



Centre
for Public
Policy

XV International Conference on Public Policy and Management

24th August 2020 - 26th August 2020

Conference Proceedings & Abstracts



Supported by



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Acknowledgements

We received financial assistance from GIC Re, and the Research and Development Fund of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). We gratefully acknowledge this support.

Chairperson's Note

Public policy is a dynamic process that ranges across a number of issues, telecom, banking, digital media and privacy being a few notable examples. The annual international conference on public policy and management provides a platform for different stakeholders to discuss and debate on policy issues in order to effectively understand how social, political and economic conditions change in a society, and why there is a pressing need for public policies to evolve accordingly.

This year, the conference had broadened its scope to grapple with a wide range of policy issues, since humanity is in the grip of a pandemic of the kind not seen in the past. Covid-19 has forced us to rethink our way of life, making it crucial for policy discourse to steer towards addressing progressive changes. With papers presented across domains like gender, democracy, finance, Covid-19 issues and challenges, this conference will be seen as a step in the right direction towards expanding the scope of CPP's work areas and focus.

The annual international conference has, over the years, become a destination conference where quality papers, both theoretical and applied, are discussed with participation from students, researchers, civil society and policy practitioners. Apart from papers invited and put through a rigorous process, we also have special tracks. The Fifteenth Conference, in particular, was a challenging exercise. Conducted online, it was held amidst the Covid 19 pandemic. We did not compromise on rigour in any way. We made the best use of the challenge through innovation. However, it did not provide for the personal interaction and exchange of views that happen on the sidelines.

The new format allowed us to structure sessions differently, facilitating participation in innovative ways, and we were able to get speakers, irrespective of where they were located, to address the participants. I am particularly thankful to Justice Madan Lokur who inaugurated the conference, Professors Barbara Harriss White and Mekhala Krishnamurthy who engaged us in a special session on Agricultural Policy through their lectures and discussion, and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, who delivered the valedictory address. This conference has given us the possibility of exploring a different format to the conference and I am sure, going forward, there will possibly be one track that could be entirely digital.

I would like to place on record the acknowledgement for the excellent work done by our team in the Centre and the larger IIM ecosystem to pull off this conference amidst all the challenges. I would also like to thank Sangamesh from the IT department; Kavitha Kumar and Darshan from the Communications department; G. Sesikala and Kavitha from the CPP Office, Rumi Azim, Academic Associate, and Bikashita Saikia, Research Associate, at CPP.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in the conference organising committee Professors Hema Swaminathan, Anil B Suraj and Arnab Mukherji for their constant support and inputs.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our distinguished plenary speakers and the Session Chairs. We would also like to acknowledge the sponsors for their financial support, and the participants for sharing their valuable work with us and helping us facilitate an enriching conference.

M.S. Sriram

Chairperson
Centre for Public Policy

Centre for Public Policy

The Centre for Public Policy (CPP) at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is an independent public interest-oriented policy think-tank engaged in pioneering research, teaching, training and capacity-building. The CPP was established in 2000 based on a quadripartite agreement between the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Government of India (GoI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IIMB.

The centre was founded on the twin objectives of effectively influencing policy discourse and improving governance. These are achieved through extensive research and stakeholder engagements across multiple domains. The Centre's work in various areas of public policy is continuously being aided through its worldwide association with a number of think-tanks. As a think-tank, we provide advice and evaluate ongoing policies at the national level, in the states, and in multiple municipalities. Being housed within an academic setting, the centre brings rigour and builds learning and knowledge from these engagements. The centre also closely works with NGOs and independent professionals. Today, CPP offers a vibrant platform for critical thinking, ideation, research, debates and dialogues around policy-making and implementation. We are not only about policy analysis, we also actively engage in the cycle of policy formulation-implementation- evaluation- reformulation.

The backbone of the centre, which is its faculty, represent diverse disciplines and research interests. Their influential research and publications play a key role in guiding public dialogue and thinking. Their wide network, with many influential policy-related committees within the country and abroad, further support the enhanced visibility of the centre's efforts and work in public policy. Faculty members regularly work on a wide and ever-changing set of topics broadly around issues of urban governance, law and development, understanding mechanisms through which social policy impacts health and gender outcomes, challenges in financial inclusion and the broader consequences of inequality. Themes in public management and public service delivery are also central to the work of the centre.

The research at CPP is supported both by national and international foundations, including Canadian Institute of Health Research, Gates Foundation, UK-India Education and Research – University Grant Commission, and United Nations Office for Project Services. Current collaborators include Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, McGill University, University of California, San Diego, University of Essex, University of Kent, and the World Bank.





Programmes at CPP

Doctoral Programme

The doctoral programme at IIMB is widely recognised for its rigorous and in-depth training. The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) inculcates an interdisciplinary research approach in business management and public policy. It focuses on research in public policy analysis, design, process and management.

The Master of Management Studies (Public Policy)

It is a unique programme aimed at improving efficiency and leadership skills among policy-makers and administrators while exposing them to topical issues in management. Candidates from government and non-government sectors interact, exchange ideas and learn in one classroom. Additionally, there is a deepening of conceptual, technical and analytical skills for public policy-making through interactive sessions with eminent people in the Indian policy domain via the 'Policy Speaks' series. This programme ensures that the participants are well versed in various aspects of public policy and general management.

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)

We have a collaborative programme with the Government of India, the MGNF, a two-year blended programme to train individuals with an undergraduate degree to work with the District Skill Committees. This is a unique programme that has a mix of classroom teaching, district-level action and active mentoring and partnership with the government at the district level.

Short Duration Executive Education Programmes

The Centre has conducted various mid-career programmes for personnel belonging to different services, such as Executive Teaching and ongoing Executive Mid-Career Programmes. These include: Phase IV for Indian Forest Service Officers and Custom Programmes for Officers from the Indian Economic Service, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's Office, the Commercial Tax Office, the Ministry of Shipping (Ports) and the Airports Authority of India.

Other activities

In addition to research publications, we actively engage in organizing Policy Hackathons and policy talks, apart from writing popular articles in newspapers and through blogs, and provide forums for interacting with policy makers, researchers and civil society. We hope you will stop by our blogs, our other points of web presence, and of course, also our campus.

Fifteenth International Conference on Public Policy and Management

XV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT Schedule			
24th August 2020, Monday			
9:00 - 10:30	Welcome by Anil B Suraj, Chairperson Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management IIM Bangalore. Opening Remarks by Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director, IIM Bangalore. Inaugural Address by Justice Madan B Lokur, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India Registration Link: https://iim-b.zoom.us/j/91325149080		
10:30 - 11:00	BREAK		
	Parallel Session I Registration Link for all three days https://iim-b.zoom.us/j/97445717952		Parallel Session II Registration Link for all three days https://iim-b.zoom.us/j/96168014371
11:00 - 12:45	SESSION	Track session: Continuing education during crisis & beyond	Women in Work: Workplace and Time-use issues
	CHAIR	Niveditha Menon, CBPS	Madhura Swaminathan, ISI
	PRESENTATIONS	Challenges of distance in Science Education Ram Ramaswamy, Professor, IIT Delhi, Former VC HCU	Valuation of Unpaid Household Work of Rural Women: A Case study Sheela Yadav, L.N.M.U, Bihar & Nidhi Sharma BHU, Varanasi
		Rapid assessment of the impact of Covid on education and livelihood- multi-country study Neha Ghatak, CBPS	Women participation in the Indian labor market: Evidence from EUS & PLFS data Varsha Gupta, JNU
		Low tech model for mentoring school students in rural areas – an action research Jyotsna Jha, CBPS	Time Use of Women in Livestock Raising in Two Villages of Karnataka Vijayamba R ISI, Bengaluru
		Overview: Shyam Menon, Professor of Education, DU & Former VC, Ambedkar University Delhi	The Gender Gap in Tech & Competitive Work Environments? Field Experimental Evidence from an Internet-of-Things Product Development Platform Kevin Boudreau & Nilam Kaushik IIMB
12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14.00 -15.30	SESSION	Urbanization: Issues and solution	Gender budgeting and Women's relative resources
	CHAIR	Venkatesh Panchapagesan, IIMB	Jyotshna Jha, CBPS
	PRESENTATIONS	Tackling Congestion in Bengaluru: Problems @ Policies Alisha Mendonsa IIMB & Sridhar Pabbisetty Kautilya School of Public Policy	How socio demographics impact hygienic sanitary items usage and ovulatory cycle knowledge in India- Karan Babbar, Deepika Saluja IIMA
		Stuck in Traffic? Determinants of Intra Urban Mobility in an Indian City. Kala Seetharam Sridhar & Shivakumar Nayka ISEC, Bangalore	The Impact of gender budgeting on Gender equity in India Trisha Chandra JNU Women's relative resources, empowerment & physical abuse in Indian context: Moderating role of husband's patriarchal attitude Vanita Singh & Karan Babbar IIMA

25th August 2020, Tuesday			
09.15-10.30	SESSION	Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival	Track Session: Identities and Identification: A Development Dilemma
	CHAIR	Vinod Vyasulu, CBPS	Amit Prakash & Bidisha Chaudhuri, CITAPP, IIT Bangalore
	PRESENTATIONS	Multiplier Effect of Social Sector Expenditure in Karnataka Jyotsna Jha, Achala A Yareseeme & Apurva K.H CBPS	Home and Away: The Splintered Lives of Migrant Workers Sakina Dhorajiwala, LibTech India & Rajendran Narayanan, APU, Bangalore
		Challenges of using I-O & SAM based methods at a sub-national analysis Achala A Yareseeme & Apurva K.H. CBPS	Dignity, respect, and justice for all: The question of gender in public policy Niveditha Menon, CBPS
		Estimation of Multipliers: A comparative analysis of different methodologies, Archana Purohit CBPS	Digital Identity Systems and Inclusion Srijoni Sen, Modular Open Source Identity Platform, Bangalore
10:30 - 11:00		BREAK	
11.00-12.45	SESSION	Displacement & Migration	People, Power & Democracies
	CHAIR	Navdeep Mathur, IIMA	Arnab Mukherji, IIMB
	PRESENTATIONS	The Invisible Man: A case of men displaced and resettled under the Sabarmati Riverfront Project. Jacob Baby CEPT.	How Democracies Decay: India through the lens Srinibas Barik S.B. Women's College, Auto., Cuttack, Odisha
		Examining Disruptions of Social Systems due to Large Dam Projects in the North East Thangjam Aditya & Semsang Dolma Bomzon IIM Shillong	Democratisation under Diversity: Theory and Evidence from Indonesian Communities Anirban Mitra, University of Kent & Sarmistha Pal, University of Surrey
		Faceless Millions: An Overview of Internal Migration Nandini Sen, Society for Rural Industrialisation	Electoral Stability and Cross-Cutting Cleavages-Theory and Evidence from India Francesca R. Jensenius University of Oslo & Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Neeraj Prasad O. P. Jindal Global University & Pavithra Suryanarayan Johns Hopkins University
12:45 - 14:00		LUNCH BREAK	
14.00-15.30	SESSION	Poverty and Nutrition Traps	Social Policy and Public Institutions
	CHAIR	Shabana Mitra, IIMB	G. Ramesh, IIMB
	PRESENTATIONS	Tribals & Malnutrition: Strategies to improve nutrition equity in Odisha Neha Saigal & Saumya Shrivastava IPE Global	The Impact of Public policy on Alleviating Social Vulnerability: Evidence from Ethiopian Rural Households Tewele Gerlase Haile & S.P. Singh IIT Roorkee
		Rural Household & Livelihood Security: Significance of asset interplay Meghadeepa Chakraborty, Banasthali Vidyapith	Crude oil price and Government effectiveness: The determinants of corruption in oil abundant states Johnson Clement Madathil NIT, Calicut, Ashitha T & Velmurugan P.S. Central University of Tamil Nadu
			Fiscal decentralization, regional disparity, and the role of corruption Nupur Nirola & Sohini Sahu, IIT Kanpur
18.30-20.00	Public Policy for Food and Agricultural Markets: Planet Micro and Planet Macro: Barbara Harriss White in conversation with Mekhala Krishnamurthy. Moderated by M S Sriram Registration Link: https://iim-b.zoom.us/j/99839000194		

