



DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



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**A monthly update of socio-economic developments in India by the
IHDS research community.**

January 2022

INDIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

wishes you a Happy New Year

2022!

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IHDS DATA COMMUNITY RESULTS

Poverty and Deprivation in India Divergence between Consumption and Asset-based Estimates

By Debosree Banerjee



Consumption expenditure has been widely used in India to estimate poverty. It has recently been argued that these estimates have several weaknesses and an asset-based index is a better indicator of deprivation. Building on the asset-based indicator developed earlier, this paper estimates deprivation in India. Using data from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), Rounds I and II, it looks at two specific aspects of deprivation: (i) Region- and time-wise variations in deprivation in terms of absolute and relative deprivation, and (ii) The difference between deprivation and consumption-based poverty. The results suggest that there is a difference in the regional ranking of poverty depending upon whether to consider the immediate consumption expenditure or the longer-term picture of vulnerability provided by the asset-based indicator of deprivation.

All-India Level Trends in Poverty and Deprivation

	Absolute Deprivation (% hh)		Relative Deprivation (Gini)		Consumption Poverty		Change in Absolute Deprivation	Change in Relative Deprivation	Change in Consumption Poverty
	2004	2011	2004	2011	2004	2011			
Rural	4.32	1.84	0.58	0.52	42	25.7	2.48	0.06	16.3
Urban	1.35	0.41	0.47	0.37	25.5	13.7	0.94	0.09	11.8
Combine	3.53	1.39	0.58	0.50	37.2	21.92	2.14	0.08	15.28

Source: Author's own calculation from IHDS I and II, and NSSO 68th round Consumption Expenditure Survey.

Note: Consumption-poverty is calculated using Tendulkar Method on mixed reference period.

[Full Article Here](#)

Debosree Banerjee is an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, India. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Goettingen, Germany. Her research interests lie in the broad areas of human development and inequalities in India. Her work aims at integrating perspectives from the field and theories in social sciences to understand the interconnections and identify the areas where theories fail to explain real-life situations for more effective policy formulations. Currently, she is affiliated with the Inequality and Human Development Programme at NIAS. The aim of the programme is to develop policy options based on a multi-disciplinary conceptualisation of inequality and farmers' suicides in India, and to contribute to public discourse to enable more informed policy choices.

Can Technology Empower? The Impact of Technology Access on Women's Decision-Making Power in India



By Manali Joshi

Technology access has the power to transform women's empowerment and increase economic development across the world. This thesis analyses the impact of State-level technology access on women's empowerment in India. The author assesses whether increased state technology levels, measured by mobile phone access, increase urban women's education levels, household income levels, and women's decision-making power. The data in the paper is sourced from two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12, as well as The Telecom Statistics of India, which measures telecom subscriber rates in each State. The paper uses a linear regression model to measure education and income levels and a probit regression model to assess women's decision-making power, measured through their purchase power, if they have a bank account, and if their name is on homeownership or rental papers. This model controls for women's age, caste, religion, and household size, and the results show that State-level technology access has a limited impact on women's empowerment.

Technology access has the largest positive impact on women having a bank account. These findings are essential to better understand how generalised and universal technology access does not affect women significantly, and that targeted, gender-based technology provisions should be employed instead.

Table 4: Probit Estimates of the Impact of Technology on Women's Decision-Making Power

	Women Has Purchase Power			Women Name on Bank Account			Women's Name on Home Papers		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
Technology Access	1.204 (0.929)	1.301 (1.108)	-0.037 (2.414)	-0.156 (0.623)	0.186 (0.611)	1.556* (.901)	-0.369 (0.789)	-0.291 (0.808)	-1.622 (1.150)
Women's Age		0.020*** (0.002)	0.020*** (0.002)		0.022*** (0.003)	0.022*** (0.003)		0.025*** (0.003)	0.026*** (0.003)
<i>Caste</i>									
OBC		0.021 (0.060)	-0.025 (0.037)		-0.351*** (0.079)	-0.286*** (0.074)		-0.041 (.0544)	-0.044 (0.037)
Low Caste		0.018 (0.052)	0.008 (0.042)		-0.465*** (0.094)	-0.433*** (0.094)		-0.157** (0.054)	-0.119** (0.041)
Muslim		-0.050 (0.059)	-0.057 (0.053)		-0.635*** (0.075)	-0.582*** (0.073)		-0.135* (0.758)	-0.163** (0.061)
Sikh, Jain		0.050 (0.119)	-0.039 (0.115)		-0.120 (0.074)	0.173** (0.074)		-0.115 (0.074)	-0.079 (0.087)
Christian		0.500*** (0.111)	0.383** (0.122)		-0.177 (0.165)	-0.034 (0.147)		-0.097 (0.175)	0.039 (0.125)
Household Size		-0.084*** (0.009)	-0.076*** (0.009)		-0.038*** (0.006)	-0.041*** (0.005)		-0.040*** (0.009)	-0.043*** (0.008)
Time Fixed Effect	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Fixed Effect	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
N	15994	15994	15994	15994	15994	15994	15994	15994	15994
R ²	0.004	0.049	0.055	0.07	0.119	0.132	0.001	0.032	0.075

