



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

Are the Young and the Educated More Likely to Have “Love” Than Arranged Marriage? A Study of Autonomy in Partner Choice in India

By Manjitha Banerji



Using the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), Rounds I (2004–05) and II (2011–12), this chapter in the forthcoming book *India’s Social and Economic Transformation in the 21st Century* examines if self-choice or love marriages have replaced parent-arranged marriages as the dominant form of marriage in India. In particular, the author examines: (1) if women of recent cohorts (born around 1985) are less likely to report arranged marriages than women of older cohorts (born around 1960), and (2) if educated women are less likely to report arranged marriages than their less educated counterparts. The paper distinguishes between three marriage types—parent-arranged marriage with no-choice, parent-arranged marriage with some choice, and self-choice marriage. Descriptive statistics indicate that parent-arranged marriages in which the daughter has no participation have declined by 5 and 9 percentage points from the oldest to the youngest cohort, as per data from IHDS-I and IHDS-II, respectively. There has been a concomitant increase in parent-arranged marriages with choice in both rounds of the IHDS. The share of self-

choice marriages has remained somewhat similar across birth cohorts. The largest difference between the educated and their less educated counterparts is not with respect to self-choice marriages, rather it is between parent-arranged marriages with no-choice (37 percentage points) and parent-arranged marriages with some choice (32 percentage points). The results from multinomial regression analysis confirm that the trend towards parent-arranged marriages with some choice has been persistent over time.

Distribution of Marriage Type for Women (25- 49 Years) Entering First Marriage at Ages 15–24 Years, by Level of Education

	Self-choice Marriages		Parent-arranged Marriages with Some Choice		Parent-arranged Marriages with No Choice	
	<i>IHDS-I (2005)</i>	<i>IHDS-II (2011)</i>	<i>IHDS-I (2005)</i>	<i>IHDS-II (2011)</i>	<i>IHDS-I (2005)</i>	<i>IHDS-II (2011)</i>
Full cohort	4.92	5.38	59.77	65.1	35.31	29.52
	Levels of Education					
Illiterate	4.1	4.13	48.99	45.73	46.91	50.14
Primary	4.79	6.22	60.88	58.86	34.33	34.92
Upper primary	4.45	3.76	66.48	70.78	29.07	25.46
Secondary	6.57	5.79	73.74	72.96	19.69	21.25
Senior secondary	7.24	4.97	75.06	79.59	17.71	15.44
College	7.45	9.64	81.73	77.38	10.83	12.98
	Birth Cohort					
1956–60	4.43		57.29		38.28	
1960–65	4.68	4.52	58.83	57.12	36.49	38.36
1965–70	4.29	6.91	59.69	62.93	36.02	30.16
1970–75	4.67	6.93	61.1	64.51	34.24	28.56
1975–80	6.27	6.32	60.52	66.55	33.22	27.13
1980–85		4.67		66.26		29.07

[Full Article Here](#)

Manjistha Banerji is a Fellow at National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Her broad areas of research are family demography, migration and education, which she studies employing the lenses of gender and social stratification. She is trained in quantitative methods but she also uses qualitative methods to better understand the findings emerging from survey research. At the National Data Innovation Centre at the Council, she is involved with experimentations on different data collection techniques in the Delhi Metropolitan Area, telephonic surveys to assess the impact of the COVID pandemic in Delhi NCR and in questionnaire design for the upcoming round of India Human Development Survey. She completed her PhD in 2012 from the Department of Sociology, University of Maryland at College Park.

Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on Rural Credit System in India: A Standard Logit Difference in Difference Approach



By Neeraj Kumar and K. Maya

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of India is one of the most extensive social safety net programmes in the developing world. This initiative attempts to enhance access to livelihoods by lowering the vulnerability of the poor in rural areas. The nature and extent of execution of the programme vary from State to State. This paper uses the panel data set from two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), during 2004–05 and 2011–12. The authors have employed a quasi-experimental approach, such as the difference-in-difference technique of effect evaluation, to quantify the programme’s influence on the credit and debt structures of rural families. The empirical analysis shows evidence of change in behaviour in terms of a higher incidence of taking of loans from formal sources among the non-poor households actively participating in the MGNREGA programme. But the difference-in-difference results show that the tendency to depend on formal sources of loans is still insignificant among poor households participating in MGNREGA, which implies that borrowing from informal lending sources is still more prevalent among poor people. The paper offers policy recommendations for successful targeting of the programme, notably in terms of providing social safety net benefits to the disadvantaged households in India.

Table 1 Result of DID method for examining the impact of MGNREGA participation on credit availed

Independent variable	All household Coefficients	Poor household	Non-poor household
Loan availed (formal loans = 1, 0 otherwise)			
MGNREGA participation	-0.396*** (0.048)	-0.082 (0.118)	-0.411*** (0.053)
Time	0.349*** (0.040)	-0.019 (0.159)	0.366*** (0.043)
Interaction	0.166*** (0.058)	0.011 (0.147)	0.174*** (0.065)
Pseudo R^2	0.0751	0.0571	0.0719
Total observations	24,562	4672	19,888

Standard error is in parenthesis. The model also includes household-level characteristics such as age, household size, monthly per capita expenditure, dummies for education, and caste

***Significance at 1%; **significance at 5%; *significance at 10%

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OP-ED FROM SOMDEEP CHATTERJEE AND PRASHANT PODDAR. “The Unintended Positive Consequences of India’s Safe Motherhood Programme”, *Ideas for India*, April 11, 2023. [Link.](#)



OP-ED FROM D. MOHAN: “Social Policy Debates Aimed at Making the Govt Look Good Are Missing Clarity and Reason”, *The Wire*. April 11, 2023. [Link.](#)

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Kulkarni, V., V. Kulkarni, K. Imai, and R. Gaiha. Forthcoming. “Changes in Subjective Well-Being in India”, *Social Indicators Research*. [Link.](#)

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Mandal, R., B. Goswami, M. Sarma, and H.K. Nath. 2023. "Extreme Weather Events and Food Insecurity in Northeast India", in S. Anand, M. Das, R. Bhattacharya, and R.B. Singh (eds.), *Sustainable Development Goals in Northeast India: Challenges and Achievements*, Springer, pp. 101-126. [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 neighborhoods 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 again through ICPSR. IHDS 3 is currently in the field.

IHDS 3 has been jointly organized 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 RO1HD041455 and RO1HD061048. Additional funding is provided by The Ford Foundation, IDRC and DFID.

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