



Need Assessment

1. Why should organizations conduct a Need Assessment study?

The goal of a 'needs assessment' is to identify the assets of a community and determine potential concerns that it faces. A needs assessment therefore becomes crucial in the initial stages of any social intervention. Conducting a needs assessment allows the program planning team to think broadly and systemically, consider interdisciplinary approaches, and provide justification for decisions before, during, and after they are made.

The purpose of Need assessment study in rural areas is to enable development practitioners, government officials, and local people to work together to plan context-appropriate programs and interventions that can bring about required social change.

2. Methodology used for the needs assessment study

- The study will be a combination of rapid research and baseline in the project villages which includes, secondary research, Focused Group Discussions (FGD), and a household survey
- Secondary data will be collected with a structured format whereas FGDs will be conducted with a semi structured research tool. A Survey questionnaire will be designed to capture the socio-economic profile of the villagers and the other common practices in the village
- Officials at the Block and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) will be contacted for secondary information.
- PRI members, key informants, school and anganwadi teachers, students, women, men and frontline public health professionals such as ANMs / ASHAs / VHNs will be spoken to during the FGDs. FGDs will be conducted with 8 to 15 members each.
- Study tools will be prepared in consultation with HIH India and field tested before being used for the study. Tools will be translated in Tamil before administering to the villagers.
- A Pilot study will be undertaken by the study team prior to the actual study.
- The field team members will be thoroughly trained in using the tools.
- A tentative report structure will be shared with HIH India



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3. Tools Used

Study points	Tools to be used
Community profile	
Demographic indicators	Secondary data from census, DHDR Kancheepuram, District Statistical Handbook, Transit walk, Focus Group Discussions, Personal interviews with key stakeholders & PRI members
Natural resources	
Economic infrastructure	
Social infrastructure	
Community institutions	SHGs, Farmers' Clubs, Youth Clubs, Social and Financial Institutions- formal & informal
Household Profile	
Health	Household Survey
Education	
Employment, income and poverty	
Social and cultural profile	Household Survey, FGD, KII
Public-Private Convergence	PRI members, BDO
Overall quality of life	All the above tools

4. Study framework

Activities	Time frame
Analysis of the project profile Area analysis Study of secondary data Identification of key informants Preparation of survey questionnaire and FGD guide	10 days
Primary data collection phase:	20 days
Data entry, analysis and Report writing	15 days



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5. Need Assessment Report Structure

The report would cover the following topics

1. Study Objective
2. Study Methodology
3. Profile of the study area
4. Map of the study area
5. Socio-economic profile of the communities
6. Prevailing conditions in
 - a. Healthcare
 - b. Housing & Sanitation
 - c. Education
 - d. Skill Development
 - e. Women
 - f. Environment
 - g. Other facilities
 - h. Natural Resources
7. Key Observations
8. Recommendations