

Socio-Economic Background of the Sample Areas

3.1 The Study Area

In the process of planning, the study of socio-economic profile of any region or an area holds an important place. For it helps in accessing the potentialities and weakness of the region, helps in understanding the dynamic of forces operating within the region and suggests possible areas of interventions. The success of any programme, therefore, depends to a large extent, upon the potentialities and the resources the region offers, and their judicious exploitation.

As has already been reported earlier, that the two blocks selected in the sample districts of Varanasi and Saharanpur were Harahua and Rampur Maniharan respectively. Further, a total of ten villages, five from each sample block, were finally selected for studying the impact of social sector schemes on the beneficiaries there. The beneficiaries have been identified as those sets of households who were living below the poverty line. Thus, the sample leaves out those sets of households who were living above the poverty lines. The secondary data, about the households, living below the poverty, line was procured from block offices and district supply offices, which, issued the households, their BPL identity card and ration card respectively. However, what was really disturbing was the nature and quality of data provided by these two public institutional sources about the same set of households. The perusal of the two records showed that they were not only totally incompatible but also highly erratic. According to the block records, the proportion of households living below the poverty line in Varanasi and Saharanpur districts was about 11.9 per cent and 19.2 per cent respectively. However, the district supply offices estimated their proportion to be 98.6 per cent and 66.6 per cent respectively. This was not only in contravention to the records provided by block but was also a grossly inflated figures.

The subsequent inquiry, about why so much fluctuation prevailed, revealed that political pressure on authorities of supply office forced them to release higher proportion of ration cards to people in living below poverty line category and at time, mere payment of "token money" to the concern staff enabled the households to procure the ration card for "living below the poverty line" category. Thus, observing the nature and quality of data provided by supply office, it was decided to accept only the data provided by block office.

The demographic, caste and gender wise classification of the sample villages shows that there were a total of 2446 households of which 1215 households accounting for 49.7 per cent of the total belonged to Varanasi district, and remaining 50.3 per cent of households to Saharanpur district. The total population, as per 1991 census, of the sample villages was 16946, of which, about 54 per cent were male and remaining 46 per cent females. Further, the magnitude of population in Varanasi was worked out to be 8935 persons which was 52.7 per cent of the total and remaining 8091, accounting for 47.3 per cent belonged to Saharanpur district. The largest village, in terms of number of households, in Varanasi district was Korarajpur and the smallest one was Benipur. Their proportion was worked out to be over 32 per cent and 9 per cent respectively in the total villages in Varanasi district, whereas, Pahansu villages was the largest village with over 42 per cent of household in Saharanpur district whereas Jagrauli and Salempur were the smallest villages with their proportionate share being 11 per cent each. The proportion of population below 6 years of age in the total was worked out to be 22.8 per cent whereas its representation in the two sample districts was over 25 per cent for Varanasi and over 19 per cent for Saharanpur districts respectively. The population of Scheduled Caste for the whole sample was about 19.4 per cent and its proportion was significantly higher in Saharanpur district at 27.4 per cent. The number of literate in the total sample was reported to be 5949, which accounted for over 35 per cent of the total.

The inter-district comparison shows that the proportion of literate in Saharanpur was marginally higher than the proportion of literate in Varanasi (Table - 3.1).

3.2 Pattern of Allocation and Utilization of Funds

The details of allocation of funds and their utilization could not be procured by the research team despite visiting the concerned departments several times. The concern departments, at that time, pleaded their inability on account of ensuing panchayati-raj elections and promised to send us the details of amount received and utilized after the elections. Although we tried to contact them regularly but we have not been successful in getting the required data so far.

The concerned department inability to provide data to us also points towards their casual approach towards the programme and the lack of interest they were having towards the programme.

3.3 Demographic and Caste-wise Profile of Focus Group Households

It has already been stated, earlier, that the focus of the present study has been those set of household that were living below the poverty line hereafter called 'focus group' in both sample districts of Varanasi and Saharanpur districts. The study also shows that the proportion of focus group of household in the total sample was 19.2 per cent, as per block records, of which 11.9 per cent were located in Varanasi district and 26.3 per cent in Saharanpur district.

