

ONGOING PROJECTS 2022-23

GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT



- MIGRATION AMONG THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF RAJASTHAN: DYNAMICS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
- INEQUALITREES - A NOVEL LOOK AT SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES USING MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES AND INTERGRATED DATA SOURCES
- IMPACT OF POVERTY AND PANDEMIC ON WASH PRACTICES IN URBAN INDIA AND ADDING AN EXTRA OBJECTIVE ABOUT HESITATION IN VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY
- INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2023: JOBS, EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR THE YOUTH

EDUCATION AND SKILLS



- IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN BIHAR
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- MAPPING THE CONTOURS AND INCREASE IN ICDS IN 21ST CENTURY INDIA & ASSESSING PERFORMANCE IN JHARKHAND
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- ANALYSING GENDER RESPONSIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF GIRL CHILD CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES IN 8 STATES OF INDIA AND RECOGNIZING THEIR COMPLEMENTARITY WITH BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAAO
- CARVING OUT A GENDER LANDSCAPE IN BIHAR: AGRARIAN CHANGE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FARM-SECTOR (2008-2021) (ICSSR MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT)

VULNERABILITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



- CASTE IN URBAN INDIA: MANIFESTATION AND INEQUALITIES
- ASSESSMENT OF STANDARD OF LIVING OF TANA BHAGAT COMMUNITY OF JHARKHAND WITH MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY APPROACH
- LEVERAGING NTFP MARKET LINKAGES TO REDUCE AGRARIAN DISTRESS AMONG FOREST DWELLERS IN JHARKHAND
- VULNERABILITY AND FOOD INSECURITY MAPPING STUDY IN JHARKHAND

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS



MEGHALAYA DEVELOPMENT REPORT



GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

Migration among the tribal communities of Rajasthan: Dynamics, Challenges and Opportunities

Sponsor/s: Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Project Director/s: Dr. Bhim Reddy

Research Team: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma and Dr. Tanya Chaudhary

The research aims to study the dynamics of tribal migration and its outcomes against the background of livelihood opportunities and constraints in the state of Rajasthan. It focusses on migration patterns and their changing dynamics, employment and livelihoods, changing aspirations of tribal population, especially the youth, and the challenges in accessing opportunities. The objective of this study is twofold: it seeks to identify the possible areas of intervention i). to facilitate safe migration and improve the outcomes of migration process; and ii). in addressing and reducing involuntary/forced migration as well as in expanding livelihood opportunities in the areas of origin. Broadly, it aims to study the role of migration in development and social change in tribal areas and contribute to policy towards improving the conditions of migrants.

The research is based on primary data collected using mixed methods. This includes a large primary household survey of about 1000 households for collecting quantifiable data at household and individual level. Beside this survey, qualitative data will be collected through interviews and focus group discussions. This study covers the Scheduled Tribe population living in the western state of Rajasthan which has large share of tribal population – 13.5% in the total population of the state and nearly 9% of the total ST population in India. About 1000 tribal households will be covered to gather household level information with respect to economic activity, migration, employment, education, assets among others will be collected through canvassing a structured questionnaire. Qualitative primary data will also be collected for this study using in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and 10 in depth case studies.

This research, thus, will map the interlinkages between the origins and destinations, remittance flows and household economy, skills and occupational mobility.

INEQUALITREES - A NOVEL LOOK AT SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES USING MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES AND INTERGRATED DATA SOURCES

Sponsor/s: Volkswagen Foundation, Novo Nordisk Fonden, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Compagnia San Paolo

Project Director/s: Prof. Ravi Srivastava

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Mehta, Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr. Prashant Kumar Arya and Mr. Siddharth Dhote

This research investigates the levels and main drivers of two key manifestations of socio-economic inequality: poverty and inequality of opportunity (IOp). It focuses on inter- and intra-regional/country comparison in the countries of India, Bolivia, Germany and Italy. The project is centred on the application of cutting-edge ML (machine learning) techniques to integrate large- scale datasets from various sources and to provide improved estimates of IOp and poverty across and within countries. ML techniques will be used for three main tasks: 1) integrating data from different sources; 2) extracting information from non-standard data sources, in particular satellite images; 3) estimating IOp and poverty measures across and within countries.