26th August 2020, Wednesday			
09:15 - 10:30	SESSION	Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Sector	Financial Inclusion: Gaps & Solutions
	CHAIR	Trilochan Sastry, IIMB	M Jayadev, IIMB
	PRESENTATIONS	Identity and Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana Priyambda Tripathi, Bipin JoJo TISS, Mumbai	PMJDY: an econometric study Nishi Malhotra IIM Kozhikode
		Blessing of Geography: Impact of Geographical Indications on Agricultural Exports in India Manu Bansal & Rahul Singh IIMB	Role of Urban Cooperative Banks in Financial Inclusion An exploratory Study of Hyderabad and Rangareddy Districts Mini P. Thomas & Radhika Gupta BITS, Pilani Hyderabad
10:30 - 11:00	BREAK		
	SESSION	Education and household accounting	
	CHAIR	Soham Sahoo, IIMB	
	PRESENTATIONS	Crisis of technical education in India: Evolving contours of the Computer and Information Sciences discipline Keshab Das (GIDR, Ahmedabad) & Hastimal Sagara GLS University	
		Who Benefit from the Public Higher education expenditure? Evidence from Recent Household Survey of India Ramanjini & Karnam Gayithri ISEC, Bangalore	
		Indian Household Balance Sheet - Accounting issues & wealth estimation Akash Malhotra JNU	
12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 - 15:15	Valediction: Talk by Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist World Health Organisation Moderated by Hema Swaminathan, Faculty member, Centre for Public Policy, IIMB Concluding remarks by Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director IIMB Registration Link: https://iim-b.zoom.us/j/99033713830		

A General Overview of Number of Papers Received and Presented	
Number of papers received for the Conference	98
Number of papers accepted for presentation	33
Final number of papers presented (including papers in Tracks Proposals)	37 (28 full papers & 9 Special Track Proposals)
Number of Special Track Proposals received	6
Number of Special Track Proposals accepted	4
Final number of Special Track Proposals presented	3



Plenary Sessions

Inaugural Address

**Justice Madan B Lokur,
Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
Date: 24th August 2020, Monday Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

Justice Lokur opened the session by acknowledging the need for urgency of social justice. He stressed how the current pandemic has brought to focus the class gap that exists among masses. Although it is difficult to define the meaning of social justice, according to Justice Lokur, social justice means everyone is given equal opportunity, regardless of their social position like caste, race and gender. Equality in all spheres of life is social justice.

The Constitution of India has special and distinguishing laws for women, children and oppressed castes owing to the inequities they have faced in the past. But unfortunately, we are still struggling with an equality syndrome; ghastly issues like manual scavenging and the existence of bonded labour continually threaten social justice. In an effort to counter such hindrance to social justice, the Supreme Court encourages people from marginalised sections to approach it and demand social justice that is due.

Justice Lokur categorised four types of cases that challenge social justice.

First, a situation with a law but the absence of implementation or practice. Drastic gaps exist between the enactment of a law and its implementation. He cited examples of the RTI Act, wherein the Information Commission is yet to fill many positions, the Food Security Act which is yet to appoint a commission, workers not being given timely payments despite the mandates laid down by MNREGA, and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights taking 18-20 months to appoint a chairperson. According to Justice Lokur, children are probably the worst affected, with about 1.6 lakh cases pending across courts related to Juvenile Justice.

Second, where there is a need for a law but the Parliament is not enacting one. Sexual harassment is a classic example that falls under this category. India signed the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in 1980 and ratified it in 1993. In 1998, a case on sexual harassment surfaced, which indicated the setback of its implementation. The law was finally implemented in 2013, after the horrifying case of Nirbhaya.

Third, where there is no law at all. Issues under this category range from human trafficking, cyber trafficking, abortion, prison reforms and fake encounters to lack of regulation in the unorganised sector. Justice Lokur recounted the situation of widows in Vrindavan who do not have a life with dignity or recognition, but there is no law that they can seek recourse to.

Fourth, the creative interpretation of the Constitution by the Supreme Court. Justice Lokur spelled out the dearth of rights for the transgender population in India until 2018. The Supreme Court creatively interpreted Section 377 of IPC to ensure recognition to LGBTQ. The Constitution is gender-neutral in defining words like "person" or "citizen", which rules out any basis of discrimination towards the third gender.

He concluded the address on a provocative note, urging the audience to reflect on the current public policy and where it is headed. Social justice can be facilitated by opening up the debate around it across different platforms because it is ultimately a public responsibility.



Special Session

Public Policy for Food and Agricultural Markets: Planet Micro and Planet Macro: Barbara Harriss White in conversation with Mekhala Krishnamurthy

Date: 25th August 2020, Tuesday Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

In a special session, Barbara Harriss White and Mekhala Krishnamurthy delivered intriguing understanding on the economics of food systems and agricultural systems, with a special focus on India.

Barbara Harriss White presented a work in progress to discuss food systems and related concepts like food, systems, market and policies. She urged the audience to reflect on the fuzzy and rather subjective notion of food. Worldwide, across different cultures and disciplines, food has held different meanings. However, the central question about food as considered by experts is three-fold. One, the current food systems lead to undernutrition or malnutrition. Second, it is destructive to the environment, and third, a significant portion of the output is wasted. Red meat, refined and processed foods are the most detrimental to the environment, and policymakers must consider this aspect of the food system on a priority basis. The significance of food in the times that we are living in, is not just a question of socio-economic systems or policy but majorly of the environment that is at stake. It is crucial to figure out a way to maintain an equilibrium between production and distribution while considering food consumption.

She borrowed Rolando Garcia's theories to discuss the notion of systems and what constitutes them. Garcia had a trans-disciplinary approach to the idea of systems, and believed that systems are conceptual devices, as opposed to something that is out there. Systems can not be comprehended in isolation but by observing relations between different elements. It is in this context that she initiated her discussion on agricultural markets within the systems. According to her, agricultural markets rest on two completely incompatible assumptions. First, their efficiency last only till the first transaction between the farmers and traders. Second, they can not maintain efficiency constantly and so the state must intervene. To support her assertions, she cited her research on agricultural markets in West Bengal and criticised them on the grounds of major lack of dynamics between capital and labour.

Policy itself is a complex issue because there is no uniformity in defining policy owing to its multi-disciplinary approach. In the Indian context specifically, food policies are extremely complicated and there is an immediate urgency to remodel food policies across the globe.

Retaining this as the background, Mekhala Krishnamurthy took over and continued the discussion. She cited Barbara Harriss White's talk as a context as opposed to a critique. She expressed her long-term discomfort with the paucity of engagement at the administrative level with empirical evidence in agricultural systems. Indian policy has agriculture strewn all over it. But its policy imagination has tended to treat agriculture as a residue and mainly as a welfare sector rather than acknowledging it as a vibrant economic driver with complex linkages with the non-agricultural sector. Agriculture continues to be sidelined from the economic section of the budget to retain its position as a welfare sector. There is no central ordinance regulating India's agricultural markets, neither at the primary level nor at the level of transaction.

History is testament to the fact that policy discourse in India has repeatedly neglected empirical evidence. It has overlooked the layers to grapple with the state and regional variations. It is important to realise that agricultural marketing in India is largely private, with a little regulatory contribution by the state. The agriculture sector continues to operate as an unregulated/informal sector.

This realisation should act as the backdrop of a critique to drive public policy framework towards a progressive remodelling of the agriculture sector. It is necessary to combine contemporary experiences with historical ones to come up with a productive regulatory design and system of agricultural markets in India.



Valedictory Address

Talk by Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist World Health Organisation
Date: 26th August 2020, Wednesday Time: 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan graced the valediction with crucial insights into the pandemic and pivotal learnings from it that can better equip us to contain a health threat in the future.

She initiated the talk by stressing on the inequalities that exist in the society, which the pandemic has exacerbated. Even though this is the biggest pandemic since the Spanish flu of 1918, the bright side is that we are far ahead today in terms of medical science and research. She concised her talk into the top learnings so far from Covid-19 which the world must use to design advanced health and social policies.

-]The pandemic has hindered health systems in many countries. Essential health services have been disrupted, due to which critical diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and cancer got sidelined from anywhere between 30 and 80%. The impact of this lag will be felt in the coming months, both in mortality and the health status of people who did not receive care.
- One of the major challenges encountered during the pandemic is the lack of a health cadre which is devoted to public health issues and incorporates prevention, management, capacity-building to assess the risk factors of a disease and the related environmental, social and economic factors.
- A pressing need is to have a model public health administrative architecture for every state. It should be decentralised but integrated into the health system. Currently, only two Indian states have that separate department of public health with a separate cadre, despite the recommendation of the National Health Policy, 2017.
- Another area of thought is with regard to laws which could be helpful during a health emergency. Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy has put out a report analysing the current laws and highlighting the areas of improvement. It could be worthwhile for civil and academic organisations to further their research on the same.
- Another important observation across the globe has been the role and active participation of communities in case of decentralised health systems. This is crucial for creating a sustainable healthcare ecosystem.
- It is immensely significant to effectively collect, store and use health data. A legislation to protect health data is under discussion; there should be streamlining of data that can be used during emergencies and the placement of rules and regulations during a pandemic to help governments around the world. In addition to data, investments in universal health coverage should also be increased to improve health systems.
- Climate change is another big threat to mankind. Viruses getting transmitted from animals to humans could be a result of the disruption of their natural habitat due to urbanisation. Urbanisation itself is a risk factor because of the high density of population. It is no surprise that the pandemic has hit mega cities around the world the hardest.

She concluded the talk on an optimistic note, raising the possibility of a viable vaccine by early 2021. However, the challenge after that will hover around issues of production, funding, fair distribution and so on.



Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session 1: Track Session- Continuing Education During Crisis and Beyond

Date & Time: 24/08/2020 11 AM- 12.45 PM

Session Chair: Niveditha Menon

Speakers: Ram Ramaswamy, Neha Ghatak, Jyotsna Jha

The panel discussed education and livelihood during Covid times. Three papers were presented in the session.

The first paper talked about tertiary education, with the focus primarily on college and university rather than school education. The main concern of the paper was to grapple with an understanding of how the pandemic would impact distance education. It broadly discussed the changes expected to take place in higher education in terms of operations in the classroom, student-teacher dialogue, the role of technology, the implications for research and the opportunities for change.

