

A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY
CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
(Uttarakhand)

Sponsored by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India
and
Indian Council of Social Science Research



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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i-viii
Chapter I: Introduction	1-9
Methodology.....	7
Chapter II: Village Level Deficits	10-14
Health and Educational Institutions.....	10
Chapter III: Socio-Economic Conditions of the Population/Households	15-33
Demographic Characteristics	15
Quality of Human Resource	17
Asset Base of Households	22
Employment and Income	23
Housing and Other Basic Amenities	28
Health and Family Welfare.....	29
Indebtedness.....	31
Chapter IV: Delivery of Public Services/Development Programmes	34-36
Public Distribution System	34
Access, use and Quality of Public Health Service	35
Education	35
Awareness	36
Aspirations	36
Chapter V: Key Findings	37-41
Micro Level Deprivations: Survey Findings (2008).....	37
Action Points	40
Annexure – I: List of Sample Selected Villages in Udhm Singh Nagar District	42-42

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1.1: Population and Its Composition, 2001
Table 1.2: School Status in Udham Singh Nagar District
Table 1.3: Health and Drinking Water in Udham Singh Nagar District
Table 1.4: Banking and Other Facilities in Udham Singh Nagar District
Table 1.5: Rural Work Force Participation in Udham Singh Nagar
Table 1.6: Criteria for Forming Hamlets
Table 2.1: Access to Educational Facilities (30 Surveyed Villages)
Table 2.2: Access to Health Facilities (30 Surveyed Villages)
Table 2.3: Other Facilities in 30 Surveyed Villages
Table 2.4: Physical Structure of Schools and Quality of Services
Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households Surveyed
Table 3.2: Age-Sex Distribution of Population (%)
Table 3.3: Literacy Rates in % (7 years and above)
Table 3.4: Enrolment Status of 5-16 Years Population (%)
Table 3.5: Reasons for Dropout (%)
Table 3.6: Educational Levels (%)
Table 3.7: Educational Levels of Youth in 15-25 Age Group (%)
Table 3.8: Government Assistance (%)
Table 3.9: Mean Value of Assets per Households (Rs.)
Table 3.10: Nature of Employment (%)
Table 3.11: Workers by their Sector of Employment (%)
Table 3.12: Average Per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)
Table 3.13: Item-wise Per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)
Table 3.14: Type of Houses (%)
Table 3.15: Number of Rooms per Household (%)
Table 3.16: Sources of Drinking Water (%)
Table 3.17: Place of Child Birth and Help Received (%)
Table 3.18: Immunisation Status of Children Below 5 Years (%)
Table 3.19: Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt
Table 3.20: Sources of Debt (%)
Table 3.21: Purpose of Loans (%)
Table 4.1: Access to Public Distribution System (%)
Table 4.2: Difficulty Regarding PDS (%)
Table 4.3: Aspirations of Respondents in Order of Their Ranks

Executive Summary

DEVELOPMENT GAPS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE MULTI-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF UDHAM SINGH NAGAR DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND

Background of the Study

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on the 2001 census data. The objective is to improve these indicators to the all India level through a Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since, it is expected that there would be changes in these indicators after 2001 a baseline survey was conducted to indicate the current development deficits and help formulate the multi-sector development plan (MSDP).
- Udhham Singh Nagar district is one of the minority-concentrated districts of India which lags behind in terms of socio-economic indicators (Category B1).

Brief Profile of Udhham Singh Nagar District

- The total population of Udhham Singh Nagar district was 8, 32,600 in 2001, of which more than two-thirds live in rural areas -- a figure that is lower than the State share of rural population.
- Persons belonging to Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes constitute respectively 14.3 percent and 13.1 percent of the population of the district. One-third of the population belongs to the minority communities.
- Agriculture is the major livelihood activity in the district. The farmers are using improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and technology at a high scale. However, the proportion of irrigated land to total land is comparatively poor in the district. The net sown land area is about 53 percent. Allied activities such as animal rearing, milk production and horticulture are top priorities in the district.

- Udhm Singh Nagar is basically an industrial district. Agro-based industries are developing at a modest scale. Industry contributes to the economic development of the district in a significant way.
- The banking and insurance facilities are adequate for agriculture and industrial development. In 2001, nearly 72 percent of the villages were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the figure for the State.
- The district has better health and drinking water facilities than the State aggregate. As compared to Uttaranchal, more than one-third of the villages of Udhm Singh Nagar have a PHC within a range of 5 kms. The district has also better paved roads, power supply, agricultural cooperative societies, and commercial banks than the State average.
- The work force participation rate was one-third in the district. This is lower than the State average of 39.60 percent. The proportion of casual workers is 40.52 percent in the district, whereas 62.28 percent of population of the state is deriving livelihood from casual labour. Nearly one-third of the rural population is engaged as agricultural labour, which is more than three-times higher than the state average. About a quarter of the rural population of the district is also engaged in other work, which is almost the same as the state average.

Survey Findings (2008)

- The present survey is confined to the district Udhm Singh Nagar of Uttranchal state. The survey reveals that the district lags behind in four out of eight indicators compared to the all India average. It also lags behind in health related indicators compared to the all India level. Table 1 below shows the gap between all India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritises the development needs 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 the all India data are a little dated.

Table 1: Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Development 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	62.2	67.3	-5.1	3
2	Rate of female literacy	55.0	57.1	-2.1	4
3	Work participation rate	28.7	38.0	-9.3	2
4	Female work participation rate	5.4	21.5	-16.1	1
5	Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls**	79.6	59.4	20.2	8
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	99.9	87.9	12.0	6
7	Percentage of households with electricity	79.2	67.9	11.3	5
8	Percentage of households with water close-set latrines	55.2	39.2	16.0	7
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	74.9	43.5	31.4	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	11.5	38.7	-27.2	-

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 National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 and the rest of the data in Col. 2 pertain to the year 2004-05 from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

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

Development Priorities

Improving Work Participation

The work force participation rate is low and gender differentials in work participation are noticeable. Against the overall work participation rate of 28.7 percent, the male and female work participation rate is 49 percent and 5.4 percent respectively. This is true across the religious groups. The lower female work participation is a serious issue and calls for appropriate policy interventions so that they can be empowered and play an active role within and outside the family.

Quality of Employment

Casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities, and casual labour in non-agriculture. Less than one-fourth of the Sikh households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and more than two-third of them are working as casual labour in agriculture. One-third of the Christian male members of the households are engaged as casual labour in agriculture and one-fifth of them are engaged as casual labour in non-agriculture. More or less

similar is the situation with other two religious groups -- Hindus and Muslims, with minor variations across gender.

Women are actively engaged in various occupations across the religious groups. The high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and forces the women to work outside the household at low wages. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is low, and NREGA needs to be implemented 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.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 84.3 percent of the household members are engaged. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more self-employment schemes for rural poor so that they could be employed on sustainable basis. This would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings but would also go a long way in empowering the women.

High Incidence of Unemployment and search for Additional Employment

Unemployment is rampant among all the communities except Sikhs, who are more dependent on agriculture and entrepreneurship. Given the high incidence of unemployment and underemployment, a majority of the young population across the religious groups are in search of additional employment for augmenting their income and their household's status. Their skills need to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.

The process of industrial development has been speeded up with the formation of the Uttarakhand State. However, the employment opportunities have not been created in the same pace for local people. A large proportion of the population is dependent for their livelihood on agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. One of the reasons for fewer jobs for local people in industries is lack of trained and skilled manpower in the district. This needs to be addressed on a priority basis by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes. They would enable local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector.

Improving Employability through Education and Skill Development

Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and allied activities and high incidence of unemployment, a well-planned strategy is required to improve the livelihood of rural population of the district. The level of skill and training of the new entrants to the labour market needs to be improved through need based area specific skill development programmes, as well as vocational and other job oriented courses through Industrial Training Institutes and other technical training institutes. This calls for a comprehensive survey of the skills possessed by the unemployed youth and the training needs of the growing industrial sector, including the self employed sector.

Improving Literacy Levels

The gender gap in literacy is noticeable, which further reflects comparatively lower female status in the community vis-à-vis the male counterparts. This needs serious attention by educational planners and decision-makers, besides the community has to be made aware of the advantages of female education. To ensure equity in educational attainment, more scholarships need to be given to poor but deserving female students.

Improving Enrolment and Educational Attainments

The proportion of the children never enrolled, left after enrolment, and enrolled but does not go to school is quite small, which implies that enrolment and retention rate is very high and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been making its impact on the rural educational scenario of the district in a potent way. However, there is a need to speed up the efforts of the government to ensure cent percent enrolment of children with zero drop outs, especially among Hindu and Muslim communities in general and for male children in Sikh community in particular. This would be possible by improving the quality of education and expanding the school infrastructure. The gap in the process of human capital formation in case of various communities as well as gender needs has to be bridged by implementing community as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

Organising Skill Development Programmes

The educational attainment, particularly among youth and among females, is low and really a matter of worry. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of population, particularly youth, in higher and technical education. This would require

imparting short duration job oriented courses in technical institutions to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from disadvantaged communities and the minorities.

