

Research Projects



Institute for Human Development

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN 2012-13

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- Understanding the Tipping Point of Urban Conflict
- Globalization and Labour: Impacts, Emerging Perspectives and Policies in India
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Capturing the Gains: Economic and Social Upgrading in Global Production Networks

Sponsor: University of Manchester

Project Director: Prof. Dev Nathan

The key research question in this project was the connection between economic and social upgrading in global production networks. Case studies covered agro-foods, garments, telecom and tourism. Asian countries included Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and India.

The primary issues considered in the case studies mainly fell within the following four categories:

1. What upgrading strategies are followed by developing country firms / enterprises in upgrading within value chains?
2. Under what conditions does such economic upgrading yield benefits to workers in different value chain segments?
3. How do developing / emerging economy firms move from upgrading through catch-up industrialization of the reverse engineering variety to innovation?
4. What are the implications for industrial and economic policy of the patterns that run through these sectoral cases for the Asian countries studied?

The central argument was that it is critical to understand how Global Value Chains(GVCs) in various sectors (manufacturing and services) operate in the current environment and how they are changing, especially in Asia, and understanding the role of the state, of policies and local and non-local institutions in shaping countries' incorporation in global production networks as well as the upgrading of firms within GVCs.

1. Specifically, the study argued for the necessity of combining vertical and horizontal relations in order to understand GVC outcomes for developing country firms and workers.
2. The importance of agency. Developing country firms are also agents in GVC relations and adapt ways to upgrade, strategies that are countered by existing lead firms from developed countries.
3. While GVC relations enable a catch-up industrialization, they soon come up against the middle income trap, as a growing literature has pointed out. Breaking through to higher income status requires the development of innovations that enable broad based-capture of value by developing country (Asian) firms and production networks. It also involves technical and standards upgrading.
4. Asian GVCs exhibit a dynamic of 'sequential upgrading', rather than a static bottom of the chain existence. Technologies and the development of capabilities to use them, drive this upgrading. In sum, it is argued that there is a GVC path of development in Asia.



Understanding the Tipping Point of Urban Conflict

Sponsor: University of Manchester

Project Directors: Dr. Dennis Rodgers (University of Manchester) and Ms. Shivani Satija

The aim of the study was to provide new insights into the dynamics of urban conflict and issues of wisdom on urban violence, explaining the ‘tipping’ of urban conflict into overt violence in cities in the developing world; develop alternative violence reduction solutions for poor communities through identification of ‘tipping points’ and ‘violence chains’; and study how poor communities could best introduce new codes of negotiation with violent social actors and local authorities, to ensure safer environments. This study focused on four cities in Asia (Patna, India and Dili, Timor Leste), Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) and Latin America (Santiago, Chile), which have been associated with one or two factors conventionally linked with urban violence, namely, poverty, the youth bulge, political exclusion and gender inequity. In India, Patna, the capital of the Bihar, was selected due to its dual association with poverty and urban violence. IHD conducted extensive quantitative and qualitative research in four slums in Patna, selected on the basis of socio-economic indicators.

The main findings of this study indicated that 2005, the year of political transition in the state, was considered a major tipping point in terms of reduction of violence, where violent crimes like murders and kidnappings reduced drastically due to strategic security steps taken by the state. However the study revealed that these steps may have exacerbated violence at the local level, mainly over public services like water and toilets, which often polarized along caste and communal lines, as well as alcohol-related violence, particularly domestic violence. The main policy recommendations based on the study findings include inclusive city planning and infrastructural improvements particularly in the poor settlements.

The methodology and findings of the project have been published in the form of a working paper and a policy brief. The findings and policy recommendations were also disseminated at the Bihar Global Meet, organized by IHD in Patna in February 2012, as well as at The Global Policy Meet organized by the Graduate Institute, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peace Building at Geneva in June, 2012.

