Dissertation Abstracts

Post Graduate Programme in
Public Policy and Management

(PGPPM)

2006-08
Accidents Prevention, Response and Relief a Case Study of Road Traffic Accidents In Bangalore City

Chagamreddy Pratap Reddy

The world over and in India, Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) have become one of the major public health concerns. Fatalities of over 981 persons and injuries to over 6591 persons during 2007, posed a grim reminder to the situation on the roads of Bangalore city. Any plans of mitigating the accidents on the roads, would involve a ‘paradigm shift’ in the approach to road traffic accidents with multi-agency coordination and should look into the prevention, response and relief processes available for RTA victims and the delivery of services. Thus the study is aimed at evaluating the ‘paradigm shift’ in responses to RTA victims.

The traffic police manpower is found to be inadequate in the background of the huge growth in motor vehicles in Bangalore city. The allocation of traffic police personnel to various police stations and focused deterrent measures which can have a bearing on the number of accidents is not based on any empirical data. The concept of ‘Golden Hour’ was not the underlying concept in various delivery services to RTA victims. The role of auto rickshaws and private transport is significant in transporting victims to the hospitals and ambulances catered to just about 5% of the victims. Significant number of victims did not reach hospitals within the first hour or “Golden Hour” for treatment. None of the agencies, statutory or non-statutory had any knowledge of the first aid to be administered to the victims. As far as awareness of victims was concerned, the Police Control Room happened to be the most known source to victims for seeking help.

The destination of first hospital for an RTA victim was not based on any triage and this resulted in loss of time before reaching a definitive hospital for treatment. The study reveals that the government hospitals handled disproportionately larger number of victims than private hospitals. Significant number of accidents went unreported and the estimates of burden of injury are thus lower than the actual number of accidents. At present, the road motor vehicle users in Bangalore city are thus not catered to by any organized approach to prevention, response and relief in case of RTAs.
Impact of Participatory Forest Management in North Wayanad Forest Division, Kerala

L. Chandrasekar

The Participatory Forest Management activities going on in N. Wayanad division for the past one decade was subjected to a perception based impact study. The forest department officials and the members of Vana Samrakshana samithis were interviewed to find out the impact on them. The impact was analyzed using the 5 C framework i.e. the five capitals of Physical, Financial, Social, Ecological and Sustainability. A focus group discussion was held with the various stakeholders to corroborate the findings through interview. A depth interview with Policy makers was also done. The study revealed that the perceived impact is higher as we move lower down in the hierarchy. The Foresters have the lowest perceived impact while the members of VSS have the greatest impact perception. The VSS presidents and executive members fall in between. PFM has certainly improved the relations between the forest dwelling communities and the forest department. Also the relation between the other line departments and forest department has also improved. There is a positive interaction between the department and the community during these years. But it cannot be construed that the community can take over entirely the responsibility of the department like protection, wildlife management, development works etc. The department and the VSS should work in unison to achieve the conservation goals. In that aspect the income generation needs and other allied needs of the community have to be taken care by the projects initiated. The impact monitoring and the activity monitoring in respect of VSS works is not functioning properly. There is no mechanism at present for the same. Services of organizations of repute should be taken to monitor the same. Piecemeal evaluations need to be discouraged. Policy with regard to PFM has to be modified to ensure a uniform wage rate for forestry works, proper auditing, regular flow of funds creation of assets having maximum use and continuity of officials who are posted to their jobs with their consent among others.
Reinventing Citizenship Values Implications for Social and Political Rejuvenation

Faizi O Hashmi

This study is an attempt to discover the meaning of ‘citizenship values’ through a structural modeling based on exploration of relationship between ‘citizenship values’ and certain sets of predictable variables like value orientation, general attitudes, individual value, modernity, attitude towards society, activism and social participation. The enquiry has helped in isolating some factors that suggest contributing to citizenship values, and these factors together have been tentatively suggested as determinants of ‘Citizenship Quotient’ (CQ).

The citizenship values may be understood as something that helps in making an individual a productive, responsible, caring and contributing member of the society. As against this the unconcern of the citizenry manifests itself in myriad unsocial activities such as disregard for the law, violation of traffic rules, road rage, blowing horns, causing nuisance on the streets and public places, like urinating, littering at public parks, monuments and market places, defacing public properties, indifference to the cultural heritage of the country, a general aggressive and uncivil behavior, and inadequacy of community involvement. What is the problem behind these symptoms? Do these signal lack of citizenship values? The study proposes to find that out along with its essential attributes, and then whether it is possible to socially market these values.

Starting with literature survey, the conceptual context of the theme included a theorization about what was going on. A citizenship survey was done through a questionnaire for constructing a measurable data base. This was analyzed for determining the causative factors, proving the hypothesis, meeting the objectives of the study and finding answers to the research questions. The research questions included asking whether the ‘citizenship values’ can be meaningfully explained, to enquire what factors affect citizenship in the society, and whether it can be reinvented through social marketing? The objectives of the study were accordingly set up as identification and determination of the core of citizenship values; statistically and empirically testing the attitude of the citizenry to civic issues; finding out ways to overcome the flaws, if any, and to reinvent citizenship values through ‘social marketing’, which is the main recommendation of this study.
Impact of Value Addition on Farm Income in Maharashtra State

Jagadish D Patel

There is a sharp decline in the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the GDP of India during last few years. The rate at which GDP of the country is growing is much ahead of growth of agriculture sector. This certainly affects the economy of rural masses and would widen the existing urban and rural divide because most of the rural population is dependent on this primary sector. The major factors contributing to this situation could be low prices to agriculture produce, increasing input cost, indebtedness of the farmers, globalization, nature dependence, lack of professionalism, short term Govt. policies and lack of marketing facilities and necessary infrastructure. The agriculture sector needs well functioning markets to drive growth, employment and economic prosperity in rural areas. We also need to deregulate markets to promote investment in marketing infrastructure and define role of farmer, industry, traders and Govt. Balance of competition for price and quality needs to be ensured. In view of these facts, the present study was undertaken.

