



INSIDE

Odisha Rural Livelihoods Project [1-5](#)

Educating girls [6-8](#)

Development Dialogue: Cleaning Delhi's air [9-10](#)

ICR Update [11-12](#)

Recent Project Approvals & Signings [13-16](#)

Events [17-18](#)

New Additions to the Public Information Center [19-27](#)

Contact Information [28](#)

About the photograph:

Pokai Sahu from Chendipada, Angul district in rural Odisha

Photograph from Omm Communications

Tripti offers hope and dignity to women in rural Odisha

Ersama, 100 km from Bhubaneswar, in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha, was one of the worst hit by the Super Cyclone of 1999 that ravaged the state. With their livelihoods destroyed, thousands of people in the state sunk deeper into poverty.

For Bhagabati Maiti, 32, there seemed no hope. Six members of her family, including her parents, were washed away. "I was only 16 then. My whole family was wiped out in front of my eyes as I held on tightly to a tree," she recalled.

Thereafter, began her lonely battle for survival. "Though we had formed a self-help group (SHG), getting jobs on a daily basis was difficult," she said. Bhagabatti married a year after the cyclone and they have two children.



Shedding Poverty

For Bhagabati and thousands of women in rural Odisha, the Odisha Rural Livelihoods Project or Tripti came as a ray of hope. With an aim to improve the socio-economic status of the poor, especially women and disadvantaged groups, the Project was launched in 2009 in 32 blocks in 10 coastal districts of Odisha.

Supported by a \$70 million World Bank loan and implemented by the Odisha Poverty Reduction Mission, the Project was designed to improve livelihoods of deprived women by building and mobilizing community institutions, creating community investment funds, and providing specific livelihood funds.

“We analyzed the income level of each family in the village and divided them under different categories like good, average, poor and the

destitute. Our primary aim was to bring the women in these families under our SHG fold,” said Pushpashree Nayak, a project coordinator.

Bhagabati too joined the movement and gained immensely through Tripti’s financial and technical assistance. “I took a loan from the SHG and bought some chicks. When I repaid it, I took a bigger amount with which I bought a few cows. Today, I have a hatchery and a dairy business and have also started growing crops. I’m extremely happy and I now dream of enrolling my two children in engineering or medical courses,” Bhagabati said, her voice choked with emotions.

And just like Bhagabati, Sulochana Maharana’s story of grit and determination is equally remarkable. A survivor of Cyclone Phailin in 2013, with the help and support of her peers in the SHG, Sulochana took a loan to set up her own little furniture workshop. “My mother joined the SHG three years ago. Since then her confidence has gone up and our financial situation has improved. Now I don’t have to worry for my further studies to achieve my aim of becoming a mechanical engineer,” said Bikas, Sulochana’s son with pride.

Following five successful years of implementation, the SHGs today are being recognized in this region as the most effective

Odisha Rural Livelihoods Project or Tripti was launched in 2009 in 32 blocks in 10 coastal districts of Odisha





means for socio-economic development of the rural poor. And just like Bhagabati and Sulochana's family, the Project has managed to reach out to over 929,000 households covering around 78,460 Self Help Groups (SHGs). Over 60 percent of these households are poor and extremely vulnerable. The savings and internal lending of these SHGs have enabled members to enhance their livelihood activities and household incomes.

Improving agriculture

As most of the districts in this region are primarily agrarian, one of Tripti's mission has also been to support the primary livelihood option of the people, which is agriculture. Executed in partnership with the local NGO and the agricultural department, community members are directly involved in seed production, processing and marketing. The seeds produced is then marketed locally among the SHG members to ensure easy and affordable access to quality seeds for the farmers.

The Project has initiated a program under which 1,800 farmers have been mobilized into Producer Groups to develop five different varieties of paddy seeds, which have a high demand in the local area. The seeds are then certified by the Odisha State Seed

Certification Agency. In 2014, 1,900 metric ton of quality seeds were produced.

"Earlier, we used to grow 14 quintals of paddy per acre. Now with improved seeds we get 19 quintals per acre. It's been an increase of five quintals per acre," said Kanak Lata Archarya, an SHG member from Jagatsinghpur.



The Project has reached over 929,000 households covering around 78,460 Self Help Groups

Kitchen gardens or promoting farming in one's own backyard is another unique initiative of the Project. All that was needed was a tiny patch of land to provide for their homes basic nutritional requirements. "We have planted sunflower, onion, brinjal, maize, bitter gourd, and many more vegetables which takes care of our families nutritional needs," said a smiling Pakhi Sahu.

Banking for the future

Another highlight of Tripti's livelihood program was the creation of Bank Mitras to facilitate smooth banking services for its women



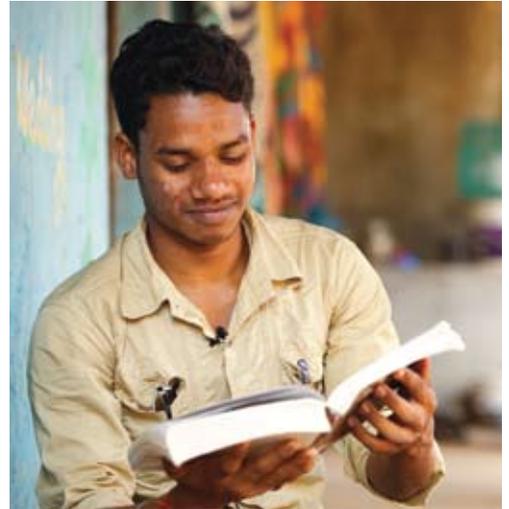
Farming in their own backyard is another unique initiative of the Project



SHG members across the region. Operating from a help desk, these community banking facilitators aid all local women in their financial transactions from opening new savings account to credit counselling and credit linkage. There are over 300 Bank Mitras operating under the Project in Odisha today.

After five years of relentless efforts, what is truly commendable is how these women have etched out an identity for themselves and have progressively emerged as dependable support structures for all rural women in the region. 🌍

Photos courtesy: Omm Communications



Over 300 Bank Mitras operate under the Project and facilitate smooth banking services for women SHG members



Educating Girls

Educating India's girls: It takes a community



Two years ago, Manisha Rawal would never have thought about leaving her family's home. Although educated, the then 16 year-old saw no reason to leave. That was until a Community Volunteer from Educate Girls knocked on her family's door.

In 2007, Educate Girls was established to tackle the root causes of gender inequality in India's education system. The social enterprise targeted Rajasthan, a region in northwest India where the society is traditionally patriarchal with deeply ingrained social practices, traditions, and customs.

In 2011 Educate Girls won a Development Marketplace grant to help increase its scale and improve its organizational capacity.

The area outside of Sirohi, Rajasthan is littered with small tribal villages made of sandstone bricks that seamlessly blend into the land that surrounds them. The men, many with wrinkles so profound it is as if their life story is written on their skin, continue to wear traditional white turbans and mustaches long enough to curl into pseudo smiles. Amongst the sea of men in white, one woman, dressed in a bright red and blue saree, boldly walks down the street.

Two years ago, Manisha Rawal would never have thought about leaving her family's home. Although educated, the then 16 year-old saw no reason to leave. Her family, chores, and life were inside the walls of her family's stone home, 30 kilometers outside of Sirohi. Outside, there seemed to be only unwanted attention.

"When you go outside, especially alone, people give you attention you don't want. Yells and whistles, and I couldn't do anything



about it," she said. Manisha's fiery eyes, and her ability to command the conversation, makes it difficult to comprehend she would have ever been too afraid to leave the house.

That was until a Community Volunteer from Educate Girls knocked on her family's door. He told them about an upcoming training for Team Balika – a group of volunteers from their community that work to get every girl back to school. They were recruiting new members.

In 2007, Educate Girls was established to tackle the root causes of gender inequality in India's education system. The social enterprise targeted Rajasthan, where the society is traditionally patriarchal with deeply ingrained social practices, traditions, and customs. Nearly, 40 percent of girls leave school before grade five, and 68 percent

of girls get married before the legal age.

Despite this reality, the Educate Girls' model has succeeded in enrolling 99 percent of targeted girls, and has increased the retention rate to 87 percent. Their model gets to the root of the problem: the lack of ownership from the community. This includes a combination of instituting community based enrollment plans, creating school management committees, and raising the awareness of the benefits of educating a girl.

In 2011, Educate Girls won a Development Marketplace grant to help increase its scale and improve its organizational capacity. The World Bank Group program is more than a decade old and was originally created to surface innovative ideas that provide the





poorest with services that are affordable. Since then, the program has evolved to strengthen social enterprise's business models and improve the environment in which these enterprises operate. These models are also being incorporated into the work that the World Bank is already doing in a given country and complement it by surfacing non-governmental providers of services.

Social enterprises across the world are changing the way crucial basic services are being delivered to those living in abject poverty. Like Educate Girls, these organizations – some for-profit, others nonprofit, or a combination of the two – have developed innovative business models that get to the root of problems in service delivery. Often working outside the bounds of the public sphere, social enterprises have the flexibility to develop these solutions and the ability to quickly implement them in their communities. Additionally, these solutions

are usually more effective as those who have developed it have lived with the problem themselves and have a deep understanding of the complexities that exist around challenges in service delivery.

At the center of the Educate Girls' model are volunteers like Manisha; volunteers who make up Team Balika.

Manisha is just one of 4,500 community volunteers who are at the front line of school enrollment. These young people go door-to-door to convince families that their daughters deserve an education. Because they come from the same communities, families are more receptive to them and have proven to be the key to Educate Girls' success. Additionally, they work in the schools to ensure once enrolled, children are provided the best education possible.

Urged by their mother, who never was afforded the opportunity to study, Manisha and her sister attended the training and joined Team Balika almost immediately. In follow up trainings, they learned how to approach strangers, work with children, and be persistent in difficult situations.

“Educate Girls has allowed me to be a model for my village,” said Manisha. “If girls are given the chance to study, then they have the power to change the world. But really, it's not just girls, I want every child to go to school. If you want to change someone's life, teaching is the best way.”

Since Educate Girls came into her life, Manisha has begun to see life outside of her stone walls. She now wants to become a teacher herself. 🌐



Photographs by Blythe Nicole Kladney

The choice is ours: Delhi can clean its air by switching to cleaner fuels



Every city that has cleaned up its air pollution has done it by moving households and industry to cleaner fuels. In several cities of northern China, moving to gas-based heating systems has helped bring down PM2.5 concentration substantially and cost-effectively. One action that governments responsible for the NCR region could take is to switch every source of residential and industrial emissions to gas, says Onno Ruhl, World Bank India Country Director

I am a foreigner living in Delhi, but unlike some other foreigners I believe it is neither fair nor helpful to tar it as being “among the most populous, polluted, unsanitary and bacterially unsafe cities on earth”. When I walk or cycle through Delhi I see a growing city grappling, as cities across the world have done, with the challenges growth brings. It is crowded, yes, but that is because it provides jobs and homes to millions from surrounding states looking for an opportunity to better their lives.

It is dirty and unsanitary in parts, because it takes time for overwhelmed city authorities to catch up with providing services to the millions who arrive here. And while we foreigners have the luxury of opting out and returning to our own cities, the residents

of Delhi, especially the poor, have no such option and continue to face the impact of air pollution.

Urban air pollution is a knotty issue in today’s emission-generating world. Several metropolises are struggling to deal with it. The levels of pollution in Delhi are different – because the scale is different. Paris city has less than 3 million people; Delhi more than 16 million and growing daily. London has 2.6 million private vehicles and Delhi over 4 million.

And none has its particular problems – like the 80,000 trucks that rumble through Delhi each evening, bringing in and taking out goods needed for daily life but also spewing noxious fumes into the night. Or the fact that

its airshed is inextricably linked to that of the neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab, where the burning of agricultural waste in early winter adds to the pall of smoke that hangs over the city. Or even the reality that countless poor households in the city do not have access to clean fuels, and still depend on wood or coal fires to cook their food or keep warm in winter.

It is now time to focus on solutions. Certain principles will need to drive this campaign. First, any air quality management effort must cover not only Delhi but the entire National Capital Region; otherwise efforts in one part will be negated by pollution from another. NCR needs to develop a comprehensive air quality management plan that includes a mapping of pollution sources, monitoring levels of air pollution, as well as a rigorous assessment of the costs and benefits of different mitigation measures.

But even while this comprehensive management plan is being prepared, what are measures that can be implemented immediately to address air quality? We know for instance that the major sources of PM2.5 – which is the most harmful to human health – are emissions from the transport sector, residential sources and the industrial sector in that general order.

Besides the tens of thousands of commercial vehicles that ply in NCR or even pass through it, it is the alarming number of personal vehicles – 1,500 are registered in Delhi alone every day – that add to the city's pollution load. We are also familiar with the political economy issues around the adoption of cleaner fuels and cleaner technologies for vehicles. But even as we wait for the government to resolve these and decide to leapfrog to higher standards at par with the best in the world, there are quick solutions available.

Many of these are well known too – build long-awaited bypasses that will allow transiting trucks to proceed without entering Delhi, enhance public transport in NCR including last-mile connectivity, and strengthen 'pollution-under-control' monitoring systems for all vehicles.

Less is known about the next biggest source of emissions in Delhi – the numerous

hotel and restaurants, street vendors and households that do not have access to clean fuel.

One recent assessment suggests that 27% PM2.5 emissions in NCR comes from traditional fuels (coal, wood, kerosene) used for cooking, and another 24% from coal-dominated energy consumption in industry.

Every city that has cleaned up its air pollution has done it by moving households and industry to cleaner fuels. In several cities of northern China, moving to gas-based heating systems has helped bring down PM2.5 concentration substantively and cost-effectively. One action that governments responsible for the NCR region could take is to switch every source of residential and industrial emissions to gas.

The Delhi government is already committed to providing residential piped gas, which would be a major contribution to this anti-pollution programme. But it would require other states in NCR to put in place similar policies for the gains not to be frittered away.

Similarly, monitoring networks across NCR, to supplement those in Delhi city, need to be set up now so that information about pollution is available in real time (including crowd-sourced information as we now have for traffic snarls) and authorities can respond nimbly to pollution peaks, perhaps using the information to curb cars or control certain manufacturing activities on a bad-air day.

Ultimately, Delhi's air pollution challenge is only one facet of India's urban renewal challenge. With about 600 million Indians expected to live in urban areas by 2031, India's cities need to find better ways of managing their waste, to construct buildings that are energy efficient, and plan spatial growth in a manner that makes for a more compact, more resource-efficient cities. And they need efficient, inclusive and safe urban transport. Motivated by its air pollution challenge, the entire NCR could show the way to the nation and move towards becoming a true 'smart' city. 🌐

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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.

Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project



Context

The National Highway system represents less than two percent of the total road length in the country but carries over 40 percent of the road traffic. The Government of India launched the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) – a flagship program to alleviate congestion, slow speeds, high vehicle operating costs and poor safety, through a combination of higher investment and better management.

The World Bank recognized the strategic significance of the National Highway Development Project from its inception and started supporting it through lending operations prepared and approved in quick succession, viz., Third National Highway Project (US\$ 516 million, June 2000), Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project (US\$ 589 million, June 2001), and Allahabad Bypass Project (US\$ 240 million, September 2003).

Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project

Approval Date:	21 December, 2004
Closing Date:	30 June, 2012
Total Project Cost	US\$ 806 million
Bank Financing (IDA):	US\$ 615 million
Implementing Agency:	National Highways Authority of India
Outcome:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Moderate
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Unsatisfactory

The Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project (LMNHP) was the fourth operation in this series.

Project Development Objectives

The primary objective was for road users to benefit from an improved journey between Lucknow and Muzaffarpur (483 km).

