

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Background:

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority-concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on the 2001 Census data with a purpose to improve all the eight indicators and bring them to the all-India level through a multi-sector development plan under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since it is expected that there may be changes in those indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to inform the multi-sectoral development plan (MSDP) with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Washim, a backward district in Maharashtra, is having a very low infra-structure development status as the performance of some of the key development indicators are below the national and state level. It is one of the backward districts in the 90 minority-concentration districts in India.

District profile (2001 Census-based)

- Washim is primarily a rural district with 83% of the total population living in the rural areas.
- In Washim, near 23.19% of the total population represent **minority communities**. Of these, Muslims constitute 6.49%, and Buddhists 16.16%. The tehsil-wise minority community representation in Washim shows that Karanja is the largest minority-concentrated tehsil with 31.23% of the total population from minority communities, and Karaja tehsil has the highest Muslim population in Washim. Manora tehsil has the lowest minority-concentration. Mangrulpir has the highest Buddhist concentration and except Manora, the rest of the tehsils have more than 14% of the total population as Buddhist population.
- The literacy level of Washim (73.37%) is above the national level (67%) (Census 2001). Similarly, the female literacy ratio is 60.57% which is also above the national average. Even the sex ratio, i.e., 939 is just above the state and the all-India level. However, it shows a declining trend and some intervention is required in this regard.

- The overall work participation rate and female work participation are 54% and 35.2% respectively, which is far better than the national average. About 88% of the labour force is engaged in agriculture-related activities.

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

In 2008, Washim lagged behind all-India average in four out of eight indicators namely safe drinking water, electrification ratio, sanitation ratio and housing. The gap that prevails in these indicators between the district and the all-India average is very wide, indicating the need to have careful and focused interventions to address the needs and geographical specificities of the region. The data in the following Table shows the gap between the all-India and district figures vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and the all-India figures are for 2005-2006. The distance from the all-India figures may be higher, as the all-India data are a little old.

Table 3: Development Deficit in Washim District

Sl. No.	Indicators	Washim 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	73.1	67.3	5.79	6
2	Rate of female literacy	62.3	57.1	5.17	5
3	Work participation rate	54.0	38.0	15.99	8
4	Female work participation rate	35.2	21.5	13.70	7
5	Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls	47.0	59.4	-12.40	3
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	49.05	87.9	-38.85	1
7	Percentage of households with electricity	64.0	67.9	-3.90	4
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	15.7	39.2	-23.54	2
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	83.6	43.5	40.07	-
10	Percentage of child deliveries in a health facility	56.2	38.7	17.50	-

Priorities for Multi-Sectoral Development Plan

- **Safe drinking water (Rank 1):** The majority of the households (75.4%) have to depend on public sources like wells, common tanks and rivers for drinking water. The drinking water supply in many places is also very erratic and far below the desirable level. Moreover, access to water sources for irrigation and other activities is also far below the desirable level. Since access to safe drinking water is a key development indicator, the MSDP should promote discussion and community participation at the district level to address this issue. It is essential to involve the community and various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop a productive and workable drinking water supply system in

Washim. Moreover, the development plan can provide increased attention to increasing the number of public drinking water sources like tube wells, wells and tanks.

