



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

September 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...

- IHDS finds that few women own agricultural land
- Media Mentions
- Recent publications using IHDS
- A paper examining **effect of dowry on women's health**

A closer look...

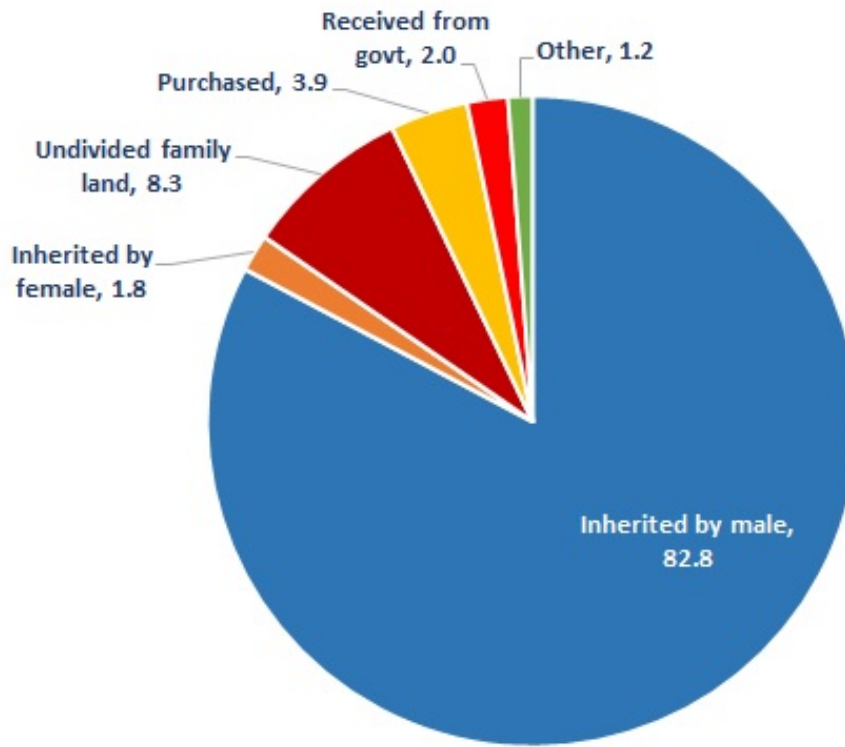
IHDS is the first nationwide survey to ask about individual ownership of agricultural land

With changing laws, there is great interest in women's control over agricultural land. IHDS is the first large scale survey to ask questions about how agricultural land was acquired and the names of individuals who own the land. The results show that in spite of the existence of laws ensuring women's rights to agricultural land, most of the land is owned either by men or by undivided families.

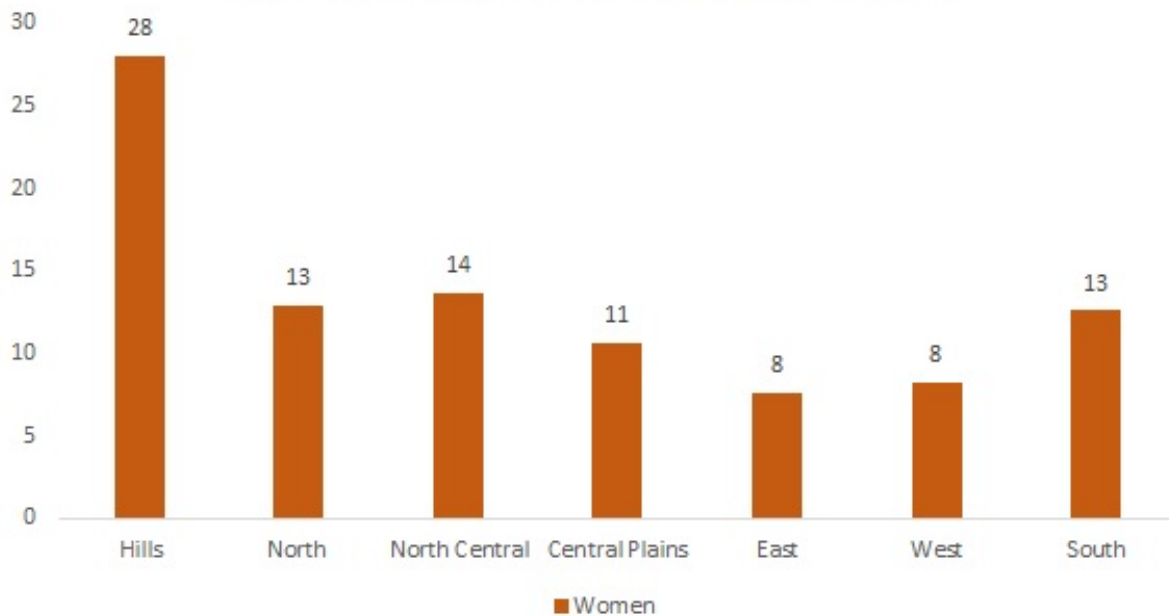
IHDS shows that about 57 per cent of the households in rural areas and 9 per cent of the households in urban areas own any agricultural land. IHDS also found that about 83 per cent of the agricultural land is inherited by male members of the family and less than 2 per cent by their female counterparts. For 8.3 per cent households, land is still held as undivided family land with the remainder being acquired through other means.