The subsequent breakup of the 'focus group' families into various caste and age group composition shows that the total population of the sample was worked out to be 2208 of which the proportion of population figuring in Varanasi and Saharanpur was observed to be about 32 per cent and 68 per cent respectively. Further, the study shows that the number of 'focus group' families, as per our sample drawn, was observed to be 709 and 1499 for Varanasi and Saharanpur district respectively

Table – 3.1
Classification of Population in Sample Villages as per Census 1991

Name of Villages	BPL Accord Block	BPL Accord to Supply Office	Total House-holds	Below 6 year Population			SC Population			Total Population			Literate Person		
				Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Korarajpur	14 (3.5)	350 (88.8)	394 (100.0)	345 (22.6)	338 (24.6)	683 (23.5)	281 (18.4)	256 (18.6)	537 (18.5)	1526 (100.0)	1371 (100.0)	2899 (100.0)	894 (58.6)	331 (24.1)	1225 (42.2)
Atesua	60 (17.9)	253 (75.5)	335 (100.0)	320 (22.9)	281 (23.7)	601 (23.3)	101 (7.2)	97 (8.2)	198 (7.6)	1396 (100.0)	1186 (100.0)	2582 (100.0)	573 (41.0)	107 (9.0)	680 (26.3)
Benipur	9 (8.4)	98 (91.6)	107 (100.0)	75 (21.6)	61 (19.9)	136 (20.8)	7 (2.0)	7 (2.3)	14 (2.1)	347 (100.0)	306 (100.0)	653 (100.0)	150 (42.2)	47 (15.3)	197 (6.1)
Bhagwanpur	5 (3.5)	277 (199.3)	139 (100.0)	118 (20.7)	112 (22.7)	230 (21.6)	150 (26.3)	137 (27.8)	287 (27.0)	569 (100.0)	493 (100.0)	1062 (100.0)	300 (52.7)	100 (20.3)	400 (37.6)
Madhwa	57 (23.7)	219 (91.2)	240 (100.0)	412 (44.7)	216 (26.3)	628 (36.0)	24 (2.6)	24 (2.9)	48 (2.7)	922 (100.0)	819 (100.0)	1741 (100.0)	423 (45.8)	136 (16.6)	559 (32.1)
Total Varanasi	145 (11.9)	1197 (25.7)	1215 (100.0)	1270 (26.7)	1008 (24.1)	2278 (25.5)	563 (11.8)	521 (12.4)	1084 (12.1)	4760 (100.0)	4165 (100.0)	8935 (100.0)	2340 (49.1)	721 (17.2)	3061 (34.2)
Pahansu	119 (22.6)	135 (25.7)	525 (100.0)	336 (17.6)	275 (18.5)	611 (18.0)	606 (31.8)	481 (32.3)	1087 (32.0)	1904 (100.0)	1487 (100.0)	3391 (100.0)	1012 (53.1)	234 (15.7)	1246 (36.7)
Jagrauli	15 (11.1)	130 (96.3)	135 (100.0)	102 (25.0)	91 (28.0)	193 (26.3)	224 (55.0)	178 (54.7)	402 (54.9)	407 (100.0)	325 (100.0)	732 (100.0)	162 (39.8)	36 (11.0)	198 (27.0)
Tapari	60 (36.4)	32 (19.4)	165 (100.0)	124 (18.6)	100 (18.1)	224 (18.4)	-	-	-	664 (100.0)	551 (100.0)	1215 (100.0)	393 (59.2)	194 (35.2)	587 (48.3)
Kurali	75 (27.7)	45 (16.6)	271 (100.0)	189 (18.9)	158 (18.8)	347 (18.9)	275 (27.6)	224 (26.7)	499 (27.2)	997 (100.0)	839 (100.0)	1836 (100.0)	455 (45.6)	175 (20.8)	630 (34.3)
Salempur	55 (40.7)	90 (66.6)	135 (100.0)	120 (25.9)	104 (27.8)	224 (26.7)	117 (25.3)	94 (25.1)	211 (25.2)	463 (100.0)	374 (100.0)	837 (100.0)	184 (39.7)	43 (11.5)	227 (27.1)
Total Saharanpur	324 (26.3)	432 (35.1)	1231 (100.0)	871 (19.6)	728 (20.3)	1599 (19.9)	1222 (27.5)	977 (27.3)	2199 (27.4)	4435 (100.0)	3576 (100.0)	8011 (100.0)	2206 (49.7)	682 (19.0)	2888 (36.0)
Total Sampel District	469 (19.2)	1629 (66.6)	2446 (100.0)	2141 (23.3)	1736 (22.4)	3877 (22.8)	1785 (19.4)	1498 (19.3)	3283 (19.4)	9195 (100.0)	7751 (100.0)	16946 (100.0)	4546 (49.4)	1403 (18.1)	5949 (35.1)

Source: BPL Data Provide by Block and Supply Office of the District and Other Data Provided by NIC (Varanasi and Saharanpur).

thereby accounting for about 7.9 per cent and 18.7 per cent of total population in the district, which was lower than the data provided by the blocks authorities.

