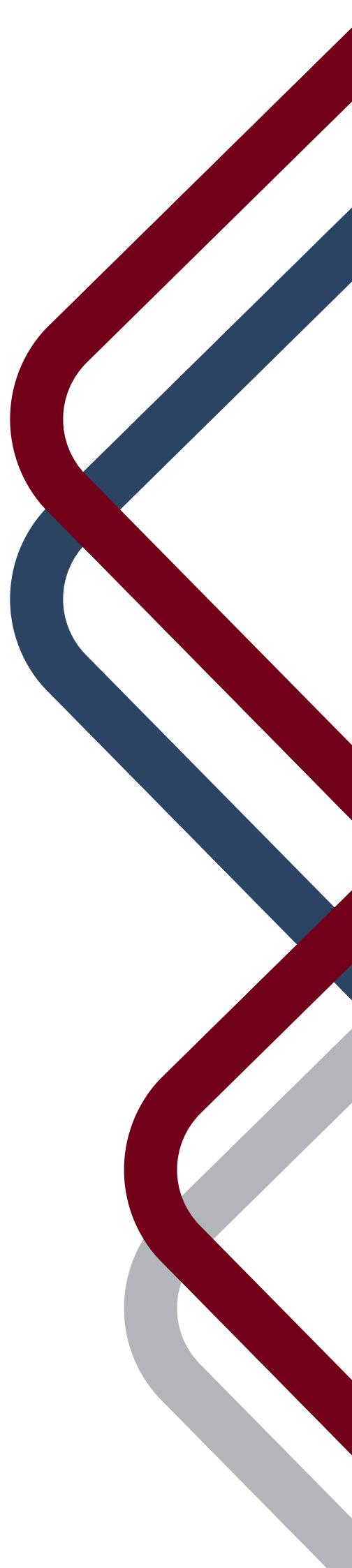




ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



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From Director's Desk

The past year has been an eventful and productive one for our organisation. We successfully undertook 28 projects spanning diverse themes, reflecting our continued commitment to evidence-based research and policy engagement.

This year also marked significant achievements in our publications. We published the book *Predicting Inequality of Opportunity and Poverty in India Using Machine Learning*, authored by Balwant Singh Mehta with contributions from Ravi Srivastava and Siddharth Dhote. Among our research studies, notable work includes *Estimating the Contribution of the Handicraft and Handloom Sector in Value Added and Employment*, as well as the ongoing study *Ecosociality of the Ganga Riverscapes: A study of the riverine subcultures, folk traditions and community practices in the Ganga Basin*.

As usual the key highlight was our role as the Secretariat in organizing the 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) in Bengaluru, and the annual IASSI conference in Ranchi which brought together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners for meaningful deliberations.

While we faced a financial deficit during the year, the breadth and depth of our activities underscore our resilience and commitment to advancing impactful research. Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch several new initiatives, organise platforms and conferences for fruitful exchange of dialogue. Next year, a major upcoming milestone will be the publication of the *India Employment Report 2026*. We also entered into two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Metropolitan Education and Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar to undertake academic collaboration. Further, we have over five projects lined up for the upcoming year.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our colleagues, partners, and supporters whose dedication continues to make our work possible. Together, we look forward to another year of meaningful contributions to research, policy, and public dialogue.

Above all, I am thankful to the chairman and Board of Governors, the committee members of the Finance, Academic and Personnel Committees for their significant support.



Prof. Alakh N. Sharma

Director, Institute for
Human Development.
President, Indian Society of
Labour Economics

Board of Governors



Prof. Deepak Nayyar
Chairman

Emeritus Professor,
Jawaharlal Nehru University;
Former Vice Chancellor,
Delhi University



Prof. Alakh N. Sharma

Director, Institute for
Human Development.
President, Indian Society of
Labour Economics



Dr. A.K Shiva Kumar

Development Economist,
Visiting Professor
Institute for Human
Development



Dr. Ajit K. Ranade

Economist, Former Vice
Chancellor, Gokhale
Institute of Politics and
Economics



Prof. Jeemol Unni

Professor, Ahmedabad
University



Ms. Rama Bijapurkar

Author and Business
Advisor



Prof. Ravindra H.
Dholakia

Former Professor of
Economics, IIM Ahmedabad



Prof. Ravi Srivastava

Director, Centre For
Employment Studies, Institute
for Human Development



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Vice Chancellor,
Nalanda University



Prof. S. Mahendra Dev

Chairman, Economic
Advisory Council to the
Prime Minister (EAC-PM)



Prof. S. R. Hashim

Former Member Secretary
Planning Commission,
Former Chairman, Union
Public service Commission



Dr. Sudipta Mundle

Chairman, Centre For
Development Studies
Trivandrum



Ms. Sujata Prasad

Author and
Former Civil
Servant



Dr. Swati Dutta

Senior Fellow,
Institute for Human
Development



Dr. V. Gayathri

Co-Founder and
CEO, LabourNet,
Bangalore

About IHD

The Institute for Human Development (IHD) is an autonomous non-profit social sciences research institution in the recognised category of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). It was established in 1996 under the aegis of **the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE)** to foster economic progress and social development by informing public policy and discourse through research and knowledge production. IHD undertakes research in the areas of labour markets and **employment, livelihoods, education, health, gender issues, environment and other domains of human development** and actively engages in academic and policy dialogues.

- Empanelled with the Niti Aayog for “Outsourcing of Monitoring and Evaluation Studies”;
- and
- National Level Monitor with Ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water



70 500

To date
published by
the Institute

Research Projects
conducted across
geographies

Recognition and Empanelment

- Designated as an 'ICSSR Category Institute' by the Indian Council of Social Science Research
- A knowledge partner of NITI Aayog for collaborative activities of transformative policy research through SAMAVESH- a programme of networking and partnerships with knowledge and research institutions;
- Recognised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India as a “Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation”;

Areas of Research

The Institute engages in research on various themes in the area of human development, to contribute to academic analysis as well as informing policy and practice.

Growth and Employment

Governance and Institutions

Health and Nutrition

Education and Skills

Gender and Development

Vulnerability and Social Protection

Climate Change and Environmental
Sustainability

Institute's Expertise

Research and Policy Evaluation:

High-quality research based on evidence from both primary and secondary data sources, with expertise in conducting large-scale surveys and qualitative fieldwork-based research across India. The organization has completed over 500 research projects sponsored by various governments and international organizations, demonstrating extensive experience in evidence-based policy analysis, impact evaluation, and action research.

Regular Publications

Supported by robust capacity in data management, compilation and analysis, enabling consistent and reliable dissemination of research findings from the extensive portfolio of completed studies. IHD brings out high level publications, including two journals: the Indian Journal of Labour Economics (jointly with Springer) and, Journal of Human Development (jointly with Sage).

Collaboration and Dialogue

Facilitated through established relationships with various government agencies and international organizations, built over the course of 500 research projects spanning diverse geographic and thematic areas across India.

Seminars, Workshops and Lectures

IHD actively fosters dialogue on contemporary development issues through seminars, workshops, consultations, and conferences that bring together scholars, experts, practitioners, and policymakers. Many of these events have been inaugurated by distinguished dignitaries, including Presidents, Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers of India, and Nobel Laureates.

To date, the Institute has organised around 350 events across the country, along with significant national and international virtual conferences and consultations in recent years. It also hosts regular lectures by eminent scholars from diverse disciplines, enriching debates on development, society, policy, and the economy.

Training and Teaching

The Institute regularly organises workshops and training programmes for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners in development-related areas. The Institute has also organised a number of training programmes on contemporary issues in Labour Economics (Theories, Methodologies and Research Issues) for young researchers of South Asia.

Large Scale Data Management

The Institute has developed a large database on labour markets and human development over the years, which is accessible to scholars and other stakeholders.

Large Scale Surveys and GIS Mapping

Enhanced by proven expertise in conducting large-scale surveys and comprehensive data management capabilities, providing the technical foundation necessary for extensive geographic information system mapping initiatives across varied Indian landscapes and contexts.

Networks

IHD engages in evidence-based policy research across diverse areas of human development. Through its research, seminars, and consultations, the Institute has built strong networks of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in India and abroad. Recently, it has completed major research and network programmes with participation from several Global South countries, including Brazil and South Africa.

Our Partners



Our Reach in 2024-25:



Publishing Partners



Research Activities in 2024-25

28

Research
Projects

100+

Locations
Covered

08

Completed
Projects

20

Ongoing
Projects

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Bihar
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Himachal Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Karnataka
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Meghalaya
- New Delhi
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Tamil Nadu
- Uttar Pradesh
- West Bengal

IHD's research worked spanned across 20+ states in India in the year 2024-25

Highlights of the year 2024-25

- IHD's work combined rigorous analysis with policy relevance, fostering collaborations across disciplines and regions. IHD's work included:

08

Completed
Research Projects

02

2 multi-country
projects

- We are currently undertaking 2 multi-country studies on gender, future of work and climate change, these are “*Gender Implications of Future of Work in South Asia: The Challenges of Technological Change and Climate Transition in Garment Manufacturing in Bangladesh and India*” and “*Empirical Analysis of Climate Change Impacts on Mountain Communities and Women in South Asia and Central Asia Evidence and Policy Implications*”
- IHD undertook a unique study across five Indian states for “*Estimating the Contribution of Handicraft and Handloom Sector in Value Added and Employment*”.
- IHD hosted the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference and the 65th ISLE Annual Conference during the time of reporting.
- IHD entered into 3 MOUs in the period of reporting.
- Additionally, we hosted a National Seminar on Women and Employment in India (3–5 September 2024 alongside Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar) and addressed low female labour force participation, gender wage gaps, and challenges in women's employment.

- We hosted the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference and the 65th ISLE Annual Conference during the time of reporting.

- Key IHD events included the *National Seminar on Women and Employment in India*, a capacity-building workshop on impact evaluation, as well as the International Seminar on Peasants and Workers in Structural Transformations in honour of Prof. Ajit Ghose. The year concluded with a special lecture on *Artificial Intelligence and the Futures of Work* by Prof. Greg J. Bamber.
- Key IHD events included the *National Seminar on Women and Employment in India*, a capacity-building workshop on impact evaluation, as well as the International Seminar on Peasants and Workers in Structural Transformations in honour of Prof. Ajit Ghose. The year concluded with a special lecture on *Artificial Intelligence and the Futures of Work* by Prof. Greg J. Bamber.
- IHD scholars contributed to significant publications, including *Predicting Inequality of Opportunity and Poverty in India Using Machine Learning* by Balwant Singh Mehta, Ravi Srivastava, and Siddharth Dhote, an open-access book that applies interdisciplinary methods to analyse poverty and inequality. Other major works included *Mapping the Path, Progress and Promise on the SDGs: Analysis for India*, edited by Sarthi Acharya and Balwant Mehta with contributions from leading scholars, and *Development, Inclusion and Sustainability*, edited by Abhinav Alakshendra, Amrita Datta, and Bhim Reddy, published by Springer Nature.

Centres at IHD

Centre for Employment Studies

The Centre addresses critical issues of labour and employment by maintaining a comprehensive repository of datasets, research studies and policy-oriented publications. It regularly publishes the India Labour and Employment Report and hosts the office of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, including its quarterly journal Indian Journal of Labour Economics. By combining systematic data and documentation with focused research, the Centre promotes debate on labour-market dynamics and the future of work in India.

Centre for Gender Studies

The Centre fosters interdisciplinary and comparative research on gender issues in India and South Asia. It examines the cultural and regional dimensions of gender relations while promoting collaborative work across institutions. The Centre actively contributes to theoretical, pedagogical, and policy debates, addressing women's empowerment, social inclusion, and the evolving discourse on gender equality in development.

Centre of Excellence on Tribal Development

Recognised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as a 'Centre of Excellence,' this Centre focuses on the lives and livelihoods of tribal communities in India. It has produced the Scheduled Tribe Human Development Report and continues to study critical areas such as food and nutrition, migration, and the impact of development policies on tribals. Its work informs both policy and practice to promote inclusive tribal development.

Delhi Government Chair on the Dimensions of Human Development

Instituted by the Government of NCT of Delhi, this Chair undertakes policy-oriented research on diverse aspects of human development, particularly urban challenges. It has contributed significantly to human development reports for Delhi, with the Institute presently engaged in preparing the Third Delhi Human Development Report. The Chair serves as a bridge between academic research and policy, supporting evidence-based governance in the capital.

IHD Data Centre on Employment and Labour Market

Established in 2010, the Data Centre serves as a comprehensive hub for empirical research and policy analysis on employment and labour markets in India. It consolidates diverse primary and secondary datasets, including NSS, ASI, NFHS, and Census data, while also integrating innovative sources like satellite and remote-sensing datasets. Equipped with advanced analytical tools and statistical expertise, the Centre supports large-scale data collection, monitoring, and real-time analysis. In addition, it actively promotes data-driven decision-making, capacity building, and collaborative research to strengthen evidence-based policy formulation.

IHD Eastern Regional Centre, Ranchi

Overview

Established in 2007, the Eastern Regional Centre (ERC) of IHD serves as a hub for research, policy engagement, and capacity building in eastern India, particularly Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. It focuses on the development challenges of vulnerable groups such as Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, women, and children, while promoting inclusive and sustainable human development.

Capacity Building

ERC plays an active role in training and mentoring policymakers, practitioners, and young researchers. It provides exposure to field-based development research and supports collaborative partnerships across universities and institutions in eastern India.

Publications

The Centre has developed a strong body of research outputs including books, reports, and working papers. Faculty members also contribute regularly to journals and newspapers, with emphasis on food security, rural livelihoods, gender, and child welfare.

Academic and Policy Events

ERC has organised several academic and policy events at national and international levels. Landmark conferences on Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Jharkhand and Growth and Human Development in Jharkhand brought together leaders, officials, and scholars to shape the region's development agenda.

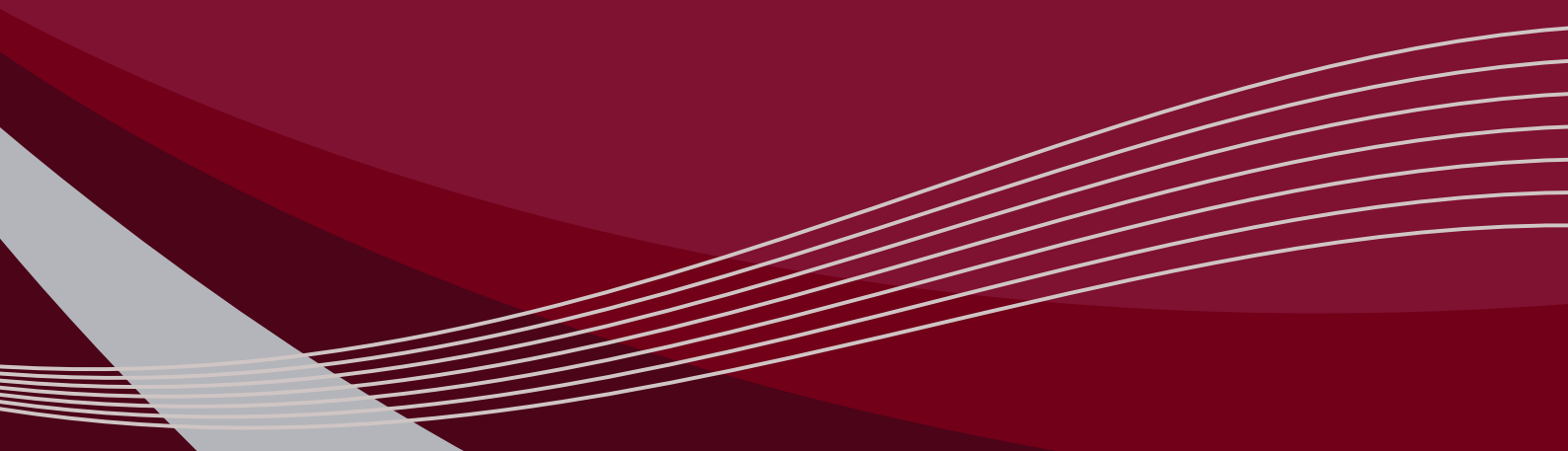
Focus Areas

- Tribal Development
- Livelihoods, Labour Market and Employment
- Migration and Development
- Education and Skills
- Food Security, Nutrition and Health
- Women's empowerment and Gender equality
- Vulnerability, Social Protection and Social Inclusion
- Human Development and SDGs
- Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Policies and Programmes

Recent Initiatives

- ***Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU)***: Launched with UNICEF, this platform applies behavioural science to promote child protection, nutrition, and health among tribal and rural communities. It develops context-specific, evidence-based solutions and informs programme strategies through research and collaborations.
- ***Action Research on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)***: Implemented in Jharkhand, this project enhanced women's incomes, strengthened financial decision-making, and promoted Gram Sabha participation, bridging grassroots empowerment with policy design.

People at IHD



People at IHD: Faculty and Researchers



Prof. Alakh
Sharma



Dr. Shreeranjana



Prof Ravi
Srivastava



Dr. G. C
Manna



Prof I. C
Awasthi



Prof. Sarthi
Acarya



Prof Tanuka
Endow



Dr. Dev
Nathan



Dr. Rama Baru



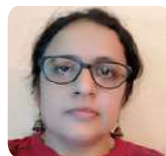
Dr. Balwant
Singh Mehta



Dr. Swati
Dutta



Dr. Bheem
Reddy



Dr. Deeksha
Tayal



Dr. Sunil Kumar
Mishra



Dr. Anuradha
Sen Mookerjee



Dr. Chaitanya
Khandelwal



Dr. Aditi
Madan



Dr. Somjita
Laha



Dr. MD.
Azharuddin
Akhtar



Dr. Kumar
Rana



Dr. Devika
Modi



Mr. Vikas
Dubey



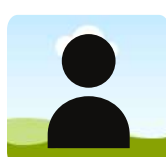
Mr. BKN
Singh



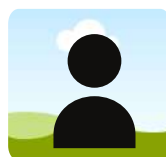
Dr. Subodh
Kumar



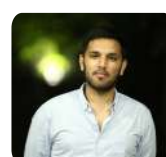
Dr. Ashwani
Kumar



Dr. Madan
Sarkar



Mr. Amit
Kumar



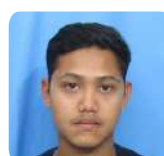
Mr. Arjun
Dubey



Ms. Varsha S.
Mathew



Mr. Aakash
Sinha



Mr. Adarsh
Kumal

People at IHD: Visiting Faculty

 Prof. Rizwanul Islam	 Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta	 Dr. J. Krishnamurty	 Dr. Gerry Rodgers
 Dr. Govind Kelkar	 Dr. Ritu Dewan	 Dr. TCA Anant	 Dr. Sandip Sarkar
 Shri. Rakesh Ranjan	 Prof. Seeta Praabhu	 Prof. Keshab Das	 Prof. A.K Shiva Kumar
 Dr. Sheila Vir	 Dr. Charu Garg	 Prof. R.B. Bhagat	 Dr. Virginius Xaxa
 Dr. Nisha Srivastava	 D Narasimha Reddy	 Dr. Sumit Mazumdar	 Dr. Indu Bala Sinha
 Prof. Lakhwinder Singh	 Ms. Janine Rodgers	 Dr. Amrita Datta	 Prof. Ashwani Saith
 Prof. Suresh Chand Aggarwal	 Dr. Reshmi Sengupta	 Dr. Prabhat Barnwal	 Ms. Sudeshna Sengupta
 Dr. Shipra Nigam	 Dr. Tanushree Kundu	 Dr. Sumangala Damodaran	

People at IHD: Office Team

 Ms. Priyanka Tyagi CEO	 Ms. Jyoti Girish Admin & Executive Officer	
 Ms. Rekha Aswal Admin & Program Coordinator	 Mr. Usman Khan Accounts Officer	
 Ms. Renu Bisht Accounts Executive	 Ms. Chaity Puja Sarkar Communications Officer	
 Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma Admin. Assistant	 Mr. Amarjeet Kumar Singh Office Assistant	
 Mr. Manish Kumar IT Executive	 Mr. Phalguni Singh Multi Tasking Staff	
 Mr. S.S. Rawat Multi Tasking Staff	 Mr. Dev Raj Multi Tasking Staff	 Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Driver

People at IHD: Committees

Academic Committee:



Prof. Pulin Nayak
Chairman



Dr. Neetha
N.



