



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.

February 2023

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

In this edition of the IHDS newsletter, we highlight how the IHDS team has been dealing with the challenge of maintaining data quality across the third wave of the survey, especially with regard to fertility history. This is still work in progress.

In addition, we feature an interesting paper that uses IHDS data to examine how social capital can help State institutions in crime mitigation.

Ensuring Data Quality: The Biggest Challenge

Led by IHDS Team Members:

Sonalde Desai, Sharan Sharma, O.P. Sharma, and Debasis Barik



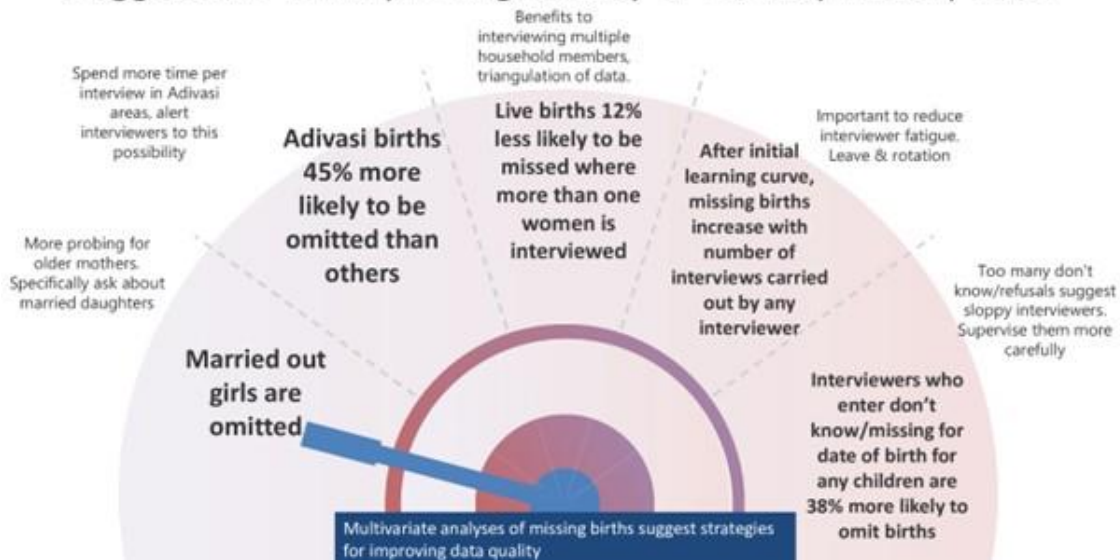
Most data users don't realise the primary struggle faced by survey programmes—ensuring data quality. All large survey programmes struggle with it. However, few academic programmes prepare us for strategies to improve

data quality. One of the primary goals of IHDS-3 is to develop a line of research designed to provide practical guidance to future survey researchers. Research on collecting fertility history, led by Sharan Sharma, O.P. Sharma, and Debasis Barik, under the guidance of Sonalde Desai, provides an interesting example.

IHDS-1 and IHDS-2 collected fertility history from about 25,000 women who were interviewed in both waves. The IHDS team wanted to check whether births that were reported in Wave 1 were also reported in Wave 2 and predictors of mismatch. Matching fertility histories across two waves is challenging; for instance, names may change where a child who was identified by the family name—Munni—in one wave is formally named as Munira in the second wave. Names could also be mis-spelt across interviews, where, for example, Sameer might be called Samir. Most importantly, birth dates could be approximate or missing. After several rounds of matching algorithms were applied, Om Prakash Sharma, Fellow, NCAER, and his team of coders manually matched thousands of mismatched birth records and identified about 2.5 per cent of the births, reported in Wave 1, as being omitted from Wave 2.

