

COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Theme : Governance, Institutions and Development

Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in Bihar and Jharkhand

Collaboration/s: UNDP and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Ashok Pankaj

The study entitled, 'Institution, Processes and Mechanism of Implementation and Impact Assessment of NREGA in Bihar and Jharkhand', examined the following aspects of the employment programme: (a) the implementation process, mechanism, and difficulties in execution; and (b) the impact of the scheme on the intended beneficiaries and communities vis-à-vis the major objectives of the Act. The study is based on fieldwork (entailing a survey) of 9 districts (including 6 from Bihar and 3 from Jharkhand), 30 villages (including 18 from Bihar and 12 from Jharkhand), 900 households, two-thirds of the beneficiaries and one-third of the non-beneficiaries (including 540 from Bihar and 360 from Jharkhand) and 37 worksites. This task also constituted a resurvey of 102 beneficiary households in Bihar.

Public Private Partnership in Social Sector: A Case Study of Health and Education in India

Collaboration/s: Oxfam India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Mr. Aseem Prakash

This project, which has been sponsored by OXFAM, examines several unexplored dimensions of the PPP regime for the social sector in India, particularly in the areas of health and education. The research project analyses the following aspects of the public–private regime:

- Market-creating institutions (processes and polices) unfolding in the public–private regime in the social sector;
- Various available models of the public–private regime in the social sector;
- Institutions responsible for regulating the public–private partnership regime in the social sector; and
- The socio-economic impact of the PPP regime on end-users.

Institutional and Governance Challenges in Social Protection: Designing Implementation Models for the Right to Work Programme in India

Collaboration/s: IDS, UK

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Prof. Alakh N.Sharma , Dr. D.N. Reddy and Mr. C. Upendranadh

This study attempts to present a policy and reform agenda before the government and other actors for enhancing the effectiveness of implementation of the NREGS. It has brought out lessons from the implementation of NREG in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar through process diagnostics. The objectives of the study included identification of typologies of the implementation models available and factors that contributed towards the realisation of the outcomes of the programme. The study would thus also assist policy-makers in identifying bottlenecks and mechanisms to address the same. An exhaustive review of literature was been carried out for the project alongwith field surveys in two rounds. The study was being supported by IDS, UK under the SPA programme.

Amy Mahan Research Fellowship to Assess Impact of Public Access to ICTs

Collaboration/s: University of Pompeu Fabra

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Mr. Balwant Singh Mehta

A faculty of the IHD (Mr. B. S. Mehta) was awarded the Amy Mahan Fellowship for 2010-2011, administered by Universitat Pompeu Fabra, for the project 'Nature and Impact of Shared Public Access to Internet in Towns and Rural Areas in Developing Countries: A Case of Cyber cafes and Telecom Centres in India'. The research study tackled specific objectives of looking into these broad questions: First, whether shared public access to internet is equitable and accessible, while displaying social and economic diversity among the users; Secondly, does shared public access to Internet bring any impact on socio-economic character of the population and their empowerment; Thirdly, what were the challenges or barriers in the shared public access to Internet; and Finally, what were its indirect benefits to the economy, society and sustainability.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development in Bihar

Collaboration/s: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Ashok Pankaj

The study, sponsored by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has tried understand and assess effectiveness of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in terms of promoting

community-centric participatory development process in the State and to suggest changes for strengthening of these institutions. It also seeks to examines the challenges and difficulties faced by these institutions in meeting their objectives have also been analysed for policy suggestions.

Adjustment Pattern of Drug Addict and Non-Addict Youths: A Comparative study of Rural and Urban Areas

Collaboration/s: ICSSR

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Neeru Singh

The study has attempt to see the effect of different types of environmental and other related variables on intake of drugs and pattern of drug use in rural and urban youths. The study has tried to elucidate the psychological factors working among drug addict youths of rural and urban areas. The study has also attempted to understand how a serious social disease like drug addiction hampers important dimensions of human personality like adjustment, motivation, self-esteem and mental health of an individual.

Understanding the Tipping Point of Urban Conflict

Collaboration/s: University of Manchester

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Dennis Rodgers and Ms. Shivani Satija

The study offers 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 how poor communities' can best introduce new codes of negotiation with violent social actors and local authorities, to ensure safer environments. This study focuses 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, 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 reveals, that these steps may have exacerbated violence at the local level, mainly over public services like water

and toilets, which often polarised 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, 2012 organised in Patna in February as well as The Global Policy Meet organized by the Graduate Institute, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peace Building at Geneva in June, 2012.

