



## DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

### India Human Development Survey Forum | February 2025

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

#### Adolescent Gender Beliefs in India: Does Mothers' Empowerment Matter?

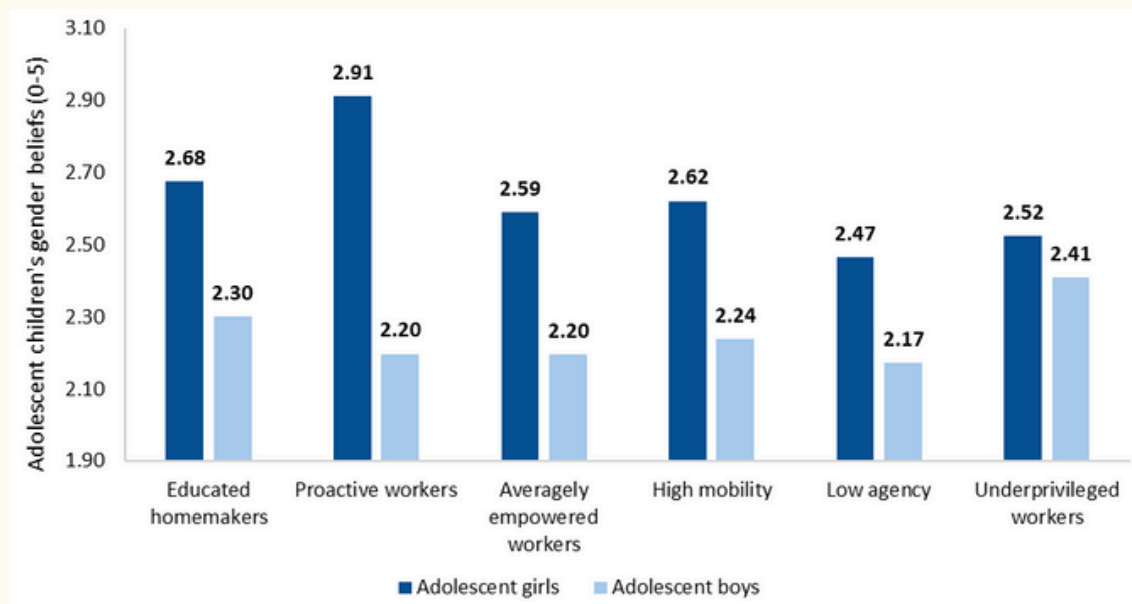
- Hope Xu Yan, Feinian Chen



Abundant studies have documented the positive impact of mothers' empowerment on children's health and education in the Global South, but little is known about how maternal empowerment shapes children's gender beliefs. Using data from the India Human Development Survey, this study examines the relationship between mothers' empowerment and adolescent children's gender beliefs in India. Recognizing the multidimensionality of women's empowerment, we conducted latent class analysis to identify a six-class

empowerment typology based on mothers' education, employment, decision-making power at home, mobility outside the home, and memberships in women's organizations. The results reveal unevenness in different dimensions of mothers' empowerment. Maternal empowerment's association with egalitarian gender beliefs is salient among adolescent girls, but not boys. Adolescent girls with mothers labeled as proactive workers in our empowerment typology hold the most egalitarian gender beliefs, whereas low agency and underprivileged worker mothers' daughters are the least egalitarian.

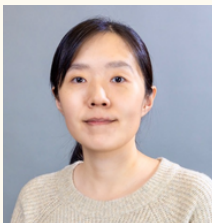
Figure 1: Predicted means of adolescent girls' and adolescent boys' gender beliefs by mothers' empowerment classes (N=8,721)



Note: Adolescent children's gender beliefs range between 0 and 5. Higher scores indicate more egalitarian beliefs.

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## About the Authors



### Hope Xu Yan

Hope Xu Yan, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University. As a medical sociologist and family demographer, her research centers 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.



### Feinian Chen

Feinian Chen, Ph.D., is a Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Population Center at Johns Hopkins University. Her research crosscuts a range of areas in demography, family sociology, gender, aging, and quantitative methodology. Her main research interests include intergenerational relations, women's work and family, population aging and health. She is actively engaged in research in family transitions, gender dynamics, and their health implications in the diverse contexts of China, India, the Philippines, and the U.S.

