



## INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

May 2018

Welcome to the India Human Development Survey Forum

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

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### In this issue...

1. **PAPER USING IHDS DATA SELECTED AS ONE OF THE BEST POSTERS AT PAA, 2018** A paper by Karmjeet Kaur et al., on '*The Influence of Grandparents as Co-Residents on Child Linear Growth*', based on IHDS-II data, examines the problem of child stunting in India. The paper, which was presented in poster format at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA), 2018, finds that grandparents who co-reside with children may improve stunting by function as secondary caretakers or exacerbate stunting by competing for household resources.
2. In their paper on *Food Security and Child Malnutrition in India*, Anders Kjelsrud and Rohini Somanathan use both waves of IHDS data to examine the correlation between household calorie intakes and malnourishment in children.
3. **Media Mentions**
4. **Recent publications using IHDS**

## Research Findings Based on IHDS Data

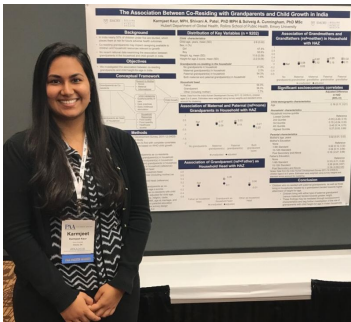
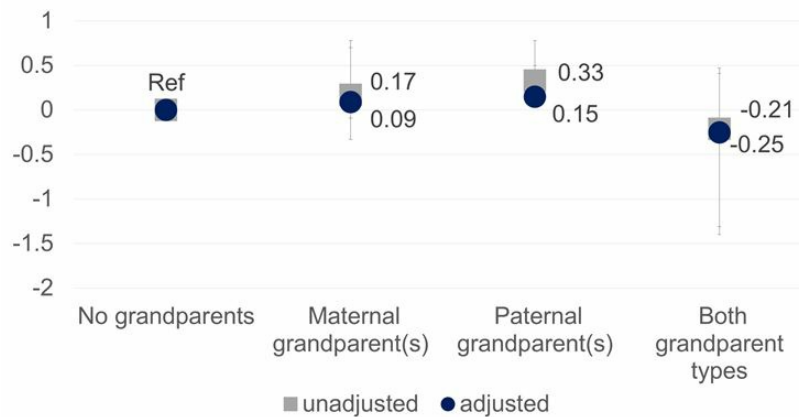
One of the Best Posters at PAA, 2018

### The Influence of Grandparents as Co-Residents on Child Linear Growth

By Karmjeet Kaur, Shivani A. Patel, and Solveig Argeseanu Cunningham

Child stunting (low height-for-age z-score [HAZ]) is a persistent problem in India. However, grandparents who co-reside with children may help either in countering stunting by functioning as secondary caretakers or in exacerbating stunting by competing for household resources. The authors investigated the influence of co-residing grandparents and child height-for-age in the India Human Development Survey 2011–12 (IHDS-II). Of 9202 children <5, the mean HAZ was -2.2, 54 per cent co-resided with grandparent(s), and 38.3 per cent lived in households headed by a grandparent. Children living in households headed by a grandparent, as compared to headed by their father, had 0.36 SD ( $p < .05$ ) higher height-for-age, which attenuated to 0.10 ( $p \geq .05$ ) when adjusting for socio-economic characteristics. Children co-residing with paternal grandparent(s), relative to residing with no grandparents, had 0.33 SD ( $p < .05$ ) higher height-for-age, which attenuated to 0.15 SD ( $p \geq .05$ ) when adjusting for socio-economic characteristics. The socio-demographic composition of households in which grandparents and grandchildren co-reside may explain better growth in children with co-residing grandparent(s) as compared with children not residing with grandparents. These findings may be mediated through socio-economic characteristics and beg further investigation of the role of grandparents with child height-for-age in Indian households.

## Association of Maternal and Paternal (ref=none) Grandparents in Household with HAZ



### Profile of Lead Author of the Poster

**Karmjeet Kaur** is a Research Assistant at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. She has been involved in several studies and projects during her association with Emory. These include an HIV/AIDS prevention intervention among the African-American community in Atlanta, a diabetes prevention pilot study for refugees, and a maternal immunizations study aiming to increase coverage in the US. She is interested in understanding the public health issues of the world in a cultural context, specifically, in learning about gender-based discriminations in the areas of sexual health, violence, and nutrition while continuing to work with diverse

populations across the globe. Karmjeet holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Emory University and a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from Mercer University, Georgia.

## Food Security and Child Malnutrition in India

By Anders Kjelsrud and Rohini Somanathan

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) in India was passed in 2013 to remove hunger and reduce malnutrition. The Act provides 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population with a minimum entitlement of 5 kilograms of grain per person per month. This paper explores the likely effects of the Act on food security and malnutrition. The authors use data from the IHDS, a nationally representative household survey conducted in two waves, in 2004-05 and 2011-12, to examine whether the presence of malnourished children is correlated with household calorie intakes. They conclude that the rates of stunting and wasting are only weakly related to calorie consumption. Household and village amenities and parental education are more important predictors of these nutritional indicators. They also find that the NFSA grain entitlements are below the current consumption levels of most households and are therefore unlikely to significantly alter consumption. A fully implemented NFSA stipulating individual rather than household entitlements can still benefit the poor through more progressive income transfers implicit in food subsidies.

