

BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT

Executive Summary of Mamit District (Mizoram)

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on 2001 census data with a purpose to improve all these indicators and bring it to the all India level through a multi-sector development plan under the eleventh five year plan. Since, it is expected that there must be changes in these indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Mamit, one of the most backward districts of Mizoram, stands at the bottom of the 90 minority concentration districts.

District Profile (2001 census based):

- In 2001, the population of Mamit district was 52132 and 82 per cent of the population was living in rural areas.
- Majority of the population (77.7 per cent) was of minority communities. Sex ratio was 1017 female per thousand male and literacy rate was 92.13 per cent.
- Rural areas are lacking proper health facilities. One-tenth of the villages of district Mamit have a PHC and only 1.2 per cent have MCW centre.
- The main drinking water sources are public (72 per cent), private (3.84 per cent) and others (24.16 per cent).
- 82.24 per cent of the households are defecating outside the household premises in open and 47.52 per cent of the households are without drainage facility in their dwellings.
- Educational facilities exclusively catering to the needs of girls students are very meager and a high/higher secondary school exclusively for girls is available at a distance of very long distance.

- Health facilities are very inadequate and none of the sample village has a PHC, hospital/dispensary, maternal and child care centre, and family planning clinic. Accessibility to health facilities is not satisfactory. Development and welfare orientation organizations are lacking in most of the villages.

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

- In 2008 (survey findings), Mamit lagged behind the all India average in three out of eight indicators and perform better than the all India level in terms of two more health related indicators. Table 1 below shows the gap between all India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritises the development intervention vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and all India figures are of 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all India figures may be higher, as all India data are a little old.

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

Sl. No.	Indicators	Mamit 2008	All India 2005	Gap Between All India and District	Priority based on the gap
		1	2	(3=1- 2)	4
1	Rate of literacy	92.90	67.3	25.6	6
2	Rate of female literacy	90.40	57.1	33.3	7
3	Work participation rate	61.16	38.0	23.16	5
4	Female work participation rate	59.77	21.5	38.27	8
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	5.76	59.4	-53.64	1
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	75.84	87.9	-12.06	3
7	Percentage of households with electricity	78.88	67.9	10.98	4
8	Percentage of households with water close set latrines	17.76	39.2	-21.44	2
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	86.82	43.5	43.32	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	49.38	38.7	10.68	-

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

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

Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators:

1. Houses with Pucca Walls:

All weather protected, pucca house, remains the top most critical, as only 5.76 per cent of the households are living in pucca houses. One-third and 9.92 per cent of the households live in thatched and katcha houses respectively and 42.72 per cent of them

live in semi pucca houses. IAY needs to be strengthened and penetrated more in the district.

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

2. In-house Toilet Facilities:

In-house toilet facility is the second most important critical gap. In the district Mamit, 82.24 per cent of households are without any toilet facilities and defecating in open. The drainage system is also very poor and 47.52 per cent of the households are without drainage facility in their dwellings. There is not much differential between Hindu and Muslim households regarding toilet and drainage facilities, which shows uniform lack of sanitation facilities in the rural household.

All this makes it clear that the scheme like Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme, aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities is going on for quite some time with the target to achieve universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, has not made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation and drainage in Mamit district, and the existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely miss the target, which calls for better implementation of the TSC and to extend its coverage to uncovered villages through the multi-sector development plan.

3. Safe Drinking Water:

The provisioning of safe drinking water remains the third most critical gap. Only 75.84 per cent of the households have access to safe drinking water in Mamit against all India figures of 87.9 per cent. This needs to be attended on priority by the government.

4. Electricity:

Availability of electricity remains one of the critical gaps. More than three-fourth of the households are electrified, of them 80 per cent are Hindu households followed by Christian and Muslim. Sample households are also using non-electrified sources such as oil (52.27 per cent), lantern (40.15 per cent), and others (7.58 per cent).

The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connection to the rural households by the end of 2009 and there is a memorandum of understanding between Government of Bihar and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Government of India (Gol) for extending electric connection to all the villages of Mamit. It seems that the progress appears nowhere to the target.

