
COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Theme : Health and Nutrition

Food Security Atlases (8 States of India)

Sponsor/s: UN World Food Programme (WFP)

Project Director/s: Dr. Dev Nathan, Dr. Preet Rustagi and Dr. Abhay Kumar

This project was sponsored by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and entailed the preparation of atlases on food security for the 8 poor states of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The study was done under the guidance of a Steering committee under the Chairmanship of a Member of the Planning Commission. All the eight atlases have been prepared and most of them have been released in high level functions.

Food Security Atlas of Rural India: An Overview

Sponsor/s: UN World Food Programme (WFP)

Project Director/s: Professor Dev Nathan and Dr. Preet Rustagi

This study is a consolidated analysis of eight states, namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP). The purpose of the study was to identify regions and districts that require priority attention in order to improve their food security status. This was followed by an identification of the characteristics that differentiate the better-off districts from the worst-off ones. These characteristics of the food-insecure regions and districts have been used to put forward a set of recommended interventions that could be expected to improve food security.

The study finds that the food-insecure districts actually fall into distinct regions. The specific regions that were identified as priority areas are 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, all the districts of Jharkhand, while a majority of the districts in MP, Odisha and Chhattisgarh figure among the most food-insecure districts. The overview report, which is the final publication of the project, discusses the characteristics of the food-insecure regions and suggests further interventions to improve the conditions in these regions.

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

Sponsor/s: Oxfam India

Project Director/s: 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.

Development of State Programme Strategy for Jharkhand and Bihar

Sponsor/s: Care India

Project Director/s: 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

Sponsor/s: Planning Commission, Government of India

Project Director/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal

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.

Desk Review on equity in coverage for select chronic diseases in India

*Sponsor/s: World Health Organization Country Office, India
Project Director/s: Dr. Sumit Mazumdar and Dr. Charu Garg*

The objective of this Desk Review was to analyze existing data on barriers to universal coverage for select chronic diseases in India and produce a report of findings. 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 in India. This data was analyzed using the Tanahashi framework for effective coverage. A final report was produced and submitted to WHO. A presentation was made during the World Health Day event.

Adivasi Human Development Report of Odisha

*Sponsor/s: Skillshare International, UK
Project Director/s: Dr. Harishwar Dayal*

The Institute prepared the Adivasi Human Development Report (AHDR) of Odisha for Skillshare International. It was a part of Skillshare's INGO Partnership Agreement Programme (IPAP) on tribal healthcare and livelihoods. The assignment consisted of two parts: (i) Data collection and compilation for the Adivasi Human Development Report (AHDR) of Odisha; and (ii) Data analysis and development for the same report.

The objective of the research was to identify the developmental gaps between the tribals and the non-tribals, and the nature and extent of poverty and deprivation among the tribals. It also aimed at investigating the causes of their deprivation and the issues of their land alienation, displacement, migration, food insecurity and social exclusion, while also assessing the type of intervention required for improving their conditions.

This study is based on a combination of both primary and secondary data analysis. Primary data were collected by using various tools of participatory data analysis, especially focus Group Interviews (FGDs), in-depth interviews, and case studies. The PRA exercises were conducted in eight villages and two resettlement colonies in five blocks of three districts of the state of Odisha. A wide range of secondary data sources, such as the Census 1961 to 2011, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), NSS and other relevant sources have also been used.

Odisha is inhabited by 62 tribal communities, which constitute about 22 per cent of the total population of the state. The tribals of the state suffer from multiple forms of deprivation, and a very high incidence of poverty; and the Head Count

Ratio (HCR) of poverty among them is higher than among the other communities. They also exhibit a very high incidence of malnutrition and child mortality.

The tribals are also geographically marginalized. The districts in which they are concentrated are less developed than the non-tribal belt. The HDI of the tribal-concentrated districts is usually less than the state average. Southern Odisha, which has a heavy tribal concentration, displays a much higher incidence of poverty than the northern and coastal regions.

The final report on the state, based on both primary and secondary data, has been submitted to Skillshare International.

