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Planning Commission
Government of India
(State Plans Division)

Yojana Bhawan,
Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001
Dated: 03.04.2014

Subject: Summary Record of the Consultation on the Bundelkhand Human Development Report, held on 25 February 2014 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

A Copy of the Summary record of the Consultation on Bundelkhand Human Development Report, held on 25 February 2014 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh is circulated herewith.


(Sharad Pant)

Director (SP Coordination)

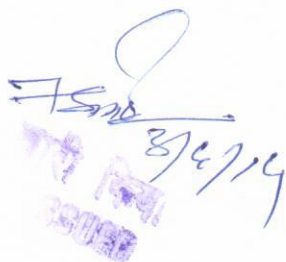
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To:

1. Smt. Ajita Bajpai Pande, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh
2. Shri. Sanjiv Mittal, Principal Secretary (Planning), Government of Uttar Pradesh
3. Dr. J S Samra, CEO and Chairman, NRAA, New Delhi
4. Dr K S Ramachandra, Member (Technical Expert - AH&F), NRAA, New Delhi
5. Prof. Avinash C Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
6. Dr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, Chief Economist, UNDP, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
7. Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, ACD & Head, Governance unit, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi
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Consultation on the Bundelkhand Human Development Report

25 February 2014, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Subject: Summary Record of the Consultation on the Bundelkhand Human Development Report, held on 25 February 2014 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

1. The Consultation on the Bundelkhand Human Development Report was held on 25th February 2014 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh under the GOI-UNDP project on 'Human Development: Towards Bridging Inequalities (HDBI)'. The purpose of the Consultation was to discuss the draft findings from the primary and secondary research conducted by Sanket Development Group for the preparation of the Bundelkhand HDR; seek feedback from participating officials from the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, officials from the Planning Commission, Government of India, subject-area experts, academicians and civil society representatives. The list of participants is at Annexure I.

1. INAUGURAL SESSION

2. **Introduction:** The Project Manager welcomed all participants and introduced the panel for the inaugural session comprising Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Secretary, Planning Commission Government of India, Shri. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India and NPD – HDBI Project, Smt. Ajita Bajpai Pande, ACS (Planning), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri. N. C. Tripathi, Special Secretary (Planning), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, Chief Economist, UNDP, and Shri. Sandeep Dikshit, Head, Sanket Development Group. She then invited Joint Secretary, Planning Commission and NPD, HDBI project to deliver the welcome address.

3. **Welcome address:** The Joint Secretary, Planning Commission and NPD-HDBI project, in his address mentioned that the Bundelkhand Human Development Report (HDR) is the first of its kind, and that the regional HDR is being prepared under joint initiative of Planning Commission and UNDP project on 'Human Development'. He laid stress on the fact that the special feature of the Bundelkhand HDR is that it is the product of analysis emerging from a combination of primary data collected from field visits made to 13 districts and secondary data collected from various Government sources. He also highlighted that this HDR is aligned with the focus of the XII Five Year Plan which is faster, inclusive and sustainable growth.

4. He further stated that the broad objective of this consultation was to use a participatory approach to brainstorm on key issues arising from field experiences and secondary data analysis. This would help ensure that the report addresses all concerns, ideas and information shared, along with inspiring stories from reflexive changes in planning, governance, management, local challenges and socio-economic linkages. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of thinking about the way forward in terms of policy suggestions and action necessary for bridging the multiple inequalities existing in Bundelkhand region.

5. **Opening address:** Dr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, Chief Economist, UNDP, delivered the opening remarks at the event. He briefly discussed the historical background of the region having been prosperous and gradually declining to its current situation, calling it a classic case of economic backwardness with associated typical socio-political characteristics. He also emphasized on two key factors necessary for economic growth in the region- 1. promoting a shift from agriculture to manufacturing and services, where productivity is higher; and 2. creating infrastructure and developing growth centres which can attract investment and manpower from neighbouring areas. To conclude, Dr. Badgaiyan stressed that reliable data is necessary for planning, so that policy formulation is based on an understanding realities. In this context, he felt the Bundelkhand HDR will

serve the purpose of bringing together data to develop a basic understanding of the region and enumerate possible development strategies.