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the Project were the users of the road corridor from Lucknow to Muzaffarpur (Uttar Pradesh/Bihar border) which passed through some of the poorest districts of Uttar Pradesh and formed part of the national trunk road linking the remote, less developed north-eastern states of India. In addition to providing direct primary benefits of reduced travel times and costs to the corridor users (of whom about 65 percent were commercial), the investment operation was expected to have significant secondary effects on poverty alleviation and the socio-economic wellbeing of the population in the adjoining rural areas.

Achievements

By the end of the Project in June 2012, the Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar border (a total length of 358 km, including the 328 km comprising Bank-financed stretches) was upgraded to four-lanes and travel time on the Project corridor was reduced by 23 percent (for cars) and 25 percent (for trucks) – against an overall target of 20 percent. The Project also made a notable contribution to moving the critical issues such as HIV/AIDS and road safety higher up on the NHAI's agenda.

However, the Project's performance with regard to key outcomes such as vehicle operating costs and number of fatal and non-fatal accidents were not uniformly achieved.

The Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project is perhaps the first road sector project that has incorporated a program on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the project design with an exclusive budget and timelines. The goal was to reduce the risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS in the project area through raising awareness among people engaged in road construction; communities residing close to the highways; and of people using the highways. The HIV/AIDS program was mainstreamed into the National Highway

agenda through capacity building and public awareness programs in the project corridor.

Lessons Learnt

- Projects such as LMNHP have a robust and relevant institutional strengthening component. Being part of a larger program like NHDP, it could provide rare and unique opportunities to seed and demonstrate project and program level best practices which could be widely replicated across many projects within the national program and also serve as examples worthy of emulation by the states.
- Particular attention should be given to large value contracts. In case such contracts turn problematic – as happened with the four packages in LMNHP – the clients may be encouraged to consider the option of taking out such contracts, if necessary, through restructuring sooner than later.
- The apparent poor performance of the contractors (and the consequent time and cost overruns) in LMNHP is mostly attributable to the contract design and weak contract management. For instance, the Bill of Materials contracts offered little or no incentives to complete the projects within the agreed time and cost limits. This was compounded by weak contract management in terms of:
 - (i) delays in deciding on contractual issues like variations and extensions of time; and
 - (ii) general reluctance to make use of available remedies such as management meetings, arbitration and application of liquidated damages.
- Activities such as land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and utility shifting, fall outside the purview of the implementing agency for civil works. The departments or agencies responsible for these activities, burdened with their routine workload, usually relegate the project-related actions to a lower order of priority. In this regard, the approach followed in LMNHP – that is, engaging NGOs – appeared to be useful as it helped partly alleviate the workload of the state revenue departments in expediting work related to land acquisition. 

Recent Project Approvals

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project III

The World Bank Board has approved US\$ 650 million towards the third loan for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (a freight-only rail line) that will help faster and more efficient movement of raw materials and finished goods between the northern and eastern parts of India.

The Eastern Corridor is 1,840 km long and extends from Ludhiana to Kolkata.

The World Bank is supporting the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) as a series of projects in which the three sections with a total route length of 1,146 km will be delivered sequentially, but with considerable overlap in their construction schedules.

EDFC 3 will build the 401 km Ludhiana-Khurja section in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. The Project will help increase the capacity of these freight-only lines by raising the axle-load limit from 22.9 to 25 tons and enable speeds of up to 100 km/hr. It will also help develop the institutional capacity of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) to build and maintain the DFC infrastructure network.

The EDFC is part of India's first Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) initiative – being built on two main routes – the Western and the Eastern Corridors. 🌐

Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$250 million credit for the Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project for reconstruction and recovery support to flood-affected areas in which public infrastructure and livelihoods were impacted severely. It will also strengthen the capacity of the state government to respond to and better manage natural disasters in the future.

The Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project will focus on the 20 districts of Anantnag, Baramula, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajauri and Udhampur.

World Bank assistance has been sought in rebuilding damaged public buildings, such as hospitals, schools, higher education buildings, fire stations, and selected block and district offices, and other important public buildings. It will restore and improve the connectivity disrupted by reconstruction of damaged roads and bridges. The infrastructure will be re-designed to withstand earthquake and floods as per the latest official design guidelines.

Another key component of this Project will be to strengthen and reinforce existing weak and vulnerable flood control infrastructure. 🌐

Construction work underway in the EDFC Project



Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness in Bihar Program

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 250 million credit for the Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness in Bihar Program to improve the effectiveness of elementary school teachers in Bihar by making them more qualified, accountable and responsive.

The program will be implemented over a five year period and will support development of high quality education institutions; ensure certification for unqualified elementary school teachers and continuous professional development of teachers in service; help effective teacher management and performance; and improve teacher accountability at the school level.

Lack of trained teachers seems to be one of the biggest impediments in improving the quality of education in Bihar. By 2020, the number of teachers is expected to exceed 600,000. However, the state's training capacity is less than 5,000 newly trained teachers per year whereas it needs to train at least ten times more teachers annually.

The program will be part of the Government of Bihar's school education reform program

(also known as Manav Vikas program), which is implementing a wide-set of reforms to improve the quality of education, especially for elementary level children.

It will benefit some 450,000 teachers in government elementary schools in Bihar, particularly the 65,000 new unqualified entrants who will receive certification through Open Distance Learning (ODL). As a result, some 21.2 million elementary school students are expected to gain access to improved classroom teaching and learning.

Institutions like the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), Primary Teacher Education Centers (PTECs) at the district level and Block Resource Centers (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centers (CRCs) at the sub-district level will be strengthened to function as local learning centers.

