



# DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

## India Human Development Survey Forum | July 2024

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

### Women's Empowerment, Region of Residence, and Contraception among Women in India

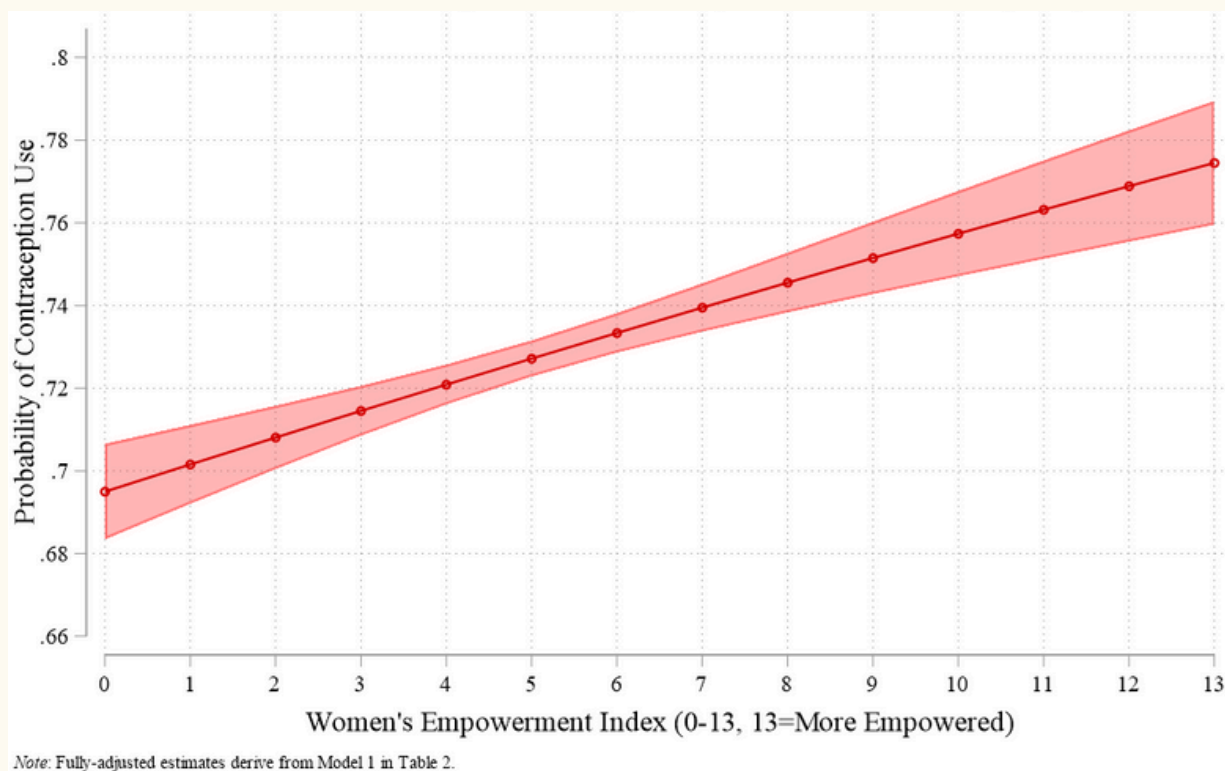
-Megha Rana , Ryan Talbert



Despite actions taken by the Indian government to improve national, regional, and village-level sexual and reproductive health, 49 million women still have unmet contraceptive needs. Yet, when granted access, women disproportionately elect for irreversible methods such that India has the highest female sterilization rate in the world. Building on these insights, the present study examines associations between women's empowerment (e.g., cooking, shopping, and family-planning autonomy), region (e.g., Hills, North, and East), and use of contraception

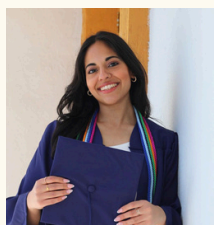
(i.e., any and type). Data for this study comes from ever-married, reproductive aged women in the 2005 and 2012 waves of the India Human Development Survey (n=38,634). Results showed that higher levels of women's empowerment are associated with greater probability of using contraception, and after disaggregation, relying on female sterilization. Furthermore, region of residence modifies associations such that women residing in the North Central and North are typically less likely to utilize contraception. Across empowerment levels, residents of the West and South consistently have higher levels of contraceptive use.

Figure 1. Predicted Probability of using any contraception for eligible women in waves 1 and 2 of the IHDS panel 2005 and 2011-2012 (n = 42,211)



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## About the Authors



### Megha Rana

Megha Rana graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2024 with a degree in Molecular and Cell Biology and a minor in Sociology. She has extensive volunteering experiences in the healthcare field and anticipates becoming a Physician Assistant. Her published work has examined the role of region and women's empowerment for contraception use among Indian women.



### Ryan D. Talbert

Ryan D. Talbert is an Assistant Professor of Sociology; faculty affiliate of the Africana Studies Institute and the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy at the University of Connecticut; and leads the Health Equity Lab. He specializes in health disparities, race and racism, and punishment and inequality.

