

# A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

## PASCHIM CHAMPARAN

(Bihar)

**Sponsored by**

Ministry of Minority Affairs  
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Indian Council of Social Science Research



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## CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>i-v</b>
<b>Chapter I: Introduction</b> .....	<b>1-11</b>
<b>Chapter II: Village Level Deficits</b> .....	<b>12-17</b>
Educational Facilities .....	12
Health Facilities .....	14
<b>Chapter III: Socio-Economic Conditions of the Population/Households</b> .....	<b>18-33</b>
Demographic Characteristics .....	18
Quality of Human Resource .....	19
Asset Base of Households .....	23
Employment and Income .....	24
Housing and Other Basic Amenities .....	27
Health and Family Welfare .....	28
Indebtedness.....	31
<b>Chapter IV: Delivery of Public Services/Development Programmes</b> .....	<b>34-36</b>
Public Distribution System .....	34
Awareness .....	34
Aspirations .....	36
<b>Chapter V: Key Findings</b> .....	<b>37-41</b>
<b>Annex I: List of Selected villages (sample) in Paschim Champaran District</b> ....	<b>42-42</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	Population and Its Composition, 2001
Table 1.2	Distribution of Workers (Main) by Sector of Employment
Table 1.3	School Status in Paschim Champaran District
Table 1.4	Health and Drinking Water in Paschim Champaran District
Table 1.5	Banking and other Facilities in Paschim Champaran District
Table 2.1	School Status in Paschim Champaran District
Table 2.2	Access to Education Facilities in Surveyed Villages
Table 2.3	Health and Drinking water in Paschim Champaran District
Table 2.4	Access to Health Facility in Surveyed Villages in Paschim Champaran
Table 2.5	Percentage of Villages with Other Facilities in Paschim Champaran
Table 3.1	Demographic Features of Sample Households
Table 3.2:	Age – Sex – Distribution
Table 3.3	Work Participation Rate
Table 3.4	Literacy Rates
Table 3.5	Enrolment Status of 6-16 Years Population
Table 3.6	Reasons for Dropout
Table 3.7	Educational Levels
Table 3.8	Type of School Attended
Table 3.9	Availability of School at Distance
Table 3.10	Land Distribution
Table 3.11	Average Land Category
Table 3.12	Distribution of Land and other Assets Per Household Across Different Categories
Table 3.13	Work Participation
Table 3.14	Occupational Status
Table 3.15	Industry wise Employment
Table 3.16	Average per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)
Table 3.17	Item-wise per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)
Table 3.18	Housing Status of Household
Table 3.19	Basic Amenities
Table 3.20	Institutional and Non-institutional Deliveries of Children (%)
Table 3.21	Any type of Immunization of Children Below 5 Years (%)
Table 3.22	Types of Diseases Prevalent in the Households (%)
Table 3.23	Sources of Medical Treatment
Table 3.24	Incidence and Sources of Indebtedness
Table 3.25	Main Purpose of Loans
Table 4.1	Public Distribution System
Table 4.2	Difficulty regarding PDS
Table 4.3	Awareness about Government's Programmes
Table 4.4	Aspirations in order of their rank

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **DEVELOPMENT GAPS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE MULTI-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF KISHANGANJ DISTRICT OF BIHAR**

#### **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 view to improve all these indicators and bring them to the All India level through a multi-sector development plan under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since, it is expected that there must have been changes in these indicators since 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan keeping in mind the latest deficits and priorities.
- Paschim Champaran is not only a minority concentration district but also a backward one.

#### **District Profile (2001 census-based)**

- In 2001, the population of Paschim Champaran district was 27.33 lakhs and 89 per cent of the population was living in the rural areas.
- Scheduled Caste population is 15 per cent in the district, which is slightly less than the State figure of 16.4 per cent.
- Villages of the district have proportionately more primary schools (76.8 per cent) than the State average (72.6 per cent). There are 58 secondary schools in the district. There is one industrial and training school in the district. This district has a literacy rate of 39.63 per cent.
- Less than one-third of the villages of Paschim Champaran district have Public Health Centres (PHCs) within 5 kms. The tap and tube well drinking water facility is available in a very negligible proportion of the villages of the district. On the whole, the health and drinking water facilities are very inadequate in the villages.
- Work participation of the population of Paschim Champaran district is 39 per cent; whereas the average work participation rate for the State of Bihar is just above one-third.

## Survey findings (2008)

Our survey is confined to rural areas of Paschim Champaran district. It shows that the rural areas of the district lag behind in all eight indicators. The most glaring gap is found in case of percentage of households that have electricity or *pucca* walls or safe drinking water or water closet latrines. Socio-economic indicators, i.e. literacy rate and work participation rate, are lower for the district as compared to All India averages, as can be seen in Table 1. The actual gap will be higher for the district as the national figures pertain to the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

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

SI No	Indicators	Paschim Champaran	All India 2005	Development gaps between All India and District (3=1- 2)	Development priorities based on the gaps
		1	2	(3=1- 2)	4
1	Rate of literacy	59.8	67.3	-7.5	5
2	Rate of female literacy	48.4	57.1	-8.7	4
3	Work participation rate	35.91	38.0	-2.09	6
4	Female work participation rate	20.26	21.5	-1.24	7
5	Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls**	28.18	59.4	-31.22	3
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	91.39	87.9	3.49	8
7	Percentage of households with electricity	13.12	67.9	-54.78	1
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	5.96	39.2	-33.24	24
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	34.88	43.5	-8.62	
10	Percentage of deliveries in a health facility	15.76	38.7	-22.94	

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

(2) Data in Col 2 from SI. No. 5 to 10 pertain to the year 2005-06 from NFHS-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

\*\* This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

### Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators:

#### Electricity

Availability of electricity remains the most critical gap. Only a small proportion of the households (13 per cent) have electricity, of them 12.5 per cent and 13.65 percent are Hindu and Muslim households respectively. The district lags behind the All India figure by a huge 54.86 points in this regard.



The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalization of electricity connections to rural households by the end of 2009 and there is a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Bihar and the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Government of India (GOI) for this purpose. However, it seems that the progress appears nowhere near the target.

### **In-house Toilet Facilities**

About 88 per cent of households are without any toilet facilities and practice open defecation. Community-wise, 85.83 per cent of Muslims and 89.80 per cent of Hindus practice open defecation. The drainage system is also very poor. There is not much difference between Hindu and Muslim households regarding toilet and drainage facilities, which show lack of sanitation facilities in the rural areas uniformly across communities. The district lags behind the All India figure by a huge 33.24 points.

All this makes it clear that the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre-sponsored scheme that has been going on for quite some time with the target of achieving universalization of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, has not made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation and drainage in Paschim Champaran district, and the existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely fail to meet the target. This calls for better implementation of the TSC and for extending its coverage to currently uncovered villages through the multi-sector development plan.

### **Houses with *Pucca* Walls:**

The district lags behind the All India figure by a huge 45.12 points in terms of *pucca* houses. Thus, the number of houses constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which is not a universal programme, is quite insufficient to fill the gap in the district. Overall, the qualitative and quantitative availability of housing in the rural areas is not satisfactory and calls for strengthening of the implementation of IAY so as to include more beneficiaries under its ambit, and also to extend the area of its coverage to include more poverty-stricken households under the scheme. IAY can be topped up with the multi-sectoral plan.

### **Overall Literacy Rate with emphasis on Female Literacy Rate**

There is a modest improvement in overall and female literacy rates of the rural population in the district since 2001 due to the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) and the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS). Female literacy has also improved over the 2001 level

and stood at 48.4 per cent in 2008. Nevertheless, the district lags behind the All India figure by 8.7 points and hence needs serious attention. Some important reasons are: non-availability of primary schools, poor enrolment ratio and high drop-out rates.

Non-enrolment, drop-outs, and greater distance are potent deterrent factors in improving female literacy. Gender disparity in educational attainments is glaring and holds serious implications.

Overall, the educational attainment is not satisfactory, which has its strong repercussions on future advancement in life. There are a number of villages which are still without primary schools, and further, the number of girls' schools is quite low. Hence, expansion of primary and elementary schools, both for boys and girls, should be taken up 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 vigour.

#### **Employment Opportunities, more so for Women:**

Work force participation is quite low, and agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities in which a majority of household members are engaged. Gender differentials in employment are quite sharp. Self-employment in non-agricultural activities is very low, and needs to be propagated on a larger scale. Overall, the district lags behind the All India figure of Work Participation Ratio (WPR) and Female WPR by 2.09 and 1.24 points respectively.

The opportunities for self-employment in non-agricultural economic pursuits are very small. Given the low level of literacy and availability of salaried jobs, the self-employment opportunities outside the agriculture sector need to be increased on a larger scale. There is a need to implement local skill-based micro-credit income generating programmes specifically Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in the district to ameliorate their livelihood conditions.

#### **Availability of safe-drinking water**

The availability of safe-drinking water requires second priority: Against 87.9 percent of the All India figure, only 52 percent of the rural households in Paschim Champaran have access to safe drinking water. Thus, the district lags behind the All India figure by a huge 54.86 points.

### **Additional Areas of Intervention**

Access to health facilities is another area of concern, as a majority of the villages are without any medical facilities. More than one-tenth of the Hindu and less than one-fifth of the Muslim households depend on home treatment. The proportion of the fully-immunized children is low. In this district 31.14 per cent of the Hindus and 39.09 per cent of the Muslim households respectively have fully-immunized children below the age of 5 years. Almost all the children have been immunized by a government agency and dependence on private agencies is negligible, which is in contrast to their dependence on them for medical treatment for various health ailments.

Institutional deliveries of children are as low as only in 15.76 percent of the cases (government hospital – 10.25 per cent and private hospitals – 7.51 per cent). Only 5.85 per cent of deliveries are performed by a trained midwife or an Accredited Social Health Activist (Accelerated social health activist). More than one-third of the children born have received pre and post natal care, whereas the proportion of such children in Hindu and Muslim households respectively stood at 41.67 per cent and 28.27 per cent. Thus, there is an urgent need to activate the health para-professionals to increase the coverage of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in rural areas of the district. Besides this, mobile health clinics are also to be provided to them under NRHM.