***: p<0.01, **: p<0.05, *: p<0.10
Robust Standard Errors are reported in parentheses.

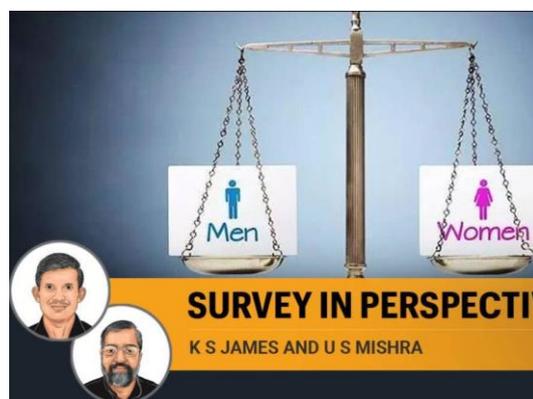
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Manali Joshi is currently pursuing her Master's in Public Affairs at Brown University. She recently earned her Bachelor's degree in Politics and Economics from Scripps College, where she focused on studying Asian and Asian-American issues. Through her work with USAID, she has developed research and programmatic policies to tackle the gender digital divide in South Asia. She is currently supporting the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, where she collects data on and analyses attacks on education in countries in South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. She hopes to continue working at the intersection of development and gender issues, utilising data-based policy.

IHDS DATA IN THE NEWS



OP-ED FROM ANUPMA MEHTA: “Will raising the marriageable age for women to 21 improve gender outcomes?” *The Economics Times*, December 24, 2021. [Link](#).



OP-ED FROM K.S. JAMES AND U.S. MISHRA: “Reading sex ratio trends in NFHS-5 data”, *The Indian Express*, December 20, 2021. [Link](#).

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Recent publications from IHDS users:

Dakua, M., and B. Sarkar. (2021). “Prevalence, Pattern, and Determinant of Sex Preference in India: Evidence from India Human Development Survey-II (2011-12)”, *International Journal of Research—Granthaalayah*, 9(11): 109–121. [Link](#).

Chen, Jingjing, 2021. "Do mobile phones empower women? A perspective from rural India," *Warwick-Monash Economics Student Papers 09*, Warwick Monash Economics Student Papers. [Link](#).

Rajkhowa, P. (2021). "Personalized digital extension services, electronic marketplaces, and mobile phones: Implications of digital technology for rural development in India", Dissertation submitted to the Center for Development Research (Zentrum Für Entwicklungsforschung), The Agricultural Faculty, Rhenish Friedrich Wilhelm University of Bonn (der Landwirtschaftlichen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn). [Link](#).

Jain, R., and S. Biswas. (2021). "The road to safety- Examining the nexus between road infrastructure and crime in rural India", *Working Paper*. [Link](#).

George, M.S., T. Niyosenga, and I. Mohanty. (2021). "Does the presence of health insurance and health facilities improve healthcare utilisation for major morbidities among Indigenous communities and older widows: Evidence from the India Human Development Surveys I and II", *medRxiv*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.12.05.21267327>. [Link](#).

Nupur, S., and M. Dutta. (2021). "Determinants of Migration from Rural Households in India: An Empirical Investigation", *The Migration Conference 2021 Selected Papers*, London. [Link](#).

Keskar, A. (2021). "Matching on Height in India", Thesis submitted to Department of Economics, Rice University, Houston, Texas. [Link](#).

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ihds.umd.edu



ABOUT IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) is a nationally representative, multi-topic survey of 41,554 households in 1503 villages and 971 urban neighbourhoods across India. The first round of interviews was completed in 2004-05; data are publicly available through ICPSR. A second round of IHDS re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same can be found here. IHDS 3 is in development and expected to be in the field in 2021.

IHDS 3 has been jointly organised by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Indiana University and the University of Michigan. Funding for the second round of this survey is provided by the National Institutes of Health, grants R01HD041455 and R01HD061048. Additional funding is provided by The Ford Foundation, IDRC and DFID.

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