Electricity

Electricity should be given due priority in development planning in the district to speed up the process of agriculture and allied activities, including industrial development. 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. Thus, RGREM needs to be strengthened in the district.

In-house Toilet and Drinking Facilities

More than three-fourth of the households use drinking water from public source and one-fifth depend upon private sources. The high dependence on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor households is a matter of serious concern, which needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government.

Majority of the households (55.16 percent) have in-house toilet facilities. However, 44 percent of the households are defecating in the open spaces outside. This needs to be checked by providing assistance for in-house toilets by the government to improve sanitary and environmental conditions of the villages. The situation of Sikh households is relatively much better. More than one-half of the Hindu and Christian households are defecating outside. It is significant that the sample households have better drainage facilities.

All this makes it clear that schemes such as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme, aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, which has been in operation for quite some time, has not made even a modest dent on rural sanitation. The existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely miss the target. This calls for better implementation of the TSC and also the extension of its coverage to all villages through the multi-sector development plan.

Houses with *Pucca* Walls

One-tenth of sample households lives in Katcha and another tenth in thatched houses. One-third of the population lives in one room accommodation. The number of houses constructed under 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 is not satisfactory. This calls for vigorous implementation of IAY so as to include more beneficiaries under its ambit and 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.

Additional Areas of Intervention

- Despite development of public health infrastructure in the recent past, there is a lack of adequate health care facilities for the rural poor population, due to heavy pressure of population on these basic services. Similar is the situation with medicines, though it has gradually improved during the last few years. The non-availability of doctors, specifically lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals, is a major concern of rural population. At the same time, the presence of quacks in villages has adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of the people. People incur heavy expenditure on healthcare without getting proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaigns among the rural poor about health care.
- The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is very high in Muslim households (73.23 percent), whereas in one-third of the Christian households the delivery of children is performed by trained midwife/ASHA. A higher proportion of children born in Christian and Sikh households have received pre and post natal care, whereas the proportion of such children in Hindu and Muslim households is comparatively less. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of the children so that better pre and post natal care can be provided.
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly more than government hospital. This is due to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality. This compels them to rely on private sources for medical treatment. Keeping this in view, there is urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependence on private sources that are costly, often beyond the reach of the poor households, and forces them in debt.

- The high incidence of indebtedness among Hindu and Muslim households is largely due to low income levels, which are inadequate to meet their consumption and other social needs. Thus, there is need to improve the income levels of rural households. Besides, banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment to rural poor.
- Sikh households depend solely on institutional sources for raising loans. This is due to the fact that they possess more land, which can be used as a surety with the banks. Other communities are mostly depending upon non-institutional sources of credit. The dependence of Hindu and Muslim households on government sources of credit is nearly 16 percent. Keeping in view the high dependence of non-institutional sources of credit, it is necessary to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the exploitation of poor people in the hands of money lenders and sahkars is minimised.
- Some of the poor households belonging to BPL category are not having BPL card, however, they are getting BPL ration. But, a significant proportion of them are without BPL card and not getting BPL ration. The huge difference between the number falling under BPL category and those holding BPL ration card and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern. These gaps need to be plugged at earliest, so that the poor get their due share. This would also supplement the households' nutrition. There is a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, enhance its coverage and make it corruption free.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

In the vicinity of the spectacular Kumaon lies the district of Udham Singh Nagar, which was a part of district Nainital before it gained the identity of a separate district in October 1995. The district was named in memory of Late Shri Udham Singh who was a great freedom fighter and who killed General Dyre after the brutal Jalianwala Bagh massacre. The district comprises three main sub divisions -- Rudrapur, Kashipur and Khatima, and is surrounded by the exotic Himalayan ranges. The district is situated at 28 degree south east, 30 degree north latitude, 78 degree and 81 degree east longitude of Kumaon. Nainital is to the north, Bijnour, Moradabad, Rampur to west, Bareilly and Pilibhit to south and district Champawat is in the east. Reserved forest area lies at the borders of district Nainital and Champawat. The total district is Tarai. Water is available at the depth of 10 to 20 metres. Due to its special geographical features, the district is a leader in agriculture in the country. The total area of the district is 3055 sq km. It has an altitude of 550 m. There are seven blocks namely Jaspur, Kashipur, Baipur, Gadarpur, Rudrapur, Khatima, and Sitarganj in the district. It has 27 Nyaya Panchayats, 8 Palika Parishad, and 7 Nagar Panchayats. The total number of villages in the district is 656. The main languages spoken in the district are Punjabi, Hindi and English. All the villages are electrified in this district.

There are numerous places of interest in the district. According to historians, hundreds of years ago village Rudrapur was established by a devotee of lord Rudra or by a Hindu tribal chief called Rudra. The area has passed through many phases of development to take the shape of Rudrapur. The importance of Rudrapur has increased as it is the head quarters of district Udham Singh Nagar. During the reign of the *Mughal* emperor Akbar this land was handed over to King Rudra Chandra in 1588. The king established a permanent military camp to free the tarai from regular invasions. Thereafter village Rudrapur was filled with new colours and human activities.

At a distance of 2 Kms from the bus stand and half a kilometer away from the Rudrapur - Haldwani motor route, the famous temple of Atariya is situated. Every year during the occasion on '*Navratras*' a large fair is held here and thousands of devotees come to seek the blessings of Goddess Atariya. Kashipur was known as Govishan during the time of Harsha (606-647 AD), when Yuan-Chwang (631-641AD) visited this region. The ruins of the large settlement of those days are still to be seen near the city. Govind

Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) is one of the finest temples of learning around the world. This university has made a huge contribution to human resource development with its stress on horticulture, agriculture management, animal husbandry. A degree college is being established at Bharsar in Pauri so that horticulture can be used as a medium for development in the State. This place has rare places for sight seeing since it is surrounded by Kumaon Himalayas on one side and Nepal on the other (Tanakpur touches the Khatima border which is in Champawat district). Nanak Matta dam, Dronasagar and many other places are worth visiting. Atariya mandir mela and Chaiti mandir mela are famous and one can find local folk activities and mingle with local culture and traditions.

Map of Udham Singh Nagar



Agriculture is the major livelihood activity in the district. The farmers extensively use improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and technology. The net sown land area is about 53 percent. Allied activities related to agriculture, such as animal rearing, milk production and horticulture find top priority in the district. Pantnagar University leads all the programmes in the fields related to human resource development, agriculture research, fisheries and animal husbandry.

Udham Singh Nagar is basically an industrial district. The availability of fertile land is responsible for development of agro-based industries. The industrial development is contributing significantly to economic development of the district. Pantnagar University is a leading temple of learning in the fields of agriculture and technology.

There are 50 medium and large industries in the district. There are 6 sugar mills, 2 cloth mills, 8 paper mills, 2 flour mills, 3 polyester film and chips units. There are 2927 small

and medium sized registered units in the district and 225 rice mills, 5 solvent plants, 11 flour mills, 20 processing units, 3 cement producing units and 85 agriculture related instruments producing units. Apart from this, units related to wooden furniture, marble tiles, tyres, printing press, aluminum industry, chips development, stone rolling mills, PVC pipe development units, oil, pharmaceuticals, and *dal* mills are also found in the district. The main exporting units produce generator sets, engines, water pump sets, spare parts, door sealing, polyester films, polyester paints, syringes and needles.

Adequate banking and insurance facilities are also available in the district. Main banks at Rudrapur, the district head quarter of Udham Singh Nagar, are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, UTI Bank, UCO Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank. Life Insurance Corporation and Oriental Insurance Co. & General Insurance Co. also operate from branch offices in Rudrapur.

According to 2001 census, the total population of Udham Singh Nagar district was 832600, of which highest concentration was found in tehsil Kashipur followed by tehsils of Kichha, Khatima and Sitarganj. More than two-thirds of the population of the district lives in the rural areas, which is lower than the State share of rural population. However, rural population is high in tehsils of Kathima (92.2 percent) followed by Sitarganj (84.7 percent). Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes constitutes 14.3 percent and 13.1 percent of the population respectively. The concentration of SC population is higher in Kashipur and all the tehsils have more ST population than the State average of 3.8 percent. ST population is as high as 28.9 percent in Kathima followed by 22 percent in Sitarganj. Hindus are the dominant population group across the tehsils of Udham Singh Nagar but about one-third of the population belongs to minority community. Kashipur tehsil has more minority population (42.2 percent) followed by Sitarganj and Kichha (see table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Population and Its Composition, 2001

Tehsil	Total population	Rural %	%SC	%ST	% Hindu population	% Muslim population	% Minority population
Kashipur	292855	60.9	20.7	5.2	57.5	21.8	42.4
Kichha	222385	56.2	11.8	5.5	71.1	17.8	28.8
Sitarganj	148266	84.7	8.4	22.0	66.4	10.0	33.6
Khatima	169094	92.2	11.5	28.9	82.3	9.9	17.7
Udham Singh Nagar District	832600	66.4	14.3	13.1	67.8	16.2	32.2
Uttaranchal	6310275	74.3	19.9	3.8	87.2	9.9	12.8

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

The status of schools in district Udham Singh Nagar is presented in table 1.2. In 2001, 72 percent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the figure for the State. Two of the tehsils (Kichha and Khatima) have more primary schools than district aggregate and other two tehsils (Kashipur and Sitarganj) have low proportion of primary schools than the district aggregate. More than one-fourth of the villages have a middle school, which is higher than State aggregate of one-fifth. One-third of the villages of Kichha and Khatima have a middle school. The district has 48 secondary schools, however, the tehsils of Sitarganj and Khatima have only few secondary schools and when we compare the data regarding the population served by such institutions in these two tehsils, a very dismal picture emerges. For example, Kichha has three-times more secondary schools with half of the population than Sitarganj. It is significant that the district of Udham Singh Nagar is industrially developing, but at the same time, it lacks industrial training schools, as the district as a whole has just 2 such institutions. More or less similar is the situation with other training institutes.