They will offer a full range of teacher education activities, including local group discussions, tutorials, and remote teaching sessions. 

Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Quality Improvement Project

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 300 million credit for the Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Quality Improvement Project to improve student learning outcomes in select higher education institutions in Madhya Pradesh, particularly for the disadvantaged groups. The Project will also help increase the overall effectiveness of the higher education system in Madhya Pradesh.

About 3.6 million students, 10,800 academic staff and 1,400 administrators and officers in nearly 200 government colleges and universities are expected to directly benefit from the Project.

The main thrust of the Project will be to help government colleges and universities to effectively use institutional grants in improving the quality of higher education, provide equitable access to education for

all and ensure better capacity utilization, as well as include activities aimed at making students more employable. The Project will also help create Centers of Excellence in select colleges and university departments to prepare best practice teaching-learning and research in a particular area.

Other strategic interventions of the Project are to provide financial support to disadvantaged and meritorious students through scholarships; upgrade qualifications and skills of new and existing faculty members through a state institute for higher education training and research; and extend technical assistance to government-run higher education institutions to gain accreditation with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The Project will also strengthen the governance structures of government colleges with clear mandates on governance and accountability. 

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project II

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 308.40 million credit for the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project II in support of the second phase of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Program (NCRMP). During this phase, the Project will help India reduce vulnerability to cyclone and other hydro-meteorological hazards of coastal communities in the states of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. It will also work closely with the states to build their capacity to effectively plan for and respond to disasters.

The Project will focus on developing early warning dissemination systems in the six states, build cyclone risk mitigation infrastructure and provide technical assistance for multi-hazard risk management, among others. An additional 1.6 million people will directly benefit from cyclone risk mitigation infrastructure, while millions more will be covered by early warning systems.

The early warning systems, to be on the lines of what has already been developed in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in Phase I, will allow states or district level

control centers to send communications directly to the villages using Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) or Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) based technology for early warning. Satellite phones or alternative technology will be given to key officials and a new radio based wireless communication technology will be expanded to coastal areas in each state. Officials will also be trained in operating and maintaining these equipments.

A broad range of investments will be made in increasing preparedness and reducing the vulnerability of coastal communities through investments such as multi-purpose emergency shelters, upgrading roads, underground electric cabling and upgrading saline embankments and bunds.

Phase I, under implementation since 2010, includes the states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Despite the impact of Cyclone Phailin in 2013, 128 shelters have been constructed, 550 km of evacuation roads and 11 bridges have been built, more than 400,000 people have already benefited from infrastructure constructed under this phase. 

Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project

The World Bank Board has approved a US\$ 250 million credit for the Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project to restore, improve and enhance the resilience of public services and livelihoods of communities affected by cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh. The Project will also increase the capacity of the state to respond promptly and effectively to an emergency.

The Project will specifically benefit over 13 million people in the four severely affected districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.

It will help the state restore the damages caused to roads; public infrastructure including environmental services and facilities; and increase resilience of the power infrastructure as well as the resilience of its communities from impacts of future disasters.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of Visakhapatnam's electrical network, the Project will lay the power distribution system underground. About 700 km of 33kV, 11kV and 415 volts network lines will be converted to underground cable network. About 800 km of rural roads and 250 km of major district roads will be rehabilitated. Old cyclone shelters will be repaired with friendly design features for the elderly, women, and children. Investments will be made along the beachfront of the city of Visakhapatnam, which would include pedestrian walkways, street lighting, public toilets, landscaping and for its protection from erosion.

The Project will also help reconstruct the severely damaged zoological park at Visakhapatnam and ecological park at Kambalakonda. 

Recent Project Signings

Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

The Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 300 million loan agreement for the Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project to improve the capacity, quality and safety of Tamil Nadu's core road network. It will also strengthen the institutional capacity of the highways department through better policies, operational systems and procedures.

The agreement for the Project was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Rajeev Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Highways & Minor Ports Department, Government of

Tamil Nadu, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu; and Onno Ruhl, Country Director, World Bank (India) on behalf of the World Bank.

This Project will address the accumulated investment needs of the state by supporting upgrading of 1,175 km of the core road network. It will adopt contracting arrangements that encourage economies of scale and offer stronger incentives for performance, viz., Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contracts (430 km), Public Private Participation (PPP) concessions (145 km) and long-term Performance-Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC, 600 km). 

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project

The Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank have signed a US\$ 400 million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project to help strengthen the financial and administrative capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in planning, financing and delivering services in a financially sustainable manner. It will also pilot best practices in urban management in select cities.

The Project will invest in urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage,

solid waste management, and urban transportation networks; and strengthen the capacity of ULBs to carry out reforms in the areas of urban finance and governance and also provide credit enhancement support for mobilizing financial resources from the markets. Most of these components will be open to all ULBs who may wish to participate within an agreed framework under the Project.

This is in keeping with the needs of a rapidly urbanizing state where about 35 million people reside in urban areas and account for 9.6 percent of India's urban population.

The loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Anita Praveen, Principal Secretary and Chairperson and MD, Tamil Nadu Urban Financial Services Ltd, and Praveen P Nair, Deputy Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Tamil Nadu on behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu; and Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director, India. 



Campaign to end open defecation inspires team from Bihar

A 28-member delegation from Bihar travelled to neighboring West Bengal on a knowledge exchange initiative to study the implementation of a rural sanitation program in the state.