The problem statement of the present study is “Can value addition on farm will significantly improve the farm income?” The study was initiated to understand the extent of value addition taking place on farm and its impact on the farm income and further to identify the technological, institutional and market constraints for value addition. The change in total profit is equal to change in price due to quality improvement multiplied by change in quantity due to value addition practices minus additional cost incurred on value addition was the theoretical framework for this study.

A structured questionnaire was prepared after consulting experts. The farmers from Pune, Satara, Nasik and Yawatmal districts were surveyed for the research project for the various crops viz. grape, tomato, onion, groundnut and cotton. Except cotton all other corps were studied in two districts to study regional impact. The data was collected on farmer’s socio economic profile, credit availability, market facilities and the on farm valued addition practices being adopted during cultivation, at the time of harvesting and after harvesting. The data was analyzed with simple cross tabulation as well as regression in SPSS.

The study revealed that ratio of profit to expenditure in various value addition practices was highest in variety selection in almost all the crops. In case of cotton crop the use of DAP and integrated pest management gave better results as cultural practices whereas in case of post harvest, it is the use of by products which gave higher profits. However, very few farmers have adopted it. Simple and very cost effective practice of drum rolling gave highest profit compared to investment in case of groundnut. The value addition practices during the crop production gave better results in grape and cotton whereas, post harvest practices in case of groundnut and cotton. Tomato has shown better results at the time of harvesting.
As far as socioeconomic profile of the farmers is concerned, highest percentage of farmers who availed credit were grape growers and they were also highest in repayment of loans. The level of education was higher in case of high range of income generated through value addition practices. The other factors like access to institutional credit, rate of interest, availability of irrigation facility, direct sale to the processing units etc. did show some impact but it was not significant as per regression results. Overall it was observed that strengthening of extension activity through government, cooperatives and private participation to educate farmers on on-farm value addition practices. Deregulating markets and promoting direct marketing to consumers and processing units would also help. Improving access to institutional credit, infrastructure for marketing, transport, storage and processing is necessary. Emphasis needs to be given on quality parameters to capture international markets.
An Assessment on Implementation of NREGA- A Case Study in Anantpur And Raichur Districts

S. Kameswara Rao

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which was enacted in 2005 is a landmark legislation which empowers the rural population with the legal right to demand work. The Act takes into account all possible relevant aspects of the rural wage employment providing a legal support when compared to earlier work-fare programmes. One can see NREGA is a shift from supply side to a demand side approach. The Act aims to achieve the objective of giving citizens right to work, as enunciated in the Directive Principles (Article 41) in the Constitution of India. During the last 18 months of implementation, the NREGA has registered significant success in many of the states and more than 2.57 crore rural households were provided employment. The contractor regime and bureaucratic corruption was reduced to insignificant levels in many states. However, the reports from field indicate several problems of implementation including lack of awareness among the officials and beneficiaries about the provisions of the Act. The field reports also highlight delays in wage payment, continued migration to urban areas and hike in the market wage rate impacting the agricultural works in rural areas. The heartening fact is that large scale participation of women, SCs and STs in the NREGA programme.

An exploratory sample case study was conducted in Raichur district of Karnataka and Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh to assess the process of implementation of NREGA. The evidence indicate that three factors namely awareness, enthusiasm among the officials and use of Information Technology are the key factors for effective implementation of the NREGA in the sample districts. The role of civil society was aptly acknowledged in creating awareness in Anantpur district and generating pressure on the district administration of Raichur district through supporting people's agitation for effective implementation of the programme. The paper also gives some technological solutions for addressing issues like identification of beneficiaries, expeditious wage payments and the need for linking the programme with other development initiatives.
Developing Decision Support Model for Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan For Indian Cities

Lalit Das

In the race of Globalization, India is Urbanising at a faster pace. This has led to poorer quality of life in Urban Centres due high pressure on the scanty urban resources. Poor Management of Municipal Solid Waste is a great concern today and is going to be a greater concern tomorrow. Waste Management and its safe disposal cannot be postponed for tomorrow and has to be handled simultaneously with the developmental process.

Many cities in the world have tried to address their waste management through a process of trial and error. Similarly, Indian cities have also tried many waste Management Models and Technologies with some amount of successes and failures also. It is a Mantra in Solid Waste Management that every city is unique in its solid waste problems and local solutions needs to be developed for local problems. Global solutions and western technologies are not going to solve the local Indian waste problems. Management of Municipal Solid Waste cannot be addressed without taking the stakeholders into considerations. The success of a Model depends on the extent of participation and ownership expressed by the stakeholders. The problem is more complex due to involvement of too many stakeholders, too many technological solutions and environmental regulations (present and future).

This study is an attempt to develop a decision support model Indian MSW problems. It will encompass all possible variables and simplify the model by making few assumptions. The model should be able to guide the policy makers in MSW Management to take appropriate decisions suitable to their respective towns and cities. The task is enormous and uncertain. The attempt is to develop a simplified, and applicable model. The study undertook citizens’ survey, carried out MSW management exploratory case studies of few ULBs, and did some empirical cost calculations to formulate the decision support model.

An effective decision making framework was developed by incorporating analytical and mathematical tools. The identification of a suitable model for SWM followed a sequence of three steps – finding out the best ‘collection and transportation (CaT) Plan, finding out the best disposal plan and clubbing them together. The binary coding method generated 17 models of CaT and disposal plans. Isolating the disposal plans and based on the collection and transportation combination-four basic categories were identified. The two/two analytical matrix was used to analyze the four options and choose the model with the best fit through the process of elimination. Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) was used to introduce multi criteria decision making method. Similarly, five dominant disposal options were chosen for narrowing down the choices. Use of two/two analytical matrix, AHP, SWOT analysis led to the selection of the best disposal option. Clubbing together the two chosen options, i.e. CaT and the disposal plan formed the complete model of SWM for the city.
The Right to information (RTI) Act as a Law to empower the people a study of RTI in Gujarat

Manisha Verma

Government secrecy and official opacity have long been the tradition and accepted order of the day, till a few decades back, when the right to have access to official information was recognised and demanded as a fundamental human right for effective, meaningful and participative governance. Power over information is a tussle between administrative absolutism and right of people to oversee and review the decisions and operations of the government to prevent abuse and arbitrary use of power. Movements for information freedom across the world have succeeded in installing such access laws in more than 70 countries, which have been invoked to expose corrupt practices, fraudulence and waste, weak and poor polices, and prevented entrenchment of vested interests to gain disproportionate advantage.