The second paper presented a current global study by CBPS in order to understand the impact of the pandemic on adolescent boys and girls in India. CBPS conducted a preliminary telephonic survey in May, 2020 to understand students' access to technology. The findings pointed at the underlying gender disparity -- girls from marginalised families had way less access to phones than boys. The main objective of the ongoing study is to understand the impact of this crisis on livelihoods and the policy response to it. The study is being conducted in four countries -- Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan and India. In India, four states and one United Territory have been sampled -- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Assam and Delhi.

The third paper was based on an action research conducted in Bihar in collaboration with ten schools (nine government and one led by an NGO). The idea was to develop critical thinking skills in students and enable them to reflect on serious social issues such as discrimination and diversity. The research also aspired to boost peer interaction. The ultimate goal of this research is to come up with a model that can make things which matter work in the education sector.

Parallel Session 1: Urbanisation: Issues & Solutions

Date & Time: 24/08/2020 2 PM- 3.30 PM

Session Chair: Venkatesh Pachapagesan

Speakers: Alisha Mendosa, Sridhar Pabbisetty, Kala Seetharam Sridhar, Shivakumar Nayka

The session had two papers with a specific focus on one aspect of urbanisation, mobility and transportation.

The first paper shed light on the importance of transportation in maintaining economic dynamism in a city (Bengaluru in the present study) because of the accessibility it offers. Transport itself is a bi-product of demand for other goods and services. Building bigger roads is not a solution to such massive congestion because of its own set of repercussions such as lag of planning and coordination, financial and environmental costs. One major loophole lies in the way projects are planned in Bengaluru that focuses on short-term relief. Lack of political will also plays a major role in such a scenario.

The second paper was based on one of the author's PhD thesis. Cities are engines of economic growth and thus, daily commute has increased over the years and Bengaluru has bagged the designation of the "most congested city in the world" by the recent TomTom report, 2020. Given this background, the paper used a monocentric model to understand issues like commute time to work of residents in Bengaluru and what are the determinants of such commuting time. It also tries to understand the relation of such commute time with the labour market.

Parallel Session 2: Women in Work- Workplace & Time Use Issues**Date & Time: 24/08/2020 11 AM- 12 PM****Session Chair: Madhura Swaminathan****Speakers: Sheela Yadav, Nidhi Sharma, Varsha Gupta, Vijayamba R, Nilam Kaushik, Kevin Boudreau**

Four papers were presented in this session.

The first paper shed light on the absence of recognition for women's domestic work in GDP accounting due to the definition and methodological frameworks that don't recognise women's work. The research looked at the time-use of women's labour in market and non-market activities. The paper advocates a revision in the definitions of such components in order to give recognition to unpaid household work by women in national accounting.

The second paper talked about women's participation in labour market, which has been consistently low in India. However, research shows that the addition of women in labour force can increase GDP by 27%. Moreover, it strengthens women's agency and ensures inter-generational benefits.

The third paper discussed the topic of ownership and income of women through livestock-raising in a village of Karnataka. The motivation behind this research is to study the sporadic and scattered nature of women's work in livestock rearing, which is a primary source of livelihood for rural households. Women's labour is often left out of government estimates because of survey bias and definitional gaps. The paper concluded that female ownership of livestock and the receipt of money from sale of yield are class-differentiated.

The fourth paper highlighted the existing gender gap in technological companies in the USA. Despite the economic and media attention that the tech industry receives, the fact remains that in the United States, the participation of women in these organisations is numbingly low. It gets further worse as one moves up the organisational hierarchy and assesses leadership positions. The paper also looked at whether the notorious competitive nature of tech companies could possibly explain the staggering gender gap in these organisations of the United States.

Parallel Session 2: Gender Budgetting & Women's Relative Resource**Date & Time: 24/08/2020 2 PM- 3.30 PM****Session Chair: Jyotsna Jha****Speakers, Karan Babbar, Deepika Saluja, Vanita Singh, Trisha Chandra**

The session had three presentations.

The first paper looked at how socio-demographic patterns impact the use of sanitary items and ovulatory cycle knowledge among women aged 15-24 years based on the findings on NFHS-4, India. Around 20% women in India don't attend school or dropped out because of menstruation, and the taboos and myths attached with it. The National Education Policy itself does not make any mention of menstruation, which confirms the presence of such myths. The study also spoke of the implications of such lack of knowledge, such as high rates of adolescent pregnancies.

The second paper looked at the relationship between gender budgetting policies followed by different states of India and their respective gender equality indicators. Public spending is crucial for overall welfare of a society but the outcomes of such public spending are not always favourable to women. So it is extremely important to ensure that public spending is targeted to ensure it is gender-neutral.

The third paper is a research in progress. It looks at the relationship between a wife's relative resources, empowerment and physical abuse in the Indian context. The authors are mainly concerned with moderating the role of the husband's perceived controlling behaviour, which is referred to as patriarchal in the study. The motivation behind the study is to understand the persistence of physical abuse even when women are largely educated and employed today. The persistence of such violence is majorly explained by the resource theory that looks at relative and absolute resource of the wife.

Parallel Session 1: Track Session- Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival**Date & Time: 25/08/2020 9.15 AM- 10.30 AM****Session Chair: Vinod Vyasulu****Speakers: Jyotsna Jha, Achala Yaraseeme, Apurva K.H, Archana Purohit**

The authors in this session were motivated by the excessive focus on fiscal space, especially in the domain of public spending. That was the trigger to undertake this study, and the Government of Karnataka agreed to partner and fund this research. Even though the research began in the pre-covid era, it has immense relevance during covid times wherein one of the primary focus has been to stimulate public spending. The research employs the multiplier effect, which is basically a method to evaluate the impact of public spending and the multiplied effect of such spending in various domains. The research finds its significance in the fact that social sector spending, especially in education and health, are usually long-term in nature. However, the focus to study the impact of such investments in isolation and the output generated at the sub-national level is pretty sparse.

Parallel Session 1: Displacement & Migration**Date & Time: 25/08/2020 11 AM- 12.45 PM****Session Chair: Navdeep Mathur****Speakers: Jacob Baby, Thangjam Aditya, Semsang Bomzon, Nandini Sen**

This was an intriguing session that undertook the burning topic of displacement mainly occurring as a result of rapid urbanisation. Three papers were presented in the panel with a distinct approach towards the topic of displacement and migration.

The first paper discussed the invisibility of men in resettlement processes, particularly focusing on the Sabarmati Riverfront Project, Ahmedabad. The methodology of the paper largely used narrative-oriented research and collected narratives of masculinity to assess how men are impacted during resettlement processes.

The second paper looked at disruptions caused by the construction of dams. It focussed specifically on an otherwise ignored subject, social violence and conflict between communities caused by such large infrastructure projects.

The third paper shed light on internal migration. It focuses on the decentralisation of health policies and its impact on migrant communities. It tries to identify citizens and their position within such influx.

Parallel Session 1: Poverty & Nutrition Traps**Date & Time: 25/08/2020 2 PM- 3.30 PM****Session Chair: Shabana Mitra****Speakers: Neha Saigal, Soumya Shrivastava, Meghadeepa Chakraborty**

The first paper in this session derived its inspiration from a research that the authors had carried out two years ago in Angul, Odisha. The research was done with tribal communities of Odisha to understand how they access services in relation to nutrition under the Department of Women Child Development in Odisha. They intended to find out the major bottlenecks that tribal communities face in accessing schemes like SNP. The findings indicated that in terms of access to public spaces, Scheduled Tribes are worse off, especially because of the social discrimination they face and their lack of awareness about different schemes which they can avail.

The second paper was based on a qualitative research on poverty and livelihood. The paper is a part of the author's PhD research, and addresses the question of asset interplay in rural households to understand its role regard to their livelihoods. Being heterogeneous in nature, how do households manage their assets and livelihoods through different vulnerabilities they encounter?

Parallel Session 2: Track Session- Identities & identification: A Development Dilemma

Date & Time: 25/08/2020 9.15 AM- 10.30 AM

Session Chair: Amit Prakash & Bidisha Chaudhuri

Speakers: Sakina Dhorajiwala, Rajendran Narayan, Niveditha Menon, Srijoni Sen

The panel presented a collection of papers to investigate identities, which are an integral part of our daily existence. It is crucial because it is socially embedded. Especially in the context of the pandemic, it is easier to counter multiple identities on a daily basis. The modern state has played a key role in shaping identities for system and bureaucratic purposes. One of the reasons for such an active role is the intent to deliver the required services to its rightful citizens. Given that identities is a complex phenomenon, it comes across a multitude of issues and negotiations, and as a result certain identities may get sidelined very often.

Moreover, in the current debate around digital identities, framing these identities and creating an ID system has focused on inclusion. With this excessive focus on inclusion, the authors feel that certain other issues, such as issues of representation and availability of agencies to shape these identities, get neglected. The panel tries to examine how to map complex social identities into a robust administrative identification.

Parallel Session 2: Track Session- People, Power & Democracies

Date & Time: 25/08/2020 11 AM- 12.45 PM

Session Chair: Arnab Mukherji

Speakers: Srinibas Barik, Anirban Mitra, Sarmistha Pal, Francesca R., Neeraj Prasad, Paveethra Suryanarayan

Three papers were presented during this session.

The first paper explores how democracies decay in India. It showcases a modest attempt to assess the extent to which democracy has shown signs of decay in India, in particular. The paper started by showing the current prevalence of democracy in different parts of the country spanning three centuries – 1816 to 2015. Democracy has emerged the most popular form of governance, being followed in more than half of the governments in the world in 167 countries through a time frame of 1946-2017, according to a report by Pew Research Center. This has encouraged many theories of democracy to consider the issue for serious speculation. Some of them observed an erosion of democracy in different parts of the world. Thus, the levels of support for democracy remain reasonably high but the trajectory of opinion is troubling and could portend a grim future of democratic deconsolidation across the world. The paper examines this erosion by looking at the intensity of riots across different domains in India, and their shocking and tragic consequences that threaten democracy on a constant basis.

The second paper examines the impact of electoral volatility on democratic accountability. There are mainly two diametric viewpoints; one considers that electoral volatility impairs democratic practice while the other advocates it to be a symbol of a vibrant democracy. The paper, however, used a different approach. Instead of adjudicating on degrees of electoral volatility, it adjudicates on components of electoral volatility. Such components of electoral volatility could be changes in votes, i.e., when citizens switch their vote choices and do not repeat it between two successive elections. Another such component could be party switching -- a party that does not repeat its candidates or a candidate switching parties between two consecutive elections. Another possible component could be floor-crossing that happens after elections but so far, it has been somewhat controlled due to anti-defection laws. The paper confirms that the cross-cuttingness of direct (vote changing) and mediated effects (party switching) boosts electoral volatility.

The third paper discusses the issue of democracy in a diverse context in Indonesian communities. However, the issues discussed are fairly universal and relevant to middle income countries. The paper looks at the impact of diversity in public goods distribution system. The consensus is that wider the diversity, the greater will be the gap in such distribution systems. The paper examines the possible ways to counter this issue. It proposes that decentralisation may mitigate this issue. But that is not a simple solution, considering the possibility of local elites taking over the system. The paper concludes by highlighting the importance of local institutions (such as civil organisations) to capitalise on such decentralisation in order to mitigate the adverse effects of such ethnic diversity.

