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The Dialectics of health in the Indian States
A Social Welfare Approach
Atanu Senguptai anti Parnasudha Karmodale

Abstract

In the usual discourse of health, focus is on the achievements side such as Improvement of life-expectancy, reduction of infant mortality, increase of public hygiene and so on. The government, NGOs and others are also interested in the positive story of expanding health facilities to. Unfortunately this approach does a serious injustice to those who are outside this hallowed circle. The plight of an illiterate person increases more if he/she lives in a family where everybody is illiterate. The opposite happens if some of its family members achieve literacy. A somewhat similar effect may be argued in the case of health. We have tried to construct Health Index that tries to capture this effect by providing a theoretical axiomatic structure at the state level data of India across two time points. It is seen that the index satisfies some well-behaved social utility function. The objective is to understand the relative dynamics of the constructed index in the light of Indian data

Keywords: Health Index, Social Utility Function, Two– Dimensional

Are Indian Adults Ethnically Predisposed to Low Body Mass Index?

Sunny Jose

Abstract

This paper examines the conceptual and empirical basis of a new hypothesis which postulates that Indian adults have an ethnically determined predisposition for low adult Body Mass Index (BMI). The hypothesis is lacking in both counts. Analytically lacking, as it presumes the absence of correlation between the explanatory factors and higher prevalence of undernutrition among Indian adults as the presence of an ethnically determined predisposition for low B.MI among them. Analysis suggests that the poorest women from Kerala and men from Punjab, among whom the ethnic predisposition is likely to be present, have low levels of undernutrition than the richest women and men from several states among whom the ethnic Predisposition is less likely to be present. The finding, besides challenging the hypothesis, calls for learning from states which exhibit consistent performance in aspects of human development.

Key words: Nutrition, Body mass, growth, stunting, health

Linking Small Farmers With Value Chains
Analysis of Recent Developments

Raj kishore Panda

Abstract

The study attempts to analyze the trends in the growth of production and marketed surplus of major food grain commodities in the Country and examine the extent of participation and relative status of small-holder farmers in the production and marketed surplus of food commodities. It also outlines the imperatives of linking small farmers with markets/ value chains and examines the working of different collective models in marketing food products. The study is based on secondary data. The findings show that the value of production and marketed surplus of food grains have increased in the country appreciably in recent years and the contribution of small holders continues to be significant in both terms. However, these farmers suffer from inadequate access to critical resources. New institutional innovations in marketing have not benefited the small farmers since these farmers are largely engaged in producing conventional low value crops. In this context, these farmers should organize themselves into farmerbased organizations to improve their bargaining strength in the input and output markets

Keywords: Value – chain, agriculture, producer , surplus, market

Agricultural Finance in Tribal Areas

A Case Study from Koraput district, Odisha

Minaketan Beheral and Goutam Kumar Mohanty

Abstract

Agriculture and forest are the two main sources of livelihoods for tribal people. Credit is an important ingredient to enhance the productivity of the agriculture sector for the farmers. Rural farmers are lacking in capital for investment which compels them to depend upon traditional sources of credit which leads to exploitation in several ways. The paper aims to look at the credit system prevailing in rural and tribal areas and their impact on small and marginal farmers in general and tribal farmers in particular. Both primary and secondary data are used for the paper. It is revealed from the study that credit facilities are not adequate for the tribal farmer in the district. There is variation in interest rates in relation to types of loan by financial institutions. Other informal financial institutions charge high rate of interest than formal ones. There is lack of awareness among tribal farmers regarding various rural schemes of credit of formal financial institutions.

Keywords- tribal, agriculture, accessibility, credit facilities, financial institutions

Food Insecurity: Persistence of Hunger among Dalits in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

Ajeet Kumar Pankaji

Abstract

The regular occurrence of hunger or seasonal hunger sought to the failure of entitlement is manifested as chronic undernourishment. In spite of the availability of food, hunger deaths are occurring, which is the mockery of the achievement of self-sufficiency stage in food production. This paper provides a conceptual and empirical Perspective on the study of Dalits and food insecurity. It sets the stage for addressing some of the key questions surrounding caste based discrimination and political favoritism in welfare programme by highlighting the way in which food insecurity occurs. It specifically looks at the persistence of hunger among Dalits and its causes and consequences on everyday life of Dalits. It also examines the consequences of caste factor in food accessibility of Dalits. The paper, in its essence, contextualizes from theoretical and empirical literature related with caste and food insecurity and empirical data collected from field.

Key Word: Food Insecurity, Hunger, Dalit, Discrimination and Caste.

Democratic Decentralisation and Legal Provisions for Scheduled Areas of Odisha

A Review

Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra

Abstract

This paper examines the functioning of the Panchayats in tribal areas of Odisha while highlighting the process of evolution and institutional arrangements of Panchavats in the two tribal districts. The source of this paper is based on secondary data and primary data collected from the districts of Sundargarh and Koraput. It argues that the functioning of Panchayats in the Tribal Areas has become a reality in the context of the enactment of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA Act). These institutions have been playing a greater role in the matters of promoting socio-economic development. However there is a further need of strengthening the implementation of PESA Act and functioning of the Panchavats as per the Act.

Key Words: Panchayats, Scheduled Areas, the PESA Act, Odisha

**Child Care Practices
Perspectives of Hindu and Muslim Religious
Leaders
Azmat, Sufia**

Abstract

Religion plays a vital role in the lives of people in India. It also has a major role in the way a woman perceives and prepares for her birthing experience. Each culture has its own values, beliefs and practices related to pregnancy and birth. The whole ideas, rituals and pre and post-partum behaviors are religiously guided. Therefore, Religious leaders' views and references from religious texts hold a special place in the lives of people, and also their ways of living are guided by them. People's ways of child care and rites and rituals attached with the phenomenon are also guided by religion, they belong to, and influences of religious leaders. The present paper is a qualitative inquiry of views of religious leaders and supporting religious texts to reveal that how far child care practices are influenced by religion or other factors.

Key words: Religion, child care, health, women, education

Land use pattern in Tamil Nadu

Thangaraj M

Abstract

This study examines the land use pattern in Tamil Nadu_ The specific issues addressed are (i) whether there is any scope for further expansion in the area of land for

cultivation and (ii) whether it is feasible to reduce further the ceiling on landholdings for efficient utilization of land? Data was collected from Season and Crop Reports and Agricultural Censuses. Linear trend analysis is used to estimate the variation in the land use pattern. The results indicate that there is a greater scope for further expansion of land for cultivation. The study also indicates that the area of land under the cultivable waste, current fallows and other fallows was relatively higher in the large size holdings. This in fact suggests that there is a scope for reduction of ceiling on landholdings for efficient utilization of land.

Key words: Land use, crop, cultivation, Tamil Nadu, ceiling