Most of the omissions were either children who had died prior to Wave 1 or daughters, who had probably married out by Wave 2. Selective omissions have substantial implications for estimates of sex ratio at birth, infant mortality rate, and other parameters of demographic interest. Analysis of the characteristics of the omissions by Sharan Sharma, Assistant Research Professor, University of Maryland, provides clues to improving data quality in future rounds. These recommendations are summarised below.

Suggestions for Improving Quality of Fertility History Data



Sonalde Desai is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, and Professor at NCAER as well as 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 has been named as Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She also served as President for the Population Association of America for 2022.

Sharan Sharma is an Assistant Research Professor with appointments in the

departments of Sociology and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at University of Maryland, College Park, USA, and co-investigator with the India Human Development Survey, a large-scale pan-India survey. His varied interests have been influenced by his nearly two-decade long experience in the private sector, most recently as Senior Vice President for TAM India (a Kantar-Nielsen joint venture) where he held cross-functional responsibilities spanning research, business development, and corporate affairs. He has a PhD in Survey Methodology and a Master's in Applied Statistics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Masters in Management Studies and Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Mumbai. His research interests include interviewer effects, interviewer-respondent interaction, survey methodology in cross-cultural contexts, survey falsification, paradata, quality control, and modelling complex survey data.

O.P. Sharma is a Fellow at NCAER, specialising in primary data collection, field management, field training, coding and editing. He is currently working in the IHDS-III project. Some of the other studies he has worked on at NCAER include: Fertiliser Consumption and Quality Seeds, IHDS- I (2004-05), Rural Economic and Demographic Change in India, IHDS-II (2011-12) and the Third Census of Handloom Weavers. Between 1988 and 2005, he headed the NCAER Field Office at Bhopal, India, recruiting, training and supervising field staff and editing primary data.

Debasis Barik is a Fellow at NCAER. He has been an integral part of the National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) at NCAER. His research revolves around public health, demography, migration, gender, labour and social security. His current research focuses on issues related to environmental health. He holds a PhD in Demography from International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. He is an active member of various national and international organisations, working in areas of demography and social sciences. Debasis has published his scholarly research in various reputed national and international journals. He is a member of the Expert

Group formed by the National Health System Resource Centre to institutionalise National Health Accounts estimates. He serves as Associate Editor and Review Editor in some reputed international journals.

