

The Way Forward

Strategies need to focus on Livelihood and Food Security, Education, Health, Water Resources, Forests and Environment, Energy and Employment. Suggestions for improvement in various sectors are:

Livelihoods and Food Security: Better land use; making agriculture remunerative; strengthening animal husbandry; research to improve indigenous varieties; de-silting/renovating tanks to improve pisciculture; promotion of agro-industries, micro and small enterprises; strengthening MGNREGS implementation; enhancing employable skills of people for better employability.

Employment: Enhancing employable vocational skills of the educated and unemployed youth; generating employment through private investment in feasible and growth potential sectors; creating self-employment opportunities through skill and knowledge inputs; reducing dependency on public sector engagement; improving the credit flow to promote micro, small and medium enterprises.

Health: Optimising the patient load per doctor; providing accommodation to medical personnel in remote rural places; improving facilities in existing health institutions; encouraging private investment in health care; focusing on special health care measures for SC and ST dominated blocks; maintaining basic facilities in health institutions; motivating ANMs, ASHAs



KALAHANDI

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etc.; social marketing of family planning instruments; improved public-private partnerships for health care management; implementation of medical waste management at PHC and CHC level and environmental watch.

Education: Special focus on tribal girls' education; improving the teacher-pupil ratio; providing basic facilities in schools like separate girls' toilets, drinking water, electricity, etc.; making teachers and parents more accountable; providing residential facilities for teachers and staff in the interior areas and monitoring output based planning by schools.

Water Resources: Providing piped water supply to minor habitations [< 100 HH]; safe solid waste disposal in urban areas; raising awareness among school children; water harvesting; water management, ground water recharging; water taxation; repair and maintenance of existing water sources.

Forests and Environment: Planning for environmental promotion and restoration from a climate change perspective; maintenance of new plantations by the community; experimenting with community ownership based forest micro privatisation.

The Kalahandi District Human Development Report (DHDR) provides a benchmark for assessing human development indicators such as education, healthcare, livelihood, gender, human vulnerability and biodiversity. Each sector has been looked at in detail during the preparation of the document. Government initiatives and achievements in these areas as well as future policy options explored in the DHDR are summarised in this brochure. While the DHDR attempts to comprehensively present current scenario of the District, this brochure provides the gist of DHDR.

Indicator	Value	Indicator	Value
Area [sq. Km]	7,920	Population Density (2011) *	199
Forest Area [000 Ha]	2,275	Sex Ratio (2011) *	1003
Community Development Block	13	Child Sex Ratio (0-6) Yrs (2011) *	947
Gram Panchayat	273	Literacy Rate (2011)*	[%]
Police Station	12	Person	60.2
District Human Development Index (HDI) (2004) rank	11	Male	73.3
Total Population (2011)* [lakh]	15.73	Female	47.3
Male	7.85	SC Literacy Rate (2001)**	[%] 47.1
Female	7.87	ST Literacy Rate (2001) **	[%] 34.2
ST Population (2001)**	28.65	Infant Mortality Rate (2010-11) #	59.0
SC Population (2001)**	17.67	Real Gross District Domestic Product (Rupees in lakh) : 2006-07 at 1999-2000 prices ***	186,272

Sources

* Provisional Population Report-2011

** Census of India, 2001

*** Economic Survey-2010-11

Annual Health Survey (AHS): 2010-11



Planning Commission,
Government of India



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Growth, Poverty and Livelihood

Kalahandi contributes about 3% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Odisha. Its economy is dominated by agriculture and allied sectors that contributed 49.44% to the real Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) in 1999-2000. While agriculture is the main source of employment and income for 80% of the people, small contributions are also made by mining and quarrying, forestry, fishery and agro-industry sectors. Migration to different parts of the State and other states has emerged as another important source of employment and income.

The 1997 BPL Census reported 34.02% ST households, 23.39% SC households, 41.51% households of agricultural labourers and 43.54% households of small and marginal farmers. Food insecurity in Kalahandi is mostly related to economic access to food. Around 60% children have nutritional deficiencies. To counter this, a number of schemes like subsidised distribution of food grains through the PDS, supplementary nutritional food through Anganwadis, free food for the aged vulnerable population under emergency feeding, grain banks and providing rice at Rs. 2/- per kg have been implemented in the district.

Kalahandi has a good forest cover and rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. Increasing population pressures, demand for land and diversifying economic activities have resulted in shrinking forest cover and varying degrees of forest degradation.

Healthcare

The increasing patient load in the district may be attributed to increased awareness of healthcare among the people. To address the shortage of government doctors and improve the quality of health service delivery, Mobile Health Units (MHU) have been

deployed in the District since 1995-96 to extend health services in an outreach mode and one MHU covers approximately 16,000 to 20,000 patients a year. This has positively impacted different aspects of the health status in the district. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which was 76 (2001), reduced to 59 (2010-11), while the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 2011 is above the State average (AHS 2010-11). Institutional deliveries have improved to 50% and home deliveries without trained personnel have come down. Attendance of health personnel during delivery at home or at other places has increased from 12.5% to 21% at the district level and 8.7% to 20.8% in rural areas as per DLHS.

Education

The State has taken a number of steps to improve the educational status of the district such as the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV). Overall literacy in Kalahandi has increased from 6.3% in 1951 to 60.2% in 2011. But it is still far below the State average of 73.5% in 2011. Male literacy is 73.3% and female literacy is 47.3% (2011). The literacy rate among SCs is better than the district average for both males and females. The literacy rate for STs (both male and female) is lower than the district average and that for SCs.

There is a substantial increase in educational infrastructure in the district but still progress has to be made with respect to drinking water, toilets and electricity in schools. The overall enrollment in the district has increased to 88.25% at the primary school level with enrollments of SC and ST students being 90.87% and 54.19% respectively. The challenge is now to increase the ratio of teachers to pupils which is 1:49 at present.



Gender

Women have outnumbered men in Kalahandi since 1901 to 2011, (except in 1991). The sex ratio has declined from 1,035 in 1931-41 to 1,003 in 2011. The child sex ratio stands at 947 girls for 1,000 boys in 2011 as against 984 girls to 1,000 boys in 2001. The sharp decline in population of girls in the 0-6 year age group as compared to boys in the same age group is a matter of serious concern.

The Government has taken a number of steps to promote gender equity and to counteract the disadvantages faced by women in terms of employability and lower wages in comparison to their male counterparts. These include equal wages for equal work; promotion of female literacy; reservations for girls in technical institutions; creating supportive infrastructure like ladies toilets and providing an enabling work environment; reservation of one third seats in the Panchayati Raj Institution; prohibition of illegal sex determination tests; Janani Surakhaya Yojana and Janani Express, fast track special courts to deal with violence against women; implementing the dowry prohibition act; a law on sexual harassment in the work place; special projects like Mission Shakti, etc.

Climate Change and Disasters

Kalahandi is susceptible to natural calamities like drought, floods due to deforestation, heat waves and epidemics. The district receives a good amount of rainfall but the rainwater is not harvested properly as tanks are silted. A slight shortfall in rain triggers drought and causes crop failures. Watershed activities have, therefore, been prioritised and the annual fund allocation increased to (Rs. 3952.69 lakh in 2008-09).