The analysis also shows that the proportion of population in below 6 years of age group in both sample district was almost identical, however in the 6 to 14 years of age group the proportion in Saharanpur was distinctly higher at 25 per cent than that in Varanasi district whereas for 15 years and above age group category, the proportion of population in Varanasi district was significantly higher.

The caste group composition, in the two sample district, shows that the proportion of SCs in Saharanpur was observed to be 58 per cent which was distinctly higher than their proportion in Varanasi district. Whereas the proportion of OBC's in Varanasi district was much higher at 49.5 per cent than their proportion in Saharanpur district. Together these two categories accounted for over 92 per cent and 74 per cent of the total in the sample villages of Varanasi and Saharanpur districts respectively. The proportion of households from general and minorities, together, was 7.5 per cent and 26 per cent in Varanasi and Saharanpur districts.

The gender wise classification of the population shows that the proportion of males in both the districts was higher than their counter part females in the total sample. However in the 5 years and above age group classification, the proportion of females was higher in both sample districts. Whereas in 6 to 14 years of age group, the males, once again outclassed the females in both sample districts (Table - 3.2).

3.4 Educational Level of Focus Group Households

The educational profile of the sample families, according to their caste groups, shows that incidence of illiteracy in Scheduled Castes was highest, followed by General caste households and Other Backward Caste families. While it was least in Minorities households. Similarly, the proportion of children not going to school in 6 to 14 years age category was found to be highest among minorities. Together,

Table – 3.2
Demographic and Caste Group Classification of Focus Group Households

Caste	District	Below 6 Year Age Group			6 to 14 Age Group			15 and Above Age Group			Total		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SC	Varanasi	25 (15.3)	20 (14.1)	45 (14.7)	32 (19.6)	8 (5.6)	40 (13.1)	106 (65.1)	114 (80.3)	220 (72.2)	163 (100.0)	142 (100.0)	305 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	86 (16.9)	67 (18.5)	153 (17.6)	143 (28.1)	86 (23.7)	229 (26.3)	279 (56.0)	209 (57.8)	488 (56.1)	508 (100.0)	362 (100.0)	870 (100.0)
OBC	Varanasi	37 (18.6)	34 (23.4)	71 (20.3)	64 (32.1)	27 (17.8)	91 (25.9)	98 (49.3)	91 (59.8)	189 (53.8)	199 (100.0)	152 (100.0)	351 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	31 (22.1)	19 (18.3)	50 (20.5)	25 (17.9)	24 (23.1)	49 (20.1)	84 (64.0)	61 (58.6)	145 (59.4)	140 (100.0)	104 (100.0)	244 (100.0)
General	Varanasi	2 (16.6)	-	2 (5.4)	1 (8.4)	9 (36.0)	10 (27.0)	9 (75.0)	16 (64.0)	25 (67.6)	12 (100.0)	25 (100.0)	37 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	15 (10.7)	17 (14.6)	32 (12.5)	32 (22.8)	30 (25.9)	62 (24.2)	93 (66.5)	69 (59.5)	162 (63.3)	140 (100.0)	116 (100.0)	256 (100.0)
Minority	Varanasi	3 (37.5)	2 (25.0)	5 (31.2)	3 (37.5)	4 (50.0)	7 (43.8)	2 (25.0)	2 (25.0)	4 (25.0)	8 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	16 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	19 (23.8)	5 (10.2)	24 (18.6)	23 (28.7)	12 (24.5)	35 (27.1)	38 (47.5)	32 (65.3)	70 (54.3)	80 (100.0)	49 (100.0)	129 (100.0)
Total	Varanasi	67 (17.5)	56 (17.1)	123 (17.3)	100 (26.2)	48 (15.7)	148 (20.9)	215 (56.3)	223 (68.2)	438 (61.8)	382 (100.0)	327 (100.0)	709 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	151 (17.4)	108 (17.1)	259 (17.3)	223 (25.7)	152 (24.1)	375 (25.0)	494 (56.9)	371 (58.8)	865 (57.7)	868 (100.0)	631 (100.0)	1499 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

these two categories accounted for more than 68 per cent and 34 per cent of the total population.

The analysis of education and caste wise classification throws up certain contradictory but interesting trends like the Minorities category having the least proportion of illiterate population in 15 years and above age category but were seen to be having the highest proportion of non-school going population in 6 to 14 years age group. The plausible reason for this phenomenon was that the children of Minorities attend formal school at an older age after having finished their “Madarsa Tutelage”. Similarly, the high incidence of illiteracy among general caste category could be attributed to nature of sampling, which was purposive, and, therefore, does not represent the actual or true status of the General Caste households and secondly the population of General Castes belongs to focus group households. It may be pointed out, that for this category of population, the caste factor does not play any significant role as much as the economic factors. In that sense, there was not much of a difference in the general and disadvantage section of focus group of households and thus, they may be accepted to be as a homogenous entity. On account of economic deprivations, the focussed group population prefers to earn livelihood rather than attending schools. In this case, it was observed that majority of them were working as non-agricultural labourers just like their counterparts from the deprived sections (Table - 3.3).

