



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

March 2020

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...

- With over 3,00,000 infected individuals worldwide, all countries are struggling to cope with the novel Coronavirus, now dubbed as COVID-19. Received wisdom focuses on three aspects of slowing the spread of the virus and saving lives: (1) Test, diagnose and isolate infected cases; (2) Prevent exposure to the virus through increasing social distance; and, (3) Reduce infection by frequent handwashing. As India grapples with the challenge of implementing these strategies, what can data from IHDS contribute?
- *Recent publications using IHDS*

What can IHDS tell us about planning for COVID-19?



FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO TODAY



- MAHATMA GANDHI



1. COVID-19 infection added to already high prevalence of respiratory infections can overwhelm the medical system

18% OF IHDS RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCE COUGH, COLD, FEVER IN A MONTH. IMPORTANT TO RULE OUT OTHER DISEASES WITH COVID LIKE SYMPTOMS



2. Reduce demand. Involve private labs in testing to rule out flu & other symptoms before recommending COVID testing.

OVER 72% HOUSEHOLDS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN PRIVATE PROVIDERS COMPARED TO 53% FOR GOVERNMENT FACILITIES. SO PRIVATE DOCTORS AND LABS ARE LIKELY TO BE THEIR FIRST STOP ANYWAY.



3. Income transfers needed for households relying on small businesses and daily wage work if they must isolate

HOUSEHOLDS DRAWING AT LEAST 75% OF THEIR INCOME FROM

- BUSINESS - 9%
- DAILY WAGE LABOUR 26%



4. Handwashing yes, but sanitizers too

AS OF 2011-12, 45% OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS DON'T HAVE INDOOR WATER, 72% DO NOT GET PIPED WATER FOR AT LEAST 3 HOURS/DAY. THIS MAKES FREQUENT HANDWASHING DIFFICULT.



POLICIES BASED ON LIVED REALITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED BY IHDS IN 2011-12

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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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IHDS Principal Investigators

Sonalde Desai
Professor, UMD
Senior Fellow, NCAER

Reeve Vanneman
Professor, UMD

Amaresh Dubey
Professor, JNU
Senior Consultant, NCAER

Contact Us:

Website: <http://ihds.umd.edu>
Mail: ihdsinfo@gmail.com