Globalization and Labour: Impacts, Emerging Perspectives and Policies in India

Sponsor: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Project Director: Dr. Ajit Ghose

This research programme studied major issues confronting Indian labour and the positive and negative impacts that the process of globalization is producing on work and livelihood conditions, as well as their rights and organizations, and suggested an appropriate policy agenda. The study also aimed to prepare a comprehensive data base on labour markets and employment in India. These objectives were addressed by conducting detailed studies on the themes: i) Globalization, growth and employment; ii) Globalization and employment in the organized sector; iii) Globalization and unorganized sector workers; iv) Women in the new economy; v) Globalization and inequality; and vi) Globalization, workers' organizations and worker rights.

The study was based largely on the secondary data sources and a few primary surveys and focus group discussions. Various indicators of quality of employment, productivity, labour market regulations, demand and supply of skills and human capital endowments, and labour regulations/flexibility were studied in a comparative framework of growth over a period of time. The regional and gender aspects of impact of globalization were also examined.

Seven monographs based on fresh research have been prepared under this programme, to disseminate the research outputs widely. They are:

- Growth and Employment in India in the time of Globalization;
- Globalization, Growth and Employment in the Organized Sector of the Indian Economy;
- Informal Sector in Non-Agricultural Activities: With a focus on Manufacturing;
- Pattern and Structure of Women's Work Participation in India: Changes over time with Globalization;
- Inequality in India;
- Global Production Networks and Labour Markets in India; Globalization, Employment Relations and Workers' Rights.



Work and Livelihoods of the Poor in the National Capital Region: Towards Evolving a Strategy and Action Programme

Sponsor: Sir Dorabji Tata Trust

Project Director: Prof. Alakh. N. Sharma

Coordinators and Principal Researchers: Ms. Smita Gupta and Dr. Abhay Kumar

The project intended to develop a strategy to enhance the livelihood options of the poor in the NCR, in collaboration with the government and other key stakeholders, by way of an evidence-based research and advocacy initiative.

The core objectives of the project were: a) to provide support to a large section of the poor and vulnerable, particularly migrants, to help them enhance their income and economic security in the NCR through the livelihood promotion activities and b) to provide policy support to strengthen the livelihood linkages required to enhance the work and livelihood opportunities of the poor in the NCR, in collaboration with the government and some non-government organizations (NGOs).

In the first phase of the project, the aim was to get a theoretical understanding of the NCR region, its demographics, the pattern of migration, poverty, livelihood activities of the poor and emerging livelihood sectors in the economy. This was largely based on secondary data and literature. The second phase of the study was largely empirical and included six different field surveys across the NCR namely, a Listing Survey (20,244 households), Household Survey (3073 households), and four sub-sector studies (each 300 household surveys and FGDs) on informal workers in solid waste management, transport, construction and female home-based workers.

The study suggested a three-pronged strategy to improve the livelihoods of the poor workers living in NCR.

Firstly, access to the basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation and sewerage facilities must be improved in the areas where these poor workers live. The survey revealed that a large proportion of the poor workers live in unauthorized slums which do not have these provisions. The provision of these basic amenities will lead to better living and health conditions of the workers.

Secondly, emphasis should be on improving livelihoods by improving both education and skill development. Post globalization, several new activities with technical know-how have emerged in the NCR. The illiterate, low-skilled poor manual workers are not able to adjust to this changing policy paradigm and have been shifting out of the large mega cities. This is reflected by many recent macro studies and was confirmed by this study. In this context, a major policy thrust is required in the spheres of education and skill development of both workers and their children, to make their livelihoods more inclusive and sustainable.

The third point of policy focus should be on awareness generation and implementation of the various social protection programmes of the government. Workers also lack documents proving identity which prevent them from availing benefits. Awareness generation regarding these social protection programmes is also lacking.

The study published several background papers, mimeographs, strategy papers and policy briefs.

India: State of Development Evaluation Report

Sponsor: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Project Director: Prof. Alakh N Sharma

Project Coordinator: Dr. Priyanca Mathur Velath

The study was carried out in the backdrop of the regime of economic growth and high public expenditure in India that has propelled the need for effective monitoring, evaluation and accounting systems in the country, making the need for independent evaluation studies and strengthening institutions and research organizations which can conduct development evaluation paramount.