The absence of all-weather road connectivity is another glaring infrastructural deficit. As per the 2001 Census, most of the villages are without all-weather road connectivity. Though rural connectivity has improved since then, a significant number of villages are still without all-weather roads.

There are wide gap in level of awareness of the government schemes across communities. This gap needs to be bridged, so that the benefits of these schemes are reaped by a larger segment of the rural society of the district.

Service delivery also needs to be strengthened. For example, 71.12 percent of households have complained about inadequate supply of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS), followed by dishonesty in measurement (60.19 per cent), non-availability of time, bad quality and irregular supply (about one half). This is important as there are a large number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the district who are vulnerable to food and income insecurity.

# Chapter I

## INTRODUCTION

### **BRIEF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE**

Paschim Champaran district of Bihar, headquartered at Bettiah was carved out of the old Champaran District in the year 1972 as a result of re-organization of the districts in the state. In the North and the South of the district lies the hilly region of Nepal and Gopalganj and part of Purbi Champaran District respectively, and in the East and the West lie Purbi Champaran District and Padrauna District of Uttar Pradesh respectively. As the district has its border with Nepal, it has an international importance.

### **Population and Its Composition**

Out of the total population (7,43,16,709 persons) of Bihar, the district Paschim Champaran has a population of 27,33,907 persons in 2001, i.e., 3.68 percent of state population. A significantly high proportion of population lives in rural areas. Most of the tehsils (Sidhaw, Gaunaha, Mainatanr, Lauriya, Piprasi, Madhubani, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, Jogapatti, Sikta, Majhaulia, Bairia, and Nautan are cent per cent rural in character, which is not at all surprising as more than 89 per cent of the population of the State of Bihar, including Paschim Champaran resides in rural areas. Scheduled Caste (SC) population is 15 per cent in the district, which is slightly less than the State figure of 16.4 per cent. SC population is evenly distributed across tehsils of the district with the smallest proportion (12 per cent) in Bairia to highest proportion (18.5 per cent) in Ramnagar. Schedules Tribes (STs) are proportionately higher (1.6 per cent) in Paschim Champaran than the State aggregate (1 per cent) and the tehsils of Lauriya, Sikta, and Nautan have a negligible proportion of STs (0.1 per cent) and Sidhaw has a significantly high proportion (10.2 per cent), whereas Piprasi has virtually no ST population. The proportion of Hindu population is smaller than State aggregate and the proportion of Muslim population is higher than the State aggregate. Hindus are predominant in all the tehsils, however, the population of Muslim is also noteworthy in tehsils of Narkatiaganj and Majhaulia. The minority population is found in all the tehsils, however, they are concentrated more in Narkatiaganj followed by Sikta, Lauriya, Bhitaha, Majhaulia, and Bettiah (refer table 1.1).

**Table 1.1: Population Distribution in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	Population ('000)*	Rural population (%)	SC %	STs %	Minority population * %
Sidhaw	237	100.0	16.5	10.2	12.0
Ramnagar	154	80.0	18.5	4.0	25.3
Gaunaha	158	100.0	17.3	1.8	18.5
Mainatanr	144	100.0	15.4	2.1	29.9
Narkatiaganj	251	86.0	15.9	0.6	32.6
Lauriya	179	100.0	13.5	0.1	26.1
Bagaha	223	71.0	16.9	0.3	17.1
Piprasi	31	100.0	14.9	0.0	7.1
Madhubani	66	100.0	13.4	0.7	11.1
Bhitaha	52	100.0	13.9	0.8	24.5
Thakrahan	44	100.0	12.4	0.4	9.4
Jogapatti	185	100.0	13.2	0.8	16.8
Chanpatia	204	90.3	14.5	0.2	19.8
Sikta	145	100.0	13.3	0.1	32.0
Majhaulia	254	100.0	14.8	0.2	24.4
Bettiah	68	36.9	14.9	1.1	23.4
Bairia	159	100.0	12.0	0.3	18.3
Nautan	176	100.0	13.8	0.1	19.2
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>2734</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>74317</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.

### Work Participation

Work status of the population of Paschim Champaran is presented in table 1.2, which reveals that work participation rate in the district was 39 per cent; whereas the average work participation rate for State of Bihar was just above one-third. It is significant to note that work force participation rates across the tehsils of the district were in the range of 29.8 per cent in Bettiah to 43.7 per cent in Thakrahan. More than one-fifth of the labour force was casual workers, which is lesser than the State average of just below one-third. Agricultural labour constitutes about two-third of the work force and a very small proportion of the work force was reportedly engaged in household activities (2.37 per cent) and other activities (9.79 per cent). Thus, agricultural labour is the dominant economic activity in rural areas of Paschim Champaran and due to frequent floods such opportunities are uncertain and in order to provide assured wage employment to poor rural households, the NREGA has an important role to play.

**Table 1.2: Distribution of Workers (Main) by Sector of Employment**

Tehsil	% of workers	Cultivators	Agricultural labour	Household Industries	others
Sidhaw	43.4	19.7	72.29	1.56	6.43
Ramnagar	42.8	19.3	71.26	2.16	7.32
Gaunaha	43.5	18.2	69.22	2.18	10.46
Mainatanr	41.4	22.6	65.49	2.84	9.07
Narkatiaganj	39.1	20.4	68.00	1.81	9.79
Lauriya	37.0	22.9	62.04	2.99	12.08
Bagaha	39.6	23.3	66.65	2.48	7.62
Piprasi	41.7	32.6	63.92	0.96	2.57
Madhubani	36.5	36.7	56.29	1.18	5.82
Bhitaha	35.6	37.6	56.42	1.45	4.50
Thakrahan	43.7	47.1	50.34	0.77	1.80
Jogapatti	38.9	23.9	66.82	2.22	7.02
Chanpatia	36.0	20.5	62.67	3.26	13.54
Sikta	43.4	18.3	68.21	3.18	10.34
Majhaulia	36.5	23.3	63.39	2.53	10.74
Bettiah	29.8	14.0	47.51	3.45	35.08
Bairia	35.8	22.2	63.07	2.72	11.98
Nautan	35.2	23.1	62.05	2.65	12.25
<b>Pashchim Champaran</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>65.40</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>9.79</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>51.05</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>13.89</b>
<b>India*</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>22.8</b>

Note: \* Rural areas only

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.

### Natural Resource Base

Mainly three types of crops are produced in this district – Bhadai (Autumn crop), Aghani (Kharif) and Rabi (Spring crop). Bhadai crops comprise mainly Maize and Sugarcane. The main crops of Aghani season are Paddy, Potato etc. Wheat, Barley, *Arhar* (*Cajanus indicus*) are main Rabi crops. Main crop of the low lying land in the northern region of the district is paddy. Land use pattern figures are as follows:-

Total Area of the district-		11,96,819 Acre
Forest land	-	2,26,790 Acre
Agricultural land	-	5,15,097 Acre
Non-agricultural land	-	68,283 Acre
Land under water	-	1,73,078 Acre
Homestead Land	-	1,84,764 Acre

## **Economic Base**

The district is divided into a few distinct tracts. The first consists of the hilly tract of Someswar and Dun range in the North at the foothills of Himalayas. It is noticeable that the soil even at the foot of the hills has no rocky formation and wherever water can be impounded, a rich growth of crop is possible. The hilly streams, however, play havoc by bringing down huge quantities of sand and destroying cultivable lands. The hills contain large stretches of forests. Next to the hilly area comes the Terai region, which is largely populated by Tharus of the district. The Terai region is followed by fertile plains occupying the rest of the district. This plain is divided into two well defined tracts by the River Little Gandak and these have markedly distinct characteristics. The northern portion is composed of old alluvium and has a considerable area of low land. It is traversed by a number of streams flowing southwards. The southern portion of the tract is characterized by stretches of upland varied in places by large marshy depressions known as *chaurs*. The Gandak or Narayani, and Sikrahana or Little Gandak are the two important rivers of this district.

The district has suffered large scale denudation of forests and it is now confined to the northern tract only, particularly the Sumeswar and the Dun. Sal, Sisam, Tun and Khair are among the trees found in this region. In Terai region clumps of bamboo, *sabai* grass and *narkat* reed are found in abundance.

Tirhut, Tribeni and Done are the most prominent canals of this district. They get their water supply from the River Gandak at Balmikinager, the northernmost part of the district bordering Nepal. This district depends a lot on livestock for cultivation. Plough cattle are bred locally and many fine, well-conditioned bullocks are seen in the district, particularly cart bullocks. Buffaloes are the main source of milk. They are generally of a smaller size but in fairly good condition.

The Dun and Sumeswar hills in the extreme north which are the continuation of the Shivalik range are formed of ill-compacted sandstone. There are beds of *Kankar* (sandstone) in parts of the district and salt-petre is found almost everywhere. The rich forests of the district have opened the doors of a flourishing trade in timber. The district borders Nepal on the north over a long stretch of land. There are some road routes that also connect the district with Nepal. Naturally, therefore, a good bulk of the Indo-Nepal trade is carried on through the district. Nepalese rice, timber and spices are imported

into India while textiles, petroleum products etc. are exported into Nepal through the district. The chief trade centres are Bagaha, Bettiah, Chanpatia and Narkatiaganj.

## Infrastructure

### *Educational*

The school status of the tehsils of Paschim Champaran district in Bihar is presented in table 1.3. A mere perusal of the data makes it evident that the villages of the district have proportionately more primary schools (76.8 per cent) than the State average (72.6 per cent). It is significant to note that all the villages of tehsils of Piprasi and Bettiah have a primary school, however, more than half and less than two-third of the villages of Bhitaha, Ramnagar and Bairia respectively have a primary school. Quite like rest of Bihar, a small proportion of the villages in the district have middle schools. It is ironical to note that none of the villages of tehsil Piprasi has a primary school. There are 58 secondary schools in the district, however, two tehsils (Piprasi and Bhitaha) do not have such facilities and tehsils of Madhubani, Thakrahan, and Bettiah have one secondary school each. The population per secondary school is significantly higher in nine tehsils than the district average and in all tehsils except two where it is lesser than the State average.

