



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.

December 2022

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

The Gendered Practices of the Upwardly Mobile in India

By Megan Nicole Reed



This study examines the relationship between economic mobility and the practice of female seclusion in Indian households using the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Women from households which became wealthier between the two waves of IHDS were found to have increased restrictions on their physical mobility as well as higher odds of practising head-covering or *purdah*. These results held true even after the inclusion of controls for changes in household composition, health of the woman, and her labour force participation. Stratified fixed effects regression analyses revealed that mobility-induced female seclusion was primarily practised in poorer communities, in rural areas, and among the less-educated. The findings suggest that economically mobile households may use female seclusion as a strategy to signal household status.

Coefficients from individual fixed effects Poisson and logistic regressions, IHDS I & II

	Number of places (of 3) respondent requires a chaperone to go				Respondent practices <i>pardah</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Asset wealth (z-score)	0.126*** (0.031)	0.105*** (0.031)	0.036** (0.011)	0.032** (0.011)	0.126* (0.060)	0.126* (0.060)
Paid work		-0.102** (0.038)		-0.008 (0.012)		-0.193** (0.071)
Unpaid work		-0.109** (0.034)		-0.008 (0.012)		0.149* (0.067)
Husband absent		-0.530*** (0.092)		-0.384*** (0.038)		0.226 (0.184)
Respondent is senior woman		-0.172*** (0.047)		-0.060*** (0.016)		-0.131 (0.095)
Elder man in household		0.118** (0.042)		-0.021 (0.015)		0.078 (0.086)
Has son(s)		-0.293*** (0.061)		-0.015 (0.021)		0.265* (0.134)
In poor health		0.201*** (0.051)		0.016 (0.019)		0.161 (0.094)
Wave II	-0.246*** (0.019)	-0.186*** (0.021)	-0.034*** (0.006)	-0.020** (0.007)	0.140*** (0.033)	0.129** (0.037)
Observations	14,924	14,924	28,248	28,248	6,938	6,938

Bootstrap standard errors in parenthesis; *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Notes: Coefficients are from fixed effects Poisson regressions for Models 1-4 and a fixed effects logistic regression for Model 5 and 6. The fixed effects Poisson regression drops cases where all outcomes are zero. The fixed effects logistic regression estimation procedure does not incorporate information about women who did not change their response to the question. The number of observations varies by outcome variable due to these restrictions. Total N = 14,641 women (29,282 observations).

[Full Article Here](#)

Megan Nicole Reed is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the departments of Sociology and Quantitative Theory and Methods (QTM) at Emory University. In May 2022, she completed a PhD in Sociology and Demography at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a social demographer who uses mixed methods to study gender and the family in India. Several of her papers have used the IHDS to examine how gender and family dynamics change across the life course. Before her doctoral studies, Megan was the Research Coordinator at the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania and a Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellow in India. Her work has appeared in various journals, including *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Social Science Research*, *Demographic Research*, and *Population Studies*.

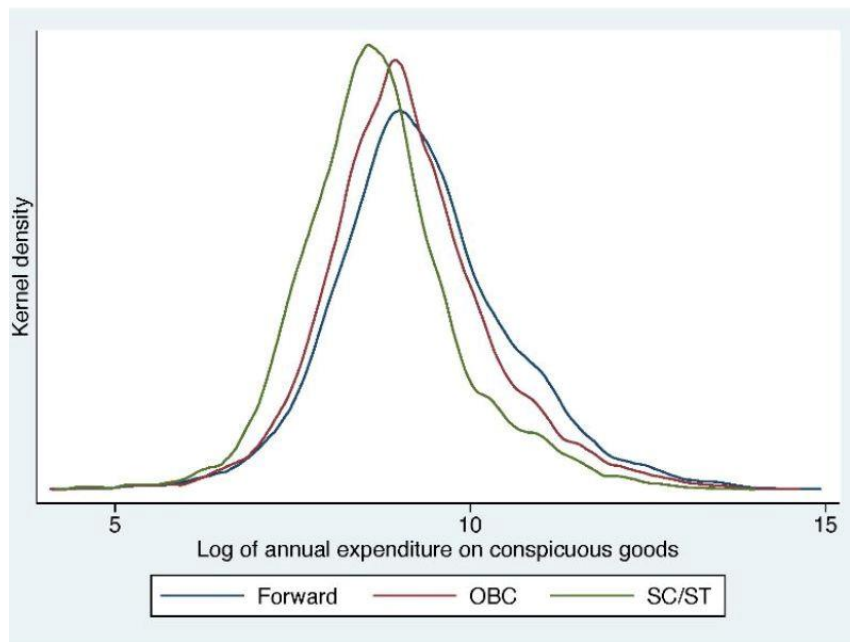
Social Identity, Local Neighbourhood Effect and Conspicuous Consumption: Evidence from India



