Expanding secondary education is critical to the rising aspirations of India’s young people

In the western reaches of the Great Indian Desert in Rajasthan, vast stretches of scrubland extend far into the distance. Hillocks and dunes, unsuitable for farming, rise up unexpectedly, interspersed with dry and thorny vegetation. Little hamlets lie scattered across the barren wastes, and small clusters of thatched round roofs barricade themselves with walls of stone against the unrelenting desert winds. Occasional flocks of sheep and goats traverse the dusty expanse, providing the nomadic tribes of the desert with one of the few means of livelihood in the region.
Change has been slow to come to this harsh and inhospitable terrain. In prolonged isolation, traditional patterns of life, still largely feudal, have lingered on. Women continue to be relegated a subordinate role, often leading a voiceless existence; girls have traditionally not been valued, left uneducated, and married off early to ease the economic burden on the family.

Spending on them is considered a waste because they have to be sent off to their husbands’ homes all too soon. Geography too has played its part in keeping things so. With villages being few and far between, schools are spread thinly on the ground, making it difficult for parents to send their daughters to learn even if they want to.

Unsurprisingly, poverty levels are high and rates of literacy, especially among women and girls, are very low, making the area one of the most educationally backward regions in the country. Rajasthan has 13 districts (26 blocks or sub-districts) where the female literacy rate is below 40 percent and the gender gap is over 30 percent. These areas have been designated as Special Focus Districts under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Central Government’s flagship program which aims to bring all India’s children between 6 and 14 years old into elementary school by 2010.

To tackle the combined challenges of geography, isolation, and the low status of women and bring more girls into schools, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) – residential primary schools for girls – have been set up under the SSA in each of the educationally backward blocks (sub-districts) of the country. The schools cater primarily to girls who are first-generation learners from the disadvantaged castes and communities of the region. They provide free teaching, board and lodging for girls until Class 8, enabling them to catch up on lost learning without imposing an economic burden on their families.

*Right & below:* The KGBV schools cater primarily to girls who are first-generation learners from disadvantaged castes and communities of the region.
Selling dreams

As agents of change, the KGBVs make a conscious effort to expose the girls and their tradition-bound families to new ideas. Like its counterparts, the KGBV residential school at Balesar in western Jodhpur district takes the girls on ‘exposure visits’ to acquaint them with the wider world beyond their desert homes. The girls have been to a Railway Station – many had never seen a train before – and the zoo. To fire their imaginations about what they can become once they finish their education, they have also been taken to the High Court, the District Collector’s office, and a Police Station in Jodhpur city where they met a woman police inspector.

Above: Homes are often remote and isolated, making it difficult for parents to send their daughter to school, even if they want to

Below: An extended family in rural Rajasthan
Right: Mamta and her classmates perform a traditional dance at their Shergarh School

Rapidly rising aspirations

The parents too now see a brave new world of opportunities ahead for their daughters. 13 year old Mamta has recently completed Class 8 at the residential school in Shergarh, some 45 kms from her desert home. As a child from the Meghwal community that has traditionally tended sheep and goats, skinning and tanning the hides of dead animals to craft the famous leatherwork of the region, she spent her early years grazing the family’s flocks. That is how her entire life would have unfolded had not the life-changing opportunity of enrollment in a KGBV school fortuitously presented itself.

Once she joined school, Mamta took only 6 months in a bridge course to catch up with the learning required for her age. Now, Mamta’s proud father has a whole host of aspirations for his bright young daughter. “I want Mamta to study science and become an engineer,” says a beaming Hathi Ram Meghwal as he watches this young all-rounder complete a traditional dance. Unfortunately, the school only goes up to Class 8. Without similar facilities up to Class 12, Mamta’s dreams for a bright and different future will soon come to an end. For, Hathi Ram Meghwal has neither the means nor the confidence to send his young daughter to the big city of Jodhpur to complete her school education.

Rana Ram Meghwal, another parent, echoes Hathi Ram’s concerns. He too wants his daughter, 13 year old Anita, to study after Class 8. Rana Ram admits that he has only got wise to the importance of educating girls after Anita joined this school. “Earlier, we didn’t realize how important it was for girls to study. Now, we know that without an education there is no future,” he says with a new-found certainty. Rana Ram regrets not having educated his four older daughters; they too are envious of the opportunities that their youngest sibling has received, he says.

Rana Ram adds that the KGBV facilities should be extended to the boys too. “This is a remote desert region,” he stresses. “With homes and villages being so far apart, it’s very difficult for the boys too to go 20 or 30 kms or more to school. They too must get the same treatment,” he firmly believes.

Below: Thirteen year old Mamta spent her childhood grazing goats
Expanding secondary education – the need of today

Stopping the girls’ education for want of proper facilities after Class 8 represents an enormous opportunity lost for these hopeful young children. Moreover, once the girls return to their village homes, they often find it hard to fit back in. “My daughter now gets exasperated with her mother’s untidy village ways,” says Hathi Ram Meghwal of his daughter Mamta. “She’s now neat and clean and wants our village home to be so too.”