6. **Remarks by Government of Madhya Pradesh:** Smt. Ajita Bajpai Pande, ACS (Planning) Government of Madhya Pradesh, in her remarks highlighted the different initiatives undertaken by the State Government. She mentioned some of the key aspects of works under the drought mitigation programme, minor irrigation projects, work of fisheries and dairy promotion being taken up specifically in the districts of Bundelkhand region in Madhya Pradesh. She also mentioned that in the agriculture sector, canal capacity has been increased, and the storage capacity of warehouses has been increased to 4.5 lakh metric tonnes. Stop dams have been constructed and pump sets installed that made a huge difference in the agricultural practices in the region. Animal husbandry has also received much focus, resulting in increased milk production. She also pointed out that the Tikamgarh district has large number of water bodies where fish-culture could be considered as the district has suitable skill development institutions. ACS (Planning) also cited the Decentralized Planning exercise attempted in Madhya Pradesh, where grassroots level agencies have articulated their developmental needs, and accordingly provision of funds have been made by the State Government. Hence, she suggested that this model could be considered for replication in other districts of the Bundelkhand region as well.

7. ACS (Planning), Government of Madhya Pradesh also informed on the preparation of the fifth HDR for the State that is underway. She emphasized on the need for HDRs as a reflection of struggle of the people, their livelihood concerns, aspirations of youth population and the upliftment of marginalised communities. She expressed that this effort will help the State Government in designing policies and initiatives and strengthen implementation.

8. **Remarks by the Government of Uttar Pradesh:** Shri. N. C. Tripathi, Special Secretary (Planning), Government of Uttar Pradesh reflected that although the Bundelkhand region is categorized as being an area of low development achievements, this has to be looked at from different perspective as far as the seven districts of Uttar Pradesh is concerned. He also shared the fact that on some of the development indicators like literacy, rural electrification, primary health facilities, vocational education and per capita income, the districts in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh are faring much better as compared to other districts in the entire State of Uttar Pradesh. However, there are areas of concern for these districts as well, such as women's literacy, land reforms, cropping intensity, lack of industrial units etc., which need greater attention. He also stressed on the fact that the developmental challenges for all the seven districts of UP Bundelkhand are distinct and each one of the districts has a very specific set of issues. He expressed the need to chalk out appropriate policies and strategies commensurate with the ground situation, keeping in mind the socio-economic background of the district. Besides this, he also shared information regarding some of the initiatives that are being implemented in the region by the State Government.

9. Special Secretary (Planning), Government of Uttar Pradesh laid stress on covering some key issues during report preparation, such as- decline in unirrigated and unproductive land for agriculture, promotion of rain water harvesting and water conservation techniques, increase in cropping intensity and crop productivity, promoting horticulture, removal of *annapratha*, establishment of industrial units, establishment of higher technical institutes etc in order to eliminate unemployment and bridging inequalities in consonance with the socio-cultural and geo-climatic conditions of the region.

10. **Keynote Address:** The Keynote Address was delivered by Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India. She expressed appreciation that the first regional HDR in India is being prepared through a participatory process involving participation and contributions from different stakeholders within and outside the government. She considered the initiative to be a carefully and well-conceived effort to bring about a regional perspective of human

development. She stated that the objectives of XII Five Year Plan comprised of higher, sustainable, and inclusive growth with due attention to environmental concerns. She emphasized on giving equal weightage to all three parameters as they are complementary to each other. To ensure these pillars of growth are achieved, 25 developmental indicators have been carefully carved out. Out of the 25 indicators 12 are directly related to human development indicators, for example, those related to growth, poverty, employment, livelihood, education and health, while the others concerning the development of social and physical infrastructure are indirectly related as they are interlinked.

11. The Secretary, Planning Commission also put forth the challenges of the governance systems and structures functioning at the ground level, which sometimes pose hindrances to effective service delivery and implementation. Observing that Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are critical to national development owing to their sheer geographical and demographic size, she expected that the both the State Governments will pursue the agenda for inclusive growth by putting in place the institutions and human resources required to serve the people of the region, and deliberate on possibility for joint initiatives. She also highlighted that the interim budget 2014-15 has made provisions for dispensing funds to State Governments for about 66 centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) in a flexible manner in order to develop a sense of State ownership, thus approximately 60% of the Plan funds will flow to States from next year onwards. The Secretary further stated that developmental formula for Bundelkhand region should be phased in a manner wherein the first attempt would be to bring the district level indicators at least at par with the regional average; in the next stage the effort would be to match the State average, and then the aim must be to match the national average and subsequently meet international benchmarks.