Table 1.2: School Status in Udham Singh Nagar District

Tehsil	% Villages having primary school	% Villages having middle school	No. of Secondary school	Population per Secondary school	Number of industrial school	Population per industrial school	Number of training school	Population per training school
Kashipur	66.3	22.7	19	15413	0	0	0	
Kichha	79.5	32.3	18	12355	1	222385	1	222385
Sitarganj	69.8	26.2	6	24711	1	148266	0	N.A
Khatima	79.2	33.3	5	33819	0	0	0	N.A
Udham Singh Nagar District	72.0	27.2	48	17346	2	416300	1	832600
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>6942</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>242702.9</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>371193</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001)

The data on health and drinking water facilities in Udham Singh Nagar district is presented in table 1.3. A perusal of the table makes it clear that the district has better health and drinking water facilities than the State aggregate. As compared to Uttaranchal, more than one-third of the villages of the district of Udham Singh Nagar have a primary health centre (PHC) within a range of 5 km. At the same time, rural areas of two tehsils - Kashipur and Kichha have better accessibility to PHCs and three tehsils – Kashipur, Kichha and Sitarganj have better accessibility to MCW facility than the district and State aggregate of 64.5 percent and 47.1 percent respectively. Similarly, district Udham Singh Nagar has more allopathic hospitals within 5 kms than the State

aggregate; however, there are significant variations across the tehsils (Kashipur – 47.4 percent, Sitarganj – 35.7 percent, Kichha – 31.7 percent, and Kathima – 26 percent). Only one tehsil, Kashipur has better allopathic hospital facility than the district and State aggregate; the rest of the tehsils have poor penetration of allopathic hospital facility. More or less a similar situation can be seen in availability of tap water, tube wells and hand pump. Kashipur has better drinking water facility than the rest of the tehsils of the district Udham Singh Nagar, and this calls for immediate attention of concerned government department.

Table 1.3: Health and Drinking Water in Udham Singh Nagar District

Tehsil	% Villages having PHCs within 5 km	% Villages having MCW Centre within 5 km	% Villages having Allopathic hospital <5 km Range	Allopathic hospital per lakh population	Tap Per lakh population	Tube-well per lakh population	Hand-pump per lakh population
Kashipur	40.2	66.7	47.4	10.2	131	165	99
Kichha	37.9	64.6	31.7	2.7	85	118	72
Sitarganj	30.2	69.8	35.7	0.7	94	139	87
Khatima	25.0	51.0	26.0	2.4	54	86	54
Udham Singh Nagar District	35.6	64.5	38.4	4.9	97	132	81
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>345</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

The data related to banking and other facilities available in the State of Uttarakhand, district Udham Singh Nagar and its tehsils is given in table 1.4, which reveals that the district has better paved roads, power supply, agricultural cooperative societies, and commercial banks than the State average. However, in terms of cooperative and commercial banks per lakh population, post office per lakh population and proportion of irrigated land to total land, the situation is comparatively poor in the district. It is interesting to note that there are wide variations across the tehsils. For example, Kashipur has better road and power supply than cooperative and commercial banking facility. The existing gaps in availability of the basic infrastructure in the tehsils of the district need to be filled by taking appropriate policy measures. A well developed banking, communication and institutional infrastructure is the sine qua non for rural transformation. Keeping in view the dismal scenario, there is urgent need to improve the available infrastructure and enlarge it further through the Bharat Nirman programme.

Table 1.4: Banking and Other Facilities in Udham Singh Nagar District

Tehsil	% Villages having paved road	% Villages having power supply	% Villages having agricultural co-operative societies within 5 km	% Villages having Co-operative bank within 5 km	Co-operative bank per lakh population	% Villages having commercial bank within 5 KM	Commercial bank per lakh population	Post office per lakh population	% Irrigated land to total land
Kashipur	94.2	97.9	36.4	27.5	0.0	7.4	3.4	9.9	3.7
Kichha	88.8	95.7	52.8	39.1	1.8	44.1	3.1	11.2	5.2
Sitarganj	76.2	93.7	35.7	39.7	2.0	54.0	4.0	6.7	8.6
Khatima	85.4	92.7	24.0	22.9	0.6	24.0	2.4	10.6	10.1
Udham Singh Nagar District	88.3	95.8	38.4	31.9	1.0	48.8	3.2	9.8	5.4
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>77.4</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>37.1</i>	<i>63.0</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

The work force participation rate was one-third in the district. This is lower than the State average of 39.60 percent. The proportion of casual workers is 40.52 percent in the district, whereas 62.28 percent of population of the state is casual labour. Nearly one-third of the rural population is engaged as agricultural labour, which is more than three-times higher than state average. About a quarter of the rural population of the district is also engaged in other works, which is almost the same as the state average (see table 1.5). Keeping in view the widespread problem of unemployment and underemployment, there is urgent need to operationalise the NREGA and other employment generating programmes on a large scale, so that more proportion of rural population is able to find employment.

Table 1.5: Rural Work Force Participation in Udham Singh Nagar

Tehsil	Total Population	Total Working Population	Work Participation Rate	Casual Labour	Agriculture Labour	Household Activities	Other Work
Kashipur	292855	88187	30.11	33.28	39.55	1.69	25.48
Kichha	222385	71515	32.16	28.95	41.55	1.71	27.79
Sitarganj	148266	53900	36.35	45.92	29.03	4.49	20.56
Khatima	169094	67982	40.20	57.81	17.57	2.62	22.01
Udham Singh Nagar	832600	281584	33.82	40.52	32.74	2.45	24.29
<i>Uttaranchal</i>	<i>6310275</i>	<i>2498842</i>	<i>39.60</i>	<i>62.28</i>	<i>9.79</i>	<i>2.28</i>	<i>25.66</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census, 2001).

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 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: The 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 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 supply, rural connectivity, lack of irrigation facilities, urbanisation, and industrialisation are areas with 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 semi-structured schedule. The explanation in the following section is based on the 30 surveyed villages.

Health and Educational Institutions

Table 2.1 shows the percentage of villages having educational institutions, mainly schools. Though co-educational primary schools are available in all of the villages, yet primary schools for girls are not available in any of the villages and they have to travel on an average more than 6 kms to attend school. Co-educational middle schools are available in one-half of the villages. It is ironical that none of the sample villages have a high/higher secondary school exclusively for girls; however, one-half of the villages have co-educational high/higher secondary schools. In case of girls, they have to travel more than 6 km to reach a high/higher secondary school exclusively meant for them. Besides, none of the sample villages have polytechnics and other training schools, which are located at mean distances of 12 kms and 5 kms respectively. Inter-college and ITI facility is available in 16.67 percent and 3.33 percent of the sample villages. Religious schools and non-formal educational institutions are available in 16.67 percent and 13.33 of the villages respectively.

Table 2.1: Access to Educational Facilities (30 Surveyed Villages)

Type of School	% of Villages having Educational facilities	Villages not having these Facilities (Mean distance* km)
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	100.00	0.00
Primary School (Girls)	0.00	6.31
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	50.00	2.93
Middle School (Girls)	6.67	5.20
High/Higher Secondary School (Boys)	13.33	4.83
High/Higher Secondary School (Girls)	0.00	6.69
Inter College	16.67	4.57
ITI	3.33	9.22
Polytechnic	0.00	12.91
Other Training School	0.00	5.00
Religious School	16.67	0.00
Non Formal	13.33	0.50
Other Educational Facilities	3.33	0.00

* For villages not having the educational facility.

Source: Survey

Besides education, the availability of health facilities is very inadequate in the sample villages. It is ironical that all the sample villages are devoid of health facilities such as community health centres (CHCs), hospital/dispensary, private qualified allopathic doctors, maternity and child care centres, ayurvedic hospitals and doctors, homeopathic hospitals and doctors, family planning clinics and chemists/medical shops. However, 13.33 percent and 6.67 percent of the villages have PHCs and primary health sub-centres respectively. The mean distance of other health facilities in sample villages is more than 6 km, which reveals poor healthcare facilities in sample villages.

