

**A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY
CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA**

HINGOLI
(Maharashtra)

Sponsored by:
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India
and
Indian Council of Social Science Research



INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
NIDM Building, IIPA Campus
I.P. Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110002
Tel: 23358166, 23321610 / Fax: 23765410
E-mail: ihd@vsnl.com, Website: www.ihdindia.org

2008

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RESEARCH TEAM

Principal Researchers

Alakh N. Sharma
Ashok K. Pankaj

Data Processing and Tabulation

Balwant Singh Mehta
Sunil Kumar Mishra
Abhay Kumar

Research Associates/Field Supervisors

Ramashray Singh
Ashwani Kumar
Subodh Kumar
M. Poornima

Research Assistant

P.K. Mishra

Secretarial Assistance

Shri Prakash Sharma
Nidhi Sharma
Sindhu Joshi

HINGOLI

Principal Author of the Report

Reshmi P. Bhaskaran
Fellow
Institute for Human Development

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A BASELINE SURVEY OF SOME MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

Executive Summary of Hingoli District (Maharashtra)

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts in India, using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on the 2001 census data.
- Hingoli in Maharashtra is one such district with a high minority concentration, which lags behind in terms of socio-economic indicators (Category B1).
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs is keen to improve these indicators and bring them to the all-India level through a Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) under the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. Expecting a definite change in these indicators after 2001; a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.

District Profile (2001 census based):

- The total population of Hingoli district was 8, 33,130 of which 85.6 per cent lived in the rural areas – a much higher percentage than the entire State's share of the rural population. Of the entire district's population, the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) constituted 10.4 per cent and 9.8 per cent respectively.
- The overall literacy rate of Hingoli district was 66.86 per cent, with a comparatively low percentage for the female population (42.63 per cent) than the male (66 per cent). Over the last few years, there has been a perceptible and significant improvement in literacy. However, the gender gap in the literacy rate needs to be plugged by strengthening SSA.
- The work participation rate in Hingoli was one-half, which was slightly higher than the state average. The work participation rate was the lowest (45.65 per cent) in Kalamnuri. Of the working population, cultivators and agricultural labourers

constituted 49 per cent and 41 per cent respectively and only one per cent of the population was engaged in household industries.

- Nearly 97 per cent of the villages in Hingoli have access to primary schools, which is higher than the state average. The villages of Basmath tehsil have a comparatively lower proportion of primary schools (92.4 per cent). However, the infrastructure facilities for middle and secondary schools are not at all satisfactory in the district. Like primary schools, Basmath has a lower proportion of secondary schools in the district, a problem which needs to be addressed by the concerned authorities.
- Nearly 17 per cent of the villages in Hingoli have access to PHCs and 8 per cent to allopathic hospitals, located within a five-kilometre range. In Basmath, none of the villages has maternity and child welfare (MCW) centre within a distance of 5 kilometres. On the whole, the status of health infrastructure in the villages indicates a very poor scenario, which needs to be improved under the multi-sectoral development plan.
- There are 27 taps to a lakh people in the district, which was significantly lower compared to the state average of 41 taps per lakh. However, the district has better facilities with regard to the access to tube-wells, with 20 tube-wells per lakh people, which is slightly higher than the state average. On the whole, accessibility to safe drinking water is rather poor and calls for urgent attention of the concerned agencies.
- In Hingoli district, 81 per cent of the villages have paved roads with good connectivity, which is close to the state average. However, two tehsils of the district - Sengaon and Hingoli - have comparatively lower connectivity - 73 per cent and 61 per cent respectively. Nearly 46 per cent of the villages have telephone connections and 68 per cent of the households enjoy electricity. Only one-fifth of the villages have both bus stop and post office. From Hingoli the nearest railway station is 21 kilometers away
- More than 80 per cent of the villages have co-operative societies within an average distance of 5 kilometres. In terms of banking and financial institutions, with one commercial bank serving a population of 3.7 lakh, the status of Hingoli

district is better than the state average. More than one-third of the villages have cooperative banks within an average distance of 5 kilometres. There are 8 co-operative banks to a lakh people, which is once again, better than the state average. One fourth of the villages have commercial banks within a mean distance of 5 kilometres.

- None of the villages has regular market facilities. The villagers have to travel a distance of 11 km to reach the nearest market (mandi). The dairy is a popular occupation and 6.6 per cent villages have dairy *mandi*. However, the villagers have very limited access to the other essential shops that provide support to the agricultural activities in the district. One-tenth of the villages have fertilizers and seed shops. Similarly, 6.6 per cent villages have pesticide shops and 3.3 per cent have cold storage facilities also. Forty three per cent of the villages have other general shops.

Survey Findings (2008)

- The present survey is confined to Hingoli district of the state of Maharashtra. The survey reveals that the district lagged behind in five out of eight indicators compared to the all-India average. However, it has better status in health related indicators compared to the all-India level. Table 1 below shows the gap between all-India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritises the development interventions, taking into account eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings of 2008 and all-India figures are of 2004-'05 and 2005-'06. As the all-India data is slightly dated, the difference between the district and all-India figures are perhaps wider than what the survey findings show.

Table 1: Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-Sector Development Plan

Sl. No.	Indicators	Hingoli 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	65.9	67.3	-1.4	5
2	Rate of female literacy	52.4	57.1	-4.7	3
3	Work participation rate	41.0	38.0	3	6
4	Female work participation rate	26.1	21.5	4.6	7
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls**	52.9	59.4	-6.5	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	96.2	87.9	8.3	8
7	Percentage of households with electricity	65.2	67.9	-2.7	4
8	Percentage of households with water closeset latrines	13.3	39.2	-25.9	1
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	90.0	43.5	46.9	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	41.0	38.7	2.3	-

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col. 1) pertains to the rural area only, but all India data (Col. 2) pertains to total.

(2) Data in Col 2 from Sl. No. 5 to 8 pertain to year 2005-06 from National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertains to the year 2004-05 from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

** This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

In-house Toilet Facilities:

In a majority of households (86.71 per cent), members defecate outside in the open, which is totally unhygienic and just 13.29 per cent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. Members of nearly 97.16 per cent of the Buddhist households in the region defecate in the open. The condition of the drainage is also reportedly very unsatisfactory in Hindu households. This needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet assistance by the government to improve the overall sanitary conditions and general environment of the villages.

From the above data, it is clear that a scheme like the Centre-sponsored Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, has been continuing for quite some time without having made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation system. The existing situation clearly indicates that the district will completely miss the target. A far better implementation of the TSC and also an extension

of its coverage to villages still out of reach of the campaign through the multi-sector development plan are the need of the hour.

Houses with *Pucca* Walls:

Nearly 15.88 per cent and 30.83 per cent of the households live in thatched and *kaccha* houses respectively and 43 per cent and 9.88 per cent of them live in semi-*pucca* and *pucca* houses respectively. Comparatively, the living conditions of Christian, Buddhist and Muslim households are not satisfactory, reflecting the poor economic conditions of these households. Nearly 30 per cent of the sample households live in single room accommodation. A small proportion, 11.35 per cent and 19.51 per cent of them respectively have two rooms and more than two rooms' accommodation, which ensures privacy.

The number of houses constructed under IAY, which is not a universal programme, is quite insufficient to fill the gap in the district. Overall, the qualitative and quantitative availability of housing is not up to the mark. This calls for vigorous implementation of IAY so as to include more beneficiaries under its ambit and extend the area of its coverage to include a greater number of poverty-stricken households under the scheme. IAY can be topped up with the multi-sectoral plan.

Female Literacy:

In the rural areas of Hingoli district, 18 per cent of the population is high school educated and some have studied even further. However, a gender differential in the literacy rate is noticeable. The percentage of males and females with high school education or above is 23.74 and 11.59 respectively. The percentages of male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) are a mere 1.57 per cent and 0.26 per cent respectively. The overall female literacy rate is 68.6 per cent. The educational level of Christian males is comparatively better than other communities. Educational disparities are noticeable across communities and gender. Educational planners and decision-makers need to address this problem, besides raising awareness in the community about the advantages of women's education. Low level of female education hampers future labour market prospects for them. Thus, there is an urgent need to impart higher and technical education to the youth, including women. To ensure equity in

educational attainment, more scholarships need to be given to poor but deserving female students.

Electricity:

Improvement of electricity distribution is a priority region in development planning and more so in Hingoli as less than two-thirds of the households have electricity connection. Better electricity distribution will in turn speed up agriculture and allied activities as well as facilitate industrial development. The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connection to rural households by the end of 2009. However, the progress is nowhere near the target. Thus, RGREM needs to be strengthened in the district.

Improving Work Participation:

The work participation is reportedly modest (40.19 percent), which is lowest among Christian households (16.67 per cent) and highest in Buddhist households (42.34 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (29.03 per cent for males and 11.16 per cent for females). This is more or less true across all the religious groups, except Christian households, where gender inequity in work participation is very sharp. The lower female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they can be empowered and can play their role within and outside the family in an effective way.

Causal labour in agriculture is a dominant occupation (50.35 per cent of households are engaged in casual labour) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (34.85 per cent of the households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and genders. A low proportion of the sample household is self-employed in the non-agriculture sector. More than 80 per cent of the women of Muslim and Buddhist households earn their livelihood from casual wage labour in agriculture, whereas a lesser proportion of members from other communities is engaged as casual labourers in agriculture. Thus, high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture reflects a generally poor economic condition of the households. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low. Therefore, the government scheme of NREGA needs to be seriously implemented so that these poor households may enjoy an employment opportunity of an assured 100 man-days per household per annum.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant economic activities where 86.98 per cent of the households' members are engaged. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is need to implement more self-employment schemes for the rural poor, particularly the women, so that they could be offered sustainable employment. This would in turn lead to an increased rate of employment and family income generation, boost the process of empowerment of rural women by giving them the opportunity to play their part both within the family and the society and would also help supplement total family earnings. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to offer increased opportunities of self-employment and implement schemes like SGSY for the rural poor so that they could be sustainably employed and also empowered – leading to an overall socio-economic development

Drinking Water Facilities:

Nearly 76 per cent of the households use drinking water from public sources and the rest 20.13 per cent depend on private sources. The dependence on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor needs to be rectified by providing clean and regular tap water facilities by the government, for which necessary monetary allocations should be made on priority basis.