Evidence from around the world demonstrates the critical importance of secondary education – particularly for girls – in bringing about economic growth and social change. Says Sam Carlson, the World Bank’s Lead Education Specialist who has just completed the report, Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity: “Secondary Education is vital for breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and provides hugely beneficial social impacts. Compared to girls who only complete primary education, girls who finish secondary school earn more money, tend to get married at a later age, have fewer children, and adopt better child rearing practices, leading to better health and education for future generations. It is a very high return investment.”

Generating the demographic dividend

With nearly 95 percent enrollment in elementary school, and just over 50 percent in Grades 9 and 10 in secondary school, secondary education is the new bottleneck...
in the education system. Over the next decade, the number of secondary school students is expected to increase from 40 to 60 million. An increasing share of these students will come from rural and lower income groups, who will be less able to afford private secondary education; many will be from hard-to-reach areas and have backgrounds similar to Mamta’s and Anita’s from Rajasthan’s Jodhpur District.

It is therefore crucial that all necessary efforts are made to ensure these youth develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to find jobs in the rapidly evolving Indian economy, so that India’s demographic growth is transformed into a global competitive advantage.

The challenge now for the Government of India is to dramatically improve access, enrollment and quality in secondary education, simultaneously. The recently launched centrally sponsored scheme for secondary education – Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) – offers a tremendous opportunity to set up a mass secondary education structure. In conjunction with RMSA, a girls’ hostel scheme is being rolled out so that the successes of KBGVs are carried forward to the secondary level.

Hopefully, this will enable tens of thousands of girls like Mamta to continue their schooling at least until they finish Grade 10. When young lives are at stake, the urgency of such a measure cannot be overemphasized.

All photographs by Michael Foley
Secondary education is critical in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. With larger numbers of India’s children finishing primary school, the demand for secondary schooling – Grades 9 to 12 – is growing. The number of secondary school students is expected to increase from 40 to 60 million over the next decade. An increasing share of these students will come from rural and lower income groups, who will be less able to afford private secondary education. India needs to prepare now for this expansion and improve the quality of secondary education provided.

**Some Facts:**

- In India, 40 million children were enrolled in secondary school in 2008. The majority of them were boys, children from the urban areas, and those who belonged to the wealthier segments of the population.

- 37% of secondary students fail, and 11% dropout before the exam.

- India’s Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in secondary school is lower than its global competitors. India’s GER in secondary school is 40%, compared to 70% in East Asia and 82% in Latin America.

- There are 3 National Boards and 34 State and Union Territory Boards, with their own curriculum and certifying examinations.

- Secondary school enrollment varies greatly between states: Kerala (92%), Tamil Nadu (44%), Bihar (22%), Jharkhand (4%).

- 60% of the secondary school system is privately managed. Private unaided schools provide 30% of total secondary enrollment nationwide (2004-05), up from 15% in 1993-94.

- On average, government school teachers earn 3 times more than their counterparts in private schools.

- The quality of schooling as measured in students’ cognitive skills is more important than the number of years of schooling in determining students’ future incomes. Once quality is established, years of schooling matter. Just increasing years of schooling does not appear to be worthwhile.
Development Dialogue

Can a Copenhagen Agreement reinforce economic recovery?

Today’s greenhouse gas problems are largely generated by developed countries with energy use per capita on average five times that of developing countries. High income countries need to commit to ambitious and credible carbon emission targets that can stimulate public and private investment in green infrastructure, said Graeme Wheeler, Managing Director, Operations, the World Bank at the Globe Copenhagen Legislators Forum.

The twin challenges of climate change and development

Legislators in the 21st century will be judged by their success in addressing global warming and reducing poverty.

Based on current trends, energy-related CO2 emissions would more than double by 2050 and put the world on a catastrophic trajectory that could lead to temperatures more than 5°C warmer than pre-industrial times. Concerted global action is urgently needed to limit global warming to around 2°C. An energy revolution is required to reduce global carbon emissions by half in 2050 relative to 1990 levels, and to decarbonize the world economy by the end of the century.

On the development front, the number of people living in extreme poverty – already more than twice the population of Europe - is increasing. None of the 7 millennium development goals are expected to be met and the 1.4 billion extreme poor (those living on under $1.25 a day ppp adjusted) are increasingly disconnected from global society. Even this number disguises the true nature of poverty – it disguises the infant mortality, the malnutrition, the lack of access to health care and education, and the political and social exclusion. Demographics will dramatically increase our challenge. Almost all of the 3 billion increase in global population projected by 2050 will occur in developing countries – two thirds of it in regions currently experiencing low economic growth.
Climate change and poverty are deeply intertwined. Modelers suggest that developing countries will bear 75% to 80% of the costs of the damage from climate change. Climate change will be felt most acutely in Africa, where 95% of agriculture is rainfall dependent, and in low lying areas like Bangladesh and small island states.

Just as the financial crisis originated in the developed world and contaminated developing countries, so too has the concentration of greenhouse gas. Today’s greenhouse gas problems are largely generated by developed countries with energy use per capita on average 5 times that of developing countries. Negotiations to resolve the issues are immensely challenging – particularly because greenhouse gases come from multiple sources, and involve serious equity and moral considerations, and difficult issues of sequencing and competitiveness.

