

## **Assam State Human Development Report 2013**

The Planning and Development Department, Government of Assam published the First State Human Development Report (SHDR) for Assam in 2003. The document highlighted several important aspects of Human Development pertaining to the State besides ranking its Districts with regards to Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI) and Human Poverty Index (HPI). In constructing HDI and GDI, UNDP's methodology was adopted, while different sets of HPI were computed taking into account additional variables. These indices offer insights not only with regard to the varying degrees of achievement in human development across the districts in three basic dimensions i.e. health, education and income, but also portray the extent of inequality therein identifying areas of critical interventions in enlarging peoples' capabilities in making choices over various "functionings"



Since the publication of the first SHDR for Assam, almost a decade has elapsed and many significant interventions have been initiated on a massive scale with the objectives of impacting the lives of people in three key dimensions of human development. It is therefore appropriate time to come up with the next Human Development Report for the State of Assam. The Planning and Development Department, Government of Assam therefore, deemed it fit to initiate the process of preparation of the Second State Human Development Report. At the end of a highly competitive and transparent process, the responsibility of preparing the

second SHDR for Assam has been entrusted on OKD Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), Guwahati – an autonomous research institute of Indian Council of Social Science Research and Government of Assam who is collaborating with the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi for completing the work.



The present exercise is envisaged to meet six broad objectives. First, while the exercise will typically follow the 2010 UNDP framework, it would try to take into account the various specificities of the state having significant implications upon the overall human development outcomes. Second, in order to incorporate these unique diversities and specificities of the state, the exercise will try to accommodate the use of primary data – both quantitative and qualitative to the extent possible. Third, it is envisaged that the SHDR will follow a participatory approach taking on board widest possible inputs from different stakeholders. Fourth, the SHDR,



besides providing standard indices in the line of UNDP framework would also incorporate on happiness/wellbeing index for the state. Fifth, it is expected that the SHDR would provide pointers to the progress in welfare interventions during the last ten years or so in the state clearly stressing on future policy imperatives. The last but not the least the exercise will further try to strengthen the state statistical system in order to facilitate similar exercises on a regular basis in the future.



In order to accomplish the above objectives the Government of Assam has constituted a High Power Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State to spearhead the process. A State-level Advisory Committee has been set up to oversee and guide the process under the leadership of Sri H N Das, former Chief Secretary of the State with the leading academics and experts of the country as its members. Besides, to monitor the progress at the districts a District Level Committee in each of the 27 districts have been constituted under the leadership of the respective Deputy Commissioners.



The present exercise involves a massive household survey covering all districts of the state – both in rural and urban areas. Altogether 40194 households will be covered by the survey in 97 blocks, 1975 villages and 95 urban areas – which is going to be the largest household survey conducted ever in the state so far – about ten times larger than the size of sample of typical NSSO rounds and about eight times more than that of the National Family Health Survey in the state. The 201 officials of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the state has been engaged to conduct the survey under the overall supervision and technical guidance of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati and IHD, New Delhi.



One of the salient features of the present SHDR initiative is to provide a set of indicators and measures of subjective well-being (happiness) of people. The present survey also incorporates subjective well-being questions based on which an index of happiness will be estimated for the state and districts. A Technical Working Group for the exercise has been constituted to look into the issues of assessment of subjective well-being of people of the state with experts from the two core research institutes viz. OKDISCD and IHD along with those from IIT, Guwahati and Flinders University, Australia.

The overall approach and process of preparation of the present SHDR has been made participatory to the extent possible. Besides, large scale primary survey on peoples' perceptions and a series of Focus Group Discussions on relevant local issues, a large number of consultations at



the level of state, district and even sub-divisions involving cross section of academia, bureaucracy, civil society and elected representatives have also been built into the process of the preparation of the present SHDR. It may be noted that all together 51 district and sub-division level workshops were conducted for the purpose to sensitise people and take on board their views regarding myriad issues implicating overall as well as specific human development outcomes.

Keeping in mind the overall approach to capture the diversities and specificities of the state implicating the possible human development outcomes, the survey design entails 14 typologies for rural areas and 13 for urban areas.



