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About the photograph: South Asian cities like Mumbai can become more prosperous through better planning, connectivity and governance

Photograph by Barjor Mehta

Can Indian cities take better advantage of urbanization to become more prosperous and livable?

Urbanization has the potential to transform South Asian economies to join the ranks of richer nations. But countries like India are not fully realizing the potential of their cities for prosperity and livability, and, according to a new World Bank report, a big reason is the difficulty in dealing with the pressures that larger urban populations put on infrastructure, basic services, land, housing and the environment. That leads to what the report calls the region's "messy and hidden" urbanization.



Urban population in South Asia increased by 130 million between 2000 and 2011 and is poised to grow by almost 250 million more in the next 15 years

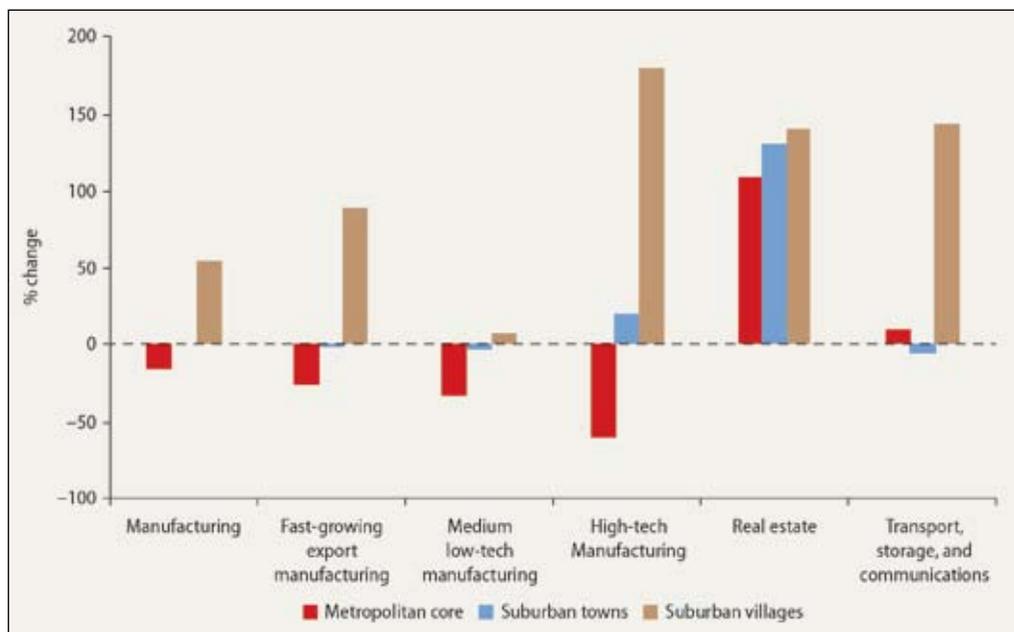
In India, messy urbanization is reflected in the nearly 65.5 million Indians who, according to the country's 2011 Census, live in urban slums, as well as the 13.7 percent of the urban population that lived below the national poverty line in 2011. Hidden urbanization is seen in the large share of India's population that lives in settlements that possess urban characteristics but do not satisfy the criteria required to be officially classified as urban.

According to the report, *"Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing*

Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability," a growing number of people in South Asia are now living in towns and cities. The region's urban population increased by 130 million between 2000 and 2011 and is poised to grow by almost 250 million more in the next 15 years. Still, South Asia's share of the global economy remains strikingly low relative to its share of the world's urban population. And levels of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for India and other major South Asian countries are below what we would predict based on their levels of agglomeration.

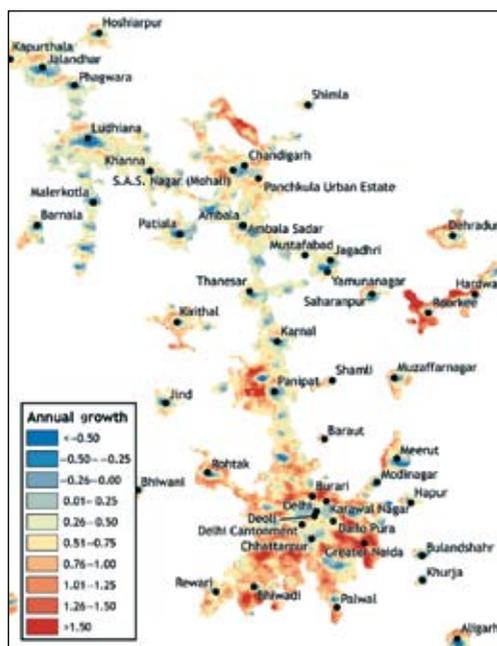


Employment growth in Indian metropolitan cores and their peripheries by sector, 1998-2005



Source: World Bank 2013 based on Economic Census data covering manufacturing establishments of all sizes (organized and unorganized). Note: Metropolitan core includes an area with a radius of 10 kilometers centered on the main metropolis. Suburban towns comprise urban areas 10–50 kilometers from the metropolitan core, and suburban villages comprise rural areas in the same vicinity. These figures are averages for the seven largest metropolitan areas (in descending order of population): Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad.

Patterns of annual nighttime lights growth around New Delhi, 1999-2010



Source: World Bank staff based on analysis of Defense Meteorological Satellite Program – Operational Linescan System (DMSP-OLS) nighttime lights data.





Ahmedabad has plans to transform and strengthen the character of its central business district, and to improve walkability by utilizing its connectivity to a proposed metrorail system and its waterfront. It also proposes to double the street network coverage and green cover through the use of targeted urban planning and design guidelines.