The dissertations trace the global movement for freedom of information to change the paradigm of power and the replacement of an implied order of governance with one which is more collective. The study of similar laws in the other countries brings to the fore the power of the law and also the creative ways used to undermine its potential. The study follows the journey of the demand and installation of the Right to information (RTI) Act in India, with focus on its implementation in Gujarat.

The study reveals not only the reasons why this law this law is accepted as a powerful tool for shifting the power from the recalcitrant and intransigent bureaucracy to the citizens and its success and experiences amongst the various stakeholders, but also explores the operational, institutional and behavioural bottlenecks which bog down its efficacy and are being used, at times insidiously and sometimes out of ignorance, to thwart it. Disclosure of information is still demand driven and proactive sharing of meaningful information is conspicuous by its absence.

The RTI, despite its many successes has failed to rise beyond a threshold level to engage the people in the more crucial and larger public policy issues over which the Government still remains secretive. The RTI has long way to go in terms of stable and effective operating procedures, organizational and institutional capabilities, behavioural changes in the bureaucrats and the users, and most importantly, acceptance by the Government that the law is here to stay and that it has the potential to change the government-citizen relationship which was hitherto linear and one way.

In the final analysis, the Act has forced a rethink on the dimensions and variants which underpin democracy. Also, there are myriad determinants of success of the RTI Act which are unknown and yet to be studied. It may yet be too soon to achieve synchronicity between the conflicting dimensions of the freedom of information. But the responsibility of finding a way around the conflicting paradoxes and to align the different branches of reality lies collectively with the stakeholders.
Appraisal of Railway Expansion Projects

Mukund Kumar Sinha

The railway network varies in density and coverage across the length and breadth of our country. Railways work as a catalyst for increased trade and industrialisation of a region. There are regions, which need railways for economic growth, and there are also railway lines which have been built but are un-remunerative. Perhaps there is a need to look at the criterion used by railways for taking up an expansion project in a region.

The appraisal of railway expansion projects are presently done as per the guidelines laid down in the financial code of the railways. The guidelines talk about financial appraisal in some detail but just mentions in passing about the economic or social appraisal of a project. The appraisal case studies of Indian Railways also show that project feasibility is decided mostly on financial grounds. The Planning Commission had published guidelines for financial and economic appraisal way back in 1975 but this approach is yet to be adopted by Indian Railways.

In the developed countries it is seen that appraisal of government projects entails economic and social cost benefit analysis as well. Appraisal policy in the US is guided by the circular A-94 of the Office of Management and Budget. Costs have to be calculated on principles of “opportunity cost” and benefits that are difficult to monetise, are estimated using the principle of “willingness to pay”. The policy encourages use of “risk assessment analysis” and “sensitivity analysis” to see the effects of various assumptions on the outcome. For a project to be viable it should have a positive Net Present Value at constant prices. The H M Treasury in UK has laid down the rules for appraisal of government projects in the Green Book. This is also similar to the US policy but pays more stress on quantification of costs and benefits.

The present appraisal guidelines of Indian Railways, though based on pure monetary considerations are good inasmuch as they provide a sound financial basis of choosing projects. However, in view of the socio-economic role of the railways, it is recommended that Indian Railways evolve exhaustive guidelines for appraisal of expansion projects, which should include economic and social appraisal as well. This would ensure that only those projects are chosen which can result in positive benefits to the society and also perhaps result in bridging the disparity gaps. Projects, which are chosen after sound appraisal, also result in efficient allocation of public funds towards creating national wealth and social benefits, which is one of the fundamental facets of good governance.
Predictive Models for Cyber Crime: Law Enforcement Perspective

A. S. N. Murthy

The purpose of dissertation is to study the factors responsible for successful investigation-change sheeting-of cyber crime with ultimate objective of its prevention and detection in India in general and Karnataka in particular. This study is a pioneering and extra-ordinary study because actual, empirical data pertaining to 291 reported cyber crime cases in five states of India-Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Delhi-is used. All the data was obtained from the law enforcement agencies in these states. Thirty three variables namely type of offence, motive for offence, investigation time, case finalization, network crime, cooperation of internet service providers, involvement of cyber cafe, and damage amount etc. were extracted using domain knowledge. These variables cover profile of offenders/victims, crime details, motive of accused, modus operandi, emerging cyber crimes in the country. Issues like public private participation, cyber crime police stations, and cyber cafes were also explored. It was found that the factors responsible for charge sheeting a case in Karnataka and Rest of India are not exactly same however predominant factor contributing to charge sheeting of cyber crime cases in Karnataka and rest of India was cooperation of complainant. One significant finding was that, in Karnataka, cyber crime moved away from being insider crime to become outsider crime. Another important finding was that only 9% to 19% of reported cyber crime is fully investigated by police and about 20% of registered cases are successfully investigated-charge sheeted – and only two cases were convicted. It is predicted that the number of cases reported in Karnataka, in the year 22008, will be 220 and registered will be 42. The average investigation time in Karnataka to successfully investigate a case will be 275 days. The study gains importance in view of submission of select parliamentary committee’s report-on information Technology Amendment Bill, 2006 introduced in the Parliament in December 2006 – for discussion/approval/enactment. The recommendations include enhancing data protection and security measures by banks, education about cyber crime, enhancing responsibility of service providers to cooperate with investigation agencies, developing public private participation models, training for investigation officers on cyber crime, institutionalizing regular and vertical interaction among law enforcement agencies at local, state, national and international level, setting up of dedicated cyber crime police stations, framing and implementing cyber cafe rules, continuation of arrest powers of police, in the ensuing amendments to Information Technology Act 2000.
Efficacy of Kosi Embankment as a Measure of Flood Control

