



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



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

October 2023

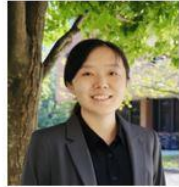
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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

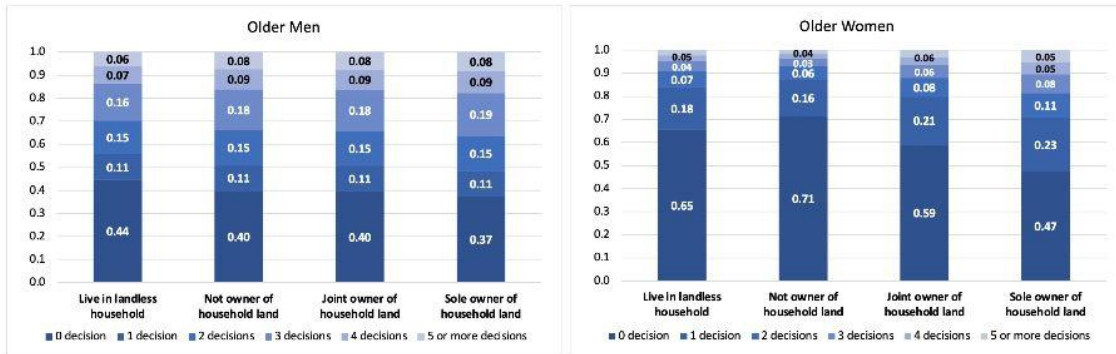
Gender and Generation: Landownership and Older Indians' Autonomy

By Hope Xu Yan, Sonalde Desai, and Debasis Barik



While increased access to household assets has been shown to improve older individuals' autonomy and bargaining power at home, the role of gender hierarchy in shaping differential impacts of household assets has received far less attention. In this paper, the authors explore the gender asymmetry in the association of older people's (aged 60 years or more) decision-making power at home and survival probability with their ownership of and managerial control over agricultural land in rural India. Using data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), they find that in multi-generational households, land ownership at the household level is associated with higher decision-making power and survival probability for older men but not for older women. Among older women, the relationship between household land ownership and decision-making power is positive when they have clearly established titles to the land or managerial control but negative when their names are not on the land title.

Figures: Predicted probabilities for the number of household decisions older men and older women have a final say on by land ownership in the IHDS-II



[Full Article Here](#)

Hope Xu Yan is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA. She has served as a research assistant for the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Her current research centres on how social inequalities in health and well-being are (re)produced within family and through workplace dynamics. She conducts research in various societies, including the United States, India, and China. Her work has appeared in leading journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, *Feminist Economics*, and *Social Science & Medicine*.

Sonalde Desai is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, and Professor at NCAER as well as Director of NCAER's National Data Innovation Centre. She is a demographer whose work deals primarily with social inequalities in developing countries with a particular focus on gender and class inequalities in human development. While much of her research focuses on South Asia, she has also engaged in comparative studies across Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. She has published articles in a wide range of sociological and demographic journals including *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, *Population and*

Development Review, and *Feminist Studies*. Dr Desai leads the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) and has been named as Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She also served as President for the Population Association of America for 2022.

Debasis Barik is a Senior Fellow at the NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre. His primary research areas include public health and mortality, migration, gender, healthcare financing, and environmental health. He is a demographer by training and has long been associated with survey design and survey implementation. He is an active member of various national and international organisations, working in areas of demography and social sciences. Since 2017, he has been a member of the Expert Group formed by the National Health System Resource Centre to institutionalise National Health Accounts estimates. He is also serving as Associate Editor and Review Editor for some reputed international journals. He has a PhD in Population Studies from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

An Assessment of India's Multiple National Social Protection Schemes in Improving Nutrition and Health

By Sudha Narayanan, Karthikeya Naraparaju, and Nicolas Gerber



This paper examines whether the combined participation in workfare and food grain subsidy programmes in India impacts the nutritional and health status of women and children, using Body Mass Index (BMI) and short-term morbidity as indicators. Based on the nationally representative panel data survey, the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12, the authors estimate the participants' average treatment effects by applying a semi-parametric differences-in-differences (DID) approach on the full sample and a regression-based DID approach on a matched sample. They find that simultaneous participation in these programmes lowers women's morbidity by at least 25 per cent, but women's BMI increases only in the States implementing those programmes well. The results suggest that various social protection programmes can operate synergistically and deliver positive impacts on children and women's nutrition or health, even though this is not their main objective. However, the effects are heterogeneous and confirm that the nutrition and health benefits, reached through a combination of the two social protection programmes, are mediated by intra-household dynamics. Synergistic and mediating effects must be considered in future efforts to upscale social protection in the Global South in order to deliver simultaneous progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.

