

Minority Concentration District Project

North Sikkim, Sikkim

Sponsored by the Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

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The Minority Concentrated Districts Project

An Overview

The MCD project aims to provide a baseline survey on the state of minorities in the districts identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India. Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, undertakes the project in the following districts: Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Nadia, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Bardhaman, Koch Behar, Haora, Gajapati, North Sikkim and Nicobar Islands.¹

The objective of the proposed study has been conducting a baseline survey on religious minority population under the aegis of Indian Council of Social Science Research and funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. A total of ninety districts have been selected by the Ministry of Minority Affairs on the basis of three criteria, viz. minority population, religion specific socio economic indicators and basic amenities indicators. The Ministry has classified the districts with substantial minority population on the basis of religion specific socio economic indicators and basic amenities indicators respectively. The four religion specific socio-economic indicators are: (i) literacy rate, (ii) female literacy rate, (iii) work participation rate and (iv) female work participation rate. The four basic amenities are: (i) % of households with *pucca* walls, (ii) % of households with safe drinking water, (iii) % of households with electricity and (iv) % of households with W/C latrines. A total of 53 districts with both sets of indicators below national average were considered more backward and were classified into group 'A' and 37 districts with either of the indicator values below national average were classified into group 'B'. Group B was further classified into two sub-categories – B1 for which religion specific socio-economic indicators are below national average and B2 for which basic amenities indicators are below national average. The minorities are defined on the basis of National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992 and includes Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis).

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta would carry out the survey in 11 districts of West Bengal and one each in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Orissa and Sikkim. Of the 11 districts of West Bengal Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum,

¹ The spellings for the districts and state are in accordance with West Bengal Human Development Report, 2004

Nadia, South 24 Parganas, Brdhaman and Kochbihar are in group A while Haora, North 24 Parganas are in group B (sub-category B1). Nicobars in Andaman and Nicobar Island and North Sikkim in Sikkim are in group B (sub-category B2). Gajapati district in Orissa is in group A. It may also be noted that all the 11 districts of West Bengal are marked for Muslim minority category while Gajapati and Nicobars are marked for Christian minority category and North Sikkim for the Buddhist minority category.

The purpose of this survey is to help the district administration draw action plan for socio economic and infrastructure development of the selected districts for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing the imbalances during the 11 th. Five Year Plan. However, it may be noted that the benefits will accrue all sections of people in the district where intervention is executed (use a better term) and not only the minorities. To give a specific example, if a school is built up then all groups of people should have access to this school and not that only the Muslims in a district marked for a Muslim concentrated district.

Before elaborating on the MCD Project, it would be useful to highlight some of the main objectives of the Sachar Committee Report, upon which the latter is envisaged and formulated. The Sachar Committee Report (2006) on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community primarily dealt with the question of whether different socio-religious categories in India have had an equal chance to reap the benefits of development with a particular emphasis on Muslims in India. It proposes to identify the key areas of intervention by Government to address relevant issues relating to the socio-economic conditions of the Muslim community (SCR, 3).² Besides indicating the developmental deficits, the report illustrates how the perception among Muslims that they are discriminated against and excluded, is widespread (SCR, 237).

Significance of the MCD Project

The purpose of this survey is to help the district administration draw an action plan for socio economic and infrastructure development of the selected districts for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing the imbalances during the 11 th. Five Year Plan. However, it may be noted that the benefits will accrue all sections of people in the district where intervention is applied. To give a specific example, if a school is built up, then all groups of people would

² Sachar Committee Report shall be abbreviated as 'SCR'.

have access to this school irrespective of socio-religious category. Based on the survey report, the MCD proposes to provide support, fiscal and otherwise, to all communities irrespective of religious affiliations.

From a sociological point of view the vision of the MCD project is to open up an in-depth understanding about not just the Muslim community but other minority communities as well, to ensure overall growth and development of the districts--that the term 'minority' is not restricted or limited to the Muslim community only, thus reinforcing the need for equity and inclusion as proposed in Sachar Report. In the Indian imagination, the term 'minority' is coeval with the Muslim community. The Sachar Report writes of how this particular community imagine themselves and is imagined by other socio-religious communities (SCR, p. 11) and observes how "the Muslims complained that they are constantly looked upon with a great degree of suspicion not only by certain sections of society but addresses the issues relating to Muslim minority community, the MCD makes for provisions to look into other socio-economic aspects common to all poor people and to minorities.

While the Sachar Committee Report agrees that the widespread perception of discrimination among the Muslim community needs to be addressed, nonetheless it admits that there are hardly any empirical studies that establish discrimination. (SCR, p. 239). The term, when associated particularly with the Muslim community, is fraught with negative meanings, imageries, and ideas that may trigger further speculation. It is highly tinged with multi-layered causalities, and therefore any one to one correlation would make a simplistic argument. Needless to say, initiating a dialogue on the subject of discrimination and deprivation is not easy.³ Under the circumstance, the MCD project's baseline survey, in a way, acts as a tool⁴ to perpetuate wider social awareness, among the minority concentrated districts thereby constructively sustaining ongoing discussions and dialogues on this delicate issue. In doing so, it urges the larger society to think through issues of discrimination and the likes such as casteism, groupism, etc., —the social hurdles which appear to play little to no direct roles in addressing and reducing

³ During the course of our survey, the discussions on 'discrimination' and 'deprivation' were carefully articulated to the respondent. People ranging from Government officials to the people in the communities have been careful about not using certain terminologies during conversations.

⁴ It would be useful to look at how a survey in itself can be a tool to generate social awareness. This argument calls for further elaboration that is beyond the scope of the present report.

developmental deficits, are nonetheless inextricably linked to the overall growth and advancement of the country.⁵

By focusing on the 14 districts, extended over 3 states and 1 union territory, viz. West Bengal, Orissa, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands respectively, the MCD project headed by the Center for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, aims to gain an in-depth and detailed view of the socio-economic conditions of the communities living in these districts and create socio-economic profiles of the districts by identifying the key developmental deficits viz. health, literacy rate, female work participation etc. that have a significant bearing on the overall growth and expansion of a State. The project is a district level plan that doesn't necessarily target the minority community, and therefore although it will identify the minority community, the funds will be allocated across communities irrespective of socio-religious affiliations. (See ICSSR's Expert Committee Meeting on Baseline Survey of Minority Concentration Districts, p.2)

The MCD also looks into issues pertaining to non-implementation of various schemes and programmes offered by the Government. The Sachar Committee quotes of how the 'non-implementation' of several earlier Commissions and Committee has made the Muslim community wary of any new initiative (SCR, 10).

The Survey

The MCD project undertakes a baseline survey to address the socio-economic issues of the district communities. A baseline survey is significant as it creates a rich database, which allows us to interrogate, and provides us with more research options. Also, it allows us to create a benchmark for future survey on the focused areas that need immediate Government intervention. The new data collected and collated by baseline survey will thus build on and supplement the existing data provided by Census and the Sachar Committee.

There is a need to describe developmental deficits in terms of figures and numbers, one has to take cognizance of how the 'social' is intertwined with the economic parameters of human conditions and vice versa. This approach towards research would allow us to gain a holistic perspective while at the same time enabling us to stay focused on certain key aspects of development of the minority concentrated districts.

⁵ The Sachar Committee Report notes that the widespread perception of discrimination among the Muslim community needs to be addressed but admits that 'there are hardly any empirical studies that establish discrimination.' (SCR, p.239)

Previous research such as the State HDR (West Bengal) did not treat the Muslim community as a separate socio-religious group. While data for SC/STs and on gaps in development exist, the absence of focus on the Muslim community does not bring to the fore their specific socio-economic status. While certain socio-economic conditions would be applicable across communities in terms of literacy, employment, or such like, a specific focus on minorities would also show the relative position vis-à-vis other disadvantaged groups namely the SC/STs. The advantage of focusing on the conditions of minorities in terms of standard socio-economic indices is to clearly highlight their condition, which would have been glossed over if the research were conducted by focusing on the SC/STs only.

Methodology

The survey has been conducted in two stages. The census villages are the primary sampling units. Based on the proportion of minority population the development blocks and accordingly the villages are grouped into three strata where first stratum is top 20%, second one is middle 50% and the third is the bottom 30%. If district population is more than 0.5 Million then a total of 30 villages will be chosen which will be distributed in the three strata in proportion to population of the respective strata. The villages are chosen by the method of probability proportional to size given the number of villages to be chosen from each stratum. In the second stage a total of 30 households are chosen from each village randomly in proportion to religious group in the total population of the village. However our population is not the whole village but two hamlet groups if village population exceeds 1200. The hamlet group with highest concentration of minority population is chosen with probability one and another is chosen from the rest hamlet groups randomly. Typical size of a hamlet group is 600.

The methodology employs two types of survey instruments – one, a rural household questionnaire and second, a village schedule. Household schedule would be used to identify socio-economic parameters, as well as, to understand both the individual and the collective experiences of people living in these areas. The village schedule would be instrumental in collecting the village average data. This data will be collected from the various government offices, such as the office of the District Magistrate, the Block Development Officer, the Agricultural Department; the office of the Panchayat Pradhan, ICDS centres etc. It will be useful

in understanding the nature of the village in terms of availability of infrastructure, access to basic amenities such as health services, education, land and irrigation and the like.

Besides very few descriptive open-ended questions, the questionnaires primarily consist of short, close-ended questions, with appropriate coding categories. An instruction sheet with comments, wherever necessary, is annexed for further clarification of the questionnaire if and when so required. Pre-testing of the questionnaire was accomplished through various drafts, where members of the faculty and team met and discussed on a weekly basis, to evaluate the comprehensibility, conviviality, (whether the questions are relevant) and competency (whether the respondents will be able to answer reliably) of the questions being asked.

The methodology has required appointing and training supervisors and field investigators in the districts for conducting the survey among the rural householders effectively. The interviews have been carried out with the consent and voluntary participation of the respondents. Confidentiality and their right to privacy have been safeguarded at all times.