Narmadeshwara Lal

Embarkments as a structural measure of flood protection have been playing a crucial role. The debate on „embankment or no embankment” is now a twice told tale. The efficacy and utility of embankment as an instrument of flood control has always been taken with a pinch of salt. The Kosi embankment is also not an exception. The Kosi embankment, a component of the Multipurpose Scheme to tame and train the Kosi River, was constructed in 1959. The purpose of this study is to see whether the embankment has withstood the test of time in providing protection from flood and improving the socio-economic condition of the people. Despite embankments, floods remain a regular phenomenon causing colossal loss of life and property. Irony is that with increase in the length of embankments the flood affected area and the flood prone areas have also gone up. This appears antithetical but this is supported by the figures of the departments of the Flood Control and the Disaster management. In course of our field visit I found people completely disillusioned from the embankment. The people within and outside the embankment have their own woes to narrate. The land outside the embanked area though reasonably protected from floods, has lost its productivity and agriculture has ceased to be economically viable. Apart from changing the cropping pattern of the area, the embankment has caused a serious problem of drainage congestion and a large area is almost perennially waterlogged. The revival of the old drainage systems in the area needs to be taken up. The sorrow state of affairs of agriculture in the district and large-scale migration to Punjab and western U.P. leaves no room to believe that the embankments have hardly kept their promises. The solution of the flood problem in Kosi basin lies in distribution of Kosi waters into its several old channels and this is in line of the philosophy of the interlinking of rivers. Reviving the age old tradition of living with the flood with the support of all modern technology will go a long way in easing the problem of the area with minimum interference in the arena of Mother Nature.
Fringe Benefits Tax in India: Overview, Collection Trends and Economic Analysis

Praveen Kishore

The taxation regime in India has seen various reforms measures and changes in past years, some of which have been quite controversial. One of them is introduction of Fringe Benefits Tax in 2005. The Government claims that it has been introduced to tax those kinds of fringe benefits which are generally enjoyed collectively by employers and are provided in the form of facilities and amenities. Such benefits are difficult to identify, segregate and tax. Accordingly, the tax liability has been fixed on employers (and not on employees, who are enjoying these benefits) and some mixed categories of expenses have been made the base, a particular percent of which is deemed to be fringe benefits.

The research has tried to derive important lessons for public policy decision making in the field of taxation, by examining various aspects of fringe benefits tax system and data of its collection for past two years. The Australian fringe benefits taxation system, which is the only other fringe benefits taxation system with close resemblance with Indian one, along with taxation of fringe benefits in USA and UK has also been examined and compared with the Indian system.

FBT collection pattern and trend for different economic sectors and for each of its head has been analyzed. Out of 19 heads, the top 10 heads have been found to be contributing around 90% of total collection and these heads are almost the same for all the economy sectors. Similar trend was also found for bottom 5 heads which contribute only around 2% of total FBT. There is statistical evidence to accept that the proportion of FBT collection from different heads has remained same over the two years. It has also been statistically checked that almost all economy sectors have shown similar pattern of FBT collection over the two years. It is also found that there is strong ‘interaction effect’ between ‘Economy sector’ and FBT head’. Further, there is statistical evidence to accept that sample data for each sector of the economy are not homogeneous which points towards arbitrary booking of expenses under different heads, perhaps to avoid FBT. This practice is possible due to lack of any standard method for classification of expenses.

After examining the literature, economic rational and empirical data, it can be said that the introduction of FBT is justified on theoretical grounds, though there are important issues relating to its base, heads, valuation and classification of expenses etc. The data has shown that its collection widely varies among economy sectors, within different heads and among taxpayers.
Family Counseling Centres in Madhya Pradesh

Pullela Murali Mohan

This is a preliminary research work to comprehend the perceptions of different categories of people who availed the services of and also know about the Family Counselling Centres (FCCs) functioning presently in the 48 districts of Madhya Pradesh, i.e., the victims, counsellors, police and the community at large. With its exploratory and qualitative nature the study looks at how FCCs fared in 2005, 2006 and up to October 2007.

There was no doubt, however, that the FCCs have been of some help to the distressed women - but by how much was a big question. This work attempts to tell how the users of FCCs' services perceived them, after all. The basic aim was to know their effectiveness. The hypothesis: married women acknowledge that family counseling centres are effective in solving their problems.

Primary data from 16 representative districts was collected for the project. Personal interviews in structured schedules of 500 women victims, 200 counsellors, 200 police officers and some 100 public personalities were taken. Secondary data was collected in the form of documents/records, activity-sheets, program files, observation dairies, etc. Literature available from Maharashtra and other states was also incorporated. The results show that all the four categories above saying FCCs to be useful and effective in their activities. About 65 per cent of women victims felt and agreed FCCs being capable of solving their problems pertaining to violence perpetrated against them. Majority of the counsellors opined that FCCs are effective. As far as public perception is concerned, 42 per cent have spoken out that FCCs are better in solving problems related to families. This shows the relevance of the FCCs' existence.

At the end, all categories of people interviewed in this survey perceived FCCs to be useful and effective. The hypothesis that married women feel that the centres are effective in solving their problems has been vindicated with the attendant limitations that always go with this kind of a study.
Rediscovering the Unorganised Service Sector: Some Policy Implications

Purnendu Kishore Banerji

The World Economic Forum developed the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) to provide a more holistic overview of the factors crucial to drive productivity and competitiveness. It is grouped into nine main factors, called the nine pillars of competitiveness. Improvement in none of these factors alone can ensure a better competitiveness as they work in an intertwined manner. The scope for public policy to improve business sophistication is somewhat limited, but clustering, i.e., fostering geographical concentration of firms, suppliers and service providers can significantly improve business performance. In this context, it becomes essential to identify specific shortfalls and concentrate to improve those specific aspects instead of attempting to divide scarce resources equally among all the factors in all the areas. Hence, a comprehensive policy to address the issues together alone can ensure transition into a more growing and competitive economy.