Dr. A K Shiva
Kumar



Ms. Ratna M.
Sudarshan



Prof. Indrani
Gupta



Prof. Aasha
Kapur Mehta



Dr. Rajiv
Malhotra



Prof. Ravi
Srivastava



Dr. S.K.
Sasikumar



Prof. Alakh N.
Sharma (Member-
Secretary)

Personnel Committee:



Prof. Ravi Srivastava
Chairman



Professor Rajesh
Shukla, Member



(Ms.) Sudha Shrotria,
Member



Dr. Balwant Singh
Mehta, Member



Dr. Alakh N. Sharma,
Member-Secretary

Finance Committee:



Professor Sudipto
Mundle, Chairman



Dr. Govind
Bhattacharjee



Ms. Sujata
Prasad



Shri Sanjay Agrawal,
Member ('Chartered
Accountant')

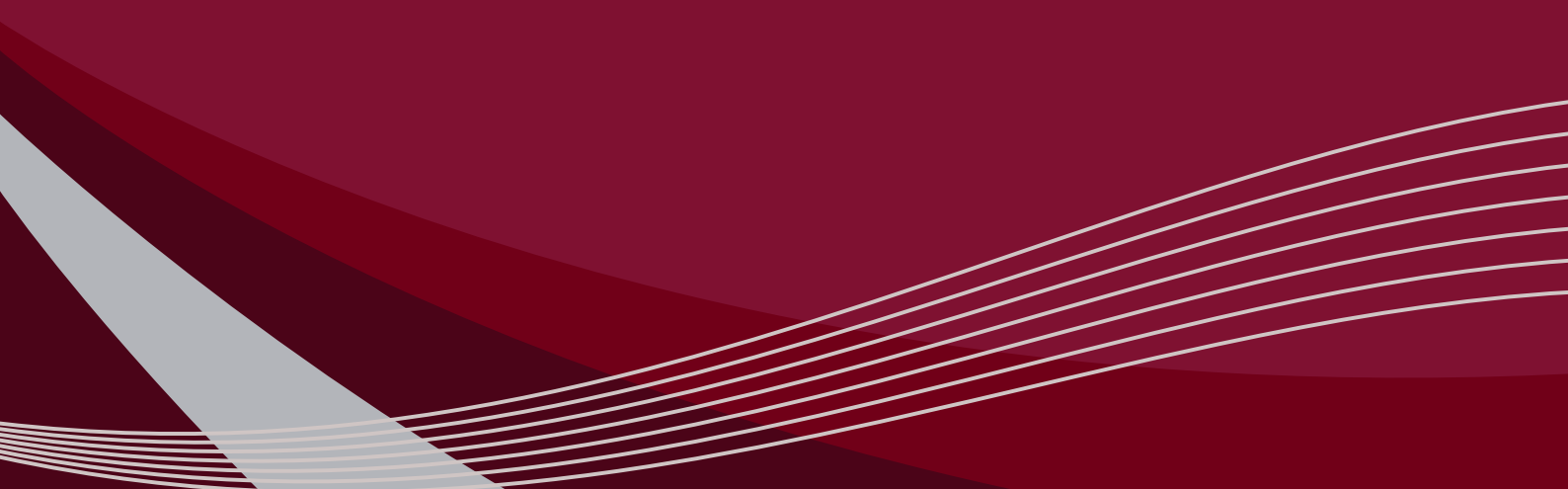


Professor Ravi Srivastava,
Chairman, Personnel
Committee (Ex-officio)



Dr. Alakh N. Sharma,
Member-Secretary

Projects 2024-25

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Projects 2024-25

Growth and Employment

Ongoing

- Changing role of informal vet and employment in technology oriented repair services.
- Estimating the Contribution of Handicraft and Handloom Sector in Value Added and Employment
- Mapping stakeholders in the first mile of the cotton supply chain in India Suggested Title: Global Sustainability Program (to be anonymised for confidentiality)
- Needs and drivers of first mile traceability for supply chain actors Suggested Title: Global Sustainability Program (to be anonymised for confidentiality)

Education and Skill

Ongoing

- Improving quality of education in Bihar
- Education and skill profile needed for the future
- Political Economy of privatization and regulation of higher education in India
- Job Search, Hiring Practices and Discrimination in the Indian Urban Labour Market

Health and Nutrition

Completed

- Impact of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on Functioning of Sanitation Sector with Special Focus on Sanitation Workers and Household Perception in Select Districts of Urban India
- Bridging the Healthcare Divide Examining the Effectiveness of Janashadhi Yojana in Reducing Healthcare Disparities and Enhancing Medication Access in Under-Privileged Areas of Delhi-NCR and Ranchi
- Impact of poverty and pandemic on WASH practices in India

Ongoing

- Digitalising Food Assistance: Political Economy Governance and Food Security Effects Across The Global North-South Divide
- Assessing Continuum of Care Completion for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Services Across Generations Among Women in Tribal Areas of Jharkhand and Odisha
- Setting up a Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU) and Conducting BI studies Related to Health, Nutrition, Education, WASH, and Child Protection
- Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Nutrition Garden and Nutrition-Education Intervention in Bihar

Projects 2024-25

Gender and Development

Ongoing

- Gender Implications of Future of Work in South Asia: The Challenges of Technological Change and Climate Transition in Garment Manufacturing in Bangladesh and India
- Empowering Tribal Women through Entrepreneurship and Digital Access
- Carving out a Gender Landscape in Bihar: Agrarian Change and Women's Participation in Farm-Sector

Development Evaluation

Completed

- Strengthening Rural Governance For The Right to Adequate Food

Ongoing

- Rural Transformation and Labour Market Dynamics: A Longitudinal Study of Four Villages Over Four and A Half Decades in Jharkhand
- Evaluation Study on Quality of Land Records in Jharkhand and Odisha Project

Security and Vulnerability

Ongoing

- Leveraging NTFP Market Linkages To Reduce Agrarian Distress Among Forest Dwellers in Jharkhand
- A Survey on Social Security
- Caste in Urban India: Manifestation and Inequalities

Completed

- Effects of Parenting Style on Psychological Wellbeing of Adolescents in Delhi NCR

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Ongoing

- Ecosociality of the Ganga Riverscapes: A study of the riverine subcultures, folk traditions and community practices in the Ganga Basin
- Empirical Analysis of Climate Change Impacts on Mountain Communities and Women in South Asia and Central Asia Evidence and Policy Implications

Growth and Employment

CHANGING ROLE OF INFORMAL VET AND EMPLOYMENT IN TECHNOLOGY ORIENTED EMERGING REPAIR SERVICES

Introduction:

Vocation/technical skill training can play an important role for youth's entry in the labour market. There has been a rise in informal trainings among youth from 7.7 per cent in 2004-05 per cent to 11.5 per cent in 2021-22, much higher than formal skill training at 4 per cent during the same period. The proposed study aims to explore opportunities for youth employment and trajectories of education and skilling in areas of work associated with repair services in sectors related to new technology.

Aims and Objective:

- To examine the following issues for informal workers involved in technology-based repair services in India. -
- Understand the educational backgrounds and skilling profiles of the workers
- Explore their socio-economic background (age, family educational histories, asset ownership,
- and their geographic origins)
- Explore modes of skill acquisition: formal training, independent learning via YouTube/other technology, or on the job
- Identify the barriers encountered by the workers in their profession (including women workers)
- Identify the opportunities they envision in their profession
- Examine workers' employment trajectories
- Understand industries' overall ecosystem; size of firm, demand for services

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: NITI Aayog

Project Director/s: Dr. Tanuka Endow

Senior Researcher: Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta

Research Team: Mr Subodh Kumar and
Mr. Siddharth Dhote

Methodology

Primary survey for workers engaged in 4 technology-based repair service sectors:

- (i) computer repair,
- (ii) mobile phone repair,
- (iii) TV repair, and (iv) drone maintenance. Semi structured interview schedule with workers, allowing for in-depth exploration of experiences and perspectives. Some case studies. Stakeholder interviews with employers, customers, scholars (specialists), and government officials (education, skill development, and employment policies) with a set of key questions.

Updates:

Survey tools were finalized, investigators were trained and at present the Primary survey has been undertaken. Secondary data-based research is complete. A mid-term progress report and a detailed progress report have been submitted to ICSSR in February 2025. The data analysis is over and the final report for submission is being prepared.

ESTIMATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF HANDICRAFT AND HANDLOOM SECTOR IN VALUE ADDED AND EMPLOYMENT

Introduction:

The handloom and handicraft (HH) sector is an important sector of the Indian economy. Through the ages, a large variety of handloom and handicraft products manufactured by our artisans are witnesses to the country's rich cultural heritage and tradition. A large proportion of the workforce in India is likely to be dependent on the HH sector either through direct manufacturing of these products or by way of trading of such goods. However, the exact size of this sector – either in terms of the number of people engaged in the sector or the sector's contribution to the country's GDP – is not clearly known from the official sources. Fulfilling the data gaps on handicraft and handloom sector by estimating the size of the sector in terms of employment and their contribution to gross value added in respect of five States of Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Aims and objectives:

- Arriving at an independent estimate of number of units and persons engaged separately in handloom and handicraft sectors,
- Assessment of the contribution of the sectors in value added and (iii) Suggesting a methodology for future integration of the handmade sector into national systems of accounting.
- To have an independent estimate of number of units and persons engaged separately in the sector;

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: Crafts Council of India (CCI supported by Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, C.K. Birla Group and Vellayan Chettiar Trust
Project Director/s: Dr. Gurucharan Manna
Research Team: Dr. Sunil K. Mishra, Mr. Vikas Dubey, Mr. Subodh Kumar

Methodology:

The study involved primary surveys in five States of Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. From each State, 3 districts were selected and from each district, a random sample of 20 villages and 20 Census Enumeration Blocks (CEBs) with a maximum of 10 establishments (4 engaged in handloom and 6 in handicraft activities) per village/CEB were interviewed for data collection.

Updates: The revised report and executive summary has been submitted.



The Project Through Images



GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The study entailed a comprehensive mapping of all the stakeholders, practices, processes and dynamics involved in the movement of cotton in the first mile (i.e. from the farms to the ginning mills) in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana. It was carried out for a leading sustainability initiative (anonymised for confidentiality) in the global cotton sector.



Aims and Objectives:

- Map the actors (formal & informal) operating in the first mile of the cotton supply chain
- Analyse the operations of the first mile of the cotton supply chain to understand existing processes and potential challenges of physical segregation of sustainable cotton from conventional cotton
- Chart out how the movement of cotton is currently tracked and documented in the first mile supply chain

Methodology:

The study used a mixed methods approach, collecting quantitative as well as qualitative information using survey, in-depth interviews, focus groups discussions and consultative workshops. Information was collected from over 750 participants (including farmers, informal intermediaries, ginners and other

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: Better Cotton

Project Director/s: Bhim Reddy,, Dr.

Itishree Pattnaik,

Mr. Vikas Dubey, and Dr. Harshita Bhasin



relevant stakeholders) across seven districts in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana.

Findings:

The final report for the study was submitted to the funder in August 2025. The study captured to significant diversity as well as regional specificities which shape the first mile cotton supply chain in India. It outlined the key role of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) markets as well as informal intermediaries in the supply chain. Furthermore, the study highlighted that informal documentation as well as physical segregation practices undermine the visibility of sustainable cotton vis-à-vis conventional cotton in the first mile of cotton supply chain. This key challenge stemmed from absence of any objective tests to distinguish sustainable cotton from conventional cotton.

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

This study aimed to gather a comprehensive understanding of the needs and drivers for adopting traceability measures amongst key actors in the first mile of cotton supply chain in India. Here, first mile traceability refers to the ability to trace back sustainable cotton to its farm level origin. The study was carried out for a leading sustainability initiative (anonymised for confidentiality) in the global cotton sector.

Aims and Objectives:

- Examine the obstacles and risks in first mile traceability (FMT) process of sustainable cotton
- Analyse the impact of FMT on specific stakeholders & their readiness to adopt traceability options
- Propose recommendations on FMT for specific stakeholders

Methodology:

The study employed a mixed methods approach which involved the use of survey, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions as well as consultative workshops with various key stakeholders in the first mile cotton supply chain. It involved an engagement with over 500 participants using various research methods.

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: Better Cotton

Project Director/s: Bhim Reddy,,Dr. Itishree Pattnaik,

Mr. Vikas Dubey, and Dr. Harshita Bhasin

Updates:

The final report for the study was submitted to the funder in August 2025. The study underscored that lack of willingness amongst key stakeholders to adopt first mile traceability measures given the dearth of economic incentives for sustainable cotton at present. There was also apprehension amongst various stakeholders that traceability measures will enhance their compliance burden. In case of farmers, there was a strong expectation for price incentives to comply with traceability measures. The findings of the study helped inform the design for an upcoming pilot project for first mile traceability in India



Education and Skills

IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN BIHAR

Introduction

The quality of education in Bihar remains a critical concern, largely due to challenges in governance at various levels of the educational system. Issues such as unclear transfer policies, frequent non-academic duties, and declining teacher-pupil ratios contribute to the inefficiencies that hinder educational outcomes. Similarly, governance issues at the intermediate and higher education levels, including the lack of a coherent policy framework and financial mismanagement, further exacerbate the situation. This research aims to investigate the governance failures within Bihar's educational institutions and assess their impact on the quality of education from the perspectives of key stakeholders—teachers, administrators, and students. Addressing these governance challenges is vital for enhancing the effectiveness of educational services and ensuring that Bihar's educational system can meet its potential to drive both economic and social development.

Aims and Objective:

- To understand the governance of education at different levels of administration and institutions such as schools, colleges and universities in Bihar;
- To assess the quality by some measurable yardsticks such as employees and students satisfaction and understand factors determining quality
- To suggest measures for effective governance and sound financial system for improving quality of education in the state.

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

Project Director/s: Dr. Raghunanadan Sharma (Patna University)

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Mr.

Aakash Sinha, Dr. Abhishek Pandey AND

Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan

Methodology:

The methodology of this study combines both secondary data analysis and extensive primary data collection to investigate governance in Bihar's educational institutions.

Secondary data will be drawn from sources such as NUEPA, UGC, and Government of Bihar, alongside an analysis of relevant committee reports. The primary data will be gathered through structured questionnaires targeting various administrative levels, state, district, and block, as well as educational institutions, including elementary and secondary schools, intermediate colleges, universities, and postgraduate departments. The study will survey stakeholders, including teachers, employees, and students, across these institutions to understand their perceptions of governance. The sampling will cover a range of educational settings across four regions of Bihar, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of governance practices and their impact on educational quality.

Updates

EDUCATION AND SKILL PROFILE NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE

Introduction:

India has the largest population of youth in the world. The youth need to enhance their skills to take up new opportunities such as jobs emerging from evolving technologies like Industry 4.0, (automation, robotics, big data analytics, AI, and machine learning etc.). Given this background, the education system must reorient and upskill both the future and current workforce.

Aims and Objective:

The main objective of the study is to map the education and skill profile needed for the future. Detailed objectives are:

- Background and Context of the Role of Education and Skilling for Economic Growth and Development
- Education and Skilling Ecosystem in India (School Education, Vocational Education, Higher Education, Technical Education, Teacher Education, Skill Education) - Status and Impact of Existing Schemes/Programmes/Policies of the Central Govt.
- Employability: Current Status and Future Projections - Education and Skill Mapping Stakeholder Feedback Analysis (based on primary data)
- Global Preparedness and Best Practices in Education and Skill Mapping
- Challenges and Bottlenecks for India in: i. Education and Skilling in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term and ii. Life-long learning focused on skilling, reskilling, and upskilling, especially for vulnerable groups.

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s: Dr. Tanuka Endow

Co-PI: Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr.

Chaitanya Khandelwal, Dr. Deeksha Tayal,

Mr. Siddharth Dhote, Mr. Arjun Dubey, Dr.

Abhishek Pandey & Mr. Aakash Sinha

- Comprehensive Policy Recommendations and Implementation Roadmap for Short-term (2029) , Medium-term (2035) and Long-term (2047).

Methodology:

This study employs secondary data analysis, literature review, primary survey across major states of India for different education sectors such as school education, vocational education, higher education, technical education, teacher education, skills etc. and an employer survey along with consultation with experts and stakeholders.



Updates:

Following preliminary discussions with NITI Aayog regarding the study, the Institute for Human Development organized an expert consultation on 22nd May, 2024, to deliberate regarding the approach and methodology to be adopted for the present study. The consultation was attended by eminent experts in the field of education, skills and industry & employment, including three attendees from Niti Aayog. The IHD team made a presentation, based on which comments were invited. The methodology for the study was finalized taking into account the valuable comment received during the consultation.

The inception report of the study has been submitted. Survey tools were finalized in November 2024 after consultation with Niti Aayog. Secondary data research has been done.

State-wise sample for (i) education and Skill survey and (ii) Industry survey were drawn up. Collaborating institutions were identified in each state for survey purpose. 6 Regions were divided amongst individual coordinators to oversee the survey work in the regions



POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PRIVATISATION AND REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Introduction

Formal education in India gained momentum in the 19th century, largely through non-governmental efforts. By independence, private institutions played a key role in higher education, driven mainly by non-commercial motives. After independence, the government prioritized expanding access to education, yet state funding for higher education remained insufficient, leading to financial constraints. By the 1980s, private unaided institutions emerged, primarily offering professional and technical education, filling the gaps left by the public sector.

This shift was driven by rising demand for education, economic growth, and public institutions' inability to meet needs. The rapid growth of private self-financed institutions reshaped the higher education landscape, with private enrolments outpacing public ones. Yet, concerns over quality, equity, and regulatory oversight remain significant. Public institutions, too, have turned to self financing mechanisms, blurring lines between public and private sectors. The regulatory framework, designed for a state-dominated system, struggled to adapt to this growth, often fostering rent-seeking and malpractices.

Status: Ongoing

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

Project Director/s: Prof. Ravi Srivastava

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Mehta, Dr. I.C.

Awasthi, Dr. Aditi Madan, Dr. Chaitanya

Khandelwal and Mr. Arjun Dubey

Aims and Objective:

This study explores the privatization of higher education in India, its impact on access and equity, and the regulatory challenges faced. It aims to suggest reforms to ensure a balanced, inclusive, and quality-oriented higher education system.

- To examine the various forms of privatization in higher education and understand why these particular forms have become predominant.
- To analyze the profile of entities that have established private educational institutions, explored their objectives, and assessed their relationship with the existing regulatory framework.
- To investigate the aims and objectives of state and national-level regulatory institutions in higher education, trace their evolution, and evaluate the potential for regulatory capture by groups influencing privatization.
- To assess the impact of privatization on access, equity, and quality in higher education.

Methodology:

The secondary data will be analysed and relationships between the variables will be assessed using standard econometric techniques. The primary data will be analysed using descriptive statistics to uncover the patterns and impact of privatization across different types of institutions. The information gleaned from secondary sources and stakeholder and informant sources will be the most important source of information in the survey and will be used to find answers to the key questions of this study.

Updates:

The primary survey has been conducted, data has been collated and the report is being prepared.



JOB SEARCH, HIRING PRACTICES AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE INDIAN URBAN LABOUR MARKET

Introduction

This research studied urban labour markets in India, focusing on job search processes, hiring practices, and discrimination. It examined how formal and informal labour market institutions had evolved and their role in matching labour supply and demand.

This research studied urban labour markets in India and the process of job search, hiring practices, and discrimination prevalent in the labour market. It examined how labour market institutions, both formal and informal, had evolved over the years and their role in promoting labour market efficiency in matching demand and supply of the urban labourer.

Aims and Objectives:

- Map Dominant Job Search Procedures and Institutional Linkages To identify and analyze the predominant job search methods used in India's urban labour market and examine their relationship with existing labour market institutions and intermediary mechanisms.
- Assess Impact of Employment Pattern Changes on Job Search Methods. To evaluate how evolving employment structures—including sectoral shifts, activity-wise changes, and the regular-non-regular employment divide—influence job search strategies and hiring practices across different market segments.

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s: Prof. Alakh Sharma

Research Team: Dr. Deeksha Tayal,

MR. Vikas Dubey and Ms. Antara

Singh and Mr. Aakash Sinha

Sponsor: ICSSR

- Evaluate the Role and Evolution of Labour Market Intermediaries To assess the function and significance of placement agencies, middlemen, and other intermediaries in India's urban labour market, analyzing how their role has transformed over time and varies across different market contexts.

Methodology

Surveys in educational institutions and alumni databases captured job search behaviour of final-year students and graduates from the past five years. Institutions such as engineering colleges, MBA schools, pharmaceutical institutes, and polytechnics were purposively selected.

Secondly, a firm level survey will be used to gather data from firms in various sectors/industries in selected regions. Firms related to the IT sector, hospitality, retail, automobiles and pharmaceuticals will be selected purposively. Different sizes of firms were selected from each industry-type. For construction, a case study was used.

Updates:

A draft report has been submitted.

