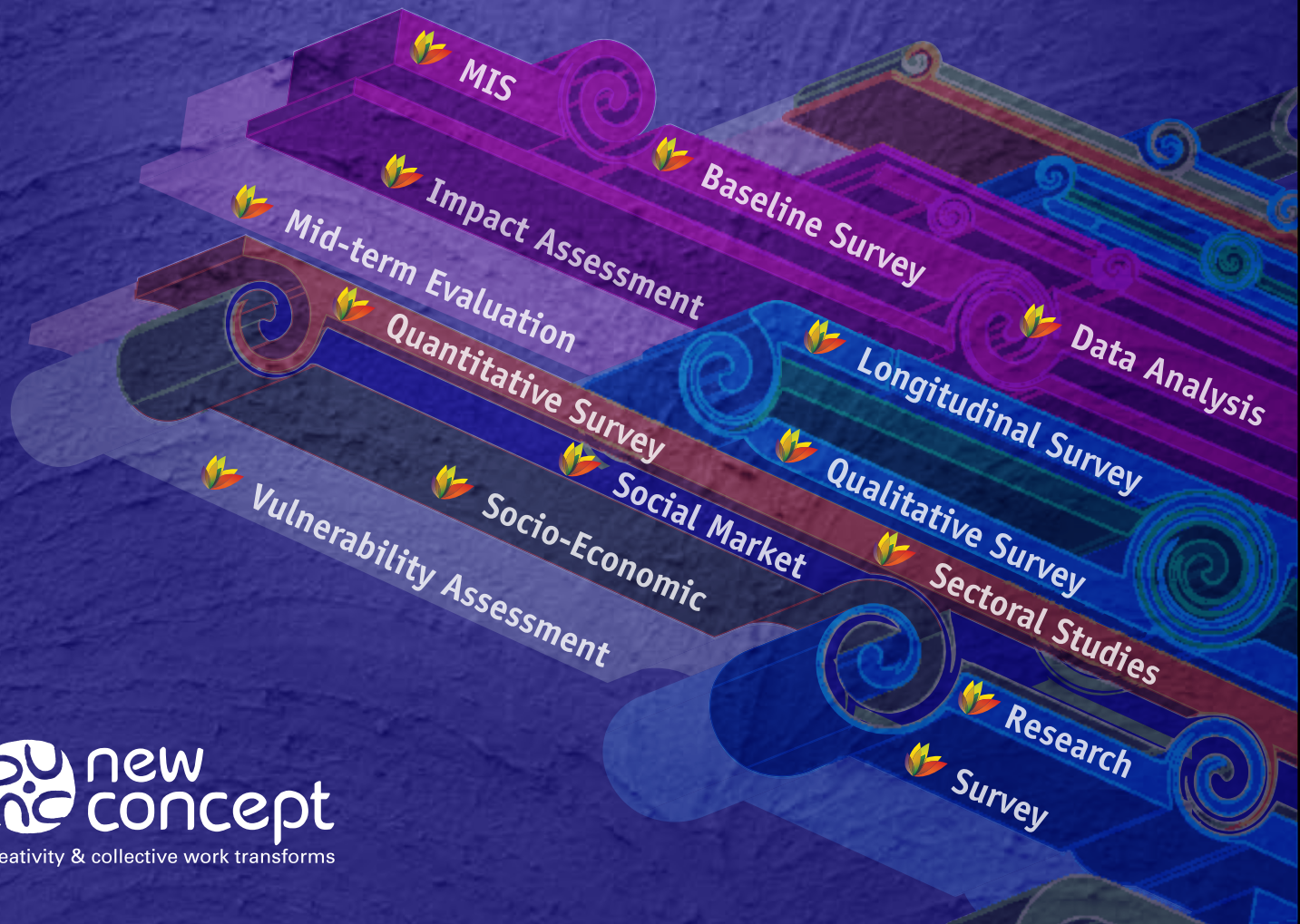


Research Effective

for Decision Making





Knowledge is the most crucial factor in identifying strategies to attain the goal of sustainable development and information is the key to knowledge. In New Concept, our research is based on scientific and methodical collection of information on selected indicators. Our core strength lies in understanding policy goals, programmatic strategy and interventions through rigorous study and investigation that sets the framework for our research.

New Concept undertakes research that helps in effective decision making. Quality data collection and informed data analysis are the hallmark of our research work. We apply appropriate survey and sampling methods in conducting evidence-based research.

With a strong base of domain understanding and supported by three branch offices across India, New Concept is well poised to provide reliable and quality services in tool development, data management, analysis and report.

Our research team comprises members who have domain knowledge and possess extensive operations research experience ranging between 5-30 years. This team is ably supported by experienced consultants who work with us closely.

We present below a brief write up on some of our work. For further details on the team and projects, contact: Sanjay Tiwari, sanjay.t@newconceptinfosys.com; Pravin Ramteke, pravin.r@newconceptinfosys.com

Livelihood/Poverty

Assessment of zero-tillage adoption in Bihar [2013]

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center ("CIMMYT") conducted a research study entitled "Assessment of zero-tillage service provision in Bihar as a business opportunity" for the same CIMMYT enlisted the help of New Concept Information Systems ("NCIS").

The survey took place in 9 districts of Bihar namely: Ara, Begusarai, Buxar, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Muzzafarpur, Patna, Samastipur and Vaishali covering a sample of 376 ZT Service Providers. CIMMYT also provided NCIS with basic household information about the sample i.e. the name of the village they resided in, the name of the respondent's father etc. The enumerators collected extensive data in a CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) device, SurveyBe was the software that was used for data collection.

The purpose of the project for which the study was conducted was to (1) assess the economic viability of ZT service businesses, their development over time, and constraints to further business expansion; (2) assess farmers'/service providers' resource endowment, risk exposure, risk preferences, and risk management practices; (3) based on (2), identify influencing factors of engaging in ZT service provision, including influencing factors of the scale of the business; (4) based on (2), identify influencing factors of ZT adoption, including influencing

factors of the scale of adoption; and (5) estimate the impact of ZT adoption on farm households' income and food security status.

Data management for IFPRI and Michigan State University (2011)

This was a study of three states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh), based on farm household samples where there is a confluence of input supply and output procurement options among state/cooperative retail, private modern rural retail or "RBH" (rural business hubs), and traditional input retailers and output traders (rural brokers, mandi commission agents).

Baseline Survey on "Vasundhara" scheme for Rural Development Institute (RDI) (2010-11)

Baseline Survey was commissioned by RDI, India on the living conditions of potential beneficiaries under the "Vasundhara" scheme in four districts of Orissa aimed at allocating homestead land to the landless and homesteadless families. The survey sample covered 1400 households, measuring the socio-economic condition, perception of physical security, access to goods and services, and related benefit of land ownership and micro plot development and also monitor government's delivery of/beneficiaries' access to extension services.

M&E for UNDP and Rajasthan Mission on Skills and Livelihood (RMoL) (2009-10)

The assignment involved design and setting up a robust project M&E system; finalising the LFA and tools to capture major results of the mission, especially with emphasis on disadvantaged groups and their livelihoods; and building capacity of partners to use the system. This also included a baseline survey in 10 districts across 60 villages using a mix of qualitative and quantitative tools among 1620 households.

Farming household survey for IFPRI, Oxford University and Reuters India (2009)

The International Food Policy Research Institute, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, launched a study to evaluate the effect of SMS-market news on farmers in 5 districts in Maharashtra.

Targeting Study in Orissa and Tamil Nadu for The World Bank (2008)

Study was commissioned in two states, viz. Tamil Nadu and Orissa adopting a mix of qualitative and quantitative research tools. The main focus of this study was to make an empirical comparison of the performance of alternative targeting mechanisms currently used to identify the poor, including a range of administrative, self-targeting and community based methods.

Micro Planning of Gram Panchayats for CGDPRP (2005)

Applying various Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools and methods, New Concept prepared Gram Panchayats wise (including all the habitations) Micro Plan for Chhattisgarh District Poverty Reduction Project (CGDPRP). These plans were then endorsed at the Gram Saba level facilitated by New Concept.

Baseline Survey, Mid-term & Impact Assessment of MPDPIP (2001-08)

New Concept is involved with MPDPIP since its very inception. It was entrusted to conduct baseline survey (2001-02), mid-term survey (2004-05) as well as impact assessment (2007-08) in 14 districts of Madhya Pradesh, it contributed to building the capacities of the project facilitating teams (PFTs) in conducting research activities in the field and in understanding the analysis and data management. Pictorial community based monitoring formats were developed with active involvement of Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and Project Facilitation Teams (PFTs). Vignette methodology was applied to get responses on intangible variables such as empowerment, transparency, etc.

