

THIRD PARTY EVALUATION OF LABOUR WELFARE SCHEMES FOR BEEDI WORKERS, CINE WORKERS AND NON-COAL MINE WORKERS (2017-18 TO 2019-20)

Sponsor/s: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

Project Director/s: Prof. I.C. Awasthi

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta, Arjun Dubey, Ranjeet Kumar

This study aims to evaluate 'Labour Welfare Scheme' meant for the welfare of more than 50 lakh Beedi, Non-Coal Mines and Cine workers in the field of housing, health and education during the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. Further, the specific schemes to be evaluated are related to availing of housing subsidy, utilisation of health care facilities and scholarship to Beedi, Non-Coal Mines and Cine workers. The terms of reference of the evaluation, involved undertaking of a detailed review of the listed Labour Welfare Schemes for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 to determine their efficacy and suggest remedial measures.

The objective was to evaluate the functioning and impact of these schemes. For this study, data from five sample states i.e. Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal were gathered. The evaluation used a mixed methods approach and collected both qualitative and quantitative data from sample states. In addition to it, secondary information was collected from the regional labour office of the sample states.

The inputs in the forms of infrastructure, service providers, and financial allocations for these schemes have been transforming the life of a group of the marginalised population. The targeted schemes have the advantage of ensuring benefits for the targeted population. Whatever may be the target and achievement in a year, the probability of getting benefits by a targeted population is hundred percent. Therefore, CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS 48 all targeted schemes have the merit of picking only from the targeted group. There is every possibility that the need of the illiterate and voiceless population may not get its due share in the common platform. Therefore, all schemes running through 'Labour Welfare Fund' should continue, and serve the need of these poor and marginalised sections of the population. Measures should be initiated so that it will offer much better and exclusive service to the Beedi, Non-coal Mines and Cine workers in near future.

THIRD PARTY EVALUATION OF CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF REHABILITATION OF BONDED LABOUR

Sponsor/s: Ministry of Labour and Employment

Project Director/s: IC Awasthi, Balwant Singh Mehta

A detailed review of Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer – 2016 – 2020 to determine their efficacy and suggest any remedial measures if any such as immediate cash assistance to the rescued/released bonded labours, financial/rehabilitation assistance to the rescued/released bonded labours, assistance for conducting survey of bonded labourers and awareness generation and evaluator studies. Was assigned to IHD. The final report is a comprehensive evaluation report of the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer – 2016 during the period 2016- 2020.

The objective of the scheme was to provide cash and non-cash benefits to the released bonded labourers as rehabilitation assistance. The modified scheme also provides for financial assistance to

the State Governments/UTs for conducting survey of bonded labourers, awareness generation activities and impact evaluation. Primary investigation covered states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which fall in eastern, central, western, southern and northern regions of the country.

The evaluation revealed that in all the states the released workers were benefitting from the scheme. The money provided helped them to start a bondage-free life by providing partial financial security. The enhanced amount of the revised scheme can really benefit them more since the amounts are substantial to start afresh. However, due to its linkage with convictions, in no state could we meet workers who could get the revised enhanced amount of Rs 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakhs. The pension of Rs 24000 provided by the Karnataka government was considered valuable. The report has been submitted to the Directorate of Labour Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR INFORMAL WORKERS IN UTTAR PRADESH AND PREPARATION OF RESEARCH TOOLS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FOR GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

SPONSOR/S: ILO

Research Team: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Dr. Balwant Mehta

FOOD SECURITY ATLAS IN RURAL JHARKHAND – 2021

Sponsor/s: Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

Project Director/s: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma

Research Team: Dr. Ramesh Sharan, Dr. Sunil Mishra, Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr. Tanushree Kundu, Dr. Prashant Arya

IGIDR and the System of Promoting Appropriate National Dynamism for Agriculture and Nutrition (SPANDAN) India, have undertaken a project to support innovative research on the broad areas covered under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals-2 (SDG-2 Zero Hunger). One part of this project involves supporting short studies. It is expected that these short studies will be completed by end of 2021 and they would be published in a book to be edited by a team

from IGIDR. Towards this endeavour an interim workshop would be held in the last week of September 2021, and a final workshop in the first week of December 2021.

The second part of this project is to invite selected eminent researchers in this area such as you to contribute a paper, which we plan to publish along with the short studies in the edited book mentioned above.

As part of this, IHD is preparing paper on “Food Security Atlas in Jharkhand”. Preliminary findings will be presented in the interim workshop to be held in the last week of September 2021. The draft final paper will be presented in the final workshop to be held in the first week of December 2021. The final paper will be submitted by end of December 2021.

POVERTY AND FOOD SECURITY IN RURAL BIHAR

Sponsor/s: Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Project

Director/s: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma

Research Team: Dr. Sunil Mishra and Dr. Swati Dutta

IGIDR and the System of Promoting Appropriate National Dynamism for Agriculture and Nutrition (SPANDAN) India, have undertaken a project to support innovative research on the broad areas covered under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals-2 (SDG-2 Zero Hunger). As a part of the larger project, IHD has been invited to do a study on dynamics of changes in food security over a longer time in Bihar. The study will be based on longitudinal data from 12 villages collected during last two decades by IHD. The study will be completed by January 2022.

