

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

District Report

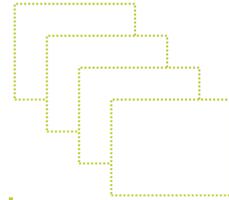
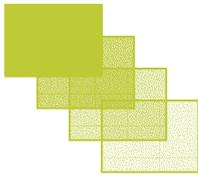
LOWER SUBANSIRI

Study Commissioned by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Study Conducted by



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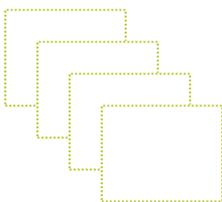


Commissioned by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, this Baseline Survey was planned for 90 minority concentrated districts (MCDs) identified by the Government of India across the country, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi coordinates the entire survey.

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 Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

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



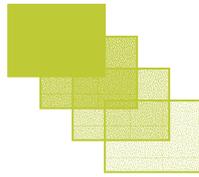
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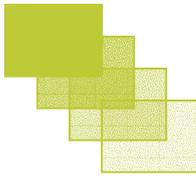


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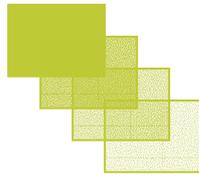
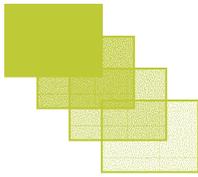


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BACKGROUND

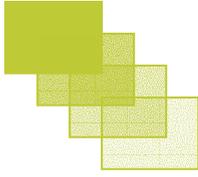
Issues relating to disparities across socio-religious communities have attracted much attention of the government of India of late. There is a growing realization about the relative backwardness of the religious minorities more particularly the Muslim as a religious community in India. The Sachar Committee, 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.

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% of tehsils, the second stratum constitutes middle 50% and the third/last stratum constitutes bottom 30% 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.

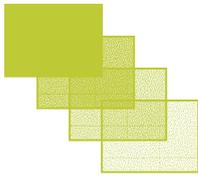
The number of villages surveyed in each stratum was directly proportional to the share of each stratum/group of tehsils (according to population) to the district population, subject to a minimum allocation of 6 villages to each stratum.

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 number 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

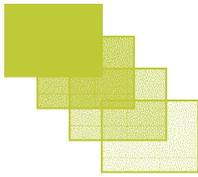
Approximate present population of the village	no. of hamlet- group to be formed
1200 to 1799	3
1800 to 2399	4
2400 to 2999	5
3000 to 3599	6
..... and so on	

Following the above methodology, total 25 villages of the district Lower Subansiri 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 LOWER SUBANSIRI

2.1 History, Area and Location

The nomenclature of Subansiri District can be traced to the Subansiri River, very famous for its gold dust. Subansiri area was created in 1946 from the erstwhile Lakhimpur District of Assam, with Ziro being its headquarter. It was successively renamed Subansiri Frontier Division from which Subansiri District came into being on 1st September 1965. On 13th May 1980, Subansiri District was bifurcated into Lower and Upper Subansiri District. Upper Subansiri District was formed by covering the area of the then Daporijo Sub-Division, and rest of the area of erstwhile Subansiri District was placed under Lower Subansiri. On 22nd September 1992, Lower Subansiri District was again bifurcated, and Papumpare District was formed. However, Lower Subansiri district was further bifurcated in 2001 and Kurung Kumey district was formed.

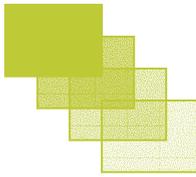
The present Lower Subansiri District covers an area of 1,317 Sq.km. The district is bounded on the North by China and Upper Subansiri District, on the South by Papum Pare District and Assam, on the East by West Siang and some part of Upper Subansiri and, on the West by East Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. On her Northeast, lies the Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh.

The topography of the district is mostly mountainous terrain, where the Hill Ranges vary approximately from 1000 to 1600 metres above sea level. A greater part of it falls within the higher mountain zone consisting of tangled peaks and valleys. Nature has gifted the heartland of the District in the form of magnificent plateau at about 1564 metres above sea level, where District Headquarter, Ziro is located.

2.2 Administrative Division

The administrative setup is based on single line administration which aims to keep close co-operation amongst various developmental departments with the district administration and thus, to work together for the speedy development of the area.

The present district has two Sub-Divisions namely, Ziro and Raga; three blocks viz., Ziro-I, Ziro-II and Raga, and a total of six administrative circles namely, Ziro (Sadar), Yachuli, Pistana, Raga, Kamporijo and Dolumukh. The Deputy Commissioner being the overall in-charge of the district administration maintains law and order with the help of administrative officers and police forces. Moreover, the villagers have their own customary administrative systems in the form of traditional village councils consisting of the Gaon Buras and members. The district had a total of 226 inhabited villages in 2001 Census as per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006.



2.3 Resource Base

2.3.1 Population

Based on the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, with 11,264 households, the present Lower Subansiri district had a population of 55,726 in 2001 Census. The population density of the district was 42 persons per sq. km, the second highest after Tirap among the districts of the state, while the population density of the state as a whole was 13 persons per sq. km in 2001. Apatani, Nishi and Hill Miri are the major tribal groups in the district and constitute about 84.15 percent of the total population of the district, while the proportion of SC is only 0.3 percent as per 2001 Census as quoted in the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006. Based on 2001 Census, of the total population of the district (present Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey together), the proportion of urban population is about 22.22 percent. The 2001 Census data on religion refer to former Lower Subansiri (i.e., Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey together), which is shown in the following table.

Table 2.1: Religious distribution of population in Lower Subansiri district*

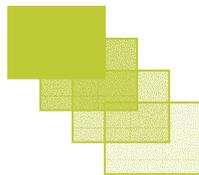
Religious compositions	Persons	Percentage
All Religions	98,244	100.0
Hindus	10,493	10.7
Muslims	830	0.8
Christians	24,078	24.5
Sikhs	52	0.05
Buddhists	284	0.1
Jains	6	0
Others	62,481	63.6
Religion not stated	20	0.02

* Former Lower Subansiri (i.e. Lower Subansiri+Kurung Kumey) since separate data are not available.
Source: Census India 2001.

In recent years, the district has shown a higher growth of population. The growth rate of population in the district during 1981-1991 was 14.06 percent, which has increased to 17.37 percent during 1991-2001; while the growth rate of population for the state as a whole during the corresponding periods were 36.83 percent and 26.21 percent respectively.

2.3.2 Sex ratio

The sex-ratio is a good indicator of the status of women. As per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, with 28,425 males and 27,301 females, the present Lower Subansiri had a sex ratio of 960 female per thousand male, which is much higher than the state average of 893 in 2001 Census.



2.3.3 Literacy Rate

Based on the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, the literacy rate in the district in 2001 was 59.4 percent, with 83.09 percent male literates and 62.18 percent female literates. On the other hand, the literacy rate for the state as a whole was 54.3 percent, with 63.8 percent male and 43.5 percent female literates as per 2001 Census. Thus, the literacy rates in the district are much higher than that of the state as a whole. However, gender disparity in literacy is also prominent in the district.

2.3.4 Workforce

Here also, the 2001 Census data refer to former Lower Subansiri district (i.e., present Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey districts together). Thus according to 2001 Census, the work participation rate in the district is 46.2%, which is higher than the state average of 44%. Of the total workforce of 46.2%, 38.1% are main workers and 8.1% are marginal workers. Among the total workforce of Lower Subansiri, the Census 2001 reveals that there are 32,151 (70.8%) cultivators, 1,498 (3.3%) agricultural labourers, 831 (1.8%) household industries workers and 10,925 (24.1%) other workers. The desegregated figures on gender based work participation rate indicate that female work participation rate (44.5%) is lower than male work participation rate (47.9%) in the district.

Table 2.3: Workforce Participation Rate in Lower Subansiri District*

Category	Person			Male			Female		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Total workers	46.2	48.0	33.6	47.9	48.3	45.3	44.5	47.8	20.8
Main workers	38.1	39.0	32.3	41.6	41.2	44.1	34.7	36.8	19.2
Marginal workers	8.1	9.0	1.4	6.3	7.1	1.2	9.9	11.0	1.6
Cultivators	70.8	76.8	11.6	59.3	67.0	5.0	83.4	86.8	27.2
Agricultural labourers	3.3	3.5	1.6	2.7	2.9	1.4	3.9	4.1	2.2
Household industry workers	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.8	2.4
Other workers	24.1	17.9	85.1	36.2	28.3	92.1	10.8	7.4	68.3

* Former Lower Subansiri (i.e. Lower Subansiri+Kurung Kumey) since separate data are not available.
Source: Census of India, 2001

2.3.5 Education and Health

As mentioned above, the literacy rate in the district is higher than that of the state as a whole. Gender wise number of students at different levels and teaching staff in the district as on 31st March 2006 are shown in the following table:

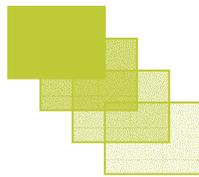


Table 2.3: Stage and gender wise number of students and Teaching staff in Lower Subansiri district

	Pre-Primary	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Colleges	University
Boys	175	7269	1697	1430	890	-	-
Girls	180	6580	1330	890	475	-	-
Total	355	13849	3027	2320	1365	-	-
Teaching Staff							
Men	-	236	203	146	114	-	-
Women	-	69	55	42	30	-	-
Total	-	305	258	188	144	-	-

Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

An important indicator of health status is the sex ratio, especially of the children in the age group of 0-6 years. As per the estimate of 2001 Census cited in the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, Lower Subansiri district has child sex-ratio of 972, which is higher than the state average of 964. Another good indicator of health is the life expectancy of the population. In 2000-01, life expectancy of Lower Subansiri district is 55.6 years. For male it is 54.9 years and for female it is 56.3 years. So, the life expectancy of female surpasses that of the males. This can largely be attributed to the disappearance and control of diseases such as small pox and cholera and other killer diseases.

