

INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

June 2018

Research Findings Based on IHDS Data

June 16 is designated by United Nations as the **International Day of Family Remittances**, to acknowledge the significant financial contributions that migrant workers make for promoting the well-being of their families back home. Remittances not only facilitate the sustainable development of the economic and social ecosystem in the migrants' places of origin but also help alleviate poverty by ensuring the optimal reach and impact of these funds for families in need, especially in the developing world.

On this day, IHDS brings you some statistics on the extent of remittances in India and their role in poverty alleviation. These data show:

- The percentage of households receiving remittances in IHDS-II (2011-12) over IHDS-I (2004-05) rose sharply from 9 per cent to 16 per cent in rural areas, and from 4 per cent to 8 per cent in urban areas.
- Decomposition analysis suggests that growth in remittances is the third largest contributor to poverty decline between 2004-05 and 2011-12, just behind growth in wages and salaries, and growth in self-employment income.
- The social consequences of migration include tremendous stress faced by families living apart. The number of married women, aged 15–49 years, whose husbands live away from the home, nearly doubled between 2004-05 and 2011-12.



Family Remittances

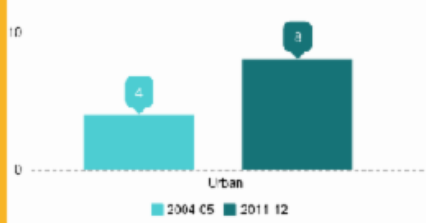
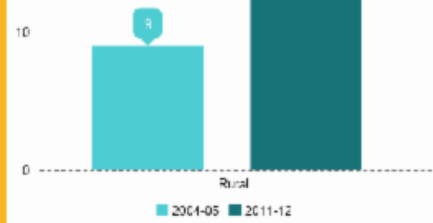
Insights from IHDS



June 16 is designated by the UN as International Family Remittances day. In this newsletter we celebrate families helping each other.



Households receiving remittances has grown sharply between 2004-05 and 2011-12

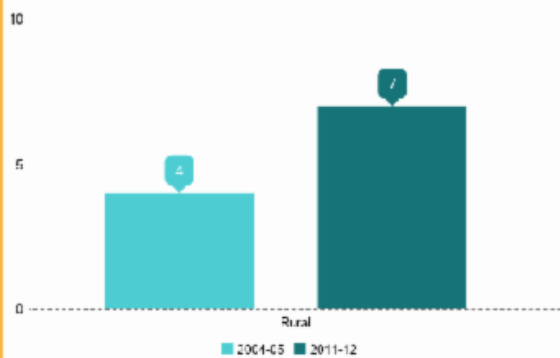


Rural

Urban

In rural India, share of remittances in household income nearly doubled

Share of remittances in household income



Remittances from friends and family form a small but important part of household budget

Remittances contributed to poverty decline between 2004-05 and 2011-12



Increase in wage income



Increase in self-employment income

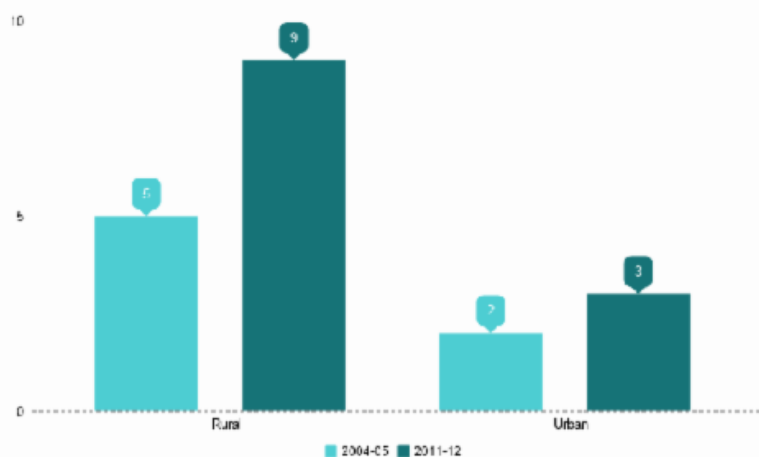


Increase in remittances

Decomposition analyses from Balcazar et. al. published as a 2016 World Bank working paper shows that remittances form the third largest factor contributing to poverty decline

But remittances are often associated with tremendous personal stress. A growing number of families are separated, particularly in rural India.

Percent of married women whose husbands live elsewhere



IHDS.. Celebrating families caring for each other....

IHDS in the News

- Khaitan, Shreya. "Indians Least Likely to Break out of Education, Income Bracket They're Born into", *India Spend*, 4 June, 2018. [Link](#). Also re-printed in *Business Standard*. [Link](#). and in *the quint*. [Link](#)
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- Rahman, Andaleeb and Chandni Singh. "Agrarian Distress: What Options Do Farmers Have?", Asia and the Pacific Policy Society, 4 May, 2018. [Link](#).

Recent Publications Using IHDS

- Das, P., B. Ganguli, S. Marjit, and S. Roy. (2018). "The Dynamics of Finance-Growth-Inequality Nexus: Theory and Evidence for India." Retrieved on May 26, 2018 from [link](#).
- Subramanian, S. (2018). "Participation of Rural Households in Farm, Non-farm and Pluri-Activity: Evidences from India." *Working Paper 412*. Bangalore: The Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC). Retrieved on May 24, 2018 from [link](#).
- Borooah, V.K. (2018). "Child Malnutrition," in V.K. Borooah (ed.), *Health and Well-Being in India: A Quantitative Analysis of Inequality in Outcomes and Opportunities*, pp. 105–141, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham: Springer International Publishing. Accessed on May 22, 2018. [Link](#).
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- Sánchez, A., and A. Singh. (2018). "Assessing Higher Education in Developing Countries: Panel Data Analysis from India, Peru, and Vietnam." *World Development*, 109: 261-278. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.04.015>. Accessed on May 19, 2018.
- Marjit, S., A. Mukherji, and S. Sarkar. (2018). "Pareto Efficiency, Inequality and Distribution Neutral Fiscal Policy—An Overview," *Discussion Papers Series 590*. Australia: School of Economics, University of Queensland. Retrieved on May 19, 2018 from [link](#).
- Dhamija, G., and P. Roychowdhury. (2018). "The Impact of Women's Age at Marriage on Own and Spousal Labor Market Outcomes in India: Causation or Selection?" *Munich Personal RePEc Archive (MPRA) Paper*. Retrieved on May 19, 2018 from [link](#).
- Kumar, A.S., P. Yazir, and G.G. Gopika. (2018). "Consumption Inequality in India after Liberalization: A Caste Based Assessment," *The Singapore Economic Review*. Accessed on May 5, 2018 from [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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