**Table 1.3: School Status in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	% of Villages with primary schools	% of Villages with middle schools	Number of Secondary schools	Population per Secondary school
Sidhaw	70.9	11.4	4	59,242
Ramnagar	61.9	11.1	2	77,317
Gaunaha	72.5	16.3	4	39,426
Mainatanr	87.2	14.9	3	48,128
Narkatiaganj	82.3	19.7	4	62,853
Lauriya	87.9	25.3	7	25,698
Bagaha	75.2	13.2	8	27,926
Piprasi	100.0	0.0	0	-
Madhubani	70.6	23.5	1	65,580
Bhitaha	55.0	15.0	0	-
Thakrahan	70.0	10.0	1	43,880
Jogapatti	72.3	23.8	3	61,705
Chanpatia	83.1	35.2	3	68,165
Sikta	93.1	25.9	4	36,199
Majhulia	85.1	24.3	6	42,361
Bettiah	100.0	46.7	1	68,242
Bairia	61.5	25.0	4	39,923
Nautan	81.8	27.3	3	58,646
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47,136</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>32,927</b>

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.



### Health and Drinking Water

While about one third of the villages of Bihar have PHCs within 5 km, only 29.2 per cent of the villages of Paschim Champaran district have PHCs within 5 km. It is ironical to note that villages of two tehsils of the district namely Piprasi and Bhitaha have no PHC facility within a range of 5 km. Maternity and Child Welfare centres are located in 18 per cent of the villages of the district in the range of below 5 km against one-fifth of the village of the State of Bihar. The villages of the tehsils of Piprasi, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, and Jogapatti have no facilities of MCW within 5 km. Some tehsils have allopathic hospitals; whereas such facilities are virtually absent within a distance of 5 km in other tehsils notably Mainatanr, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, Jogapatti, Chanpatia and Bettiah. The handpumps are the main source of drinking water in the district; however, taps and tube wells are also used for obtaining drinking water. The tap and tube well drinking water facility is available in a very negligible proportion of the villages of the district. It is ironical to note that tap drinking water is virtually absent in all the villages of tehsils of Ramnagar Gaunaha, Piprasi, Madhubani, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, Jogapatti, Bettiah, and Nautan. Similarly, tube wells' drinking water facility is not available in tehsils of Bhitaha, Thakrahan, and Nautan.

**Table 1. 4: Health and Drinking Water in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	% of Villages with PHCs within 5 km	% of Villages with an MCW Centre within 5 km	% Villages with Allopathic hospital <5KM Range	Allopathic hospital per lakh population	Tap per lakh population	Tubewell per lakh population	Handpump per lakh population
Sidhaw	36.1	24.1	5.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	66.7
Ramnagar	23.8	18.3	21.4	0.6	0.0	2.6	78.9
Gaunaha	35.3	17.0	21.6	1.3	0.0	9.5	94.5
Mainatanr	17.0	12.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.1	64.4
Narkatiaganj	23.8	19.0	23.1	1.6	1.2	1.6	58.1
Lauriya	56.0	27.5	47.3	0.6	0.6	1.1	50.0
Bagaha	16.5	4.1	15.7	0.9	1.8	1.3	54.2
Piprasi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	9.5
Madhubani	23.5	5.9	11.8	3.0	0.0	1.5	24.4
Bhitaha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.3
Thakrahan	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.8
Jogapatti	34.7	0.0	11.9	0.0	0.0	1.6	54.6
Chanpatia	18.3	7.0	16.9	0.0	0.5	0.5	34.7
Sikta	37.9	27.6	34.5	0.7	2.8	8.3	40.1
Majhulia	20.3	8.1	12.2	0.8	2.4	1.2	29.1
Bettiah	40.0	46.7	46.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	22.0
Bairia	42.3	11.5	15.4	0.6	0.6	2.5	32.6
Nautan	31.8	11.4	22.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	25.0
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>49.1</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>48.2</b>

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.

The data on banking and other facilities available in the Paschim Champaran district is given in table 1.5, which reveals that one-third of the villages have paved roads against a higher figure for State average (37.8 per cent). The villages of tehsil Bettiah have comparatively better road connectivity (80 per cent) than other tehsils. It is surprising to note that none of the villages of tehsils of Piprasi, Bhitaha, and Thakrahan have paved roads. One-fourth of the villages of Paschim Champaran have power supply facility against more than one-third of the villages of the State of Bihar that have it. All the villages of tehsil Bettiah have power supply, but none of the villages of Mainatanr, Piprasi, Madhubani, Bhitaha, and Thakrahan have power supply, which is really a sad affair. Thus, rural electrification needs to be accelerated in the district.

**Table 1.5: Banking and other Infrastructural Facilities in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	% Villages with paved roads	Percentage of villages with power supply	% Villages with agricultural co-operative societies within 5 KM	% Villages with a Cooperative bank within 5 km Range	Cooperative bank per lakh population	% Villages with a Commercial bank within 5 km Range	Commercial bank per lakh population	Post office per lakh population	Percentage irrigated land to total land
Sidhaw	46.8	26.6	15.2	19.6	0.0	53.8	4.2	8.9	30.8
Ramnagar	43.7	31.0	40.5	24.6	0.6	31.7	1.3	10.3	61.9
Gaunaha	28.8	7.8	63.4	5.9	0.0	58.8	7.6	11.4	63.0
Mainatanr	12.8	0.0	88.3	1.1	0.0	35.1	2.1	8.3	48.4
Narkatiaganj	22.4	31.3	53.7	31.3	0.8	33.3	2.0	8.0	32.1
Lauriya	37.4	47.3	58.2	37.4	1.7	52.7	4.4	10.0	38.4
Bagaha	34.7	33.9	44.6	0.8	0.0	56.2	4.5	9.8	32.8
Piprasi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5	85.0
Madhubani	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.3	7.6	10.7	76.0
Bhitaha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	11.5	79.5
Thakrahan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	2.3	9.1	82.4
Jogapatti	16.8	3.0	44.6	7.9	0.5	53.5	3.2	6.5	61.8
Chanpatia	59.2	39.4	14.1	18.3	0.0	47.9	2.9	8.3	22.3
Sikta	29.3	22.4	25.9	15.5	0.0	53.4	3.5	11.1	26.4
Majhulia	40.5	64.9	33.8	28.4	0.8	51.4	3.9	11.8	36.8
Bettiah	80.0	100.0	60.0	33.3	0.0	53.3	1.5	7.3	62.6
Bairia	40.4	9.6	40.4	11.5	0.6	23.1	2.5	9.4	56.5
Nautan	43.2	20.5	47.7	18.2	1.7	70.5	2.8	6.3	55.1
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>45.5</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>41.3</b>

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.

Being an agriculturally dominant district, 43.3 per cent of the villages have agricultural cooperative societies within a distance of 5 km. The villages of tehsil Mainatanr followed

by Gaunaha and Bettiah have more agricultural cooperative societies than other tehsils such as Sidhaw and Chanpatia. But at the same time, none of the villages of tehsils of Piprasi, Madhubani, Bhitaha, and Thakrahan have such facility within 5 km of their villages. The villages of these tehsils also lack cooperative bank facility within 5 km. However, the facility of commercial banks is available in all the villages of the tehsils of Paschim Champaran within 5 km except tehsil Piprasi. On the whole, the villages of backward tehsils of the district need immediate attention of concerned authorities so that the gaps in development infrastructure can be bridged on a priority basis.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The survey was conducted in rural areas and, hence, all the figures and variables used pertain to only rural areas and population. The Census 2001 data have been used for sampling. Since the religion-wise population data are available only up to the Tehsil level the stratification has been confined to that level.

First of all, all the tehsils of the districts were arranged in descending order on the basis of minority population. In other words, they were arranged in such a manner that the Tehsils with the highest concentration of minority population was placed at the top position and Tehsils with the lowest concentration of minority population at the bottom. Thereafter all the Tehsils were stratified into three strata: the first one consists of the upper 20 percent of Tehsils arranged according to population; the second consists of the middle 50 percent; and the bottom consists of the last 30 percent. The selection of villages has been done following the PPS (Probability Proportionate to Size) method. A total of 30 villages (25 villages have been chosen in the districts having rural population of less than 5 lakh) have been selected from all the three strata by the method of PPS. The number of villages selected from each stratum depends on the ratio of the total population of Tehsils to that stratum to the total population of the district. For example, if the total population of all the Tehsils under a stratum constitutes 20 percent of the total population, then 6 villages have been selected from that stratum. It has also been ensured that at least 6 villages are selected from each stratum.

In villages with less than 1200 population, all the households were listed first. However, in case of villages having more than 1200 population, three or more hamlet-groups were formed as per the practice followed by NSSO and then a sample of two hamlets was selected. The hamlet with maximum concentration of minority population was selected

with probability one. From the remaining hamlets another one was selected randomly. The listing and sampling of households were done separately in each hamlet.

In each selected hamlet, 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 Buddhist households another SSS; and so on.

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

The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is as per the following:

**Table 1.6: Criteria for Forming Hamlets**

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

**Multiplier Procedure**

The district level estimate has been prepared using the technique of multilevel multiplier. At the first stage, multiplier has been applied at the household level to estimate the number of households of different religious communities in the village.

Formula:

$$Y_i = \sum_{i=1}^n R_i$$

Where R= (D/d)\*(d/H)\*(H/h)

D= Total households in the village

d=Total households listed in the village

H=Total selected sample households in the village

h=Total households selected from different religious groups

n= Number of religious group in the village

At the second stage, the village level multiplier has been applied to estimate population data at stratum level (all tehsils in a district have been grouped into three strata for sample selection).

Formula:

$$Y_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^3 Y_i S_j$$

Where S= ((SP)/ (M\*VP))  
SP= Total population of the strata  
M=Total number of villages selected in the strata

VP=Population of the sample village

j=Number of stratum

n= Number of religious groups in the village

Finally at the third stage, stratum level multiplier has been used to estimate data at the district level.

