



North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.

Comprehensive Study for Interventions for Improving the Quality of Outcomes for health, education, and skilling sectors in the Northeastern Region

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE OF THE STUDY

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY FOR INTERVENTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUTCOMES FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SKILLING SECTORS IN THE NORTH- EASTERN REGION

Introduction

The North East region of India is widely renowned for its abundant natural resources and diversity of cultures, but it has struggled with infrastructure and development issues in the areas of healthcare, education, and skill development. The Department of Development of the North-Eastern Region (DoNER) was founded in 2001 to address these problems, and it later evolved into a full-fledged Ministry in 2004. DoNER serves as a link between the central ministries, the state governments, and the North-Eastern region, with a focus on reducing infrastructure barriers, delivering essential services, enticing private investment, and ensuring regional peace and security. Various organizations under this Ministry, like the North-Eastern Council (NEC) and North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi), are instrumental in driving socio-economic progress.

The North-East region encounters specific challenges in each sector, namely geographic restrictions, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of competent human resource and a dearth of awareness. The study aims to identify demand- and supply-side impediments as well as offer methods to enhance service delivery and overall efficacy in the health, education, and skilling sectors across the region.

The key objectives of the study are as follows:

Health

The study aims to address an array of significant healthcare challenges in the North-Eastern states of India. It also includes assessing the population without access to primary health care, estimating financial requirements for universal healthcare, introducing innovative healthcare delivery, enhancing the training of healthcare workers, and promoting private sector participation. It also aims to suggest measures to establish super speciality facilities in the District Hospitals and develop a uniform, multi-layered physical and digital infrastructure to guarantee the delivery of high-quality and reasonably priced healthcare services at all levels, from primary to tertiary care in the region.

Education

The objectives in the education sector comprise mapping of areas situated beyond 5 km from primary education facilities, thus estimating the population lacking access to primary education, estimating the financial requisites for providing primary education, after aligning with government schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, recommending effective intervention methods for achieving universal primary education in these underserved areas, highlighting the introduction of innovative education delivery and NGO involvement. Furthermore, the study aims to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current state of education at primary, secondary, and high school levels, particularly in rural regions of the NE states.

Skilling for livelihood and employment generation

The objectives in the skilling sector are to analyse the existing TVET system, align training with job market demands, suggest new skilling areas, create awareness of skill opportunities, align skilling with local aspirations, study the feasibility of dedicated skilling centres, assess PMKVY progress, establish a framework for assessing skilling needs, and improve private sector engagement. Additionally, the report

explores ways to integrate skilling with corporate social responsibility initiatives and enhance the private sector participation across NER.

Scope of work

This comprehensive pan-North-Eastern Region (NER) study is designed to encompass a representative sample of rural and remote habitations from each North-Eastern state. The study aims to offer actionable data points for pan-NER, aimed at enhancing the quality of outcomes in health, education, and skilling sectors in the region. It adopts a comprehensive approach, integrating the NER District SDG Index 2020-21, with a focus on addressing development gaps at the district level. Additionally, the study considers the findings and recommendations from recent research and evaluation projects conducted by the Ministries of Health, Education, and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, as well as organizations like NITI Aayog and NEC/NEDFi in the NER. With a strong emphasis on sustainability and scalability, it aims to increase the scope, accessibility, and quality of current and forthcoming initiatives in these fields. The study is also focused on understanding and overcoming supply- and demand-side constraints that affect the use of services and critical enablers, which are pivotal to the performance of these eight states on key development indicators.

The primary area of research includes:

Assessment of supply-side constraints includes, but is not limited to, technical efficiency (i.e., management capacity, level of effort by health personnel, task mix, etc.) and availability of services, including availability of adequate facilities, skilled human resources, equipment and supplies, and budget.

With respect to demand-side constraints, the study includes exploration of issues such as perceived need, awareness/knowledge of timing/content and dissatisfaction with the quality of these services, price barriers and cultural barriers.

The study evaluates difficulties pertaining to the quality of numerous services in districts in the NER. The study assesses issues related to the calibre of different services in districts throughout many states. These concerns include assessing service delivery and service quality with regards to multiple sectors.

Approach and Methodology

The study includes all the eight states in the NER. A representative sample in the region was identified and the primary data collection for study was carried out in these areas. Amongst all the districts of each state, four districts were considered in consultation with NEDFi to have a fair representative sample of the state. A total of 32 representative sample districts (i.e., $8 \times 4 = 32$ districts) were taken into consideration for final selection, with a coverage of more than 30% of the total number of districts for which data was available. Districts were categorized in accordance with their total performance score across the SDG Index in the NITI Aayog report. Two front-runner (65–99) and two performing (50–64) districts from each state were chosen for the study. The final selection of the districts was determined after considering accessibility to the site and logistical convenience into account.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework has been developed using the variables affecting service utilisation and subsequently the social consequences of health, education, and skilling. Utilisation of services is the dependent variable in the framework. The dependent variable is influenced by factors on both the supply and demand sides. The demand side determinants for health comprise of predisposing factors, enabling factors, need based factors and behavioural factors. The supply side determinants include model of care, strengthening governance and accountability, coordinating services, enabling environment, service quality and engaged and empowered community. The demand side determinants for education include demographic characteristics, enabling factors such as distance, transport access, need based factors and

behavioural factors. The supply side determinants for education are quality of education, strengthening governance and accountability, accessibility to education, enabling environment, engaged and empowered community. The demand side determinants for skilling are private sector participation, convergence, employment potential and youth aspiration. The supply side determinants include quality of skilling, public policy and governance, accessibility to skilling and enabling environment.