

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on 2001 census data with a purpose to improve all the eight indicators and bring it to the all India level through a multi-sector development plan under the eleventh five year plan. Since it is expected that there may be changes in those indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to inform the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Gumla, a scheduled district in Jharkhand is backward and is having a very low development status as the performance of some of the key development indicators are far below the national and state level. It is one of the backward districts in the 90 minority concentration districts in India.

District profile (2001 census based)

- Gumla is primarily a rural district with 95 per cent of the total population live in the rural areas and 75 per cent of the total population represents scheduled tribe (70.25) and scheduled caste (5 per cent).
- In Gumla near 68 per cent of the total population represent **minority communities** and is one of the highly minority concentrated district in the country. In Gumla, the Christians are the major minority community with 33 per cent of the total population. The total percentage of other religions and persuasions is around 33 per cent and Muslim is 4 per cent in Gumla. The share of minority community is very high in Bishunpur (83 per cent), Chainpur (84 per cent), Dumri (80 per cent), Thethaitangar (75 per cent) and Jaldega (74 per cent). In all the CD Blocks, the minority concentration is very high.
- The total literacy rate of Gumla was 52.4 per cent in the Census 2001 the male literacy rate was 64 per cent and female literacy rate was 41 per cent. The district sex ratio reported in 2001 was 993 which was far ahead the national (927) and state (941) level at that time.

- The overall work participation rate is 44.3 percent (census 2001), which is at par with the national average and in case of the female population, it is 39.6 per cent. About 72 per cent of the labour force is involved in casual work and only 17 per cent in agriculture.

Survey findings: Socio-economic Conditions and other Amenities in 2008

In 2008, Gumla lagged behind all India average in four out of eight indicators such as housing, safe drinking water, electrification and sanitation. Apart from this, it also lagged behind all India average in terms of health indicators such as very low incidence of institutional delivery. The literacy rate, female literacy rate, work participation and female work participation of this district however is better than all India average. The gap between district and all India average in all other indicators is very wide indicating the need to have a very careful and focused intervention to address the same catering to the needs and geographical specificities of the region. The data in the following Table shows the gap between all India and district figures in all eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and all India figures are of 2005-2006. The distance from the all India figures may be higher, as all India data are a little old.

Table 3: Development Deficit in Gumla District

Sl. No.	Indicators	Gumala 2008	All India 2005	Development Gaps Between All India and District	Development Priority of the District
		(1)	(2)	(3=1-2)	(4)
1	Rate of literacy	72.1	67.3	4.8	5.0
2	Rate of female literacy	63.3	57.1	6.2	6.0
3	Work participation rate	44.3	38.0	6.3	7.0
4	Female work participation rate	39.6	21.5	18.1	8.0
5	per cent of households with pucca walls	6.0	59.4	-53.4	1.0
6	per cent of households with safe drinking water	42.2	87.9	-45.7	3.0
7	per cent of households with electricity	14.6	67.9	-53.3	2.0
8	per cent of households with water closet latrines	1.2	39.2	-38.0	4.0
9	per cent of fully vaccinated children	56.4	43.5	12.9	-
10	per cent of child delivery in a health facility	6.4	38.7	-32.3	-

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col. 1) pertains to rural area only, but other data (Col. 2) pertains to total (2) Data in Col. 2 is from Census 2001

Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators

1. **Housing conditions (Rank 1):** Near 94 per cent of the population needs proper housing support indicating to the major development gap as well standard of living status of the people

in Gumla. This ratio is far below the national average and need the prima-facie attention under the Multi Sectoral Development Plan. Since the demand for housing is very high in the district, the government policy should focus more on large scale housing construction and its distribution. Therefore, the housing allotments should be increased and it can follow a block wise approach.

2. **Household electricity (Rank 2):** Status of the household electrification in Gumla district is one of the poorest as only 15 per cent of the households have access to electricity and it is one of the lowest at national average level too. People at Gumla mainly depend on oil lamps for light. Only Kolebira and Gumla CD Blocks have some kind of access to electricity. The other blocks where status of electricity is far below the desirable level, are Chaipur, Dumri, Raidih, Simdega, Kurdeg, Bolba, Jaldega and Bano. The development plan can select Chainpur and Dumri Blocks who have reported very high minority concentration for electrification. This would promote the micro-enterprise activities in the district as well.

