



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



## Welcome to the India Human Development Survey Forum

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

**May 2022**

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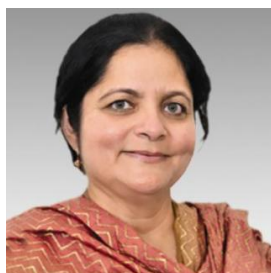
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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

# ***Building Capacity for Leveraging Longitudinal Data for Evaluation***

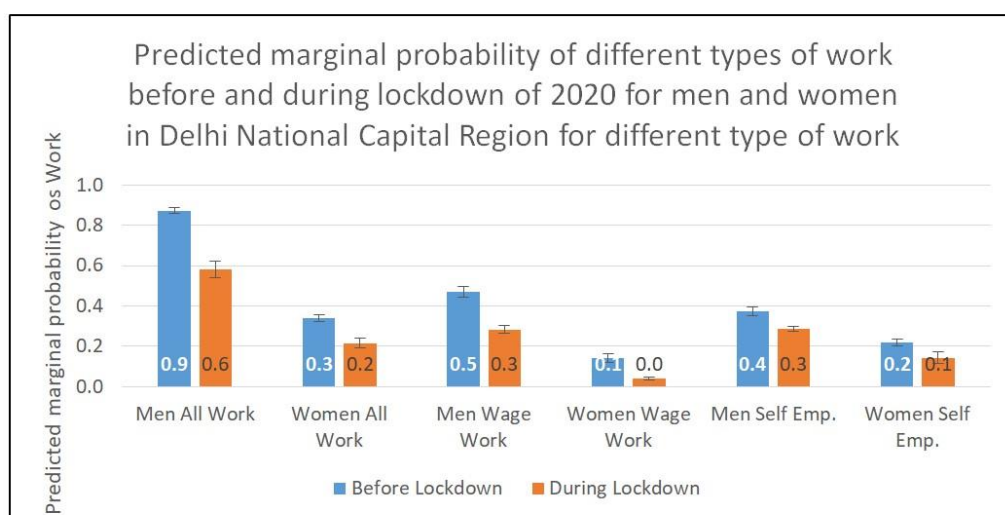
***By Sonalde Desai***



Although Randomized Control Trials (RCT) have emerged as a gold standard in impact evaluation, in real-world policymaking it may be difficult to undertake an RCT when ethical or practical considerations make it difficult to assign individuals or households randomly into experimental and control groups. Moreover, concerns about the programme's scalability may require an examination of the programme's impact under diverse cultural, political and social conditions. This paper, featured in the recent volume published by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, titled, ***M&E @70: Strengthening India's Evidence Systems for Accelerated Reforms and Inclusive Growth***, provides examples from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) and Delhi Metropolitan Area Study (DMAS) conducted by NCAER to demonstrate ways in which longitudinal studies can be leveraged for monitoring the impact of unexpected events and public policies to study: (1) Policies implemented between two surveys; (2) The heterogeneous programme impacts; and, (3) The impact of unexpected events.

The chart below, based on DMAS data, leverages monthly telephone surveys

conducted for other purposes to study the impact that the COVID-19 related lockdown of 2020 had on employment patterns of men and women in the Delhi Metropolitan Area. The results show that while the lockdown reduced the labour force participation of both men and women, this effect was largely concentrated among wage and salary workers. Since women are more likely to be self-employed in farming or home-based businesses, they were somewhat more protected than men.



Source: Desai, Sonalde (2022) based on Desai, Sonalde, Neerad Deshmukh and Santanu Pramanik. 2021. "Precarity in a Time of Uncertainty: Gendered Employment Patterns during the Lockdown in India," *Feminist Economics*, 27:1-2, 152-172.

[Full Article Here](#)

**Sonalde Desai** is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland and Professor at NCAER, and Director of NCAER's National Data Innovation Centre. She is a demographer whose work deals primarily with social inequalities in developing countries with a particular focus on gender and class inequalities in human development. While much of her research focuses on South Asia, she has

also engaged in comparative studies across Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. She has published articles in a wide range of sociological and demographic journals including *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, *Population and Development Review*, and *Feminist Studies*. Dr. Desai leads the India Human Development Survey and is serving as President for the Population Association of America for 2022.

