



Executive Summary

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

Nagaon District Assam



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Nagaon District, Assam

The purpose of the Baseline Survey of the Minority Concentration Districts (MDCS) was to assess the development deficits in the district and identification of priority areas for policy interventions to be structured in the line of the Prime Minister's 15- Point Programme, which will be in the form of a Multi-sector Development Programme (MsDP) for the entire district. In order to do this, ten indicators - eight of which were identified and applied by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India for identifying the Minority Concentrated Districts across the country along with two additional indicators for assessing health status have been used. Since the basic purpose of the Baseline was specified as a pre-requisite for preparation of Multi-sector District Development Plan (MsDP) for the Minority Concentrated Districts (MCDs) characterised by relative backwardness and to bring those district at least to the national level, most recent national level official estimates were taken for finding the development deficits in terms of the ten selected indicators. Taking deficit so derived as weights, the indicators representing specific sectors are ranked on a ten point score-scale. The exercise results in following relative ranking for the Nagaon district, Assam. The national estimates of the selected indicators (1-8) are estimated on the basis of NSS 2004 -2005 rounds while (9-10) are from NFHS - 3 with due approval from the Ministry.

Sl. No	Indicators	Survey Result	Estimate for India	Deficit	Priority Ranking attached
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	74.10	67.30	6.80	7
2	Rate of female literacy	68.15	57.10	11.05	9
3	Work participation rate	47.04	38.00	9.04	8
4	Female work participation rate	9.77	21.50	-11.73	5
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	22.22	59.40	-37.18	2
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	80.44	87.90	-7.46	6
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	6.67	39.20	-32.53	3
8	Percentage of electrified households	20.11	67.90	-47.79	1
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	63.36	43.50	19.86	10
10	Institutional delivery	17.06	38.70	-21.64	4



- Compared to the national scenario, the first priority area for an effective development intervention in the district is rural electrification and it deserves immediate attention, as the gap between the existing scenario of the district and the national average is quite prominent. As an alternative to electrification, the multi-sector development plan may aim at effective utilization of solar energy.
- Second, rural housing, making provision for pucca houses for the rural poor of the district under the existing centrally sponsored housing programme. The difference between the existing scenario of the district and the national average is quite prominent.
- Sanitation and access to safe drinking water are still two major problems in the rural areas of Nagaon, and therefore, the multi-sector development plan for the district may adequately emphasize on these two issues.
- Keeping in view the development deficits, the next priority of the multi-sector development plan for Nagaon is to work out a feasible strategy for promoting institutional delivery. It may be done in collaboration with the National Rural Health Mission.
- Increasing female work participation rate in the district is to be the fifth priority. The present baseline survey provides sufficient insights for effective planning for greater female work participation in the district. Besides highlighting the problems of self-employed people in the district, the baseline has clearly pointed out the kind of skill sought by the people.
- The next priority of the development agenda should be the enhancement of literacy rate in general and female literacy rate in particular. The present baseline has reflected that the rural areas are deprived of required education infrastructure leading to an alarming rate of illiteracy.
- Enhancement of work participation rate in the district is to be the next priority of the multi-sector development plan for Nagaon. Creation of employment avenues as well as training will be helpful in this regard.
- The agricultural sector should be rejuvenated with farm mechanization, introduction of multiple cropping, providing crop loans at subsidized rate, and provision for adequate marketing of agricultural produces. Provisions for training of the actual cultivators for commercial cultivation are a felt need.
- Although the present rate of child immunization is satisfactory for the district of Nagaon, steps should be taken to ensure cent per cent child vaccination with related natal care system. ■