

A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY  
CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS OF INDIA

**PARBHANI**  
**(Maharashtra)**

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



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**2008**

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## A BASELINE SURVEY OF MINORITY CONCENTRATION DISTRICTS

### *Executive Summary of Parbhani District (Maharashtra)*

#### **Background:**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (GOI) has identified 90 minority concentrated backward districts using eight indicators of socio-economic development and amenities based on the 2001 Census data. The aim of this exercise is to improve all these indicators and bring it to the all India level, through a Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Since it is expected that there would be changes in these indicators after 2001; a baseline survey has been conducted to formulate the multi-sectoral development plan with the latest deficits and priorities.
- Parbhani 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):**

- The total population of Parbhani district is 1042529, of which 70.4 per cent lives in rural areas, which is higher than the State average for rural population. Hindus constitutes 83.50 per cent, Muslims 6.64 per cent and Buddhists 9.36 per cent. The total minority population in Parbhani is 15 per cent. Buddhists constitutes the bulk of the minority groups in the district, followed by Muslims and Christians. SCs and STs constitute 10.4 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively.
- The literacy rate is 55.15 per cent, which is below the national and the state literacy levels. The female literacy rate (43.59 per cent) is also below the state and national average. The male literacy rate, however, is comparatively higher and stood at 66.23 per cent. The district has poor educational facilities when compared to other districts of Maharashtra. Gender differentials in literacy are noticeable across the tehsils of Parbhani.
- The work participation rate is 49 per cent, which is almost equivalent to the state average. The work participation rate has improved in the rural areas and no significant differentials in work participation rates have been noticed across the tehsils of the district. However, it was below the district average in four tehsils.

- Nearly 90 per cent of the total working population in Parbhani depends on agriculture to derive livelihood (cultivators: 45.5 per cent and agriculture labourers: 44.2 per cent) and only one per cent of the labour force is engaged as household workers.
- Nearly 99 per cent of the villages have primary schools. In Pathri and Palam tehsils, cent per cent of the villages have primary schools. The proportion of the villages with middle schools is comparatively low (46.6 per cent). The accessibility of secondary schools in Parbhani is limited, but 15.8 per cent of the villages have a secondary school. The availability of industrial training institutes (ITIs) and technical training schools is negligible.
- Nearly 21 per cent, 13 per cent and 14 per cent of the villages have access to PHCs, MCWs and allopathic hospitals within a radius of 5 kms. Thus, access to health care facilities at the village level is not satisfactory. The status of drinking water facilities in the district is also not satisfactory.
- Nearly 40 per cent of the villages have post offices nearby and others can access the services of one within a distance of 3.4 kilometres. Two-thirds of the villages have public telephone connections; while others can access one within a 6 kilometre radius. Around 16 per cent of villages have commercial banks, 90 per cent have Anganwadis and gram panchayat offices, 86 per cent have fair price shops, 23 per cent have fertilizer shops, 13 per cent have seed storage facilities and 10 per cent have pesticide shops. Besides these, 13 per cent of the villages have veterinary centres and the rest can access this facility within a distance of 5 kilometres.
- The status of infrastructure development in the district is modest and inter-tehsil inequities are sharp, which need to be bridged through various infrastructural development interventions. The other development interventions needed for the district include education, health care, subsidized housing, employment generation, safe drinking water, power, drainage, irrigation, and credit facilities.

### **Survey Findings (2008)**

- The present survey is confined to district Parbhani of Maharashtra state. The survey reveals that the district lagged behind in four out of the eight indicators compared to the all India average. It has better status in health related indicators as compared to the all India level. 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 figures are based on the survey findings (2008), while the all



India figures are of 2004-05 and 2005-06. The distance from the all India figures may be higher, as all India data are a little dated.

#### Development Gaps and Priorities for the Multi-sector Plan

Sl. No.	Indicators	Parbhani 2008	All India 2005	Development Gaps Between All India and District	Development Priority of the District
		(1)	(2)	(3=1-2)	(4)
1	Rate of literacy	77.08	67.3	9.78	7
2	Rate of female literacy	67.74	57.1	10.64	8
3	Work participation rate	38.01	38.0	0.01	5
4	Female work participation rate	20.64	21.5	-0.86	4
5	Percentage of households with <i>pucca</i> walls**	38.4	59.4	-21.0	2
6	Percentage of households with safe drinking water	72.04	87.9	-15.86	3
7	Percentage of households with electricity	71.47	67.9	3.57	6
8	Percentage of households with water closet latrines	16.36	39.2	-22.84	1
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	91.17	43.5	47.67	-
10	Percentage of child deliveries in a health facility	57.63	38.7	18.93	-

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

(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 pertains to the year 2004-05 from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

\*\* This includes semi-pucca houses as well.

### Development Priorities

#### In-house Toilet Facilities:

While a small proportion of the households (16.36 per cent) have in house toilet facilities, a high proportion of them (89 per cent) are defecating in the open. This needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet assistance by the government in order to improve the sanitary and environmental conditions of the villages. Nearly 93 per cent of Buddhist

households practise open defecation. The condition of drainage is also reportedly very unsatisfactory in Buddhist households.

All this makes it clear that schemes like the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a Centre sponsored scheme aiming at universalisation of sanitation facilities, which has been going on for quite some time with the target of achieving universalisation of sanitation facilities by the end of 2009, has not made a dent on rural sanitation. The existing situation clearly indicates that the district would completely miss the target, which calls for better implementation of the TSC and also to extend its coverage to uncovered villages, through the multi-sector development plan.

#### **Houses with Pucca Walls:**

Nearly one-half of the households are living in katcha and thatched houses. Comparatively, the housing conditions of Buddhist and Muslim households are not satisfactory, which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households. Nearly 37 per cent of sample households are living in single room accommodation and there is lack of privacy. 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 is not satisfactory. This calls for vigorous implementation of the IAY so as to include more and more beneficiaries under its ambit and to extend the area of its coverage to include a larger number of poverty stricken households. The IAY can be topped up with the multi-sectoral plan.

#### **Drinking Water Facilities:**

Nearly 72 per cent of the households use drinking water from public sources. Around 17.57 per cent are dependent on private sources and the rest on others. The dependence on private and other sources of drinking water by the poor rural households is a serious concern. This situation needs to be rectified by the government by providing tap water facilities, for which necessary allocations must be made on a priority basis.

#### **Improving Work Participation:**

The work participation is reportedly modest (38.01 per cent), which is low among Muslim households (37.18 per cent) and high among Buddhist households (42.21 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.08 per cent for males and 20.64 per cent for females). This is more or less true across all religious groups. The

lower female work participation is a serious issue, which 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.

### ***Quality of employment***

Casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation (54.48 per cent of households), followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (21.63 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in the occupational status of the sample households across religious groups and genders. About 18 per cent of Muslim households derive their livelihood from casual wage labour in agriculture, whereas a lesser proportion of other communities' members are engaged as casual labour in agriculture. Besides, comparatively more males than females are engaged in casual wage labour in agriculture. Thus, the high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture is a reflection on the poor economic conditions of the households.

Women are actively engaged in various occupations across religious groups. The high dependence on agriculture and casual work in agriculture is responsible for poor economic conditions, which force women to work outside the households in precarious conditions at very low wages. Since casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low, the government scheme of NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way. This would give these poor households an opportunity to get assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 76.46 per cent of the households' members are engaged. More than one-tenth of the households' members are engaged in construction related activities. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement more and more self-employment schemes for the rural poor, so that they could be employed on sustainable basis. This would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings, but would also go a long way in empowering women to play their part within the family and society.

### ***High incidence of unemployment and search for additional employment***

Unemployment is rampant among the communities. Given the high incidence of unemployment and underemployment, a majority of the young population across the

religious groups are in search of additional employment for augmenting their income and households' status. Thus their skill needs to be improved through short term vocational and job-oriented courses.

While the process of industrial development has undoubtedly been speeded up; employment opportunities for local people have not been created at the same pace. A large proportion of the population still derives their livelihoods from agriculture and allied activities, which is responsible for their poverty and deprivation. One of the reasons for fewer jobs for local population in industries is the lack of required trained and skilled manpower in the district. This needs to be attended to on a priority basis by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes, which could facilitate local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in the industrial sector.

### **Electricity**

Electricity needs to be given due priority in development planning in the district, in order to speed up the process of agriculture and allied activities, as well as industrial development. The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission (RGREM) targets universalisation of electricity connections to rural households by the end of 2009. However, progress appears to be nowhere near the target. Thus, RGREM needs to be strengthened in the district.

### **Improving Employability through Education and Skill Development:**

Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and allied activities, and the high incidence of unemployment, a well-planned strategy is required to improve the livelihoods of the rural population of the district. The level of skill and training of new entrants to the labour market needs to be improved, by need based area specific skill development programmes and by promoting vocational and other job oriented courses. This can be done through the Industrial Training Institutes and other technical training institutes. In addition, a comprehensive survey of the skills possessed by the unemployed youth and the training needs in the growing industrial sector, including the self employed sector, needs to be undertaken.

### ***Improving literacy levels***

The gender gap in literacy is noticeable, which further reflects the comparatively lower female status in the community vis-à-vis their male counterparts. This needs serious

attention by educational planners and decision-makers, apart from increasing community awareness of the advantages of female education. To ensure equity in educational attainments, more scholarships need to be given to poor but deserving female students.

### ***Improving enrolment and educational attainments***

The proportion of the children never enrolled, left after enrolment, and enrolled but do not go to school is less, which implies that the enrolment and retention rate is very high. It also shows that the SSA has been making its impact on the rural educational scenario of the district in a potent way. However, there is need to speed up the efforts of the government to ensure cent per cent enrolment of children with zero drop outs, which would be possible through improving the quality of education and expanding the school infrastructure. The gap in the process of human capital formation in the case of various communities and genders needs to be bridged on a priority basis by following communities as well as gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

### ***Organising Skill Development Programmes***

Educational attainment, particularly among youth and that too among females, is low and thus a matter of concern. There is an urgent need to increase the participation of the population, particularly youth, in higher and technical education. This would 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 communities and minorities.

### **Additional Areas of Intervention**

- Despite the development of public health infrastructure in the recent past, there is a lack of adequate health care facilities for the rural poor population, which is burdened by the heavy pressure of population on these basic services. The situation with regard to availability of medicines, though it has gradually improved during the last few years, is the same. The availability of doctors, especially lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals, is a major concern for the rural population. At the same time, the presence of quacks in the villages has adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of people. They incur heavy expenditure on health without proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaigns to educate rural poor people about their health care.

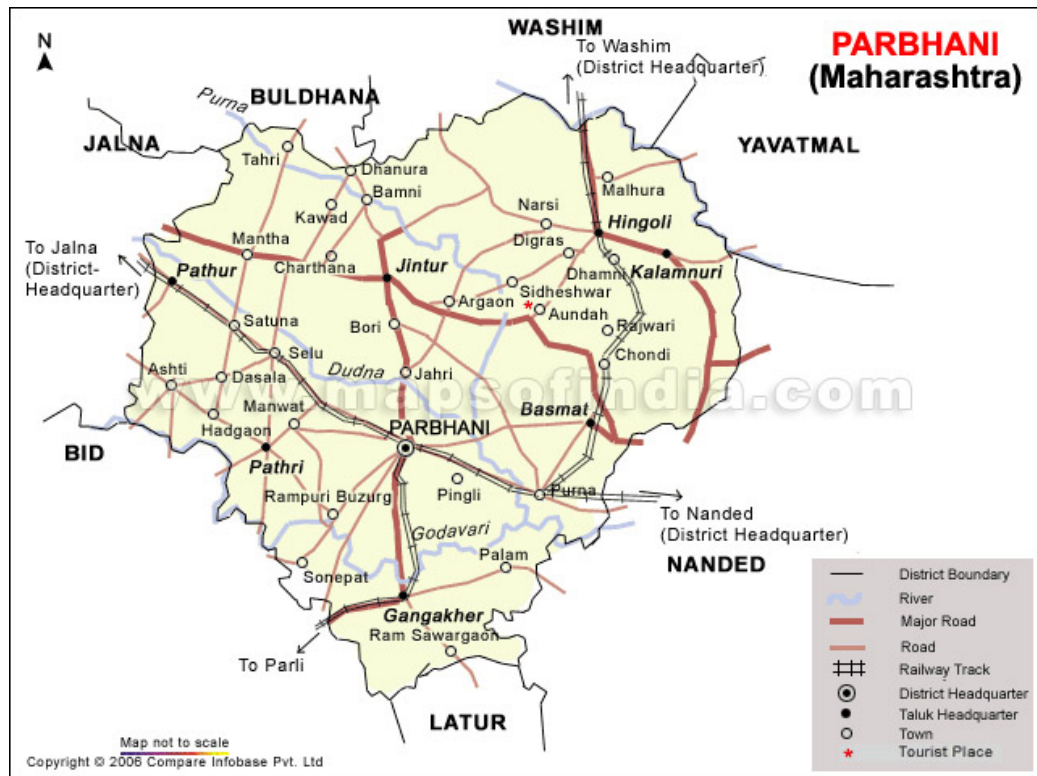
- The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is modest (38.27 per cent), which is slightly more in Buddhist households (39.58 per cent) than Hindu households (37.42 per cent). Nearly 4 per cent of children are delivered by trained midwives/ASHA. Those children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, but the proportion of such children is comparatively low. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of the children so that better pre and post natal care be provided to them.
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (82.36 per cent) as compared to government hospitals (14.27 per cent). Nearly 17 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenditure, with the proportion of Buddhist households raising debt to meet health treatment expenditures is about 28 per cent. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and of poor quality, which compels them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. Keeping this in mind, there is an urgent need to strengthen the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households and curtail their dependence on private sources, which are not only expensive, but most of the time are beyond the reach of the poor households, forcing them into debt.
- Nearly one-fifths of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly in debt. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 16 per cent and one-fifth. Institutional sources of finance are dominating the rural areas of the district. Thus, there is a need to improve the income levels of rural households. Banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates without any collateral for undertaking productive self-employment to the rural poor.
- Some of the poor households belonging to the BPL category do not have BPL cards, although, they are getting BPL rations. A significant proportion of them are without BPL cards and are not getting BPL rations. The huge difference in falling under the BPL category and holding BPL ration cards and availing of benefits from the PDS is a matter of very serious concern. These gaps need to be plugged at the earliest, so that the poor get their due share and supplement their households' nutrition. There is also a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it leakage free.

## Chapter - I

### INTRODUCTION

Parbhani, earlier also known as “Prabhavatinagar”, is one of the eight districts in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. The entire Marathwada region was a part of the erstwhile Nizam State, which became a part of the present Maharashtra state since 1960. It is bounded on the north by Hingoli district, on the east by Nanded district, on the South by Latur and on the West by Beed and Jalna districts. Parbhani district covers an area of about 6250.58 sq. kms. The district is divided into 9 administrative sub-units (tehsils) - Parbhani, Gangakhed, Sonpeth, Pathri, Manwath, Palam, Selu, Jintur, and Purna. The hills on the northeast form part of the Ajanta Hill ranges which passes through Jintur Tehsil. The hills on the southern side are the Balaghat Hill ranges. The district is at an average height of 357 m from the mean sea level.

#### District map of Maharashtra



## BRIEF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

### Population and Its Composition

The population of Parbhani district is 1042529, out of which 70.4 per cent is rural population, while the rest is urban. Parbhani is one of the least urbanised districts of Maharashtra. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) constitute 10.4 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively of the total district population compared to 10.9 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively of the state.

In Maharashtra, Hindu constitutes 87.5 per cent, Muslim 5.5 per cent and Buddhist 5.8 per cent of the total population. Thus, minorities constitute 12.4 per cent of the total population. In Parbhani district, Hindus constitutes 83.50 per cent, Muslims 6.64 per cent and Buddhists 9.36 per cent. The total minority population in Parbhani is 15 per cent. Buddhists constitutes the bulk of the minority groups in the district, followed by Muslims and Christians.

**Table 1.1: Population and Its Composition, 2001**

Tehsil	Total population	Rural %	%SC	%ST	% Hindu population	% Muslim Population	% Buddhist Population	% Minority population
Sailu	99501	71.4	8.3	0.7	83.23	6.41	9.98	0.38
Jintur	196293	83.7	8.4	5.8	79.99	7.54	12.09	0.37
Parbhani	201449	43.7	8.9	1.6	80.34	8.21	11.05	0.40
Manwath	67806	69.9	9.7	0.9	84.28	6.46	9.16	0.10
Pathri	78217	71.0	11.4	1.2	85.13	5.49	9.10	0.27
Sonpeth	53726	80.5	14.0	1.1	88.13	5.46	6.25	0.16
Gangakhed	123652	75.4	13.2	3.4	91.06	4.63	4.25	0.06
Palam	92804	100.0	13.6	3.4	85.88	8.68	5.21	0.23
Purna	129081	79.5	11.1	1.6	83.50	4.75	11.53	0.23
<b>Parbhani District</b>	<b>1042529</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>83.72</b>	<b>6.64</b>	<b>9.36</b>	<b>0.28</b>
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>55777647</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>87.5</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>1.22</i>

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



## Literacy Levels

The overall literacy rate of Parbhani is 55.15 per cent, which is below the national and the state literacy levels. The female literacy rate (43.59 per cent) is also below both the national and state average. The male literacy rate is comparatively higher and stood at 66.23 per cent. The district has poor educational facilities when compared to other districts of Maharashtra. Gender differential in literacy is noticeable across the tehsils of Parbhani.

## Work Participation

The work participation rate is 49 per cent, which is almost equivalent to the state average. While the work participation rate has improved significantly in the rural areas of the district, no significant differentials in the work participation rate have been noticed across the tehsils of the district. However, it was below the district average in four tehsils. Nearly 90 per cent of total working population in Parbhani depend on agriculture to derive livelihood (cultivators: 45.5 per cent and agriculture labourers: 44.2 per cent) and only one per cent of labour force is engaged as household workers.

**Table 1.2: Rural Work Force Participation**

NAME	Total Rural Population	Total Worker	WPR	Cultivators (%)	Agricultural Labourers (%)	Household Workers (%)	Others (%)
Sailu	99501	50924	51.2	44.9	46.8	1.1	7.2
Jintur	196293	95077	48.4	46.7	42.9	1.1	9.3
Parbhani	201449	96496	47.9	40.2	47.5	1.2	11.2
Manwath	67806	34387	50.7	42.3	48.6	1.3	7.7
Pathri	78217	39024	49.9	38.4	50.5	1.4	9.7
Sonpeth	53726	26120	48.6	42.0	47.3	1.0	9.7
Gangakhed	123652	58226	47.1	47.2	42.9	0.9	9.0
Palam	92804	44698	48.2	50.0	39.6	1.2	9.2
Purna	129081	66006	51.1	54.7	36.3	1.2	7.8
<b>Parbhani</b>	<b>1042529</b>	<b>510958</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>
MAHARASHTRA	55777647	27261431	48.9	42.4	37.8	2.3	17.5

Source: Calculated from PCA, Census of India, 2001.

## **Methodology**

The survey was conducted in the rural areas and, hence, all the figures and variables used pertain only to the 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, 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 per cent of Tehsils arranged according to population; the second consists of the middle 50 per cent; and the bottom consists of the last 30 per cent. 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 per cent 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<sup>1</sup> 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 1.3: 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	

**Clarification about Data: Weight & Multiplier Procedure**

The district level estimate has been prepared using the technique of multilevel multiplier. In the first stage, the 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

In 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, a 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 the 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.

The last chapter sums up the findings.

## Chapter II

### VILLAGE LEVEL DEFICITS

Infrastructure development and human resource development are equally important in the context of a region, failing which we will not be able to support overall development initiatives. Infrastructure development at the village level is also an indicator of the level of access to various services and facilities. This chapter analyses the status of the infrastructure availability in the district, based on the secondary data and information gathered from the village schedules and the primary survey in the selected 30 villages.

#### **Education Facilities**

##### ***Census Results, 2001***

The status of educational facilities in Parbhani is satisfactory. Nearly 99 per cent of the villages have primary schools. In Pathri and Palam tehsils, cent per cent of the villages have primary schools. The proportion of the villages with middle schools is comparatively low (46.6 per cent). Nearly 64 per cent of the villages of tehsil Pathri has have middle schools. The accessibility of secondary schools in Parbhani is limited and 15.8 per cent of the villages have a secondary school. The availability of industrial training institutes (ITIs) and technical training schools is negligible. Only the tehsil Gangakhed has an industrial and technical training school. Thus, there is urgent need to open more secondary schools and ITIs in the district, which is necessary for speeding up the industrialisation process in Parbhani district.

**Table 2.1: School Status**

Tahsil	% vil having primary school	%villages having middle school	no. of Secondary school	population per Secondary school	number of industrial school	population per industrial school	number of training school	population per training school
Sailu	98.9	43.0	14	7107	0		0	
Jintur	99.4	37.8	24	8179	0		0	
Parbhani	99.2	46.9	26	7748	0		0	
Manwath	98.1	50.0	5	13561	0		0	
Pathri	100.0	64.3	12	6518	0		0	
Sonpeth	98.2	43.9	9	5970	0		0	
Gangakhed	98.1	47.6	17	7274	1	123652	1	123652
Palam	100.0	46.9	12	7734	0		0	
Purna	97.8	53.3	16	8068	0		0	
<b>Parbhani District</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>7722</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1042529</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1042529</b>
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>95.3</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>9914</i>	<i>5626</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>133439.3</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>168005</i>

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

### **Survey Results (2008)**

Over the years, there has been an improvement in the availability of schools. Nearly 97 per cent of the villages have primary schools within a distance of one kilometre. Nearly 7 per cent of the villages have a primary school exclusively for girls. Nearly 63 per cent of the villages have a middle school within a distance of 2 kilometres. One-third of villages have access to secondary schools within a distance of 6 kilometres. None of the villages have an ITI or a polytechnic. Thus, the educational facilities, including technical and vocational education, needs to be expanded in the rural areas of the district so that the youth can be employed in gainful economic activities.

More than one-half of the schools had *pucca* buildings and 42 per cent of the schools had semi-*pucca* buildings. On an average, 7 rooms and 5 teachers were reported in the schools. The punctuality, discipline and sincerity of the teachers are reportedly modest. Proper sitting facilities are available in 7 per cent of the schools. More than 64 per cent and 57 per cent of the schools have drinking water and toilet facilities.

**Table 2.2: Access to Educational Facilities 2008 (%)**

Type of School	% of villages having	Mean distance*
Primary School (Boys/Co-ed)	96.67	0.03
Primary School (Girls)	6.67	14.23
Middle School (Boys/Co-ed)	63.33	1.62
Middle School (Girls)	6.67	15.47
High/Higher Secondary School (Boys)	33.33	6.03
High/Higher Secondary School (Girls)	3.33	15.67
Inter College	3.33	14.37
ITI	0.00	17.90
Polytechnic	0.00	57.79
Other Training School	0.00	22.04
Religious School	0.00	0.00
Non Formal	6.7	4.00
Other Educational Facilities	0.00	0.00

\*For villages not having the educational facility.

Source: Survey.

It is evident that educational infrastructural facilities need to be strengthened in the district on a priority basis in order to reduce drop outs and improve the quality of education. The Mid-day meals scheme is functioning in the district, but it needs to be better so that the goal of improving the nutritional status of rural poor school going children can be achieved. The monitoring and supervision of schools need to be strengthened to improve the level of sincerity, punctuality, and discipline of the teachers.

### **Health Infrastructure**

#### ***Census Results, 2001***

Nearly 21 per cent, 13 per cent and 14 per cent of the villages have access to primary health centres (PHCs), maternity and child welfare (MCW) centres and allopathic hospitals within a range of 5 kms.. Purna and Parbhani tehsils have comparatively better access to medical facilities. The access to health care facilities at the village level is not satisfactory. The status of drinking water facilities in the district is also unsatisfactory. There are 38 taps and 15 tube wells per thousand population in the district. There are 75 hand pumps per thousand population which are higher than the state average of 59 hand pumps



per thousand population. Thus, the accessibility and availability of rural health and water facilities needs to be improved in the district.

**Table 2.3: Status of Health Infra-structure**

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
Sailu	12.9	4.3	5.4	1.0	43	9	88
Jintur	19.5	17.1	12.2	2.0	38	11	74
Parbhani	28.9	19.5	10.9	1.5	39	18	63
Manwath	20.4	9.3	37.0	2.9	47	15	65
Pathri	14.3	8.9	7.1	1.3	42	8	72
Sonpeth	14.0	3.5	7.0	0.0	34	19	102
Gangakhed	21.0	9.5	17.1	1.6	47	23	78
Palam	21.0	12.3	12.3	2.2	23	13	86
Purna	32.6	19.6	19.6	6.2	28	19	68
<b>Parbhani District</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>75</b>
<i>Maharashtra</i>	31.2	12.4	16.6	2.3	41	19	59

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

### **Survey Results (2008)**

Nearly 13 per cent of the villages have PHCs, while the rest have access to one within a mean distance of less than 10 kilometres. 40 per cent of the villages have primary health sub-centres, and those that do not can access one within a mean distance of 3.8 kilometres. Nearly 3 per cent of the villages have Composite Health Centres (CHCs), and those that do not, can access one within a mean distance of 14.7 kilometres. Similarly, 3 per cent of the villages have hospitals/dispensaries and 16 per cent of the villages have private qualified allopathic doctors. Those that do not, can access one within a mean distance of 8.9 kilometres. Only 3 per cent of the villages have Ayurvedic hospitals, but 13 per cent of villages have Ayurvedic doctors. Ironically, nearly two-thirds of the villages have quacks and those that do not, can access one within a mean distance of one kilometre. This shows the easy availability of quacks and their significant place in the health sector. Only 7 per cent of the villages have family planning clinics but

those that do not can approach one within 10.6 kilometres. About 16.7 per cent villages have chemists/medical shops.

**Table 2.4: Access to Health Facility, 2008**

Type	% of villages having	Mean distance*
PHCs	13.3	9.6
Primary Health Sub Centre	40.0	3.8
CHCs	3.3	14.7
Hospital/Dispensary	3.3	13.4
Private Qualified Alopactic Doctors	16.7	8.9
Maternity Child care Centre	0.0	14.7
Ayurvedic Hospitals	3.3	86.1
AyurvedicDoctors	13.3	23.2
Homeopathic Hospitals	0.0	83.6
Homeopathic Doctors	6.7	18.3
Quacks	63.3	1.1
Family Planning Clinics	6.7	10.6
Chemists/ Medicine Shops	16.7	6.9
Others	0.0	5.0

\*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source:Survey.

Overall, the rural health scenario in the district is not effective due to lack of infrastructure and para-health professionals. Moreover, poor awareness causes numerous problems such as high incidence of mortality and morbidity, indebtedness to meet health care expenditure, exploitation on the part of quacks etc. All this calls for strengthening and widening the penetration of the NRHM in the district with fresh vigour.

### **Village Connectivity**

Rural accessibility and connectivity is adequate. The villages in the district are well connected with roads as more than 99 per cent of the villages have paved roads. All the villages in the district are electrified. In Parbhani district, 86 per cent of the villages have cooperative societies within a distance of five kilometres, which is better than the state average of 74 per cent. Around 30 per cent of the villages have co-operative banks within five kilometres. This is lower than the state average of 39 per cent. On an average, there are 2.7 co-operative banks per lakh of population, which is well below the state average of 6.9 banks per lakh of population. Around 26 per cent of the villages have commercial banks within a distance of 5 kilometres and there are 4 banks per lakh

of population. There are 16 post offices per lakh of population in the district. The percentage of irrigated land to total land is 86 per cent, which is more or less equal to the state average.

**Table 2.5: Banking and Other Facilities (%)**

Tahsil	% villages having paved road	Percentage of 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 popn	Percentage irrigated land to total land
Sailu	98.9	98.9	92.5	25.8	1.0	28.0	4.0	16.1	97.3
Jintur	100.0	100.0	75.6	32.9	4.1	30.5	5.1	18.3	95.1
Parbhani	97.7	99.2	93.8	23.4	2.0	21.9	4.5	13.4	75.8
Manwath	100.0	100.0	87.0	18.5	2.9	14.8	2.9	19.2	86.3
Pathri	100.0	100.0	78.6	28.6	3.8	8.9	1.3	23.0	74.6
Sonpeth	100.0	96.5	94.7	47.4	7.4	36.8	11.2	18.6	96.4
Gangakhed	100.0	100.0	82.9	28.6	1.6	19.0	3.2	16.2	96.5
Palam	100.0	100.0	90.1	27.2	2.2	24.7	4.3	15.1	99.0
Purna	97.8	97.8	88.0	35.9	1.5	37.0	2.3	9.3	63.4
<b>Parbhani District</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>86.5</b>
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>82.4</i>	<i>98.2</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>39.1</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>85.4</i>

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

The villages in Parbhani district have a well-developed infrastructure. Nearly 3 per cent of the villages are near the block headquarters and towns. One-fifth of the villages have a bus stand and those that do not, can access one within a distance of 5.8 kilometres. Nearly 7 per cent of the villages are near the regular market, and those that are not, can access one within a mean distance of 10.4 kilometres. About 3 per cent of the villages are near the railway station and those that do not can access one within a distance of 17 kilometres. Around 40 per cent of the villages have post offices nearby and others can access the services of one within a distance of 3.4 kilometres. Two-thirds of the villages have public telephone connections; others can access one within a 6 kilometre distance. About 16 percent of villages have commercial banks, 90 per cent have Anganwadis and gram panchayat offices, 86 per cent have fair price shops, 23 per cent have fertilizer shops, 13 per cent have seed storage facilities and 10 per cent have pesticide shops. Besides, 13 per cent of the villages have veterinary centres and the rest can access these facilities within a distance of 5 kilometres.

**Table 2.6: Access to Other Facilities, 2008**

<b>Type</b>	<b>% of villages having the facility</b>	<b>Mean distance* Km</b>
Block HQ	3.3	13.6
Nearest Town	3.3	11.7
Nearest Bus Stop	20.0	5.8
Nearest Regular Market	6.7	10.4
Nearest Rail Station	3.3	17.2
Nearest Post Office	40.0	3.4
Public Telephone Connection	66.7	5.6
Commercial Bank	3.3	9.6
Rural Bank	10.0	12.2
Co-operatve Bank	16.7	6.9
Anganwadi Centre	90.0	0.1
GP Office	90.0	0.7
Fair Price Shop	86.7	0.4
Fertilizer shop	23.3	6.8
Seed Storage	13.3	10.2
Pesticide Shop	10.0	19.6
Cold Storage	6.7	91.3
Other General Shops	90.0	0.5
Nearest Mandi	3.3	11.1
Milk Mandi	0.0	10.8
Veterinary (Centre/Sub-Centre)	13.3	5.0

\*For villages not having such educational facilities

Source: Survey.

The power supply is very erratic and available for 8 to 12 hours a day. Inadequate electricity is the major hindrance to industrialisation in the district. The main banking facilities available in the rural areas are commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), cooperative banks and credit cooperatives. Lack of sufficient banking services have a direct impact on the formal credit availability for agricultural and allied activities. Besides, the marketing infrastructure available is highly inadequate, so serious government attention is needed to improve access to markets. Since the status of infrastructure development in the district is modest and inter-tehsil inequities sharp, various infrastructural development interventions need to be made urgently. Moreover, other development interventions needed for the district includes education, health care, subsidized housing, employment generation, safe drinking water, power, drainage, irrigation and credit facilities.

## Chapter III

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION/HOUSEHOLDS

#### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Two-thirds of sample households are Hindus, followed by Buddhists (18.43 per cent) and Muslims (14.94 per cent). The average household size is 5.38 persons, lowest for Hindus (5.13) and highest for Muslims (6.43). The overall dependency is reportedly low (0.70), which is highest among Buddhists (0.79) followed by Muslims (0.71) and Hindus (0.60). The average sex ratio is 983, which is comparatively high for Muslims (995) and low for Hindus (941).

**Table 3.1:**

**Demographic Characteristics of Sample Households Surveyed (%)**

Religion	Sample population (%)	Average HH Size	Sex Ratio	Dependency Ratio
Hindu	66.63	5.13	941	0.60
Muslim	14.94	6.43	995	0.71
Buddhist	18.43	5.41	943	0.79
Total	100.00	5.38	983	0.70

*Source: Survey.*

Nearly 30 per cent of the population is in the school going age group of 5-14 years, with wide variations across the communities (Hindus: 21 per cent, Muslims: 32 per cent and Buddhists: 31 per cent). Hindu households have comparatively less proportion (one-fifth) of the population in the school going age group. Therefore, the educational needs of the Buddhist and Muslim communities are highest. Gender equity in child sex ratio is noticed across communities. About 18 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years, with Buddhists and Hindus having a higher concentration in this youthful age group. This implies that they supply more labour force and likely unemployment is more in these communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and the current economic slowdown. Muslims have a lower percentage in the age group of 25-29 years.

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

Age group	Hindu			Muslim			Buddist			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	8.64	7.59	8.16	8.74	6.20	7.62	11.71	8.09	10.06	8.88	6.50	7.82
5-14	21.88	19.87	20.98	33.14	29.96	31.73	20.24	23.11	21.54	30.90	28.14	29.68
15-24	21.07	19.56	20.39	18.56	17.10	17.91	22.29	18.82	20.72	19.10	17.54	18.41
25-29	8.24	6.70	7.54	4.68	6.26	5.38	5.60	7.28	6.36	5.22	6.38	5.73
30-44	18.15	22.55	20.13	17.89	23.57	20.40	20.32	19.55	19.97	18.05	23.21	20.34
45-59	11.11	14.37	12.58	10.63	9.52	10.14	10.87	14.06	12.32	10.71	10.46	10.60
60+	10.91	9.37	10.21	6.36	7.40	6.82	8.98	9.08	9.03	7.13	7.77	7.42
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*Source: Survey.*

One-fifth of the population is found in the age group of 30-44 years. One-tenth of the population is in the age group of 45-59 years. Life expectancy is reportedly very low, with just 7.42 per cent of population in the age group above 60 years. Comparatively, more Hindus and Buddhists are surviving beyond 60 years. On the whole, since there is a high concentration of population in the child and adolescent age groups, there is an urgent need for rigorous educational and manpower planning. Opening of more technical and vocational institutions, as well as creating more self-employment opportunities in agro-based and service sectors is imperative, given the stagnant public sector and shrinking private industrial sector due to recession.

## **QUALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE**

### **Literacy Rate**

The literacy level of persons aged 7 years and above is higher among males than females across all religious groups (see table 3.3). Female literacy is lowest among Buddhists and highest among Hindus. Overall literacy is highest among Hindus, followed by Muslims and Buddhists. Overall, the gender differential in literacy is noticeable and needs attention by educational planners and decision-makers, besides making the community aware of the advantages of female education.

**Table 3.3**  
**Literacy Rates (%)**

Community	Literacy 7 and above		
	Male	Female	Persons
Hindu	87.11	69.56	78.61
Muslim	86.03	67.59	76.85
Buddhist	85.71	63.81	75.19
All	86.21	67.74	77.08

*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 78 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. More girls are attending government schools (78.29 per cent). It seems that the SSA is making its presence felt in the rural areas of Parbhani district, which is evident from the fact that a high proportion of children are enrolled in government schools, while a very small proportion of school going children are attending private schools. This also reflects the poor socio-economic conditions of the households, which compel them to depend on government schools for getting knowledge and education. However, the target of 'education for all' is still a distant dream and the quality of education being imparted in schools need to be improved. Thus, the gap in the process of human capital formation, both in the various communities, as well as genders, needs to be bridged on a priority basis by following community and gender sensitive educational programmes and schemes.

**Table 3.4**  
**Enrolment Status of 6-16 Years Population**

**(a) Enrolled and Attending Schools**

	Hindu			Muslim			Buddhist			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never Enrolled	8.36	8.71	8.54	6.58	14.23	10.74	4.67	4.13	4.41	6.75	12.98	10.08
Left after enrolment	0.19	0.41	0.30	5.40	1.77	3.43	0.00	0.44	0.21	4.27	1.51	2.80
Enrolled but does not go to school	0.34	1.09	0.72	10.31	2.41	6.02	0.00	1.30	0.63	8.15	2.18	4.96
Goes to informal institution	0.85	0.64	0.74	2.62	4.40	3.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.19	3.67	2.98
Enrolled in govt school and is regular	85.21	81.57	83.36	75.09	77.19	76.23	91.22	87.41	89.39	77.62	78.29	77.98
Goes to private school	5.05	7.59	6.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.11	6.72	5.37	1.03	1.38	1.22
All	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

**(b) Never Enrolled**

Never enrolled	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Boys	8.36	6.58	4.67	6.75
Girls	8.71	14.23	4.13	12.98
Both	8.54	10.74	4.41	10.08

**(c) Drop out**

Drop out	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Boys	0.19	5.40	0.00	4.27
Girls	0.41	1.77	0.44	1.51
Both	0.30	3.43	0.21	2.80

*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 the children never enrolled is one-tenth, which is a cause of concern and calls for wider implementation of the SSA. In the case of Muslims, 14.23 per cent of female children are reportedly never enrolled in the schooling system. The drop out is very low, which provides a little relief, but still needs to be checked. Thus, the government needs to ensure cent per cent enrolment of children in the school



going age group with zero drop outs, which would be possible through improving the quality of education and expanding the school infrastructure.

### ***Reasons for Dropouts***

Although, the enrolment and retention rates in the sample villages are quite high, an attempt has also been made to find out the reasons for drop outs, though the percentage is very low. The main reasons cited for dropping out, are 'work at home' (45.78 per cent) followed by other reasons (one-fourth) and not interested in studying (one-fifth) (see table 3.5).

**Table 3.5**  
**Reasons for Dropout**

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

*Source: Survey.*

Thus, child labour is rampant in the sample households, due to the high incidence of poverty, making it necessary to make their parents aware about the benefits of education. Moreover, livelihood opportunities need to be provided to the rural poor in order to eliminate the incidence of child labour. In addition, schooling should be made interesting among the pupils to retain them in the schools and reduce the drop outs and wastage, for which teachers should be trained effectively.

### **Educational Levels**

The educational status of the sample households is modest. About 22 per cent of population is educated (with educational levels of high school and above) in the rural areas of Parbhani district. The percentage of males and females with educational levels of high school and above is 26.59 and 14.80 respectively. Males and females with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 1.75 per cent and 0.08 per cent

respectively (Table 3.6). The educational attainment of Muslim males and females is comparatively worse than that of the other two communities. Comparatively, Hindu males and females have better educational attainments, whereas Muslims have lower educational attainments. Disparities in educational attainments at various levels are noticeable across communities and genders. These need to be plugged to ensure equity, for which scholarships may be given to poor but deserving students from rural areas. Concrete steps need to be taken to increase the enrolment of students beyond high school in general and technical institutes in particular.

**Table 3.6**  
**Educational Levels**

Level of education	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Male				
Educated (High School and above)	37.69	23.60	31.72	26.59
Degree and above	7.26	2.26	3.22	3.22
Technical degree/ diploma	2.69	1.60	2.30	1.75
Female				
Educated (High School and above)	20.59	13.41	16.47	14.80
Degree and above	1.49	0.00	1.06	0.31
Technical degree/ diploma	0.44	0.00	0.04	0.08
Person				
Educated (High School and above)	29.28	11.62	38.13	21.97
Degree and above	2.84	0.24	6.43	2.19
Technical degree/ diploma	0.77	0.10	2.18	0.69

*Source: Survey.*

### **Educational Levels of Youth**

The educational status of the youth is presented in table 3.7. The data clearly reveals that 9.56 per cent of them are illiterate (7.66 per cent of Hindu, 9.95 per cent of Muslim and 9.31 per cent of Buddhist). A very small proportion of the rural youth are educated below primary or informal level and about 18 per cent and 25.46 per cent of them have had education up to the primary and middle level respectively. More than one-fifth, one-fourth and nearly one-third of the Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist youth have education up to the middle level. It is significant to note that more than one-fourth of the youth have educational attainments up to secondary level. However, comparatively more Hindu (33.60 per cent) and less Muslim (22.91 per cent) youth are educated up to secondary

level. Similarly, 12.12 per cent of the youth have educational attainments up to higher secondary level, with the exception of Hindu and Buddhist youth. The educational attainment up to graduation and post graduation is very poor especially among Muslim youth. A very small proportion of Hindu and Muslim youth have technical or vocational training. Muslim youth have lower educational attainments at various levels, as compared with the youth of the other two communities. Due to lower educational attainments, including vocational and technical education, rural youth in Parbhani district have fewer prospects in the labour market.

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

Educational category	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Illiterate	7.66	9.95	9.31	9.56
Below primary or informal education	4.47	4.34	0.91	4.21
Primary	5.89	21.14	4.43	18.00
Middle	22.82	25.65	31.53	25.46
Management or commercial school course (vocational)	0.43	2.42	0.07	2.00
Secondary	33.60	22.91	32.03	25.00
Higher Secondary	15.20	11.27	16.55	12.12
Technical diploma or certificate below degree	0.62	0.34	0.73	0.40
Technical or professional degree	1.68	1.08	0.79	1.16
Graduate degree	6.53	0.57	2.84	1.61
Post-graduate degree	0.92	0.34	0.82	0.45
Others	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.03
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*Source: Survey.*

In general, educational attainment, particularly among the youth and particularly among females, is modest and needs improvement. Poor educational attainments hamper their future labour market prospects. Thus, there is an urgent need to increase the participation of the youth in higher and technical education. This could be done by 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 low (Rs.311), although significant differentials exist among communities. For example, Hindu households are expending

more on education (Rs.899) than Buddhist (Rs.252) and Muslim households (Rs.186). Thus, the SSA needs to be strengthened in the district and its coverage be extended, in order to give some relief to the rural poor by providing basic education.

### **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 has not been effectively implemented in the district. Nearly 91 per cent 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 about 36.80 per cent of the students (see table 3.8). Educational assistance such as uniforms and scholarships are being provided to just a small proportion of the students. In order to increase enrolment and retention of students, there is a need to enhance the quantum of educational assistance in the district. Poor and deserving students must be provided with scholarships and uniforms. There is a need to operationalise free elementary education among the rural poor of the district, in order to ease the economic burden on parents.

**Table 3.8**  
**Government Assistance (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Books	90.18	91.20	90.82	91.07
School Uniform	2.74	14.70	3.94	12.97
Scholarship	1.07	0.00	2.65	0.23
Midday meal	45.54	35.64	37.99	36.80
Cycle	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.02
others	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.03
All	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
%	76.33	75.61	77.90	75.78

*Source: Survey.*

## ASSETS BASE OF HOUSEHOLDS

### Land

Landlessness is a common feature among rural households in Parbhani district. About 69.98 per cent of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is greater among Muslims (more than three-fourths) and Buddhists (two-thirds), as compared to Hindus (38.56 per cent). The average size of landholdings is comparatively more in Hindu households than in Buddhist and Muslim households. Thus, landlessness and small size of landholdings possessed by sample households not only reduces their livelihood options, but also makes them vulnerable by working at low wage levels, which traps the landless households into poverty.

### Livestock

The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stood at Rs.4878, which is comparatively very low (Rs.2580) in the case of Muslim households, than in Hindu (Rs.13810) and Buddhist (Rs.3260) households. On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Muslim households also seems to be poor, given the lower value of the livestock. The larger the possession of livestock, by rural households, the greater the prosperity of the livestock owner. Thus, in order to improve their livelihood conditions, including nutritional standards, livestock and dairy development programmes need to be strengthened.

### Productive Assets

The mean value of productive assets possessed by the sample households is low and stood at Rs.10411 (see table 3.9). As in the case of land, Muslim and Buddhist households have comparatively lower value of productive assets per household than Hindu households. The productive assets possessed by Hindu households are comparatively higher and stood at Rs.29234, which is many times higher than the productive assets possessed by Buddhist and Muslim households.

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

Type of household	Productive other than land	Modern house old
Hindu	29234	29200
Muslim	5687	13800
Buddhist	5482	15173
Total	10411	16977

Source: Survey.

### **Other assets**

Muslim and Buddhist households also possessed comparatively less modern household assets than Hindu households. The mean value of assets possessed by Muslim and Buddhist households stood at Rs.13800 and Rs.15173, respectively, as compared to that of Hindu households (Rs.29200) (see table 3.9). Thus, possession of lower productive and modern household assets reflects the poor socio-economic conditions of the households.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME**

### **Work Participation**

The work participation rate is reportedly modest (38.01 per cent), which is low among Muslim households (37.18 per cent) and high among Buddhist households (42.21 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.08 per cent for males and 20.64 per cent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups. Overall, low work participation is reported across communities, which needs to be improved by providing work opportunities through the NREGA. Low female work participation is also a serious issue, which calls for appropriate policy interventions to raise their contribution in economic activities, so that they are empowered to play their role within and outside the family in an effective way.

### **Nature of Employment**

The occupational status of the members of sample households is presented in table 3.10. A perusal of the table makes it evident that casual labour in agriculture is the dominant occupation (54.48 per cent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (21.63 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in the occupational status of the sample households, across religious groups and genders. Nearly 45 per cent of Hindu males are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities and 11.48 per cent of females in Buddhist households are self-employed in agriculture and allied activities. A low proportion of the sample households is self-employed in non-agricultural sectors (3.38 per cent) and regular salaried occupations (5.03 per cent). Fewer Muslim households are engaged in regular salaried work. None of the female members of Muslim households are salaried workers. Around 8.22 per cent of the Hindu household members are regular salaried workers. Nearly 18 per cent of Muslim households derive their livelihood from casual wage labour

in agriculture, whereas a lesser proportion of other communities' members are engaged as casual labour in agriculture. Besides, comparatively more males than females are engaged in casual wage labour in agriculture. Thus, it is evident that the high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture reflects the poor economic conditions of the households in this survey.

**Table 3.10**  
**Nature of Employment**

Status	Hindu			Muslim			Buddhist			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Self Employed in Agriculture	44.73	31.71	40.77	16.36	19.82	17.24	23.53	11.48	19.25	21.64	21.61	21.63
Self Employed in Non-Agri	5.08	2.54	4.31	3.43	2.56	3.21	2.80	2.75	2.78	3.68	2.57	3.38
Salaried	8.22	2.47	6.47	6.35	0.00	4.73	5.28	3.08	4.50	6.62	0.74	5.03
Casual labour in Agriculture	35.07	57.27	41.81	51.25	71.91	56.52	60.97	79.09	67.40	48.95	69.47	54.48
Casual labour in Non-Agri	6.91	6.01	6.63	22.61	5.71	18.30	7.41	3.62	6.07	19.11	5.61	15.47
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.*

All this forces the women to work outside the households in very precarious conditions at very low wages. As casual work in non-agricultural activities is reportedly very low, the government scheme of NREGA needs to be implemented in a big way so that these poor households may have an opportunity to get assured employment of 100 man-days per household per annum. In addition, the self-employment scheme of SGSY needs to be implemented more widely 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 the SHGs.

### **Sector of Employment**

The industry-wise distribution of workers in the sample villages across selected religious groups is given in table 3.11. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 76.46 per cent of the households' members are engaged. More than one-tenth of the households' members are engaged in construction related activities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, trade, hotel and restaurants, mining and quarrying, transport and communication, finance, real estate

and business, public administration, education, health and other sectors. Given the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, there is a need to implement a larger number of employment schemes like SGSY for the rural poor, so that they could be employed on a sustainable basis. This would not only generate employment and supplement family earnings, but would go a long way in empowering women to play their role within the family and in society.