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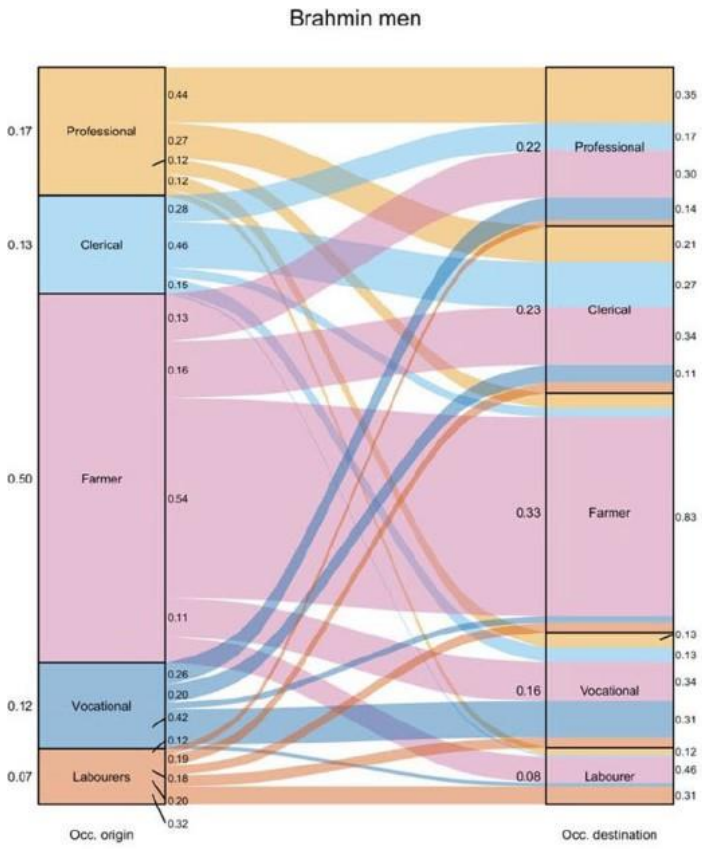
## ***Where Does Ascribed Privilege Get You in? Structural and Net Effects of Caste and Religious Belonging in India***

***By Mathieu Ferry***

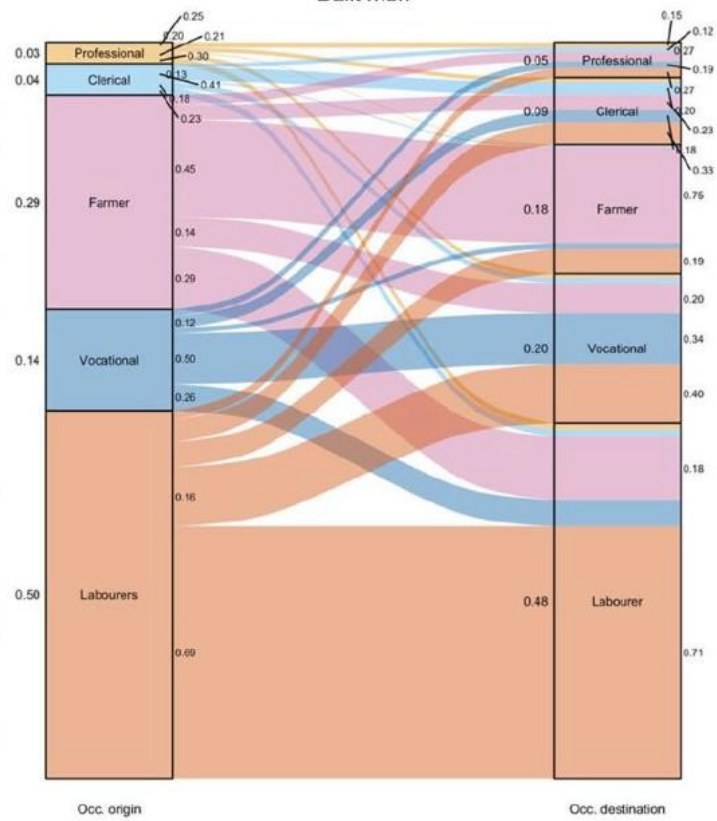


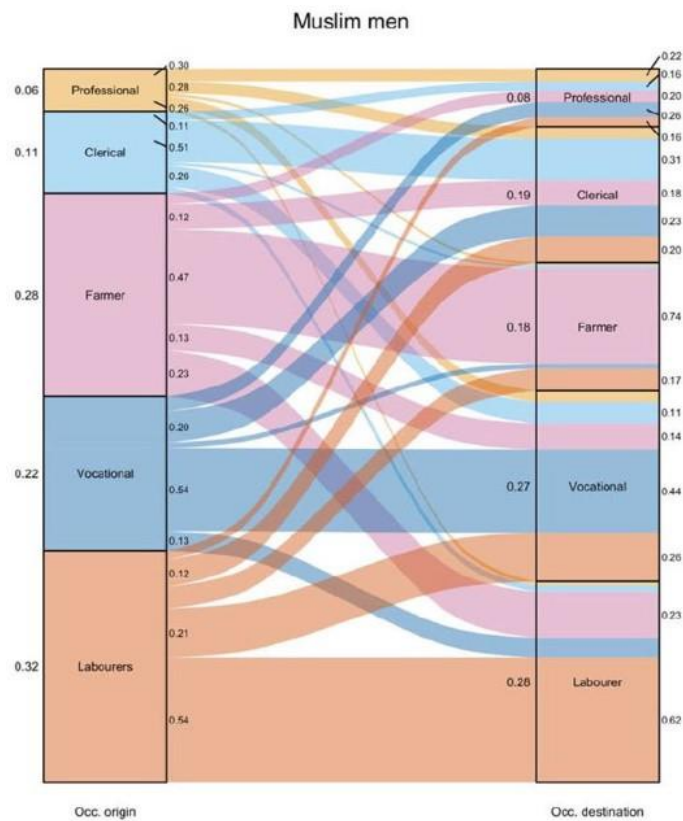
Socio-economically advantaged upper castes tend to claim that Indian society is 'post-caste', suggesting that individuals from historically marginalised castes and religious groups do not face specific social barriers when attempting to move into white-collar positions. Alleged intergenerational mobility and the emergence of a 'new middle class' related to the growth of the private sector is widely used to counter affirmative action initiatives in higher education and

