



Baseline Survey of Minority Concentrated Districts

District Report

TIRAP

Study Commissioned by
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Study Conducted by



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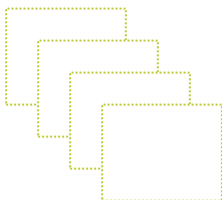


Commissioned by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, this Baseline Survey was planned for 90 minority concentrated districts (MCDs) identified by the Government of India across the country, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi coordinates the entire survey.

Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati has been assigned to carry out the Survey for four states of the Northeast, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur.

This report contains the results of the survey for Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The help and support received at various stages from the villagers, government officials and all other individuals are most gratefully acknowledged. ■





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BACKGROUND

Issues relating to disparities across socio-religious communities have attracted much attention of the government of India of late. There is a growing realization about the relative backwardness of the religious minorities more particularly the Muslim as a religious community in India. The Sachar Committee, which was instituted specifically to look into the relative deprivations of Muslims vis-à-vis other socio religious categories in various dimensions of development, in its report on “Social Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India”, exhibited deficits and deprivations of Muslims in all dimensions of development.

In order to ensure that the benefits of schemes and programmes of government reach the relatively disadvantaged segments of society districts having a substantial minority population on the basis of backwardness parameters were identified. Based on 2001 Census, using two backwardness parameters, viz., (1) religion specific socio-economic indicators at the district level in terms of literacy rate; female literacy rate; work participation rate; and female work participation rate and (2) basic amenities indicators at the district level in terms of percentage of households with pucca walls, safe drinking water, electricity and w/c latrines, the Ministry of Minority Affairs identified 90 Minority Concentration Districts throughout the country which are falling behind the national average in these parameters. Of these 90 districts, 53 districts have both socio-economic and basic amenities below national average, 21 districts have socio-economic parameters below national average and 16 have basic amenities below national average. The basic idea is to formulate a multi-sectoral programme for the 90 MCDs which envisage for providing beneficiary oriented schemes to minorities and infrastructure development for the entire community in the districts.

Against this backdrop the baseline survey in MCDs was conceived to

- (a) identify how existing programmes are currently targeting these districts and on the basis of the assessment to develop special programmes to provide these facilities and ensure accessibility to them in the most backward areas in a faster way; and
- (b) create socio-economic profiles of the targeted districts, and receive inputs that would help improve literacy rate, especially female literacy rate, and overall work participation rate, especially female work participation rate that have a significant impact on economic development.

The survey would more specifically try to identify the gaps in (1) availability of infrastructure like schools, health centers, ICDE centers and drinking water supply (2) housing and sanitation (3) critical linkages like rural road, ITIs, banking facilities, markets etc. and also (4) identification of artisanal income generating activities in which villagers have comparative advantage.



METHODOLOGY

The present survey has been confined to rural areas. Considering the availability of data Tehsil level information has been used for stratification purpose.

Villages are taken as the first stage units (FSU) for the survey. However, before selection of sample villages, each district under the coverage was stratified first. All tehsils in a district were grouped into three strata in terms of minority population after arranging them in descending order of minority population. The grouping/stratification has been done in such a way so that the first stratum constitutes top 20% of tehsils, the second stratum constitutes middle 50% and the third/last stratum constitutes bottom 30% of tehsils in the arranged frame. The ranges vary in accordance with degree of concentration of minority population in respective districts.

Depending upon the size of the district, 25 or 30 villages were selected from each district. 25 villages were chosen if the rural population of the district is below 5 lacs; otherwise 30 villages were chosen.

The number of villages surveyed in each stratum was directly proportional to the share of each stratum/group of tehsils (according to population) to the district population, subject to a minimum allocation of 6 villages to each stratum.

Required number of sample villages from each stratum have been selected as per the probability proportion to size (PPS) with replacement, size being total population of the village as per Census 2001.

In case of household selection, complete listing of all households (by door to door visit) has been done in case of sample villages with less than 1200 population. However, in case of those villages with population 1200 or more, three or more hamlet-groups (hg's) were formed in the village as per the practice followed by NSSO¹. From among them, a sample of 2 hg's was selected for listing of households. The hg having maximum concentration of minority population was selected with probability 1. From among the remaining hg's, one more hg were selected at random. The listing and sampling of households were independent for each selected hg.

In each selected hg, 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 Christian households another SSS, and so on.

About 30 households were selected in all from each sample village for detailed enquiry. These 30 households were allocated over 2 selected hg's (if hg's formed) and among the respective SSS in proportion to total number of households listed in the respective frames. A minimum of 2 households were allocated to an ultimate SSS. The required number of sample households from each SSS were selected by systematic random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR). In case of village having less than 30 households all the households were surveyed.



The rule followed by NSSO for forming hamlet-groups is

Approximate present population of the village	no. of hamlet- group to be formed
1200 to 1799	3
1800 to 2399	4
2400 to 2999	5
3000 to 3599	6
..... and so on	

Following the above methodology, total 25 villages of the district Tirap were identified, and 30 households from each village was selected for the sample survey. The present report is based on the data gathered from the total 900 sample households of the district.

TOOLS USED

Relevant data were collected with the help of (1) Rural Household Schedule and (2) Village Schedule. The rural household schedule tries to capture different dimensions of socio-economic and situational variables like employment, migration and occupation details, land and other assets, ownership of productive and other assets, livestock details, housing status, rural indebtedness, family income and expenditure, current educational status and skill training, aspiration of parents of current students, awareness and participation, local conflicts and loss of life and property, access to media and communication and general aspirations of the people.

The village schedule tries to garner authentic data regarding the village. Information such as basic population data, facilities, village organizations, land use and land transfers, credit facilities, commuting and migration data, job and wage related information, information on individual beneficiary oriented programmes, data on education including physical facilities, health, different development programmes, common property resources, and the public distribution system prevailing in the rural areas. ■



A BRIEF PROFILE OF TIRAP

2.1 Area and Location

Tirap District, whose nomenclature can be traced to the Tirap River, is almost entirely covered by mountainous tracts, treacherous gorges and ravines. Nestled between the latitude 26° 38' N and 27° 47' N and the longitude 96° 16' E and 95° 40' E, the District is bounded by Assam in the north and Myanmar in the south while Changlang District is the eastern and Nagaland state is western neighbours. Tirap is Arunachal's second smallest district has an area of 2,362 sq. km. The altitude of the district varies from 200 meters 4,000 meters. Tirap has however, the highest population density in the state (43 persons per sq. km).

Low temperatures coupled with high relative humidity are distinctive of the district's climatic profile. The vegetation of Tirap comprises mainly of tropical and subtropical evergreen forests with inter spread grasslands and temperate forests in the higher altitudes. This district is also home to several rare species of flora and fauna.

