



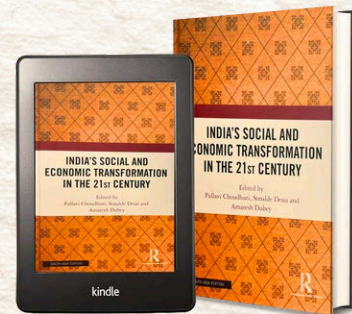
DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

India Human Development Survey Forum | June 2024

A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the IHDS research community.

The June edition of IHDS newsletter, features a new book titled “India’s Social and Economic Transformation in the 21st Century”, edited by Pallavi Choudhuri, Sonalde Desai and Amaresh Dubey, published by Routledge.

The book delves into the dynamic changes India has experienced in recent decades. It provides a comprehensive analysis of various aspects of India’s development, including demographic transitions, economic reform, education, health and inequality. The book provides a unique vantage point for scholars, policymakers, and anyone looking to understand India’s ongoing transformation using data from two waves of the India Human Development Survey.



Read and Download the first chapter for free on the website.

[Preview PDF](#)

Increase in labour earnings complemented by non-agricultural wages and salaried employment played a significant role in alleviating poverty

The chapter titled “Why did poverty decline in India? A Non-parametric Decomposition Exercise” by Carlos Balcazar, Sonalde Desai, Rinku Murgai and Ambar Narayan examines the significant reduction in poverty in India between 2005 and 2012. The authors use a nonparametric decomposition method to analyse panel data and identify the primary factors contributing to this decline. Key findings from the study indicate that the decline in poverty is primarily driven by substantial increases in labour earnings, which were boosted by a significant rise in wages for unskilled labour and a shift from farm-based to nonfarm sources of income in rural areas.



With an increase in income inequality in the society, the likelihood of individual morbidity also increases



The chapter titled "Do Income and Income Inequality Have Any Impact on Morbidity? Evidence from the India Human Development Survey" by Sohini Paul examines the relationship between income, income inequality, and health outcomes in India. The study uses data from two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (2004-05 and 2011-12) and finds that higher individual income is associated with lower morbidity rates, while greater income inequality is associated with poorer health outcomes, even after controlling for individual income. This indicates that inequality itself has a negative impact on health, independent of the effects of low income alone.

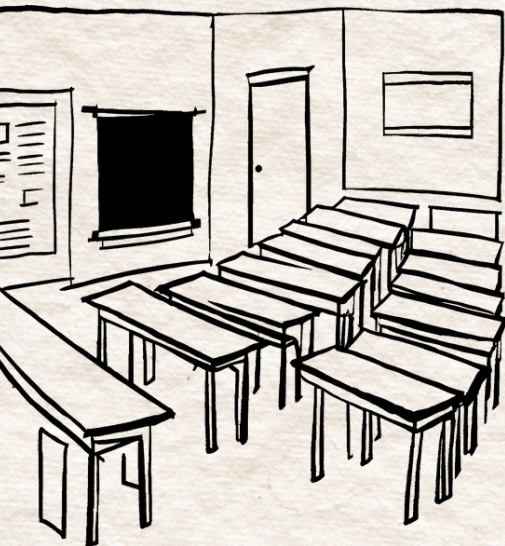
Excess weight is significantly associated with diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, which is more prevalent among urban women in India

The paper on "Excess Weight in India: Gender Differentials, Location Patterns, and Health Consequences" by Pushkar Maitra and Nidhiya Menon, explores the patterns and implications of excess weight in India. The authors highlight significant gender differences, with women experiencing higher obesity rates than men. Urban areas show higher incidences compared to rural regions. The health consequences are severe, including increased risks of non-communicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease. The study emphasizes the need for targeted public health interventions to address these disparities and health outcomes



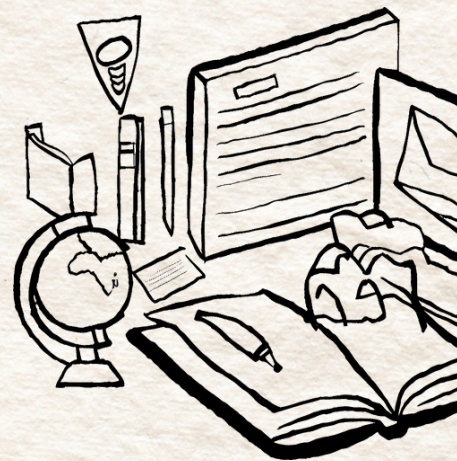
Although there has been a decline in the gender gap in school enrolment over time, the gender gap in private school enrolment still remains high

The chapter titled "Does the Growing Private Sector Deliver Schooling for All? Role of Gender, Parental Altruism and Family Wealth" by Pushkar Maitra, Sarmistha Pal, and Anurag Sharma, examines the impact of the rise of private schools in India on educational access and equity. The results, show that private education often benefits wealthier families, potentially widening educational inequalities. The study highlights gender disparities, suggesting that boys and girls may not have equal access to private schools. Parental altruism and family wealth significantly influence school choice. The authors call for policies to ensure that all children, regardless of socio-economic status, have access to quality education and pro-girl policies to tackle this gender gap.



