

A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY
CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

MAMIT

(Mizoram)

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



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A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICT

Executive Summary of Mamit District (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 2001 census data with a purpose to improve all these indicators to the all India level through a Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) under the overall ambit of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since, it is expected that there would be changes in these indicators since 2001, a baseline survey has been conducted so that the multi-sectoral development plan can be drawn up with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Mamit is one of the minority-concentrated districts of India which lags behind in terms of socio-economic indicators (Category B1).

District Profile (2001 census based)

- In 2001, the population of Mamit district was 62,785 and 82 per cent of the population was living in rural areas.
- Majority of the population (77.7 per cent) was from the minority communities. Sex ratio was 1,017 female per thousand male and literacy rate was 79.10 per cent—both perceptibly higher than the national averages.
- However, rural areas lack proper health facilities. One-tenth of the villages of the district have a PHC and only 1.2 per cent have MCW centre.
- The main drinking water sources are public (72 per cent), private (3.84 per cent) and others (24.16 per cent).
- Some 82.24 per cent of the households are defecating outside the household premises in the open and 47.52 per cent of the households are without drainage facility in their dwellings.
- Educational facilities exclusively catering to the needs of girl students are very meager and a high/higher secondary school exclusively for girls is available at a very long distance.

- Health facilities are very inadequate and none of the sample villages has a PHC, hospital/dispensary, maternal and child care centre, or a family planning clinic. Accessibility to health facilities is therefore not at all satisfactory. Development and welfare organisations are not present in most of the villages.

Survey Findings (2008)

- The present survey is confined to Mamit district. The survey reveals that the district lags behind in only three out of eight indicators compared to the all India average. Table 1 below shows the gap between all India and district figures vis-à-vis ten indicators and prioritises the development interventions vis-à-vis eight indicators. The district figure is based on the survey findings (2008) and the 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 Plan

Sl. No.	Indicators	Mamit 2008	All India 2005	Gap Between All India and District	Priority based on the gap
		1	2	(3=1- 2)	4
1	Rate of literacy	95.4	67.3	28.1	7
2	Rate of female literacy	94.1	57.1	37.0	8
3	Work participation rate	49.5	38.0	11.5	4
4	Female work participation rate	43.5	21.5	22.0	6
5	Percentage of households with pucca walls**	52.9	59.4	-6.5	3
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	79.4	87.9	-8.5	2
7	Percentage of households with electricity	85.5	67.9	17.6	5
8	Percentage of households with water close set latrines	20.6	39.2	-18.6	1
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	86.9	43.5	43.4	-
10	Percentage of child delivery in a health facility	56.6	38.7	17.9	-

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

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

**This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

Development Priorities as per Eight Indicators

In-house Toilet Facilities

In Mamit, majority of the households (79.45 per cent) are defecating outside their houses, in the open, which is totally unhygienic. Just one-fifth of the households have in-house toilet facilities. All the Muslim households are defecating outside their homes, in the open. The condition of drainage is unsatisfactory in Muslim households.

All this makes it clear that though schemes such as the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, are on for quite some time not even a modest dent has been made on improving rural sanitation and drainage in Mamit district. The existing situation indicates that the district would completely miss the target, and there is an urgent need for better implementation of the TSC and to extend its coverage to all villages through the multi-sector development plan.

Safe Drinking Water

Nearly three-fourths of the households use drinking water from public sources, while 4.38 per cent and 20 per cent of the households depend upon private source and other sources, which include natural water points, respectively. The drinking water facilities are not at all satisfactory in the district. The dependence on private sources and other sources of drinking water of the rural poor households is a matter of concern, which needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government.

Houses with *Pucca* Walls

Nearly 52 per cent of the households have houses with *pucca* walls. Some 46 per cent of them are living in semi-*pucca* houses and 25 per cent have thatched houses. A very low proportion of them (6.75 per cent) have *pucca* houses. None of the sampled Hindu and Muslim households is living in *pucca* houses. The proportion of Christian households living in *pucca* houses is also low (6.81 per cent), which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households. One-third of the Muslim and Christian households are living in more than two room accommodation. Thus, privacy is absent for a majority of the households.

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. The IAY can be topped up with the multi-sector plan.

Improving Work Participation:

The work participation is reportedly modest (49.53 per cent), which is low among Muslim households (44.95 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.75 for males and 43.51 per cent for females). This is more or less true across all religious groups. Self-employment in agriculture and allied activities is the dominant occupation (60.73 per cent of households) followed by casual wage labour in agriculture (24.71 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status across religious groups and gender. Some 86.44 per cent of the Muslim households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and neither of the Hindu and Muslim households is self-employed or casual wage worker in the non-agricultural sector. About one-fourth of the Christian households are casual wage workers in agriculture. None of the women of Muslim households is a regular salaried worker. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 88.08 per cent of the household members are engaged. More or less similar is the situation across the communities.

The low female work participation is a serious issue, and calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they can be empowered to play their role within and outside the family in an effective way. 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 intensively in the district, so that the poor households may earn a sustainable living; besides it may 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 a need to implement more self-employment schemes like SGSY for the rural poor so that they can be employed on a sustainable basis.

Electricity

More than 85 per cent of the households are electrified. Besides, sample households are also using non-electrified sources such as oil, lantern, and others for lighting. However, the target of universal electrification is still some distance away.

The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connection to the rural households by the end of 2009. But the progress appears nowhere near the target.

Overall Literacy Rate, particularly Female Literacy Rate

There is a significant improvement in overall and female literacy rate among the rural population in the district since 2001, largely owing to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day meal scheme. The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is high among the males than the females across all religious groups. Female literacy is lowest among Hindus and highest among the Christians. Nearly 77 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions and 15 per cent of them are enrolled in private schools. The proportion of the children never enrolled is 5.96 per cent. The drop out is comparatively low but needs to be checked.

One-third of the population is educated up to high school and above in the rural areas of Mamit district. The percentage of males and females with educational level of high school and above is respectively 35.67 and 32.43 respectively. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.72 per cent each. The disparities in educational attainment at various levels are noticeable across communities and gender.

About 8 per cent of Christian youth are educated up to primary level. About 29.82 per cent and 46.11 per cent of them have education up to middle level and secondary level respectively. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, rural youth of Mamit district have lesser prospects in the labour market.

The average per capita expenditure on education is modest (Rs.386), however, significant differentials exist among communities. A high proportion of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to 29.41 per cent of the students. The educational assistance in the form of dress and scholarships are being provided to comparatively less proportion of the students.

Overall, enrolment and retention rates are very high and SSA has been making its impact on rural educational scenario of the district in a potent way. However, there are a number of villages, which are still without primary schools and the number of girls' school is quite low. Hence, expansion of primary and elementary schools, both for boys and girls, should be taken on a priority basis along with effective measures to minimise drop-outs. The SSA scheme needs to be expanded with rigour.

The educational attainment, particularly among youth and among females, is modest and needs improvement. Poor educational attainment hampers their future labour market prospects. Thus, 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 to the rural youth, and free-ships and scholarships for needy youth from disadvantaged groups and minorities. Gender differential in literacy is noticeable. This needs attention of the educational planners and decision-makers, and the community needs to be made aware of the advantages of female education.

SSA is making its presence felt in the rural areas of the district though at a slow pace. A significant proportion of the children are enrolled in private schools. This may reflect the relatively better socio-economic conditions of the households, which enable them to depend on private schools for getting knowledge and education. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream. There is a need to speed up the efforts of government in ensuring cent per cent enrolment of children in the school going age group with zero drop outs. This would be possible by raising the quality of education and school infrastructure. The gaps in human capital formation for all communities as well as gender need to be bridged on a priority through community as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

The main reason cited for drop out is 'work at home'. Thus, there is a need to make the parents aware about the benefits of education and the educational system needs to be improved to make it more interesting to the children. Livelihood opportunities need to be provided to the rural poor to eliminate the incidence of child labour. The educational attainment is still low and needs to be improved, for which more scholarships may be given to the poor but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrolment of the youth in general and technical institutes beyond

high school. In order to increase enrolment 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 uniform assistance. There is a need for free elementary education for the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.

