



# DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

## India Human Development Survey Forum | April 2025

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

### Short-Term Parental Migration and Intergenerational Educational Persistence

*Swati Sharma*



The study examines the mechanisms through which short-term parental migration affects intergenerational educational persistence, using a sample of 40,922 Indian father-child pairs from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). A flexible modelling approach was used that allows for heterogeneous effects of social origins and structural features of the Indian education system on different educational transitions of the child. Results show that parental migration increases intergenerational educational persistence. In particular, persistence

increases for higher educational transitions when parental migration is motivated by economic distress or when the left-behind children are engaged in household responsibilities. Lack of parental supervision increases persistence across all educational transitions. Educational disruptions associated with child migration increase persistence for the non-literate to primary transition but not for the higher educational transitions. The results are robust to potential endogeneity concerns for a wide range of assumptions regarding the form of unobserved heterogeneity.

Table 1: Effect of Father's Migration on intergenerational Educational Mobility

| Explanatory variable              |                 | Sons                    |                      |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                   |                 | Non-Literate to Primary | Primary to Secondary | Secondary to Post-Secondary |
| Father Education                  | Odds Ratio      | 1.066***                | 1.044***             | 1.084***                    |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | 0.046***                | 0.062***             | 0.076***                    |
| Father Migrant                    | Odds Ratio      | 0.829                   | 0.718*               | 0.799*                      |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | -0.097                  | -0.220*              | -0.198*                     |
| Father Education × Father Migrant | Odds Ratio      | 1.026                   | 1.057*               | 1.063*                      |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | -                       | -                    | -                           |
| Remittances                       | Odds Ratio      | 0.974*                  | 0.971**              | 1.004                       |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | -0.035*                 | -0.016**             | 0.01                        |
| Child Age                         | Odds Ratio      | 1.141***                | 1.384***             | 2.135***                    |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | 0.125***                | 0.209***             | 0.188***                    |
| Child Age2                        | Odds Ratio      | 1.000***                | 0.999***             | 0.998***                    |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | 0.023***                | 0.003***             | 0.014***                    |
| Assets                            | Odds Ratio      | 1.063***                | 1.088***             | 1.093***                    |
|                                   | Marginal Effect | 0.063***                | 0.097***             | 0.094***                    |

Note: This table reports exponentiated logit coefficients (odds ratios) and average marginal effects for the sequential logit models estimated using the full sample of parent-child pairs. All models are estimated using the full set of control variables and region fixed effects. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denote significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent levels, respectively.

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## About the Authors



### Swati Sharma

Swati Sharma is an Assistant Professor at the Humanities and Social Science (HSS) department of LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur. She holds a PhD from JNU, focusing on educational challenges for disadvantaged children. Her research spans economics of education, labour economics, development economics, and digital skilling. She has published in renowned journals and reviewed for prominent publications.



# The Great Indian Budget: Does Migration Influence Household's Consumption Proportions?

-Sana Tabassum & Chitwan Lalji

This study estimates the expenditure gaps (namely, expenditure gaps in food consumption, conspicuous consumption and productive investment) between migrant and non-migrant households using the two waves (2004–05 and 2011–12) of the nationally representative India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Employing propensity score matching and inverse probability weighted regression average, the results indicate that migrant households allocate a lower proportion of their household expenditure to food consumption (vis-à-vis the non-migrant households), while allocating higher shares to conspicuous consumption and productive investment. These results vary by whether a loan was sanctioned, the amount sanctioned, the purpose of the loan (productive or otherwise), and the loan source (formal or informal). The policy implications of this study emphasize the importance of extending loans toward productive investment opportunities. This study also explores consumption spillover effects on non-migrant households, indicating that they emulate the consumption behavior of migrant households by allocating a higher share to conspicuous consumption.



Table 2: Inverse Probability Weighted Regression Average (IPWRA) Results for Households' Consumption Expenditure

| Outcome Variables                             | Migrant Household | Non-Migrant Household | Average Treatment Effect |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Proportion of Annual Household Expenditure on |                   |                       |                          |
| Food Consumption                              | 0.479             | 0.502                 | -0.021***                |
|                                               | (0.003)           | (0.002)               | (0.002)                  |
| Conspicuous Consumption                       | 0.149             | 0.132                 | 0.017***                 |
|                                               | (0.002)           | (0.001)               | (0.002)                  |
| Productive Investment                         | 0.14              | 0.131                 | 0.011***                 |
|                                               | (0.002)           | (0.001)               | (0.002)                  |
| Other Categories                              | 0.210             | 0.210                 | -0.000                   |
|                                               | (0.002)           | (0.001)               | (0.002)                  |
| No. of Observations                           | 71246             | 71246                 | 71246                    |

Notes: The IPWRA has two models: treatment and outcome model. Socio-demographic features such as caste, religion, highest adult education, primary source of household income, household income quintiles, region of residence, and household size are expected to influence the treatment and the outcome models respectively. The average treatment effects indicate the variations in the mean consumption expenditures of migrant and non-migrant households. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* represent statistical significance at 10%, 5% and 1%, respectively.

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Sana Tabassum is an Assistant Professor in Economics at T.A. Pai Management Institute (TAPMI) Bengaluru. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, specializing in migration studies. Her research interests include development economics, health economics, labor economics, and gender economics.



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Chitwan Lalji is an Assistant Professor in Economics at the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. She completed her PhD in Economics from the Department of Economic Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. Her research focusses on women's safety, women's wellbeing, and maternal and child health.



## Publications List

### Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Armentano, V., Niehaus, P., & Vogl, T. (2025). How Poverty Fell. Working Paper. University of California, San Diego. [Link](#)

Jha, N., & Banerjee, N. (2025). Effects of diffusion and education on women's fertility in India. Journal of Population Research 42, 16. [Link](#)

Khalid, N., Behrman, J. R., Hannum, E., & Thapa, A. (2025). Floods, Community Infrastructure, and Children's Heterogeneous Learning Losses in Rural India. University of Pennsylvania. Population Center Working Paper (PSC/PARC), 2025-117. [Link](#)

Kuipers, N., Nellis, G., & Stommes, D. (2025). Forging Social Cohesion Through Mass Education: Evidence from a Nationwide Policy Reform in India. [Link](#)

Mukherjee, A., & Sarkhel, S. (2025). Motherhood and Labour Market Penalty: A Study on Indian Labour Market. Journal of South Asian Development, 20(1), 7-30. [Link](#)

Pragati, P., & Das, T. (2025). Health Coverage and Educational Investments. IIM Bangalore, Research Paper No. 714. Available at SSRN 5158461. [Link](#)

Sharma, S., Chouhan, B., Sharma, O. P., Koti, J., & Desai, S. (2025). Can I Interview Her? Gatekeeping in a Telephone Survey of Female Migrants in India. Survey Practice, 19 Special Issue. [Link](#)

Sreekumar, G., & Mandal, S. K. (2025). Confidence or corruption? Assessing the impact of political connections on confidence in public institutions in India. Applied Economics Letters, 1-8. [Link](#)

Varkey, A., & Haridas, H. N. (2025). Comparison of Income Inequality Among Indian States Using Quantile Functions. Computational Economics. [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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