Improving Employability through Education and Skill Development:

Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and allied activities and high incidence of unemployment, a well-planned strategy is required to improve the livelihoods of the rural population of the district. The level of skill and training of the new entrants to the labour market needs to be improved through need based and area-specific skill development programmes by promoting vocational and other job-oriented courses through Industrial Training Institutes and other technical training institutes. This calls for a comprehensive survey of the skills possessed by the unemployed youth and the training needs in the growing industrial sector including the self employed sector.

Educational attainment, particularly among the youth and especially among females, is low and truly a matter of worry. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of people, particularly the youth, in higher and technical education. This would require imparting short duration job-oriented courses in technical institutions to the

rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from marginalised and economically backward communities and minorities.

Additional Areas of Intervention:

- Despite development of public health infrastructure in the recent past, there is a lack of adequate health care facilities for the rural poor, which is due to the heavy demand on these basic services. It is a similar situation with the availability of medicines, though it has gradually improved during the last few years. The availability of doctors, especially lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals is a major concern of the rural population. At the same time, the presence of quacks in villages has an adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of people. They incur heavy expenditure on health without proper care and understanding. The situation needs to be addressed and improved through awareness campaigns – educating the economically backward sections of the rural population about proper health care.
- The average rate of dependence on untrained *daïs* in child delivery assistance is high (52.99 per cent). The incidence is much higher in Muslim households (59.20 per cent), surpassing the rate of use of untrained *daïs* in Buddhist and Hindu households. Only one-tenth of the delivery of children is performed by a trained midwife/Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). Those of the children born in institutional care also receive pre and post natal care, but the proportion of such children is comparatively low. Keeping this fact in mind, there is urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of infants, so that better pre and post natal care can be provided to them.
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (83.84 per cent) as compared to the rate of dependence on government hospitals (7.72 per cent). Nearly 22 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenditure and the proportion of the Muslim and Buddhist households raising debts to meet health treatment expenses is about 52.28 per cent and 13.41 per cent respectively. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources for medical treatment. Keeping this in view, there is an urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) so that it is able to meet the health needs of the rural poor and curtail their dependence on private sources, which are more

expensive and most of the times, far above the reach of the poor, forcing them into heavy debts.

- Nearly one-fifth of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly indebted. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 11.79 and 18.36. The institutional sources of finance are dominating the rural areas of the district. Thus, there is need to improve the income levels of rural households. Besides, banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment to rural the poor.
- In spite of not possessing BPL cards, some of the economically backward households belonging to the BPL category receive the BPL ration. However, a significant proportion of the genuinely needy households do not receive BPL rations as they are without BPL cards. The existence of such differences in the equal distribution of BPL cards and the BPL ration among people entitled to these benefits from PDS is a matter of serious concern. These gaps need to be plugged at the earliest, so that the economically backward sections belonging to the BPL category get their due share. A better distribution of the BPL ration would also help supplement the households' nutrition level. The need to rejuvenate the PDS, improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it free of leakages also exists.

Chapter -1

INTRODUCTION

Hingoli district lies in the north Marathwada region of the state of Maharashtra. The district is surrounded by Akola and Yeotmal in the north, Parbhani in the west and Nanded in the south-east. It came into existence as a separate district after the division of Parbhani district on May 1, 1999. The total geographical area of Hingoli is 4526 sq km and the revenue of the district is generated mainly through farming and allied activities. Cotton, pulses, rice, jowar, gram, groundnut and mangoes are the key crops of the district. Hingoli has 223 small scale industries (SSIs) and one large scale industry. The administrative set up of the district has two administrative sub-divisions – Hingoli and Basmath and five taluks – Hingoli, Kalmnuri, Sengaon, Aundha and Basmath – covering 565 panchayats and 711 villages.

District Map of Maharashtra



BRIEF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Population and its Composition

Hingoli district is predominantly rural. Nearly 85.6 per cent of the population lives in the rural areas. The tehsils of Sengaon and Aundha are hundred per cent rural. Two-thirds and three-fourths of the population of the tehsils of Hingoli and Basmat reside in rural areas. Hindus constitute 78 per cent, Buddhists 16 per cent, and Muslims a mere six per cent of the total population. Buddhists form the dominant minority community in the district. One-fifth of the population belongs to backward communities – scheduled castes (10.4 per cent), and scheduled tribes (9.8 per cent). More than one-tenth of the population in tehsils of Senegaon, Hingoli and Basmath belongs to the SC category whereas STs constitute nearly one-fifth in Kalamnuri. A high proportion of the Buddhist population is represented by Mahar Buddhists who belong to the SC category.

Table 1.1: Population and Its Composition, 2001

Tarsal	Total Rural Population	Rural per cent	Per cent SC	Per cent ST	Per cent Hindu population	Per cent Muslim Population	Per cent Buddhist Population	Per cent Minority population
Sengaon	169247	100.0	10.9	5.6	78.44	5.09	15.73	21.56
Hingoli	141822	67.1	10.2	6.5	74.39	6.50	18.69	25.61
Aundha (Nagnath)	152178	100.0	8.7	14.1	79.30	7.27	12.78	20.70
Kalamnuri	176760	89.5	9.6	19.0	76.69	7.72	15.26	23.31
Basmath	193123	75.1	12.2	4.3	78.81	4.33	16.65	21.19
Hingoli District	833130	85.6	10.4	9.8	77.62	6.11	15.81	22.38
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>55777647</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>87.5</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>1.22</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Literacy Levels

As per the 2001 census, the overall literacy rate of Hingoli district was 66.86 per cent, comparatively low for the female (42.63 per cent) than the male (66 per cent). Over the years, significant improvement in literacy has taken place. However, the gender gap in literacy needs to be plugged by strengthening Sarva Shiksha Abhijan (SSA).

Work Participation

In 2001 census, the work participation rate in Hingoli was one-half, which was slightly higher than the state average. The work participation rate was the lowest (45.65 per cent) in Kalamnuri. Of the working population, 49 per cent and 41 per cent are cultivators

and agricultural labourers respectively and only one per cent is engaged in household industries.

Table 1.2: Rural Work Force Participation

NAME	Total population	Total Working population	WPR	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	HH industries	Others
Sengaon	169247	87371	51.62	48.97	42.11	1.47	7.46
Hingoli	141822	75167	53.00	54.48	37.54	1.08	6.90
Aundha (Nagnath)	152178	76684	50.39	47.19	37.78	1.28	13.74
Kalamnuri	176760	81954	46.36	42.90	45.11	1.50	10.49
Basmath	193123	94876	49.13	51.45	39.71	1.46	7.38
Hingoli *	833130	416052	50.94	49.01	40.53	1.37	9.09
MAHARASHTRA	55777647	27261431	48.9	42.4	37.8	2.3	17.5

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Methodology

The survey was conducted in the rural areas and, hence, all the figures and variables used pertain only to the rural areas and population. The Census 2001 data have been used for sampling. Since the religion-wise population data are available only up to the Tehsil level, stratification has been confined to that level.

First of all, all the tehsils of the districts were arranged in descending order on the basis of minority population. In other words, they were arranged in such a manner that the Tehsils with the highest concentration of minority population was placed at the top position and Tehsils with the lowest concentration of minority population at the bottom. Thereafter all the Tehsils were stratified into three strata: the first one consists of the upper 20 per cent of Tehsils arranged according to population; the second consists of the middle 50 per cent; and the bottom consists of the last 30 per cent. The selection of villages has been done following the PPS (Probability Proportionate to Size) method. A total of 30 villages (25 villages have been chosen in the districts having rural population of less than 5 lakh) have been selected from all the three strata by the method of PPS. The number of villages selected from each stratum depends on the ratio of the total population of Tehsils to that stratum to the total population of the district. For example, if the total population of all the Tehsils under stratum constitutes 20 per cent of the total population, then 6 villages have been selected from that stratum. It has also been ensured that at least 6 villages are selected from each stratum.

In villages with less than 1200 population, all the households were listed first. However, in case of villages having more than 1200 population, three or more hamlet-groups were formed as per the practice followed by NSSO¹ and then a sample of two hamlets was selected. The hamlet with maximum concentration of minority population was selected with probability one. From the remaining hamlets another one was selected randomly. The listing and sampling of households were done separately in each hamlet.

In each selected hamlet, the listed households were grouped into strata as per the minority status of the household. In other words, all Muslim households formed one Second-Stage Stratum (SSS); all Buddhist households another SSS; and so on.

About 30 households were selected in all from each sample village for detailed survey. These 30 households were chosen from 2 selected hamlets (if hg's formed) and from among the respective SSS in proportion to the total number of households listed in the respective frames. A minimum of 2 households were chosen to an ultimate SSS. The required number of sample households from each SSS was selected by stratified random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR). In case of a village having less than 30 households all the households were surveyed.

The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is as per the following:

Table 13: The Criteria for Forming Hamlets

Approximate present population of the village	No. of hamlet- groups to be formed
1200 to 1799	3
1800 to 2399	4
2400 to 2999	5
3000 to 3599	6
.....and so on	

Clarification about Data: Weight & Multiplier Procedure

The district level estimate has been prepared using the technique of multilevel multiplier. In the first stage, the multiplier has been applied at the household level to estimate the number of households of different religious communities in the village.

Formula:

$$Y_i = \sum_{i=1}^n R_i$$

Where R= (D/d)*(d/H)*(H/h)

D= Total households in the village

d=Total households listed in the village

H=Total selected sample households in the village

h=Total households selected from different religious groups

n= Number of religious group in the village

In the second stage, the village level multiplier has been applied to estimate population data at stratum level (all tehsils in a district have been grouped into three strata for sample selection).