Additional Areas of Intervention

- Nearly one-half of the last children born were at government hospitals. However, there are significant variations across the communities. The system of institutional deliveries is very poor. About 59 per cent of the delivery of the last child in the households was performed by trained midwife/Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). Those of the children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, but the proportion of such children is comparatively low. Immunisation of children against Polio, DPT and BCG has shown encouraging results. The system of institutional delivery presents an encouraging picture of rural reproductive and child health care system in the district. It needs to be strengthened further to ensure cent per cent institutional birth and child care. Malaria is the most common health problem, faced by 30.32 per cent of sample households. Fever, pain in stomach, cough and cold, typhoid and jaundice are also prevalent. Besides, complication during pregnancy and child births are other health problems faced by the rural households. On an average, Rs. 559 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure, comparatively more by Hindu households (Rs. 1043) than Muslim (Rs. 709) and Christian households (Rs. 557). On the whole, the dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high as compared to government hospitals. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. There is a need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission 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 and most of the times beyond the reach of the poor households and forces them into debt. Thus, more allocations should be made for NRHM to extend its outreach and coverage.

- More than one-fourth of the population is in the age group of below 15 years. This is more or less the same in the Christian community. However, in Hindu and Muslim communities the proportion of children is comparatively more and stood at 40 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. Therefore, the educational needs of these communities are higher. About 23 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years. This implies that unemployment is more likely in this age group, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and current slowdown in the economy. 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 and horticulture-based and tourism sectors given the stagnant employment scene in the public sector and the shrinking private industrial sector due to recession.
- A small proportion of the households is in debt and is confined to only Muslim community. The average amount of loan raised is modest (Rs. 9,212). The institutional source of finance is prevalent. The indebtedness for undertaking productive investment is comparatively more than non-productive purposes, which need to be promoted in order to improve rural livelihood opportunities. The banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking 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.
- More than one-half of the sample population (54.36 per cent) is living below poverty line (BPL), however, 86.92 per cent of them had BPL ration cards and 55.17 per cent are availing PDS facility. This implies that some of the BPL households do not have BPL cards and some of the non-BPL card holders are getting BPL ration. Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing PDS facility. The huge difference in the number of 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 get their due share. There is also a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance, expand its coverage and make it corruption free.

- The economic situation of the households can be improved by the government providing better basic health and educational facilities, thus, reducing their dependence on private services that are more expensive. The possession of livestock by rural households provide them with draught power as well as milk, meat and other products depending upon the types of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve their livelihood conditions and nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be promoted.
- The lower proportion of the workers engaged in the modern sector is mainly due to lack of infrastructure for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district derives its livelihood from low income agriculture and allied activities. There is a lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, and the government needs to open more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes, which could facilitate local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector. Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among all the communities. As such the need for additional employment for augmenting household income and status is very high. However, due to lack of trainings and skills, employability of the locals is comparatively low. There is a need to raise skill through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.
- Meagre all weather road connectivity is another glaring infrastructural deficit. As per the 2001 Census, most of the villages were without all weather roads. Though rural connectivity has improved since then, yet a significant numbers of villages are still without all weather roads.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Mamit is one of the districts of Mizoram state. It is situated in the Western part of Mizoram and located at a distance of 96 km from the state capital, Aizawl. It is a land locked district with inter-state boundaries with Tripura and Assam, and international boundary with Bangladesh. Mamit was earlier a part of undivided Aizawl district. It became a full fledged district when Aizawl was divided into 5 districts in 1998.

The geographical area of the district is 3025.75 sq. km. It is located at longitude 92 degree 17 degree east and 92 degree 40 degree east, and latitude 23 degree 17 degree north and 24 degree 15 degree north. It falls in the agro-climatic temperate zone. Majority of the people are Mizo and sub-tribes such as Brus, Chakmas, etc., also inhabit this district. The important rivers flowing through the district are Tlawng, Tut, Langkaih, Teirei, Khawthlangtuipui and Mar. There are 83 inhabited villages in the district. It has three blocks. Mamit is the principal town and headquarter of the district. Road is the only means of trade and travel.



Soil is fertile and 18 per cent of the net cropped area has irrigation facility. On an average, the district receives a good rainfall of 3001 mm during May to October. The climate is neither very hot nor very cold. Major crop produced during the Kharif season is paddy and in the Rabi season, pulses, grams, and mustard and vegetables such as cabbage, radish, carrot, tomato, and potato are grown. The district is famous for Hatkora and Orange fruits. A large number of teak plantations also exist. The major allied activity is animal husbandry – piggery and poultry.

According to the 2001 census, the total population of Mamit district was 62,785, of which highest concentration was found in tehsil West Phaileng followed by tehsils of Zawlnuam, and Reiek. More than 83 per cent of the population of the district lives in rural areas, which is higher than the State share of rural population. Rural population was cent per cent in West Phaileng and 70 per cent in Zawlnuam. Scheduled caste population is negligible in the district and concentrated in West Zawlnuam. A very high proportion of population (more than 94 per cent) of Mamit belongs to Scheduled Tribes (STs), which is not at all surprisingly as the state average also stands at 96 per cent. Christians are the dominant population group across the tehsils of Mamit. More than half of the population of West Phaileng and more than 99 per cent of Reiek population are STs. In West Phaileng, another dominant population group is Buddhists (39.73 per cent) (see table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Population and Its Composition, 2001

Tehsil	Total rural population	Rural %	%SC	%ST	% Hindu Population	% Muslim Population	% Christian Population	% Buddhist Population	% Other Minority
Zawlnuam	19463	70.3	0.0	93.0	4.7	4.4	90.08	0.73	0.0
West Phaileng	21177	100.0	0.1	95.1	6.2	0.4	53.51	39.73	0.2
Reiek	11492	82.6	0.0	97.7	0.2	0.2	99.10	0.10	0.0
Mamit District	52132	83.0	0.0	94.9	4.3	1.8	77.21	16.44	0.1
<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>0.1</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census 2001).

The status of schools in the district is presented in table 1.2. In 2001, 89 per cent of the villages of the district were having at least a primary school, which is almost the same as the figure for the State. Two of the tehsils (Reiek and West Phaileng) have more primary schools than the district aggregate and other tehsil Zawlnuam has a lower proportion of primary schools than the district aggregate. More than one-half of the villages have a

middle school in the district, which is lower than the State aggregate of 58.3 per cent. More than three-fourths of the villages of Reiek and more than one-half of the villages of West Phaileng have a middle school, whereas in Zawlnuam, only 47 per cent of the villages have a middle school. In terms of secondary schools, the district has 25 such educational institutions, but the tehsils of Reiek and West Zawlnuam have 7 and 8 secondary schools respectively. When we compare the data regarding the population served by such institutions in these two tehsils, a very dismal picture emerges as the population served by these secondary schools in West Phaileng is double the population served by the secondary schools in Reiek. The district is least developed in terms of industries and as such the number of industrial training institutes is virtually nil. However, one of the reasons for lack of industries in the district could be non-availability of locally trained skilled manpower.

Table 1.2: Status of Schools in Mamit District

Tehsil	% village having primary school	% Villages having middle school	No. of Secondary school	Population per Secondary school
Zawlnuam	79.4	47.1	10	1946
West Phaileng	93.5	51.6	8	2810
Reiek	100.0	76.5	7	1455
Mamit District	89.0	54.9	25	2085
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>89.4</i>	<i>58.3</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2162</i>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census 2001).