Table 2.2: Access to Health Facilities (30 Surveyed Villages)

Type	% of Villages having Health facilities	Villages not having these Facilities (Mean distance*km)
PHCs	13.33	5.64
Primary Health Sub Centre	6.67	7.13
CHCs	0.00	8.04
Hospital/Dispensary	0.00	7.77
Private Qualified Allopathic Doctors	0.00	7.81
Maternity Child Care Centre	0.00	7.81
Ayurvedic Hospitals	0.00	8.64
Ayurvedic Doctors	0.00	9.75
Homeopathic Hospitals	0.00	8.71
Homeopathic Doctors	0.00	8.36
Quacks	0.00	8.22
Family Planning Clinics	0.00	6.71
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	0.00	6.86

*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source: Survey

Table 2.3 shows some other facilities in the sample villages of Udham Singh Nagar district. None of the sample villages have bus stops, regular markets, commercial banks, rural banks, pesticide shops, seed stores, cold storage facilities, and milk mandis. Post office and public telephone are available in majority of the villages. Anganwadi and fair price shops are available in more than 90 percent of the villages. It is significant that veterinary (centre/sub-centre) is available in 6.67 percent of the villages. The mean travel distance to the facilities lacking in the villages is more than 6 kms. Thus, villagers have to travel more than 6 kms to reach the nearest bus stop or regular market, etc.

Table 2.3: Other Facilities in 30 Surveyed Villages

Type	% of Villages having	Villages not having these Facilities (Mean distance* km)
Nearest Bus Stop	0.00	6.57
Nearest Regular Market	0.00	7.80
Nearest Rail Station	3.33	10.21
Nearest Post Office	60.00	2.37
Public Telephone Connection	76.67	1.90
Commercial Bank	0.00	7.33
Rural Bank	0.00	8.43
Co-operative Bank	3.33	6.89
Anganwadi Centre	96.67	0.10
Fair Price Shop	90.00	0.39
Fertilizer shop	16.67	5.65
Seed Storage	0.00	6.88
Pesticide Shop	0.00	7.38
Cold Storage	0.00	7.78
Other General Shops	30.00	3.96
Nearest Mandi	0.00	8.81
Milk Mandi	0.00	9.40
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	6.67	4.77

Source: Survey

Apart from the lack of institutions and infrastructure facilities, the available educational and healthcare institutions have only limited facilities for the clients. For example, whereas *pucca* school buildings are available in 25 out of 27 villages, cement flooring of school building is available only in 25 schools, toilet facilities is available in half of the schools and drinking water facility is available in 21 schools.

Table 2.4: Physical Structure of Schools and Quality of Services

Types		Number	Percentage (%)
Type of Structure	<i>Katcha/Thatch</i>	1	3.70
	<i>Katcha/Tiles</i>	1	3.70
	<i>Pucca</i>	25	92.59
	Total	27	100.00
Main Flooring Materials	Mud	2	7.41
	Cement	25	92.59
	Total	27	100.00
Number of Class Rooms (Mean)	(Mean)	2.8	
Usable Blackboards	Yes	27	93.10
	No	2	6.90
29	100.00		
Desks Availability	Yes for all Students	1	3.45
	Yes for some students	1	3.45
	No	27	93.10
	Total	29	100.00
Number of School having Teachers	(Mean)	4.07	
Number of schools by teachers present	(Mean)	2.77	
Toilet Facility	Yes	13	44.83
	No	16	55.17
	Total	29	100.00
Drinking Water Facility	Yes	21	72.41
	No	8	27.59
	Total	29	100.00
Students Perception on Midday meal			
(a) Quality	Good	15	62.50
	Bad	2	8.33
	Average	7	29.17
	Total	24	100.00
(b) Preparation	Good	15	62.50
	Bad	2	8.33
	Average	7	29.17
	Total	24	100.00
(c) Regularity	Good	12	48.00
	Bad	9	36.00
	Very Bad	1	4.00
	Average	3	12.00
	Total	25	100.00
Availability of			
(a) Slate	Yes	5	17.24
	No	24	82.76
	Total	29	100.00
(b) Note book	Yes	6	20.69
	No	23	79.31
	Total	29	100.00
(c) Books	Yes	29	100.00
	Total	29	100.00
Punctuality, Discipline and Sincerity of Teachers			

(a) Punctuality	Very Good	2	7.41
	Good	20	74.07
	Bad	2	7.41
	Very Bad	1	3.70
	Average	2	7.41
	Total	27	100.00
(b) Discipline	Very Good	1	3.70
	Good	21	77.78
	Bad	2	7.41
	Very Bad	1	3.70
	Average	2	7.41
	Total	27	100.00
(c) Sincerity	Good	21	77.78
	Bad	1	3.70
	Very Bad	1	3.70
	Average	4	14.81
	Total	27	100.00

Source: Survey

In the perceptions of the students the availability of mid-day meals, the quality, preparation and regularity of meals is good. Slates and note books are provided by few schools, but books are provided in all schools. The punctuality, discipline and sincerity of the teachers are rated as good in most of the sample villages.

Chapter III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Hindus are the dominant population group, followed by Muslims and Sikhs. The average household size is 4.9 persons, lowest for Sikhs (4.5) and highest for Christians (5.8). The overall dependency is 1.45, which is highest among Christians (2.47) followed by Sikhs (2.32). Average sex ratio is 875, which is higher than the average for Sikhs and lower than that of other communities. Christians have highest sex ratio, which reflects a trend towards gender equality in the community. Sikhs have comparatively low sex ratio due to predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community. It also can be attributed to the malpractices of dowry. All this indicates lower women empowerment in the community compared to Christians (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households Surveyed

Religion	Sample population	Average household size (%)	Sex Ratio	Dependency ratio
Hindu	733082	4.6	883	1.50
Muslim	483516	5.5	885	1.27
Christian	12482	5.8	926	2.47
Sikh	101715	4.5	761	2.32
Total	1330795	4.9	875	1.45

Source: Survey

More than one-third of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years, which is lowest among Christians followed by Sikhs and Hindus. Therefore, educational needs of the communities are highest. Christians have more male children (18.52 percent) than female (4 percent) in the age group below 4 years than the other communities. This indicates recent trends in preference for sons or gender discrimination among the community; otherwise, they have a favourable sex ratio compared to other communities. This trend needs a deeper probe and efforts must be made to arrest it. One fifth of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years. Again, Christians have more concentration in this youthful age group (42.32 percent: 37.04 percent male and 48 percent female), followed by Muslims. This implies that they supply more labour force and likelihood of unemployment is more in these communities. Surprisingly, Christians have lower presence in the age group of 25-29 years and there

Table 3.2: Age-Sex Distribution of Population (%)

Age group	Hindu			Muslim			Christian			Sikh			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	9.17	9.16	9.16	8.77	11.17	9.90	18.52	4.00	11.54	5.16	3.21	4.32	8.81	9.54	9.15
5-14	27.54	28.34	27.92	32.65	28.45	30.68	14.81	16.00	15.38	22.75	20.99	21.99	29.12	27.77	28.49
15-24	18.08	16.75	17.45	22.83	23.45	23.12	37.04	48.00	42.31	26.46	19.43	23.42	20.83	20.02	20.45
25-29	8.20	9.78	8.94	7.04	8.01	7.49	3.70	0.00	1.92	9.54	13.22	11.13	7.78	9.17	8.43
30-44	22.77	23.57	23.14	16.89	17.49	17.17	11.11	16.00	13.46	17.22	20.67	18.71	19.85	20.80	20.29
45-59	10.66	10.08	10.38	7.75	8.46	8.09	11.11	16.00	13.46	14.15	19.95	16.66	9.75	10.12	9.92
60+	3.59	2.34	3.00	4.06	2.98	3.55	3.70	0.00	1.92	4.71	2.52	3.77	3.87	2.59	3.27
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

is a conspicuous absence of female population in this age group. It is quite disturbing that life expectancy is reportedly low and a very small proportion of population is found in the age group above 60 years and none of the Christian women is surviving beyond 60 years, a trend which is quite reversal than other communities. On the whole, a high concentration of population in the youthful age group of 15-29 years, calls for rigorous manpower planning and creation of more self-employment opportunities in agro-based units and the service sector.

QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

Literacy Rate

The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among the males than the females across religious groups (see Table 3.3). Female literacy is highest among Christians, which is even higher than male literacy among Hindu and Muslim communities. However, Sikhs have the highest male literacy, followed by Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities. The gender gap in literacy is noticeable (18.55 percentage point) in the Sikh community, which indicates comparatively lower female status in the community vis-à-vis the males. This needs serious attention by educational planners and decision-makers, and the community needs to be made aware of the advantages of female education.

