



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.

March 2023

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

Economic Development, Undernutrition and Diabetes

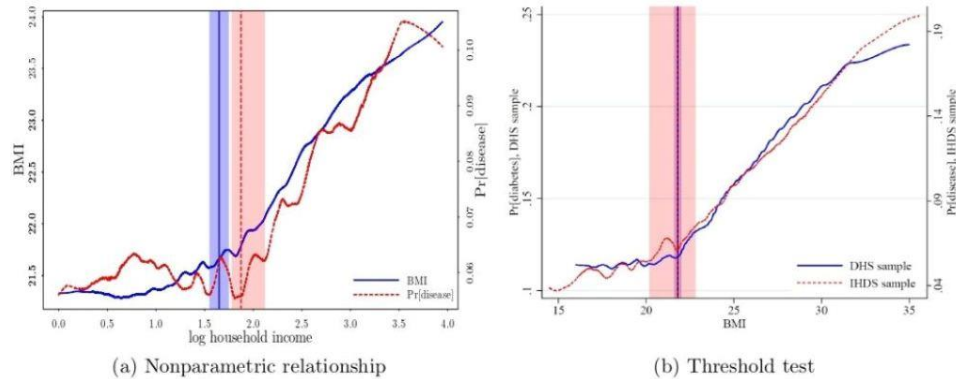


Nancy Luke, Kaivan Munshi, Swapnil Singh, and Anu Mary Oommen

This paper connects two seemingly unrelated facts that have recently been documented in developing countries, with important consequences for global health: (i) the weak association between nutritional status, measured by Body Mass Index (BMI) and income, and (ii) the elevated risk of diabetes among normal-weight individuals. The authors' model is based on a set point for BMI that is adapted to food supply in the pre-modern economy, but which subsequently fails to adjust to rapid economic change. During the process of development, some individuals thus remain at their low-BMI set point, despite the increase in their income (food consumption), while others who have escaped their set point (but are not necessarily overweight) are at increased risk of diabetes. The model and the underlying biological mechanism, which are validated with micro-data from many countries, including for India with IHDS

data, can jointly explain inter-regional (Asia versus Africa) differences in nutritional status and the prevalence of diabetes.

Figure 1: Relationship between nutritional status, metabolic disease, and household income



Source: India Human Development Survey (IHDS), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2015-2016.

Description: The left panel shows the relationship between the nutritional status and the probability of metabolic disease with respect to the household income. The right panel shows the relationship between the probability of metabolic disease salience with respect to the nutritional status. The standard set of covariates: age (linear, quadratic, and cubic terms) and dummies for gender, caste group, rural area, district, and survey-round for IHDS are partialled out prior to non-parametric estimation. The same set of covariates are included in the estimating equation at each assumed threshold for the threshold test. The vertical lines mark the estimated threshold location and the shaded areas demarcate the corresponding confidence intervals. Cluster bootstrapped 5% critical values are used to bound the threshold location.

[Full Article Here](#)

Nancy Luke is currently Research Specialist in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Pennsylvania State University and former Professor of Sociology and Demography. Her research focuses on gender, family, and health and well-being in international contexts, including gender dynamics within relationships, gender inequality in child health, and the influence of gender attitudes on economic decision-

making. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and has been published in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Population Studies*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Demography*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and *Journal of Development Economics*, among other outlets.

Kaivan Munshi is currently Professor of Economics at Yale University, a Faculty Affiliate of the Economic Growth Center, and was previously the Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge. Much of his research career has been devoted to the analysis of social institutions and their interaction with economic activity. More recently, he has shifted attention to the interaction between economic development and biology, with consequences for malnutrition and metabolic disease. His research has been published in the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and *The Review of Economic Studies*. He was the recipient of the Infosys Prize in the Social Sciences in 2016.

Swapnil Singh is a Principal Research Economist at the Bank of Lithuania and a Senior Research Fellow at the Kaunas University of Technology. His research interests lie in quantitative macroeconomics and development economics.

Anu Mary Oommen is a community medicine physician and Professor, Department of Community Health, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India, with 15 years of experience in secondary and primary care services and research, in rural and tribal areas. Her interests include burden of disease measurement, screening for non-communicable diseases, health systems, and implementation research. She is also involved with teaching epidemiology and chronic disease epidemiology and is currently pursuing a PhD with the University of Melbourne on developing and testing implementation approaches to cervical screening.