The study relied on qualitative methodology and the emphasis was on a case-based understanding of some purposively identified consultations/interviews. It provided an overview of the status of development evaluation in India. The major objective of the study was to provide evidence-based analysis on the present state of development evaluation processes and systems in India to inform various stakeholders involved in development evaluation. It was informed by interviews of officials of State and Central Governments, Rural Development Institutes and research organizations conducted across 13 states of India.

A primary issue of development evaluation in India that emerged from the study is that institutions which conduct development evaluation are under-staffed. Highly competent staff proficient in developing the right survey tools is indispensable for good quality evaluation. The study revealed a need for better training and sensitization of staff and for augmenting capacity of evaluation systems and stakeholders as well. For external agencies conducting evaluations, inter-personal skills of staff conducting evaluations were crucial as there was increasing concern that government departments do not fully cooperate with external evaluators.

Another key problem of monitoring and evaluation was budget and financial allocation. A key point raised by stakeholders was that there was a danger that the process of evaluation was becoming completely government-oriented. For independent and unbiased outcomes, conflict of interests need to be avoided and the evaluation process needs to be managed, utilized and interpreted with caution.

The feedback mechanism needed to be strengthened to incorporate the results of the evaluation study in the planning and implementing process and care should be taken to avoid inordinate delays in completion of studies, often cited as one of the stumbling blocks for effective evaluation. A dedicated Evaluation Policy may be one of the ways to institutionalize the process and facilitate effective evaluation.



Food Security Atlas of Rural India: An Overview

Sponsor: UN World Food Programme (WFP)

Project Directors: Prof. Dev Nathan and Dr. Preet Rustagi

Research Team: Dr. Sandip Sarkar, Dr. Abhay Kumar and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra

This study comprised a consolidated analysis of eight states, namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP). While the previous individual state reports focused on a similar exercise of food security with the objective of generating inter district comparisons within the state, this overview report focused on undertaking an analysis of all the 281 districts belonging to these eight states. The purpose of the study was to identify the regions and districts that required priority attention in order to improve their food security status. This was followed by an identification of the characteristics that differentiated the better-off districts from the worse-off ones. These characteristics of the food-insecure regions and districts were used to compile a set of possible interventions that could be expected to improve food security in the designated states.

Food security is not just a matter of the availability of food, but even more of the access of households and individuals to sufficient nutritious food. The absorption of food as nutrition in the body is further mediated by access to safe drinking water, and hygienic sanitation facilities. Consequently, food security was analyzed along the axes of availability, access and absorption. A composite index was constructed, based on 12 identified indicators which reflected these three dimensions. The availability-related variables considered were agricultural production in per capita value terms, proportion of forest area, extent of irrigation and rural connectivity in terms of villages with access to paved roads. The six variables considered for the access-to-food dimension included proportion of agricultural labourers, proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ratio of working age population, monthly per capita consumption expenditure, casual wage rate of rural persons and female literacy rate. Access to safe drinking water and primary health services were the two variables considered for the absorption index.

The values of districts on each of these 12 variables were combined to develop a Food Security Index (FSI), on the basis of which each district was ranked. Districts were also ranked by their performance in food security outcome (FSO) measures, child mortality and malnutrition. The FSO allowed ranking of districts on the basis of nutrition performance, with the caveat that on the whole, nutritional status in India is poor, and therefore, the variation between districts may not be very much. The FSI, on the other hand, also allowed the relative importance of variables in the differences between districts to be judged.

Based on six different composite indices pertaining to food security outcome, food availability, access to food, food absorption, food security and public intervention, the main finding of the research was that food-insecure districts could be categorized into distinct regions. Regions identified as the priority areas needing attention were the western desert region of Rajasthan, the semi-arid Deccan plateau of Maharashtra, and parts of the Gangetic Plains of Bihar and UP. The desert and semi-arid Deccan plateau regions are generally noted for the depressed agrarian conditions of the 281 districts belonging to the eight states under study, and all the districts of Jharkhand, while a majority of the districts in MP, Odisha and Chhattisgarh figured among the most food-insecure districts. The food insecure regions, in comparison to the better-off regions within the same states turned out, not unsurprisingly, to have low irrigation and poor connectivity; and the hill-forest and plateaus had high proportion of ST population while the others had high proportions of SCs and agricultural labourers, and low agricultural wages and overall lower levels of female literacy. The overview report discussed the characteristics of the food-insecure regions and suggested further interventions to improve the conditions in these regions.

Nature of Poverty in Small and Medium Towns

Sponsor: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Planning Commission, Government of India

Project Director: Prof. Alakh N. Sharma

Principal Researcher: Ms. Nandita Gupta

This study was commissioned to provide inputs to the Steering Group on the identification of the urban poor under the Chairmanship of Professor S.R. Hashim (constituted by the Planning Commission). The issue of urban poverty has not been researched and discussed adequately in India. The smaller and medium towns have been inexplicably ignored in the policy discourse on poverty reduction in the country, which is typically centred on either rural areas or metropolises, without making any distinction between various size classes of urban centres or cities. The project aimed to understand the nature and dimensions of poverty in small and medium towns, while analyzing the occupational, environmental and social vulnerabilities. It further aimed to develop visible and simple criteria using which the poor in these towns can be identified.

The study was conducted in six small and medium towns, each from a different state and having different population sizes and town characteristics. The towns covered were Parbhani in Maharashtra, Bidar in Karnataka, Mansa in Punjab, Madhubani in Bihar, Jangaon in Andhra Pradesh, and Pakur in Jharkhand. The study was based on primary data collected through the use of both qualitative tools (Focus Group Discussions, Poverty Ranking Exercise, and consultations with key informants) and quantitative tools (Structured Household Questionnaires).

The study highlighted several facts that could prove to be very useful for policy. It analyzed various criteria for identifying the poor. Household criteria such as electricity and water supply were not seen as significant indicators. The Government's scheme for providing the poor access to housing was also covered in the study. Poor settlements were associated with poverty, which was region-specific. The dominance of regional materials, fuels and practices was also observed to be quite strong in smaller towns. As a whole, due to issues related to hidden poverty because of the disbursement of benefits and regional factors, there is a need to adopt a regional approach to the identification of the poor. The study argued that it is imperative to include some regional criteria in the identification process for addressing the issues of relative and absolute poverty across various towns and states.

A note prepared on the study on poverty in small and medium towns was a part of the government's Report of the Expert Group to recommend the detailed methodology for identification of families living below poverty line in the urban areas.



A Micro Level Analysis of Violent Conflict (MICROCON)

Sponsor: The European Commission

Project Director: Dr. Sandip Sarkar

This project was funded by the European Commission and was executed by a consortium, of which IHD is a member. It addressed the role of ethnicity and religious identities in explaining the onset of communal and other forms of violence. The project was undertaken simultaneously in 16 countries by 22 research organizations and adopted an innovative micro level, multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the conflict cycle. In India, the analysis followed a two-pronged approach: i) Analysis based on detailed district/ NSS region level secondary data on the incidence of conflict and socio-economic variables explaining the origin of these conflicts, and ii) detailed field surveys in the state of Maharashtra for assessing multiple layers of mostly low-level conflict.

An interesting finding of the study showed that policing is only at best a short-term instrument in the fight against civil unrest. In the medium-term it may trigger further social discontent and unrest. In the medium-term, redistributive transfers are a more successful and cost effective tool for reducing conflict. This is due to their preventive nature: redistributive transfers directly address distributional concerns that may cause social discontent. In addition, they contribute towards the socio-economic protection of the most vulnerable groups of the population and the reduction of poverty, which has been shown to impact significantly on the onset of civil unrest in India.

Large data bases both primary and secondary have been prepared for further enquiry in this issue. A few working papers and policy briefs are also under preparation.

Job Creation for Women in South Asia

Sponsor: The World Bank

Project Director: Prof. Dev Nathan

Research Team: Dr. Preet Rustagi, Dr. Ann George and Ms. Amrita Datta

This study examined a number of questions that have a bearing on women's employment in South Asia. Some of the questions raised were as follows: Are there any constraints for women's labour market participation and what are the regional dimensions of these constraints? What are the challenges involved in creating better jobs as well as better employment opportunities for women in South Asia? To what extent are the women affected in their work participation and returns by the initial endowments and human capital attributes?

The prevalent gender stereotypes in labour market participation prevent women from benefiting fully and at times inhibit their upward mobility as well. What are the constraints in this regard—education, skills or training? What are the ways in which these issues are being addressed across the region? A portrayal of labour market inequalities, especially those concerning gender, age, caste and religion aspects, was also undertaken as part of the study.

The sectoral dimensions were addressed for individual countries of the region as well as in a comparative frame. Specific sectors examined were the women employed in garments sector in South Asia where the comparison of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka was specifically analyzed to highlight that what influences women's employment are: the industrial policy and the consequent decisions of firms whether to adopt artisanal or assembly-line production systems; the educational status of women; labour market regulations that restrict women's working hours; socio-cultural factors (gendered identity) of older or more recent vintages that hamper or promote the entry of women into working outside the home; gendered definitions of skill, including those of an artisanal and machine-operator types; and the preference of employers for 'docile' women workers when it comes to large-scale units.

Other sectoral dimensions examined were the export processing zones, information technology, micro credit and its gender transformative elements and the impact of male migration on women. There are divisions of labour, e.g. between high-skilled and low-skilled workers, or lower-level professionals and higher-level managerial staff with gendered identities. But these are not the old gendered identities of non-workers and workers or of light and heavy work. While new technologies (automation and digitization) are dissolving old identities, new gendered identities are being created. This study reiterates that it is not just gender structures and relations that affect the labour market outcomes for women. The influence is also the other way around with labour market conditions of women affecting gender relations and gender identities. With a shift from contributing home workers to own-account workers or employees, there are changes in gender relations, both within the household and in the community. Labour market positions and outcomes can be important drivers of changes in gender relations.



Federalism and Education: A Comparative Study of Australia and India

Sponsor: Victoria University

Project Director: Prof. Atul Sarma

The objective of the project was to examine inter-governmental relations in education in India, which has several unique features of constitutional assignment of education, and to compare this situation with Australia. The India study was carried out by IHD.

The broad objective of the research project was to: examine the depth and breadth of the Centre-State relations education in the Indian federal system. To be more specific, the study addressed itself to three inter-related aspects of the Centre-State relations in education in India: evolution of Centre-State relations in education in a historical perspective; federal framework for financing of education and federal consultative mechanism and institutions for promotion, regulation, coordination and standard setting in education.

The study thus briefly considered the evolution of Centre-State relations in education in a historical perspective. Though there are three distinct periods of the British rule in India, (viz. the period under the Regulating Act of 1773-1883; the period (1883-1858) since the Charter Act of 1883 that had converted the East India company into a governing corporation; and the period 1858-1947 when the Indian administration was taken over by the British crown under the Government Act of 1858), the study considered the evolution of Centre-State relations in education in two broad perspectives: the colonial period and the post-independence period.

The study has highlighted that the evolution of the Centre-State relationship in education in India has been characterized by a wide swing in positions between extreme decentralization and total centralization. This swing in positions could largely be attributed to contrasting views on the desirability and efficacy of centralization or decentralization of education.

The founding fathers of the Constitution assigned education to States subject to Articles 63, 64, 65 and 66. Even so, 'the locus of educational sovereignty' tended to tilt towards the Centre partly because of State's fiscal dependence on the Centre and partly because of the adoption of centralized planning following the advent of the Planning Commission. Vertical imbalance in resource allocation between the Centre and States necessitated fiscal transfers from the former to the latter under the recommendations of both the Finance and the Planning Commissions.

Nevertheless, States have played a critical role in financing education. Not only is their share in total current expenditure on education found to be higher than that of the Union Government, but also their presence in almost every subsector is significant in terms of funding.

The Union Government has put in place institutions in the form of boards, commissions, councils etc, in almost all sub-sectors of education for promotion, coordination, regulation and standard setting. Very few of them, however, have acquired a truly federal character. However, they have contributed towards developing, at least to some extent, a national system of education.

The project was undertaken collaboratively with a team of Australian researchers from Victoria University led by its Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Dawkins and IHD researchers led by Professor Atul Sarma.