The data on health and drinking water facilities in Mamit district is presented in table 1.3. A perusal of the table makes it clear that the district has poorer health facilities than the State aggregate, but better drinking water facilities than the State aggregate. Even the performance of the State in these parameters is not encouraging. As compared to Mizoram, less than one-tenth of the villages of the district of Mamit have a primary health centre (PHC) within a range of 5 km. The rural areas of two tehsils – West Phaileng and Reiek-- have better accessibility to PHCs but tehsil of Zawlnuam has very poor accessibility to PHCs. Maternity and child welfare (MCW) facility is very poor overall in the State compared to the district. However, the performance of the district as well as its tehsils is very disappointing. The presence of allopathic hospitals is also very negligible. However, the availability of tap water, tube wells and hand pump is better in the district as compared to the State aggregate. Zawlnuam has better drinking water facilities than the rest of the tehsils of the district Mamit. There is a need for immediate attention of concerned government department, so that the existing gaps may be covered.

Table1.3: Health and Drinking Water in Mamit District

Tehsil	% Villages having PHCs within 5 km	% Villages having MCW Centre within 5 km	% Villages having Allopathic hospital <5 km Range	Allopathic hospital per lakh population	Tap Per lakh population	Tube-well per lakh population	Hand-pump per lakh population
Zawnuam	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	349	349	349
West Phaileng	16.1	3.2	3.2	0.0	249	267	227
Reiek	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	265	334	324
Mamit District	9.8	1.2	1.2	0.0	290	311	292
<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).

The data related to banking and other facilities available in the State of Mizoram, district Mamit and its tehsils is given in table 1.4, which reveals that district Mamit has better paved roads, power supply, post offices, agricultural cooperative societies, and cooperative banks than the State average. However, in terms of commercial banks per lakh population, the situation is comparatively poor in the district. There are however wide variations across the tehsils. For example, West Phaileng and Reiek respectively have better road and power supply than cooperative and commercial banking facility. The existing gaps in availability of the basic infrastructure in the tehsils of the district need to be covered. A well developed banking, communication and institutional infrastructure is *sine qua non* for rural transformation of district Mamit and keeping in view the dismal scenario, there is urgent need to improve the available infrastructure and enlarge further through the Bharat Nirman programme.

Table 1.4: Banking and Other Facilities in Mamit 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
Zawnuam	32.4	85.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	5.1	77.1
West Phaileng	61.3	54.8	3.2	3.2	0.0	6.5	4.4	71.2
Reiek	23.5	100.0	0.0	17.6	19.6	5.9	0.0	98.2
Mamit District	41.5	76.8	1.2	4.9	3.8	4.9	3.8	78.6
<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>

Source: Village Level Directory, (Census 2001).

The work force participation rate in Mamit was reportedly significant and stood at 56.02 per cent, which is marginally lower than the State average of 57.21 per cent. Reiek has higher work force participation (61.67 per cent) than the district average. The proportion of cultivators is marginally higher in Mamit than the State average. Some 4.57 per cent of the rural population is agricultural labour and their presence is more noticeable in Zawlnuam. About 12 per cent of the rural population is also engaged in other works (see table 1.5). Keeping in view the widespread problem of unemployment and underemployment, there is urgent need to operationalise the NREGA and other employment generating schemes on a large scale.

Table 1.5: Rural Work Force Participation in Mamit District

Tehsil	Total Rural Population	Total Worker	WPR	% Cultivators	% Agricultural Labourers	% Household Workers	% Other Workers
Zawlnuam	19463	10691	54.93	81.97	5.72	0.43	11.89
West Phaileng	21177	11425	53.95	79.58	4.43	0.65	15.34
Reiek	11492	7087	61.67	85.13	3.09	1.17	10.61
Mamit	52132	29203	56.02	81.80	4.57	0.70	12.93
<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.

The literacy status of the district Mamit is lower than the State aggregate. However, it is comparatively higher than other hilly districts of other Indian States. Two tehsils – Reiek and Zawlnuam have literacy rates higher than the district as well as the State average, and the tehsil West Phaileng has comparatively lower literacy status. Significant differentials in literacy attainments have been noticed among both males and the females. However, such differentials are quite sharp in the tehsil West Phaileng, where more than two-thirds of the males and less than one-half of the females were literate in 2001 (see table 1.6). This calls for more enrolment and retention of the girls in formal schools of learning as well as opening of non-formal female educational centres to cater to the needs of non-school going female population.

Table 1.6: Literacy Status in Mamit District

Tehsil	Persons	Male	Female
Zawlnuam	83.34	86.45	79.95
West Phaileng	59.44	67.77	49.34
Reiek	93.57	94.68	92.35
Mamit	79.10	80.58	70.90
<i>MIZORAM</i>	<i>88.80</i>	<i>84.93</i>	<i>77.26</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 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 30 households were selected in all from each sample village for detailed survey. These 30 households were chosen from 2 selected hamlets (if hg's formed) and from among the respective SSS in proportion to the total number of households listed in the

respective frames. A minimum of 2 households were chosen to an ultimate SSS. The required number of sample households from each SSS was selected by stratified random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR). In case of a village having less than 30 households all the households were surveyed.

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 estimate based on 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 these 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 25 surveyed villages.

Health and Educational Institutions

Table 2.1 shows the percentage of villages having educational institutions, mainly schools. Though co-educational primary schools are available in two-thirds of the villages, yet primary schools for girls are available in only 3.33 per cent of the villages. Girls have to travel on an average of over 70.44 km to attend such institutions located largely in the State capital, Aizawl. Co-educational middle schools are available in more than one-half of the villages, and middle schools exclusively for girls are available in only 3.33 per cent of the villages. None of the sample villages have a high/higher secondary school exclusively for girls; however, one-tenth of the villages have co-educational high/higher secondary schools. In case of girls, they have to travel more than 82 km to reach a high/higher secondary school exclusively meant for them. Besides, none of the sample villages have the facility of intermediate-college, ITI, polytechnic and other training schools, which are located at a mean distance between 75 km to 102 km away. Religious schools and non-formal educational institutions are available in about 3.33 per cent of the villages.

Table 2.1: Educational Facilities, 2008

Type of School	% of villages having	Mean distance*
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	66.67	1.00
Primary School (Girls)	3.33	70.44
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	56.67	7.76
Middle School (Girls)	3.33	63.53
High/Higher Secondary School (Boys)	10.00	51.00
High/Higher Secondary School (Girls)	0.00	82.69
Inter College	0.00	76.65
ITI	0.00	95.26
Polytechnic	0.00	102.06
Other Training School	0.00	75.67
Religious School	3.33	74.29
Non Formal	3.3	97.00

*For villages not having the educational facility.

Source: Survey.

Besides education, the availability of health facilities is very inadequate in sample villages. All the sample villages are devoid of health facilities such as ayurvedic hospitals and homeopathic hospitals, which are available at a distance of 50.9 km and 68.5 km respectively (see table 2.2). However, 13.3 per cent and 40 per cent of the villages have PHCs and primary health sub-centres respectively. Maternity and child care centres and family planning clinics are available in 16.7 per cent and 3.3 per cent of the villages respectively. The chemists/medicine shops are available in 43.3 per cent of the villages. The quacks are also approached for treatment of health ailment in 13.3 per cent of the villages. On the whole, the health conditions of the population living in the sample villages are appalling.

Table 2.2: Access to Health Facility, 2008

Type	% of villages having	Mean distance*
PHCs	13.3	11.7
Primary Health Sub Centre	40.0	4.0
CHCs	3.3	39.5
Hospital/Dispensary	10.0	38.3
Private Qualified Allopathic Doctors	6.7	38.0
Maternity Child care Centre	16.7	36.8
Ayurvedic Hospitals	0.0	50.9
Ayurvedic Doctors	3.3	43.4
Homeopathic Hospitals	0.0	68.5
Homeopathic Doctors	6.7	57.9
Quacks	13.3	49.1
Family Planning Clinics	3.3	60.6
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	43.3	10.8
Others	3.3	0.5

*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source: Survey.