3.5 Occupational Pattern of Focus Group Households

The study of occupational pattern of a region provides a vivid account of how the different sections of the society were pursuing different vocations or occupations. In other words, it helps us to understand how the total work force of the concern region is being deployed in different activities in different sectors. It also points out the role played by different sectors in concerned economies.

Table – 3.3

Literacy and Caste-wise Classification of Focus Group Families

Caste	District	School Going (6 to 14 Age)			Non-School Going (6 to 14 Age)			Literate (15 and Above)			Illiterate (15 and Above)			Total Population		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
SC	Varanasi	25 (15.3)	7 (4.9)	32 (10.5)	7 (4.3)	1 (0.8)	8 (2.6)	9 (5.5)	11 (7.8)	2 (6.6)	97 (59.5)	103 (72.5)	200 (65.6)	163 (100.0)	142 (100.0)	305 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	121 (23.8)	51 (14.1)	172 (19.7)	22 (4.3)	35 (9.6)	57 (6.5)	211 (41.5)	106 (29.3)	317 (36.4)	68 (13.4)	103 (28.4)	171 (19.6)	508 (100.0)	362 (100.0)	870 (100.0)
OBC	Varanasi	57 (28.6)	21 (13.8)	78 (22.2)	7 (3.5)	6 (3.9)	13 (3.7)	20 (10.0)	6 (3.9)	26 (7.4)	78 (39.2)	85 (55.9)	163 (46.4)	199 (100.0)	152 (100.0)	351 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	17 (12.1)	13 (12.5)	30 (12.3)	8 (5.7)	11 (10.5)	19 (7.8)	65 (46.4)	35 (33.6)	100 (41.0)	19 (13.5)	26 (25.0)	45 (18.4)	140 (100.0)	104 (100.0)	244 (100.0)
General	Varanasi	1 (8.3)	9 (36.0)	10 (27.0)	-	-	-	1 (8.3)	1 (4.0)	2 (5.4)	8 (66.6)	15 (60.0)	23 (62.1)	12 (100.0)	25 (100.0)	37 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	18 (12.8)	19 (16.4)	37 (14.4)	14 (10.0)	11 (9.5)	25 (9.7)	56 (46.0)	20 (17.2)	76 (29.7)	37 (26.4)	49 (42.2)	86 (33.6)	140 (100.0)	116 (100.0)	256 (100.0)
Minority	Varanasi	3 (37.5)	2 (25.0)	5 (31.2)	-	2 (25.0)	2 (12.5)	-	-	-	2 (25.0)	2 (25.0)	4 (25.0)	8 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	16 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	15 (18.7)	3 (6.1)	18 (13.6)	8 (10.0)	9 (18.3)	17 (13.2)	32 (40.0)	25 (51.0)	57 (44.2)	6 (7.5)	7 (14.3)	13 (10.1)	80 (100.0)	49 (100.0)	129 (100.0)
Total	Varanasi	86 (22.5)	39 (11.9)	125 (17.6)	14 (3.6)	9 (2.7)	23 (3.2)	30 (7.8)	18 (5.5)	48 (6.7)	185 (48.4)	205 (62.7)	390 (55.0)	382 (100.0)	327 (100.0)	709 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	171 (19.7)	86 (13.6)	257 (17.1)	52 (6.0)	66 (10.4)	118 (7.8)	364 (41.9)	186 (29.4)	550 (36.7)	130 (14.9)	185 (29.3)	315 (21.0)	868 (100.0)	631 (100.0)	1499 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

Note: Total population included below 6 year child also but in this table below 6 year dose not exist.

The study of occupational structure, in the two sample district, shows that the two important occupational activities that attracted the highest proportion of work force in Varanasi district have been the non-agricultural activities and the artisans categories, where the ratio of work force, absorbed, was computed to be over 70 per cent and 22 per cent respectively, while agricultural laborers, cultivators and business activities were attracting least proportion of work force and therefore, could not be called significant activities in Varanasi district. The work force engaged in these two important activities was computed to be about 93 per cent of the total work force. Similarly, in Saharanpur district the two activities that could be signaled out, on account of their higher proportion of labour absorption, were the non-agricultural labour activities as well as the agricultural labourers class of activities. The level of labour absorption in these activities was over 54 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. While cultivators' class was also emerging to be an important activity, where labour absorption ratio was worked out to be around 7 per cent. The total work force engaged in primary sector in Saharanpur district was estimated to be over 44 per cent. Thus, Non-agricultural activities along with agricultural activities were accounting for more than 98 per cent of work force.