Parallel Session 2: Social Policy & Public Institutions**Date & Time: 25/08/2020 2 PM- 3.30 PM****Session Chair: G Ramesh****Speakers: Tewele Haile, Johnson Clement Madathil, NIT, Calicut, Ashitha T & Velmurugan P.S., Nupur Nirola, Sohini Sahu**

Three interesting papers were presented under this session.

The first paper shed light on fiscal decentralisation, the disparities that exist across regions, and the role of corruption. It tries to analyse the trends of regional income gaps across states in India, and how policy channel through fiscal decentralisation acts as an important mediator in explaining such a gap. It also looks at the role of corruption in defining this relationship. The research used data collected during the time period of 2000-2013.

The second paper approached assessing the role of corruption in oil-abundant states and its subsequent impact on democracy. A common phenomenon observed across all oil-abundant states has been the negative association between economic growth and resource wealth. This negative association is mainly an outcome of corruption. However, it would be wrong to generalise this observation for all oil-abundant countries.

The third paper is a part of the author's PhD thesis. It looked at social vulnerability in households of Ethiopia. Social protection policies mainly started in the wake of World War II and have been accepted as a universal declaration of human rights. Despite such high recognition given to social protection, many households still lack access to basic public services.

Parallel Session 1: Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Sector**Date & Time: 26/08/2020 9.15 AM- 10.30 AM****Session Chair: Trilochan Sastry****Speakers: Priyambda Tripathi, Bipin JoJo, Manu Bansal, Rahul Singh, T.R Sreenivas**

Three papers were presented in this session.

The first paper is a part of the author's PhD thesis and contextualises the findings on the linkages of Farmer Producer Companies (FPC), a neoliberal ideology, with the market from a diverse perspective of different stakeholders in Haryana. The findings of the paper highlighted the issues which are prevalent in the development of identities which often leads to exclusion and discrimination.

The second paper discussed the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Indian agricultural exports from 2004-2014, which was 2% according to a USDA report. The authors try to look at the factors impacting agricultural exports in India, studying Geographical Indicators (GI) for this purpose. In a nutshell, it tries to identify the causal impact of GI into agricultural exports.

The third paper attempts to evaluate the disruption of public policy. It talks about the dominating role of social groups on agricultural markets, and the power centres that operate in a complex fashion.

Parallel Session 1: Education & Household Accounting**Date & Time: 26/08/2020 11 AM- 12.45 PM****Session Chair: Soham Sahoo****Speakers: Keshab Das, Hastimal Sagara, Ramanjini, Karnam Gayathri, Akash Malhotra**

The session had three presentations.

The first paper looked at engineering education in India. Globalisation has boosted the demand for Indian engineering graduates not only in India but globally. India has richly benefitted out of this technical manpower. As a result, the number of engineering colleges in India has drastically increased over the years. However, recent times have seen a saturation of engineering graduates owing to the rising number of private institutions that started to hand out engineering degrees. As a result, the demand for and supply of engineering graduates has been negatively impacted.

The second paper uses the National Sample Survey Data to understand who benefits from higher education expenditure in India. Indian education is in the stage of massification, considering the increasing number of enrolments, but it is not equally distributed across income and social groups and this inevitably leads to inequalities in those domains and beyond.

The third paper could be seen as a pioneering attempt to talk about the importance of sectoral balance sheet and compiling it into Household Balance Sheet (HBS). It used RBI's flow accounts which, however, do not provide any stock account of HBS.

Parallel Session 2: Financial Inclusion: Gaps & Solutions**Date & Time: 26/08/2020 9.15 AM- 10.30 AM****Session Chair: M Jayadev****Speakers: Nishi Malhotra, Mini P. Thomas, Radhika Gupta**

Two papers were presented in this session.

The first paper discussed the PMJDY- one of the biggest schemes to accomplish financial inclusion by India in 2014. India attained about 316 million account holders by 2016, ensuring 100% account ownership by all its citizens, and an accumulated Rs. 81,203 crores of cash deposits was reported under this period. However, one of the major discrepancies was realized as the initial motive to accomplish financial inclusion through technology was somewhat compromised. The major lag lay in the fact that in India, only about 34.45% of the population has access to Internet. The paper basically does a comparative analysis between financial inclusion through technology and other channels to find out the various factors that impact account ownership by using a cross-sectional data reported by the World Bank through their Gallop Survey. The papers aimed to carry out a time series study of PMJDY.

The second paper analyses the progress made by Urban Cooperative Banks located in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts in financial inclusion by examining the various supply side indicators. Financial inclusion is globally recognised as a key indicator of economic growth. It's assumed to be a policy priority for governments across the world. The United Nations identified it as a major player in achieving seven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In India, Financial Inclusion has been firmly placed as a policy imperative by regulators and policymakers. But despite their concerted effort, around 20% of the population does not have a bank account and almost half the bank accounts in the country remain inactive. Urban Cooperative Banks being located in the urban local community play a crucial role in boosting the outreach of banking services in urban and semi-urban areas. The paper explored the role of these Urban Cooperative Banks in Ranga Reddy district and Hyderabad of Telangana.

Appendix I

Abstracts of the papers presented

Parallel Session 1

24th August 2020

11.00 to 12.45 Track Session: Continuing Education During Crisis & Beyond

Session Chair: Niveditha Menon CBPS

Covid-19 has come as a shock to many sectors, especially education. While economic activities have started in many parts of the country, educational institutions still remain closed and most states are grappling with the challenge of continuing education at all stages and the policy or strategy choices for the same. While states are grappling with the dilemma of whether to open schools and colleges, and what measures to follow if it is decided to open them, online education is being pushed as a major alternative for delivering education at all levels of schooling. But is online education really a solution? A perusal of literature and available information – both old and new – clearly tells us that online education is not a solution, whether one takes the issue of access or the pedagogy at respective levels. Access to technology to be used as a medium of learning is not only an issue of ownership of smart phone and internet connectivity, which itself is limited, but also linked to structural barriers associated with caste, class, gender and location. In addition, the issues of transactional distance and absence of means to enable an appropriate environment for co-creation of knowledge makes it unsuitable as an alternative to face-to-face education.

In order to understand these issues better and to have a discussion around what could be the solution at various stages of education, this panel is proposed. The panel brings together both senior and young scholars who have engaged with this issue in different capacities.

Parallel Session 1

24th August 2020

14.00 to 1530

Urbanisation: Issues & Solutions

Session Chair Venkatesh Panchapagesan

Tackling Congestion in Bengaluru: Problems and Policies

Authors: Alisha Mendonsa & Sridhar Pabbisetty

The problems associated with urban transport in Indian cities have acquired increasing attention in recent years. The city of Bengaluru, in particular, has acquired the dubious honour of being the world's most congested city, according to the TomTom Traffic Index. While a lot of research on road congestion has been done worldwide, none have specifically analysed the case of Bengaluru. On the other hand, research that has focused on urban transportation in Bengaluru, in turn, have not had congestion as their focus, but have looked at associated questions of transport governance, land use and environmental issues. This paper looks at the issue of congestion in Bengaluru, the main contributory factors and policy responses to the issue. The authors look at demand and supply methods to counter road congestion and the intersection of these methods with public transportation. They draw on previous congestion literature and learning from other cities, combining it with Bengaluru's transportation data from government sources and inputs from city experts. The paper also explores how most policy focus has been on expansion of road supply and argues for the necessity of transport demand management strategies to control congestion. It traces the status of implementation of such measures in Bengaluru and the conditions for the success of such strategies.

Stuck in Traffic? Determinants of Intra Urban Mobility in an Indian City

Kala Seetharam Sridhar and Shivakumar Nayka

The commute time to work decides a city's effective labour market. In an attempt to understand the effective labour market of an Indian city, characterized by traffic gridlocks, this paper examines the commute time and estimates factors determining the same. The study is based on primary surveys of commuters travelling to work, given the absence of secondary data on commute time to work. On average, it is found that the journey to work takes 42 minutes for a one-way work trip in Bengaluru, showing an insignificant decline in its effective labour market since 2000 when its one-way travel time to work was 40 minutes. Our regressions show that workers in transport, communications and government have longer durations of commute to work; commute distance positively impacts travel time, as we expect. It is found that nearly 42% commute longer than the travel time predicted from the estimated model. The policy implications of the work are summarized.

Parallel Session 1

25th August 2020

0915 to 1030 Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival

Session Chair: Vinod Vyasulu CBPS

The current pandemic afflicting the world and Indian economy in particular has caused havoc and destabilised the macro-economic situation in India. A number of economists are advising going in for enhanced public spending through a range of measures including income and wage subsidy as well as the enlargement of employment opportunities such as MGNREGA to ensure wage and food security. Keynesian economics is being invoked much more than in the recent past, to argue for using public investment to push the aggregate demand as a measure for reviving the economy. The relevance of legal provisions such as fiscal responsibility acts that go against the expansionary policies is being questioned in the present context.

Against that backdrop, this panel would include three presentations, emanating out of an ongoing CBPS research on estimating multiplier effects of social sector expenditure in Karnataka, and going into both the results as well as methodological issues related to such explorations.



Parallel Session 1
25th August 2020
11.00 to 12.45
Displacement & Migration
Session Chair Navdeep Mathur

The Invisible Man: Examining the invisibility of men in resettlement policies: A case of men displaced and resettled under the Sabarmati Riverfront Project in Ahmedabad

Jacob Baby

Displacement and resettlement due to urban development projects have played a pivotal role in the geographical restructuring of several cities in India. The displacement, resettlement and rehabilitation processes are often chaotic and displaced people go through immense struggle to be ultimately relocated in the fringes of the city.

Looking at displacement and resettlement processes through a gender perspective sheds light on the many unintended impacts it could have on the displaced population. However, these impacts are unexplored in the case of men; consequently, men are rarely visible in the discourses related to gender and development. This paper explores men's experiences due to displacement and examines the many reasons for the invisibility of men in resettlement policies. The case being examined here is the displacement and resettlement that have occurred as part of the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project in Ahmedabad. Discussions in this paper are centered around the displaced men's narratives and also examining the various resettlement policies and guidelines of various agencies or institutions from a gender perspective. The paper concludes with a discussion on two fronts. One, locating gender in displacement and resettlement processes and two, the importance of making men and their narratives visible in gender policies that could act as a transformative agent in achieving inclusivity and greater gender equality.

Examining Disruptions of Social Systems due to Large Dam Projects in the North East

Thangjam Aditya & Semsang Dolma Bomzon

The social disruption of tribal communities due to large dam projects in north-eastern India has been majorly overlooked in policy and empirical research. Also, changes in the standards of living of displaced tribal communities in large dam sites are unclear. The paper tries to disaggregate the social disruption effects of large dam construction along the lines of gender, religious identity and ethnic conflicts, and questions the economics of resettlement. The study examines claimed effects (and benefits) of large dams on tribal communities made in non-empirical papers and government documents using available real-world examples from the North East. This cross-examination is expected to aid in empirical studies on tribal displacement caused by large dams.