Health and Nutrition

IMPACT OF SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN ON FUNCTIONING OF SANITATION SECTOR WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SANITATION WORKERS AND HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTION IN SELECT DISTRICTS OF URBAN INDIA

Introduction

Launched in 2014, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) is one of India's most ambitious national initiatives to improve sanitation and hygiene. While notable progress has been made in infrastructure development and public awareness, less is known about its impact on the functioning of the sanitation sector—particularly regarding the experiences of sanitation workers and the perceptions of urban households. These perspectives are vital: sanitation workers are the backbone of the programme's implementation, and household feedback can reveal both successes and gaps. This study examines these dynamics in urban contexts, offering a ground-level assessment of the SBA's outcomes.

Aims and Objectives

- Understand the perceptions, problems, and suggestions of households regarding the benefits and shortcomings of the SBA.
- Explore the working and living conditions of sanitation workers, with attention to gender differences.
- Compare the functioning of the sanitation sector in three cities—Delhi, Ranchi, and Indore.

Status: Completed

Theme: Health and nutrition

Client/sponsor: ICSSR

Project Director/s: Dr. Deeksha Tayal

Research Team: Prof. Ramesh Sharan, Prof. I.C. Awasthi, Dr Tanuka Endow, Dr. Ashwani Kumar

- Assess the role of technological innovations in improving sanitation sector operations.
- Recommend policy measures to strengthen the SBA and contribute to achieving sustainable development goals in sanitation.

Methodology

A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative surveys for primary data collection, supplemented by analysis of relevant secondary data and information.

Updates:

Draft reports submitted.

BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE DIVIDE EXAMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF JANASHADHI YOJANA IN REDUCING HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES AND ENHANCING MEDICATION ACCESS IN UNDER- PRIVILEGED AREAS OF DELHI-NCR AND RANCHI

Introduction:

In India, the burden of healthcare expenditure weighs heavily on individuals and households due to limited government spending and high out-of-pocket costs, exacerbating disparities in healthcare access and perpetuating financial strain, particularly among the urban poor. Initiatives like the Jan Aushadhi Yojana aim to alleviate this burden by providing affordable generic medicines, yet challenges such as lack of awareness and uneven distribution persist.

Aims and Objectives

- To evaluate the localized impacts of Jan Aushadhi Yojana.
- Focus regions of the study: Delhi-NCT, Ranchi, and Bokaro.
- To understand how the scheme is functioning in these specific areas.
- To identify ways to improve the effectiveness of the intervention.

Methodology:

The study utilizes the OECD-DAC framework to assess the Jan Aushadhi Yojana (JAY) comprehensively, focusing on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, sustainability, and impact.

Status: Completed

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

Project Director/s: Dr. Swati Dutta

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta,
Dr. Aditi Madan Dr. Devika Modi and Mr.
Arjun Dubey

Major indicators include healthcare expenditure reduction, generic medicine acceptance, operational efficiency, equitable distribution, and user perceptions

Objectives encompass assessing JAY coverage, impact on medicine accessibility, awareness levels, challenges faced, and formulating policy options for improvement. Research questions delve into JAY's impact on affordability and accessibility, awareness levels, challenges faced, and ways to enhance effectiveness.

Methodology involves data analysis from NSSO, questionnaire-based surveys targeting JAS owners, users, and households, with representative sampling across Delhi-NCT, Ranchi, and Bokaro, aiming for comprehensive insights into scheme functionality and user perspectives.

The study targets a total of 200 operational Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS), with 180 stores in Delhi and 20 in Jharkhand, covering a sample of 2000 users of the JAY scheme, including 1800 users from Delhi and 200 from Jharkhand. Additionally, a household survey involves 450 households, with 300 households surveyed in Delhi and 150 in Jharkhand (Bokaro and Ranchi).

IMPACT OF POVERTY AND PANDEMIC ON WASH PRACTICES IN INDIA

Introduction

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are fundamental to human health, dignity, and development. They are central to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which calls for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030, while addressing issues of water scarcity and quality. Despite substantial national progress, urban slums in India continue to face acute WASH challenges due to overcrowding, weak infrastructure, and systemic inequities. These gaps disproportionately affect women and girls, especially in the domain of menstrual hygiene management (MHM), where cultural stigmas and lack of access deepen vulnerabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these challenges but also created opportunities for behavioural shifts through heightened hygiene awareness. Addressing these inequalities is essential not only for meeting SDG 6 but also SDG 10 (Reducing Inequalities), since barriers to WASH access intersect with poverty, gender inequality, and socio-economic exclusion. This study contributes empirical evidence on WASH practices in Delhi's urban slums during and after the pandemic, examining barriers, determinants, and opportunities for more inclusive policy responses.

Status: Completed

Project Director/s: Dr. Aditi Madan

Sponsor: ICSSR

Aims and objectives:

- To assess the status and trends in access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in urban slums, with a particular focus on Delhi.
- To identify the barriers and determinants influencing WASH access, including income, education, gender, and household composition.
- To examine the impact of COVID-19 on WASH practices, including hygiene behaviours and menstrual hygiene management (MHM).
- To highlight the disparities and inequities in WASH outcomes for marginalized urban populations, particularly women and girls.

Methodology:

The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining secondary data analysis from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) rounds 4 and 5 with qualitative insights from focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). Delhi's urban slums were the primary focus area, selected due to their high vulnerability during the pandemic. WASH outcomes were analysed across three dimensions: drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. The study also assessed socio-economic and demographic determinants, including the roles of income, education, and household composition.

Findings:

The study highlights both progress and persisting inequities in WASH access across India, with particular challenges in Delhi's urban slums. Nationally, access to improved water sources rose to 94.9 percent (NFHS-5), yet safely managed water, which includes treatment and reliable on-premise access, remains limited. Sanitation coverage also improved significantly from 48.4 percent in NFHS-4 to 69.3 percent in NFHS-5, largely driven by initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission; however, slum households continue to depend heavily on shared facilities, which compromise both health and dignity.

Hygiene practices, especially handwashing, showed notable improvements during the pandemic due to awareness campaigns, but affordability constraints and disrupted supply chains hindered sustained access to essential hygiene products.

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) emerged as a major concern, with many women reverting to unsafe practices such as cloth use during the pandemic, underscoring both systemic vulnerabilities and the lack of resilient supply chains. Qualitative insights further revealed pronounced disparities in districts such as North East, Shahdara, and Central Delhi, where socio-economic disadvantage compounded WASH challenges.

Across these contexts, determinants such as income, education, household size, and gender played a critical role in shaping access and practices, with women and girls bearing a disproportionate burden of inadequate WASH facilities and cultural stigmas. Overall, while indicators suggest national progress, systemic inequities in urban slums continue to undermine inclusive and sustainable WASH outcomes.

Health and Nutrition

DIGITALISING FOOD ASSISTANCE: POLITICAL ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE AND FOOD SECURITY EFFECTS ACROSS THE GLOBAL NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s: Dr. C. Sathyamala

Research Team: Dr. Somjita Laha, Mr. Arjun
Dubey, Mr. Sobodh Kumar

Sponsor: ESRC, UK

Introduction

Food insecurity is rising globally and increasing numbers of people experience humanitarian crisis or precarious livelihoods. Following the 2008 food and finance crisis and the current pandemic, the past two decades have seen an increase in the use of digital practices in food security programmes. Digitalisation is now an intrinsic part of welfare and humanitarian assistance reforms, with aims of addressing food insecurity more efficiently and accountably. Yet, little is known about its actual ability to do so in practice. This research examines the use of mobile phones and digital platforms, smart cards, banking and vouchers, biometrics, and artificial intelligence, in cash transfers, market and agricultural support.

Aims and Objective:

The aim of the research is to explore the effects of the shift to digitalisation on the food security of marginalised groups, in particular migrant and displaced populations, who are at risk of exclusion. The specific objectives are:

- To map the range of digital food assistance practices and understand what is driving their use

- To understand how digital practices interact with economic and political processes in welfare, production, trade, and finance, and the implications for power relations, inequality, and profitmaking
- To explore the effect of digitalising food assistance on the food security and actions of
- marginalised populations (with reference to migrant and displaced populations)
- To influence policy by providing evidence of the effects of digital technologies and develop a framework for negotiating their use
- To promote equal research partnerships through joint leadership and co-production of knowledge between researchers from the Global South and North

Methodology:

The primary research approach is qualitative in data collection and analysis. Methods such as field observations, semi-structure interviews, focus group meetings and key informant interviews will be used to gather the empirical information. In conjunction, critical review of literature and news updates will also be undertaken

Updates:

The project has nearly completed the first phase of fieldwork, with mapping of sites finalized and initial data collection completed in an urban resettlement colony in North-East Delhi. Despite delays due to the farmers' protest, ongoing data collection in a North-West Delhi village is progressing, alongside the completion of key informant interviews. Preparatory activities, including training of field staff and development of research tools, were conducted prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES: ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION GARDEN AND NUTRITION EDUCATION INTERVENTION IN BIHAR

Introduction

This project addresses the pressing issue of malnutrition and food insecurity in Bihar, with a focus on vulnerable populations such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Despite progress, the state continues to face high rates of undernutrition, anemia, and poor dietary diversity.

The study aims to map household food consumption patterns, assess micronutrient intake, and implement nutrition education interventions in selected districts. By combining research and community engagement, it seeks to promote dietary diversity, sustainable agricultural practices, and nutrition-sensitive cooking and awareness programs.

Aims and Objective:

- To assess household-level food security, dietary diversity, and micronutrient intake in rural Bihar.
- To document and analyze indigenous/local food systems, their nutritional value, and resilience to climate change.
- To understand knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding nutrition, hygiene, and food security.

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s: Dr. Sunil Mishra

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr. Shreeranjana, Dr. Ritambara Singh, Dr. Manju Bhagat, Mr. Nikhil Singh

Sponsor: ICSSR

- To design and implement a community-based nutrition education program, including sustainable nutrition gardens.
- To build capacity among local stakeholders (community leaders, AWWs, ASHA workers, educators, and policymakers) for long-term improvements in food and nutrition security.



Health and Nutrition

Methodology

The study employs a mixed-methods approach across three districts of Bihar—Araria (flood-prone), Gaya (drought-prone), and Rohtas (relatively developed). In total, 12 villages from six blocks have been selected, covering about 1,600 households.

Quantitative data is being collected through household surveys using tools such as the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), Food Frequency Score (FFS), and Household Food Insecurity Experience Scale (HFIES). Alongside, qualitative insights are gathered through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with women, community leaders, AWWs, ASHA workers, and panchayat representatives to understand dietary practices, cultural perceptions, and barriers to food security.

In addition, nutrition education interventions are being introduced in schools and communities to promote awareness of locally available nutritious foods, sustainable agricultural practices, and healthy cooking. This integrated design enables both rigorous assessment and direct community engagement for long-term improvements in nutrition.

Updates:

The data has been collected and processed, and the team is currently preparing the comprehensive research report. Report writing is ongoing, and findings will soon be synthesized into policy briefs, working papers, and scholarly publications.

Health and Nutrition

ASSESSING CONTINUUM OF CARE COMPLETION FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN, AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS GENERATIONS AMONG WOMEN IN TRIBAL AREAS OF JHARKHAND AND ODISHA

Introduction

This study focuses on the Continuum of Care (CoC) for maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) in rural Jharkhand and Odisha, with special attention to vulnerable tribal communities. It examines the critical first 1,000 days of care, from conception to a child's second birthday, and assesses how healthcare services are accessed and utilized across different stages and places of care, including homes, communities, and health facilities. By mapping the strengths and gaps in service delivery and utilization, the study aims to provide actionable insights into improving maternal and child health outcomes in marginalized contexts.

Aims and Objectives:

- To examine the Continuum of Care for MNCH during the first 1,000 days of life in rural Jharkhand and Odisha.
- To assess the accessibility, availability, and utilization of healthcare services across households, communities, and health facilities.
- To understand barriers to care-seeking behaviors, especially for vulnerable tribal populations.

Project Director/s: Dr. Swati Dutta
Research Team: Dr. Sunil K Mishra,
Dr. Shreeranjana, Dr. Aditi Madan
Sponsor: ICSSR
Status: Ongoing

- To explore the intergenerational experiences and perceptions of maternal and child health within families and communities.
- To generate evidence for policy and programmatic recommendations to strengthen MNCH services in tribal regions

Methodology

The study uses a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative surveys with qualitative research to provide a comprehensive understanding of MNCH care. A multi-stage stratified sampling method will be applied to select households from 24 villages across four districts in Jharkhand and Odisha, categorized by vulnerability to MNCH indicators. In total, 1,000 households (500 per state) will be surveyed, with approximately 40 households selected from each village. The household survey will collect data on key health indicators such as antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, and nutrition. Additionally, 192 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) will be conducted with healthcare providers, government officials, NGOs, community leaders, and families to assess system effectiveness and challenges.

48 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will also be held, involving women across generations, mothers, grandmothers, and young women, to capture cultural influences, health-seeking behaviors, and intergenerational perspectives on the CoC.

Updates:

Preparatory work has begun, including a systematic literature review and questionnaire design. Fieldwork will involve conducting household surveys, KIs, and FGDs across the selected districts. The findings will culminate in a comprehensive research report and a published paper, supported by stakeholder consultations to validate results and inform policy recommendations.

Health and Nutrition

SETTING UP A BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS UNIT (BIU) AND CONDUCTING BI STUDIES RELATED TO HEALTH, NUTRITION, EDUCATION, WASH, AND CHILD PROTECTION

Introduction:

Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU) approach to policy making combines insights from social psychology and other social sciences and is informed by the way individuals and communities think and make decisions, and the factors underlying such behaviours. Using this approach, the Institute for Human Development (IHD) in partnership with UNICEF, aims to contribute in evolving insights and strategies to address development challenges in Jharkhand.

A persistent set of challenges in the state, affect children, adolescent girls and young women, including child malnutrition, school dropout, high maternal and child mortality, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and gender-based violence among others in the state. These complex social issues often stem from entrenched behavioural and social norms, which need to be addressed to enable girls to realize their full potential and gain control over their futures.

Situated at IHD's Eastern Regional Centre in Ranchi, the BIU functions as a technical resource hub to support government departments, civil society, and development partners in designing smarter, more effective policies. It identifies root behavioural barriers, co-creates solutions with stakeholders, and pilots context-sensitive interventions.

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: UNICEF

Project Director/s: Dr. Bhim Reddy

Research Coordinator: Dr. Devika Modi

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, and Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Aims and Objectives:

- Serve as an expert unit to undertake BI led studies and inform policy and programmes related to rights of the children to growth, development and wellbeing.
- Promote the BIU as a Solution-Oriented Resource for Issue-Based Research and collaboration, inviting government bodies, academia, NGOs, and private-sector entities to work in coordination on diverse issues. By aligning our objectives with the priorities of different sectors, the BIU can position itself as a premier destination for issue-based research funding, making it a go-to entity for those looking to invest in actionable solutions for societal problems.
- Identify and understand key behavioural, social, cultural, and economic barriers affecting children's health and well-being. The specific requirements of the study will be prioritised in a consultative manner with UNICEF and concerned govt departments. BIU will focus on key challenges to focus on, By generating behavioural insights and practical solutions, the BIU will support policy advocacy to programme outcomes, promote equitable access to services.
- Develop context-specific solutions informed by the insights gained, employing a human-centric design approach to ensure solutions are credible, relevant, and resonate with the target communities.

- Strengthen state capacity for designing, testing, and implementing effective, context-specific, scalable, and culturally sensitive behaviour change strategies through training, resource mobilization, and capacity-building initiatives.



Updates

- Currently, BIU is working on complementary feeding practices and examining the prevalence of child marriage in Jharkhand, with a special focus on Scheduled Tribe communities. The complementary feeding study seeks to identify key behavioural drivers and barriers affecting infant and young child feeding, such as cultural practices, food availability, caregiver knowledge, and household decision-making. Through community-based assessments and participatory workshops, BIU aims to design nudges and interventions that promote timely introduction of diverse, nutritious foods to improve child health outcomes.
- In parallel, BIU is conducting research on child marriage, mapping its prevalence, social determinants, and behavioural triggers, particularly within tribal populations.
- The study explores factors such as economic pressures, gender norms, and perceptions of safety, while also engaging with adolescent girls, families, and community leaders to co-create strategies that delay marriage and strengthen girls' opportunities for education and empowerment.
- In addition, BIU has developed a framework to guide women on effectively utilizing the financial support received under the '*Maiyaa Samman Yojana*', in collaboration with the government. This framework emphasizes financial literacy, household budgeting, and prioritizing expenditures that directly enhance maternal and child well-being.
- With a focus on institutionalization, capacity building, and sustainable impact, BIU aims to make public programmes more inclusive, responsive, and impactful—helping individuals and communities thrive.

Gender and Development

GENDER IMPLICATIONS OF FUTURE OF WORK IN SOUTH ASIA: THE CHALLENGES OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND CLIMATE TRANSITION IN GARMENT MANUFACTURING IN BANGLADESH AND INDIA

Introduction:

The garment sector in South Asia, especially in Bangladesh and India, faces dual pressures from rapid technological change and the global shift toward sustainable production. Automation and AI are transforming key processes such as cutting, sewing, and finishing, leading to job displacement, particularly among women concentrated in routine roles. In Bangladesh, women's participation in the ready-made garment workforce is already declining due to automation, while in India similar disruptions are anticipated as digital technologies spread. At the same time, global market demands for Net Zero emissions are pushing manufacturers to adopt renewable energy, circular production, and sustainable materials. These transitions, while necessary, involve high costs that pose challenges for small and medium enterprises. Their gendered impacts remain underexplored but risk deepening vulnerabilities for women workers already facing limited access to skills and resources. Together, these technological and environmental shifts threaten employment security and equity in the garment industry, with women, youth, and migrant workers most at risk.

Project Director/s: /Research Team
Prof. Balwant S Mehta, Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Prof. Dev Nathan, Dr. Deeksha Tayal, Ms. Priyanka Tyagi, and Ms. Varsha S. Mathew.
Sponsor: Lirnasia
Status: Ongoing

However, they also offer an opportunity to build a more inclusive, skill-oriented, and climate-resilient sector—if policies prioritize gender-responsive training, social protection, and workplace reforms. There is an urgent need for evidence-based strategies to ensure that the future of work in this sector supports a just and equitable transition.

Aims and objectives:

- To explore how the evolving landscape of work, driven by digital technologies and climate transition imperatives, is impacting employment in the garment manufacturing sectors of Bangladesh and India.
- To examine the implications of these transitions for women, youth, and other marginalized workers, who make up a significant share of the workforce in these industries.
- To place a central focus on gender equality and inclusion, ensuring that the analysis highlights differential impacts across groups.
- To generate evidence-based insights that can inform policies and strategies for building more inclusive and resilient garment sector employment.

Methodology:

The study employs the Gender Equality and Inclusion (GEI) framework to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data through field surveys and secondary sources.

Updates:

Based on the six core research questions of the study, SANEM and IHD have jointly prepared an outline for developing working papers and policy briefs. So far, three draft working papers have been prepared. The papers were presented by Dr. Selim Raihan, Project Lead and Dr. Balwant Mehta, Project Co-Lead in the In-person Meeting held in Negombo, Sri Lanka during 20-22 August 2025.

The draft survey instruments, methodology and sampling framework have been prepared, pilot tested in the field, and revised based on feedback.



EMPOWERING TRIBAL WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DIGITAL ACCESS

Introduction:

The proposed research seeks to explore the factors that can facilitate the empowerment of tribal women through successful entrepreneurial endeavours in Odisha and Jharkhand. It emphasizes the preservation and utilization of indigenous resources, knowledge, and skills to mainstream tribal women into the development process. A particular focus is placed on understanding the role of digital technology in enhancing entrepreneurial opportunities, as well as the constraints and facilitators, such as access to resources, banking, infrastructure, and marketing, that shape tribal women's entrepreneurial journeys. The study also examines the gender dynamics within households and tribal communities, identifying both barriers and enablers to women's empowerment.

Aims and objectives:

- To identify factors that facilitate the empowerment of tribal women through entrepreneurship.
- To explore how indigenous knowledge and skills can be preserved and utilized for women's economic advancement.
- To examine the extent of access to and use of digital technologies by tribal communities in promoting and expanding entrepreneurial ventures.
- To understand the constraints and opportunities in areas such as finance, infrastructure, and markets that impact tribal women's entrepreneurship.

Project Director/s: Deeksha Tayal

Sponsor: ICSSR

Status: Ongoing

- To analyse the role of gender dynamics within households and communities in enabling or obstructing women's empowerment.
- To document best practices and success stories of tribal women entrepreneurs as motivational case studies.
- To provide policy recommendations for integrating digital knowledge and innovation with entrepreneurship promotion among tribal women.