To tackle messy urbanization, policies are required to improve how cities are planned, the working of land and housing markets, and cities' resilience to natural disasters

Policy Actions

To better tap into the economic potential that urbanization offers, policymakers in India and throughout South Asia should consider actions at two levels – the institutional level and the policy level. At the institutional level, the region would benefit from improvements in the ways in which towns and cities are governed and financed. Specifically, the report said that reform is required to address three fundamental deficits – in empowerment, resources and accountability:

- Intergovernmental fiscal relations must be improved to address empowerment.
- Practical ways must be identified to increase the resources available to local governments to allow them to perform their mandated functions.
- Mechanisms must be strengthened to hold local governments accountable for their actions.

However, these reforms by themselves will not suffice.

To tackle messy urbanization and bring about

lasting improvements in both prosperity and livability, policies are also required to improve the ways in which cities are connected and planned, the working of land and housing markets, and cities' resilience to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

For instance, India's Golden Quadrilateral Highway and Ahmedabad city's Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) are examples of good connectivity and planning. Cities can transform into more livable, productive and vibrant centers by steering away from one-size-fits-all policies towards more granular, inclusive and dynamic approaches to urban planning and design that meet short-term needs while taking a long-term view of development and land resources.

South Asia's policymakers, the World Bank report says, face a choice: Continue on the same path or undertake reforms to tap into the unrealized potential of South Asia's cities. It won't be easy but such actions are essential in making the region's cities prosperous and livable. 🌐

Download the full report:
<http://tinyurl.com/oyntsp>

Road Safety Hackathon

In India, a Hackathon to promote #SafeRoads and #SaveLives



- *The Kerala Road Safety Authority supported by the World Bank Group organized a hackathon to promote road safety.*
- *Over 180 young developers took part in the 36-hour non-stop event to build technology and create solutions to make India's roads safer.*
- *The programs and applications will help improve road safety by upgrading the engineering of Indian roads.*

It's 2.30 am in the early hours of a Sunday morning and Jikku Jose is hunched over his laptop amidst a sea of cables, workstations and coffee cups. The engineering student is among the 180 young developers who are part of a 36-hour non-stop event where they are trying to create solutions to make India's roads safer.

The country's first-ever road safety hackathon is underway in Trivandrum, Kerala, at one of the largest IT parks in the nation. The hackathon, organized by the Kerala Road Safety Authority and supported by the World

Bank Group, has asked developers to create either software or hardware based programs or applications that will help improve road safety by upgrading the engineering of Indian's roads, ensuring that traffic rules are enforced, promoting driver education, or improving emergency care for accident victims.

"We are passionate about simple and elegant solutions," said 29-year-old Jose, who along with team member Rakesh are working towards building their start-up company. "We are fighting against time to create a real



time dashboard to respond to any traffic emergency.”

Their all-night efforts have clearly paid off as the solution they came up with called ‘Third Eye’ won the first prize in the software category. Third Eye’s dashboard, located at the police control room, allows anyone with a mobile phone to instantly alert the nearest police station of a road accident through a simple text message. The system uses open standards protocols to virtually connect any device that complies with the API. “Our effort is to reach the entire population without adding any further technology or extra cost,” beamed Jikku.

The first prize in the hardware category went to twenty four-year old Nithin who developed a ‘smart helmet’. Embedded with a radio

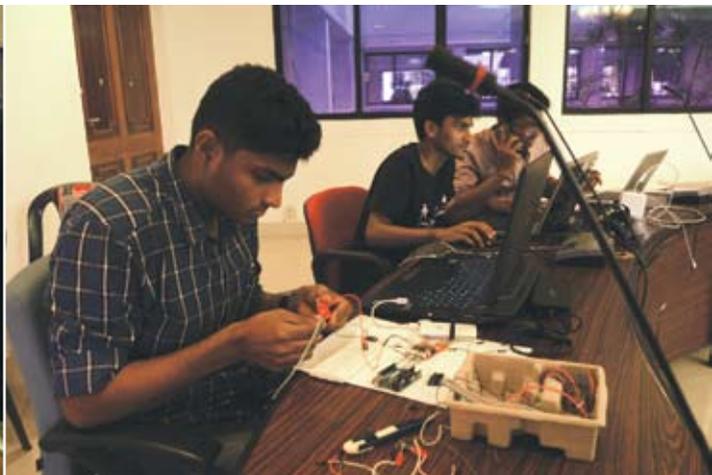
device, the helmet can be paired with a motorcycle in such a manner that the engine will only start when the rider puts the helmet on. Nithin, a mechanical engineering student, hopes this system will not only enforce the use of helmets but also act as an effective anti-theft device.

Since motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable to being hit from behind due to poor visibility, the smart helmet also has a sensor based light that will come on if the brake light fails, indicating to the vehicle behind that the bike has slowed down.

“The product can be retrofitted to helmets or can be embedded in helmets by manufacturers,” said Nithin. And given the high percentage of fatalities among bike riders, he added: “I hope this system will help change the disturbing statistics on motorcycle fatalities.”

The prize for the most innovative solution went to three final year students from the Federal Institute of Science and Technology in Angamaly, Kerala. The trio – Krishna Venu, Albert Jose and V S Ajayson developed a mobile application called ‘Bon Voyage’ that gives credit points to drivers for good driving. The application can be accessed from a mobile phone or a computer with an internet connection. The app enables Google maps to analyze the speed of the road user, check if the driver had obeyed





speed limits, and if so, award credit points. Drivers can redeem these credit points as online gift vouchers, as tax benefits, or as reductions in their insurance premiums. The aim is “enforcement without enforcing,” said Ajayson. “We are trying to develop a system that can motivate people to be good both on the road and in their hearts.”