The visit was part of Knowledge & Experience Exchange facilitated by the Leadership Learning and Innovations (LLI) Vice-Presidency and Water Global Practice of the World Bank to learn from good practices in rural sanitation in West Bengal.

The total economic impact of the lack of sanitation service in India is US\$ 53.8 billion a year, a whopping 6.4 percent of India's GDP, which is linked with premature mortality, healthcare costs, and health-related productivity losses. In rural India more than 60 percent people defecate in open. Addressing the challenge is critical in states like Bihar because of all the people defecating in the open in India, 2 in 10 live in Bihar.

West Bengal is implementing the *Nirmal Bangla* (Clean Bengal) Mission to achieve an Open Defecation Free (ODF) State by 2017

and several districts are making concentrated efforts to scale up rural sanitation outcomes using a participatory approach. The visit came close on the heels of Nadia district being declared first ODF district in India, within 18 months of the campaign roll-out that has transformed the entire district by mobilizing every stakeholder to take up a leadership role for behaviour change as well as matching demand with construction of toilets. Birbhum district on the other hand has been able to turn Rural Sanitation campaign into a social movement following the community led total sanitation (CLTS) approach and has been able to make a steady and sustainable progress in achieving improved sanitation practices across the district.

So what has West Bengal done differently that inspired the entire Bihar delegation? The movement for sanitation in West Bengal has been localized and owned by the district government with constant support from the state government. There also has been a push for convergence from the state government. "In West Bengal, my department



is responsible for rural sanitation, employment guarantee scheme as well as empowerment of panchayats and we utilized all three for rural sanitation outcomes”, said Mr. Dibyendu Sarkar, Commissioner, Nirmal Bangla Mission, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, West Bengal. Significant changes in the state government’s policy has resulted in a shift in focus of the rural sanitation program from ‘subsidy driven advocacy’ to ‘community behaviour change and triggering’ and the government has started counting ODF villages rather than toilets.

At the district level, there is immense push for collaboration between administrative and political functionaries. “While the champions have been on both (political and administrative) sides, we left no one out in our fight against open defecation and have left no stones unturned” said Dr. P.B Salim, Ex-District Magistrate and champion of open defecation free Nadia district. The delegation from Bihar was inspired to see such synergies between all the three tiers of local self-government institutions in the district and their administrative counterparts.

Giving high priority to behaviour change, both the districts have adopted innovative behaviour change communication campaigns by bringing in religious leaders to talk about the ills of open defecation, asking doctors to prescribe a toilet as the first ‘medicine’ and instructing schools to regularly take cleanliness oaths in the morning prayers and ensure practices like use of toilets in school and hand washing. IEC activities like human puppet shows, human chains, cycle rallies, sanitation quizzes, repurposed cultural and Bollywood songs and hot air balloons with sanitation messages, were used to capture people’s attention. This has been

supplemented with intense inter personal communication through village committees.

To meet the demand for improved sanitation facilities, Self Help Groups (SHGs) as well as NGOs have established Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) as aggregators of sanitation supply and support for toilet construction. The government is providing capacity building support to RSMs by creating mason training centres. The flow of funds has been streamlined to flow from district to block to RSMs and the panchayats ensure the quality of construction.

Para Nazardari committees (vigilance committees) set up at village hamlet are taking the lead in community monitoring. These committees are provided with a whistle and a cap and they monitor open defecation by the community members in the early hours, sometimes as early as 4 AM. These committees explain the ills of open defecation to people defecating in open and when needed, enforce the laws made by panchayats against open defecation.

Bihar delegates, who had come armed with a range of questions and some amount of scepticism, came back invigorated after the field visit with a resolve to achieve similar goals in their state. “I will make my district Open Defecation Free in a year!” pledged Lalit Kumar Singh, Senior Deputy Collector, Jehanabad district, inspired by this visit. A big draw for him and the Bihar delegation was the collaboration between the district administration, gram panchayats and other departments and the team work towards a common goal. Most felt that a strong will from the administration and the political system would ensure that Bihar reined in the practice of open defecation and made way for sustained toilets usage. 🌐



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

Publications may be consulted and copies of unpriced items obtained from:

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India Publications

Mapping results from space: Satellite data show impact of investments on agricultural and water use efficiency in Uttar Pradesh, India

By Anju Gaur, Winston Yu and Danielle Alejandra Garcia Ramirez

Available: on-line
English; 4 pages
Published: May 2015
Report No: 97156

The World Bank has been supporting its clients to deliver efficient irrigation services through projects like the Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project (UPWSRP) to increase agriculture and water use efficiency. With the support of the Water Partnership Program (WPP), UPWSRP used remote sensing (RS) and state-of-the-art modeling to provide evidence of the impact of the Bank's investment on agricultural productivity.

The pilot study in UPWSRP phase one used multi-temporal free satellite imagery to track the agricultural productivity in the project area before and after the project interventions and compared with adjacent non project areas. Through the study, it was possible to map beneficiaries with land use diversification, as well as agricultural intensification and enhanced crop productivity due to improved irrigation and drainage services.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 7275

Transforming electricity governance in India: Has India's power sector regulation enabled consumers' power?