Methodology:

This study focuses on tribal regions of two cities in Odisha and Jharkhand. It will follow a mixed method approach. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining secondary data analysis with extensive primary field research. A comprehensive desk review of research papers, policy documents, case studies, and industry reports will be undertaken, along with quantitative analysis of unit-level data from NSSO, NFHS, and the Annual Survey of Industries. Fieldwork will focus on tribal regions of Odisha and Jharkhand, where a quantitative survey will cover 960 women and men along with 24 village-level schedules. Complementing this, the qualitative component will include 58 in-depth interviews, 20 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and 20 case studies to capture lived experiences and community perspectives. To validate and enrich the findings, a multi-stakeholder dissemination workshop will also be organized, ensuring that insights feed into actionable recommendations for policy and practice.

Updates:

Preparatory work is underway, including secondary data analysis and a desk review of literature. Primary survey tools have been designed and field investigators are in the process of being trained. Next steps include conducting the field survey, followed by data analysis, documentation of success stories, and preparation of the final report.

CARVING OUT A GENDER LANDSCAPE IN BIHAR: AGRARIAN CHANGE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FARM-SECTOR

Introduction

Over the past 15 years, Bihar has experienced significant agricultural transformation, driven by the implementation of three consecutive Krishi Road Maps (KRM) since 2008. These initiatives, beginning with a focus on inclusive farming, have evolved to emphasize sustainable development with active participation of women in agriculture. The first two phases, KRM-I and II (2008-2017), successfully diversified farming practices, enhancing productivity and income for farmers. The current phase, KRM-III (2017-2023), has expanded this agenda to include organic farming through the creation of a "Jaivik Corridor" and the adoption of climate-friendly farming systems. Women play a crucial role in this agrarian economy, reflecting a broader "feminization of labor" in the state. This study explores women's participation in agriculture from a gender perspective, examining gender constructs, land ownership, and the status of female-headed households.

Aims and Objective:

- To carve out a 'gender landscape' for Bihar's countryside within the evolving agricultural environment and provide research-based recommendations for policymaking regarding women in Bihar and other migration-prone states.

Status: Ongoing

Theme: Gender and Development

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

Projects Director/s: Dr. Indubala Sinha

- Explore the sustainability aspect in development practices and assess the adoption of climate smart farming and climate-change-resistant practices. - Investigate the diverse roles of women in the farm sector and associated activities.
- Study the conceptual constructs of feminization of labour, female-headed households, and changes in gender roles within the expanded production regime.
- Examine gender inequality in land ownership patterns. Enrich the body of literature on gender studies, specifically in the context of Bihar.
- Provide a foundation for similar studies in other states with high migration rates

Methodology:

The study will employ the Social Anthropological Method, combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Data will be gathered through formal questionnaire-based surveys, interviews (both formal and informal), focused group discussions, and case studies. The study will rely on both primary data collected from fieldwork across three selected villages in north Bihar and secondary data from official sources, literature, and documents.

Development Evaluation

EVALUATION OF THE VV GIRI NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 2017-18 TO 2021-22

Status: Completed
Theme: Development Evaluation
Project Director/s: Dr. Ravi Srivastava
Research Team Dr. I. C. Awasthi

Introduction

The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, is a premier institution in India dedicated to labour research, education, and training. Serving as a national think tank, the Institute provides valuable insights and policy inputs to Ministries and departments at both the central and state levels. Over the years, VVGNI has broadened its scope by building networks and collaborations with national, state, and international organizations working on labour and related issues. A distinctive feature of the Institute is the tripartite composition of its Governing Body, ensuring active participation from government, trade unions, and employers, alongside its professional expertise.

Aims and Objectives

This evaluation aims to undertake a comprehensive quinquennial review of VVGNI's professional activities for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22. The specific objectives are to:

- Review the Institute's professional activities in detail.
- Assess infrastructure and facilities through on-site visits.
- Examine Annual Reports and other key

- documents to evaluate performance.
- Develop evaluation indicators through stakeholder consultations.
- Gather inputs from faculty, administrative officials, and key stakeholders on research and training programmes.
- Analyse feedback from recent training participants to assess programme effectiveness.

Methodology

The evaluation covered the entire faculty and administrative staff through in-depth discussions. Nearly 100 questionnaires were sent to national and international participants who attended training programmes in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, short questionnaires were administered to two representatives each from workers' organizations, employers' organizations, and eminent persons. The process also included meetings with the Director General, faculty members, officials, and other stakeholders of the Institute.

Findings:

After interacting with the ministry and senior management, a report of findings has been submitted.

EVALUATION STUDY ON QUALITY OF LAND RECORDS IN JHARKHAND AND ODISHA

Status: completed

Project Director/s:/Research Team: Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra, Mr. Subodh Kumar

Introduction

This study assesses the implementation and effectiveness of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) across Odisha and Jharkhand, examining how the programme's ambitious promise of secure tenure, reduced disputes, and enhanced transparency in land transactions has translated into practice. While both states have achieved significant gains in digitization under DILRMP's framework of computerizing Records of Rights, digitizing cadastral maps, integrating registration workflows, and enabling online access with real-time updates, persistent challenges in data accuracy, institutional capacity, and citizen accessibility continue to limit outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Aims and Objectives

- Evaluate Programme Implementation and Effectiveness
- Assess Institutional Readiness and Citizen Experience
- Analyze Data Accuracy and System Integration

Methodology

- Secondary analysis of administrative datasets and programme MIS.
- Field surveys and interviews with Tahsildars/Circle Officers, Revenue Inspectors, Amins, data entry staff, elected representatives, and landholders.
- Document checks of RoRs, mutation orders, registration deeds, and cadastral maps; emphasis on recent transactions to test real-time integration.

Findings:

Odisha demonstrates breadth and institutional experimentation (full computerization, ORSAC, court adoption), while Jharkhand shows depth in digitization coverage (RoRs, maps, SROs). Yet both face a common inflection point: turning digitization into dependable, real-time, citizen-centric land governance.

Achieving that requires disciplined integration, relentless data quality management, empowered frontline capacity, and inclusive service design, so that every transaction, mutation, and map update faithfully mirrors the ground, builds trust, unlocks credit and investment, and reduces disputes for all.

NLM MONITORING OF VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR DISTRICTS IN MANIPUR AND SIX DISTRICTS OF ASSAM, REGULAR MONITORING PHASE-I, 2024-25

The Government of India prioritizes monitoring of rural development programmes to ensure efficient delivery and proper fund utilization. Performance indicators track progress, enabling timely corrections. The Ministry of Rural Development has established independent third-party monitoring through empaneled National Level Monitors (NLMs), ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective implementation at the grassroots level. In this context the Institute for Human Development, as a NLM for department of Rural Development, Gol has given the monitoring of 10 districts of Assam and Manipur.

Aims and objectives:

The present study kept in view the following predefined objectives of visits during monitoring:

- Adherence to guidelines prescribed by the Ministry for implemented programs.
- Check genuineness and usefulness of Assets created for the community
- Check transparency in the selection of beneficiaries under the program
- Verify periodicity of meetings held by Vigilance & Monitoring Committee (V&MC)
- Know the views of the villagers on the programs and their suggestions for improvement

Sponsor: Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India
Project Director/s: Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra
Research Team: Mr. Subodh Kumar
Status: Completed

Methodology:

The National Level Monitors (NLMs) visited 10 villages in selected Blocks which were selected randomly by the Ministry in each District. A list of 20 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in 2-3 selected blocks were provided to NLMs and was asked to select any 10 villages randomly. In each block, 3-4 villages were selected for detailed field study. However, not more than one village from a GP was selected. Also, the team took the effort to choose the villages where a maximum number of rural development programs have implemented. Care was taken not to revisit the villages that were covered by the NLMs in previous visits to the district.

Findings:

The assessment of key rural development schemes highlights both achievements and challenges in their implementation.

MGNREGA: Workers generally receive employment within 15 days of demand, though awareness of unemployment allowance provisions is limited and requires targeted campaigns. While wages align with minimum wage rates, delays in fund allocation often lead to late payments, causing dissatisfaction among workers. Convergence of MGNREGA with other government schemes is weak, and recordkeeping, including muster rolls and registers, needs improvement.

Findings:

Job cards were verified and properly maintained, but cent-percent of workers reported delays in wage payments. Social audit awareness among PRI members is inadequate, requiring orientation programs. Similarly, awareness and activation of the state toll-free helpline remain poor. Despite these challenges, workers and villagers expressed satisfaction with the works undertaken, though special provisions for vulnerable groups were largely missing.

DAY-NRLM: Progress in mobilizing targeted households into SHGs has been uneven, with some groups yet to receive basic training. Awareness of banking and bookkeeping is mostly confined to office bearers, necessitating comprehensive training for all members. Strengthening of Village Organizations (VOs) is also required for effective functioning.

PMAY-G: The scheme has achieved cent-percent target sanctioning since 2016–17, with most beneficiaries satisfied with their new houses. However, issues remain such as lack of trained masons, inadequate display of beneficiary lists, and a tendency to sanction houses in male members' names. Beneficiaries typically came from vulnerable housing conditions, and none reported exclusion or corruption. Installments are credited directly to beneficiaries' accounts, and most houses are completed, occupied, and inspected during construction.

Sanitation coverage is relatively high, but LPG distribution and construction of cooking platforms are lacking, requiring further mobilization. Importantly, contractors were not engaged, and beneficiaries appreciated the support received under PMAY-G.

NSAP: Implementation has been effective, with universal coverage of eligible persons. Beneficiaries receive pensions through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, and both officials and villagers show strong awareness of the scheme. The selection and disbursement process is largely transparent, and beneficiaries reported consistent receipt of pensions without duplication with other schemes.

Overall, the schemes have made tangible progress in improving rural livelihoods and infrastructure. However, persistent challenges include delayed wage payments, lack of convergence, inadequate awareness, training gaps, and limited focus on vulnerable groups. Strengthening awareness campaigns, capacity building, timely fund flow, and better monitoring mechanisms are recommended to enhance efficiency and inclusiveness of these flagship programs.

STRENGTHENING RURAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

Introduction

Right to food is one of the major grounds in India that need special attention. It is in this context that the project 'Strengthening Rural Governance for the Right to adequate Food (SRGRF)' envisions 'administrative, political and traditional duty bearers in the project regions in the country to deliver better on the right to adequate food, guided by the principles of participation, transparency and accountability, non-discrimination, and the rule of law'. By addressing the governance issues around the right to food, the project hopes to catalyze the governance structures and the service providers to provide better service to target populations in the project districts.

Awareness & Access

- Level of awareness and access to rights and entitlements to food at the individual and household level.
- Differences observed before and after the intervention of the project.
- Commitments by Duty Bearers and Governance Structures
- Current status of commitments related to the delivery of rights to food.
- Examined across Availability, Adequacy, and Quality dimensions.
- Assessment of the difference made by the project in terms of commitments of duty bearers

Governance Structures, Ownership, and Accountability.

Sponsor/s: PHIA Foundation (Partnering Hope into Action Foundation)

Project Investigator: Dr. Ramesh Sharan
Dr. Ashwani Kumar,

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Devika Modi
and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra

Research Team: Mr. B.K.N Singh, Mr. Adarsh
Kumal and Mr. Amit Kumar

Status: Completed

- Actions taken by governance structures to uphold the right to food.
- Functioning of grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Changes after project implementation regarding grievance redressals.
- Whether the mechanism has become more accessible and easier for villagers to use.

Barriers and Enablers

- Current barriers and enablers in the implementation of the Right to Food in the project geographies.
- Policy-level measures that could help reduce barriers and strengthen implementation.

Methodology:

Based on the discussion with members of PHIA Foundation and WHH team, the data collection for the end line Survey followed the same sample size and methodology used in the baseline survey. Data was collected from the same 800 households who have studied in the baseline survey. In case of unavailability of any households, new households were used as replacement. In replacing any households, the survey ensured that the replaced household possessed the same or similar socio-economic characteristics. The socio-economic characteristics included the social category of households, income range, broad occupation, etc.

STRENGTHENING RURAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

Findings:

The study underscores the positive impact of the WHH-PHIA program in treatment villages, particularly in improving access to services, food security, and rights awareness. The program has led to increased women's participation in community governance, better livelihoods, and improved access to basic facilities. However, challenges remain in grievance redressal systems and in closing the gaps in entitlement awareness and access. Continued focus on empowering women, improving grievance mechanisms, and enhancing service delivery will be crucial for sustaining the gains achieved.

RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND LABOUR MARKET DYNAMICS: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF FOUR VILLAGES OVER FOUR AND A HALF DECADES IN JHARKHAND

Introduction

Rural economies in India are experiencing significant transformations, shaped by a variety of socio-economic, and political factors. Over the past four decades, rural Jharkhand has been impacted by shifts in agricultural practices, changes in land ownership patterns, evolving labour relations, and growing migration. These transformations have been driven by economic policies, social movements, external pressures, and government welfare programs. The study of rural transformation becomes more pertinent in the context of regions like the Palamu district in Jharkhand, marked historically by agrarian challenges and backwardness, offers a compelling site for studying these ongoing changes.

Aims and Objectives:

- To analyze the transformations and longitudinal changes in agrarian structures and practices in the selected villages over four decades, focusing on shifts in land ownership.
- To investigate labour market dynamics by exploring changes in labour relations, including employment patterns, wage structures, and the influence of migration on local economies, and how these dynamics have evolved in response to socio-economic and political factors.
- To evaluate the impact of government interventions and policies related to rural employment, agrarian reforms and welfare programs on rural livelihoods and local labour market dynamics

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s:

Research Team: Dr. Ashwini Kumar, Dr. Modi and Mr. BKN Singh under the guidance of Dr. Sudipto Mundle

Sponsor: ICSSR

- To access the dynamics of change and policy interventions have influenced rural transformation, particularly in terms of income diversification, employment trends, and poverty alleviation.

Methodology:

The study will employ a mixed-methods approach combining both qualitative and quantitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the agrarian and labour dynamics in Palamu. A multi stage stratified sampling technique will be used to cover the 40 percent of the total sample. Further, village-level schedule will be canvassed to capture local dynamics. Additionally, FGDs and KIs with various groups, including migrant workers, casual laborers, and their households, will be conducted to understand the socio-economic conditions, livelihood challenges, migration patterns, and the impact of agrarian changes on their lives in these villages.

Security and Vulnerability

LEVERAGING NTFP MARKET LINKAGES TO REDUCE AGRARIAN DISTRESS AMONG FOREST DWELLERS IN JHARKHAND

The program addresses the lack of community-based institutions of forest dwellers that can intervene in markets for non-timber forest products (NTFP). Through the Forest Rights act (FRA) and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA), forest communities have been awarded substantial rights in managing and using forest resources, including extraction of nontimber forest products (NTFP). However, the incomes that forest dwellers secure through these economic activities are very meagre because of the strong cartels of traders-cum-moneylenders. Schemes of the Government of Jharkhand, such as the Van Dhan Yojana to provide grants to communities, are not well known and poorly implemented.

Aims and objectives:

- The Project aims to increase the income of NTFP producers/collectors from the sale of NTFP.
- In addition, while women are the main producers of NTFP, the limited returns from NTFP restrict women's empowerment.
- It also seeks to enhance women's empowerment and extend it across household, community and market levels.

Methodology:

Building community-based institutions, such as cooperatives, producer companies, federations of self-help groups (SHGs) or collective marketing by Gram Sabhas will strengthen forest dwellers position in the market.

Project Director/s: Dr. Dev Nathan
Research Team: Dr. Shreeranjana, Professor
Ramesh Sharan, Dr. Devika Modi, Dr.
Ashwani Kumar, Dr. Sunil Mishra,
Ms. Priyanka Tyagi and Mr. B.K.N. Singh

After having tried out marketing by groups of SHGs, the project has taken up collective marketing by Gram Sabhas. It is expected that Gram Sabha-based marketing will give the producers sufficient volume of sales to be able to have a bigger impact on prices realized. In the last season (June 2024), it was seen that such Gram Sabha-based collective marketing of sal seeds led to an increase of prices not only for the Gram Sabhas concerned but also in area market, as traders increased prices to compete with the Gram Sabhas.

Updates:

Starting from SHGs, the project moved up to mobilizing Gram Sabhas to take up the aggregation, processing and marketing of NTFP. For this purpose, the Gram Sabhas need to have storage and processing facilities and working capital. In Simdega farmer producer organisations (FPOs) have been organized in three blocks. They are in the process of raising working capital and securing processing space from the district administration.

In Ranchi district the project has approached the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for similar support and is setting up FPOs. These organizational and financial steps will ensure the sustainability and even upgrading of the interventions after project closure. As the project has ended, it has been decided to form an NTFP Forum with organizations involved in supporting NTFP producers. Currently, IHD is also creating audio-visual documentation of the project. This will be used for large scale dissemination once completed.

THE PROJECT IN IMAGES:



Security and Vulnerability

A SURVEY ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Introduction

The Social Insecurity Project is a three-year research initiative that examines how social and economic insecurity shapes people's lives across the U.S., Denmark, and India. Moving beyond income, the project conceptualizes social insecurity as the risk of losing income or care due to both unexpected crises (such as unemployment, illness, or disasters) and expected life events (such as childbirth or old age). By collecting original data, the project seeks to understand how insecurity is defined and experienced across gender, race, and class; develop a bottom-up measure of social insecurity; and conduct cross-national comparisons of its causes and impacts. Ultimately, the study aims to inform policy by creating a global index of social insecurity and identifying strategies to mitigate its rising effects worldwide.

Aims and Objectives:

- To examine how different genders, races, and social classes define, experience, and value (or devalue) social insecurity in the U.S., Denmark, and India.
- To develop a bottom-up measure of social insecurity that goes beyond income-based indicators.
- To conduct cross-national comparisons of the causes, patterns, and impacts of social insecurity.
- To analyse existing innovations and interventions designed to alleviate social insecurity.

Status: Ongoing

Project Directors/Researchers: Balwant Singh Mehta, Mr. Subodh Kumar, Mr. B.K.N Singh

Sponsor: Johns Hopkins

- To create a global index of social insecurity that can score countries on the extent of insecurity experienced by their populations
- To provide evidence-based insights for policymakers aimed at addressing and mitigating the rising crisis of social insecurity.

Methodology:

The Social Insecurity Project will collect original data on how different publics define and experience social insecurity. This data showed the diverse ways in which social insecurity impacts people's lives. It also informed the bottom-up definition and measure of social insecurity as a distinct phenomenon.

The study was conducted in two cities of India, Delhi and Patna to collect qualitative information from 1000 respondents from different strata on their experiences on social insecurity. This data expose the diverse ways in which social insecurity impacts people's lives. It will also inform the first bottom-up definition and measure of social insecurity as a distinct phenomenon. These countries represent varied social protection histories and populations that are internally stratified along multiple social axes.

CASTE IN URBAN INDIA: MANIFESTATION AND INEQUALITIES

Urban centres in India have historically been overlooked in caste studies, with much of the focus concentrated on rural villages by anthropologists and sociologists. This relative neglect stems from a belief in the transformative power of modernity, where the introduction of technology and liberal values was expected to erode traditional structures like caste, leading to a shift towards class-based identities.

However, the Indian experience has defied such straightforward narratives of social transformation. While modern economic forces and values have indeed influenced caste dynamics, they have not eradicated caste consciousness. Instead, caste has evolved, manifesting differently across various urban contexts, be it in cities, provincial towns, or metropolitan areas. This research seeks to unravel the contemporary meanings and expressions of caste in urban settings, focusing on how caste identities are maintained and reproduced in areas such as urban politics, social networks, job markets, and matrimonial practices. The study also delves into the experiences and perceptions of caste-based discrimination, highlighting how these inequalities persist and adapt in the ever-changing urban landscape.

Aims and objectives:

- The broad objective of this study is to explore and map contemporary meanings and manifestations of caste, and caste inequalities in urban locations.
- To investigate the forms of caste-stimulated inequalities in urban contexts and examine the relationship between caste and class, including how class may reproduce caste inequalities in cities.

Status: Ongoing

Project Director/s: Research Team, Dr. Bhim Reddy, Mr. Vikas Dubey

Sponsors: ICSSR

- To assess whether lower caste groups experience social discrimination in urban areas, identify the forms and sites of discrimination, and explore how these groups navigate socio-cultural constraints.
- To examine the persistence and flexibility of caste endogamy in urban contexts and analyze emerging matrimonial practices in relation to caste.

Methodology:

This study is based on qualitative and quantitative research methods using both primary and secondary data sources. Primary field research constitutes the major component of the study. The field sites for this study comprise of heterogeneous residential settlements such as planned/authorised localities, unauthorised/informal colonies and slums, and urban villages in the cities of Patna and Delhi. A survey of 750 households in Delhi and 750 households in Patna was conducted along with qualitative interviews and group discussions as part of this study.