2.4 Natural Resource Base

2.4.1 Land, its quality and use

The district of Lower Subansiri is mostly covered by forest and only small percentage of total geographical area is under agricultural use. The district has thermic humid soil type. The land use pattern of the district as per Agricultural Census 2000-01 is shown in the table below.

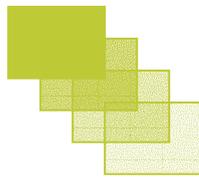
Table 2.4: Land Utilization pattern in Lower Subansiri district (2000-01)

(Area in hectare)

Total area	Fallow land including current fallow	Uncultivated land excluding fallow land	Culturable waste land	Not available for cultivation	Net area sown
131700	2606	387	313	1233	16543

Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the inhabitants of the district with rice as the major crop. They practice both jhum and settled cultivation in the form of WRC/TRC.



2.4.2 Forestry

From vegetative point of view, the district is very rich. As per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, the district has 347.07 sq. km of reserved forest, 337.0 sq. km forest under wild life sanctuary, 457.92 sq. km. area under proposed reserved forest and 18.50 sq. km area under proposed ARF/VRF. The forests of the district are rich in valuable species of trees and different varieties of shrubs, cane and bamboo grow in plenty, and the exquisite floral treasures of wilder species may often be found in the shadowy recesses of the forest. The forest of the district has got great economic values and various types of wild game. The district is also rich in wild fauna such as tigers, panthers, leopard, cats, bear, boars, antelopes and barking deer etc. beautify this nature's Zoological Garden.

Forest wealth plays vital role from economic point of view by earning revenue for the district. The forest are managed under the provisions of the Assam Forest Regulation Act of 1981 along with Indian Forest Act and Arunachal Pradesh Forest Manual of 1990, under which local people of Arunachal Pradesh have been given special privileges to collect timbers and other forest produces on free of royalty and not for sale or barter or trade but for their own uses. They also enjoy privileges of hunting, fishing etc., but there is limitation imposed by the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The local people are allowed 7.5% concession in the settlement of forest coups muhals and are allowed 50% concession for the security deposits in any contract for the purpose of settlement of forest coups muhals etc. The timber permit for extraction of wood are only issued to the local people of Arunachal Pradesh. However, the movement of unfinished timber products outside Arunachal Pradesh has been banned from 1982 onwards. The total quantity and value of forest products during 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

Table 2.5: Quantity & value of major forest products in Lower Subansiri district during 2005-06

	Timber (cum.)	Fire wood (cum.)	Cane (Kaps)	Bamboo (No.)
Quantity	712.64	4054.25	3325	7100
Total value (in Rs.)	-	2,48,117	63,320	

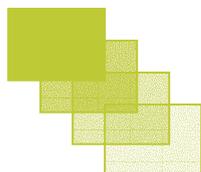
Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

2.5 Economy

The economy of Lower Subansiri district is basically agrarian in nature. Apart from agriculture, other sources of income of the people in the district are industries, especially small and cottage industries in the form of handloom and handicrafts, sericulture and animal husbandry, etc.

2.5.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is the main occupation of the inhabitants of the district. They practice both jhum and settled cultivation in the form of WRC/TRC. The Apatani tribe who lives in the area near the district HQ prefers settled cultivation on a vast stretch of fertile land



with highly developed irrigation system whereas shifting (Jhum) cultivation is being practiced mainly by Nishis, Hill Miris and Sulung tribes. Jhuming is the products of century old experience of the hill men in the northeastern region. The climate and soil of the district is conducive for cultivation of Paddy, Maize, Millet, Pulses, Oil seeds, Potato, Chilly, Ginger, Sugarcane, etc. In order to grow more food grains, the agriculture department has been providing the farmers with grant of subsidy for development of land and also providing high yielding varieties seeds, fertilizers and tools at subsidy rates. The government is also providing free plants protection services to the farmers. One government agricultural farm has been functioning in the district since 1961 with an area of 20 acres. This farm earns good revenue by supplying seed and selling vegetables to different part of the district.

Table 2.6: Area and production of major crops in Lower Subansiri during 2005-06

(Area in Hect. / Production in MT.)

	Rice	Maize	Millet	Pulses	Oil seeds	Potato	Ginger	Chillies	Sugar cane
Area	9500	1672	2504	880	1180	347	76	152	92
Production	11600	2189	3602	1295	973	3517	484	239	1336

Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

Table 2.7: Area and average yield per hect. of HYV crops in Lower Subansiri during 2005-06

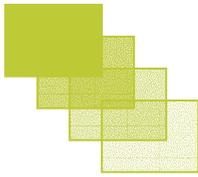
(Area in Hect. / Production in Qntl.)

	Rice		Maize		Millets	
	Total	HYV	Total	HYV	Total	HYV
Area	9500	3038	1672	350	2504	-
Yield	12.21	47.08	13.09	11.80	14.38	-

Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

An important aspect of agriculture among the Apatanis in the district is that they practice aquaculture along with rice farming on their plots. Rice-fish culture in the valley is a unique practice in the state where two crops of rice (Mipya and Emoh) and one crop of fish (Ngihi) are raised together. Integrating aquaculture with agriculture assures higher productivity and year round employment opportunities for farmers. The plots utilized for rice cum fish culture are mainly based on organic fertilization. The Apatanis utilise varieties of domestic waste products to their paddy field to enhance crops productivity, which in turn enhance soil fertility as well as feed to fishes. They left heaps of rice bran, poultry dropping, pig excreta and many other household wastes during the month of December and January where transplantation for the next season begins.

Paddy fields are suitable for fish culture at Ziro because of having strong bandhs in order to prevent leakage of water, to retain water up to the desired depth and also to prevent the escape of cultivated fishes during floods. The strong bandhs are built to maintain the height due to geographical and topographic location of the paddy fields. Bamboo mattings are done at the base of the bandhs for their support. On the bandhs,



millet cultivation is a common practice in Apatani plateau, leaving no portion of paddy plots unutilised. But till now, horticulture cum fish farming has not been taken up. In this practices, the bandhs can be utilised for several varieties of vegetables, like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, radish, pumpkin, cucumber, beans, brinjals chillies, gingers etc.

2.5.2 Industries

There are no heavy and medium industries in Lower Subansiri district but some progress has been achieved in the field of cottage and small-scale industries. The most important industry from the point of view of employment potential and volume of output is the handloom and handicraft industry, which is mainly run on a small-scale household industry basis.

At present, one District Industries Centre is functioning at the district HQ, Ziro. The main objective of the DIC is the establishment of craft centres/weaving units, comprehensive production centres, establishment of small scale Industries centres and to provide necessary technical, economic, management and other guidance.

There is no factory in the district, which is registered under Factory Act, 1948. So far the DIC, Ziro has registered 338 numbers of Small Scale Industries Units in the district, which are eligible for all incentive and subsidy available for industrially backward areas. DIC has been implementing the scheme for self-employment to educated un-employed youths and deputed local youths for Industrial management training and Entrepreneurship Development Programme in various parts of India. The DIC also provides raw material assistance to small and cottage industries and extends technical guidance to Entrepreneurs.

2.5.3 Livestock and Poultry

In the agrarian economy of the district, animal husbandry is an important source of income. Due to the availability of abundant green pasture, the district is conducive for rearing cattle, pig, poultry, mithun and goat. As per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, (based on the Livestock Census Report 2003) Lower Subansiri had 37436 cattle, 36058 pigs, 31262 mithun, 18068 goats, 8310 dog, 68 buffalo and 80736 poultry. So far as the infrastructure facilities for animal husbandry is concerned, there were 9 veterinary dispensaries, 14 veterinary aid centres, 6 cattle upgrading centres, one district diagnostic laboratory, one cattle breeding farm and one poultry breeding farm in Lower Subansiri district as on 31st March 2006. One fodder farm at Yachuli has been functioning in the district and is supplying green fodder to cattle breeding farm. Development of pastureland is also undertaken simultaneously with feed and fodder development programme. Great emphasis has been laid on extensive cross-breeding programme to improve the local livestock for better and more production of milk, meat, eggs etc.

2.5.4 Sericulture

Sericulture is a traditional activity in Arunachal Pradesh. The State's climatic conditions are favorable for this industry. All the four varieties of silk viz. Oak Tasar, Eri, Muga and



Mulberry, available in the world are produced in the State. Sericulture activity is, however, not so popular in Lower Subansiri district. During the year 2005-06, there were 2 (two) sericulture demonstration centres and 5 villages covered under sericultural activity in the district. The total production of Eri and Mulberry cocoons were 497 kg and 10 kg respectively.

2.6 Infrastructure

2.6.1 Transport and Telecommunication

Transport and communication is the basic infrastructure needed for generation of economic activity and for bringing about prosperity and well being in the state. A well-developed transport and communication system plays a vital role in ensuring sustained economic growth. Development activities of this sector generated large employment opportunities. Roads are the lifelines of the people of the district of Lower Subansiri as there are practically no other means of transport and communication.

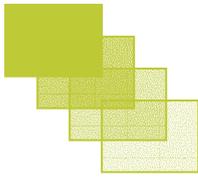
With a road density of about 63.88 km per 100 sq. km of geographical area as on 31st March 2006, the road connectivity in the district seems comparatively better than other districts of the state. However, of the total road lengths, only about 55.79 percent are surfaced and, all weather roads are very much inadequate. Further, any National Highway does not touch the district even today. The type of roads and their lengths under different agencies in Lower Subansiri district have been shown in the following table.

Table 2.8: Road length by type in Lower Subansiri district as on 31-03-2006

Roads under	National Highway	District road				Total length of roads
		Black Topped	Water bound macadam	Graveled	Un-surfaced	
APPWD	-	67.728	70.482	-	243.736	381.946
Project VARTAK	-	293.00	11.00	7.00	5.00	316.00
Forest	-	6.010	-	6.990	-	13.000
Rural works Deptt.	-	-	7.14	-	123.21	130.35

Source: Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006.

Other communication system such as the postal services, telegraph services, telephone services, Internet services, etc are also lagging far behind. As per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006, the district Lower Subansiri has only one telephone office, 8 telephone exchanges (with capacity of 5128 connections), 3708 telephone connections and 103 public call offices. There are 2 (two) sub-post offices and 13 EDBPOs with no post office having telegraph facilities as on 31st March 2006.