public-sector recruitment. Using the India Human Development Survey, 2011-2012, this paper tests these claims by examining Brahmin, lower-caste Dalit and Muslim patterns of intergenerational class and educational mobility of father-child pairs. The paper points to the strong role of caste and religion in shaping one's destination, particularly when accessing top occupational positions in the private sector. These results question the meritocratic and casteless claims of the Indian 'new middle class' in post-liberalisation India, and they call for more encompassing policies reducing origin-based inequality.



### Dalit men





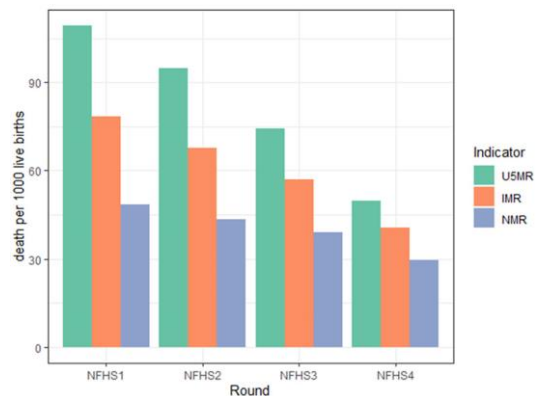
Note:  $N_{\text{Brahmin}} = 1,466$ ,  $N_{\text{Dalit}} = 6,911$ ,  $N_{\text{Muslim}} = 3,641$ . The numbers to the right of each class origin and destination give the proportion in each flow respective to the number of working male fathers or sons in the origin or destination category. For instance, 0.44 indicates that among Brahmin individuals hailing from professional families, 44 per cent of sons are in the same position. 0.35 (on the right of the destination bar) indicates that among Brahmin male individuals working in professional/clerical positions, 35 percent of their fathers were in the same position.

[Full Article Here](#)

**Mathieu Ferry** is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED). He obtained his PhD in Sociology in 2021 from Sciences Po, Paris. His research focuses on the articulation between status logics and class resources (educational capital in particular) according to the position of individuals in the social stratification. He is particularly interested in the associations between so-called “ascriptive” positions, such as caste or ethnicity, and the

processes of “status group” formation. He uses both quantitative and qualitative methods in the study of Indian and French societies.

## IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



**OP-ED FROM PTI.** “New computer model can help assess Covid impact, progression in detail”, The Print, May 12, 2022. [Link.](#) (Photo by [Ashwini Chaudhary\(Monty\)](#) on [Unsplash](#))

**OP-ED FROM DWEEPOBOTE**  
**BRAHMA AND DEBASRI**  
**MUKHERJEE:** “Using Machine Learning to Target Neonatal and Infant Mortality”, *Ideas for India*, May 17, 2022. [Link.](#)

[More Op-Eds Here](#)

### Recent publications from IHDS users:

Adkins, S. 2022. “Three Essays in Development Economics: An Examination of Female Health and Labor in India”, PhD Dissertation submitted to Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, May. [Link.](#)



Kundu, Sridhar and Maynor Cabrera. 2022. "Fiscal Policies and Their Impact on Income Distribution in India," [Commitment to Equity \(CEQ\) Working Paper Series 120](#), Department of Economics, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. [Link](#).

Mishra, S.K. and S. Dutta. 2022. "Single Versus Multiple Deprivations among Children in India", *Indian Journal of Human Development*. May 1. [Link](#).

Bhattacharjee, D. and P.C. Mohanty. 2022. "Does social network impact rising out-of-pocket health care expenditure in India? A propensity score matching approach", *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, 1-13. Doi: 10.1002/hpm.3485. [Link](#).

Sundaram, R., V. Sharma, and A. Saraswat. 2022. "Anthropometric Measurements for Children in Nuclear and Joint Families", *Indian Journal of Economics*, 399(C) (Part IV): 533-546. [Link](#).

Paul, R. and Rashmi. 2022. "Risk Factors and Clustering of Mortality among Older Adults in the India Human Development Survey", *Scientific Reports*, 12, 6644 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-10583-4>. [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 3 is in development and expected to be in the field in 2021.

IHDS 3 has been jointly organised by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Indiana University and the University of Michigan. 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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