Updates: The final report is being finalised

EFFECT OF PARENTING STYLE ON PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING OF ADOLESCENTS IN DELHI NCR

The study seeks to explore the impact of parenting styles on the psychological wellbeing of adolescents in Indian urban households. Although extensive research has been conducted in the West, there is a pressing need to examine how Indian parenting practices—shaped by the unique socio-cultural realities of India—affect adolescent outcomes. This study aims to fill this gap, offering insights into the interplay between traditional values and modern influences, particularly in the context of globalization and urbanization.

Aims and Objective:

This study aims to fill this gap, offering insights into the interplay between traditional values and modern influences, particularly in the context of globalization and urbanization. The objectives of the study are as follows. -

- Ascertain the nature and types of parenting styles practiced with adolescents (10-19 years) in Indian urban households. - Identify the parenting styles perceived by adolescents (10-19 years) in Indian urban households. - Explore the meaning of psychological well-being (cognitive, affective, behavioral) as understood by adolescents (10-19 years) in Indian urban households. -
- Identify differences in parenting styles experienced by adolescent boys and girls.
- Explore factors affecting the parenting styles employed by parents on adolescents (10-19 years) in Indian urban households.

Status: Completed

Researcher/s: Priyanka Srivastava

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

- Study the impact of parenting styles on the psychological well-being of adolescents (10-19 years) to identify gender differences
- Develop a framework for understanding psychological well-being in terms of determinants, influences, and indicators for adolescents (10-19 years). - Define parameters for psychological well-being, focusing on control, emotional balance, confidence, physical health, and connection to nature.

Methodology:

A sequential mixed method design would be used in the study. Stage I was qualitative in nature and included focus groups to ascertain the meaning drawn by parents and adolescents about parenting and psychological wellbeing. The categories emerging from Stage I of the study led to Stage II of the study, which would be quantitative in nature. Stage II stage shall explore the impact of parenting styles on psychological wellbeing of adolescents (10-19 years of age) in urban Indian household (An Urbanised areas is a continuously built-up area with a population of 50,000 or more. It comprises one or more places—central place(s) - and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area—urban fringe—consisting of other places and nonplace territory). A structured questionnaire was developed to measure the said phenomenon from Indian urban organized settings.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

ECOSOCIALITY OF THE GANGA RIVERSCAPES: A STUDY OF THE RIVERINE SUBCULTURES, FOLK TRADITIONS AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES IN THE GANGA BASIN

This study undertakes intertwined approaches of history and sociology to explore the interconnected 'ecosocial' nature of the Ganga riverscape. This study engages with 'Itihasa' (in epic narrative Ramayana) and the Puranas (Vishnu Purana and Skanda Purana) providing valuable insights into the ecosociality of the Ganga riverscape through the rich storytelling, cultural narratives, and moral teachings, analyzing references to the Ganga River, its tributaries, and associated landscapes.

Aims and objectives:

- Examine everyday life and knowledge: Explore daily life, physical and mental worlds, socio-economic aspects, and traditional knowledge (from epics and Puranas) of riverine communities.
- Collect oral histories and study practices: Gather oral histories and analyze social norms, folk traditions, and changing community and architectural practices shaped by the river.
- Analyze cultural beliefs and production: Investigate the evolution of religious and cultural beliefs associated with the river.
- Study socio-economic and ecological shifts: Trace historical interactions—livelihoods, gender, education, technology, resource use, urbanization—and their impacts on ecology, floods, livelihoods, and the river economy along the Ganga.

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: ICSSR

Project Director/s: Dr Anuradha Sen Mookerjee

Research Team: Dr. Rakesh Tiwari, Arjun Dubey, Mr.. BKN Singh, and Dr. Shambhavi Bhushan.

- Document cultural and economic practices: Record history and oral traditions of rituals, festivals, livelihoods, gender roles, technology, governance, disasters, and environmental change linked to the Ganga.
- Map folk practices and livelihoods: Map festivals, rituals, folk forms, and daily practices of riverine communities across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal.
- Analyze cultural codes and community networks: Investigate the origins and roles of folk songs, institutions, and local networks in shaping environmental governance and culture.
- Assess livelihood changes and adaptation: Examine changes in fishing, agriculture, and migration in response to urbanization, disasters, and shifting river relations.
- Study community perspectives and material life: Analyze how communities articulate and describe their river-based way of life, and the material objects shaping it over time.

Methodology:

The study employed a qualitative methodology based on purposive sampling across five locations of the Ganga riverscape, Kanpur, Buxar, Sonapur, Sahibganj, and Sagar Island. One-third of all respondents were women, ensuring gender balance in representation.

ECOSOCIALITY OF THE GANGA RIVERSCAPES: A STUDY OF THE RIVERINE SUBCULTURES, FOLK TRADITIONS AND COMMUNITY PRACTICES IN THE GANGA BASIN

UPDATES:

1000

Actors selected through purposive sampling for a qualitative survey

5 locations

Kanpur, Buxar, Sonapur, Sahibganj, and Sagar Island

30

Personal histories collected from Kanpur

15

Life histories collected from different locations (other than Kanpur)

The study employed a comprehensive multi-method approach across the five locations. In-depth interviews were conducted with 100 actors in Kanpur and 50 each from the remaining four locations (Buxar, Sonapur, Sahibganj, and Sagar Island), totaling 300 detailed interviews. Additionally, 15 life histories were collected from each of the four smaller locations beyond the 30 already mentioned. Ten Focus Group Discussions were held at each location to capture collective perspectives. The geographical scope was carefully defined, with a minimum of five ghats selected within a 20-kilometer stretch (10 km on either side of the river Ganga) around each central city district. For Sagar Island, the study area was adapted to encompass a ten-kilometer radius around the Kapil Muni ashram. Throughout the research design, gender representation was prioritized by ensuring one-third of participants were women, maintaining demographic balance across all data collection methods.



Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA EVIDENCE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Status: Ongoing

Sponsor: Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC)

Project Director: Prof Balwant Singh Mehta

Introduction

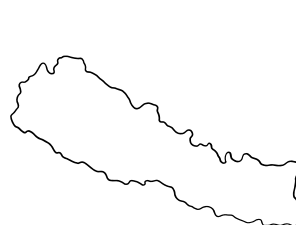
This study intends to estimate the effects of climate distress on mountain communities and women through assessing expected earnings decline in mountainous regions of India and Nepal in South Asia and Tien Shan and Pamir Mountain ranges in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan in Central Asia. This study aims to ascertain the factors contributing for vulnerability differences in mountain communities and gender dimension attributed to climate variations.

Aims and objectives:

- The objective of the study is to estimate the effect of climate distress on mountain communities and women through assessing expected earnings decline in mountainous regions of the Himalayas in India and Nepal of South Asia, and Tien Shan and Pamir Mountain ranges in Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan in Central Asia.
- Ascertain the factors contributing for vulnerability differences in mountain communities and gender dimension attributed to climate variations.
- Analyse how women are unfavourably impacted due to climate change induced events, what is the level and intensity of these impacts and what are actors effecting gender-based climate change vulnerabilities in mountainous regions of South Asia and Central Asia.

- Offer policy implications for integrating gender dimensions into climate change readiness and mitigation strategies including suitable climate adaptation strategies for mountainous regions

Areas Under Study



Nepal



Himalays in India



Tien Shan and Pamir Mountain ranges in Kyrgyz Republic



Uzbekistan

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Methodology:

This research project has been progressing according to the scheduled tasks and deliverables. In South Asia, the study has been confined to Leh District, India and Sindhupalchowk District, Nepal, wherein primary household data collection has been completed.

Updates:

- A total of 300 households have been surveyed, 150 households in each country, covering six villages (two villages from each of the three subdivisions in both districts of India and Nepal. Six Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) have been conducted, one FGD in each of the villages in each district.

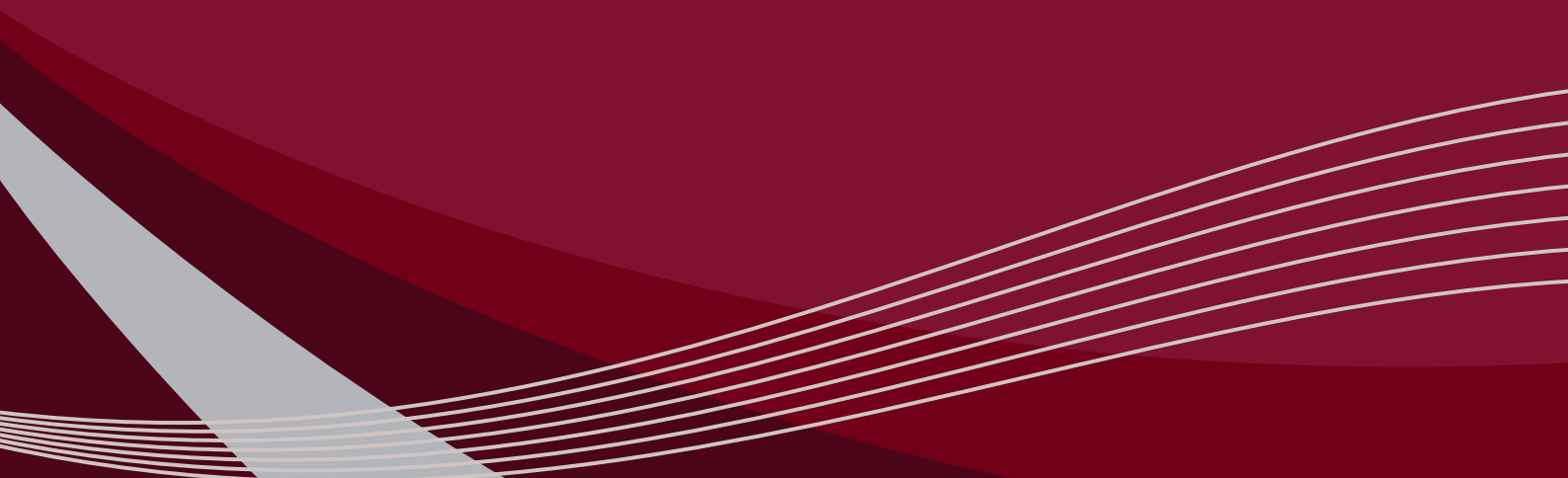
Updates:

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):
12 total (1 in each selected village)

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
6 per district
With: sector-specific climate impacts
(e.g., agriculture, water, health, gender, education, and local governance).

The qualitative data has been compiled and documented. The results of the FGD and KII findings have been documented, interpreted, and assessed to derive community and public stakeholders' perceptions and central ideas

Academic Activities



Academic Activities: Faculty

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPH

- Acharya, S. (2025). Integrating SDGs in Development Planning – Experiences from Countries. Academic Press.
- Mehta, B. S. (2024). Technology and the Future of Work: Reshaping the Workplace. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Mehta, B. S. (2025). (Co-author). Predicting Inequality of Opportunity and Poverty in India Using Machine Learning. Springer, Singapore.
- Mehta, B. S. (2025). (Co-author & Editor). Mapping the Path: Progress and Promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation, India.
- Nathan, D. (2024, April 11). Knowledge and Global Inequality Since 1800: Interrogating the Present as History. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/978100945518>
- Reddy, B. (2025). (Co-editor). Development, Inclusion and Sustainability: Issues and Perspectives. Springer.
- Srivastava, R. (2025). (Co-author & Editor). Predicting Inequality of Opportunity and Poverty in India Using Machine Learning. Springer, Singapore.
- Tayal, D., & Mishra, S. K. (2025, February 15). On the road to equality: Gender, transport and economic empowerment in India (Development Paper Vol. 25-02). ESCAP SSWA. <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12870/7928>
- Faras, F., Mehta, B. S., & Datta, A. (2025). Platform-based gig work in India's labour statistics. The Indian Journal of Labour Economics. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-025-00566-0>
- Ghose, A. K., & Mehta, B. S. (2024). New technologies, employment and inequality in the Indian economy. Economic & Political Weekly, 59(50). <https://ojs.epw.in/index.php/epw/article/view/42356>
- Madan, A., & Dubey, A. (2024). WASH in the wake of pandemic: A case study of district-level outcomes in Delhi. IASSI Quarterly, 43(3), 673–695.
- Madan, A., & Dubey, A. (2025). Bridging the gaps in menstrual hygiene management in India: A district-level analysis using NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 data. IASSI Quarterly, 44(1).
- Mehta, B. S. (2025). Inequality of opportunity in income in developing countries. In The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-68127-2_600-1
- Measuring the gig economy: Challenge and issues (2024). ASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science, 44(3).
- Nathan, D., et al., "Technological Change and Educational Composition of the Workforce, 1995–2015," Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 2024.
- Sen Mookerjee, A. (2024). Circular labour migration and women in the Indian Sundarbans. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003521228-11>
- Sen Mookerjee, A. (2024). Political economy of migration in the India–Bangladesh borderlands: Identity, labour and affect in the former Chhit Mahals in Cooch Behar. The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 67(1), 109–128. Springer; The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE).
- Sharma, A. N., & Mehta, B. S. (2024). India's growth and employment patterns: A four-decade perspective (1983–2024). Economic & Political Weekly, 59(50). <https://ojs.epw.in/index.php/epw/article/view/4249>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Acharya, S. (2024). Sustainable development – Challenges and vulnerabilities. IASSI Journal. (Keynote paper, 2023; published in 2024).
- Akhtar, M. A., & Hussain, M. A. (2024). Addressing the challenges of death registration in India: A path forward. Economic & Political Weekly. <https://surl.li/otoyei>
- Akhtar, M. A., Roy Chowdhury, I., Gogoi, P., & Reddy, S. (2024). Socioeconomic-related inequities in child immunization: Horizontal and vertical dimensions for policy insights. Health Economic Review. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13561-024-00566-8>

Academic Activities: Faculty

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- Acharya, S., & Dutta, S. (2025). Poverty and deprivation. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Acharya, S. (2024). Integrating SDGs in development planning—Experiences from countries. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), Development and sustainability. Berlin: Springer Nature.
- Acharya, S., & Mishra, S. K. (2025). Universalising quality education. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Acharya, S., Mishra, S. K., & Dutta, S. (2025). People coping with water and sanitation problems: How disasters impact SDG achievement. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Akhtar, M. A., & Nadeem, A. (2024). Health for all: Assessing the status and needed reforms. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Assessing the sectoral progress in the SDGs: Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Endow, T., & Dhote, S. (2024). Vocational education and training for youth in India. In A. Mitra (Ed.), Youth in Indian labour market (India Studies in Business and Economics). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-0379-1_14
- Endow, T., & Mishra, S. K. (2024). Potential of the manufacturing sector to absorb rural labour: A case study of two towns in Bihar. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), Development, inclusion and sustainability: Issues and perspectives. Springer.
- Mishra, S. K. (2017). Unit 11: Poverty, inequality and inclusive growth: Some policy implications [PDF]. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/37979/1/Unit-11.pdf>

- Reddy, B., & Bandan, M. (2025). Urban inequality and infrastructural violence: Socio-spatial dimensions in Delhi and Patna. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), Development, inclusion and sustainability: Issues and perspectives. Springer.

WORKING PAPERS

- Acharya, S., & Dutta, S. (2025). Poverty and deprivation. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Acharya, S. (2024). Integrating SDGs in development planning—Experiences from countries. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), Development and sustainability. Berlin: Springer Nature.
- Acharya, S., & Mishra, S. K. (2025). Universalising quality education. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Acharya, S., Mishra, S. K., & Dutta, S. (2025). People coping with water and sanitation problems: How disasters impact SDG achievement. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Mapping the path: Progress and promise on the SDGs – Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Akhtar, M. A., & Nadeem, A. (2024). Health for all: Assessing the status and needed reforms. In S. Acharya & B. S. Mehta (Eds.), Assessing the sectoral progress in the SDGs: Analysis for India. Academic Foundation.
- Dutta, R., Kelkar, G., & Nathan, D., Measuring Patriarchy in India, IHD Working Paper, 2024.
- Nathan, D., & Kelkar, G., A Theory of Knowledge and Inequality, IHD Working Paper, 2024.

Academic Activities: Faculty

WORKING PAPERS

- Endow, T., & Dhote, S. (2024). Vocational education and training for youth in India. In A. Mitra (Ed.), *Youth in Indian labour market* (India Studies in Business and Economics). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-0379-1_14
- Endow, T., & Mishra, S. K. (2024). Potential of the manufacturing sector to absorb rural labour: A case study of two towns in Bihar. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), *Development, inclusion and sustainability: Issues and perspectives*. Springer.
- Mishra, S. K. (2017). Unit 11: Poverty, inequality and inclusive growth: Some policy implications [PDF]. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/37979/1/Unit-11.pdf>
- Reddy, B., & Bandan, M. (2025). Urban inequality and infrastructural violence: Socio-spatial dimensions in Delhi and Patna. In A. Alakshendra, A. Datta, & B. Reddy (Eds.), *Development, inclusion and sustainability: Issues and perspectives*. Springer.

OP-EDS AND MEDIA ARTICLES

- Datta, A., Rajan, S. I., & Datta, A. (2024, November 20). A snapshot of distress migration in Odisha. *The Hindu*.
- Madan, A., & Dubey, A. (2024, May 2). The gendered impact of heatwaves and water crisis in India. Observer Research Foundation (ORF). <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-gendered-impact-of-heatwaves-and-water-crisis-in-india>

OP-EDS AND MEDIA ARTICLES

- Madan, A., & Dubey, A. (2024, July 16). Heatwave vulnerability: The plight of gig workers in India. Observer Research Foundation (ORF). <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/heatwave-vulnerability-the-plight-of-gig-workers-in-india>
- Manna, G. C. (2024, April 9). A new methodology with some issues. *The Hindu*.
- Manna, G. C., & Mukhopadhyay, D. (2024, August 7). Counting the 'poor' having nutritional deficiency. *The Hindu*.
- Mehta, B. S. (2024, April 5). Dilemma of the unemployed youth. *The Pioneer*. <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2024/columnists/dilemma-of-the-unemployed-youth.htm>
- Mehta, B. S. (2024, May 1). Jobs crisis: Regional approach needed. *The Hindu BusinessLine*. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/jobs-crisis-regional-approach-needed/article68129408.ece>
- Mehta, B. S. (2024, December 30). Jobs conundrum in a red-hot economy. *Moneycontrol*. <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/job-s-conundrum-in-a-red-hot-economy-12899750.html>
- Nathan, D., "Knowledge and Global Inequality," *Global South*, Geneva, 2024.
- Mehta, B. S. (2025, January 29). Budget 2025 needs to bridge inequality, boost consumption. *The Hindu BusinessLine*. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/budget-2025-needs-to-bridge-inequality-boost-consumption/article69151880.ece>
- Nathan, D., "Knowledge and Global Inequality," *UNU-WIDER*, 2024.

Academic Activities: Faculty

LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

- Manna, G. C., Keynote Speaker, Workshop on An Overview of Indian Statistical System, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, 21–27 October 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Keynote Speaker, National Seminar on Revisiting the Role of the 21st Century Indian Women, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, 27–28 March 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Keynote Speaker, National Workshop on Intensive Writers' Clinic, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, 30 March 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Keynote Speaker, International Conference on Skilling for International Migration:
- Nathan, D., Keynote Presentation on Asia in the Changing World Economy, Peking University, 2024.
- Nathan, D., Sukhamoy Chakravarty Memorial Lecture, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), 2024.
- Nathan, D., Lecture on Knowledge Policy for Development, Flame University, 2024.
- Nathan, D., Lectures on Knowledge Policy for Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, 2024.
- Srivastava, R., Pathways to Sustainable Development and Economic Resilience, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, in collaboration with International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), sponsored by ICSSR Northern Regional Centre, New Delhi, 19–20 December 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Key Speaker, National Consultation on NASS Interventions for Social Security Entitlements, National Alliance for Social Security, New Delhi, 17–18 December 2024
- Srivastava, Ravi, Key Speaker, Workshop of Work in Dignity Fellows, Ajeevika Bureau and Work Free and Fair, hosted at ISEC, Bangalore, 3 March 2025.

RESOURCE PERSONS AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Endow, Tanuka, Panelist, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Shaping the Future of Business, 65th Annual ISLE Conference, Bengaluru, 9–11 January 2025.
- Endow, Tanuka, Discussant, Technical Session 3.5 Service Sector Employment: Structure, Trends and Implications, 65th Annual ISLE Conference, Bengaluru, 9–11 January 2025.
- Manna, G. C., Discussant, Technical Session on Service Sector Employment: Structure, Trends and Implications, 65th Annual ISLE Conference, Bengaluru, 9–11 January 2025.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Discussant, Second National Conference on India's Industrial Transformation: Towards a Competitive, Inclusive, and Sustainable Manufacturing Sector, Technical Session 9.1 MSMEs and New Technology, ISID, New Delhi, 21–23 November 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Panelist, Panel on Migration among Scheduled Tribes in India, IASSI Conference, Institute for Human Development, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Panelist, Panel on Education and Skills for Future in Jharkhand in the Context of Changing Employment and Labour Market, IASSI Conference, Institute for Human Development, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Discussant, Technical Session 2.3 Entrepreneurship and Development, IASSI Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Mishra, Sunil Kumar, Panelist, Panel on Migration among Scheduled Tribes in India, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Shreeranjana, Chair, Technical Session 1.9, 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, Bengaluru, 9–11 January 2025.