Analysis of Food Consumption Patterns in Selected Asian Countries with a Special Focus on Livestock Products

Sponsor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Project Director: Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Jawaharlal Nehru University

This project was jointly undertaken by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. It has been observed that the livestock sector effectively and efficiently contributes towards ensuring food security, poverty alleviation and economic development. The study aimed to analyze the food demand systems at the national and sub-national levels, disaggregated by socio-economic categories, gender, rural–urban areas and geographical areas for six countries, namely, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. The analysis entailed the conduct of at least two household surveys per country. The study also aimed to estimate the price, cost price and income elasticities for major food groups within a consistent demand system. The trends and patterns of food consumption covering the past two decades were analyzed using the data from different large sample-based rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS), covering consumption expenditure. Consumption patterns were examined across the rural and urban areas, as also across the various expenditure categories at the national level.

Some of the main findings of the study were that the higher the level of deprivation faced by a particular category, the lower is the diversification in its food basket and the higher is its expenditure on cereals. The various factors due to which a person faces deprivation are his/her place of residence being rural, his/her being a member of the Scheduled Tribes (STs)/ Scheduled Castes (SCs) or being a Muslim, or his/her falling in the bottom thirty per cent expenditure category in India. Significantly, households with higher levels of deprivation recorded higher changes in their consumption patterns while showing improvements in their socio-economic well-being. Consumption patterns across categories tend to show convergence. A comparison of the lower and middle expenditure categories indicated a shift taking place from the consumption of cereals towards that of meat and milk. However, between the middle and the top expenditure categories, there was a higher degree of shift towards dining out/ consumption of processed food. The structural transformation in the food basket thus appears to be in the nascent stage in the country, as large sections of the population still show very high dependence on cereals and plant-based food items.



Violence against Women in Rural Bihar - A case study of four villages

Sponsor: Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA Bharat)

Project Director: Ms. Shivani Satija

The aim of this study was to understand the nature of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and its various dimensions along with other forms of violence affecting different socio-economic groups of women (SC, ST and Other Backward Classes (OBC)) in rural Bihar.

The research was carried out in four villages where IHD has also conducted detailed longitudinal research. Two villages were from the northern districts (Belabandan in Purnia and Khangaon in Madhubani) and two from the southern districts (Rupaspur Salempur in Gaya and Chandkura in Nalanda) of the state. Given that these villages are distributed across the state, they have different socio-economic and occupational characteristics and demographic composition. Secondary information on the villages had been compiled which was used to prepare the base for the field research. The study was entirely qualitative in nature, and involved the use of participatory methodological tools such as Focus Group Discussions with relevant groups (both men and women of different age groups and caste groups) and key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders (local leaders, community-based organizations, non-government organizations, primary health care centres and police stations wherever possible).

The main finding of the study was that apart from incidents of overt physical violence, there exist layers of invisible GBV, whether it is domestic violence, or gender-based discrimination and caste-based discrimination among women across caste and age groups, that have become normalized and accepted over time through every day experience and cultural and social practices in all the four villages surveyed.

Women Workers in the Informal Economy in Bihar

Sponsor: SEWA Bharat

Project Director: Ms. Amrita Datta

Research Team: Mr. Balwant Singh Mehta, Ms. Srabashi Ray, Dr. Debabani Chakravarty

The study was commissioned to IHD by SEWA Bharat and prepared for the Special Task Force on the '*Empowerment of Women Workers of the Informal Economy in Bihar*' to help provide a comprehensive picture of the core issues facing women in the informal economy in the state of Bihar, and suggest solutions to the problems and challenges faced by such women towards ensuring full employment and security.

IHD undertook a study on various aspects of the work and employment of women in rural Bihar. Four papers were produced, using IHD's longitudinal database on rural Bihar as well as data from other secondary sources. The first paper on female work force participation rate in rural Bihar compared and contrasted work participation rates (WPR) from NSS data vis-à-vis that of the IHD's longitudinal database in rural Bihar. Using the IHD database, it provided alternative estimates for WPR and argued that official data sources substantially underestimate women's work force participation. It also made recommendations for better measurement of WPR and its enhancement. The second paper, on women in agriculture and animal husbandry used the IHD database to provide a picture of women in agriculture, particularly disaggregated by caste and class. It focused on types of work women do, wage rates, earnings of small farmers, ownership of property, livestock and other assets, the effects of male migration (i.e., migration of the adult male population) and the access to government schemes.

