Minority Concentration District Project

North Sikkim, Sikkim

Executive Summary

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The MCD project aims to provide a baseline survey on the state of minorities in the districts identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India. The minorities are defined on the basis of National Commission of Minorites Act, 1992 and includes Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zorastrians (Parsis). North Sikkim is classified as 'B' category (sub-category B2) district of this project for which the set of socio economic indicators and basic amenities indicators are 56.1 and 38.1. Buddhists with a share of 55.08% (as per Census 2001) in total population constitute the minority population of the district.

The purpose of this sample survey is to help the district administration draw action plan for socio-economic and infrastructure development of the district for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing the imbalances during the 11 th. Five Year Plan. However, it may be noted that the benefits will accrue to all sections of people in the district where intervention is executed and not only the minorities.

The survey was conducted in 22 villages[1] in North Sikkim spread across 2 Blocks during June 2008. Findings of the survey are categorized under the broad headings of **Basic Amenities; Education; Health; Infrastructure; Occupational conditions; Existence and Efficacy of Government Schemes and any other issue.** We have provided two sets of tables, one for the data across villages to capture the locational variation followed by the district averages computed over all the households surveyed in all the sample villages chosen in the district. In general the findings clearly show that the district performs quite poor in terms of the performance indicators. However, it is not necessarily the case that the Buddhists fall behind the non-Buddhists population. The findings for the district as a whole can be summarized in the table below. The table also provides deviation of the major indicators from their national averages. This gives an idea of the area which needs intervention on a priority basis. In addition to the indicators on the basis of which the MCD districts were chosen, we have also listed some of the indicators, which in our opinion are extremely important for the development of the district. Detailed and disaggregated analysis can be found in the main report. Some of these are more disaggregated estimates for a particular indicator. For example, we have gone into a detailed account of status of education, at different levels as we thought that

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[1] Actually the sample size is 25, repetition results in 22 villages.

only literacy is inadequate. We also provided the status of training in vocational trades and the demand for such training. This is important, in our opinion, as we tried to relate the same with job market situation for the general populace.

Table E1: Priority Ranking of Facilities Based on Deficits of District Averages from National Averages

Sl. No.	Indicator	District Average	National Average	Deficit	Priority Rank
I. Socio-economic Indicators					
1	Literacy (%)	82.97	67.3	-15.67	4
2	Female Literacy (%)	80.68	57.1	-23.58	6
3	Work Participation (%)	49.98	38	-11.98	3
4	Female Work Participation (%)	38.51	21.5	-17.01	5
II. Basic Amenities Indicators					
5	Houses with Pucca Walls (%)	10.15	59.4	49.25	1
6	Safe Drinking Water (%)	49.46	87.9	38.44	2
7	Electricity in Houses (%)	93.96	67.9	-26.06	7
8	W/C Toilet (%)	82.93	39.2	-43.73	8
III. Health Indicators					
9	Full Vaccination of Children (%)	69.76	43.5	-26.26	-
10	Institutional Delivery (%)	52.94	38.7	-14.24	-

Note: District averages are estimated on the basis of sample data on rural areas only, and national averages for Sl. No. (5) to (8) are based on NFHS-3 and the rest are based on NSSO, 2005.

Since the approach of the Multi-sector Development Plan funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs is supplementary in nature and does not intend to change the very nature of plan process, it is suggested that the district administration may start working on priority basis with the additional fund in the areas where the deficit can very easily be identified at the district level or at the village or in the pockets of the district. Hence we provide the deficit of the district for the two types of indicators and the basic amenities indicators where deficits have been calculated as the deviation of the survey estimates from the corresponding estimates based on NSSO, 2005 for socio-economic indicators and NFHS-3 for the basic amenities indicators in Table E1 above.

It is clear from the above table that the district average for houses with *pucca* walls performs worst followed by safe drinking water. In all other cases district averages are higher than the corresponding national averages. Accordingly the district administration is expected to draw up their development plan funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs based on the priority ranking of the facilities as listed above. However, coverage of IAY for BPL families being only 1.45%, the district authority should pay adequate attention in the provision of *pucca* houses for the BPL families. However, it may also be noted that the district averages and the deficits are not uniform across the district, there are large variations across the villages. A comparison may be made consulting the relevant tables for the village level averages. In this way one can find out the priority ranking for the villages separately. Given the representative nature of the sample one can treat those villages or the blocks where they are situated as the pockets of relative backwardness in terms of the above indicators. We draw the attention of the district administration to be cautious when drawing plan for the district.

In addition to the above priority ranking of facilities we also like to point out that there are some findings that the study team of the CSSSC thinks very important from the standpoint of the development of the district. This is specially so where district averages are higher than the corresponding national averages. In such cases it makes better sense to concentrate the efforts of the district administration areas other than the above ten indicators as suggested by the Ministry. These are given below.

- Percentage of BPL families covered under IAY is extremely poor, 1.45 %. So we think it is an important area where the district administration should top up.

- The average number of primary schools per village is 0.76 which is very poor

implying a large number of villages do not have even a single school. The district average of the number of primary teachers per school (8.21 per school) is in fact higher than the national average.

- So far secondary schools are concerned, the performance of the district is very poor – 0.30 secondary and higher secondary schools per village. This needs intervention.

- Apparently the district does not perform very poorly in terms of health related infrastructure. So looking at only vaccination or institutional delivery is inadequate. Out of all the villages 17.39% of villages have government hospitals in its vicinity, 47.37 % of villages have primary health centers or sub-centres situated within the village, average distance of primary health center or sub-centres is 2.85 Km., average distance of government hospital is 11.43 Km., average distance of private hospital or nursing home is 61.50 Km. Some of the families, viz. 14.15% for Buddhists and 2.60% for non-Buddhists also go to quacks for treatment though larger percentage of families go to government hospitals or private practitioners. For taking pregnant women to hospitals for delivery the major means is rented cars, there is hardly any ambulance available for this purpose in the villages. This is an important area where the policy makers should think of providing at least one ambulance per village.

- Considering the fact that tourism has emerged as the main source of livelihood for the people of North Sikkim the funds from Ministry of Minority Affairs may be used for development of the infrastructure for this purpose wherever possible.