Academic Activities: Faculty

RESOURCE PERSONS AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Shreeranjana, Closing Remarks, Thematic Panel 8 Gender, Social Protection, and Child Wellbeing in a Changing World, International Conference Global Conclave 2024: Advancing Human Development in the Global South, IIC, New Delhi, 11–13 January 2024.
- Shreeranjana, Chair, Plenary Session 3 Strengthening Social Protection with a Focus on Children in Jharkhand, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2025.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Panelist, Launch of India Gender Report, Feminist Policy Collective, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 7 November 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Invited Participant, Round Table on The Politics of Labour Policy in XXI Century India: A Gramscian Perspective, University of Turin, 28–29 November 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Panelist, Expert Consultation on Proposed Migration Study in India, UNFPA, Online, 19 April 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Discussant, FY 23–24 Year-End Macroeconomic Review: Labour and Employment Issues, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Round Table Discussion, Urban Employment Guarantee Schemes in India: Exploring Lessons from Kerala for a National Agenda, Government Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Discussant, IIPPE Agrarian Change Working Group: First Online Conference, 11–12 June 2025.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Discussant, Three-Day International Conference: Reflections on the Past, Looking to the Future—A Conference to Celebrate Fifty Years of Towards Equality, Centre for Women's Development Studies in collaboration with India International Centre, New Delhi, 3–5 March 2025.

- Srivastava, Ravi, Panelist, Roundtable on Safe, Orderly & Regular Migration of Indian Women Workers to ECR Countries, IOM, New Delhi, 23 April 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Panelist, SDG Voluntary National Reviews: Migrants and Urban Poor, IOM, UNODC & UN-Habitat, 14 February 2025.
- Dutta, Swati, Panelist, Understanding Food Systems and Food Governance from the Lens of Marginalized Groups, Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for Building Resilient Food Systems through Governance: Practices and Learnings, World Food Programme, 2024.

PAPER PRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC EVENT

- Azharuddin, Md, Informed Choices Under Risk: Preferences and Valuation for Cancer Prevention Versus Treatment Options, 2nd Meeting of Young Minds in Frontiers of Economics: Challenges and Emerging Perspectives, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, 2024.
- Azharuddin, Md, Preference between Prevention Versus Treatment of Cancer, Annual Conference on Economics and Public Policy, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana, 2024.
- Azharuddin, Md, Preference between Prevention and Treatment of Cancer, Global Conclave on Sustainable Development Goals: Progress, Challenges and Way Forward, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 2024.
- Dutta, Swati, Child Poverty and Intrahousehold Inequality, 20th HDCA Conference, Kolkata, 2024.

Academic Activities: Faculty

PAPER PRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC EVENT

- Dutta, Swati, Multidimensional Poverty among Children in India: Progress and Challenges towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (Panel Discussion), 20th HDCA Conference, Kolkata, 2024
- Endow, Tanuka (with Balwant S. Mehta), Exploring Informal VET Pathways in Technology-Oriented Repair Services, 65th Annual ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, 10 January 2025.
- Endow, Tanuka, Gender Responsive and Transformative Potential of Girl Child Cash Transfer Scheme in Jharkhand (part of an eight-state study), 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Endow, Tanuka (with Balwant S. Mehta), Education and Skills for Future in Jharkhand in the Context of Changing Employment and Labour Market, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Measurement Issues in Estimating Female WPR and in Valuing Their Unpaid Domestic and Caregiving Services, National Seminar on Women and Employment in India: Issues and Challenges, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, 28–30 August 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh (with A. N. Sharma), Women's Employment in India, Pre-conference event, ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, 8 January 2025.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh (with Tanuka Endow), Exploring Informal VET Pathways in Technology-Oriented Repair Services, ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, 10 January 2025.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh (with Fahin Faras V and Amrita Datta), Platform-based Gig Work in India's Labour Statistics, ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, 10 January 2025.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Predicting Multi-dimensional Poverty in India Using a Machine Learning (ML) Approach, Dialogues for Development Management, Indian School of Development Management, New Delhi, 21 November 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh (with A. N. Sharma), Background Paper on Women and Employment in India, National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, September 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Enhancing Work Participation for Women in Urban India: Insights from a Large Survey in Delhi, National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, September 2024
- Mishra, Sunil Kumar (with Balwant Singh Mehta), Migration among Scheduled Tribe: A Sample Study of Jharkhand, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 25–27 October 2024.
- Modi, Devika, New Dimension of NTFP Marketing and Women Empowerment: A Case Study of Simdega and Ranchi District of Jharkhand, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, 2024.
- Nathan, D., "Monopsony and Gender Inequality in the Garment Industry," Paper presented at Arunachal Pradesh University, 2024
- Nathan, D., "India's Competitiveness," Paper presented at the Ajit Ghose Memorial Seminar, 2024.
- Reddy, Bhim, Internal Migration and Translocal Livelihoods in India, EARCAG Conference, Fukuoka, February 2025.
- Reddy, Bhim, Labour Regimes of Informal Contract Farming and Sharecropping: Insights from Telangana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, 65th ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, January 2025.
- Reddy, Bhim, Labour Migration and Rural Economy: Insights from Rajasthan and Odisha, 65th ISLE Conference, ISEC, Bengaluru, January 2025.
- Reddy, Bhim, Circular Migration of STs in Rajasthan: Livelihood and Labour, 23rd IASSI Annual Conference, BIT Mesra, Ranchi, October 2024.

Academic Activities: Faculty

PAPER PRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC EVENT

- Shreeranjana, Addressing Nutritional Security Among Tribals in Jharkhand: Some Insights from the Field, Technical Session 9 Equity and Inclusion, International Conference Global Conclave 2024: Advancing Human Development in the Global South, IIC, New Delhi, 11–13 January 2024.
- Srivastava, Ravi, NEET and Gendered Labour Market Exclusion among Youth, National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, Centre for Development Studies & Rajiv Gandhi University in collaboration with Institute for Human Development, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, 3–5 September 2024.

TEACHING AND TRAINING

- Dutta, Swati, Conducted session on Non-experimental Study Design, Training Workshop on Impact Evaluation of Development Programmes, jointly organised by IHD and Campbell South Asia, 2024.
- Madan, Aditi, Multimedia and Content Development Course, Press Club of India, New Delhi, 11–18 September 2023.
- Madan, Aditi, E-training on Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools and ChatGPT, Be10X, Online, May 2023.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Key Resource Person, Training on Labour Market Information System for programme and research officers, Department of Employment and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Thimphu, Bhutan, 2024.
- Mishra, Sunil Kumar, Participant, Validation Workshop on GAIN's Food Systems Policy Coherence Diagnostics Tool, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, IIC, New Delhi, 10 February 2025.
- Sen Mookerjee, Anuradha, Talk on Policy Approaches to Addressing Trafficking in Persons in Asia, Online International Seminar, MAHE, Bengaluru, 22 November 2024.
- Sen Mookerjee, Anuradha, Talk on Writing Research Projects in Social Sciences for Funding Agencies, Christ Church College, Kanpur, 12 April 2025.

MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES

- Manna, G. C., Chairman, Editorial Advisory Board of Sarvekshana, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Chairman, Expert Committee on Integrated Sample Survey, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Chairman, Subcommittee on Methodological Improvement for the Base Revision of National Accounts Statistics, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Member, Reconstituted Expert Group on Fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Member, Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Member, Subcommittee on Regional Accounts for the Base Revision of National Accounts Statistics, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Member, Task Force on Strengthening Textile Statistical System in the Textile Sector, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, 2024.
- Manna, G. C., Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, to finalize survey instruments for Household Income & Expenditure Survey and Employment/Labour Force Survey, 2024.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, PhD Examiner and Academic Resource Person, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Indian Institute of Technology (Hyderabad), and IGNOU, 2024–25.

Academic Activities: Faculty

MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES

- Mehta, Balwant Singh, Editorial Team Member, BMJ Public Health; Urban Studies; Applied Economics; Cogent Business & Management; Journal of Human Development and Capabilities; Mobile Media & Communication, 2024–25.
- Shreeranjana, Chairperson, IHD Project Monitoring Committee, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, 2024–25.
- Srivastava, Ravi, Member, Task Force on Review of Financing of Higher Education in Karnataka, State Education Policy Commission, Government of Karnataka, 2024.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPH

- Datta, Amrita (2025), Co-author, Development, Inclusion and Sustainability, Springer Nature.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), Co-editor, Wellbeing, Values and Lifestyles: Towards New Development Paradigm, Springer.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Datta, Amrita, Faras, Fahin, & Mehta, Balwant Singh (2025), "Platform-based Gig Work in India's Labour Statistics," *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Springer / Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), vol. 68(1), pp. 323–337, March.
- Devi, T., Sengupta, R., Rooj, D., & Gopathi, M. (2025), "Investing in Education: The Impact of Scholarships on School," *International Journal of Educational Development*, 103309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iedudev.2025.103309>. Ranking: SJR Q1.
- Faras, Fahin, Mehta, Balwant Singh, & Datta, Amrita (2025), "Platform-based Gig Work in India's Labour Statistics," *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Springer / ISLE, vol. 68(1), pp. 323–337, March.
- Goldar, B., & Aggarwal, S. C. (2024, November 16), "Women-owned Non-agricultural Enterprises Can Translate Recent Employment Surges into Faster Growth" [Commentary], *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 59, issue no. 46.
- Das, K., & Shrivastav, P. K. (2024). The Rise of the Nondescript: The Self-employed in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 59(42), 26–28.
- Iyer, S. S., Banik, D., & Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), "Multilateralism and Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE): Contours and Challenges," in Chaturvedi, S., Prabhu, K. S., & Saha, S. (eds.), *Wellbeing, Values and Lifestyles*, Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-4730-6_11.
- Jagannathan, I. P., & Datta, A. (2025, June 28 & July 5), "How Care Shapes Work: Homeworkers in the Leather Value Chain, Tamil Nadu," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Review of Gender Studies, 60(26–27). <https://doi.org/10.71279/epw.v60i26-27.44873>.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), "Towards an Equitable and Sustainable World in the 21st Century: Pathways and Policies," *IASSI Quarterly*, 44(1), Jan–Mar, pp. 5–32.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta, Iyer, Sandhya S., & Conceicao, Pedro (2025), "Perspectives on Ethical Values for Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)-Mediated Economy," in Chaturvedi, S., Prabhu, K. Seeta, & Saha, S. (eds.), *Wellbeing, Values and Lifestyles*, Springer, pp. 29–37.
- Rooj, D., & Sengupta, R. (2025), "E-wallets and Stock Market Participation – A Joint Copula Regression Analysis," *Review of Economics and Finance*, Ranking: SJR Q2.
- Sengupta, R., & Rooj, D. (2025), "Road Connectivity and Contraceptive Choices: Empirical Evidence from Rural India," *International Journal of Population Studies*, 2025.100690. Ranking: SJR Q1.
- Sengupta, R., & Rooj, D. (2025), "Retirement Savings and Elderly Living Arrangements: Evidence from India," *Indian Journal of Economics and Development*, 09737309251327991. Ranking: SJR Q2.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2025), "Innovations, Structural Transformation and Employment across Space and Time," *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, vol. 68. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-025-00562-4>.
- Singh, Lakhwinder, Singh, Nirvikar, & Singh, Prakarsh (2025), "Economic Development of the Indian State of Punjab: Prospects and Policies," *India Policy Forum*, National Council of Applied Economic Research, vol. 21(1), pp. 200–259.
- Singh, Lakhwinder, & Degu, Zemed (2025), "Dynamics of Innovation and Income Inequality Mediated by Human Capital and Financial Development: A Panel Data Study of Asia-Pacific Countries," *Innovation and Development*, Taylor & Francis, vol. 15(2), pp. 387–416, May.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- Mehta, A. K. (2024), "Key Diseases (Infectious)" (co-authored), in R. Dewan (ed.), India Gender Report, Feminist Policy Collective (FPC), New Delhi.
- Das, K. (2024). Down the Low-Road: Precarious Labour in a Stone Crushing Cluster, Odisha, India. In K. Sarap (Ed.), Labour Markets in Rural India: Dynamics and Emerging Issues (pp. 275–293). South Asia Press, New Delhi.
- Das, K. (2024). Indian MSMEs in Policy: Misses and Messes. In S. Roy (Ed.), India's Economy 2024: Disparities in Fractured Democracy (pp. 137–149). Aakar Books, Delhi.

WORKING PAPERS

- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2025), Impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Education on Labour Productivity in Female-headed Informal Sector Manufacturing Enterprises in India, 10.13140/RG.2.2.26454.56644.
- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2024), Boosting Manufacturing Employment, 10.13140/RG.2.2.13381.87528.
- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2024), Did Employment in India's Informal Manufacturing Decline Between 2015-16 and 2022-23?, 10.13140/RG.2.2.22748.60809.
- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2024), Explaining the Recent Significant Hikes in Rural Female Employment in India: Role of Aspirations of Rural People for Better Living Standards, 10.13140/RG.2.2.34214.13125/1.
- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2024), Growth in Aggregate and Manufacturing Employment in India, 2017-18 to 2023-24: Trends and Some Underlying Factors, 10.13140/RG.2.2.28545.67685/1.
- Goldar, Bishwanath & Aggarwal, Suresh (2024), Indian Manufacturing Creates Many Jobs in Recent Years, Huge Hike in 2023, 10.13140/RG.2.2.28385.72803.

OP-EDS AND MEDIA ARTICLES

- Aggarwal, Suresh & Goldar, Bishwanath (2025), Indian Women Own 55% Manufacturing Units. What They Need Are Smartphones & Training, The Print, 22 January 2025.
- Aggarwal, Suresh & Goldar, Bishwanath (2025), Feminisation of India's Industrial Workforce, Ideas for India, 22 January 2025, doi: [feminisation%20of%20India's%20industrial%20workforce.mhtml](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28545.67685/1).
- Aggarwal, Suresh & Goldar, Bishwanath (2024), Post-Covid Informal Manufacturing Growth: How States Fared, The Wire, 13 November 2024
- Datta, Amrita & Rajan, S. I. (2024), A Snapshot of Distress Migration in Odisha, The Hindu, 20 November 2024, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-snapshot-of-distress-migration-in-odisha/article68885703.ece>.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Ahmed, Nesar, Sinha, Dipa, Mitra, Sona & Dasgupta, Jashodhara (2025), Women Short-changed Once Again: A Gender Lens on the Union Budget 2025-2026, Times of India, 9 February 2025, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/women-short-changed-once-again-a-gender-lens-on-the-union-budget-2025-2026/>
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2025), How Punjab Can Contain Its Debt Burden, The Tribune, 31 March 2025.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2025), Budget Strives to Meet Challenges Facing Economy, The Tribune, 8 February 2025, Chandigarh.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), The Idea of Viksit Bharat Is Facing Huge Challenges, The Tribune, 7 December 2024.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), To Prosper Again, Punjab Must Reinvent Its Institutions, The Tribune, 8 November 2024.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), Invest in Research & Development to Revitalise Punjab's Economy, The Tribune, 9 July 2024.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

OP-EDS AND MEDIA ARTICLES

- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), Five Constraints on Revival of Punjab's Economy, The Tribune, 19 June 2024.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), Revive Punjab's Economy for Development, Peace, Hindustan Times, 19 June 2024, Chandigarh

LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

- Das, K. (2025). Plenary Session Lecture, "Innovation, Inclusion and Informality: Handloom Clusters in Assam and Madhya Pradesh", National Conference on 'Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge and Practices Amongst Handloom Clusters in India', Department of Applied and Analytical Economics, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, March 21–22
- Das, K. (2025). Dr. Gopal Bordoloi Memorial Lecture, "MSMEs & Clusters in India: Concerns & Policy Responsiveness", 25th Annual Conference of North Eastern Economic Association, Department of Economics, Assam University, Silchar, March 10–11.
- Das, K. (2025). Special Lecture, "Industrialization in Odisha: Concerns and Possibilities", National Seminar on 'Development Challenges and Opportunities in Odisha', P.G. Department of Economics, Sambalpur University, Burla, February 11–12. Also chaired Special Session on 'Partnership of Academics and the Corporates for Unleashing the Prosperity of Odisha'.
- Das, K. (2024). Lecture, "MSME Clusters in India: Conceptual and Policy Issues", Capacity Building Programme on 'Industrial Development and Policies for Realising Viksit Bharat@2047', Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, September 7.
- Das, K. (2024). Session, "Social Science Research: Issues in Quality and Grant Opportunities", Faculty Development Programme on 'Teaching, Learning & Research @ HEIs: Integrating SDGs, NEP 2020 & Viksit Bharat 2047 Framework', KiiT Academic Empowerment Program (K-AEP), School of Economics & Commerce, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, June 26.
- Das, K. (2024). Invited Lecture, "MSMEs and Industrial Clusters in India: Issues in Policy and Research", Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, May 31.
- Das, K. (2024). Presentation on policy inputs to promote MSMEs in India, Session on 'Manufacturing Sector', NITI Aayog, New Delhi, April 25.
- Das, K. (2025). Talk, "MSMEs & Clusters in India: Issues for Policy", Department of Economics, Christ University, Bengaluru, January 13.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

- Das, K. (2024). Keynote Address, “Skill Mismatch and Vocational Training in India: A Critical Overview” (with S. Kuriakose & P. K. Shrivastav), International Conference on ‘The Elephant in the Room: Generating Jobs and Imparting Skills for the Future: In the Context of India’s Labour Market’, Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Goa Institute of Management, June 13–14.
- Datta, Amrita (2024), Keynote Address at International Conference on Skilling for International Migration, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 19–20 December 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2025), Lecture on Gender Budgeting for CSOs, organised virtually by PRADAN, 17 January 2025.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Training Session on Women’s SNA Work and Care Work and Integrating Gender into Government Programmes, Transforming Rural India (TRI) Foundation, IIT Kanpur, Noida Campus, 26 September 2024.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), Lecture on Lifestyle for Environment: Why? What? How?, Seminar on G20 and Future Perspectives, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, 7 January 2025.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), Guest Lecture on Contextualizing Human Development for the 21st Century, MA Students, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, 20 January 2025.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), Guest Lecture on Human Development in the 21st Century: Sustainability and its Implications, MA Students, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, 27 January 2025.
- Prabhu, K. Seeta (2025), Invited Keynote Lecture on NEP 2020 and Social Science Research Priorities, SNDT University, Mumbai, 12 March 2025.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

- Singh, Lakhwinder (2025), Economic Transformation of the Indian Economy: Challenges and Future Pathways, Dr. B. S. Minhas Memorial Lecture, A. S. College, Khanna, Punjab, 12 March 2025.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), Global Challenges to the Circular Economy, International Conference on Sustainable Development and Circular Economy, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, 23–24 December 2024.
- Singh, Lakhwinder (2024), Punjab Economy: Grand Challenges and Opportunities, Moving Mountains Monthly Invited Talk Series, Plaksha University, Mohali, 10 May 2024

RESOURCE PERSONS AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Das, K. (2025). Invited Panelist, Roundtable on 'Equitable Research Partnership', Indo-German Forum: Research, Innovation and Transfer, organized by DAAD-DWIH, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, March 20.
- Das, K. (2025). Chief Guest, delivered Valedictory Address on "Transforming the Rural Craft Sector: Policy and Innovation Challenges" and presented paper on "Promoting Women Entrepreneurship in Tribal India: Concerns and Policy Options" (co-authored), National Seminar on 'Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development in India: Issues, Challenges and Possibilities', Department of Economics, Khallikote Unitary University, Berhampur, February 16–17. Also addressed the Inaugural Session as Guest of Honour.

