



Executive Summary

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

Tirap District Arunachal Pradesh



OMEO KUMAR DAS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

A Research Institute of Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and Government of Assam

VIP Road, Upper Hengrabari, Guwahati 781036
www.okd.in, email: dkdsd@yahoo.co.in

Tirap District, Arunachal

The purpose of the Baseline Survey of the Minority Concentration Districts (MDCS) was to assess the development deficits in the district and identification of priority areas for policy interventions to be structured in the line of the Prime Minister's 15- Point Programme, which will be in the form of a Multi-sector Development Programme (MsDP) for the entire district. In order to do this, ten indicators - eight of which were identified and applied by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India for identifying the Minority Concentrated Districts across the country along with two additional indicators for assessing health status have been used. Since the basic purpose of the Baseline was specified as a pre-requisite for preparation of Multi-sector District Development Plan (MsDP) for the Minority Concentrated Districts (MCDs) characterised by relative backwardness and to bring those district at least to the national level, most recent national level official estimates were taken for finding the development deficits in terms of the ten selected indicators. Taking deficit so derived as weights, the indicators representing specific sectors are ranked on a ten point score-scale. The exercise results in following relative ranking for the Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh. The national estimates of the selected indicators are estimated on the basis of NSS 2004 -2005 rounds and NFHS - 3 with due approval from the Ministry.

SI No	Indicators	Survey Results	India	Deficit	Priority assigned
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	71.40	67.30	3.70	5
2	Rate of female literacy	64.00	57.10	6.90	6
3	Work participation rate	45.00	38.00	7.00	7
4	Female work participation rate	38.00	21.50	16.50	8
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	1.20	59.40	-58.20	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	60.0	87.90	-27.90	4
7	Percentage of households with sanitary toilets	0.30	39.20	-38.90	2
8	Percentage of electrified households	84.40	67.90	16.50	8
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	64.30	43.50	20.80	10
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	7.30	38.70	-31.40	3

The analysis based on the sample survey reveals that Tirap is a poor performer in certain facets in overall development context in the country. This thinly populated district is not found to be well managed in making adequate provisions in road communication, assured power supply, access to health and educational facilities and more importantly lacks serious efforts in raising agriculture productivity and in livelihood diversification.

■ This thinly populated district is primarily an agrarian one, but food grain productivity is awfully low even in the context of the state. Certain food crops- maize, potato, wheat, millets, pulses, oilseeds and potato show some prospects to the agro climatic conditions, but require institutional supports and people's efforts to raise the yield. The agriculture sector needs attention in land development and management, shift to high value crops and modernization with appropriate technology. The potentiality for development of livestock resources in this district also draws attentions.

■ Literacy rate though shows some satisfactory picture what concerns more is the male female disparity in literacy and poor level of educational attainment. Distance to the educational institutions often has impact on poor educational attainment particularly of women after a certain level. Poor attendance and drop outs are also causes of concerns in this district. Paucity of teachers, significant proportions of never enrolled female are some of the concerns require attentions.

■ Health officials and functionaries though visit the villages, the frequency is uncertain and visits are not in adequate numbers. The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of child. More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members.

■ The main reason behind slow development of the district is the absence of road communication. However, constraints faced by the people for the absence of poor communication could to some extent be addressed by making adequate provisions of certain basic services – health and educational facilities, market etc. in certain feasible rural points.

■ Electricity is though available in the villages what causes concerns is the assured supply of electricity in the peak hours. The cent percent electrification of the villages does not assure and justify in making the best use of this infrastructure. This is true that dispersed settlements and vagaries of natural calamities are often hinders in assuring supply of electricity. In such context solar photovoltaic programme could be of important relevance. Likewise safe drinking water supply provisions as reported made in papers also requires a fresh look. The household survey reveals that 40 percent of the sampled households still not have access to safe drinking water supply.

■ The people of the villages of the district still to develop the habit of using the sanitary toilets. The awareness and provisioning under the TSC needs to be stepped up aggressively. In the context of provisioning of pucca houses in rural areas of the district it requires a serious discussion. Technically by census definition the traditional houses in the rural areas of the district (or in states of Northeast India) are kattcha houses. The houses are made of locally available materials, environment friendly and more particularly do not succumbed to tremor in this earth quack prone region. In this context this concerns more whether such housing are decent and hygienic.



- Overall the people in sample household perceive the needs for development of road communication, improvement of facilities of drinking water, health, education and housing and development of land resources. This is true that certain crucial needs of the daily life (e.g. sanitary toilets) often not perceived by people or missed out. There are however many reasons for this.

- The survey provides some indication that money and development initiative of the Union government are not the constraints in this thinly populated district. What requires is the sustainability and consolidation of the efforts undertaken! Unemployment could not be the issue in the district. However, high incidences of underemployment of workers as reflected in the household data could be for the factor that people are not required to work for greater part of the year to feed themselves in a relatively resource rich context. Such approach however, could stall the development initiatives and consolidation for overall wellbeing of the future generation. ■