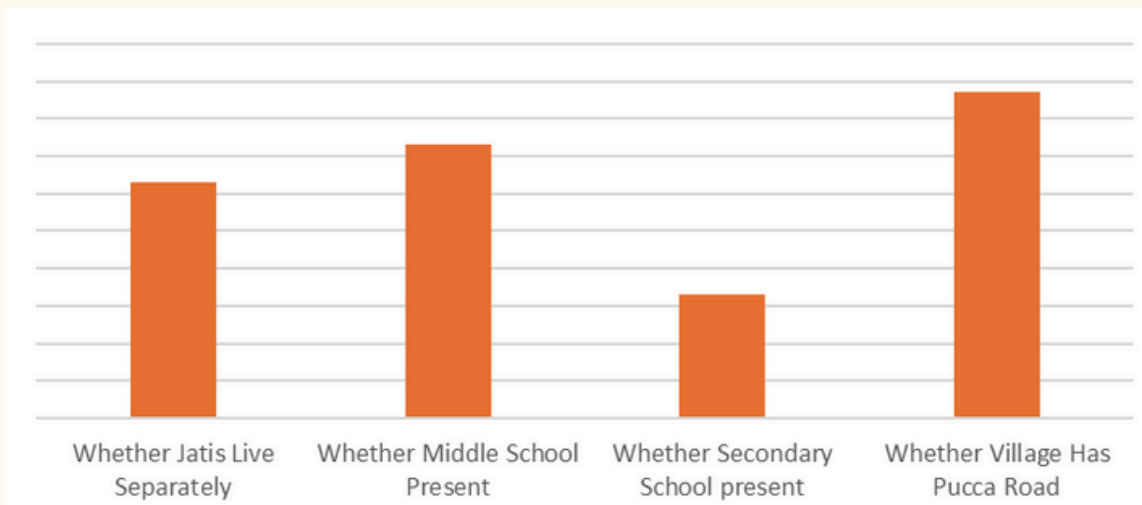
# Moving up the Ladder: The Spatial Determinants of Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Rural India

- Kunal Sen

In this study, we examine the “geography of mobility” for rural India. We study the spatial determinants of intergenerational occupational mobility across villages in India. Using a nationally representative data set- the Indian Human Development Survey of 2011–2012, which has detailed information on the occupations of fathers and sons as well as data on village-level covariates, we find clear effects of village-level factors in explaining intergenerational occupational mobility. The remoteness of the village, its agro-ecological and climactic conditions, infrastructural public goods and its economic prosperity are important correlates of whether the son is less likely to follow his parent’s occupation in the village.



Fig. 1 Social and human capital characteristics of villages (%).



Source: India Human Development Survey, 2011-2012

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## About the Authors



### Kunal Sen

Kunal Sen is Director of UNU-WIDER and Professor of Development Economics at The University of Manchester. He has advised national governments and development agencies like DFID, ADB, and IDRC, with extensive work in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South-east Asia.

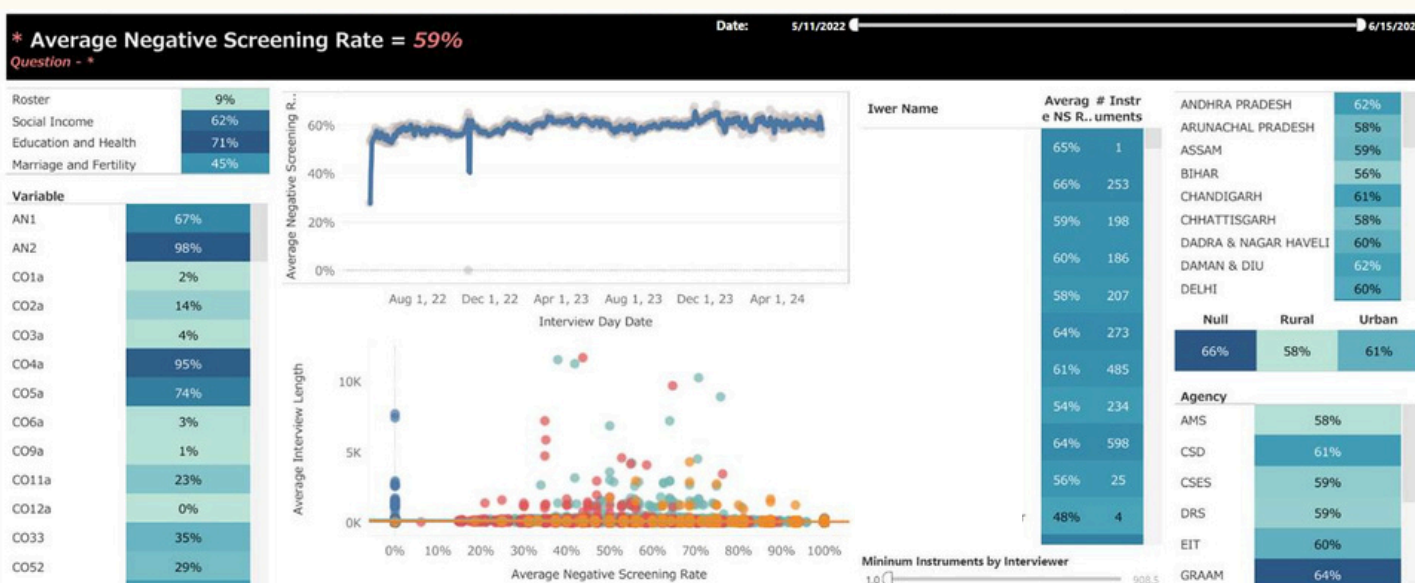
## Field Monitoring Using Negative Screening Data in IHDS

