

INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

November 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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*IHDS is celebrating the second anniversary of this newsletter.
We are glad to have you as a loyal subscriber!*



On this occasion, we invite you to revisit the momentous journey of IHDS by recapitulating some of its unique features, lived experiences and key outcomes. Join us as we venture once again into the exciting universe unravelled by the IHDS community and its diverse and extensive data sets.

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; and the second round in 2011-12 re-interviewed most of these households (N=42, 152).

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

The goal of IHDS has been to document changes in the daily lives of Indian households in a society undergoing rapid transition by studying the way they live, work, educate their children, care for their aged parents, and deal with ill-health. In the process, we have created a high-quality database that has constantly fuelled informed and unbiased debate on policy-relevant issues in India.

IHDS is the first household survey in India to cover the full spectrum of health, education, economy, family, and gender modules incorporated for both urban and rural samples.

IHDS data are freely downloadable from the website of [Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research \(ICPSR\)](#) located at the University of Michigan and are being used by over 7000 users worldwide.

IHDS household data provides a comparison of economic standing before and after MGNREGS, contrasting districts with minimal efforts and those with well-documented implementation.

Some Salient Features of IHDS

- Multi-purpose and multi-topic design including questions on income, consumption, health, education, employment, social networks, and gender relations, among others.
- Fieldwork performed by 25 agencies throughout India selected for their experience in conducting large-scale scientific surveys.
- Administration of short reading, writing and arithmetic tests to children aged 8–11 years, questions about symbolic aspects of gender, information on social networks.
- A survey of youth aged 15–18 years along with information from their parents.

IHDS-II re-interviewed the IHDS-1 households with a re-contact rate as high as 83 per cent!

Data collected in IHDS-II were time/place stamped using a GPS-enabled device. Trained surveyors were asked to upload these data on our central server daily in order to facilitate survey tracking and monitoring interviewer progress.



IHDS also collected information about social and policy contexts through surveys of village infrastructure and markets, and one private and one government school and medical facility in each village/block.

Some Key Findings of IHDS

- **Crime victimisation rates:** First all-India victimisation rates.
- **Household Amenities:** Piped water, LPG for cooking, and electricity depend on household and state income levels.
- **Household Assets:** Distribution of household assets. District-wise variation **across India**.
- **Marriage patterns:** Most spouses first meet on the wedding day. Arranged marriages **vary widely across India**.
- **Renting in vs. renting out land:** Renting in land more common in agriculturally backward regions.
- **Rural/urban income:** Rural - urban income differences largest at the bottom.
- **Rural non-agricultural incomes:** Rural higher income households more often have both non-agricultural and agricultural income. Rural households with both non-agricultural and agricultural incomes tend to be in **poorer states**.
- **Salaries:** Public sector salary advantage is largest for least educated.
- **Wage rates:** Earnings returns to education are greater for secondary school and beyond.

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IHDS in the News

- Mehta, Anupma and Manjistha Banerji. “Marriage by choice or convention?”, *The Pioneer*, 9 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Mehta, Anupma. “What drives women over the edge?”, *The Pioneer*, 1 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- The Sentinel. “International day for the Girl Child: What does it mean for India?”, *The Sentinel*, 11 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Mishra, Santanu. “Indian girls have degree but no jobs: International Day of the Girl Child 2018”, *India Today*, 11 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Chakravorty, Sanjoy. “The truth about inequality in India”, *The Hindu BusinessLine*, 9 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Chatterjee, Rituparna. “An India bloodied by chauvinistic caste politics”, *The Telegraph*, 6 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Rukmini S. “Urban Indians still get married the way their grandparents did”, *LiveMint*, 4 October, 2018. [Link](#).
- Kawoosa, Vijdan Mohammad. “Age, caste, job, education: What data on couples in India shows”, *Hindustan Times*, 3 October, 2018. [Link](#).

Recent Publications Using IHDS

- Unnikrishnan, V., and K.S. Imai. (2018). *Does the Old Age Pension Scheme Improve Household Welfare? Evidence from India*. Discussion Paper Series. Research Institute for Economics & Business Administration, Kobe University. Accessed on October 20, 2018 from [link](#).
- Shaikh, M., M. Miraldo, and A-T Renner. (2018). Waiting time at health facilities and social class: Evidence from the Indian caste system. *PLoS One*, 13(10), e0205641. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0205641. Accessed on October 20, 2018. [Link](#).
- Swaminathan, H., A. Sharma, and N.G. Shah. (2018). Does the relationship between income and child health differ across income groups? Evidence from India. *Economic Modelling*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econmod.2018.10.001>. Accessed on October 20, 2018. [Link](#).
- Mitra Kumar, S., and R. Venkatachalam. (2018). Caste and Credit: A Woeful Tale? *The Journal of Development Studies*, 1-18. doi:10.1080/00220388.2018.1425397. Accessed on October 15, 2018. [Link](#).
- Baker, K. K., W. T. Story, E. Walser-Kuntz, and M.B. Zimmerman. (2018). Impact of social capital, harassment of women and girls, and water and sanitation access on premature birth and low infant birth weight in India. *PLoS One*, 13(10), e0205345. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0205345. Accessed on October 13, 2018. [Link](#).
- Vernekar, N., and K. Singhal. (2018). Married Women's Education Levels and Agency Outside the Home: Evidence from Rural India. In N.R. Bhanumurthy, K. Shanmugan, S. Nerlekar, & S. Hegade (eds.), *Advances in Finance & Applied Economics* (pp. 161-173). Singapore: Springer Singapore. Accessed on October 1, 2018. [Link](#).



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