Instruments of Local Financial Reform and their Impact on Service Delivery

Collaboration/s: South Asia Network of Economic Research Institute (SANEI)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Shipra Maitra

Sponsored by the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes, this study focuses on three financial instruments of municipal reform initiated by the local bodies in order to be able to emerge as institutions of self-governance, and to provide sustainable delivery of services. This study compares the reforms that have taken place in this sector in India with those in Bangladesh.

Alternative Strategies of Poverty Reduction— ‘A Comparative Study of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar’ (Under Bihar Research Programme)

Collaboration/s: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Dev Nathan and Dr. D.N. Reddy

Sponsored by ILO, this study was a part of the Bihar research programme entitled, 'Aiming at Inclusive Development in Bihar: The Dynamics of Change over 30 Years (1980-2010), and the Emerging Policy Framework'. The study explored the relative effectiveness of three policy approaches (growth and development, employment opportunities, and income shortfall) in the Indian states of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh (AP), while drawing on long-term longitudinal data pertaining to households and villages in Bihar, and secondary data in both the states.

The study found that in Bihar, the all-India rate of economic growth and the recent increase in construction activities had both contributed to an increase in income among the low-skilled and poorly educated families. The all-India growth figures had contributed to higher incomes for the poor, while the state's own construction boom increased non-farm employment in rural Bihar.

In AP, economic growth within the state itself had increased the productive base of the economy, something that was not visible in Bihar. In addition, the contribution of various social security programmes in AP was much higher than that in Bihar. Overall, the contribution of growth and employment with social security and related redistributive measures led to a substantial impact in reducing poverty in AP. In Bihar, on the other hand, state-based growth itself was only a feature of the last decade and it was not supplemented as much as in AP by the government's redistributive measures. These differences between the longer periods of growth and the strengthening of the productive base of the state economy and the relative roles of redistributive measures in the two states, might explain the much higher impact on poverty in AP than in Bihar.

Food Coupon Scheme under TPDS in Bihar

Collaboration/s: Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Ashok Pankaj

This study was based on a panel survey in three districts of Bihar and examined the functioning of the TPDS in the State in pre-and post-coupon phases. The first two rounds of the study were sponsored by the World Bank and the third round by the Government of Bihar. The study found that there were targeting errors, distribution deficiencies, and supply chain bottlenecks. Nonetheless, there had been noticeable improvement in the functioning of the TPDS in the State and this improvement was due to a number of reasons including coupon system.

Border Area Development Programme

Collaboration/s: Planning Commission, Government of India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Ashok Pankaj and Dr. Abhay Kumar

The Institute is currently participating in an evaluation study of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), which was introduced during the Seventh Five Year Plan. This evaluation has been commissioned by the Planning Commission, and IHD is responsible for carrying out the study in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The main objective of the study is to assess the coverage, execution and impact of the BADP in these three states, including the convergence of Central and state level programmes. The field study will cover nine villages, including three each from the sampled block from each state. The key research methods used will be Focused Group Interviews (FGDs), qualitative notes and physical verification of assets created. The reference period for the study will be from 2007-09 to 2009-10. The project is likely to be concluded by 2012.

Development of State Programme Strategy for Jharkhand and Bihar

Collaboration/s: Care India

Project Director/ Project Coordinator: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

Sponsored by CARE India, the study aims to devise suitable strategies for social development of Bihar and Jharkhand. The first draft has been submitted and revised report will be submitted in a month. The project is being executed at the IHD Eastern Regional Centre at Ranchi.

Mid Term Appraisal of 11th Five Year Plan of Bihar

Collaboration/s: Planning Commission, Government of India

The Planning Commission, Government of India, assigned IHD with the task of conducting the mid-term appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan of Bihar during 2010-2011. The objectives of the project were to study the utilization of funds received and the development entailed by the Government of Bihar during the first half of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The study comprised two parts. The first part included an overview of the status of the economy. In addition, it also highlighted the development that took place in the fields of education and healthcare. The second part of the report focused on the performance of 15 flagship programmes in Bihar being implemented by the Central Government in different sectors, namely rural development; healthcare, nutrition, drinking water and sanitation; education; urban development; agriculture and water management; and power. The study was undertaken with the help of secondary data, and data and information provided by the Government of Bihar. The findings of the study were also shared with the Government of Bihar before submission of the final reports to the Planning Commission.

The report shows that there has been a significant acceleration in the economic growth rate of the state as compared to previous years. Consequently, there has been improvement in the education and healthcare scenario as well. The implementation of various flagship programmes has also improved. However, in the case of some programmes such as NREGA, there has been little progress. As a whole, though Bihar shows improvement in implementation, it needs to further strengthen its delivery mechanism.