**The financial backdrop for the climate change negotiations**

The financial backdrop for negotiating a global solution could hardly be more difficult. We move to Copenhagen at a time when massive portfolio adjustments are taking place in household, corporate, and government balance sheets.

Governments are burdened with new roles as guarantors and investors of last resort, and are taking on ownership interests outside their traditional investor habitat and risk tolerance. Public sector debt to GDP ratios in many countries are on an explosive path and policymakers worry whether mitigation policies will weaken their economic recovery. They are also concerned about the domestic fiscal impact of large financial transfers to developing countries for adaptation.

Retaining a balanced perspective is important. New poles of economic growth are emerging and global growth will accelerate as the portfolio adjustments continue, and the global transfer of skill enhancing technology and the catalysts of trade, investment and capital flows assume greater importance.

**The impact of climate change policies on potential output growth**

We should be humble in discussing the impact of mitigation and adaptation policies on trend rates of economic growth. There are many uncertainties.

While the globe will become warmer with an additional stock of greenhouse gases, we do not know how much warmer or the specific impact on land use patterns, water scarcity, coastline flooding, and spread of new diseases.

Climate change is the largest externality challenge of our time. Internalizing this externality through pricing and regulation will increase the costs of production. In the short and medium term, this can have distributional impacts and slow the rate of economic growth. However, it is difficult to quantify the overall magnitude of these output effects through time – especially because these policy changes help reduce the longer term social and economic costs of more serious global warming.

It is very clear that preventing global warming in excess of 2°C will require substantial investment to transform the world’s energy systems and permit the
needed adaptation. Pricing and standards will be needed to motivate the energy efficient investment.

Investment in new technologies is key. The necessary reductions in carbon emissions cannot be achieved with existing technologies without a dramatic slowdown in trend rates of economic growth. A mechanism to price carbon, either through a global carbon tax or a global allocation of tradable greenhouse gas permits, is needed to ensure that new vintages of capital are less carbon intensive.

Replacing existing capital with more energy efficient investment is not costless. It can lead to job losses, but these can be reduced by a well-targeted green fiscal stimulus, with a heavy emphasis on infrastructure.

Infrastructure spending has several positive features. It tends to generate stronger output growth than social transfers or tax cuts, and new investment embodies new technologies and removes bottlenecks to future growth and poverty alleviation. In addition, several studies suggest that investment in green energy generates stronger job creation per dollar invested than investments in fossil fuel energy. This is especially true of investment in solar and thermal energy and biomass.

Provided that the correct pricing signals are in place, the cost of reducing the carbon intensity of the global economy and supporting sound adaptation should be manageable over time for several reasons.

First, by 2050, the global economy is projected to expand significantly due to the spread of new technologies and higher labor force participation – especially in many developing economies. Future generations can expect to be wealthier than current generations.

Second, considerable energy is being wasted in the global economy. We see this with the flaring of gas and the inefficient use of coal and oil.

Third, adjustment to the capital stock need not involve wholesale scrapping. It can be a much smoother process as infrastructure reaches the end of its economic life and is replaced with new vintages embodying more energy efficient technologies. For example, the economic life of new factories and power plants tend to average 15-40 years. Road, rail, and power distribution networks – 40-75 years.

Opportunities to shift from high carbon to low-carbon capital stocks are wide-ranging and unevenly distributed in time. The lifetime CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants planned around the world over the next 25 years are expected to equal those of coal-burning activities since the pre-industrial era.
And fourth, some countries will seek to develop dynamic capabilities and competitive advantages as providers of new technologies. Substantially expanded investments in research and development (possibly in the range of $100 billion to $700 billion annually) will be needed to develop these technologies.

Where are we in this adjustment?

Some real challenges lie ahead. While $500 billion or 15% of the $3 trillion current global fiscal stimulus relates to green infrastructure, this requires pricing and regulatory reforms to be more transformative. And when governments experience severe fiscal pressure, infrastructural maintenance is usually an early casualty, and less capital intensive technologies are adopted. We have seen this many times in Latin America, where countries have favored thermal power plants over hydro because of lower upfront capital costs – in spite of higher recurrent costs and a requirement for imported fuels. In addition, developing countries will need substantial financial support to build and transform their capital stock – particularly since 80% of their infrastructure is financed publicly or through official development assistance.

What is the World Bank Group doing?

We are stepping up our role and rapidly expanding our lending on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Last year, this grew by 25% and exceeded $3 billion. This represents around 40% of total energy financing and our goal is to increase this to 50% by 2011.

Nearly $7 billion has been pledged to the Climate Investment Funds. These funds have stimulated new low carbon or climate resilient work in over 20 countries.

We are also heavily involved in carbon finance. The 10 World Bank-managed carbon funds have, to date, purchased emission reductions from over 200 projects with an estimated carbon asset value of $2.5 billion.

We have issued green bonds and developed weather derivatives and hurricane insurance related products. We are testing methodologies and tools for greenhouse gas analysis of forestry, energy, and transport projects, and several country studies are underway on low carbon growth.

