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Elementary Education in India: Disentangling Quantity-Quality and Public-Private Achin Chakraborty

Abstract

In this paper we have posed the issues of quantitative expansion and quality in elementary education against the backdrop of the changing role of the public provisioning of education vis-à-vis the growing private schooling in almost all the Indian states. We begin with a critical assessment of some quantitative and qualitative aspects of elementary education and argue that there is still a strong need for focusing on the supply side issues that would further improve the equity aspect of both quantity and quality. In discussions of quality of elementary education it is not usually seen that the issue is posed in a *systemic* fashion connecting it to the changing mix of public and private enrolment. We have analyzed with select set of secondary data obtained from different sources how sensitivity to the reality of the changing public-private mix can change our policy thinking.

Keywords: Education, equity, quality, enrollment, literacy

Trend and Pattern of Crimes against Persons: A Statistical Analysis for Bihar (2001-2010)

Amarendra Mishra
S K Singh and K P Singh

Abstract

An attempt has been made to study the crime scenario prevailed in Bihar during the period, 2001-2010. A new approach has been adopted for detecting hotspots of crimes against persons, particularly murder and rape. There are three prominent issues in analysing the crime scenario of any place. These are to identify the areas having unusually high prevalence rates, to examine whether the elevated rate is statistically significant and if significant then to assess the social, economic and political factors that may be held responsible for this. Discrete spatial and space-time analyses have been instituted using scan statistics for detecting and evaluating clusters of cases. It has been done by scanning a window across space and time. Satscan software been used for identifying vulnerable districts and adjoining areas with respect to crimes hotspots. This may be helpful for policy process to control crimes against person Bihar.

Keywords: Crime Rate, Crime Pattern Analysis, Crime Hotspot, Scan Statistics, Spatial and space-time analysis

Emerging Economies and employment Status of Tribals: An Analysis from 'Out-Group' Perspective Gobinda C Pal

Abstract

This paper examines the pattern and trend in the employment status of the tribals vis-à-vis rest of the populations against the backdrop of:- (i) The Status interventions for the protection of economics rights of tribals; (ii) Changes in livelihood options and opportunities because of development initiatives in the traditional tribal habitations and (iii) Change in the labour market structure since 1990s. It also looks into the variations in(un) employment among tribals and non-tribals across rural-Urban sectors and status grouped under the central tribal and north-eastern regions. Evidence is drawn primarily from the data provided by the NSSO over the three time points since mid-1990s. Evidence indicates that Tribals have higher work participation rate as compared to non-tribals, but they largely fall back on causal labour in agricultural and allied occupations and self-employment of low earning activities. The overall quality of employment among tribals has remained relatively poorer, leading to lack of social protection. The paper argues that despite specific programmatic interventions and faster changes in employment structure in last two decades, the employment situation has not been advantageous for the tribals as compared to non-tribals.

Keywords: Economics Growth, Labour Market Structure, Tribals, Employment Opportunities

Dynamics of Composition of India's Import during the post Reform period

Manoj Kumar Sinha

Abstract

The reductions of tariff and total removals of quantitative restrictions (QRs) lead to manifold increase in India's import bill. The main purpose of this paper is to study the structural changes in India's import composition during the post reform period. The dominance pattern is top-heavy. Petroleum product is at the top and accounted for more than one-third of import because of inelastic demand to price. Growth rate of mobility and turnover is negative, low and statistically significant. The annual compound growth rate of concentration ratio of composition of commodities is positive and statistically significant but value is low. The increasing trends of concentration ratio has been supplemented and complemented to the dominance pattern. India is considered as the most favourable destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). So, foreign trade policy (import policy) should be intermingled with FDI policy in such way that both become complementary and supplementary to each other.

