



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.

August 2021

[View in your web browser.](#)

(Unsubscribe link at bottom)

MEET THE NEW

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NCAER



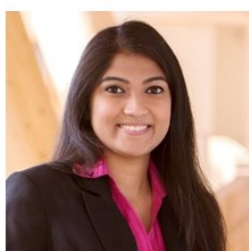
Poonam Gupta assumed office as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on July 1, 2021. Before joining NCAER, she was Lead Economist, Global Macro and Market Research, International Finance Corporation (IFC); and Lead Economist for India at the World Bank. Her prior appointments include the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP); Professor at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER); Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics; and, Economist at the International Monetary Fund. Her research has been published in leading scholarly journals and featured in *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*. She holds a Masters and PhD in International Economics from the University of Maryland, USA and a Masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

Please follow the link below to read a brief interview of Dr Gupta on what in her opinion are the future tasks before the institution, her plans to boost its growth, the roadmap ahead, and her views on IHDS and how that could coalesce with the objectives of NCAER.

[Full Interview Here](#)

Do information networks benefit households with female heads?

Udichibarna Bose, Thankom Arun, Shoba Arun



This paper fills a gap in the literature on gender bias in accessing financial assets and income generation activities by analysing the influence of media and social networks on the financial returns of female-headed households. Empirical evidence suggests that media and social networks are effective tools for diminishing connectivity constraints, raising awareness, and influencing behaviours. Using data from the India Human Development Survey on female-headed households for the period 2011-12, the authors find that media and social networks positively impact the financial returns of households. They also find that information networks have positive and significant impacts on the net income from financial investments in urban areas and net income from agricultural activities in rural areas. Following this, the paper explores the mediating role of financial expertise among households and confirms its importance in understanding and using the information provided by media and social networks to make relevant financial decisions.

Information networks, financial expertise, and financial returns.

| Dependent variables: | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | Net income from financial investments | | | Net income from agricultural activities | | | Financial expertise |
| Financial expertise | – | 0.081*** (2.84) | 0.075*** (2.63) | – | 0.158** (2.03) | 0.162** (2.04) | – |
| Social networks | 0.031** (2.52) | – | 0.024* (1.94) | 0.349*** (7.02) | – | 0.062 (1.27) | 0.042*** (13.44) |
| Media networks | 0.054*** (5.23) | – | 0.022 (1.27) | 0.424*** (6.72) | – | 0.067 (0.87) | 0.019*** (6.20) |
| Credit | 0.022* (1.75) | 0.021* (1.66) | 0.025* (1.95) | 1.220*** (23.87) | 1.271*** (25.11) | 1.020*** (19.48) | 0.021*** (5.88) |
| Mobile use | 0.015 (1.44) | 0.013 (1.22) | 0.012 (1.19) | 0.684*** (9.89) | 0.686*** (9.89) | 0.917*** (12.98) | –0.004 (–1.26) |
| Poor | –0.053*** (–5.56) | –0.050*** (–5.21) | –0.051*** (–5.35) | –0.386*** (–6.06) | –0.337*** (–5.28) | –0.390*** (–5.95) | –0.021*** (–8.31) |
| Asset size | 0.124*** (9.65) | 0.101*** (8.48) | 0.100*** (8.46) | 0.601*** (9.19) | 0.494*** (7.57) | 0.251*** (3.72) | 0.077*** (22.40) |
| Secondary | 0.028*** (2.63) | 0.030*** (2.85) | 0.032*** (3.07) | 0.257*** (4.37) | 0.303*** (5.15) | 0.252*** (4.14) | –0.014*** (–4.80) |
| High sec. | 0.004 (0.18) | –0.002 (–0.08) | 0.001 (0.03) | 0.468*** (5.42) | 0.471*** (5.43) | 0.482*** (5.41) | 0.014** (2.37) |
| Bachelor | 0.126*** (4.61) | 0.118*** (4.33) | 0.127*** (4.50) | 0.189** (2.09) | 0.079 (0.89) | 0.045 (0.50) | 0.058*** (8.32) |
| Above bachelor | 0.118*** (3.63) | 0.109*** (3.37) | 0.120*** (3.58) | 0.155 (1.49) | 0.042 (0.42) | 0.134 (1.30) | 0.074*** (8.55) |
| Muslim | –0.039*** (–2.94) | –0.036*** (–2.74) | –0.045*** (–3.44) | –0.705*** (–9.94) | –0.699*** (–9.91) | –0.516*** (–7.32) | –0.021*** (–5.06) |
| Age | –0.002 (–0.96) | –0.002 (–0.89) | –0.002 (–0.82) | 0.235*** (22.96) | 0.235*** (22.95) | 0.230*** (21.79) | 0.001 (1.06) |
| Squared age | 0.001 (1.10) | 0.001 (1.06) | 0.001 (0.99) | –0.002*** (–19.42) | –0.002*** (–19.45) | –0.002*** (–18.29) | –0.001 (–0.65) |
| Urban sector | 0.043*** (3.03) | 0.036*** (2.65) | 0.036*** (2.70) | –5.368*** (–96.03) | –5.485*** (–102.84) | –5.767*** (–109.78) | 0.006 (1.51) |
| Conf. on banks | 0.074*** (3.40) | 0.074*** (3.38) | 0.073*** (3.34) | 0.298*** (3.84) | 0.288*** (3.72) | 0.671*** (8.69) | –0.001 (–0.17) |
| Observations | 37,923 | 37,923 | 37,923 | 33,668 | 33,668 | 33,668 | 37,934 |
| R-squared | 0.089 | 0.089 | 0.087 | 0.387 | 0.378 | 0.340 | 0.118 |
| State FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| District FE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Notes: The table reports the regression results from the OLS method with state and district fixed effects. The dependent variables are net income from financial investments (log) and net income from agricultural activities (log). *Social networks* are proxied by households' attendance to public meetings and their memberships to at least one group, such as self-help groups, credit/savings group, social/festival society, and development group/NGO. *Media and digital networks* are proxied by the regular use of computer, newspaper, or television by the individuals of each household. *Financial expertise* is a dummy that takes the value of 1 if individuals in a household have invested in at least three or more financial products, such as mutual funds, stocks and bonds, fixed deposits, pension fund and gold, bank savings or current account, credit society, or post office account in the past five years without suffering any large amount of losses and equals 0 otherwise. The p-values refer to the test of equality between households with and without financial expertise. Robust t-statistics are reported in the parentheses. ***, **, and * denote statistical significance at the 1 %, 5 %, and 10 % levels, respectively.