Faceless Millions of India: an Overview of Internal Migration

Dr. Nandini Sen

The phenomenon of migration is as old as human history. Every year, millions of men, women and children all over the world leave their homes to escape poverty, conflict and disease, and in search of a brighter future and better opportunities.

India has both international and internal migration. International migration covers only 1% but is governed by international covenants. On the other hand, there is no migration policy to govern the balance 99% of internal migration.

This paper focuses only on internal migration in India, elaborating its dimensions, patterns and characteristics.

There are four migration streams: Rural to Rural migration primarily for agriculture; Rural to Urban migration primarily for non-agricultural employment; Urban to Rural migration

primarily for social reasons and Urban to Urban migration for better opportunities.

Inter-state migration, which has taken centre stage after the advent of Covid -19, covers only 12%.

Analysis shows migration has two aspects: Economic and Social. Education has also emerged as a major cause. Migration appears to have a female face, and therefore migration policy should have a family approach.

Poverty, lack of opportunity, social isolation, family breakup and environmental degradation catalyzed by contacts in urban areas leads to Vulnerable Migration. Although income is assured, there is a total absence of social protection.

Vulnerable migration takes two forms: Cyclical and Seasonal. For seasonal migrants, remittance improves living standard at home and helps education. For cyclical migrants, the urge for projecting positive self image promotes improvement in skill and attitude. It impacts on consumption pattern. In order to match income for urban living and to ensure a brighter life for children, new family patterns are emerging, drawing members from within own relatives as well as from outside but within own area.

The paper suggests four important national directives:

1. Ensure identification of each citizen, wherever he or she is staying.
2. Organize appropriate education and skill training.
3. Decentralize the health sector to bring it under the control of districts.
4. Create a migration policy that incorporates family as the unit for migration.

Parallel Session 1

25th August 2020

14.00 to 15.30

Poverty & Nutrition Traps

Session Chair: Shabana Mitra

Tribals & Malnutrition: Strategies to Improve Nutrition Equity in Odisha

Neha Saigal & Saumya Srivastava

Progress on achieving the World Health Assembly 2025 nutrition targets has been slow and unjust with inequities within countries and population, with the vulnerable sections being most impacted. India's progress on nutrition has been stalled by persisting nutritional inequities among different social groups, with Scheduled Tribes remaining most nutritionally deprived. In this paper, nutrition has been examined with an equity lens, specifically looking at Scheduled Tribes in Odisha and the challenges they face in accessing the government's key nutrition programmes – Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) and Mamata. The paper has analysed Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) as a potential strategy to bridge the nutrition gap between the STs and other groups, through need-based targeted interventions for STs.

This study has shown that Odisha faces challenges in delivering nutrition services to the STs, which have been further exacerbated by their geographical remoteness, lack of awareness on nutrition schemes' details and discrimination based on skewed power dynamics. While the allocations under TSP from the overall State Budget of Odisha have been as per norms, their utilisation has remained a challenge, with levels of actual expenditure being much below the allocated funds. The proportion of TSP allocations have been varying across years and do not seem to be backed by any specific guideline or data within the Department of Women and Child Development's schemes. Moreover, the TSP outlays and their utilisation from DWCD's schemes have not kept pace with the overall schemes' allocations and expenditure levels across years. Further scrutiny of quality of fund utilisation, which areas and on whom have TSP funds been spent, has been restricted by lack of disaggregated data.

Tribal Sub Plan, if implemented well, could be leveraged to improve nutrition among tribal communities. However, absence of accessible and consolidated data on ST beneficiaries within the DWCD has made it challenging to assess whether the TSP earmarking and utilisation is based on the needs of the ST communities or ritualistic. Effective planning and monitoring, backed by ST-specific database, for implementing a meaningful TSP can ensure that these funds are utilised to improve nutrition of the ST women and children.

Rural Household and Livelihood Security: Significance of Asset Interplay

Meghadeepa Chakraborty

The study begins with the broad research question 'How do rural households manage their livelihood assets?' in the context of livelihood vulnerabilities experienced through risks, stress and shocks due to internal and external factors at the household level. The aim of the study is to explore strategies in relation to asset interplay and understand factors that influence asset management at the household level. Nevertheless, to have a context-specific policy, there is a need to understand people's action around their assets and the outcome of the action (Niehof and Price, 2001). This research followed qualitative methodology, which is appropriate for the area of study. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were carried out for data collection. The study inferred that the studied households lack sufficient assets that can develop strong basis to protect them from vulnerable situations. The productive assets which are supposed to work as a shield and influence the capacities of the individual, household and community as a whole during crisis exhibit deficiencies in one or the other way. The study also found that one particular asset is not responsible for enhancing livelihood. Rather, it is the combination of assets that function positively or negatively and lead to livelihood outcome. The study findings show that households do not always adopt the right strategy to deal with a particular situation. So, it is important to enhance and facilitate the positive strategies that households follow and provide them with all manner of support they require. In addition, it becomes important to check and protect households from taking strategies that have negative implications in the long run and disturb the existing asset base which they may find difficult to regain in future. There should be pro-poor policies that protect people's potential assets and better provisions to minimize the tendency to dispose important assets at the first opportunity.



Parallel Session 1

26th August 2020

0915 to 1030

Changing Dynamics of Agrarian Society

Session Chair: Trilochan Sastry

Identity and Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana

Priyambda Tripathi

The rising rural distress in India shows the deep-rooted socio-economic relations based on ethnicity and land ownership. Agriculture development as envisaged by policy makers was mooted in modernization, reflected in legislations like land reforms and efforts towards modernization of agriculture through green revolution in certain pockets of India (Jodhka, no year). Green revolution resulted in commercialization of agriculture through external technology, capital and undermined indigenous knowledge. It is important to note that the beneficiaries of development were the dominant caste groups (Jodhka, 2014). The rise in farmer suicides across India post reform period signaled the agrarian crisis due to debts caused by high cost of production and falling commodity prices (Shiva & Jalees, no year). As per Niti Aayog, five issues plague rural development, which include low agricultural productivity, lack of remunerative prices for farmers, focus on land leasing and land titles, risk adaptation and mitigation, and a geographical focus on the eastern region. In order to facilitate remunerative prices, the government pushed the idea of formation of farmer producer companies through flagship schemes like Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters and Integrated Development of 60,000 pulses villages. The scope of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas, National Food Security Mission and Mission for Integrated horticulture development was expanded to cover formation of Farmer Producer Companies/organizations.

The model of FPC is more than a decade old in India and has been researched in terms of its role in integration to markets. However, there are hardly any studies which explore the perspective of farmers in terms of interests, issues of power and the level of exclusion of farmers with respect to marketing of produce through farmer producer companies. In doing so, it aims to bring out the interface between different stakeholders of the FPC. The objective of the article is to explore the dialectics of identity and development through mapping experiences of farmers with Farmer Producer Company in Haryana. The article contains the findings of data collection in the four districts of Mewat, Hisar, Karnal and Gurgaon as part of the author's PhD research.

Blessing of Geography: Impact of Geographical Indications on Agricultural Exports in India

Manu Bansal and Rahul Singh

Geographical Indications (GI) have been actively promoted as a tool for rural and regional development by governments in developing countries. This emphasis on GIs is primarily due to their presumed effect on agricultural exports. Despite their widespread use, there is little understanding regarding the causal link between GIs and agricultural exports, and the mechanisms linking them. GIs are indicative of product quality attributable to the local environment. They protect consumers from duplicates and counterfeits, standardize the production process, and may result in better marketing of the product in foreign markets.

As part of this research, a novel dataset on state-product-year level exports has been combined with data on registered GIs in India from 2004-2016. The identification strategy relies on exploiting the inter-state product variation in GI registration over time on a sub-sample of state-products which receive GIs. A positive and significant impact of GIs on agricultural exports has been found. Further, a shift in cropping pattern in favour of the GI tagged agricultural products has been observed. Also, a positive impact of GIs on the GDP of the districts has been seen. The results are robust to the inclusion of a rich set of state-product, product-year and state-year fixed effects and several placebo tests.

Evaluating a Disruptive Public Policy A case of mixed outcomes

T.R. Sreenivas

The context of this study is the agricultural marketing reforms which were initiated in the state of Karnataka in 2013. The policy consists of many components that are disruptive in nature, and as a consequence attracted opposition from different stakeholders.

In the present study, the authors have attempted an impact analysis of the implemented disruptive public policy components using the Structure-Conduct-Performance (SCP) framework. The study analysed entry-exit patterns, measures of competitiveness and trading behaviour of market participants. Regressions of two strategy measures, the number of bids attracted by a lot and the price of a lot (the highest bid value) on the market power measures and other explanatory variables were carried out. Agents and traders present in all the years are considered as distinct groups, Key-Agents and Key-Traders.

The outcomes have been both positive and negative. No specific entry-exit barriers have been noticed, although post-reforms, the number of traders and commission agents have reduced. The market participants responded strategically to the constraining factors of the policy. The policy managers have to devise counter-strategies to steer the policy.

Parallel Session 1

26th August 2020

14.00 to 15.30

Education & Household Accounting

Session Chair: Soham Sahoo

Crisis in Technical Education in India:

Evolving Contours of the Computer and Information Sciences Discipline

Dr. Keshab Das, and Dr. Hastimal Sagara

Even during the early years of independence, the Government of India realized the potential for the country to grow as a global technology leader. Therefore, world-class engineering institutes including Indian Institutes of Technology and regional engineering colleges were set up by the Government of India across the country. Numerous developmental projects were successfully carried out in India by the engineering graduates of these institutions. However, expansion of engineering education in India had been both slow and skewed, and has not matched its demand. Notably, the contribution of the private sector was almost non-existent.

The mushrooming of engineering institutions apparently in the private sector has led to a massive increase in enrolment of students in engineering courses all over India during the post-liberalization period. Due to the dotcom bubble, a surge in demand for computer science professionals and software engineers was witnessed during the late 1990s. Numerous institutions offering courses in computer science, electronics, and communication and information technology had been set up all over India, particularly in the southern states. But the boom in engineering education lasted only till the end of the first decade of the present century, since this expansion could barely maintain global standards. The employability of engineering graduates has only slipped downwards. There has been a decline in the enrolment of students in technical education in India year after year. Its golden period is already behind us and engineering courses/institutes are forced to apply for progressive closure. Digital disruptions like big data and analytics, robotics and Internet of Things have only added to the problems of the already ailing engineering education in the country.

This paper attempts to map the changes in the engineering education, particularly in the field of computer science and information technology in India during the last decade. It tries to compile suggestions for institutions and policy recommendations for the government. Arguments and conclusions are based on secondary data sourced largely from the All India Council for Technical Education.

Who Benefits From Public Higher Education Expenditure? Evidence From Recent Household Survey Of India

Ramanjini and Karnam Gayithri

The paper unveils the pattern of incidence of higher education expenditure across various income groups using household survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) of India. The analysis-based findings suggest that the estimated benefits extensively extend to the richest income groups than the poorest income classes. Addition of every other source of disparity to income inequality such as gender and location forces the group to face multiple layers of inequality in terms of availing benefits from public education. Comparison of benefit incidence across various levels of education calls for greater attention to promoting well-targeted higher education subsidies. Findings on account of 'marginal incidence analysis' suggest that the expansion of public higher education has begun to percolate the benefits, even if rather slowly, to the poor and hence, even a minute effort towards curtailing its expansion would lead to humongous loss for the poor.