5. Employment Opportunities more so for Women:

The work participation is significant (61.16 per cent), which was highest for males (62.55 per cent) than females (59.77 per cent). Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 89.36 per cent of the households' members are engaged. The gender differentials in industry-wise distribution of main workers are quite sharp in agriculture, forestry and fishing, wherein majority of them are reportedly females (more than 90 per cent). There is widespread problem of unemployment and underemployment. Thus, there is urgent need to operationalize the NREGA and other employment generating units on a large scale, so that more and more of the rural population will be actively engaged in casual daily wage employment.

Females are actively engaged in various occupations across religious groups. For example, two-third, 90 per cent and 58 per cent of Hindu, Muslim and Christian women are self-employed in agriculture and one-third, one-tenth and 30 per cent of them are working as casual labour in agriculture. 4.25 per cent and 3.76 per cent of the Christian women are also engaged in salaried occupation. High dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and this force the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. There is need to implement local skill based micro credit income generating programmes specifically SGSY in the district to ameliorate their livelihood conditions.

6. Overall Literacy Rate particularly Female Literacy Rate:

There is a significant improvement in overall and female literacy rates of the rural population in the district since 2001, due to the Sarva Shiksh Abhiyan and the Mid-day meal scheme. The overall literacy rate has increased to 92.9 per cent in 2008 and the female literacy has also improved and stood at 90.4 per cent in 2008. Nevertheless, the

district lags behind all India average and, hence, needs serious attention. Some important reasons are: non-availability of primary schools, poor enrolment ratio and high drop-out rates.

85.71 per cent of the children aged 5-16 years are enrolled in government run schools and are regular and 14.34 per cent of the children are enrolled in private schools. The enrolment in other schools and informal institutions is very negligible. Enrollment and retention rate is very high and SSA has been making its impact on rural educational scenario of the district in a potent way.

A significant proportion of the children belonging to sample households have schooling facilities at a distance of more than 4 km, which is really a cause of concern and needs immediate attention of the concerned authorities. No doubt, the enrollment and retention rates are quite high in sample villages; however, an attempt has also been made to find out the reasons for drop outs, though it is low. The main reasons cited for work at home, not interested in reading, and more distance to school. All these calls for proper probe and attention of educational authorities so that retention rate could be further increased.

There are a number of villages, which are still without primary school and further the number of girl's school is quite low. Hence, expansion of primary and elementary schools, both for boys and girls, should be taken on a priority basis along with effective measures to minimise drop-outs. It seems that the SSA scheme has not made a significant dent on the provisioning of basic educational services in the rural areas of the district, which needs to be penetrated with fresh rigour.

Additional Areas of Intervention

1. Access to health facilities is another area of concern, as majority of the villages are without any medical facilities. Inaccessibility to health facilities is a major deterrent in its utilization. The number of PHC and sub-centre per one lakh population is also low in the district. The availability of health facilities has critical bearing on the overall economic conditions of the households, particularly their indebtedness, as medical expenditure is the main reason for the indebtedness of the households in a large number of cases. Thus, there is urgent need to activate the health para-professionals to increase the coverage of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in rural areas of the district, besides mobile health clinics are also to be provided to them under NRHM.

2. A small proportion of the Christian households (2.63 per cent) are indebted and of them more than one-half are depending solely on institutional sources. Keeping in view the non-existence of industries, it is needed to initiate more and more small and micro enterprises, for which institutional sources of credit could play a role by forging suitable linkages with ongoing rural development and self employment programmes.

3. All weather road connectivity is another glaring infrastructural deficit. As per 2001 Census, most of the villages are without all weather road connectivity. Though rural connectivity has improved since then, yet significant numbers of villages are still without all weather roads.

4. There are wider gaps in awareness of the government schemes and benefits derived there from across Hindu, Muslim and others, which needs to be bridged, so that the benefits of these schemes must be reaped by larger chunk of the rural society of the district.

5. 52.63 per cent of the households are BPL, of them less than half of them had BPL ration cards and of them 85.86 per cent is availing PDS facility. However, they have complained of dishonesty in measurement, bad quality, insufficient quantity, and irregular supply as the main difficulties regarding PDS. The huge difference in falling under BPL category and holding BPL ration card and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern and the gaps need to be plugged at earliest, so that the poor must get their due share, which could also supplement households' nutrition. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it corruption free.