- Das, K. (2025). Panelist, presented on "Smart City Initiatives in India: Some Issues and Concerns", Panel Discussion on 'Issues in Urban Governance', 57th Annual Conference of the Odisha Economic Association, Department of Economics, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, February 8. Also chaired Technical Session on 'Reduced Inequality, Regional Group Inequality'.
- Das, K. (2024). Co-Convenor, Panel on 'Urban Policy and Governance – Who Plans? Knowledge Paradigms in Urban Planning and Policy Processes', 5th India Public Policy Network Conference on 'Policy Processes in the Global South', Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay, Mumbai, December 6–8.
- Das, K. (2024). Chief Guest, spoke on professionalism in jobs at Pre-Placement Orientation Programme for Cost Accountants, Institute of Cost Accountants of India (Bhubaneswar Chapter), Bhubaneswar, September 9.
- Das, K. (2024). Subject Expert, Selection Committee for Faculty Engagement, Department of Economics, Sambalpur University, Burla, May 2.
- Das, K. (2024). Judge, evaluated student presentations on 'Circular Economy', Foundation Day, Development and Environment Futures Trust (DEFT), Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar, April 11.
- Das, K. (2025). "Self-employed Tribal Women and Policy in India: Entrepreneurs or Petty Earners?" ISEC, Bengaluru, January 9–11.
- "Casual Down, Self-employed Up: To Pat or Spat?" 65th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) & Government of Karnataka, ISEC, Bengaluru, January 9–11.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

RESOURCE PERSONS AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Datta, Amrita (2024), Panellist, Urbanisation x Publics Panel Discussion | Migration in Development and Urban Policy, organised by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, 24 July 2024.
- Datta, Amrita (2025), Session Chair, Vulnerable Bodies in Literature and Culture, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad, 28 February – 1 March 2025.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Panellist on Aesthetics of Rhetorics (Media) and Numbers (Statistics), LSR Annual Academic Meet Polpourri'24, 23 April 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Chaired Session on Women and the Economy, National Consultation on Beijing +30: Revisiting and Re-Envisioning Beijing, organised by National Alliance of Women (NAWO), AIWC, New Delhi, 22 October 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Presented overview of Gender Budgeting Processes and Gender Budget Statement in India, 5th Annual Pre-Budget Consultation, Feminist Policy Collective, Women in Indian Economy: Wins, Woes and Ways Forward, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 7 November 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Panellist on Retention of Women in the Workforce, Public Affairs Forum of India, SAFE Council Meeting, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 17 December 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Panellist, National Consultation on the Rights of Older Persons, organised by NHRC-NITI Aayog, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, 18 October 2024;
- also participant in NHRC Follow-up Seminar on Ageing in India, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 18 December 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Moderator, Panel Discussion on Building Gender Responsive Community Institutions, National Conclave on Gender Mainstreaming in DAY-NRLM, organised by Ministry of Rural Development and IWWAGE, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, 20 September 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2025), Speaker on Marginalised Sections under the Union Budget 2025-26, Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2025-26, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, 20 February 2025.

PAPER PRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Aggarwal, Suresh; Krishna, K.L.; Goldar, Bishwanath; Erumban, Abdul A.; & Das, Pilu C. (2025), ICT and Productivity in India's Informal Sector Economy: An Analysis Using Enterprise Data, 8th World KLEMS Conference, Tokyo, Japan, 27–28 March 2025.
- Aggarwal, Suresh (2025), Empowering Women to Address Inequality among Older People: Challenges for the Silver Economy, Special Conference on Population Ageing: Implications for Economic Measurement and Performance, organised by IARIW-Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan, 24–25 March 2025.
- Aggarwal, Suresh (2025), Dynamics of Labour Productivity in India's Unincorporated Services Sector: A Regional Perspective, 65th ISLE Conference, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, 9–11 January 2025.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

PAPER PRESENTATION AT ACADEMIC EVENTS

- Aggarwal, Suresh & Goldar, Bishwanath (2024), Female Workforce Participation in India: How to Step It Up and Increase Employment in Non-agricultural Activities, National Seminar on Women and Employment, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, 3–5 September 2024.
- Das, K. (2024). “MSMEs in India: A Policy Critique”, Prof. K.N. Raj Centennial Celebrations Conference, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, October 20–22.
- Das, K. (2024). “Tribal Women as Entrepreneurs: Issues in Policy, Empowerment and Jobs” (with S. Jain), International Conference on ‘The Elephant in the Room: Generating Jobs and Imparting Skills for the Future: In the Context of India’s Labour Market’, Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Goa Institute of Management, Goa, June 13–14.
- Das, K. (2024). “Diffusion of Environmental Innovation in a Polluting Cluster: Informality as a Policy Challenge”, National Seminar on ‘Environment and Human Development: Emerging Concerns’, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Redcross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, June 7.
- Datta, Amrita; Faras, Fahin; & Mehta, Balwant Singh (2025), Platform-based Gig Work in India’s Labour Statistics, 65th ISLE Conference, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, 8–10 January 2025.
- Datta, Amrita & Reddy, Bhim (2025), Labour Mobility and the Rural Non-farm Economy in India: Revisiting the Literature and Insights from Empirical Studies in Odisha and Rajasthan, 65th ISLE Conference, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, 8–10 January 2025
- Datta, Amrita (2024), Migration and Development? Translocal Householding, Social Reproduction and Agrarian Change in Odisha, India, British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) Conference, King’s College London, 9–11 September 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Rectifying the Invisibility of Women’s Work: Evidence from a Few Villages and Slums, Technical Session 1 on Measuring Women’s Work, RGU-IHD National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, 3 September 2024.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur (2024), Chair, Panel on Women in the Emerging Labour Markets and Perspectives for Policy and Research Agenda, RGU-IHD National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, 5 September 2024; also delivered summary of discussions and key takeaways.

MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES

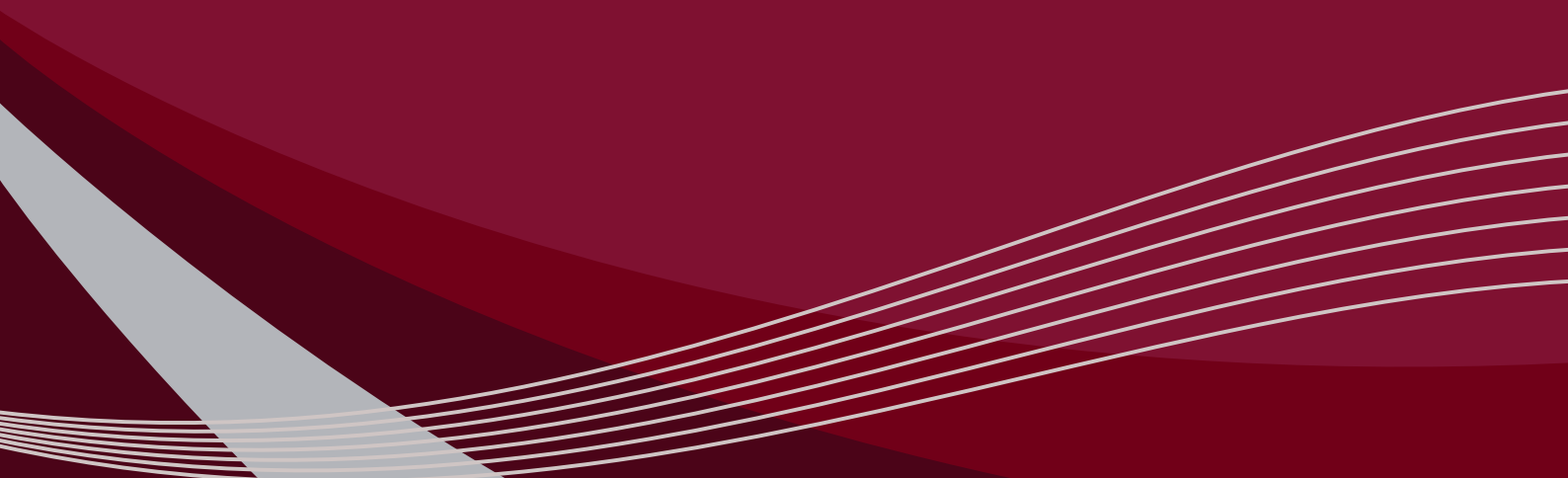
- Das, K. Editor-in-Chief, Odisha Economic Journal.
- Das, K. Co-Editor, Special Issue, Review of Urban Affairs, Economic and Political Weekly, 2025.
- Das, K. External Expert, Research Programmes Committee, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru.
- Das, K. Member, Scientific Committee, Innovation and Development, Routledge.

Academic Activities: Visiting Faculty

MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES

- Datta, Amrita, Member, Advisory Committee for Population Projections for India (2011–2111), Population Foundation of India, New Delhi, 2024–25.
- Datta, Amrita, Member, Expert Review Committee, VAIBHAV Research Programme (Social Sciences and Management), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, 2024–25.
- Datta, Amrita, Member, Advisory Board, Rubal Foundation, Pune, 2024–25.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Member, Editorial Board, Indian Journal of Human Development, 2024–25.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Founder Member, Feminist Policy Collective (FPC), 2024–25.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Member, FPC Working Group on Institutionalizing Gender Responsive Budgeting, 2024–25.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Member, FPC Working Group on SDGs, 2024–25.
- Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Member, FPC Working Group on Social Protection and Digitisation, 2024–25.
- Mehta, Balwant Singh, PhD Examiner and Academic Resource Person, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Indian Institute of Technology (Hyderabad), and IGNOU, 2024–25.

Events



Events

3-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA ORGANIZED BY: BY CENTRE FOR GENDER STUDIES, IHD, AND DEPT. OF ECONOMICS, RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY AUGUST 2024

The National Seminar on Women and Employment in India was held at Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, from September 3–5, 2024, jointly organised by the Centre for Development Studies, Department of Economics, and the Centre for Gender Studies, IHD. The seminar addressed India's persistently low female labour force participation rate (FLFPR), high unemployment among educated women, and the quality of women's employment, with a focus on the informal sector and gender wage gaps.

Discussions explored factors influencing women's work, including social norms, access to education, job opportunities, migration, and unpaid domestic labour, alongside emerging challenges and opportunities linked to digitalisation, the gig economy, and Global Value Chains.



The seminar also examined the role of government programs such as MGNREGA, Ujjwala, financial inclusion schemes, SHGs, MUDRA, and extended maternity leave in shaping women's employment outcomes.

Over three days, the seminar featured eight technical sessions, a panel discussion, and two young scholars' sessions, with more than 40 research papers presented, offering evidence and policy insights for strengthening women's participation and improving the quality of employment in India.

Events

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON IHD AND MOBILE CRECHES STUDY TITLED, “NEED, DEMAND AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILDCARE MODELS FOR UNDER-3 CHILDREN IN KERALA AND ODISHA”



The Institute for Human Development (IHD) in collaboration with Mobile Creches recently concluded a study titled, “Need, Demand and Effectiveness of Childcare Models for Under-3 children in Kerala and Odisha”. This study specifically focused on examining the demand, status and conditions of creche provision for U-3 children in two states in India, with a focus on public-funded creches. It has attempted to understand the unique needs and demands of childcare in the context of U-3 children and examined models for such care and their impact in Odisha and Kerala through a detailed look at the situation in two districts in each of the two states. Both gender concerns and ECD concerns have formed the basis for the questions addressed.

A National consultation on 26th September 2024 was organised by IHD and Mobile Creche to disseminate the findings and discuss the insights and implications of the study. The Report of the study was also released during the consultation. The Report launch was followed by a Panel discussion on "Criticality of care for U-3 children" which was moderated by Dr. A.K. Shivakumar.

The Panelists included Dr. Suman Chakrabarti, Associate Research Fellow, IFPRI, Ms. Shagun Sabarwal, Regional Director, Asia, Co-Impact, Ms. Shuhela Khan, Country Program Manager, UN Women, Dr. Sunil Kumar Yadav, Director, NULM, MoHUA, Dr. Shreeranjana, IAS (Retd.), Joint Director, IHD.

IHD- CAMPBELL SOUTH ASIA WORKSHOP ON IMPACT EVALUATION



The Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, in collaboration with Campbell South Asia, organised a three-day training workshop on Impact Evaluation of Development Programmes: Understanding Theory and Practice from 22–24 October 2024 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

The workshop aimed to equip researchers, development practitioners, and government functionaries with essential methodologies and practical skills to meet the growing demand for rigorous evaluation of development programmes and interventions. Themes included an introduction to impact evaluation, natural experiments, randomized controlled trials (RCTs), survey and sample design, propensity score matching, mixed methods, and stakeholder engagement. Sessions combined lectures with hands-on exercises, group work, and interactive discussions led by eminent faculty such as Howard White, Harini Kannan, G.C. Manna, Balwant Mehta, and Swati Dutta. The training provided participants with conceptual clarity as well as applied tools to design and implement robust impact evaluations, strengthening the evidence base for development policy and practice.

Events

23RD IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 23rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) was held from 25–27 October 2024 at the Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, Ranchi. The Conference was jointly organised by the Department of Management and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BIT Mesra, in collaboration with the Institute for Human Development – Eastern Regional Centre (IHD-ERC), Ranchi. The Conference was presided over by Dr. K. Seeta Prabhu, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and Former Head of the Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP.

The Conference focused on three interrelated themes:

- Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Technological Transformation and Inclusive Development
- Governance, Institutions, and Public Policy

The event brought together over 250 delegates, including distinguished academics, policymakers, researchers, scholars, and representatives from industry.

Around 150 papers were presented, contributing to rich deliberations across plenary sessions, technical sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, and memorial lectures. In addition to the inaugural and valedictory sessions, the programme featured five plenary sessions, five parallel panel discussions, and the Tarlok Singh Memorial Lecture, making it a comprehensive platform for debate and knowledge exchange.

The deliberations offered valuable insights on climate resilience, inclusive growth, governance, and institutional reforms, all of which hold significance for India's social and economic development. The Conference provided an important opportunity for dialogue among academics, practitioners, and policymakers to shape forward-looking strategies for sustainable and inclusive development.





Events

PLENARY SESSIONS BY IHD @ 23RD IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLENARY : STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS WITH A FOCUS ON CHILDREN IN JHARKHAND



This plenary explored the urgent need to strengthen social protection systems in Jharkhand, with particular attention to children's rights and well-being. Speakers highlighted challenges such as gaps in implementation, inadequate monitoring, limited outreach, and barriers in targeting vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and tribal communities.

Opening remarks by Kaninika Mitra (UNICEF, Jharkhand) set the context by outlining UNICEF's initiatives in the state. Panel discussions, chaired by Shreeranjana (IAS, Rtd.), featured insights from Hyun Hee Ban (UNICEF, India) on global and national best practices; Sameera S (Government of Jharkhand) on the outreach of child protection schemes; Alka Malhotra (UNICEF) on the role

of social and behavioural change in demand generation; Tanuka Endow (IHD) on the gender transformative potential of cash transfer schemes; and Jean Drèze (Ranchi University) on critical gaps and the way forward.

The session underscored the importance of actionable policies, inter-sectoral coordination, and greater community engagement to make social protection more inclusive and effective. A strong consensus emerged on the need to build systems that not only provide safety nets but also create enabling environments for children's holistic development.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS @ 23RD IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THEMATIC PANEL : MIGRATION AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA

The session focused on the complex dynamics of migration among Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India, shaped by displacement, livelihood insecurities, and aspirations for better opportunities. Despite constitutional safeguards and protective legislations such as PESA and the Forest Rights Act, tribal communities continue to face multiple vulnerabilities due to extractive development, environmental pressures, and erosion of traditional livelihoods.

Chaired by Prof. Sucheta Sen Chaudhury, the panel featured a theme presentation by Prof. Virginius Xaxa and contributions from Bhim Reddy, Amrita Datta, Balwant Singh Mehta, Sunil Kumar Mishra, and Harcharan Behera. Deliberations examined the dual nature of migration – as both distress-driven and opportunity-led – and its socio-economic and cultural consequences for tribal households and communities.

Events

The discussion emphasized the need for inclusive and context-sensitive policies that safeguard livelihoods, strengthen access to resources, and ensure that migration becomes a pathway for empowerment rather than vulnerability.

THEMATIC PANEL : ROLE OF RIVERSCAPES IN SUPPORTING RIVER SUSTAINABILITY – EMERGING RESEARCH AND POLICY ISSUES



This panel highlighted the critical role of riverscapes in sustaining river ecosystems amidst growing anthropogenic pressures and climate change. Discussions emphasized the need to shift from viewing rivers as mere water channels to recognizing them as dynamic socio-ecological systems that require holistic, landscape-scale management.

Chaired by Dr. Debolina Kundu (NIUA), with introductory remarks by Dr. Anuradha Sen Mookerjee (IHD) and a keynote address by Prof. Rajiv Sinha (IIT Kanpur), the session brought together scholars and practitioners to deliberate on hydrological, ecological, socio-economic, and governance perspectives of river sustainability. Panelists included

N. Ashok Babu (NRCD, Ministry of Jal Shakti), Jenia Mukherjee (IIT Kharagpur), Bejoy Thomas (IISER Pune), and Rakesh Tiwary (A. N. Sinha Institute, Patna).

The discussions underscored key challenges such as river space encroachment, flood risks, sediment dynamics, degradation of environmental commons, and the need to capture hydrosocial narratives. Speakers collectively called for integrated river basin management, community participation, and ecosystem-based approaches to rejuvenate river systems and enhance resilience. The session concluded with a consensus on the importance of interdisciplinary research and policy innovations for sustainable river management.

THEMATIC PANEL : EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE IN JHARKHAND IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKET



This session examined the evolving education and skills landscape in Jharkhand against the backdrop of a rapidly changing economy and labour market. Chaired by Rahul Purwar, Principal Secretary of Higher Education, Government of Jharkhand, the discussion emphasized the urgent need to realign educational priorities and skill development strategies with emerging employment demands.

Events

The theme presentation by Prof. Tanuka Endow and Prof. Balwant Singh Mehta (IHD) set the stage by highlighting the structural gaps in the state's education system and the need for forward-looking interventions. Distinguished panelists — Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan (NUEPA, New Delhi), Prof. Prabhat Barnwal (Michigan State University, USA)⁴, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi) — brought diverse perspectives on higher education reforms, skill adaptability, and global best practices.

The deliberations underscored that building a future-ready workforce requires expanding access to quality education, strengthening vocational and technical training, and fostering strong linkages between academia, industry, and policy. The session concluded with a consensus on advancing a holistic approach that prepares Jharkhand's youth to thrive in an increasingly dynamic labour market.

THEMATIC PANEL : ENHANCING INCOME AND STATUS OF TRIBAL WOMEN THROUGH IMPROVED MARKETING OF NTFP (FINDINGS FROM AN ACTION RESEARCH BY IHD)



This panel examined how improved marketing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) can enhance the income and status of tribal women, drawing on findings from action research conducted by IHD. Chaired by Kripa Nand Jha, IAS (Secretary, Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand), and co-chaired by Ajay Nath Jha, IAS (Tribal Welfare Commissioner and Managing Director, Jharkhand State Tribe Cooperative Development Corporation), the session highlighted both the challenges and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods through NTFPs.

Presentations by Prof. Dev Nathan (IHD), Poonam Toppo, and Sanjay Basu Malik (Project Consultants, IHD) set the context by analyzing existing livelihood patterns and barriers in accessing fair markets. Panelists including H.S. Gupta (Former Chief Principal Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand) and Prof. Virginus Xaxa (Visiting Professor, IHD) emphasized the potential of institutional support, collective action, and capacity-building in empowering tribal women and ensuring better returns from forest-based produce.

The discussion underscored that strengthening producer-market linkages, promoting women's agency in economic activities, and embedding sustainability principles in NTFP management are critical pathways to improving livelihoods and advancing tribal women's socio-economic status.

Events

PANEL DISCUSSION: ENHANCING INCOME AND STATUS OF TRIBAL WOMEN THROUGH IMPROVED MARKETING OF NTFP

This panel discussed the outcomes of a livelihoods project implemented by IHD in the districts of Ranchi and Simdega, Jharkhand, focusing on the production and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFP). While tribal households depend significantly on NTFPs, their incomes remain constrained by exploitative middlemen, weak market linkages, and lack of institutional support.

The session, chaired by Kripa Nand Jha (IAS), with Ajay Nath Jha (IAS) as Co-Chair, featured presentations by Dev Nathan, Poonam Toppo, and Sanjay Basu Malik, and inputs from distinguished panelists including H.S. Gupta, Johnson

Topno, and Virginius Xaxa. The discussion underlined how better marketing, capacity-building of women producers, and community-led initiatives could enhance both the incomes and social status of tribal women.

Key recommendations included promoting women's role in decision-making, strengthening producer-market linkages, and embedding sustainable NTFP management within local governance frameworks. The deliberations emphasized that empowering women through inclusive market participation can act as a catalyst for sustainable tribal development.

Events

65TH ANNUAL ISLE CONFERENCE



The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) organised its 65th Annual Conference at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, from 9–11 January 2025. The Conference was hosted by ISEC in collaboration with the Labour Department, Government of Karnataka. It was presided over by Professor Lakhwinder Singh, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, and Former Professor of Economics, Punjab University, Patiala. Prof. S. Madheswaran (ISEC) and Dr. G. Manjunath (Government of Karnataka) served as Organising Secretaries, supported by a team of Joint Organising Secretaries from ISEC.