2.2 Administrative divisions

The district has three sub divisions - Longding, Deomali and Kanubari, six development blocks and eight circles which are responsible for the administration of its 169 villages. Khonsa is the headquarters of Tirap District, which is under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner. The various departments include the divisional, medical, industries, labor and employment, public health and engineering department, and horticulture and cooperative society. Tirap is not directly connected with the outside world by rail and airheads. The towns of Naharkatia and Tinsukia in Assam are railheads for the district and Dibrugarh in Assam is the nearest airport.

2.3 Resource Base

2.3.1 Population

Tirap records a population of 100, 326 with a literacy rate of 42 percent in 2001. More than 80 percent of the total population of the district is tribal with the Nocte, Wancho and Tutsa tribes dominating the tribal population. The hospitable and cooperative villagers actively participate in community affairs. Their society is autocratic with a major chieftain controlling the village chiefs. The people are mostly pantheists, with rapid conversion to Christianity. Religion wise distribution of population in 2001 shows that 50 percent population of the district belongs to Christian faith and 27 belong to Hindu faith. In case of 21.4 percent people religion was either not states or reported as *others*.

About 85 percent population in the district lives in rural areas. More than 83 percent populations in this district are belongs to scheduled tribe communities.



Table 2.1: Demographic features of Tirap District, 2001

Total population	100326
Rural	85032 (84.8 percent)
Urban	15294 (15.2 percent)
(0-6 year population)	20284 (20.2 percent)
Sex ratio	910
Scheduled Tribe Population	83940 (83.7 percent)

2.3.2 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio in the district to the 2001 census is 910 (rural 929 and urban 810). The sex ratio in this district is higher than the state average of 859. This reveals that this district unlike many districts of the state is less immigration prone. The sex ratio in the 0 to 6 age group is 941. The sex ratio of scheduled tribe population is 977.

2.3.3 Literacy rate

The literary rate of the district to 2001 census is 41.7 percent. The male literacy rate of the district is 55.4 percent and female literacy rate in 28.8 percent. The literacy rate in this district is much lower than the state average of 54.3 percent.

Table 2.2: Literacy rates in Tirap district

	Person	Male	Female
Total	41.7 percent	53.4 percent	28.8 percent
Rural	34.2 percent	46.2 percent	21.2 percent
Urban	81.4 percent	87.9percent	73.1 percent

2.3.4 Workforce of the district

The workforce of the district is constitutes of 48.9 percent population of which 43.7 percent are main workers. The work participation rate for male is 52.2 percent and for female is 45.3 percent. More than 74 percent of main workers in the district are engaged in cultivation. One could see higher proportion of women involved in agriculture. However, this apparent feminisation of agriculture can be interpreted as culture led and not distressed led like the overall context of the country. This is the reason that more proportion of women in the district is captured as main workers.



Table 2.3: Distribution of workers in Tirap district

Main workers	Persons	Male	Female
Total workers	43807 (43.7 percent)	25174 (47.8)	18633 (39.0)
Rural	38563 (88.0)	20667 (82.1)	17896 (96.0)
Urban	5244	4507	737
Cultivators	32522 (74.2)	15531 (61.7)	16991 (91.2)
Agriculture labour	198	122	76
Workers in household industry	119	80	39
Other workers	10968 (25.03)	9441 (37.38)	1527 (8.20)

Marginal workers	Persons	Male	Female
Total workers	5276 (5.3))	2259 (4.3)	3008 (6.3)
Rural	5027 (95.3)	2093 (92.3)	2934 (97.5)
Urban	240	166	74
Cultivators	4368 (82.8)	1668 (73.8)	2700 (89.8)
Agriculture labour	202	109	93
Workers in household industry	77	16	61
Other workers	620	328	112

2.3.5 Health and Education

There is one government college, five higher secondary schools and 10 high schools in the district. Moreover the district has 36 middle and 124 primary schools. The total gross enrollment ratio (6-22 year) in the district was 44.8 percent. In the context of male the proportion was 46 percent and female was 35.7 percent.

The teacher student ratio in this district during 2006 was 1:23 in primary schools and middle level schools, 1:29 in secondary school and 1:28 in higher secondary schools.

In the district there is one district hospital, one dispensary, five community health centres, five primary health centres, thirty four sub centres and five leprosy, VD and TB clinics. There is provisioning of altogether 187 beds in the health facilities. To this there are about 19 beds (state average 20 beds) per 10 thousand populations in the district. There are altogether 41 doctors in the district. This comes to four doctors per 10 thousand populations in the district, which is same as the state average. The district also has two family welfare clinics.

2.3.6 Human Development Index

The Human Development Index which includes three components – health, education and income are measured to arrive at the human development index of Tirap district. The overall estimated index value for Tirap is 0.397. The index of health, education and income are 0.461, 0.428 and 0.301 respectively in the district. The district is ranked 9th in Health, 13th in Education and 11th income and overall 12th in the state Human Development Index.



2.4 Natural Resource Base

The economy of this district is primarily agrarian with the locals practicing mostly *jhum* cultivation. Some people are also involved in allied activities in government employment and contract works in natural resource based activities in forest areas. The Namsang Borduria Forest generated considerable revenue to the government. The jagged hilly terrains of Tirap are testimonial to the virgin natural beauty. The Namsang Borduria Forest is an exemplary example the district natural reserves of resources.

2.4.1 Economy- Agriculture

The economy of Tirap district is basically agrarian in nature with more than 80 of the population dependent on agriculture. Rice is the major crop. Other important crops include maize, millets, oil seeds and vegetables etc. The agro climatic conditions of the district are conducive for various agricultural activities. Agriculture in the district is characterized by dependence on rainfall, predominance of seasonal crops and traditional methods of cultivation.

As per the 2001 census data, the total net area sown is 13342 hector, current fallow 4587 hector, 15116 hector is uncultivated land excluding fallow land and 3638 hector area of land is not available for cultivation. The net irrigated area of the district is 228 hector. This indicates that the district has vast scope for utilization of land resources.

Table 2.4: Land use statistics of Tirap district, as per agriculture census, 2001 (hectare)

Net area sown	Current fallow	Uncultivated land	Fallow land other than current fallow	Cultivable waste	Land use not for cultivation	Total	Net irrigated area
13342 (18.4 percent)	4587 (6.3)	15116 (20.8)	23368 (32.2)	12514 (17.2)	3638 (5.0)	72565	228 (1.7 percent)

Table 2.5: Productivity of crops in Tirap district, yield in kg per hectare

	Rice	Maize	Wheat	Pulses	Oilseed	Potato	Millet
Tirap	544	1207	1625	1657	967	5945	759
Arunachal	1162	1411	1588	1045	956	7204	966

Productivity of crops in the district is not up to the mark and falls behind the state average in almost all crops (Table 2.5). Fertiliser consumption in the district like the state as whole is scanty. Total fertilizer consumption in the district during the year 2005-06 was 20 MT. To this per hectare consumption of fertilizer in Tirap district is just 1.5 kg compared to the state average of 6.6 kg per hectare.