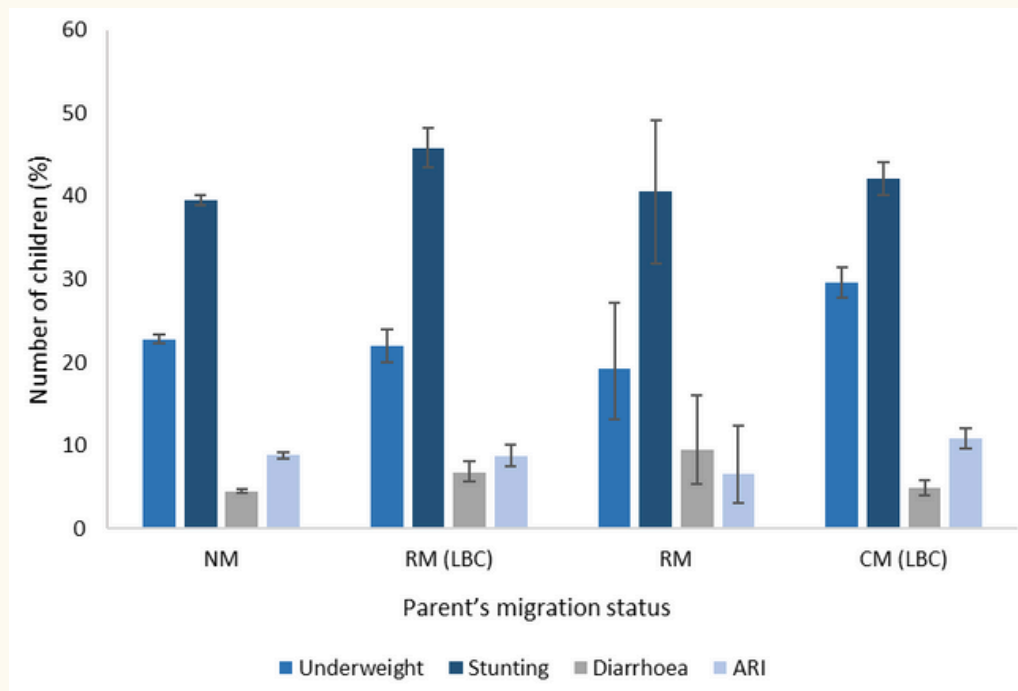
# Does Parental Migration Affect Children's Health in Rural India? A Fresh Look at Retrospective Data Using LASSO Regression Method

- Monalisha Chakraborty & Subrata Mukherjee

The paper examines the India Human Development Survey-II (2011-12) data to assess the impact of parental out-migration on the nutritional health and morbidity of rural children aged 0-14 years. Using adaptive LASSO logistic regression, a machine learning technique, for predictor selection and a state cluster fixed effect model to analyse the effects, the study reveals that parental migration has varied outcomes. While children accompanied by returned migrant parents are less likely to be underweight, left-behind children of current migrant parents are more prone to underweight. Additionally, these accompanied children are more susceptible to diarrhea. On the other hand, Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) are less common among children left behind by both returned and current migrant parents. Notably, children from remittance-recipient households show better outcomes in terms of stunting. The study suggests the need for multi-pronged strategies to address the negative consequences of parental migration on children's health.



Figure 2: Nutritional status and morbidity (with 95% CI) among children by parent's migration status



Source: IHDS-II (2011-12)

Note: NM- Non-migrant, RM (LBC)- Returned migrant parents with left-behind children, RM- Returned migrant parents with accompanied children, CM (LBC)- Current migrant parents with left-behind children.

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Subrata Mukherjee is a professor at the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Chair in Political Economy (RBI Chair) at the Mumbai School of Economics & Public Policy, University of Mumbai. His areas of research interest include labour and migration, health inequality, elderly population, and economics of education.



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## Publications List

### Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Hastawala, S. (2024). *Bank Presence and Formal Household Credit in India*. Working Paper. State University of New York at Binghamton. [Link](#)

Sharma, K., & Rahman, N. (2025). *Do cooking characteristics and household amenities matter for cooking fuel choice, clean fuel transition, and clean fuel consumption in India?* *Energy Policy*, 198, 114510. [Link](#)

### IHDS in News

Desai, S. (February, 2025). *There's a need to reimagine MGNREGA for a modern economy*. *Livemint*. [Link](#)

Goel, S. (February, 2025). *Household-Level Economic Transitions by Caste, 2005-2022*. *Fair Observer*. [Link](#)

## About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1,503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available via ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same is available via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS 3 was undertaken in 2022-24 and data is 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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