Keywords: Import, Trade, Composition, Dominance, concentration

5. Trade ports in Early Medieval Peninsular India

Gaur Chandra Ghoshl and Abhijit Datta Abstract

Excavations have unearthed that there was ring of ports in the vast littorals of the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. The riverine ports in the estuary of both the seas with vast forelands and hinterlands facilitated the trade and commerce in both sides of the peninsula. Contemporary literatures subscribe to the fact that trade and commerce flourished centering round the ring of ports. The ports cannot exist in isolation. The emergence of ports indicates vast commercial impetus following surplus in both agrarian and industrial products. The activities of the ports invulnerable coastal regions call in question the theory of the slump in trade and commerce with the ushering in of feudalism and the collapse of the Central authority in the early medieval India. The trade ports in both sides of the Indian Peninsula facilitated the transaction of commodities to West Asia, Africa and Europe in the West and to the Chinese empire in the East. The ports in the coastal areas acted also as mediators between the Far-East, South-East Asia and the West. Indian trade was never blockaded and these ports their commercial activity was the forerunner of what followed later on inspiring the European Merchants Companies to penetrate through ports.

Keywords: Port, Harbour, Coast, Voyage, Ship, Trade

Sources of Productivity Growth and Livelihoods Resilience in Bihar in the Recent Decade A District Level Non-parametric Analysis

Surya Bhushan

Abstract

This paper applies the non-parametric data envelopment approach (DEA) to estimate Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth rate for agricultural output comprising the period 2000-2012 across districts of Bihar. The approach finds the shift in the frontier as well as improved efficiency play an important role as a source of productivity growth, suggesting that technological adoption and catching up may be a vitally important source for overall productivity growth. The approach identifies the frontier districts in terms of agricultural production. Using the geographically linked resources at the district level, namely, bio-physical, social, economic and health resources, the paper also develops a Livelihoods Resilience Index (LRI) at the district level to understand the association with agricultural TFP growth. The positive association identified warrants a further investigation at smaller unit, say, household level, to understand the rural development dynamics in the predominantly agricultural and rural state.

Keywords: TFP, Malmquist, DEA, Non-parametric, Agriculture, Bihar, Livelihoods Resilience Index

Status Of Financial Resources of Rural Local Government: An Empirical Analysis of Aligarh District

Tasib Alam

Abstract

With the passage of 73rd Amendment Act, in 1992, people's participation in the process of planning, decision-making, implementation and delivery system in rural India has been recognized. As per the 29 items of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, three functions i.e functions, functionaries and funds have to be devolved on the Panchayati raj institutions for planning and implementation of schemes pertaining to a particular sector. In Uttar Pradesh, the Amended Act of 1994 has incorporated changes of far reaching importance with respect to the structure and composition of the Panchayats at all the three levels. Although the Amendment Act mandating decentralization was passed more than two decades ago, limited devolution and inadequate capacity of local government's finances seem to have undermined the autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Any serious attempts to improve the fiscal autonomy of the Panchayats should ensure greater tax powers to them. It is only when the tax powers are assigned to the Panchayats that they would be able to improve the standard of public services, ensuring greater efficiency and accountability.

Keywords: Fiscal Decentralization, Devolution, Panchayats, Taxation, Finance Commission

Status and Significance of Connectivity Sector in Tamil Nadu: With Special Reference to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

K. Sivasubramanian

Abstract

Since independence, the contribution of service sector to the Indian economy has been growing, whereas that of the industrial sector is moving with a slow pace and it is declining in case of the agricultural sector. The same trend has been noticed in majority of the states in India over the past five decades. In Tamil Nadu, in 1960-61 the contribution of tertiary, secondary and primary sectors was 36.2%, 20.3% and 43.5% respectively, which changed to 63.1%, 30.7% and 6.2% respectively in 2013-14. Previously infrastructure development programs were not given as much importance as they have begun to receive in recent decades which stimulates the growth of the nation and also creates more employment that is absorbed from the population moving out of agriculture sector. By taking this view as the backbone, this paper analyses the status and significance of connectivity sector projects namely rural roads and bridges developed in Tamil Nadu in terms of their contribution to overall growth of the state economy.