

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

District Report

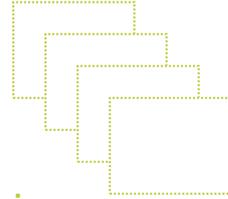
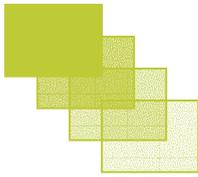
KAMRUP

Study Commissioned by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Study Conducted by



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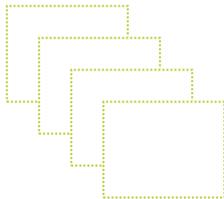


Commissioned by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, this Baseline Survey was planned for 90 minority concentrated districts (MCDs) identified by the Government of India across the country, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi coordinates the entire survey.

Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati has been assigned to carry out the Survey for four states of the Northeast, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur.

This report contains the results of the survey for Kamrup district of Assam.

The help and support received at various stages from the villagers, government officials and all other individuals are most gratefully acknowledged. ■



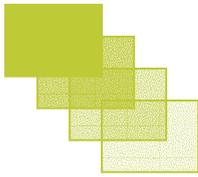
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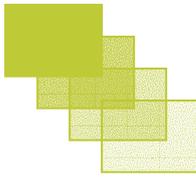


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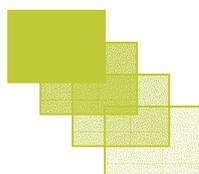


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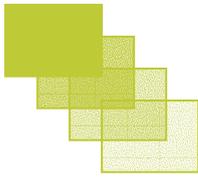
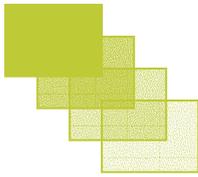


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INTRODUCTION

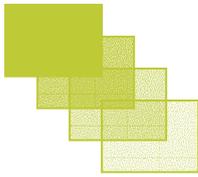
Issues relating to disparities across socio-religious communities have attracted much attention of the government of India of late. There is a growing realization about the relative backwardness of the religious minorities more particularly the Muslim as a religious community in India. The Sachar Committee, which was instituted specifically to look into the relative deprivations of Muslims vis-à-vis other socio religious categories in various dimensions of development, in its report on “Social Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India”, exhibited deficits and deprivations of Muslims in all dimensions of development. Assam is among the four states with large Muslim population where according to the Committee the situation is grave. Therefore, there is a need to generate data to evaluate and address issues of Muslim backwardness in the state.

In order to ensure that the benefits of schemes and programmes of government reach the relatively disadvantaged segments of society districts having a substantial minority population on the basis of backwardness parameters were identified. Based on 2001 Census, using two backwardness parameters, viz., (1) religion specific socio-economic indicators at the district level in terms of literacy rate; female literacy rate; work participation rate; and female work participation rate and (2) basic amenities indicators at the district level in terms of percentage of households with pucca walls, safe drinking water, electricity and w/c latrines, the Ministry of Minority Affairs identified 90 Minority Concentration Districts throughout the country which are falling behind the national average in these parameters. Of these 90 districts, 53 districts have both socio-economic and basic amenities below national average, 21 districts have socio-economic parameters below national average and 16 have basic amenities below national average. The basic idea is to formulate a multi-sectoral programme for the 90 MCDs which envisage for providing beneficiary oriented schemes to minorities and infrastructure development for the entire community in the districts.

Against this backdrop the baseline survey in MCDs was conceived to

- (a) identify how existing programmes are currently targeting these districts and on the basis of the assessment to develop special programmes to provide these facilities and ensure accessibility to them in the most backward areas in a faster way; and
- (b) create socio-economic profiles of the targeted districts, and receive inputs that would help improve literacy rate, especially female literacy rate, and overall work participation rate, especially female work participation rate that have a significant impact on economic development.

The survey would more specifically try to identify the gaps in (1) availability of infrastructure like schools, health centers, ICDE centers and drinking water supply (2) housing and sanitation (3) critical linkages like rural road, ITIs, banking facilities, markets etc. and also (4) identification of artisanal income generating activities in which villagers have comparative advantage.



METHODOLOGY

The present survey has been confined to rural areas. Considering the availability of data Tehsil level information has been used for stratification purpose.

Villages are taken as the first stage units (FSU) for the survey. However, before selection of sample villages, each district under the coverage was stratified first. All tehsils in a district were grouped into three strata in terms of minority population after arranging them in descending order of minority population. The grouping/stratification has been done in such a way so that the first stratum constitutes top 20 percent of tehsils, the second stratum constitutes middle 50 percent and the third/last stratum constitutes bottom 30 percent of tehsils in the arranged frame. The ranges vary in accordance with degree of concentration of minority population in respective districts.

Depending upon the size of the district, 25 or 30 villages were selected from each district. 25 villages were chosen if the rural population of the district is below 5 lacs; otherwise 30 villages were chosen.

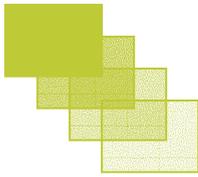
The number of villages surveyed in each stratum was directly proportional to the share of each stratum/group of tehsils (according to population) to the district population, subject to a minimum allocation of 6 villages to each stratum.

Required number of sample villages from each stratum have been selected as per the probability proportion to size (PPS) with replacement, size being total population of the village as per Census 2001.

In case of household selection, complete listing of all households (by door to door visit) has been done in case of sample villages with less than 1200 population. However, in case of those villages with population 1200 or more, three or more hamlet-groups (hg's) were formed in the village as per the practice followed by NSSO¹. From among them, a sample of 2 hg's was selected for listing of households. The hg having maximum concentration of minority population was selected with probability 1. From among the remaining hg's, one more hg were selected at random. The listing and sampling of households were independent for each selected hg.

In each selected hg, 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 Christian households another SSS, and so on.

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



The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is

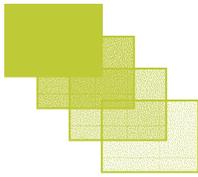
Approximate present population of the village	no. of hamlet-group to be formed
1200 to 1799	3
1800 to 2399	4
2400 to 2999	5
3000 to 3599	6
..... and so on	

Following the above methodology, total 30 villages of the district Kamrup were identified, and 30 households from each village was selected for the sample survey. The present report is based on the data gathered from the total 900 sample households of the district.

TOOLS USED

Relevant data were collected with the help of (1) Rural Household Schedule and (2) Village Schedule. The rural household schedule tries to capture different dimensions of socio-economic and situational variables like employment, migration and occupation details, land and other assets, ownership of productive and other assets, livestock details, housing status, rural indebtedness, family income and expenditure, current educational status and skill training, aspiration of parents of current students, awareness and participation, local conflicts and loss of life and property, access to media and communication and general aspirations of the people.

The village schedule tries to garner authentic data regarding the village. Information such as basic population data, facilities, village organizations, land use and land transfers, credit facilities, commuting and migration data, job and wage related information, information on individual beneficiary oriented programmes, data on education including physical facilities, health, different development programmes, common property resources, and the public distribution system prevailing in the rural areas. ■



A BRIEF PROFILE OF KAMRUP

2.1 Area and Location

Kamrup District is situated between 25.46 and 26.49 North Latitude and between 90.48 & 91.50 East Longitude. It is bounded by Udalguri and Baksa districts in the north, Meghalaya in the south, Darrang and Kamrup Metropolitan in the east and Goalpara and Nalbari district in the west. It has a total geographical area of 4, 34,500 acres.

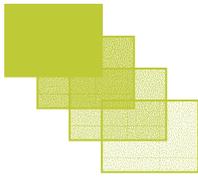
Historically, present Assam was referred to as Kamrup in many of the ancient Indian literature. Till the Ahom conquest, Kamrup district was known as Pragjyotispur due to the astrology (Jyotish Shashtra) practices that prevailed in this part of the country. The mythologies of ancient Assam reveal that the word “Kamrup” means the land where ‘Kamdev’ regained his “Rupa” (form). During Ahom reign, Guwahati became an important strategic point and saw the famous battle of Saraighat between Ahom and Mughals, and since then Guwahati as well as Kamrup district continue to play the Political, Social, Economic and intellectual leadership of the state.

2.2 Administrative Division:

Administratively the district is divided into two subdivisions viz. Guwahati and Rangia. Guwahati subdivision has eight Revenue Circles (Tehsils) with 11 blocks. Rangia subdivision has three Revenue Circles (Tehsils) with four blocks.

Sub-division wise Revenue Circles and Blocks in Kamrup district

Name of Sub Division	Name of Revenue Circles	Name of Bocks
Guwahati	Boko Rev. Circle	Bongaon Dev. Block
	Chamaria Rev. Circle	Bezera Dev. Block
	Chaygaon Rev. Circle	Boko Dev. Block
	Hajo Rev. Circle	Chaygaon Dev. Block
	Nagarbera Rev. Circle	Chayani Dev. Block
	North Guwahati Rev. Circle	Chamaria Dev. Block
	Palasbari Rev. Circle	Hajo Dev. Block
	Goroimari Rev. Circle	Sualkuchi Dev. Block
		Rani Dev. Block
		Rampur Dev. Block
		Goroimari Dev. Block
Rangia	Rangia	Kamalpur
	Goewswar	Rangia
	Kamalpur	Bihidia Jajikona
		Goewswar



The total number of revenue villages in the districts is 991 of which 735 are under Guwahati Sub Division and 256 villages are under Rangia Sub Division. There are a total of 162 Gaon Panchayats in Kamrup district covering 991 villages. There is one tribal belt in the district under Guwahati Sub Division. The South Kamrup Tribal Belt under Guwahati Sub Division covers villages under Bholagaon, Borduar, Dakhin Rani, Ramcharani part of Palasbari Rev. Circle and 41 Villages of Chaygaon Pantan and Bangaon part mouza of Chaygaon Circle and 113 villages under Boko Mouza, Loki Mouza and Bekeli Mouza of Boko Revenue Circle.

Sub-division and Block wise GP in Kamrup district

Guwahati Sub Division		Rangia Sub Division	
Block Name	No. of GP	Block Name	No. of GP
Bongaon Dev. Block	4	Kamalpur	12
Bezera Dev. Block	7	Rangia	20
Boko Dev. Block	11	Bihidia Jajikona	13
Chaygaon Dev. Block	7	Goewswar	12
Chayani Dev. Block	11		
Chamaria Dev. Block	15		
Hajo Dev. Block	16		
Sualkuchi Dev. Block	8		
Rani Dev. Block	8		
Rampur Dev. Block	10		
Goroimari Dev. Block	8		

Source: www.kamrup.nic.in

2.3 Resource Base

2.3.1 Population

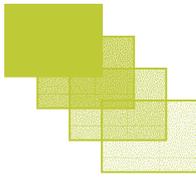
As per the Census data 2001, the demographic profile of the district shows that 34.17 percent of the total rural population in the district belongs to the minority community of which Muslims comprise 93 percent. The population density in the district which stands at 581 percent per sq.km is second highest in the state and is significantly higher than the state average which stands at 340 persons as per the 2001 census.

Total Population of Kamrup District

Residence	Persons	Hindu	Muslims	Christians
Total	2522324	1836153	625002	44257
Urban	908217	773620	113612	7218
Rural	1614107	1062533	511390	37039

Source: *Census of India, 2001.*

The population distribution by minority religious groups in the rural areas is shown in the table below. The percentage of total Muslim population in the rural population of Kamrup is estimated to be 31.68 persons. The Muslim population in Kamrup district which was 23.38 percent in 1991 has increased to 24.77 percent in 2001.



Religious distribution of rural population of Kamrup

Total Minority	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jain	Others	Not stated
551574 (34.17 percent)	511390 (31.68)	37039 (2.29)	520 (0.03)	464 (0.03)	1188 (0.07)	100 (0.05)	873 (.054)

Source: Census of India, 2001.