12. The Secretary, Planning Commission concluded her address by stating that presently a special 'Bundelkhand Package' is being implemented in the region since 2009-10 to mitigate prevailing drought conditions but the progress is slow. People's participation is lacking in this region, therefore this needs to be addressed. She appreciated that a Consultation has been organized to present the findings and interpretations from field research and published statistics, and to seek feedback. Further she added that this makes for a participative process which will contribute to a detailed and inclusive report keeping in mind all indicators, parameters and experiences.

13. **Presentation on the Bundelkhand HDR:** Shri. Sandeep Dikshit, Head of Sanket Development Group (SDG) presented a broad overview of the Bundelkhand Human Development Report, where he outlined the areas of concern, characteristics, fault lines, checks and assessment of gaps and achievements, entitlements and provisioning. He also presented a tentative chapter plan highlighting major thrust areas, covering achievements and challenges; and also mentioned issue/ areas requiring additional information/data.

14. The presentation was divided into three parts- regional background, methodology and broad findings. The regional background covered broad features related to the area and spread of districts in the two states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, basic demography indicators- population, literacy, sex ratio, child sex ratio etc. He highlighted the fact that since the region is governed by two State Governments, with different political administrations, still commonalities are observed in terms of the challenges faced on most of the development parameters. The methodology section covered the context of the Bundelkhand HDR, objectives and scope, review of literature, review of government policies and programmes and field interaction and studies. It also threw light on the secondary data collected on various developmental indicators and primary data collected during field visits through consultation with different stakeholders. Broad findings including the issues emerging from an in-depth analysis of field and secondary data in the areas of health, education, livelihood, agriculture, natural resource management, migration, inequalities of caste and gender, to arrive at an understanding of the developmental status across the Bundelkhand region districts, as compared to

Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and the national average. An outline of the report structure was also discussed and suggestions from the floor were invited.

15. Sanket highlighted that the research team observed a strong correlation between the information gathered from the ground and the statistical analysis of secondary data. However, he mentioned there were some inconsistencies with regard to secondary data across the districts because the availability of district level information on various indicators and the data collection methodology differs in two States. The Bundelkhand region not only has a unique identity in terms of its culture but also in terms of development; and social & power centre. In this context, the Bundelkhand HDR has a special objective to articulate the situation of human capacities- whether people have access to proper education, whether they have access to basic facilities to have a better chance of living a long and healthy life, whether the region is endowed with knowledge that can be utilised to achieve economic prosperity, etc.

16. The inaugural session concluded with a round of introductions of the participants.

Session 2a: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN BUNDELKHAND- LIVELIHOOD, NATURAL RESOURCES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND MIGRATION

17. **Introduction:** The second session was chaired by Shri. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary (SP), Planning Commission, and NPD, HDBI project. The panel included Shri. Mukesh Kumar Srivastava, Additional Director, Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh; Shri. Masood Akhtar, District Collector, Chhattarpur, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh; and Dr. K. S. Ramachandra, Technical Expert, NRAA, Government of India.

18. **Presentation:** The session began with a presentation made by Sanket Development Group on livelihood issues in the Bundelkhand region. The presentation mentioned key source of livelihood in the Bundelkhand region and their classification as main, secondary and supplementary, followed by key issues with respect to both farm and non-farm sectors. As far as the farm sector is concerned, agriculture and allied sectors form the backbone of the rural economy of the Bundelkhand region with 75% of the population depending on them. Overall, rural livelihoods in the region are stressful due to distress agriculture, declining crop productivity, non-profitability, crop failure due to climate change, and increasing debt burden. Key concerns of the non-farm sector that were highlighted include- lack of non-farm employment, lack of industrial spread, inadequate skills and economic support for starting new enterprises and shutting down of traditional occupations. A consequence of this is seasonal and temporary out migration and high levels of income poverty and other multi-dimensional forms of poverty. The presentation also covered available natural resources, challenges of undulating topography, ecological degradation, depleting ground water resources, extreme temperature, irregular rainfall distribution pattern, recurring natural calamities, prolong drought, exploitative and illegal mining of minor minerals- granites, stones, sand etc. and issues related to water and land. It also attempted to throw light on the status of availability of basic amenities at the household levels in the districts of the Bundelkhand region, like availability of safe drinking water and sanitation, latrine facilities, electricity, mobile penetration, banking services etc. The presentation also threw light on specific details of migration, including- causes and nature, socio-economic status of the migrating people, duration and places of migration within and outside the region, work areas for migrant workers, earnings during migration, impact and consequences of migration etc.