2.6.2 Electricity

Based on the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2006, only about 39.82 percent of the inhabited villages in the district have power supply. The total consumption of electricity in the district (along with Kurung Kumey) during 2005-06 was 5.526043 M.U. Purpose wise, domestic consumption was 3.025199 M.U., commercial 0.490462 M.U., industrial 0.049444 M.U., public lighting 0.979487 M.U. and consumption in agriculture/any other category was 0.981451 M.U.

2.6.3 Banking

As per the District wise Banking Statistics (December 2007) of the Reserve Bank of India, there are altogether 5 bank branches operating in the district of Lower Subansiri. The total amount of credit stood at Rs. 27 crore and deposit at Rs. 67 crore, giving a credit deposit ratio of about 40.3 percent as on December 2007. However, the spread and distribution of bank is not adequate in the state. The banks hesitate to open branches in the remote areas resulting in inefficient functioning of the banks. This half-hearted efforts coupled with security problem in the hill district has led to the deprivation of modern banking facilities to the people.

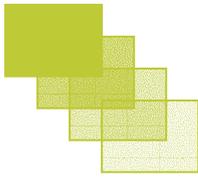
2.6.4 Health and Educational Establishments

As per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006, the total number of medical institutions (Allopathic) in Lower Subansiri is 44 as on March 31st 2006. Of these, there are one district hospital, one Community Health Centre, 8 Primary Health Centres, 27 Health Sub Centers and 7 Lep/VD/STD/HP/TB/etc. Total number of beds in the district hospital is 100 and 62 in the CHC/PHC/HSC.

This poorly literate district has poor educational infrastructure facilities. As on March 31st 2006, the district has 52 primary schools, 34 middle schools, 13 secondary schools, 4 higher secondary schools and one college (non-government) as per Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006.

2.7 Basic Amenities

The 2001 Census data on basic amenities refer to former Lower Subansiri district (i.e. present Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey together). With a total of 11,264 households and 55,726 persons, Lower Subansiri has 226 inhabited villages, while Kurung Kumey has 426 inhabited villages with 8192 households and a total population of 42518 in 2001 Census as per the Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 2006. Thus, Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey together had 652 inhabited villages with a total of 19,456 households in 2001 Census. Of these total households, only 14.9 percent were permanent, 11.1 percent semi permanent and 73.9 percent were temporary houses. Besides housing standard of the rural people, the standard of living is also judged based on the availability of certain basic community institutions in the rural locality along with easy access to these. Safe drinking water, facilities for basic education and health, and social security are some of the important elements of these basic requirements. In respect of

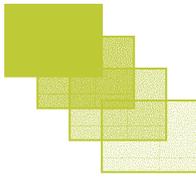


amenities in rural areas, there are facility wise variations. Number of villages with various basic facilities is shown in the following table:

Table 2.9: Distribution of amenities in inhabited villages of Lower Subansiri district

Amenities	Numbers (Percentage)
Total inhabited villages	652
Total Households	19,456
Safe Drinking water facilities	383 (58.7)
Electricity (Power Supply)	175 (26.8)
Electricity (domestic)	169 (25.9)
Electricity (Agriculture)	-
Primary school	147 (22.5)
Middle schools	75 (11.5)
Secondary/Sr. Secondary schools	22 (3.4)
College	-
Medical facility	74 (11.3)
Primary Health Centre	16 (2.4)
Primary Health Sub-Centre	38 (5.8)
Post, telegraph and telephone facility	15 (2.3)
Bus services	57 (8.7)
Paved approach road	146 (22.4)
Un-paved (mud) approach road	219 (33.6)

Source: Census of India, 2001.



PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

3.1 Demographic Profile

The present study covers 25 villages of Lower Subansiri district. With total households of 2250, the total population of these 25 sample villages is 10,636 as per 2001 Census. The average household size for the sample villages is estimated to be 4.7, which is almost equal to the district average household size of 4.9 as per 2001 Census. Majority of the households are from Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities belonging to Hindu, Christian and other religious faith.

3.2 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of the sample population of the selected villages under study is estimated to be 1032 female per thousand male. The sex ratio of the district, on the other hand is 960, while that of the state as a whole is 893 as per 2001 Census.

3.3 Facilities

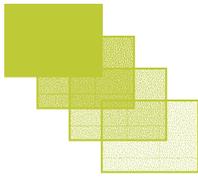
Besides literacy, there are certain definitive facilitators of ascertaining quality of human life in a region. Presence of such facilitators, and accessibility and usability of these social overheads make way for qualitative up-lift of the standard of living of the people. Sources of lighting, drinking water, sanitation, educational institutions, health facilities, accessibility of transport etc., are some of the basic requirements of any region to maintain and sustain basic standard of living.

3.3.1 Electricity

Proportion of households using electricity for domestic lighting in the rural areas instantaneously reflects the economic status of the households as well as the success of welfare state. The village survey data shows that all the sample villages under the study are electrified. Electrification in the area started in the year 1971 and completed by 1982. However, in the villages with electricity connection, the number of households using electricity for agriculture (89 households, i.e., 3.95 percent) or commercial purposes (62 households, i.e., 2.75 percent) is quite negligible. Regarding the availability of electricity supply, it is found that there has been a gradual fall in the availability of electricity supply over the last 10 years. The average duration of availability of electricity was around 20 hours before 10 years. The average duration of availability of electricity was around 16 hours before 5 years. Presently, the average availability of electricity is merely 10 hours per day. However, no village has been de-electrified in recent past.

Table 3.1 - Average Hours of Electricity Available per day in Sample Villages

	Last Year	5 Years ago	10 years ago
Average hours of electricity available	10.48	15.72	19.68



3.3.2 Drinking Water

Availability and access to safe drinking water has been one of the most crucial factors involving serious health concerns in rural areas. All the sample villages have their own drinking water facilities. The various sources of water supply facilities as reported by the respondents are well, hand pump, tube well, tank/river water etc. However, no village is found having the access to public water supply by tap water inside houses. Distribution pattern of common drinking water supply facilities shows that the functional water sources of the households in the sample villages are, C-F public well (12 i.e., 0.53 percent), C-F public stand post (145 i.e., 6.44 percent), H-F public stand post (31 i.e., 1.38 percent), H-F Tap water inside house (476 i.e., 21.15 percent), and H-F tank/river (20 i.e., 2.7 percent). The Christian households basically utilize public stand post (66 i.e., 2.9 percent), tap water inside house (1070 i.e., 47.55 percent), tank/river (65 i.e., 2.9 percent). Other households utilize public stand post (55 i.e., 2.4 percent), tap water inside house (1042 i.e., 46.31 percent), tank/river (12 i.e., 0.5 percent). Besides, the villages also possess some non-functioning water sources like private well, public stand posts etc.

3.3.3 Toilet Facility

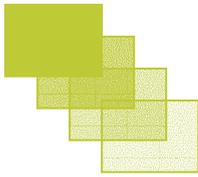
The sample villages clearly witness a poor sanitation scenario of the district as indicated by lack of proper toilet facilities at the household level. 19 villages possess common septic tank facilities while 25 villages have common soakage PIT/Sulabh system of toilets. The Hindu religious community utilizes septic tank (75 i.e., 3.3 percent), soakage PIT/Sulabh system of toilets (608 i.e., 27.0 percent), and other facilities (34 i.e., 1.5 percent). The Christian religious community utilizes septic tank (213), soakage PIT/Sulabh system of toilets (1332 i.e., 59.2 percent), and other facilities (87 i.e., 3.8 percent). Other religious communities also utilize septic tank (117 i.e., 5.2 percent), soakage PIT/Sulabh system of toilets (1138 i.e., 50.6 percent), and other facilities (41 i.e., 1.8 percent).

The overall scenario of the district has been marked by unhygienic and unhealthy practices.

3.3.4 Education

The base line survey reveals that there are altogether 81 educational institutions accessible to the people in the 25 sample villages, including those within, in the block and within the panchayats. On an average 1.6 institutions are there within the villages. It is surprising that not all the villages have a primary school within it.

Of the 81 educational institutions, 18 primary schools for boys, 12 middle school for boys, 25 High/HSec Schools for boys, 1 religious school, 24 non-formal education institutions, and 1 other (unclassified) education institution in the studied region. Out of these 81 institutions 66 (81.5 percent) have pucca approach road and 15 (81.5 percent) have kutcha. While around 34 percent (14) of the rural institutions have kutcha approach roads, all the institutions at the block level (13) and around 92 percent (26) at the



Panchayat level have pucca approach roads. However, all the institutions are approachable by road.

Distance-wise, 26 educational institutions are approachable within a range of 2 kms by road, 7 are within the range of 2 – 5 kms, and 7 are situated at a distance of more than 5 kms.

3.3.5 Health Facilities

The sample villages reported to have health care centres at accessible distance of 1 to more than 5 kilometers.

Altogether, the 25 sample villages have access to 86 health care centres including Health Sub centre, Primary Health Centre (PHC), Community Health Centre (CHC), Hospitals/dispensaries, Maternity/Child care centres, Family Planning Clinic, Medicine shop, Private Allopathic Doctors etc.

The villagers mostly avail these facilities by walking or occasionally on vehicles.

On an average one sub-centre is available in each the villages providing health care facilities to the villagers.

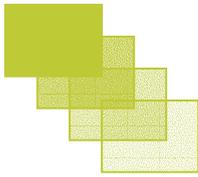
Altogether 2 doctors and 12 ANM nurses and 4 beds are available in the CHCs, PHCs and SCs in the 25 surveyed villages. The ratio of doctors per person is 1:5318. While the ratio of ANM per person 1:886, the bed person ratio is 1:2659. All these figures indicate a stark deficit of these facilities. As per the Bhore Committee (1946) recommendation, which is the standard norms followed in the country till date the recommended ratios are doctor 1:1600, nurse 1:600 and bed 1:175. Altogether 7 medicine retailers are also present in the area.