Further, the caste involvement pattern in the two districts showed that the three main activities pursued by the Scheduled Castes households in Varanasi district were agricultural laborer, artisan and business, where their involvement was of a high order. It should, however, be mentioned that agricultural laborers formed a very small proportion, but it was wholly dominated by the Scheduled Castes. The OBC, on the other hand, were largely seen to be involved in cultivator's class of activities, non- agricultural laborers and also business activities. While General and Minorities group was largely confined to non-agricultural activities.

In Saharanpur district, on the other hand, the Scheduled Caste households were found to be involved both in the agricultural as well as non agricultural activities, while the OBCs pursued business activities or farming. However, a small portion of

them was also involved in non-agricultural activities. In the case of General Caste, the major activities followed by them were those defined as 'others' and cultivators closely followed by non- agricultural activities. The Minorities, on the other hand, were mostly occupied in non- agricultural activities (Table - 3.4).

3.6 Income Pattern of focus Group Households

In the socio-economic analysis, the study of income pattern of an individual or a group of households or community holds an important place because it not only helps the planners to identify their needs and requirements but also facilitates them to scale them in the socio-economic hierarchy or order viz. to which category do they belong to and accordingly suggest appropriate policy interventions.

The study of caste and annual income pattern of focus group families of both sample districts provides an interesting account of their upward social movement over the time. It may, however, be pointed out that our sample also contained those sets of focus group households who had benefited from the social sector programmes five years ago. The detail profile of current and old beneficiaries has been presented in the next chapter. The annual household income has been grouped in the following five categories viz. (i) income between Rs. 3,001 to 6,000, (ii) income between Rs. 6001 to 8500, (iii) income between Rs. 8,501 to 11,000, (iv) income between Rs. 11,001 to 15,000, and finally (v) income exceeding Rs. 15,000. This classification accepts the guidelines of the government, which defines poverty as total earning of households to be less than Rs. 11,001 per annum. The analysis shows that in all about 2.1 per cent of total household from focus group had crossed the poverty line in Varanasi district whereas its proportion was more than seven times higher at 14.5 per cent in Saharanpur.

The inter caste analysis shows that the incidence of household crossing the poverty ratio in Scheduled Caste in Varanasi district was 3 per cent and another 26.8 per cent were approaching the poverty line crossing mark and, thereby, could be

Table – 3.4
Caste-wise Involvement of Focus Group Households in Various Activities

Caste	District	Cultivators	Agr. Labour	Non-Agri. Labour	Business	Artisan	Others	Total
SC	Varanasi	1 (33.3)	2 (100.0)	32 (31.4)	3 (60.0)	29 (87.9)	-	67 (46.2)
	Saharanpur	3 (13.0)	88 (73.3)	108 (61.0)	-	-	-	199 (61.4)
OBC	Varanasi	2 (66.7)	-	58 (56.9)	2 (40.0)	3 (9.1)	-	65 (44.8)
	Saharanpur	14 (60.9)	16 (13.3)	22 (12.4)	3 (100.0)	-	-	55 (17.0)
General	Varanasi	-	-	11 (10.8)	-	-	-	11 (7.6)
	Saharanpur	6 (26.1)	16 (13.3)	31 (17.5)	-	-	1 (100.0)	54 (16.7)
Minority	Varanasi	-	-	1 (1.0)	-	1 (3.0)	-	2 (1.4)
	Saharanpur	-	-	16 (7.0)	-	-	-	16 (4.9)
Total	Varanasi	3 (100.0)	2 (100.0)	102 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	33 (100.0)	-	145 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	23 (100.0)	120 (100.0)	177 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	-	1 (100.0)	324 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

termed as marginal cases. This rate, in Saharanpur district, was significantly higher at 12.1 per cent and another 65.3 per cent waiting as 'marginal' cases. Another interesting aspect of the analysis has been that the group that has benefited most, from social sector programme in Saharanpur district, was that of General Caste, where, over 42 per cent had crossed the poverty line. Paradoxically none of the households from this caste group had succeeded in crossing the poverty line in Varanasi district. It also points out that Minorities group in both the districts had not benefited from these programmes as none of them was found to have crossed the poverty line (Table - 3.5).