For more than one decade, the contribution of service sector in national income is growing. Long back, it has exceeded both the primary and secondary sectors, and is now contributing to about 54 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product at factor cost. It is the largest employer of urban workforce and, after agriculture, employs the rural work-force the most. Like all other sectors, the unorganised segment of the service industries contribute much more than its organised counterpart. The unorganized sector not only reduces the cost of operations for the formal sectors through production of goods and services sourced at a cheap rate by the formal sectors, but also provides employment in far greater number compared to its formal counterpart. While the entire organised non-agricultural sector employed about 51 million persons, the unorganised non-agriculture sector enterprises employed more than 107 million persons in 1999-2000. The unorganised non-agricultural sector contributed to about 34 per cent of the Net Domestic Product (NDP) at factor cost compared to a contribution of 20 per cent by the private organised and 23 per cent by the government. The unorganised segment's contribution in almost all areas of service is phenomenal. It provides 75 per cent of trade, 83 per cent in transport other than railways, 74 per cent in real estate, renting and business activities and 30 per cent in other services.

With majority of the unorganised sector being manned by self-employed persons running the own account enterprises (i.e., enterprises without any hired worker on a regular basis), and more than 80 per cent of the value addition attributed to mixed income of these persons, growth of this sector directly implies growth in income of the poorer segment of the society, thereby obviating any need of an additional redistributive mechanism (and associated administrative costs) to percolate the fruits of economic growth to the bottom segment of the population.

The problems associated with the growth of informal service sector has been studied and explained so far like the proverbial description of an elephant by four blind persons. These studies have shown different problems at different places in different services. Using data on 3 nation-wide surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation, this study was to find a method to identify the factors
responsible to hinder growth of specific segments of the unorganised service sector, be it related to education, health, social security of the self-employed or the employees or the factors affecting general business environment like value addition, loans, government support, employee emoluments, etc. First a subset of 27 activities (industrial sub-classes of the National Industrial Classification 1998) in the informal service sector have been identified which can produce sustainable value addition (mainly comprising of mixed income for the self-employed and the employees) without a high investment of fixed capital, thereby ensuring that the not-so-well-off informal entrepreneurs can launch these ventures. As these 27 activities cover more than 71% of the workers and above 63% of the annual aggregate GVA from the informal service sector activities, after finding the more important factors affecting the industries through use of test of association and data mining technique of classification and regression trees, an index (Sustainable Industrial Performance Index) has also been developed to rank these 27 unorganised service sector industries. This index is also expected to act as a ready reckoner for identifying the specific areas, which, if addressed, would enhance the performance of the specific industry sub-group.
The Ethics of Voluntary Active Euthanasia (VAE) and Public Policy

R. Rajagopal

It is a universally accepted and practised tenet that every human being has a right to live. Advances in the field of medicine have now made it possible to extend and maintain biological life of persons terminally ill, and battling with death, far beyond where death would naturally occur. This has at the same time led to a different type of issue. Persons who are terminally ill and suffering in pain, with no hope of cure, have the “facility” to be alive for a longer time. In various countries in Europe and around, such persons who seem to have no other form of redemption, have been offered a “painless” option. This option is the controversial “Voluntary Assisted Euthanasia”. This in common parlance, is referred to as Mercy Killing. India is a poor country, wherein less than 0.9% of the GDP is spent on medical care. The demand for medical aid far exceeds the availability of resources. Hospitals and medical care centres are stretched to beyond capacity and there is an unfulfilled need. The demographic profile is tending towards a higher dependency ratio. Families are becoming nuclear, gravitating towards cities in search of employment. Statistics indicate almost 19.3% of the Indian populace as below poverty line. The number of terminally ill, destitute persons is ever on the increase. With dwindling or little financial support, these persons die a lingering death ridden with pain, hopelessness and indignity. To many, the redemption seems to be deceasement. This study will take a look at the various countries around the world regarding their implementation of VAE, the regulation and the effectiveness. It will also address the ethical angles involved as also the alternatives such as palliative care. The main aim of the study is to attempt to find out ways and means of alleviating the sufferings of such destitute, terminally ill persons, considering all these viewpoints, and to see if any policy can be evolved in this direction.
Agriculture is till now, the most important sector of the economy of many developing countries, including India, from the point of view of employment. The livelihood of more than half of India’s population depends on this sector. This is a sector which has to cope with a high degree of uncertainty. The level of production, to a large extent depends on unpredictable physical conditions. The supply side is extremely important in determining prices as the demand side is relatively stable. Violent price fluctuations, causing immense hardship to the financially vulnerable peasant community, have often been experienced. The international market for agricultural commodities is quite volatile. Studies have shown, that for many important crops, the global markets experience greater inter-year variability than the Indian markets. The World Trade Organisation has ushered in an era of low trade barriers, even in the agricultural sector. India, a member of WTO, has had to liberalise her farm trade regime by removing quantitative restrictions and other policy measures. The opening up of the farm sector to international market forces has serious implications for India. Five important agricultural crops have been selected for the present study. This dissertation paper examines the possibility of increase in volatility in prices of the agricultural commodities if there is further liberalization in international trade in these crops. For shedding light on this broad question it has been studied whether there is any relation between openness of trade of a commodity and the fluctuations in its prices (It was examined first whether, since 1995, degree of openness of trade for the selected commodities have increased or not) and whether there is a significant correlation between movement of domestic and global prices of the selected commodities. It was found that when the openness becomes significant enough to matter in the mechanism of price determination, it has a positive impact on both volatility and correlation between domestic and international prices. It was also found that for all the five commodities, there was a long-term equilibrium relationship between global and domestic prices.
Knowledge & Perceptions About Health Insurance Among Providers And Patients And The Intensity Of Catastrophic Health Expenditure In Mumbai

Sameer Takriwal

India is one of the laggards in the Human Development Index. The main reason is that the expenditure on health by the Government as a percentage of GDP is the lowest in the world. Studies show that the health infrastructure is quite inadequate to provide even the basic services to the population. It also reflects that about 80% of outpatients and 40-60% inpatients use private health care facilities in India. It is also estimated that at least 24% of Indians hospitalized fall below the poverty line.