Working Papers have been completed as given below:

1. Inequality of Opportunity in India: Concept and Measurement by Balwant Singh Mehta and Siddharth Dhote- Published in IASSI Quarterly (Vol 41 Issue Number 1 and 2)
2. Decomposition of Inequality of Opportunity in India: An Application of Data-Driven Approach by Balwant Singh Mehta, Siddharth Dhote and Ravi Srivastava (Published in Indian Journal of Labour Economics (Volume 62 Issue No 2))
3. Integration of Conventional and Non-conventional Data to Estimate Poverty and Inequality of Opportunity in India by Balwant Singh Mehta, Prashant Arya, Swati Dutta, Siddharth Dhote and Ravi Srivastava (Working Paper Publication in Progress)
4. Predicting Spatial Inequality using multi-source Data and Machine Learning Approach: A Case Study of India by Prashant Arya, Koyel Sur, Ravi Srivastava, Siddharth Dhote, and Balwant Singh Mehta (Working Paper Publication in Progress)
5. Predicting Spatial Income Poverty Using Machine Learning Approach: Balwant Singh Mehta, Siddharth Dhote, and Swati Dutta (In Progress)

IMPACT OF POVERTY AND PANDEMIC ON WASH PRACTICES IN URBAN INDIA AND ADDING AN EXTRA OBJECTIVE ABOUT HESITATION IN VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY

Sponsor/s: ICSSR (Post-Doctoral Fellowship)

Project Director/s: Dr. Aditi Madan

The overall objective of the study is to assess the status, trend in access and determinants of WASH practices at the regional level in India. Specific objective of study include: Assessment of the status and trend in access to WASH at regional level; Identification of the inequalities and determinants of WASH practices; Assessment of existing knowledge and practices of menstrual hygiene among women in reproductive age; Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on WASH practices; Exploring the vaccine hesitancy during pregnancy; Understanding the effectiveness of government programmes on WASH practices and To suggest appropriate policy options for effective WASH practices.

The study is a mix of quantitative and qualitative study with secondary data based on NFHS (3 and 4), IHDS (IHDS 2) and NSS dataset (76th round). Primary data was collected through qualitative interviews and FGDs with different stakeholders engaged in planning and implementation of WASH and slum development related initiatives in Delhi. Thus, this study will suggest policy options for reducing the water and sanitation related vulnerabilities among poor households.

The ongoing activities in the study: Analysis of primary data collected from the field including 11 Focus Group Discussions and 16 Key Informant Interviews across Delhi-NCT; Analysis of secondary data covering national databases i.e. NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 undertaken; Writing Chapter 5 on Status and Trend in Access to WASH; Presentation in the international conference on 'Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development in Global South' by Institute for Human Development (IHD and University of Florida in partnership with Centre for the Regional Development (CSRD), JNU and National Institute of Urban Affairs.

INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2023: JOBS, EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR THE YOUTH

Sponsor/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project Director/s: Professor Ravi Srivastava and Professor Alakh N. Sharma

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Mehta, Professor Tanuka Endow, Dr. Deeksha Tayal, Mr. Siddharth Dhote, Dr. Shipra Nigam

The India Employment Report 2023: Youth, Education and Skills, is the third in the series jointly being done by the IHD and International Labour Organization (ILO). Based on analysis of the trends and pattern of Indian labour market during last two decades, including the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, it delineates the emerging characteristics of the employment challenge confronting the economy, as well as the impact of growth on employment. The report provides

an in-depth analysis of youth labour market and emerging youth employment challenge, and in this context, undertakes the analysis of education, skills and youth employment linkages and reviews the prevailing strategies. Finally, the report provides policies and strategies to address the emerging employment challenges, and the challenge of youth employment in particular.

The developments in the Indian labour market in the report are examined over a period of roughly two decades (1999-2000 to 2018-19) for analysing long run structural trends in this regard, given that the period succeeding March 2020 marked the crisis brought in the wake of the pandemic, and hence constitutes unusual years in the growth pattern. The analysis for the pre pandemic period is further sub divided using three time points: 1999-00, 2011-12 and 2018-19 to bring out the changes and continuities from a long run perspective, expanding on the more recent sub period wherever necessary to bring out a more detailed picture. The report further uses the available data for the period 2019-20 to 2021-2022 to discuss the impact of the pandemic. Till 2011-12, the quinquennial rounds of the employment-unemployment survey (EUS) of the NSSO provided the main basis for analysis of employment. Since 2017-18, the reports of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the NSSO are available till 2021-22, along with unit level data. The report accordingly uses the unit level data in these surveys as its chief database, using the data they generate to develop conceptual tools and statistical indicators appropriate for the analysis of labour market and employment in India.

The Report is structured in two parts. After the introduction, the first part (chapters 2 and 3) provides an overview of significant changes and continuities in the overall labour market and employment scenario of the country and the implications of the growth process for employment and labour market. Subsequently, in the second part of the report (chapters 4, 5 and 6) the focus moves to the challenge of youth employment, education and skills in the face of changing structure of the labour market and overall developments, along with a discussion of the active labour market policies. Finally, Chapter 7 provides the analysis and emerging policy pointers to face the overall employment challenge, and in particular of youth employment.



EDUCATION AND SKILLS

IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN BIHAR

Sponsor/s: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Project Director/s: Dr. Raghunanandan Sharma (Patna University)
Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Mr. Arjun Dubey

The project aims to understand the governance of education at different levels of administration and institutions such as schools, colleges and universities in Bihar; assess the quality by some measurable yardsticks such as employees and students' satisfaction and understand factors determining quality and suggest measures for effective governance and sound financial system for improving quality of education in the state. The study extensively uses the secondary data and information from various sources such as NUEPA, UGC and Government of Bihar. It also looks into the various Committee Reports, either independent or those from the Government. However, the most important source of information and data are being based on primary study. A workshop and few consultative meetings were organised in August 2017 to elicit views and perspectives of the various stakeholders at various levels. The inputs from these workshops and consultations will provide both perspectives of the issues as well as possible agenda for action. To understand the internal dynamics of the failure of governance and downfall in the quality of education several case studies are being conducted in various schools and colleges. The tools for the survey have been prepared and the survey for the study is presently being undertaken.

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PRIVATISATION AND REGULATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Sponsor/s: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Project Director/s: Prof. Ravi Srivastava
Research Team: Dr. Balwant Mehta, Dr. I.C. Awasthi, MR. Siddharth Dhote, Mr. Arjun Dubey

The study examines the nature of regulatory institutions, their composition, goals and rules and their linkage with the private sector in higher education to see what changes can be suggested in order to improve the higher education environment in the country. The study takes a political economy approach to analyse privatization of higher education and its regulation in India. This involves examining how political institutions and economic systems influence each other. It deals with the role of the government(s) and /or power relationships in resource allocation /investment in higher education, and the consequent impact of such investment.

The study focuses on following research questions:

- What are the forms that privatization is taking in higher education why they dominate?
- Profile of entities that have set up private institutions.
- Aims and objectives of the state and national level regulatory institutions
- Impact of privatization on access, equity and quality

In its first phase, the study analyses existing data sources (NSSO, All India Higher Education Survey, UGC, MHRD, AICTE) to build profile of privatization of education in the country. In the next phase, the research will carry out an intensive study of three study states and the main national level regulatory institutions. States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have been taken up for the intensive study. The field study is based on extensive informant and stakeholder interviews, both semi structured and structured. The secondary data is being analysed using statistical packages and the primary data by using descriptive statistics to uncover the patterns and impact of privatization across different types of institutions. A detailed report is the expected outcome of the study. Presently, the tools for the survey have been prepared and being reviewed by the research team.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

EVIDENCE ON THE STATE OF PUBLIC CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS AGE IN INDIA

Sponsor/s: Mobile Creches

Project Director/s: Prof. Sumangala Damodaran

Research Team: Dr. Balwant Kumar Mehta, Dr. Sunil Kr. Mishra, Dr. Swati Dutta

This study proposes to examine the demand, status and conditions of creche provision for U-3 children in two states in India, with a focus on public-funded creches. It aims to understand the unique needs and demands of childcare in the context of U-3s and examine models for such care and their impact in two states (Kerala and Odisha).

The study includes analysis of secondary data as well as a primary field survey. A mix of both, qualitative and quantitative techniques is being used for this study. Hence, the study methodology includes a literature survey, analysis of relevant secondary data, discussion of various models adopted nationally by different states especially for Odisha and Kerala (Government and non-government, International), a quantitative survey Discussions. The survey is being conducted in the states of Odisha and Kerala.