19. **The house was opened for discussions following the presentations. The points of discussion is summarized below:**

- i. The NPD, HDBI project pointed out that a comparison of productivity between 2001-02 and 2009-10 might not be appropriate because the former had a relatively good monsoon whereas the latter was a drought year. Since an analysis emerging from such a comparison would be

- skewed, he suggested changing the time periods of comparison. Further, he suggested that a trend analysis or triennium average would be more appropriate. He also suggested that simultaneous comparison of area sown and production may be a worthwhile exercise.
- ii. It was suggested that an analysis of agriculture production needs to be correlated with use of inputs for agriculture like High Yield Variety seeds, fertilizers, irrigation etc. as this would add immense value to the present analysis.
 - iii. The Sanket team was advised to use updated data on agriculture for latest available years 2011-12 or 2012-13, which may be collected from the respective State Governments.
 - iv. The Sanket team was advised to put in additional notes wherever possible, in case there was a difference in methodology of data collection (such as in the case of district per capita incomes which follow the methodology of the concerned State), use of varying sources of data etc. Panelists observed that migration has both positive and negative impacts, and therefore migration statistics need further probing to arrive at a better understanding of the situation.
 - v. It was said that MGNREGA implementation also needs to be studied to see its effectiveness in addressing migration at local levels, and bargaining capacities of labour in the local area. This was considered important in the context of the high proportion of agricultural labour and high percentage of SC population in Bundelkhand region.
 - vi. Representative from Development Alternatives mentioned that housing and supply of water are important issues to be examined in the Bundelkhand HDR. Most importantly, the manner in which the various schemes and implementing bodies are interlinked and coordinating must be assessed.
 - vii. It was suggested that a comparison of pre and post MGNREGA migration levels must be conducted, to see if it has contributed to a reduction in migration. However, it was also argued by some that MGNREGA provides only 100 days of employment a year, thus it is only supplementary in nature and does not offer stable and continued means of livelihood. Thus, migration in search of employment is imperative.
 - viii. The custom of "Annapratha" has a negative impact on agriculture, and is also one of the reasons for migration owing to the limited livelihood options outside of agriculture.
 - ix. It was observed that the lack of technology is a major factor for the continued backwardness of the Bundelkhand region, in addition to the obvious shortage of cultivable land and water. It was mentioned that 70% of the farmers do not control even 30% of the agricultural land in the region.
 - x. Director, Darshan Mahila Kalyan Samiti (an NGO), Chhattarpur district (MP) and Deputy Commissioner MGNREGA, Banda district (UP) highlighted that caste based discrimination is also an important reason for migration, as some people migrate in search of own individual identity beyond class and caste.
 - xi. It was suggested that apart from improving agriculture in the region, promotion of allied services- horticulture, fisheries, dairy and agro-processing needs equal attention along with a strong policy framework. Another concern raised was about the housing facilities available to minority and marginalized populations. It was mentioned that the BPL database used currently is outdated and needs to be revised.
 - xii. The District Collector, Hamirpur, emphasized that shortage of staff and vacant positions across departments was severely impacting implementation and monitoring, as well as supervision of fund utilization. She said that short duration cropping and new seeds and technologies being developed at agricultural colleges are not being utilized. Agriculture in the region is still practiced in very conventional way with risky mono-cropping. Cotton was once the major crop grown in Bundelkhand but now has diminished due to the lack of irrigation facilities. Electricity connection to farmers is very limited, and as a result farmers even dig their own wells but are not able to lift the water for irrigation purpose in the absence of electricity. An alternative solution to electricity shortage is using solar submersible pump set. However, this is capital intensive and costs around Rs. 10 lakhs which only big farmers can afford. *Annapratha*, which is a glaring problem should be dealt with through a stringent Act, otherwise

it is a complete injustice to farmers who are willing to undertake *kharif* crop but cannot merely due to fear of crop damage. Also, a solution needs to be found to mitigate the damage caused by the *Neelgai*, which is a protected animal under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Marketing is the weakest link in earning income from agriculture. Participation of private parties should be facilitated in order to ensure better pricing for agriculture produce.

