

A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

Lawngtlai

(Mizoram)

Sponsored by

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



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2008

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LAWNGTLAI

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**DEVELOPMENT GAPS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE MULTI-
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF LAWNGTLAI DISTRICT OF
MIZORAM**

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 these indicators to the all India level through a Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP). Since, it is expected that there would be changes in these indicators after 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sector development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Lawngtlai is one of the minority-concentrated districts of India that lags behind in terms of socio-economic indicators (Category B1).

Brief Profile of Lawngtlai District

- In 2001, the population of Lawngtlai district was 73,620. The whole population of the district lives in rural areas, whereas the State's share of rural population is 50 percent.
- Scheduled tribes constituted 95.4 percent, which was slightly lower than the State's share of 96.3 percent. The minority population was 97.4 percent, which was evenly distributed across the tehsils of the district.
- The work force participation rate in Lawngtlai was 46.31 percent in 2001, which is significantly lower than the State average of 57.21 percent.
- In 2001, 96.4 percent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the State average (89.4 percent).
- The literacy status of the district was not very encouraging (64.74 percent) compared to the State average of 88.80 percent. Male literacy was higher at 70.90 percent and female literacy was 57.81 percent.
- The district had poor health facilities than the State aggregate. As compared to Mizoram (15.1 percent), only 5.8 percent of the villages of the district of Lawngtlai

have a PHC within a range of 5 km. In terms of drinking water supply too the district performance was poorer than the State aggregate.

Survey Findings (2008)

- The present survey is confined to district Lawngtlai of Mizoram state. The survey reveals that the district lags behind in three out of eight indicators compared to the all India average. Table 1 below shows the gap between the 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	Lawngtlai 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	81.7	67.3	14.4	6
2	Rate of female literacy	78.8	57.1	21.7	8
3	Work participation rate	43.4	38.0	5.4	5
4	Female work participation rate	37.5	21.5	16.0	7
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls**	17.7	59.4	-41.7	1
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	74.7	87.9	-13.2	3
7	Percentage of households with electricity	71.5	67.9	3.6	4
8	Percentage of households with water close-set latrines	12.3	39.2	-26.9	2
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	91.2	43.5	47.7	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	57.6	38.7	18.9	-

Note: (1) Survey data of the district (Col. 1) pertains to the rural areas only, but the all India data (Col. 2) pertains to the total population.

(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 are for the year 2004-05 from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

** This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

Development Priorities

Houses with Pucca Walls

The availability of all-weather protected *pucca* houses remains the top most critical gap. Majority of the households (63.16 percent) are living in thatched houses. A very low proportion of them are living in *pucca* houses. None of the sample Muslim households is living in *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses. The proportion of Christian and Buddhist households living in *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses is also low, which reflects on the poor economic conditions of these households. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) needs to be strengthened in the district.

Thus, 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 under its ambit. The area of its coverage too needs to be extended to include all poverty stricken households. IAY can be topped up with the multi-sector development plan.

In-house Toilet Facilities

A majority of the households (87.70 percent) are using open spaces in the villages as toilets, which is totally unhygienic. Just 12.30 percent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. All the Muslim households are using the spaces outside the home for the purpose. The condition of drainage is also very unsatisfactory in Muslim households. The practice of open toilet needs to be checked by providing assistance for in-house toilets by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.

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 and which is going on for quite some time, has not made even a modest dent on the rural sanitation and drainage in Lawngtlai 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.

Drinking Water Facilities

Drinking water supply is not at all satisfactory in the district. Nearly two-thirds of the households use drinking water from public sources and 9.68 percent of the households depend upon private sources. The dependence on private sources of drinking water is a serious concern, and tap water need to be provided by the government.

Electricity

Nearly, 71.5 percent of the households are electrified. However, the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM), which targets universalisation of electricity connection to the rural households by the end of 2009, needs to be strengthened so as to reach the target.

Employment Opportunities

Work participation is modest (43.40 percent) on the whole but is low among Muslim households (29.75 percent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (about one-half for males and 37.50 percent for females). This is a serious problem and calls for appropriate policy interventions.

Unemployment and underemployment are quite alarming among the communities. There is a lack of trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be addressed as a priority by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes.

The casual work in non-agricultural activities is very low. NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that the poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. Besides, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented more vigorously in the district, so that the poor households may earn a sustainable living. It would also empower them socially and politically, as the programme is being operationalised through SHGs.

Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is need to implement more self-employment schemes such as SGSY for the rural poor so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis. They would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings but would empower the women within the family and society.

Overall Literacy Rate particularly Female Literacy Rate

SSA is making its presence in the rural areas. More than 80 percent of the children are enrolled in government schools. This also reflects the poor socio-economic condition of the households, which compels them to depend on government schools for education. The drop out is comparatively low, which is a little relief, but still needs to be checked.

A high proportion of students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to about 64.72 percent of the students. Educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships are being provided to a comparatively less proportion of the students.

The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among the males than the females across religious groups. This needs attention by educational planners and decision-makers. The community needs to be made aware of the advantages of female education.

About 23 percent of the population is educated upto high school and above in the rural areas. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.19 percent and 0.90 percent respectively.

One-third of the youth have educational attainment up to secondary level. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, the rural youth have less prospects of success in the labour market.

The target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream and the quality of education being imparted in schools need to be improved as priority. The gap in human capital formation in case of various communities as well as of females needs to be bridged, on priority by promoting community and gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes. There is a need to improve the quality of education besides expanding the school infrastructure. SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage extended.

In order to increase enrollment and retention of students, there is need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. The poor and deserving students need to be provided scholarships and uniform assistance. Free elementary education needs to be given to the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden of the parents.

Gender disparity in educational attainment is noticeable across the communities, which needs to be addressed. Scholarships have to be given to poor but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps also need to be taken to increase the enrollment beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

There is an urgent need for short duration job oriented courses in technical institutions.

Additional Areas of Intervention

- One-third of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years. Therefore, the educational needs of the communities are high. Buddhists have more concentration in the youthful age group. This implies that they supply more to the labour force and also face greater prospects of unemployment given the high incidence of general unemployment. A high concentration of population in the child and youthful age groups calls for rigorous educational and manpower planning, opening of more technical and vocational institutions, and creation of more self-employment opportunities in agro-based industry and the service sector.
- The per capita value of livestock and the quality of livestock possessed by the rural households is low. Possession of livestock makes it possible for the people to get draught power, milk, meat and other products. In order to improve the livelihood conditions including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.
- There is a significant gap between income and expenditure among households. A high proportion of poor households are deriving their livelihood on a day to day basis by working as casual labour. The situation can be improved by providing better government funded basic health and educational facilities, thus, reducing poor households' dependence on costly private services. The expenses thus saved could be utilised for meeting other basic needs of the households.
- The institutional system for child delivery and maternal care is very poor. The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is significant (43.28 percent). The proportion of children born in institutional care and those who have also received pre and post-natal care is comparatively low. There is an urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of children so that better pre and post-natal care could be provided. There is an urgent need to strengthen the NRHM

so that it can meet the health needs of the poor rural households and reduce their dependence on private sources which are costly in nature and most of the times force them into debt.

- Nearly two-thirds of the sample households are indebted. The non-institutional sources of finance dominate in the rural areas. Keeping in view the prevalence of non-institutional sources of credit, there is a need to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the exploitation of poor people in the hands of the money lenders and sahuikars is minimised. The government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be promoted so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-farm activities, including dairy development, to increase their income.
- Majority of the sample population (61.70 percent) is living below poverty line (BPL), however, 63.79 percent have BPL ration cards and 88.23 percent have access to PDS facilities. But some of the poor households do not have BPL cards, and even all those that have BPL cards are not getting BPL ration. The huge difference between the numbers falling under the BPL category and holding BPL ration card with benefits from PDS is a matter of very serious concern and the gaps need to be plugged at the earliest. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, its coverage and make it corruption free.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Lawngtlai district is one of the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) in Mizoram. The district was created on 11th November 1998. It is located in the southern most part of Mizoram and has international boundaries with Bangladesh in the west and Myanmar in the east. The district is bound by Lunglei and Saiha districts in the north and in the south respectively. Lawngtlai District spreads over an area of 2557 Sq.km and has a population of 73,620 (2001 Census).