The decadal population variation in the district shows that there has been a steady increase in the population of the district since 1921. The immediate post independence period witnessed high growth of population mainly due to influx of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan. This high growth of population in the post independence period changed the demographic profile of the district.

Decadal variation of population in Kamrup district

District	1901-1911	1911-1921	1921-1931	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-1971	1971-1991	1991-2001
Kamrup	11.01	7.06	9.38	19.21	17.17	37.73	38.80	65.72	26.11
Assam	16.99	20.48	19.91	20.40	19.93	34.98	34.95	53.26	18.92

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam; 1996, 2006.

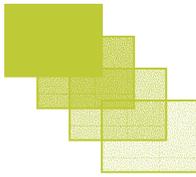
2.3.2 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio in Kamrup district as per 2001 census stands at 901 females per thousand males while the child sex ratio for children (0-6 years) is 957. Significantly, the sex ratio for rural areas in the district stands higher than the district total. Although the Muslims have a sex ratio higher than that of the district, in rural areas however, the Muslim sex ratio is the lowest across religious and social groups, which indicates that gender discrepancy within the Muslims is more prominent in rural areas.

Sex ratio by religion for rural and total population in Kamrup district

All Religions	Total	901
All Religions	Rural	937
Hindus	Total	900
Hindus	Rural	940
Muslims	Total	905
Muslims	Rural	930
Christians	Total	943
Christians	Rural	949

Source: Census of India, 2001.



2.3.3 Literacy Rate

Kamrup district has the third highest literacy rate in the State. It is the only minority identified district in the State which has more than 70 percent literacy rate.

Literacy Rate by Sex and Area in Kamrup district (2001)

Total			Rural			Urban		
Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
74.16	81.16	66.31	66.9	75.32	57.86	86.39	90.47	81.46

Source: Census of India, 2001

Literacy rate by religious groups and place of residence

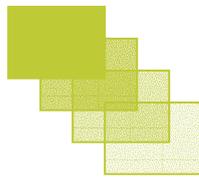
Religion	Residence	Literacy Rate		
		Person	Male	Female
Hindus	Rural	74	83	65
Muslims	Rural	50	58	41
Christians	Rural	68	72	63

Source: Census of India, 2001

Distribution of literacy rates by religious groups in the district reveal that Hindus have a literacy rate of 74 percent, Muslims 50 percent and Christians have a literacy rate of 68 percent, which shows that access to and attainment of education for the Muslims has been much slower. This low level of literacy and consequent educational attainment has its bearing on the employment and livelihood opportunities of the Muslims. The main reason for educational backwardness of Muslims is poverty due to which children are forced to drop out after the first few classes. This is particularly true for Muslim girls. Little children are expected to provide for their families by working in karkhanas (small workshops), as domestic help or by looking after their siblings while their mothers go to work (Sachar Committee Report, 2006). The opportunity costs involved in sending children to school is also too high for poor and illiterate parents. The community-specific factor for low educational achievement is that Muslims do not see education as necessarily translating into formal employment (Sachar Committee Report, 2006).

While the Christian females have literacy rate higher than the average district rural literacy rate for female, the Muslim female literacy rate in Kamrup is much lower than the district average. The female literacy rate for Muslim females is at par with the literacy rate of Muslim females in the state which stands at 40.23 percent. This clearly reveals the poor educational attainment among the Muslim females in the district.

The gender discrepancy in terms of sex ratio and literacy rate is thus more prominent for Muslim females in Kamrup district which corroborates the findings of Sachar Committee Report.



2.3.4 Distribution of workforce in Kamrup district

The distribution of work forces in the district as per the Census 2001 data shows that of the total rural population 32.42 percent are total workers while 67.58 percent are non workers. Cultivators comprise 39.11 percent, agricultural workers comprise 14.19 percent, 6.89 are household industry workers and 39.81 are other workers.

Distribution of different groups of workers by religious groups in total rural workers

Religion	Total worker	Cultivators	Agricultural workers	Household industry workers	Other workers	Non workers
All groups rural total	1614107	523244	204641	74252	36034	208317
Rural	32.42*	39.11	14.19	6.89	39.81	67.58
Rural Hindus	67.24	24.45	8.09	5.43	29.27	66.89
Rural Muslims	29.64	12.66	5.77	1.35	9.85	69.67
Rural Christians	2.89	1.95	0.31	0.10	0.53	59.14
Rural Sikhs	0.07	0.001	0.001	0	0.06	33.46
Rural Buddhists	0.03	0.02	0.007	0.00	0.01	63.36
Rural Jain	0.07	0.005	0	0.0004	0.06	70.71
Rural Others	0.01	0.002	0.0008	0	0.005	63.00
Rural Religion not stated	0.06	0.02	0.0111	0.005	0.022	64.60

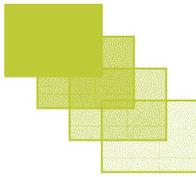
Source: Census of India, 2001,

Note: *Percentage to total district rural population

The work participation rate among the religious groups reveal that the work participation rate for the Hindus (33.11 percent) is higher than the average rural work participation rate in the district vis-à-vis the Muslims as per the Census 2001 data. However, the work participation rate for the Christians in rural Kamrup is highest among all religious groups. The high proportion of non workers in the district reveals the distressed livelihood opportunities and this is particularly more severe for the Muslims. The low literacy rate of the Muslims is a major deterrent for getting gainful livelihood opportunities. The classification of workers shows that cultivators are the major work force in the rural areas. Within the cultivator households, 62.53 percent are Hindus, 32.37 percent are Muslims and 5.10 percent belong to other religious groups. Within the agricultural workers, 57 percent belong to Hindu households while 41 percent belong to Muslim households.

2.4. Education and Health

The educational level of the population of the district is abysmally low. Of the total population with some educational attainment 2.12 percent receive education below primary level, 19.41 percent, attain education up to primary level and 17.12 percent



complete middle level schooling. Of the total educated only 29 percent complete their matric/higher secondary/diploma courses. The percentage of graduates in the district is only 10.5 percent. The poor educational attainment in the district also reflects the poor quality of employable human resource and low work status for the vast majority of the workforce.

An important indicator of health status is the sex ratio especially of children in the age group of 0-6 years. The child sex ratio in the district as per the estimate of Census 2001 is 957 girls per thousand boys while the rural child sex ratio is 964. A comparative picture across religious groups shows that Muslims have the highest child sex ratio in the district at 964 girls per thousand boys which is significantly higher than the state average of 954. The high child sex ratio of the Muslims is attributed to the high birth rates. The infant mortality rate in the district is 77 per thousand live births. As per the estimate of the Assam Human Development Report 2003, 7.28 percent of the population is not expected to live beyond the age of 40 years. In respect of disease among the population of the district, prevalence of cancer is alarmingly high in the district. The records from the B.Barooah Cancer Institute which is the nodal Cancer treatment Centre in the North East region, reveals that of the total cancer patients treated during the year 2005-06 highest percentage belonged to Kamrup district.

In so far as the status of RCH is concerned 12.1 percent of the girls get married below the age of 18 years. In respect of maternal health, 18.4 percent of the pregnant women received full antenatal care, 44.7 percent had institutional delivery and 55.6 percent had safe deliveries. As many as 3.8 percent of the women suffered some form of post delivery complications as per the RCH 202-04 Report.

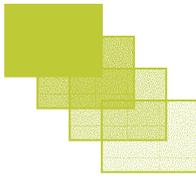
Child sex ratio in Kamrup district by religious groups

Religion	Total	Rural
All Religion	957	964
Hindu	954	962
Muslim	964	969
Christian	958	961

Source: Census of India, 2001

2.5 Human Development Index

Kamrup is one of the better performing districts in respect of developments in basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions, viz., a long and health life, knowledge and a decent standard of living, as indicated by its HDI value of 0.574 (2nd rank), which is far above the state average of 0.407. In terms of income, education and health this district occupies 1st, 3rd and 7th places respectively in district wise rankings. The Human Poverty Index calculated in 1999 indicates that 17.44 percent of population in the district are in human poverty. The Gender related Development Index for Kamrup in 2001 is estimated to be 0.642, which is above the state average of 0.537, ranking 4th in the state. However, the HDI-GDI rank (-2 ranks) disparities indicate that women in this district suffers from deprivation of development potentials leading to lower achievement than men.



3. Natural resource base

3.1. Land and its quality

Among the 15 agro-climatic regions of the country, categorized/identified on the basis of homogeneity in agro-characteristics, Kamrup falls in the Eastern Himalayan region. This region as a whole has high forest cover and practice of shifting cultivation. Felling of trees in upper reaches/hills and catchments areas of the Eastern Himalayan region has caused denudation and Kamrup district falls under the Lower Brahmaputra Valley zone. Soil structure of the district is mainly alluvial in nature. The result is heavy run-off, massive soil erosion and floods in lower reaches and basins. Large scale floods cause substantial damage to crops in the district.

Land Utilization pattern in Kamrup district

Total area	Not available for cultivation	Other uncultivable excluding fallow land	Fallow land	Net sown area	Total cropped area	Area sown more than once
434500	98209	45223	1969	153545	211064	57519

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006

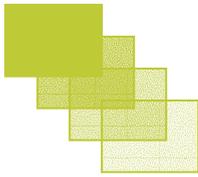
The major portion of the geographical area of Kamrup district is put to agricultural uses. Net area under different crops in the district works out to 1.82 lakh ha forming about 42 percent of the total geographical area.

3.2. Forestry

Development of farm forestry by bringing wasteland into use is of great significance. It not only fulfils fuel and wood requirements of the people but also ensures supply of raw materials for the forest based industries besides maintaining ecological balance. Kamrup district is rich in flora and fauna. The forest resource base of the district comprises of 23 reserve forests under three forest divisions of Kamrup East, Kamrup West and North Kamrup. The total forest area in the district is 1,22905.105 hectares excluding the unclassified state forest. Although the total area under reserve forest in the district is 151446.575 hectares, the rate of deforestation in the district is 2.5 percent per annum and rate of urbanization is about 7 percent per annum. In respect of farm forestry, the district has vast scope for development of bamboo sector. The two paper Mills existing in the state depend on bamboo as their raw material. The bamboo existing in the forest areas are limited in supply and also exist in inaccessible areas.

3.3. Soil and Water

The district falls under Brahmaputra river basin. The district has large reservoir of water resources with the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries of Puthimari, Borno, Nona, Kushi, Pagladiya and Kalajal. The rivers also act as reservoir for fisheries. The district has a total of five registered river fisheries along with 20 registered *beel* fisheries. The district



experiences heavy annual rainfall in the range of 1500 mm to 2600 mm. As the soil in the Eastern Himalayan region is highly susceptible to erosion, top soils of the hills gets washed away and are deposited in lower reaches. Due to rolling nature of the plain especially towards western part of Guwahati sub-division, some pockets are prone to gully erosion. The natural depressions and low-lying areas are still un-claimed causing water stagnation in most of the eastern part of the valley mainly in Chandrapur block. Construction of farm ponds for storage of excess rainfall and using the same for providing critical irrigation during dry spells with user charges have significant opportunities for creating minor irrigation potential in the district. The district approximately shares six percent of the usable ground water resources in the State of which 18 percent is usable for drinking water purpose. This indicates the necessity for harnessing alternative water use facilities as source of drinking water in the district.

Dynamic Ground Water Resource Potential in Kamrup district

Gross dynamic ground water resource (mcm)	Drinking water 15 percent mcm	Utilizable ground resource (mcm)
1,035.44 (5.76)	155.32 (5.76)	880.12 (5.76)

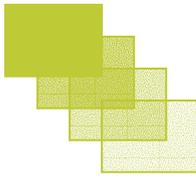
Source: *www.planningcommission.nic.in* accessed on 16.02.2008.