Table 2.3 shows some other facilities in the sample villages of Mamit district. About 13.3 per cent of the villages have the facility of bus stop, regular market, and rural bank. Post offices and public telephones are available in 46.7 per cent and over 20 per cent of the villages respectively. Anganwadi and fair price shops are available in 60 per cent and 53.3 per cent of the villages respectively. Veterinary centre/sub-centre is available in 16.67 per cent of the villages; but commercial banks, fertilizer shops, seed storage facilities, and pesticide shops are not available in any of the sample villages. The mean distances to access the facilities lacking in the villages is more than 70 km, and are available in the State capital, Aizawl.

Table 2.3: Access to Other Facilities, 2008

Type	% of villages having	Mean distance* Km
Block HQ	6.7	24.7
Nearest Town	13.3	47.3
Nearest Bus Stop	13.3	32.5
Nearest Regular Market	13.3	52.5
Nearest Rail Station	3.3	133.1
Nearest Post Office	46.7	13.2
Public Telephone Connection	23.3	19.6
Commercial Bank	0.0	75.9
Rural Bank	13.3	28.8
Cooperative Bank	6.7	67.2
Anganwadi Centre	60.0	3.4
GP Office	46.7	11.8
Fair Price Shop	53.3	19.5
Fertilizer shop	0.0	83.5
Seed Storage	0.0	70.2
Pesticide Shop	0.0	83.5
Cold Storage	3.3	138.4
Other General Shops	50.0	10.4
Nearest Mandi	10.0	61.6
Milk Mandi	6.7	64.6
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	16.7	38.4

*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source: Survey.

Apart from the lack of institutions and infrastructure, the available educational and health institutions have only limited capacities. For example, whereas *pucca* school buildings are available in 2 out of 23 villages, cement flooring of school buildings exists in only 16 schools; toilet facilities and drinking water facility are available in 19 schools (see table 2.4).

Table 2.4: Physical Structure of Schools, 2008

Types		Number	Percentage
Type of Structure	Katcha/Thatch	1	4.3
	Katcha/Tile	5	21.7
	Semi-Pucca	15	65.2
	Pucca	2	8.7
	Total	23	100.0
Main Flooring Materials	Mud	3	13.0
	Brick	4	17.4
	Cement	16	69.6
	Total	23	100.0
Number of Class Rooms (Mean)	(Mean)		5.7
Usable Blackboards	Yes	22	95.7
	No	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0
Desks Availability	Yes for all students	22	95.7
	Yes for some students	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0
Number of School having Teachers	(Mean)		5.7
Number of schools by teachers present	(Mean)		9.6
Toilet Facility	Yes	19	82.6
	No	4	17.4
	Total	23	100.0
Drinking Water Facility	Yes	19	82.6
	No	4	17.4
	Total	23	100.0
Students Perception on Midday meal			
(a) Quality	Very Good	3	13.0
	Good	14	60.9
	Bad	1	4.3
	Average	5	21.7
	Total	23	100.0
(b) Preparation	Very Good	2	8.7
	Good	15	65.2
	Bad	3	13.0
	Average	3	13.0
	Total	23	100.0
(c) Regularity	Very Good	3	13.0
	Good	14	60.9
	Very Bad	2	8.7
	Average	4	17.4
	Total	23	100.0
Availability of			
(a) Slate	Yes	2	8.7
	No	21	91.3
	Total	23	100.0
(b) Note book	Yes	15	65.2
	No	8	34.8

	Total	23	100.0
(c) Books	Yes	17	77.3
	No	5	22.7
	Total	22	100.0
Punctuality, Discipline and Sincerity of Teachers			
(a) Punctuality	Very Good	1	4.3
	Good	19	82.6
	Bad	1	4.3
	Very Bad	1	4.3
	Average	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0
(b) Discipline	Very Good	1	4.3
	Good	20	87.0
	Very Bad	1	4.3
	Average	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0
(c) Sincerity	Very Good	1	4.3
	Good	20	87.0
	Very Bad	1	4.3
	Average	1	4.3
	Total	23	100.0

Source: Survey.

The perceptions of the students regarding availability of mid-day meals reveal the quality, preparation and regularity of meals to be good. Note books and books are provided by a few schools, slates are provided in just 2 schools. The punctuality, discipline and sincerity of the teachers are rated as good in most of the sample villages.

Chapter III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS¹

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Christians are the dominant population group (99.13 per cent). Muslim and Hindu households are proportionately very small. The average household size is 5.26 persons - lowest for Muslims (4.94) and highest for Hindus (5.77). The overall dependency is 1.73, which is highest among Christians (1.74) followed by Hindus (1.46) and Muslims (0.95). Average sex ratio is significantly high (1033), and is comparatively higher for Hindus (1276) and low for Muslim (656). The high sex ratio among Hindu and Christian households reflects a comparatively better status of females in these communities. Muslims have comparatively low sex ratio due to predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community. This may also be attributed to the practice of dowry. All this indicates lower women empowerment in the community compared to the Christians (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households (%)

Religion	Sample population (%)	Average HH size	Sex Ratio	Dependency ratio
Hindu	0.24	5.77	1276	1.46
Muslim	0.63	4.94	656	0.95
Christian	99.13	5.26	1035	1.74
Total	100.00	5.26	1033	1.73

Source: Survey.

Table 3.2: Age-Sex Distribution of Population

Age Group	Hindu			Muslim			Christian			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	9.44	7.40	8.29	11.70	8.30	10.35	9.31	9.91	9.61	9.33	9.89	9.62
5-14	20.38	41.65	32.31	37.89	30.15	34.82	19.93	19.76	19.84	20.06	19.87	19.96
15-24	19.82	16.54	17.98	1.82	8.30	4.39	22.06	25.72	23.92	21.91	25.61	23.79
25-29	10.91	3.49	6.75	15.35	23.10	18.42	9.34	8.94	9.14	9.38	8.99	9.19
30-44	13.89	18.87	16.69	25.04	19.72	22.93	17.73	18.20	17.97	17.78	18.21	18.00
45-59	25.56	12.04	17.98	1.37	5.53	3.02	13.24	11.68	12.45	13.18	11.66	12.41
60+	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.84	4.91	6.07	8.39	5.79	7.07	8.36	5.77	7.04
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.

¹ The number of Hindu and Muslim households that formed part of the sample is quite low. Because of that, figures related to Hindu and Muslim population of the sample villages may not be representative.

More than one-fourth of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years. This is more or less the same in the Christian community but not among the Hindu and Muslim communities among whom the proportion of children stood at 40 per cent and 45 per cent respectively in the child age group. Therefore, educational needs of these communities are higher. Gender equity in child sex ratio is noticeable among the Christians. About 23 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years and this is an important part of the labour pool. Nearly 25 per cent of the population is found in the age group of 25-44 years. The life expectancy is reportedly very low and 7.04 per cent of the population is found in the age group above 60 years. 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 self-employment opportunities in agro-based and services given the stagnant nature of the public sector and shrinking opportunities in the private industrial sector due to recession.

QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

Literacy Rate

The literacy level of those aged 7 years and above is higher among the males than females across religious groups (see table 3.3). Female literacy is lowest among Hindus and highest among Christians. The overall literacy is highest among the Christians followed by Muslims and Hindus. However, Muslims and Hindus constitute a small part of the sample. Overall, gender differential in literacy is noticeable. Comparatively Muslim females have higher literacy than males. However, Christian females have comparatively higher literacy than Muslim females. Lower female literacy needs the attention of educational planners and decision-makers, besides the community need to be made aware of the advantages of female education.

Table 3.3: Literacy Rates

Sex	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Male	80.32	87.96	96.96	96.85
Female	74.93	93.63	94.11	94.05
Persons	77.38	90.21	95.51	95.43

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 77 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. All boys of Hindu and Muslim households are attending government schools. More girls than boys of Christian households are attending government schools. Nearly 15 per cent of the children are enrolled in private schools. It seems that SSA is making its presence in the rural areas of the Mamit district, which is evident from the fact that high proportion of the children are enrolled in government schools. However, the target of 'education for all' is still some distance away and the quality of education being imparted in schools needs to be improved as a priority.