The physical feature is mainly hilly, except some small strip of low lying area along the western side of Chamdur Valley. Lawngtlai district is situated within the tropical belt with moderate climate. The relative humidity is highest during the south-west monsoon (about 85%). Heavy rainfall is usually received during May to September every year. The temperature ranges from 15 degree to 25 degree during winter. It usually receives high annual rainfall during the month from May up to September. In this region tropical wet evergreen, mixed deciduous forest and wild banana forests are found. The average annual rainfall is about 285 cm. The hottest period lasts from March to August. During the rainy season there are heavy clouds. There is an increase of cloudiness from March onwards. A clear and cool weather starts appearing from the month of September up to January the next year.

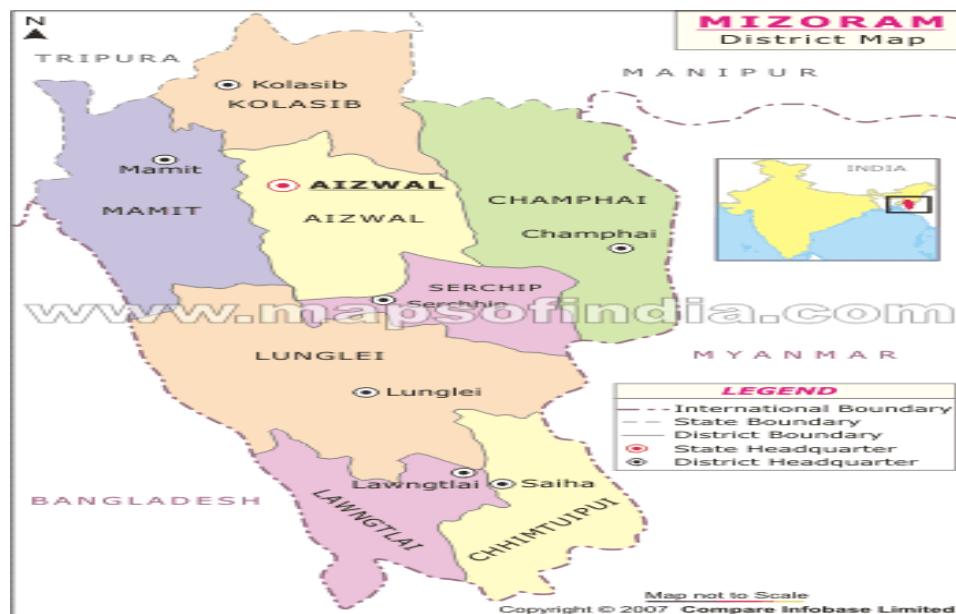
The hills are of a mountainous system with a soft earth surface. Landslide occurs very frequently especially during rainy season throughout the area. The western side of the district is covered by thick virgin forest. The host of skima wallichii, Banyan tree, Gulmohar tree, Gamari, Jarus, Champa and several kinds of bamboos, climbers of different kinds and many kinds of wild fruits are found in this area. Several kinds of plants and herbs that are useful for making herbal medicines are also found in the district. The main rivers are Chhimtuipui River, Ngengpui River, Chawngte River and Tuiphal River.

As compared with other districts of Mizoram, Lawngtlai district is quite unique. There are two Autonomous District Councils within the district. The two-in-one district comprises the Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC) and the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) with their Headquarters at Lawngtlai and Kamalanagar respectively. The Lais and the Chakmas are administered by separate autonomous Legislatures. The

civil administration, including all kinds of criminal cases, comes under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner (DC). All tribal cases under customary laws are vested within the jurisdiction of the Autonomous District Councils. Lawngtlai city is the head-quarter of the district. It comprises of two administrative Sub-Divisions and two Rural Development Blocks.

The main communities occupying Lawngtlai district are the Lais, Chakmas, Bawm, Pang, etc. There are rich cultural heritages among such tribes. In the eastern side of the district, where Lai community is the main inhabitants, Chawnglaizawn, Sarlamkai, Pawhlohtlawh are the main cultural dances. In Chakma occupied area of the district, there are various tribes of backward classes. In this area, the main religion is Buddhism whereas in the eastern side, i.e Lai occupied area Christianity is the major religion. The common languages spoken in the district are Lai, Chakma and various dialects of other tribes, i.e Pang, Bru, Bawm etc. The standard of living in the district is very low and literacy is also the lowest amongst the eight districts in Mizoram.

Mizoram District Map



In Lawngtlai district, one third of the total population depends on agriculture. The main method of agriculture is jhuming/shifting cultivation. The seeding is done during March and harvesting starts by the end of October and usually ends in November. The population living in the city of Lawngtlai is engaged in Government services and business. The level of economic development is the lowest in the district compared to

other districts in Mizoram. Various schemes have been implemented by the Autonomous District Councils (LADC/CADC) to uplift the method of agriculture and replace shifting cultivation by wet rice cultivation (WRC) in the western area of the district through the 'Chamdur Valley Project'. In the western belt of the area, there are vast fertile plains in the valleys of the two rivers: Thega and Tuichawng, which have high potential for agricultural development that can make the district self sufficient in food grains.

Population and Its Composition

According to the 2001 census, the total population of Lawngtlai district was 73620, of which the highest concentration was found in tehsil Chawngte (50823 persons) followed by tehsil Lawngtlai (22797 persons). Most of the population of the district lives in rural areas, whereas the State's share of rural population is 50 percent. The scheduled caste population is nil in the district and scheduled tribes constitute 95.4 percent, which is slightly lower than the State's share of 96.3 percent. The concentration of ST population is higher in Chawngte tehsil (96.8 percent) and comparatively lower in tehsil Lawngtlai (92.2 percent). Buddhists are the dominant population group (52.17 percent), which is lower than the State's share of 15.5 percent and they are more concentrated in Chawngte tehsil (91.3 percent). The Christians (44.66 percent) are the other dominant population group, though the percentage is low compared to the State's share of 81.01 percent. They are more concentrated in tehsil Lawngtlai (78 percent). The minority population is 97.4 percent and it is evenly distributed across the tehsils of district Lawngtlai (see table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Population and its Composition, 2001

Tehsil	Total population	Rural %	%SC	%ST	% Hindu Population	% Muslim Population	% Christian Population	% Buddhist Population	% Minority Population
Chawngte	50823	100.0	0.0	96.8	1.3	0.1	6.91	91.30	98.7
Lawngtlai	22797	100.0	0.0	92.2	3.7	0.5	78.00	17.61	96.2
Lawngtlai District	73620	100.0	0.0	95.4	2.6	0.3	44.66	52.17	97.4
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>447567</i>	<i>50.4</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>96.3</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>81.01</i>	<i>15.50</i>	<i>97.6</i>

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

Status of Schools

The status of schools in district Lawngtlai is presented in table 1.2. In 2001, 96.4 percent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the State's share (89.4 percent). Both the tehsils have significantly more primary schools. Some 28.8 percent of the villages have middle schools, which is lower than State aggregate of 58.3 percent. Both the tehsils have nearly the same proportion of middle schools as district Lawngtlai as a whole. In terms of secondary schools, the district has 16 such educational institutions; however, the tehsils of Chawngte and Lawngtlai have 9 and 7 secondary schools respectively. When comparing the data regarding the population served by such institutions in these two tehsils, the picture is not very encouraging. It is significant to note that the district of Lawngtlai is industrially backward, but at the same time, it also lacks industrial training schools, which should be given proper attention by the government.