The third paper examined secondary sources of data to explore major occupations where women worked, and the fourth paper used exploratory time use data from two villages and analyzed how women, men and children spent their time and in particular highlighted the work burden of women in the rural areas. Together, these four papers provided a comprehensive account of rural women and their work and employment in rural Bihar.



District Human Development Report (DHDR) of Pakur, Jharkhand

Sponsors: Department of Planning and Development, Government of Jharkhand and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Project Director: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

The United Nations (UNDP) has initiated a Joint Programme on Convergence (JPC) with the Planning Commission, Government of India (Gol-UN JPC) in five districts of each of the seven United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) states for ensuring the effective absorption and utilization of funds in the implementation of development programmes. This study was assigned to IHD by the Gol-UN-JPC. It entailed preparation of the District Human Development Reports (DHDRs) for the Pakur, Hazaribagh and Gumla districts in Jharkhand, out of which the DHDR for Pakur has been completed.

The objective of the project was to evaluate the health, educational and livelihood status of the people of Pakur district and explore the opportunities for improving their condition. The study is based on secondary data obtained from the district and its blocks, case studies collected from the grass-root level and discussions with the NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and government officials. IHD has already prepared the Human Development Index (HDI) of the various blocks of Pakur district.

After a preliminary study of the district, a consultative workshop was organized in which a large number of government officials, academicians, and NGO representatives of the districts participated. Major issues and problems of the districts were discussed in this workshop.

An interesting finding of the study was that although the per capita income of the district is higher than the state average and it has increased at a rate that is higher than that of the state, the levels of poverty, inequality, deprivation and vulnerability are also very high. The literacy rate among both men and women is one of the lowest in the district. Besides agriculture, bidi rolling and stone crushing are the two main sources of employment of a large section of the population in the district. It has also been found that both these occupations cause health hazards to those who are employed there.

Sanitation and Hygiene and Diarrhoea Management in Jharkhand

Sponsor: Global Sanitation Fund

Project Director: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

The study aimed to understand various aspects needed to promote sustainable sanitation, especially in rural areas. It facilitated the achievement of the Global Sanitation Fund's objective of attaining universal sustainable sanitation and promoting adequate measures for diarrhoea management in rural India.

This research used mainly qualitative research design and data was collected from primary as well as secondary sources. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews, FGDs, observations and Focussed Ethnographic Studies (FES). The study covered 8 districts of Jharkhand state: Dhanbad, Deoghar, Saraikela - Kharsawan, Dumka, Koderma, Pakur, Lohardagga and Simdega. A total of 12 blocks and 24 villages were covered.

It was found that toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) have been constructed in only 14 villages but in 10 of these villages, none of the toilets were in use while in the remaining four, only a few of them were in use. The study also revealed reasons for their non-usage, which range from low quality of construction of the toilet pits, fault in design, shortage of water supply in the village to the habituation with the age-old practices of open defecation.



Dynamics of Development and Distribution in Rural Bihar

Sponsor: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Project Director: Prof. Alakh N Sharma

Principal Researchers: Dr. Indu Bharti and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mishra

The Institute for Human Development undertook a major research programme in Bihar which was aimed at a better understanding of development and change in the state. A central project of this programme, 'The Dynamics of Development and Distribution in Rural Bihar', is a longitudinal study of 36 villages in 6 districts of Bihar and was sponsored by NABARD. This unique data set is representative of the entire state. Two previous major research projects, undertaken in 1981-85 and 1998-99 collected in-depth village information for all the 36 villages on religion, caste, educational and marital status, migration status, mortality, land ownership, tenancy, wage labour, assets, debts and working of various government sponsored programmes. The new round of data of 2010-2011 was collated by a revisit to the households and successor households of 1998-99, to shed fresh light on long term economic and social change during this intervening period of 30 years. The project examined to what extent, and in what ways, different groups in rural Bihar have participated in and benefited from development and state action over the last 30 years. The data set also includes information on change in production, income, employment, education, health, nutrition and poverty. The draft report has been submitted to NABARD.

