



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



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A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the
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July 2023

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

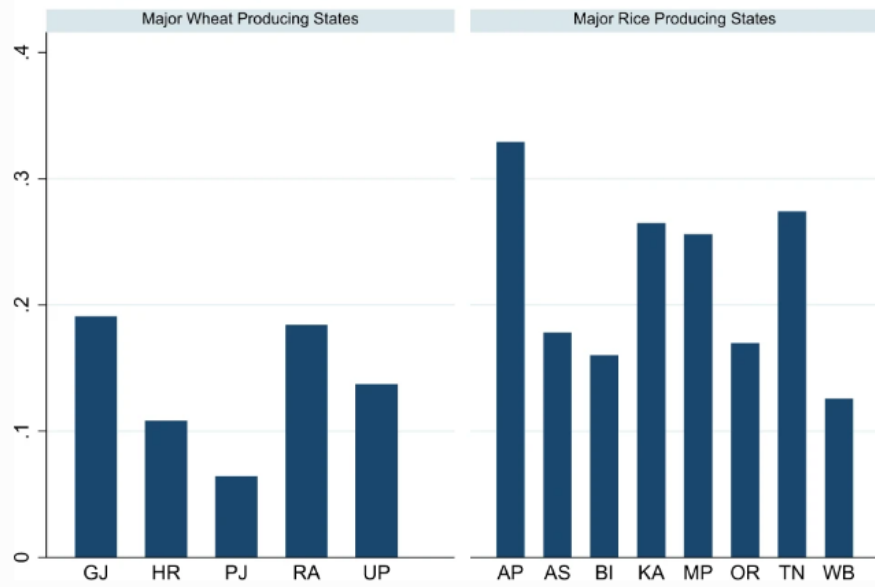
Son Preference and Crime in India

By Rashmi Barua, Prarthna Agarwal Goel, and Renuka Sane

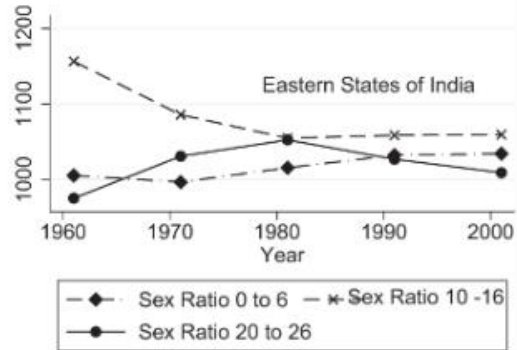
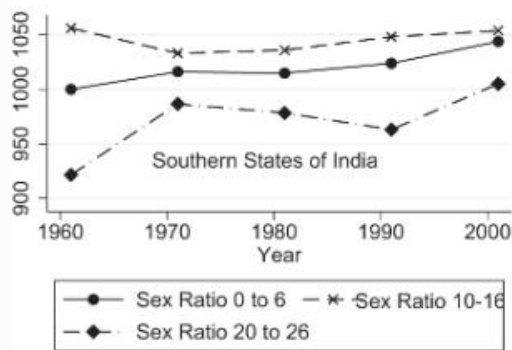
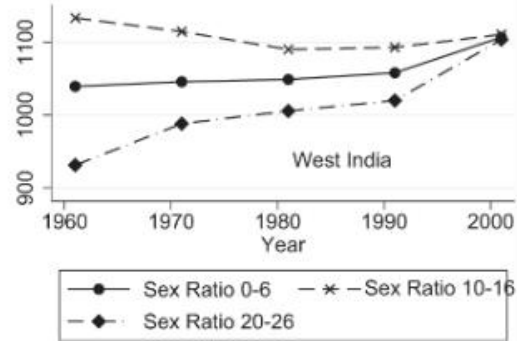
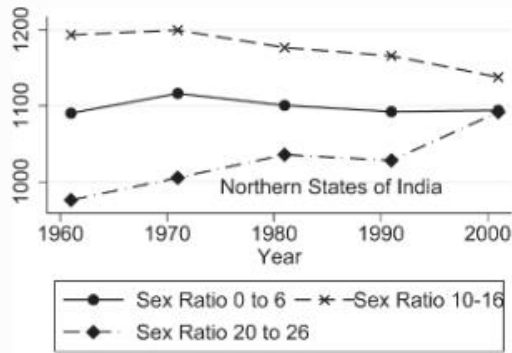


Using an Instrumental Variable strategy, this paper finds a positive causal relation between son preference, proxied by child sex ratio, and crime in India, a country with strong patriarchal norms. Using survey data from the second round of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS-II), the authors explore the channels through which sex ratio affects crime. The results point to the role of societal norms in explaining the relation between sex ratio and crime in India. The shortage of females within a district leads to the relaxation of rigid marriage norms related to arranging marriages within a known network. Consistent with this, the authors find that in districts with high pre-marital sex ratios, marriages are being arranged in faraway places, leading to a reduction in the social stigma cost of crime.