- Debasis Barik, Bijay Chouhan

In any survey, screener questions are usually framed to filter out respondents whom the questions were meant for. This implies, not bothering a particular set of respondents for whom those questions were not applicable or irrelevant. For example, a response of “No” to the question “Does your household own any farmland?” ensures that farm-related questions will not be asked to the households who do not own farmland. However, interviewers may use this mechanism to undertake shortcuts by falsifying a negative response on behalf of respondents so that several follow-up questions (in this case, acreage, crop patterns, farm income, expenditure, etc.) can be skipped to minimize time and effort. For this reason, monitoring the negative responses to these screener questions became a vital quality control mechanism used by the IHDS-3 field monitoring team. Negative screen rate indicator was created using the set of negative screening questions for different instruments.

A significantly different negative screening rates (NS rate) across interviewers within the same geographical region during the same survey period warrant a closer look into the behavior of the interviewers. While a high NS rate alone cannot ascertain fraud during data collection process, it coupled with other means like listening to the computer assisted audio recording (CARI) can detect and help in correcting the field malpractices in an early phase of data collection. In IHDS 3, the negative screening rate data, extracted from the survey data collected by the interviewers were uploaded to a quality control dashboard, and the concerned team used the dashboard to monitor the NS rate daily. Interviews with a higher NS rate were analysed carefully using audio recording by a team of NCAER experts and quick feedback was given to the concerned person in a follow-up meeting. We experienced much improvement in interviewers' behaviour after such sessions.

Fig. 1 India Human Development Survey (IHDS) 3 - Negative Screening



## About the Authors



### Debasis Barik

Debasis Barik, Senior Fellow, at the NCAER National Data Innovation Centre, is a demographer by training specialising in economic demography and aging. He has expertise in public health, migration, gender, and intergenerational well-being. Dr. Barik's current research focuses broadly on the adaptation process of Indian households to environmental threats.



### Bijay Chouhan

Bijay Chouhan, Senior Data and Systems Specialist at the NCAER National Data Innovation Centre manages data and recommends technological innovations for data capture, curation, analyses, and visualisation. In his role, he oversees the maintenance and enhancement of systems, tools, and technology within NDIC. His areas of expertise include research data management, data technologies, and statistical computing.



## Publications List

### Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Barik, N., & Padhi, P. (2024). Temporal Trends and Determinants of Household Cooking Fuel Choices in India: A Comprehensive Analysis. In Sergi, B.S. et al. (Ed.), *Modeling Economic Growth in Contemporary India (Entrepreneurship and Global Economic Growth)*, Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 295-320. [Link](#)

Bhatia, S. (2024). What Is the Effect of Male Out-Migration on the Autonomy of Married Women Left Behind in Indian Households? (Doctoral dissertation, Georgetown University). [Link](#)

Desai, S., et.al (2024). Rethinking Social Safety Nets in a Changing Society. Ideas for India. IPF2024 series. [Link](#)

Gaiha, R., Unnikrishnan, Vidhya, & Kulkarni, V. S. (2024). Is the Growing Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in India Preventable? University of Pennsylvania Population Center Working Paper (PSC/PARC). [Link](#)

Gupta, I. (2024). Younger children and mothers' labour supply in rural India: Evidence from fertility stopping behaviour. *Journal of Population Research*, 41(3), 18. [Link](#)

Mallika, M. G., & Sumitha, K. (2024). Exploring the impact of social factors on graduate earnings in Kerala. *Kerala Economy*, Vol.5, No.2. pp 01-12. [Link](#)

Maurya, P. (2024). Credit Access and Women Empowerment: Evidence from India's Informal Sector. In *Academy of Management Proceedings* (Vol. 2024, No. 1, p.12912). Valhalla, NY 10595: Academy of Management. [Link](#)

Nandwani, B., & Roychowdhury, P. (2024). Property Inheritance Rights and Female Political Participation in India. *Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research*, Mumbai, WP-2024-012. [Link](#)

Razak, H.Y. (2024). Private Returns to Education Across Gender in India: A Cross-Sectional Study. In Aftab. Shaikh et al. (Ed.), *New Horizons in Commerce, Management and Information Technology* (pp. 42-47). Parab Publications. Retrieved from [Link](#)

Taneja, A., & Batra, R. (2024). Equal Work, Unequal Pay: Gender Wage Discrimination in India. Preprint (Version 1) available at Research Square. [Link](#)

## About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available through ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same can be found via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS was undertaken in 2022-24 and data are currently being cleaned and processed.

IHDS 3 has been jointly conducted by researchers from the University of Maryland, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Indiana University and University of Michigan.

## IHDS Principal Investigators

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