



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital in India: The Role of Gender and the Extended Family

Bhaskar Jyoti Neog



The paper contributes to the limited literature on multigenerational educational mobility in India by examining how extended family members influence children's educational investment. Using data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) Round II (2011–12), the authors employed Ordinary Least Squares regression models to assess the role of grandparents, aunts, and uncles in shaping household educational spending. The findings indicate that grandparental education is positively associated with educational spending on children, even after controlling for parental

education. However, the analysis finds mixed evidence regarding the nature of grandparental influence. The findings further reveal notable heterogeneities in the grandparental effect across parental background and family structures. The crucial role of the extended family in gender influencing children's educational investment extends beyond the influence of grandparents and includes the significant influence of aunts and uncles. The paper concludes by discussing the policy implications of these multigenerational and gendered patterns of influence.

Table 1: The influence of family background on children’s educational spending

Independent Variables	Coefficients
Mother’s education	0.022***
Father’s education	0.023***
Paternal grandfather’s education	0.007
Paternal grandmother’s education	0.011*
Maternal grandfather’s education	-0.001
Maternal grandmother’s education	0.013***
Education of the highest-educated paternal uncle/aunt	0.004
Education of the highest-educated maternal uncle/aunt	0.018***

Source: Author’s calculations based on IHDS-II (2011–12)
Notes: ***p < 0.01, *p < 0.1

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About the Author



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Bhaskar Jyoti Neog is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Guwahati. His research focuses on labour economics and development economics, with a particular emphasis on informal labour markets. His work has been published in journals such as the Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Climatic Change and the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities.

Women’s Inheritance Rights Reforms and Impact on Women’s Empowerment: Evidence from India

Minali Grover, Ajay Sharma

The paper examines the influence of inheritance rights on women’s empowerment in India. The authors employed a quasi-natural experiment framework wherein five states amended the Hindu Succession Act (HSA) from 1976 to 1994 before it was federally amended in 2005. Using data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) Round I (2004-05), they adopted a difference-in-difference (DID) strategy combined with a triangulation approach to identify indicators of women's empowerment. These indicators include access to resources, agency, and outcomes, which collectively measure various dimensions of empowerment.



The findings indicate that the HSA amendments positively affected women’s economic participation, attitudes towards intimate partner violence, and both physical and civil autonomy. However, the reforms negatively influenced household autonomy and had an insignificant impact on women’s marriage choices. The study also explores heterogeneities across socio-economic groups, locations, levels of patriarchy, and the gender of the household head. Overall, it demonstrates that institutional change through enhanced inheritance rights influences different dimensions of women’s empowerment in varied ways across different groups.

Table 2: Regression estimates of impact of Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act (HSAA) on physical and civil autonomy

Dependent Variable	Physical Autonomy	Civil Autonomy
Overall		
HSAA x Hindu	2.219*** (0.588)	0.417*** (0.141)
Observations	56,419	56,361
Only Urban		
HSAA x Hindu	1.874*** (0.652)	0.731* (0.378)
Observations	18,185	18,076
Only Rural		
HSAA x Hindu	2.557*** (0.659)	0.110 (0.181)
Observations	38,224	38,169

Source: Authors' calculation based on IHDS-I (2004-05)
Notes: All controls are included. Standard errors are in parentheses and clustered at state levels.
***p<0.01, *p<0.1

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Publications List

Recent Publications Using IHDS Data

Krakowski, K., & Mazur, K. (2025). United on Divisive Waters: Decentralization of Irrigation and Conflict in India. PHBS Working Paper 20250901, Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS). [Link](#).

Kumar, M., & Ajay. (2025). Untouchability, Caste-Based Reservation, and Confidence Gap in Police: Interacting Dynamics. Journal of Asian and African Studies. [Link](#).

Nongbri, R. W., Mandal, S. K., Sreekumar, G., & Zuo, A. (2025). Do Political Connections Moderate the Correlation between Drought and Households' Water Poverty? Empirical Evidence from India. Water Resources and Economics, 52,100273. [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 neighbourhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; the 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 are available via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS-III was undertaken in 2022-24, and data is currently being cleaned and processed.

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

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