2.4.2 Industries

There are no heavy industries in Tirap district. There are altogether 44 village and SSI units and three medium units in the district providing employment to just 58 persons as on March 2006. As per the records of March 2006, the district has 18 weaving centre with altogether 159 trainee undergoing training in the centres.

2.4.3 Livestock

The livestock census 2003 shows that the district has 55088 livestock in 18957 households, of which pigs constitutes 36.6 percent, cattle 24.3 percent and goat 27.6 percent. There are 5 veterinary dispensaries, 12 veterinary aid centres, eleven cattle up grading centre, one district diagnostic laboratory and one poultry breeding farm in 2006. During 2005-06, the total production of milk in this district was 10853 liters.

2.5 Infrastructure and connectivity

2.5.1 Electricity and power

As on March 2006, 158 villages (93.5 percent) out of the total 167 villages of the district are electrified. This proportion is much higher than the state average of 48.2 percent.

Under the solar photovoltaic programme four villages got electrified in the district. Altogether 230 solar lanterns, 107 solar home system and 50 solar street lights were provided under the programme in the district.

2.5.3 Roadways

Availability and access to infrastructure is one of the major factors responsible for economic and social growths across space and communities. The main mode of transportation in this district is roadways. The total road length of this district is about 596 km of which 172 km (28.8 percent) is black topped and unsurfaced road accounts for 217 km (36.3 percent). The road density in the district is 25 km (state average 8 km) per 100 square km and the density of black topped road is little over 7 km (state average 2.5 km) per 100 square km.

2.5.4 Post and Telecommunication

There are altogether 31 post offices in the Tirap district. All offices are without telegraph facilities. The district has one telephone office and seven telephone exchanges. Altogether 2579 connections are given in the district till March 2006, of which 456 connections were with STD facilities. Permission is given to operate 50 PCO in the district. The present capacity of telephone exchanges in the district is 3832.

2.5.5 Banking

There are four branches of nationalized bank in the district. Moreover, there are two branches of Arunachal Pradesh co-operative apex bank.



2.5.6 Basic amenities

As per the records of Census of India 2001, the housing types in the district shows that 12.9 percent families in the district live in permanent houses. Altogether 79.5 percent families live in katcha houses.

As per the information of the Chief Engineer of public health engineering department all the villages of the district are covered with safe drinking water facilities.

The connectivity status of the villages reveals that about 29 percent of the villages have access to bus services. The census records on conditions of approach road shows that about 40 percent of the inhabited villages have paved approach road.

There are altogether 118 fair priced shops in the district. The BPL survey during the 9th plan in Arunachal indicates that 74 percent families in the district are under poverty spending less than Rs. 20,000 per family per annum. The poverty figure for the state as a whole is 54 percent. However, to the planning commission estimate for the period 2004-05 just about 18 percent population in Arunachal live under poverty.

There are altogether 265 Anganwadi centers in the district and six ICDS projects are in operation. As per the records of 2004-05 there are 99 beneficiaries under old age pension scheme.

Table 2.6: Distribution of Amenities in villages of Tirap district

Amenities	Numbers
Total inhabited villages	167
Total households	18957
Safe drinking water facilities	Coverage 100 percent villages
Electricity(power supply)	158 villages (93.5 percent)
Primary school	124
Middle school	36
Secondary/Sr. secondary school	15
Colleges	1
Medical facilities	One district hospital
Primary health centre	5
Primary health sub- centre	34
Post offices	31
Telephone exchanges	8
Paved approach road	379 km
Mud approach road	217 lm

Overall this is revealed that difficult terrain and inaccessibility is the main hurdle in development of the district. Educational infrastructure though seems to be adequate there is deficit in provisioning of health and communication infrastructures. The electricity connectivity and drinking water access reported to be good. However, basic status of the amenities could be better revealed from village and households surveys. ■



PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE VILLAGES

3.1 Demographic profile

The district of Tirap has a population just over 100 thousand. The villages in the district are scattered but not thinly populated. In our sample of 25 villages, altogether 672 households are captured with an average of 27 households per village. The rural population of the district is 84,938 and there are 167 inhabited villages in the district. To this on an average 500 people or about 100 households live in every village. The average size of households in sample villages is estimated at 4.8 persons. Mainly two religious communities are captured in the sample households. There are 380 households (56.5 percent) belonging to Hindu faith and 282 households (42 percent) belonging to Christian faith in the sample. The households in the sample are mainly of scheduled tribe communities (87.9 percent).

3.2 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio in the sample villages overall estimated at 919. However the figure varies across the villages. The low sex ratio to certain extent could be explained by in migration of male population in this thinly populated district. The district profile also reveals the same sex ratio.

3.3. Literacy Rate

Literacy rate in the sample villages is estimated at 71.5 percent which is more than the district average of 41.7 percent. The estimated literacy rate in the Hindu community (70.2 percent) found to be less than the Christian community (73.2 percent). The literacy rate for Hindu female is estimated at 63.1 percent, which is lower than the literacy rate of Christian women (65.4 percent).

3.4 Facilities

A definitive way to measure the quality of life in a state, region or dwelling place, whether rural or urban, is to ascertain the presence, accessibility and utility of the social and physical infrastructure by the residents of these spaces. Lack of access can emerge either due to the absence of social and/or physical infrastructure, or through inaccessibility to such facilities even when they are present.

3.4.1 Electricity

Proportion of households using electricity for domestic lighting in rural areas is indicative of economic status of the households. As per the information of Chief Engineer, Power, altogether 93.5 percent of the villages in Tirap district has power supply. The figure of the sample village survey corroborates the official data. It is revealed that in 23 villages (92 percent) of the sample of 25 villages electricity supply is available. All the connections in the villages are domestic connections. First



electrification among the sample villages was made during 1960s. Subsequently seven villages were given connections during 1970s, six during 1980s, five during 1990s and four during 2000.

The sampled villages with electricity get electricity supply on an average for about 7 hours in a day and the quality of supply has deteriorated over the years (Table 3.2).