Female Employment as a Proportion of State Total Workforce



Female employment for rice and wheat producing states



Region Wise Sex Ratio from 1961 to 2001

[Full Article Here](#)

Rashmi Barua teaches at the Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to that, she has taught at Singapore Management University and Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi. Her research interest lies in the intersection of economics of education and labour markets. Some of the issues that she has worked on include early childhood education, female labour supply, labour market effects of skilling programmes, and financial literacy among international migrants. Most of her research has been a mix of methodological contributions, including randomised evaluations, and empirical applications that are guided by sound economic theory. She has a PhD in Economics from Boston University.

Prarthna Agarwal Goel is Assistant Professor with the Department of Economics at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, India. She is an applied economist with areas of interest in the fields of development economics, environment, and gender studies. Prior to joining the academic sector, she has worked with the analytics industry. During her tenure with the corporate industry, she has worked extensively on credit risk modelling and marketing mix analytics. She holds MPhil and PhD degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Renuka Sane is Research Director at TrustBridge. Her research interests lie in financial markets regulation, the regulatory state, credit and bankruptcy, pensions, and household finance. She was a member of the Task Force of Experts set up by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation to study its pension scheme; of the research team of the Bankruptcy Legislative Reforms Commission on individual insolvency; of the Pension Advisory Committee of the Pension Fund Regulatory

Development Authority and the Working Group on personal insolvency at the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. She has a PhD in Economics from the University of New South Wales and holds an MA in Economics from Mumbai University.

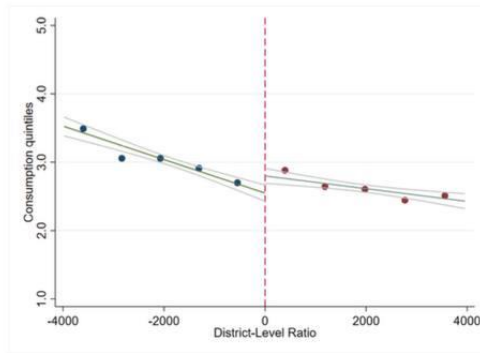
Does Financial Inclusion Mitigate Social Exclusion?

Causal Evidence from India

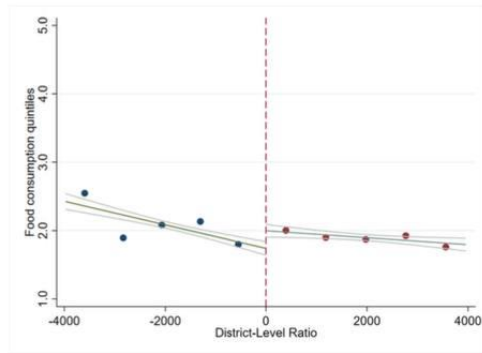
*By Rikhia Bhukta, Debayan Pakrashi,
Sarani Saha, and Ashish Sedai*



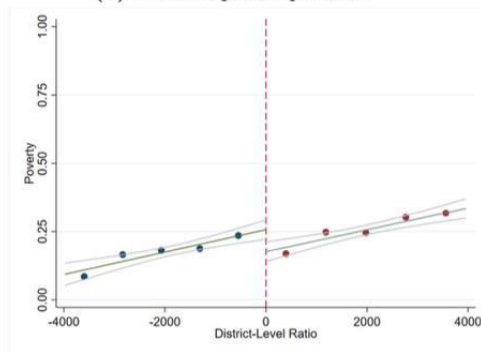
Discrimination against a particular community or race has been a persistent issue ever since the societal structures started to develop. In India, historically the most prevalent form of discrimination is caste-based discrimination, where marginalised castes such as Scheduled Castes encounter exclusion in all spheres of society. This paper examines whether financial inclusion after the formal banking sector expansion can reduce caste-based discrimination and thereby improve the overall welfare of marginalised castes. The authors leverage the quasi-experimental set-up of a bank branch authorisation policy adopted by the Reserve Bank of India in 2005, where banks were incentivised to open new branches in the underbanked districts. They use the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) to show that marginalised castes experience a significant increase in consumption and reduction in poverty as compared to the non-marginalised castes. As a direct channel of welfare enhancement, they found an increase in financial inclusion after the policy, in the treatment districts. The results are robust to all the RD design checks, including pre-policy smoothness, placebo cutoff, second order polynomial, bandwidth selector and bandwidth multiplier checks. Overall, this paper tries to highlight the importance of strengthening the formal banking sector and making it more inclusive in order to reduce the sticky social norms like caste-based discrimination.