Process Monitoring of Tamil Nadu Vazhndhu Kattuvom Project (TNVKP) (2008-10)

New Concept undertook process monitoring of TNVKP (formally TNEPRP) for two consecutive years in Region-II, consisting of five districts of Salem, Coimbatore, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Namakkal. It also carried out thematic studies on specific issues thrown up in the course of process monitoring. Currently, 2012-14, New Concept is monitoring in 2 regions.

Baseline Survey for Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Programme (TNEPRP) (2005-07)

New Concept carried out the survey to establish the baseline to measure net contribution of the project to sustainable livelihoods of the targeted families "before" and "after" the project and "between" the project and control areas in 15 districts belonging to four regions of Tamil Nadu.

Census 2011 – Training Assessment and Documentation (2010-11)

New Concept was involved in the assessment and documentation of Census Training 2011 to gauge the effectiveness, overall quality and relevance of the training delivered at various levels and its impact and recommend strategies for improvements in various aspects of training.

Technical Support for Development of District Plan (2010-11)

New Concept was responsible for preparation of the draft District Plan for Keonjhar for 2011-12, keeping in view the Operational Guidelines and formats issued by the Planning & Coordination Department and processes as indicated in the "Manual for Integrated District Planning" (MIDP). New Concept team in Orissa worked closely with the District Collector, the Planning Department and other stakeholders in developing the District Plan.

Poverty survey for NIPFP

In addition to understanding poverty level the survey also focused on situations with respect of their education, health, water, sanitation, law and personal security, awareness of political systems and more importantly, the benefit they had received from the various government schemes. The sample covered 7000 households in rural areas and 2000 households in urban areas across 57 districts.

Health/Sanitation/Nutrition



Shakti Varta Project (2014)

The Odisha Health Sector and Nutrition Plan (OHNSP) 1 is being implemented since 2008. The United Kingdom's Aid, Department for International Development (DFID) has contracted TMST to help key departments of Government of Odisha (GoO) to implement the OHNSP. New Concept and EMCPL consortium have been selected by TMST as the technical agency to support the project in 15 high-burden districts. In this venture, the two partners will complement each other's skill as a state level technical agency for the scaling up of Shakti Varta Wave II.

New Concept is monitoring and documenting the efforts in 15 high burden districts with the help of local teams identified and placed in the districts for the purpose. Using a web based MIS systems, New Concept is providing accurate implementation data to support effective programme management and decision-making.

Trial of Nodal Aanganwadi Centre in Bihar – Baseline Survey. (IPE/BTAST, Govt of Bihar) [2013]

With the aim of bringing about significant improvements in health and nutrition, Government of Bihar has launched the Sector Wide Approach to Strengthening Health (SWASTH) which factors on convergence between three principal departments, namely, the Department for Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW), the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

Of the nine¹ focal priority districts identified by SWASTH on the basis of a vulnerability composite index - action-research study is focusing on implementation in two selected districts namely, Madhubani and Supaul with clear identified interventions and matched control areas for comparison.

The baseline study gathered information on key indicators of the project. The baseline provided an in-depth understanding of the project in the project areas and shall also provide as baseline value for indicators for analyzing change in the project areas because of the project. The baseline study analysed information on both output and process level indicators, viz. children weighed as per schedule against total number of children; newborns birth weight recorded and birth notified; newborns initiated breast feeding within one hour of birth; infants started complementary feeding at 6 months; children's nutritional status graded against total number of children; children normal and malnourished (moderate and severe); pregnant women (2nd and 3rd trimester) who consumed 25 IFA in the month; pregnant women weighed each month and

registered appropriate weight gain; children and mothers immunised against total eligible; AWWs, AWHs and ASHA knowledge/ understanding of their roles and key messages to community.

Assessment study of AWTCs & MLTCs in Bihar (2014)

Training and capacity building is the most crucial and critical element in the ICDS Scheme which provides opportunity to strengthen knowledge and skills at all levels for service providers to deliver quality services in order to achieve pre-determined objectives.

Anganwadi Training Center (AWTC) conducts and organizes the on Job and refresher training for Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers. Bihar has a total 84 sanctioned AWTCs but currently 62 AWTCs are functional.