Introducing Sikkim

Sikkim has a population of 540493 which 0.05% of the whole country. It accounts for 0.22 % of India's total area, has a very low density of population which is 76 per square km. Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity are the main religions of the state. Buddhists account for 28.11% of total population. Sikkim is mainly an agriculture based and in recent time tourism has emerged as the growing sector. 88.9% of the population live in the rural areas. About 19.2% of the total population lives below the poverty line.

North Sikkim

The district of North Sikkim as Buddhist minority district and belongs to category 'B' of the MCD districts with 55.08% Buddhist population and religion specific average socio-economic indicator values of 56.1 and average basic indicator value 38.1⁶

Mangan, district headquarter, is around 95 Kms. from Gangtok, the state capital and

⁶ The corresponding national averages are 45.8% and 41.7% respectively as calculated by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

connected by road. There are 2 C.D. blocks, 18 *Gram Panchayats* and 98 Panchayat Wards in the district. The district has 76 schools, 23 health centres, and a total of 12 doctors.

Demography

Of the 4 districts of Sikkim, North Sikkim ranks 4th in terms of Human Development Index (Human Development Report, 2001). In fact it has remained so since 1998. The density of population is 9.7 per square Km. which is the lowest in the state. The total population of the district is 41023 (Census, 2001). Of the total population the urban population is a little above 1200 which is concentrated around Mangan, which is a notified town. The literacy rate is 54%. A large part of North Sikkim is uninhabited, mostly in the northern part. The major cash crop is cardamom. Tourism is the most important economic activity the district that is the source of livelihood for majority population.

Selected Villages in Respective Blocks

Block / Tehsil	Village Code	Village Name	Households	Population
Chungthang	00000100	LACHEN	1609	2923
	00000200	LACHUNG	1467	2800
	00000300	CHUNGTHANG	1567	3766
	00000400	SHIPGYER	166	695
	00000500	TUNG	52	201
	00000600	LACHEN FOREST BLOCK	12	32
	00000700	LACHUNG FOREST BLOCK	9	26
	00000800	CHUNGTHANG FOREST BLOCK	15	59
Mangan	00000900	NAGA-NAMGOR [@]	114	504
	00001700	LINGDEM	97	542
	00002100	LUM	60	338
	00002300	GOR	155	873
	00002700	LINGDONG	139	805
	00002800	ZIMCHUNG [@]	606	2697
	00002900	SINGHIK	412	1898
	00003000	RINGHIM	112	712
	00003600	SHEYAM	122	617
	00003700	TANGYEK	154	754
	00003800	RAMTHANG	90	513
	00003900	RONGONG [@]	162	728
	00004000	TUMLONG	65	362
	00004200	CHAWANG	110	590

Note: Villages marked with @ are repeated once.

Findings

In line with the aims and objectives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, CSSSC has identified the following key areas in the District of North Sikkim. We systematically provide the district level observations followed by village level findings on a variety of aspects including the broad categories of **Basic Amenities; Education; Health; Infrastructure; Occupational conditions; Existence and Efficacy of Government Schemes and any other issue** that is crucial for a better understanding of the conditions of the minorities as well as the general population in the district. **We provide two sets of tables – one for the data across villages to capture the locational variations preceded by the district averages computed for all the households surveyed in all the sample villages chosen for the district.**

1. Basic Amenities

We begin with a distribution of the Basic Amenities in the district of North Sikkim calculated at the level of villages considered under the primary survey and it includes the types and percentage of houses under Kutcha/ Pucca constructions, percentage of electrified houses, the average distance of each house within a specific village from its source of drinking water, the percentage of houses in these villages with access to toilet facilities, and the type of fuel used. The results show, and in particular, in comparison with some of the other districts in other provinces surveyed under this project, that there has actually been visible development in some of the key areas. One could perhaps begin with the level of electrification at the district average that stands at 95% for Buddhist households as against 92% for non-Buddhist households. Given the general locational difficulties in terms of accessibility we consider this and the achievements in terms of setting up in-house toilet facilities (Buddhists, 94%, non-Buddhists, 96%) as exemplary for most other districts surveyed, which despite relative locational advantages have strayed far from the desired level of provisions under these categories. Not surprisingly, the availability of drinking water, at the district average is largely skewed in favour of collection from ponds/rivers/streams and only a small percentage do get the benefit of own hand pump or tube well. The beneficiaries of water supply through taps is also not very low – on an average 37% households under both Buddhist and non-Buddhist religious categories receive the supply on a regular basis (Table 1).

It is also expected that majority of the houses in this district would not be of the entirely pucca category, due to their locations in the hilly region. Still, village wise distribution shows that (Table 2) inhabitants in Lachung village are endowed with the largest percentage of houses of this type, while the villages of Tung and Lingdbm have none. The larger percentage of houses in this district is in the kutcha-pucca category and mostly owned (Buddhists, 95% and non-Buddhists 70%, vide Table 3). However, it is also reported that only a very small percentage of houses (1.9% for Buddhists) have been built with IAY allotted funds. The average value of Buddhists houses (at Rs. 3 lakhs) is almost twice that of non-Buddhist houses (at Rs. 1 lakh 30 thousand). Despite the inter-village variation, even casual empiricism reflects that the conditions are not too dismal, and with adequate top ups in appropriate villages as identified by this survey (Table 2), the district as a whole may be sufficiently equipped with this particular basic amenity. The average distance to drinking water, nonetheless, remains at 1.4 km from surveyed households. In addition, most households depend on wood as their primary source of fuel, and except again for Lachung (39% households), all other villages report very low percentage of LPG users. The last two entries reflect that a substantial amount of time is spent for collection of water and fuel for daily usage and may be treated as a loss of their marketable labour hours, in case such opportunities are available.

In terms of communication facilities, of course, 100 percent of residents are not covered, but the share of people either with a landline connection or a mobile connection or both is sufficiently high (60% Buddhists with mobile connections, Table 4). The percentage is not too different for non-Buddhists, as also with private means of transport, like two-wheelers, where the district average as obtained from household survey data is around 2.4 %. We believe that this may be either due to under-reporting or because of the fact that the true users are really miniscule in number. Nonetheless, it definitely is an issue that may not be completely overlooked if personal mobility is one of the concerns that the authorities intend to improve upon.

Table 1: Basic Amenities of Household – District Averages (%)

Amenities		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Percentage of houses electrified		94.56	91.77
Primary source of light if house is not electrified (%)	Oil Lamp	83.33	66.67
	Oil Lantern	12.50	0.00
	Petromax	0.00	0.00
	Others	4.17	33.33
Source of Water (%)	Own Hand Pump/ Tube Well	5.05	3.66
	Public Hand Pump/ Tube Well	4.01	0.00
	Tap water	37.28	36.59
	Public Un-protected dug Well	0.70	0.00
	Public Protected dug Well	0.87	0.00
	Pond/River/Stream	40.94	39.63
	Others	11.15	20.12
Average Distance from source of Water (K.M)		1.39	1.35
Position of Toilet (%)	In House	93.63	96.34
	Outside House	6.37	3.66
Type of Toilet (%)	Septic Tank Latrine	84.47	63.29
	Water Sealed Latrine in House	7.95	14.56
	Pit Latrine	4.17	13.29
	Covered Dry Latrine	1.70	3.80
	Well Water Sealed	0.95	3.16
	Others	0.76	1.90
Primary Source of Fuel (%)	Wood	84.38	86.59
	Coal	0.69	1.22
	Kerosene Oil	5.38	2.44
	Leaves/ Hay	0.00	0.00
	LPG	7.12	6.71
	Others	2.43	3.05
Drainage Facility (%)	% with drainage facility in house	25.81	20.99

Source: Household survey data.

Table 2: Basic Amenities of Household (in percentages)

Name of the Village	Type of Houses			Avg. dist. for source of Drinking water (Km.)	Electrified houses	Households having Septic Tank /water/Sealed/Well-water Latrine	Type of Fuel used						Toilet outside house
	Kutcha	Kutcha-Pucca	Pucca				Wood	Coal	Kerosene Oil	Leaves/Logs	LPG	Others	
SHIPGYER	38.10	14.29	33.33	1.68	86.67	89.47	62.96	7.41	14.8	0.0	3.7	11.11	34.48
LACHEN	0.00	25.93	74.07	1.26	100.00	95.65	93.33	0.00	6.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.54
LACHUNG	0.00	7.41	92.59	2.36	100.00	96.43	53.57	0.00	7.14	0.0	39.3	0.0	0.00
CHUNGTHANG	4.55	0.00	90.91	1.60	96.55	100.00	80.00	3.33	6.67	0.0	0.0	10	20.00
TUNG	20.00	80.00	0.00	1.54	81.48	93.33	86.67	3.33	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
NAGANAMGOR	18.52	59.26	22.22	1.78	96.67	90.00	86.67	0.00	0.00	0.0	3.33	10.0	0.00
PAKSHEPKAZOOR	17.24	27.59	55.17	1.82	93.33	63.33	80.00	0.00	6.67	0.0	13.3	0.0	0.00
LINGDEM	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.89	66.67	70.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
LUM	0.00	20.00	76.67	1.78	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
GOR	6.67	30.00	63.33	1.68	90.00	100.00	93.33	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	6.7	10.00
HEEGAYTHANG	67.86	25.00	7.14	1.06	96.67	86.67	96.67	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	3.3	0.00
LINGDONG	11.76	76.47	11.76	0.53	80.00	89.66	93.33	3.33	0.00	0.0	3.33	0.0	3.33
ZIMCHUNG	13.64	63.64	22.73	1.86	100.00	82.76	55.17	0.00	27.59	0.0	10.3	6.9	0.00
SINGHIK	63.16	10.53	26.32	0.93	96.67	93.10	83.33	0.00	0.00	0.0	16.7	0.0	3.33
RINGHIM	16.00	68.00	16.00	1.32	100.00	86.21	93.10	3.45	3.45	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
THINGCHI	83.33	13.33	3.33	1.60	100.00	72.73	90.00	0.00	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.67
SHEYAM	16.67	73.33	6.67	1.00	100.00	90.00	93.33	0.00	0.00	0.0	6.67	0.0	0.00
TANGYEK	53.57	35.71	10.71	0.93	93.33	100.00	56.67	0.00	0.00	0.0	43.3	0.0	20.69
RAMTHANG	90.00	0.00	0.00	1.69	96.30	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.67
RONGONG	70.37	25.93	0.00	1.03	96.30	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
TUMLONG	13.79	62.07	24.14	1.11	100.00	96.67	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.00
CHAWANG	17.24	68.97	13.79	0.00	86.21	100.00	86.67	0.00	0.00	0.0	13.3	0.0	0.00

Note: N.A means *not available*.