3.3.6 Other Facilities

As the primary data on village level survey reveals that distance from the villages to the nearest block head quarters and nearest town ranges from 1 km to more than 18 kms. It is also to note that the majority of the villagers have to cover a distance of more than 10 kms to reach the block head quarter and the nearest town. The transport and communication systems of the villages are poor causing hardships to the villagers. The nearest bus stop is available within an average distance of 3-16 kms. Similar is the case with post-offices and banks. Facilities like markets, shops, mandis, etc is available within the radius of 2 – 17 kms. However, the approach roads to different facilitators to the village community are mostly *pucca*.

3.4 Village Organizations

The organizational activity within the village is an important indicator of overall socio-economic development. The collected data shows that the some village level organizations are fairly active in the sample villages. Workers union, farmers organization, voluntary organizations, cultural organizations, youth and women



organizations, flood relief village security force and like organizations are not found in the surveyed villages. Three organizations, viz., credit, marketing and political organizations are active there. There are 21 co-operatives relating to credit disbursement, 2 production centres of Khadi and 24 marketing organizations. Besides there are 5 NGOs, 7 religious organizations, 22 political wings, 1 cultural organization, 1 youth mandal, and 11 women mandals.

Regarding the cooperatives it is found that 17 of them are fairly active in their activities. Besides the Khadi production centres, majority of the marketing bodies are also active.

The presence of active village organizations is indicative of the potentiality of capacity building of pressure groups within villages for ensuring proper governance at the grass root level. However, such a tendency is not observed in the surveyed villages. Comparative dominance of the political organizations without horizontal spread of the organizational structure could also mean not so well motivated political agenda of different political wings.

3.5 Crop Productivity Status

The economy of Lower Subansiri is agrarian with paddy as the prime crop. The survey results of the sample villages indicate that paddy is the major crop produced almost in all the villages. The maximum market price fetched for paddy one year before the survey as reported is Rs. 950 per quintal while the minimum price was Rs. 650 per quintal. Vegetables are another major cultivation in 10 of the villages of the study area. The maximum market price fetched for vegetables one year before the survey as reported is Rs. 2300 per quintal while the minimum price was Rs. 750 per quintal.

Table 3.3 - Crop Productivity Status

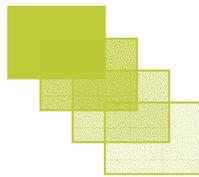
Crop	Average Yield (quintal)	Market Price (Rs.)	
		Highest	Lowest
Paddy	4.15	950	650
Vegetables	14.9	2300	750

3.6 Input Status for Cultivation

3.6.1 Current Inputs

As already explained, the production base of the sample villages mainly include paddy.

The survey data reveals that 1802 cultivators use canal irrigation while 10 of the cultivators use chemical fertilizers and 585 cultivators use pesticides/insecticides. This is the clear symptom of unprivileged agricultural mechanization as well as inability of the soil to produce sufficient marketable surplus.



3.6.2 Capital Inputs

Investment and use of capital inputs in agricultural practices symbolizes agro-mechanization leading to growth of farm productivity. The village survey shows that there is no use of capital inputs like pump set, tractor, power tiller, and improved cattle livestock etc.

It is observed that agricultural productivity in the region is not sufficient to maintain sufficient marketable surplus.

3.7 Handicraft

Handicraft and artisan works provide sizeable amount of additional income source to the village economy. In a number of cases, such activities become mainstay of the households. However, in the surveyed villages, it is found that the majority of the households are not interested in handicraft and other artisan works. In 11 of the 25 villages under study, handicraft works are simultaneously done with agricultural works. Altogether 85 households (around 4 percent) are actively associated with the artisan works in the studied villages.

However, as reported, most of the products in this segment do not have a proper market. Insufficiency of raw materials is another serious problem.

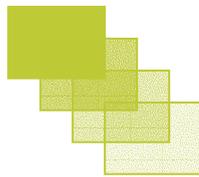
3.8 Credit

3.8.1 Purpose for availing Credit

Based on the responses of the villagers of the sample villages, it may be said that the major purpose of availing credit is the requirement arising out of sudden expenses. Out of the four different types of households, rural labour households from 23 villages incurred debt for this purpose. Small farmers put the reason of meeting the cost of agriculture along with sudden requirements for availing credit from different sources. Artisans and small businessmen are also found compelled by sudden requirements of business as well as family as the major purpose of availing credit. Agricultural investment related the medium and large farmers as well as the artisan households mostly showed credit requirements.

Table 3.4 - Purpose for Availing Credit

Household Type	Major Cause	Secondary Causes
Labourers	Meeting sudden expenses	Cultivation Cost (All types)
Small Cultivators	Meeting sudden expenses	Cultivation Cost (Current)
Medium & Large Cultivators	Meeting Current Cultivation Cost	Sudden expenses + investment in machinery
Artisans and Other Business	Meeting sudden expenses	Cultivation Cost, Investment in equipments



3.8.2 Sources of Credit

The survey findings report that the labourers and small farmers avail credit mostly from the village moneylenders as well as landlords for meeting sudden expenses along with current cultivation costs. There is a distinct difference of the source of credit of the medium & large cultivators with the labourers and the small-cultivators. The major source of credit of the medium & large cultivators is the institutional credit while the others rely upon friends and relatives. Moneylenders and landlord employers are the secondary sources of availing credit. The overall picture presents that there is twin problem of institutional credit availability and use. On the one hand, the financial institutions may not be interested in deploying agriculture loans, and on the other hand, it may also be possible that due to ignorance and illiteracy of the stakeholders, they cannot realize the impact of developmental financial plans. In case of artisans and small businessmen the major source of credit is reported to be the institutional sources.

Table 3.5 - Sources of Credit

Household Type	Main Source of Credit	Secondary Sources of credit
Labourers	Friends & relatives	Moneylenders, Landlord, Institutional credit
Small- Cultivators	Friends & relatives	Moneylenders, Landlord, Institutional credit
Medium & Large Cultivators	Friends & relatives	Moneylenders, Landlord, Institutional credit
Artisans & Other Business	Friends & relatives	Moneylenders, Landlord, Institutional credit

3.9 Migration, Employment and Wage Income Earning

Out of the total population of the sample villages, 449 went out of the village to search jobs in the neighboring village/blokes and 140 settled outside the village but within the district of Lower Subansiri.

The survey also showed that of the 25 sample villages, people from 23 villages move out looking for works on daily basis. The monthly income of the migrated workers ranges from Rs. 2800 to Rs. 5,800.

The survey data indicates that over the years there has been increase in the supply of casual labour in 23 of the 25` sample villages. Most of the migrant workers have been helped by the relatives or friends to get jobs outside their villages. It also indicates that migration of agricultural labour is basically due to the livelihood problem. Similarly, the existing wage rates in villages are not of any acceptable status. Moreover, gender disparity has been very high. This discrepancy is prominent in government programmes also. The evil of child labour may also be noticed in the surveyed villages.

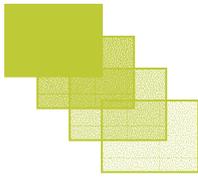


Table 3.6 - Average wage income by kind of works

Wage Rate	Ploughing Land	Weeding/ Iterculture	Trans-planting	Har-vesting	Thre-shing	Un-skilled	Skilled	Govt. Prog-ramme
Male	89.60	89.60	89.60	89.60	89.60	73.80	190.80	60.80
Female	67.20	67.20	67.20	92.40	92.40	54.80	132.40	60.80

Religious group wise government jobs among village populations across the sample villages show 123 Hindus, 364 Christians, and 238 persons from other religions are in government jobs. Altogether 65 Scheduled Tribe personnel have also been appointed in government jobs.

3.10 Rural Development Programmes and Beneficiaries Assisted

3.10.1 Sponsored Programmes

23 of the total of 25 sample villages reported implementation of some programmes associated with rural sector development during the last three years. Some of the programmes under implementation are SGRY, PMGSY, and NREGA etc. Out of such programmes PMGSY has so far allotted Rs.700, 000 for developmental activities under it. It is to note that PMGSY covered eight of the sample villages. Other programmes have so far allotted Rs.900, 000,00 in 10 of the 25 sample villages. Moreover, it is also found that the developmental programmes so far been undertaken have not adequately assisted the households. It is clear from the wide discrepancies in wage payments, inclusion of workers etc. Besides, there is a clear indication of lower induction of females in such developmental programmes.

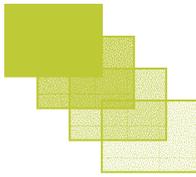
At present altogether 54 projects are being conducted in the areas like education, health/nutrition, drinking water, agriculture, irrigation, and transport.

3.10.2 Old Age Pension & Widow Pension

Provisions for old age pensions and widow pensions are two important indicators of welfare state. In the base line survey, it was found that there has been a gradual but positive increase in the providing old-age pension to the senior citizens since 2001-02. However, data on widow pensioners could not be found.

Table 3.7 - Pension Beneficiaries

Assessment Year	Old-age Pension
Total	956
2002-03	719
2007-08	337



3.11 Public Distribution System

9 out of the 25 villages under study possess the facilities of the public distribution system. The total number of PDS outlets is 10 with a range of 2 – 5 kms., of the households. Out of the 25 villages availing PDS benefits, 9 of them have PDS shop within the villages. Scheme wise, the PDS includes schemes like Antodaya, BPL and APL. A brief account of the scheme wise beneficiaries is given in the following Table:

Table 3.8 - Scheme-wise Beneficiaries under PDS

Scheme	Households Assisted			
	Hindu	Christian	ST	Total
Antyodaya	40	96	147	283 (12.75%)
BPL	420	949	843	2212(98.3%)
APL	254	479	443	1176 (52.26%)

The households reported to be comfortable with the distance of the outlets as well as the behaviour of the dealers. However mixed responses are found regarding goods supplied allotment of quota per family, regularity of supply, honesty in measurement and pricing, quality of grains etc. From this, it may be concluded that the operating mechanism of PDS might have some definite flaws, which needs urgent attention.