By Ashish Khanna, Daljit Singh, Ashwini K Swain and Mudit Narain

Consumers' participation in regulatory decision-making in infrastructure sectors can be critical to ensure effective regulatory governance. Providing avenues for

enabling consumers' voice in the regulatory process expands the information base available to regulators in their decision-making, and is critical for ensuring sustainability of policy and regulatory decisions. However, in the reform process of many developing countries' power sectors, the primary focus has been on the sector's technical aspects, with inadequate effort to improve the experience of consumers, whether through better quality of service or by ensuring their participation in the regulatory process. This shortfall has often undermined the public's understanding of and demand for reforms, often reflected in political reversal of key policy decisions.

This paper examines the level and quality of consumer participation and protection in five states in India through a review of documents, surveys of consumers, and detailed interviews with key stakeholders. As mandated by law, all states have established standards of performance regulations and set up grievance redressal mechanisms; however, these bodies have not reached the desired level of effectiveness. Similarly, although provisions for consumer participation in regulatory proceedings exist, their adoption is often symbolic and without substantive and deliberative participation.

WPS 7270

Poverty dynamics in India between 2004 and 2012: Insights from longitudinal analysis using synthetic panel data

By Hai-Anh H. Dang and Peter F. Lanjouw



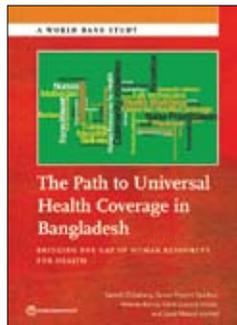
Recent National Sample Surveys point to significant poverty reduction in India since 2004-05, with a marked acceleration between 2009-10 and 2011-12. This paper enquires into important aspects of income mobility between 2004-05 and 2011-12, based on new statistical methods

to convert the three pertinent National Sample Survey rounds into synthetic panels. The analysis draws on the synthetic panels to derive a vulnerability line for India that can be used to separate out a population subgroup comprising non-poor households facing a heightened risk of falling into poverty.

The paper documents a strong pattern of upward mobility out of poverty and vulnerability into the middle class, with a noticeable acceleration between 2009-10 and 2011-12. The paper further undertakes a careful investigation into the comparability of the survey rounds, prompted by the observation that fairly significant modifications had been made to survey questionnaires. The findings suggest that changes in questionnaire design have not compromised the comparability of the data.

Other Publications

The Path to Universal Health Coverage in Bangladesh: Bridging the Gap of Human Resources for Health

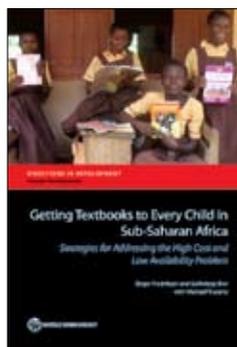


Edited by Sameh El-Saharty, Susan Powers Sparkes, Helene Barroy, Karar Zunaid Ahsan and Syed Masud Ahmed

World Bank Studies
English; 124 pages
Published: June 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0536-3
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0537-0

Despite Bangladesh's impressive strides in improving its economic and social development outcomes, the government still confronts health financing and service delivery challenges. In its review of the health system, this study highlights the limited fiscal space for implementing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh, particularly given low public spending for health and high out-of-pocket expenditure. The crisis in the country's human resources for health (HRH) compounds public health service delivery inefficiencies. As the government explores options to finance its UHC plan, it must recognize that reform of its service delivery system with particular focus on HRH has to be the centerpiece of any policy initiative.

Getting Textbooks to Every Child in Sub-Saharan Africa: Strategies for Addressing the High Cost and Low Availability Problem



Edited by Birger Fredriksen and Sukhdeep Brar

Directions in Development – Human Development
English; 124 pages
Published: May 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0540-0
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0541-7

Textbooks play a key role in enhancing the quality of learning, especially in the context of low-income Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries characterized by large class-size, poorly motivated and inadequately trained teachers, and short effective school years.

The study examined the actual costs of textbooks, the scope for cost reduction, the portion of a national budget countries allocate to teaching and learning materials (TLMs) and hurdles in the way of making textbooks available to student. It found that the

availability of affordable textbooks to all students could be dramatically improved by devoting an estimated 3 to 4 percent of the primary education budget and 6 to 7 percent of the secondary education budget. The production process – methods, copyright, length of print runs, effective procurement practices – rather than the production costs should be the target of cost saving strategies.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Assessing the Economic and Social Impact of the Syrian Conflict and ISIS



Authors/Editors: World Bank English; Pages 190
Published: April 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0548-6
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0549-3

This report identifies and, where feasible, quantify the impact of the recent regional crises on Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the required stabilization costs

for 2015. It provides a technical assessment of the impact of the crises and stabilization needs that could inform the dialogue between the regional and central governments as well as provide input for international efforts to address socioeconomic issues.

As Time Goes By in Argentina: Economic Opportunities and Challenges of the Demographic Transition



Edited by Michele Gagnolati, Rafael Rofman, Ignacio Apella and Sara Troiano

Directions in Development – Human Development
English; Pages 364
Published: May 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0530-1
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0531-8

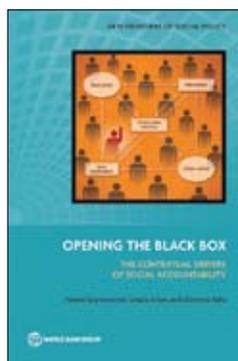
This book studies the opportunities and challenges that the demographic transition poses for the Argentine economy, its most important social sectors like the healthcare, education, and social protection systems, and the potential fiscal trade-offs that must be dealt with.