These techies couldn’t have got a better platform to showcase their ideas. “Hackathons provide a great environment for ideas. You meet like-minded people who can offer tips and advice and give feedback on your prototype. You can also assess how marketable your idea is,” added Albert Jose.

R Sreelekha, the Transport Commissioner

of the Kerala Road Safety Authority, and the moving force behind this initiative, couldn’t be more pleased with what the hackathon has achieved. “The event helped us identify some great talents and ideas. Within the next couple of months, we shall evaluate these ideas and products and then sign agreements with team members to purchase or upgrade their products for public use,” she said.

Whatever path the government decides to choose in implementing these ideas, one thing is certain. The hackathon has instilled in these young engineers a sense of social responsibility – particularly in promoting safer roads in the country. 🌐



The bias against women keeps countries poorer



Policymakers can use the evidence that shows the economic benefits of equality by ridding their system of discriminating laws that are holding women back, says Mulyani Indrawati, the Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of the World Bank

In 100 countries around the world, women are barred from doing certain work solely because they are women. Over 150 countries have at least one law that is discriminatory towards women. And only 18 countries are free of any law disadvantaging women.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of legal barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. New World Bank Group research in the ‘Women, Business and the Law 2016’ report shows that in 32 countries women cannot apply for passports in the same way as men and in 18 countries they cannot get a job if their husbands feel it is not in the family’s interest. Jordan and Iran are among them. In 59 countries, there are no laws against sexual harassment at work. Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Armenia are among 46 countries where there is no legal protection against domestic violence. In a nutshell, the research makes for depressing

reading when you care about inclusion and ending poverty.

Countries whose laws discriminate against women and do not promote gender equality suffer economically. Previous research tells us that gender gaps in women’s entrepreneurship and labour force participation account for estimated income losses of 27 per cent in West Asia and North Africa; 19 per cent in South Asia; 14 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 10 per cent in Europe. These are losses that many countries can’t afford, particularly those facing high levels of poverty.

There is good news too: countries like Bangladesh are encouraging participation of women in the workforce. If they stay on track, their female workforce will grow from 34 to 82 per cent over the next decade, adding 1.8 percentage points to their GDP. In the 1990s



very few countries had laws protecting women from violence; now 127 do partially because the world is more aware of the human and economic cost of mistreating women.

When women are allowed to work in a profession of their choice, when they have access to financial services and when they are protected, by law, from domestic violence, they are not only economically empowered, they also live longer. The more say they have over the household income and the more they participate in the economy, the more girls are enrolled in secondary school, the larger the benefits for their children, their communities, and their countries. In fact, every additional year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20 per cent, and an extra year of secondary school by 15 to 25 per cent.

Critics will argue that in some countries where gender-specific laws exist, there is limited enforcement. While that is true, better rule of law is associated with having more gender-equal laws on the books. Specialised courts that tackle cases of acts of violence against women can help provide effective legal action. In Brazil, the Maria da Penha Law allowed for the creation of domestic and family violence courts.

Several South Asian countries don't afford women the same rights as men. But some countries have made important strides in addressing these issues, leading to great

results. In India, inheritance law reform has provided greater economic freedom to women. Women used their increased savings to spend twice as much money on their daughters' education.

The private sector benefits too. A survey of 6,500 firms showed that where women had greater representation on boards, those organisations were less likely to be hit by scandals like bribery or fraud. Yet, surprisingly, only nine countries have laws where at least one woman has to be a board member of a publicly listed company.

The link between the fight against poverty and gender equality is strong, which is why we work with many countries to tackle gender-based barriers. We have worked with Cote d'Ivoire in removing legal provisions that discriminated against women. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we supported the government in drafting a new family code that would improve the business climate for women.

Policymakers have a choice. They can use the overwhelming evidence that shows the economic benefits of equality by ridding their system of discriminating laws that are holding women back. Or they can maintain the status quo and condemn whole societies to remain poorer than they need to be. 🌐

This article was originally published in the Hindu newspaper on 10 September 2015

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.

Second Elementary Education Project (SSA II)



Context

The first phase (2004-2007) of the Government of India's flagship universal elementary education program (SSA) had achieved significant results. The number of out of school children were reduced from 25 million to 13.5 million, gender parity was close to being achieved and substantial progress had been made in terms of enhancing access to other social groups (schedule castes and scheduled tribes) and the transition rate from primary to upper primary education had increased from 75 percent to 83 percent.

Second Elementary Education Project (SSA II)

Approval Date:	15 May, 2008
Closing Date:	30 September, 2012
Total Project Cost	US\$ 7.1 billion
Bank Financing (IDA):	US\$ 1.3 billion
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and 35 State/UT Implementation Societies
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Substantial
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

However challenges still remained, in terms of access to the most marginalized communities and at the upper primary levels and on improving education quality. The World Bank's Board of Directors approved a US\$600 million IDA credit in May 2008. An additional credit of US\$ 750 million was approved in March 2010, to help finance costs associated with additional and expanded activities for the project.

Project Development Objectives

The project's objective was to significantly increase the number of 6-14 year-old children – especially from special focus groups – enrolled, regularly attend and complete elementary education and demonstrate basic learning levels.



Achievements

Data collected by the government and independent survey agencies showed that the number of out-of-school children reduced from 13.5 million in 2005 (baseline survey) to 8.15 million in 2009. On an average the number of out-of-school children reduced by 2.37 million annually over the period 2007 to 2010. These trends indicate that the number of such children would fall to around 4 million by 2011-12, exceeding the project target of 4.9 million. Around 137.1 million students enrolled in primary and 62.1 million students in upper primary as of 2011-12 data.

