

COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS – 2014-15

1. **Designing Impact Evaluations for the Nodal Anganwadi Centre Initiatives under SWASTH, Bihar, India**

Sponsor/s: 3iE-International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar

This project was awarded to IHD to design an impact evaluation study of the Nodal Anganwadi Centre Initiatives under SWASTH, Bihar, India. The design of the proposed study was successfully completed and given to 3iE. The actual study of the Impact Evaluation of the Nodal Anganwadi Centre Initiatives has now been awarded to IHD.

2. **Field verification in connection with selection of Panchayats for award under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) (16 GPs in Uttar Pradesh)**

Sponsor/s: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Ramashray Singh

IHD was empanelled by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to survey, verify and evaluate Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat for Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar. This survey was carried out by IHD in 7 districts of Uttar Pradesh namely; Jaunpur, Basti, Kushi Nagar, Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Santkabirnagar and Gorakhpur. Under this project the team documented the best practices adopted, whether the panchayat maintains the record systematically, etc. Based on the survey the evaluation Report recommended 13 panchayats for the award of RGPSA.

3. **Jharkhand Economic Survey 2014-15 and Fiscal Policy Strategy statement and Medium Term Fiscal Plan (FPSSMTFP) 2015”**

Sponsor/s: Finance Department, Government of Jharkhand

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

The Economic Survey of Jharkhand and the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement and Medium Term Fiscal Plan (FPSSMTFP) were prepared by IHD, Eastern Regional Centre on behalf of the Department of Finance, Jharkhand. The study was based on both descriptive and analytical methodologies.

Economic Survey of Jharkhand reviewed the developments in the state economy over the previous 12 months, summarized the performance on major development programs, and highlighted the policy initiatives of the government and the prospects of the economy in the short to medium term. The Economic Survey was submitted to the Finance Department, which was then presented in front of the Legislative assembly before the budget session of the state. These two documents are used in the preparation of the budget of the state.

4. Inclusive Urban Development in Bihar: An Exploratory Study

Sponsor/s: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Tanuka Endow, Dr. Abhay Kumar and Dr. Sunil Kr. Mishra

This project aimed to explore the overall pattern of urbanization, sources of urban output and rural–urban linkages in Bihar using both primary and secondary data. For the purpose of understanding sources of urban output and growth as well as rural-urban linkages, enterprise survey and household survey were carried out in two towns of different sizes in Bihar: Madhubani and Biharsharif. The findings from the enterprise survey indicated that the main source of urban output is trade. Manufacturing and services came a distant second and third.

5. Impact Assessment Study on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana - West Bengal and Jharkhand

Sponsor/s: Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar, Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh, Mr. Sudheer Shukla

This study is investigated the effectiveness of interventions led by PACS on specific awareness, enrolment, and utilization of RSBY scheme in target districts across two states – Jharkhand and West Bengal. The study selected two intervention (where PACS is actively involved) and two non-intervention (no PACS intervention) districts from each state to compare the key outcomes including awareness, enrolment and utilization of RSBY scheme. Mixed methods approach was adopted with the inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative research techniques. The study identified some critical gaps that need to be addressed in future so that both overall and specific awareness of the scheme could reach majority of population, particularly in West Bengal

6. Inequality and Employment in South Asia: Options for More Inclusive Economic Development

Sponsor/s: Christian Aid

Principal Researcher/s: Professor Sandip Sarkar

The project was a regional study on inequality and economic inclusion for South Asia with a specific focus on employment issues. It aimed to contribute to more inclusive economic development in South Asia through an understanding of the nature, trends, causes and extent of inequality and exclusion from economic opportunity. The methodology of this project combined two different approaches. The first is the empirical analysis of survey data, and second was a process of discussions with social activists. This study undertook direct comparison between Bangladesh and India, apart from comparing inequality and poverty across four major South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

7. Third party monitoring of two Education Programmes ESCQuIP & ScQuIP

Sponsor/s: Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

IHD's assignment was to conduct "Process Round Evaluation for ESCQuIP" and "Impact Round Evaluation of SCQuIP". The objective of the study was to undertake a detailed study on the status and process of implementation of different components of ESCQuIP and SCQuIP. The study was conducted using both the qualitative and quantitative tools like Focused Group Discussions and In-Depth Interview of various stakeholders and Evaluation Test of ESCQuIP and SCQuIP students and students of control schools. Both the ESCQuIP and SCQuIP had a positive effect on the performance of the students as there has been an increase in the level of learning of the students. The report has been submitted to the sponsoring organization NRTT with suggestions for making the programme more effective.

8. Impact of Migration on Poverty: The case of construction workers of India, Nepal and Bangladesh

Sponsor/s: The University of Sussex

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Ravi Srivastava

This project was a three country study, conducted in South Asia (India, Nepal, and Bangladesh) by different teams of researchers. The India leg of the project was based on a survey of migrant

construction workers employed in sites in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) which is one India's largest urban agglomerations. The research study also made several policy recommendations the details of which can be seen in Annual Report 2014-2015.

9. Evaluation of NREGA Wells in Jharkhand

Sponsor/s: National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad

Principal Researcher/s: Mr. Anjor Bhaskar

The primary aim of the study was to assess the returns from investments on NREGA assets - in particular, irrigation wells constructed under NREGA in Jharkhand. In doing so, it also attempts to uncover obstacles and identify ways to improve the returns from such investments. The study took place across 6 districts, 12 blocks and 24 panchayats in Jharkhand. The study found that nearly 60% of the sanctioned NREGA wells were actually complete.

