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DEPRIVED HOUSEHOLDS IN BHUTAN:
AN ASSESSMENT

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CHAPTER-1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A household¹ and its members can be deprived of food, education, health, and living standards due to multi-faceted problems. The right to secure livelihood is clearly embedded in Article 9 – Principles of State Policy - of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008. It states that “the state shall encourage to promote those circumstances that would enable the citizens to secure an adequate livelihood”.

Although numerous policies that are relevant to food and nutrition have been put in place, there are still a number of households that are not able to meet their basic needs. While the reasons for food insufficiency is diverse and complex, one of the most explicit factor is poverty. The poverty rate has reduced from 12% in 2012 to 8.2%² in 2017, and 1.5% are subsistence poor (PAR, 2017). The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) which considers three dimensions (education, health and living standards) is used to assess the welfare of the households and their members.

1.2 Research Objectives

The general objective of the study is to explore the socio-demographic characteristics of the deprived households. The study aims at providing evidence as a concrete basis for effective decision and policy intervention in alleviating the living conditions of the deprived households. We expect this study to draw meaningful insights into those deprived households.

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To determine number of deprived households;
2. To study their characteristics by location, age composition, sex, marital status, education level, occupation and employment status, disability, land holding and travel time to nearest road-head; and
3. To draw policy recommendations.

1.3 Limitations

Since the list of deprived households is from 2017 Population and Housing Census of Bhutan (PHCB), the situation of deprived households may have changed at this point in time. While the efforts have been made to get the responses from all the households during 2017 PHCB, there could still be some households that did not respond correctly or a few missed out cases. Therefore, the study included only those households that simultaneously experienced food insufficiency, were below subsistence poverty threshold and MPI poor. If these dimensions were considered separately, the number of deprived households may vary.

¹ Household is defined as a person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together, sharing a living space, family resources, and having common cooking arrangements.

² Poverty Analysis Report 2017, National Statistics Bureau.

CHAPTER -2: METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents an overview of the source of data used in this study. More specifically, the chapter provides information on how the study arrived at determining the unit of analysis – both the households and their members. The primary source of data is from 2017 PHCB. The deprived households includes those that reported having insufficient food in the last 12 months of the reference period, below subsistence poverty threshold and MPI poor simultaneously. To substantiate the findings, qualitative study was conducted as well.

2.1 Quantitative Analysis

2.1.1 Data

The study used the data from 2017 PHCB. The census collected various information on education, health, employment, migration, housing conditions and household amenities, assets, and income. Apart from these, a question on food insufficiency in the past 12 months prior to the census period was also asked.

2.1.2 Food Insufficiency

The 2017 PHCB asked the households “In the last 12 months, has a situation been faced when there was no enough food to feed all members of the households?”. Those households who responded ‘Yes’ to this question were taken as the first set of households to be included in the study.

2.1.3 Subsistence Poverty Threshold

To determine the subsistence poverty threshold, the food poverty line (PAR, 2017) of Nu. 1,473.45 was used. If the income of the households reported in the 2017 PHCB was below this threshold, they were identified as subsistence poor.

2.1.4 Multidimensional Poverty Index

To classify the MPI poor households, the three dimensions of MPI (education, health and living standard) with thirteen indicators are considered. Of these, two indicators each are from health and education with 1/6 weight each respectively. The rest of the nine indicators are from living standards dimension with weights varying between 1/21 to 1/63. If a person is deprived in 4/13 of the weighted indicators, he/she is considered poor.

The following are the dimensions, indicators (weights) and deprivation cutoff points:

Dimension	Indicator (weight)	Deprivation cutoff
Health (1/3)	Child mortality (1/6)	A child has passed away in the household.
	Food security (1/6)	The household suffered a shortage of food in the last 12 months
Education (1/3)	Schooling (1/6)	No household member has completed five years of schooling.
	Attendance (1/6)	Any school-aged child is not attending school up to the age at which they would complete class eight.