Formula:

$$Y_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^3 Y_i S_j$$

Where S= ((SP)/ (M*VP))

SP= Total population of the strata

M=Total number of villages selected in the strata

VP=Population of the sample village

j=Number of stratum

n= Number of religious groups in the village

Finally at the third stage, a stratum level multiplier has been used to estimate data at the district level.

Formula:

$$Y_k = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^3 Y_j D_k$$

Where D= (DP/ (M*TP))

DP= Total population of district

M=Total number of selected Tehsil in the strata

TP=Population of selected Tehsil

k=number of stratum

n= number of religious groups in the village

Thus, district level data are estimate based on survey.

Chapters: The introductory chapter explains the basic profile of the district. This includes Tehsil-wise concentration of minority population and their demographic and other characteristics, based on the 2001 Census.

Chapter II explains village level gaps in terms of health and educational institutions and basic infrastructure.

Chapter III explains findings of the household survey that analyses demographic, educational, health, economic and other deprivations. This part also explains demands and aspirations of the households, their perception about the state and the nature of civic and community life.

Chapter IV analyses delivery of public services and some important development programmes.

The last chapter sums up the findings.

Chapter II

VILLAGE LEVEL DEFICITS

The development of infrastructure and human resources is vital for economic development of a region. The proper infrastructure and human resource development helps support overall development initiatives. Infrastructure development is also an indicator to the level of access to various services and facilities at the village level. This chapter analyses the status of the infrastructure availability in Hingoli district. The analysis is based on both the secondary data (Census 2001) and primary data and information collected from the sampled 30 villages.

Education Facilities

Census Results, 2001

The census 2001 data shows that nearly 97 per cent of the villages in Hingoli have access to primary schools, which is higher than the state average. The villages of Basmath tehsil have comparatively the lowest proportion of primary schools (92.4 per cent). However, the infrastructural facilities for middle and secondary schools are not at all satisfactory in the district. Less than half the villages have middle schools. Villages in Senegaon and Aundha tehsils have the lowest percentage of middle schools – 36 per cent and 39 per cent respectively. Like primary schools, Basmath has a lower proportion of secondary schools in the district, which needs attention of the concerned authorities.

Table 2.1: School Status

Tehsil	Per cent villages with primary school	Per cent villages with middle school	No. of Secondary schools	No. of industrial schools	No. of training schools
Sengaon	98.4	35.7	20	1	1
Hingoli	97.1	50.0	19	0	0
Aundha (Nagnath)	99.2	38.1	13	3	1
Kalamnuri	97.2	50.0	34	1	0
Basmath	92.4	48.3	20	0	0
Hingoli District	96.7	44.8	106	5	2
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>95.3</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>9914</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>332</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Due to poor accessibility to middle and secondary schools, the incidence of drop outs is high at each stage. The drop out of girls is high as the parents prefer not to send them to distant schools. The availability of vocational education is very poor. In order to promote industrialisation, vocational and technical training schools and institutes should be opened in large numbers to cater to the demand for skilled labour.

Survey Results (2008)

The data related to physical educational infrastructure at the village level shows that 70 per cent and 26 per cent of the schools are built in a *pucca* or *semi-pucca* style. Thirty six per cent schools have cement floors. The average number of class rooms is 6.8 per school. While all schools have blackboards, only a three fourth fraction possess desks. While toilet facilities are available in all schools, only 83 per cent schools provide a supply of drinking water. The average number of teachers is 5.20 per school. The punctuality and sincerity of the teachers is rated modest. The schemes of mid day meal and free provision of text books to children operate in the district. However, due to poor and faulty functioning, the schemes do not achieve the desired results. Nor are these schemes fully operational in all schools. For example, 23 per cent and 56 per cent of the children rated the mid day meal facility as very good and good respectively, while only 56 per cent have writing slates and a mere 20 per cent have access to notebooks. A better percentage – a good 70 per cent of the students though, – have access to text books.

Table 2.2: Educational Facilities, 2008

Types of Schools	Percentage of villages with these educational institutions	Mean distance from the schools*
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	93.33	0.04
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	46.67	2.70
High/Higher Secondary School	23.33	8.19
Inter College	0.00	16.48
ITI	0.00	21.41

*For villages not having the educational facility.

Source: Survey.

Over the period, there is marginal improvement in the educational infrastructural development in the rural areas of the district specifically in terms of primary, middle and secondary schools. The access to girls' educational institutions is very poor. Similarly, the availability of technical schools like ITI and Polytechnics is also very poor. Thus,

there is need to upgrade the existing schools from primary to middle and middle to secondary levels. This would help to reduce the drop-out rate from each level. Since the industrial training institutes are essential for industrialisation, there is urgent need to set up industrial training institutes in district Hingoli.

Health Infrastructure

Census Results, 2001

Nearly 17 per cent and 8 per cent of Hingoli villages have access to primary health centres (PHCs) and allopathic hospitals respectively within a 5-kilometre range. The facility of maternity and child welfare (MCW) centre is available in just one per cent of the villages within a distance of 5 kilometres, which is far lower than the state average of 12.3 per cent villages. In Basmath, none of the villages have MCW within a distance of 5 kilometres. On the whole, the status of health infrastructure in the villages indicates a very poor scenario, which needs to be improved under a multi-sectoral development plan.

Table 2.3: Access to Health Facilities in Tehsils

Tehsil	Percentage of villages with PHCs within 5 KM	Percentage of villages with MCW Centre within 5 KM	Percentage of villages with hospitals within 5KM	Allopathic hospital per lakh population	Water taps per lakh population	Tubewells per lakh population	Handpumps per lakh population
Sengaon	14.7	0.8	3.1	2.4	36	25	74
Hingoli	12.3	0.7	10.9	2.1	27	10	94
Aundha (Nagnath)	27.1	0.8	19.5	3.3	20	25	74
Kalamnuri	20.4	1.4	6.3	0.6	40	20	71
Basmath	10.3	0	2.8	1	13	21	67
Hingoli District	16.7	0.7	8.2	1.8	27	20	75
Maharashtra	31.2	12.4	16.6	2.3	41	19	59

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Survey Results (2008)

The poor accessibility to health care facilities at the village level is revealed through primary survey as well. The data reveals that 7 per cent of the villages in Hingoli have access to PHCs at a mean distance of 11 km. Forty per cent villages have access to PHC sub-centres at a distance of more than 5 kilometre and community health centres (CHCs) are available to only 3 per cent of the villages – which are more than 18 km

away. Similarly, ayurvedic and homeopathic doctors and family planning centres are available to a lesser percentage of villages. One-tenth of the villages have chemist and medicine shops at a mean distance of more than 11 km.

Table 2.4: Access to Health Facility, 2008

Type	Percentage of villages with access to health facilities	Mean distance from the health centres*
PHCs	6.7	11.4
Primary Health Sub Centre	40.0	5.3
CHCs	3.3	18.8
Hospital/ Dispensary	0.0	12.7
Pvt Qualified Allopathic Doctors	10.0	9.4
Maternity Child care Centre	16.7	8.3
Ayurvedic Doctors	3.3	15.3
Homeopathic Doctors	6.7	15.3
Family Planning Clinics	3.3	11.7
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	10.0	11.2

*For villages not having such health facilities

Source: Survey.

The availability of taps, tube wells and hand pumps indicate the level of access to safe drinking water. According to census 2001, there were 27 taps per lakh population in the district, which was significantly low compared to the state average of 41 taps per lakh population. The condition of the district is better in the case of availability of tube wells, with 20 tube wells per lakh population – a figure which is slightly higher than the state average. There were 75 hand pumps per lakh population in the district, which is comparatively higher than the state average. On the whole, accessibility to safe drinking water is not up to the mark and calls for urgent attention of the concerned agencies.

Village Connectivity and Electricity

In Hingoli district, 81 per cent of the villages have paved roads, which is closer to the state average. Two tehsils of the district, Sengaon and Hingoli have comparatively lower connectivity – 73 per cent and 61 per cent respectively. Majority of the villages have access to block HQ and nearby towns, which are within a mean distance of 16.9 kilometres and 14 kilometres respectively. One-fifth of the villages have a bus stop and a post office too. The nearest railway station is 21 kilometres away in Hingoli. Nearly 46 per cent of the villages have telephone connections also and 68 per cent of the households are electrified.

Table 2.5: Connectivity and Marketing Facilities

Type	Percent of villages having	Mean distance* Km
Block HQ	6.7	16.9
Nearest Town	3.3	14.5
Nearest Bus Stop	20.0	4.5
Nearest Post Office	20.0	5.8
Public Telephone Connection	46.7	2.9
Commercial Bank	6.7	8.8
Rural Bank	3.3	8.4
Co-operative Bank	13.3	6.5
Anganwadi Centre	73.3	0.2
GP Office	70.0	1.0
Fair Price Shop	40.0	4.6
Fertilizer shop	10.0	10.2
Other General Shops	43.3	5.3
Nearest Mandi	0.0	11.4
Milk Mandi	6.7	9.6
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	6.7	7.3

*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source: Survey.

Banking and access to financial institutions

Nearly 83 per cent of the villages have co-operative societies within a mean distance of 5 kilometres. In terms of banking and financial institutions, the status of Hingoli district is better than the state average. More than one-third of the villages have cooperative banks within a mean distance of 5 kilometres. There are 8 co-operative banks per lakh population which is better than the state average. One fourth of the villages have commercial banks within a mean distance of 5 kilometres, which is lower than the state average. In the district, one commercial bank serves a population of 3.7 lakhs, which is better than the state average.