By Deepika Kandpal and Dibyendu Maiti

The quest for social status is the driving force behind many human decisions, including the expenditure on conspicuous goods. Using recent nationally

representative data from India, IHDS-II, this paper investigates the caste-based inequality in conspicuous consumption patterns and the role of income distribution of reference groups in explaining these differences. The authors find that social identity is an essential determinant of conspicuous expenditure. As shown in the graph below, there is a significant variation in the distribution of conspicuous spending across caste groups in India. As compared to the forward caste groups, the households belonging to backward categories (OBCs and SC/STs) are under-represented at the top and over-represented at the bottom of the distribution of expenditure on conspicuous goods.



[Full Article Here](#)

Deepika Kandpal is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, PGDAV College. She received her PhD in Economics in 2021 from the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics (DSE), University of Delhi. Her research deals with status signalling behaviour in developing countries with a particular focus on the impact of social identity, local neighbourhood effects, and crime rate on conspicuous consumption choices in India. Her research is based on both theoretical and empirical analysis of social status seeking behaviour.

Dibyendu Maiti is Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. He has earlier worked at the University of the South Pacific (Fiji), Institute of Economic Growth, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (Calcutta), and the University of Manchester (UK). He has held various research positions at Max Planck Institute of Economics (Jena, Germany), University of Nottingham, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, University of Oslo, and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. He has published in leading journals like *Journal of Development Economics*, *Economic Modelling*, *Labour Economics*, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, and *Cambridge Journal of Economics*.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM SMITA SINGH: “Why Do Women Always Eat Last: Things That Food Biases in Families Tell Us”, *She the People*, November 28, 2022. [Link.](#)

OP-ED FROM SRIMANJORI GUHA: “Friends, Families, and Foes: Social Support and Women”, *The India Forum*, December 12, 2022. [Link.](#)

[More Op-Eds Here](#)

Recent publications from IHDS users:

Azad, P. and M. Refeque. 2022. “Wage Returns to English Language and Technical Skills in India: An Inter-Occupational Disparity”, Research Square. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2247895/v1>. [Link.](#)

Santhya, K.G., S. Banerjee, B.K. Panda, A.J.F. Zavier, A. Hazra, and S. Rampal. 2022. “Role of Debt in Overseas Labour Migration in India”, Technical Report, New Delhi: Population Council. [Link.](#)

Goel, S. 2022. “Effect of Deagrarianization at the Household Level on the Scale and Nature of Women’s Work in Rural India”, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 65(4): 1053-1082. [Link.](#)

Shrinivas, A., S. Jalota, A. Mahajan, and G. Miller. 2022. “The Importance of Wage Loss in the Financial Burden of Illness: Longitudinal Evidence from India”, *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 317. [Link.](#)

Mondal, S. 2022. "Intergenerational Educational and Occupational Mobility across Caste Groups in West Bengal", *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X221136384>. [Link](#).

Sharma, A. and A. Banerjee. 2022. "Socio-Economic Determinants of Digital Divide in India", *Demography India*, 51(1): 78-92. [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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