Table 3: Housing- Ownership, Type and Value - District Averages

Religion group		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Ownership of House (%)	Own	95.16	70.63
	IAY/ Government Provided	1.90	1.25
	Rented	2.94	28.13
Type of House (%)	Kutcha	29.40	42.20
	Kutcha-Pucca	38.20	40.37
	Pucca	30.71	16.51
	Others	1.69	0.92
Land adjoining own residence (%)	Own	97.42	80.72
	Provided By Government	1.50	0.00
	Land Holders Land	0.43	15.66
	Others	0.64	3.61
Average Value of Own House (Rs.)		316762.98	129718.48
Average Rent (Rs.) per month		807.14	725.61

Source: Household survey data

Table 4: Other Amenities of Household - District Averages

Religion group		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Percentage of people with	Telephone	9.93	4.42
	Mobile	59.76	59.04
	Scooter/Moped/Motorcycle	2.40	2.41
Average Price (Rs.)	Telephone	1526.72	1914.29
	Mobile	4315.90	3211.90
	Scooter/Moped/Motorcycle	15615.38	N.A.

Source: Household survey data

Note: N.A means not available.

Table 5: Non-agricultural Assets – District Averages

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Oxcart	Percentage of household who own	0.51	N.A.
	Average Price(Rs)	800.0	N.A.
Motor cycle/ Scooter/ Mopeds	Percentage of households who own	2.40	2.41
	Average Price (Rs)	223142.86	200000.0

Source: Household survey data

Note: NA means not available.

2. Education

The level of literacy in North Sikkim is visibly higher than the national average, a fact that can have its roots strongly traced both to Buddhists and Christian influences on the residents. Albeit, the 84% of Buddhist males and 80% of females are literate, unfortunately, the level of education does not go very far, and this is reflected in very low percentage of graduates and post-graduates in the both Buddhist and non-Buddhist religious communities. It may be in a way self-

explanatory that the demand for higher education is strongly linked with the opportunities that the members of these communities are exposed to (Table 6). Although, cultivation remains as the single major occupation in these households (roughly, 34% for Buddhist males vis-à-vis 25% for non-Buddhists, as we show later), there is some governmental presence in employment generation and the number of locals educated to the desired level roughly matches that share of formal employment. But before we jump to the education-occupation nexus, let us briefly make our readers aware of the supply-side issues concerning education as a basic amenity. On an average 83% of all Buddhist respondents receive education from government-aided schools (89% for non-Buddhists), while the rest visit monasteries (missionary schools/Madrasahs for Christians/Muslims) or unconventional schools as the case might be (Table 7). We did find credible evidence that the initial school participation is at a laudable high of 99% for Buddhists and 100% for non-Buddhists and of these at least three villages, namely, Lachung, Ramthang, Rongong report 100 % literacy rates cutting across religious groups and gender divides (Table 8). In fact, except for the villages of Naga-Namgor and Lum, both male and female literacy rates are close to 75% and this is perhaps influenced by the fact that the distance travelled to reach school is lower than a km for a sizeable population share (50%) as per the district average (Table 9). Furthermore, about 80% of both Buddhist and non-Buddhist respondents reported that their children received books and supporting materials from government supplies, although the percentage of beneficiaries receiving mid-day meals is very low (1.01% for Buddhists; 1.82% for non-Buddhists). Despite the seemingly high rate of school attendance the drop out rates continue to be a worry as the high opportunity cost of school attendance stands as the biggest stumbling block in the way to high-school and beyond. In fact, 42% of Buddhist males and 43% of Buddhist females drop out due to unavailability of supporting income when in school and this remains an area that we emphasized in all the other reports as a potential avenue for direct intervention by the concerned authorities. Clearly, the supply of mid-day meal has neither the coverage nor the capacity to retain children in school for the period desired optimal by the state, although unlike most other places visited outside Sikkim, we did find that majority of the beneficiaries of mid-day meal are content with its availability, quality, cleanliness and regularity (Table 10). The village distribution reports (Table 12) the usual maladies involved with distance that restricts desired school attendance (village of Shipgyer, for example) where we believe establishment of high schools and technical colleges would help to turnaround the picture completely. Apart from that, even some of the otherwise better performing villages (Lachung,

for example) report that unavailability of drinking water and the cost involved in school attendance as the major hindrance against school attendance and consequently the most important factors behind drop-outs. Both quantitative and qualitative data strongly supports an urgency to pursue some of these leads for possible reversals of the conditions.

Given the fact that, many of the respondents have had suitable exposure to the advantages educational achievements might be able to deliver, the demand for computer-related training is the highest entry (Table 14) for both Buddhists and non-Buddhists, to be followed by demand for facilities that teach motorcar driving. Among the Buddhists, there is also some interest in learning Tailoring and talking it up as a profession and that three-fourth of all respondents are even willing to spend money to acquire training as described under several categories, such as handicrafts, automobile labour, sericulture and so on. For example, the village of Shipgeyr reports that most are interested in learning sericulture and tailoring, while Lachung's demand for training in handicrafts and tailoring is quite high. Compared to these, 50% of the respondents in Lungdong and Shingik desire computer education. The details for each village and the distribution of demands according to the various types of training facilities referred to is listed in Table 15 for adequate action in appropriate places.

Table 6: Level of Education of General Population – District Average (%)

Descriptive	Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Illiterate	16.10	20.17	12.57	16.38
Below Primary	22.84	23.14	22.44	20.78
Primary	15.61	16.49	17.41	18.83
Middle	19.17	17.34	24.96	17.85
Vocational/management	0.77	0.85	0.00	0.49
Secondary	10.57	9.98	11.49	8.31
Higher Secondary	7.94	6.02	8.62	5.38
Technical Diploma	0.27	0.21	0.36	0.73
Technical/Professional Degree	0.38	0.42	0.18	0.49
Graduate	1.26	1.49	0.72	2.20
Post Graduate	0.55	0.64	0.54	2.20
Others	4.55	3.26	0.72	6.36

Source: Household survey data.

Table 7: State of Education for 5 to 18 age group – District Averages (%)

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Condition	Not admitted to school	1.11	0.00
Level	Below primary education	38.46	31.63
	Primary education	28.00	21.99
	Class Eight	18.56	24.70
	Vocational	1.64	0.30
	Secondary	6.56	13.86
	Higher Secondary	3.90	5.12
Type of school	Government/ Aided School	82.39	89.52
	Private School	15.45	8.38
	Monastery	0.82	0.30
	Missionary School	0.00	1.20
	Unconventional school	0.51	0.60
	Others	0.82	0.00

Source: Household survey data.

Table 8: Village wise State of Education – General Population (%)

Name of the Village	Literacy Rate	
	Male	Female
SHIPGYER	97.67	98.04
LACHEN	56.34	41.03
LACHUNG	100.00	100.00
CHUNGTHANG	76.47	71.05
TUNG	89.41	82.61
NAGA-NAMGOR	67.82	74.36
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	81.58	84.09
LINGDEM	92.94	76.12
LUM	66.28	69.74
GOR	82.69	73.03
HEEGAYTHANG	84.21	82.76
LINGDONG	87.39	87.34
ZIMCHUNG	93.10	90.57
SINGHIK	83.50	79.75
RINGHIM	90.11	77.01
THINGCHI	68.27	72.84
SHEYAM	78.89	77.92
TANGYEK	92.93	95.16
RAMTHANG	100.00	100.00
RONGONG	100.00	100.00
TUMLONG	82.69	68.06
CHAWANG	74.77	79.07

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 9: Education – Infrastructure facilities
(District Averages in %)**

Distance	Community	Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
	Below 1 K.M.	50.67		53.90	
	1-2 K.M.	18.22		14.89	
	2-4 K.M.	8.67		18.09	
	Above 4 K.M.	22.44		13.12	
Instruction	Lepcha / Bhutia	3.09		0.00	
	English	85.79		76.97	
	Lepcha/ Bhutia & English	0.21		0.00	
	Hindi	0.62		0.00	
	Local Language	6.80		10.30	
Govern- ment Help	Books	79.25		78.18	
	School dress	3.46		1.82	
	Stipend	6.34		11.82	
	Mid-day meal	1.01		1.82	
	Others	9.94		6.36	
Reasons for drop-out		Male	Female	Male	Female
	Distance	16.67	18.75	0.0	0.0
	Not proper teaching	3.85	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Unavailability of water, classroom and toilet	7.14	4.08	0.0	0.0
	Unable to attend because of work	41.94	43.40	40.0	14.29
	It is expensive	22.41	19.23	20.0	14.29

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 10: Education - Infrastructure and Aspirations (%)
(Community wise District Averages)**

		Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
Mid-day meal	Regularity	77.36		94.23	
	Taste	81.82		81.73	
	Cleanliness	78.35		86.54	
Book	Availability	74.61		76.47	
Teachers	Regularity	93.46		98.52	
	Discipline	97.17		98.52	
	Teaching	92.39		98.52	
Aspiration of parents		Male	Female	Male	Female
	Vocational	1.51	2.41	0.85	2.52
	Madhyamik	5.04	5.08	0.85	1.68
	H.S	5.29	5.35	16.10	16.81
	Graduate	25.69	25.13	22.88	21.01
	Post-Graduate	13.60	21.66	10.17	8.40
	Professional Courses	48.87	40.11	49.15	49.58
	Others	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 11: Rate of Dropout from School – Community and Gender wise(%)
(District Averages)**