Table 2.6: Banking and Other Facilities

Tehsil	Percentage of villages with paved roads	Percentage of villages with power supply	Percentage of villages with PACSs within 5 km	Percentage of villages with a Co-op bank within 5 km	Co op bank per lakh popu	Percentage of villages with SCB within 5 km	SCBs per lakh pop	Post office per lakh population	Percentage of irrigated land area with reference to the total land area
Sengaon	73.6	99.2	70.5	41.1	7.1	24.8	3.0	11.8	88.7
Hingoli	61.6	98.6	87.0	36.2	7.8	42.0	5.6	11.3	96.4
Aundha (Nagnath)	94.1	99.2	81.4	36.4	9.9	16.1	3.3	13.8	93.6
Kalamnuri	95.1	99.3	88.7	35.2	7.9	26.1	5.1	14.7	90.9
Basmath	82.1	93.1	89.0	29.7	8.3	12.4	2.1	14.0	72.2
Hingoli District	81.1	97.8	83.6	35.6	8.2	24.4	3.7	13.2	88.2
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>82.4</i>	<i>98.2</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>39.1</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>85.4</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

Markets

None of the village has regular market facilities. The villagers have to travel an average distance of 11 kilometres to reach the nearest market (mandi). Dairy farming is a popular occupation and 6.6 per cent villages have a dairy *mandi*. The villages have very limited access to other essential shops that provide support to the agricultural activities in the district. One-tenth of the villages have fertilizers and seed shops. Similarly, 6.6 per cent villages have pesticide shops and 3.3 per cent have an additional cold storage facility. Forty three per cent of the villages have general shops.

Anganwadi Centres

About three-fourth of the villages have anganwadi centres and 41 per cent of the households have benefited from ICDS – Muslim (32 per cent), Hindu (41 per cent) and Buddhist (43 per cent). Those who have not benefited from ICDS were not eligible to avail the benefit of the programme and 4 per cent reports that the location was not suitable for them.

Chapter III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Hindus form the dominant population group (65.07 per cent), followed by Buddhists (29.16 per cent) and Muslims (5.68 per cent). The Christian population is negligible. The average household size is 5.47 persons, lowest for Muslims (4.86) and highest for Christians (6.00). The overall dependence is reportedly low (0.82), which is comparatively highest among Muslims (1.00) and lowest among Hindus (0.71). The average male-female sex ratio is very low at 867 females to a 1000 males, which is comparatively high and balance out for Christians (1000:1000) and the lowest for Muslims (1000: 837). The high sex ratio among Christians reflects a comparatively better female status within the community, which may be attributed to better educational status and women empowerment in the community compared to Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu households. The low sex ratio among Muslims reflects predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community, which needs to be broken by creating awareness, providing more education to the girls and empowering the women in the community (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1
Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households Surveyed (%)

Religion	Sample population (%)	Average HH Size	Sex Ratio	Dependence Ratio
Hindu	65.07	5.52	869	0.71
Muslim	5.68	4.86	837	1.00
Christian	0.10	6.00	1000	0.85
Buddhist	29.16	5.46	944	0.73
Total	100.00	5.47	867	0.82

Source: Survey.

Table 3.2
Age-Sex Distribution of Population

Age group	Hindu			Muslim			Buddhist			Christian			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	7.8	9.8	8.7	8.7	2.6	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.1	9.2	11.2	9.1	6.5	7.9
5-14	24.4	19.2	22.0	23.7	18.3	21.3	0.0	33.3	16.7	17.7	21.1	19.4	22.9	19.2	21.2
15-24	19.2	19.8	19.5	17.6	23.6	20.3	33.3	0.0	16.7	16.8	16.1	16.5	18.1	20.8	19.3
25-29	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.4	7.3	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	10.3	9.1	8.2	8.2	8.2
30-44	19.8	20.4	20.1	14.8	18.4	16.4	33.3	33.3	33.3	22.9	18.6	20.8	18.0	19.2	18.6
45-59	10.2	12.5	11.3	9.3	19.1	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9	7.2	7.5	9.4	14.4	11.7
60+	10.7	10.2	10.4	17.4	10.7	14.4	33.3	33.3	33.3	13.6	17.5	15.5	14.3	11.8	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey.

Nearly 29 per cent of the population is in the child age group of 0-14 years. This is more or less the same across all the communities except Buddhists. None of the children of Buddhist households belong to the infant age group of 0-4 years, which may be attributed to greater awareness about small family norms and adoption of family planning practices in the community. Buddhists also have a comparatively lesser proportion of the population in the school-going age group. Therefore, educational needs of the other communities are highest compared to Buddhists. Gender inequity in the child sex ratio is sharp across the communities. It is sharper however, in Buddhist and Muslim households than other communities. Muslims have more male children than female and the opposite is true of Buddhist households, which confirm the practice of preference of sons among Muslims and greater female empowerment among Buddhists. About 19 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years (18.10 per cent male and 20.76 per cent female). Buddhist females have no representation in this young age group compared to the high representation of males (33.33 per cent). This implies that other communities, supply more labour force and unemployment is more likely in these communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and the current trend of slowdown in the economy. Gender inequity is noticed in subsequent higher age groups too, but the gaps are not large. Nearly 13 per cent of the population is in the age group of 60 years and above. Gender equity is noticed in this age group except among Muslims and Christians. More Muslim men survive beyond 60 years than women and the case is just the opposite with Christian men and women. On the whole, a high concentration of population in the child and youth age groups calls for rigorous educational and manpower planning and opening of more technical and vocational institutions as well as creation of greater self-employment opportunities in the agro-based and service sectors, given the stagnant public sector and the shrinking private industrial sector.

QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

Literacy Rate

The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is the highest among males across all religious groups (see table 3.3). Female literacy is lowest among Christians and highest among the Hindus. The overall literacy is also highest among the Hindus followed by Buddhists. On the whole, gender differential in literacy is noticeable, which

needs to be addressed immediately by educational planners and decision-makers, besides making the community aware of the advantages of girls' education.

Table 3.3
Literacy Rates

Sex	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Male	81.01	77.10	66.67	74.83	78.15
Female	61.26	45.62	33.33	53.39	52.41
Total no. of persons	71.85	62.13	50.00	64.17	65.92

Source: Survey.

Enrolment Status of Children

The enrolment status of children and adolescents in the age-group 5-16 years is presented in table 3.4. Nearly 87 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. Gender equity is noticed in enrolment in government schools. None of the Christian children is enrolled in private and informal schools. It seems that SSA is making its presence in the rural areas of Hingoli district, which is evident from the fact that a high proportion of the children are enrolled in government schools and a very small proportion of them is attending private schools. This also reflects the poor socio-economic conditions of the households, which compels them to depend on government schools for basic school education. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream and the quality of education being imparted in schools needs to be improved urgently. Thus, the gap in the process of human capital formation with reference to all communities as well as gender needs to be bridged on a priority basis by following community as well as gender-sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

Table 3.4
Enrolment Status of 5-16 Years Population

	Hindu			Muslim			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never Enrolled	3.45	5.45	4.29	5.46	9.50	7.04	4.11	6.79	5.25
Left after enrolment	2.38	1.76	2.12	0.83	2.59	1.52	1.41	1.81	1.58
Enrolled but does not go to school	0.67	0.07	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.02	0.18
Goes to informal institution	0.17	0.74	0.41	2.05	0.00	1.25	1.71	0.26	1.09
Enrolled in govt school and is regular	91.80	88.06	90.23	82.40	80.69	81.73	87.24	86.50	86.93
Goes to private school	1.53	3.91	2.53	9.26	7.22	8.46	5.25	4.60	4.97
All	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

The proportion of the children never enrolled is low (5.25 per cent) and is a cause of concern. It calls for more vigorous campaigning for SSA. In case of Muslims, 9.5 per cent of the girls have reportedly never enrolled in a school. The drop out rate is also comparatively high among Muslim girls (2.59 per cent). Though the low drop outs provide a little relief, it still needs to be checked. Thus, there is a need to speed up the efforts of the government in ensuring hundred per cent enrolment of children in the school-going age group with zero drop outs. This would be possible by improving the quality of education and expanding the physical infrastructure.

Reasons for Dropout

No doubt, the enrolment and retention rates are both high in sample villages. An attempt has also been made however, to find out the reasons behind drop-outs, though it is very low. The main reasons cited for drop-out are lack of interest in reading books / studying (28.36 per cent) and the pressing need to earn (11.45 per cent). Besides, other reasons have also been cited for drop outs by nearly 59 per cent of the children who drop out of schools (see table 3.5). It is significant to note that all the children of Christian households were enrolled and drop-out among them was nil.

Table 3.5
Reasons for Dropout

Reasons	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Need to earn	21.15	0.00	6.85	11.45
Far distance of school	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.78
Not interested in studying	54.68	0.00	0.00	28.36
Others	22.66	100.00	93.15	59.41
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Keeping in view the low interest shown by the children in reading, elementary education should be made interesting for the students and teachers should be trained to motivate and retain them within the school system. Besides, due to high incidence of poverty, child labour is rampant in the sample households. Thus, there is a need to make the parents aware of the benefits of education and livelihood opportunities need to be provided to the rural poor to eliminate the incidence of child labour.