Note: *Figures in italics are percentage to State totals.*

4. Economy

Although the rural economy of Kamrup district is agrarian in nature however, the tertiary sector is dominant in terms of its income share and employment and livelihood generation. The sector contributes 66 percent of the total income in the Gross District Domestic Product while secondary sector contributes 20 percent. The primary sector contribution is estimated to be 14 percent. The per capita Gross District Domestic Product of Kamrup estimated at Rs.22292 is the highest among the districts of the state.

The industrial base of the district is agro based. The district has 676 (23 percent of State total) industrial units registered which comprise of food products and beverages, manufacture of wood and wood products. The district has a total number of 14776 SSI units which is almost 30 percent of the State total. The largest concentration of industry is in and around Guwahati due to availability of various infrastructure facilities and proximity to the main commercial and trading centres in the N.E. Region. The district is covered under District Rural Industries Project (DRIP) of NABARD from the year 2000-2001. The main objective of DRIP is to create sustainable employment avenues in rural areas through enhanced credit flow to RNFS with complementary promotional support. The industries having major concentration around Guwahati include engineering, agro-based and chemical industries. The forest based industries are concentrated in Palasbari, Sualkuchi, Hajo and North Guwahati. Sualkuchi and North Guwahati are also famous for handloom and handicraft activities. The existing RNFS activities in the district are classified under three broad heads as manufacturing and processing, trade, transport and service. The data from District Industries & Commerce Center, Kamrup shows the various categories of Industries already set up in district and where high growth potential exist.



Categories of Industries set up in Kamrup district with high growth potential

Industry	Units
Rice Mills	102
Printing	135
Cane and bamboo	251
computer assembling	86
Paper Products	16
Readymade Garments	269
Food Product	107
Paints	7
Plastic	79
Wooden Furniture	300
Steel fabrication	670

Source: PLP, Kamrup; 2006-07, NABARD

The agro-climatic condition of the district is suitable for sericulture. The muga silk of Assam is popular in India and other countries. Since sericulture mainly involves women in rearing and spinning, it has great potential for creating employment opportunities for them. Around 420 villages in the district are involved in sericulture activities. The present status of development is as follows.

Status of sericulture in Kamrup district

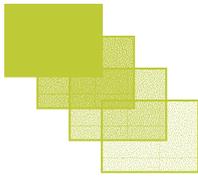
Activity	No. of Families Involved	Yield of cocoons(MT)	Production of worms(MT)	Area under silk worm food plants (ha)	No. of Reeling units
Eri	4,484	23	17	410	-
Muga	863	390	7.81	559	3
Mulburry	271	1.08	0.1	112	-
Total	5,618	414.08	24.91	1,081	3

Source: PLP, Kamrup; 2006-07, NABARD

The silk and weaving industry of Sualkuchi is one of the traditional handicraft activities which has generated employment and provided livelihood opportunities to people in the district. The North Eastern Council has provided financial assistance for promotion of weaver self-help groups which is being implemented by the DC Kamrup.

4.1. Plantation and Horticulture

The agro climatic condition of the district makes it ideally suited for plantation and horticulture. Development of horticulture not only helps in creating additional job opportunity for the unemployed youth but is also useful from the point of view of value



addition to the food and food processing units. The district has good potential for growing of fruit crops which include pineapple, litchi, orange, lemon, papaya, banana, mango, guava, etc. The district also offers good scope for mushroom cultivation and floriculture, being close to the urban centre like Guwahati.

4.2. Livestock and dairy

Dairying is practiced by most of the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers in the district and to them this activity provides economic security by serving as a hedge against crop failure. The economy of the district is basically agrarian and as such the economic development of the district is highly dependable on agriculture and allied activities. Traditionally, dairy farming is a subsidiary occupation of the farmers of the district. Despite the large population of live stock, the milk production in the district is low mainly due to predominance of local cows with a poor genetic make-up. The approximate annual milk production of the district is 450 lakh litres at present.

Livestock and Poultry population in Kamrup district

(Livestock census 2003)

Cattle		Buffaloes		Sheep	Goat	Pigs	Horses & Ponies	Fowls	Ducks
Indigenous	Cross breed	Indigenous	Cross breed						
263942	97424	12810	194	2382	166598	93496	152	598943	342684

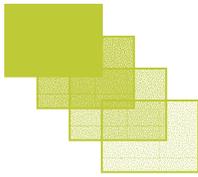
Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006.

Though the district has conducive climatic condition for poultry farming, particularly commercial broilers, the activity has not made any significant progress as majority of the population practicing poultry farming are under SF/MF categories whose risk bearing capacity is very less.

5. Infrastructure and connectivity

5.1. Roads

Availability and access to infrastructure is one of the major factors responsible for economic and social growths across space and communities. The transport connectivity of the district comprises of roads, railway and air services. The road density in the district per lakh population which stood at 125.3 km. has increased to 302 km. The total road length in the district is 2450 km, of which only 32.32 percent is surfaced. More significantly the total road length added during the period 1993-94 to 2005-06 is only 101 km. The district has a total of 192 km. of national highway and 73 km of state highways besides 1670 km. of rural roads. This indicates that access and availability to good road connectivity in the district is fairly low. As per the estimates of 2001 census although 70 percent of the villages have paved approach road only 52 percent of the villages have bus connectivity which indicates that less than 50 percent of the villages have no availability or access to faster modes of transportation in the district. The district has three national highways viz. NH-37, NH-52 and NH-31 passing through it.



5.2. Air and Water transport

The district headquarter of Guwahati has an international airport with well developed air connectivity to rest of the country. The international flight operation from the city is restricted to Bangkok only at present. Although during the pre independence period and even till the end of sixties water ways served as a major mode of transportation for export of tea, however in the post 1971 period, the river transport and shipping facilities gradually stopped as access via Bangladesh was denied. Moreover the absence of night navigation facilities gradually led to decline of the river transport system available during the pre independence period. However, at present there is an IWT deport port at Amingaon which is responsible for cargo handling and transshipment of bulk goods and tea mainly by waterways. The Inland Water Transport department runs regular ferry services.

5.3. Telecommunication

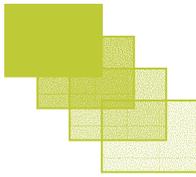
Although the telecommunication facilities in Kamrup district are fairly well developed, the rural telecommunication facilities are still low. Only 28 percent of the villages in the district have P&T facilities. Although the villages have VPT facilities, often, access to VPTS is not available as most of the VPTs are found to be used as personal telephones by the village headman.

5.4. Power and energy

Next to transport and communication power is the other basic infrastructure which is essential for economic growth. Of the total villages in the district although 77.65 have power supply however, domestic connection for lighting is available in 75 percent of the villages in the district which shows that remaining 25 percent of the households use other sources as lighting. Consumption of electricity for commercial and industrial purpose is not available while only 1.04 percent of the villages have power consumption for agricultural use. The district has a total demand of 15mw of power while supply is only of 12mw. This gap in demand and supply indicates that inadequacy of power supply is one of the reasons for slow pace of rural electrification as much also slow pace of industrialization.

5.5. Banking

Access to credit and banking facilities is an important indicator for socio-economic development. The total number of reporting offices in the district stands at 71 which comprises of SBI, SCB and OSCBs. The population coverage of banking services is estimated to be 31,040 persons per bank office as per the number of offices in 2006. Although the credit deposit ratio in the district stands at 124.79, the rural CD ratio is only 57.35. A further desegregated analysis reveals that while rural areas contribute 53 percent of the total deposits of the district the urban areas contribute only a quarter of the total deposits. However, in respect of credit deployment, 69 percent of the total credit of the district is deployed in urban areas, while only 24 percent of total district credit is deployed in the rural areas. This clearly shows that there is substantial credit transfer from rural to urban areas which is due to both poor absorption capacities in rural areas.



The average credit size per loan account of the district is Rs.24,717. The sectoral credit deployment shows that manufacturing and processing sector has the highest credit share which is obvious due to the growing manufacturing base in the district. The share of agriculture is only 5.56 percent and the total investment credit in agriculture was 6 percent of total agriculture credit (as per the RBI BSR, RBI, 2006).

5.6. Health and Educational establishments

The health infrastructure of the district includes one hospital, 51 PHCs, 338 sub-centres and 22 dispensaries. The number of beds available in the government health institution is 812. The district has a total of 34 birth and death registration centres.

The educational establishments of the district are shown in the table below shows that

Educational establishments in Kamrup district

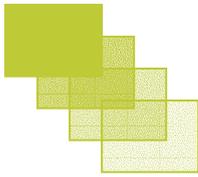
<i>Educational establishments</i>	Numbers
LP School	2121
Middle school	401
High school	320
HS School	49
College	32
ITI	1
Computer institutions	4
Engineering College	1 (at Guwahati)
Medical College	1 (at Guwahati)
Teachers	
LP School	6296
Middle school	6003
High school	5567
HS School	2326

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006

6. Basic amenities:

As per the records of Census of India 2001, the housing types in the district shows that 33 percent live in permanent houses, 35.1 percent live in semi permanent and 31.9 percent occupy temporary houses.

In respect of amenities in rural areas, there are facility wise variations. The total number of Census villages in Kamrup district is 1393 as per 2001 Census while total numbers of revenue villages are 991. The total number of inhabited villages in the district stands at 1342. The total population of the villages as per Census 2001 is 1614107. The caste wise distribution of the village population shows that 7.26 percent of the village population belongs to SC while 13.50 percent belong to ST.



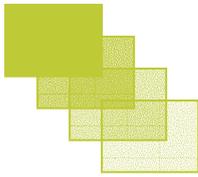
The census data in the district reveal that access to safe drinking water is still not available in 3.4 percent villages in the district. The connectivity status of the villages shows that 70 percent of the villages have paved approach road while only 28 percent have P&T facilities. The infrastructural gaps in the villages have a bearing upon the overall economic status of the population and the employment scenario in the villages.

Distribution of Amenities in inhabited villages in Kamrup district

Amenities	Numbers (Percentage)
Total inhabited villages	1,342 (96.33)
Total Households	287176
Safe Drinking water facilities	1,311 (97.6)
Electricity (Power Supply)	1,177 (87.70)
Electricity (domestic)	1,149 (85.62)
Electricity (Agriculture)	14 (1.04)
Primary school	1,190 (88.67)
Middle schools	592 (44.11)
Secondary/Sr Secondary schools	286 (21.31)
College	21 (1.56)
Medical facility	468 (34.87)
Primary Health Centre	42 (3.13)
Primary Health Sub-Centre	117 (8.72)
Post, telegraph and telephone facility	378 (28.17)
Bus services	702 (52.31)
Paved approach road	938 (69.90)
Un-paved approach road	404 (30.10)

Source: Statistical Handbook, Assam, 2006, Census of India, 2001.

A causal analysis of the development deficiencies in the rural areas of the district reveals that three major deficits in the rural areas are: connectivity- both physical and telecommunication, education-secondary and vocational educational institutions and access to credit particularly farm credit for investment. It may be noted that demand for investment credit in agriculture is also adversely affected by low level of electricity consumption for agricultural use in the villages. The deficits need critical intervention for synergizing the growth process in the district.■



PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

3.1 Demographic profile

The total population of the sample villages is 57750 with total households of 10389 as per 2001 census. The average household size of the sample villages is 5.56. The percentage of scheduled caste population is 10.17 percent while ST population is 13.42 percent.

3.2 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of the sample households is estimated to be 909 females per thousand males which is less than the rural sex ratio of the district which stands at 901 females per thousand males. Compared to the rural sex ratio of the SC population in the district which stands at 941 per thousand males, the sex ratio of the SC population in the sample villages is estimated to be much lower (905 females per thousand males) as per 2001 Census data. However the sex ratio of the ST population in the sample villages is higher at 988 females per thousand males compared to the sex ratio of the rural ST population which stands at 978.

Total Population distribution in sample villages (2001 census)

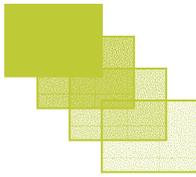
House holds	Popula-tion	Male	Female	S.C Pop	S.C Male	S.C. Female	S.T. Pop	S.T. Male	S.T. Female
10389	57750	31647	28769	5878	2593	2346	7752	3899	3853

3.3. Literacy Rate

An important indicator of human development is the literacy rate. The size and proportion of literate and educated population gender wise has significant bearing on the socio-economic development. While literacy and education in general has direct positive impact on social and economic development of communities, the female literacy rate is more intrinsically linked to health and social development of the child. The literacy rates in the sample villages as seen from the table is much lower than the average literacy in the district as well as the literacy rates in the rural areas of the district. The female literacy rate which is only 40 percent speaks about the status of women's education in the sample villages.

Literacy rate in Kamrup district (2001 census)

Place	Male	Female
District total	81.16	66.31
Rural Area	75.32	57.86
Sample villages	56.63	39.68



3.4 Facilities

A definitive way to find out the quality of life in a state, region or dwelling place, whether rural or urban, is to ascertain the presence, accessibility and utility of the social and physical infrastructure by the residents of these spaces. Lack of access can emerge either due to the absence of social and/or physical infrastructure, or through inaccessibility to such facilities even when they are present.

3.4.1 Electricity

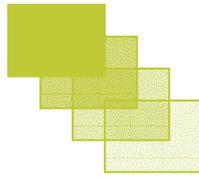
Proportion of households using electricity for domestic lighting in rural areas is indicative of economic status of the households. As per the census 2001 data 88 percent of the villages in Kamrup district have power supply. The results of the sample village survey shows that 87 percent of the sample villages have power supply and this corroborates the census data. Of the total 30 villages power supply was not available in 4 villages. The village survey data shows that of the total houses with domestic connection in these villages, 67 percent are Hindus; the remaining 33 percent households belong to religious minorities. The share of Muslim households in domestic connection is estimated to be 32 percent while one percent households are Christians. In respect of commercial connection, the share of power supply for agriculture is 0.445 percent and is available only in Hindu households while 3.5 percent of the households from the sample villages have commercial connection of which 71 percent are Muslim households. The average hours of electricity available in the villages has increased marginally during last five years.

Average hours of electricity available in sample villages

Average hours of electricity available	Last year	5 years ago	10 years ago
	13	10	10

3.4.2 Drinking water

Availability and access to safe drinking water has been the most crucial factor involving serious health concerns in rural areas. All the sample villages have drinking water facility. Private tube well is the major drinking water source in the sample villages. The common facilities for all communities account for 20 percent of the available sources of drinking water. Distribution of common drinking water facilities shows that of the different sources 62 percent are tube wells majority of which are private ones. Tap water facilities account for only 3.14 percent of the sources. The availability of drinking water facilities in the sample villages across religious groups show that 41 percent of the facilities belong to Hindus while minority religious groups of Muslim households possess 30 percent and Christians share one percent of the facilities available in the villages. The public stand post accounts for just one percent of the total available sources and 68 percent of the facility are common for all households while 21 percent of the facilities are used by Hindus. Only 21 percent of the Muslim households use public stand post. The most used source of drinking water by religious groups show that while private hand pump is the major source for Hindus, private tube well is used by Muslims while Christians use water from private well for drinking purpose.



3.4.3 Toilet facility

The sanitation status of the sample villages shows that of the total households in the villages 72 percent are reported to have sanitation facilities. The most common toilet facility among the village households is the sulabh/Soakage pit latrine. Approximately one quarter of the toilet facilities used are reported to be soakage/pit latrine. Religion wise estimates of the toilet facilities show that 21 percent of the Muslim households use the Sulabh/ Soakage Pit Latrine while share of Hindu households is 29 percent. The survey revealed that 12 percent of the households use septic tank sanitation facilities and 77 percent of these households are Hindus while percentage of Muslim household is 21 percent. The percentage of families who are reported to have benefited under TSC is 11 percent. A comparative picture of Muslims across other religious and caste groups in the sample villages reveal that a higher percentage of Muslims have sanitation facilities which perhaps is due to the concern for privacy of women among the Muslims. The STs have the least sanitation facilities.

3.4.5 Education

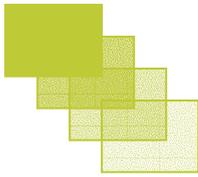
The low female literacy rate in the sample villages is attributable to the low availability of schooling and educational facilities for females. The survey of sample villages reveals that all categories of schools for boys are higher in the villages. With only 4.2 percent of primary schools and 4.8 percent of middle schools for girls the female literacy rate is expected to be lower. Significantly there are 7.8 percent of religious schools which indicates that Muslims in the sample villages also send their children to religious schools. Of the total institutions only 10.24 percent have pucca approach road.

Percentage distribution of total educational facilities available in sample villages

Schools	Primary		Middle		High/H Sec.		Tech.	Religi-ous school	Non formal	Oth er	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls					
Total	114	14	28	16	68	20	2	26	16	28	332
P.C	34.3	4.2	8.4	4.8	20.5	6	0.6	7.8	4.8	8.4	100

3.4.6 Health Facilities

Although private sector has been playing a crucial role in curative health care in urban India, in rural areas government facilities are the only available sources for cheap curative care. The surveys of sample villages reveal that all the villages in the sample reported to have either a Sub-centre or a PHC. The ANM nurses are also available in all villages except for one village. However, doctors are available in 9 villages and a total 19 doctors are posted across different villages and centres. For the remaining 21 villages, availability of government doctors' service was not reported. Regular check up facilities were available in 10 village sub centres while only 3 village PHCs reported availability of the same. The total number of beds available in the primary referral units as reported are 27 which show that per capita availability works out to be 0.468 beds per thousand populations in the sample villages.



3.4.7 Other facilities

The availability of other facilities in the sample villages reveal that block head quarter and the nearest town from the sample villages are located at an average distance of more than 5 kilometres. The communication facilities in the sample villages as reported during survey, is seen to be rather weak. The nearest bus stop is available within an average distance of 2-5 kilometres while the railway stations and the banking services are available at a distance of more than 5-10 kilometers from the villages as reported. The rest of the facilities like markets and general shops are reported to be within a radius of 2-5 kilometers for the sample villages.

3.5 Village organizations

The organizational activity within the village is an important determinant of overall socio-economic development. The data shows that village level organizations are fairly active in the sample villages. The available village level organizations include farmers' organization and political organizations in 17 villages and cooperatives in 6 villages. The women and youth organizations in the sample villages are also reported to be fairly active. Although the women organizations are reported to be active in the sample villages, however the functional attainment of the organization if taken in terms of popularizing female literacy and education, the status of findings is rather dismal as female literacy rate as also female schooling facilities are very poor in the villages. Ten of the sample villages also reported presence active cultural organizations.

The presence of the fairly active few village organizations therefore has the potential for capacity building of pressure groups within villages for ensuring proper governance at the grassroots level.

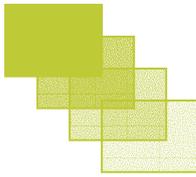
3.6 Crop productivity status:

The economy of Kamrup is agrarian with paddy as the major crop. The survey results of the sample villages indicate that paddy is the major crop produced in all the villages with 50 percent harvest share. The maximum market price fetched for paddy one year before the date of survey as reported is Rs.2075 per quintal while the minimum price was Rs.180. among the sample villages. Mustard is the other major crop produced in 6 sample villages with 50 percent crop share. The maximum market price fetched for mustard is reported to be Rs. 2500 while the minimum price is Rs.700. Jute which is an important cash crop is produced in 4 sample villages with a 50 percent harvest share. The maximum market price fetched for Jute is reported to be Rs. 1250.

3.7 Input status for cultivation:

3.7.1. Current inputs

The production base of the villages includes paddy cultivation. As reported, the sample villages have 8837 cultivators. Of the total rural population in the district 13 percent are cultivators. He total cultivators as reported constitute 15 percent of the total cultivators in the district. While the percentage share of fertilizer consumption in the district is 11



percent of the state total the survey reported that 54 percent of the cultivators used fertilizers. The low coverage of area under HYV paddy in the district which stands at 6.33 percent is well captured by the fact that only 3.64 percent of the cultivators in the sample villages reported using of HYV paddy seeds. The use of HYV paddy was negligible at 0.23 percent. Pesticides were used by 39 percent percent. However, in respect of irrigation, only 2.76 percent percent of the households used irrigation. Of the total cultivators 2.06 percent used canal irrigation while 0.70 percent used tube well for irrigation. Irrigation therefore emerges as the major challenge followed by use of HYV seeds in the agricultural cultivation among the ample villages.

3.7.2 Capital inputs

Investment and use of capital inputs along with other current inputs have positive impact in raising farm productivity. The village survey shows that of the total cultivators 12 percent have ownership of capital inputs while 67 percent of the cultivators use the same. Of the various inputs used, private pump sets are used by 45 percent of the cultivators from the sample villages which well captures the inadequacy of public irrigation facilities in the sample villages. Tractors are used by 30 percent of the cultivators while quarters (25 percent) of the cultivators use power tillers. The other capital inputs used are improved cattle livestock (0.59 percent) and improved implements (0.31 percent).

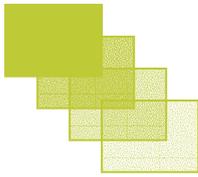
3.8 Credit

3.8.1 Purpose for availing credit

Purpose wise distribution of sample villages showed that meeting sudden expenses were the major factor availing credit. Of the four different types of households, rural labour households from 20 villages incurred debts for this purpose. The meagre income earning has been the main reason for increasing rural indebtedness across the country as per the NSS 55th Round (1999-2000) data. Demand for credit for current investment (crop loan) was highest among small cultivator households in the sample villages. Investment loans were mostly required by medium and large farmer and artisan households in the sample villages.

3.8.2 Sources of credit

Access and availability of timely institutional credit has been a foregone conclusion for relieving the distressed farmers from their indebtedness. The survey findings indicate that labours and small cultivators avail credit mostly from either money lenders or landlords mostly for meeting sudden expense and current cultivation cost. Source wise distribution of credit shows that in 87 percent of the sample villages, village landlords and money lenders were major sources of credit. Institutional sources continue to be the major source for investment credit for large and medium farmers with artisan households for all the sample villages. Credit for meeting sudden expenses is availed from landlords and money lenders mostly. However, small farmers are also reported to have availed crop loan (current expenses) from institutional sources. The fact that the accessibility of institutional credit is concentrated in the large and medium farmers is



found to be true in respect of the sample villages of the district. For artisans and other business households, institutional credit is the major source for financing their investment in machinery. The survey findings from the sample villages corroborate the same. Notwithstanding the fact that concessional credit and priority sector lending over the years has increased the financial accessibility of rural households, it however remains a fact that marginal farmers and the labourers have remained outside the ambit of this financial inclusion process.

3.9 Migration and employment and wage income earning

The survey data indicates that for commuting to college and higher secondary schools both boys and girls bus and cycle was mostly used for commuting.

Further, people from only 19 villages moved out looking for work on daily basis. On an average 360 persons from the sample villages daily go to various places outside the village for work. Besides daily commuters, the sample villages also reported short term migration for 3-8 months. Place wise distribution of work shows that majority of these persons go to either nearby district or block headquarter for work. The average monthly earnings from different sources is shown in table below

Average monthly earning for people from sample villages who go to work in various places outside the village

(Amount in Rupees)

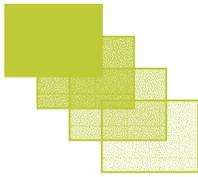
Neighbouring village	Block	District HQ	Neighbouring state	Other district	Block and District HQ
5171	11187	10367	6400	2800	5886

The survey indicated that in as many as 26 sample villages, casualisation of labour has increased. The distressful situation has forced villagers to migrate to other places in search of livelihood. Also the prevailing wage rates in the villages show high degree of gender disparity. The discrepancy is prominent in respect of government programme also.

Average wage income from sample villages by kind of work

Wage rate	Ploughing land, land preparation	Weeding /interculture	Transplanting	Harvesting	Threshing	Unskilled labour	Skilled labour	Govt. programme
Male	310	193.33	129.33	240	204.17	132.42	237.04	129.60
Female	75	72	179.64	100	76	100	145	120.29
Child	55.00	35.00	26.67	65.00	30.00	73.89	-	-

Religious group wise government jobs among the village populations across the sample villages show that of the total 696 persons from sample villages with



government jobs 54 percent are Hindus while remaining 46 percent are minority of which Muslims are the major beneficiaries.

3.10 Rural Development programmes and beneficiaries assisted

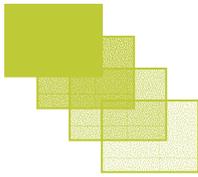
Of the total sample villages, 27 sample villages reported implementation of some programmes in the course of last three years. Majority of the beneficiaries under the government programmes are under SGSY. The religion wise break-up of beneficiary status reveals that higher proportion of the beneficiaries is Hindus. Although there exists religious variations across programmes, however, the variations in respect of IAY beneficiaries is less pronounced. Of the 27 villages where some form of programmes are implemented, 12 villages reported an increase in flow of funds while in case of 13 villages, the funds flow was reported to have remained the same while in one village, the funds flow is reported to have decreased.

3.11 Common resource and facility uses

The survey shows that most frequently used common resource in the villages is school lawn and the village ponds. In respect of availability of facilities, ICDS centres are available in 24 villages. However as reported six are found to be in good condition while 14 are in average workable condition. Seven ICDS centres are reported to be in bad shape. In so far as the PDS facility is concerned 27 villages are reported to have PDS shops numbering 74. In respect of ration card, it was found that majority of the Muslims in the samples are below poverty line. Of the total households in the sample villages 34 percent have BPL cards and 52 percent of the households are APL card holders. The survey revealed that as many as 23 villages reported an improvement of the village situations compared to a period of over last ten years. The main reasons contributing to the general improvement are access to education, roads and better agricultural productivity. Four villages reported that the conditions have remained unchanged.

3.12 Summary

Although the village survey findings reveal that sample villages the district suffer from serious gaps in respect of social sectors viz. health and education besides serious bottlenecks in increasing farm productivity especially irrigation and credit, increasing casualisation of labour together with out migration for livelihood, the perception of the sample villages; that relative conditions have improved over last ten years speaks about the levels of deprivation. The religion wise break up of the available data indicates that Muslim households in the villages have higher levels of deprivation. ■



RESULTS OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

4.1 Religious and Caste Composition

Out of the total 900 sample households of 30 identified villages, 58 per cent (523) are Hindu households, nearly 41 per cent (365) Muslim and a little more than one per cent (12) are Christian households. The details are given in Table 4.1. Among the Hindu households, almost 19 per cent belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC), 27 per cent belong to Scheduled Tribe, and 29 per cent households are from Other Backward Castes.

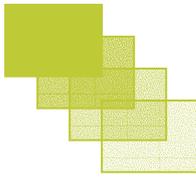
4.2 Mother Tongue

Mother tongue wise, a little more than 63 per cent of the sample households reported Assamese as their mother tongue, and about 29 per cent have reported Bengali as their mother tongue while the remaining households have reported other languages, including Hindi and Bodo as their mother tongue. Religion wise, if we consider only the two major languages, Assamese is the mother tongue for about 56 per cent of the Hindus, and a little more than 73 per cent of the Muslims. As reported, Bengali is the mother tongue for 31 per cent of the Hindu and 26 per cent of the Muslim households.

4.3 Age and Sex

The total population of the 900 sample households in the district is 5030, of them 52.7 per cent is male and 47.3 per cent is female. The details of age group and sex wise distribution of the sample population are shown in Table IV.3. As the table shows, almost 10 per cent and 14 per cent of the sample population is constituted by the children up to the age of 5, and 6-10 years of age group respectively. A little more than three per cent of the total population is of more than 65 years. Considering the two major religious communities i.e. the Hindus and the Muslims separately, a couple of features are found striking. For the Hindu households together, the children up to the age 5 constitute 8 per cent of the total population while the same ratio for the Muslim households is 11. Similarly, the children between the age 6 and 10 constitute nearly 12 per cent of the Hindu sample households while the same ratio for the Muslim households has been a little more than 15 per cent. For the old aged group i.e. the people above 65, the ratio is almost 4 per cent for the Hindu households and almost 3 per cent for the Muslims. Notwithstanding a small data base, these differences probably indicate relatively a higher fertility and mortality rate among the Muslims than their Hindu counterpart.

The sex ratio for the district, as per the Census data, has been better than the state average. The sample survey, however, indicates a different situation. Considering the total population of the sample households, the sex ratio is 897 female per 1000 male, which is far below the district average (944) or the state average (935).



4.4 Household Size

More than 56 per cent of the sample households have family size up to five members and about 40 percent of the households have family sizes with six to ten members. About four per cent of the households' majority of who are Hindus have 11 and more members. The figures are given in Table 4.4.

4.5 Marital Status

Indicating incidence of early marriage, especially of the females, as Table 4.5 indicates, one per cent and 0.5 per cent of the sample population of the 11-15 years are found married. Similarly, about 31 per cent of the population of the 16-25 years age group are found married of which 16 per cent is Hindu and about 15 per cent is Muslim. The percentage of widow/widower is noticeable for the Hindus in the 56-65 year age group, while the same for the Muslims is considerable in case of the people above 65 years. This indicates that male mortality rate is higher in the case of Hindu population belonging to the age group 56-65 years while for Muslims the male mortality rate is higher in the age group of above 65 years.

4.6 Educational Status

The literacy rate of the sample population, being 76 per cent, is better than what is given by the Census 2001 for the rural population of the district. Nevertheless, educational attainment for one third of the total sample population is only up to the level of primary education and up to the middle level for another 19 per cent. The scenario of higher and technical education, as evident from Table 4.6, is considerably poor. Although the overall literacy scenario across religion is same, the situation of the females is worse than the males.

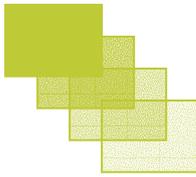
4.7 Occupation and Employment

4.7.1 Occupation and Industry

Out of the total sample population (5030), 1503 persons are found engaged in different occupation. The proportion of main workers in the sample population is 46 per cent. Religion and sex wise distribution of main workers in the population is given in Table 4.7. As the survey reveals, more than 31 per cent of the actual labour force has been engaged in farming while about 32 per cent are transport operators and labour.

Industry wise distribution of the people with main occupation (Table IV.9), shows that more than 63 per cent of the people with main occupation has been associated with cultivation either as farmer or agricultural labour. Next to cultivation, important source of livelihood of the sample population has been trade, whole sale or retail trade.

The overall patterns of industry wise distribution of main occupation among the religious minority communities of the sample households are not quite significantly different from that of the Hindus. Nevertheless, the striking feature across the religions has been low proportion of female main workers among the religious minorities.



Considering the total size of the actual labour force, the Hindu females constitute only about 9 per cent while the same ratio for the Muslim females has been a little more than 4 per cent.

It is evident from Table 4.8 that more than 77 per cent of the people with main occupation do not have any secondary occupation. More strikingly, more than 15 per cent of the people who reported to have main occupation actually work for less than 100 days in a year, as shown in Table 4.10. The same table also shows that about 23 per cent of the people, who reportedly have main occupation, actually work for 101 to 180 days in a year. The situation of the people engaged in different secondary occupation, as shown in Table 4.11, is even worse.

4.7.2 Self-Employment Scenario

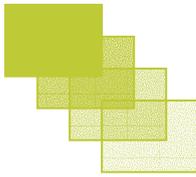
Table 4.9 indicated that about 20 per cent of the main labour force has been engaged in different activities such as poultry, agricultural and non-agricultural based manufacturing, electricity, gas water, construction trade etc. This section of main workers is essentially constituted by the self-employed people. The problems confronted with by this section of main workers, as reported, are shown in Table 4.11. Although about 43 per cent of them do not have any problem in operating their business, institutional credit, either at cheaper rate or accessibility to it, has been a very serious problem for five per cent of the self-employed people. For another 8 per cent, credit has been a serious problem. Therefore, accessibility to institutional credit would have substantially helped a good number of the self-employed main workers. The next two very serious problems for the self-employed main workers are electricity and lack of working place.

4.7.3 Additional Employment and Preference

Although a sizeable section of the main labour force is engaged in agriculture, which has neither been adequately remunerative nor can generate substantial employment days through out the year for a various reasons. The overall occupational scenario supplemented by the figures given in Table 4.10 indicates the phenomenon of underemployment. Consequently, about 56 per cent of the sample households, as reported, are looking for more employment (Table 4.13). The preferences for additional employment are given in Table 4.14. It is worth noting that more than 52 per cent of the households seeking additional employment prefer self-employment avenues, while salaried job has been preferred by nearly 36 per cent of households seeking additional employment. It is also important to note that more than 68 per cent of the Hindu households prefer additional employment through different kind of service related occupations such as repair, maintenance and caste-based occupation.

4.7.4 Migrant Workers

The survey reveals that out of total 1503 persons having main occupation, 224 (about 15 percent) workers migrate from the sample villages. Religion and occupation of the migrant workers are given in Table 4.15. As the table reveals, the highest percentage (38.4 percent) of the workers migrating out of their villages is associated with different



production related activities followed by the workers having service of maintenance, repair etc. (17.9 percent). As Table 4.16 shows, the migration is mainly to the urban areas within the district (34.6 percent), within the state (14.8 percent), and outside the state (10.7 percent). In terms of duration, about 46 per cent of the migrant workers migrate for short duration (three to eight months) while the rest migrate for long duration i.e. above eight months.

4.8 Land and other Assets

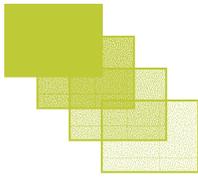
4.8.1 Cultivated Land: Ownership and Operational Holding

Table 4.17 (a) provides a synoptic view of the pattern of cultivated land distribution, in terms of ownership holding while Table IV.17 (b) provides the same for total cultivated land (operational holding) among the sample households of the district. It has been found that 49 per cent of the total sample households have no cultivated land of their own. About 29 per cent of such households are Hindu including the SCs and STs, while 19 per cent are Muslim households. In terms of total cultivated land of the sample households, in other words operational holding, the overall pattern is, though not much different, landlessness is more striking in case of the Muslim households. More than 66 per cent of the households do not have cultivated land; about 40 per cent of them are Hindu and 25 per cent Muslim.

As Table 4.17 (b) reveals, in terms of operational holding, about 28 per cent of the households belong to the category of Marginal farmer, and another five per cent belong to the category of small farmers. Therefore, the agricultural sector of the district is marked by predominance of small farmers.

Needless to say that the differences in terms ownership and operational cultivated land are mainly due the complex processes of leasing in and leasing out and also mortgage of cultivated land. Notwithstanding the practices are of different forms, the nature essentially is share cropping on 50:50 basis of the major crop produced in the year. Altogether 113 (almost 13 percent) of the sample households have leased in land (Table IV.18) and 59 (nearly 7) per cent of the total households have leased out land (Table IV.19) The practice usually has been share cropping on 50:50 basis of the major crop produced in the year.