Dimension	Indicator (weight)	Deprivation cutoff
Standard of Living (1/3)	Electricity (1/21)	The household has no electricity.
	Sanitation (1/21)	The household's sanitation facility is not improved or it is shared with other households.
	Water (1/21)	The household does not have access to safe drinking water or safe water is more than a 30-minute walk (round trip).
	Housing material (1/21)	The household lacks adequate materials for two of these three: flooring, wall, and roof.
	Cooking fuel (1/21)	The household mainly cooks with wood, charcoal, or dung cake.
	Road access (1/21)	The household is more than 30 minutes walk from the tarred road, or a feeder road or a farm road
	Assets (1/63)	The household does not own more than one small asset: radio, TV, mobile phone, rice cooker, sewing machine, sofa, wrist watch and bicycle AND does not own one large asset: car, computer, washing machine, power tiller, refrigerator, sesho gho/kira, motorbike or foreign bow.
	Land ownership (1/63)	A rural household does not own more than one acre of land.
	Livestock ownership (1/63)	The rural household does not own more than three animals of: cattle, horses, sheep, goat, chicken, pigs, buffalo and yaks. Urban households are treated as non-deprived.

2.1.5 Deprived Households

Those households that have reported having insufficient food in the last 12 months of the reference period, are below subsistence poverty threshold, and MPI poor simultaneously, they are considered as deprived households.

2.2 Qualitative Analysis

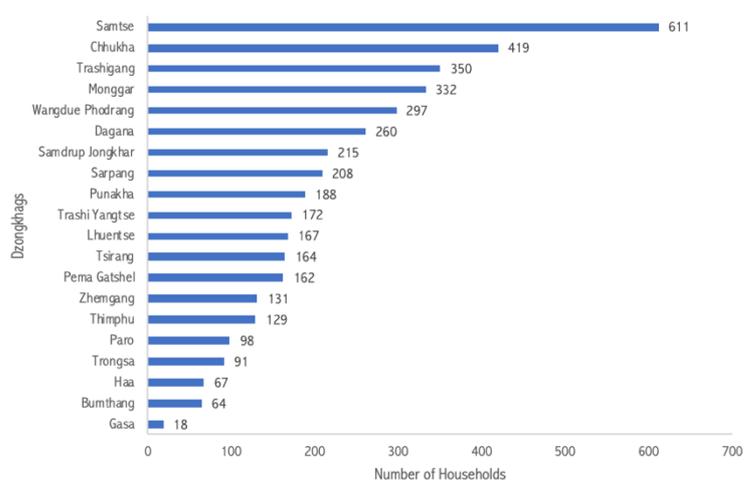
The report also includes qualitative study to substantiate the findings. Based on the list of deprived households, samples were selected from the three regions with two Dzongkhags from each region. According to Luborsky and Rubinstein (1995), ‘sampling for meaning’ is the most appropriate sampling for the qualitative study. Based on this, the study selected 61 participants from the selected Dzongkhags. The households were accordingly tracked and interviewed with the support of the local government machineries. The data collection was conducted in two phases—first phase in the March, 2018 and second phase in May, 2018.

CHAPTER – 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF DEPRIVED HOUSEHOLDS AND THEIR MEMBERS

3.1 Geographic Distribution

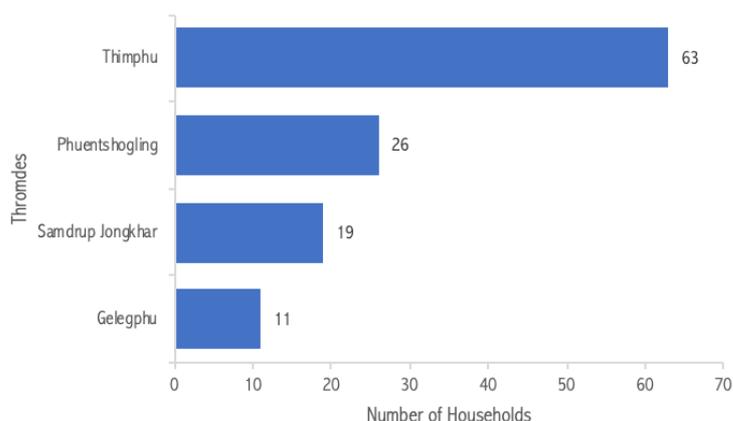
There are a total of 4,143 households that are deprived in food sufficiency, below subsistence poverty threshold and MPI poor. The highest number of deprived households is in Samtse (611) followed by Chhukha (419), while the lowest is in Gasa (18) (Figure 3.1). In terms of the proportion of deprived households to the total households in the Dzongkhag, Lhuentse (5.4%) has the highest followed by Dagana (4.6%), while the lowest is in Thimphu (0.4%) and Paro (1.0%) Dzongkhags. Of the total deprived households, the majority are in rural areas (3,883).