- xiii. The District Collector, Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh, said that poor infrastructure was the root cause of Bundelkhand's backwardness. In addition to infrastructure development, he highlighted skill development requirements and social discrimination as the main factors to be addressed on an urgent and sustainable basis in order for the region to develop.
- xiv. The Additional Director, Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh observed that the production of grams in Bundelkhand comprises 64% of the total production of Uttar Pradesh, and Bundelkhand has huge potential for producing pulses, which needs to be groomed. This would also open avenues for small scale processing units of pulses like *namkeens* etc., thereby increasing livelihood opportunities. He also mentioned that the Bundelkhand region needs to make a breakthrough in the farm sector to cut down the input cost of agriculture significantly. Investment in solar energy would be a good option to tackle the problem of electricity supply in the Bundelkhand region. Also, there is an urgent need to bring more cultivable land under *kharif* cropping by promoting coarse cereals to deal with the issue of food security. He also emphasized on the need to use rainwater more judiciously and improve tubewell creation and connectivity to provide assured water supply.
- xv. Technical Adviser, NRAA, emphasized the need to improve productivity in both agriculture and industry. Since Bundelkhand will always been a predominantly agrarian economy, it is necessary to focus on developing agriculture and allied services as the engines of growth. He said rainfall in the region was not low as compared to some other regions in the country, but water conservation is low and the available water is not being used judiciously. He felt water conservation measures need immediate attention in the Bundelkhand region.

20. The Chair closed the session by stressing the need to break the vicious cycle of underdevelopment through effecting attitudinal changes; addressing feudal social relations and discrimination; bringing in investments and industrialization, as well as promoting savings; promoting effective service delivery in the sectors of health, education, sanitation, housing, water, electricity and skill development; strengthening governance through law and order, administration and legislation; improving agricultural productivity through increased mechanization, use of technology, access to credit, better water conservation, utilization and irrigation facilities; focusing on development allied activities such as animal husbandry, horticulture etc.

SESSION 2b: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN BUNDELKHAND- SOCIAL SECTOR (HEALTH AND EDUCATION)

21. **Introduction:** This Session was chaired by Prof. Avinash Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University. The panelists were Shri. Sudam Khade, District Collector, Tikamgarh, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Smt. B. Chanderkala, District Collector, Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh; and Shri. S. N .Pandey, Development Alternatives, Jhansi.

22. **Presentation:** The session began with a presentation by Sanket Development Group. The focus of the first part of this presentation was primarily on **health aspects**, in addition which subjects of nutrition, water supply and sanitation we also covered. The analysis of data collected revealed that achievements across the districts in the Bundelkhand region on key health indicators- Infant Mortality Rate, Child Mortality, nutrition levels, immunization etc. are low. Some positive changes were observed, such as women preferring institutional deliveries over home deliveries, however several critical challenges persist, such as inadequate infrastructure, dearth of trained human resources and

impediments in accessing the health facilities due to time and distance. Field studies showed that health facilities at the village level were not adequate, with most sub-district health centres being either non-functional or offering poor medical care with limited staff. Front line workers such as the ANM, ASHA worker and *Anganwadi* workers are not particular with follow-up visits, having limited health amenities, and thus timely information and guidance from frontline workers is lacking. As a result, dependence on local, untrained and private health practitioners is reported to have increased. There is also a crisis of safe drinking water supply at the village level, and overall hygiene conditions in villages need drastic improvement. The second part of the presentation centered around the issue of **education**. It shed light on the educational backwardness of the region- low literacy rates, wide gender gaps in literacy of more than 20%, inadequate secondary and higher education facilities, challenges in girls' enrolment in secondary schools and higher education, and social discrimination and high poverty levels which are resulting in overall high drop-out rates which are especially pronounced among SCs and STs.

