
COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Theme : Economic and Social Development

Development of Delhi: Problems and Opportunities

Collaboration/s: Government of NCT of Delhi

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Shipra Maitra

Sponsored by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the study documents the socio-economic profile of Delhi and highlights the important areas of policy concerns.

State Development Report of Manipur

Collaboration/s: Planning Commission, Government of India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Professor Alakh N. Sharma and Ms. Smita Gupta

The Institute prepared the State Development Report for Manipur, under the sponsorship of the Planning Commission. This report aims to document the status of development as well as analyses the constraints in the path of this development in the state. The Report provides a vision and policy design for the economic development of the state.

Micro-Credit, Market Entry and Dalit Entrepreneurs in Select Regions of India

Collaboration/s: ICICI Bank

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma and Mr. Aseem Prakash

This study was focused on three inter-related dimensions of micro-credit—Access, Market Entry and Governance. Access: This component of the study examined the involvement of Dalits in activities that rely heavily on social capital. Market Entry :The study laid emphasis on identifying the institutions and mechanisms of creating productive wealth and expanding the role of Dalits in the creation of India's modern capitalist structure, not just as labourers but as owners of capital. Governance : The study identified the governance structures that disburse micro-credit and also those that provide Dalits with avenues for sustainable livelihood opportunities by meeting their long-term financing needs at both the macro and micro levels.

Chapter on Income and Expenditure in Delhi Human Development Report

Collaboration/s: Government of NCT of Delhi

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Ashok Mathur

Under this project, which was sponsored by the Government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, the Institute prepared Chapters on Income and Expenditure in the Delhi Human Development Report.

Human Development Report for Mizoram

Collaboration/s: Government of Mizoram

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Atul Sarma, Ms. Diksha Arora and Dr. R.P. Mamgain

The Institute prepared the first Human Development Report of Mizoram, which was sponsored by the Government of Mizoram. The report is based on a large-scale intensive field survey-based data, which supplements the available secondary information relating to various dimensions of development of the state. It comprises 11 chapters, including a comprehensive chapter on the human development-led growth strategy for Mizoram. The report makes critical analyses of Mizoram's economy on various fronts pertaining to healthcare, education, employment, income, women's issues and the socio-economic profile of Mizoram since its inception to the present day. It highlights both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of human development across its districts in a comparative framework.

The report highlights the extremely high incidence of poverty and poor access to a productive resource base for an overwhelmingly large majority of the population in the state. It finds very low educational levels among Mizoram's population despite the state having the second highest literacy rate in the country. The Employment and Livelihood Index for the state and its districts shows a precarious situation of employment and earnings opportunities. Unlike the general perception, the report finds significant inequalities in income and assets distribution. Similarly, the Gender Development Index and Gender Parity Index reveal the situation of women in the state. These indices offer valuable suggestions for empowering women in the social, political and economic spheres. The report also offers valuable suggestions for mobilizing financial resources for funding human development and improving governance by strengthening programme management and the engagement of Non-government Organizations (NGOs) in policy-making.

Kosi River Floods: Survey of Affected People's Views and Perceptions on Coping Mechanisms and Needs

Collaboration/s: UNDP

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N.Sharma and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra

The International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction Secretariat is coordinating the 2009 Global Assessment Report, which is related to the Indian component of the report covering the devastation and displacement of people caused by floods in the Kosi river in Bihar. Sponsored by UNDP, this study involves an extensive survey of the five most affected districts of the Kosi region and examines the existing local capacities in coping with massive floods as well as the role of the government and other actors in the sustenance of livelihoods during the occurrence of the floods. The report suggests the need for policy restructuring to integrate the government's preparedness and response to such calamities in the development schemes itself.

Work and Livelihoods of the Poor in the National Capital Region: Towards Evolving a Strategy and Action Programme

Collaboration/s: Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust (SDTT)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Ms. Smita Gupta and Dr. Abhay Kumar

This study sponsored by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, aims at developing livelihood promotion strategies in the NCR region focusing on urban poor, migrants and informal workers. The study also attempts to understand the linkages between urban growth centres and their rural hinterland within NCR, in terms of livelihoods of the poor. As part of the study through field based sample survey (with over 3000 sample), mapping of livelihood was taken up and followed by that sub-sector studies are being undertaken in identified areas. The study brings out livelihood promotion strategies that can be implemented by the government departments, NGOs and donors. About dozen policy briefs and several reports have been prepared under this project.

