Executive Summary: Muzaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh

Introduction

Minority constitutes one-fifth of the total India population. They are yet to join mainstream of the Indian developmental path. Majority of them are at the bottom of socio-economic stratification. A survey conducted by the central government highlighted the fact that 90 districts of the country, having minority concentration, are backward. Out of these, 21 districts have been identified in Uttar Pradesh alone. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, government of India, aims at developing suitable measures for the development of these 90 districts in

> **Top Five Major Development Deficit in Muzaffarnagar**
> - Electricity
> - Pucca Houses
> - Work Participation Rate
> - Female Work Participation Rate
> - Literacy Rate

the eleventh five-year plan. The main aim of this baseline survey is to identify the developmental deficit in these districts and identify areas for intervention. Giri institute of Development Studies, Lucknow has been entrusted to conduct baseline survey in 19 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the survey is to identify the gaps-

- In infrastructure such as schools, health and drinking water,
- In housing and sanitary facilities,
- In other infrastructure like roads, banking and marketing facilities, etc.,
- To Point out income generating activities e.g. artisan/handicrafts, in which villagers have a comparative advantage.

Methodology, Sample design and Tools

The tehsils of each district has been classified into three strata by arranging them in descending order of Minority population in the 2001 census. Then 30 villages are selected from each district. A door-to-door survey conducted to do the house listing in each village with a population up to 1200. In larger sized villages, two hamlets have been selected. The first was the one with highest minority population and the second any other hamlets of the villages. Then form each village 30 households have been selected in proportion to the religious categories of people living in the village. Thus, 900 households have been identified and surveyed from each district.

The study has undertaken at three levels:

1. District profile using secondary information
2. Village level using secondary information
3. Household level using data from the field survey.

Indicators

In order to identify the development deficit and identification of priority areas for policy intervention, the expert committee of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi, identified eight indicators. Following are these indicators:

(A) Socio-Economic Indicators:

    1. Literacy Rate

    2. Female Literacy Rate

    3. Work Participation Rate

    4. Female Work Participation Rate

(B) Basic Amenities Indicators:

    5. Percentage of Households with Pucca Houses

    6. Percentage of Households with Safe Drinking Water

    7. Percentage of Households with Electricity

    8. Percentage of Households with W/C Latrines

Beside the above indicators, two additional indicators also have been selected for assessing health status in the district. These are:

(C) Health Indicators:

    9. Percentage of Fully Vaccinated Children

    10. Percentage of Institutional Deliveries

The purpose of this baseline survey is to identify the infrastructural gaps, which could be filled through Multi-Sector District Development Plan (MSDP). Effort will be made through MSDP to reduce these developmental deficits and take it at least to the national Level/state level.

Taking deficit as weight, the indicators representing specific sectors ranked on 8-point score scale, in which rank 1 will indicate highest deficit and highest priority. Thus, an indicator has given highest rank, if the value of deficit between survey result and the estimate for India is higher. The other indicators ranked in decreasing order according to their value of deficit. In case, the deficit

comes positive (survey result higher than the estimate of India) lower rank is assigned to the indicator. The developmental deficit of Muzaffarnagar district is presented in the following table:

Development Deficit of Muzaffarnagar District

Sl. No.	Indicators	Survey Result of District (2008)	Estimate for India (2005)	Gap between India and District	Priority Ranking
		1	2	3 = 1 – 2	
Socio-Economic Indicators					
1	Literacy Rate	74.71	67.30	7.41	5
2	Female Literacy Rate	65.40	57.10	8.30	6
3	Work Participation Rate	34.14	38.00	-3.86	3
4	Female Work Participation Rate	18.52	21.50	-2.98	4
Basic Amenities Indicators					
5	Percentage of Households with Pucca Houses	46.78	59.40	-12.62	2
6	Percentage of Households with Safe Drinking Water	99.33	87.90	11.43	7
7	Percentage of Households with Electricity	31.11	67.90	-36.79	1
8	Percentage of Households with Water Close set Latrines	78.78	39.20	39.58	8
Health Indicators					
9	Percentage of Fully Vaccinated Children	99.60	43.50	56.10	-
10	Percentage of Institutional Deliveries	13.78	38.70	-24.92	-

Note- **(1)** Survey data of the district (col. 1) pertains to rural areas only, but data (col.2) pertains to total.
(2) Data in col. 2 from sl.no. 5 to 8 pertains to year 2005-2006 from NFHS-3 and rest data in col.2 pertains to the year 2004-2005 from NSSO.

The above table shows major development deficit of Muzaffarnagar district, which need argent attention:

1. Rural electrification and availability of power supply is the first priority area. Although, all sample villages are electrified, but number of connections and availability of power supply is discouraging in the district. Only 31 per cent surveyed households have electric connection and on an average less than 7 hours per day power supply is available. Among Muslim and ST households, electric connections are almost negligible.

2. The condition of houses has been found unsatisfactory and it receives second priority place. Besides having a large number of kuccha houses, the living space for an average family has been found to be insufficient. It has been observed that Indebtedness has been frequently

caused due to expenditure on house repairing at its maintenance. This increases distress to the lower section of the society.

3. The baseline survey result indicates that the percentage of work participation is lower than that of national average.

4. Female work participation rate has been found low as compare to the national level. Serious efforts should be made in the MSDP to increase work participation rate in general and for female in particular.