MAPPING THE CONTOURS AND INCREASE IN ICDS IN 21ST CENTURY INDIA & ASSESSING PERFORMANCE IN JHARKHAND

Sponsor/s: ICSSR (Senior Fellowship)

Project Director/s: Dr. Shreeranjan

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a flagship programme of Government of India to address malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity, child mortality and maternal care. It adopts a holistic and multi-sectoral approach incorporating health, early education and nutrition interventions providing package of services relating to early childhood development. Implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme, it works through a network of Anganwadi centres (AWCs) at the community level. The programme has contributed significantly to the child development and maternal care. The southern states have performed better than the northern ones in the implementation of the programme. States like Bihar, U.P., Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have not performed well which is evident from high child malnutrition and maternal mortality rates. This study analyses the performance of the states across various indicators of ICDS and the causality of their respective performances. It specifically analyses the performance of ICDS in the poor and tribal state of Jharkhand. The study also analyses the recently released facts from NFHS 4 & NFHS 5 which sows some worrisome trends on child development including nutrition and maternal care.

ICSSR SENIOR FELLOWSHIP 'HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF ADOLESCENTS: A CROSS CULTURAL ANALYSIS'

Researcher/s: Lipi Mukhopadhyay

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

The present research study is an attempt to explore the relevant issues interplaying with health and wellbeing of young children. The available literature on this theme is discrete and vast mainly stating the cause and effect. In recent health related research studies conducted multivariate factors are used to understand influenced psychological/physiological factors and mental health. Health is not only restricted to disease, but total integrated health also consists of physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing of the individuals. This is a crucial issue as 30%

of the world's population is comprised of children & youth who are the future agents of growth and development. Bad health overall in adults stands from and has its roots in childhood. It is estimated that findings from the study would be a scientific step towards prosperity and community wellbeing of all society. The conditions such as malnourishment, wrong food habits, sedentary lifestyle which affects the present generation need to be replaced with meaningful and constructive activities so that an integrated holistic healthy society is attained. It is also envisaged that based on survey and data a measure of preventive and corrective plan of action at the political level would be taken for the interest of sustainable growth and peace.

The research is being conducted in India and Los Angeles, USA. In India two cities have been selected for the study - Delhi and Kolkata. A questionnaire has been prepared to measure food habits, physical health status, school attendance and assessment by school authorities, class teachers on academic and general conduct of students. A self-report assessment by senior students (14-18 years) on activities like, involvement in sports, inter-personal relation with teachers, parents and peers is being assessed. A continuous sample of students from classes X-XII has been selected on selected variables mentioned earlier. One hundred students from Delhi and Kolkata each was selected from rural and urban schools. In USA based on availability and suitability the sample size has determined.

Based on the preliminary survey and responses received, the research data has been collected for analysis. Variables like demographic, social and personal characteristics and environmental factors included for the study. Data from secondary and primary sources is being gathered. Analyses of data would be made based on scientific measures using ANOVA, Chi-square test, correlation. This would also indicate the degree of positive and negative correlation between different factors and to what extent the most significant factor influence the health and wellbeing among adolescents.

ICSSR SENIOR FELLOWSHIP 'EFFECT OF PARENTING STYLE ON PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING OF ADOLESCENTS IN DELHI NCR'

Researcher/s: Priyanka Srivastava

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

This research aims to explore the impact of parenting styles on psychological wellbeing of adolescents (10-19 years of age) in urban Indian households. Moreover, in the study the factors affecting parenting styles would be explored and its impact on cognitive, affective, and behavioural implications of adolescents would be investigated. At the outset, parents and adolescents of different socio-economic status would be screened from National Capital Region of Delhi. Parents and adolescents (from 10-19 years of age) (Adolescence—defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the second decade of life (10-19 years of age)—is a time when significant physical, psychological, and social changes occur) participating in the study would be selected from identified schools. A sequential mixed method design would be used in the study. Stage I shall be qualitative in nature and would use focus group to ascertain the meaning drawn by parents and adolescents about parenting and psychological wellbeing. This may unravel a new understanding about the phenomenon through the categories generated. The categories emerging from Stage I of the study would lead to Stage II of the study, which would be quantitative in nature. Stage II stage shall explore the impact of parenting styles on psychological wellbeing of adolescents (10-19 years of age) in urban Indian household. A structured questionnaire would be developed to measure the said phenomenon from Indian urban organized settings.