Educational Levels

The educational status of the sample households is modest. In rural areas of Hingoli district, 18 per cent of the population is educated (with educational levels of high school and above). The proportion of males and females with high school education and above is 23.74 per cent and 11.59 per cent respectively. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 1.57 per cent and 0.26 per cent respectively (Table 3.6). The education levels of Christian males are comparatively better than males in other communities. It is ironical to note that none of the Christian women has received high school education and above, which may be due to the small size of their sample. Comparatively, Hindu males and females are better educated, than Muslims – among whom education levels are rather low. The disparities in education levels are noticeable across the communities and genders at various levels. This needs to be plugged in to ensure equity. A scheme of educational scholarships can be launched for the economically backward but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrolment of the population beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

Table 3.6
Educational Levels

Educational category	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Illiterate	27.29	37.14	50.00	34.30	33.15
Below primary or informal education	17.83	17.71	16.67	16.99	17.63
Primary	17.47	14.31	0.00	9.86	14.67
Middle	19.16	15.45	16.67	14.14	16.56
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.09
Secondary	11.04	10.19	16.67	10.62	10.58
Higher Secondary	5.04	4.20	0.00	7.78	5.10
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	0.39	1.01	0.00	1.33	0.84
Technical or professional degree	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04
Graduate degree	0.91	0.00	0.00	2.36	0.73
Post-graduate degree	0.53	0.00	0.00	2.53	0.62
Others	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Educational Levels among the Youth

The educational status of the youth is presented in table 3.7. The data clearly reveals that 17.56 per cent of them are illiterate (14.03 per cent of Buddhists, 13.15 per cent of Hindus and 22.40 per cent of Muslims). A very small proportion of the rural youth is educated below primary or informal level and 11.47 per cent and 27.19 per cent of them

have education up to primary level and middle level respectively. More than one-third, one-fourth and nearly one-fifth of the Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist youths respectively have education up to middle level. It is significant to note that 22.7 per cent of the youth have educational attainment up to the secondary level. It is significant to note that all the Christian youth in the age group of 15-25 years are educated up to the secondary level. Similarly, 13.88 per cent of the youth have been educated up to the higher secondary level. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation including technical education is very poor and it is virtually nil among the Muslim and Christian youth. Muslim and Christian youths have lower educational attainments at various levels compared with the youth of the other two communities. Due to lower educational attainment including vocational and technical education, the rural youth of Hingoli district have lesser prospects in the labour market.

Table 3.7
Educational Levels of Youth (15-25 Years)

Educational category	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Illiterate	13.15	22.40	14.03	17.56
Below primary or informal education	4.93	3.57	3.93	4.14
Primary	12.27	11.58	9.32	11.47
Middle	33.48	24.98	19.00	27.19
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.30
Secondary	23.76	21.26	23.84	22.70
Higher Secondary	7.76	16.20	21.63	13.88
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	1.19	0.00	4.43	1.15
Technical or professional degree	0.34	0.00	0.10	0.14
Graduate degree	1.75	0.00	3.72	1.25
Post-graduate degree	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.20
Others	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

The overall educational attainment, particularly among the youth and especially among females, is low and needs improvement. Poor educational attainment hampers their future labour market prospects. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of population, particularly the youth, in areas of higher and technical education. This would also require imparting short duration job-oriented courses in technical institutions to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to the needy youth from backward groups and minorities.

Per Capita Expenditure on Education

The average per capita expenditure on education is low (Rs.222). However, minor differentials exist among communities. For example, Christian households spend a comparatively less amount on education (Rs.167) than Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist households. However, due to poverty the average expenditure on education by sample households is lower compared to their urban counterparts. Thus, SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage extended, which may provide some relief to the rural poor in accessing basic education.

Government Assistance

The government is providing assistance in the form of books, uniforms, scholarships, mid-day meal, etc. to students for universal enrolment and retention in the educational system. Scholarships are given to students belonging to minority groups of population under a special scheme in every state. However, this scheme is not effectively implemented in the district. Nearly 85 per cent of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to about 39.62 per cent of the students (see table 3.8). Educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships is being provided to a very small proportion of the students. In order to increase enrolment and retention of students, there is the need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. The poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and uniform assistance. There is a need to impart free elementary education among the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.

Table 3.8
Government Assistance (%)

Type of assistance	Religion			
	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Books	94.52	75.70	90.53	85.49
Dress	2.71	8.25	4.90	5.55
Scholarship	2.47	0.00	2.30	1.34
Midday meal	36.36	50.72	19.79	39.62
Others	0.00	1.83	0.00	0.81
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
% of students receiving assistance	76.90	68.40	81.87	73.70

Source: Survey.

ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

Land

Landlessness is a common feature among rural households of Hingoli district. More than one-half of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Muslim (78.80 per cent) and Buddhist (59.10 per cent) compared to Hindu (19.24 per cent). It is significant to note that none of the Christian households is landless. The average size of a landholding is comparatively bigger in Hindu households than in Buddhist and Muslim households. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduces the livelihood options but also makes them vulnerable by working on low wages, which traps the landless households in the poverty cycle.

Livestock

The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stand at Rs.14,037, which is comparatively very low in the case of Christians (Rs.3000) and Muslims (Rs.5723) than Hindus (Rs.29050). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Muslim and Christian households also seems to be poor, given the lower value of livestock. The possession of livestock in bulk by rural households provides them with draught power as well as milch animals, meat and other products depending upon the types of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve their livelihood conditions including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened and put into practice.

Productive Assets

The mean value of productive assets possessed by the sample households is Rs.22,472 (see table 3.9). Christian households have comparatively very low value of productive assets per household (Rs.3200). The productive assets possessed by Hindu households are comparatively higher and stand at Rs.45,048, which is many times higher than the productive assets possessed by other households.

Table 3.9
Mean Value of Assets per Household (Rs.)

<i>Type of household</i>	<i>Productive other than land</i>	<i>Modern household</i>
Hindu	45048	41420
Muslim	10366	16101
Christian	3200	13000
Buddhist	12346	19148
Total	22472	25210

Source: Survey.

Other Assets

Hindu households have more modern assets. Christian and Muslim households possess comparatively less modern household assets. The mean value of assets possessed by Christian and Muslim households, stands at Rs.13000 and Rs.16101 respectively (see table 3.9). Thus, possession of a lesser number of modern household assets and using outdated assets of lower productivity reflects the poor socio-economic condition of the households.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Work Participation

The work participation is reportedly modest (41 per cent), which is low among Christian households (16.67 per cent) and high among Muslim households (44.24 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (53.92 per cent for males and 26.11 per cent for females). This is more or less true across all the religious groups, except Christian households where gender inequity in work participation is very sharp. None of the Christian women add to the work force. Overall, low rate work participation is reported across all communities, which needs to be improved by providing work opportunities through NREGA. Low female work participation is also a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they should be empowered and play their role within and outside the family in an effective way.

Table 3.10: Work Participation Ratio

	Male	Female	Total
Hindu	55.12	19.50	38.56
Muslim	53.99	32.59	44.24
Buddhist	51.28	23.76	37.92
All	53.92	26.11	41.00

Source: Survey.

Nature of Employment

The occupational status of the members of sample households is presented in table 3.11. A perusal of the table makes it evident that casual labour in agriculture is a dominant occupation (50.35 per cent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (34.85 per cent of households). However, there are

significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and genders. Nearly 69 per cent of the Hindu males are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and only 9.45 per cent of females in Buddhist households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities. Low proportion of the sample households is self-employed in non-agriculture sector and regular salaried occupation. None of the Christian households is in regular salaried work. The proportion of salaried workers is also low in Hindu households. A significantly high proportion of females than males are engaged in casual wage in agriculture. More than 80 per cent of the women of Muslim and Buddhist households derive their livelihood from casual wage labour in agriculture, whereas a lesser proportion of other communities' members are engaged as casual labour in agriculture. Thus, high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture reflects poor economic conditions of the households.

Table 3.11
Nature of Employment

Employment Status	Hindu			Muslim			Buddhist			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture and allied activities	69.58	48.20	64.69	21.43	11.55	17.91	31.65	9.48	25.04	41.12	20.49	34.85
Self-employed in non-agricultural sector	2.54	0.98	2.19	9.22	5.40	7.86	2.58	1.88	2.37	5.63	3.71	5.04
Regular salaried	3.53	1.54	3.07	8.71	0.00	5.60	5.16	1.74	4.14	6.18	0.67	4.51
Casual wage labour in agriculture	22.05	47.83	27.95	49.52	83.05	61.47	54.43	81.65	62.55	40.06	73.91	50.35
Casual wage labour in non-Agriculture	2.30	1.46	2.10	11.12	0.00	7.16	6.19	5.26	5.91	7.01	1.22	5.25
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

All this force the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. The participation in casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low (5.25 per cent). Thus, the government scheme of NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. Besides, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented more in the district, so that the poor households may earn a sustainable living. Besides it may also empower them socially and politically, as the programme is being implemented through SHGs.

Sector of Employment

The industry-wise distribution of main workers in sample villages across the selected religious groups is given in table 3.12. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities where 86.98 per cent of the households' members are engaged. About 2.44 per cent of them are engaged in construction related activities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, and public administration, education, health and other sectors. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more and more self-employment schemes like SGSY for the rural poor so that they can be employed on a sustainable basis, which would not only generate employment and

supplement family earnings but would go a long way in empowering the women to play their part within the family and society.

Table 3.12
Workers by their Sector of Employment

<i>Sector</i>	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	93.63	81.95	88.60	86.98
Mining & Quarrying	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.07
Manufacturing	1.21	6.39	1.28	3.81
Electricity	0.00	0.30	0.04	0.16
Construction	1.06	3.01	3.54	2.44
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	1.32	2.42	0.66	1.76
Transport, Storage & Communication	1.26	2.33	0.40	1.65
Finance, Real Estate & Business	0.74	1.54	0.10	1.04
Public Administration, Education, Health & Others	0.56	2.06	5.37	2.09
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

The lower proportion of the workers engaged in modern sector of employment is mainly due to lack of infrastructure for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district is earning their livelihoods from agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. There is lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended on priority by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes, which could facilitate locally trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector.

Unemployment and Search for Additional Employment

Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among the communities. As such search for additional employment for augmenting households' income and status is very high. However, due to lack of trainings and skills, their employability is comparatively low. Thus, their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.

Income and Expenditure

The per capita income and expenditure reveals that rural economy of Hingoli is a surplus one. There have been significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Christian households is more than other households though at lower levels (see table 3.13). The higher income is reported in those of the households which have more physical and human capital. Significant differentials are

noticed in income-expenditure across the communities. On the whole, a high proportion of poor households are deriving their livelihood on day to day basis by working as self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and casual labour in agriculture sector and live in a situation of hand-to-mouth.