10. Knowledge Partnership Programme : Research As an Approach to Strengthen the recommendations for Southern-led, Southern-Focused Post-2015 Development Agenda

Sponsor/s: IPE Global Private Limited (on behalf of DFID Supported Knowledge Partnership Programme)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a coalition of over 4000 civil society organizations in India, and the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, a development policy think-tank, have jointly initiated a dialogue on the post-MDG 2015 development perspective involving leading academic scholars and experts from the Global South. In the first phase (now completed) 'Think Pieces' were compiled into a volume and presented to the UN Secretary General's office, UN General Assembly. In continuation with this agenda, in the second phase, a high-level international symposium was organized during 28-29 April 2014 to facilitate intensive deliberations on the key thematic issues pertaining to development that are relevant for the MDGs. A volume of papers presented during the Symposium has been brought out.

11. Equity impacts of a targeted health insurance programme: new evidence from India's RSBY

Sponsor/s: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar

This study has attempted to evaluate the scheme in terms of coverage, utilization, satisfaction and effect of reducing catastrophic health expenditure among urban poor. Survey was conducted in 3,350 households selected from the different socioeconomic background and spatial locations across Delhi. The survey indicates that there is an immense need at the policy level at Delhi government to provide sufficient support to the scheme.

12. Assessing Social Protection Provisions in Indian States using Social Protection Floor Approach

Sponsor/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. S L Arora, Dr. Akhilesh Kumar and Ms. Swati Dutta

The main objectives of the study were: to prepare an inventory of social protection measures that has been adopted by the Centre and States; to examine the aspects relating to social security schemes of different states covering five basic social security guarantees (BSSGs). The Secondary data and information was obtained from budget documents, annual reports and websites of various departments and agencies of different states involved in implementing the social protection schemes.

13. Preparation and Updation of Sampling Frame of Units Establishments engaged in Trade in Health Services in India (project under the DGCI&S)

Sponsor/s: Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, through DGCI&S, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar

A pilot survey was conducted by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) as per the requirement of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) in the cities of

Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Mumbai, Pune and Delhi. The objective of the study was to enable DGCI&S to adopt an appropriate sampling strategy to select the units to be surveyed so that valid estimates of various categories of services by country/mode etc could be generated. The survey was taken up in two phases – first, devoted to preparation/updation of frame and secondly on the survey of the selected units. This exercise threw light on product-wise and country-wise information of 10 broad categories of health services.

14. Mid Term Evaluation of Strengthening Community-Centered & Gender Responsive Provisioning and Use of Sanitation Services among Slum Dwellers in Delhi

Sponsor/s: Center for Advocacy and Research (CFAR)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Preet Rustagi, Dr. Sunil Mishra

This project aimed to undertake a midterm evaluation of the awareness-building intervention based project relating to sanitation, water and hygiene initiated by the Center for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), in collaboration with the Convergence Mission of Delhi Government for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The midterm evaluation study focused on 18 location clusters. A total of 1361 households were covered in the survey. In addition, several focused group discussions (FGDs) were conducted among forum members and non-members.

15. Evaluation Study of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) – 12 Districts of Uttar Pradesh

Sponsor/s: Program Evaluation Organization, Erstwhile Planning Commission, Government of India

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

This study was sponsored by the Erstwhile Planning Commission to evaluate the NREGA in Uttar Pradesh as a part of All India evaluation Programme of the Government of India. The main objective of the study was to evaluate three issues of the scheme; one, the implementation process of the scheme; two, its performance and lastly; its impact (direct impact in terms of its ability to provide gainful employment to the workers and indirect impact in terms of the benefit of the durable assets created in the villages under this scheme). The study was spread across 12 selected districts of Uttar Pradesh. A draft version was shared with Indian Statistical Institute (the nodal agency for the

evaluation study), and after incorporating valuable suggestions from their side, the Final version of the report has been sent to ISI for preparation of a compiled reports from all the clusters.

16. Study on the Impact of Migration on Education

Sponsor/s: NRTT (Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust)

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

The study aimed at examining the relationship between migration and education and how migration impacts education. The basic objective of this study was to find out the policy options and measures to protect the children and the community against the adverse impacts of migration on education and promote their educational attainments in, both, quantitative (enrolment, attendance, retention, and years of schooling) and qualitative (learning levels) terms.

The study was based on a survey of 18 villages- 6 villages each from three blocks of Khunti district namely Torpa, Murhu and Khunti. Prior to the initiation of the survey, a detailed literature review was done which helped in building an understanding of the concept and in putting the issue in the right perspective. The field survey was conducted in three phases. In the first phase, information were gathered by interviewing personnel working in local NGOs, the government functionaries, and the researchers working on the issues of labour, migration and education. Then the villages were selected keeping in mind the variation in incidence of migration and types of migration. In the next phase, listing of households was done to find out the extent of migration from the villages. On the basis of a household listing, migrant and non-migrant families were identified. It also provided information on such aspects as types of migration (rural to urban or rural to rural migration), duration of migration (seasonal or long-term) and types of work taken up during migration.

Migration adversely impacts the education of children, both, when they migrate with parents or left behind at the source in the care of relatives/friends. The deprivation from education puts a question mark on their future. Although villagers are aware of the importance of education and do not want their children to meet with the same fate as they, they are helpless in the face of their poverty. Faced with the option of either eating three square meals a day or providing education to their children, they opt for the former. This is on account of their low expected returns from the present educational system. Hence, the cycle of migration continues with the future of children at stake.

The report has been submitted to the sponsoring organization NRTT with suggestions for dealing with the adverse effects of migration on education. NRTT is acting upon the suggestions made by us and is in process of setting up residential schools and hostels for migrating children and children of migrating parents, improving the livelihood of prospective migrants so that they do not migrate and improving the quality of education and organizing awareness camps so that the children do not drop out.