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT SVRI – ALCOHOL INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY: AN ASSESSMENT OF LIQUOR BAN IN BIHAR

Sponsor/s: The World Bank and SVRI

Project Director/s: Dr. Bhim Reddy

Senior Researcher: Dr. Tanuka Endow

This research seeks to study the impact of alcohol prohibition on intimate partner violence and household economy and wellbeing of poor people in urban Bihar. It will explore the complex linkages between alcohol and intimate violence and examine how drinking practices diversely interact with other mediating factors to cause violence against women in the private realm. This research focuses on drinking practices and situations, the contextual factors of drinking, male attitudes towards women and the other socio-economic dimensions while studying violence against women in Bihar.

This study is largely based on primary research. Information was gathered at multi-sites through mixed methods that include both qualitative-participatory and quantitative-survey methods. Besides, secondary research complements and broadens the canvas of the study. The project plan would consist of four phases spanning over 24 months: first phase (seven months) involves secondary research (analysis of secondary data from National Crime Research Bureau and review of relevant literature); second phase will be dedicated to primary research (eight months) which will involve the collection and analysis of data through a survey of 2000 respondents along with group and individual interviews; third phase (nine months) pertains to report writing and dissemination of results to initiate a debate on in academia and policy circles as well as chalk out directions for further research. Primary survey and data analysis are complete and the report writing is in progress.

ANALYSING GENDER RESPONSIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF GIRL CHILD CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES IN 8 STATES OF INDIA AND RECOGNIZING THEIR COMPLEMENTARITY WITH BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAAO

Projects Director/s: Professor Tanuka Endow, Dr. Shreeranjan

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr. Deeksha Tayal, Dr. Aditi Madan, Dr. Tanya Chaudhary

Sponsor/s: UNICEF

There are many cash transfer schemes at the subnational level supported by state governments that focus on the girl child and seek to improve the sex ratio at birth, education outcomes, and ending child marriages in the pursuit of an adolescent empowerment agenda. However, the impact on improving the sex ratio at birth and ending child marriage seems to be limited and uneven across states/districts, probably because these issues are driven by deep-rooted social and gender norms. Recognizing the lack of impact on such issues, UNICEF India (New Delhi office) has established a partnership with the Institute for Human Development (IHD), to undertake a multi-state review of state specific cash transfer schemes that have similar objectives to the BBBP programme, with a view to assess their gender responsive and transformative potential, and to explore their complementarity with BBBP. UNICEF India through the Social Protection Technical Assistance, Advice and Resources (STAAR) facility has provided technical assistance to IHD for this study.

The objectives of this study are: to analyse state specific girl child cash transfer schemes to identify gender responsive and transformative potential in their design, implementation and M&E framework and ; to understand the complementarity of the state schemes with the national flagship scheme 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'

The selected schemes are being analysed as follows:

1. Policy analysis: Provisions of the scheme for addressing the barriers experienced by girls
2. Institutional Analysis: Scheme's arrangements for gender related responsibility within team, for staff diversity, and requirements for gender responsive skills of staff
3. Programme and Budget Analysis: Activities of gender responsive and transformative elements of the scheme and their budget
4. Monitoring and Progress System/Report: Scheme's provisions for monitoring and reporting with disaggregation and on changes in girls' empowerment (livelihoods, voice) and shifts in discriminatory gender norms and practices

Selected schemes in eight States include: Bihar (Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana); Jharkhand (Mukhyamantri Sukanya Yojana); UP (Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana); West Bengal (Kanyashree Prakalpa); Rajasthan (Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana); Madhya Pradesh(Ladli Lakshmi Yojana); Karnataka(Bhagyalakshmi Scheme); Maharashtra (Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme). The selected schemes are mostly structured to ensure survival of the girl child, her immunization, her continued education and delay of her marriage. Cash transfer is given to beneficiaries/families at fixed intervals according to achievement of related milestones. As a result, there are number of departments involved: Women and Child Development Department, Social Welfare department, Health and Education departments as well as institutions such as Anganwadi Centres and Schools. Field-based key informant interviews have been conducted in each state with officials from these department to explore selected cash transfer schemes and to understand its process, selection criteria, enrolment method, mode of cash transfer, implementation method, outreach, targeting of beneficiaries, and monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer schemes. Stakeholders have been interviewed at various levels: State, District, Block, Panchayat, depending on the structure of the scheme and how it is implemented. The Anganwadi Workers, Panchayat members, and teachers at the village level are important stakeholders to be interviewed

The deliverables of this multi-state study include: Eight state reports, one national report and one national level consultation for dissemination of key findings. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed and a meeting held for advice on study. Inception report was prepared and has been submitted to UNICEF. Primary field work has been conducted in 8 states. Data analysis and report writing is ongoing.