Under SSA II, 161,600 new primary schools and 97,300 upper primary schools were opened. A total of 650,442 class rooms were added. Girls, and scheduled tribes and scheduled castes children were enrolled at or beyond their shares in the population.

The share of girls in primary education rose to 48.35 percent and those in upper primary to 48.63 percent. This was slightly higher than their share in primary (47.9 percent) and upper primary (47.4 percent) age population.

Under SSA II, there was a gradual increase in the identification and enrolment of children with special needs (CWSN). Those identified rose from 2.63 million in 2007-08 to 3.27 million in 2012 (a 24 percent increase). The retention rates at elementary level also improved. In those states where the elementary cycle constituted eight years, elementary level retention improved from 32 percent at baseline to 55 percent (against the target of 45 percent) while it improved from 45.5 percent to 81 percent (against the target of 70 percent) during the same period in those states where the elementary cycle comprised of 7 years. Significantly, the average annual drop-out rate (year to year) reduced from above 10 percent in 2005-06 to 6.5 percent in 2011-12.

Lessons Learnt

- SSA provided development partners with a viable platform to work under a common results framework. This significantly reduced the transaction costs for the government. Continuous and intensive engagement across the program and technical and advisory support helped resolve issues during implementation.
- A realistic assessment of the capacity is important to inform the design and sequencing of the reform programs for optimal impact.
- Regular diagnostic assessments for tracking student achievement are good initial steps towards improving student learning outcomes.
- Availability of timely and reliable data is essential for choosing the results indicators to measure the achievement of the development objectives.
- Communication is key to successful interventions. Communicating “changes”, especially those related to the “softer” aspects of education (like quality interventions, intentions and outcomes) is quite challenging, but unless the message is conveyed properly to various stakeholders, the intended outcomes will be difficult to achieve. 🌐

The potential of one South Asia in 4 numbers

By Delilah Liu and Sanjay Kathuria

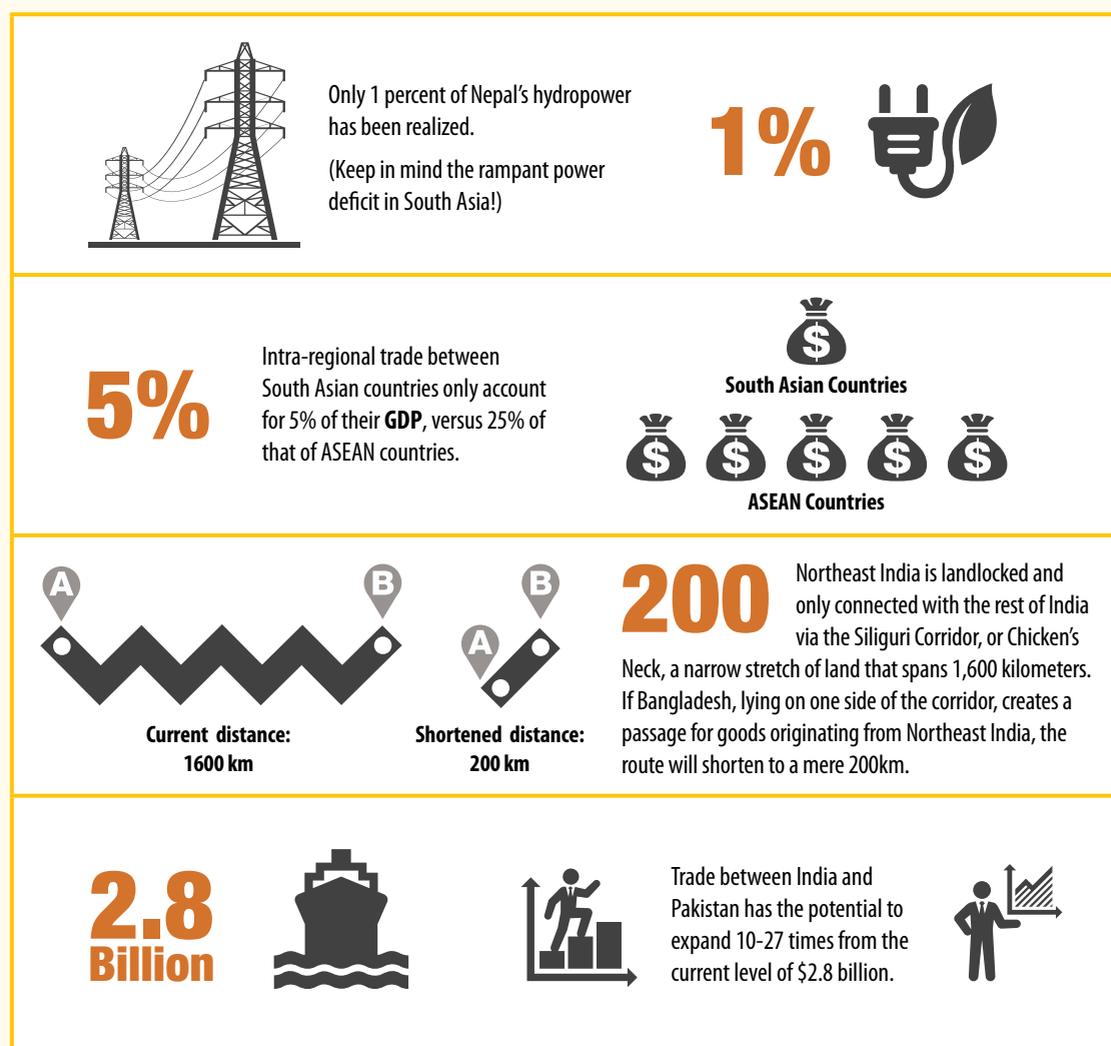
You don't have to be a number-cruncher to enjoy this challenge:

1, 5, 200, and 2,800,000,000.