What do we need from Copenhagen?

A major breakthrough is needed.

High income countries need to commit to ambitious and credible carbon emission targets that can stimulate public and private investment in green infrastructure. Such an agreement would accelerate the expansion of carbon markets.

These commitments, along with an improved Clean Development Mechanism and finance and resources for developing countries to facilitate their adaption and mitigation efforts, would permit the early action that is necessary.

We know the consequences of not embracing the energy revolution that is needed. We cannot afford to let negotiation on climate change stultify like the beleaguered Doha Round. The stakes, which involve the future of the planet, are simply too high.
ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank’s website. To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation II Project

Context: In Uttar Pradesh (UP) there is widespread poverty and a high dependency on agriculture for livelihoods. While the state has been relatively slow on reforms, it has made a good start in addressing its considerable land degradation problems. This Project dealt with these core issues by contributing to strengthening agriculture related institutions at many levels: through participation of stakeholders, maintenance of key infrastructure, and engagement of local government and extension services.

Project Development Objectives: The objective was sustainable reclamation of sodic lands¹ and prevention of further

¹Sodic lands are characterized by accumulation of high concentrations of sodium salts (mainly sodium carbonate and bicarbonate). These lands have developed under impeded drainage and high fluctuating water table. Accumulation of sodium adversely affects soil fertility and is harmful for plant growth.

Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation II Project

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<td>Overall Borrower Performance</td>
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increases in sodicity in selected districts with the highest concentration of sodic areas in UP, which would contribute significantly to poverty alleviation in these areas.

**Main Beneficiaries:**
Some 375,000 farm families, 75 percent of whom were small and marginal farmers living below subsistence level in 10 districts of UP, were the primary beneficiaries of the Project.

**Project Components:**
- **Land Reclamation and On-farm Development:**
  On about 150,000 ha which included:
  (a) Detailed mapping of sodic lands;
  (b) Forming water user groups (WUGs) and site implementation committees (SICs);
  (c) Planning, design, construction and/or improving link and field drains;
  (d) Providing shallow tubewells and pump sets to leach salts and support crop production;
  (e) On-farm development through land leveling and bunding;
  (f) Applying gypsum to the soil;
  (g) Providing crop production inputs support; and
  (h) Developing a withdrawal strategy.

- **Main Drain Remodeling and Maintenance:**
  (a) Remodeling and rehabilitation 5,750 km of main drains, including pucca works;
  (b) Technical assistance and equipment for monitoring and survey; and
  (c) Maintenance of main drains and transferring maintenance from ID to communities through capacity building.
Technology Dissemination: Establishing a demand-driven technology dissemination system for:
(a) Mobilizing the participation of farming communities, block level farmers advisory committees and block technology teams; with farmer self-help technology teams;
(b) Setting-up district implementation and technology teams;
(c) Establishing multi-disciplinary teams of research and extension specialists
(d) Preparing strategic research and extension plans;
(e) Strengthening communications capacity and use of mass media;
(f) Training of public extension workers, NGOs and farming communities;
(g) Disseminating information on effective land and water management practices; and
(h) Technical assistance for effective project implementation.

Upgrading Farm to Market Roads:
(a) Upgrading 700 km of roads connecting sodic villages to highways/district roads; and
(b) Maintenance of the upgraded roads.

Human Resource Development and Institutional Capacity Building:
(a) Training of line department and local government bodies’ staff, and capital investment to support project activities;
(b) Strengthening of Panchayats through training and construction of village Panchayat Bhawans (meeting halls);
(c) Strengthening of government agencies and NGOs at various levels;
(d) Pilot credit action research; and
(e) Marketing support through studies, upgrading of village market haats (platforms), and training.

Adaptive Research: Continuing and strengthening key research activities initiated under the Project to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of reclamation through:
(a) Adoption of competitive research system;
(b) Research advisory committee and linkages with national and international institutes; and
(c) Setting up a sub-station of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute in UP.

Project Management:
(a) Strengthening of UPBSN and implementation through district implementation units;
(b) Carrying out of Environmental Management Plan by monitoring of land improvement, ground water quality, biodiversity and diversification of cropping systems; and (c) overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the Project, with the support of independent monitoring agencies in project implementation progress, agricultural and socio-economic impact assessment, and participatory management.

Other significant changes:
The Project increased its coverage from 10 to 18 districts in May 2001. It was envisaged that works would be completed within the
At the end of the Project, the income distribution had become more equitable in the sodic beneficiary households. The share of poor households (bottom three income deciles) in the Project area accounted for 6 percent of the aggregate income, which has more than doubled during the Project period to reach 14 percent by Project-end. The Project has made significant impact on reducing poverty in the beneficiary households. In the Project area, the poverty level has come down from 72 percent to 48 percent. After adjusting for the poverty reduction in the control villages (from 72 percent to 65 percent), net poverty reducing effect of the Project is 17 percent during the Project period, averaging about 2.1 percent per annum in the project benefited families. For the UP state as a whole, the annual decline in rural poverty is about 1.2 percent (1991-2005). Additional rural jobs for 86,710 persons per year are generated from the cultivated area expansion and intensification in the reclaimed sodic lands, which will increase the income of landless labor households accounting for 10 percent of the rural households in the Project area.