Indian Household Balance Sheet: Accounting Issues and Wealth Estimation

Akash Malhotra

This paper presents a novel estimate of Indian household balance sheet (HBS) starting from 1970-71 to 2017-18 and studies the evolution of Indian household finance in an international context. The relatively low share of directly held equities is attributed to Indian households' general preference for liquid assets (currency and deposits) and the unique benefits associated with alternative savings instruments. The findings imply that India is presently facing a Five Balance Sheet challenge -- critical HBS leverage ratios have continued to climb even during the global economic recovery period post-2010. The author recommends close monitoring and higher frequency publication of HBS.

Parallel Session II: 24th Aug 2020

11:00 to 12.45

Women in Work: Workplace & Time-Use Issues

Session Chair: Madhura Swaminathan

Valuation of Unpaid Household Work of Rural Women: A Case Study of Ghazipur District of Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Sheela Yadav, Dr. Nidhi Sharma

Domestic work performed by women significantly contributes to a large share of the economy. However, their work is often not recognized due to the inadequate definition of 'economic activity', used in the national income accounting. A major section of the invisible work performed by rural women remains unidentified, undefined and unpaid. Since the definition of economics is bound by the market framework, much of the non-market work performed by women remain invisible and has consequently led to the market devaluation of women's work. Present primary data based on a study on Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh analyses the valuation of paid and unpaid household activities of rural women by the Market Replacement Cost method. It is found that the total average time spent on unpaid Systems of National Accounts (SNA) and Extended SNA activities by non-working women is almost double the time spent by working women. The daily and monthly wages for unpaid household activities for non-working women is about 28.34% higher than working women under the market replacement generalist approach. In the current study, a specialist approach is found to be better and more realistic than the general approach.

Women's Participation in the Indian Labour Market: Evidence from EUS & PLFS Data

Varsha Gupta

This paper attempts to explore the recent trends in the Indian labour market, from a gender perspective, using the National Sample Survey data for the period 2005 to 2018. The employment elasticity of output has turned negative at -0.045 between 2012 and 2018. This has affected female employment more than that of males. Education levels have gone up among females, but a corresponding rise in employment is not reflected. On the contrary, female Work Participation Rate (WPR) went down in 2018. Highlighting the declining female labour force participation levels, the underlying anatomy of female employment is drawn out in this paper using exploratory research methods. The temporal patterns during from 2005 to 2018 are traced between rural and urban areas, and an overview of current state of female employment in India is provided.

The consistent decline across the country in all states and union territories is reflected in the results. There has been a slight rise in urban areas in certain states. Another positive development is the rise in regular salaried employment and reduction in self-employment during 2012-2018. The fall in self-employment is owing to the falling share of unpaid family workers. There is an observed industrial segregation among female workers, with higher concentration in agriculture and services. The share of female workers in the non-manufacturing sector has increased since 2005. Education has remained the major employer for women, their share in this industry increasing by 5.5 percentage points since 2005.

Ownership, Time Use and Income of Women in Livestock Raising in a Village in Karnataka

Vijayamba R

Women's work in livestock rearing is scattered, sporadic and spread out throughout the day since it usually competes with household work. Women workers in livestock and their work are underestimated by the labour force participation surveys. The ownership of animals is crucial to rural women, yet there is no information on sex-disaggregated ownership and the income earned by women rearing animals. The ownership patterns of livestock disaggregated by sex are analysed for Siresandra, a village in Kolar district of Karnataka, in this paper. The labour deployment of women in livestock rearing using time-use data is discussed. Further, the cash flow of the income generated by rural households by selling milk in the study village is analysed.

A time-use survey was carried out in Siresandra, Karnataka, in collaboration with the Foundation of Agrarian Studies (FAS) in 2017-18. The data was collected using 24-hour labour diaries over different seasons for a sample consisting of women belonging to different socio-economic class, caste and age groups. Another individual survey was carried out to collect the ownership and income data in February 2020 in the same village using a structured questionnaire.

The results of the study pointed out that cows were owned by women over other categories of livestock. Ownership and income from animal farming were characterised by the socio-economic class. Female ownership of livestock and cash flow from the sale of milk was predominant among Scheduled Caste households, and small and marginal peasant households. Around two to ten hours a day was the range of time spent by women in livestock, indicating the monotonous nature of the work. Rearing animals added to the reproductive burden of the women in the village, particularly for those belonging to the Other Backward Class (Vokkaliga). Hired labour/technology was not used to ease the burden.

The Gender Gap in Tech & Competitive Work Environments? Field Experimental Evidence from an Internet-of-Things Product Development Platform

Kevin Boudreau & Nilam Kaushik

Many technology companies struggle to fill all positions and achieve gender parity in their ranks. One explanation for gender disparities is the possibility that men and women differ in their willingness to work under competitive organizational environments of tech firms. To investigate this question, this paper reports on a large platform-based field experiment in which 97,696 U.S. university- educated individuals were given the opportunity to join a tech-related product development activity. Individuals were randomly assigned to treatments emphasising either competitive or collaborative interactions with other participants.

Some significant findings of the paper are as follows:

1. In non-STEM fields, the competition treatment leads to a 27% drop in participation among females in comparison to males. The responses of men are consistent with exhibiting overconfidence in their likelihood of succeeding under competition.
2. In STEM fields, men and women's responses to competition were statistically indistinguishable.
3. While participation is highest in STEM fields, the ratio of female to male participation in a field is better predicted by whether the field is male or female-dominated, than it is by whether it is a STEM field or not. The authors discuss theoretical interpretations and implications for organisation.



Parallel Session II: 24th August 2020
14.00 to 1530
Gender Budgeting and Women's Relative Resources
Session Chair: Jyotsna Jha

How Socio Demographics Impact Sanitary Items Usage and Ovulatory Cycle Knowledge Among Women Aged 15-24: Findings From NFHS-4, India

Karan Babbar & Deepika Saluja

In India, experiences of adolescent girls during their first menstrual cycle (or periods) are often crowded with incomplete information on menstruation, and a plethora of taboos and myths. As a consequence of these myths and misconceptions, women and girls are also known to face discrimination, abuse, and neglect during their periods (Sommer et al., 2016). Such discriminatory practices and perpetuating myths are cited as potential reasons in the literature, for girls missing school and eventually dropping out after their first periods (Garg & Anand, 2015; House, Mahon & Cavill, 2012; Sommer et al., 2016). According to NFHS-4 data, 26.8% of women in India have been married before 18 years, and 7.8% of those in the 15-19 years age group have already become a mother or are pregnant. One-third of the new births in India are born out of adolescent pregnancies. Considering these issues, this study examines the impact of various socio-economic factors: (i) the usage of sanitary items by menstruating women during their periods, and (ii) their knowledge of the ovulatory cycle. The study used the most recent Demographic and Health Survey, popularly known as the National Family Health Survey Round 4 (NFHS-4), conducted in 2015-16, with a sample of 2,47,833 women in the age group of 15 to 24 years. Binary logistics regression was performed separately for both research questions, i.e., the impact of various socio-economic characteristics on the usage of sanitary items, and women's knowledge of the ovulatory cycle. The study found that:

- (a) Women or their partners with education up to high school are more likely to use hygienic sanitary items, and
- (b) Married women or women with access to television are more likely to know about ovulatory cycles.

The ground realities of menstrual health in India are reflected in this study, urging the policymakers to include comprehensive adolescent education programmes in school education for boys and girls and community-based programmes to engage the community members in bursting myths around menstruation.

The Impact of Gender Budgeting on Gender Equity in India

Trisha Chandra

This study is aimed at assessing the impact of 15 indicators of gender equity, including SDG composite score and SDG 5, in India for 28 states across the country. The summary statistics have been compared for states that practice gender-budgeting and those that do not. The averages are higher for states that practice gender-budgeting only for the following variables: SDG 5 score, seats won by women in general elections of state legislative assembly, gender-wise operational land holding, proportion of schools with separate sanitation facilities for female students. The impact of gender-budgeting, per capita gross state domestic product, per capita revenue expenditure in social services and population have been studied on each of these indicators of gender equality, where a dummy variable has been used for gender-budgeting taking the value of 1 for states that practice gender-budgeting and 0 otherwise. The only variable affected by gender-budgeting was the proportion of households using clean cooking fuel. The indicators for gender equity were found to be more significantly affected by a gross state GDP and revenue expenditure in social services per capita, more than the efforts of gender-budgeting, since a rise in these expenditures has a positive impact on development, which in turn leads to better gender outcomes in the society. Greater expenditure in the social sector or other developmental efforts are possible under the influence of a higher state GDP and a higher revenue base. The efforts of gender-budgeting in India have not yet been able to yield the desired results. Attempts have been directed more towards gender-washing the budgets, rather than gender-sensitizing it. A more targeted and specific expenditure is required for the removal of gender inequities in the society.

It might also be the case that gender-budgeting was mostly taken up by states that already had disproportionately higher levels of gender inequalities. However, this aspect lies beyond the scope of this study.

Women's Relative Resources, Empowerment and Physical Abuse in Indian Context: Moderating Role of Husband's Patriarchal Attitude

Vanita Singh & Karan Babbar

Using the theoretical perspective of relative resource theory and patriarchy, this study develops and tests a moderated-mediation model examining the relationship between a wife's relative resources, her empowerment and physical abuse by spouse. Using data from National Family Health Survey - India (2015-16), the authors find that the wife's relatively higher resources increase her chances of physical abuse, in line with the relative resource theory. However, 'Relative resource theory' is partially supported as the chances of physical abuse are mediated by the level of women empowerment. The authors propose that a woman's access to resources makes her empowered to make strategic life choices and seek exit options, which has a direct implication on her chances of physical abuse. Further, the role of socio-cultural factors manifested in the controlling behaviour of a husband may explain the variations in physical abuse through its effect on women's empowerment. The effect of women's relatively higher income is more robust than higher education level in determining the possibility of domestic abuse. The findings of the study reiterated the decisive role of women's access to resources influencing women's empowerment and deterring their physical abuse. The mediating role of empowerment, as proposed by this study, helped understand the unexplored process by which women's access to resources could affect their chances of abuse. The moderating effect of the controlling behaviour of a husband on empowerment suggests that relationship between women's resources and her chances of abuse would vary depending on socio-cultural factors. This study suggests that policies focusing on women empowerment need to pivot on economic opportunities, not just education for women and reducing barriers for the same. Moreover, the study findings point to the significance of the socio-cultural context for designing and implementing effective policies.