- **Water Closet latrines (Rank 2):** The toilet and sanitation facilities in Washim are very poor as only 2% of the households have some kind of drainage facilities and 82% of the households have open defecation. It was reported that the drinking water supply in many parts of the district is once in a fortnight only. This, clubbed with very poor sanitation facilities in the villages, poses a major development gap in the villages. Since it is directly linked with health issues, the MSDP may have to give priority to it and address it effectively. Considering the number of houses that require toilets, the present development plan may initiate some public toilet facilities with community initiatives. In order to promote the need to have closet facility at the habitat, the MSDP may consider a publicity campaign and also earmark some funds to provide toilets to those houses which do not have toilet facilities.
- **Housing conditions (Rank 3):** Nearly 53% of all the houses in the district are *kaccha* or thatched ones of which 36% are *kaccha* houses. More than 60% of the minority households are *kaccha* or thatched houses, indicating the need to focus on housing development among the minorities in Washim. Even though the housing condition in Washim is poor, only four percent of the population has got support under the Indira Awaz Yojana (IAY). This also indicates that the present share of IAY is not sufficient to meet the housing requirements of the people, and it may be necessary to increase the amount and also the number of units that IAY can support in the coming years. Moreover, the housing allotments can be increased, may be by following a block-wise approach. Thus, the number of houses under Indira Awaz Yojana in Washim can be increased with substantial fund support from the present scheme for housing which can be given to those blocks or tehsils which have a high minority-concentration.
- **Household electricity (Rank 4):** Nearly 64% of the houses in Washim have access to electricity at the household level. All the non-electrified houses depend on oil lamps for light. Though there is hardly any community-wise difference with regard to access to electricity, the Buddhist households reported a low level of electrification i.e. only 57% of the houses have access to electricity in the study region. Since most of the villages are electrified in Washim, access to electricity is becoming a household issue and the MSDP can aim to increase the coverage of electricity supply at the household-level. However, the major issue of electricity

supply in Washim is the irregular and erratic power supply, so it is essential identify and promote alternate energy sources. This may also, in turn, promote micro-enterprise activities in the district.

- **Literacy rate and female literacy rate (Rank 5 and 6):** The overall literacy rate of Washim is 73.37% according to the Census 2001, which is above the national and the state levels. Similarly, the female literacy rate (60.57%) is also above the national average. More than 50% of the drop outs mentioned that they had to drop out due to the distance to schools. This is very relevant from the perspective of female education. The drop out rate of female children in the primary level itself is higher than the male drop out rate, indicating that the elementary education of females achieved in Washim has not translated into corresponding higher education levels. The school infrastructure in Karanja and Malegaon tehsil is poor compared to others, and the District Development Plan can consider ear-marking funds to upgrade the primary schools to middle and secondary schools. This would help to reduce the drop outs from each level. Similarly, availability of industrial training institutes in Washim is very low. Since industrial training institutes are essential to support the industrialization process in Washim, some initiative in this regard to invite concerned stakeholders to set up industrial training institutes in Washim may be considered.
- **Work participation and female work participation (Rank 7 and 8):** The work participation rates in of Washim are above the national average: The male work participation rate (70%) and the female work participation rate (35.2%) is in a far better position than the national average (43% and 21.5% respectively). The The overall work participation rate (54%) is also above the national average (38%). Moreover, the DRDA, Agriculture Department and NABARD may jointly develop some programmes and schemes under the MSDP to provide training as well input supplies to the farmers or those wanting to get into these activities, taking into consideration the potential of private corporates, non-governmental organizations and other agencies. The government may consider promoting these activities with sufficient inputs including credit and marketing networks, to bring about improvements in the employment and income levels of the people. A preference for some sort of micro-enterprises among the off farm activities has been expressed. Since around 75% of the respondents are looking for self-employment opportunities or micro-enterprises, it is essential to develop institutions that can support the growth and development of micro-enterprises in Washim. In this context, it is

essential for the development initiatives to support this activity by providing sufficient credit facilities which are very limited at present.

Other key areas:

- **Health infra-structure:** Though the data indicate existence of better access to health care in Washim, the infra-structure status of the health centres and its availability is far below the desirable level. Moreover, it is also important to note that communicable diseases are the major diseases that were reported in the region during the last one year. This also indicates the need to focus on the health care infrastructure including hospital facilities and preventive care with doctors and para-medical staff at the village level. Since health is a key development indicator, it is essential to have some investment in the public health arena as well. The MSDP can provide some attention to improving the hospital and paramedical support in the villages, by opening more Primary Health Centres (PHC) health sub-centres and ICDS centres. The ICDS centre can function as the ASHA centre as well. and if the building is constructed for ICDS centers, it can be used for multiple purposes in the villages.