Human Development Report for Mizoram

Sponsor/s: Government of Mizoram

Project Director/s: Prof. Atul Sarma, Ms. Diksha Arora and Dr. R.P. Mamgain

The Institute prepared the first Human Development Report of Mizoram, which was sponsored by the Government of Mizoram. The report is based on a large-scale intensive field survey-based data, which supplements the available secondary information relating to various dimensions of development of the state. It comprises 11 chapters, including a comprehensive chapter on the human development-led growth strategy for Mizoram. The report makes critical analyses of Mizoram's economy on various fronts pertaining to healthcare, education, employment, income, women's issues and the socio-economic profile of Mizoram since its inception to the present day. It highlights both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of human development across its districts in a comparative framework.

The report highlights the extremely high incidence of poverty and poor access to a productive resource base for an overwhelmingly large majority of the population in the state. It finds very low educational levels among Mizoram's population despite the state having the second highest literacy rate in the country. The Employment and Livelihood Index for the state and its districts shows a precarious situation of employment and earnings opportunities. Unlike the general perception, the report finds significant inequalities in income and assets distribution. Similarly, the Gender Development Index and Gender Parity Index reveal the situation of women in the state. These indices offer valuable suggestions for empowering women in the social, political and economic spheres. The report also offers valuable suggestions for mobilizing financial resources for funding human development and improving governance by strengthening programme management and the engagement of Non-government Organizations (NGOs) in policy-making.

District Human Development Report for Pakur District , Jharkhand

Sponsor/s: Government of Jharkhand and UNDP

Project Director/s: Dr Harishwar Dayal

The United Nations (UNDP) has initiated a Joint Programme on Convergence (JPC) with the Planning Commission, Government of India (GoI-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 GoI–UN Joint Programme on Convergence (GoI-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, CBOs (what are 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 Pakur on 18 January 2011, 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 state (should this be district?). It has also been found that both these occupations cause health hazards to those who are employed there.

Study Reports on Six Important Issues of Policy Discourse in India

Sponsor/s: Oxfam India

Project Director/s: Mr. Aseem Prakash

Based on exhaustive reviews and analysis of secondary data. The Institute, in partnership with Oxfam India, conducted studies six important issues of policy discourse in India. These research themes were the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Food Security, Education, Health, Lagging and Vulnerable States, and Social Discrimination. The aim of the study was to suggest possible interventions at two levels, that is, policy advocacy as well as actual intervention on behalf of the civil society actors. The objectives of these studies were to: a) Provide a well-researched and analysed knowledge bank of information on the theme in its larger social, economic, historical and political contexts; and b) Support the development of the programming focus of Oxfam India on these selective themes, by identifying the key priorities and approaches to address the various challenges.

India Country Study on Child Poverty and Deprivations – First Phase

Sponsor/s: UNICEF

Project Director/s: Dr. Preet Rustagi

UNICEF has partnered with IHD for undertaking two significant studies in the areas of Child Poverty and Disparities, and Adivasi children. The country study on Child Well-being and Social Inclusion provided evidence of the incidence and causes of child poverty, and the need to review policy efforts for the promotion of child well-being and equity. As regards the Child Poverty and Disparities project, ten technical background papers were commissioned as part of the IHD–UNICEF working paper

series titled 'Children of India: Rights and Opportunities'. Six of these were published last year, while the four remaining papers were published in 2011. These papers were written by Mahendra Dev, Virginius Xaxa, Soumya Kapoor, and Preet Rustagi, Sunil Kumar Mishra and Balwant Singh Mehta. All the papers are available on the IHD website.

This study was based on a detailed analysis of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on child deprivations at the all-India level as well as the level of the major states. The findings of the analysis, along with other papers on child and social policy concerns, were presented at a workshop organized jointly by IHD and UNICEF on 2-3 September 2011. About 20 papers were presented at the workshop, including these findings and the commissioned papers. A select set of the papers would be edited and printed as a volume entitled, 'India's Children: Essays on Social Policy'.

A report based on the work undertaken as part of the project titled, 'Beyond Averages: Child Well-being through an Equity Analysis' by Preet Rustagi, Soumya Kapoor, Sunil Kumar Mishra, Balwant S. Mehta, and Ramya Subrahmanian, is being worked on and would be finalized during the coming year for publication by UNICEF.

The second project pertains to the development of a comprehensive analytical document and policy agenda for promoting the inclusion of Adivasi children in the development process. IHD arranged reading material for training and sensitization on tribal issues and organized a workshop on Adivasi children in November 2011. The collection of selected papers from this workshop has been edited to include in a volume titled Social Exclusion and Adverse Inclusion (ed. Dev Nathan and Virginius Xaxa), Oxford University Press.