



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

July 2018

Welcome to the India Human Development Survey Forum

A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the IHDS research community.

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In this issue...

As the first multipurpose household panel survey in India, covering the full spectrum of education, health, economy, family, and gender modules for both urban and rural samples across the country, IHDS has been widely downloaded by researchers across the world, and spans a wide range of papers on these subjects. In this issue of the IHDS newsletter, we showcase two papers on education in which IHDS highlights significant findings about school-going children having working mothers, and those belonging to the traditionally disadvantaged sections of society, respectively.

- In their paper on mothers' work patterns and children's cognitive achievement, **Kriti Vikram, Feinian Chen and Sonalde Desai** use IHDS-I data to explore the relationship between maternal employment and children's arithmetic and reading achievements with a focus on both positive and negative impacts of employment via increased income as well as greater time constraints.
- Using data from the Indian Human Development Survey (2005), **Dhiman Das** studies the role of the different child-, household-, and school-level factors associated with academic resilience among children belonging to groups with a history of exclusion. The results highlight the need for educational policy, which addresses the importance of schools as drivers and determinants of academic resilience.
- **Media Mentions**
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Research Findings Based on IHDS Data

Mothers' Work Patterns and Children's Cognitive Achievement: Evidence from the India Human Development Survey

By **Kriti Vikram, Feinian Chen, and Sonalde Desai**

As female labour force participation increases globally, questions have emerged about how maternal employment may affect their children. This issue is particularly salient in India because few family-friendly policies exist that might allow mothers to balance their work and family demands, and household chores remain largely the responsibility of women. Using data from the India Human Development Survey (2005), the authors investigate the link between maternal employment and children's arithmetic and reading achievement. They develop a work pattern typology that goes beyond standard measures of employment and captures work intensity and its compatibility with child-rearing in a transitional

economy. They find that the relationship between maternal employment and children's outcomes is not uni-dimensional. For example, children of self-employed mothers are not disadvantaged as compared to those with stay-at-home mothers, but maternal employment in salaried jobs or wage work outside the home is negatively associated with cognitive skills in children. However, this negative association is reversed at higher levels of maternal education, suggesting that greater access to resources and flexibility associated with better jobs mitigate the negative aspects of time constraints faced by working mothers. Additionally, maternal employment is associated with maternal involvement in schoolwork and financial investment in academic activities. Maternal participation in wage work reduces time devoted to supervision of homework, but for mothers with higher education and higher incomes, wage work also provides financial resources to ensure private tutoring, which tends to counterbalance the decline in maternal attention.

[Full Paper Here](#)



Profile of Lead Author of the Paper

Kriti Vikram is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. One stream of her research examines the social determinants of child health and development. Another stream evaluates the implications of migration on those left behind in the family. A third investigates the contextual determinants of health, fertility preferences and contraceptive use. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Maryland, an MA from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and a BA from St Xavier's College, Mumbai. Her work has been published in various journals including *Social Science & Medicine*, *Demography*, *Health & Place* and *Social Science Research*.

Academic Resilience Among Children from Underprivileged Social Groups in India

By Dhiman Das

There has been significant progress in educational attainment in India since its independence. Yet the achievements are low in comparison to countries in similar stages of development. The situation is worse among groups who have a history of exclusion. Children from these groups have lower enrolment and higher dropout rates than national averages. Yet some of them are able to overcome these limitations and show academic resilience.

Using data from the Indian Human Development Survey (2005), this paper studies the role of the different child, household, and school-level factors associated with academic resilience among these children. Further, to understand the mechanism through which group membership affects resilience, it also studies the indirect effect of group membership mediated through those factors.

The paper finds that the protective factors vary across the different disadvantaged groups. The main effect of group membership is through structural factors like poverty and maternal education. Yet, the child level and household level factors play an important role in most cases. Schools fail to play the expected role of being the source of resilience among those who face the strongest burden of structural factors. For some, the schools are the main site where they experience most of the adversities of group memberships. The results highlight the need for educational policy, which addresses the importance of schools as drivers and determinants of academic resilience.

Table: Proportion of indirect effect of social groups on protective and structural factors

<i>Read</i>	Child	Household	School	Structural
Scheduled Caste	0.189*** (0.05)	0.297*** (0.07)	0.251*** (0.06)	0.596*** (0.07)
Scheduled Tribe	0.293*** (0.10)	0.407*** (0.12)	0.043 (0.10)	0.722*** (0.09)
Muslim	0.171*** (0.04)	0.153*** (0.04)	0.256*** (0.06)	0.524*** (0.06)
<i>Arithmetic</i>	Child	Household	School	Structural
Scheduled Caste	0.239*** (0.05)	0.305*** (0.06)	0.221*** (0.04)	0.618*** (0.05)
Scheduled Tribe	0.357*** (0.08)	0.389*** (0.12)	0.013 (0.08)	0.618*** (0.09)
Muslim	0.187*** (0.04)	0.138*** (0.04)	0.233*** (0.06)	0.485*** (0.07)
Standard errors in parentheses				
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1				

Notes: We use two variables as indicators of child-level factors—hours spent on homework or paid academic assistance (tuition) in a week and days absent from school in the last month. We use the number of persons involved in supervising children’s homework (including paid providers) and whether the child attends a government, private or other types of school (government aided, convent, madrasa, other or open school) as indicators of household level factors. Finally, we use whether the student enjoys school, whether the teacher treats the student nicely, whether the household has confidence in the school to provide good education and the district level average student classroom ratio at the primary level as indicators of school-level factors. Structural factors include household assets, consumption poverty (per capita consumption expenditure as a proportion of the poverty level), and mother’s education (in years).

Full Paper Here



Dhiman Das is an independent researcher based in Fairfax, Virginia. His main research interests are in health economics and public policy. He was previously employed at the Asia Research Institute in the National University of Singapore, the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey, and at the Research Foundation of the City University of New York. He holds a PhD in Economics from the City University of New York and an MPhil in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

IHDS in the News

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- Masoodi, Ashwaq. “Odisha Is Breaking the Patriarchy, One Deed at a Time”, *LiveMint*, 23 June, 2018. [Link](#).
- Bhandare, Namita. “As Indian Women Leave Jobs, Single Women Keep Working. Here’s Why”, *India Spend*, 23 June, 2018. [Link](#).

Recent Publications Using IHDS

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About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) is a nationally representative, multi-topic survey of 41,554 households in 1503 villages and 971 urban neighbourhoods across India. The first round of interviews was completed in 2004-05; data are publicly available through ICPSR. A second round of IHDS re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same can be found here.

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