



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.

July 2021

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IN MEMORIAM: STEPHAN KLASSEN

This edition of the IHDS newsletter is dedicated to the memory of **Stephan Klasen**, who died October 27, 2020. He was Professor of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen, Director of the Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research, and founder of the Courant Research Centre on Poverty, Equity, and Growth in Developing Countries. Professor Klasen was a keen supporter and user of IHDS and had used data from it in a number of his research works, particularly on issues related to poverty, inequality, and gender.

We have showcased below some of the articles co-authored by Stephan Klasen based on IHDS data.



Photo credit: UN.org



Gender Segregation in Education: Evidence From Higher Secondary Stream

Choice in India

*By Soham Sahoo and
Stephan Klasen*

This paper investigates gender-based segregation across different fields of study at the senior secondary level of schooling in a large developing country. The authors use the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) data to analyse the extent and determinants of the gender gap in higher secondary stream choice. Using fixed-effects regressions that control for unobserved heterogeneity at the regional and household levels, they find that girls are about 20 percentage points less likely than boys to study in science (STEM) and commerce streams as compared with humanities. They establish the robustness of these estimates through various sensitivity analyses, including sibling fixed effects, considering intra-household relationships among individuals, and addressing sample selection issues. The findings indicate that gender inequality in economic outcomes, such as occupational segregation and gender pay gaps, is determined by gendered trajectories set much earlier in the life course, especially at the school level.

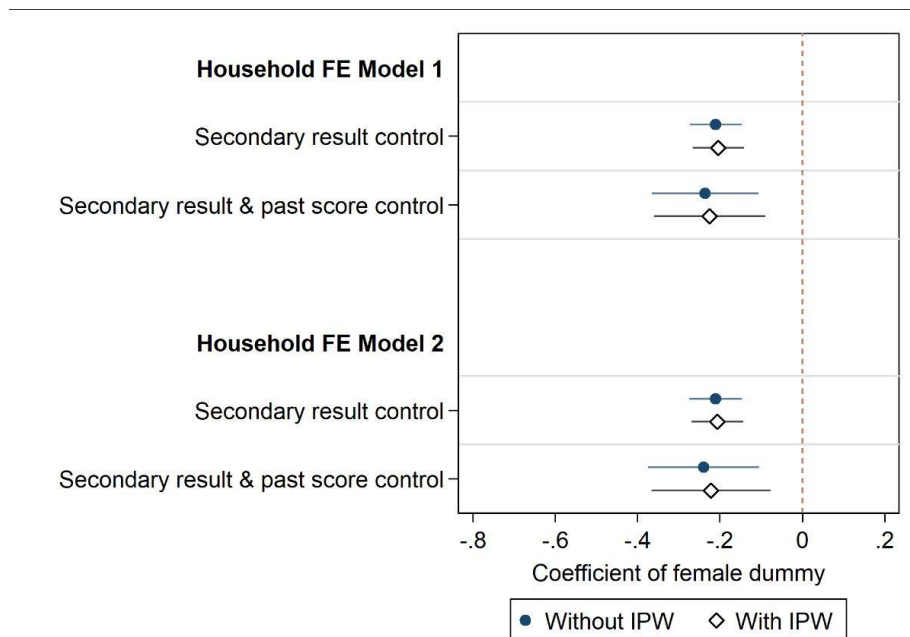
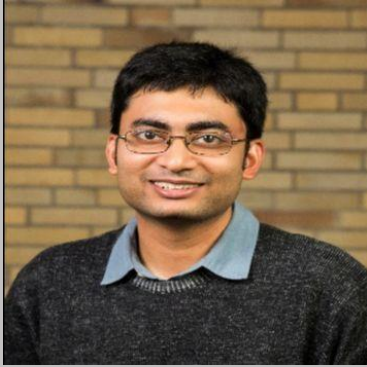


Figure Note: Household fixed-effects (FE) estimates addressing potential sample selection using inverse probability weighting (IPW). Household FE Model 1 considers households with multiple children ages 15–18. Household FE Model 2 further restricts the sample to households with multiple children of the opposite gender age 15–18. The coefficient on female is reported from regressions that control for age, birth order, number of siblings, parental education, relationship with household head, and measures for ability. The ability measure includes secondary exam results in one set of regressions, and both secondary exam results and past test scores in another set of estimations. Two types of estimates are reported for comparison: estimates with and those without inverse probability weights (IPW). The figure also shows 95% confidence intervals along with the point estimate for the coefficient on gender from the regressions.

[Full Article Here](#)

Soham Sahoo is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore. Soham holds a PhD in Quantitative Economics from Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. His research interest is broadly in



development economics, with a focus on education, gender, labour, and political economy. Before joining IIM Bangalore, he worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Economics, University of Göttingen, Germany. He is currently affiliated as a Research Fellow with the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn, and has held visiting positions at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen and Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick.



Employment Transitions of Women in India: A Panel Analysis

*By Sudipa Sarkar, Soham
Sahoo and Stephan Klasen*

This study analyses employment transitions of working-age women in India. Using nationally representative panel data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), this paper shows that women are not only participating less in

the labour force, but also dropping out at an alarming rate. The authors find that an increase in wealth and income of other members of the household leads to lower entry and higher exit probabilities of women. Along with the effects of caste and religion, this result reveals the importance of cultural and economic factors in explaining the low workforce participation of women in India. The authors also explore other individual and household level determinants of women's employment transitions. They find that a large public workfare programme significantly reduces women's exit from the labour force. The study indicates that women's entry and exit decisions are not necessarily symmetric, and it is important to consider the inter-temporal dependence of labour supply decisions.