The Conference witnessed the participation of more than 800 delegates, including distinguished academics, policymakers, industry representatives, researchers, and young scholars. Over 300 papers were presented, making it one of the most vibrant and comprehensive platforms for discussion on labour and employment issues. The deliberations were structured around three major themes:

- Landscape of Self-Employment: structures, status, and work quality
- Dynamics of Changing Industrial Relations and Employment Patterns
- Service Sector Employment: structure, trends, and implications

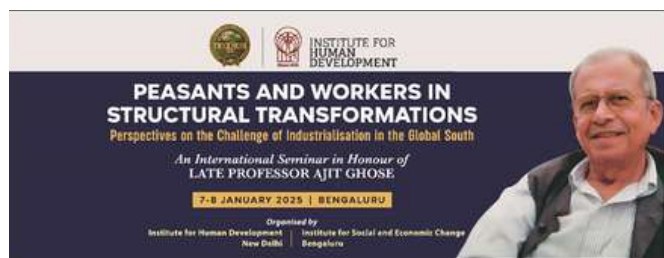


Across three days, the event featured a rich mix of plenary sessions, technical sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, and memorial lectures. As part of the pre-conference activities (7–8 January 2025), the Ajit Ghose Memorial Lecture was also organised.

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The Conference served as a significant platform for knowledge sharing and debate on crucial issues in labour economics. The wide-ranging discussions generated insights on self-employment, industrial relations, service sector transformations, and gendered perspectives on employment. The Society expressed its appreciation to the host institution, sponsors, delegates, and participants for their contributions in making the event a success. ISLE believes that the knowledge shared during the Conference will be instrumental in bridging gaps and informing policy and practice in the field of labour and employment.

PRE CONFERENCE EVENT @ 65TH ISLE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



As part of the pre-conference events of the 65th ISLE Conference, IHD in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, organised an international seminar on 7-8 January 2025 in honour of Late Professor Ajit Ghose. The seminar, directed by Dr. Ashwani Saith (Emeritus Dean, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University) and Dr. Alakh N. Sharma (Director, IHD), examined the trajectories of structural transformation in the Global South.

Over two days, distinguished experts from across the globe presented on the changing

roles of peasants and workers in the context of globalisation, assessing past experiences, current challenges, and possible futures of industrialisation. The seminar paid tribute to the life and scholarship of Prof. Ghose, whose pioneering contributions to labour and development studies continue to shape the field.



PLENARY SESSIONS @ 65TH ISLE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLENARY PANEL: THE EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGE IN INDIA

This plenary addressed the pressing challenge of employment in India, focusing on both the magnitude and nature of the issue, as well as strategies and policy responses for generating productive and quality jobs. The discussion highlighted the mismatch between labour supply and demand, the changing composition

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of the workforce, and the urgent need for structural reforms to create inclusive employment opportunities.



The session was chaired by Ajit Ranade (Economist; Former Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group; Former Vice-Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune). Panelists included Rama Bijapurkar (Independent Management Consultant), Siva Ramakrishnan Ganpati (Managing Director & CEO, Gokaldas Exports Ltd), Rana Hasan (Regional Lead Economist, South Asia, Asian Development Bank), Radhicka Kapoor (Senior Employment Specialist, ILO, New Delhi), and Prof. Ravi Srivastava (Director, Centre for Employment Studies, IHD).

Deliberations underscored the urgency of adopting multi-pronged strategies — from stimulating labour-intensive manufacturing and services to enhancing workforce skills and ensuring decent work standards. The panel concluded that sustainable employment generation must remain central to India's development agenda in order to secure inclusive growth.

PARALLEL PANEL @ 65TH ISLE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PARALLEL PANEL: SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA: GAPS IN QUALITY AND INCLUSIVITY



Organised jointly by the Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE) and the Institute for Human Development (IHD), this panel explored the sharp rise in India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR), which has grown from 23% in 2017–18 to 41.7% in 2023–24, with a marked surge after 2021–22. The discussions highlighted that much of this increase is linked to women's engagement in self-employment, particularly among older women and those in rural areas.

The deliberations emphasised the dual challenge of expanding women's participation while addressing gaps in the quality, inclusivity, and sustainability of self-employment. Key policy recommendations included strengthening skill development initiatives, expanding financial inclusion, and providing targeted institutional support to enhance women's entrepreneurship and economic security. The panel underlined the importance of enabling policies to ensure that women's self-employment translates into decent and sustainable livelihoods.

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PARALLEL PANEL: DYNAMICS OF EMERGING LABOUR MARKETS AND CHANGING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH ASIA

Organised by the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Bangladesh, and the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, this panel examined the evolving industrial landscape in South Asia, shaped by globalization, technological change, and shifting labour dynamics. Discussions centred on the growth of gig work, automation, and digital platforms, and their implications for employment structures in manufacturing, IT, and services sectors. Regional perspectives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were shared, highlighting both common opportunities and shared vulnerabilities.

Panelists stressed the urgent need to address challenges of job security, weakened labour rights, and the adaptation of trade unions to new realities. The session concluded that robust regulatory frameworks, stronger worker protections, and collaboration among governments, employers, and labour organisations are essential to ensure that labour market transformations contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development in the region.

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SPECIAL LECTURE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURES OF WORK



The Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, in collaboration with Jaipuria School of Business, organised a lecture on “Artificial Intelligence and the Futures of Work” on 22 January 2025. The lecture was delivered by Professor Greg J. Bamber, Professor, Department of Management, and Co-Director, International Consortium for Research in Employment and Work, Monash Business School, Monash University, Australia.

Professor Bamber discussed the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with the adoption of AI in workplaces, its implications for workers, managers, and labour markets, and the broader impact on institutions and societies. Drawing from experiences in Australia and other developed economies, he highlighted promising practices and theoretical frameworks useful for analyzing the future of work in the age of AI.

NATIONAL SEMINAR TITLED “CULTIVATING CHANGE: ENHANCING RURAL FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND NUTRITION AWARENESS IN INDIA”



The Institute for Human Development (IHD) in collaboration with the India Council of Social Science research (ICSSR) organised a National Seminar titled “Cultivating Change: Enhancing Rural Food Security through Sustainable Practices and Nutrition Awareness in India” on 12 February 2025 at New Delhi to create a dialogue, innovation, and collaborative platform on this important issue. The seminar brought together policymakers, researchers, practitioners and development organizations to share experiences, discuss best practices, and develop actionable strategies for addressing these interconnected challenges. 20+ papers were presented during the consultation.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

Organised jointly by the Centre for Development Studies at Rajiv Gandhi University and the Centre for Gender Studies at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), this seminar brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to examine the critical issues surrounding women's employment in India. The discussions highlighted persistent challenges such as low female labour force participation, gender wage gaps, and barriers to women's access to quality work opportunities, with a special focus on the employment scenario in the North-Eastern region.

The seminar also announced a forthcoming edited volume, *Women and Work in India: Challenges, Opportunities and Perspectives for Policy*, to be published by Springer in collaboration with RGU and IHD. The volume will capture the policy recommendations and insights that emerged from the seminar, with the aim of advancing research and policymaking to promote inclusive and sustainable women's employment across the country.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON IMPACT EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Organised by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) in collaboration with Campbell South Asia, this three-day workshop was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, from 22 to 24 October 2024. It was designed to strengthen the skills of

development professionals in research methodologies and evaluation practices, with a special focus on the theory and practice of impact evaluation.

Through interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, the workshop enhanced participants' capacity to design, implement, and assess development interventions using rigorous evaluation tools. By advancing evidence-based policy and programme design, the initiative reflected IHD's commitment to capacity-building and knowledge advancement in the development sector.

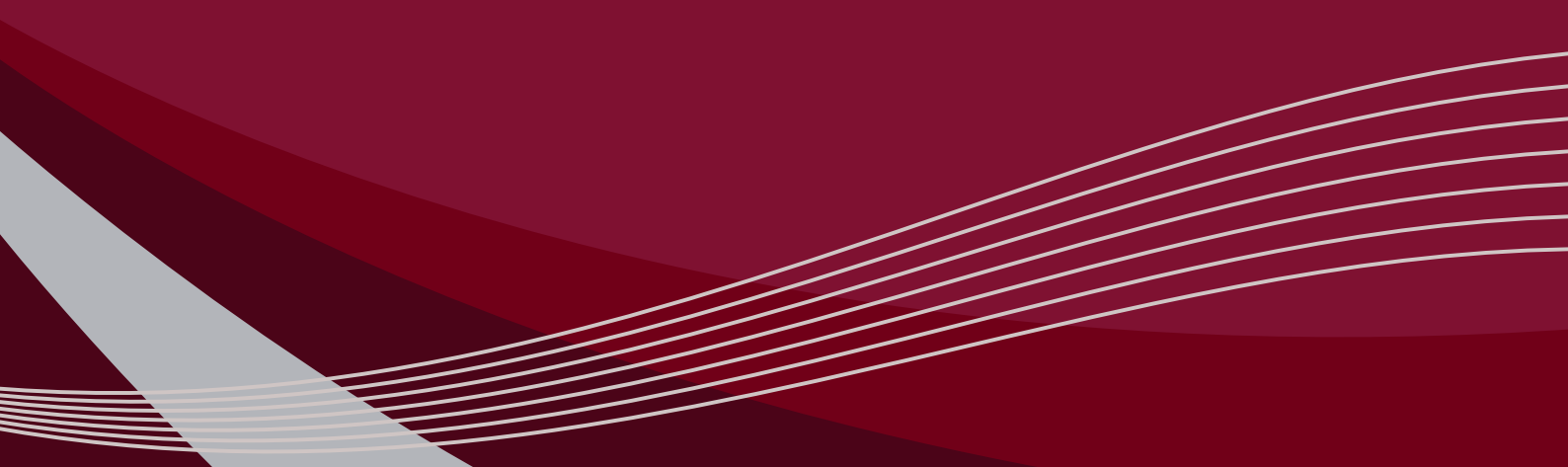
IHD SEMINAR SERIES

"The Burden of Patriarchy Across States of India: Is There a Geography of Patriarchy?" by Dr. Swati Dutta, Prof. Dev Nathan and Dr. Govind Kelkar; 13 August 2024

Alcohol Prohibition and Attitude towards Spousal Violence against Women in Bihar" by Dr. Chandan Jha, Associate Professor of Finance, Madden College of Business and Economics, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York, USA, 02 August 2024

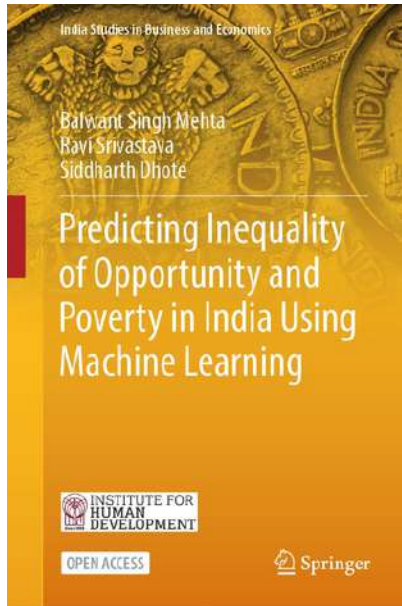
"Five Decades of Development and Change in Meghalaya: Achievements, Challenges and Road Ahead" by Dr. Sarthi Acharya, Dr. Shreeranjana and Mr. Arjun Dubey, 20 February 2025

Publications

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Publications

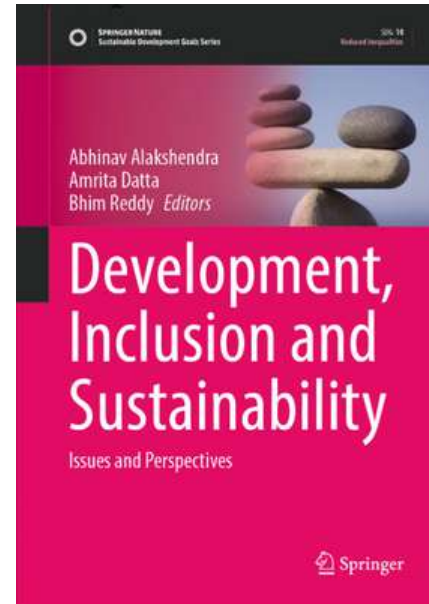
Books



PREDICTING INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY IN INDIA USING MACHINE LEARNING

Balwant Singh Mehta
Ravi Srivastava
Siddharth Dhote

This open-access book combines traditional economic methods with newer machine learning techniques such as regression trees and random forests to analyse data and provide an in-depth analysis of inequality of opportunity and poverty in India. Using data from national surveys and unique sources like night-time satellite images and location data of points of interest, it explores different aspects of inequality and poverty. The book adopts a unique interdisciplinary approach, blending theories and methods from sociology, economics, geography, anthropology, and computer science to explore three key aspects of human well-being: income, health, and education, focusing on regional disparities. It aims to offer practical insights for policymakers and researchers who want to address social and economic inequalities in India.



DEVELOPMENT, INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Abhinav Alakshendra
Amrita Datta
Bhim Reddy

This book explores inclusive and sustainable development through twelve contributions focused on emerging economies and policy pathways. Organized into four sections—Employment and Livelihoods, Capabilities and Mobilities, Sustainable and Inclusive Urbanization, and Policy Perspectives—the volume examines labour markets, education and health, urbanization, and policy insights. Bringing together diverse empirical research, it offers critical perspectives on the Global South's development process and serves as a valuable reference for those engaged in sustainable and inclusive development. It is an important reference for all those concerned with sustainable and inclusive development.

Publications

MAONOGRAPHS

NEED, DEMAND AND EFFECTIVE CHILDCARE MODELS FOR UNDER- 3 CHILDREN IN KERELA AND ODISHA



Jointly published with Mobile Creche

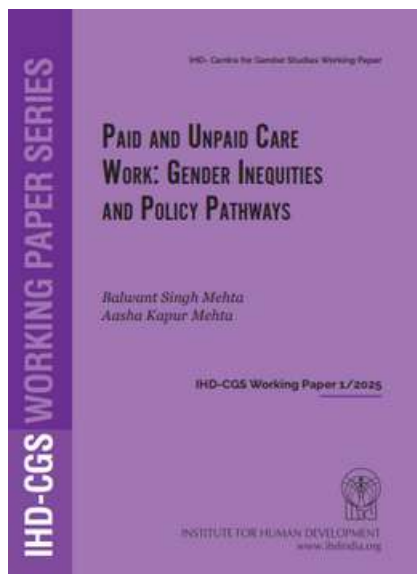
Mobile Creches in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development (IHD) recently concluded a study titled, "Need, Demand and Effectiveness of Childcare Models for Under-3 children in Kerala and Odisha". This study specifically focused on examining the demand, status and conditions of creche provision for U-3 children in two states in India, with a focus on public-funded creches. It has attempted to understand the unique needs and demands of childcare in the context of U-3 children and examined models for such care and their impact in Odisha and Kerala through a detailed look at the situation in two districts in each of the two states. Both gender concerns and ECD concerns have formed the basis for the questions addressed.



Publications

WORKING PAPERS

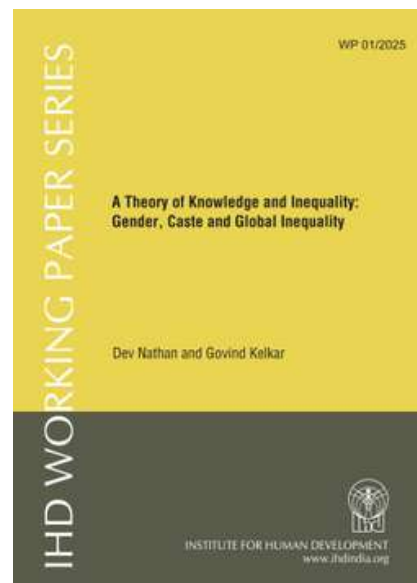
PAID AND UNPAID CAREWORK: GENDER INEQUITIES AND POLICY PATHWAYS



IHD-CGS Working Paper No. 1/2025

Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta and Dr. Asha Kapur Mehta
This paper examines women's paid and unpaid care work in India, revealing deep gender disparities. Women perform over ten times more unpaid care work than men, yet this labour remains invisible in labour statistics and GDP. It also analyses the paid care workforce—where women make up more than half—highlighting informality, wage gaps, poor job security, and the concentration of workers from marginalised and vulnerable groups. The paper calls for investments in care infrastructure, better job quality, and formal recognition of care work to advance gender equality and inclusive development.

A THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE AND INEQUALITY: GENDER, CASTE AND GLOBAL INEQUALITY



Working Paper No. WP-01/2025.

Dr. Dev Nathan and Dr. Govind Kelkar

This paper highlights two features of knowledge economies that contribute to social inequality: the enclosure of knowledge versus knowledge in the commons, and the higher returns gained by those who monopolize knowledge. These dynamics, combined with wider socio-economic factors, are examined through cases of gender inequality among indigenous peoples, caste-based ritual inequality in ancient India, and contemporary global economic inequality. The paper also explores policy options for addressing knowledge inequality and suggests extending this approach to other socio-economic contexts.

Publications

INDIAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Indian Journal of Human Development (IJHD) is a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that focuses on both theoretical and empirical research and provides an open platform for critical engagement with human development discourses. The Journal includes scholarly essays, research notes, commentaries, perspectives and book reviews, besides information on events and statistics relating to human development. It welcomes expressions of all shades and opinions. It is jointly published by IHD and Sage.

Issue 1

The April 2024 issue of the Indian Journal of Human Development (Vol. 18, No. 1) was a special issue on “Internal Migration and Development in India”, guest edited by Amrita Datta and S. Irudaya Rajan. It featured six original full-length research articles, along with two research notes, making a total of eight publications that examined diverse aspects of migration, labour, and social transformations in India.

Issue 2

The August 2024 issue of the Indian Journal of Human Development (Vol. 18, No. 2) carried six original full-length research articles, four research notes, and five book reviews, making a total of 15 publications. The contributions covered multidimensional poverty, education inequality, child marriage, women’s empowerment, public health expenditure, and handloom weavers’ vulnerability, alongside methodological and sectoral analyses, case studies, and reviews of recent scholarly works on social and economic development in India.

Issue 3

The December 2024 issue of the Indian Journal of Human Development (Vol. 18, No. 3) included seven original full-length research articles and two book reviews, making a total of nine publications. The articles addressed a wide range of issues, including child malnutrition in aspirational districts, women’s decision-making in agriculture and nutrition, food security in tea plantations, elderly savings and living arrangements, higher education access, gender discrimination in school enrolment, and the economic challenges of Manipur, complemented by reviews of recent scholarly works on higher education and regional histories.

Publications

INDIAN JOURNAL OF LABOUR ECONOMICS



The Secretariat of the Indian Society of Labour Economics is instituted in IHD. The IHD staff and faculty are involved in the IJLE activities and work. IJLE publishes research in the field of labour economics both on the microeconomic and on the macroeconomic level, in a balanced mix of theory, empirical testing and policy applications. It publishes original research studies and documentation on various aspects of labour economics and related subjects. The journal provides a high-quality platform for both theoretical and applied papers on all aspects of behaviour affecting labour market outcomes and addresses special topics such as "Informal Employment in India and China", "The Informal Sector in South Asia", "Labour Migration and Development Dynamics in India", "Wages and Earnings in India", "Women and Work", among others.

2024: Volume 67 Issue 1

This edition had 14 contributions which included 13 research articles and one book review. The overall theme was based on 'Labour Market Dynamics, Inequalities, and Pandemic Impact.' Articles explore unemployment, gender wage gaps, migration, social security, labour contractors, and COVID-19 effects across India and abroad. Book review adds a broader reflection on time, labour, and uncertainty.

2024: Volume 67 Issue 2

This edition had 16 contributions. This includes 14 research or conceptual articles and 1 book review. This volume had a strong conceptual focus on self-employment, decent work, and missing employment linkages. Including COVID-related wage and migration studies, as well as global perspectives (Malaysia, Benin, Russia, FDI, kafala system).

2024: Volume 67 Issue 3

This edition had 15 contributions. All contributions were research articles. This volume was focused on Care Economy, Technology, and Changing Employment Patterns. Heavy emphasis on care and gendered dimensions of work (care economy, women's time use, livestock raising, female employment). Technology's role in employment (automation, sectoral shifts in India, Mexico). Migration, aspirations, trade unionism, and labour rights during COVID (Bangladesh, South Korea) broaden the global perspective.

2024: Volume 67 Issue 4

This edition had 10 contributions and was focused on Labour Productivity, Global Value Chains, and Structural Shifts. Empirical studies on productivity, subcontracting, monopsony in GVCs, automation, and intermediation. Country contexts include South Asia, India, Bangladesh, Morocco, Colombia. Also included social dimensions (caste, gender, petty landlords in Delhi).

Financials

To be attached

**Knowledge for Human
Development**

**Undertaking and
Promoting Research**

**Disseminating Information
and Knowledge**

**Engendering Debates and
Discussion**



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