



Executive Summary

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

East Kameng District Arunachal Pradesh



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

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 district of East Kameng. 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.

Sl No	Indicators	Survey results	Estimates for India	Deficit	Priority assigned
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	67.3	67.30	0.0	9
2	Rate of female literacy	58.5	57.10	1.4	10
3	Work participation rate	33.1	38.00	-4.9	6
4	Female work participation rate	21.0	21.50	-0.5	8
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca house	2.8	59.40	-56.6	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	84.6	87.90	-3.3	7
7	Percentage of households with sanitary toilets	5.0	39.20	-34.2	4
8	Percentage of electrified houses	30.3	67.90	-37.6	3
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	2.4	43.50	-41.1	2
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	5.0	38.70	-33.7	5



The analysis based on the sample survey reveals that East Kameng is a poor performer in overall development context in the country. This is however indicative that in literacy and access to safe drinking water the rural areas of the district are in better position than the country average. However, in all other development indicators the district shows striking deficits.

- This is hard to say that traditional houses of the people in rural areas of the district are unhygienic and deplorable for living. The houses are made primarily of bamboo and hence fit into the criterion of katcha houses of definition of Indian census. However, majorities of the houses prone to indoor air pollution from the use of firewood for heating and cooking purposes in the absence of effective lighting (electricity) provisions and the mode of smoke less cooking.

- The responses of the people in prevention of communicable diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, TB, Malaria found to be virtually absent. Health officials and functionaries rarely visit the villages. The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of children. More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members.

- The baseline survey indicates poor performance of immunization coverage of children in the district. Unawareness and indifference towards the vaccination doses, except the OPVs is the main reason that children left unimmunized.

- Electricity is virtually not available even in the villages connected on paper. Dispersed settlements and vagaries of natural calamities are often hinders in assuring supply of electricity. In such context solar photovoltaic programme could be of important relevance. However, to encourage rural industrialization, which is virtually absent in this district, option could be to generate power from localized micro plants.

- The survey finds that about 90 percent of the households from all the communities use open field for defecation. There is need to emphasis on the programme on rural sanitation campaign in the district to change the mindset of people and promote low cost sanitation facilities.

- This thinly populated district is primarily an agrarian one, but food grain productivity is awfully low even in the context of the state. Certain food and horticulture crops- maize, potato, ginger and chili show some prospects to the agro climatic conditions, but require institutional supports and people's efforts to raise the yield. The agriculture sector needs attention for high value crops and modernization with appropriate technology. Traditional agriculture and poor performance in this sector has preventing any scope for diversification and generation of more opportunities for the people.

- Literacy rate though shows some satisfactory picture what concerns more is the male female disparity in literacy. Distance to the educational institutions often has impact on poor educational attainment particularly of women. Paucity of teachers, significant proportions of never enrolled female are some of the concerns require attentions.



■ The main reason behind slow development of the district is the absence of road communication. As many as six circle head quarters out of the 11 are not connected by road in this district. Some of the circle HQs are being airfed and most of the villages are conveyed by porter tracts. This is true that terrain of the district is prohibitive for development of road infrastructure. However, constraints faced by the people for the absence of poor communication could be to some extent addressed by making adequate provisions of certain basic services – health and educational facilities, market etc. in certain feasible rural points.

■ The survey provides some indication that money and development initiative of the Union government are not the constraints in this thinly populated district. What requires is the sustainability and consolidation of the efforts undertaken! Unemployment could not be the issue in the district. However, high incidences of underemployment of workers as reflected in the household data could be for the factor that people are not required to work for greater part of the year to feed themselves in a relatively resource rich context. Such approach however, could stall the development initiatives and consolidation for overall wellbeing of the future generation. Lack of awareness and indifference about the government schemes as reflected from the survey reveals a similar scenario. ■