Table 3.3: Literacy Rates in % (7 years and above)

Sex	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Male	68.51	64.44	80.95	84.55	68.28
Female	56.01	51.23	75.00	66.00	55.03
Person	62.72	58.33	77.78	76.54	62.17

Source: Survey

Enrolment Status of Children

The enrolment status of children and adolescents in the age-group 5-16 years is presented in Table 3.4. A mere perusal of the data makes it clear that all the children of Christian households are enrolled in educational institutions. It is significant that all the female children of the Sikh community are also enrolled in educational institutions against 96.76 percent of the male children, which is in contrast to the other gender related indices such as sex ratio, which are not favourable in the community. Similarly, more than 97 percent of children belonging to Hindu households and 95 percent of Muslim children are enrolled in educational institutions.

Given the overall high enrolment level among the various communities, the incidence of non-enrolment as well as drop out rate is very low (see tables 3.4b and 3.4c). The proportion of the children 'never enrolled', 'left after enrollment', and 'enrolled but does not go to school' is very less, which implies that enrolment and retention rates are high and SSA has had a positive impact on the rural educational scenario of the district.

However, there is need to speed up the efforts of the government to ensure 100 percent enrolment of children in this age group with zero drop outs, especially among Hindu and Muslim communities in general and for male children in the Sikh community in particular. This would be possible if the quality of education is raised and the school infrastructure is expanded.

Table 3.4: Enrolment Status of 5-16 Years Population (%)
(a) Enrolled and Attending Schools

<i>Attending school</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Sikh</i>	<i>Total</i>
Boys	97.53	96.29	100.00	96.76	97.01
Girls	97.76	94.48	100.00	100.00	96.74
Both	97.64	95.54	100.00	98.06	96.89

(b) Never Enrolled

<i>Never enrolled</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Sikh</i>	<i>Total</i>
Boys	1.78	0.86	0.00	3.24	1.49
Girls	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.19
Both	0.94	0.73	0.00	1.94	0.91

(c) Drop Out

<i>Drop out</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Sikh</i>	<i>Total</i>
Boys	0.27	2.18	0.00	0.00	1.03
Girls	1.36	1.25	0.00	0.00	1.22
Both	0.79	1.80	0.00	0.00	1.11

Source: Survey

Reasons for Dropout

There is little doubt, that 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 reading, 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).

Table 3.5: Reasons for Dropout (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Work at home	19.89	15.39	16.89
Need to earn	0.00	5.65	3.77
Far distance of school	0.00	3.71	2.47
Lack of facility in school	0.00	3.71	2.47
Fee or expenditure not afford	0.00	7.02	4.68
Not interesting in reading	25.28	3.71	10.89
Others	54.84	60.82	58.83
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Work at home is the dominant reason for drop out from schools. This is true for both Hindus and Muslims (see table 3.5). Besides, one-fourth of the Hindu children who have dropped out of schooling cited 'no interest in reading' as a major reason. Thus, there is need to make the parents aware about the benefits of education and the educational system needs to be improved to make it more interesting for the children.

Educational Levels

About one-tenth of population is educated (with educational levels high school and above) in the rural areas of Udham Singh Nagar district. The percentage of males with technical education (both degree and diploma) is 3.4 percent (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6: Educational Levels (%)

Level of education	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Male					
Educated (High School and above)	13.2	9.0	23.8	34.6	13.3
Degree and above	3.1	1.7	4.8	14.0	3.4
Technical degree/ diploma	2.7	0.9	4.8	4.3	2.1
Female					
Educated (High School and above)	4.9	4.7	20.8	18.6	6.0
Degree and above	0.7	1.1	0	6.8	1.3
Technical degree/ diploma	0.3	0.1	0	1.7	0.4
Person					
Educated (High School and above)	9.4	7.0	22.2	27.7	9.9
Degree and above	2.0	1.3	6.6	10.9	2.4
Technical degree/ diploma	1.6	0.5	2.2	3.2	1.3

Source: Survey

The educational attainment of Sikh and Christian males is comparatively better than the other two communities -- more than one-fourth and one-fifth of them respectively are educated up to high school and above. At the same time, more than one-third and one fifth of the Sikh and Christian males respectively are educated above high school level. They are also comparatively better placed in terms of educational attainment up to the degree level and above than Hindu and Muslim households. The females of Sikh and Christian communities are also better educated than those of the Hindu and Muslim

communities. However, gender disparities are noticeable across communities in educational attainment at various levels, which needs to be plugged to ensure equity. Scholarships may be given to poor but deserving female students from rural areas.

Educational Levels of Youth

The educational status of the youth is presented in table 3.7. The data clearly reveals that about one-fifth of them are illiterate. Muslim youth have lower educational status while Sikh youth have higher educational status. One-fourth of the Muslim youth are illiterate, whereas a negligible proportion of Sikh youth is illiterate. More than one-fifth of the Muslim and Hindu youth are educated below primary or informal level and primary level respectively. More than one-fourth of Christian and Sikh youth are educated above secondary level, whereas only one-tenth and one-fifteenth of the Muslim and Hindu youth respectively have education above secondary level. Similarly Christian and Sikh youth are more educated in terms of technical qualification. It is significant that one-fifth of the Sikh youth have graduate degree, whereas the combined share of the youth of other communities is about one-tenth. Like-wise, Sikh youth are also more educated in terms of higher degrees. Thus, youth from Hindu and Muslim communities have lesser prospects in the labour market compared to Sikh and Christian youth. Due to low levels of education and skill training among the Muslim and Hindu youth, their employability has been seriously eroded despite emerging employment opportunities in the district.

Table 3.7: Educational Levels of Youth in 15-25 Age Group (%)

Education	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Illiterate	15.24	25.97	13.64	0.61	19.00
Below primary or informal education	8.89	21.07	0.00	5.11	14.05
Primary	22.32	17.07	13.64	15.08	19.12
Middle	24.97	18.62	27.27	18.80	21.57
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.96	4.36	4.55	0.00	2.53
Secondary	6.31	7.24	13.64	13.72	7.49
Higher Secondary	9.70	2.55	13.64	13.39	6.76
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	5.41	0.83	9.09	6.46	3.44
Technical or professional degree	0.13	0.40	0.00	2.28	0.43
Graduate degree	5.43	1.51	4.55	20.97	4.85
Post-graduate degree	0.63	0.10	0.00	3.57	0.61
Others	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.14
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Overall the educational attainments, particularly among youth and females, are low and really a matter of worry. There is an urgent need to reduce the drop out rates and increase the participation of the population, particularly youth, in higher and technical

education. This would require imparting short duration job oriented courses in technical institutions to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to the needy youth from disadvantaged and minority communities.

Per Capita Expenditure on Education

The average per capita expenditure on education is Rs. 678; however, significant differentials exist among communities. For example, Sikh households are spending more than ten times and nine times on education than Muslim and Christian households respectively, whereas Hindu households are spending four times less than Sikh households, but about two times more than Muslim and Christian households. Thus, per capita expenditure of Sikh and Hindu households is comparatively higher than other communities.

Government Assistance

The government is providing assistance in the form of books, uniforms, scholarships, mid-day meal, etc. to students for universal enrolment and retention in educational system. Scholarships are given to students belonging to minority groups of the population under a special scheme in every state. More than one-fourth of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books and scholarships. Midday meals are being provided to about 40 percent of the students. The educational assistance in the form of uniform is being provided to comparatively less proportion of the students. Significant differentials in educational assistance are noticed across the communities. For example, more than two thirds of Christian students are getting books and one fourth of them are getting scholarships from the government, but none of the Christian students are getting any uniform assistance. Comparatively more Hindu and Muslim students have benefited from midday meal scheme. Overall, more than three fourths, two-thirds and half of the Christian, Hindu and Muslim students respectively are getting educational assistance from the government, whereas only 18.70 percent of the Sikh students have benefited from such schemes. However, in order to increase enrolment and retention of students, there is a need to enhance the quantum of assistance in the district. There is also a need for free elementary education for the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.

Table 3.8: Government Assistance (%)

Type of assistance	Religion				Total
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	
Books	27.67	27.32	67.88	22.20	28.23
Uniform	3.24	2.75	0.00	10.85	3.18
Scholarship	24.94	32.55	25.42	46.02	28.04
Midday meal	43.97	37.08	6.70	20.92	40.33
Others	0.19	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.22
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
% of students receiving assistance	67.32	50.83	78.86	18.70	57.65

Source: Survey

ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

Land

Landlessness is a common feature among rural households of Udham Singh Nagar district. About 84 percent of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Muslim (91 percent), followed by Christian (88.89 percent), Hindu (88.52 percent) and Sikh households (19.79 percent). Thus, Sikh community of the district dominates agriculture. The absence of land as an asset among other communities not only reduces the livelihood options but also makes them vulnerable by working on low wage levels, which traps the landless households in poverty.

Livestock

The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stood at Rs. 13094, which is comparatively low (Rs. 5167) for Christian households than the other communities. Sikh households have more livestock and possess livestock worth Rs. 28721 per household.

Productive Assets

The mean value of productive assets possessed by the sample households is Rs. 48,704, which is not at all surprising given the high incidence of landlessness (see table 3.9). As in the case of land, Christian households have comparatively lower value of productive assets per households (Rs. 10573) than the other communities. The productive assets possessed by Sikh households are multiple times higher than Hindu and Muslim households.

