



## DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

### India Human Development Survey Forum | November 2024

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

#### Widowhood and Mortality in India: Household Headship and Filial Expectations and Their Association with Mortality Among Older Widows

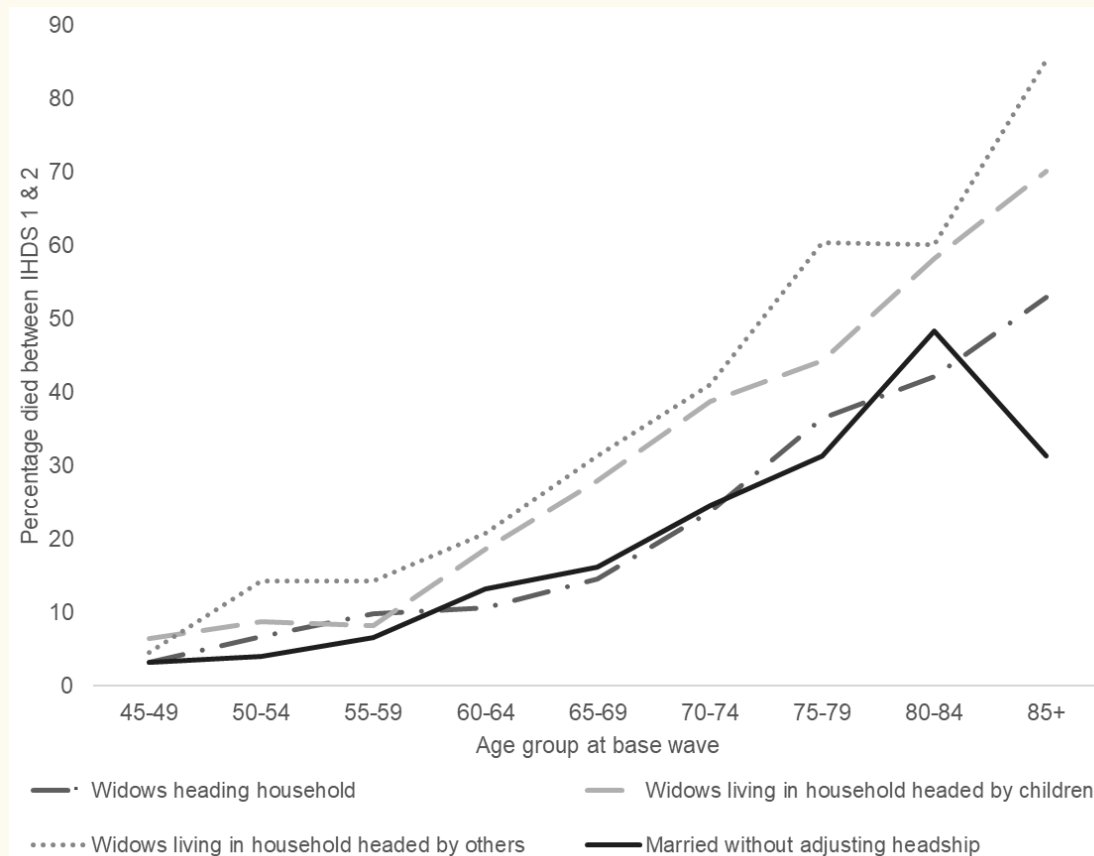
-Babul Hossain, Srinivas Goli & K. S. James



The research examines the link between household headship, filial expectations, and mortality risk among widowed women aged 45 and above in India, using data from two waves of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). With reference to married women, results show widows in households headed by them or their sons have a lower risk of mortality, while widows in households headed by others (e.g., brothers, sons-in-law, grandsons) faced higher mortality risks. However, despite heading their households, widows who expected

financial support from their sons had greater mortality risks than those without such expectations. Heterogeneity effect analyses reveal that widows heading households, particularly in rural or poor households with financial expectations from sons, had a higher mortality risk. Given that, the share of widows is expected to rise considerably in the future with rise in gender differentials in life expectancies, these findings assume importance for both policy and practice.

Figure 1. Percentage of women aged 45 years and above died between IHDS 1 & 2 by their marital status and household headship in India.



Source: Data from the India Human Development Survey IHDS 1 (2004-05) and IHDS 2 (2011-12)

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## About the Authors



### Babul Hossain

Babul Hossain is a trained demographer focused on gender health gaps in developing countries, particularly India. He is currently a post-doctoral fellow with the CARES group at the Luxembourg Institute of Health. He completed his PhD at IIPS, India, and has authored numerous high-impact publications on widowhood, gender gaps, morbidity, and mortality.



### Srinivas Goli

Srinivas Goli is an Associate Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. His research interests include Family, Economic and Political Demography. Before joining IIPS, he was a New Generation Network Scholar at Australia India Institute at the University of Western Australia, and also served as an Assistant Professor in Population Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He was a visiting faculty at the University of Gottingen, Germany. He published widely in international journals.