3.4.2 Drinking water

Availability and access to safe drinking water has been the most crucial factor involving serious health concerns in rural areas. The survey revealed that altogether 16 sampled villages have common sources of safe drinking water supply. Altogether 304 public stand posts are available in these 16 sampled villages (Table 3.3). In three Christian villages non-functional public stand posts are reported. In few villages public as well as private well and river are the common water sources. Coming to the private sources of drinking water this is found that tank and river are the major private source of both Hindu and Christian households in majorities of the villages (Table 3.4 and 3.5). One village also reported availability of tap water inside the house.

3.4.3 Toilet facility

The sanitation status of the sample villages shows that in just seven villages (two villages dominated by Hindu and five by Christian community) there is presence of sanitary toilets. Moreover, though most of the villages have shown presence of insanitary toilets the common practice of most of the villagers from both Hindu and Christian communities are to go to the open field for defecation (Table 3.6 and 3.7).

3.4.4 Education

All the villages in the sample have access to schools for the children. Altogether 17 villages of the 25 in the sample have primary schools within the villages (In the district altogether 74 percent villages have primary schools). Apart from the primary schools nine villages have middle schools within the villages. However, it is found that students of the villages require traveling a considerable distance to pursue high school level education in the district (Table 3.9). Communication of the students of the sample villages to schools, particularly to high schools is difficult. A good proportion of students are compelled to stay at hostels and a good numbers communicate to school on foot. This has some affect on sending the girls to schools in the sample villages. Most of the students in the sampled villages, particularly by the girls found commuting to schools on foot.

3.4.5 Health Facilities

Information on the sample villages reveal that from most of the villages villagers need to travel more than five km to access health facilities in primary or community health centers (Table 3.10).



3.4.6 Other facilities

The availability of facilities in the villages of the district reveal that, block head quarter, the nearest town and facilities of regular market, post office and banks in most cases are located at a distance of more than 10 km. Block head quarters are at a distance of more than 10 km in case of 18 sampled villages and the nearest town is at a distance of more than 10 km in case of 17 sample villages. Among the sampled villages only 3 villages have the bus stop near the village (Table 3.12 and 3.13).

3.5 Village organizations

The organizational activity within the village is an important determinant of overall socio-economic development. Information reveals that among the sample villages there exists few fairly active organisation in all sampled villages. Farmers' organisation is found to be active in 10 sampled villages, voluntary organisation in one village, religious organisation in two villages, young organisation in one and women organisation in three villages. Moreover, cultural organisation found to be active only in one village.

3.6 Artisan and Handicraft Activities

In only one village in the sample few households found to be engaged primarily in handicraft or artisan activities. They are found to be selling their products in nearby towns.

3.7 Crop productivity status:

The economy of Tirap is agrarian with paddy, maize and millet are the main crops cultivated. The survey results of the sample villages indicate that paddy is the major crop produced in all the villages. However, productivity is very low in the villages mostly confining to shifting cultivation. Reported average production in the sample villages in some cases are about 900 kg per hectare, the lowest reported being 200 kg per hectare (Table 3.14). The average productivity of paddy in the district however is about 544 kg. The maximum market price fetched by paddy one year prior to the date of survey as reported was Rs. 1000 per quintal while the minimum price was Rs. 450.

3.8 Input status for cultivation:

3.8.1. Current inputs

Very few villages found using modern capital inputs in agriculture in the villages. Use of private pump sets was reported in two villages of the sample. The traditional agriculture equipments, some with improvisation are available in most of the cultivating households.

3.9 Credit

Village level information reveals that credits are mostly required to meet the sudden expenses and to meet the cost of cultivation. Friends and relatives are found to be the



major source of credit in most of the villages. In good number of villages institutional sources are also revealed as major source of credit. Moneylenders are also the main source of credit in few villages (Table 3.15).

3.10 Migration and employment and wage income earning

Village level information reveals that from 17 sample villages about 750 people daily or occasionally commute to work in neighbouring areas (Table 3.16). This number in this thinly populated district is not small. This is also reported that from some villages people commute to block head quarters for work. This is revealed that commuting for work helps to fetch on an average Rs. 1200 to each worker every month. In some villages it is reported that commuters earn even more. In four villages long duration out migration within as well as outside the state is reported. Relatives, friends and intermediary have created the passage for them (Table 3.17).

This was reported that the wages of male casual labourers have increased in recent times in most of the sample villages (22 out of the 25 villages) and the wages have remained the same in three villages. The average wage for male in ploughing, land preparation and other agriculture activities are reported at Rs. 50 in most of the villages. However, one finds variation in the wages paid. The average wage for unskilled male labour is estimated at Rs. 55 in the sample villages. Skilled labourers are found to be available in few villages and the reported average wage of male skilled work is Rs. 70 (Table 3.18).

One could see that in the sample villages there is some discrepancy of wages among male and female wage earners in agricultural and unskilled activities (Table 3.19).

In the 18 sample villages altogether 384 persons found with government jobs. Among them 282 are Hindu and 60 are Christians and religion could not be determined in case of 42 persons. Considering the number of households from these two religious communities in the sample the proportion of jobs availed by the Hindu community is found to be more (Table 3.20).

The relative conditions of 20 sampled villages reportedly have improved over the years. Improvement in social conditions, access to educational facilities, access to drinking water and better wage rates are cited as the reasons for betterment of the villages (Tables 3.21 and 3.22).

3.11 Rural Development programmes and beneficiaries assisted

People in 13 the sample villages have got assistance under the rural development programmes. SGSY is operational in two sample villages and PMGSY in five villages (Table 3.23). Altogether 51 (21 Hindu and 30 Christian) beneficiaries reportedly got benefited under the SGSY and another 182 (110 Hindu and 72 Christian) under PMGSY. IAY is operational in 10 villages and there were 97 beneficiaries (52 Hindu and 40 Christian) in the villages. Information on allocation of money on development projects is acquired for five villages in the sample (Table 3.29). The reported allocation of money in the villages, except one is found to be meager. This is found that employment is



generated for altogether 227 persons in the seven sample villages for which information are acquired (Table 3.30).

During the time of survey in March 2008 employment generation scheme was going on in seven sampled villages.

In altogether 14 villages 154 person have received old age pensions since 2002-03. No person in the sampled villages has received the widow pension.

3.12 Common resource and facility uses

There are altogether 17 schools within the sampled villages. Out of these 17 schools one is of katcha structure, 11 are of semi-pucca structure and five pucca structure (Table 3.24). Flooring materials are found to be of mud in two schools and rest have cement and stone flooring (Table 3.25). All the schools except one are found with multiple rooms-seven having 2 class rooms, five having 3 rooms, one having 4 rooms and three having 5 rooms (Table 3.26). All the primary schools in the villages are found with useable blackboards. Nine schools have desk and benches for all students, drinking water facilities are available in 11 village schools and toilets in seven schools. In 16 schools this is reported that all the students have received note books and books. The provisioning of mid meal was reported regular and quality is reported satisfactory in nine schools. Three village schools in the sample are found with just one teacher (Table 3.27). Quality of teachers is reported to be good in 12 schools. The attendance in the village primary schools however found to be very poor during the time of visit to the schools. This is found from the enrolment register that just about 20 percent boys and 25 percent girls were present at the school during the time of visit.