Existing budget allocations. However, due to delays in starting the main project physical works, the Project was extended in December 2004 to: (i) increase the area of sodic land reclamation from 150,000 to 180,000 ha; (ii) increase the main drain remodeling and maintenance from 5,750 to 7,603 km; (iii) increase upgrading of farm to market roads from 700 to 1,330 km; and (iv) extend the project closing date by two years to September 30, 2007.

Achievements:

Reclamation of sodic lands: Some 189,715 ha of formerly sodic lands have been reclaimed and are being utilized, out of which around 126,990 ha were the most severely affected class C lands which were lying barren with no production. The local farmer groups have successfully adopted the sodic land reclamation technology and the improved crop husbandry, soil fertility and water management practices. As a result of large scale adoption of the new practices by the farmers, the cropping intensity has increased from a baseline of 63 percent to 198 percent, on an average, across all classes of reclaimed lands, above the 190 percent originally targeted. The crop yields have increased across all classes of reclaimed sodic lands from a weighted average of 0.9 to 3.5 t/ha for paddy and 0.4 to 3.0 t/ha for wheat. For paddy this yield is the same, and for wheat this is 11 percent higher than the original target. As a result of improved cropping intensity and crop yields, the annual incremental production is 531,000 t for paddy (353,700 t original target) and 428,000 t for wheat (310,500 t target) giving a 44 percent overall higher production than expected.

Maintenance of main drains: Through improved main drains it is estimated that the extent of waterlogged areas has been reduced by 57 percent – based on comparison of 1998 and 2007 satellite imageries. Paddy and wheat yields have increased by 18 percent and 15 percent, respectively, in villages benefiting from project reclamation, 12 percent and 18 percent in neighboring villages benefiting from drainage only, but 6 percent and 11 percent in control villages.

Improved access from farm to market roads: Some 1,112 km of rural roads have been upgraded against the target of 700 km. Impact assessment has shown that they have significantly improved farm household income. Farmers report
Poverty alleviation: The Project has had a major impact on reducing poverty. The primary benefit of reclamation has been the increase in annual farm income by Rs. 5,947, which is 21 percent more than the estimated increase in farm income for an average holding of 0.4 ha in 1998 real prices. Most important has been the number of expected direct beneficiary households. The Project reached out to 367,621 households, though this is slightly lower than the revised target of 375,000. However, while the Project estimated that 75 percent of these beneficiaries would be small or marginal farmers, the actual proportion of small and marginal farmers covered by the Project was higher at 93 percent.

Community participation outcomes: The development of women’s Self Help Groups (SHGs) has gone beyond original expectations. A total of 7,193 groups (3,500 originally planned) have been set up covering 84,526 members, most of whom are from small or marginal farmer households. Many of the WSHGs have scaled up their economic activities and diversified into social programs demanded by their members such as population management, health care and education for girls. They have saved Rs. 85.77 million, and recycled this over 3 times. About 94 percent of the groups have linked with banks and accessed Rs. 177 million in bank loans. A total of 1,716 WSHGs have joined into 165 cluster groups.

Distribution of benefits and quality of life improvements. With increased farm work on reclaimed lands, the project has contributed to the reduced annual out-migration for labor (typical of poor households) from 98 to 45 person days for men and from 38 to 5 for women, while staying more or less constant in the control villages. The Project also assisted 126,542 villagers to be allotted and/or provided firm possession of 58,660 ha land. This provided much greater security of tenure to a large number of poor, scheduled and backward classes or landless. The share of aggregate income of the three poorest deciles has increased from 6 percent to 14 percent.
Lessons Learnt:

- **Piloting can produce a pro-poor and sophisticated land development system.** Building on a pilot Project, which in itself was a lesson in scaling-up, has produced a set of robust and highly efficient systems for intervention suited to the particular needs of sodic land reclamation – while at the same time targeting the needs of the poor. These systems can provide for technically sound and transparent criteria for area and beneficiary selection, which target the poor, without excluding benefits to the wider community.

- **Scaling-up must take into account new conditions.** While the project systems developed for area and beneficiary selection have worked extremely well, they may have done so partly because of the relative homogeneity of the targeted lands and groups, and the quick visible returns to sodic land reclamation. This bodes well for scaling-up on further larger areas of sodic lands, but considerable effort and resources may be needed to extend these approaches to more complex environments (such as ravine areas in the region).

- **Third-party independent and timely M&E improves implementation.** Independent monitoring of implementation and using a variety of evaluations of outcome progress have been invaluable to quickly address issues arising, as well as identify and make adjustments to further expand the Project impacts.

- **Communities must be supported by demand driven-services.** With significant and rapid asset build-up through reclamation and production benefits, considerable household resources are released to further enhance livelihoods. To tap those resources communities must be supported by services which are household-focused, needs-based, responsive to markets, flexible and multi-sectoral.