Apart from the practices of share-cropping on 50:50 basis, the same section of households i.e. the marginal farmers in terms of ownership holding, has also been severely affected the prevailing practices of land mortgage (Bandhaki) for a small amount at the time of crisis. The amount taken through the practice of Bandhaki is usually not considered as loan. Total 7 and 9 per cent of the sample households have mortgaged in and mortgaged out cultivable land respectively. The distribution pattern is shown in Table 4.20 and Table 4.21. The complex practices of leasing in and leasing out of cultivated land, as it has been observed, have adversely affected the agricultural scenario of the district. While the practice of share cropping has prevented crop diversification and restricted cropping intensity, the practice of Bandhaki amounts to land alienation. Therefore, it reconfirms that technological intervention in absence of institutional reforms cannot yield the desired results.



4.9 Livestock

In terms of livestock, the sample households mainly have milch animals, draught animals, goats, sheep and cock/hen/duck. More than 44 per cent of the total Hindu and 47 per cent of the total Muslim Households have milch animals. A little more than 24 per cent of the Hindu and more than 22 per cent of the Muslim households have draught animals. Similarly, 24 per cent of the Hindu and 35 per cent of the Muslim households have goat. And, it is worth noting that almost 59 per cent of the Hindu and more than 65 per cent of the Muslim households have cock/hen or duck. Table 4.22 shows the pattern of distribution of the households having livestock.

4.10 Ownership of Productive and other Assets

4.10.1 Agricultural Implements

The important agricultural implements among the sample households are plough, followed by pump set. About 33 per cent of the households have plough and nearly 6 per cent have pump set. The percentage of households with power tiller is only 1.3 and the same ratio for households with sprayer is merely 6. This clearly indicates lack of modernization of the agricultural sector. Distribution of different agricultural implements among the households having such implements is given in Table 4.23.

4.10.2 Transport

The total number of households with motor vehicle is only six two with Jeep, two with car and the remaining two with truck. The most common means of transportation possessed by the households is cycle. Almost 63 per cent of the households have cycle, and another seven per cent have scooter or motor cycle.

4.10.3 Non-agricultural Machinery Implements

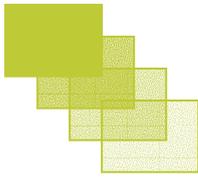
Weaving being a part of culture of the Hindu Assamese household, the highest number of non-agricultural implement is handloom. Almost 15 per cent of the total sample households (more than one fourth of the Hindu households) have handloom. Four households have rice mills and 41 households have sewing machine.

4.10.4 Modern Household Assets

Among the modern household assets of the sample households the prominent are electric fan, Television, CD player, mobile phone and gas stove. The highest number of households (25 per cent) has television followed by electric fan (24 per cent), gas stove (20 per cent), CD player (11 per cent) and mobile phone (5 per cent).

4.10.5 Financial Assets

Altogether 556 (about 62 per cent) of the sample households have different kind of financial assets including gold and silver ornament. Nearly 41 per cent of the sample households have reported to have gold and silver ornaments, 15 per cent has savings in



bank and only two per cent has fixed deposit. Table 4.24 shows distribution of financial assets among the households reported to possess that.

4.11 Housing Status

4.11.1 House Type and availability of living space

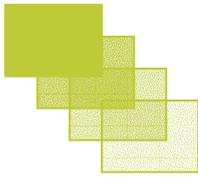
An important indicator of the economic status of a household is the type of house and the facilities available. The distribution of housing status among the sample households (Table IV.25) reveals that 95 percent of the households have their own house. Although the share of Hindu households with own house has higher share in the aggregate but within community ownership shows that 96 percent of the total Muslim sample households have own house while the corresponding figure for the Hindus is 94 percent. Significantly more Hindu households belonging to general category have benefited under IAY which shows that socially backward classes and religious minorities have failed to access the benefits under the IAY.

The data on type of house (Table 4. 26) shows that 71 percent of the households live in kutcha houses. Although a higher percentage of Hindus live in kutcha houses but a comparative status of Muslim households with the socially backward Hindus reveal that Muslims fare much worse in respect of living conditions. The high incidence of living in kutcha houses also has its impact on the health status of the Muslim households.

The availability of living space for sample households (Table 4.27) indicates that on an average the sample households live in houses with 2-3 rooms. A comparative picture with socially backward Hindu classes indicates that proportion of Hindu SC and Muslim households living in two rooms is higher within their respective communities while the STs have more living space in terms of number of rooms per household. The Christian households also have an average living space of two rooms. Of the total households living in houses with 5-10 rooms, the share of Hindu houses is 65 percent while Muslims comprise 33 percent and Christians only 2 percent. Thus Christians fare worse than the Muslims within the religious minority categories.

4.11.2 Domestic lighting and fuel use

The village survey reveals that 87 percent of the sample villages in the district have power supply. The village data further shows that of the total electrified households, 67 percent is Hindus while 33 percent is from religious minority groups. The findings from the household survey (Table 4.28) show that 33 percent of the sample households have electricity in their house. However, of the total Muslim households, electricity is available in only 28 percent of the households while of the total Hindu sample households, electricity is available in 37 percent. The findings testify with census data 2001, which showed that the use of electricity for lighting purpose is less in the Muslim households. A comparative picture with socially backward Hindu households reveals that of the total electrified households in the village 45 percent belong to socially backward SC, ST and OBC population. The use of electricity for lighting purpose by Muslims in rural areas is lower due to their poor living standard where electric lighting is perceived to be luxurious consumption.



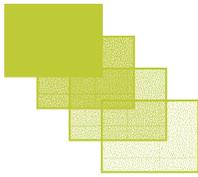
In respect of other sources of lighting (Table 4.29), the survey revealed that 40 percent of the households using sources other than electricity for lighting used oil lamps. The use of lantern as only source of lighting was reported from 2 percent of these households. However, lantern with oil lamps is used by 23 percent of the households using sources other than electricity for lighting. The negligible use of lanterns and petromax among sample households indicates that kerosene which is also used as a medium of cooking by rural households is sparingly used as a source of lighting. The data indicates that use of kerosene by sample household increases as proportion of ration card holders in the sample increase.

Clean fuel for cooking is important for health. It is a serious consideration for women who, in most cases, are burdened with the task of cooking. As per Census 2001 data, just about 60 percent of all rural households in the country do not use any of the modern fuels such as LPG, electricity or even kerosene. The non use of these fuels for cooking increases as the share of Muslims increases, more so when the village size increases as well. The most commonly used source of fuel (Table 4.33) in rural areas is wood which is collected by household women. Among the sample household wood is the single most commonly used fuel for cooking. Although wood is the primary source of cooking fuel among the sample households, it is used in combination with other sources of fuel. The most commonly used fuel with wood is kerosene oil. It is worth noting that kerosene is used as a supporting source of fuel both for cooking and lighting purpose in the sample households. Although the survey reported no houses using LPG as the only medium of fuel for cooking, some 15.4 percent of the households reported using LPG with wood as domestic fuel. However, concentration of LPG users was more in case of Hindu sample households.

4.11.3 Drinking water facilities

Availability and access to safe drinking water has been one of the basic objectives under ARWSP. As per the census 2001 data, 98 percent of the total villages in Kamrup district have safe drinking water. While availability is one issue, more basic concern is the access to safe drinking water. The results of the household survey reveal that 57 percent of the households have their drinking water sources within a distance of less than 10 metres (Table 4.31). The availability of drinking water within short distance has significant bearing on time use of household women as they carry water from different sources to their houses. Of the three percent households who carry their drinking water from a distance of 201-50 metres majority are Hindu ST households which show that comparatively the STs walk long distances to fetch drinking water for households.

Among the various sources of drinking water (Table 4.30), hand pump is the major source for the sample households across all religious and caste group in the sample. While no Muslim or Christian households have tap water connection, a very small marginal proportion of 0.3 percent percent Hindu households have domestic tap water connection. The survey indicates that in respect of provision of water supply by the government, the Hindus (including the backward classes) and the Muslims have enjoyed equal opportunity of access while no Christian households use public stand post. Muslims have higher access to the public water sources vis-à-vis the socially backward Hindu households.



In respect of unsafe sources of water, the data shows that of the total 6.6 percent of the sample households who use drinking water from unsafe sources, majority are Hindu STs. Source wise use shows that while river and pond water are mostly used by Muslims from among the unsafe sources, the ST Hindus use unprotected dug well.

4.11.4 Sanitation and drainage facility

An important requirement for sanitation is the presence of toilet facilities. Almost half the Muslim households in India lack access to toilets; this proportion is higher in rural areas. The sample results (Table 4.32) indicate that while 18 percent of the surveyed households have in house toilet facilities. The sanitary practices among the households reveal that proportionately ST households from Hindus and Christians and Muslims use open field for defecation compared to other social and religious groups in the sample. The use of in sanitary toilet facilities is highest among the Muslims in the sample population which speaks about the low awareness on health and hygienic living of the households.

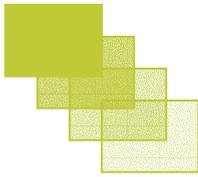
An important determinant of hygienic living condition is availability, access and use of drainage facility. The absence of civic amenities like drainage is one of the major problems for maintaining a clean environment. The survey findings (Table 4.34) show that availability of drainage facility in the sample villages is marginal. While drainage facility is available in some Hindu and Muslim households, no Christian households are reported to have drainage facility. The low literacy rate of females in the district is one important factor influencing poor sanitation and drainage facilities among the sample households. However, desegregated data shows that socially backward Hindu households fare worse than the Muslims in respect of hygienic living conditions in the house.

4.12 Indebtedness of rural households

The incidences of indebtedness among the sample households show that 66 percent of the sample households were currently not indebted (Table 4.35). Religion wise examination of the total indebted households reveals that 57 percent were Hindus while 41 percent were Muslims and 2 percent were Christians. However a comparative status across religion and caste showed that in respect of rural indebtedness the socially backward Hindu castes and the Muslims had equal proportions. The incidence of indebtedness was proportionately high among SC households.

Source wise incidence (Table 4.36) of the indebtedness reveals that institutional agencies like cooperative banks/societies have been a major source for the sample households. While a higher percentage of Hindus have availed bank credit, Muslims on the other hand accessed cooperatives as source of institutional loan. The institutional access agency wise indicates poor accessibility of religious minorities in availing loans from banks where collateral is an important issue for security.

Purpose wise incidence of indebtedness (Table 4. 37 and Table 4.38) among sample households reveal that while Muslims incur debt for capital expenditure in farm business the reverse is true for Hindu households who incur debt for non farm business.



This can be substantiated from the findings of the sample village survey which revealed that artisan and handicraft business among the Hindus is one of the main reasons for availing capital investment fund from commercial banks and other institutional sources. Significantly while Hindus incur some proportion of debt for education, Muslims incur no debt for education which shows the low priority given to education by the Muslims. The indebtedness due to livestock purchase shows that livestock as a livelihood is more practiced by the Hindus. High incidence of debts incurred for medical treatment by Muslim households clearly reflects the impact of unhygienic living conditions in terms of use of unsafe drinking water and practice of in sanitary toilet facilities. An important and serious concern among the Muslim indebted households is the incurring of new debts to repay old debts which are found absent as reported during household survey among Hindu households. This indicates the trend for virtual debt trap among Muslim households.

Size class wise distribution of indebtedness show that there exist no difference between Muslims and the Hindus and majority of indebted households have loan size of less than Rs.5000. The relatively high incidence of indebtedness for medical treatment indicates that absence of critical government support for curative treatment has added to the distressful situation among the rural households particularly the Muslims. The size class and purpose wise loans indicate that demand for consumption loan is more among rural households for meeting sudden expenses. The demand for

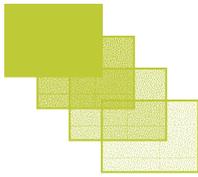
4.13 Income and Expenditure

Income of the majority households (more than 45 percent) across religions (Table 4. 40) during the last one year falls below than Rs.19200.00. Another more than 8 per cent households earned from Rs.192001 to Rs.22800. Both the categories constitute the size of population living below the poverty line. It amounts to say that more than 53 per cent of the people of the sample villages can be characterized as BPL. It has been observed; only 10 per cent of the sample population have income above Rs.72000.

Table 4.42 to Table 4.49 provides the detailed expenditure pattern of the sample households. Considering the food items, expenditure of 56 per cent household on cereals and pulses has been more than Rs. 9000, while the same expenditure for 24 per cent household was less than Rs.6000 during last one year. Expenditure on vegetables, milk, meat etc. of the majority households has been up to Rs.9000.

Expenditure on education for more than 32 per cent households was virtually nil during last one year. Education up to the primary level being free; the households without student at the level of higher education have not incurred any expenditure on education. However, the expenditure on education of more than 51 per cent was more than Rs.851.

Expenditure on health for more than 17 per cent of the sample households was virtually nil. At the same time, about 39 per cent of the households spent more than Rs.2101 during last one year. The other major heads of expenditure for the sample households are cloths and foot ware, repairing, construction of house and ceremony and festivals. More than 48 per cent of the households spend up to Rs. 1800 on cloths, foot ware and bedding; up to Rs. 1000 on festivals and social ceremonies; Rs. 1001-5000 on electricity,



gas etc.; and Rs. up to Rs. 5000 in construction and house repairing during the last one year.

4.14 Current Educational Status, Skill Training

Tables IV.51 to IV.54 provides the details of educational scenario of the sample population across religion. The important aspects revealed by the present sample survey are briefly pointed out.

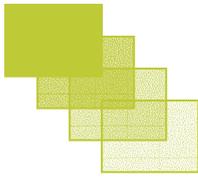
With less than one percent of average illiteracy rate among the 5-25 age groups in the sample population there are more illiterates among the Hindus than the Muslim population. It is interesting that illiteracy among Muslim women is even less than that of her Male and female Hindu and counterparts. The highest level of attainment among this group is Primary level with more Hindus in the group. Although there is no difference in the attainment at the Middle school levels between the Hindu and Muslim females, Hindu males outnumber Muslim males in this category. There are more Hindus than Muslims who have had completed Matric and Higher Secondary courses. Another interesting fact is that there is no difference between the two religious communities in case of attainment of graduate and postgraduate degree, whatever small percentage of population may be. Both in management and commercial related courses and the technical courses there is all most no graduate.

While majority (89 percent) of the sample population had their education in government schools, less than 5 percent attend private schools and less than one percent each attended Madrasas and Missionary and other non formal schools. In terms of government assistance while more than 95 percent of those who went to school received books there were no other significant assistances. Students mostly had their education in regional language.

Among the age group 5-25, around 4 percent of them never enrolled. Around 10.8 percent of the sample population left school after enrolment and the main reason for dropping out being the need to earn, followed by fees not affordable, work at home, not being interested in studies and failed exam. Less than one percent of those who dropped off did so due to marriage.

Majority of the parents of the current students want both their male and female children to be graduates (Table IV.54). This aspiration is higher among the Hindus than the Muslims. Next level of aspiration is the High School completion for both the sexes. It is interesting because aspiration for any other level is much less ranging from 6.6 to 2.3 percent between both the religious communities. Perhaps parents have seen the futility of any other degree or are not aware of any other options. There is a gap in parental understanding about the importance of commercial and technical courses in today's market driven economy.

There is a distinct gender differences in parental preferences as percentage of parents aspiring for male graduation is higher than that for the females in both the religious groups.



Surprisingly the interest in skill training is much less among the sample households (Table 4. 54). Only 15.2 percent of the Hindu and 12.3 percent of the Muslim households have expressed desire for skill training. This needs further probing, as skill training will be one major component for raising the economy of this group. While among the Hindus desire for training in Computer Operator tops the list, among the Muslims Tailoring is the most preferred training course. Tailoring, Auto Mechanic, Weaving and Electronics are other in order of preferences among Hindus and among the Muslims other preferences in order are Computer Operator, Weaving, and Driving.

Kamrup is one of the better performing districts in terms of education ranking 3rd in Education Index estimated in the Assam Development Report, 2003 for the entire state. However, the educational attainments in different levels, enrolment and dropout figures, parental aspirations, lack of facilities for skill development in areas having demand in present job market, all point to the need for focused attention to this sector.

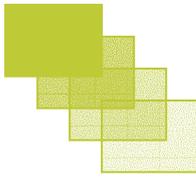
4.15 Present Health Scenario

So far as the health is concerned, the most prevalent disease suffered by both the religious communities during the last one year was fever followed by cough and cold, malaria and stomach pain. Diarrhoea and Dysentery were also prevalent. However, prevalence rate of diseases, percentage of patients hospitalised and duration of illness were all higher among the Hindus than that of their Muslim counterparts. Accordingly, Hindus in our sample population spent more on health accounts.

As per the records of the Directorate of Health Services, the Annual Parasitic Incidence of Malaria in the district in 2005 is 1.46 per thousand populations with 78.87 percent diagnosed as having Plasmodium Falciparum. Interventions in disease prevention are needed.

4.16 Maternal and Child Health

Ever since the Independence, the Government of India has been seriously attempting to improve the maternal and child health conditions and services in the country. The programmes targeted towards this end date back to the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) which include a widely diversified array of benefits and services for people, particularly for the rural poor. The Ministry of the Health and Family Welfare is also sponsoring various specific projects under the Maternal and Child Health Programme, including Oral Re-hydration Therapy (ORT) programme, Universal Immunisation Programme, Polio Eradication Programme, Maternal and Child Health Supplement Programmes. In 1996 all these programme components were merged into single Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH). Besides, in 1976, the Department of Women and Child Welfare, under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development launched Integrated Child Development (ICDS) Programmes. Under the ICDS scheme, *anganwadi* centres were supposed to provide children with health, nutrition and education services from birth to six years of age and a nutritional and health related services to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.



4.16.1 Immunisation of Children below 5 Years

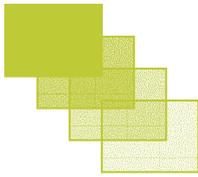
Immunisation of children against the six vaccine-preventable diseases, namely tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and measles is vital for child health as it reduces infant and child mortality rates. Differences in vaccination coverage among population subgroups based on different characteristics including religion and gender are useful for programme planning and targeting resources to areas most in need. Besides, this is particularly useful for evaluating the Expanded Programmes on Immunisation (EPI) in the state.

Children who receive one dose of BCG and measles each, and three doses of DPT and Polio each, excluding Polio dose 0 (birth dose) are considered as fully immunised. The present baseline survey shows that percentage of children fully immunised is very marginal i.e. only 17.80 percent in the sample population (Table 4.60). The coverage ratio is far below than the national average of 44 percent (NFHS-3, 2005-06). However, it is slightly above the state average of 14 percent (for all) and 12.3 percent for rural (NFHS 2, Assam, 1998-99). It goes to show only marginal improvement in the situation so far as the immunisation coverage is concerned over recent past. It would be worthwhile to recall that the National Family Health Survey 2, Assam State Report 1998-99 observed and expressed concern over the decline in the rate of vaccination coverage from 19 to 14 percent during the period of 1992-93 and 1998-99.

It is also significant that across religion, the coverage is lower in case of Muslims (5.70 percent) than Hindu (11.20 percent). This however in conformity with the national trend which reveals that coverage is 36.3 percent in case of Muslims compared to 44.4 percent for Hindus. Another notable aspect is the lower rates of vaccination for girls across the religious categories, except the Christians (Table 4.60). In totality, about 57 percent of the children below 5 years were found without any vaccination. This ratio is high (29.30 percent) among the Muslim households.

Another interesting to fact to note is a few cases of faulty administration of vaccines as a few children were found to be given all vaccines before the age of 9 months, which indicates a serious lack so far the quality of service delivery and administration is concerned. Most of the children got all required doses after the age of 23 months. The data shows that out of the fully immunised children only a small portion got immunised during proper time period. The faulty administration is glaring among the Muslims, which points towards a major lacuna in service delivery system (Table 4.60).

Like many other studies including NFHS various rounds, it has been observed in the present baseline study that since the vaccines are provided in series within a period of nine months, which is often extended up to 12 months, there is a gradual decline in getting the subsequent doses of vaccines. This can be seen from the declining percentage of children receiving the subsequent doses of DPT, OPV and Measles. In fact, most of the children receive only one or two doses of vaccines, mostly the initial BCG doses. The coverage percentage of measles is also one area which needs improvement. However, the success of polio vaccination has been reflected by a high coverage percentage of 85.50 among the sample households.



As for the reasons for not being vaccinated it was found that people are mostly unaware of the second and third doses of vaccines. Among the others post -vaccination fever and religious sentiments, particularly among the Muslims were found important. It was also found that most of the children (96.50 percent) both from Hindu and Muslims got vaccinations from the government agencies (Table IV.62).

4.16.2 Delivery Care

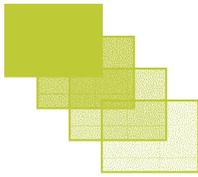
One of the most important thrust of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme is to encourage safe delivery protocols in the country. As the National Family Survey 3 (2005-06), India reports, three out of every five births in India take place at home. However, institutional delivery has shown a steady rise in the recent past as response to various government programmes and specific incentives. It has been observed that home births are more common in rural areas and among women who receive non antenatal benefits and care and with no education. Safe motherhood requires increase in the institutional births, access to trained and qualified birth attendants and increase in educational status and wealth entitlement of the rural people.

The present baseline indicates that in most of the cases deliveries are taking place at home. The rate is marginally high in Muslim families (32.8 percent against 31.3 percent of the Hindus). The trend is in conformity with the findings of the NFHS 3 (2005-2006). In the case of sample families, home delivery (65.20 percent) is found to be above the national average of 51.3 percent. However, the institutional delivery is found to be higher (34.7 percent) than the rate of 12 percent reported by the NFHS 2, 1998-99 the in Assam (Table 4.64) As such dependency on *untrained dai* (49.9 percent) is evident from the study (Table 4.65)). Similarly very few women were seen to receive pre and post natal care. The benefits of the ICDS scheme are found to be utterly insignificant. People also feel that the benefits of the ICDS have remained inaccessible as only a few are benefiting from the scheme.

On further analysis it was found that the home delivery is significantly higher in case of families with relatively poor asset endowments and among women with low level of educational attainment. This has been found true for both Hindu as well as Muslim families.

4.17 Poor and the PDS Support

Targeting the poor in the process of socio-economic development has always been at the high priority in all government programmes. An effective public distribution system (PDS) is seen as one of the prime requirements in making poor families food secure. Provisioning of essential commodities at a fair price, special provisions for BPL families and various support programmes specifically meant for the poor like green card and yellow cards are viewed and reviewed as major instruments of upward social mobility of the poor. It was found that more than half of the sample household was BPL households (Table 4. 66 A). It was also found that 40 percent of the household possesses BPL cards (Table 4.66 B). However, it may be mentioned that about 10.4 percent Hindu household belonging to the BPL does not possess the BPL card, while 6.2 percent Muslim BPL households were found not having BPL card (Table 4.67).



For effective functioning of the PDS as a support system, it is required that major bottlenecks are properly identified and those are removed. The Importance of the PDS become evident from the fact that about 77 percent of the households gets essential commodities from through the PDS, including the BPL households (Table 4. 68 A). It is important to note that most of them (50.1 percent) report that they receive all the items through PDS (Table 4.68 B). Those who were not getting enough from the PDS reported lack of money and inadequacy of PDS supply as major problem in accessing the PDS support (Table 4.69).