5. Although, literacy rate and female literacy rate ranked 5th and 6th in the priority ranking of the surveyed households, but it does not represents the real picture of educational situation in the area. As we move from primary to upper primary, higher secondary and intermediate level, the percentage of literate people decreases from 20.24 per cent to 15.37 per cent, 5.11 per cent and 1.81 per cent, respectively. Situation is more alarming in the case of female literacy. This area needs outmost attention, because education is the most important means for the social mobility, especially for downtrodden section of the society.

Other Findings of Survey:

1. Sex ratio is low in the district (871 per thousand) as compared to the state (898 per thousand). Religious consideration and dogmatic ideology might be the reason for the trend, where male child is preferred more than that of female child.

2. Density of population is beyond the caring capacity of land in the district i.e. 884 persons per sq. km., whereas the state constitutes 689 persons per sq. km.

3. Population growth rate has been decreased by 1.77 per cent from 1981-1991 to 1991-2001. In 1981-1991, growth rate was 26.42 per cent, whereas in 1991-2001, it has been recorded 24.65 per cent.

4. Family size of Muslim households is higher (7.09) than that of other religious groups.

5. District literacy rate is 49.06 per cent, which is lower than that of the state i.e. 56.30 per cent.

6. Among Muslim, literacy rate and work participation rate is very low as compared to the other religious groups in Muzaffarnagar district.

7. Dropout cases are higher in Muslim community than that of Hindus and Sikhs. It has been found in the field survey that below 20 years age group migrants are mostly dropout students.

In this age group, the number of Muslim migrants is higher (48.08 per cent) than that of Hindus (48.08 per cent).

8. All sample villages are electrified, but number of connections is discouraging as compared to the existing rural households.

9. Health facilities at sub-centres and PHCs are not as satisfactory as that of private health centres.

10. Average expenditure in treatment of diseases is higher in Muslim households i.e. Rs.3091, whereas in Hindu and Sikh households, it is Rs.2807 and Rs.1867, respectively.

11. Most of working population is other workers (37.81 per cent). They are landless or having a small piece of land.

12. Number of government tube-wells as a source of irrigation is almost negligible in surveyed villages (2.50 %). Most of the rural households having own tube-well (81.83 %). Households who do not have this facility are depending upon canals (15.67 %).

13. Encouraging trend has been found in dairy related activities (36.67 per cent) than that of other non-agricultural activities like- fishery, manufacturing activities, service activities, etc.

14. Out of total 30 surveyed villages, it has been found that in 23 villages (76.67 per cent), people are engaged in artisan/handicraft activities. However, it has been reported that training, credit and other facilities are almost non-existent, which is a matter of serious concern.

15. Due to poor living condition, the average longevity of life among Muslims is shorter than that of other religious groups.

16. Most of the rural population lives below the poverty line.

17. Average cost of productive assets like-agricultural implements, non-agricultural implements, modern household assets, transport, financial assets, etc. is low (Rs.16193) among Muslim households as compare to Hindus (Rs.29419) and Sikhs (Rs.218360).

18. 71.11 per cent surveyed households are landless in the district, in which the proportion of Muslims is higher (81.84 per cent) than that of Hindus (65.84 per cent). Average land holding of Muslims has been found low as compared to Hindus and Sikhs.

19. In terms of status of employment by industrial category, in agriculture and livestock, the proportion of Sikhs is higher than that of Hindus and Muslims. In rest economic activities like fisheries, forestry, manufacturing activities, construction, trade & commerce, transport,

education/health services, other activities etc., the proportion of Muslims is higher as compared to Hindus except finance & administration services.

20. Average income is higher among Sikhs (Rs.64919) and least among Muslims (Rs.37975). In the same way, average expenditure is also higher among Sikhs (Rs.54993) and least among Muslims (Rs.37385).

21. In sample villages, majority of households have taken loan from non-institutional sources (78.23 per cent). Institutional loan is recorded only 21.77 per cent.

22. Willingness of vocational training is higher in Muslim households i.e. 61.51 per cent, while Hindus constitute 57.34 per cent and Sikhs 41.67 per cent.

Suggestions:

1. Percentage of institutions delivery is much lower in the survey result (13.78 per cent) as compare to national estimate, which is 38.70 per cent. The deficit is -24.92 per cent. This is the most sensitive area and needs top priority in the MSDP. Therefore, more PHCs and sub-centres should be constructed within the cluster of villages to improve the health condition of the rural people, along with ambulance facilities.

> **Top Five Development Priorities in Muzaffarnagar District**
> Þ Electricity
> Þ Institutional Deliveries
> Þ Pucca Houses
> Þ Work Participation Rate
> Þ Female Work Participation Rate

2. Effort should be made to improve the electricity supply in the rural areas, which is the most important need for rural development.

3. Survey result indicates that 91.33 per cent rural people are searching additional employment opportunities, in which Muslim percentage is higher (91.62 per cent). Development of rural and cottage industry may be very helpful to reduce the poverty in the area. This will not only provide employment opportunities in the rural areas, but also arrest the migration process.

4. People give first priority to the dairy related activities (55.60 per cent) Development of dairy cooperative in the area is the need of the hour.

5. Corruption can be minimized through people awareness and people's participation, transparency in utilisation of development funds and fixing accountancy at every level of administration and execution.

6. Credit facilities, supply of raw materials and marketing of finished goods should be ensured by the government. This will encourage handicraft and household industries, which is very important for minorities and weaker sections of the society.

7. Vocational training centres should be established in the villages. So that rural people can get training in various activities and generate self-employment.