Level of dropout	Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
< Primary	21.43	50.0	N.A.	66.67
<Class Eight	57.14	75.0	N.A.	100.0

Source: Household Survey Data

Table 12: Reason For Drop Out – Village wise (%)

Name of the Village	Male					Female					
	Distance	Absence of any teaching in school	No Drinking water	Labour	Expenditure	Distance	Absence of any teaching in school	No Drinking water	Water	Labour	Expenditure
SHIPGYER	100.0	N.A.	66.67	100.0 0	100.0 00	100.0 0	N.A.	0.00		100.00	100.00
LACHEN	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0.00	N.A.	0.00		0.00	0.00
LACHUNG	66.67	N.A.	33.33	100.0 0	100.0 00	N.A.	N.A.	100.00		N.A.	N.A.
CHUNGTHANG	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	100.0 0	N.A.	0.00	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
TUNG	0.00	N.A.	0.00	14.29	0.00	0.00	N.A.	0.00		0.00	0.00
NAGA-NAMGOR	0.00	N.A.	0.00	66.67	0.00	16.67	N.A.	0.00		66.67	16.67
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
LINGDEM	0.00	N.A.	0.00	62.50	0.00	0.00	N.A.	0.00		57.14	0.00
LUM	50.00	N.A.	50.00	85.71	85.7 1	100.0 0	N.A.	100.00		100.00	100.00
GOR	0.00	N.A.	0.00	100.0 0	100.0 00	0.00	N.A.	0.00		50.00	50.00
HEEGAYTHANG	15.79	N.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.53	N.A.	0.00		0.00	0.00
LINGDONG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
ZIMCHUNG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0.00	N.A.	0.00		0.00	0.00
SINGHIK	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
RINGHIM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
THINGCHI	50.00	N.A.	0.00	0.00	50.0 0	50.00	N.A.	0.00		50.00	0.00
SHEYAM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	100.0 0	N.A.	0.00	N.A.	0.00		100.00	0.00
TANGYEK	14.29	N.A.	0.00	42.86	14.2 9	0.00	N.A.	0.00		100.00	0.00
RAMTHANG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
RONGONG	0.00	N.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.	0.00		0.00	0.00
TUMLONG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.
CHAWANG	0.00	N.A.	0.00	100.0 0	100.0 00	0.00	N.A.	0.00		0.00	100.00

Source: Village survey data.

Note: N.A means *not available*.

**Table 13: Vocational Education (%)
(Community wise District Averages)**

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Courses	Tailoring	4.76	0.00
	Computer Trained	9.52	0.00
	Electronic & Electrical	4.76	0.00
	Driving Training	19.05	50.00
	Handicraft	14.29	0.00
	Apprentices	4.76	0.00
	Family Education	23.81	0.00
	Other	19.05	50.00
	Institution	Government Institution.	52.38
Expert Worker		0.00	0.00
Apprentices Training		0.00	0.00
Diploma Certificate	Number of people who hold	52.38	100.00
	Whether useful	100.00	100.00
Average. Duration of training (in days)		8.15	6.00
Average Expenditure for training (Rs.)		4200.00	5750.00

Source: Household survey data.

Table 14: Demand for Technical/ Vocational Education (%)

Religion		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
People Interested in Training		40.07	37.65
Type of Training	Tailoring	15.11	5.08
	Sericulture	10.67	16.95
	Automobile Labour	8.89	6.78
	Computer	29.78	33.90
	Electronics & Electrical	4.89	3.39
	Motor Driving Training	16.00	18.64
	Handicraft	11.56	15.25
	Apprentice	1.33	0.00
	Family Education	1.33	0.00
	Others	0.44	0.00
Cost (Rs.)	Willing to bear the cost	76.47	73.33

Source: Household survey data.

Table 15: Village wise Demand for Technical/Vocational Education (in %)

Name of the Village	People interested in training	People willing to bear the cost	Tailoring	Sericulture	Automobile Labour	Computer Training	Electronics & Electrical	Motor Driving	Handicraft	Apprentice	Family Education	Others
SHIPGYER	31.03	66.7	12.5	62.5	12.5	12.50	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
LACHEN	43.33	66.6	0.00	30.8	0.00	7.69	15.38	23.1	15.4	0	7.69	0
LACHUNG	7.41	50.0	50.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50	0	0	0
CHUNGTHANG	60.00	88.9	0.00	0.00	11.1	38.89	16.7	0.00	11.1	16.7	5.56	0
TUNG	36.67	9.09	18.2	18.2	0.00	27.27	0.00	9.09	27.3	0	0	0
NAGA-NAMGOR	36.67	90.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	20.0	30.0	10	0	0	0
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	70.00	100	4.76	9.52	38.1	0.00	0.00	14.3	33.3	0	0	0
LINGDEM	68.97	100	25.0	0.00	15.0	15.00	0.00	15.00	30	0	0	0
LUM	29.63	100	0.00	50.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.5	12.5	0	0	0
GOR	73.33	95.5	40.9	4.55	4.55	13.64	0.00	18.2	18.2	0	0	0
HEEGAYTHANG	76.67	100	26.1	4.35	4.35	39.13	0.00	26.1	0	0	0	0
LINGDONG	26.67	33.3	25.0	0.00	12.5	50.00	0.00	0.00	12.5	0	0	0
ZIMCHUNG	48.28	100	0.00	42.9	0.00	35.71	7.14	14.3	0	0	0	0
SINGHIK	33.33	75.0	12.5	12.5	0.00	50.00	0.00	25.0	0	0	0	0
RINGHIM	65.52	56.3	5.26	0.00	5.26	36.84	0.00	47.4	5.26	0	0	0
THINGCHI	100.00	16.7	13.3	0.00	6.67	50.00	3.33	10.0	13.3	0	3.33	0
SHEYAM	62.96	64.7	23.5	5.88	23.6	41.18	0.00	0.00	5.88	0	0	0
TANGYEK	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RAMTHANG	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RONGONG	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TUMLONG	10.00	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.67	33.3	0.00	0	0	0	0
CHAWANG	17.24	80.0	0.00	20.0	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	20

Source: Village survey data

Note: N.A means *not available*

3. Occupation

We briefly alluded to the education-employment nexus in the previous section. Here, we provide a detailed account of the occupational patterns on the district average, based on community and occupational categories (Table 16); levels of migration for work (Table 17); village wise occupational patterns for males and females (Tables 18, 19). Apart from around 35% of the participants in the workforce engaged in agriculture, a fairly high percentage of people covered under the survey are categorized as students (32% male and 41% female of Buddhist community). The share of students is also quite high for the non-Buddhist categories, which has roughly 25% of the male participants in the workforce engaged in agriculture. The unemployment rate seems fairly low at 0.66 for the Buddhists and one major reason is the spread of businesses under the unorganised manufacturing and service categories. Although the district average for workforce absorbed in the governmental jobs is around 13% for the Buddhist males, the female participation is rather low at 5% and even lower at 2% for the non-Buddhist categories. This is an important feature that the government may pay attention to by raising the level of female employment in suitable areas, given that a substantial number of households depend on income earned by a female work force participant.

It is noted earlier that a large number of students comprise the categories defined under workforce participants, ironically, majority of that pool reside outside of their original location (Table 17). This clearly points to the fact that the advanced educational facilities are yet to lighten up the hills of Noth Sikkim. Thus, including a high percentage of migrant students, it appears that roughly 46% of Buddhists migrate for work and although some relocate in towns outside the state, about 26% of the migrants settle in other towns within the state, and particularly in Gangtok. Tables 18 and 19 outline that participants in both businesses and salaried private employment is rather low, and in many of the villages percentage of male and female workers in either of these two occupations is negligible or close to zero. This feature is somewhat at odds with the development disparities and deficits of the villages and nearby towns under consideration, and therefore governmental and allied interferences in promoting small businesses may be quite helpful in improving the prevalent conditions. This, our suggestions include, expansion of banking and financial institutions, access to easier credit facilities and training up of interested participants in such occupations.

Table 16: Work participation – Community wise District Averages (%)

	Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture	34.15	25.71	25.04	22.11
Agricultural Labour	4.04	3.55	5.90	1.97
Family Business	2.02	1.78	2.68	1.23
Salaried Employee (Govt.)	12.08	5.89	9.84	2.21
Salaried Employee (Private)	1.31	0.50	2.68	0.98
Casual Labour	3.77	2.06	6.26	1.72
Domestic and related work	2.19	13.00	1.25	22.36
Retirees, Pensioners, Remittance Recipient	0.71	0.28	1.25	0.25
Unable to work (Child/ Elderly)	3.44	4.62	2.15	3.93
Unorganised Employee	2.24	0.85	3.22	1.97
Student	31.58	41.19	36.85	39.07
Others	1.80	0.14	1.07	0.74
Unemployed	0.66	0.43	1.79	1.47

Source: Household survey data

Table 17: Migration for Work – Community wise District Averages (%)

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Duration	Short Term	53.28	50.00
	Long Term	46.72	50.00
Place of work	Within District (Village)	29.75	27.78
	Within District (Town)	19.01	11.11
	Within State (Village)	13.22	0.00
	Within State (Town)	25.62	33.33
	Outside State (Village)	5.79	16.67
	Outside State (Town)	6.61	0.00
	Abroad	0.00	11.11
Reasons for migration	Professional Work	5.00	0.00
	Administrative Work	1.67	0.00
	Clerical Work	0.83	5.56
	Sales Work	0.00	0.00
	Farmer	0.00	0.00
	Transport and labourers	5.00	16.67
	Student	76.67	72.22
Others	10.83	5.56	
Repatriation	Household	21.05	28.57

