



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.

September 2022

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

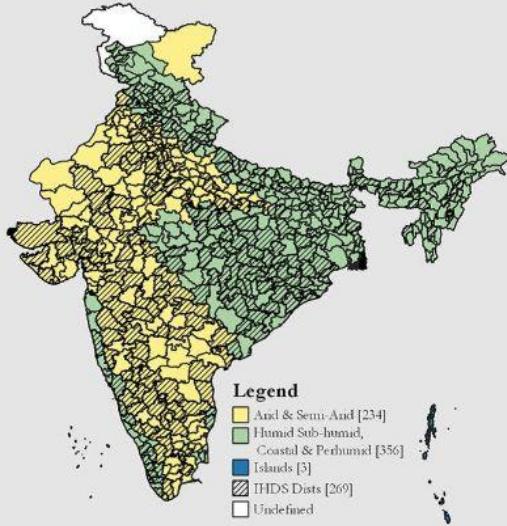
Climate Change and Household Debt in Rural India

By Sandeep Kandikuppa and Clark Gray

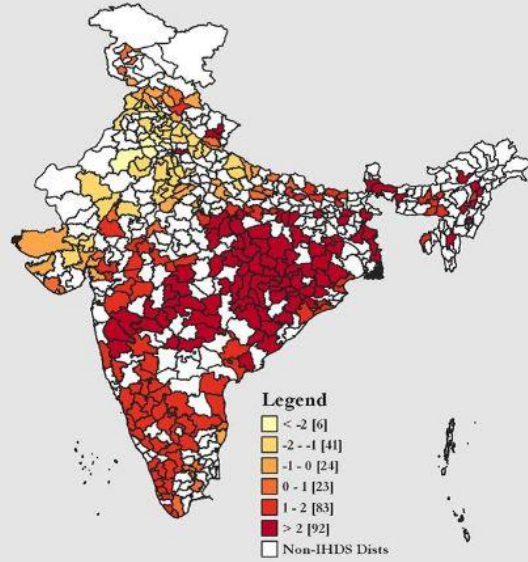


Climate change and indebtedness have been repeatedly highlighted as major causes of distress for rural households in India. However, despite the close connection between climate conditions and rural livelihoods, there has been little attempt to systematically examine the association between the two. To address this gap, the authors combine national-level longitudinal data from IHDS, MERRA-2, and the Indian Ministry of Agriculture to study the impact of climate anomalies on household indebtedness across rural India. Using a multilevel longitudinal approach that accounts for potential confounders at household, village, and district levels, they find pervasive effects of season-specific, five-year climate anomalies on multiple dimensions of household debt, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Most notably, temperature anomalies in the winter cropping season in arid and semi-arid areas are associated with increasing household indebtedness. The authors further find that climate change interacts with existing socio-economic differences—caste and landholding in particular—to deepen both the size and the depth of indebtedness for rural households.

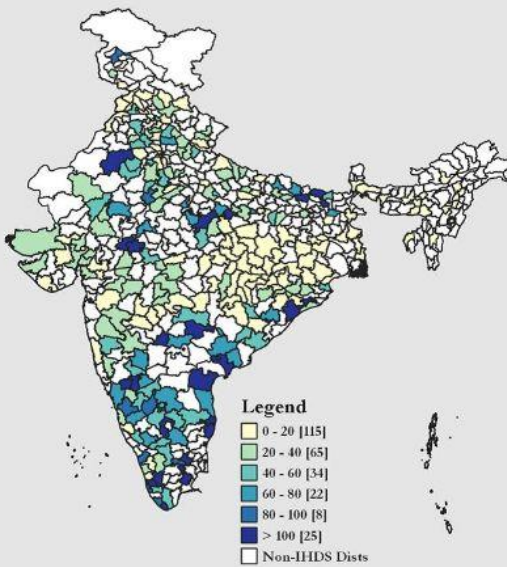
1--Agro-ecological Regions and IHDS Districts in India



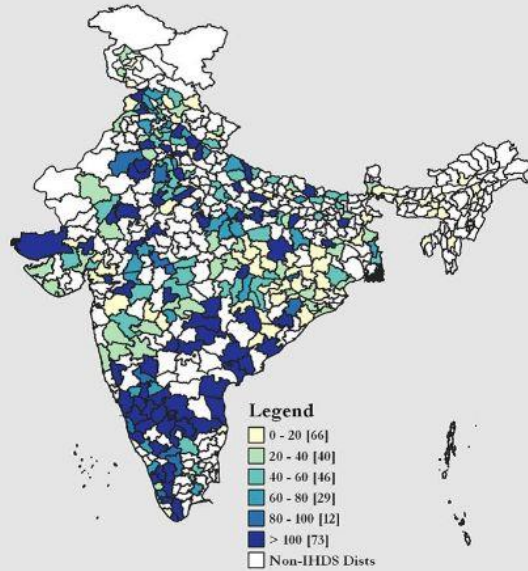
2--2005-2010 Temperature Anomalies-Rabi Season (Oct-Jan)



3--Debt-to-Income Ratio 2005



4--Debt-to-Income Ratio 2011



Note: In all maps [figures in brackets = No. of districts]
Sources: Census 2001, ICAR 1996, and IHDS 2005 & 2011.

