



INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

April 2018

Welcome to the India Human Development Survey Forum

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

[Unsubscribe Link at the Bottom](#)

In this issue...

- Using IHDS panel data to explore the issue of participation in MGNREGA, **Omkar Joshi** *highlights the broad-based outreach and support base of the programme.*
- In her paper on gender-based discrimination, **Tara Kaul** *relies on child level data from the nationally representative IHDS-II (2011-12) to confirm the presence of a pro-male bias in Indian households.*
- **Media Mentions**
- **Recent publications using IHDS**

Research Findings Based on IHDS Data

Who Participates in MGNREGA? Analyses from Longitudinal Data

By Omkar Joshi, Sonalde Desai, Reeve Vanneman and Amaresh Dubey

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted in 2005 and has completed a little over a decade in India. It is the largest public employment programme in the world and has promoted wider participation from rural households across the country. This paper examines the issue of programme participation in MGNREGA holistically by looking at household and individual-level participation and controlling for regional heterogeneity, using a unique panel data from the nationally representative India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Using binary logistic model and fixed effects models at the state and village levels, the paper finds that poor households with a low asset base and those belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories are more likely to participate in the programme, but the support base of MGNREGA is broad-based, not just limited to these groups. It also shows that as compared to other types of work, due to equal wages in MGNREGA, women participating in this programme are less disadvantaged than men, and thereby have access to greater opportunities for empowerment.

Table: Logistic regression results (household level)

MGNREGA participation status	Coefficients	Standard error
Round II (2011–12) Variables		
No. of adults	0.050**	0.016
Caste and ethnicity ('forward castes' omitted)		
OBCs	0.053***	0.061
SCs	0.652***	0.068
STs	0.301***	0.082
Religion ('Hindus' omitted)		
Muslims	−0.052	0.075
Others	−0.450***	0.105
Round I (2004–05) Variables		
No. of consumer durables owned	−0.046***	0.006
Household income in 2004–05 (bottom quintile omitted)*		
2nd quintile	0.141**	0.062
3rd quintile	0.104	0.065
4th quintile	0.082	0.070
Top quintile	−0.271***	0.091
Education level of the household (no education omitted)		
Primary (1–4 std.)	−0.064	0.071
Secondary (5–9 std.)	−0.210***	0.054
10–11 std.	−0.381***	0.081
12 std./some college	−0.470***	0.102
Graduate/diploma	−0.748***	0.119
Sources of income (farm/own cultivation omitted)		
Non-agricultural wage	0.004	0.065
Agricultural wage	0.229***	0.063
Salary	−0.225**	0.082
Business	−0.252**	0.088
Animal care	−0.507***	0.106
Remittances/other	−0.359**	0.103
Constant	−0.879***	0.099
Sample size (N households)	28,129	

***<0.001, **<0.01, *<0.5 and + 0.5 to 0.05 respectively.

* Quintile calculations are based on rural income distribution.

Source: Authors' calculations from IHDS I and II.

[Full Paper Here](#)

Omkar Joshi is a doctoral student and a graduate assistant in the Department of Sociology at University of Maryland, College Park. His previous training is in the field of Economics with a focus on developmental issues. He has co-authored a comprehensive report on the household welfare impacts of a large scale public employment programme titled "MGNREGA: A Catalyst for Rural Transformation" with Dr Sonalde Desai. His broad areas of interest are inequality and social mobility, family demography and caste networks and religion in India. Specifically, he is interested in exploring the links between economic inequality, the labour market and family structures. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Statistics and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Mumbai, India.



Intra-household allocation of educational expenses: Gender discrimination and investing in the future

Gender discrimination within the household exists in many contexts. In societies where the norm is to not expect future support from daughters, parents may invest even less in the health and human capital of girls. In India, as in other patriarchal societies, the eldest son occupies a special position as the potential head of the extended family and is expected to assume responsibility for parents' welfare in their old age. In this paper, the author explores intra-household differences in educational expenditure and enrolment for children by gender and birth order. Using child level data from the nationally representative India Human Development Survey-II (2011–12), she confirms the presence of a pro-male bias and an additional preference for the eldest son. In families with more children and greater competition for resources within the household, the pro-male bias falls and the bias in favour of the eldest son is greater. Parents in the higher income bracket, who are also less likely to be dependent on their children, discriminate less in favour of the eldest son. As expected, pro-male bias is highest in the north, central and eastern zones of the country. The north-eastern zone exhibits the lowest levels of intra household discrimination based on gender. Finally, the author finds evidence suggesting reverse discrimination, that is, discrimination against sons, in the state of Meghalaya which follows a rare matrilineal system where the youngest daughter takes over as the head of the household.

Table
Educational expenses and enrollment.