Source: Household survey data

Table 18: Village wise Occupational pattern among the Male (in percentage)

Name of the Village	Male					
	Cultivator	Agricultural Labour	Business	Salaried Employee (Govt.)	Salaried Employee (Pvt.)	Casual Labour (Non-Agriculture)
SHIPGYER	6.74	14.61	5.62	3.37	1.12	29.21
LACHEN	17.14	12.86	0.00	11.43	2.86	7.14
LACHUNG	3.75	0.00	8.75	36.25	5.00	0.00
CHUNGTHANG	9.41	4.71	16.47	11.76	1.18	3.53
TUNG	0.00	29.07	1.16	2.33	0.00	9.30
NAGA-NAMGOR	27.27	0.00	1.14	13.64	3.41	6.82
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	25.00	0.00	1.32	7.89	2.63	10.53
LINGDEM	38.82	0.00	0.00	12.94	1.18	0.00
LUM	57.83	0.00	0.00	7.23	0.00	1.20
GOR	49.04	1.92	0.00	1.92	0.96	4.81
HEEGAYTHANG	35.34	0.00	0.00	9.77	0.75	3.76
LINGDONG	35.83	10.83	1.67	7.50	3.33	2.50
ZIMCHUNG	0.00	1.15	3.45	21.84	2.30	10.34
SINGHIK	22.33	0.00	3.88	11.65	3.88	7.77
RINGHIM	18.28	1.08	4.30	26.88	3.23	1.08
THINGCHI	54.37	4.85	0.00	3.88	0.97	0.00
SHEYAM	16.13	35.48	0.00	5.38	0.00	0.00
TANGYEK	56.12	0.00	0.00	2.04	3.06	0.00
RAMTHANG	71.43	0.00	0.00	14.29	0.00	0.00
RONGONG	50.46	0.00	2.75	14.68	0.00	0.00
TUMLONG	42.31	0.00	0.00	10.58	0.00	0.96
CHAWANG	46.85	0.00	0.00	8.11	0.90	0.00

Source: Village survey data

Table 19: Village wise Occupational pattern among the Female (in percentage)

Name of the Village	Female					
	Cultivator	Agricultural Labour	Business	Salaried Employee (Govt.)	Salaried Employee (Pvt.)	Casual Labour (Non-Agriculture)
SHIPGYER	1.92	13.46	9.62	0.00	3.85	34.62
LACHEN	27.27	14.29	5.19	3.90	0.00	1.30
LACHUNG	2.27	0.00	13.64	6.82	0.00	2.27
CHUNGTHANG	10.53	6.58	7.89	6.58	0.00	1.32
TUNG	0.00	8.57	2.86	1.43	0.00	0.00
NAGA-NAMGOR	8.97	0.00	0.00	5.13	2.56	3.85
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	1.14	1.14	2.27	1.14	1.14	0.00
LINGDEM	31.34	0.00	0.00	5.97	0.00	0.00
LUM	36.11	1.39	0.00	2.78	0.00	0.00
GOR	38.20	0.00	0.00	3.37	0.00	0.00
HEEGAYTHANG	39.08	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	1.15
LINGDONG	28.75	3.75	2.50	5.00	1.25	1.25
ZIMCHUNG	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.00	3.92
SINGHIK	13.92	0.00	0.00	5.06	2.53	1.27
RINGHIM	15.73	2.25	2.25	7.87	1.12	0.00
THINGCHI	45.00	3.75	1.25	8.75	0.00	0.00
SHEYAM	1.30	22.08	0.00	12.99	0.00	0.00
TANGYEK	56.45	3.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.61
RAMTHANG	57.53	0.00	0.00	6.85	0.00	0.00
RONGONG	53.62	0.00	0.00	8.70	0.00	0.00
TUMLONG	33.80	0.00	0.00	1.41	0.00	0.00
CHAWANG	36.05	0.00	0.00	2.33	0.00	1.16

Source: Village survey data

4. Health

Tables 20-25 provide a large amount of information on the health and allied facilities available to the residents of the 22 villages surveyed in the district of North Sikkim. Apparently, less number of Buddhist families (92.25%) has access to government provided health facilities compared to the non-Buddhist counterpart (95.18%) and that the former types also spend less on annual expenditure on health. This may be because of the fact that more of the concentrated minorities tend to visit the quacks compared to the non-Buddhists. As per availability of data, access to government health centres is generally high, and except for the village of Heegaythang (26%) the rest report access at no less than 90% on average. Vaccination drives against the spread of measles and DPT has, however, not been universal and many of the villages (Table 21) do report close to only 50% coverage on either type.

The lack of government hospitals within the village or even the gram panchayat is however, clearly noted and except for Lindong, Zimchung and Ringhim, most respondents cannot avail of hospital facilities owing to long distances one has to travel and especially in hilly regions where transport facilities are poorly functioning (Table 22). This is one of the factors, why unlike in other places surveyed, the proportion of childbirth at home is rather high at 47% in Buddhist and 49% in non-Buddhist households (Table 23). It seems that having a doctor present at in-house childbirth is a preferred option than transporting the pregnant mother to such distances, although, it is needless to mention that the facilities generally available in a hospital shall not be made available at home. Thus, a large number of women are regularly prone to many health related problems that might crop up during and after childbirth. The abundance of such cases directly suggests that special attention need to be devoted by concerned authorities. The unavailability of ambulances or any vehicle for transport is also reported as one major factor why more respondents prefer childbirth at home and we believe these are specific examples where provisions from the government can deliver a lot of benefits to a large number of people. The distance to PHCs or sub-PHCs turns out also to be the reason why measles or DTP vaccination for children under five years has not been 100% (Table 25), compared to polio, which were largely delivered through makeshift camps in different locations with easier access.

**Table 20: Health – Expenditure and Facilities
(Community wise averages for the District)**

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Annual Average Expenditure for Health per family (Rs)		4167.12	7220.71
Access to health facilities (%) @	Government	92.25	95.18
	Private	35.46	34.84
	Quack	14.15	2.60

Source: Household survey data.

Note: @ % values may exceed 100 as families access more than one facility.

Table 21: Health – Village-wise Averages

Name of the Village	Average expenditure on health (Rs.)	Access to health centers (%)			Vaccination (%)				Problem of Vaccination (%)		
		Government	Private	Quack	Polio	BCG	DPT	Measles	Unaware of the program	Problem of distance	Others
SHIPGYER	5556.11	93.33	45.8 3	20.0 0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LACHEN	1850.00	86.67	53.3 3	66.6 7	100.00	23.08	76.9	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LACHUNG	2085.00	100.0	96.6 7	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
CHUNGTHAN G	2250.00	93.10	77.7 8	23.5 3	100.00	85.71	71.4	85.7	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TUNG	4500.00	100.0	86.6 7	3.33	85.71	100.0	100	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NAGA- NAMGOR	N.A.	93.33	6.67	0.00	100.00	100.0	100	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
PAKSHEP- KAZOOR	4400.00	100.0	76.6 7	0.00	100.00	100.0	100	75.0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LINGDEM	5285.71	100.0	76.6 7	100. 00	92.86	92.86	92.9	92.86	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LUM	8568.97	100.0	0.00	0.00	95.65	95.65	95.7	86.96	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
GOR	12041.67	82.76	26.6 7	0.00	100.00	95.83	100	41.67	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
HEEGAYTHA NG	4081.82	26.67	6.90	0.00	100.00	100.0	100	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LINGDONG	4279.31	96.67	10.0 0	0.00	100.00	100.0	66.7	50.0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
ZIMCHUNG	N.A.	96.67	89.2 9	17.8 6	100.00	100.0	100	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
SINGHIK	2692.31	100.0	7.14	0.00	100.00	100.0	100	66.67	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RINGHIM	4375.00	93.10	13.7 9	20.6 9	100.00	100.0	87.5	81.25	0.00	100.00	0.00
THINGCHI	2116.67	76.67	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.0	100	100.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
SHEYAM	3500.00	100.0	86.9 6	0.00	75.00	100.0	62.5	62.5	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TANGYEK	2750.00	96.67	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RAMTHANG	N.A.	100.0	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RONGONG	N.A.	100.0	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TUMLONG	N.A.	100.0	26.6 7	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
CHAWANG	15001.00	96.67	3.33	0.00	100.00	66.67	100	16.67	0.00	0.00	100

Source: Village survey data.

Table 22: Types of Medical Facilities –Village wise

Name of the Villages	Government Hospitals		PHC		Sub-PHC	
	Within village	Within Panchayat	Within village	Within Panchayat	Within village	Within Panchayat
Lachen	NA	NA	Y	-	NA	NA
Lachung	N	N	Y	-	NA	NA
Chungthang	N	N	N	N	Y	-
Shipgyer	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tung	N	N	NA	NA	N	N
Thingchi	N	N	Y	-	NA	NA
Naga- Namgor	N	N	N	N	Y	-
Lingdem	N	N	Y	-	Y	-
Lum	Y	-	N	N	N	N
Gor	N	N	Y	-	N	N
Lingdong	Y	-	Y	-	N	N
Zimchung	Y	-	NA	NA	N	N
Singhik	N	N	N	N	Y	-
Ringhim	Y	-	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sheyem	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Tangyek	N	N	N	Y	Y	-
Ramthang	N	N	Y	-	Y	-
Rongong	N	N	Y	-	NA	NA
Tumlong	N	N	N	N	NA	NA
Chawang	N	N	Y	-	Y	-
Pakshem-Kazoor	N	N	NA	NA	NA	NA
Heegaythang	N	N	NA	NA	N	N

Source: Village survey data.

Note: N = absent, Y = present and NA means *not available*.