Table 1. 2: School Status in Lawngtlai District

Tehsil	% village 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
Chawngte	96.5	28.7	9	5647	0	-	0	-
Lawngtlai	95.8	29.2	7	3257	0	-	0	-
Lawngtlai District	96.4	28.8	16	4601	0	-	0	-
Mizoram	89.4	58.3	207	2162	0	-	0	-

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

Literacy Levels

The literacy status of the district is not very encouraging (64.74 percent) compared to the State average of 88.80 percent. Male literacy is higher (70.90 percent) and female literacy is 57.81 percent (see Table 1.3). Literacy in tehsil Lawngtlai is comparatively better (68.64 percent) than in tehsil Chawngte and also better than the overall district aggregate.

Table 1.3: Literacy Status in Lawngtlai District (%)

Tehsil	Persons	Male	Female
Chawngte	60.17	67.01	52.71
Lawngtlai	68.64	74.12	62.29
Lawngtlai District	64.74	70.90	57.81
MIZORAM	88.80	84.93	77.26

Source: PCA, Census of India, 2001.

Health and Drinking Water Facilities

The data on health and drinking water facilities in Lawngtlai district is presented in table 1.4. A perusal of the table makes it clear that the district has poor health facilities compared to the State aggregate. In terms of drinking water too the district performance is poorer than the State aggregate. As compared to Mizoram (15.1 percent), only 5.8 percent of the villages of the district of Lawngtlai have a Primary Health Centre (PHC) within a range of 5 kms. At the same time, rural areas of the two tehsils of the district – Chawngte and Lawngtlai – have poor accessibility to PHCs. None of the villages of Lawngtlai district has a MCW centre within 5 kms. This is not at all surprising as the State of Mizoram has only 0.1 percent of the villages with MCW centre within 5 kms. None of the villages has allopathic hospitals within a distance of 5 kms. The availability of tap water is better in the district as compared to the State as a whole. The situation with tube wells and hand pump is more or less similar. The tehsil of Chawngte has better drinking water facility than tehsil Lawngtlai.

Table 1.4: Health and Drinking Water in Lawngtlai District

Tehsil	% Villages having PHCs within 5 km	% Villages having MCW Centre within 5 km	% Villages having Allopathic hospital <5km Range	Allopathic hospital per lakh population	Tap Per lakh population	Tube-well per lakh population	Hand-pump per lakh population
Chawngte	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	425	445	453
Lawngtlai	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	180	211	206
Lawngtlai District	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	349	372	376
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>300</i>

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

Banking and Other Facilities

The data related to banking and other facilities in the State of Mizoram, district Lawngtlai and its tehsils is given in table 1.5. There are few commercial banks and post offices, not many paved roads, or adequate power supply as compared to the State average. However, in terms of agricultural cooperative societies and cooperative banks per lakh population, the situation is comparatively better in the district. It is interesting to note that there are wide variations across the tehsils of the district Lawngtlai. For example, Chawngte has better road and power supply than agricultural cooperative societies and

cooperative and commercial banking facilities. The existing gaps in availability of the basic infrastructure in the tehsils of the district needs to be filled in. A well developed banking, communication and institutional infrastructure is sine qua non for rural transformation of district Lawngtlai and keeping in view the dismal scenario, there is an urgent need to improve the available infrastructure through the Bharat Nirman programme.

Table 1.5: Banking and other Facility in Lawngtlai 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 Range	Co-operative bank per lakh population	% Villages having commercial bank within 5 KM Range	Commercial bank per lakh population	Post office per lakh population	% irrigated land to total land
Chawngte	14.8	22.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.3	-
Lawngtlai	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	8.8	4.2	4.4	26.3	-
Lawngtlai District	12.9	19.4	1.4	0.7	2.7	0.7	1.4	39.4	-
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>29.6</i>	<i>60.3</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>69.0</i>	<i>-</i>

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

Work Force Participation

The work force participation rate in Lawngtlai is 46.31 percent, which is significantly lower than the State average of 57.21 percent. Both the tehsils have more or less the same work participation rate as that of the district. The proportion of cultivators is comparatively lower in Lawngtlai than the State average. Tehsil Chawngte has proportionately more cultivators (78.65 percent). The proportion of agricultural labourers is more in district than the State aggregate. Tehsil Lawngtlai has more agricultural labourers (7.81 percent) than other the tehsil, whereas household workers are more in Chawngte tehsil than tehsil Lawngtlai. Other workers are also dominant in tehsil Lawngtlai than Chawngte (see table 1.6). Keeping in view the widespread problem of unemployment and underemployment, there is urgent need to operationalise the NREGA and other employment generating units on a large scale, so that more and more of the rural population will be actively engaged in casual daily wage employment.

Table 1.6: Work Participation Rate in Lawngtlai District

Thesis	Total Rural Population	Total Worker	WPR (%)	% Cultivators	% Agricultural Labourers	% Household Workers	% Other Workers
Chawngte	34529	16175	46.84	78.65	5.94	3.38	12.04
Lawngtlai	39091	17918	45.84	62.29	7.81	1.55	28.35
Lawngtlai District	73620	34093	46.31	70.05	6.92	2.42	20.61
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>447567</i>	<i>256044</i>	<i>57.21</i>	<i>80.89</i>	<i>3.78</i>	<i>1.04</i>	<i>14.30</i>

Source: PCA, Census of India, 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 a 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 25 households were selected in all from each sample village for the detailed survey. In Lawngtlai district, 22 villages were selected from two tehsils, namely, lawngtlai and Chawngta. The required number of sample households from each SSS was selected by the method of stratified random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR).

The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is as per the following:

Table 1.7: 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 estimates based on the 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, rural connectivity, lack of irrigation facilities, urbanisation, and industrialisation are some obvious 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 22 surveyed villages.

Health and Educational Institutions

Table 2.1 shows the percentage of villages having educational institutions, mainly schools. The co-educational primary schools are available in 73.3 percent of the villages, whereas primary schools for girls are available in only in 23.3 percent of the villages. Co-educational middle schools are available in two-third of the villages. One-fifth of the sample villages have a high/higher secondary school exclusively for both boys and girls. Besides above, none of the sample villages have polytechnics and other training schools, which are located at a mean distance of more than 170 km. Religious schools and non-formal educational institutions are available respectively in 13.3 percent and 3.33 of the villages.

Table 2.1: Access to Educational Facilities (22 Surveyed Villages)

Type of School	% of Villages having educational facilities	Villages not having these Facilities (Mean distance*km)
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	73.3	0.0
Primary School (Girls)	23.3	203.2
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	66.7	0.5
Middle School (Girls)	20.0	190.3
High/Higher Secondary School (Boys)	20.0	111.7
High/Higher Secondary School (Girls)	20.0	140.2
Inter College	0.0	172.9
ITI	0.0	239.5
Polytechnic	0.0	260.5
Other Training School	3.3	222.2
Religious School	13.3	10.8
Non Formal	3.3	250.0

**For villages not having the educational facility.*

Source: Survey

The availability of health facilities is very inadequate in the sample villages. All the villages are devoid of health facilities like PHCs, hospital/dispensary, doctors, maternity and child care centres, ayurvedic hospitals and doctors, and homeopathic hospitals and doctors. Primary health sub-centre is available in 33.3 percent of the villages. Similarly, family planning clinics and chemists/medical shops are respectively available in 3.3 percent and 30 percent of the sample villages (see table 2.2). One-tenth of the villages have access to private qualified allopathic doctors. The distance of health facilities in sample villages ranges between 8.6 kms to 306.8 kms, and is the cause for the appalling health conditions of the population living in the sample villages.