3.7 Amenities and Facilities Level Among Focus Group Households

The primary purpose of social sector schemes has been to provide basic minimum needs to as many focus group households, as possible, so that their socio-economic level and status be uplifted and they be brought back into the main stream of development to enable them to benefit from other development programmes that are in vogue. An attempt has, also been made, to study the pattern of amenities and facilities provided to them and their subsequent use in the sample district.

The amenities and facilities studied here were the distribution of ration card to the households to avail public distribution system facility (PDS), availability of electricity connection and provision of safe drinking water facility.

The analysis shows that of the 145 households in Varanasi district, only 137 household or 94.5 per cent of the total were provided with ration card facility; against this the proportion of households provided ration card facility in Saharanpur was much lesser at 73.2 per cent. The highest incidence of card distribution in both the districts was observed in Scheduled Caste households. Their proportion was worked out to be about 47.4 per cent and 68.8 per cent respectively in Varanasi and Saharanpur districts, respectively, while the distribution of PDS card among other social group was of a much lower order. Among the factors contributing to lessor proportion of card distribution were the

Table – 3.5
Caste and Current Income-wise Classification of Focus Group Households

Caste	District	3001 to 6000	6001 to 8500	8501 to 11000	11001 to 15000	Above 15000	Total	% of household having crossed line of Poverty
SC	Varanasi	8 (16.9)	39 (58.2)	18 (26.8)	2 (3.0)	-	67 (100.0)	3.0
	Saharanpur	6 (3.0)	39 (19.6)	130 (65.3)	24 (12.1)	-	199 (100.0)	12.1
OBC	Varanasi	1 (1.5)	42 (64.6)	21 (32.3)	1 (1.5)	-	65 (100.0)	1.5
	Saharanpur	2 (3.6)	28 (50.9)	22 (40.0)	3 (5.5)	-	55 (100.0)	5.5
General	Varanasi	2 (18.2)	6 (54.5)	3 (27.3)	-	-	11 (100.0)	-
	Saharanpur	1 (1.8)	10 (18.5)	20 (37.0)	20 (37.0)	3 (5.5)	54 (100.0)	42.6
Minority	Varanasi	-	1 (50.0)	1 (50.0)	-	-	2 (100.0)	-
	Saharanpur	-	6 (37.5)	10 (62.5)	-	-	16 (100.0)	-
Total	Varanasi	11 (7.6)	88 (60.7)	43 (29.6)	3 (2.1)	-	145 (100.0)	2.1
	Saharanpur	9 (2.7)	83 (25.6)	182 (56.1)	47 (14.5)	3 (0.9)	324 (100.0)	14.5

Source: Field Survey, 2000.

inability of these households to approach the concerned people or functionaries involved for providing card viz. the pradhan, panchayat secretary and PDS shop owners because it was observed that for procuring the ration card this “trinity”, was, largely, responsible. The inter group rivalry also prevented the distribution of cards, supplemented with non-awareness on part of households, at the time of onset of the process of making of cards etc. The study also points out towards the fact that PDS facility was being availed by lesser proportion of household and it could be seen that only 43.8 per cent of households in the Scheduled Caste in Varanasi district and over 67 per cent in Saharanpur district were availing this facility. The level, of other social groups, was also much lower. The plausible reason for this may be attributed to the highly irregular nature of operational time of these PDS shops, peoples lack of awareness about arrival of ration at times the mismatch between availability of ration and availability of income with them and temporary migration of households to outside regions for job etc.

The study of electricity connection pattern among households, in the two districts, shows that, on an average, Saharanpur with an overall average of 29 percent had a higher proportion of households having electric connectivity than Varanasi district where only 20 per cent had electricity access. Another thing, the study high lights is that the proportion of Scheduled Caste and OBC households using electricity facility was much higher than households belonging to other social groups which may be on account of many specific social sector programmes that aim at covering the disadvantaged group of households.

Similarly, the study of safe drinking water facility in the sample villages of both districts shows that the performance of rural water supply scheme was not upto the mark because its coverage was quit low in both the sample villages which forced a sizeable proportion of populations in both districts to move out to private sources which were not considered to be safe sources, the exposing a sizable population to Varanasi kind to health hazards. The inter caste comparison shows that Scheduled

Caste households were being given the maximum coverage whereas the coverage for other castes was quite insignificant.

Among the factors affecting the performance of public sources and encouraging the households to move to private but unsafe sources were skewed distribution of these sources which favoured influential households, high proportion of public sources becoming defunct, lesser amount of water discharge on account of falling level of water table and at times the public sources running dry during summer months (Table - 3.6, Annexure – 3.6a, 3.6b, 3.6c, 3.6d & 3.6e).