- **Participatory processes and inclusive community institutions that are efficient and effective remain cornerstones for success.** They are essential for site selection, planning of activities, implementation and sustaining benefits. The building of lasting social capital needs sustained support, which should start well before physical interventions with awareness raising and empowerment. For community institutions to grow, their 19 linkages with line departments, credit, marketing and other agribusiness services, need to be continually strengthened. Key to this is the government facilitation (but not control) and the help of NGOs to federate them into larger more vibrant and independent organizations.

- **Community mobilization and preparatory activities are essential for successful sodic land reclamation.** These result in delayed disbursement in the initial years, followed by accelerated disbursement in the later years.
The World Bank, at the request of the Government of India, conducted a study in 2007/08 titled, *India’s Road Construction Industry: Capacity Issues, Constraints and Recommendations*. The study analyses the demand-supply gap in the construction industry, the magnitude of investments required and the key constraints related to delays in construction and cost overruns and has recommended a time-bound action plan to remove those constraints.

The Indian Roads Congress in collaboration with the World Bank jointly organized a Workshop to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the Study.

The World Bank organized a media launch of its Report *Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity*. Mr. Sam Carlson, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank, presented the main findings of the Report to the media.

The study has put forth several suggestions aimed at improving secondary education in India by improving access, quality and equity of secondary education at the same time. Evidence from around the world suggests secondary education is critical to breaking the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

The World Bank’s Public Information Center (PIC) participated in the National Book Fair held in Chandigarh from 24 October to 1 November this year. The objective was to generate awareness amongst people about the World Bank, its mission and its operations in India. Several World Bank flagship publications including publications on health, nutrition, gender, agriculture, trade, information and communication, infrastructure, environment, economic management, finance and the latest operational documents were displayed. Multimedia films on malnutrition, rural roads, and education were also displayed at the stall.
Recent Project Approvals

Andhra Pradesh Rural Waters Supply and Sanitation Project

The World Bank has approved a US$ 150 million credit to the Government of India to assist Andhra Pradesh in improving rural water supply and sanitation services through progressive decentralization, community participation and enhanced accountability.

It will support the building of institutional capacity for implementing, managing and sustaining the project activities, along with sector development studies to inform policy decisions, and support improvements in water supply and sanitation services in the project habitations through new infrastructure or rehabilitating and augmenting existing infrastructure.

Andhra Pradesh Road Sector Project

The World Bank has approved a US$ 320 million loan to India, designed to improve quality, capacity and safety of roads in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Road transport is vital to Andhra Pradesh’s economy, accounting for more than 80 percent of freight and passenger traffic. Recognizing that an efficient transport system is critical for agricultural and industrial growth, the State Government has invested heavily to improve its transport infrastructure.

For example, double lane roads on state highways have increased from 52 percent to 68 percent over the past six years. However, lack of roads maintenance and deteriorating road safety require urgent actions.

The Andhra Pradesh Road Sector Project is designed to upgrade about 429 km of priority state highways and finance long-term maintenance of over 6,000 km of the state’s core road network.

Recent Project Signings

Banking Sector Support Loan
13 October 2009

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of US$ 2 billion equivalent for the Banking Sector Support Loan designed to provide budgetary support to the Government of India, to help maintain its broad economic stimulus program by enhancing the capital of select public sector banks. As a result of the global financial crisis, private and foreign banks have slowed their lending and deposit taking, increasing demand on public sector banks. This loan will help maintain credit growth levels, support social banking and employment growth, and help strengthen the economic recovery ahead. While Mr Anup K. Pujari, Joint Secretary, Government of India signed on behalf of the government, Mr Roberto Zagha, Country Director for India signed on behalf of the World Bank.

India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL)
13 October 2009

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of US$ 1.2 billion equivalent to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) designed to support its role to catalyze private financing for public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure and stimulate the development of a long-term local currency debt financing market.

While Mr Anup K. Pujari, Joint Secretary, Government of India signed on behalf of the government, Mr S.S.Kohli, Chairman and Managing Director, IIFCL signed on behalf of
Fifth Power System Development Project
13 October 2009

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of US$ 1 billion equivalent to the Powergrid Corporation of India for the Fifth Power System Development Project. It is designed to help address India's acute deficit of power. Almost half of Indian households (44 percent) do not have access to electricity.

The loan will help Powergrid strengthen five transmission systems in the northern, western and southern regions of the country. This will facilitate the transfer of power from energy surplus regions to towns and villages in under-served regions of the country.

There is, therefore, a pressing need to strengthen and expand the all India national transmission network – the national grid.

The loan agreement was signed by Mr Anup K. Pujari, Joint Secretary, Government of India, on behalf of the government, Mr. S.K. Chaturvedi, Chairman and Managing Director, Powergrid, signed on behalf of Powergrid and Mr Roberto Zagha, Country Director for India signed on behalf of the World Bank.