Table 3.9: Mean Value of Assets per Households (Rs.)

Type of household	Productive other than land	Modern household
Hindu	32560	6607
Muslim	30288	8438
Christian	10573	8033
Sikh	257281	60812
Total	48704	11429

Source: Survey

Other assets

Sikh households also possess comparatively more modern household assets than the other communities. However, the position of Muslims is better than Christian and Hindu households. The mean value of assets possessed by Sikh households stood at Rs. 60812 as compared to Muslim (Rs. 8438), Christian (Rs. 8033) and Hindu (Rs. 6607) (see table 3.9).

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Work Participation

Work participation is reportedly low, and is higher for males (49 percent) than females (5.4 percent). This is true across religious groups. The lower female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions so that they are empowered to play their due role within and outside the family.

Nature of Employment

The occupational status of the members of sample households is presented in Table 3.10. A perusal of the table makes it evident that casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation followed by self-employment in agriculture and casual labour in non-agriculture. However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups. Less than one-fourth of the Sikh households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and more than two-third of them is working as casual labour in agriculture. One-third of the Christian male members of the households are engaged as casual labour in agriculture and one-fifth of them are engaged as casual labour in non-agriculture. More or less similar is the situation with other two religious groups, viz. Hindu and Muslim, with minor variations across gender. It is significant that females are actively engaged in various occupations

across religious groups. For example, more than three-fourth of Sikh women are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and one-thirteenth of them are working as casual labour in agriculture. One-fourth of the Christian women are engaged in salaried occupations. Thus, Christian women are employed more in the modern sector outside agriculture than other communities. It is also interesting that about 58 percent of Hindu women are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities, however, a higher proportion of Muslim and Christian women are employed as casual labour in agriculture. On the whole, the high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and forces the women to work outside the households at very low wages. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low. The NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment for 100 man-days per household per annum.

Table 3.10: Nature of Employment (%)

Employment Status	Hindu			Muslim			Christian			Sikh			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture and allied activities	24.14	58.02	24.88	9.08	24.83	9.62	6.67	-	5.26	23.71	86.67	26.44	18.12	41.00	18.83
Self-employed in non-agricultural sector	2.92	-	2.86	0.46	-	0.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.73	-	1.67
Regular salaried	4.24	6.80	4.30	4.88	12.33	5.13	40.00	25.00	36.84	3.97	-	3.80	4.90	10.30	5.07
Casual wage labour in agriculture	63.18	25.00	62.35	69.60	62.84	69.37	33.33	50.00	36.84	69.87	13.33	67.42	65.76	42.37	65.04
Casual wage labour in non-Agriculture	5.51	10.18	5.61	15.98	-	15.44	20.00	25.00	21.05	2.45	-	2.34	9.48	6.33	9.39
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	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 3.11. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 84.3 percent of the households' members are engaged. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, construction, and trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, and public administration, education, health and other sectors. It is significant that 23.8 percent of the Christians are engaged in modern service sector (finance, business and other services). Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more and more self-employment schemes for rural poor so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis which would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings but would go a long way in empowering them.

Table 3.11: Workers by their Sector of Employment (%)

Sector	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	85.8	80.5	66.7	97.8	84.3
Mining & Quarrying	0.2	2.4	0.0	0.0	1.0
Manufacturing	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Electricity, Gas & Water	5.6	2.1	0.0	0.0	3.8
Construction	1.9	3.5	9.5	0.0	2.5
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	1.5	1.7	0.0	0.7	1.5
Transport, Storage & Communication	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.7
Finance, Business and other services	4.4	8.4	23.8	1.5	6.0
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

The process of industrial development has been speeded up with the formation of the State. However, the employment opportunities have not been created in the same pace for local people. A large proportion of the population still derives its livelihood from agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. One of the reasons for fewer jobs for local population in industries is lack of required trained and skilled manpower, which needs to be addressed on priority by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes.

Unemployment and Search for Additional Employment

Unemployment is rampant among the communities, except Sikhs who are more dependent on agriculture and entrepreneurship. Given the high incidence of unemployment and underemployment, a majority of the young population across the

religious groups are in search of additional employment for augmenting their income and households status. As already mentioned, their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.

Income and Expenditure

The per capita income and expenditure reveals that rural economy of Udham Singh Nagar is a surplus one. There have been significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Sikh and Hindu households is more than double whereas in case of other communities it is not so significant (see table 3.12). The higher income is reported in those of the households that have more physical and human capital. Significant differentials can be noticed in income-expenditure across the communities. On the whole, a high proportion of poor Muslim and Christian households are deriving their livelihood on a day to day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and the non-agriculture sector and have a hand-to-mouth existence.

Table 3.12: Average Per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Expenditure (Rs.)	7675	6404	6297	15104	7662
Income (Rs.)	18,434	7,927	7,788	39,216	15,493
Income-expenditure ratio	2.40	1.24	1.23	2.59	2.02

Source: Survey

The data related to household expenditure by sources is shown in table 3.13. Food is the dominant source of household expenditure followed by other items, such as health and social ceremonies. As the per capita income of the majority of sample households is low, it is not surprising that the per capita expenditure is also very low. However, one can notice that even at a very low level of income per capita, there is a tendency on the part of the sample households to save something, which is clear from the difference between the per capita income and expenditure, though this is not very significant.

Table 3.13: Item-wise Per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)

Item	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Food	2835	2788	3139	4087	2907
Education	641	312	337	3139	678
Health	1231	757	652	986	1014
Social Ceremonies	642	719	443	1380	723
Interest payment	61	152	0	263	112
Other	2265	1675	1726	5250	2228
Average value	7675	6404	6297	15104	7662

Source: Survey

Keeping in view, the higher level of expenditure on health and education, the burden of such expenditure can partly be reduced by provisioning better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus, reducing poor households dependence on private services.

HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.14, which reveals that about 47 percent and 32 percent of the households live in *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses respectively and one-tenth of them live in *Katcha* and another tenth in thatched houses. Thus, a majority of the households have semi-*pucca* and *pucca* houses, which indicates somewhat better economic conditions of the sample households. Across the religious groups, Sikhs followed by Hindu and Christian have better housing conditions.

Table 3.14: Type of Houses (%)

Type of house	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Thatched	9.89	11.91	22.22	1.72	10.12
<i>Katcha</i>	7.14	16.92	11.11	0.00	10.18
Semi <i>Pucca</i>	29.70	40.08	22.22	18.37	32.54
<i>Pucca</i>	53.00	31.08	44.44	79.90	47.01
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Survey

About one-third of the sample households live in one room, 39 percent of them have two-room accommodation, and more than one-fourth of them have more than two room accommodation. More than two-third of Sikh households have more than two-room accommodation, whereas none of the Christian households have accommodation of more than two rooms. Thus, housing conditions of Sikh households is comparatively better than the other communities.

Table 3.15: Number of Rooms per Household (%)

Number of rooms	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Single Room	27.53	42.51	44.44	16.64	32.30
Two Room	42.39	40.19	55.56	12.94	39.46
More than two room	30.08	17.30	0.00	70.43	28.24
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

A significant proportion of the Muslim and Christian households live in single room accommodation and one-fifth have thatched and *katcha* houses. Thus, housing conditions of these households is not satisfactory and calls for urgent attention by the

government. IAY needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district to improve the housing conditions of poor households.

Drinking Water

More than three-fourth of the households use drinking water from public sources and one-fifth of them depend upon private sources (see table 3.16). The dependence on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor households is a serious concern, which needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government. Higher allocations have to be made for this purpose.

Table 3.16: Drinking Water (%)

Source	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Public	78.12	74.79	77.78	97.50	78.39
Private	21.65	25.21	22.22	2.50	21.49
Others	0.63	1.53	11.11	0.00	1.01

Source: Survey

Toilets

A majority of the households (55.16 percent) have in-house toilet facilities. However, 44 percent of the households are defecating in the open, which needs to be checked by providing assistance to build in-house toilets by the government. This will also improve sanitary and environmental conditions of the villages. The situation of Sikh households is relatively much better. More than one-half of the Hindu and Christian households are defecating outside. It is significant that the sample households had better drainage facilities.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

The data and information on health and family welfare is provided in following paragraphs, which reveals somewhat satisfactory conditions. The utilisation of health care facilities by the households depends on the knowledge and awareness about the existence of these facilities. Field workers need to be trained to motivate and make the rural poor aware of the better health status.

Place of Child Birth

A majority of the last children born in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children of Hindu households (91.51 percent) and Muslim households (87.19 percent) were born at home as compared to Christian (two-third) and Sikh households (52

percent). The dependence on government hospitals is comparatively high in Hindu and Muslim households and Sikh households are depending more on private hospital for child delivery (see Table 3.17).

Assistance in Child Birth

The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is very high in Muslim households (73.23 percent), whereas in one-third of the Christian households the delivery of children is performed by trained midwife/Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). The children born in Christian and Sikh households have also received pre and post natal care, whereas proportion of such children in Hindu and Muslim households is comparatively less. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional child deliveries so that better pre and post natal care can be provided.