Table 2.2: Access to Health Facilities (22 Surveyed Villages)

Type	% of Villages having Health facilities	Villages not having these Facilities (Mean distance*km)
PHCs	0.0	29.9
Primary Health Sub Centre	33.3	8.6
CHCs	6.7	56.8
Hospital/Dispensary	0.0	63.3
Private Qualified Allopathic Doctors	10.0	141.2
Maternity Child care Centre	0.0	79.3
Ayurvedic Hospitals	0.0	234.6
Ayurvedic Doctors	0.0	306.8
Homeopathic Hospitals	0.0	205.0
Homeopathic Doctors	0.0	215.4
Quacks	20.0	77.9
Family Planning Clinics	3.3	170.1
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	30.0	13.2

**For villages not having such educational facilities*

Source: Survey

Other Facilities

Table 2.3 shows some other facilities in the sample villages of Lawngtlai district. It is ironical to note that none of the sample villages have the facility of commercial bank, rural bank, pesticide shop, seed store, and milk mandi. Post office and public telephones are available in 23.3 percent and 20 percent of the villages. Anganwadi and fair shops are available in more than one-half and one-third of the villages respectively. It is significant that veterinary centres/sub-centres are available in only 3.3 percent of the villages. The mean distance of the facilities which are lacking in the villages ranges from 11.2 km to 676 km.

Table 2.3: Other Facilities in 22 Surveyed Villages

Type	% of Villages having the facilities	Villages not having these facilities (Mean distance* km)
Block HQ	6.7	47.4
Nearest Town	0.0	64.0
Nearest Bus Stop	6.7	25.3
Nearest Regular Market	3.3	34.0
Nearest Rail Station	0.0	676.3
Nearest Post Office	23.3	11.2
Public Telephone Connection	20.0	14.2
Commercial Bank	0.0	105.2
Rural Bank	0.0	63.8
Cooperative Bank	13.3	141.5
Anganwadi Centre	56.7	9.6
GP Office	20.0	40.2
Fair Price Shop	36.7	130.3
Fertilizer shop	0.0	185.7
Seed Storage	0.0	252.8
Pesticide Shop	0.0	264.8
Cold Storage	16.7	357.2
Other General Shops	26.7	61.9
Nearest Mandi	3.3	84.1
Milk Mandi	0.0	68.3
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	3.3	104.8

*For villages not having such educational facilities
Source: Survey

Physical Structure of Schools

Apart from the lack of institutions and infrastructure facilities, the available educational and health institutions have only limited facilities. For example, whereas *pucca* school buildings are available in none out of 22 villages, cement flooring of school building is available only in 12 schools, toilet facilities is available in 14 of the schools and drinking water facility is available in 12 schools (see table 2.4).

Table 2.4: Physical Structure of Schools and Quality of Services

Types		Number	Percentage
Type of Structure	<i>Katcha</i> /Thatch	1	4.5
	<i>Katcha</i> /Tile	10	45.5
	<i>Semi-Pucca</i>	11	50.0
	Total	22	100.0
Main Flooring Materials	Mud	7	31.8
	Brick	1	4.5
	Cement	12	54.5
	Other	2	9.1
	Total	22	100.0
Number of Class Rooms (Mean)	(Mean)	5.0	
Usable Blackboards	Yes	18	81.8
	No	4	18.2
	Total	22	100.0
Desks Availability	Yes for all students	15	68.2
	Yes for some students	5	22.7
	No	2	9.1
	Total	22	100.0
Number of School having Teachers	(Mean)	7.0	
Number of schools by teachers present	(Mean)	6.3	
Toilet Facility	Yes	14	63.6
	No	8	36.4
	Total	22	100.0
Drinking Water Facility	Yes	12	54.5
	No	10	45.5
	Total	22	100.0
Students Perception on Midday meal			
(a) Quality	Good	8	36.4
	Bad	4	18.2
	Very Bad	1	4.5
	Average	9	40.9
	Total	22	100.0
(b) Preparation	Good	6	27.3
	Bad	6	27.3
	Average	10	45.5
	Total	22	100.0
(c) Regularity	Very Good	1	4.5
	Good	6	27.3
	Bad	5	22.7
	Very Bad	2	9.1
	Average	8	36.4
	Total	22	100.0
Availability of			
(a) Slate	Yes	13	59.1
	No	9	40.9

	Total	22	100.0
(b) Note book	Yes	22	100.0
	Total	22	100.0
(c) Books	Yes	22	100.0
	Total	22	100.0
Punctuality, Discipline and Sincerity of Teachers			
(a) Punctuality	Very Good	1	4.5
	Good	6	27.3
	Bad	6	27.3
	Very Bad	3	13.6
	Average	6	27.3
	Total	22	100.0
(b) Discipline	Good	10	45.5
	Bad	3	13.6
	Very Bad	3	13.6
	Average	6	27.3
	Total	22	100.0
(c) Sincerity	Good	9	40.9
	Bad	3	13.6
	Very Bad	3	13.6
	Average	7	31.8
	Total	22	100.0

Source: Survey

The perceptions of the students regarding availability of mid-day meals reveal the quality, preparation and regularity of meals as good in 8, 6 and 6 sample villages respectively. Books and note-books are provided in schools, but slates are provided in 13 out of 22 schools. The punctuality, discipline and sincerity of the teachers are rated as good in 6, 10 and 9 sample villages respectively.

Chapter III
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE
POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Christians are the dominant population group (71.92 percent), followed by Buddhists (27.34 percent). The population of Muslims is negligible. The average household size is 5.08 persons, lowest for Christian (5.05) and highest for Muslims (7.4). The overall dependency is 1.56, which is highest among Buddhists (1.77) followed by Christians (1.50). Average sex ratio is 957, which is comparatively high for Christians (972) and low for Muslims. The high sex ratio among Christians reflects a comparatively better status of females in the community. Muslims have comparatively lower sex ratio due to predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community – which may be attributed to the practice of dowry. All this indicates less empowerment of women in the community compared to the Christians (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households Surveyed

Religion	Sample population (%)	Average HH size	Sex Ratio	Dependency ratio
Muslim	0.73	5.58	816	1.26
Christian	71.92	5.05	972	1.50
Buddhist	27.34	5.12	923	1.77
Total	100.00	5.08	957	1.56

Source: Survey

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

Age group	Muslim			Christian			Buddhist			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	10.76	8.03	9.53	10.64	11.37	11.00	10.75	5.21	8.09	10.67	9.68	10.19
5-14	33.15	30.81	32.10	24.51	22.80	23.66	21.60	25.63	23.53	23.77	23.62	23.70
15-24	25.37	15.41	20.89	22.79	23.10	22.94	22.42	27.92	25.06	22.71	24.35	23.51
25-29	0.00	3.65	1.64	8.50	8.73	8.61	10.21	10.22	10.22	8.91	9.10	9.00
30-44	8.94	13.91	11.17	16.65	18.09	17.36	18.45	18.31	18.39	17.09	18.12	17.59
45-59	16.99	28.19	22.03	10.78	11.29	11.03	10.05	10.30	10.17	10.63	11.15	10.88
60+	4.80	0.00	2.64	6.14	4.62	5.39	6.50	2.41	4.54	6.23	3.99	5.14
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

Source: Survey

One-third of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years. This is more or less the same across the communities except for Muslims. They have 41

percent of the population in the child age group. Therefore, educational needs of the communities are high. Gender equity in child sex ratio is noticed except in Muslim households. About 23 percent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years. Buddhists have more concentration in this age group (25.06%: 22.42% male and 27.92% female). This implies that they supply more labour force and unemployment is more in these communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and the current trend of slowdown in the economy. Surprisingly, Muslims have no males in the age group 25-29 years. Nearly 17 percent of the population is found in the age group 30-44 years. Buddhists followed by Christians have more population in the age group 30-44 years. Muslim households have low concentration in this age group (11.17%: 8.94% male and 13.91% female). However, they have higher concentration in the age group 45-59 years than other two communities. The life expectancy is reportedly very low and 5.14 percent of the population is found in the age group above 60 years and none of the Muslim women is currently above 60. On the whole, a high concentration of population in the child and youthful age groups calls for rigorous educational and manpower planning and opening of more technical and vocational institutions as well as creation of more self-employment opportunities in agro-based and service sectors.

QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

Literacy Rate

The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among males than females across the religious groups (see table 3.3). Female literacy is lowest among Buddhists and highest among the Muslims. The overall literacy is highest among the Muslims followed by Christians and Buddhists. However, Muslims constitute a small part of the sample. Overall, gender differential in literacy is noticeable. This needs the attention of educational planners and decision-makers.