3.12 Common Property Utilization Pattern

Ownership and utilization of common property in Indian village structure has been a common feature. The common property resources in the surveyed villages include village pond, pasture land, government/garmzrua land, etc were found. Except pasture land and forests, the majority of the inhabitants have not used other common resources. This automatically reflects lack of proper maintenance of these resources. In some case, it was also found that there has been encroachment of such property by some households.

There are 4 forest locations, 10 Government land areas, 13 Schools, 11 government building, 65 SHGs, 23 ICDS centres (13 in government building; 10 in Private building). The villages commonly use these resources.

3.13 Development Realizations

The villages under study have mixed experiences of development over the years. In certain segments there has been some positive development while in some other areas the villages are worse off. A brief account of these realizations is given in the following Table.

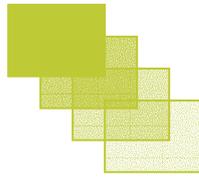


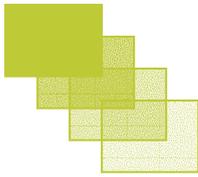
Table 3.9 -Reasons for improvement of villages

Development Indices		Level of Betterment	Total Villages
		Better Off	
REASON - 1	Public Irrigation	13	13
	Drinking water	11	11
	Total	24	24
REASON - 2	Public Irrigation	1	1
	Wage rates	1	1
	Drinking water	10	10
	Access to education	5	5
	Access to roads	8	8
	Total	25	25
REASON - 3	Agricultural productivity	1	1
	Drinking water	2	2
	Health facilities	2	2
	Access to education	2	2
	Access to roads	4	4
	Access to electricity	12	12
	Access to Electricity	4	4
	Total	25	25

It may be seen from the Table above that the concerned villages have developed to the satisfaction of the inhabitants to a large extent. Despite this certain areas are not having sufficient attention of the developmental programmes of the Government.

3.14 Summary

The village survey findings reveal that the sample villages of the district suffer from serious deprivation relating to public health, education, and other social sectors. From the productivity status, it is found that low farm productivity and insufficient market supply resulted from a host of basic problems like lack or insufficient irrigation facilities, absence of farm mechanization and farmers' ignorance. ■



RESULT OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

4.1 Religious and Caste Composition

Out of the total sample households of 25 identified villages of the district of Lower Subansiri, 65.2 per cent (460) are Christian, followed by, 7.4 per cent (52) of Hindu, and 27.5 percent (194) other religious communities. The total households form a total of 706. As elaborated in Table 4.1, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population constitutes 99.7 per cent of the total sample population with a negligible number of (0.3) Other Backward Caste (OBC).

4.2 Mother Tongue

Majority of the respondent households reported local dialect of Arunachal Pradesh (99.9 per cent) as their mother tongue while the remaining households reported Hindi (0.1 per cent) as their mother tongue. Religion wise, 7.4 per cent Hindu and 65.0 per cent Christian and 27.5 per cent of the total population representing other religious communities reported dialect of Arunachal Pradesh as their mother tongue. (Table 4.2).

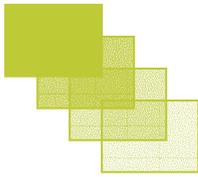
4.3 Age and Sex

Of the total population (3176) of the households under study, 1603 (50.47 per cent) are male and 1573 (49.53 per cent) are female. Of the total male population, 66.75 per cent are Christians followed by 26.39 from other religions and 6.86 per cent Hindus. Similarly, of the total female population, 64.78 per cent are Christians followed by 28.03 from other religions and 7.18 per cent Hindus. It is apparent that the Christian community mainly dominates the region under study. The details are given in Table 4.3.

Religion-wise, it is found that the number of dependents in Christian families is higher than other families. As the baseline survey indicates, 12.8 per cent and 27.8 per cent of the Christian population are below 6 years and 6-14 years respectively. Similarly, 10.6 per cent and 28.1 per cent of the population representing other religions are below 6 years and 6-14 years respectively. On the other hand, regarding Hindu population, it is found that 15.7 per cent and 21.5 per cent of the population are below 6 years and 6-14 years respectively. Besides, about 3.0 per cent of the total population represents people above 60 years of age.

In the age group 15-60 years, similar situation may be observed. In this age group 42.51 per cent are Christian, followed by, 39.91 per cent of Hindu, and 42.01 other religious communities.

The present sample survey reveals a positive picture regarding sex ratio. The sex ratio for the sample villages is worked out to be 981 per thousand male. Religion wise, the sex ratio for the Christians is 952, for Hindus, the ratio is 1027 and for other religious group it is 1042.



4.4 Household Size

Majority of the sample households (77.8 per cent) are found to have family size up to 5 members while about 22.1 per cent households are of 6-10 members. Religion-wise, 78.8 per cent of the Hindus, 78.5 per cent of the Christians, and 75.8 per cent of other religious groups have family size of up to 5 members; while 21.2 per cent of the Hindus, 21.5 per cent of the Christians, and 22.1 per cent of other religious groups have family size of 6-10 members. On the other hand, only 0.1 per cent households are found with family size of more than 10 members. It is to note that of this 0.5 per cent represent religions other than Hindu and Christian (Table 4.4).

4.5 Marital Status

As shown in Table 4.5, 61.5 per cent of the Hindus, 64.5 per cent of the Christians and 62.5 per cent of other religious groups are married.

The baseline clearly indicates that the region under study does not have any evidence of the incidence of child marriage. Similarly, 0.1 per cent of the Christians and 0.9 per cent of other religious groups are married in the age group 15-18 years. In the age group of 19-25, 3.8 per cent of the Hindus, 3.6 per cent of the Christians and 5.0 per cent of other religious groups are married. In the age group of 26-30, 15.4 per cent of the Hindus, 10.7 per cent of the Christians and 14.5 per cent of other religious groups are married. Moreover, in the age group of 31-45, 26.9 per cent of the Hindus, 31.5 per cent of the Christians and 26.1 per cent of other religious groups are married.

Late marriage is also found (in the age group 45-60 years). 14.1 per cent of the Hindus, 16.2 per cent of the Christians and 13.0 per cent of other religious groups are married at this age. Similarly 1.3 per cent of the Hindus, 2.2 per cent of the Christians and 3.1 per cent of other religious groups are married in the age group of above 60 years.

The rate of divorce/separation is not found among the sample population. The number of widow/widower is highest above the age of 40 years, both all the religious groups.

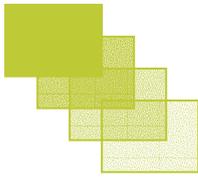
The total unmarried population comprises 30.8 per cent of the Hindus, 30.9 per cent of the Christians and 29.2 per cent of other religious groups are un-married.

4.6 Educational Status

Educational deprivation is prominent in the sample population. Of the total sample population, 26.5 per cent of the Hindus, 21.4 per cent of the Christians and 19.4 per cent of other religious groups are found illiterate.

Moreover, female illiteracy (16.1 per cent of the Hindus, 13.1 per cent of the Christians and 12.5 per cent of other religious groups) is higher than male illiteracy (10.3 per cent of the Hindus, 8.3 per cent of the Christians and 6.9 per cent of other religious groups).

Of the total population 19.7 per cent of the Hindus, 26.6 per cent of the Christians and 27.5 per cent of other religious groups are found to have primary level of education.



While 21.5 per cent of the Hindus, 22.1 per cent of the Christians and 23.7 per cent of other religious groups have completed the middle level of education.

About 10 per cent of the Hindus, 7.0 per cent of the Christians and 10.3 per cent of other religious groups have completed matriculation level of education.

As is evident the education level of the population in all religious groups is mainly confined to primary and middle levels only (Table 4.6). Not more than 1 per cent of the sample population is found to have managerial, technical or, post-graduate qualification.

4.7 Occupations and Employment

4.7.1 Occupation and Industry

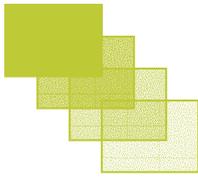
Religion-wise, there is not much difference in work participation rates among male workers but some difference is observed in case of female workers. Altogether 44.54 per cent male and 35.40 per cent female Hindu, 45.23 per cent male and 40.53 per cent female Christians, and 43.26 per cent male and 40.82 per cent female belonging to other religious groups form the total workforce.

Table 4.7 shows the occupation, sex and religion wise distribution of the sample population reported to have main occupation. The table reiterates that the female work participation rate, irrespective of religion, is considerably poor.

Farming being the largest source of livelihood absorbing 24.0 per cent of the Hindu male workers, 29 percent Christians and 26 percent from other religious groups. In case of females, farming absorbs 26.0 per cent of the Hindu female workers. This proportion is 20.9 percent for the Christians and 24.8 percent for other religious groups. Production and related works also absorbs a section of populations (15.6 per cent Hindus, 6.9 per cent Christians, and 7.8 per cent other). However, no women are engaged in production and related activities.

Table 4.10 shows the employment days of different workers in their main occupation. Clearly witnessing a scenario of underemployment, the table shows that 40.3 per cent of the Hindus, 36.1 per cent of the Christians, and 40.2 per cent of other religious groups work for greater part of the year. It is to note that 1.3 per cent of the Hindus, 3.7 per cent of the Christians and 2.9 per cent of other religious groups are for less than 100 days a year. It is found that the majority of the population work for 101 to 180 days a year (42.9 per cent of the Hindus, 39.1 per cent of the Christians and 31.4 per cent of other religious groups).

In case of employment in the secondary sector, the survey reveals that 80.0 per cent of the Hindus, 66.3 per cent of the Christians and 63.6 per cent of other religious groups can work maximum of 100 days per year. The situation of female workers is deplorable in case of secondary occupation also (Table 4.11).



4.7.2 Self-Employment Scenario

Table 4.9 indicates that about 50 per cent of the total workforce is engaged in self-employment activities. Such activities include agro-based works such as livestock farming, horticulture, fishing, forestry, agro-based manufacturing etc. On the other hand, non-farm self employment activities including a number of activities such as wholesale and retail trade, transport, storage and communication, financing, insurance, electricity-gas and water related activities. The self-employed people essentially constitute this section of workers.

