

Executive Summary

Pakur district in Jharkhand is identified one of the minority concentrated districts in India which lags behind in terms of socio-economic as well as basic amenities indicators. The development gaps have been identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for eight socio-economic variables based on the Population Census data of 2001. The basic objective is to overcome these gaps for the district through a multi-sectoral development approach. However, it is expected that since the year 2001, several changes might have occurred both at the district and all-India level in terms of the levels of these socio-economic indicators. Keeping this in view, we have identified the development deficits by using the latest data available from NSSO and NFHS for the year 2005 for all-India along with our survey results during the year 2008. It is expected that there may be some changes occurred in terms of all-India figures over the period of three years since 2005, yet these may not be so large. The identified deficits along with priority ranks can be seen in the following panel.

Development Deficits in Pakur District, Jharkhand

Sl. No	Indicators Socio-economic indicator	Survey results	India	Deficit	Priority rank for the district
1	Rate of literacy	56.0	67.3	-11.3	5
2	Rate of female literacy	47.9	57.1	-9.2	6
3	Work participation rate	41.5	38	3.5	7
4	Female work participation rate	33.1	21.5	11.6	8
Basic Amenities indicators					
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	19	59.4	-40.4	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	74.2	87.9	-13.7	4
7	Percentage of households with electricity	18.1	67.9	-49.8	1
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	4.2	39.2	-35	3
Health Indicators					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	18.9	43.5	-24.6	-
10	Percentage deliveries in a health facility	14.1	38.7	-24.6	-

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 pertains to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

The following points emerge from the above panel:

1. Provisioning of basic amenities such as electricity, housing and sanitation clearly emerge as major areas of attention for the development planning in the district. Our survey results show that only 18 per cent of rural households are electrified in the district as against the figure of 67.9 per cent for India. Only 14 out of 30 sample villages have electricity. There is a need to intensify rural electrification programme in the villages of the district on a large scale. Similarly, the housing condition in the district needs to be improved under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). Less than one-fifth of rural households are pucca in the district. This would require a large scale upscaling of the existing IAY programme. Building of water closet latrines also needs to be attached priority in the development plan for the district.
2. Improving literacy levels also requires immediate attention in the district. In fact, this could have more widespread impact on improving the pace of overall development of the district. Though, the literacy levels are low for the district as a whole, it is much lower among tribal by nearly 12 percentage points than minority communities. The focus, therefore, should be on improving the literacy levels among tribal communities through adult literacy as well as Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan (SSA).

The SSA seems to have made some improvement in the educational development in the district. Our survey results show that all the surveyed villages have co-ed primary schools. Over 80 per cent of children in the age-group 5 to 16 years are currently enrolled. The drop out rate is also considerably reduced to 5 per cent in this age-group. The incidence of drop out is comparatively higher among STs than Muslims. The strategy should be ensuring 100 per cent enrolment in this age group.

The infrastructural facilities in the existing schools should be improved by making additional class rooms, repair and maintenance of the existing ones and by providing teaching learning equipments and materials for enjoyment of the children in the schools. There is, however, some problem related to availability of institutions of higher learning, particularly ITIs and polytechnics or the institutions meant exclusively for girls at a very long distance, discouraging enrolment. Such institutions should be opened at least for every two blocks with the public-private partnership.

The situation of the district in respect of participation of population in economic activities is relatively better than the national average. The work participation rate among Muslims, however, is much lower than other communities, mainly due to lower participation of

females among them. The higher work participation necessarily does not mean higher income earnings for a household.

A large percentage (over 70 per cent) of workers is seeking more employment for augmenting their household income. There is a need to strengthen Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) by providing cheaper credit to people without any collateral to start their ventures. A fairly reasonable 20 per cent of sample households benefited from the SGSY. Access to market is major problem. Marketing centres can also be built for the entrepreneurs to store and market their produces.

In terms of health indicators, the district has yet to take extensive measures to enlarge the coverage of immunization programme. Only 19 per cent of children are fully immunized in the district. As regards the safe deliveries, only 14.1 per cent were at health facilities. Most of the child births have taken place at home with the help of untrained Dais. Facilities for safe deliveries and immunization must be made available by strengthening the ASHA programme of the central government. There is need to improve immunization facilities especially near Muslim habitation. Campaign for immunization should be intensified.

There is a need to strengthen the service delivery in the district ensuring transparency and accountability. It is surprising to find that despite a very high 79 percent of the respondents being below poverty line (BPL), only around 22 per cent had BPL ration cards and only around 15 percent were availing PDS facility. The main reason for not buying the entire eligible quota was lack of adequate PDS supply.

At the family level the people feel that employment, housing, education and health are their major deprivations. A large number of Muslims feel deprivation of land also. At the village level, they feel that clean drinking water, health facility, electricity and pucca road as major development bottlenecks which need to be overcome.