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

Sex	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Male	96.52	86.68	78.78	84.54
Female	89.81	81.24	72.28	78.76
Persons	93.64	84.00	75.56	81.69

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. Nearly 80 percent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. More girls are attending government schools and more boys are

attending private schools, except in Muslim households where the reverse is true. It seems that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is making its presence felt in the rural areas of the Lawngtlai district. This is evident from the fact that more than 80 percent of the children are enrolled in government schools and a very small proportion of the school going children are attending private schools. This also reflects on the poor socio-economic conditions of the households, which compels them to depend on government schools for getting education. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream and the quality of education being imparted in schools needs to be improved as a priority. Thus, the gap in the process of human capital formation in case of various communities as well as gender needs to be bridged as a priority by following community as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

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

Attending school	Muslim			Christian			Buddhist			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Going to govt school	94.20	90.06	92.67	81.72	83.53	82.58	66.47	80.65	73.40	77.84	82.78	80.19
Going to private School	5.80	9.94	7.33	13.82	10.86	12.43	22.70	13.16	18.03	16.07	11.50	13.90
Going to Informal School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	1.75	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.24	0.67
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.16	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.12	0.22
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

(a) Never Enrolled

Never enrolled	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Boys	0.00	3.63	10.26	5.35
Girls	0.00	3.69	5.90	4.28
Both	0.00	3.66	8.13	4.84

(c) Drop out

Drop out	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Boys	0.00	0.15	0.57	0.26
Girls	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Both	0.00	0.08	0.29	0.14

Source: Survey

The data on the incidence of non-enrollment as well as drop out rate is given in tables 3.4(b) and 3.4(c). The proportion of the children never enrolled is 4.84 percent, which is a cause of concern and calls for a more vigorous implementation of SSA. In case of Buddhists, 10.26 percent and 5.9 percent of male and female children are reportedly

never enrolled in the schooling system. The drop out is comparatively low, which provides a little relief. Thus, there is a need to speed up the efforts of the government to ensure full enrollment of children in schools with zero drop outs, which should be possible by improving the quality of education and expanding the school infrastructure.

Reasons for Dropout

No doubt, the enrollment 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' and 'not interested in reading'. There are variations in the reasons for drop-outs among communities (see Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Reasons for Dropout (%)

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Work at home	32.39	46.17	25.29	45.78
Need to earn	0.00	5.98	0.00	5.83
Teacher do not teach	31.80	0.00	0.00	0.61
Not interesting in reading	20.44	21.61	0.00	21.46
Others	15.38	26.24	74.71	26.31
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Child labour is rampant in the sample households, which is due to high incidence of poverty. Thus, there is need to make parents aware about the benefits of education and the educational system needs to be improved to make it more interesting for the children. Livelihood opportunities need to be provided to the rural poor to eliminate the incidence of child labour.

Educational Levels

The educational status of the sample households is modest. About 23 percent of population is educated (with educational levels of high school and above) in the rural areas of Lawngtlai district. The percentage of males and females with education upto high school and above is respectively 27.50 and 18.82. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.19 percent and 0.90 percent respectively (Table 3.6). The educational attainment of Muslim males and Buddhist females is comparatively worse than in the other two communities. Christian males and females have better educational attainment whereas Muslims on the whole have lower attainment. The educational disparities are noticeable across the communities and gender at various levels. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrollment of the population beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

Table 3.6: Educational Levels

Level of education	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Male				
Educated (High School and above)	9.39	28.73	24.91	27.50
Degree and above	0.00	2.89	1.02	2.34
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	0.27	1.02	0.19
Female				
Educated (High School and above)	12.78	22.35	10.30	18.82
Degree and above	0.00	0.78	1.02	0.85
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	1.27	0.00	0.90
Person				
Educated (High School and above)	10.94	25.60	17.60	23.22
Degree and above	0.00	1.86	1.02	1.61
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.54

Source: Survey

Educational Levels of Youth

The educational status of youth is presented in table 3.7. The data clearly reveals that 9.86 percent of them are illiterate (15.55 percent of Buddhists, 7.44 percent of Christians and 7.28 percent of Muslims). Some 6.84 percent of Christian youth are educated below primary or informal level and about 13.37 percent and 24.71 percent of them have education up to primary level and middle school level respectively. One-half and one-fifth of the Muslim and Buddhist youth have education up to middle level. It is significant that one-third of the youth have educational attainment up to secondary level, except among Buddhist youth (28.89 percent). The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor especially among the Muslim youth. A very small proportion of Christian youth has technical or vocational training. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, rural youth of Lawngtlai district have less prospects in the labour market.

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

Educational category	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Illiterate	7.28	7.44	15.55	9.86
Below primary or informal education	0.00	6.84	0.89	5.01
Primary	7.28	13.37	27.31	17.49
Middle	50.26	24.71	20.23	23.55
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.00	1.98	1.81	1.91
Secondary	35.18	35.65	28.89	33.63
Higher Secondary	0.00	5.48	2.05	4.42
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.64
Technical or professional degree	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.05
Graduate degree	0.00	2.43	3.26	2.66
Post-graduate degree	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.76
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Overall the educational attainment, particularly among youth and females, is modest and needs improvement. Poor educational attainment hampers future labour market prospects. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of the population, particularly the youth, in higher and technical education. This would also 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 groups and the minorities.

Per Capita Expenditure on Education

The average per capita expenditure on education is modest (Rs. 572), but significant differentials exist among communities. For example, Buddhist households spend multiple times more on education than Muslim and Christian households. The SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage should also be extended.

Government Assistance

The government is providing assistance in the form of books, dress, scholarships, mid-day meals, etc., to students for promoting universal enrollment and retention in the educational system. Scholarships are given to students belonging to the minority groups in the population under a special scheme in every state. However, this scheme is not effectively implemented in the district. A high proportion of students in the age group 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to about 64.72 percent of the students (see table 3.8). The educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships are being provided to comparatively less proportion of the students. In order to increase enrollment and retention of students, there is a need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. The poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and dress assistance. There is need to operationalise free elementary education among the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.

Table 3.8: Government Assistance (%)

Type of assistance	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Books	96.05	94.76	96.45	95.15
Dress	0.00	2.44	4.01	2.73
Scholarship	0.00	0.50	2.01	0.82
Midday meal	31.25	71.71	43.02	64.72
Cycle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
others	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.23
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
% of students receiving assistance	92.67	76.80	56.14	71.32

Source: Survey

ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

Land

Landlessness is a common feature among rural households of Lawngtlai district. About 44.71 percent of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Buddhists (48.72 percent) and Christians (43.65 percent). None of the Muslim households is landless; however, this may be due to their lower representation in the sample. The average size of landholdings is comparatively more in Muslim and Buddhist households. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduces the livelihood options but also makes them vulnerable to low wage labour, which traps the landless households in poverty.

Livestock

The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stands at Rs. 8,161, which is comparatively low (Rs. 3,712) in the case of Muslim households than Buddhists (Rs.11,215) and Christians (Rs.7,045). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Muslim households appeared to be poor, given the lower value of livestock. The possession of livestock by rural households provides them with draught power as well as milk, meat and other products. In order to improve their livelihood conditions, including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.

Productive Assets

The mean value of productive assets possessed by the sample households is Rs. 10,663 (see table 3.9). As in the case of land, Muslim households have comparatively lower value of productive assets per households (Rs. 3,712) than other communities. The productive assets possessed by Christian and Buddhist households are comparatively higher and stood at Rs. 10,175 and Rs. 12,133 respectively.