Haryana Power System Improvement Project
17 August 2009

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of US$ 330 million equivalent for the Haryana Power System Improvement Project designed to improve the availability, efficiency, and accountability of electricity supply in the state of Haryana through strengthening of transmission and distribution systems. The transmission component includes priority investments to increase electricity transfer capability and the institutional strengthening of HVPN (Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited). The distribution component constitutes the first phase of Haryana's program to improve customer service, distribution efficiency, and accountability in its urban centers. Under this component, DHBVN (Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam) will strengthen the distribution networks in Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Charkhi Dadri by raising voltage levels, bifurcating overloaded feeders, building a new sub-station, and setting up customer care centers.

The signatories to the Agreement were Mr Anup K. Pujari, Joint Secretary, on behalf of the Government of India, Mrs. Jyoti Arora, Special Secretary, Department of Power, Government of Haryana and Mr Roberto Zagha, Country Director, World Bank, India.
New Additions to the Public Information Center

This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from ‘Documents and Reports’ at www.worldbank.org

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India Publications

Secondary Education in India
By World Bank
Available On-line

The dramatic growth in Indian elementary education enrollment and improvements in retention and transition rates over the past 10 years, particularly among more disadvantaged groups, are increasing pressure on the secondary level to absorb new entrants.

Given ongoing center and state investments in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All), this trend will continue for the next 10 years. At the same time, India’s impressive, sustained economic growth has increased household and labor market demand for secondary and higher education. Secondary education’s contribution to economic growth, demonstrated high social benefits (particularly for girls), and support of democratic citizenship reinforce the need for increased public support at this level, particularly in light of the very large inequalities in access to secondary education, by income, gender, social group and geography.

The challenge is to dramatically improve access, equity and quality of secondary education simultaneously. Small-scale learning achievement studies and parental preference for private schools suggest that the quality of public secondary education is alarmingly low. Efforts to improve the quality of secondary education are thus urgent, but medium to long-term in producing results. India needs to make qualitative investments now in teacher education and accountability, curriculum reform, quality assurance, examinations reform, national assessment capabilities and management information systems, which will require time and significant institutional capacity building to succeed at a national scale.

The recently launched centrally sponsored scheme for secondary education, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), offers a strategic opportunity to improve access and equity; enhance quality, accountability and ability to measure learning outcomes;
and promote standardization of curriculum and examinations across states. In addition, India’s recent decision to participate in international assessments of student achievement is an extremely positive sign. Over time, such participation will provide an important objective baseline of students’ cognitive skills and a future measure of success of the country’s investments in elementary and secondary education.

Indian Road Construction Industry: Capacity Issues Constraints & Recommendations

Available On-line
Report No. 46326
Published November 2008

Over the last few years, the Indian economy has been in a phase of unparalleled growth of about 8-10 percent per year, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Sustaining this rate of growth will need huge investments in physical infrastructure such as roads, water, power, and urban sectors. Preliminary estimates suggest that investment in infrastructure would need to increase from the current 4.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to about 8 percent during the 11th Plan. An efficient transportation system is critical for sustaining economic growth and the burgeoning demand for passenger and freight movement. Recognizing this, the Government of India (GOI) and several state governments have launched initiatives during the past decade to modernize and improve the transport infrastructure.

This study stems partly from GOI’s concern regarding the capacity of the road construction industry to deliver, and partly from the Bank’s growing need to understand the impact of the expanded road investments on the industry’s capacity in South Asia. The study attempts to outline the entire gamut of problems and capacity constraints faced by India’s construction industry. It builds on previous studies, reports and industry-wide stakeholder surveys and workshops. It recommends key actions to the central and state governments and the industry for enhancing its capacity and efficiency.

Other Publications

Doing Business 2010: Reforming through Difficult Times

Price: $ 35.00
English Paperback
215 pages
Published September 2009 by Palgrave Macmillan, World Bank
SKU: 17961

Doing Business 2010 is the seventh in a series of annual reports investigating the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 183 economies—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time.

Regulations affecting 10 stages of a business’s life are measured: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business. Data in Doing Business 2010 are current as of June 1, 2009. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where and why.

Independent Evaluation of IFC’s Development Results 2009: Knowledge for Private Sector Development

Price: $ 26.00
English Paperback
192 pages
Published July 2009 by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-7986-0
SKU: 17986

The annual Independent Evaluation of IFC’s Development Results (EDR) assesses the development outcomes and additonality (unique role and contribution) of IFC interventions.

South Asia Publications

Who migrates overseas and is it worth their while? An assessment of household survey data from Bangladesh
By Manohar Sharma and Hassan Zaman

The paper assesses the costs and household level benefits of migrating overseas from Bangladesh. The authors survey households who have had overseas migrants to assess their characteristics compared to non-migrants. They also compute various types of migration and remittance related transaction costs and discuss the channels by which overseas migration is financed, remittances sent and the constraints faced by the poorest. Using the Propensity Score Matching method, the paper finds that overseas migration conveys substantial benefits to families as measured by household consumption, use of modern agricultural inputs, and level of household savings. The authors also offer some possible policy directions to strengthen the returns from migration as well as reduce some of the costs.
It analyzes factors driving results, and reviews performance patterns on a thematic topic.