Medical officer found to be visiting 13 sample villages and lady health visitor in two villages (Table 3.28). ANM found to be visiting in 22 sample villages and malaria inspector in 24 sample villages. They reportedly visit once in six months in some villages to once in month throughout the year in some villages. The average number of visits however found to be just 2 to 4 visits in a year. Vaccinators found to be visiting all the sample villages. Their visits are also found to be on an average two times in a year with some exception of monthly visits in few villages. ASHA is reportedly available in just six villages.

Presence of ICDS programme is found in 21 villages in the sample. In six villages the programme is operational from government building and in rest 15 villages the programme is being run from private buildings. As observed from the field the physical conditions of ICDS centers in most of the villages found to be all right (Table 3.31). This is estimated that about 370 children from 21 sample villages are availing service at the ICDS centers located in their own or nearby villages. This is reported by the villagers of 13 sample villages that the level of satisfaction from ICDS centers is good and in rest of villages the reported level of satisfaction is average (Table 3.32).

Fair priced shop found to be available only in three villages of the sample. In case of the rest of the sample villages facilities are located at a distance of more than 5 km in case of 18 villages. This is reported that 131 households have availed antyodaya, 675 have got



BPL and 456 have got APL cards in the sample villages. This is reported that altogether 1064 households (84.3 percent) avail PDS rations from the 1262 card holders in the sample villages (Table 3.33). The villagers in most cases reported their dissatisfaction over the supply of PDS goods. Poor availability of goods (reported in 10 sample villages), not receiving of full quota of goods (in 12 villages), irregular supply (in 12 villages), dishonesty in measurement (reported in eight villages) are some of the grievances reported in the sample villages. However, there was not much complains on quality of goods and prices (Table 3.34 to 3.35).

This is reported that 11 villages have CPR forest and the resources are used by all villagers. Two villages in the sample also reported to have useable pastures. The presence of self help groups are seen only in two villages in the sample.

3.13: Summary

It is reported in five sample villages that overall their villages have remained at the same stage of development or have lagged behind as they years placed some years back; to be precise are worse off in certain facets of development. Poor agriculture productivity, lack of irrigation facility, poor status of power supply, access to health facilities are some of the reported concerns in the villages (Table 3.22). This is further reported that political conditions and road connectivity are also have deteriorated in some sample villages. Information acquired at village level also revealed poor sanitation practice by the villagers. Overall all reveal serious deficits in the development process of this thinly populated district. There are missing infrastructures to usher the development process, some though are initiated only in recent times the gains are yet to be measured. ■



RESULT OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

4.1 Religion and Caste Composition

Altogether 672 households are surveyed in 25 villages in Tirap district of Arunachal. Among the surveyed households 380 households (56.5 percent) belong to Hindu community and 282 households (42 percent) belong to Christian community (Table 4.1). The household survey also captures three households from Muslim community, two from Sikh and five from Buddhist community. The households in the sample are mainly of scheduled tribe communities (87.9 percent).

4.2 Mother Tongue

Altogether 96.4 percent households in the sample reported local languages Nocte, Wancho, etc. as their mother tongue. Few households (24 at all) reported Bengali, Assamese and Hindi as their mother tongue (Table 4.2).

4.3 Age and Sex

The total population in the 672 sample households of the district is 3253; of them 52 per cent is male and 48 per cent is female (sex ratio is 924). The details of age group and sex wise distribution of the sample population are shown in Table 4.3. As the table indicates, 11.3 per cent and 23.8 per cent of the sample population are constituted by the children up to the age of 5 and 6-14 years of age group respectively. On the other hand in the state as a whole 18.8 percent population alone is in the age group of 0-6 years. This figure for Tirap district is 20.2 percent. In the sample households though it shows lower fertility overall in the district this is not the case. Religion wise in the two dominant communities of Hindu and Christian one does not find much difference in the distribution of population by the age groups. Gender wise however poor sex ratio (771) is indicated in the age group of below six years in the household Hindu community compared to the household Christian community (1323). In the other age groups too one finds variations and disparity in sex ratio among religious groups. In the upper age groups, out migration due to marriage could also explain a part of the variation in sex ratio in the sampled households. On the other hand in the sample households 5.3 percent of the total population in the age group of more than 60 years somewhat reflects a positive side of health in the district (Table 4.3). The proportion of people above the age of 60 years in the country as a whole is 7.1 percent.

4.4 Household Size

This is found that 62.9 per cent of the sample households are with up to five members and 35.7 percent are with six to ten members (Table 4.4). This is also found that the size of the households is larger in the case of Christian families than the Hindu families. In the sample 41.1 percent Christian households have more than 6 members in their households, the figure in the Hindu households being 34.2 percent.



4.5 Marital Status

Household survey reveals that about 3.9 percent Hindu population in the age group of 15 to 18 years are married. This figure in the Christian households is 2.4 percent. In the Hindu households of the sample the proportion of unmarried beyond the age of 30 is found to be 4.0 percent. In the Christian households this proportion is 4.2 percent (Table 4.5).

4.6 Educational Status

The estimated literacy rate of the population in the sample households overall is 71.4 percent. Literacy rate for female is estimated at 64 percent. Religion wise it is seen that literacy rate is more in case of Christian households (71.5 percent) than the Hindu households (70.2 percent). One could also see high male female disparity in literacy. Among the members in the Hindu households male literacy is estimated at 74.5 percent against 63.1 percent in the case of female. In the Christian households male literacy is estimated at 80.6 percent and female at 65.4 percent (Table 4.6). The table also reveals that educational attainment level beyond high school is negligible for both the religious communities (5.1 percent for Hindu community and 2.9 percent in Christian community).

4.7 Occupation and Employment

4.7.1 Occupation and Industry

This is reflected that farming is the main occupation for 85.4 percent workforce in the Hindu sample households and 85.7 percent in the Christian households in the district. Data reveals that relatively large proportion of women workers are engaged in farming than their male counterpart. This figure is 89.1 percent for Hindu women and 92.6 percent of Christian women workforce (Table 4.7). This reveals that occupations of women are less diversified in this underdeveloped district. On the other hand the proportion of women workers engaged in agriculture and related primary activities to the total workers engaged in agriculture and related primary activities is 40 percent in Hindu households and 46.7 percent in Christian households in the sample. This can be mentioned that unlike many states of India the women in hill districts of north eastern region work full time in the agriculture field apart from looking after the domestic chores. Apart from farming, services in government sector are the most important main activity of the population in sampled households. Services and professional works are found to be important sources of livelihood of workforce in households of 9.9 percent Hindu and 7.3 percent Christian communities. However, in all cases the opportunities of women are much less than their male counterpart (Table 4.7). This is reflected from table 4.7 that certain unspecified activities are also principle activities of a section people in the district.