Table 3.17: Place of Child Birth and Help Received (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Place					
Govt hospital	6.55	3.57	33.33	6.77	5.65
Private hospital	1.94	9.25	0.00	40.65	5.85
At Home	91.51	87.19	66.67	52.58	88.50
Help in child delivery					
Doctor	19.07	16.05	33.33	38.77	18.70
Trained Dai	42.65	10.72	33.33	12.43	29.97
Untrained Dai	38.29	73.23	33.33	48.80	51.33

Source: Survey

Immunisation

The data relating to the status of immunisation of children against Polio, DPT and BCG show encouraging results. Almost all children have been given Polio drops. Similarly, almost all children have received a doze of immunisation (DPT, BCG. etc.). Nearly 87 percent of the households across the sample households have immunised their children below the age of 5 years against at least one type of disease. However, the proportion of the children fully immunised is comparatively lower (74 percent). It is significant that all the children of Christian households are immunised by at least one doze and 80 percent of them are fully immunised. The proportion of children in Hindu households are comparatively more immunised by at least by one doze or all than children of Muslim and Sikh households (see table 3.18). The credit for this success largely goes to intensive government campaigns for immunisation of children and also in increasing awareness among parents.

Table 3.18: Immunisation Status of Children below 5 years (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Any Type of doze	92.40	81.55	100.00	86.41	87.21
Fully Immunised	85.13	65.31	80.00	59.39	74.86

Source: Survey

Morbidity

Fever is the most common health ailment besides fracture. Cough and cold and arthritis are also reported by a small proportion of households. Many of the newly born children lack of post natal care. The complications during pregnancy and child birth have also been reported by about one-tenth of the households. Christian households have comparatively robust health status than other communities. On average, Rs. 1014 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure. Hindu and Sikh households spend more on health compared to Christian and Muslim households.

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 are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources for medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependence on costly private sources that most of the times are beyond the reach of the poor households or forces them into debt.

INDEBTEDNESS

Incidence of Indebtedness

More than one-fifth of the sample households are reportedly indebted. Muslim households are comparatively more indebted in proportion to their income (32.06 percent) than other communities (see Table 3.19). The average amount of loan raised is Rs. 47174. Sikh households are more indebted in absolute terms (Rs. 159072) than other communities.

Table 3.19: Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Average (Rs.)	34862	41921	35000	159072	47174
% Indebted households	12.88	32.06	11.11	17.52	20.19

Source: Survey

Source of Debt

Sikh households depend solely on institutional sources for raising of loans. This is because they possess more land, which can be used as a surety with the banking system, whereas other communities mostly depend upon non-institutional sources of credit. The dependence on government source is about 16 percent for Hindu and Muslim households (see table 3.20). Keeping in view the prevalence of non-institutional source of credit, it is necessary to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the exploitation of poor people by money lenders and sahkars is minimised.

Table 3.20: Sources of Debt (%)

Source	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Govt.	16.10	16.84	0.00	44.47	17.90
Commercial Bank	5.65	0.59	0.00	4.90	2.67
Gramin Bank	6.14	1.32	0.00	14.26	3.79
Co-op Bank/Societies	4.47	4.52	0.00	0.00	4.18
Provident fund	1.45	0.00	33.33	0.00	0.97
SHG/NGO	5.73	0.52	0.00	0.00	2.38
Traders	0.00	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.75
Professional money lender	13.14	19.97	0.00	0.00	16.09
Money lender	18.76	8.49	33.33	4.16	12.32
Landlords	7.80	-	33.33	12.88	8.20
Friends/Relatives	19.72	7.41	0.00	19.33	30.35
Others	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38

Source: Survey

Use of Loans

Loans have been raised by the sample households for varied purposes ranging from repayment of loans (0.43 percent) to production and asset building (34.19 percent). About 18 percent of the loan has been raised for meeting health expenses and 8.86 percent of the loan money is used for meeting expenditure on social ceremonies. More or less a similar situation prevails across communities except the Christians, who are not in debt at all.

The raising of loan for productive purposes such as farming and animal husbandry is very encouraging and more credit facilities through institutional mechanisms need to be provided. Sikh households are raising loans for capital expenditure, besides they also raise credit for financial investment. This is a new phenomenon in rural credit market and needs to be expanded. Besides, one-tenth of them are also raising credit for purchase of consumer durables, a new trend in rural society (see table 3.22).

Table 3.21: Purpose of Loans (%)

Purpose	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	All
Production and asset building	49.67	42.23	39.49	34.19
Social ceremonies	2.84	12.79	4.90	8.86
Medical treatment	12.23	22.39	18.43	18.64
Repayment of loans	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.43

Source: Survey

The high incidence of indebtedness among Hindu and Muslim households is largely due to low income levels that are inadequate for meeting consumption and other social needs. There is a need to improve the income levels of rural households. Besides, banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates to the poor without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment.

CHAPTER IV

DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Public Distribution System

About 38.87 percent of the sample population are below poverty line (BPL), however, less than one-fifth of them had BPL ration cards and only one-fourth of them are availing PDS facility (see table 4.1). Community-wise, more than one-half of Muslim and Christian households are reportedly BPL, whereas only 12 percent of the Sikh households belong to BPL category. Nearly one-fifth of Christian households have BPL card and also getting BPL ration, whereas out of 51 percent Muslim households only 21 percent have BPL cards and 29 percent are getting BPL ration. Similarly, out of one-third of Hindu BPL households, one-fifth of them have BPL cards and nearly one-fourth of them are getting BPL ration. Thus, some of the poor households belonging to BPL category do not have BPL card, however, they are getting BPL ration. A significant proportion of them are without BPL card and are not getting BPL ration.

Table 4.1: Access to Public Distribution System (%)

Category	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
BPL HHs	33.89	51.74	55.56	12.13	38.87
BPL HH getting ration	26.16	29.49	22.22	5.36	25.72
Having BPL card	19.94	21.13	22.22	4.66	19.21

Source: Survey

Two-thirds of the sample population have complained about insufficient quantity of ration followed by irregular supply (34.88 percent), bad quality (30.91 percent), and dishonesty in measurement (24.65 percent) as problems in the PDS facility. More or less similar is the situation across the communities, except for Christian households, who complained about dishonesty in measurement as the main problem being faced in using PDS facility (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Difficulty Regarding PDS (%)

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Total
Insufficient quantity	69.81	65.22	0.00	0.00	66.22
Bad quality of ration	27.50	39.20	0.00	0.00	30.91
Dishonesty in measurement	19.47	31.87	100.00	0.00	24.65
Irregular supply	37.00	33.97	0.00	0.00	34.88
Others	8.24	12.87	0.00	100.00	11.17

Source: Survey

The huge difference between those falling under BPL category and those holding BPL ration card and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern and the gap needs to be plugged at the earliest so that the poor get their due share. There is also a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, enhance its coverage and make it corruption free.

Access, Use and Quality of Public Health Service

Despite development of public health infrastructure in the recent past, there is a lack of adequate health care facilities for the rural poor, which is due to heavy pressure of population on these basic services. Similar situation can be seen in the availability of medicines, though it has gradually improved during the last few years. The availability of doctors, especially lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals, is a major concern of the rural population. At the same time, presence of quacks in villages has an adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of people. As a result the people incur heavy expenditure on health care without getting proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaigns.

Education

Availability and accessibility of educational institutions have improved in the rural areas of the district in recent years. The conditions of schools is more than satisfactory in terms of average number of rooms per school, toilet facility, drinking water, punctuality of teachers, books and above all teacher-pupil ratio. Mid-day meal is also in operation in all government schools and is good in its quality and regularity. However, there is a problem of multiple enrolments in many schools. This is mainly for availing the benefit of the mid-day meal scheme as the meals are not cooked in the school.

A high proportion of children enrolled in government schools belong to relatively poor households. The better-off households send their children to English medium private schools. This kind of dualism has marginalised the government aided schooling system. There is hardly any voice raised for improving the quality and accountability in the government-run elementary education system since the better-off households tend to remain indifferent as they do not use such facilities.

For quality teaching, there is a need to strengthen the training of teachers in new teaching and learning methods and pedagogy. There is not a single teacher in elementary school education who received in-service training after their basic degree training. Efforts also need to be made to promote extra curricular activities in schools to make learning process attractive to the children.

Awareness

The level of awareness about various government programmes operational in the rural areas of the district ranges from less than one-third to more than two-third of the households under survey. Indira Awas Yojana followed by ICDS or Anganwadi, old age pension, SSA or Sarva Sikhsa Abhiyan, NREGA, TSC Swajaldhara, ARWSP (drinking water), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), and Maternity Benefit Scheme are better known. However, less than one-third of the households revealed knowing the self employment scheme of SGSY, which is a real cause of worry and needs to be addressed by concerned authorities so that the prevailing problems of unemployment and under-employment and consequent poverty can be tackled effectively.