Mid Level Training Centre (MLTC) conducts and organizes training courses for ICDS supervisors.

Despite significant advancements in the utilization of health facilities, the health indicators for the state are still quite far from satisfactory.

The Assessment study was conducted by covering the following aspects: Comprehensive Desk review of the existing guidelines, protocols and directives for functioning / running the AWTCs and MLTCs in the context of the national training policy NTP 2012 in reference to ICDS; Assessment of physical infrastructure status of the trainings' centre - Physical environment, ambience, facility of recreation, stay, safety of women trainees, privacy, food and sanitation and hygiene; Assess the learning environment (Job aids, AV aids, seating arrangements etc); workload of HR; the challenges / bottlenecks faced by these institutions; gender and inclusion; the difference in functioning of AWTC (through SWOT); strategies for strengthening /restructuring the centers; and recommend a framework of strengthening the AWTC and MLTC in the context of NTP 2012.

Formative Research to develop BCC on Malaria Control and Kala-azar Elimination (2011)

The Directorate of NVBDCP has contracted New Concept as BCC agency to plan and implement effective BCC for malaria control and kala-azar elimination in identified endemic areas. In the same process, New Concept has conducted a formative research among 6600 households in 10 states of India among rural as well as urban population to inform the national BCC strategy development.

Assessment of Mobile Medical Units in Jharkhand (2011)

This study was carried out to assess the management, operations, demand generation and client satisfaction with mobile units and to identify any gaps in these services in 12 of the 24 districts. The main objective of the study was to assess the management and functioning of Mobile Medical Units in Jharkhand.

Formative Research on Perceptions on Sanitation and Hygiene in Bihar (2011)

This research was conducted to understand the perceptions on sanitation and hygiene among different stakeholders with focus on excluded communities in the districts of Vaishali, Gaya, Madhepura and Sitamarhi.

IEC Evaluation of National Programme for Control of Blindness, MoHFW (2010)

New Concept conducted the Impact Assessment for Kiosks on Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) Central Verge, Display Boards and backlit Glow Signs at various Railway Stations in Delhi, to gauge the effectiveness of the 'Eye Care Campaign' by conducting Research Survey to ascertain reach, comprehension, recall & retainability of the messages by target audience as well as brand recognition of NPCB and to obtain feedback and suggestion to improve strategy further.

Information and Needs Assessment for SIHFW Orissa (2009)

New Concept conducted information and needs assessment study among tribal groups in selected districts of Orissa for

the SIHFW, Orissa. The primary research helped to achieve a baseline for developing a BCC strategy, building evidence based communication programmes for specific tribal groups with identified local needs.

Health Facility Survey in Uttar Pradesh for World Vision (2007 and 2009)

Health Facility Survey was commissioned by World Vision Lucknow in four districts of Uttar Pradesh to assess the knowledge and interest of family planning (FP) in the community, and the quality of FP services provided by the health facilities existing in the study districts. A follow up survey was also conducted in these districts.

Communication Needs Assessment for World Vision India (2009)

Study to understand the communication needs assessment on TB carried out in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh for World Vision India, Delhi.

Evaluation of Cable Radio project, Tamil Nadu for Gere Foundation - MA/SA (2009)

The study evaluated the impact of a radio intervention, targeting ART patients using WHO QOL-HIV outcomes. This was conducted in GHM hospital in Tamil Nadu which involved data collection and information from patients, bystanders (family), health care providers, and Nalamdana programmers using a mix of methods, such as participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and extended quantitative assessments.

Gender

Evaluation of the impact of the DFID supported safe city programme in Madhya Pradesh, INDIA, (DFID, Social Development Direct (UK) [2013-2014]

Through the Safe City initiative in Madhya Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Government and DFID seeks to achieve a sustainable reduction in violence against women and girls, but also to make a significant contribution to knowledge about effective practice. To this end, the primary purpose of the evaluation is to assess impacts in four main areas: i. Actual levels of violence; ii. Women's perceptions of risk and safety; iii. Men's perceptions of gender roles and the status of women and girls; and iv. Women's behaviour, specifically their mobility and use of public spaces. Data was collected in 4 cities with a sample size of Activities Performed: Client engagement; recruitment, training and deployment of field team, monitoring, data review of quantitative and qualitative research.

