

IHD- CEBRAP Project Meeting: 16th to 22nd August, 2014, Sao Paulo

Reports of the meeting

A joint meeting of the Indian and Brazilian LMI team was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil to review the work produced thus far and to discuss the future course of action.

The meetings were attended by the Brazilian team which included members Alexandre de Freitas Barbosa, Maria Cristina Cacciamali, Fábio Tatei, Eduardo Luiz Cury and Ian Prates as well as the Indian team members Gerry Rodgers, Janine Rodgers, Nandita Gupta, Vidhya Soundararajan and Taniya Chakrabarty.

The various papers drafted during the last six months were discussed during the week, along with preparation for the consultative workshop and a review of the tabulations and preliminary work conducted for the papers under progress. A major part of the week was spent on the comparative paper which contrasts labour market inequality in both India and Brazil (henceforth comparative paper C).

The discussion on comparative paper C revolved around issues such as the nature of growth regimes in each country, the periodization put forth and the contrasting macroeconomic outcomes. There was a debate on whether regional growth regimes exist within each country, or if there are different patterns of manifestation of capital accumulation process in the different regions. The concept of a dualistic economy, which, it was argued, was not an accurate representation of Brazil, was questioned in order to evaluate its validity for India for the recent period. The comparative paper C begins with the idea that Brazil and India could be seen as a mirror image of the other in

terms of both growth and inequality. A critical discussion was carried out to validate this hypothesis. The methodological framework of the study was also discussed.

Preliminary tabulations (based on household data) generated for the quantitative country papers (henceforth country paper D) were also reviewed. It was decided that a comparative paper D will be developed subsequently. The paper will compare the quantitative trends in both countries by drawing a common framework for comparative analysis and also relying on the analysis made in comparative paper C.

Apart from the academic papers, the team discussed other outputs that would cater to wider audiences. One of the deliverables, the policy briefs/ reviews were discussed in this context, and it was decided that both countries could focus on the issues of minimum wages and vocational training (given their present and future relevance). It was decided that other policy measures such as cash transfers and affirmative action would also be explored.

As part of the meeting schedule, a consultative workshop entitled “Development, Labour and Inequality: The Brazilian and Indian Experience” was held on the 21ndof August, 2014. It was attended by subject specialists who commented on the work produced by LMI thus far. The consultation generated a substantive discussion on various aspects and was helpful in reviewing existing drafts and giving direction to the work under progress.