**Table 3.11**  
**Workers by their Sector of Employment (%)**

Industry	Hindu			Muslim			Buddhist			All		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	80.60	88.98	83.14	67.92	91.73	73.99	86.28	90.56	87.80	71.06	91.08	76.46
Mining & Quarrying	0.41	0.37	0.40	2.95	0.00	2.20	0.00	2.37	0.84	2.36	0.26	1.79
Manufacturing	3.53	1.79	3.00	3.52	1.64	3.04	0.99	0.00	0.64	3.39	1.55	2.90
Electricity	0.31	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.57	0.10	0.00	0.07
Construction	5.49	2.99	4.73	16.60	5.71	13.83	6.67	3.28	5.47	14.17	4.97	11.69
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	1.50	1.10	1.38	3.16	0.00	2.35	1.10	1.25	1.16	2.77	0.32	2.11
Transport, Storage & Communication	2.63	1.40	2.25	3.08	0.00	2.30	0.80	0.00	0.51	2.89	0.29	2.19
Finance., Real Est. & Business	0.54	0.00	0.38	0.97	0.92	0.96	1.67	0.00	1.08	0.94	0.66	0.86
Pub Admn., Edu., Health & Others	5.00	3.37	4.50	1.78	0.00	1.33	1.59	2.53	1.93	2.33	0.88	1.94
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.

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

### **Unemployment and Search for Additional Employment**

Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming in all the communities. The search for additional employment to augment the households' income and status is very high. However, due to lack of training 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 the rural economy of Parbhani is a surplus one. There have been significant gaps in income and expenditure. However, the gaps in income and expenditure in Hindu households is more than that of Buddhist and Muslim households (see table 3.12). Higher income is reported in those households which have more physical and human capital. Significant differentials are noticed in income-expenditure across communities. On the whole, a high proportion of poor households is deriving their livelihood on a day-to-day basis by working as casual labour in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors and lives a hand-to-mouth existence.

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

<b>Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>Total</b>
Expenditure (Rs.)	7786	5053	5425	5537
Income (Rs.)	10139	4977	6534	5937
Income-expenditure ratio	1.30	0.98	1.20	1.07

*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, social ceremonies, and health. As the per capita income of the majority of sample households is low, it is not surprising that the per capita expenditure is also low. However, one can notice that even at a very low level per capita income there is a tendency on the part of the sample households to save something from their earnings. This is clear from the difference between the per capita income and expenditure, even though the figure may not be very significant.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>Total</b>
Food	2977	2184	2566	2339
Education	899	186	252	311
Health	823	390	582	474
Social Ceremonies	1125	987	760	998
Interest/Loan	363	122	36	159
Others	1598	1184	1230	1257
Total	7786	5053	5425	5537

*Source: Survey.*

The situation of the households can be mitigated to an extent if the government provides better basic health and educational facilities. This would reduce the poor households' dependence on private services, which took a large part of their earnings. The savings could then be utilised for meeting the other basic needs of the households.

## HOUSING AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES

### Type of Housing

The housing status of the sample households is presented in table 3.14, which reveals that nearly 24 per cent each of the households are living in *katcha* and semi *pucca* houses respectively. Nearly 13 per cent and 37 per cent of them are living in *pucca* and thatched houses respectively. Comparatively, the housing conditions of Buddhist and Muslim households are not satisfactory, which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households.

**Table 3.14**  
**Type of Houses (%)**

Type of house	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Thatched	29.23	39.14	39.47	37.17
<i>Kacha</i>	20.69	24.87	22.84	23.91
Semi <i>Pucca</i>	32.03	22.59	29.64	24.90
<i>Pucca</i>	17.04	12.49	8.05	13.15
others	1.00	0.90	0.00	0.87
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Survey.

Nearly 47 per cent of the sample households are living in two-room accommodation. About 37 per cent and 16 per cent of them have single room and more than two room accommodation (see table 3.15). Nearly three-fourths and two-thirds of Hindu and Buddhist households are living in two/more than two-room accommodation, compared to 60 per cent of Muslim households. On the whole, housing conditions of a significant proportion of the households is not satisfactory and calls for urgent attention by the government. The Indira Awaas Yojnaa (IAY) needs to be implemented with fresh vigour in the district to improve the housing conditions of poor households.

**Table 3.15**  
**Number of Rooms per Household (%)**

Number of rooms	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Single Room	26.79	39.72	32.69	36.71
Two Room	50.02	46.00	56.89	47.45
More than two room	23.19	14.28	10.42	15.84
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*Source: Survey.*

### **Drinking Water**

The condition of the drinking water facilities in the district is not at all satisfactory. Nearly 72 per cent of the households use drinking water from public sources and 17.57 per cent and one-tenth of the households are dependant upon private and other sources (see table 3.16). The dependence on private sources and other unprotected sources of drinking water by the rural poor households is a serious concern, which needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government. Necessary allocations for this must be made on a priority basis.

**Table 3.16**  
**Drinking Water (%)**

Source	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Public	64.86	74.08	70.95	72.04
Private	21.22	17.26	8.86	17.57
Others	13.92	8.66	20.19	10.39

*Source: Survey.*

### **Toilets**

A majority of the households (83.64 per cent) are defecating outside in open, which is totally unhygienic. A mere 16.36 per cent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. Nearly 89 per cent of Buddhist households are defecating outside their homes in the open. The condition of the drainage is also reportedly very unsatisfactory in Buddhist households. The practice of open defecating needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet assistance by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.

### **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

The data and information on health and family welfare is provided in the following paragraphs, which reveals more or less satisfactory conditions. The utilisation of health care facilities by the households depends on the knowledge and awareness about the

existence of these facilities. Field workers should be trained to motivate and make the rural poor aware of the health programmes, which are in operation for their benefit.

### Place of Child Birth

Nearly 42 per cent of the last children born in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children of Buddhist households (49.63 per cent) were born at home as compared to 33.32 per cent and 17.05 per cent of the births in government and private hospitals respectively. Thus, the system of institutional deliveries is very poor (see table 3.17).

### Assistance in Child Birth

The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is modest (38.27 per cent), which is slightly more in Buddhist households (39.58 per cent) than in Hindu households (37.42 per cent). Nearly 4 per cent of the delivery of children is performed by trained midwife/ASHA, comparatively more in Buddhist (13.14 per cent) than Muslim households (1.87 per cent). Those children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, although the proportion of such children is comparatively low. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to extend the coverage of institutional deliveries of children so that better pre and post natal care be provided to them.

**Table 3.17**  
**Place of Child Birth and Help Received**

Where last child born	Govt hospital	20.08	36.97	33.32	32.56
	Private hospital	34.14	22.74	17.05	25.07
	Home	45.78	40.30	49.63	42.37
Who assisted in the deliver	Govt hospital	53.05	59.70	47.28	57.12
	Trained midwife/ASHA	8.24	1.87	13.14	4.29
	Untrained Dai	37.42	38.42	39.58	38.27
	Others	1.28	0.00	0.00	0.31
Pre and Post natal care	Yes	68.90	73.01	71.23	71.87
	No	31.10	26.99	28.77	28.13
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*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 below the age of 5 years have been vaccinated against at least one type of disease. However, the proportion of the children fully immunised is comparatively low (91.17 per cent) (see table 3.18). Thus, NRHM needs to be strengthened in the district for which more allocations need to be made on a priority basis to extend the coverage of the programme.

**Table 3.18**  
**Immunisation Status of Children (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Bhudist	All
Any Type	99.19	100.00	100.00	99.85
Fully Immunised	89.32	91.10	97.10	91.17

Source: Survey.

## Morbidity

Fever, chicken pox, cough and cold, typhoid and malaria are the most common health problems faced by the sample households. Nearly 29 per cent and 13 per cent of the sample households, respectively, suffered from fever and chicken pox. Similarly, 12 per cent, 10 per cent and 6 per cent of them have suffered from malaria, cough and cold and typhoid respectively. Besides, other ailments like stomach aches and complications during pregnancy and child births are also health problems being faced by rural households. On an average, Rs.474 has been incurred per household for meeting health related expenditure, comparatively more by Hindu households (Rs.823) than Muslim households (Rs.390).

On the whole, the dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (82.36 per cent) as compared to government hospitals (14.27 per cent). Nearly 17 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenditures. The proportion of Buddhist households incurring debts to meet health treatment expenditure is about 28. This is attributed to the fact that medical services available at government hospitals are inadequate and poor in quality, which compel them to rely on private sources of medical treatment. Keeping the above in view, there is an urgent need to strengthen the National

Rural Health Mission in a big way so that it may be able to meet the health needs of the poor rural households. This would curtail their dependence on private sources which are costly and often beyond the reach of the poor households, forcing them into debt.

## **INDEBTEDNESS**

### **Incidence of Indebtedness**

Nearly one-fifth of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly indebted. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 16 per cent and one-fifth (see table 3.19). The average amount of loan raised is modest (Rs.14968). Hindu households are more indebted (Rs.52603) than Buddhist (Rs.3295) and Muslim (Rs.5666) households.

**Table 3.19**  
**Incidence of Indebtedness and Average Debt**

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Average Amt. (Rs.)	52603	5666	3295	14968
% Indebted households	32.99	16.26	19.38	19.81

*Source: Survey.*

### **Source of Debt**

Institutional sources of finance are dominating the rural areas of the district. Cooperative banks/societies and Gramin banks are playing a significant role in providing credit to the rural poor and their combined share stood at about one-third. The dependence on friends/relatives is also significant (39 per cent) for raising finance to meet productive as well as unproductive needs. Keeping in view the wider prevalence of institutional sources of credit, it is required to open more branches of rural banks in the district, so that more poor people could avail of such facilities, thereby reducing their exploitation by money lenders and sahuikars.