4.7.3 Additional Employment and Preference

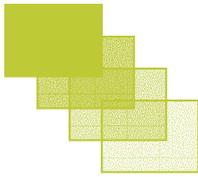
The table 4.10 revealed that a sizeable section of the main labour force from all religious groups are under employed. Consequently, about 23.2 per cent of the sample population, as reported, is looking for more employment (Table 4.12). The preferences for additional employment are given in Table 4.13. It is worth noting that more than 59.2 per cent of the total households are seeking self-employment activities as additional employment sources. The religion wise breakup is 61.3 per cent of the Hindus, 58.9 per cent of the Christians and 59.1 per cent of other religious groups. As many as 35.4 per cent of the total population favoured salaried jobs. Other activities relating to manual labour and services were listed lowest in the priority list of the religious segments

4.7.4 Migrant Workers

The baseline survey reveals that altogether 22 workers (5 Hindus, 15 Christians and 2 other religious groups) migrate to different places outside their villages in search of employment. Table 4.14 reveals the occupation of the migrant workers. It is found that majority of the workers move out of the village for administrative & clerical works, business, services, and production & related works.

Migration pattern of workers may be divided into urban as well as rural. Considering rural migration 60.0 per cent of the Hindu migrants, 86.7 per cent of the Christian migrants and all of the migrants representing other religious groups migrate to different places within the district. Besides, outside state rural migration is found in case of the Hindu migrant workers only (20.0 per cent). On the other hand, in case of urban migration within state it is found that 20.0 per cent of the Hindus and 13.3 per cent of the Christians migrated to different urban centres within the state. (Table 4.15).

Table 4.16 reveals the duration of migration of labour from the concerned villages. It is found that 40.0 per cent of the Hindus migrant workers migrate for longer duration. This indicates that the Hindu workers get comparatively longer duration of jobs in the place of their migration.



4.8 Land and other Assets

4.8.1 Cultivated Land: Ownership and Operational Holding

Table 4.17 shows the pattern of cultivated land distribution. Witnessing considerable magnitude of landlessness in the district, as the table reveals, 76.5 per cent of the Hindus, 57.3 per cent of the Christians and 36.1 per cent of other religious household do not possess their own cultivated land. Moreover, dominance of marginal and small farmers also creates lower productivity of agriculture in the sample villages. The table reveals that 19.6 per cent of the Hindus, 37.3 per cent of the Christians and 51.0 per cent of other religious groups are marginal by the nature of the ownership of cultivated land. Similarly, 3.9 per cent of the Hindus, 5.4 per cent of the Christians and 12.9 per cent of other religious groups represent small farmers. Medium and large agricultural land holding is found to be absent in the surveyed villages. The problem of the lack of ownership of the cultivable land is universal in the village households, it was not found associated with religious segmentation.

In terms of operational holdings, 83.3 per cent of the Hindus, 86.5 per cent of the Christians and 79.7 per cent of other religious groups belong to the category of marginal farmers. In addition, 16.7 per cent of the Hindus, 12.5 per cent of the Christians and 20.3 per cent of other religious groups are small farmers (Table 4. 18). It is needless to say that the differences in terms of ownership and operational cultivated land are mainly due to the process of leasing in and leasing out and also mortgage of cultivated land, the phenomena, which are relatively new in the hill tribal societies of North East India. Apart from the practices of share cropping on 50:50 basis, especially the marginal farmers (in terms of ownership holding), has also been severely affected by the increasing practices of mortgaging of land for the purposes of acquiring smaller loans.

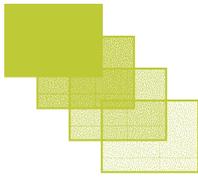
4.9 Livestock

In terms of livestock, the sample households mainly possess milch animals, draught animals, young cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and cocks/hen/duck. 5.8 per cent of the Hindus, 68.8 per cent of the Christians and 25.3 per cent of other religious groups possess milch animals. 7.3 per cent of the Hindus, 68.7 per cent of the Christians and 24.0 per cent of other religious groups have young cattle; 14.0 per cent of the Hindus, 72.0 per cent of the Christians and 14.0 per cent of other religious groups have goats. Besides, the communities also possess other types of livestock also (Table 4.19).

4.10 Ownership of Productive and other Assets

4.10.1 Agricultural Implements

Among the various types of agricultural implements, the households under study mainly possess traditional implements like plough and bullock along with similar implements. Use of modern agricultural implements is found conspicuously absent, which witnesses predominance of primitive form of agriculture, especially shifting cultivation.



4.10.2 Transport

The common personal means of transportation of the surveyed households is two-wheelers such as Motor Cycle and Scooter. A few four-wheelers were also reported to be possessed by the households. The households also make use of the public vehicles where accessible.

4.11 Housing Status

4.11.1 House type and availability of living space

The baseline survey reveals that the distribution of household status among the sample households (Table 4.20) shows that the majority of the households possess their own houses.

Nevertheless, of the section of households with own house, 9.6 per cent of the Hindus, 4.8 per cent of the Christians and 5.2 per cent of other religious groups possess Kutchha housing. On the other hand 15.4 per cent of the Hindus, 14.8 per cent of the Christians and 18.0 per cent of other religious groups possess semi-pucca houses. As against this, 3.8 per cent of the Hindus, 3.3 per cent of the Christians and 4.1 per cent of other religious groups possess pucca houses. However, 67.3 per cent of the Hindus, 72.4 per cent of the Christians and 72.7 per cent of other religious groups reported to live in other type of houses (Table 4.21).

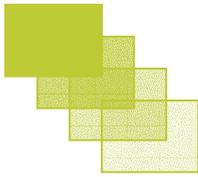
The availability of housing space for the sample households (Table 4.22) reveal that majority of the households (54.9 per cent of the Hindus, 51.3 per cent of the Christians and 50.5 per cent of other religious groups possess) possess 2 rooms. However, households having living space of 5-10 rooms are few in number (3.9 per cent of the Hindus, 2.0 per cent of the Christians and 3.1 per cent of other religious groups).

It is evident from the available data that the condition of housing in the studied region does not suffice the needs of maintaining proper standard of life. Moreover, the condition of all the respondents irrespective of religion is similar regarding housing status.

4.11.2 Domestic lighting and fuel use

As revealed in Table 4.23, around 94.62 per cent of the households possess electricity connection. Of this, 86.5 per cent Hindus, 93.9 per cent Christian, and 98.5 per cent from other religious group have used electricity for domestic lighting purposes.

Considering the other sources of lighting (Table 4.24), it is found that 57.1 per cent Hindus, 57.1 per cent Christian, and 66.7 per cent of households from other religion use oil lamps. Besides, oil lamps as sources of lighting other than electricity, the households also reported to have used lanterns, petromax and other sources of energy. 42.9 per cent Hindus, 32.1 per cent Christian, and 33.3 per cent of respondent households from other religion use other sources of lighting along with the oil lamps.



The fuel used for cooking is very important for better health, especially for the women who are normally assigned the duty of cooking in Indian families. As per the Census Report of 2001, just about 60 per cent of the rural households do not use any of the modern fuels for cooking such as Liquid Petroleum gas (LPG), electricity or even kerosene. Use of conventional fuel sources like wood, hay/leaves, coal and cow dung cakes emit smoke leading to different kinds of health hazards for the womenfolk. Although wood is the primary source of cooking among the sample households (23.1 per cent Hindus, 27.2 per cent Christian, and 35.1 per cent of respondent households from other religion), it is used in combination of other sources like kerosene, hay/leaves, coal etc. Use of LPG is found negligible among the sample households. Table 4.28 reveals the composition of fuel sources as used by the sample households.

4.11.3 Drinking water facilities

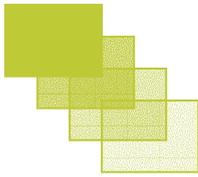
Easy access to safe drinking water has been one of the basic objectives under ARWSP. The baseline reveals that nearly 90 per cent of the households have access to the sources of safe drinking water such as own or public hand pump, protected dug well etc. Nevertheless, a little more than 10 per cent of the households still depend on unsafe sources of drinking water such as unprotected dug well, river etc. It is worth noting that about 4 per cent of the total sample households still depend on pond, stream, river etc. for drinking water. Religion wise, as Table 4.25 shows, 63.5 per cent Hindus, 61.5 per cent Christian, and 64.9 per cent of respondent households from other religion, use public tap as drinking water source. Other sources of water supply have been availed by small segments of the population.

It is also observed (Table 4.26) that majority of the households avail water supply sources within short distance of less than 10-50 metres (41.7per cent Hindus, 55.2 per cent Christian, and 63.2 per cent of respondent households from other religion). Similarly, 50.0 per cent Hindus, 38.5 per cent Christian, and 30.5 per cent of respondent households from other religion have to cover a distance of 51-100 metres for water.

4.11.4 Sanitation and Drainage Facility

Sanitation facility is found to be inadequate in the studied region. The baseline survey reveals that more than 90.0 per cent of the households do not have sanitary latrine. The place of defecation for majority of them is pit latrine. As in Table 4.27, only around 7.7 percent Hindu, 7.6 per cent Christian, and 9.3 per cent of households from other religion have septic tank facility. Majority of them use pit latrines (73.1 percent Hindu, 71.7 per cent Christian, and 59.8 per cent other religion).

Another 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. Absence of drainage facilities is observed in more than 90 percent of the households (Table 4.29). Only a miniscule of them (11.5 per cent Hindu, 7.0 per cent Christian, and 6.2 per cent of other religion) has drainage facilities inside residential campuses.



4.12 Indebtedness of Rural Households

The incidences of indebtedness among the sample households are minimal. All the Hindu households, 99.8 per cent Christian, and 99.5 per cent of households from other religion are not indebted at present (Table 4.30).

Some indebted households as per the sample data have taken multiple loans (Table 4.31). However, the households having debt burden of two or more than two loans comprise a small portion of the total households.