**Multigrade Teaching in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Uganda, Senegal, and the Gambia**

By Aidan Mulkeen and Cathal Higgins
Price: $15.00
English Paperback
64 pages
Published August 2009 by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8065-6
SKU: 18065

In Africa, with the expansion of coverage of primary education in recent decades, many of the remaining out-of-school children are in hard to reach areas, with low population density and poor transport. Providing access to education is challenging in such contexts, as the population in any village is often too small to support a conventional primary school. One of the answers is the use of multigrade teaching, where one teacher works with students of two or more grades.

This paper examines the practice of multigrade teaching in three African countries, Uganda, Senegal, and the Gambia. Although these three cases had very different approaches to multigrade, their experiences suggest that multigrade teaching is a promising and cost-effective option, but that successful implementation requires sustained support from policymakers, adequate training of teachers, and careful explanation of the approach to parents and the communities.

**Argentina: Income Support Policies toward the Bicentennial**

By World Bank
Price: $20.00
English Paperback
Published August 2009 by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8051-6
SKU: 18051

Following the serious economic crisis in 2001–02, Argentina mobilized an unprecedented effort to provide income support to the segment of the population most in need. Now, as growth has returned and social indicators recovered to pre-crisis levels, there is an opening to move from emergency support programs to a more comprehensive, long-term, and sustainable strategy for social protection. The challenge is to design and fully implement a social protection system that has adequate coverage and benefits and is integrated and fiscally and politically sustainable.

The analysis contained in this book aimed to contribute to and inform the debate about the future of income support policies in Argentina, taking the views, values, and preferences of the stakeholders and the population as starting points.

The research included two innovative efforts to collect and understand the landscape of ideas regarding options for social protection circulating in Argentina: first, an extensive set of consultations with policy makers and practitioners in social policy, mainly at the provincial level; and second, a national, representative opinion survey on the views and perceptions of the population regarding social policy and income support programs in particular.

**Gender in Bolivian Production: Reducing Differences in Formality and Productivity of Firms**

By World Bank
Price: $25.00
English Paperback
80 pages
Published August 2009 by World Bank
ISBN: 0-8213-8014-1
SKU: 18014

Bolivia’s informal economic sector is the largest in Latin America, and women-owned businesses tend to be overrepresented in the informal sector and to be less profitable than firms in the formal sector. This study seeks to better understand gender-based differences in firms’ tendencies toward formality, the impact of formality on profits, and the productivity of small informal firms.

Using data from firm surveys, national household surveys, and qualitative data from focus groups, the study conducts a gender analysis of formality and productivity in six different sectors in Bolivia.

The findings shed new light on how gender-based differences contribute to a firm’s decision to become formal and the consequences of this decision for profitability. The outcomes of the study suggest that policies should focus on increasing the productivity and scale of women-owned businesses.

Two general priorities emerge: promoting women’s access to productive assets to facilitate growth and productivity and providing an enabling environment for women’s entrepreneurship by expanding women’s choices and capacity to respond to market opportunities.
### India Project Documents

#### Status of projects in execution (SOPE)-FY09 South Asia region – India

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#### Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

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#### Kerala State Transport Project

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#### Financing Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure through Support to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited Project

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#### Fifth Power System Development Project

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- **Youthink!**

  Youthink! has launched an Earth Day package, *Life on Earth – The Importance of Biodiversity*. The feature package includes:
  - Rarely Asked Questions about the Environment
  - Audio Slideshow: Farmers vs. Elephants in Ghana
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  - Video: Youth Winners of World Bank Climate Change Film Contest
  - Youthink! Earth Day Photo Caption Contest

To learn more about Youthink! [[1](#)] Visit [http://youthink.worldbank.org](http://youthink.worldbank.org)
Bank President Robert B. Zoellick pledged a broad range of reforms to keep his institution up to date in a rapidly changing world. Zoellick spoke at the start of the annual Bank-Fund meetings in Turkey.

The World Bank President told delegates from all over the globe that his institution needs to be more nimble and efficient in order to best serve developing countries. He also said the world has changed since the creation of the World Bank 55 years ago. To that end, Zoellick pledged to give developing countries a larger voice in the Bank’s operations. He also said developing countries could become an important engine for growth that could create a more balanced global economy.

For video, please visit http://tinyurl.com/SIn4mz

IEG, the independent evaluation group of the World Bank Group assesses the relevance, efficacy and efficiency of the Bank’s programs and activities, and its contribution to development. As its name implies the IEG is independent, very independent from the Bank’s group.

In this podcast Roy Gilbert, task manager of IEG spars with Judy Baker, lead economist in the urban development unit of the World Bank, over the latest IEG report Improving Municipal Management for Cities to Succeed. Visit http://tinyurl.com/ykh9uvo

On the eve of the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, delegates from 120 countries gathered recently at Carbon Expo in Barcelona to discuss potential growth of the carbon market as an effective measure to combat climate change by reducing emissions. Jollië Chassard, manager of the carbon finance unit of the World Bank sheds some light on the subject.

For more information visit: http://tinyurl.com/68un53
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By Thorsten Beck, Michael Fuchs and Marilou Uy
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