**Table 3.20**  
**Sources of Debt (%)**

Source	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Government	7.90	6.32	7.90	6.92
Commercial Bank	11.90	8.45	3.52	9.28
Gramin Bank (RRB)	11.14	13.22	7.35	12.20
Co-op Bank/Societies	45.35	7.37	18.82	20.36
Provident Fund	0.58	1.94	0.21	1.40
SHG/NGO	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.28
Professional money lender	2.22	2.88	2.45	2.64
Money lender	0.17	0.00	10.67	0.68
Landlord/employer	0.63	11.29	0.00	7.17
Friends/Relatives	19.02	48.54	49.08	39.00
Others	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.06

*Source: Survey.*

### **Use of Loans**

Loans have been raised by the sample households for various purposes. Capital expenditure in the farm business is the most dominant reason (37.56 per cent), followed by medical treatment (17.40 per cent) and other household expenditures (15.67 per cent). Muslim and Buddhist households are in debt to the tune of 22.96 per cent and 28.15 per cent respectively to meet medical expenses, which could be minimised if the government-run health facilities are available (see table 3.20). The raising of loan for productive purposes such as farming by 48 per cent and 34 per cent of Hindu and Muslim households respectively is very encouraging and more credit facilities through institutional mechanisms need to be provided to improve rural livelihood opportunities.

**Table 3.21**  
**Purpose of Loans (%)**

Purpose	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Capital expenditure in farm business	48.12	33.99	16.76	37.56
Capital expenditure in non farm business	4.60	9.48	0.00	7.34
Purchase of land/house	9.42	1.05	0.38	3.72
Renovation of house	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.74
Marriage and other social ceremonies	6.97	2.09	3.33	3.75
Festivals	0.31	1.94	0.00	1.30
For education	2.34	0.00	0.00	0.76
Medical treatment	4.89	22.96	28.15	17.40
Repayment of Old debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other household expenditure	6.62	19.09	29.75	15.67
Purchase of consumer durables	0.00	0.00	1.81	0.11
Purchase of animal	0.00	5.15	0.00	3.18
Other	14.45	2.13	19.81	7.16
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

*Source: Survey.*

The incidence of indebtedness in the sample households is largely due to low income levels, which are inadequate to meet their consumption and other social needs. Income levels of rural households need to improve, so that they can meet their essential requirements. Banks and financial institutions can play a major role by providing credit at cheaper rates, without any collateral, for undertaking productive self-employment to the rural poor. In this connection, the government sponsored micro credit scheme under SGSY needs to be widely promoted so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-farm activities including dairy development to increase their income. This would go a long way in mitigating poverty and empowering the people both economically and socially.



## Chapter IV

### DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES/DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

#### Public Distribution System

While one-half of the sample population is living below poverty line (BPL), 39 per cent of sample households had BPL ration cards and 58 per cent are availing of the PDS facility (see table 4.1). This implies that some of the non-BPL households have BPL cards and some of the non-BPL card holders are also getting BPL rations. Community-wise, 56 per cent of Buddhist households are BPL households and 54 per cent of them have BPL cards. Two-thirds of them are getting BPL rations. It is the same with respect to Hindu and Muslim households with some minor modifications. Thus, some of the poor households belonging to the BPL category do not have BPL cards, and not all those who have BPL cards are getting BPL rations.

**Table 4.1**  
**PDS Coverage (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
BPL HHs	46.05	52.02	56.19	50.93
BPL HH getting ration	57.02	57.54	66.45	58.12
Having BPL card	39.60	36.88	54.06	38.84

*Source: Survey.*

More than two-thirds of the sampled population have complained about the irregular supply of PDS rations, followed by non-availability of time (56 per cent), insufficient quantity (51 per cent), dishonesty in measurement (48 per cent) and bad quality (38 per cent). Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing the PDS facility. For example, 84 per cent of the Muslim households reported irregular supply as the main problem in availing of the PDS (see table 4.2).

**Table 4.2**  
**Problems being faced with the PDS**

Problems	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
Insufficient quantity	37.38	57.25	31.74	51.85
Bad quality	38.63	37.15	52.37	38.53
Dishonesty in measurement	50.97	48.57	43.02	48.59
Non Availability of time	53.65	57.79	50.72	56.54
Irregular supply	71.65	66.23	84.32	68.52
Others	2.07	3.45	0.00	2.96

*Source: Survey.*

Note: Based on multiple responses

The huge differences in falling under the BPL category, holding BPL ration cards and availing of benefits from the PDS is a matter of very serious concern. All the lacuna in the system need to be plugged at the earliest, so that the poor get their due share, which could also supplement households' nutrition. The PDS must be improved and its coverage and working should be efficient and free from corruption.

#### **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, which is due to heavy pressure of population 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 specifically lady doctors at PHCs / hospitals is a major concern of rural population. At the same time, presence of quacks in villages has adverse impact on the overall healthcare and behaviour of people, as such; they incur heavy expenditure on their health care without proper care. This needs to be corrected through awareness campaign to educate rural poor people about their health care.

#### **Education**

Like public health service, 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 in operation in all government schools, however, its quality and regularly is not assured. It is ironical to note 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 has marginalised 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 by such education.

For a 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 process attractive for the children.

### **Awareness**

The level of awareness about various government programmes operational in the rural areas of the district is given in table 4.3. ICDS, SSA and IAY are three schemes, which are known to majority of the households. Besides, the awareness regarding the schemes of SSA, NREGA and TSC is quite significant. ARWSP (water supply) is the least known scheme to the rural households. Even the maternity benefit scheme is known to less than one-third of the households. Thus, there is a need to propagate more and more the least known schemes so that the rural poor could avail of those services.

**Table 4.3**  
**Level of Awareness of Government Programmes**

Programmes	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Total
SGSY	36.7	34.9	38.5	35.4
NREGA	53.5	52.7	49.9	52.7
Indira Awas Yojana	69.7	68.7	73.4	69.2
TSC Swajaldhara	24.8	22.8	23.8	23.3
ARWSP (Drinking Water)	20.1	22.9	16.7	22.0
Sarvasikhsa	67.5	77.9	68.0	75.1
ICDS or Anganwadi	75.9	78.6	79.6	78.1
Old Age or Widow Pension	40.5	43.5	43.2	42.9
Maternity Benefit scheme	23.7	32.6	22.6	30.2

Source: Survey.

## Aspirations

The provisioning of employment opportunities followed by land within villages ranks at a top in the items of aspirations relating to development. Housing is the third important development priority. Education and health are also aspired as development needs by the households. However, different communities have ranked the development priorities differently, except for employment, education and health (see table 4.4).

**Table 4.4**  
**Aspirations of Respondents (%)**

	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	All
Employment	72.01	79.88	70.00	77.77
Land	44.20	43.71	52.17	44.29
Housing	47.70	41.96	59.95	44.12
Education	40.98	39.46	34.60	39.48
Health Centre	37.80	35.34	28.57	35.43
Other facilities	24.44	32.22	23.04	30.16
Social Respect	5.13	7.55	5.76	6.97
Drinking Water	1.14	1.67	2.26	1.60
Drainage	0.79	1.69	1.20	1.49
Bridge	0.50	1.54	1.37	1.33
Loan	0.82	0.93	1.19	0.92
PDS Ration	0.24	1.11	0.00	0.87
Electricity	0.25	0.37	3.97	0.56
Toilet	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.44
Reservation in Education	0.59	0.37	0.00	0.39
School	0.43	0.37	0.00	0.36
Irrigation	0.84	0.00	2.86	0.33
Business	1.07	0.00	1.96	0.32
Awareness Prg (Govt)	0.60	0.00	1.90	0.23

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 group (SHG). All the households' members are also member 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 Parbhani district was 1042529, of which 70.4 per cent lives in rural areas, which is very high than the State share of rural population. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) constitute 10.4 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively of the total district population.
- In the survey, two-third of sample households is Hindu, followed by Buddhist (18.43 per cent) and Muslim (14.94 per cent). The average household size is 5.38 persons, lowest for Hindu (5.13) and highest for Muslim (6.43). The overall dependency is reportedly low (0.70), which is highest among Buddhist (0.79) followed by Muslim (0.71) and Hindu (0.60).
- Average sex ratio is 983, which is comparatively high for Muslim (995) and low for Hindu (941). The high sex ratio in Muslim reflects a comparatively better female status in community, which is in contrast to predominance of traditional practices and prejudices against women and preference for sons in the community, which may be attributed to better educational status and women empowerment in the community.
- Nearly 30 per cent of the population is in the school going age group of 5-14 years. This is more or less the same across the communities except Buddhist. Hindu households have comparatively less proportion (one-fifth) of the population in the school going age group. Therefore, educational needs of the Buddhist and Muslim communities are highest. Gender equity in child sex ratio is noticed in across communities.
- About 18 per cent of the population is in the age group of 15-24 years, which implies higher supply of labour force and likely high unemployment among communities, given the higher incidence of general unemployment and current trend of slowdown in the economy.

- The life expectancy is very low and 7.42 per cent of population is found in the age group above 60 years. Comparatively, more Hindu and Buddhist women are surviving beyond 60 years.
- The literacy level of the persons aged 7 years and above is highest among the males than the females across the religious groups. Thus, gender differential in literacy is noticeable. Nearly 78 per cent of the children are enrolled in government-run educational institutions. The proportion of the children never enrolled is one-tenth, which is a cause of concern. The drop out is very low, which provides a little relief, however, needs to be checked.
- About 22 per cent of population is educated (with educational levels high school and above) in the rural areas of Pharbani district. The percentage of males and females with educational levels high school and above is respectively 26.59 and 14.80. Male and female population with technical education (both degree and diploma) is just 1.75 per cent and 0.08 per cent respectively. The educational attainment of Muslim males and females is comparatively worse than other two communities. Comparatively, Hindu males and females have better educational attainment, whereas Muslim has lower educational attainment.
- The average per capita expenditure on education is low (Rs.311), however, significant differentials exist among communities. Nearly 91 per cent 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 about 36.80 per cent of the students. The educational assistance in the form of uniforms and scholarships are being provided to very less proportion of the students.
- About 69.98 per cent of the sample households are landless. Landlessness is more among the Muslim (more than three-fourth) and Buddhist (two-third) compared to Hindu (38.56 per cent). The average size of landholding is comparatively more in Hindu households than Buddhist and Muslim 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 the poverty traps.