Land and Labour in Bihar: Access, Exclusion and Utilization

Sponsor: Action Aid

Project Directors: Prof. Alakh N Sharma and Dr. Praveen Jha

This study was part of IHD's Bihar research programme 'Aiming at Inclusive Development in Bihar'. The objective of the study was to look into aspects of land related issues such as access to land, agrarian relations, tenancy, land improvement and development, and exclusion of land.

The overall objective of this study was to develop a better understanding of the changing agrarian structure over last three decades in Bihar. In this context, issues such as land ownership and operational holdings, tenancy and cropping pattern, adoption of new technology, market and income have been studied in detail. The study is based on longitudinal data over three decades (1981-2009) collected from 12 villages in the state.

Pattern of land ownership across caste, class and region has been analyzed. The same analysis has been done in case of operational holdings as well. In case of tenancy, detailed investigation has been done of leasing-in of land in terms of households and area leased-in, and nature and terms of tenancy. Technology has been studied by investigating mechanization in depth along with irrigation. The land market, buying and selling of land across various castes and classes have also been investigated. Income from farm and non-farm from households have been analyzed along with the income from wages.

Equity in Coverage for Select Chronic Diseases in India

Sponsor: World Health Organization (WHO)

Project Director: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar

The objective of this Desk Review was to analyze empirical studies, based on a desk-review, on barriers to universal coverage for select chronic diseases in India. The review was guided by the Tanahashi Framework for effective coverage to identify barriers and facilitating factors in the entire continuum of care. The framework proposes five domains of coverage - availability, accessibility, acceptability, contact and effective coverage, which is used in the review to encapsulate the major barriers to health services for the NCDs.

The methodology comprised a Desk Review of existing publications produced between 2000 and 2012 that includes data on inequities in effective coverage for select NCDs - cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer, chronic lung diseases and diabetes – in India. A few important and publicly-available databases – both Indian and international – were identified initially. These databases included IndMED, Index Medicus, PubMed and the Cochrane database. Apart from these article repositories, keyword searches were also conducted in Google Scholar/Google to cover reports, presentations etc. not usually covered in the major databases. The final list of articles included in this review was 246.

The review brought out several interesting aspects regarding the barriers to effective coverage of health services for NCDs, with a disproportionate burden on the poor and those from low socioeconomic status. Specialized care and infrastructure for these diseases remains a clear gap, including dearth of trained manpower at the primary care level. Inadequate preventive care provision and early detection, partly explained due to poor awareness among the low-income groups, constitute a major challenge, as high treatment costs in the curative phase makes disease prevention the most cost effective and equitable intervention point. The review also brought to the fore gaps in information including regular surveys and routine data flow through disease surveillance systems, which plagues evidence-based decision making.

A final report was produced and submitted to WHO. A presentation was made during the World Health Day event.



Evaluation of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) in Minority-Concentration Districts

Sponsors: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA)

Project Director: Dr. Sandip Sarkar

This evaluation study was a sequel to an earlier study involving the baseline survey of 90 minority-concentration districts for the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA). A Multi-Sector Development Plan (MSDP) was developed in these districts on the basis of this study. Since the MOMA had approached ICSSR for an evaluation of this scheme, the evaluation was undertaken in 20 states/ Union Territories and covered one district each in 16 States and Union Territories, and two districts each in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar. The total number of districts covered under the project was 24.

IHD undertook the evaluation and impact study of the MsDP of 10 districts in 9 states and union territories of India for the financial years 2008-9 to 2010-11. The districts covered were Bidar (Karnataka), Kishanganj and Purnea (Bihar), Leh (Jammu & Kashmir), Mewat (Haryana), North-East Delhi (Delhi), Sahibganj (Jharkhand), Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand), Washim (Maharashtra) and Wayanad (Kerala).

The common objectives of this evaluation and impact study were to understand the views of various stakeholders on the processes involved in preparation, approval and implementation of the district plan, and whether any modification would be required to improve the processes involved. The study also assessed whether the assets created and the services rendered by the facility created has improved the quality of service to the minority communities in particular and the public in general.