[Full Article Here](#)

Udichibarna Bose is an Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in Finance at the Essex Business School, University of Essex. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) and her research interests are in the areas of financial economics, corporate finance, financial inclusion and trade. She obtained her PhD in Economics from the University of Glasgow in 2016 and was awarded the Adam Smith Business School Prize for PhD Excellence. Prior to that, she earned her Master's degree in Economics from the University of Essex and Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Delhi. She has received several research grants from the Economic

and Social Research Council (ESRC), the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Thankom Arun is a Professor of Global Development and Accountability at the Essex Business School. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Currently, he is a Professor Extraordinaire at the Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa and a Research Fellow at IZA, Bonn. He is also chairing an academic steering group on financial inclusion in the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF). His research explores the uneven relationships in Finance and Development from the macro and micro perspectives. He has received several research grants from ESRC, UKIERI, British Academy, British Council, World Bank, EU and GCRF. His current ESRC-ICSSR project examines the role of Fintech and Fintech-enabled services on the bilateral trade relations between India and the UK.

Shoba Arun is a Reader in Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University. As a Senior Fellow of the Advance HE, she has many years of teaching and research experience in sociology and international development. Her research goals are to understand processes of global social change, in particular social and spatial contexts among diverse social constituencies. Her widely reviewed book on "Development and Gender Capital in India" applies a feminist Bourdieusian perspective on gender inequalities. Her ongoing Horizon 2020 project on migrant children's education in the UK examines integration from a decolonising perspective. She is on the editorial board of the British Sociology Association's premier journal, *Work, Employment and Society*. As a Global Studies Association steering committee member, she has been coordinating events on global inequalities.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM S. RAHMAN, 2021. “Why Scandalising Interfaith Marriages Is against the Law of the Land?” *Kashmir Life*, July 14. [Link](#).



OP-ED FROM A. DESHPANDE AND R. RAMACHANDRAN, 2021. “Caste Discrimination—An Overlooked Factor in Indian Kids’ Stunted Growth,” *The Print*, July 29. [Link](#).

[More Op-Eds Here](#)

Recent publications from IHDS users:

Kishan, P.K.V. 2021. “Intergenerational Education Mobility in India: Nonlinearity, and the Great Gatsby Curve”, Paper prepared for the 36th International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) Virtual General Conference, August 23-27, 2021. [Link](#).

Kumar, Deepak, Bhanu Pratap, and Archana Aggarwal. 2021. “Gender Differences in Students’ Progress from Elementary to Secondary Education in India: Who Are Performing Better?”, *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10671-021-09302-z>. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10671-021-09302-z>. [Link](#).

Shah, Raashid. 2021. "Seasonal Migration and Children's Education in India", Commentary, Social and Political Research Foundation, July. [Link](#).

Abraham, Rosa, Rahul Lahoti, and Hema Swaminathan. 2021. "Childbirth and Women's Labour Market Transitions in India", *WIDER Working Paper 2021/128*, UNU-WIDER. [Link](#).

Dasgupta, Satyaki, and Annesha Mukherjee. 2021. "A Marxist Feminist Discussion on Female Labour Force Participation and Intra-household Dynamics in Post-Pandemic India", *Working Paper*. [Link](#).

Deshpande, Ashwini and Jitendra Singh. 2021. "Dropping out, Being Pushed out or Can't Get in? Decoding Declining Labour Force Participation of Indian Women", *Ashoka University Economics Discussion Paper 65*. [Link](#).

Bloom, David E., Alexander Khoury, and V. Srinivasan. 2021. "Estimating the Net Value of Treating Hepatitis C Virus Using Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir in India", *PLOS ONE*, 16(7): e0252764. [Link](#).

Please visit our updated IHDS website
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.

IHDS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Sonalde Desai
Professor, UMD
Professor, NCAER
Director, NDIC

Fenian Chen
Professor, UMD

Amaresh Dubey
Professor, JNU
Senior Consultant, NCAER

Keera Allendorf
Associate Professor, IU

Santanu Pramanik
Senior Fellow, NCAER
Deputy Director, NDIC

CONTACT US

Website: <http://ihds.umd.edu> Mail: ihdsinfo@gmail.com





Copyright © 2020, India Human Development Survey. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

3104 Parren J. Mitchell Art Sociology Bldg.

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20738

ihdsinfo@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Thank you for your support.