### K. S. James

K.S. James, Senior Visiting Scholar at Newcomb Institute, Tulane University, is a renowned demographer focused on South Asia. Formerly Director and Senior Professor at IIPS, Mumbai, he has held professorships at Jawaharlal Nehru University and ISEC, Bangalore. Currently, he is Vice President of the Asian Population Association and serves on the Kerala Government's Urban Policy Commission.

# Impact of Natural Disasters on Educational attainment in India: A Panel Data Analysis

-Yasser Razak Hussain & Pranab Mukhopadhyay

Natural disasters are known to affect welfare, especially education adversely. This can lead to a loss in human capital and reduce future growth and development. The study evaluates the impact of the rising incidence of climate extremes vis-a-vis natural disasters as external shocks on educational outcomes. We use data from two of the latest rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) and employ a panel difference in difference regression model with continuous treatment fixed effects at the individual level. We provide first estimates of the



impact of natural disasters on educational attainment disaggregated by social (including caste, religion, and gender) and economic groups (consumption quintiles). Natural disasters significantly and negatively affected education for women and three Consumption Quintiles (including those below poverty), Other Backward Castes, Scheduled Castes, Muslims, and other Minorities. Our results have significant implications in the context of quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate change (SDG 13).

Table 1: Disaggregated estimates of ATET by Consumption Quintiles

Variables Dependent: Education	BPL	APL1	APL2	APL3	APL4	APL5
ATET Natural Disaster Intensity	-0.0591** (0.0272)	-0.000462 (0.0362)	0.0692 (0.0446)	0.0367 (0.0417)	-0.101*** (0.0388)	-0.0626* (0.0344)
Constant	0.813*** (0.2971)	2.258*** (0.4505)	3.233*** (0.8505)	1.835** (0.7172)	1.277*** (0.4869)	3.803*** (0.6294)
Number of Observations	9325	7880	6774	6160	5295	4329

Source: Author's calculation  
Standard errors in parentheses \* p < 0.1, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01

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## About the Authors



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Yasser Razak Hussain is an Assistant Professor at M.E.S. Vasant Joshi College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar, Goa. He recently completed his PhD in economics from Goa Business School, Goa University. His research interests include Growth, Development, and Sustainability.



### Pranab Mukhopadhyay

Pranab Mukhopadhyay is a Professor of Economics and Vice Dean (Research) of Goa Business School at Goa University. He graduated from Presidency College, Calcutta, and did his Masters and doctoral work at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research interests are in the area of Macroeconomics, Growth and Environment. He currently co-edits the journal of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics – Ecology, Economy and Society – the INSEE journal.



## Publications List

### Recent Publications using IHDS Data

Bansal, A., Dwivedi, L. K., Dixit, P., & Gupta, A. (2024). Factors Contributing to Unwanted Birth in India: Evidence from Panel Study Design. *Online Journal of Health and Allied Sciences*, 23(3):2. [Link](#)

Dhakad, M., & KC, Samir (2024). Mortality differentials by educational attainment globally. *Vienna Institute of Demography Working Papers*, No. 02/2024. Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna Institute of Demography (VID), Vienna.

[Link](#)

Ganvir, N. (2024). *Essays Analyzing Economic Consequences of Caste Dynamics in India*. Doctoral Dissertation, Department of Economics, The University of New Mexico. Albuquerque, New Mexico. [Link](#)

Gupta, T., & Kumar, A. G. (2024). Structural Equation Approach to Modeling Social Norms in Women's Education: A Case Study of India. *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 1-25. [Link](#)

Hossain, B., Goli, S., & James, K. S. (2024). Widowhood and Mortality in India: Household Headship and Filial Expectations and Their Association with Mortality Among Older Widows. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*. [Link](#)

Joshi, S. (2024). Has India's Learning Crisis Really Worsened? Working Paper, Department of Economics, University of Warwick. [Link](#)

Lahiri, S. (2024). Erratic Rain, Exiting Men: Female Farmers in India's Changing Agricultural Landscape. Doctoral Dissertation, UC Santa Barbara. ProQuest ID: Lahiri\_ucsb\_0035D\_16642. Merritt ID: ark:/13030/m51w6s2b. [Link](#)

Manjunath, A. (2024). Language Barriers, Internal Migration, and Labor Markets in General Equilibrium. Working Paper. Department of Economics, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA. [Link](#)

Sreekumar, G., & Mandal, S. K. (2024). Impact of drought on out-migration among rural farm households in India: does participation in non-farm activities and access to irrigation make any difference? *Indian Economic Review*. [Link](#)

## IHDS in the News

Desai, S. (2024). An Unrealised Gender Dividend. The ideas page. The Indian Express. [Link](#)

Gaiha, R., Unnikrishnan, V., & Kulkarni, V. S. (2024). Debating the 'healthy longevity initiative'. The Hindu. [Link](#)

## About IHDS

The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) began as a nationally representative, multi topic survey of 41,554 households in 1,503 villages and 971 urban neighborhoods across India. The first round of interviews were completed in 2004-05; Data is publicly available via ICPSR. The second round re-interviewed most of these households in 2011-12 (N=42,152) and data for the same is available via ICPSR. Fieldwork for IHDS 3 was undertaken in 2022-24 and data is 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.

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