23. ***The points of discussion following the presentation is summarized below:***

- i. The Chair remarked that data on water quality was missing from the analysis. In addition, he mentioned that technological interventions were required in all areas- food supply, drinking water, etc. He also stressed that emphasis should be on creating a blend of formal education and technical or skill based curriculum to make the present education system employment oriented. He suggested that data and analysis on higher education be added to the current analysis.
- ii. The District Collector, Hamirpur observed that health care facilities need to be better equipped to help the staff take care of patients. She said that the government should focus on securing land in areas where services are not available, and then set up schools and hospitals there. She also cautioned that while setting up infrastructure, the cost of land should also be taken into consideration so that projects do not get delayed due to problems in 'land acquisition'. The coverage of institutional deliveries is good but the women are severely anemic. Regular check-ups should be incentivized and promoted by through innovative schemes, in order to reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate. The lack of trained teachers in the education sector is a big challenge and thus also retention of children due to poor quality of education.
- iii. The District Collector, Tikamgarh stressed on finding ways to integrate students who were left out of formal education and drop outs in skill development centres. He suggested that social infrastructure may be created around schools through the MGNREGA, such as playground and auditoriums, which can over time serve to iron out social differences. He highlighted the needs to focus on issues of water and sanitation due to their implications for health, and also emphasized the value of 'economic development as the best contraceptive'.
- iv. Representative from Development Alternatives said that issues pertaining to women, in particular, deserve focused attention in the Bundelkhand region. He said that efforts must be better coordinated and capacities of implementing agents and frontline staff must be built through training in order to address people's needs effectively. He also mentioned that construction of toilets in water scare areas will not resolve the issue; instead focus should be on ensuring water supply in these areas and the administration needs to take note of the situation.
- v. The need for following a participatory approach in planning process at village level was highlighted by the participants.
- vi. It was suggested that the selection and listing of BPL beneficiaries is faulty and needs revision to cover the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.
- vii. It was mentioned that a lot of Central funds are remain unutilized and eventually surrendered, but the services are still not reaching people. In order to rectify this anomaly, the administration needs to improve supply, and greater demand also needs to be generated through increasing public awareness.

- viii. It was said that while similar schemes might be in implementation in the districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to address the same health/education issues, the causal factors for these issues might be different, and interventions therefore need to be tapered to suit local contexts.
- ix. One of the participants shared that the Government should intervene in the commercialization of education as it is degrading the whole education system. Teachers in Government schools are burdened with many other responsibilities like Census work, election duty, Mid-Day Meal etc. which should be stopped, and more attention should be given to enhancing the quality of education.

SESSION 2c: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN BUNDELKHAND- INEQUALITIES (CASTE AND GENDER)

24. **Introduction:** This session was chaired by Shri. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India and NPD, HDBI project.

25. **Presentation:** The presentation at the beginning of the session highlighted the high concentration of Dalits in the Bundelkhand region and active caste based discrimination, violence and exploitation of the lower castes at the hands of upper caste persons, based on the field evidences and anecdotal evidence of foeticide/infanticide, gender violence and gender related crimes. Although caste based discrimination has reduced in last 10-15 years it is still prevalent in some forms in Bundelkhand region. It was also observed that the overall status of the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe was lower than that of general population. There is unequal distribution of resources and assets, especially land, which makes these groups economically vulnerable. Occupationally, a high proportion of agricultural labour belong to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe community, which makes them vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation at the hands of their upper caste employers. Also, women are facing multiple forms of discrimination due to gender, class, caste and the feudal social structure.

26. **The points of discussion following the presentation is summarized below:**

- i. The Chair suggested inclusion of data from the Socio Economic Caste Census, which includes details on the land/asset ownership trends of social groups. He also suggested the use of data on domestic violence from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in the analysis.
- ii. It was suggested that promotion of women SHGs could be one of the ways to minimize caste based discrimination and to change feudal mindsets.
- iii. The enlisting of Scheduled Tribes in both the states, on similar lines in order to avoid identity conflicts in getting entitlements was suggested.
- iv. It was recommended that residential schools be established for children belonging to tribal communities in the nearby circle or block, as they usually live in isolated tribal hamlets and access to education facility is not always possible.
- v. The need for tougher laws and Acts to be enacted on high priority, to combat social discrimination in the region was highlighted.

