



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

July 2017

Welcome to the India Human Development Survey Forum

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

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- IHDS data drives research on **childhood health implications** of open defecation in India - a book by **Dean Spears** and **Diane Coffey**
- Media Mentions
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A closer look...

Book on 'Open Defecation' Using IHDS Data

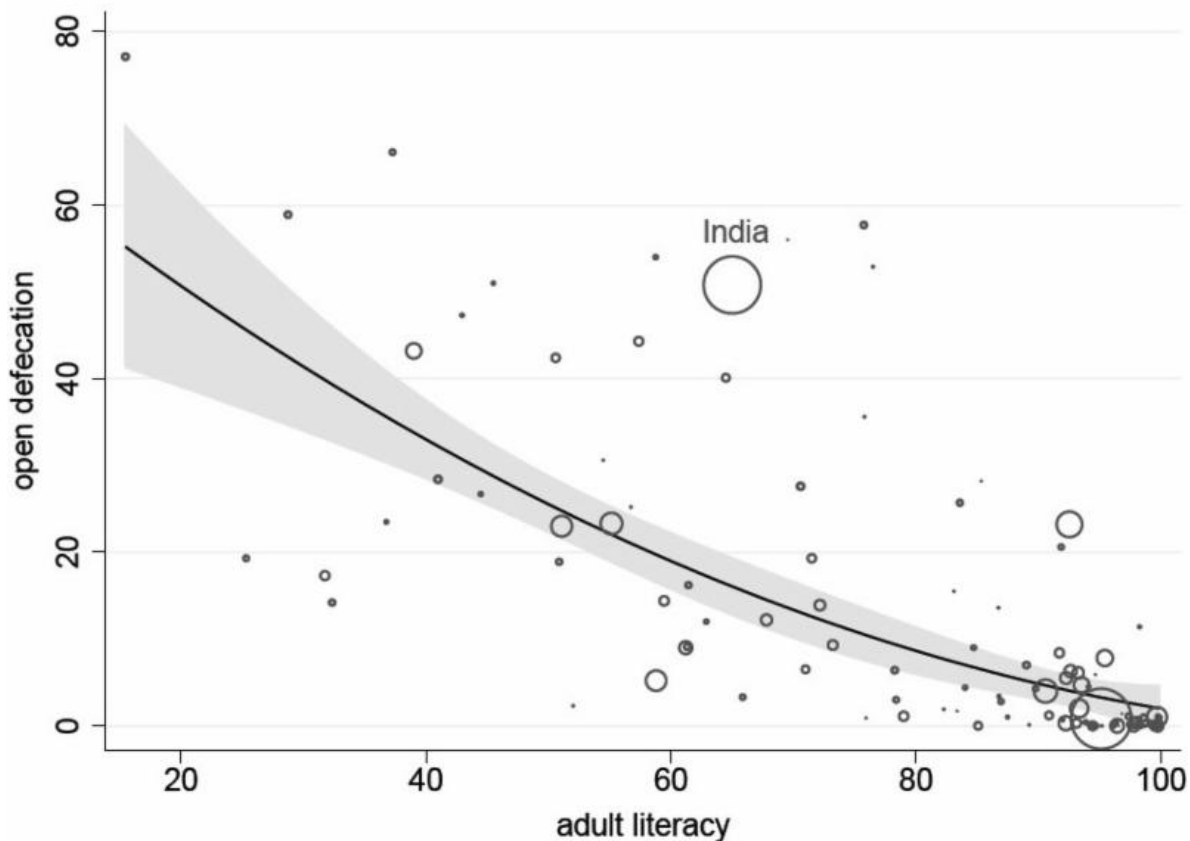
Diane Coffey and **Dean Spears** launched their book titled, *Where India Goes: Abandoned Toilets, Stunted Development and the Costs of Caste*, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on July 14, 2017. The book is the recipient of the 2017 Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences awarded by the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Where India Goes... is a new book about an old problem. Using data from the *India Human Development Survey* extensively, among other sources, the book points out that a majority of rural Indians do not use a toilet or latrine. Open defecation kills thousands of children in India each year, stunts the physical and cognitive development of those who survive, and has consequences for everyone in India. With the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, sanitation is not merely a human development emergency—it is now also a policy priority. Yet, the history of sanitation policy proves that latrine construction is not enough to address the reasons why rural Indians reject the kind of affordable latrines provided by the government, and which have greatly reduced open defecation in other countries. *Where India Goes...* challenges us to consider how health and human development can be advanced while social inequality remains so profound.

The book has a Foreword by Professor Angus Deaton, renowned economist and winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for 2015.

The release of the book was accompanied by a panel discussion with experts on sanitation, untouchability, health, and policy.

The authors, Diane Coffey and Dean Spears are visiting researchers at the Economics and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi, Assistant Professors at the University of Texas at Austin, and Executive Directors of r.i.c.e., a Research Institute for Compassionate Economics, online at www.riceinstitute.org.



The above figure shows that twenty-eight countries have adult literacy rates that are lower than India's, of which twenty-three have lower open defecation rates than India. This implies that India has more open defecation than other countries with similar or lower adult literacy rates. Similar conclusions emerge from comparisons within South Asia. Among rural households in the **2012 India Human Development Survey**, in which someone has a bachelor's degree or more, 32 per cent defecate in the open: just under one-third. Fifty-one per cent of households in rural India where the highest educated adult completed secondary school defecate in the open. So, do people in rural India defecate in the open because they are uneducated or illiterate? The answer is clearly 'No'. Since as per international data, 82 per cent of the countries with worse literacy than India have better open defecation outcomes, it is hard to conclude that education itself is the problem.



Dean Spears

focuses his research on children's health and human capital, which these days often means height, sanitation, and social forces in Indian households and villages. He has also done research

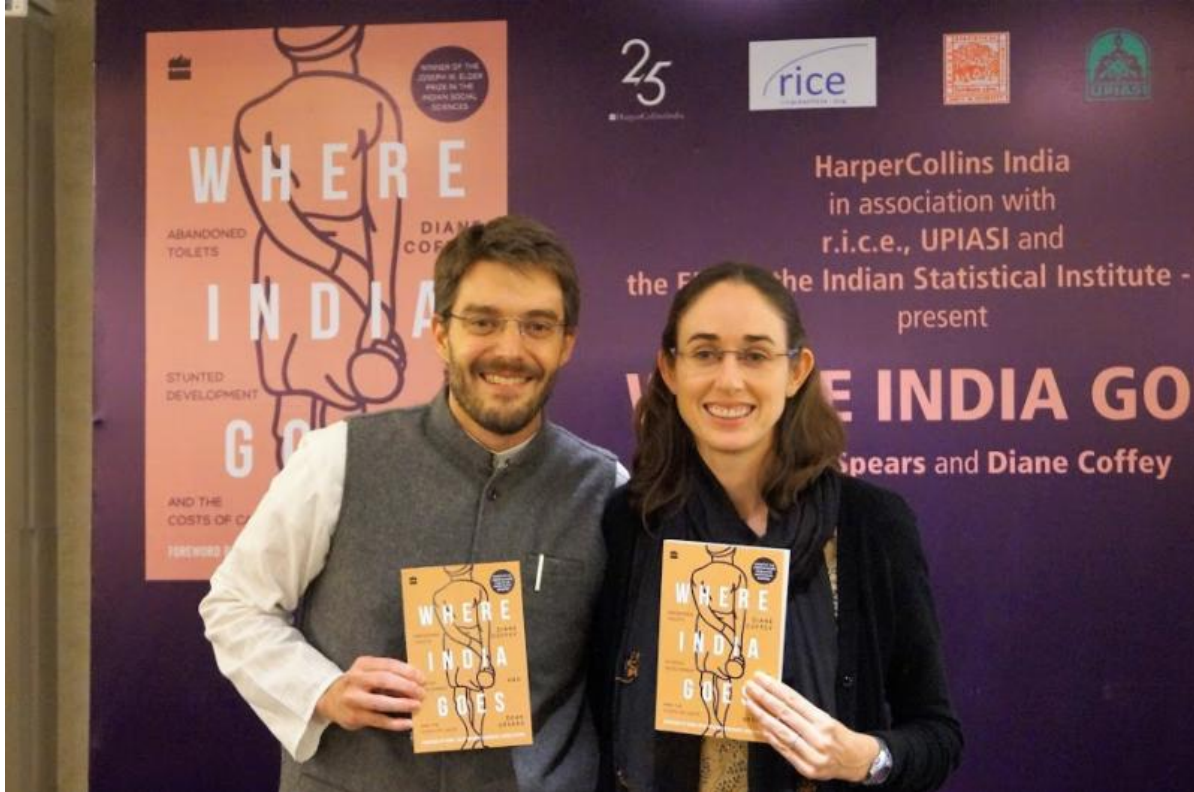
about population issues in social welfare and about decision-making, in particular decision-making by poor people and the social psychology of interaction between richer and poorer people. Dean has worked in El Salvador, India, and South Africa. Dean has an MA in International Studies from the University of Oklahoma, and an MPA in Development Studies and a PhD in Economics from Princeton University. He is currently a visiting economist at the Economic and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.



Diane Coffey is a

demographer who studies social influences on health in India. She studies the intergenerational transmission of poor population health resulting from India's exceptionally poor maternal nutrition.

Her research traces links among gender, stratification, and poor birth, childhood, and adult health outcomes. She has also studied the causes and consequences of poor sanitation in India. Her research has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as *Social Science & Medicine*, *Population Research & Policy Review*, and other journals. Diane holds a BA from Villanova University, and an MPA and a PhD from Princeton University. She is currently a visiting researcher at the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi.



IHDS in the News

- Agarwal, Sapna and Arun Janardhan. "Thane-Ghodbunder: From two-lane road to mallstreet", *Live Mint*, June 23, 2017. [Link](#).
- Chakraborty, Tanika and Aarti Gupta. "The Downside of Repeated Debt Waivers", *The Wire*, 2017 June 29, 2017. [Link](#)
- Chishti, Seema. Unlike earlier, violence (against Dalits) now by community as a whole, says Sukhdeo Thorat", *The Indian Express*, June 13, 2017 [Link](#).
- Ganguly, Arnab. Veil rips mindset mask—Haryana government proclaims pride in 'hoonghat', *The Telegraph*, June 28, 2017 [Link](#).
- Kulkarni, Vani S., Raghav Gaiha and Veena S. Kulkarni. The high cost of ageing", *The Hindu*: June 22, 2017 [Link](#).
- Shenava, Adithi. "Indian Women: An Untapped Source of Economic Growth", *The Market Mogul*, June 7, 2017 [Link](#).
- *The Hindu*. India has 31% of world's poor kids: report", June 2, 2017 [Link](#).

Recent Publications Using IHDS

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- Castilla, Carolina. (2017). "Political role models, child marriage, and women's autonomy over marriage in India", *WIDER Working Paper 2017/121*, The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, Accessed online June 6, 2017. [Link](#)
- Dehury, B. and S.K. Mohanty (2017). "Multidimensional poverty, household environment and short-term morbidity in India", *Genus*, 73(1): 3. DOI: 10.1186/s41118-017-0019-1. Accessed online June 6, 2017. [Link](#)
- Chatterjee, S. and A. Kastor (2017). "To What Extent Do Couples' Pre-Marital Communications Affect Their Post-Marital Fertility Behaviour In India?", *Journal of Biosocial Science*, pp. 1–16. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021932017000177>. Accessed online June 10, 2017. [Link](#)
- Congdon Fors, H. and A. Lindskog (2017). "Within-Family Inequalities in Human Capital Accumulation in India: Birth Order and Gender Effects", *Working Papers in Economics 700*, Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg, Accessed online June 25, 2017. [Link](#)
- Dehury, B. and S.K. Mohanty (2017). "Multidimensional poverty, household environment and short-term morbidity in India", *Genus*, 73(1): 3. DOI: 10.1186/s41118-017-0019-1. Accessed online June 6, 2017. [Link](#)
- Jaikumar, S., R. Singh and A. Sarin. (2017). "I show off, so I am well off: Subjective economic well-being and conspicuous consumption in an emerging economy", *Journal of Business Research*. Accessed online June 6, 2017. [Link](#)
- Nordman, Christophe J., Smriti Sharma, Naveen Sunder (Forthcoming). "Income Shocks, Educational Investments and Child Work: Evidence from Rural India". Accessed online June 25, 2017. [Link](#)

- Ray, R., and R. Datta (2017). "Do separate female toilets in primary and upper primary schools improve female enrollment? A case study from India", *Children and Youth Services Review*. Accessed online June 13, 2017. [Link](#)
- Vasudevan, Srinivasan. (2017). "Essays on the Economic, Political, and Social Effects of Mass Media". PhD Thesis in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Accessed online June 27, 2017. [Link](#)
- Chakraborty, Tanika, and Aarti Gupta. (2017). "Loan Repayment Behaviour of Farmers: Analysing Indian Households". Accessed online June 3, 2017. [Link](#)

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 these 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.



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