

### **1. ABOUT THE STUDY AND COVERAGE**

- 1.1 The study covered the rural habitations of Punjab State under four income groups – EWS, LIG, MIG and HIG.
- 1.2 The main objectives of the study are to:
  - Estimate the number of houses, their type and components,
  - Identify functional utilization of areas and spaces,
  - Assess the choices, priorities and preferences of residents,
  - Provide information and direction to rural housing programmes in the state, and
  - Assess the changing trends in building materials and adoption practices.
- 1.3 The survey covered all the rural areas in the 12 districts of Punjab (as per 1991). Data was collected, through a scientifically designed survey, from 24 blocks, 120 villages and 1200 households.

### **2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF HOUSEHOLDS**

- 2.1 The estimated number of rural households during the survey period was of the order of 26.60 lakhs, which was 23.55 lakhs during 1991 Census, thus recording 12.93 per cent increase during 2001 (survey).
- 2.2 The highest percentage of households constituting nearly 30 per cent of the households belonged to HIG. Only 23 per cent belonged to EWS, indicating rural prosperity in Punjab.
- 2.3 Household size is 6. Sex ratio is 52 per cent males and 48 per cent females.
- 2.4 More than 98 per cent of the houses are owner-occupied. About 88 per cent of the houses or sites for houses were acquired as ancestral gift.
- 2.5 Assets include not only houses but also agricultural land, livestock and tractors, vehicles and modern facilities like TV, refrigerator, etc. The results reflect the rural prosperity in Punjab.

### **3. STRUCTURAL PROFILE OF HOUSING**

- 3.1 Of the total number of houses in the state, 47 per cent are pucca, 48 semi-pucca and only 5 per cent kutchha. The least percentage of kutchha houses in India is in Punjab.
- 3.2 Independent houses constitute only 11.3 per cent to the total.
- 3.3 Large houses with more than 1000 square feet predominate.
- 3.4 Roof heights of 10 feet or more are common.

3.5 More than half the number of houses have four rooms.

#### **4. BUILDING MATERIALS**

4.1 Around one-third of the houses were built in the past 10 years.

4.2 Around 70 per cent of the buildings are in a good condition.

4.3 Around 65 per cent houses had cement tiles/slabs for roof cladding.

4.4 Around 78 per cent of the houses used brick and lime mortar for walls.

4.5 Cement flooring is commonly used with the highest (69 per cent) percentage of users being HIG households and the lowest (25 per cent) being EWS households.

4.6 The trend to use better and durable materials is noticeable as the age of the building decreases.

#### **5. FUNCTIONAL AREA ANALYSIS**

5.1 Spaces for different functions are well demarcated, though there is some sharing of functions in the same area.

5.2 Functional areas had adequate lighting and ventilation.

#### **6. BASIC AMENITIES**

6.1 Around 60 per cent of the houses do not have toilet facilities. However, bathroom facility is available in nearly 80 per cent of the houses.

6.2 Fixed chulah is found in 64 per cent of the houses followed by the LPG stove, which is possessed by nearly one-third of the households.

6.3 Wood as fuel for cooking is used by 36 per cent, cow-dung cakes by 30 per cent and LPG by 32 per cent of the households.

6.4 Major sources of drinking water are wells and borewells.

6.5 Mostly, septic tanks are used for sewage disposal.

6.6 Covered drainage is available to 13 per cent of the houses only.

6.7 Around 95 per cent of the houses have electricity connection.

#### **7. UPGRADATION OF HOUSES**

7.1 Only 8 per cent of the households felt the need to upgrade their houses.

7.2 The upgradation trend is towards RCC for roof and cement-concrete for flooring.

## **8. MAJOR PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES**

- 8.1 Rural unemployment is the major social problem.
- 8.2 Leakage and dampness in structures are the major problems.
- 8.3 A toilet seems to be the major priority among services, followed by availability of piped water.
- 8.4 Availability of skilled labour is not a major problem.

## **9. AWARENESS OF TECHNOLOGY**

- 9.1 Awareness of new building technology and materials is rather scanty.
- 9.2 However, willingness to adopt them is very high.

## **10. PERCEPTIONS ON DESIRED HOUSE**

- 10.1 Only 19 per cent of the households have a desire to expand the area of their residential space.
- 10.2 Equal number of households prefers for tiles and RCC for roof. Brick & cement mortar is preferred for walls. The preference for floor is cement concrete.
- 10.3 A large number of households desire more than 3 or 4 rooms.
- 10.4 Brick & cement mortar walls and cement flooring are most desired.

## **11. CHANGING TRENDS IN RURAL HOUSING**

- 11.1 Buildings constructed in the past 3 years have invariably used better materials ensuring longer life, higher durability and better technical properties for their houses in all aspects as compared to those constructed earlier.

## **12. RURAL HOUSING NEEDS**

A rapid depletion of kutchra houses in the last two decades from 33 per cent in 1981 to 4.5 per cent in 2001 suggests that during the present decade, kutchra houses will not find a place in rural Punjab. Now the immediate problem is to find ways and means to encourage the use of better building technology and materials in future plans. Side by side, the problems of drinking water by protected water supply and better drainage for houses have to be attended to.

## **13. A COMPARATIVE STUDY AMONG DISTRICTS**

The study has revealed that almost all the districts have uniformly developed in various aspects of housing except 2 or 3 districts.