Table: MGNREGA & PDS Participation and Health status of the IHDS Sample, 2011-12

	Mean BAZ/BMI	Proportion reporting short term morbidity	Average days of morbidity	Number of observations	Percentage of total
Children					
Both	-1.156	0.24	1.392	1255	16.29
Only PDS	-0.952	0.19	0.939	2680	34.79
Only MGNREGA	-1.195	0.24	1.332	674	8.75
Neither	-0.976	0.23	1.247	3095	40.17
Either +Neither	-0.989	0.21	1.128	6449	83.71
All	-1.016	0.22	1.171	7704	
Women					
Both	21.014	0.25	1.637	2764	16.77
Only PDS	21.725	0.2	1.507	6900	41.86
Only MGNREGA	20.5	0.29	2.253	996	6.04
Neither	22.072	0.23	1.657	5822	35.32
Either +Neither	21.783	0.22	1.625	13718	83.23
All	21.655	0.22	1.627	16482	

Source: Computed by authors based on IHDS-II.

[Full Article Here](#)

Sudha Narayanan is a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi. She was previously an Associate Professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. Her research interests straddle agriculture, food and nutrition policy, and human development in India. Her current projects focus on agricultural value chains in India and Bangladesh, agritech interventions and farmer producer organizations in India. She has published extensively in high-impact journals within India. She has also written for popular dailies such as *Mint*, *The Hindu Business Line*, and *The Economic Times*, and has

featured in global media outlets such as *The Washington Post*, *BBC World*, and *Deutsche Welle*, among others. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, and MPhil and MA degrees in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

Karthikeya Naraparaju is an Associate Professor in the Economics Area at the Indian Institute of Management Indore, India. His research and teaching interests include Development Economics, Welfare Economics, and Institutional Economics. His research focuses on inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and determinants of economic inequality in India. His recent work has focused on the role of distribution of land holdings in determining poverty and income inequality in rural India. He received his PhD and MSc in Economics from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, and his BSc (Hons.) in Economics from the Sri Sathya Sai University, Prashanthi Nilayam, India.

Nicolas Gerber is based at the Institute for Food and Resource Economics (ILR) of the University of Bonn since 2021. Prior to this, he was Senior Researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the same university, which he joined in 2007. Over the last 20 years, he has worked broadly on the management of biodiversity, land and water resources, and their interlinkages with poverty, food security, nutrition and health. He has led teams investigating the systemic and behavioural drivers of rural nutrition at the nexus of water, sanitation, and agriculture and in the context of agricultural innovation, in Africa and Asia. His current research focuses on urban nutrition in Africa, in connection with the local food system, food safety and quality along the supply chain, and food consumption behaviour. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP_ED FROM A. MEHTA: Not a Favoured Place for Raising Girls.
Qrius. October 14, 2023. [Link](#).

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Recent publications from IHDS users:

Mukherjee, T., I. Mukhopadhyay, and S. Bhattacharya. 2023. "Intergenerational Co-residence and Women's Employment in Urban India", *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 1-21. [Link](#).

Mukhopadhyay, S. 2023. “Revisiting Women’s Empowerment as an Agriculture–Nutrition Pathway Using the Framework of Intersectionality”, In *Achieving Zero Hunger in India: Challenges and Policies*, pp. 261-286. Springer. [Link](#).

Gurung, R., C. Tirkey, K.K. Takri, N. Diyali, M. Choubey, and R. Rai. 2023. “Determinants of Access to Improved Drinking Water and Sanitation in India: Evidence from India Human Development Survey-II (IHDS)”, *Water Policy*, wp2023083. [Link](#).

Duggal, K. 2023. “The Relationship between Child Marriage and Female Educational Attainment in India”, *Warwick-Monash Economics Student Papers No. 2023/57*. September. [Link](#).

Kumar, D. and Y. Chengyu. 2023. “Role of Banks in Promoting Risky Financial Assets”, *Economic & Political Weekly*, 58(41). October 14. [Link](#).

Biswal, D. and C.S. Bahinipati. 2023. “Crop-insurance Adoption and Impact on Farm Households’ Well-Being in India: Evidence from a Panel Study”, *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*, 1-20. [Link](#).

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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 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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