Moreover, when asked under whose name agricultural land is held, most households identified men as title holders. When disaggregated region-wise, the data show that the highest proportion of female ownership is found in the hill region, at 28 per cent. The corresponding figures for female ownership of agricultural land are 14 per cent in the North Central region, 13 per cent each in the North and the South, and 11 per cent in the Central Plains, and around 8 per cent each in the East and West.

Break-up of land ownership



Percent households in which women hold any title to land (excluding undivided family land) by region



User Paper

Disease and Dowry: Community Context, Gender, and Adult Health in India

By Samuel Stroope

Through extensive use of IHDS, the author points to the gap in knowledge about gendered contexts that are differentially important for the physical health of men and women in low- and middle-income countries. The paper examines whether the local frequency of dowry is associated with gender differences in physical health including acute illness, length of the illness and chronic illness. The results show that as dowry frequency increases in communities, women have a greater likelihood of poor health across all three outcomes, and men have a lower likelihood of chronic illness. In the case of all three health outcomes, the

Full Paper Here



Samuel Stroope is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University. He received a Ph.D. in sociology from Baylor University in 2013. His dissertation focused on gender-based health disparities in India. Dr. Stroope's primary research areas are community context effects on health and religious effects on health and other social outcomes. In addition to publishing in scholarly journals such as *Social Forces* and *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Dr. Stroope's research has received coverage in media outlets such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

IHDS in the News

- Byravan, Sujatha and Debapriya Das. "Climate-proofed and inclusive", *The Hindu*, July 03, 2017. [Link](#).
- Kulkarni, Veena S. and Raghav Gaiha. "Has disability risen among the elderly?," *Sunday Guardian Live*, July 29, 2017 [Link](#)
- Kundu, Tadit. "Low mobility across generations heightens job creation challenge", *Live Mint*, July 13, 2017 [Link](#)
- Mohammed, Shariq. "Estimating intergenerational income mobility in rural India", *Ideas for India*, July 03, 2017 [Link](#).
- Telma, Kate. "When castes collide", *MIT News*, July 20, 2017 [Link](#)
- Yadav, Monika. Middy meals scheme: Are corruption claims exaggerated?," *Ideas for India*, July 31, 2017 [Link](#)

Recent Publications Using IHDS

- Boroah, V.K. (2017). "Learning Outcomes of School Children", *The Progress of Education in India: A Quantitative Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities*, Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp. 55–85. Accessed online July 14, 2017. [Link](#)
- Coffey, D., D. Spears and S. Vyas. (2017). "Switching to sanitation: Understanding latrine adoption in a representative panel of rural Indian households", *Social Science & Medicine*, 188: 41-50. Accessed online July 11, 2017. [Link](#)
- Kaur, Randeep. (2017). "Essays in Human Capital Development". Ph.D Dissertation in The Faculty of the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin. Accessed online July 4, 2017. [Link](#)
- Khatri, S. (2017). "Essays on Migration, Remittances, and Welfare", Ph.D Dissertation in The Faculty of the Department of Economics, University of Houston. Accessed online July 11, 2017. [Link](#)
- Neog, Bhaskar Jyoti and Bimal Kishore Sahoo. (2017). "Self-Employment Profits: The Case of India", (June 13, 2017). Accessed online July 25, 2017. [Link](#)
- Roychowdhury, Punarjit. (2017) "Empirical Essays on the Economics of Social Interactions". Southern Methodist University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. Accessed online July 18, 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 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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