Aspirations

Creation of employment opportunities within or in nearby villages, ranks at the top, in the items of aspirations relating to development. Basic amenities such as better educational facilities followed by housing, drainage, and health care also find important place in the priority list of villagers (Table 4.3). Christian households have given employment top priority without mentioning their aspiration about other civic amenities.

Table 4.3: Aspirations of Respondents in Order of Their Ranks

Facilities	Hindu		Muslims		Christian		Sikh	
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Employment	22.44	1	41.81	1	63.64	1	39.66	1
Educational facilities	21.12	2	14.12	2	0.00	2	15.52	2
Housing	5.28	3	4.80	3	0.00	3	5.17	3
Drainage	4.62	4	2.54	4	0.00	4	0.00	4
Health	0.33	5	1.13	4	0.00	5	3.45	5

Source: Survey

The rural population of the district has participated in panchayat, state assembly and parliamentary elections, which reflects a high level of political participation. However, an insignificant proportion of them are office bearers of panchayat, members of self help groups (SHG) and member of religious organisations. Thus, the level of social participation is low, which may be attributed to low penetration and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in rural areas of the district, and calls for initiation and activation of social institutions. Block development functionaries can play the role of catalyst. Compared with their urban counterparts, the rural folk have limited access to media and communication. This can be enhanced by providing community access to media and communication at panchayats with government and non-government support.

Chapter V

KEY FINDINGS

- The total population of Udham Singh Nagar district was 832600 in 2001, of which more than two-thirds live in rural areas, which is lower than the State share of rural population.
- Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes constitute respectively 14.3 percent and 13.1 percent of the population of the district. One-third of the population belongs to the minority communities.
- The work participation is reportedly low, and is higher for males than females. This is true across the religious groups. The lower female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions so that they are empowered to play their due role within and outside the family.
- Casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation followed by self-employment in agriculture and casual labour in non-agriculture. The high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and forces the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly low. NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment for 100 man-days per household per annum.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 84.3 percent of the households' members are engaged. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more self-employment schemes for the rural poor so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis.

Micro Level Deprivations: Survey Findings (2008)

- The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among the males than the females across the religious groups. Female literacy is highest among Christians, which is even higher than male literacy among Hindu and Muslim communities. However, Sikhs have the highest male literacy, followed by Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities. The gender gap in literacy is noticeable (18.55

percentage point) in Sikh community, which further reflects comparatively lower female status in the community vis-à-vis the males. This needs serious attention by educational planners and decision-makers, and the community needs to be made aware of the advantages of female education.

- The gender gap in literacy is noticeable, which further reflects the comparatively lower status of females in the community vis-à-vis males. This needs serious attention by educational planners and decision-makers.
- Given the overall high enrolment level among the various communities, the incidence of non-enrolment as well as drop outs is very low. The proportion of the children never enrolled, left after enrollment, and enrolled but does not go to school is small, which implies that enrolment and retention rate is very high and the SSA has been making an impact on the rural educational scenario.
- However, there is need to speed up the efforts of the government in ensuring 100 percent enrolment of children in this age group with zero drop outs, especially among Hindu and Muslim communities in general and male children in Sikh community in particular.
- Gender disparities are noticeable across the communities in educational attainment at various levels, which needs to be plugged to ensure equity for which scholarships may be given to poor but deserving female students from rural areas. The gap in human capital formation in case of various communities as well as gender needs to be bridged on a priority by following community as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.
- Overall the educational attainments, particularly among youth and females, are low and a matter of worry. There is an urgent need to increase the participation of the population, particularly the youth, in higher and technical education. This would require imparting short duration job oriented courses in technical institutions to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from disadvantaged and minorities.
- Unemployment is rampant among the communities, except Sikhs, who are more dependent on agriculture and entrepreneurship. Given the high incidence of unemployment and underemployment, majority of the young population across the religious groups are in search of additional employment for augmenting their income and households' status. Their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.

- The process of industrial development has been speeded up with the formation of the State. However, the employment opportunities have not been created in the same pace for local people. A large proportion of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. One of the reasons for fewer jobs for local population in industries is lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended to by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes.
- Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and allied activities and high incidence of unemployment, a well-planned strategy is required to improve the livelihood of rural population of the district. The level of skill and training of the new entrants to the labour market needs to be improved through need based area specific skill development programmes. Vocational and other job oriented courses at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and other technical training institutes need to be promoted. This calls for a comprehensive survey of the skill possessed by the unemployed youth and the training requirements in the growing industrial sector, including the self employed sector.
- More than three-fourth of the households use drinking water from public source and one-fifth of them depend upon private sources. The dependence on private sources of drinking water for the households is a serious concern and needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government. A majority of the households (55.16 percent) have in-house toilet facilities. However, 44 percent of the households are defecating out in the open, which needs to be checked by providing government assistance for building in-house toilets. This would improve sanitary and environmental conditions of the villages. The situation of Sikh households is relatively better. More than one-half of the Hindu and Christian households are defecating outside. However, the sample households had better drainage facilities.
- All this makes it clear that the scheme like Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme, aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, which has been on for quite some time, has not made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation and drainage in Udhham Singh Nagar district. The existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely miss the target, and calls for better implementation of the TSC and extension of its coverage through the multi-sector development plan.
- One-tenth of sample households each lives in *Katcha* and thatched houses. One-third of them are living in one room accommodation. 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 housing in the rural areas is not satisfactory and calls for vigorous implementation of IAY so as to include more beneficiaries and 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.

Action Points

- Despite development of public health infrastructure in the recent past, there is a lack of adequate health care facilities to the rural poor population, which is due to heavy pressure of population on these basic services. Similar is the situation with availability of medicines, though it has gradually improved significantly during the last few years. The availability of doctors, especially lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals is a major concern of rural population. At the same time, presence of quacks in villages has adverse impact on the overall healthcare of the people. They incur heavy expenditure on health care without getting proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaigns on health care.
- The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is very high in Muslim households (73.23 percent), whereas in one-third of the Christian households' child delivery is performed by trained midwife/ASHA. The children born in Christian and Sikh households have also received pre and post natal care, whereas proportion of such children in Hindu and Muslim households is comparatively less. Keeping the above in view, there is a need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of the children so that better pre and post natal care be provided.
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly more compared to government hospital. Medical services available at government hospitals may be inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources for medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission in so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependency on private sources.
- Electricity supply should be given due priority in the development of the district. Availability of electricity remains one of the critical gaps. 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 near the target.

- The high incidence of indebtedness among Hindu and Muslim households is largely due to low income levels that are inadequate for meeting consumption and other social needs. There is need to improve the income levels of rural households. Besides, banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates to the poor without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment.
- Sikh households depend solely on institutional sources for raising of loans, which is due to the fact that they possess more land that can be used as a surety with the banks. The other communities mostly depend upon non-institutional sources of credit. The dependence on government source is about 16 percent for Hindu and Muslim households (see table 3.20). Keeping in view the prevalence of more non-institutional sources of credit, there is 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 sahuikars is minimised.
- Some of the poor households belonging to BPL category do not have BPL card, however, they are getting BPL ration. A significant proportion of them is without BPL card and is not getting BPL ration. The huge difference between the numbers falling under BPL category and those holding BPL ration cards and availing benefits from PDS is a matter of serious concern and the gaps need to be plugged at earliest. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, enhance its coverage and make it corruption free.
- Efforts should be made to increase the number of women SHGs and develop them in all respect. Women 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 by helping them in augmenting their income through income generating activities on the other.

Annexure I: List of Sample Selected villages in Udhm Singh Nagar District

<i>Block</i>	<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	<i>Village</i>
Khatima	Diya	Diya
Khatima	Umar Khurd	Umar Khurd
Khatima	Mundeli	Mundeliu
Khatima	Mohammadpur	Mohammadpur
Khatima	Nauganath	Naughath
Rudrapur	Bhango	Bhango
Rudrapur	Shimla Bahdur	Shimala bahadur
Rudrapur	Sirouli Kala	Sirouli Kala
Rudrapur	Kolariya	Kolariya
Rudrapur	Nabhura Rani	Nabhura Rani
Rudrapur	Sajana	Sajana
Kashipur	Kharagpura Devipura	Kharagpur Devipura
Kashipur	Bharatpur	Bharatpur
Kashipur	Patti Bhajjar	Patti Bhajjar
Kashipur	Dabhora Mustkam	Dabhora Mustkam
Kashipur	Banskhera Kalar	Banskhera Kalar
Kashipur	Fasiyapra	Fasiyapura
Bajpur		Nandpur
Bajpur	Jamor	Jamor
Bajpur	Gauth	Gauth
Sitarganj	Gobind Nagar	Gobind Nagar
Sitarganj	Rudrapur	Rudrapur
Sitarganj	Rajnagar	Rajnagar
Sitarganj	Nakaha	Nakaha
Jasipur	Missarbala	Missarabala
Jasipur	Talabpur	Talabpur
Jasipur	Bentwala	Bentwala
Jasipur	Bailjari	Bailjari
Sadarpur	Birunima	Birunima
Sadarpur	Nabhura Nagar	Nabhura Nagar