



## INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

November 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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### In this issue...

- Researchers working with IHDS data analyse employment transitions of working age women in India
- A paper using IHDS data finds that rural women with regular access to mass media are more likely to have access to sanitation
- Media Mentions
- Recent publications using IHDS

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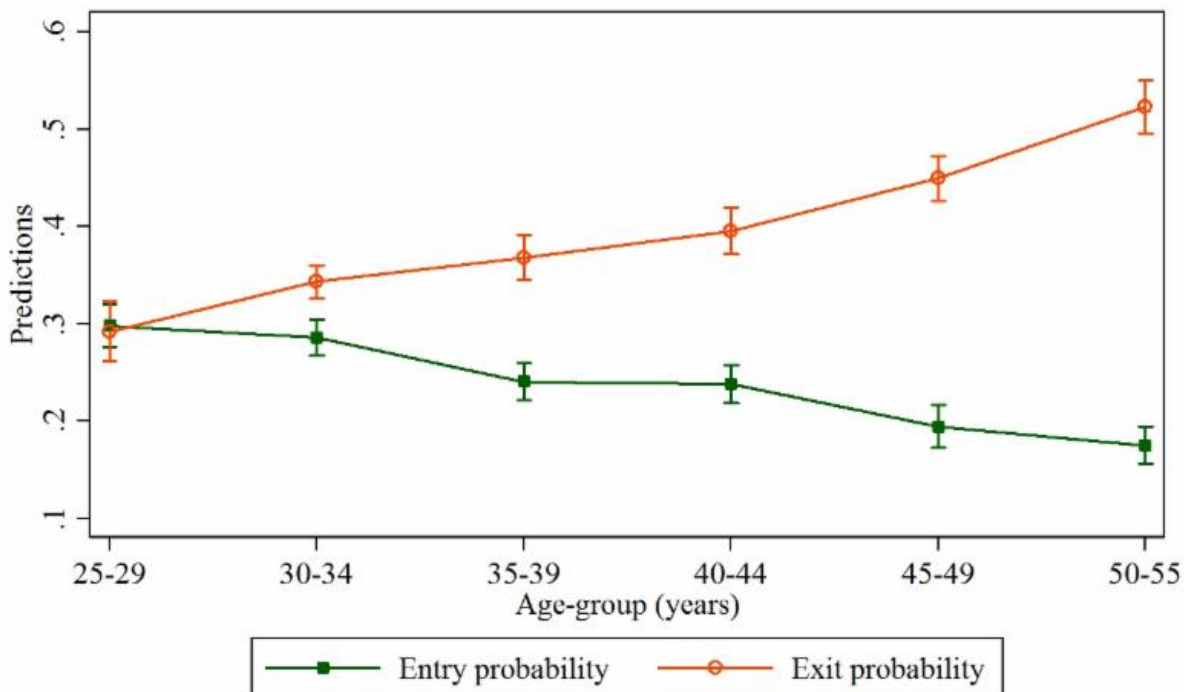
### User Paper

#### Employment Transitions of Women in India: A Panel Analysis

by **Sudipa Sarkar, Soham Sahoo and Stephan Klasen**

This study analyses the employment transitions of working-age women in India. The puzzling issue of low labour force participation despite substantial economic growth, strong fertility decline and expanding female education in India has been studied in the recent literature. However, no study has so far examined the dynamics of employment in terms of labour force entry and exit in this context. Using a nationally representative panel dataset, the authors show that women are not only participating less in the labour force, but also dropping out at an alarming rate. They estimate an endogenous switching model that corrects for selection bias due to initial employment and panel attrition, to investigate the determinants of women's entry into and exit from employment. The analysis finds that an increase in income of other members of the household leads to lower entry and higher exit probabilities of women. This income effect persists even after controlling for the dynamics of asset holding of the household. Along with the effects of caste and religion, this result reveals the importance of cultural and economic factors in explaining the declining workforce participation of women in India. The authors also explore other individual and household level determinants of women's employment transitions. Moreover, they find that a large public workfare programme significantly reduces women's exit from the labour force.

## Age-group wise probabilities of women's employment entry and exit



The probabilities of entering into employment and exiting from employment between 2004-05 and 2011-12 are plotted. The bars show 95 percent confidence intervals. Age-groups are based on women's age in 2004-05; the same women are followed in 2011-12.

[Full Paper Here](#)



**Sudipa Sarkar** is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick. Previously, she has been a Marie Curie Fellow associated with the Eduworks Training Network of the European Commission's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and has completed her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Salamanca, Spain. Her current research focuses on skills, occupational change, job quality, female labour force participation, and wage inequality. Sudipa has been affiliated with several research organisations where she has worked on issues relating to primary education, multidimensional childhood poverty, and informal sector in India.



**Soham Sahoo** is a Post-doctoral Researcher in the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Goettingen, Germany. He received a Ph.D. in Quantitative Economics from Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi. His research interests broadly lie in the area of development economics, with a focus on the economics of education, gender, labour, and political economy. His current research explores issues such as gender segregation in education, women's economic participation, short-term migration, and the effect of political leaders' identity on economic growth and development.



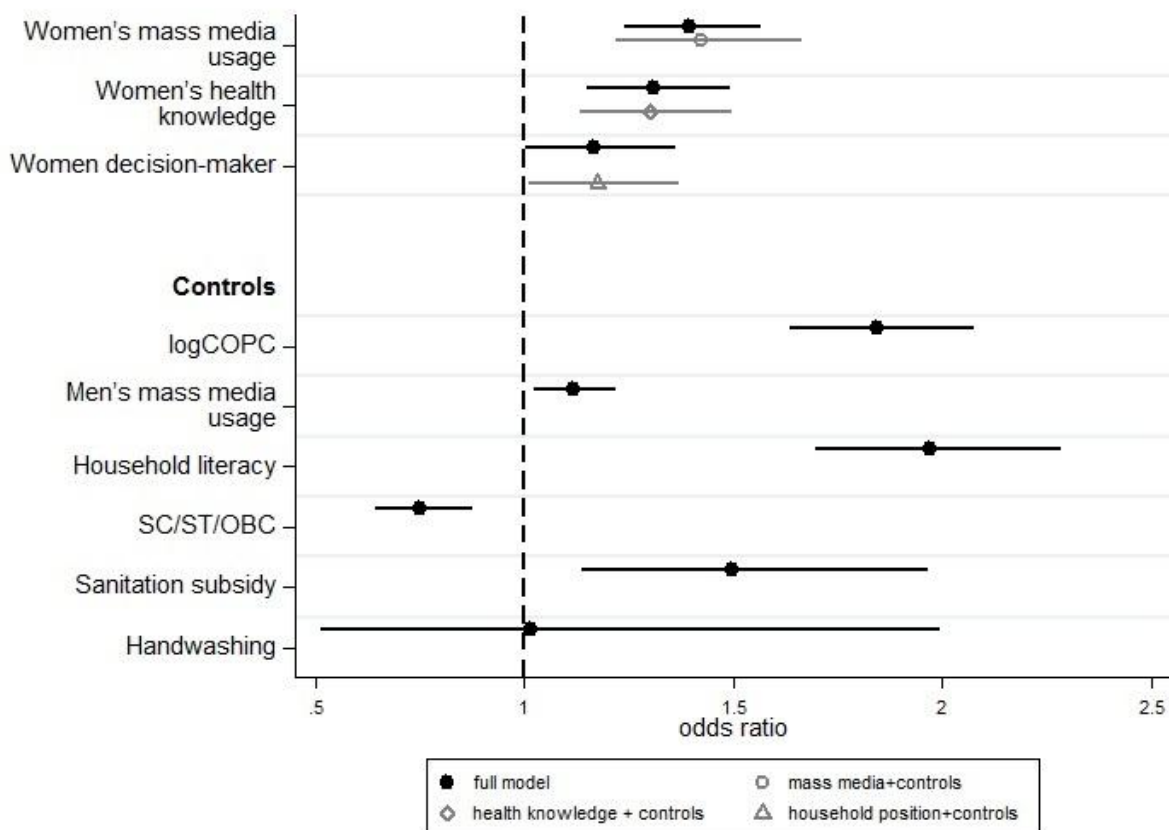
**Stephan Klasen** is Professor of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen. He is also the Director of the Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research and the Coordinator of the Courant Research Center 'Poverty, equity, and growth in developing and transition countries.' He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has since held positions at the World Bank, King's College (Cambridge, UK), and the University of Munich. His research focuses mostly on issues of poverty, inequality, environment, and gender. He is a member of the UN Committee on Development Policy, President of the European Development Research Network, and was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment

## User Paper

## Informing Women and improving sanitation: Evidence from rural India

By YuJung (Julia) Lee

Sanitation is an essential service that women can greatly benefit from in developing countries. Lack of access to sanitation does not only put women and children at increased risks of waterborne diseases, but it also results in the practice of open defecation, which adversely affects the physical security of women. This study explores the underlying conditions that help explain variations in household latrine ownership in rural India with a particular focus on the role of information. Using IHDS panel data from 2004 and 2011, the author finds that rural households with women who have regular access to mass media, more so than men, are more likely to have latrines. The results also show that women's decision-making power in the household makes a difference, but to a lesser degree. Extending this analysis with district-level data from India's sanitation campaign, the study also demonstrates that different mass media channels have distinct influences on the rural poor and non-poor. For the rural poor, where the consequences of a lack of sanitation are most acute for women, increasing latrine provision is more strongly associated with changes in radio ownership; for the non-poor, television ownership has a stronger relationship. By highlighting the role of the mass media in latrine ownership, and differentiating by gender, this study identifies an important mechanism that has been given less consideration in the study of women and access to basic services



**Fig. 1. Estimates of Linkages between Women and Latrine Ownership, India.**

Figure plots coefficients in odds ratios with 95 percent confidence intervals. Dependent variable is change in household ownership of an improved latrine between 2004 and 2010. Black points are for the full model with all control variables, gray points are from reduced models. See text for detailed description. All models include state fixed effects. n=19,124.

[Full Paper Here](#)

**YuJung (Julia) Lee** is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests lie in the political economy of development, gender politics, and government effectiveness in basic service provision with a focus on Asia, in general, and India, in particular. Her dissertation examines the role of women in improving access to sanitation in India. She is currently working on a project that explores



the political causes of a lack of basic services among the urban poor in New Delhi. She received her PhD in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2015.

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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.

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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