The source wise distribution of the incidence of the burden of indebtedness is shown in Table 4.32. It reveals that the institutional mechanism plays a pivotal role in providing rural credit preceded by the sources of friends/relatives.

Purpose wise incidence of indebtedness among sample households reveals that the households incur debts for reasons like capital expenditure in non-farm business and other (unspecified) household expenditures.

Size and class wise distribution of indebtedness show that there exist no significant difference between religious groups.

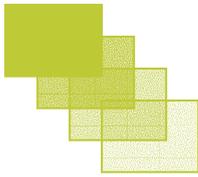
4.13 Income and Expenditure

Tables 4.35 through Table 4.42 give a clear picture of the pattern of spending in the sample households. While more than one fourth of the Christian households earn below 19,200 per year, less than one fourth of Hindu households and households belonging to other religion fall in this category (Table 4.33). Similarly, more number of Hindu (15.4%) and other religion (17.5%) households having an income of more than 72,000 per year than the Christian households (12.0%).

However, more than 70 percent of the households belonging to the three religious groups spend more than Rs. 9000 per month for household consumption of cereals and pulses (Table 4.34), and the same amount is spent on vegetable meat and milk by the Christian households while little lesser percentage of the Hindu (69.2 %) and the other religion (58.2%) spend the same amount of money on these items.

Compared to the expenditure on food consumption the other expenditures such as in clothes, foot wares, beddings etc. are much less (Rs.2691 and above is being spent by 77 to 81 percent of the households). However, among all the religious groups proportion of the Christians is slightly more in this category, indicating slightly larger number of Christian spending more on these items.

It is surprising that 48 percent of Hindu households, 29 percent Christian and 32 percent households of the other religious groups do not spend anything on education. While 39 percent, 44 percent and 41 percent of the respective categories spend more than Rs. 851.00 in education.



Similarly, 75 percent to 81 percent of the households belonging to the three religious groups incur no health related expenditure. This could be due to good health, indigenous herbal treatment with no monetary cost or due to non-availability of medical facilities nearby. However, a small percentage of the households spend more than Rs. 2101 in health (Table 4.38).

Around 31 to 38 percent of the households spend a considerable amount of money (Rs.3251.00) on festival and ceremonies. Among the three religious groups, households belonging to other religious groups (mainly ST households) spend more on this account, followed by the Hindu and Christian households. 74 to 83 percent of the households spend between Rs.1001-5000 on electricity, cooking gas etc (Table 4.40).

While 69 to 51 percent of the households belonging to the three religious groups do not spend on telephones, more than 29 percent to 44 percent spend above Rs. 2410 on the same account (Table 4.40).

More than 63 to 78 percent of households did not spend on house repairing account during the last one year. Around 35 percent of the Hindu, 18 percent of the Christian and 21 percent of the other religion households spent between 1001-5000 on account of house repairing.

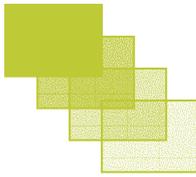
The patterns of spending among the households during the last one year prior to the survey reveal that the spending is confined to the basics of consumption. Although there is not much difference in terms of expenditure on food items among the three religious categories, expenditure on education, cloth, foot ware etc. is comparatively more among the Christian households while expenditure on health, ceremonies and telephone is more among the other religion, i.e., ST households.

4.14 Current Educational Status, Skill and Training

Table 4. 43 to Table 49 provide the details of the educational status of the sample population across religion. The important aspects revealed by the present sample survey are summarized in the following paragraphs.

The schooling status of the sample households represents that 56.8 per cent Hindu (28.4 male & 28.4 Female), 68.2 per cent Christian (36.4 male; 31.9 female), and 75.4 per cent of respondent households (39.8 male; 35.6 female) from other religion are enrolled in Government schools and they are found regular in their activities. Combining those who are in private schools the figures go up to 70.4, 82.5 and 86.1 respectively.

Yet the children out of school are also very large. It is found that 29.6 per cent Hindu, 17.5 per cent Christian, and 13.8 per cent of members from other religion were either not enrolled in formal schooling or left school after enrolling in the school. Thus, although comparatively high enrollment rate in public educational institutions and maintenance of regularity in attending the schools by the pupils reflect an encouraging educational environment, it is a cause of concern that a considerable number of children are out of school. Among the three religious communities the households from other religion are faring better than the Christian and Hindu households.



Educational qualification concentrates at primary level for majority of each of the religious groups (34.6% Hindu, 45.5% Christian and 49.7% other), while middle level holds approximately 32 percent, 22 percent and 21 percent of members respectively. Around 11 percent of both Hindu and Christian population and 16 percent of the population of other religion have completed either high school or higher secondary levels. There is no population above that level in the Hindu and Christian households.

The children of the households mainly attend the government institutions (more than 84 % from each religious groups). While less than 15 percent of them attend private institutions, only a miniscule of them go to the missionary schools (Table 4.45). However, a large section of them drop before completing the cycle, either in the beginning or at the intermediate level. While the need to work at home is the major reason for the Hindu children (33.3%), followed by failed examination (27.8%) and not interested in studies (16.7%), for majority of the Christian children it is not interested in studies (32.3%) and failed examination (29.1%) followed by the need to earn money (13.4%) are the main reasons for dropping out of school. Similarly, for the children belonging to the other religion the chief reason for dropping out of school is failed examination (37.5%) followed by lack of interest (35%) (Table 4.46).

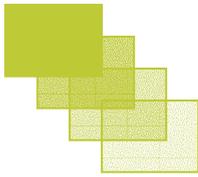
For majority of the parents of the present students the aspiration for boys is to see them as graduates with bachelor's degree (Hindus 41%, Christians 51% and Others 48%), followed by Intermediate (22.7%) and pre graduation (18.2%) for the Hindus, Intermediate (15.5%) and Post-Graduation (14.9%) for the Christians and Pre-Graduation (18.3%) and Intermediate (15.1%) for those with other religious background (Table 4.47).

Surprisingly, more than 97 percent of the households from all the three religions are not interested in taking any training for any kind of skill development (Table 4.48). The lone person from the Hindu household sought training in tailoring, while Computer Operator, Auto Mechanic and on job training were the preferences for the other two religious groups (Table 4.49)

4.15 Present Health Scenario

The village household survey of the district reveals that the most prevalent diseases suffered by three the religious communities are cough and cold (26.7 per cent Hindu, 14.3 per cent Christian, and 5.4 per cent of respondents from other religion) common fever (6.7 per cent Hindu, 18.7 per cent Christian, and 18.9 per cent of respondent other religion), pregnancy related diseases (20.0 per cent Hindu, 14.3 per cent Christian, and 5.4 per cent of respondent other religion), malaria, and stomach ailment. Traces of Diarrhea, dysentery, and women & pregnancy related diseases were also found in the surveyed households. Other serious diseases like leprosy, jaundice, typhoid, polio etc., were found in very small spread (Table 4.50).

While majority of the ailing persons form all the households got treatment during the last one year from the government providers, this was more so among the Christian households (93.4%). However, considerable proportion of the patients from the Hindu and other religion households (26.7 % and 16.2%) respectively, got treatment from the



private medical practitioners as well. Only a miniscule of the patients from Christian and other religion got treatment from the traditional system like, unani, hakim, local vaidya etc., which is an encouraging factor (Table 4.51).

However, it is a point to note that no presence has been observed of local government health workers and the NGOs providing health services to the locality.

So far, the hospitalization of the patients is concerned; 6.6 percent Christian, and 10.8 per cent of respondent other religion were found to be admitted either in the public or private hospitals (Table 4.52). No Hindu patient was hospitalized for treatment during the period of one year prior to the survey. Approximately more than 85.0 per cent of the total households have not availed hospitalized medical treatment despite being sick.

4.16 Maternal and Child health

The Government of India has been making a continuous thrust on the improvement of maternal and child health care services in the country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also sponsoring various specific projects under the Maternal and Child Health Programme including Oral Re-hydration Therapy (ORT), Universal Immunisation Programme, and Polio Eradication Programme etc. In 1996, these entire 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 Programmes (ICDS). Under the ICDS, anganwadi centres were supposed to provide health, education and primary education from birth to the 6 years of age and nutritional & health related services to pregnant and breast feeding mothers.

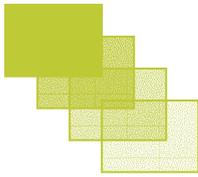
4.16.1 Immunization of Children below 5 Years

Immunisation of children against six vaccine-preventable diseases including tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and measles is vital for child health as it reduces infant and child mortality rates.

Children who receive one dose of BCG and measles each and three doses of DPT and Polio each, excluding the polio dose at birth, are considered fully immunized. The present survey shows that the percentage of children fully immunized is not entirely satisfactory. As Table 4.53 shows, 60.9 per cent male & 39.1 per cent female Hindu, 58.1 per cent male & 31.2 female Christian, and 52.9 per cent of male & 47.1 per cent female respondent other religion are fully immunized. That means a large section of the children are still to be covered under immunization process.

It is also found that about 78.3 per cent Hindu children, 83.7 per cent Christian children, and 88.2 per cent of children of other religion are fully immunized by the age of above 23 months (Table 4.54).

The role of government agencies regarding child immunization has been found satisfactory. Cent percent of the total children immunized, irrespective of religion, are



immunized at government efforts. The role of NGOs in this regard is totally insignificant (Table 4.55).

Lack of awareness (58.9 per cent) about the programme of child immunization and non-proximity of facility centres (36.4 per cent) are the main reasons of non-immunization of at least one fourth of the children not immunized (Table 4.56).

4.16.2 Delivery Care

One of the most important thrusts of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme is to encourage safe delivery with appropriate natal care system. As the National Family Health Survey 3 (2005-06), 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 governmental programmes and special incentives. It is observed that home births are more common in rural areas among women who receive non-antenatal benefits and care with no education. Safe motherhood requires increase in the institutional births, access to trained attendants and increase in literacy and material well being of the rural people.