**Table 23: Information on Childbirth – Household Response (%)
(Community wise District Averages)**

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Place of birth	In house	46.94	47.50
	Hospital	52.38	52.50
	Private hospital	0.68	0.00
	Others	0.00	0.00
Help during child birth	Doctor	37.06	45.00
	Nurse	20.28	5.00
	Trained midwife	6.29	5.00
	Non trained midwife	25.87	40.00
	Others/Don't know	10.49	5.00
Transport	Own car	11.50	0.00
	Rented car	49.56	51.85
	No vehicle	35.40	44.44
	Ambulance	3.54	3.70
Reason for not availing Government. Hospital facilities	Long distance	84.06	85.71
	Unhygienic condition	5.80	9.52
	Poor service quality	0.00	0.00
	No female doctor	1.45	0.00
	Others	8.70	4.76

Source: Household survey data.

Table 24: Information on Child Birth – Village-wise (%)

Name of villages	Place of birth				Reasons for not visiting Government places				
	At home	Government Hospital	Private Hospital	Others	Problem of distance	Un-cleanliness	Inefficient services by	No female doctors	Others
SHIPGYER	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LACHEN	8.33	91.67	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
LACHUNG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
CHUNGTHANG	42.86	57.14	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TUNG	57.14	42.86	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NAGA-NAMGOR	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	37.50	62.50	0.00	0.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.67
LINGDEM	38.46	61.54	0.00	0.00	42.86	28.57	0.00	0.00	28.57
LUM	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOR	87.50	12.50	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HEEGAYTHANG	52.94	41.18	5.88	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LINGDONG	12.50	87.50	0.00	0.00	50.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	16.67
ZIMCHUNG	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
SINGHIK	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RINGHIM	26.67	73.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
THINGCHI	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHEYAM	25.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TANGYEK	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	66.67	0.00	0.00	33.33	0.00
RAMTHANG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
RONGONG	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TUMLONG	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHAWANG	16.67	83.33	0.00	0.00	60.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 25: Vaccination of Under Five-Year Children (%)
(Community wise District Averages)**

Vaccination	Buddhist			Non Buddhist		
Polio (pulse)	96.99			100.00		
DTP	90.36			89.74		
BCG	84.94			100.00		
Measles	76.51			79.49		
Organization	Government		Private	Government		Private
	99.38		0.62	100.00		0.0
Reasons for non participation	Unaware	Distance	Others	Unaware	Distance	Others
	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0

Source: Household survey data.

5. Infrastructure

Around 50% of the families from Buddhist and non-Buddhists have access to schools that are more than one Km. Around 60% of the villages are connected through bus routes with a bus stop greater than 5105 Kms from the village, while there is no train connection within the district (in fact within the state). Around 38.10% of the villages have commercial banks and 44% have agricultural credit societies which are more than 10 Kms from the village and over 100% villages have post offices within respective villages or within 5 Kms. Though the census data shows the same to be around 68%.

6. Awareness about Government Programmes

It has been witnessed in every other district we have surveyed under this project, that NREGS has been the government scheme of which the largest number of respondents is certainly aware of. The average for North Sikkim stands at 75% for those who are aware of the scheme, and in fact, 85% of them have actually benefited from the scheme. This is not true of most other government-sponsored programmes, such as SGSY, IAY, Swajal Dhara, irrigation, etc, where the level of awareness among the people surveyed is close to 50% only, and consequently, the actual number of beneficiaries is even low, as only a small share of the residents get advantage of the same (Tables 26-27).

Table 26: Awareness and Efficacy of the Government Sponsored Development Programmes – District Average for Buddhists (%)

Programme	% of people aware	% of beneficiary	Help received from for accessing benefit					% of cases where Commission paid
			Pra dhan	GP Office	NGO	Self	Others	
SGSY	38.63	43.60	5.41	67.57	0.0	0.0	27.03	5.63
NREGS	74.44	84.77	15.76	62.12	0.0	0.60	21.21	7.33
IAY	50.79	10.0	69.23	23.08	0.0	7.69	0.0	7.69
Old age pension	56.07	48.28	29.75	50.41	0.0	1.65	18.18	6.25
Swajal dhara	14.96	75.44	0.0	76.74	0.0	0.0	23.26	0.0
Irrigation	23.43	81.31	12.5	55.56	1.38	8.33	22.22	8.45
ARWSP	40.37	79.29	27.83	47.83	0.0	3.48	20.0	7.41
SSA	53.05	78.48	18.12	30.20	22.2	7.38	22.15	7.14
TSC/SSUP	10.29	96.77	3.33	40.0	23.33	0.0	33.33	22.22

Source: Household survey data.

Table 27: Awareness and Efficacy of the Government Sponsored Development Programmes – District Average for Non-Buddhists (%)

Programme	% of people aware	% of beneficiary	Help received from for accessing benefit					% of cases where Commission paid
			Pra dhan	GP Office	NGO	Self	Others	
SGSY	28.89	54.55	0.0	83.33	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
NREGS	55.0	40.12	45.24	42.86	0.0	2.38	9.52	5.41
IAY	50.70	8.10	67.74	19.35	0.0	3.23	9.68	6.25
Old age pension	47.10	26.56	23.53	58.82	5.88	0.0	11.76	13.33
Swajal dhara	11.01	58.33	57.14	42.86	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Irrigation	5.41	50.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ARWSP	26.96	67.74	84.21	10.53	0.0	0.0	5.26	26.31
Sarba siksha	47.93	73.21	64.10	10.26	2.56	17.95	5.13	10.81
TSC /SSUP	8.16	100.0	0.0	62.5	12.5	0.0	25.0	0.0

Source: Household Survey Data.

Note: NA means *not available*.

Table 28: Awareness and Efficacy of Government Schemes – Village-wise

Name of the Villages	Percentage of people aware (all schemes)	Percentage of people benefited (all schemes)	Number of people who have job cards for NREGS	Number of people who have got job under NREGS
SHIPGYER	0.74	0.00	40	38
LACHEN	23.39	88.98	420	420
LACHUNG	0.00	0.00	350	350
CHUNGTHANG	23.12	80.42	112	112
TUNG	0.00	0.00	NA	NA
NAGA-NAMGOR	73.51	49.44	114	114
PAKSHEP-KAZOOR	37.78	39.64	75	75
LINGDEM	65.15	39.87	50	50
LUM	19.26	87.07	52	52
GOR	35.22	74.22	90	90
HEEGAYTHANG	51.12	53.70	200	200
LINGDONG	44.47	80.99	79	79
ZIMCHUNG	29.85	78.98	60	60
SINGHIK	8.84	100.00	178	178
RINGHIM	29.44	89.68	75	75
THINGCHI	57.88	95.63	75	75
SHEYAM	18.52	98.33	42	42
TANGYEK	1.48	100.00	NA	NA
RAMTHANG	42.59	19.83	74	74
RONGONG	39.86	2.31	NA	NA
TUMLONG	70.00	57.39	49	49
CHAWANG	58.77	62.16	73	73

Source: Village survey data & Household survey data

Note: N.A means *not available*. #: Data furnished by the *Gram Panchayat* seems to be incorrect.

It should be noted that, for Buddhists in the district of North Sikkim, on average 8% of the income accruing to each participant is lost in terms of commissions paid to receive the work permit or allocation, and this is equally true for pensioners, who roughly pay 6.25% of their pension benefit in order to receive it on time. The villagers report that the largest amount of bribe paid is with respect to TSC/SSUP schemes, where a minimum of 22% of the benefits must be transmitted in order to receive the permit. Furthermore, the general report clearly shows that only a meagre percentage of people get to know of these schemes from the Panchayat Pradhan, although admittedly, the GP office seems more responsible in delivering information about these schemes. Compared to the Buddhists, however, the non-Buddhists seem to be lacking behind in terms of information received even with respect to NREGS, where only 50% of the respondents claim to have been aware of the programme. We did mention in the first section that a large percentage of houses are owned by the respondents across the religious divide and that only a small fraction received the aid from the government with respect to the provisions under IAY. This is also reflected in Tables 26 and 27 that merely 10% of all houses are built with the aid from IAY.

The in-depth village survey reveals, once again, that it is not the dearth of government-sponsored schemes, but the lack of awareness that plagues a large number of people who could have benefited from all of these programmes. Except for a few villages as Naga-Namgor or Lingdem with awareness levels close to 70%, all other villages are barely aware of the facilities offered by the national government in collaboration with the state government, and surprisingly, the cross section data establishes the fact that the number of people who received work under the NREGS is surprisingly low, despite high awareness and popularity of the programme everywhere. We pointed out that corruption in job distribution and bribery is a possible issue that needs to be looked into by responsible authorities if NREGS or any other scheme for that matter has to run successfully. After all, these provisions are created out of the taxes that calls for responsible handling and periodic justifications by authorities at all levels.

7. Other Issues

We use Tables 29-33 to reflect on a number of other features that are no less important in understanding the reasons behind the acute underdevelopment in these

communities, compared to the more well known indicators often invoked for the purpose. These are as follows. About 4% of the Buddhist and 1.2% non-Buddhist (Table 29) respondent families have health insurance and the values up to which they are insured are similar although very low. This is a potential area where top-ups could reduce the regular burden of expenses on medical grounds as identified previously. Data on crop insurance is unavailable, and less than 10% Buddhist households have bank deposits vis-à-vis 3.61% of non-Buddhist respondents. Within the Buddhist community, an even lower percentage have long term deposits with the banks which comes to half of the people with bank deposits for the non-Buddhists.

It is however reflective of either awareness among the people or enhancement of credibility that a fairly low percentage of Buddhists approach the local moneylenders for credit, and instead visit the governmental sources (58%) or commercial banks (23%) (Table 30) for loans against land mortgages or interest payments. The loan reportedly is used mainly for purchase of home and at times for repairing of the same (Table 31). The trend is more or less uniform across religious communities. There is however, no self-help group for women among the Buddhists or non-Buddhists. In terms of use of common property resources (Table 32) there appears to have some co-ordination failure among the residents themselves, since based on our observations, the residents interfere most with the use of common grounds, whether it is a pond or forest or school facilities meant for every user. The problem is more among the non-Buddhists, hinting at reinstatement of well-defined property rights.

