits and vegetables can be promoted in various blocks of the district.
 - Similarly other non-farm activities can be identified by the Directorate of Industries and on their basis a cluster development approach can be taken up as it may not be feasible to promote these activities in each village. Some of the activities which are already being undertaken include Durray making, Chikan Embroidery, 'Dona and Pattal' making, basket and pottery making, etc.
 - Our survey had revealed that a high proportion of the respondents are desirous of receiving vocational training. Thus, the government should ensure that such training programmes be conducted on a regular basis. In fact training should be compulsory before an individual is sanctioned Term Loan to begin an enterprise.

- Since the Commercial Banks and other financial institutions are not very cooperative in providing credit to the poorer section, some provision should be made to ensure the cooperation of these institutions. However, various activities can be promoted under the Term Loan Scheme for Minorities. The amount of loan being provided presently also needs to be raised suitably. Yet another source of financing these ventures can be the PMRY scheme.
- Finally if the Minority Welfare Department is to perform its duties effectively it must be provided with proper office space, adequate staff and infrastructure such as computer with internet services and most importantly a vehicle so that the officials can tour the district and sort out problems of minorities. At times even the funds are not received on time.