Investment, Growth and Employment in India

Collaboration/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N.Sharma

Under the framework of the ILO–Korea Partnership Programme, IHD has been asked to prepare a research paper on the impact of investment on growth and employment in the context of economic liberalisation in India.

Tracing Migrants in Delhi to Bihar: An enquiry into the Role of Migration as Development facilitator in the Poor Origin Areas

Collaboration/s: South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI), Pakistan

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Ms. Resmi Bhaskaran

Sponsored by the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutions (SANEI), this study tries to understand the role and nature of migration in facilitating the development of the poor regions of origin of the migrants. It also attempts to develop an understanding of the scope of using migrants as development facilitators in the poor regions in India and also of the key development support that is needed to facilitate changes at the origin. The study enhances the debate on migration and suggests the use of informed rehabilitation strategies at the origin.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Gender Relations and Women's Empowerment

Collaboration/s: UNIFEM

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Ashok Pankaj

This is a study of 428 women workers selected from four districts, including one each from Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. The study explores the extent to which women's participation in the employment guarantee scheme has helped empower them. The empowerment aspects have been examined vis-à-vis the income-consumption effects, changes in intra-household decision-making, increase in the choice and capacity of women workers, and their increased participation in community development processes. The long-term implications of these changes in terms of gender relations have also been explored.

High Growth Sectors and Their Trickledown Effects at State Level

Collaboration/s: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Sandip Sarkar

This study examined the issue of the trickledown effect on poverty at the disaggregated level and identified the sectors wherein this trickledown had actually occurred and the reasons for its occurrence. It has also analysed the impact of the government's anti-poverty programmes and other factors on the decline in poverty.

Informal Employment, Poverty and Growth in India and China

Collaboration/s: IRMA and IDRC

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma and Dr. R.P. Mamgain

This project was jointly undertaken by IHD and the Institute for Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) with financial support from IDRC. The objective of the study was to provide an in-depth field-based analysis of labour markets and informal work in India and China, two countries which account for the world's largest workforces. The study aimed to understand the relationship between informal employment, poverty and growth. Apart from analysing various characteristics of the informal sector and informal employment, the study analyses the consequences of informality on earnings, health and social protection. The study also examined the issue of women's employment in the informal sector, and shows how disproportionate their number is in informal jobs with differentials in earnings and working conditions. It also examined the issue of migrant workers and their experiences of integration in the urban labour markets. It attempted to measure the contribution of informal employment to economic growth and poverty reduction in a comparative framework between India and China. The cities chosen for undertaking comparative studies in India were Delhi and Ranchi.

Seven papers on various aspects of labour market have been prepared by IRMA and IHD on this study. They are slated to be published in a special issue of the IHD journal, the Indian Journal of Labour Economics, in which several scholars have contributed, as well as in the form of a book from a reputed publisher. The study also attempted to fill up a number of conceptual and empirical gaps in the analysis of labour markets in the informal sector.

A Decade of Development Research on Bihar: A Compendium (2000- 2010)

Collaboration/s: Department of Planning and Development, Government of Bihar

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma , Ms. Amrita Datta and Ms. Joyita Ghose

The project, sponsored by Government of Bihar, sought to build a comprehensive database and a repository of all documents and all research studies from all sources on Bihar since 2000. It covered various aspects of development, such as socio-economic, political, cultural, demographic, etc. The objective was to establish a knowledge-base to enable policymakers and planners to prioritise areas for intervention in the state, for informed formulation of development strategies and policy interventions. The compendium has been published and was also released in a function at Patna on 17th March, 2012. The Compendium was released by Education Minister of Bihar, Shri P. K Shahi and ICSSR Chairman, Professor S. K Thorat. A panel discussion on "Strengthening Development Research in Bihar" in which some well known scholars including Professor J Krishnamurty of ILO, Professor Ravi Srivastava of JNU, Shri Vijay Prakash, Principal Secretary, Department of Planning and Development, Government of Bihar, Professor N.K Chaudhary of Patna University, Professor Shaibal Gupta, Member-Secretary, ADRI and Professor Alakh N Sharma of IHD participated.

Adjustment Pattern of Drug Addict and Non-Addict Youths: A Comparative study of Rural and Urban Areas

Collaboration/s: ICSSR

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Neeru Singh

The study has attempt to see the effect of different types of environmental and other related variables on intake of drugs and pattern of drug use in rural and urban youths. The study has tried to elucidate the psychological factors working among drug addict youths of rural and urban areas. The study has also attempted to understand how a serious social disease like drug addiction hampers important dimensions of human personality like adjustment, motivation, self-esteem and mental health of an individual.