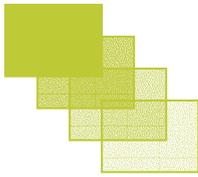
The present study indicates that 81.0 per cent Hindu mother, 96.3 per cent Christian mother, and 94.3 per cent of respondent mothers from other religions are taking place at home. Only 4.3 per cent of the women, irrespective of the religion, gave birth to their child in Government hospitals with a negligible 1.3 per cent in private hospitals (Table 4.57).

Regarding assistance in delivery of child the respondents were found relying more on the untrained dhai (52.4 per cent Hindu, 82.0 per cent Christian, and 75.5 per cent of respondent from other religions). The percentage of delivery under the supervision of the doctors or trained midwife is not encouraging (Table 4. 58).

4.17 Poor and the PDS Support

Public Distribution System (PDS) being a powerful instrument of welfare state aims primarily at the enhancement of the standard of living of the poor. Food security is the basic objective of the PDS. To attain this, the PDS incorporates requirements like provisioning for essential commodities at fair price, special provisions for the BPL families and various support programmes specifically meant for the poor.

Table 4.59 to Table 4. 64, various aspects of BPL households and their dependency on the PDS system of the surveyed villages are explained. In the surveyed households it was found that there exist mixed reactions relating to the functioning of the PDS system. It is found that 57.7 percent Hindu, 65.1 per cent Christian, and 59.1 per cent from other religions are BPL households. Out of the Hindu BPL families 96.7 per cent have BPL ration cards, out of the Christian BPL families 92.3 per cent have BPL ration cards, and out of total BPL households of other religions, 93.0 per cent have BPL ration cards



Regarding the availing of the PDS ration, 4.8 per cent Hindu, 44.6 per cent Christian, and 18.0 per cent of respondent from other religions have enjoyed the benefits from the PDF ration.

The effective functioning of the PDF system also depends upon its transparency of operation and making provisions for the focused groups. However, it is found in the survey that 3.7 per cent Hindu, 63.0 per cent Christian, and 33.3 per cent of respondent from other religions face the problem of lack of purchasing power in taking full benefits of procuring PDS supplies for consumption.

4.18.1 Awareness about Government Schemes

Generation of public awareness and community participation are the two major aspects of developmental planning of the democratic nations like India. The Government of India has initiated a number of programmes and policies to ascertain these two aspects. The benefits of such programmes are naturally reaped through active community involvement.

The survey responses regarding public participation and awareness are tabulated in Table 4.65 to Table 4.66. It is found that more than 50 per cent of the households are aware of the government schemes available for community benefits. In this context, it should be mentioned that the schemes for which the awareness factor is talked about are SGSY, NREGA, IAY, TSD Swajaldhara, ARWSP, Sarvasiksha, ICDS, Anganwadi, Old age/Widow pension, Maternity benefit schemes etc.

The study also reveals that there is no specific pattern of benefits enjoyed by a specific religious group from any of the programmes that have been implemented or in the process of implementation.

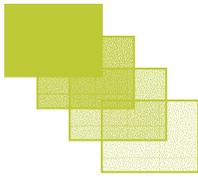
4.18.2 Participation in the Socio-political Affairs

People's participation in the socio-political affairs is a major factor determining the level of awareness and participation. Democratic decentralization of political power in the form of local governance has been one of the significant post-independence political developments of India. The essence of such decentralization process essentially needs active public participation with clarity of political ideology.

The baseline survey clearly indicates that political consciousness of the households under study is average. Almost 50.0 per cent of the households reported that they have actively participated in all the elections of the recent past including panchayat, assembly and parliamentary elections (Table 4. 67). So far membership to socio-religious organizations is concerned; no specific stress on the membership of SHGs, panchayat office bearers or membership of religious and other social organizations is found prominent Table 4.68).

4.18.3 Conflict, Insecurity and Access to Media and Communication

Problems and losses related to communal or other conflicts have also affected the respondent households to some extent. Such conflicts generally arouse the feeling of



insecurity among the people. Nevertheless, no reported families suffered from any violent conflict leading to major losses of life and property.

As far as the access to media and communication is concerned, the baseline indicates an overall low level of access. As the Table 4.69 is concerned, 0.4 per cent Hindu, 2.8 per cent Christian, and 1.4 per cent of respondent from other religions have the access to the reading of news papers. On the other hand, 0.1 per cent Hindu, 0.8 per cent Christian, and 1.3 per cent of respondent from other religions have the access to the radio broadcasting. 2.7 per cent Hindu, 26.9 per cent Christian, and 13.3 per cent of respondent from other religions have the access to the television. This is also an indication of low level of educational as well as economic condition of the households.

4.19 Aspirations

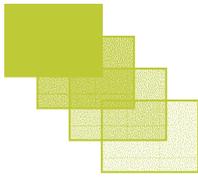
The study also tried to enquire into the level of aspirations of the people in the sample villages. As shown in Table 4.70, four most important facilities that the people think are lacking in their villages are communication (96.2 per cent Hindu, 91.7 per cent Christian, and 88.7 per cent of respondent from other religions), education facilities (15.4 per cent Hindu, 13.9 per cent Christian, and 12.9 per cent of respondent from other religions), drinking water (30.8 per cent Hindu, 40.2 per cent Christian, and 26.3 per cent of respondent from other religions), and health services (42.3 per cent Hindu, 35.9 per cent Christian, and 41.8 per cent of respondent from other religions).

In terms of deprivation, people mostly think that they are deprived of land (25.0 per cent Hindu, 27.6 per cent Christian, and 20.6 per cent of respondent from other religions), housing (25.0 per cent Hindu, 28.0 per cent Christian, and 33.5 per cent of respondent from other religions), health (26.9 per cent Hindu, 17.0 per cent Christian, and 12.4 per cent of respondent from other religions), employment (3.8 per cent Hindu, 7.2 per cent Christian, and 8.8 per cent of respondent from other religions), etc. (Table 4.71).

Therefore the major aspirations among the households emerge in terms of better transport and communication, improved electricity supply, provisions for safe drinking water, better healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. However, it is surprising to find that about 40 per cent of the households did not put their opinion regarding the welfare related aspirations for them.

The urgency of providing these services and opportunities to the minority concentrated areas can particularly be given importance due to their relative backwardness and poverty as evident from the present study.

It is to note that the surveyed households were also asked to put their opinions regarding welfare of the minority community living in that area. It is found that irrespective of religions, the respondents indicated some common requirements of development relating to development of adequate educational facilities in the region, communication etc. As shown in the Table 4.72, besides education, development of transport and communication, the households also stressed upon health services etc., for overall development of the minority communities there. ■



DEVELOPMENT DEFICITS

The overall analysis in earlier sections reveals that Lower Subansiri, on an average, is a performing district in some facets of development. High literacy, higher work participation rate, higher proportion of electrified households and access to safe drinking water are some of the areas where the district has performed well. However, the baseline survey points out some development deficits, which deserve immediate and adequate attention.

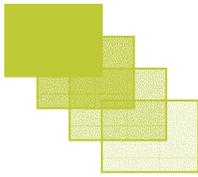
Developmental Deficits in Lower Subansiri District and their Priority Ranking

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Result	Estimate for India	Deficit	Priority Ranking attached
Socio-economic indicators					
1	Rate of literacy	75.77	67.30	8.47	5
2	Rate of female literacy	69.88	57.10	12.78	7
3	Work participation rate	60.40	38.00	22.40	9
4	Female work participation rate	42.57	21.50	21.07	8
Basic amenities indicators					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	3.54	59.40	-55.86	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	95.61	87.90	7.71	4
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	8.21	39.20	-30.99	3
8	Percentage of electrified households	94.62	67.90	26.72	10
Health indicators					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	56.09	43.50	12.59	6
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	5.53	38.70	-33.17	2

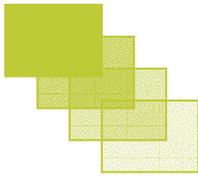
■ The survey of villages and the households revealed that the major development deficits in Lower Subansiri district includes its poor housing status, low infrastructure-transport and communication, sanitation, medical and health facilities and poor access to institutional credit.

■ Sanitation facilities are in bad state in the villages of the district. There is need of making more provisioning through state interventions in the villages. School sanitation in the district, as revealed by the baseline survey, is also in poor state.

■ Reproductive health requires serious attention in the villages of the district. In most of the cases child delivery takes place at home. Similarly, very few women are found receiving pre and post-natal care.



- The survey reveals missing government health facilities in most of the sample villages. Poor presence and infrequent visits of health personnel in the villages costs the villagers dear. The ICDS facilities in the villages are also in poor state though the services availed by many. Besides, access to the available health and education facilities are difficult in the villages largely because of poor connectivity.
- The overall condition of housing in this district found to be very poor, having a large number of kutchha houses. The coverage of IAY has been found to be insignificant in the district.
- Information reveals that agriculture in this district is still in rudimentary state like many areas of northeastern region. The situation demands effective land use plan. The agriculture sector needs attention for high value crops and modernization. Institutionalisation of credit system is another area that requires attention. Hence, programmes for overall agricultural development deserve mention.
- Preference for self-employment among the underemployed or unemployed is more prevalent than salaried jobs in the sample villages. This means that government needs to create more facilities for skill development training and make provisions of real services to keep the enthusiasm level high for the people in self-employment endeavour, which is grossly missing in most of the state departments in the state.
- In terms of lack of facilities in the sample villages and relative deprivation of the households, common perception of the people across the religion is that that road communication, education and health facilities now require more attention in the district. Along with these, housing and livelihood assurance are also major concerns. ■



LIST OF SURVEYED VILLAGES

Sl. No.	VILLAGE
1	Nencheniya
2	Nyoceng
3	Raksa
4	Sakti Basti
5	Gello Tabiang
6	Zorong
7	Deli
8	Tago
9	Seventy Three
10	Yazali
11	Lempia
12	Mudung - Tage
13	Dutta
14	Hari Village
15	Sibe
16	Michi-Bamin
17	Siro
18	Tejong
19	Molyang
20	Kalong
21	Reru
22	Hong
23	Hija - III
24	Old Zero - II
25	Hakhe-Tari