3. **Safe drinking water (Rank 3):** The access to safe drinking water is the third development indicator in which Gumla is doing badly. Though significant number of the households has access to drinking water most of them (near 78 per cent of the households) depend on the public water distribution systems like public wells, public tanks, tube wells, natural streams and rivers for drinking water. It is also reported during the field work that some cases people have to walk long distances to fetch water. Therefore, the development plan has to provide attention to increase the number of public drinking water sources by increasing the number of tube wells and wells.

4. **Water Closet latrines (Rank 4):** The toilet facility in Gumla needs to be developed as only less than 21 per cent of the households have toilet facility in the house, whereas, the drainage condition of the district is so pathetic as not even 5 per cent of the households reported to have drainage facility. Therefore, it is essential to give more focus on the improvement of toilet facility at household level and development of sanitation facility in the villages. Considering the number of houses, that require toilets, the present development plan can initiate some public toilet facilities with community initiatives. This effort should have two components as one to create awareness on the need to have toilet and drainage facility and along with this, the district plan has to provide subsidies and incentives to those who want to build toilets in the houses.

5. **Education (Rank 5 and 6):** The reported literacy rate and female literacy rate in Gumla shows a very impressive picture as it has shown significant growth over the years and moreover, grown over the national average. The access to school facility is also witnessed improvement. However, the issue that noticed was on the level of infrastructure improvement in Gumla, especially at secondary and above levels. This actually restricts the upward mobility of the children especially the girls. Gumla is still very poor in industrial training, teacher training and other skill development school/ institute facility. Though the female literacy rate is above the national level, it is at the elementary level only. The drop-out rate is very high. This is mainly due to the lack of school facility especially middle, higher and secondary school facilities at Gumla which is very poor compared to the primary school facility. In order to ensure the retaining of girl child at school, there should be more lady teachers at higher school level, effective utilization of scholarships and other support for girl child's education, etc. Moreover, there should be some serious thinking required to improve the technical and teachers training like training courses which is abysmally low at present in Gumla.
6. **Work participation and female work participation (Rank 7 and 8):** The work participation in Gumla is better compared to the national and state level ratio. It is important to note that work participation among Muslim community is below the district average. Compared to many other districts, near three-fourths of the total working population depend on casual labour activities. The number of self-employed population is also very high and most of the self-employed are engaged in agriculture related activities. A significant number of people from Gumla migrate for employment and that too for long term. In this regards, the development concern with respect to migration should focus on the remittance facilities and communication facilities in the district as the access to formal financial institutions and telecommunication facility in Gumla villages are very limited. The development plan should deeply intervene in this regard to facilitate an effective utilization of returns from migration. In order to improve the overall work participation in Gumla, the multi-sectoral plan has to work of the following points as well;
- The development intervention can focus on the development of tribal artisanship and its marketing outside the state. This can be linked with the livelihood programmes under SHG Bank Linkage or SGSYs, which is hardly seen in Gumla.
 - The infra-structure development activities such as construction of drinking water wells and tube wells and irrigation tanks and canals would provide more opportunity to both men and women under the NREGA like employment –cash transfer programmes

- Development of on farm and off farm activities in Gumla as already a significant number of the people are engaged in different types of such activities, it can be promoted to increase the work participation through promoting household based economic activities.

Other areas of priorities:

- **Health infra-structure:** The ratio of access to health services in Gumla is very low. Moreover, the status of the health infrastructure in the district is incapable to address the health needs of the people. Even if there is schemes to attract institutional delivery, it has recorded that more than 93 per cent of the delivery in Gumla villages are non institutional i.e., at home which is assisted by untrained *dai*. The percentage of “quacks” in the villages outnumbers the trained medical practitioners. The access of health centres in Gharghra, Verno, Kamdara, Basia, Palkot, Simdega, Kalebira, Jaldega and Bano are far below the district average which itself is very poor compared the state average. Since health is a key development indicator, it is essential to invest in the public health arena as well. Therefore, the households do have little access to institutional delivery system and vaccination facilities. The MSDP has to focus on improving the hospital and paramedical support in the villages. Therefore, the fund under this scheme can be used to open more PHC sub-centers in Gumla and ICDS centers also. The ICDS center can be the ASHA center and if the building is constructed for ICDS centers, it can be used for multiple purposes in the villages.