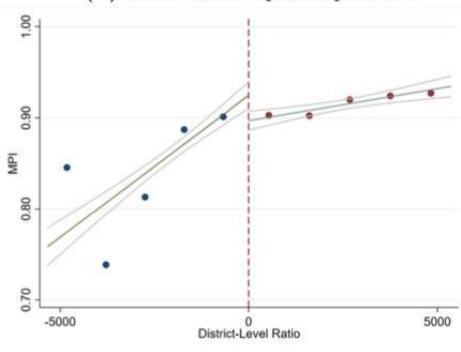
(a) Consumption quintiles



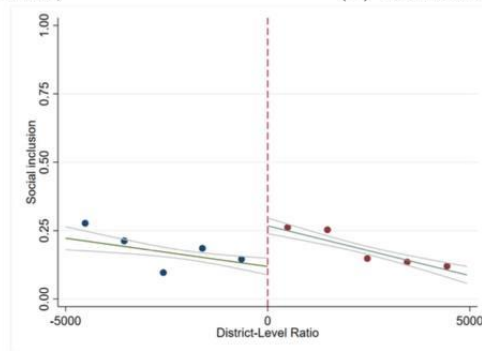
(b) Food consumption quintiles



(c) Poverty



(d) Multidimensional Poverty



(e) Social Inclusion

Figure: Household Well-being outcomes for SCs, post-policy. Source: Authors' calculation using Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) 2011-12

[Full Article Here](#)

Rikhia Bhukta is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Economic Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. Her research interest lies in development economics, applied econometrics, and policy evaluation. More specifically, she is interested in studying the driving factors behind economic and social progress of marginalised communities in India, including women and marginalised castes. She has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Debayan Pakrashi is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economic Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and the Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. He is an applied microeconomist particularly interested in issues related to public policy and public health. He has published in reputed journals including *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Health Economics*, and *Journal of Development Studies*, among others. He received his PhD in Economics from the School of Economics, University of Queensland, with the Dean's Award for Outstanding Research Higher Degree Theses.

Sarani Saha is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. She is currently a Fellow at the Global Labor Organization. Her research interests lie in the fields of labour economics, development economics, health economics, environmental economics, and applied microeconomics. Her current work focuses on issues related to the impact of community electrification on women's autonomy, role of financial inclusion in mitigating caste-based social exclusion, impact of awareness on health utilisation outcomes, role of social contact in reducing pre-existing

prejudices among various social groups, and effect of domestic violence on child health. Her research has been published in various reputed journals, including the *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization*, *World Development*, *Public Choice*, and *Social Indicators Research*. She obtained her PhD in Economics from University of California at Santa Barbara.

Ashish Sedai is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Texas at Arlington. He has earlier worked as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Delhi. He specialises in labour, health, gender and development research, and has received the prestigious Warren Samuel's prize from the Association for Social Economics for his research on "Gendered Effects of Piped Water in India". His other notable research includes the analysis of electrification and banks in developing economies and its impact on household welfare and women's empowerment, political institutions and pollution, care shocks and time use. His research papers have been published in *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Energy Economics*, *World Development*, *The Energy Journal*, *Economics of Ageing*, and *Journal of South Asian Development*. He received his PhD in Economics from Colorado State University and Masters in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



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Recent publications from IHDS users:

Mishra, U.S., H. Mallick, and B. Padhi. 2023. “An Inquiry into Households’ Confidence Levels in Various Institutions in India: A Temporal Assessment from the IHDS”, *Review of Development and Change*, Vol. 28, Issue 1. [Link](#).

Jaffrelot, C. 2023. "Indian Muslims: Varieties of Discriminations and What Affirmative Action Can Do", In *Handbook on Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action*, pp. 1-22. Springer. [Link](#).

Sahasranaman, A. and N. Kumar. 2023. "Distributional Dynamics of Income in Indian States: Inequality, Redistribution and Poverty Transitions", *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 58, Issue No. 25-26, [Link](#).

Bhattacharjee, A. and J.D. Dubey. 2023. "Can Employment Empower Women in Rural India?", *Economic Papers: A Journal of Applied Economics and Policy*. [Link](#).

Alvi, M.F. 2023. "Caste, Religion and the Labor Force Participation of Women: Evidence from India", *Review of Social Economy*, 1-28. [Link](#).

Bhan, T. and A. Patel. 2023. "Migration and Health: Exploring the Effect of Destinations on the Health Outcomes among Rural-Urban Migrants in India", *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 331, August, 116079. [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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