The typologies of rural areas are based on spatial characteristics while those of urban are based on their types and size classes. Demographic specificities have been accommodated in sampling villages while economic variations have been accommodated while sampling houses depending on information received through house-listing.



The Planning and Development Department along with the technical institutes engaged in the present exercise is contemplating to have a full-fledged HDR website for the state. It is envisaged that the website will host all information, reports, background papers, process documentations and survey data for wider dissemination and access. To facilitate this expectation standard protocol has been followed through out the present initiative so far. Accordingly, detail manuals of House-listing, Household Survey, Sample Supervision, Sample Weight Determination and Estimation and Data Entry Software with Data Design and Data Dictionary have been prepared which will be available through the website. A Sample Allocation and Code Book is also being prepared



The process was kicked off in a state level consultative workshop organised by the Planning and Development Department, Government of Assam on December 1, 2012 by honourable Chief Minister of Assam in presence of Sri Jairam Ramesh, honourable Union Minister for Rural Development and Country Director UNDP. At present household survey, scrutiny and monitoring and data entry are going on simultaneously. The report is scheduled to be released in June 2014.

### **Activities and Milestones achieved so far**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities and Milestones</b>	<b>Organiser/Agency</b>
1	December 1, 2012	State Level Consultative Workshop	P & D
2	December 5, 2013	Submission of the Draft Framework Document	OKDISCD, IHD
3	December 6, 2012	Steering Committee Meeting	P & D
4	January 5 -6, 2013	Workshop on Survey Format	OKDISCD
5	January 18, 2013	Preparation of a Detail Work Calendar	OKDISCD, IHD
6	January 20-25, 2013	Draft Survey Format prepared and circulated for Comments	OKDISCD, IHD
7	January 26-30, 2013	Survey Format modified and made Pilot Ready	OKDISCD, IHD
8	February 8, 2013	Pilot testing of Survey Format and Survey Procedure	OKDISCD, DES, P 8 D
9	February 11-12, 2013	Finalisation of the Survey Format	OKDISCD, DES, P 8 D
10	February 13, 2013	First Meeting of Advisory Committee	P & D
11	February 25, 2013	First Meeting of Technical Working Group on Well-being	OKDISCD

12	March 7, 2013	Survey Format in final form along with Sample Allocation Code Book and Field Manual submitted for printing	OKDISCD
13	March 16 – April 1, 2013	Training of 201 officials of DES for Field Work	OKDISCD
14	April 8, 2013	Pre-Testing of District Level Workshop Framework	OKDISCD
15	April 9, 2013	Training of Trainers' Workshop	OKDISCD
16	April 10, 2013	Press Meet by the Planning and Development Minister	P & D
17	April 18-July 26, 2013	District and Sub-division Level Workshops (51 in total)	OKDISCD
18	April 18, 2013	Second Meeting of Advisory Committee	P & D
19	May 10, 2013	Draft Manual on Sample Weight and Estimation completed	OKDISCD
20	May 24, 2013	An internal review meeting was held for the core team	OKDISCD
21	May 27, 2013	Expert Review Committee Workshop on Sample Weight was held	OKDISCD
22	June 14, 2013	Field Testing of FGD Framework conducted in Assam-Bangladesh Border in Mancachar, Dhubri District	OKDISCD
23	June 16, 2013	Survey supervision and monitoring started	P & D, OKDISCD
24	July 1, 2013	Manual scrutiny of	OKDISCD

		survey schedule started	
25	July 3, 2013	Third Advisory Committee Meeting was held	P & D
26	July 12, 2013	A day long workshop on Draft Chapter Plan was organised	OKDISCD
27	July 16, 2013	Data Entry Training	OKDISCD
28	July 18, 2013	Data Entry Works started	DES

*Last updated July 24, 2013*

## **Photo Gallery**

### **1. State Level Workshop**

### **2. Training of Field Investigators**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/okdiscd/sets/72157633811661485/>

### **3. Press Meet of Honourable Minister, Planning and Development**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/okdiscd/sets/72157634770308755/>

### **4. Training of Trainers**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/okdiscd/sets/72157634776960436/>

### **5. District Level Workshops**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/okdiscd/sets/72157634777058426/>

### **6. Mancachar FGD**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/okdiscd/sets/72157634777112512/>