Coming to the context of secondary occupation, women constitute 39.7 percent of the total secondary workforce in Hindu families and 25.4 percent in Christian families. This



is found that more than 75 percent of them in both the communities are involved in farming and rest mostly in activities not adequately defined (Table 4.8).

Industry wise distribution of the people with main occupation (Table 4.9) shows that among the male workers 83 percent Hindu and 80 percent Christian are engaged in agriculture and horticulture, 9.9 percent Hindu and 8.6 percent Christian are in community social and personnel services and 4.9 percent Hindu and 5.9 percent Christian are in wholesale and retail trade. People's involvement in other activities like manufacturing etc. found to be insignificant in this district. However, one could see that activities of a section of people from both the communities are not adequately defined. On the other hand in case of women industry wise main activity is agriculture, livestock and horticulture for 91.2 percent Hindu women main workers and 93.7 percent for Christian women main workers. Community social and personnel services are found to be main industry for 7.2 percent Hindu and 5 percent Christian women main workers in the sampled households. The people from Hindu community are engaged more in horticultural activities, which is virtually absent in the Christian community. It however does not mean that households from Christian community possess less physical space compared to the Hindu community. What could be the reason that they do not feel enough incentives to go for activities in horticulture sector or there is altogether no financial need.

Underemployment of workers reflected significantly from the household data. This is found that 16.5 percent main workers from Hindu households and 14.8 percent from the Christian households are engaged in work for less than 180 days in a year (Table 4.10). This is found that in the Hindu households relatively a larger proportion of main workers (39.5 percent) compared to workers in the Christian households (37.9 percent) work for more than 260 days in a year. On the other hand this is found that 45 percent of women main workers in both the communities work for more than 260 days in a year.

The data on engagement of secondary occupation reveal that 50.3 percent workers in Hindu households and 60.2 percent in Christian households work for less than 100 days during a year (Table 4.11). All reveal prevalence of underemployment among the workers in the district.

4.7.2 Self-Employment Scenario

No households in the sample are found with self employment initiatives.

4.7.3 Additional Employment and Preference

This is found that members in 29.2 percent of the total 672 sample households are looking for new or additional employment opportunities. This proportion among the Hindu community is 25.8 percent and in the Christian community is 34 percent (Table 4.12). Preference for certain kind of jobs overall in both the communities is found to be same. This is found that more than 57 percent of families in both the communities prefer self-employment opportunities. The preference for salaried jobs is also found to be same in both Hindu and Christian communities (about 32 percent reported this preference in both the communities (Table 4.13).



4.7.4 Migrant Workers

Not many workers have migrated out for work from the sample villages. This is found that altogether 19 persons from Hindu households and 10 from Christian households have migrated out from the villages for jobs. Most of the migrations are for service related and some unspecified jobs. The direction of out migration of this tiny section of people does not show a definite trend (Tables 4.15).

4.8 Land and other Assets

4.8.1 Cultivated Land: Ownership and Operational Holding

This can be mentioned that the most of the households in Arunachal thrive on CPR for their livelihood. Operational holding of the sampled households reveal that 77.1 Hindu households in the sample are marginal farmers. This figure in the Christian households is 93 percent. On the other hand 81 Hindu households (21.3 percent) and 16 Christian households (5.7 percent) reported possession of no operational holding (Table 4.16).

4.9 Livestock

This is found that more than 17.6 percent of the Hindu households and 12.8 percent Christian households possess Milch animal. Draught animals are possessed by 8.2 percent Hindu and 7.8 percent Christian households. Goats are possessed by 36 percent Hindu and 43.4 percent Christian households. Poultry is possessed by 76 percent Hindu and 84 percent Christian households. Pigs are possessed by 52 percent Hindu and 63 percent Christian households in the sample (Table 4.17). Overall all reveal that livestock rearing is not a vibrant activity in the sampled households of the district. This fact is also revealed by the district level data of Tirap.

4.10 Ownership of Productive and other Assets

This is found that very few households possess financial assets. The sample survey revealed that just 142 Hindu households (37.4 percent) and 109 Christian households (38.8 percent) in the sample have savings account in the bank (Table 4.18). Some households in the sample found with possession of car and motorized two wheelers. Overall cycle is comparatively still the commonest mode even in this hill district (Table 4.19). Television (26.2 percent households possess it), electric fan (14.6 percent), cell phones (10.6 percent), compact disc player (7.7 percent) and gas stove (3.7 percent) are some of the modern gadgets possessed in the sampled households (Table 4.20).

4.10.1 Agricultural Implements

The households in the rural areas of the district use rudimentary traditional equipments for agricultural operations. Plough is found in 48 households in the sample practicing settled cultivation.



4.11 Housing Status

4.11.1 House Type and availability of living space

This is found that altogether 84.7 percent Hindu households and 98.2 percent Christian households are living in their own houses. This is found that 15 percent of the Hindu families are living in the houses of relatives or provided by their employers. This is found that very few households are living in government provided houses (Table 4.21). However, most of the houses, altogether 95.3 percent in case of Hindu and 94.6 percent in case of Christian families are found to be Katcha houses (Table 4.22). This is also found that 5 percent Hindu families live in one room accommodation (Table 4.23). All the Christian households are however found with living in more than one room accommodation.

4.11.2 Domestic lighting and fuel use

Electricity connections are found to be available in 84.7 percent of the total households in the sample. In case of Hindu households in the sample 88.7 percent have the electricity connection. This proportion in the Christian households is 79.8 percent (Table 4.24). This is found that the households having no electricity connections mostly use firewood and oil lamps for lighting. This no doubt increases the indoor air pollution affecting the health of the villagers.

Wood, hay and leaves are the major sources of fuel in the sample households. This is found just six Hindu households and four Christian households are using LPG for cooking (Table 4.29). On the other hand information on possession of assets reveals that 25 households in sample possess gas stoves.

4.11.3 Drinking water facilities

This is found that 66.1 percent Hindu households and 52.5 percent Christian households drink water from protected sources. Public taps are the main protected source of drinking water in the sample villages. Overall this is found that 40 percent households in the sample drink water from unprotected sources. This proportion in case of Hindu community is 33.9 percent and in Christian community the proportion is 47.5 percent (Table 4.26). This is found that more than 45 percent Hindu households and 47 percent Christian households in the sample need to fetch drinking water from sources located at a distance of more than 50 meters (Table 4.27).

