



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

February 2017



Welcome to the India Human Development Survey *Forum* - a monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the IHDS research team.

[Unsubscribe Link at the Bottom](#)

In this issue...

- **Highlights of a new NCAER report on PDS**
- **A detailed look at a recent paper by Keera Allendorf and Roshan Panian**
- **Media mentions**

IHDS Finds....

PDS is a double-edged sword, it supports consumption by the poor but also skews diets towards cereals.

What do they eat? Families with and without Access to Food Subsidies

When rice and wheat are available cheaply via the Public Distribution System for people with Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Annapurna Anna Yojana (AAY) cards, they meet their caloric needs with cereals but reduce dietary diversity. Savings are spent on other necessities, not necessarily food.

At the same level of income in 2011-12:

Households with BPL/AAY Card

- Monthly cereal consumption 11.87 kg per person
- Milk 2.77 litres per capita/month
- Ratio of food to non-food expenditure 1:1.32

Households without BPL Card

- Monthly cereal consumption 11.22 kg per person
- Milk 3.21 litres per capita/month
- Ratio of food to non-food expenditure 1:1.39

Food Subsidies Vs. Cash Transfers

Access to TPDS seems to increase calories from cereal consumption and reduce those from fruits, vegetables and milk. This may help aggravate the growing epidemic of diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases in India. The National Food Security Act contains a provision for distributing cash instead of food grains. The above data suggests that cash transfers may deserve serious consideration on health grounds.

Source:

Desai, Sonalde and Indira Iyer. 2016. Role of the Public Distribution System in Shaping Household Food and Nutritional Security in India. New Delhi: National Council of Applied Economic Research

[Full Report Here.](#)

A closer look...

Transformation of Indian marriage patterns by Allendorf and Pandian...

Using data from India Human Development Surveys of 2004-5 and 2011-12, Allendorf and Pandian find that the practice of arranged marriage is shifting rather than declining. Between 1970s and 2000s, young women became increasingly active in choosing their own husbands, spouses meeting before the wedding day became more common, consanguineous marriage declined, and intercaste marriage rose. However, the size of many of these changes is modest, and a substantial majority of recent marriages still show the hallmarks of arranged marriage. Arranged marriage is clearly not headed toward obsolescence any time soon.

Dr. Keera Allendorf is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies at Indiana University. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin in 2009 and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan. She also worked previously at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

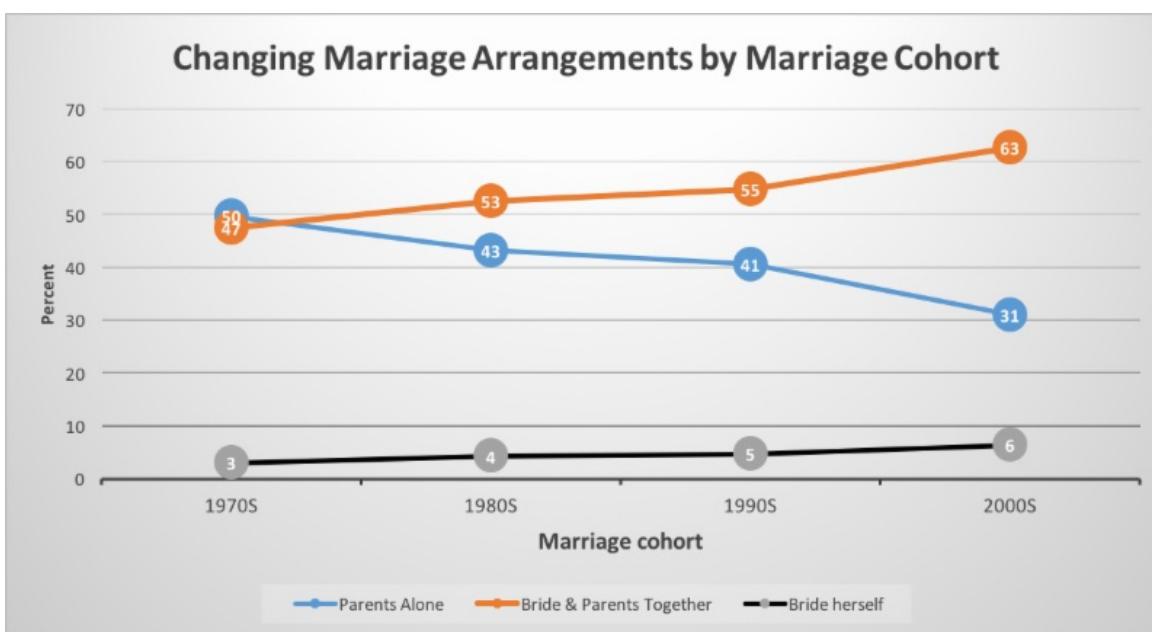
Further, rather than displacing their parents in the decision process, young women joined their parents in choosing husbands. While self-choice marriages increased over time, they are still rare, comprising less than a tenth of all marriages in the 2000s. Even in the 2000s, parents alone choosing husbands for their daughters was more than twice as common as daughters choosing by themselves. Over-all, while most parents no longer have complete control over marriage, the intergenerational nature of marriage remains intact.



Roshan Pandian is a graduate student at Indiana University, pursuing a PhD in sociology. He received a BS from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2011.

Source: Allendorf, K. and Pandian, R. K. (2016). "The Decline of Arranged Marriage? Marital Change and Continuity in India." *Population and Development Review*, 42(3):435-464.

Full paper available on request from:
kallendo@indiana.edu



Recent Press Articles

- Anand Teltumbde, "India's Marie Antoinette Moment", *Economic & Political Weekly*, 7 January 2017. Online Link is available [here](#).
- Coffey, Diane, "When Women Eat Last", *The Hindu*, 3 January 2017. Online Link is available [here](#).
- Srija Naskar, "Area of Darkness: Serious Research on Disability in India Remains a Pipe Dream", *The Sunday Guardian Live*, 10 December 2016. Online Link is available [here](#).
- Special Correspondent, "Disabled Children Miss Out Due to Lack of Support Services: Report", *The Hindu*, 9 December 2016. Online Link is available [here](#).



Recent Publications by IHDS Community

- Chakrabarti, Suman, Avinash Kishore and Devesh Roy, [Entitlement Fetching or Snatching?](#) *IFPRI Discussion Paper 01588*, Accessed online 10 January 2017.



- Sadath, A.C. and R.H. Acharya, [Assessing the extent and intensity of energy poverty using Multidimensional Energy Poverty Index: Empirical evidence from households in India](#) *Energy Policy*, 102: 540-48, Accessed online 12 January 2017.

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.

IHDS has been jointly organised by researchers from the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. Funding for the second round of this survey is provided by the National Institutes of Health, grants R01HD041455 and R01HD061048. Additional funding is provided by The Ford Foundation, IDRC and DFID.

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://www.ihds.umd.edu>

Mail: ihdsinfo@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