Figure 1: Spatial distribution of IHDS sample districts, agro-ecological zones, temperature anomalies, and household indebtedness

[Full Article Here](#)

Sandeep Kandikuppa studies common pool resources, rural livelihoods, and household finance. His current research projects are centred on India and examine the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Telangana, while studying the effect of climate change on the financial health of rural households, and analysing the driving factors behind farmers' movements. He worked for ten years with two leading Indian non-profits, the Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand, and the Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad, and has been a consultant at the Foundation for Ecological Security and International Food Policy Research Institute. He has a PhD from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Clark Gray is Professor in the Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr Gray is a population and human environment geographer, interested in the interactions between rural livelihoods, household well-being, and environmental change in the developing world. Drawing on demographic and statistical methods, his research has investigated environmental influences on human migration around the world, indigenous livelihoods in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and human dimensions of soil degradation in rural Uganda. One research strand focuses on the consequences of environmental change for human migration, an issue that has gained considerable attention in the context of global climate change and recent large-scale natural disasters. Gray's work has also included the construction of unique longitudinal datasets on: (1) indigenous livelihoods and demography in the Ecuadorian Amazon and (2) soil quality and agricultural livelihoods in rural Uganda.

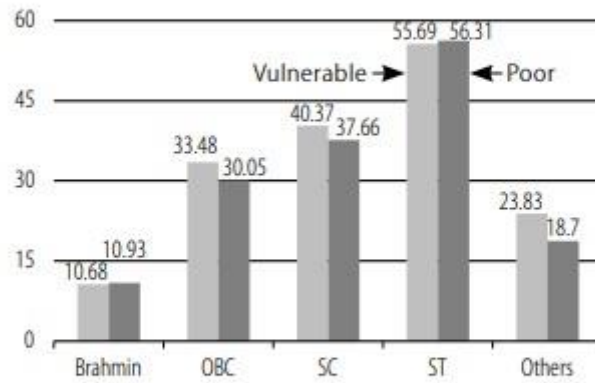
An Empirical Investigation for India: Vulnerability as an Ex Ante Measure of Poverty

By Sutirtha Bandyopadhyay and Joysankar Bhattacharya



Using both the rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), the authors measure vulnerability as an ex-ante measure of poverty for the Indian households. Although they find a high correlation between vulnerability and current poverty, the degree of association is not one to one. They find a significant proportion of vulnerable households who are non-poor. The backward caste and the non-Hindu households are seen to be more vulnerable relative to the upper-caste and Hindu households. Using the panel of households from IHDS data, the paper examines the strength of the estimated vulnerability as a predictor of future poverty. The authors conclude that vulnerability is a positive and significant predictor of transitory poverty after controlling for other factors, that is, higher vulnerability in 2004-05 (the first round of IHDS) significantly raises the probability of becoming poor in 2011-12 (that is, the second round of IHDS) for the households considered to be non-poor in 2004-05.

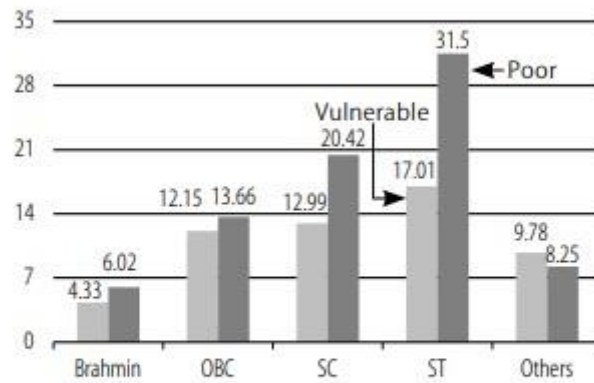
Figure 1: Poverty and Vulnerability (%) by Social Groups in 2004–05



The x-axis measures the percentage of poor and vulnerable households.

Source: The figure is based on the authors' calculations using the IHDS 2004–05 data.

Figure 2: Poverty and Vulnerability (%) by Social Groups in 2011–12



The x-axis measures the percentage of poor and vulnerable households.

Source: The figure is based on the authors' calculations using the IHDS 2011–12 data.

[Full Article Here](#)

Sutirtha Bandyopadhyay is an Assistant Professor in Economics at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore. His primary research interests include applied welfare economics, development economics, food and agricultural trade, applied econometrics, gender discrimination and measurement of poverty and inequality. His research focuses on the impact of individual-level heterogeneity on aggregate welfare measurement. Besides, his research work also includes the spatial impact of trade liberalisation, measures of subjective well-being, poverty measurement, and gender inequality. He obtained his PhD in Quantitative Economics from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi, in 2017. Before joining the PhD programme, he did an MA in Economics and BA (Hons.) in Economics from Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Joysankar Bhattacharya works as a faculty (Associate Professor) at the Indian Institute of Management Indore, India. He received his PhD in Economics from the Faculty of Political Economy, University of Siena, Italy. His research interests include political economy of development, financial inclusion, poverty and vulnerability, and empirical political economy. His research has so far focused on micro-econometric applications on various issues of development.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM SARTHAK SINGHAL, 2022. "Climate Change and Women:



OP-ED FROM PADMAKSHI SHARMA. 2022: "EWS Quota

A Crisis Within a Crisis," ORF,
September 2. [Link.](#)

Unconstitutional For Including Only
the Poor Among Forward Class:
Shadan Farast to Supreme Court
[Day 3]", Live Law.in, September
15. [Link.](#)

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Recent publications from IHDS users:

Fors, Heather Congdon and Annika Lindskog. 2022. "Within-family Inequalities in Human Capital Accumulation in India", *Review of Development Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12929>, [Link.](#)

Sagarika, Dey. 2022. "Structure and Dynamics of Livelihoods in Rural India: A Panel Data Analysis", *Poverty and Public Policy*, 14(3): 307-334. [Link.](#)

Bhattacharjee, Ayona and Kshitij Awasthi. 2022. "How Does Education Affect Health Beliefs? A Case of Women in India", *Economic Papers: A Journal of Applied Economics and Policy*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1759-3441.12363>, [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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