Altruistic Preference and Crime Perception

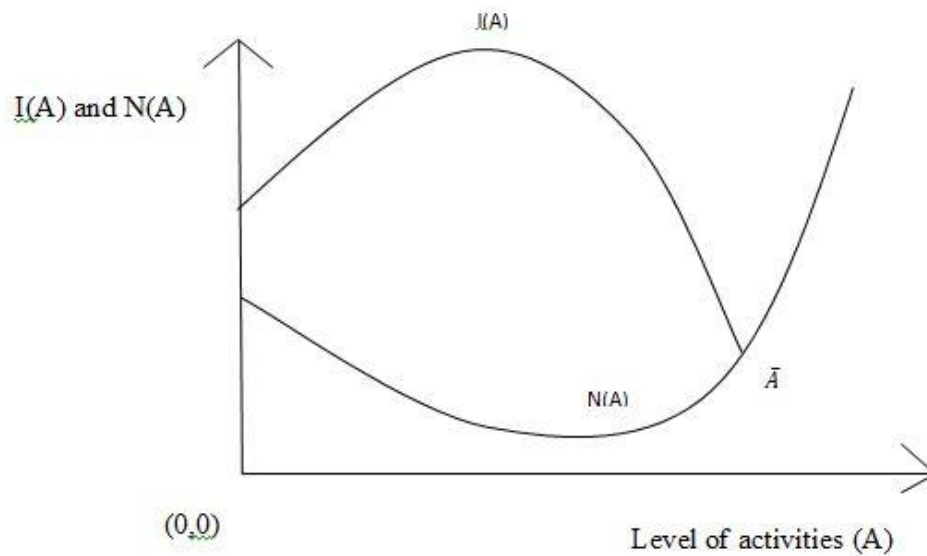


By Rounak Sil, Tirtha Chatterjee, and Ritika Jain

The paper proposes a static model of agriculture household behaviour and incorporate two behavioural aspects in it, namely altruistic tendencies and perceptions related to crime. The authors use a game theoretic framework, based upon the standard agricultural household model proposed by Singh et al. (1986), which is well-suited for a rural agricultural setting in a developing country like India. The results of the model show that altruism deters perception of crime in regions with comparatively low expenditure on crime-reducing activities, and vice versa. The authors empirically test the results of the theoretical model by using the India Human Development Survey-II for the year 2011-12. The instrumental variable regression results validate the authors'

main hypothesis affirming the potential role of social capital in crime mitigation for States with weaker institutions.

Figure 1: Graphical representation of Crime Perception and Net Benefit Function of the government



[Full Article Here](#)

Rounak Sil is an Executive in the Modelling and Valuations team of KPMG Global Services, India. He received his Master's in Applied Economics from the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. His primary research interests fall at the intersection of Behavioural Economics and Economics of Crime. His work focuses on the role of moral sentiments in crime mitigation in the context of India. He also works on issues pertaining to social dilemmas, role of policy communications in monetary policy-making, and caste-based violence in India.

Tirtha Chatterjee is an Assistant Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University. She received her PhD in Development Studies in 2018 from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. Her primary research interests include issues in Indian agriculture. Her work focuses on the role of geography and spatial spillover in agricultural growth and agricultural markets. She also works on issues related to gender and the labour market.

Ritika Jain is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. She received her PhD in Development Studies in 2017 from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. Her primary research interests include empirical industrial organisation and public policy in India. Her work focuses on specific issues related to State-owned enterprises, disinvestment, innovation employment, and performance. She also works on employment-related aspects, such as reservation and gender diversity in Indian firms. Recently, she was awarded the CDS Prize for the Best Performing Assistant Professor in terms of publications (for the biennium 2019-2021) by Professor Kaushik Basu.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



Representational file image. | Photo Credit: V. Ganesan

OP-ED FROM PALLAVI CHOUDHURI AND SONALDE DESAI: “Measuring Women’s Work Participation: Why It Is Important to Get It Right”, *The Hindu*, February 11, 2023. [Link.](#)



Gender peer effects in the workplace: A field experiment in call centres in India

Deepshikha Batheja

PROJECT REPORT

OP-ED FROM DEEPSHIKHA BATHEJA: “Gender Peer Effects in the Labour Market: A Field Experiment in Indian Call Centers”, *IGC*, February 10, 2023. [Link.](#)

[More Op-Eds Here](#)

Recent publications from IHDS users:

Vikram, K. 2023. “Timing and Frequency of Fathers’ Migration and Nutritional Status of Left-Behind Children in India: A Life Course Approach”, *Population Research and Policy Review*, 42(1). [Link.](#)

———. 2023. “Modern Marriage in a Traditional Society: The Influence of College Education on Marriage in India”, *Journal of Family Issues*, 0(0).

[Link.](#)

George, M.S., T. Niyosenga, and I. Mohanty. 2023. “Does the presence of health insurance and health facilities improve access to healthcare for major morbidities among Indigenous communities and older widows in India? Evidence from India Human Development Surveys I and II”, *PLoS One*, 18(2).

[Link.](#)

Sarkhel, S. 2023. “Gender Gap and Socio-cultural Influences: A Study on the Indian Labour Market”, in Dominic Savio, Samrat Roy, and Saswati Chaudhuri (eds), *Transforming our World Together towards Sustainable Development*. UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. [Link.](#)

Bahure, V. 2023. “Essays in Development Economics”, Thèse de doctorat, Univ. Genève, DOI: 10.13097/archive-ouverte/unige:166215. [Link.](#)

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for all your IHDS related questions:

ihds.umd.edu



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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