



सत्यमेव जयते

डा. अरविन्द पानगड़िया

उपाध्यक्ष

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Dated, the 14th March, 2016

Dear Shekhar,

I am delighted to know that NCAER will host the Third Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) Users' International Conference in Neemrana during March 16-18, 2016. I understand that you will also do the Global Launch of the public access IHDS-II data set at this conference.

2. High quality data form the backbone of good research. In this respect, the IHDS data set stands out as India's national, multipurpose, longitudinal panel data set. Repeatedly interviewing the same households on the same questions at different points in time allows for a richer and more reliable understanding of the characteristics of households that are able to partake in the fruits of economic growth and the process through which they are included or excluded from this process. NCAER must be complimented for sustaining this work starting with its *Human Development Profile of India* (HDPI) survey in 1993-94, then building on that survey and its sample households to launch in partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park the first wave of the IHDS-I in 2004-05 comprising 41,500 households, and culminating in the IHDS-II survey in 2011-12.

3. I am pleased that NCAER will be formally launching the IHDS-II on March 16th at the start of the Third IHDS Users' Conference. I understand that early versions of the IHDS-II data have already been downloaded around 2,500 times by researchers worldwide. That the IHDS data set is in the public domain is one of its key strengths, allowing researchers worldwide to pursue independent research and policy ideas relating to India's economic and social transformation since the early 1990s. I understand that you are currently in the planning stages of the third wave of the IHDS, and I wish all success in designing and implementing this wave. India needs to design its policies on the back of good research, which so critically depends on good data.

4. My best wishes to NCAER for a productive and successful Third IHDS Users' Conference and for continuing its work in promoting high-quality, public-use databases for informed public policy formulation in India.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

(Arvind Panagariya)

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर