

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT GAPS AND PRIORITIES**  
**FOR THE MULTI-SECTOR PLAN**

**Background:**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority-concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on 2001 census data with a purpose to improve all the eight indicators and bring them to the all-India level through a multi-sector development plan under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since it is expected that there may be changes in those indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to inform the multi-sectoral development plan (MSDP) with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Katihar, a backward district of Bihar, is also a backward minority concentration district.

**District profile (2001 census based)**

- Like other districts of Purnea Division, Katihar is primarily a rural district. Of the total population, 90.88 percent lives in the rural areas. The urban population is concentrated only in Katihar (72%), Manihari (14.61%) and Barsai (2.13%) Tehsils of the district
- SCs constitute 8.5 percent and ST 6.3 percent of the total population. However, the district has substantial number of minority, mainly Muslim, population that constitute 44.8 percent of the total rural population. Other minorities constitute merely 0.6 percent.
- However, Muslims constitute more than fifty percent of the total rural population in five out of 16 Tehsil/Blocks. The largest concentration is in Barsoi Tehsil (72.3%), followed by Azamnagar (55.3%), Balrampur (51.6%) and Kadwa (51.6%).
- Whereas the state level rural literacy rate is 43.9 percent, it is only 31.1 percent in Katihar. Moreover, against the state average female literacy rate of 29.6 percent, it is only 19.7 percent in the district.
- The overall work participation rate of the rural population is 38.83 percent in the district, a little higher than the state average of 34.65 percent. Agricultural labourers constitute 64.31 percent of the workers, about 13 points higher than the state average. Cultivators constitute the second largest group and household industries workers merely 2.46 percent. The trend is uniform across the Tehsils.

- In 2001, 72.6 percent of the villages were having primary schools and only 21.6 percent were having middle schools. There were 79 industrial training schools in the district as well.
- The availability of health facilities was quite poor. Only 32.7 percent of the villages were having a PHC within a distance of 5 kms and only 20 percent of the villages were having maternity and child welfare centres.
- The availability of other village level infrastructural facilities was also poor. Only 37.8 percent of the villages were connected with paved roads and 36.2 percent were having electricity facilities.

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

- In 2008, Katihar lagged behind the all-India level in five out of eight indicators and also lagged behind the all-India level in terms of two health related indicators. The following table shows the gap between the all-India and district level figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritizes the development intervention vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district level data are based on the survey findings (2008) and all-India data are for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all-India data may be higher, as the all-India data are a little old.

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

Sl. No.	Indicators	Katihar 2008	All India 2005	Development Gaps Between All India and District	Development Priority of the District
		(1)	(2)	(3=1-2)	(4)
1	Rate of literacy	55.8	67.3	-11.5	4
2	Rate of female literacy	45.8	57.1	-11.3	5
3	Work participation rate	50.0	38.0	12.0	8
4	Female work participation rate	25.6	21.5	04.1	6
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	20.2	59.4	-39.2	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	92.6	87.9	4.7	7
7	Percentage of households with electricity	5.4	67.9	-62.5	1
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	3.8	39.2	-35.4	3
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	23.0	43.5	-20.5	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	7.7	38.7	-31.0	-

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col. 1) pertains to the rural area only, but all India data (Col. 2) pertains to total.  
(2) Data in Col 2 from Sl. No. 5 to 8 pertains to year 2005-06 from NFHS-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

### Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators

1. **Electricity Connection:** The availability of electricity is the most obvious gap. Against all- India average of 67.9 percent households with electricity connections, merely 5.4 percent of the households in rural areas have electricity connection. In

terms of inter-community differentials, 9.86 percent of the Hindus but only 2.62 percent of the Muslim households have electricity facilities.

2. **All-Weather Protected Pucca Houses:** Whereas at all-India level 59.4 percent of the rural households have all weather protected *pucca* houses, only 20.2 percent of the households in Katihar have the same. About 50% of the households (44.23% of Hindus, 54.87% of Muslims and 75 % of Christians) are living in thatched houses. The relatively higher percentage of Christian households living in thatched houses is because of the fact that the Christian population consists mostly of tribal people in the district.
3. **Water Closet latrines:** Whereas at the all-India level 39.2 percent of the rural households are using water closet latrines, only 3.8 percent of the rural households in the district are using the same. The access to in-house water closet latrines is almost the same among the Hindu and Muslim population. Households with in-house toilets also indicate the tardy progress of the total sanitation campaign (TSC) in the district. It also appears that the district will fail to meet the target of universal sanitation coverage by 2011-12, the target year of the TSC.
4. **Literacy rate:** Whereas the all-India rural literacy rate has reached 67.3 percent by 2004-05, it is only 55.8 percent in the district, a gap of about 12 points. The lowest literacy rate is among Muslims (55.34%) and Hindus (55.79%); the latter are only slightly better than the former. It is the highest among the Sikhs (78.79%) and Christians (70.59%).
5. **Female Literacy Rate:** Against all-India female literacy rate of 57.1 percent, it is only 45.8 percent in Katihar, a gap of 11.3 points. The major problem of female literacy is access to schools and the drop-out ratio, which is high among girl students.

#### **Additional Areas of Intervention:**

1. Whereas, 43.5 percent of the children are fully vaccinated at the all-India level, only 23% of the children are vaccinated in the district. Similarly, against the all-India institutional child delivery figure of 38.7%, merely 7.7% of child deliveries in the district are institutional.

Improvement in health facilities is definitely an important development issue in the district. Though the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is quite an ambitious programme, the gap in health facilities that would remain uncovered under the NRHM, may be undertaken under the MSDP.

**2. Village Level Infrastructure:** There are Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Mukhya Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (MMGSY) in the district. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) also gives autonomy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to take up the scheme of road-connectivity. In spite of that, there are a number of villages without all-weather roads. Projects filling critical infrastructural gaps at the village level may also be undertaken under the MSDP.