Table 3.13
Average Per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)

Income/Expenditure	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Expenditure (Rs.)	6067	5576	3117	4904	5634
Income (Rs.)	11323	7791	6933	7600	9052
Income-expenditure ratio	1.86	1.39	2.22	1.54	1.61

Source: Survey.

The data related to household expenditure by various sources is shown in table 3.14. Food is the dominant source of household expenditure followed by other items, social ceremonies, health and education. As the per capita income of the majority of sample households is low, it is not surprising that the per capita expenditure is also low. However, one notices that even at a very low level of income per capita, there is a tendency on the part of the sample households to save a part of the income, which is clear from the difference between the per capita income and expenditure, though not a very significant one.

Table 3.14
Item-wise Per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)

Item	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Food	2773	2350	2000	2415	2516
Education	228	224	167	203	222
Health	479	552	0	187	460
Social Ceremonies	679	537	250	766	629
Interest/Loan	239	301	0	51	234
Others	1671	1612	700	1282	1574
Total	6067	5576	3117	4904	5634

Source: Survey.

The situation of the households can be mitigated to an extent by provisioning better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus, reducing poor households' dependence on private services, which took a part of their expenditure that could be utilised for meeting other basic needs of the households.

HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.15, which reveals that 15.88 per cent and 30.83 per cent of the households are living in thatched and kacha houses respectively. Nearly 43 per cent and 9.88 per cent of them live in semi-*pucca* and *pucca* houses respectively. Comparatively, the housing conditions of Christian, Buddhist and Muslim households are not satisfactory, which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households.

Table 3.15
Type of Houses

Type of house	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Thatched	7.62	22.48	13.35	15.88
Kacha	30.59	29.12	35.77	30.83
Semi <i>Pucca</i>	43.53	42.70	43.77	43.10
<i>Pucca</i>	17.72	5.70	6.34	9.88
others	0.54	0.00	0.77	0.31
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Survey.

Nearly 30 per cent of the sample households live in single room accommodation. A small proportion, 11.35 per cent and 19.51 per cent of them respectively have two rooms and more than two rooms' accommodation (see table 3.16). A high proportion of Hindu households live in more than two-room accommodation, which ensures privacy. On the whole, housing conditions of these households is not satisfactory and calls for urgent attention by the government and IAY needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district to improve the housing conditions of poor households.

Table 3.16
Number of Rooms per Household (%)

Number of rooms	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Single Room	19.64	34.31	37.27	29.92
Two Room	46.85	52.99	51.38	11.35
More than two room	33.50	12.70	11.35	19.51
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Drinking Water

The condition of the drinking water facilities is not at all satisfactory in the district. Nearly 76 per cent of the households use drinking water from public source and 20.13 per cent of the households are depending upon private source (see table 3.17). The dependence

on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor households is a serious concern, which needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government, for which necessary allocations be made on priority basis.

Table 3.17: Drinking Water (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Public	64.24	81.21	84.98	76.12
Private	30.46	16.53	9.98	20.13
Others	5.30	2.26	5.04	3.75

Source: Survey.

Toilets

A majority of the households (86.71 per cent) defecate outside in the open, which is totally unhygienic and just 13.29 per cent of the households, have in-house toilet facilities. Nearly 97.16 per cent of Buddhist households, defecate outside the home in open. The condition of the drainage is also reportedly very unsatisfactory in Hindu households. The practice of open defecation needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet assistance by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

The data and information on health and family welfare is provided in following paragraphs, which reveals more or less satisfactory conditions. The utilisation of health care facilities by the households depend on the knowledge and awareness about the existence of these facilities, for which field workers needs to be trained to motivate and make the rural poor aware of the better health status.

Place of Child Birth

Nearly 59 per cent of the last childbirths in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children of Muslim households (70.68 per cent) were born at home as compared to 23.38 per cent and 24.68 per cent of the births in government and private hospitals respectively. Thus, the system of institutional deliveries is very poor (see table 3.18).

Assistance in Child Birth

The dependence on untrained *dais* in child delivery assistance is high (52.99 per cent), which is more in Muslim households (59.20 per cent) than Buddhist and Hindu households. Nearly one-tenth of the delivery of children is performed by trained

midwife/Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), comparatively more in Muslim households than Hindu and Buddhist households. Those of the children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, whereas proportion of such children is comparatively low. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of the children so that better pre and post natal care be provided to the children.

Table 3.18
Place of Child Birth and Help Received (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Place				
Government hospital	23.38	16.33	38.41	24.47
Private hospital	24.68	12.99	8.43	16.54
At Home	51.93	70.68	53.16	58.99
Help in Child delivery				
Doctor	46.95	21.89	44.89	37.41
Trained <i>Dai</i>	5.95	18.91	1.71	9.60
Untrained <i>Dai</i>	47.10	59.20	53.40	52.99

Source: Survey.

Immunisation

The data relating to the status of immunisation of children against Polio, DPT and BCG show encouraging results. Almost all children have been given Polio drops. Similarly, almost all children below the age of 5 years have been immunised against at least one type of disease. However, the proportion of the children fully immunised is comparatively lower (90.04 per cent) (see table 3.19). Thus, NRHM needs to be strengthened in the district for which more allocations be made on priority to extend the reach and coverage of the programme.

Table 3.19
Immunisation Status of Children (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Any Type of doze	98.96	100.00	99.91	99.54
Fully Immunised	91.38	87.40	91.21	90.04

Source: Survey.

Morbidity

Fever, chicken pox, cough and cold, typhoid and diarrhea are the most common health problem faced by sample households. On average, Rs.460 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure, comparatively more by Muslim households (Rs.552) than Hindu (Rs.479) and Buddhist households (Rs.187). Surprisingly, none of the Christian households reported any expenses incurred on meeting health needs.

On the whole, the dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (83.84 per cent) as compared to government hospital (7.72 per cent). Nearly 22 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenditure and the proportion of the Muslim and Buddhist households raising debt to meet health treatment expenditure is about 52.28 and 13.41. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission in a big way so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependency on private sources which are costly in nature and most of the times these are behind the reach of the poor households and forces them in debt.

INDEBTEDNESS

Incidence of Indebtedness

Nearly one-fifth of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly indebted. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 11.79 per cent and 18.36 per cent (see table 3.20). The average amount of loan raised is low (Rs.5082). Hindu households are more indebted (Rs.8411) than Buddhist (Rs.4127) and Muslim (Rs.3119).

Table 3.20
Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Average (Rs.)	8411	3119	4127	5082
% Indebted households	32.56	11.79	18.26	19.91

Source: Survey.

Source of Debt

The institutional sources of finance are dominating the rural areas of the district. The cooperative banks/societies and commercial and Gramin banks are playing a significant role in providing credit to the rural poor and their combined share stood at about 44 per cent. The dependence on friends/relatives is modest (40 per cent) for raising finance to meet productive as well as unproductive needs. Keeping in view the more prevalence of institutional sources of credit, it is needed to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the more poor people could avail such facilities and their exploitation in the hands of money lenders and sahuikars should be minimised.

Table 3.21
Sources of Debt

Source	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Government	4.01	0.00	17.83	5.08
Commercial Bank	12.35	10.06	0.79	9.68
Gramin Bank (RRB)	8.41	0.00	1.10	4.54
Co-op Bank/Societies	54.50	4.07	5.72	30.46
SHG/NGO	1.20	0.00	5.77	1.60
Money lender	1.65	0.00	0.74	0.98
Professional money lender	7.71	0.00	3.44	4.57
Landlord/Employer	1.24	0.00	15.22	3.21
Friends/Relatives	8.95	85.87	49.40	39.88
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Survey.

Use of Loans

The loans have been raised by the sample households for varied purposes. The capital expenditure in farm business is the most dominant reason (31.44 per cent), followed by medical treatment (21.55 per cent), and other household expenditure (17.74 per cent). Nearly 58 per cent of the Hindu households are in debt to meet capital expenditure on farm business. Muslim and Buddhist households are in debt to the tune of 52.28 per cent and 13.41 per cent respectively to meet medical expenses, which could be minimised if the government-run health facilities are available (see table 3.22). The raising of loan for productive purposes such as capital expenditure in non-farm business by one-tenth of Muslim households is very encouraging and more and more credit facilities through institutional mechanisms need to be provided to improve rural livelihoods opportunities.

Table 3.22
Purpose of Loans

Purpose	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Capital expenditure in farm business	57.56	4.07	2.16	31.44
Capital expenditure in non farm business	0.88	10.06	3.93	4.27
Purchase of land/house	6.64	0.00	1.89	3.76
Renovation of house	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.04
Marriage and other social ceremonies	3.97	0.00	35.86	8.11
Festivals	0.00	0.00	11.47	1.94
For education	0.00	0.00	4.91	0.83
Medical treatment	5.60	52.28	13.41	21.55
Repayment of Old debt	1.46	0.00	0.00	0.76
Other household expenditure	7.51	33.59	19.71	17.74
Purchase of animal	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.06
Financial investment	0.15	0.00	2.89	0.57
Other	14.12	0.00	3.78	7.95
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

The incidence of indebtedness in sample households is largely due to low income levels, which are inadequate to meet their consumption and other social needs. Thus, there is a need to improve the income levels of rural households, besides, banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment to rural poor. In this connection, the government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be promoted more and more so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-farm activities including dairy development to increase their income, which would also go a long way in mitigating poverty and empowering them, both economically and socially.

Chapter IV

DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Public Distribution System

Nearly 48 per cent of the sample population lives below poverty line (BPL). However, 37.36 per cent of sample households have BPL ration cards and 57.39 per cent use the PDS facility (see table 4.1). This implies that some of the non-BPL households have BPL cards and some of them also receive the BPL ration. It is noteworthy that all the Christian households belong to the BPL category, have BPL cards and get BPL ration. Besides, 60 per cent of the Muslim households are BPL households and 44.36 per cent of them have BPL cards. However, 53 per cent of them get BPL ration. Similar is the case with Hindu households with minor modifications. Thus, some of the poor households actually belonging to the BPL category do not have BPL cards and not everyone who has a valid BPL card is able to draw the BPL ration.