Close your eyes after reading these numbers. Can you recite them in the right order?

Intrigued? If you're interested in the development of South Asia, these four numbers will resonate with you. They represent four areas of opportunity for the region to further integrate and thrive economically.

Prior to the South Asia Economic Conclave, held in September this year, Sanjay Kathuria, Lead Economist at the World Bank, met with 30 Indian graduate students and shared the 4 numbers with them:



So let me recap these numbers one last time:

A mere 1% of Nepal's vast hydro energy potential is being tapped into; intra-regional trade is bottoming at 5% of South Asian countries' GDP; only 200 kilometers are needed to spur India-Bangladesh trade; and the level of trade between India and Pakistan is stuck at a meagre \$2.8 billion.

Do you find it much easier to remember 1, 5, 200, and 2,800,000,000 now?

Let's not miss out on these four opportunities. They represent the potential of South Asia's young and hopeful!

Excerpted from: <http://tinyurl.com/puyzd5t>

Recent Project Approvals

Nai Manzil: Education and Skills Training for Minorities Project

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a US\$ 50 million credit for the Nai Manzil: Education and Skills Training for Minorities Project to help school drop-outs from minority communities complete their education and gain from market-driven training programs with the aim of integrating them into employment mainstream.

The project will support the Government of India's national Nai Manzil (New Horizon) Scheme, a comprehensive education and skills development program for youth from minority communities, launched in August this year.

The project will reach out to disadvantaged youth from minority communities and support their enrolment in open schooling, as well as provide hands-on vocational training to help them access suitable jobs. It will also provide post-placement support to assist sustainable employment for those students who opt to enter the labor market. Together, these interventions will aim to improve the employability and performance of minority youth in the labor market. The project will also strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) for project implementation, planning and policy development. 🌐

Events

Workshop

Employability of post-secondary graduates

New Delhi • 18 August 2015

The World Bank and FICCI held a workshop on 'Employability of post-secondary graduates' in New Delhi on August 18, 2015. The workshop was attended by representatives from public and private universities and staff from the host organizations.

Toby Linden, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank presented findings from a 2015 employers' perception survey of recent engineering graduates, following on from a

similar study carried out in 2009. The survey canvassed nearly 700 small, medium and large firms. In 2009, only 39 percent employers had found engineering graduates' skills to be satisfactory or very satisfactory; this share had increased substantially to 80 percent in 2015, driven by improvements in both technical and soft skills. Employers continue to invest heavily in training for new employees.

Sangeeta Goyal, Senior Economist, World Bank presented consolidated findings from a number of tracer studies of trainees and students who had passed out from Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnics and Colleges in Delhi, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh. Key highlights include:

- post-secondary education and training lead to better labor market outcomes;
- transition mechanisms from education and training to work are weak, exacerbated by patchy linkages between employers and education and training institutions;
- geographical mobility is limited among graduates; and
- effective job search strategies make a difference. 🌐



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:

The World Bank PIC

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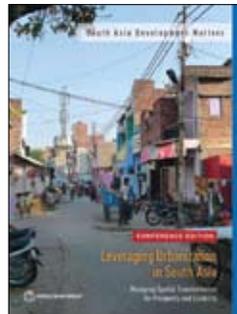
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India Publications

Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability



By World Bank
Available: on-line
English; 208 Pages
Published: October 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0662-9

Urbanization provides South Asian countries with the potential to transform their economies to join the ranks of richer nations in both

prosperity and livability, but a new World Bank report finds the region, while making strides, has struggled to make the most of the opportunity. The number of people in South Asia's cities rose by 130 million between 2000 and 2011— more than the entire population of Japan. This was linked to an improvement in productivity and a reduction in the incidence of extreme poverty. But the region's cities have struggled to cope with the pressure of population growth on land, housing, infrastructure, basic services, and the environment. As a result, urbanization in South Asia remains underleveraged in its ability to deliver widespread improvements in both prosperity and livability.

Understanding India's urban frontier: What is behind the emergence of census towns in India?

By Partha Mukhopadhyay, Marie-Helene Zerah and Augustin Maria



Available: on-line
English; 54 Pages
Published: August 2015
Report no.: AUS7449

According to the latest census of 2011, the urbanization level in India has increased from 27.8 percent in 2001 to 31.2

percent in 2011, and for the first time, the absolute increase in urban population exceeded the increase in rural population. India has different administrative arrangements for rural and urban areas, which are based on the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India respectively.

Since the census towns continue to be governed by rural administrative arrangements this situation raises an additional set of questions, in addition to the nature of economic transformation, related to the trade-offs-between rural and urban status.

This report highlights the existing literature on small towns along the three main axis of research: governance, employment, and spatial change. It also provides a detailed rationale for the choice of sites and expands on the methodology chosen.

Livelihoods in intermediate towns: Social dynamics of non-farm economy



By Rohan G. Selvaratnam
Available: on-line
English; 134 Pages
Published: August 2015
Report no. : AUS7434

This report is based on a field study of two large settlements, Satghara (a census town) and Bhagwatipur (a rural cluster with 10,000 plus population)

in the Madhubani district of Bihar. The study explores the social dynamics of the rural non-farm economy by empirically mapping non-farm occupations in both the settlements.

It examines the dynamics of caste, community, and gender within the social organization of the non-farm economy in terms of their economic and social hierarchies and the differential incomes and status they provide.