Table 3.4: Enrolment Status of 6-16 Years Population

(a) Enrolled and Attending Schools

Attending school	Hindu			Muslim			Christian			Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Going to govt school	100.00	89.81	93.05	100.00	66.37	85.27	75.01	79.15	77.15	75.29	79.11	77.27
Going to private School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.81	6.92	18.00	12.50	15.15	17.80	12.46	15.04
Going to Informal School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.19	0.39	0.00	0.19
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	1.08	0.74	0.37	1.06	0.73

Source: Survey.

(a) Never Enrolled

Never enrolled	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Boys	0.00	0.00	5.66	5.60
Girls	10.19	17.82	6.20	6.29
Both	6.95	7.80	5.94	5.96

Source: Survey.

(c) Drop Out

Drop out	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Boys	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.37
Girls	0.00	0.00	1.08	1.07
Both	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.73

Source: Survey.

The data on the incidence of non-enrolment as well as drop out rate is given in tables 3.4b and 3.4c. The proportion of children never enrolled is 5.96 per cent, which is a cause of some concern and calls for more vigorous campaign for SSA. In case of Christian households, 10.26 per cent and 5.9 per cent of male and female children are never enrolled in the schooling system. Likewise, 10.19 per cent and 17.82 per cent of the girls of Hindu and Muslim households have never been to a school. The drop out is comparatively low, but needs to be checked. Thus, there is a need to improve the quality of education and expand the school infrastructure.

Reasons for Dropout

No doubt, the enrolment 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 out are 'not interested in reading' and 'need to earn' besides some other reasons. There are variations in the reasons for drop outs among communities (see table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Reasons for Dropout

Reasons	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Need to earn	21.15	0.00	0.00	11.45
Far distance of school	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.78
Not interesting in reading	54.68	0.00	0.00	28.36
Others	22.66	100.00	0.00	59.41
Total	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

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

Educational Levels

The educational status of the sample households is modest. About one-third of population is educated (with educational levels high school and above) in the rural areas of Mamit district. The percentage of males and females with educational level of high school and above is respectively 35.67 and 32.43. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.72 per cent each (Table 3.6). The educational attainment of Muslim males and Hindu females is comparatively lower

than other two communities. Comparatively, Christian males and females have better and Muslims lower educational attainments. The disparities are noticeable across the communities and gender in educational attainment at various levels. Scholarships need to be given to poor but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrolment of the population beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

Table 3.6: Educational Levels

Level of education	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Male				
Educated (High School and above)	35.35	9.03	35.86	35.67
Degree and above	12.05	0.00	2.17	2.84
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.72
Female				
Educated (High School and above)	17.86	13.47	30.65	32.43
Degree and above	0.00	0.00	0.38	1.26
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	0.00	1.27	0.72
Person				
Educated (High School and above)	25.45	12.85	34.18	34.03
Degree and above	5.23	0.00	1.71	1.71
Technical degree/ diploma	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.54

Source: Survey.

Educational Levels of Youth

The educational status of youth is presented in table 3.7. The data clearly reveals that 2.29 per cent of them are illiterate (21.77 cent of Hindus, 22.98 per cent of Muslims and 2.22 per cent of Christians). Some 8.33 per cent of Christian youth are educated up to primary level. About 29.82 per cent and 46.11 per cent of them have education up to middle level and secondary level respectively. One-half of the Hindu youth have education up to middle level. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor, especially among Hindu and Muslim youth. A very small proportion of Christian youth has technical or vocational trainings. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, rural youth of Mamit district have lesser prospects in the labour market.

Table 3.7: Educational Levels of Youth (15-25 Years)

Educational category	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Illiterate	21.77	22.98	2.22	2.29
Below primary or informal education	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.23
Primary	0.00	65.48	8.33	8.43
Middle	51.56	11.55	29.82	29.82
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.00	0.00	1.32	1.32
Secondary	26.67	0.00	46.11	45.98
Higher Secondary	0.00	0.00	7.30	7.27
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.72
Technical or professional degree	0.00	0.00	2.68	2.67
Graduate degree	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12
Post-graduate degree	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Overall the educational attainments, particularly of the youth and females, are modest and need improvement. Poor educational attainment hampers future labour market prospects. Thus, 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 to the rural youth, besides providing free-ships and scholarships to needy youth from disadvantaged groups and minorities.

Per Capita Expenditure on Education

The average per capita expenditure on education is modest (Rs.386), and significant differentials exist among communities. For example, Hindu households are expending more (Rs.632) on education than Muslim and Christian households. Thus, SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage extended.

Government Assistance

The government is providing assistance in the form of books, uniforms, scholarships, mid-day meals, etc., to students for universal enrolment and retention in the educational system. Scholarships are given to students belonging to minority groups under a special scheme in every state. However, this scheme is not effectively implemented in the district. A high proportion of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to 29.41 per cent 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 enrolment 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 with scholarships and uniform assistance including mid-day meals. There is need to provide free elementary education among the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.

Table 3.8: Government Assistance (per cent)

Type of Assistance	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Books	100.00	100.00	96.01	96.06
Dress	0.00	0.00	1.28	1.26
Scholarship	0.00	0.00	3.41	3.36
Midday meal	51.26	71.34	28.93	29.41
Cycle	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.66
Others	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.26
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
% of students receiving assistance	93.05	85.27	71.94	72.11

Source: Survey.

ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

Land

Landlessness is a common feature among rural households of Mamit district. About 20 per cent of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Hindus (49.75 per cent) and Muslims (29.10 per cent). The average size of landholding of Muslim and Christian households is comparatively larger. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduces the livelihood options but also forces them to work on low wages which traps the landless households in poverty.

Livestock

The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stood at Rs. 9478, which is comparatively low (Rs. 3489) in case of Hindu households than Muslim (Rs.5761) and Christian (Rs.9516). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Hindu and Muslim households appeared to be poor, given the lower value of livestock. The possession of livestock by rural households provide them with draught power as well as milk, meat and other products depending upon the types of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve their livelihood conditions and nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.

Productive Assets

The mean value of productive assets possessed by the sample households was Rs.17416 (see table 3.9). As in the case of land, Hindu households have comparatively lower value of productive assets per household (Rs.3489) than the other communities. The productive assets possessed by Muslim and Christian households are comparatively higher and stood at Rs.5761 and Rs.17416 respectively.

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

Type of household	Productive other than land	Modern household
Hindu	3489	9908
Muslim	5761	13611
Christian	17524	19517
Total	17416	19456

Source: Survey.

Other Assets

Hindu households also possessed comparatively less modern household assets than other communities. The mean value of assets possessed by Hindu households stood at Rs.9908 as compared to Muslim (Rs.13611) and Christian (Rs.19517) (see table 3.9). Thus, possession of less modern household assets reflects the poor socio-economic conditions of the households.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Work Participation

The work participation is reportedly modest (49.53 per cent), and low among Muslim households (44.95 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.75 for males and 43.51 per cent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups. Low female work participation is reported across communities. This calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their participation in economic activities so that they are empowered and play their role within and outside the family in an effective way.

Table: 3.10: Work Participation Ratio

	Male	Female	Persons
Hindu	65.73	31.50	46.54
Muslim	45.99	43.36	44.95
Christian	55.79	43.55	49.56
All	55.75	43.51	49.53

Source: Survey.

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 self-employment in agriculture and allied activities is the dominant occupation (60.73 per cent of households) followed by casual wage labour in agriculture (24.71 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and gender. Some 86.44 per cent of the Muslim households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and none of the Hindu and Muslim households are self-employed in non-agricultural sector and casual wage worker in non-agriculture. About one-fourth of the Christian households are casual wage workers in agriculture. None of the women of Muslim households are regular salaried worker.