POVERTY AND SOCIAL MONITORING SURVEY, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND PREPARATION OF REPORT IN UTTARAKHAND

Sponsor/s: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand

Project Director/s: Dr. G.C. Manna, Dr. I.C. Awasthi, Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta

The objective of the survey is to prepare current State/District-wise Poverty Estimates and Social Monitoring Indicators, to attain the sustainable development goals. The district wise estimates on poverty cover estimates on some social issues like health, education, women and child welfare. The district wise analysis can give a bird's eye view to various indicators related to Poverty and Social Monitoring, which will be highly beneficial for the state in focusing on the mistreated aspects and get fresh estimates to attain the sustainable development goals. Study is based on Primary survey in all 13 districts in the state. Some of the activities being performed include preparation of inception report; development of study tools, pre-testing of study tools, finalization of study tools, organizing training programme for field investigators and investigators (through tab based) as well as supervision of field work etc.

STUDY ON EXPANSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND LABOUR STANDARDS IN THE ORGANISED SECTOR IN INDIA

Sponsor/s: Azim Premji Foundation

Project Director/s: Professor Ravi Srivastava, Dr. Sunil Kr. Mishra

The study examines the impact of expansion of social security on labour relations in the Indian organised sector. Social security reforms in the organised sector include the extension of coverage of the EPFO and ESIC, issuance of a Universal Account Number and smart cards to workers ensuring easy portability, linking of UAN to the biometric based UID, and amnesty schemes to incentivise establishments to register with the EPFO. In this study, EPFO and the data on new enrolments is being used as an entry point to explore access to formal social security, followed by field studies, through which the impact of recent changes on access to social security and employment relations is being analysed.

This study set forth the following objectives:

1. To understand employer and workers' responses to the social security reforms.
2. To analyse the pattern of increased registration of firms and workers in the EPFO across regions, sectors, and industries and employment forms, including labour sub-contracting.
3. To understand the extent to which the EPFO reforms have managed to create a social security system in which the workers' entitlements are portable and correctly maintained, thereby also creating an authentic employment record.
4. To understand the links between financial inclusion, payments to workers, and extension of social security.
5. To analyse the short-term and long term impact of these reforms on workers' access to long-term social security entitlements, to legislated employment protection and industrial relations, and to collective bargaining / voice.

As a part of the methodology, in the first part, it was proposed to carry out an analysis of the macro data on EPFO registration using the NSSO and the EPFO payroll data in order to understand:

- A. Where (industries/regions) recent increases in EPFO enrolments taken place
- B. Features of regularity /temporary nature of employment of workers registered for EPFO

In the second part of the study, it was proposed to select certain regions and industries where EPFO registrations are shown to have increased to understand through detailed fieldwork how the registration under the EPFO is influencing labour relations and labour standards, and how employers and workers are responding to these changes.

Two industrial clusters in two states/ industrial agglomerations were proposed to be taken. One of the two clusters will have a significantly higher share of unregistered workers based on informant discussions but where increase in registrations have taken place. As mentioned earlier, the final choice of these clusters was to be decided after analysis of NSSO and EPFO data. On preliminary basis, Wazirabad and Noida in the Delhi NCR, and Morvi and Surat in Gujarat were proposed for consideration as study sites. In each cluster, it was proposed to carry out a questionnaire based survey of about 250 workers each (about 1000 workers in all). A semi- structured questionnaire would be administered to 30 to 40 employers in each cluster. The worker interviews will also be supplemented by a few FGDs and interviews with workers' unions.

Brief Results from the Empirical Analysis of the three sources of data all corroborate that the registration of workers under the EPFO has increased over the years. Some of the findings of the study are given below:

- The NSSO estimates suggest that workers eligible for provident fund benefits (EPF and non-EPF) increased from 29.6 million in 2004-05 to 34.4 million in 2011-12 and further to 44 million in 2017-18. Among the wage employed in the non-agricultural sector, the percentage of workers with eligibility to an provident fund benefit increased from 14.86 percent in 2004-05 to 15.31 percent in 2011-12 and to 19.80 percent in 2017-18.

- The NSS Enterprise surveys also show that the number of unincorporated enterprises registered with the EPFO increased from 72,974 in 2011-12 to 91,159 in 2017-18. The number of workers in these enterprises increased from 1.4 million to 1.85 million. These figures pertain only to a segment of enterprises and can be seen to portray a trend in EPF registrations.
- Spatially, the NSS Employment Surveys show that the highest contribution to increased provident fund registrations were in Tamil Nadu (18.37 %), Maharashtra (17.96%), AP and Telangana (10.94 %), Karnataka (7.52 %), and Uttar Pradesh (7.32%).
- Combining the NSSO data with the EPFO data, the picture that emerges is that the main increase in enrolments has come in real estate and construction, manufacturing, services and trade, principally through contracting entities.
The research team is currently working on a paper which analyses the trends and patterns in informal employment in India based on NSSO Employment-Unemployment Surveys and the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN BIHAR

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

Project Director/s: Dr. Raghunanadan Sharma (Patna University) Research Team: Mr. Manoj Bandan

The project aims to understand the governance of education at different levels of administration and institutions such as schools, colleges and universities in Bihar; assess the quality by some measurable yardsticks such as employees and students' satisfaction and understand factors determining quality and suggest measures for effective governance and sound financial system for improving quality of education in the state. The study extensively uses the secondary data and information from various sources such as NUEPA, UGC and Government of Bihar. It also looks into the various Committee Reports, either independent or those from the Government. However, the most important source of information and data are being based on primary study.