The study also looks at the relationship of the local non-farm economy with patterns of outmigration. It further attempts to understand the manner in which the changes in the regional structures of power and domination have influenced the local economic processes and are being influenced by them with a specific focus on the non-farm economy in the two setting.

The study also attempts an assessment of the possible development and urbanizing effects of the rather rapid growth of nonfarm economy in rural Madhubani.

South Asia Publications

South Asia Economic Focus, Fall 2015: Getting Prices Right – The Recent Disinflation and Its Implications



By World Bank
Available: on-line
English; 70 Pages
Published: October 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0734-3

The South Asia Economic Focus is a biannual economic update presenting recent economic developments and a near

term economic outlook for South Asia. It includes a Focus section presenting more in depth analysis of an economic topic of relevance for stability, growth and prosperity in the region as well as country briefs covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It concludes with a data section providing key economic indicators for South Asia “at a glance”.

Overall, it aims at providing important background information and timely analysis of key indicators and economic and financial developments of relevance to World Bank Group operations and interaction with counterparts in the region, particularly during annual and spring meeting.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 7426

Changing wage structure in India in the post-reform era: 1993-2011

By Hanan G. Jacoby and Basab Dasgupta

This paper documents the changing structure of wages in India over the post-reform era, the roughly two-decade period since 1993.

To investigate the factors underlying these changes, a supply-demand framework is applied at the level of the Indian state. While real wages have risen across India over the past two decades, the increase has been greater in rural areas and, especially, for unskilled workers.

The analysis finds that, in rural areas, the changing wage structure has been driven largely by relative supply factors, such as increased overall education levels and falling female labor force participation. Relative wage changes between rural and urban areas have been driven largely by shifts in employment, notably into unskilled-intensive sectors like construction.

WPS 7416

Oral democracy and women's oratory competency in Indian village assemblies: A qualitative analysis

By Paromita Sanyal, Vijayendra Rao and Umang Prabhakar

This paper undertakes a talk-centered analysis of the gram sabha with a focus on examining the oral participation of women in general and women affiliated with microcredit self-help groups who have access to an associational life.

The qualitative analysis of 255 gram sabha transcripts from four South Indian states finds that women associated with microcredit self-help groups employ a wider variety of narrative styles and utilize a more multilayered structure to convey their messages compared with all women taken together. Thus, the difference is not so much in the numerical instances of talking or in the types of issues raised, but rather in the quality of participation.

WPS 7412

Job opportunities along the rural-urban gradation and female labor force participation in India

By Urmila Chatterjee, Rinku Murgai and Martin G. Rama

The recent decline in India's rural female labor force participation is generally attributed to higher rural incomes in a patriarchal society. Together with the growing share of the urban population, where female participation rates are lower, this alleged income effect does not bode well for the empowerment of women as India develops.

This paper argues that a traditional supply-side interpretation is insufficient to account for the decline in female participation rates, and the transformation of the demand for labor at local levels needs to be taken into account as well. A salient trait of this period is the collapse in the number of farming jobs without a parallel emergence of other employment opportunities considered suitable for women.

The paper develops a novel approach to capture the structure of employment at the village or town level, and allow for differences along six ranks in the rural-urban gradation. It also considers the possible misclassification of urban areas as rural, as a result of household surveys lagging behind India's rapid urbanization process. The results show that the place of residence along the rural-urban gradation loses relevance as an explanation of female labor force participation once local job opportunities are taken into account.

WPS 7411

Recasting culture to undo gender: A sociological analysis of Jeevika in rural Bihar, India

By Paromita Sanyal, Vijayendra Rao and Shruti Majumdar

This paper brings together sociological theories of culture and gender to answer the question – how do large-scale development interventions induce cultural change? Through three years of ethnographic work in rural Bihar, the authors examine this question in the context of Jeevika, a World Bank-assisted poverty alleviation project targeted at women, and find support for an integrative view of culture.

The paper argues that Jeevika created new “cultural configurations” by giving economically and socially disadvantaged women access to a well-defined network of people and new systems of knowledge, which changed women's habitus and broke down normative restrictions constitutive of the symbolic boundary of gender.

Other Publications

The World Bank Annual Report 2015



By World Bank

Available: on-line

English; 60 Pages

Published: October 2015

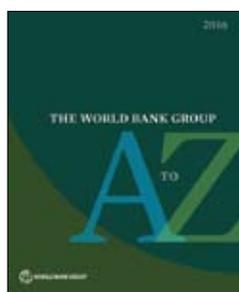
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0574-5

e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0582-0

The Annual Report is prepared by the Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International

Development Association (IDA) – collectively known as the World Bank – in accordance with the by-laws of the two institutions. The President of the IBRD and IDA and the Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors submits the Report, together with the accompanying administrative budgets and audited financial statements, to the Board of Governors.

The World Bank Group A to Z 2016



By World Bank

Available: on-line

English; 268 Pages

Published: October 2015

World Bank Studies

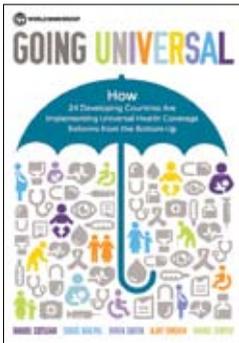
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0484-7

e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0655-1

The World Bank Group A to Z provides concise

and essential information about the mission, policies, procedures, products, and services of the World Bank Group. This second edition is a follow-up to the first volume released for the 2014 Annual Meetings.