Patriarchal Norms and Women's Labour Market Outcomes



By Anirban Mukherjee and Sukanya Sarkhel

Gender discrimination in the labour market is usually seen as the result of the employers' cultural bias. In this paper, the authors analyse the issue from a larger perspective by combining both labour market and household decision-making together. It is often observed that women, prioritising their families over their careers, wilfully settle for less-paying and less-demanding job profiles. This leads to a gender wage gap even if the employers do not discriminate between male and female employees. The authors argue that women may make such choices in the presence of patriarchal social norms which see household chores as the primary duty of women. The theoretical model in the paper predicts that women coming from families with stronger patriarchal values are more likely to accept less-paying and less-demanding jobs in the labour market than the women from liberal families. The empirical section of the paper that uses IHDS, a nationally representative survey data from India, provides support for the authors' theoretical predictions. The results are robust to different measures of patriarchal culture. The paper also shows that the marginal effect of patriarchy on women's wage varies across occupations and places of residence.

	(1)	(2)
VARIABLES	Indiv FE	Pooled OLS
Patriarchy	-0.0917*** (0.0203)	-0.108*** (0.0166)
Age	0.154*** (0.00931)	0.141*** (0.00822)
Age sq	-0.00167*** (0.000133)	-0.00185*** (0.000117)
Years of Education	-0.00100 (0.00576)	-0.0800*** (0.00157)
Constant	-1.602*** (0.164)	-0.579*** (0.141)
Observations	43,687	43,687
R-squared	0.039	0.068

Standard errors in parentheses
*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Table 5: Baseline 2: Culture and Women's employment

Note: Women's labor force participation status (1 for employed, 0 otherwise) is regressed on patriarchal culture and other control variables. In column (1) we use individual fixed effect, in column (2), sub-occupation (89 categories) fixed effect and in column (3), simply the pooled OLS over two rounds of IHDS.

A: IV regression-second stage

	(1)
VARIABLES	Hourly Log wage
Patriarchy	-1.071*** (0.342)
Age	-0.00386 (0.0103)
Age sq	0.000117 (0.000142)
Years of Education	0.0152*** (0.00395)
Total Consumption Expenditure	9.24e-07*** (1.26e-07)
Spouse Income	3.06e-06*** (1.48e-07)
Motherhood	-0.113* (0.0653)
Constant	3.933*** (0.928)
Sub-occupation fixed effect	Yes
Observations	10,634
R-squared	0.002

Standard errors in parentheses
*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

[Full Article Here](#)

Anirban Mukherjee is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Calcutta. Before joining the University of Calcutta, he taught at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He is a Fellow of the Global Labor Organization. His interest areas for research include institutional economics, political economics, development economics, and economic history. His current research projects involve issues related to history of technology, identity politics, gender disparity in the workplace, and the effect of court quality on entrepreneurship. Anirban obtained his BSc in Economics from Presidency College, Calcutta; MSc in Economics from University of Calcutta; and PhD from the Department of Economics, University of British Columbia (currently known as Vancouver School of Economics).

Sukanya Sarkhel is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Department of Management Studies, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. Prior to her current position, she was a senior researcher in the European Commission-funded research project "Development of Low-Cost Technology for In-situ Treatment of Ground Water for Potable and Irrigation Purposes". Her current research projects involve issues related to menstrual hygiene in India and gender disparity in the workplace. Sukanya earned her MSc and PhD in Economics from the Department of Economics, University of Calcutta.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM ANUPMA MEHTA: “The Inequities of Gender Bias in India”, *The Pioneer*, March 8, 2023. [Link.](#)



OP-ED FROM RAJSHRI JAYARAMAN: “How Does Living with In-Laws Affect Women's Employment?”, *The Wire*, March 14, 2023. [Link.](#)

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Recent publications from IHDS users:

Hassan, Mofidul and M.P. Bezbaruah. 2023. “Income Inequality: A Cross-states and Cross-community Analysis”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 58(10), March 11. [Link.](#)

Nupur, Shreya and Meghna Dutta. 2023. “Perceived Economic Well-being among Rural Indian Households: Investigating the Role of Remittances”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, LVIII(9), March 4. [Link.](#)

Natarajan, Rajesh Raj, Simone Schotte, and Kunal Sen. 2023. "Moving up or down the Job Ladder in India: Examining Informality-Formality Transitions", in Gary S. Fields, T.H. Gindling, Kunal Sen, Michael Danquah, and Simone Schotte (eds.), *The Job Ladder: Transforming Informal Work and Livelihoods in Developing Countries*. UK: Oxford University Press. [Link](#).

Sangwan, Navjot. and Luca Tasciotti. Forthcoming. "Time to Remit: The Effect of Remittances on Household Consumption and Dietary Diversity in India", *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*. [Link](#).

Sedai, Ashish Kumar. 2023. "Bank Presence and Household Well-being: Evidence from India", *Preprint*, DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.33378.61122. [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.

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





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Our mailing address is:

3104 Parren J. Mitchell Art Sociology Bldg.

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20738

ihdsinfo@gmail.com

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