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

Type of household	Productive assets other than land	Modern household
Muslim	3712	1891
Christian	10175	6305
Buddhist	12133	6096
Total	10663	6215

Source: Survey

Other assets

Muslim households possess comparatively less modern household assets than other communities. The mean value of assets possessed by Muslim households stood at Rs. 1,891 as compared to Christian (Rs. 6,305) and Buddhist (Rs. 6,096) (see table 3.9). Thus, possession of less productive and modern household assets reflects on the poor socio-economic conditions of the households.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Work Participation

Work participation is modest (43.40 percent), and is low among Muslim households (29.75 percent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (about one-half for males and 37.50 percent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups. Low female work participation is reported across communities. This is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions.

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 (52.48 percent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (32.50 percent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and gender. More than one-half of the Muslim households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and nearly two-third of females in Christian households are working as casual labour in agriculture. About one-third of the Christian households are working on self-employed basis in agriculture and allied activities. None of the members of Muslim households are salaried workers and self-employed in the non-agriculture sector. In other communities a lesser proportion of male as well as female members of households are engaged as salaried workers or self employed in the non-agriculture sector. Nearly 40 percent of Muslim households derive their livelihood from casual wage labour in non-agriculture. A lesser proportion of members of other communities' are engaged as causal labour in non-agriculture.

Table 3.10: Nature of Employment (%)

Status	Muslim			Christian			Buddhist			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture and allied activities	37.83	82.93	55.32	34.17	29.81	32.27	35.66	26.95	32.63	34.63	29.49	32.50
Self-employed in non-agricultural sector	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.77	2.06	3.02	5.66	7.08	6.16	4.30	3.15	3.83
Regular salaried	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.32	1.70	5.43	9.84	4.10	7.85	8.71	2.22	6.03
Casual wage labour in Agriculture	21.62	17.07	19.85	51.05	63.74	56.59	37.91	49.00	41.77	47.04	60.22	52.48
Casual wage labour in non-Agriculture	40.55	0.00	24.83	2.69	2.69	2.69	10.92	12.87	11.60	5.32	4.92	5.16
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

Source: Survey

On the whole, the high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture and non-agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and this forces the women to work outside the households at very low wages. The scope for casual work in non-agricultural activities is also reportedly very low. The government scheme of 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. Besides, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented more in the district, so that the poor households may earn a sustainable living. Moreover it may also empower them socially and politically, since the programme is being operationalised through SHGs.

Sector of Employment

The industry-wise distribution of main workers in sample villages across selected religious groups is given in Table 3.11. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 85.58 of the households' members are engaged. It is significant that 89.42 percent of the Christian households are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing. A very small proportion of the households are employed in manufacturing, construction, and trade, hotels and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, public administration, education, health and other sectors. For example, 4.24 percent of the Christian households are engaged in public administration, education, and health. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more self-employment schemes like SGSY so that the people could be employed on a sustainable basis.

Table 3.11: Workers by their Sector of Employment

Sectors	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	75.17	89.42	75.05	85.58
Mining & Quarrying	0.00	1.76	4.31	2.42
Manufacturing	24.83	0.27	5.32	1.74
Electricity	0.00	0.07	0.39	0.16
Construction	0.00	1.52	0.29	1.19
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	0.00	1.55	6.32	2.79
Transport, Storage & Communication	0.00	0.33	1.62	0.67
Finance, Real Estate & Business	0.00	0.83	1.94	1.12
Public Administration, Education, Health & Others	0.00	4.24	4.77	4.35
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

The lower proportion of the workers engaged in the modern sector of employment is mainly due to the lack of infrastructure necessary for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district is deriving its livelihood from agriculture and allied activities, and this is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. There is lack of trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended to on a priority basis by opening industrial training and other technical institutes.

Unemployment and Search for Additional Employment

Unemployment and underemployment are quite alarming among the communities. The search for additional employment for augmenting household income and status is very high. However, due to lack of training and skills, employability is comparatively low. Thus, skill levels need to be improved through short-term vocational and job-oriented courses.

Income and Expenditure

The data on per capita income and expenditure reveals that the rural economy of Lawngtlai is a surplus one. The gaps in income and expenditure in Christian and Buddhist households is more than Muslim households (see Table 3.12). The higher income is reported in those 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 households are deriving their livelihood on a day to day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and the non-agriculture sector and live in a situation of hand-to-mouth.

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

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Expenditure (Rs.)	4397	5543	6950	5922
Income (Rs.)	6318	10139	11771	10559
Income-Expenditure ratio	1.43	1.82	1.69	1.78

Source: Survey

The data related to household expenditure by various sources is shown in Table 3.13. Food is the dominant source of household expenditure followed by education, social ceremonies, and health. 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. This is clear from the difference between per capita income and expenditure, though this is not very significant.

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

Item	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Food	2791	2997	3160	3041
Education	285	406	1009	572
Health	242	407	246	361
Social Ceremonies	297	398	500	425
Interest/Loan	0	9	39	17
Others	783	1326	1996	1506
Average Value	4397	5543	6950	5922

Source: Survey

The economic situation of the households can be improved to an extent if the government provides better basic health and educational facilities, thus, reducing the dependence on private services that take away a part of their expenditure from meeting other basic needs of the households.

HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.14, which reveals that majority of the households (63.16 percent) are living in thatched houses. A very low proportion of them (2.56 percent) are living in *pucca* houses. None of the sample Muslim households is living in *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses. The proportion of Christian and Buddhist households living *pucca* and semi-*pucca* houses is also low, which reflects on the poor economic conditions of these households.

Table 3.14: Type of Houses (%)

Type of house	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Thatched	58.78	63.19	63.21	63.16
<i>Katcha</i>	41.22	9.80	5.96	8.98
Semi <i>Pucca</i>	0.00	13.14	20.62	15.09
<i>Pucca</i>	0.00	2.02	4.05	2.56
Others	0.00	11.85	6.15	10.21
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

About 35 percent of the sample households live in one room houses, 41 percent have two rooms, and more than one-fifth of the households have more than two room accommodation (see Table 3.15). A high proportion of Muslim households are living in more than two room accommodation, which ensures privacy. On the whole, housing conditions of these households is not satisfactory and calls for urgent attention by the

government. The IAY needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district in order to improve the housing conditions.

Table 3.15: Number of Rooms per Household (%)

Number of rooms	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Single Room	18.30	39.58	26.72	35.91
Two Room	10.99	40.49	43.83	41.19
More than two room	70.71	19.93	29.45	22.90
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

Drinking Water

Drinking water facilities is not at all satisfactory in the district. Nearly two-thirds of the households use drinking water from public sources and 9.68 percent of the households 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.

Table 3.16: Sources of Drinking Water (%)

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Public	58.78	70.16	51.54	64.98
Private	0.00	11.68	4.69	9.68
Others	41.22	18.15	43.77	25.34

Source: Survey

Toilets

Majority of the households (87.70 percent) use open spaces in the village as toilets, which is totally unhygienic. Just 12.30 percent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. All the Muslim households are defecating outside the home in the open. The condition of the drainage is also very unsatisfactory in Muslim households. The practice needs to be checked by providing government assistance for in-house toilets. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

The data and information on health and family welfare is provided in the following paragraphs, which reveals more or less satisfactory conditions. The utilisation of health care facilities by the households depend on the knowledge and awareness about the existence of these facilities, for which field workers needs to be trained to motivate and make the rural poor aware.

Place of Child Birth

A majority of the children born in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children of Buddhist households (81.86 percent) and Muslim households (79.22 percent) were born at home as compared to 18.14 percent and 20.78 percent of the births in government hospitals. Thus, the system of institutional deliveries is very poor (see table 3.17).

Assistance in Child Birth

The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is modest (43.28 percent). This is more in Buddhist households (55.41 percent) than Christian households (39.41 percent). Nearly 42 percent of the delivery of children is performed by trained midwife/Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA). Those children born in institutional care have also received pre and post-natal care, whereas the proportion of such children is comparatively low. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of children so that better pre and post natal care is provided.

