



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 2022

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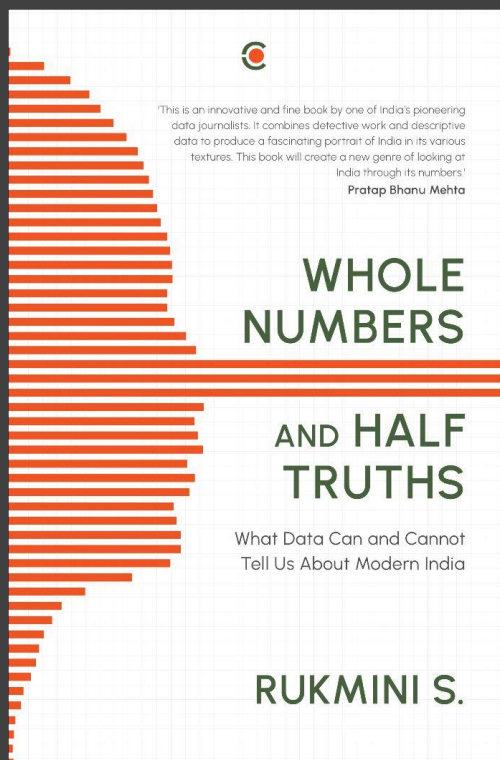
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Featuring the recently published book,

Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us about Modern India

(Westland, 2021)

by eminent data journalist, Rukmini S.



In this book, the author draws on her vast reporting experience to wade through a mountain of data on India that is difficult to both access and analyse, and yet she efficiently manages to document the changes occurring in Indian society over the last few years, using this very data. This is a very

interesting book, and the insights provided in it highlight the importance of not only using accurate data but also interpreting it correctly for policy-making, governance, and research.

One of the most engaging qualities of the book is the manner in which it weaves stories around the data by actually highlighting the lived experiences of people and then integrating them with actual numbers to spin the narrative.

Since the book cites IHDS data extensively in the context of various socio-demographic parameters, including marriage, employment, health, education, and consumption trends, this month's IHDS Forum showcases the book and its author, and how the usage and citation of IHDS data helped her in unpacking her key findings and conclusions.

About the Author



Rukmini S. is an independent data journalist based in Chennai. In 2004, she began covering Mumbai city for the *Times of India*. Since 2010, she has specialised in data journalism. She was the first Data Editor of an Indian newsroom, initially at *The Hindu* and then at *Huffpost India*. She now writes for a range of publications, including *Mint*, *IndiaSpend*, and *The Guardian*. Her pandemic podcast, *The Moving Curve*, won an Emergent Ventures India COVID-19 Prize in 2020. She was awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Mediaperson in 2020 and the Likho Awards for Excellence in Media in 2019.

She has a post-graduate Diploma in Social Communications Media and an MSc in Development Studies.

[Link to Purchase the Book in India](#)

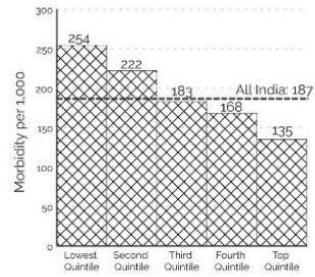
[Link to Purchase Book in U.S.](#)

Following are some graphs and charts from the book.

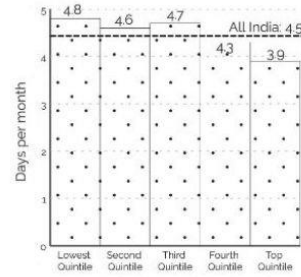
Figure 10.2: Who falls sick and who gets care is determined by how rich you are

The poor report worse health...

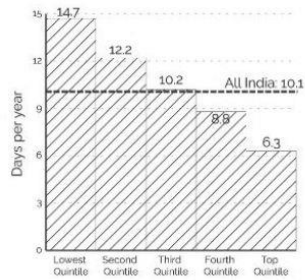
Morbidity per 1,000 from cough/ fever/ diarrhoea



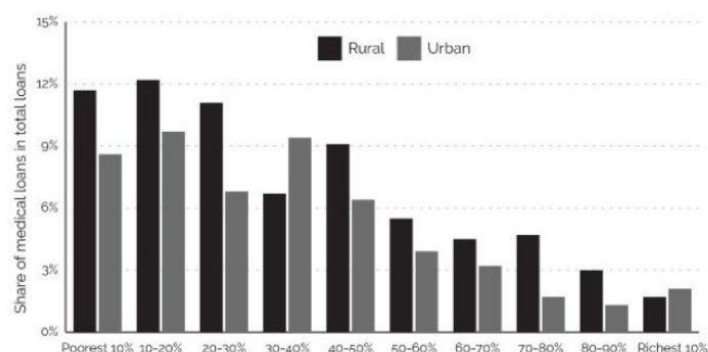
Days incapacitated in last month (if sick)



Days lost to sickness per year for whole population



... yet medical treatments occupy a greater share of poor households' loans



Source: All India Debt and Investment Survey, National Sample Survey 77th Round, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Gov. 2021

Rukmini S. Speaks to IHDS

Following is a reproduction of an interview that IHDS had with the author, in which she shares her experiences on writing the book and working with data, in general, and IHDS data, in particular. She talks about the accessibility and user-friendliness of various datasets she used while writing her book and the challenges of data collection in India. She also discusses the comparability and intersectionality of different datasets, and the fundamentals of a robust and credible data ecosystem.

[Full Interview Here](#)

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM R. RADHIKA: “Gender Bias Leads to Low Scores in Maths among Girls in Rural India: IIMA Study”, *Careers360*, January 25, 2022. [Link](#).



OP-ED FROM RITU SHARMA: “Females Have Lower Assessment Levels than Males in Basic Maths: Study”, *The Indian Express*, January 25, 2022. [Link](#).



OP-ED FROM SONALDE DESAI: “Education Should be Priority, Not Banning of Hijab”, *The Indian Express*, February 26, 2022. [Link](#).

[More Op-Eds Here](#)

Recent publications from IHDS users:

Das, Upasak and Karan Singhal. 2022. "Gender Difference in Mathematics Learning in Rural India", *Ideas For India*, January 24. [Link](#).

Jaikumar, Saravana and Rashmi Kumari. 2021. "Uncovering the Secrets of Small Family Businesses in a Developing Economy: The Unsuspected Role of Social Capital and Household Income Interactions", *Working Paper Series, WPS No 872*, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. [Link](#).

Bag, Sugata and Anirban Kar. 2022. "Made in Heaven, Matched by Parents: Does Arranged Marriage Restrict Labour Market Autonomy and Participation of Women? Theory and Evidence from India", *Working Paper No. 317*, Delhi: Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics. [Link](#).

Kumar, Deepak, Debasmita Padhi, Bhanu Pratap, and Archana Aggarwal. 2022. "Corporal Punishment and Praise in Indian Schools: Caste-based Heterogeneity on Children's Cognitive Skills", *International Journal of Educational Development*, 89, 102554. [Link](#).

Paul, R., R. Rashmi, and S. Srivastava. 2022. "Association of Mass Media Exposure with Combustible and Smokeless Tobacco Use among Indian Population: Findings from a Panel Survey", *BMC Public Health*, 22, 125(2022). [Link](#).

Sedai, Ashish. 2022. "Who Benefits from Indoor Piped Drinking Water Supply? A Gender Analysis", *Ideas for India*. January 17. [Link](#).

Hassan, Mofidul. 2022. "Inequality Adjusted Per Capita Income of Indian States in 2004-05 and 2011-12", *The Journal of Development Practice*, 7: 29-34. [Link](#).

Khound, Kaveri. 2021. "Role of Weather Shock and Variability on Food Security in India", *ARTHAVAAN*, 4(1): 98-105. [Link](#).

Iversen, Vegard. 2021. "Social Mobility in Developing Countries: Measurement and Downward Mobility Pitfalls", in Vegard Iversen, Anirudh Krishna, and Kunal Sen (eds.), *Social Mobility in Developing Countries: Concepts, Methods and Determinants*, pp. 75-96, U.K.: Oxford University Press. [Link](#).

Imran, M. Shahe and Forhad Shilpi. 2021. "Economic Approach to Intergenerational Mobility" in Vegard Iversen, Anirudh Krishna, and Kunal Sen (eds.), *Social Mobility in Developing Countries: Concepts, Methods and Determinants*, pp. 197-220, U.K.: Oxford University Press. [Link](#).

Sennimalai, Sarath, and S.D. Sivakumar. 2022. "Income Inequality and Consumption Pattern among BOP Consumers in India", *International Review of Business and Economics*, 5(2): 1-13. [Link](#).

Thangjam, Melody, Manjit Das and Laishram Ladusingh. 2021. "Changes in Incidence of Morbidities of Children and Its Determinants in Northeast India", *Demography India*, 50(2): 44-54. [Link](#).

Kujur, Archana, Dhiren Sahoo, and Hanumant Waghmare. 2021. "Effect of Household and School Characteristic on Absenteeism among Primary School Children in EAG States of India", *Demography India*, 50(2): 101-112. [Link](#).

Dhamija, Gaurav and Gitanjali Sen 2022. "Lasting Impact on Health from Natural Disasters, Potential Mechanisms and Mitigating Effects", Preprint. [Link](#).

Maitra, Sudeshna. 2021. "Migration, Social Interaction and Mothers' Preference for Sons in India", *Demography India*, 50(2): 152-166. [Link](#).

Kundu, Anustup and Kunal Sen. 2022. "Multigenerational Mobility among Males in India", *Review of Income and Wealth*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/roiw.12568>. [Link](#).

Bhattacharjee, Deepabali and Pratap C. Mohanty. 2022. "Do Information Differentials and Confidence in Medical Institutions Influence Out-of-pocket Expenditure on Health Care in India?", *Clinical Epidemiology and Global Health*, 13, 100952. [Link](#).

Giri, Manohar and Devlina Chatterjee. 2021. "Factors Affecting Changes in Insured Status of Rural and Urban Households: A Study over Two Time Periods in India", *IIMB Management Review*, 33(4): 360-371, December 31. [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.

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