On the whole, the high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions and this force the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. The casual work in non-agricultural activities is also reportedly very low. Thus, 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, besides it may also empower them socially and politically, as the programme is being operationalised through SHGs.

Table 3.11: Nature of Employment

Employment Status	Hindu			Muslim			Christian			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture and allied activities	52.43	72.85	60.18	87.66	84.44	86.43	61.35	59.58	60.58	61.49	59.74	60.73
Self-employed in non-agricultural sector	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.36	4.70	3.38	2.34	4.67	3.36
Regular salaried	14.36	0.00	8.91	12.34	0.00	7.63	9.11	4.37	7.04	9.14	4.34	7.04
Casual wage labour in Agriculture	33.21	27.15	30.91	0.00	15.56	5.94	22.54	27.71	24.80	22.43	27.65	24.71
Casual wage labour in non-Agriculture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.64	3.63	4.20	4.60	3.60	4.16
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Sector of Employment

The industry-wise distribution of main workers in sample villages across the selected religious groups is given in table 3.11. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 88.08 per cent of the households' members are engaged. More or less similar is the situation across the communities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, construction, and trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, and public administration, education, health and other sectors. For example, 2.48 per cent 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 and more self-employment schemes like SGSY for rural poor so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis which would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings but would go a long way in empowering the women to play their part within the family and society.

Table 3.12: Workers by their Sector of Employment

Sectors	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	91.09	92.37	88.05	88.08
Mining & Quarrying	0.00	7.63	0.60	0.64
Manufacturing	0.00	0.00	3.78	3.75
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.50
Construction	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.65
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	8.91	0.00	1.95	1.96
Transport, Storage & Communication	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.73
Finance., Real Estate & Business	0.00	0.00	1.21	1.20
Public Administration, Education, Health & Others	0.00	0.00	2.50	2.48
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

The lower proportion of the workers engaged in modern sector of employment is mainly due to lack of infrastructure for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district derives its livelihood from agriculture and allied activities, which is also responsible for their poverty and deprivation. There is lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, and more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes have to be opened. This will facilitate local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector.

Unemployment and Search for Additional Employment

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

Income and Expenditure

The per capita income and expenditure reveals that rural economy of Mamit has a surplus. There are significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Christian and Hindu households is more than Muslim households (see table 3.12). The higher income is reported in those of the households which have more physical and human capital. Significant differentials are noticed in income-expenditure across the communities. On the whole, a high proportion of poor households derive their livelihood on a day-to-day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and non-agriculture sector.

Table 3.13: Average per Capita Income and Expenditure (Rs.)

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Expenditure (Rs.)	6719	5131	6053	6049
Income (Rs.)	10053	6807	10019	10000
Income-expenditure ratio	1.49	1.33	1.65	1.65

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 other items, health, education, and social ceremonies. 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 the per capita income and expenditure, though not very significant.

Table 3.14: Item-wise Per Capita Expenditure (Rs.)

Item	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Food	2489	2369	2813	2809
Education	632	311	386	386
Health	1043	709	557	559
Social Ceremonies	306	429	385	385
Interest/Loan	0	0	101	100
Others	2249	1312	1812	1810
Total	6719	5131	6053	6049

Source: Survey.

The situation of the households can be improved to an extent by providing better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus reducing the dependence of the poor households on more expensive private services.

HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.14, which reveals that 46.12 per cent of the households are living in semi-*pucca* houses and 25 per cent of them in thatched houses. A very low proportion of them (6.75 per cent) are living in *pucca* houses. None of the sample Hindu and Muslim households is living in *pucca* houses. The proportion of Christian households living *pucca* houses is also low (6.81 per cent), which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households.

Table 3.15: Type of Houses

Type of house	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Thatched	22.58	47.66	26.29	26.41
Kacha	0.00	4.09	10.51	10.44
Semi <i>Pucca</i>	77.42	48.25	46.03	46.12
<i>Pucca</i>	0.00	0.00	6.81	6.75
Others	0.00	0.00	10.37	10.28
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

About 18 per cent of the sample households live in one room and 44 per cent of them have two room accommodation and more than one-third of them have more than two room accommodation (see table 3.15). None of the Hindu household has two room accommodation. Nearly one-third of Muslim and Christian households are living in more than two room accommodation, which ensures privacy. On the whole, housing conditions are not satisfactory and IAY needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district.

Table 3.16: Number of Rooms per Household

Number of rooms	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Single Room	22.58	30.73	18.28	18.37
Two Room	77.42	37.77	44.41	44.45
More than two room	0.00	31.50	37.31	37.18
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Drinking Water

Drinking water facilities is not at all satisfactory in the district. Three-fourths of the households use drinking water from public source and 4.38 per cent of the households depend upon private sources (see table 3.16). The dependence of the rural poor households on private sources of drinking water is a serious concern, and needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government.

Table 3.17: Drinking Water

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Public	61.05	46.41	75.26	75.05
Private	0.00	15.03	4.32	4.38
Others	38.95	38.56	20.42	20.58

Source: Survey.

Toilets

A majority of the households (79.45 per cent) defecate in the open because of lack of in-house or public toilets. Just one-fifth of the households have in-house toilet facilities. All the Muslim households defecate outside the home in the open areas. The condition of drainage is also unsatisfactory in Muslim households. The practice of defecating in the open areas needs to be checked by providing assistance for in-house toilets or construction of public toilets such as Sulabh Shauchalay by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.

Table 3.18: Toilet Facilities

	Toilet	
	In house	Outside
Hindu	27.66	72.34
Muslim	0.00	100.00
Christian	20.66	79.34
All	20.55	79.45

Source: Survey.

Electricity

More than 85 per cent of the households are electrified. Nearly 85 per cent of the Christian households are electrified, and the percentage of electrified houses among the Hindus and Muslims is 64.78 and 74.29 respectively. Besides, sample households are also using non-electrified sources such as oil, lantern, and others for lighting. However, the target of universal electrification is still some distance away.

The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connection to the rural households by the end of 2009. But the progress appears nowhere near the target.

Table 3.19: Electricity

	Electrified	Non Electrified Sources			
		Oil lamp	Lantern	Petromax	Others
Hindu	64.78	24.28	75.72	0.00	24.28
Muslim	74.29	84.09	15.91	0.00	0.00
Christian	85.58	51.13	69.76	3.91	23.32
All	85.46	51.29	69.24	3.84	23.08

Source: Survey.

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 need to be trained to motivate and make the rural poor aware of the better health status.

Place of Child Birth

Nearly one-half of the last children born in sample households were at government hospitals. However, there are significant variations across the communities. All the last Hindu children were born at home. The proportion of the last child born at home is 46.55 per cent and 43.34 per cent in Muslim and Christian households respectively. None of the last Hindu and Muslim child was born in private hospitals. Thus, the system of institutional deliveries is quite poor (see table 3.17).

Assistance in Child Birth

The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is low (19.40 per cent), and is more among Muslim households (30.98 per cent) than in Christian households (19.36 per cent). Nearly 59 per cent of the delivery of the last child is performed by trained midwife/ASHA. Those of the children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, though the proportion of such children is comparatively low.

Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of children so that better pre and post natal care be provided to the children.

Table 3.20: Place of Child Birth and Help Received

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Place				
Govt hospital	0.00	53.45	53.05	52.94
Private hospital	0.00	0.00	3.64	3.61
At Home	100.00	46.55	43.34	43.45
Help in Child delivery				
Doctor	0.00	0.00	15.68	15.56
Trained Dai	0.00	69.02	59.29	59.25
Untrained Dai	0.00	30.98	19.36	19.40
Others	100.00	0.00	5.67	5.79

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 99 per cent 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 lower (86.94 per cent) (see table 3.18). None of the Hindu child is fully immunised. Thus, NRHM needs to be strengthened in the district.

