

## ***BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT***

### *Executive Summary of Sitamarhi 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 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 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.

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

- Sitamarhi is primarily a rural district; 94% of the total population lives in the rural areas.
- There is a substantial concentration of minority (mainly Muslims) population. Against the state average of 16.2 %, Muslims constitute 21.4 per cent of the total rural population. Some of the important Muslim-concentrated subdivisions are Nanpur (85.3%), Bairgania (31.0%), Parihar (30.5%), Bajpatti (30.9%) and Parsauni (23.0%). The number of minority groups – Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain – is negligible.
- The literacy rate is 38.5 percent, far below the state and national averages. The worst is the case of the female literacy rate, i.e. 26.1%. In other words, only one out of four women is literate. The adverse situation of women is borne out by the abysmally low sex ratio of 892 which is less than the state and all-India levels.
- The overall work participation rate is 32.19 percent, which is lower than the state average. Agriculture labourers dominate the labour force (57.3% of the total), that is almost double the national average. Household workers constitute only 3.3% of rural workers.
- Most of the villages lack some basic infrastructure: 92 percent are without any medical facilities; 12 percent of the villages lack formal facilities of education of any type; 63 percent villages are without electricity; and 57 percent of the villages are without all-weather road connectivity.

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

In 2008 (survey findings), Sitamarhi lagged behind the all-India average in eight out of ten indicators. The Table below shows the gap between the all-India and district

figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritizes the development intervention vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and the all-India figures are for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all-India figures may be higher, as all-India data are a little old.

### Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Plan

| Sl. No. | Indicators  | Sitamarhi 2008 | All India 2005 | Development Gaps Between All India and District | Development Priority of the District |
|---------|---|----------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|         |   | (1)            | (2)            | (3=1-2)   | (4)                                  |
| 1       | Rate of literacy                                    | 38.5           | 67.3           | -28.8   | 3                                    |
| 2       | Rate of female literacy                             | 47.26          | 57.1           | -9.84   | 6                                    |
| 3       | Work participation rate                             | 31.99          | 38.0           | -6.01   | 8                                    |
| 4       | Female work participation rate                      | 13.07          | 21.5           | -8.43   | 7                                    |
| 5       | Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls    | 10.22          | 59.4           | -49.18  | 2                                    |
| 6       | Percentage of households with safe drinking water   | 100.0          | 87.9           | 12.1  | -                                    |
| 7       | Percentage of households with electricity           | 10.78          | 67.9           | -57.12  | 1                                    |
| 8       | Percentage of households with water closet latrines | 11.67          | 39.2           | -27.53  | 4                                    |
| 9       | Percentage of fully vaccinated children             | 69.82          | 43.5           | 26.32   | -                                    |
| 10      | Percentage of child delivery in a health facility   | 10.6           | 38.7           | -27.1   | 5                                    |

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 pertains to year 2005-06 from NFHS-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

### Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators:

#### 1. Electricity:

Electricity emerges to be the most critical element in the development map of this district. The percentage of households with electricity is drastically low in this district, being less than one-fifth the national average. However, the situation of Muslims households is slightly better than that of Hindu households.

#### 2. Houses with *Pucca* Walls:

While the national average for houses with *pucca* walls is 59.4 percent, it is only 10.22 percent in Sitamarhi, i.e., the national average is almost six times higher than this district. In this context, Muslims are slightly worse off (9.7%) than Hindus (10.5%)

#### 3. Total Literacy Rate:

The literacy rate of Sitamarhi is almost half the national average. While the male literacy rate of Hindus is higher than Muslims, it is the reverse in the case of females. However sex ratio and average household size of Muslim households are higher than those of their Hindu counterparts.

#### 4. In-house toilet:

The state of the total sanitation programme is borne out by the fact that the percentage of households having access to in-house toilet in Sitamarhi is almost half the national average. And once again Muslim households suffer more than Hindu households.

#### **5. Safe Delivery of Children:**

This district is so bereft of modern medical facilities that the chances of a child born here getting medical attention at the time of birth is drastically lower than that at the national level. While almost 40 percent births are carried out with proper medical care at the national level, in Sitamarhi only 10 percent births are medically attended. Muslim households are much more inclined for home-births than Hindu households. Interestingly, they have lower percentage of births in government hospitals and higher in private hospitals.

#### **6. Female literacy:**

Generally female literacy is taken to be a driver of development in development discourse. In Sitamarhi, the female literacy rate is lower than the national average and Muslim females fare better than Hindu females.

#### **7. Work Participation Rate (Female Work Participation Rate):**

Total WPR as well as Female WPR is lower in Sitamarhi as compared to the national average. While total WPR for males is 49%, it is only 13% for females and Muslim females are in the workforce in greater percentage than Hindu females.