Formula:

$$Y_k = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^3 Y_j D_k$$

Where D= (DP/ (M\*TP))

DP= Total population of district

M=Total number of selected Tehsil in the strata

TP=Population of selected Tehsil

k=number of stratum

n= number of religious groups in the village

Thus, district level data are estimate based on the survey.

**Chapters:** The introductory chapter explains some basic profile of the district. This includes Tehsil-wise concentration of minority population and their demographic and other characteristics based on the 2001 Census. Chapter II explains village level gaps in terms of health and educational institutions and basic infrastructure. Chapter III explains findings of the household survey that analyses demographic, educational, health, economic and other deprivations. This part also explains demands and aspirations of the

households, their perception about the state and the nature of civic and community life. Chapter IV analyses delivery of public services and some important development programmes. And the last chapter sums up the findings.

## Chapter II

### VILLAGE LEVEL DEFICITS

Electricity, rural connectivity, lack of irrigation facilities, urbanization, and industrialization are some obvious macro-level gaps in the district. But apart from the above, there are some serious gaps in resource and infrastructure facilities at the village level. The gaps in the infrastructure facilities at the village level have been explained on the basis of information collected through a semi-structured schedule. The explanation in the following section is based on the information from the 30 surveyed villages.

#### **Education Facilities**

##### ***As per Census 2001***

The school status of the tehsils of the Paschim Champaran district in Bihar is presented in table 2.1. A mere perusal of the data makes it evident that the villages of the district have proportionately more primary schools (76.8 per cent) than the State average (72.6 per cent). It is significant to note that all the villages of tehsils of Piprasi and Bettiah have a primary school. However, more than half, and less than two-third, of the villages of Bhitaha, Ramnagar and Bairia respectively have a primary school. Like the State of Bihar, and the district Paschim Champaran, a small proportion of the villages of the tehsils of the district have middle schools. It is ironical to note that none of the villages of tehsil Piprasi has a primary school. There are 58 secondary schools in the district, however, two tehsils (Piprasi and Bhitaha) have none and tehsils of Madhubani, Thakrahan and Bettiah have one secondary school each. The population per secondary school is significantly higher than the district average in nine tehsils, and even higher than State average in all tehsils, except two.

**Table 2.1: School Status in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	% Village with primary school	% Villages with middle school	No. of Secondary schools	Population per Secondary school
Sidhaw	70.9	11.4	4	59,242
Ramnagar	61.9	11.1	2	77,317
Gaunaha	72.5	16.3	4	39,426
Mainatanr	87.2	14.9	3	48,128
Narkatiaganj	82.3	19.7	4	62,853
Lauriya	87.9	25.3	7	25,698
Bagaha	75.2	13.2	8	27,926
Piprasi	100.0	0.0	0	-
Madhubani	70.6	23.5	1	65,580
Bhitaha	55.0	15.0	0	-
Thakrahan	70.0	10.0	1	43,880
Jogapatti	72.3	23.8	3	61,705
Chanpatia	83.1	35.2	3	68,165
Sikta	93.1	25.9	4	36,199
Majhaulia	85.1	24.3	6	42,361
Bettiah	100.0	46.7	1	68,242
Bairia	61.5	25.0	4	39,923
Nautan	81.8	27.3	3	58,646
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47,136</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>32,927</b>

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001.

### **Survey Results (2008)**

Table 2.2 shows the percentage of villages with educational institutions, mainly schools. Though co-educational primary schools are available in more than three-fourth of the villages, yet primary schools for girls are available only in 3.33 per cent of the villages. Co-educational middle schools are available in less than two-third of the villages. It is ironical to note that none of the sample villages have a high/higher secondary school for boys; however, 3.33 per cent of the villages have a high/higher secondary school for girls. In case of boys, they have to travel 6 km to reach a high/higher secondary school. None of the sample villages have the facility of inter college, ITI or polytechnic, which are located at a mean distance of more than 15 km, 36 km, and 150 km. Religious schools are available in 16.67 per cent of the villages.



**Table 2.2: Access to Educational Facilities in Surveyed Villages**

<b>Type of School</b>	<b>% of villages having</b>	<b>Average distance for villages not having * (in km)</b>
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	76.67	0.00
Primary School (Girls)	3.33	8.00
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	60.00	1.43
Middle School (Girls)	3.33	9.77
High/Higher Secondary School (Boys)	0.00	6.00
High/Higher Secondary School (Girls)	3.33	11.11
Inter College	0.00	15.83
ITI	0.00	36.90
Polytechnic	0.00	150.32
Other Training School	3.33	34.76
Religious School	16.67	2.67
Non Formal	3.33	0.00
Other Educational Facilities	26.67	0.11

*\*For villages without educational facilities*

Besides education, the availability of health facilities is also inadequate in sample villages. Table 2.3 indicates that none of the villages have a primary health centre, Community Health Centre (CHC), hospital/dispensary, private qualified allopathic doctors, maternal and child care centre, homeopathic hospitals and doctors, and family planning clinics and these health facilities are available at a mean distance ranges between more than 1 km to 24 km. The health facilities available in sample villages includes primary health sub-centre (43.33 per cent) and Ayurvedic doctors (3.33 per cent). It is ironical to note that about three-fourth of the sample households depend on quacks for health ailments.

### **Health Infrastructure**

#### ***As per Census 2001***

While about one third of the villages of Bihar have PHCs within 5 km, only 29.2 per cent of the villages of Paschim Champaran district have PHCs within 5 km. It is ironical to note that villages of two tehsils of the district namely Piprasi and Bhitaha have no PHC facility within a range of 5 km. Maternity and Child Welfare centres are located in 18 per cent of the villages of the district in a range below 5 kms, as against the availability of the centres in one-fifth of the villages of the State of Bihar. The villages of the tehsils of Piprasi, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, and Jogapatti have no facilities of MCW within 5 km. Some tehsils have allopathic hospitals; whereas such facilities are virtually absent within a distance of 5 km in other tehsils; notably Mainatanr, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, Jogapatti,

Chanpatia and Bettiah. Hand pumps are the main source of drinking water in the district; however, taps and tube wells are also used for obtaining drinking water. The tap and tube wells' drinking water facility is available in a very negligible proportion of the villages of the district. It is ironical to note that tap drinking water is virtually absent in all the villages of the tehsils of Ramnagar, Gaunaha, Piprasi, Madhubani, Bhitaha, Thakrahan, Jogapatti, Bettiah, and Nautan. Similarly, tube wells drinking water facility is not available in tehsils of Bhitaha, Thakrahan, and Nautan (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3: Health and Drinking Water in Paschim Champaran District**

Tehsil	% Villages with PHCs within 5 km	% Villages with an MCW Centre within 5 km	% Villages with an Allopathic hospital <5KM Range	Allopathic hospital per lakh population
Sidhaw	36.1	24.1	5.1	0.4
Ramnagar	23.8	18.3	21.4	0.6
Gaunaha	35.3	17.0	21.6	1.3
Mainatanr	17.0	12.8	0.0	0.0
Narkatiaganj	23.8	19.0	23.1	1.6
Lauriya	56.0	27.5	47.3	0.6
Bagaha	16.5	4.1	15.7	0.9
Piprasi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Madhubani	23.5	5.9	11.8	3.0
Bhitaha	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Thakrahan	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jogapatti	34.7	0.0	11.9	0.0
Chanpatia	18.3	7.0	16.9	0.0
Sikta	37.9	27.6	34.5	0.7
Majhulia	20.3	8.1	12.2	0.8
Bettiah	40.0	46.7	46.7	0.0
Bairia	42.3	11.5	15.4	0.6
Nautan	31.8	11.4	22.7	1.1
<b>Paschim Champaran</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>

Source: Calculated from village level directory, Census of India, 2001.

Table 2.4 shows availability of health facilities in the 30 surveyed villages. It shows that most of the villages are without proper medical facilities. Though quacks are present in more than two-thirds of villages.

**Table 2.4: Access to Health Facility in Surveyed Villages in Paschim Champaran District**

Type	% of villages having	Mean distance*
PHCs	0.00	10.03
Primary Health Sub Centre	43.33	1.93
CHCs	0.00	9.82
Hospital/Dispensary	0.00	8.80
Private Qualified Allopathic Doctors	0.00	7.79
Maternity Child care Centre	0.00	10.14
Ayurvedic Hospitals	0.00	13.18
Ayurvedic Doctors	3.33	15.61
Homeopathic Hospitals	0.00	24.00
Homeopathic Doctors	0.00	12.90
Quacks	73.33	0.77
Family Planning Clinics	0.00	10.04
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	16.67	6.11

\*For villages without such health facilities within 5 km

Table 2.5 shows some other facilities in the sample villages of Paschim Champaran district. Regular market, commercial and regional rural banks, fertilizer shops, seed storage facilities, cold storage and warehousing facilities, and milk and other specialized agriculture products *mandis* (marketplaces) are available either in a very minimal number of villages or are conspicuous by their absence. Public telephone facility and fair shops are available in more than one-fourth and two-third of the villages respectively. Anganwadi centres are available in 86.7 per cent of the villages.

**Table 2.5: Percentage of Villages with Other Facilities in Paschim Champaran District**

Type	% of villages with	Mean distance* Km
Nearest Bus Stop	6.7	11.7
Nearest Regular Market	3.3	11.4
Nearest Railway Station	0.0	9.8
Nearest Post Office	26.7	2.1
Public Telephone Connection	30.0	3.3
Commercial Bank	0.0	8.4
Rural Bank	6.7	6.7
Co-operative Bank	10.0	14.4
Anganwadi Centre	86.7	0.1
General Post Office	36.7	1.8
Fair Price Shop	70.0	1.0
Fertilizer Shop	3.3	10.3
Seed Storage	3.3	10.3
Pesticide Shop	3.3	11.0
Cold Storage	6.7	14.1
Other General Shops	63.3	2.1
Nearest <i>Mandi</i>	0.0	19.9
Milk <i>Mandi</i>	0.0	16.3
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	3.3	9.4

\*For villages without such facilities

Apart from the lack of institutions and infrastructure facilities, the available educational and health institutions have only limited facilities to serve the clients. For example, whereas *pucca* school buildings are available in 27 out of 28 villages, cement flooring of school building is available only in 23 schools, toilet facilities is available in half of the schools and drinking water facility is available in 24 schools.