Despite rapid Technological & Scientific advancement in the health sector, it is not reaching to poor. It is due to increasing cost of Health Care which is unaffordable to the poor. Rising cost of treatment, diagnosis and drug, further makes deplorable situation for them. Various studies have shown that there is a direct relation between poor health & poverty. Scarc resources available with developing countries are forcing them to reduce allocation towards the health. In such a situation, Health Insurance seems to be an innovative solution to protect the poor from falling in a debt trap. It also helps in reducing the catastrophic health expenditure among the poor.

Not many studies have been done on the catastrophic health expenditure in India. Even most of them are based on the studies conducted in the rural area. Therefore, this study tries to understand the catastrophic health expenditure level in the urban setting, i.e. Mumbai. This study also tries to know that how many of the urban patients and service providers know about health insurance. In Mumbai, 1178 are registered. Hospitals have been were stratified in three categories. 341 patients have been selected from different strata of the hospitals.

This study finds that even in the financial capital of India i.e. Mumbai, the knowledge and perception about health insurance is not satisfactory. Only 57.77% of the selected patients knew about any kind of health insurance scheme being run by government, private sector or other community. The study found that only 18.18% of the patients are having the health insurance. About 21.7% of patients are facing the catastrophe health expenditure.

Studies have shown that despite spending one of the highest per capita expenditure on health in the world, USA has the lowest life expectancy and the highest IMR among developed nations. This is because; in percentage terms, the state(s) spends one of the lowest as compared to other developed countries. Therefore, besides encouraging the private and community based health insurance in India, the Indian government should also encourage government sponsored universal health care delivery to minimize the impact of catastrophic health expenditure among poor. It is also true with the urban areas.
Study on Influence of ICT in Schools: A Case Study

N. Sangeetha

Thomas Edison, the father of electricity and inventor of the motion picture predicted in the year 1922 that “the motion picture is destined to revolutionize our educational system and...in a few years it will supplant largely, if not entirely, the use of textbooks.”

CD-ROMs, videodiscs, TV, interactive radio, educational television, voice mail, e-mail, satellite communication, etc are there to completely revolutionize the demagogy and communication. Modern society is becoming more and more knowledge dependent and but at the same time the gap between the ICT haves and the have-nots is also increasing worldwide. In developing countries like India, bridging the digital divide remains a big challenge. ICT can offer solution to everything and for everyone and introducing the computers at school level will go a long way in making the ICT literacy all pervasive, at the same time it can also transform the teaching and learning processes. This dissertation is a case study to explore in depth details of the technologies being used, to what extent the potential of ICTs are exploited? Whether the conditions for ICT are effectively met? And attempt has also been made to ascertain the potential of ICT. Six schools with ICT facility from standards one to ten in rural as well as urban areas were selected to investigate the effectiveness of the integration of ICT into classroom learning and teaching. Analysed the quality of pedagogy and management practices and also mean enrolment and aggregate performance of the students for the period before and after introduction of computers in each school were observed.

As the hiatus between the needs and the resources is decreasing consequent upon the economic growth, there is a temptation to introduce ICT’s immediately and in full scale. However, it should be kept in mind that integrating technology into educational process is not a one step activity and it involves a series of gradual processes, plans and measures. ICT has great potential for knowledge dissemination and for making learning and teaching more effective but it will not be effective unless innovative educational ICT policies and strategies are put in place with thoughtful planning and fulfilling of prerequisite conditions.
Cross-sectional study of the level of human development of Paudi Bhuiyan and Gond tribal communities in Sundergarh district of Orissa in terms of HDI, with analysis of Government policies for tribals

Sanjeeb Kumar Patjoshi

In India, there are 622 tribes including 75 primitive tribe groups, with total population of about 8.43 crore according to Census 2001. Orissa state has 62 tribes including 13 PTGs who constitute 22.13 % of its total population. Paudi Bhuiyan and Gond are PTG and non-PTG respectively inhabiting in Scheduled Area of Sundergarh District in Orissa. This is green-field research because there are no previous efforts to estimate HDI for small groups of population based on tribe though there are few such for whole district, state by UNDP and Planning Commission etc. My study is to measure Human Development Index based on method of UNDP of these two tribes on sample basis as on date i.e. cross-sectional based on secondary data mined and primary data collected. HDI estimation of tribal groups is important because lower HDI conveys higher deprivation levels. This study narrates past and existing policy of government and analyses the reasons why government policies on education, health and employment for these tribes have had very little impact on their HDI. Remedial measures have been suggested by propounding of a theory in which public policy has to endeavour to uplift them to a threshold level to enable them to leapfrog further by themselves. Another aspect that has been explored is whether the tribal people should be left to themselves for their own development or a positive inclusive intervention by the government is vital for their development to bring them on par with non-tribals. Concepts and principles of human rights also support the intervention policy for development.
Indian railways are the nerves of the nation. Over 150 years, Indian Railways have consistently contributed towards the transportation sector and influenced the betterment of the countryside. This organization needs to update itself in all its activities and resource mobilization. There is tremendous need of funds for betterment of Indian Railways in these days despite being constrained to take on the cheap airlines and expressways and to carry bulk goods for long distance charging reasonably low. Land management in Indian Railways is picking up great importance in capital and revenue generation and as an instrument Railway Land Development Authority has been formed.

This is my humble attempt to study the land management in Indian Railways which includes conventional means and recent paradigm shift. Based on the extant policies of the Ministry, some schemes are since being practiced. Some new ventures have been successfully completed. All these schemes are very thought-provoking because its study reveals such a conflict of interests that this complex study becomes educative and interesting. This also gives very good feedback on how best railway lands can be exploited. Recent means of land management in Indian Railways include schemes like co-operative society based shopping complexes, upfront payment model and commercial / residential special purpose vehicles of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Let us attempt to know about the organization structure of Indian Railways, its documentation style and methods adopted for land valuation. There appears to be tremendous potential in this subject. This study explains all these entities in context of land market and economics.