Going Universal: How 24 Developing Countries are Implementing Universal Health Coverage from the Bottom Up

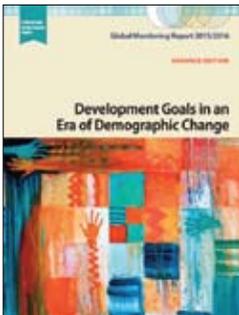


By Daniel Cotlear, Somil Nagpal, Owen Smith, Ajay Tandon and Rafael Cortez
Available: on-line
English; 286 Pages
Published: September 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0610-0
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0611-7

The book does not attempt to identify best practices, but rather aims to help

policy makers understand the options they face, and help develop a new operational research agenda. The main chapters are focused on providing a granular understanding of policy design, while the appendixes offer a systematic review of the literature attempting to evaluate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) program impact on access to services, on financial protection, and on health outcomes.

Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016: Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change



By World Bank
Available: on-line
English; 307 Pages
Published: October 2015

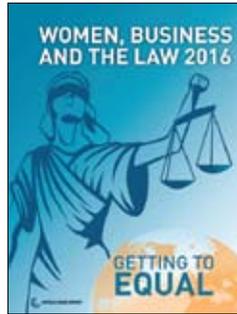
The Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016, produced by the World Bank Group in partnership with the International Monetary Fund, comes at an inflection

point in both the setting of global development goals and the demographic trends affecting those goals.

The report presents the latest global poverty numbers, based on the 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) data, and examines the pace of development progress through the lens of the evolving global development goals.

The special theme of this year's report examines the complex interaction between demographic change and development. With the number of children approaching a global ceiling of two billion, the world's population is growing slower. It is also aging faster, with the share of people of working age starting a decline in 2013. But the direction and pace of these trends vary starkly across countries, with sizeable demographic disparities between centers of global poverty (marked by high fertility) and drivers of global growth (marked by rapid aging). These demographic disparities are expected to deeply affect the pursuit of the post-2015 agenda, accentuating existing challenges and creating new opportunities.

Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal



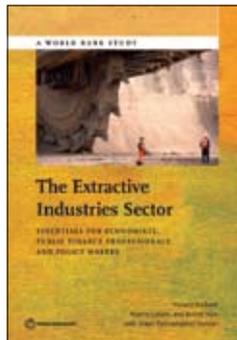
By World Bank
Available: on-line
English; 268 Pages
Published: September 2015
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0677-3
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0678-0

By measuring where the law treats men and women differently, *Women, Business and the Law*

shines a light on how women's incentives or capacity to work are affected by the legal environment and provides a basis for improving regulation.

The fourth edition in a series, it examines laws and regulations affecting women's prospects as entrepreneurs and employees in 173 economies, across seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, going to court, and protecting women from violence.

The Extractive Industries Sector: Essentials for Economists, Public Finance Professionals, and Policy Makers

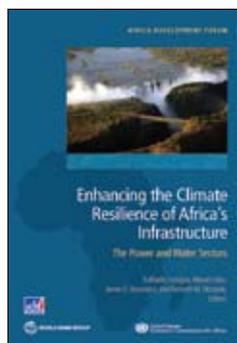


By Håvard Halland, Martin Lokanc and Arvind Nair
Available: on-line
English; 148 Pages
Published: September 2015
World Bank Studies
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0492-2
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0605-6

The extractive industries (EI) sector occupies an outsize space in the economies

of many developing countries. This report provides an understanding of the sector; its economics, governance, and policy challenges; as well as the implications of natural resource wealth for fiscal and public financial management.

Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Africa's Infrastructure: The Power and Water Sectors



By Raffaello Cervigni, Rikard Liden, James E. Neumann and Kenneth M. Strzpek

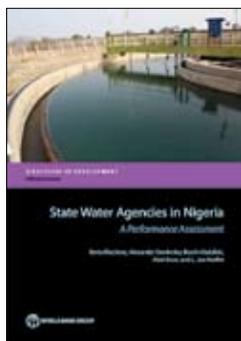
Available: on-line
English; 216 Pages
Published: September 2015
Africa Development Forum
ISBN: 978-1-4648-0466-3
e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0467-0

The report evaluates the

impacts of climate change on hydro-power and irrigation expansion plans in Africa's main rivers basins (Niger, Senegal, Volta, Congo, Nile, Zambezi, Orange); and outlines an approach to reduce climate risks through suitable adjustments to the planning and design process.

The book finds that failure to integrate climate change in the planning and design of power and water infrastructure could entail, in scenarios of drying climate conditions, losses of hydropower revenues between 5 percent and 60 percent (depending on the basin); and increases in consumer expenditure for energy up to 3 times the corresponding baseline values.

State Water Agencies in Nigeria: A Performance Assessment

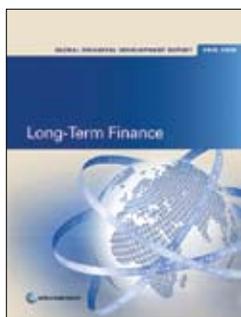


By Berta Macheve, Alexander Danilenko, Roohi Abdullah, Abel Bove and L. Joe Moffitt

Available: on-line English; 166 Pages
 Published: September 2015
 Directions in Development – Infrastructure
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0657-5
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0666-7

The report highlights the need for investments to the tune of US\$6 billion in the water sector in Nigeria in the next 10 years if the country is to achieve universal water supply coverage. The report provides a structured and quantitative snapshot of Nigeria's urban water sector. It focuses on water provision services from the States' Water Authorities or Water Boards (SWAs) as they are the major and only regulated agencies that provide water to the urban population.