TABLE : Household characteristics, by malnutrition status  
(IHDS 2004-05 and 2011-12 combined). Reported figures are percentages unless otherwise stated

	Stunted (1)	Wasted (2)	Stunted & Wasted (3)	None (4)
Per capita calories per day (#)	1919.3 (639.2)	1895.2 (618.1)	1839.8 (646.8)	1933.1 (678.3)
Any PDS grain consumption	30.6 (46.1)	35.0 (47.7)	33.9 (47.3)	38.2 (48.6)
Monthly per capita expenditure (constant rupees)	580.2 (421.6)	576.4 (390.9)	519.1 (357.2)	653.1 (519.3)
Housesize (#)	7.2 (3.0)	7.8 (3.7)	8.0 (3.9)	7.5 (3.3)
Highest education level, adult males (grades)	6.3 (4.8)	6.6 (4.9)	6.2 (4.8)	7.2 (4.9)
Highest education level, adult females (grades)	3.6 (4.4)	3.8 (4.6)	3.4 (4.3)	4.5 (4.8)
Piped water	16.4 (37.0)	21.9 (41.3)	15.4 (36.1)	23.3 (42.3)
Toilet	55.4 (49.7)	57.8 (49.4)	51.0 (50.0)	63.9 (48.0)
Electricity	60.2 (48.9)	63.8 (48.0)	55.3 (49.7)	67.6 (46.8)
Main income from cultivation	37.1 (48.3)	42.8 (49.5)	39.9 (49.0)	39.2 (48.8)
Main income from agriculture labour	16.4 (37.1)	16.2 (36.9)	15.4 (36.1)	14.4 (35.1)
Government middle school in village	63.9 (48.0)	60.2 (48.9)	59.5 (49.1)	66.9 (47.0)
Government secondary school in village	24.3 (42.9)	26.2 (44.0)	24.4 (43.0)	29.2 (45.5)
Government sub-PHC in village	41.7 (49.3)	46.6 (49.9)	44.0 (49.6)	46.7 (49.9)
Government PHC in village	14.1 (34.8)	14.2 (34.9)	13.8 (34.5)	14.6 (35.3)
Private clinic in village	23.0 (42.1)	25.5 (43.6)	22.0 (41.4)	25.5 (43.6)
Observations	6515	1242	1479	10167

Note: Standard deviations are in parentheses. The sample is restricted to households with at least one child under the age of 5.

[Full Paper Here](#)

**Anders Kjelsrud** is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Study of Equality, Social Organization, and Performance, Department of Economics, University of Oslo. His research focuses on economic development, with a particular focus on the measurement of poverty and inequality in India, covering cost-of-living across regions and income classes, as well as adjustments for variation in access to publicly provided goods. His other work explores the relationships between inequality, political competition and health outcomes in developing countries, and how support for the welfare state is affected by local labour market shocks. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Oslo.



**Rohini Somanathan** is Professor of Economics at the Delhi School of Economics. She held faculty positions at Emory University, the University of Michigan, and the Indian Statistical Institute before joining the Delhi School of Economics in 2005. Much of her research focuses on how social institutions interact with public policies to determine patterns of economic and social inequality. She has also worked on a variety of questions related to development policy in the Indian context. These include studies on the effects of economic liberalisation on productivity and wage inequality, access to microfinance, the impact of school nutrition programmes on child outcomes, and the assessment of

alternative policies to counter urban environmental problems such as solid waste and air pollution. She received her PhD in Economics from Boston University.

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## IHDS in the News

- Merchant, Minhaz. "Has Rising Turmoil Really Destroyed India's Growth Story", *Daily O*, April 27, 2018. [Link](#).
- Sen, Rumela. "Rebel 'Retirement'—The Ground Reality", *The Hindu Business Line*, April 24, 2018. [Link](#).
- Jaffrelot, Christophe and A. Kalaiyarasan. "The Myth of Appeasement", *The Indian Express*, April 20, 2018. [Link](#).
- Choudhary, Sujit Kumar. "Sociology of Budgeting Education", *Mainstream Weekly*, April 14, 2018. [Link](#).
- Jyoti, Dhruvo. "Uncorked, Years of Pent-up Resentment among Dalits", *Hindustan Times*, April 10, 2018. [Link](#).
- Datta, Saurav. "Busting Hegemony of Vegetarianism: When Allowed, Indians Prefer Eating Meat, Many Coerced to Under-report Beef-eating Practices", *Firstpost*, April 9, 2018. [Link](#).
- Bhatia, Tanushree. "Kids Still Encumbered by Parents' Status: Study", *Daily News & Analysis (DNA)*, April 8, 2018. [Link](#).
- Jha, Rakesh. "India Is Not a Vegetarian Country. Here's the Proof", *inUth*, April 4, 2018. [Link](#).

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## Recent Publications Using IHDS

- Kishan, P.K.V., A. Das, R.H. Dholakia, and E. D'Souza. (2018). *An Empirical Exploration of Education and Inequality—Three Essays*. (Thesis and Dissertations), Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Accessed on April 28, 2018. [Link](#).
- Lawson, N. and D. Spears. (2018). "Those Who Can't Sort, Steal: Caste, Occupational Mobility, and Rent-Seeking in Rural India." 39. Accessed on April 28, 2018. [Link](#).
- Das, D. (2018). "Academic Resilience among Children from Disadvantaged Social Groups in India." *Social Indicators Research*. doi:10.1007/s11205-018-1899-y. Accessed on April 24, 2018. [Link](#).
- Li, W., E. Liu, and R. BeLue. (2018). "Household Water Treatment and the Nutritional Status of Primary-aged Children in India: Findings from the India Human Development Survey." *Globalization and Health*, 14(1), 37. doi:10.1186/s12992-018-0356-7. Accessed on April 21, 2018. [Link](#).

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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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