CARVING OUT A GENDER LANDSCAPE IN BIHAR: AGRARIAN CHANGE AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FARM-SECTOR (2008-2021) (ICSSR MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT)

Projects Director/s: Dr. Indubala Sinha

Sponsor/s: ICSSR

The central idea of the study is to carve out a 'gender landscape' created by women as 'actors' in various roles of 'farm-labourers', 'farmers' and 'agro-entrepreneurs' against the setting of changing agricultural environment in the countryside of Bihar. The state is a powerful site of exploration for conceptual constructs of 'feminisation of labour', 'female-headedness' of households, and 'circumstantial empowerment' of women for generations - all driven by 'absentee criteria' - the entry point for the exploration; and which is a function of phenomenal male-outmigration. Bihar has also emerged as a site with encouraging trend of ownership rights for women in about 19 percent landed households.

The study investigates 'gender-inequality' in land-ownership. The agrarian environment of the state of Bihar has undergone significant change over last one and a half- decade time. Under three consecutive "Krishi Road Maps", since 2008 through the present time, a pathway to begin with 'inclusive farming' to lead to 'sustainable agricultural development' has been created with an objective to ensure women's participation in farming and farm-associated activities. Bihar has about 97 percent holdings with 'marginal' and 'small-holders' taking together, who operate about 76 percent of total (operated) area. It is this huge segment of peasantry with significant strength of women that constitutes the 'backbone' of the peasant economy. It is this segment, which has emerged as the 'driving force' for bringing about diverse changes and expansion in the production-regime, leading to productivity-augmentation and higher income-generation. The study is set against this changing agricultural landscape. Absence of land-ownership inhibits women's access to inputs, seeds, fertilisers, credit and agricultural extension services, which constrict then realise the full potential of farming capabilities. The study addresses gender inequality issue in land rights as well. The literature review for the study is ongoing.



VULNERABILITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

CASTE IN URBAN INDIA: MANIFESTATION AND INEQUALITIES

Sponsor/s: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Principal Investigator/s: Dr. Bhim Reddy

Research Team: Mr. Vikas Dubey, Mr. Arjun Dubey

This project studies the contemporary meanings and manifestations of caste in cities. It examines the manner in which caste expresses and reproduces itself in urban settings. It focuses on two cities, Delhi and Patna, to capture the nuances of caste both in a 'metropolitan' and 'provincial' city. The study aims to: Explore multiple sites and ways of caste manifestation including a focus, especially, in urban space and politics, electoral politics, social networks, job markets and matrimonial practices; Study the markers of caste and ways of caste identification in the urban context; Unpack the manner in which caste inequalities are reproduced in cities; Explore the changing nature of caste and caste relations in urban villages i.e., villages incorporated into cities due to urban expansion and urban governance; Compare caste dynamics among migrants/in new migrant urban settlements with that of migrants' home villages as well as with the long-standing 'urban residents'/old settlements.

Relevant literature and media reports on caste and urban issues have been gathered and studied. Literature both in western as well as in Indian context related to issues such as contemporary caste; spatial segregation and other inequalities in cities, and social and cultural capital was referred to develop a critical insight as well as an understanding of empirical realities both within and outside India. For the city of Patna, analysis of a leading newspaper, The Telegraph, for the year 2015 has been undertaken and documented caste and related indicators and similarly, for Delhi, the Times of India for the year 2015 has been analysed. This study adopts a mixed method approach for collecting data. Therefore, both surveys and interviews were conducted in two cities as tools of data collection. The data has been analysed and the report writing is in progress.