Table 4.1
PDS Coverage (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
BPL HHs	26.91	59.99	52.39	47.69
BPL HHs which get ration	61.03	53.01	62.73	57.39
HHs which have BPL cards	23.58	44.36	43.86	37.36

Source: Survey.

Nearly three-fourths of the sample population have complained about irregular supply of PDS ration followed by non-availability of time (44.04 per cent), dishonesty in measurement (40.06 per cent), insufficient quantity (33.27 per cent) and bad quality (22.08 per cent). Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing the PDS facility. For example, the majority of the households complained of irregular supply as the main problem in availing PDS (see table 4.2).

Table 4.2
Problems being faced with the PDS (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Insufficient quantity	23.91	39.40	33.85	33.27
Bad quality	24.30	28.45	5.24	22.08
Dishonesty in measurement	23.72	47.87	49.57	40.06
Non Availability of time	42.94	42.71	48.99	44.04
Irregular supply	82.85	78.93	53.84	74.57
Others	0.00	0.00	8.92	2.04

Note: Based on multiple responses
Source: Survey.

The huge discrepancy noticeable between the percentage of the population actually belonging to the BPL category and the percentage possessing BPL ration cards and availing ration benefits from PDS is a matter of grave concern. These gaps need to be plugged at the earliest, so that economically backward people belonging to the BPL category get their due share of the PDS ration, which could also supplement the households' nutrition. There is also a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it corruption free.

Access, Use and Quality of Public Health Service

The district lacks basic public health infrastructure. There is a genuine lack of adequate health care facilities for the rural poor, which is due to the heavy demand on these basic services. Similar is the situation with the availability of medicines, though it has marginally improved over the last few years. The availability of doctors, particularly women doctors at PHCs / hospitals is an issue of major concern for the rural population. At the same time, the presence of quacks in villages has an adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of people. They unnecessarily spend heavily on their health care without receiving proper medical attention and care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaigns to educate the rural poor about their health care.

Education

Like public health service, the low availability and accessibility of educational institutions is hampering educational development and academic achievements. The conditions of schools is far from satisfactory in terms of average number of rooms per school, toilet

facility, drinking water, punctuality of teachers, books and above all teacher-pupil ratio. Mid-day meal is also in operation in all government schools, however, its quality and regularity is not assured. It is ironical to note that just to avail more assistance under the mid-day scheme, multiple enrolments have been reported in many schools. This practice should be checked and strictly monitored.

A high proportion of children enrolled in government schools belong to relatively poor households. The economically 'better-off' households send their children to English medium private schools. This kind of dualism has marginalised the government-aided school system. There is hardly any voice raised for improving the quality and accountability of elementary education in government schools, since better-off households tend to remain indifferent as they are hardly affected by these problems.

For a quality teaching, there is a need to strengthen the training of teachers in new methods of teaching and learning. Efforts also need to be made to promote extra curricular activities in schools to make the learning process attractive for the children.

Awareness

The level of awareness about various government programmes operating in the rural areas of the district is given in table 4.3. ARWSP (water supply) and SSA are two schemes, which are known to nearly 93 per cent and 73 per cent of the households respectively. Nearly 54 per cent and 62 per cent of the households are aware of IAY and NREGA. However, the awareness regarding the schemes of old age pension and maternity benefits is significantly low. Thus, there is a need to propagate the lesser known schemes and increase awareness about them, for the economically backward and marginalised rural population to effectively use these services.

Table 4.3:
Awareness about Governments' Programmes (%)

Schemes	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
SGSY	71.5	45.4	82.7	62.0
NREGA	70.2	55.6	64.4	62.5
Indira Awas Yojana	64.1	48.0	54.0	54.5
TSC Swajaldhara	71.1	36.9	79.8	53.9
ARWSP (Drinking Water)	87.5	100.0	91.4	93.0
SSA	80.7	64.1	81.4	72.8
ICDS or Anganwadi	76.0	47.0	64.7	60.1

Old Age or Widow Pension	67.2	25.8	66.5	45.0
Maternity Benefit scheme	70.6	0.0	49.6	40.1

Source: Survey.

Aspirations

The provision of employment opportunities and housing facilities ranks at the top in development planning. Land is the third important development priority followed by education. Households also aspire for health and other basic facilities as development needs. However, different communities have ranked development priorities differently, except for the employment category (see table 4.4).

Table 4.4
Aspirations of Respondents in Order of Their Ranks (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	All
Employment	70.85	92.91	78.20	82.93
Housing	35.05	56.43	52.36	48.65
Land	27.77	53.92	48.33	44.13
Education	52.16	23.85	38.39	36.00
Health Centre	44.79	25.65	31.80	33.08
Other facilities	23.53	14.68	19.68	18.51
Social Respect	2.65	3.22	1.04	2.63
Loan	0.86	4.18	0.10	2.33
Irrigation	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.46
Business	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.29
Bridge	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.21
Welfare facilities	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.17
Electricity	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.15
Awareness Prg (Govt)	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.14
Ration Card	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.13
Reservation in Education	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.12
Pitch Road	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.11
Industries	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.11
Madarasa	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.10
Drainage	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.09
Community Centre	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.03
School	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.03
Drinking Water	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.03

Source: Survey.

The rural population of the district has participated in state assembly and parliamentary elections, which reflect a very high level of political participation on their part. However, a very insignificant proportion of them form a part of the self help group (SHG). All the households' members are also members of religious organisations. Thus, the level of social participation is also very high, which may be attributed to a high penetration of

religious organisations and the presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the rural areas of the district.

CHAPTER V

KEY FINDINGS AND POLICY ISSUES

- The total population of Hingoli district was 8, 33,130, of which 85.6 per cent lives in rural areas, which is much higher than the state share of rural population. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) constitute 10.4 per cent and 9.8 per cent respectively of the total population of the district.
- In the survey, Hindu forms a dominant population group (65.07 per cent), followed by Buddhists (29.16 per cent) and Muslims (5.08 per cent). The Christian population is negligible. The average household size accommodates 5.47 persons. It is the lowest for Muslims (4.86) and highest for Christian (6.00). The overall dependence is low (0.82), which is comparatively highest among Muslims (1.00) and lowest among Hindus (0.71).
- The average sex ratio is 867, which is comparatively high for Christians (1000) and very low for Muslims (837). The high sex ratio among Christians reflects a comparatively better female status in the community. The low sex ratio among Muslims reflects predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community, which needs to be broken by providing more education to the girls and empowering the women.
- Nearly 29 per cent of the population belongs to the age group of 0-14 years. This is more or less the same across the communities except the Buddhists. Therefore, the educational needs of the other communities are much higher. Gender inequity in child sex ratio is sharp across the communities.
- About 19 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years. Buddhist women have no representation in this young age group, compared to the high percentage of males (33.33 per cent) within this age group. This implies that other communities supply more labour force and unemployment is more likely in

these communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and the current trend of slowdown in the economy.

- Nearly 13 per cent of the population is in the 60 plus age group. Gender equity is noticed in this age group except among Muslims and Christians. More Muslim men survive beyond 60 years than women and it is just the opposite with Christian men and women.
- The literacy level among persons aged 7 years and above is highest among males across all religious groups. Gender differential in literacy is noticeable. Nearly 87 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. The proportion of children who have never enrolled is comparatively low (5.25 per cent), though the issue itself is a cause for concern. The drop-out rate – however low – also needs to be checked.
- In the rural areas of Hingoli district, 18 per cent of the population is educated till high school or even high school plus levels. The proportions of males and females who have received high school or high school plus education are 23.74 per cent and 11.59 per cent respectively. Males and females who have received technical education (both degree and diploma) are just 1.57 per cent and 0.26 per cent respectively. The educational attainment of Christian males is comparatively better than males in other communities. The disparities are noticeable across communities and gender in educational attainment.
- The average per capita expenditure on education is low (Rs.222). Minor differentials however, exist among communities. Nearly 85 per cent of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to approximately 39.62 per cent of the students. Educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships is being provided to a very small proportion of students.
- More than half the sample households are landless. The incidence of landlessness is more among Muslims (78.80 per cent) and Buddhists (59.10 per cent) compared to Hindus (19.24 per cent). It is significant to note that none of the Christian households is landless. The average size of landholdings owned by Hindu households is comparatively larger than Buddhist and Muslim households.

- Thus, factors like landlessness and the small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduce the livelihood options but also make them vulnerable as the members work for low wages. This lands these landless households in poverty traps.
- The per capita value of livestock owned by sample households stand at Rs.14037, which is comparatively very low in the case of Christians (Rs.3000) and Muslims (Rs.5723) than Hindus (Rs.29050). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Muslim and Christian households also seems to be poor, given the lower value of livestock.
 - The work participation is reportedly modest (41 per cent), which is low among Christian households (16.67 per cent) and high among Buddhist households (44.24 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (53.92 per cent for males and 26.11 per cent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups, except Christian households where gender inequity in work participation is very sharp.
 - Casual labour in agriculture is a dominant occupation (50.35 per cent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (34.85 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and gender. Low proportion of the sample households is self-employed in the non-agriculture sector and regular salaried occupation. More than 80 per cent of the women of Muslim and Buddhist households earn their livelihood from casual wage labour in agriculture, whereas a lesser proportion of other communities' members are engaged as casual labour in agriculture. Thus, high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture reflects poor economic condition of the households.
 - Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities where 86.98 per cent of the households' members are engaged. About 2.44 per cent of them are engaged in construction related activities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, and public administration, education, health and other sectors.