SESSION 3: SPECIAL INITIATIVES

27. **Introduction:** This session was also chaired by Shri. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India and NPD, HDBI project.

28. **Presentation:** The presentation made by Sanket Development Group at the start of the session covered special initiatives being implemented in the region such as the Bundelkhand Package and other supporting initiatives which are umbrella programmes and cover districts from the

Bundelkhand region. The Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiative Project (MPDPIP) and Tejaswini-Rural Women Empowerment Programme were also discussed in this context. Besides this, an analysis of district plans across sectors for the districts of the Bundelkhand region was also attempted.

SESSION 4: WAY FORWARD AND CONCLUSION

29. **Introduction:** This session was chaired by Shri. Tuhin Pandey, Joint Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India and NPD, HDBI project. Ms. Ritu Mathur, Programme Specialist, UNDP and Shri Sandeep Dikshit, SDG joined the Panel.

30. **The points of discussion following the presentation is summarized below:**

- i. Sanket Development Group summarized the main points from the day's deliberations. A consensus was reached on preparing the report in English and Hindi for wider circulation and outreach. **It was agreed that Sanket will finalise the draft report, incorporating all relevant suggestions received during the Consultation, and communicate a date for the submission of the final Report to the Planning Commission and UNDP.**
- ii. The Programme Analyst, UNDP, suggested that if the Planning Department of both the States (Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) could review the draft report within a stipulated time period, the final report could release on time. Minimize delays will also reduce the risk of information/data becoming outdated and irrelevant in the process.
- iii. Joint Secretary, Planning Commission & NPD, HDBI project suggested that the State Planning Departments in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh could be the nodal agencies for the Bundelkhand HDR in their respective States, and could present the Report in a condensed form in a meeting in order to save the time lost in circulating the Report to different departments. He further added that this Report is not the end. The actual purpose is to generate data and trigger thinking on how findings can be integrated in the planning process.

31. **Vote of Thanks:** The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to all panelists and participants.

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List of participants

1.	Planning Commission
1	Ms Sindhushree Khullar, Secretary
2	Mr Tuhin Pandey, JS (State Plans) & National Project Director (HDBI)
3	Mr Surinder Singh, Adviser (Agriculture)
4	Mr Avinash Mishra, Joint Adviser (WR)
5	Mr J R Meena, Senior Research Officer (RD)
6	Ms Monika Singh, Research officer
2.	NRAA, Government of India
7	Dr K S Ramachandra, Member (Technical Expert - AH&F)
3.	UNDP
8	Mr Gyanendra Badgayian, Chief Economist
9	Ms Sumeeta Banerji, Assistant Country Director
10	Ms Ritu Mathur, Programme Analyst
11	Mr Amit Anand, State Programme Officer
12	Mr Akhilesh Kekre, Programme Associate
4.	Representation from Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
13	Mr N C Tripathi, Special Secretary, Planning Department
14	Mr Chandan Singh, Director Manpower Planning
15	Mr Hira Lal, Joint Development Commissioner, Rural Development
16	Mr Santosh Kumar, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department
17	Mr Mukesh Kumar Srivastava, Addl. Director of Agriculture(Plant Protection), Agriculture Department
18	Mr Ravi Patni, Research Officer (Engineering)
19	Mr S P Singh, Superintending Engineer, Bundelkhand Vikas Nidhi (Uttar Pradesh)
20	Mr R D Yadav, District Economic & Statistical Officer, Banda
21	Mr Girish Kumar Pathak, Deputy Commissioner, MNERGA, Banda
22	Mr S K Pandey, Project Director - District Rural Development Agency, Jalaun
23	Mr Babu Singh, District Economic & Statistical Officer, Jalaun
24	Mr N P Singh, Chief Development Officer, Chitrakoot
25	Mr Shiv Raj, Additional Statistical Officer, Chitrakoot
26	Ms B Chanderkala, DM, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Hamirpur
27	Mr A B Singh, Chief Development Officer, Hamirpur
28	Mr Jagdish Singh, Chief Development Officer, Lalitpur
29	Mr P N Dixit, Block Development Officer, Birdha
30	Mr Bal Gobind Shukla, Deputy Commissioner (Employment & Labour), Mahoba
31	Mr Brijkishore Verma, District Economic & Statistical Officer, Mahoba
32	Mr Prashant, District Economic & Statistical Officer, Jhansi
5.	Representation from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
33	Ms Ajita Bajpai Pande, Additional Chief Secretary
34	Mr Mangesh Tyagi, Principal Adviser
35	Mr A K Jain, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department
36	Mr V S Saxena, Joint Director, Education Department
37	Mr S P Batra, Statistics (Specialist) PMPSU, State Planning Commission
38	Ms Swati Parihar, Specialist Decentralised Planning, State Planning Commission
39	Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, Department of Animal Husbandry
40	Ms Rekha Sharma, Deputy Director, WCD (WE)
41	Ms Indra Bisen, IT & GIS expert, State Planning Commission

