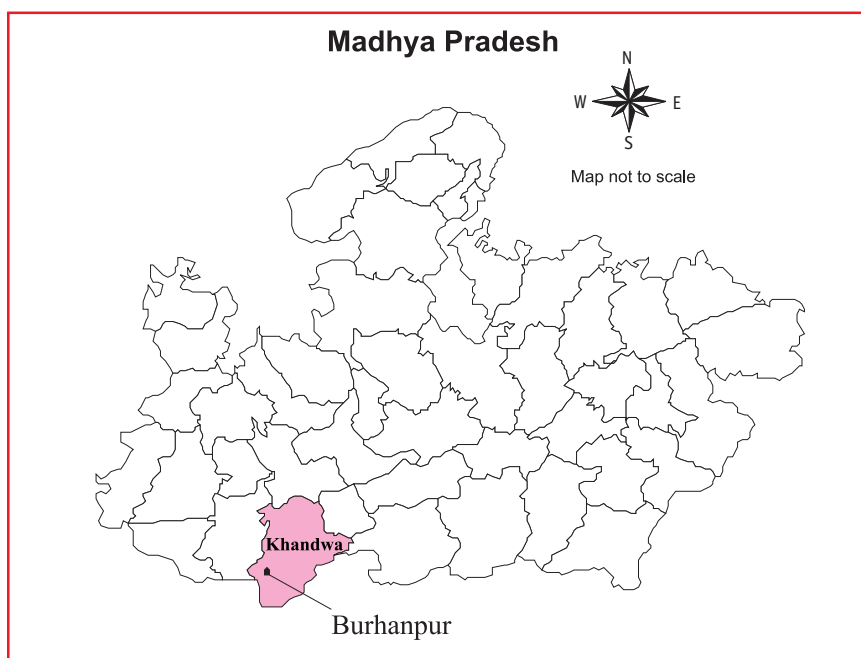


# 1 Background

Mainstreaming leprosy care into the general health services in India is one of the key elements of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme. While such an attempt is likely to make a strong impact in rural areas, the very nature of health service delivery institutions in urban areas makes the attainment of leprosy elimination objectives more difficult. The challenge in urban areas relates to the existence of multiple health service providers, rapid population growth, unplanned urbanization and a complex socio-economic situation, which makes access to patients rather difficult from the perspective of the programme.

Against this background DANLEP, Madhya Pradesh, identified four representative urban areas in the state for facilitating a 'Special Initiative



**Table 1: Basic statistical profile of Burhanpur**

	Burhanpur	Position among the 14 MCs in MP
Population	3,31,724	10 <sup>th</sup>
Decadal growth rate	12.5 %	14 <sup>th</sup>
Literacy	74.7 %	13 <sup>th</sup>
Sex Ratio male/female	1000/943	1 <sup>st</sup>

Source: Provisional Census Total, 2001

for Leprosy Elimination in Urban Area, Burhanpur'. The intervention in Burhanpur had a distinctive focus on urban leprosy — the first such initiative in the state. The initiative promoted participatory efforts of relevant officials and prominent and common citizens of the town which involved key stakeholders right from the planning to the implementation stage and identified resources that had hitherto remained untapped.

Burhanpur, with a population of 3,31,724 (2001 census), is a town with a municipal corporation (MC) in Khandwa district, western MP. A centre for handloom and powerloom weavers, 50% of the town's population is composed of Muslims, specifically the Ansaris (who are traditionally weavers by occupation) and the Bohras. Hindus and Jains make up the majority of the remaining population. Other than the Ansari weavers, who are by and large producers, the Marwaris and Jains control the weaving industry. While the Marwaris are the small-to-medium traders, the Jains own the larger enterprises.

Burhanpur, like most of Khandwa district, has a high prevalence of leprosy. It is estimated by those involved in leprosy elimination activities to be even higher than the registered prevalence rate of 5.0 per 10,000 population (September 2001).



*Dastak* volunteers discussing during a gap in the training session.