The perceptions of the students regarding availability of mid-day meals reveal that quality and preparation of meals is good but regularity is low. Slates and notebooks are not provided by the schools, but books are provided in some schools. The punctuality, discipline and sincerity of the teachers are rated as good in most of the sample villages.

However, the visits of health staffs to these villages are not very regular and medical facilities in the available health institutions are quite inadequate. For example, except for Accredited social health activist and Auxiliary nurse midwife, the average visit of most other medical and para-medical staffs is very low.

When households in selected villages were asked about the important facilities lacking in their villages, electricity followed by road, drainage, toilet, drinking water, health centre, community and employment opportunities are given the topmost priorities.

## Chapter III

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RURAL POPULATION/ HOUSEHOLDS

#### Demographic Characteristics

The sampled households consist of 538 (59.78 per cent) Hindu and 362 (40.42 per cent) Muslim households. The average size of the Muslim households (6.1) is larger than the average size of Hindu households (5.8). The overall dependency ratio is 1.05, which is a little higher among the Hindus (1.12) than the Muslims (0.97). The overall sex-ratio is 877; however, there is wide gap in sex ratio of the Muslim and Hindu households, which is more skewed among Hindus (868) than among the Muslims (889). The overall literacy rate is 59.80 per cent, which is 57.42 per cent in case of Hindus and 63.31 per cent in Muslims (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Demographic Features of the Households surveyed (%)**

Community	%	Dependency Ratio	Sex Ratio	Average HH Size
Hindu	59.60	1.12	868	5.8
Muslim	40.40	0.97	889	6.1
All	100.00	1.05	877	5.9

*Source: Survey*

#### Age-Sex Distribution of Population

Almost two third population belongs to less than 29 years of age. The percentage is higher in at the top and bottom of age groups in case of Muslims signifying higher dependency ratios. Interestingly, percentage of female is generally higher than males in both religious groups except a couple of age groups. But the fact that sex ratio is adverse in both communities suggests that discrimination against women is not uniform across all age groups and in certain age groups it may be so severe that the overall balance tilts against women. It appears that age groups 15 -24 and 60+ are more bad for Muslim women.

**Table3.2: Age – Sex – Distribution**

Age group	Hindu			Muslim			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	11.28	13.27	12.21	16.19	16.57	16.37	13.30	14.65	13.93
5-14	30.01	31.81	30.85	29.07	30.47	29.73	29.62	31.25	30.38
15-24	19.66	14.66	17.33	16.08	13.94	15.07	18.18	14.36	16.40
25-29	6.08	6.39	6.22	6.85	7.46	7.14	6.40	6.84	6.60
30-44	19.10	21.44	20.19	18.13	19.27	18.67	18.70	20.54	19.56
45-59	9.01	9.00	9.01	8.43	8.39	8.41	8.77	8.75	8.76
60+	4.87	3.42	4.20	5.25	3.90	4.61	5.03	3.62	4.37
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

The Work Participation Rate (WPR) is reportedly low (35.91 per cent), which was higher for males (49.63 per cent) than females (20.26 per cent). This is true across religious groups. Among religious groups, Hindus have a higher work participation rate than Muslims. The lower female work participation rate is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they are empowered and play their role within and outside the family in an effective way (Table 3.3).

**Table 3.3: Work Participation Rate (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Male	50.83	47.91	49.63
Female	23.56	15.64	20.26
Person	38.16	32.72	35.91

Source: Survey

## QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

### Literacy Rate

Overall literacy rate of district is below state average. But surprisingly literacy rate of Muslims is higher than Hindus. This is so across both genders.

**Table 3.4: Literacy Rates**

	Literacy 7 and above		
	Male	Female	Persons
Hindu	67.35	45.68	57.42
Muslim	73.02	52.32	63.31
All	69.61	48.40	59.80

Source: Survey

### **Enrolment Status of Children**

A perusal of the data given in table 3.5 makes it clear that a significantly high proportion (82.01 per cent) of the children aged 5-16 years are enrolled in government run schools and only 3.16 per cent of the children are enrolled in private schools. The enrolment in other schools and informal institutions is very negligible. It is significant to note that the proportion of the children never enrolled, who have left after enrolment, and are enrolled but do not go to school, is very less, which implies that enrolment and retention rate is very high and SSA has been making its impact on the rural educational scenario of the district in a potent way.

**Table 3.5: Enrolment Status of 6-16 Years Population**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>All</b>
Never Enrolled	11.42	6.38	9.36
Left after enrolment	1.76	2.28	1.97
Enrolled but do not go to school		0.36	0.15
Goes to informal institution	0.15	2.46	1.10
Enrolled in govt school and is regular	79.98	84.93	82.01
Goes to private school	3.00	3.39	3.16
Others	3.69	0.21	2.27
All	100	100	100

*Source: Survey*

### ***Reasons for Dropout***

No doubt, the enrolment 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 drop outs are work at home, not interested in studies, need to earn, lack of facility in schools, fee or expenditure not affordable, etc. There are variations in the reasons for drop outs across religious groups (see table 3.5). The reasons for dropout indicates that a substantial number of the dropouts are because of the poor motivation/awareness and understanding of the role of literacy and education among the parents and children as 6.05 percent of the dropouts are because of the fact that children do not find school interesting. However, working at home and need to earn are principal reasons for a dropout. The need to earn is a major reason for dropout, especially among Muslims (73.88 per cent). It may suggest the fact that Muslim children join the labour force much earlier than Hindu children. It is also associated with higher incidence of poverty in Muslims.

**Table 3.6: Reasons for Dropouts (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Work at home	56.12	14.59	34.94
Need to earn	37.57	73.88	56.09
Not interested in studies	4.25	7.77	6.05
Others	2.05	3.76	2.92
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

### Educational Levels

More than 40 per cent of the households' members across the religious groups are illiterate and one-fourth is educated below primary level or has informal education. A very small proportion of them are educated up to secondary level and higher secondary level. The management or commercial school course (vocational) and technical diploma or certificate below degree have been undergone by only a miniscule per cent of household members across religious groups. The graduate and post-graduate degrees have been obtained by a very negligible proportion of household members. More or less similar is the situation across religious groups and thus the educational attainments are not satisfactory (see table 3.7). Women are relatively worse off irrespective of their religion. The low level of educational attainments is also reflected in lower level of non-agricultural employment of sample households.

**Table 3.7: Educational Status of Households members (%)**

	Hindu			Muslim			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	38.3	57.9	47.4	37.6	54.0	45.3	38.0	56.3	46.5
Below primary or informal education	27.4	24.6	26.1	25.5	26.9	26.2	26.6	25.5	26.1
Primary	15.8	8.9	12.6	19.3	11.7	15.7	17.2	10.1	13.9
Middle	9.0	5.6	7.4	10.7	4.6	7.9	9.7	5.2	7.6
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	3.4	0.4	2.0	1.3	0.9	1.1	2.5	0.6	1.6
Secondary	3.7	0.9	2.4	2.8	1.0	2.0	3.3	0.9	2.2
Higher Secondary	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.6	0.3	1.0	1.7	0.8	1.3
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Technical or professional degree	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Graduate degree	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Post graduate degree	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Survey



A significantly higher proportion (93.28 per cent) of children attends government schools and only 3.36 per cent of children attend private schools. The enrolment in Madararas and non-formal educational institutions is very insignificant in Paschim Champaran district (table 3.7).

### Per Capita Expenditure on Education

The average per capita expenditure on education is Rs102 among Hindu households and Rs159 among Muslims. In terms of total household expenditure, Hindus spend about 2.85 per cent on education whereas Muslims spend merely 4.27 per cent.

### Type and availability of School

Government run schools are the principal source of schooling for both religious groups. Madararas make only a negligible contribution as source of schooling for Muslims.

**Table 3.8: Type of schools Attended (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Govt.	92.28	94.35	93.15
Pvt.	3.56	3.62	3.58
Madararas	0.00	1.59	0.67
Non-formal	0.04	0.05	0.05
Other	4.12	0.39	2.54
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Not only are the enrolment and retention rates are high but school accessibility is better in the sample villages of the district (see table 3.9). More than 82 per cent of the children across religious groups obtain schooling facility within 1 km, however, a negligible proportion of the children who belong to Hindu and Muslim communities 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. There appears to be a negative bias in providing schools to Muslims as in all categories Muslim children have to travel more than Hindu children.

**Table 3.9: Availability of School at Distance (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
within 1 km	79.88	86.07	82.52
1-2 km	11.60	8.89	10.44
2-4 kms	8.47	5.04	7.01
above 4	0.05	0.00	0.03
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

## ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

### Land

The land distribution in the sample villages across Hindu and Muslim is highly skewed. Majority of the sample households are landless (64.29 per cent) and around one-fifth of them are marginal farmers. A negligible percentage of them are medium and small farmers (see table 3.10).

**Table 3.10: Land Distribution (%)**

Land Category	Hindu	Muslim	All
Landless	64.36	64.18	64.29
Marginal	21.10	14.05	18.25
Small	2.19	3.70	2.80
Medium	2.08	4.66	3.12
Large	10.26	13.41	11.53
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00
Avg Land	15.86	25.70	19.85

Thus, the high prevalence of landlessness among sample households is a very serious cause of concern, which results in widening the future prospects of their livelihood enhancement and security, and the prevailing inequities in land distribution needs to be narrowed down by taking appropriate measures to ensure equity across religious groups and socio-economic groups. Though the degree of landlessness is uniform in both religious groups, the distribution of land is much more skewed in Muslims. Average land ownership is much higher in Muslims.