3.8 Housing Pattern

The study of housing pattern and quality and nature of houses also throws light on the socio-economic profile of households. The analysis of housing programme, in both districts, shows that the proportion of households owning Pukka houses in Varanasi district was one and half times more than the proportion of households in Saharanpur district. However the proportion of Semi-pukka houses in Saharanpur was significantly higher than that in Varanasi district which points out towards period of transition which ultimately crystallizes in Pukka houses at later stage. The proportion of household having Kuchha dwellings was almost identical in both districts. On the basis of aforesaid analysis, it could be said that the proportion of households moving from Kuchha housing to Pukka is much higher in Saharanpur district. Among the plausible reasons being their relatively better socio-economic condition.

Further the study also shows about 5 per cent of households in Varanasi district and 18 per cent in Saharanpur district have constructed houses on their own. The inter caste comparison shows that this proportion was highest amongst General Caste households where over 84 per cent had constructed houses on their own in Saharanpur district while it was least amongst SC households. The most likely

Table – 3.6
Distribution of Basic Amenities in Sample Villages

Caste	District	PDS Facilities		Electric Facility Connection Available in House	Drinking Water Sources		Total Households
		BPL Card Available	Facility Taken		Private	Public/Govt.	
SC	Varanasi	65 (47.4)	53 (43.8)	11 (37.9)	3 (20.8)	64 (49.2)	67
	Saharanpur	163 (68.8)	151 (67.1)	42 (44.2)	25 (36.2)	174 (68.2)	199
OBC	Varanasi	59 (43.1)	59 (48.8)	14 (48.3)	10 (66.7)	55 (42.3)	65
	Saharanpur	23 (41.8)	23 (10.2)	22 (23.2)	10 (14.5)	45 (17.6)	55
General	Varanasi	11 (8.0)	7 (5.8)	4 (13.8)	1 (6.7)	10 (7.7)	11
	Saharanpur	39 (16.5)	39 (17.3)	28 (29.5)	32 (46.4)	22 (8.6)	54
Minority	Varanasi	2 (1.5)	2 (1.7)	-	1 (6.7)	1 (0.8)	2
	Saharanpur	12 (5.1)	12 (5.3)	3 (3.2)	2 (2.9)	14 (5.5)	16
Total	Varanasi	137 (100.0)	121 (100.0)	29 (100.0)	15 (100.0)	130 (100.0)	145
	Saharanpur	237 (100.0)	225 (100.0)	95 (100.0)	69 (100.0)	255 (100.0)	324

Source: *Field Survey, 2000.*

reason for this could again be the nature of housing schemes which, primarily focuses on the deprived sections of the society (Table - 3.7)

3.9 Basic Facilities Pattern in Sample Villages

The proportion of basic needs forms a crucial segment of poverty alleviation programmes and well documented in our Five Years Plan. Initially there were eight components like elementary education, rural health, rural water supply, rural electrification, rural roads, rural living etc. Some other components like adult education, rural domestic energy, rural sanitation and public distribution system have also been subsequently added from the Sixth Plan onwards.

Some of these components or facilities have already been discussed earlier. In the subsequent section an attempt has also been made to study the profile of other components of the minimum basic need programme and their distribution in the sample villages of Varanasi and Saharanpur districts. The distribution of components or facilities has, further been classified as: those located within the villages, located between 1 to 3 kms. of distance, 3 to 5 kms of distance and those located at more than 5 kms. of distance respectively. Further, the classification of coverage has also been defined as fully covered, partially covered and poorly covered. The fully covered classification implies cent percent availability within the village itself while partial coverage means 20 to 60 per cent availability of facilities or components within the village or between one to three kilometers of distance and poor coverage implies availability of facilities beyond five kilometers of range.

The perusal of distribution of facilities in the sample villages of both the districts shows that the villages of both districts were fully covered in term of the following components viz. electrification, non formal and primary education, anganwadi and balwadi centres; where as they had partial coverage in health care sector, banks, telecommunications, cooperative societies, public distribution centres/

Table – 3.7
Caste-wise Classification of Types of Housing Pattern and their Nature of Construction