Panel A	Dependent variable: Enrolled (1,0 dummy)	
	(1)	(2)
Male	0.0117*** (0.00313)	0.00745* (0.00388)
First Born		0.0250*** (0.00415)
Eldest son		0.00754* (0.00430)
Constant	0.650*** (0.00987)	0.626*** (0.0108)
Observations	31,901	31,901
Adjusted R ²	0.166	0.168
Panel B	Dependent variable: Log child educational expenses	
	(1)	(2)
Male	0.188*** (0.0111)	0.149*** (0.0137)
First Born		0.0768*** (0.0133)
Eldest son		0.0696*** (0.0144)
Constant	6.689*** (0.0236)	6.737*** (0.0255)
Observations	27,696	27,696
Adjusted R ²	0.217	0.221

Standard errors in parentheses. *p < .10, **p < .05, ***p < .01.

Notes: 1. All regressions include age indicators and household fixed effects. 2. Standard errors are robust.

[Full Paper Here](#)



Tara Kaul works as an Evaluation Specialist at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), New Delhi, India. At 3ie, she manages and provides support on methodology and policy relevance to a global portfolio of impact evaluation studies in sectors including nutrition, humanitarian assistance and social protection. Her areas of research specialisation are Development Economics, Food Subsidies, Nutrition, Education, and Intra-household Gender Relations. Her current research focuses on the nutritional impact of food subsidies such as the PDS in India, and on intra-household gender discrimination in educational expenditures in India. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University

IHDS in the News

- Mehta, Anupma. "Gender gap in land ownership", *Business Standard*, April 17, 2018. [Link](#).
- Bhalotra, Sonia, Abhishek Chakravarty, and Selim Gulesci. "How India's Bridal Dowry Tradition Leads to Missing Women", *ProMarket*, March 26, 2018. [Link](#).
- Paliath, Shreehari, *IndiaSpend*. "India has maximum people without clean water, women suffer the most", *India Samvad*, March 21, 2018. [Link](#). And also in *Business Standard*. [Link](#).
- Bisht, Renuka. "Hegemony of Vegetarianism (Part 1)", *Blogs, Times of India*, March 13, 2018. [Link](#).
- Garg, Lavanya and Snigdha Shahi, *IndiaSpend*. "3 in 4 Indian Women Don't Work. Can Skill India, job guarantee change this?", *Business Standard*, March 12, 2018. [Link](#). And also in *IndiaSpend* [Link](#)
- Poovanna, Sharon. "Karnataka polls: Parties woo farmers with sops, but fail to address job worries of rural youth", *Livemint*, March 8, 2018. [Link](#).
- Krishnan, Kavita. "International Women's Day is about challenging patriarchy", *National Herald*, March 8, 2018. [Link](#).
- Jaffrelot, Christophe and Kalaiyarasan A. "The Karnataka Model", *The Indian Express*, March 8, 2018. [Link](#).
- Natrajan, Balmurli and Suraj Jacob. "What India Really Eats", *The Wire*, March 5, 2018. [Link](#).
- Himanshi Dhawan. "When women stopped eating leftovers", *The Times of India*, March 3, 2018. [Link](#).

Recent Publications Using IHDS

- Mohanty, I., and Gebremedhin, T. A. (2018). "Maternal autonomy and birth registration in India: Who gets counted?" *PLoS One*, 13(3), e0194095. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0194095377. Accessed on March 20, 2018. [Link](#).
- Balmurli, N., and Suraj Jacob. (2018). "Provincialising' Vegetarianism." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 53(9), 54-64. Accessed on March 17, 2018. [Link](#)
- Ranganathan, T., and G. Pandey. (2018). "Who Leaves Farmland Fallow and Why? An Empirical Investigation Using Nationally Representative Survey Data from India." *The European Journal of Development Research*, 1-20. doi:10.1057/s41287-018-0139-2. Accessed on March 15, 2018. [Link](#).
- Jagnani, M., and G. Khanna. (2017). *Trickle-Down Education? Effects of Elite Public Colleges on Primary and Secondary Schooling Markets in India*. Retrieved from [link](#) on March 15, 2018.
- Gietel-Basten, S., and M. Rajbhar. (2018). "One-child Ideation in India." *SocArXiv Papers*. Retrieved from [link](#) on March 9, 2018.
- Dhanaraj, S., and V. Mahambare. (2017). "Family structure, education and women's employment in rural India." *WIDER Working Paper 2017/195*. UNU-WIDER. Retrieved from [link](#) on March 6, 2018.
- Nayyar, G., and K. Y. Kim. (2018). "India's Internal Labor Migration Paradox: The Statistical and the Real." *Policy Research Working Paper-WPS8356*. World Bank Group. Retrieved from [link](#) on March 3, 2018.

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://ihds.umd.edu>

Mail: ihdsinfo@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