42	Dr B L Sharma, Economist, State Planning Commission
43	Mr Rishi Raj Sharma, Specialist (M&E), State Planning Commission
44	Mr Yogesh Mahor, Deputy Team Leader, PMPSUS - State Planning Commission
45	Mr Rajan Mishra, State Planning Commission
46	Mr L L Rajput, D.S., State Planning Commission
47	Mr C P Agarwal, Adviser, State Planning Commission
48	Mr A K Mishra, S.E., Department of Rural Development
49	Mr Anurag Shrivastava, EE, PHED
50	Mr Sanjay Gupta, JSD, State Planning Commission
51	Dr Masood Akhtar, Collector, Chhattarpur
52	Mr Satendra Singh, C.E.O.-Zila Panchayat, Chhattarpur
53	Mr Swatantra Kumar Singh, Collector, Damoh
54	Dr Jagdish Chandra Jatia, C.E.O.-Zila Panchayat, Damoh
55	Mr Bhaskar Lashkar, C.E.O.-Zila Panchayat, Datia
56	Dr Rajesh Rai, Joint Commissioner (Development), Sagar
57	Mr Neelesh Kumar Chauby, P.O., Zila Panchayat, Sagar
58	Mr Sudama Pandrinath Khande, Collector, Tikamgarh
59	Mr Anay Dwivedi, C.E.O.-Zila Panchayat, Tikamgarh
60	Mr Rakesh Mishra, Junior Engineer, Banda
61	Mr Chakresh Jai, DPO, Zila Panchayat, Panna
62	Mr Yogendra Kumar Giri, A.E., MPSEGC, Bhopal
6.	NGO's & Academic Institution
63	Mr Avinash C Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
64	Mr Dhruv, Ex. Director, Margshree Charitable Trust, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
65	Mr Ambrish Kumar, Director, Gram Unmesh, A-267, Awas Vikas Colony, Dist: - Banda-UP
66	Dr S. K Chaturvedi, President, Paramlal Sewa Samiti, near Yamuna Bridge, Bhilawa, Hamirpur
67	Mr Rajesh Gupta, Director, Darshana Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Darshana Bhawan, Behind Maharaja hotel, Jawahar Road Chhattarpur, MP
68	Mr S.N Pandey, Development Alternatives, Jhansi, UP
69	Mr Sanjoy Singha, Director, Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Gandhi Bhawan, Chhattarpur- MP
70	Mr Ahmed Mustafa, Consultant, Ramkey Foundation
7.	Sanket Development Group
71	Mr Sandeep Dikshit
72	Ms Pallavi K Mali, Programme Coordinator
73	Mr Sanjay Shivastava, Assistant Coordinator
74	Mr Devkant Tripathi, Sr. Programme Executive
75	Mr Devkant Tripathi, Sr. Programme Executive
76	Mr Satyajit Das, Programme Officer
77	Mr Jitendra Shrivastava, Programme Officer
78	Mr Gokul Pal, Research Officer
79	Ms Babita Singh, Research Assistant
80	Mr Mahendra Kamatkar, Project Executive
8.	Project Management Unit - HDBI Project
81	Ms Swayamprabha Das, Project Manager
82	Ms Kavya Bopanna, Research Analyst
83	Ms Rosalin Mohapatra, Project Assistant
84	Ms Simran Bawa, Project Assistant