ASSESSMENT OF STANDARD OF LIVING OF TANA BHAGAT COMMUNITY OF JHARKHAND WITH MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY APPROACH

Sponsor/s: Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Jharkhand

Project Director/s: Dr. Ramesh Sharan

Co-PI: Dr. Swati Dutta

Research Team: Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dr. Ashwani Kumar and Mr. B.K.N. Singh

Jharkhand has a large share of the tribal population, with a high rural poverty rate and lower literacy among the tribal population. Also, the health facilities in the tribal areas are severely lacking. Besides, Jharkhand has diverse geographical locations, different socio-political backdrops, with natural calamities and shadow of extremism. It may be said that agro ecological and social factors are the main causes for rural poverty in Jharkhand. According to the 'Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Report for 2019', about 7.2 million people of Jharkhand moved out of (multidimensional) poverty in the 10 years between 2005-06 and 2015-16. However, there is huge gap between ST and non-ST population in terms of measurement of multidimensional poverty index. As estimated by Institute for Human Development, multidimensional head count ratio among ST's in Jharkhand was 73 percent where as it is only 38 percent among the non-ST population (STDR, 2021). Again the inequalities among different

tribal communities is very high. This study tries to analyse the poverty and livelihood of Tana Bhagat community in five districts of Jharkhand. The objectives of this study are as follows:

- To Assess the Status of Land Possession of Tana Bhagat Community
- To construct Multidimensional poverty index based on Alkire Foster OPHI methodology
- To construct sector specific and overall standard of living index for Tana Bhagat Community

Using secondary data particularly using NFHS 5 database to study, the multidimensional poverty index among ST and Non-ST population at district level for the state Jharkhand has been calculated. The MPI has been calculated based on OPHI methodology. The study uses both quantitative and qualitative information to understand the level of living and the vulnerability tribal households belonged to Tana Bhagat Community in the state Jharkhand. The questionnaires for the quantitative survey include demographic characteristics, income pattern, livelihood options, asset holdings, agricultural status, irrigation status, cropping pattern and consumption pattern, use of forest products etc. A detailed poverty assessment module is being developed which will include the three dimensions like education, health and economic dimensions. In each dimension the selected indicators will be captured in this module. Apart from the quantitative data, some in-depth investigations are being conducted to understand the lives and livelihood of Tana Bhagat Community that included the government programmes specifically initiated for the community, the intervention by the government and non-government body etc.

15% of the total number of households belonging to Tana Bhagat community is being surveyed. is 3727 spreads over 8 districts of Jharkhand are being interviewed. The filed work for the project is presently ongoing.

LEVERAGING NTFP MARKET LINKAGES TO REDUCE AGRARIAN DISTRESS AMONG FOREST DWELLERS IN JHARKHAND

Sponsor/s: Ford Foundation, India

Project Director/s: Dr. Dev Nathan

Research Team: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Dr. Shreeranjan, Professor Ramesh Sharan, Dr. Prashant Kumar Arya, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Dr. Sunil Mishra, and Mr. B.K.N. Singh

The project addresses the lack of community-based institutions of forest dwellers that can intervene in markets for non-timber forest products (NTFP). Through the Forest Rights act (FRA) and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) forest communities have been awarded substantial rights in managing and using forest resources, including extraction of non-timber forest products (NTFP). However, the income that forest dwellers secure through these economic activities are very meagre because of the strong cartels of traders-cum-moneylenders. Schemes of the Government of Jharkhand, such as the Van Dhan Yojana to provide grants to communities, are not well known and not well implemented. The following objectives will be achieved during four years of the project:

1. Community based organizations (CBOs) of NTFP producers-cum-collectors utilizing relevant government programmes.
2. Community based organizations Intervening in NTFP markets to increase prices realized by NTFP collectors; and
3. Women being empowered as collectors of NTFP though securing and controlling higher income from NTFP.

The overall objective is to increase the income of forest dwellers through better prices of NTFP from the market. The primary objective of this project is to support organizations representing forest dwellers in our intervention areas, specifically Ranchi and Simdega districts in Jharkhand.

This year, the project's reach has been expanded to two additional panchayats: Paika in the Angara Block and Sarle in the Burmu Block of Ranchi district. As a result, the number of targeted beneficiaries in our intervention area has doubled, and we have now reached approximately 3,600 women beneficiaries. Five interested Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with JHAMCOFED for the sale of NTFP at Minimum Support Price (MSP) have been registered successfully during 2022-23. In total, 14 SHGs are registered with JHAMCOFED. Furthermore, 120 beneficiaries have been enrolled in JHAMCOFED to provide them with toolkits. To foster skill development, capacity building, and awareness, regular meetings with the women SHG members and our field staff in the intervention area, facilitating various training programs are being conducted.