Caste	District	Type of Houses			Construction of Houses		Total Households
		Kachcha	Semi-Pakka	Pakka	Own/Self	Govt. Added	
SC	Varanasi	16 (31.4)	4 (80.0)	47 (52.8)	3 (75.0)	44 (51.8)	67 (46.2)
	Saharanpur	65 (58.6)	64 (71.9)	70 (56.5)	1 (4.5)	69 (67.6)	199 (61.4)
OBC	Varanasi	26 (51.0)	-	39 (43.8)	1 (25.0)	38 (44.7)	65 (44.8)
	Saharanpur	23 (20.7)	3 (3.4)	29 (23.4)	10 (45.5)	19 (18.6)	55 (17.0)
General	Varanasi	9 (17.6)	1 (20.0)	1 (1.1)	-	1 (1.2)	11 (7.6)
	Saharanpur	19 (17.1)	22 (24.7)	13 (10.5)	11 (50.0)	2 (2.0)	54 (16.7)
Minority	Varanasi	-	-	2 (2.2)	-	2 (2.4)	2 (1.4)
	Saharanpur	4 (3.6)	-	12 (9.7)	-	12 (11.8)	16 (4.9)
Total	Varanasi	51 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	89 (100.0)	4 (100.0)	85 (100.0)	145 (100.0)
	Saharanpur	111 (100.0)	89 (100.0)	124 (100.0)	22 (100.0)	102 (100.0)	324 (100.0)

Source: *Field Survey.*

Table – 3.8
Distribution Pattern of Basic Services

Particulars	Within Village		1 to 3 Km.		3 to 5 Km.		Above 5 Km.	
	Varanasi	Saharanpur	Varanasi	Saharanpur	Varanasi	Saharanpur	Varanasi	Saharanpur
Bus Stand	-	-	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)
Railway Station	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)	5 (100.0)	3 (60.0)
Telephone	3 (60.0)	3 (60.0)	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)
Electric	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary Schools	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle School	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)
High School	-	-	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)
Anganwari	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balwari	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
H. Sub. Centre	3 (60.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	-	2 (40.0)	-	-
P.H.C.	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)	3 (60.0)
C.H.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)
Non-formal Education Centre	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nationalized Bank	-	2 (40.0)	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)
Rural Bank	-	-	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)
Land Development Bank	-	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)	4 (80.0)
Cooperative Society	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	-	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)
Sugarcane Sell Centre	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	-	-	5 (100.0)	4 (80.0)
Fair Price Shop	5 (100.0)	3 (60.0)	-	2 (40.0)	-	-	-	-
Mandi Samiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)
Agriculture Seeds Godam/Shore	-	-	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)	1 (20.0)	-	3 (60.0)
Weekly Market	-	-	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	5 (100.0)	4 (80.0)
Private Hospital	-	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	-	-	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)	3 (60.0)
Unregistered Hospital	5 (100.0)	3 (60.0)	-	-	-	1 (20.0)	-	1 (20.0)
Medicine Shop	-	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)
Police Station/Chauki	-	-	3 (60.0)	-	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)
Total Sample Village	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)	5 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.

shops etc. and poor coverage for the components like child health centres, mandis, samities, weekly markets, bus and railway stations etc.(Table - 3.8).

3.10 Perception of Pradhans or Respected Person About Basic Facilities

The study of perception of eminent and respectable people on the current status of facilities also helps to evaluate the performance of programme in general. An attempt has, therefore, been made to study how the basic facilities in the area have changed as per the perception of elder or responsible people. The people approached were village pradhans, elderly school teachers etc. who have been living in the village for quite some times and other respected persons in the sample villages of two districts. They were requested to elicit whether the facilities have improved over the years or have further deteriorated.

The analysis of the response of pradhans, and respected residents shows that there has been a marked improvement in facilities like irrigation, agriculture production, wage rates, whereas deterioration was also observed on areas like infrastructural front viz. road, electricity, education and health facility and drinking water facility. Though the scale of improvement or deterioration in Varanasi and Saharanpur varied (Table - 3.9, Annexure – 3.9a, 3.9b & 3.9c).

Table - 3.9
Status of Basic Facilities in Sample Villages over Years

Particulars	Better 10 Years Ago		Worst Under 10 Years Ago	
	Varanasi	Saharanpur	Varanasi	Saharanpur
Govt. Irrigation	3 (60.0)	5 (100.0)	2 (40.0)	-
Private Irrigation	3 (60.0)	5 (100.0)	2 (40.0)	-
Agriculture Production	6 (60.0)	5 (100.0)	2 (40.0)	-
Wage Rate	4 (80.0)	5 (100.0)	1 (20.0)	-
Migration for Job	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	6 (60.0)	3 (60.0)
Drinking Water	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	3 (60.0)	3 (60.0)
Health Facility	2 (40.0)	1 (20.0)	3 (60.0)	4 (80.0)
Education Facility	2 (40.0)	3 (60.0)	6 (60.0)	2 (40.0)
Road Facility	2 (40.0)	3 (60.0)	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)
Electric Facility	2 (40.0)	-	3 (60.0)	5 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey.