

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

### *Executive Summary of Udham Singh Nagar District (Uttarakhand)*

#### **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 these indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Udham Singh Nagar, one of the most backward districts of Uttarakhand, stands at the bottom of the 90 minority concentration districts.

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

- The total population of Udham Singh Nagar district was 832600, of which more than two-third of the population of the district lives in rural areas, which is lower than the State share of rural population.
- Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes constitutes respectively 14.3 per cent and 13.1 per cent of the population of the district. One-third of the population belongs to minority community.
- 72 per cent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the figure for the State. Udham Singh Nagar is industrially developing, but at the same time, it is lacking industrial training schools, as the district has just 2 such institutions.
- District has better health and drinking water facilities than the State aggregate. More than one-third of the villages of the district of Udham Singh Nagar have a PHC within a range of 5 km. More or less similar is the situation with availability of tap water, tube wells and hand pump.
- Work force participation rate was one-third, which is significantly lower than the State average. The proportion of casual labour is comparatively lower in Udham Singh Nagar than the State average. One-third of the rural population is agricultural labour and a quarter of the rural population is also engaged in other works.

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

- In 2008 (survey findings), Udham Singh Nagar lagged behind the all India average in two out of eight indicators and also lagged behind the all India level in terms of one more health related indicator. Table 1 below shows the gap between all India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritises the development interventions vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and all India figures are of 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all India figures may be higher, as all India data are a little old.

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

Sl. No.	Indicators	Udham Singh Nagar 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	71.34	67.3	4.04	4
2	Rate of female literacy	67.77	57.1	10.67	6
3	Work participation rate	40.76	38.0	2.76	3
4	Female work participation rate	32.53	21.5	11.03	7
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls	41.14	59.4	-18.26	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	92.25	87.9	4.35	5
7	Percentage of households with electricity	37.36	67.9	-30.54	1
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	52.95	39.2	13.75	8
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	71.40	43.5	27.9	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	60.00	38.7	21.3	-

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 pertain to the year 2004-05 from NSSO.

### Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators:

#### 1. Electricity:

Electricity remains the top most of the critical gaps in the district. 37.36 per cent of the households is electrified, of them 98.55 per cent are Sikh households followed by Christian, Hindu and Muslim. Besides the sample households are also using non-electrified sources such as oil (95.18 per cent), lantern (3.07 per cent), petrolmax (0.44 per cent), and others (1.32 per cent).

The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connection to the rural households by the end of 2009, however, the progress appears nowhere to the target.

#### 2. Houses with Pucca Walls:

All weather protected, pucca house, remains second most critical gap. Majority of households have their own house across the religious groups and 8.81 per cent of them have IAY/government provided houses. 11.17 per cent, 7.84 per cent and 7.69 per cent of Muslim, Hindu and Christian households respectively have IAY/government provided

houses and none of the Hindu and Christian households lives in rented accommodation. 13.15 per cent and 11.82 per cent of the households live in thatched and katcha houses respectively and one third of them live in semi pucca houses. 41.14 per cent of the sample households live in pucca houses, which indicate somewhat better economic conditions of the sample households.

Thus, the number of houses constructed under IAY, which is not a universal programme, is quite insufficient to fill the gap in the district. Overall, the qualitative and quantitative availability of the housing in the rural areas is not satisfactory and calls for vigorous implementation of IAY so as to include more and more beneficiaries under its ambit and to extend the area of its coverage too to include more and more poverty stricken households under the scheme. IAY can be topped up with the multi-sectoral plan.

### **3. Employment Opportunities more so for Women:**

Work participation in general remains the third important gap whereas the female work participation in particular stood at seventh level in terms of identified critical gaps in the district. The work participation is reportedly low (40.76 per cent), which was highest for males (49.0 per cent) than females (32.53 per cent). This is true across the religious groups. Among the religious groups, Christian and Hindu have highest work participation rate (43.94 per cent and 41.34 per cent respectively) followed by Muslim (39.45 per cent) and Sikh (38.35 per cent) (see table 16). The lower female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they should be empowered and play their role within and outside the family in an effective way.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 87.2 per cent of the households' members are engaged. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in other activities. Gender differentials in industry-wise distribution of main workers are quite sharp in agriculture, forestry and fishing, wherein majority of them are reportedly females (more than 91 per cent). In activities such as manufacturing, construction, trade, hotels and restaurants, and transport, storage and communication, the proportion of male households' members are more than the female.

Casual labour in agriculture is dominant occupation followed by self-employment in agriculture and casual labour in non-agriculture. High dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and this force the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low, thus, the government scheme of NREGA needs to be implement in a big way so that these poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. There is also urgent need to implement local skill based micro credit income generating programmes specifically SGSY in the district to ameliorate their livelihood conditions.

### **4. Overall Literacy Rate particularly Female Literacy Rate:**

Literacy, specifically for the women is one of the critical gaps in the district. Literacy rate is 71.34 per cent, which is 67.77 per cent for females. 21.1 per cent are educated below

primary level or have informal education. 14.6 per cent and 15.1 per cent respectively have education up to primary and middle level.

Gender disparity in educational attainments is very glaring and will likely to adversely affect their socioeconomic amelioration and empowerment. Thus, the educational attainments are not satisfactory. The low level of educational attainments by the households' members is also reflected in lower level of non-agricultural employment of sample households.

A significant proportion of the children belonging to sample households 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. No doubt, the enrollment 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 reading, need to earn, lack of facility in schools, fee or expenditure not affordable, etc.

Overall, the educational attainment is not satisfactory, which have its strong repercussions on future advancement in life. There are a number of villages, which are still without primary school and further the number of girl's school is quite low. Hence, expansion of primary and elementary schools, both for boys and girls, should be taken on a priority basis along with effective measures to minimise drop-outs. It seems that the SSA scheme has made a modest dent on the provisioning of basic educational services in the rural areas of the district, which needs to be penetrated with fresh rigour.

## **5. In-house Toilet and Drinking Facilities:**

47.05 of the sample households are defecating outside the household premises in open. However, majority of the sample households have drainage facility in their dwellings. The main drinking water sources are public (77.61 per cent), private (14.64 per cent) and others (7.75 per cent).

All this makes it clear that the scheme like Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme, aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities is going on for quite some time with the target to achieve universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, has not made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation and drainage in Udham Singh Nagar district, and the existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely miss the target, which calls for better implementation of the TSC and to extend its coverage to uncovered villages through the multi-sector development plan.

## **Additional Areas of Intervention**

1. More than three-fourth of the households depends on private medical practitioners for medical treatment. One tenth of the Hindu and Muslim households and one-fifth of the Christian households depends on government hospitals for medical treatment. 6.67 per cent, 13.61 per cent and 10.12 per cent of the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh households respectively depends on both government and private sources for medical treatment. The dependence on Unani, quacks and other sources for medical treatment is reportedly very

low. Thus, it is clear that dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly more as compared to government hospital, 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 urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission 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 which are costly in nature and most of the times these are behind the reach of the poor households and forces them in debt.

More than 80 per cent of the households across the sample households have immunized their children below the age of 5 years against at least one type of disease, however, the proportion of the children fully immunized is comparatively lower (71.40 per cent). 83.83 per cent and 63.64 per cent of the Hindu and Christian households have fully immunized their children below the age of 5 years.

2. More than one-fifth of the sample households are reportedly indebted. Muslim households are comparatively more indebted (28.93 per cent) than other communities. Sikh households are depending solely on institutional sources for raising of loans, which is due to the fact that they possess more land, which can be used as a surety with the banking system, whereas other communities are mostly depending upon non-institutional sources of credit as their dependence on government source is 18.42 per cent and 15.75 per cent respectively for Hindu and Muslim households. The average amount of loan raised is Rs. 40910. Sikh households are more indebted (Rs. 215500) than Muslim households (Rs. 37402). Keeping in view the more prevalence of non-institutional source of credit, it is needed to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the exploitation of poor people in the hands of money lenders and sahlukars should be minimized.

3. All weather road connectivity is another glaring infrastructural deficit. As per 2001 Census, most of the villages are without all weather road connectivity. Though rural connectivity has improved since then, yet significant numbers of villages are still without all weather roads.

4. There are wider gaps in awareness of the government schemes and benefits derived there from across Hindu, Muslim and others, which needs to be bridged, so that the benefits of these schemes must be reaped by larger chunk of the rural society of the district.

5. 42.49 per cent of the sample population is below poverty line (BPL), however, less than half of them (only 19.39 percent) had BPL ration cards and only one fourth of them are availing PDS facility. More than half of the sample population have complained about inadequate supply followed by other difficulties, non-availability of time, bad quality, dishonesty in measurement and irregular supply. In terms of social groups, less than half of the Muslims and more than half of Hindu have complained of inadequate availability of ration at PDS shops. The huge difference in falling under BPL category and holding BPL ration card and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern and the gaps need to be plugged at earliest, so that the poor must get their due share, which could also supplement households' nutrition. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it corruption free.