My research is exploratory and I have collected both primary and secondary data. Primary data is gathered by unstructured interviews of officials and structured responses while secondary data is collected from Railway Board, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Railway Land Development Authority. As we get more involved in study, we come across a situation wherein administration would need to take multi-criteria, multi-alternative decision to optimize the goal.

The subjectivity in land management and multiple criteria and multiple alternatives made me think of introducing Operations Research techniques in decision making process. I have recommended use of a model that works on principles of Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) as a solution; which I have explained by a mock drill on a real case study. The inputs of the AHP model are the outputs of responses processed by Delphi technique. In this process, there is scope to arrive at reasonable level of consensus; iteration by iteration and the data can be analyzed statistically. This has been done to justify each and every modality of the model. In fact the mock drill validates the model in real life situation.

Conventionally, Indian railways kept the land management in a dormant condition and the main purpose was to hold the possession of land and utilise it in a more social manner. The practise of documentation and land valuation needs lot of professionalism.
I feel this research would enable the reader to visualize most of the modalities and intricacies in land management in Indian Railways and I hope that my model will be of some interest to the decision makers.
Job Satisfaction Among Officers Of A Central Police Organization: A Study Of Rpf Group ‘A’ Officers

Saurabh Trivedi

This study aims to measure the job satisfaction levels of Group ‘A’ officers of Railway Protection Force, a central police organization. The exercise is done with the intention of understanding those job facets that cause apparent satisfaction or dissatisfaction among the officers. The conception of this study is relevant and timely, as it involves probing into the psychological moorings of group of leaders who are public servants responsible for management of security over one of the largest railways in the world and command a large central police organization. The officers of RPF are part of the mammoth Indian bureaucracy and face similar organizational contexts as their counterparts in other government departments. However, the officers of a police organization also belong to a distinctive force culture with its own set of norms and values. The scope of this study is to have a ‘first look’ at the attitudinal reactions of RPF officers towards their job and estimate the level of job satisfaction they perceive. An extensive literature review examines the various theoretical frameworks and determinants of job satisfaction as also the impact of demographic variables like age, work experience, rank and educational qualifications on job satisfaction. Several hypotheses were framed on the basis of the literature review and tested. The study was based on responses to Paul Spector’s Job Satisfaction Survey, administered to all RPF officers. The picture that emerges from the findings is that there is widespread job dissatisfaction among RPF officers. They are quite clearly dissatisfied with lack of promotional avenues, contingent rewards and pay package, in that order. The only areas where they have crossed the threshold of minimum satisfaction are Nature of Work, Supervision and Co-workers, but here also the mean scores indicate only slight satisfaction. The study ends with policy implications and suggestions to improve the service conditions of RPF officers by way of better promotional avenues and statutory changes in the responsibilities of the force.
Measurement of Organisational Learning Capability in Indian Public Sector Organisation: An Empirical Study of Indian Railways

Subrata Nath

The interest in organisational learning as a research topic has grown significantly in the recent years. The rapidly changing business environment has caused managers and researchers around the world to search for new ways to build organisations capable of continuous adoption and change. The organisation learning can be a sustainable way of maintaining competitive advantage in an intense business environment.

The Indian economy, in the last decade, has seen significant changes and it has resulted in substantial changes in its business environment. In this context of the changes brought about by the liberalization of the Indian economy, organisational learning assumes greater importance in both the private and the public arena of enterprises.

The study assays to understand the phenomenon of the organisational learning process in a public sector organisation. It focuses upon the process of organisational learning in the Indian Railways, which is the largest government employer in the country. The study also aims at understanding the factors that influence performance and quality of service delivery in the government or public sector organisations.

The findings of the study indicate that stocks of knowledge that reside at the individual, group and organisational levels and the flows of learning are equally critical. The data analysis indicates that a higher level of organisational knowledge stock may not help in improving organisational performance unless the learning flows exist in the organisation. It also shows that a team based working system shows higher level of learning where the knowledge stocks and flows are equally significant.

Several policy recommendations emerge from the study. A team based system learns significantly better than an individual based mechanized system. Collaborative and team based working, formations of quality circles, self managed teams (SMT) etc., can be useful tools to increase the efficacy of team based working. The study also points that there is a need to increase learning flows through social-networking mechanisms at workplaces, like, informal meetings, weekly discussions, production review meetings etc. Also encouraging innovation, sharing of ideas in a regular manner through formal and informal channels like KAIZEN, quality circles, failure meetings etc., can be helpful in maximizing throughput of the knowledge stocks.
Since 1980s the adoption of two-track commitment to the free trade by way of championing the multilateral trade while pursuing the preferential trade agreements, by major economies of the world has resulted in proliferation of preferential trading agreements.

With the proliferation of preferential trade agreements, Rules of Origin (ROO), central market access tools in any trade agreement have also proliferated. ROO determine the nationality of goods in the international trade to subject them to various trade disciplines such as preferential tariffs and quotas.

The main purpose of the ROO is to prevent trade deflection – to prevent the goods of the third country from entering the preferential area through the PTA partner country with low external tariffs. Rules of Origin that were originally designed as neutral instruments to authenticate the goods for preferential treatment among the PTA partner countries have increasingly become complex.

ROOs are turning into powerful trade policy instruments in guiding the investment and out sourcing decisions and are feared to cause distortionary effects. Therefore, there is an enhanced attention to ROO in the various preferential trading agreements.

The purpose of this dissertation is four fold. (1) to provide a overview of the objectives, types of ROO and their effects around the world with special emphasis on ROO of India’s PTAs; (2) to analyse the Indian experience with ROO with the help of the case study of ROO regimes in the first full fledged FTA of India, India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA); (3) to decipher the pattern in ROO regimes in the major PTAs across the world, specially the PTAs between the Northern and Southern partners and draw lessons from the experience; (4) to analyse the policy implications of various types of ROO that India is adopting in its PTA engagement and put forth policy recommendations for effective design and implementation of ROO protocols in India’s PTAs.