4.18 Awareness and Participation

4.18.1 Awareness about government schemes

It has been argued for long that level of awareness and participation are two important aspects of development approach. The Government of India has been initiating several specific programmes targeting the poor. The benefits of these programmes to a large extent depend on the level of awareness of the people about the programme. At the same time, any leakages in the process are to be properly identified for designing effective implementation.

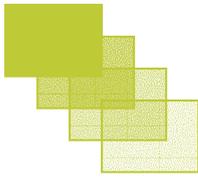
The present baseline clearly indicates that people who are aware of various schemes also gets benefit from them. So far the level of awareness at the community level is concerned, Hindu households, on the whole are found to be little ahead of the Muslim households (Table 4.70). It could also be seen that in terms of benefits, however the Muslims got more benefits under the NREGA (Table 4.71). Individual scheme wise, however, Old age and widow pension, SSA and IAY are mostly known to both the communities (Table 4.70).

Similarly, in terms of benefits, SSA, ICDS, old age pension and widow pension appear to be most beneficial for both the communities, while TSC is found to be the least beneficial of all the schemes. Besides, SSA and ICDS were found relatively more beneficial schemes from the above table (Table 4.71).

In case of selection of beneficiaries for most of the schemes, GP secretary and Block Development officials were found overwhelmingly prominent. So far as the commission is concerned mixed responses were observed. In the perception of the people NREGA and SGSY emerged as the two most useful schemes.

4.18.2 Participation in the socio-political affairs

Recent development debates envisage a pro-active role from the people at the grassroots for successful democratic decentralisation, which in turn accelerates the process of growth and development. The 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution further the scope of democratic decentralisation in the country by putting local governance Institutions at the centre-stage. The process of democratic decentralisation can be most potent source of ushering development, particularly in rural areas, when people participate in the process.



The baseline shows that the level of political participation is quite high among the sample households at all levels. Almost 80 percent of the households reported to cast votes in the Panchayat, Assembly and Parliamentary elections (Table 4.72). So far membership to the socio-religious organisations is concerned; membership to SHGs was found more prominent (Table 4.73).

4.18.3 Conflict, insecurity and access to media and communication

Problems and losses related to conflicts, communal or otherwise and the sense of insecurity is limited (only about 5 percent) among the sample households (Table 4.74). Those who confront with conflicts were mostly found to be communal in nature. However, household's loss in terms of life and property is marginal and minor (Table 4.74). Only about 5.4 percent of people reported to feel insecure. Majority of people believe that during the period of conflict and communal clashes, the role of the state should be cooperative (Table 4.74).

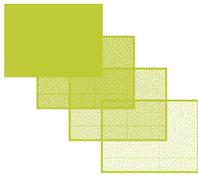
As far as the access to media and communication is concerned, the baseline indicates an overall low level of access to media across the communities. Comparatively, access to radio is more common, about 38 percent. Access to newspaper is limited to only 12.5 percent households (Table 4.75). Low level of access to media is partly explained by access to education and economic conditions of the households.

4.19 Aspirations

The baseline also tried to fathom the level of aspirations of people in the sample villages. Three most important facilities that people think are lacking in their villages were found as good road and communication facilities (35.5 percent out of which 16.0 percent is Muslim), electricity (17.6 percent out of which 5.9 percent Muslim) and drinking water (16.6 percent out of which 6.1 percent Muslim). These indicate that the most of the minority villages are remote and lack most basic amenities in the district.

In terms of relative deprivation, people feel that they were mostly deprived of land (24.1 percent of which 10.4 percent Muslim), housing (23.5 percent out of which 10.6 percent Muslims), health (12 percent with 5.1 percent Muslims), education (11.3 percent, 3.3 percent Muslim) and employment (20.7 percent with 6.9 percent Muslims). It may act as a cursory pointer towards development efforts to be directed to the district concerned.

Therefore, major aspirations emerge from the survey in terms of better communication and connectivity (13.2 percent), improved electricity (9.3 percent), safe drinking water (6.9 percent), better health-care and education (21.1 percent) and employment opportunities (12 percent). People do feel that access to these basic services would provide necessary momentum towards their economic betterment and progress. Their urge for these facilities upon the government can be considered as well justified and well articulated. The urgency of providing these services and opportunities to the minority concentrated areas can particularly be stressed given their relative backwardness and poverty as evident from the results of the present baseline study. ■



DEVELOPMENT DEFICITS

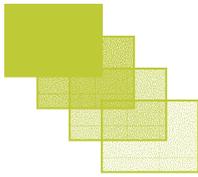
Notwithstanding the fact that Kamrup is one of the better performing districts in terms of development in basic human capabilities in three fundamental dimensions, viz., a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living, as indicated by its HDI value, besides having a better position in terms of income, education and health, the rural scenario of the district has been marked by several development deficits. The striking deficits are pointed out below.

Developmental Deficits in Kamrup District and Their Priority Ranking

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Result	Estimate for India	Deficit	Priority Ranking attached
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	75.90	67.30	11.06	10
2	Rate of female literacy	68.82	57.10	15.15	8
3	Work participation rate	48.37	38.00	9.11	9
4	Female work participation rate	33.23	21.50	7.55	7
Basic amenities indicators					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	10.60	59.40	-57.90	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	76.40	87.90	-62.30	5
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	16.50	39.20	-33.70	4
8	Percentage of electrified households	33.60	67.90	-21.30	2
Health indicators					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	17.80	43.50	18.00	3
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	34.80	38.70	-24.20	6

■ Though the literacy level is high in the district, the situation of higher education especially among the girls is deplorable. Drop out rate has been found remarkably high. Governmental intervention such as scholarship and other educational aids, especially for the girls of the religious minority communities may lead to a breakthrough.

■ Agricultural sector without any appreciable decline of the number of people dependent on it has been marked by all traditional practices besides decreasing size of operational holdings. In absence of adequate institutional reforms, the technological reforms initiated by the government have largely failed to render any support to the marginal farmers. For instance, the effort made by the government through the Farm Management Committee has not yielded the desired results. Consequently, agricultural sector has neither been remunerative for the people presently depend on it nor can



provide additional employment opportunity. Thus, modernisation of the sector through appropriate measures involving the actual producers in the process of implementation and monitoring may substantially contribute to the rural economy of the district.

■ It has been observed that a sizeable section of people currently being unemployed and under employed is seeking opportunities for livelihood generation through self-employment in stead of looking for salaried job. Undoubtedly, this indicates a positive trend. This section of probable entrepreneurs needs encouragement and required support. The present survey has pointed out the preferences of the employment seekers. Appropriate skill building training and credit at lower rate of interest are two critical gaps, which deserve immediate attention.

■ The overall condition of the housing condition has been found to be quite unsatisfactory. Besides having a large number of Kuchha houses the living space for a sizeable section of the households has also been found to be insufficient. Although IAY has contributed to certain extent the larger section of the people living below the poverty line has not yet been covered by any housing programme. It has also been observed that indebtedness has frequently been caused by expenditure on house repairing and construction worsening the condition of the distressed rural poor.

■ Although majority of the households have access to safe drinking water, a sizeable proportion of the Muslim and the ST population use drinking water from unsafe sources. In order to ensure safe drinking water government intervention is needed.

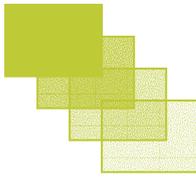
■ The present baseline survey indicates that percentage of children fully immunised is marginal. The survey also indicates considerably lower rated vaccination for girls. The quality service delivery and administration of vaccination is found poor. In most of the cases the parents are not aware of the second and third doses of vaccines. Immunization therefore, should be adequately emphasised through existing programme of National Rural Health Mission.

■ In most of the cases child delivery takes place at home. Similarly very few women are found receiving pre and post natal care. The benefits of the ICDS scheme are also found utterly insignificant.

■ Further witnessing poor social security measure, a sizeable section of the BPL families has been found not having the BPL card. Although the PDS is week, its importance can be judged from the fact that a good number of the sample households are getting their essential commodities trough the PDS. The major problem with the PDS, however, is inadequate supply of the essential commodities.

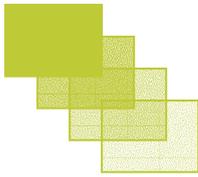
■ Lack of awareness, especially among the Muslims, about the available government schemes has been found to be a matter of serious concern. It prevents a sizeable section of the people from getting the necessary support.

■ In terms of relative deprivation, common perception of the people is that they are deprived of land, housing, health, education and employment. The major aspirations of the people that have emerged through the survey are communication and connectivity, safe drinking water, better heath care, education and employment facilities. ■



List of Sample villages in Kamrup district

VILLAGE	T_HH	T_P	T_M	T_F	SC_P	SC_M	SC_F	ST_P	ST_M	ST_F
Hajalpara	403	2157	1120	1037	678	349	329	316	157	159
Balahati	428	2714	1401	1313	971	523	448	1719	865	854
Dhuhi No.1	399	2371	1225	1146	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chira Khundi	515	2870	1451	1419	73	38	35	1170	582	588
Barmarai	260	1449	759	690	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singrapara	164	888	451	437	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japia	773	4531	2421	2110	900	491	409	97	53	44
Dehar Kuriha	368	2456	1267	1189	0	0	0	0	0	0
No.4 Sobanshah	112	648	336	312	0	0	0	0	0	0
No.1 Shrihati	231	1285	627	658	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bara Khat	265	1829	942	887	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tukura Para	937	5348	2701	2647	0	0	0	1	1	0
Ganak Para	481	2433	1283	1150	46	24	22	696	362	334
Jalukbari F.V	69	318	161	157	0	0	0	318	161	157
Natun Kathami	313	2039	1057	982	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malibari Pathar	600	3865	2050	1815	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nitarkhola Reserve	555	3208	1653	1555	456	233	223	0	0	0
Pairanga	280	1682	856	826	0	0	0	660	321	339
No.1 Dilinga	259	1440	742	698	84	39	45	197	104	93
Mitani Gaon	197	77	466	235	231	1	1	0	0	0
Baranti Ranga Mati	559	2950	1529	1421	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maliata	772	3897	1981	1916	104	55	49	1088	537	551
Gog	243	1283	662	621	5	3	2	647	334	313
Silamahekhaity	164	803	408	395	16	7	9	446	222	224
No.1 Bonda Grant	387	1860	966	894	500	249	251	1	1	0
Batakuchi Gaon (Balakuchigaon)	121	821	405	416	0	0	0	388	193	195
Futuri No.3	114	256	1504	794	710	0	0	0	0	0
Lumsum Gaon	82	418	233	185	0	0	0	3	3	0
Aujuri No.1	221	1248	664	584	1086	572	514	0	0	0
Chandrapur Gaon	117	606	326	280	18	9	9	5	3	2
Total	10389	57750	31647	28769	5878	2593	2346	7752	3899	3853



LIST OF SURVEYED VILLAGES

Sl. No.	VILLAGE
1	Gog
2	Nitor Khola
3	Chirakhundi
4	Dhuhi
5	Balahati
6	Japia
7	Shilamahekihaiti
8	Chandrapur
9	Batakuchi Gaon
10	Lum Sum
11	Bonda Grant
12	Singrapara
13	No.4 Sobanshah
14	Deharkurihat
15	Hajalpara
16	Malibari
17	Srihati
18	Tukrapara
19	Barmarai
20	Ganakpara
21	Oujari
22	Borakhat
23	Pairanga
24	Natun Kathami
25	Dilinga
26	Jalukbari Forest
27	Futuri
28	Mitani
29	Maliata
30	Baranti Ranga Mati