Global Financial Development Report 2015/2016: Long-Term Finance

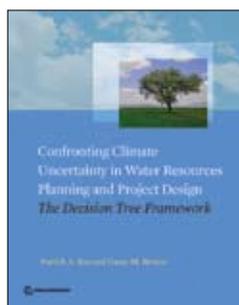


By World Bank
Available: on-line English; 208 Pages
 Published: August 2015
 Global Financial Development Report
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0472-4
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0471-7

The report focuses on the ability of financial systems to sustainably extend the maturity of financial contracts for private agents. It builds upon findings from recent and ongoing research, lessons from operational work, as well as on inputs from financial sector professionals and researchers both within and outside the World

Bank Group. Benefitting from new worldwide datasets and information on financial development, it provides a broad and balanced review of the evidence and distill pragmatic lessons on long-term finance and related policies.

Confronting Climate Uncertainty in Water Resources Planning and Project Design: The Decision Tree Framework



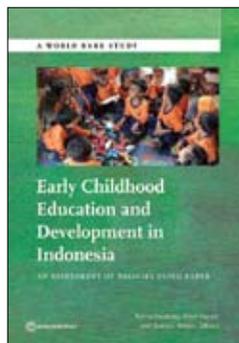
By Patrick A. Ray and Casey M. Brown

Available: on-line English; 146 Pages
 Published: August 2015
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0477-9
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0478-6

The report describes an approach to facing two fundamental and unavoidable issues brought about by climate change uncertainty in water resources planning and project design. The first is a risk assessment problem. The second relates to risk management.

This book provides background on the risks relevant in water systems planning and the different approaches to water system planning.

Early Childhood Education and Development in Indonesia: An Assessment of Policies Using SABER



By Amina Denboba, Amer Hasan and Quentin Wodon

Available: on-line English; 140 Pages
 Published: August 2015
 World Bank Studies
 ISBN: 978-1-4648-0646-9
 e-ISBN: 978-1-4648-0651-3

This report presents findings from an assessment of Early Childhood Development (ECD) policies and programs in Indonesia based on two World Bank tools: the ECD module of the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) and a guide on essential interventions for investing in young children. Results from the application of both tools to Indonesia are used to suggest a number of policy options for consideration.

India Project Documents

Strengthening FMIS Capacity in Bihar

Date 05 October 2015
Project ID P157111
Report No. ISDSC15051 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
PIDC32458 (Project Information Document)

Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women

Date 28 September 2015
Project ID P150576
Report No. PIDC32060 (Project Information Document)
ISDSC15024 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

Nai Manjil: Education and Skills Training for Minorities

Date 24 September 2015
Project ID P156363
Report No. PIDISDSA15305, 15089 (Project Information Document)
PIDISDSA15305, 15089 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)
SFG1304 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks

Date 23 September 2015

Project ID P154283
Report No. PIDC32035 (Project Information Document)
ISDSC15423 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project

Date 09 September 2015
Project ID P146936
Report No. RES20203 (Project Paper)

Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project

Date 02 September 2015
Project ID P146936
Report No. PIDA27121 (Project Information Document)
ISDSC15024 (Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet)

National Dairy Support Project

Date 31 August 2015
Project ID P107648
Report No. RES20587 (Project Paper)

National Ganga River Basin Project

Date 17 August 2015
Project ID P119085
Report No. SFG1326 (Environmental Assessment)

From the Blogworld

Moving toward solutions for youth employment: Improving the odds for the next generation

Submitted by Nicole Goldin



It sometimes seems like a lifetime ago, but I can still remember what it felt like going off to work after school as a teenager and then as a young adult. I was excited. I was sometimes nervous and challenged by new responsibilities. I felt empowered. I felt valuable. I felt independent – especially when I got paid. I started thinking about what might be next and I was optimistic about my future.

Today, however, hundreds of millions of youth around the world do not share these feelings and will not have these warm memories in the years ahead. 🌐

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

Five challenges prevent financial access for people in developing countries

Submitted by Gloria M. Grandolini



Two billion people worldwide still lack access to regulated financial services. Despite significant progress and the increased technical and financial resources devoted to financial inclusion, much work remains ahead.

There is broad consensus that access to a transaction account can help people better manage their life and plan for emergencies. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nge4b8t>

Raise your PPP IQ

Submitted by Tanya Scobie Oliveira



Throughout history, people have recognized the power of the sun to improve peoples' lives. In India, and in households and business throughout Gujarat state in particular, that idea lives on in a brand-new incarnation: rooftop solar panels. The newest edition of Partnerships IQ, "Rooftop Solar Public-Private Partnerships: Lessons from Gujarat Solar," details how rooftop solar rolled out and is being replicated across India. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/phqseo3>

Shutting doors on women: How countries are legally preventing half their population from reaching their full economic potential

By Katrin Schulz

When Niloufar Ardalan, a 30-year-old professional athlete and the captain of the Iranian women's indoor soccer team, recently got the opportunity to represent her country and play in the Asia Cup, she and her teammates must have been thrilled. But to play in the prestigious championship, Ardalan faced a major legal hurdle – one that you might not expect: It came not from immigration law or employment law, but from family law.

Iranian law prevents married women from traveling outside the country without the permission of



their husbands. Ardalan's husband – a well-known sports journalist – wanted Ardalan to be present for their son's first day of school so he acted within the bounds of the country's laws. He prohibited Ardalan from traveling to Malaysia with the rest of her teammates, sparking a frenzy on Twitter and Facebook and sending shockwaves through international media. Legally, there was nothing Ardalan or her team could do. She was forced stay behind.

Such a legal restriction is hardly unique to Iran. In many countries around the world, a woman's gender – often coupled with her marital status – can legally prevent her from taking actions she otherwise could take if she were a man. *Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal*, a new World Bank Group report launched around the same time Ardalan was denied the opportunity to play in the Asia Cup, tracks such restrictions in 173 economies worldwide. 🌐

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/nwuf52u>

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