- The per capita value of livestock owned by the sample households stood at Rs.4878, which is comparatively very low (Rs.2580) in case of Muslim households than Hindu (Rs.13810) and Buddhist (Rs.3260). On the whole, the quality of livestock possessed by Muslim households also seems to be poor, given the lower value of livestock.
- The work participation is reportedly modest (38.01 per cent), which is low among Muslim households (37.18 per cent) and high among Buddhist households (42.21 per cent). Gender differentials in work participation are noticeable (55.08 per cent for males and 20.64 per cent for females). This is more or less true across the religious groups.
- The casual labour in agriculture is dominant occupation (54.48 per cent of households) followed by self-employment in agriculture and allied activities (21.63 per cent of households). However, there are significant variations in occupational status of the sample households across the religious groups and gender. Low proportion of the sample households is self-employed in non-agriculture sector (3.38 per cent) and regular salaried occupation (5.03 per cent)). Nearly 8 per cent of the Hindu households' members are regular salaried workers. And 18 per cent of Muslim households are deriving their livelihood from casual wage labour in agriculture, whereas less proportion of other communities' members is engaged as casual labour in agriculture. Besides, comparatively more males than females are engaged in casual wage labour in agriculture. Thus, high dependence on casual wage labour in agriculture reflects poor economic conditions of the households.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing are the dominant activities wherein 76.46 per cent of the households' members are engaged. More than one-tenth of the households' members are engaged in construction related activities. A very small proportion of the households are engaged in manufacturing, 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 Hindu households is more than Buddhist and Muslim households. 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 are deriving their livelihood on day to day basis by working as casual labour in agriculture and non-agriculture sector and live in a situation of hand-to-mouth.

- Nearly 24 per cent each of the households are living in *katcha* and semi *pucca* houses respectively. Nearly 13 per cent and 37 per cent of them are living in *pucca* and thatched houses respectively. Comparatively, the housing conditions of Buddhist and Muslim households are not satisfactory, which reflects the poor economic conditions of these households. Nearly 47 per cent of the sample households are living in two-room accommodation. About 37 per cent and 16 per cent of them have single room and more than two-room accommodation. Nearly three-fourth and two-third of Hindu and Buddhist households are living in two/more than two-room accommodation compared to 60 per cent of Muslim households.
- Nearly 72 per cent of the households use drinking water from public source and 17.57 per cent and one-tenth of the households are depending upon private and other sources. Majority of the households (83.64 per cent) are defecating outside in open, which is totally unhygienic and just 16.36 per cent of the households have in-house toilet facilities. Nearly 89 per cent of Buddhist households are defecating outside the home in open. The condition of the drainage is also reportedly very unsatisfactory in Buddhist households.
- Nearly 42 per cent of the last children born in sample households were at home. However, there are significant variations across the communities. For example, a high proportion of children of Buddhist households (49.63 per cent) were born at home as compared to 33.32 per cent and 17.05 per cent of the births in government and private hospitals respectively. Thus, the system of institutional deliveries is very poor. The dependence on untrained dais in child delivery assistance is modest (38.27 per cent), which is more in slightly more Buddhist households (39.58 per cent) than Hindu households (37.42 per cent). Nearly 4 per cent of the delivery of children is performed by trained midwife/ASHA, comparatively more in Buddhist (13.14 per cent) than Muslim households (1.87 per cent). Those of the children born in institutional care have also received pre and post natal care, whereas 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 below the age of 5 years are immunised against at least one type of disease, however, the proportion of the children fully immunised is comparatively lower (91.17 per cent).
- Fever, Chicken pox, cough and cold, typhoid and malaria are the most common health problem faced by sample households. Nearly 29 per cent and 13 per cent of the sample households respectively suffered from fever and chicken pox. Similarly, 12 per cent, 10 per cent and 6 per cent of them have suffered from malaria, cough and cold and typhoid respectively. Besides, other ailments like pain in stomach and complication during pregnancy and child births are also health problems being faced by rural households. On an average, Rs.474 has been incurred per households on meeting health related expenditure, comparatively more by Hindu households (Rs.823) than Muslim households (Rs.390).
- The dependence on private sources for medical treatment is significantly high (82.36 per cent) as compared to government hospital (14.27 per cent). Nearly 17 per cent of the households are in debt to meet medical expenditure and the proportion of the Buddhist households raising debt to meet health treatment expenditure is about 28 per cent. 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.
- Nearly one-fifth of the sample households and one-third of the Hindu households are reportedly indebted. The proportion of Muslim and Buddhist households in debt stood at 16 per cent and one-fifth (see table 3.19). The average amount of loan raised is modest (Rs.14968). Hindu households are more indebted (Rs.52603) than Buddhist (Rs.3295) and Muslim (Rs.5666). The institutional sources of finance are dominating the rural areas of the district. The capital expenditure in farm business is the most dominant reason (37.56 per cent), followed by medical treatment (17.40 per cent), and other household expenditure (15.67 per cent).
- One-half of the sample population is living below poverty line (BPL), however, 39 per cent of sample households had BPL ration cards and 58 per cent are availing PDS

facility. This implies that some of the non-BPL households have BPL card and some of the non-BPL card holders are also getting BPL ration.

- More than two-third of the sample population have complained about irregular supply of PDS ration followed by non-availability of time (56 per cent), insufficient quantity (51 per cent), dishonesty in measurement (48 per cent) and bad quality (38 per cent). Significant differentials have been noticed in problems faced by rural households in availing PDS facility.
- ICDS, SSA and IAY are three schemes, which are known to majority of the households. Besides, the awareness regarding the schemes of SSA, NREGA and TSC is quite significant. ARWSP is the least known scheme to the rural households. Even the maternity benefit scheme is known to less than one-third of the households.
- The provisioning of employment opportunities followed by irrigation facilities within villages ranks at a top in the items of aspirations relating to development. Education is the third important development priority. Housing and health are also aspired as development needs by the households. However, different communities have ranked the development priorities differently, except for employment, education and health.
- 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 group (SHG). All the households' members are also member of religious organisations. 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.

### **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 and more self-employment opportunities in agro and horticulture-based and tourism sector given the stagnant public sector and shrinking 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 in both communities. This needs attention by educational planners and decision-makers, besides making the community aware of the advantages of female education.
- 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 facilitate 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 school going age group with zero drop outs, which would be possible through improving the quality of education besides expanding the school infrastructure. 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 communities 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 for the children, and livelihood opportunities need to be provided to 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 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.

- 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 to operationalise the free elementary education among the rural poor of the district to ease the economic burden on the parents.
- The more possession of livestock by rural households provide them with draught power as well as milch animals, meat and other products depending upon the types of livestock owned and maintained. Thus, in order to improve their 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 should be empowered and 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 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 need to implement more and more self-employment schemes like SGSY for rural poor so that they could be employed 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.
- 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 is driving 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 on

priority by opening more industrial training institutes and other technical institutes, which could facilitate local trained and skilled manpower in getting employment in industrial sector.

- Unemployment and underemployment is quite alarming among the communities. As such search of additional employment for augmenting households' 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.
- The economic situation of the households can be improved by provisioning better basic health and educational facilities by the government, thus, reducing their dependence on private services, which took a part of their expenditure that could be utilised for meeting other basic needs of the households.
- The dependence on private sources of drinking water by the rural poor households needs to be rectified by providing tap water facilities by the government, for which necessary allocations be made on priority basis.
- The practice of open defecating though on a lower scale needs to be checked by providing in-house toilet assistance by the government. This would help to improve sanitary and environmental conditions in the villages.
- The system of institutional deliveries is presenting an encouraging picture of rural reproductive and child health care system in the district, which needs to be strengthen further 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 dependency on private sources which are costly in nature and most of the times these are beyond the reach of the poor households and forces them in debt. Thus, more allocations should be made for NRHM on priority to extend the outreach and coverage of the programme.
- 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 more and more so that poor villagers may invest in farm and non-

farm activities including dairy development to increase their income, which would also go a long way in mitigating poverty and empowering them, both economically and socially.

- The huge difference in falling under BPL category and 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, so that the poor must get their due share, which could also supplement households' nutrition. There is also a need to rejuvenate the PDS to improve its working and performance as well as coverage and make it leakage free.

**Annexure I: List of Sample Selected villages in Parbhani District**

Block	Gram Panchayat	Village
Palam	Pokharani Devi	Pokharni Devi
Palam	Vanbas	Banbas
Palam	Peth Pimpalgaon	Peth Pimpalgaon
Palam	Parwa	Parwa
Parbhani	Umari	Umari
Parbhani	Traroda	Bramapuri Furf
Parbhani	Singanpur	Singnapur
Parbhani	Parwa	Parwa
Parbhani	Panhera	Govha
Parbhani	Daithana	Daithana
Sailu	Adgaon	Adgaon
Sailu	Walour	Walur
Sailu	Kemapur	Kemapur
Sailu	Hatnoor	Hatnoor
Pathari	Zari	Zari
Pathari	Wandar Wada	Bandar Wada
Pathari	Borgavhan	Borghvhan
Pathari	Kansoor	Kansoor
Purna	Navki	Navki
Purna	Sonna Traf Raulgaon	Sonna Traf Raulgaon
Jintur	Charthana	Charthana
Jintur	Angalgaon	Angalgaon
Jintur	Warna	Warna
Jintur	Dudhagaon	Dudhagaon
Jintur	Vassa	Vassa
Gadgakhed	Rumna Jwala	Rumna Jwala
Gangakhed	Muli	Muli
Gangakhed	Bothi Tanda	Bothi Tanda
Manwat	Naralad	Naralad
Sonpeth	Awalgaon	Awalgaon