A workshop and few consultative meetings were organised in August 2017 to elicit views and perspectives of the various stakeholders at various levels. The inputs from these workshops and consultations will provide both perspectives of the issues as well as possible agenda for action. To understand the internal dynamics of the failure of governance and downfall in the quality of education several case studies are being conducted in various schools and colleges. The survey for the study is presently being undertaken.

CASTE IN URBAN INDIA: MANIFESTATION AND INEQUALITIES

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

Principal Researcher/s: Dr. Bhim Reddy and Mr. Manoj Bandan Balsamanta

This project seeks to study the contemporary meanings and manifestations of caste in cities. It examines the manner in which caste expresses and reproduces itself in urban settings. It focuses on two cities, Delhi and Patna, to capture the nuances of caste both in a 'metropolitan' and 'provincial' city. The study aims to:

- Explore multiple sites and ways of caste manifestation including a focus, especially, in urban space and politics, electoral politics, social networks, job markets and matrimonial practices.
- Study the markers of caste and ways of caste identification in the urban context.
- Unpack the manner in which caste inequalities are reproduced in cities.
- Explore the changing nature of caste and caste relations in urban villages i.e., villages incorporated into cities due to urban expansion and urban governance.
- Compare caste dynamics among migrants/in new migrant urban settlements with that of migrants' home villages as well as with the long-standing 'urban residents'/old settlements.

Relevant literature and media reports on caste and urban issues have been both gathered and studied. Literature both in western as well as in Indian context related to issues such as contemporary caste; spatial segregation and other inequalities in cities, and social and cultural capital has been referred to develop a critical insight as well as an understanding of empirical realities both within and outside India. For the city of Patna, analysis of a leading newspaper, The Telegraph, for the year 2015 has been completed to review and document caste and related indicators and similarly, for Delhi, the Times of India for the year 2015 is being analysed. This study has adopted a mixed method for collecting data. Therefore, both surveys and interviews are being conducted in two cities as tools of data collection. Report writing is presently in progress.

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PRIVATISATION AND REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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

Project Director/s: Prof. Ravi Srivastava

The study examines the nature of regulatory institutions, their composition, goals and rules and their linkage with the private sector in higher education to see what changes can be suggested in order to improve the higher education environment in the country.

The study takes a political economy approach to analyse privatization of higher education and its regulation in India. This involves examining how political institutions and economic systems influence each other. It deals with the role of the government(s) and /or power relationships in resource allocation /investment in higher education, and the consequent impact of such investment.

The study focuses on following research questions:

- What are the forms that privatization is taking in higher education why they dominate?
- Profile of entities that have set up private institutions.
- Aims and objectives of the state and national level regulatory institutions
Impact of privatization on access, equity and quality
In its first phase, the study analyses existing data sources (NSSO, All India Higher Education Survey, UGC, MHRD, AICTE) to build profile of privatization of education in the country. In the next phase, the research will carry out an intensive study of three study states and the main national level regulatory institutions. States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have been taken up for the intensive study. The field study is based on extensive informant and stakeholder interviews, both semi structured and structured. The secondary data is being analysed using statistical packages and the primary data by using descriptive statistics to uncover the patterns and impact of privatization across different types of institutions.

A detailed report is the expected outcome of the study.

3RD DELHI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (DHDR)

Sponsor/s: Planning Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Project Director/s: Prof. Sarthi Acharya

Research Team: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Dr. Shipra Maitra, Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta,
Prof. Tanuka Endow

Budget: 36.26 lakhs

Period: Aug 2021 to July 2022

Preparation of third Delhi Human Development Report being undertaken by IHD under the 2nd phase of Chair on Human Development issues with use of existing data – from all possible sources: PLFS, NSS, Census, NFHS, Administrative data from the government, others. It will be prepared under the theme of ‘inclusive development ’covering the major themes of assessment of progress in human development since 2013, employment and livelihood, education and skill development, health and nutrition, crime, safety and security, quality of life and access to basic services and perspectives and aspirations of residents. The Perception Survey will be structured through questionnaire covering 10,000 households approximately in the NCT of Delhi. The survey will provide information on coverage, access, quality, regularity, inclusiveness and maintenance of services. It will also collect information related to rating of public services by the beneficiaries and elements such as healthcare and education, welfare programmes and schemes, water supply, sanitation and electricity, public safety and security, housing and transport, livelihood and employment, public space and recreation, remuneration assets and migration status.