**Table 3.11: Average Land category (acres)**

Land Category	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Marginal	1.01	1.00	1.01
Small	3.56	3.58	3.57
Medium	7.50	7.36	7.42
Large	50.73	64.04	56.98

*Source: Survey*

The skewed land distribution among sample households becomes clear from the fact that the average land holding of marginal and small farmers stood at 1.01 acres and 3.57 acres respectively, whereas the average land holding of medium and large farmers stood at 7.36 acres and 16.58 acres respectively. It is interesting to note that the variations in average land holding across the religions are not very significant in the bottom three categories but is significantly high in the top category. It only verifies our earlier contention that a very high percentage of land holdings of Muslims is with large landowners. In fact, this district has been historically known for highly skewed land

distribution. Vinoba Bhave had come to this district during his Bhudan movement (see table 3.10).

### Productive Assets

Per household mean volume of livestock is Rs 10,132. This value is substantively high in case of Muslim households (Rs 10,760) as compared to other households (Rs 9,707). However, the share of livestock in total productive assets of households is lower in Muslim households (40.06 per cent) as compared to other households (49.29 per cent). Financial assets appear to be an important component of assets of households apart from land and livestock. Muslims have more financial asset per household as compared to Hindus. This may have largely to do with higher incidence of possession of land and especially with concentration of land holdings in the highest class (Table 3.12).

**Table 3.12: Distribution of Land and other Assets Per Household  
Across Different Categories**

Share in %	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Livestock	49.29	40.06	44.86
Agricultural Asset	12.32	11.99	12.16
Transport Asset	6.41	5.39	5.92
Non Agricultural Asset	0.51	2.11	1.28
Consumer Asset	10.45	11.28	10.85
Financial Asset	21.02	29.16	24.93
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Per Household</i>			
Livestock	9707	10760	10132
Agricultural Asset	2427	3221	2748
Transport Asset	1263	1449	1338
Non Agricultural Asset	100	566	288
Consumer Asset	2057	3030	2450
Financial Asset	4139	7832	5630
Total	19693	26858	22587

Source: Survey

## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

### Work Participation

Only around one third of the sample population constitutes the workforce in this district. Here again WPR of Muslims is lower than that of Hindus and female WPR is abysmally low in case of Muslims (Table 3.13).

**Table 3.13: Work Participation Rate**

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Male	50.83	47.91	49.63
Female	23.56	15.64	20.26
Person	38.16	32.72	35.91

Source: Survey

### Nature of Employment

Majority of the male members are engaged as casual labour in agriculture and non-agriculture, followed by self employment in agriculture and non-agriculture, and a very low proportion of them are salaried/employed (see table 3.14). Around one-third of Muslim males are engaged in casual labour in agriculture and non-agriculture, whereas Hindus dominate as casual labour in agriculture (less than one-half). The females are actively engaged as casual labour in agriculture followed by self employment in agriculture. Less than one-fifth of females of Hindu community are self-employed in agriculture and comparatively more Muslim females are engaged as casual labour in agriculture.

**Table 3.14: Occupational Status (%)**

	Hindu			Muslim			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture	16.6	20.4	17.7	18.5	14.9	17.7	17.4	18.6	17.7
Self Employed in Non-Agriculture	6.5	2.6	5.4	5.3	1.2	4.3	6.0	2.1	5.0
Salaried	3.8	5.1	4.2	7.1	4.4	6.5	5.1	4.8	5.1
Casual labour in Agriculture	46.2	66.4	51.9	32.1	78.7	42.7	40.6	70.4	48.4
Casual labour in Non-Agriculture	26.9	5.6	20.8	37.0	0.9	28.8	30.9	4.0	23.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Survey

### Sector of Employment

The industry-wise distribution of main workers in sample villages across the selected religious groups is given in table 3.15. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 67.7 per cent of household members are engaged, followed by construction, and manufacturing. A very small proportion of them are also engaged in mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business,

and public administration, education, health and other sectors. It is interesting to note that the percentage of household members engaged in agriculture is lower in Muslims as compared to Hindus but their share in manufacturing is higher. This has to do with a higher degree of involvement of Muslims in artisanal activities like weaving. Moreover, the female workforce is much more diversified in case of Hindus than Muslims.

**Table 3.15: Industry-wise Employment (%)**

	Hindu			Muslim			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	64.3	88.0	71.0	51.9	97.8	62.1	59.4	91.1	67.7
Mining and Quarrying	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0
Manufacturing	6.2	0.4	4.6	11.9	1.2	9.5	8.5	0.7	6.4
Electricity	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2
Construction	12.9	2.1	9.9	21.9	0.6	17.2	16.5	1.6	12.6
Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	2.6	1.4	2.3	1.9	0.3	1.5	2.3	1.0	2.0
Transport, Storage and Communication	2.3	0.1	1.7	2.4	0.0	1.9	2.3	0.1	1.7
Finance., Real Estate and Business	2.5	2.1	2.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.6
Public Administration, Education, Health and Others	8.1	4.7	7.1	7.9	0.0	6.1	8.0	3.2	6.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Survey

### Income and Expenditure

Agriculture, animal husbandry, wage labour, salaried jobs, trade and remittances are the main sources of income of the people of the district. The relative importance of these sources however varies from one community to another. It depends on their resource base, skill base and preferences. While agriculture contributes less than one fifth of the income of Hindus and more than one fifth of the income of the Muslims, which is due to the poor land base and high incidence of landlessness among the sample households. Wage labour and remittances together contribute more than half of the income of the households in both groups. The per capita income of Muslims is higher than that of Hindus. It reflects the significant difference in per-capita expenditure among two communities due to variations in their per-capita income. There is a marginal difference in the income-expenditure ratio between Hindus and Muslims. These ratios indicate the difficulty with which these households manage their expenditure levels (Table 3.16).

**Table 3.16: Average per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Expenditure (Rs.)	3,572	3,727	3636
Income (Rs.)	4,336	5,475	4808
Income-expenditure ratio	1.12	1.14	1.13

Source: Survey

Food is the principle item of expenditure, followed by other items across Hindu and Muslim communities. More than half of the income is spent by both the communities on food items. Both Muslims and Hindus spend a significant proportion (one tenth) of their income on social ceremonies. Health expenditure is also significant in both the communities (one tenth). One can notice significant differentials in income and expenditure, which may be due to underestimation of expenditure or over-estimation of the income or trend towards savings on the part of the households to meet future contingencies, which needs deeper probes to understand the gaps in income and expenditure in sample households across both the communities (Table 3.17).

**Table 3.17: Item-wise per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)**

Item	Per Capita		
	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Food	1922	1961	1938
Education	102	159	126
Health	348	371	357
Social Ceremonies	311	323	316
Interest/Loan	100	67	86
Others	790	847	813
Total	3572	3727	3636

Source: Survey

## HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

### Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.18, which reveals that a majority across religious groups have their own house. 45.70 per cent and 25.95 per cent of the households live in thatched and *katcha* houses respectively and 13.89 per cent of them live in semi *pucca* houses. Only 14.28 per cent of the sample households live in *pucca* houses, which indicate somewhat better economic conditions of the sample households. Across religious groups, no significant differential is noted in terms of housing status apart from the fact that the percentage of Muslim households

that own either *Semi Pucca* or *Pucca* houses is less than Hindus. More than one fifth and one half of the sample households respectively live in one room and two room accommodation and about one-fourth of them have more than two room accommodation. Here Muslim households are doing better than Hindu households.

**Table 3.18: Housing Status of the Households**

	Type Of House					No Of Rooms		
	Thatched	<i>Katcha</i>	<i>Semi Pucca</i>	<i>Pucca</i>	Others	1	2	2+
Hindu	47.35	22.66	14.72	15.28	0.00	23.16	51.25	25.59
Muslim	43.27	30.81	12.68	12.82	0.42	16.26	53.07	30.68
All	45.70	25.95	13.89	14.28	0.17	20.37	51.99	27.64

Source: Survey

### Basic Amenities

Electricity, drinking water, toilet and drainage are basic amenities required for a healthy living. Only 13 per cent of the households have electricity, of them 11.83 per cent are Hindu households and 15.04 per cent are Muslim households. The main drinking water sources are private (54.9 per cent), public (39.79 per cent) and others (8.25 per cent). 93.42 per cent of the (members of) sample households defecate outside the household premises, in the open and more than one-fifth of the sample households have drainage facility in their dwellings. Though Muslim households have better access to electricity and have in-house toilets and drainage in comparison to Hindu households, their dependence on private source of drinking water is high (Table 3.19).

**Table 3.19: Basic Amenities in the Households**

	Electricity	Drinking Water			Toilet		Drainage
		Public	Private	Others	In house	Outside	
Hindu	11.83	39.79	52.07	8.14	3.22	96.78	12.82
Muslim	15.04	31.63	59.07	9.30	9.99	90.01	35.77
All	13.12	36.49	54.90	8.61	5.96	94.04	22.10

Source: Survey

### HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Health facilities in the sample villages in the district are worse than in many other regions in the country. Much of the outcome of health indicators depends on the healthcare facilities and also on the general awareness among the population. The following sections analyse the various aspects of health and family welfare among rural population groups in Paschim Champaran district.

### Place of Child Birth

In response to a question about the birth of the last child in a family during the past 5 years, it emerges clearly that an overwhelmingly large majority (84 per cent) of child births were at home. This has been true for both the communities and among various social groups.

### Assistance in Child Birth

In response to a question about the assistance in child birth during last five years, it is interesting to note that untrained *dais* (midwife) assisted in over three fourth of child deliveries. In case of Muslims, untrained *dais* assisted in nearly 72 per cent child deliveries and that for Hindus 61 per cent. Trained *dais*/ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST assisted only in the case of nearly 6 per cent child delivery cases. Pre and post natal care is largely absent; more so in case of Muslims (Table 3.20).