Cross tabulation of employment status in both the rounds and attrition rates for women in 25–55 year age-group in 2005.

Status in 2005	Status in 2012 (row percentage)		
	Not employed	Employed	Attrition
<i>Overall</i>			
Not employed (49.89%)	47.72	25.37	26.91
Employed (50.11%)	20.60	64.75	14.65
Total (N = 41,665)	34.13	45.10	20.77
<i>Rural</i>			
Not employed (35.34%)	40.30	40.15	19.56
Employed (64.66%)	18.90	68.82	12.27
Total (N = 26,739)	26.46	58.69	14.85
<i>Urban</i>			
Not employed (75.95%)	53.91	13.05	33.05
Employed (24.05%)	28.80	45.13	26.07
Total (N = 14,926)	47.87	20.76	31.37

Source: Authors' calculation from IHDS data. The percentages of employed and not-employed women are given within brackets.

[Full Article Here](#)



Sudipa Sarkar is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick. Her research interests are in Labour and Development Economics. Her research focuses on issues relating to skills and education, future of work, decent work, poverty and inequality, and gender. Before joining University of Warwick, she was a Marie Curie PhD Fellow and completed her PhD from the Department of Applied Economics, University of Salamanca, Spain. Sudipa has worked in several other research organisations and projects in the past such as Indian Statistical Institute, Institute of Rural Management Anand, and Young Lives Project (led by Oxford University) and has been a Visiting Researcher at European Foundation for Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), Dublin. Sudipa is also a Fellow at Global Labour Organisation.

See above article for biographical information on Soham Sahoo.



How Serious is the Neglect of Intra-Household Inequality in Multi-dimensional

***Poverty
Indices? Evidence
from India***

*By Stephan Klasen and
Rahul Lahoti*

Monetary poverty measures as well as most existing multidimensional poverty indices (MPI) assume equal distribution within the household and are thus likely to yield a biased assessment of individual poverty, and poverty by age or gender. The authors show that the direction of the bias of such household-based assessments in measuring poverty or inequality among individuals depends on how these measures use individual data to determine the poverty status of households. They use data from the 2012 India Human Development Survey and compare a standard household-based MPI to an individual-level MPI. The poverty rate among women is 14 per cent points higher than that of men in the individual MPI measure but almost the same when using the household-based measure; 22 per cent of males and 27 per cent of females are mis-classified as poor or non-poor using the household-based measure. The paper also shows that intra-household inequality is 30 per cent of the total inequality.

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDICATORS CONSTRUCTED USING DUAL-CUTOFF APPROACH ($\kappa = 33\%$) BY AGE-SEX CATEGORIES									
	Male 0-6	Female 0-6	Male 7-18	Female 7-18	Male 19-50	Female 19-50	Male 50+	Female 50+	Total
Global household MPI									
Headcount	0.47	0.49	0.44	0.46	0.34	0.36	0.39	0.41	0.4
Intensity	0.48	0.5	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.52	0.52	0.48
MPI	0.23	0.24	0.21	0.22	0.16	0.17	0.2	0.21	0.19
Comparable household MPI									
Headcount	0.46	0.48	0.42	0.43	0.33	0.35	0.38	0.4	0.38
Intensity	0.51	0.52	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	0.52	0.53	0.49
MPI	0.24	0.25	0.2	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.2	0.21	0.19
Individual MPI									
Headcount	0.54	0.56	0.29	0.29	0.33	0.48	0.54	0.78	0.44
Intensity	0.55	0.56	0.5	0.5	0.52	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.53
MPI	0.3	0.31	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.27	0.3	0.42	0.24

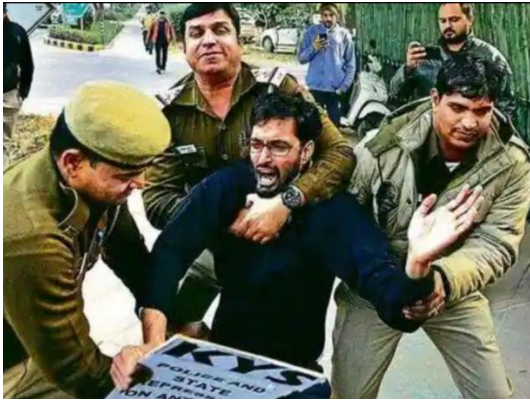
Note: Headcount is measured as the proportion of population that is deemed poor.

[Full Article Here](#)



Rahul Lahoti is a Researcher at ETH, Zurich, and Faculty Fellow at Center for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University. His research focuses mostly on issues of poverty, inequality, gender and political economy. His current projects include exploring life-cycle dynamics of women's labour force participation and issues in measurement of women's work in India. His work has appeared in various journals including *World Development*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* and *Journal of Income Inequality*. He was an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Azim Premji University, Bangalore from 2017 to 2019. He holds a PhD from the University of Göttingen, Germany and Professor Stephan Klasen was his advisor. He also has a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University, New York.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM VANI S. KULKARNI & RAGHAV GAIHA: 2021. "Police reforms alone won't revive public trust in cops", *Mint*, June 28. [Link](#).



OP-ED FROM ANUPMA MEHTA: 2021. "Gender Parity Is a Mirage as Challenges Still Remain", *The Pioneer*, July 7. [Link](#).

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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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