Table 3.17: Place of Child Birth and Help Received

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Place				
Govt hospital	20.78	22.64	18.14	21.55
Private hospital	0.00	1.46	0.00	1.10
At Home	79.22	70.39	81.86	73.20
Others	0.00	5.51	0.00	4.15
Help in Child delivery				
Doctor	0.00	9.85	13.69	10.68
Trained Dai	20.78	45.83	30.90	42.06
Untrained Dai	45.73	39.41	55.41	43.28
Others	33.48	4.91	0.00	3.99

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 97 percent of the 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 (93.07 percent) (see Table 3.18). Thus, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) needs to be strengthened in the district.

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

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Any Type of doze	100.00	98.42	94.72	97.59
Fully Immunised	82.79	94.38	88.92	93.07

Source: Survey

Morbidity

Malaria is the most common health problem faced by 43.35 percent of sample households. Fever, pain in stomach, cough and cold, typhoid and jaundice are also prevalent. Besides, complications during pregnancy and child births are also health problems faced by rural households. On an average, Rs. 361 has been incurred per household on meeting health related expenditure. The expenses incurred are comparatively more for Christian households (Rs. 407) than Muslim households (Rs. 242).

On the whole, the dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high as compared to government hospitals. This is because services at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels the people to rely on private sources. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to strengthen the NRHM so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and lessen their dependence on private sources which most of the time is beyond the reach of the poor households, and being costly forces them into debt.

INDEBTEDNESS

Incidence of Indebtedness

Nearly two-thirds of the sample households and 58.58 percent of the Christian households are reportedly indebted. None of the Muslim and all of the Buddhist households is indebted (see Table 3.19). The average amount of loan raised is low (Rs. 2572). Christian households are more indebted (Rs. 3127) than Buddhist (Rs. 1184).

Table 3.19: Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt

	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Average (Rs.)	3127	1184	2572
% Indebted households	58.58	100.00	65.76

Source: Survey

Source of Debt

The non-institutional sources of finance are dominant in the rural areas. The dependence on traders, friends/relatives, and professional money lenders is very high for raising finance or to meet productive as well as unproductive needs. Keeping in view the prevalence 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.

Use of Loans

Loans have been raised by households for varied purposes. Renovation of the house is the most dominant reason (47.18 percent), followed by medical treatment (28.41 percent) and capital investment in farming (18.58 percent). Christian households are in debt to the tune of 34.37 percent to meet medical expenses, which could be minimised if the government-run health facilities are available. All Buddhist households are raising loans to renovate their houses. The raising of loan for productive purposes, such as for farming by 22.47 percent of Christian households, is very encouraging. More credit facilities through institutional mechanisms need to be provided to improve rural livelihood opportunities. They are also raising loans for purchase of consumer durables, a new trend in the rural society (see Table 3.20).

Table 3.20: Purpose of Loans (%)

Purpose of Loan	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Capital expenditure in non farm business	22.47	0.00	18.58
Renovation of house	36.11	100.00	47.18
Medical treatment	34.37	0.00	28.41
Purchase of consumer durables	7.06	0.00	5.83
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey

The incidence of indebtedness in sample households is largely due to low-income levels. There is a need to improve the income levels of rural households. Banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit to the rural poor at cheaper rates without any collateral for productive self-employment. In this connection, the government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be promoted so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-farm activities including dairy development to increase their income.

CHAPTER IV

DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Public Distribution System

A majority of the sample population (61.70 percent) is living below poverty line (BPL). However, 63.79 percent of sample households had BPL ration cards and 88.23 percent have access to PDS facility (see table 4.1). This implies that some of the non-BPL households (HHs) have BPL cards and some of the non-BPL card holders are also getting BPL ration. Community-wise, 81.70 percent of Muslim households are BPL HHs and have BPL cards, however, all of them are getting BPL ration. This is not the case with Christian and Buddhist households. Thus, some of the poor households belonging to BPL category are not having BPL cards, and even all those who have BPL cards are not getting BPL ration.

Table 4.1: Access to Public Distribution System (%)

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
BPL HHs	81.70	61.48	61.74	61.70
BPL HH getting ration	100.00	90.06	83.27	88.23
Having BPL card	81.70	63.03	65.23	63.79

Source: Survey

More than two-thirds of the sample population have complained about irregular supply of PDS ration followed by dishonesty in measurement (64.34 percent), bad quality (35.70 percent), insufficient quantity (24.16 percent), and non-availability of time (22.63 percent). Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing PDS facility. For example, nearly 80 percent of the Muslim households reported bad quality of PDS supply, 55 percent reported insufficient quantity and non-availability of time as problems in availing PDS. Similarly, 73 percent and 60 percent of Buddhist and Christian households reported dishonesty in measurement as the main problems being faced in accessing PDS (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Problems being faced with the PDS (%)

	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Total
Insufficient quantity	55.50	20.38	32.19	24.16
Bad quality	80.15	34.19	38.08	35.70
Dishonesty in measurement	44.50	60.46	73.90	64.34
Non availability in time	55.50	21.93	23.44	22.63
Irregular supply	44.50	70.07	63.38	67.88
Others	0.00	0.00	0.96	0.29
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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 gaps need to be plugged at the earliest. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, expand its coverage and make it corruption free.

Access, Use and Quality of Public Health Service

The district lacks basic public health infrastructure. There is a lack of adequate health care facilities to the rural poor population, which is due to heavy pressure on available basic services. Similar is the situation with the availability of medicines, though it has marginally improved during the past few years. The availability of doctors, specifically lady doctors at PHCs/hospitals, is a major concern. At the same time, presence of quacks in villages has adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of the people, and they incur heavy expenditure on health care without getting proper care.

Education

As in public health services, the poor accessibility to educational institutions is hampering educational development and attainments. The conditions of schools is far from 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 provided in all government schools. However, its quality and regularity is not assured. It is ironical that just to avail more assistance under the mid-day scheme, multiple enrollments have been reported in many schools, which should be checked and strictly monitored.

A high proportion of children enrolled in government schools belong to relatively poor households. The better-off households are sending their children to English medium private schools. This kind of dualism has marginalised the government aided schooling system. There is hardly any demand for improving the quality and accountability of elementary education since the better-off households tend to remain indifferent as they are hardly affected.

There is a need to strengthen the training of teachers in new teaching and learning methods and pedagogy. Efforts also need to be made to promote extra curricular activities in schools to make learning more attractive to the children.

Awareness

The level of awareness about various government programmes in the rural areas of the district is almost cent percent. All the households are aware of SGSY, IAY, ICDS, old age pension, SSA, NREGA, TSC, ARWSP and Maternity Benefit Scheme.

Aspirations

The provision of better health facilities followed by educational facilities within the villages ranks at the top in the aspirations relating to development. The aspiration for assured employment within or in nearby villages is the third important development priority. Proper drainage and housing is also aspired by the households. However, different communities rank the development priorities differently. For instance, more than one-half and one-fifth of the Muslim and Christian households ranked educational facilities as their top priority. Drainage and housing are least priority for Muslim households.

Table 4.3: Aspirations of Respondents in Order of Their Ranks

Facilities	Muslim,		Christian		Buddhist	
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Educational facilities	52.20	1	23.21	1	31.55	2
Health	20.14	3	39.12	2	53.80	1
Employment	25.73	2	11.49	3	5.91	3
Drainage	0.00	4	3.73	4	4.07	4
Housing	0.00	5	2.71	5	2.86	5

Source: Survey

The rural population of the district has participated in state assembly and parliamentary elections, and there is high level of political participation. But an insignificant proportion of them are members of self help groups (SHG). However, all households are members of religious organisations. Thus, the level of social participation is quite high. This can be attributed to high penetration of religious organisations and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the rural areas.