The final issue, which is of no less importance is that of the Public Distribution System (Table 33), where, none of the 73% of Buddhists who qualify for the BPL category are satisfied with the availability of the products. This is also true for non-Buddhist families, although lesser number count in this category. The problems faced by both is of inadequacy, unwillingness among the dealers to see their goods, and sometimes monetary constraint.

Table 29. Insurance and Financial Assets – Community wise District Averages

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Health Insurance	Percentage of households who have	4.28	1.20
	Average Value (Rs)	4076.6	4000.0
Life Insurance	Percentage of households who have	11.30	4.82
	Average Value (Rs)	8575.77	14365.0
Crop Insurance	Percentage of households who have	N.A.	N.A.
	Average Value(Rs)	N.A.	N.A.
Bank Deposit	Percentage of households who have	8.05	3.61
	Average Value(Rs)	83880.85	142250.0
Fixed Deposit	Percentage of households who have	3.94	1.20
	Average Value (Rs)	205545.65	40000.0

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 30: Indebtedness - Sources and Conditions of Loan
(Community wise District Averages)**

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Percentage of households indebted		2.92	3.59
Average Interest Rate		25.56	10.00
Sources of availing loans (%)	Government	58.82	50.00
	Commercial Bank	23.53	0.00
	Rural Bank	0.00	0.00
	Co-operative Bank	0.00	0.00
	Self Help Group/Non Governmental Organization	0.00	0.00
	Moneylender	5.88	16.67
	Big landowner/Jotedar	0.00	0.00
	Relative	0.00	0.00
	Others	11.76	33.33
Conditions & Terms of Loan (%)	Only Interest	62.50	33.33
	Physical labour	18.75	0.00
	Land mortgage	6.25	33.33
	Ornament mortgage	0.00	0.00

Source: Household survey data.

**Table 31: Indebtedness - Reasons and Nature of Loan
(Community wise District Averages)**

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Reasons of Loan	Capital related expenditure	0.00	0.00
	Purchase of agricultural equipment	6.25	16.67
	Purchase of land/home	12.50	33.33
	Repairing of house	68.75	0.00
	Marriage/other social function	0.00	16.67
	Medical expenditure	6.25	0.00
	Purchase of cattle	6.25	0.00
	Investment	0.00	0.00
	Others	0.00	33.33
Terms – Cash only		76.47	66.67

Source: Household survey data.

Table 32: Common Property Resources – Household Response of Uses and Interference (District Averages)

		Percentage of User		Percentage of Interference	
		Buddhist	Non Buddhist	Buddhist	Non Buddhist
Uses and Interference	Forest	42.71	54.79	18.66	30.77
	Pond	15.61	15.69	13.30	14.58
	Field	27.86	18.09	11.47	10.99
	Cattle-pen	10.00	9.09	6.73	4.88
	School ground	20.73	21.10	7.14	6.73
	Other Govt. buildings	8.90	13.11	1.72	7.14
	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Buddhist		Non Buddhist	
Categories of people who interfere (%)	Powerful people	0.00		0.00	
	Big landlords	12.32		8.00	
	Each household	83.25		90.67	

Source: Household survey data.

Table 33: Public Distribution System – Community wise District Averages

		Buddhist	Non Buddhist
APL Card	% of families with APL ration cards	55.49	56.77
BPL Card	% of families with BPL/ Antodaya/ Annapurna card.	73.08	41.94
Sufficiency	% of families with sufficient product	0.00	0.00
Quantity	Rice – Kg. per family per month	27.55	21.57
	Wheat – Kg. per family per month	3.95	3.89
Problem (%)	Inadequate	13.96	9.24
	Inferior quality	13.00	5.04
	Less in amount	2.87	0.00
	Not available in time	6.31	7.56
	Irregular	1.53	3.36
	Others	62.33	74.79
	No problem	0.00	0.00
Purchase	% of families who can purchase all goods	69.38	72.26
Reason for problems of purchase (%)	Monetary constraint	19.81	8.33
	Insufficiency of ration	42.45	61.11
	Unwillingness to sell off by the dealers	18.40	2.78
	Others	19.34	27.78

Source: Household survey data.

Recommendations

We have discussed the conditions of the district in terms of the major indicators; we have provided the current status of the most important eight indicators identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, viz. the four religion specific indicators and the four basic amenities indicators. In addition we have also provided the status of the many other indicators that we thought to be of relevance. Some of these are calculated at a more disaggregated level for a particular indicator. For example we have gone into a detailed account of status of education, at different levels as we thought that only literacy is inadequate. We also provided the status of training in vocational trades and the demand for such training. This is important, in our opinion, as we tried to relate the same with job market situation for the general populace.

The above analysis is very broad in nature and requires intervention at a very larger scale and change in the attitude of the process of policy planning. Since the approach of the Multi-sector Development Plan funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs is supplementary in nature and does not intend to change the very nature of the plan process, it is suggested that the district administration may start working on priority basis with the additional fund in the areas where the deficit can very easily be identified at the district level or at the village or in the pockets of the district. Hence we provide the deficit of the district for the religion specific socio-economic indicators and the basic amenities indicators where the deficit has been calculated as the deviation of the survey averages from national averages provided by the NSSO 2005 and NHFS-3 in Table 34 below. In addition to these indicators we have also discussed about some of the indicators, which in our opinion are extremely important for the development of the district.

Table 34: Priority Ranking of Facilities Based on Deficits of District Averages and National Averages

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

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

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

attention of the district administration to be cautious when drawing plan for the district.

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

- Percentage of BPL families covered under IAY is extremely poor, 1.45 %. So we think it is an important area where the district administration should top up.
- The average number of primary schools per village is 0.76 which is very poor implying a large number of villages do not have even a single school. The district average of the number of primary teachers per school (8.21 per school) is in fact higher than the national average.
- So far secondary schools are concerned, the performance of the district is very poor – 0.30 secondary and higher secondary schools per village. This needs intervention.
- Apparently the district does not perform very poorly in terms of health related infrastructure. So looking at only vaccination or institutional delivery is inadequate. Out of all the villages 17.39% of villages have government hospitals in its vicinity, 47.37 % of villages have primary health centers or sub-centres situated within the village, average distance of primary health center or sub-centres is 2.85 Km., average distance of government hospital is 11.43 Km., average distance of private hospital or nursing home is 61.50 Km. Some of the families, viz. 14.15% for Buddhists and 2.60% for non-Buddhists also go to quacks for treatment though larger percentage of families go to government hospitals or private practitioners. For taking pregnant women to hospitals for delivery the

major means is rented cars, there is hardly any ambulance available for this purpose in the villages. This is an important area where the policy makers should think of providing at least one ambulance per village.

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

Appendices

Table A 1: General information

Area	District average	Average of the sample villages
Area of the village	740.45 hectares	906.42 hectares
Household size	4.54 persons	4.70 persons
Area of irrigated land out of total cultivable area	6.02 %	6.12 %
Number of post offices	0.45	0.65
Number of phone connection	8.70	17.92

Source: Village Directory, Census 2001.

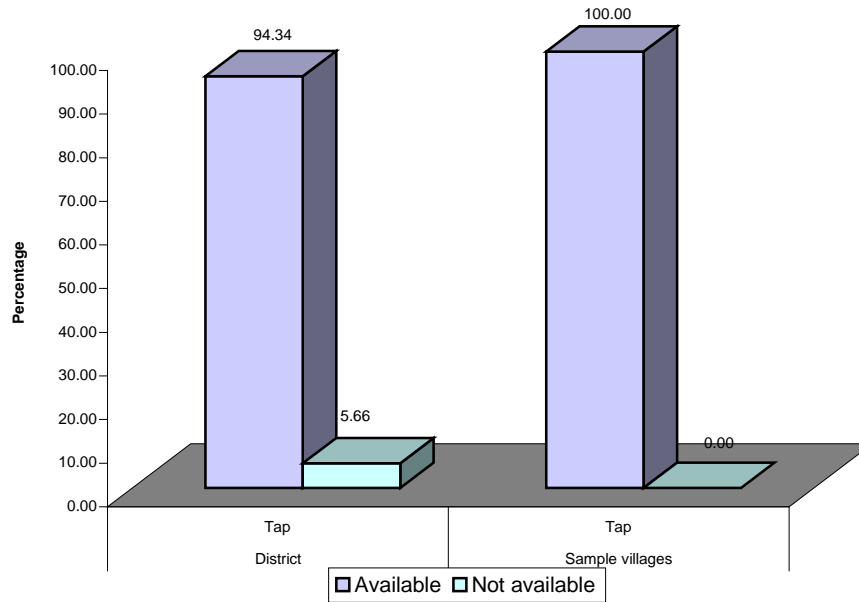
Table A 2: Transport and Communications

Nature of Approach Roads	Paved Road		Mud Road		Footpath	
	Avail-able	Not Avail-able	Avail-able	Not Avail-able	Avail-able	Not Avail-able
Average for the district	54.72 %	45.28 %	26.42 %	73.58 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
Average for sample villages	73.08 %	26.92 %	23.08 %	76.92 %	100.00 %	0.00 %

Source: Village Directory, Census 2001.