Study for Safe Cities Project for Jagori & UNIFEM (2010)

Gender is a cross cutting element in all our studies on livelihood, health, education, water, sanitation, Hygiene, HIV and so on. However the study on safe city project deserves special mention for its relevance and impact. New Concept conducted the baseline survey based on a sample of 5010 citizens across nine districts of Delhi in 23 public spaces and 53 interview sites during the period and was aimed at getting a clear picture of the nature and incidence of violence against women in public spaces around the city as well as gather information on perceptions and attitudes of people in the city on Sexual Harassment of women and how it renders them unsafe. In addition to capturing responses of women in the city, the survey also included the views of men 'on women's safety'. The findings are being widely used for policy interventions as well as advocacy.

Education and Child Protection

Baseline Survey, Value & Respect: Make India a Safer Place for Adolescent Girls & Boys (UNICEF), [2014]

The baseline survey "Value and Respect: Make India a Safer Place for Adolescent Girls and Boys" was conducted in four rural and one urban locations across Jharkhand, West Bengal (one rural and one urban), Andhra Pradesh and Assam. The objective of this study is to generate evidence on estimates of key indicators in the areas of adolescent health, nutrition, education, protection from violence, abuse and exploitation and awareness level, and their participation in key decision making at individual and community levels. The baseline was designed with the aim of informing an intervention on adolescents to be implemented by UNICEF with the support of IKEA Foundation in the above locations. The baseline will also enable the development of monitoring tools to track progress. The survey was conducted in 5 locations in four states in 60 villages each. Girls and boys within two age groups (10-14 years and 15-19 years) were the primary respondents; along with parents and key informants at village, block and district levels. A total sample consisted of 18,740 individuals (5944 boys, 6089 girls, 6075 parents and 632 key informants were interviewed). The study used a semi structured interview tools for data collection.

Baseline Survey, Jammu & Kashmir (UNICEF), [2014]

The present study has been commissioned to review the situation of children and key issues concerning them in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. These are to be seen in the context of provisions for children under several significant programmes and legislative acts adopted for the education and protection of all children.

The intent of this baseline study is to understand the situation at the field level with respect to child protection and education. The study is expected to build a knowledge base on key indicators on child rights to improve the quality of planning and monitoring and in taking decisive action. The study entails a review of the current status and will help decide the intervention targets for select education and child protection indicators and enable more contextual and realistic planning. The baseline study was conducted in two education zones in one district each of three regions namely, Budgam (Srinagar), Rajouri (Jammu) and Leh (Ladakh).

Evaluation of Education Programme in Tamil Nadu (2008-09, 2010-11)

It involved baseline and follow up evaluation of Education Programme run by AID India in Tamil Nadu commissioned by Child Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), London. The evaluation was conducted with about 25000 students from

primary classes in 10 project districts and two control districts in Tamil Nadu.

Classroom Snapshot Data Analysis Tool for World Bank (2007)

World Bank undertook Snapshot Observation Survey of classroom process in 360 schools across three states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh aimed at studying the Teacher task-on-time data and understanding the processes inside the classroom. Apart from developing database application New Concept carried out design and processing of snapshot sheets using OMR technology, and processing of schedules/ questionnaire and log sheets and data processing and analysis.

Qualitative & Quantitative Studies under DPEP (1992 – 2004)

New Concept was involved in numerous studies and analytical documentation during this period. These included the UP Basic Education project effectiveness baseline, the training of personnel from NUEPA and NCERT on the DPEP effectiveness study across states, the quantitative and qualitative studies in Tamil Nadu, as well as analytical documentation of girls education in AP, the Shikshak Samakhya in MP etc.

Financing Elementary Education for UNICEF (2000)

New Concept was assigned the task of carrying out the survey in eight states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. A project for the Government of India and UNICEF, the survey involved collection of data (Classes I-VIII) from both urban and rural sectors in the states. New Concept organised and managed this massive survey from designing questionnaires to field work to data management and analysis. A total of 34 district survey reports formed the output of the study. New Concept also provided inputs in a series of national level workshops. The total sample size was 1.2L households spread over 34 districts.

Primary Research on Financial Management of Operation Blackboard for NIEPA(2000)

This project involved primary research in seven states on issues related to the financial management of Operation Blackboard scheme since its inception. This was part of an overall analysis by the Centre for Monitoring Development Research (CMDR) for a project commissioned by National Institute for Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA). The survey was carried out in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, West Bengal and Punjab.



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