The methodology of this research is exploratory, adopting a case study method using both qualitative and quantitative approaches to study the ROO protocols in India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement and sector specific issues in ROOs if ISLFTA to arrive at specific recommendation for the sectors and the general recommendations for an effective ROO disciplines.

The dilemma of the regimes of the present times, whether ROO should be restricted as neutral trade policy instruments or should be used as developmental tools to promote regional integration and cooperation to meet economic as well as political and security needs is an issue that cannot be easily resolved. However, consensus is emerging that ROO regimes should promote integration of developing nations with the world economy.
Finally, the dissertation puts forth policy recommendations for effective design and implementation for ROOs that are development friendly and truly trade creating.
Acceptance of Telemedicine by Doctors

Srikant Walgad

The fast growing Information Technology and Telecommunication has opened door for application of Telemedicine in Health care management in both private and Government Health sectors. The growing momentum of interest in telemedicine and increased investment in its enabling technology by the Government have made physician technology acceptance an emerging concern for development and management of telemedicine. In India, ISRO’s initiative in telemedicine is being seen in almost all corners of nation, both in private and government setup. In this scenario the study of acceptance of telemedicine technology by doctors addresses the factors that could affect intention of physicians to adopt telemedicine technology. Based on the theoretical foundations of technology adoption models, an extended Technology Acceptance Model is proposed and tested via questionnaire. The study area of Northern Karnataka district Bagalkot was chosen for its location in backward area. In this study basic Technology Acceptance Model was modified with adding of external variables representing social and cognitive processes.

The study aims at examining the applicability of extended TAM model in the context of doctor’s intention to adopt basic telemedicine technology. Data were collected through questionnaire. 121 doctors belonging to all spheres like government, private practice and medical education participated in process. Our results partially confirm the model. Unlike in earlier studies in telemedicine acceptances, perceived ease of use emerged as reasonably significant perception variable. As theorised, the primary predictor variable perceived usefulness was a strong determinant of intention to use.

Job relevance cognitive variable emerged as one of the predominant variable among overall sample and medical graduates without specialisation. Gender, Age and Place of work (government & private) did not show much variation among different constructs used in the model. However specialisation like MD/MS showed significance on constructs like perceived use, job relevance, attitude and output quality of technology. The study gives insight into technology acceptance’s importance in policy making. It emphasises the need for involvement of physicians in policy making right from the beginning. It shows importance of making the training and demonstration oriented towards emphasizing the usefulness of technology for clinical purposes and job relevance rather than placing importance on procedural aspects of technology. In the study physicians showed positive attitude towards use of telemedicine technology and moderate intention to use it.
Spirituality at Work: Construct Conceptualization And Measurement

Vijoy Kumar Singh

Spirituality has been a very sacred concept in India. This concept has largely been understood with religion. However, religions are often laden with rituals, dogmas and factionalism. Since human life is largely represented in action and workplaces, individual life may not be dissociated with social and work life. The word spirituality has been described variegatedly by different people. Do organizations really need spirituality at work? Literatures show that there are organizations, which have identified the strength and need of it and they have achieved sustainable positive performance and progress. Moreover, all religions talk of honest work and action in workplaces.

Workplaces are now full of individuals who are under huge stress, frustration, disillusionment, rat race and job dissatisfaction. These have started giving bad results in terms of peace, harmony, cooperation and organizational performances. It is being felt that we start to pay respect to our age old value systems which recognize every individual and provide enough rooms for them to grow and perform for realizing vision and fulfilling its objectives by introducing spirituality at work.

The study aims at certain objectives in understanding a common meaning of spirituality and conceptualizing construct for spirituality at work. Besides detailed literature review, data has been collected from samples of Government organization, specifically, East Central Railway employees. Methods adopted in data collection have been convenient sampling, simple random sampling, personal in-depth interview, preparing transcriptions, etc. The exploratory analyses largely on Grounded Theory approach provided various characteristics of spiritual and non-spiritual persons. Out of those, certain most important defining and least defining characteristics have also been ascertained. Further, various items and dimensions for spirituality have also been prepared for conceptualizing the construct for spirituality. The qualitative and qualitative analyses of data further revealed that across the religions, spirituality at work has always been a highly acclaimed and desired area and has been the essence of religion. Various demographic variables have been analysed against the items/dimensions of spirituality and results have been quite interesting which could help the organizations in ensuring better organizational performances through sustainable development. However, there has been enough scope for future research as limitations were there with the study.
India wants to keep up the GDP growth rate to boost the economy of the country. Though late but the Government realized the importance of infrastructure for sustained economic development. There is acute urgency to create matching world-class infrastructure to boost the economic growth. The core foundation of this entire infrastructure is always provided by the civil engineers. But ironically, this sector is aging, worrying about shortage of well-qualified professionals and managers, and suffering with bad publicity in the minds of the new generation, Hence, the basic question is that if our Civil Engineering (CE) profession is ready to cope up with the requirements of the construction industry.

In this new millennium, the challenges are big for civil engineers which will also bring more opportunities for them. In recent future, the present and growing population will demand more water, more power, waste disposal, more shelter and transportation infrastructure. Hence without looking back with our failures to attract bright students to Civil Engineering (CE) profession, we should devise the methodology to create awareness, develop strategy to attract and retain them and provide proper curriculum to enhance this field.

The basic concerns of the profession are like tag of corruption, poor public image, low recognition, losing quality students to other branches of engineering, shortage of good quality graduates, low cost approach in the profession, pressure of low salary, lack of job security, low-tech profile career etc. Hence, the aim of this dissertation is to find out the reasons for these concerns and suggest measures required to be undertaken by the stakeholders in the construction industry.

The analysis of primary and secondary data has been carried out to suggest the strategies to Government and other stakeholders. Based on these strategies, the suggestive action plans have been formulated for implementation by respective stakeholders.