The study shows that even though Argentina is moving through its demographic transition, it just recently began to enjoy the window of opportunity and this constitutes a great opportunity to achieve an accumulation of capital and future economic growth.

Once the window of opportunity has passed, population ageing will have a significant impact on the level of expenditure, especially spending in the social protection system. This signifies a challenge from a fiscal policy point of view, because if long-term reforms are not undertaken to mediate these effects, the demographic transition will put pressure on the reallocation of fiscal resources among social sectors.

Taking advantage of the current window of opportunities, increasing savings that will finance the accumulation of capital, and increasing future labor force productivity in this way is a challenge for the Argentine economy.

Opening the Black Box: The Contextual Drivers of Social Accountability



Edited by Helene Grandvoinnet, Ghazia Aslam and Shomikho Raha

English; Pages 348
Published: April 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0505-9
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0506-6

This report provides an analysis of the state of out-of-school youth in Sub-Saharan Africa,

focusing on the 12- to 24-year-old cohort. It also examines the decision path youth take as they progress through the education system and the factors that explain youth's school and work choices. It finds that individual and household characteristics, social norms, and characteristics of the school system all matter in understanding why youth drop out and remain out of school.

Decarbonizing Development



English; Pages 164
Published: June 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0479-3
SKU: 210479

Decarbonizing Development explores the types of climate policy packages needed to achieve a complete decarbonization of our economies by 2100, taking into account the

many market failures, imperfections, risks, undesired distributional effects, and political economy obstacles that such a deep transition entails.

It also offers a possible road map for countries that are planning their transition toward full decarbonization.

India Project Documents

Scaling Up Sustainable and Responsible Microfinance

Date 04 June 2015
Project ID P155601
Report No. ISDSA13106 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
PIDA25317 (Project Information Document)

Third Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

Date 03 June 2015
Project ID P150158
Report No. 97090 (Procurement Plan)
SFG1094 (Resettlement Plan)
SFG1115 (Environmental Assessment)
PIDA23784 (Project Information Document)
ISDSA12740 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project

Date 22 May 2015
Project ID P127974
Report No. ISDSA1111 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
PIDA24712 (Project Information Document)

Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project

Date 19 May 2015
Project ID P154990
Report No. PAD1405 (Project Appraisal Document)
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RP1790 (Resettlement Plan)
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Date 07 May 2015
Project ID P154847
Report No. SFG1013 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)
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Second Phase of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Date 07 May 2015
Project ID P144726
Report No. PAD952 (Project Appraisal Document)
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Report No. PIDA191 (Project Information Document)
ISDSA13000 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

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Date 26 April 2015
Project ID P150394
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Date 22 April 2015
Project ID P150395
Report No. 95941 (Procurement Plan)

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Date 23 April 2015
Project ID P132665
Report No. 92972 (Project Appraisal Document)

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Municipal Development Project

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Project ID P071250
Report No. Project Agreement

Andhra Pradesh Road Sector Project

Date 23 April 2015
Project ID P096021
Report No. Project Agreement

From the Blogworld

What will you do with access to information?

By Cyril Muller

A new phase of openness began five years ago on July 1, 2010, when the World Bank launched its Policy on Access to Information, which provides access to any information in the Bank's possession that is not on a list of exceptions. The policy has served as a catalyst and has created an ecosystem of transparency initiatives to make World Bank information and data available to the public. In the years since 2010, the Bank has applied the principles underpinning Access to Information to accompanying initiatives such as Open Data, the Open Knowledge Repository, Open Finances, and Open Contracting, among others. The spectrum of transparency and innovation even extends beyond these initiatives to include the World Bank's vision on Open Government.

Open approaches are paramount to development. But while access to information and technology are important to the development process, they are only part of the equation in finding solutions. A crucial part of the process lies with global citizens who can – and do – utilize the information and data to engage with and better their communities.

Transparent access to World Bank information has benefited communities around the world in unexpected ways. By making this information available, creative minds can find new ways to make an impact.

A group of dedicated researchers submitted an Access to Information request in 2012 for a World Bank report on India's Water and Sanitation Program, with the intention of using this information to analyze cost-recovery data for sanitation services in cities and across the country's regions. They were able to fill a crucial knowledge gap between public health and sanitation services that can affect the ultimate

consumer of public health services in the country.

Another requester contacted the World Bank for project information related to gross domestic product variables in African nations, in order to use that information to investigate factors that can influence medical systems to improve maternal healthcare across the continent.

What did these requesters have in common? They were able to easily submit Access to Information requests and gain useful information to find creative and effective ways to influence people's lives. After all, isn't that what access to information offers? To participate, use the available resources, and find ways for governments and citizens to engage in

order to promote accountability and citizen-centric development?

As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Access to Information policy, the World Bank is proud to be a partner to its clients, beneficiaries, and stakeholders in promoting greater transparency, accountability, and openness. Ideas and

perspectives from citizens and stakeholders around the world have contributed to the results we have achieved in the past five years.

In the future, we expect to see the impact that access to information and data has had on communities around the world. We need active support from committed global citizens like you to make the most of the information, knowledge and data available at the World Bank, and to make a difference with it to solve the world's most critical development challenges.

Please share your stories on how you have used information from the World Bank. Let your voice be heard! 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nv4zk9l>



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By Randy Bluffstone, Eswaran Somanathan, Prakash Jha, Harisharan Luintel, Rajesh Bista and et.al.

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