Chapter V

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2001, the population of Lawngtlai district was 73,620. The entire population of the district lives in rural areas, whereas the State's share of rural population is about 50 percent.
- Scheduled tribes constitute 95.4 percent, which is slightly lower than the State's share of 96.3 percent. The minority population is 97.4 percent and evenly distributed across the tehsils of district Lawngtlai.
- Work force participation rate in Lawngtlai was 46.31 percent in 2001, which is significantly lower than the State average of 57.21 percent.
- In 2001, 96.4 percent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is higher than the State's share (89.4 percent).
- The literacy status of the district is not very encouraging (64.74 percent) compared to the State average of 88.80 percent. Male literacy is higher (70.90 percent) compared to female literacy (57.81 percent).
- The district has poorer health facilities than the State aggregate. As compared to overall Mizoram (15.1 percent), only 5.8 percent of the villages of the district of Lawngtlai have a PHC within a range of 5 kms. In terms of drinking water supply too the district's performance is poorer than the State aggregate.

Micro Level Deprivations: Survey Findings (2008)

- Christians are the dominant population group (71.92 percent), followed by Buddhists (27.34 percent). The average household size is 5.08 persons, and is lowest for Christians (5.05) and highest for Muslims (7.4). The overall dependency is 1.56, which is highest among the Buddhists (1.77) followed by Christians (1.50).
- Average sex ratio is 957, and is comparatively high for Christians (972) and low for Muslims. The high sex ratio among Christians reflects a comparatively better status of females in the community.
- One-third of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years. Therefore, educational needs of the communities are highest. Buddhists are more in the youthful age group. This implies that they supply more labour force and also are

likely to face more unemployment given the higher incidence of general unemployment.

- SSA is making its presence felt in the rural areas. More than 80 percent of the children are enrolled in government schools. But this also reflects on the poor socio-economic conditions of the households, which compels them to depend on low quality government schools for education. The drop out is comparatively low.
- A high proportion of the students in the age group 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to about 64.72 percent of the students. Educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships are being provided to a comparatively less proportion of the students.
- The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among males than the females across religious groups. This needs attention by educational planners and decision-makers. There is a need to make the community aware of the advantages of female education.
- About 23 percent of the population is educated upto high school and above in the rural areas. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.19 percent and 0.90 percent respectively.
- One-third of the youth have educational attainment up to secondary level. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, the rural youth have less prospects in the labour market.
- About 44.71 percent of the sampled households are landless. Landlessness is more common among the Buddhists (48.72 percent) and Christians (43.65 percent). The average size of landholding is comparatively more among Muslim and Buddhist households. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings not only reduces the livelihood options but also makes the people dependent on low wage work, which in turn traps the landless households in poverty.
- The per capita value of livestock and the quality of livestock possessed by rural households is low. Greater possession of livestock can provide draught power, milk, meat and other products to the households. In order to improve livelihood conditions, including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.
- The work participation is modest (43.40 percent). It is low among Muslim households (29.75 percent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (about one-

half for males and 37.50 percent for females). This calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise female participation in economic activities so that they are empowered within and outside the family.

- Casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation (52.48 percent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (32.50 percent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and gender.
- High dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture and non-agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and this forces the women to work outside the households in precarious conditions at very low wages. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities, wherein 85.58 of the households are engaged.
- There are significant gaps in income and expenditure among households. A high proportion of poor households derive their livelihood on a day to day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and the non-agriculture sector. The situation can be improved by providing better basic health and educational facilities by the government. This will reduce the dependence of the poor households' on private services and the savings could be utilised for meeting other basic needs.
- Majority of the households (63.16 percent) are living in thatched houses. Only 2.56 percent are living in *pucca* houses. About 35 percent of the households live in one room accommodation.
- Majority of the households (87.70 percent) use open spaces as toilets. The condition of drainage is also very unsatisfactory in Muslim households. The practice of open defecation needs to be checked by providing assistance for in-house toilets by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.
- The institutional system for child delivery is very poor. The dependence on untrained dais is modest (43.28 percent). Those children born in institutional care also receive pre and post natal care, though the proportion of such children is comparatively low.
- Nearly 97 percent of the households have immunised their children below the age of 5 years. The proportion of children fully immunised is comparatively lower (93.07 percent).
- Malaria is the most common health problem faced by 43.35 percent of sample households. Fever, pain in stomach, cough and cold, typhoid and jaundice are also prevalent. The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly

high as compared to government hospitals. Medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels the population to rely on private sources for medical treatment.

- Nearly two-thirds of the sample households are indebted. The non-institutional sources of finance are dominant in the rural areas.
- Majority of the sample population (61.70 percent) is living below poverty line (BPL). However, 63.79 percent had BPL ration cards and 88.23 percent have access to PDS facility. Some of the poor households belonging to BPL category do not have BPL cards, and even those who have BPL cards are not getting BPL ration.
- The level of awareness about various government programmes in the rural areas of the district is almost cent percent. All the households are aware of SGSY, IAY, ICDS, old age pension, SSA, NREGA, TSC, ARWSP and Maternity Benefit Scheme.

Action Points

- A high concentration of population in the child and youthful age groups, calls for rigorous educational and manpower planning and opening of more technical and vocational institutions. There is a need for self-employment opportunities in agro-based industries and the service sector.
- The target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream and the quality of education being imparted in schools needs to be improved as priority. Gaps in human capital formation in case of various communities as well as females need to be bridged on priority by following community and gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes. There is a need to improve the quality of education besides expanding the school infrastructure. SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage should be extended.
- In order to increase enrollment and retention of students, there is need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. The poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and dress assistance. There is need for free elementary education for the rural poor of the district in order to ease the economic burden on parents.
- The gender disparities in educational attainments are noticeable across communities. Scholarships should be given to poor but deserving students. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrollment of the population beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

- There is an urgent need to increase the participation of the population, particularly youth, in higher and technical education. This would also require imparting short duration job oriented courses in technical institutions, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from disadvantaged groups and minorities.
- Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among the communities. There is a lack of trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended on priority by opening more industrial training and other technical institutes. This would facilitate local trained and skilled manpower securing employment in the industrial sector.
- The casual work in non-agricultural activities is very low. NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that poor households may have assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. Besides, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented.
- Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more self-employment schemes like SGSY so that the poor could be employed on a sustainable basis. This would go a long way in empowering the women to play their part within the family and society.
- Housing conditions is not satisfactory and calls for urgent attention and IAY needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district.
- Drinking water facilities are not at all satisfactory. The dependence on private sources of drinking water is a serious concern. Tap water facilities need to be provided by the government, for which necessary allocations have to be made on a priority basis.
- There is an urgent need to extend the coverage of institutions for child deliveries so that better pre and post-natal care can be provided. There is also a need to strengthen the NRHM in a big way so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependency on private sources which are costly in nature, forcing them into debt and most of the times beyond the reach of the poor households.
- Keeping in view the prevalence of 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 sahu-kars can be ended.

- The government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be promoted so that poor villagers can invest in farm and non-farm activities including dairy development to increase their income.
- 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 must get their due share. There is also need to rejuvenate the PDS, expand its coverage and make it corruption free.

Annexure I: List of Selected village (sample) in the Lawngtlai District

Sl.	Block	GP	Village
1	Lawngtlai	Council	Tuithumhnar
2	Lawngtlai	Council	Chawntlangpul
3	Lawngtlai	Diltlang S V	Diltlang S
4	Lawngtlai	Council	Sihtlangpul
5	Lawngtlai	Council	Kawlchaw 'W'
6	Lawngtlai	Council	Vaseikai
7	Lawngtlai	Council	Ngengpuitlang
8	Chaungte R D	Council	Kamalanagar-II
9	Chawngte	Council	Saizwk West
10	Chawngte	Council	Bajeisora
11	Chawngte	Council	Longpuighat
12	Chawngte	Council	Devasora (N)
13	Sangav	Council	Pangkhna
14	Sangau	Council	Cheural
15	Sangau	Council	Sangau East
16	Sangau	Council	Lungpher
17	Sangau	Council	Lungzarhtum
18	Bungtlang	Council	'N' Kawnpui
19	Bungtlang South	Council	Nghalimlui
20	Bungtlang South	Council	Snibawh
21	Bungtlang South	Council	Bungtlang South
22	Bungilang South	Council	Hmunnuam