4.11.4 Sanitation and drainage facility

This is found that 20 percent sample households in the sample use open field for defecation. Except two households in the sample the rest of the households are found using insanitary latrine for defecation (Table 4.28). It is not a common practice in the households of this hill district to have the drainage system surrounding their houses.



4.12 Indebtedness of rural households

Very few households in the sample (five Hindu, eight Christian and one Sikh household) were found to be indebted. The quantum of loan found to be below Rs. 20,000 taken mostly for unspecified reasons from government commercial banks.

4.13 Income and Expenditure

The baseline survey reveals that 38.1 percent rural households in Tirap district live under poverty line with family income of less than Rs. 22800/ per annum. The proportion of Hindu households living below the poverty line is 37.1 percent. This proportion in the Christian community is 39.3 percent (Table 4.30). These figures however do not correspond to the state BPL survey conducted during the 9th Plan nor of planning commission estimates.

Family Expenditure

The estimated family expenditure in the sample households reflects that about 28 percent Hindu households and 27 percent Christian households spend less than Indian average family spending of Rs. 7200/ on cereal and pulses (Table 4.31). In the case of vegetables and protein foods it is found that 94.2 percent Hindu household and 95.7 percent Christian households in the sample spend less than what average rural India spends (Table 4.32). Spending on Education is more than the country average of Rs. 850 in the case of 61.8 percent Hindu households and 67 percent Christian households in the district (Table 4.33). On health care 16.8 percent Hindu and 13.5 percent Christian families found spending more than Rs. 2100 which is approximately the average expenditure incurred by a family in rural India (Table 4.34). The expenditure on electricity and fuel in 67.6 percent Hindu households and 65.2 percent Christian households in the sample is in between Rs. 1000 to 5000 per annum, which to an extent corresponds to the country average of Rs. 3000/ per households (Table 4.36). This is found that majorities of sample households (73.4 percent Hindu and about 70 percent Christian) are not spending on telephone (Table 4.37). This is also found that most of the households need to keep aside a significant proportion of the budget for festival and ceremonies (Table 4.35).

4.14 Current Educational Status, Skill Training

Educational attainment by religion and gender

A general trend in the country is that illiteracy among the religious minorities is more in the country. This is more so in the case of women in all the communities. The data of current educational status of people in the age group of 5 to 25 years in the district of Tirap reflects that 5.2 percent members in the Hindu households and 2.8 percent in the Christian households were never enrolled in the schools. The dropout rate overall is found to be about seven percent and religion wise there is not much differences (Table 4.41). This is also found that almost the entire students (98.6 percent) in the sample households attend government school.



Current Educational Status of Children

Looking at level of educational attainment of people in the age group of 5 to 25 years in the villages of Tirap district one could observe that in the case of two third educational attainment, is confined to below primary and primary level and religion wise we do not see any disparity. One could also see that educational attainment level largely confined till the level of secondary schooling (Table 4.42) and there are no variations in both the communities.

Access and facilities in education

There are several reasons cited for dropout of a sizeable section of students in the age group of 5 to 25 years. The need to earn, not interested in reading, failure in examination, marriage are cited as the causes for non-continuation. One however, does not notice any variations across religion and gender in the dropout scenario (Table 4.43).

Aspiration of Parents on their Children

Parents altogether in case of 65.2 percent male students in Hindu families and 66.1 percent in Christian families aspire that their boys should attain education at least to graduation level. This figure in case of girl students is however, 46.4 percent in Hindu and 55.7 percent in Christian families (Table 4.44 and 4.45).

Attitude and Approaches in Skill development training

Interactions in the sample households reveal that family members in 18.4 percent Hindu households and 24.5 percent Christian households are interested to take up skill development training (Table 4.46). Computer operations, tailoring, weaving and driving are reported as most preferred choices (Table 4.47).

4.15 Present Health Scenario

The survey reveals that about 10.3 percent population in the sample households reportedly suffered from some kind of diseases during past one year. Religion and Gender wise segregation reveals that Hindu women are more prone to diseases (Hindu women 13.4 and Christian women 10.0 percent). Malaria, common fever and Jaundice are found to be the most commonly reported diseases. A good chunk of women in Hindu households also reported stomach related problems (Table 4.48).

This is found that more than 50 percent households are approaching government medical service providers in case of diseases (Table 4.49). This is found that 42 percent households are availing private medical service providers for treatment.

4.16 Maternal and Child Health

Complete coverage of immunization is estimated at 64.3 percent in Tirap district. The proportion of fully immunized children in Hindu households is estimated at 59.4 percent and in Christian households is 69.6 percent. For girl child the complete immunization



coverage is estimated at 56.8 percent in Hindu households and 70 percent in Christian households (Table 4.50). The table 4.50 also reveals that except administration of OPV other vaccinations are often missed out in the immunization process. The reasons cited for non-immunisation of children reveal that unawareness and distance factors affect immunization coverage drive.

The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of child. Just few women in sampled households have used government or private facilities for delivery (Table 4.52). More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members (Table 4.53). This is however reported that altogether 48.6 percent women (42.7 percent Hindu and 56.3 percent Christian) have received pre and post natal care during the birth of their last child (Table 4.54).

4.17 The Poor and the PDS Support

Altogether 65.5 percent households in the sample (the proportion is 60.3 percent in Hindu and 65.5 percent in Christian communities) revealed that they belong to BPL category (Table 4.55). The BPL survey during the 9th plan in Arunachal indicates that 74 percent families in the district are under poverty spending less than Rs. 20,000 per family per annum. The income figures of the sample households however, do not support this. This is found that more than 50 percent households in the sample (Hindu 44.7 percent and Christian 59.9 percent) possess BPL ration cards (Table 4.56). This is revealed that about 67 percent Hindu households and 80 percent Christian households in the sample avail ration from PDS (Table 4.57). Lack of adequate supply is cited as the main reasons for not able to avail rations from PDS.

4.18 Awareness and Participation

4.18.1 Participation in government programmes

It has been argued for long that level of awareness and participation in political and socio-economic process are two important aspects of development approach. The Government of India has been initiating several specific programmes targeting the poor. The benefits of these programmes to a large extent depend on the level of awareness of the people about the programme. At the same time, any leakages in the process are to be properly identified for designing effective implementation.

The present baseline survey on Tirap district indicates that peoples' awareness on various schemes is not uniform. This is found that awareness level is more in the case of ICDS, Sarvashiksha, ARWSP, IAY, old age pensions and maternity benefits (more than 90 percent households are aware of these programme, Table 4.59). On the other hand relatively less proportion of households are aware of employment generations programmes.



4.18.2 Participation in the socio-political affairs

Recent development debates envisage a pro-active role from the people at the grassroots for successful democratic decentralisation, which in turn accelerates the process of growth and development. The 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution further the scope of democratic decentralisation in the country by putting local governance Institutions at the centre-stage. The process of democratic decentralisation can be most potent source of ushering development, particularly in rural areas, when people participate in the process.

The baseline survey shows that the level of political participation is high among the sample households at all layers of elections (Table 4.61). This was reported that more than 98 percent households have voted in the last panchayats, assembly and parliamentary elections.

4.18.3 Conflict, insecurity and access to media and communication

The baseline survey reveals that about 57 percent Hindu households and 42 percent Christian households have affected by conflict in this district. This is also reported 75 percent Hindu households and 25 percent Christian households presently feel insecurity (Table 4.62) in their life.

As far as the access to media and communication is concerned, the baseline indicates poor access to media across the sampled households. This is found that less than 2 percent households read newspaper, about 19 percent households listen to radio and 11 percent household watch TV (Table 4.63).

4.19 Aspirations of the Communities as reflected from the Survey

Most important facilities lacking in the villages

The respondents in Tirap district feel that communication, drinking water and health are the most important facilities lacking in their villages. The respondents from both Hindu and Christian communities think on the same line (Table 4.64).

Most important deprivation in the families

Most of the households perceive that Land followed by access to health facilities and housing are the most important deprivations in their families (Table 4.65).

Perceived priorities for the welfare of minority communities

The respondents feel that communication, drinking water and education are the priority (Table 4.66).

Overall the people in sample household perceive the needs for development of road communication, improvement of facilities of drinking water, health, education and housing and development of land resources. This is true that certain crucial needs of the daily life often not perceived by people or missed out. There are however many reasons for this. ■



DEVELOPMENT DEFICITS

The analysis based on the sample survey reveals that Tirap is a poor performer in certain facets in overall development context in the country. This thinly populated district is not found to be well managed in making adequate provisions in road communication, assured power supply, access to health and educational facilities and more importantly lacks serious efforts in raising agriculture productivity and in livelihood diversification.

Development Deficits and Plan Priority identified

SI No	Indicators	Survey Results	India	Deficit	Priority assigned
<i>Socio-economic indicators</i>					
1	Rate of literacy	71.40	67.30	3.70	5
2	Rate of female literacy	64.00	57.10	6.90	6
3	Work participation rate	45.00	38.00	7.00	7
4	Female work participation rate	38.00	21.50	16.50	8
<i>Basic amenities indicators</i>					
5	Percentage of pucca houses	1.20	59.40	-58.20	1
6	Percentage of households with access to safe drinking water	60.0	87.90	-27.90	4
7	Percentage of households with sanitary toilets	0.30	39.20	-38.90	2
8	Percentage of electrified households	84.40	67.90	16.50	8
<i>Health indicators</i>					
9	Percentage of fully vaccinated children	64.30	43.50	20.80	10
10	Percentage of institutional delivery	7.30	38.70	-31.40	3

■ This thinly populated district is primarily an agrarian one, but food grain productivity is awfully low even in the context of the state. Certain food crops-maize, potato, wheat, millets, pulses, oilseeds and potato show some prospects to the agro climatic conditions, but require institutional supports and people's efforts to raise the yield. The agriculture sector needs attention in land development and management, shift to high value crops and modernization with appropriate technology. The potentiality for development of livestock resources in this district also draws attentions.

■ Literacy rate though shows some satisfactory picture what concerns more is the male female disparity in literacy and poor level of educational attainment. Distance to the educational institutions often has impact on poor educational attainment particularly of women after a certain level. Poor attendance and drop outs are also causes of concerns in this district. Paucity of teachers, significant proportions of never enrolled female are some of the concerns require attentions.



■ Health officials and functionaries though visit the villages, the frequency is uncertain and visits are not in adequate numbers. The survey reflects that the women in the district have poor access to government and institutional facilities for delivery of child. More than 90 percent women delivered their babies at home assisted by untrained dais or other family members.

■ The main reason behind slow development of the district is the absence of road communication. However, constraints faced by the people for the absence of poor communication could to some extent be addressed by making adequate provisions of certain basic services – health and educational facilities, market etc. in certain feasible rural points.

■ Electricity is though available in the villages what causes concerns is the assured supply of electricity in the peak hours. The cent percent electrification of the villages does not assure and justify in making the best use of this infrastructure. This is true that dispersed settlements and vagaries of natural calamities are often hinders in assuring supply of electricity. In such context solar photovoltaic programme could be of important relevance. Likewise safe drinking water supply provisions as reported made in papers also requires a fresh look. The household survey reveals that 40 percent of the sampled households still not have access to safe drinking water supply.

■ The people of the villages of the district still to develop the habit of using the sanitary toilets. The awareness and provisioning under the TSC needs to be stepped up aggressively. In the context of provisioning of pucca houses in rural areas of the district it requires a serious discussion. Technically by census definition the traditional houses in the rural areas of the district (or in states of Northeast India) are kattcha houses. The houses are made of locally available materials, environment friendly and more particularly do not succumbed to tremor in this earth quack prone region. In this context this concerns more whether such housing are decent and hygienic.

■ Overall the people in sample household perceive the needs for development of road communication, improvement of facilities of drinking water, health, education and housing and development of land resources. This is true that certain crucial needs of the daily life (e.g. sanitary toilets) often not perceived by people or missed out. There are however many reasons for this.

■ The survey provides some indication that money and development initiative of the Union government are not the constraints in this thinly populated district. What requires is the sustainability and consolidation of the efforts undertaken! Unemployment could not be the issue in the district. However, high incidences of underemployment of workers as reflected in the household data could be for the factor that people are not required to work for greater part of the year to feed themselves in a relatively resource rich context. Such approach however, could stall the development initiatives and consolidation for overall wellbeing of the future generation. ■



LIST OF SURVEYED VILLAGES

Sl. No.	VILLAGE
1	Soha
2	Lutheeng
3	Naitong
4	Longkhong
5	Bathey Basti
6	Mopaya
7	New Dolidam
8	Kenon
9	Old Daidam
10	Thalot
11	Jamdang
12	Namsang
13	Sulang
14	Sipini Pathar
15	Otongkhawa
16	Polleeng
17	Sumsi Pathar
18	Khonsa
19	Lapnan
20	Lowangdong T.E.
21	Bogapani
22	Lowangchu T.E.
23	Lamlo
24	Makat
25	Chatzo T.E.