Figure 3.1 Distribution of Deprived Households by Dzongkhag, 2017



Among the Thromdes, Thimphu (63) has the highest number of deprived households while lowest is in Gelegphu (11). In terms of proportion, Samdrup Jongkhar (0.9%) Thromde has the highest, while the lowest is in Thimphu (0.2%).

Figure 3.2 Distribution of Deprived Households by Thromdes, 2017



3.2 Demographic Characteristics

It is important to study the demographic characteristics of the persons living in deprived households to understand their age and sex composition, place of residence, education and employment for targeted policy interventions.

The demographic characteristics of the people living in deprived households is presented in Table 3.1. There are a total of 13,712 persons living in deprived households, out of which 94.5% are in rural areas. In terms of their educational attainment, the majority of them have no education (68.1%) and those educated are with primary education (23%). Among the persons living in the deprived households, for every 100 working age population, there are 69 dependents.

Table 3.1 Distribution of Persons Living in Deprived Households by Demographic Characteristics

Characteristics	Numbers	Percent
Sex		
Male	6,498	47.4
Female	7,214	52.6
Area		
Urban	758	5.5
Rural	12,954	94.5
Age Group (Years)		
0-5	1,637	11.9
6-14	2,096	15.3
15-24	1,181	8.6
25-34	1,889	13.8
35-44	1,842	13.4
45-54	1,675	12.2
55-64	1,531	11.2
65+	1,861	13.6
Marital Status		
Never Married	5,210	38.0
Living Together	113	0.8
Married	7,294	53.2
Divorced	417	3.0
Separated	80	0.6
Widow/Widower	595	4.3
Not Reported	3	0.0
Highest Education Level (6 years & Above)		
No Education	8,213	68.1
Non-Formal Education	412	3.4
ECCD/Daycare	25	0.2
Primary	2,737	22.7
Lower secondary	197	1.6
Middle secondary	196	1.6
Higher secondary	119	1.0
Certificates	5	0.0
Diploma	14	0.1
Bachelor's degree	86	0.7
Masters and above	14	0.1
Others	45	0.4
Total	13,712	100

3.3 Employment Status

Information on economic activity of the deprived household members were collected from the persons aged 15 years and above, which is considered as the working age population the as per the International Labour Organization (ILO) standards to understand the employment status of the population.

Table 3.2 presents distribution of persons living in deprived households by their occupation and employment status. As expected, the majority of the persons living in deprived households are working in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors in rural areas (90.6%) and elementary occupation in the urban areas (30.5%).

Table 3.2 Distribution of Persons Living in Deprived Households by their Occupation, Employment Status and by Area, 2017

Occupation	Number			Percent
	Urban	Rural	Both Areas	
Managers	2	18	20	0.3
Professionals	7	72	79	1.0
Technicians and associate professionals	3	12	15	0.2
Clerical support workers	4	12	16	0.2
Services and sales workers	44	73	117	1.5
Agricultural, forestry and fisheries	64	6,656	6,720	88.4
Craft and related trade workers	25	119	144	1.9
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	18	45	63	0.8
Elementary occupations	78	266	344	4.5
Armed forces occupations	5	7	12	0.2
Others	6	63	69	0.9
Total	256	7,343	7,599	100.0
Status of Employment				
Employee (regular paid)	102	231	333	4.4
Employee (casual paid)	51	416	467	6.2
Employer	0	1	1	0.0
Own account worker	82	5,736	5,818	76.6
Unpaid family worker	15	909	924	12.2
Other	6	50	56	0.7
Total	256	7,343	7,599	100.0

While there are 12,954 persons living in the rural areas, it was found that for every 100 working age population, there are 69 dependents indicating less number of working age population. This is supported by the anecdote on the shortage of labour and the need to support the family members obtained during the qualitative study.

“I do not really understand why food is not sufficient in my home. I think it is because we do not have enough people to work and no one working in the government service” (*UB, 66, Wangdue Phodrang*).

“I think that we do not have sufficient food because both my children are not working and my husband does not have a proper job as well. I have seasonal jobs and am paid daily wages” (*TD, Sarpang*).

3.4 Disability

Determining whether people living in deprived households are with disability or not is crucial for policy formulation. Understanding which type of disability is more prevalent is essential for policy prioritization.

Table 3.3 presents the distribution of persons with disability. The number of disabled persons is observed to be decreasing with increasing degree of disability in all the six domains: seeing, hearing, mobility, cognitive, self-care and communication. By type of disabilities, seeing, hearing and mobility are more prevalent compared to other domains.

Table 3.3 Distribution of Persons Living in Deprived Households by Disability, 2017

Core Domain	Number			Percent		
	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all
Seeing	821	161	33	6.0	1.2	0.2
Male	372	76	11	5.7	1.2	0.2
Female	449	85	22	6.2	1.2	0.3
Urban	40	8	2	5.3	1.1	0.3
Rural	781	153	31	6.0	1.2	0.2
Hearing	782	278	90	5.7	2.0	0.7
Male	400	146	45	6.2	2.3	0.7
Female	382	132	45	5.3	1.8	0.6
Urban	33	12	5	4.4	1.6	0.7
Rural	749	266	85	5.8	2.1	0.7
Mobility	756	274	61	5.5	2.0	0.4
Male	325	118	28	5.0	1.8	0.4
Female	431	156	33	6.0	2.2	0.5
Urban	41	15	2	5.4	2.0	0.3
Rural	715	259	59	5.5	2.0	0.5
Cognitive	520	111	32	3.8	0.8	0.2
Male	217	35	17	3.3	0.5	0.3
Female	303	76	15	4.2	1.1	0.2
Urban	34	6	0	4.5	0.8	0.0
Rural	486	105	32	3.8	0.8	0.3
Self-care	465	170	126	3.4	1.2	0.9
Male	209	81	56	3.2	1.3	0.9
Female	256	89	70	3.6	1.2	1.0
Urban	40	6	3	5.3	0.8	0.4
Rural	425	164	123	3.3	1.3	1.0
Communication	220	113	89	1.6	0.8	0.7
Male	99	57	52	1.5	0.9	0.8
Female	121	56	37	1.7	0.8	0.5
Urban	13	14	3	1.7	1.9	0.4
Rural	207	99	86	1.6	0.8	0.7

This is also evidenced through the qualitative study:

“I am a widow. My husband used to work as a caretaker in the hospital but he passed away all of a sudden. I have four children, two sons and two daughters. One son is paralyzed and the other is working. One daughter is divorced. The other daughter is married to an army personnel. She is not healthy, as she has undergone surgery” (TD, Female, 64, Monggar)

“I am a married woman with four children. I have six siblings. My elder brother cannot speak and my elder sister is disabled” (*DW, Female, 39, Wangdue Phodrang*)

3.5 Household Characteristics

It is important to study the characteristics of household to understand the welfare or standard of living. Housing amenities such as landholding and access to road-head are directly associated with the living standards of the deprived households.

3.5.1 Land Holdings

The land ownership is an important wellbeing indicator of a household. Household’s livelihood is directly dependent on the land acreage; not having enough land is certainly a bottleneck towards realizing an aspiration of food self-sufficiency.

The distribution of households by land holding by type is presented in Table 3.4. The majority of the households own less than one acre of land or are landless³. This is same across all the land categories.

Table 3.4 Distribution of Deprived Households by Land Holdings by Type 2017

Acreage	Dry land	Wet land	Orchard	Cardamom	Total
	Number				
Landless	1,034	2,696	3,721	3,647	949
Less than 1	890	837	300	333	613
1-3	1,173	510	111	139	1,174
3-5	494	80	6	15	644
More than 5	552	20	5	9	763
	Percent				
Landless	25.0	65.1	89.8	88.0	22.9
Less than 1	21.5	20.2	7.2	8.0	14.8
1-3	28.3	12.3	2.7	3.4	28.3
3-5	11.9	1.9	0.1	0.4	15.5
More than 5	13.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	18.4

While there are 1,562 households with less than one acre of land, there are some households that own more than one acre. However, their yields are either impacted by the shortage of labour or lack of irrigation or predation by wildlife, and land being too far. These evidences are substantiated through the in-depth qualitative analysis as follows:

“I need to hire labourers while cultivating crops. It is difficult for me to get the labourers, as I cannot pay them. The ones present at home cannot work as they are old. The little amount that we earn has to pay for my children’s school expenses” (*GMK, 40, Chhukha*)

³ The households were asked if any of their members own land by type. Land ownership was considered if any of the household members had land legally registered in their Thram anywhere in Bhutan.

“I have many brothers, so we only got 60 decimals each as our share of land. All of them live nearby. We grow tomatoes, paddy and maize and the harvest is also good, but the problem is that storms and hailstone destroy our crops. We rear cows as well and it is helping us earn money but we do not have enough land to rear more. Children of this generation refuse to work and they just eat and stay at home. We have been managing our lives, in some way or the other” (*RBT, 67, Chhukha*).

“I feel that we are having these problems because we do not have enough money and the children’s expenses are high. My land is also very small so I cannot cultivate much and I am not able to get enough loan as well. Because of that I cannot build a house (I get only about Nu.60,000 to Nu.70,000 as loan, but I need about Nu.800,000-Nu.900,000 at least to build a house). Another reason is because my husband drinks, he cannot work and cannot earn” (*DW, 39, Wangdue Phodrang*).

“In my village, we are the ones who have the least amount of land. I have about 30 decimals of farmland. We grow potatoes and cattle feed. We produce about 19-20 quintals of potatoes. When the prices are high, we earn about Nu. 50,000, but last year we could only earn Nu. 23,000. I have about 5 cows. In summer, I can earn some money but in winter, the cows do not produce milk. Therefore, money is not sufficient to buy food for the entire year. I availed loan this year because we did not have enough money. We have to conduct annual rimdo as well, so it is very difficult to cover all these expenses. In the 11th and 12th months of the lunar calendar, the cattle do not produce milk, and we do not have any money from potatoes as well, so food is not sufficient at all. These are the hardest months for us” (*PD, 33, Wangdue Phodrang*).

“I have 12 acres of land, but there is no one to work on it. It is like not having any land. I was planning to sell about an acre of land, but there are no buyers. I try to cultivate some crops on my land but I alone cannot work on all 12 acres. Wild pigs usually predate the maize we cultivate. I drink a little alcohol sometimes, but I do not think this is the reason for our insufficiency of food. I only drink alcohol when people I work for offer me” (*TP, 63, Samdrup Jongkhar*).

“I faced a lot of difficulties: One after another, my family members have died. I went to Sikkim to conduct 49th day rituals for my late mother. Exactly a year later, my husband’s mother died as well. Again, I had to take same rituals to Sikkim. The following year, my sister passed away in Thimphu, and 4 to 5 months later my husband passed away too. Such has been the reality of my life. I do not know if it is my fate. After my husband passed away, I had to struggle so much to raise my children and now I am all alone. Being a single mother, I am a government beneficiary” (*TD, 61, Monggar*).

3.5.2 Reasons for Leaving Land Fallow

The 2017 PHCB collected information on the reasons why the lands are left fallow. Among the different types of land, analyses were conducted for dry and wet land considering the prominence in use.

Table 3.5 presents reasons for leaving dry land fallow by deprived households. The shortage of labour and predation from wildlife were the main reasons for leaving the dry land fallow. Similarly, Table 3.6

presents reasons for leaving wet land fallow. The shortage of labour, water/irrigation and predation from wildlife were the main reasons for leaving the wet land fallow.

Table 3.5 Deprived Households by Reasons for Leaving Dry Land Fallow by Dzongkhag, 2017

Dzongkhag	Shortage of Labour	Shortage of water/irrigation	Threats from wildlife	Too far	Others	Total
Bumthang	31.8	0.0	18.2	22.7	27.3	100.0
Chhukha	45.8	0.0	20.8	8.3	25.0	100.0
Dagana	47.1	2.9	11.8	17.7	20.6	100.0
Gasa	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Haa	63.6	0.0	18.2	9.1	9.1	100.0
Lhuentse	64.3	0.0	14.3	10.7	10.7	100.0
Monggar	61.1	1.4	18.1	6.9	12.5	100.0
Paro	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0
Pema Gatshel	65.0	0.0	12.5	15.0	7.5	100.0
Punakha	73.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	100.0
Samdrup Jongkhar	63.0	1.9	14.8	1.9	18.5	100.0
Samtse	21.1	15.8	23.7	7.9	31.6	100.0
Sarpang	30.8	7.7	15.4	7.7	38.5	100.0
Thimphu	40.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0
Trashigang	40.7	0.0	31.7	14.6	13.0	100.0
Trashi Yangtse	39.1	0.0	40.6	7.8	12.5	100.0
Trongsa	25.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	20.0	100.0
Tsirang	64.3	7.1	21.4	0.0	7.1	100.0
Wangdue Phodrang	47.2	13.9	13.9	5.6	19.4	100.0
Zhemgang	67.4	2.0	12.2	16.3	2.0	100.0
All Dzongkhags	49.6	2.7	21.9	10.5	15.3	100.0

Table 3.6 Deprived Households by Reasons for Leaving Wet Land Fallow by Dzongkhag, 2017

Dzongkhag	Shortage of Labour	Shortage of water/irrigation	Threats from wildlife	Too far	Others	Total
Bumthang	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Chhukha	60.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	100.0
Dagana	40.0	50.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Gasa	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0
Lhuentse	57.1	14.3	21.4	7.1	0.0	100.0
Monggar	43.8	18.8	18.8	12.5	6.3	100.0
Paro	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Pema Gatshel	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Punakha	50.0	10.0	30.0	0.0	10.0	100.0
Samdrup Jongkhar	40.0	0.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0
Samtse	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Sarpang	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Thimphu	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Trashigang	35.3	29.4	20.6	2.9	11.8	100.0
Trashi Yangtse	42.3	7.7	38.5	0.0	11.5	100.0
Trongsa	57.1	0.0	42.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
Tsirang	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Wangdue Phodrang	30.0	26.7	13.3	0.0	30.0	100.0
Zhemgang	27.3	63.6	0.0	0.0	9.1	100.0
All Dzongkhags	42.5	23.1	18.8	4.3	11.3	100.0

3.6 Distance to Road-head

Road accessibility is considered to be one of the major factors influencing socio-economic development. To improve the accessibility, the government has been constructing gewog and farm roads in most of the rural communities. While most of the rural communities are connected, there are still some which are not yet connected.

The travel time to the nearest road-head is presented in Table 3.7. More than six in ten households have access to the nearest road head in less than 30 minutes except for Gasa. While access has improved greatly, there are still some Dzongkhags where the households need to travel to nearest road-head requiring more than 6 hours.

Table 3.7 Distribution of Deprived Households by Time Taken to Reach Nearest Road Head by Dzongkhag, 2017

Dzongkhag	Less than 30 minutes	30 minutes-1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	More than 6 hours	Missing	Total
	Number									
Bumthang	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
Chhukha	284	53	41	19	5	5	2	9	1	419
Dagana	215	16	7	6	6	3	3	4	0	260
Gasa	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	9	0	18
Haa	47	2	0	4	0	2	1	11	0	67
Lhuentse	134	22	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	167
Monggar	290	18	19	3	0	0	0	2	0	332
Paro	88	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	98
Pema Gatshel	137	15	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	162
Punakha	173	6	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	188
Samdrup Jongkhar	126	15	31	16	18	6	3	0	0	215
Samtse	436	59	48	36	17	4	8	3	0	611
Sarpang	143	30	17	7	5	5	0	1	0	208
Thimphu	120	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	129
Trashigang	285	36	6	9	11	2	1	0	0	350
Trashi Yangtse	121	33	7	7	4	0	0	0	0	172
Trongsa	63	12	4	4	0	0	1	7	0	91
Tsirang	130	13	10	10	1	0	0	0	0	164
Wangdue Phodrang	249	18	4	7	5	3	0	10	1	297
Zhemgang	83	10	7	10	8	4	3	6	0	131
All Dzongkhags	3,194	368	222	147	83	37	22	68	2	4,143
	Percent									
Bumthang	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Chhukha	67.8	12.7	9.8	4.5	1.2	1.2	0.5	2.2	0.2	100.0
Dagana	82.7	6.2	2.7	2.3	2.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	0.0	100.0
Gasa	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	50.0	0.0	100.0
Haa	70.2	3.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	3.0	1.5	16.4	0.0	100.0
Lhuentse	80.2	13.2	4.2	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Monggar	87.4	5.4	5.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	100.0
Paro	89.8	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	100.0
Pema Gatshel	84.6	9.3	5.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Punakha	92.0	3.2	2.1	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Samdrup Jongkhar	58.6	7.0	14.4	7.4	8.4	2.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Samtse	71.4	9.7	7.9	5.9	2.8	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.0	100.0
Sarpang	68.8	14.4	8.2	3.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	100.0
Thimphu	93.0	1.6	0.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	100.0
Trashigang	81.4	10.3	1.7	2.6	3.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Trashi Yangtse	70.4	19.2	4.1	4.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Trongsa	69.2	13.2	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0	1.1	7.7	0.0	100.0
Tsirang	79.3	7.9	6.1	6.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Wangdue Phodrang	83.8	6.1	1.4	2.4	1.7	1.0	0.0	3.4	0.3	100.0
Zhemgang	63.4	7.6	5.3	7.6	6.1	3.1	2.3	4.6	0.0	100.0
All Dzongkhags	77.1	8.9	5.4	3.6	2.0	0.9	0.5	1.6	0.1	100.0

CHAPTER – 4: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The objectives of the study was to determine the number of deprived households, their socio-demographic characteristics and to draw policy recommendations. The study used the 2017 PHCB data of those households who experienced food insufficiency and who were below the subsistence poverty threshold and MPI poor. The emphasis throughout this report was to find out the characteristics of the deprived households.

There are a total of 4,143 households or 13,712 persons that are deprived in food sufficiency, below subsistence poverty threshold and MPI poor. Out of the total, the highest is in Samtse (611 households) followed by Chhukha (419 households). The majority are concentrated in rural areas (3,883 households). The highest education among the deprived is primary education (23%), while most have no education (68.1%). In terms of employment, the majority are working in the agriculture, forestry and fishery occupations in the rural areas (90.6%), while in the urban areas elementary occupation (30.5%) is predominant. About 69 persons per 100 working age population are dependent.

The majority of the households own less than one acre of land (949 households) or are landless (613 households) and their yield are either impacted by the shortage of labour or lack of irrigation or crop predation by wildlife and land being too far. While most deprived households have access to road within 30 minutes, there are still some households that need to travel more than 6 hours to the nearest road-head.

4.2 Recommendations

In order to solve the problems that are being faced by the deprived households and also perusing SDG milestone of “leaving no one behind”, the following key recommendations are proposed:

1. Assess the current situation of 4,143 deprived households and provide necessary intervention.
2. Identify school going children of deprived households if they are currently not in central schools/boarding schools and admit them in such a school.
3. Provide government scholarship to school going children of the deprived households to continue their education.
4. Provide subsidy in hiring machinery to improve the land, electric fencing, irrigation, agriculture inputs (improved variety of seeds/seedlings/organic fertilizers, artificial insemination, technical support, etc.) and farm mechanization where possible to enable the increase in yield.
5. Provide skill-based trainings to enable them to take up better paying jobs.

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