**Table 3.20: Institutional and Non-institutional Deliveries of Children (%)**

		Hindu	Muslim	All
Where last child was born	Government hospital	10.22	10.28	10.25
	Private hospital	6.39	4.47	5.51
	Home	83.39	85.26	84.25
Who assisted in the delivery	Government hospital	11.61	12.14	11.85
	Trained midwife/Accredited social health activist	7.22	4.23	5.85
	Untrained <i>Dai</i>	60.85	71.74	65.85
	Others	20.32	11.89	16.45
Pre and Post natal care	Yes	41.67	28.27	35.53
	No	58.33	71.73	64.47
	Total	100	100	100

Source: Survey

### Immunization

Though there has been a significant improvement in immunization of children in the country, that is not so in case of this district. Only 35 per cent children are fully immunized in the rural areas of the district. Interestingly this percentage is higher in Muslims than in Hindus, quite unlike in other parts of the country.



**Table 3.21: Any type of Immunization of Children Below 5 Years (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Any Type	98.66	99.54	99.07
Fully Immunized	31.14	39.09	34.88

Source: Survey

This immunization has been provided mainly by public sources (98.69 per cent).

### Morbidity

The data on types of diseases prevalent in the sample households is presented in table 3.21, which reveals that fever (31.37 per cent), followed by cough and cold (10 per cent), and dysentery (9.59 per cent) etc. are major health problems faced by them. Generally there are no significant variations in the health ailments of Hindus and Muslims in the sample households. But diarrhoea, pneumonia and complications in pregnancy are significantly higher in Muslims than in Hindus.

**Table 3.22: Types of Diseases Prevalent in the Households (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Diarrhoea	4.99	8.46	6.39
Dysentery	9.32	10.00	9.59
Cough and Cold	10.26	9.76	10.05
Fever	31.98	30.46	31.37
Malaria	4.71	5.36	4.97
Typhoid	0.28	0.48	0.36
Kalazar	1.01	1.86	1.35
Pneumonia	2.74	4.92	3.62
Vomiting	0.35	0.26	0.31
Ear discharge	0.73	0.66	0.70
Night blindness	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conjunctivitis	1.32	1.43	1.36
Skin Disease	0.69	1.04	0.83
Chicken pox	0.88	0.68	0.80
Worms	0.07	0.39	0.20
Problem in teeth	0.83	1.11	0.94
Pain in stomach	7.63	3.81	6.09
Fracture	1.55	1.18	1.40
Women related diseases	3.21	2.39	2.88
Complication in pregnancy and child birth	1.62	4.53	2.79
New Born Baby Problems	0.52	1.33	0.84
TB	2.05	0.82	1.56
Filaria	1.25	0.50	0.94
Leprosy	0.57	0.68	0.61
Jaundice	0.00	0.20	0.08
Arthritis	4.53	2.17	3.58
Polio	0.13	0.00	0.08
Other	6.81	5.54	6.30
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

The data on sources of medical treatment presented in table 3.23 reveals that more than three-fourth of the households depend on private medical practitioners for medical treatment. Thus, it is clear that dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly more as compared to that on government hospitals, which may be due to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals may be inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in a big way so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependency on private sources that are costly in nature and most of the times these are beyond the reach of the poor households and forces them in to debt. One alarming fact is that still around 15 per cent of the sample households depend on quacks and this percentage is significantly higher in Muslims where around one fifth of them are dependant on quacks.

**Table 3.23: Sources of Medical Treatment (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Government Hospital	1.56	1.22	1.43
Private medical practitioner	79.97	74.06	77.59
Government and private both	5.14	4.68	4.95
Traditional	0.00	0.00	0.00
Homeopath	0.67	1.80	1.12
Local government health workers	0.21	0.00	0.13
NGO Health worker	0.00	0.00	0.00
Home treatment	0.24	0.05	0.17
Quack	12.21	18.19	14.61
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

## **INDEBTEDNESS**

### **Incidence and Source of Indebtedness**

Indebtedness is reportedly very high in sample villages. Half of the sample households are reportedly indebted. Of them more than 56.23 per cent and 44.19 per cent are respectively Hindu and Muslim. The non-institutional sources of indebtedness are predominant (more than three-fourth of households) and NGOs play a nominal role. The average amount of loan raised is Rs11,428. Muslim households are more indebted (Rs16,092) than Hindu households (Rs8,753). Keeping in view the greater prevalence of non-institutional sources of credit, there is an urgent need to open more branches of

rural banks in the district, so that the exploitation of poor people in the hands of money lenders and *sahukars* can be minimized. Interestingly these non-institutional lenders are mostly traders (Table 3.24).

**Table 3.24: Incidence and Source of Indebtedness in (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Source	56.23	44.19	51.37
Government.	1.97	2.67	2.22
Commercial Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gramin Bank	5.28	1.99	4.08
Co-op Bank/Societies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Provident fund	0.00	0.74	0.27
Self Help Group/NGO	0.12	0.18	0.14
Traders	75.48	61.96	70.55
Professional money lender	0.08	1.12	0.46
Money lender	0.11	0.17	0.13
Landlord/employer	11.58	18.02	13.92
Friends/Relatives	5.39	12.38	7.94
Other	0.00	0.78	0.28
Average	8,753	16,092	11,428

### **Use of Loan**

Loans have been raised by sample households for varied purposes ranging from medical treatment (more than one third) to marriage and other social ceremonies (around one-fifth). More than one-tenth of the households have raised loans for purchase of consumer durables, which is a recent phenomenon in rural areas. A small proportion of the households have also raised loans for meeting capital expenditure in farm business, purchase of land/house and purchase of livestock. Generally there is no significant variation in purposes and extent of loan across the Hindu and Muslim communities apart from the fact that a higher percentage of Muslims is indebted because of renovation of house and medical treatment. Moreover, Muslims are less inclined to become indebted for social ceremonies (Table 3.25).

**Table 3.25: Main Purposes of the Loan (%)**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>All</b>
Capital expenditure in farm business	6.33	5.95	6.19
Capital expenditure in non-farm business	1.88	2.06	1.94
Purchase of land/house	6.52	5.34	6.09
Renovation of house	1.33	5.51	2.85
Marriage and other social ceremonies	21.37	13.00	18.32
Festivals	0.97	0.18	0.68
For education	0.12	1.78	0.72
Medical treatment	34.00	39.59	36.04
Repayment of old debt	0.00	0.22	0.08
Other household expenditure	6.37	10.14	7.74
Purchase of consumer durables	11.91	10.35	11.34
Purchase of livestock	2.80	0.51	1.97
Financial investment	1.38	0.89	1.20
Other	5.02	4.47	4.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## Chapter IV

### DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

#### Public Distribution System

A significantly high proportion of the sample population (81 percent) are Below Poverty Line (BPL), however, only 26 percent had BPL ration cards and almost all of them are availing Public Distribution System (PDS) facility. However only a small part of BPL households get ration or have ration cards. Though the percentage of BPL households is almost same in both religious groups, Muslims are worse off (table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Public Distribution System (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
BPL Households	81.31	80.52	80.99
BPL Households getting ration	30.74	18.96	25.98
With BPL card	31.01	19.13	26.21

Around 71 percent of the sample population have complained about inadequate supply followed by dishonesty in measurement (60 per cent), non-availability of time, bad quality and irregular supply (about one half). In terms of social groups, 87 percent of the Muslims and more than 64 percent of Hindus have complained of inadequate availability of ration at PDS shops and more than 40 per cent of the Muslim and Hindu households have reported bad quality, dishonesty in measurement, etc. in availing PDS facility (see table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: Difficulty Regarding PDS (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	All
Insufficient quantity	64.61	87.51	71.12
Bad quality	43.36	42.24	43.04
Dishonesty in measurement	64.23	50.00	60.19
Non-availability of time	48.91	55.24	50.71
Irregular supply	39.26	50.39	42.42
Others	4.13	0.00	2.96
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

#### Awareness

A look at awareness of different programmes shows that NREGA, IAY, ICDS and Old Age Pension schemes are known by almost all respondents cutting across religious boundaries and least known programme is SGSY. Even then Muslims are less aware of

SGSY and ARWSP (Table 4.3). Therefore, policy planners need to probe it further to understand the reasons for lack of awareness of these programmes as the success of any programme crucially depends upon knowledge of these programmes at grass root level as it has been proved by the success of NREGA. Moreover, this may suggest that Muslims are generally out of purview of these programmes. Those programmes are better known which are implemented at ground level. In a way it is a two way causation; a programme is successful when widely known and if any programme is widely known then the chances of its success is high.

**Table 4.3: Awareness about Governments' Programmes (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
SGSY	45.1	29.0	38.6
NREGA	97.1	97.9	97.4
Indira Awas Yojana	99.7	99.6	99.6
Ttotal Sanitation Campaign Swajaldhara	59.7	50.5	56.0
ARWSP (Drinking Water)	66.4	57.3	62.7
Sarva Siksha	81.9	86.1	83.6
Integethered Child Development Scheme Anganwadi	96.9	99.6	98.0
Old Age or Widow Pension	92.9	94.5	93.5
Maternity Benefit Scheme	76.5	81.3	78.4

### **Aspirations**

What people value most or want to be provided by the government of the day? Undoubtedly employment, housing, education, industrial development and provision of ration cards are in priority no matter what the religion of the respondents. Apart from industrial development all these are basic needs for a descent living and they suggest the ongoing struggle of these rural households to ensure a minimum standard of living. Moreover, these all are primarily to be provided by the state. This also suggests that in terms of basic life requirement there are only minor variations across religious groups. Lack of housing facilities of Muslims as shown by higher percentage of Muslims without *Pucca* houses reflects here as housing is at the top of their priority. Moreover, Muslims also aspire to have reservation in education and employment (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.4 Aspirations in order of their ranks- Religion Wise**

	Hindu		Muslim	
	%	Rank	%	Rank
Employment	40.59	1	36.04	2
Other facilities	40.15	2	33.01	3
Housing	28.35	4	39.74	1
Education	32.02	3	28.51	4
Industries	17.35	6	26.96	5
Ration Card	13.66	7	15.18	6
Toilet	17.85	5	7.48	13
Reservation in Education	9.52	11	13.70	7
Family Planning	12.88	8	7.55	12
PDS Ration	11.14	10	9.22	10
Drinking Water	11.50	9	7.88	11
Reservation in Employment	8.24	13	10.31	9
Madarasa	2.88	16	12.86	8
Loan	8.99	12	2.83	17
Health Centre	3.88	14	6.31	14
Community Centre	3.84	15	5.12	15
School	1.07	18	4.21	16
Irrigation	2.75	17	0.57	18
Welfare facilities	0.07	19	0.00	19