Parallel Session II: 25th August 2020

0915 to 1030

Track Session: Identities and Identification: A Development Dilemma Session Chair: Amit Prakash & Bidisha Chaudhuri, CITAPP, IIIT Bangalore

According to the World Bank Group's 2018 #ID4D Global Dataset, about one billion people around the world are estimated to find it difficult in proving who they are (Desai, Diofasi and LU 2018). While legal identification for all has been listed as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, many developing countries had already adopted large-scale ID projects for public service delivery as part of their development policy (Gelb and Clarke 2013). The basis for this goal was that many people fall out of the social, economic and legal safety nets owing to their inability to prove their identity. Thus, identity proof becomes a crucial prerequisite for asserting other rights. These large ID projects have been inclined towards a more centralised, often digital ID systems, as opposed to fragmented ID systems that exist for specific functional requirements. These ID projects are often referred to as foundational identity systems. However, identity is a complex and contested issue. It is not simply about who one is but also about one's perception by others (including the state). Many of these issues are always the function of social conditions and environment. Hence, the task of containing a fragmented cultural and political system of multiple identities within rational-legal infrastructure requires careful thinking, as it will have serious implications for questions of access and justice. Given its complex nature, the problem statement around systems of identifications is far from being defined and agreed upon by different actors/communities. The panel identifies this as a critical development dilemma where, on the one hand, techno-legal identification is necessary for accessing basic rights and welfare and on the other, the very process of identification threatens to obfuscate certain identities by reducing them to a standardised template.

In this panel, the authors bring together three papers which demonstrate the implications, challenges of this development dilemma and at the same time propose certain technological possibilities as a way to address these challenges.

Parallel Session II: 25th August 2020

11.00 to 12.45

People, Power & Democracies

Session Chair: Arnab Mukherji

How Democracies Decay: India Through the Lens

Srinibas Barik

A growing sentiment of despondency with regard to the performance of democracy as a system is rife across the world. Democratic 'deficit' (Richard Corbett, David Marquand, Joseph Raz), democratic 'recession' (Larry Diamond), democratic 'retreat' (Edward Luce), democratic 'deconsolidation' (Roberto Stefan Foa and Yascha Mounk), democratic 'decline' (Marc F. Plattner), democratic 'slump' (Larry Diamond) and democracy's 'backsliding' (Nancy Bermeo) are some recent narratives in the abundant literature dealing with the emerging political predicament across democratic systems. "Democracies are grappling with an era of transformation: Identity is increasingly replacing economics as the major axis of world politics. Technological change has deepened social fragmentation and trust in institutions is falling," observes Francis Fukuyama. Larry Diamond shares a similar sentiment: "Why have freedom and democracy been regressing in many countries? The most important and pervasive answer is, in brief, bad governance." There can be no smoke without fire.

The largest democracy demographically is no exception, either. Increasing criminalisation of politics, an unwieldy judiciary reeling under a huge backlog of litigations (more than 3 crore cases pending in different courts) and shortage of judges, one of the worst bureaucracies in Asia conspicuous for its characteristic 'steel frame', unprecedented accusations of federalism and secularism being compromised are an endless list of alleged dysfunctions India has been haunted by for long. The intervening lockdown (during the early part of 2020) following the global pandemic COVID-19 perhaps proved to be the saving grace for the government, which was having a tough time in dealing with the country-wide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019/National Population Register/ National Register of Citizens. More disconcerting is the fact that the mood-swing among the millennials tends to be in favour of what appears to be the very antithesis of democracy. Roberto Stefan Foa and Yascha Mounk observed in a study, "Across numerous countries, including Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States, the percentage of people who say it is 'essential' to live in a democracy has plummeted, and it is especially low among younger generations." This should be more than a warning sign for the believers in democracy.

Democratisation under Diversity: Theory and Evidence from Indonesian Communities

Anirban Mitra and Sarmistha Pal

This paper focuses on the effect of ethnic diversity on local public spending, following fiscal decentralisation in a setting where local institutions condition cooperative behaviour across ethnic groups. The theory developed in the paper highlights the role of the local elite in lobbying for policies which favour them in a decentralised setting. The difference in terms of preferences over public good allocations along with the salience of coordination costs across ethnic groups are relevant in determining the equilibrium lobbying behaviour. This results in ethnic diversity having a detrimental effect on local developmental spending, which is aggravated by increased levels of coordination costs. These predictions are then tested using Indonesian community-level data. The 1997 and 2007 Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) rounds are utilised for the construction of various measures of ethnic diversity. Also, an institutional feature of Indonesian communities – namely, the observance of traditional "Adat" laws to proxy co-ordination costs across ethnic groups – is exploited for the analysis. Overall, it is found that ethnic diversity depresses local development spending post-decentralisation at the community level, particularly where Adat laws are not followed, which is consistent with the theory outlined in the paper.

Electoral Stability and Cross-Cutting Cleavages: Theory and Evidence from India

Francesca R. Jensenius, Neeraj Prasad and Pavithra Suryanarayan

What is the impact of electoral volatility on democratic accountability? There are two diametric viewpoints: one asserts that volatility impairs democratic practice, while the other argues that volatility is symptomatic of a vibrant democracy. These divergent views exist because on the one hand, high volatility makes it difficult for voters to reward/punish incumbents and identify ideological positions of candidates; on the other hand, low volatility manifests from rigid vote choices and low electoral competition. While the debate is not settled, a broad consensus appears to suggest that both, too little or too much of electoral volatility, is unhealthy. However, what constitutes the middle ground -- acceptable levels of volatility -- remains ambiguous, undefined, and unmeasured. This paper takes a different approach. Instead of arguing the merits or demerits on the basis of degrees of electoral volatility, it adjudicates between determinants of volatility. In doing so, it provides definitive answers to what constituents of electoral volatility improve and what damage democratic practice. It argues that volatility arising from changes in vote-choice enhances democracy; whereas that arising due to switching of party affiliations between successive elections impairs the democratic practice. Second, the paper argues that cross-cuttingness, which measures the extent to which social divisions reinforce class cleavages, boosts electoral volatility. It does so in two ways. First, by directly determining the sensitivity of vote-choice to economic performance, where high cross-cuttingness makes vote-choices less rigid and more dependent on perceived performance of incumbents. Second, indirectly through its implications on the strength of party-candidate linkages. When social and class cleavages cross-cut, party-candidate bonds are shallower and switching of partisan affiliation between successive elections is rampant. This boosts electoral volatility. Empirically, the paper relies on a newly developed dataset on constituency-level candidate re-running patterns. It covers elections held between 1987 and 2007 in over 4,000 state assembly constituencies in 24 Indian states. To estimate cross-cuttingness, the paper uses district-level data on occupation and consumption published in the National Sample Survey (NSS). Finally, the paper demonstrates that party-switching between successive elections accounts for about 20% of the electoral volatility observed in state elections in India.

Parallel Session II: 25th August 2020

14.00 to 1530

Social Policy & Public Institutions

Session Chair: G Ramesh

The Impact of Social Protection Intervention on Alleviating Social Vulnerability (Evidence from Ethiopian Rural Households)

Tewelde Gebresslase and S.P. Singh

Social protection intervention is a set of public interventions that jointly target the empowerment of vulnerable groups and generating sustainable livelihood for them. To bridge the existing knowledge gap on public intervention implementations, this study estimates the impact of social protection intervention (SPI) on eliminating social vulnerability. Following a multi-stage sampling, primary information was gathered through a self-administered questionnaire, FGD, and interviews from the target households located at four systematically selected districts. Unlike the previous literature, this study assumes social vulnerability as a function of livelihood capacity and access to rural livelihood assets, public intervention, and local public institutions are commonly assumed as social determinants. Factor analysis and Propensity Score Matching are applied to construct Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and measuring the counter-factual impact of selected intervention. As a multi-dimensional challenge, social vulnerability is found to be an important concept used to guide the science of policy evaluation. Accessibility of basic services of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Health and Education sectors, and Food Security Programme are commonly used as SPIs. Finally, this study discovers that households which had access to SPI scored 9.65% lower SVI than in the absence of the intervention. This study suggests the provision of integrated, proactive, productive and evidence-based SPIs is essential to do away with social vulnerability.

Crude oil price and Government effectiveness: The determinants of corruption in oil-abundant states

Johnson Clement Madathil, Ashitha T, Velmurugan P.S

There is ample literature on 'corruption in the oil sector' that acts as a guiding light to scholars and policymakers. However, only a limited number of studies were conducted to understand how specifically oil abundance creates corruption through the functioning of political institutions. Yet, they majorly focused on the presence of oil rather than the effect of oil prices on corruption. This research aims to fill the gap by investigating the impact of crude oil price and government effectiveness on control of corruption measures in oil-abundant countries. By using a panel dataset of 18 oil-producing countries from 2002 to 2017, and panel data regressions, the paper finds that crude oil price and government effectiveness can significantly decrease corruption in oil-producing countries. Besides, the findings show that crude oil prices with weaker governments can significantly increase corruption in oil-producing countries. The results imply that crude oil price with institutions that control private investments, public funds, and public employment can significantly determine corruption in the oil=abundant countries. Besides, the findings also substantiate rent-seeking and patronage behaviours in the governments of oil-abundant countries. The findings suggest that oil-abundant countries must move further from rent-seeking and patronage motives by promoting private investments in the non-oil sectors and creating independent public services to reduce corruption. Based on the results, the paper suggests that the reforms must be pressured from international communities and policymakers to reduce corruption in oil-abundant states.

Fiscal decentralization, regional disparity, and the role of corruption

Nupur Nirola

In this study, the authors examine how efforts taken by states to combat corruption act as a mediator in the relationship between fiscal decentralisation and regional income disparities. Fiscal decentralisation may reduce disparities by improving access to funding, but corruption could limit the ability to efficiently transfer fiscal resources. India is one of the most decentralised nations in the world and suffers from high regional disparities. Under this scenario, the authors estimate whether institutions, in the form of anti-corruption efforts by the states, interact with fiscal decentralisation in reducing divergence across states of India. The paper finds that fiscal decentralisation reduces the disparity across states, and the effect of fiscal decentralisation is stronger under efforts to control corruption by state-vigilance bodies. From the policy perspective, to harness the potential benefits of decentralisation to reduce regional income disparities, governments should focus on improving the quality of institutions through control over corruption at the sub-national level. Narrowing the gap between the richer and the more impoverished regions of India requires more effort by the state government in battling corruption. While the allocation of funds to the lower levels of government tend to account for backwardness in general, the performance of states in terms of efforts taken by the states in maintaining a strict rule of law through control on corruption should be taken into account to penalise the states having bad governance.

Parallel Session II: 26th August 2020

09.15 to 1030

Financial Inclusion: Gaps & Solutions

Session Chair: M Jayadev

PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana) & Various Factors Impacting the Implementation of this Scheme

Nishi Malhotra

According to the author, one of the major reasons for lack of financial inclusion is policy gap. Financial Inclusion theory is needed to achieve synthesis between financial inclusion objectives and financial outcomes. Only when theory is matched with the policy does it become possible to consolidate all the debates in the policy literature. In this regard, the current research paper aims at building on the "Public Good Theory of Financial Inclusion". This theory propagates that making financial services available to all the citizens of the nation and ensuring unrestricted access to finance should be treated as a public good. This theory highlights the social responsibility of the formal financial institutions to provide basic financial services to the citizens of the country at zero cost. In case of marginalized groups, this theory propounds that the banks and formal institutions should promote equity through inclusion. Systems theory of Financial Inclusion highlights the role that synergy of various sub-systems in the financial ecosystem play in promoting sustainable financial inclusion. On a macro level, the National e-Governance Plan adopted by the Government of India to achieve the benefit of financial inclusion has played an important role in promoting equity and equitable growth. As per the author, the other dimensions of financial inclusion include the "Community Theory of Financial Inclusion" which propagates that financial inclusion should be delivered to the financially excluded population through at a community level. A major dimension of financial theories propagated by the author is Public service theory of financial inclusion, which states that financial inclusion is the public responsibility which the Government owes its citizens to ensure access to the financial services at their doorstep. It is crucial to ensure sustainable financial inclusion because the lack of equity may lead to indebtedness and reliance on informal sources of finance. In the current scenario, there is a lack of research that highlights the various reasons for marginalization of various sections of society and financial exclusion.

