



Executive Summary

Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

Thoubal District Manipur



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Thoubal District, Manipur

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 Thoubal district, Manipur. 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
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	63.66	64.84	-1.18	5
2	Rate of female literacy	55.90	53.67	2.23	6
3	Work participation rate	38.04	39.26	-1.22	4
4	Female work participation rate	21.03	25.68	-4.65	3
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	1.87	51.62	-49.75	2
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	24.20	77.90	-53.70	1
7	Percentage of households with sanitation facilities	96.66	21.92	74.74	10
8	Percentage of electrified households	69.65	56.50	13.15	8
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	64.00	44.00	20.00	9
10	Institutional delivery	59.71	48.70	11.01	7



The Draft Manipur State Development Report 2006 pointed out that Thoubal is one of the best performing districts in terms of bank finance, urbanization, infrastructure, agriculture and education.

The development deficits of the district along with prioritization of the required development interventions are summarized below.

- The third priority area in the district, as clearly shown in the table above is an effective intervention to substantially enhance opportunities to engage the female workforce in income generating activities. Considerably a large section of the households, as indicated by this baseline survey, are willing to promote their skill in tailoring, weaving, repairing, electronics etc. Effective intervention strategy needs to be worked out, especially to economically empower the rural women.

- As the baseline indicated, the overwhelming majority of the households engaged in agriculture are in fact marginal farmers. Consequently, considerably a large part of the main workforce has been productively engaged for considerably a short span of the year. The resultant phenomenon of underemployment, therefore, deserves attention. Therefore, next priority is promotion of the primary sector of production, including horticulture, to make it more remunerative in order to generate more employment opportunity for the people dependent on the sector.

- Education continues to be an area of major concern in the development efforts of the district. Although all the sample villages have a primary school, the teacher school ratio shows that on an average 2 teachers are engaged in primary school teaching. Most of the primary schools are semi-pucca structures with mud floors and mud approach road. Although the literacy rate in the district for rural areas as indicated by the survey result is 64%, the drop out rate is a major problem especially after the middle level. The per capita average expenditure on education in the sample population is Rs.13 which much lower than the NSS 62nd Round estimate of Rs. 56/- for rural Manipur. More importantly 25% do not spend anything on education and high school expense is the major reason for drop out among the Muslims especially female students as indicated by the survey.

- The health infrastructure of the sample villages and health status of the sample population in the district shows that the district has major deficits in delivery of health care services. The village survey revealed that 68% of the sample villages have the govt. primary referral unit and 60% received treatment in these. However 40% sample population availed medical treatment at private hospitals. The weak infrastructure of health care services is captured by the availability of 6 beds per ten thousand populations and one doctor per 5435 persons in the district. The immunization status of the surveyed population shows that only 64% of the children in the age group of 0-5 years have been fully immunized which needs to be addressed with serious concern.

- The poor road connectivity status indicated by the fact that majority of the village roads are mud approach roads to various shows that roads infrastructure in the rural areas of the district is still very weak. As revealed from the survey of villages the average road condition connecting them to various facilities is non- graveled although the official records indicate the roads are graveled and paved.



■ As per the Economic Survey of Manipur, 2006-07 (Govt. of Manipur) statistics 34% of the families in the district are below poverty line. The survey indicates that 47% of the families are reported to be BPL but only 38% have BPL ration card. In so far as the PDS facility is concerned 22 villages are reported to have PDS. The district has a total of 497 PDS shops and the total number of PDS shops available in the sample villages is 115 which are 23% of the district total. The village and household survey reveals that PDS functioning in the district is average and 64% of the consumers faced discrimination. This indicates that PDS functioning in the district needs to be improved.

Notwithstanding the fact that awareness level of the sample households on various schemes is fairly high, it however remains a fact that benefits received is rather low. Approximately 16% of the sample households are found to have benefited under Sarvasiksha and 28% under ICDS. While only 1.1% benefited under SGSY, 1% benefited under IAY. This reflects that the actual coverage of govt. programmes is very low among the sample households although village survey indicated fairly good coverage of SGSY and PMGSY in the sample villages. ■