Table 3.21: Immunisation Status of Children

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Any Type of doze	100.00	100.00	99.38	99.39
Fully Immunised	0.00	81.60	87.15	86.94

Source: Survey.

Morbidity

Malaria is the most common health problem faced by 30.32 per cent of sample households. Fever, pain in stomach, cough and cold, typhoid and jaundice are also prevalent. Besides, complication during pregnancy and child births are also problems faced by rural households. On an average, Rs.559 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure; the amount is comparatively more for Hindu households (Rs.1043) than Muslim (Rs.709) and Christian households (Rs.557).

On the whole, the dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high as compared to government hospital. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission in a big way.

INDEBTEDNESS

Incidence of Indebtedness

A small proportion of the households is in debt and is confined to only the Muslim community (see table 3.19). The average amount of loan raised is modest (Rs.9212).

Table 3.22: Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Average (Rs.)	0.00	9212	0.00	9212
% Indebted households	0.00	3.61	0.00	3.61

Source: Survey.

Source of Debt

The institutional source of finance is widely available. The dependence on traders, friends/relatives, and professional money lender is virtually absent, which is highly encouraging. There is need to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that the poor villagers can raise more and more credit for productive purposes, including self-employment in non-agricultural enterprises. .

Use of Loans

The loans have been raised by the indebted Muslim households for varied purposes. The indebtedness incurred for productive investment is comparatively more than non-productive purposes. The households have raised credit for capital investment in farm and non-farm activities including purchase of land/house, renovation of house and meeting educational expenses of their children. The raising of loan for productive purposes is very encouraging and more credit facilities through institutional mechanisms need to be provided to improve rural livelihood opportunities.

The banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment to rural poor. 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 (54.36 per cent) is living below poverty line (BPL); however, 86.92 per cent of them had BPL ration cards and 55.17 per cent avail PDS facility (see table 4.1). This implies that some of the BPL households do not have BPL card and some of the non-BPL card holders are getting BPL ration. Community-wise, 11.29 per cent of Hindu households are BPL and 25.83 per cent of them have BPL cards -- all of them are getting BPL ration. This is not the case with Christian and Muslim households. Thus, some of the poor households belonging to BPL category are not having BPL card, and all those who have BPL cards are not getting BPL ration.

Table 4.1 : PDS Coverage

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
BPL HHs	11.29	33.55	54.61	54.36
BPL HH getting ration	100.00	85.10	86.90	86.92
Having BPL card	25.83	33.55	53.37	53.17

Source: Survey.

Nearly two-thirds of the sample households have complained about dishonesty in measurement of PDS ration followed by bad quality (52.13 per cent), irregular supply (41.70 per cent), and insufficient quantity (22.16 per cent) in availing PDS facility. Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing PDS facility (see table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Problems being faced with the PDS

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Total
Insufficient quantity	0.00	0.00	22.30	22.16
Bad quality	0.00	55.97	52.18	52.13
Dishonesty in measurement	100.00	90.07	63.77	63.95
Non Availability of time	30.42	9.93	22.48	22.43
Irregular supply	0.00	27.47	41.83	41.70
Others	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.70

Note: Based on multiple responses

Source: Survey.

The huge difference in the numbers 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, 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 for the rural poor population due to heavy demand on these basic services. Similar is the situation with availability of medicines, though it has marginally improved during the last few years. The availability of doctors, especially lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals, is a major demand of the rural population. At the same time, presence of quacks in the villages has an adverse impact on the overall healthcare; they incur heavy expenditure on health care without getting proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaign to educate rural poor people about their health care.

Education

The availability and accessibility of 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 also available in all government schools, however, its quality and regularity is not assured. It is unfortunate that just to avail more assistance under mid-day scheme, multiple enrolments 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 marginalises the government aided schooling system. There is hardly any voice raised for improving the quality and accountability of elementary education since better-off households tend to remain indifferent as they are hardly affected.

For quality teaching, 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 per cent. All the households are aware of SGSY, IAY, ICDS, old-age pension, SSA, NREGA, TSC, ARWSP and Maternity Benefit Scheme.

Aspirations

The provision of educational facilities followed by health facilities within villages ranks at top in the items of aspirations relating to development. The aspiration for assured employment within or nearby villages is the third important development priority. Proper drainage and housing is also aspired as development needs by the households. Surprisingly, all communities ranked their development priorities similarly.

Table 4.3 : Aspirations of Respondents in Order of Their Ranks

Facilities	Hindu		Muslims		Christian	
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Educational facilities	77.53	1	60.27	1	22.17	1
Health	77.53	2	39.89	2	46.49	2
Employment	22.47	3	19.42	3	15.91	3
Drainage	0.00	4	0.00	4	1.65	4
Housing	0.00	5	0.00	5	1.45	5

Source: Survey.

The rural population of the district has participated in state assembly and parliamentary elections, which reflect very high level of political participation on their part. However, very insignificant proportion of them is member of self help groups (SHG). All the people are members of religious organisation. Thus, the level of social participation is also very high, which may be attributed to high penetration of religious organisations and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in rural areas of the district.

Chapter V

KEY FINDINGS AND POLICY ISSUES

- The total population of Mamit district was 62,785, of which more than 82 per cent lives in rural areas, which is higher than the State share of rural population. Scheduled tribes constitute 94 per cent of the population of the district, which is not at all surprisingly as the state average stands at 96 per cent.
- Christians are the dominant population group (99.13 per cent). Muslim and Hindu households are proportionately very small. The average household size is 5.26 persons, lowest for Muslims (4.94) and highest for Hindus (5.77). The overall dependency is 1.73, which is higher among Christians (1.74) followed by Hindus (1.46) and Muslims (0.95).
- Average sex ratio is significantly high (1033), and is comparatively high for Hindus (1276) and low for Muslims (656). The high sex ratio in Hindu and Christian households reflects a comparatively better status of females in these communities. Muslims have comparatively lower sex ratio due to predominance of traditional practices, prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community. All this indicates lower women's empowerment in the community compared to Christians.
- More than one-fourth of the population is in the unproductive age group of below 15 years. This is more or less the same in the Christian community. But in the Hindu and Muslim communities, the proportion of children is comparatively more and stood at 40 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. Therefore, educational needs of these communities are high. .
- About 23 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years. This group supplies more labour force and the fear of unemployment is more within these communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment.
- The life expectancy is low and 7.04 per cent of population is found in the age group above 60 years. None of the Muslims have survived beyond 60 years.
- The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is higher among males than females across the religious groups. Female literacy is lowest among Hindus and highest among the Christians.

- Nearly 77 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. All boys of Hindu and Muslim households are attending government schools. More girls than boys of Christian households are attending government schools. Nearly 15 per cent of the children are enrolled in private schools. The proportion of the children never enrolled is 5.96 per cent. The drop out is comparatively low, which however, needs to be checked.
- One-third of the population is educated up to high school and above level in the rural areas of Mamit district. The percentage of males and females with educational level of high school and above is respectively 35.67 and 32.43. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 0.72 per cent each. The educational attainment of Muslim males and Hindu females is comparatively lower than other two communities. Comparatively, Christian males and females have better educational attainment, whereas Muslims have lower educational attainment. The disparities are noticeable across the communities and gender in educational attainment at various levels.
- About 8 per cent of Christian youth are educated up to primary level. About 29.82 per cent and 46.11 per cent of them have education up to middle level and secondary level respectively. One-half of the Hindu youth have education up to middle school level and 46.11 per cent of the Christian youth have educational attainment up to secondary level. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor, especially among Hindu and Muslim youth. A very small proportion of Christian youth has technical or vocational trainings. Due to lower educational attainment, including vocational and technical education, rural youth of Mamit district have lesser prospects in the labour market.
- The average per capita expenditure on education is modest (Rs. 386); however, significant differentials exist among communities. For example, Hindu households are spending more (Rs. 632) on education than Muslim and Christian households. Thus, SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage extended, which may enable the rural poor in providing basic education.
- A high proportion of the students in the age group of 5-16 years are getting assistance in the form of books. Midday meals are being provided to 29.41 per cent of the students (see table 3.8). The educational assistance in the form of dress and

scholarships are being provided to comparatively a smaller proportion of the students.