Role of Urban Cooperative Banks in Financial Inclusion: An Exploratory Study of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts

Mini P. Thomas, Radhika Gupta

This paper attempts to study the role of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in achieving financial inclusion in two districts of Telangana state, namely Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy. Policymakers over the years have underlined the importance of bringing rural poor into the ambit of formal financial system, whereas the plight of the urban poor remained neglected to a great extent. Most of the existing studies on financial inclusion have focused on commercial banks. Hence, it became important to quantify the progress achieved by UCBs in financial inclusion. UCBs, being community-based organisations confined to the metropolitan, urban and semi-urban areas, are better placed at meeting the financial needs of the urban poor, especially small borrowers, retail traders, petty entrepreneurs and slum dwellers. The study used primary and secondary data published by credible sources such as RBI and All India Debt and Investment Survey of NSSO for empirical analysis. In addition, a Financial Inclusion Index was constructed and a probit regression model was estimated based on the primary survey data. The study threw up interesting findings relating to UCB-led financial inclusion, and most of the UCBs in these two districts were found to be lagging behind in terms of many of the supply-side financial inclusion indicators. UCBs experienced some success in case of some of the indicators such as daily deposit schemes and priority sector lending. However, they were found to register a lacklustre performance in meeting the banking needs of their targeted clientele such as MSMEs, self-help groups and slum dwellers. A majority of the UCBs surveyed had still not implemented PMJDY, which was launched in 2014. Banking services such as Direct Benefit Transfer, Mobile Banking, Internet Banking and IMPS were not offered by most of them. The gender gap between men and women customers, in terms of owning a bank account or having access to a loan, was also found to be quite high.

Appendix II

Speakers/Authors

Sl. No.	Name	Paper Title	Affiliation
1	Ram Ramaswamy	Challenges of distance in Science Education (TRACK SESSION)	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
2	Neha Ghatak	Rapid assessment of the impact of Covid on education and livelihood- multi-country study (TRACK SESSION)	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
3	Jyotsna Jha	Low tech model for mentoring school students in rural areas – an action research (TRACK SESSION)	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
4	Shyam Menon	Overview (TRACK SESSION)	University of Delhi
5	Dr. Sheela Yadav	Valuation of Unpaid Household Work of Rural Women: A Case study of Ghazipur District of Uttar Pradesh	L.N.M.U, Bihar
6	Dr. Nidhi Sharma	Valuation of Unpaid Household Work of Rural Women: A Case study of Ghazipur District of Uttar Pradesh	B.H.U, Varanasi
7	Varsha Gupta	Women participation in the Indian labor market: Evidence from EUS and PLFS data	JNU, New Delhi
8	Vijayamba R	Time Use of Women in Livestock Raising in Two Villages of Karnataka	ISI, Bengaluru
9	Kevin Bourdreau	The Gender Gap in Tech & Competitive Work Environments? Field Experimental Evidence from an Internet-of-Things Product Development Platform	IIMB
10	Nilam Kaushik	The Gender Gap in Tech & Competitive Work Environments? Field Experimental Evidence from an Internet-of-Things Product Development Platform	IIMB
11	Alisha Mendosa	Tackling Congestion in Bengaluru- Problems and Policies	IIMB
12	Sridhar Pabbisetty	Tackling Congestion in Bengaluru- Problems and Policies	Kautiliya School of Public policy
13	Kala Seetharam Sridhar	Stuck in Traffic? Determinants of Intra Urban Mobility in an Indian City	ISEC, Bangalore
14	Shivakumar Nayka	Stuck in Traffic? Determinants of Intra Urban Mobility in an Indian City	ISEC, Bangalore
15	Karan Babbar	How socio demographics impact hygienic sanitary items usage and ovulatory cycle knowledge in India	IIMA
16	Deepika Saluja	How socio demographics impact hygienic sanitary items usage and ovulatory cycle knowledge in India	IIMA
17	Trisha Chandra	The Impact of gender budgeting on Gender equity in India	JNU, New Delhi
18	Vanita Singh	Women's relative resources, empowerment and physical abuse in Indian context: Moderating role of husband's patriarchal attitude	IIMA

Speakers/Authors

Sl. No.	Name	Paper Title	Affiliation
19	Karan Babar	Women's relative resources, empowerment and physical abuse in Indian context: Moderating role of husband's patriarchal attitude	IIMA
20	Jyotsna Jha	Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival: Renewed Interest in Multiplier Studies	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
21	Achala Achala Yareseeme	Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival: Renewed Interest in Multiplier Studies	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
22	Apurva K.H.	Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival: Renewed Interest in Multiplier Studies	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
23	Archana Purohit	Track Session: Post-Covid Measures for Economic Revival: Renewed Interest in Multiplier Studies	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
24	Sakina Dhorajiwala	Home and Away: The Splintered Lives of Migrant Workers (Track Session)	Libtech India
25	Rajendran Narayan	Home and Away: The Splintered Lives of Migrant Workers (Track Session)	Azim Premji University
26	Niveditha Menon	Dignity, respect, and justice for all: The question of gender in public policy (Track Session)	CBPS
27	Srijoni Sen	Digital Identity Systems and Inclusion (Track Session)	Modular Open Source Identity Platform, Bangalore
28	Jacob Baby	The Invisible Man: Examining the invisibility of men in resettlement policies: A case of men displaced and resettled under the Sabarmati Riverfront Project in Ahmedabad	CEPT University, Ahmedabad
29	Thangjam Aditya	Examining Disruptions of Social Systems due to Large Dam Projects in the North East	IIM, Shillong
30	Semsang Dolma Bomzon	Examining Disruptions of Social Systems due to Large Dam Projects in the North East	IIM, Shillong
31	Dr. Nandini Sen	Faceless Millions: an Overview of Internal Migration	Society for Rural Industrialisation
32	Srinibas Barik	How Democracies Decay: India through the lens	S.B. Women's College, Cuttack, Odisha
33	Anirban Mitra	Democratisation under Diversity: Theory and Evidence from Indonesian Communities	University of Kent
34	Sarmistha Pal	Democratisation under Diversity: Theory and Evidence from Indonesian Communities	University of Surrey
35	Francesca R. Jensenius	Electoral Stability and Cross-Cutting Cleavages-Theory and Evidence from India	University of Oslo & Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
36	Neeraj Prasad	Electoral Stability and Cross-Cutting Cleavages-Theory and Evidence from India	O. P. Jindal Global University
37	Pavithra Suryanarayan	Electoral Stability and Cross-Cutting Cleavages-Theory and Evidence from India	Johns Hopkins University
38	Neha Saigal	Tribals & Malnutrition: Strategies to improve nutrition equity in Odisha	IPE Global, New Delhi
39	Saumya Shrivastava	Tribals & Malnutrition: Strategies to improve nutrition equity in Odisha	IPE Global, New Delhi

Speakers/Authors

Sl. No.	Name	Paper Title	Affiliation
40	Dr. Meghadeepa Chakraborty	Rural Household and Livelihood Security: Significance of Asset Interplay	Banasthali Vidyapith
41	Tewele Gerlase Haile	The Impact of Public policy on Alleviating Social Vulnerability: Evidence from Ethiopian Rural Households	IIT Roorkee
42	S.P. Singh	The Impact of Public policy on Alleviating Social Vulnerability: Evidence from Ethiopian Rural Households	IIT Roorkee
43	Johnson Clement Madathil	Crude oil price and Government effectiveness: The determinants of corruption in oil abundant states	NIT, Calicut
44	Ashitha T	Crude oil price and Government effectiveness: The determinants of corruption in oil abundant states	Central University of Tamil Nadu
45	Velmurugan P.S	Crude oil price and Government effectiveness: The determinants of corruption in oil abundant states	Central University of Tamil Nadu
46	Nupur Nirola	Fiscal decentralization, regional disparity, and the role of corruption	IIT Kanpur
47	Sohini Sahu	Fiscal decentralization, regional disparity, and the role of corruption	IIT Kanpur
48	Priyambda Tripathi	Identity and Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana	School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai
49	Bipin JoJo	Identity and Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana	School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai
50	Manu Bansal	Blessing of Geography: Impact of Geographical Indications on Agricultural Exports in India	IIMB
51	Rahul Singh	Blessing of Geography: Impact of Geographical Indications on Agricultural Exports in India	IIMB
52	T.R.Sreenivas	Evaluating a Disruptive Public Policy A case of mixed Evaluating a disruptive public policy: a case of mixed outcomes	IIMB
53	Nishi Malhotra	PMJDY: an econometric study	IIM Kozhikode
54	Mini P. Thomas	Role of Urban Cooperative Banks in Financial Inclusion An exploratory Study of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts	BITS, Pilani Hyderabad
55	Radhika Gupta	Role of Urban Cooperative Banks in Financial Inclusion An exploratory Study of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts	BITS, Pilani Hyderabad
56	Keshab Das	Crisis of technical education in India: Evolving contours of the Computer and Information Sciences discipline	GIDR, Ahmedabad
57	Hastimal Sagara	Crisis of technical education in India: Evolving contours of the Computer and Information Sciences discipline	GLS University
58	Ramanjini	Who Benefit from the Public Higher education expenditure? Evidence from Recent Household Survey of India	ISEC, Bangalore
59	Karnam Gayithri	Who Benefit from the Public Higher education expenditure? Evidence from Recent Household Survey of India	ISEC, Bangalore
60	Akash Malhotra	Indian Household Balance Sheet - Accounting issues & wealth estimation	JNU

Appendix III

Reviewers

Sl. No	Name	Affiliation
1	Anil B Suraj	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
2	Arnab Mukherji	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
3	Deepak Malghan	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
4	Gopal Naik	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
5	Hema Swaminathan	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
6	M S Sriram	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
7	Navdeep Mathur	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
8	Rajlaxmi Kamath	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
9	Shabana Mitra	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
10	Soham Sahoo	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
11	Trilochan Sastry	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

Appendix IV

Session Chairs

1	Amit Prakash & Bidisha Chaudhuri	International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore
2	Arnab Mukherji	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
3	G. Ramesh	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
4	Jyotsna Jha	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
5	M. Jayadev	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
6	Madhura Swaminathan	Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore
7	Niveditha Menon	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies
8	Navdeep Mathur	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
9	Shabana Mitra	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
10	Soham Sahoo	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
11	Trilochan Sastry	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
12	Venkatesh Panchapagesan	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
13	Vinod Vyasulu	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies

Appendix V

Conference Organising Committee

Professor Arnab Mukherji
 Professor M S Sriram
 Professor Anil B Suraj
 Professor Hema Swaminathan



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