## Chapter V

### KEY FINDINGS

- Paschim Champaran, one of the most backward districts of Bihar, stands at the bottom of the 90 minority concentration districts. In 2001, the population of Paschim Champaran district was 27.33 lakhs and 90 per cent of the population was living in rural areas. Scheduled castes form 15 per cent of the population of the district, which is slightly less than the State figure of 16.4 per cent.
- Villages of the district have proportionately more primary schools (76.8 per cent) than the State average (72.6 per cent). There are 58 secondary schools in the district. There is one industrial and training school in the district. This district has a literacy rate of 39.63 per cent. On the whole, the educational scenario of the district is grim.
- Less than one-third of the villages of Paschim Champaran district have PHCs within 5 km. Inaccessibility of health facilities is a major deterrent in their utilization. More than one tenth of the Hindu and less than one fifth of the Muslim households depend on home remedies. 44.92 per cent and 39.03 per cent of the Hindu and Muslim households respectively have fully immunized their children below the age of 5 years. Institutional delivery of children is only at 17 percent. More than one third of the children born have received pre and post natal care.
- The tap and tube well drinking water facility is available in a very negligible proportion of the villages of the district. On the whole, drinking water facilities are very inadequate in the villages.
- Only a small proportion of the households (13 per cent) have electricity, of them 11.83 per cent and 15.04 percent are Hindu and Muslim households respectively.
- About 94.04 per cent of households do not have any toilet facilities in their premises and defecate in the open and of them 96.78 per cent and 90.01 per cent belong to Hindu and Muslim community respectively. The drainage system is also very poor. There is not much differential between Hindu and Muslim households regarding toilet and drainage facilities, which shows uniform lack of sanitation facilities in rural households.



- 9.92 per cent of households have IAY/government provided houses, of which 14.69 per cent and 2.89 per cent are Hindu and Muslim households respectively. 45.70 per cent and 25.95 per cent of the households live in thatched and *katcha* houses respectively and 14.28 per cent of them live in semi *pucca* houses.
- 81 percent of households are below poverty line (BPL), however, only 26.21 percent had BPL ration cards and almost all of them avail PDS facility. Around 71.12 percent of households have complained about inadequate supply followed by dishonesty in measurement (60.19 per cent), non-availability of time, bad quality and irregular supply (about one half).
- Work participation of the population of Paschim Champaran district was 35.91 per cent; whereas the average work participation rate for State of Bihar was just above one-third. Work force participation is quite low and agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein a majority of the members of the households are engaged. Gender differentials in employment are quite sharp. Self-employment in non-agricultural activities is very low, which needs to be propagated on a larger scale.

### **Recommendations**

Huge investment is needed to improve infrastructural facilities of the district, especially in the field of roads, education, health, communication, electricity, sanitation, drainage etc. Improvement in the condition of road and electricity will accelerate economic activities in the district and augment gainful employment opportunities for the people. This in turn will increase the income and expenditure of the people of the district and will reduce the incidence of unemployment/underemployment.

The educational scenario is really gloomy. Some of the schools lack basic educational facilities, especially for girls, which are reflected in an alarmingly low literacy rate among girls and the gender disparity in educational attainments is revealed among Muslims. They are reluctant to send girls to schools outside the villages at distant places and prefer to send them to Madrasas. Thus, there is a need for arranging awareness camps with the help of local NGOs to change the attitudes among Muslims. Besides setting up more girls' school at all levels, if possible in each village or within a walkable distance is called for. Female teachers should be appointed in girls' schools so that the parents find

it safe to send their daughters to school. Special drives need to be undertaken to encourage enrolment as well as for mainstreaming the dropout students.

The Higher education scenario is very grim in this district. There is scarcity of inter colleges, colleges, polytechnic, ITI, and other training institutes. Such institutes should be set up in a large number in the district for which public-private partnership may be promoted. Such institutes not only improve livelihood opportunities of the villagers but will also provide resource personnel to improve education and skill of the people of the district. These institutes can also be involved in training the women of SHGs for micro enterprises.

The health scenario is also not encouraging in this district. There is need for massive investment to strengthen health facilities. The health infrastructure like PHC and Sub Centres, referral and Specialty Hospitals should be strengthened by opening new ones and equipping the existing ones with equipments, medicines, doctors and para-medical staff. There is need to equip at least one such centre in every block with bed, pathological testing facility, minor operations and delivery facilities. Mobile dispensary and ambulance should be made available in all the blocks. Ambulances should be made available for critical cases in case of complications in delivery. There is a need to increase visits of the health staff to the villages. Health camps should be organised for the villagers. They should be given health cards. A data bank of the disease profile of the villagers should be created. A major reason of indebtedness of large section of the population (especially those belonging to minority community) is their medical expenses. Intensification and strengthening of health facilities will also improve the economic condition of the people of this district and save them from the exploitative nature of the informal sources of credit.

Vaccination of children has got major attention in child health care programme in India. Despite this, not all of the children have been vaccinated in this district. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve immunization facilities and campaign for immunization should be intensified. All those IEC methods should be used which have been found effective for such people whose do not have access to TV and newspapers. IEC activities should be intensified to promote the small family norm and for safe motherhood, health and hygiene practices.

The economic well-being of the rural poor gets hindered by the communication problem. The sample villages have been devoid of proper communication infrastructure for which the inhabitants have been complaining since long. Improvement in communication can open the doors of city markets for the people. They can sell their agricultural and dairy products at higher prices in these markets. At the same time, improvement in communication will attract new rural and small and micro enterprises and generate more employment.

There is wide variation in gender specific work force participation. The female work participation outside domestic activities is marginal. However, the provisioning of more non-farm work opportunities for rural women will result in their economic independence and empowerment within and outside the family. Since there has been huge discrimination against women in Muslim family, the economic empowerment and independence will definitely change their decision-making within and outside the family milieu. All this calls for better educational as well as vocational training facilities for females in which both the government as well non-governmental agencies can play an effective role.

Since agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the people, therefore, steps should be taken to improve the cropping intensity and production and productivity of the agricultural sector. Investment for development of irrigation facilities and control of soil erosion is needed for improving agricultural productivity and intensity of cultivation. Watershed development programmes should be implemented vigorously to meet both the objectives of moisture conservation and checking soil erosion.

The deficiencies have also been noticed in basic facilities like electricity, sanitation and drinking water, which calls for huge investments in this direction. Improvement in drinking water and toilet facilities will improve the health, convenience, comfort and dignity of the people. Construction of IHL (Individual Household Latrines), CSCs (Community Sanitary Complexes) and toilets in School and Anganwadi should be taken up on a priority basis. Similarly, measures to provide safe drinking water to all the households should be intensified.

There is need to improve immunization facilities especially near Muslim habitation. Campaign for immunization should be intensified. All those IEC methods should be used which have been found effective for such people whose access to TV and newspapers is

limited. IEC activities should be intensified for promoting small family norm and for safe health and hygiene practices.

There is also need to monitor and improve PDS facilities in the district. Adequate supply of provisions should be made. There is need to monitor the timing of opening of PDS shops and the behaviour of the shopkeepers. The beneficiaries should be allowed to buy their quota in instalments—whenever they have the money to buy their provisions and whatever fraction of their quota they are capable of buying. Measures should also be taken to ensure payment of minimum wages in the villages. For ensuring proper operation of different facilities and payment of minimum wages the concerned officials must increase their field visits.

Measures should be taken to reduce the dependence of the people of the district on informal sources of credit. This can be done by improving the density of institutional financial agencies and the access of the people to these institutions. Development of micro-finance facilities can help in meeting this objective. Efforts should be made to increase the number of SHGs and develop them in all respects. SHGs will reduce the dependence of its members on informal sources of credit by making credit available to them on the one hand and by reducing their dependence on credit through helping them in augmenting their income through income generating activities on the other.

**Annexure I: List of Selected villages (sample) in Paschim Champaran District**

Sl.	Block	GP	Village
1	Majhawalia	Pavesa	Pavesa
2	Majhawalia	Rampwewa Tola	Rampurwa Tola
3	Majhawalia	Baiktamia Rahanackak	gurchiwawa
4	Majhawalia	Naitakhurd	Naitankhurd.
5	Majhawalia	Ratanmala	Ratanmala
6	Jagapatti	Khutwania Habakl pur	Dihi
7	Jagapatti	Fatehpur	Nanganwer
8	Jagapatti	Piprahia	Piprahioa
9	Bettiah	Anhar Majharia	Anhar Majharia
10	Champatia	Kharagj pokharia	Kharag phokharia
11	Champatia	Champatia	Bitia Dehi
12	Champatia	Tuchapatti	tuchapatti
13	Ramnagar	Denbavawa	Sikat
14	Ramnagar	Dhokraha	Pachmikhia
15	Nakati Ganj	Manwa Parsi	Sitapur
16	Nakati Ganj	Gokhula	Siarahi
17	Nakati Ganj	Chamua	chanki
18	Nakati Ganj	Nahrdi Teda	Bhalhara
19	Nantan	Vaikhuntha	Vishunpura
20	Nantan	Sansaraiya	Sansaraiya
21	Bagha 2	Santpur sahania	Daruabari
22	Bagha 2	Rampur	Pipra Dhiranli
23	Mainatam	Mahuawa Sagrauna	Balirampur
24	Mainatam	Pundari	Jhanjhari
25	Lauria	Dhobani dharampur	Varwa kalan
26	Madhubani	Tama kuha	Tama kuha
27	Haunaha	Mehnaul	Hardi
28	Bagha	Laukaria	Laukaria
29	Bagha	Bhathaura	Kumhia
30	Sikta	Surajpur	Surajpur