- About one-fifth of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Hindu (49.75 per cent) and Muslim (29.10 per cent). The average size of landholding is however comparatively larger in Muslim and Christian households. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduces the livelihood options but also makes them vulnerable by working on low wage levels, which traps the landless households in poverty.
- The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stood at Rs.9,478, which is comparatively lower (Rs.3489) in case of Hindu households than Muslim (Rs.5761) and Christian (Rs.9516). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Hindu and Muslim households seems to be poor.
- The work participation is modest (49.53 per cent), and low among Muslim households (44.95 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.75 for males and 43.51 per cent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups.
- Self-employment in agriculture and allied activities is dominant occupation in sample households (60.73 per cent) followed by casual wage labour in agriculture (24.71 per cent). However, there are significant variations in occupational status across the religious groups and gender. Some 86.44 per cent of the Muslim households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and neither of the Hindu and Muslim households are self-employed in non-agricultural sector or casual wage worker in non-agriculture. About one-fourth of the Christian households are casual wage workers in agriculture. None of the women of Muslim households are regular salaried worker.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 88.08 per cent of the household members are engaged. More or less similar is the situation across the communities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, construction, and trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate and business, and public administration, education, health and other sectors.

- There have been significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Christian and Hindu households is more than Muslim households. The higher income is reported in those of the households which have more physical and human capital. High proportion of poor households is deriving their livelihood on a day to day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and non-agriculture sector. Nearly 46 per cent of the households are living in semi-*pucca* houses and one-fourth of them have thatched houses. A very low proportion of them (6.75 per cent) are living in *pucca* houses. None of the sample Hindu and Muslim households is living in *pucca* houses. The proportion of Christian households living in *pucca* houses is also low (6.81 per cent), which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households. About 18 per cent of the sample households live in one room and 44 per cent of them have two room accommodation and more than one-third of them have more than two room accommodation. None of the Hindu household has two-room accommodation. Nearly one-third of Muslim and Christian households are living in more than two-room accommodation, which ensures privacy.
- Three-fourths of the households receive drinking water from public sources and 4.38 per cent of the households depend upon private sources. A majority of the households (79.45 per cent) are defecating outside in the open; just 20 per cent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. All the Muslim households are defecating outside the home in the open areas. The condition of drainage is also unsatisfactory in Muslim households.
- Nearly one-half of the last children born in sample households were at government hospitals. However, there are significant variations across the communities. All the last Hindu children were born at home. The proportion of the last child born at home is 46.55 per cent and 43.34 per cent in Muslim and Christian households respectively. None of the last Hindu and Muslim child was born in private hospitals. Thus, the system of institutional delivery is very poor. The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is low (19.40 per cent), which is more in Muslim households (30.98 per cent) than Christian households (19.36 per cent). Nearly 59 per cent of the delivery of last child was performed by trained midwife/ASHA. Those of the children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, though the proportion of such children is comparatively low.

- 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 99 per cent of the households have immunised their children below the age of 5 years against at least one type of disease. But the proportion of the children fully immunised is lower (86.94 per cent).
- Malaria is the most common health problem faced by 30.32 per cent of sample households. Fever, pain in stomach, cough and cold, typhoid and jaundice are also prevalent. Besides, complication during pregnancy and child births are serious problems faced by rural households. On average, Rs.559 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure, comparatively more by Hindu households (Rs.1043) than Muslim (Rs.709) and Christian households (Rs.557).
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high as compared to government hospitals. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment.
- A small proportion of the households is in debt and this is confined to only the Muslim community. The average amount of loan raised is modest (Rs.9212). Institutional sources of finance are widely available. The indebtedness for productive investment is comparatively larger than non-productive purposes, and needs to be further promoted to improve rural livelihood opportunities.
- More than one-half of the sample population (54.36 per cent) is living below poverty line (BPL), however, 86.92 per cent of them had BPL ration cards and 55.17 per cent are availing PDS facility. This implies that some of the BPL HH does not have BPL cards and some of the non-BPL card holders are receiving BPL ration.
- Nearly two-thirds of the sample households have complained about dishonesty in measurement of PDS ration followed by bad quality (52.13 per cent), irregular supply (41.70 per cent), and insufficient quantity (22.16 per cent) in availing PDS facility.
- The provision of educational facilities followed by health facilities within villages ranks at top in items of aspirations relating to development. The aspiration for assured employment within or nearby villages is the third important development priority.

Proper drainage and housing is also aspired as development needs by the households. All communities have ranked the development priorities similarly.

- The rural population of the district has participated in state assembly and parliamentary elections, which reflect high level of political participation on their part. However, very insignificant proportion of them is member of self help groups (SHG). All the households' members are also member of religious organisation. Thus, the level of social participation is high, which may be attributed to high penetration of religious organisations and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in rural areas of the district.

Policy Issues

- 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 and horticulture-based and tourism sector given the stagnancy in the public sector and shrinking opportunities in the private industrial sector due to recession
- The educational attainment, particularly among youth and that too among females, is modest and needs improvement. Poor educational attainment hampers their future labour market prospects. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of population, particularly 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 minorities.
- Gender differential in literacy is noticeable across communities. This needs attention of the educational planners and decision-makers.
- SSA is making its presence in the rural areas of the district though at a slower pace, which is evident from the fact that still a significant proportion of the children are enrolled in private schools. This may also reflect the relatively better socio-economic conditions of the households, which enable them to depend on private schools for getting knowledge and education. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream. There is need to speed up the efforts of government in ensuring cent per cent enrolment of children in school going age group with zero drop outs, which would be possible if the quality of education is

improved and school infrastructure is expanded. Thus, the gap in the process of human capital formation in case of both communities as well as gender needs to be bridged on priority by following community as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

- The main reason cited for drop out is 'work at home'. Thus, there is need to make the parents aware about the benefits of education and the educational system needs to be improved to make it more interesting to the children. Livelihood opportunities need to be created for the rural poor to eliminate the incidence of child labour.
- The educational attainment is lower in both the communities and gender at various levels, which needs to be improved, for which more scholarships may be given to the poor but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrollment beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.
- In order to increase enrolment and retention of students, there is a need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance to the district. The poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and uniform assistance. There is need to provide free elementary education to the rural poor of the district.
- The possession of livestock by rural households provide them with draught power as well as milk, meat and other products depending upon the types of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve livelihood conditions including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.
- The low female work participation is a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities so that they are empowered.
- The government scheme of NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households 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 effectively in the district, so that the poor households may earn a sustainable living. It may also empower them socially and politically, as the programme is being operationalised through the SHGs.

- Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more self-employment schemes such as SGSY for rural poor so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis.
- The lower proportion of the workers engaged in modern sector of employment is mainly due to lack of infrastructure for industrial development. A large proportion of the population of the district derives their livelihoods from agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. There is lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district, which needs to be attended to by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes.
- Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among the communities. As such search of additional employment for augmenting household income and status is high. However, due to lack of trainings and skills, the employability of local population is comparatively low. Thus, their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.
- The economic situation of the households can be improved by providing better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus, reducing their dependence on expensive private services.
- The dependence on private sources of drinking water needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government. .
- The practice of open defecation though on a lower scale needs to be checked by providing assistance for in-house toilet facilities and public toilets by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.
- The system of institutional deliveries presents an encouraging picture of rural reproductive and child health care system in the district, which needs to be strengthened to ensure cent per cent institutional birth and child care.
- There is need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependence on private sources.
- The banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking 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.

- The huge difference in the numbers 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 by improving its working and coverage and making it corruption free.