- There have been significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Christian households is more than other households. A higher income is reported in households which have more physical and human capital. Significant differentials are noticed in income-expenditure across the communities. On the whole, a high proportion of poor households derive their livelihood on a daily basis by working as self-employed staff in agriculture and allied activities and casual labour in the agriculture sector but live in a hand-to-mouth situation.
- Nearly 15.88 per cent and 30.83 per cent of the households live in thatched and kacha houses respectively and 43 per cent and 9.88 per cent of them live in semi-*pucca* and *pucca* houses respectively. Comparatively, the housing conditions of Christian, Buddhist and Muslim families are not satisfactory, which reflects the poor economic condition of these households. Nearly 30 per cent of the sample households live in single room accommodation. A small proportion, 11.35 per cent and 19.51 per cent of them have accommodation space of two rooms and more than two rooms respectively, which ensures privacy.
- Nearly 76 per cent of the households use drinking water from public source and 20.13 per cent of the households depend upon some private source. A majority of the households (86.71 per cent) defecate outside in the open, which is totally unhygienic and just 13.29 per cent of the households, have in-house toilet facilities. Nearly 97.16 per cent of the Buddhist households defecate outside the home, in the open. The drainage condition in Hindu households is also reportedly very unsatisfactory.
- Nearly 59 per cent of the children last born in the family in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children in Muslim households (70.68 per cent) were born at home as compared to 23.38 per cent and 24.68 per cent births in government and private hospitals respectively. Thus, the percentage of institutional childbirths is very poor. The dependence on untrained dais in childbirth assistance is high (52.99 per cent), which is more in Muslim households (59.20 per cent) than in Buddhist and Hindu households. Nearly one-tenth of the childbirths is performed by trained midwife/ASHA. Those of the

children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, but the percentage of such children is comparatively low.

- The immunisation rate of children against Polio, DPT and BCG show encouraging results. Almost all children have been given Polio drops. Similarly, almost all children below the age of 5 years have been immunised against at least one type of disease. However, the percentage of children fully immunised is comparatively lower (90.04 per cent).
- Fever, chicken pox, cough and cold, typhoid and diarrhoea are the most common health problems faced by sample households. On an average, Rs.460 has been incurred per household on meeting health related expenses. The amount is comparatively more in Muslim households (Rs.552) than in Hindu (Rs.479) and Buddhist households (Rs.187).
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (83.84 per cent) when compared to the same in government hospitals (7.72 per cent). Nearly 22 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenses and the proportion of the Muslim and Buddhist households raising debt to meet health treatment expenditure is about 52.28 per cent and 13.41 per cent. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, a condition which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment.
- Nearly one-fifth of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly indebted. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 11.79 per cent and 18.36 per cent respectively. The average amount of loan raised is low (Rs.5082). Hindu households are more indebted (Rs.8411) than Buddhists (Rs.4127) and Muslims (Rs.3119). The institutional sources of finance dominate the rural areas of the district. The capital expenditure in farm business is the most dominant source of expenditure (31.44 per cent), followed by medical treatment (21.55 per cent), and other household expenditure (17.74 per cent). Nearly 58 per cent of the Hindu households are in debt to meet capital expenditure on farm business. Muslim and Buddhist households are in debt to the tune of 52.28 per cent and 13.41 per cent

respectively, for meeting medical expenses, which could be minimised if the government-run health facilities function properly and are accessible to people.

- Nearly 48 per cent of the sample population lives below poverty line (BPL). However, 37.36 per cent of sample households possess BPL ration cards and 57.39 per cent avail PDS facility. This implies that some of the non-BPL households have BPL cards and some of the non-BPL card holders also get BPL ration.
- Nearly three-fourth of the sample population have complained about irregular supply of PDS ration followed by non-availability of time (44.04 per cent), dishonesty in measurement (40.06 per cent), insufficient quantity (33.27 percent) and bad quality (22.08 per cent). Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing PDS facility.
- ARWSP (water supply) and SSA are two schemes, of which nearly 93 per cent and 73 per cent of the households are aware of, respectively. Nearly 54 per cent and 62 per cent of the households are aware of IAY and NREGA. However, the awareness regarding the schemes of old age pension and maternity benefit schemes is significantly low.
- The provision of employment opportunities and welfare facilities ranks top in development planning. Educational facility is the third important development priority followed by irrigation. Housing and health follow in the priority list as important development needs by the households. However, different communities have ranked the development priorities differently, except for employment, education and health.
- The rural population of the district has participated in state assembly and parliamentary elections, which reflect a very high level of political participation on their part. However, a very insignificant proportion of them are members of self help groups (SHG). All the members of the households are also members of religious organisation. Thus, the level of social participation is also very high, which may be attributed to high penetration of religious organisations and the presence of non-government organisations (NGOs) in the rural areas of the district.

Policy Issues

- The high concentration of population in the child and youth age groups, calls for rigorous educational and manpower planning and the opening of more technical and vocational institutions as well as creation of adequate self-employment opportunities in agro and horticulture-based economic activities and in the tourism sector, given the stagnant public sector and shrinking condition of the private industrial sector due to the current recession.
- The level of education and academic achievement, particularly among the youth and females, is modest and needs improvement. Poor education level hampers future labour market prospects for this age group. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation level, particularly among the youth, in higher and technical education. This would also require imparting short duration job-oriented courses in technical institutions to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from backward groups and minorities.
- Gender differential in literacy is noticeable in both communities. This needs the special attention of educational planners and decision-makers, besides making the community aware of the advantages of women's education.
- SSA is making its presence felt in the rural areas of the district though at a slower pace, which is evident from the fact that a significant proportion of the children are still enrolled in private schools. This may also reflect the relatively better socio-economic condition of the households, which facilitates them to depend on private schools. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream. There is a need to speed up the government's efforts in ensuring hundred per cent enrolment of children in school going age group with zero drop outs, which would be possible through improvement of the quality of education, besides expanding the school infrastructure.
- The main reasons cited for drop outs are 'not interested in reading/studies' and 'work at home'. Thus, there is need to make the parents aware of the benefits of education and the educational system needs to be improved to make it more interesting for the children. Livelihood opportunities also need to be provided to the rural poor, to eliminate the incidence of child labour.

- Educational attainment is lower in both the communities and genders at various levels, which needs to be improved through more scholarships for the deserving poor students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrolment of the population beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.
- In order to increase enrolment and retention of students, there is a need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. The poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and uniform assistance. There is the need to boost and propagate the free elementary education schemes among the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.
- Possession of livestock by rural households provides them with draught power as well as milch animals, meat and other products, depending upon the type of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve their livelihood conditions including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.
- The low female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they can be empowered and play their role within and outside the family more effectively.
- The government scheme of NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households may have the opportunity of assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. Besides, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented to a greater extent in the district, so that the poor households earn a sustainable living. Besides it may also empower them socially and politically, as the programme is being activated through SHGs.
- Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is the need to implement increased self-employment schemes like SGSY for the rural poor so that they can be employed on a sustainable basis, which would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings but would

go a long way in empowering the women to play their part within the family and society more effectively.

- The lower proportion of workers engaged in modern sector of employment is mainly due to the lack of infrastructure for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district is changing the course of their livelihoods from agriculture and allied activities to other means, to avoid poverty and deprivation. There is lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended on an urgent basis by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes, which could facilitate local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector.
- The incidence of unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among all the communities. The rate of search for additional employment for supplementing the household income and improving economic status is very high. However, due to lack of training and skills, their employability is comparatively low. Thus, their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.
- The economic situation of the households can be improved by providing better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus, reducing their dependence on expensive private medical services and help them use the money saved on meeting other basic needs of the household.
- The dependence on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor households needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government, for which necessary allocations should be made on a top priority basis.
- The practice of defecating in the open, though practiced on a much lower scale than earlier, needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet facilities by the government. This would help improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.
- The system of institutional childbirths presents an encouraging picture of the rural reproductive and child health care system in the district, which needs to be

strengthened further to ensure hundred per cent institutional childbirth and child care.

- There is a need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission so that it is able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependence on costly private sources which force them into debts. Thus, more allocations should be made for NRHM on a top priority basis, to extend the reach and coverage of the programme.
- The banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment. In this connection, the government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be aggressively promoted so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-farm activities including dairy development to increase their income, which would also go a long way in mitigating poverty and empowering them, both economically and socially.
- The huge difference in belonging to the BPL category, holding the BPL ration card and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern and the gaps need to be plugged at the earliest, so that the poor get their due share, which could also supplement households' nutrition. There is also the need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its performance as well as coverage and prevent illegal leaks to undeserving people.

Annexure – I: List of Surveyed Villages in Hingoli

<i>Block</i>	<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	<i>Villages</i>
Kalamnuri	Sindgi	Sindgi
Kalamnuri	Pipari B.K.	Pipari B.K
Kalamnuri	Dongar Gaon Pul	Dongar Gaon Pul
Kalamnuri	Rainapur	Rainapur
Kalamnuri	Wadagao Jarf juwala	Wadgao
Kalamnuri	Thatana	Thatana
Vasmat	Palas Gaon	Palas Gaon
Vasmat	Korta	Korta
Vasmat	Kanhergaon	Kanhergaon
Vasmat	Kurunda	Kurunda
Vasmat	Mahmodwadi	Mahmodwadi
Vasmat	Asegaon	Asegaon
Vasmat	Pangra Tarfe Dhamngoan	Pangra Tarfe Dhamngoan
Hingoli	Malhivara	Malhivara
Hingoli	Khadkad B.V.	Khaddad B.V.
Hingoli	Bhinji	Bhinji
Hingoli	Digras Karail	Digras Karaie
Sengaon	Kahakar	Kahakar
Sengaon	Wad Hinwra	wad Hiwra
Sengaon	Dhangarwadi	Dhangarwadi
Sengaon	Singi Naga	Singi Naga
Shangaon	Palsi	Palsi
Shangaon	Sewana	Sewana
Shangaon	wash Jali	Wash Jali
Aundha	Pota Khurd	Pota Khurd
Aundha	Wasau	Wasai
Aundha	Anjanwada Tanda	Anjanwada Tanda
Aundha	Chincholi Nikoba	Chincholi Nikoba
Aundha	Jaragaon	Jaragaon
Aundha	Asola	Asola