In the period of reporting, during project intervention in the area, it was found that certain NTFP were not being collected by the members of the SHGs due to a lack of understanding about their marketing potential. These products include Saal Seed, Leaf Plates, and Dona etc. The major output of the project is as below:

1. The newly added 1800 women SHG members in our intervention areas.
2. 120 beneficiaries have been enrolled in JHAMCOFED to receive toolkits.
3. 05 more SHGs have been registered with JHAMCOFED for the sale of NTFP produce at MSP.
4. A total of 132 tons of Saal Seed have been processed and sold from Simdega District project area, with 78 tons sold to big trader in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, and the remainder sold in the local market.
5. As a result of our consistent intervention, women SHGs have begun earning a substantial regular income through the marketing of handmade leaf plates and donas.
6. The bargaining capacity of women SHGs members have improved.

VULNERABILITY AND FOOD INSECURITY MAPPING STUDY IN JHARKHAND

Sponsor/s: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

Project Director/s: Professor Ramesh Sharan, Dr. Sunil Kr. Mishra

Research Team: Dr. Swati Dutta, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Dr. Prashant Arya

The aim of the study is to map the food and nutritional security indicators and identify malnutrition and hunger pockets in Jharkhand. It tries to assess the status of SDGs pertaining to food and nutrition security in Jharkhand. It documents the dietary habits, food and feeding practices especially for children, pregnant and lactating mothers and identify and analyse the coping mechanisms in terms of household and community-level strategies and local innovations employed to overcome food shortfalls and reduce nutrition insecurity risks among the most vulnerable communities or groups. It further analyses the extent of access, gaps and shortfalls of government programmes related to food and nutrition security, specifically in times of pandemic situation.

The activities being undertaken in the study are:

- a) Scoping review of documents (programmes and studies)
- b) Analysis of secondary data (NFHS 5)
- c) Analysis of primary data collected through field surveys including – household surveys, key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGDs) and case studies

The study report will include: Findings related to Malnutrition among the children in Jharkhand and the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight; Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Jharkhand; Development of District level Hunger Index; Food insufficiency and coping mechanisms; Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Jharkhand; District level Hunger Index; Food insufficiency and coping mechanisms; Household Dietary Diversity and Food Frequency Score. The Report writing is in progress. A dissemination workshop will be conducted after the submission of the Report.



GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

PREPARATION OF REPORT ON MEGHALAYA DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Sponsor/s: Department of Planning, Government of Meghalaya

Research Team: Dr. Shreeranjan, Dr. Sarthi Acharya, Prof. Shipra Maitra, Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Dr. I.C. Awasthi, Dr. Balwant Singh Mehta and Mr. Arjun Dubey

This report aims to document the development gains of the state over the last fifty years since it gained statehood, i.e. from 1972 until now. It would also analyse the development deficits and challenges to be addressed for providing a sustained better life to its citizens, and to identify some key strategies to attain these objectives. The Report also endeavours to identify the goals for ushering sustained development process keeping in view the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The report is an updated sequel to the Meghalaya Human Development Report 2008. More specifically, it aims to: (1). Highlight upon the progress made in the state through the last few decades as seen from available data. Here, the progress will go beyond economic indicators to present human capital indicators (health and education are the main drivers of economic development), infrastructure, equality and equity in the society, environmental situation, management of natural resources, and the like; (2). Flag the challenges the state is expected to face in the times to come for achieving the 2030 Agenda endorsed by India and the state as well as its possible promises for Amrit Kaal (100yrs of Independence and 75 years of statehood). These challenges could range from unfinished tasks, putting in place efficient policy approaches, use of Information Technology to improve efficiency and accountability, human-capacity building and deployment, raising / resourcing more resources, and the like.

The period of study was last 50 years though in most cases the analysis is made as per data availability. It needs noting that data systems in Meghalaya began to take firm shape only since the 1990s.

The report is presented in 11 substantive chapters and a conclusion, under the headings:

Part 1: The Land, its People and Governance; Part 2: The Economy and Employment;

Part 3: Sectoral Development; Part 4: Social Sectors and Human Wellbeing;

Part 5: Forest and Environment; Part 6: Concluding Remarks