

# **BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT**

## **Executive Summary of Purnia District (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 purpose to improve all these indicators and bring it to the all India level through a multi-sector development plan under the eleventh five year plan. Since, it is expected that there must be changes in those indicators after 2001; a baseline survey has been conducted to inform the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Purnia is among the backward districts of Bihar.

### **District profile (2001 census based)**

As per 2001 census the total population of Purnia district is 25.40 lakhs, 23 lakhs are rural and about 2 lakhs are urban population. Against the state literacy rate of 47.53% (male 60.32 & female 33.57), the overall literacy rate in Purnia is 35.51%, (male 46.16% and female merely 23.72%), even lower than the state average.

The district has substantial minority (Muslim) population, most of them are either cultivators or agricultural labour. The literacy rate of the Muslim population in the district is 25.9% which is further low in case of female population. (15.6% only).

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

The district lags behind all India figures in terms of 6 out of 8 indicators and also in terms of the two health related indicators.

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

Sl. No.	Indicators	Purnia 2008	All India 2005	Gap Between All India and District	Priority based on the gap
		1	2	(3=1- 2)	4
1	Rate of literacy	45.59	67.30	-21.71	4
2	Rate of female literacy	37.28	57.10	-19.82	5
3	Work participation rate	37.58	38.00	-0.42	6
4	Female work participation rate	21.74	21.50	0.24	7
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	14.00	59.40	-45.40	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	91.89	87.90	3.99	8
7	Percentage of households with electricity	12.58	67.90	-55.32	1
8	Percentage of households with water close-set latrines	2.11	39.20	-37.09	3
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	25.8	43.50	-17.70	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	13.28	38.70	-25.42	-

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

**1. Electricity:** Against all India figure of 67.97% of the households having electricity connection, only 12.58% of the rural households in Purnia have access to the same.

There is a “Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran” programme sponsored by the Centre that aims at 100% electrification of all the rural households by 2009. However, the progress in this regard appears to be dismal in the district. It is unlikely that the district will achieve the target within the stipulated period under “RGGVY”.

**2. Pucca House:** Pucca house is another important gap in the district. Against 59.40 per cent of the households having pucca houses at all India level, only 14 percent of the rural households in the district are living in the pucca houses.

The allocation under the IAY that provides such houses to the BPL families, is quite inadequate to meet the gap in the district. The multi-sector development plan may give priority to the construction of IAY

**3. In-house Toilet Facilities:** Against all India average of 39.20 percent of the households having in-house water-closet toilet, only 2.11 percent of the rural households in Purnia have the same.

The TSC is committed to eliminate open defecation by providing in-house toilet facilities to all the rural households by 2012. However, the progress in the district is disappointing. It is unlikely that the universalisation will be achieved within the stipulated time period. The Multi-Sectoral Development Plan may saturate this facility by giving it priority. This is all the more important in the district as it is flood-prone and open defecation leads to various infections diseases, more so during the flood.

4. **Literacy Rate:** Improving overall literacy rate with emphasis on female literacy is another important priority. A topping-up approach under the Multi-Sectoral Development Plan can be adopted here. There is also an urgency to ensure 100 percent enrolment ratio and minimize the drop-out rate.

5. **Employment Opportunity:** The increasing overall work participation rate particularly of female population is another priority. Purnia is famous for the production of jute/bamboo. Recently production of maize and banana has also increased substantially. Jute and bamboo based handicraft and small industries and maize and banana based food-processing industries can also be developed through the formation of SHGS, providing loans and trainings.

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

1. **Health:** Health deprivation is also because of the lack of proper medical facilities. Only 25.8 percent of the children are fully vaccinated against the all India average of 43.50 percent. Moreover, only 13.28 percent of the child deliveries are institutional against the all India average of 38.70 percent.
2. The overall infrastructural gap in the villages, particularly all weather pucca roads, schools, PHCs, also need selective intervention in the district.