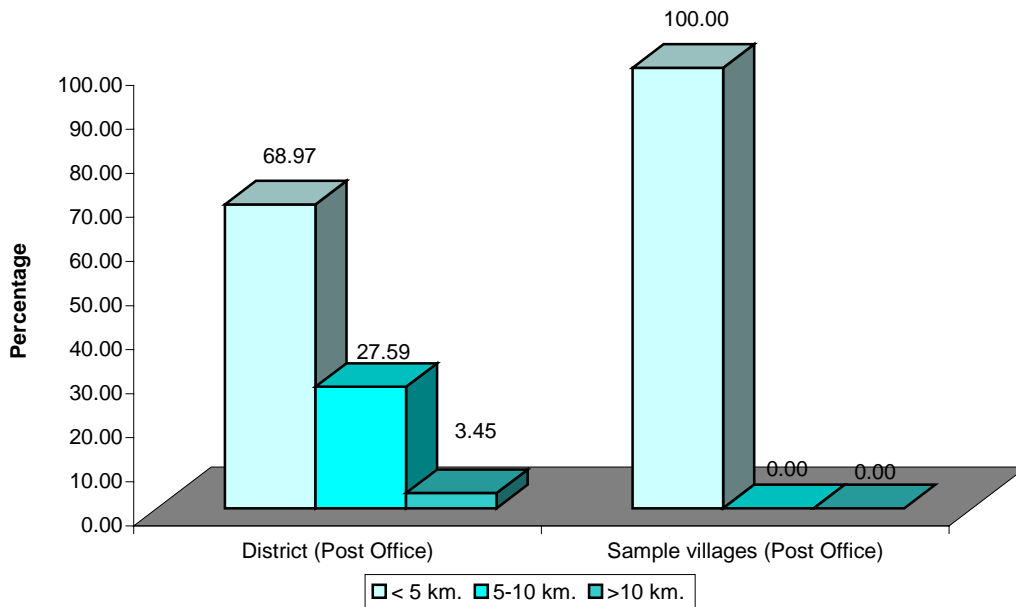
Fig. A 1 Sources of Water

Average availability of sources of drinking water (%)



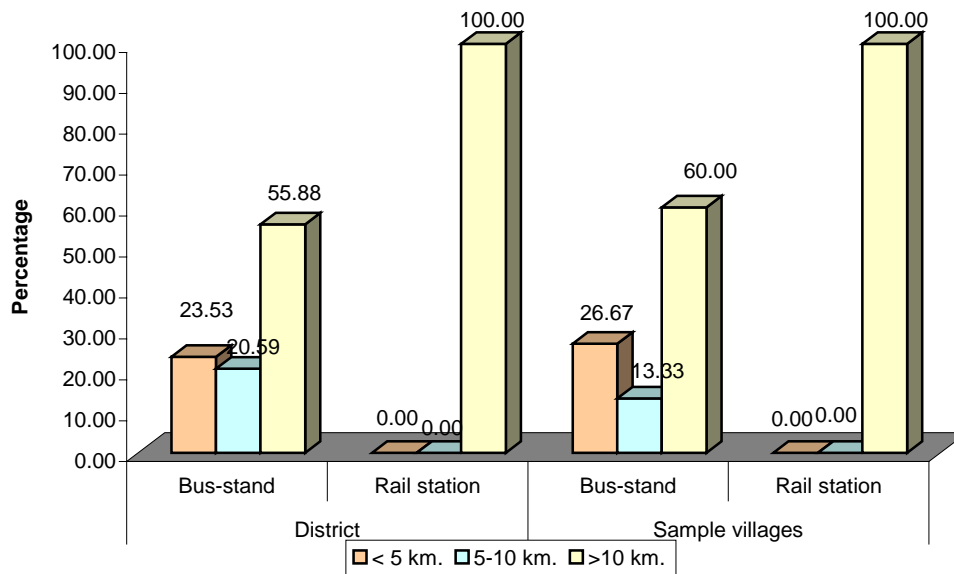
Source: Village Directory, Census 2001

Fig. A2: Distance to post-office



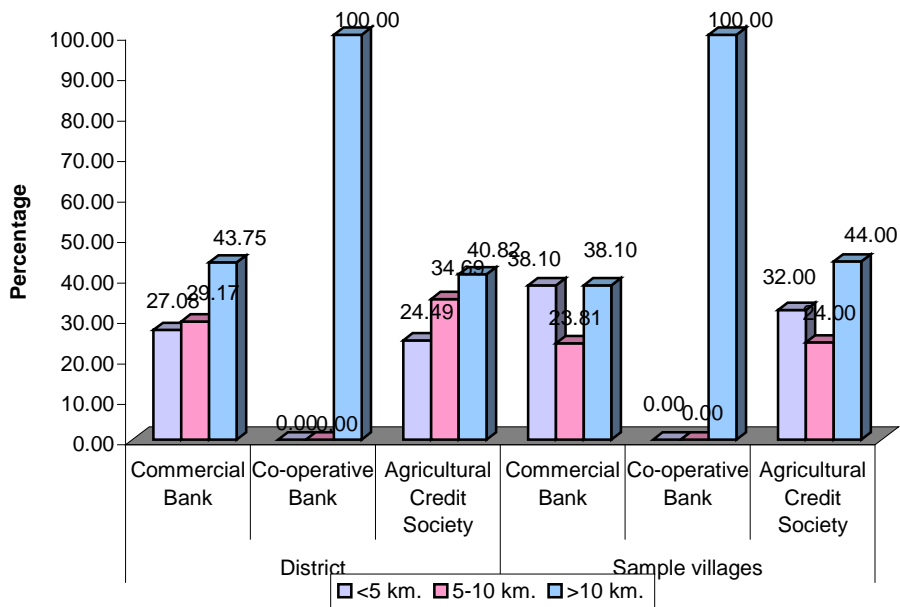
Source: Village Directory, Census 2001

Fig. A3: Distance of Public Transport



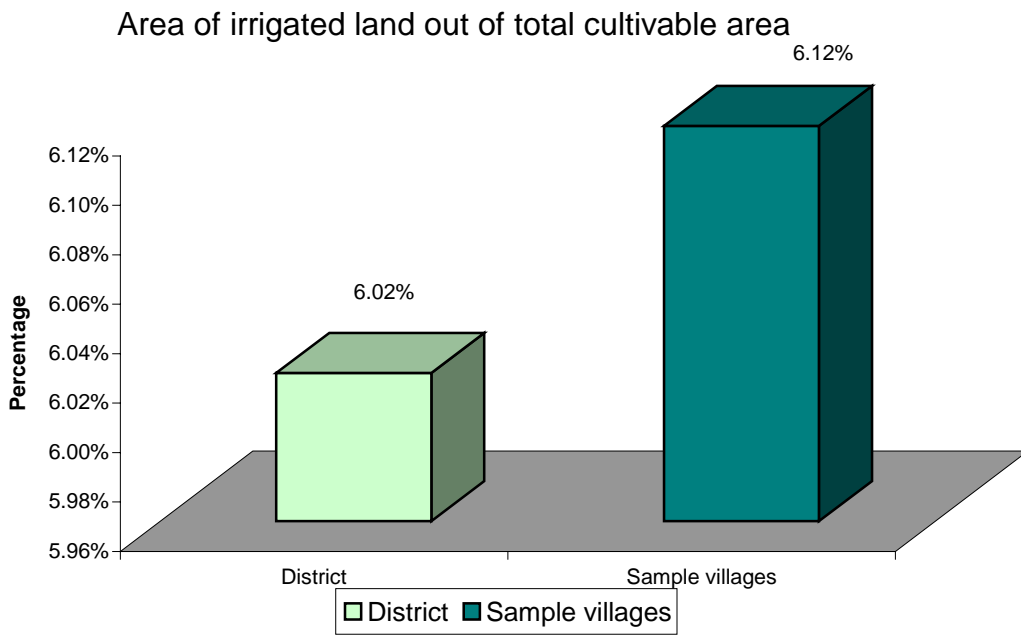
Source: Village Directory, Census 2001

Fig. A4: Distance of Bank and Other Financial Institutions



Source: Village Directory, Census 2001

Fig. A5: Irrigation



Source: Village Directory, Census 2001

Sampling Methodology

The primary unit for survey is census village. A sample of villages will be selected for each district. If the population of the district is greater than 0.5 million then a total of 30 villages will be chosen for the district and if the population is less than or equal to 0.5 million then 25 villages will be chosen for the district. For the purpose of sampling the district is classified into three strata S_i ($i=1,2,3$). For stratification of villages in the district percentage of minority population will be used as the criteria. But since there is no published data on minority population at the village level, one has to work with percentage of minority population at the level of CD block.

Let N be the no. of CD blocks in a district and p_j ($j=1,\dots,N$) be the percentage of minority population of the j th. block. These N blocks are then arranged in descending order (one can also use ascending order) by p_j . The top 20%, middle 50% and the bottom 30% constitutes S_1 , S_2 and S_3 respectively. Each S_i contains the villages belonging to the respective blocks. Let P_i ($i=1,2,3$) be the proportion of rural population in S_i to district rural population. No. of villages from each strata will be chosen by the proportion of population of that strata in the total. Then denoting the no. of villages to be drawn from S_i by n_i one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} n_i &= (P_i) 25, && \text{if the district population is less than equal to 0.5 million} \\ &= (P_i) 30, && \text{if the district population is greater than 0.5 million,} \end{aligned}$$

subject to a minimum of 6 villages in each stratum.

The villages are chosen by the method of PPS (probability proportional to population) with replacement from each of S_i where aggregate population of villages are the size criteria (as per census 2001).

After the sample villages are chosen by the method described above the next task is to choose the sample of households for each village. If population of the sample village is less than or equal to 1200 all households will be listed. If population of the village is more than 1200, 3 or more hamlet groups will be chosen. For this purpose one may exactly follow the methodology of NSSO for hamlet group formation. A total of two hamlet groups will be chosen from these hamlet groups. Out of these two, one hamlet group will be the one with highest minority population (for the district). Another hamlet group will be chosen randomly from the remaining hamlet groups. The households of chosen hamlet groups will be listed. While listing the households their minority status will also be collected as auxiliary information.

Given the auxiliary information on minority status of the households they will be

classified into five strata – Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi. A total of 30 households will be chosen from each sample village (or the two hamlet groups if hamlet groups have been formed) in proportion to number of households in each stratum subject to a minimum of 2 households in each stratum. The sampling methodology will be simple random sampling without replacement. If there is no listing in any stratum then the corresponding group will be ignored for that village.

The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is given below.

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	