A significant increase in learning outcomes was observed between the two rounds of the IHDS, particularly for students enrolled in private schools.

Another paper on privatization of education, entitled “Private Schooling in India: Changes in Learning and Achievement Experience” by Suvarna Pande and Amaresh Dubey explores the increasing prominence of private schooling in India and its effects on educational outcomes. The authors analyse the factors driving parents to choose private schools over public ones, such as perceptions of higher quality education, better infrastructure, and English-medium instruction. They present comparative data indicating that students in private schools generally achieve better learning outcomes compared to their counterparts in government schools. This chapter also highlights issues of accessibility and equity, pointing out that private schooling can exacerbate educational inequalities due to its lack of affordability. The authors call for enhanced regulatory frameworks and suggest public-private partnerships to ensure that quality education is accessible to all segments of society.



Women’s higher education and homeownership are positively associated with expectations of financial support from daughters, whereas women’s employment is negatively associated

Focusing on preference for sons in a paper on “Expectations of Support from Daughters in India: The Role of Education, Employment and Empowerment”, Abhijit Visaria, explores the evolving expectations of familial support in India, particularly from daughters. Traditionally, sons have been seen as the primary providers of support to aging parents, but this norm is shifting. Key factors driving this shift include increased access to education, better employment opportunities, and greater empowerment of women. The chapter highlights how these factors are challenging traditional gender roles and suggests that policies promoting gender equality in education and the workforce can accelerate this shift.



Parents in India still arrange majority of marriages. However, daughters’ autonomy is increasingly evident in parent-arranged marriages.

The chapter titled “Are the young and the Educated More Likely to Have “Love” Than Arranged Marriage? A Study of Autonomy in Partner Choice in India” by Manjitha Banerji explores how age and education influence the shift from arranged to love marriages in India. The study finds that younger individuals and those with higher education levels are more likely to choose their own partners, reflecting increased personal autonomy and changing social norms. This trend highlights the growing acceptance of individual choice in marital decisions, which nonetheless remains rooted within unique Indian family norms.





Malnutrition problems among children can be addressed more effectively through active participation in groups such as Mahila Mandals and youth groups in rural India, possibly because this encourages greater engagement in health awareness and welfare programmes.

A paper on “The Impact of Household Membership in Community-Based Organisations on Child Health and Education in Rural India” by Mugdha Vaidya, Meghna Katoch Rana, and Nabanita Datta Gupta examines how participation in community-based organisations (CBOs) affects children's health and educational outcomes in rural India. Using extensive data from rural households, the authors analyse whether membership in these organisations enhances children's well-being. Key areas of focus include access to healthcare, nutritional status, school attendance, and academic performance. The findings suggest that CBO membership is generally beneficial, leading to improved health and education indicators for children. The chapter explores the mechanisms through which these benefits occur, such as increased social capital, better information dissemination, and enhanced access to resources and services. The authors conclude by highlighting the potential of CBOs as effective instruments for enhancing child development outcomes in rural settings.

Publications List

Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Islam, M. O., & Ghorai, M. (2024). *The impact of water quality on children's education: evidence from 39 districts in the Ganges Basin of India*. *Environment and Development Economics*, 1-20. Published online. doi: [Link](#)

Chattopadhyay, S., & Roy Chowdhury, J. (2024). *Does Religion Affect Women's Agency? Empirical Evidence from India*. *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*, 1-18. [Link](#)

Homma, K.(2024).*Female Representation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at College in India*. Ph.D. Thesis. The George Washington University. ProQuest Dissertations and Thesis; Publication Number: AAT 31143965; ISBN: 9798382121543. [Link](#)

Sharma, S ., & Sunder, N. (2024). *Crime and Human Capital in India*. IZA Discussion Paper No. 17037. [Link](#)

Chakraborty, T. (2024). *Addiction, Debt and Moral Hazard: Evidence from Alcohol Prohibition Policies in India* (Doctoral dissertation, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta). [Link](#)

About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available through ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same can be found via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS was undertaken in 2022-24 and data are currently being cleaned and processed.

IHDS 3 has been jointly conducted by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Indiana University and University of Michigan.

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Thank you for your support.